

Role of plants in determining the soil response to either a single freezethaw or dry-wet event

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Table 1

Abundance of different soil microbial taxonomic groups (based on PLFA's normalized abundances) in soil at the end of either a single dry-wet cycle or freezethaw cycle (-5°C or -10°C). Stars and letters denote significant differences (*, ** and *** indicate $p \le 0.05$, $p \le 0.01$ and $p \le 0.001$, respectively) when compared with the control treatment. Values represent means \pm SEM (n = 4).

With plant									Without plant								Two-way ANOVA
-	PControl		PDW		PFT -5		PFT -10		NControl		NDW		NFT -5		NFT -10		Plant effect
AM Fungi	6.74 ±	0.12	6.51 \pm	0.21	6.60 \pm	0.10	6.21 ±	0.07	4.76 ±	0.15	4.92 ±	0.08	4.66 ±	0.17	4.48 ±	0.24	***
Saprophytic Fungi	1.82 ±	0.04	1.63 ±	0.07	1.65 \pm	0.09	2.17 ±	0.10 *	1.70 ±	0.15	1.57 ±	0.11	1.48 ±	0.04	1.42 ±	0.11	***
Gram Negative	60.9 ±	0.84	$61.1 \pm$	0.48	61.4 \pm	0.77	63.8 ±	0.43 *	54.3 ±	1.29	56.0 ±	0.51	53.8 ±	1.09	52.4 ±	1.78	***
Eukaryote	4.57 ±	0.30	4.06 ±	0.32	3.75 \pm	0.19	3.81 \pm	0.04	3.42 ±	0.22	3.68 ±	0.19	3.37 ±	0.32	2.97 ±	0.25	***
Gram Positive	$50.1 \pm$	0.96	$51.1 \pm$	0.37	$50.1 \pm$	0.80	$51.3 \pm$	0.40	47.8 ±	1.03	49.0 ±	0.40	46.9 ±	0.92	45.6 ±	1.37	***
Actinomycetes	19.2 ±	0.32	19.4 ±	0.19	19.6 \pm	0.17	19.7 ±	0.13	18.4 ±	0.31	18.8 \pm	0.28	18.1 \pm	0.30	17.5 ±	0.41	***
all	143 \pm	2.37	144 ±	1.50	143 \pm	1.99	147 \pm	0.89	130 \pm	3.00	134 ±	1.42	128 \pm	2.68	124 ±	4.10	***

Stars next to mean values represent significant difference of the values compared to control



Fig. 1. CO₂ flux (left) and cumulative CO₂ flux (right) from soil expressed as daytime (8 h light condition), night-time (16 h dark condition), and total (24 h combined) before and after a single freeze-thaw (-5°C or - 10°C) or dry-wet event. Stars above the plots denote significant differences from the control, where *, ** and *** denote $p \le 0.05$, $p \le 0.01$, and $p \le 0.001$, respectively. Values represent means ± SEM (n = 16 for pre-treatments, n = 12 for pre-freeze-thaw treatments and n = 4 during drying and after thawing or rewetting). PC = Control with plants (+10°C), PDW = Dry-wet with plants, PFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) with plants, PFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) with plants, NC = Control without plants (+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) with plants, NC = Control without plants (+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) with plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants.



Fig. 2. Effect of drought on total CO₂ flux. (A) Total CO₂ flux from planted soil during the drought period, (B) Relationship between total CO₂ flux and water loss in the planted soil (Pearson's product-moment correlation. In Panel A, values represent means \pm SEM (n = 4).



Fig. 3. N₂O flux from soil chemistry before and after applying a single freeze-thaw (-5°C or -10°C) or drywet treatment in either planted or unplanted soil. Values represent means \pm SEM (n = 16 for pre-treatments, n = 12 for pre-freeze-thaw treatments and n = 4 during drying and after thawing or rewetting). PC = Control with plants (+10°C), PDW = Dry-wet with plants, PFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) with plants, PFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) with plants, NC = Control without plants (+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NDT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) with plants, NC = Control without plants (+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants.



Fig. 4. Soil solute concentrations before and after applying a single freeze-thaw (-5°C or -10°C) or dry-wet treatment in either planted or unplanted soil. Values represent means \pm SEM (n = 16 for pre-treatments, n = 12 for pre-freeze-thaw treatments and n = 4 during drying and after thawing or rewetting). PC = Control with plants (+10°C), PDW = Dry-wet with plants, PFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) with plants, PFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) with plants, NC = Control without plants (+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants (+10°C) with plants.



Fig. 5. Principal component analysis of abundance of different soil microbial taxonomic groups (PLFAs) at the end of the experiment after applying a single freeze-thaw (-5°C or -10°C) or dry-wet treatment in either planted or unplanted soil. A: Planted treatments and B: non-plant treatments. Ellipses delineate a 95% confidence interval. Values represent means \pm SEM (n = 4). PC = Control with plants (+10°C), PDW = Dry-wet with plants, PFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) with plants, PFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) with plants, NC = Control without plants (+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C), NDW = Dry-wet without plants (+10°C), NFT (-5) = Freeze-thaw (-5°C/+10°C) without plants, NFT (-10) = Freeze-thaw (-10°C/+10°C) without plants. DOC (Dissolved Organic Carbon), CH₄ flux and N₂O flux are clustered around the centre point so are partially obscured from view.