

***Interactive comment on “Hydrothermal activity lowers trophic diversity in Antarctic sedimented hydrothermal vents” by James B. Bell et al.***

**James B. Bell et al.**

gyjbb@leeds.ac.uk

Received and published: 6 December 2016

Further to our comment above regarding the possibility of nitrogen fixation, we have also added in discussion of the possibility of the nitrogen isotopic signatures being explained by dissimilatory nitrate reduction. Without functional gene analysis of the symbionts within *Siboglinum*, it is difficult to be confident about the relative activity of each process but we thank the reviewer for raising this point and we have developed the paper accordingly.

---

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., doi:10.5194/bg-2016-318, 2016.