

## ***Interactive comment on “Western equatorial African forest-savanna mosaics: a legacy of late Holocene climatic change?” by A. Ngomanda et al.***

**R. Bonnefille (Editor)**

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The authors are kindly asked to answer remarks and questions from reviewer 1 and to make the necessary modifications and additions in the manuscript. The editor is well aware about the dating issues and has appreciated that the pollen diagram is presented with original radiocarbon dates. To clarify the link with the adopted age/model that can be controversial, I suggest to indicate on the pollen diagram the dates that have been eliminated to build the age models by putting them in brackets.

Suggested editing (review1) and contradictions should be corrected. p.343 is rather confuse. Distinction between facts and interpretation are needed in a more precise rewriting of this page.

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I agree that the strength of this paper is the very good botanical knowledge of the authors, the pioneer character of such paper should be emphasized as this is the first high resolution pollen diagram from a true rainforest area proper in Africa. The constant dynamic and replacements in dominance of pollen taxa and consecutively of trees or shrubs is remarkable during the last 4ka BP.As we do not know the mechanism leading to such strong changes,could the authors suggest more about the influence of heavy cloud cover during the short dry season??? p. 348: The period from 4.5 to 3.9 ka is not the mid Holocene. Just say "at that time". If the authors look more carefully at the palynological record from Burundi and lake record from East Africa ,these records showed several forest decreases at 4.3, 3.8, 2.5 ka (radiocarbone years).I would appreciate more discussion about possible impact of the migration of ITCZ upon length of the short dry season.Could this be reflected by variation in dominance of certain tree taxa ??

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Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 5, 341, 2009.

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