

***Interactive comment on “Bathymetrical distribution and size structure of cold-water coral populations in the Cap de Creus and Lacaze-Duthiers canyons (northwestern Mediterranean)” by A. Gori et al.***

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Dear Veerle,

the unequal spacing of the classes of orientation is not a problem for the ordination by means of correspondence analysis. This is because vertical orientation was included as dummy (zero/one) variable. Indeed, during the video analysis we classified the colony positions as: on top of rocky boulders (now 0° vertical orientation), on rocky walls (now 90° vertical orientation), on the margin or rocky outcrops (now 135° vertical

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orientation), or below rocky outcrops (now 180° vertical orientation), and we performed the analysis with these categories. It was later, during the manuscript preparation, that we thought it would be clearer to refer to the orientation using degrees. However, after your comments, we are thinking that maybe it could be more clear and easy to understand to come back to the first classification we followed for the coral position (no one of the analyses would change, only the names in the figures and in the text). Please, let us know your thoughts about this. . .

Very best regards, and thank you again for the time you dedicated to our manuscript!!

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