

# Supplementary Materials for

## The role of multiple global change factors in driving soil functions and microbial biodiversity

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### **This PDF file includes:**

Materials and Methods  
Supplementary Text  
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### **Other Supplementary Materials for this manuscript include the following:**

Data S1. Literature synthesis

32 **Materials and Methods**

33

34 Literature synthesis.

35

36 We conducted a literature search on the 15th of September 2018 in Web of Knowledge™ with the following  
 37 search string: (warming OR temperature OR precipitation OR drought OR water\* OR CO2 OR “carbon dioxide”  
 38 OR O3 OR ozone OR N OR nitrogen OR sal\* OR “global change” OR “climate change” OR “land use chang\*”  
 39 OR (plant NEAR/3 invas\*) OR ((invas\* OR alien) AND species) OR fungicid\* OR bacteriocid\* OR herbicid\*  
 40 OR pesticide\* OR habitat loss\* OR agricult\*expans\* OR “land use chang\*” OR “land convers\*” OR phosphor\*  
 41 OR P OR fertiliz\* OR N OR excess nitrogen\* OR excess phosph\* OR nutrient pollution OR nitr\* pollut\* OR  
 42 phosph\* pollut\*) AND (soil). Our search was restricted to articles written in English language and published  
 43 between 1945 and 2017. We included no citation indices and focused only on the Web of Science category  
 44 “Ecology”. We retrieved 4,202 hits.

45

46 In order to be included in our data set, articles had to present data on soil systems derived from experimental  
 47 studies (no observations or simulations were allowed); thus, factors had to be applied by experimenters. If  
 48 samples from field experiments were used in an additional laboratory assay and both field and lab data were  
 49 presented in the same study, we focused on the field experiment only.

50

51 Following the search string, studies had to present data on at least one of the following nine global change  
 52 drivers as treatment factors: temperature (ambient and increase/decrease), water (drought or  
 53 irrigation/precipitation manipulation), CO<sub>2</sub> (ambient and elevated), O<sub>3</sub> (ambient and elevated), fertilization  
 54 (including inorganic and organic forms of N and P fertilizer), land use change (i.e. conversion from natural to  
 55 cultivated land; reforestation/renaturation of cultivated land), species invasion (plant, animal or microbes),  
 56 agrochemicals (including pesticides, soil conditioners and surfactants), salt (ambient and elevated).  
 57 Furthermore, in rare cases, we were not able to gain access to articles. This was the case for articles published  
 58 before 1990 (concerning <10 articles) and those published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation; hence,  
 59 these were not considered in our screening.

60

61 A total of 1228 articles matched our criteria and were incorporated in our data synthesis. For this, we collected  
 62 data on publication year, publication name, experimental context (agricultural or natural system), setting (lab or  
 63 field), response variable focus (community or process measure or both) and tested factors of global change (Data  
 64 S1). For data visualization, we used the R package “ggplot2” and its extensions “ggpubr” and “geomnet” in R  
 65 v.3.4.3 (18, 19); the latter package was used for generating the network graph.

66

67 We collected data on how many articles were published in the Web of Science database in the category  
 68 “Ecology” for each year for which we found articles matching our inclusion criteria (1968-2017). These data  
 69 were incorporated to account for the overall increase in publications over the examined time span.

70

71 We additionally investigated all studies reporting effects for three and four global change drivers, asking in how  
 72 many such studies and response variables higher order interactions were found. To do this, we screened model  
 73 summary tables and counted for how many tested response variables per study a significant (p<0.05) three- or  
 74 four-way interaction term was reported.

75

76 Microcosms and experimental design.

77

78 We used 50 mL conical tubes (Corning propylene centrifuge tubes) with screw-top caps as experimental units.  
 79 Caps contained a septum through which a temperature sensor was inserted (or a temperature sensor dummy  
 80 made from the same material). The lid of each tube was modified to contain a septum that allowed sampling of  
 81 CO<sub>2</sub> (see below). Tubes were placed in beakers filled with sand to provide insulation from neighboring units and  
 82 placed in a fully randomized fashion inside a controlled environment chamber (incubated in the dark, 60%  
 83 relative humidity, ambient temperature 16°C). Tubes were filled with 25.0 g of freshly collected soil (sieved to 2  
 84 mm, with all coarse organic material removed, ground to a powder and added back to soil per experimental unit)  
 85 from a local grassland (52° 33' 09.53''N, 12° 40' 07.86'' E). Soil properties (LUF A, Rostock) were: 86.6%  
 86 sand, 10.8% silt, 2.6% clay; pH (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) 4.1; 2.8 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup> P; 2.0 mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup> K. To this, 5.0 g of previously  
 87 sterilized (autoclaving, 121°C, 1h) ‘loading’ soil was mixed that contained the appropriate dose of the chemical  
 88 treatments, so that all tubes contained 30.0 g of soil in the end. We used this ‘loading’ soil to achieve more  
 89 effective mixing of chemical agents into soil; it was sterilized to avoid any exaggerated effects on the soil  
 90 community.

91 The treatments represented 10 factors of global change, all applied individually to each experimental unit, and  
 92 representing abiotic factors, resource availability, chemical toxicants and compounds (inorganic and synthetic

93 organic), and physically-acting agents (microplastic). The factors were: temperature (+ 5°C increase), nitrogen  
94 enrichment (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> added to the equivalent of 100 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>), drought (30% of water holding capacity  
95 compared to 60%), salinity (4.0 dS m<sup>-1</sup> with NaCl), microplastic (1.0 g polyester microplastic fibers kg<sup>-1</sup> soil),  
96 insecticide (50 ng g<sup>-1</sup> imidacloprid), herbicide (50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> glyphosate formulated as 'Roundup'®), antibiotic  
97 (3.05 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> oxytetracycline), antifungal agent (6.0 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> carbendazim), and heavy metal (100 mg Cu kg<sup>-1</sup> as  
98 CuSO<sub>4</sub>). For full details and justifications for these factors please see below. Since some compounds  
99 (imidacloprid, oxytetracycline) were dissolved in DMSO, we insured the same amount of DMSO and water was  
100 added to all experimental units. We carried out a test where we added DMSO at the target concentration to soil  
101 under control conditions (n=10 each for DMSO addition and no-addition); there were no effects of DMSO on the  
102 key variable of soil aggregation (Fig. S6). All experimental units also received the exact same amount of  
103 handling and mixing time.

104 We had the following levels of replication: control (n=20), individual factors (n=8 each), and factor richness  
105 levels (n=10 each), for a total of 140 experimental units. We used random sampling from the pool of 10 factors  
106 for the factor richness levels to create replicates. We did this because our objective is to determine how an  
107 increasing number (not factor identity or particular factor combinations) of global change factors influence soil  
108 ecosystem processes. This means that our resolution does not allow statements on specific, individual factor  
109 interactions. Addressing such interactions would result in an experimental design encompassing all factor  
110 combinations with 1,024 unique treatments, which, applying our level of replication, would mean 10,230  
111 experimental units.

112 The temperature treatment was applied using a heating cable wrapped around the individual tubes (PT2011, Exo  
113 Terra, Germany) with a separate controller per experimental unit (ETC-902, VOLTCRAFT, Germany).

114 At the start of the experiment, we added 4.20 mL of water (equivalent to 60% water holding capacity) to each  
115 experimental unit (except for drought, which received half this amount). The experiment ran for six weeks, with  
116 soil respiration measured after 3 weeks, and was then harvested.

117

#### 118 Experimental treatments.

119

120 We here present the rationale for the 10 tested factors of global change.

121 1) *Warming*. We used an increment of 5.0°C over an ambient temperature of 16.0°C to simulate warmer spring  
122 temperatures. Temperatures were recorded (tempmate B2 data logger, imec Messtechnik GmbH, Heilbronn,  
123 Germany) in soils in a set of experimental units (n = 3 each, for warming and control) to verify treatment  
124 application. A level of +5.0°C is frequently used in studies of warming effects on soil systems, and this level  
125 corresponds to climate scenarios predicted for the next 100 years (20).

126 2) *Nitrogen enrichment*. Nitrogen enrichment as a consequence of human activity has long been recognized as a  
127 factor of global change (21). We added ammonium nitrate (>98%, p.A., ACS. Roth GmbH, Karlsruhe, D. article  
128 K299.1) to the experimental units in dissolved form. We used a one-time addition to reflect annual accumulation  
129 rates on a ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> basis as is common in the literature (22), and we assumed 10 cm soil depth for conversion to  
130 addition rates in the experiment. We added the equivalent of 100 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> to reflect a high N enrichment  
131 rate.

