Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of real-time PCR assay for detecting Schistosoma mansoni infections in a low endemic setting

Version: 1 Date: 14 July 2014

Reviewer: Hamed Farag

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
The data introduced by the authors are in need to more graphs or charts (may be one) to illustrate real time PCR results to clarify Ct i.e. clarify +ve and –ve Ct of different cases. I think that the authors have these charts and can add it to the manuscript. Adding these chart(s) will make the manuscript more adherent to the scientific relevant standards.

Minor Essential Revisions
Line 144 & line 145: Time elapsed after samples obtained to be tested.

Discretionary Revisions:
Line 174: DNA of hamasters (without data)
Line 211: Omit the letter a.
Line 212: Purified DNA sample (has been mention in the same line)
Table 4 & 5: The mean values written in the tables should be proofed by a chart.

Scientific Report
The title of the article is completely matching with the scientific research work done. Article abstract is well written and fully describes what the authors deal with. In general the article writing is clear and comprehensive. Really it is acceptable. I noticed that the authors acknowledge help that enable them to complete the research work. I did not observe any statement concerning any limitations or difficulties during the practical work done. The authors gave a good definition about the research problem in concern. Both materials and methods used in this work are well known and the authors described them in a scientific approach. The data introduced by the authors are in need to more graphs or charts (may be one) to illustrate real time PCR results to clarify Ct i.e. clarify +ve and –ve Ct of different cases. I think that the authors have these charts and can add it to the manuscript. Adding these chart(s) will make the manuscript more adherent to the scientific relevant standards. I can say that both discussion and conclusions match the data obtained in this article in addition they adequately support the idea of the research point.

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**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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