

Reviewer Report

Title: "Genome sequencing of the sweetpotato whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* MED/Q"

Version: Original Submission **Date:** 8/19/2016

Reviewer name: Laura Boykin

Reviewer Comments to Author:

The article needs to be greatly improved but very important data. After reading the article I'm left asking myself- why did the team sequence the genome?

The title is using incorrect nomenclature for this species complex. All references to biotype are obsolete. Please see the literature below and revise.

Key literature surrounding the nomenclature of the species complex are missing. References 9 and 10 are outdated. I recommend a complete literature search of the topic but read Wang, H.L., J. Yang, L. M. Boykin, Q.Y. Zhao, Y.J. Wang, S.S. Liu, X.W. Wang. 2014. Development,

characterization and analysis of microsatellite markers from the transcriptomes of three whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* species. *Scientific Reports*. doi:10.1038/srep06351. Tay, W.T., G. A. Evans, L.M. Boykin, P.J. De Barro. 2012. Will the real *Bemisia tabaci* please stand up? *PLoS ONE* 7(11): e50550. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0050550. Boykin, L.M., K.F. Armstrong, L. Kubatko, and P. De Barro. 2012. Species Delimitation and Global Biosecurity. *Evolutionary Bioinformatics* 8: 1-37. Boykin, L.M. 2014. *Bemisia tabaci* nomenclature: Lessons learned. *Pest Management Science* 70:1454-59.

Avoid the "sibling" species terminology. Remove all reference to biotype throughout the manuscript. What is "strain selection"? Later in the paper MED/Q is used. Be consistent with the naming.

The introduction does not properly review the literature or set up the read for the study that has been conducted or why it is important to have a genome for this particular *B. tabaci* species.

The discussion need to be rewritten completely. There are no scientific questions that were set out to be answered with this genome paper. I recommend reading:

<http://bfg.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2016/06/22/bfgp.elw026.long> and paying attention to the reference: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1471492214000762>

The days of "sequence-first-ask-questions-later" are over and this paper needs to be greatly improved with well defined research questions relevant to Bemisia tabaci species before it can be published anywhere.

Methods

Are the methods appropriate to the aims of the study, are they well described, and are necessary controls included? No

Conclusions

Are the conclusions adequately supported by the data shown? No

Reporting Standards

Does the manuscript adhere to the journal's guidelines on [minimum standards of reporting?](#) Yes

Statistics

Are you able to assess all statistics in the manuscript, including the appropriateness of statistical tests used? Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Quality of Written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of Competing Interests

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