

Interactive comment on “Soil properties and pre-Columbian settlement patterns in the Monumental Mounds Region of the Llanos de Moxos, Bolivian Amazon” by U. Lombardo et al.

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1) When we state that differences are “significant” we do not mean statistically significant, we mean “important”. We acknowledge that the use of the term “significant” in association with quantitative data is misleading and will eliminate it where appropriate, in particular when comparing the amount of sand in the two catenas and when comparing the density of anthropogenic mounds in PR0 and PR1. In the case of the grain size, the data is graphically presented in order to make the macroscopic differences evident and the quantification is given by the average values. We think that a more complex statistical treatment of the data would not add much to the main conclusions

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of the paper, whilst making it less legible. In the case of mound density, practically all of them are concentrated in the PR1 area and only a few of them are spread apart in PR0. This can easily be seen in fig. 2, and again, we think that the use of spatial statistics here would be of little value.

2) Following the reviewer’s suggestions we will edit the text and eliminated these expressions and/or add a reference when describing the sediment properties.

3) We discuss possible human legacies in terms of soil properties in pg 18, where we also discuss the possible effects of abandonment of the productive infrastructure after the arrival of the Spaniards: “the abandonment of the agricultural activity, probably at the arrival of the Spaniards, together with the fact that the canals have continued to drain the area, has caused the forest to grow over part of what was formerly a savannah”. Also, as we have stated in pg 17: “no large amounts of charcoal or other evidence of enriched soil has been found along the PR1 levees”. We cannot exclude that pre-Columbian activities affected soil properties more deeply than we propose, but the existing data does not suggest this. The deposition of “individual horizons or deposits” happened when the rivers were active, but people settled in the area after the rivers became pelorivers. It is possible that locally, sediments have been reworked and re-deposited as discussed in pg 18. But, in general, at the regional level, individual horizons and deposits precede human occupation.

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