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Climate of the Past Discussions

Interactive comment on "Spring-summer temperatures reconstructed for northern Switzerland and south-western Germany from winter rye harvest dates, 1454–1970" *by* O. Wetter and C. Pfister

A. Kiss

kissandi@earth.geo.u-szeged.hu

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GENERAL COMMENTS

The paper addresses relevant scientific questions within the scope of the journal. It presents novel concepts, ideas, tools and data, and substantial conclusions are reached indeed. The paper is of high scientific value; logically structured, well-organized, with data of unique length, quality and quantity. I like the literature overview, the summery on general climate characteristics. The source types and related back-

ground, methodology, steps of homogenization, calibration-verification, results are clear and well-defined.

SPECIFIC, MINOR COMMENTS:

1. Introduction p. 2611, line 29: correct spelling: KÅŚszeg

3.3 Homogenization of data type p. 2623, lines 9-14: Does this mean that no other, published information (e.g. any published analysis or observations of professional network, agricultural stations/research institute etc.) is available concerning this questions (differences in slope, grain variety etc.), only e-mail communication?

3.5 Calibration – verification p. 2624, line 17: I think it would be useful to replace the 'Wikipedia' entry with some controlled literature reference.

General comment to 3.5 As for calibration period, the authors chose 1774-1824, and 1920-1970 as verification period. I find it as a very good and reasonable idea. However, if such a long overlapping period (with instrumental measurements) is available, it would be interesting to use the opportunity to test with the full period as well, i.e. calibration: 1774-1872; verification: 1873-1970 (also taking Fig 7a-b into consideration).

5. Discussion p. 2628. lines 26-27; p. 2629. line 1: Do you mean 'even though' instead of 'even tough'? The astonishingly good congruities between the presented reconstruction and the Hungarian one might be caused by the fact that in both cases the composites react on July temperatures on the first place, and then June and May (and then on March in case of the Wetter-Pfister reconstruction). Despite the relatively short distance, congruities are relatively week between the MožnÃ¡ et al. (2011) cereal-based Czech and the 'mixed' KÅŚszeg (Hungarian) reconstruction, too. For this latter comparison and short reasoning, see: Kiss et al. 2011. It is, I think, due to the fact that the MožnÃ¡ et al. (2011) temperature reconstruction refers to the month MAMJ and thus, no July is included.

Tables and Figures

Tables and Figures are informative, complementing well the textual part of the paper. Minor comment: I suggest to check through the references concerning publishing dates (e.g. MožnÃ¡ et al. 2010 or 2011, Maurer et al. 2009 or 2010, DobrovolnÃ¡ et al. 2010).

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 7, 2609, 2011.