

Erhöhung der mikrobiellen Aktivitäten des Bodens - ein Schlüsselinstrument gegen Bodenerosion

Zvýšení mikrobiální aktivity půdy jako klíčový nástroj proti půdní erozi

Mendelova
univerzita
v Brně



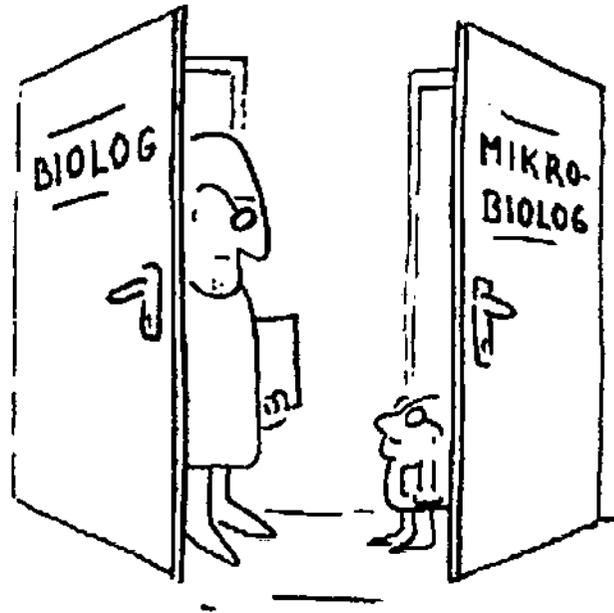
Záhora J., Tůma I., Hynšt J., Stroblová M., Elbl J., Plošek L., Kintl A.,
Urbánková O., Záhora J. (jr)



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional
Development Fund

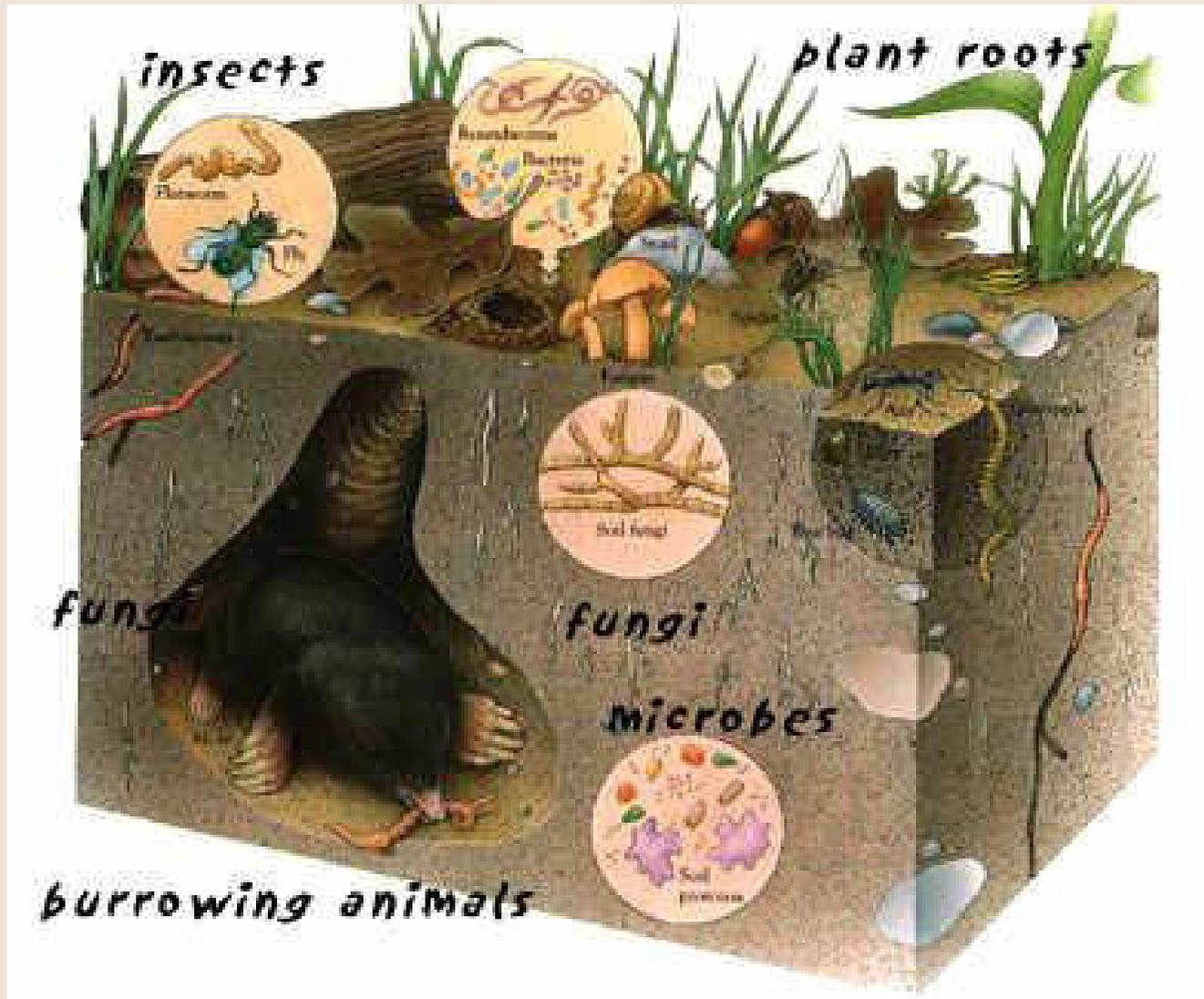


EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION
AUSTRIA-CZECH REPUBLIC 2007-2013
Gemeinsam mehr erreichen. Společně dosáhneme více.



The laws of applied microbiology (David Perlman, 1980)

- The microbe is always right, your friend, and a sensitive partner;
- There are no stupid microbes;
- Microbes can and will do anything;
- Microbes are smarter, wiser, and more energetic than chemists, engineers, and others; and
- If you take care of your microbial friends, they will take care of your future.



„Soil is the most complicated biomaterial on the planet.

As with any material, the physical habitat is of prime importance in determining and regulating biological activity.“

(Young and Crawford, 2004: Interactions and Self-Organization in the Soil-Microbe Complex)

a Historical view

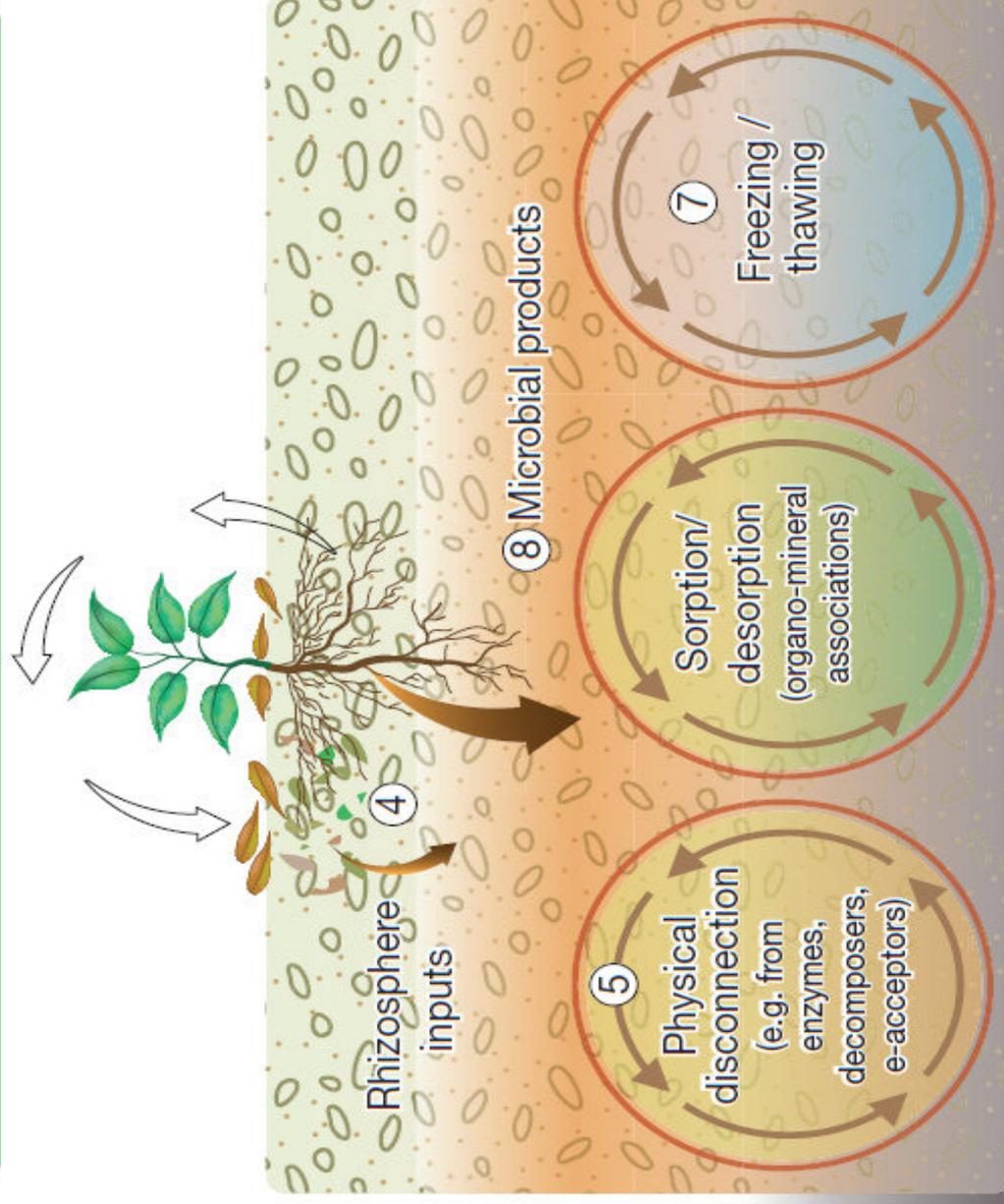
Fresh plant litter (leaves)



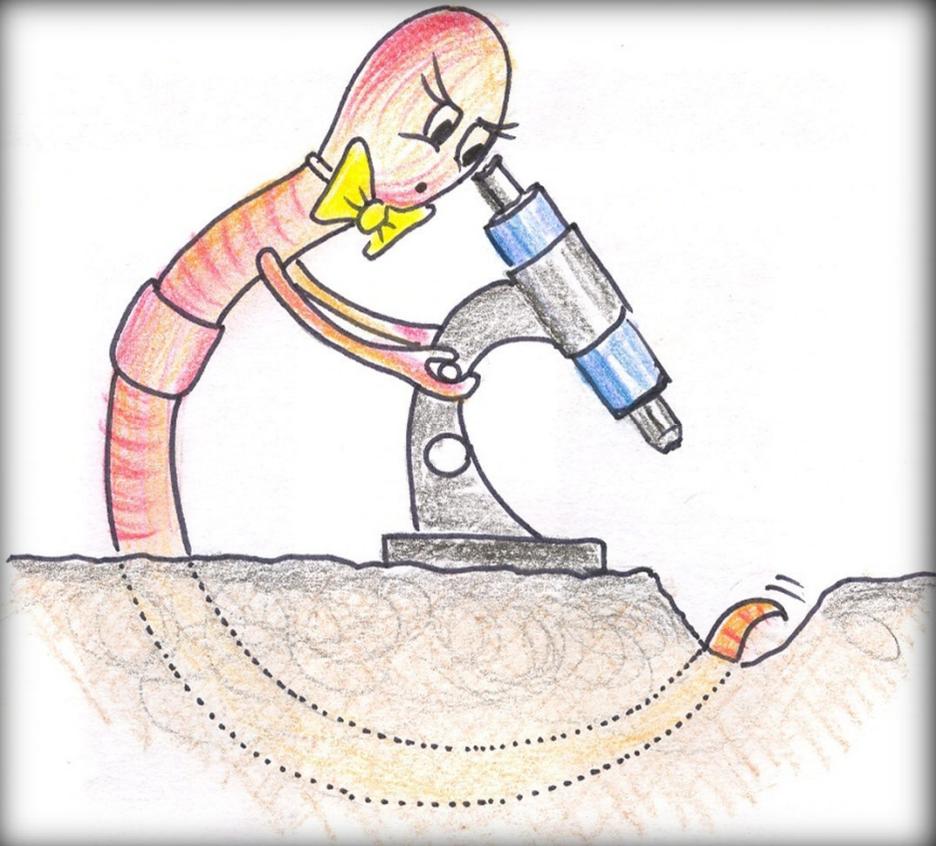
- 1 Molecular structure determines timescale of persistence

b Emerging understanding

Fresh plant litter (leaves, stems, roots and rhizosphere); fire residues



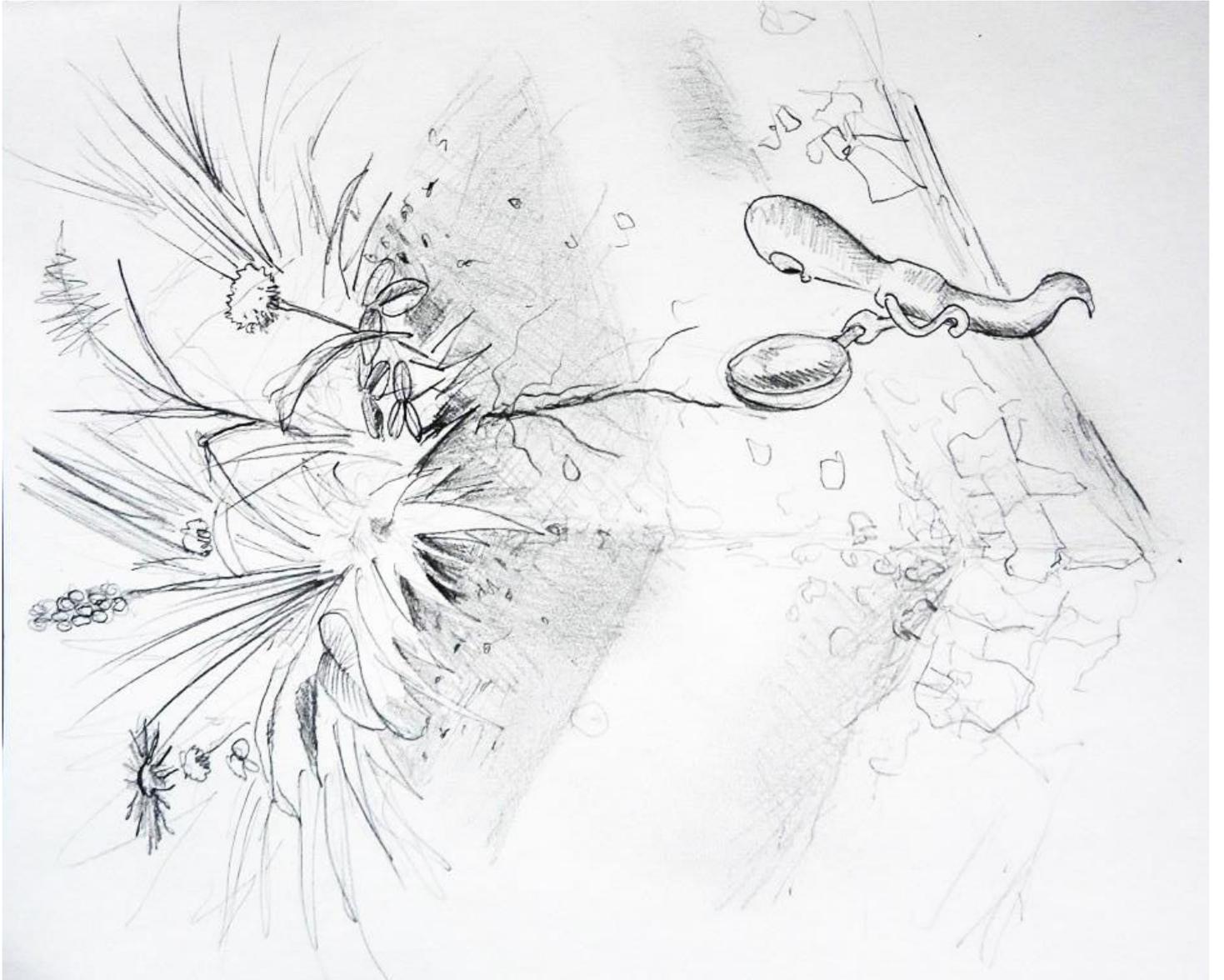
- 6 Deep soil carbon: age of carbon reflects timescale of process. Rapid destabilization possible with change in environmental conditions



S  **NDAR** **CZ-AT**
Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region

EW





Microorganisms are the main decomposers, responsible for over 90% of the mineralisation occurring in soils (Lavelle & Spain 2001) and able to decompose any kind of natural substrate.

In optimal laboratory conditions, individuals can multiply extremely fast, increasing their biomass in short periods of time (in the order of days). However, in nature, the **turnover time of microbial biomass** generally varies between 6 and 18 months, that is 1,000 to 10,000 times slower than under laboratory conditions.

This indicates that in nature, micro-organisms are inactive most of the time. This inactivity may be due to **starvation**, resulting from their inability to move towards new substrates once their immediate surroundings are exhausted.

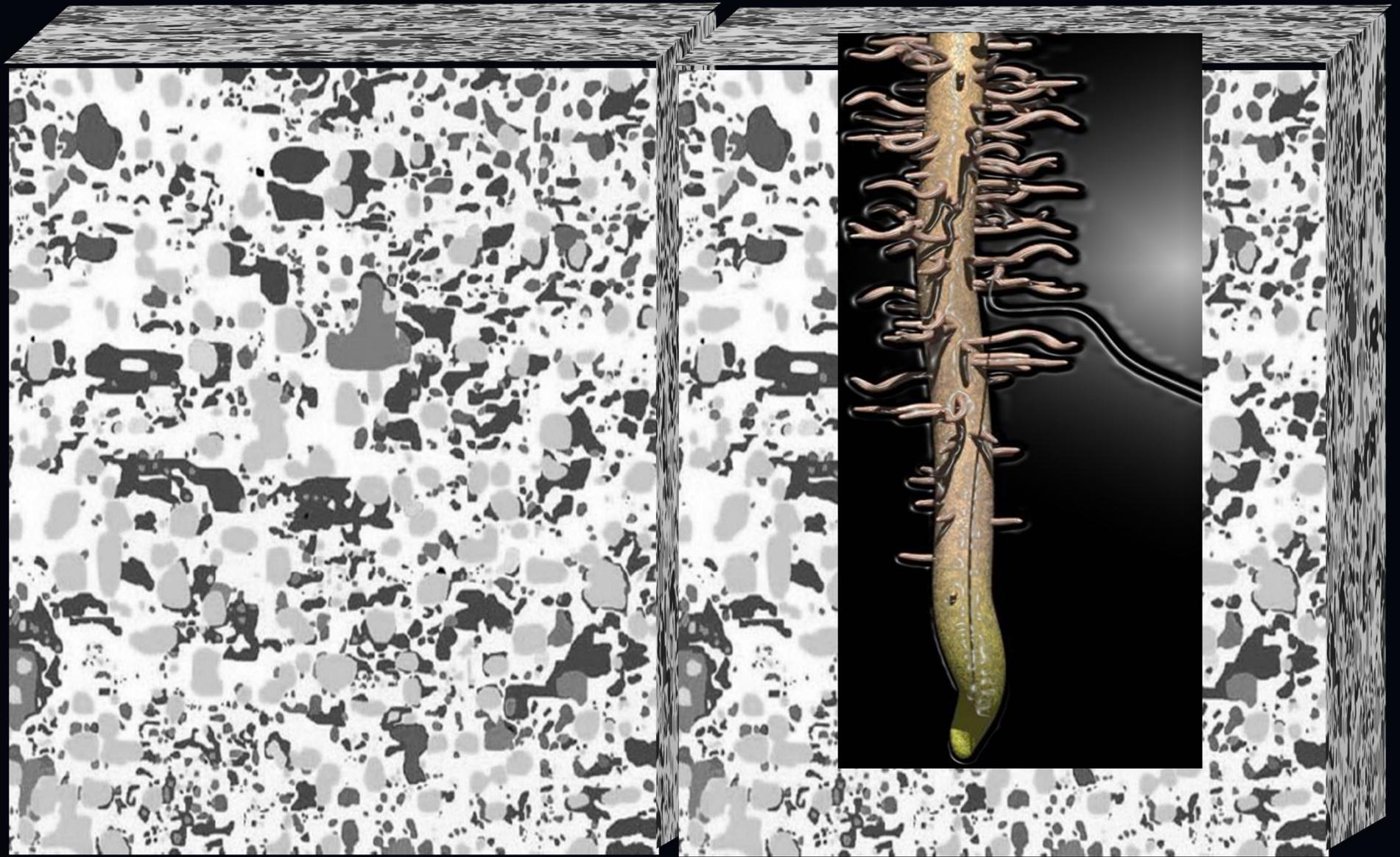
The apparent contradiction between laboratory and field observations has been named the '**Sleeping Beauty paradox**' (Lavelle, Lattaud et al. 1995).

