Interactive comment on “Eddy covariance for quantifying trace gas fluxes from soils” by W. Eugster and L. Merbold

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To the Editor

This article is supposed to be a review article (see Fig. 1) and thus we need some clarification on what actually a review article is supposed to be. According to the guidelines a review article “should comprehensively summarize and especially synthesize the state-of-the-art science of specific subjects related to the scope of the journal” whereas a research article is “based on primary data collected and present substantial and original findings”.

I personally was under the impression that review articles should never try to sneak in too much unreviewed brand-new material, but as it appears that's exactly what the Editor and the two reviewers were expecting.

We actually find both reviews very helpful, but we would hesitate to switch from a review article to a research article. As I understood we were asked to provide a review article, not a research article to the first volume of SOIL. If our contribution really does not meet the standards for a review article then we better think of leaving it as is.

Please clarify this point before we can address the two helpful reviews in detail.
Fig. 1. Manuscript status of our review article