

## Interactions between coastal acid sulfate soils and

## greenhouse gas generation potential

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A thesis submitted for the degree of (*Doctor of Philosophy*) at Monash University in (2021)

(School of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment)

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#### Abstract.

Acid sulfate soils (ASS) usually contain large amounts of organic matter which can be potential sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) during decomposition in coastal wetlands and agricultural land. ASS are often found in low lying areas globally and are vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge events. To manage ASS, liming is frequently used to reduce acidity and decrease N<sub>2</sub>O emissions as a tool to mitigate GHG emissions by increasing soil pH. There is a knowledge gap in terms of the effects of fluctuating water tables on GHG emissions over longer periods of time. Also, the mitigation of GHG production in ASS by liming in subsoils and the mechanisms involved are still poorly known. The aim of this thesis is to determine the GHGs in ASS from coastal wetlands due to sea level rise in Australia and from agricultural land due to the post-glacial rebound by isostatic uplift in Finland and the lime treatment on ASS.

Intact soil cores from *Apium gravedens* (AG), *Leptospermum lanigerum* (LL), *Phragmites australis* (PA) and *Paspalum distichum* (PD) were collected and incubated under dry, flooded, and wet-dry cycle treatments to simulate sea level fluctuations. The results indicated that the flooded treatment decreased cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions compared to the dry treatment. However, the flooded treatment had a higher global warming potential based on CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents compared to dry and wet-dry cycle treatment.

The effects of dry, flooded, and wet-dry cycle treatments on soil acidity and trace metals in ASS were also investigated at the end of the incubation experiment. The results showed that the highest net acidity occurred in the dry treatment. Brackish water inundation can provide a mechanism to prevent further oxidation of reduced inorganic sulfide (RIS) and can be an effective tool to reduce acidity by forming or reforming pyrite in temperate ASS environments.

Lime is used to manage soil pH and decrease  $N_2O$  emissions as a tool to mitigate GHG emissions. The effects of lime treatments on GHG emissions from ASS were identified in both agricultural land in Finland and coastal wetlands in Australia. Lime decreased  $N_2O$  due to the conversion from  $N_2O$  to  $N_2$  via  $N_2O$  reductase during denitrification. Liming (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) in ASS can generally reduce  $N_2O$  emissions, but also increase  $CO_2$  emissions due to the dissolution of CaCO<sub>3</sub> and increased SOC mineralization. The total GHG emissions based on  $CO_2$ -equivalents in the lime treatments were generally higher than that in the non-limed soils due to the increased  $CO_2$  emissions.

The overall results presented in this thesis demonstrated that CO<sub>2</sub> is the dominant GHG in the dry treatments while CH<sub>4</sub> dominates in flooded treatments. *Phragmites australis* had higher global warming potential compared with other vegetation types due to higher organic matter. Lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) is important to manage soil pH in ASS because it generally reduces N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, but also increases CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to the dissolution of CaCO<sub>3</sub> and increased SOC mineralization. Brackish water inundation can prevent further oxidation of RIS and reduce acidity in ASS.

#### **Publications during enrolment**

Xu, C., Wong, V.N.L., Reef, R.E., 2021. Effect of inundation on greenhouse gas emissions from temperate coastal wetland soils with different vegetation types in southern Australia. Sci Total Environ 763, 142949-142949.

#### Thesis including published works declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma at any university or equivalent institution and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

This thesis includes one original paper published in a peer reviewed journal and one submitted publication. The core theme of the thesis is to identify the relationship between acid sulfate soils and greenhouse gas emissions in coastal wetlands and agricultural land. The ideas, development and writing up of all the papers in the thesis were the principal responsibility of myself, the student, working within the school of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment under the supervision of Associate Professor Vanessa Wong and Associate Professor Ruth Reef.

The inclusion of co-authors reflects the fact that the work came from active collaboration between researchers and acknowledges input into team-based research.

In the case of Chapters 2 to 5 my contribution to the work involved the following:

2	Effect of inundation on greenhouse gas emissions from temperate coastal wetland soils with different vegetation types in southern Australia	Published	85%. Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, original draft writing	Vanessa N.L. Wong (10%, Conceptualization, methodology, writing- Review & editing, supervision, funding acquisition) Ruth.E. Reef (5%, Writing-review & editing, supervision) Vanessa N.L.Wong	N
3	Effect of inundation on sulfide and potential acidity in coastal acid sulfate soils with different vegetation types in southern Australia	Not submitted	80%. Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, original draft writing	<ul> <li>(15%, Conceptualization, methodology, writing- review &amp; editing, supervision, funding acquisition)</li> <li>Rahul Ram</li> <li>(5%, Geochemical modelling, review &amp; editing)</li> </ul>	Ν
4	Effects of liming on N <sub>2</sub> O and CO <sub>2</sub> production in different horizons of boreal acid sulfate soil and non-acid soil	Returned for revision	75%. Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, original draft writing	Vanessa N.L.Wong (10%, Conceptualization, writing-review & editing, supervision) Anna Tuovinen (5%, Writing-review & editing)	N

				Asko Simojoki (10%, Conceptualization, methodology, writing- Review & editing, supervision, funding acquisition)	
5	Effect of lime and inundation on greenhouse gas emissions from temperate coastal wetland in southern Australia	Not submitted	90% Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, original draft writing	Vanessa N.L.Wong (10%, Conceptualization, methodology, writing- Review & editing, supervision, funding acquisition)	Ν

I have renumbered sections of submitted or published papers in order to generate a consistent presentation within the thesis.

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I hereby certify that the above declaration correctly reflects the nature and extent of the student's and coauthors' contributions to this work. In instances where I am not the responsible author I have consulted with the responsible author to agree on the respective contributions of the authors.

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## Acknowledgements

Throughout my PhD journey and the completion of this thesis, I am blessed with love and generosity from those around me both professionally and in my personal life. I cannot imagine finishing the degree without their input and want to thank all of them for their priceless support.

First of all, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisors, Associate Professor Vanessa Wong, Associate Professor Ruth Reef and Dr Asko Simojoki for their devoted guidance, useful comments and dedicated support throughout the whole research work. The person I would like to thank most is my main supervisor, Associate Professor Vanessa Wong. I was lucky to be selected as a PhD student in acid sulfate soils project with my soil and water conservation research background in December 2017. In the beginning of my research work, Vanessa guided me step by step, like confirming research topics through several rounds of discussion, providing guidance for the lab work operation and assisting me with the soil sampling in the field. Vanessa also gave me offers to be demonstrators in soil science class which enriched my research experiences and gave me practical teaching experience. During the PhD journey, Vanessa not only played a role of supervisor, but also a friend caring about my career and family life. Her enthusiasm about soil science, cycling and strong leadership skills impressed me and led me all the way.

I also want to express my warmest thanks to Associate Professor Ruth Reef for her all the professional guidance, advice and encouragement. She showed me how to use R program when analysing data and helped me in identifying vegetation types for my project. Also, Ruth assisted me with the incubation experiment setup. I learnt lots of coastal ecosystem knowledge, data analysis skills, effective communication skills and women power from Ruth.

Special thanks to Dr Asko Simojoki who acted as my supervisor in the exchange project when I studied in the University of Helsinki in Finland. I highly appreciate the opportunity for lengthy discussion with him about the researchplan and field sampling. Asko also showed me how to analyse acquired data effectively and assisted me with conducting experiments. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Asko for his valuable advice for improving the manuscript through countless detailed emails and numerous zoom meetings. Asko's strict and responsible attitudes towards academics touched and inspired me.

During my research work, many people have valuable professional input in my project. Dr. Karen little and Dr. Biplob Kumar Saha's help in my first incubation experiment and their guidance for the GHG emissions collection. Leigh Burgess prepared the PVC tubes for my incubation experiment and filed work preparation. Rachelle Pierson's assisted in performing the analysis of soluble cations analysis. Gigi Woods helped with the particle size distribution analysis. Dr. Rahul Ram assisted me with geochemical modelling in the thesis.

Special thanks to my officemate, Dr. Anindita Samsu, who supported me throughout my PhD study and encouraged me to join in the Monash Running group. I am thankful for the support from the Monash soil group and coastal group for their valuable advice and support, including Sarah, Ella, Pru, Matthew, Marycarmen and Sabrina.

I appreciate the financial support from Monash University and school of Earth, atmosphere and environment. I am grateful for the funding from the Australian Academy of Science's Thomas Davies Research Grant and Finnish National Agency of Education granting an EDUFI fellowship for my research visit to the University of Helsinki (Sep 2019 – Mar 2020). My Finnish research was carried out in the framework of FACCE ERA-GAS MAGGE-pH project.

Last but not least, I am deeply grateful for my parents' support and understanding throughout my life. Special thanks to my partner Fang Wen, who was by my side all the time. Not only did he assist me with the field sampling and lab work, he also contributed countless hours in proofreading and revision for my work during my research. Even more importantly, he encouraged me to take physical training seriously on a regular basis and was responsible for the cooking most of the time. Finally, the birth of my daughter, Aya, brought me endless happiness and taught me to become a strong, responsible and patient mom.

## List of abbreviations

ASS = Acid sulfate soils AASS = Actual acid sulfate soil  $AG = Apium \ gravedens$ AHD = Australian height datum ANC = Acid neutralising capacity *AVS* = *Acid* volatile sulfide *BOM* = *Bureau of Meteorology* CASS = Coastal acid sulfate soils  $CaCO_3 = Calcium \ carbonate$  $Ca (OH)_2 = calcium hydroxide$ CCMA= Corangamite Catchment Management Authority  $CH_4 = Methane$  $CO_2$ -eq =  $CO_2$ -equivalents  $CO_2 = Carbon \ dioxide$ *CRS* = *Chromium reducible sulfur EC* = *Electrical conductivity Eh* = *Redox potential FF* = *Fineness factor FIA* = *Flow Injection Analyser FeS* = *Iron monosulfides*  $FeS_2 = Pyrite$  $Fe_3S_4 = Greigite$ GC = Gas Chromatography*GHGs* = *Greenhouse* gases *ICP-OES* = *Inductively coupled plasma - optical emission spectrometry LL*= *Leptospermum lanigerum IPCC* = *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*  $N_2 = Nitrogen gas$ NO = Nitric oxide $N_2O = Nitrous \ oxide$ *PA* = *Phragmites* australis PASS= Potential acid sulfate soils *PD* = *Paspalum distichum RIS* =*Reduced* inorganic sulfide

SO4<sup>2-</sup> = Sulfate SOC = Soil organic carbon SOM =Soil organic matter SRB = Sulfate reducing bacteria TAA = Titratable actual acidity TN = Total nitrogen WFPS = Water filled pore space

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## Chapter 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Acid sulfate soil theory

Acid sulfate soils (ASS) are soils or sediments that contain oxidisable or partly oxidized sulfide minerals (Pons, 1973). In ASS environments, pyrite is the most prevalent sulfide mineral and usually represents the potential acidity in the system (Dent and Pons, 1995). Apart from pyrite, other oxidisable sulfides like iron monosulfides such as mackinawite, greigite and marcasite, are also present in minor amounts in ASS environment, which can be appreciable in bottom sediments of rivers, lakes and drains (Sullivan and Bush, 2000).

When sulfide mineral layers remain under anaerobic or waterlogged conditions, they usually have a near neutral pH and are therefore not problematic. Under these conditions, the soils are known as potential acid sulfate soils (PASS) as they have the potential to form sulfuric acid. However, sulfuric acid is generated resulting in a pH often below a value of 4 when sediments containing reduced inorganic sulfur are drained and oxidized. This results in the formation of actual acid sulfate soil (AASS) (Dent and Pons, 1995). This can be a natural process such as through coastal regression, isostatic rebound or drought caused by climate change (Boman et al., 2010a; Osterholm and Astrom, 2004), or it may be the result of anthropogenic interventions such as drainage of coastal areas for agriculture or activities during construction or mining (Astrom and Spiro, 2000; Burton et al., 2006a; Mathew et al., 2001).

## 1.2 Formation of acid sulfate soils

#### 1.2.1 Reduced inorganic sulfur formation

PASS usually contains reduced inorganic sulfur (RIS) species, in the form of pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>), iron monosulfides (FeS), greigite (Fe<sub>3</sub>S<sub>4</sub>) and elemental sulfur. RIS usually accumulates in waterlogged soils containing high amounts of organic matter, Fe (generally from Fe-containing minerals in the sediments) and dissolved sulfate, mainly derived from seawater (Dent, 1986; Fanning et al., 2002).

The formation of pyrite is catalyzed by sulfate reducing bacteria (SRB) and the reaction of pyrite formation is shown in Equation1.

$$Fe_2O_{3(S)} + 4SO_4^{2-} + 8CH_2O + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow 2FeS_2 + 8HCO_3^{-}(aq) + 4H_2O$$
 (Equation 1.1)

RIS species can be found in different mineral phases. Iron monosulfides (e.g. mackinawite) can form through the reaction of  $H_2S$  with free Fe<sup>2+</sup> (Equation 1.2). Some intermediate species like greigite can be formed followed with the partial oxidation of mackinawite (Equation 1.3)

$$H_2S + Fe^{2+} \rightarrow FeS + 2H^+$$
 (Equation 1.2)

$$4FeS + \frac{1}{2}O_{2+}2H^+ \rightarrow Fe_3S_4 + Fe^{2+} + H_2O$$
 (Equation 1.3)

#### 1.2.2 Iron sulfide oxidation and impacts

Pyrite is regarded as the main source of potential acidity in ASS environments. The oxidation of pyrite ultimately results in products such as Fe-hydroxides, acidity and sulfate, and involves a series of complex reactions, with several Fe and S intermediates and a highly acidic soil (Equation 1.4) (Dent, 1986; Fanning and Burch, 2000).

$$FeS_2 + \frac{15}{4}O_2 + \frac{7}{2}H_2O \rightarrow Fe(OH)_3 + 2SO_4^{2-} + 4H^+$$
 (Equation 1.4)

Iron monosulfides may also be oxidized when exposed to oxygen. Oxidation of iron monosulfides can lead to the generation of S(0) and Fe-oxyhydroxides (eg.FeOOH) (Equation 1.5) (Karimian et al., 2018)

$$FeS_{(S)} + \frac{3}{4}O_2 + \frac{1}{2}H_2O \rightarrow \frac{1}{8}S(O)_{(S)} + FeOOH_{(S)}$$
 (Equation 1.5)

The problems of ASS primarily arise from the large amounts of sulfuric acid that are formed when sulfide minerals are exposed to the atmosphere (Ljung et al., 2009; White et al., 2007). The acid and heavy metals can leach from the soil and enter nearby waterways and groundwater (Mosley et al., 2014c; Sohlenius and Öborn, 2004; Virtasalo et al., 2020). The acidity in drainage waters can then lead to low crop production and poor plant growth (Burton et al., 2008a; Ling et al., 2015). The disturbance of ASS in coastal areas of New South Wales and Queensland has resulted in degradation of lowland environments and estuarine water quality (Rampant and Croatto, 2003).

#### 1.3 Distribution of acid sulfate soils

ASS have been estimated to occupy an area of over 17 Mha worldwide, including in South and Southeast Asia, West and Southern Africa, Australia, Latin America, boreal Europe, and Northern America (Andriesse and Mensvoort, 2006; Ljung et al., 2009). ASS are often found in tropical coastal areas, estuarine floodplains and mangrove marshes, providing waterlogged environments for pyrite formation (Beek et al., 1980; Dent, 1986; Rabenhorst and Fanning, 2006). These coastal lands can contain high population density with high economic significance and are also desirable for agricultural and urban development (Andriesse and Mensvoort, 2006; Dent and Pons, 1995). Inland ASS can be formed under conditions where clearing of native vegetation has caused the rising of watertables, discharge of saline groundwater, and in wetlands (Fitzpatrick and Paul, 2008). Inland ASS have also been observed in rivers, streams channels, lakes, wetlands and floodplains (Creeper et al., 2013; Lamontagne et al., 2006; Wong et al., 2016a). Fitzpatrick et al. (1996) observed that ASS can form under freshwater conditions in inland areas, especially in the high rainfall (>500 mm per annum) in Australia where large changes in hydrology have occurred.

In Australia, the high probability ASS areas are estimated to be 154,269 km<sup>2</sup> and the low probability ASS areas are estimated to be 65,771 km<sup>2</sup>. ASS covers an estimated 215,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which 58,000 km<sup>2</sup> is coastal ASS and 157,000 km<sup>2</sup> is inland ASS (Fitzpatrick et al., 2010). In Victoria, the area of ASS above the high water line was estimated to be about 55,000 ha (Rampant and Croatto, 2003).

In Finland, ASS represent 336,000 ha of agricultural land (Edén et al., 2012). The parent material of ASS was formed during the Litorina Sea Stage of the Baltic Sea, when the ocean water flowed into Baltic Basin. The ASS are located mainly on the coast of the Baltic Sea (Virtanen et al., 2017). The development of ASS is related to the melting of the ice and the gradual uplift of the earth's crust. The isostatic land uplift after glaciation and changes in water level of the sea promoted ASS forming processes (Mokma et al., 2000).

#### 1.4. Acid Sulfate Soils and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

#### 1.4.1 Greenhouse gas emissions

ASS usually contain large amounts of organic matter which can facilitate the emission of GHGs (Paasonen-Kivekäs and Yli-Halla, 2005; Šimek et al., 2011). The occurrence of large amounts of mineral nitrogen in acid sulfate soils can also lead to significant releases of nitrogen gases, including N<sub>2</sub>O when the soil conditions and the environmental conditions promote the release (Parkin et al., 1985).

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) are significant greenhouse gases (GHG) that contribute to global warming (IPCC, 2007). CO<sub>2</sub> in soils is mainly derived from the decomposition of soil organic matter or from root respiration under aerobic condition (Amundson and Davidson, 1990). Following the depletion of O<sub>2</sub>, the sequence of anerobic process follows: denitrification, Mn reduction, Fe(III) reduction, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> reduction and methanogenesis (Ponnamperuma, 1972). CH<sub>4</sub> in soils is generated by methanogenic microbes under anaerobic conditions (Dutaur and Verchot, 2007; Moore and Roulet, 1993).  $N_2O$  emissions are usually related to soil nitrification and denitrification (Firestone et al., 1980). Nitrification is the microbial transformation of ammonium ( $NH_4^+$ ) to nitrate ( $NO_3^-$ ) by ammonia oxidising bacteria under aerobic conditions, producing  $N_2O$  as a by-product (Kowalchuk and Stephen, 2001). Denitrification is the microbial transformation of nitrate ( $NO_3^-$ ) to  $N_2$  by denitrifying bacteria under anaerobic soil conditions, producing  $N_2O$  as an intermediate product (Davidson, 1992).

#### 1.4.2 Drivers of GHG

In general, GHG emissions in wetlands are mainly influenced by soil organic matter, plant community composition, soil pH, soil water content, and water table position (Oertel et al., 2016; Whalen, 2005).

#### 1.4.2.1 Soil organic carbon, total nitrogen, mineral nitrogen

GHG fluxes are positively correlated with soil organic carbon and total nitrogen (Chen et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2013; Tong et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2013). When additional organic carbon is input into soils, soil respiration increases and more CO<sub>2</sub> can be produced (Bruce et al., 1997; Gallardo and Schlesinger, 1994). Chen et al. (2010) demonstrated that CO<sub>2</sub> flux was positively correlated with soil organic carbon (SOC) in mangrove soils. The increased carbon availability is conducive to methanogenesis and prone to release CH<sub>4</sub> (Megonigal and Schlesinger, 1997; Ziska et al., 1998). The available organic carbon is also a significant factor in providing energy to support denitrification and affect N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (Amundson and Davidson, 1990). Previous studies showed that exogenous N had positive effects on microbial processes and the production of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (Lee et al., 1997; Munoz-Hincapie et al., 2002; Zhang et al., 2007). The early studies reported that N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were positively correlated with mineral N (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) as they can be metabolized by nitrifying and denitrifying microbes (Lindau and Delaune, 1991; Smith et al., 1983, Wrage et al., 2004).

#### 1.4.2.2 Plant community composition

The dynamics of GHG emissions in coastal wetlands can be controlled by plant type due to different carbon structures in the plant parts, net primary production and aboveground biomass production (Tong et al., 2013; Xu et al., 2014). Plants provide different qualities and quantities of carbon and nitrogen into soils, which can affect the decomposition rate of organic matter (Vann and Patrick Megonigal, 2003). The potential decomposability of organic matter and N availability can be determined by the C/N ratio (Brady and Weil, 2016). Previous studies have demonstrated that herbaceous vegetation inputs tend to have a lower C/N ratio compared to woody vegetation (Bai et al., 2005). Woody roots also have more lignin and suberin than roots from herbaceous species (Armstrong and Armstrong, 2001). Soil organic matter with lower C/N ratios can

be decomposed rapidly and accelerate GHG emissions (Davidson et al., 2000). Therefore woody plants decompose more slowly than herbaceous plants.

Wetland plants can influence the rates of denitrification and methanogenesis due to the ability to change the redox potential by creating aerobic micro-sites in the rhizosphere through aerenchyma mechanisms (Philippot et al., 2009). Vegetation type can potentially affect N<sub>2</sub>O production and transport in coastal ecosystems. Generally, plants can provide a source of root exudates and debris for nitrifiers and denitrifiers in the rhizosphere, accelerating N<sub>2</sub>O production, however, plants can also compete for N with microorganisms in coastal wetlands and therefore inhibiting N<sub>2</sub>O production (Yang et al., 2012).

Many studies have shown wetland plants possess aerenchyma mechanisms under inundated habitats, which can influence CH<sub>4</sub> production and emissions (Hirota et al., 2004; Inglett et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2013; Whalen, 2005). In coastal wetlands, Cheng et al. (2007) demonstrated that aerenchyma root systems can promote the CH<sub>4</sub> transport to the atmosphere under anaerobic conditions in *Phragmites australis*. The CH<sub>4</sub> released from wetlands through aerenchyma root tissues can account for 80-90% (Chanton et al., 2002). Thus, the plant root can affect GHG emissions in general.

#### 1.4.2.3 Soil pH

Soil pH is a key factor that regulates chemical, biological and physical processes in soil and hence, is a significant variable to mitigate GHG emissions. The previous studies have demonstrated that soil pH had significant effects on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Andersson and Nilsson, 2001). In general, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increase with rising pH values due to increased microbial activity (Hall et al., 1998; Reth et al., 2005). Management methods such as liming (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) can affect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as dissolution of the additional carbonate can release CO<sub>2</sub> (Grover et al., 2017).

The optimum pH of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions is near neutral (Dalal and Allen, 2008). Wang et al. (1993) found that the optimum pH of CH<sub>4</sub> production fell within the range of 6.6 to 7 and a small decreased in pH resulting from the introduction of acidic materials from neutral soils significantly decreased CH<sub>4</sub> production. The decreases in CH<sub>4</sub> production caused by low soil pH might be due to the effect of inhibiting activity of methanogens (Im et al., 2021). CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were enhanced by lime addition, which may be attributed to increased substrate supply for methanogenic microorganisms derived from decomposed organic matters (Murakami et al., 2005). SOC decomposition increased with lime application. Liming increased SOC solubility via either deprotonation or desorption reactions or enhanced microbial growth and (Garbuio et al., 2011; Grover et al., 2017).

Soil pH influences the denitrifiers and affects the end products of denitrification (Parkin et al., 1985; Samad et al., 2016a). During the process of denitrification, soil acidity inhibits the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub>, leading to N<sub>2</sub>O becoming the more dominant end product (Parkin et al., 1985). Acidic conditions support N<sub>2</sub>O production during denitrification by both autotrophic and heterotrophic nitrifiers (Martikainen and de Boer, 1993).

Lime addition can neutralize acidity and decreases mobility of trace metals in acidic soils due to the precipitation with increased pH (Green et al., 2007). Liming has also been widely used to decease N<sub>2</sub>O emissions as a tool to mitigate GHG emissions by increasing soil pH (Bakken et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2018; Zaman et al., 2007). In soils, denitrifiers reduce N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> by the enzyme N<sub>2</sub>O reductase (van Spanning et al., 2007). Liming can enhance the activity of N<sub>2</sub>O reductase and can reduce N<sub>2</sub>O emissions via enhancing the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O in the soil to N<sub>2</sub> (Baggs et al., 2010; Stevens and Laughlin, 1998). Zaman and Nguyen (2010) showed that liming increased N<sub>2</sub> emissions and lowered N<sub>2</sub>O/N<sub>2</sub> emissions ratio. However, acidic soils can stimulate N<sub>2</sub>O production during denitrification as the low soil pH inhibits N<sub>2</sub>O reductase to reduce the N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> (McMillan et al., 2016). Šimek and Cooper (2002) concluded from lab and field studies that when the soil pH decreased, the ratio of N<sub>2</sub>O/N<sub>2</sub> increased while the relation between soil pH and potential denitrification is uncertain.

However, liming can also increase N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in some cases (Bååth and Arnebrant, 1994; Baggs et al., 2010). Both nitrification and denitrification can be enhanced at higher soil pH and the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions might increase (Šimek and Cooper, 2002). Qu et al. (2014) demonstrated that N<sub>2</sub>O concentrations were much higher in the limed soils than in the non-limed soils because liming induced higher denitrification rates by promoting higher metabolic activity and enhancing the availability of soil organic matter. Similarly, Senbayram et al. (2019) observed that liming caused a significant increase in N<sub>2</sub>O emissions due to the coupled impact of stimulated nitrification and denitrification in acidic sandy soil. Additionally, the liming effect was also moderated by soil type, soil temperature and other amendments (McMillan et al., 2016). In addition, liming (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) is also a source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Abalos et al., 2020), and this needs to be considered when assessing the benefit of lime as a GHG mitigation strategy.

#### 1.4.2.4 Soil water content

Soil moisture content is an important factor affecting GHG production rates (Beringer et al., 2013). Early studies have demonstrated that the maximum respiration rate and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions usually occurs in soil at intermediate moisture contents (Davidson et al., 1998; Scott-Denton et al., 2003). Schaufler et al. (2010) observed that around 40% water filled pore space (WFPS) in grassland soils results in the highest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Nitrification is usually the dominant source of N<sub>2</sub>O production under aerated conditions at WFPS

below 50-60% (Bateman and Baggs, 2005; Davidson et al., 2000). Conversely, the largest N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are produced mainly by denitrification under more hypoxic or anaerobic conditions with an optimum often occurring near 60-70% WFPS (Davidson, 1993; Denmead et al., 2011; Dobbie and Smith, 2001; Gao et al., 2014).

#### 1.4.2.5 Water table position

Sea level fluctuations will change the frequency and magnitude of wet and dry conditions and therefore water table levels are a key factor affecting GHGs fluxes at the water–atmosphere interface in coastal wetlands (Liu et al., 2017; Tong et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2017). In coastal wetlands, lowering the water level enhances oxygen availability in near-surface layers and accelerates decomposition rates of organic matter and aerobic respiration, leading to increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Elberling et al., 2011; Hirota et al., 2007). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from soils are elevated under aerobic conditions due to higher heterotrophic activity and respiration (Moore and Roulet, 1993).

Water table fluctuations can have a significant impact on N dynamics in terrestrial environments. Permanent flooding limits the availability of oxygen in soil and therefore reduces nitrification and lowers N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. At very high soil water contents, N<sub>2</sub>O is reduced to N<sub>2</sub> (Ruser et al., 2006). In contrast, oxic conditions and wet-dry cycles permit oxygen penetration into the soil during dry periods, thus enhancing N<sub>2</sub>O emission by nitrification (Guo et al., 2014; Jiao et al., 2006). Rabot et al. (2016) found that N<sub>2</sub>O produced and entrapped in the soil during the wet period can be released during dry periods in soil.

The position of the water table is a significant controlling factor on  $CH_4$  emissions as high-water tables can cause oxygen depletion and therefore low redox potentials. With the decrease in redox potential, alternate electron acceptors are utilized in a sequence from  $NO_3^-$ , metal oxides and  $SO_4^{2-}$  to the reduction of  $CO_2$  to  $CH_4$  under highly reducing conditions by methanogens (Kettunen et al., 1999; Mitsch et al., 2010).

#### 1.5 Mitigation options to reduce environmental problems caused by ASS

Previous studies have demonstrated that remediation of ASS can include tidal-sea water inundation and freshwater inundation (Burton et al., 2011; Johnston et al., 2009a). These inundation options can promote Fe<sup>3+</sup> and SO4<sup>2-</sup> reduction and lead to the reformation of reduced inorganic sulfide (RIS), like FeS<sub>2</sub>, FeS and Fe<sup>2+</sup> species in soils and decrease the acidity (Hicks et al., 2003; Keene et al., 2011; Powell and Martens, 2005). Remediation of ASS by tidal seawater inundation is effective and widely used in Australia (Burton et al., 2008a; Keene et al., 2011). The water table in coastal environments is predictable as it is affected by tides. The positive outcome from tidal inundation is that re-oxidising of RIS is less frequent due to the stable

seasonal hydrology of high water tables (Johnston et al., 2014). Conversely, remediation of ASS by freshwater inundation mainly relies on rainfall and runoff from rivers or streams. Consequently, wetland water tables in these environments have large seasonal fluctuations and large redox oscillations (Johnston et al., 2014). Therefore, where seawater is not available, surface soils have a high risk of exposure to the atmosphere during dry periods with freshwater flooding in natural environment. Exposure to the atmosphere can then lead to oxidation of RIS, acidification and increased mobile trace metals (Burton et al., 2009; Karimian et al., 2017). Also, the depletion of  $SO4^{2-}$  relative to  $Fe^{3+}$  may constrain RIS reformation upon reflooding and lead to high concentrations of  $Fe^{2+}$  in freshwater wetlands (White et al., 1997).

#### **1.6 Research Objectives**

The primary aim of this thesis is to determine the greenhouse gas emissions in acid sulfate soils from coastal wetlands due to sea level rise in Australia and from agricultural land due to the post-glacial rebound by isostatic uplift in Finland. This research will provide improved understanding of the changes in biogeochemical cycling and greenhouse gas emissions in coastal wetlands and agricultural land. The results will assist land managers in remediating ASS using lime treatments and inundation strategies. At the same time, GHGs should be considered when lime and inundation mitigation methods are applied in coastal wetlands and agricultural lands.

The specific objectives were to:

- i. Identify the effects of inundation on GHGs under controlled conditions in coastal acid sulfate soils (CASS) with sea level rise with different vegetation types in southern Australia.
- ii. Identify the effect of inundation on soil chemistry in CASS with different vegetation types in southern Australia.
- iii. Determine the effect of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) addition on GHGs (N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>) and the product ratio of denitrification N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in ASS and non-ASS under aerobic and anaerobic conditions in boreal agricultural land and coastal wetland.
- iv. Identify the effects of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and inundation on GHGs and potential acidity in a coastal wetland soil in southern Australia.

#### 1.7 Thesis outline

This thesis contains 6 chapters. It includes experimental Chapters 2 through to 5, which all include individual background, methods, results, discussion and result sections. Chapter 1 outlines the existing knowledge regarding ASS, GHGs and mitigation options to reduce environmental problems caused by ASS.

Chapter 2 identifies the effect of different inundation scenarios (dry, flooded, wet-dry cycle treatments) on greenhouse gas generation potential and identified that SOC, TN, mineral N, Eh, soil water content together affects GHG emissions in coastal wetlands in southern Australia. Chapter 3 demonstrates that brackish water inundation can provide a mechanism to prevent further oxidation of RIS and can be an effective tool to reduce net acidity by forming or reforming pyrite in temperate ASS environments. Chapter 4 compares different levels of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) treatments on GHGs (N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>) in ASS and non-ASS in boreal agricultural land and demonstrates that soil pH can change denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O +N<sub>2</sub>) and the product ratio of denitrification N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in ASS and non-ASS in Finland. Chapter 5 identifies the effects of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) treatment and brackish water inundation on GHGs, net acidity and trace metals in CASS in southern Australia. Chapter 6 includes a summary of all the results, followed by general discussion and possible future research directions based on the current results.

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# Chapter 2. Effect of inundation on greenhouse gas emissions from coastal wetland soils with different vegetation types

This thesis chapter is based on the final manuscript published in the peer-reviewed Science of the Total Environment.

Science of the Total Environment 763 (2021) 142949



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

### Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv



# Effect of inundation on greenhouse gas emissions from temperate coastal wetland soils with different vegetation types in southern Australia



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#### HIGHLIGHTS

#### GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

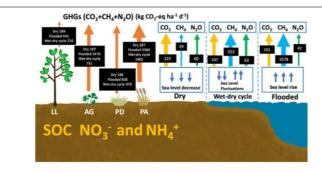
- Coastal wetlands usually contain large amounts of organic matter which can be potential sources of greenhouse gas emissions
- We subjected soil cores to three inundation treatments; dry, flooded and wetdry cycles from four vegetation types
- Positive correlations were found between soil organic carbon and CO<sub>2</sub> flux, and SOC and CH<sub>4</sub> flux.
- NO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>3</sub> concentrations were positively correlated with N<sub>2</sub>O emissions when subjected to wet-dry cycles.
- Inundation decreased cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, but increased CH<sub>4</sub> emissions.

#### ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 7 August 2020 Received in revised form 30 September 2020 Accepted 8 October 2020 Available online 15 October 2020

Editor: Jan Vymazal

Keywords: Coastal wetland Soil organic carbon Inundation Redox potential Greenhouse gases Woody vegetation Herbaceous vegetation



#### ABSTRACT

Predicted sea level fluctuations and sea level rise with climate change will lead to inundation of coastal and estuarine soils. Coastal wetlands usually contain large amounts of organic matter, which can be potential sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs; CO2, CH4, N2O) during decomposition, but there are limited studies on the effects of sea level variation on GHGs in coastal wetlands. We measured the effect of brackish water inundation and wetting and drying cycles on GHG emissions from coastal wetland soil cores that supported four different vegetation types: Apium gravedens (AG), Leptospermum lanigerum (LL), Phragmites australis (PA) and Paspalum distichum (PD) from the estuarine floodplain of the Aire River in south-western Victoria, Australia. Intact soil cores were incubated under either dry, flooded, or a 14 day wet-dry cycle treatments for a total of 56 days at a constant temperature of 23 °C. CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O fluxes were investigated in closed chambers and measured with gas chromatography. In the dry treatment, a positive correlation was found between soil organic carbon (SOC) and CO2 flux, and between SOC and CH4 flux. Higher SOC is indicative of higher amounts of soil organic matter (SOM) which acts as a source of substrate for microbes to produce CO2 or CH4 emissions under aerobic or anaerobic conditions. The  $NO_2^-$  and  $NO_3^-$  concentrations were positively correlated with  $N_2O$  emissions in the wet-dry cycle treatment. NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> provide a supply of substrate for denitrification. The flooded treatment decreased cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 34%, 25% and 14% at the LL, PA, PD sites, respectively, and decreased cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by 42%, 39% and 43% at the AG, LL and PA sites, compared to the dry treatment. The wet-dry cycle treatment and dry treatment decreased cumulative CH4 emissions for all vegetation types compared to the flooded treatment. The redox potential (Eh) was negatively correlated with CH4 flux and positively

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.142949 0048-9697/© 2020 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. correlated  $N_2O$  flux at all sites. This study highlights the significance of sea level fluctuations when estimating GHG flux from coastal and estuarine floodplains which are highly vulnerable to inundation, and the role of SOC and mineral N as important drivers affecting GHG flux.

