

***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.***

Anonymous Referee #2

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The study on a pockmark field 800m depth in the Sicily channel offers new important data to understand the possible dynamics of this key area of the Mediterranean Sea.

The paper is clearly written and the literature on the topic is well considered in the whole.

The geological considerations on results are consistent. From the biological side AA provide a huge taxonomic effort. Anyway regarding the living fraction of the sampled fauna little is documented on interesting groups such as caprellids and ghost shrimps,

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which, if better described both from a quantitative and taxonomic point of view, could give a more precise picture of the living assemblages. These two groups are often associated with other organisms, cnidaria and sponges respectively and may be an indirect index of their presence. The epibenthic hauls used for sampling probably limit data interpretation. Moreover, some more detail also on the death assemblages could help the understanding of these peculiar communities, especially regarding echinoids and octocorals. In this form we don't know if their presence is little considered because occasional or because considered a priori little informative. Figure and tables are exhaustive.

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