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Interactive comment on “Spatially explicit analyses of gastropod biodiversity in ancient Lake Ohrid” by T. Hauffe et al.

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Received and published: 24 August 2010

General comments The paper of Hauffe et al. is a comprehensive, very useful and well documented description and analysis of gastropod biodiversity in the ancient lake Ohrid (FYROM). Their analyses are well performed, even though sometimes there is an overdose. This is one of my main reservations. Apparently the authors having available and using only presence/absence data of the molluscan species they found tried to overanalyze that information. I think that their study would be much more comprehensive and informative if they had estimated in each sapling site species abundances and environmental correlates that possibly affect species distribution and richness. I suppose that this would be the next step in the analysis of the molluscan fauna of Lake Ohrid. Their conclusions are reasonable and are well based on their results. However,

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besides these shortcomings I believe that this work is worth publishing after taking into account my minor comments listed below.

Specific comments I think that it would be useful using their presence/absence data to detect possible non-random associations of pairs of species enforcing a null-model approach. I understand that this would add more length and weight to the manuscript but it could help to understand if certain species or guild (e.g. endemics vs. non-endemics) associations are random or not.

Technical comments Concerning the form of the manuscript I think that it is quite lengthy. I suggest that authors could cut off it by 20%, eliminating unnecessary information presented in section 2.3 (Statistical analysis), and by using only the strictly necessary literature.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 7, 4953, 2010.

BGD

7, C2457–C2458, 2010

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