Author's response to reviews

Title: A2 Gene of Old World Cutaneous Leishmania is a single highly conserved functional gene

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Iratxe Puebla,

We are delighted that our manuscript entitled "A2 gene of Old World Cutaneous Leishmania is a single highly conserved functional gene" has been accepted for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases. We are indebted to the Editorial board and the reviewers for their comments and suggestions that have contributed to considerably improve the quality of the manuscript.

The manuscript has been further improved according both to the comments of the reviewers and to the requested formatting changes:

1. Formatting changes
   a. Title and abstract have been updated in the submission system
   b. A conclusion paragraph has been added in the abstract section.
   c. The footnote has been incorporated into the text.
   d. The authors' contribution paragraph has been modified accordingly.
   e. The table has been extensively modified (borders in particular) and reoriented in portrait as required. However the font size in the table has been reduced to 10 in order to fit to the page.
   f. Figure numbers have been suppressed from the figures

2. Reviewer
   a. The possible role of the A2 gene in the visceralisation process has been emphasized in the conclusion paragraph of the abstracts and in the last paragraph of the background section.
   b. The missing name has been added in the table
   c. The CL A2 band is shown in the Fig 1. A2 bands of VL strains can't be readily distinguished on gels or on southern blot analysis due to a degree of mispriming.
   d. The MW marker used is indicated in the text (Methods: PCR).
   e. Typographical and language errors have been corrected.

All authors agreed the modified manuscript.
We hope that the manuscript will be now fully suitable for publication in the Journal.

With best regards

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