Author's response to reviews

Title: Emergence of New Biovars and Sequence Types of Brucella isolates, Inner Mongolia, China

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Responses to Comments from Reviewer

Dear Editor and Reviewer,

Comments from reviewers are helpful for further improvement of our manuscript. We have revised our manuscript according to comments from reviewers. Responses to the comment have been made. We think the revision has been improved accordingly.

Sincerely

Zeliang Chen
Responses to comments from reviewer Dr Jeffrey Foster

Minor Essential Revisions

Questions:
Whenever you use the term etiological, I believe you mean to use the word epidemiological. We know the cause (etiology) of this disease, just not differences in its distribution and prevalence (epidemiology).

Answers:
In this manuscript, we mean to describe etiology alteration of human brucellosis during the three stages. The manuscript was revised according to the comments.

Questions:
I continue to assert that clonal complexes make little sense in how they are used in this manuscript. The authors had deleted reference to them in the Abstract based on the last round of comments but should do so throughout most of the rest of the paper. As they concede in their Responses to Comments, use of clonal complexes is not really relevant in these analyses. I would suggest deleting most or all of the Clonal Complexes sections of the Results and Discussion. This is not relevant to your question, especially since it refers only to which species it belongs to.

Answers:
We have deleted all the descriptions about clonal complexes in the revision.

Questions:
In your Discussion you talk about the change in prevalence from \textit{B. melitensis} to \textit{B. abortus} over time. Has there been a change in host abundance over time from goats being common to cattle becoming more common?

Answers:
The changes in prevalence of \textit{B. melitensis} to \textit{B. abortus} over time were referred from a previous study. We did not find reports about host abundance over time.

Questions:
Page 17, line 22. While host immunity may be responsible for these genotype/biovar issues, I find it unlikely. If there any evidence in the literature of this happening?

Answers:
The sentence was deleted in the revision.

Minor Edits

Questions:
Minor Edits

(\textbf{do not need to be addressed line by line unless you disagree with an edit})
The term "highly polymorphism" is used several times but it is not a real phrase. Perhaps you mean to use the phrase, "high amount of polymorphism"?
Throughout the Results section change all results to past tense, e.g. is to was, belongs to belonged, etc.
Abstract
Page 2, line 6. Change "etiological alteration" to "epidemiological changes". I now know what you are trying to say here and this should fix it.
Page 2, line 19. Add "of all STs" after 64.3%.
Page 2, line 21. Change "most represented" to "most common" and "mostly represented" to "the most common"
Page 3, line 2. Add "The prevalence of" instead of "both"?
Page 4, line 8. Change "very tiny" to "minor"
Page 4, line 16. Change "of the incidences" to "in incidence"
Page 7, line 7. Change "sequence raw data was" to "raw sequence data were".
Page 10, lines 1-2. Delete sentence, "This indicated that…" While it is likely true, it does not follow based on the previous sentence.
Page 10, lines 16 and 20. For a Chi-square analysis you need to report more than just the p value. Also needed in the Chi square value, the degrees of freedom, and the sample size.
Page 10, Change firstly to first.
Page 11. I would delete all lines 2-13, this is not relevant in your analyses. If you feel strongly about keeping this, then delete line 7-13.
Page 14, line 12. I don't know what you are trying to say with "positive rage of 17.3%".
Page 14, line 18, Change human to humans
Page 14, line 19. Change represented to follows
Page 15, line 13. Change were to was
Page 16, line 1. Change all the 17 to all 17
Page 17, line 3-8. This paragraph can be deleted
Page 17, line 15. I don't understand what you are trying to say in this sentence
Page 17, line 20. Change mostly represented to most common
Page 18. Change most severe brucellosis province in China to province in China with highest incidence of brucellosis.
Page 22. Figure 1. Italics needed for species names.
Page 22, lines 10-11. Delete by, add space before neighbor, delete second an before outgroup

Answers:
We agreed all the comments and have revised the manuscript accordingly in the revision. Changes were shown in a file with marked labels.