

Author Response to an interactive comment on “Sun-induced Fluorescence and Near Infrared Reflectance of vegetation track the seasonal dynamics of gross primary production over Africa”

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Statement on comments from Editorial Board and anonymous referee

We were advised mid-February 2021 that an electronic check of our manuscript under discussion revealed two sentences that were nearly identical to a public internet source by G. Badgley (2019, PhD thesis). These sentences were not identified as a quotation of the original work, and did not include a reference to the thesis they were originally written in. We were asked 5 by the Editorial Board to explain ourselves and to modify the sentence, and to include a citation. This finding agrees with the comment from the reviewer:

Comment: P16; L11-14 appear to be duplicated, verbatim, from an unreferenced source.

10 **Our response:** We sincerely apologize for this verbatim duplication and acknowledge that the original source of this phrasing is the thesis of Dr Badgley. There is no excuse for them to appear in our manuscript without quotation or reference. As far as we can back-trace it appears these sentences were once inserted into an early draft version as a reminder/primer of the information we meant to convey. After several months of iterating, they became part of the final text without any of the authors spotting the grave mistake we made. It was an honest mistake, and we had no malicious intent, and further checks of the 15 document revealed that all other text is original.

In a next version, we will remove the sentence and ensure proper citation of the work of Dr Badgley. Being extra careful, we also modify our wordings on Page 4 line 24-26 and Page 7 of line 1-2 which were not copied but still bare some resemblance to other work.

20 We kindly thank the Editorial Board for their understanding and the chance to rectify our mistake.