

## ***Interactive comment on* “Diagenetic control of nitrogen isotope ratios in Holocene sapropels and recent sediments from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea” by J. Möbius et al.**

**J. Möbius et al.**

juergen.moebius@zmaw.de

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We agree with the reviewer’s objection that previous findings are not adequately cited, and hopefully remedied this in the revision. In the original manuscript, we cited all findings from Sachs and Repeta (1999) when they are relevant, but we should have referred to this important publication in the discussion as well. It was not our intention to claim their insights as our own, and we regret potential misunderstandings. Our original aim in this contribution was to detect gradients in nutrient input and utilization in the S1 sapropel using  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ . Independently from Sachs and Repeta (1999), and using another method, we came to the same conclusion, namely that diagenetic alterations are the

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driving force for spatial differences and inter-sapropel differences in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ . Given the confusing wealth of theories on  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  in Mediterranean sapropels, we finally realized that our results and conclusions exactly match and support those of Sachs and Repeta (1999).

We thoroughly checked that previous publications are adequately cited.

Additional comments:

We followed the suggestions. See also the response to review 1.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 7, 1131, 2010.

**BGD**

7, C1118–C1119, 2010

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