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Comment

## ***Interactive comment on “The fate of N<sub>2</sub>O consumed in soils” by B. Vieten et al.***

**B. Vieten et al.**

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In previous experiments we had tested the organic layers of 3 forest sites for their potential N<sub>2</sub>O consumption. In contrast to mineral horizons and the investigated bog, we did not find any N<sub>2</sub>O consumption. The organic layers had low pH values and high C/N ratios (about 30) but were not water-saturated, not even periodically. The bog mentioned in the study is probably N limited as indicated by the sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) growing on it. The top 10 cm of its peat layer showed a relatively large N<sub>2</sub>O consumption rate in all our previous experiments. Due to this experience we had selected it for the technically more demanding treatment described in our study. We think that N limited, water saturated soils with high C/N ratios, like peat soils, may have a greater likelihood to assimilate N<sub>2</sub>O than other soils. So it would be interesting to repeat this study with other peat soils in future.

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