

Effect of soil temperature and moisture on CO₂ evolution rate of cultivated Phaeozem: analysis of a long-term field experiment

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ABSTRACT

Soil temperature and moisture are the main ecological factors regulating the processes of production and emission of CO₂ from soil surface. The CO₂ evolution rate from cultivated clay Phaeozem (Russia, Moscow region; 54°50'N, 37°35'E) were studied under field conditions from November 1997 to October 2002. The daily mean CO₂ evolution rate varied widely – from 0.9 to 246 mg C/m²/h. The total annual CO₂ flux from cultivated Phaeozem averaged 352 ± 148 g C/m²/year, the interannual variability amounted to 42%. We found significant linear trends ($R = 0.46$ – 0.55 , $P < 0.001$) reflecting the relationship between CO₂ emission and soil temperature through the whole observation period and during spring and autumn seasons as well. The exponential equations described these relationships for the same periods more adequately than the simple linear equations ($R = 0.62$ – 0.68 , $P < 0.01$). The temperature coefficient Q_{10} comprised 2.3 (for the whole data set) and was essentially higher 3.2–3.6 during the spring and autumn. The correlation between CO₂ evolution rate and soil moisture was insignificant for the whole period, winter, spring and autumn seasons as well. During the summer, correlation between CO₂ evolution rate and soil moisture was positive and very close ($R = 0.74$, $P < 0.001$), indicating that the soil moisture content was a main factor limitative the rate of CO₂ emission from soil for this period.

Keywords: CO₂ evolution rate; annual and seasonal CO₂ flux; cultivated Phaeozem; temperature dependence; Q_{10} ; effect of soil moisture

The gray forest soils (Phaeozem) of the European part of Russia were cultivated approximately during 200 years. These soils are characterized by a low content of total carbon (1–1.5%) and nitrogen (0.11–0.12%). Since the application of organic fertilizers became rare during the last decade, at present the main source of organic matter for cultivated soils of Russia are roots and stubble residues of agricultural plants. The rate of CO₂ emission from the soil is an important indicator of its microbial activity and intensity of organic matter decomposition. As a rule, the measurements of CO₂ emission rate are carried out through the growing period under field conditions and at a temperature above 5°C in the model experiments. It is suggested that CO₂ production and emission are very poor at low temperatures, and total CO₂ emission is negligible beyond the growing season. However, our previous investigations (Lopes de Gerenyu et al. 2001b, Kurganova et al. 2001, 2003) have been shown that neglect of cold CO₂ emission leads to

invalid assessments of the annual CO₂ flux and the carbon balance as a whole.

Soil temperature and moisture are the main ecological factors controlling the process of soil organic matter decomposition, CO₂ production and emission from soils (Kovalenko et al. 1978, Swift et al. 1979, Lomander et al. 1998, Rustad et al. 2000). A high positive correlation between CO₂ emission rate and soil temperature was found for many soils under natural and agricultural conditions (Raich and Schlesinger 1992, Lloyd and Taylor 1994, Kudeyarov and Kurganova 1998, Kurganova and Kudeyarov 1998, Raich et al. 2002). Temperature (soil or air) is the best predictor of the annual and seasonal dynamics of CO₂ evolution rate of soils (Fung et al. 1987, Kätterer et al. 1998, Kirschbaum 2000, Raich et al. 2002, Perrin et al. 2003). Temperature responses of CO₂ evolution rates of soils are frequently described using exponential function with a constant Q_{10} (Kirschbaum 1995, Winkler et al. 1996, Kätterer et

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al. 1998, Kurganova et al. 2001, Lopes de Gerenyu et al. 2001a). However, models using a Q_{10} function for describing the temperature dependence are adequate at confined interval of temperature (Kätterer et al. 1998, Tjoelker et al. 2001).

The aims of the present study was to quantify the annual and seasonal fluxes of CO_2 from cultivated Phaeozem and to determine the impact of soil temperature and moisture on CO_2 evolution rate on the basis of long-term year-round *in situ* measurements.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Site description

The experimental site was located on clay grey forest soils (Phaeozems Albic) – we cite soil names according to Russian Soil Classification and corresponding name of soils (in baskets) according to Soil Classification the FAO (Stolbovoi 2000) – 4 km west of Pushchino (Moscow region, Russia, 54°50'N, 37°35'E). This region belongs to the southern Taiga zone (coniferous forests). The mean annual air temperature is ca. +5.4°C and the mean monthly temperatures of July and January are +18°C and –6°C, respectively (Lopes de Gerenyu et al. 2001a). The annual precipitation amounts to 670 mm. Snow cover usually appears during November and stays until the end of April. The plot is an unfertilised arable soil (C_{total} 1.09%, N_{total} 0.11; pH_{H₂O} 6.0) with winter wheat (grown from end September to early August).