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#### 1. Introduction

Globally, coastal wetlands occupy an estimated area of 66 Mha, which accounts for 10% of total wetland area (Lehner and Döll, 2004). Coastal wetlands can store organic carbon for long periods due to the slow decomposition rates which occur in anaerobic conditions as wetlands are permanently or temporarily flooded (Bouillon et al., 2008; Marín-Muñiz et al., 2015; Mitsch et al., 2013). Coastal wetlands occur in a zone between terrestrial and aquatic coastal ecosystems which represents a highly dynamic interface of mineral formation and sediment transport (Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012; Yang et al., 2017). The water table of coastal floodplains can be lowered by natural processes, including marine regression, isostatic uplift or drought caused by climate change (Boman et al., 2010; Mosley and Fleming, 2009), or may be the result of anthropogenic interventions such as extensive constructed drainage networks to facilitate the expansion of agricultural land and to remove surface water after flooding (Astrom and Spiro, 2000; Dent and Pons, 1995; Johnston et al., 2009; Mathew et al., 2001; Matthew and Megonigal, 2013). Lowered groundwater levels can increase decomposition of stored organic matter. At the same time, due to the low elevation and proximity to the ocean, coastal floodplains are more susceptible to inundation by seawater intrusion and sea level rise (Johnston et al., 2005; Webb et al., 2016; Wong et al., 2015) which alters carbon and nitrogen cycling and produces greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) are the main GHGs in these environments (IPCC, 2006).

Vegetation type and species composition in wetlands influences GHG emissions by controlling net primary production, organic matter input and organic matter quality (Marín-Muñiz et al., 2015; Van der Nat and Middelburg, 2000). Plants provide different quantities of C and N input into soils (Leifeld, 2018) which affects the rate at which organic matter is decomposed, and potentially, the GHGs that are produced during decomposition. The C/N ratio in soils is used to determine the potential decomposability of organic matter and the rate at which N is available to microorganisms. Soils which support herbaceous vegetation tend to have a lower C/N ratio compared to soil which supports woody vegetation as woody plants limit the supply of labile carbon for exudates and subsequent deposition belowground (Bai et al., 2005). Furthermore, these plants also have a lower N content. Organic matter with low C/N ratio generally decomposes rapidly and enhances GHG emissions as the decomposition of organic matter can be limited if there is insufficient N to support microbial growth and activity. Soil organic matter with lower C/N ratios can also indicate higher potential for nitrogen mineralization which can enhance N2O emissions (Davidson et al., 2000; Trinsoutrot et al., 2000). N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are generally negatively correlated with the C/N ratio, with lower N2O emissions when the C/N ratio is above 30 (Pilegaard et al., 2006). At higher C/N ratios, especially when the C/N ratio exceeds 25, soil microbes will deplete the mineral nitrogen  $(NO_3^- \text{ and } NH_4^+)$  and subsequently lower N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (Gentile et al., 2008; Muhammad et al., 2011).

Because coastal wetlands are affected by tidal fluctuations, these wetlands experience both anaerobic and aerobic conditions, which can provide an ideal environment for higher decomposition rates of organic matter and associated production of GHGs (Altor and Mitsch, 2008; Hirota et al., 2007; Mitsch, 2015). A number of studies have quantified GHG emissions in different coastal ecosystems, typically in (1) estuarine saltmarshes (Bartlett et al., 1987; Maher et al., 2015; Poffenbarger et al., 2011; Tong et al., 2013), (2) mangrove swamps (Chen et al., 2010; Ganguly et al., 2008; Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012),

(3) coastal lagoons (Chuang et al., 2017; Gupta et al., 2008; Mendoza Mojica et al., 2013) and (4) tidal freshwater marshes (Megonigal and Schlesinger, 2002; Van der Nat and Middelburg, 2000; Weston et al., 2011).

GHG emissions are largely controlled by water level fluctuations, tidal water height and soil temperature in these environments (Hirota et al., 2007; Sun et al., 2014; Tong et al., 2013). Aboveground biomass and composition of plants are also important controlling factors (Hirota et al., 2007; Tong et al., 2013) as these can influence below-ground processes. Chen et al. (2012) found that higher SOC and mineral N contributed to higher GHG emissions in mangroves, while Gribsholt et al. (2005) concluded that a large marsh surface was crucial for N transformation and nitrifiers produced N<sub>2</sub>O under low O<sub>2</sub> concentrations and high NH<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> availability.

Coastal wetlands have high temporal and spatial variations in GHG emissions that can be directly related to the water table depth (Chen et al., 2012; Olsson et al., 2015). The intermittent tidal (wet-dry) cycles induces alternating aerobic and anaerobic conditions and subsequent variations in redox potential (Eh) (Sun et al., 2014; Webb et al., 2016; Yang et al., 2017), affecting mineralization of soil organic matter (SOM) (Groffman and Tiedje, 1988; Harrison-Kirk et al., 2013; Rabot et al., 2016). Wet-dry cycles also occur over longer time periods due to seasonal changes from precipitation, storm surge events and seasonal flooding (Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012). Under aerobic conditions when watertables are lower, decomposition of SOM is rapid. Higher water tables due to flooding or sea level rise causes O2 to decrease and aerobic oxidation of organic matter is also decreased as anerobic respiration occurs. The redox reactions occur in descending order of standard reduction potential (E<sup>0</sup>) due to decreasing energy yields (Ponnamperuma, 1972). When O<sub>2</sub> is depleted, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> reduces N<sub>2</sub> when the Eh decreases below +250 mV (Sparks, 2003). With the decrease in Eh under flooded conditions, alternate electron acceptors are utilized in a sequence from  $NO_3^-$  to  $N_2$  or  $N_2O$ ,  $Mn^{4+}$  to  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$  to  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$  to  $H_2S$  and  $CO_2$  to  $CH_4$  (Kettunen et al., 1999; Mitsch et al., 2010). In submerged soils, the decomposition of the organic matter is dependent on facultative and obligate anaerobic microbes which operate at a much lower energy than aerobic microbes. Therefore organic matter decomposition rate is much lower in flooded soils (Degens, 1965)

Soil CO<sub>2</sub> exchange is a combination of decomposition of soil organic matter and plant root (autotrophic) respiration (Amundson and Davidson, 1990). When additional organic carbon is input into soils, soil respiration increases and more CO<sub>2</sub> can be produced (Bruce et al., 1997; Gallardo and Schlesinger, 1994). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from soils are higher under aerobic conditions compared to anaerobic conditions due to higher heterotrophic activity and respiration (Moore and Roulet, 1993; Scanlon and Moore, 2000) and higher decomposition of organic matter rates (Chen et al., 2012; Hirota et al., 2007). Aerobic conditions during wet-dry cycles can further increase the activity and respiration of microbes and the decomposition rate of organic matter in soils (Denef et al., 2001; Liu et al., 2013). Higher CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes can occur after rewetting (Ruser et al., 2006). Reduced microbial decomposition occurs during dry periods and a flush of microbial activity occurs during the wet periods of wet-dry cycles (Lundquist et al., 1999).

 $N_2O$  is produced in soils by two main biological processes: nitrification and denitrification (Davidson et al., 2000; Wrage et al., 2001). In soils and sediments,  $N_2O$  is produced as a by-product of nitrification during the microbial transformation of  $NH_4^+$  to  $NO_3^-$  by ammonia oxidising bacteria under aerobic conditions (Kowalchuk and Stephen, 2001). However, during denitrification, N<sub>2</sub>O is produced as an intermediate product in the microbial transformation of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>---</sup> to N<sub>2</sub> by denitrifying bacteria under anaerobic soil conditions (Knowles, 1982). In coastal wetlands, the inputs of N are derived from N-fixation, fertilizer, groundwater, tidal inputs and atmospheric deposition (Moseman-Valtierra et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2013). The mineralization of organic N rate varies between coastal wetlands depending on organic matter quantity and lability. Previous studies showed that mineral N (NH<sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) promoted N<sub>2</sub>O emissions since it can be metabolised by both nitrifiers and denitrifiers in soils (Moseman-Valtierra et al., 2011; Seitzinger and Kroeze, 1998; Wrage et al., 2004). The dominance of nitrification or denitrification as the principle source of N<sub>2</sub>O depends on whether the soils are aerobic or anerobic and availability of mineral N (Davidson, 1992).

Under aerobic conditions, N<sub>2</sub>O production is mainly due to nitrification with high NH<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> concentration and O<sub>2</sub> availability (Lindau and Delaune, 1991; Smith et al., 1983). For example, Gribsholt et al. (2005) found that 31% of added NH<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> was transformed to N<sub>2</sub>O in the presence of O<sub>2</sub> in a tidal freshwater marsh. In coastal wetlands, denitrification depends on O<sub>2</sub> availability, the source of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, and organic carbon. The NO<sub>3</sub> supply for denitrification is derived from tidal water, groundwater, and precipitation or directly from nitrification.

Under flooded conditions, N<sub>2</sub>O might further be reduced to N<sub>2</sub> by denitrifying bacteria so that N<sub>2</sub> is the dominant end product of denitrification rather than N<sub>2</sub>O (Rusch and Rennenberg, 1998; Ruser et al., 2006). Denitrification in saturated conditions usually produces <10% N<sub>2</sub>O as the end product (Smith et al., 1983). However, coastal wetlands can become sources of N<sub>2</sub>O where NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations are high (Moseman-Valtierra et al., 2011). For example, Allen et al. (2007) summarized that denitrification is the main contributor to N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in subtropical mangrove sediment with high NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> which was derived from groundwater where the Eh was negative. However, in some studies (Firestone and Tiedje, 1979; Smith and Parsons, 1985).

CH<sub>4</sub> in wetland soils is generated by methanogenesis during decomposition of organic matter under anaerobic conditions (Dutaur and Verchot, 2007; Moore and Roulet, 1993). Vegetation can promote methanogenesis directly through root exudation and indirectly by enhancing C input. In coastal wetlands, aerenchyma root systems facilitate CH<sub>4</sub> transport from soil to the atmosphere during anaerobic conditions. (Chanton et al., 2002; Cheng et al., 2007).

While previous studies (Van der Nat and Middelburg, 2000; Webb et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2013) have measured one or two GHGs in wetland ecosystems and focused on the short-term tidal fluctuation effects on GHGs emissions, there is a knowledge gap in terms of the effect of fluctuating water tables on GHG emissions (CH4, CO2 and N2O) over longer periods of time in coastal wetlands, which can occur with sea level rise and storm surge events. To improve our understanding of GHG production in coastal wetlands, we studied the CH4, CO2 and N2O fluxes and their relationship with inundation treatments under controlled conditions. In our study, we selected four different vegetation types representing typical plants in coastal wetlands which are commonly found in wetland areas in southern Australia. The following hypotheses were identified (1) Different vegetation provides different qualities and quantities of SOC and N input to the soil to affect GHG flux; (2) Wet-dry cycle treatment will affect SOC and N transformation and enhance GHG flux compared to permanently flooded treatment.

#### 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1. Site description and sampling

Samples were collected from the Aire River floodplain, located in the Otway Ranges to the west of Apollo Bay in south-western Victoria (38°47′43.1″ S,143°28′37″ E), Australia (Fig. 1). The Aire River is one of the largest rivers in south-western Victoria and enters the sea via a

large estuarine lake complex west of Cape Otway. The total catchment of Aire River Valley is 35,310 ha with a river length of 44 km and estuary length of 7.1 km according to the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) (CCMA, 2015). The Aire River Valley is a floodplain of the Calder, Aire and Ford river systems and these rivers combine close to the Aire River East Campground before flowing to the sea at the Aire River Mouth. The Aire River estuary mouth is intermittently closed to the sea (CCMA, 2014) and as a result, the depth of Aire River estuary can change significantly from its upper reaches to where it connects to the sea. The Aire River floodplain hosts significant Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), including brackish herbland, coastal dune scrub, coastal dune grassland in the lower estuary and estuarine wetland, and swamp scrub, tall marsh, swampy riparian woodland in the upper estuary (CCMA, 2015). Sites were located in four different vegetation types, including Apium gravedens (AG), Leptospermum lanigerum (LL), Phragmites australis (PA), and Paspalum distichum (PD). Apium gravedens (AG) is a herbaceous species, Leptospermum lanigerum (IL) is a woody species of tea tree, Phragmites australis (PA) is a common reed, and Paspalum distichum (PD) is a fast-growing grass. The PA (38°47'43.1" S, 143°28' 37.1" E; -18 m Australian height datum (AHD) where 0 m AHD is approximately at sea level) and LL (38°47'42.1" S, 143°28'33.5" E;+9 m AHD) sites were located in a wildlife reserve and AG (38°46'14.11" S, 143°27′ 37.3″ E; +8 m AHD) and PD (38°46′01.6″ S, 143°28′09.9″ E; +3 m AHD) sites were located in grazed areas which were drained. The climate at Aire River is a cool maritime climate, the region has an average annual rainfall of 894.8 mm, ranging from 41.6 mm (February) to 106.4 mm (July). The mean annual temperature is 17.3 °C varying from 13 °C (July) to 21.5 °C (January) (Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), 2019).

A total of 48 intact soil cores were collected from the top 20 cm of soil by pushing down a PVC tube (h = 40 cm, d = 10 cm) sharpened at the bottom. All the plant material was removed from the soil surface by scalping prior to core collection. The cores were excavated and capped at the bottom, sealed with parafilm and plastic wrap for transport. The cores were kept cool at 4 °C until analysis. Additional bulk soil from 0–5 cm, 5–10 cm, 10–20 cm soil layer from each site was sampled for characterisation, with one subsample placed in to a freezer at -80 °C, and one sub sample air-dried and sieved at 2 mm until further analysis (Rayment and Lyons, 2011). According to the Australian Soil Classification (Isbell, 2016), the soil profiles were classified as a Hydrosol at the PA site, a Dermosol at the AG and PD sites, and a Tenosol at the PA, AG and PD, and LL sites.

#### 2.2. Incubation experiment

Soils were incubated in PVC tubes (d = 10 cm, h = 40 cm) under dry conditions, flooded conditions, and alternate wet-dry cycles of 14-d each for a total of 56 days. The dry treatment did not have water added and soil moisture content decreased during the incubation period. In the flooded treatment, the soils were flooded with Aire River water (Table 1) which was maintained at 5 cm above the soil surface and the volume of the overlying Aire River water was 392.5 cm<sup>3</sup> for the duration of the experiment. In the wet-dry cycle treatment, soils were initially flooded with 5 cm of overlying Aire River water in the first 7 days and drained for the following 7 days during 1 cycle. The alternating wet-dry cycles were chosen to simulate episodic events such as storm surges in coastal wetlands and repeated four times. All cores were incubated at a constant room temperature of 23 °C. There were four replicates for each treatment.

GHG (CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions of each soil core were collected at Day 1, 3, 6, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31, 35, 38, 42, 45, 49, 52 and 56. We sampled the gas emissions at 0 and 10 min in duplicate after closing the chamber. Gas emissions were collected using a 25-ml gas-tight syringe (SGE,25MDR-LL-GT) within 10 s and transferred into preevacuated 12-ml Exetainer® vials with silicon septa (Labco, UK). The

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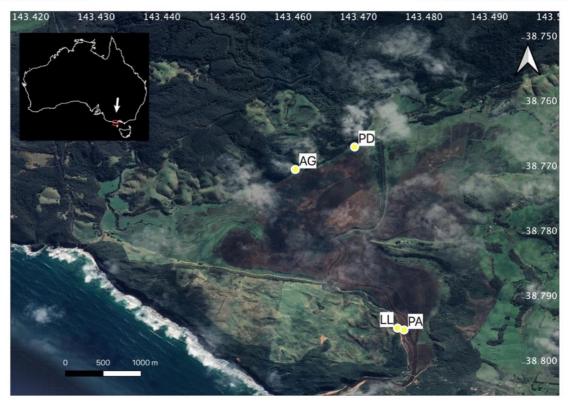


Fig. 1. Locations of sample sites AG (Apium gravedens), LL (Leptospermum lanigerum), PA (Phragmites australis), PD (Paspalum distichum) within the Aire River Wildlife Reserve.

<b>Fable 1</b> Soluble cation and a	nion concer	ntrations in	Aire River	water (surfa	ce water).	
Site	Ca <sup>2+</sup> (mg/L)	Mg <sup>2+</sup> (mg/L)	Na <sup>+</sup> (mg/L)	Cl <sup>-</sup> (mg/L)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup></sup> (mg/L)	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> (mg/L)
Aire River water	55.33	141.65	1227.45	1993.39	0.4	106.51

GHG concentrations were measured using an Agilent 7890 gas chromatograph (GC). The flux rates,  $F_{CH4},F_{CO2},F_{N2O}$ , were calculated using Eqs. (1) and (2). All CH4, CO2, N2O flux rates were corrected for air temperature during the measurement and presented as  $[\mu g \ m^{-2} \ h^{-1}]$ 

$$F_{CH4 \text{ or } CO2 \text{ or } N20} = \frac{b \times V_{CH} \times MW \times 60 \times 10^6}{A_{CH} \times MV_{corr} \times 10^9}$$
(1)

where  $A_{CH}$  is the basal area of the measuring chamber  $[m^2]$ ; b is increase in concentration [ppb/min];  $MW_{CH4-C}$  is the molecular weight of  $CH_{4-C}$ [12 g/mol];  $MW_{CO2-C}$  is the molecular weight of  $CO_2-C[12 g/mol]$ ;  $MW_{N2O-N}$  is the molecular weight of N<sub>2</sub>O-N [28 g/mol];  $MV_{corr}$  is the temperature-corrected molecular volume  $[m^3/mol]$ ;  $V_{CH}$  is the volume of the measuring chamber  $[m^3]$ .

$$MV_{corr} = 0.02241 \times \left(\frac{273.15 + T}{273.15}\right) \tag{2}$$

where  $MV_{corr}$  is as defined above; *T* is air temperature during the measurement [°C]; 0.02241 m<sup>3</sup> is the molar volume of an ideal gas at 1 atm, 273.15.

The cumulative CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (g m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) were calculated by the flux rate value (mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) of all sampling data during the incubation periods (56 days).

In the end, GHGs were converted to  $CO_2$ -equivalents ( $CO_2$ -eq) based on global warming potential of 25 for CH<sub>4</sub> and 298 for N<sub>2</sub>O to compare the greenhouse gas impacts between the different inundation treatments.

#### 2.3. Soil characterisation

Frozen soil samples were thawed under N2 before analysis. Soils were oven-dried at 85 °C and lightly crushed and sieved to 2 mm. Soil pH, electrical conductivity (EC) were measured in 1:5 soil:water extracts (Rayment and Lyons, 2011). Soil pH and EC were measured using a Conductivity-TDS-Salinity pH-ORP-Temperature meter. Soluble cations (Ca, Cu, Fe, K, Na, Mg, Mn, Zn, Si, Al and Pb) in 1:5 soil:water extracts were measured by inductively coupled plasma - optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) (iCAP,7000 series). Dissolved nutrients (NO3, NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) were analysed on a Lachat QC 8500 Flow Injection Analyser (FIA). The starting soil moisture content and bulk density were determined by weight after drying at 105 °C for 24 h. Soil organic carbon (SOC) and total nitrogen (TN) content were measured on dried (85 °C) soil samples by high temperature combustion using a Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II CHNS/O Analyzer. Soil particle size distribution was analysed by Beckham Coulter 13320 laser diffraction analysis after pretreatment with 10%  $\rm H_2O_2$  to remove organic matter. The Eh and soil water content in the treated cores were measured by platinum electrodes and HS2 Hydrosense II system (model CS 659), respectively, when the GHG samples were taken during the incubation period.

#### 2.4. Statistical analysis

The means of emission flux of the four vegetation sites and three inundation treatments were obtained from the four replicates for each treatment. The area under the curve was applied to calculate the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (g m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>). One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) in combination with a post-hoc Tukey test was conducted to detect significant changes (p < 0.05) in cumulative emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) and main soil characteristics between dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments and between different vegetation types. All the analyses were performed using Prism 8 and R studio.

#### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Soil organic carbon, total nitrogen, mineral nitrogen

SOC was significantly different between all the vegetation types (p < 0.05). The SOC concentration decreased with depth from a mean ( $\pm$ s.e.m.) of 6.02  $\pm$  0.12% in the 0–5 cm layer to 4.24  $\pm$  0.01% in the 10–20 cm layer in the AG site, and from 5.48  $\pm$  0.4% in the 0–5 cm layer to 4.44  $\pm$  0.27% in the 10–20 cm layer in the LL site, and from 20.42  $\pm$  0.33% in the 0–5 cm layer to 16.87  $\pm$  1.07 in the 10–20 cm layer in the 7.38  $\pm$  0.08% in the 10–20 cm layer in the PA site had highest SOC concentration compared with the other three vegetation types, followed by the PD, AG and LL sites (Table 2).

The TN concentration differed significantly between the AG, LL and PA sites (p < 0.05) and between the LL, PA and PD sites (p < 0.05). The TN concentration decreased with depth from a mean ( $\pm$ s.e.m.) of 0.72  $\pm$  0.01% in the 0–5 cm layer to 0.54  $\pm$  0.01% in the 10–20 cm layer in the AG site, and from 0.47  $\pm$  0.04% in the 0–5 cm layer to 0.43  $\pm$  0.025% in the 10–20 cm layer in the LL site, and from 1.77  $\pm$  0.05% in the 0–5 cm layer to 1.51  $\pm$  0.08% in the 10–20 cm layer in the PA site, and from 0.88  $\pm$  0.14% in the 0–5 cm layer to 0.57  $\pm$  0.01% in the 10–20 cm layer in the PA site, and from 0.88  $\pm$  0.14% in the 0–5 cm layer to 0.57  $\pm$  0.01% in the 10–20 cm layer in the PA site, and from 0.88  $\pm$  0.14% in the 0–5 cm layer to 0.57  $\pm$  0.01% in the 10–20 cm layer in all sites. The PA site had the highest TN concentration and NH<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> concentration compared with the other three sites (Table 2).

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The C/N ratios of the AG and PD sites were lower than those in the PA and IL sites. The C/N ratio ranged from 7.66  $\pm$  0.28 in the 5–10 cm layer to 8.36  $\pm$  0.17 in the 0–5 cm layer in the AG site, and from 8.79  $\pm$  0.75 in the 0–5 cm layer to 9.44  $\pm$  0.03 in the 10–20 cm layer in the PD site (Table 2).

The NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations were significantly different between the LL site and the AG, PA, PD sites (p < 0.05). The NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations were also significantly different between the PA site and the AG, LL, PD sites (p < 0.05) (Table 2). Fig. 2 shows the NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration at the end of inundation treatments. In the dry treatment, the NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations significantly increased in all sites compared to the initial soils. The average NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations in the soil profile were 30.12 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the AG site (Fig. 2a), 3.21 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the LL site (Fig. 2d), 20.95 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the PA site (Fig. 2g) and 5.98 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the PD site (Fig. 2j) in the dry treatment. The PA site had the highest NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration in the 0–5 cm layer (47.10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) and decreased with depth to the 10–20 cm layer (0.70 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) (Fig. 2g). In the flooded treatment, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations decreased compared to initial soils in all sites (Fig. 2).

A significant decrease in NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration was observed under the flooded treatment in the AG, LL, PD sites compared to the initial soils (Fig. 2a, d, g, j). The NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration decreased from 0.51  $\pm$  0.29 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> to 0.33  $\pm$  0.1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the AG site (Fig. 2a), from 1.69  $\pm$  0.75 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> to 0.07  $\pm$  0.05 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the LL site (Fig. 2d), and from 0.2  $\pm$  0.12 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> to 0.12  $\pm$  0.1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the PD site (Fig. 2j). The NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations significantly increased in all sites in the flooded treatment, followed by the wet-dry cycle treatment and the dry treatment. The average NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration in the soil profile was 80.43 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the AG site (Fig. 2c), 13.41 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the LL site (Fig. 2f), 159.33 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the Flooded treatment.

The PA and LL sites had a sandier texture compared with the AG and PD sites. The soil texture in the PA site was a silty fine sand and at the LL site was a silty medium sand. The soil textures in the AG and PD sites were both fine silt. All the sites were slightly acidic to acidic. In all sites, the 0–5 cm soil horizon had the highest EC. The PA site had the highest EC and soil water content through the soil profile compared with the other three vegetation types. Bulk density increased with soil depth in all sites. The soil water content decreased with depth in all sites (Table 2).

Table 2

Sites	Depth (cm)	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)	pН	EC (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Bulk density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Soil water content (%)	SOC (%)	Total N (%)	C/N	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	$NO_2^-$ (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	NH4 (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )
AG	0-5	0	73	27.1	5.8	0.18	$0.75\pm0.02$	$29.81 \pm 2.28$	6.02	0.72	8.36	0.51	0.17	$4.1\pm0.6$
					$\pm 0.02$	$\pm 0.001$			$\pm 0.12$	$\pm 0.01$	$\pm 0.17$	$\pm 0.29$	$\pm 0.12$	
	5-10	0	81	19.4	5.4 ± 0.02	$0.14 \pm 0.006$	$0.88 \pm 0.01$	$26.23 \pm 1.08$	5.285 ± 0.12	$0.69 \pm 0.01$	7.66 ± 0.28	$1.58 \pm 0.21$	$0.02 \pm 0.001$	$2.7\pm0.1$
	10-20	0	75	25.2	5.23 ± 0.05	$0.13 \\ \pm 0.01$	$0.87\pm0.04$	$24.02~\pm~0.14$	4.24 ± 0.01	$0.54 \pm 0.01$	7.85 ± 0.13	1.20 ± 0.43	$0.46 \pm 0.45$	$1.9\pm0.1$
LL	0–5	84.8	12	3.3	$6.63 \pm 0.09$	0.52 ± 0.02	$0.95\pm0.01$	$25.30\pm4.03$	$5.48 \pm 0.4$	0.47 ± 0.04	$11.79 \pm 0.03$	$1.69 \pm 0.75$	$1.36 \pm 0.3$	5.15 $\pm 0.35$
	5-10	79.6	15	5.5	$ \frac{1}{2} $ $ 1$		$0.97\pm0.03$	$16.23\pm0.35$	$\pm 0.4$ 5.50 $\pm 0.42$	$ \frac{1}{2} $ 0.53 $ \pm $ 0.04	$\pm 0.03$ 10.37 $\pm 0.001$	$   \pm 0.75 $ $   \pm 0.44 $		$\pm 0.33$ 1.7 $\pm 0.4$
	10-20	68.9	23	8.6	$ \frac{1}{6.33} $ $ \pm 0.01 $		$1.02\pm0.02$	$18.36\pm1.37$	$\pm 0.42$ 4.44 $\pm 0.27$		$10.45 \pm 0.02$	$1.06 \pm 0.28$	$ \frac{1}{2} $ $ 1$	$2.2\pm0.3$
PA	0–5	58.6	37	4.2	$5.39 \pm 0.01$	$2.18 \pm 0.05$	$0.3\ 3\ \pm\ 0.01$	83.34 ± 1.3	$20.42 \pm 0.33$	$1.77 \pm 0.05$	$11.54 \pm 0.14$	<0.005	$0.05 \pm 0.019$	$28\pm2.2$
	5-10	62.9	33	<b>4</b> .1	$4.95 \pm 0.09$	$1.91 \pm 0.1$	$0.37\pm0.02$	$80.25 \pm 1.65$	$22.82 \pm 0.34$	$1.91 \pm 0.03$	$11.98 \pm 0.34$	< 0.005	$0.03 \pm 0.003$	25.2 ± 0.2.9
	10-20	34.2	57	9.2	$5.32 \pm 0.02$	$2.14 \pm 0.06$	$0.38\pm0.01$	$70.64\pm0.96$	$16.87 \pm 1.07$	$1.51 \pm 0.08$	$11.2 \pm 0.15$	< 0.005	$0.01 \\ \pm 0.001$	$19.4 \pm 0.3$
PD	0-5	0	83	17.5	$5.24 \pm 0.005$	0.34 + 0.003	$0.78\pm0.02$	$34.32\pm0.93$	$7.60 \pm 0.54$	$0.88 \pm 0.14$	8.79 ± 0.75	$0.2 \pm 0.012$	$0.08 \pm 0.006$	2.45 ± 0.25
	5-10	0	78	22.5	$5.19 \pm 0.01$	$0.23 \pm 0.001$	$0.87\pm0.02$	$28.29\pm0.42$			9.24 ± 0.22	$0.27 \pm 0.25$	$0.03 \pm 0.004$	$1.15 \pm 0.05$
	10-20	0	79	21.3	5.27 ± 0.03	0.27 ± 0.001	$0.92\pm0.01$	$30.60 \pm 0.64$	5.38 ± 0.08		9.44 ± 0.03	$0.13 \pm 0.12$	$0.06 \pm 0.01$	$2.2 \pm 0.1.3$

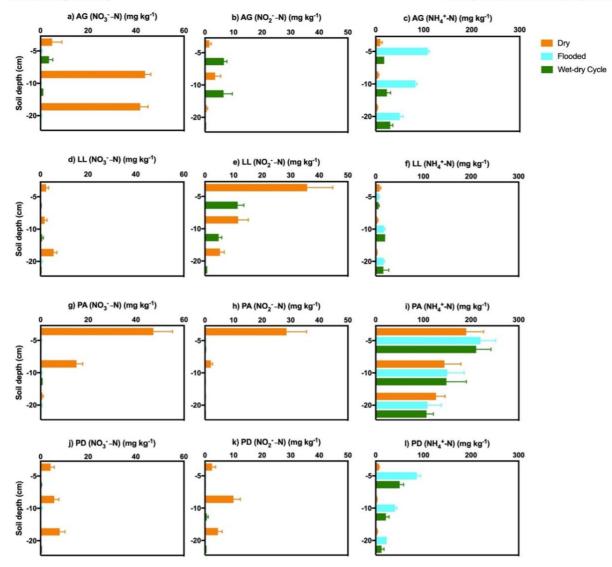


Fig. 2. NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations at the AG (Apium gravedens) (a, b, c), LL (Leptospermum lanigerum) (d, e, f), PA (Phragmites australis) (g, h, i), and PD (Paspalum distichum) sites (j, k, l). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n = 4).

#### 3.2. Soil water content

Fig. 3 shows soil water content declined with time in the dry treatment. In the dry treatment, soil water content decreased by 59.60%, 35.07%, 12.97% and 59.75% in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites, respectively, by the end of the treatment. All vegetation types remained saturated in the flooded treatment and the soil water content was 100% in all sites. The wet-dry cycle treatment led to the soil water content fluctuating according to the cycles. In each wet-dry cycle treatment soil water content decreased by 65.8%, 71.5%, 19.1% and 56.4% on average in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites, respectively, from flooded periods to dry periods (Fig. 3).

#### 3.3. Redox potential

The Eh of the soil rapidly changed following changes in water level. The highest Eh in the dry treatment was +286.75 mV in the PD site,

with a mean Eh of +163.58, +204.65, +149.52 and +207.73 mV in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites, respectively. The minimum Eh under the flooded treatment was -385.11 mV in the AG with a mean Eh of 260.78, -213.55, -173.2, and -215.23 mV in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites, respectively (Fig. 4). When soils were subjected to the wet-dry cycle treatment, Eh oscillated between -201.25 and + 133.25 mV in the AG site (Fig. 4a), between -201.14 and + 89.45 mV in the LL site (Fig. 4b), between -281.75 and + 136.75 mV in the PA site (Fig. 4c), between -220.75 and +44.5 mV in the PD site (Fig. 4d).

#### 3.4. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The highest CO<sub>2</sub> flux in the dry treatment occurred on Day 14 with 727.81 (±113.94) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the AG site (Fig. 5a), on Day 35 with 830.04 (±86.48) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the LL site (Fig. 5c), on Day 35 with 740.45 (±50) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the PA site (Fig. 5e). In the flooded treatments, the highest CO<sub>2</sub> flux occurred on Day 38 with 982.31 (±

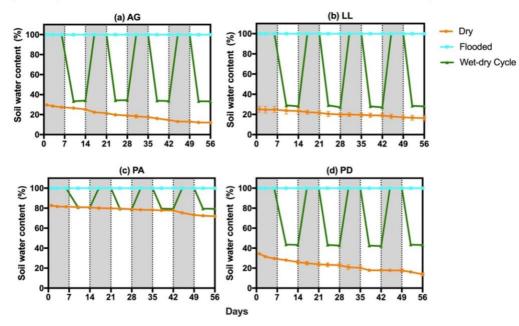


Fig. 3. Temporal variation in soil water content in (a) AG (Apium gravedens), (b) LL (Leptospermum lanigerum), (c) PA (Phragmites australis), (d) PD (Paspalum distichum) sites. Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n = 4). (Grey shaded areas represent flooded periods; white areas represent dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatment).

174.41) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the AG site (Fig. 5a), on Day 35 with 576.39 ( $\pm$  70.77) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the LL site (Fig. 5c), on Day 31 with 828.72 ( $\pm$  183.94) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the PA site (Fig. 5e) and on Day 35 with 710.84 ( $\pm$ 87.11) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the PD site (Fig. 5g). The CO<sub>2</sub> flux was lower when the soils were flooded compared to the dry periods in each wet-dry cycle. The re-wetting in each cycle decreased soil CO<sub>2</sub> flux by 60–71% in the AG site (Fig. 5a), 18–66% in the LL site (Fig. 5c),

28–47% in the PA site (Fig. 5e), 34–72% in the PD site compared to the dry periods (Fig. 5g).

Generally, the cumulative  $CO_2$  emissions differed significantly between the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments in the AG, LL and PD sites (p < 0.05) and between the PA site and the AG, LL and PD sites under the dry treatment (p < 0.05). In the dry treatment, the highest cumulative  $CO_2$  emissions occurred in the PA site with 804.41

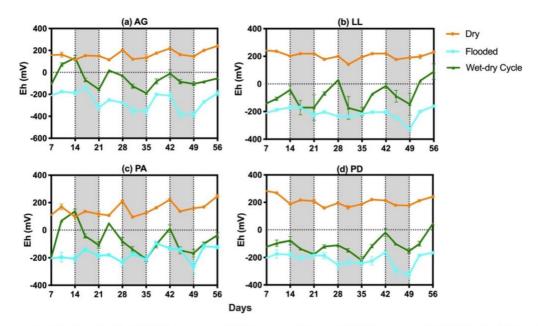
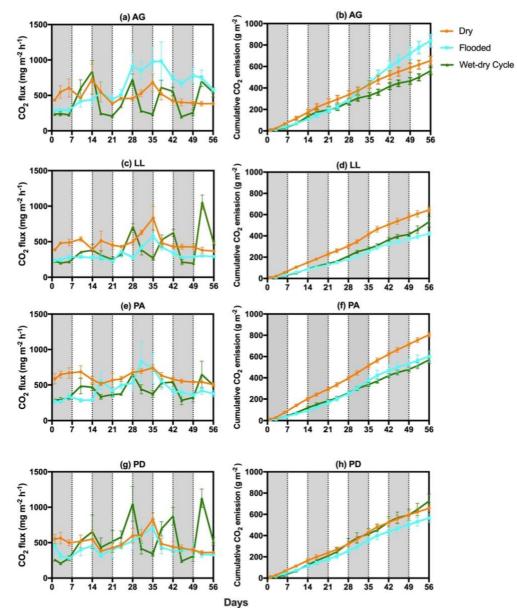


Fig. 4. Temporal variation in Eh of the soil profiles in (a) AG (Apium gravedens), (b) LL (Leptospermum lanigerum), (c) PA (Phragmites australis), (d) PD (Paspalum distichum) sites. Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n = 4). (Grey shaded areas represent flooded periods; white areas represent dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatment).



**Fig. 5.** Temporal variations of CO<sub>2</sub> flux and cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at the AG (*Apium gravedens*) (a, b), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) (c, d), PA (*Phragmites australis*) (e, f) and PD (*Paspalum distichum*) sites (g, h). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n = 4). (Grey shaded areas represent flooded periods; white areas represent dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatment).

