Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prospective European-wide multicentre study on a blood based real-time PCR for the diagnosis of acute schistosomiasis

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 29 November 2012

**Reviewer:** Clive Shiff

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper is well prepared, clear and well written. It addresses an important problem that of acute schistosomiasis and the need for rapid diagnosis. The condition arises before eggs are passed so DNA detection is a viable probability. My concern is that the authors have not referred to some prior research using DNA detection in urine, which has been demonstrated in all species of human schistosomiasis. I am also concerned that they did not publicise the primers used, as DRA1 is specific for S. haematobium, while the primers for S. mansoni are not well tested, and it would be necessary to know either the primer sequence or that of the actual target

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests