

## ***Interactive comment on “Geological nature of mineral licks and the reasons for geophagy among animals” by Alexander M. Panichev et al.***

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The paper “Geological nature of mineral licks and the reasons for geophagy among animals” address relevant scientific questions within the scope of BG. This paper present novel concepts and ideas concerning the relationship between of the geological environment and animal consumption of minerals. And substantial conclusions reached. The scientific methods and assumptions valid and clearly outlined. The results sufficient to support the interpretations and conclusions. The description of experiments and calculations sufficiently complete and precise to allow the traceability of results by fellow scientists. The authors give proper credit to related work and clearly indicate their own new and original contribution. The title clearly reflect the contents of the paper. The abstract provide a concise and complete summary. The overall presentation is well structured and clear. The language is fluent and precise. The abbreviations and

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units are correctly defined and used. No any parts of the document which need to be clarified, reduced, combined, or eliminated. The number and quality of references are appropriate. The amount and quality of supplementary material is appropriate.

In this paper, the reasons for the eating of rocks by wild herbivores in two regions of the Eastern Sikhote-Alin volcanic belt are considered. It is shown that the main reason for geophagy may be connected with the animals' urge to discard excessive and toxic concentrations of certain elements that are widespread in specific habitats and ingested with forage plants. Obtaining new data was possible by combining knowledge of geology and biology. This article may be published in full.

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