



Comment on **essd-2021-49**

Colin V. Murray-Wallace (Referee)

Referee comment on "Last Interglacial sea-level proxies in the western Mediterranean" by
Ciro Cerrone et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss.,
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2021-49-RC2>, 2021

This is an important contribution to the general theme of understanding the nature of relative sea-level changes in the Western Mediterranean region for the Last Interglacial (MIS 5e).

While the review presents a comprehensive overview of fieldsites, it would be good if more could be said about the nature of the preserved shelly faunas within the successions, and their relation to palaeosea level. Obviously some species may be tolerant to a range of water depths, while some species may actually be very useful sea level indicators. In a similar manner, can more be written about the taphonomic context of the fossil molluscan faunas?

Line 146 We also note

Line 150 gastropods

Lines 206-207 is it still possible to access any of these hard to get references?

Line 667 please amend and refine the wording to avoid the use of the word 'Anyhow' (there are numerous examples of this within the manuscript).

Line 669 Please use formal English and avoid contractions - 'did not' for didn't

Line 696 perhaps 'flooded' rather than invested

Line 702 needs to be reworded as molluscan faunal associations are not chronological markers per se, but biostratigraphic markers if there are distinctive species present (e.g. index fossils).

Section 7 seems to be the synthesis section, which I feel can be improved. A conclusions sections, perhaps with each conclusion numbered would also enhance the document.