

Interactive comment on “Are biodiversity indices of spontaneous grass covers in olive orchards good indicators of soil degradation?” by E. V. Taguas et al.

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Dear Referee 3, Thank you for the time you devoted to reading this manuscript and for your comments.

1. The manuscript is focused on an important issue about indicators choice of soil degradation in olive orchards. The idea, described in the title, is not described in depth in the other sections of the manuscript (introduction, discussion)

Following your advice, we are going to change the title to improve the readability of the manuscript. (Analyzing biodiversity indices of grass spontaneous cover and soil losses

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in olive orchards: a study case of two microcatchments with contrasting environmental and management conditions.)

2. The manuscript shows important data on soil management in orchard in relation to specific site condition and weed biodiversity. Therefore, the manuscript could be accepted for the publication in SOIL after the major revision. Such major revision should mainly be addressed to change the path of the whole manuscript, using the present data. I suggest to use always the same terminology, Weed, spontaneous, cover crop

We are adapting the content to the title. We are harmonizing the terminology following your suggestion and referee 1's

3. Page 240; Line 19 – Explain Richness (R) and how the values are obtained. Table 2 move the

The values of Richness (R) represent the number of different species identified on a sample. We collected the vegetal material in the field and in addition we took pictures (see Fig. 2) As for Table 2, we are afraid that the text is incomplete.

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., 2, 233, 2015.