The '**Prince Charming**' of the story is any macro-organism, including plant roots, or physical process that may bring microorganisms in contact with new substrates to decompose, thereby activating them.

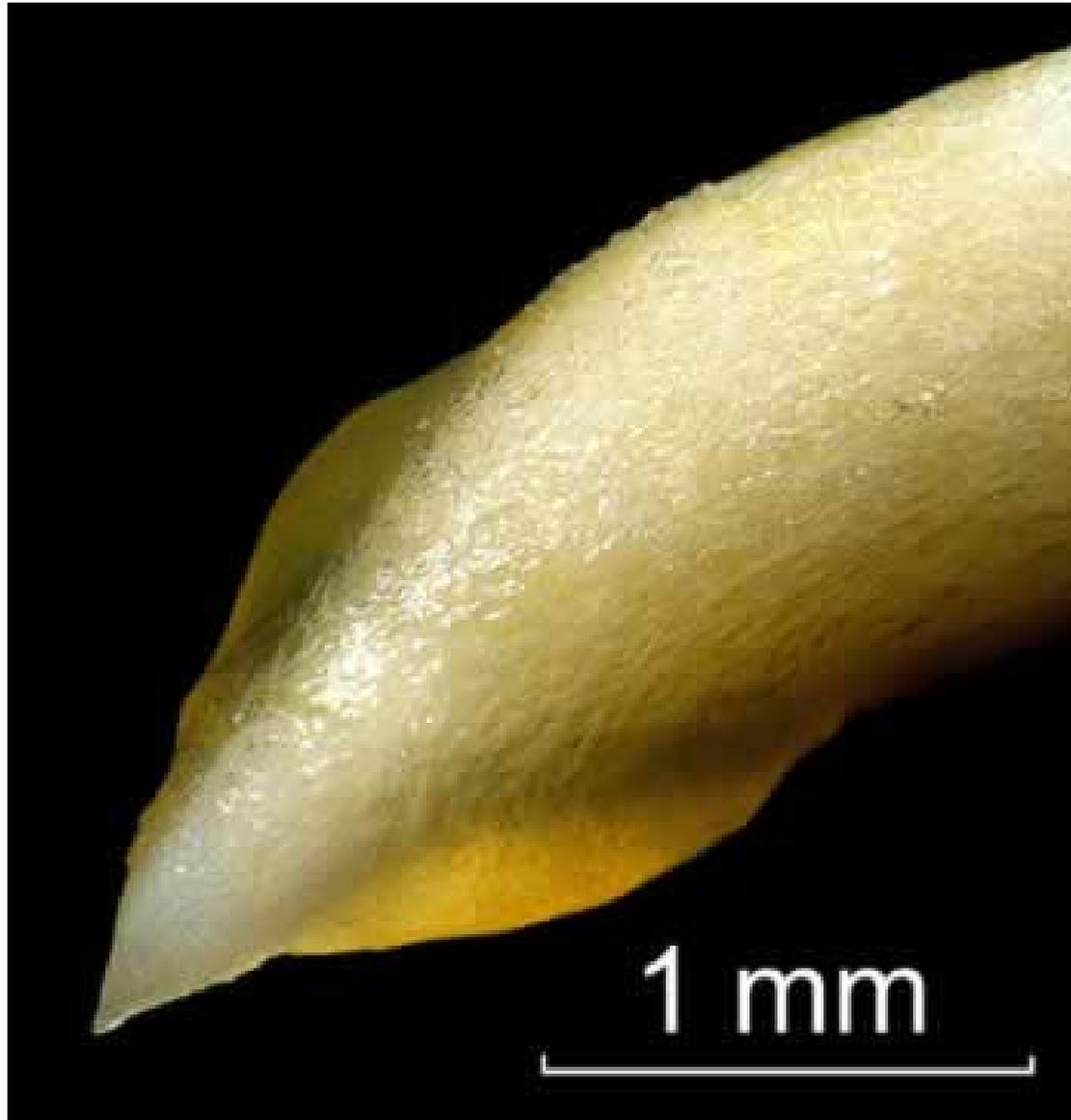


Importantly, earthworms provide the suitable temperature, moisture and organic resources within their guts for microbes to be activated (Brown, Barois et al. 2000).

... 'Sleeping Beauty paradox' ...

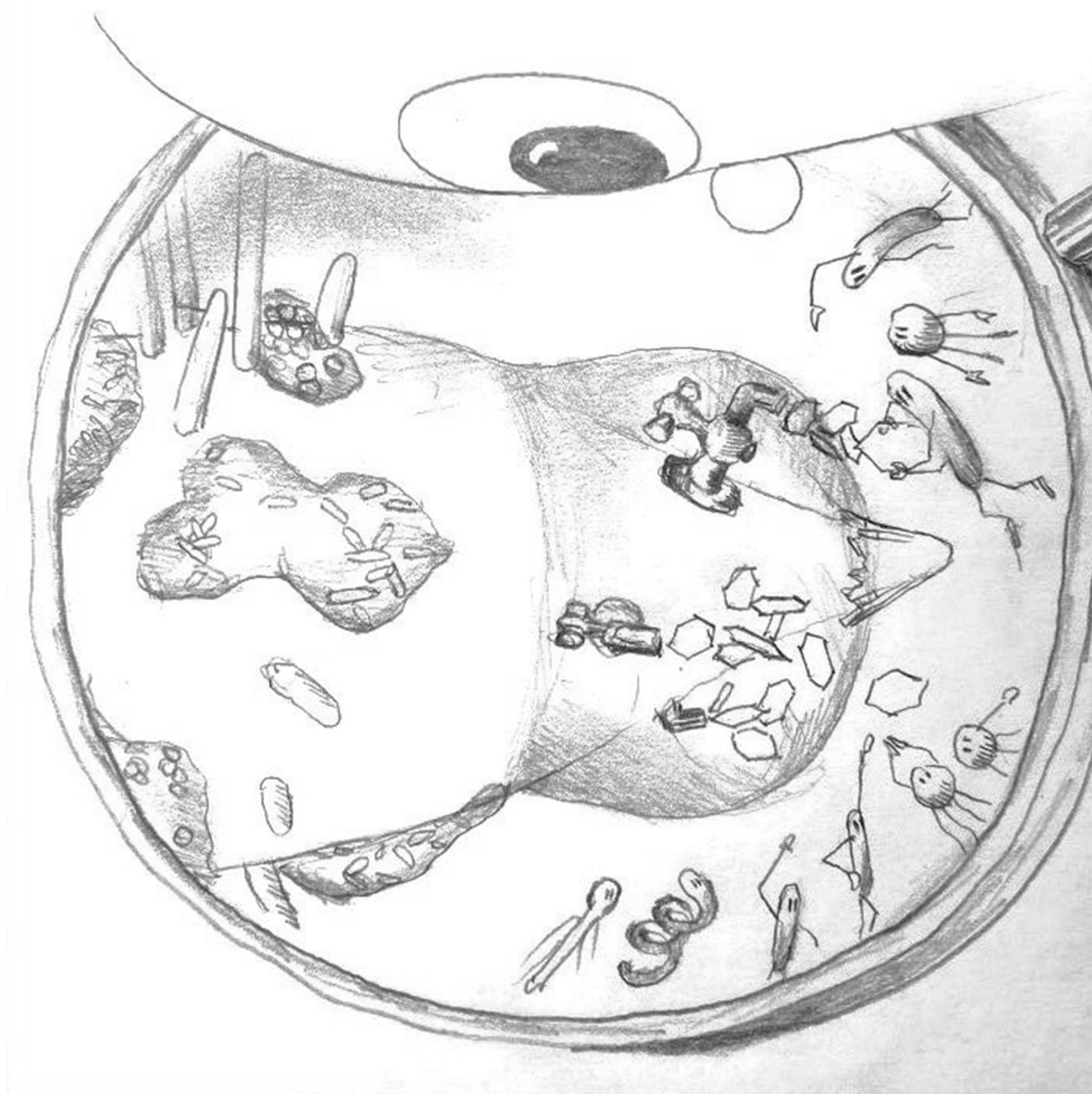


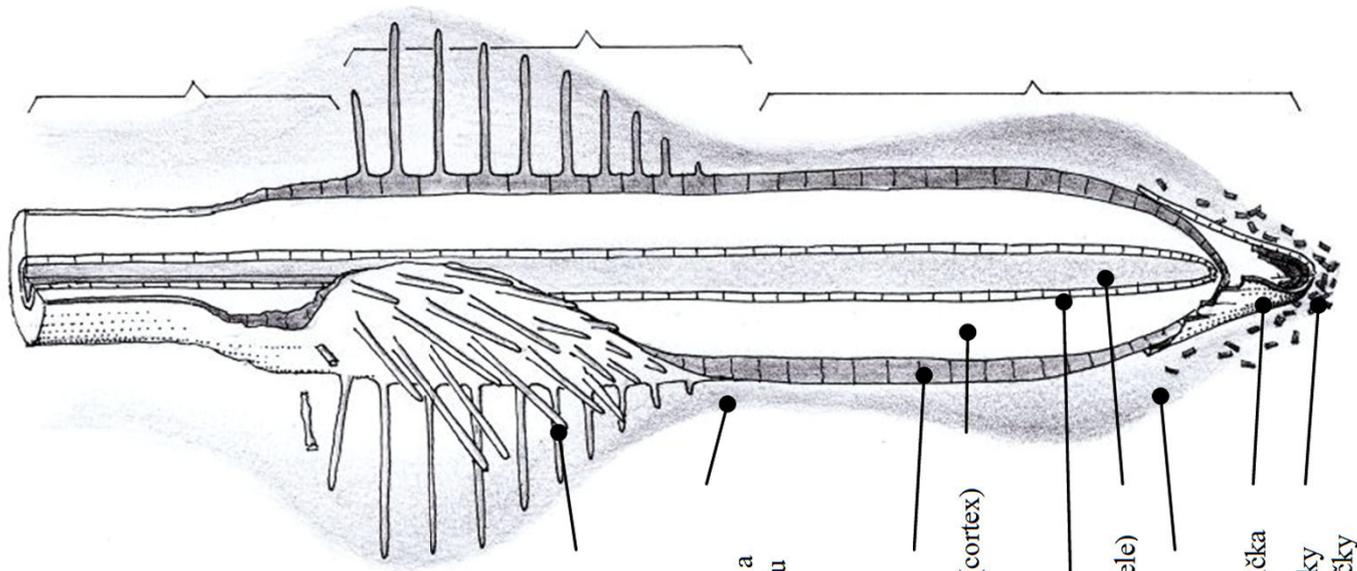




Micrograph of root cap with mucilage produced by the plant (maiz)

(Source: V. Sobolev, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture - ARS USDA)





Zóna spontánního rozkladu (autolýzy) povrchových pletiv

Absorpční zóna

Zóna maximální produkce kořenových výměšků (exudátů)

Kořenové vlášení

Mucigel – směs výměšků rostlinného a mikrobiálního původu

Rhizodermis

Primární kořenová kůra (cortex)

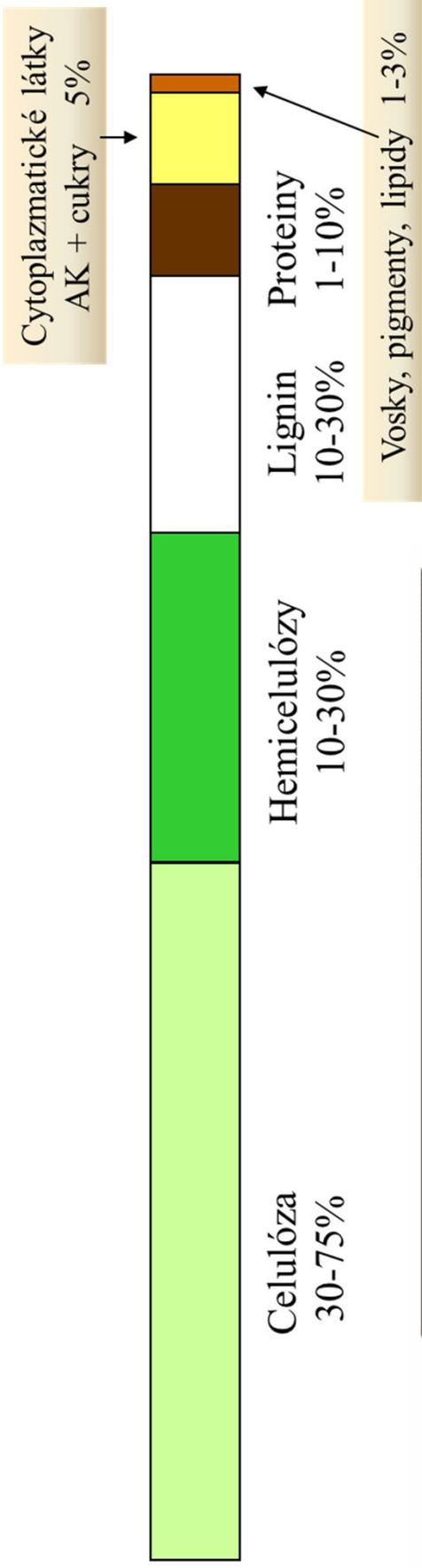
Endodermis

Střední válec (stele)

