**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Prevalence of intestinal parasites and associated risk factors among inmates of Mekelle prison, Northern Ethiopia, in 2017

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 11 Apr 2019

**Reviewer:** José Guillermo Esteban

**Reviewer's report:**

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In this new version of the Ms concerning the prevalence of intestinal parasites and the associated factors in prisoners of Mekelle Prison in Northern Ethiopia in 2017, the authors have carried out a great many changes, which means that the Ms has gained consistency in order to be published in BMC Infectious Diseases. Perhaps, the most surprising aspect is that the authors find *Entamoeba complejo, Giardia intestinalis*, as well as *E. coli*, as protozoan species. Certainly, *E. coli* can be very easily diagnosed when cysts are concerned as it is very easy to find more than 4 nuclei. However, other species of amoebae (Endolimax, Iodamoeba) and flagellates (Chilomastix, Dientamoeba) are much more difficult to diagnose, basically due to the reduced size of the trophozoites/cysts, and also due to the size of their own nuclei. Even more surprising is the finding of *Chromiste Stramenophiles Blastocystis* spp., which is the most abundant intestinal parasite in humans, whether in developed or developing countries. It is quite curious why the authors of the Ms mention that the parasites found have nothing to do with being in prison - a situation making it even more difficult to accept.

Another aspect that should be commented on is the fact that they talk about a spectrum of intestinal parasites, it does not matter whether one or a hundred cases are concerned; the important thing is the detection of the parasite spectrum. Perhaps, in this sense, the entire set of the tables has to be taken into account. It can be considered opportune to capture all cases in the entire parasite spectrum; and, therefore, it seems opportune to underline the case of *Schistosoma mansoni*, or the case of *Enterobius vermicularis*, or even the case of *Trichuris*. In this manner, it is not necessary to look at the cases of multiparasitism.

And, finally, there are various linguistic errors in the English language, which should be revised by a qualified native speaker.
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