 $(\pm 24.33)$  g m $^{-2}$  (Fig. 5f), followed by the PD site with 656.95  $(\pm 33.67)$  g m $^{-2}$  (Fig. 5h), the LL site with 644.34  $(\pm 30.56)$  g m $^{-2}$  (Fig. 5d) and the AG site with 653.41  $(\pm 41.61)$  g m $^{-2}$  (Fig. 5b). The AG site had the highest cumulative emissions under the flooded treatment, with 840  $(\pm 59.13)$  g m $^{-2}$ . The PD site had the highest cumulative emissions under the wet-dry cycle treatment with 724.72  $(\pm 57.68)$  g m $^{-2}$  (Fig. 5b). The wet-dry cycle treatment had significantly lowered cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 559.2  $(\pm 33.15)$ , 533.2  $(\pm 42.27)$  and 568.6  $(\pm 33.59)$  g m $^{-2}$  in the AG, LL and PA sites (Fig. 5b, d, f). The LL site had relatively lower cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to other sites in all treatments (Fig. 5d).

#### 3.5. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

The highest CH<sub>4</sub> flux in the dry treatment occurred on Day 28 with 2.35 (±0.24) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the AG site (Fig. 6a), on Day 31 with 2.68 (±0.25) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the LL site (Fig. 6c), on Day 6 with 55.38 (±6.32) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the PA site (Fig. 6e), and on Day 17 with 2.25 (±0.05) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the PD site (Fig. 6g). CH<sub>4</sub> emission was only detected after Day 10 in both wet-dry cycle and flooded treatments in the PA site (Fig. 6e) and was detected after 14 days in the AG, LL and PD sites (Fig. 6a, c, g). Peak values for the AG, LL, PA and PD sites occurred on Day 38, 38, 31 and 35, with 638.91 (±63.25), 240.82 (±38.98), 1139.93 (±

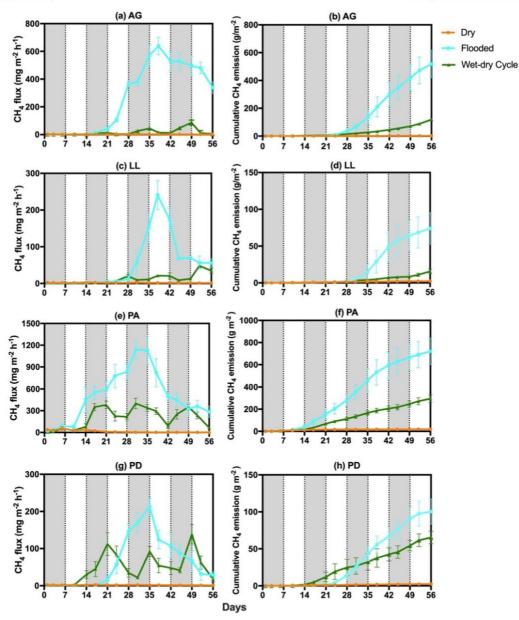


Fig. 6. Temporal variations of CH<sub>4</sub> flux and cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions at the AG (*Apium gravedens*) (a, b), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) (c, d), PA (*Phragmites australis*) (e, f) and PD (*Paspalum distichum*) sites (g, h). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n = 4). (Grey shaded areas represent flooded periods; white areas represent dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatment).

127.93) and 213.48 ( $\pm$ 22.84) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, in the flooded treatments (Fig. 6a, c, e, g). CH<sub>4</sub> flux decreased gradually with time after the peak. In the wet-dry cycle treatment, the CH<sub>4</sub> flux varied according to the water level, with greater variations occurring in the PA and PD sites (Fig. 6e, g). The average CH<sub>4</sub> flux in the flooded periods was 2.8 times higher in the AG site (Fig. 6a), 0.5 times higher in the PA site (Fig. 6e), 0.2 times higher in the PD site (Fig. 6g) than the dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatment.

Generally, the cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions differed significantly between the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (p < 0.05), and between the four vegetation types under the wet-dry cycle treatment (p < 0.05). The dry treatments had significantly lower cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions compared to the flooded treatment. The cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emission at the PA site was 16.94 (±2.21) g m<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 6f), which was more than 6 times higher than the other vegetation types in the dry treatment. The highest cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions under the flooded treatment were 721.11 (±59.15) g m<sup>-2</sup> in the PA site (Fig. 6f), which was 0.4 times higher than the AG site (Fig. 6b), 8.7 times higher than the L1 site (Fig. 6d), 6.2 times higher than the PD site (Fig. 6h). The highest cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions under the wet-dry cycle treatment occurred in the PA site (Fig. 6f), which was 1.5 times higher than the AG site (Fig. 6b), 17.9 times higher than the LL site (Fig. 6d) and 3.5 times higher than the PD site (Fig. 6h).

#### 3.6. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

Fig. 7 shows that  $N_2O$  flux was higher in the dry treatments compared to the flooded treatments. In the dry treatment, the  $N_2O$  flux increased and reached its peak on Day 17 in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites with 1.04  $(\pm 0.005)$ , 1.14  $(\pm 0.10)$ , 1.04  $(\pm 0.006)$  and 1.03 mg m $^{-2}$   $h^{-1}$   $(\pm 0.01)$  respectively (Fig. 7a, c, e, g). In the flooded treatments, the peak value of  $N_2O$  flux was 0.58  $(\pm 0.0039)$ , 0.93  $(\pm 0.009)$ , 0.57  $(\pm 0.005)$  and 0.89  $(\pm 0.25)$  mg m $^{-2}$   $h^{-1}$  in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites, respectively

(Fig. 7a, c, e, g). In the AG site, higher N<sub>2</sub>O flux occurred in dry periods, ranging from 1.45 ( $\pm$ 0.3) to 2.19 ( $\pm$ 0.47) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>, from 2.02 ( $\pm$ 0.62) to 2.39 ( $\pm$ 0.53) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>, from 1.92 ( $\pm$ 0.38) to 2.07 ( $\pm$ 0.52) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the second, third and fourth cycle, respectively (Fig. 7a). The highest N<sub>2</sub>O flux was generated during the dry periods in the wetdry cycle treatment for all the vegetation types. The flooded periods decreased the N<sub>2</sub>O flux by 14–70% in the AG site (Fig. 7a), 26–48% in the LL site (Fig. 7c), 35–50% in the PA site (Fig. 7e), and 27–41% in the PD site (Fig. 7g) compared to dry periods in the wet-dry cycle treatment.

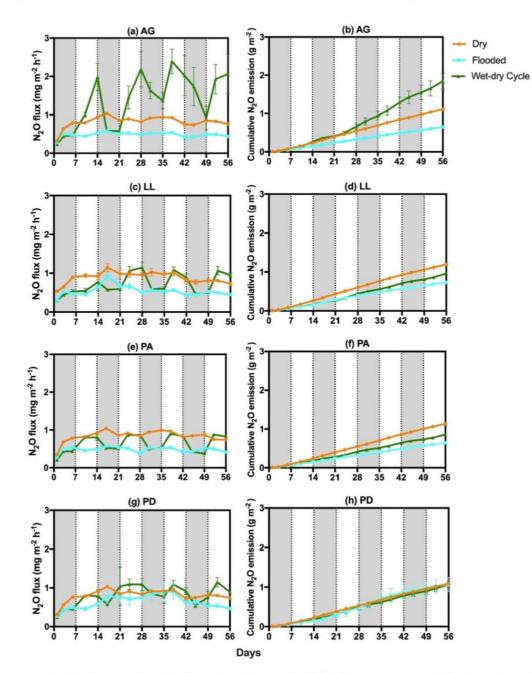


Fig. 7. Temporal variations of N<sub>2</sub>O flux and cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions at the AG (*Apium gravedens*) (a, b), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) (c, d), PA (*Phragmites australis*) (e, f) and PD (*Paspalum distichum*) site (g, h). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n = 4). (Grey shaded areas represent flooded periods; white areas represent dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatment).

Parameters	CO <sub>2</sub>			$CH_4$			N <sub>2</sub> O		
	Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry cycle	Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry cycle	Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry cycle
SOC	0.64*	0.09	0.01	0.96*	$0.69^{*}$	0.92*	0.04	-0.30	-0.30
TN	0.66*	0.12	0.04	0.93*	0.69*	0.92*	0.24	0.01	0.29
C/N	0.58*	-0.18	-0.08	0.79*	0.42	0.63*	0.0006	-0.45	-0.56*
NO <sub>3</sub>	0.61*	0.71*	0.004	0.97*	0.57*	-0.27	0.10	-0.06	0.92*
NO <sub>2</sub>	0.24	0.25	-0.20	0.51*	0.39	-0.56	0.43	0.25	0.60*
NH <sup>+</sup>	0.62*	0.46	0.11	0.98*	0.84*	0.94*	0.07	-0.23	-0.33
pН	-0.23	-0.25	-0.45	-0.26	-0.24	-0.45	0.40	-0.47	0.03
EC	0.61*	-0.09	-0.12	0.84*	0.58*	0.87*	0.04	-0.37	-0.43

Table 3

Pearson correlation analysis between CO2, CH4 and N2O emissions and soil parameters.

Pair sample size, n = 16 for SOC, TN, C/N, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, pH, EC in the soil top layer (0-5 cm) after the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments in all sites. \* p = 0.05 correlations are significant.

Generally, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were significantly different between the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments at the AG, LL and PA sites (p < 0.05), and between the AG, LL and PD sites in the flooded and wet-dry treatments (p < 0.05). The highest cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions under the dry treatment occurred in the LL site with 1.19 ( $\pm 0.03$ ) g m<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 7d), followed by the PA site with 1.13 ( $\pm$  0.01) g m<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 7f), the AG site with 1.11 ( $\pm 0.008$ ) g m<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 7b) and the PD site with 1.09 ( $\pm 0.008$ ) g m<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 7b). The flooded treatment reduced the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions to 0.65 ( $\pm 0.007$ ), 0.73 ( $\pm 0.02$ ), 0.64 ( $\pm 0.01$ ) and 1.06 ( $\pm 0.18$ ) g m<sup>-2</sup>, in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites respectively (Fig. 7b, d, f, h). In the wet-dry cycle treatment, the AG site had the highest cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions with 1.84 ( $\pm 0.20$ ) g m<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 7b).

#### 3.7. Correlation between GHG emissions and environmental parameters

Table 3 summarises the Pearson correlation between the GHG emissions and environmental parameters after the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were positively correlated with SOC, TN content, C/N, NO<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations, and EC in the dry treatment (p < 0.05). CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were positively correlated with SOC, TN content, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration, and EC in all treatments (p < 0.05). CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were positively correlated with SOC, TN content, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration, and EC in all treatments (p < 0.05). CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were positively correlated with NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations in the dry treatment (p < 0.05). N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were positively correlated with C/N in the wet-dry cycle treatment (p < 0.05). N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were negatively correlated with C/N in the wet-dry cycle treatment (p < 0.05) (Table 3).

Table 4 shows the Pearson correlation between GHG fluxes and soil water content and Eh in each treatment.  $CO_2$  flux and  $N_2O$  flux were negatively correlated with soil water content in the wet-dry cycle treatment in all sites (p < 0.05). CH<sub>4</sub> flux was positively correlated with soil water content in the dry treatment in all sites (p < 0.05) and negatively correlated with Eh at all the sites separately (p < 0.05) and  $N_2O$  flux was positively correlated with Eh at all sites (p < 0.05).

#### 4. Discussion

#### 4.1. The role of vegetation type on SOC, TN and mineral N

The quantity and quality of soil organic matter, measured by SOC, are influenced by vegetation types (Dalal and Allen, 2008; Dorodnikov et al.,

compared to other sites, suggesting that these reeds had higher detritus
inputs and provided a larger amount organic matter to decompose
which could potentially lead to higher CO <sub>2</sub> and CH <sub>4</sub> emissions. Previous
studies found that SOC from a Phragmites australis coastal wetland
ranged between 3.48 and 21.6% (Cheng et al., 2007; Marín-Muñiz
et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2013), which was similar to our results. The
lower range of SOC might due to the lower above-and below-ground
biomass and stem density of Phragmites australis. SOC from similar
grass and herbaceous species in coastal marshes ranged between 1.22
and 18.34% (Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012; Sun et al., 2013), which
was consistent with our results. The SOC from the woody plants in
coastal marshes ranged 2.4-16.74% (Allen et al., 2007; Livesley and
Andrusiak, 2012), which was also similar to our results.
The PA site had the highest TN concentration (1.77%), followed by
0 0 0 0

2009). The PA site had the highest SOC concentration (20.42%; Table 2)

the PD site (0.88%), AG site (0.72%) and the LL site (0.47%) (Table 2). Previous studies have found that TN concentration in coastal wetlands ranged from 0.03-1.11% (Allen et al., 2007; Cheng et al., 2007; Morse et al., 2012), which was lower than the PA site, but similar compared with the AG, PD and LL sites. The PA site also had the highest NH<sup>+</sup><sub>4</sub> concentration but NO<sup>-</sup><sub>3</sub> was not detected (Table 2). This may have been due to the site being flooded at the time of sampling, and the low Eh prevented the formation of NO3 under anaerobic conditions. After the incubation treatments, the NH<sup>+</sup> concentration increased in all sites under all treatments (Fig. 2c, f, i, l) as the mineralization of organic N leads to the formation of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions (Tobias and Neubauer, 2019). Ponnamperuma (1972) found that all the mineralizable N in flooded soils is converted to  $NH_{4}^{+}$  within 14 days if the temperature is favourable, which was the case in our study under controlled temperature conditions. The dry treatment significantly increased NO3 and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations in all sites due to nitrification as NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> produced by mineralization is oxidized to NO2 and NO3 under aerobic conditions (Fig. 2). The flooded treatment decreased NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration at the AG, LL, PD sites due to denitrification as NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is reduced to N<sub>2</sub>O or N<sub>2</sub> under anoxic conditions (Fig. 2a, d, g, j). The depth distribution of TN concentration in the soil profile in all sites roughly followed the similar pattern of SOC concentration. In general, TN, NH<sup>4</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub>,  $NO_2^-$  concentrations were the highest in the 0–5 cm layer at all sites and decreased with soil depth in the study (Table 2).

Tabl	e	4
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Pearson correlation	analysis betwe	en CH4. CO2	N <sub>2</sub> O fluxes and	soil parameters.

Parameters	Treatment	CO <sub>2</sub>				CH <sub>4</sub>				N <sub>2</sub> O			
		AG	LL	PA	PD	AG	LL	PA	PD	AG	LL	PA	PD
Soil water content	Dry	0.45	-0.02	0.5*	0.32	$0.58^{*}$	0.57*	0.75*	0.71*	-0.36	-0.06	-0.18	-0.48
	Flooded	0.28	-0.04	-0.1	0.08	0.24	-0.006	-0.12	0.008	-0.04	0.32	-0.15	-0.1
	Wet-dry cycle	$-0.86^{*}$	$-0.71^{*}$	$-0.77^{*}$	$-0.78^{*}$	-0.34	$-0.57^{*}$	0.16	-0.36	$-0.73^{*}$	$-0.85^{*}$	$-0.85^{*}$	$-0.71^{*}$
Eh		$-0.54^{*}$	0.6*	$0.48^{*}$	0.21	$-0.69^{*}$	$-0.51^{*}$	$-0.74^{*}$	$-0.68^{*}$	0.89*	0.84*	0.87*	0.55

Pair sample size, n = 17 for soil water content during dry, flooded, wet-dry cycle treatments respectively. n = 30 for Eh during dry and flooded treatments.

\* p = 0.05 correlations are significant.

The C/N ratio can indicate the availability of organic matter that can be mineralized (Weil, 2016). Microbes need adequate N for microbial growth and activity so low C/N ratios can indicate low concentrations of lignin and polyphenols and higher availability of substrate, which can accelerate the speed of organic matter decomposition (Neubauer et al., 2005). The C/N ratio of the LL site (tea tree) ranged between 10.45 and 11.79. The AG and PD sites had lower C/N ratio compared to the PA and LL sites, which ranged 7.66-8.36 in the AG site (herbaceous species) and ranged 8.79-9.44 in the PD site (grass). The LL site supported woody species which contains higher lignin compared with the herbaceous species. The herbaceous plants produce more fine roots than woody species and the woody plants limit the supply of labile carbon (Desai et al., 2007; Vann and Patrick Megonigal, 2003). Yau et al. (2016) found that the C/N ratio of tea tree was 22.02 and C/N ratio of grass was 11.71 in temperate estuarine floodplain in southern Australia, which indicated herbaceous plants had lower C/N ratio in soils compared with woody plants. Soil organic matter in the AG (herbaceous species) and PD (grass) sites can be easily be decomposed compared to the LL sites (woody plant) because they have a lower C/N ratio and lower lignin (Vann and Patrick Megonigal, 2003).

#### 4.2. Effect of inundation on soil water content and eh

Soil water content decreased with time in the dry treatment in all sites. In the dry treatment, the Eh was between +90.75 and +247.25 mV in the AG site (Fig. 4a), was between +141.75 and +243.5 mV in the LL site (Fig. 4b), was between +90.75 and +247.25 mV in the PA site (Fig. 4c), and was between +158.75 and +286.75 mV in the PD site (Fig. 4d). Denitrification occurs when Eh is below +250 mV (Sparks, 2003) while nitrification normally occurs at Eh values greater than +200 mV (Bauza et al., 2002).

In the flooded treatment, the soil water content was 100% in all sites (Fig. 3), which is the most important factor affecting the diffusion of gases. The average Eh in the flooded treatment was -260.78, -213.55, -173.2 and -215.23 mV in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites (Fig. 4), indicating reduced conditions. Therefore, we can assume methanogenesis is the dominant gas pathway in the flooded treatment because CH<sub>4</sub> is produced when Eh < -200 mV (Sparks, 2003).

In the wet-dry cycle treatment, Eh ranged from +136.75 mV in the dry periods to -281.75 mV in the flooded periods (Fig. 4). In these conditions, a sequential series of anerobic processes occurs, with decreasing Eh from denitrification, to Mn reduction, Fe<sup>3+</sup> reduction and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> reduction and then methanogenesis (Ponnamperuma, 1972). Decomposition of organic matter and nitrification occurs in the dry periods, and is reflected in the CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, described below. These systems then switch over to methanogenesis in the flooded periods of wet-dry cycle treatment in all sites as the Eh was less than -200 mV.

#### 4.3. Greenhouse gas emissions

#### 4.3.1. CO2 emissions

Soils with higher organic carbon tend to have higher mineralization rates as it reflects the larger availability of organic carbon that can be mineralized (Sutton-Grier et al., 2011). In this study, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were positively correlated to SOC and C/N in the dry treatments in all sites (Table 3). The PA site had the highest SOC concentration, highest C/N (Table 2) and the highest cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emission (Fig. 5f) in the dry treatment. These results supported our hypothesis that soils with higher SOC can promote higher soil respiration rates and produce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in aerobic conditions (Chen et al., 2012).

 $CO_2$  flux was higher in the dry treatment in the LL and PD sites (Fig. 5c, g) and soil water content was negatively correlated with  $CO_2$  flux in all sites (Table 4). In dry conditions,  $O_2$  is rapidly utilized as for microbial respiration during decomposition of organic matter to produce  $CO_2$ . Similarly, the dry periods in the wet-dry cycle treatment also led to oxic conditions and promoted soil respiration and therefore

enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> flux compared with flooded periods in all sites. Liu et al. (2013) also found that increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the soil surface under dry conditions from the removal of diffusion barrier between the soil and atmosphere in rice paddy soils. The inundation treatment decreased cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 34%, 25% and 14% at the LL, PA and PD sites, respectively compared to the dry treatment (Fig. 5d, f, h) because CH<sub>4</sub> emissions dominated. Riet et al. (2013) also found that in both peat and clay soils, rewetting of both also reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which was consistent with our results.

#### 4.3.2. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

In this study,  $CH_4$  emissions were positively correlated to SOC concentration in all treatments and positively correlated with C/N in the dry treatments and wet-dry treatments in all sites (Table 3). The PA site had the highest SOC concentration, C/N and the cumulative  $CH_4$ emission was the highest in the dry treatment among all the sites (Fig. 6f). Previous studies have also shown that  $CH_4$  emissions can be positively correlated with the C/N ratio (Shi et al., 2014; Šimek et al., 2011; Weslien et al., 2009).

Deeper roots (>20 cm) were observed in the PA sample cores at the time of sampling, and earlier studies have indicated that PA roots can transport gases between soil and the atmosphere through the plant tissue (Van der Nat and Middelburg, 2000). Plant-mediated transport from the soil to atmosphere has been reported as the main method of CH<sub>4</sub> transport from deeper parts of the soil profile to the atmosphere (Chanton et al., 1992; Liu et al., 2015). While there was no vegetation in the cores, the plant roots that remained can provide a conduit to transport gases from deeper in the core to the surface.

The position of the water table in wetlands is a significant controlling factor on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions as higher water tables can lead to O<sub>2</sub> depletion and lower Eh, which was negatively correlated with CH4 flux in all sites (Table 4). The average Eh in the flooded treatment was -260.78, 213.55, -173.2, and -215.23 mV in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites (Fig. 4), which were highly reduced. CH<sub>4</sub> production occurs under strict anaerobic conditions (Dutaur and Verchot, 2007). CH4 emissions were much higher in the flooded treatment in all sites than in the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments. The soils emitted 204 times the cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in the AG site (Fig. 6b), 30 times in the LL site (Fig. 6d), 37 times in the PA site (Fig. 6f), 41 times in the PD site in the flooded treatment (Fig. 6h) compared with dry treatment and 1.2 times cumulative CH4 emissions in the AG site (Fig. 6b), 5 times in the LL site (Fig. 6d), 1.4 times in the PA site (Fig. 6f), 60 times in the PD site compared to the wet-dry cycle treatment (Fig. 6h). Similarly, in peat soils, rewetting of soils increased CH4 emissions (Minke et al., 2016; Riet et al., 2013).

#### 4.3.3. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

In the dry treatment, higher  $NO_3^-$  concentrations were observed in all sites compared to flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (Fig. 2a, d, g, j). High  $NO_3^-$  concentrations suggested some nitrifying activity. Under the dry treatment, it is likely that nitrifying microbes consumed most of the  $NH_4^+$  produced during the mineralization of organic matter and led to large accumulations of  $NO_2^-$  and  $NO_3^-$  (Fig. 2). The  $N_2O$  emissions were negatively correlated with C/N ratio in the wet-dry cycle treatment (Table 3). A low C/N ratio in soil profile also suggests a high potential for N mineralization (Pilegaard et al., 2006). Conversely, the high C/N ratio favours N immobilization (Aber et al., 2003).

 $N_2O$  flux was positively correlated with Eh in all sites (Table 4). More positive Eh values were correlated with higher mineralization of organic matter rate and higher nitrification rate. In the dry treatment, the Eh ranged between +90.75 andr86.75 mV (Fig. 4). Bauza et al. (2002) found nitrification usually occurs at an Eh greater than +200 mV. The high concentration of  $NO_3^-$  and higher positive Eh in the dry treatment indicated nitrification was the predominant pathway for  $N_2O$  emissions in aerobic conditions.

A significant decrease in  $NO_3^-$  concentrations was observed under the flooded treatment in the AG, LL, PD sites compared to the initial soils (Fig. 2a, d, g, j). Flooded conditions promote denitrification when Eh values decrease below +250 mV (Sparks, 2003). The  $NO_3^-$  reduction represents the occurrence of denitrification as this is the only pathway to accumulate  $N_2O$  in the flooded treatment.

The flooded treatment decreased cumulative N2O emissions by 42%, 39% and 43% at the AG, LL and PA sites, compared to the dry treatment (Fig. 7). Low N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in inundated soils can be explained by four reasons i) the low release of N2O emissions in AG, PA and PD sites in the flooded treatment may be caused by reduction of NO3 to N2 by denitrifiers (Ruser et al., 2006), ii) the layer of surface water acted as a diffusion barrier and prevented emissions from diffusing from the soil to the atmosphere; iii) the low NO3<sup>-</sup> concentration limited the denitrification process or iv) flooding the soils could result in an increase in pH, which might affect certain enzyme activities and lower N2O emission (Haddad et al., 2017; Haddad et al., 2013; Tabatabai et al., 2010). Seo and Delaune (2010) found the end product of a complete denitrification was  $N_2$  when the Eh value decreased from -100 mV to -200 mV. Denitrification is the significant process for N2O production when the soils had high NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> level and Eh was negative (Allen et al., 2007; Bakken et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2014). At higher soil pH, N<sub>2</sub>O will be reduced to N2 by nitrous oxide reductase (Šimek and Cooper, 2002).

NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations increased under the wet-dry cycle treatments in all sites compared to the starting conditions (Fig. 2c, f, i, l) and had higher cumulative N2O emissions compared to the flooded treatments (Fig. 7),  $NO_{2}^{-}$  and  $NO_{3}^{-}$  concentrations were positively correlated with N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the wet-dry cycle treatments (Table 3). In the wetdry cycle treatment, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> produced by nitrification during the dry periods can be subject to subsequent denitrification when the soils are flooded during the flooded periods. The N<sub>2</sub>O flux in the dry periods are much higher than that under flooded periods in all sites (Fig.7a, c, e, g). In the dry periods of the wet-dry cycle,  $NH_4^+$  is converted to  $NO_3^$ and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were produced by nitrification as the Eh was positive. Earlier studies demonstrated that higher N2O flux was observed in dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatments, allowing the N2O trapped in the soil in the flooding phase to be emitted (Balaine et al., 2013; Rabot et al., 2014). In the field, Jiao et al. (2006) and Kirk (2004) also demonstrated that fluctuating water levels were favourable for N2O emissions in intermittently drained rice fields.

# 4.4. Conversion to $CO_2$ -equivalents and the implications of inundation at a landscape scale

The Aire River floodplain is highly susceptible to sea level rise and seawater intrusion which can affect C and N cycling and GHG emissions. Based on the cumulative emissions calculation from the incubation experiment, the average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in all sites was  $12.32 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in the dry treatment, 10.12 g  $m^{-2} d^{-1}$  in the flooded treatment, and 10.65 g m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in the wet-dry cycle treatment (Fig. 5b, d, f, h). The average  $CH_4$  emissions in all sites was  $0.12 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in the dry treatment, 6.31 g m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in the flooded treatment, and 2.21 g m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in the wet-dry cycle treatment (Fig. 6b, d, f, h), and average  $N_2O$  emissions in all sites was 0.02 g $m^{-2}\,d^{-1}$  in the dry treatment, was 0.01 g $m^{-2}$ d<sup>-1</sup> in the flooded treatment, and 0.021 g m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in the wet-dry cycle treatment (Fig. 7b, d, f, h). If the Aire River floodplain is permanently dry, such as during a drought situation, the average CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and  $N_2O$  emissions across all sites was 123.17, 1.16 and 0.20 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>  $d^{-1}$ . If the Aire River floodplain is permanently flooded, such as with higher sea levels, the average CO2, CH4 and N2O emissions among all sites was 101.23, 63.11 and 0.14 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>. If the Aire River floodplain is periodically with the wet-dry cycles, such as during episodic inundation events like storm surges, the average CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions among all sites was 106.50, 22.12 and 0.21 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (IPCC, 2006) summarized that the median  $CO_2$  diffusive emissions were 5.2 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>

 $d^{-1}$  in warm temperate, dry conditions (Galy-Lacaux et al., 1997; Soumis et al., 2004) and 8.1 kg ha^{-1} d^{-1} in warm temperate, moist conditions (Chen et al., 2012; Marín-Muñiz et al., 2015), which is lower than our results. The IPCC (2006) found that the median CH<sub>4</sub> diffusive emissions were 0.044 kg ha^{-1} d^{-1} in warm temperate, dry conditions (Rosa et al., 1996; Soumis et al., 2004) and 0.15 kg ha^{-1} d^{-1} in warm temperate, moist conditions (Smith and Lewis, 1992; Tremblay et al., 2005), which are also lower than our estimations. Average N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the dry and flooded temperate conditions in the study were 0.20 and 0.14 kg ha^{-1} d^{-1}. Previous studies have found that the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions ranged between 0.02 and 0.28 kg ha^{-1} d^{-1} in temperate coastal wetlands (Marín-Muñiz et al., 2015; Sun et al., 2014; Yang et al., 2017), which was consistent with our results.

Furthermore, based on global warming potential of 298 for N2O and 25 for CH<sub>4</sub>, GHGs were converted to CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>-eq). After conversion, the CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were 123.17, 29.0, and 59.6 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in the dry treatment, and the CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and  $N_2O$  emissions were 101.23, 1577.75, and 41.72 kg  $CO_2$ -eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in the flooded treatment, and the CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were 106.50, 553.0, and 62.58 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in the wet-dry cycle treatment. The GHG emissions in the PA site was 287.06, 3360.17, 1465.06 kg  $CO_2$ -eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments. The GHG emissions in the AG site was 187.10, 2469.82, 730.57 kg  $CO_2$ -eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments. The GHG emissions in the PD site was 186.06, 606.08, 477.91 kg  $CO_2$ -eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments. The GHG emissions in the LL site was 189.60, 444.53, 216.14 kg  $CO_2$ -eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments. The magnitude of the GHG emissions in the different vegetation types followed the sequence PA > AG > PD > LL. The average GHG emissions in the dry treatment, flooded treatment and wet-dry cycle treatment were 212.46, 1720.15 and 722.42 kg CO2eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, indicating that the flooded treatment had a higher global warming potential compared with dry and wet-dry cycle treatments. This study indicates that the Aire River floodplain has a higher potential for GHG emissions compared to average temperate flooded land. The dominant GHG varies according to soil moisture conditions. CO<sub>2</sub> comprised the principle part of total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions in dry conditions while CH<sub>4</sub> dominates in flooded conditions. Under the wet-dry cycle treatment, CH<sub>4</sub> was the main gas contributing to global warming (76.6%), followed by CO2 (14.7%) and N2O (8.7%). Similarly, Vanselow-Algan et al. (2015) also found that GHG emissions of rewetted sites was dominated by CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, accounting for 88-98% of the total GHG CO2-eq emissions in peatlands.

In summary, the mineralization rates in coastal wetlands are mainly affected by the supply of SOC, quality of organic matter and the Eh (Sutton-Grier et al., 2011). With sea level rise, coastal wetlands are highly susceptible to inundation by seawater or brackish water. Under flooded conditions, the activity of aerobic bacteria are constrained by O2 availability (Alm et al., 1999). Due to the lower energy yield, the anaerobic decomposition rate is decreased in the submerged soils. The production of CH4 is affected by labile organic matter availability, oxidation and reduction state. Nitrification and denitrification are the primary pathways for N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and are mainly influenced by mineral N (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>), organic matter and Eh. The NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> produced by the mineralization of organic N is also affected by the quantity and lability of organic matter (Tobias et al., 2001). With lower water tables,  $NH_4^+$  can diffuse to the oxidized surface layer and nitrification occurs. Nitrification is the dominant pathway for N2O formation when coastal wetlands experience lower water tables with adequate supply of O<sub>2</sub> and NH<sup>+</sup><sub>4</sub>. The mineralization of organic N produces NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> which then can produce NO3 by nitrification. For example, such mineralization of organic N is significantly correlated with enzymes like arylamidase and L-aspartase (Tabatabai et al., 2010).

Higher  $NO_3^-$  concentrations can lead to higher  $N_2O$  emissions by denitrification under anaerobic conditions when organic matter is not limited. In this reaction,  $NO_3^-$  is reduced to  $NO_2^-$  and then to  $N_2O$  as an

intermediate product (Davidson, 1992). Denitrification is slow in soils with low organic matter and is enhanced by addition of organic matter. The wet-dry cycles enhance the N2O emissions from the coastal wetland. Permanent inundation can minimize N2O loss and lead to higher N accumulation in these wetland systems.

#### 5. Conclusion

This study identified that SOC, TN, mineral N, water levels, Eh, soil water content together affect GHG emissions in temperate coastal wetlands. Coastal wetlands represent a large reservoir for C which directly influences CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under different inundation scenarios. Mineral N (NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and NH $^+$ ) affects the formation of N<sub>2</sub>O by nitrification in aerobic conditions and denitrification under anaerobic conditions. Our study confirmed that water level fluctuations affected CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N2O emissions. The flooded treatment decreased the cumulative CO2 emissions in the PA, PD and LL sites and decreased N2O emissions at all sites. At the same time, the flooded treatment enhanced the CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in all sites. The dry periods in each wet-dry cycle increased the CO2 and N2O flux in all sites. The wet-dry cycle treatment enhanced the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions compared to the flooded treatment in all sites. Based on the global warming potential, CO2 was the main gas contributing to global warming (57.9%) in the dry treatment. CH4 was predominant contributing to global warming in the flooded treatment (91.9%) and in the wet-dry cycle treatment (76.6%). The flooded treatment had higher global warming potential compared with dry and wet-dry cycle treatments within Aire River floodplain. Further field-based studies should consider the different environmental factors affecting GHG emissions with water level fluctuation over longer periods of time.

#### **CRediT** authorship contribution statement

C. Xu: Conceptualization, Methodology, Validation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing - original draft. V.N.L. Wong: Conceptualization, Methodology, Resources, Writing - review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition. R.E. Reef: Writing - review & editing, Supervision.

#### **Declaration of competing interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### Acknowledgements

The work described in this paper was supported by the Australian Academy of Science's Thomas Davies Research Grant. We are grateful to Fang Wen who kindly assisted with field sampling. We thank the analysis of anions samples provided by Environmental Analysis Laboratory at Southern Cross University. We thank Leigh Burgess for helping preparing the PVC tubes. We appreciate Rachelle Pierson's assistance to perform the analysis of soluble cations analysis. We thank Gigi Woods for assistance with the particle size distribution analysis.

#### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi. org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.142949.

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Chapter 3. Effect of inundation on sulfide and potential acidity in coastal acid sulfate soils with different vegetation types in southern Australia

# Effect of inundation on sulfide and potential acidity in coastal acid sulfate soils with different vegetation types in southern Australia

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# **3.1 Abstract**

Coastal wetland soils frequently have sulfidic soils at depth. Sea level fluctuations can lead to the oxidation of sulfidic sediments in acid sulfate soils (ASS) and increased potential acidity in mobilising trace metals when water levels are low. Sea level rise can cause the inundation of coastal wetland soils and reformation of reduced inorganic sulfide (RIS). We measured the effect of water level fluctuations on in soils from coastal wetland sites with four different vegetation types: Apium gravedens (AG), Leptospermum lanigerum (LL), Phragmites australis (PA) and Paspalum distichum (PD) in the estuarine floodplain of the Aire River in south-western Victoria, Australia. We assessed the effects fluctuating water levels on reduced inorganic sulfide (RIS) in terms of acid volatile sulfide (AVS) and chromium reducible sulfur (CRS), potential acidity and trace metals (Fe, Al, Mn, Zn, Ni) from. Intact soil cores were incubated under dry, flooded, and wet-dry cycle treatments of 14-d for a total of 56 days at a constant temperature of 21°C. The flooded treatment significantly increased AVS and CRS in most soil depths (p < 0.05). Under the dry treatment, significantly lower CRS were observed in all sites due to the CRS being oxidised when the surface layer was exposed to with lower water levels (p < 0.05). CRS was positively correlated with SOC in all treatments (p < 0.05). The highest net acidity (measure of acidity hazard of ASS) occurred in the dry treatment and lowest net acidity was observed following the flooded treatment in the AG, LL and PD sites in most soil depths. Seawater inundation was conducive to SO4<sup>2-</sup> reduction process and caused the decrease of soluble Fe and Al in the PA and PD sites. The SO42- concentration decreased in the LL, PA, and PD sites following flooded treatment due to the reformation of CRS. Brackish water inundation provides a mechanism to prevent further oxidation of RIS and can be an effective tool to reduce acidity by forming or reforming pyrite in temperate ASS environments. These results highlight that inundation could be considered when planning remediation approaches for ASS.