CO₂ emission measurements

Soil CO₂ emission rates were measured by a closed chamber method over the period from November 1997 through October 2002 at 7–10 day intervals. Measurements were carried out between 9 and 11 a.m., when the current value of the soil respiration rate was approximately equal to the daily mean value (Larionova et al. 1989). The number of replicates was 3 during the cold period (November–April) and 5 during the warm period (May–October). Chamber techniques were different for each of these periods.

During the warm period steel (lightproof) cylindrical chambers 10 cm in diameter by 10 cm in height were used. Chambers were inserted into the soil between growing plants to a depth of 3–5 cm before the gas was sampled. Thus, the total soil respiration (root respiration + heterotrophic soil respiration) without above ground plant respiration was determined. The rise of CO₂ concentrations in a chamber was determined during 45 minutes

with 15-min intervals. To reduce the temperature and gas pressure changes in a chamber during the sampling procedure, the chambers were painted with a light colour and the period of gas sample withdrawal was shortened as much as possible. During the cold snowy period (November–April), 32 × 32 cm steel bases (with water seal) were dug permanently to a depth of 20 cm into the soil and steel boxes 32 × 32 × 15 cm were inserted. To exclude disturbances from the snow cover, special sections as required built up the bases. The increase of CO₂ concentrations in the chamber was measured for 135 minutes with 45-min intervals. Due to weak soil respiration and low air temperature during the cold season the pressure and temperature changes in the chambers were negligible.

The gas samples (20 cm³) were collected by a syringe, transported to the laboratory in hermetically sealed vacuumed flasks and analysed by gas chromatography. Simultaneously, soil moisture and temperature in the upper soil layer (0–5 cm) were determined.

The CO₂ flux was calculated according to the following equation (Larionova et al. 1998):

$$F = (C - C_0) \times H/t$$

where: F is the C-CO₂ flux, mg C/m²/h; C_0 – are the initial head-space concentrations of CO₂, mg C/m³; C is the head-space concentration of CO₂ in time t (hour); H is the height of the head-space layer in the chamber (m).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Monthly, seasonal and annual CO₂ emissions

Results from five years of measurements of CO₂ emission from cultivated Phaeozem, soil and air temperatures and soil moisture content are shown in Figure 1. We found that the emissions of CO₂ from arable soils were characterised by high temporal variability – from 0.9 to 246 mg C/m²/h. The coefficient of spatial variation (CV) for CO₂ emission ranged from 5 to 173% depending on sampling time (mean CV = 29%). The soil temperature changed from –2 to 31°C and soil moisture – from 2 to 61% through the observation period. The annual behaviour of the CO₂ evolution rate is governed by weather conditions during the year, and may have either a single peak in summer or several peaks. We observed that the CO₂ emission rate during the cold season (snow, November–April) was always above zero and less than 40 mg C/m²/h. During the warm period (snow free season, May–October) the soil respiration rate was 2.5–5.5 times higher and reached the maximal values 182–246 mg C/m²/h

in July–August or September, when the combination of hydrothermal conditions were optimal and fresh organic materials were sufficient for intensive microbial activity in the soils.

Mean monthly, mean seasonal, and mean annual CO_2 fluxes from the studied soils were calculated (Table 1). Maximal CO_2 fluxes from cultivated soil were observed in July–September. During the cold season, when soil was usually completely frozen, the fluxes of CO_2 were very low. The CO_2 emissions from agricultural soils during winter, spring, summer and autumn were 18, 61, 175 and 98 g C/m^2 , respectively. Total annual carbon dioxide flux (ACDF) from cultivated Phaeozem averaged to 352 $\text{g C/m}^2/\text{year}$, ranging from 156 to 537 $\text{g C/m}^2/\text{year}$ depending on the weather conditions of the year studied. Actually, the CO_2 fluxes from soils can be estimated to be approximately 10% greater because the closed chamber technique was reported to give a general underestimation of ca. 10% as compared to results obtained with an open system (Rayment 2000).

