

## ***Interactive comment on “Separation of soil respiration; a site-specific comparison of partition methods” by Louis-Pierre Comeau et al.***

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In the Article "Separation of soil respiration; a site-specific comparison of partition methods" there is any mention to the partitioning of soil respiration using radiocarbon. Radiocarbon approach to estimate the heterotrophic efflux from soil represents an alternative and quite simple methodology. It is not invasive such other methodologies (e.g trenching) and with a single soil sampling campaign can allow to have an annual estimate of the heterotrophic efflux from soil. The methodology is quite well described in the following article:

Chiti T, Certini G, Forte C, Papale D, Valentini R (2016) Radiocarbon-Based Assessment of Heterotrophic Soil Respiration in Two Mediterranean Forests. *Ecosystems*,

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19:62-72

A mention to the possibility of using this methodology should be reported in the text, were other approaches are reported.

The possibility of using radiocarbon it is also reported in the published reviews about soil respiration partitioning.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.soil-discuss.net/soil-2017-38/soil-2017-38-SC1-supplement.pdf>

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Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/soil-2017-38>, 2018.

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