Key words: Acid sulfate soils, reduced inorganic sulfide, trace metals, acidity, inundation

# **3.2 Introduction**

Acid sulfate soils (ASS) are soils or sediments that contain oxidizable or partly oxidized sulfide minerals (Pons, 1973). In ASS environments, pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>) is the most prevalent sulfide mineral and usually represents the potential acidity in the system (Dent and Pons, 1995). Apart from FeS<sub>2</sub>, other oxidizable sulfides like iron monosulfides (FeS), such as mackinawite or greigite (Fe<sub>3</sub>S<sub>4</sub>) can also be found in coastal marine and estuarine sediments (Morse and Rickard, 2004), but can occur in high concentrations in organic, sulfide-rich materials from ASS environments (Boman et al., 2010a; Bush et al., 2004; Macdonald et al., 2004a; Ram et al., 2021a; Ram et al., 2021b; Sullivan and Bush, 2000).

ASS have been estimated to occupy an area between 17 Mha and 25 Mha worldwide, including South and Southeast Asia, West and Southern Africa, Australia, Latin America, boreal Europe, and Northern America (Andriesse and Mensvoort, 2006; Ljung et al., 2009). Coastal ASS (CASS) are often found in tropical coastal areas, estuarine floodplains and mangrove marshes, where waterlogged environments promote FeS<sub>2</sub> formation (Beek et al., 1980; Dent, 1986; Rabenhorst and Fanning, 2006) . In coastal regions, almost all subaqueous soils have been found to be affected by sulfidization and commonly give rise to actual acid sulfate soils when they are oxidized (Fitzpatrick et al., 2002).

Sulfidic sediments, measured by reduced inorganic sulfur (RIS), usually accumulate in waterlogged soils in inland freshwater wetlands and marine, coastal or estuarine environments. Environmental conditions that promote the formation of RIS include (1) sufficient supply of organic matter from either rooted plants or detrital additions; (2) source of Fe which is generally provided by Fe-containing minerals in the sediments; (3) supply of dissolved  $SO_4^{2-}$ . In coastal environments, the  $SO_4^{2-}$  is mainly derived from sea water (Dent, 1986; Fanning et al., 2002). Availability of organic matter predominantly controls the formation of pyrite as  $SO_4^{2-}$  and Fe minerals are abundant (Berner, 1984). RIS have been found in different mineral phases, including Fe monosulfides, pyrite and greigite. In particular, Fe monosulfides and pyrite have been widely studied (Karimian et al., 2017).

Fe monosulfides can form relatively rapidly following initial inundation or onset of waterlogged conditions (Burton et al., 2011; Karimian et al., 2018). Fe monosulfides can form through the reaction of H<sub>2</sub>S with the free Fe<sup>2+</sup> (Equation 3.1).

### $H_2S + Fe^{2+} \rightarrow FeS + 2H^+$ (Equation 3.1)

Fe monosulfide minerals can transform to pyrite under anoxic conditions and in the presence of soil organic matter and dissolved sulfide over longer time periods (Berner, 1984; Rickard and Morse, 2005). The

concentration of pyrite may be influenced by organic matter as higher pyrite concentrations have been found in flooded soils with abundant organic matter (Dent and Pons, 1995; Holmer and Nielsen, 1997)

The key components of pyrite formation reaction require organic matter, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Fe(III) oxides and the overall reaction of pyrite formation is shown in equation 3.2 (Dent and Pons, 1995).

$$Fe_2O_{3(S)} + 4SO_4^{2-} + 8CH_2O + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow 2FeS_2 + 8HCO_3(aq) + 4H_2O$$
 (Equation 3.2)

When mineral sulfidic layers remain under anaerobic or waterlogged conditions, they usually have a near neutral pH and are therefore not problematic. Under these conditions, the soils are known as potential acid sulfate soils (PASS) (Ljung et al., 2009; Ritsema and Groenenberg, 1993; Sullivan. et al., 2018) as they have the potential to form sulfuric acid and reduced inorganic sulfur species. Sulfuric acid is generated when sediments containing RIS are oxidized, causing the pH to decrease below 4 (Dent and Pons, 1995). Fe-S minerals (FeS<sub>2</sub>) oxidation are regarded as the main source of potential acidity in ASS environments (Ljung et al., 2009; White et al., 2007). The oxidation of Fe-S minerals ultimately results in products such as Fe minerals such as Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub>, acidity and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, and involves a series of complex reactions, with several Fe and S intermediate products and highly acidic soil (Dent, 1986; Fanning and Burch, 2000) This is shown the overall reaction in Equation 3.3 below:

$$FeS_{2} + \frac{15}{4}O_{2} + \frac{7}{2}H_{2}O \rightarrow Fe (OH)_{3} + 2SO_{4}^{2-} + 4H^{+} (Equation \ 3.3)$$

TAA is used to estimate the pool of exchangeable H<sup>+</sup> in ASS (McElnea et al., 2002). Net Acidity is a measure of the acidity hazard of ASS. Oxidation of Fe-S minerals can be caused by natural processes such as coastal regression, isostatic uplift or drought caused by climate change (Boman et al., 2010a; Grealish et al., 2014), or it may be the result of anthropogenic interventions such as drainage of coastal areas for agriculture or activities during construction or mining (Astrom and Spiro, 2000; Burton et al., 2006a; Mathew et al., 2001). Van den Berg et al. (1998) observed pH declines and metal precipitation (Fe and Mn oxides) when water levels decreased as a result of pyrite oxidation soil during summer and sulfate reduction when the soils were inundated during winter. Boman et al. (2010a) showed that land uplift and natural drainage have caused the pyrite oxidation causing Ni and Zn to be released. Karimian et al.(2017) demonstrated that when the wetland water levels undergo large seasonal fluctuations, RIS species were easily oxidized and generate substantial acidity during dry periods followed by Fe(III) and SO4<sup>2-</sup> reducing conditions which generated alkalinity and lowered acidity, and sequestered Fe, S, Zn , Mn and As during reflooding periods.

Tidal inundation of CASS is a potentially cost effective and landscape-scale remediation method (Burton et al., 2011; Burton et al., 2008a; Johnston et al., 2009a; Johnston et al., 2009b). Inundation can reverse the

oxidation process in ASS coastal wetlands. Re-flooding can stimulate the reduction of Fe (III) and  $SO_4^{2-}$ . Fe(III) are reduced to Fe(II) and  $SO_4^{2-}$  are reduced H<sub>2</sub>S (Karimian et al., 2018). Such reductive processes can decrease acidity, produce alkalinity and promote the reformation of RIS like FeS<sub>2</sub> and FeS (Hicks et al., 2003; Keene et al., 2011; Powell and Martens, 2005).

Labile organic carbon can provide a primary source of electron donors in soils thus is a significant factor which can affect the rate of reduction of Fe(III) and SO4<sup>2-</sup> reduction in inundated ASS soils (Blodau and Peiffer, 2003). Johnston et al. (2003) suggested that reduction processes from Fe (III) to Fe(II) and from SO4<sup>2-</sup> to H<sub>2</sub>S were strongly influenced by the surface vegetation. Different vegetation types can exhibit large differences in the quality and lability of carbon, which can affect the decay process of organic matter (Leifeld, 2018), and influence greenhouse gas production (Marín-Muñiz et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2021). Carbon from herbaceous plants is typically more labile than carbon from woody plants (Desai et al., 2007). Organic matter decay rates can be restricted by high contents of lignin in woody species (McClaugherty and Berg, 1987; Webster and Benfield, 1986) and therefore affects sulfide mineral reformation by decreasing the rate of decomposition of organic matter.

Previous studies have measured water quality after inundation or drainage in coastal wetlands (Johnston et al., 2005; Sohlenius and Öborn, 2004; White et al., 1997; Wong et al., 2010, 2013; Wong et al., 2015). However, studies which identify the impact of sea level rise and storm surge events on Fe sulfide minerals and acidity in CASS environments are limited. These events can be simulated by subjecting soils to inundation treatments which include extended dry periods, flooded periods and wet-dry cycles. The aims of our research are to 1) identify and compare the effects of dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments in a CASS environment on soil acidity, RIS and trace metals, and 2) assess the effects of different vegetation types on RIS formation.

# 3.3. Materials and methods

### 3.3.1 Site description and soil collection

Soil samples (0-20 cm) were taken from the Aire River floodplain, which is located in the Otway Ranges to the west of Apollo Bay in south-western Victoria (38°47'43.1" S,143°28'37" E), Australia (Fig. 3.1). The study area is adjacent to the sea and water table varies substantially because the estuary mouth closes intermittently (CCMA, 2014). The four vegetation types include: (1) *Apium gravedens* (AG), a herbaceous species, at located 38°46'14.11" S, 143°27' 37.3" E;+8 m Australian height datum (AHD), where 0 m AHD is approximately at sea level; (2) *Leptospermum lanigerum* (LL), a woolly tea tree, located at 38°47'42.1" S, 143°28'33.5" E;+9 m AHD) sites which were located in a wildlife reserve; (3) *Phragmites australis* (PA),

a broadly distributed wetland grass, located at 38°47'43.1" S, 143°28'37.1" E; 0 m AHD; and (4) *Paspalum distichum* (PD) is a species of grass, located at 38°46'01.6" S, 143°28'09.9" E;+3 m AHD) sites which were located in grazed areas which were drained. Soil cores were taken by inserting PVC tubes (h= 40 cm, d=10 cm) to 20 cm depth. Collection sites were selected to be areas that had the least plant materials, and, if needed, scraped before extraction. The cores were then manually excavated and sealed with parafilm and plastic wrap for transport. The cores were stored in a fridge at 4°C until analysis. Subsample of each horizon (0-5 cm, 5-10 cm and 10-20cm) was placed in to a freezer at -80 °C for future analysis. Based on the Australian Soil Classification, the PA site was identified as Hydrosol, AG and PD sites were Dermosols, and the LL site was a Tenosol (Isbell, 2016). These soil profiles were analogous to a Histosol, Mollisol and Entisol (USDA Soil Taxonomy) (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) at the PA, AG and PD, and LL sites, respectively.

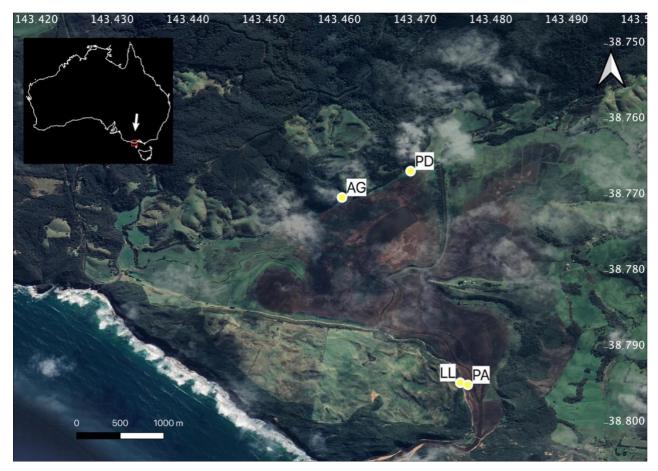


Fig 3.1 Locations of sample sites AG (*Apium gravedens*), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*), PA (*Phragmites australis*), PD (*Paspalum distichum*) within Aire River Wildlife Reserve.

# 3.3.2 Experiment setup

In this study, soil core incubation experiments were incubated at constant room temperature at 23 °C at three different water table treatments: dry, flooded and wet-dry cycles of 14 days each for a total of 56 days. The dry treatment did not involve added moisture. The flooded treatment was flooded with Aire River water (Table 3.1) at 5 cm above the soil surface with weekly addition to count for evaporative loss to the

atmosphere. In the wet-dry treatment, soil cores were initially flooded at 5 cm above soil surface for the first one week, and drained for the next week to finish one cycle. Each cycle was repeated for four times. Four replicates were included in each treatment.

### 3.3.3 Materials and methods

The starting soil moisture content and bulk density were measured by weighing after drying at 105°C for 24 h. The Eh and soil water content during the incubation were analysed by platinum electrodes and HS<sub>2</sub> Hydrosense II system (model CS 659), respectively. Soil samples were oven-dried at 85°C for 24 hours, and then crushed and sieved to 2 mm. Soil pH, electrical conductivity (EC) were measured in 1:5 v/v soil:water extracts (Rayment and Lyons, 2011). Soil pH and EC were measured using a Conductivity-TDS-Salinity pH-ORP-Temperature meter. Soluble cations (Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>) and trace metals (Al, Fe, Mn, Zn, Ni) in liquid extracts were measured by inductively coupled plasma - optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) (iCAP,7000 series). Dissolved anions (SO4<sup>2-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>) were analysed on a Lachat QC 8500 Flow Injection Analyser (FIA). Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II CHNS/ O Analyzer was used to analyse soil organic carbon (SOC) and total nitrogen (TN) content through high temperature combustion. Beckham Coulter 13320 laser diffraction analysis was applied to measure soil particle size distribution after pretreatment with 10% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to remove organic matter.

Titratable actual acidity (TAA) was measured based on the method described in Rayment and Lyons (2011). TAA was extracted by shaking 1 g of finely ground soil with 40 mL of 1M KCl for 4 h. The 1M KCl extract was subsequently titrated against 0.05 M NaOH using an auto-titrator. Acid neutralising capacity (ANC) analysis followed the method from Rayment and Lyons (2011). The suspension was prepared by mixing 1 g of finely ground soil with 25 mL of deionised water and 25 mL of 0.1 M HCl and was placed on a hot plate and boiled for 2 min. The suspension was titrated with 0.25 M NaOH to 7 with an auto-titrator to determine the ANC.

Reduced inorganic sulfur (RIS) was measured based on a three-step sequential extraction process (Burton et al., 2008b). Reduced inorganic sulfides mainly include acid volatile sulfide (AVS) and chromium reducible sulfur (CRS). The AVS fraction mainly consists of Fe monosulfides (FeS) and the CRS fraction measures pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>) (Lasorsa and Casas, 1996). Acid volatile sulfide was extracted by shaking 2 g of soil with 10 mL of 6 M HCl/0.1M ascorbic acid in gas tight 50 mL centrifuge tubes for 18 h. The evolved H<sub>2</sub>S (g) was trapped in 3% Zn acetate in 2 M NaOH, and then quantified through iodometric titration with 0.025 M sodium thiosulfate. . CRS was extracted by shaking with acidified CrCl<sub>2</sub> solution for 48 h (Burton et al., 2008b). The evolved H<sub>2</sub>S (g) was trapped in 3% Zn acetate in 2 M NaOH. CRS was subsequently measured by iodometric titration with 0.025 M sodium thiosulfate. Samples were analyzed with four replicates.

Net acidity was calculated based on acid-base accounting and the equation was calculated via Equation 3.4 and expressed in mol  $H^+$  kg<sup>-1</sup>.

Net acidity = (AVS + CRS) + TAA - (ANC/FF) (Equation 3.4) Where a minimum fineness factor (FF) of 1.5 was applied.

Table 3.1 Soluble cation and anion concentrations in Aire River water (surface water)

Site	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup> (mg/L)	Na <sup>+</sup> (mg/L)	Cl <sup>-</sup> (mg/L)	NO <sub>3</sub> -(mg/L)	SO4 <sup>2-</sup> (mg/L)
	(mg/L)					
Aire River water	55.3	141.7	1227.5	1993.4	0.4	106.5

### 3.3.4 Geochemical Modelling

Geochemical modelling was done using Geochemist's Workbench (Bethke, 2007), using thermodynamic properties from a modified version of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory database (version 9). Updated properties for Fe and Al were taken from Ram et al. (2021b). The Cl<sup>-</sup> concentrations for modelling were set to the lowest and mean Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration that were extracted (61 mg/kg and 1542 mg/kg) in this study, and the maximum concentration was set to 19400 mg/kg because it is the concentration of Cl<sup>-</sup> in seawater (Levinson, 1968). The mean Fe<sup>2+</sup>concentration that was extracted for modelling was set to 0.74 mg/kg. The SO4<sup>2-</sup> concentration for modelling were set to the lowest and mean SO4<sup>2-</sup> concentration that were extracted (46 mg/kg and 497 mg/kg) in this study, and the maximum concentration was set to 2700 mg/kg because it is the concentration of SO4<sup>2-</sup> in seawater (Levinson, 1968). The mean Al<sup>3+</sup> concentrations that was extracted for modelling was set to 0.34 mg/kg.

### 3.3.5 Statistical analysis

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) in combination with a post-hoc Tukey test was conducted to detect significant difference in AVS and CRS between the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05). One-way ANOVA was used to determine the significant differences of main soil characteristics (SOC, TN) between the sites (p<0.05). Pearson correlation analysis was applied between RIS (AVS and CRS) and other soil parameters respectively. All the analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism 8.

# 3.4. Results

### 3.4.1 Soil characterisation

The initial soil properties were shown in Table 3.2. The PA and LL sites had a sandier texture compared with the AG and PD sites. The soil pH indicated that all the sites were slightly acidic to acidic. The EC and soil water content deceased with soil depth at all site, with the highest values both occurring in the PA site. Bulk density increased with soil depth in all sites (Table 3.2). The initial SOC and TN were significantly different between the sites respectively (p < 0.05). The highest SOC and TN concentration occurred in the 0-5 cm soil layer in all sites, with the highest SOC and TN concentration occurring in the PA site (Table 3.2). The C/N ratios of the AG and PD sites were lower than those in the PA and LL sites (Table 3.2). In the dry treatment, soil pH generally decreased at all sites, with the greatest decrease occurring in the LL site. The soil pH increased following flooded treatment in the AG, PA and PD sites. The soil pH decreased in the AG and LL site while did not have much change in the PA and PD site following wet-dry cycle treatment (Table S3.1). The soil EC increased after all water table treatments, with the greatest EC occurring in the PA site (Table S3.1). The soil water content declined with time in the dry treatment in all sites (Fig. 3.2a, c, e, g). In the flooded treatment, the soil water content was 100% in all sites as the soils were inundated. In wet-dry cycle treatment, soil water content decreased from flooded condition to dry condition (Fig. 3.2a, c, e, g). The Eh of the soil changed rapidly with the fluctuation of water level. The Eh was between +100 and +210 mV at all sites under dry treatment. The Eh were generally below -170 mV at all sites under flooded treatment (Fig. 3.2b, d, f, h). Under wet-dry cycle treatment, Eh oscillated from ~ -200 mV to ~ +100 mV at all sites.

Sites	Depth (cm)	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)	pН	EC (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Bulk Density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Soil water content (%)	SOC (%)	Total N (%)	C/N
	0-5	0	73	27	$5.8\pm0.02$	$0.18\pm0.01$	$0.75\pm0.02$	$29.8\pm2.3$	$6.0\pm0.1$	$0.7\pm0.01$	$8.4\pm0.2$
AG	5-10	0	81	19	$5.4\pm0.02$	$0.14\pm0.01$	$0.88\pm0.01$	$26.2\pm1.1$	$5.3\pm0.1$	$0.7\pm0.01$	$7.7\pm0.3$
	10-20	0	75	25	$5.2\pm0.05$	$0.13\pm0.01$	$0.87\pm0.04$	$24.0\pm0.1$	$4.2\pm0.1$	$0.5\pm0.01$	$7.9\pm0.1$
	0-5	85	12	3	$6.6\pm0.09$	$0.52\pm0.02$	$0.95{\pm}~0.01$	$25.3\pm4.1$	$5.5\pm0.4$	$0.5\pm0.04$	$11.8\pm0.3$
LL	5-10	80	15	5	$6.3\pm0.06$	$0.26\pm0.01$	$0.97\pm0.03$	$16.2\pm0.3$	$5.5\pm0.4$	$0.5\pm0.04$	$10.4\pm0.1$
	10-20	69	23	8	$6.3\pm0.01$	$0.30\pm0.02$	$1.02\pm0.02$	$18.4\pm1.4$	$4.4\pm0.3$	$0.4\pm0.03$	$10.5\pm0.1$
	0-5	59	37	4	$5.4 \pm 0.01$	$2.18\pm0.05$	$0.33\pm0.01$	83.3 ± 1.3	$20.4\pm0.3$	$1.8\pm0.05$	$11.5\pm0.1$
PA	5-10	63	33	4	$4.9\pm0.09$	$1.91\pm0.1$	$0.37\pm0.02$	$80.2\pm1.7$	$22.8\pm0.3$	$1.9\pm0.03$	$11.9\pm0.3$
	10-20	34	57	9	$5.3\pm0.02$	$2.14\pm0.06$	$0.38\pm0.01$	$70.6\pm0.9$	$16.8 \pm 1.1$	$1.5\pm0.08$	$11.2\pm0.2$
	0-5	0	83	17	$5.2\pm0.01$	$0.34\pm0.01$	$0.78\pm0.02$	$34.3\pm0.9$	$7.6\pm0.5$	$0.9\pm0.01$	$8.8\pm0.8$
PD	5-10	0	78	22	$5.2\pm0.01$	$0.23\pm0.01$	$0.87\pm0.02$	$28.3\pm0.4$	$4.9\pm0.1$	$0.5\pm0.02$	$9.2\pm0.2$
	10-20	0	79	21	$5.3\pm0.03$	$0.27\pm0.01$	$0.92\pm0.01$	$30.6\pm0.6$	$5.4\pm0.1$	$0.6\pm0.01$	$9.4\pm0.3$

Table 3.2 Physical and chemical characteristics of the soils in the four vegetation type sites

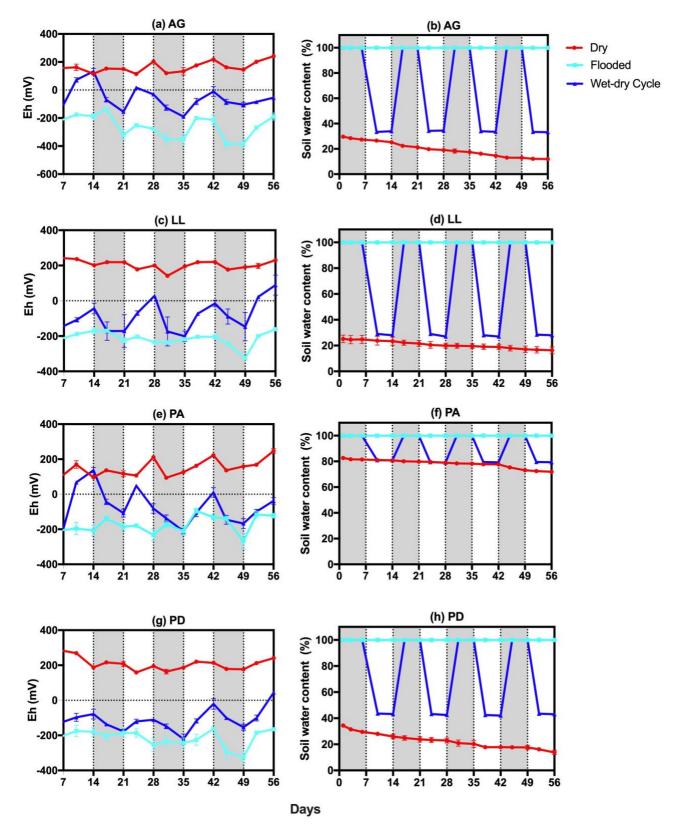


Fig 3.2 Temporal variation in Eh and soil water content in AG (*Apium gravedens*) (a, b), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) (c, d), PA (*Phragmites australis*) (e, f), PD (*Paspalum distichum*) (g, h) sites. Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4). (Grey shaded areas represent flooded periods; white areas represent dry periods in wet-dry cycle treatment)

# 3.4.2 AVS and CRS

Acid volatile sulfide (AVS) and chromium reducible sulfur (CRS) were detected at the surface and at depth in all sites. The highest AVS concentrations were found in the 0-5 cm in the AG and LL sites and highest CRS concentrations were detected in the 0-5cm in the PD site in all water table treatments (Table 3.4). Under the flooded treatment, significantly higher concentrations of AVS and CRS were found in all sites compared with other treatments in most soil depths (p<0.05) (Table 3.3).

Under dry conditions, the CRS concentration decreased significantly in most soil depth in all sites (p<0.05) (Table 3.3). Under the flooded treatment, the AVS and CRS concentrations increased significantly in most soil depths in the AG, PA and PD sites (p<0.05). In the wet-dry cycle treatment, the AVS and CRS concentrations decreased significantly in the LL site and the CRS concentration decreased significantly in the PA site (p<0.05). The CRS concentration increased significantly in the AG and PD sites under the wet-dry cycle treatment (p<0.05).

The AVS concentration ranged from 15 to 31  $\mu$ g/g in the AG sites, from 14 to 28  $\mu$ g/g in the LL sites, from 21 to 241  $\mu$ g/g in the PA sites, from 19 to 53  $\mu$ g/g in the PD sites in all treatments. The CRS concentration ranged from 20 to 108  $\mu$ g/g in the AG site, from 17 to 90  $\mu$ g/g in the LL site, from 171 to 3701  $\mu$ g/g in the PA site and from 16 to 189  $\mu$ g/g in the PD site in all treatments (Table 3.3). The highest AVS (241  $\mu$ g/g) and CRS concentration (3701  $\mu$ g/g) both occurred in the PA site under flooded treatment (Table 3). The LL site had the lowest AVS and CRS concentration under flooded treatment compared with the other vegetation types (Table 3.3).

Table 3.4 summarised the Pearson correlations between RIS and soil parameters after all treatments. AVS was positively correlated with SOC in the flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05). AVS was positively correlated with C/N following flooded treatment (p<0.05). AVS and CRS were negatively correlated with loss of SOC in the flooded treatment. CRS was positively correlated with SOC in all treatments (p<0.05). CRS was positively correlated with C/N under dry and flooded treatments (p<0.05).

Sites	Horizons	RIS	Initial	Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry Cycle
Siles	(cm)	KIS	$(\mu g/g)$	$(\mu g/g)$	$(\mu g/g)$	$(\mu g/g)$
	0-5	AVS	$19.7 \pm 1.4^{\text{b}}$	$21.8\pm3.7^{b}$	$30.5\pm5.2^{a}$	$23.0\pm3.2^{\text{b}}$
		CRS	$26.8\pm2.9^{\rm c}$	$22.5\pm5.0^{c}$	$107.9\pm40.3^{\rm a}$	$48.6\pm7.2^{b}$
AG	5-10	AVS	$17.4 \pm 1.2^{a}$	$15.2\pm0.8^{a}$	$20.9\pm2.9^{a}$	$19.9\pm3.9^{\rm a}$
		CRS	$28.2\pm3.1^{\text{c}}$	$20.1\pm3.6^{c}$	$72.1\pm8.7^{\rm a}$	$44.9\pm5.2^{\text{b}}$
	10-20	AVS	$36.6\pm3.9^{a}$	$18.3 \pm 1.2^{\text{b}}$	$19.3\pm5.3^{b}$	$18.7\pm11.2^{\text{b}}$
		CRS	$30.0\pm3.7^{a}$	$25.7\pm2.6^{\text{b}}$	$35.0\pm7.9^{a}$	$32.5\pm4.7^{a}$
	0-5	AVS	$35.2\pm6.65^a$	$32.6\pm2.1^{a}$	$28.4\pm4.1^{a}$	$10.1\pm2.5^{\text{b}}$
		CRS	$80.1\pm7.75^{a}$	$18.6\pm3.6^{c}$	$89.9\pm9.2^{a}$	$39.1\pm3.7^{b}$
LL	5-10	AVS	$31.9\pm7.2^{\rm a}$	$27.9\pm3.1^{a}$	$19.3\pm6.1^{b}$	$8.0\pm1.1^{\rm b}$
LL		CRS	$46.4\pm7.2^{a}$	$16.8\pm5.7^{b}$	$48.6\pm2.1^{a}$	$24.7\pm3.9^{b}$
	10-20	AVS	$27.9\pm2.1^{a}$	$13.6\pm3.5^{a}$	$13.8\pm5.5^{a}$	$5.0\pm1.1^{b}$
		CRS	$61.0\pm1.2^{\rm a}$	$30.3\pm3.9^{\text{c}}$	$52.6\pm2.4^{a}$	$43.1\pm5.6^{b}$
	0-5	AVS	$22.8\pm4.0^{b}$	$27.9\pm5.6^{\text{b}}$	$240.6\pm36.7^{a}$	$76.9 \pm 17.9^{\text{b}}$
		CRS	$1785.9 \pm 116.0^{a}$	$209.3\pm31.1^{\text{c}}$	$1528.1 \pm 192.6^{a}$	$588.5\pm 62.4^b$
PA	5-10	AVS	$44.6\pm10.5^{b}$	$20.8\pm5.8^{b}$	$181.5\pm21.9^{a}$	$34.2\pm10.4^{b}$
ΡA		CRS	$1974.7 \pm 146.3^{a}$	$171.3\pm37.2^{\rm c}$	$1303.3 \pm 134.5^{b}$	$1226.2\pm335.1^{b}$
	10-20	AVS	$94.7 \pm 13.9^{b}$	$24.5\pm5.3^{\rm c}$	$231.8\pm36.2^{a}$	$84.2\pm13.6^{\text{b}}$
		CRS	$4578.8\pm124.9^{a}$	$501.5\pm55.2^{d}$	$3700.8 \pm 818.9^{b}$	$2299.8\pm456.6^{\circ}$
	0-5	AVS	$27.1 \pm 1.5^{\rm b}$	$23.3\pm4.4^{b}$	$52.5\pm5.4^{\rm a}$	$52.3\pm9.7^{\rm a}$
		CRS	$51.5\pm10.8^{\rm c}$	$31.9\pm2.8^{\rm c}$	$168.7\pm27.4^{a}$	$136.0\pm18.6^{b}$
PD	5-10	AVS	$24.8\pm4.2^{b}$	$19.4 \pm 1.8^{b}$	$45.9\pm 6.4^{\rm a}$	$40.2\pm4.9^{\rm a}$
PD		CRS	$16.5 \pm 1.40^{\rm c}$	$29.2\pm4.7^{b}$	$88.3\pm3.4^{\rm a}$	$82.2\pm9.9^{a}$
	10-20	AVS	$34.3 \pm 1.4^{a}$	$30.3\pm4.1^{a}$	$35.7\pm2.2^{a}$	$36.7\pm6.5^{\rm a}$
		CRS	$60.2\pm7.2^{\rm a}$	$28.6\pm5.1^{b}$	$61.4\pm5.9^{\rm a}$	$53.7\pm5.6^{\rm a}$

 Table 3.3 AVS and CRS between treatments in different soil horizons

Values represent means of four replicates. Different small letter within each row represent significant difference in mean value between the treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05)

Table 3.4 Pearson correlation analysis between RIS (AVS and CRS) and soil parameters
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Parameters		AVS		CRS			
	Dry	Flooded Wet-dry		Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry	
			cycle			cycle	
SOC	-0.11	0.91*	0.70*	0.87*	0.90*	0.78*	
Loss of SOC	0.09	-0.68*	-0.18	0.85*	-0.69*	0.23	
C/N	0.29	0.59*	0.32	0.76*	0.62*	0.46	

Pair sample size, n=16 for SOC, loss of SOC (initial-after treatment) and C/N in the soil top layer (0-5cm) after the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments in all sites.

\*p=0.05 correlations are significant

Sites	Depth (cm)	pH Initial	pH Dry	pH Flooded	pH Wet-dry Cycle	EC (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> ) Initial	EC (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> ) Dry	EC (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> ) Flooded	EC (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> ) Wet-dry Cycle
0-5 AG 5-10 10-20	0-5	$5.8\pm0.02$	$5.6\pm0.03$	$5.8\pm0.02$	$4.8\pm0.01$	$0.18\pm0.001$	$0.25\pm0.001$	$2.06\pm0.02$	$1.55\pm0.04$
	5-10	$5.4\pm0.02$	$5.2\pm0.02$	$6.0\pm0.02$	$4.9\pm0.01$	$0.14\pm0.006$	$0.21\pm0.001$	$1.14\pm0.02$	$0.88\pm0.05$
	$5.2\pm0.05$	$4.9\pm0.01$	$5.8\pm0.04$	$5.0\pm0.02$	$0.13\pm0.01$	$0.17\pm0.002$	$0.65\pm0.04$	$0.56\pm0.02$	
0-5 LL 5-10 10-20	$6.6\pm0.09$	$5.8\pm0.08$	$6.2\pm0.01$	$5.4\pm0.02$	$0.52\pm0.02$	$1.11\pm0.05$	$1.64\pm0.02$	$1.36\pm0.05$	
	5-10	$6.3\pm0.06$	$5.6\pm0.04$	$6.4\pm0.02$	$5.8\pm0.02$	$0.26\pm0.001$	$0.35\pm0.03$	$0.69\pm0.03$	$0.76\pm0.04$
	10-20	$6.3\pm0.01$	$5.3\pm0.02$	$5.8\pm0.03$	$5.5\pm0.01$	$0.30\pm0.02$	$0.33\pm0.04$	$0.61\pm0.03$	$0.52\pm0.06$
PA 5-	0-5	$5.4\pm0.01$	$4.8\pm0.01$	$5.9\pm0.02$	$5.4\pm0.02$	$2.18\pm0.05$	$3.61\pm0.04$	$3.39\pm0.02$	$5.41\pm0.08$
	5-10	$4.9\pm0.09$	$4.9\pm0.05$	$5.8\pm0.02$	$5.5\pm0.01$	$1.91\pm0.1$	$2.62\pm0.03$	$2.02\pm0.05$	$2.80\pm0.03$
	10-20	$5.3\pm0.02$	$5.2\pm0.03$	$6.1\pm0.02$	$5.5\pm0.02$	$2.14\pm0.06$	$1.73\pm0.02$	$1.73\pm0.04$	$2.41\pm0.05$
PD	0-5	$5.2\pm0.005$	$5.2\pm0.01$	$5.8\pm0.01$	$5.5\pm0.01$	$0.34\pm0.003$	$0.35\pm0.03$	$2.33\pm0.02$	$2.32\pm0.02$
	5-10	$5.2\pm0.01$	$5.1\pm0.02$	$5.6\pm0.02$	$5.4\pm0.02$	$0.23\pm0.001$	$0.28\pm0.02$	$1.06\pm0.02$	$1.22\pm0.03$
	10-20	$5.3\pm0.03$	$5.2\pm0.03$	$5.5\pm0.01$	$5.4\pm0.01$	$0.27\pm0.001$	$0.18\pm0.01$	$0.63\pm0.06$	$0.78\pm0.02$

Table S1. soil pH and EC after the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments

# 3.4.3 TAA, ANC and net acidity

In the dry treatment, TAA was increased by 74-88%, 13-78%, 3-65% in the AG, PA, PD sites respectively (Fig. 3.3a, g, j), with the highest TAA occurred in the AG site (96.6 mol  $H^+$  t<sup>-1</sup>). The net acidity was increased by 63-83%, 3-192% in the AG and PD sites (Fig. 3.3c, 1).

In the flooded treatment, TAA was decreased by 90-100%, 6-100%, 25-42% in the AG, PA, PD sites, respectively. ANC was increased by 100%, 7-300%, 100% following the flooded treatment in the AG, LL and PA sites, respectively (Fig. 3.3b, e, h). The net acidity was decreased by 84-794%, 7-863%, 14-130% 3-24% in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites in all soil depth, respectively (Fig. 3.3c, f, i, l).

