

The mutually antagonistic effect of drought and sand burial enables the biocrust moss *Bryum argenteum* Hedw. to survive the two co-occurring stressors in an arid sandy desert

The title is too long and should be shorten.

Key words?

Moss not always represents the highest successional stage of the biocrust development. In most cases lichens as a slow growers are representing this stage, especially under dry conditions. However, climate with high rainfall may encourage moss growth in some areas such as the located in the southeastern fringe of the Tengger Desert.

214 the chlorophyll a content of argenteum was found should be *B. argenteum*.

Table 1. "Changes in the percentage cover of a biocrust dominated by *Bryum. argenteum* in response to sand burial depth in spring and autumn" should be " Table 1. Changes in the percentage cover of the soil surface, a biocrust dominated by *Bryum argenteum* in response to sand burial depth in spring and autumn".

I found the manuscript by Rongliang Jia et al., interesting and fall within the scope of Biogeoscience Journal, under the sub-title "Plant– soil interactions", although its results, related to the combined effects of drought and sand burial on moss crust, are particular interest to sandy desert areas such as southeastern fringe of the Tengger Desert. Sand burial in areas with movable sand dunes or drought were investigated separately, however their combine effects may suggest a novel approach.

I found their results sufficient to support the interpretations and conclusions.