

***Interactive comment on “Diagenetic changes in  
Concholepas concholepas shells (Gastropoda,  
Muricidae) in the hyper-arid conditions of Northern  
Chile – implications for  
palaeoenvironmental reconstructions” by  
N. Guzman et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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By using a range of spatially-resolved techniques, this study provides further information on the micro- and nano-structures and chemical composition of modern and fossil mollusk shells, and describes some effects of diagenetic alteration on these shells. This work is of importance because of the increasing use of biominerals in palaeoenvironmental reconstructions, so that the limitations and constraints need to be better understood. What is clear from this, and other recent studies is the complexity of

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the entire process of diagenesis, ranging from the environmental conditions of preservation, their effects on the micro- and nano-structures, and the fate and role of the chemical (both organic and inorganic) components.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 5, 501, 2008.

**BGD**

5, S276–S277, 2008

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