Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 12 December 2012

Reviewer: Mridula Bose

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: The manuscript brings out an important observation relevant to local TB control programme. Although the treatment regimen will not be influenced, the knowledge of the shift of strains towards M tuberculosis is an interesting observation. However, the discussion part failed to give any useful analysis of such a finding.

1. The title mentions about "ecological" selection of samples. But the manuscript does not analyse the results accordingly. The ecological distinction of the three selected region and a comparative analysis of the distribution of strains as per the ecological source of the same would make the study relevant.

2. The spoligotype and MIRU profile of M.africanum isolates should be given in a small table form to highlight the findings.

3. In page 9 it is mentioned that drug susceptibility of MDR was performed but the percentage profile has been given for "monoresistance"? This is confusing and needs to be clarified and corrected.

4. Discussion is very superficial. The merits of spoligotyping and MIRU is well established. Authors should shorten this part.

5. Comparative analysis of the findings in the light of regional distribution of the isolates/molecular typing would add to the value of the manuscript.

Minor comments:

The manuscript needs extensive correction of English language. At places the meaning conveyed is distorted because of this problem.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare no competing interests.