In the wet-dry cycle treatment, TAA was increased by 34-129%, 7-117% in the AG and PD site (Fig. 3.3a, j), and decreased by 22-37% in the PA site (Fig. 3.3g). Net acidity was increased by 37-66% and 33-220% in the AG and PD sites in the 0-10 cm layer respectively (Fig. 3.3c, l) while decreased by 7-772% and 37-55% in the LL and PA sites respectively (Fig. 3.3f, i).

The PA site had higher net acidity compared with other sites before and after all the water table treatments, with the highest net acidity of 196 mol H<sup>+</sup> t<sup>-1</sup> occurred in the 10-20 cm after the wet-dry cycle treatment (Fig. 3.3i). The AG site had negative net acidity under the flooded treatment (Fig. 3.3c). The highest ANC occurred in the LL site (Fig. 3.3e) and the TAA was not detected in the LL site in all treatments (Fig. 3.3d). Net acidity was negative only in the LL site throughout the soil layers in all treatments (Fig. 3.3f).

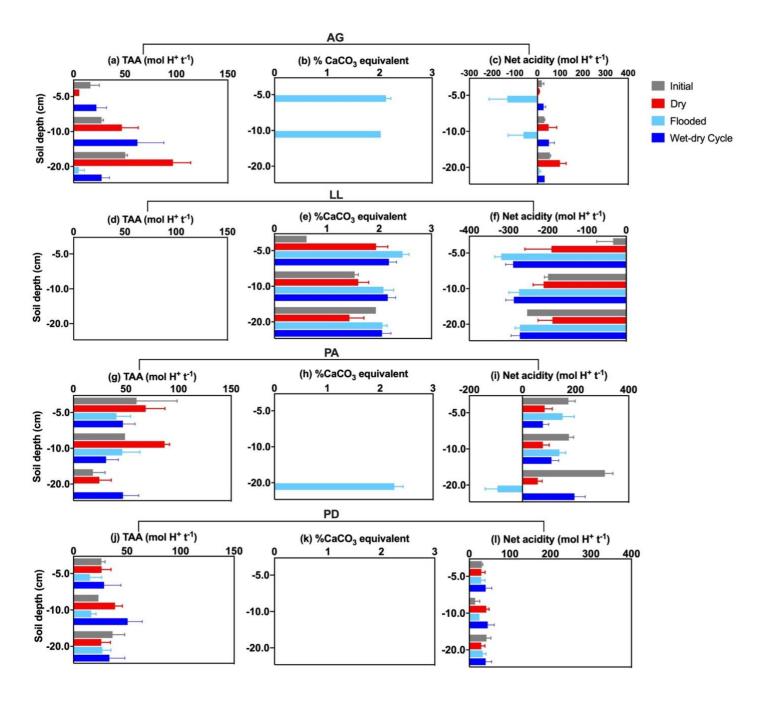


Fig 3.3 Titratable actual acidity (TAA), acid neutralisation capacity (ANC) and net acidity at the AG (*Apium gravedens*) (a, b, c), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) (d, e, f), PA (*Phragmites australis*) (g, h, i), and PD (*Paspalum distichum*) sites (j, k, l). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4)

### 3.4.4 Trace metals and anions

The highest initial Al, Mn, Zn concentration occurred in the AG site in the 10-20 cm layer. The initial Fe, Ni, SO<sub>4<sup>2-</sup></sub> concentration remained the highest in the PA site. The initial Al, Fe, Mn, Zn, Ni, SO<sub>4<sup>2-</sup></sub> concentration remained the lowest in the LL site. The initial Al, Fe, Mn, Zn, Ni concentration generally increased with soil depth in the AG, LL and PD sites and decreased with soils depth in the PA site.

In the dry treatment, Al concentration was significantly higher compared with other treatments in the PA and PD sites (p<0.05) (Fig. 3.4k, p). Fe concentration decreased under dry treatment in the AG, PA and PD sites (Fig. 3.4b, l. q), with the minimum concentration of 0.12 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> occurring in the 10-20 cm layer in the PA site. Mn concentration decreased under the dry treatment in the PD site, with the greatest decease to a concentration of 0.09 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the 10-20 cm layer. The SO4<sup>2-</sup> concentration increased after the dry treatment in the PA site at all depths (Fig. 3.5e). The Cl<sup>-</sup>/SO4<sup>2-</sup> ratios decrease after the dry treatment in the PA and PD sites, with the lowest Cl<sup>-</sup>/SO4<sup>2-</sup> ratio of 0.34 occurred in the 10-20 cm layer in the PA site under dry treatment. Lower Cl<sup>-</sup>/SO4<sup>2-</sup> ratios were observed in the dry treatment in all sites compared with flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (Fig. 3.5b, d, f, h).

In the flooded treatment, Al concentration decreased in the PA and PD sites, with the minimum concentration of 0.02 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the 0-5 cm layer in the PD site (Fig. 3.4k, p). Fe concentration increased following the flooded in the AG and LL sites (Fig. 3.4b, g), with the maximum concentration of 2.55 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> occurring in the 5-10 cm layer in the AG site under the flooded treatment. Mn concentrations increased under the flooded treatment in the AG and LL sites (Fig. 3.4c, h), with the greatest increase occurring in the flooded treatment to a concentration of 6.93 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the 0-5 cm layer in the AG site. Zn concentration decreased under flooded treatment in the PA and PD sites (Fig. 3.4 j, n, o, s, t), with the greatest decrease to 0 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the PA and PD site. Ni concentration decreased under flooded treatment in the ILL, PA and PD sites (Fig. 3.4i, j, n, o, s, t), with the greatest decrease to 0 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> concentration decreased in the LL, PA and PD sites compared to the initial concentrations (Fig. 3.5c, e, g). The Cl<sup>-</sup>/SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> ratios increased following the flooded treatment in all sites (Fig. 3.5b, d, f, h), with the highest ratio of 10.6 occurring in the 0-5 cm layer in the PD site under the flooded treatment.

In the wet-dry cycle treatment, Fe, Mn concentration increased in the AG and LL sites (Fig. 3.4b, g). The SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> concentration increased in the wet-dry cycle treatment in the AG, LL and PD sites (Fig. 3.5a, c, g).

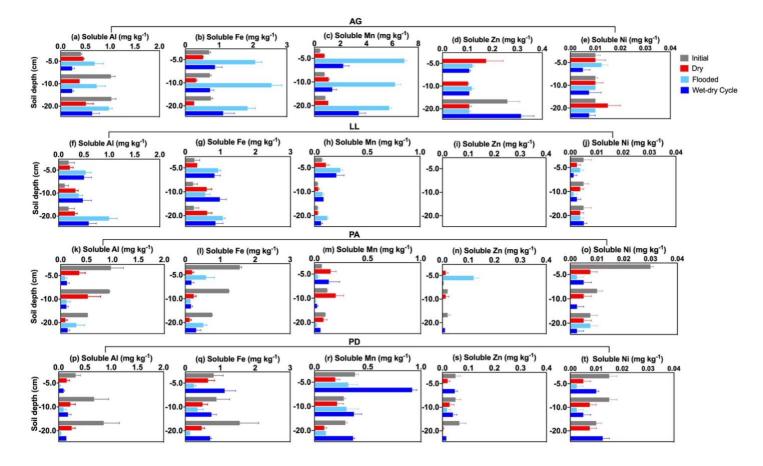


Fig 3.4 Soluble trace metals Al, Fe, Mn, Zn and Ni at the AG (*Apium gravedens*) (a, b, c, d, e), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) (f, g, h, i, j), PA (*Phragmites australis*) (k, l, m, n, o), and PD (*Paspalum distichum*) sites (p, q, r, s, t). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4).

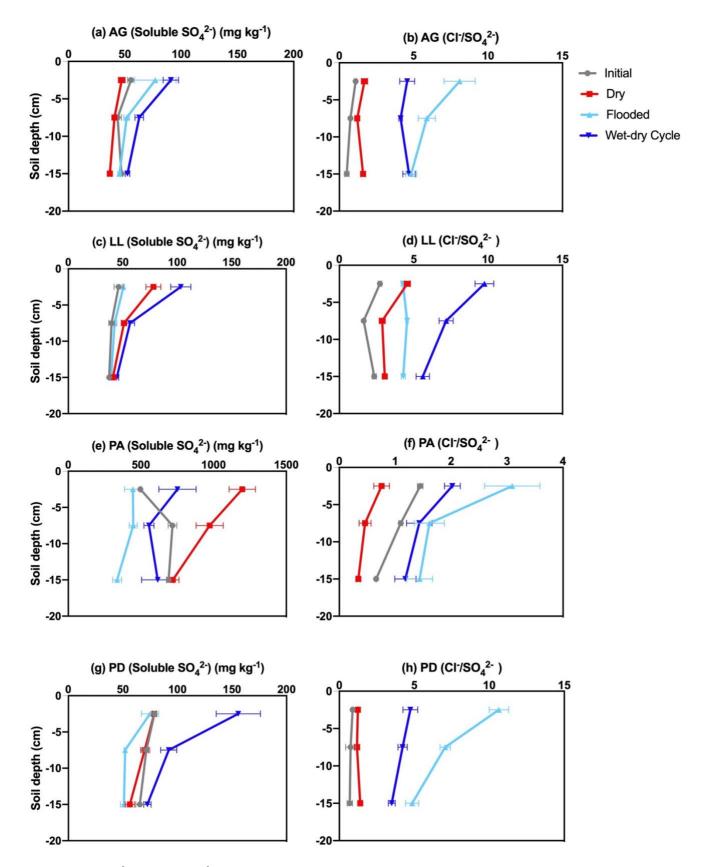


Fig 3.5 Soluble SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup>/SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> at the AG (*Apium gravedens*) (a, b, c, d), LL (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) (e, f, g, h), PA (*Phragmites australis*) (i, j, k, l), and PD (*Paspalum distichum*) sites (m, n, o, p). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4).

# 3.4.5 Geochemical Modelling

Geochemical modelling showed that the form of Fe was dominated by  $FeCl_2^+$  where  $Cl^-$  concentrations were high, and dominated by pyrite where  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentrations were high (Fig. 3.6A, B). Fe at lower  $Cl^-$  and  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentrations led to the formation of  $Fe^{2+}$  with lower pH and FeO(OH) with higher pH (Fig. 3.6A, B). The predominance of  $Fe^{2+}$ , FeO(OH) and magnetite at the representative activities of  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Cl^-$  is shown in Fig. 3.6A. The Eh and pH values generally fell into the predominance region of FeO(OH) in the AG, LL and PD sites (Fig. 3.6A). Under the dry treatment, the Fe species was in the form of FeO(OH) in all vegetation types. Under the flooded and wet-dry cycle treatment, Fe was in the form of  $Fe^{2+}$ .

The dominant Fe species were  $Fe^{2+}$ , FeO(OH) and pyrite at the representative activities of  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $SO_4^{2-}$  and is shown in Fig. 3.6B. At the beginning of the experiment, Fe and  $SO_4^{2-}$  were likely to be in the form of FeO(OH) (Fig. 3.6B). Under the dry treatment, Fe species were likely to be in the form of FeO(OH) in all vegetation types (Fig. 3.6B). Under the flooded treatment, the main Fe species was likely to be in the form of pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>) in all vegetation types (Fig. 3.6B). Under the form of soluble  $Fe^{2+}$ .

The geochemical modelling showed that the form of Al remained the same with the change of Cl<sup>-</sup> and SO4<sup>2-</sup> concentrations (Fig. 3.6C, D). The representative activities of Al<sup>3+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup> is shown in Fig. 3.6C and representative activities of Al<sup>3+</sup>, SO4<sup>2-</sup> is shown in Fig. 3.6D. The Eh and pH values fell into the region of Al (OH)<sub>3</sub> in the beginning and end of the incubation treatments (Fig. 3.6C, D). There were no changes in Al species with the increasing of Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration and SO4<sup>2-</sup> (Fig. 3.6C, D).

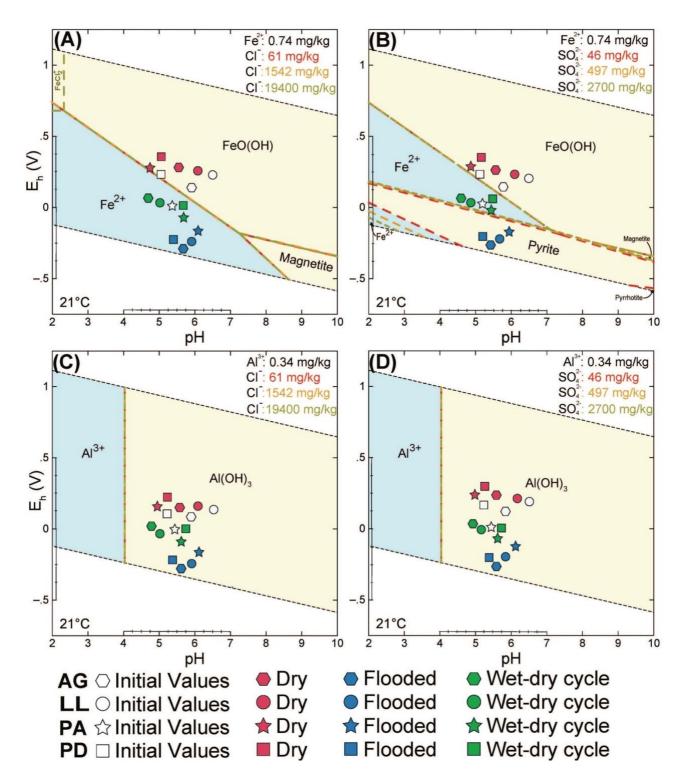


Fig 3.6 Chemical thermodynamic stability diagrams for Fe solubility in (A) in chloride brines (Fe<sup>2+</sup>: 0.74 mg/kg; Cl<sup>-</sup>:61 mg/kg, 1542 mg/kg, 19400 mg/kg); and (B) sulfate waters (Fe<sup>2+</sup>:0.74 mg/kg; SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>: 46 mg/kg, 497 mg/kg, 2700 mg/kg); and Al solubility in (C) in chloride brines (Al<sup>3+</sup>: 0.34 mg/kg; Cl<sup>-</sup>:61 mg/kg, 1542 mg/kg, 19400 mg/kg); and (D) sulfate waters (Al<sup>3+</sup>:0.34 mg/kg; SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>: 46 mg/kg, 497 mg/kg, 2700 mg/kg); and (D) sulfate waters (Al<sup>3+</sup>:0.34 mg/kg; SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>: 46 mg/kg, 497 mg/kg, 2700 mg/kg), as a function of pH vs.  $E_h$  (V). Solid bold lines are solubility limits and mineral stability fields, and dashed bold lines changing limits as a function of either SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> or Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration. The conditions for the sulfate and chloride encountered in the present study from the Aire River water at 21°C at the beginning and end of the incubation experiments, are denoted as a function of initial, dry, flooded, and wet-dry cycles.

# 3.5. Discussion

#### 3.5.1 Net acidity

In ASS, the oxidation of AVS and CRS can result in formation of products such as Fe minerals including Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> acidity while the hydrolysis of Al<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> can release acidity (H<sup>+</sup>). The brackish Aire River water can contribute to high ANC in this soil and neutralized the acidity. In coastal wetlands, the water table usually fluctuates seasonally due to precipitation, storm surge events and flooding (Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012). Cook et al. (2000) observed that considerable acidity was released from CASS following drought or low rainfall due to the oxidation of RIS and hydrolysis of Al<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup>.

#### 3.5.2 Dry treatment

Net acidity generally increased after the dry treatment in the AG and PD sites, which was mainly due to the oxidation of AVS, CRS and the hydrolysis of trace metals. TAA generally increased after the dry treatment in the AG, PA and PD sites (Fig. 3.3a, g, j). Under dry conditions, the significant decreases in AVS and CRS in most soil depth in all sites (p<0.05) (Table 3.3) and increase in SO4<sup>2-</sup> concentration compared with the initial concentration (Fig. 3.5) showed that AVS and CRS oxidized when the surface layer was exposed to an oxidising environment and therefore induced acidity in soils. AVS was highly reactive and oxidation of AVS can happen within hours while oxidation of CRS can occur over time periods of days (Burton et al., 2009). The incubation time in our study was 8 weeks, which provided time for the oxidation reaction. Similarly, Burton et al. (2006c) and Joukainen & Yli-Halla (2003) observed that iron sulfides decreased and SO4<sup>2-</sup> increased due to the lowering of the groundwater table.

CASS environments experience large periodic redox oscillations when water levels fluctuate. These redox oscillations can lead to accumulation of various forms of species of trace metal minerals (Al, Fe, Mn, Zn, Ni) in soil sediments (Johnston et al., 2014; Sohlenius and Öborn, 2004). Fe concentrations decreased in the dry treatments in the AG, PA and PD sites (Fig. 3.4b, i, q). Soluble Fe is mainly in the form of Fe<sup>2+</sup>. The decrease in soluble Fe concentration is probably due to the further oxidation of Fe<sup>2+</sup> to Fe<sup>3+</sup>. Fe<sup>3+</sup> can be subsequently hydrolysed and precipitated to a more stable solid (e.g. FeO (OH)) (Fig. 3.6 A, B) which can release a large amount of acidity over time. Previous studies have also shown Fe<sup>3+</sup> to decrease due to the hydrolysis and precipitation of ferric hydroxide (Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub>) (Boman et al., 2008; Evangelou and Zhang, 1995; Nordstrom, 1982).

In the dry treatment, Al concentration increased in the 0-5 cm layer in the AG and LL sites compared to the initial concentration (Fig. 3.4a, f). Al is highly soluble and mobile under acidic oxidizing conditions, usually in the form of Al<sup>3+</sup> and Al<sup>3+</sup> can produce 3 mol of H<sup>+</sup> via hydrolysis under low soil pH conditions (Hicks et

al., 2009). A previous study found the increase in Al accumulated in the surface horizon due to the evaporation from the soil surface in the ASS during the dry season and maintaining a shallow water table can help prevent the further formation of acidity in Vietnam (Minh et al., 1998). This result was in accordance with our finding that Al accumulated in the top horizon under dry conditions.

#### 3.5.3 Flooded treatment

Net acidity decreased in all sites following the flooded treatment and this was mainly because of reduction of  $SO_4^{2-}$  (Fig. 3.3). Under the flooded treatment, the increase in AVS and CRS in most soil depths in all sites and the decrease in  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentration indicated the reformation of RIS species (Table 3.3). The reformation of AVS and CRS can occur by consuming  $SO_4^{2-}$  when Fe-containing minerals and soil organic matter are abundant. The initial  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentration in the Aire River water was 106.5 mg/L (Table 3.3.1) and the initial Fe<sup>2+</sup> concentrations in the 0-5 cm soil layer were 0.71, 0.26, 1.56 and 0.81 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites respectively. SOC in the 0-5 cm soil layer was 6%, 5.5%, 20.4%, 7.6% in the AG, LL, PA and PD sites respectively (Table 3.3.2). Yuan et al. (2015) showed that the organic matter addition should be above 2% as a threshold to stimulate  $SO_4^{2-}$  reduction and form AVS in ASS.

Significantly higher concentrations of CRS were detected under flooded conditions compared to the dry treatment and wet-dry cycle treatments in all sites in most cases (p<0.05), This was because the flooded treatment stimulated SO4<sup>2-</sup> reduction and resulted in the formation of AVS and CRS with the supply of organic matter and Fe containing minerals (Hicks et al., 2003). The previous studies (Burton et al., 2011; Peiffer et al., 2015) also observed high concentrations of CRS in the environment with abundant Fe containing minerals and SO4<sup>2-</sup> through microbial sulfate reduction. Secondly, the waterlogged conditions allowed the transformation of metastable AVS minerals to more stable CRS minerals within several days (Berner, 1984; Rickard, 1997). The incubation period was 56 days in our study, which provided enough time for the conversion from AVS to CRS. In this study, CRS was the dominant fraction of RIS and was 3-15 times higher than AVS at all sites. AVS ranged from 14-241 µg/g while CRS ranged from 16-3701 µg/g among all sites in all treatments (Table 3.4). Payne and Stolt (2017) showed similar results in that AVS ranged from 0 to 27 µg/g and CRS ranged from 33 to 11,591 µg/g in shallow embayments.

 $SO_4^{2-}$  concentration decreased in all sites. The reduction of  $SO_4^{2-}$  and Fe(III) oxides with the organic carbon can generate bicarbonate alkalinity (Johnston et al., 2009b) and increased in soil pH (2-3 units). High ANC was observed in the AG, LL and PA sites in some soil depths under the flooded treatment (Fig. 3.3b, e, h). This suggested that the alkalinity from the Aire River brackish water can potentially neutralize the acidity caused by the sulfide mineral oxidation in the AG, LL and PA sites. In addition, reduction of  $SO_4^{2-}$  and Fe(III) produced alkalinity, this reaction may generate mobile ions that may reduce acidity. The long-term mitigation of acidity is to transfer these ions into solid phase, like FeS<sub>2</sub> (Rickard and Luther, 2007).

Karimian et al. (2017) demonstrated that Fe<sup>3+</sup> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> reduction in ASS wetlands needed 8 weeks of freshwater reflooding. The brackish Aire River inundation of 8 weeks in this study can have similar effects. Burton et al. (2011) demonstrated that tidal re-flooding has neutralized the previous acidity and the SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> reduction rate (300 nmol cm<sup>-3</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>) occurred in the inter-tidal zone in the surface layer (0-60 cm). White et al. (1997) also showed that tidal flooding with brackish water can neutralize the acidity caused by the oxidized sulfidic minerals from coastal wetlands in eastern Australia.

Inundation with Aire River water caused significant changes in the concentration of trace metals.  $Fe^{2+}$  is more stable under low redox levels and where the pH is not acidic.  $Fe^{3+}$  is more stable under high redox levels and pH is low (less than 3) (Karimian et al., 2018; Lin and Herbert Jr, 1997). The Fe concentration increased in the AG and LL sites under the flooded treatment (Fig. 3.4b, g). Ponnamperuma (1972) showed that Fe reduction may include increased dissolved  $Fe^{2+}$  concentration, pH and exchangeable cations. The decrease in Fe concentration following the flooded treatment in the PA and PD sites indicated that reformation of RIS may have occurred. Flooded conditions can immobilize  $Fe^{2+}$  because FeS and FeS<sub>2</sub> can be formed through the reaction of H<sub>2</sub>S with  $Fe^{2+}$ . This is in accordance with our results where FeS<sub>2</sub> was formed under flooded conditions, which was determined with higher CRS concentration (Table 3.3). The previous study mentioned that  $Fe^{2+}$  had negative relationships with water levels and highest  $Fe^{2+}$  values were observed at the surface sampling sites (Johnston et al., 2011).

Al<sup>3+</sup> concentrations decreased following the flooded treatment in the PA and PD sites (Fig. 3.4k, p), but increased in the AG and LL sites (Fig. 3.4a, f). The soil pH increased compared with the initial state following flooded conditions at the PA and PD sites (Table S1). Inundation conditions were conducive to  $Fe^{3+}$  and  $SO_4^{2-}$  reduction and caused a slight increase in pH (Virtanen et al., 2014). Al solubility was strongly affected by soil pH and increased with lower soil pH (Astrom and Bjorklund, 1995; Fältmarsch et al., 2008). Mn can react with sulfide to form MnS. However, MnS is much more soluble than FeS (Arakaki and Morse, 1993). MnS cannot be formed when Fe concentrations are high in the sediment and therefore Mn concentrations generally increased in the flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments compared with the initial concentration (Fig. 3.4). Zn and Ni concentrations decreased following the flooded treatment and AVS was detected in the LL, PA and PD sites, suggesting that Ni and Zn can react with AVS (FeS) and decrease in solubility. AVS decreased in the LL site under the flooded treatment (Table 3.3). The increase in AVS in the PA and PD sites under the flooded treatment might be caused by AVS reacting with Ni, Zn and then reforming due to  $SO_4^{2-}$  reduction. AVS can form via the reaction of H<sub>2</sub>S with Fe<sup>2+</sup> in the flooded treatment (Karimian et al., 2018). Zn and Ni can adsorb to or precipitate with FeS (Morse and Luther, 1999), however,

ZnS and NiS are less soluble than FeS. Therefore, Zn and Ni can precipitate with sulfide preferentially over Fe.

#### 3.5.4 Wet-dry cycle treatment

Net acidity increased in the AG and PD sites after the wet-dry cycle treatment. The frequent wet and dry cycles could result in the formation of AVS and CRS in the AG and PD sites indicated by the increase of AVS and CRS compared with the initial state (Table 3.3) during flooded periods. The soils were subsequently drained under dry periods of each wet-dry cycles, which then created an environment for the oxidation of AVS and CRS in soils and stimulated acidity release. Similarly, Sammut et al. (1996) showed that drainage in coastal estuarine floodplains can promote sulfidic mineral oxidation, the production of sulfuric acid and increase in dissolved  $Al^{3+}$  and  $Fe^{2+}$  into streams in eastern Australia. Large areas (more than  $0.5 * 10^6$  ha) of sulfidic floodplains have been drained for agriculture in eastern Australia (Sammut et al., 1994). Reflooding because of sea level rise or storm surge events will initiate a new cycle of reducing conditions and promote reformation of RIS and alkalinity production.

#### 3.5.5 Net acidity in different vegetation types

Net acidity in the PA site was generally higher than other sites before and after the water table treatments, which was due to the highest SOC content (20.4% at the 0-5 cm layer). Root respiration and decomposition of organic matter can increase the partial pressure of CO2 and lead to the slight decrease in pH in soil pore water. Besides, the organic acids generated from plant roots can result in decrease in pH and carboxyl groups on soil organic matter can produce acidity (Yau et al., 2016). The high SOC contents can potentially contribute to high acidity compared with other vegetation types.

Net acidity was the lowest and negative only in the LL site under all water table treatments, which was due to the lowest SOC contents and the low decomposability of organic matter. In the LL site, the lower concentrations of AVS and CRS were observed compared with other sites under the flooded treatment (Table 3.3). The LL site had the lowest SOC (5.5%) in the 0-5 cm soil layer compared with other sites. In reducing conditions, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Fe containing minerals required decomposable organic matter as electron donors and energy sources by SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> reducing bacteria (Jayalath et al., 2021; Wong et al., 2016b). Also, LL was a woody species, which contains high decay-resistant compounds and therefore the organic matter was more difficult to decompose (Fioretto et al., 2005; Vann and Patrick Megonigal, 2003). Vegetation at the AG, PA and PD was dominated species which resulted in organic matter which was more labile. Previous studies showed that the decomposability of the soil organic matter was an important factor affecting the activity of SO4<sup>2-</sup> reducers in ASS (Yuan et al., 2015). Low biodegradability of SOC can limit sulfate

reduction in re-flooding sulfuric materials (Kolbl et al., 2017). Therefore, more labile and easier to decompose SOC can lead to more AVS and CRS being accumulated during the Fe and  $SO_4^{2-}$  reduction process under submerged conditions. This outcome demonstrates the effects of vegetation types and different forms of soil organic carbon in sulfate reduction processes via sulfate reducing bacteria (Jayalath et al., 2016).

### **3.6.** Conclusion

This study demonstrated that brackish water inundation prevented further oxidation of RIS and was an effective mitigation method to reduce net acidity in the coastal ASS environment. Fe and  $SO4^{2-}$  reduction were important geochemical process in the inundated soils in coastal wetlands. The dry treatment led to the oxidation of the Fe sulfide minerals, severe acidification and increased dissolved trace metals in the AG and LL sites in most soil depths. The highest net acidity occurred in the PA site under all treatments, due to the highest SOC content. Net acidity was negative only in the LL site under all inundation treatments, which was due to the lowest SOC contents and the low decomposability of organic matter. CRS dominated over AVS in the Aire River floodplain. CRS was positively correlated with SOC in all treatments (p<0.05). Herbaceous species (AG, PA, PD sites) were conducive to reforming AVS and CRS compared to the woody species (LL site) under the flooded treatment due to the higher labile carbon composition. Further research on ASS is needed to assess the interactions of AVS and CRS with trace metals under reducing and oxidizing conditions and the trace metal mobility in long term.

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# **Chapter 4.** Effects of liming on N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production in different horizons of boreal acid sulfate soil and non-acid soil

This thesis chapter is based predominantly on the final manuscript **returned for revision** in the peerreviewed Science of the Total Environment.

# Effects of liming on $N_2O$ and $CO_2$ production in different horizons of boreal acid sulfate soil and non-acid soil

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#### Abstract

In acid sulfate (AS) soils, organic rich topsoil and subsoil horizons with highly variable acidity and moisture conditions and interconnected reactions of sulfur and nitrogen make them potential sources of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Recent subsoil liming methods can reduce the acidification of sulfidic subsoils in the field. However, the mitigation of GHG production in AS subsoils by liming and the mechanisms involved, are still poorly known. We added lime to samples from different horizons of AS and non-AS soils, respectively, to study the lime effects on N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production during a 56-day oxic incubation and subsequent 72-hr anoxic incubation. Liming to  $pH \ge 7$  decreased oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production in Ap1, Bg1, BC horizons of AS soil, but not in C horizon. Liming decreased N<sub>2</sub>O production by 97-98% in Ap1 horizon, 38-50% in Bg1 horizon, and 34-36% in BC horizon, but increased it by 136-208% in C horizon, respectively. Liming lowered anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production in Ap1 and Bg1 horizons and the N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) ratio in all horizons compared with unlimed AS soil. Liming decreased anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production by 86-94% and 78-91% in Ap1 and Bg1 horizons, but increased it by 100-500% and 50-162% in BC and C horizons, respectively. Higher carbon and nitrogen contents in AS soil as compared to non-AS soil agreed with the respectively higher cumulative oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production in all horizons, and higher CO<sub>2</sub> production in Bg1, BC and C horizons, in all treatments. Overall, liming reduced the proportion of N<sub>2</sub>O of all GHGs in most soil horizons under oxic and anoxic conditions but reduced the total GHG production as CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents only in the Ap1 horizon of both soils. The results suggest that liming of subsoil would not effectively mitigate GHG emissions in the field due to concurrently increased CO<sub>2</sub> production and denitrification.

#### **Keywords:**

Soil pH, subsoil lime treatment, denitrification, greenhouse gas production, N2O/(N2O+N2)

# **1. Introduction**

Acid sulfate soils (AS soils) are soils or sediments that contain oxidizable or partly oxidized sulfide minerals (Pons, 1973). They have been estimated to occupy an area of over 17 Mha worldwide, including South and Southeast Asia, West and Southern Africa, Australia, Latin America, Northern America and boreal Europe, especially Finland (Andriesse and Mensvoort, 2006; Ljung et al., 2009).

Sulfide-containing soil horizons that remain under anaerobic or waterlogged conditions usually have a near neutral pH and do not cause environmental problems. However, aerobic conditions promote the oxidation of sulfides and the production of sulfuric acid (Backlund et al., 2005; Boman et al., 2008). Aerobic conditions can be caused by natural processes such as coastal regression, isostatic uplift or increased droughts caused by climate change (Boman et al., 2010b), or by anthropogenic interventions such as draining for agriculture, construction or mining (Astrom and Spiro, 2000). The acidity of drainage water can lead to mobilization of aluminium and heavy metals, low crop production and poor plant growth (Burton et al., 2008a). Another potential problem caused by drainage of AS soils is the enhanced microbial activity and decomposition of soil organic matter which can result in the rapid production of N<sub>2</sub>O due to the inherently high organic matter content and large stocks of mineral N in hypoxic AS subsoils (Paasonen-Kivekäs and Yli-Halla, 2005). Microbial decomposition of organic matter in the hypoxic subsoil of AS soils can also lead to large emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> (Gatland et al., 2014).

N<sub>2</sub>O is produced in soils by two main biological processes: nitrification and denitrification (Davidson et al., 2000; Saggar et al., 2013). During nitrification, N<sub>2</sub>O is produced as a by-product during the oxidation of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> to NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> by ammonia oxidising bacteria under mostly aerobic but slightly O<sub>2</sub> deficient (hypoxic) conditions (Inubushi et al., 1996; Kowalchuk and Stephen, 2001). In denitrification, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> are reduced to nitric oxide (NO), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and molecular dinitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) gases when O<sub>2</sub> levels are very low (Cavigelli and Robertson, 2001), i.e. under more severe hypoxia or anoxia.

Soil CO<sub>2</sub> production is a combination of microbial decomposition of soil organic matter (heterotrophic) and plant root (autotrophic) respiration (Amundson and Davidson, 1990). In unvegetated soil, it is an indicator of microbial activity and decomposition (mineralization) of soil organic matter. When organic carbon is added into soils, soil respiration increases to produce more CO<sub>2</sub> (Bruce et al., 1997). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from oxic (aerobic) soils are much larger than those from anoxic (anaerobic) soil because oxic respiration by microbes and roots is more efficient compared with anoxic respiration (Poungparn et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2021). Early studies have also demonstrated that the maximum respiration rate usually occurs in soil at intermediate moisture contents (Davidson et al., 1998; Scott-Denton et al., 2003). Schaufler et al. (2010)

observed that around 40% water filled pore space (WFPS) in grassland soils results in highest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Soil pH is a key factor that regulates microbiological processes and affects the end products of denitrification (Parkin et al., 1985; Samad et al., 2016b). Denitrification involves the stepwise reduction of  $NO_3^-$  to  $N_2O$  followed by the reduction of  $N_2O$  to  $N_2$  by  $N_2O$  reductase (Stevens and Laughlin, 1998). In a review including 50 years of research on soil pH influence on denitrification, Šimek & Cooper (2002) demonstrated a variable relationship between soil pH and denitrification but a consistent negative correlation between soil pH and  $N_2O/N_2$  ratio. Acidic conditions support  $N_2O$  production during denitrification by both autotrophic and heterotrophic nitrifiers (Martikainen and de Boer, 1993). In acidic soils,  $N_2O$  dominates as a denitrification product over  $N_2$  (Qu et al., 2014; Thomsen et al., 1994). Moreover, in AS soils, the interconnected reactions of nitrogen, iron and sulfur favoured by acidic conditions can also contribute to denitrification and  $N_2O$  production (MacDonald et al. 2010).

Lime treatments have been widely applied to solve the acidity issues of AS soils, typically utilizing calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>) to neutralise the acidity (Dalhem et al., 2019; Johnston et al., 2012). Wu et al. (2015) found that treating the soil from an oxidized but still pyrite-containing AS subsoil horizon at 70–85 cm depth with solutions of ultrafine-grained CaCO<sub>3</sub> and Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> increased soil pH and eventually reduced acidic discharges. Högfors-Rönnholm et al. (2018) discovered that the treatment of AS subsoil from 75-90 cm depth with CaCO<sub>3</sub> under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions will likely be sufficient to mitigate the acid release from AS soil. Moreover, as liming enhances the activity of N<sub>2</sub>O reductase, it can act as a greenhouse gas mitigation strategy by enhancing the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> (Liu, 2010; Samad et al., 2016b).

Many other soil and environmental factors also influence N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and control the N<sub>2</sub>O/ (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) ratio other than pH, including soil type, organic carbon, soil NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> availability, gaseous diffusivity and soil water content. Soil NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N content is an important factor affecting N<sub>2</sub>O emissions through denitrification. Soil water content is a key factor affecting the emissions of N<sub>2</sub>O. Nitrification is usually the dominant source of NO and N<sub>2</sub>O production under relatively well aerated conditions at WFPS below 50-60% (Bateman and Baggs, 2005; Davidson et al., 2000). Conversely, the largest N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are produced mainly by denitrification under more hypoxic or anaerobic conditions with a maximum often occurring near 70% WFPS (Denmead et al., 2011; Dobbie and Smith, 2001). The N<sub>2</sub>O/N<sub>2</sub> ratio has often been found to decrease at a moisture conditions close to saturation, especially when the soil water content exceeds 80% (Colbourn and Dowdell, 1984; Rudaz et al., 1999). For example, Guo et al. (2014) observed that the N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) ratios were much higher in a clay loam soil rewetted to 75% WFPS than to 90% WFPS.