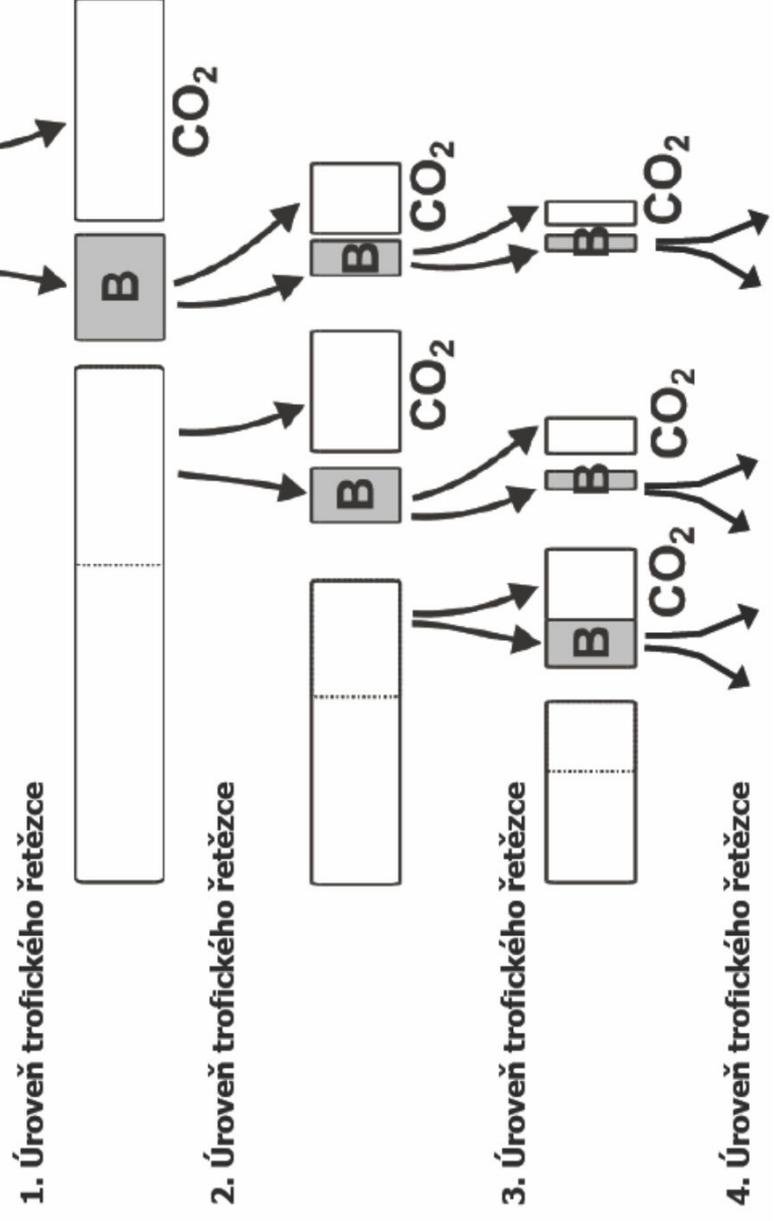
Mucilag

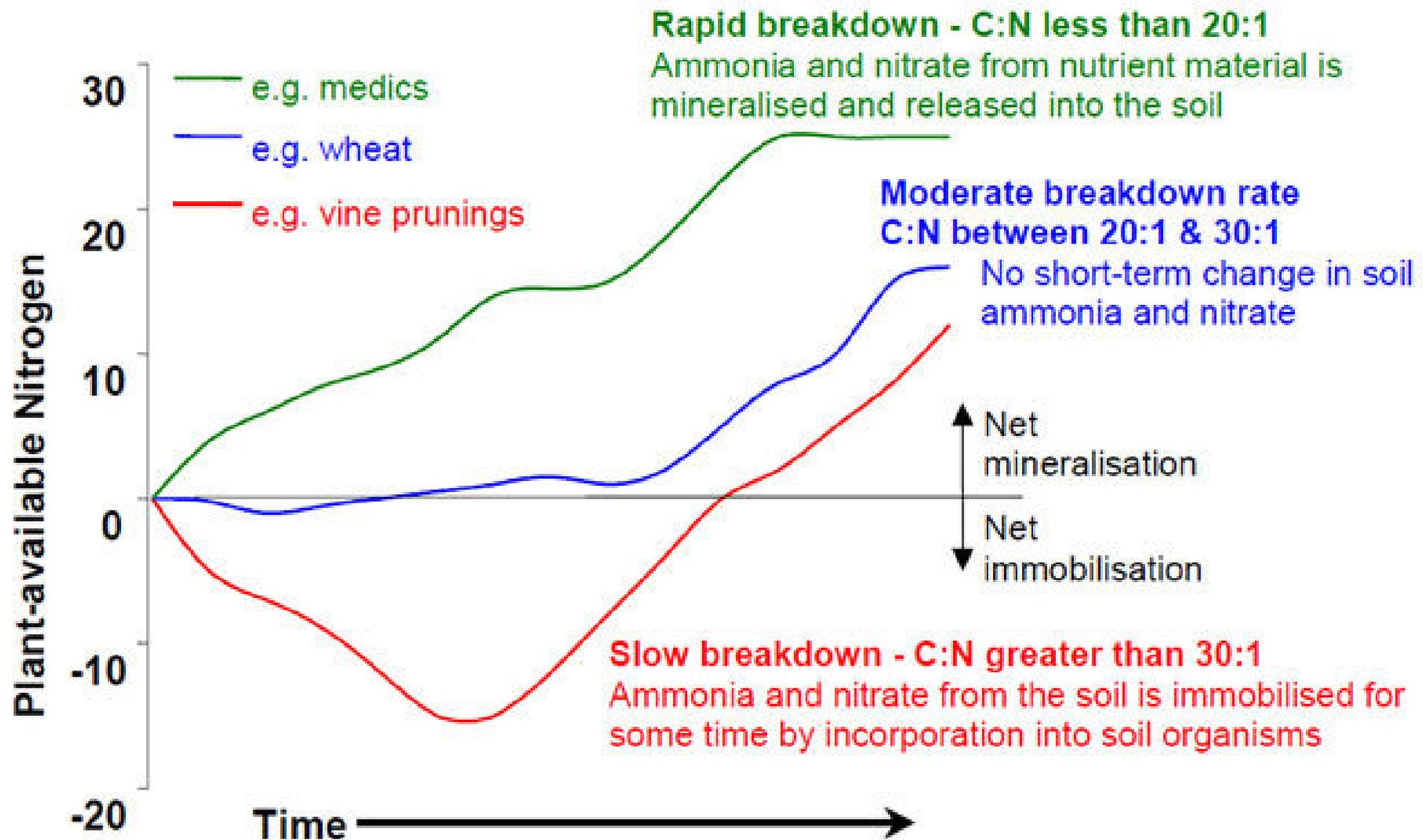
Kořenová čepička

Uvolněné buňky kořenové čepičky

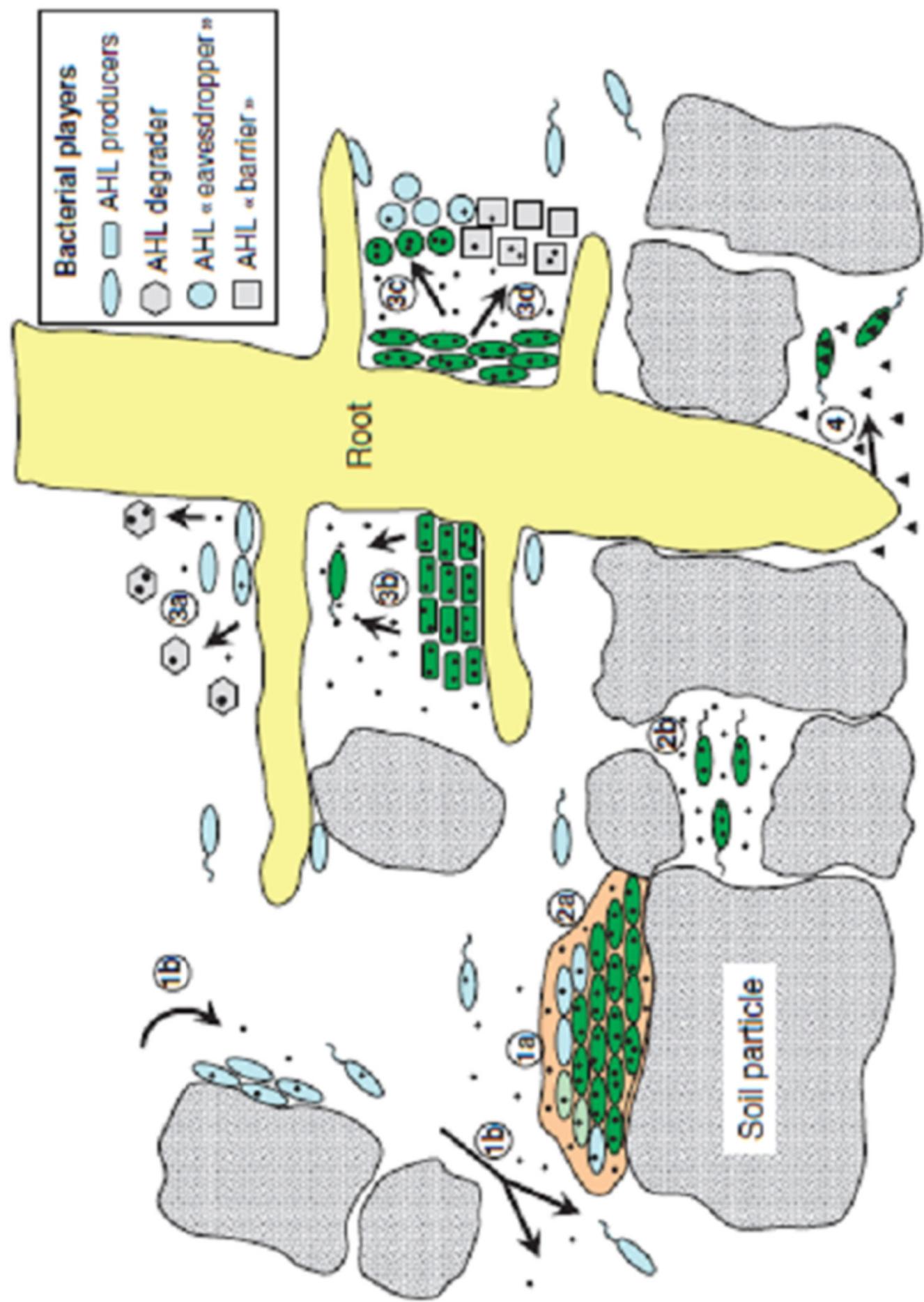


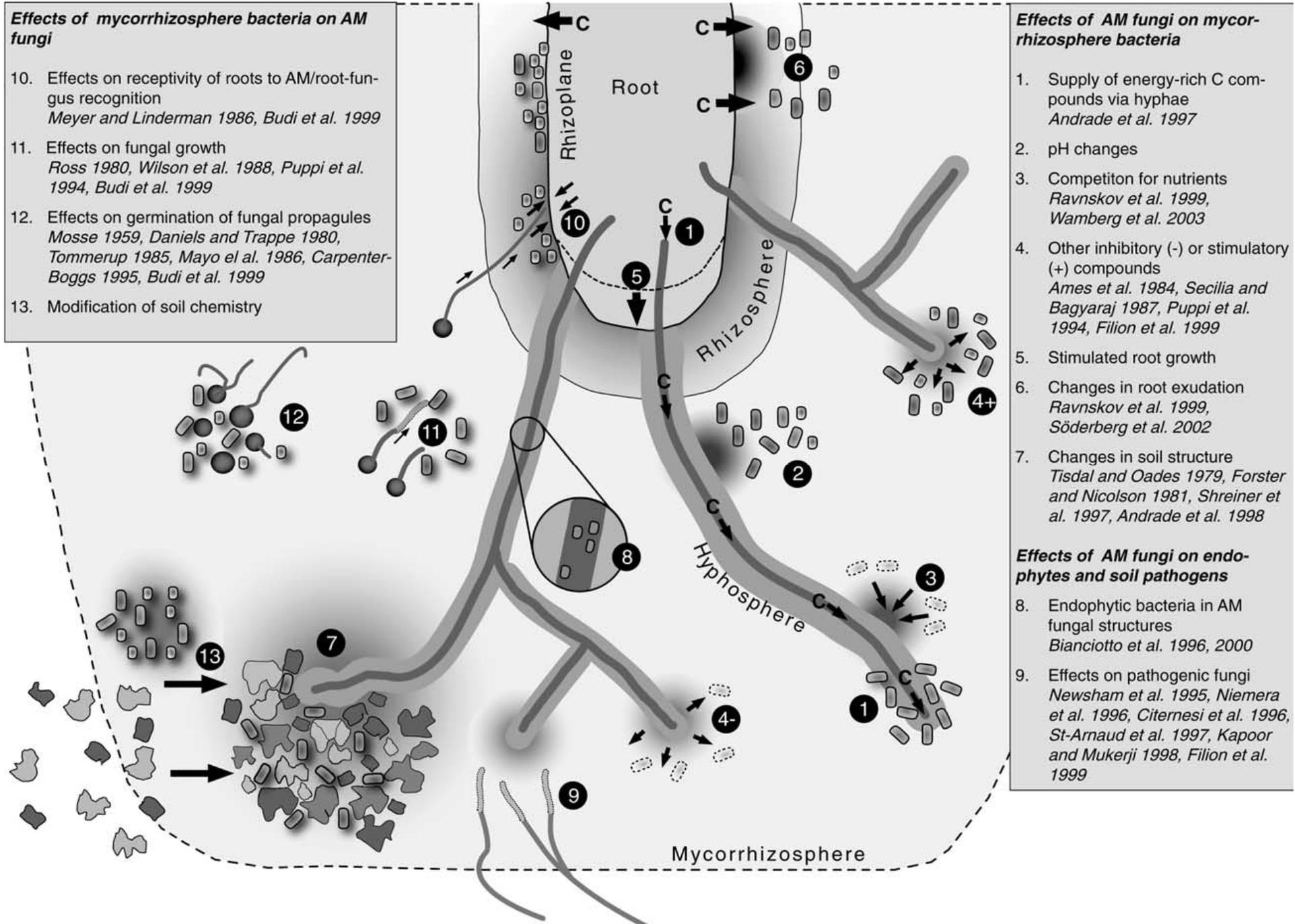
Počáteční vstup organické hmoty



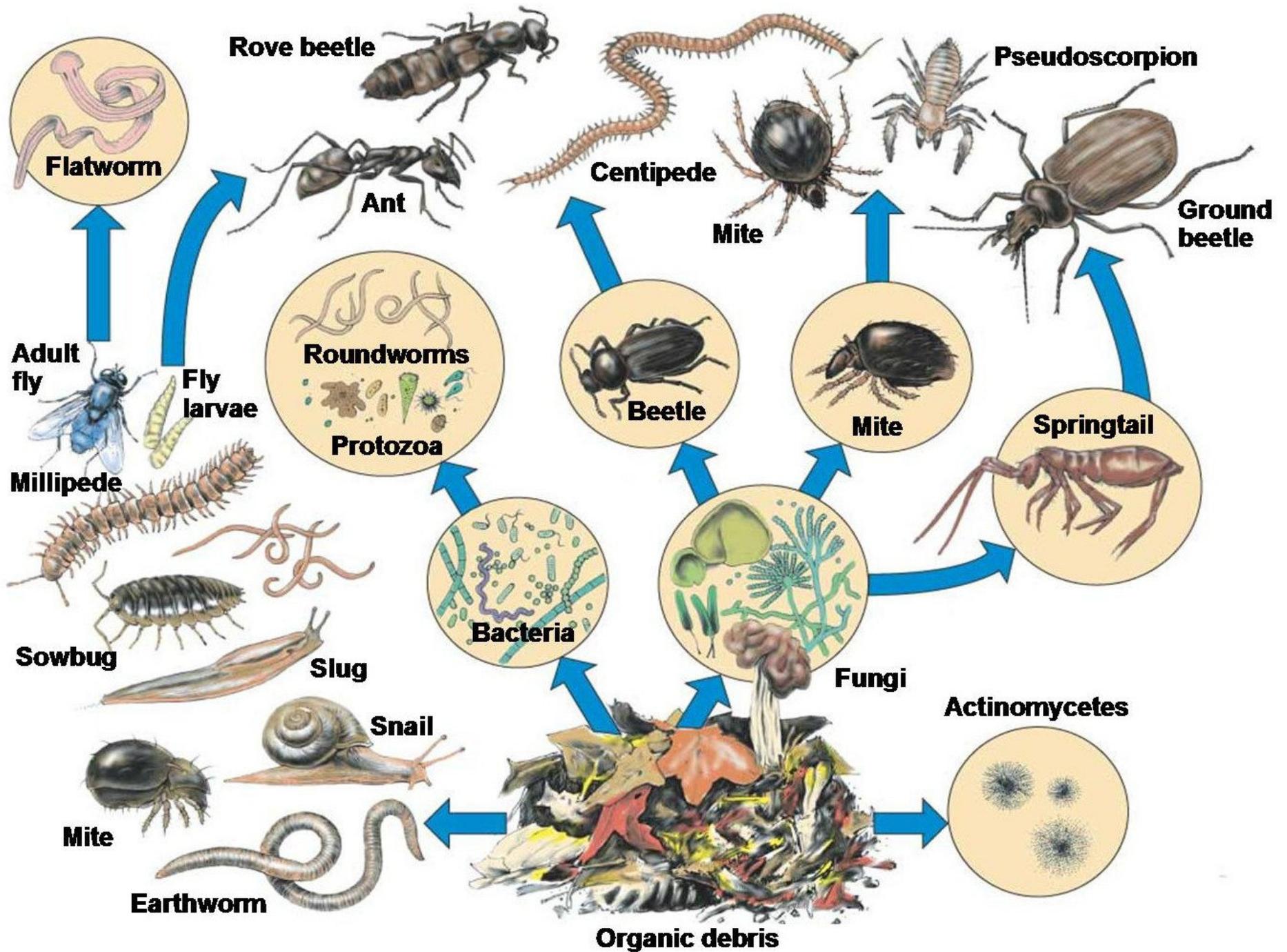


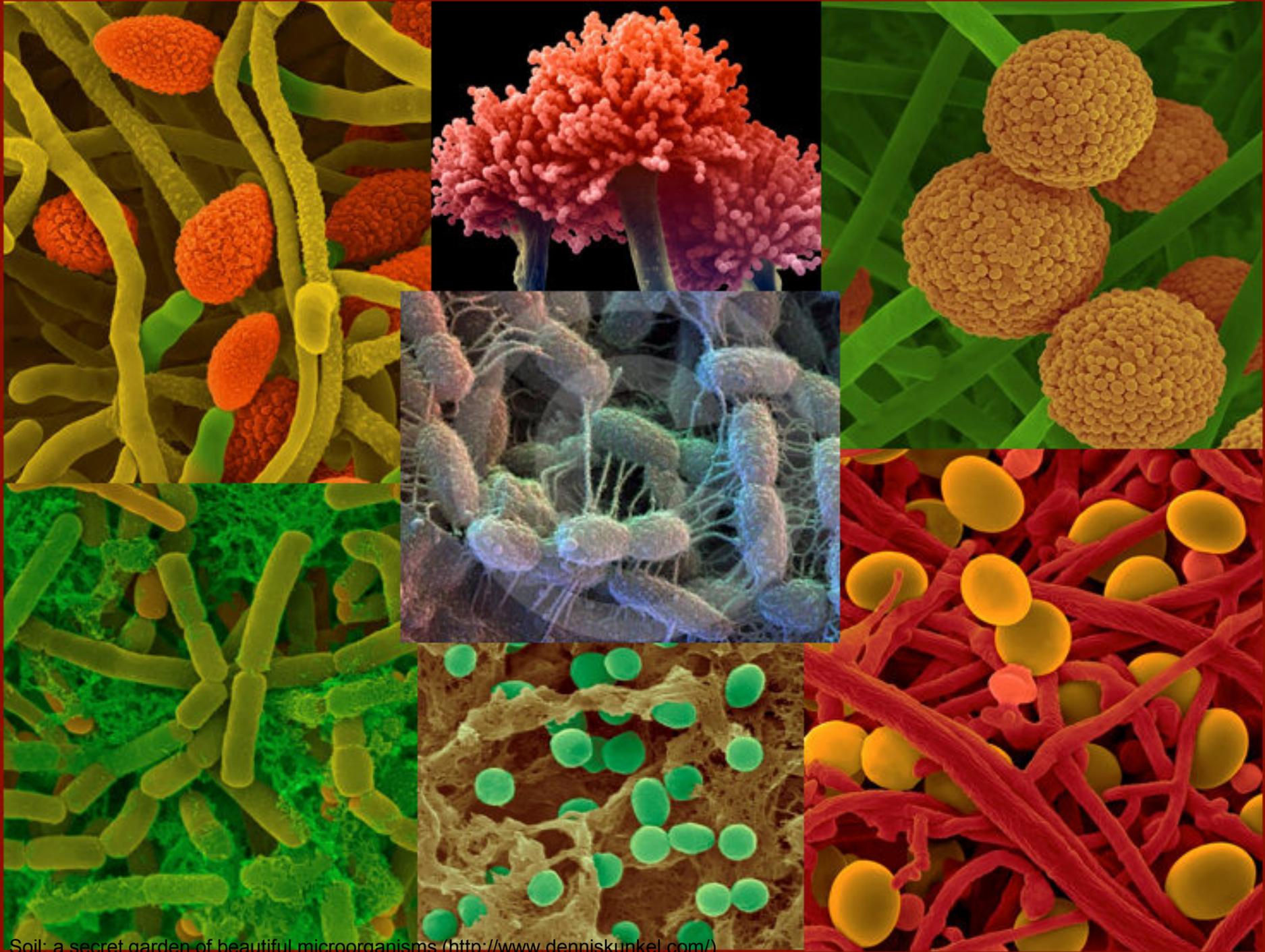
C:N ratio and plant available nitrogen (Treeby et Goings, 2001)





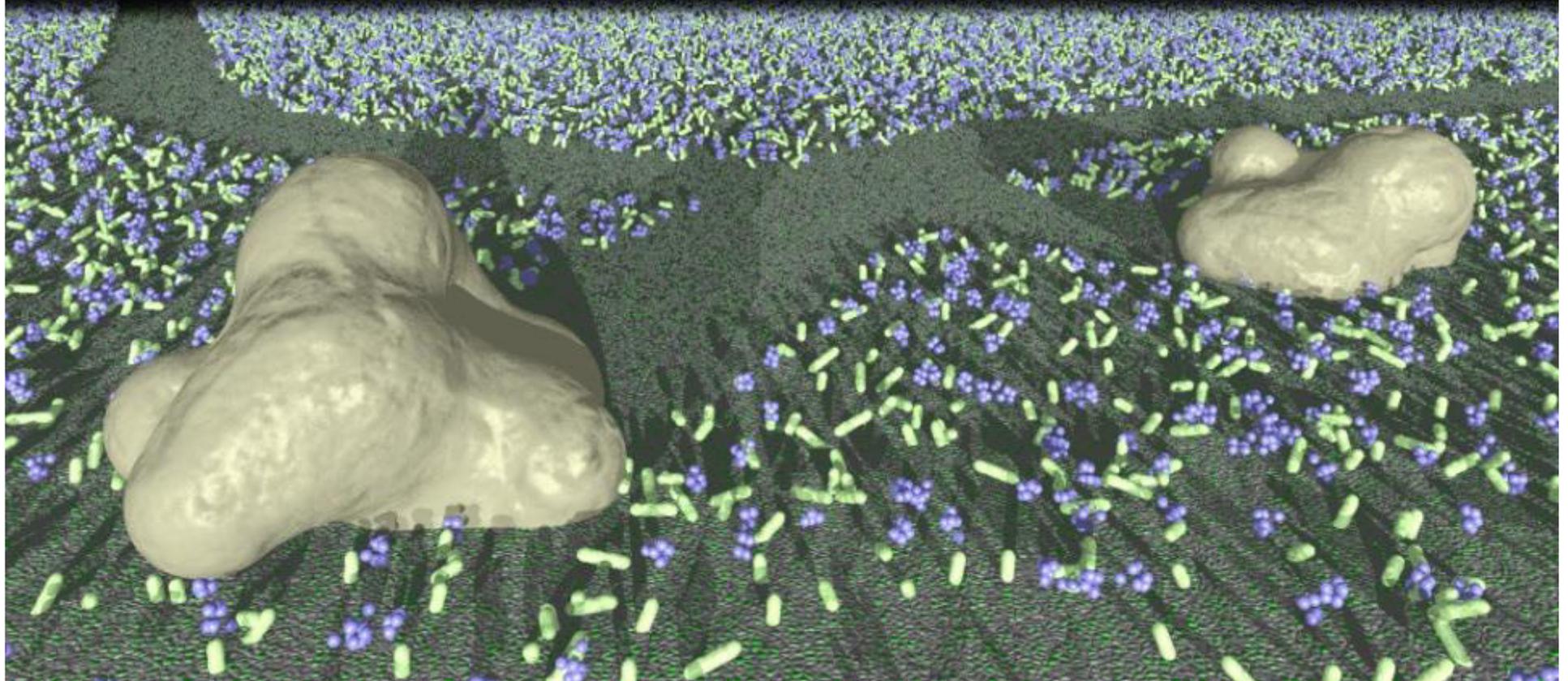
Schematic view of possible interactions among different components of the mycorrhizosphere. The drawing is not to scale and underestimates the relative surface area of the external mycorrhizal mycelium. /Johanson et al., FEMS Microbiology Ecology 48





