Comment on bg-2022-189
Md. Golam Rakkibu (Referee)

Referee comment on "Warming accelerates belowground litter turnover in salt marshes – insights from a Tea Bag Index assay" by Hao Tang et al., Biogeosciences Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2022-189-RC1, 2022

The paper represents a very important perspective of coastal ecosystem carbon dynamics which is not adequately understood. The findings and arguments of the study are critical and very important for future studies exploring coastal soil carbon dynamics which is susceptible to climate change. The manuscript is very well written, explained and discussed. Data are very well presented and clearly interpreted.

Experimental design and methods used to cover the whole soil profile is the significant development in the study. But the issue of whether TBI materials represent the real world scenario with regard to belowground biomass, litter and organic matter turnover remains critical.

Whether the solid PVC posts and perforated holes in which tea bags were placed had any impact that could lead to different conditions in terms of soil moisture, temperature and microbial activity compared to natural soils around need to be discussed.

Besides mean elevation other edaphic characteristics of the three marsh types could be described under site description to signify the zonations.