

Interactive comment on “Reconstruction of the March–August PDSI since 1703 AD based on tree rings of Chinese pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis* Carr.) in the Lingkong Mountain, southeast Chinese loess Plateau” by Q. Cai et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper is an interesting and well-written paper on dendroclimatological study for East Asian Monsoon. I have a few minor and technical comments. (1) Describe briefly the dendrological (2-needle or 5 needle pine?, its distribution, ecophysiological setting, etc.) of Chinese pine. (2) Clarify the method of crossdating; skeleton or graphic methods? or any other methods. COFECHA program is a program to verify cross-dating results, not the crossdating method. (3) page 6318 line 17: 10 ‘trees’ may be 10 ‘cores’ when I read Fig. 3. (4) In Fig. 5, High PDSI values during 1960s was not well predicted. It may be added in the text. (5) page 6322 line 10 and also Fig. 6b:

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I could not understand how the accumulated anomalies of PDSI was calculated. If it is not described in the Method section, add it. (6) Fig. 8: It is better to denote what “lapo” stands for. (7) High correlation between tree-ring chronology and PDSI was impressive. However, I do not understand why there is rather low correlation between tree-ring chronology and precipitation. It is better to explain it physiologically.

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