

SOIL Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Reply on AC2

Jennifer Wardle (Referee)

Referee comment on "Effects of environmental factors and soil properties on soil organic carbon stock in a natural dry tropical area of Cameroon" by Désiré Tsozué et al., SOIL Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2021-12-RC2>, 2021

Thank you for the updates to the text. Based on your comments in the PDF, you appear to have addresses most of the issues. However, I am not able to access the modified text so I cannot see the updates to make further comment. I believe that the new Figure 3 is a good addition to the document.

I still have concerns about presumptions about latitude and the data points. Your text states "Climate appears to be the principal factor explaining the low SOC contents in the studied soils (Plaza et al., 2018), with precipitations explaining 71.04% of the variability of T-SOCS ($R^2 = 0.7104$). " but as mentioned previously, this uses only 4 data points and a regression analysis shows the relationship is not significant ($p = 0.155$). I haven't had time to check the significance using the second version of the figure with more data points.

Data aside, you make a good argument for differentiating between the study sites on the basis of latitude in your region. However, I think you need to make it very explicit that at your location, a small change in latitude takes you into a completely different biome.