

Reply to editor's comments:

We thank the editor for going through the manuscript thoroughly and suggesting corrections. All technical corrections are incorporated as suggested by the editor.

Comment: Line 134: "Mascarene Basin spreading center" (please also add a reference to Fig. 7C/stage III to help the reader understand the tectonic context, which will otherwise remain unclear)

Reply: We agree with the editor and the changes are incorporated as suggested by the editor.