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Biogeosciences Discussions

Interactive comment on "Decreased summer drought affects plant productivity and soil carbon dynamics in Mediterranean woodland" *by* M. F. Cotrufo et al.

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We are very pleased for the very positive comments of reviewer's 2 about our work. Also we fully understand his/her only remark: the lack of data on root biomass. As we responded to reviewer 1, we are very sorry about this, but unfortunately, while roots were carefully removed, their weight was not taken. Indeed, this was a pity but, as said in the previous response, we did not have the resources to carefully assess root growth and turnover at the site. Also the mesh size of soil cores was such to include both mychorrizal and root input, without differentiating among the two. Given that our objective was to quantify treatment effects on C dynamics, we thought that the best way

to address below-ground C input, with the resources and experiences of our group, was to obtain an accurate estimate of the total net root-derived C input. Now that we found it being so much affected by the treatment, we'll do our best to acquire resources to investigate deeply the below-ground component and the reason for the large measured change in soil C input: mychorrizal vs root turnover, etc. We also like to stress that the amount of below-ground C input measured is not unlikely, being well within the range of the other C fluxes measured at the site.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 8, 5955, 2011.