



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_31517
Title of the Manuscript:	Molecular Identification of Plasmodium Species in Malaria in Zimbabwe by Mitochondrial DNA Sequencing
Type of the Article	Short Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	A description of how samples were selected, obtained, stored should be included. If these were residual samples, used for something else, then where and how were they stored prior to being used by this study? Ethical Issues: Authors should state whether informed consent was obtained from patients and how. If no	The following description has been added: "The blood samples were temporarily stored in the hospital laboratories for 7 days before being discarded. To get these samples for our study, we came to collect them within 7 days where they were stored in the cold room at 4 °C. To select the samples, laboratory result registers of the hospital laboratories were used in order to identify the samples which had been found to be malaria-positive or malaria-negative by standard microscopy. The selected samples were taken to the Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Zimbabwe and frozen at -20°C pending DNA extraction". The following statement has been added "No informed consent was signed by patients. The study was exempted from written informed consent because the human-derived samples used constituted non-identifiable residual clinical specimens which were destined for discarding by hospital laboratories. Institutional permission to use the residual samples was sort and granted from the clinical laboratory heads".
Minor REVISION comments	Considering the small sample size, the conclusion 'This study confirmed that <i>P. falciparum</i> was the main species causing malaria in Zimbabwe' should be made cautiously. Authors could state that they only got <i>P. falciparum</i> in the analysed	The conclusion has been edited to: "From the few analyzed malaria-positive blood samples collected in Zimbabwe, <i>P. falciparum</i> was shown to be the only species of Plasmodium to be present. The other four Plasmodium species that cause malaria



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	samples rather than this BOLD conclusion	in humans, <i>P. ovale</i> , <i>P. vivax</i> , <i>P. malariae</i> and <i>P. knowlesi</i> were not detected. A bigger study with a larger sample size may need to be conducted in order to ascertain whether <i>P. falciparum</i> is the only predominant Plasmodium species circulating in Zimbabwe".
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	none	N/A