

***Interactive comment on “Ecosystem effects of
CO₂ concentration: evidence from past climates”
by I. C. Prentice and S. P. Harrison***

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There are indeed implications for future projections of carbon cycle and vegetation dynamics. Our analysis suggests that current models generally simulate the effects of CO₂ (on both plant productivity and vegetation composition) in a reasonably realistic way. This is a qualitative conclusion; the available information (model results and data) don't allow us to go as far as to discriminate among models with quantitatively different outcomes in terms of CO₂ fertilization and temperature-carbon cycle feedback. However, in the near future, we are hopeful that activities such as the simulations of coupled climate and carbon cycle changes over the past millennium in PCMIP (the Palaeo Carbon Modelling Intercomparison Project) will enable such distinctions to be made.

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