Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiological and Clinical Characteristics of the Autumn-Winter Type Scrub Typhus Patients in Northern China

Version: 1 Date: 9 December 2008

Reviewer: Motohiko Ogawa

Reviewer’s report:

1. Major compulsory revisions

The authors showed the epidemiologic and clinical characteristics of autumn-winter type of scrub typhus in China. The authors analyzed many cases and showed the clinical and epidemiologic features of the cases. However, I think that it would be better if the authors compare the autumn-winter type and the other type(s) (in previous reports) of scrub typhus in China and discuss them. In the present manuscript, it seems difficult to find what is new in autumn-winter type and how different autumn-winter type is. So I think comparison of the different types in China make readers understand the suggested specific and important features of the cases more clearly.

2. Discretionary Revisions

I recommend that the authors should use some figures and maps to show distribution of the cases, vectors and types of infected O.tsutsugamushi. It may be very helpful for readers because all readers are not familiar with the geography of China.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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