

Interactive comment on “Stable carbon and nitrogen isotopic composition of leaves, litter, and soils of various tropical ecosystems along an elevational and land-use gradient at Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania” by Friederike Gerschlauer et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The authors have developed a good work about nitrogen and carbon cycling dynamics from the nitrogen and carbon stable isotopes of soil and plant samples along an elevational gradient. Due to the remote African's sites where the work has been carried out the data arise in a very important issue about limitation of N availability in ecosystems C sequestration. Methodologically the work is well developed and results a discussion have a good structure that facilitates the reading. I think more works are needed on the multifactorial analyses that implies soil data, climatological data, and nitrogen and car-

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bon stable isotopes of soil and plants. I not totally sure about authors consideration of grasslands and savannas extensively managed and semi-natural ecosystems. I think a little bit information about this clasification would be added. However, authors have been there on field seeing the conditions. As a personal preference, I would like that sites on Lines 162, 166, would be changed by soils. Finally, few minor typographics mistakes would be pointed out: Line 96 → Kilimanjaro doesn't have capital letter.

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