

Interactive comment on “Nitrogen addition alters elemental stoichiometry within soil aggregates in a temperate steppe” by Jinfei Yin et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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nPaper, titled "Nitrogen addition alters elemental stoichiometry within soil aggregates in a temperate steppe" devoted to essential aspects of SOM and Nitrogen stabilization in the soil aggregates. This topic is up to date especially for underestimated soils of dry steppes of continental Eurasia. Introduction is proper, but it should be ended by formulation of one aim and few objectives. In methods chapter I have to advise to add the soil schematic description, because there are not a lot of information published about the soils of Inner Mongolia. Please provide name of soil horizons, their thickness and color according to Munsell color chart. Data on DOC and DIN are interesting and statistically approved. But it is necessary also to provide data on total organic carbon and nitrogen, both in the bulk fine earth and in the fine earth of aggregate fractions. The most serious comment about the correlation of pH values and elemental ratios. pH is logarithmic value and there is no possibility to correlate it with measured soil values

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in mg/kg. It is necessary to compare Hydrogen concentration in soil solution with DOC/DIN ratios. This should be correct, but not pH with DOC and DIN, this is an artifact.

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