Reviewer’s report

Title: Identification of priority areas for surveillance of cutaneous leishmaniasis using spatial analysis approaches in southeastern of Brazil

Version: 0  Date: 25 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Oscar Salomon

Reviewer's report:

General comments

The study shows an interesting analytical approach to describe CL incidence distribution on time and space in MC State, Brazil, from secondary data in municipality and three-year scales. However, the authors should better discuss why these descriptive data could be of interest for an international reader. Some examples below:

Lines 242-247 the authors stated: "CL steady increase", MG "new CL cases … more than in the neighboring states", "we tried to understand spatial and temporal changes of the disease". But, the understanding supposes the association between CL trends and environmental or climatic factors or other explanation or hypothesis sustained by analytical results.

Lines 304-307: "In general, exploratory techniques such as the calculation of the Global Moran's Index in association with LISA are very useful in identifying priority areas for the implementation of public policies related to disease monitoring and control and might be superior and more detailed than the indication of priority circuits, as proposed by others." Please reference or document the improvement of the proposed approach in actual operational scales despite the difference in the number of areas identified.

Lines 309-320: Discriminate the spatial scales of the results obtained by the cited references, which demonstrated the spread of vectors and infected reservoirs between municipalities. Further, to better support the author's statement, the changes of the article own results in time should be discussed in the frame of a "contagion" trend analysis, and if there are any environmental modifications during the studied period that could explain this trend in some places and not in others at the proper scale.
Formal comments

The spatial scales and analytical units are mesoregions and municipalities, so define mesoregion (or the criteria used to define it) in the materials and methods-study area section.

The sentences 105-106n seems that not add additional information to the previous paragraph, so it could be deleted.

Check Leishmania braziliensis spelling through the text

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.

No

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

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