

Interactive comment on “Methane emission from tropical savanna *Trachypogon sp.* grasses” by E. Sanhueza and L. Donoso

Anonymous Referee #1

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The authors use measurements of methane emissions and uptake from natural and clipped grasslands to support the finding that vegetation may emit methane. I recommend to reject the paper as the main contention of the authors is supported by a misrepresentation of their data. Figure 1 clearly suggest that there may be four (or three) groups of data. In the first part 22-26 Oct. 1a the grasses show indeed emission, but they do not in the later measurements. To lump these together and agree on a mean value of 6.0 seems to me a misrepresentation of the data.

Unless the authors show more data, or explain the differences either through a simple regression model or otherwise, lumping this data in a single value would appear to be not correct. Since this is the basis of the paper, and the rest upscaling based on this analysis and only a summary of some previous work in this area, I am sorry to

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recommend rejection.

Minor issues.

Abstract. The abstract needs to mention where the measurements were made and that the extrapolation is based on these measurements only.

Field measurements. Accuracy and precision of the instruments is lacking. How reliable are the observations?

Results. See above. How was soil moisture measured at what depths?

How large is the area of savannas used in the calculations?

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 6, 6841, 2006.

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