

Interactive comment on “Experimental sand burial affects seedling survivorship, morphological traits and biomass allocation of *Ulmus pumila* var. *sabulosa* in Horqin Sandy Land” by Jiao Tang et al.

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RC1: L31 “transferring more biomass to aboveground rather than belowground parts.” It is interesting, but not be well supported. I suggested to compare the above ground biomass (i.e. stem+leaf) and below ground biomass (i.e. root) respectively. The root biomass was reported in the previous version, but the mean and s.d. values were not shown in the results part. AC1: We have changed the way of expression in the abstract to make it clear in the revised manuscript.

RC2: L109 Before the start of burial treatment experiment, Is the number of seedlings

C1

in each pot same with each other? What is the number of seedlings in each pot? AC2: Yes, twenty days after sowing, 8 to 12 seedlings emerged; eight similar seedlings were retained in each pot, and the rest were removed.

RC3: The second degree of freedom in F test could not be 235 in the experiment described in current status. Please verify it! AC3: We have corrected it in the revised manuscript.

RC4: L147 “Height of seedlings in the control treatment of 16.28cm was significantly lower than that in the T33”. The mean value is not enough. The s.d value should be reported. L149 The mean and s.d. values of height growth rate should be reported. L155 The mean and s.d. values of stem diameter should be reported. If it is nessesary, the mean and s.d. values of other indices should be reported. It is helpful for evaluating the effects of sand burial on the growth of elm seedlings. AC4: We have added the mean and s.d. values in the part of results.

For the technical corrections, we have checked according to the reviewer’s requests. In addition, three skilled professors helped to revise and polish this revised manuscript. Thank for your valuable suggestions for improving our manuscript.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.solid-earth-discuss.net/se-2016-55/se-2016-55-AC3-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., doi:10.5194/se-2016-55, 2016.

C2