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Interactive comment on “Direct and indirect metabolic CO₂ release by humanity” by Y. T. Prairie and C. M. Duarte

Y. T. Prairie and C. M. Duarte

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We have no disagreement with this review. The only concern raised revolves again (as reviewers #1 and #2 had pointed out) on the interpretation of this large flux, i.e. to reiterate that it does not represent a new, unaccounted flux to the atmosphere. As the reviewer correctly points out, we certainly do not want to give the impression that an additional 3Gt of C is pumped to the atmosphere by humans breathing, thereby minimizing the importance of net sources such as fossil fuels. However, there are also options, particularly life styles (waste production and the fraction of canovory vs. herbivory in human diets) that can affect the total flux through this pathway, and may help formulate mitigation strategies that help lower CO₂ emissions below the ceilings possible from simply acting upon fossil fuel use. Given the same issue was raised by all three reviewers, the revised manuscript would clearly make that warning and recast

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this portion of the discussion with no more room for other interpretation.

Reference

Robinson WR, Peters RH, and Zimmerman J. 1983. The effect of body size on the metabolic rates of organisms. *Can. J. Zool.* 61 : 281-288

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 3, 1781, 2006.

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3, S1033–S1034, 2007

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