

Interactive comment on “How could phenological records from the Chinese poems of the Tang and Song Dynasties (618–1260 AD) be reliable evidence of past climate changes?” by Yachen Liu et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 2 November 2020

As the author says, this paper provides a reference in both theory and method for the extraction and application of phenological records from poems in ancient China. This work would be valuable for the peers in the studies of past climate changes.

However, there are still some problems. (1) Chu (1973) laid the foundation for climate reconstructions based on documents. In his study, 17 pieces of evidence were from poems and 11 of them were phenological information of the Tang and Song Dynasties. In section 2, when the certainties and uncertainties of phenological information from poems are discussed, Chu's work would be a classic example. Specifically, which phe-

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nological information he extracted from poems was proved exact, and which was not, why? (2) In section 3.2, an important step should be added, which was the distinction between cultivated plant and wild plant. For example, some poems of late Tang dynasty referred that there were oranges planted in Xi'an, however, some researchers point out that these oranges were transplanted from southern China and couldn't overwinter normally in Guanzhong Plain. (3) Quan-Song-Shi (the Poetry of the Song Dynasty) is the main literature resource to reconstruct climate change during 960-1260 AD. However, in most period of 1127-1260 AD (Southern Song), North China was dominated by the Jin dynasty, so most of poems written by the poets living in North China during 1127-1260 AD are not contained in the Quan-Song-Shi. Are there some more literature sources?

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2020-122>, 2020.

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