Literature review showed that CO_2 emission from arable Phaeozem of the Siberia region during

growing season were evaluated at 150–180 g C/m^2 (Pomazkina et al. 1999). The annual CO_2 flux from the similar cultivated Phaeozem (Moscow region) was estimated at 180 $\text{g C/m}^2/\text{year}$ (Larionova et al. 2001). In our opinion, the inequality between assessments cited above and our estimations caused by both a different observation regions and weather conditions. Evidently the assessments cited above are less objective because of shorter studied period and single measurements during the cold season. To obtain real estimations of annual and season CO_2 fluxes it is necessary to carry out long-term-year-round measurements of carbon dioxide emission.

The coefficient of temporal variation (CV) for individual monthly CO_2 flux measurements ranged from 0.7 to 81% (Table 1). The highest temporal variation of the CO_2 flux ($\text{CV} = 77\text{--}81\%$) was observed in September and October. As a rule, the seasonal CO_2 fluxes varied less than the monthly ones. The variability of CO_2 fluxes for cold (November–March) and warm (April–October) periods between different observed years was 33% and 51%, respectively. The interannual variability for total annual CO_2 flux

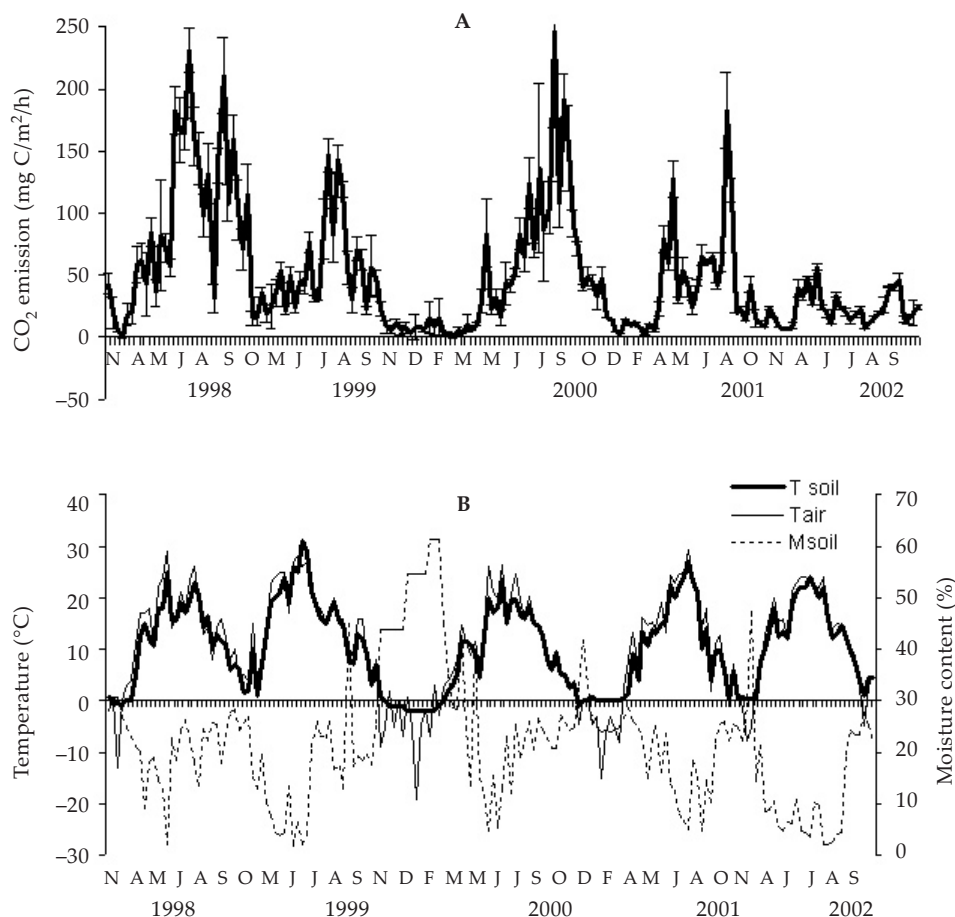


Figure 1. CO_2 emission rate of cultivated Phaeozem (A), soil and air temperatures and soil moisture content (B) during 5 years of measurements

Table 1. Mean monthly and seasonal CO₂ fluxes from cultivated Phaeozem and its contributions to total annual flux

