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## ***Interactive comment on “Possible source of ancient carbon in phytolith concentrates from harvested grasses” by G. M. Santos et al.***

**G. M. Santos et al.**

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Received and published: 24 March 2012

We thank this referee for their very thoughtful comments and recommendations, many of which have resulted in notable improvements to the paper. Most of the specific changes requested, outlined below, were done before the manuscript was accepted for publication at BGD. They are:

Response to reviewer's question #3:

Our research team has recently obtained a grant to continue and expand several experiments. These experiments involve manipulating the above- and below-ground carbon input to higher silicon accumulator grasses. Moreover, we are developing a more rigorous chemical phytolith extraction procedure, since the ones currently available are

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clearly inefficient at removing all organic matter surrounding the phytoliths. These experiments are now briefly discussed under Future Directions (Section 8) of the current paper.

Response to reviewer's question #4:

The changes have been made, i.e. both tables were rearranged and columns were added to ensure clarity. A flowchart (Figure 1) has been included to the manuscript to clarify the repurification steps applied to the samples referred to in Table 1.

Response to reviewer's question #11:

The changes have been made, i.e. typos were fixed, the sentences were rephrased, and the references cited were shortened and rephrased.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 9, 329, 2012.

**BGD**

9, C435–C436, 2012

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