

Comments to the author:

Thank you for carefully revising your manuscript. As your manuscript is about biocrusts, which may present different characteristics as compared to soil aggregates taken from mineral soils, I suggest that you remove the first part of your introduction, which deal with soil aggregates in general (l. 1-61).

The conclusions need to be improved. They should be more synthetic instead of just summarizing the results. The second sentence could be changed to We show that biocrusts play a role in soil aggregate stability along the climate gradient with effects on.....(here all effects should be listed including those of the third paragraph). Thereafter the conclusions should be drawn.

Dear Reviewer,

We appreciate the interest and the time spent to improve our manuscript. We agree with the suggested changes, so we have included them in the new version of the manuscript.

Kind regards,

Nicolás Riveras-Muñoz, on behalf of all co-authors