Variations in soil chemical and physical properties explain basin-wide ~~variations in~~ Amazon forest soil carbon ~~densities~~concentrations

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Abstract.

We investigate the edaphic, mineralogical and climatic controls of soil organic carbon (SOC) concentration utilising data from 147 ~~pristine~~ primary forest soils (0-30 cm depth) sampled in eight different countries across the Amazon Basin. Sampling across 14 different World Reference Base soil groups our data suggest that stabilisation mechanism varies with pedogenetic level. Specifically, although SOC concentrations in Ferralsols and Acrisols were best explained by simple variations in clay content – this presumably being due to their relatively uniform kaolinitic mineralogy – this was not the case for less weathered soils such as Alisols, Cambisols and Plinthosols for which interactions between Al species, soil pH and litter quality are argued ~~seem~~ to be much more important. ~~SOC fractionation studies further showed that, a~~Although for more strongly weathered soils the majority of SOC is located within the aggregate fraction, for the less weathered soils most of the SOC is located within the silt and clay fractions. It thus seems that for highly weathered soils SOC storage is mostly influenced by surface area variations arising from clay content, with physical protection inside aggregates rendering an additional level of protection against decomposition. On the other hand, most of SOC in less weathered soils are~~is~~ associated with the precipitation of aluminium-carbon complexes within the fine soil fraction,~~ and~~ with this mechanism enhanced by the presence of high levels of aromatic, carboxyl-rich organic matter compounds. Also examined as part of this study were a relatively small number of arenic soils (*viz.* Arenosols and Podzols) for which there was a small but significant influence of clay and silt content variations on SOM storage and with fractionation studies showing that particulate organic matter may accounting for up to 0.60 of arenic soil SOC. In contrast to what were in all cases strong influences of soil and/or litter quality properties, after accounting for these effects neither wood productivity, above ground biomass nor precipitation/temperature variations were found to exert any significant influence on SOC stocks~~ at all~~. These results have important implications for our understanding of how Amazon forest soils are likely to respond to ongoing and future climate changes.

1 Introduction

~~Global estimates for carbon stocks in the top 1 m of soil converge around 1500 Pg (Hiederer and Köchy, 2011), which is nearly three times that of above ground biomass estimates, and about twice the C content of the atmosphere (Batjes, 1996, 2014; Eswaran et al., 1993; Post et al., 1982). Soil depths beyond 1 m generally also contain carbon and therefore increase such soil carbon stock estimates substantially. For example, Jackson et al., (2017) estimate a total carbon stock of 2770 Pg in soils up to 3.0 m deep globally; this being nearly twice the 1.0 m depth estimates. Likewise, current estimates for the Amazon Basin forest region are 36.1 and 66.9 Pg of carbon for the top 0.3 and 1 m respectively (Batjes and Dijkshoorn, 1999), and with deep soil layers in the Eastern Amazon soils (from 1 to 8 m deep) being known to hold as much carbon as is contained in the top soil (Trumbore and Barbosa De Camargo, 2009). This makes the Amazon Basin forest soil carbon stocks of similar magnitude or even higher than the aboveground biomass for the forests themselves; the latter generally taken to total about 90 Pg C (Malhi et al., 2006; Mitchard et al., 2014).~~

The soil organic carbon pool (SOC) is a function of the amount and quality of organic material entering the soil and its subsequent rate of mineralization, which can be controlled by the various stabilization processes that protect SOC from decomposition (Bruun et al., 2010). For example, organic carbon may be stabilized in mineral soils through interactions with oxides and clay minerals (Kahle et al., 2004; Kaiser and Guggenberger, 2003; Mikutta et al., 2007; Saidy et al., 2012; Saiz et al., 2012; Wiseman and Püttmann, 2006), with SOC physically entrapped in soil aggregates (Baldock and Skjemstad, 2000) and/or stabilized by intermolecular interactions between SOC and the surface of clays and Fe and Al hydroxides (Oades, 1989). Thus, chemical adsorption on mineral specific surface area (SSA) has an important role on C stabilization (Kahle et al., 2003; Saggar et al., 1996, 1999; Saidy et al., 2012).

Specific surface area is itself dependent on clay mineralogy, with ~~-~~low activity clays (LAC) being 1:1 alumino-silicates such as kaolinite (hereafter simply referred to as 1:1 clays) having low SSA and low cation exchange capacity (I_E). This contrasts with high activity clays (HAC) which are 2:1 alumino-silicates such as smectites and illites (hereafter simply referred to as 2:1 clays) having a much larger I_E and SSA (Basile-Doelsch et al., 2005; Lützow et al., 2006). Hydrous Fe and Al oxides also provide reactive surface areas for organic matter binding, and with the content of Fe and Al oxides in soils often having been reported as strongly correlated to C content (Eusterhues et al., 2005; Kleber et al., 2005; Saidy et al., 2012; Wiseman and Püttmann, 2006). Hydrous i~~I~~ron and Al ~~hydrous~~ oxides nevertheless show different surface properties to those of clays. Specifically, whilst surface charges of clays are predominantly negative in the tropics (Sanchez, 1976), hydrous oxides generally have positive charges and associated anion exchange capacities, which can further substantially vary in extent in different oxide types and levels of crystallinity (Cornell and Schwertmann, 1996). Thus, the SSA of clay and oxide mixtures, their chemical nature, and the types of charge predominant in organic matter all may play an important role in the C stabilization process (Saidy et al., 2012).

For acidic soils, SOC stabilization by Fe and Al oxides is likely to be dominated by ligand exchange (a pH dependent process) involving carboxyl groups of SOC and simple OH groups on the surface of the oxides (Kaiser and Guggenberger, 2003; Lützow et al., 2006; Wagai and Mayer, 2007): a similar sorption mechanism to that occurring on the edges of 1:1 clay minerals such as kaolinite (Oades, 1989). Iron and Al oxides can also increase the stabilization of SOC through interactions with clay minerals via a promotion of the formation of aggregates which then serve ~~help~~ to preserve SOC (Kitagawa, 1983; Wagai and Mayer, 2007), also forming bridges between ~~negative charges in~~ kaolinite and ~~positive~~ charges in organic matter which are mainly conferred by cationic amino ($R\text{-}NH_2$) and sulfhydryl (R-SH) groups (Wiseman and Püttmann, 2006). Other factors such as the pH of soil and the organic matter loading present in the system also influence C stabilization by mineral surfaces (Saidy et al., 2012).

Hydrous oxides themselves also vary in their capacity to stabilize C, with amorphous Fe and Al oxides having comparatively higher capacity to stabilize C than more crystalline oxides (Kleber et al., 2005; Mikutta et al., 2005). For example, on a mass basis, the C sorption capacity of ferrihydrite is 2.5 times higher than that of goethite (Kaiser et al., 2007), while amorphous Al oxides have a greater sorption capacity than ferrihydrite (Kaiser and Zech, 2000). Despite these complexities, because many heavily weathered soils consist primarily of kaolinite (Sanchez, 1976) it is common to find strong relationships between [SOC] and soil clay fraction when only soils dominated by 1:1 clays are considered~~–~~ (Burke et al., 1989; Dick et al., 2005; Feller and Beare, 1997; Telles et al., 2003).

A second process that may also protect organic matter against microbial decay and which should be much more relevant to 2:1 clays soils is the co-precipitation of dissolved organic matter (DOM) with Fe and Al (Baldock and Skjemstad, 2000; Boudot et al., 1989; Nierop et al., 2002; Scheel et al., 2007). DOM can be precipitated in the presence of Al, Fe and their hydroxides, with an efficiency of up to 90% of all DOM present in the solution of some acidic forest soils (Nierop et al., 2002). The extent to which DOM precipitates is largely influenced by soil pH, with higher pH values leading to an increase in precipitation (Nierop et al., 2002). This is because pH affects both the solubility of DOM (which decreases at low pH) and the speciation of Al. At higher pH levels (>4.2) the formation of hydroxide species such as $Al(OH)^3$ and tridecameric Al (Al_{13}) controls the solubility of Al, but with Al^{+3} predominating at lower pH. Moreover, the chemical nature of the carbon inputs into a soil may also potentially influence the nature and extent of any DOM precipitation reactions, with high molecular weight derived from lignin and tannins (e.g. aromatic compounds) with a large number of functional groups likely to be preferentially precipitated from DOM (Scheel et al., 2007, 2008).

The retention of such precipitated DOM in the soil can contribute substantially to total soil C pools and is considered one of the most important processes of SOC stabilization (Kalbitz and Kaiser, 2008). Indeed, mineralization rates of such metal-DOM precipitates have been reported to be 28 times lower than that of original DOM, and with the resistance of precipitates against microbial decay increasing with aromatic C content and large C:N ratios: This then resulting in a relatively stable pool that accumulates in the soil (Scheel et al. 2007). Exchangeable Al concentrations are often very high for Amazon Basin forest soils

(Quesada et al., 2011), and with Al/OM co-precipitations particularly important in such developing soils (Kleber et al., 2015), stabilization of DOM by precipitation with Al is likely to be of considerable importance ~~(and considerably more important than Fe-associated co-precipitations)~~, especially in the western area of the Amazon Basin where actively evolving soils dominate (Quesada et al. 2010).

Given the range of potential mechanisms discussed above, no single ~~edaphic factor~~soil property should be considered ~~the~~to likely have overriding control of SOC concentrations for Amazon Basin forest soils. And indeed, although there is a current perception that clay content alone exerts strong influence over SOC concentration of Amazon forest soils (Dick et al., 2005; Telles et al., 2003), all of this work has been done with highly weathered soils and with SOC from soil characterized by 2:1 mineralogical assemblages not showing any sort of simple clay content dependency (Quesada and Lloyd, 2016). This suggests that for such soils – as has already been shown to be the case for other regions of the world with similar pedogenetic levels (Bruun et al., 2010; Percival et al., 2000) – that variations in clay quality, oxide content and metal-DOM interactions are likely to be just as, if not more, important in influencing the extent of SOC stabilization.

With the forest soils of the Amazon Basin varying substantially in their chemical and physical properties (Quesada et al., 2010, 2011), it is important to consider how the different soils of the Basin may differ in the mechanisms by which they stabilize and store SOC. Specifically, we hypothesized that soil groups with contrasting pedogenetic development should differ in their predominant mechanism of SOC stabilization, and that soils which share more similar ~~weathering levels and/or~~ chemical and mineralogical characteristics should also share similar mechanism of SOC stabilization. Specifically, we rationalized that strongly weathered soils dominated by 1:1 clays should have their C pools influenced primarily by clay content. On the other hand, given that Al is the main product of weathering in the less weathered soils of western Amazonia (Quesada et al. 2011), and with clay contents already shown to not explain well their SOC densities (Quesada and Lloyd, 2016), we hypothesized that Al / organic matter interactions were likely to be the main stabilization mechanism for such soils.

Finally, soil organic matter (SOM) is a complex mixture of carbon compounds and different soil minerals. SOM consists of various functional pools, which are stabilized by different mechanisms, each associated to a given turnover rate. Aiming to simplify this complexity, several soil organic matter partitioning methods have been developed to separate SOM in different operationally defined pools or fractions with contrasting chemical and physical characteristics (Denef et al, 2010). Such fractionation methods ~~may~~ provide additional support for understanding soil carbon stabilization mechanisms, as well as provide useful constraints for models of soil carbon dynamics (Trumbore and Zheng, 1996; Zimmermann et al., 2007).

~~Therefore, we h~~Here we explore the climatic, edaphic and mineralogical conditioning of soil carbon pools across the diverse forest soils of the Amazon Basin focusing on three major questions:

1) What are the major edaphic and climatic factors explaining observed variations in soil organic C across the Basin?;

2) Are the likely contrasting stabilization mechanism patterns hypothesized to operate also ~~associated with ~~consistently related to different SOC physicochemical fraction distributions; and

3) How should the contrasting SOC retention mechanisms identified above influence our understanding of the likely responses of the Amazon Basin forests to future changes in climate?

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Study sites and sampling

Soils of 147 1-ha primary forest plots, representing 14 soil orders, ha~~d~~ve been sampled across the Amazon Basin as part of this study (Table 1). These include forests in Brazil, Venezuela, Guyana, French Guyana, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia (Fig. 1).

Details of soil sampling protocol, laboratory analysis and soil classification can be found in Quesada et al. (2010, 2011) which described a subset of the soils detailed here.~~ and are thus only briefly described here~~. For each site at least ~~usually ~~five soil cores were taken across the 1 ha plot to the depth of 2.0 m, with an additional 2.0 m soil pit also sampled in each plot. Within each soil core, samples were collected over the following standardized depths: 0-0.05, 0.05-0.10, 0.10-0.20, 0.20-0.30, 0.30-0.50, 0.50-1.00, 1.00-1.50 and 1.50-2.00 m using an undisturbed soil sampler (Eijkelkamp Agrisearch Equipment BV, Giesbeek, The Netherlands) and/or being collected from the pit walls at the same depths. All samples were air dried as soon as possible with roots, detritus, small rocks and particles over 2 mm then removed in the laboratory. Samples, sieved at 2 mm, were used in the laboratory for analysis. Throughout this paper only results for surface soils (0 – 0.30 m) are reported, which is the layer that hold the ~~.~~bulk of soil C in tropical forest systems (Batjes and Dijkshoorn, 1999).

2.2 Soil Classification

Soils were classified up to their Reference Soil Group (RSG) which represents the great order level in the World Reference Base for Soil Resources (IUSS (International Union of Soil Science) Working Group WRB, 2014). ~~The ~~Our classification ~~performed was~~were based on the requisite field and laboratory observations taken following the standard approach from WRB Guidelines for Soil Descriptions (Jahn et al., 2006).

2.3 Laboratory analysis

Soil samples were analysed at different institutions depending on sampling location: Max-Planck Institute fuer Biogeochemie (MPI), Jena, Germany; Instituto Venezuelano de Investigaciones Cientificas (IVIC), Caracas, Venezuela; or Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia (INPA), Manaus, Brazil. All laboratories were linked through inter-calibration exercises and strictly adhered to the same methodologies and sample standards. For the Venezuelan soils, only cation exchange capacity was measured at IVIC, with all remaining analysis being determined at MPI and INPA. Soil total reserve bases were analyzed in INPA and Leeds laboratories (University of Leeds, School of Geography). For samples collected after 2008 (i.e. not included in Quesada et al. 2010) all analyses were performed in INPA.

2.3.1 Chemical analysis

Soil pH was determined in H_2O as 1:2.5. Exchangeable cations were determined at soil pH using the silver thiourea method (Ag-TU, Pleysier and Juo, 1980), with the analysis of filtered extracts then done by AAS at INPA and IVIC or by ICP-OES in MPI. Each sample run was checked and standardized with extracts from the Montana SRM 2710 soil standard reference (National Institute of Standards of Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA). Effective cation exchange capacity (I_E) was calculated as the sum of $[Ca]_E + [Mg]_E + [K]_E + [Na]_E + [Al]_E$, where $[X]_E$ represents the exchangeable concentration of each element in $mmol_c\ kg^{-1}$ soil. Total phosphorus was determined by acid digestion at 360 ºC using concentrated sulphuric acid followed by H_2O_2 as described in Tiessen and Moir, (1993). In the same acid digestion extract, total concentration for Ca, Mg, K and Na was determined and the weathering index Total Reserve Bases, Σ_{RB}, calculated. This index is based on total cation concentration in the soil and is considered to give a chemical estimation of weatherable minerals (Delvaux et al., 1989; Quesada et al., 2010), with Σ_{RB} equal to $[Ca]_T + [Mg]_T + [K]_T + [Na]_T$, where $[X]_T$ represents the total concentration of each element in $mmol_c\ kg^{-1}$ soil.

Leaf litter lignin estimates were available for 72 of the 147 sites, having been obtained using the acid detergent fiber method (Van Soest, 1963) as part of the studies of Quesada (2008) and Paz (2011).

2.4 Determination of soil organic C and its fractions

Concentrations of soil total organic carbon (SOC) and N were determined in an automated elemental analyzer (Nelson and Sommers, 1996; Pella, 1990). All samples were free of carbonates as confirmed by their acidic nature (Table 1). The partitioning of SOC in its different fractions was also performed for a subset of sites (n = 30) previously selected by Paz (2011) to account to the large variation in weathering, climate and chemical properties of soils occurring across forest sites in the Amazon Basin. ~~as following Zimmermann et al., (2007).~~ The fractionation was done in compound samples by depth (0-5, 5-10, 10-20 and 20-30 cm) to better represent the soil conditions in the 1 ha sampling plot. The fractionation scheme followed Zimmermann et al., (2007), ~~is fractionation scheme~~ which yields five different fractions *viz.* labile C associated to the clay and silt (C+S), resistant C associated to clay and silt (R_{C+S}), C associated to sand and stable aggregates (S+A), particulate organic matter (POM) and the dissolved organic C (DOC) component. Samples were dispersed using a calibrated ultrasonic probe-type operating with an output-energy of 22 J ml^{-1}. They were subsequently wet sieved to separate <63 µm particles (C+S) from >63 µm soil particles (POM ~~+~~ and S+A). The entire <63 µm solution was then centrifuged for 4 min at 1,200 rpm. The C+S obtained after centrifugation was oven dried at 40 °C for 48 hours and subsequently weighed. The R_{SOC} was obtained by incubating 1 g of C+S with 150 ml of sodium hypochlorite 6% (adjusted to pH 8). After this reaction, the remaining material was washed with distilled water and oven dried at 40 °C for 48 hours. The labile C+S fraction was determined as the difference of total C associated to clay and silt and the R_{C+S}. The DOC sample was obtained by vacuum filtering an 50 ml aliquot of the total water volume used in the wet sieving (after centrifugation) through a membrane filter of 0.45µm and had C determined by TOC analyser. S+A and POM were separated following the procedures described in Wurster et al. (2010) and Saiz et al. (2015). In short, 25 ml of sodium polytungstate solution (1.8 g/cm^3, Sometu- EuropeTM, Berlin, Germany) was added to the >63 µm dried samples placed in 50 ml centrifuge tubes. Samples were then centrifuged for 15 min at 1,800 rpm and left to rest overnight. After this time, samples were left in the freezer for approximately 3 hours, after which POM and S+A was separated by washing the frozen supernatant with distilled water. Both fractions were washed with distilled water to remove any residue of polytungstate solution then dried at 40 °C for 48 h. All fractions were analyzed in the same way as SOC.

Given that some tropical soils have aggregates that are very strong and resistant to disruption by sonication, the >63 µm fraction often contains clay aggregates and therefore S+A represents the entire coarse fraction. ~~All fractions were analyzed in the same way as SOC.~~ The recovery of C after fractionation averaged 97.7%. ~~Leaf litter lignin estimates were available for 72 of the 147 sites, having been obtained using the acid detergent fiber method (Van Soest, 1963) as part of the studies of Quesada (2008) and Paz (2011).~~

2.5 Selective mineral dissolution

Soil samples were extracted for Fe and Al using established standard techniques as described in detail in Van Reeuwijk, (2002). In short, replicate samples were shaken for 16h using Dithionite-Citrate and Na-Pyrophosphate solution. The extraction with ammonium oxalate – oxalic acid solution at pH 3 was performed in the dark, shaking for 4 hours. All extracts were determined for Fe and Al concentrations in AAS. These methods provide useful quantitative estimates of soil oxide composition (Parfitt and Childs, 1988). The dithionite-citrate solution dissolves all iron oxides, such as goethite, gibbsite, ferrihydrite, halloysite, allophane, but with hematite and goethite only partially dissolved. Although this mineral dissolution method has a broad capacity to estimate Fe and Al in such minerals, it does not differentiate its various crystalline forms or between short-range (amorphous) minerals and crystalline structures. The ammonium oxalate – oxalic acid solution on the other hand, specifically dissolves short-range order minerals such as allophane, imogolite, ferrihydrite, Al-humus complexes, lepidocrocite, Al-vermiculite and Al hydroxy interlayer minerals. Therefore, the difference between the two methods is often used to estimate the amount of crystalline minerals in the soil *viz.* (Fe_d-Fe_o), while negative values indicate the predominance of short-range minerals. Further interpretation of selective dissolution data according to Parfitt and Childs (1988) is shown in Table 2.

2.6 Soil physical properties

Soil particle size distribution was determined using the pipette method (Gee and Bauder, 1986) and are reported here as a fraction (ranging from 0 to 1). Soil bulk densities were determined using samples collected inside the soil pits at the same depths of other samples using standard container-rings of known volume (Eijkelkamp Agrisearch Equipment BV, Giesbeek, The Netherlands). These were subsequently oven dried at 105 ºC until constant weight.

2.7 Mineralogy

Bulk s~~S~~oil mineralogical characterization (less than 2 mm) was attained through X-ray diffractometry (XRD) using a PW1050 unit (Philips Analytical, Netherlands) attached to an X-ray generator DG2 (Hiltonbrooks Ltd, Crewe, UK). XRD analyses require sample particle size to be very fine in order to obtain adequate statistical representation of the components and their various diffracting crystal planes, as well as to avoid diffraction-related artifacts (Bish and Reynolds, 1989). Therefore, samples were ground with a mortar and pestle using acetone to avoid sample degradation from heat. Powdered samples were then mounted in holders by a back filled method with the aid of a micro-rugose surface to minimize preferred orientation of the phases present. Samples were continuously scanned from 3° to 70° (2θ) Ni-filtered CuKα radiation (λ=1.54185Å) working at 40 kV and 40 mA. The scanning parameters were 0.020° step size and 1.0 sec. step time. Interpretation and semi-quantitative analysis of the scans were achieved using the Rietveld refinement method built-in within the Siroquant software (SIROQUANT; Sietronics Pty Ltd, Canberra, Australia). All samples were analyzed at the Facility for Earth and Environmental Analysis at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK.

2.8 Climatic and terrain elevation data

Mean annual temperature (T_A) and precipitation (P_A) data come from BioClim (www.worldclim.org) and site elevation (E_V) estimates obtained from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission database (SRTM ~~database~~).

2.9 Statistical analysis

All analyses were carried out using the R statistical platform (R Development Core Team, 2016). In the exploratory data phase, the non-parametric Kendall τ was used to quantify the strength of bivariate associations with the aid of the correlation function available within the agricolae package (De Mendiburu, 2017). Multivariate Ordinary Least Squares Regression (OLS) were then performed relating SOC to other soil properties with candidate variables chosen with reference to the Kendall rank correlations matrices, after which there was an exhaustive exploration of regression models taking into account the *a priori* hypothesis outlined in the Introduction. As a check to ensure that we had not overlooked any of the measured variables as important potential determinants of [C] regression models, we also then checked for the minimum Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) regression models using the dredge function available within MuMIn (Bartoń, 2013), and used Variance Inflation Factor (*VIF*) to account to possible collinearity in AIC selected models. Principal coordinates of soil mineralogical compositions were undertaken using the princomp function after first transforming the data using the acomp function available within the compositions package (van den Boogaart and Tolosana-Delgado, 2008). Kruskall-Wallis multiple comparison tests (Siegel and Castellan Jr., 1998) were undertaken using the kruskalmc command available within the pgirmess package (Giraudoux, 2013).

3 Results

3.1 Clustering of soils types

The distribution of the sampled sites across the Amazon Basin is shown in Figure 1~~ shows the distribution of the sampled sites across the Amazon Basin~~, with the soils sampled divided *a priori* into three “clusters” ~~based on a previous analysis of a subset of sites presented here (Fyllas et al., 2009; Quesada et al., 2010). This has been done~~ according to their World Resource Base Reference Soil Group (RSG) classification (WRB, 2014): (1) ~~*viz.* with one group being~~ the typically more strongly weathered Acrisol and Ferralsol soil types dominated by low activity clays (LAC); (2) ~~the second being~~ other less weathered soils types (~~here encompassing~~ the Alisol, Cambisol Fluvisol, Gleysol, Leptosol, Lixisol, Luvisol, Plinthosol, Regosol and Umbrisol soil groups)~~,~~ typically dominated by high activity clays (HAC); (3) ~~and with a third group *viz.*~~ exceptionally sandy soils (Arenosols and Podzols) which we here refer to as~~, the so called~~ “Arenic” soil types ~~also being differentiated~~. From Fig. 1 the majority of the LAC soils sampled come from the eastern area of the basin and with the majority of the HAC soils found closer to the Andes Cordillera. Arenic soils are less abundant than either LAC or HAC soils~~,~~ and were sampled in both the eastern and western portions of the basin.

The contrasting chemistry of the three soil groups is shown in Fig. 2, where soil effective cation exchange capacity, I_{E}, is plotted as a function of soil clay fraction, Φ_{clay} (0 to 0.3 m depth) with different symbols for each RSG and with the contrasting I_{E} vs.~~;~~ Φ_{clay} domains indicated by different background colours. This shows a minimal overlap between the Arenic and LAC/HAC soil types and with some of the former having relatively high I_{E} despite their very low clay content. There is some overlap between the LAC and HAC soil clusters at intermediate I_{E} and/or Φ_{clay}, though with it also being clear that none of the sampled LAC soils were characterised by a high I_{E} and that none of the HAC soils had a very high or very low clay content.

3.2 Mineralogical analysis

Distinctions between the LAC and HAC clusters are further illustrated in Fig. 3, where for a subset of the main dataset, mineralogical analysis of the bulk soil had been undertaken using X-ray Diffraction Spectroscopy (XRD) and for which the results of a Principal Components Analysis (PCA) ordination are shown in Fig. 3a. Here it can be seen that the first PCA axis (PCA1) serves to primarily differentiate the soils according to their clay activity with the 1:1 clay minerals gibbsite, goethite and kaolinite all with large negative weightings on the PCA1 axis and with the 2:1 potassium feldspar, plagioclase, smectite-illite and chlorite minerals all with positive weightings. Accordingly (although mineralogy is not used in the RSG (reference soil groups) classification system), almost all sites within our RSG based LAC cluster are located with negative scores along the PCA1 axis and with almost all HAC soils with positive values. All four Arenic soils analysed ~~subject to XRD~~ had high PCA scores.

The contrast between the three soil groups is further shown in Fig. 3b where, shown as a compositional plot, the contrasting relationships between the 1:1 and 2:1 minerals are considered along with variations in quartz content. This diagram emphasises the almost total lack of 2:1 minerals found with the LAC soil cluster, with these soils essentially being of a mixture of 1:1 minerals (primarily kaolinite: see Table 1) and quartz in varying proportions. On the other hand, the HAC soils are all characterised by a high quartz content and with less than 20% 1:1 minerals present. Also ~~: although~~ of note, two Cambisols, one Regosol and one Gleysol had 2:1 minerals constituting less than 1% in their fine earth fraction. Not unexpectedly, having a quartz content of > 97%, all four Arenic soils are found clustered in the bottom right-hand corner of the compositional triangle.

3.3 Univariate and bivariate comparisons

Using data averaged over the upper 0.3 m of the sampled soil profiles, Figure 4 shows as boxplots the contrasts between our three *a priori* soil groups in terms of their carbon density [C]; total reserve bases Σ_{RB}, effective cation exchange capacity I_{E}, fractional sand, silt and clay contents (Φ_{sand}, Φ_{silt} and Φ_{clay}) and concentrations of dithionite and oxalate extractable aluminium and iron *viz.* $[\mathrm{Al}]_{\mathrm{d}}$, $[\mathrm{Al}]_{\mathrm{o}}$, $[\mathrm{Fe}]_{\mathrm{d}}$ and $[\mathrm{Fe}]_{\mathrm{o}}$ (o~~O~~riginal data available in Table 1 and Appendix Table A1). This shows that, although there was no significant difference between the three clusters in [C] (Fig. 4a; Kruskal-Wallis test; $p > 0.05$), there were significant differences in the underlying chemistry at $p < 0.05$ not only between the Arenic soil cluster and both the LAC and HAC clusters for Σ_{RB} (Fig. 4b) I_{E}, (Fig. 4c), $[\mathrm{Al}]_{\mathrm{d}}$ (Fig. 4d), $[\mathrm{Al}]_{\mathrm{o}}$ (Fig. 4e), $[\mathrm{Fe}]_{\mathrm{d}}$ (Fig. 4f) and $[\mathrm{Fe}]_o$ (Fig 4g) but also with HAC soils having higher Σ_{RB}, I_E , $[\mathrm{Fe}]_d$ and $[\mathrm{Fe}]_o$ than the soils in the LAC cluster ($p < 0.05$). For pH, the situation was more complicated, but with the HAC soils having higher values than the LAC soils ($p < 0.05$) but, with no difference between the Arenic soils and either the LAC or HAC soils. Despite there being many differences in soil properties significant ~~location~~ at $p < 0.05$ or better ~~as detected through the(~~ non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test), ~~for all seven soil chemical properties presented in Fig. 4~~considerable~~,~~ overlap ~~between the~~existed in LAC and HAC ~~soils was in most cases considerable.~~ for all seven soil chemical properties presented in Fig. 4.

In terms of soil texture, as would reasonably be expected, Φ_{sand} was significantly higher at $p < 0.05$ for the Arenic versus LAC and/or HAC clusters (Fig. 4i). As would be expected, we also observed ~~which was also reflected in~~ significantly lower Φ_{clay} for the Arenic soils ($p > 0.05$ Fig. 4j). On the other hand, there was no difference between Φ_{silt} for the Arenic *vs.* LAC soils, both of which, in turn, had a significantly lower Φ_{silt} than the soils of the HAC cluster ($p < 0.05$; Fig. 4k). As is also evident from Fig. 2, there was much more variation in Φ_{clay} for the LAC soils compared ~~as opposed~~ to the HAC soils.

Using Kendall's τ as a non-parametric measure of association, correlations between a wide range of soil and climate properties potentially involved in differences in soil carbon storage are shown in Table 3. This ~~, which~~ takes the form of four one-sided correlation matrices *viz.* one half-triangle for each of the Arenic, LAC and HAC clusters as well as for the (combined) dataset as a whole. Here, with $n > 30$ for the LAC and HAC clusters we have indicated in bold all cases where $\tau > 0.30$ for these two groupings (as well as the combined dataset) with this associating roughly with the probability of Type-II error being less than 0.05. For the Arenic soil cluster with $n = 13$ the equivalent value is $\tau > 0.52$ and where one or more of the four groupings has $p > 0.05$, this has been indicated for all four matrices using different colours to help cross-referencing across the four diagonal matrices

Table 3 shows that, whilst there are many correlations which are significant at $p = 0.05$ or better, in ~~to be found in the dataset,~~ only in a few cases were ~~s are~~ there significant correlations found for the same bivariate combinations in two or more of the three soil clusters and/or when the three clusters are considered together. For example, although there is clear association between soil texture and soil carbon density for the LAC soils ($\tau = -0.56$ and $\tau = 0.54$ for Φ_{sand} and Φ_{clay} respectively), this is not the case for the HAC soils ($\tau = 0.06$ and $\tau = 0.19$), and with the association also being much less clear for the Arenic grouping ($\tau = -0.17$ and $\tau = -0.24$). Consequently, when all three soil clusters are considered together we find τ of only -0.21 and 0.31 for Φ_{sand} and Φ_{clay}. That is to say, when all soils are considered together there is much weaker association between soil carbon ~~density~~ concentration and soil texture than when LAC soils are considered on their own. This is also the case for the relationship between [C] and soil bulk density, D_b, for which we find $\tau = -0.47$ for LAC soils but markedly lower values for the HAC and Arenic soils ($\tau = -0.29$ and $\tau = -0.17$ respectively), as well as for the combined dataset ($\tau = -0.33$).

In a similar vein, although a high ~~I_E~~ cation exchange capacity (I_E) is clearly associated with a high [C] for LAC soils ($\tau = 0.37$) and perhaps the Arenic soils as well ($\tau = 0.43$), for the HAC soils we find a τ of only -0.08 for the [C] *vs.*~~;~~ I_E ~~association~~. Not surprisingly then, for ~~, and for~~ the dataset as a whole τ = ~~equals only~~ 0.13 for the ~~.~~ I_E *vs.* [C] correlation.

On the other hand (simple physically based bivariate correlations ~~associations~~ such as T_a *vs.* E_v aside) there are cases where the strength of the bivariate associations seems to be consistent across all three soil groups. For example, taking the relationship between total phosphorus, $[P]_t$, and mean annual air temperature, T_a, shows $\tau = -0.29$, $\tau = -0.32$ and $\tau = -0.22$ for the LAC, HAC and Arenic soils respectively and with the combined dataset yielding $\tau = -0.35$. ~~; a value higher than any of the individual clusters when considered on its own.~~ A second example ~~of this~~ is the relationship between dithionite extractable aluminium $[Al]_d$ and Φ_{clay} for which we find $\tau = 0.31$ for LAC soils, $\tau = 0.20$ for HAC soils and $\tau = 0.36$ for Arenic soils and with $\tau = 0.35$ for the dataset as a whole. Although we found ~~, not surprisingly there are~~ many correlations between the variation oxalate/dithionite extraction metrics for Fe and Al, it was only $[Al]_d$ that, on its own, showed any marked association with [C], and with this being ~~here only f~~or the LAC soils ($\tau = 0.37$). Although~~although~~ we do also note that $\tau = 0.29$ for the HAC soils and $\tau = 0.28$ for the dataset as whole.

Also of note are the many cases where there are reasonably high τ found for both the LAC and HAC soils, but not for the Arenic ones: for example in the ~~associations~~ correlations between Total Reserve Bases, Σ_B, and organic matter CN ratio for which we observe $\tau = -0.44$ for LAC soils and $\tau = -0.56$ for HAC soils, but with a value of only $\tau = -0.03$ for the soils in the Arenic cluster.

3.4 Carbon/soil texture associations

With a high τ observed for several [C] *vs.* soil texture ~~associations~~ relationships (Section 3.3), the ~~relationship~~ correlations between soil carbon content and Φ_{clay} are~~is~~ shown ~~in~~ in Fig, 5 with a separate panel used for each of the three soil clusters; and with each panel having different ranges for both the *x*- and *y*-ordinates. For the LAC soils (Fig 5a) strong linear relationship exists (r^2 = 0.~~57~~58) and with there being little apparent difference between the Ferralsol and Acrisol RSGs. But when LAC OLS regression line is repeated again within the Arenic soil group [C] *vs.*~~;~~ Φ_{clay} ~~association~~ graph of Fig 5b (for which we also note that the variability in Φ_{clay} is only one-tenth of that for~~the *x*- axis extends only one tenth that of~~ Fig 5a and with ~~a y-axis~~[C] being 4-fold larger) it is clear that, not only does soil clay content exert little or any control over [C] for these sandy soils, but also that many of the Podzols have [C] well in excess of even the highest clay content LAC soils. With the LAC OLS regression line again repeated for the HAC soils in Fig. 5c it is similarly clear that many of the HAC soils have [C] appreciably higher than is expected on the basis of the highly significant LAC [C] *vs.*~~;~~ Φ_{clay} relationship: but with no detectable [C] *vs.*~~;~~ Φ_{clay} ~~association~~ correlation when considered on their own ($r^2 = 0.01$).

The underlying OLS regressions of Figure 5 are outlined in more detail in Table 4. Here, ~~which,~~ as well as providing a [C] *vs.*~~;~~ Φ_{clay} OLS regression summary for the combined dataset as whole, we~~also~~ also examine~~d~~s the effects of including Φ_{silt} in the [C]~~;~~ *vs.* Φ_{clay} regression models: this being either as an additional term or as part of a single (Φ_{silt}+ Φ_{clay}) predictor – the latter, of course, also being equal to [1 –-Φ_{sand}]. ~~.~~ Comparing the equations for LAC, this analysis shows that the addition of the Φ_{silt} term to the [C]~~;~~ *vs.* Φ_{clay} regression increases the r^2 from 0.57 (Table 4a) to 0.61 (Model b) with a change in Akaike's Information Criterion (*Δ*AIC) of -3.9 and with the coefficients for both terms having very similar slopes, *viz* 16.6 ±2.1 g C kg^{-1} clay and 14.4 ±6.2 g C kg^{-1} silt. For these LAC soils, taking silt and clay together as the one soil texture metric (Table 4c) yields~~resulted in~~ a similar r^2 with~~and~~ an intermediate slope of 16.2 ± 1.8 g C kg^{-1}(clay + silt).

Despite the strong relationships found for the LAC soils for both Φ_{clay} and Φ_{silt} , no ~~such association~~correlation was evident for the HAC soils and, of the three models tested, none had a r^2 greater than 0.05 (Table 4d-f). For the Arenic soils, the addition of Φ_{silt} term to a simple [C] *vs.* Φ_{clay} model led to a *Δ*AIC of only -1.7 (compare equations of Table 4g and h). Nevertheless, ~~, but~~ where a summation term (Φ_{clay} + Φ_{silt}) was tested as a single predictor variable this resulted in a marked improvement over and above the [C~~];~~] *vs.* Φ_{clay} relationship with a *Δ*AIC of -3.6 and r^2 of 0.31 (Table 4i). Of note, Table 4i shows that the fitted slope for the Arenic soils was 155 ± 63g C kg^{-1}(clay + silt), a value nearly 10 times that found for the LAC soils (Table 4*c*). When all three soils groupings were considered together there was no significant relationship between [C] and Φ_{clay}: this being the case for either with Φ_{clay} considered on its own, or for ~~when~~ Φ_{clay} considered in conjunction with Φ_{silt}, and with all three models tested having $r^2 \leq 0.01$ and $p > 0.13$ (Table 4j -l).

3.5 Soil carbon chemical and~~/~~ mineralogical associations

As already noted in Section 3.1, of the many strong ~~associations~~ correlations between the aluminium and iron oxide measured and soil carbon concentration, one of the strongest and the most consistent across the three soil groups was the [C] *vs.* ~~;~~ Al_d relationship, and this relationship is shown for all three soil groupings in Fig. 6 (log-log scale) with the appropriate regression coefficients shown in Table 5 (models *m* to *o*). ~~This shows~~ R~~r~~easonably strong relationships were~~to be~~ found between [C] and Al_d for both the LAC (Fig. 6; $r^2 = 0.27$ $p < 0.0001$) and HAC soils (Fig. 6c: $r^2 = 0.23$ $p < 0.0001$), but not for the Arenic grouping (Fig. 6b; $r^2 = 0.09$ $p > 0.17$). Here direct comparison with the soil texture models of Table 4 according to the AIC values is confounded by slightly different datasets for the HAC soils (due to Al_d only having been determined for 77 of the 83 HAC soils) and with the relationships examined here being log-log as opposed to linear. But nevertheless, the very different r^2 between the two model types: with $r^2 = 0.27$ much lower for the [C] *vs.* ~~;~~ Al_d relationship than for any of the [C] *vs.* soil texture models for the LAC soils (for which $r^2 > 0.57$) and with this being the other way around for the HAC soils ($r^2 = 0.23$ for the [C~~];~~] *vs.* Al_d relationship but with none of the soil texture models having $r^2 > 0.05$) suggests that for the HAC soils that Al_d is a much better predictor of [C] than soil texture. Withal, simple soil texture metrics were the better predictors for the LAC soils.

With any role of $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$ in the modulation of [C] also likely to be dependent on soil pH (see Introduction) we then probed potential interactions of $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$ and pH, at the same time evaluating the potential role of other measured mineralogical factors. This was done by ~~by~~ testing a range of multivariate models and selecting on the basis of AIC: the net result of which is shown in Table 6 (model *q*). This model, which also involves both pH and $[\mathrm{Fe}]_o$ has a ΔAIC of -17.7 as compared to the univariate $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$ model of Table 5n suggesting a drastic improvement through the addition of the two additional terms. But nevertheless, using data for 41 of the 77 HAC sites for which we had leaf litter lignin content (Λ) measurements available there was a clear relationship between the model residuals of Eqn 6q (Fig. 7a) and with this relationship also being evident (though to a lesser extent) when a simpler model involving just $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$ and pH was applied (r^2 = 0.25, AIC = 85.1; Fig. 7b). In both cases residuals increase with increasing Λ meaning that at high Λ the models tend to underestimate [C] and *vice versa* at low Λ.

With this lignin effect being consistent with any pH dependent $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$ precipitation reaction mechanism as originally postulated, we thus probed a possible role of Λ as a factor interacting with both pH and Al_d using the more limited dataset of 41 HAC sites for which the requisite data was available. Model comparisons are shown in Table 7. Starting first with a simple model of [C] as a function of $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$, $[\mathrm{Fe}]_o$ and pH (Table 7t which is the same model as Table 6q but in this case with the reduced 'leaf lignin only' dataset) ~~shows that indeed,~~ the addition of a Λ term clearly results in a marked improvement in the model fit (Table 7u; r^2 = 0.46, ΔAIC = -3.50). Moreover, ~~and that,~~ for this reduced dataset at least, the $[\mathrm{Fe}]_o$ term then becomes redundant (Table 7v; r^2 = 0.47, ΔAIC = -2.0).

The goodness of fit of Equation 7v is shown in Figure 8 where the fitted soil carbon densities, $[\hat{\mathrm{C}}]$ are plotted as a function of the actual values (log-log scale). This shows Equation 7*v* to provide a reasonable and unbiased fit across a wide range of [C] for HAC soils, though with two locations (*viz.* POR-02, a Plinthosol in the west of the basin and RIO-12, a Lixisol on the basin's northern periphery) being substantially overestimated by the model.

Probing the effect of litter quality on soil C storage further, we examined the relationship of Λ with both leaf litter and soil C/N ratios (denoted $\Phi^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ and $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ respectively); this exercise being undertaken with a view to see if we could find statistically significant relationships between Λ and one or both of $\Phi^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ and $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$. This was so as to ~~to~~ allow incorporation of litter quality surrogate measures into an analysis using the full HAC soil dataset. As is shown in Figure 9, there were indeed significant log-log relationships between Λ and both $\Phi^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ and $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ for both HAC soils (but not for LAC soils and not between $\Phi^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ and $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ for HAC soils), and with the HAC Λ *vs.* ~~;~~ $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ giving a better fit ($r^2 = 0.32$, $p < 0.0001$, Figure 9b).

Considering that the correlation between [C] and C:N ratio in HAC soils is very low (τ = 0.1, Table 3) we then Take ~~ing then~~ $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ as our best available surrogate for litter quality, ~~we then~~ and tested the effect of adding this variable to the original HAC model as given in Table 6q, finding that this term ~~, not only did this term~~ provided for a substantial reduction in AIC when added to a model already including pH, $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$ and $[\mathrm{Fe}]_o$. Further, ~~, but that also,~~ upon the inclusion of the $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ term that the negative $[\mathrm{Fe}]_o$ term became, as for the lignin models of Table 7, redundant (Table 6s).

The goodness of fit of the equation of Table 6s is shown in Figure 10 where the fitted soil carbon densities $[\hat{\mathrm{C}}]$ are plotted as a function of the actual values (log-log scale). This shows Equation 6s to provide a reasonable and unbiased fit across a wide range of [C] for HAC soils, though with the same two locations as were overestimated by the lignin model (Figure 9) similarly overestimated.

3.6 Alternative models

Although we have used AIC to assist with model selection in Sections 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5, candidate ~~our choice of~~ models~~s~~ had been~~to be tested has for all three soil types~~ in all cases ~~been~~ guided by the background knowledge and hypothesis as outlined in Section 1. It is therefore worth pointing out that if one takes a simple information criterion-guided model selection approach then it is possible to find models with a lower AIC than those presented in Tables 4 and 6. For example, for LAC soils there is a model involving all of Φ_{sand}, Φ_{clay}, $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$, $[\mathrm{Al}]_o$ $[\mathrm{Fe}]_d$, $[\mathrm{Fe}]_{do}$ and $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ which provides a significantly better fit than Equation b of Table 4 (ΔAIC of -19.9). But for this model many of the terms had *VIF* > 10 and after removal of these terms then the simpler $[\mathrm{C}] = \Phi_{\mathrm{sand}}, + \Phi_{\mathrm{clay}}$ equation is only 0.2 AIC units higher.

Likewise, if one applies a 'blind' information criterion selection criterion to the HAC soils then it is possible to find a log-log model significantly better to that of Table 6s~~e~~ which retains the $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$, term but with $\log \Sigma_{\mathrm{RB}}$ substituting pH and, moreover, with an additional Φ_{clay} term included ($r^2 = 0.65$; $p < 0.0001$; ΔAIC= -20.5). Further, modifying this 'blindly selected' equation, by reinserting our previously rationalised pH term in preference to $\log \Sigma_{\mathrm{RB}}$ term (thus effectively adding a Φ_{clay} term to the Equation of Table 6s~~v~~) results in a markedly inferior fit (ΔAIC = +10.3). Nevertheless, the resulting equation, *viz* $[\mathrm{C}] = \mathrm{pH} + \log [\mathrm{Al}]_d + \log(\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}) + \Phi_{\mathrm{clay}}$, ($r^2 = 0.63$) is still a marked improvement on the equation of Table 7v (ΔAIC= -10.2).

For the smaller Arenic soils dataset ($n = 10$) the lowest AIC linear model is as in Table 4h (i.e. with, combined together, clay and silt only, $r^2 = 0.31$, $p = 0.035$). Although we do note that there does exist a virtually uninterpretable log-log model found through the AIC minimisation procedure which involves all of pH (negative coefficient), Φ_{sand} $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$, $[\mathrm{Fe}]_d$ and $\Phi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\mathrm{CN}}$ (positive coefficients) with an impressive sounding $r^2 = 0.85$ (but due to the low degrees of freedom for which p is only < 0.039).

3.7 Checking for model biases

In order to check if there were any systematic biases in the final models used (*viz.* the models as presented in Table 4b for LAC soils, Table 4i for Arenic soils and Table *6s* for HAC soils) standardised model residuals were examined in relationship to the soil variables Φ_{sand}, Φ_{clay}, Φ_{silt}, $[\mathrm{Al}]_{\mathrm{d}}$, $[\mathrm{Al}]_{\mathrm{o}}$ $[\mathrm{Fe}]_{\mathrm{d}}$, pH and CN ratio along with ~~s well as the~~ mean annual temperature T_{A} and mean annual precipitation P_{A} climate variables and two vegetation-associated characteristics available for over 100 of the study sites *viz.* the above ground wood productivity and above ground biomass. ~~:~~ T~~t~~his data is ~~being~~ essentially as in Quesada et al. (2012) but in an updated and expanded form (O. L. Phillips and M. J. Sullivan, personal communication). These relationships shown in the Appendix Figure A1 which shows that there was little if any evidence of systematic model bias with the strongest association found for the standardized residuals being with P_{A} ($\tau = 0.09$ $p = 0.18$).

3.8 SOC fractions and mineralogy

Further adding to our analysis, Table 8 shows results for soil carbon fractions for a subset of our study sites ($n = 30$). The [C] range in this reduced dataset is similar to the main dataset, with LAC soils ranging from 8.8 to 25.3 mg g^{-1}, with Arenic group ranging from 4.2 to 108.6 mg g^{-1}, and with the HAC soils ranging from 5.5 to 24.8 mg g^{-1}. It also shows very similar relationships between the relevant edaphic parameters and [C] as found for the larger dataset and described in section 3.2. Comparing the Kendall τ from Table 8 with results from Table 3, we find very similar correlations for both LAC and for all groups combined, but with [C] in the reduced dataset having stronger correlations with clay content and Al_{d} in LAC soils ($\tau = 0.64$; $p<0.01$ and $\tau = 0.61$; $p<0.01$, respectively). The main difference between datasets occurs in HAC soils, where the reduced dataset used for fractionations shows stronger correlations between [C] and both clay content and I_{E} ($\tau = 0.49$; $p< 0.02$ and $\tau = 0.72$; $p < 0.001$, respectively) than is the case in the larger dataset (Table 3).

Soil C fractionations revealed fundamental differences between the three soil groups as shown in detail in Fig. 11. LAC soils (Fig. 11a) had ~~on~~ an average fraction of 0.49 (or 49%) ~~of its~~ C in clay rich aggregates (s~~S~~and and a~~A~~ggregates fraction, S+A), with this increasing with [C] up to 0.74. This increase in S+A fraction in high [C] soils seems to occur at the expense of the labile clay and silt fraction (C+S) which represents a fraction of 0.20 of soil carbon on average, but only 0.09 in the higher [C] soils. The proportion of C in POM and DOC fractions varied little across the range of soil [C], while the resistant carbon associated to clay and silt ($R_{\mathrm{C+S}}$) averaged of 0.2 ± 0.07 and showed no clear pattern.~~,~~

On the other hand, the Arenic group have most of their carbon associated to POM and S+A fractions (average proportion of 0.47 and 0.25, respectively) (Fig. 11b, Table 8), with the ~~proportion~~ fraction of POM reaching 0.70 in soils with higher overall [C]. Seasonally wet sands (denoted with $^{\mathrm{F}}$ following the soil type in Table 1) had the highest POM fractions, averaging 0.6 of total [C], but despite the differences in [C] related to soil drainage, POM and S+A fraction were still the main stores of SOC in well drained sands (0.33 and 0.3 of total [C], respectively).

~~On the other hand,~~ HAC soils had consistently most of their [C] associated to the clay and silt fraction (0.43) and the resistant carbon (0.28) associated to clay and silt (R_{C+S}). On average 0.72 of [C] was found in these two fine earth fractions (Fig. 11c). The S+A fractions only had on average 0.13 of HAC soils [C], while POM and DOC had 0.13 and 0.01 respectively. In general, the HAC fractions varied little in proportion with increasing [C].

Soil C fractions in the three groups also differed in the way they relate to other edaphic properties such as texture, the abundance of Fe and Al oxides, and bulk soil mineralogy (Table 8). In LAC, soil carbon associated to both C+S and R_{C+S} fractions did not show any significant correlation with Fe and Al oxides, nor with clay content, but with C+S being correlated with soil silt content (Kendall τ = 0.45 p<0.025). On the other hand, the S+A fraction, the main pool of SOC, was significantly correlated to clay content (τ = 0.55; p<0.01). S+A was also negatively correlated with our PCA axis 1 which indicates a positive relationship with the abundance of 1:1 clay minerals (see Section 3.2) as axis 1 ($Ч_1$ Table 8) represents to a large degree the abundance of kaolinite, Goethite and Gibbsite (Kendall τ = -0.39 p<0.05). S+A was also negatively correlated to sand content (Kendall τ = -0.52 p<0.01), S+A was also significantly correlated to Fe oxides (Kendall τ = 0.44; p < 0.03 and 0.39 p < 0.05 for Fe_d and Fe_{d-o}, respectively). The DOC fraction was significantly correlated to clay (Kendall τ = 0.61 p<0.01), I_E (Kendall τ = 0.48 p<0.02) and Al_d (Kendall τ = 0.39 p<0.05). DOC was also correlated to $Ч_1$ (Kendall τ = -0.39 p<0.05). The POM fraction was significantly correlated to Fe_{d-o} (Kendall τ = 0.39 p<0.05).

The small number of Arenic soils in this analysis (n=5) makes correlations unreliable and difficult to interpret. At n = 5, a Kendall τ = 0.8 does not differentiate critical values at p = 0.1 and 0.05., and significance can only be attained for Kendall τ = 1. Therefore, correlations in Table 8 should be taken just as a guidance for the direction of the relationship and are not considered further here.

HAC fractions showed totally different correlations to edaphic properties when compared to LAC soils. For example, the C+S fraction was significantly correlated to clay content (τ = 0.59 p<0.01), I_E (τ = 0.62 p<0.01) and with the weathering index TRB (τ = 0.64 p<0.01). C+S also showed a positive correlation with PCA axis 1, indicating a positive correlation with the abundance of 2:1 clays (τ = 0.49 p<0.02). R_{C+S} in HAC soils also showed an effect of both Fe_d and Al_d (Kendall τ = 0.62 p<0.01 and 0.41, p<0.04, respectively) and I_E (Kendall τ = 0.44 p<0.03).

In striking difference to LAC, S+A in HAC soils was an insignificant storage for SOC and showed no significant correlation to the concentration of any oxides, clay content or any other of the measured parameters. DOC on the other hand behaved in a more similar manner to LAC soils, also showing significant associations with I_E (τ = 0.60 p < 0.01) and clay content (τ = 0.41 p<0.04) and an iron oxide effect (Fe_d: τ =

0.49; $p < 0.02$). POM on the other hand was correlated to Fe_o ($\tau = 0.51$; $p < 0.02$) and Al_o a ($\tau = 0.41$; $p < 0.05$) and I_E ($\tau = 0.49$; $p < 0.02$, respectively).

3.9 Carbon stocks versus carbon concentrations

Although the analysis here has focused on soil carbon concentrations, for carbon inventory purposes the actual carbon stock (i.e. carbon per unit ground area; C_S) is usually of more interest, and with the two being related according to

$$C_s = \int_d^0 [C]_z \cdot \rho_z \quad dz$$

where $[C]_z$ and ρ_z represents the carbon concentrations and bulk density of the soil at depth z below the soil surface respectively and d is the maximum sampling depth. Thus with the actual calculations done layer by layer (*viz.* 0 to 0.05 m, 0.05 to 0.10 m, 0.10 to 0.20 m and 0.20 to 0.30 m) Figure 12 shows (top panels) the relationship between [C] and ρ for the three soil groups with regressions shown were significant at $p < 0.05$ or better. This shows a reasonably strong relationship for the LAC soils across the 0 to 0.3 m depth (Fig 12a, $\log(\rho) = 0.881 - 0.298\times \log[C]$: $r^2 = 0.43$; $p < 0.001$) and with a similar though somewhat less convincing relationship being observed for the HAC soils (Fig 12b, $\log(\rho) = 0.678 - 0.219\times \log[C]$: $r^2 = 0.25$; $p < 0.001$) but no readily discernable relationship evident for the Arenic soils (Fig. 12c, $\log(\rho) = 0.697 - 0.233\times \log[C]$: $r^2 = 0.20$; $p < 0.08$).

These negative [C] *vs.* ρ associations across all three soil groupings necessitate that C_s is a saturating function of [C] as is shown in the lower panels of Fig. 12 with the slopes of the log-log scaling relationships being 0.62 ± 0.05 for LAC soils (Fig. 12d) , 0.71 ± 0.05 for the HAC soils (Fig. 12e), 0.23± 0.15 for the Arenic soils (Fig 12f) and 0.59 ± 0.04 for the dataset as a whole. This means, for example, that – on average – an increase in [C] of 50% will result in only an increase in C_S of ($1.5^{0.59}$ - 1) or just 27%.

This negative covariance between [C] *vs.* ρ also means that within a given soil group variation in C_S is typically much less than for [C]. For example, as is shown in Table 9, the 12 RSG examined show a lower coefficient of variation for C_S than is the case for [C] and with this difference being especially marked for Cambisols (0.63 for [C] *vs.* 0.39 for C_S). Also shown in Table 9 are the mean C_S for the 12 RGS we have examined as compared to the values given by (Batjes, 1996)~~Batjes, 1996)~~ for which we note that in the majority of cases our estimates are surprisingly close: with one exception being the Alisols for which our estimate of around 46 t C ha^{-1} is only 53% that of the Batjes (1996) estimate of *ca.* 86 t C ha^{-1} to 0.3 m depth. Our Leptosols and Podzol Cs estimates are also much higher than those of Batjes (1996).

4 Discussion

According to our analysis, the three soil groups studied here are characterised by different soil C stabilization ~~stabilisation~~ mechanisms. Specifically, highly weathered soils, dominated by low activity clays such as Ferralsols and Acrisols (our LAC group) have SOC densities that are strongly dependent on their clay and silt contents. However, such simple relationships with ~~soil~~ fine earth fraction could not explain SOC variations ~~in~~ for the less weathered soils. For the HAC grouping, ~~with~~ SOC stabilization ~~was~~ is predominantly related to interactions with Al, and the formation of Al/organic matter coprecipitates ~~for HAC grouping~~. For our Arenic soils group, it appears that most of the SOC present is in loose particulate organic matter form, and therefore not stabilized by mineral interactions, though with a surprisingly strong effect of their small clay and silt content variations.

Such differences in the stabilization mechanisms can be considered to arise from the different soils examined being at contrasting pedogenetic development stages and/or differences in parent material. Highly weathered soils such our LAC group have been under constant tropical weathering rates for timescales that range from 100 million to 2 billion years (Hoorn et al., 2010; Quesada et al., 2011), with some of the central and eastern Amazon Basin soils having suffered several cycles of weathering (Herrera et al., 1978; Irion, 1978; Quesada and Lloyd, 2016). This extreme weathering of LAC soils has resulted in a deep uniformisation of their mineralogy, which is dominated by kaolinite (Sombroek, 1984), and in the depletion of rock derived elements. It has also resulted in the development of favorable soil physical properties such as free drainage, low bulk densities and the formation of very deep soil horizons (Quesada et al. 2010).

Nevertheless, it also needs to be remembered that the Amazon Basin has a complex mosaic of soils, with *ca.* 40% having young and intermediate pedogenetic development levels (Quesada et al., 2011; Richter and Babbar, 1991; Sanchez, 1976). Most of these less weathered soils occur in the west of the Basin and were influenced by the uprising of the Andean Cordillera (Hoorn et al., 2010) and thus having much younger geological ages. Much of the soil formation process in this region only came into effect after the Pliocene, with most of the ~~soils~~ substrate in that region having less than 2 million years (Hoorn and Wesselingh, 2011; Quesada et al., 2011; Quesada and Lloyd, 2016). Soils in that region have a diverse mineralogy, with high abundance of 2:1 clays and sometimes also some rock derived easily weatherable minerals ~~and relatively high levels of rock derived~~ (Irion, 1978; Quesada et al., 2010, 2011; Sombroek, 1966, this study). One important characteristic of many HAC soils is the very high amount of Al that is released through the weathering of 2:1 clays (Marques et al., 2002). High active clays are unstable in environments depleted of silica, alkaline and alkaline earth cations, thus releasing soluble aluminium from the octahedral internal layers of the 2:1 clay minerals, and with such Al release also increasing with depth (Quesada et al. 2011).

The Arenic soil group on the other hand is strongly influenced by its parent material. It comprises the Arenosol and Podzol reference groups, with the latter also being predominantly sandy in Amazonia (Do Nascimento et al., 2004). Both soil types are thought to have evolved from the weathering of aeolian and riverine sediments of siliceous rocks, or in some cases, being locally weathered and deposited in colluvial zones through selective erosion (Buol et al., 2011; Driessen et al., 2000). As quartz usually makes up more than 90% of their mineral fraction, their surface exchange capacity is very small, resulting in very low nutrient levels as a consequence of a high degree of leaching (Buol et al., 2011; Quesada et al., 2010; 2011). The very low nutrient content of these soils, often associated with high groundwater levels, results in the formation of thick root mats in the soil surface (Herrera et al. 1978) which then strongly influences the amount and vertical distribution of their SOC stocks.

Therefore, our HAC, LAC and Arenic soils groups consist in very different soils, with contrasting geological formation and chemical and physical properties. Not surprisingly, such wide variations also resulted in different mechanisms of SOC stabilization.

4.1 Mechanisms of SOC stabilization

4.1.1 SOC stabilization in low activity clay soils~~s~~

Since soil C content might reasonably be expected to depend, at least in part,~~–~~ on specific surface area (SSA) because a higher density of exchange sites per unit volume should result in more soil carbon stabilization through mineral-organic matter associations (Saidy et al. 2012), the uniform mineralogy of 1:1 soils means that, as~~ is~~ shown in Figure 5 and elsewhere (Burke et al., 1989; Dick et al., 2005; Feller and Beare, 1997; Telles et al., 2003), ~~that ~~for LAC soil organic C scales linearly with clay content since, at the variation in clay content is the main source of variation in SSA.

The observed variation in clay fractions ~~content~~ across LAC soils studied here was large, from 0.05 to 0.89. This reflects differences in parent material, with Acrisols tending to have sandier top soils (West et al., 1997). Central and East Amazonia are known for having very clay rich soils, often having clay content well above 60% (Chauvel et al., 1987; Sombroek, 1966) with such clays originating from ancient fluvio-lacustrine sediments deposited on the Barreiras and Alter do Chão geological formations locally known as Belterra clays (Sioli, 1984; Sombroek, 1966, 2000). Other regions where Ferralsols dominate, such as the southern fringe of the Basin (Quesada et al. 2010), often have much sandier soils.

The uniformity in the clay *vs.* ~~;~~C relationships shown by our best OLS models indicate an overruling effect of clay content and with some effect from silt (Table 4). The superior predictive power of sand content (–[clay+silt]), compared to clay as a main determinant of SOC in highly weathered tropical soils has already been shown by Saiz et al. (2012), with these authors concluding that sand content shows less confounding effects than that of clay in these systems. The association of clay with aluminum and iron oxides in highly weathered tropical soils may promote the formation of sesquioxides. Saiz et al. (2012) have shown that these particles confer the soil a coarse-like texture, which exerts a strong influence on soil bulk density and water retention properties. Furthermore, results from Figure 3a,c also suggest a wide variation of Fe oxides to occur on LAC soils and with Figure 6 and Tables 3 and 5 indicating that the abundance of Al_d is also correlated with SOC. This could be related to increments in SSA resulting from the greater abundance of such minerals (Eusterhues et al. 2005, Kleber et al. 2005, Wiseman and Püttmann 2006, Saidy et al. 2012) in which an increment in the number of exchange sites may provide additional stabilization of carbon via direct complexation (Parfitt et al., 1997; Schwertmann et al., 2005) and with direct interactions between SOC, Fe and Al oxides, and clay particles (Wiseman and Püttmann 2006) also being important. However, Fe and Al hydroxides may also indirectly protect carbon from decomposition through their role in the formation of stable aggregates which make carbon physically inaccessible to decomposers (Kitagawa 1983, Six et al., 2004; Wagai and Mayer 2007). This may be of importance for LAC soils since stable clay aggregates were found to store most of SOC (Section 3.5).

Using the Zimmerman et al. (2007) soil carbon fractionations to gain further insights on the stabilization mechanisms that underlie soil organic matter dynamics (Denef et al., 2010), Fig. 11a shows that the sand and aggregate (S + A) fraction is responsible for holding most of SOC in LAC soils. This fraction is essentially formed by a mixture of clay, silt, oxides and organic matter, and within this fraction aggregation may promote increased SOC protection as it influences the accessibility of substrate to microorganisms, thus limiting the extent that the diffusion of reactants and products from extracellular synthesis (i.e. soil enzymes) can reach the organic matter (Sollins et al., 1996). For example, pore spaces inside aggregates can be too small to allow access of bacteria (Van Veen and Kuikman, 1990) and efficient enzyme diffusion (Sollins et al. 1996). This then retains SOC in inaccessible micropores inside aggregates (Baldock and Skjemstad, 2000) which ultimately protects SOC from decay, explaining the positive correlation often found between the level of soil aggregation and SOC concentration (Six et al., 2004; Tisdall and Oades, 1982).

Soil aggregation level is also affected by other chemical, microbial, plant, animal and physical processes, many of which seem to be favoured by the tropical climate and thriving biological activity of the tropical moist forest environment. For instance, microbial activity releases polysaccharides that act as binding agents in soil aggregates (Lynch and Bragg, 1985; Oades, 1993) and fungal hyphae are known to bind solid particles together (Sollins et al. 1996). Plant roots also influence soil aggregation by releasing exudates that can directly flocculate colloids and bind or stabilize aggregates (Glinski, 2018). Root exudates may also foster microbial activity which can lead to aggregate formation and stabilization. Plant roots and associated hyphae can also enmesh soil particles by acting as a "sticky string bag" (Oades, 1993) which binds soil particles. ~~Also, t~~Further, the pressure exerted by roots and soil fauna on soil ~~also~~ promotes aggregation (Oades 1993; Sollins et al. 1996). Soil fauna (including earthworms, termites, collembola, beetles, isopods and milipeds) form fecal pellets and excrete binding agents that form aggregates (Oades 1993; Sollins et al. 1996). Nevertheless, the presence of Fe and Al oxides in these soils may also favour the formation of soil aggregates (Kitagawa 1983, Wagai and Mayer 2007) since they act as binding agents with clays in a process thought to be associated to the large abundance of aggregates in Ferralsols and Acrisols (Paul et al., 2008; Sanchez, 1976; Sollins et al., 1996).

Soil C stabilization in the surface of Amazonian Ferralsols and Acrisols (1:1 clays) is thus interpreted here as the summation of the effect of variations in kaolinite clay content (varying SSA) and the additional physical protection given by the extensive level of aggregation common to these soils.

4.1.2 Processes of C ~~retention~~ stabilization in ~~sandy~~ arenic soils

Since quartz is devoid of significant surface area and exchange sites, the retention of SOC in sand rich soils is difficult to predict on the basis of soil physiochemical properties as there is no, or very little, mineral-organic matter interaction. Thus, the bulk SOC variation in our Arenic soil group most likely reflects varying edapho-environmental conditions such as groundwater levels and/or moisture regimes, vertical root distribution and/or litter quality. However, small changes in clay and silt content were still found to have large effects on soil [C] (Table 4), with this OLS regression giving a slope ten-fold greater than that of LAC soils. This is similar to what Hartemink and Huting (2008) found for 150 Arenosols in Southern Africa, where soil carbon content varied from about 0.5 to 12 g kg^{-1} along a change in clay fraction ranging from effectively zero to just 0.12. Similar findings (i.e. 0.8 to 14.5 g kg^{-1}) were also obtained on heavily coarse-textured soils sampled along a 1000 km moisture gradient spanning from Southern Botswana, into southern Zambia (Bird et al., 2004).

In addition, groundwater fluctuations and the often extremely low nutrient availability of these soils often result in the formation of root mats, covering the top 10 to 50 cm of the soil surface with an impressive mixture of roots and organic matter in different stages of decomposition (Herrera et al. 1978). Such soil mats may reasonably be expected to exert a strong influence on soil SOC concentrations, since they concentrate the inputs of organic matter into a single layer close to the surface. Moreover, because many of these soils are seasonally waterlogged (Quesada et al. 2011) the associated anaerobic conditions should also inhibit decomposition. It is therefore not a surprise then that we observed some of the highest [C] in these soils.

Our fractionation results again provided additional information for the understanding of SOC retention with the bulk of the SOC in Arenic soils found as free particulate organic matter, and with this proportion increasing as [C] increases (Fig. 11b). This was particularly the case for seasonally wet sands (up to 60% of SOC), but with POM also being a significant fraction of the total SOC even in the drier sands (~ 30%). The implication here is that chemical recalcitrance of organic matter may also have a role in these soils: favouring the maintenance of residual, hard to decay organic particles.

~~The latter are thought~~ High chemical recalcitrance may be~~ to be~~ common ~~due to the~~in such extremely dystrophic arenic ~~status of these~~ soils, with total P levels often as low as 10 mg kg^{-1}. ~~; and with~~ Total ~~these~~ P in LAC soils is~~being~~ *ca.* ~~10 fold~~10-fold greater~~ than~~ than in arenic, ~~in LAC soils~~ and generally 20-50 times greater in HAC soils (~~see~~ Quesada et al. 2010~~ for further details~~). Such a low level of nutrient content often results in high levels of plant investment in secondary defense compounds against herbivory (Coley et al., 1985; Fine et al., 2004) and such chemical recalcitrance may affect the decomposition process and thus slight increase residence time of uncomplexed C in the soil. This may affect POM levels particularly, considering that the most recalcitrant part will have a slower turnover, or be left undecomposed following microbial attack. This is given support by the observations made by Luizão and Schubart (1987), who found that leaf litter decomposition in Amazonian white sands takes twice as long than for Ferralsols and Acrisols during the dry season, and nearly seven times longer in the wet season when decomposition is more dynamic in the non-white sand soils. Organic acids from residual decomposition from these soils are known to colour the rivers of the region, with the Rio Negro with its head waters within a vast white sand forest region (Quesada et al. 2011) getting its name by virtue of its high humic and fulvic acid content (Fittkau, 1971).

4.1.3 SOC stabilization in ~~less weathered~~high activity clay soils

Our results suggest that Al/organic matter (Al/OM) interaction, or coprecipitation is a fundamental mechanism of SOC stabilization for the less weathered HAC forest soils of the Amazon Basin with the OLS models presented here involving complex interactions between Al species (Al_d), soil pH and the abundance of aromatic, carboxyl-rich organic matter. The complexity of the models and their high ability to explain SOC densities suggest that this mechanism is fundamental to an understanding of HAC soil C storage.

To our knowledge this is the first time that Al/OM interactions have been suggested as a key factor explaining SOC densities ~~in the~~for Amazon forest soils. Nevertheless, with DOC being ubiquitously present in such a highly dynamic system, and with exchangeable Al often abundant as has already been shown to be the case in western Amazon soils (Quesada et al. 2010; 2011, Marques et al. 2002; this study), it is intuitive that Al/OM interactions should encompass a continuum from low-polymeric metal-organic complexes to well crystalline phases with surface attached organic matter (Kleber et al., 2015). Thus Al/OM interactions forming coprecipitates is likely to be a widespread mechanism that has previously been overlooked because most of the studies in the Amazon Basin have to date only focused on highly weathered soils such as Ferralsols and Acrisols (i.e. Telles et al., 2003). Nevertheless, with less weathered soils occupying circa 40% of the Amazon Basin (Quesada et al. 2011), it is important to further investigate the role of Al/OM interactions, in particular with regard to their influence over SOC mean residence times (MRT), since they are likely to be different from what is known for Ferralsols. For example, MRT of SOC in Amazon Ferralsols is about 10 years (Trumbore and Camargo 2009) as determined by ^{14}C studies, but to our knowledge, no ^{14}C information is available for western Amazon soils, nor is such information available for MRT of Al/OM co-precipitates. As organic polyelectrolytes reorganize on mineral surfaces over time, they form additional polar covalent bonds; and this aging process can then lead to a decreased desorbability of OM (Kleber et al. 2015). So that MRT of Al/OM co-precipitates could well extend to decades or even centuries.

In that respect, it is clear that organic matter becoming co-precipitated with Al results in it becoming more resistant to microbial decay (Kalbitz and Kaiser, 2008; Nierop et al., 2002). At Al/OM concentrations typical of forest soils, up to 80% of DOC can coprecipitate (Nierop et al. 2002; Scheel et al.

2007) and with mineralisation rates of Al/OM coprecipitates formed from DOM much lower than the compounds from which it originates (Boudot et al., 1989; Scheel et al., 2007). For instance, using incubations, Scheel et al. (2007) found that the mineralisation extent of Al/OM precipitates ranged from 0.5 to 7.7% while the DOM that originated the precipitates had much higher rates (5 to 49%). Kalbitz and Kaiser (2008) found that up to 50% of total SOC in their study site was stabilized from DOM following Al/OM interaction, with the authors suggesting that Al coprecipitation has a stronger capacity to reduce mineralization than sorption in phyllosilicates.

The formation of Al/OM coprecipitates is influenced by several factors and interacting processes with, according to the extensive review from Kleber et al. (2015), the most important factors being the prevalent metal to carbon ratios in the soil solution (M/C), the presence of aromatic organic compounds, the pH value of soil solution and the metal species present (in which Fe also may have a role). Increasing M/C ratios increase the probability of reaction with OM while the solution pH controls the solubility and speciation of metals (Al, Fe). With an increasing pH, the efficiency of the process increases, causing larger amounts of precipitates (Scheel et al. 2007). Also, co-precipitation occurs preferentially with aromatic, carboxyl-rich organic structures such as derived from lignin and tannin decomposition due to their higher affinity for Al complexation sites (Scheel et al. 2007; 2008; Kleber et al. 2015), interactions which were also made clear through the importance of litter lignin content and soil C/N ratio in our OLS results. With regard to metal speciation, our OLS models selected for dithionite extractable Al (Al_d) which, having a broad capacity to extract Al bearing minerals, we interpret as a continuum of likely different forms such as free Al (Al^{+3}), Al from Al-interlayer minerals, Al-OM complexes and both crystalline and amorphous Al hydroxides (particularly at higher pH values).

In interpreting the use of soil C:N ratios as a surrogate -for litter quality it needs to be borne in mind, however, that because log(C/N) = log[C] – log[N], this means that embedded in equation 6s is what is known as a "whole-part" correlation (Chayes, 1971)~~ (Chayes, 1971).~~ Formula and randomisation techniques exist to estimate the extent to slopes and correlation coefficients may be biased by the presence of the same terms on both sides for OLS regression equations if their (co) variances and/or correlations are known ~~(Bartko and Pettigrew 1968; Lloyd et al. 2013)~~(Bartko and Pettigrew, 1968; Lloyd et al., 2013). But unfortunately, due to complex interactions between the fitted terms is such a situation, these cannot be readily applied in a multivariate context (Lloyd et al. 2013). Nevertheless we can say that, even though the observed (bivariate) correlation between log[C] and log(CN) for the HAC soils in our dataset is relatively low (r^2 =0.23) it is almost certain that the relatively steep log-log slope of 1.16 for the log(CN) effect within Table 6 is inflated. Thus, caution would need to be exercised in applying this equation in any sort of predictive framework.

Further insights into carbon ~~stabilisation~~ stabilization mechanisms may again be found from the fractionations study. Specifically, ~~, with~~ Fig 11c suggests~~ing~~ that for HAC the Al/OM precipitates are held together within C+S fractions, this ~~being~~ despite there being no simple correlations with clay fraction in the extended dataset. Although this could perhaps be attributed to the use of only a subset of sites used in the fractionation analysis, where the reduced dataset shows stronger associations between [C] and clay content, we suggest that such colloidal sized Al/OM precipitates should be stored alongside the fine earth fraction. Remarkably 75% of SOC occurs associated to C+S (and its resistant fraction) in these soils, with this fraction being reasonably consistent across a range of soil [C].

4.2 Possible influences of confounding factors

As noted in the Introduction, our approach to modelling the [C] storage potential has ~~here~~ been primarily hypothesis based, but also as noted in Section 3.6, there were some models that – on the basis of their AIC – – are statistically ~~did appear~~ superior to those presented as best models here. For example, in modelling the [C] storage of HAC soils solely on the basis of soil mineralogical properties, then a model also including both Fe$_o$ and Al$_o$ seemed to be the best (equation of Table 6q). Nevertheless, following our rationalisation that plant organic matter quality inputs should also be important, once the surrogate soil CN ratio metric~~data~~ was added to the model, then the ~~hard~~ difficult to explain apparent negative Fe$_o$ effect became redundant (equations of Table *6*r and Table 6*s*). Likewise in Section 3.6 we also noted that Total Reserve Ba~~s~~ses seemed to be a better predictor than pH in a model of soil C stocks with [Al]$_d$ and CN ratio as covariates, we chose pH for our final model on the basis of its known effect of the SOC precipitation process and with the apparent ~~TRB~~ Total Reserve Bases effect rationalized as a simple consequence of its high correlation with pH in HAC soils ($\tau = 0.52$; $p < 0.0001$: Table 3).

Also, not included in our final models were the effects of either mean annual temperature or precipitation, for which, as well as showing poor associations with SOM storage for all three of our soil groups when considered individually as well as when all soils were pooled together as a whole, also showed no significant association with model residuals (Appendix Figure A1). Nor – as is suggested by the lack of any systematic bias of model residues with aboveground wood productivity ~~also shown in Appendix Figure A1~~ – wasn´t there any suggestion~~s~~ of variations in carbon inputs ~~having any~~ influenc~~e~~ing ~~on Amazon~~ forest C stocks. This suggests that, across the temperature and precipitation range of our dataset that litter input quality and soil mineral stabilization mechanisms are the primary determinants of the SOM storage variations: a result which is consistent with microbial decomposition rates acclimating to both temperature (Bradford et al., 2008) and precipitation (Deng et al., 2012).

~~That is not to say of course, that our results also mean that any future changes in temperature or precipitation should inevitably have no effect on the amount of carbon stored in the forests of the Amazon Basin.~~Our findings do not negate the possibility that future climate changes will have a significant impact on soil carbon stocks in the Amazon Basin. For example, Cotrufo et al., (2013) have postulated that although interactions of organic materials within the soil mineral matrix are the ultimate controllers of SOM stabilization over long timescales, it is the microbially mediated delivery of organic products to this matrix that provides the critical link between plant litter inputs and what products are available for stabilization. In this respect a consideration of depths substantially greater than the upper 0.3 m examined here must also be critical for the accurate determination of any future changes in climate stocks, as below 0.3 m Amazon Basin forest soil C are generally quite low, and with there likely existing reactive mineral surfaces yet to be saturated with SOM (Quesada, 2008; Quesada et al., 2010). Moreover, any future inputs into these lower layers, for example~~–~~ as might be ~~including those~~ mediated though increased litter inputs ~~due to likely ongoing~~ as a consequence of ~~[~~ CO_2 fertilization ~~] induced increases in stand-level productivities:~~ (Lloyd and Farquhar, 2008), are likely to be microbially derived (Schrumpf et al., 2013). Quite likely the extent of any such additional stabilization of SOM at these lower depths will differ between HAC, LAC and Arenic soils in accordance with the different stabilization mechanisms as suggested throughout this paper. But in the absence of more detailed information and indeed, precise confirmations as to the apparent different mechanisms involved in SOM storage as suggested here; then whether or not it is really the case that Amazon forest soil C stocks are currently increasing in response to higher litter inputs with soil developmental stage also influencing that response must remain a matter of simple conjecture.

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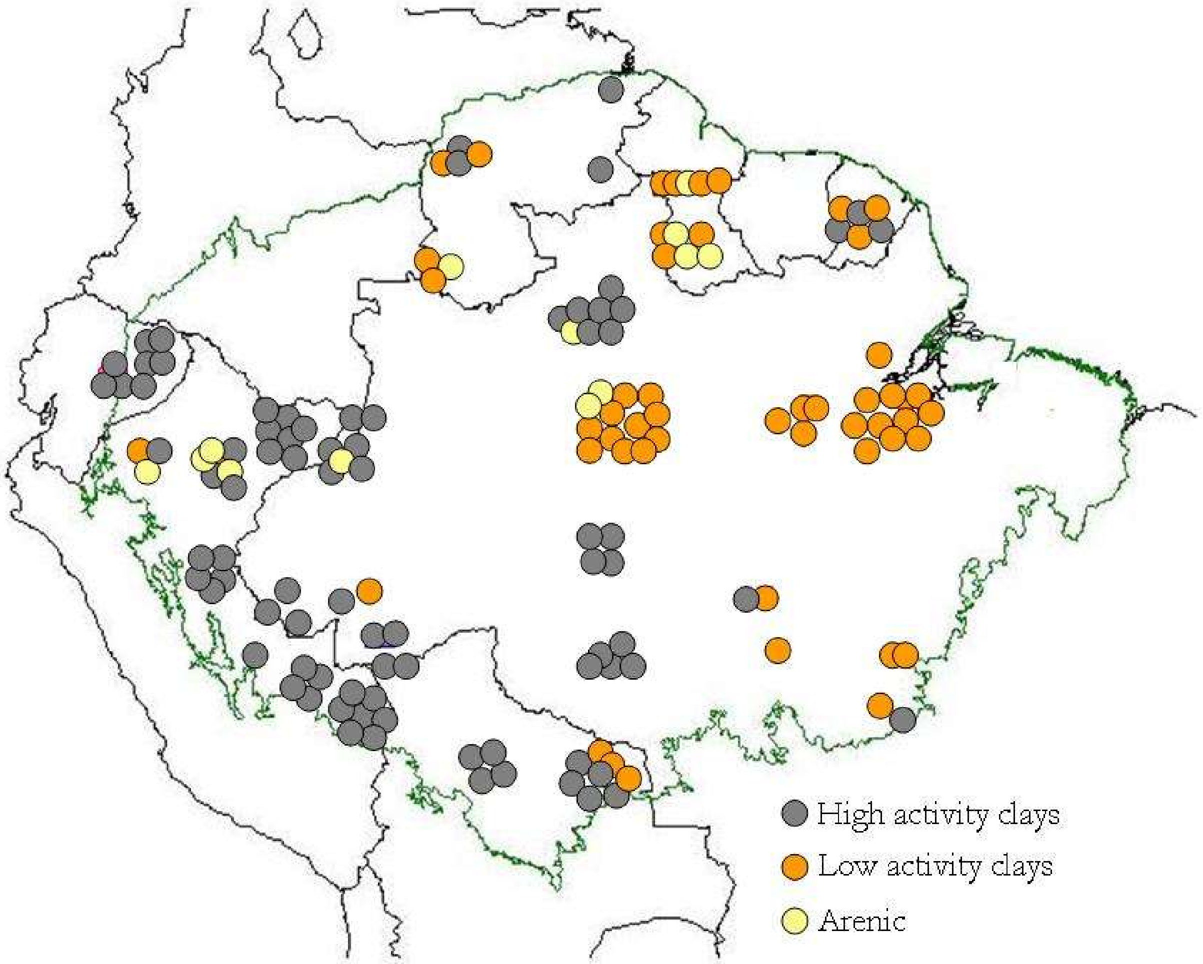


Fig. 1.– Geographic distribution of 147 study sites across the Amazon Basin, according to the different soil groups. Each point is a 1 ha forest inventory permanent plot. Geographical locations have been manipulated in the map to allow visualization of site clusters at this scale.

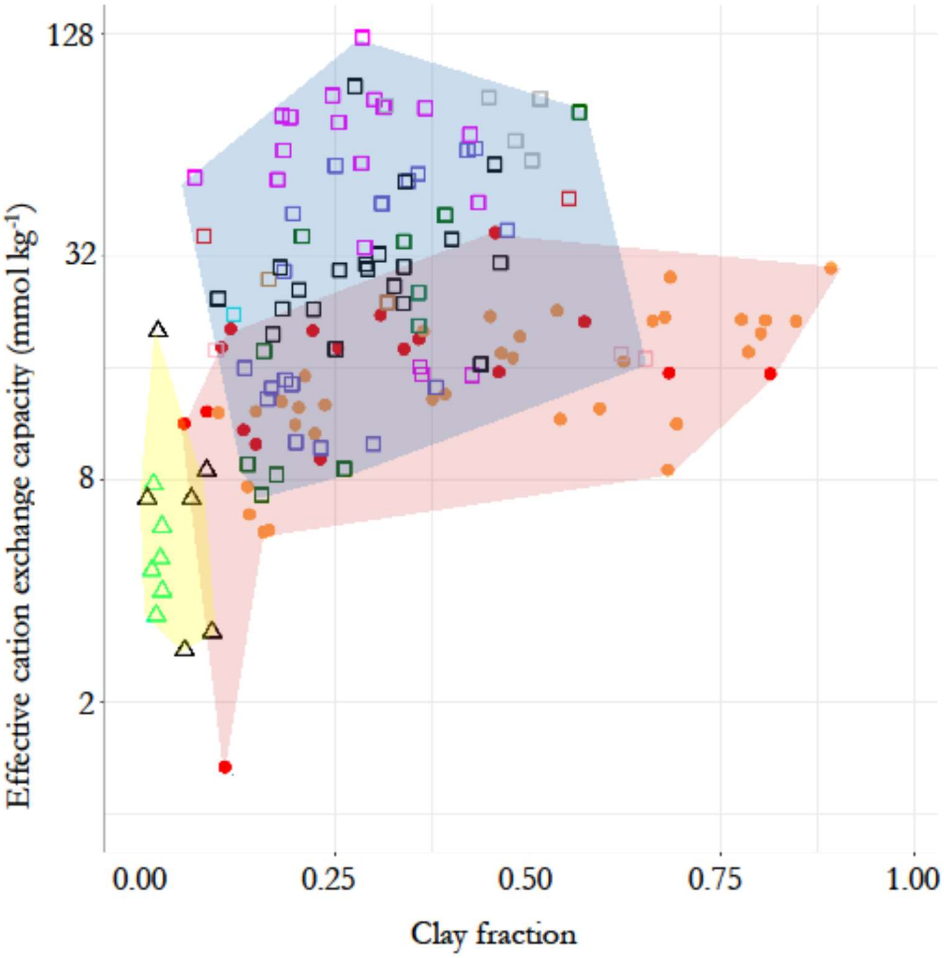


Fig. 2. Contrasting chemical characteristics of the three soil groups, evidenced by the relationship between top soil clay fraction and effective cation exchange capacity (0-30 cm). Triangles with yellow background represent the Arenic soil group, consisting of Arenosols (green) and Podzols (black). Filled circles with pink background represent the low activity clay soils (LAC) which consists of Ferralsols (yellow) and Acrisols (red). Soils having high activity clay (HAC) are show as open squares with light blue background. They are the Alisol (black), Cambisol (pink), Fluvisol (grey), Gleysol (green), Leptosol (brown), Lixisol (red), Luvisol (purple), Plinthosol (blue), Regosol (cyan) and Umbrisol (light green) soil groups.

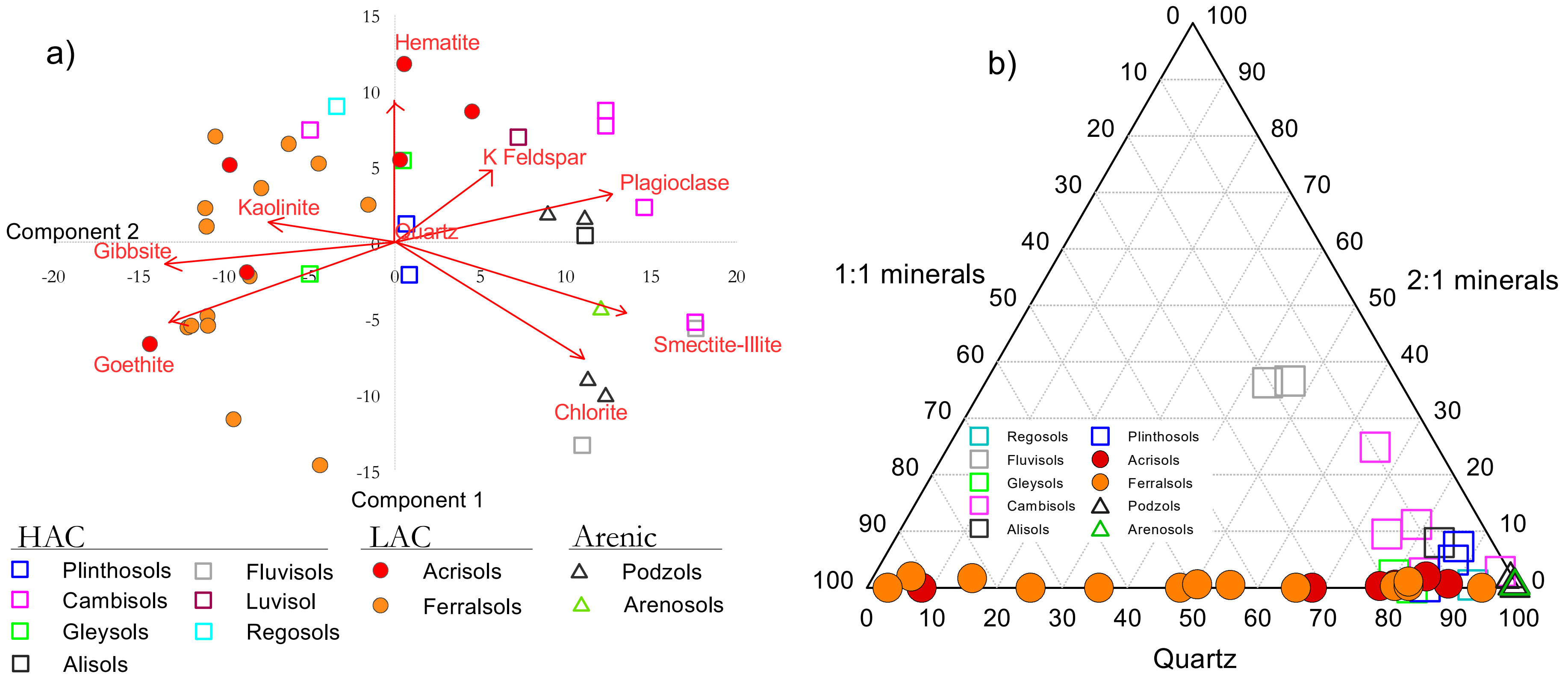


Fig. 3 Contrasting mineralogical characteristics of the different soils in this study.– a) Principal Components Analysis (PCA) ordination on semi-quantitative X-ray Diffraction Spectroscopy (XRD) data. b)– Compositional plot showing contrasting relationships between the 1:1 and 2:1 minerals considered along with variations in quartz content.

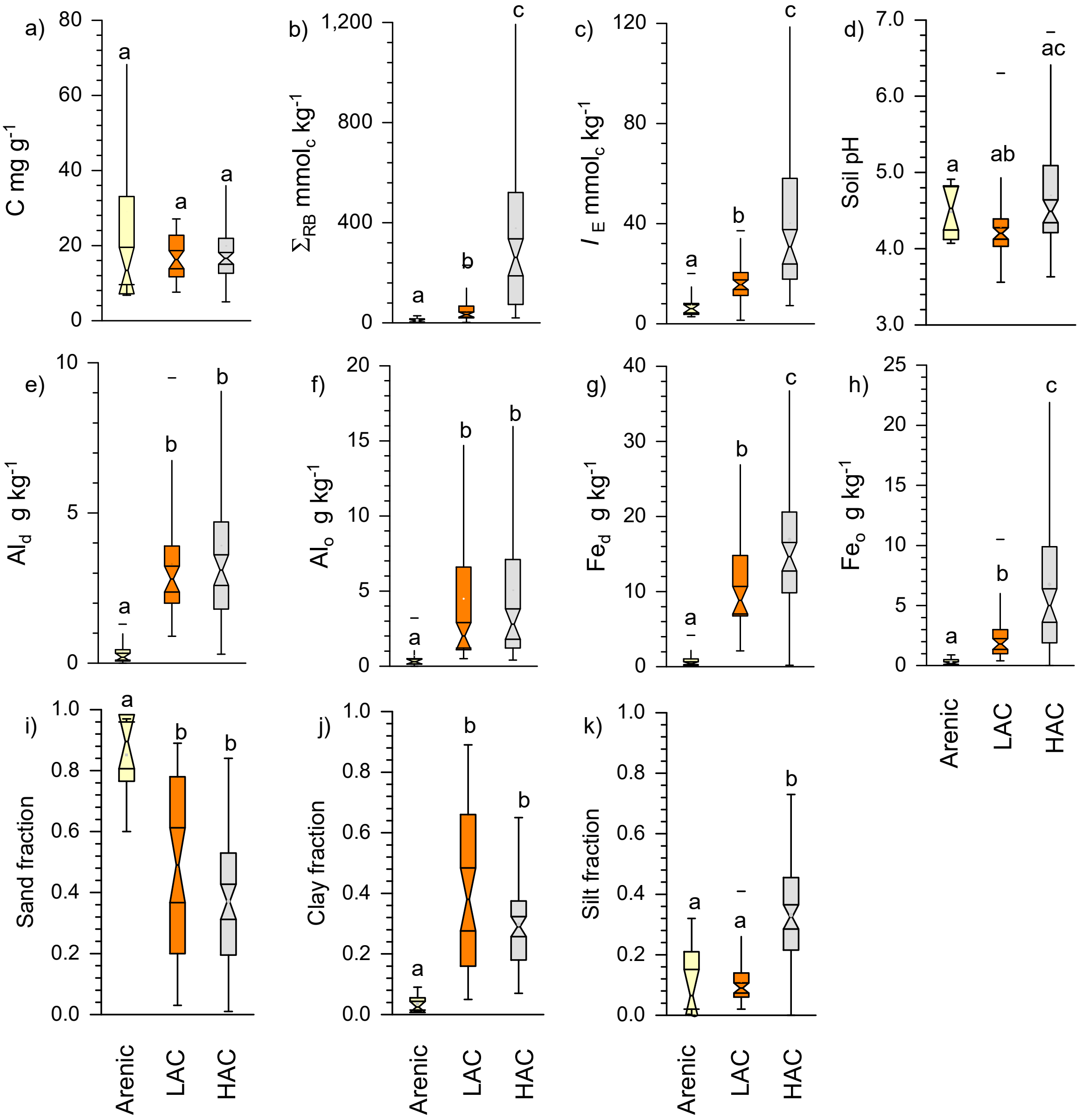


Fig. 4. Contrasts between the three soil clusters for selected variables. Statistical differences are given through the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test. a) SOC concentration, b) total reserve bases, c) effective cation exchange capacity, d) soil pH, e) dithionite-citrate extractable Al, f) Al_o oxalate extractable Al, g) Fe_d dithionite-citrate extractable Fe, h) oxalate extractable Fe, i) sand fraction, j) clay fraction and k) silt fraction.

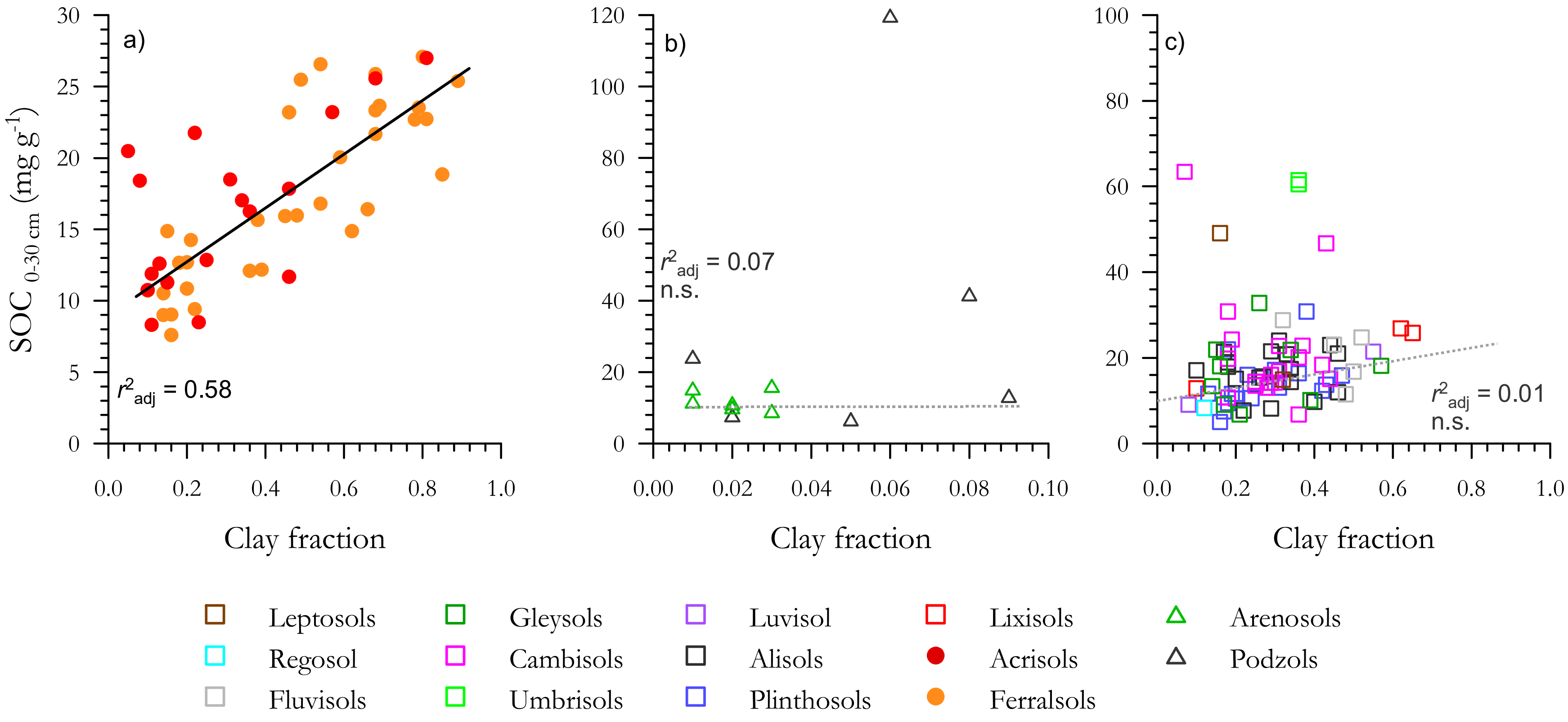


Fig. 5. Associations between soil organic C and clay fraction for the three soil groups. a) low activity clay (LAC), b) arenic and c) soils containing high activity clays (HAC). Only LAC shows a significant regression. Non-significant regressions in arenic and HAC soils are shown as dotted lines.

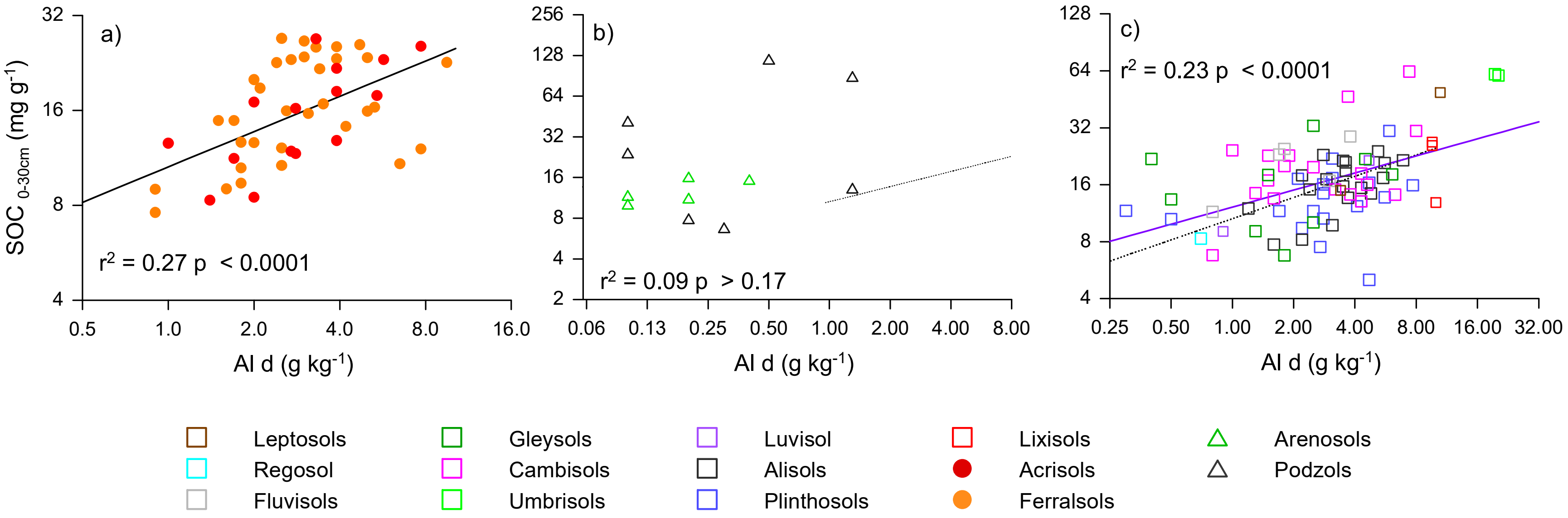


Figure 6. The association between soil organic C and dithionite extractable Al (Al d) for the studied soils. The regression line for LAC soils (Fig. 6a) is repeated as a dotted line in Fig.6b (Arenic) and 6c (HAC) for comparison.

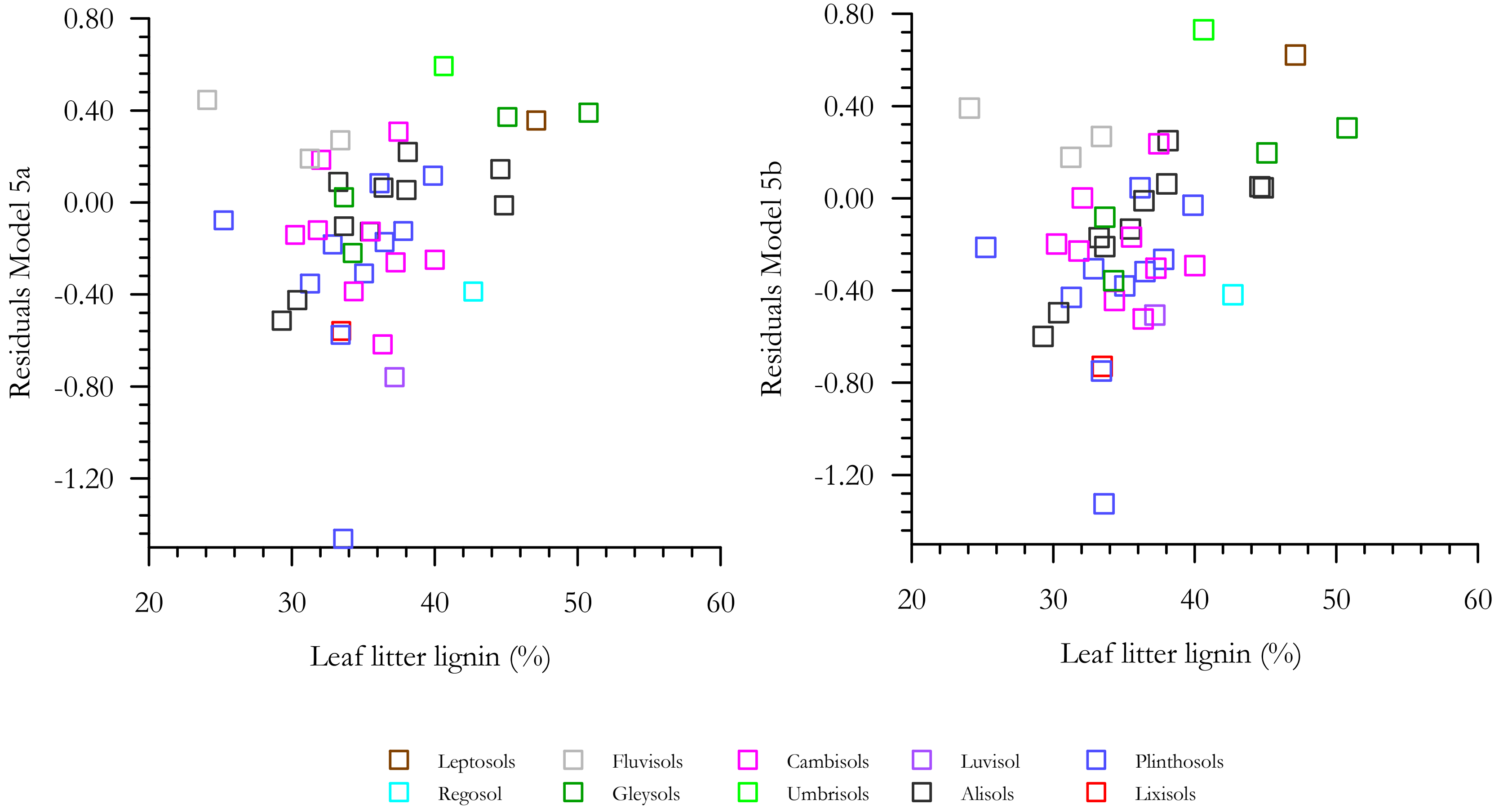


Fig. 7. The effect of litter lignin content, a surrogate for the abundance of aromatic C compounds, on the residuals of model regressions 6q (Table 6; Fig. 7a) and a simplified additional model with only pH and Al d included (Fig. 7b).

