

1 **Response to final editor comments on manuscript bg-2017-99:**
2 **“Bryophyte-dominated biological soil crusts mitigate soil erosion in an early successional Chinese**
3 **subtropical forest”**

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5 Dear Associate Editor,
6 Thank you for your final comments and for accepting our paper for publication in BGS.
7 We agree with your comments, modified the introduction and removed the closing sentences starting
8 with “We assume...” (lines 78-81, 89-94, 102-104). Additionally, we rephrased the “personal
9 observation” in lines 353-354 as indicated, but also in lines 333-335 talking about *Pogonatum* and
10 *Atrichum*.
11 Furthermore, we added a very recent publication about the methodology of the BEF China experiment
12 (Trogisch et al. 2017).
13 Thank you again and best regards,
14 Steffen Seitz