

Interactive comment on “Hominin responses to environmental changes during the Middle Pleistocene in Central and Southern Italy” by R. Orain et al.

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Received and published: 16 November 2012

This is a very interesting review paper. It is synthetical, informative and critical, pleasant to read and well-organized. The palynological part (I am interested in) is complete and updated.

I do not have important changes to suggest, but only one point to discuss: at page 5189, line 2, Cedrus is reported as absent from central Italy since MIS 2. In Fig. 4 it is discontinuously represented with frequencies always <2%, which is a value not testifying to a local presence, given the dispersal ability of the pollen of Cedrus. Similar frequencies were found also in the long pollen records of the Velay, where there is

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no doubt that *Cedrus* was locally absent. As far as I know, in no place in Europe *Cedrus* shows percentages >2% after approx. 700 ka and the age of its disappearance appears very uncertain (Magri D., *Annali di Botanica* 2012, 2: 57-66). I do not think that this subject should be discussed in the Ms., but possibly the sentence at page 5189 may be more cautious.

Minor changes: p. 5182, l. 7: more favorable than? p. 5183, l. 23: including Western Europe p. 5184, l. 23: relatively high p. 5185, l. 8: records abundant p. 5186, l. 4: been dated p. 5186, l. 17: 39 and 40 superscripts p. 5187, l. 10: remains discovered p. 5187, l. 14: belongs to p. 5187, l. 17: Polledrara di Ceganibbio p. 5187, l. 2: number p. 5187, l. 4: Apennines p. 5187, l. 13: Aucelli et al., 2011 is not in the reference list p. 5187, l. 23: mild p. 5189, l. 16: the quotation (Bertini, 2010; Corrado and Magri, 2011; Manzi et al., 2011; Orain et al., 2012) may be eliminated as it is reported again two lines later p. 5190, l. 15: target p. 5190, l. 22: at Loreto p. 5193, l. 1: the climate of Northern Italy p. 5193, l. 13: may have constituted p. 5193, l. 23: could be a consequence p. 5193, l. 26: formation p. 5195, l. 26 : granting p. 5197, l. 3 : Di Stefano, G., Tagliacozzo p. 5198, l. 5: Palaeocl., Palaeocol. p. 5199, l. 4: Pleistocene uplift p. 5200, l. 32: Palombo Fig. 1: Valle di Castiglione p. 5202, l. 5: platform Fig. 4: the names of the pollen sites represented should be indicated on the diagram, e.g. on the right side of the diagram.

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Interactive comment on *Clim. Past Discuss.*, 8, 5181, 2012.

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