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Interactive comment on "The soil N cycle: new insights and key challenges" *by* J. W. van Groenigen et al.

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With regard to new insights and challenges concerning the nitrogen cycle of soil and terrestrial environments, I would like to draw the authors' and readers' attention to recent studies indicating that cryptogamic covers on soil, rock and plant surfaces may account for nearly half of the biological nitrogen fixation on land (Elbert et al. 2012) and that nitrous acid (HONO) may be similarly important as nitric oxide (NO) for the exchange of reactive nitrogen with the atmosphere (Su et al. 2011; Oswald et al. 2013).

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