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***Interactive comment on “Bio-chemostratigraphy of the Barremian–Aptian shallow-water carbonates of the southern Apennines (Italy): pinpointing the OAE1a in a Tethyan carbonate platform” by M. Di Lucia et al.***

**J. Trabucho Alexandre (Editor)**

joao.trabucho@durham.ac.uk

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Dear Dr Di Lucia and colleagues,

I have taken the time to read your manuscript, the reviewers' comments and your replies to the reviewers. I think that the reviews are thorough, conscientious and fair, and I hope that you will find the feedback useful.

The reviews suggest that your paper details a useful and interesting study that is likely to have broad appeal to the readership of the special issue. The reviews recommend

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publication in Solid Earth following some modifications ranging between minor and major. I think that what is required is a moderate revision. I will not reiterate all of the points made in review as they are clearly outlined in the individual reviews. I can tell from your replies that you have already started taking steps towards addressing the concerns of the reviewers.

From my own reading of the paper and the reviews, it seems that the majority of the issues are relatively minor points of clarification and/or correction. However, a few require some rethinking or reassessment of scientific points made in the paper, and some require the addition of data. I view all of the review comments as important, and I would ask that you carefully review all of them as you revise your manuscript. I think that Prof. Dr Immenhauser's comments on the completeness of the sedimentary record and on the stratigraphic value of the so-called 'Orbitolina Level' are particularly important. Similarly, Prof. Dr Weissert also comments on the completeness of the chemostratigraphic curves. Another important issue raised by Prof. Dr Weissert is the absence of citation and inclusion of data of important earlier work.

Please accompany your revised manuscript with a letter that describes in detail how you have addressed the review comments, or presents your reasons for choosing not to act upon any particular point. A revision should be submitted as soon as possible.

Thank you for bringing these interesting results to this Solid Earth special issue. I look forward to receiving your revisions.

Yours sincerely, João Trabucho-Alexandre

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Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 3, 789, 2011.

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