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Supplement of

A comparison of patterns of microbial C : N : P stoichiometry between topsoil and subsoil along an aridity gradient

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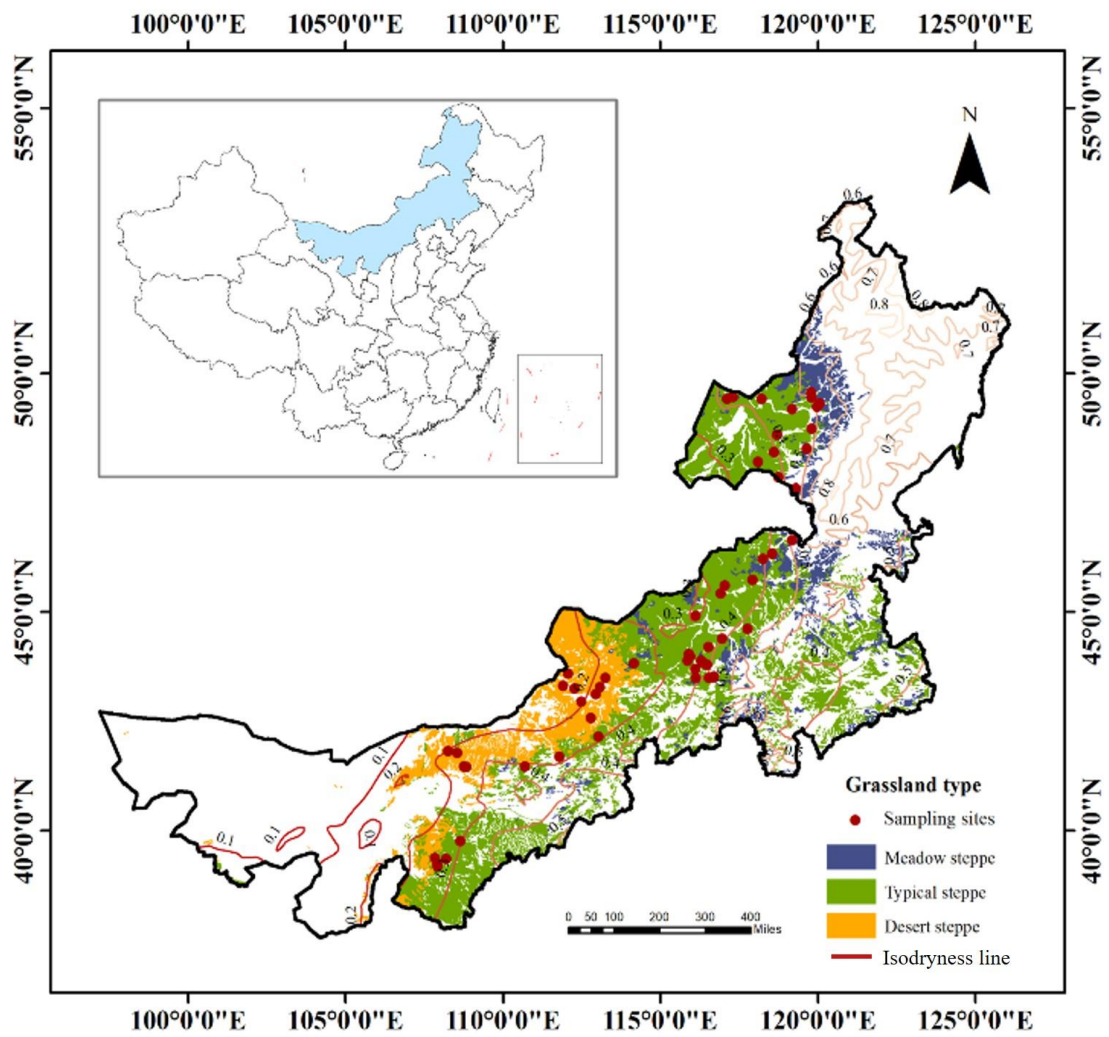


Figure S1. Geographic locations of the sampling sites in the Inner Mongolian grassland

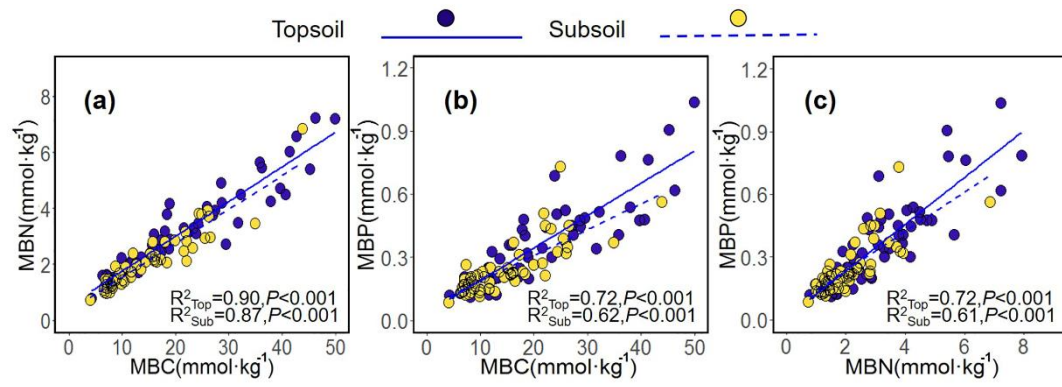


Figure S2. Relationships between the soil microbial biomass C, N and P concentrations

