

Response to referees' comments (SE-2014-81)

Manuscript title: Changes in soil organic carbon and nitrogen capacities of *Salix cheilophila* Schneid. along a revegetation chronosequence in semi-arid degraded sandy land of the Gonghe Basin, Tibet Plateau

Authors: Y. Yu and Q.Z. Jia

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful comments and considerate suggestions for our manuscript. These comments are valuable and helpful for improving our manuscript. We have made careful modifications and revisions on the original manuscript in response to all the reviewers' comments and editor's suggestions. We hope the new version of the revised manuscript would meet the Journal's standard. Answers to referee's questions are bold.

Anonymous referee #1:

General comments: The paper looks fine for me I just suggested to use very recent citations to make the paper more scientifically sound And also some improvements in the figures The paper is a good contribution.

In the introduction you need some citations to support your initial sentence/ideas and you need some citations to show this to the reader

Figure 5 and 6 I suggest to reduce the decimals to two in the legend and axis

Figures 2, 3 and 4 A color figure will be of great help for the reader

Specific comments:

1. In the introduction you need some citations to support your initial sentence/ideas and you need some citations to show this to the reader.

Response: **Thanks very much for the reviewer's comment. We have carefully**

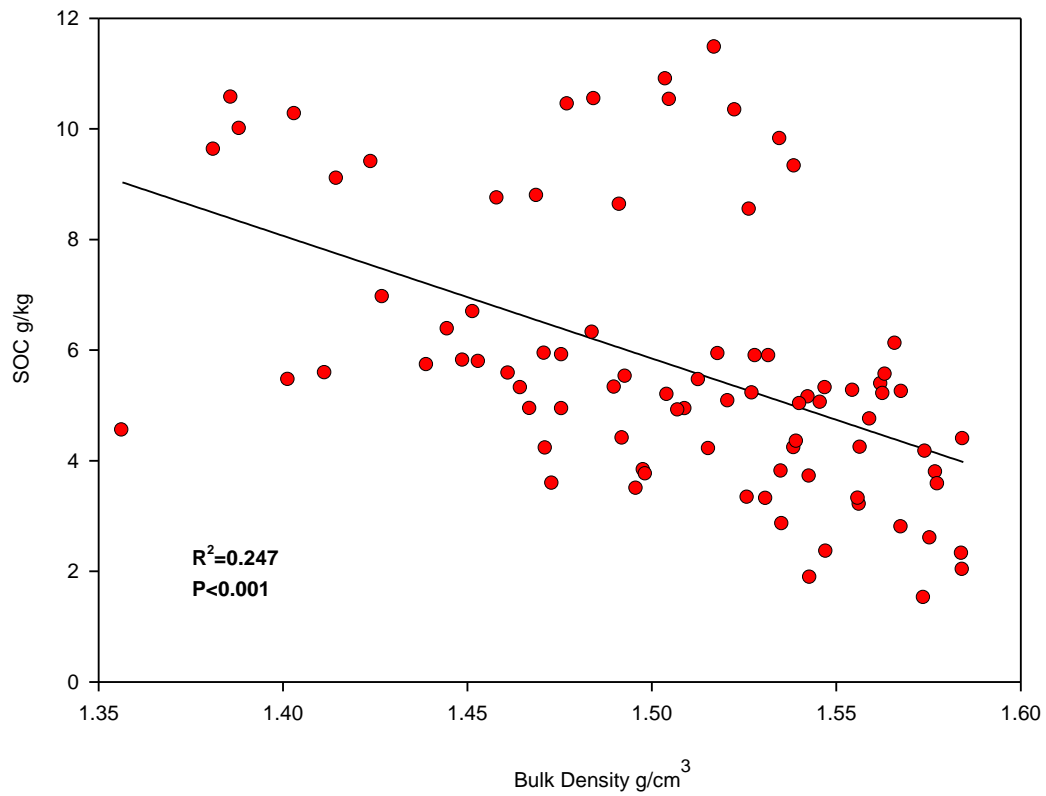
revised the introduction of the manuscript, and improved the quality as well as add the recent citations according to the comments.

2. Figure 5 and 6 I suggest to reduce the decimals to two in the legend and axis.

Response: We have revised figure 5 and 6. The decimals in the legend and axis were unified to two places. (See supplement figure 5 and 6).

3. Figures 2, 3 and 4 A color figure will be of great help for the reader.

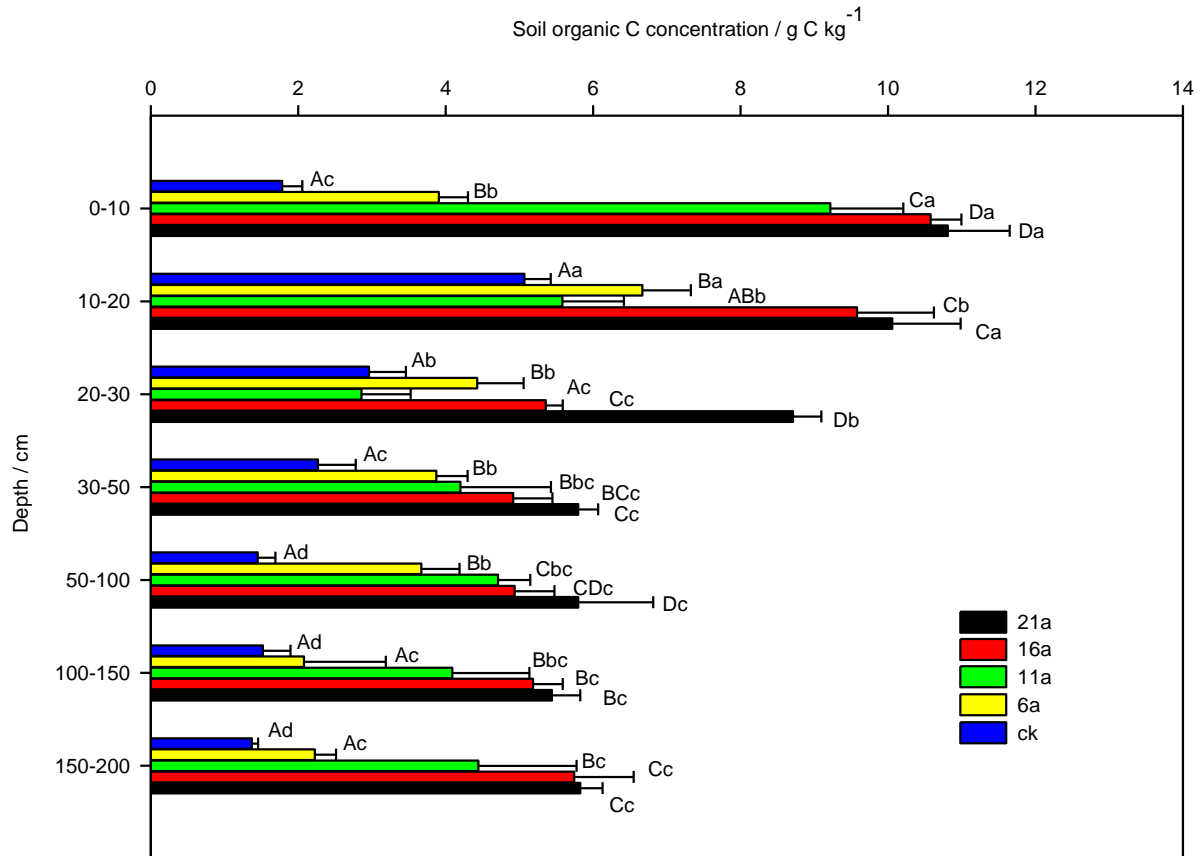
Response: Thanks for the reviewer's considerate advice. We added colors to the figures. (See supplement figure 2, 3 and 4).



