LETTER (ONLINE ONLY)

The authors note that Anders Eriksson should be added to the author list between Vera Warmuth and Graeme Barker. Andrea Manica should also be added to the author list after Vasily Soyonov. Anders Eriksson and Andrea Manica should both be credited with writing the paper. The corrected author line, affiliation line, and author contributions appear below. The online version has been corrected.

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The authors note that reference 10 appeared incorrectly. The corrected reference appears below.


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Reply to Forster et al.: Quantifying demic movement and local recruitment in the spread of horse domestication

Forster et al. (1) claim that we (2) have misrepresented their publication “Mitochondrial DNA and the origins of the domestic horse” (3). In our introduction we state “…the multiple-origins scenario is commonly invoked to account for the large number of female lineages in the domestic horse gene pool, citing the paper by Jansen et al (reference 6 in our paper) among others. We maintain that we cite the paper by Jansen et al. correctly, because i) it shows that domestic horses retain a large number of female lineages and ii) it is frequently cited as supporting a multiple domestication scenario. For example, “It [the horse] is thought to have been domesticated on numerous independent occasions …(3, …, …)” (4).

“A pattern (…) of multiple domestication events has been proposed for horses (3)…” (5).

“The history of horse domestication has been investigated largely from mitochondrial and Y chromosome sequences (…). Multiple domestication events have been suggested to occur (… 3)” (6). Indeed, Jansen et al themselves state, “…Assuming our interpretation of multiple genetic horse origins is correct, etc.”

Although we acknowledge that, in their discussion, Jansen et al. speculate on a domestication scenario similar to the one recovered by our quantitative model, it was beyond the scope of our article to review the countless scenarios of the origin and spread of horse domestication that have been hypothesized in the past, especially since none of them were sufficiently supported by data.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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