Soil: a secret garden of beautiful microorganisms (<http://www.denniskunkel.com/>)

Feeding Protozoa

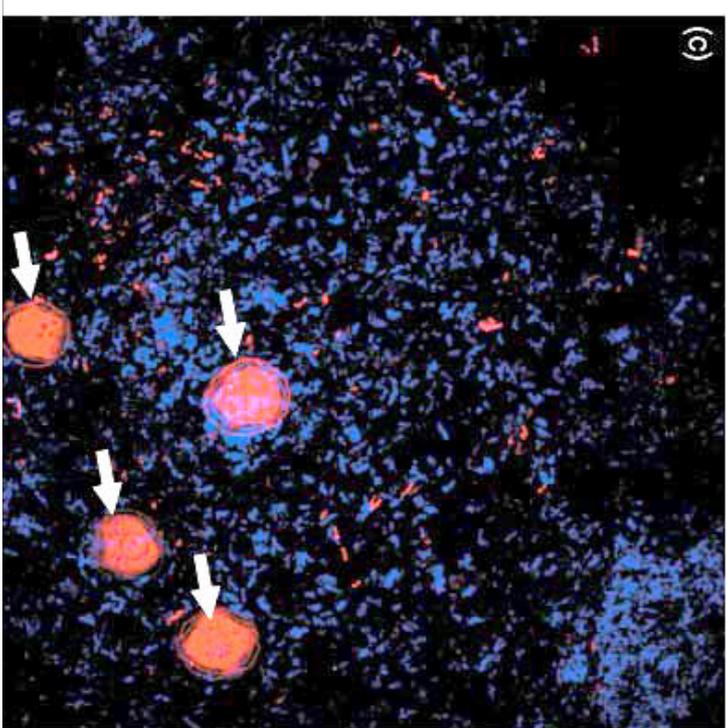
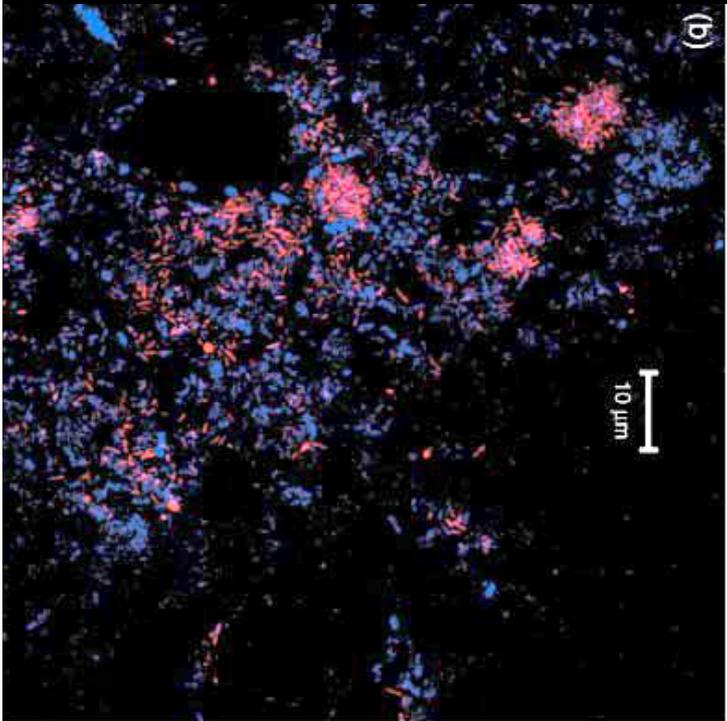




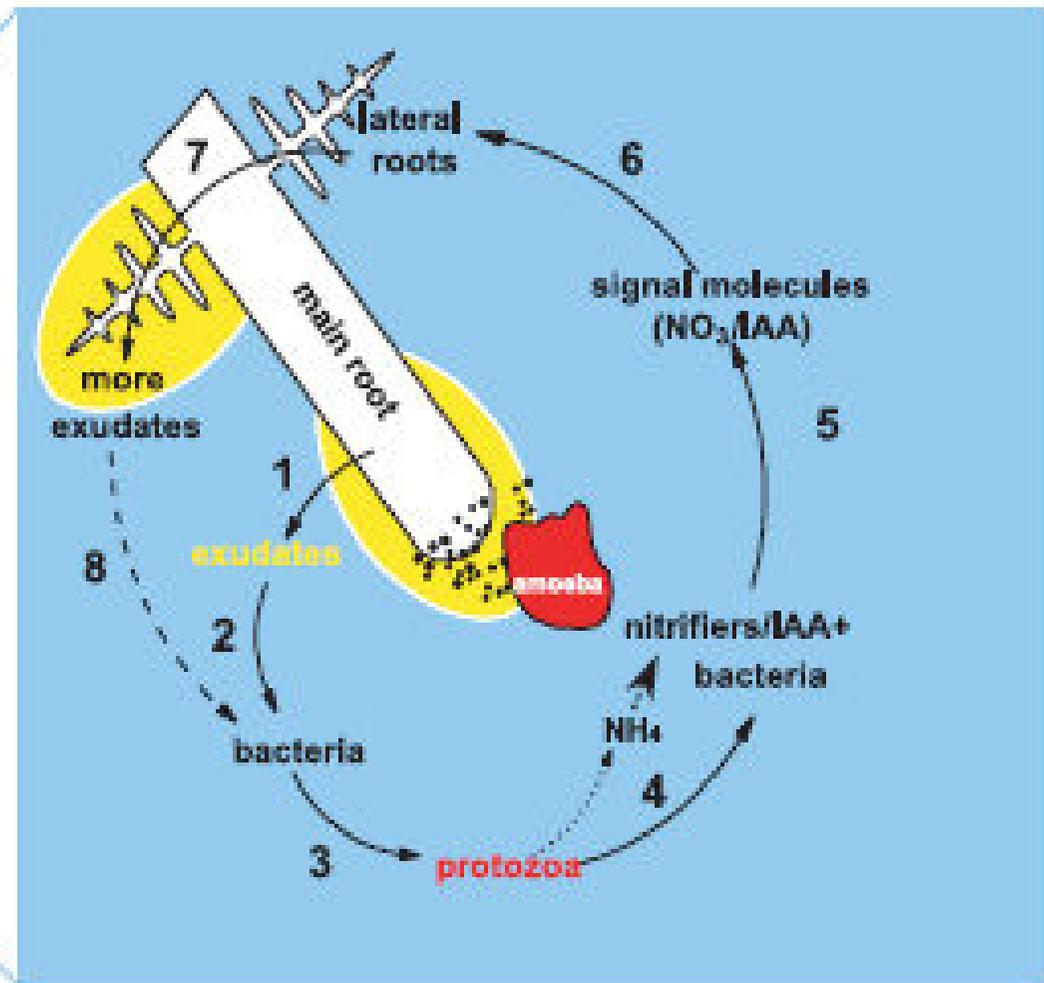
0.5 mm

(Acanthamoeba castellanii)

Protozoa and plant growth: the microbial loop in soil revisited. M. Bonkowski New Phytologist (2004)



Protozoa and plant growth: the microbial loop in soil revisited. M. Bonkowski. New Phytologist (2004)



Protozoa and plant growth: the microbial loop in soil revisited. M. Bonkowski. New Phytologist (2004)

Predatory mite eating a springtail (body size: 0.5-2 mm)



Image from: www.prairieecosystems.pbworks.com/Dennis-NaturalistGuide



Examples of the common red mite and other soil microarthropods

Image from: www.prairieecosystems.pbworks.com/Dennis-NaturalistGuide



Bioturbation





European mole (www.cornwallwarrener.co.uk/Moleman_devon_cornwall.htm)

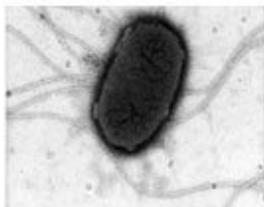
Functional groups:



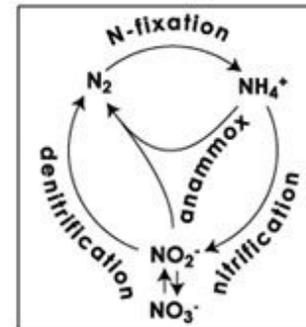
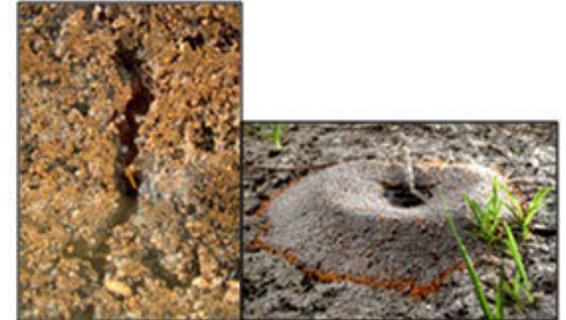
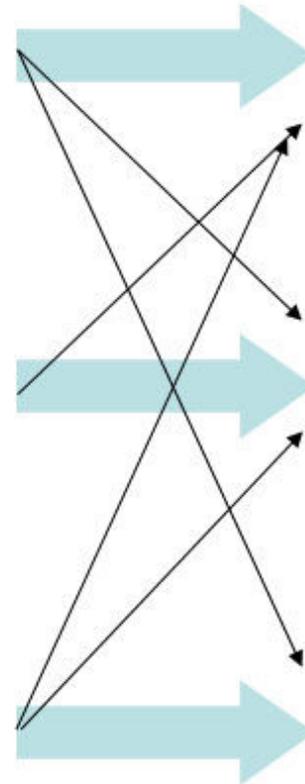
● Soil ecosystem engineers



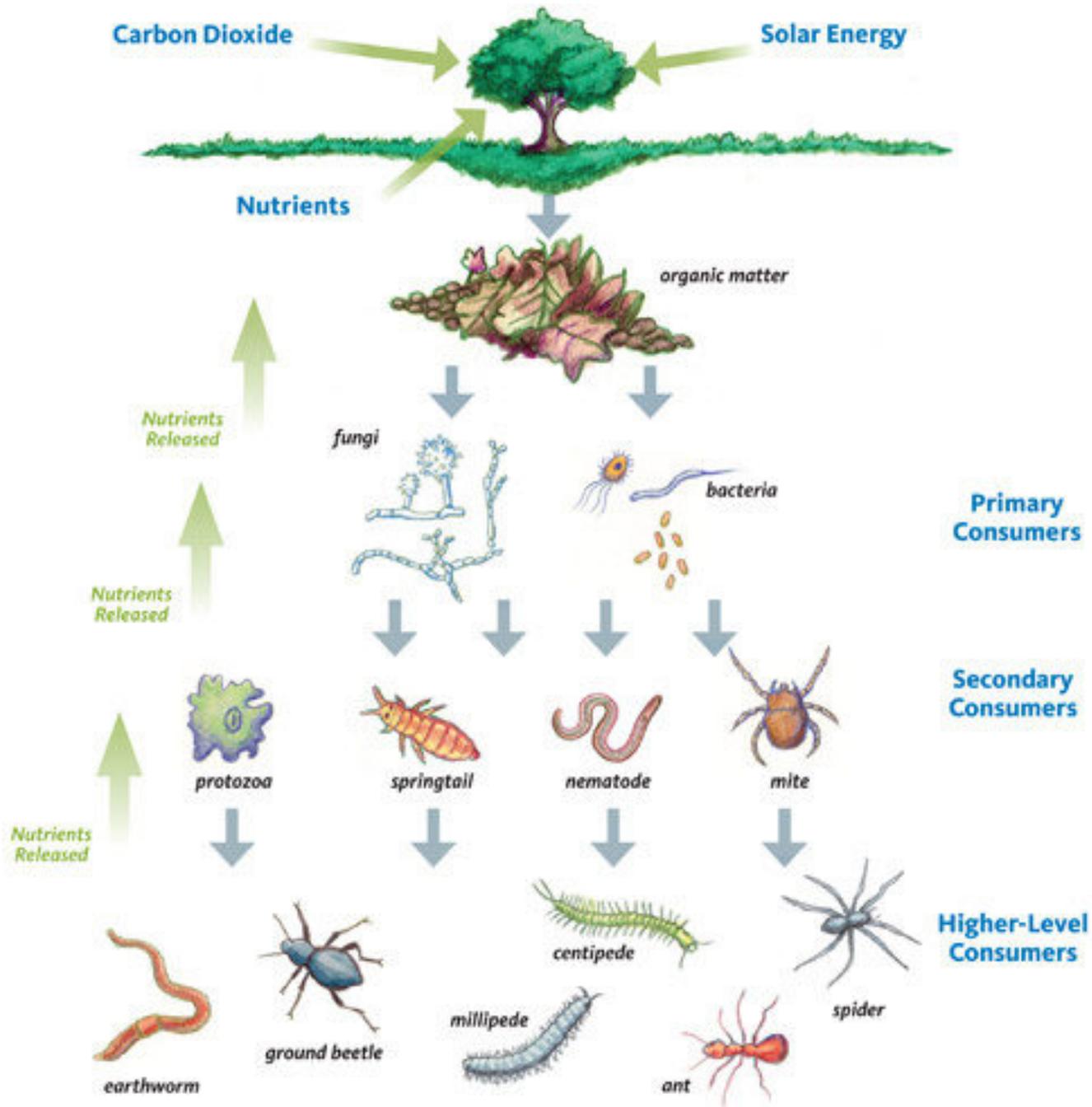
● Biological regulators

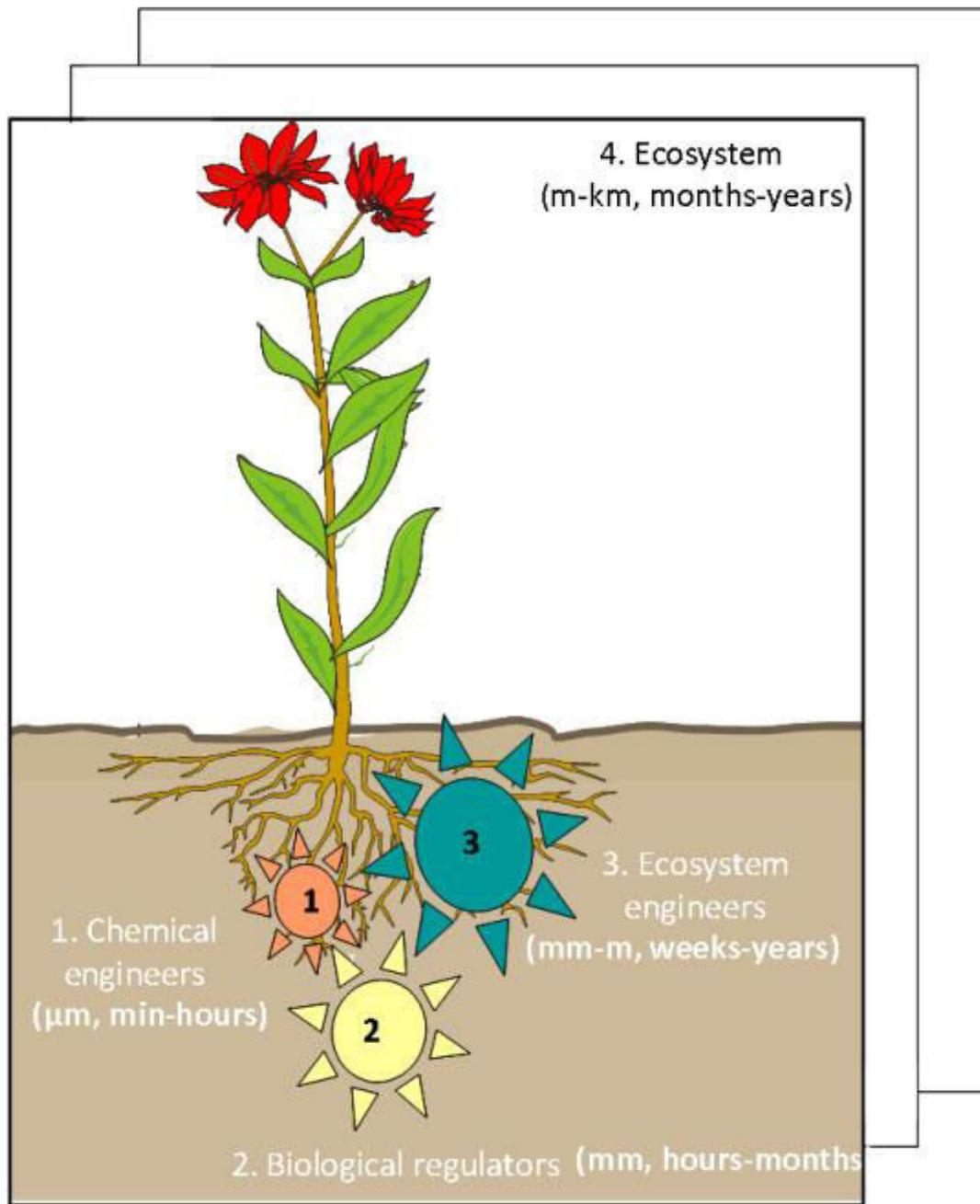


● Chemical engineers/
microbial decomposers



- **Chemical engineers** (transformers and decomposers): organisms responsible for carbon transformation through the decomposition of plant residues and other organic matter, and for the transformation of nutrients (e.g. nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur)
- **Biological regulators**: organisms responsible for the regulation of populations of other soil organisms, through grazing, predation or parasitism, including soilborne pests and diseases.
- **Ecosystem engineers**: organisms responsible for maintaining the structure of soil by the formation of pore networks and bio-structures, and aggregation, or particle transport.





