

## Is elevated CO<sub>2</sub> a driver of global dryland greening?

Xuefei Lu<sup>1</sup>, Lixin Wang<sup>1\*</sup>, Matthew F. McCabe<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Earth Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indianapolis, USA,

<sup>2</sup>Division of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Engineering, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Thuwal, Saudi Arabia

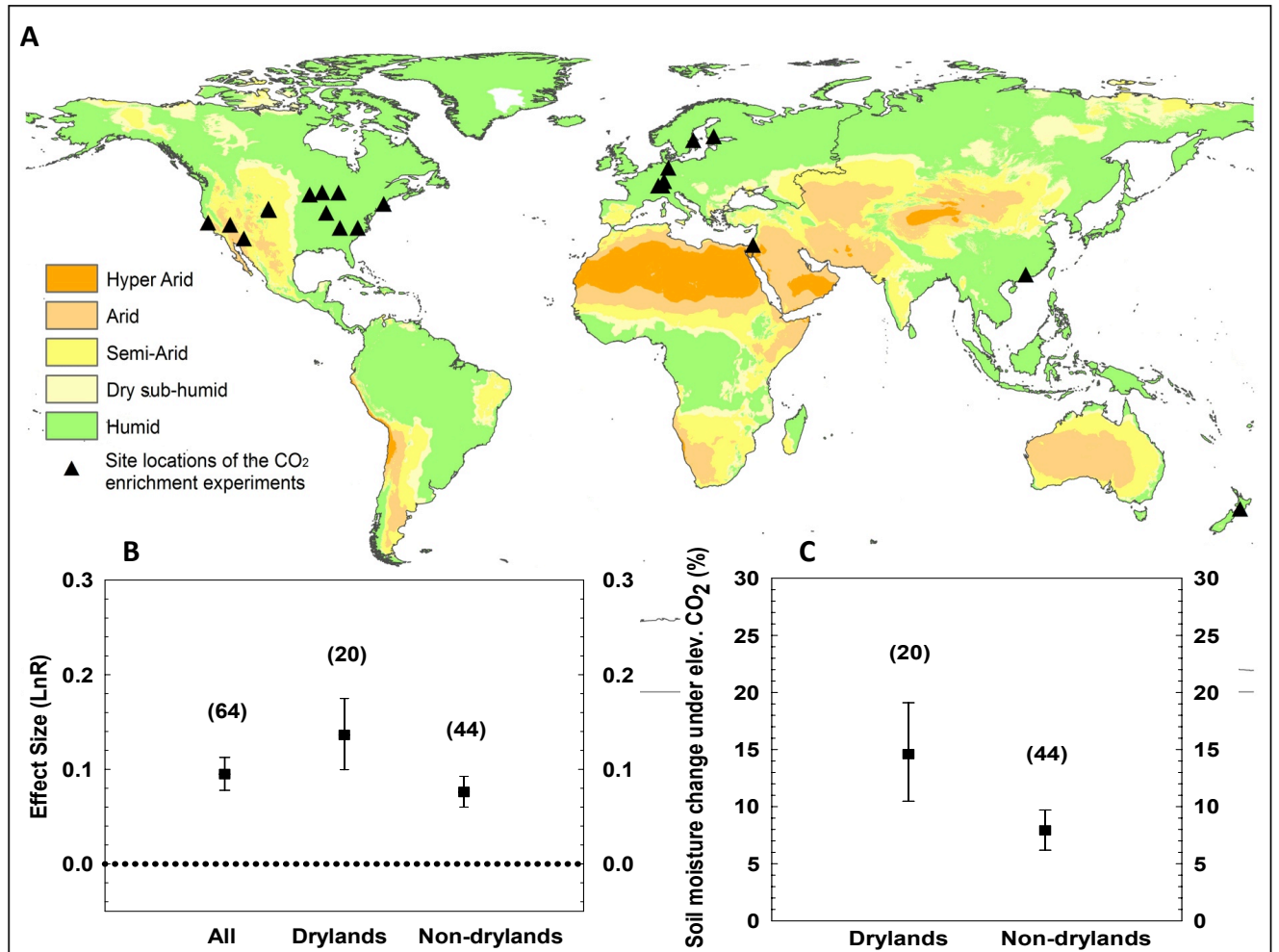
### Supplementary Appendix S1. List of references used to collect database for this study

