

Dear editor and authors,

I am pleased to review the article entitled "A new species of aposematic grasshopper of the Bolivian genus *Pseudoutanacris* (Caelifera: Gomphocerinae) discovered in the Andean cloud forest of the Ecuadorian Amazon basin." This work makes a contribution to grasshopper taxonomy by addressing the description of a new species from Ecuador. The study elucidates the external morphology of the new species, as well as male genitalia. This expands our comprehension of biodiversity within this group of insects.

The manuscript is of quality but requires major revisions to improve reproducibility and clarity.

Please see my comments on the manuscript.

### **Introduction**

In the second paragraph, please state explicitly that Gomphocerinae belongs to the family Acrididae and the suborder Caelifera.

In the third paragraph, *Pseudoutanacris* should be italicized throughout the text. Additionally, please mention that the photographic record was uploaded to the platform **iNaturalist**, and consider expanding on the utility of such platforms in enhancing knowledge of species' geographic distributions. A good reference for this approach is Silva et al. (2021): *First report of the rare arboreal grasshopper Bactrophora dominans Westwood, 1842 (Insecta, Orthoptera, Caelifera, Romaleidae) from Brazil*.

Also, please correct the reference to the type species of the genus: it should be *Pseudoutanacris chromobapta*, not *Pseudonautia chromobapta*.

Clarify the relationship between *Utanacris* and *Pseudoutanacris*. They are not closely related: *Utanacris* belongs to the subfamily Catantopinae, whose members are distributed primarily in Africa and Asia, whereas *Pseudoutanacris* belongs to the tribe Amblytropidiini, which is restricted to the Americas.

---

### **Material and Methods**

In the fourth paragraph, you cite Ratnasingham et al. (2024) regarding protocols; however, that publication does not detail amplification protocols. To ensure reproducibility, please provide the complete PCR conditions, Sanger sequencing methods, and the equipment used. Also, cite the original authors who designed the primer sequences.

In the fifth paragraph, please indicate for each accession number which specimen and sex (for the new species) it corresponds to.

---

## Results

Before presenting the species description, include some paragraphs clearly stating the insect's Order, Suborder, Family, Tribe, and Genus.

In the first paragraph of the description, state the observed body size variation explicitly, even if the data is also presented in Table 1.

General comment: the descriptions currently use telephonic writing (full sentences); for clarity and scientific style, please revise them into telegraphic style (short, direct phrases without verbs).

In the sentence "Antennae are less than 2.2 times the size of the head and pronotum combined," replace "less" with an exact ratio or range to provide a precise comparison.

A critical correction: the female specimen in the photograph is clearly an adult, not a nymph as stated. Please revise this throughout the text and provide a proper morphological description of the female paratype.

In the comparative diagnosis, you mention Bolivian and Ecuadorian species but do not specify which ones. Please clarify which species you are referring to.

The figure currently placed in the supplementary material should be moved into the main Results section, as it represents an important finding.

Revise the phrase "COI sequences from three *Pseudoutanacris grilla* specimens" to read "COI sequences from three *Pseudoutanacris grilla* sp. nov. specimens."

Finally, in the Behavior section, ensure that each mention of the new species name is followed by "sp. nov." to maintain taxonomic clarity.

---

## Figures

Figure 4: Label all major anatomical structures clearly, including the aedeagal valves, epiphallus, spiniform anchorage, and others as appropriate.

Figure 5: You state that (C) was taken by N. Bay; however, (B) clearly shows a watermark attributing the image to N. Bay as well. Please revise the figure caption accordingly. Additionally, confirm that the cited photograph accurately corresponds to the expansion of the known geographic distribution of *Pseudoutanacris chromobapta*.