

Fig. 1. Mineralization of either ^{14}C -labelled glucose (Panels A-C) or ^{14}C -labelled plant material (Panels D-F) under three imposed moisture regimes (wet, humid or hyper-arid) in semi-arid, arid or hyper-arid soils of the Atacama Desert. Values represent means \pm SEM. The dotted line in the plant residue panels represents the intrinsic mineralization of the plant residues in the absence of soil. The inset panels in the hyper-dry treatment represent the same data but with an expanded y-axis scale.

Figure 2

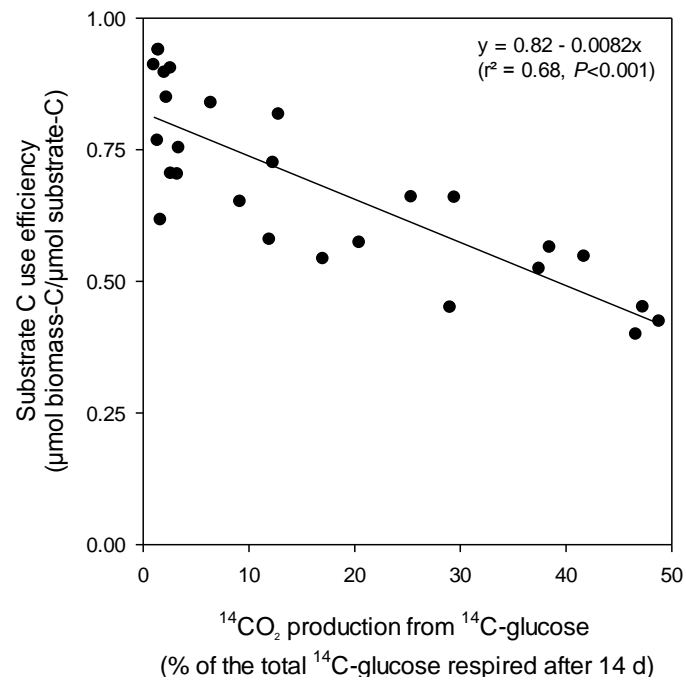


Fig. 2. Relationship between the rate of glucose mineralization ($^{14}\text{CO}_2$ production from added ^{14}C -glucose) and microbial C use efficiency of the added substrate for a range of soils from the Atacama Desert. The data is for the wet soil treatment. The line represents a fit of a linear regression equation to the experimental data.