132 3) *Drought*. Increased occurrence of drought is a well-established aspect of climate change (23) also with direct  
133 relevance to Europe (e.g. (24)) and the Brandenburg region in Germany, near Berlin, from which the soils were  
134 taken. We represented drought by adding half of the amount of water at the beginning of the experiment,  
135 compared to control water levels that were at 60% of water holding capacity. This level of drought is often  
136 employed in experimental studies (e.g. (25)). Our experiment thus simulated a drought episode; however,  
137 without the transition from sufficient water availability to the drought situation.

138 4) *Heavy metal*. Heavy metal contamination represents pollution with persistent (i.e. non-degradable) inorganic  
139 compounds. We chose copper, which is of high relevance, because of mining, atmospheric deposition, and also  
140 use in organic agriculture; copper is an important soil pollutant in Europe (26). We added copper (ii)-sulphate -  
141 pentahydrate (BioChemica. AppliChem GmbH, Darmstadt, Germany) to the soil in dissolved form to a final  
142 concentration of 100 mg Cu kg<sup>-1</sup> to simulate a hotspot of copper contamination (Cu concentrations in German  
143 soils range typically from 2 to 50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>). Such concentrations can occur in Cu polluted sites (e.g. mining,  
144 agriculture).

145 5) *Microplastic*. Microplastics have been found in many ecosystem compartments, including many soils  
146 worldwide, and can be regarded as a factor of global change (27, 28). Microplastic comes in many forms, and we  
147 previously showed that microplastic fibers exert effects of primarily physical nature; we thus used polyester  
148 fibers (Glorex Inspirations, 'Bastelwatte', 100% polyester, item number: 6252105; cut by hand) at a  
149 concentration of 0.1% (w/w) of soil, similar to levels used previously (29). Procedures were as described before,  
150 e.g. the cutting and mixing, and we microwaved the fibers for 3 min to reduce the risk of introducing microbes  
151 with the fibers.

152 6) *Salinity*. The Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (30) recognizes soil salinization as a major human-induced  
153 driver; salinization also has a strong European relevance (31). Soils with an electrical conductivity between 4.0

154 and 8.0 dS m<sup>-1</sup> are regarded as moderately saline. We chose the lower end of this spectrum here, that is 4.0 dS m<sup>-1</sup>, which we achieved by adding NaCl to the soil (that is, our treatment also reflects sodicity).  
155  
156 Synthetic organic chemicals have recently been argued to be regarded as factors of global change (32). We used  
157 several substances of different chemical classes, target organisms, and also representing different uses as  
158 separate factors in our experiment: an herbicide, an antibiotic, an insecticide and an antifungal agent.  
159 7) *Herbicide*. Glyphosate is one of the most commonly used herbicides worldwide. We used the commercial  
160 product Roundup® PowerFlex (Monsanto Agrar Deutschland, Düsseldorf), which contains 480 g L<sup>-1</sup> glyphosate  
161 as active ingredient (a.i.), but also other additives, such as surfactants. We chose to use the commercial product  
162 together with its formulation rather than just the active ingredient, since the surfactant may contribute to effects.  
163 This followed the protocol of Ratcliff et al. (33) who used an application rate of 50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> a.i. to simulate the  
164 approximate soil glyphosate concentration following a single application at the recommended field rate of 5 kg  
165 a.i. ha<sup>-1</sup>.  
166 8) *Antibiotics*. There has been growing concern about antibiotics in the environment due to the spread of  
167 antibiotic resistance worldwide (34). There are many different classes of antibiotics, including tetracyclines;  
168 these are used on humans and in a veterinary context and residues have been documented in soils (35).  
169 Oxytetracycline has been found at soil concentrations of 305.000 ng kg<sup>-1</sup>, and it has been shown to persist and  
170 accumulate in the soil environment (35). We used the equivalent of ten times this amount (added as  
171 oxytetracycline-dihydrate; Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA, catalog #PHR1537) to simulate a temporary hotspot,  
172 resulting for example from a fresh deposition of manure on an agricultural field.  
173 9) *Insecticide*. Neonicotinoid pesticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world (36), and  
174 are discussed in terms of posing risks to non-target organisms. We here used imidacloprid, which is one of the  
175 three most widely used agricultural neonicotinoids (along with clothianidin and thiamethoxam). Observed values  
176 of imidacloprid in German and UK agricultural soils ranged from 1.6 up to 50 ng g<sup>-1</sup> (36); we thus used 50 ng g<sup>-1</sup>  
177 imidacloprid (PESTANAL® analytical standard, Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA, catalog #37894) in our experiment.  
178 10) *Antifungal agent*. Azoles are the most commonly used class of fungicides (37), and are being used on  
179 animals (including humans) and on plants in agricultural fields. Carbendazim, a benzimidazole, has been used  
180 previously in soil research, using a recommended field application rate of approx. 6.0 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 20 and 40-fold  
181 this concentration (38), other studies have used 1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> to 100 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> of carbendazim (39); we here used 6.0  
182 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (PESTANAL® analytical standard, Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA, catalog #45368).

#### 184 Response variables.

185  
186 Here we describe the response variables investigated in our test systems. These variables are chosen to represent  
187 important biological processes (soil respiration, decomposition), physical properties (water-stable soil  
188 aggregates, water repellency), and fungal biodiversity (community composition, dispersion, nestedness). Soil  
189 fungi are known to play an important role in mediating these processes and the physical properties examined.  
190 1) *Soil respiration*. We measured soil respiration as CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (ppm) after three weeks of the  
191 experiment. We sampled 3 ml of air from the headspace of each tube and injected this sample into an infrared  
192 gas analyzer (LiCOR 6400xt) following Bradford et al. (40). At the beginning of the experiment, we flushed  
193 each of the tubes with CO<sub>2</sub>-free air for five minutes to standardize among experimental units.  
194 2) *Decomposition*. As an indicator of decomposition, we inserted a pre-weighed cellulose filter paper square  
195 (approx. 30 mg; Testo AG, Germany; item #0554.0308) into the soil, which was retrieved at the end of the  
196 experiment. The corrected weight of this filter paper was used as an indication of decomposition (percent  
197 decomposition).  
198 3) *Water-stable soil aggregates*. We followed a modified protocol by Kemper and Rosenau (41). Briefly, the  
199 percentage of water stable aggregates was determined by placing samples (4.0 g) on small sieves with a mesh  
200 size of 0.25 mm. We used capillary re-wetting with deionized water and inserted samples into a sieving machine  
201 (Agrisearch Equipment, Eijkelkamp, Giesbeek, Netherlands). Calculations of the percentage of water-stable  
202 aggregates (%WSA) per sample were according to: %WSA = (water stable fraction-coarse matter)/(4.0 g-coarse  
203 matter).  
204 4) *Soil water repellency*. We measured soil water repellency with the water drop penetration time (wdpt (42))  
205 method, where a droplet (8 µl) of deionized water is placed onto the soil surface, and the time in seconds is  
206 counted until the droplet soaks in (carried out in triplicate per sample).  
207 5) *Soil fungal community analysis*. We used amplicon sequence variant (ASV) richness. DNA was extracted  
208 from 0.25 g soil using the PowerSoil DNA isolation kit (MoBio Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA),  
209 following the manufacturer's instructions. The fungal ITS2 genomic region was amplified by PCR using the  
210 fITS7 (5'- GTGARTCATCGAATCTTTG- 3') and the ITS4 primers  
211 (5'- TCCTCGCCTTATTGATATGC- 3') (43), respectively extended in 5' with the p5 and p7 Illumina  
212 sequencing adaptors. The amplicon library was sequenced on an Illumina MiSeq 2000 platform (Illumina Inc.,  
213 San Diego, CA, USA) at the Berlin Center for Genomics in Biodiversity Research (BeGenDiv, Berlin, Germany)  
214 using 2x300-bp paired- end sequencing. We used DADA2 (44) to obtain denoised, chimera-free, non-singleton

215 fungal ASVs. For full detail of soil fungal molecular analyses, bioinformatics and statistics see section “Analysis  
216 of soil fungal diversity and description of fungal sequence dataset” below. All statistical analyses for fungal data  
217 processing were conducted in R v.3.4.3 (18) using “vegan” (45) and base packages.

218 6) *Soil fungal community composition*. Community compositional shifts were assessed using Bray-Curtis  
219 dissimilarity. Unconstrained multivariate ordination (NMDS) of the Bray-Curtis sample pairwise dissimilarities  
220 indicated that community compositions were mainly differentiated along the first axis. Therefore, we use the first  
221 axis as a relative measure of community compositional shifts. The second axis mainly represents community  
222 dispersion (as explained in the following paragraph).

223 7) *Soil fungal community dispersion*. To represent the within-treatment variability in community composition  
224 among replicates (i.e. community dispersion), we calculated the mean distance to the group centroid of all  
225 replicates on the NMDS ordination space for each treatment. The longer the mean distance, the more dispersed  
226 the community.

227 8) *Soil fungal community nestedness*. To test whether ASV-poor communities were a subset of the ASV-rich  
228 communities (i.e. nestedness), the temperature metric of the presence/absence community matrix was calculated  
229 (46). Non-randomness of nestedness was assessed using 999 null matrices (row and column permutation) and  
230 statistical robustness was assessed using a two-sided test.

231  
232 Statistical analyses of treatment effects.  
233

234 To test if the effects in multi-factor experiments are predictable from the effects measured in single treatments,  
235 we quantified the effect size of each treatment in single factor experiments, combined them, and compared them  
236 to the observations in multi-factor experiments. We considered the recent argument on null hypothesis  
237 significance testing and the scientific meaningfulness of effect sizes (e.g. (47-50)). Following them, we neither  
238 use the term “statistically significant” nor evaluate results dichotomously by setting a significance level (e.g.  $\alpha =$   
239 0.05); and, we basically assess effect size by comparing the means and 95% confidence intervals (CIs).

240 An effect size and CIs of each single factor was estimated using a non-parametric bootstrap (51), because of  
241 unknown probability distributions and high flexibility (Fig. S5). We define effect size as the raw difference in  
242 mean between control and treatment (i.e., non-standardized absolute effect size). We are aware of other  
243 approaches to estimate or adjust CIs (e.g. BCa (52)), but they differ little in practice (53). The algorithm  
244 conducts sub-sampling with replacement (10,000 iterations).

245 Then, we used plausible null assumptions for combining effect size of single factors following Schäfer and  
246 Piggott (54), namely additive, dominative, and multiplicative assumptions. Under the additive assumption, each  
247 factor has a unique effect; in the dominative case, the strongest factor dominates (overrides) the others (in case of  
248 positive and negative effects, this means picking the strongest absolute value); for the multiplicative case,  
249 proportional effect changes are considered and mathematically combined as if effects acted consecutively.  
250 Importantly, none of the assumptions can take factor interactions such as synergism and antagonism into  
251 account. Our intention to apply these three assumptions was not to figure out the most preferable one. Rather, we  
252 test if none of these assumptions were met (i.e. the joint effect sizes predicted in these assumptions do not  
253 include the actual joint effect size), so that we can regard the joint effects of multiple factors as fully  
254 unpredictable due to synergistic higher-order interactions. Although all assumptions are not necessarily  
255 reasonable for all response variables, having multiple (null) expectations is a recommended practice in the recent  
256 statistics literature (50, 55, 56), and we avoided subjectively removing some assumptions depending on response  
257 variable attributes.

258 For the additive assumption, in each level of factor richness, the effect sizes of the corresponding single factors  
259 are simply summed up. For each replicate  $m$  ( $= 1, 2, \dots, 10$ ),

261 
$$\sum_{i \in K_m} ES_i$$

262 was calculated, where  $ES_i$  is effect size of a single factor  $i$ ,  $K_m$  is the unique subset of factors randomly chosen  
263 from the 10 factors for the replicate  $m$ : e.g.  $K_1 = [\text{Temperature, Copper}]$ ,  $K_2 = [\text{Glyphosate, Copper}]$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $K_{10} =$   
264  $[\text{Microplastic, Salinity}]$  at the number of factors level of 2. Since each set of  $K_m$  has 8 replicates for each single  
265 factor (e.g.  $K_1$  has 8 replicates for temperature and 8 replicates for copper), we applied a bootstrap procedure  
266 (1,000 iterations; see Fig. S5). Using this, each  $K_m$  has 1,000 iterated effect size predictions, and therefore  
267 10,000 effect size predictions were made when all replicates were considered. Finally, the mean value and  
268 95% CI were calculated from the distribution.

269 The same bootstrap procedures were used in multiplicative and dominative assumptions. In the multiplicative  
270 assumption,  $ES_i$  was divided by the mean of the control and then multiplied as follows (modified from  
271 Thompson et al. (57)):

272 
$$CT \prod_{i \in K_m} \left(1 + \frac{ES_i}{CT}\right) - CT$$

273 The formula can consider both positive and negative effect size. However, note that the multiplicative  
274 assumption becomes unstable when the control value is very close to zero and relative change values are  
275 extremely high. Under the dominative assumption, the  $ES_i$  having the highest absolute size within  $K_m$   
276 selected. Therefore, it assumes that only the maximum effect size of single factor determines the joint effect size,  
277 regardless of other weaker factors.

278  
279 Furthermore, we investigated if the responses have a consistent directional change along the number of factors,  
280 how much the number of factors alone explains variability in the responses, and how much knowing factor  
281 identity and effect size information increases predictability. To represent possible nonlinear changes and factor  
282 interactions, we applied a random forest machine learning algorithm (58). To test if the change is directional  
283 along the number of factors, each response variable was modeled using the number of factors. Then, factor  
284 identity (i.e. whether a factor was present or not; binary coding for each factor) was added to the model as  
285 explanatory variables. Moreover, instead of adding factor identity, the effect sizes estimated based on the three  
286 assumptions described above (additive, multiplicative, and dominative) were added to the model as explanatory  
287 variables (i.e. an expected effect size value for each assumption). After constructing these three models (i.e.  
288 number, identity, and including effect size information), we evaluated how well each model explains the  
289 variability ( $R^2$ , %). The algorithm hyperparameters were set as follows, after confirming the performance  
290 stability: the number of trees = 1000 and the random feature selection = 4. Bootstrap resampling was applied to  
291 estimate the 95% CIs of  $R^2$  and fitted curve (10,000 iterations).

292  
293 For the entire processes we created an R script, available at github (“<https://github.com/masahiroryo/joint-ES-estimate>”). For the visualization, we used R v. 3.4.3 and its packages “ggplot2” (19), “ggridges” (59), “ggepi”  
294 (<https://github.com/lwjohnst86/ggepi>; v0.0.1.9000), and “patchwork”  
295 (<https://github.com/thomasp85/patchwork>). For the random forest analysis, we used the packages “party” (60)  
296 and “caret” (61).

297  
298  
299

### 300 Analysis of soil fungal diversity

301  
302 *DNA extraction, ITS2 PCR amplification and Illumina sequencing preparation.* Soil DNA was extracted from  
303 0.25 g using the PowerSoil DNA isolation kit (MoBio Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA), following the  
304 manufacturer’s instructions. The fungal ITS2 genomic region was amplified by PCR using the fITS7 (5’-  
305 GTGARTCATCGAATCTTTG-3’) and the ITS4 primers (5’- TCCTCCGCTTA TTGATATGC-3’) (43),  
306 respectively extended in 5’ with the p5 and p7 Illumina sequencing adaptors.

307 The PCR cycles were as follows: a denaturation step for 3 min at 98°C, 30 cycles of denaturation for 20 s at  
308 98°C, annealing for 20 s at 50°C, and elongation for 30 s at 72°C, and a final elongation step of 5 min at 72°C.  
309 PCRs were performed in a 25 µl volume containing 0.5 U of KAPA HiFi polymerase (Kapa Biosystems,  
310 Woburn, MA, USA), 1x KAPA HiFi buffer, 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 0.3 µM of each primer, and 2 µl of DNA  
311 template. PCR amplification was performed in duplicate and duplicate PCR products of each sample were  
312 subsequently pooled. The PCR products were purified using magnetic beads in a 0.8:1 v:v (GC Biotech, Alphen  
313 aan den Rijn, The Netherlands). The purified products were used in a second PCR step reduced to 10 cycles with  
314 similar cycle set up, with primers containing the sequencing adaptors and a 8 nt long index sequence for  
315 multiplex sequencing using 4 µl of DNA. PCR products were again purified with magnetic beads in a 0.8:1 v:v  
316 (GC Biotech, Alphen aan den Rijn, The Netherlands). DNA quantification was performed using PicoGreen  
317 technology (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and the final PCR products were pooled on an equimolar basis. The  
318 amplicon library was sequenced on an Illumina MiSeq 2000 platform (Illumina Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) at  
319 the Berlin Center for Genomics in Biodiversity Research (BeGenDiv, Berlin, Germany) using 2x300-bp  
320 paired-end sequencing.

