

This MS reviewed the published data of wood utilization in both Gansu and Xinjiang Provinces, and also incorporated their own works, to show the human-environmental interaction, and adaption in the regions of the Pre-Silk road. This paper is informative, well written and well illustrated. There are also some sentences should be reconsidered and updated to make this paper into a better version.

Many thanks for your time, and your suggestions are much valuable for improving our manuscript.

Line 94, both barley and wheat, their Latin names should be added.

The Latin names have been added.

Line 251. Usually, it is difficult to identify the wood into species level. Since there are several wood sepcies in NW China, It the wood of *Elaeagnus angustifolia* different from the relative species in the same genus?

We agree with the reviewer that it is difficult to identify wood charcoal into species level. According to Flora of Xinjiang (Editorial Committee of Flora of Xinjiang, 2011), two species, namely *Elaeagnus angustifolia* and *Elaeagnus oxycarpa*, are distributed in Xinjiang. Now, *Elaeagnus oxycarpa* is classified into *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (<https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:70028324-1>), suggesting that only the species of *Elaeagnus angustifolia* is native to Xinjiang. Thus, we think the wood charcoal from our study sites in Xinjiang should be *Elaeagnus angustifolia*. In order to make our readers unconfused about this part, we will change the identification result into *Elaeagnus*.

Reference:

Editorial Committee of Flora of Xinjiang. (Eds.): Flora of Xinjiang (Volume 3), Xinjiang Science and Technology Press, Urumqi, ISBN 9787546608341, 2011.

Line 319 to 320. A wide conception of *Prunus*, that is, *Prunus sensu lato* (*s.l.*) includes *Prunus*, *Amygdalus*, *Cerasus*, *Padus*, as well as *Armeniaca*.

Changes are made as suggested.

Line 390-391. The Latin name of the five cereal species should be added behind.

The Latin names have been added.

Line 399. The word “Found” could be changed into “discovered”.

Change is made as suggested.

Line 424. *P. persica* should be changed into "*Prunus persica*".

Thanks for this suggestion. Change is made as suggested.

Line 447-450. The references should be supplied for each sentence.

References have been supplied.