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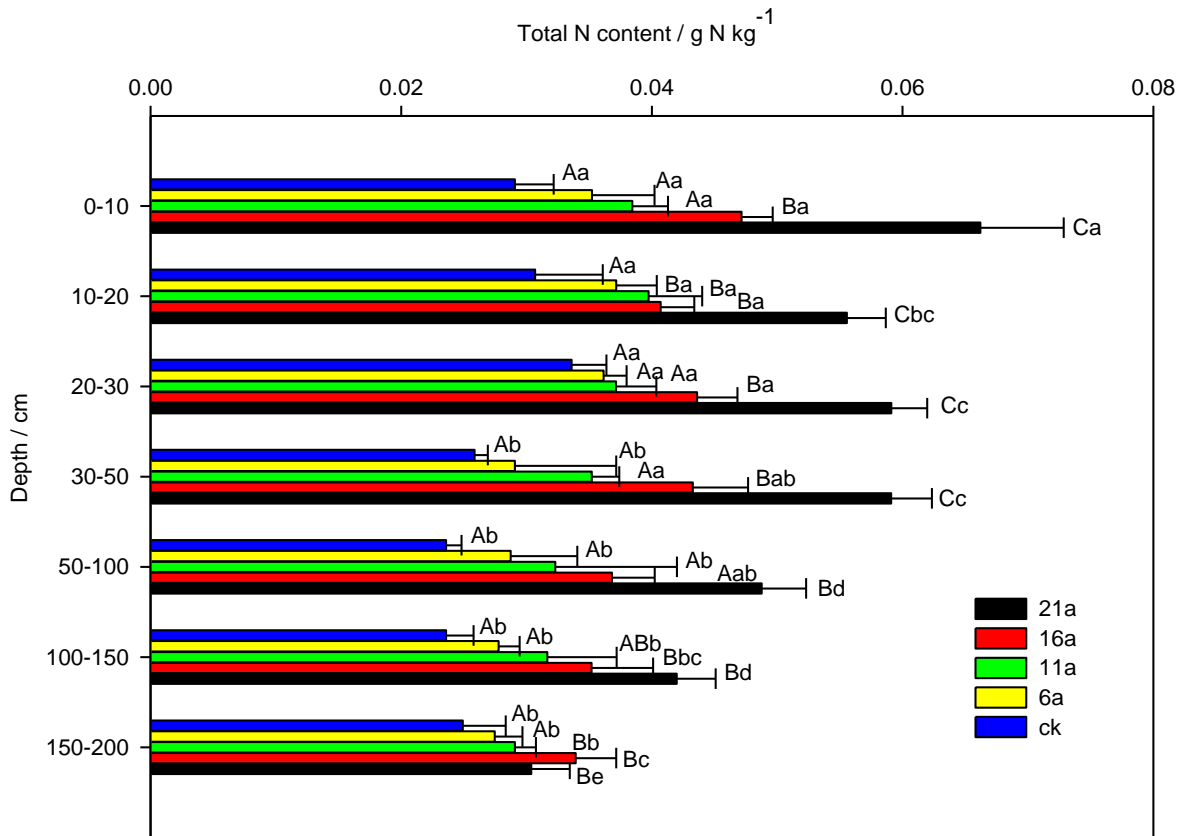
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3 Figure 2. The relationship between soil organic carbon (SOC) and bulk density of *S.*
4 *cheilophila*.



