

## ***Interactive comment on “Composition and sources of sedimentary organic matter in the deep Eastern Mediterranean Sea” by R. Pedrosa-Pàmies et al.***

**R. Pedrosa-Pàmies et al.**

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We would like to deeply thank the Referee for the time and effort provided to review our manuscript and for his/her constructive comments that greatly helped us improve its quality during the revision process. We have addressed the Reviewer's suggestions for corrections/modifications in the revised version of the manuscript, in which certain parts have been re-worked accordingly (Materials and Methods, tables and Figures 5 and 7). Please follow our detailed responses to Reviewer's #4 comments below.

### Overview

- The major suggestion that will greatly improve the quality and impact of the manuscript  
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is to put the findings into a larger more global context. Presently it is limited to the study location.

Response: According to the Reviewer's suggestion we have put the findings of our paper into a larger more global context. This aspect has been included in the discussion section 5.1 of the revised manuscript, which has been re-worked and developed accordingly in order to improve the quality and impact of the manuscript.

### Additional Comments:

#### Methods

- Please mention the QA/QC procedures for the lipid analysis.

Response: Following the suggestion of Reviewers #2, #3 and #4, all relevant analytical information regarding the determination of lipid biomarkers have been added accordingly in the materials and methods section 3.2.4 (Lipid biomarkers analysis and definitions of molecular indices) of the revised manuscript.

#### Figures and Tables

- In all of the tables, please address the significant figures presented.

Response: Corrected according to the Reviewer's suggestion. There were some tables with mistakes related with the decimals of the values. All this has been corrected.

- Figure 5: The PCA figure needs to be larger since it is hard to read in its current form.

Response: Corrected according to the Reviewer's suggestion. Figure 5a and 5b have been put side by side instead of one below the other.

- Figure 7: In the caption please mention in the coloured symbols correlate to the axis.

Response: Corrected according to the Reviewer's suggestion. The sentence “Orange triangles and green circles correspond to molar TN/OC ratios and  $\delta^{13}C$  values, respectively” has been added in the figure caption.

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