

## ***Interactive comment on “Hydrological variability in northern Levant over the past 250 ka” by F. Gasse et al.***

**M. Fuchs (Editor)**

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Dear Dr. Vidal,

thank you for your replies to both of the reviews. As you already recognized, both reviews raise a series of critical remarks. In my opinion, the manuscript potentially shows important aspects of paleoclimate and climate change in the Levant and therefore I would suggest a revision and re-submission of the manuscript.

In case of a re-submission, please follow the reviewer's suggestions and focus especially on the following aspects:

- There is a strong need to focus on the new aspects of your manuscript. This

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has to be stressed in the introduction and also in the discussion and conclusion chapter.

- To avoid redundancies, focus on the presentation and critical discussion of the multi-proxy approach.
- Discuss the aspects of tuning the paleoclimate interpretation in a much more critical way or delete this section in the manuscript
- The correlation of your data with e.g. the sapropels need to be discussed more critically.
- I agree with the comment of reviewer 2: *Its significance is therefore in how these different data sets – pollen, stable isotopes, sedimentology – are integrated. I am not sure that this potential for integration is fully developed in the present manuscript. Nor do I feel comfortable with the way that the study is contextualised and justified, and hence the wider conclusions that can be drawn.* This critical comment need to be considered in a revised version of the manuscript.

If you think about a re-submission, please follow in detail the given advices.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Markus Fuchs

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Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 7, 1511, 2011.