Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Based on the reviewers' comments, our revision focuses on the following main points.

First, in the abstract section, we point out the shortcomings of previous studies and the scientific problems. We have added the following sentences in the abstract section:" *While previous studies in this area are all single-point climate reconstruction studies, there is a lack of research on the interaction areas and driving mechanisms of the two major circulations. Dendroclimatology can provide high-resolution, long-term and reliable multi-point proxies for the study of inter-annual and inter-decadal climate change*".

Second, in the introduction, we explained why dendroclimatology is better suited to address the interaction between the East Asian summer monsoon and the westerlies. Because "*dendrochronology is one of the best tools for studying paleoclimate changes due to its precise dating, high resolution, good continuity and high replication*". We have combined the two previous subsections into one.

Third, in the materials and methods section, the interpretation and description of statistical data (Rbar, SSS) and drought indices (SPEI) have been added.

Fourth, the figures and tables have also been revised. In Figure 1 (below), we have added the three major geographic regions of China (Tibetan Plateau zone, inland arid zone and East Asian monsoon zone) and the boundaries of the modern East Asian monsoon. Table 2 (see below) has been merged with Figure 3 to make it easier to read. An indication of dry and wet variations has been added to Figure 5.

Further details can be found in the other reply files. We thank the editors and reviewers for their consideration of our manuscript and look forward to receiving positive feedback.

Yours sincerely,
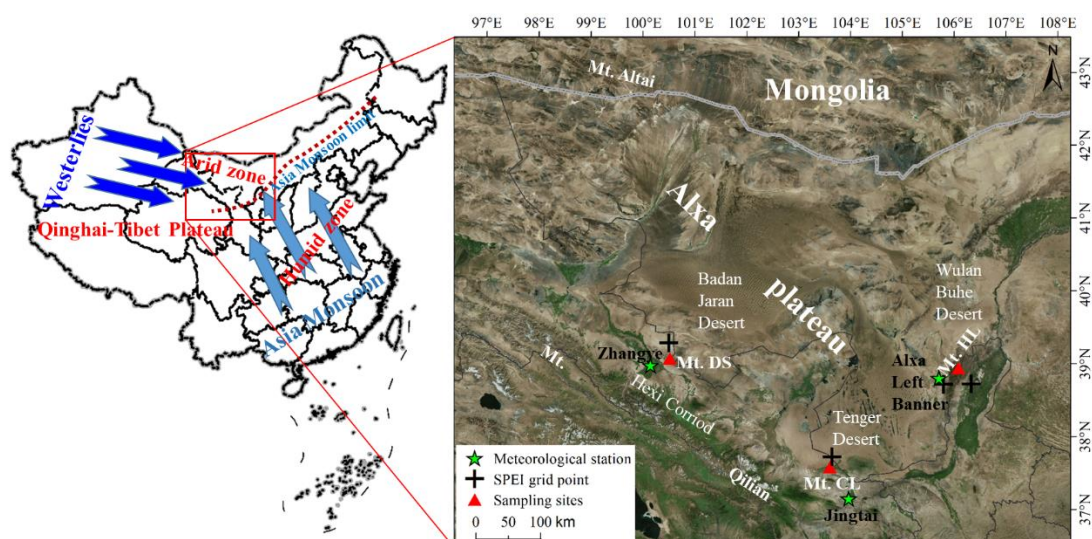Shengchun Xiao, on behalf of all authors

