Reviewer's report

Title: Animal-based remedies as complementary medicine among people in semi-arid region, NE Brazil

Version: 1 Date: 27 May 2008

Reviewer: Ana Haydee Ladio

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
yes
3. Are the data sound?
yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Some sections are incomplete. I recommend to improve the section Results.
9. Is the writing acceptable?
yes

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

Abstract. Results
This section must be improved with more information.
Background
The author must explain in the text what it is “partner-cultural structure”

Methods.

Change Site of Study for Study site
In this section more information is needed in relation to sociocultural aspects of the human population. In addition, I would like to see in the ms more data about medicinal practices, rituals, beliefs that included animals to understand its importance and use maintenance.

Results and Discussion
The sum of medicinal animals separated by type is 33, not 37 species. Please, check.

Pag. 6. Last paragraph, change is by are.
Page 8. Please, explain in the text the system “simpatias”.
Pag. 9. Last paragraph is quite confusing. Please improve.

Conclusions
Pag.10. Last sentence. English improvement is needed.

- Minor Essential Revisions
I suggest to delete the word “free” in markets

**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'