Reviewer's report

Title: High frequency of Machado-Joseph disease identified in Southeastern Chinese kindreds with spinocerebellar ataxia

Version: 3 Date: 31 December 2009

Reviewer: Conceição Bettencourt

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript still needs some English corrections. Non-exhaustive examples are given below.

1. There are very long sentences that need to be restructured in order to be understandable. One example of this is the only sentence for the Methods in the Abstract section.

2. In the Abstract, where the authors wrote “… to compare react efficiency”, shouldn’t it be “… to compare reaction efficiency”?

3. In the Molecular analysis item of Methods, where it is written “The DL2000 … was used as DNA size ‘markers’” it should be “The DL2000 … was used as DNA size ‘marker’”.

4. In the “Analysis of CAG repeats in normal individuals” section of Results, where it is written “The difference in the frequency… and other studies involving ‘in’ Japanese…”, it should be “The difference in the frequency… and other studies involving Japanese…”.

5. The last sentence of the Results “All normal alleles… with Taq polymerase (fig. 5A)” should be restructured.

6. In the Discussion section (page 8), the sentence “For the all normal alleles were amplified in PCR…” should also be restructured in order to be understandable.

7. In the Figure 1 legend, where it is written “Distributions of the SCA families in present study. The numbers in parentheses indicate…” it should be “Distribution of the SCA families in the present study. The numbers in parentheses indicate…”.

8. In the Figure 2 legend, where it is written “Distributions of the CAG repeats…”, it should be “Distribution of the CAG repeats…”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests