

Interactive comment on “Low molecular weight organic anions (carboxylates) increase microbial activity and alter microbial community composition in uncontaminated and diesel contaminated soil” by B. C. Martin et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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General comments: In this article, the authors used microcosm experiments to determine the impact of two types of carboxylates (citrate and malonate), combined or individually, on microbial composition, activity, and degradation of petroleum hydrocarbons. Generally, the paper has been well written and very well presented through both text and illustrations. However, given that the experiments were conducted in microcosms, this article would have benefited immensely from tests on more organic compounds known to be exuded by plant roots within the rhizosphere instead of just one group. Nonetheless, it is still a useful contribution to this area of research.

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Specific comment: The individual tests and techniques used in this study are appropriate and have been explained with a lot of details. The reader has no problem at all understanding the methodologies.

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., doi:10.5194/soil-2016-30, 2016.

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