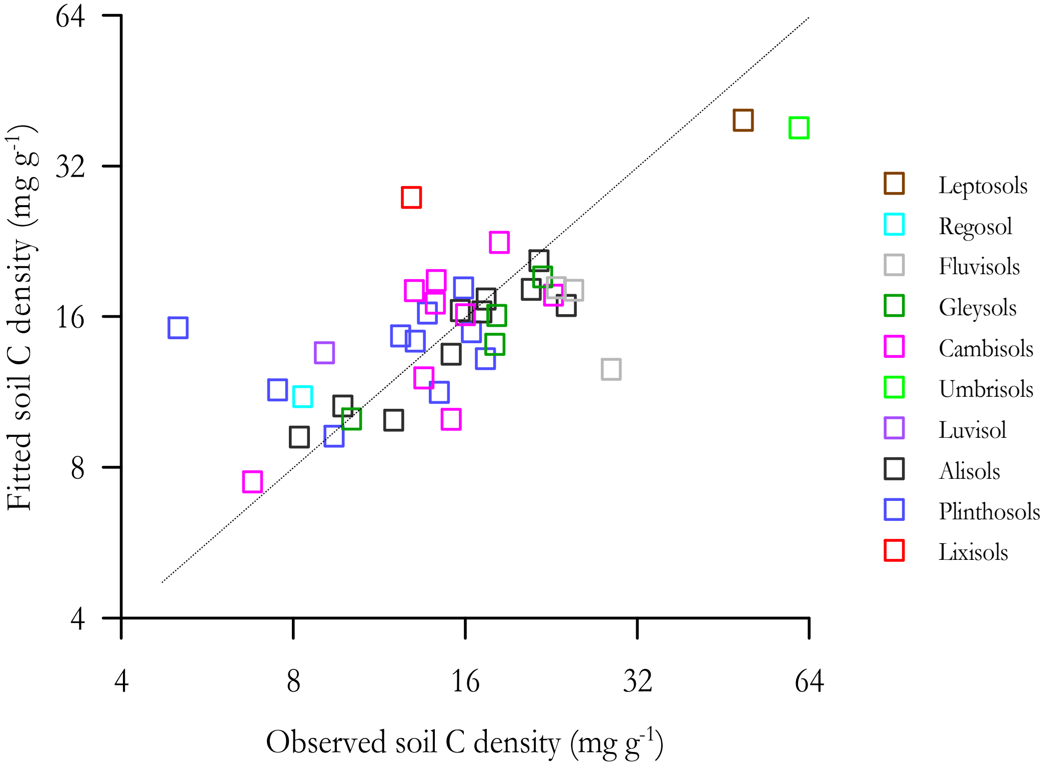
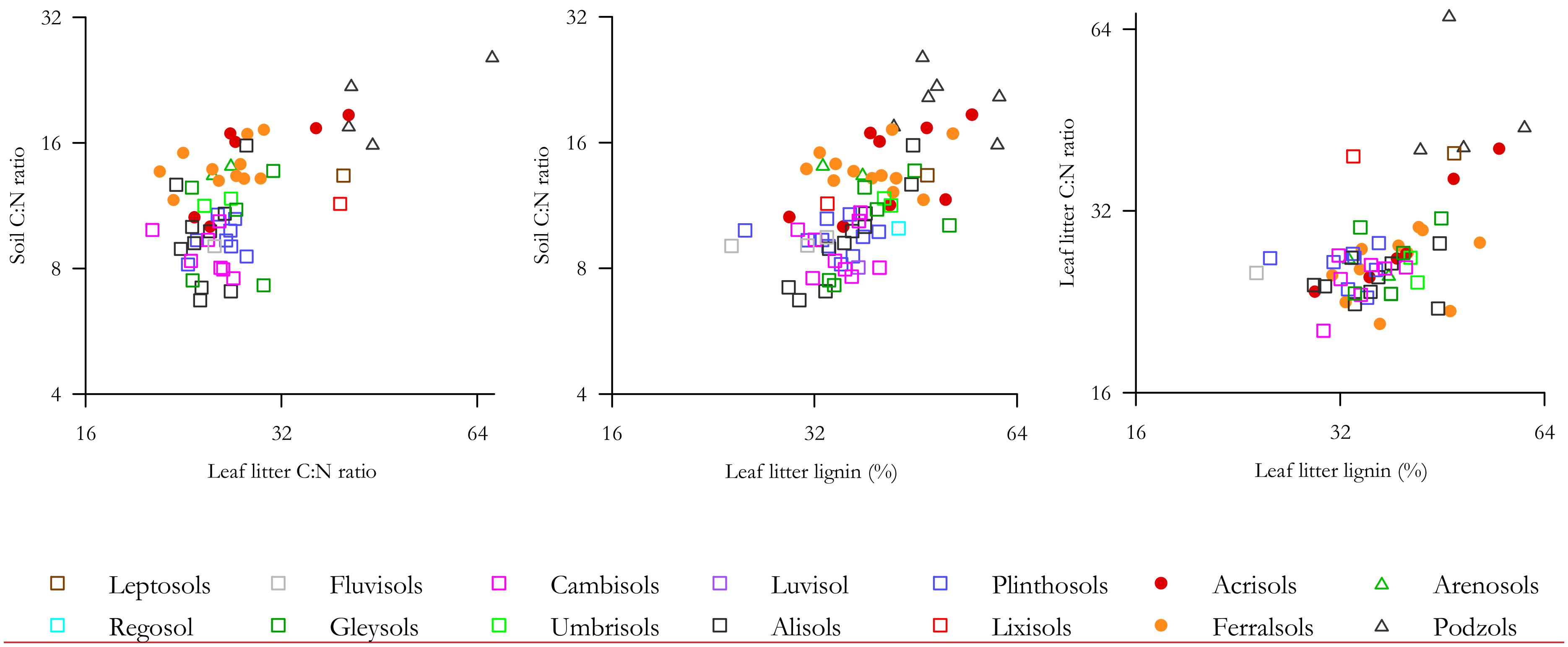


Fig. 8. Fitted vs observed SOC densities for regression model 7v (Table 7).


32
16
8
4
Soil C:N ratio
16
32
64
Leaf litter C:N ratio
32
16
8
4
Soil C:N ratio
16
32
64
Leaf litter lignin (%)
64
32
16
Leaf litter C:N ratio
16
32
64
Leaf litter lignin (%)
Leptosols
Fluvisols
Cambisols
Luvisol
Plinthosols
Acrisols
Arenosols
Regosol
Gleysols
Umbrisols
Alisols
Lixisols
Ferralsols
Podzols

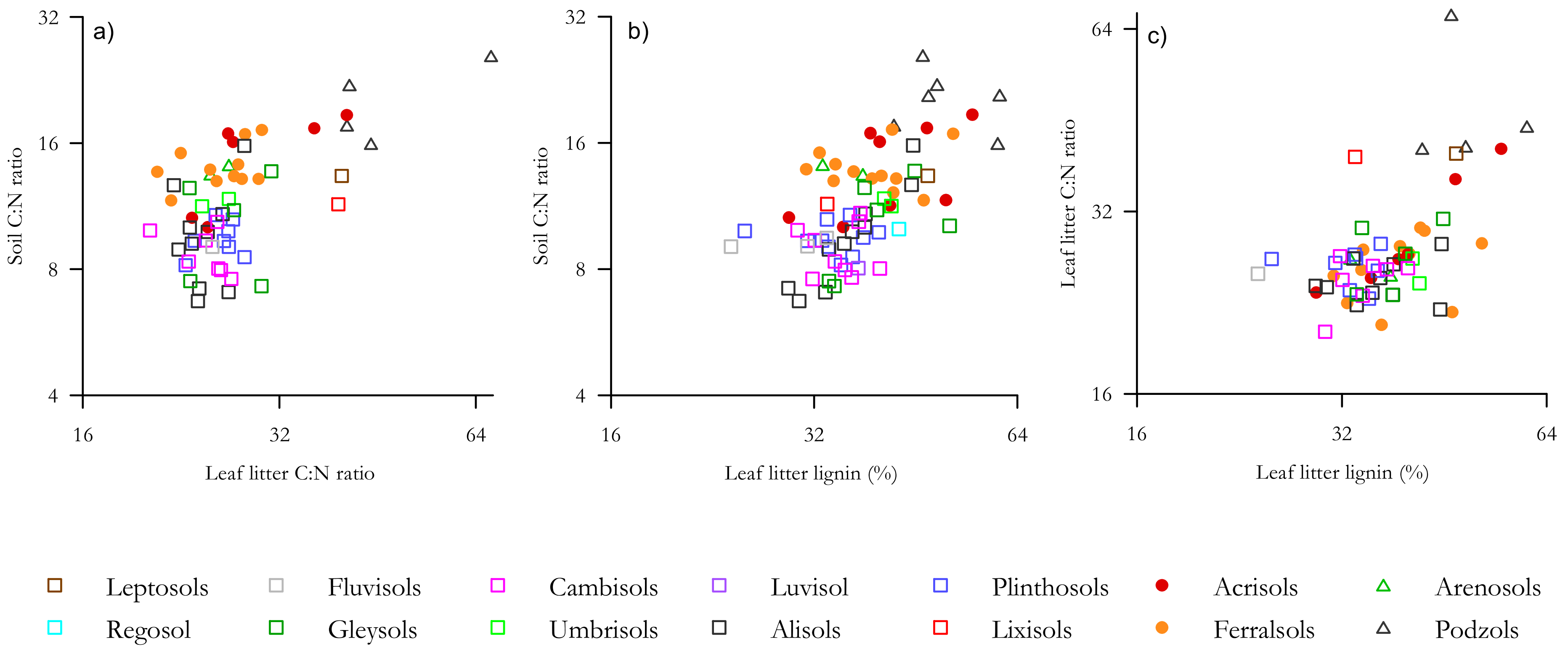


Fig. 9. The relationship of leaf litter lignin content with both leaf litter and soil C:N ratios. a) soil C:N ration as a function of leaf litter C:N ratio. b)– soil C:N ratio as a function of leaf litter lignin concentration and c) leaf litter C:N ratio as a function of leaf litter lignin.

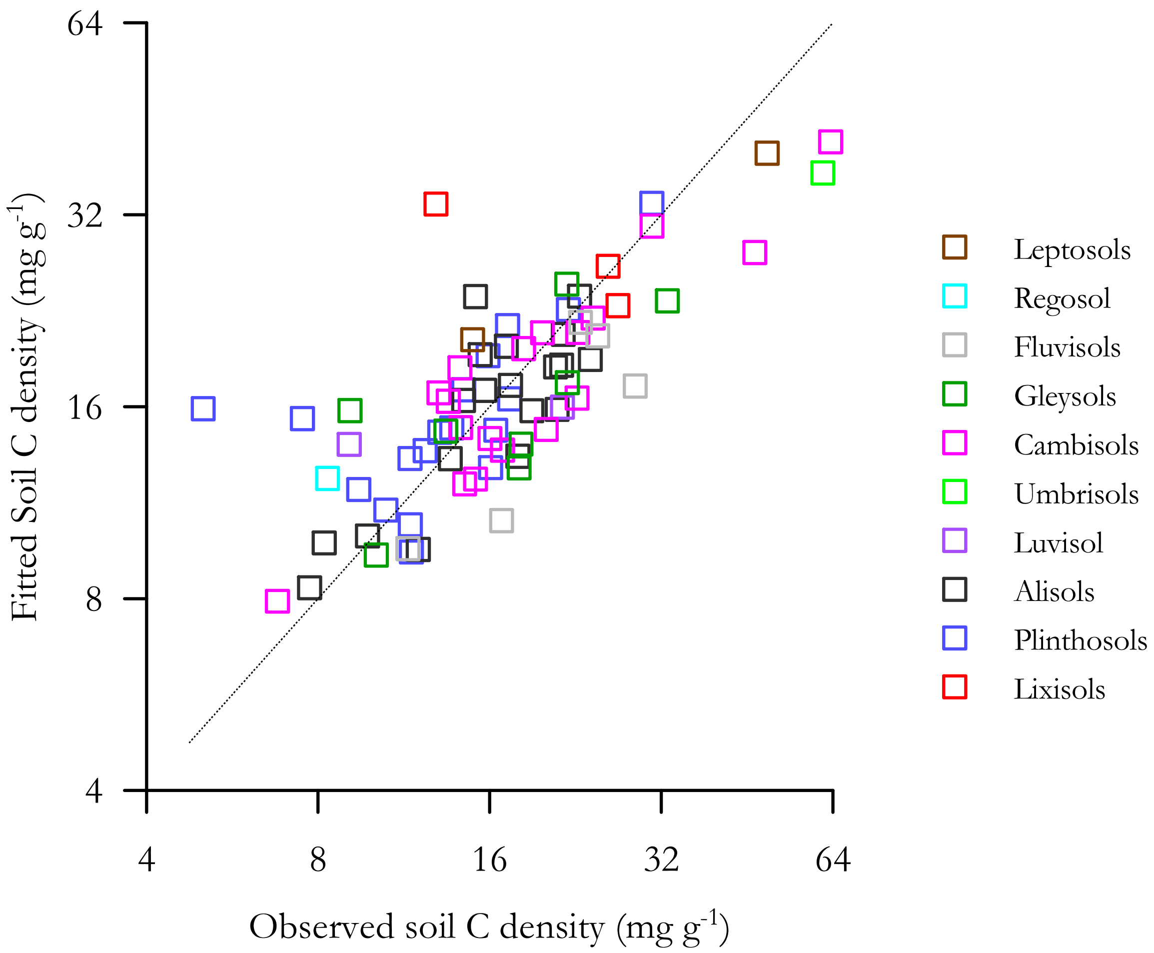
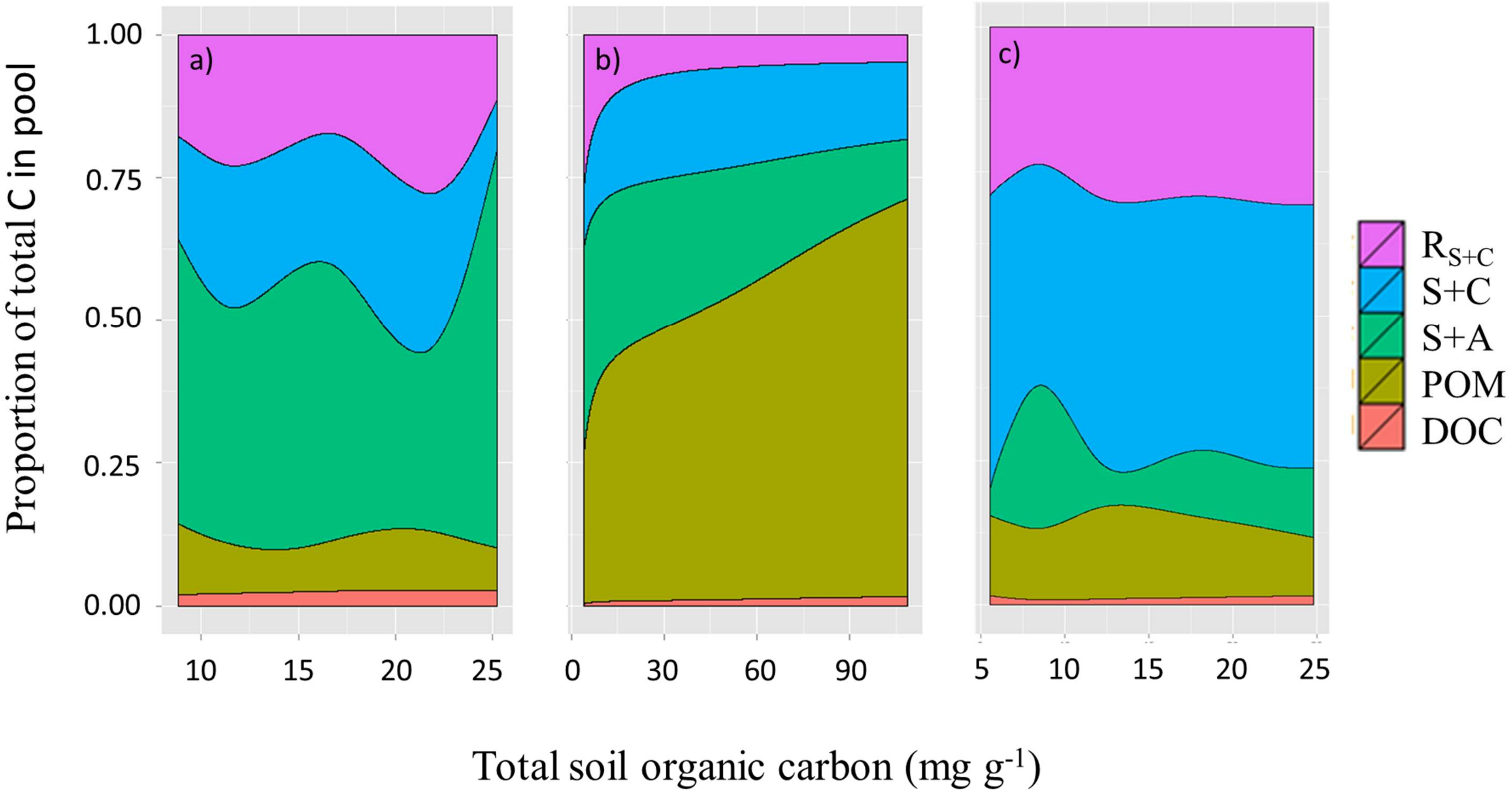


Fig 10. Fitted vs observed SOC densities for regression model 6s (Table 6).



Proportion of total C in pool
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
a)
b)
c)
10
15
20
25
0
30
60
90
5
10
15
20
25
Total soil organic carbon (mg g-1)
R_{S+C}
S+C
S+A
POM
DOC

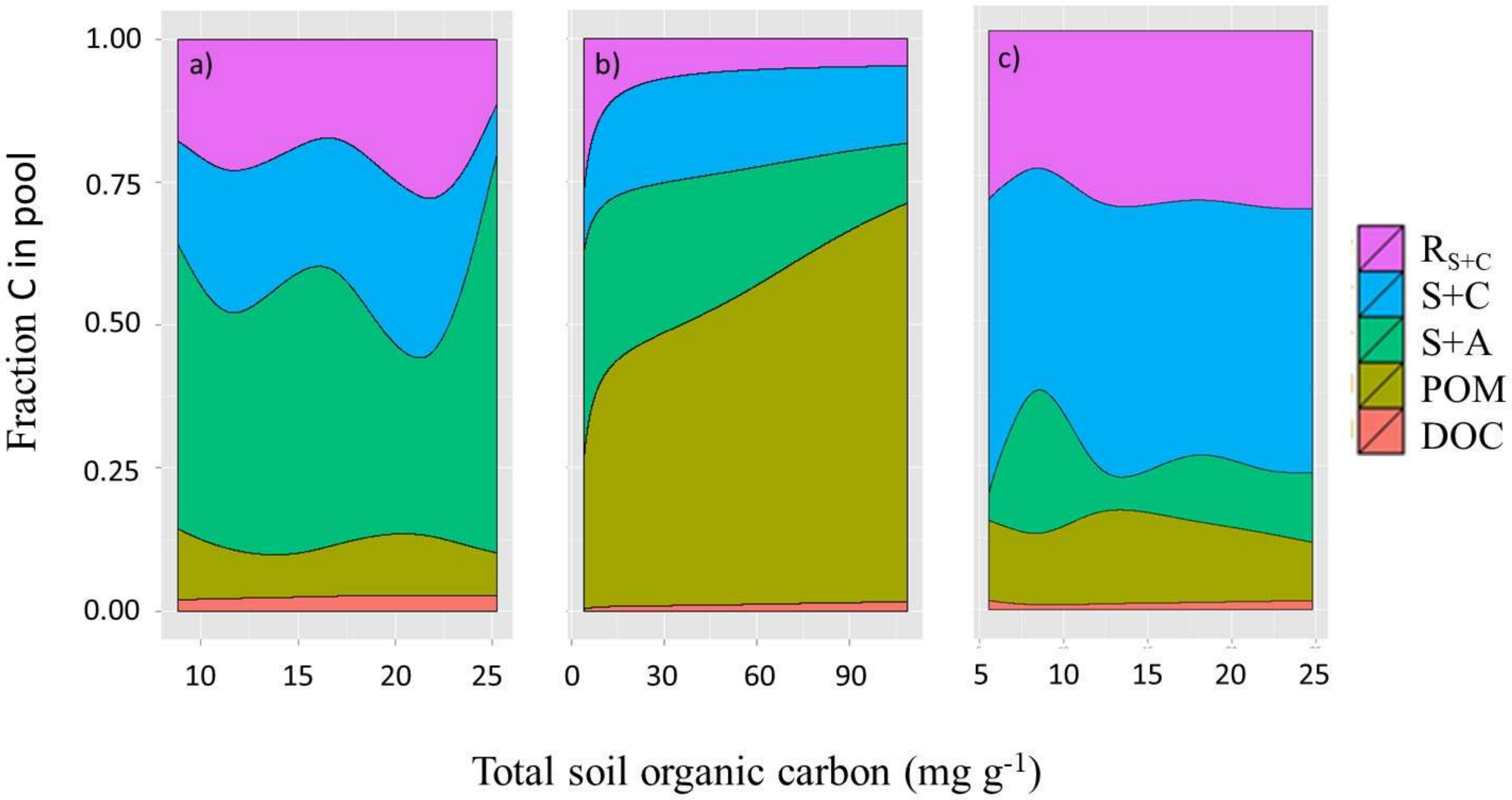


Figure 11. ~~Fraction~~ **Proportion of total soil carbon in the different pools for the three soil groups varying as a function of their SOC content. a) LAC soils, b) arenic and c) HAC. Dissolved organic carbon (DOC), particulate organic matter (POM), sand and aggregates (S+A), silt and clay (S+C) and resistant SOC associated to silt and clay fractions.**

5

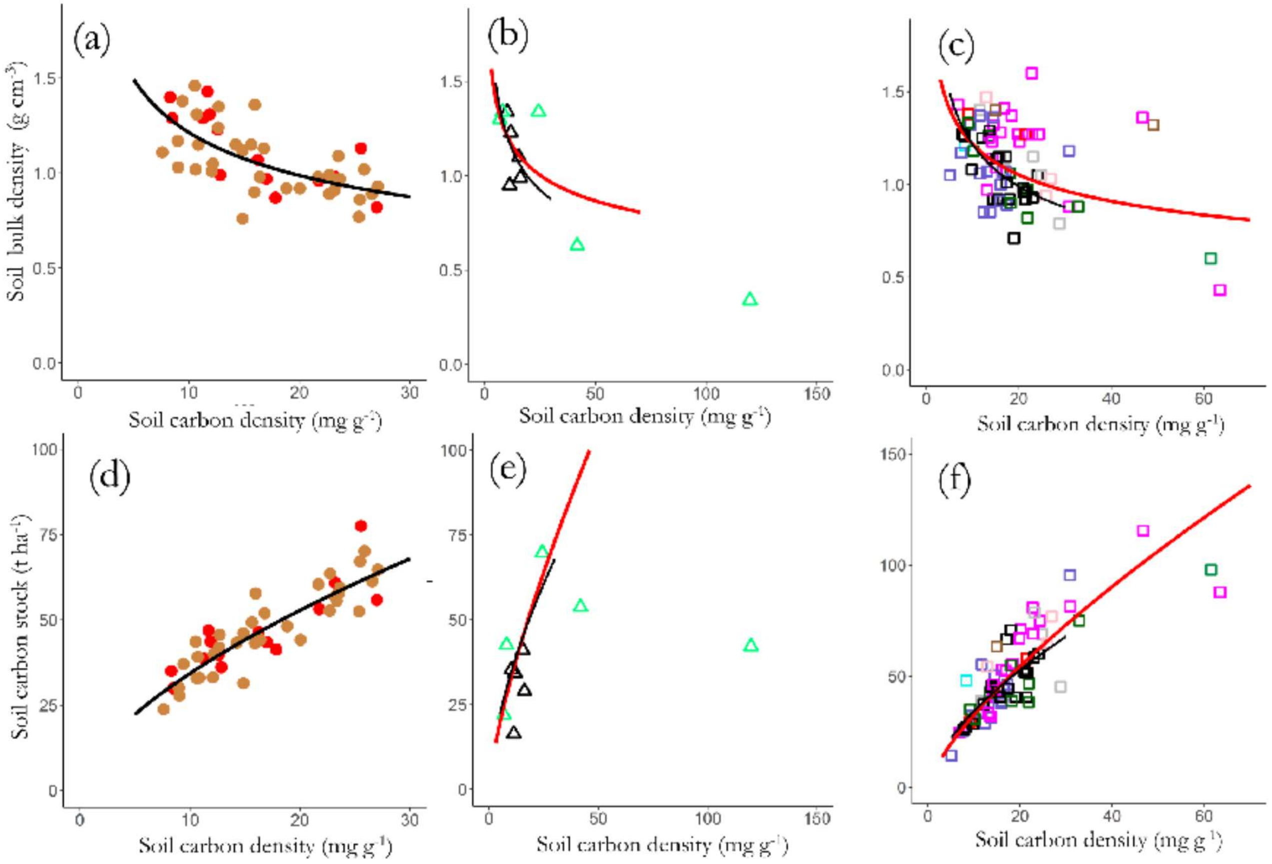


Figure 12. Variations in bulk density (a) LAC; (b) HAC and (c) arenic; and top soil SOC stocks (d) LAC; (e) HAC and (f) arenic as a function of SOC content. Significant regression lines (see text for details) for each soil group are plotted together for comparison.

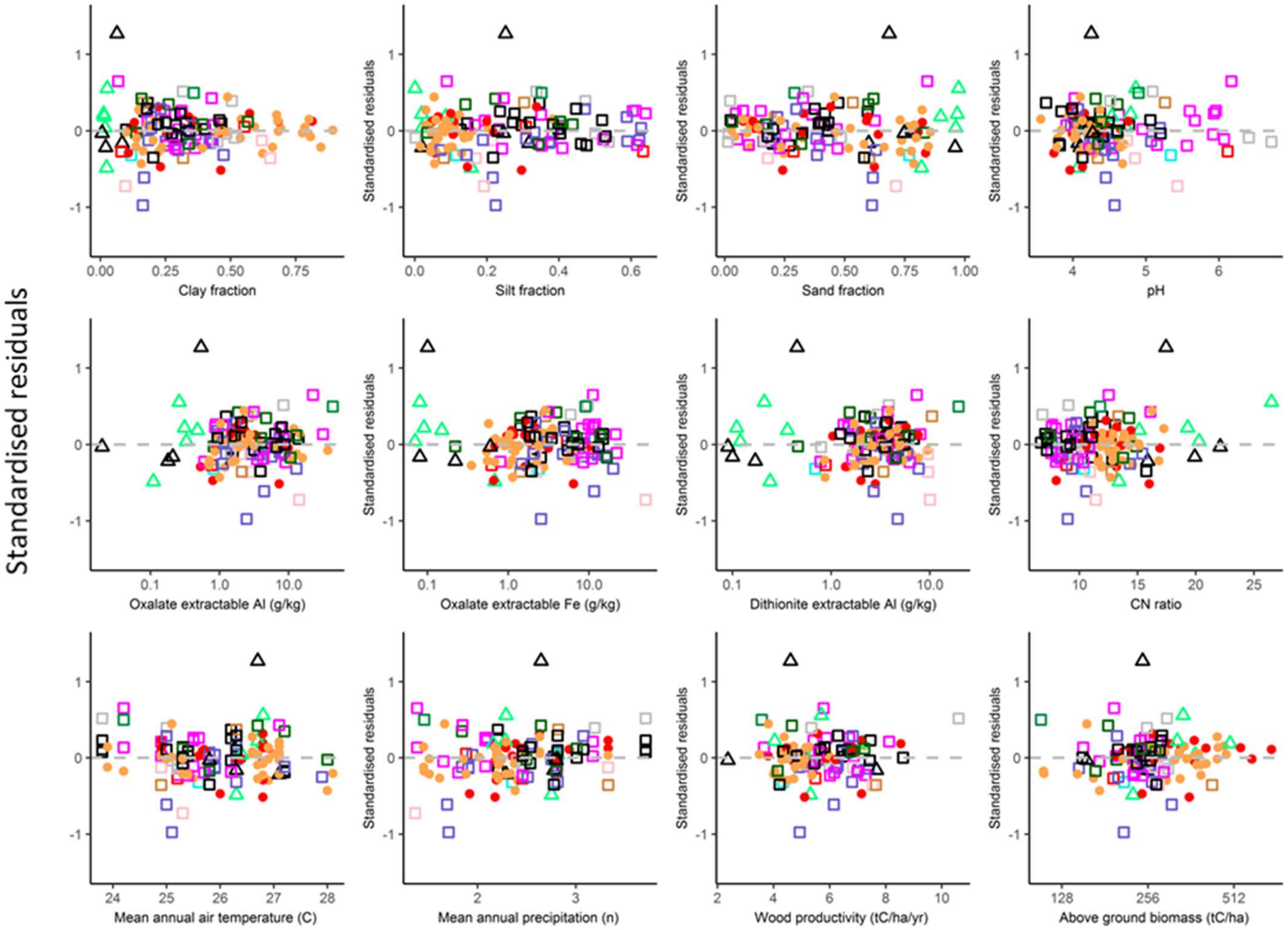


Figure A1. Standardized regression model residuals plotted against selected climatic, edaphic and vegetation variables.

Table 1. Climate/site details and summary of soil physical and chemical characteristics (0.0-0.3m). Abbreviations used: T_A – mean annual temperature; P_A – mean annual precipitation; E_V –elevation;– Σ_B- sum of bases, I_E – effective cation exchange capacity; $\Sigma_{B(R)}$- total reserve bases; Ch – Chlorite; Gi – gibbsite; Go- goethite; He – Haematite; Il – Illite; Ka – kaolinite; Mi – Mica; Mu – Muscovite; Or/K - orthoclase/K-feldspar; Pl – Plagioglase; Sm – Smectite, Albite – Al, Microcline – Mc.– ND – not determined. Soils from the Arenic group (Arenosols/Podzols) followed by F indicate seasonally flooded white sands. For the mineralogies, blank columns indicate that measurements were not made; * = identification uncertain; 0 – none identified. Sites have been numbered and ordered according to their upper layer (0.0-0.3m) soil C content as given in Table A1 (Appendix).

			T_A	P_A	E_V		Particle fraction			Σ_B	I_E	$\Sigma_{B(R)}$	Mineralogy	
Soil	Classification	Location	(°C)	(mm)	(m)	pH	Sand	Clay	Silt	(mmol$_c$ kg^{-1})			1°	2°
1	Plinthosols	Brazil, Acre	25,1	1705,1	260	4,57	0,61	0,16	0,22	7,1	13,2	189,3	Ka	Mu, Go, He
2	Gleysols	Peru, North	26,3	2751,5	126	4,26	0,53	0,21	0,27	4,0	36,2	40,6	Mi	Ka
3	Cambisols	Peru, South	25,2	2457,0	358	4,53	0,23	0,36	0,41	11,0	15,4	206,5	Ka	Or/K, Mu, Ch
4	Podzols^F	Brazil, Roraima	27,9	1836,0	46	4,91	0,78	0,05	0,17	1,1	2,8	20,1		
5	Plinthosols	Brazil, Acre	25,0	1689,5	259	4,45	0,62	0,17	0,22	7,4	14,1	215,0	Mu	Ka, Gi, He
6	Ferralsols	Venezuela	28,0	2382,0	70	4,68	0,79	0,16	0,06	1,1	5,8	20,6		
7	Alisols	Peru, South	25,4	2457,6	216	4,21	0,40	0,22	0,38	7,5	23,0	463,6		
8	Podzols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2289,2	92	4,10	0,96	0,02	0,02	3,1	20,1	3,1	Pl	He, Ch
9	Alisols	Peru, South	25,3	2536,5	216	4,41	0,18	0,29	0,53	5,7	29,6	362,1	Il-Sm	Mi, Ka, Al, Go, Gi
10	Regosol	Brazil, Mato Grosso	25,6	2353,1	280	5,34	0,77	0,12	0,11	20,2	22,3	109,0	Ka	Gi, He, Or/K
11	Acrisols	Brazil, Pará	26,8	2191,6	55	3,74	0,84	0,11	0,06	0,2	1,3	44,7		
12	Acrisols	Brazil, Acre	26,0	1919,8	194	4,13	0,62	0,23	0,15	6,2	9,1	85,1		
13	Ferralsols	Venezuela	28,1	2337,0	58	4,16	0,85	0,14	0,02	1,3	7,6	21,7		
14	Ferralsols	Brazil, Mato Grosso	25,5	1613,1	352	4,20	0,78	0,16	0,06	1,5	5,8	38,2	Ka	Gi, Go, He
15	Luvisols	Peru, South	25,2	2457,0	358	6,12	0,29	0,08	0,63	32,9	36,3	326,3	Mu	Ka, Pl, Or/K, He, Gi
16	Gleysols	Brazil, Roraima	27,2	1839,0	60	4,40	0,73	0,17	0,10	4,2	8,3	41,1		
17	Arenosols^F	Peru, North	26,3	2751,5	127	4,14	0,94	0,03	0,04	1,7	4,0	13,0	Il-Sm	Ka
18	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	26,7	2211,9	35	4,09	0,73	0,22	0,04	2,4	10,6	63,7		
19	Plinthosols	Brazil, Acre	25,9	1907,0	203	4,23	0,19	0,18	0,62	10,2	29,2	145,9	Il-Sm	Ka
20	Alisols	Peru, South	25,4	2457,6	216	4,32	0,20	0,40	0,40	7,0	35,6	578,0	Il-Sm	Mi, Ka, Al
21	Gleysols	Peru, South	25,4	2457,6	217	4,05	0,17	0,39	0,44	3,4	41,4	486,0	Mi	Ka, Il-Sm, Al
22	Arenosols	Guyana	26,4	2813,3	125	4,73	0,96	0,02	0,02	2,5	3,4	8,0		
23	Plinthosols	Brazil, Amazonas	26,4	2593,7	71	3,98	0,26	0,20	0,54	1,2	10,1	44,5		
24	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	26,7	2211,9	44	4,02	0,80	0,14	0,06	2,0	6,4	52,2		
25	Plinthosols	Brazil, Mato Grosso	25,3	1509,7	281	4,65	0,66	0,24	0,10	7,4	12,7	51,3	Ka	Gi, He
26	Ferralsols	Brazil, Mato Grosso	25,0	1854,4	326	4,19	0,86	0,10	0,04	1,2	12,1	9,5	Ka	Gi, Mi

			T_A	P_A	E_V		Particle fraction			Σ_B	I_E	$\Sigma_{B(R)}$	Mineralogy	
Soil	Classification	Location	(°C)	(mm)	(m)	pH	Sand	Clay	Silt	(mmol$_c$ kg^{-1})			1°	2°
27	Acrisols	Bolivia	23,3	1142,6	447	5,88	0,75	0,10	0,14	17,8	18,2	230,1	Ka	Gi,He, Or/K, Pl
28	Cambisols	Bolivia	24,8	813,4	310	6,06	0,48	0,18	0,35	51,3	51,6	679,7	Ka	Gi, Go, He, Mu
29	Ferralsols	Bolivia	23,9	1451,2	299	4,63	0,74	0,20	0,06	1,6	12,5	48,8	Ka	Gi, Go, He, Pl
30	Arenosols	Peru, North	26,3	2751,5	126	4,07	0,82	0,02	0,16	4,2	4,9	4,1	Mu*	Ch
31	Acrisols	Guyana	26,4	2813,3	124	4,24	0,81	0,15	0,05	3,4	10,0	17,6		
32	Fluvisols	Peru, South	25,1	2399,4	381	5,08	0,02	0,48	0,50	64,9	65,7	435,1		
33	Plinthosols	Brazil, Acre	25,9	1946,3	205	5,19	0,18	0,20	0,63	31,0	41,8	546,4		
34	Plinthosols	Brazil, Amazonas	26,3	2553,3	70	4,01	0,22	0,19	0,59	4,2	14,4	62,7		
35	Plinthosols	Brazil, Amazonas	26,3	2553,3	70	3,94	0,14	0,13	0,73	4,6	16,0	44,0		
36	Acrisols	Brazil, Pará	26,8	2178,1	38	3,96	0,24	0,46	0,30	2,6	15,6	18,7	Ka	Sm
37	Arenosols	Guyana	26,7	2282,1	97	4,79	0,97	0,01	0,02	4,0	4,5	6,9		
38	Acrisols	Brazil, Mato Grosso	25,6	2353,1	274	4,65	0,79	0,11	0,10	15,7	20,4	66,8	Ka	Gi
39	Alisols	Peru, South	25,3	2536,5	216	5,06	0,02	0,46	0,52	49,9	56,7	978,3	Ka	Mu, Or/K, Ch, He
40	Ferralsols	Bolivia	24,2	1456,7	198	4,70	0,58	0,36	0,06	13,2	20,1	36,5	Ka	Gi, Sm
41	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	26,8	2191,6	43	4,23	0,52	0,39	0,09	2,7	13,6	77,7		
42	Plinthosols	Colombia	25,8	2804,1	106	4,50	0,21	0,42	0,37	10,0	62,1	327,0	Il-Sm	Ka, Mi
43	Acrisols	Guyana	25,7	2932,2	124	4,44	0,82	0,13	0,05	2,8	10,9	31,0		
44	Ferralsols	Guyana	26,6	2633,8	108	4,25	0,79	0,18	0,03	2,7	13,0	21,8		
45	Ferralsols	Guyana	26,6	2633,8	106	4,03	0,76	0,20	0,04	2,9	11,2	22,0		
46	Acrisols	Brazil, Pará	26,8	2178,1	40	4,00	0,64	0,25	0,11	3,0	18,1	10,8	Ka	Gi
47	Lixisols	Venezuela	25,3	1364,4	291	5,43	0,71	0,10	0,19	17,8	17,9	45,2	Ka	Sm, Mi
48	Cambisols	Peru, North	26,3	2805,5	97	5,15	0,10	0,28	0,62	50,7	57,2	496,4	Il-Sm	Ka, Mi, Al, Mc
49	Plinthosols	Venezuela	25,8	2810,2	98	4,13	0,38	0,31	0,31	2,8	44,4	233,4	Il-Sm	Ka, Mi, Gi
50	Podzols^F	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2289,2	100	4,73	0,89	0,09	0,02	1,3	3,1	1,6		
51	Gleysols	Venezuela	28,0	2499,0	89	4,61	0,83	0,14	0,03	1,9	8,8	20,4		
52	Cambisols	Brazil, Acre	25,7	1803,7	278	5,56	0,39	0,25	0,35	73,7	73,7	564,9	Ka	Pl, Or/K, Mu, He
53	Alisols	Bolivia	25,0	3076,8	229	4,24	0,43	0,25	0,32	4,8	18,0	304,4		
54	Plinthosols	Colombia	25,8	2804,1	107	4,29	0,19	0,43	0,38	10,2	62,60	385,1	Il-Sm	
55	Cambisols	Peru, South	25,4	2457,6	219	4,22	0,47	0,29	0,24	2,2	33,80	185,1	Il-Sm	Ka, Mi, Gi
56	Cambisols	Ecuador	24,9	3172,3	261	4,95	0,47	0,30	0,23	77,9	84,80	928,5	Il-Sm	Ka
57	Ferralsols	Bolivia	23,9	1451,2	300	4,39	0,73	0,21	0,06	1,7	15,2	50,1	Ka	Gi, He, Mu
58	Alisols	Brazil, Rondônia	27,2	2208,0	78	3,81	0,20	0,34	0,46	2,0	30,0	78,6		
59	Plinthosols	Brazil, Acre	25,9	1907,0	205	5,07	0,16	0,25	0,59	50,0	56,2	345,3	Il-Sm	Mi, Ka
60	Cambisols	Peru, South	25,6	2095,9	203	5,60	0,15	0,25	0,60	85,5	86,9	1047,9		
61	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	26,9	2409,0	114	4,29	0,25	0,62	0,13	2,6	16,6	45,0		
62	Ferralsols	Guyana	26,6	2633,8	101	4,37	0,82	0,15	0,03	3,6	12,2	19,4		

			T_A	P_A	E_V		Particle fraction			Σ_B	I_E	$\Sigma_{B(R)}$	Mineralogy	
Soil	Classification	Location	(°C)	(mm)	(m)	pH	Sand	Clay	Silt	(mmol$_c$ kg^{-1})			1°	2°
63	Leptosols	French Guyana	25,0	3329,2	140	4,34	0,60	0,32	0,08	4,5	24,0	74,0		
64	Cambisols	Peru, South	25,4	2457,6	218	3,91	0,40	0,44	0,17	2,2	44,7	272,8	Il-Sm	Mi, Ka, Al, Mc
65	Alisols	Colombia	25,8	2777,6	120	4,13	0,58	0,20	0,22	2,4	26,0	80,1	Ka	Il-Sm, Mi, Gi
66	Alisols	Brazil, Rondônia	27,2	2208,0	83	3,82	0,27	0,26	0,48	1,2	29,3	75,0		
67	Arenosols	Guyana	26,8	2158,5	102	4,53	0,90	0,01	0,09	3,0	7,8	28,3		
68	Ferralsols	French Guyana	24,9	3329,2	140	4,40	0,52	0,38	0,10	4,6	13,2	72,6	Ka	Gi, Go
69	Alisols	Peru, North	26,3	2805,5	97	5,20	0,32	0,27	0,40	68,8	92,1	464,1	Il-Sm	Ka, Sm, Gi
70	Plinthosols	Peru, North	26,3	2814,8	113	4,55	0,38	0,47	0,14	7,9	37,7	275,4	Ka	Il-Sm
71	Ferralsols	Brazil, Mato Grosso	25,3	1509,7	281	4,20	0,47	0,45	0,08	4,8	22,0	103,0	Ka	Gi, He, Go, Or/K
72	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	26,9	2197,2	42	4,03	0,46	0,48	0,06	2,7	17,0	71,1		
73	Cambisols	Ecuador	24,9	3172,3	266	4,63	0,36	0,29	0,35	89,8	124,7	835,0	Il-Sm	Ka, Mi
74	Plinthosols	Bolivia	25,0	3076,8	229	4,07	0,30	0,23	0,47	4,2	9,7	261,9		
75	Arenosols	Guyana	26,8	2289,6	98	4,86	0,97	0,03	0,00	4,6	6,0	6,3		
76	Acrisols	Guyana	26,8	2289,6	98	4,20	0,59	0,36	0,05	4,1	19,1	27,7		
77	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	25,4	1883,1	145	3,78	0,23	0,66	0,10	4,0	21,4	10,7	Ka	Sm
78	Plinthosols	Venezuela	25,8	2810,2	98	3,97	0,24	0,36	0,40	2,9	53,4	296,3	Il-Sm	Ka, Mi, Gi
79	Fluvisols	Peru, South	25,0	3192,2	274	4,51	0,02	0,50	0,47	47,5	58,1	952,4		
80	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	26,7	2211,9	42	3,79	0,33	0,54	0,14	4,1	22,8	61,6	Ka	Go, Gi
81	Cambisols	Peru, South	25,5	2079,3	203	5,93	0,05	0,31	0,64	78,9	80,7	1253,3		
82	Acrisols	Guyana	26,8	2387,0	90	4,07	0,60	0,34	0,06	3,3	18,0	28,5		
83	Alisols	Peru, North	26,3	2777,8	126	4,47	0,78	0,10	0,13	1,3	24,6	114,7	Il-Sm	Mi, Ka
84	Plinthosols	Venezuela	27,9	2510,0	114	4,44	0,63	0,30	0,07	2,6	10,0	21,1		
85	Alisols	Brazil, Rondônia	27,7	923,5	83	3,64	0,48	0,34	0,18	1,6	23,8	40,4		
86	Plinthosols	Peru, North	26,3	2751,5	127	4,46	0,33	0,34	0,33	10,8	51,3	94,0	Il-Sm	Ka, Gi
87	Alisols	Ecuador	25,3	3008,9	237	4,61	0,43	0,34	0,23	33,8	51,0	441,8	Ka	Il-Sm, Mi
88	Acrisols	Peru, North	26,3	2814,8	113	4,42	0,32	0,46	0,22	5,4	37,1	224,9	Ka	Sm, Gi
89	Alisols	Brazil, Rondônia	26,2	2205,4	78	3,63	0,47	0,18	0,35	1,5	23,1	32,6		
90	Gleysols	Peru, North	26,7	2645,1	140	4,31	0,62	0,16	0,22	4,1	17,8	172,0	Ka	He
91	Gleysols	Ecuador	25,3	3008,9	235	4,39	0,03	0,57	0,40	71,0	78,3	832,3	Il-Sm	Ka, Sm
92	Cambisols	Peru, South	25,5	2079,3	203	6,07	0,05	0,42	0,52	68,2	68,2	1225,3	Mica	Il, Ka
93	Acrisols	Venezuela	26,2	3425,0	109	4,79	0,88	0,08	0,03	3,0	12,2	6,5	Ka	Gi, Mi
94	Acrisols	Bolivia	24,1	1270,3	268	6,30	0,49	0,31	0,20	21,3	22,2	209,0	Ka	He, Pl
95	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2289,2	100	4,34	0,08	0,85	0,05	1,9	21,4			
96	Alisols	Peru, North	26,3	2814,8	114	3,99	0,38	0,18	0,45	3,8	29,9	185,2		
97	Cambisols	Bolivia	24,3	1066,0	373	5,23	0,55	0,18	0,26	60,7	61,9	283,4		
98	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,0	2444,4	111	4,17	0,30	0,59	0,11	2,9	12,4	34,9		

			T_A	P_A	E_V		Particle fraction			Σ_B	I_E	$\Sigma_{B(R)}$	Mineralogy	
Soil	Classification	Location	(°C)	(mm)	(m)	pH	Sand	Clay	Silt	(mmol$_c$ kg^{-1})			1°	2°
99	Cambisols	Brazil, Roraima	27,0	1855,0	153	4,25	0,43	0,36	0,22	9,5	16,1	120,0		
100	Acrisols	Venezuela	26,2	3425,0	99	5,03	0,89	0,05	0,06	1,8	11,3	1,9	Ka	Sm, Mi
101	Alisols	Ecuador	23,8	3710,7	431	4,49	0,40	0,33	0,27	11,1	26,6	333,9	Ka	Mi, Gi
102	Alisols	Peru, North	26,3	2814,8	113	4,03	0,39	0,46	0,15	3,0	30,7	85,4		
103	Alisols	Brazil, Rondônia	26,2	2205,4	87	3,84	0,60	0,17	0,24	1,8	19,7	32,1		
104	Luvisols	Brazil, Acre	25,7	1883,8	228	4,26	0,14	0,55	0,31	25,8	45,9	461,1		
105	Alisols	Ecuador	23,8	3710,7	432	4,77	0,41	0,29	0,30	20,4	30,5	330,2	Ka	Mi
106	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2245,7	95	4,24	0,16	0,68	0,16	2,4	28,1	4,7	Ka	Sm, Gi
107	Acrisols	Peru, North	26,8	2630,0	122	3,98	0,44	0,22	0,34	2,6	20,2	68,8	Ka	Go, Gi
108	Gleysols	Colombia	25,8	2799,9	120	4,34	0,32	0,34	0,34	5,5	35,1	150,0	Ka	Mu, Gi, He, Go
109	Gleysols	Brazil, Roraima	27,3	1840,0	62	4,51	0,78	0,15	0,06	2,6	7,3	22,3		
110	Plinthosols	Brazil, Amazonas	26,4	2593,7	71	4,00	0,36	0,18	0,45	1,9	14,9	47,3		
111	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2245,7	93	3,98	0,09	0,78	0,13	3,5	21,6	42,1		
112	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amapá	26,8	2377,1	80	4,05	0,04	0,81	0,15	5,3	21,5	25,5	Ka	Gi
113	Cambisols	Peru, South	25,5	2079,3	203	5,96	0,08	0,31	0,61	80,1	81,2	1304,2		
114	Cambisols	Brazil, Acre	25,8	1652,5	236	5,92	0,25	0,37	0,38	80,3	80,4	845,6	Ka	Mu, Pl, Or/K, He
115	Alisols	Brazil, Roraima	27,3	1841,0	126	4,08	0,33	0,44	0,23	3,8	16,4	73,9		
116	Fluvisols	Peru, South	25,2	2477,1	356	6,72	0,01	0,45	0,54	85,3	85,9	1688,1	Ka	Mu, Ch, Pl, Go
117	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2193,2	110	4,27	0,13	0,46	0,41	1,9	17,5	24,3		
118	Acrisols	French Guyana	24,9	3329,2	140	4,16	0,33	0,57	0,10	5,3	21,3	31,2		
119	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	26,9	2175,8	43	4,13	0,23	0,68	0,09	2,7	8,5	70,5		
120	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	26,7	2211,6	45	4,27	0,14	0,79	0,08	3,1	17,7	68,3		
121	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2193,2	112	4,14	0,10	0,69	0,20	1,0	11,3	30,2		
122	Alisols	Ecuador	23,8	3710,7	431	4,37	0,42	0,31	0,28	9,0	32,4	288,2	Ka	Mi, Il-Sm
123	Podzols^F	Colombia	25,8	2799,9	120	4,27	0,75	0,01	0,25	6,4	7,1	3,3	Mu	Ch
124	Cambisols	Bolivia	24,3	1066,0	373	6,84	0,58	0,19	0,23	75,6	75,9	566,7		
125	Fluvisols	Peru, South	25,2	2457,0	356	6,41	0,48	0,52	0,00	84,5	85,2	1688,7	Mu	Ka, Ch, Or/K, Pl
126	Ferralsols	Brazil, Pará	25,1	2015,9	197	3,84	0,03	0,89	0,08	6,4	29,7	16,6	Ka	0
127	Ferralsols	Brazil, Mato Grosso	25,1	1665,8	373	4,10	0,46	0,49	0,05	2,3	19,5	28,3	Ka	Gi, Go, He, Mu
128	Acrisols	French Guyana	24,9	3329,2	140	4,76	0,12	0,68	0,20	10,9	15,5	87,9	Ka	Gi, Go
129	Lixisols	French Guyana	24,9	3329,2	140	4,85	0,18	0,65	0,17	13,6	16,9	65,5		
130	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2289,2	106	3,94	0,20	0,68	0,12	3,7	21,9	5,0	Ka	0
131	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2193,2	105	3,56	0,08	0,54	0,38	2,4	11,6	30,0		
132	Lixisols	French Guyana	24,9	3329,2	140	4,74	0,17	0,62	0,21	16,2	17,4	64,2		
133	Acrisols	Brazil, Amazonas	26,9	2457,9	119	4,29	0,08	0,81	0,11	2,7	15,4	43,3		
134	Ferralsols	Brazil, Amazonas	27,1	2245,7	93	4,08	0,10	0,80	0,10	4,9	19,8	8,6		

