Reviewer's report

Title: Dermatitis associated with exposure to toxic cyanobacterium during recreational water exposure

Version: 1 Date: 3 September 2008

Reviewer: Wolfgang Uter

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting report on a relatively major outbreak of L. majuscula-related disease, and a good review of previous evidence.

Major Revisions:
none.

Minor Revisions:
The wording could partly lead to misunderstandings, or is just sloppy:
- l 32: add "the" to make clearer that there is just one station on Fraser Island
- l 37: one "in" is enough
- l 47: better "some" instead of "those", as the latter could suggest that the algae toxins are the only ones causing - btw - irritant contact dermatitis (and not contact irritant dermatitis)
- l 82-94: please cut back the "Microsoft references" to a normal extent. It would be sufficient to state "data was collected using Microsoft Excel and analysed with SPSS (version XY)."
- l 94: are the authors sure that the listed terms are euphemisms, and not just colloquial synonyms? I could agree that "mermaid's hair" is an euphemism for a nasty alga, but I am not so sure about "dickweed"!
- l 98: one "were" seems enough
- l 108: "excluded"? or rather "included"!
- l 144: please explain "MRWA" upon first mention
- l 190: the authors mention the erection of warning signs. Could they mention when these were put up, and whether this could have led to any increase of the consultation rate due to increased awareness?
- Table 1 is pretty much a summary of data presented in Fig. 2 and could thus be omitted, if space restrictions are an issue
- References: #15 and #16 may mean something to the authors, but these are not references proper!

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