

## Read Me

This is a read me file for data tables associated with the data tables produced for the project entitled, *pyrogenic organic matter and litter decomposition using isotope tracing* by J.L. Soong et al. The use of dual  $^{13}\text{C}$ - and  $^{15}\text{N}$ -labeled leaf litter and pyrogenic organic matter in decomposition studies is a powerful method for identifying the amount, location, and transformation of organic matter inputs to the soil. The data reported here derive from the experiment described in Soong et al. 2015 and Soong et al. 2016. The experiment was designed: 1) to trace the fate of C and N from dual labeled decomposing *Andropogon gerardii* leaf litter and pyrogenic organic matter into the soil and roots; 2) to identify the microbial and nematode community composition and utilization of the isotopically labeled substrates over the course of 11 months.

The data was generated by Jennifer L. Soong and Marie Dam, as part of their graduate degrees at Colorado State University and the University of Copenhagen.

The data were collected between the 2011 and 2013, at the Konza long-term ecological research station. Analytical data were generated at the EcoCore Analytical Services facility at Colorado State University (<http://ecocore.nrel.colostate.edu/>) and Kansas State University. The Konza LTER station occupies a topographically diverse area of 36-km<sup>2</sup> in the Flint Hills of northeastern Kansas, USA. It is a tallgrass prairie. Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), is the dominant grass at the site, with an average 79.4% ground cover. Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and little bluestem (*A. scoparius*) comprise the remaining dominant vegetation at Konza, though there are numerous sub-dominant grasses, forbs and woody species as well. The mean annual precipitation at Konza is 835 mm and the mean annual temperature is 12.9°C. Soils are predominantly fine textured silty clay loam, and are derived from limestone and shale parent material.

A full description of the methods used to generate the data are available in Soong et al. 2015 and Soong et al. 2016.

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Metadata files and data tables are curated within the Colorado State University Institutional Repository and can be accessed with the bookmarkable URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/100000>