

Contents

Tables	IX
Figures	XI
Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	XIII
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 N input to terrestrial ecosystem	1
1.2 Impact of elevated N input on temperate forest ecosystems	3
1.3 Distribution of N input among forest ecosystems	4
1.4 SOM.....	5
1.4.1 SOM stability	5
1.4.2 SOM pools	6
1.5 Application of N isotopes in forest ecosystem studies	7
1.5.1 Natural ^{15}N abundance	7
1.5.2 ^{15}N tracer.....	7
2 Objectives	11
3 Materials and Methods	13
3.1 Study site.....	13
3.2 Experimental design	13
3.3 ^{15}N tracer experiment.....	17
3.3.1 Sampling and analysis.....	17
3.3.1.1 Tree compartments	17
3.3.1.2 Soil.....	18
3.3.1.3 Soil solution.....	18
3.3.2 Natural ^{15}N abundance and N content in ecosystem compartments.....	20
3.3.3 N fluxes	20
3.3.4 Calculation of ^{15}N excess and recovery	21
3.4 Density fractionation experiment	22
3.4.1 Density fractionation procedure	22
3.4.2 Comparison of two aggregate-disrupting methods	24
3.4.3 Preparation of density solution	24
3.4.4 Analysis and calculation	24
3.5 Statistical analysis	25
4 Results	27
4.1 ^{15}N tracer experiment.....	27
4.1.1 The roof control plot	27
4.1.1.1 Natural ^{15}N abundance	27
4.1.1.2 N content in ecosystem compartments and N fluxes	28
4.1.1.3 ^{15}N enrichment in ecosystem compartments	29
4.1.1.4 ^{15}N recovery in ecosystem compartments	36

4.1.2	The clean rain plot.....	38
4.1.2.1	Natural ^{15}N abundance.....	38
4.1.2.2	N content in ecosystem compartments and N fluxes.....	38
4.1.2.3	^{15}N enrichment in ecosystem compartments	40
4.1.2.4	^{15}N recovery	45
4.2	Density fractionation	48
4.2.1	Preparation of density solution	48
4.2.2	Comparison of two aggregate-disrupting methods	48
4.2.3	Distribution of OC and N in soil density fractions.....	49
4.2.3.1	Organic layer	49
4.2.3.2	Mineral soil layers	49
4.2.4	Recovery of soil ^{15}N	50
5	Discussion	59
5.1	^{15}N tracer experiment	59
5.1.1	Natural ^{15}N abundance.....	59
5.1.2	^{15}N recoveries.....	60
5.1.2.1	Under ambient atmospheric deposition (the roof control plot)	60
5.1.2.1.1	Soil	60
5.1.2.1.2	Tree.....	61
5.1.2.1.3	Leaching.....	62
5.1.2.2	Under long-term reduced atmospheric deposition (the clean rain plot)	63
5.1.2.2.1	Soil	63
5.1.2.2.2	Tree.....	66
5.1.2.2.3	Leaching.....	68
5.2	Density fractionation experiment	69
5.2.1	Preparation of density solution	69
5.2.2	Comparison of two aggregate-disrupting methods	69
5.2.3	Distribution of OC and N in soil density fractions.....	71
5.2.4	Recovery of soil ^{15}N	73
6	Conclusion.....	77
7	Summary.....	79
8	Zusammenfassung	83
9	References	87
10	Appendix	97
	Lebenslauf.....	99