Reviewer’s report

Title: Spatial-temporal analysis of malaria and the effect of environmental factors on its prevalence in Yongcheng, China, 2006-2010

Version: 1 Date: 8 February 2012

Reviewer: Lydia Leonardo

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

I have none of this. By and large, the paper is a source of new and critical knowledge that would be very helpful in the design of control malaria and China.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct):

I have however some questions which need to be clarified as follows:

1. I am not sure if it is okay to use prevalence and incidence interchangeably. It was mentioned that the implication of the paper is on the effect of environmental factors on the prevalence of malaria, yet the paper used incidence data. Won't there be any implication in the use of incidence data?

2. I am not sure why the prevalence is expressed in may different ways such as in percentage, in number of cases per 1,000 or per 10,000 or even per 100,000. Can there be consistency in expression of prevalence?

3. The study mentioned that there have been controversies on the interrelationship between meteorological factors and malaria. Can the authors cite some of these controversies.

4. Did this paper resolve some of these controversies or raised more questions than answers.

5. Is there much difference in the density data collected by human baits and by bed-net traps? Is there an explanation for this?

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

I am attaching a copy of the paper which I copy pasted on word format so I can put my corrections. I did some editing on the paper which I thought would help in getting the message across but the editing has not been complete. It would be good for the authors to go over the paper again for the language review part.