However, our knowledge on the magnitude and factors contributing to the N<sub>2</sub>O production in AS soils are currently still limited. In particular, studies on the effects of liming on the rates of N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production, total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) and the product ratio of denitrification N<sub>2</sub>O/ (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in the different horizons of AS soils are lacking. The aim of this study is to determine and compare (1) the effects of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) treatments on the production of N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> in the different horizons of boreal AS and non-AS soils under oxic and anoxic conditions, and (2) the effects of lime on the total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O +N<sub>2</sub>) and the product ratio of denitrification N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in AS and non-AS soils under anoxic conditions.

# 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1 Field site and soil characterisation

The study site was located on the Viikki research farm of the University of Helsinki. The research farm is located on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, which is part of the Baltic Sea. The sites were previously studied by Mokma et al. (2000), Šimek et al. (2011), and Šimek et al (2014). The mean annual air temperature in this area is 5.9 °C and the annual precipitation is 655 mm (a 30-year average in 1981-2010, Finnish Meteorological Institute). At 50 cm soil depth, the mean annual soil temperature is about 6 °C and the mean soil temperature in summer is about 14°C (Mokma et al., 2000; Šimek et al., 2011). The acid sulfate soil (Patoniitty: 60°13'N, 25°0'E, elevation at sea level) is representative of AS soils along the coast of Finland. The non-AS soil (Alaniitty: 60°13'N, 25°1'E with elevation about 1.5 m above average sea level) is poorly drained and formed on fine-grained sediments (Mokma et al., 2000).

Soils were sampled on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 by excavating large pits and characterizing the soil horizons at both sites, and then taking representative samples from each of the four selected horizons of AS and non-acid soils. At the AS soil site, the Ap1, Bg1, BC and C horizons were identified at the depths of 0-22, 31-47, 66-115 and 115-135 cm, respectively. The groundwater table was at 1.1 m depth. At the non-AS soil site, the Ap1, Bg1, BC and C horizons were identified at the depths of 0-20, 31-68, 78-115 and 133-153 cm. The groundwater table was at 1.3 m depth. Soils were sampled with spades from the unsaturated soil horizons and the saturated horizons below the groundwater level and placed into 40-L plastic boxes. According to Soil Taxonomy (Staff., 2014), the AS soil of Patoniitty is a Sulfic Cryaquept and the non-AS soil of Alaniitty is an Aquic Haplocryoll.

A representative sample of the field moist soil taken from a given horizon was mixed and subsequently divided into several sets of subsamples. The subsamples for initial mineral nitrogen analysis were immediately frozen at -20°C, whereas the subsamples for the chemical analyses were air-dried in a ventilated

oven at 35°C and sieved through 2-mm mesh, and a third set of subsamples was used for the determination of initial soil water content.

The main properties of AS soil and the non-AS are compiled in Table 1. In the AS soil, changes in pH with depth was typical for AS soils, with a slightly acidic pH in Ap1 (topsoil) and close to neutral pH in C (massive, reduced subsoil) horizons but with a pH dropping below pH 4 in the BC horizon. In contrast, the pH of the non-AS soil was close to 6 in the topsoil and at, or above 7 in all subsoil horizons.

The AS soil is an organic rich soil with high SOC contents in the Ap1 (4.6%) and C (2.7%) horizons, and even the minimum SOC content was also high, with content just below 2% in the Bg1 horizon. The non-AS soil had a high SOC content in the Ap1 horizon (2.7%) but very was very low in all subsoil horizons (Table 1). The distribution of total nitrogen content (TN) followed a similar pattern to SOC . Both AS and non-AS soils showed broadly similar patterns of decreasing NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N with depth, except for the NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N rich in the BC and C horizons of AS soil, and modest accumulation of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N in the BC horizon of non-AS soil. The SOC, TN and mineral N (sum of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N) content in all horizons of AS soil were higher compared with the non-AS soil (Table 1).

#### 2.2 Setup of the incubation experiment

The oxic (day 0-56) and anoxic (day 56-59) soil incubations were carried out at room temperature (approx. 20 °C) with a time sequence as shown in Fig. 1. Soil samples were prepared as follows: 10 g of soil (dry weight basis) was packed into a 3.5-cm diameter, 12.5-cm high 120 mL glass bottles.

WFPS in the cores was calculated according to equations 1 and 2:

WFPS =  $(\theta/n)$  (Equation 1)

where  $\theta$  (m<sup>3</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>) is volumetric soil water content and n (m<sup>3</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>) is soil porosity.

 $n = 1 - (\rho_b/\rho_s)$  (Equation 2)

Dry bulk density  $\rho_b$  was estimated by the ratio of dry mass and volume of soil in a bottle, and an average soil particle density of  $\rho_s = 2.65$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup> was assumed.

Soil WFPS was maintained constant by weighing the incubation bottles twice per week and adding MQ water as needed during Phase Oxic I.

The soil samples from each site and horizon were subjected to three experimental treatments to adjust the pH. At the beginning of Phase Oxic I, soil pH was increased by applying pure calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>, EMSURE® Reag. Ph Eur) as low lime (12.5 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) and high lime (25 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) treatments to soil (Högfors-Rönnholm et

al., 2018), and a control treatment was established with no added lime. The amounts of calcite added were based on the pre-tests of lime requirement in all studied horizons of AS soil (see Supplementary materials). The target soil pH by the high lime addition was pH 7. Based on the pre-test, we added 10 mL of 0.125 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> as the low lime treatment, and 10 mL of 0.25 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> as the high lime treatment, into homogenized soils. A volume of 10 mL MQ water was added in the control soil samples.

A total of 96 soil samples (set 1) were used for the weekly measurement of oxic N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production during Phase Oxic I at days 0, 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49 and 56 followed by the measurement of anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production during the 72-h Phase Anoxic II (Fig. 1). Another 96 soil samples (set 2) were similarly incubated during Phase Oxic I without gas production measurement for the anoxic incubation in the presence of  $C_2H_2$  when applying the acetylene inhibition method for the determination of total denitrification (see section 2.3). In addition, during Phase Oxic I, a separate set of 96 soils samples (set 3) (Fig. 1) was incubated separately to monitor soil pH with time at 7-day intervals.

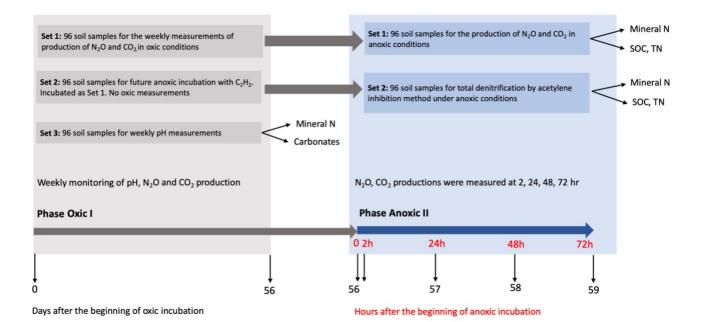


Fig. 1. Time sequence of the oxic incubation (day 0 - 56) and anoxic incubation (day 56 - 59). A total of 288 soil samples were adjusted to 70% WFPS at the beginning of incubation (2 sites x 4 horizons x 3 lime treatments x 4 replicates x 3 sets). The three lime treatments (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) including unlimed control, low lime (12.5 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) and high lime (25.0 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) were applied at the beginning of Phase Oxic I.

Horizon	Depth (cm)	Bulk density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	pH (Fresh) <sup>b</sup>	pH (Incubated) <sup>c</sup>	SOC (Soil organic carbon) (%)	TN (Total nitrogen) (%)	C/N	NO3 <sup>-</sup> -N (N mg kg-1)	NH4 <sup>+</sup> -N (N mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )
AS soil									
Ap1	0-22	$0.85\pm0.01$	$5.64\pm0.005$	$5.57\pm0.05$	$4.60\pm0.01$	$0.38\pm0.002$	$12.25\pm0.11$	$27.76 \pm 1.73$	$2.18\pm0.57$
Bg1	31-47	$1.00\pm0.01$	$4.15\pm0.03$	$3.98\pm0.005$	$1.89\pm0.06$	$0.17\pm0.007$	$10.87\pm0.81$	$7.7\pm0.21$	$3.82 \pm 1.56$
BC	66-115	$0.64\pm0.005$	$3.38\pm0.04$	$3.08\pm0.03$	$2.13\pm0.01$	$0.21\pm0.002$	$10.12\pm0.03$	$0.11\pm0.11$	10.77 ± 2.08
С	115- 135	$0.54\pm0.01$	$6.51\pm0.10$	$4.28\pm0.06$	$2.67\pm0.01$	$0.29\pm0.004$	$9.24\pm0.09$	$0.005\pm0.001$	13.28 ± 1.97
Non-AS soil									
Ap1	0-20	$1.03\pm0.02$	$6.30\pm0.03$	$6.46\pm0.05$	$2.69\pm0.04$	$0.23\pm0.003$	$11.83\pm0.04$	$20.79 \pm 1.39$	$1.79\pm0.58$
Bg1	31-68	$0.97\pm0.01$	$7.46\pm0.02$	$7.45\pm0.02$	$0.33\pm0.001$	$0.02\pm0.002$	$15.85\pm1.26$	$5.67\pm0.34$	$0.42\pm0.20$
BC	78-115	$1.01\pm0.02$	$7.68\pm0.05$	$7.76\pm0.03$	$0.23\pm0.001$	$0.014\pm0.0002$	$16.43\pm0.28$	$2.08\pm0.26$	$3.64 \pm 1.72$
С	133- 153	$0.81\pm0.005$	$7.22\pm0.02$	$7.30\pm0.02$	$0.52\pm0.004$	$0.03 \pm 0.0001$	$16.61\pm0.30$	$0.1\pm0.07$	$0.22\pm0.10$

# Table 1. Selected physical and chemical properties<sup>a</sup> of AS soil at Patoniitty and the non-AS soil at Alaniitty in Helsinki

<sup>a</sup> Means  $\pm$  standard errors (n = 4)

<sup>b</sup> Fresh pH refers to the pH of soils without aerobic incubation <sup>c</sup> Incubated pH refers to the pH of soils after Phase Oxic I (56 days).

#### 2.3 N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production determination

To determine the gas production rates, the headspace of the bottle was first flushed with compressed air, then the bottle was capped gastight with a butyl rubber septum until the gas samples were collected from the headspace after 24 h. A 9-ml gas sample was drawn within 10 seconds from the headspace of the incubation bottle using a gas-tight syringe and transferred into a He-flushed and pre-evacuated 3-ml Exetainer<sup>®</sup> vial capped with a double-wadded (PTFE/silicon-butyl) septum (VC329, Labco, UK). The gaseous composition of samples was determined by a gas chromatograph (Agilent Technologies 7890B GC custom, Santa Clara, CA, United States) connected to an autosampler and equipped with gas sampling valves and TCD, FID and ECD detectors. The air pressure in the headspace was monitored with a pressure meter (Tensimeter, Soil Measurement Systems, CA, United States) at each sampling to calculate the true gas concentration in the headspace,  $c = c_s \times p_{hs}/p_0$ , where,  $p_{hs}$  is the pressure in the headspace,  $p_0$  is the normal atmospheric pressure, and  $c_s$  is the gas concentration of sample at p<sub>0</sub>.

The gas production rates  $F_{N2O}$  and  $F_{CO2}$  were calculated from the change of gas concentration in the headspace with time by using Equations 3 and 4. The N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production rates were corrected for air temperature during the measurement and presented as [ $\mu$ g kg<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>]

$$F_{N20 \text{ or } CO2} = \frac{\Delta c / \Delta t \times (V + V_W \alpha_B) \times MW \times 10^6}{\Delta t \times m_d \times MV_{corr}}$$
(Equation 3)

where  $\Delta c/\Delta t$  is the temporal rate of concentration change in the headspace [ $\mu L L^{-1} h^{-1}$ ]; V is the volume of the headspace [L]; V<sub>w</sub> is the volume of water in the soil sample [L];  $\alpha_B$  is the Bunsen's gas solubility coefficient ( $\alpha_B = 0.629$  for N<sub>2</sub>O and  $\alpha_B = 0.942$  for CO<sub>2</sub> at 20 °C); m<sub>d</sub> is the dry mass of soil; MW is the molecular weight of gas (12 g/mol for CO<sub>2</sub>-C and 28 g/mol N<sub>2</sub>O-N). MV<sub>corr</sub> is the temperature-corrected molar volume of ideal gas [m<sup>3</sup>/ mol]

$$MV_{corr} = 0.02241 \times (\frac{273.15+T}{273.15})$$
 (Equation 4)

where *T* is air temperature during the measurement [°C] and 0.02241 m<sup>3</sup> is the molar volume of an ideal gas at standard conditions of 1 atm (1013.25 hPa) and 273.15 K.

Cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O ( $\mu$ g N<sub>2</sub>O-N kg<sup>-1</sup>) and CO<sub>2</sub> (mg CO<sub>2</sub>-C kg<sup>-1</sup>) production were calculated with the trapezoidal rule for the production rates ( $\mu$ g kg<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) of all individual sampling data during the incubation period (56 days). The cumulative GHG production rate as CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>-eq) was calculated as the sum of CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O with a global warming potential of 298 used for converting N<sub>2</sub>O to CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. CH<sub>4</sub> production was

not included in our study as it was always zero or very low. For this reason, the sum of N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> refers essentially to the sum of all GHGs in our study.

After Phase Oxic I, soil samples from set 1 and set 2 were incubated for further 72 hours under anoxic conditions at 70% WFPS to support denitrification (Phase Anoxic II in Fig. 1). The C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> inhibition method, where C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> blocks the N<sub>2</sub>O reduction to N<sub>2</sub>, was used to determine the rate of total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O + N<sub>2</sub>) (Nadeem et al., 2013; Yoshinari et al., 1977). The soil sample sets of 1 and 2 were capped with butyl rubber septum and evacuated, and the air in the headspace was replaced with N<sub>2</sub> to achieve strictly anaerobic conditions (Högfors-Rönnholm et al., 2018). Soil samples of set 1 and 2 were incubated simultaneously. Gas production was measured by sampling the headspace at 2, 24, 48 and 72 hours after closing the bottle, applying the equations 3 and 4 for each time interval (0-2, 2-24, 24-48 and 48-72 h) separately and summing up the contributions of time intervals.

#### 2.4 Soil physical and chemical analyses

Soil analyses were performed with four replicates. The initial soil pH and electrical conductivity (EC) were measured in a 1:2 soil:water suspension (w/v) (Rayment and Lyons, 2011) using a combination electrode and a pH meter (SCHOTT GLAS Mainz CG-843) and an EC meter (Radiometer Copenhagen, Meterlab CDM210, France).

Soil organic carbon (SOC) and total nitrogen (TN) contents were analysed from initial soil samples, and soil sample sets 1 and 2 after Phase Anoxic II incubation. Analyses were done on oven-dried (105°C) samples by Dumas combustion with a TCN-analyzer (Leco, CN828). Soil carbonate contents were determined by removing SOC by muffle furnace and determining the remaining C by Dumas combustion to allow calculation of the fractional conversion of carbonates (as detailed in Supplementary materials).

Mineral N (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N) contents were determined from initial soil samples, Phase Oxic I soil samples (set 3) and Phase Anoxic II soils samples (set 1, 2 and 3) (Fig. 1). Samples used for mineral N determination were frozen immediately after sampling and stored at -20°C before analysis. Soil mineral N extraction was carried out by shaking a soil sample (10 g dry mass of soil) and 40 ml of 2 M KCl solution in a 100-ml bottle with an orbital shaker (180 rpm) for 2 hours (Esala, 1995). NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N were analysed colorimetrically with a Gallery Plus discrete analyser (Thermo Scientific).

#### 2.5 Statistical analysis

The mean gas production rates in each horizon under lime treatments in the AS soil and non-AS soils were based on four replicates. The cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production ( $\mu$ g N<sub>2</sub>O-N kg<sup>-1</sup>) and the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production (mg CO<sub>2</sub>-C kg<sup>-1</sup>) under Phase Oxic I were calculated by "area under the curve" analysis (trapezoidal method) with GraphPad Prism 8.0. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and a post-hoc Tukey's test were conducted to detect significant differences (*p*<0.05) in the fractional conversion of carbonates and the cumulative gas production rates (N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>) and the GHG production rate (as CO<sub>2</sub>eq). All the analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism 8.0.

# 3. Results

#### 3.1 Soil pH, oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production and mineral N during Phase Oxic I

In the AS soil, the target pH of 7 was achieved within 2-3 weeks by all low lime and high lime treatments, except for the low lime treatment of BC horizon in which pH peaked at 6.5 after 1 week and steadily decreased thereafter (Fig. 2a, c, e, g). In all horizons of the non-AS soil, the pH exceeded 7 immediately after application of the lime treatments (Fig. 2b, d, f, h).

In all horizons of the AS soil, the highest oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production rates occurred within 7 days from the beginning of Phase Oxic I (Fig. 3a, c, e, g). At the beginning of incubation, the N<sub>2</sub>O production rates in the low lime and high lime treatments were only 0.3% and 0.15% in the Ap1 horizon (Fig. 3a), 77% and 57% in the Bg1 horizon (Fig. 3c) and 19% and 22% in the BC horizon (Fig. 3e) compared to those in the control treatment, respectively. In the C horizon, however, the N<sub>2</sub>O production rates in the low lime and high lime treatments were both about 90% higher than those in the control (Fig. 3g).

In the non-AS soil, the oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production rates in the Ap1, Bg1 and BC horizons were much lower than those in the AS soil in all treatments (Fig. 3b, d, f). A decreasing temporal pattern of N<sub>2</sub>O production rates and decreasing effects of lime additions were observed in Ap and C horizons (Fig. 3b, h), whereas the patterns and effects were variable in the Bg1 and BC horizons (Fig. 3d, f).

In the Ap1, Bg1 and BC horizons of the AS soil, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production was significantly higher in the control than in the lime treatments during Phase Oxic I (p<0.05) (Table 2). The amounts of cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in the low lime and high lime treatments were only 2.7% and 1.8% in the Ap1 horizon, 62% and 50% in the Bg1 horizon, and 64% and 66% in the BC horizon, respectively, compared to those in the control treatment (Table 2). In the C horizon, however, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in the low lime and

high lime treatments was 136% and 208% higher compared with the control, respectively (Table 2). Significant differences in the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production were observed between all horizons (p<0.05). The cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in the Ap1 horizon was always higher compared to all other horizons (p<0.05), followed by that in the C horizon in limed treatments. The N<sub>2</sub>O production in the BC horizon was generally higher than that in the Bg1 horizon (Table 2).

In the non-AS soil, lime treatments significantly decreased cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in the Ap1, Bg1 and C horizons as compared to the control (p<0.05) (Table 2). The low and high lime treatments decreased the amounts of cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production by 89% and 87% in the Ap1 horizon, by 51% and 55% in the Bg1 horizon, and by 92% and 94% in the C horizon, respectively, while in the BC horizon, they were 13% and 20% higher than in the control (Table 2). Significant differences in the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production were observed between all horizons (p<0.05), with the rates decreasing in the order of Ap1> C > Bg1 > BC horizon in all treatments. Nevertheless, in each respective horizon and treatment, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in the AS soil was always larger, and in most cases even several times larger, than that in the non-AS soil (Table 2).

In both AS and non-AS soil, the NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N content decreased in the Ap1 and Bg1 horizons and increased in the BC and C horizons in all treatments during the oxic incubation (Table S3). In the AS soil, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N increased with time in all horizons and treatments, whereas in the non-AS soil, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N increased in the Ap1, Bg1 and C horizons but decreased in the BC horizon (Table S3).

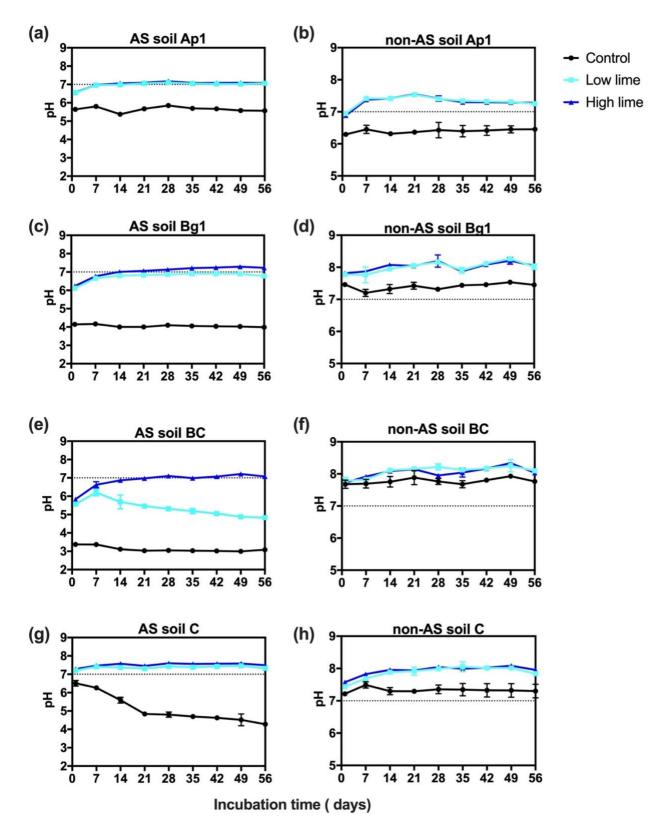


Fig. 2. Temporal variation of pH in the AS and non-AS soils at the Ap1 (a, b), at the Bg1 (c, d), at the BC (e, f), and at the C (g, h) horizons during Phase Oxic I (56 days). Values are the means and their standard errors (n=4).

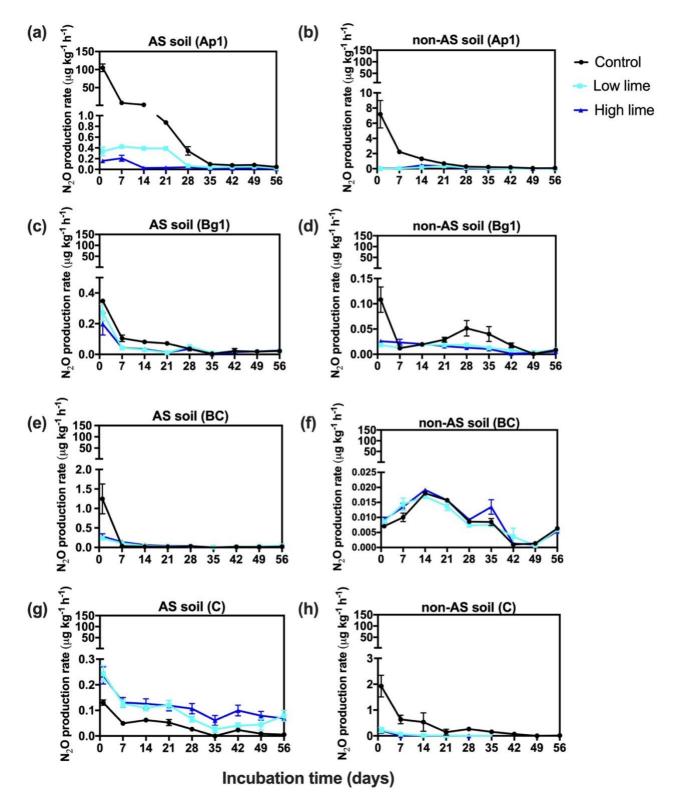


Fig. 3. Oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production rate in the Ap1 (a, b), Bg1 (c, d), BC (e, f) and C (g, h) horizons in the AS and non-AS soils during Phase Oxic I (56 days). Values are means and their standard errors (n=4).

Table 2. Cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production<sup>a</sup> and CO<sub>2</sub> production<sup>a</sup> in different lime treatments and horizons of AS and non-AS soils during Phase Oxic I (56 days) ( $\mu$ g N<sub>2</sub>O-N kg<sup>-1</sup>)

Soil	GHG	Horizon	Control	Low lime	High lime
		Ap1	9452.4 <sup>aA</sup>	256.4 <sup>bA</sup>	171.7 <sup>cA</sup>
		Bg1	80.9 <sup>aC</sup>	50.0 <sup>bD</sup>	40.8 <sup>cD</sup>
AS soil		BC	117.1 <sup>aB</sup>	74.4 <sup>bC</sup>	76.9 <sup>bC</sup>
	$N_2O$	С	46.7 <sup>cD</sup>	111.8 <sup>bB</sup>	142.2 <sup>aB</sup>
	production	Ap1	1320.6 <sup>aA</sup>	140.6 <sup>cA</sup>	167.2 <sup>bA</sup>
Non AC ast		Bg1	35.6 <sup>aC</sup>	17.5 <sup>bC</sup>	16.2 <sup>bC</sup>
Non-AS soil		BC	11.1 <sup>bD</sup>	12.5 <sup>aD</sup>	13.3ªD
		С	431.9 <sup>aB</sup>	35.4 <sup>bB</sup>	26.7 <sup>cB</sup>
		Ap1	636.0 <sup>bA</sup>	977.6 <sup>aA</sup>	675.8 <sup>bA</sup>
A C 1		Bg1	116.6 <sup>cB</sup>	314.3 <sup>aC</sup>	255.1 <sup>bC</sup>
AS soil		BC	71.7 <sup>bC</sup>	160.0 <sup>aD</sup>	142.4 <sup>aD</sup>
	$CO_2$	С	144.9 <sup>bB</sup>	482.5 <sup>aB</sup>	419.6 <sup>aB</sup>
	production	Ap1	693.1 <sup>aA</sup>	639.4 <sup>bA</sup>	678.4 <sup>aA</sup>
Non AS coll		Bg1	21.8 <sup>cC</sup>	41.3 <sup>aC</sup>	30.6 <sup>bC</sup>
Non-AS soil		BC	5.1 <sup>bD</sup>	16.5 <sup>aD</sup>	16.8 <sup>aD</sup>
		С	57.7 5 <sup>cB</sup>	83.3 <sup>aB</sup>	74.4 <sup>bB</sup>

Different small letters within each row indicate significant differences between the lime treatments. Different capital letters within each column of N<sub>2</sub>O production and CO<sub>2</sub> production in the the AS soil and non-AS soil, respectively, represent significant differences between different soil horizons (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05; n = 4).

#### 3.2 Oxic CO<sub>2</sub> production during Phase Oxic I

In all horizons of the AS soil, the CO<sub>2</sub> production rate during Phase Oxic I was much lower in unlimed soils than in limed soils (Fig. 4a, c, e, g). The CO<sub>2</sub> production rate in the lime treatments soils decreased significantly during the first 14 days and then decreased more slowly or stabilised in the Ap1, Bg and BC horizons (Fig. 4a, c, e). Following the initial decrease, CO<sub>2</sub> production rate in the C horizon increased slightly after day 14 (Fig. 4g). In the non-AS soil, the CO<sub>2</sub> production rate in the control treatment was lower than that in the low and high lime treatments in the Bg1, BC and C horizons, especially during the first weeks of incubation (Fig. 4d, f, h), whereas the CO<sub>2</sub> production in the Ap1 horizon was similar in all treatments. The CO<sub>2</sub> production rate was much higher in the AS soil than that in the non-AS soil (Fig. 4).

In the AS soil, lime treatments in most cases significantly increased cumulative  $CO_2$  production compared to the control (p<0.05) (Table 2). As compared to the control treatment, the cumulative  $CO_2$  production in the low and high lime treatments were 50% and 6% higher in the Ap1 horizon, and 170% and 120% higher in the Bg1 horizon, 120% and 100% higher in the BC horizon, as well as 230% and 190% higher in the C

horizon, respectively (Table 2). Significant differences in the amount of cumulative  $CO_2$  production were observed between all horizons at a given treatment (*p*<0.05), with the production rates decreasing in the order of Ap1>C>Bg1>BC (Table 2).

In the Bg1, BC and C horizons of non-AS soil, significantly higher cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production was observed in the limed treatments compared with the control (p<0.05), whereas liming did not increase CO<sub>2</sub> production in the Ap1 horizon (Table 2). As compared with the control treatment, the amounts of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production were 90% and 40% higher in the Bg1 horizon, 220% and 230%-fold higher in the BC horizon, and 40% and 30% higher in the C horizon, respectively (Table 2). The cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production was significantly different between all horizons at a given treatment, with the amounts decreasing in the order of Ap1>C>Bg1>BC (Table 2). There was much higher cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production in the Bg1, BC and C horizons of AS soil compared to the respective horizons of the non-AS soil at a given treatment (Table 2).

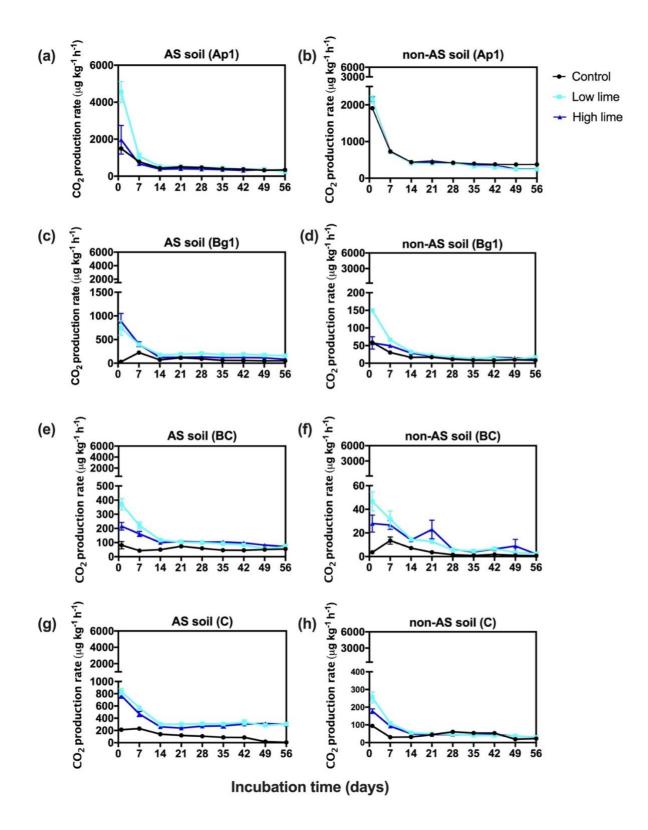


Figure. 4. Oxic CO<sub>2</sub> production rate in Ap1 (a, b), Bg1 (c, d), BC (e, f) and C (g, h) horizons in the AS and non-AS soils during Phase Oxic I (56 days). Values are means and their standard errors (n=4).

#### 3.3 Anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production, total denitrification and mineral N during Phase Anoxic II

In the AS soil, significant differences in cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production were observed between all horizons (p<0.05) (Table 3). The low lime and high lime treatments decreased cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production by 86% and 94% in the Ap1 horizon, by 91% and 78% in the Bg1 horizon, but increased it in the BC and C horizons by a factor of 3 and 2, respectively (Table 3).

The lime treatments significantly increased total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub> production) in all horizons of the AS soil, with denitrification rate always increasing in the order of control < low lime treatment < high lime treatment (p<0.05) (Table 3). The total rate of denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) of low lime and high lime treatments were 0.9 and 1.7 times higher in the Ap1 horizon, 6 and 9 times higher in the Bg1 horizon, 1.4 and 4.7 times higher in the BC horizon, and 28 and 64 times higher in the C horizon, respectively, compared to that in the control treatment (Table 3). Total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in the Ap1 horizon was significantly higher than in all other horizons in all treatments in both AS and non-AS soils (p<0.05) (Table 3).

In the non-AS soil, lime treatments significantly decreased cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in all horizons (p<0.05) (Table 3). As compared to the control treatment, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production under low and high lime treatments were only 34% and 14% in the Ap1 horizon, 31% and 33% in the Bg1 horizon, 37% and 24% in the BC horizon, as well as 43% and 81% in the C horizon, respectively (Table 3).

Significant differences in total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) were observed between the control and lime treatments of the non-AS soil (p<0.05) (Table 3). As compared with the control treatment, total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in the low and high lime treatments were 140% and 150% higher in the Ap1 horizon, and 30% and 80% higher in the C horizon. In the Bg1 and BC horizons, however, the lime treatments decreased total denitrification or had no effect (Table 3). Cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production and total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) were significantly higher in the Ap1 horizon compared with all other horizons in all treatments (p<0.05) (Table 3).

 $NO_3$ <sup>-</sup>-N content decreased during Phase Anoxic II in all treatments and horizons of AS and non-AS soils regardless of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> addition (Table S4). In the AS soil, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N content mostly increased in all treatments and horizons both with and without C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> (Table S4). In the non-AS soil, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N content generally decreased in the Ap1 and Bg1 horizons and increased in the BC and C horizons in all treatments regardless of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> addition (Table S4).

Table 3. Cumulative  $N_2O$  production<sup>a</sup>, total denitrification<sup>a</sup> and product ratio of denitrification<sup>a</sup> in the different lime treatments and horizons of AS and non-AS soils during Phase Anoxic II (72 hr)

AS soil	Horizon	Control	Low lime	High lim
Cumulative N <sub>2</sub> O	Ap1	183.9 <sup>aA</sup>	25.4 <sup>bA</sup>	11.8 <sup>cB</sup>
production	Bg1	74.1 <sup>aB</sup>	6.7 <sup>cB</sup>	16.3 <sup>bA</sup>
(µg N <sub>2</sub> O-N kg <sup>-1</sup> )	BC	3.1 <sup>cC</sup>	5.3 <sup>bB</sup>	18.8 <sup>aA</sup>
	С	$0.8^{bD}$	1.2 <sup>cC</sup>	2.1 <sup>aC</sup>
Tradit la des Cardon	Ap1	2345 <sup>cA</sup>	4343 <sup>bA</sup>	6206 <sup>aA</sup>
Total denitrification $(N_2O + N_2)$	Bg1	365 <sup>cB</sup>	2544 <sup>bB</sup>	3786 <sup>aB</sup>
	BC	117 <sup>cC</sup>	283 <sup>bD</sup>	667 <sup>aD</sup>
$(\mu g \ N_2 O\text{-}N \ kg^{\text{-}1})$	С	15 <sup>cD</sup>	435 <sup>bC</sup>	975 <sup>aC</sup>
	Ap1	0.08 <sup>aA</sup>	0.005 <sup>bB</sup>	0.002 <sup>cC</sup>
Product Ratio	Bg1	$0.20^{\mathrm{aB}}$	0.003 <sup>bC</sup>	0.004 <sup>bB</sup>
of Denitrification	BC	0.03 <sup>aC</sup>	0.02 <sup>bA</sup>	0.03 <sup>aA</sup>
$((N_2O/N_2O+N_2)$	С	0.05 <sup>aC</sup>	0.002 <sup>bC</sup>	0.002 <sup>bC</sup>
Non-AS soil		Control	Low lime	High lim
Cumulative N <sub>2</sub> O	Ap1	156.1 <sup>aA</sup>	53.1 <sup>bA</sup>	22.3 <sup>cA</sup>
production	Bg1	24.9 <sup>aC</sup>	7.7 <sup>bC</sup>	8.3 <sup>bB</sup>
(µg N <sub>2</sub> O-N kg <sup>-1</sup> )	BC	35.8 <sup>aB</sup>	13.3 <sup>bB</sup>	8.7 <sup>cB</sup>
	С	5.6 <sup>aD</sup>	2.4 <sup>bD</sup>	4.5 <sup>aC</sup>
Total denitrification	Ap1	1150 <sup>cA</sup>	2714 <sup>bA</sup>	2896 <sup>aA</sup>
$(N_2O + N_2)$	Bg1	375 <sup>aB</sup>	268 <sup>bB</sup>	$362^{aB}$
$(\mu g N_2 O-N kg^{-1})$	BC	$77^{aC}$	34 <sup>bC</sup>	82 <sup>aC</sup>
	С	20 <sup>cD</sup>	27 <sup>bD</sup>	36 <sup>aD</sup>
Droduct Datia	Ap1	0.14 <sup>aC</sup>	0.02 <sup>bC</sup>	0.008 <sup>cC</sup>
Product Ratio	Bg1	$0.07^{\mathrm{aD}}$	0.03 <sup>bC</sup>	0.02 <sup>cC</sup>
of Denitrification (N <sub>2</sub> O/N <sub>2</sub> O+N <sub>2</sub> )	BC	$0.47^{aA}$	$0.40^{\mathrm{aA}}$	0.11 <sup>bA</sup>
$(N_2O/N_2O+N_2)$	С	$0.28^{\mathrm{aB}}$	0.09 <sup>bB</sup>	0.13 <sup>bA</sup>

Different small letters within each row represent significant differences between the lime treatments. Different capital letters within each column represent significant differences between different soil horizons (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05; n = 4).

