Biogeosciences Discussions

Biogeosciences Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on bg-2020-452

Antonino Briguglio (Referee)

Referee comment on "Bioerosion and fungal colonization of the invasive foraminiferan *Amphistegina lobifera* in a Mediterranean seagrass meadow" by Martin Vohník, Biogeosciences Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2020-452-RC2, 2021

A very interesting contribution on the taphonomy of a dead assemblage of Amphisteginids next to Malta Island.

There is a very promising and result rich study on diversity and presence / abundance of fungal activity recorded on both the rhizosphere and the benthic community.

I was surprised that quite a deal of emphasis was given on possible substrate reduction by the activity of bioeroders / dissolution effects and not a word is spent on possible transportation effects. At 6 meters water depth hydrodynamics can be massive and Posidonia meadows can act as shields for all those particles that are transported within the meadow to get trapped and accumulated. A dense Amphistegina made substrate of severals tens of cm thick (less than 60 is specified, but I did not see a specific number) can be the result of accumulation by mass transport.

very minor details, got me the feeling that the author is not an expert on larger foraminifera, the word foraminiferan is often used insted of the classic foraminifera, Bengal Rose is used to check for living specimens when in larger forams the best method is by looking at the very distinctive symbiont colouration after few hours of rest after sampling.

I should not judge the grammar and the syntax as I am not a native speaker but, in my opinion, the text is written is a very good english, clear and sound. Structure of the MS is appropriate and the references are lacking all those regarding transport, that, to my opinion, is a critical issue here.

A number of markups are directly on the attached PDF

regards

Antonino Briguglio

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
https://bg.copernicus.org/preprints/bg-2020-452/bg-2020-452-RC2-supplement.pdf