

## ***Interactive comment on “The $p\text{CO}_2$ estimates of the late Eocene in South China based on stomatal density of *Nageia Gaertner* leaves” by X.-Y. Liu et al.***

**G. Dickens (Editor)**

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I rejected the initially submitted manuscript outright as an editor, because it had several problems.

Perhaps the most important criticism in my view was the lack of a good and detailed calibration with modern *Nageia* leaves from several locations. It would seem a not-too-arduous task to collect leaves of modern *Nageia* from several locations, and to measure their stomatal properties. This would add a critical dimension.

The authors corrected numerous problems in their second submission, but did not rectify this seemingly primary issue. However, as an editor, and especially one unfamiliar

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with the details of the topic, I was reluctant to make an outright decision on a manuscript twice without peer-review.

I appreciate Dana's review, and I think now that the author's almost have to address this issue before publication in CoP. I write this now, rather than waiting for all formalities (1+ month), as it gives the authors additional time to do this important work. (Indeed, I am hoping, based on previous correspondence, that they are already pursuing).

Jerry

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Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 11, 2615, 2015.