

We thank the editor for the careful reading of the manuscript and for providing several minor comments:

Figure 1 Caption. Spell out VMP before first use.

Table 2 Caption: Explain abbreviations used in first table row (e.g. U10, SIC) also in the caption.

Line 284: Please clarify/rephrase this sentence. The last half sentence on the transfer velocity is hanging a bit. Maybe split in two sentences?

Line 301: ... observationS (use plural?)

Line 358: Rephrase "by the diatom Mediophyceae" as Mediophyceae is not a single species but a class of diatoms

We have revised the manuscript accordingly and uploaded the revised version.