Reviewer's report

Title: Spoligotyping based genetic diversity of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Ethiopia: A systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 04 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Shampa Anupurba

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript deals with spoligotyping based genetic diversity of M. tuberculosis. Already there are several papers where spoligotyping has been used to study genetic diversity. It would have been better if an additional typing method could have been included. The objective of the study was to review and compile the results of studies conducted on strains and lineages of M. tuberculosis in Ethiopia. The authors have included 21 studies which included 3,067 strains and 3,071 isolates. They have not specified which 4 isolates were considered the same strains and why. The language needs a lot of revision at many places. For Eg.

2nd Paragraph of Introduction in Page 2 - Ethiopia is also among 30th high burden countries- 30 instead of 30th.

TB is the leading causes- one of the leading causes

Page 3, Genomics of M. tuberculosis- 2nd line- (MTBC) known by causing TB diseases- known to cause TB

2nd paragraph- The sentence "The outer membrane of M. tuberculosis possess a lipid bilayer of long fatty acids ... the two most effective antiTB drugs"- May be deleted; not relevant.

Page 4, 2nd paragraph- On the other hand, others- other instead of others

Page 4, 3rd paragraph- Although spoligotyping also- insert is after spoligotyping

Page 6- 1st paragraph- Country may be replaced by country

Page 7, 2nd Paragraph- In the understanding strain diversity- delete 'the'
In line with this, there were only few studies reported - there were only few studies which reported (missing spacers 4-24) were sequenced using... 'were sequenced' can be deleted.

Page 7, 4th paragraph - On the other hand, a highest number of strains - delete 'a'.

**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.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
**Declaration of competing interests**

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal