



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2014_IJTDH_14609
Title of the Manuscript:	Prevalence of Malaria in the Highlands of Obudu Cattle Ranch, Nigeria
Type of the Article	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:

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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)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	<u>Title</u> The title of the manuscript is labelled prevalence while the whole text is describing incidence. Prevalence and incidence are not the same. This manuscript is describing prevalence rather than incidence. The authors might want to consider whether it is incidence or prevalence study and need to define the terms. <u>Abstract</u> The abstract section requires revision. Two-thirds of the text contains results. Abstract should have background, the objective, methods of study, findings and conclusion.	This is a prevalence study. Prevalence involves both old and new cases (incidence) of the infection. The study considered both old and new cases of malaria within the 4-year period. Hence discussion of incidence in the text is not out of place. However, spot errors on the use of incidence/prevalence in the text have been appropriately corrected. Abstract contains the mentioned details although they are not itemized. However, appropriate slight revision has been done.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	<u>Introduction</u> Clear and relevant <u>Materials and Methods</u> Study area: The last two sentences are not clear and need revision i.e. starting from It has a temperature to figure of 888 people. The dry season start from November to January with temperature ranging from 26 to 32 and wet season begins in June and ending in September with temperature..... What happens during the months of	Sentences have now been made clearer in the manuscript.



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	February, March, April, May and October? Data Collection: The second part of the text gives information as if describing results, rather than describing how data was collected, collated and analyzed. It needs revision. Results Yearly incidence of malaria: The second sentence needs revision to indicate cases of malaria in male and females. The third sentence line also needs revision for clarity starting with important findings. For example: <i>Highest cases of malaria (34.6%) was recorded/reported in 2011 with the incidence rate of 82.29/1000 population and lowest cases (16.0%) were recorded/reported in 2008 with incidence rate of 39.61/1000 (Table 1).</i> The year 2011 is not consistent with the row in Table 1 which indicates 2010 which recorded the highest cases of malaria. Need revision and possible correction. Malaria Incidence with Age: Again need revision of sentence structure. For example: <i>The highest cases of malaria reported were among children between the ages of 5 and 14 years. The lowest (4.62%, n=15) for ages 60 and above, while those under 5 years of age contributed 24.69% (n=80) (Table 2).</i>	The sentence is not describing results, rather, the characteristic (age ranges) of respondents from whom data were collected. This is necessary at this point. However, some revision has been made. Sentences are revised. Error is corrected Sentence is revised.
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	This data would be best served with a graph rather than a Table. <i>Seasonal Incidence of Malaria:</i> OK <i>Knowledge of Malaria:</i> OK <i>Attitude and Practice of Malaria treatment:</i> OK <u>Discussion</u> <i>Malaria Incidence in the Ranch Communities:</i> The first paragraph is not necessary. A good discussion should start with a statement of important findings as in the second paragraph. Otherwise is well presented but may require editing. <u>Conclusion</u> Sound conclusion except for sentence line 6 where it says “<i>require in-depth retrospective study....</i>” It would be appropriate for a prospective longitudinal study to address the influence of climate change in malaria of highland region. One can examine <i>retrospective</i> data and analyze for trend but must go back prior to 2008.	Data is now presented in line graph. The first paragraph of the discussion was crafted to further strengthen the significance of the study. This refers to a retrospective study that would examine data over a longer period.
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<u>Optional/General</u> comments	<u>General Comments</u> (i) It is not clear the total population from which data were collected and analyzed. In the <i>Study Area</i> subsection of the <i>Materials and Methods</i> section a figure of 888 people is given while in Table 1 it mention 5393 as population of study area. This discrepancy need to be corrected or explanation can be provided. (ii) It is not clear whether this study describes prevalence or incidence of malaria. (iii) A clear study population size is not mention on which incidence or prevalence of malaria was calcualted.	The figure 888 is the 1991 base population of the area from which projections were made. The figure 5393 is sum of yearly projected population, 2008 to 2011. Explanation is given under Table 1. Study describes prevalence. Response has been provided in "Title" above. Prevalence rates are understandably calculated using total population.
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