

Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparative study of enteric viruses, coliphages and indicator bacteria for evaluating water quality in a tropical high-altitude system

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Environmental Health
BioMed Central

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached the revised and corrected manuscript entitled **Comparative study of enteric viruses, coliphages and indicator bacteria for evaluating water quality in a tropical high-altitude system**, by Ana C. Espinosa, Carlos F. Arias, Salvador Sánchez-Colón, Marisa Mazari-Hiriart, with ID number 1338503898244479.

All the corrections requested by the reviewer have been attended as follows:

- i) Page 3, the “for a” was changed by “microbiota”, “sign” by “indicator”. Page 4, the term “vital” was substituted by “important”.
- ii) Page 22, “consultado el” was deleted.
- iii) Figure 2 is included with the requested results regarding the relationship between enteric viruses presence and parameters.
- vi) Page 15, two last paragraphs and page 16, first paragraph. A short paragraph was included, discussing the use of coliphages as indicator of faecal pollution, index of enteric viruses or process indicator. Additional references were integrated on this topic:

47. Mandilara GD, Smeti EM, Mavridou AT, Lambiri MP, Vatopoulos AC, Rigas FP: **Correlation between bacterial indicators and bacteriophages in sewage and sludge**. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 2006, **263**:119-126.

48. Ashbolt NJ, Grabow WOK, Snozzi M: **Indicators of microbial water quality**. In *Water quality - Guidelines, standards and health*. Edited by Fewtrell L, Bartram J. London, IWA Publishing, 2001, 289-316.

49. Borrego JJ, Córnaux R, Moriñigo MA, Martínez-Manzanares E, Romero P: **Coliphages as an indicator of fecal pollution in water. Their survival and productive infectivity in natural aquatic environments**. *Wat Res* 1990, **24**:111-116.

50. Gerba C: **Phage as indicators of fecal pollution**. In: *Phage Ecology*. Edited by Goyal SM, Gerba CP, Bitton G. New York, Wiley-Interscience, 1987, 197-209.

51. Duran AE, Muniesa M, Moce-Llivina L, Campos C, Jofre J, Lucena F: **Usefulness of different groups of bacteriophages as model micro-organisms for evaluating chlorination.** *J Appl Microbiol* 2003,**95**:29-37.

52. Shin GA, Sobsey MD: **Reduction of Norwalk virus, poliovirus 1, and bacteriophage MS2 by ozone disinfection of water.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2003, **69**:3975-3978.

This last manuscript is being resubmitted for possible publication in **Environmental Health** as a research article.

All authors have read the manuscript and are in agreement that the work is ready for resubmission to the journal and we all accept responsibility for the manuscript contents.

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Yours faithfully,
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