

Interactive comment on “Distribution of ammonia oxidizers in relation to vegetation characteristics in the Qilian Mountains, northwestern China” *by* X. S. Tai et al.

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Authors investigated the distribution of ammonia oxidizers in relation to vegetation characteristics in the Qilian Mountains, northwestern China. They found that, compared with other alpine environments, Qilian Mountains had a great phylogenetic diversity of ammonia oxidizers. Characteristics of ammonia-oxidizing communities showed a close association with vegetation coverage. Actually it is good to select this mountain gradient to investigate microbial distribution. It provides additional and interesting datasets for biogeography of ammonia-oxidizing communities. It will be plus to prove the workable hypothesis drawn from this research by field manipulation experiments

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in the future research, and provides consolidate evidences on the consequences of global changes on the structure and diversity of ammonia-oxidizing communities in alpine ecosystem.

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