

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., referee comment RC1
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2022-148-RC1>, 2022
© Author(s) 2022. This work is distributed under
the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.

Comment on essd-2022-148

Ralph Fyfe (Referee)

Referee comment on "Gridded pollen-based Holocene regional plant cover in temperate and northern subtropical China suitable for climate modelling" by Furong Li et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2022-148-RC1>, 2022

The data presented in this contribution are important as they represent a useful step towards quantified vegetation cover across the globe. The results are part of a wider project, and have been presented elsewhere and this paper and accompanying dataset make those data available for the wider community. I agree with the authors that these data will be significant for a broad research community and . The article is well written and describes the data sets, how they were generated, sources of uncertainty, and is suitable for publication as is. There are limitations in the datasets in as much as that groups of 1 degree grid cells carry the same regional vegetation cover estimates, but this is explained and justified by the authors.

I have downloaded and reviewed the datasets. Data are presented in an efficient format for downloading (a series of csv files), with datasets at different level of plant aggregation (plant, pft, land cover type). I have visualised some of the data in QGIS, and it appears to be complete. My only comment on the data download is that there were unusual characters that were interpreted in the download (column 1, grid cell names), which meant I needed to generate additional columns for the easting and northing locations before the data could be projected. Any competent data scientist should be able to manage this process.

These data lie firmly within my research field, and as such I had no difficulty in downloading, understanding and using them.