

Editorial

- Steppe ecosystems and climate and land-use changes—vulnerability, feedbacks and possibilities for adaptation**
 K. Butterbach-Bahl · I. Kögel-Knabner · X. Han 1–6
- Digital mapping of soil organic matter stocks using Random Forest modeling in a semi-arid steppe ecosystem**
 M. Wiesmeier · F. Barthold · B. Blank · I. Kögel-Knabner 7–24
- ¹⁵N fractionation between vegetation, soil, faeces and wool is not influenced by stocking rate**
 M.H.O.M. Wittmer · K. Auerswald · P. Schönbach · Y. Bai · H. Schnyder 25–33
- Grazing changes topography-controlled topsoil properties and their interaction on different spatial scales in a semi-arid grassland of Inner Mongolia, P.R. China**
 A. Kölbl · M. Steffens · M. Wiesmeier · C. Hoffmann · R. Funk · J. Krümmelbein · A. Reszkowska · Y. Zhao · S. Peth · R. Horn · M. Giese · I. Kögel-Knabner 35–58
- Influence of grazing on hydraulic and mechanical properties of semiarid steppe soils under different vegetation type in Inner Mongolia, China**
 A. Reszkowska · J. Krümmelbein · S. Peth · R. Horn · Y. Zhao · L. Gan 59–72
- Spatial and temporal variation of soil moisture in dependence of multiple environmental parameters in semi-arid grasslands**
 K. Schneider · U. Leopold · F. Gerschläuer · F. Barthold · M. Giese · M. Steffens · C. Hoffmann · H.-G. Frede · L. Breuer 73–88
- Response of soil moisture and temperature to grazing intensity in a *Leymus chinensis* steppe, Inner Mongolia**
 Y. Zhao · S. Peth · A. Reszkowska · L. Gan · J. Krümmelbein · X. Peng · R. Horn 89–102
- Grassland responses to grazing: effects of grazing intensity and management system in an Inner Mongolian steppe ecosystem**
 P. Schönbach · H. Wan · M. Gierus · Y. Bai · K. Müller · L. Lin · A. Susenbeth · F. Taube 103–115
- Effects of livestock grazing intensity on soil biota in a semiarid steppe of Inner Mongolia**
 S. Qi · H. Zheng · Q. Lin · G. Li · Z. Xi · X. Zhao 117–126
- Feedback of grazing on gross rates of N mineralization and inorganic N partitioning in steppe soils of Inner Mongolia**
 H. Wu · M. Dannenmann · N. Fanselow · B. Wolf · Z. Yao · X. Wu · N. Brüggemann · X. Zheng · X. Han · K. Dittert · K. Butterbach-Bahl 127–139
- Differential responses of plant functional trait to grazing between two contrasting dominant C3 and C4 species in a typical steppe of Inner Mongolia, China**
 S. Zheng · Z. Lan · W. Li · R. Shao · Y. Shan · H. Wan · F. Taube · Y. Bai 141–155
- Nitrogen availability in a grazed semi-arid grassland is dominated by seasonal rainfall**
 M. Giese · Y.Z. Gao · S. Lin · H. Brueck 157–167

| | |
|---|---------|
| Grazing effects on seasonal dynamics and interannual variabilities of spectral reflectance in semi-arid grassland in Inner Mongolia L. Fan · B. Ketzer · H. Liu · C. Bernhofer | 169–180 |
| Spatiotemporal variability of grassland vegetation cover in a catchment in Inner Mongolia, China, derived from MODIS data products D. Schaffrath · F.K. Barthold · C. Bernhofer | 181–198 |
| Plant responses following grazing removal at different stocking rates in an Inner Mongolia grassland ecosystem Y. Liu · Q. Pan · H. Liu · Y. Bai · M. Simmons · K. Dittert · X. Han | 199–213 |
| Effects of grazing management system on plant community structure and functioning in a semiarid steppe: scaling from species to community H. Wan · Y. Bai · P. Schönbach · M. Gierus · F. Taube | 215–226 |
| Tradeoffs between nitrogen- and water-use efficiency in dominant species of the semiarid steppe of Inner Mongolia X.Y. Gong · Q. Chen · S. Lin · H. Brueck · K. Dittert · F. Taube · H. Schnyder | 227–238 |
| Effects of fertilization and irrigation on productivity, plant nutrient contents and soil nutrients in southern Mongolia K. Ronnenberg · K. Wesche | 239–251 |
| Above and belowground net primary productivity of grassland influenced by supplemental water and nitrogen in Inner Mongolia J. Li · S. Lin · F. Taube · Q. Pan · K. Dittert | 253–264 |
| Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium nutritional status of semiarid steppe grassland in Inner Mongolia X.Y. Gong · Q. Chen · K. Dittert · F. Taube · S. Lin | 265–278 |
| Short-term regrowth responses of four steppe grassland species to grazing intensity, water and nitrogen in Inner Mongolia N. Fanselow · P. Schönbach · X.Y. Gong · S. Lin · F. Taube · R. Loges · Q. Pan · K. Dittert | 279–289 |
| Annual emissions of greenhouse gases from sheepfolds in Inner Mongolia W. Chen · B. Wolf · N. Brüggemann · K. Butterbach-Bahl · X. Zheng | 291–301 |
| Complementarity in water sources among dominant species in typical steppe ecosystems of Inner Mongolia, China H. Yang · K. Auerswald · Y. Bai · X. Han | 303–313 |