#### 3.4 Anoxic CO<sub>2</sub> production during Phase Anoxic II

In the AS soil, lime treatments significantly increased cumulative  $CO_2$  production in all horizons (p<0.05) (Table S7). Compared to the control treatment, cumulative  $CO_2$  production in the low lime and high lime treatment was 9% and 12% higher in the Ap1 horizon, 140% and 160% higher in the Bg1 horizon, 28% and 33% higher in the BC horizon, and 90% and 80% higher in the C horizon, respectively (Table S7).

In the non-AS soil, lime treatments significantly increased cumulative  $CO_2$  production in the Bg1 and C horizons (p<0.05), but no significant increases were observed in the Ap1 and BC horizons (Table S7). Compared to the control treatment, cumulative  $CO_2$  production in the low and high lime treatments were 26% and 23% higher in the Bg1 horizon, and 70% and 50% higher in the C horizon, respectively (Table S7). The cumulative  $CO_2$  production in the Ap1 horizon was significantly higher than in all other horizons in both AS and non-AS soils (Table S7).

#### 3.5 Oxic and anoxic GHG production based on CO2-eq

Increasing soil pH by liming caused opposite but varied effects on oxic and anoxic GHG production in the different soils and horizons of our study: 1) enhanced reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> by liming clearly decreased the product ratio of denitrification N<sub>2</sub>O/ (N<sub>2</sub>O + N<sub>2</sub>) and resulted in the decreased net production of N<sub>2</sub>O, and 2) the increase CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O production indicated that liming probably increased microbial activity and denitrification. Therefore, liming raised soil pH which caused a reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O/ (N<sub>2</sub>O + N<sub>2</sub>) and resulted in decreased (net) production of N<sub>2</sub>O. During Phase Oxic I, total GHG production (N<sub>2</sub>O + CO<sub>2</sub> as CO<sub>2</sub> eq) in the lime treatments was significantly lower than that in the unlimed control treatment only in the Ap1 horizon of AS soil (p<0.05) (Fig. 5a). In the non-AS soil, total GHG production was not significantly different between treatments in most horizons (p>0.05) (Fig. 5c), but liming significantly decreased the proportion of N<sub>2</sub>O in GHG production in most horizons at both sites (p<0.05) (Fig. 5e, g).

During Phase Anoxic II, GHG production (as  $CO_2$  eq) in the lime treatments was significantly lower than that in the unlimed control treatment in the Ap1 horizon of AS soil (Fig. 5b) and in the Ap1, BC horizons of the non-AS soil (Fig. 5d) (p<0.05). Liming significantly decreased the proportion of N<sub>2</sub>O in the total GHG production in the Ap1, Bg1 horizons of AS soil (Fig. 5f) and all horizons of the non-AS soil (Fig. 5h).

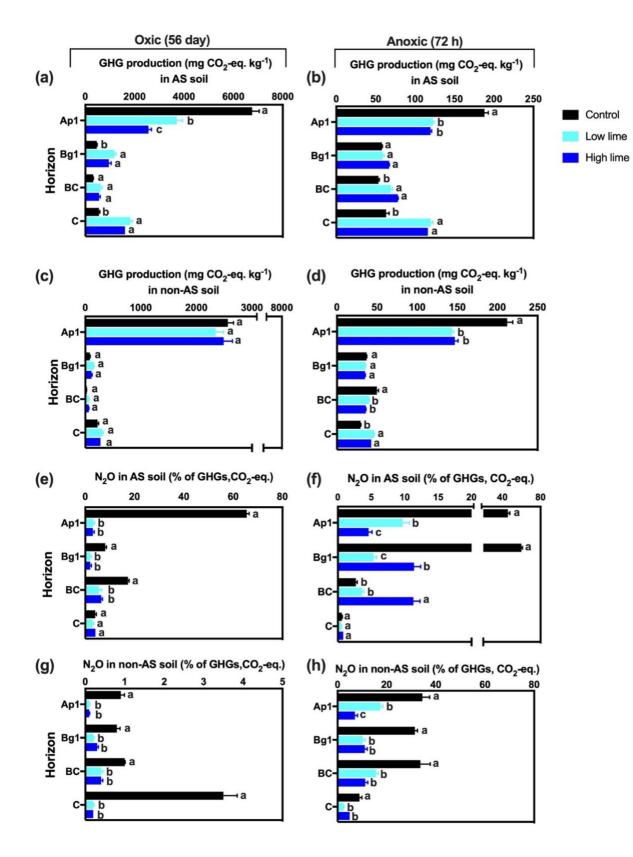


Figure. 5. GHG production  $(N_2O+CO_2)$  in AS and non-AS soils (a, c) and proportion of  $N_2O$  in GHG production  $(CO_2\text{-eq.})$  in AS and non-AS soils (e, g) during Phase Oxic I (56 d). GHG production  $(N_2O+CO_2)$  in AS and non-AS soils (b, d) and proportion of  $N_2O$  in GHG production  $(CO_2\text{-eq.})$  in AS and non-AS soils (f, h) during Phase Anoxic I (72 h). Different small letters within each horizon indicate significant differences between the lime treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05; n = 4). The whiskers denote the standard error of mean.

# 4. Discussion

#### 4.1 Effects of liming on the oxic production of $N_2O$

Liming of soil to pH 7 or above clearly decreased the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in the Ap1, Bg1, BC horizons of the AS soil and in the Ap1, Bg1 and C horizons of the non-AS soil. Such results suggest that acidity represents a constraint on the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> in both soils (Liu et al., 2014), as N<sub>2</sub>O is known to dominate over N<sub>2</sub> as a product of denitrification in acidic conditions (Qu et al., 2014; Šimek et al., 2002; Thomsen et al., 1994). In agreement with this, high soil pH is known to stimulate the activity of N<sub>2</sub>O reductase for a more rapid conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> (Guo et al., 2014). Liu et al. (2014) observed that low soil pH prevented reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O mainly by inhibiting the assembly of functional N<sub>2</sub>O reductase. On the other hand, increasing pH generally enhances microbial activity and nitrogen cycling in soil and thus increase N<sub>2</sub>O produced by nitrification and denitrification. For instance, Nugroho et al. (2007) found that liming (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) of acid soils (pH 3.8) can stimulate the growth of ammonium-oxidizing bacteria and nitrifying activity in an acid pine forest soil.

Contrary to other AS soil horizons, liming was inefficient in reducing the N<sub>2</sub>O production in the C horizon of the AS subsoil even when the pH was high. In the field, this horizon contains potential AS soil material that is nearly always inundated with water in reduced conditions and with abundant amounts of sulfide minerals. As expected, the oxidation of sulfides in the unlimed C horizon decreased the pH from 6.5 to 4.3 during the oxic incubation in this study, but in the limed treatments, the pH always remained high.

In the BC horizon of the AS soil, there was similar acidification observed during the oxic incubation, but with a less pronounced decrease in pH compared with the C horizon. The oxidation of sulfides had clearly resulted in very low soil pH values before the incubation.

In the unlimed control soil, there was no added lime that could neutralize the acidity from the oxidation of the sulfides. In principle, the decreasing soil pH during oxic incubation could have inhibited the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O and thus promoted the net production of N<sub>2</sub>O over N<sub>2</sub> denitrification, especially in the C horizon of the AS soil. Nevertheless, any contributions from such acidification-induced N<sub>2</sub>O production were likely more than counterbalanced by the loss of microbial activity and related N<sub>2</sub>O production. This view is supported by the high response of both N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production to liming.

The decreasing N<sub>2</sub>O production rate with time in all horizons and treatments of the AS soil during Phase Oxic I was probably due to the gradual depletion of  $NO_3$ <sup>-</sup>-N. Organic matter and nutrients might become limited over time during the incubation as it is consumed by the microbes during the incubation. In the Ap1 and Bg1 horizon, the decrease in  $NO_3$ <sup>-</sup>-N in the Ap1 and Bg1 horizons during the Phase Oxic I can be

attributed to either denitrification or immobilization of N into the microbial biomass as there was no leaching from the incubation vessels. Denitrification is the most likely mechanism involved as WPFS of 70% is generally considered high enough to favour denitrification in anoxic microsites of soil. On the other hand, immobilization involves the conversion of inorganic nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N )into organic forms of cellular components, such as proteins and amino sugars (Brady and Weil, 2016). Liming boosted microbial activity, as shown by an increase in the CO<sub>2</sub> production in the limed AS soil horizons at the beginning of Phase Oxic I. Therefore, the enhanced microbial growth could have caused immobilization of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N as well. However, immobilization of N to microbial biomass did not cause net depletion of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N in soil as the net ammonification and net N mineralisation during Phase Oxic I were positive, most likely due to high decomposition rate of organic matter in oxic conditions.

In the BC and C horizons of AS soil, the pool of  $NO_3^--N$  was not depleted but increased. The initial  $NH_4^+-N$  in the BC and C horizons were very high and the large increases in  $NH_4^+-N$  in all horizons during Phase Oxic I indicated mineralization of organic N to  $NH_4^+$ . Oxic conditions promote oxidation of  $NH_4^+$  to  $NO_3^-$  by nitrification. This suggests that nitrification could have produced a significant amount of  $NO_3^--N$  with N<sub>2</sub>O as a by-product. Nevertheless, the fact that liming significantly decreased N<sub>2</sub>O production suggests that the pH-sensitive N<sub>2</sub>O reductase enzyme had a more important role, and that the N<sub>2</sub>O was likely produced in anoxic hotspots by coupled nitrification and denitrification (Šimek et al., 2011).

The AS soil had a much higher cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production compared with the non-AS soil in all horizons, which can be attributed to its higher contents of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N (Paasonen-Kivekäs and Yli-Halla, 2005). Recent studies have indicated larger N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from AS soil than from non-AS mineral soils in Finland (Šimek et al., 2011; Šimek et al., 2014; Yli-Halla et al., 2020) and Australia (Galbally et al., 2010; Macdonald et al., 2008). Our results agree with the view that NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N are important factors affecting oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production and emissions from AS soils through nitrification and denitrification.

#### 4.2 Effects of liming on the anoxic production of $N_2O$ production and denitrification

Lime treatments decreased the anoxic production of N<sub>2</sub>O in the Ap1 and Bg1 horizons of the AS soil, and in all horizons of the non-AS soil. Conversely, in all horizons of the AS soil, the total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in the lime treatments was always significantly higher than that in the respective unlimed soil horizon, but in the non-AS soil this was the case only in the Ap1 horizon. Liming had raised the soil pH to the range of 7.0-8.0 at which the total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) is generally considered to be highest (Van Cleemput et al., 1975). In addition, earlier findings suggest that even if total denitrification activity increases, the amount of N<sub>2</sub>O produced relative to N<sub>2</sub> decreases with increasing soil pH (Šimek and Cooper, 2002). Soil pH controls the composition of the denitrifying microbial community. Low soil pH also limits the availability of organic C and mineral N to denitrifying bacteria (Bakken et al., 2012; McMillan et al., 2016). The effects of pH on the N<sub>2</sub>O/N<sub>2</sub> ratio of denitrification has been explained by the pH-sensitivity of the enzyme N<sub>2</sub>O reductase that is inhibited at low pH (Liu, 2010; Qu et al., 2014; Šimek et al., 2002; Thomsen et al., 1994). The lower product ratios of N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in most lime treated horizons of AS soil support the view that high soil pH stimulated the activity of N<sub>2</sub>O-reductase (Čuhel and Šimek, 2011). Similarly, Liu et al. (2010) showed a strong negative correlation between soil pH and the product ratio N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) within a pH range of 4-7 of long-term lime experiments (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) in peat and clay loam soil in western Norway.

Nevertheless, an exception to the rule were the BC and C horizons of the AS soil, where liming proved inefficient in decreasing the product ratio and anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production. As a consequence, liming increased both anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production and total denitrification in these deep horizons.

Irrespective of the experimental treatment, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production and total denitrification  $(N_2O+N_2)$  in a given horizon of AS soil were always higher than those in the respective horizon of non-AS soil (Table 3). This can be attributed to the higher total N and initial mineral N  $(NO_3^--N \text{ and } NH_4^+-N)$  contents in the AS soil horizons compared with the non-AS soil. Large amounts of bioavailable N are known to favour denitrification and enhance N<sub>2</sub>O and N<sub>2</sub> emissions under anaerobic condition. Earlier studies on N<sub>2</sub>O in AS soils have indicated that the occurrence of large amounts of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>--</sup>N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N in AS soils can cause significant release of N<sub>2</sub>O under anaerobic conditions (Čuhel and Šimek, 2011; Denmead et al., 2010; Denmead et al., 2011).

#### 4.3 Effects of liming on the oxic and anoxic production of CO<sub>2</sub>

Liming significantly increased the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production compared with unlimed AS soil in both oxic and anoxic conditions. The carbonate from lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) can neutralize the acidic soil and convert the carbonate to CO<sub>2</sub>. Page et al. (2009) and Grover et al. (2017) also reported that raising the soil pH with the dissolution of lime can concurrently contribute to the release of CO<sub>2</sub> from soils. In our study, nearly all added lime had reacted in soil by the end of the oxic and anoxic incubations, as the fractional conversion of carbonates always exceeded 90% (Table S2), but still even the largest differences in the total cumulative CO<sub>2</sub>-C production between the limed and control treatment (about 340 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) were only a small fraction of the amount of added carbonate C (1500 or 3000 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>). Thus, during the incubation, much of the dissolved carbonate must have remained in the soil. In the lime treatments, most of the added carbonates have probably remained in porewater as dissolved bicarbonate, which is the dominant carbonate species in the circumneutral pH range.

Lime addition also increased the availability of organic carbon and nitrogen to the microbes which were initially limited by low soil pH in the AS soil (Zelles et al., 1990). Lime increased the biological activity in soil and therefore the rates of soil CO<sub>2</sub> respiration as in other studies (Badalucco et al., 1992; Biasi et al., 2008). In the non-AS soil, however, liming did not significantly increase the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production as the initial pH of non-AS soil was already above 6.3 in all horizons.

The cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production in the AS soil was higher than in the non-AS soil in oxic conditions. This can be attributed to the several-fold larger organic carbon pools in the AS soil horizons as compared with the respective non-AS soil horizons (Table 1). The CO<sub>2</sub> production was highest in the Ap1 horizon, decreased rapidly with soil depth in the Bg1 and BC horizons, but then increased again in the C horizon. This confirms the trend observed in an earlier study in Finnish soils (Šimek et al., 2011). The abundant carbon stocks in the top horizon (Ap1) and deep horizon (C) serve as substrate for enhanced microbial growth and respiration under oxic conditions. Respiration is usually higher in soils rich in organic matter. This agrees with many early studies where higher amounts of organic carbon in soil increased production of CO<sub>2</sub> in soil (Bruce et al., 1997; Gallardo and Schlesinger, 1994). The prerequisite for the high rate of respiration include an active microbial community and abundant amount of easily decomposable organic matter. In the AS soil, microbial activity was generally limited by acidity, as the CO<sub>2</sub> production was increased by liming in nearly all AS soil horizons.

#### 4.4 Effects of liming on the total GHG production based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq

In terms of CO<sub>2</sub> eq, liming caused a net reduction of GHG production only in the Ap1 horizons of both soils, even if liming nearly always decreased the proportion of N<sub>2</sub>O in GHG production, excluding the C horizon and anoxic BC horizon in AS soil. Conversely, liming of acid subsoil horizons often increased GHG production.

The results suggest that liming can successfully reduce GHG production in AS soils by pH mitigation, provided that topsoil dominates the GHG production of soil profile. Nevertheless, even if liming of acid AS subsoil horizons can reduce the proportion of N<sub>2</sub>O in GHG production, it seems less efficient in reducing the total GHG production and involves the risk of increasing the GHG production by enhanced microbial respiration and denitrification. In the non-AS subsoils, high initial pH probably reduced the effects of liming.

In the BC horizon of AS soil, liming concomitantly increased anoxic GHG production and the proportion of N<sub>2</sub>O in GHG production. This result differs from all other horizons and may suggest a contribution of some

different mechanisms of GHG production as compared with other horizons. It is noted that in earlier studies, the highest anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production of all AS subsoil horizons was found in the BC horizon (Šimek et al., 2014). The mechanisms involved are worthy of detailed study in the future.

According to this study, the contribution of unlimed subsoil horizons to the total GHG production seemed generally small. This seems fortunate in practice, as it is easier to mitigate the GHG production by liming the topsoil than subsoil. However, the generalization of results to the field is not as simple as that for reasons outlined below.

In our incubations, we used mechanically disturbed soil samples at constant soil moisture status (70% WFPS) and at a higher temperature than typical in the field. The moisture status and temperature were selected so as to have optimal conditions for oxic N<sub>2</sub>O production and for its mitigation by liming. In the field, however, soil moisture content varies with time and generally increases with depth. The degree of saturation may often exceed WFPS 70% already in the BC horizon and approaches saturation at the C horizon of AS soil. This increases the contribution of subsoil horizons to total GHG production in the soil profile. On the other hand, the field temperature in the subsoil horizons is much lower than the room temperature in this study, which is likely reflected in correspondingly slower microbial activity and GHG production in the field.

Moreover, in the incubation experiment, a relatively large amount of lime was added and mixed into a small amount of soil as a suspension so as to let it react efficiently and increase the impacts of lime in soil. In the field, lime suspension can be added into a structured subsoil through subsurface drains (Wu et al., 2015). Such lime will only contact the surfaces of the largest macropores and cracks in the subsoil. The efficiency of such liming on CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O production in different soil horizons and the contributions of different soil horizons to GHG emissions *in-situ* remain topics for future research.

CH<sub>4</sub> is a third potentially important GHG that is globally relevant, but in our study, it is less significant because large CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from AS soils have not been reported in the field and because no significant CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were observed in our incubation study. During Phase Oxic I, soil was expectedly a sink rather than a source of CH<sub>4</sub>. During Phase Anoxic II, the relatively short incubation time (72 h) probably contributed to fact that the CH<sub>4</sub> production, if any, was very small compared with N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production.

# 5. Conclusions

We determined the effects of liming on N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> production, total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) and the

product ratio of denitrification in different soil horizons of AS and non-AS soil by carrying out incubations at 70% WFPS in oxic and anoxic conditions. Liming effectively increased soil pH to 7 in all horizons in both soils. Liming decreased N<sub>2</sub>O production in the Ap1, Bg1 and BC horizons in oxic conditions and in the Ap1 and Bg1 horizons in anoxic conditions in the AS soil. However, liming was not effective in reducing N<sub>2</sub>O production in the C horizon in oxic and anoxic conditions, and in the BC horizon in anoxic conditions. However, the product ratio N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) of denitrification decreased with liming-induced pH change in both AS and non-AS soils in anoxic conditions. Lime treatments increased the total anoxic denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in all horizons of the AS soil. The higher cumulative production of N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> in the horizons of the AS soil in oxic and anoxic conditions as compared to the respective non-AS soil horizons agreed well with their higher total carbon and nitrogen contents. Lime addition enhanced CO2 production in the AS soil. Significant lime-induced reductions in the total GHG production as CO<sub>2</sub>-eq were observed only in the Ap1 horizon of AS (oxic and anoxic) and non-AS (anoxic) soils. The results suggest that liming of the subsoil would not effectively decrease GHG emissions due to the increased CO<sub>2</sub> production and denitrification. In the future, long-term field studies are needed to evaluate the potential of liming of different soil horizons as a mitigating tool for N<sub>2</sub>O production and facilitating the reduction of the product ratio  $N_2O/(N_2O+N_2)$  in-situ. At the same time, the viability of lime as a mitigation strategy for GHG emissions should also account for the increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions connected with the lime application in agricultural land.

#### Acknowledgements

This study was supported by Finnish National Agency of Education granting an EDUFI fellowship with a full scholarship for the research visit of Ms. Chang Xu to the University of Helsinki (Sep 2019 – Mar 2020, EDUFI TM-19-11085). The research was carried out in the framework of FACCE ERA-GAS MAGGE-pH project (https://www.eragas.eu/en/eragas/Research-projects/MAGGE-pH.htm, https://www.researchgate.net/project/Mitigating-Agricultural-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions-by-improved-pH-management-of-soils-MAGGE-pH).

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## **Supplementary Materials:**

#### 1. Determination of carbonates

The carbonate content was measured and compared at the end of 56-day oxic (Phase Oxic I) and anoxic (Phase Anoxic III) incubations of the AS soil. For Phase Anoxic III incubation (Fig. S1), a separate set of 48 soil cores from AS soil were prepared as follows: 10 g of soil (dry weight basis) was packed into a 3.5-cm diameter, 12.5-cm high 120 mL glass bottles.

Two pre-tests were completed to determine the lime requirement in the Ap1, Bg1, BC and C horizons in the AS soil; 1) 15 mL of 0.05 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> solution was added to 10 g soil (dry mass basis) and 2) 15 mL of 0.1 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> solution was added to 10 g soil (dry mass basis). The lime requirement was obtained graphically from the curve describing pH as a function of CaCO<sub>3</sub> additions. Within 6 days, 15 mL of the 0.1 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> solution raised the soil pH to 7 in all horizons. Based on the pre-test, we added 10 mL of 0.125 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> as the low lime treatment, and 10 mL of 0.25 M CaCO<sub>3</sub> as the high lime treatment, into homogenized soils. At the beginning of Phase Anoxic III, the lime treatments were established in the same way as in Phase Oxic I by applying pure calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>, EMSURE® Reag. Ph Eur) as low lime (12.5 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) and high lime (25 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) treatments to soil, and a control treatment was established with no added lime. This was based on two pre-tests.

These soil cores were incubated for 56 days under anaerobic conditions. The 48 glass bottles were capped with a butyl rubber septum, the headspace was evacuated and replaced with  $N_2$ , and the soils were incubated with the addition of extra MilliQ-ultrapure water (10 ml) to achieve anaerobic conditions.

Carbonates were measured at the end of incubation to determine the apparent fractional conversion of added carbonates (= the reacted proportion of added carbonates) in soil. Subsamples of soil were taken from bottles and oven-dried for 105 °C for 48h. Then, the dry soil samples were placed into a muffle furnace oven to remove organic matter at 550°C for 3h. Afterwards, a proxy for the carbonate C content in the inorganic residue was determined by Dumas combustion with a TCN-analyzer (Leco, CN828). All C in the inorganic residue was assumed to originate from CaCO<sub>3</sub>. The apparent fractional conversion of added carbonates ( $F_L$ ) (%) in the lime treatments was calculated using equation 1, where  $m_L$  is mass of end of carbonates in the lime treatment [g],  $m_c$  is mass of end of carbonates in the control treatment,  $m_a$  is the mass of added lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>).

$$F_{L} = (1 - \frac{m_L - m_c}{m_a}) \times 100\%$$
(Equation 1)

> Set 4: 48 soil samples incubated with N<sub>2</sub> under anoxic condition to measure carbonates



Fig.S1 Time sequence of the anoxic incubation (days 0-56). A total of 48 soil samples were incubated with 10 ml MQ water with N<sub>2</sub> under anoxic condition in the beginning of incubation (AS soil site x 4 horizons x 3 lime treatments x 4 replicates). The three lime treatments (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) including unlimed control, low lime (12.5 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) and high lime (25.0 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) were applied in the beginning of the incubation.

#### 2. Results

Soil carbonate content in the high lime treatment was higher than that in the low lime treatment in all horizons after Phase Oxic I and Phase Anoxic III (Table S1). The fractional conversion of carbonates (F<sub>L</sub>) was significantly higher in the low lime treatment than in the high lime treatment in the Ap1 during Phase Oxic I and in the Bg1 during Phase Anoxic III (p<0.05) (Table S2). Other differences in the F<sub>L</sub> between low lime and high lime treatments were insignificant (p>0.05) (Table S2). There was no significant difference in the fractional conversion of carbonates (F<sub>L</sub>) between Phase Oxic I and Phase Anoxic III in all treatments in all horizons (p>0.05) (Table S2).

Tables S3 and S5 summarize the  $NO_3^--N$  and  $NH_4^+-N$  under lime treatments in different horizons in the AS soil and non-AS soil site during the Phase Oxic I. Table S4 and S6 summarized the  $NO_3^--N$  and  $NH_4^+-N$  under lime treatments in different horizons in the AS soil and non-AS soil site during the Phase Anoxic II.

Fig.S2 summarized cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production in AS and non-AS soils during Phase Anoxic II. Table S7 demonstrated the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production between the different lime treatments and horizons of AS and non-AS soils during Phase Anoxic II.

The cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production, cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub> production and the N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) ratios during Phase Anoxic II (72 h) in the AS soil are shown in Fig. S2. In the AS soil, the largest cumulative anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production occurred in all treatments within the first 24 h of anoxia, followed by a decrease during the next 48 hr in the Ap1 and C horizons (Fig. S2a, j). In the Bg1 horizon, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production increased continuously over the 72 h duration of the incubation (Fig. S2d). In the BC horizon, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production in the lime treatments increased significantly during the first 48 hr, and then decreased towards the end of incubation at 72 h (Fig. S2g). The high lime treatment produced the largest cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub> productions, indicating total denitrification, followed by the low lime treatment and control in all horizons (Fig. S2b, e, h, k). The product ratio of N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) decreased over the 72 h in all horizons and treatments (Fig. S2c, f, i, l). The product ratio of N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in the control soil was higher than that in the lime treatments in the Ap1, Bg1 and C horizons (Fig. S2c, f, l).

The cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production, cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub> production and the N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) ratios during Phase Anoxic II (72 h) in the non-AS soil were shown in Fig. S3. In the non-AS soil, the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O production increased over the 72-h duration of incubation in the Bg1, BC and C horizons (Fig. S3d, g, j), whereas a slight decrease was noticed in Ap1 after 48 h (Fig. S3a). Total denitrification (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) increased in all horizons during the 72-h incubation (Fig. S3b, e, h, k). The product ratio of N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in the control soil was higher than those in the lime treatments, and it decreased from 24h to 72h in all treatments and horizons (Fig. S3c, f, i, l).

		А	S soil (Phase Ox	ic I)	AS	AS soil (Phase Anoxic III)			
Horizon		Control (g)	Low lime (g)	High lime (g)	Control (g)	Low lime (g)	High lime		
Ap1	Start addition	0	0.125	0.25	0	0.125	0.25		
	End	0.0031	0.0034	0.0049	0.0026	0.0029	0.0039		
Bg1	Start addition	0	0.125	0.25	0	0.125	0.25		
	End	0.0027	0.0028	0.0037	0.0023	0.0025	0.0044		
BC	Start addition	0	0.125	0.25	0	0.125	0.25		
	End	0.0019	0.0021	0.0031	0.0048	0.005	0.0056		
С	Start addition	0	0.125	0.25	0	0.125	0.25		
	End	0.0018	0.003	0.0042	0.0052	0.006	0.0071		

#### Table S1. Soil carbonate contents<sup>a</sup> in AS soil site during Phase Oxic I and Phase Anoxic III

<sup>a</sup> The mass of carbonates as g (as CaCO<sub>3</sub>) per a soil sample of 10 g (DM). Means  $\pm$  standard errors (n = 4).

# Table S2. Fractional conversion of carbonate <sup>a</sup> (%) in the low and high lime treatments of AS soil during Phase Oxic I and Phase Anoxic III

Horizons	Incubation	Low lime (%)	High lime (%)
Ap1	Phase Oxic I	$97.78\pm0.34^{aA}$	$93.72\pm0.15^{bA}$
	Phase Anoxic III	$97.75\pm0.48^{aA}$	$95.70\pm0.15^{aA}$
Bg1	Phase Oxic I	$99.51\pm0.31^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$96.72\pm0.13^{aA}$
	Phase Anoxic III	$98.98\pm0.35^{aA}$	$93.36\pm1.56^{bA}$
BC	Phase Oxic I	$99.39 \pm 0.67^{aA}$	$96.09\pm0.34^{\mathrm{aA}}$
	Phase Anoxic III	$98.88\pm0.13^{aA}$	$97.70\pm0.12^{aA}$
С	Phase Oxic I	$92.56\pm0.89^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$92.37\pm0.24^{\mathrm{aA}}$
	Phase Anoxic III	$94.89\pm0.23^{aA}$	$93.76\pm0.34^{aA}$

<sup>a</sup> Means  $\pm$  standard errors (n = 4). The fractional conversion of carbonates represents the apparent relative mass loss (reacted part) of added carbonates in soil. Different small letters within each row denote significant differences between the lime treatments. Different capital letters within a given lime treatment and horizon denote significant differences between Phase Oxic I and Phase Anoxic III (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05).

			AS soil			Non-AS soil	
Horizo	- n	Control	Low lime	High lime	Control	Low lime	High lime
a)	$\Delta NO_3$ -N						
Ap1		$-16.8 \pm 1.4$	$-15.2 \pm 0.8$	$-15.9 \pm 1.4$	$-16.5 \pm 1.21$	$-15.5 \pm 1.12$	$-14.6 \pm 1.1$
Bg1		$-1.6\pm0.7$	$-7.4 \pm 0.2$	$-7.0 \pm 0.2$	$-1.7\pm0.05$	$-1.1\pm0.004$	$-0.3 \pm 0.03$
BC		$0.7\pm0.07$	$0.6\pm0.10$	$0.4\pm0.1$	$0.6\pm0.02$	$0.3\pm0.04$	$1.3\pm0.1$
С		$0.6\pm0.02$	$0.6\pm0.02$	$0.5\pm0.01$	$0.2\pm0.05$	$0.7\pm0.02$	$0.6\pm0.1$
b)	$\Delta$ NH4 <sup>+</sup> -N						
Ap1		$66.8\pm3.8$	$83.2\pm3.7$	$90.4\pm0.4$	$39.2\pm1.6$	$46.9\pm2.04$	$53.6\pm4.3$
Bg1		$11.6\pm1.0$	$27.4\pm1.2$	$15.0\pm0.8$	$8.9\pm1.4$	$6.1\pm0.49$	$3.9\pm0.05$
BC		$10.7\pm1.1$	$10.6\pm0.3$	$19.4\pm1.1$	$-1.6 \pm 0.1$	$-2.7\pm0.06$	$-1.8\pm0.2$
С		$7.7\pm0.9$	$14.6\pm\!\!1.5$	$7.9\pm0.9$	$1.7\pm0.3$	$1.9\pm0.16$	$1.6\pm0.1$
c)	$\Delta N_{min}$						
Ap1		$50.1\pm4.8$	$68.0\pm4.5$	$74.5\pm1.8$	$22.7\pm1.8$	$31.4\pm3.1$	38.9 ± 5.4
Bg1		$10.0\pm1.7$	$20.0\pm1.2$	$8.1\pm0.9$	$7.1\pm1.5$	$4.9\pm0.5$	$3.6\pm0.08$
BC		$11.4 \pm 1.1$	$11.2\pm1.3$	$19.8\pm1.2$	$-0.9\pm0.1$	$-2.4\pm0.1$	$-0.4 \pm 0.4$
С		$8.3 \pm 0.9$	$15.2 \pm 1.5$	$8.4 \pm 0.9$	$2.1 \pm 0.3$	$2.7 \pm 0.1$	$2.2 \pm 0.2$

Table S3. Net changes of mineral N forms<sup>a</sup> in the different lime treatments and horizons of AS soil and non-AS soils during Phase Oxic I (56 days) (N mg kg<sup>-1</sup>)

<sup>a</sup> Means  $\pm$  standard errors (n = 4). Difference between the N content at the end and before of Phase Oxic I. N<sub>min</sub> = NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> -N + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N

		AS soil			Non-AS soil	
Horizon	Control	Low lime	High lime	Control	Low lime	High lime
a) $\Delta NO_3^{-1}$	-N (without C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )	)				
Ap1	$-10.8 \pm 0.3$	$-11.2 \pm 0.5$	$-10.6 \pm 0.1$	$-3.9\pm0.2$	$-5.2 \pm 0.4$	-6.0 ± 1.2
Bg1	$-1.7\pm0.09$	$-0.04\pm0.005$	$-0.1\pm0.003$	$-0.8\pm0.05$	$-1.2\pm0.05$	$-2.79 \pm 0.3$
BC	$-0.2 \pm 0.02$	$-0.6 \pm 0.03$	$-0.08\pm0.003$	$-0.8\pm0.09$	$-0.2 \pm 0.02$	$-1.8 \pm 0.05$
С	$-0.1\pm0.01$	$-0.3\pm0.03$	$\textbf{-0.2}\pm0.02$	$\textbf{-0.2}\pm0.02$	$-0.5\pm0.03$	$-0.5\pm~0.02$
b) $\Delta NH_4$	+-N (without C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )	)				
Ap1	$4.7 \pm 1.2$	21.3 ± 1.1	$52.6 \pm 0.9$	$4.4\pm0.05$	-33.6 ± 1.4	-38.0 ± 3.1
Bg1	$1.0\pm~2.0$	$5.6 \pm 0.4$	$32.9\pm0.04$	$-3.9\pm0.8$	$-1.7\pm0.09$	$-1.3 \pm 0.05$
BC	$-1.0 \pm 0.002$	$-2.1 \pm 0.5$	$0.9 \pm 0.1$	$0.7\pm0.07$	$2.3\pm0.4$	$1.3\pm0.1$
С	$18.4\pm0.2$	$16.9\pm1.6$	$41.9\pm1.1$	$3.7\pm0.4$	$1.8\pm0.1$	$2.8 \pm 0.02$
c) $\Delta N_{min}$	(without C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	$-6.1 \pm 1.5$	$10.1\pm1.6$	$41.9 \pm 1.1$	$0.4 \pm 0.03$	$-38.8 \pm 1.8$	$-44.0 \pm 4.2$
Bg1	$-0.8\pm0.2$	$5.5\pm0.4$	$32.7\pm0.04$	$-4.7\pm0.9$	$-2.8\pm0.08$	$-4.1 \pm 0.3$
BC	$-1.2 \pm 0.02$	$-2.7\pm0.5$	$0.9 \pm 0.1$	$-0.01\pm0.002$	$2.1\pm0.4$	$-0.5 \pm 0.05$
С	$18.3\pm0.2$	$16.6\pm1.7$	$41.6\pm1.1$	$3.5\pm0.4$	$1.2\pm0.2$	$2.2 \pm 0.03$
d) $\Delta NO_3$	-N (with C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	$-10.9 \pm 0.4$	$-11.7 \pm 0.5$	$-11.1 \pm 0.3$	$-4.0 \pm 0.4$	$-3.8\pm0.4$	-5.5 ± 1.1
Bg1	$-2.9\pm0.7$	$-0.08\pm0.001$	$-0.2 \pm 0.2$	$-2.9 \pm 0.4$	$-2.5\pm0.07$	$-2.7 \pm 0.06$
BC	$-0.4 \pm 0.1$	$-0.6 \pm 0.04$	$-0.1\pm0.07$	$-0.8\pm0.07$	$-0.5\pm0.1$	$-1.4 \pm 0.2$
С	$-0.2 \pm 0.03$	$-0.4\pm0.03$	$-0.3\pm0.005$	$\textbf{-0.1}\pm0.02$	$-0.6\pm0.02$	$-0.5 \pm 0.04$
e) $\Delta NH_4$	+-N (with $C_2H_2$ )					
Ap1	$20.6\pm0.6$	37.8 ± 1.1	-5.8 ± 1.5	$-19.4\pm0.03$	$-26.6 \pm 1.5$	-32.7 ± 3.2
Bg1	$3.2\pm0.1$	$8.7\pm0.4$	$41.9\pm0.5$	$-1.2 \pm 0.3$	$-1.9\pm0.2$	$-1.7 \pm 0.08$
BC	$3.8\pm0.2$	$11.0\pm0.6$	$11.6\pm0.5$	$4.3\pm0.3$	$3.2\pm0.2$	$3.8\pm0.4$
С	$25.2\pm1.4$	$23.2\pm2.5$	$6.9\pm0.6$	$0.07\pm0.01$	$2.1\pm0.2$	$5.9\pm0.3$
f) $\Delta N_{min}$	(with C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	$9.7\pm0.8$	$26.1\pm0.5$	$-16.8 \pm 1.8$	$-23.5 \pm 0.4$	$-30.5 \pm 1.6$	-38.2 ± 4.3
Bg1	$0.3 \pm 0.07$	$8.6\pm0.4$	$41.7\pm0.2$	$-4.1 \pm 0.7$	$-4.4 \pm 0.2$	$-4.4 \pm 0.1$
BC	$3.3 \pm 0.4$	$10.3\pm0.5$	$11.4\pm0.4$	$3.5 \pm 0.2$	$2.6\pm0.1$	$2.4 \pm 0.2$
С	$25.1 \pm 1.4$	$22.7\pm2.5$	$6.5\pm0.6$	$-0.04\pm0.005$	$1.5 \pm 0.2$	$5.3 \pm 0.2$

