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The authors have tried to do some fundamental research based on field survey and water samples analyses. The study sampled soil profile water stable isotopes of soil, and discussed soil water-plant water recharge sources. This study provides some useful information for soil moisture dynamics and stable characteristics. So it is significant.

However, I could recommend the paper for publication after the following issues have been addressed by the authors:

P1 L19, D is used in the text for the first time, so please state this is Deuterium.

Response: Done. We have revised it. It should be deuterium when D is used in the text for the first time.

P4 , L 80~AA₁ “groundwater in the unsaturated zone” There is no relevant analysis about in the whole passage, so it should be deleted. P7 , L52-53~AA₁ P8 ,167

“The measured D and ¹⁸O of soil water range from -72.42‰ to -37.05‰ and -11.74‰ to -3.57‰ respectively.” Add the little “delta” before ¹⁸O such as $\delta^{18}\text{O}$.

Response: Done. We have revised it. We have deleted the groundwater and added the little “delta” before ¹⁸O.

p10, L 230-233~ijN “ Most of the sampling sites in Anjiagou River basin (except 14-7-20 and 14-9-24 sites), the isotopic composition of soil water in shallow layer are enriched in D and ¹⁸O due to evaporation. The isotopic composition of soil water with depth in the soil profile. ” Here the changes should be specifically explained.

Response: Done. Precipitation is infiltrating and completely mixing with free water. The vertical trend in δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ profile of soil water is simple. There is an abrupt peak value in the isotopic profiles,

which suggests that the older water is pushed downward by the new water and infiltrates to the deep soil.

p12, L 261-264 “the preferred flow is rarely found in the Loess Plateau, except that there are which is caused by plant root system or animal invasion, etc.” “The macrospores can be found in the 100-200cm soil layer in the study area, which are caused by plant root or animal activity.” Here “plant root or animal activity” should be changed into “plant root or animal invasion”, and exact illustration is needed.

Response: Done. We have revised it. The macrospores are caused by plant root in Loess Plateau.

P13 , L 292 “often-used” Here “often-used” should be changed into “often used”.

Response: Done. We have revised it into “often used”.