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Title: Main drivers of plant diversity patterns of rubber plantations in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

On behalf of my co-authors, we appreciate Dr. Li Yuwu very much for his positive and constructive comments and suggestions on our manuscript entitled “Main drivers of plant diversity patterns of rubber plantations in the Greater Mekong Sub-region” submitted to Biogeosciences. We have studied the reviewer’ comments carefully and made the revision according the comments of the reviewers. The following are major changes (in blue) in the revised MS and responses to the comments.

General comments:

At present, there are a large number of reports focusing on the diversity of soil microorganisms in rubber plantations. Due to the plant diversity of rubber plantations largely varies with different management, it is difficult for us to find the driving factors for plant diversity of rubber plantations. This may be the main reason that there are few reports on the plant diversity of rubber plantations. I'm glad to see this report on the plant diversity of rubber plantations on such a large scale. This study revealed the driving factors for the plant diversity of rubber plantations. The exotic species in rubber plantations may influence the plant diversity, which we have paid little attention to before and the results can also attract the attention of readers. This article is also well organized and written. It is recommended to publish it after a minor revision.

Specific comments:

Line 29: “These gradients could be explained by the traditional ecological theories” this sentence is not clear. Traditional ecological theories? Niche hypothesis? Climate hypothesis?

Response: Thanks for the comments. We have rewritten the abstract.

Line 34: “In conclusion, not only environmental factors (such as elevation and latitude)...”.Here, I think the variations of elevation is more important for plant

diversity because it is related to habitat heterogeneity.

Response: Thanks for the comments. We have rewritten the abstract.

Line 36- 38 “Much more effort should be made to balance agricultural production with conservation goals in this region, particularly to minimize the diversity loss in Vietnam and Cambodia” I found this sentence to jump out of the abstract without previous reference. Please make it logical.

Response: Thanks for the comments. We have rewritten the abstract.

Line 118. “We started the investigation only after the guide (local people) asked the farmer's consent”. This sentence is unnecessary, please delete it.

Response: Thanks for the comments. Deleted.

Line 132-134: “According to Sun's (2000) classification of plant uses, species were divided into medicinal plants, edible plants, economic plants, forage plants, ornamental plants, ecological plants and others (unknown use)”. Plant uses have little relation with diversity. Please reconsider deleting it or not.

Response: Thanks for the comments. Deleted the related contents including Tables S3.

Line 303: “Many tropical regions...” delete “Many”.

Response: Thanks for the comments. Deleted.

Line 251: “Traditional ecological theory...” Traditional ecological theories mean what? Please clarify.

Response: Thanks for the comments. Deleted.