

Volcanic islands as model systems to quantify pedogenic thresholds and determine their impact on Polynesian land-use

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Soils and weathering profiles are complex emergent features at the surface of terrestrial Earth. They form a boundary layer hosting the chemical and physical interaction of biology and hydrology with rock. Soil development derives from the dissipation of chemical energy through reaction with rock minerals; few of the original reactants survive, but they are replaced by secondary products unique to the weathering environment. Soil processes filter and transform gasses and liquids passing through them, which in turn leads to chemical and mineralogical evolution of the fabric of soil itself. Soil chemical reactions are controlled by a number of feedbacks that buffer the system from rapid changes in external inputs, however there are limits beyond which the chemical system rapidly shifts into a new chemical domain governed by different buffer reactions. Globally soil distribution patterns are underlain by specific soil process domains that are separated by pedogenic thresholds at points of domain failure. Considering how soil process domains and thresholds determine the global distribution of properties, which control everything from agricultural productivity to carbon sequestration is a primary research focus for modern biogeochemistry. Soils are complex systems, which makes it difficult to develop clear understanding of how specific driving factors control soil process domains. It is common therefore to develop model systems that allow us to tackle specific questions with fewer complications. Here I discuss the use of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean as a model system to study how pedogenic thresholds control phosphorus and calcium availability to plants. I then combine that knowledge with archeological information to understand how the geographic constraints imposed by these thresholds determined Polynesian land use and agricultural productivity. As Polynesians radiated across the Pacific they encountered islands that presented many different local environments ranging from reef protected lagoons and minimal high island terrain to high volcanic islands with still active volcanoes. They brought with them an agricultural starter kit, but from there on they needed to adapt to their new surroundings. They practiced two major types of intensive agriculture: non-irrigated dryland and flooded-field irrigated farming. Typically young islands had soils with rich nutrient stores, whereas older islands had depleted soils that were not productive. By contrast, young islands had few large valleys to support irrigated agriculture, whereas the older ones had broad valleys allowing development of highly productive irrigation systems. Thus cultivators in rainfed systems brought their crops to areas where near-surface rocks were still weathering and supplying nutrients such as calcium and phosphorus, whereas in irrigated systems flowing water brought the products of weathering to crops. The contrast had profound implications for the development of culture across Polynesia. Behind these anthropological observations lies an equally fascinating story about how dramatically different soil properties are produced by non-linear responses to environmental forcing. In this talk I will explore the pedology of volcanic islands and relate it to pre-industrial human land-use decisions.

Keywords: Soil Chemistry, Biogeochemistry, Andisols, Soils

Can soil properties alone predict ecosystem processes?

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Soils are a reservoir of nutrients, which supplies plants with essential elements. Soil chemical properties can change spatially and temporary in relation to parent materials, climate and pedogenesis as a function of time. In places, the concentrations of essential elements in soils are extremely impoverished, which can eventually limit the net primary productivity of terrestrial ecosystems. Accounts by Elser et al. (2007), Vitousek et al. (2010) and many others indicate that available P is depleted in deeply weathered soils in the tropics due to a long process of geochemical occlusion and losses without substrate rejuvenation and that P limits the productivity of many tropical rain forests.

Colleagues and I have been extensively studying soil P fractions and productivity in Bornean tropical rain forests. Indeed, the concentrations of soil total P or labile P fraction are generally impoverished in comparison to temperate ecosystems but can still vary greatly reflecting parent materials or the status of pedogenesis. For instance, the concentrations of soil total P in seven tropical rain forests below 700 m asl in north Borneo are generally low, but range from 66 to 512 ($\mu\text{g/g}$). That of Bray-1 extractable P ranges from 0.2 to 4.2 ($\mu\text{g/g}$). Yet, above-ground net primary productivities of these forests are remarkably high and converge to a narrow range. Therefore, soil chemical properties do not correlate with productivity in plausibly P-limited tropical rain forests. Why soil P fractions cannot explain productivity?

We ecologists consider net primary productivity as a fundamental ecosystem process, which is expressed as the rate of net carbon fixation in an ecosystem context. Trees invest P for carbon fixation and the efficiency of the carbon fixation is expressed by the ratio of C flux to P flux, i.e. P-use efficiency in productivity. In these forests, P-use efficiencies greatly vary by 5-fold from 800 to 4000 (gC/gP) indicating that trees can adjust to the magnitude of P deficiency to maintain productivity. This is the major reason why soil P fractions cannot explain productivity.

Biological mechanisms to explain the enhancement of P-use efficiencies are two fold, one is the efficiency of photosynthetic C fixation per unit P in leaves and the other is the residence time of P in tree bodies. Colleagues and I investigated relative importance of these two mechanisms and found that the variation of residence time of P can much better explain the variation of P-use efficiency. Tropical trees increase the residence time of P in their bodies by increasing leaf life span and also by increasing P resorption from senescing leaves when facing to increasing P deficiency. We consider these are the two important plant traits which plants have acquired as adaptation. Our studies imply that understanding adaptive mechanisms as well as soil chemical properties is essential to understand ecosystem processes.

Keywords: Adaptation, Biogeochemistry, Net primary productivity, Nutrient-use efficiency, Soil P fractions, Tropical rain forest

Linkage of root physiology and morphology as an adaptation to soil phosphorus impoverishment in tropical montane forests

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Tropical forests in Borneo maintain a high level of productivity/biomass even under phosphorus (P)-limited conditions. The P-acquisition properties of roots may be an important factor that contributes to forest productivity, but they have not been well evaluated compared with aboveground properties of plants. In the present study, we analyzed root acid phosphatase activity and morphological properties (surface area, diameter and tissue density of roots) of dominant tree species in three tropical montane forests on Mt. Kinabalu, Borneo, to investigate changes in root properties along a soil P availability gradient.

We found at the community level that root phosphatase activity and specific root surface area (root surface area per gram root biomass) increased, and root diameter decreased, with decreasing soil P availability at the community level, and the relationship was not changed in general even if we focused on a single tree species distributed across multiple study sites that differ in soil P availability. Root acid phosphatase was significantly positively correlated with specific root surface area, and negatively correlated with root diameter, suggesting that finer roots have higher phosphatase activities. Furthermore, we compared root acid phosphatase activity with leaf P concentration of a given tree species, and found a significant negative correlation between them. The significant correlation suggested that root P-acquisition properties could influence leaf P concentration, and/or vice versa. Belowground properties (i.e., root P-acquisition properties) might be directly/indirectly linked to aboveground properties (i.e., leaf P concentration) of a tree individual.

In conclusion, the root physiological and morphological properties change along a gradient of soil P availability in the tropical montane forests. In addition, the changes in the root properties are coordinated with the changes in leaf P concentrations. The adaptive changes in the aboveground and belowground properties along the soil P gradient could contribute to the maintenance of forest productivity in the tropical montane forest in Borneo.

Keywords: Phosphatase activity, Plant-soil interactions, Tree roots, Root surface area, Soil phosphorus availability, Tropical montane forests

Distinctive pools and chemical species of phosphorus among density fractions of allophanic and non-allophanic Andisols

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Andisols with abundant aluminum (Al) and iron (Fe) oxyhydroxides are characterized by a high phosphorus (P) retention capacity. Such property leads to a significant inhibition of plant growth in Andisols unless properly managed. Andisols are classified into two types in accordance with the difference in the clay mineral compositions. One type is referred to as allophanic Andisols, in which allophane and imogolite are present in the clay fraction. The other type is referred to as non-allophanic Andisols, in which Al- and Fe- humus complexes and 2:1 phyllosilicates are predominant. Based on the result of chemical extraction, it has been suggested that these clay minerals appear to contribute to P retention capacity of Andisols. Separating the different soil minerals in accordance with their density can limit the number of P-bearing phases, facilitating characterization of species and accumulating pools of P. The objective of this study was to characterize the species and distinctive pools of P in allophanic and non-allophanic Andisols using density separations in combination with sequential extraction and solution ³¹P nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

Allophanic and non-allophanic Andisols collected from Tsukuba and Osaki, respectively, were fractionated by sodium polytungstate into five density levels including 1.6-1.8, 1.8-2.0, 2.0-2.25, 2.25-2.5, and >2.5 g cm⁻³. Phosphorus in each density fraction was extracted sequentially by deionized water, 0.5 M NaHCO₃, 0.1 M NaOH and 1.0 M HCl. After the extracts were filtered, the concentration of inorganic P (P_i) in all fractions was determined colorimetrically with a molybdenum blue method. The concentration of total P (P_t) in each fraction was determined by the same method after the solution was treated using H₂SO₄-persulphate digestion. The concentration of organic P (P_o) was calculated as the difference between P_t and P_i of each fraction.

The total concentration of P was similar in the allophanic and non-allophanic Andisols (6.2 g kg⁻¹). A large proportion of P_i and P_o in the bulk and each density fraction was extracted by NaOH, indicating that P in both Andisols was mainly associated with Al and Fe (oxy)hydroxides. The density fraction that accumulates P was contrastingly different between allophanic and non-allophanic Andisols where over 90% of P_i and P_o in the former was accumulated in the >2.0 g cm⁻³ fraction, whereas about 70% of P_i and P_o in the latter was found in the <2.0 g cm⁻³ fraction. According to the ³¹P-NMR analysis, ortho-P monoesters were the primary organic P species in the allophanic and non-allophanic Andisols, although it was 2-folds more abundant in the latter than the former. In the non-allophanic Andisols, myo-inositol hexakisphosphate, an ortho-P monoester, was accumulated in the 1.8-2.25 cm⁻³ fraction.

Keywords: phosphorus, NMR, chemical speciation

Influence of feral goat and seabird activities on chemical properties of surface soils on an oceanic island in Japan

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Ogasawara Islands, subtropical oceanic islands in north-western Pacific of Japan, have been listed as Natural World Heritage by UNESCO since 2011 because of their valuable ecosystems sustaining many indigenous species including plants and snails. Nakoudojima Island and its peripheral reefs are the important components of the heritage, but the island has been exposed to the serious influence of soil erosion damaging the indigenous ecosystems. Many areas on the island have been covered with native forests before the introduction of goats (*Capra hircus*) of ca. 200 years ago. The introduced goats had been naturalized on the island since 1945 at the latest, and they had destroyed the native vegetation by grazing and trampling, resulting in a shift of the native forests into grasslands and loss of the surface soils. To fix the problem, all the feral goats on the island had been eradicated in 1999. Although the recovery of seabird nesting for brown booby (*Sula leucogaster*) and wedge-tailed shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) has been observed, the soil erosion has still been serious and plant biomass has been very low in some places on the island at least in 2014.

To conserve the indigenous natural ecosystem and help the recovery of the natural vegetation, we conducted field survey and investigated the chemical properties of surface soil (0 - 5 cm) and aboveground plant biomass in relation to the topography of this island. Under grassland vegetation where influence of feral goat would have been severe, the chemical properties of surface soils, such as soil pH value, total C and N contents, exchangeable acidity, and plant-available phosphate (Bray II P), were highly variable even in a small area. By comparing soil profile characteristics under natural and disturbed vegetation and distribution patterns of these soils on the island, the changes in the soil chemical properties were reasonably assigned to the effect of soil erosion caused by feral goats for increased soil acidity (mainly found in inland valley area) and to the effect of seabird activities for increased Bray II P and soil acidity (mainly found in outer rim area with high altitude). It was also clarified that the high soil acidity was significantly related to the low productivity of plant biomass. Soil erosion would have removed surface soils having weak acidity and exposed subsoils having strong acidity to the ground surface, resulting in inhibition of plant growth and delay of vegetation recovery. Based on the findings obtained in the present study, several options were proposed to stop soil erosion and to recover the vegetation, although careful preliminary examination would be necessary for applying them.

Keywords: Nakoudojima Island, natural world heritage, plant-available phosphate in soils, soil exchangeable acidity, exotic species, soil erosion

Pedogenesis of tephra-derived soils in Japan

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In Japan, there are still 110 active volcanoes today, which occupy approximately 7 percent of those in the world. Some volcanoes in Japan are erupting now and continuing deposition of tephra on the land surface. They will become the parent material of the soils. Of the soils in Japan, tephra-derived soils 'Kuroboku soils (Andosols/Andisols)' are the second-most common group under the main classification scheme in usage, *the Unified soil classification system of Japan* (FCSCN, 2003). Many tephra-derived soils are distributed near and around numerous volcanoes in Japan. Tephra-derived soils composed of black soils (abundant humic soils), brown soils (mainly brown loamy soils: including tephric loess and loess), and Regosols (Tephric) (FAO, 2006) (very weakly developed mineral soils). It has been suggested that the black soils develop when the supply of organic matter by Gramineae grass exceeds the rate of addition of tephra parent materials (Inoue, 2002). It is usually stabilized by the formation of allophane and Al- (or Fe-) humus complexes. Origin of the abundant humus is confirmed by the high correlation between organic carbon content and phytolith content of Gramineae grass (Inoue et al., 2000; 2001 etc.). Most of the Japanese Holocene tephra-derived soils are rich in humus. Older buried humic-rich soils can also be observed in Late Pleistocene tephra-soil sequence in Japan (Inoue et al, 2011a). One of the tephra-derived soils 'brown soils' having poor in humus include an aeolian-reworked tephra (tephric loess; Pullar and Pollok, 1973) as main parent material. Tephric loess occurs in tephra-soil sequences in Japan and is also interlayered with 'background' loess derived from long-term (continuously-deposited) loess (aeolian dust) deposition from Gobi, Taklamakan desert, and the loess plateau in central Asia (Inoue and Naruse, 1987). This loess is barely observed in Japan. Sase and Hosono (1996) shows that pedogenesis of brown soils occurs under the forest vegetation by using vegetation changes from phytolith composition in tephra-soil sequence.

Pedogenesis includes both 'topdown' and 'upbuilding' models (Almond and Tonkin, 1999; Lowe, 2000; Inoue, 2001). Top-down pedogenesis is 'classical' soil formation that occurs by leaching, illuviation, and other processes that form andic materials with horizons developing in a downward-moving front. Upbuilding pedogenesis operates where the soil forms while additions to the soil surface of such materials as tephra or loess occur. If additions are sufficiently slow — typically as thin incremental deposits in distal areas — then topdown pedogenesis continues while the land surface slowly rises (referred to as 'developmental upbuilding'). If additions are thick or frequent, as typically occurs nearer volcanic sources, then the antecedent soil is buried and isolated, and soil formation begins again on the new materials at the land surface ('retardant upbuilding') (Inoue et al., 2011b; Lowe et al., 2008). The profile character is thus determined by the interplay between the rate at which tephra are added to the land surface and topdown processes. Understanding Andosol/Andisol genesis thus often requires a stratigraphic approach combined with an appreciation of buried soil horizons and polygenesis (Lowe and Tonkin, 2010). The terms 'developmental upbuilding' and 'retardant upbuilding' were first used by Johnson and Watson-Stenger (1987) and Johnson et al. (1990) as part of their dynamic-rate model whereby soils evolve by 'ebb and flow' through time (Schaetzl and Anderson, 2005). As mentioned above, most of the tephra-derived soils in Japan are formed by upbuilding pedogenesis and may be described as multisequal soils.

At the present day, theories concerning pedogenesis of tephra-derived soils in Japan are changing from long-established theories. The soils in the regions having numerous active volcanoes occur distinctive pedogenesis unlike in non-volcanic regions.

Keywords: soil, tephra, pedogenesis, tephra-derived soil, Andosols/Andisols, phytolith

Effect of climate on vegetation-soil system after volcanic ash deposition 7300 years ago on Yakushima Island

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Today's vegetation on Yakushima Island varies across elevations. Yakushima Island is covered with the Akahoya volcanic ash being derived from the Kikai Caldera about 7300 years ago. The eruption was so destructive that today's vegetation was established through primary succession after the volcanic eruption. The five independent state factors, which are climate, topography, organism, parent material and time, must have intricately affected the formation of the current soil-vegetation system. Among five factors, Climate including precipitation and temperature must have strongly affected the formation of today's vegetation. The purpose of this study is to clarify how climate has influenced the vertical distribution of the vegetation during 7300 years by investigating the relationships between soil mineral nutrients and nutrient-use efficiencies of the vegetation.

In this study, seven permanent study plots were set up along the elevation gradient. Soil samples (0-10, 10-20 cm depth) were randomly collected from each forest. We determined phosphorus (P) fraction in the soils following the method of Tiessen & Moir (1993). Inorganic nitrogen (N) and exchangeable cations were determined by using the extract with 1.5N KCl. P and N in collected fresh litter were determined by using Kjeldahl digests with concentrated H₂SO₄ and H₂O₂. We calculated mean values of soil elements in each forest and examined the relationships with temperature and precipitation. Temperature and precipitation data were cited from the publicized national numerical average data. Both data do not correlate with each other.

Soil total P (Pt) and inorganic N had a significant positive correlation with temperature but not with precipitation. Occluded-P (Occl-P) had a strongest negative correlation with temperature among P fractions. On the other hand, exchangeable cation had a stronger negative correlation with precipitation than with temperature. Pt and inorganic N had a negative correlation with each nutrient-use efficiency.

P is an essential element whose primary source is the weathering of minerals in parent materials. Considering that the pedogenesis on Yakushima Island is merely 7300 years, P in current topsoil must be derived primarily from the Akahoya volcanic ash. According to Walker & Syers (1976), Pt and acid extractable Ca-P in soils decrease along a pedogenesis chronosequence. In addition, Occl-P being unavailable to plants, increases with the progress of weathering. However, our results indicate that Occl-P is higher at lower elevations and that Pt is lower at higher altitudes where the intensity of weathering is low because of low temperature. Moreover, Ca-P, which is a primary mineral P in parent materials, decreases with increasing elevation. These results are not in accordance with the model of Walker & Syers (1976). We suggest that temperature and precipitation have intricately affected the weathering and leaching of nutrients, and influenced the formation of P fractions.

At higher elevation sites, annual rainfall exceeds annual evapotranspiration. As soil organic matter is decomposed, soils will be reduced by respiration of microbes and soil pH will be lower. Consequently, at higher elevation, acid extractable Ca-P and aluminum (Al) and iron (Fe) are dissolved and then P bound to Al and Fe are leached from topsoil. At lower elevation sites, Occl-P is formed but Pt is also kept and soil inorganic P as a plant available form is higher. Soil inorganic N is also higher at lower elevations probably due to the direct effects of temperature as well as the indirect effects via P availability; the two effects are, however, inseparable in this study.

In conclusion, the availability of P and N varied across elevations primarily due to temperature, which in turn determined P- and N-use efficiencies of the forests. Today's vegetation is, thus, formed via the effects of soils as a function of temperature in addition to the direct effects of temperature on plants.

Keywords: Phosphorus, Volcanic Ash, Nutrient-use efficiency, Climate, Pedogenesis

Origin of mica in Allophanic Andosols in Japan and its role as a radiocesium fixing material

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The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in March 2011 has turned attention to the fate of radiocesium (RCs) in soils in Japan. Allophanic Andosols are common soils in Japan, which generally have clay mineralogy rich in low crystalline minerals such as allophane and imogolite. Since RCs is not adsorbed strongly on these minerals, Allophanic Andosols are assumed to have very low RCs retention ability. The objective of this study is to elucidate the relationship between RCs retention ability and mineralogical properties of Allophanic Andosols in Japan. We hypothesized that trace amount of micas are deposited as a loess component even in Allophanic Andosols, which control the RCs retention ability.

Twenty-three soil samples were collected from a plow layer (0-15 cm) of either paddy or upland fields distributing at alluvial plains in Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto, and Kyusyu districts, representative areas of Allophanic Andosols. Particles with a size of 2-20 μm and $<2.0 \mu\text{m}$ were fractionated from the soils by sedimentation method. RCs retention ability for each particle was represented by the Radiocesium interception potential (RIP). Quartz content was estimated by random powder X-ray diffraction analysis for 2-20 μm particles with adding $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ as an internal standard. Mica content in 2-20 μm particles was estimated by the amount of potassium extracted by fusion with NaHSO_4 , whereas that in $<2.0 \mu\text{m}$ particles was estimated by K extracted by digestion with HF-HClO_4 . Quartz was isolated from 2-20 μm particles by the selective dissolution with H_2SiF_6 , and then $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value for the isolated quartz was determined to estimate the origin.

The RIP value for 2-20 μm and $<2 \mu\text{m}$ fractions was $1.7\pm 0.8 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$ and $2.6\pm 1.3 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$, respectively. Mica-K content in the respective fractions was $3.2\pm 1.3 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ and $3.4\pm 1.7 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$. These values are considerably small compared with those for fine particles in non-volcanic soils. The RIP positively correlated with mica-K content for each fraction, indicating that RCs retention ability is mainly controlled by the amount of micas, in spite of its minority as a mineral component. The mica-K content is proportional to the quartz content, suggesting that the origin of these minerals would be the same. Furthermore, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value for the isolated quartz was $+14.8 \text{ ‰}$ on average with a range of $+10.8$ to $+16.1 \text{ ‰}$, which is clearly higher than those of volcanic materials while similar to those of Chinese loess. Thus, this study strongly indicated that the RCs retention ability of Allophanic Andosols is largely controlled by loess-derived micas.

Keywords: loess, oxygen isotopic analysis, Radiocesium Interception Potential, Allophanic Andosol, mica

Relevant approaches and strategies for investigation on the nitrogen saturation in forested catchments

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After the Industrial Revolution, global scale nitrogen (N) cycle has drastically been altered by increase of anthropogenic N emissions to the atmosphere. Inorganic N concentration in atmosphere and their depositions reached unprecedented level in Europe, northeast United States and northeast Asia. These have caused "Nitrogen Saturation" in the forested areas within the high N deposition regions of Europe, North America, China and Japan. Mechanisms of nitrogen saturation have previously been studied from biogeochemical point of view. N dynamics in catchment-scale, however, could not be described sufficiently, because geographical variations of catchment characteristics such as climatic and hydrologic properties are generally large and their effects provide various aspects of responses in high nitrogen depositions. We propose new strategies based on multi-aspects approach combining microbial ecology and catchment hydrology to reconstruct the mechanistic understandings on previously reported ecosystem level biogeochemical responses to the environmental changes such as high N inputs. Combined applications of novel isotopic tracer techniques and newly advanced functional gene analysis onto the multiple forest landscapes will provide us insightful information on spatiotemporal heterogeneity and non-linear responses of N dynamics related to the N saturation phenomena in forest catchments.

Keywords: forested catchment, nitrogen saturation, microbial ecology, isotope tracer, hydrological processes

Carbon and nitrogen transformation and their driving microorganisms in paddy soil, as assessed by meta-transcriptomics

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Paddy soil undergoes drastic change in redox potential along water management during rice cultivation period. After water-logging, various reductive biochemical processes, including denitrification, metal and sulfate reduction, and methanogenesis can occur in the soil, leading to generation of reduced soil layer. On the other hand, thin oxidized layer is present at soil surface, where oxidative biochemical processes such as nitrification and methane oxidation can occur. These oxidative and reductive reactions play central role in material transformation in paddy soil and are closely related to soil fertility, rice growth and surrounding environment.

We carried out meta-transcriptomic analysis of oxidized and reduced soils collected from Niigata paddy field during rice cultivation period. Whole microbial communities, quantity and diversity of transcriptome involved in carbon and nitrogen transformation in the soils were investigated by rRNA and mRNA analyses. Active microbial communities, possible carbon and nitrogen transformation, microbial players involved in the transformation, and their temporal transition in the paddy soil will be reported.

Keywords: soil microbial communities, metatranscriptome, bioinformatics, paddy soil, CN cycle

Agricultural abandonment influences the ecosystem carbon pools

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Land abandonment, which is increasing globally, has significant impact on terrestrial carbon (C) budget, vegetation, and biodiversity. Invasive alien plants often outcompete native plants after agricultural abandonment, which can lead to the alteration in ecosystem C and nutrient balance. Perennial plants have been an exceptionally successful invader in agricultural abandoned fields around the world. Irrespective of soil nutrient status, alien plants rapidly dominates abandoned agricultural fields in the temperate regions. While negative impact of alien plants on local and regional biodiversity is well established in conservation ecology, its impact on C sequestration potential is much less studied. Paddy fields used for rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) production are the dominant human land-use systems for a long time throughout Japan. Japan has increased to nearly 10% of the total cultivated land area. The aim of the present study was to investigate how the rice paddy abandonment influenced the storage of C in ecosystem components during the secondary succession over decadal time scale.

If paddy fields, the typical agricultural land in Japan, are left abandoned, the amount of soil C in the abandoned fields up to 20 years after being abandoned is lower than that of paddy fields under cultivation. If the field is abandoned for a long time, the amount of soil C increases due to organic matter from weeds, but it is considered that the process will take more than 20 years. We hypothesize that the invasion of alien plants to the abandoned paddy fields enhances ecosystem C storage by their high N use efficiency and high productivity. As results, the temporal change in soil C was similar among vegetation type through amount of input C was similar in present study.

Keywords: land use change, paddy, grassland, invasive alien plants, litter

Responses of organic carbon in a variety of soils controlled by temperature and cellulose supply

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Carbon stored in the upper meter of mineral soils is estimated to be 2500 Gt, which is approximately 3.3 times the size of the atmosphere and 4.5 times the size of the vegetation. Therefore, soil organic matter is often considered as a significant carbon reservoir on the earth's surface. Although changes in soil organic carbon contents (by natural or anthropogenic causes) have a significant impact on the global carbon cycle, the mechanisms of soil organic carbon stabilization and destabilization and the factors controlling these mechanisms are not very well understood. We thus focused on the response of organic carbon in a variety of soils (black soil, brown soil, and red-yellow soil, etc.) controlled by temperature and fresh carbon (cellulose) supply. In addition, we considered the factors controlling the temperature sensitivity and priming effect.

Organic matter stabilization in Andisol and Ultisol revealed by isotopic tracer experiment and density fractionation

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For predicting C cycling in terrestrial ecosystem, dynamics of organic matter (OM) in soil can be a large component that increases uncertainty. Once OM is supplied into soil system mainly as plant detritus and root exudates, OM is decomposed by microorganisms and a proportion of OM is stabilized through association with soil mineral particles. The OM in soils has a wide range of size, density, and chemical reactivity. Organo-mineral particles of heavy-density fraction are highly resistant against microbial degradation compared to mineral-free OM (i.e., plant detritus and low-density fraction). The high C sequestration capacities of soils (e.g., Andisol) are hypothesized to be regulated by incorporation rates of microbial-processed OM into heavier fraction. To test this hypothesis, we conducted incubation experiment using tracer to quantify the pool sizes, influx and efflux rates, and mean residence times (MRTs) of different density classes.

Different types of soils were sampled from two agricultural lands; a volcanic-ash soil (Andisol) from Japan and a highly-weathered tropical soil (Ultisol) from Indonesia. The incubation experiments were carried out after addition of ¹³C-labelled glucose (99 ¹³C atom%, 0.1915 mmol ¹³C g⁻¹ soil as solution) or ¹³C, ¹⁵N-labeled glutamic acid to the soils (2-mm sieved, 5 g dry weight). The soils were incubated for 276 d at 30°C and 50% water holding capacity. After the incubation, soil was separated into three fractions according to its density using sodium polytungstate as heavy liquid: low (<1.8 g cm⁻³), middle (1.8-2.25 g cm⁻³ for Andisol, 1.8-2.5 g cm⁻³ for Ultisol), high (>2.25 g cm⁻³ for Andisol, >2.5 g cm⁻³ for Ultisol) density fractions. We measured the mass, isotopic ratios (¹³C/¹²C, ¹⁵N/¹⁴N) and total C and N concentrations of the density fractions as well as the amount of CO₂ respired during the incubation by alkali trap method. We also measured the specific surface areas (SSA) of soil minerals and the concentrations of Al, Fe oxides/hydroxides.

For both soils, ca. 70 to 80 % of added ¹³C were mineralized to CO₂ within 1 month after substrate addition. The density fractionation showed that ¹³C recovery in the low-density fraction was low (0.5 - 3.8%) throughout the incubation period. The ¹³C recovery within the mid- and high-density fractions was greater than 20%. This indicates that labile substrates were immediately incorporated into the mid- and high-density fractions through microbial processing in the both soils. The highest ¹³C recovery was observed in the mid-density fraction of Andisol and in the high-density fraction of Ultisol, respectively. MRTs of ¹³C in the density fractions positively correlated with SSAs for respective soil types. This can be explained by differences in mineralogy which contribute to OM stabilization through sorption; short-range-order minerals (e.g., allophane and imogolite) in Andisol and iron oxides in Ultisol, respectively. Our results support the hypothesis that newly-added OM is stabilized through association of microbial metabolites with mineral particles. However, dominant density class and turnover of stabilized OM could be variable depending on soil types and clay mineralogy with high specific surface areas.

Keywords: ¹³C-glucose, ¹³C, ¹⁵N-glutamic acid, Andisol, Ultisol, organo-mineral particle

Changes in the structure and function of tannins in natural environments

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Tannins are polyphenols that are contained in plants where they can account to 20% of the plant dry weight depending on its species and organs. Tannins are known to bind to proteins, making insoluble complexes that are resistant to microbial degradation. While tannins are considered to play various roles in ecosystems, we are not fully understand the dynamics and functions of tannins in them. Here, I would like to present the changes in the structure and function of tannins in water and soil environments. Furthermore, their possible influence on nitrogen cycling in mangrove ecosystems will be proposed.

Molecular structure and protein binding ability of CT changes during the decomposition of foliage (Maie et al. 2003)

Tannins are classified into two subgroups, condensed tannins (CT) and hydrolysable tannins (HT). CT are mixtures of polymers of flavan-3-ol units with different degrees of polymerization and mostly hydroxyl substitutions. Molecular structure of CT in foliage changes during the decomposition of foliage. CT molecules composed of prodelphinidin unit (PD), which has more hydroxyl groups than procyanidin (PC), are more susceptible to structural changes. Structural change of CT accompanied with the decrease of protein-binding ability.

Tannins are important source of DOM leached from litter, especially at the early stage of decomposition (Nishimura et al. 2012)

Dissolved organic matter (DOM) leached from litter may contain tannin-derived materials. Since tannins are water-soluble and has wide structural variety among different species, DOM composition in leachate is most diverse at the early stage of the decomposition, but converge into relatively similar composition by time when lignin-degradation products become a major source of DOM.

Tannins-protein complex may contribute to nitrogen cycling in mangrove ecosystem, acting as a delayed release fertilizer (Maie et al., 2008)

Fate of CT leached into water environments can be variable. They may aggregate in saline water, adsorb to sediment, and complex with proteins. CT change their chemical structure quickly in water, becoming "invisible" to analytical window. CT-protein complexes are refractory to microbial degradation, but photo-reactive. By exposing CT-protein complexes to sun light, proteins can be released into water. In mangrove estuary, a large amount of tannins and proteins could be released into water in a relatively short period when leaves fall into water. CT might be contributing to preserve N in mangrove ecosystem, by acting as a delayed release fertilizer.

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Keywords: dissolved organic matter, forest ecosystem, mangrove estuary, nitrogen cycling, protein binding ability, structural change

Nutrient release during biodegradation of organic horizons in the Siberian taiga underlain by continuous permafrost

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Organic horizons under the Siberian taiga forest have a significant role of nutrient supply for plants through their biodegradation processes and of heat insulation for permafrost table underneath shallow mineral soil layer. Lower weathering stages of mineral soils underlain by permafrost have lower potential of soil nutrient retention and release, indicating that summer growing vegetation can expect to fill their nutrient requirements released by organic matter degradation. Decomposed organic matter can supply mineral and biogenic nutrients to plants and microorganisms. Organic horizons often suffer from frequent forest fire in the Siberian forest. Forest fire moves through organic horizon on the ground because of low tree density in the forest stands. Relatively low burning temperature can leave organic residue on the forest ground. Ground temperature during forest fire is a key variable for changes in properties of organic horizons. Solutes release potential and biodegradability of organic horizons was evaluated in this study along with heating temperature gradient. To estimate the effect of forest fire on the biodegradation processes of organic horizons, we prepared organic horizon samples heated between 65°C and 550°C under a relatively oxygen limited atmospheric condition.

A sampling site located in the Evenkia province in the central Siberia. Soils are classified as Oxyaquic Cryosols or Gelic Cambisols according to the WRB classification system. Organic horizon samples were taken depending on hummock topography. Air-dried and powdered samples were heated in a muffle furnace between 105 and 550°C for 15 minutes. Organic residues were applied to incubation experiment to evaluate biodegradation and solutes release. Biodegradation was evaluated from mineralization rates being calculated using temporal changes in CO₂ concentration during an incubation experiment and total organic carbon content in heated solid samples. During the same incubation time course, biogenic elements released from the heated samples were determined after water extraction by ICP-AES, Ion-chromatography and TOC-L with total nitrogen module unit.

Solutes release from heated organic horizon samples by water saturation was different between samples depending on the heating temperature. Larger amount of nutrient elements were released from organic horizons taken from trough points on the hummock. Samples heated at 250°C released the highest amount of solutes mainly dominated by dissolved organic C. Basic cations and major anions including phosphate, nitrate and chloride were also largely released from the sample heated at 250°C. Higher the heating temperature was, solutes concentration was lower. Solution pH was higher with increasing the heating temperature. The ratios of carbon to nitrogen in solid samples were decreased with increasing the heating temperature. The temperature dependence of solutes release was different along with hummock topography.

The maximum mineralization (%) was approximately 4% of total C in samples heated at lower temperature below 180°C. The mineralization rate was not largely different between samples, indicating that the biodegradation process in all heated samples mainly depends on the amounts of easily decomposable carbon source, such as DOC. There are significant correlations between the maximum mineralization rate and DOC or inorganic N. Solutes mainly consisting of nutrients and energy source for microorganisms can be a significant controlling factor for the biodegradation process of organic horizons. The difference in solutes composition and the biodegradation were mainly depending on heating temperature of organic horizons. Heating temperature during a forest fire is an important parameter controlling the further degradation of organic matter in organic horizons and the fate of carbon dynamics in the boreal permafrost affected forest region.

Keywords: Forest fire, Biodegradation, Continuous permafrost terrain, plant nutrition, burned temperature, humic substances

Variation in physical composition of soil organic matter in black spruce forests within a slope in Interior Alaska

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In boreal region, rapid climate warming compared to lower latitude region can accelerate decomposition of soil organic matter (SOM) and, together with an increase in active layer depth, shift patterns of nutrient use and growth of boreal forests. In discontinuous permafrost region of Interior Alaska, black spruce (*Picea mariana*) grows in environments with various active layer depths and different degree of nutrient limitation. These environmental gradients can also be obtained from different positions in a single slope where climatic condition and fire history are similar. To clarify accumulation pattern of SOM and its relationship to tree growth and slope position, we set a transect plot of 1.5km-long in black spruce forests in Caribou Poker Creek Research Watershed. Tree growth rate at lower altitude (250 m) with shallow active layer in growing season is low compared to that at higher altitude (450 m) with deep active layer. We collected samples from organic layers and mineral soil horizons in 14 soil profiles. The thickness of organic layer ranged 7 to 45 cm and was not correlated with altitude. Soil samples are separated into light and heavy fractions by density fractionation approach. The light fraction of topsoil (surface horizon of mineral soil) accounted for 269 g kg⁻¹ of soil mass and 598 g kg⁻¹ of soil organic carbon in average. The relationship between light fraction content of topsoil and slope position was unclear. In the session, we focus on the ¹⁵N natural abundance of SOM and other components in the forest ecosystem and discuss the nitrogen cycling in black spruce forests with different growth rates.

Keywords: black spruce, soil organic matter, density fractionation

Controls over turnover of organic matter and nutrients in permafrost soils

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Introduction: Plant productivity on permafrost soils is limited by nutrient supply from organic matter. Organic matter decomposition and nutrient release can be limited by cold climate, flooding, and recalcitrance of bryophytes (lichen and moss). Plant-soil association (white spruce on mineral soil, black spruce on organic soil, and shrub tundra on lowland soil) suggests the hypothesis that plant acquisition strategies for nutrient (esp., amino acids/inorganic N) can be matched by nutrient supply from soil organic matter. To test this, turnover of organic matter and nutrient release was investigated for three types of ecosystems in Northwest Territory, Canada; white spruce forest (WSF) on the upland soil derived from glaciofluvial sands, black spruce forest (BSF) and tundra (TND) in lower position on fluvial sediments.

Methods: We measured soil organic carbon (SOC) storage [organic and mineral soil layers (0 to 30 cm)], soil temperature and moisture, aeration index [Eh, free Fe oxides (oxalate-extractable Fe)] of soils, and the decomposition rates of litter (lichen, moss, and root litter) and cellulose filter paper buried in the soils. Regarding soil N dynamics, the concentrations of organic and inorganic N in soil solution (zero-tension lysimeter) were measured. Root uptake of dual-labeled (¹³C, ¹⁵N) glutamic acid, ¹⁵N-labeled ammonium, and ¹⁵N-labeled nitrate was measured 24 h after spike of mixture solution.

Water dynamics: Episodic flooding events were observed following spring snowmelt at all sites. Rapid snowmelt and water percolation enhanced aeration in the sandy soil profile of WSF, while the BSF and TND soils were saturated by water flooding on impermeable permafrost layer (30 cm deep) even in summer. The seasonal cycles of reducing- and oxidizing- conditions were recorded as accumulation of free Fe oxides in the soils.

C dynamics: The C stocks in the organic and mineral soil layers were greater in TND (188 Mg C ha⁻¹) and BSF (207-237 Mg C ha⁻¹) than in WSF (37 Mg C ha⁻¹). When the regression analysis was conducted for 15 soil profiles, there was a positive correlation between SOC storage and free Fe oxide concentration. The high concentrations of free Fe oxides in soils appeared to be an index of poor drainage and high SOC storage. Mass loss rates of cellulose filter paper, lichenous litter, and root litter followed the order: WSF>TND>BSF. Water flooding and cold climate retarded decomposition of organic matter in BSF and TND. The development of hummocky micro-topography, which was recorded as the tilting of drunken forest, resulted in accumulation of sparingly-decomposable lichen and moss debris in BSF. The warmer and aeration conditions in sandy upland soil of WSF enhanced turnover of organic matter.

N dynamics: Dissolved organic N is abundant in soil solution at all sites. Nitrogen species in soil solution was dominated by nitrate and ammonium ions in TND soil, while it was ammonium in WSF and BSF soils. Regarding N uptake by plants, TND plants (shrub birch and grasses) preferentially absorb inorganic N (ammonium and nitrate), while white spruce and black spruce could also utilize amino acid-N. Both C and N of amino acids were assimilated by white spruce roots, while only ammonium was transferred to roots of black spruce probably after rapid mineralization by mycorrhizae or roots. N preference of plants is consistent with the dominant N species in soil solution.

Conclusions: Water flooding as well as cold climate retarded turnover of organic matter in black spruce forest. Despite slow turnover of organic matter, black spruce can utilize amino acids as well as ammonium. In warmer and aerated sandy soil, white spruce can absorb both amino acids and inorganic N. In the lowland tundra soil rich in inorganic N, plants can absorb inorganic N. This highlights the importance of considering plant-soil association to predict responses of "sensitive" ecosystem to future changes in flooding, fires, and climate.

Keywords: permafrost, soil organic matter, dissolved organic matter, amino acids, microorganism

Possible future directions in soil and ecosystem research

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Better understanding of soil is fundamental to enhance sustainability of humankind, to conserve natural environment, and to predict/manage future earth environment. Thus, soil scientists can and should play bigger role beyond the field of agricultural science and collaborate more with the scientists of other disciplines. We will discuss possible future directions that we could take to better understand soil processes in earth system's context.

Keywords: soil process, biogeochemistry, ecosystem, ecology, environmental science, earth surface processe

Applications of Cavity Ring-Down Spectroscopy to carbon, nitrogen and water cycling in soil

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Over the past five years, advances in cavity-enhanced absorption spectroscopy have fundamentally changed the way soil scientists study carbon, nitrogen and water cycling between the subsurface, plants and the atmosphere. With the continuous evolution of performance, including high precision, low drift and part-per-billion resolution, along with compact, field-deployable and easy-to-use instruments, scientists are increasingly able to leave their labs and make measurements directly in the field. Here we describe how Picarro's Cavity Ring-Down Spectroscopy technology has been applied to a number of soil applications, including (i) the determination of soil flux measurements by coupling newly developed real-time software with simultaneous measurements of CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, NH₃ and H₂O from closed-loop, recirculated soil chambers; (ii) partitioning water loss from evaporation versus transpiration in arid environments using in-situ measurements of ambient atmospheric water vapor measurements, soil water isotopes and the isotopic signature of local transpiration; and (iii) using in-situ measurements of d¹⁵N and the site preference of ¹⁵N in N₂O to constrain N₂O emissions in agricultural settings.

Keywords: CRDS, soil flux, nitrogen isotopes, evapotranspiration

The effect of the feedback cycle between the soil organic carbon and the soil hydrologic and thermal dynamics

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Biogeochemical feedback processes between soil organic carbon (SOC) in high-latitude organic soils and climate change is of great concern for projecting future climate. More accurate models of the SOC stock and its dynamics in organic soil are of increasing importance. As a first step toward creating a soil model that accurately represents SOC dynamics, we have created the Physical and Biogeochemical Soil Dynamics Model (PB-SDM) that couples a land surface model with a SOC dynamics model to simulate the feedback cycle of SOC accumulation and thermal hydrological dynamics of high-latitude soils. The model successfully simulated soil temperatures for observed data from a boreal forest near Fairbanks, and 2000 year simulations indicated that the effect of the feedback cycle of SOC accumulation on soil thickness would result in a significant differences in the amount of SOC.

Although it is still under development, the PB-SDM showed the significance of one of the feedback processes in high-latitude organic soil dynamics. Further development of the model has the potential to provide more insights into organic soil feedbacks in response to climate change.

Keywords: biogeochemistry, peat, climate change, soil organic carbon, boreal forest

Global patterns of soil microbial carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus stoichiometry in terrestrial ecosystems

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Incorporating site-specific microbial processes may improve models of carbon (C) and nutrient cycling across terrestrial ecosystems. To better understand the concentrations and stoichiometry of C, nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) in soil microbial biomass, we compiled and analyzed the existing published data on microbial C, N and P in soils spanning the global range of land-use types (forest, grassland, paddy, upland and orchard) and soil types based on Harmonized World Soil Database (FAO/IIASA/ISRIC/ISSCAS/JRC, 2012). It was found that the microbial stoichiometry had some flexibility under various environmental conditions. Flooded paddy soil had the highest C:N ratio of soil microbes among the global land-use types while C:P and N:P ratios highlighted the differences between forest and grassland, following upland field, and paddy or orchard fields. Agricultural soils (except paddy) had significantly lower C, N and P concentrations in soil microbial biomass than natural land-use, indicating large anthropogenic effects (e.g., land management). The spatial patterns of microbial-C and nutrient ratios differed considerably among soil types. For global microbial C:N ratio, the geometric mean varied from maximum 12.7 for Phaeozems to minimum 5.8 for Podzols. The microbial N:P ratio for Andosols was significantly higher than other soils. The consistency of this pattern in plant-soil-microbe ecosystems supports that P is often the major limiting element for Andosols. Meanwhile, higher concentrations of microbial-N and P may relate to high soil water contents, i.e., low permeability soils of Gleysols and Fluvisols. In this study, we provide more reliable parameters to determine soil microbial properties especially in agricultural land-use, i.e., Andosols mainly used for upland fields and Fluvisols used for paddy fields, as there are no existing data available.

Keywords: Andosols, Harmonized World Soil Database, Land-use, Global scale analysis, Terrestrial ecosystem, Paddy fields

Decomposing global soil carbon projection uncertainties in ISI-MIP study

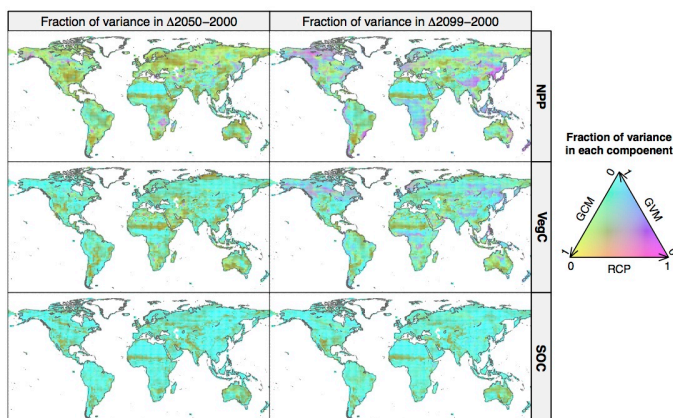
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In earth system processes, because of the vast carbon pool of soil organic carbon (SOC), the behavior of SOC is the key to understanding the feedback of terrestrial ecosystems to atmospheric CO₂ concentration in a warmer world. There seem to be still large uncertainties in SOC projection. Therefore, how the uncertainties in SOC projection matters in future C projection and which uncertainty sources cause SOC projection uncertainty should be clarified to reduce SOC projection uncertainties. In this study, we performed simulations using six global vegetation models (GVM) using climate projections based on five climate models (GCM) forced by four RCP-based atmospheric concentration scenarios, aiming at specifying the relative uncertainty in the projection of global SOC stocks from global and regional perspectives.

At the end of the simulation period (2099), global Δ net primary production ranged from -7.0 to 54.3 Pg-C Year⁻¹, global Δ vegetation biomass C ranged from -27 to 543 Pg-C Year⁻¹, and global Δ SOC ranged from -195 to 471 Pg-C Year⁻¹ in the entire simulation set. Thus, SOC projection uncertainty was relatively large compared to above biomass changes. We conducted ANOVA to the changes in NPP, VegC, and SOC as factors to be RCP, GCM, and GVM in global and regional scale, which enable us to know relative importance of these factors to changes in C. For Δ NPP, the GCM uncertainty dominated before the year 2020, and the RCP uncertainty increased and dominated after 2040. The GVM uncertainties were approximately 20% in most of the simulation period. GVM dominate uncertainties (60% and 90%, respectively) rather than climate driving scenarios (i.e., GCM and RCP) in the global Δ VegC, and Δ SOC projections. In addition, we found that the contributions of each uncertainty source were spatio-temporally heterogeneous and differed among the GVM variables (Fig. 1). These results indicated to improve the SOC process in GVM is essential to reduce global C projection uncertainty. In the poster presentation, we will discuss about the difference in SOC processes of GVM in detail.

Figure 1. Relative importance of each uncertainty source to Δ NPP, Δ VegC, and Δ SOC (from Nishina et al., 2014 in ESDD)



Accumulation processes of organic carbon in peat deposit in a tropical mangrove forest on Pohnpei Island, FSM.

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To quantitatively evaluate organic carbon accumulation processes in peat deposits on a tropical mangrove ecosystems, solid-state ¹³C cross-polarization and magic angle spinning nuclear magnetic resonance (CPMAS NMR) signals were monitored to determine the organic carbon composition of humified leaf and root, which account for a large majority of mangrove-produced litters and mangrove peat in a coral reef-type *Rhizophora* forest on Pohnpei Island, Federated States of Micronesia. Radiocarbon dating was also used to estimate the average turnover times of peat deposits at each depth. The mass loss rate of mangrove leaves during humification was much higher than that of roots. Mass loss rates of mangrove leaves and roots are expected to be affected by their varying chemical characteristics and the different aerobic/hydrological conditions present in the two litter types during humification processes. The decomposability of individual organic carbon components also varied markedly between leaf and root litters. Significant increases in aryl-C/O-alkyl-C and aliphatic-C/O-alkyl-C ratios and minor increases in aryl-C/aliphatic-C ratio during the humification of leaves implied that only the O-alkyl-C component was relatively labile compared with aryl- and aliphatic-C, and that the decomposability of aliphatic-C was also slightly higher than that of aryl-C, while the difference was not significant in leaf litters on the forest floor. Regarding roots, a stable aryl-C/O-alkyl-C ratio during humification suggests that the decomposability of aryl- and O-alkyl-C components did not differ greatly in the peat deposit, while the concomitant minor increase in the aliphatic-/O-alkyl-C ratio and the substantial decrease in the aryl-/aliphatic-C ratio with humification imply that aliphatic-C was more recalcitrant than aryl- and O-alkyl-C in the peat. Conversely, the compositional properties of organic carbon and the ages of ¹⁴C of the peat deposit were quite homogenous and relatively modern throughout the peat profile, suggesting that large amount of mangrove roots penetrate up to at least 80-cm depth. These findings provide quantitative and qualitative insights into the potential importance of very high production of mangrove fine roots for organic carbon accumulation in peat in tropical mangrove ecosystems.

Keywords: peat deposit, organic carbon, ¹⁴C dating, coral reef-type mangrove forest, solid-state ¹³C CPMAS NMR

Carbon cycle at different succession stages of agroforestry in Tome-Acu, Para, Brazil

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Introduction

In Tome-Acu, Para, Brazil, farmers plant crops to establish a series of successive harvests that is called Agroforestry System of Tome-Acu (SAFTA: Subler, 1993; Tanaka, 1997). Its sequence is similar to natural succession and farmers can use the fields for a long period (Subler and Uhl, 1990; Subler, 1993; Yamada and Gholz, 2002). Based on farmers experience, the mechanism of SAFTA has not been well documented. Especially the change during the succession or the effect of the change on nutrients and carbon (C) flow has not been documented. Thus, the objective of this study was to clarify the change in C flow during succession and its mechanism to clarify the advantage of SAFTA.

Method

Three different succession stages were selected; since 2008 (6 years old; 6YO), since 2002 (12YO) and since 1980 (34YO). The C flow was analyzed by measuring the C abundance in (1) aboveground biomass, (2) soil, (3) litter and (4) yield and (5) the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission from soil. In addition to the agroforestry field, abundance of C in soil and litter as well as soil respiration were monitored in a secondary forest. The measurement was conducted from September 2012 to July 2014. The C balance was calculated by the difference of all input (aboveground biomass increase, litter and harvested yield) and output (soil respiration and yield residue).

Result and Discussion

The increase of aboveground biomass of cocoa from 2013 to 2014 was 3.2 kg tree⁻¹ in 6YO and significantly larger than other stages (1.5 and 1.9 for 12YO and 34YO, respectively) The yield of cocoa was highest in 12YO and contained 3.3 kg-C tree⁻¹. The yield in 6 and 34YO were almost same with 1.5-1.9 kg-C tree⁻¹. Litter was highest in secondary forest with 8.2 Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. The litter of 6YO, 12YO and 34YO increased with the age, and were 4.6, 5.6 and 7.1 Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹, respectively.

Soil carbon stock from 0 to 30 cm depth was 109.8 Mg ha⁻¹ in secondary forest, those for 6YO, 12YO and 34YO were 57.4, 77.7 and 101.3 Mg ha⁻¹, respectively. There was no significant difference among them. But as the agroforestry stages progressed, the amount of litter fall and soil carbon tended to increased.

Soil respiration rate in litter removed chamber (L-) in secondary forest was 129 mg CO₂-C m⁻² h⁻¹, those for 6YO, 12YO and 34YO were 81, 84 and 92 mg CO₂-C m⁻² h⁻¹, respectively. Soil respiration rate in chamber with litter (L+) in secondary forest was 176 mg CO₂-C m⁻² h⁻¹, those for 6YO, 12YO and 34YO were 77, 104 and 113 mg CO₂-C m⁻² h⁻¹, respectively. The soil respiration rate in removed litter chamber was significantly lower than the chamber with litter in each site except 6YO. The respiration is the sum of root respiration and soil organic matter decomposition. The high soil respiration rate in secondary forest can be attributed to the litter fall as well as the high amount of roots.

Soil respiration rates in this study were similar to results reported for tropical forest in Brazil (59-139 mg CO₂-C m⁻² h⁻¹ (Fernandes et al. 2002; Davidson et al. 2000), but lower than that of pasture in Brazil (117-317 mg CO₂-C m⁻² h⁻¹ (Fernandes et al. 2002)). It was suggested that carbon turnover in agroforestry is similar to forest and harder to decompose compared with herbaceous plant in pasture.

As a consequence, the C balance in 6YO, 12YO, 34YO were 4.1, 4.5, 3.9 ton C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹, respectively.

Conclusion

Our results showed that the amount of litter fall and soil C increased as the agroforestry stages progressed, indicating a higher internal nutrient cycling according to the Agroforestry age. All agroforestry stages in this study were found to be a C sink. The applied fertilizer at the younger age will be stored in the aboveground plant parts, as well as in the soil.

Keywords: Tropical soil, Soil respiration, Carbon cycle, Agroforestry

Effects of microorganisms and minerals on size distribution of organic matter adsorbed to soil

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Sorption of organic matter to soil is a key mechanism for carbon sequestration in terrestrial ecosystems. However, little is understood on how adsorptive organic matter is formed during decomposition process. In this presentation, we show changes in size distribution of adsorptive organic matter in soil during decomposition, and influences of microorganisms and minerals on the changes. We conducted an incubation experiment, in which leaves of three species were separately incubated in low-carbon-content soil, and size distribution of extractable organic matter from the soil was analyzed using HPLC attaching a size-exclusion column (HPSEC). Molecular weight of extractable organic matter distributed mainly in two ranges, about 100kDa-200kDa and about 0.5kDa-20kDa (based on proteins molecular weight) for all plant species. The width of these ranges changed to narrower with decomposition process. This change in molecular weight distribution (MWD) was observed when cycloheximide was added to soil, but not observed when chloramphenicol was added, suggesting bacterial influence on the MWD change during decomposition. In order to clarify influence of minerals on the typical two ranges, metal concentration was measured using ICP/MS for fractionated, eluted solution from HPSEC. The MWD of iron was closely related to that of organic carbon. These results suggest an importance of bacteria and iron for size distribution of adsorptive organic matter in decaying litter.

Keywords: Soil microorganisms, Soil minerals, Soil carbon, Organic matter adsorption, Molecular weight distribution

Accumulation of sulfur compounds in Japanese volcanic soils

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Volcanic soils are found in Asian countries, particularly within the circum-Pacific volcanic belt. Their unique chemical properties are expected to contribute to sulfur (S) retention. Although S is an essential element for plants and microorganisms, there is little information about S dynamics in forest ecosystems of Asian countries. The aim of this study is to characterize S accumulating systems in Japanese volcanic soil from the following four aspects: i) S pool sizes; ii) spatial S distribution in a catchment; iii) organic S transformation processes; iv) upbuilding/topdown pedogenesis.

To achieve the purposes, we investigated i) S pools of forested volcanic soils from 0-2m depth in the Kanto district; ii) the spatial variations of S concentration in a small drainage basin covered by volcanic soil by a geostatistical analysis; iii) organic S transformation rates in incubation experiments; iv) the vertical distribution of S species using K-edge X-ray absorption near-edge structure (XANES) spectroscopy of S species in Melanudands developed above tephra Nt-S, dated at 14-15 cal. ka by upbuilding pedogenesis.

The above four studies showed unique S accumulating systems of volcanic soils in Japanese forests as follows: i) volcanic soils accumulate larger amounts of S than other soil orders previously studied in North America and Europe. Forty percent of organic S was composed of Al-associated forms. Significant correlation between S species and pedogenic minerals suggests that large amounts pedogenic minerals lead to the large S pools. ii) Geostatistical analysis revealed the strong similarity of the spatial patterns of total S concentration and those of the pedogenic minerals throughout the catchment area. More S accumulated in the residual soils (ash soils) on the upper slopes of the catchment than in the colluvial soils of the lower slopes. The most important factor that influenced the distribution of soil S in the catchment was the degree to which volcanic ash was retained in the soils, as reflected by the abundance of the pedogenic minerals derived from volcanic ash deposits. iii) During incubation, the concentration of ester sulfate-S increased in the soils with high concentrations of the pedogenic minerals, whereas the concentration of Carbon (C)-bonded S decreased in all soils. The decrease rate of ester sulfate-S concentrations was negatively correlated with the pedogenic mineral contents. Therefore, when C-bonded S was transformed into ester sulfate-S, complete mineralization to inorganic sulfate might be inhibited, because ester sulfate-S was probably stabilized due to organo-mineral association. iv) The striping distribution patterns of various S fractions were shown in the soil with upbuilding pedogenesis. The predominant S species was highly oxidized S in ester sulfates and inorganic sulfates (+6 oxidation state), nevertheless, proportions of S with reduced and intermediate oxidation states increased episodically. A close correlation was found between ester sulfate-S concentrations and Al-associated organic S concentrations; indeed, the concentrations themselves were roughly similar.

These results suggest that accumulation/transformation of S compounds in Japanese forests is controlled by the pedogenic minerals derived from volcanic ash. Episodic deposits of volcanic ash and eolian dust might trap detritus and humus beneath them during the buildup of the soil surface. The organic S compounds in this material might be decayed as topdown pedogenic processes in the soils. Therefore, the soils with upbuilding pedogenesis have high heterogeneity of S compounds. Volcanic soils might have high ability to retain ester sulfates as Al-associated organic S during transformation processes.

Keywords: Al and Fe hydrous oxides and short-range ordered minerals, forest soils, geostatistical analysis, K-edge X-ray absorption near-edge structure (XANES) spectros, pedogenic minerals, transformation of organic S

Visualization of organic matter binding on poorly-crystalline mineral phases in soil sub-micron organo-mineral matrix

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Soil organic matter (SOM) accounts for a major portion of terrestrial C and is considered to be stabilized against microbial degradation due partly to its interaction with soil minerals. Significant control of poorly-crystalline mineral phases on soil organic matter turnover as well as its storage has been shown based on field correlation studies and incubation experiments. Yet how organic compounds of microbial and plant origins interact with poorly-crystalline and other mineral phases within soil aggregate structure at the spatial scale relevant to microbial extracellular enzymes (tens of nanometers) remain unclear. Here we focused on the sonication-resistant particles that are enriched in organic matter (OM) from an Andisol, the soil order characterized by high contents of OM and poorly-crystalline minerals and high aggregate stability, and tested the hypothesis that submicron-scale OM distribution within a soil particle is controlled by poorly-crystalline minerals using scanning transmission X-ray microscopy (STXM) and near-edge X-ray absorption fine structure (NEXAFS) as well as scanning and transmission electron microscopy (SEM, TEM). We will demonstrate that the combination of synchrotron and other spectroscopic techniques used here is a powerful approach to directly examine soil organo-mineral associations occurring at submicron scale, which can contribute to enhance our mechanistic understanding of SOM stabilization processes.

Keywords: soil organic matter, aggregate, poorly-crystalline minerals, Andisols, scanning transmission X-ray microscopy

Optimal thermolysis condition for soil C storage upon plant residue burning

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Crop residues are often burned in the field and mixed into soil. Yet the impact of this agricultural practice on soil carbon (C) sequestration remains unclear due to the heterogeneity in burning condition and the difficulty in monitoring the biodegradation of burned residues that include char in fields. Thus, identifying the quantitative relationship among burning condition, residue chemistry, and biodegradability is a critical first step. The residue burnt at higher temperature reduces greater mass yet the remaining residue becomes more recalcitrant via carbonization. The residue burnt at low temperature, on the other hand, maintain greater mass which experiences faster biodegradation due to its lability. A corollary to the trade-off relationship is the presence of threshold temperature range above and below which the residue carbon remained after experiencing both thermal decomposition and subsequent biodegradation is strongly reduced. To test the idea, we thermolyzed residues (rice straw and husk) at different temperatures (200-600 °C) under two oxygen availability, and measured the changes in thermal C loss and the biodegradability of thermally-altered residues by laboratory aerobic incubation. The empirical model accounting for the both decomposition processes showed the emergence of threshold temperature range (330-400 °C at 10²-10³ year time scale) due to the expected trade-off relationship. This temperature range corresponded to the major loss of O-alkyl-C (cellulose and hemicellulose) and increase in aromatic-C. These findings show that the thermally-altered residues formed by the threshold range contributes the most to the long-term soil C storage in fire-prone ecosystems and may help to develop C sequestration strategy which takes advantage of field biomass burning, a widespread land practice in many parts of the world.

Keywords: black carbon, 13C NMR spectroscopy, rice residues, oxygen concentration, pyrolysis

Soil organic matter and aggregate hierarchy revisited: a case study using an Andisol

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Soil aggregate structure is likely to exert fundamental control on soil biology (e.g., microbial activity and community composition) and soil biogeochemistry including the stabilization and mobilization of soil organic matter (SOM). Aggregate hierarchy concept (Tidall and Oades, 1982) has been verified for most temperate and tropical soil types except for Andisols developed from tephra and volcanic rocks are known for strong aggregate stability and high SOM storage capacity. We recently showed the first evidence of hierarchical structure in Andisol (Asano and Wagai, 2013). After maximum dispersion (achieved only after 5 kJ/mL sonication following sodium saturation), most of macro- and micro-aggregates were broken down to much smaller particles (<0.2 and 0.2-2 μm) that accounted for dominant proportion of total C, N, and extractable phases of Al, Si, and Fe. These <2 μm particle-size fractions appeared to act as persistent binding agent, contributing to the high physical stability of the aggregates. When the same soil was fractionated by density, the aggregates resistant to mechanical shaking (i.e. higher level in hierarchical structure) showed progressive changes in chemistry along density gradient (Wagai et al. 2014). Among the intermediate density fractions (2.0-2.5 g/cc) where >80% of total C and N and the extractable metals are present, we found general decrease in C:N ratio and $\delta^{14}\text{C}$ and concurrent enrichment of ^{13}C and ^{15}N in accord with previous reports.

The next key question is how the particle-size fractions isolatable after the maximum dispersion are assembled together to form the shaking-resistant aggregates of different density. We attempted to answer this question by examining the organic and inorganic chemistry (C, N, ^{13}C , ^{15}N , $\delta^{14}\text{C}$, ^{13}C -NMR, extractable metals) and the surface characteristics (SSA by N_2 -BET and XPS) of the size and density fractions. We will also discuss the nature of organo-mineral interactions inferred from our results and compare it with the previously-suggested concepts such as aggregate hierarchy (Tidall and Oades, 1982), and "zonal layering" model (Kleber et al. 2007).

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Keywords: soil carbon, soil nitrogen, carbon sequestration, aggregation, organo-mineral interaction, isotope

Soil moisture variations for landscape trees under humid tropical conditions

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Compact urban development in Hong Kong has left little plantable spaces for amenity vegetation. Containers could permit tree growth in cramped sites with masses of buried utilities. This study evaluated the moisture variations in landscape tree containers in urban Hong Kong. Stratified random sampling selected 12 containers of different geometry. Soil moisture was obtained by a Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR) probe. Volumetric soil moisture content was measured at 5 cm depth intervals every two weeks for one year. Topsoil and subsoil samples were taken to analyze key physical and chemical properties. The soil mix, derived from decomposed granite amended with organic material, were highly stony with high sand content and loamy sand texture. The mean bulk density of 1.72 Mg/m³ suggested degraded structure and compaction to about 33 per cent total porosity. Despite having more organic matter, the topsoil was more compacted and less porous than subsoil mainly due to prolonged rainsplash impact. Inadequate organic matter and excessive sand are unfavorable to soil structure formation and maintenance. The dominant coarse sand could support more air capacity pores to promote infiltration, drainage and aeration, with limited availability of medium pores for storage of plant-available water. Moisture content closely followed the rainfall regime with pronounced variations between dry and wet seasons and episodes. Moisture increased notably with depth in most containers due to less compacted subsoil. Occurrence of lithologic discontinuity in some sites retarded downward water movement and created perched water table. Waterlogging occurred periodically in subsoil due to heavy and prolonged rainfall in the wet season, compounded by blocked drain holes with impeded drainage. Sites shaded from direct sunshine had more water and less temporal fluctuations, indicating the influence of elevated temperature on evapotranspiration. The applications of the findings to container design, soil management for urban trees were explored.