321  
322 *Bioinformatics.* Raw reads were demultiplexed allowing no error in the index sequence for sample assignment.  
323 We used DADA2 (44) to obtain denoised, chimera-free, non-singleton fungal amplicon sequence variants  
324 (ASVs). Raw reads containing any ambiguous bases were removed. Primers were removed using cutadapt  
325 including the reverse complement sequence of the reverse and forward primer sequence in the forward and  
326 reverse reads, respectively. Reads with more than 2 and 5 maximum expected number of errors for forward and  
327 reverse reads were excluded. Non-singleton ASVs were inferred on a sample basis. Chimera were identified de  
328 novo (sequences that corresponded to subsets of two more abundant sequences) and removed. Taxonomic  
329 annotation of ASVs was performed using the Naive Bayesian Classifier (62) against UNITE (63). ASVs were  
330 considered fungal if they were annotated at least at the phylum level at an 80% confidence threshold. We  
331 inferred a total 854 fungal ASVs in the 140 samples. After random read subsampling to a common sequencing  
332 depth (150 reads), 346 fungal ASVs in 139 samples were included in the analysis to test the effect of increasing

333 treatment levels on soil fungal community composition and diversity. A complete description of the dataset can  
334 be found below.

335  
336 *Statistical analyses of soil fungal diversity.* Community compositional change was measured using Bray-Curtis  
337 dissimilarity. The effect of factor richness and treatment identity was tested using a permutational multivariate  
338 analysis of variance on pairwise Bray-Curtis dissimilarities (64). The statistical robustness was assessed using  
339 999 Monte-Carlo permutations where sample assignment to treatments was randomized. The community  
340 variability within treatments (single and richness factor experiments) was calculated using multivariate  
341 homogeneity of group variance (65) and statistical robustness assessed using 999 Monte-Carlo permutations. A  
342 linear model was fitted to regress community variability with increasing factor richness. Pairwise Bray-Curtis  
343 dissimilarities were visualized using a non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) ordination.

344  
345 Community taxa richness was measured as the number of ASVs in samples. A linear model was fitted to regress  
346 ASV richness with increasing factor richness. We tested whether ASV-poor communities were a subset of the  
347 ASV-rich communities, i.e. nestedness. Nestedness was measured using the temperature metric of the  
348 presence/absence community matrix, which calculates the number of “surprises” of the absence or presence of  
349 ASVs between the observed community matrix (arranged by decreasing sample richness and sample occurrence)  
350 and a perfectly nested matrix (46). To test the non-randomness of nestedness, we used a null model that permutes  
351 the rows (samples) and columns (ASVs) of the matrix to generate null matrices while maintaining rows and  
352 columns totals. 999 null matrices were generated and statistical robustness was assessed using a two-sided test.  
353 Sample pairwise nestedness was further calculated and nestedness within and among treatment levels was tested  
354 using ANOVA. The difference in sample ranks of the different treatment levels in the lowest temperature matrix  
355 was also tested with a Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by a one-sided Wilcoxon test to test whether the rank of  
356 samples between two specific treatment levels differ.

357  
358 All statistical analyses were conducted in R (18) using “vegan” (45) and base packages. Data visualization was  
359 performed using the graphical R packages “gplots” (66) and “ggplot2” and its extensions “ggpubr” (19).

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361

## 362 **Supplementary Text**

363

### 364 Description of the fungal sequence dataset

365

366 From 2813975 raw reads, 854 denoised non-singleton non-chimeric fungal ASVs were inferred, totalling  
367 1546914 reads (55% of the reads retained; per sample:  $57\% \pm 10\%$  mean  $\pm$  sd) for 140 samples. The major loss  
368 of reads happened at the quality filtering step (70% of the reads retained; per sample:  $68\% \pm 8.5\%$ , compared to  
369  $>85\%$  for any other steps including denoising, paired-end read merging, chimera and non-fungal ESV removal).

370

371 Ten phyla were retrieved. ASVs were annotated to 33 classes, 60 orders, 113 families, 156 genera and 139  
372 species, but the proportion of ASVs to be annotated at any level strongly decreased at lower levels. The most  
373 strongly represented phylum was Ascomycota (604 ASVs, 68% of the ASVs), then Basidiomycota (149, 17%),  
374 followed by Mortierellomycota (32, 3.6%), Glomeromycota (28, 3.2%), Rozellomycota (25, 2.8%),  
375 Mucoromycota (21, 2.3%), Chytridiomycota (12, 1.4%), Zoopagomycota (5,  $<1\%$ ) and Olpidiomycota (2,  $<1\%$ )  
376 and Monoblepharomycota (2,  $<1\%$ ). The most abundant phylum is Ascomycota (47.5% of the reads), followed  
377 by Mucoromycota (31.6%), Basidiomycota (18.8%) and Mortierellomycota (1.7%). All other phyla were  
378 represented by less than 0.1% of the reads. ASV sequence length showed a unimodal distribution that peaks at ~  
379 250 bp and ranging from 165 bp to 454 bp ( $265\text{ bp} \pm 35\text{ bp}$  mean  $\pm$  sd). Although taxonomy is correlated to  
380 sequence length, our coverage of sequence length suggests that there is no taxonomic bias in the dataset.

381

382 Accumulation curve of ASVs with addition of samples revealed no saturation, indicating that unique ASVs were  
383 found in each sample. Those ASVs were neither the most numerous nor abundant, totalling 0.5% of the reads.  
384 Most ASVs were found in two samples, but again totalling 0.5% of the reads. In contrast, there were a few  
385 highly abundant ASVs, and they tended to occur in most samples. No ASV was found to occur in all samples but  
386 one was found in 139 samples (coded “esv1”, absent from sample 130).

387

388 The final number of fungal reads per sample was  $7649.39 \pm 5201.451$  (min:13 in sample 69, max:199530 in  
389 sample 72). Sequencing depth and richness were slightly correlated (Pearson’s  $R=0.51$ ). The number of fungal  
390 ASVs per sample was  $70.5 \pm 38$  (min: 2 in sample 69, max: 245 in sample 72).

391

392 After removing sample 69 (failure to amplify), and randomly resampling to 150 reads per sample to account for  
393 sequencing depth, 346 ASVs belonging to 8 phyla (loss of Olpidiomycota and Monoblepharomycota) were

394 retained and the ASV richness was  $29.4 \pm 10.4$  (min: 6 in sample 137, max: 51 in samples 113 and 52). ASV  
395 richness per sample before and after random resampling were well correlated (Pearson's  $R=0.72$ ). Similarly,  
396 Bray-Curtis dissimilarity between samples before and after random resampling were also well correlated (Mantel  
397  $R=0.66$ ).

