

Thank you for your submission the SOIL-D: “Combined application of animal manure and straw benefit soil fauna community in dryland farming.” Two peer reviewers have provided feedback in agreement that the manuscript has scientific merit, but there are major underlying concerns.

1. The most major of these is clarification around the litter bag approach. This approach provides limits in how these data are interpreted and their significance for understanding soil invertebrate communities in active agricultural fields.

**Answer:** In the study, the soil invertebrates' communities are the ones inside the nylon bags, representative of the invertebrates' community by selected colonisation of the organisms that inhabit the surrounding soil (exchange/movement with the surrounding environment through the 2 mm mesh).

2. There is also concern around how taxa from different taxonomic levels (e.g. sub-phyla, family, genus) are presented throughout the paper. In addition, further clarification around how richness, diversity, and abundance are interpreted from the data would strengthen the manuscript. These are major concerns and require extensive revisions, including rewriting sections and rebuilding tables and figures.

**Answer:** these have been corrected.

Fauna description			S		SO		SC		Individuals
Order	Family	Genus	Individuals	Domiance (%)	Individuals	Domiance (%)	Individuals	Domiance (%)	
	Araneae		243	+++	382	+++	304	++	232
	Astigmata		272	+++	244	++	582	+++	454
	Actinedida		215	++	133	++	277	++	262
	Oribatida		638	+++	1013	+++	1421	+++	904
Homoptera	Aphididae		0		2	+	15	+	7
Hymenoptera	Formicidae		1	+	6	+	18	+	45
Diptera	Tipulidae		3	+	0	+	14	+	22
	Scutigerellidae		0		4	+	6	+	5
Tubificida	Enchytraeidae		3	+	2	+	9	+	10
	Carabidae		1	+	2	+	3	+	2
Coleoptera	Staphilinidae		1	+	2	+	8	+	4
	Staphylinidae		1	+	7	+	5	+	3
	Sminthuridae	<i>Sminthurus</i>	0		0		3	+	26
Symphypleona	Onychiuridae	<i>Onychiurus</i>	1	+	13	+	11	+	30
	Neanuridae	<i>Protanura</i>	5	+	3	+	4	+	3
		<i>Neanura</i>	8	+	6	+	2	+	3
	Hypogastruridae	<i>Hypogastrura</i>	9	+	32	++	11	+	14
Poduromorpha	Isotomidae	<i>Proisotoma</i>	0		4	+	11	+	8
		<i>Isotoma</i>	17	+	33	++	25	+	10
	Entomobryomorpha	<i>Folsomia</i>	278	+++	172	++	602	+++	757
		<i>Desoria</i>	301	+++	409	+++	391	++	309

	Entomobryidae	<i>Lepidocyrtus</i>	0		17	+	25	+	14
		<i>Entomobrya</i>	156	++	157	++	294	++	498
Morpho-richness			18		21		23		23
Total Individual			2153		2643		4041		3622

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3. In addition, both reviewers provide extensive comments and questions within annotated pdfs of the original submission

**Answer:** these have been corrected.