

Dear Drs. Tiffin and Thomas,

Thank you for the additional comments following the first revision. I have attempted to address all of the issues highlighted by Dr. Thomas in this revision. The largest change is an alteration of the metric used when comparing reconstructed fossil placements to their true positions. The distance metric used in the original manuscript has now been scaled to the total possible path length given the topology, yielding a measure of placement error that is easier to interpret and more generalizable to other datasets. Aside from this change, I have addressed all of the minor typos and grammatical errors caught by Dr. Thomas, rewritten the sentences indicated in the decision letter for clarity, and addressed an erroneous equation reference. Thank you for all your work on helping to improve this manuscript! It has been greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Caroline Parins-Fukuchi