Interactive comment on “The hidden ecological resource of andic soils in mountain ecosystems: evidences from Italy” by Fabio Terribile et al.

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Dear reviewer, we addressed systematically all your requests. In the attached pdf files (as supplement) you will find the answer for each comment. We report the reviewer comments followed by our answers (in bold). As figure files you will find i) marked version of the manuscript (comprehensive of the corrections asked by the referee 2) ii) amended version of the manuscript. Thank you for your detailed work of revision that implemented the quality of the paper.

Kind regards Michela Iamarino

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

C1


The hidden ecological resource of andic soils in mountain ecosystems:
Evidence from Italy

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Abstract

Andic soils have unique morphological, physical and chemical properties that induce
both considerable soil fertility and great vulnerability to land degradation. Moreover
they are the most striking mineral soils in terms of large organic C storage and long
residence time. This is especially related to the presence of poorly crystalline clay
minerals and soil organic complexes. Recognition of andic soils is then very important.

Here we attempt to show, through a combined analysis of 35 sampling points
located in a central area of the Campania region, 40 km N 40° 20′, the contribution of
specific physical and vegetation rules, that andic soils have an utmost ecological
importance.

More specifically, in some andic soils of non-volcanic mountain ecosystems (> 700 m
above sea level) and in low slope gradient locations (< 21% 12°) and highly active green
vegetation, have an utmost ecological importance.

Recognition of andic soils in mountain ecosystems (Fig. 1, 2)

C3

C4