Author's response to reviews

Title: High number of diarrhoeal co-infections in travellers to Benin, West Africa

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Dear Nathaniel Nazareno,

Thank you for your kind reply.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to conduct the suggested studies on the EPEC strains, but we added the part in the discussion as suggested. We added one more reference and the text now includes a new chapter which goes as follows:

*It is noteworthy that, while EPEC is one of the most frequent findings in childhood diarrhoea in developing countries [25], its significance as a TD pathogen among adults has not been confirmed [5,26]. In our patients, of whom all but one were adults, 32% of the EPEC strains proved bfpA-positive by PCR, and were thus considered to represent typical EPEC serotypes [25, 27]. No difference was seen in the occurrence of bfpA between those with and those without symptoms, yet, despite the high number of EPEC cases, there was only one TD with EPEC as the sole pathogen. It should be pointed out that some atypical EPEC strains harbour the bfpA gene, even though they do not express the pili [29]. It was not possible to systematically analyse the expression of a functional pilin in the current material afterwards. The expression is sensitive to in vitro conditions, and a carefully controlled study setup is required to confirm its presence [29]. Until now, typical EPEC has been considered to affect only children up to two years of age [25, 27]. The molecular characteristics of EPEC associated with diarrhoea in adult travellers should be explored separately.*

Enclosed are two revised versions of the manuscript, one with changes indicated, the other revised and clean. I hope you will find the paper now suitable for publication in the BMC Infectious Diseases. Naturally, we will be happy to assist you with any further changes, if required.

Kind regards,

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