

SOIL Discuss., author comment AC1  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2020-107-AC1>, 2021  
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## Reply on RC1

Carrie L. Thomas et al.

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Author comment on "Transformation of n-alkanes from plant to soil: a review" by Carrie L. Thomas et al., SOIL Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2020-107-AC1>, 2021

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We would first like to thank Anonymous Referee #1 for their critical review and helpful comments and suggestions for our manuscript.

### Specific Comments

**Anonymous Referee #1:** *Write impersonal, mainly when this is a review paper*

**Reply:** Thank you for the suggestion. We will make adjustments in the revised version.

**Anonymous Referee #1:** *Check and Italicize the "n" for "normal" e.g. "n-alkanes" in the Abstract section*

**Reply:** Thank you for catching this mistake. We will correct this.

**Anonymous Referee #1:** *Paragraph 35. Apart from Kolattukudy et al., 1976, I think that the pioneering works of Eglinton et al., 1961a and b should be cited:  
Eglinton et al (1962a) Nature DOI: 10.1038 / 193739a0  
Eglinton et al (1962b) Phytochemistry DOI: 10.1016 / S0031-9422 (00) 88006-1*

**Reply:** Thank you for the suggestion of these citations. We agree and will include them in the revised version.

**Anonymous Referee #1:** *Paragraphs 55-65. Please, check the formulas (CPI, OEP & ACL) and normalize notation i.e. all in summation using the appropriate indexes (n, m)*

**Reply:** Thank you for the suggestion. We will check the formulas and notation for the revised version.

**Anonymous Referee #1:** *Paragraphs 65-70. Here I missed some other relevant and general citations related to n-alkanes and other biomarkers diagenesis in soils and sediments.*

*Bourbonniere & Meyers (1996). DOI: 10.4319 / lo.1996.41.2.0352  
Wiesenberg et al (2003). DOI: 10.1016 / j.orggeochem.2004.03.009  
Meyers & Ishiwatari (1993). DOI: 10.1016 / 0146-6380 (93) 90100-P  
Zhang et al (2006). DOI: 10.1016 / j.quascirev.2005.03.009*

**Reply:** Thank you for the suggestion of these citations. We will include them in the revised version.

**Anonymous Referee #1:** *In addition, although the following references are cited in other parts of the MS, I will also recommend its inclusion in this introductory paragraph. Bull et al (2000). DOI: 10.1016 / S0146-6380 (00) 00008-5  
Otto & Simpson (2005). DOI: 10.1007 / s10533-004-5834-8*

**Reply:** Thank you for this suggestion. We will also cite these in the introduction.

**Anonymous Referee #1:** *Paragraph 330. Maybe it is worth to briefly mention other environmental aspects known to exert shifts in n-alkanes e.g. forest fires. Almendros et al (1988). DOI: 10.1016 / 0016-7061 (88) 90028-6  
González-Pérez et al (2008). DOI: 10.1016 / j.orggeochem.2008.03.014*

**Reply:** Thank you for the suggestion and the suggested citations. We agree that it is important to consider these other potential causes for changes in n-alkanes and will include this in the revised version.