

## **Answers to Interactive comment by K. OSADA**

This review paper covers various aspects of mineral dusts and contains useful information. However, I would like to ask one thing. This paper discussed about the results of Reid et al. (2003a) as to show preferential removal of spherical particles (1st paragraph of p31214). It is difficult to follow how to reach this conclusion. I suggest to revise this part to include more explanation.

We thank professor Osada for this comment. In order to make things clearer we have rewritten that paragraph as follows " At Puerto Rico, long-range transported Saharan dust showed a significantly higher aspect ratio of 1.9 while preserving the shifted log-normal shape of the density distribution (Reid et al., 2003a). On the other side, aerosol deposit analyses of Asian mineral dust in Japan resulted in significantly lower aspect ratios around 1.27 (Li and Osada, 2007a). The combination of these two studies would lead to the conclusion that preferentially spherical particles are removed, which is consistent with the sedimentation theory saying that non-spherical particles have a lower sedimentation speed than spherical particles."

We hope that this would improve the clarity of the manuscript.