Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of asymptomatic Plasmodium falciparum parasitemia on the imunohematological indices among school children and adolescents in a rural area highly endemic for Malaria in southern Mozambique

Version: 1 Date: 31 January 2013

Reviewer: Pedro Aide

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Conclusion vs results
The manuscript concludes that APFP is highly prevalent in regions highly endemic for malaria in southern Mozambique and is associated with lower haematological values in children but less in adolescents and represent a leading cause of anaemia and thrombocytopenia in our setting”. The presented results only relates to malaria related anemia and/or thrombocytopenia. The investigators did not ruled-out other causes of anemia but a strongly concluding that it is a leading cause of anemia in this setting, assumption that the current results do not demonstrate as there is no comparison with other possible causes of anemia, although they recognize it in the discussion section.

I am also concerned about a possible selection bias (only school children/adolescents) were included in the study but the final conclusions seems to be extrapolating the findings to the overall population. A balanced approach should be best viewed, eg stating "among school children and adolescents...."

Other minor reviews:

2.1. METHODS

2.1.1. Study sample
Paragraph 1/Line3: Please add a space between “… volunteers/were…”

Statistical analysis
Paragraph 2/Line2: It would be nice to have a list of the main confounders you have adjusted for in this section or under results

2.1.2. RESULTS
Point 4. Predictors of assymptomatic Pf infection in children aged <12 years old
Paragraph 1/Line5: The Multivariate regression logistic analysis method is repeated here. Please consider to have it only under “Methods/Statistical analysis”.
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.