

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

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Response to the comments by Reviewer #1 on "Ergosterol, arabitol and mannitol as tracers for biogenic aerosols in the Eastern Mediterranean"

Dear Editor; The authors thank the reviewers for the insightful reviews. We have seriously considered each point raised by the Reviewers. Below please find our detailed point-by-point replies to the comments.

Referee #1 1. The Reviewer is correct that it will be more convincing if the data can be compared with total spore count information, and we are planning to do so in a future study. For the present study, though, we rely on the results of several previous studies (mainly Lau et al. (2006)) that have found a robust connection between ergosterol pres-

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ence and fungal spores. Since the focus of this study is to check whether mannitol and arabitol are good predictors to fungi-containing bioaerosols and to estimate sources of those bioaerosols we explicitly assume that ergosterol is a reliable reference.

2. The Reviewer comments that the results of the summer period in Figure 5 do not match the ones in figure 12. The Reviewer specified the months September, October and November, hence we assume that the Reviewer meant the Autumn period, and not the Summer as written in the comment. Following the Reviewer's comment we conducted a thorough re-examination of the results and back trajectories and found an honest mistake in which we confused two values that were supposed to be higher than they appear in Figure 12. We thank the Reviewer for the careful reading and for pointing this out! We have now corrected the Figure and I thank the Reviewer for this observation. The graphs in the figures are averages of several measurements hence the correction of the values does not have a significant effect on the overall results and the conclusion from this Figure remain unchanged.

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