Author's response to reviews

Title: Genetic analyses revealed Mycobacterium tuberculosis as the causative agent of TB in the southern ecological zones of Cameroon

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**Response sheet for Editorial Requirements:**

**Request for ethics statement.**

Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

**Answer:** Before starting the work on the field we obtained the Ethical clearance No. 112/CNE/SE/09 from the Cameroon National Ethics Committee in Yaoundé. We are sorry for this omission in our initial manuscript. We have inserted this section accordingly under the section “Ethical considerations”

**Request for consent statement.**

Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

**Answer:** Prior to their recruitment as participants in the study reported, all individuals involved voluntarily accepted and signed a written inform consent by themselves. We are sorry for this omission in our initial manuscript. We have inserted this section accordingly under the section “Ethical considerations”

**Request for Competing Interest section.**

Competing interests: manuscripts should include a 'Competing interests' section. This should be placed after the Conclusions/Abbreviations. Please consider the following questions and include a declaration of competing interests in your manuscript:

Financial competing interests
- In the past five years have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an
organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? Is such an organization financing this manuscript (including the article-processing charge)? If so, please specify.

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• Do you have any other financial competing interests? If so, please specify.

Non-financial competing interests

• Are there any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, ideological, academic, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript? If so, please specify.

Answer: Thanks a lot for these remarks; we declare that we have no financial and competing interests. We have inserted this statement accordingly under the section “Competing interests and financial competing interests”

**Request for Authors Contribution section.

In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. To qualify as an author one should 1) have made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) have been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) have given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship.

We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person
who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support.

**Answer:** We have inserted this statement accordingly under the section Authors Contribution section as followed: JPAA carried out many of the experiments as a PhD student, participated in field work and drafted the manuscript; VBP participated in field work and in the conception, design, supervision of the experiments, analysis of data and revision of the manuscript; FCN participated in field and laboratory work and in the conception, design, supervision of the experiments, analysis of data as well as in the drafting and revision of the manuscript; MT participated in field work and in the supervision of the experiments and revision of the manuscript; RAS participated in the molecular analysis of the samples at the (BecA) - Hub at ILRI, Nairobi- Kenya, supervision of the experiments, analysis of data and revision of the manuscript; RP participated in the molecular analysis of the samples at the (BecA) - Hub at ILRI, Nairobi- Kenya, supervision of the experiments, analysis of data and revision of the manuscript; AIA participated in the field work and in the revision of the manuscript; MK assisted JPAA on the laboratory bench at the (BecA) - Hub at ILRI, Nairobi-Kenya; IN assisted JPAA on the laboratory bench at the (BecA) - Hub at ILRI, Nairobi-Kenya; JJ assisted JPAA in the field and on the laboratory bench; ET assisted JPAA in the field and on the laboratory bench; JCT assisted JPAA in the field and on the laboratory bench; VPKT was the overall supervisor and chief designer of the project. All authors read and approved the final manuscript before submission.