Part II Regular Articles

| | |
|---|---------|
| Seasonal patterns of belowground biomass and productivity in mountain grasslands in the Pyrenees J. Garcia-Pausas · P. Casals · J. Romanyà · S. Vallecillo · M.-T. Sebastià | 315–326 |
| Arbuscular mycorrhizas in southeastern Australian processing tomato farm soils T.R. Cavagnaro · A.W. Martin | 327–336 |
| Important foliar traits depend on species-grouping: analysis of a remnant temperate forest at the Keerqin Sandy Lands, China F.-S. Chen · K.J. Niklas · D.-H. Zeng | 337–345 |
| Soil microbial community responses to the fungal endophyte <i>Neotyphodium</i> in Italian ryegrass C. Casas · M. Omacini · M.S. Montecchia · O.S. Correa | 347–355 |
| The contribution of mineralization to grassland N uptake on peatland soils with anthropogenic A horizons M.P.W. Sonneveld · E.A. Lantinga | 357–368 |

- Cowpea N rhizodeposition and its below-ground transfer to a co-existing and to a subsequent millet crop on a sandy soil of the Sudano-Sahelian eco-zone**
G. Laberge · B.I.G. Haussmann · P. Ambus · H. Høgh-Jensen 369–382
- Short-term simulated nitrogen deposition increases carbon sequestration in a *Pleioblastus amarus* plantation**
L.-H. Tu · T.-X. Hu · J. Zhang · R.-H. Li · H.-Z. Dai · S.-H. Luo 383–396
- The effects of biomass removal and N additions on microbial N transformations and biomass at different vegetation types in an old-field ecosystem in northern China**
C. Wang · K. Butterbach-Bahl · Y. Han · Q. Wang · L. Zhang · X. Han · X. Xing 397–411
- Endophytic and rhizoplane bacteria associated with *Cytisus striatus* growing on hexachlorocyclohexane-contaminated soil: isolation and characterisation**
C. Becerra-Castro · P.S. Kidd · Á. Prieto-Fernández · N. Weyens · M.-J. Acea · J. Vangronsveld 413–433
- Significant contribution of boron stored in seeds to initial growth of rice seedlings**
S. Uraguchi · T. Fujiwara 435–442
- Oxidative damages of maize seedlings caused by exposure to a combination of potassium deficiency and salt stress**
X. Gong · L. Chao · M. Zhou · M. Hong · L. Luo · L. Wang · W. Ying · J. Cai · G. Songjie · F. Hong 443–452
- Soil quality as affected by tillage-residue management in a wheat-maize irrigated bed planting system**
N. Verhulst · F. Kienle · K.D. Sayre · J. Deckers · D. Raes · A. Limon-Ortega · L. Tijerina-Chavez · B. Govaerts 453–466
- Conservation agriculture for wheat-based cropping systems under gravity irrigation: increasing resilience through improved soil quality**
N. Verhulst · A. Carrillo-García · C. Moeller · R. Trethowan · K.D. Sayre · B. Govaerts 467–479
- Glomus intraradices* and *Gigaspora margarita* arbuscular mycorrhizal associations differentially affect nitrogen and potassium nutrition of *Plantago lanceolata* in a low fertility dune soil**
S.D. Veresoglou · L.J. Shaw · R. Sen 481–490
- Soil microbial communities from an elevational cline differ in their effect on conifer seedling growth**
C. Wagg · B.C. Husband · D.S. Green · H.B. Massicotte · R.L. Peterson 491–504
- Screening for candidate bacterial biocontrol agents against soilborne fungal plant pathogens**
C. Pliego · C. Ramos · A. de Vicente · F.M. Cazorla 505–520