

Interactive comment on “Ergosterol, arabitol and mannitol as tracers for biogenic aerosols in the Eastern Mediterranean” by N. Burshtein et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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General comment - The paper shows a good attempt to correlate the proposed markers (ergosterol, mannitol and arabitol) from different groups for fungal prevalence in a parallel manner. Sampling and analytical procedures are well designed. The analyses and findings help consolidate potential marker for fungal monitoring in the ambient environment.

Specific comment - 1. While the focus is the fungal prevalence reflected from the level of ergosterol, mannitol or arabitol, it will be more convincing if the data set can be compared with bioaerosol (viable or total spore count) information. It will be more illustrative if the authors can provide such information and their correlation to the measured markers.

2. Need clarification - Fig 12 shows that Spring has the highest ergosterol conc but
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low summer level (<1 ng/m³) which is contradictory to the high summer levels (1 to 3 ng/m³) in Fig. 5 (Sept, Oct and Nov). The two sets of data seem contradictory?

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 10, 27725, 2010.