

Interactive comment on “The silicon isotopic composition of choanoflagellates: implications for a mechanistic understanding of isotopic fractionation during biosilicification” by Alan Marron et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This is a very interesting and worthy contribution to Biogeosciences. May I just suggest a few minor comments below:

Page 1 Line 9: Are these species only marine? Page 1 Line 10: you provide a range in diatom fractionation factors between -0.5 per mille to 2 per mille in your abstract but in the introduction (page 2, line 10) only one estimation is provided (de la Rocha's). Please could you elaborate on this, to reflect your abstract. Page 2, line 24: could the authors please just clarify what they mean by their statement "that the strongest fractionation in sponges (most negative value of ϵ)". I assume that they mean that the

most negative published ε values are derived from sponges? However, it could also be interpreted as referring to polymerisation only occurring in the most negative of the fractionation factors occurring in sponges (e.g. not all sponges).

Table 1: can you change the capitalisation of Numbers please (if you wish to keep the existing comma). Could you also be specific that your growth medium refer to the seawater compositions you report.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2019-181>, 2019.

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