Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of PCR procedures for detecting and quantifying Leishmania donovani DNA in large numbers of dried human blood samples from a visceral leishmaniasis focus in Northern Ethiopia.

Version: 1 Date: 28 December 2012

Reviewer: Gustavo Romero

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions
1. To consider to put the Hailu paper and the current one together in order to improve the clarity of the limitations of this research for the journal readers.
2. To review the conclusion because it is not possible with the available data to make a statement on the probability of developing symptomatic disease for individuals with a positive molecular diagnostic test. The conclusion should be restricted to the lack of reliability of the test and the choice of DNA extraction procedure.
3. To treat data with properly selected statistical tests to evaluate reliability. Crude data on agreement are not enough and should be adjusted by the expected agreement which would occur by chance.

Minor essential revisions - To discuss the role of L. major asymptomatic infections in the region.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

None