

26 May 2020

Dear Professor Jingkun Jiang,

Thank you very much for handling our manuscript (acp-2020-386). We have carefully considered comments provided by you and ref #1, and revised the manuscript accordingly. Changes to the original manuscript are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript, and in this letter we summarize in brief our response and changes we have made. To facilitate communications between you, referees and us, and to foster open discussions and peer-review, we will also post this letter online as an “author comment” after our manuscript is published online as a discussion paper.

Ref #1 pointed out that some original research papers were not cited in our original manuscript. We are aware of these work; we did not cite them in our original manuscript because some review articles we cited include these information and we wanted to make our manuscript concise. [As recommended by ref #1 as well as you, in the revised manuscript we have added two paragraphs in Section 2.1 and another two paragraphs in Section 2.2 \(page 6-9, highlighted in red\); in addition, we have also cited a number of representative papers in which original research is presented, in order to better balance the literature coverage.](#)

We agree with ref #1 that discussion of previous work reviewed in our manuscript can be further enhanced, and we especially agree with your comment “Though the topic of this manuscript focuses on China, these discussions can be from a global perspective”. [As revision like this may take quite a while, we prefer to substantially improve our manuscript in this and other aspects after full reviews of our manuscripts are available, upon your permission. Therefore, could you please consider having our manuscript accepted for open discussion without revision in this aspect?](#)

We would like to thank you and all the three referees for the precious time spent on reviewing our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mingjin Tang

Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry

Chinese Academy of Sciences