

Associate editor decision: Publish subject to minor revisions (review by editor)

Dear Gabriela Sophia,

Your manuscript has been reviewed by the original two reviewers, whom are both happy with the way you have addressed their concerns. There remain just few minor points that should be addressed.

We want to thank the editor for all the comments and for taking the time to carefully read our manuscript. Below, we will address each comment one by one.

Since the study is correlational the attribution of causes should be avoided throughout the discussion. Instead of using driver / depends on/ etc., it would be more correct to use ‘related to’. There are minor points with the language (e.g., the use of present tense where it would be expected to use simple past, minor concordance issues, typos) that should be corrected.

Regarding the use of the term ‘driver’ throughout the paper, this is commonly used in describing such statistical analyses as being synonymous with ‘predictor’, and is widely understood by the community in its statistical sense and does not imply causality. We have therefore chosen to not change the use of the term.

Regarding the minor points with the language, we reviewed the text and corrected the tense inconsistencies and minor concordance issues we found.

L167-169 ‘considering that the fields are relatively smooth’. What does this mean?

The N deposition data is interpolated to annual from decadal time-slices and derived from initialized CAM runs, therefore, the information contained is representative of large-scale features. (162:165 in the track changes file)

L374 ‘have higher resorption’; shouldn’t it be ‘lower resorption’?

We corrected the sentence.

L440-441 ‘total leaf N (P)’?

We corrected the sentence.

L546-550 Revise sentence.

We made adjustments to the text to enhance its clarity.

Table 1 - The acronym SLA is repeated four times to identify leaf area per dry mass in leaves with different structure, that could be easily listed under the same acronym. No acronym for 'leaf dry mass' and 'senescent leaf dry mass'? Check the spelling of rachis. Standardise case (minuscule / majuscule).

Table 2 – Standardise minuscule / majuscule.

We adjusted the acronyms and corrected the word in Table 1, and standardized the letter case in both tables.

Table captions and figure legends should be stand-alone so that they can be understood without recourse to the main text (What? Where? Why?).

We improved the description of the captions and figure legends by adding more information.

Revise all acronyms. Sometimes full definitions appear in the text after acronyms had already been defined and other times they are not defined at the first time.

We corrected the acronyms and definitions throughout the text.

Citations should be checked throughout the manuscript.

We checked all the citations and corrected the minor errors.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Erika Buscardo