**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Plaque biofilm microbial diversity in infants aged 12 months and their mothers with or without dental caries: a pilot study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 03 Dec 2018

**Reviewer:** Reviewer 2

**Reviewer's report:**

REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER:

Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution?

Yes

Reviewer comments: The authors tried to address the critique of the reviewers to an acceptable extent. I realize that the authors cannot be as strict judges of their work as the reviewers. However, I would appreciate a more critical discussion of the findings in relation to previous knowledge. For instance, the transient character of certain microbes, the microbial properties that possibly link them to the disease, the genus and species distribution in relation to ecological aspects and the disease, the caries activity of the subjects, the periodontal status, the coarse plaque index used, any diet information, etc. Frankly speaking, my suggestion to accept the manuscript for publication is rather influenced by the study's pilot character than by the scientific soundness of the revised version.

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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