5. Landscape
(km, years)

4. Ecosystem
(m-km, months-years)

3. Ecosystem
engineers
(mm-m, weeks-years)

1. Chemical
engineers
(μm , min-hours)

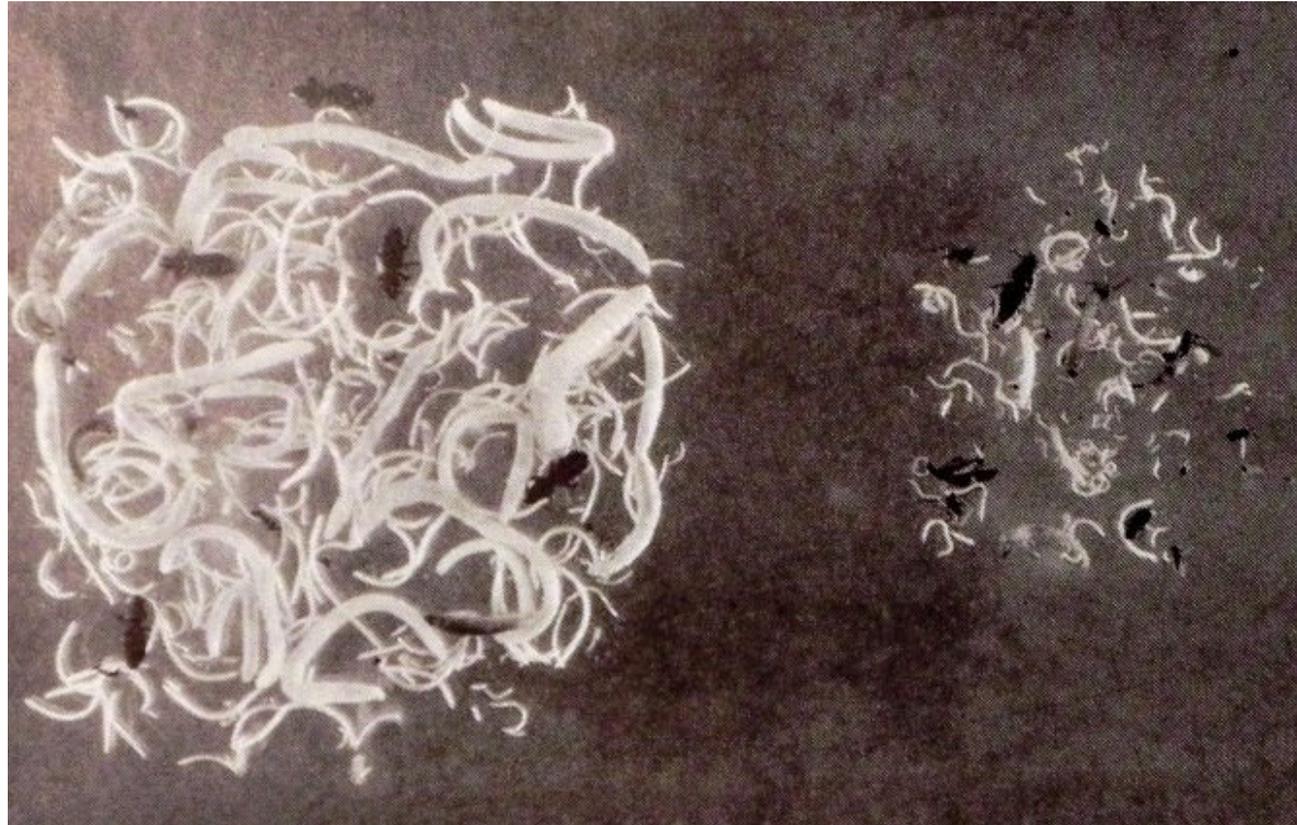
2. Biological regulators (mm, hours-months)

Functional organisation
of soil communities over
five nested spatio-
temporal scales of
action.

The size of the wheels
represents the spatio-
temporal scale.

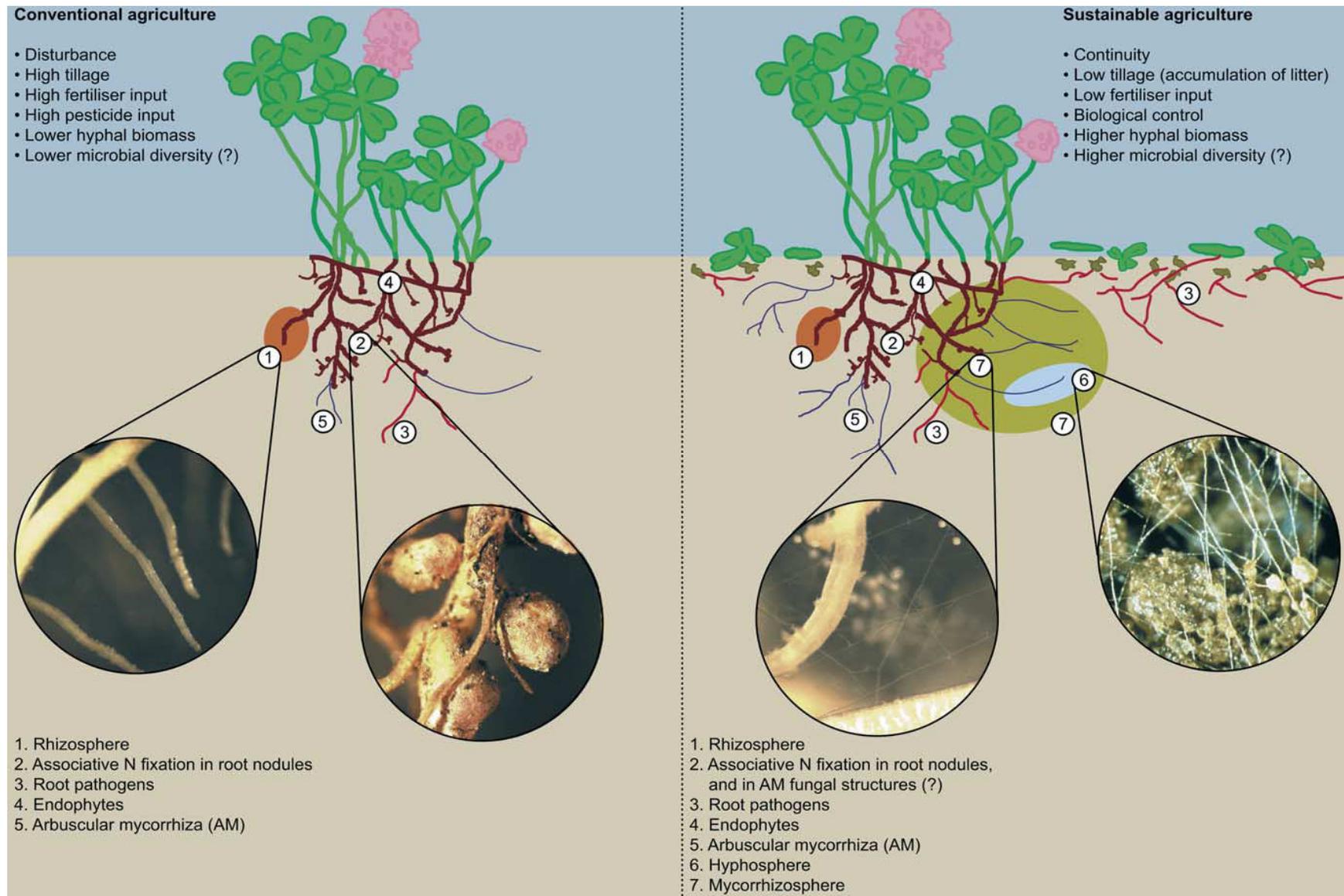
Soil, how are you with human?

biological agriculture



conventional agriculture

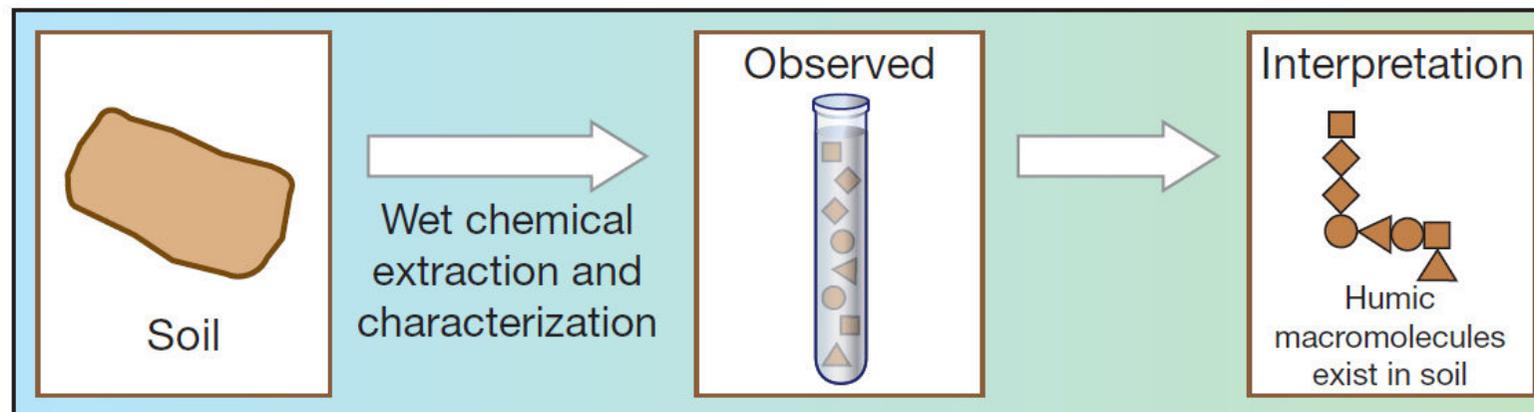
Comparison of two extractions of the soil fauna: similar soils (CALCISOLS), similar altitudes (500 m), similar climates (oceanic temperature of the Switzerland Plateau), identical crop (wheat). At the left, under conditions of **biological agriculture**; at right, under conditions of **conventional agriculture**. Life in the soil ...soils are poorly developed and have a limited capacity to store N inputs /Gobat et al., 2003: The Living Soil/



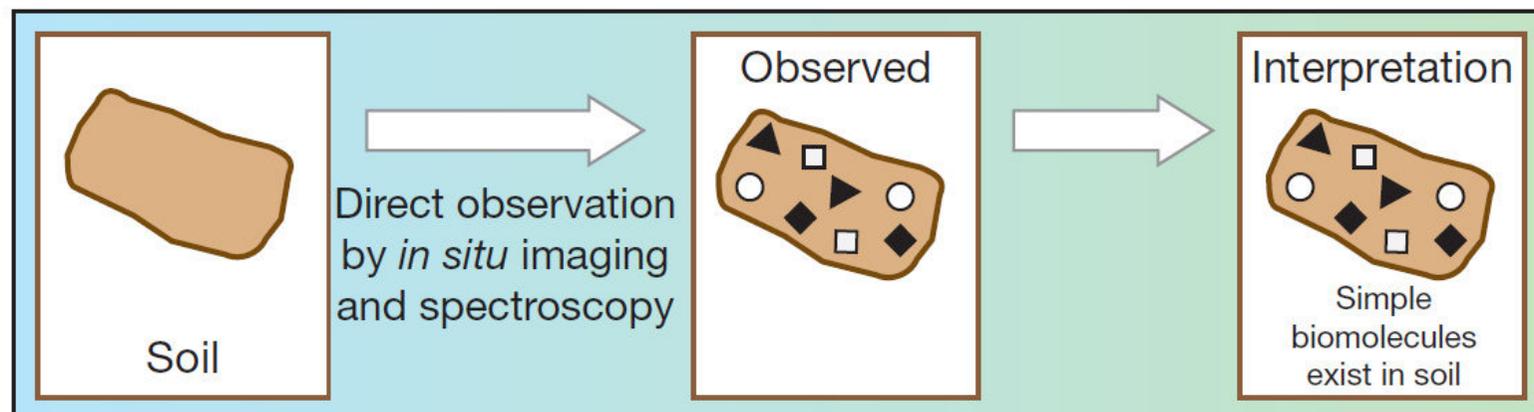
Schematic view of the mycorrhizosphere concept in contrast to the rhizosphere concept: Features of conventionally managed agricultural soils versus sustainably managed agricultural soils are indicated.

/Johanson et al., FEMS Microbiology Ecology 48 (2004) 1–13/.

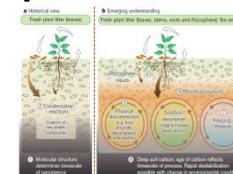
Historical view



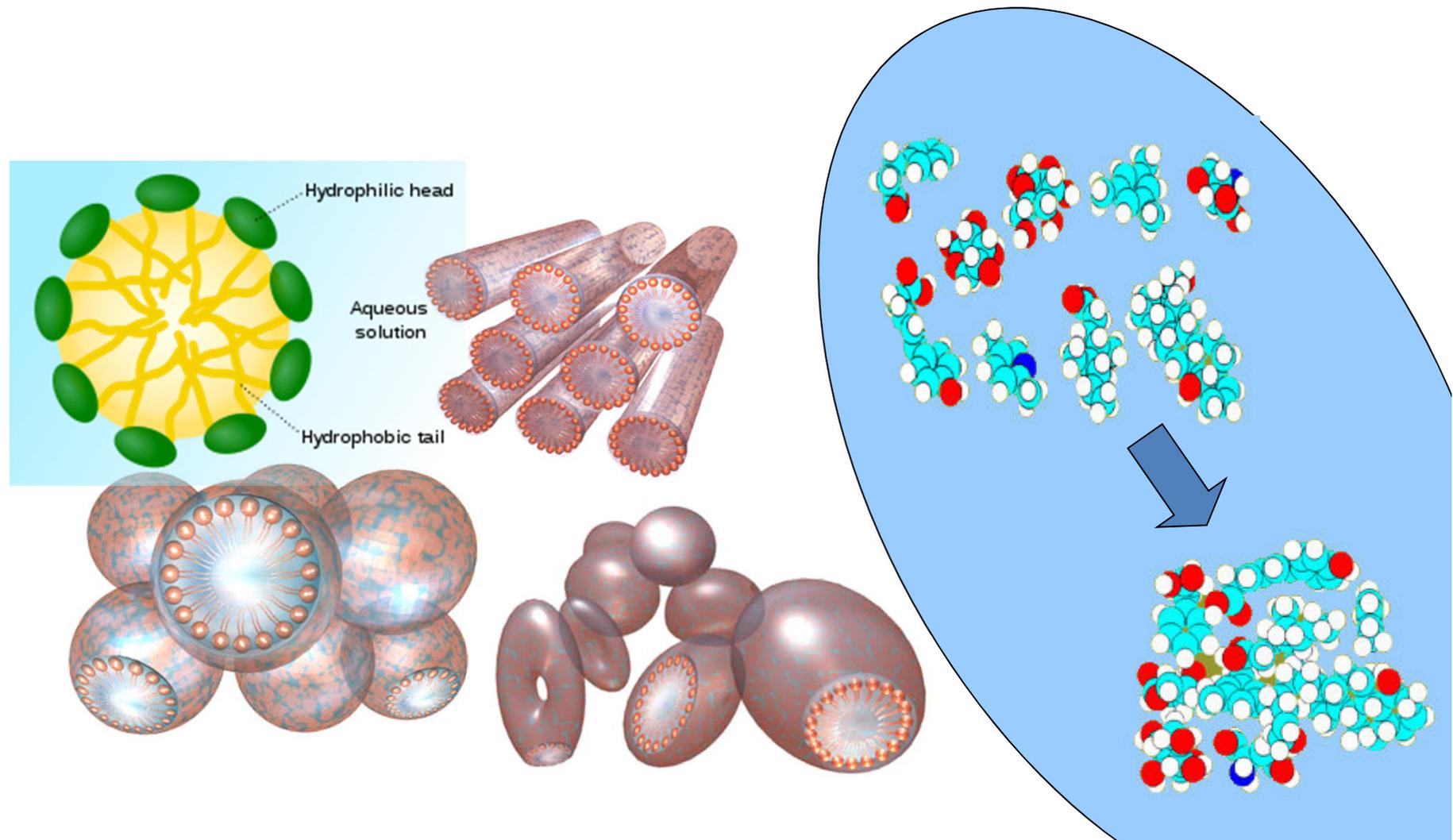
Emerging understanding



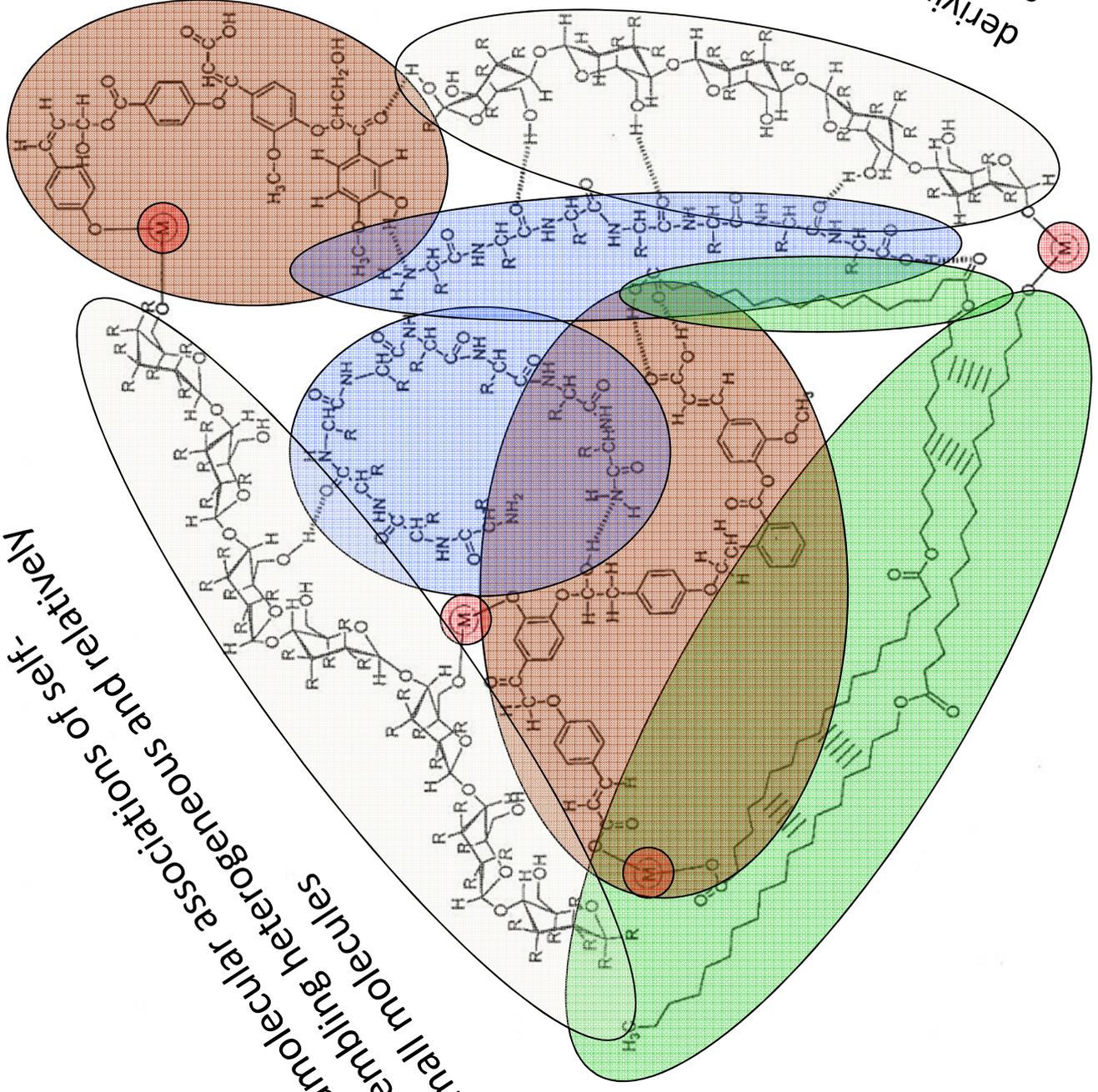
Direct high-resolution *in situ* observations with non-destructive techniques have been able to explain the functional group chemistry of the extracted humic substances as relatively simple biomolecules without the need to invoke the presence of unexplainable macromolecules.



A major aspect of the humic supramolecular conformation is that it is stabilized predominantly by weak dispersive forces instead of covalent linkages (Piccolo, 2001).