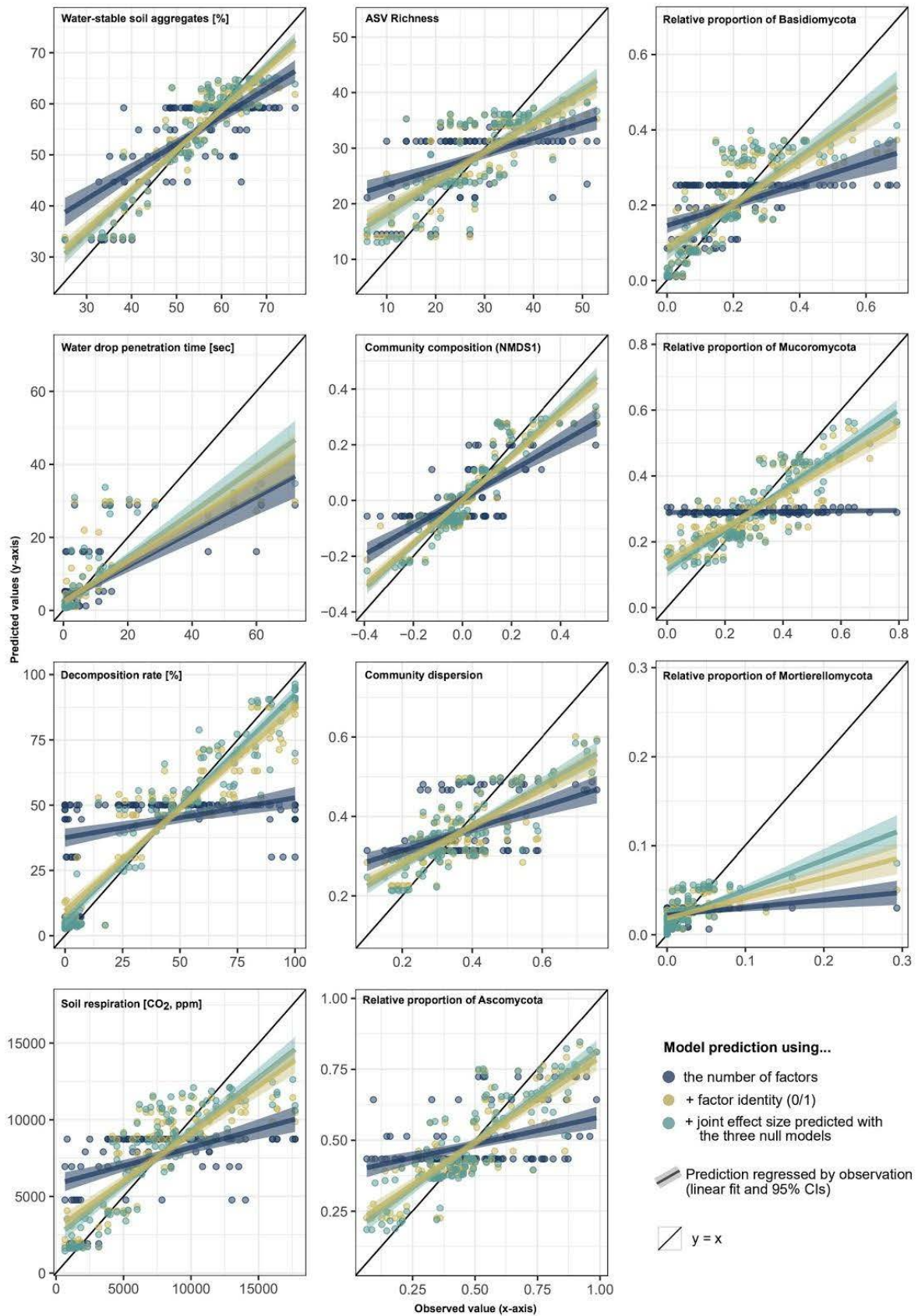
398  
399 We inferred 346 fungal ASVs in 139 samples, after random read subsampling to a common sequencing depth,  
400 that we have included in the analysis to test the effect of increasing treatment levels on soil fungal community  
401 composition and diversity. Centroid location in a multivariate space clearly differed among treatment levels  
402 (PERMANOVA,  $df=1$ ,  $F=20.2$ ,  $R^2=0.11$ ,  $p\text{-value}=0.001$ ) and additionally among treatments (PERMANOVA,  
403  $df=13$ ,  $F=3.5$ ,  $R^2=0.24$ ,  $p\text{-value}=0.001$ ). This indicates that community composition consistently differed with  
404 increasing treatment levels and therefore some degree of predictability. However, community composition  
405 variability increased with increasing treatment level ( $df=1$ ,  $t=5.049$ ,  $F=25.5$ ,  $R^2=0.15$ ,  $p\text{-value}=1.39e-06$ ). This  
406 indicates that even though increasing treatment levels select for particular phylotypes that differ from the lower  
407 treatment levels (notably the single treatments), the abundance and occurrence of those phylotypes tend to vary  
408 more when increasing treatment levels, indicating lower predictability and increasing dispersion. Moreover,  
409 community variability clearly differed between treatments ( $df=14$ ,  $F=5.5$ ,  $p\text{-value}=0.001$ ) but this was less clear  
410 among treatments level ( $df=5$ ,  $F=2.5$ ,  $p\text{-value}=0.036$ .) likely because single treatment effect had opposing effect  
411 on community composition, at the ASV level and at the phylum level. These results suggest that the effect of  
412 multiple factors on soil fungal community composition will not be easily predicted from the effect of single  
413 treatment factors.

414  
415 We also observed that ASV richness strongly decreased with increasing treatment level ( $df=1$ ,  $t=-7.311$ ,  $F=53.4$ ,  
416  $R^2=0.27$ ,  $p=2.01e-11$ ). The losses of ASVs were non-random, which is in agreement with the selection of  
417 specific phylotypes: notably, ASV-poor communities were constituted of a subset of the ASVs in ASV-rich  
418 communities (temperature=7.3, SES=-8.3,  $p=0.001$ ). Specifically, Basidiomycota are lost with an increasing  
419 number of factors while Ascomycota are apparently more stress-tolerant generalists (Fig. S2 and S3). Additional  
420 sample pairwise comparisons revealed higher nestedness between samples of different treatment levels than of  
421 similar ones (ANOVA  $F=425.74$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p\text{-value} < 2.2e-16$ ), with higher level treatments being nested within  
422 lower treatment levels, especially single factor treatments.

423  
424 Tests on sample ranks of the matrix with the lowest temperature further confirm that ranks of different treatment  
425 levels tend to differ (Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared = 11.477,  $df = 5$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.0427$ ) with treatment level 10  
426 being consistently at higher ranks (i.e. nested within other treatment levels) than lower treatment levels (Level 10  
427 versus all others level treatments: Wilcoxon  $W = 989$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.002555$ ).

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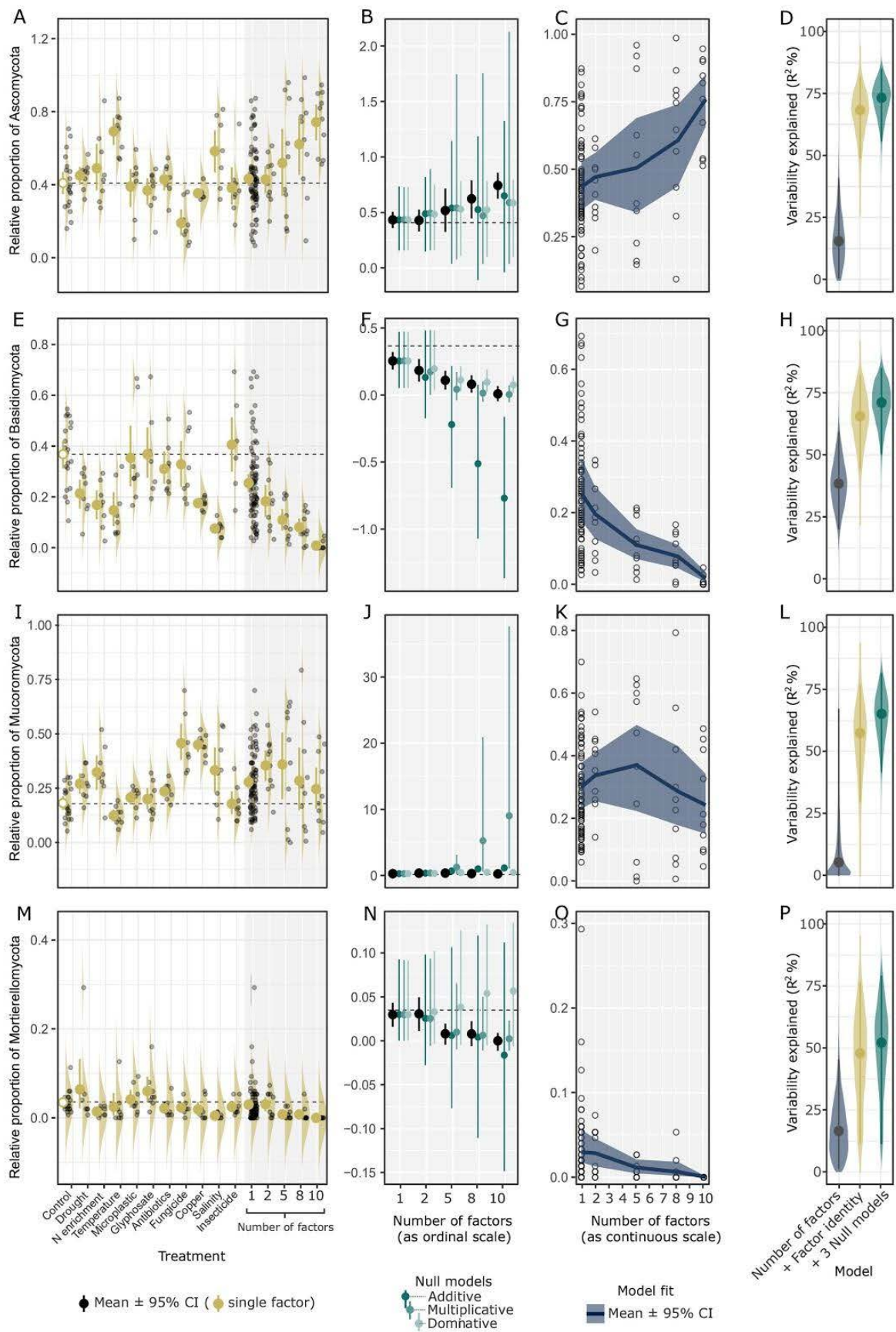




