Reviewer’s report

Title: Multilocus sequence types of clinical Burkholderia pseudomallei isolates from Peninsular Malaysia and their associations with disease outcomes

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Reviewer: Izabela Korona-Glowniak

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript deals with an interesting topic in the field of epidemiology, concerning genotyping of clinical Burkholderia pseudomallei strains and association of genotypes with infection presentations. The authors have provided detailed genotypic characteristics of 83 clinical B. pseudomallei strains and analyzed them in comparison to other Malaysian B. pseudomallei strains as well as to strains from MLST database from other regions.

I have no objections to the quality of the manuscript: methods are appropriate, all parts of the manuscript (methods, results and discussion) are decent and well-described. It has been enjoyable paper to read.

I will address some comments to the study:

The strength of the study is deep molecular analysis suitable for such kind of epidemiological research. However, the authors should consider to calculate a diversity of MLST loci by Nei’s index = 1-Σ (allele frequency)^2 (Malorny B, Junker E, Helmuth R. Multi-locus variable-number tandem repeat analysis for outbreak studies of Salmonella enterica serotype Enteritidis. BMC Microbiol 2008; 8:84. doi: 10.1186/1471-2180-8-84).

p.8, lines 203-205. This sentence is misleading and needs to be clarified. It is unclear if 59 Malaysian isolates were included to total amount of strains or not.

p.10, lines 249-252. I should be mentioned that data of this statement was not shown.

In my opinion, Table 2 should be included as a Supplemental file as raw data.

I am not sure if Figure 2 is necessary in the manuscript because a reader is capable to analyze Figure 3 (showing of diagram with total number of STs from Figs 1 and 2) according to explanation in the body text.

p.25, lines 652-653. In Fig 3, it should be mentioned how many strains were included to analysis (83 strains?).

The authors should correct the format of references cited in the text and in the Reference list according to requirements of Journal: "All references, including URLs, must be numbered consecutively, in square brackets, in the order in which they are cited in the text, followed by any
in tables or legends. The reference numbers must be finalized and the reference list fully formatted before submission."

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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