Characterizing ecosystem-driven chemical composition differences in natural and drained Finnish bogs using Pyrolysis-GC/MS

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4638660
Author(s) Klein, Kristy; Schellekens, Judith; Gross-Schmölders, Miriam; von Sengbusch, Pascal; Alewell, Christine; Leifeld, Jens
Author(s) at UniBasel Alewell, Christine ; Klein, Jennifer Kristin ; Gross-Schmölders, Miriam ; Leifeld, Jens ;
Year 2021
Year: comment 2021
Title Characterizing ecosystem-driven chemical composition differences in natural and drained Finnish bogs using Pyrolysis-GC/MS
Journal Organic geochemistry
Pages / **Article-Number** 104351
Keywords peat; peatland drainage; Py-GC/MS; organic matter; chemical characterization; Sphagnum
Aerobic decomposition increases in drained peatlands; releasing stored organic matter (OM) and shifting greenhouse gas fluxes from sink to source. This study explored how drainage influenced peat OM chemical composition by investigating paired sites from a Sphagnum-dominated ombrotrophic Finnish bog undergoing contrasting hydrological management (natural and drained). Peat OM was investigated in replicate cores using analytical pyrolysis, compared with observed vegetation, elemental analysis (O:C, N:C), stable isotopes (δ13C, δ15N), and fraction radiocarbon. Principal component analysis of quantified pyrolysis products separated four primary components: vascular plants vs Sphagnum, aerobic degradation of fresh plant biomass, anaerobic processes in water-saturated depths, and pine vs Eriophorum. The largest influence of drainage on peat chemistry was via aerobic decomposition (decreased abundance of Sphagnum phenols and simple polysaccharides; accumulation of macromolecular polysaccharides) ($p<0.05$, 0-2 cm). Drainage-induced shifts in vegetation (from Sphagnum to Pinus sylvestris ($p<0.01$, 0-2 cm) were reflected by increased abundance in lignin, N-compounds, and lipids, and decreased abundance in phenols and polysaccharides. Anaerobic processes also differentiated the natural and drained sites and primarily affected polysaccharides ($p<0.05$, 0-2, 8-10 cm). Vegetation shifts and aerobic decomposition similarly affected many of the same compounds upon drainage-demonstrating the simultaneous influence of different processes on the same OM. Pre-drainage intercore variation illustrated the importance of replicate cores in disentangling anthropogenic changes from natural biodiversity. These findings suggest that even short-term and moderate alterations in peatland hydrology strongly influence the chemical composition of peat OM, and that its chemistry serves as an effective indicator to assess decomposition status.
ISSN/ISBN 0146-6380
URL https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0146638021001728
edoc-URL https://edoc.unibas.ch/87022/
Full Text on edoc No;
Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1016/j.orggeochem.2021.104351