

## ***Interactive comment on “Phylogenetic support for the Tropical Niche Conservatism Hypothesis despite the absence of a clear latitudinal species richness gradient in Yunnan’s woody flora” by G. Tang et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #3**

Received and published: 29 May 2014

Hi,

once again this is wrong I am sorry to say. If you have many gymnosperms and 'just one' angiosperm you would still have a clustered NRI (because it is based on a null model that could sample the whole phylogeny) and would have young mean ages.

There are more than 3 studies. Please refer to the studies you mention and the many other studies on vertebrates.

I stated that I would like to know a viable hypothesis that you rejected. You stated

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you rejected a no latitudinal diversity gradient hypothesis. I don't think there are many biologists that would think that no latitudinal gradient in plant richness is a viable hypothesis. If the point of the paper is that there is a latitudinal gradient, then I'm not sure what to say. To admit that no other viable alternatives have been rejected and your data is consistent with one of the many alternatives once again suggests to me that we haven't really progressed. I would at least like one of the dozens of viable hypotheses to be rejected.

Simply because the editor agreed to review the work doesn't mean we have to agree that the work is good or suitable for the journal. This is why one has expert reviews. I don't appreciate the bullying nature of the response.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 11, 7055, 2014.

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