

May 28, 2003

CWT activities in the LTER Network:

The LTER Network office funded travel costs to our Dec. 7-10, 2000 workshop, on Decomposition and Biogeochemical cycling. It was held at the Institute of Ecology, in Athens, GA

Attendees (sites in ()) included: Sina Adl, Steph. Madson, Mitch Zuckerman, Jen Knoepp, CWT; Bruce Caldwell and Kermit Cromack, AND; Jean Lodge and Xiaoming Zou, LUQ; Knute Nadelhoffer and Bill Currie, HFR; Bill McDowell, LUQ and HBR; John Moore, SGS. Not attending but collaborating electronically were Kate Lajtha, AND, and Richard Bowden, Allegheny College and Bousson research site in Pennsylvania.

Actions taken, and subsequent developments through May 2003 are given below:

- 1) To develop the framework of a synthesis paper to Soil Biology & Biochemistry. This paper was written with Dave Coleman as senior author and 10 coauthors, submitted in Dec. 2001, and rejected. We are extensively revising it and expect to submit it to Soil Science Reviews in early 2004.
- 2) To review and critique the Integrated Research Challenges (IRC) proposal draft on the DIRT (Detritus Input and Removal Treatments) Intersite decomposition project (Knute Nadelhoffer, lead PI). Several participants were co-PIs on this proposal to NSF Ecosystem Studies, which also included personnel from BNZ, CDR, and Bousson in PA. This proposal was declined in spring 2001, and rewritten and submitted by Kate Lajtha as lead PI in spring 2002. It received strong support by reviewers, but was declined by Geosciences program of NSF, who handled it to avoid COI with Knute Nadelhoffer being co-PI. It will be further revised and resubmitted by early 2004, once Dr. Nadelhoffer has gotten established in his new Professorship at the University of Michigan.
- 3) To review and critique the QIEB (Quantitative Integrated studies in Experimental Biology) proposal on the theoretical aspects of energetics and nutrient cycling of bacterial and fungal feeders in detrital foodwebs across a range of sites, some in the Network, including SGS and CWT, plus Wind Cave National Park (John Moore and Dave Coleman, lead PIs). This proposal was submitted to NSF Ecosystem Studies, in late Dec. 2000, and rejected.
- 4) Other synthesis activities directly attributable to the NET funding: a) Jen Knoepp represented CWT at a Coarse Woody Debris workshop in Corvallis, OR, convened by Kate Lajtha (AND) and Jean Lodge (LUQ), April 5-8, 2001. b) Dave Coleman presented two papers on CWT, LTREB and Network decomposition studies in Taipei, Taiwan in August, 2002. This led to submission and funding (!) by NSF(Ecosystems and INT) and Academia Sinica, of a joint USA and Taiwan workshop on molecular methods in soil biodiversity, to be held in Taipei in March-April, 2004.

General comments:

The synthesis activities were very stimulating of subsequent publications and proposals. The high rejection rate has been daunting but not overwhelming, and we continue to be optimistic

about future collaborations. We offer our thanks to Bob Waide and the LTER Network Office for providing much needed support for this important synthesis activity.