

***Interactive comment on* “Sediment core fossils in ancient Lake Ohrid: testing for faunal change in molluscs since the Last Interglacial period” by C. Albrecht et al.**

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Dear authors,

I agree with Frank Riedel on his earlier comment that the assumption of "warm and relatively dry climate conditions of the Last Interglacial period" (page 3982, line 6) would need further references. It clearly contradicts the observations by Lezine et al. (2010, Palaeo3) of moist conditions in the Ohrid Basin during this period as well as paleoclimate records from the wider SW Balkan area (e.g., Tzedakis et al., 2003) and Central Europe (the Eemian was definitely moist there). No doubt, the climate of the area was probably warmer during the Last Interglacial but 'warmer' does not mean 'drier'. There

is, as far as I know, no source for a warm but dry air mass that might have reached the Ohrid Basin and influenced its climate at the time from neither the then moist Mediterranean nor Central Europe. In fact, if we regard the Holocene (represented in your core by lithofacies I) as generally moist relative to the last glacial then the elemental records of Co1200 (Ti, K, CaCO₃) clearly suggest comparable, i.e. moist, environmental conditions for the period in question (represented by lithofacies III). The fact that the site today is in 32 m water depths should not be over-interpreted regarding the active tectonic setting and a human-engineered outflow of the lake. I would therefore suggest to simply remove “relatively dry”. Apart from that, a very interesting paper, congratulations!

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