Reviewer’s report

Title: Spatial analysis of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome in China

Version: 2 Date: 14 November 2005

Reviewer: Gholamreza Darai

Reviewer’s report:

The authors presented data on distribution of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) in China using the geographic information system and they believe that such spatial analysis tools should become integral components in the epidemiologic description and risk assessment of HFRS. The data presented in this study are not new and are not of general interest. The authors are advised to send it to a more specialized journal with a clear focus on general epidemiological approaches.

Following points were considered by evaluation:
1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? no
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? yes
3. Are the data sounds and well controlled? no
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? no
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? partially
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes
7. Is the writing acceptable? Language, grammar and spelling need attention.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)