

***Interactive comment on* “Carbon isotope discrimination of C₃ vegetation in Central Asian Grassland as related to long-term and short-term precipitation patterns” by M. Wittmer et al.**

M. Wittmer et al.

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We have revised the manuscript carefully considering all advice and criticism offered by the reviewers. In particular, we followed all specific suggestions and recommendations of reviewer 1 (no specific changes were requested by reviewer 2). Also, all authors carefully read the text to make sure that no ambiguities, inaccuracies or errors remained in the manuscript. Below, we explain the changes made to the manuscript keyed to the reviewers' comments:

[1]

most of the rain falling in the summer..., the specific month are?

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Information added

varies from several hundred millimeters per year...,the specific number is?

The information is given in Fig. 1 and was not repeated to avoid redundancy.

is "forest steppe" right or should it be "meadow steppe"?

Forest steppe is the correct classification. We added a reference to this.

six samples of six C3 species?

This is correct

what's the mean of "the vegetation samples"?

The term "vegetation" was redundant and was deleted

The numbers of constants should be presented in the scientific forms, for example, 11707.12 10⁻⁹ should be 1.11707 10⁻⁵?

Changed as requested

[2]

The section of "Material and methods" should be further described concisely, some descriptions are redundant.

We revised the text and removed all redundant parts.

[3]

Data of ¹³Δ values for other C3 species and the biomass for the calculation of community-mean ¹³Δ determined in the study should be presented in the text or in the supplementary material.

Information was added as requested.

[4]

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Data of altitude from other published paper should be presented in Table 1.

Information was added as requested.

[5]

In Fig. 4, the P value for statistical significant level should be presented.

Information was added as requested.

[6]

In Fig.3-7, the regression equation should be presented in the form of $y = ax + b$.

Changed as requested

[7]

Results 3.1: What does the sentence "there was no relationship between $^{13}\Delta$ and the C/N ratio" account for in this text?

The rationale for this sentence was added.

[8]

The important problem in this manuscript is the language description, some descriptions are redundant, so the overall presentation should be concise and precise, and the English writing must be further improved.

We shortened the text where possible and verified that no ambiguities and inaccuracies remained in the text.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 5, 903, 2008.

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