

## ***Interactive comment on “Orbitally tuned time scale and astronomical forcing in the middle Eocene to early Oligocene” by T. Westerhold et al.***

**A. Dutton (Editor)**

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Dear Dr. Westerhold and colleagues,

This is an interesting set of reviews to consider. The first review was quite positive, offered some constructive criticism, and you have provided detailed responses and made revisions to the manuscript that have, in particular, improved the discussion of the E/O boundary section.

The second reviewer called into question the use and application of the magnetostratigraphy that was not well-documented, and in fact unpublished in a peer-reviewed journal but are accessible in the Pangaea database. Additionally, this reviewer points out that the oxygen isotope data used in the astrochronologies is similarly unpublished, but

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present in the same database. This speaks to two overarching challenges within our community: the first is the reliance upon our peer scientists to publish data that affects the ability for others within a collaborative framework such as a shipboard party to publish complementary studies. The second is that particularly with the growth and reliance upon electronic databases to archive data with varying degrees of quality-control, it will be a challenge for editors such as myself to evaluate such data in the absence of a full discussion of the data in a peer-reviewed manuscript.

In this instance you have significantly clarified and added to the discussion of the magnetostratigraphy and corrected some misleading citations. This seems adequate, but certainly it would be desirable to only employ data that has had the benefit of scrutiny by peer-review. Given the issues mentioned above, this is a challenge not just for you but indeed for the community as a whole.

Given your careful consideration and response to these reviews, I invite the submission of the revised manuscript and thank all involved in this discussion for their careful and thoughtful attention to this work.

Thank you for submitting your work to *Climate of the Past*.

Sincerely,

Andrea Dutton Editor, COP

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Interactive comment on *Clim. Past Discuss.*, 9, 6635, 2013.

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