

Dr. med. Sabine Zange
Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology
Central Diagnostic Unit
Neuherbergstrasse 11
80937 Munich
Germany

Microorganisms Editorial Office
MDPI
St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel
Switzerland

July 8th, 2022

Dear Madam, Dear Sir

we gratefully thank you and the reviewers for the positive response to our manuscript describing the adaptation of *Brucella melitensis* antimicrobial susceptibility testing to the ISO 20776 standard and validation of the method" (ID: microorganisms-1771996). We revised our manuscript and addressed all points raised by Reviewer #1 and Reviewer #3. Below, you will find our point-by-point answers. We hope that the manuscript will now meet the requirements for submission as an Original Article to the *Journal Microorganisms (Special Issue "Emerging Themes in Brucella and Brucellosis")*.

Yours sincerely,

Alina Tscherne and Sabine Zange

Reviewer #1:

In this manuscript the authors adapted CLSI recommendations for *Brucella melitensis* antimicrobial susceptibility testing to the ISO 20776 standard regarding the culture medium and the incubation conditions. They devised a Standard Operation Procedure and performed an interlaboratory validation of the method involving eight different laboratories.

I suggest the manuscript would be suitable for publication in Microorganisms following some minor revisions to the text, as follows:

- Line 63: Change “rates in 2008” to “rate in 2008”

Corrected.

- Line 131: Change “*B. melitensis* 57” to “A total of 57 *B. melitensis*”

Corrected.

- Line 134: Remove “respectively”

Corrected.

- Line 138: Insert “the” before “National”

Corrected.

- Line 152: Insert “the” before “pH”

Corrected.

- Line 179: Insert “the” before “BMD”

Corrected.

- Line 195: Insert “the” before “EUCAST”

Corrected.

- Line 209: Insert “the” before “BMD”

Corrected.

- Line 223: Insert “the” before “reference”

Corrected.

- Line 362: Insert “the” before “reference”

Corrected.

- Line 381: Change “rage” to “range”

Corrected.

- Line 419: Change “the agent” to “*B. melitensis*”

Corrected.

- Line 426: Insert a full-stop after [32,33]

Corrected.

- Line 428: Italicise “influenzae”

Corrected.

- Line 439-441: Rewrite “Furthermore, regarding CLSI *B. melitensis* WT MICs for trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole cluster around the CLSI M45 breakpoint of 2 mg/L”

The sentence was changed to: “Another issue has been identified in the use of the CLSI guideline: *B. melitensis* WT MICs for trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole cluster around the CLSI M45 breakpoint of 2 mg/L or were even reported resistant.”

- Line 443: Specify how long?

“since the late 1970s” was added.

- Line 469: Insert “the” before “literature”

Corrected.

- Line 472: Change “as” to “than”

Corrected.

- Line 488: Insert “an” before “alternative”

Corrected.

- Line 489-491: Rewrite „The data at different time points indicated a reduction of the incubation time to less than 48 h made reading of BMD plates very difficult which invalidated results.”

The sentence was changed to: “Measuring the MICs at different time points showed that reducing the incubation time to less than 48 hours made it very difficult to read the BMD plates. This makes the results invalid.”

- Line 509: Change “graduate” to “gradual”

Corrected.

- Line 518: Insert “the” before “final”

Corrected.

- Line 524: Insert “the” before “correct”

Corrected.