

Interactive comment on “Bridging the Faraoni and Selli oceanic anoxic events: short and repetitive dys- and anaerobic episodes during the late Hauterivian to early Aptian in the central Tethys” by K. B. Föllmi et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The paper by Foellmi et al. "Bridging the Faraoni and Selli oceanic" is an interesting and stimulating contribution to the understanding of the black shales of the Hauterivian - early Aptian interval. So far the research efforts of the Tethyan community has concentrated on the well known OAEs of the Aptian, Albian and Cenomanian, so this contribution sheds light on a time slice so far neglected with respect to ocean anoxia. The paper is well written, not too wordy and focussed on the issue. The data interpretations are easily to be followed, it is clear both in presenting the analyses results and discussion. The explanation is perhaps, still a bit focussed on the northern rim of the

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Tethys. Unfortunately line numbers (editor, why isn't this a must?) are missing, so I comment on the paragraphs. There are only minor to moderate changes I suggest:

1. The title is too long and really not very sexy.
2. Abstract: What is RSTE standing for?
3. abstract: What are higher densities? That is explained later, but people normally read the Abstract first.
4. The term northwest German Basin should be replaced by Lower Saxony Basin.
5. Minor misspellings in the chapter Introduction. No line numbers, however.
6. Chapter 4.3: Make clear that you are talking about $\delta^{13}\text{CCaCo}_3$.
7. Chapter 4.3: Delete the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ discussion. Diagenesis here.
7. Chapter 5.3: Number the discussion with same numbers as in the figures.
8. Chapter 5.6: I am doubtful about the stratigraphic resolution, but a nice try and ok this way.
9. The two unpublished BSc thesis can't be listed in the refs (Jammet et al, Bole et al.). Sorry, but these are not available and should thus not be cited. The editor has to think about a way of how the findings of these BSc students can be documented.

Fig. 1: Hm, Switzerland is not really indicated. Can you improve?

Fig. 2: My version is difficult to read.

Fig. 6: The lowermost black shale in the Boreal succession is not quite correct, at least give a question mark here. Or you need to discuss the stratigraphy and correlation, which is atopic you better avoid.

Fig. 6: Explain the different lines better. Difficult to read and understand.

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