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Long-term effects of phytomanagement with *Populus* sp. on soil biodiversity

Lur Epelde¹, Erik Urionabarrenetxea^{1,2}, Mikel Anza¹, Paula M.L. Castro³, Michel Mench⁴, Helena Moreira³, Sofia I.A. Pereira³, Ángeles Prieto-Fernandez⁵, BeatrizRodriguez-Garrido⁵, Carmem Trasar Cepeda⁵, Juan Vilela⁶, Manu Soto², Carlos Garbisu¹

¹NEIKER, Basque Institute for Agricultural R&D, Derio, Spain, ²Research Centre for Experimental Marine Biology and Biotechnology PIE-UPV/EHU, Plentzia, Spain, ³Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Porto, Portugal, ⁴INRAE, Pessac cedex, France, ⁵MBG-CSIC, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, ⁶CEA, Centro de Estudios Ambientales de Vitoria-Gasteiz, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Aim:

Soil metal contamination is a worldwide problem of great magnitude. Phytomanagement is based on the use of plants to reduce and control risks arising from soil pollution while at the same time restoring and generating other wider site services. The PHY2SUDOE project maintains a network of contaminated sites that have been under phytomanagement for many years in Portugal, Spain and France. The aim of this study was to evaluate the long-term effects of phytomanagement with *Populus* sp. on soil biodiversity and complexity at different levels of the trophic web.

Method:

Composite soil samples were taken in the contaminated sites ST Médard D'Eyrans (Gironde, FR), Chaban-Delmas (Gironde, FR), Borralha (Montalegre, PT), Ariñez (Vitoria-Gasteiz, ES) and Touro (Galicia, ES), both under phytomanagement and non-phytomanaged controls. Then, metabarcoding analyses of 16S rRNA, ITS, 18s rRNA y COI genes were carried out.

Results:

The diversity, composition and complexity of the soil prokaryotic, fungal and invertebrate communities were affected by the long-term phytomanagement practices. Site-specific soil characteristics also had a significant influence on the edaphic biota.

Conclusions:

Given the essential functions it performs in contaminated soils, phytomanagement practices should aim to restore soil biodiversity.