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## ***Interactive comment on “Variations in leaf physiological properties within Amazon forest canopies” by J. Lloyd et al.***

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The paper has a very well-based theoretical foundation, and represents a huge body of data. The authors are to be congratulated.

My main problem with the work is that I would like to see how the N:P ratio of leaves in the rain forest compares with other leaves in other biomes. This would help to give context. There is an excellent review paper on the topic: Gusewell, S. 2004. N : P ratios in terrestrial plants: variation and functional significance. *New Phytologist* 164:243-266. It would be useful to see where the present data fall in relation to the data points of Fig 7 of that paper.

I have another, smaller, issue. The title of the paper is not entirely appropriate. The

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term 'physiological properties' suggests such processes as photosynthesis and respiration, whilst the paper mostly presents elemental analysis (albeit with an ecophysiological interpretation). The title could be improved upon.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 6, 4639, 2009.

**BGD**

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