**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Date of Origin of the SARS Coronavirus Strains

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 18 January 2004

**Reviewer:** Edison Liu

**Reviewer's report:**

**General**

I appreciated the author's efforts to accommodate my suggestions. One small suggestion. IN the results section. The authors point to the date of origin to be September 9, 2002 which seems more precise than necessary. Moreover, they might want to take into account that by using the death date, there needs to be added the incubation period of 10 days and a probable ICU stay of about 7-21 days. With this, the date of onset would have been in July or August.

**Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)**

**Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)**

**Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)**

**What next?:** Accept after discretionary revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes