

Dear Authors,

I went through your new manuscript and response to referee's comments. Your modifications improved much your manuscript, but I detect some important issues in the introduction section. This section is completely desorganized with a first paragraph made of 33 lines! A paragraph should ideally comprise between 10 to 15 lines. The objectives of paragraphs are not clearly separated. For example, the last paragraph that should insert the objectives of the study starts with the presentation of the py-GC/MS method. Another example is the definition of peat that arrives in the middle of your introduction though the subject is discussed from the first line. The writing of your introduction must be structured in paragraphs with clearly-identified messages.

Regards,

Sébastien

Dear Sebastien Fontaine,

we agree, that the introduction section looks disorganized and this is due to formatting. In two cases a paragraph ends exactly with the right margin. We now emphasized the paragraphs with blank lines, but in the final format, they should not appear. Without intention, one paragraph indeed was deleted and we now included it.

We intensively discussed the most appropriate position in the introduction to define peat. We expect that the reader of Biogeosciences has an idea about peat. We think that the best position in the text would be before describing in detail the properties of peat and potential relationships to decomposition. Therefore, we would prefer to not change the position in the manuscript where peat was defined.

Best Regards,

Lilli Zeh