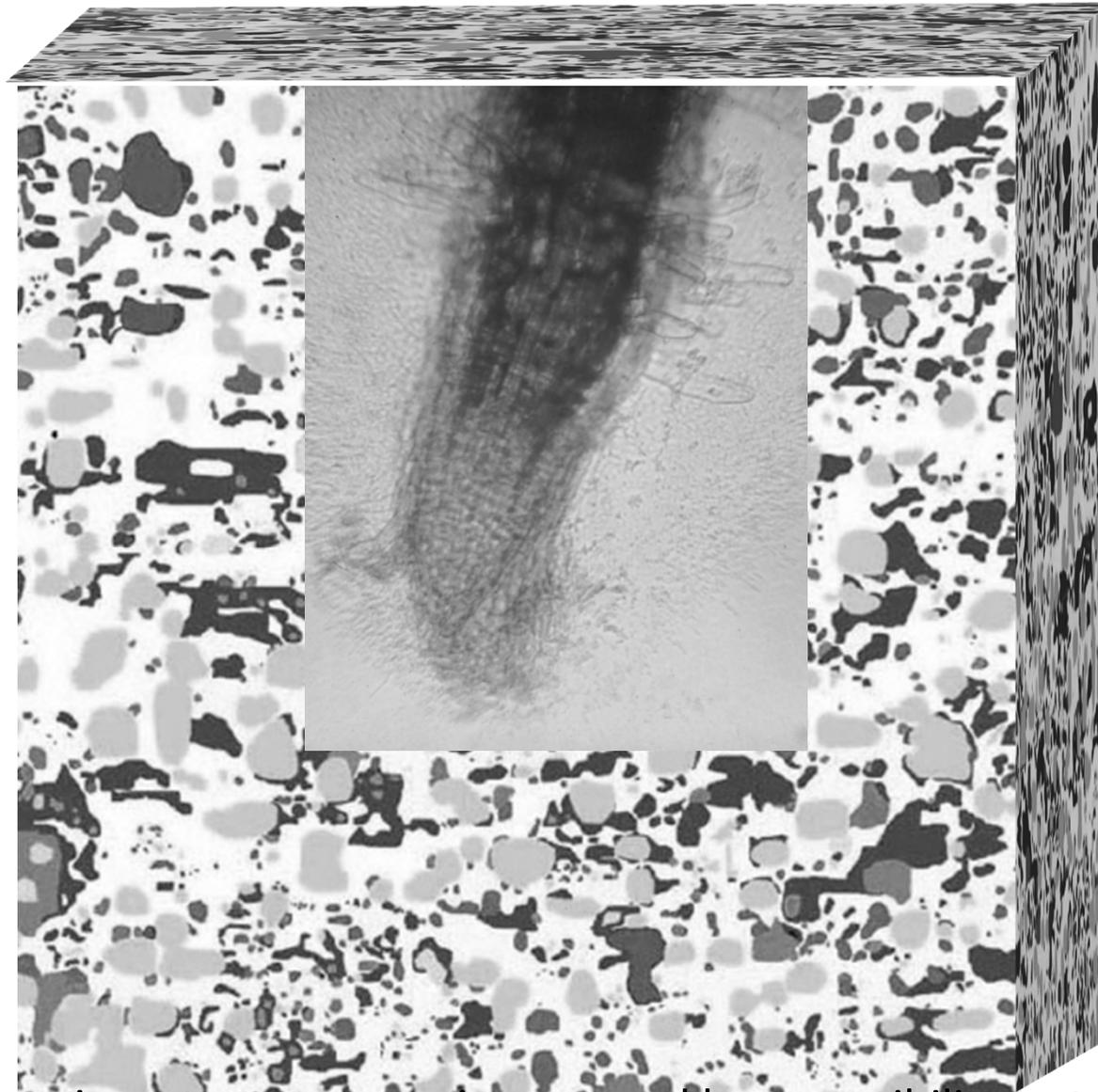


Supramolecular associations of self-
assembling heterogeneous and relatively
small molecules



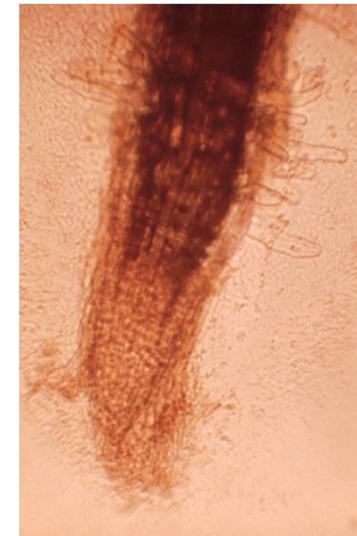
deriving from the degradation and decomposition
of dead biological material.

What is the source of the ‘Trigger organic Molecules’? Fresh inputs of plant litter and rhizodeposits? Metabolites from decomposing microorganisms? Others? (Dungait et al., 2012)



Soil organic matter turnover is governed by accessibility not recalcitrance

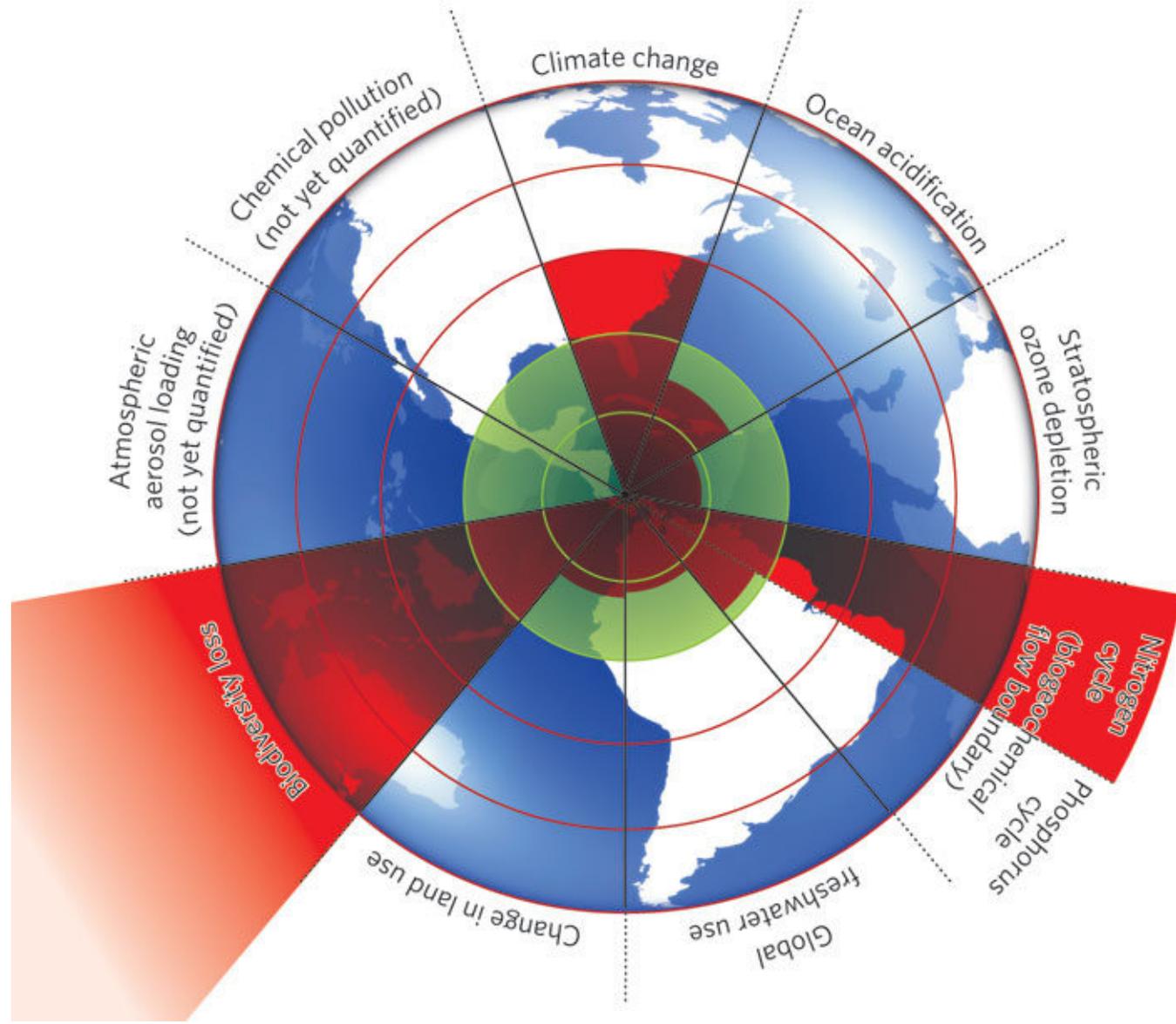
It appears, based on the emerging understanding, that part of SOM is a special kind of extracellular microbial reservoir of key biogenic nutrients (N, P, S,), well preserved against the spontaneous microbial activities („**Sleeping Beauty**“) without the additional source of carbohydrates but well prepared for explosive microbial activities after the stimulation with rhizodeposits.



In other words, the major reservoir of soil nitrogen must be first activated by delivery of well accessible plant rhizodeposits and the rate of nitrogen availability will be directly proportional to the supply of plant carbohydrates.

The pictures show a plant roots "dressed up" to the active surface represented by exchangeable surface structures (plasma membranes) of microorganisms, which are proliferated in the vicinity due to the production of root exudates. Otherwise unavailable biogenic nutrients are released from SOM by extracellular enzymes produced by microorganisms as a result of an excess of carbonaceous compounds and the lack of these nutrients. From this phenomenon is ultimately benefiting the plant in proportion to their carbonaceous "investment".





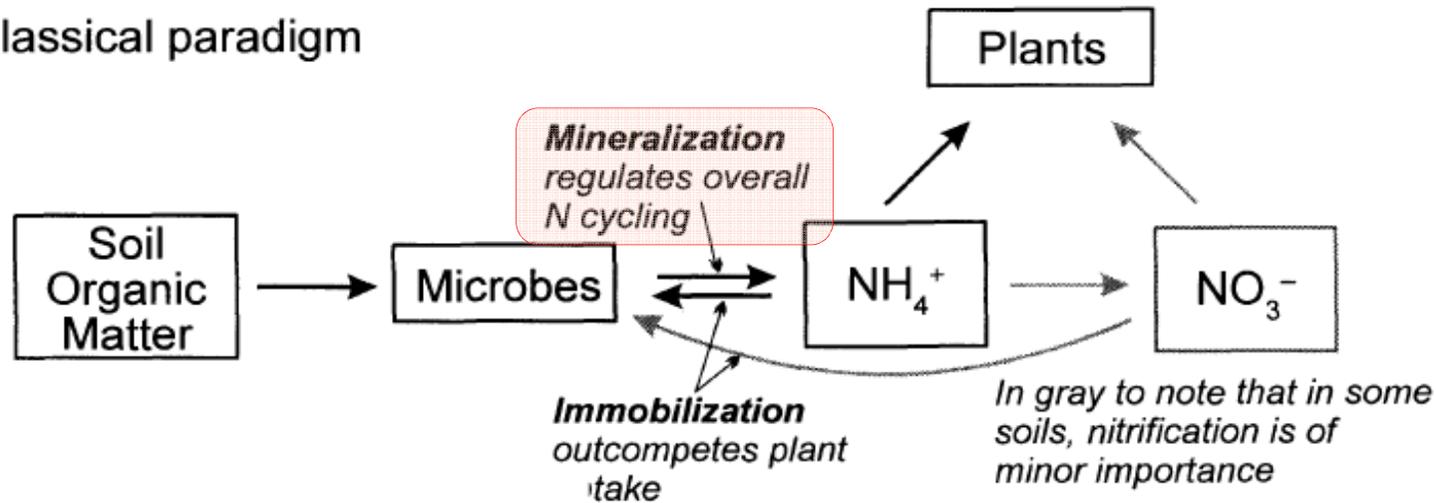
The inner green shading represents the proposed safe operating space for nine planetary systems. The red wedges represent an estimate of the current position for each variable. The boundaries in three systems (rate of biodiversity loss, climate change and human interference with the nitrogen cycle), have already been exceeded.

PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

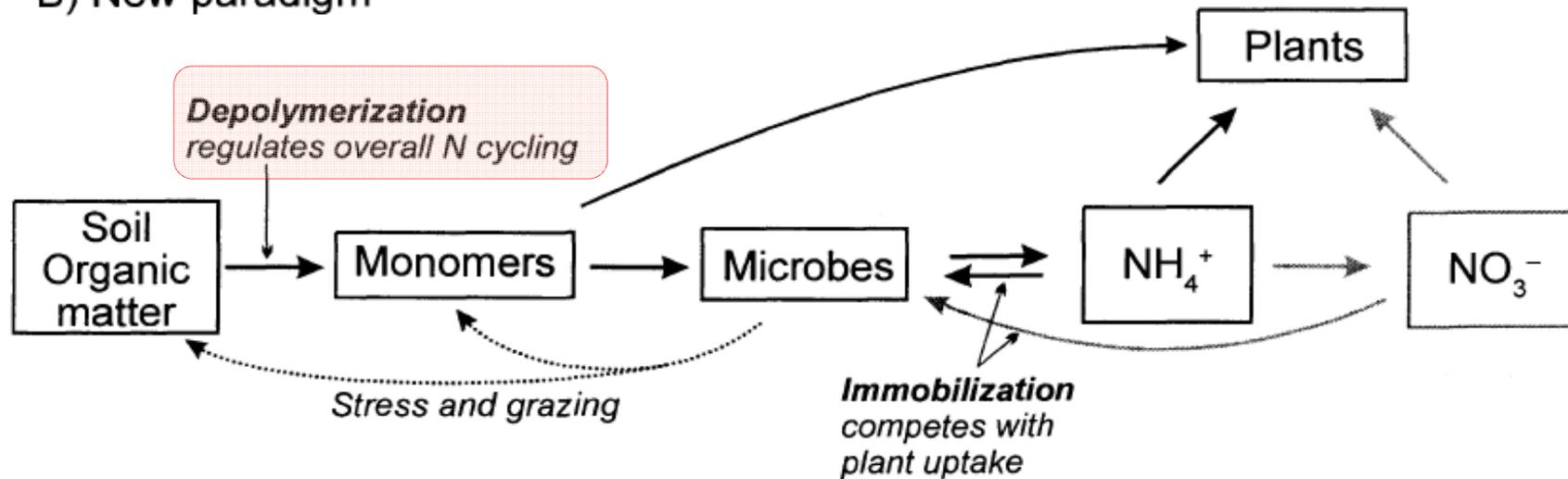
Earth-system process	Parameters	Proposed boundary	Current status	Pre-industrial value	
Climate change	(i) Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration (parts per million by volume) (ii) Change in radiative forcing (watts per metre squared)	350	387	280	
Rate of biodiversity loss	Extinction rate (number of species per million species per year)	10	>100	0.1-1	
Nitrogen cycle (part of a boundary with the phosphorus cycle)	Amount of N ₂ removed from the atmosphere for human use (millions of tonnes per year)	35	121	0	
Phosphorus cycle (part of a boundary with the nitrogen cycle)	Quantity of P flowing into the oceans (millions of tonnes per year)	11	8.5-9.5	~1	
nitrogen cycle)					
Stratospheric ozone depletion		Concentration of ozone (Dobson unit)	276	283	290
Ocean acidification		Global mean saturation state of aragonite in surface sea water	2.75	2.90	3.44
Global freshwater use		Consumption of freshwater by humans (km ³ per year)	4,000	2,600	415
Change in land use		Percentage of global land cover converted to cropland	15	11.7	Low
Atmospheric aerosol loading		Overall particulate concentration in the atmosphere, on a regional basis	To be determined		
Chemical pollution		For example, amount emitted to, or concentration of persistent organic pollutants, plastics, endocrine disrupters, heavy metals and nuclear waste in, the global environment, or the effects on ecosystem and functioning of Earth system thereof	To be determined		

Boundaries for processes in red have been crossed. Data sources: ref. 10 and supplementary information