1. Adair, E.C., Reich, P.B., Trost, J.J. & Hobbie, S.E. Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> stimulates grassland soil respiration by increasing carbon inputs rather than by enhancing soil moisture. *Global Change Biology* 17, 3546-3563 (2011).
2. Allard, V. et al. Increased quantity and quality of coarse soil organic matter fraction at elevated CO<sub>2</sub> in a grazed grassland are a consequence of enhanced root growth rate and turnover. *Plant and Soil* 276, 49-60 (2005).
3. Ambus, P. & Robertson, G.P. Fluxes of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O in aspen stands grown under ambient and twice-ambient CO<sub>2</sub>. *Plant and Soil* 209, 1-8 (1999).
4. Arnone, J.A. & Bohlen, P.J. Stimulated N<sub>2</sub>O flux from intact grassland monoliths after two growing seasons under elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. *Oecologia* 116, 331-335 (1998).
5. Bader, M., Hiltbrunner, E. & Korner, C. Fine root responses of mature deciduous forest trees to free air carbon dioxide enrichment (FACE). *Functional Ecology* 23, 913-921 (2009).
6. Baggs, E.M., Richter, M., Hartwig, U.A. & Cadisch, G. Nitrous oxide emissions from grass swards during the eighth year of elevated atmospheric pCO<sub>2</sub> (Swiss FACE). *Global Change Biology* 9, 1214-1222 (2003).
7. Baggs, E.M. & Blum, H. CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation and emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O from *Lolium perenne* swards under elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. *Soil Biology & Biochemistry* 36, 713-723 (2004).
8. Burkart, S., Manderscheid, R. & Weigel, H.J. Interactive effects of elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and plant available soil water content on canopy evapotranspiration and conductance of spring wheat. *European Journal of Agronomy* 21, 401-417 (2004).
9. Catovsky, S. & Bazzaz, F.A. Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> influences the responses of two birch species to soil moisture: implications for forest community structure. *Global Change Biology* 5, 507-518 (1999).

10. Carrillo, Y., Pendall, E., Dijkstra, F.A., Morgan, J.A. & Newcomb, J.M. Response of soil organic matter pools to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and warming in a semi-arid grassland. *Plant and Soil* 347, 339-350 (2011).
11. Conley, M.M. et al. CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment increases water-use efficiency in sorghum. *New Phytologist* 151, 407-412 (2001).
12. Craine, J.M., Wedin, D.A. & Reich, P.B. The response of soil CO<sub>2</sub> flux to changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen supply and plant diversity. *Global Change Biology* 7, 947-953 (2001).
13. Decock, C. et al. Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> modify N turnover rates, but not N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in a soybean agroecosystem. *Soil Biology & Biochemistry* 51, 104-114 (2012).
14. Deng, Q. et al. Responses of soil respiration to elevated carbon dioxide and nitrogen addition in young subtropical forest ecosystems in China. *Biogeosciences* 7, 315-328 (2010).
15. Dijkstra, F.A. et al. Contrasting effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and warming on nitrogen cycling in a semiarid grassland. *New Phytologist* 187, 426-437 (2010).
16. Dijkstra, F.A., Morgan, J.A., Follett, R.F. & Lecain, D.R. Climate change reduces the net sink of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O in a semiarid grassland. *Global Change Biology* 19, 1816-1826 (2013).
17. Dubbs, L.L. & Whalen, S.C. Reduced net atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> consumption is a sustained response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> in a temperate forest. *Biology and Fertility of Soils* 46, 597-606 (2010).
18. Edwards, G.R., Clark, H. & Newton, P.C.D. The effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on seed production and seedling recruitment in a sheep-grazed pasture. *Oecologia* 127, 383-394 (2001).
19. Ellsworth, D.S. CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment in a maturing pine forest: are CO<sub>2</sub> exchange and water status in the canopy affected? *Plant Cell and Environment* 22, 461-472 (1999).
20. Erbs, M., Franzaring, J., Hogy, P. & Fangmeier, A. Free-air CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment in a wheat-weed assembly - effects on water relations. *Basic and Applied Ecology* 10, 358-367 (2009).
21. Fatichi, S. & Leuzinger, S. Reconciling observations with modeling: The fate of water and carbon allocation in a mature deciduous forest exposed to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 174, 144-157 (2013).
22. Field, C.B., Lund, C.P., Chiariello, N.R. & Mortimer, B.E. CO<sub>2</sub> effects on the water budget of grassland microcosm communities. *Global Change Biology* 3, 197-206 (1997).

