

Interactive comment on “Distribution and degradation of terrestrial organic matter in the sediments of peat-draining rivers, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo” by Ying Wu et al.

Xiaojuan Feng

xfeng@ibcas.ac.cn

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I have read this paper with great interest as organic matter composition in tropical peat and peatland-draining rivers is not so well constrained compared to the Arctic counterparts. I have comments concerning two aspects of the paper for the authors to consider.

1. Influences of source vegetation on lignin composition should be considered. Line 121: Details of soil and plant sampling are not given. For instance, what is the depth of sampling for soil samples? What are the dominant plant species (trees, grasses, shrubs)? A distinct difference between tropical and (sub)arctic peatlands is that vege-

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tation is dominated by woody species in the former versus by Sphagnum in the latter. This also explains the high abundance of lignin phenols in the studied river sediments (Line 265). Line 269: Again, I think the discussion of Ad/AI values should be put in the context of vegetation differences. Some grasses in the alpine grasslands of Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau are found to have high Ad/AI values in their roots, for instance (Zhu et al., 2019, Plant and Soil, doi: 10.1007/s11104-019-04035-8).

2. Statistics. Tables: Do errors represent standard errors or standard deviation? Is comparison of mean values tested by statistical analysis?

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