Observation period	CO ₂ fluxes (g C/m ² /period)			Contribution (%)		
	mean	S.D.	CV (%)	mean	S.D.	CV (%)
January	9.3	0.4	4.0	3.2	1.7	53.1
February	3.5	1.3	37.2	1.2	0.7	61.2
March	4.2	0.2	5.2	1.4	0.8	53.4
April	26.5	14.5	54.6	8.7	5.0	57.6
May	30.4	7.0	23.1	10.1	5.0	49.6
June	40.5	20.4	50.3	11.2	1.4	12.5
July	69.3	41.9	60.4	18.1	5.6	30.9
August	65.0	35.5	54.6	17.7	8.5	48.2
September	57.4	46.7	81.3	15.2	7.7	50.8
October	26.4	20.3	77.0	7.1	3.1	44.1
November	14.1	8.2	58.3	4.3	2.1	47.8
December	5.6	0.0	0.7	1.9	1.0	52.7
December–February (winter)	18.4	0.9	5.0	6.3	3.4	53.3
March–May (spring)	61.1	15.6	25.5	20.1	9.5	46.9
June–August (summer)	174.8	87.4	50.0	47.0	12.8	27.2
September–October (autumn)	97.9	66.8	68.2	26.6	9.1	34.1
November–April (cold)	63.2	20.9	33.0	20.7	9.8	47.2
May–October (warm)	289.0	146.5	50.7	79.3	9.8	12.3
Annual	352.2	147.6	41.9			

was high enough and amounted to 42%. Mainly, the variability of monthly, seasonal and annual fluxes was caused by the difference in climatic conditions during the periods studied.

Share of different periods to the annual CO₂ flux

The shares of individual months, calendar seasons (winter, spring, summer, autumn) and warm and cold periods to annual CO₂ flux were calculated. The mean contribution from individual months to the total CO₂ flux varied from 1.2% (February) to 18.1% (July). The CO₂ fluxes comprised approximately 47% in summer, 26% in autumn, 21% in spring, and 6% in winter of the total CO₂ emission. The contribution of the cold period (November–April) to the annual CO₂ flux averaged 21% changing from 11 to 33%. So, our estimations showed that the emission of CO₂ from cultivated soils during the cold period was an essential part of the annual emissions, which should be taken into account while

calculating the carbon budget for the whole year. According to other studies (Sommerfeld et al. 1993, Pajary 1995, Oechel et al. 1997, Alm et al. 1999, Zamolodchikov and Karelin 2001, Kurganova et al. 2003) the winter soil respiration has been estimated to contribute 10% or more to the annual CO₂ flux from tundra soil and 20% or more from boreal ecosystems.

The effect of soil temperature and moisture on CO₂ fluxes

In this study, we try to quantify the temperature impact on the mean CO₂ fluxes from the cultivated Phaeozem during the different periods (Table 2). We found significant linear trends ($R = 0.46\text{--}0.55$, $P < 0.001$) reflecting the relationship between daily mean CO₂ emission and soil temperature through the whole period of observations and during spring and autumn seasons as well. The exponential equations described these relationships for the same periods more adequately than the simple linear

Table 2. Coefficients of correlation (R), Q_{10} values and regression models, describing the relationship between mean daily/monthly CO_2 emission rate (E_d/E_m , $\text{mg C/m}^2/\text{h}$), mean daily/monthly soil temperature (T_d/T_m) and moisture content (M_d) for the different period

Observation period	Parameters		R	Linear regression model	Q_{10}	n^*
Whole period (5 years)	Daily emission	– temperature (T_d)	0.46	$E_d = 2.8T_d + 21$	2.29	170
	Monthly emission	– temperature (T_m)	0.59	$E_m = 3.2T_m + 16$	2.45	49
Spring	Daily emission	– temperature (T_d)	0.54	$E_d = 2.2T_d + 16$	3.15	42
Autumn	Daily emission	– temperature (T_d)	0.55	$E_d = 5.6T_d + 11$	3.60	53
Summer	Daily emission	– moisture content (M_d)	0.74	$E_d = 2.1M_d + 5.4$	–	56

* n = number of observations

equations ($R = 0.62\text{--}0.68$, $P < 0.01$). The temperature coefficient Q_{10} comprised 2.3 (for the whole data set) and was essentially higher 3.2–3.6 during the spring and autumn. The correlation between CO_2 evolution rate and soil moisture content was insignificant for the whole period and winter, spring and autumn seasons as well. During the summer correlation between CO_2 evolution rate and soil moisture was positive and very close ($R = 0.74$, $P < 0.001$), indicating that the soil moisture content was a main factor limiting the rate of CO_2 emission from the soil for this period.