23. Grunzweig, J.M. & Korner, C. Growth, water and nitrogen relations in grassland model ecosystems of the semi-arid Negev of Israel exposed to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Oecologia* 128, 251-262 (2001).
24. Kettunen, R., Saarnio, S., Martikainen, P. & Silvola, J. Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and nitrogen fertilisation effects on N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes and biomass production of *Phleum pratense* on farmed peat soil. *Soil Biology & Biochemistry* 37, 739-750 (2005).
25. Leakey, A.D.B. et al. Photosynthesis, productivity, and yield of maize are not affected by open-air elevation of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the absence of drought. *Plant Physiology* 140, 779-790 (2006).
26. LeCain, D.R., Morgan, J.A., Mosier, A.R. & Nelson, J.A. Soil and plant water relations determine photosynthetic responses of C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> grasses in a semi-arid ecosystem under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Annals of Botany* 92, 41-52 (2003).
27. LeCain, D.R., Morgan, J.A., Hutchinson, G.L., Reeder, J.D. & Dijkstra, F.A. Interactions between elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and defoliation on North American rangeland plant species at low and high N availability. *Grass and Forage Science* 67, 350-360 (2012).
28. Leuzinger, S. & Korner, C. Water savings in mature deciduous forest trees under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Global Change Biology* 13, 2498-2508 (2007).
29. Liu, J.X. et al. CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment increases nutrient leaching from model forest ecosystems in subtropical China. *Biogeosciences* 5, 1783-1795 (2008).
30. Marhan, S., Kandeler, E., Rein, S., Fangmeier, A. & Niklaus, P.A. Indirect effects of soil moisture reverse soil C sequestration responses of a spring wheat agroecosystem to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Global Change Biology* 16, 469-483 (2010).
31. Matamala, R. & Schlesinger, W.H. Effects of elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on fine root production and activity in an intact temperate forest ecosystem. *Global Change Biology* 6, 967-979 (2000).
32. McCarthy, H.R. et al. Re-assessment of plant carbon dynamics at the Duke free-air CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment site: interactions of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> with nitrogen and water availability over stand development. *New Phytologist* 185, 514-528 (2010).
33. McLain, J.E.T. & Ahmann, D.M. Increased moisture and methanogenesis contribute to reduced methane oxidation in elevated CO<sub>2</sub> soils. *Biology and Fertility of Soils* 44, 623-631 (2008).
34. Morgan, J.A., LeCain, D.R., Mosier, A.R. & Milchunas, D.G. Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> enhances water relations and productivity and affects gas exchange in C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> grasses of the Colorado shortgrass steppe. *Global Change Biology* 7, 451-466 (2001).

