

## Response to the remaining comments

**Comment:** While the expanded salt concentration range helps, each salinity level was tested on a single root, limiting statistical robustness. The authors should explicitly acknowledge this limitation in the discussion.

**Reply:** This limitation has been acknowledged in the discussion (see L299-300 of the marked-up manuscript)

**Comment:** The description of the first salt experiment is still unclear – were the same roots sequentially exposed to two salt solutions, or were separate roots used? This should be clarified.

**Reply:** Two roots were used for two different salt solutions, this has been clarified in the text manuscript (see L174-175)

**Comment:** Tables 2 and 3 (water uptake) should indicate whether values represent cumulative or incremental absorption. Some inconsistencies between reported net uptake in the text and table values should be checked

**Reply:** Table 2 and 3 were already combined into a new Table 2, with only the net uptake reported which agreed with the text (see L222-225)

Also, corrections were made for consistency (see L247)