

Authors' Response to Co-Editor

We appreciate the helpful comment made by Co-Editor. Below, we indicate our point-to-point response in blue.

Previous concerns were mostly adequately addressed. But one important point is not fully resolved, as to if the soil analysis supports the conclusion, which the two reviewers thought critical. I still recommend performing ON-SITE soil sampling in the similar season. Otherwise, the authors should provide strong justification of similarity in the environment of the two places.

Response:

Based on the comment, we added the following sentences in the revised manuscript.

“The forest floor at Chubu University site is similar to that of Sapporo site in terms of the coverage with a broad-leaf litter from similar plant species including a Japanese oak. The climate in central Japan is different from northern Japan, but the air temperature recorded in Nagoya next to the Chubu University campus in October 2018 (average: 19 ± 2.9 °C, Japan Meteorological Agency: <https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html>) was similar to that of Sapporo (21 ± 2.3 °C) during the air-sampling period. These similarities provide a strong justification to utilize the soil sample from Chubu University site as a surrogate of Sapporo forest soil.” Please see page 5, lines 8-14.