

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., chief editor comment CEC1
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-396-CEC1>, 2022
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Post-publication chief editor comment on **essd-2020-396**

Kirsten Elger

Chief editor comment on "Multi-site, multi-crop measurements in the soil-vegetation-atmosphere continuum: a comprehensive dataset from two climatically contrasting regions in southwestern Germany for the period 2009–2018" by Tobias K. D. Weber et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss.,
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-396-CEC1>, 2022

During the discussion period of this manuscript, one of the referees, Dr. Tim Reichenau, wrote an outstandingly knowledgeable review which was precise, constructive, and very comprehensive. The review resulted in a significant contribution to the manuscript. In recognition of his contribution, he was asked to be added as a co-author by the authors.

As this step, however, did not happen before the final typesetting of the manuscript (i.e., after the manuscript had been accepted for a long time), it was not possible to reopen the review process and consult a new, independent referee. In this specific case, especially seeing the very late stage of including Dr. Reichenau as a co-author, I don't have any concern that he had a conflict of interest when he acted as a referee.

Kirsten Elger