

## Report on Revised version

Although the authors have improved the manuscript, there still remains one contradictory argument and one vague paragraph in the discussion chapter.

L 230-234: I don't understand what do the authors want to say here? Definitely when a part of soil is inhabited by roots they will take up water and deposit C. What is contrasting here that the authors want to point to? I think it's pretty straight forward as is reflected in authors' own argument later in the discussion where they make a point that the water extraction from deep soil layers by plants is an indication that roots were present and depositing C thereby resulting in SOC sequestration.

L 240-260: This whole argument is vague and unclear. First of all, one is not sure which shoot:root ratio corresponds to which species? Moreover, I could not understand between which three parameters the 1:3:1 ratio is? Apparently, the authors estimated root biomass using a certain shoot:root ratio based on the measured aboveground biomass. Then they compared the sequestered SOC with the total estimated root biomass. But the authors continuously kept referring to estimated SOC (do they want to say estimated root biomass?) and the measured SOC. Honestly, I could not understand what were they saying.