Reviewer’s report

Title: Developmental heterochrony and the evolution of autistic perception, cognition and behavior

Version: 2 Date: 12 March 2013

Reviewer: Martin Brüne

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is nicely written and comprehensive. Much of what is said is, however, hypothetical. Some of the hypotheses could be addressed experimentally, others are more difficult. With regard to the neoteny hypothesis, some features associated with autism actually seem to fit quite well. On the other hand, perfect pitch, though much more prevalent in autism than the population mean, is still found in only 5-10% of autistic children. I would expect a much higher number if this were indicative of neoteny.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests