

Interactive comment on “Vegetation composition and soil microbial community structural changes along a wetland hydrological gradient” by W. K. Balasooriya et al.

W. K. Balasooriya et al.

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Answer to the Referee #1

General comments

Comments: The paper covers a very interesting topic, which allows for a better understanding of the links between vegetation composition, wetland hydrology and microbial community structure/activity in wetland soils; thus, it falls within the scope of HESSD. The work is well organized and it shows the importance of better investigating wetland microbiology by considering the research attention that such a topic induces and by introducing on the matter a new combined chemical approach. The Methods are clearly

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outlined and the Results are effectively described, well supporting the interpretations and conclusions. The article deserves publication.

Response: We would like to thank both reviewers for approving our work and for complimenting on the quality of our submitted manuscript. Their suggestions were included in the revision of the manuscript.

Specific comments

Comments: Abstract The abstract is well constructed and it concisely describes all the parts of the article. Introduction This paragraph provides a good overview of the argument and it refers to a wide scientific bibliography. Methods The article presents a new combined approach, which points out the link between the wetland microbial community and the biogeochemical processes. The methods are carefully explained giving the possibility to reproduce the procedure. Results and discussion The results are described in a satisfactory manner, point out the positive and negative links with the existing literature on the matter and well support the conclusions. References The references provide a good overview of the argument.

Response: Thank you

Technical corrections Error typing At page 3890, row 15 realtive instead of relative Figure 5, legend last row Apri instead of April

Response: Thank you, these changes were made in the revised manuscript

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