

Interactive comment on “Retrospect and prospect of a section-based stratigraphic and palaeontological database – Geobiodiversity Database” by Hong-He Xu et al.

Kirsten Elger (Editor)

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Dear Honghe and co-authors,

I read your manuscript with interest and think that the Geobiodiversity Database (GBDB) is an impressive and very useful data product fully suitable to be described with an ESSD article. However, seeing your recent plans to publish a new release of GBDB very soon plus the state of the existing database (described in section 5 “Problems, improvements and prospects” plus the fact that the old database was already temporarily offline and with registration barriers), I strongly recommend to withdraw this manuscript until the new data portal is online and resubmit a slightly enhanced

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version of the manuscript.

You can keep all parts describing the history of GBDB, the data collection and curation, comparisons to other databases (section 2-4) and also partly the introduction and the motivation for developing the new database (section 1 and 5). The addition shall only be a description of the functionality of the new data portal and its functionality. Similar to you, I see the collection and curation of the data as largest effort and achievement, but the portal will be the face to your valuable data. Adding a description of the new portal (even with delay) would tell an overall positive story and provide you with the opportunity to introduce to the new product and its features in detail.

Kind regards, Kirsten Elger (ESSD chief executive editor)

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