

Interactive comment on “Seasonal variation in diurnal atmospheric grass pollen concentration profiles” by R. G. Peel et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This paper represents an important contribution on aerobiology; however, I only suggest some recommendations. Introduction: 14629. Line 16 and 17: to include references in parenthesis At the end of the introduction chapter, the four topics proposed have been defined not as the goals of the paper but following a protocol for working. Method and Results I only suggest that probably it should be better to define a Material and Method chapter with different subchapters and the Result chapter with the same subchapters considered in the Material and Method. Example: 2. Material and Method 2.1. Site description and data provenance (this subchapter correspond with only chapter 2) In this subchapter it is not necessary to explain the magnification under a light microscopy, in the same way that you have not explained the size of the microscope's field of view. The amount of magnification affect the area of the slide examined. I think that you should express the percentage of examined area under 12 transverse

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transects. In this subchapter you have mentioned the figure 4 after cite figure 1. It is convenient to cite all figures in numerical order, i.e. figure 4 should be named as figure 2.

2.2. Pollen data: data reduction and processing Probably it should be better if authors mention “peaks in concentrations” as “peaks in the diurnal pollen curves” In the second criteria it is not necessary to add (1) in the phrase, due to the phrase is well explained. All different criteria and defined periods can be considered as Material and Methods. From line 11 to end: dates transition between period. . . can be included in Result chapters following the criteria and the periods defined in M&M.

2.3. Population exposure calculation Only to explain the method you have used and why this decision

2.4. Meteorological data Express the meteorological data used and how they have been defined and presented.

2.5. Inventory of grass species. If you have express in introduction that you have compiled an inventory, you need to explain the origin of the data, etc.

3. Results

3.1. Pollen data and peak time distributions for defined periods To include results of 2.2.1 subchapter and to complete with all text of 2.2.2.

3.2. Population exposure To explain results with figure 3 and 4

3.3. Meteorological data To explain results with figure 5 and 6.

3.4. Inventory of grass species. If you have express in introduction that you have compiled an inventory, you need to explain the results.

4. Discussion

Subchapter 3.3. offer some results not mentioned in the other chapters, i.e. those related to Inventory of grass species. On the other hand, when authors express that 7 species coincide with the peak in the pollen curve, they should express the reference if it has not been a result of this paper and not introduce it as an objective of this paper. The authors should define the pollen season start in material and method. They have mentioned it only in discussion chapter.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 14627, 2013.

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