

# ***Interactive comment on “Carbon isotopes of dissolved inorganic carbon reflect utilization of different carbon sources by microbial communities in two limestone aquifer assemblages” by Martin E. Nowak et al.***

## **Anonymous Referee #2**

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**General Comments** This manuscript investigated the carbon isotopes of DIC, DOC and POC in two limestone aquifer assemblages in the Hainich Critical Zone Exploratory (CZE). The authors used a variety of techniques to study the evaluation of DIC carbon isotopes. The authors did a lot of works, conducted a very nice statistic analysis and made a beautiful figure. The paper reveals some interesting findings. The paper is also well written (in terms of structure and English both). In my opinion, the paper deserves publication with some minor corrections. **Specific Comments** 1) I would encourage authors to rewrite the objectives. Give a clear message to the reader what you did. Unnecessary description makes the text a bit boring. The authors are expected to

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concise introduction. 2) The locations of the CZE is more important to understand this paper. I would suggest the authors to add a regional geological map. 3) It was also interesting to see that the influence of land use and climate change on groundwater compositions and DIC.

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