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**Fig. S1.** Observation vs. prediction. Predictions using a random forest machine learning algorithm based on three different models. Predictions based only on the number of factors (blue) generally show a correlation with observations but the slopes are shallower than predictions with more information (yellow and green). This indicates that general trends can be predicted solely by the number of factors, but additional information (i.e. factor identity or effect size information) is needed for better predicting the severity of the changes.

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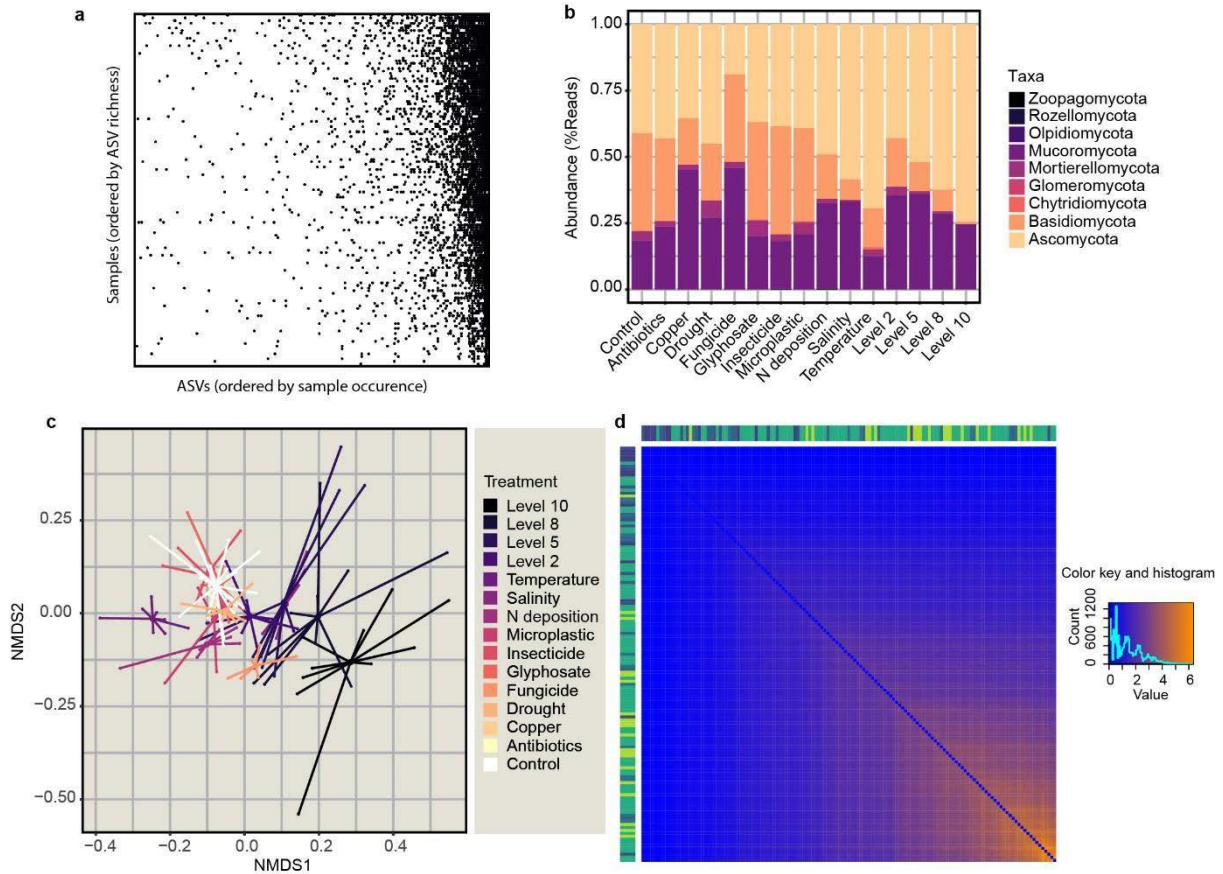
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Fig. S2.

439 Effects of different global change factors applied singly and applied in different multiples (2, 5, 8, 10 interacting  
440 factors) on the soil fungal community. Relative abundance of fungal taxa at the phylum level. See the caption of  
441 Fig. 3 and 4 for explanation of symbols.  
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**Fig. S3.**

