

Biogeosciences Discuss., referee comment RC2 https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2022-127-RC2, 2022 © Author(s) 2022. This work is distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.

## Reply on AC1

Katrine Husum (Referee)

Referee comment on "Unique benthic foraminiferal communities (stained) in diverse environments of sub-Antarctic fjords, South Georgia" by Wojciech Majewski et al., Biogeosciences Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2022-127-RC2, 2022

How are main species defined quantitatively in this study? A count of 300 specimens precisely finds species that constitute minimum 10% of the fauna (Patterson and Fishbein, 1989). If a study only applies species diversity, 250 specimens have been found to be enough (Bouchet et al., 2012). The current study is based on relative abundances, and the benthic foraminiferal fauna clearly consists of several species, hence at least 300 specimens should be counted from each size fraction to make data and conclusions reliable (cf. Fatela and Taborda, 2002).

## References

Bouchet, V.M.P., Alve, E., Rygg, B., Telford, R.J., 2012. Benthic foraminifera provide a promising tool for ecological quality assessment of marine waters. *Ecological Indicators* 23, 66-75.

Fatela, F. & Taborda, R., 2002. Confidence limits of species proportions in microfossil assemblages. *Marine Micropaleontology* 45, 169-174.

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