

Author's Reply to the Review Report (Reviewer 1)

Open Review

- ☐ I would not like to sign my review report
☒ I would like to sign my review report

Quality of English Language

- ☐ I am not qualified to assess the quality of English in this paper
☐ English very difficult to understand/incomprehensible
☐ Extensive editing of English language required
☒ Moderate editing of English language
☐ Minor editing of English language required
☐ English language fine. No issues detected

	Yes	Can be improved	Must be improved	Not applicable
Does the introduction provide sufficient background and include all relevant references?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Are all the cited references relevant to the research?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Is the research design appropriate?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Are the methods adequately described?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Are the results clearly presented?	☒	☐	☐	☐
Are the conclusions supported by the results?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Comments and Suggestions for Authors

nice (part) replication study with good references

line 53/54: this sentence does not contain information, pls delete

Reply: Yes we agree; the sentence has been deleted.

line 55: no, not all studies that you quote observed and documented mosquitos. please check the studies; some are pure laboratory studies

Reply: Yes we agree; Hiroshige et al, 2017, and Gray et al., 2020 have been removed.

line 61: you mean "from mosquitos", not "on the human DNA"

Reply: The sentence “obtained from blood-fed mosquitoes” has been added to remove ambiguity.

line 73: what lasts 60 hrs, digestion or degradation? pls be precise.

Reply: We mean the digestion process. Thus, the ward “which” is replaced with “that” to remove ambiguity.

line 78: why expensive? why time-consuming? these are relatively normal laboratory tasks?

Reply: Yes, we do agree that it is normal laboratory tasks, but still, in our opinion, requires skillful expertise, expensive molecular kits, and consumes all the rare samples of field-collected mosquitoes

line 82/83: i do not understand the sentence: "thus"? why "thus"? a simple stain also is of forensic value.

Reply: Yes, we do agree. Even simple stain can also contain mixture of two or more sources (mixed blood). This sentence is general for any type of Biological traces as it could possibly contain mixed blood.

line 94 & 149 & 172 & 189: name of author not necessary, number of citation is sufficient

Reply: Done; name of authors are removed

line 94: what do you mean by "briefly"?

Reply: “Briefly” means presenting the summarized method used by the reference study (Ahmed et al., 1999).

line 96 & 110 & 133: ONE mouse? or several mice?

Reply: Yes one mouse

line 100: approximately 200? or did you count?

Reply: Yes, we count 200 larvae/1L water. This is our routine work in our lab for rearing mosquitoes.

line 127 & 204 & 477: one 'empty space' too much

Reply: Empty spaces removed

line 140: what do you mean by "aspirated"?

Reply: The word "aspirated" is replaced with "collected" which is clearer.

line 169: really -80 deg Celsius? did you check this?

Reply: Yes, we stored the experimental blood-feed mosquitoes at -80°C for later use for extracting their blood meals.

line 197: "for data comparison"? maybe delete this phrase?

Reply: deleted

line 203: 36 SPACE h

Reply: Done

line 211 to 214: pls round off values

Reply: Done

line 238: "extracted from the blood meals" → what exactly do you mean?

Reply: It is clear: extracted from the blood meals of the six experimental mosquito groups

line 339: "are interfered" → pls check grammar

Reply: the sentences is re-edited to be clearer

line 404: "this trace of DNA" → pls check style (did you mean "trace DNA"?)

Reply: Yes, the word "of" is removed

line 411, 414, 426, 435, 438, 461, 490, 494: "thus", "in this context", "in this regard", "further", "meanwhile", "however", "therefore" → pls delete 'empty' phrases, they contain no information

Reply: Yes, all removed

line 446: your quote [39] does not refer to mosquito blood, pls mention that

Reply: Done

line 450 & 468: why do you refer to [37] here? pls explain in text, i am not sure if this is what you really meant?

Reply: That is right; reference 37 removed

line 478: females (not femailes)

Reply: Done

line 489: "decoding ambiguous" → pls check language

Reply: Yes, it is OK

line 494: "which are suitable for human identification" → pls delete, you stated this already (and do it again afterwards)

Reply: Done

line 500: what do you mean with "formal"? pls be more specific

Reply: It is automated term in the Journal System, which means Data Analysis. We only assign the author(s) who are eligible for it in the study.

line 504: validation of what? pls be specific

Reply: again, it is automated term in the Journal System.

Comments on the Quality of English Language

language could be a little more precise; this might be a translation issue but it needs to be checked again pls because the translator probably did sometimes not understand what was meant exactly. a little more "sharp", scientific style would be good.

Reply: Done

empty filler words should be removed ("thus", "in this context", "in this regard", "further", "meanwhile", "however", "therefore")

Reply: Done

Submission Date 02 April 2023

Date of this review 10 Apr 2023 17:50:33