

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on **essd-2022-128**

Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "The biogeography of relative abundance of soil fungi versus bacteria in surface topsoil" by Kailiang Yu et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss.,
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The manuscript studies the relative abundance of soil fungi and bacteria in top surface soil to improve predictions of soil organic matter turnover under current and future climate scenario. A strong non-linear response of fungal and bacterial abundance to environmental gradient like mean annual temperature (MAT) and net primary productivity (NPP) was observed. It has also used machine learning to link the variation in soil fungi and bacterial abundances to global variation in climate vegetation and soil variables. The article followed an earlier publication by He et al. (2020) but was more elaborate in its analysis using >3000 distinct observation of soil fungi and bacterial abundance and thus explains the entire output in a better detail, supported by elaborate statistical analysis.

Having said that, it is noted that the datasets are mostly restricted to US, Europe and East Asia (Fig. 1a). Considering the fact that agricultural interventions affect the soil fungal diversity, it is desirable that other regions of the world including South west Australia, sub-Saharan Africa, Patagonia and central Asia is not considered. While probably, the authors cannot be faulted for this because of the lack of literature in the global science webs, they would do better to mention this gap in the manuscript. Obviously, authors have used a stratified bootstrapping procedure (100 iterations) by randomly sampling 90% data with replacement. In any case, this gap in the report should be explained to the readers.

Authors have mentioned high resolution (1 km). Should it not be km² if we consider grided map.

I have a few editorial corrections for the authors to consider”

Line 42: Replace 'exchange' with 'cycling'

Line 44 and elsewhere in the text: Replace 'decomposition; with 'transformation'

Line 103: Replace 'these' with 'the'

Line 227: Replace 'land' with 'soil'

Line 298: Replace 'potential' with 'potentially'