

## ***Interactive comment on “Biological control of the terrestrial carbon sink” by E.-D. Schulze***

### **Anonymous Referee #2**

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This article provides a well-written, concise and thorough review of many aspects of the role of terrestrial ecosystems in the global carbon cycle. In addition, the author's long involvement in the field allows him to provide insights into key discoveries and innovations that influenced the direction of research in the field. This historical perspective is extremely valuable in terms of understanding the development of the current state of knowledge and the way that science moves forward. The extensive and up to date literature review also provides a valuable resource for those interested in familiarizing themselves with the field.

My only suggestions for improvement are some very minor changes to wording and improved legibility of several figures.

Specific comments: Text p. 1288, Line 9: Do you mean: "CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is not the only control on the carbon balance" p. 1288, Line 26: It may be a matter of style, but I would remove commas. p. 1290, Line 11: Perhaps it might sound better to say "Where does a root end?" P. 1291, Line 18: Use either "although" or "but" but not

both. p. 1292, Line 25: Is it only one decade of acid rain? Not decades? P. 1293, Lines 14-22: I suggest numbering the different classes of disturbance 1-3. Also, the third class of events is worded a bit awkwardly with a comma that leads to confusion "disturbances contain events, where C and N are exported from the ecosystem". Aren't the disturbances the events, rather than containing them? Is there another way to word that? p. 1294, Line 22: I think the word "distract" should be replaced with "remove". p. 1296, Line 25: Remove "of" to leave "besides this". p. 1297, Line 4: Remove comma and word instead as "no consensus on how"

Figures: Figures 3, 19, 20 are all very hard to read. Figure 12A does not appear as the colors described in the text. Also, was this actually grown in a petri dish?

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discussions, 2, 1283, 2005.

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