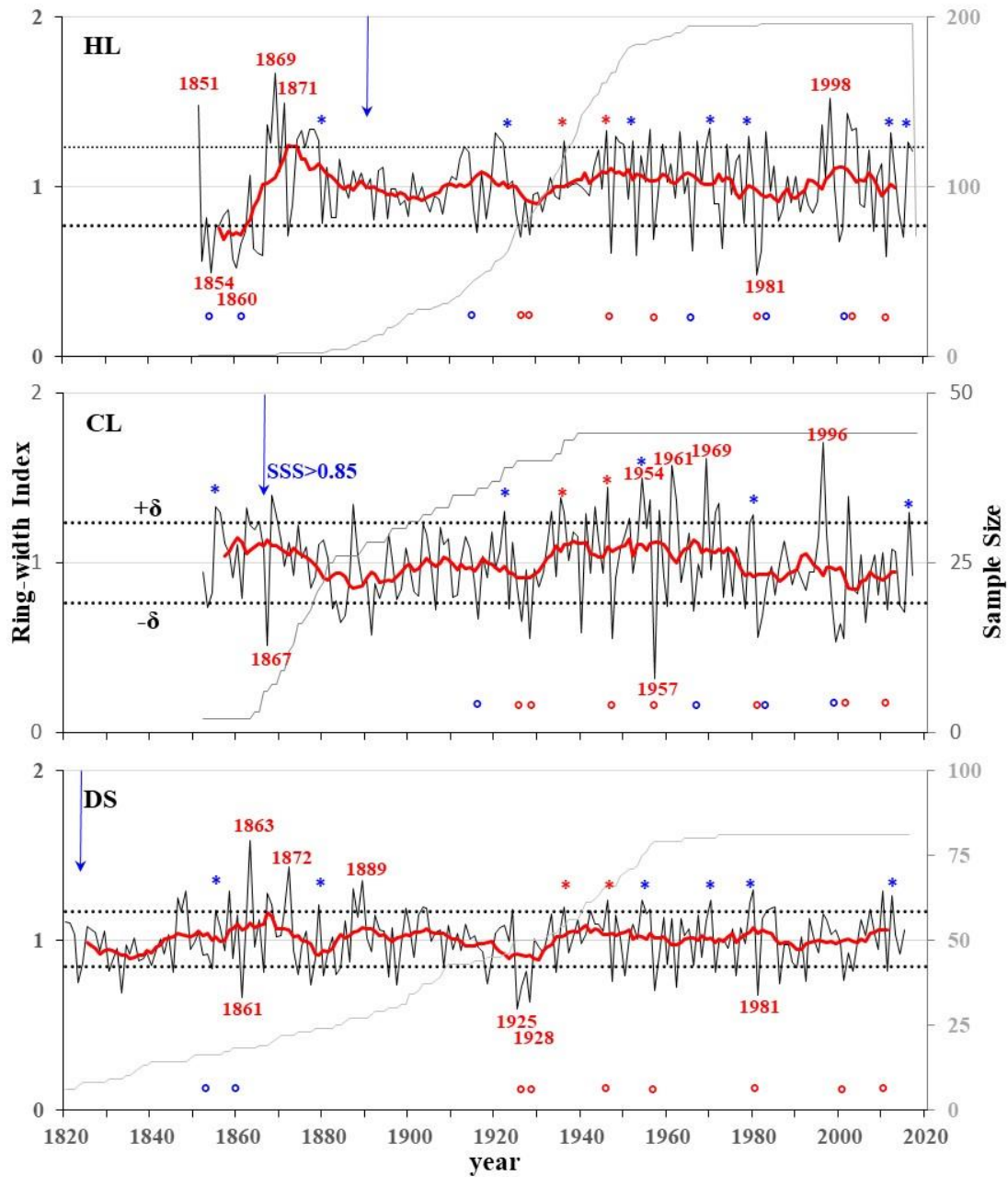Figure 1. Location of tree-ring sampling sites and meteorological stations

Figure 3. Residual ring-width chronologies for the three study areas. The dark lines indicate the chronology; grey lines indicate the sample depth; red lines indicate the 11-year running mean chronology; dotted horizontal lines indicate the mean value ±1δ; years with data identified as >/< mean ±2δ (δ: standard deviation); blue * and o indicate the years shared between two of the three sample sites, red * and o shows years shared between three sample sites; blue arrows indicate the start of the reliable residual chronology (SSS>0.85).