

Reply to J. Holtvoeth's comment on “Intra-annual variability of carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes in suspended organic matter in waters of the western continental shelf of India”

We thank Dr. Holtvoeth for his valuable comments. As pointed out by him, the similarities in isotopic composition and C/N ratios of suspended particulate organic matter (SPOM) from the Western Continental Shelf of India (WCSI) and the sediments from the Congo deep-sea fan are indeed very interesting. We fully agree that terrigenous organic matter supply to the WCSI cannot be ignored. However its characterization, especially of soil organic matter (SOM), requires an in-depth study, which will be a project by itself. Nevertheless, possible contributions of nitrogen rich and ^{12}C depleted SOM in interpreting the isotopic composition of SPOM especially during the SW monsoon will be discussed in the revised version of the manuscript.