

***Interactive comment on “The Gela Basin
pockmark field in the strait of Sicily
(Mediterranean Sea): chemosymbiotic faunal and
carbonate signatures of postglacial to modern
cold seepage” by M. Taviani et al.***

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The comments by the referee # 2 are positive and very gratifying. The referee's main concern rests upon the living fraction from the pockmarks field for which little information is provided. In fact, as clearly stated at p. 973 under 'Fauna', the living component was rather poor; it was only possible to classify the occasional bivalves at species level while caprellids cannot at this stage be recognized beyond the simple citation on their occurrence. The case of the ghost shrimp is more complicate since a full taxonomic evaluation, coupling morphological and bio-molecular evidence, is on-going under the

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responsibility of one of the co-authors (C.Frogliia) but will require a substantial amount of dedicated time, also to compare material of the rather elusive taxa in Calliax. Considering the core of the present article, a first description of a new field of seeping pockmarks and their products, it has been decided not to delay the general paper for an in-depth systematic work, since albeit important is not essential at this stage. On the other hand, neither the haul nor the grab transects collected any cnidarians or sponges from the pockmark area, an indication that they are either absent or at best very rare.

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