

Interactive comment on “The added value of biomarker analysis to the genesis of Plaggic Anthrosols – the identification of stable fillings used for the production of plaggic manure” by J. M. van Mourik et al.

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Received and published: 11 February 2016

The authors investigate to what extent biomarker analysis can contribute to identify what organic plant material was used as stable filling and contributed to the development of Plaggic Anthrosols, and how the land surface rise at early stages of plaggic agriculture can be explained. The study is based on a preliminary investigation at three sites in the Netherlands, and builds on existing information with regards to the chronology of the plaggic soil development, as well as the micro-morphology and pollen content of the soils.

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The manuscript reads smoothly, and provides some interesting new insights into the development of the Plaggic Anthrosols. However, there are a few key issues that will need to be modified prior to publication: 1) The manuscript contains a number of serious mistakes that need to be corrected. 2) It should be made much clearer which part of the information (e.g. figs.) is original, and which parts were published before. 3) Emphasis should be on the novel aspects of the work (the biomarkers), and this aspect should be discussed in more detail. Each of these issues is detailed in the attached PDF, and should be corrected before publication can be considered. I note that there is considerable overlap with earlier publications; whether this is acceptable I leave to the editor.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.soil-discuss.net/soil-2015-81/soil-2015-81-RC1-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., doi:10.5194/soil-2015-81, 2016.

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