Reviewer's report

Title: Geographical information system and predictive risk maps of urinary schistosomiasis in Ogun State, Nigeria

Version: 1 Date: 8 January 2008

Reviewer: Robert Bergquist

Reviewer's report:

The paper represents a useful investigation of the risks for Schistosoma haematobium infection in the territory studied which is well conveyed by the title and the abstract.

The approach and progress are well described but it must be said that it is a descriptive paper without any specific research question to be addressed apart from the mapping. On the other hand, the work reported is well carried out and the authors apparently know what they are dealing with. Thus, the background and introduction are acceptable and the methodology applied appropriate. The discussion and conclusions sections are good - a rather long discussion perhaps but a succinct conclusion.

The English is unusually good for what seems to be an all-African crew - only a few minor grammatical glitches which I am sure your editorial staff can deal with.

All in all, I feel that this paper has merits which would support a decision to publish it. The area studied is in need of a being updated with regard to schistosomiasis. With the modern geographical techniques applied the new picture (in the form of risk maps) is very much better than anything reported from Nigeria before. This is useful and well worth publishing. If, indeed, you will take a positive decision I would only like to tell the authors to describe the parasite and its lifecycle in some more detail - not going overboard perhaps but it should be pointed out that the infection requires a snail intermediate host. Much of the risk and distribution of the infection depends on this.