



Interactive comment on “Sources of nitrous oxide emitted from European forest soils” by P. Ambus et al.

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I am very pleased with this manuscript and I congratulate the authors with the way they discussed the results. The manuscript handles up-to-date research and tackles a subject which is of recent interest: contribution of nitrification and Denitrification towards N₂O formation and emission. To me, the manuscript merits publication. A few items to consider: 1. The incubation has been done with cores of which the litter layer was removed. I understand that including the litter layer complicated the incubation, but, on the other hand, the litter layer definitely influences the top soil activity. It is known that after removal of the litter layer emission of e.g. NO is much higher. What about N₂O ? 2. All cores, independently of their origin, were incubated at the same temperature (15°C). I wonder if it was not better to incubate them at the temperature whereby they were sampled; that would probably reflect better the real microbial activity at that time. 3. Ref. Sorensen and Jensen (1991) is not in the list 4. Check ref. Smolander: 2005

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(pg. 1364) or 2004 (ref. list)

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