

Interactive
Comment

Interactive comment on “Diversity, distribution and spatial structure of the cold-water coral fauna of the Azores (NE Atlantic)” by A. Braga-Henriques et al.

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We thank this reviewer for taking the time to examine our manuscript and providing valuable comments.

Our database comprises over one thousand previously unpublished records (61 species) resulting from specimens collected by IMAR-DOP/UAc, in addition to all the data compiled from published sources. Moreover, we visited the CANCAP-V collection deposited at the Naturalis Museum in Leiden, where we examined alcyonacean and scleractinian specimens, listed for the first time in this paper. Overall the unpublished records reported in this paper are far more than the ones from the CANCAP-V

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expedition. We therefore believe that a detailed description of each new coral record is unnecessary given the scope of this work, which was to produce a comprehensive account of the diversity of cold-water corals in the Azores and to analyze their distribution patterns. Nevertheless, we partly agree with the reviewer in the sense that new species records could be better documented, and thus we will provide a table containing detailed information on the first occurrence of the nine species that are for the first time reported for the Azores EEZ published as supplementary material.

It is true that the zoogeographic affinities revealed by our data set (the most complete to date for the Azores) are in agreement with previous studies of particular taxonomic groups. This is the main reason why this aspect was addressed in the Discussion, and not treated as part of the Results.

Yours faithfully,

Andreia Braga-Henriques and co-authors

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