Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of Trypanosoma cruzi in the major Chagas disease vector, Triatoma infestans, in Chuquisaca, Bolivia

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2007

Reviewer: Ana Maria Jansen

Reviewer's report:

General
The evaluation of T. cruzi infection in triatomines is an important task mainly if epidemiological surveillance in endemic areas is aimed. Moreover, here, the authors compare a PCR assay and direct microscopic observation of the parasite in field collected insects. This is only marginally important given that PCR has been used with this objective since the last decade and the vantages and disvantages of both methos are well known.In addition, there are important methodological aspects missing: standartization of PCR in authors conditions, PCR + controls shoud be runned separately in order to prevent contamination, conclusions are based on an insufficient number of insects, authors do not mention capture effort. Comparisons of the findings with others from other countries are fruitless since the ecological scenario differs.

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)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests below