Reviewer's report

**Title:** Molecular Epidemiology of Drug-Resistant Malaria in Western Kenya Highlands

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 8 July 2008

**Reviewer:** Thomas Loescher

**Reviewer’s report:**

Now, the manuscript has improved considerably, and most comments of the reviewers have been addressed adequately.

The data showing a high and more or less equal prevalence of resistance associated mutations between highlands and lowlands as well as between symptomatic and asymptomatic infections do not suggest drug resistance to be a driving force of highland epidemics. Moreover, the equal distribution of mutations in symptomatic and asymptomatic cases rather argues against resistance being an important contributor to malaria-induced morbidity and mortality. Otherwise, mutations would be more common in symptomatic and/or severe cases. Probably, climate factors, vector control, availability of appropriate treatment, and development of immunity are more important for epidemiology, morbidity, and mortality of highland malaria in Western Kenya.

In the introduction (i.e., background) section, the last two sentences should be deleted (page 4, line 14 8‘we detected ...’ to line 19) since they just repeat and/or anticipate the results of this investigation.

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

**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