Effect of winter climate on nitrogen mineralization in forest soil, evaluation from nitrogen mineralization ratio

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A nitrogen mineralization ratio which is nitrogen mineralization rate to total nitrogen content were 0.4 ? 11.9% in Japanese forest soil under field condition, and there were 0.9 -5.8 in cool temperate forest. These values show 3.0-6.5% in the result of newly investigation in this forest. Values of nitrogen mineralization rate estimated from multiple regression model were higher than those of measurement values in the field condition. We consider winter climate affect nitrogen mineralization in the soil, and discussed nitrogen mineralization rate in winter season and seasonal changes of nitrification and ammonification rate. Nitrogen mineralization rate in surface soil was measured with resin core method in Japanese cedar and deciduous broadleaf stand at Katsura experimental site (KT), Ibaraki and in Japanese cypress forest at Terasawa-yama forest, Shinshu University (TR), Nagano. Soil type was dry to slightly wetted brown forest volcanic ash mixture in KT and moderately moist brown forest soil derived granite in TR.

Annual nitrogen mineralization rate were 182-367mgN kg-1 at KT, and 167-264 mgN kg-1 at TR. It was high in summer and low in winter with temperature fluctuation. Seasonal changes was not clear at TR. Nitrification was dominated and decreased in spring in the soil located lower to mid slope position distributed Japanese cedar and cypress at both of site. On the contrary, Ammonification was dominated in upper slope position of deciduous forest at KT. Higher nitrogen mineralization ratio was indicated at KT. These values were 3.0-5.0% at KT and 5.7-6.5%at TR.

As mentioned before, nitrogen mineralization ratio was higher in this study site than those of other site in cool temperate forest. Nitrogen mineralization rate in winter was not differing from another season. Snow depth was small but daily average temperature was below 0OC in winter at both site in this research. It was considered that repeated soil freezing and melting introduce the changes of organic matter quality in soil and easily mineralizable properties was highly increased compared heavy snow site. We considered these processes will affect nitrogen mineralization in these sites.

Keywords: Field incubation, nitrogen mineralization ratio, winter
Geochemical studies on nitrate in a basin with tropical glaciers in Bolivia, using $^{15}$N, $^{17}$O and $^{18}$O

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Water resources in La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, are highly dependent on runoff from its surrounding glaciers, since the city locates in a semi-arid area in the Altiplano with an annual precipitation of about 500 mm/y. This study aims at determination of nitrate cycles using its stable isotopic compositions in Tuni Lake and its basin, which is one of the important water resources of La Paz.

Samples were collected from downstream rivers of the glaciers four times (September, 2010 and March, September, November 2011). The sampling points were located from an edge of the glacier to the inflow point to the lake. Samples were filtered through a 0.2 micro meter pore-size membrane filter and stored in a refrigerator until analysis. To determine the stable isotopic compositions of nitrate, the sample nitrate was chemically converted to nitrous oxide using a method originally developed for $^{15}$N/$^{14}$N and $^{18}$O/$^{16}$O isotope ratios of seawater and freshwater nitrate (McIlvin and Altabet, 2005) with slight modification (Tsunogai et al. 2008). The stable isotopic compositions of nitrous oxide were determined using our Continuous-Flow Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry system (Komatsu et al. 2008).

Nitrate in glacial ice had smaller triple oxygen anomalies (+6 permil at Huayna Potosi Glacier and +11 permil at Condoriri Glacier) relative to those in deposited nitrate (+25 permil), which corresponds to a mixing ratio of atmospheric nitrate to total nitrate of 45%, indicating the significance of non-atmospheric origin of nitrate (e.g. microbial oxidation of ammonium) within the glacier. The triple oxygen anomalies of nitrate in downstream river showed systematic variation between two basins ranging from +1.3 to +7.3 permil in Huayna Potosi basin and from +0.4 to +5.5 permil in Condoriri basin, respectively. The variation may be attributable to the difference in biological activity between the basins.

Keywords: nitrogen cycle, triple oxygen isotopic compositions, nitrogen isotopic composition, nitrate, glacial melt water, Bolivia
EM Sounding Characterization of Soil Environment toward Estimation of Potential Non-point Pollution Sources

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Land management would affect water environment through infiltration of rainwater/irrigation water or surface water runoff at heavy rainfall event. Soil survey is, however, laborious and take long time for wide area research. In this research, we employed electro-magnetic (EM) sounding to conduct soil survey effectively and estimate potential environmental load, which would be discharged to water environment. A multi-frequency EM sounding was performed to measure electrical conductivity (EC) distribution at the soil surface. Soil sampling at 10, 30 and 50cm depth, and stream water sampling was also conducted.

As results, EM sounding successfully measured land surface EC distribution, showing most of their properties was represented by land surface EC. EC showed the amount of soluble chemicals at the land, which was the result of fertilizer application, poor infiltration, and so on. Thus high EC was estimated as potential environmental load for water environment. EC decreased when the interval became longer at the combination use of paddy and upland field. EC was higher at non-thinning operation forest than that of well-managed forest. The forest floor had lower infiltration than well-managed one, moreover, floor weed was poor at those site. Thus forest with non-thinning operation would affect water environment through surface runoff at the storm event. When ion concentrations at stream water were compared with land EC, Na and Cl were inversely correlated with land EC. Because those two ions were affected by rainwater at Japan sea coast area, this means well-infiltration for low EC site and poor-infiltration for high EC site. In general through EM sounding survey, surface land EC distribution, land conductivity and ion concentration at stream water successfully connected each other. It would be beneficial when this technique is used for watershed management.

Keywords: Electromagnetic sounding, Soil Environment, Non-point sources
Monitoring of atmospheric mercury pollution using carbonized tree and Chinese ink

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We report the results on the Accumulation of mercury by carbonized tree trunk and old paper written by Chinese ink. The mercury accumulated on the trunk of tree disappears during forest fire because of high temperature more than 300\(^{\circ}\)C. After forest fire, the carbonized tree trunk free from mercury starts to accumulate atmospheric mercury. The content of mercury accumulated on the carbonized tree trunk seems to be reflect atmospheric mercury pollution at the site after the forest fire. The old paper written by Chinese ink also accumulates atmospheric mercury. Especially in the case of DAIHUKUCHO which has records of the used year, the mercury content of the cover page seems to be reflect the atmospheric mercury pollution of the recorded year at the site.

Keywords: carbonization, Chinese ink, mercury, monitoring, air pollution, forest fire
Topography controls stream NO3- concentration and sediment denitrification at headwater streams

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[Aim] The effects of topography and distribution of electron donors (DOC, and reduced sulfur) for denitrification on stream NO3- concentration and sediment denitrification were examined at 34 headwater streams in the Lake Hachiro watershed. [Materials and Methods] Study catchments are 34 head streams (0.07-16.9 km²) in the lake Hachiro watershed at Akita, Japan. Stream water at each catchment was sampled four times a year from 2010 to 2011. Water discharge (L/s) was estimated from width, depth, and velocity measured at 8-10 points along a cross-sectional transect of the stream. At each catchment, sediment samples for denitrification assays were collected once in July, 2011 from the top 5 cm of the streambed across the width of the stream. Dissolved N2O in stream water was measured in December, 2011. Water and sediment samples were placed on ice, transported back to the laboratory, and refrigerated overnight until denitrification assays and water analysis were begun. The denitrification assays of the sediments were determined using the acetylene inhibition technique, which inhibits the final step in the conversion of N2O gas into N2 gas. To determine the difference among catchments in the amount of organic C available to the denitrifying organisms, we defined denitrification potential (DP) as the denitrification rate that occurred under anaerobic conditions with abundant NO3- at 25 deg C. Samples of fresh, homogenized soil (15 g) were placed into 150-mL glass bottles. A 50-mL aliquot of solution containing nitrate (5 mg-N L-1 as KNO3) with chloramphenicol was added to the bottles. The bottles were purged with O2-free ultrapure N2 for 3 min to ensure anaerobic conditions, and acetylene (C2H2) gas was added to a final concentration of 10% v/v (10 kPa) in the headspace. We extracted the headspace gas with a gas-tight syringe, and calculated denitrification rates from the linear portion of the curve for N2O production as a function of time. The stream water sample was filtered through 0.45-μm membrane filters and concentrations of dissolved components were determined. The fresh sediment samples were extracted in distilled water (soil:water, 1:5 w/v), and the concentrations of water-extractable soil organic carbon (WSOC) was determined. Easily oxidizable-S (EOS) content in the sediments, which can be an electron donor for denitrification as reduced sulfur, was measured by the difference between H2O2-S and H2O-S content. Topographic index (wetness index) in each catchment was calculated using 10 m grid digital elevation model (DEM) by GIS. [Result and Discussion] Stream NO3- concentrations among catchments had a large spatial variability ranging from 0.06 to 0.52 mg N L-1. Stream NO3- concentrations were negatively correlated with topographic index significantly (r=0.56, p<0.01), indicated NO3- was reduced in a catchment which had a gentle slope area. Dissolved N2O in stream water was positively correlated with topographic index, which supported denitrification in such a catchment. A significant positive correlation was also observed between sediment DPs and topographic index. The WSOC content in the sediment, the primary predictor of denitrification rates, increased with topographic index and affected sediment DPs. NO3- concentrations also had a negative correlation with EOS content in the sediments indicating sulfur denitrification in catchments, however, the distribution of EOS did not related topography. Multiple regression analysis showed topography and EOS content in the sediments affected concentration of stream NO3- significantly.

Keywords: nitrate, headwater stream, denitrification, topography
Comparison of the water quality of rivers between the river influenced by the polluted air from urban area and the river

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The source of Arakawa river in Saitama prefecture and the source of Fujigawa river in Yamanashi is common. It is high mountain district located in Western part of Kanto district. However, there is a big difference of water quality between the both rivers. Especially nitrate concentration in Fujigawa river is lower than that of Arakawa river.

This difference suggested the shielding effect of high mountain district on the transportation of polluted air containing nitrate and the other pollutants from the Tokyo area.
There is a growing recognition that understanding the relationships among multiple ecosystem services is crucial in order to avoid unintended tradeoffs in ecosystem management. Understanding the functions and processes behind interactions among multiple services is therefore important. Understory vegetation plays an important role in ecosystem processes in forest soil. However, it has not been paid much attention in previous ecological works. Sasa dwarf bamboo is a common understory plant in Japanese forests. They usually form dense undergrowth and dominate forest floor. In Hokkaido, Northern Japan, Sasa is a major component of forest ecosystem which occupies some 90% of forest area. Understanding the contribution of Sasa to ecosystem functions in forest soil is essential to help establish a future ecological management. Our objective is to understand the multiple functions in forest surface soil contributed by Sasa and the mechanism behind the interactions of among these functions. We hypothesized that the ecosystem functions in surface soil are correlated with the aboveground biomass of Sasa. The ecosystem functions examined in this study were carbon sequestration, soil fertility and buffering of soil acidity in surface soil of forest.

We established experimental sites in Uryu Experimental Forest of Hokkaido University, northern Hokkaido, Japan. The vegetation of the site is a cool-temperate mixed forest with dense Sasa understory. According to the biomass of Sasa, three plots with five sampling spots (1m²) were established as Large (L), medium (M) and small biomass (S) plots. The L plot was located in a gap area, whereas the S plot was located under a dense canopy of coniferous stand. The distance between the three plots is within 10m. The mean Sasa biomass of L, M and S plot were 1.61, 0.46 and 0 kgDW m⁻², respectively. Parameters describing each ecosystem functions were measured from samples of litter layer and mineral soil at the depth of 0-10cm (Upper soil) and of 10-20cm (Lower soil) from the plots.

With carbon sequestration parameters, the sum of litter dry mass and the dry root mass was higher in S plot than other plots. Soil microbial respiration rate was higher in L plot than in S plot. In regards to soil fertility, the concentration of inorganic nitrogen in upper soil was higher in L and M plots than S plot. Nitrogen mineralization rate was highest in M plot in upper soil. With buffering of soil acidity, although there was no significant difference in the soil pH, the ratio of exchangeable (K+Ca+Mg)/exchangeable-Al increased as the Sasa biomass increased. The soil and litter in L plot contained higher Ca than M and S plots, while the soil and litter in S plot was high in Al than other two plots. This means that the soil acidity decreased as Sasa biomass increased. High Ca concentration in soil in L plot probably contributed reducing soil acidity in the plot. Ca in soil might be supplied from Sasa litter as litter in L plot had high Ca concentration. The reason why soil acidity was higher in S plot could be explained by supply of organic acid from the coniferous leaves. One possible relationship among multiple ecosystem functions was found between soil fertility and acid buffering functions. The increase of soil acidity due to the small biomass of Sasa (with higher density of coniferous trees) reduced soil microbial activity which led less fertility. Further analysis will be carried out and discussion will be included in the presentation.

Keywords: biogeochemistry, forest ecosystem, understory vegetation
Microbial processes in the biogeochemical dynamics of amino acids in marine sediments

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Sedimentary organic matter (OM) is the major reservoir of carbon and nitrogen in the global biogeochemical cycle. For example, burial of organic matter in sediments plays a role in controlling atmospheric CO2 and O2 levels on long time scales. There remains, however, much debate about the controlling factors of OM preservation and the processes of OM degradation in marine sediments. Amino acids are major nitrogenous components in OM and also the important intermediate during the OM degradation by microbes. Composition, D/L ratio, and compound-specific isotopic composition have been used as the indicators of amino-acids biogeochemistry in marine sediments.

In this presentation, we report our results of composition, D/L ratio, and nitrogen isotopic composition (d15N) of amino acids in the surface sediments collected at off-Akita, Japan Sea (KT10-06) and the deep-subsurface sediments collected at off-Boso, Northwestern Pacific (CK09-03). We observed difference of d15N and/or D/L ratio between total hydrolysable amino acids (THAA) and dissolved/extractable amino acids. Based on the results of culture experiments of microbes for amino-acids d15N and simple mass-balance calculation, we estimated the contribution to the dissolved/extractable amino acids from the microbial biomass in the sediments and that from the THAA. For example, in the surface sediments in Japan Sea, we observed 3-5 permill enrichment in the d15N of free glutamic acids (Glu) from the THAA-Glu d15N. Based on the 15N-enrichment factor (8 permill) of Glu in the cultured microbes, we estimated that the release from microbial biomass would contribute to 30-40% in the free Glu. These results suggest that recycle of amino acids by microbes would be significant during the degradation of amino acids.

Keywords: Organic matter, Nitrogen cycle, Nitrogen isotope, Marine sediments, Amino acids, Deep biosphere
Analysis of production and emission processes of nitrous oxide at the beginning of flood irrigation by isotopomer ratios

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1. Introduction

Agricultural soil is the largest anthropogenic source of nitrous oxide (N\(_2\)O) which contributes to global warming and ozone depletion. N\(_2\)O is produced by microbial processes of nitrification as a byproduct of hydroxylamine oxidation, and denitrification as an intermediate product of nitrite reduction and is further reduced to N\(_2\). In rice paddy soils, N\(_2\)O emissions were observed in association with water supplies and drainage practices (for midseason aeration or for rice harvest). N\(_2\)O emitted at the beginning of flood irrigation is considered to be derived from denitrification, but production and consumption processes of N\(_2\)O in the soil or transport process to soil surfaces are not fully understood.

The purpose of this study is to clarify both contribution of denitrification for N\(_2\)O emissions and transport process of N\(_2\)O in the soil at the beginning of flood irrigation by analyzing isotopomer ratios. It is suggested that isotopomer ratios of N\(_2\)O (bulk nitrogen and oxygen isotope ratios, d\(^{15}\)N\(_{\text{bulk}}\) and d\(^{18}\)O, and intramolecular \(^{15}\)N site preference, SP) are useful parameters that provide information about microbial metabolisms described above. We tried to figure out temporal changes of production and consumption processes of N\(_2\)O or its transport process affected by a water supply using spatial variability of soil moisture content.

2. Materials and methods

N\(_2\)O fluxes were measured by closed chamber method 7 days after the beginning of a water supply on Apr. 20, 2011 at 8 plots of paddy soils in Tsukubamirai, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. The soil type was a Gray lowland soil. Isotopomer ratios of soil-emitted N\(_2\)O were calculated from those of N\(_2\)O in chamber air and ambient air assuming mixing of soil-emitted gases and ambient air in chambers. To measure concentrations and analyze isotopomer ratios of N\(_2\)O in the soil, soil gases at 10 cm depth were collected by soil gas samplers with silicon tubes at 6 plots. N\(_2\)O flux was monitored every 2 h with an automated chamber system at a plot. Soil samples from 0-10 cm depth at each plot were collected and used for extraction with 10% KCl solution for analysis of the soil nutrient content. The water filled pore space (WFPS) was calculated from the volumetric water content and porosity.

