

Interactive comment on “Seafloor observations at Campeche Knolls, southern Gulf of Mexico: coexistence of asphalt deposits, oil seepage, and gas venting” by Heiko Sahling et al.

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We thank Referee #2 for the important comments and considered all, which improved the sharpness and readability of the manuscript. A revised version of the manuscript considering the comments of Referee #1, #2, and #3 as well as the SC3 has been uploaded, including a version with tracked changes.

Explicitly, we have re-written and shortened the abstract. We re-phrased the title to: “Massive asphalt deposits, oil seepage, gas venting support abundant chemosynthetic communities at Campeche Knolls, southern Gulf of Mexico”. Section 4.1 was integrated into the section Material and Methods as recommended by Referee #2 and Fig. 3 omitted. The figures were redrawn and all typographic errors corrected.

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We agree with the referee that it is likely that we encountered the genus *Escarpia* in our study area and applied changes accordingly. However, we found several morphotypes of vestimentifera in our study and feel like being careful with ascribing all to that genus *Escarpia* until morphological or phylogenetic studies confirm this. Therefore, we did leave the more general description vestimentifera in several instances. We rephrased the paragraph concerning the use of vestimentifera as chronometer and are more careful about its validity.

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