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***Interactive comment on* “Shadow analysis of soil surface roughness compared to the chain set method and direct measurement of micro-relief” by R. García Moreno et al.**

Anonymous Referee #1

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The paper shows a new method for calculating the soil roughness. The authors show how the results are similar to other techniques already in use. The improvement produced by this new technique saves time, money and effort to ensure the collection of data. However, to enhance the article, it would be appropriate to correct the following paragraphs: ã On page 1027, in paragraph associated with line 10, the authors indicate that CV measures the variability and SD measures the dispersion. What is the difference? The difference between them is that SD measures the dispersion in absolute value, and therefore it depends on the units of measurement. Whereas CV measures it in relative terms (based on the mean value) and therefore it does not depend on measurement units. ã On page 1029, paragraph corresponding to the row

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25 says: "the exact hour was calculated according to the location and the day of the year". It would be more convenient to specify the way to get the exact time.  on page 1032, paragraph labelled with the row 25, said: Measurement x_i is the elevation at point i , and $Z(x)$ is the elevation at location x , Is it true the first thing? Is it true that x_i is an elevation? Is it not rather a location?  The straight lines of the figures 6 and 9 should be in a darker colour or the background of the graphics should be clearer. It is also desirable that the equation of the regression lines have a slightly higher size.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 7, 1021, 2010.

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7, C998–C999, 2010

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