A) Classical paradigm

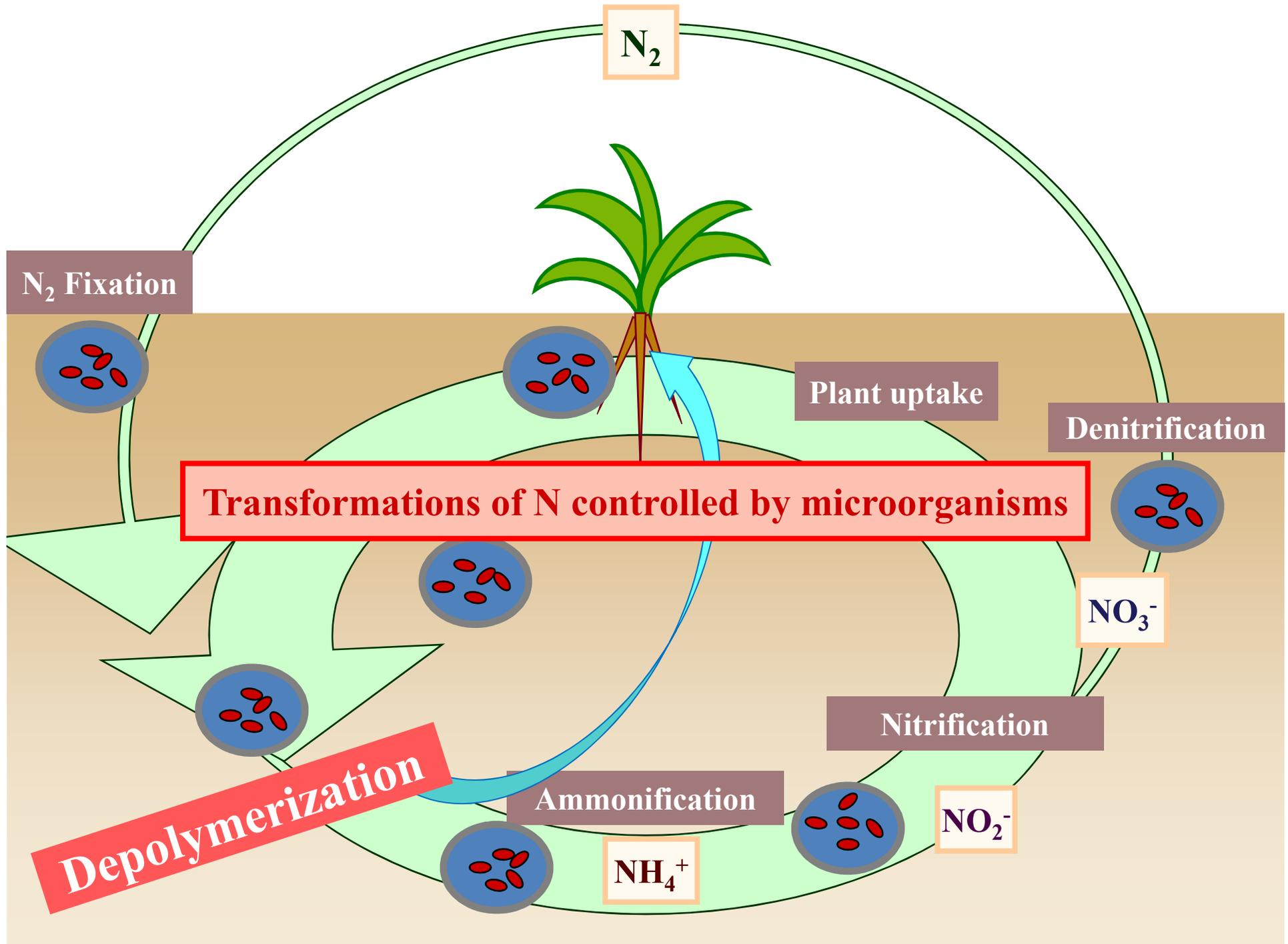


B) New paradigm

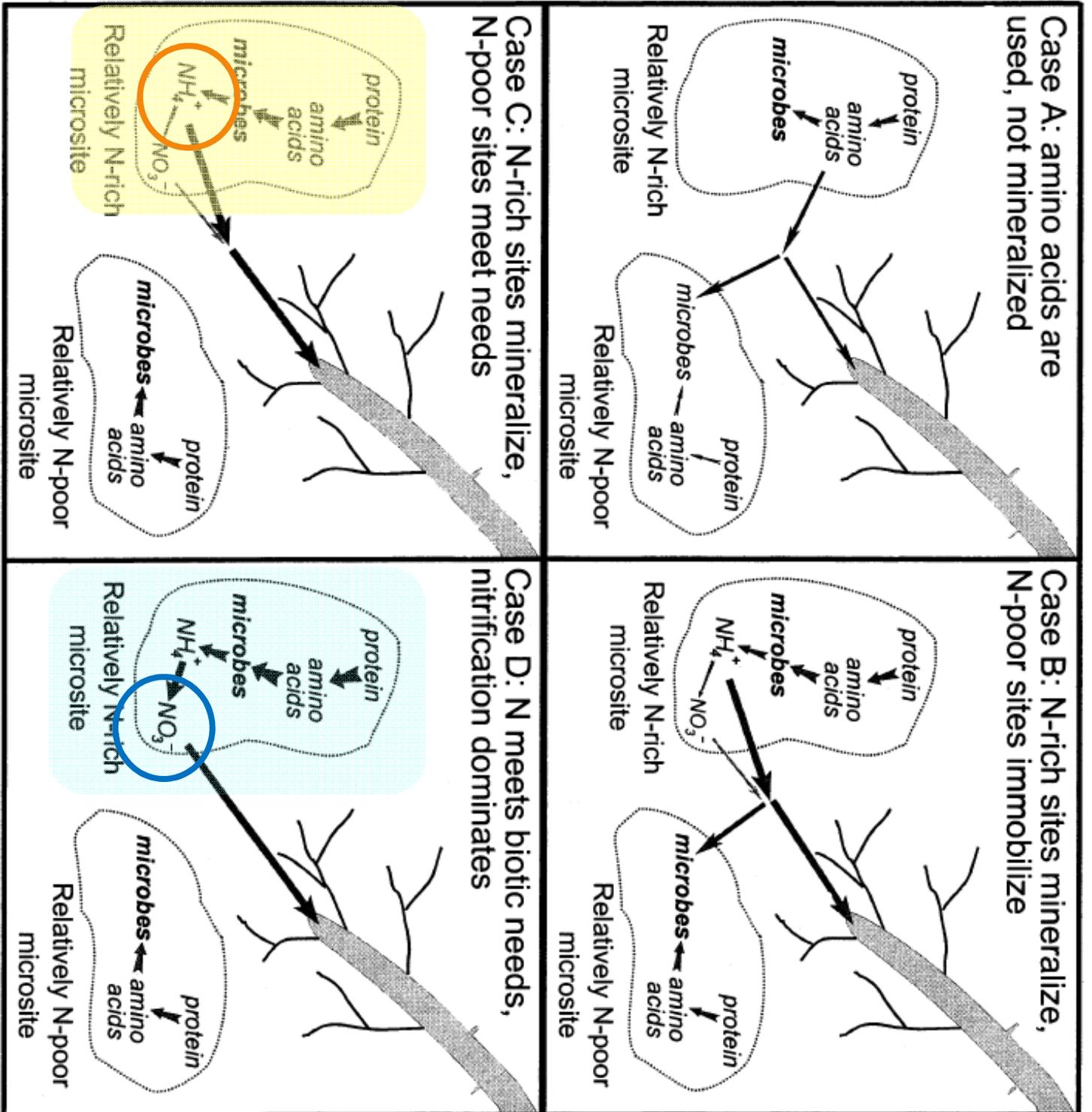


The changing paradigm of the soil N cycle.

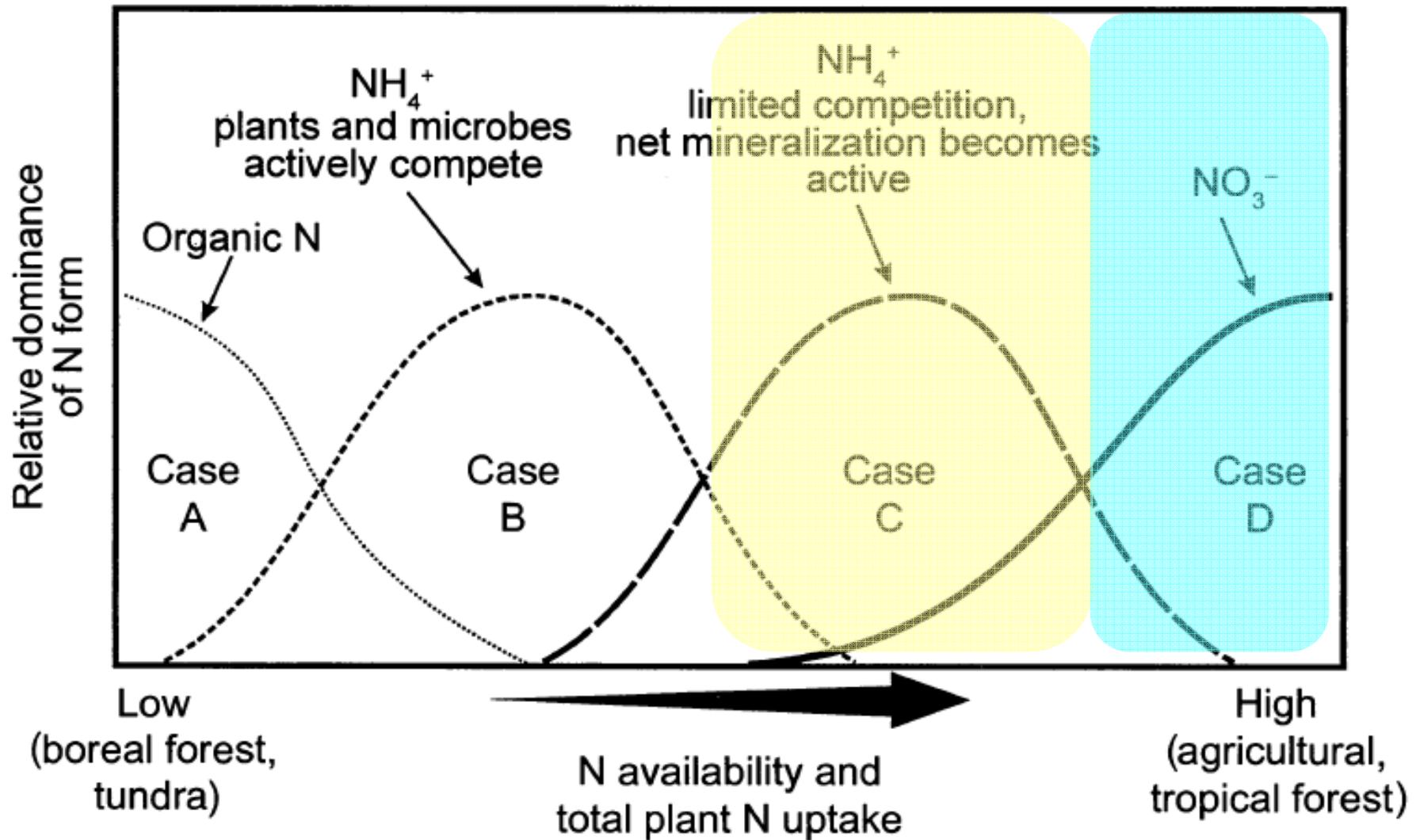
N cycling is now seen as being driven by the depolymerization of N-containing polymers by microbial extracellular enzymes.



The diagrams specify that the polymers are protein, but only as a representative organic N-containing polymer.

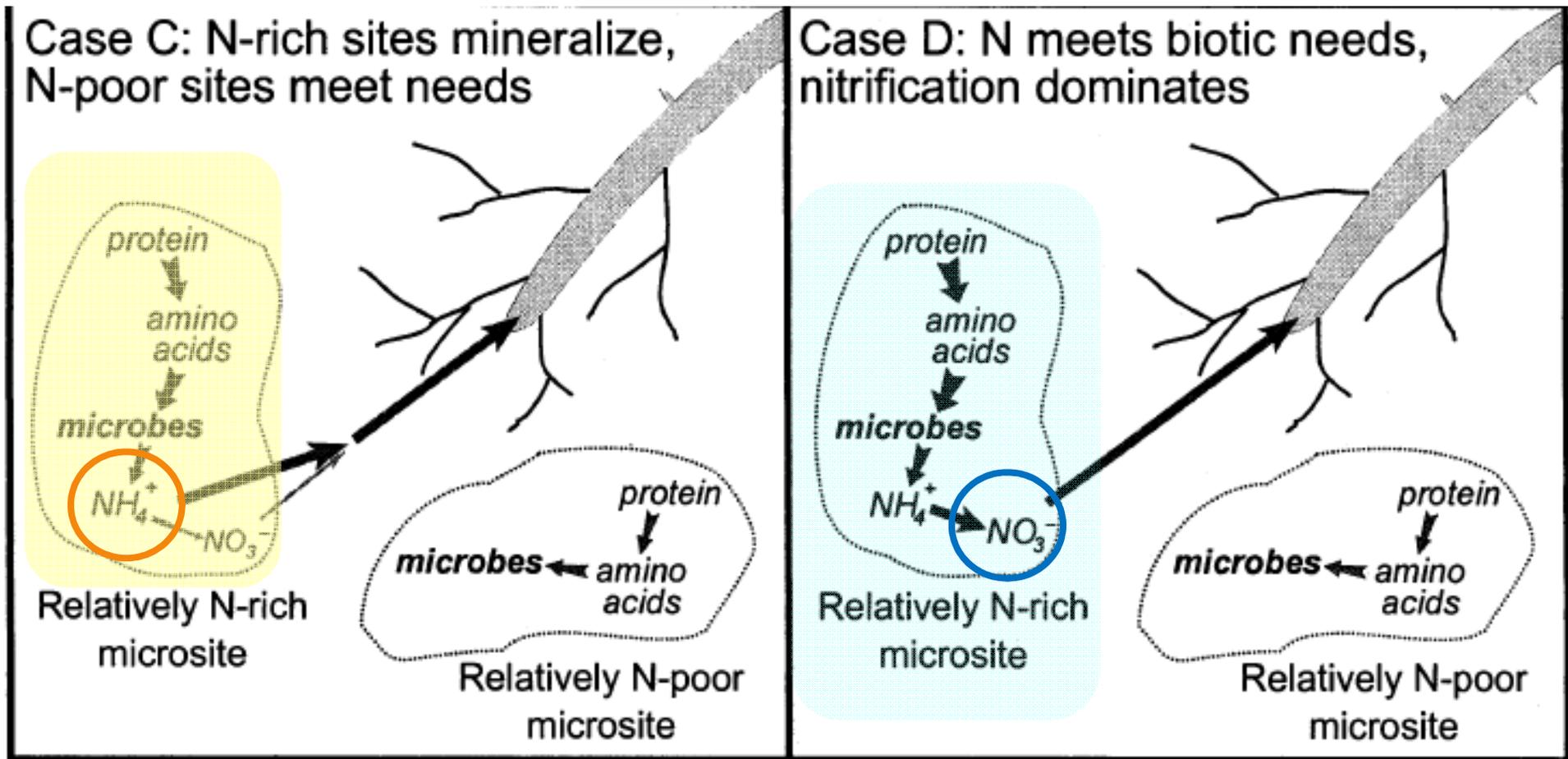


(Schimel et Bennett, 2004)



(Schimel et Bennett, 2004)

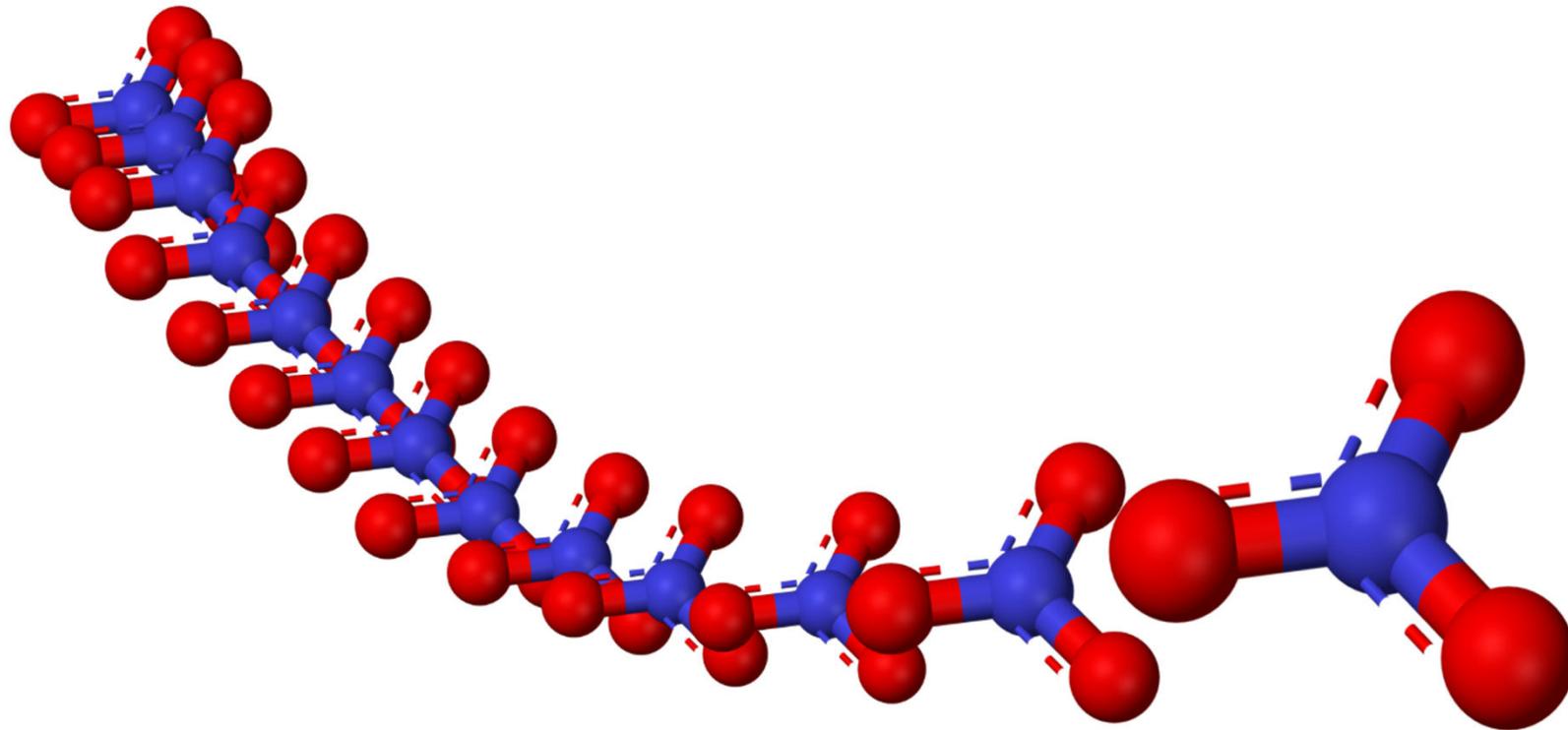
The shifting dominance of N forms along a gradient of N availability and the soil processes that regulate N availability to plants under different N-availability regimes. Total N availability and plant uptake both increase along the hypothetical gradient.



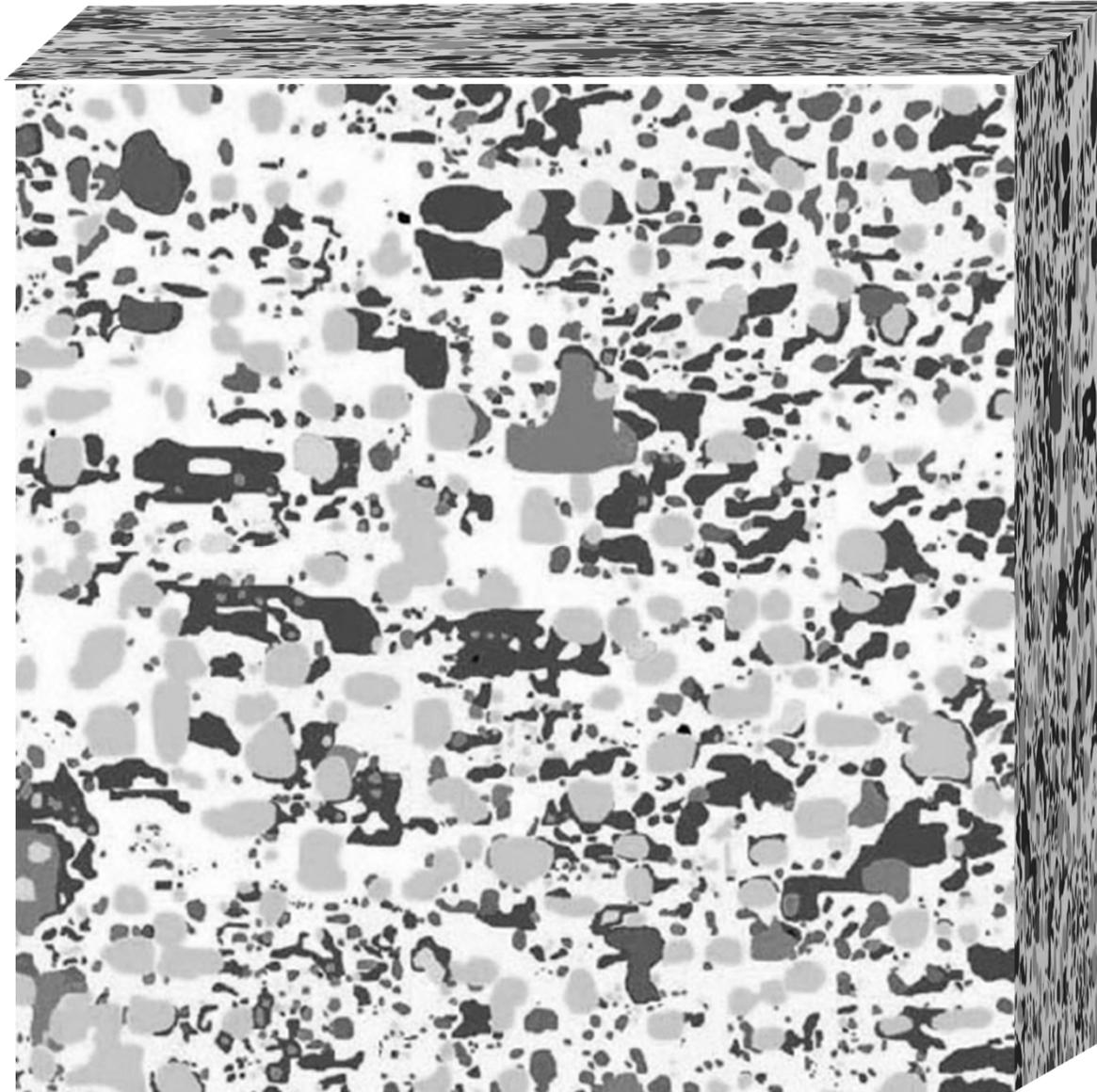
If we (farmers) add some more mineral nitrogen, then the aboveground plant production increased, but the plants do not need to release their carbohydrates into the soil environment. Therefore the process of carbon sequestration in soil will be discriminated.

Nitrates, where are you coming from and where are you going?

Nitrate is a critical signaling molecule in regulating plant growth, little is know about plant nitrate signaling at molecular level and even less about the role of nitrate signaling for interactions between key players in soils.



