

The authors have addressed adequately my comments making the corresponding changes in the manuscript or explaining clearly why, when they have not. I only have a couple minor comments detailed below that I would like to be taken care of. Other than that, I think this is a good and interesting study that contributes significantly to our understanding of marine phytoplankton ecology and biogeochemistry in the South Indian Ocean and recommend its publication. Congratulations to the authors for the study.

Line 268 – “...O16 was surprisingly dominated by microphytoplankton (Fig. A2)”.

-It is not clear why this is particularly noteworthy or surprising. I suggest explaining this further or remove.

Line 554 – “ Similarly, The TChla size structure at O10 and ,....was similar, with dominance of microphytoplankton ($59\% \pm 2\%$) dominated by diatoms,...”

-I would revise this sentence as the use of similarly/similar and dominance/dominated sounds redundant.