Review of: "Clinical and Subclinical Bovine Mastitis: Staphylococcus aureus Isolation and Identification from Dairy Farms Located in and Around Hawassa Town, Southern Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript raises an important issue. However, I try to forward my comments and suggestions as follows.

1. General: Mastitis is one of the most studied diseases, but I failed to find the ultimate goal of this paper beyond merely identification of the pathogen. It does not show the gaps and does not show the relevance of the findings in the control of mastitis.

2. Introduction: The introduction is too long and should be rewritten by avoiding repetitions. The paragraph which states information about clinical mastitis is not referenced, and the next paragraph about sub-clinical mastitis references is too old (1996).

3. Study Animals: Regarding farm selection, the authors need to describe how many farms were there in the study area, what kind of random sampling they followed to select cows and farms, and why only zebu cross breeds were chosen.

4. Sample Size Determination: There are a lot of works studied in Hawassa (such as Abebe, R., Hatiy, H., Abera, M., Megersa, B., & Asmare, K. (2016), Abera, M., Elias, B., Aragaw, K., Denberga, Y., Amenu, K., & Sheferaw, D. (2011)), but the authors need to justify why they used the expected prevalence from a different area with a different agroecology?

5. Udder Cleaning should come before Milk Sample Collection, or they should be under the same title by avoiding repetition.

6. Isolation and Identification contains a repeated idea from Udder cleaning.

7. Results: Prevalence of Mastitis; how do you manage blind teats in quarter-level prevalence (1000)?

8. The narration for P values for Table 3 is not correct (written '<'), and statically insignificant values need not be narrated, i.e., p ~ 0.064.

9. The data quality assurance policy should be stated.

Decision: I accept this paper for publication with major revisions.