

## ***Interactive comment on “Flower litters of alpine plants affect soil nitrogen and phosphorus rapidly in the eastern Tibetan Plateau” by Jinniu Wang et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #1**

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Wang et al. dealt with the effects of flower litters on soil chemical properties. This is an interesting and important subject in nutrient cycling and plant growth. Authors gave good data supporting their hypothesis. However, employed methods are not clear, especially litter collection and chemical analyses of litters. Litter collection method is very important to assess the production of litter per unit area and researchers employ litter trap in general. However, authors did not give any specific methods, but said only “collect”. Also, there is no method to analyse chemical properties of litter. For example, I could not find how authors measured total nitrogen and phosphorous in litter. Following should be considered. 1. Line 68: mineralization of soil organic matter and decomposition of plant residues have the same meaning. It is meaningless to divide

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these two. 2. Line 152: Add “genus” before Kobresia and Carex and add spp. after Festuca, Gentiana, and Leontopodium to deliver exact meaning. 3. Line 164: Table 1 is not necessary. Delete it. 4. Line 164: Mixed litter- What is this litter composed of? It might be composed of flower and leaf litters. This is not clear. 5. Lines 184-187: It is not clear that collected samples were mixed through sieving or each sample was mixed through sieving. 6. Line 215: It is not necessary to use abb. of DHN and DNN for NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N and NO<sub>3</sub>-N, respectively. 7. Table 1, 4 and 5 should go to the place after text which were mentioned. 8. Table 6 and explanation should go to results part, rather than Discussion part. 9. Line 259: delete per unit. 10. Table 2 and 3: DIN and DON are not necessary because these are deliberated from TN, DNN, and DHN and do not have any special meaning. 11. After delete DIN and DON, I suggest to combine Tables 2 and 4, Tables 3 and 5, and Figures 4 and 5. 12. Fig 4: add explanation of (a) and (b) in the Figure caption. 13. Fig 6: Where did ab of lower case letters come? To use ab, there should be b but there is no b. Check the statistical analysis.

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