

Review of egosphere-2024-1285: Animal burrowing at cold seep ecotones boosts productivity by linking macromolecule turnover with chemosynthesis and nutrient cycling

Dear Andrew Thurber,

Thank you for the feedback and for considering the manuscript for publication!

We made an additional attempt to streamline sections 3.3-3.8. For that:

- 1) We moved the discussion of N₂ fixation into section 3.3 - burrowing alters geochemical processes at seep chemotones. We also placed Figure 9 in the Supplement, to reduce the load in the main text.
- 2) We streamlined the first paragraph of section 3.6 (description of diversity based on metagenome-assembled genomes) and moved it to the end of section 3.5.
- 3) Thoroughly revised section 3.6, condensing the content.

We hope that these changes satisfactory consolidate the messaging of the section.

Maxim