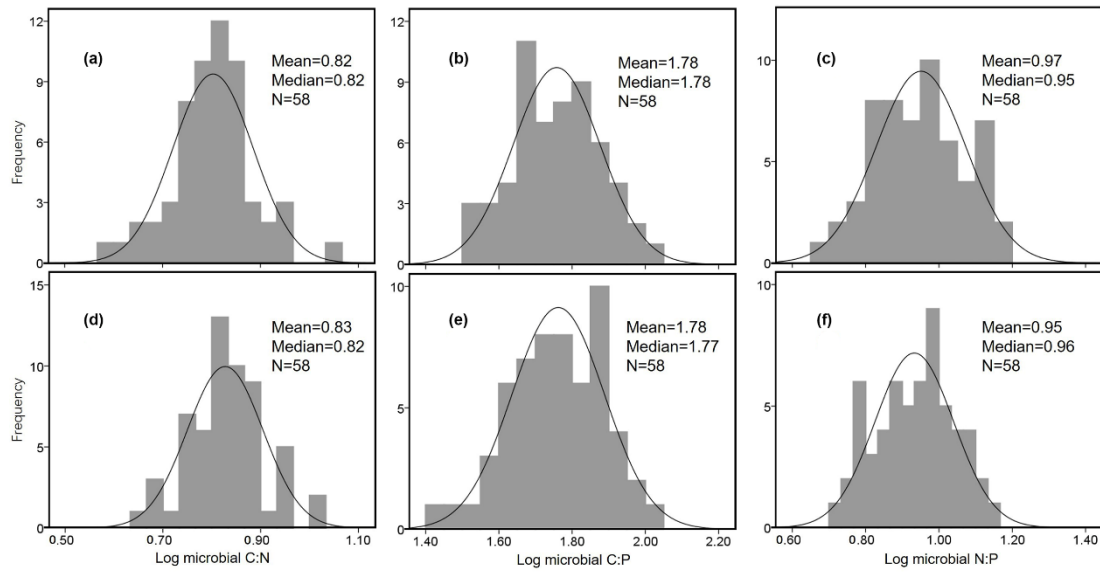


Figure S3. Histograms showing the frequency distributions of the soil microbial C:N, C:P and N:P ratios in the topsoil (a-c) and the subsoil (d-f)

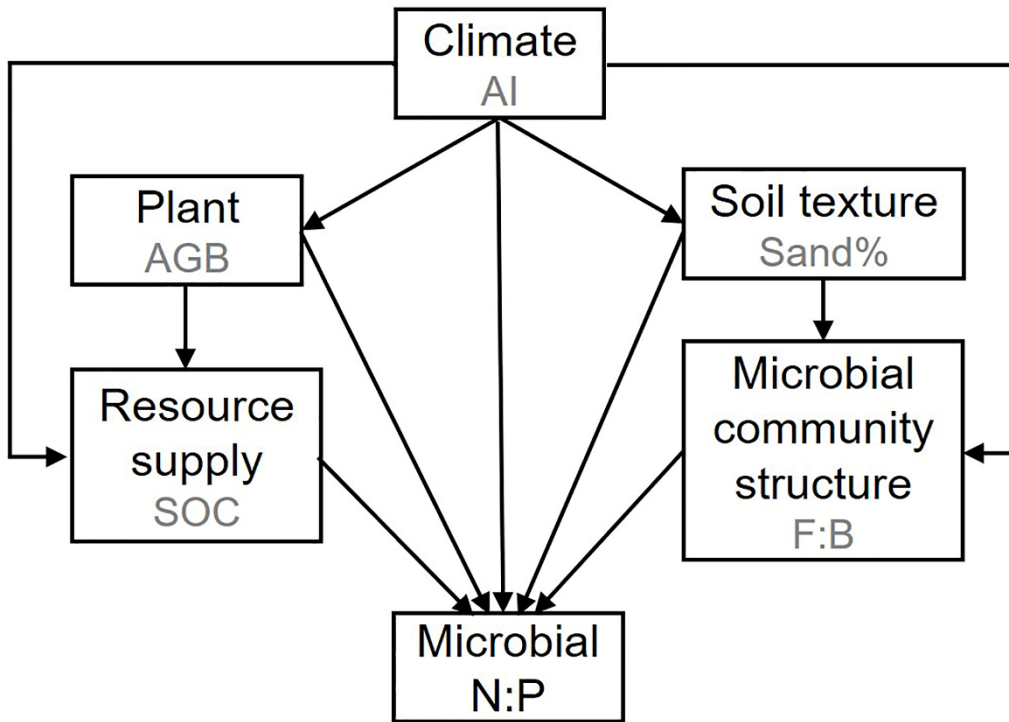


Figure S4. Hypothetical model showing how ecological factors affect microbial C:N:P stoichiometry

Table S1. References to support the hypothetical models

Pathway	Interpretation	Reference
SOC → Microbial C:N:P	Influence of SOC on microbial C:N:P stoichiometry	(Hartman et al., 2013; Maria et al., 2014; Mooshammer et al.,2014)
AGB → Microbial C:N:P	Plant necromass represents the fundamental resource for microbes to maintain element balance	(Cleveland et al., 2007; Aponte et al., 2010; Manzoni et al., 2010; Li et al., 2012; Zechmeister-Boltenstern et al., 2016)
AI→Microbial C:N:P	Influence of increasing temperature on microbial C and N cycle	(Wang et al., 2014; Zechmeister-Boltenstern et al., 2016; Chen et al., 2016)
Sand percentage → Microbial C:N:P	Influence of soil texture associated water-holding capacity and nutrient availability on microbial C:N:P ratios	(Cleveland et al., 2007; Xu et al., 2013; Maria et al., 2014; Li et al., 2015; Zechmeister-Boltenstern et al., 2016)
F:B ratio→ Microbial C:N:P	Influence of a shift in the composition of microbial community on microbial C:N:P ratios	(Ross et al.,1993; Cleveland et al.,2007; Aponte et al., 2010; Tischer et al., 2014; Zechmeister-Boltenstern et al., 2016; Chen et al., 2016)