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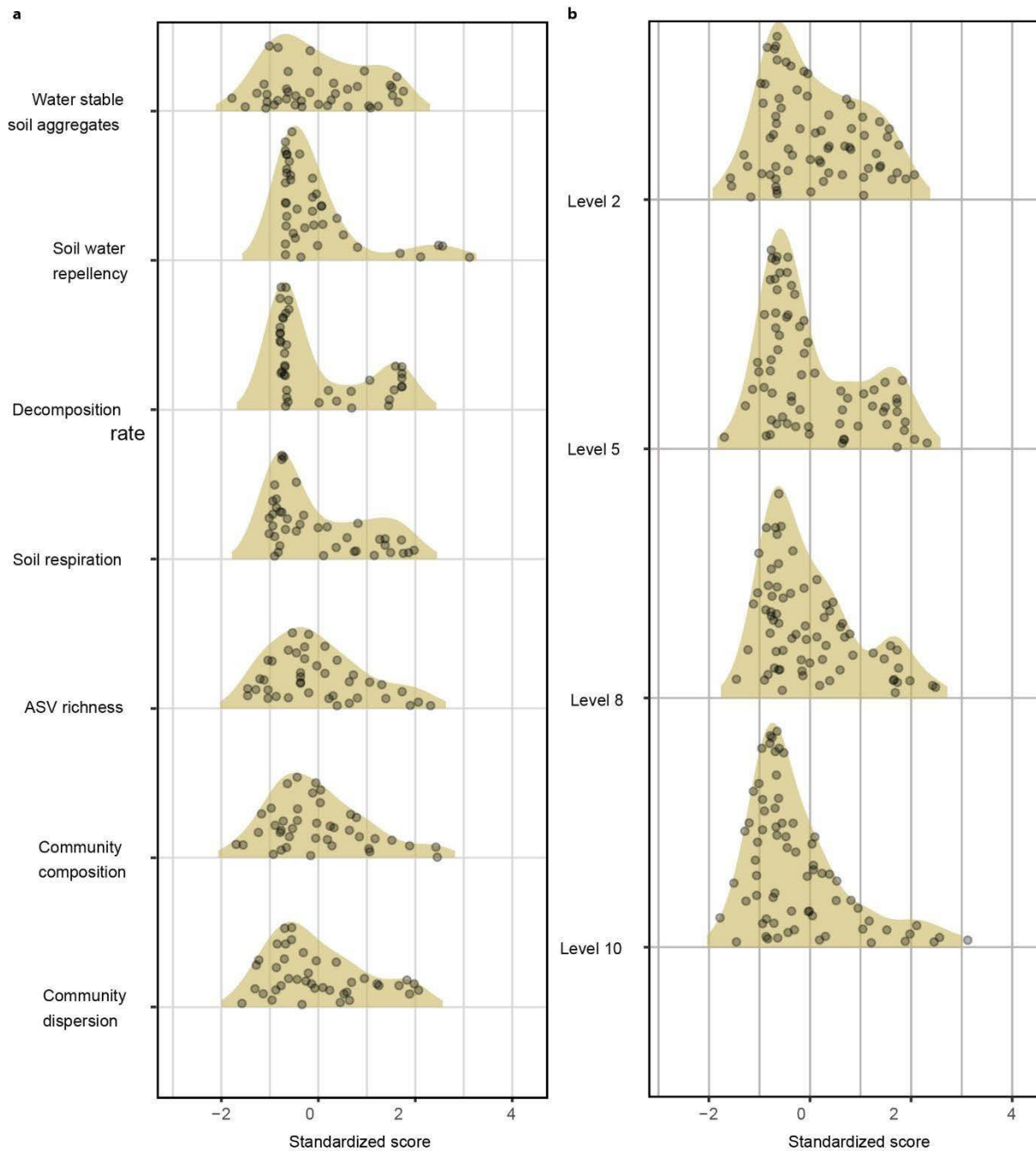
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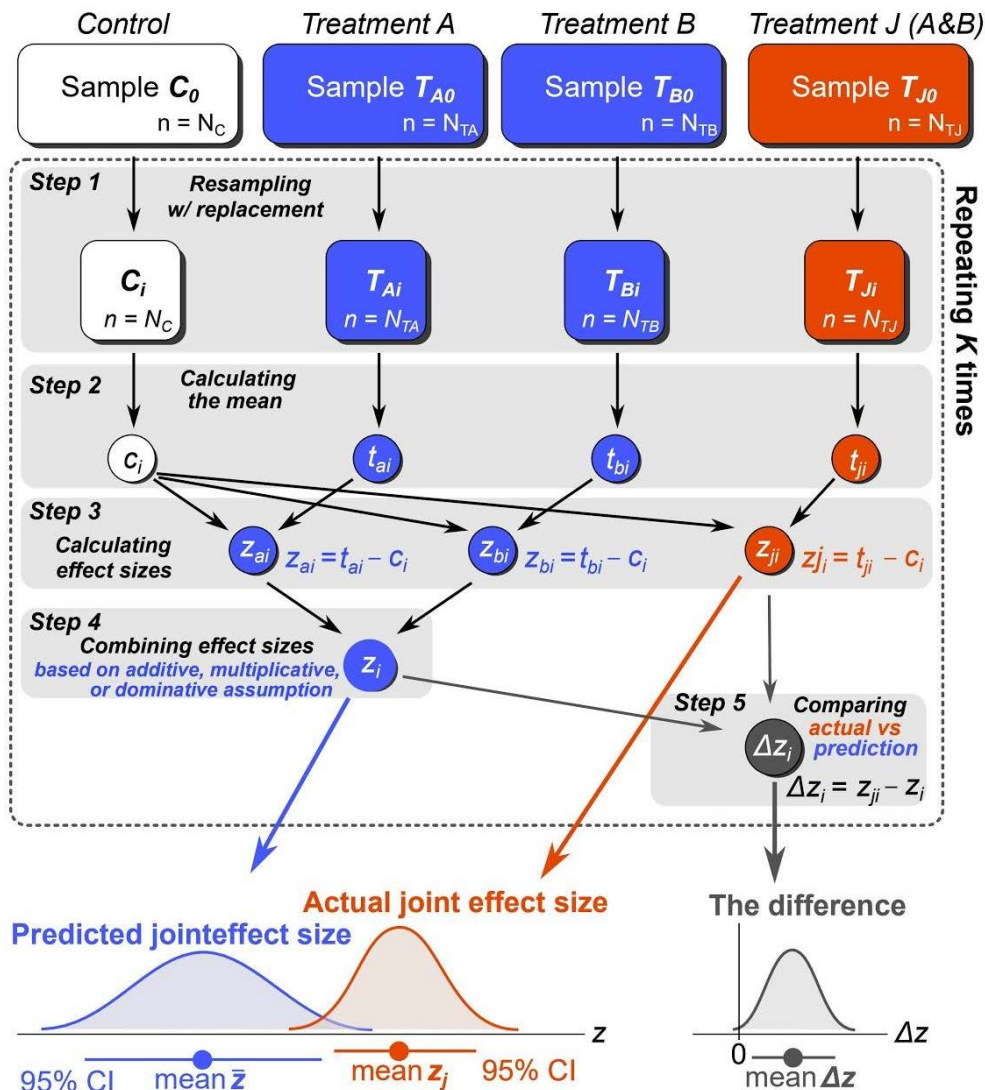
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Characteristics of the soil fungal community in response to multiple drivers of global change. A. Arranged presence/absence matrix of ASVs in samples; rows from top to bottom are samples arranged by decreasing ASV richness; columns from left to right are ASVs arranged by increasing sample occurrence. B. Relative abundance of fungal taxa (at phylum level) across the single factor treatments and factor richness experiment. C. Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) of Bray-Curtis sample pairwise dissimilarities. Color represents the treatment applied to samples. Samples are connected to their group centroid by lines. In the main analysis, community composition and dispersion were represented by the scores on the 1st axis of the NMDS plot and the mean value of Euclidean distances from all replicates to the group median on the NMDS plot, respectively. D. Heatmap of nestedness between samples. The samples in the square matrix are ordered by increasing ASV richness. The colors in rows and columns represent number of factors applied to samples. The colors within the heatmap represent nestedness from low (orange) to high (blue).



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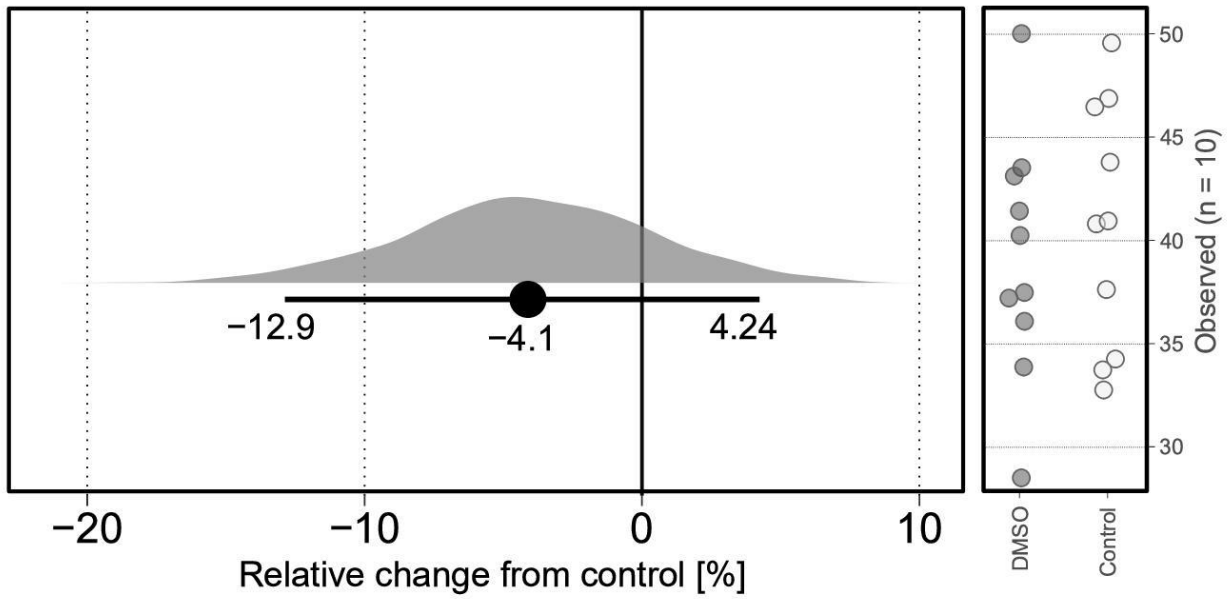
**Fig. S4.** Bimodal-like distributions of the standardized measured response variables. These might indicate regime shifts caused by the interaction of multiple factors: the distribution for each variable (and all level data are combined) in the left panel, and the distribution for each level (and all variables are combined) in the right panel. Observing a bimodality together with shift in an internal system state (e.g. community composition and dispersion; Fig. 4) is often thought to be a reasonable indication of regime shifts. Yet, we did not directly demonstrate such a regime shift, as our experiment was not designed for this (e.g. hysteresis and positive feedback are considered direct support for the existence of a bistability state).



