Author’s response to reviews

Title: Blackfly fever and dermatitis caused by Simulium kiritshenkoi: A human case report in Iran

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Reviewer reports:

Reviewer 1: To my opinion all points have been clarified. Yet there are still the following corrections do be made.

Thank you for detailed and insightful comments.

1. Background, Line 5: 11-segmented antennae (not 11 segmented as this is misleading) done

2. Background, Line 10: To my knowledge the correct name is Onchocerca gutturosa, not gutterosa. done

3. Background, Line 16: numerous blackly bites (not blackly) done

4. Page 6, line 11: there is a formatting issue with letter sizes in "insecticides such as tempos" done

Reviewer 2: Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.
Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

Thank you for detailed and insightful comments.

1. Change 'aquatic larvae' to read 'aquatic stages' - Line 8 of page 6. The reason being that the aquatic stages of Simulium also include the nymph stage

2. Temephos is a wrong example to use as an insecticide that has a negative environmental impact - Line 11 of page 6. The reason here is that temephos or Abate is formulated as an emulsifiable concentrate and are therefore ingested by the larvae. It is also applied in low doses and several environmental impact assessment studies found it safe and was therefore considered safe. It was therefore the Onchocerciasis Control Programme in West Africa (OCP) insecticide of choice by for vector control. The authors could use either Permethrin (a pyrethroid) or Carbosulfan (a carbamate) also employed by the OCP as an example because they required high doses and were also known to negatively impact on aquatic fauna.

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