Reviewer’s report

Title: Molecular Characterization and Antifungal Susceptibility Profile of Aspergillus flavus Isolates Recovered from Clinical Specimens in Kuwait

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2012

Reviewer: Sándor Kocsubé

Reviewer’s report:

The authors examined several clinical isolates of A. flavus from Kuwait in a medical point of view. The manuscript is well-written, although there are some points which need to be modified.

Minor Essential Revisions:

a. Page 2, line 28: Replace “report of emergence” with “report on emergence”.

b. Page 2, line 33: Replace “morphologic” with “morphological”.

c. Page 2, line 39: Replace “combined sequencing” with “combined analysis”.

d. Page 2, line 39: This sentence refers to the mean MIC90 values, please add it.

e. Page 2, line 42: “The zone of inhibition…” Please rewrite this sentence.

f. Page 4, line 72: “Aspergillus spp” should be corrected to “Aspergillus spp.”

g. Page 5, line 94: “rDNA was amplified with Aspergillus section Flavi-specific AFLF and AFLR primers” According to my best knowledge this primer pair is specific to A. flavus, not to the whole section.

h. Page 6, line 106: Please specify the software used for the phylogenetic analysis.

i. Page 6, line 106: Replace “Neighbor-joining” with “neighbor joining”.

j. Page 6, line 124: Replace “E-test” with “Etest” here and in the entire text.

k. Page 7, line 134: The European Committee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing has recently published an updated list of break-points. (http://www.eucast.org/fileadmin/src/media/PDFs/EUCAST_files/AFST/Antifungal_breakpoints_4.1.pdf) I recommend to use these data.

l. Page 8, line 169: Replace “A. parvisclerotogenus” with „A. parvisclerotigenus” here and in other occurrences too.

m. Page 9, line 172: “(A. fasciculatus CBS110.55), A. thomii…” Please remove the parenthesis.

n. Page 10, line 193: “About 11% (n=10) isolates showed MICs of >2 µg/ml.” Please make this sentence clearer. Add that these values were measured in the case of RPMI media.

o. Page 10, line 193: “inhibited 100% isolates” should be changed to “inhibited xxx% of the isolates” here and in other occurrences too.
p. Page 10, line 203: “(range 0.008 - 0.19 µg/ml)” The space should be deleted between the dash and the number.

q. Page 10, line 205: “A comparison of mean MICs revealed slightly lower values for environmental isolates for voriconazole and posaconazole, but higher values for amphotericin B.” I think this statement is not important because of the low number of environmental isolates.

r. Page 11, line 223: Replace “All clinical and environmental isolates were identified as A. flavus strains based on partial sequencing of #-tubulin and calmodulin gene fragments.” with “All clinical and environmental isolates were identified as A. flavus strains based on the analysis of partial #-tubulin and calmodulin sequences.”.

s. Page 13, line 266: Replace “capturing 100% isolates” with “involving 100% of the isolates”.

t. Please make the references uniform.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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