

## Reviewer Report

**Title:** "De novo transcriptome assemblies of four xylem sap-feeding insects"

**Version:** Original Submission    **Date:** 9/16/2016

**Reviewer name:** Rodolphe Poupardin

### Reviewer Comments to Author:

In the present Data note, the authors submitted de-novo transcriptome assemblies for four different xylem-sap feeding insects (*H liturata*, *C arizonana*, *C arida*, *G atropuncta*): Because of the particular feeding behaviour of these insects that feed exclusively on xylem sap, these datasets clearly improve the herbivory collection of insects belonging to this niche. Moreover, it will be a valuable source of data for people interested in comparing how insects can cope and adapt to food with low nutritional value. The pipeline authors used is adequate. These methods have been intensively tested and published. I have checked all access numbers and it seems that authors correctly uploaded all their RAW and processed files to NCBI and GigaScience databases. The RAW reads are not yet publicly accessible but I am sure they will become after acceptance of the manuscript. I believe this data note is suitable for publication in GigaScience journal with only few minor revisions. I would like the authors to provide a little bit more information in the M&M part: how old were the insects when frozen? .... (some transcripts are differentially regulated depending on the life stage and age, and thus may not be detected) which RNA extraction kit did they use? Can authors give a little bit more details about the library preparations? Read size? paired-end I presume? These are minor comments, but I think it is important for anyone interested in using these datasets .

### Level of Interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

### Quality of Written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript: Acceptable

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