Reviewer's report

Title: Quantifying behavioural interactions between humans and mosquitoes: Evaluating the protective efficacy of insecticidal nets against malaria transmission in rural Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 5 October 2006

Reviewer: Tom Burkot

Reviewer's report:

General

I found that the manuscript has been greatly improved through the revision process - the authors have addressed the criticisms to my satisfaction and the removal of much of the jargon found in the original submission has increased the comprehensibility of the paper. However, the manuscript now includes a comparison of the efficacy of ITNs to larviciding. The manuscript, in my opinion, is not strengthened by this last minute addition.

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

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

Typos exist on pages 6, 9, 12, 15 and 16.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The insertion of the comparison of larviciding to ITNs is ill advised. Larviciding is not well integrated into the paper, being found only in methods and results. I think the manuscript would be better by concentrating on the evaluation of nets and leaving larviciding to a separate submission.

The argument that conducting landing catches is a disadvantage as it exposes the collector to an increased risk of malaria transmission is weak and should be dropped as (1) there is really no alternative to the landing catch and (2) collectors generally have access to prophylaxis and better access to medical treatment than the general population as a "benefit" of their work as a mosquito collector.

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

What next?: Offer publication in BMC Infectious Diseases after discretionary revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests’