

Interactive comment on “A trait database for marine copepods” by Philipp Brun et al.

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Received and published: 14 September 2016

We thank Referee # 1 for taking the time to read the manuscript and for the valuable and constructive feedback. From the comments we identify four key issues that we intend to address in the revised manuscript as we specify below.

1. Elaborate more on advantages of the trait-based approach compared to traditional approaches in the introduction.

We will include an in depth description of the usefulness of the trait-based approach as a meaningful way to simplify complex, species-rich ecosystems that facilitates mechanistic analyses of key ecosystem processes.

2. Provide a level of confidence for trait estimates.

This is a good point. For continuous traits, we already report uncertainty values and ranges, where the information is available, but we do not do this in a systematic way

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for categorical traits. Where we have information that classifications are uncertain, we mentioned this in the comment columns. However, we agree that it would be more useful to have an additional column in the tables that flags these observations and allows users to easily filter for them. We will add such a column to the tables covering categorical traits.

3. Describe orange rings in the legend of Figure 2.

In Figure 2 we added bright orange rings to the data coverage information for hibernation and resting eggs to indicate that information for these traits likely is near complete and covers all marine copepods. We only report a few dozen species that hibernate or produce resting eggs, but we likely considered all information available in the literature. We therefore assume that, at least in terms of biomass, the reported taxa represent the large majority of hibernating and resting egg producing copepods. There may be hibernating and resting egg producing taxa which have not been observed yet, and therefore are not covered in our database, but if this is the case they would probably be rare and insignificant in terms of biomass. We will make this point clearer in the figure legend.

4. Add a HTML link to the data in the manuscript.

As far as we understand, this will be included in the typeset manuscript.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., doi:10.5194/essd-2016-30, 2016.

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