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# *Interactive comment on* "Stable soil organic carbon is positively linked to microbial-derived compounds in four plantations of subtropical China" *by* H. Wang et al.

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This is a soundly executed study and results are clearly presented. My concerns are mainly with some editorial and linguistic issues. Throughout the manuscript, the English grammar needs to be carefully checked. Specific comments and editorial corrections: P18095, L8-9: Give specific study location than simply a vague description of "subtropical China" P18095, L23: Insert "that are readily useable by bacterial communities" after "(O-alkyl C)" P18096, L6: Give the scientific name for "loop pine" P18096, L8: Referring to what component? Litter layer, surface soil layer, or a mixture of both? P18096, L28: all differ P18096, L29: were found to remain P18097, L8: omit "the"



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before “vegetation”, and remove “different” P18097, L15-19: quoted values for what specific time point or period? P18097, L23-24: enhancing P18097, L25: delete “replace” P18097, L28: in forest plantations with different tree species P18098, L1: In a previous study; in several broadleaf plantations P18098, L3: a pine plantation P18098, L4: 2010a). However, the P18098, L7: What are the four plantation types? P18098, L18-19: for Tropical Forestry of the Chinese . . . P18098, L19: replace “located in” with “in the outskirt of” P18098, L21-22: May through August P18099, L2-12: re-organize this part. Suggested revision “Four types of plantations were . . .; these plantations include . . .. The four tree species ...” P18099, L14: from March through September P18099, L22: coarse roots; fine roots . . . P18100, L1: the plantations studied P18100, L23: For the NMR analysis P18101, L9: is used as P18102, L5: Comparisons . . . P18102, L9: were made with Duncan’s multiple-range test P18102, L17-21: Why not incorporating these information in Table 1 so that comparisons with C chemical compositions in litter and roots can be easily visualized? P18103, L16: total PLFAs of soil microbial community P18103, L18: What do you mean by “the control plots”? They are not described in your experimental design or setup. P18104, L1: Total PLFAs of soil microbial community P18104, L2: were all positively correlated with . . . P18104, L4: with either . . . or . . . P18104, L9: three broadleaf plantations P18104, L13: Similar differences P18104, L16-18: Confusing sentence. Please revise for clarity P18104, L26: not correlated with the initial . . . P18104, L27: may not be P18105, L1: primary driver of the differences P18105, L2: by the findings from a three-year P18105, L7: are likely P18105, L17: intermediate metabolites P18105, L18: significant differences P18105, L24: have been found to exist P18105, L25-29: This can be omitted as it does not bear direct relevance to your study P18106, L4: have been shown to be related P18106, L5: and microbial species dependent P18106, L10: is found to be higher P18106, L16: is linked P18106, L17: contain P18106, L21: are supported by the finding of greater . . . P18106, L26: Indicate Table 1: Spell out the full scientific names of the tree species and indicate general location of study sites Figures 1 – 4: Indicate the general location of study sites in captions



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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 18093, 2013.