Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of the Role of Some Collected Mosquito Species as Potential Vectors of Rift Valley Fever Virus in Sudan Outbreak, 2007

Version: 1 Date: 9 December 2009

Reviewer: Harvey Artsob

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions

1. The results section of the abstract does not accurately summarize the actual results obtained in the manuscript. Please provide a succinct summary of the data itself and remove the general statements.

2. I have concerns about the quality of data that went into capturing the human cases. Most appear to be based on IgM positive serology. How long does RVFV IgM persist after infection? Does this accurately reflect recent/acute infection in an endemic area? I think the authors should address this point.

Minor compulsory revisions

1. A statement is made in the Background section that “Cooling and good cooking of the meat may help eliminate the virus from it”. I don’t understand the cooling part of that statement since viruses generally remain viable for a longer period of time at cool temperatures. Please clarify with the reference cited if they quoted it accurately please validate the accuracy from a second source.

2. Under Methods for Human Case Studies, please correct the e.g. by greater than 1 of these results: IgM, RT-PCR or virus isolation positive results. That is not how you read the respective end points and report positives for all three of the procedures.

Discretionary revisions

1. A detailed background is given of RVF at the beginning of the manuscript in some depth but then repeated to an unnecessary degree further on in the manuscript under results.

2. The description of results and parts of the discussion are presented in too anecdotal a fashion as opposed to following greater scientific rigor in crisply addressing the solid scientific data.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.