



EGUsphere, referee comment RC1
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Comment on egusphere-2022-84

Flavia Strani (Referee)

Referee comment on "The perception of palaeontology in commercial off-the-shelf video games and an assessment of their potential as educational tools" by Thomas Clements et al., EGU Sphere, <https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2022-84-RC1>, 2022

The paper explores the role of video games as a tool for geoscience communication, highlighting the pros and cons of palaeontological video games as educational/science communication tools. The topic of the paper is an interesting one, as video games are the largest sector of the media entertainment industry with millions of people interacting with them every day. The section on gender diversity and representation of palaeontologists in video games is valuable as misrepresentation can lead to the persistence of harmful stereotypes which can in turn discourage certain demographics to choose geoscience and palaeontology-related careers.

The paper is clearly written and well structured. I recommend acceptance pending minor revisions:

- authors should consider discussing the Syberia series (Syberia, 2002, Microïds; Syberia II, 2004, MC2-Microïds; Syberia 3, 2017, Microïds) a graphic adventure video game that features Pleistocene fauna (mammoths) and a female protagonist

- A study has been already conducted on Red Dead Redemption 2, highlighting how the virtual ecology of this game can be a useful educational tool to teach about North American wildlife. See comments in the attached pdf for details

- authors may consider adding another Figure featuring screenshots of how fossil specimens appear in selected video games. This will improve readability for researchers unfamiliar with the mentioned series (e.g., Animal Crossing and Red Dead Redemption).

- some relevant references are missing in section 3, especially in the "Representation of

ethics in palaeontological video games" subsection. See comments in the attached pdf for details.

- some minor technical corrections

Please find attached a pdf where I've highlighted the required revisions.

Kind regards,

Flavia Strani

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://egusphere.copernicus.org/preprints/2022/egusphere-2022-84/egusphere-2022-84-RC1-supplement.pdf>