			T_A	P_A	E_V		Particle fraction			Σ_B	I_E	$\Sigma_{B(R)}$	Mineralogy	
Soil	**Classification**	**Location**	**(°C)**	**(mm)**	**(m)**	**pH**	**Sand**	**Clay**	**Silt**	**(mmol$_c$ kg^{-1})**			**1°**	**2°**
135	Fluvisols	Ecuador	23,8	3710,7	394	5,09	0,35	0,32	0,34	81,7	81,9	1181,6	Il-Sm	Ka, Sm
136	Plinthosols	Brazil, Roraima	27,2	1841,0	59	4,43	0,43	0,38	0,19	4,0	14,2	72,1		
137	Cambisols	Bolivia	24,2	1383,6	248	5,67	0,63	0,18	0,19	76,5	76,6	755,3	Il-Sm	Ka, Mi
138	Gleysols	Brazil, Roraima	27,2	1840,0	64	4,61	0,60	0,26	0,14	2,9	8,6	24,7		
139	Podzols^F	Peru, North	26,3	2777,8	124	4,07	0,60	0,08	0,32	6,8	8,5	10,5	Pl	Ch, Ka, He
140	Cambisols	Brazil, Roraima	27,1	1846,0	85	4,02	0,33	0,43	0,25	3,1	15,3	64,0		
141	Leptosols	Venezuela	26,3	2820,7	366	5,26	0,53	0,16	0,30	23,5	27,7			
142	Umbrisols	Bolivia	24,2	1456,7	195	4,74	0,29	0,36	0,35	6,6	25,5	259,7		
143	Umbrisols	Bolivia	24,2	1456,7	195	4,90	0,29	0,36	0,35	8,7	20,8	179,5	Ka	Il, Mi
144	Cambisols	Bolivia	24,2	1383,6	248	6,17	0,84	0,07	0,09	50,7	52,2	715,1	Mi	Ka
145	Podzols^F	Venezuela	26,2	3425,0	99	4,88				18,2	18,6			
146	Gleysols	Peru, North	26,3	2801,3	114	4,03				6,20	62,3			
147	Podzols^F	Peru, North	26,7	2646,5	127	4,25	0,69	0,06	0,25	3,9	7,1	20,0	Mu*	Ch

Table A1. Soil carbon and associated measures of the study soils (0.0-0.3m). [C] - C concentration; CN – carbon/nitrogen ratio; ρ – bulk density; $\int$C – total soil C; Fe_d – dithionite extractable iron, Fe_o – oxalate extractable iron, Al_d – dithionite extractable aluminium, Al_o – oxalate extractable aluminium, Al_o – pyrophosphate extractable aluminium

Soil	[C] (mg g^{-1})	CN	ρ *(kg $dm^{-3)}$*	$\int$C (Mg ha^{-1})	Fe_d	Fe_o	Fe_d –Fe_o	Al_d	Al_o	Al_p
					g kg^{-1}					
1	5,03	9,04	1,05	14,26	19,61	2,54	17,08	4,71	2,46	0,60
2	6,78	11,07	1,15	119,23	2,01	0,00	2,01	1,79		0,77
3	6,79	7,64	1,43	24,50	3,15	0,80	2,35	0,78	0,60	0,54
4	6,80	22,67	1,30	21,90	0,24	0,19	0,05	0,28	0,03	0,27
5	7,51	10,52	1,17	25,11	13,90	11,57	2,33	2,69	4,42	0,57
6	7,60	12,67	1,11	23,80	4,65	1,13	3,52	0,87	1,00	1,68
7	7,73	7,00	1,27	25,96	11,25	3,44	7,81	1,55	0,93	1,09
8	7,93	15,94	1,34	42,57	0,25	0,22	0,04	0,17	0,18	0,12
9	8,20	7,20	1,26	27,02	11,24	5,43	5,81	2,20	3,16	0,98
10	8,31	9,97	1,21	48,02	4,50	2,38	2,12	0,69	0,82	1,36
11	8,31	13,07	1,40	35,01	8,60	1,61	6,99	1,40	0,53	1,54
12	8,49	7,80	1,29	29,95	17,04	0,66	16,38	2,01	0,80	0,83
13	9,00	12,86	1,17	30,05	5,60	1,11	4,49	0,86	0,71	1,12
14	9,03	14,53	1,03	27,81	20,46	1,02	19,44	1,65	0,69	2,27
15	9,07	8,04	1,38	29,66	6,24	0,62	5,62	0,88	0,77	0,14
16	9,10	13,00	1,33	35,07	14,60	1,43	13,17	1,33	0,44	0,82
17	9,12	14,19	0,89	21,69	0,37	0,34	0,03	0,03		
18	9,41	11,88	1,38	37,06	7,65	0,35	7,30	1,76	0,72	2,14
19	9,43	9,34	1,32	32,36	14,40	4,73	9,67	2,23	2,83	1,72
20	9,77	6,71	1,08	28,50	15,43	6,16	9,27	3,05	3,97	1,35
21	10,12	7,29	1,18	30,78	11,04	7,04	4,00	2,52	4,01	1,46
22	10,14	22,79	1,34	35,31	0,30	0,07	0,23	0,12	0,33	0,06
23	10,52	12,57		21,66	1,60	0,79	0,81	0,49	0,75	0,80
24	10,52	12,35	1,46	43,57	7,35	0,54	6,81	1,77	0,86	2,17
25	10,61	13,65	1,02	32,88	0,57	0,55	0,02	2,78	1,68	2,94
26	10,71	14,23	1,31	39,13	3,18	1,37	1,81	2,49	6,60	1,16
27	10,75	9,56	1,34	45,40						
28	10,76	9,56	1,27	48,91						
29	10,85	12,99	1,15	33,01	9,59	6,28	3,31	6,47	13,08	2,11
30	11,26	13,47	0,95	16,36	0,68	0,56	0,12	0,24	0,11	0,03
31	11,28	13,22	1,29	38,63	6,03	0,68	5,35	1,69	0,87	1,69
32	11,50	7,52	1,40	38,91	4,77	1,17	3,60	0,79	0,89	0,21
33	11,60	7,16	1,37	33,97	28,62	3,00	25,62	2,54	1,14	0,86
34	11,61	9,58	1,06	55,28	10,14	5,03	5,11	1,65	0,94	1,16
35	11,66	11,32		25,81	0,23	0,15	0,08	0,31	0,59	0,62
36	11,68	16,10	1,43	46,93	7,40	6,43	0,97	2,81	7,30	1,19
37	11,77	22,47	1,23	34,37	1,26	0,09	1,17	0,11	0,31	0,03
38	11,88	10,08	1,31	43,66	6,12	1,83	4,29	2,75	7,64	2,03
39	11,99	7,05	1,25	37,36	14,87	5,20	9,68	1,24	6,37	0,86
40	12,09	11,68	1,01	33,12	11,54	6,37	5,17	7,71	15,97	0,02
41	12,17	11,46	1,05	39,92	10,62	0,68	9,94	2,51	1,53	1,73
42	12,33	8,18	0,85	28,95	20,53	8,55	11,98	4,13	5,67	1,92
43	12,60	12,90	1,23	39,71	4,26	0,96	3,30	1,04	0,92	1,84
44	12,65	14,28	1,24	41,86	6,66	0,69	5,97	2,04	0,95	1,96
45	12,69	11,69	1,35	45,64	6,24	0,96	5,28	1,83	1,17	2,20
46	12,85	16,87	0,99	36,07	6,76	3,14	3,62	3,89	9,89	1,14
47	12,88	11,43	1,47	54,28	76,11	50,27	25,84	10,00	14,20	1,03
48	13,03	8,34	0,97	33,32	35,32	10,88	24,44	4,30	4,31	1,52
49	13,08	9,52	1,07	38,04	11,44	10,08	1,36	4,31	7,37	1,47
50	13,35	17,63		34,87	1,20	0,88	0,32	1,30	3,16	3,32
51	13,40	14,89	1,26	42,55	0,22	0,20	0,02	0,46	0,82	0,53
52	13,54	9,90	1,25	31,89	7,72	6,12	1,60	1,63	3,48	0,58
53	13,65	8,58	1,29	45,24	20,01	1,84	18,17	3,69	1,66	2,60
54	13,73	8,55	0,85	31,36	20,71	15,97	4,74	5,62	8,85	1,84

Soil	**[C]** **(mg g^{-1})**	**CN**	ρ *(kg dm^{-3})*	$\int$C **(Mg ha^{-1})**	**Fe$_d$**	**Fe$_o$**	**Fe$_d$ –Fe$_o$**	**Al$_d$**	**Al$_o$**	**Al$_p$**
					g kg^{-1}					
55	14,18	10,38	1,23	46,31	13,81	8,50	5,31	6,26	8,99	2,02
56	14,23	8,03	1,14	41,99	15,87	8,30	7,57	3,83	6,90	1,22
57	14,25	13,84	1,15	43,24	7,47	3,02	4,45	4,18	14,53	3,00
58	14,40	11,08	0,92	44,70	32,60	2,53	30,07	4,76	1,54	2,63
59	14,41	9,86	1,36	50,54	26,80	12,77	14,03	2,82	3,72	3,62
60	14,46	6,80	1,32	40,82	14,49	9,93	4,56	1,34	1,12	0,41
61	14,87	11,62	0,76	31,39	5,19	2,74	2,45	1,48	1,20	0,92
62	14,87	14,66	1,12	46,06	5,25	0,57	4,68	1,72	1,04	2,99
63	14,93	12,63	1,40	63,47	11,82	1,41	10,41	3,38	2,10	2,57
64	15,11	9,37	1,09	43,71	13,93	10,64	3,29	3,23	8,43	1,87
65	15,11	15,77	1,14	43,09	3,08	1,94	1,14	2,35	3,91	1,71
66	15,40	12,83	0,92	40,55	28,85	2,06	26,79	4,32	1,48	3,21
67	15,44	16,08	1,10	41,04	4,20	0,15	4,05	0,36	0,48	0,76
68	15,65	12,18	1,15	49,26	10,23	2,88	7,35	3,13	3,64	2,95
69	15,68	8,91	1,15	40,69	17,57	13,13	4,44	3,50	6,65	1,45
70	15,89	9,35	0,91	37,79	32,32	19,93	12,38	7,68	12,92	0,67
71	15,92	14,96	0,90	43,15	44,70	2,36	42,34	4,96	3,16	4,09
72	15,97	11,81	1,36	57,74	12,00	0,90	11,10	2,62	1,91	2,43
73	16,01	7,96	1,28	52,90	17,77	8,16	9,61	4,55	7,43	2,35
74	16,06	9,16	1,00	38,89	14,73	2,17	12,56	2,85	1,69	1,92
75	16,16	31,81	0,99	28,95	0,72	0,08	0,64	0,21	0,26	0,10
76	16,25	13,15	1,07	46,40	10,50	1,17	9,33	2,75	1,44	2,37
77	16,40	13,67	0,98	44,21	18,34	5,36	12,98	5,33	11,12	0,96
78	16,40	9,79	1,07	45,01	16,24	11,59	4,65	4,68	7,32	1,80
79	16,79	6,98	1,08	41,36	22,14	5,90	16,24	2,95	2,86	1,55
80	16,79	13,15	1,13	51,93	15,72	1,20	14,52	3,47	1,70	2,42
81	16,85	6,78	1,41	52,47	16,55	11,13	5,42	1,50	0,86	0,50
82	17,02	15,00	0,97	43,39	3,50	1,10	2,40	1,98	2,33	2,01
83	17,11	12,70	1,15	66,72	7,73	7,42	0,31	2,90	5,58	1,74
84	17,20	14,33	1,07	46,18	21,45	1,45	20,00	2,12	1,11	2,51
85	17,32	11,65	1,02	41,95						
86	17,35	10,77	0,89	43,74	7,23	5,37	1,85	3,11	4,57	1,25
87	17,40	9,20	1,01	44,51	22,17	7,42	14,74	5,49	8,64	2,01
88	17,84	10,62	0,87	41,30	22,57	10,48	12,08	5,37	9,32	2,28
89	17,93	11,96	0,92	70,74	7,07	1,92	5,15	2,18	1,24	2,04
90	18,02	10,14	1,06	54,78	9,63	3,94	5,69	1,54	1,85	1,23
91	18,16	7,49	0,90	38,83	18,45	13,74	4,71	6,13	12,86	1,81
92	18,35	7,58	1,37	55,53	23,89	21,99	1,89	4,25	8,34	0,61
93	18,40	17,36	1,22	64,33	2,11		2,11	3,88		2,25
94	18,48	10,80	1,29	69,52						
95	18,84	16,82	0,92	48,09	9,15	2,24	6,91	2,13	1,60	1,87
96	18,97	10,83	0,71	40,47	15,87	1,73	14,14	3,62	2,06	12,22
97	19,80	11,65	1,27	67,10	15,55	1,58	13,97	2,54	1,88	1,26
98	20,05	12,23	0,92	44,10	6,89	2,83	4,06	2,04	1,52	1,22
99	20,10	11,82	1,23	71,13	22,00	2,41	19,59	1,83	0,84	1,23
100	20,49	18,68	1,14	63,59						
101	20,87	10,06	0,98	51,94	12,72	6,46	6,26	5,62	9,49	2,56
102	21,01	10,72	0,96	52,89	14,70	2,13	12,57	3,60	2,07	3,68
103	21,40	12,49	0,92	40,49	12,63	1,41	11,22	3,50	1,24	2,65
104	21,46	8,82	1,27	57,95	37,53	5,34	32,19	4,70	3,25	3,72
105	21,53	9,82	0,96	51,38	16,61	14,91	1,70	6,88	13,92	1,65
106	21,68	13,35	0,98	60,36	6,95	2,65	4,30	3,39	7,61	1,61
107	21,76	11,69	0,96	53,12	14,82	1,65	13,17	3,89	2,05	4,19
108	21,85	13,71	0,82	38,35	16,61	15,48	1,13	4,51	10,66	1,79
109	21,90	16,85	0,97	46,77	1,20	0,90	0,30	0,44	0,80	0,76
110	21,99	13,83		48,94	16,75	3,54	13,21	3,07	1,36	2,30
111	22,70	11,65	0,89	52,62	7,70	2,98	4,72	2,45	1,98	1,49
112	22,73	13,15	0,99	63,55	19,64	10,34	9,30	9,47	37,03	1,85
113	22,77	6,82	1,60	80,81	17,42	11,91	5,51	1,48	0,88	0,40
114	22,83	10,88	1,27	69,23	10,57	8,53	2,04	1,86	4,45	0,68
115	23,00	15,33	0,93	58,49	11,41	2,31	9,10	2,83	1,77	1,22
116	23,09	9,07	1,15	78,66	23,52	7,08	16,44	1,66	1,45	0,24

Soil	**[C] (mg g^{-1})**	**CN**	***ρ* *(kg dm$^{-3)}$***	**∫C (Mg ha^{-1})**	**Fe$_d$**	**Fe$_o$**	**Fe$_d$ –Fe$_o$**	**Al$_d$**	**Al$_o$**	**Al$_p$**
					g kg^{-1}					
117	23,20	13,47	0,91	56,77	9,02	2,59	6,43	2,68	1,83	1,52
118	23,21	12,93	0,98	60,79	26,40	2,12	24,28	5,73	1,75	4,32
119	23,34	12,53	0,94	55,58	13,50	1,04	12,46	3,90	2,77	3,26
120	23,53	11,93	1,09	57,84	19,62	0,87	18,75	4,97	2,55	3,10
121	23,65	12,24	0,97	59,31	9,75	2,89	6,86	3,02	1,89	2,17
122	24,03	10,83	1,05	60,18	12,33	4,92	7,41	5,15	7,97	2,84
123	24,30	22,03	1,34	3,12	0,60	0,41	0,19	0,09	0,02	0,03
124	24,30	11,05	1,27	74,80	16,70	1,36	15,34	0,95	1,01	0,59
125	24,76	9,49	1,05	68,86	21,66	6,28	15,38	1,77	1,44	0,66
126	25,39	15,15	0,77	52,49	14,82	1,09	13,73	3,28	2,26	1,60
127	25,48	16,20	0,86	67,13	21,55	2,85	18,70	3,88	2,25	4,09
128	25,57	11,35	1,13	77,51	36,21	1,60	34,61	7,66	3,27	2,61
129	25,82	10,79	0,94	64,92	58,14	2,19	55,95	9,61	2,77	2,50
130	25,87	17,21	1,02	70,11	8,44	3,55	4,89	4,71	11,92	1,26
131	26,57	12,57	0,89	61,29	9,71	3,12	6,59	3,02	1,97	2,37
132	26,86	9,86	1,03	76,89	53,64	2,19	51,45	9,60	1,99	1,69
133	27,00	11,82	0,82	55,83	8,72	3,58	5,14	3,32	2,49	2,57
134	27,09	11,56	0,93	64,68	7,71	2,64	5,07	2,51	1,82	1,85
135	28,80	9,05	0,79	45,16	10,39	9,63	0,76	3,83	8,40	2,47
136	30,80	15,40	1,18	95,49	67,20	2,03	65,17	5,88	1,24	1,72
137	30,82	10,75	0,88	81,36	21,34	12,14	9,20	7,99	31,37	2,36
138	32,80	14,26	0,88	74,97	3,70	1,41	2,29	2,49	4,70	2,79
139	41,81	20,72	0,63	53,70	0,24	0,08	0,16	0,10	0,21	0,01
140	46,70	16,10	1,36	115,48	21,40	3,17	18,23	3,74	3,14	2,53
141	49,08	13,36	1,32	166,86	20,10	2,87	17,23	10,49	2,55	1,81
142	60,47	11,31			14,50			20,27		11,69
143	61,44	11,77	0,60	97,92	9,02	8,34	0,67	19,53	43,52	10,26
144	63,43	12,51	0,43	87,72	11,14	5,25	5,89	7,36	22,54	8,61
145	89,26	25,82	1,58	363,55	0,36	0,34	0,02	1,34	2,75	1,18
146	93,06	12,50	0,89	219,25						
147	119,82	20,79	0,34	42,19	0,90	0,10	0,80	0,45	0,54	0,27

Table 2. A guide for interpretation of selective dissolution data following Parfait and Childs (1988).

Form	description
Fe_d	Dissolves almost all iron oxides not differentiating between crystalline and short-range oxides. Provides estimates of total amount of iron oxides in the soil
Fe_o	Estimates short range minerals such as ferrihydrite and possibly other amorphous minerals. Do not extract crystalline oxides
Fe_p	Extracts a variety of Fe forms, thus it does not specifically relate to any particular form of Fe in soil. Should not be used to estimate Fe-humus complexes
Al_d	Probably arises from Al substitution in both crystalline and amorphous oxides, free Al and interlayer Al. Similar to Fe_d it provides wide estimates of Al oxides in the soil.
Al_o	Estimates Al in short-range minerals, such as allophane and imogolite. May also represent Al substitution in ferrihydrite and the presence of Al hydroxy interlayer minerals. Do not extract crystalline Al hydroxides.
Al_p	Correspond to Al-humus complexes in most soils such as occurring in Podzols and Andosols
Fe_d-Fe_o	Provides estimation of crystalline oxides only. Excludes the content of ferrihydrite and other short-range oxides which are extracted by Fe_o.

Low activity clay soils

All soils combined

	[C]	CN	T_{a}	P_{a}	E_{v}	D_{b}	sand	clay	silt	pH	I_{E}	$[P]_{t}$	TRB	$[Fe]_{d}$	$[Fe]_{o}$	$[Fe]_{do}$	$[Al]_{d}$	$[Al]_{o}$	$[Al]_{do}$
[C]		0.08	0.19	0.13	-0.05	**-0.47**	**-0.56**	**0.54**	0.28	-0.12	**0.37**	0.08	-0.09	0.27	0.27	0.23	0.37	0.30	0.14
CN	0.14		0.02	-0.07	-0.01	-0.07	**0.04**	-0.02	**-0.16**	-0.16	**0.01**	**-0.09**	**-0.44**	-0.05	**0.10**	-0.03	0.10	0.11	-0.05
T_{a}	0.01	0.33		0.16	-0.52	-0.21	-0.27	0.27	0.10	-0.28	**-0.06**	**-0.29**	**-0.21**	-0.14	0.03	-0.18	-0.24	-0.16	-0.04
P_{a}	0.06	-0.08	-0.10		-0.10	-0.01	0.05	-0.01	-0.08	0.12	-0.07	-0.17	-0.16	-0.19	-0.08	-0.06	-0.15	-0.18	0.01
E_{v}	0.00	-0.32	-0.61	0.00		-0.07	0.09	-0.11	0.00	**0.30**	0.08	0.12	**0.12**	0.09	0.13	0.04	0.16	0.14	-0.02
D_{b}	**-0.33**	-0.10	-0.07	-0.08	0.08		**0.48**	**-0.48**	-0.26	0.09	-0.32	0.00	0.05	-0.20	-0.31	-0.11	-0.20	-0.18	-0.06
sand	**-0.21**	0.34	0.07	-0.05	-0.04	**0.14**		-0.87	-0.46	0.22	**-0.41**	**-0.16**	**-0.07**	**-0.37**	**-0.32**	-0.21	-0.33	-0.28	-0.10
clay	**0.31**	-0.16	-0.03	0.03	-0.02	**-0.23**	-0.59		0.33	-0.22	**0.38**	0.16	0.04	0.36	0.27	0.22	0.31	0.27	0.10
silt	0.05	**-0.43**	-0.17	0.05	0.16	0.02	-0.51	0.10		-0.10	0.30	0.16	0.21	0.25	**0.35**	0.08	0.28	0.26	0.03
pH	0.01	-0.21	-0.31	-0.02	**0.36**	0.20	0.05	-0.13	0.06		-0.06	0.07	**0.17**	-0.16	-0.04	-0.14	0.03	0.04	-0.10
I_{E}	**0.13**	**-0.47**	**-0.31**	0.06	0.30	-0.03	**-0.40**	**0.25**	0.42	0.19		**0.32**	**0.04**	**0.28**	**0.32**	0.13	**0.43**	**0.45**	-0.09
$[P]_{t}$	0.17	**-0.48**	**-0.35**	-0.03	0.28	0.05	**-0.36**	0.26	0.38	0.24	**0.49**		**0.30**	**0.41**	**-0.09**	0.37	0.36	0.17	0.20
TRB	0.02	**-0.64**	**-0.39**	0.02	**0.36**	0.09	**-0.34**	0.17	0.47	0.31	**0.60**	**0.60**		**0.31**	**-0.11**	0.31	0.09	-0.01	0.28
$[Fe]_{d}$	0.18	-0.32	-0.19	-0.02	0.16	-0.04	**-0.33**	0.34	0.24	0.05	**0.34**	**0.51**	**0.38**		0.16	0.75	**0.44**	0.19	0.32
$[Fe]_{o}$	0.13	**-0.41**	-0.26	0.02	0.24	-0.10	**-0.36**	0.27	**0.35**	0.17	**0.52**	**0.37**	**0.46**	0.39		-0.09	**0.40**	**0.53**	**-0.36**
$[Fe]_{do}$	0.12	-0.15	-0.04	-0.03	0.05	0.02	-0.20	0.27	0.06	-0.08	0.10	0.31	0.15	0.66	0.05		0.25	-0.03	**0.49**
$[Al]_{d}$	0.28	-0.15	-0.25	0.03	0.12	-0.24	-0.22	0.35	0.10	0.00	**0.28**	0.32	0.21	**0.49**	**0.43**	0.32		0.66	0.02
$[Al]_{o}$	0.19	-0.19	-0.29	0.04	0.20	-0.20	-0.19	0.30	0.10	0.08	**0.37**	0.23	0.26	0.25	**0.56**	0.01	0.62		-0.32
$[Al]_{do}$	0.05	0.08	0.18	-0.04	-0.14	0.03	-0.04	0.05	-0.03	-0.19	-0.17	0.03	-0.09	0.18	**-0.31**	**0.43**	-0.03	-0.41	

