SOIL Discuss., editor comment EC2
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Comment on soil-2021-132

Elizabeth Bach (Editor)

Editor comment on "Combined application of animal manure and straw benefit soil fauna community in dryland farming" by Ling Sun and Jinggui Wu, SOIL Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2021-132-EC2, 2021

Dear Sun and Wu,

Thank you for your submission the SOIL-D: "Combined application of animal manure and straw benefit soil fauna community in dryland farming." Two peer reviewers have provided feedback in agreement that the manuscript has scientific merit, but there are major underlying concerns. The most major of these is clarification around the litter bag approach. This approach provides limits in how these data are interpreted and their significance for understanding soil invertebrate communities in active agricultural fields. There is also concern around how taxa from different taxonomic levels (e.g. sub-phyla, family, genius) are presented throughout the paper. In addition, further clarification around how richness, diversity, and abundance are interpreted from the data would strengthen the manuscript. These are major concerns and require extensive revisions, including rewriting sections and rebuilding tables and figures. In addition, both reviewers provide extensive comments and questions within annotated pdfs of the original submission.

At this stage of the open review process, I welcome your comments on the reviews, including how these major concerns could be addressed. After completion of the open review process, I will work with the lead editor to decide on the next steps for the manuscript.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bach

Topical Editor