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**Fig. S5.**

Bootstrap resampling scheme for estimating the joint effect size at each level of factor number. For brevity, as an example, only factors A and B are shown to represent a replicate in level 2, without losing generality. In Step 1, for each of control, treatments A, B, and J (J: actual joint effect of A and B), it performs sub-sampling with replacement to generate  $C_i$ ,  $T_{Ai}$ ,  $T_{Bi}$ , and  $T_{Ji}$ , respectively, where  $i$  represents  $i$ -th iteration ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, K$ ). In Step 2, for each, it calculates the mean ( $c_i$ ,  $t_{ai}$ ,  $t_{bi}$ , and  $t_{ji}$ ). In Step 3, it calculates the effect size of each treatment ( $z_{ai}$ ,  $z_{bi}$ ,  $z_{ji}$ ) as an absolute difference from the mean of the control. In Step 4, the effect sizes of single factors are combined to generate a predicted effect size  $z_i$ : how to combine them depends on assumption type (additive, multiplicative, or dominative). In Step 5, the difference between the predicted effect size  $z_i$  and the actual joint effect size  $z_{ji}$  is calculated as  $\Delta z_i$ . Steps 1–5 are repeated  $K$  times to draw the bootstrap distributions of the actual joint effect size, the predicted joint effect size, and the difference. Finally, the mean and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were taken from these distributions, and a p-value was calculated from the difference distribution  $\Delta z$ , estimating the probability that the difference between the actual joint effect size and the predicted joint effect size crosses over zero by chance.



484  
 485 **Fig. S6.**  
 486 Results of separate experiment to test for effects of DMSO on soil aggregation (water stable soil aggregates).  
 487 Shown are bootstrapped difference in mean and 95% confidence interval. Raw data (n = 10) are in the right  
 488 panel: there was no difference between control and DMSO treatment. DMSO is used as a solvent and was added  
 489 to all experimental units at the same rate.  
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 491

492 **Table S1.**  
 493 The effect size estimates and their predictability tests along factor richness. For each response variable in each  
 494 level of factor richness, a p-value was estimated under each assumption, quantifying the probability that the  
 495 mean of the actual effect size differs from the assumption by chance.  
 496

Variables	Target	Level 2				Level 5				Level 8				Level 10			
		CI 2.5%	Mean	CI 97.5%	p value	CI 2.5%	Mean	CI 97.5%	p value	CI 2.5%	Mean	CI 97.5%	p value	CI 2.5%	Mean	CI 97.5%	p value
Water Stable Aggregates	Actual	-10.0	-4.7	0.6		-16.3	-9.9	-3.3		-20.5	-15.0	-8.8		-29.6	-26.2	-22.9	
	Additive	-13.8	-1.3	12.4	0.3800	-23.6	-2.7	17.2	0.2884	-23.4	0.7	24.4	0.1053	-27.2	-2.2	21.6	0.0307
	Multiplicative	-13.0	-1.3	13.1	0.3988	-20.7	-2.8	18.1	0.3052	-20.9	0.0	27.1	0.1066	-23.6	-3.3	21.7	0.0125
	Dominative	-12.3	-1.9	9.3	0.4582	-12.8	-2.1	10.0	0.2272	-13.2	-2.9	10.4	0.0412	-13.6	-4.8	10.6	< 0.0001
Water drop penetration time	Actual	-0.2	1.3	3.5		1.0	4.1	7.7		4.0	14.2	27.2		16.8	29.6	44.3	
	Additive	-0.9	0.5	3.4	0.2318	-2.0	1.1	4.2	0.1083	-2.3	1.8	4.9	0.0076	-1.8	2.2	5.2	< 0.0001
	Multiplicative	-0.8	0.4	3.2	0.2119	-1.1	1.2	8.0	0.1296	-1.2	2.9	18.8	0.0711	-1.2	4.3	27.8	0.0253
	Dominative	-0.5	0.5	3.4	0.2437	-0.6	1.4	3.8	0.1227	-0.5	2.1	3.9	0.0054	1.7	2.8	4.0	< 0.0001
Decomposition rate	Actual	-28.2	-5.0	18.6		-33.5	-4.6	25.1		-45.2	-19.6	9.5		-54.3	-45.8	-37.4	
	Additive	-61.5	-7.4	36.0	0.4796	-83.9	4.0	96.8	0.4590	-86.7	6.5	114.3	0.3269	-84.9	4.0	92.8	0.1386
	Multiplicative	-53.0	-11.6	40.3	0.4356	-55.2	-0.4	168.4	0.3938	-56.4	-9.9	220.0	0.3045	-57.4	-42.2	-6.7	0.4569
	Dominative	-53.5	-8.8	43.6	0.4799	-54.1	-6.3	49.1	0.4514	-54.9	-7.0	50.5	0.4598	-55.6	-23.4	50.7	0.4994
CO2 concentration at third week	Actual	-4968.3	-2741.9	-609.5		-6597	-3394	-142		-8342	-5423	-2021		-9721	-8572	-7465	
	Additive	-8498.5	-3736.1	1373.6	0.3637	-18406	-6882	4927	0.3026	-24391	-11635	2586	0.2031	-26473	-14269	-2425	0.1816
	Multiplicative	-7661.5	-3826.0	1080.3	0.3352	-9898	-5319	4902	0.2570	-10505	-7326	876	0.2145	-10776	-8653	-5100	0.4208
	Dominative	-7465.0	-3563.3	3456.9	0.3463	-7711	-4181	4171	0.3121	-7828	-5205	3958	0.4570	-7974	-6441	-5114	0.0131
ASV Richness	Actual	-6.2	-0.1	5.9		-18.6	-12.0	-4.5		-20.6	-13.7	-6.2		-26.9	-21.8	-16.5	
	Additive	-21.8	-6.1	9.2	0.2686	-54.3	-22.8	4.3	0.2583	-67.3	-34.0	-0.7	0.1241	-78.5	-40.7	-3.3	0.1664
	Multiplicative	-19.0	-5.7	9.5	0.2651	-31.2	-17.7	2.0	0.2462	-33.6	-23.3	-5.5	0.1114	-35.2	-25.4	-8.4	0.2551
	Dominative	-16.1	-5.2	7.6	0.2699	-17.9	-11.7	5.4	0.4898	-16.2	-13.0	-8.0	0.4652	-18.6	-13.3	-8.2	0.0194
Community composition	Actual	0.0	0.1	0.1		0.099	0.184	0.270		0.187	0.273	0.374		0.187	0.273	0.374	
	Additive	-0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4190	-0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3146	-0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3136	-0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3136
	Multiplicative	-0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4814	-0.6	0.0	0.7	0.1014	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.0421	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.0421
	Dominative	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4052	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2465	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0287	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0287
Community dispersion	Actual	-0.1	-0.1	0.0		-0.051	0.067	0.196		-0.016	0.073	0.161		0.018	0.096	0.179	
	Additive	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	0.1080	-0.7	-0.4	-0.2	0.0006	-1.0	-0.7	-0.3	< 0.0001	-1.3	-0.9	-0.5	< 0.0001
	Multiplicative	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	0.1108	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	0.0007	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	< 0.0001	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	< 0.0001
	Dominative	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1406	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0033	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0002	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	< 0.0001

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500 **Table S2.**

501 The way forward. We here outline some key next steps for future experiments building on the approach used  
 502 here, providing an explanation for why these steps are important, and we explain how our study specifically set  
 503 the stage and could be built upon.  
 504

Next steps	Explanation	How our study set the stage
Higher degree of realism and system complexity	Carry out field experiments (potentially in various ecosystem types) that also include other organism groups, such as plants and larger soil fauna (e.g. earthworms)	We show here that patterns and trajectories emerge quite clearly with a relatively low number of replicates (140 total); this is a clear advantage, since field studies are in principle logistically feasible with this level of replication (compared to many hundred plots)
Increased mechanistic resolution	Our study design was not optimized for detecting specific factor interactions (which is what factorial designs are for)	The design used here could be combined with a factorial design. The factorial design would include a few factors (perhaps only) of special interest. This factorial design could then be repeated on the background of all remaining factors either being toggled on or off. An equivalent idea could be use also for fractional factorial designs
Dealing with multiple levels of one factor	We here used one level for each factor (e.g. 50% of water for drought), informed by literature values or scenarios, as is typical of much global change biology research.	The design we used could be combined with a design that tests multiple levels of a factor, for one or a few selected factors. For example, other factors that are not in the focus of such tests could be collectively toggled on or off.
Detecting important interactions	Using machine learning, we could not specify which combinations of factors are important.	Advanced machine learning methods might be able to identify important higher order interactions in studies such as ours, once they have been tested on small datasets (67, 68)

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507 **Data S1 (separate file)**

508 Data for literature synthesis presented in Fig. 1 (panel A - C is covered by the dataset "multifactorialty" and  
509 panel D by "network analysis")

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