We found significant linear trends ($R = 0.59$, $P < 0.001$) reflecting the relationship between mean monthly CO_2 emission rate and mean monthly soil temperature (Table 2). The obtained simple models will allow us to estimate CO_2 fluxes from soils using mean daily and mean monthly soil temperatures.

To assess the influence of soil temperature on CO_2 evolution rate more accurately, the mean daily values of CO_2 fluxes were grouped into classes of soil temperature (T_s , step 5°C) and furthermore subdivided into classes of soil moisture (M_s , step 10%). This procedure allowed us to find the combinations of soil temperature and moisture at which CO_2 evolution rate was highest. We found

that the largest CO_2 emission from the cultivated Phaeozem was revealed at intervals $T_s = 10\text{--}20^\circ\text{C}$. Optimal soil moisture was 50–70% of maximal water holding capacity (WHC).

The Q_{10} values have been shown to vary with soil temperature and moisture content (Table 3). As a rule, Q_{10} values were maximal (7.7–14.7) at low temperatures ($< 10^\circ\text{C}$) and decreased with the increase of soil temperature. Schleiser (1982), Kirschbaum (1995, 2000) and Kätterer et al. (1998) also reported that Q_{10} values were higher at low temperatures ($< 5^\circ\text{C}$). Possibly, this variation in Q_{10} values is due to temperature optima, which can differ in time and space between the microbial community (Kätterer et al. 1998). Kirschbaum (1995) supposed that the actual decomposition rate might not be the highest at the highest temperatures. Higher Q_{10} values at lower temperatures probably indicate low-temperature thresholds being reached that lead to inhibition of some enzymatic reactions (Kirschbaum 2000). To give an actual prediction of decomposition rates, it is necessary to know the soil water content throughout the year, and the dependence of decomposition rates on the soil water content. Kätterer et al. (1998) concluded that Q_{10} function is more adequate for describing temperature dependence for the $5\text{--}35^\circ\text{C}$

Table 3. Q_{10} -values of CO_2 emission of different classes of soil temperature and moisture for cultivated soil

Soil moisture range (% WHC)	Soil temperature classes ($^\circ\text{C}$)					
	< 0	0–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–25
< 30			5.9	1.5	0.6	2.8
30–50		3.1	4.3	2.0	2.3	
50–70		7.4	6.9	1.2	0.4	
70–90	2.4	14.7				
> 90	7.7					
4–150	4.7	8.7	2.2	2.0	0.4	0.7

interval. Thus, in order to use the Q_{10} function for describing the dependence of CO_2 evolution rate on temperature, it is necessary to range the data according to T_s and M_s values.

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ABSTRAKT

Vliv teploty a vlhkosti půdy na produkci CO₂ na obdělávané černici v dlouhodobém polním pokuse

Teplota a vlhkost půdy jsou hlavní ekologické faktory regulující procesy produkce a emise CO₂ z povrchu půdy. Úroveň produkce CO₂ z obdělávané jílovité černice (Rusko, Moskevská oblast; 54°50'S, 37°35'V) byla studována v polních podmínkách od listopadu 1997 do října 2002. Denní průměrné hodnoty produkce CO₂ se pohybovaly v širokém rozpětí od 0,9 to 246 mg C/m²/h. Celková roční produkce CO₂ na obdělávané černici byla v průměru 352 ± 148 g C/m²/rok, meziroční variabilita činila 42%. Prokázali jsme signifikantní lineární závislost ($R = 0,46-0,55$, $P < 0,001$) mezi emisemi CO₂ a teplotou půdy nejen během celého experimentálního období, ale i v jarním a podzimním období. Exponenciální rovnice vystihovala tento vztah přesněji než jednoduchý lineární vztah ($R = 0,62-0,68$, $P < 0,01$). Teplotní koeficient Q₁₀ dosáhl hodnoty 2,3 (pro celý soubor), v jarním a podzimním období byl významně vyšší (3,2–3,6). Korelace mezi produkcí CO₂ a půdní vlhkostí byla za celé období nevýznamná obdobně jako v zimním, jarním a podzimním období. V letním období byla korelace mezi produkcí CO₂ a půdní vlhkostí pozitivní a velice úzká ($R = 0,74$, $P < 0,001$), což indikuje, že půdní vlhkost byla hlavním faktorem limitujícím úroveň emisí CO₂ z půdy v tomto období.

Klíčová slova: produkce CO₂; roční a sezonní produkce CO₂; černice; teplotní závislost; Q₁₀; vliv půdní vlhkosti

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