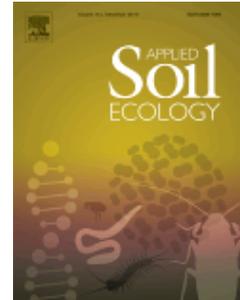




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ISSN: 0929-1393

### DESCRIPTION

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*Applied Soil Ecology* addresses the role of **soil organisms** and their interactions in relation to: **sustainability and productivity**, nutrient cycling and other **soil processes**, the maintenance of soil functions, the impact of human activities on **soil ecosystems** and bio(techno)logical control of soil-inhabiting pests, diseases and weeds.

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Researchers in Soil Science, Agronomy, Crop Science, Ecology, Forestry, Entomology.

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### INTRODUCTION

*Applied Soil Ecology* addresses the role of soil organisms and their interactions in relation to: agricultural productivity, nutrient cycling and other soil processes, the maintenance of soil structure and fertility, the impact of human activities and xenobiotics on soil ecosystems and bio(techno)logical control of soil-inhabiting pests, diseases and weeds. Such issues are the basis of sustainable agricultural and forestry systems and the long-term conservation of soils in both the temperate and tropical regions.

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- soil microbiology and microbial ecology
- soil invertebrate zoology and ecology
- root and rhizosphere ecology
- soil science
- soil biotechnology
- ecotoxicology
- nematology
- entomology
- plant pathology
- agronomy and sustainable agriculture • nutrient cycling • ecosystem modelling and food webs

### *Types of paper*

1. Original research papers (Regular Papers)
2. Review articles
3. Short Communications
4. Applied Field Research Article
5. Viewpoints
6. Letters to the Editor
7. Editorials
8. Book Reviews
9. Announcements

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A *Short Communication* is a concise, but complete, description of a limited investigation, which will not be included in a later paper. Short Communications should be as completely documented, both by reference to the literature and description of the experimental procedures employed, as a regular paper. They should not occupy more than 6 printed pages (about 12 manuscript pages, including figures, etc.).

An *Applied Field Research* article is a paper presenting field work. Soil research needs to begin with an important phase of field work, meaning opening a soil profile and collecting information directly in the field. It is generally given as well-established and known. However, this is frequently not the case. In addition, this particular and often mandatory phase of soil research knows a recent technical development. The large use of photographs and new field tools (chemical, physical, biological field analyses) allow a better description of soil profiles and biogenic structures. Applied Field Research articles allow sharing classical and new field techniques of investigation, necessary for the standardization of collected data at planetary level. Applied Field Research articles clearly illustrate old and new field processes of data record, or data collection in particular unusual but interesting circumstances. The aim of the articles is to help people in soil data collection and classification. Applied Field Research articles accompany the development of the field investigation phases of soil applied research. A series of Applied Field Research articles can be diffused in a Special Applied Field Research issue dealing with a given aspect of field work.

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## Article structure

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For the USDA system, as an example in the text of the Materials and Methods, the text can read as follows - "The soil was a Malabon silty clay loam (Pachic Ultic Argixerolls) (Soil Survey Staff, 2010). Then cited in the Reference Section as follows:  
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### *Discussion*

It is possible to have a single Results and Discussion Section. If you do this, it is generally best to present one set of data (which could be delineated by a short descriptive subheading) that is followed by discussion as outlined below. Whether there should be two separate sections or not is driven by the data. Sometimes there are very distinct subset of data that can be presented and then discussed independent of the other sub data sets or topics. If this is the case then a single Results and Discussion section might be most appropriate. On the other hand if the data is interrelated and can be synthesized in to single progression discussion then it is likely best to have a separate Discussion section. The discussion component's primary role is to interpret the results by exploring the significance and novel aspects of the work but should not repeat results. The discussion should be driven by the rationale, objectives or hypothesis presented in the Introduction. Explain the principles, relationships, and generalizations that can be supported by the results or outcomes. It is important that your interpretation and explanations be based on your experiments and not go beyond what can be concluded from the data. It is important to acknowledge exceptions, anomalies, or findings that run counter to the literature - sometimes these can be the most significant outcome and result in a paradigm shift. Explain how the results relate to previous findings, whether in support, contradiction, or simply provide new data. On the other hand, avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature. Scientific speculation is encouraged but must be acknowledged and should be reasonable and based an the extension of your observations. Often the discussion can include suggestions for further investigation. Present conclusions, supported by a summary of the evidence.

### *Conclusions*

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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\*Significant at the 0.05 probability level.

\*\*Significant at the 0.01 probability level.

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<sup>†</sup>Footnote description of column heading 1

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<sup>§</sup>Values with the same lower case letters in a row within the Subspanner heading are not significantly different at  $P < 0.05$ .

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