Reviewer’s report

Title: Characterization of Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterium from Humans and Water in an Agro pastoral area in Zambia

Version: 1 Date: 29 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Yuzo Suzuki

Reviewer’s report:

1) How did the authors randomly selected the patients among the all of patients suspected TB? Please describe the detailed metrology, and also the following informations: during the study period, how many presumptive TB patients admitted the hospitals, and how many patients were diagnosed TB etc.

2) Please describe the background of the subjects: Age, Gender, Comorbidities, Xp/CT findings, Laboratory data etc.

3) Please describe the contributions of the study to public health in Zambia.

4) Did the patients isolated NTM from the sputum were infected with the each pathogens or just contaminations?

5) Why these preliminary data reflect the prevalences of enviromental in Zambia and also the regions?

6) This manuscript need to edit by the native.

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

No

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

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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