

Interactive comment on “The Eurasian Modern Pollen Database (EMPD), Version 2” by Basil A. S. Davis et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The authors present an update of a database of modern pollen samples from Eurasia. These databases have a wide range of applications, and having standardized, robust and easily available data is a great benefit to the community. The update is substantial, not just in terms of the number of records, but in the increase in geographical range and climate space covered by the samples, and a new publication for this update is well justified.

The paper is well written, with just a few minor things to check (given below). Ordinarily I would have liked to see more detail on the application, but this is well described in the paper for the first database version. The new work on demonstrating the coverage in various parameter spaces (geographical, land cover, climate) is very neat, and helps demonstrate the strengths and limitations of the data, and may hopefully guide future

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data collection efforts. Overall, I recommend this for publication.

Minor comments:

Line 177: '6' should be '7'

Line 263-264: How has the taxon harmonization been done? Are the original taxonomic names retained in case of problems? Being able to match the data to fossil records is vital, so a little more detail would be useful here. Not all of the taxa are harmonized – but are the remaining one not found in the fossil records?

Line 301: This is a minor issue, but the traditional definition of a hypsometric curve is a cumulative frequency curve.

Figures 1,2,3: The color choices here may be a problem for color-blind readers. Can the authors use different line types or symbols?

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