35. Mosier, A.R., Morgan, J.A., King, J.Y., LeCain, D. & Milchunas, D.G. Soil-atmosphere exchange of CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O in the Colorado shortgrass steppe under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Plant and Soil* 240, 201-211 (2002).
36. Nelson, J.A. et al. Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> increases soil moisture and enhances plant water relations in a long-term field study in semi-arid shortgrass steppe of Colorado. *Plant and Soil* 259, 169-179 (2004).
37. Nendel, C. et al. Testing different CO<sub>2</sub> response algorithms against a FACE crop rotation experiment. *Njas-Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences* 57, 17-25 (2009).
38. Newton, P.C.D., Carran, R.A. & Lawrence, E.J. Reduced water repellency of a grassland soil under elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. *Global Change Biology* 10, 1-4 (2004).
39. Niklaus, P.A., Spinnler, D. & Korner, C. Soil moisture dynamics of calcareous grassland under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Oecologia* 117, 201-208 (1998).
40. Pataki, D.E. et al. Water use of two Mojave Desert shrubs under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. *Global Change Biology* 6, 889-897 (2000).
41. Pendall, E. et al. Elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> effects and soil water feedbacks on soil respiration components in a Colorado grassland. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles* 17 (2003).
42. Pregitzer, K., Loya, W., Kubiske, M. & Zak, D. Soil respiration in northern forests exposed to elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide and ozone. *Oecologia* 148, 503-516 (2006).
43. Sindhoj, E. et al. Root dynamics in a semi-natural grassland in relation to atmospheric carbon dioxide enrichment, soil water and shoot biomass. *Plant and Soil* 223, 253-263 (2000).
44. Volk, M., Niklaus, P.A. & Korner, C. Soil moisture effects determine CO<sub>2</sub> responses of grassland species. *Oecologia* 125, 380-388 (2000).
45. Wall, G.W. et al. Elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> improved Sorghum plant water status by ameliorating the adverse effects of drought. *New Phytologist* 152, 231-248 (2001).



**Figure S1.** Comparisons of mean effect size and soil moisture response under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> for overall data (including both growing season data and non-growing season data). A. Site locations of the CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment experiments together with globally distributed climate zones based on a standard aridity index formulation (precipitation/potential evapotranspiration); B. Mean effect size of soil water content under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> for the entire data set, under dryland and non-dryland regimes. The effect size was calculated as the natural log of the magnitude of an experimental treatment mean (the soil water under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>) relative to the control treatment mean (the soil water under ambient CO<sub>2</sub>); C. Enhancement of soil water content under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> for dryland versus non-dryland regimes. The number of cases is shown in brackets. Error bars are bootstrapped confidence intervals (CI). All the statistics are significant at  $P < 0.05$ . The map was generated using ArcGIS for Desktop 10.3.1 (<http://www.arcgis.com>).

**Table 1** A list of all the individual studies that were included in the meta-analysis. Only growing season data were used for the statistical analysis.  
 Soil Water Content Method: GSWC: Gravimetric Soil Water Content, VSWC: Volumetric Soil Water Content, PAW: Plant Available Water, WFPS: Water Filled Pore Space.  
 Vegetation Type: G: Grassland, F: Forest, C: Cropland. Soil Texture: S: Sand, LS: Loamy Sand, SL: Silt Loam, SCL: Silt/Sand Clay Loam, CL: Clay Loam, SDL: Sandy Loam, L: Loam, LC: Loamy Clay.

Nº	Source	Location	SWC Method	Vegetation Type	Soil Texture	Soil Depth (cm)	CO <sub>2</sub> Enrich Factor	Sampling Time	Number of Data Points
1	Adair 2011	USA (45°00'N, 93°00'W)	VSWC	G	S	0-17	1.5	Jun - Oct 2006 (Continuous)	1
2	Allard 2005	New Zealand (40°14'S, 175°16'E)	VSWC	G	S	0-15	1.3	Dec 2000 - May 2001, Sept-Dec 2001 (Continuous)	1
3	Ambus 1999	USA (45°34'N, 84°40'W)	WFPS	F	LS	0-15	2	May 1, 28 & July 6	2 <sup>(1)</sup>
4	Arnone 1998	Switzerland (47°28'N, 7°30'E)	GSWC	G	SCL	0-15	1.7	Springtime/Summer	2 <sup>(2)</sup>
5	Bader 2009	Switzerland (47°28'N, 7°30'E)	VSWC	F	SCL	0-10	1.5	Apr - Oct 2007 (Continuous)	1
6	Baggs 2003	Switzerland (47°27'N, 8°41'E)	GSWC	G	CL	0-25	1.7	Jun-Oct 2000, Apr-Jun 2001 (Sampled twice per re-growth period)	1
7	Baggs 2004	Switzerland (47°27'N, 8°41'E)	GSWC	G	CL	0-25	1.7	Jun-Jul 2002 (Sampled periodically after fertilization)	1
8	Burkart 2004	Germany (52°18'N, 10°26'E)	PAW	C	LS	0-50	1.7	Apr - Aug 1998, 1999 (Continuous)	2 <sup>(3)</sup>
9	Catovsky 1999	USA (42°30'N, 71°35'W)	GSWC	F	n/a	n/a	1.9	August 20-28 (Sampled every morning over 8-day watering cycle)	1
10	Carrillo 2011	USA (41°11'N, 104°54'W)	VSWC	G	L	0-20	1.7	Growing season in 2007, 2008 (Continuous)	1
11	Conley 2001	USA (33°06'N, 112°W)	VSWC	C	CL	0-180	1.5	Growing season in 1998, 1999 (Continuous)	2 <sup>(4)</sup>
12	Craine 2001	USA (45°00'N, 93°00'W)	GSWC	G	S	0-20	1.5	Growing season in 1998, 1999	1
13	Decock 2012	USA (40°03'N, 88°12'W)	WFPS	C	SL	5-25	1.5	Growing season in 2005, 2006 (During each phenological stage)	1
14	Deng 2010	China (23°20'N, 113°30'E)	VSWC	F	SDL	0-5	1.9	Apr-Sept 2006, 2007, 2008 (Continuous)	1
15	Dijkstra 2010	USA (40°50'N, 104°42'W)	VSWC	G	L	0-20	1.5	Growing season in 2006 (Continuous)	1
16	Dijkstra 2013	USA (41°11'N, 104°54'W)	WFPS	G	L	0-10	1.5	Growing season in 2007-2011 (Continuous)	1
17	Dubbs 2010	USA (35°58'N, 79°05'W)	VSWC	F	CL	0-30	1.5	Apr-Oct 2004, 2005, 2006 (Continuous)	1
18	Edwards 2001	New Zealand (40°14'S, 175°16'E)	VSWC	G	S	0-15	1.3	Nov 1998-May 1999, Sept-Dec 1999 (Continuous)	1
19	Ellsworth 1999	USA (35°58'N, 79°05'W)	VSWC	F	CL	0-30	1.5	June - Oct 2007 (Continuous)	1
20	Erbs 2009	Germany (48°42'N, 9°11'E)	VSWC	C	SL	0-30	1.4	May-Aug 2003, Mar-Aug 2004, 2005 (Continuous)	3 <sup>(5)</sup>
21	Fatichi 2013	Switzerland (47°28'N, 7°30'E)	VSWC	F	LC	15-20	1.6	Summer 2004, 2005 (Continuous)	1
22	Field 1997	USA (37°24'N, 122°13'W)	VSWC	G	S	0-15	2	Apr-Jun 1995 (Continuous)	2 <sup>(6)</sup>
23	Grunzweig 2001	Israel (31°21'N, 34°51'E)	GSWC	G	Bedrock	0-35	1.4/1.6	Mar-May 1997 (Measured weekly)	2 <sup>(7)</sup>
24	Kettunen 2005	Finland (60°49'N, 23°30'E)	VSWC	C	Peat	n/a	2	2nd, 5th, 6th Period in May (Continuous)	1
25	Leakey 2006	USA (40°03'N, 88°12'W)	VSWC	C	SCL	5-25	1.5	May-Sept 2004 (Continuous)	1
26	Lecain 2003	USA (40°50'N, 104°42'W)	VSWC	G	SDL	0-100	2	Growing season in 1998, 2000 (Continuous)	1
27	Lecain 2012	USA (41°11'N, 104°54'W)	VSWC	G	SDL	n/a	1.9	Growing season (Continuous)	3 <sup>(8)</sup>
28	Leuzinger 2007	Switzerland (47°28'N, 7°30'E)	VSWC	F	LC	0-90	1.5	Jun-Jul 2004, Jul-Aug 2005	2 <sup>(9)</sup>
29	Liu 2008	China (23°20'N, 113°30'E)	VSWC	F	SDL	0-70	1.9	Jun-Sept 2006, Jan-Mar 2007 (Continuous)	2 <sup>(10)</sup>
30	Marhan 2010	Germany (48°42'N, 9°11'E)	VSWC	C	SL	0-15	1.4	Mar-Oct 2003-2006 (Continuous)	1
31	Matamala 2000	USA (35°58'N, 79°05'W)	VSWC	F	CL	0-30	1.5	May-Oct 1997, Apr-Oct 1998 (Continuous)	1
32	McCarthy 2010	USA (35°58'N, 79°05'W)	VSWC	F	CL	0-30	1.5	May-Oct 1997, Apr-Oct 1998-2004 (Continuous)	1
33	McLain 2008	USA (35°58'N, 79°05'W)	VSWC	F	CL	0-30	1.5	Apr-Oct 2000 (Continuous)	1
34	Morgan 2001	USA (40°40'N, 104°45'W)	VSWC	G	SDL	n/a	2	Growing season in 1997, 1998 (Continuous)	1
35	Mosier 2002	USA (40°50'N, 104°42'W)	VSWC	G	SDL	0-15	1.9	Apr-Oct 1997-2000 (Continuous)	2 <sup>(11)</sup>
36	Nelson 2004	USA (40°49'N, 107°42'W)	VSWC	G	SDL	0-105	2	Apr-Oct 1997-2001 (Continuous)	1
37	Nendel 2009	Germany (52°18'N, 10°26'E)	VSWC	C	LS	0-30	1.5	Growing season (Continuous)	1
38	Newton 2003	New Zealand (40°14'S, 175°16'E)	VSWC	G	S	0-15	1.3	Sept-May 1998-2003 (Continuous)	1
39	Niklaus 1998	Switzerland (47°33'N, 7°34'E)	VSWC	G	L	0-10	1.7	Mar, Jun, Oct 1995, 1996 (Continuous)	1
40	Pataki 2000	USA (36°49'N, 115°55'W)	VSWC	G	LS	0-20	1.9	Oct-Nov 1998 (Continuous)	1
41	Pendall 2003	USA (40°40'N, 104°45'W)	VSWC	G	SDL	0-15	2	Apr-Oct 1999, 2000 (Continuous)	1
42	Pregitzer 2006	USA (49°40'N, 89°37'E)	VSWC	F	SDL	0-10	1.5	Growing seasons in 2002-2004 (Continuous)	1
43	Sindhoj 2000	Sweden (59°48'N, 17°38'E)	VSWC	G	CL	0-25	1.9	Growing season in 1997, 1998 (Continuous)	1
44	Volk 2000	Switzerland (47°33'N, 7°34'E)	GSWC	G	SCL	0-25	1.7	June - July 2007	1
45	Wall 2001	USA (33.1°N, 112.0°W)	VSWC	C	CL	0-180	1.5	Growing season (Continuous)	1
<b>Total Studies</b>									<b>45</b>
<b>Total Data Points</b>									<b>58</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The soil was incubated with low nitrogen and 'high' nitrogen treatment

<sup>(2)</sup> Crops were treated with two irrigation regimes - well watered vs. drought stress

<sup>(3)</sup> The experiment was conducted at two different soil texture - rocks vs. sand

<sup>(4)</sup> FACE experiment was taken at two CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment factors: 1.4 and 1.6

<sup>(5)</sup> (8) (10) (11) Plants are subject to different climatic regimes

<sup>(6)</sup> Grassland is treated with nitrogen addition and defoliation or none