

Helsinki 23 May 2017

Dear Editor,

Hereby we submit all files required for the production process of the final version of our manuscript titled "Benthic foraminiferal Mn/Ca ratios reflect microhabitat preferences". We have now addressed all the remaining points raised by the reviewer (Nina Keul). Below you can find the point-by-point response to each of her comments.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in the journal *Biogeosciences*.

Best wishes,
Karoliina Koho (on behalf of all co-authors)

Review by Nina Keul

The authors have incorporated the suggestions raised by me and another reviewer into the manuscript, so that it is now more concise and transports the main conclusions in a logical manner that is supported by data. Before the manuscript is ready for publication, substantial editing of the paper has to be carried out, as there are still many small mistakes and inconsistencies, e.g. space between the numerical value and unit symbol, abbreviations are inconsistent (e.g. m or meter), spelling out of numerals is inconsistent, etc.

For instance page 3: l. 8: 200m, l. 10: 700 - 1500 meters, l. 6: three, l. 18: 3

Author response: We thank Nina Keul for the second thorough review of the manuscript. The manuscript has now been edited as suggested by the reviewer.

-All whole numbers between zero and ten have been spelled out. All numbers above ten, or with decimals, have been indicated with numerals.

-A space has been added always between numerical value and a symbol

-Abbreviations are now consistent. If number spelled then also symbol is spelled out. If number in numerical a abbreviation (or a symbol) is used.

Other minor revisions:

-Figures:

Panel b Fig. 1, indicate in caption what black and white triangles indicate, Panel c of Figure 1 did not reproduce the grey shading on two color printers I tried, maybe that can be changed, maybe also indicate the depths of the dysoxic waters in the caption.

Author response: Caption modified. Information on triangles added as well as the depth of the dysoxic water mass. The shading used to indicate the dysoxic water mass has also been made darker.

Fig 4.: Indicate in boxplots the percentages (e.g. whiskers are $1,5 \times \text{IQR}$ I assume?) what did you define as outliers ($3 \times \text{IQR}$?).

Author response: caption modified and details added.

-Appendix: The appendix table 2 needs some formatting e.g. column 5, the u in μmol should be replaced by the Greek letter, commas should be replaced by points.

Author response: ok added, commas replaced by points.

Please also include a table with average values of Mn/Ca and DMn (referring to Figs. 6 and 7), not only the raw data.

Author response: the average values are already given in figures 6 and 7 and therefore it seems unnecessary to add yet another table into the main manuscript. However, a table has been added to the appendix 2 where readers who are interested in seeing the exact numbers can easily find them.

I congratulate the authors on such an interesting manuscript and remain available for further questions.

Best,
Nina Keul