Reviewer’s report

Title: A cross sectional study of Schistosoma japonicum prevalence in 50 villages of Samar Province, the Philippines.

Version: 2 Date: 24 January 2006

Reviewer: Juerg Utzinger

Reviewer’s report:

General

In my view the authors carried forward an excellent revision of their manuscript. I am satisfied with how they have addressed all of my previous points, and I feel that the overall quality of the paper has improved considerably. I like the additions of the new Table 1 and the Figure. There are only a few minor points left that I offer under the category “discretionary revisions”.

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

None

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

None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

= Page 1, Title: The revised title obviously has improved, but is rather long in its current form. I invite the authors to have one more go, as they perhaps find a somewhat shorter solution that still captures the main thrust.
= Page 1, Authors: What means the “*” in front of the first and the third author?
= Page 3, Methods, lines 1-2: Consider replacing “…irrigated endemic villages between…” with “…irrigated villages endemic for S. japonicum between…”.
= Page 3, Results, line 4: Should this read “…0-3.1%) to 45.2% (95% BCI: 36.5-53.9%)…”
= Page 5, Introduction, line 1: Replace “Schistosomiasis japonicum” with “Schistosomiasis japonica” [I had mentioned this point before].
= Page 5, Introduction, line 11: Should “…infection [2], [3].” read “…infection [2,3].” [if yes, this point needs to be addressed throughout].
= Further to my previous point, should “…schistosomes [4], [5], [6].” read “…schistosomes [4-6]”? (line 13).
= Page 6, line 7: Replace “Spear et al. (2004) and Hubbard et al. (2002)…” with “Hubbard et al. (2002) and Spear et al. (2004)…”.
= Page 7, Selection of villages: Insert “;” before “2)”, etc.
= Page 11, line 5: Replace “(95% BCI)” with “(BCI)”. 
= Page 12, line 6: Here the authors use “10-year-old”, but in other instances they use “10 year old”
(without semi colons) [check throughout and make sure that there is consistency].

- Page 12, paragraph 2, line 3: Replace "The Table" with "Table 1".

- Page 12, paragraph 2, line 4: “gender” or “sex”?

- Page 13, lines 3-4: Consider replacing “(95% BCI: 15.3% to 20.2%) with “(95% BCI: 15.3-20.2%) [check throughout].

- Page 13, line 9: Replace “[Table 1]” with “(Table 1)” and insert a full stop.

- Page 13, paragraph 2, last line: Replace “…infected. [Table 2]” with “…infected (Table 2).”

- Page 16, line 11: Consider replacing “resistance” with “immunity”.

- Page 16, line 3 from bottom: Replace “Geographical Information System (GIS)” with “geographic information system” [no need for capitalization and no need for abbreviation as term is not used thereafter].

- Page 16, last line: Replace “O hupensis…” with “O. hupensis…”.

- Page 19, Table heading: “Samar Province” or “Samar province” [check for consistency throughout the manuscript]

- Page 20, Table 2, first column: Replace “100+” with “>100”. In addition, consider replacing “0.0% (0.0%-3.1%)” with “0.0% (0.0-3.1%)” [check throughout].

- Page 23, Table 4 heading, line 4: Replace “2003-3004” with “2003-2004”.

- Page 26, Ref. 18, line 3: Replace “leyte” with “Leyte”.

- Page 26, Ref. 23: Provide volume and page range.

- Page 27, Ref. 30: No need for capitalization of title. Should journal name be abbreviated as before?

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests