

Interactive comment on “Community specific hydraulic conductance potential of soil water decomposed for two Alpine grasslands by small-scale lysimetry” by Georg Frenck et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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Authors show data of a common garden experiment where two contrasted Alpine pasture communities (wet vs mesic) are grown factorially under two contrasted rainfall regime (high-continuous vs low-no continuous) in a set of micro-lysimeters. Authors find that pasture community coming from a wet site (rainfall ~1100 mm) exhibits a water-spending strategy while the pasture community coming from a mesic site (rainfall ~525 mm) exhibit a water-saving strategy, what is non-surprising. The design and data are overall sound and robust. However, some possible artefacts and/or strange results (the surprisingly low biomass production in wet community respect to the mesic community; the 16-fold difference among wet and mesic communities for g DW produced by Kg of water), and some interpretations that are questionable (mesic

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community use better soil moisture at low range of SWC), besides of many other small details (see annotated pdf) need a revision. English language is also sometimes awkward.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2017-253/bg-2017-253-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2017-253>, 2017.

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