

Dear reviewer:

Thank you for providing many constructive suggestions. Replacing NaCl in the pore water by K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is really a good suggestion, because SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> is less damaging to the soil structure compared to Cl<sup>-</sup>, so this might be a better way to assess the role of different cations.

Thanks again.