Reviewer's report

Title: Species diversity of non-tuberculous mycobacteria isolated from humans, livestock and wildlife in the Serengeti ecosystem, Tanzania

Version: 4 Date: 1 September 2014

Reviewer: Emily Henkle

Reviewer's report:

Interesting paper, easy to follow

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) I would suggest some additional comment on the use of solid media to culture NTM. You mention that 92% of samples in the Discussion paragraph 1 did not grow mycobacteria and one reason might be failure to culture mycobacteria. Only 2.9% of sputum samples were NTM positive, which seems low. Here is a paper from Asia that found large differences depending on whether solid or liquid media was used.


2) Do you know the HIV status of the 472 human TB suspects? And how many were TB+? Please include if available.

Minor Essential Revisions

3) correct to Mycobacterium genavense (not genavanse)

4) read the discussion carefully (couple of places where commas and periods are not in the right place)

Discretionary Revisions

None

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