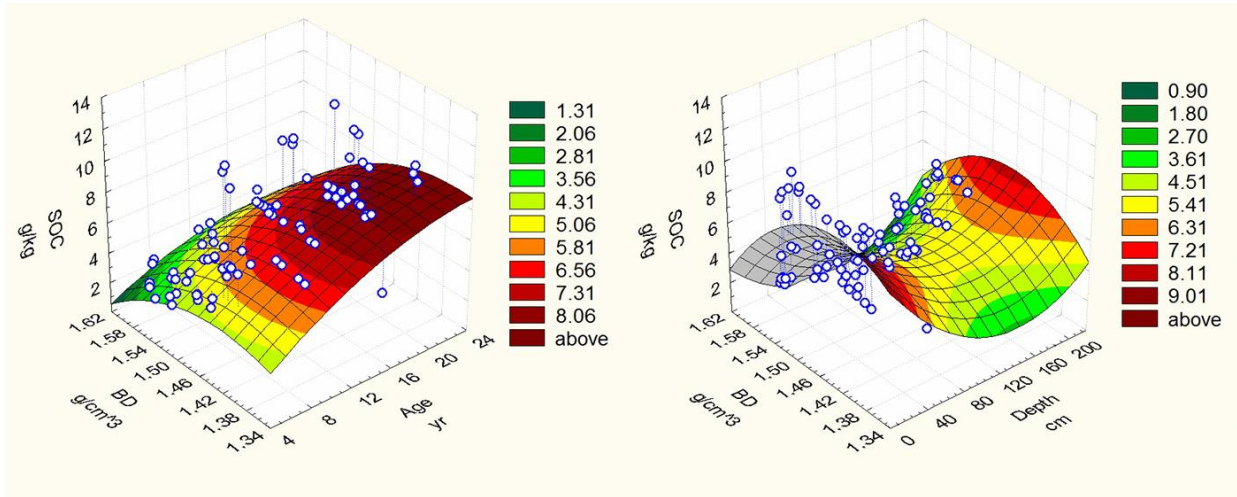
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3 Figure 3. Variations in soil organic carbon concentration at different soil depths in different
 4 stand ages. Values are means \pm SE. Different uppercase letters indicate significant differences
 5 in different stand ages, different lowercase letters indicate significant differences at different
 6 soil depths ($P < 0.05$).



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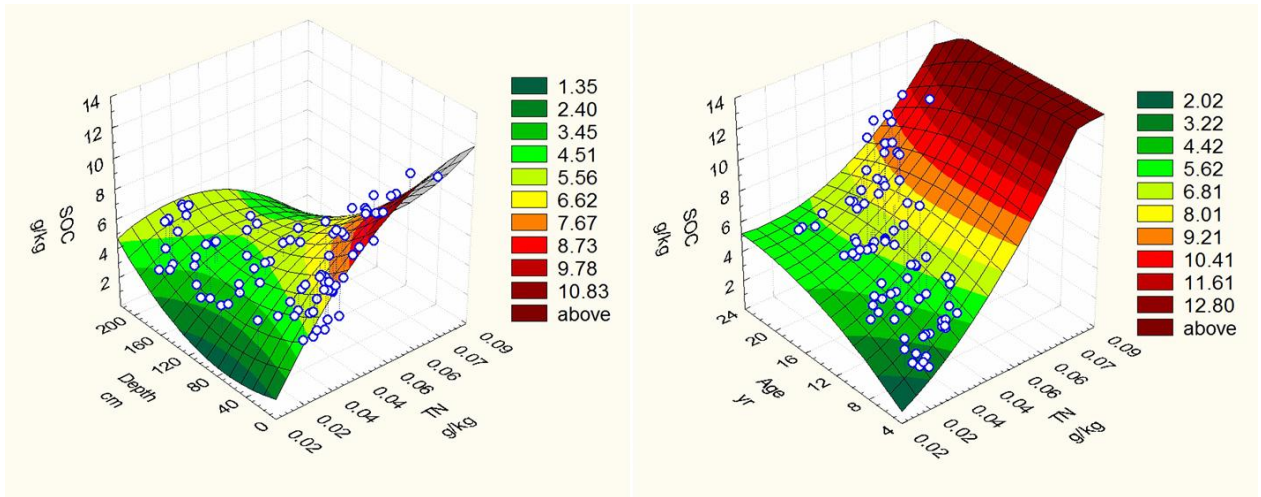
Figure 4. Variations in total nitrogen (Total N) content at different soil depths in different stand ages. Values are means \pm SE. Different uppercase letters indicate significant differences in different stand ages, different lowercase letters indicate significant differences at different soil depth ($P < 0.05$).



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3 Figure 5. Regression models of soil organic carbon (SOC) and bulk density (BD) with
 4 extension of stand age and soil depth.



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3 Figure 6. Regression models of soil organic carbon (SOC) and total nitrogen(TN) with the
 4 extension of stand age and soil depth.