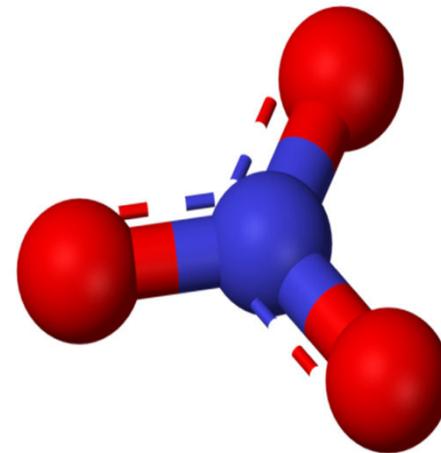
In the natural ecosystems can nitrates as movable compounds balance nitrogen availability in heterogeneous soil environment



What kind of information constitutes the presence of nitrate-N in soils?

- for plants?
- for microbes?
- for ecosystem?

- prolonged oxidative conditions and lack of interest about ammonium-N from plants or microbes
- nitrogen saturation (oversaturation?)
- rainfall event and its consequences,
-



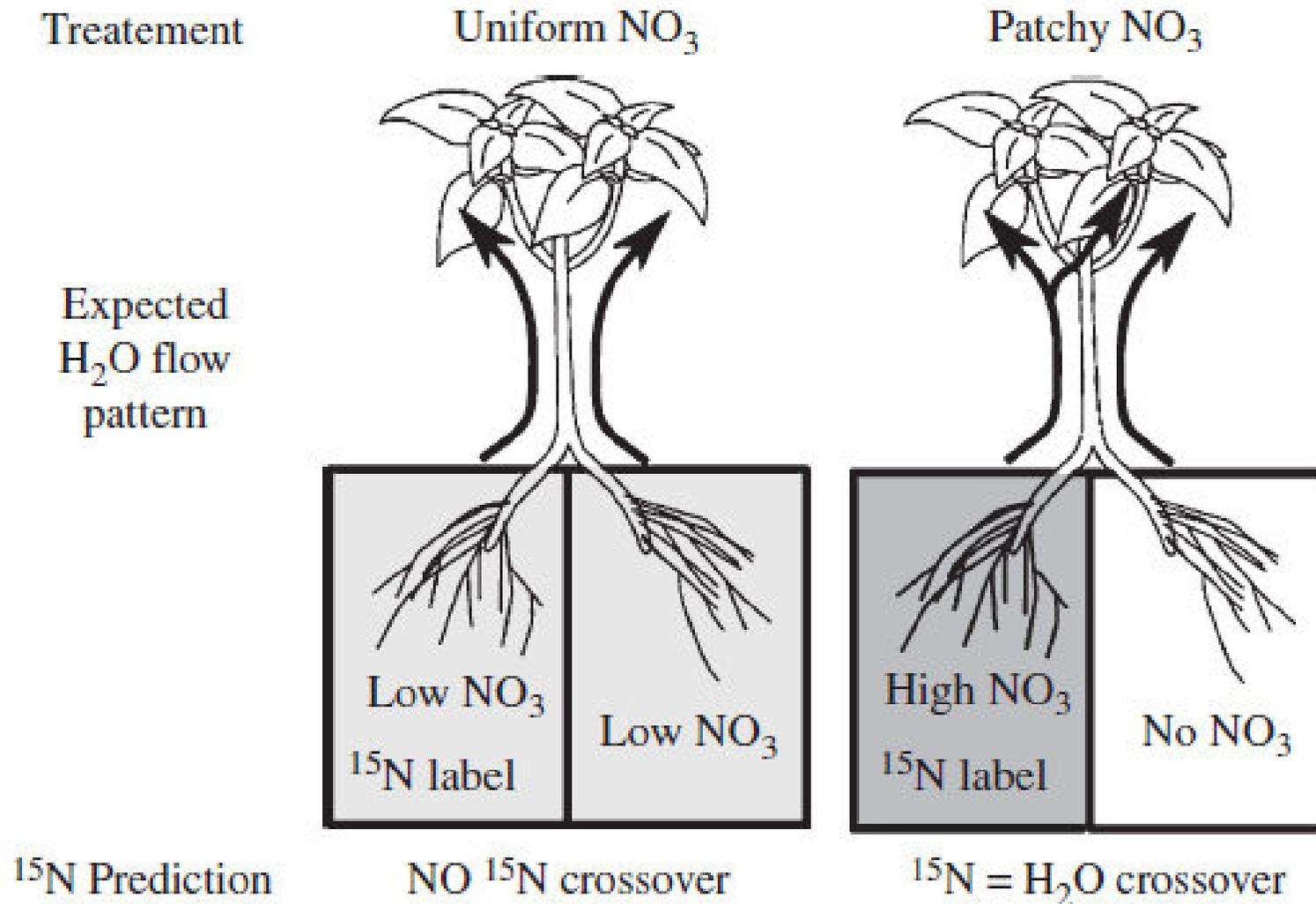
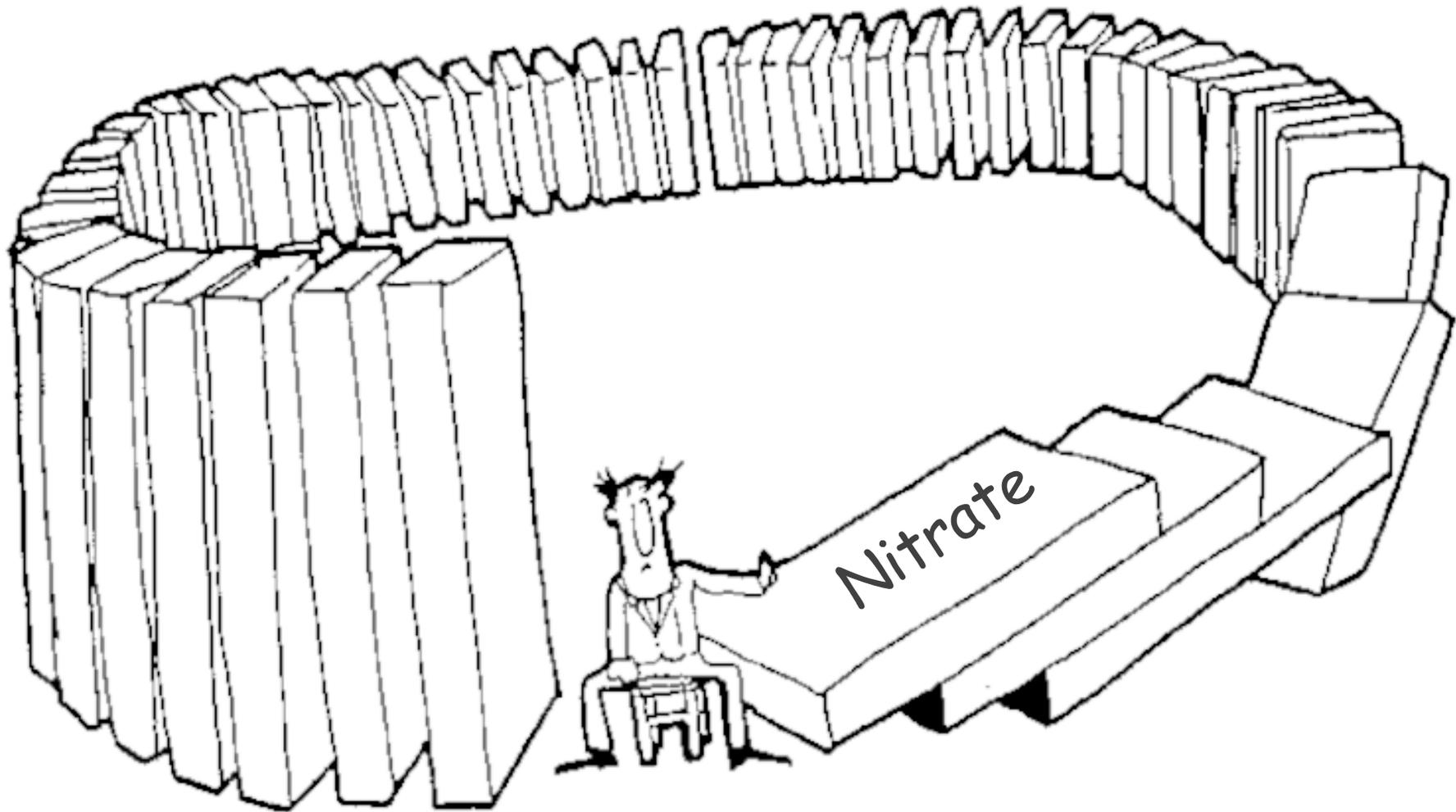


Diagram of qualitative predictions for how water and nutrient movement will be affected if roots in a nutrient patch have lower resistance than roots in the background nutrient environment (Thorn et Orians, 2011).



In a complex system are the causes and consequences temporally and spatially separated but if farmers apply nitrates, they should take care of their fates

Soil Indicators: - „*in situ*“ soil respiration; „*in situ*“ leaching of mineral nitrogen; above- and below- ground primary production

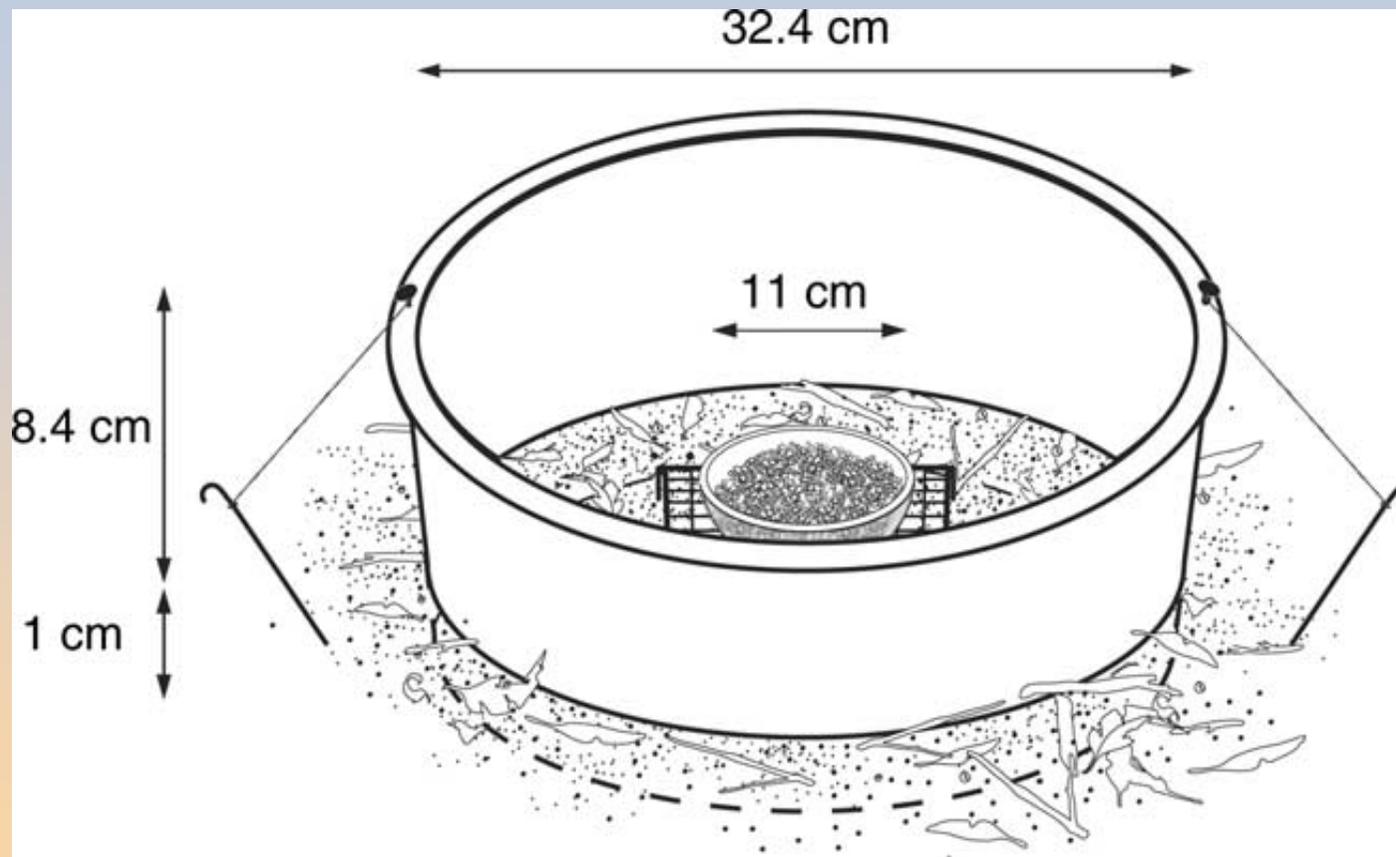
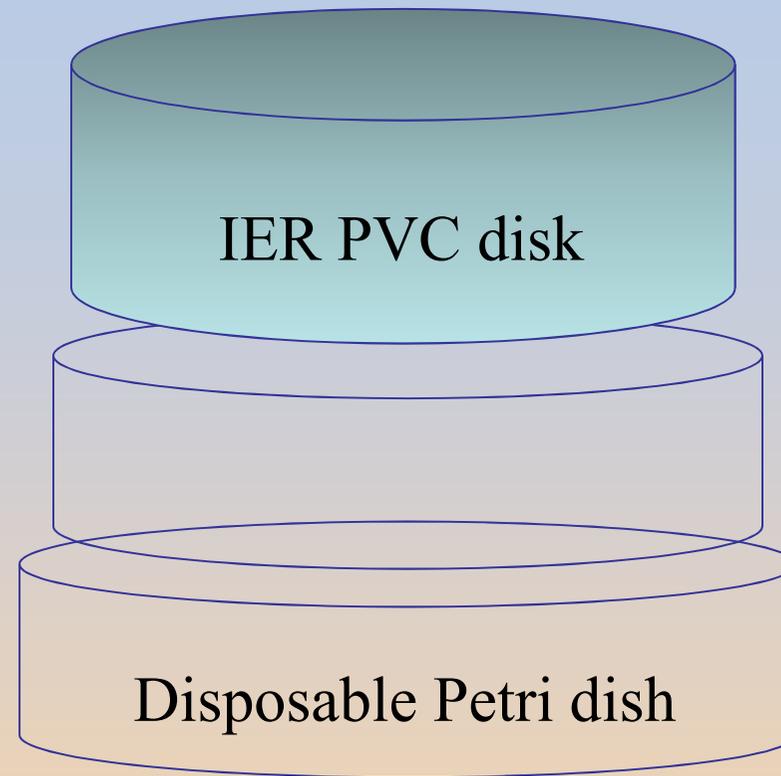


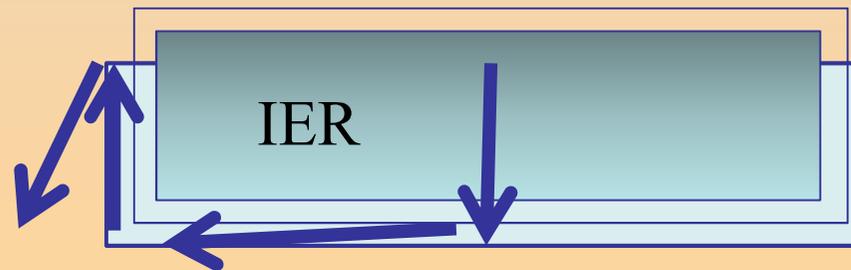
Diagram illustrating the chamber design inserted in the soil, with petri dish of soda lime on wire stand. A lid is fitted on the chamber during incubation periods.

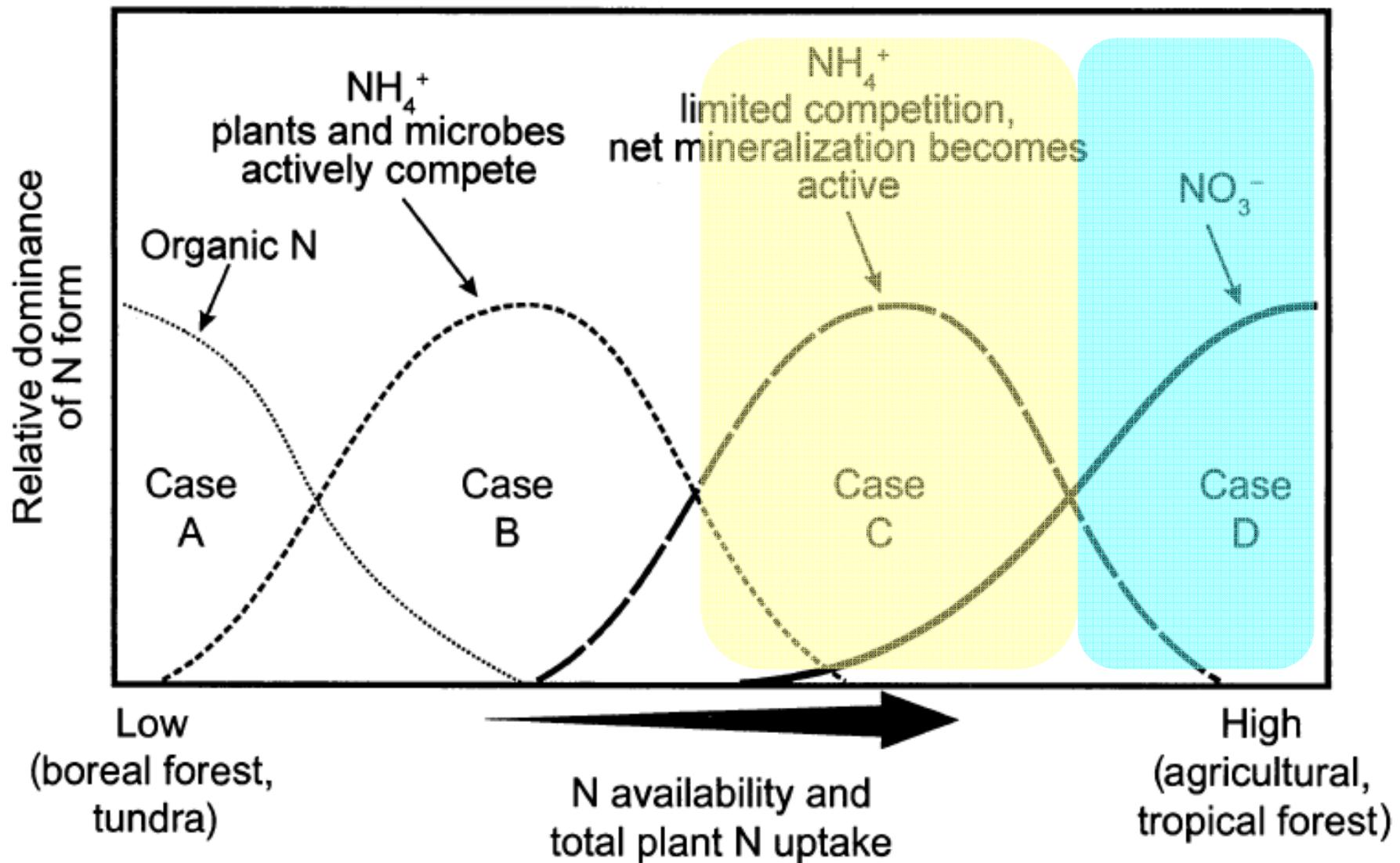
H. Keith, S.C. Wong / Soil Biology & Biochemistry 38 (2006) 1121–1131





Percolating soil solution





(Schimel et Bennett, 2004)

If we were able to capture an excess of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- ions from soil solution, then we will be able to assess at what stage is the current N-load of the ecosystem.