3. Results and discussion

High N\(_2\)O emissions (80-217 mcgN/m\(^2\)/h) were observed at plots where groundwater level was 1 cm depth. On the other hand, low N\(_2\)O emissions (6-60 mcgN/m\(^2\)/h) and high N\(_2\)O concentrations of soil gases (134-160 ppm) were observed at plots where water depth were 1-5 cm. Isotopomer ratios of N\(_2\)O emitted from soil surfaces were close to the values of N\(_2\)O in the soil, although they indicated relatively higher values than those of N\(_2\)O in the soil at a plot where water depth was 5 cm. Isotopomer ratios of N\(_2\)O at plots where groundwater level was 1 cm depth showed values near the range of the reported values of N\(_2\)O which produced by denitrification in pure culture. On the other hand, isotopomer ratios of N\(_2\)O at water depth were 1-5 cm were relatively higher than those of N\(_2\)O at plots where groundwater level was 1 cm depth. It was thought to be due to consumption of a part of N\(_2\)O by denitrification which is associated with elevations of isotopomer ratios of residual N\(_2\)O by isotopic fractionation. N\(_2\)O concentrations and isotopomer ratios in the soil were near the values of N\(_2\)O in ambient air at the plots where WFPS were low.

Therefore, it was considered that N\(_2\)O was produced by denitrification at shallow depth with the increase of WFPS, and emitted to air by the effects of both upward advection by increasing ground water levels and molecular diffusion. N\(_2\)O emissions became low and N\(_2\)O accumulated in the soil when soil surfaces were covered with water. It was assumed to be due to low diffusion coefficient of dissolved N\(_2\)O. In addition, it was thought that a part of N\(_2\)O was consumed by reduction to N\(_2\) under anaerobic conditions and residual N\(_2\)O accumulated in the soil.

Keywords: Nitrous oxide, Denitrification, Isotopomer
Stable isotopes of nitrate in natural mosses

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Natural mosses have been employed as reactive and accumulative indicators of atmospheric pollutants. Using the denitrifier method, the concentration, nitrogen and oxygen isotopes of moss nitrate were measured to elucidate the sources of nitrate trapped in natural mosses. Oven drying, not lyophilization, was recommended to dry mosses for moss nitrate analysis. Preliminary investigation suggested that moss nitrate can respond to nitrate availability in different habitats. Nitrate in terricolous mosses showed isotopic ratios as close to those of soil nitrate, reflecting the utilization of soil nitrate. Isotopic signatures of nitrate in corticolous and epilithic mosses could elucidate atmospheric nitrate sources and strength of anthropogenic NOx emission at urban-rural scales. However, mechanisms and isotopic effects of moss nitrate utilization must be further verified to enable the application of moss nitrate isotopes for source identification and partitioning.

Keywords: Nitrogen deposition, moss, nitrate, biomonitoring, stable isotopes, nitrate reductase
Characterizing the dynamics of dissolved organic matter in fjord systems, New Zealand

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Dissolved organic matter (DOM) comprises the largest pool of organic matter in a wide range of aquatic environments. In oceanic environments, major fractions of DOM have been considered to be marine origin even though rivers convey substantial amounts of terrestrial organic matter to the coastal ocean (0.4 PgC yr-1). Thus, there might be removal mechanisms of terrestrial DOM in coastal environments. However, dynamics, i.e., sources and sinks, of DOM in coastal environments have not been well understood. The characterization of the DOM dynamics in coastal environments is challenging due to intricate structure/composition of terrestrial and marine DOM. Therefore, we need a better technique for evaluating the terrestrial and marine DOM separately. Fluorescence technique can successfully separate the terrestrial DOM from marine one, and thus, has been widely used in coastal environments. Here, we applied excitation emission matrix (EEM) fluorescence combined with parallel factor analysis (PARAFAC) for characterizing the dynamics of DOM in fjord systems, New Zealand. In addition, we compared obtained fluorescence results with stable carbon isotope values of DOC.

In June 2007 (Austral winter), water samples were collected from surface to bottom layer at fjord systems in Fjordland National Park, New Zealand. Water samples were immediately filtered through pre-combusted GF/F filters and were kept on ice, returned to the laboratory, and stored at 4 oC until analysis. EEM spectra were obtained using a Horiba Jovin Yvon SPEX Fluoromax-3 fluorometer. PARAFAC, which can statistically identify fluorescent components in EEMs, were applied for 53 water samples obtained from fjord systems. As a result, two terrestrial humic-like, one marine humic-like, and one protein-like components were obtained. Isotopic analysis (delta13C) of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) were performed on a modified OI Analytical model 1010 wet oxidation TOC analyzer interfaced with a Finnegan MAT Delta Plus IRMS with a CONFLO III continuous flow interface.

Relationships between salinity and fluorescence intensity differed among the four components. Levels of humic-like components were higher in low salinity waters and vice versa and showed negative relationships with salinity, indicating that major sources of humic-like components are riverine water in this system. Levels of protein-like component did not show clear relationship with salinity, suggesting that substantial contribution of autochthonous protein-like component in addition to riverine input.

On the vertical axis, fluorescence intensity of all components showed highest levels in the surface water, sharply decreasing with increasing depth. However, in the deep layer (depths greater 50 m), increases in fluorescence intensity with depth were observed for humic-like components, but not for protein-like component. The increase in fluorescence intensity with depth in deep layer was highest at the stations with the lowest water exchange rates, while it was almost absent at the sites most strongly influenced by tides and flushing with oceanic water. Interestingly, delta 13C of DOC in deep layers were lower than those in subsurface layers. These results strongly suggest that DOM is physically desorbed and/or generated through microbial oxidation from terrestrial POM during its sinking processes.

Keywords: dissolved organic matter, fluorescence, stable carbon isotope, fjord
Real time, continuous measurements of CO₂ and H₂O isotopes in a forest using laser absorption spectrometers

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Measurements of CO₂ and H₂O isotope compositions are very powerful methods for investigating the carbon and water cycles. We had been deployed two infrared absorption laser spectrometers (Aerodyne Inc. for CO₂ and Los Gatos Research Inc. for H₂O) in the red-pine forest at the foot of Mt. Fuji for 10 days from the end of July, 2010 and had successfully measured CO₂ and H₂O isotopologues (¹⁶O₁²C₁₆O, ¹⁶O¹³C₁₆O and ¹⁸O₁²C₁₆O for CO₂, D₂O and H₂¹₈O for H₂O). The CO₂ isotope laser spectrometer can measure the isotope ratios (d₁³C, d₁₈O) of ambient air CO₂ in 10-second integration time with a precision of 0.1 permil in real-time. The height of the observation tower is 30 m. Air was sampled every 260 seconds from six vertical height locations from above the forest canopy to 2 m above the ground. The total interval time was 30 minutes including measurements of standard gases for the calibration. The 30-minutes interval measurements of the CO₂ and H₂O isotope ratios were repeated continuously during the 10 days. We did Keeling plot analysis regarding with delta₁³C every a few hours and found that the keeling plot intercepts showed clearly a diurnal pattern. We will discuss the details of the results at the meeting.

Keywords: CO₂ isotopes, H₂O isotopes, forest, laser spectroscopy, ecosystem, atmospheric CO₂
The distribution and circulation of Ca in ecosystem of the acidified drainage basin in Guangdong province, south China

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This study was undertaken to determine the elemental and strontium isotopic compositions (\(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}\)) in rainwater, stream water, plant, soil, and bedrock of the acidified drainage basin (Dinghushan: DHS) and the slightly acidified drainage basins (Heishiding: HSD and Conghua: CH) in Guangdong province, south China and to clarify the contribution of atmospheric deposition to Ca and Sr circulation in the acidified ecosystem. In order to assess the distribution of the plant-available elements in soils, a sequential extraction procedure that extract the water-soluble, exchangeable, bound to carbonates, bound to Mn oxide, organic, bound to amorphous Fe oxide, bound to crystalline Fe oxide and residual silicates components from soil was performed.

Strontium and Ca in the plant-soil ecosystem are mostly derived from atmospheric deposition in DHS, HSD and CH basin. The \(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}\) ratios of dominant tree leaves were identical to those of the exchangeable fraction in soils. Their ratios were lower than those of bedrock and bulk soil and were close to those of rainwater. The contribution of the atmospheric deposition to plant and the exchangeable fraction of soil in DHS are up to 90%, because sandstone, shale and granite that have low Ca and Sr concentrations are composed of the bedrock in DHS, HDS and CH, respectively.

The lack of plant-available Ca, Mg, K, and P and the leaching of Cu, Al, Fe and Zn from Fe-oxide to mobile fraction occur in the DHS acidified soil. The pH values of soils showed that DHS soil is more acidified than HSD soil. In acidified soil from DHS, the percentages of the water-soluble and exchangeable Ca, Mg, and K decreased. The \(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}\) ratios of bulk soil were same to that of the weathered sandstone in DHS, indicating that almost of Sr and Ca in the DHS acidified soil were distributed into silicate. On the other hand, the percentages of Cu, Al, Fe, Zn and P bound to oxide decreased and those of the water-soluble and exchangeable Cu, Al, Fe and Zn and P bound to organic matter increased in DHS.

The chemical compositions of stream water in DHS and HSD are affected by bedrock such as sandstone, shale and granite involving low Ca contents. Especially, the acidified drainage basin has an influence on the chemical compositions of stream water in DHS. The pH values of steam water were 3.86-4.58 and 6.5 in DHS and HSD, respectively. Calcium concentrations of stream water were less than 3 ppm in both sites. The \(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}\) ratios of stream water were lower than those of exchangeable fraction in soils, and were close to those of rainwater. These results indicate that most Ca and Sr in steam water are originated from atmospheric depositions. In DHS, Al and Zn concentration were high in stream water. These elements are derived from high contents of exchangeable fractions in acidified soil.
Effects of thinning on delta-$^{15}$N in leaves of hinoki cypress and understory vegetation

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Light, water and nutrient availability for remaining trees increases after thinning in hinoki cypress plantation. Soil nitrification often increases after thinning. Abundance of understory vegetation also increases. These changes may affect nitrogen use strategy of hinoki cypress and understory vegetation but there is no information about hinoki cypress plantation in Japan. If nitrification increases after thinning, the nitrate should have lower delta-$^{15}$N while remaining ammonium should have higher delta-$^{15}$N. The preferential uptake of nitrate and ammonium should affect delta-$^{15}$N of plants.

In this study, we investigated changes of delta-$^{15}$N in hinoki cypress plantations at two different altitude (Tengu 1150m, Furumiya 710m). Two adjacent plots (20m x 20m) were located. One plot was thinned in 2002 and the other was remained as a control. Organic layer and surface soil at 5cm depth were samples in 2002. Leaves of hinoki cypress and understory vegetation (Lindera triloba in Tengu and Lindera sericea in Furumiya) were collected in July from 2002-2007. Nitrogen concentration of these samples were measured by NC analyze while delta-$^{15}$N of them were measured by IRMS.

The results suggest that leaf delta-$^{15}$N in understory vegetation is more affected by thinning than hinoki cypress. Higher delta-$^{15}$N in leaves suggests preferential uptake of nitrate by understory vegetation in thinned forest in Tengu or reliance of nitrogen sources in the upper layer of soil, i.e. organic horizon by hinoki cypress in Furumiya. These findings indicate that measurement of delta-$^{15}$N in leaves provide valuable insights about the nitrogen sources for plants.

Keywords: hinoki cypress, understory vegetation, thinning, $^{15}$N
Nature of organo-mineral interaction in volcanic-ash soil. Par I. density and surface property of particles

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Organic carbon (OC) in soil is mainly present as aggregates of organic matter with soil mineral particles. Volcanic-ash soil is characterized by allophane/imogolite, the smallest soil minerals on earth, and by unusually high organic carbon (OC) concentration compared to non-volcanic soils. Based largely on correlation studies, the high OC of volcanic-ash soil is generally explained by protective effect of the inorganic constituents unique to this soil (e.g., short-range-ordered minerals and dissolved aluminum) via sorption of OC on mineral surfaces and organo-metal complexation. Yet little direct evidence is available on the mechanism of OC stabilization or the nature of organo-mineral interactions in volcanic-ash soil. Fractionation of soil according to particle density is an effective approach to distinguish the OM of different degrees of mineral associations and to elucidate SOM stabilization processes. Here we examined a surface (Ap) horizon of an allophanic Andisol in central Japan by isolating six density fractions (from <1.6 g/cc to >2.5 g/cc). We previously reported the progressive increase in delta C-13, N-15, and radiocarbon age from low to higher density. At this presentation, we focus on physical and mineralogical characteristics of the organo-mineral aggregates. We use N2 gas sorption approach to assess the extent of organic coverage on mineral surfaces in addition to the measurements of the specific surface area. Using selective dissolution techniques (acid oxalate and pyrophosphate), we quantify the abundance of short-range-order minerals and to estimate the amount of organic matter sorptively stabilized by these minerals in each fraction. Together with SEM/EDS characterization of each fraction, we attempt to summarize the progression of organo-mineral interaction from fresh plant detritus to stable organo-mineral aggregates.

Keywords: soil organic matter, carbon sequestration, nano particle, volcanic ash, specific surface area
Testing the use of 15N natural abundance acorn as an indicator of nitrogen saturation of forests

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The natural abundance of stable N isotopes (delta 15N) has been used for interpreting N cycles in forest ecosystems because isotopic fractionations during microbial transformations such as mineralization, nitrification, and denitrification can leave different delta 15N for each N pool (Nadelhoffer and Fry 1994). It has been conceived that the delta 15N of plants can reflect the isotopic signatures of soil (Hogberg et al. 1997), thus can be used as an indicator of N dynamics, especially N availability and progress of N saturation (Pardo et al. 2006, Craine et al. 2009). Foliar delta 15N values have been used as the representative for plant body. However, ideal foliar sampling is sometimes difficult due to the large canopy and possible heterogeneity of leaf chemistry in a canopy. Compared with leaves, delta 15N of acorns would have some advantages as the delta 15N of plant body; the strategy of the acorn production would be different from the one for leaves, which can allow us to get more insights into N economy of the plants including retranslocation of N, and less decomposability of acorns that can allow us to use the dropped acorns as the samples, making the sampling efforts much easier. However, the information on delta 15N of acorns together with other delta 15N of leaves and soil N pools is totally limited. Thus, we selected several watersheds with different N status and collected acorns together with soils and plant leaves to see if acorn delta 15N can be similar with that of leaves to be used as an indicator of N status.

Sampling was carried out in Kamigamo Experimental forest (Kyoto Univ) in Kyoto, several forests in in Fukushima prefecture, FM Tamakuryuro (TUAT) in Hachioji, Tokyo. We collected soils, leaves and acorns. We measured delta 15N of ammonium (NH4\textsuperscript{+}\textsuperscript{-}N), nitrate (NO3\textsuperscript{-}N), acorn, leaves, and the bulk soil. The delta 15N of NO3\textsuperscript{-}N was measured using the denitrifier method. The delta 15N of NH4\textsuperscript{+} was measured using ammonia diffusion, followed by persulfate oxidation of recovered NH4\textsuperscript{+} onto a glass fiber filter and the denitrifier method.

We tentatively consider the concentration of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN: NH4\textsuperscript{+}+ NO3\textsuperscript{-}) in the soil as an indicator of the nitrogen saturation. We thought progress status of nitrogen saturation as bellow, Kyoto, Fukushima, and Hachioji. Between Hachioji and Fukushima, we found the decreasing in delta15N of acorns, which is the same trend observed for leaves (Takebayashi et al. 2010). This results suggest that delta15N of acorns can have a possibility to be used as an indicator of nitrogen saturation. However, the variation in delta15N of acorns in a forest was quite large compared with that of leaves. This large variation is difficult to interpret but we suspect that this large variation possibility due to the strong N retranslocation in acorn production and will discuss the potential of the use of this variation in delta15N in the presentation.

Keywords: Nitrogen, Forest, Soil, Plant, Acorn