Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of geographic and climate factors on the timing of dengue epidemics in Peru, 1994-2008

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2010

Reviewer: Wenbiao Hu

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revisions

This is a well-written, clear, concise, and interesting paper about the influence of geographic and climate factor on the timing of dengue epidemics in Peru. Both methods and conclusions obtained from the results are adequate and the paper is worth to be published with minor changes.

I have few comments that follow.

1. Authors used a simple correlation (Spearman rho) to examine the “moves” from jungle provinces to mountain and coastal provinces. It would be better to use a regression model (eg., logistic regression) to assess the “move” after adjusting for confounders.

2. To improve the presentation, I would advise using a regression line in figure 6.

3. The study suffers from the usual problems of an ecological design such as ecological fallacy. The authors should acknowledge the limitation as well as the roles of social, economic and tourism factors in dengue transmission in discussion section.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests