

SOIL Discuss., community comment CC1
<https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2021-40-CC1>, 2021
© Author(s) 2021. This work is distributed under
the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.

Comment on soil-2021-40

Joseph M Craine

Community comment on "Soil $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ is a better indicator of ecosystem nitrogen cycling than plant $\delta^{15}\text{N}$: A global meta-analysis" by Kaihua Liao et al., SOIL Discuss.,
<https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2021-40-CC1>, 2021

If you take a look at the syntheses we have done, soil d15N also appears to reflect the degree of decomposition of the organic matter. d15N increases with processing. Warmer sites have soil N that is elevated in 15N, but has lower C:N. Once you control for C:N, there is little pattern in 15N across temperature gradients. similar interpretations could be applied here. You need to take a look at the syntheses and reviews we have done on how to interpret plant and soil 15N. there are important data here, but interpretation is important too.