



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

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 Article:	Short Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
Ln 33: Just need to add which subunit of the cytochrome c oxidase gene. For example, in the cited GenBank reference sequence (AB570434) there is two different cox genes, cox subunit 1 and cox subunit 3.	When the PCR test was designed by Haanshuus et al [REF 11: Haanshuus CG, Mohn SC, Morch K, Langeland N, Blomberg B, Hanevik K. A novel, single-amplification PCR targeting mitochondrial genome highly sensitive and specific in diagnosing malaria among returned travellers in Bergen, Norway. Malar J. 2013;12:26], they were not targeting any specific gene, but they were targeting part of the 6kb mitochondrial genome which was hypervariable for the Plasmodium species. So even in their paper, they never mentioned "cox subunit 1", "cox subunit 3" or "cytochrome c oxidase gene". So I think it is better to leave it as "cytochrome c oxidase gene" or just "mitochondrial DNA". It seems that the 220 bp PCR fragment amplified is not within cox subunit 1 or cox subunit 3 genes, but is an intergenic spacer whose sequences are found in cox1 and cox3 subunit sequences. That's why when the sequences are BLASTED, the results that come out can be "Plasmodium falciparum isolate PfMTTR6.16 cytochrome oxidase subunit 3 (cox3) and cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 (cox1) genes, partial cds; and cytochrome b (cytob) gene, complete cds; mitochondrial" OR "Plasmodium falciparum cyt-b-cox1 intergenic spacer, partial sequence; mitochondrial" OR "Plasmodium falciparum isolate KEO33 mitochondrion, complete genome". Some sequences are also submitted in the Genebanks not as single gene sequences, but as sequences for several genes or the whole 6 kb mitochondrial genome sequence. So I have not changed the manuscript.