Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0  Date: 12 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Michael David Wison

Reviewer's report:

Title:
The title should simply read "Blackfly fever and dermatitis caused by Simulium kiritshenkoi: a human case report in Iran". The literature review in the title is not key in the report but relevant for the discussion in the manuscript.

Abstract:
The case presentation of the abstract should report on how the patient's condition was resolved.
The statement that "The flies were morphologically identified as Simulium kiritshenkoi using the keys....." is a methodology statement. I suggest the responsible blackfly vector was identified as Simulium kiritshenkoi. I am assuming from the manuscript that this is the first report of a combined dermatitis and blackfly fever in Iran and this should be stated in the concluding statements.

Case presentation:
The authors claim that the flies were collected by patients which implies several actors, this should be clarified whether it was the patient or several patients collected the flies.
It is important to give the details of the treatment regimen that the infectious disease specialist employed e.g. whether it was a single injection of a specific corticosteroids (commercial name) and the dose used.
Both male and female flies were identified. If really male flies were collected and identified then the method of collection should be described since it's only females that bite to seek blood meals.

Discussions and Conclusions:
The authors state that the devastating effects of insecticides are inevitable for other aquatic insects which is after stating that Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) formulations are proven to be effective against blackflies. The authors should know that the recommended larvicides used for blackfly control are Temephos and B.t. formulations which act as endotoxins of dipteran larvae whose feeding involve the ingestion of particles including those of the two insecticides.
The last concluding statement is not appropriate since it is recommending the study of blackfly species and their distribution in Iran, not the subject of the case report. Rather, the authors should state that being the first case of Blackfly fever and how it was treated, thus creating awareness should be there for any such incident in future.
Ethical approval and consent to participate:
The authors should provide a reference to the ethical approval by the committee. The consent to participate is not relevant here.

References:
The formatting of the references does not distinguish articles in journals, chapters in books and book titles. This should be addressed.
Uppercase is used for Reference 7, which should also be addressed.
Reference 8 is not complete.

Figures:
The key morphological features should be indicated with arrows and labelled in the illustrations

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published
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