High activity clay soils

	0.30	-0.03	0.02	-0.01	**-0.29**	**0.06**	**0.19**	-0.20	0.08	**0.08**	0.21	0.02	0.14	0.05	0.08	0.29	0.17	-0.01	[C]
0.15		0.33	-0.15	-0.32	-0.17	**0.39**	-0.21	**-0.37**	-0.20	**-0.40**	**-0.35**	**-0.56**	-0.13	**-0.31**	0.00	0.03	-0.12	0.15	CN
-0.32	-0.03		-0.13	-0.61	-0.05	0.08	-0.11	-0.04	-0.33	**-0.28**	**-0.32**	**-0.41**	-0.02	-0.21	0.06	-0.20	-0.27	0.23	T_{a}
0.31	0.16	-0.70		0.02	-0.19	-0.11	0.18	0.03	-0.12	0.08	-0.03	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.18	0.18	-0.08	P_{a}
0.26	-0.33	-0.40	0.31		0.19	-0.01	0.04	0.01	**0.40**	0.29	0.22	**0.44**	0.02	0.15	-0.01	0.05	0.18	-0.18	E_{v}
-0.17	0.33	0.00	0.09	-0.45		**-0.07**	**-0.10**	0.16	0.21	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.03	-0.08	0.10	-0.33	-0.30	0.15	D_{b}
-0.24	**0.09**	0.19	-0.12	-0.24	**0.22**		-0.43	-0.63	-0.01	**-0.28**	**-0.30**	**-0.31**	**-0.18**	**-0.19**	-0.06	0.02	0.03	-0.03	sand
0.00	-0.03	0.19	-0.03	0.12	**-0.56**	-0.33		0.05	-0.04	**0.21**	0.32	0.19	0.26	0.18	0.13	0.20	0.18	-0.06	clay
0.23	**-0.11**	-0.32	0.19	0.35	-0.22	-0.87	0.20		0.01	0.25	0.13	0.30	0.03	**0.11**	-0.02	-0.15	-0.12	0.05	silt
-0.03	0.55	0.26	-0.16	**-0.47**	0.34	0.37	-0.06	-0.42		0.32	0.32	**0.43**	**0.08**	0.22	-0.05	-0.02	0.09	-0.17	pH
0.43	**-0.04**	**-0.23**	0.20	-0.01	0.06	**-0.11**	**-0.14**	0.18	-0.25		**0.35**	**0.65**	**0.13**	**0.41**	-0.09	**0.06**	**0.26**	-0.24	I_{E}
0.24	**-0.45**	**-0.22**	0.15	0.48	-0.34	**-0.45**	0.15	0.53	-0.65	**0.41**		**0.51**	**0.36**	**0.25**	0.21	0.19	0.12	0.00	$[P]_{t}$
0.00	**-0.03**	**0.03**	-0.18	**0.18**	-0.30	**-0.15**	0.09	0.29	**0.09**	**-0.08**	**0.27**		**0.16**	**0.41**	-0.06	0.03	0.22	-0.24	TRB
0.26	-0.16	0.08	-0.34	0.10	-0.11	**0.20**	-0.14	-0.22	**0.11**	**-0.01**	**-0.08**	**0.02**		0.20	0.62	**0.39**	0.10	0.19	$[Fe]_{d}$
-0.06	**-0.32**	-0.04	-0.04	0.01	0.16	**-0.17**	0.05	**0.03**	-0.12	**-0.05**	**-0.02**	**-0.26**	0.20		-0.18	**0.33**	**0.58**	**-0.46**	$[Fe]_{o}$
0.13	0.00	0.40	-0.39	-0.10	-0.23	0.24	0.06	-0.26	0.18	-0.04	-0.06	0.24	0.36	-0.45		0.20	-0.16	**0.49**	$[Fe]_{do}$
0.15	0.08	0.29	-0.13	-0.13	0.05	-0.12	0.36	-0.02	0.29	**0.04**	0.12	0.00	**0.21**	**0.14**	0.21		0.58	-0.12	$[Al]_{d}$
0.27	-0.03	0.06	0.05	0.15	-0.04	0.13	0.20	-0.18	0.12	**-0.02**	0.16	0.16	0.38	**-0.02**	0.45	0.48		-0.54	$[Al]_{o}$
-0.18	-0.06	0.13	-0.20	-0.06	-0.22	-0.16	-0.09	0.22	-0.22	-0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.29	**0.14**	**-0.30**	-0.21	-0.73		$[Al]_{do}$
[C]	CN	T_{a}	P_{a}	E_{v}	D_{b}	sand	clay	silt	pH	I_{E}	$[P]_{t}$	TRB	$[Fe]_{d}$	$[Fe]_{o}$	$[Fe]_{do}$	$[Al]_{d}$	$[Al]_{o}$	$[Al]_{do}$	

Arenic soils

Table 3. Kendall's τ correlations between a wide range of soil and climate properties potentially involved in differences in soil carbon storage. Four one sided correlation matrices are shown *viz.* for each of the Arenic, LAC and HAC clusters as well as for the (combined) dataset as a whole. Here, with $n > 30$ for the LAC and HAC clusters we have indicated in bold all cases where $\tau > 0.30$ for these two groupings (as well as the combined dataset) with this associating roughly with the probability of Type-II error being less than 0.05. For the Arenic soil cluster with $n = 13$ the equivalent value is $\tau > 0.52$ and in all cases where one or more of the four grouping has $p > 0.05$, we have indicated – using different colours to help cross-referencing across the four diagonal matrices.

Table 4. Summary of OLS regression coefficients for soil organic carbon and texture associations.

	b	*s.e.*	*β*	*t*	*p*	*Lower*	*Upper*
a. **LAC soils: $r^2 = 0.57$, $p < 0.001$, $AIC = 292.1$**							
intercept	9.56	1.03	—	9.31	0.000	7.50	11.62
Clay fraction	17.91	2.15	0.762	8.32	0.000	13.60	22.24
b. **LAC soils: $r^2 = 0.61$, $p < 0.001$, $AIC = 288.6$**							
intercept	8.50	1.08	—	7.84	0.000	6.32	10.68
clay fraction	16.58	2.13	0.716	7.75	0.000	12.24	20.89
silt fraction	14.39	6.19	0.212	2.32	0.024	1.94	26.83
c. **LAC soils: $r^2 = 0.61$, $p < 0.001$, $AIC = 286.7$**							
intercept	8.44	1.06	-	7.96	0.000	6.32	10.57
(clay + silt) fractions	16.23	1.79	0.789	9.07	0.000	12.63	19.82
d. **HAC soils: $r^2 = 0.00$, $p < 0.335$, $AIC = 628.2$**							
intercept	16.16	3.21	—	5.04	0.000	9.78	22.54
clay fraction	9.58	9.87	0.088	0.97	0.335	-10.07	29.22
e. **HAC soils: $r^2 = 0.05$, $p < 0.006$, $AIC = 625.3$**							
intercept	21.67	4.02	—	5.41	0.000	13.70	29.69
clay fraction	9.26	9.64	0.088	0.96	0.340	-9.94	28.44
silt fraction	-16.29	7.40	-0.196	-2.21	0.037	-31.03	-1.55
f. **HAC soils: $r^2 = 0.05$, $p < 0.259$, $AIC = 627.8$**							
intercept	23.36	4.03	—	5.81	0.000	15.35	31.37
(clay + silt) fractions	-6.87	6.04	-0.103	-1.14	0.259	-18.90	5.16
g. **Arenic soils: $r^2 = 0.07$, $p < 0.206$, $AIC = 119.92$**							
intercept	8.35	14.55	—	0.574	0.579	-24.07	40.77
clay fraction	431.39	319.17	0.352	1.352	0.206	-279.75	1142.5
h. **Arenic soils: $r^2 = 0.23$, $p < 0.119$ $AIC = 118.26$**							
intercept	-0.38	14.04	—	-0.03	0.979	-32.13	31.38
clay fraction	143.77	80.24	0.254	1.79	0.107	-37.75	325.30
silt fraction	228.66	310.22	0.254	0.74	0.480	-473.18	930.39
i. **Arenic soils: $r^2 = 0.31$, $p < 0.035$ $AIC = 116.34$**							
intercept	1.09	12.08	—	0.09	0.930	-25.84	28.01
(clay + silt) fractions	154.67	63.43	0.225	2.44	0.035	13.26	296.07
j. **All soils: $r^2 = 0.01$, $p < 0.13$, $AIC = 1154.3$**							
intercept	16.14	1.96	—	8.220	0.000	12.25	20.15
clay fraction	7.98	5.23	0.106	1.524	0.130	-2.37	18.32
k. **All soils: $r^2 = 0.00$, $p < 0.32$, $AIC = 1156.3$**							
intercept	15.96	2.43	—	6.58	0.000	11.18	20.79
clay fraction	7.98	5.25	0.106	1.52	0.131	-2.41	18.36
silt fraction	0.68	6.01	0.007	0.10	0.917	-11.25	12.51
l. **All soils: $r^2 = 0.01$, $p < 0.23$, $AIC = 1155.2$**							
intercept	16.01	2.43	-	6.59	0.000	11.20	20.80
(clay + silt) fractions	4.80	3.96	0.084	1.21	0.228	-3.03	12.63

Table 5. Summary of OLS regression coefficients for soil organic carbon and dithionite extractable Al.

	b	*s.e.*	β	*t*	*p*	*Lower*	*Upper*
m. **LAC soils: $r^2 = 0.27$, $p < 0.0001$, $AIC = 30.26$**							
intercept	2.36	0.100	—	23.69	0.000	2.16	2.57
$[\mathrm{Al}]_d$	0.372	0.084		4.39	0.000	0.201	0.542
n. **HAC soils: $r^2 = 0.23$, $p < 0.0001$, $AIC = 95.83$**							
intercept	2.50	0.08	—	31.25	0.000	2.34	2.66
log $[\mathrm{Al}]_d$	0.300	0.060		5.00	0.000	0.180	0.419
o. **Arenic soils: $r^2 = 0.09$, p ~~<~~ = 0.17, $AIC = 37.05$**							
intercept	3.42	0.433	-	7.96	0.000	2.47	4.38
$[\mathrm{Al}]_d$	0.343	0.236		0.17	0.174	-0.176	0.863
p. **All soils: $r^2 = 0.08$, $p < 0.0004$, $AIC = 200.18$**							
intercept	2.69	0.052		52.13	0.000	2.59	2.79
$[\mathrm{Al}]_d$	0.141	0.039		3.65	0.000	0.06	0.217

Table 6. Summary of OLS regression coefficients for soil organic carbon in HAC soils.

	b	*s.e.*	*β*	*t*	*p*	*Lower*	*Upper*	*VIF*
q. **HAC soils: log[C] (mg g^{-1}), r^2 = 0.32, $p < 0.001$, *AIC* = 78.09**								
intercept	1.490	0.313	—	4.77	0.000	0.867	2.113	
pH	0.241	0.066	0.359	3.66	0.000	0.109	0.372	1.18
log $[Al]_d$ (mg g^{-1})	0.403	0.071	0.673	5.66	0.000	0.261	0.544	1.62
log $[Fe]_o$ (mg g^{-1})	-0.156	0.055	-0.347	-2.84	0.006	-0.266	-0.047	1.72
r. **HAC soils: log[C] (mg g^{-1}), r^2 = 0.55, $p < 0.001$, *AIC* = 46.42**								
intercept	-1.387	0.522	—	-2.56	0.010	-2.429	-0.344	
pH	0.262	0.054	0.399	4.91	0.000	0.155	0.368	1.18
log $[Al]_d$ (mg g^{-1})	0.314	0.059	0.524	5.30	0.000	0.195	0.432	1.71
log $[Fe]_o$ (mg g^{-1})	-0.010	0.050	-0.018	-0.20	0.844	-0.110	0.090	2.19
Soil C:N ratio ~~(g g^{-1})~~	1.132	0.181	0.567	6.29	0.000	0.777	1.500	1.36
s. **HAC soils: log[C] (mg g^{-1}), r^2 = 0.56, $p < 0.001$, *AIC* = 44.46**								
intercept	-1.417	0.496	—	-2.85	0.006	-2.406	-0.426	
pH	0.259	0.050	0.395	5.12	0.000	0.158	0.359	1.08
log $[Al]_d$ (mg g^{-1})	0.307	0.045	0.513	6.78	0.000	0.216	0.396	1.01
Soil C:N ratio ~~(g g^{-1})~~	1.155	0.160	-0.573	-7.24	0.000	0.837	1.474	1.07

Table 7. Summary of coefficients from OLS regression models for HAC soils. Interactions of soil organic carbon, soil pH, leaf litter lignin content (Л) and dithionite extractable Al.

	b	*s.e.*	*β*	*t*	*p*	*Lower*	*Upper*	*VIF*
t. **HAC soils: log[C] (mg g^{-1}), $r^2 = 0.38$, $p < 0.001$, $AIC = 42.37$**								
intercept	0.887	0.482	—	1.84	0.073	-0.090	1.864	
pH	0.286	0.091	0.395	3.13	0.003	0.101	0.471	1.09
log [Al]$_d$ (mg g^{-1})	0.469	0.107	0.673	4.37	0.000	0.251	0.687	1.58
log [Fe]$_o$ (mg g^{-1})	-0.055	0.087	-0.092	-0.63	0.532	-0.233	0.122	1.47
u. **HAC soils: log[C] (mg g^{-1}), $r^2 = 0.46$, $p < 0.001$, $AIC = 38.77$**								
intercept	-0.488	2.556	—	-1.91	0.064	-10.07	0.300	
pH	0.318	0.087	0.449	3.62	0.000	0.140	0.496	1.12
log [Al]$_d$ (mg g^{-1})	0.415	0.104	0.584	3.97	0.000	0.203	0.626	1.70
log [Fe]$_o$ (mg g^{-1})	0.019	0.089	0.006	0.22	0.830	-0.161	0.200	1.70
log [Λ] (mg g^{-1})	0.942	0.410	0.341	2.29	0.027	0.109	1.774	1.20
v. **HAC soils: log[C] (mg g^{-1}), $r^2 = 0.47$, $p < 0.001$, $AIC = 36.83$**								
intercept	-4.676	2..340	—	-2.00	0.054	-9.417	0.065	
pH	0.319	0.086	0.452	3.70	0.000	0.143	0.494	1.12
log [Al]$_d$ (mg g^{-1})	0.428	0.083	0.618	5.18	0.000	0.261	0.595	1.07
log [Λ] (mg g^{-1})	0.909	0.377	0.323	2.41	0.021	-0.145	1.674	1.04

Low Activity Clay Soils

All soils combined

	[C]	CN	$[C]_{cs}$	$[C]_r$	$[C]_{sa}$	$[C]_{pom}$	$[C]_{doc}$	sand	clay	silt	pH	I_E	TRB	$[Fe]_d$	$[Fe]_o$	$[Fe]_{do}$	$[Al]_d$	$[Al]_o$	$Ч_1$	$Ч_2$
[C]		-0.03	0.24	0.33	0.55	0.55	0.48	-0.67	0.64	0.30	-0.03	0.33	0.12	0.53	-0.09	0.55	0.61	-0.03	-0.48	-0.52
CN	0.20		0.30	0.39	-0.18	0.00	0.30	-0.24	0.21	-0.06	-0.45	0.21	-0.61	-0.14	0.09	-0.24	-0.06	0.15	0.12	0.03
$[C]_{cs}$	0.43	-0.09		0.79	-0.21	0.21	0.45	-0.27	0.24	0.45	-0.36	0.36	-0.27	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.33	0.00	0.03	-0.24
$[C]_r$	0.49	0.07	0.56		-0.12	0.42	0.55	-0.36	0.33	0.30	-0.33	0.39	-0.36	0.08	0.03	0.12	0.30	0.03	0.00	-0.27
$[C]_{sa}$	0.42	0.42	-0.10	-0.01		0.15	0.27	-0.52	0.55	0.03	0.18	0.30	0.15	0.44	-0.06	0.39	0.27	0.06	-0.39	-0.48
$[C]_{pom}$	0.44	0.20	0.42	0.31	0.10		0.21	-0.33	0.30	0.27	-0.06	0.18	0.03	0.29	-0.24	0.39	0.33	-0.24	-0.21	-0.18
$[C]_{doc}$	0.68	0.33	0.32	0.46	0.48	0.17		-0.52	0.61	0.03	-0.24	0.48	-0.27	0.26	0.00	0.27	0.39	0.06	-0.39	-0.55
sand	-0.31	0.18	-0.27	-0.32	-0.05	-0.03	-0.29		-0.91	-0.21	0.18	-0.48	0.21	-0.44	-0.06	-0.33	-0.52	-0.12	0.27	0.55
clay	0.34	-0.06	0.11	0.32	0.23	-0.14	0.48	-0.66		0.12	-0.21	0.52	-0.18	0.41	0.09	0.30	0.48	0.15	-0.30	-0.64
silt	0.01	-0.27	0.43	0.15	-0.31	0.15	-0.12	-0.32	-0.02		0.06	0.06	0.15	0.29	0.24	0.15	0.33	-0.06	0.15	-0.24
pH	-0.07	-0.53	0.17	-0.01	-0.32	0.01	-0.21	-0.06	-0.06	0.33		-0.33	0.30	-0.23	-0.03	-0.18	-0.18	0.03	0.00	-0.09
I_E	0.20	-0.34	0.37	0.31	-0.09	0.13	0.11	-0.41	0.35	0.16	0.32		-0.36	0.11	-0.03	0.18	0.12	0.09	-0.18	-0.33
TRB	0.02	-0.66	0.35	0.17	-0.35	-0.02	-0.15	-0.25	0.15	0.40	0.58	0.42		0.29	-0.06	0.33	0.09	-0.30	-0.21	0.12
$[Fe]_d$	0.29	-0.25	0.16	0.38	0.01	-0.04	0.27	-0.38	0.49	0.03	0.13	0.34	0.34		0.08	0.69	0.72	-0.14	-0.32	-0.35
$[Fe]_o$	0.03	-0.32	0.24	0.32	-0.23	-0.04	0.02	-0.32	0.34	0.16	0.22	0.40	0.42	0.47		-0.24	0.24	0.58	0.24	-0.15
$[Fe]_{do}$	0.21	-0.19	-0.01	0.20	0.15	-0.20	0.26	-0.24	0.37	-0.15	-0.01	0.17	0.15	0.58	0.04		0.45	-0.30	-0.52	-0.24
$Al]_d$	0.21	-0.01	-0.02	0.24	0.19	-0.18	0.32	-0.36	0.55	-0.09	-0.15	0.15	0.05	0.64	0.34	0.43		0.12	-0.33	-0.61
$[Al]_o$	0.09	-0.02	-0.01	0.22	0.10	-0.20	0.22	-0.32	0.47	-0.03	-0.06	0.22	0.07	0.32	0.53	0.11	0.63		0.12	-0.27
$Ч_1$	-0.16	-0.22	0.28	-0.03	-0.44	0.20	-0.35	0.10	-0.31	0.34	0.39	0.04	0.29	-0.20	0.04	-0.32	-0.46	-0.35		0.30
$Ч_2$	-0.35	-0.16	-0.09	-0.30	-0.22	-0.13	-0.35	0.26	-0.30	0.09	0.12	0.03	0.15	-0.26	-0.03	-0.19	-0.28	-0.08	0.10	

High activity clay soils

[C]	CN	$[C]_{cs}$	$[C]_r$	$[C]_{sa}$	$[C]_{pom}$	$[C]_{doc}$	sand	clay	silt	pH	I_E	TRB	$[Fe]_d$	$[Fe]_o$	$[Fe]_{do}$	$[Al]_d$	$[Al]_o$	$Ч_1$	$Ч_2$	
	0.10	0.74	0.62	0.43	0.72	0.73	-0.26	0.49	0.10	0.36	0.72	0.49	0.38	0.28	-0.05	0.18	0.18	0.23	-0.26	[C]
0.40		-0.05	0.28	0.37	0.18	0.25	0.44	-0.21	-0.33	-0.28	-0.08	-0.31	0.05	0.10	-0.03	0.15	0.21	-0.41	0.18	CN
1.00	0.40		0.56	0.22	0.67	0.60	-0.36	0.59	0.21	0.31	0.62	0.64	0.38	0.38	-0.05	0.23	0.23	0.49	-0.31	$[C]_{cs}$
0.80	0.60	0.80		0.19	0.44	0.76	-0.13	0.41	-0.03	0.18	0.44	0.36	0.62	0.41	0.13	0.41	0.31	0.10	-0.49	$[C]_r$
0.60	0.40	0.60	0.40		0.45	0.32	0.17	-0.04	-0.12	0.19	0.25	-0.09	0.04	-0.04	0.01	-0.06	-0.09	-0.09	0.14	$[C]_{sa}$
1.00	0.40	1.00	0.80	0.60		0.54	-0.23	0.36	0.08	0.18	0.49	0.31	0.36	0.51	-0.28	0.31	0.41	0.15	-0.13	$[C]_{po}$
1.00	0.40	1.00	0.80	0.60	1.00		-0.09	0.41	-0.07	0.30	0.60	0.38	0.49	0.36	0.09	0.17	0.20	0.12	-0.30	$[C]_{doc}$
-0.60	-0.40	-0.60	-0.40	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60		-0.56	-0.69	-0.33	-0.33	-0.51	-0.10	-0.26	0.18	0.00	-0.15	-0.41	0.33	sand
0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.60	0.20	0.20	-0.60		0.26	0.31	0.41	0.64	0.28	0.44	-0.15	0.13	0.28	0.49	-0.46	clay
0.60	0.40	0.60	0.40	0.60	0.60	0.60	-1.00	0.60		0.33	0.23	0.36	-0.05	0.05	-0.08	-0.10	0.10	0.21	-0.13	silt
0.32	0.53	0.32	0.53	-0.11	0.32	0.32	0.11	-0.53	-0.11		0.59	0.56	0.26	0.00	0.18	-0.05	-0.10	0.46	-0.23	pH
0.11	0.11	0.11	-0.11	0.53	0.11	0.11	-0.11	0.11	0.11	0.00		0.56	0.26	0.21	-0.08	0.00	0.05	0.36	-0.13	I_E
0.60	0.00	0.60	0.40	0.20	0.60	0.60	-0.60	0.60	0.60	-0.11	-0.32		0.28	0.23	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.64	-0.36	TRB
0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.20	-0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	-0.53	0.40		0.44	0.21	0.64	0.28	0.13	-0.62	$[Fe]_d$
-0.60	-0.40	-0.60	-0.40	-1.00	-0.60	-0.60	0.60	-0.60	-0.60	0.11	-0.53	-0.20	0.40		-0.36	0.49	0.74	0.08	-0.36	$[Fe]_o$
0.60	0.00	0.60	0.40	0.60	0.60	0.60	-0.20	0.60	0.20	-0.11	0.11	0.60	0.00	-0.60		0.05	-0.41	0.05	-0.23	$[Fe]_{do}$
0.00	-0.60	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	-0.11	-0.11	0.40	0.60	0.00	0.40		0.49	0.03	-0.36	$Al]_d$
0.60	0.00	0.60	0.40	0.60	0.60	0.60	-0.20	0.60	0.20	-0.11	0.11	0.60	0.00	-0.60	1.00	0.40		-0.03	-0.15	$[Al]_o$
-0.20	0.00	-0.20	0.00	-0.60	-0.20	-0.20	0.20	-0.60	-0.20	0.53	-0.53	-0.20	0.40	0.60	-0.60	0.00	-0.60		-0.21	$Ч_1$
0.00	-0.20	0.00	-0.20	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	-0.74	0.32	0.00	-0.60	-0.40	0.40	-0.20	0.40	-0.80		$Ч_2$

Arenic Soils

Table 8. Kendall's τ correlations for soil organic carbon fractions and a range of soil and mineralogical properties.– Four one sided correlation matrices are shown *viz.* for each of the Arenic, LAC and HAC clusters as well as for the (combined) dataset as a whole. Data shown here is a subset of our entire dataset (*n* > 30). We have indicated in bold all cases where the probability of Type-II error being less than 0.05. For the entire dataset, a τ > 0.22 is associated to a probability of $p < 0.05$. For the HAC soil cluster with *n* = 13 the equivalent value is τ > 0.36 and for LAC, with n = 12 the value is τ > 0.39. For the Arenic soil cluster, with only n = 5, the associated probability of $p < 0.05$ requires a τ > 0.80.– In all cases where one or more of the four grouping has *p* > 0.05, we have indicated – using different colours to help cross-referencing across the four diagonal matrices.

Table 9. Mean soil organic carbon stocks (0-30 cm) for 12 RGS examined in this study. Stocks from (Batjes, 1996)~~Batjes, (1996)~~ are also given for comparison.

RSG	*n*	Soil carbon concentration		Soil carbon stock		SOTER-LAC estimated soil carbon stock	
		Mean (mg g^{-1})	C.V.	Mean (t ha^{-1})	C.V.	Mean (t ha^{-1})	C.V.
Acrisol	18	16.3	0.35	49.5	0.27	44.0	0.50
Alisol	20	16.6	0.28	45.6	0.27	85.7	0.42
Arenosol	6	12.3	0.23	29.6	0.31	20.7	0.50
Cambisol	19	21.3	0.63	58.9	0.39	55.9	0.61
Ferralsol	34	17.1	0.35	47.3	0.26	50.5	0.48
Fluvisol	5	21.0	0.33	54.6	0.33	34.2	0.52
Gleysol	10	24.5	1.03	70.1	0.84	67.4	0.62
Leptosol	2	32.0	0.75	115.2	0.63	51.5	0.63
Lixosol	3	21.9	0.36	65.4	0.17	38.5	0.45
Luvisol	2	15.3	0.57	43.8	0.46	46.7	0.51
Plinthosol	18	14.2	0.40	41.1	0.44	34.0	0.48
Podzol	7	48.3	0.92	98.9	1.32	54.9	0.54