

Reviewer#3:

The results were few but interesting. I liked the introduction, which gives quite a broad overview of the host's breeding status on parasite development. In spite of mentioned, I found some major indistinctness in this manuscript.

1. What is the relationship between the prevalence of haemosporidian parasites and measurements of chickens? Why were these measurements taken and used in this research?

Reply: Thank you. We took the measurements because we wanted to know if the parasite prevalence had any effects on the physiological well-being of the chickens.

2. There was no data about vector abundance provided, so we can not make conclusions about them.

Reply: Revised.

3. The obtained results did not convince that "Our findings indicate a clear correlation between breeding season, vector availability, and the prevalence of blood parasites..." (lines 233-234) It is not a correlation, because You have only 2 data (January and April of the same year) and one of them is greater compared with another.

Reply: Revised.

Minor remarks.

What was the age of chickens?

Did You investigate the same chickens (in January and in April) of different?

Reply: Different chickens.

I would suggest not using Fig. 1. There is no Genus and outgroup in this tree and the tree is not informative. It is also a repetition of Fig. 2. Or You should explain the difference (about information provided) between Fig.1 and Fig. 2.

Reply: Revised.

Table 2 - it should be marked which measurements are statistically different and which are not.

Line 154. "The haplotypes with greater than 98% similarity to the MalAvi lineage were categorized as belonging to the same lineage". To my knowledge, each cytb haplotype is a separate genetic lineage, o 98% is a too big difference.

Lines 236-237. "...chickens in the breeding season had longer WLs and BWs than those of the non-breeding season, which suggested that these birds were more susceptible to the physiological effects of parasitism during the breeding season..." Why these parameters are related?

Reply: Thanks. We reported about these parameters because their values were significantly different, comparing the body parameters of the birds of the breeding season and those of the non-breeding season.

This manuscript can be prepared as a short communication because in the common results about parasite prevalence are interesting.

Response: Noted, thank you.