

Interactive comment on “Predicting soil water repellency by hydrophobic organic compounds and their vegetation origin” by J. Mao et al.

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This interesting manuscript delves into the study of the origin of soil water repellency (SWR). It emphasizes the relationship between hydrophobic compounds of different soil layers and vegetation. A novel approach regarding SWR prediction based on the relationship between combined markers is presented. From my point of view, reading this text arise interesting new lines of work about the relationship between biological activity and breakdown of soil water repellency and possible implications on the water balance.

It is a well structured work, with clearly established objectives and a well designed experimental procedure resulting in accurate and clear conclusions.

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Specific comments:

In section 2.3 it is stated that the severity of SWR is classified according to Bisdom et al., 1993 and Dekker and Ritsema, 1996. However only log (s) is subsequently used. Taking into account that this first classification is more intuitive when interpreting SWR, I consider it would be suitable to add this information in Table 1 or somewhere in the text.

Page 170, Line 1: bound on ?

References: Rodríguez-Alleres and Benito, 2011 appears in the list of references but is missing in the text.

Kind regards

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., 2, 153, 2015.

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