Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 16 January 2006

Reviewer: Charles King

Reviewer’s report:

General
The question addressed in this paper is clearly topical for the development of more efficient control strategies for schistosomiasis. While current WHO guidelines recommend varying strategies for low-, moderate-, and high-prevalence villages, there are only limited published data on the actual distribution of these classes of village within S. japonicum-endemic areas. Optimization of control interventions will require more precise knowledge of infection levels across the program territory, and schemes for monitoring program efficacy will need to take into account the underlying heterogeneity of transmission factors.

The current revised version has addressed the previous concerns of this reviewer.

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

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I receive research funding from the Parasitology Branch/DMID and the Ecology of Infectious Diseases programs of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. I have also been consultant to the World Health Organization’s Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases. In theory, future funding for these programs could be affected by publication of this paper. But let's face it, there will have to be a major change in U.S. and international health priorities before funding to these agencies gets increased in a way that would affect me or my research or significantly affect these agencies.