Table S4. Net changes of mineral N forms<sup>a</sup> in the different lime treatments and horizons of AS and non-AS soils during Phase Anoxic II (72 h) (N mg kg<sup>-1</sup>)

<sup>a</sup> Means  $\pm$  standard errors (n = 4). Difference between the N content at the end and before of Phase Anoxic II. N<sub>min</sub> = NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> -N + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N

			AS soil			Non-As soil	
Horizon		Control	Low lime	High lime	Control	Low lime	High lime
a) NO <sub>3</sub>	-N						
Ap1	End	$10.9\pm0.5$	$12.6\pm0.6$	$11.9\pm0.2$	$4.3\pm0.4$	$5.3\pm0.4$	6.1 ± 1.3
Bg1	End	$6.1 \pm 1.1$	$0.3\pm0.006$	$0.7\pm0.1$	$3.9\pm0.7$	$4.6\pm0.07$	$5.4\pm0.5$
BC	End	$0.8\pm0.2$	$0.7\pm0.21$	$0.5\pm0.01$	$2.7\pm0.06$	$2.4\pm0.01$	$3.4\pm0.6$
С	End	$0.6\pm0.03$	$0.6\pm0.02$	$0.5\pm0.01$	$0.4\pm0.02$	$0.8\pm0.02$	$0.7\pm0.1$
<b>b</b> ) NH4	+-N						
Ap1	End	$69.0\pm5.6$	85.3 ± 4.4	$92.5\pm0.1$	$41.0\pm2.6$	$48.7\pm2.5$	$55.4\pm5.0$
Bg1	End	$15.4\pm1.0$	$31.2 \pm 2.2$	$18.8\pm0.9$	$9.3\pm2.3$	$6.5 \pm 0.2$	$4.4\pm0.07$
BC	End	$21.5\pm0.8$	$21.3\pm1.8$	$30.1\pm3.1$	$1.9\pm0.2$	$0.9\pm0.1$	$1.8\pm0.3$
С	End	$20.98\pm0.4$	$27.8\pm4.1$	$21.1\pm1.4$	$2.0\pm0.3$	$2.2\pm0.2$	$1.8\pm0.2$
c) N <sub>min</sub>							
Ap1	End	$80.0\pm 6.0$	$97.9\pm5.0$	$104.4\pm0.3$	$45.3\pm3.0$	$54.0\pm2.9$	$61.5\pm~5.2$
Bg1	End	$21.5\pm2.1$	$31.5 \pm 2.2$	$19.5\pm1.1$	$13.2\pm3.0$	$11.1\pm0.3$	$9.7\pm0.5$
BC	End	$22.2\pm1.0$	$22.0\pm2.0$	$30.6\pm3.1$	$4.7\pm0.3$	$3.3\pm0.1$	$5.2\pm0.9$
С	End	$21.6\pm0.4$	$28.4 \pm 4.2$	$21.6\pm1.4$	$2.3 \pm 0.4$	$3.0 \pm 0.2$	$2.6\pm0.3$

а

Table S5. Mineral N contents<sup>a</sup> under lime treatments in different horizons in the AS soil and non-AS soil site at the end of the Phase Oxic I (N mg kg<sup>-1</sup>)

 $\overline{Means \pm standard \ errors \ (n = 4). \ N_{min} = NO_3^- - N + NH_4^+ - N}$ 

			AS soil			Non-As soil	
Horizo	n	Control	Low lime	High lime	Control	Low lime	High lime
a)	NO3 <sup>-</sup> -N (wi	thout C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	End	0.1 ± 0.02	$1.4 \pm 0.2$	$1.2 \pm 0.01$	$0.34 \pm 0.05$	$0.04 \pm 0.005$	$0.08 \pm 0.01$
Bg1	End	$4.3\pm0.1$	$0.3\pm~0.04$	$0.6\pm~0.05$	$3.08\pm0.52$	$3.40\pm0.007$	$2.57 \pm 0.32$
BC	End	$0.6 \pm 0.01$	$0.1 \pm 0.02$	$0.41\pm0.009$	$1.97\pm0.49$	$2.12\pm0.003$	$1.63 \pm 0.06$
С	End	$0.5\pm0.02$	$0.3\pm0.05$	$0.21\pm\ 0.05$	$0.19\pm0.02$	$0.26\pm0.03$	$0.19 \pm 0.02$
b)	NH4 <sup>+</sup> -N (w	ithout C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	End	73.7 ± 2.9	106.6 ± 26.7	145.1 ± 2.0	$45.5 \pm 4.4$	$15.1 \pm 2.6$	$17.4 \pm 2.6$
Bg1	End	$16.4 \pm 3.9$	36.8 ± 3.1	51.7 ± 4.8	$5.4 \pm 0.7$	$4.8\pm0.03$	3.1 ± 0.07
BC	End	$20.4\pm3.1$	$19.1\pm1.9$	$31.1 \pm 2.7$	$2.7\pm0.6$	$3.3 \pm 0.5$	3.1 ± 0.2
С	End	$39.4\pm0.4$	$44.8\pm5.3$	$63.1\pm0.3$	$5.7\pm0.5$	$4.0\pm0.09$	$4.7\pm0.08$
c)	N <sub>min</sub> (witho	ut C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	End	73.9 ± 3.0	$108.1\pm26.8$	$146.4\pm2.0$	$45.8\pm4.5$	$15.1 \pm 2.6$	17.5 ± 2.6
Bg1	End	$20.7\pm3.9$	37.1 ± 3.2	$52.3 \pm 4.9$	$8.5 \pm 1.2$	$8.1\pm0.04$	$5.7\pm0.4$
BC	End	$21.0\pm3.2$	$19.3\pm2.0$	$31.5 \pm 2.8$	$4.7\pm0.7$	$5.4 \pm 0.4$	$4.7\pm0.3$
С	End	$39.9\pm0.4$	$45.1\pm5.4$	$63.3\pm0.4$	$5.9\pm0.5$	$4.3\pm0.1$	$4.8\pm0.1$
d)	NO3 <sup>-</sup> -N (wi	th C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	End	$0.08\pm~0.01$	$0.8\pm~0.06$	$0.8\pm~0.07$	$0.2 \pm 0.01$	$1.4 \pm 0.08$	$0.5 \pm 0.03$
Bg1	End	$3.1\pm~0.3$	$0.2\pm~0.07$	$0.5\pm~0.3$	$1.0\pm\ 0.03$	$2.0\pm\ 0.09$	$2.6 \pm 0.08$
BC	End	$0.3\pm\ 0.05$	$0.05\pm~0.05$	$0.3\pm~0.08$	$1.9\pm~0.1$	$1.8\pm~0.2$	$2.1 \pm 0.05$
С	End	$0.4\pm~0.06$	$0.2\pm~0.06$	$0.1\pm\ 0.01$	$0.2\pm\ 0.03$	$0.2\pm\ 0.03$	$0.2 \pm 0.05$
e)	NH4 <sup>+</sup> -N (w	ith C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )					
Ap1	End	$89.6\pm5.8$	123.1 ± 3.3	86.7 ± 3.1	$21.6\pm2.5$	$22.1\pm0.5$	$22.6\pm4.4$
Bg1	End	$18.6\pm1.2$	$39.9 \pm 1.1$	$60.7\pm0.3$	$8.0 \pm 0.7$	$4.6\pm0.3$	$2.7\pm0.7$
BC	End	$25.3\ \pm 1.1$	$32.3\pm1.2$	$41.7\pm3.8$	$6.3\pm0.6$	$4.1\pm0.3$	$5.6\pm0.7$
С	End	$46.3\pm2.2$	$51.1\pm5.3$	$28.1\pm2.8$	$2.1\pm0.7$	$4.3\pm0.5$	$7.7\pm0.3$
f)	N <sub>min</sub> (with C	C2H2)					
Ap1	End	$89.7\pm5.8$	$124.0\pm3.3$	87.5 ± 3.0	$21.8\pm2.5$	$23.5\pm0.5$	23.2 ± 4.5
Bg1	End	$21.7\pm1.5$	$40.1\pm1.2$	$61.3\pm0.7$	$9.0\pm0.7$	$6.6\pm0.4$	$5.3\pm0.8$
BC	End	$25.6\pm1.1$	$32.4\pm1.2$	$42.1\pm3.9$	$8.2\pm0.7$	$5.9\pm0.5$	$7.6\pm0.7$
С	End	$46.6\pm2.2$	$51.2 \pm 5.3$	$28.1\pm2.8$	$2.3\pm0.7$	$4.5\pm0.5$	$7.9 \pm 0.4$

Table S6. Mineral N contents<sup>a</sup> under lime treatments in different horizons in the AS soil and non-AS soil site at the end of the Phase Anoxic II (N mg kg<sup>-1</sup>)

Means  $\pm$  standard errors (n = 4). N<sub>min</sub> = NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N

a

Table S7. Cumulative  $CO_2$  production<sup>a</sup> between the different lime treatments and horizons of AS and non-AS soils during Phase Anoxic II (72 h) (mg CO<sub>2</sub>-C kg<sup>-1</sup>)

Soil		Control	Low lime	High lime
	Ap1	$27.8 \pm 4.7^{\mathrm{bA}}$	$30.2 \pm 1.0^{aA}$	31.1 ± 1.3 <sup>aA</sup>
	Bg1	$6.3\pm0.8^{\mathrm{bD}}$	$15.2 \pm 1.8^{\mathrm{aC}}$	$16.2\pm0.4^{\mathrm{aB}}$
AS soil	BC	$14.2 \pm 1.2^{\mathrm{bC}}$	$18.2\pm2.2^{\mathrm{aB}}$	$18.9\pm0.5^{aB}$
	С	$17.1 \pm 3.9^{\mathrm{bB}}$	$32.5 \pm 2.9^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$31.4 \pm 2.7^{\mathrm{aA}}$
	Ap1	$37.9 \pm 7.1^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$32.3 \pm 2.2^{bA}$	$37.2 \pm 4.4^{\mathrm{aA}}$
Non-AS soil	Bg1	$6.9\pm0.2^{\mathrm{bB}}$	$8.7\pm0.3^{\mathrm{aC}}$	$8.5\pm0.3^{aC}$
Non-AS son	BC	$9.0\pm2.1^{aB}$	$9.2\pm0.5^{aC}$	$8.7\pm0.3^{\mathrm{aC}}$
	С	$7.3\pm0.5^{\rm bB}$	$12.3\pm0.3^{\rm aB}$	$11.1\pm0.2^{\rm aB}$

<sup>a</sup> Means  $\pm$  standard errors (n = 4). Different small letters within each row represent significant differences between the lime treatments. Different capital letters within each column represent significant differences between different soil horizons (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05).

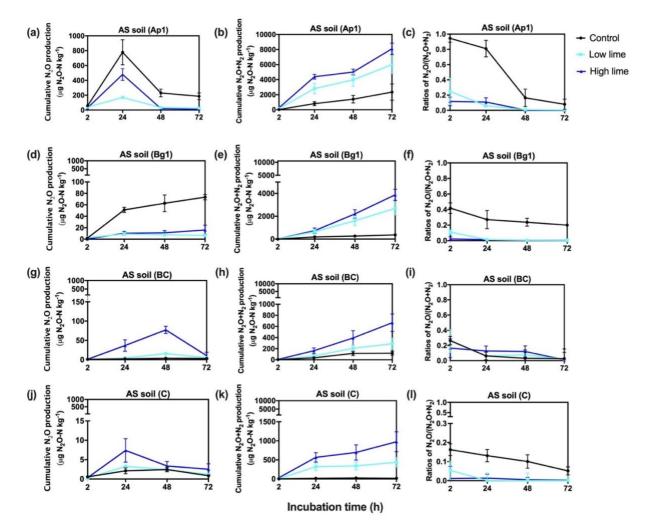


Figure. S2. Cumulative  $N_2O$  production, cumulative  $N_2O+N_2$  production and the  $N_2O/(N_2O+N_2)$  ratios in Ap1 (a, b, c), Bg1 (d, e, f), BC (g, h, i) and C (j, k, l) horizons during Phase Anoxic II (72 h) in the AS soil. Vertical bars denote the standard error of mean (n=4).

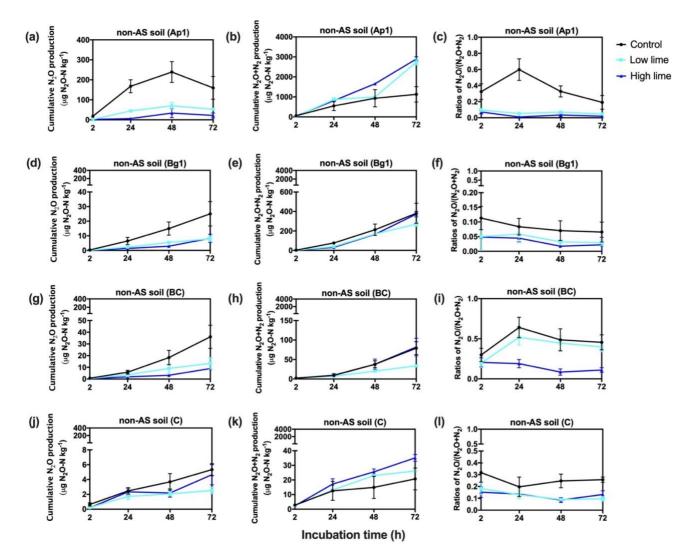


Figure. S3. Cumulative anoxic N<sub>2</sub>O production, cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub> production and the N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) ratios in Ap1 (a, b, c), Bg1 (d, e, f), BC (g, h, i) and C (j, k, l) horizons during Phase Anoxic II (72 h) in the non-AS soil. Vertical bars denote the standard error of mean (n=4).

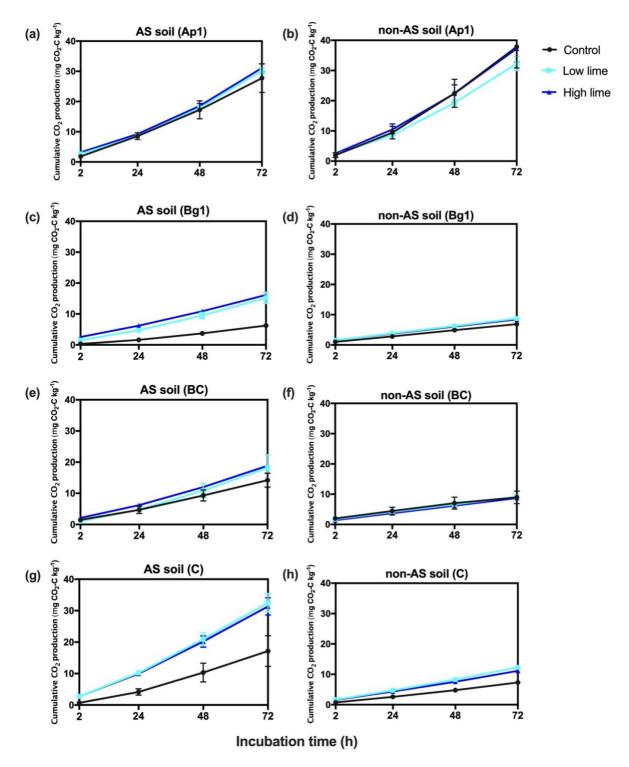


Figure. S4. Cumulative  $CO_2$  production in Ap1 (a, b), Bg1 (c, d), BC (e, f) and C (g, h) horizons in the AS and non-AS soils during the Phase Anoxic II (72h). Values are means and standard errors of four replicates (n=4).

Chapter 5. Effect of lime and inundation on greenhouse gas emissions from temperate coastal wetlands in southern Australia

# Effects of lime and inundation on greenhouse gas emissions from temperate coastal wetlands in southern Australia

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# **5.1 Abstract**

Coastal acid sulfate soils (ASS) contain large amounts of organic matter which can be potential sources of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Recent liming methods can reduce the acidity of ASS in the field. However, the effects of liming and inundation together on GHGs are still poorly known. We measured the effects of brackish water inundation and liming on GHGs from *Apium gravedens* (AG) in coastal wetland. The limed and non-limed soils were incubated under dry, flooded, and wet-dry cycles conditions of 14 d each for 42 days. CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were collected by closed chamber method and measured with gas chromatography. Based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq, the total GHG emissions were higher in limed soils than non-limed soils. Inundation decreased the total CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and increased the CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. CH<sub>4</sub> was the dominant GHG in the total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions in the flooded treatment. Lime improved the soil pH and decreased titratable actual acidity (TAA), net acidity and heavy metals (Al, Fe, Mn) in most horizons under dry and wet-dry cycle treatments. The net acidity and heavy trace metals decreased following flooded treatment. Overall, the inundation and lime treatments can reduce the net acidity and trace metals in ASS. However, lime needs to carefully applied in coastal ASS due to the increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions derived from the dissolution of CaCO<sub>3</sub>.

Key words: coastal acid sulfate soils, lime, inundation, greenhouse gases, acidity

# **5.2 Introduction**

Acid sulfate soils (ASS) are defined as soils or sediments containing oxidizable, or partly oxidized sulfide minerals (Melville and White, 1993; Pons, 1973). These sulfide minerals are mainly in the form of pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>). Other forms of sulfide minerals include iron monosulfide (FeS) and greigite (Fe<sub>3</sub>S<sub>4</sub>) (Dent, 1986). The formation of iron sulphides in coastal environments generally requires sufficient Fe<sup>3+</sup> iron from the sediments,  $SO_4^{2-}$  from seawater, organic matter and an anaerobic environment (Berner, 1984; Pons, 1973).

ASS is relatively harmless when in an undisturbed state, but when iron sulfides are disturbed and subsequently exposed to the atmosphere such as due to changes in water level, isostatic change of the lithosphere, or artificial drainage for agriculture, large quantities of sulfuric acid are released (Boman et al., 2010a; Burton et al., 2006b). Pyrite reacts with oxygen from the atmosphere and releases sulfuric acid according to the following reaction (Equation 5.1):

$$FeS_2 + \frac{7}{2}O_2 + H_2O \rightarrow Fe^{2+} + 2SO_4^2 + 2H^+$$
 (Equation 5.1)

 $Fe^{2+}$  can then be oxidized to  $Fe^{3+}$  at low soil pH (<4), undergo hydrolysis and precipitate as ferric iron oxide and oxyhydroxide minerals such as goethite and ferrihydrite (Mosley et al., 2014b). Soil acidification can also release Al, Fe, Mn, Zn, Ni into rivers, groundwaters or in porewaters on the adjacent floodplain (Österholm and Åström, 2002; Simpson et al., 2010). Van den Berg et al.(1998) found that metal precipitation (Fe and Mn oxides) occurred when groundwater levels decreased and FeS<sub>2</sub> oxidized in an estuary in summer, with sulfate reduction occurring following inundation in winter. Burton et al. (2006d) also reported that iron sulfide oxidation and associated acidification contributed to the release of Fe, Al, As and other trace metals in estuarine sediments.

When CASS are subject to inundation,  $Fe^{3+}$  and  $SO_4^{2-}$  reduction processes are promoted (Burton et al., 2011; Johnston et al., 2014). The reductive processes can decrease acidity, produce alkalinity and stimulate the reformation of sulfidic minerals like FeS<sub>2</sub> and FeS (Keene et al., 2011; Powell and Martens, 2005). Johnston et al. (2009b) observed that there was a significant decrease in soil exchangeable acidity and increase in soil pH at the East Trinity wetland in Australia after tidal inundation.

Coastal acid sulfate soils (CASS) contain high organic carbon contents, particularly when they are under flooded conditions (Šimek et al., 2011). A large amount of organic matter in CASS can facilitate large emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>. The accumulation of mineral nitrogen can also lead to the release of N<sub>2</sub>O (Allen et al., 2007; Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012). The GHG emissions in these coastal environments are mainly affected by the water table and organic matter content (Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012; Reddy and DeLaune, 2008). Following depletion of O<sub>2</sub>, anaerobic decomposition processes begin to dominate and follows the sequence of denitrification, Mn reduction, Fe<sup>3+</sup> reduction, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> reduction and methanogenesis (Ponnamperuma, 1972).

 $N_2O$  is produced in soils mainly by nitrification and denitrification (Davidson et al., 2000; Wrage et al., 2001). Nitrification is the microbial transformation of  $NH_4^+$  to  $NO_3^-$  by ammonia oxidising bacteria under aerobic conditions, producing  $N_2O$  as a by-product (Kowalchuk and Stephen, 2001). Denitrification is the microbial transformation of  $NO_3^-$  to  $N_2$  by denitrifying bacteria under anaerobic soil conditions, producing  $N_2O$  as an intermediate product (Knowles, 1982). Soil pH has been considered an important variable of N transformations and affects the end product of denitrification. Bååth and Arnebrant (1994) found the soil pH had an impact on N<sub>2</sub>O production as the pH could influence the availability of carbon source to the microbes. Previous studies have demonstrated that the ratio of N<sub>2</sub>O/N<sub>2</sub> increased with decreased pH (Samad et al., 2016a; Šimek and Cooper, 2002). The explanation is that the low soil pH inhibited reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> by preventing the activity of the enzyme N<sub>2</sub>O reductase (Šimek et al., 2002; Thomsen et al., 1994). Increased soil pH often stimulates the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> due to the enhanced activity of N<sub>2</sub>O reductase (Liu, 2010). The mitigation of acidity to decrease GHG emissions in CASS mainly focuses on two methods: 1) restricting the oxidation of sulfide minerals by keeping ASS permanently inundated to avoid acidity formation, or 2) neutralisation of acidity and lower the GHG emissions with the application of alkaline agents such as lime.

Lime treatments like calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) have been widely applied to manage acidity issues and reduce heavy metal mobilisation (Adams and Adams, 1983; Johnston et al., 2012). Dalhem et al. (2019) found that CaCO<sub>3</sub> can raise soil pH, lower acidity and lower the concentrations of Fe and Al in CASS in western Finland. Liming has also been proposed as a GHG mitigation strategy as increasing soil pH can reduce N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (McMillan et al., 2016; Russenes et al., 2016). Earlier studies showed that limed soils can lower N<sub>2</sub>O emissions because the increase in soil pH can stimulate the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> by N<sub>2</sub>O reductase, which is more sensitive at higher soil pH (Liu et al., 2014; Šimek and Cooper, 2002). Zaman et al. (2008) indicated liming may enhance denitrification while reducing the N<sub>2</sub>O/N<sub>2</sub> product ratio in pasture soils while others have shown that lime can increase N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (Higgins et al., 2013). Baggs et al. (2011) observed that the effect of liming was to stimulate both nitrification and denitrification and therefore increase the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from both.

The aim of this chapter is to identify the effects of lime addition and inundation treatments on greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), net acidity and heavy metal mobility in a CASS environment.

## **5.3 Material and methods**

## 5.3.1 Site description and sampling

The sampling site was the Aire River floodplain, which was located in the Otway Ranges to the west of Apollo Bay in south-western Victoria (38°47'43.1" S,143°28'37" E), Australia. The Aire River is one of the largest rivers in south-western Victoria and enters the sea via a large estuarine lake complex west of Cape Otway. The Aire River estuary mouth is intermittently closed to the sea (CCMA, 2014). The Aire River region has an average annual rainfall of 894.8 mm, ranging from 41.6mm (February) to 106.4mm (July).

The mean annual temperature is 17.3°C varying from 13 °C (July) to 21.5°C (January) (Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), 2019).

The sampling site (38°46'01.6" S, 143°28'09.9" E; +3 m AHD) was grazed by cattle areas and drained by surface drains. The vegetation at the sites was dominated by *Paspalum distichum* which is a fast-growing grass. A total of 24 intact soil cores were collected from the top 20 cm of soil by pushing down a PVC tube (h= 40 cm, d=10 cm) sharpened at the bottom. All the plant material was be removed from the soil surface by scalping prior to core collection. The cores were excavated and capped at the bottom, sealed with parafilm and plastic wrap for transport. The cores were kept cool at 4°C until analysis. Additional bulk soil from the 0-5 cm, 5-10 cm, and 10-20 cm soil layers from each site were sampled for characterisation, with one subsample placed in to a freezer at -80 °C, and one sub sample air-dried and sieved at 2 mm until further analysis (Rayment and Lyons, 2011).

## 5.3.2 Incubation Experiment

Three pre-tests were done to determine the lime requirement in the 0-5 cm, 5-10 cm and10-20 cm soil depths; 1) 0.1 g CaCO<sub>3</sub> was added to 10 g soil (dry mass basis), 2) 0.2 g CaCO<sub>3</sub> was added to 10 g soil (dry mass basis) 3) 0.25 g CaCO<sub>3</sub> was added to 10 g soil (dry mass basis). All the lime was mixed with homogenized soils. The lime requirement was obtained graphically from the curve describing pH as a function of CaCO<sub>3</sub> additions over a 5 day treatment period. Within 5 days, 0.25 g CaCO<sub>3</sub> raised the 10g soil pH to 7 in all horizons. Based on the pre-test, we selected 0.25g CaCO<sub>3</sub>/10g dry soil in the lime treatment.

Soils were incubated in the PVC tubes they were sampled in (d=10cm, h=40cm). The top 5 cm of field moist soils were amended with these doses of CaCO<sub>3</sub> which were incorporated into the soil under aerobic conditions for 2 days to stabilize the soil pH. The lime was added based on the weight of soil in the PVC tubes. The soils (with and without CaCO<sub>3</sub>) were then incubated under dry, flooded, and wet-dry cycles conditions of 14 d each for a total of 42 days. The dry treatment had no water added and soil moisture content decreased under aerobic conditions. In the flooded treatment, the soils were flooded with Aire River water (Table. 5.1) which was maintained at 5 cm above the soil surface and the volume of the overlying Aire River water was 392.5 cm<sup>3</sup> for the duration of the experiment. There were three wet-dry cycles. In the wet-dry cycle treatment, the soils had a starting water filled pore space (WFPS) of 100% (Equation 5.2 and 5.3) and were further incubated for 14 d, after which they were rewetted to 100% WFPS at the beginning of the second and third cycles. 100% WFPS in the soil cores were achieved by weighing the soil cores and adding Aire River water. All soil cores were incubated at a constant room temperature of 21°C. There were four replicates for each treatment.

WFPS =  $(\theta/n)100$  (Equation 5.2)

where  $\theta$  (m<sup>3</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>) is volumetric soil water content and n (m<sup>3</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>) is soil porosity, where

n = 1 - (dry bulk density/average soil particle density) (Equation 5.3)

and an average soil particle density of 2.65 Mg m<sup>-3</sup> was assumed.

GHG (CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions of each soil core were collected at Day 1, 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, 34, 38, 42. We sampled the gas emissions at 0 and 10 min in duplicate after closing the chamber. Gas emissions were collected using a 25-ml gas-tight syringe (SGE,25MDR-LL-GT) within 10 seconds and transferred into pre-evacuated 12-ml Exetainer<sup>®</sup> vials with silicon septa (Labco, UK). The GHG concentrations were measured using an Agilent 7890 gas chromatograph (GC). The flux rates, F<sub>CH4</sub>, F<sub>CO2</sub>, F<sub>N20</sub>, were calculated using Equation 5.4 and 5.5. All CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O flux rates were corrected for air temperature during the measurement and presented as [μg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>]

$$F_{CH4 or CO2 or N20} = \frac{b \times V_{CH} \times MW \times 60 \times 10^6}{A_{CH} \times MV_{corr} \times 10^9}$$
(Equation 5.4)

where  $A_{CH}$  is the basal area of the measuring chamber [m<sup>2</sup>]; b is increase in concentration [ppb/min];  $MW_{CH4-C}$  is the molecular weight of CH<sub>4</sub>-C [12g/mol];  $MW_{CO2-C}$  is the molecular weight of CO<sub>2</sub>-C[12g/mol];  $MW_{N20-N}$  is the molecular weight of N<sub>2</sub>O-N [28g/mol];  $MV_{corr}$  is the temperature-corrected molecular volume [m<sup>3</sup>/ mol]; V<sub>CH</sub> is the volume of the measuring chamber [m<sup>3</sup>].

$$MV_{corr} = 0.02241 \times \left(\frac{273.15+T}{273.15}\right)$$
 (Equation 5.5)

where  $MV_{corr}$  is as defined above; *T* is air temperature during the measurement [°C]; 0.02241 m<sup>3</sup> is the molar volume of an ideal gas at 1 atm, 273.15.

The cumulative CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (g  $m^{-2} d^{-1}$ ) were calculated by the flux rate value (mg  $m^{-2} h^{-1}$ ) of all sampling data during the incubation periods (42 days).

GHGs were then converted to  $CO_2$ -equivalents ( $CO_2$ -eq) based on global warming potential of 25 for  $CH_4$  and 298 for  $N_2O$  to compare the greenhouse gas impacts between the different inundation treatments.

Site	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup> (mg/L)	Na <sup>+</sup> (mg/L)	Cl <sup>-</sup> (mg/L)	NO <sub>3</sub> -(mg/L)	SO4 <sup>2-</sup> (mg/L)
	(mg/L)					
Aire River water	55.3	141.7	1227.5	1993.4	0.4	106.5

Table 0.1 Soluble cation and anion concentrations in Aire River water

## 5.3.3 Soil Characterisation

The pH, Eh and soil water content in the treated cores were measured by Conductivity-TDS-Salinity pH-ORP-Temperature meter, platinum electrodes and HS2 Hydrosense II system (model CS 659), respectively at Day 1, 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, 34, 38, 42 during the incubation period. At the end of the incubation period, the 20 cm soil cores were divided into 0-5 cm, 5-10 cm and 10-20 cm soil depths and then destructively sampled for soil characterisation. The initial frozen soil samples were thawed under N2 before soil characterisation. Soils were oven-dried at 85°C and lightly crushed and sieved to 2 mm. Soil pH, electrical conductivity (EC) were measured in 1:5 soil:water extracts (Rayment and Lyons, 2011). Soil pH and EC were measured using a Conductivity-TDS-Salinity pH-ORP-Temperature meter. Soluble cations (Ca, Cu, Fe, K, Na, Mg, Mn, Zn, Si, Al and Pb) in 1:5 soil:water extracts were measured by inductively coupled plasma - optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) (iCAP,7000 series) at the start and end of the incubation. Dissolved N (NO3<sup>-</sup> and NH4<sup>+</sup>) were analysed on a Lachat QC 8500 Flow Injection Analyser (FIA) at the start and end of the incubation. Soil moisture content and bulk density were determined by weight after drying at 105°C for 24 h at the start and end of the incubation. Soil organic carbon (SOC) and total nitrogen (TN) content were measured on dried (85°C) soil samples by high temperature combustion using a Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II CHNS/ O Analyzer at the start and end of the incubation. Soil particle size distribution were analysed by Beckham Coulter 13320 laser diffraction analysis after pretreatment with 10% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to remove organic matter.

Titratable actual acidity (TAA) was measured at the start and end of the incubation. TAA was determined by titration with 0.25M NaOH in a 1:40 soil:1M KCl suspension (Ahern et al., 2004). Acid-neutralizing capacity (ANC) was analysed by titration with 0.25M NaOH to pH 4.0 on 1:25 soil:0.1M HCl suspensions (Rayment and Lyons, 2011).

Reduced inorganic sulfur (RIS) was measured based on a sequential extraction process (Burton et al., 2008b). Reduced inorganic sulfides mainly include acid volatile sulfide (AVS) and chromium reducible sulfur (CRS). Acid volatile sulfide (AVS; which quantifies monosulfide) was extracted by shaking 2 g of soil with 10 mL of 6 M HCl/0.1M ascorbic acid in gas tight 50 mL centrifuge tubes for 18 h. The evolved H<sub>2</sub>S (g) was trapped in 3% Zn acetate in 2 M NaOH, and then quantified through iodometric titration with 0.025 M sodium thiosulfate. Pyrite-S is usually quantified as chromium reducible sulfur (CRS) and the method described in (Burton et al., 2008b) was used. CRS was extracted by shaking with acidified CrCl<sub>2</sub> solution for 48 h. The evolved H<sub>2</sub>S (g) was trapped in 3% Zn acetate in 3% Zn acetate in 2M NaOH. The CRS was subsequently measured by iodometric titration with 0.025 M sodium thiosulfate. Samples were analyzed with four replicates.

Net acidity was calculated by acid–base accounting, which was to evaluate the potential for soils to generate acidity from sulfide oxidation and the neutralisation potential of the sediments (Ahern et al., 2004). Net acidity was calculated according to Equation 5.6 and expressed in mol  $H^+ kg^{-1}$ 

Net acidity =  $(AVS + S^0 + CRS) + TAA - (ANC/FF)$  (Equation 5.6)

where a minimum fineness factor (FF) of 1.5 was applied.

# 5.4 Statistical analysis

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) in combination with a post-hoc Tukey test was conducted to detect significant difference in net change of  $NO_3^-$ , net change of  $NH_4^+$ , net change of mineral N, cumulative gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O), AVS and CRS between the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05). A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) in combination with a post-hoc Tukey test was conducted to detect significant difference in NO<sub>3</sub>-, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, TAA, ANC, net acidity, trace metals between the lime treatments (p<0.05). A one-way ANOVA was used to determine the significant differences in the net change in NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and mineral N, cumulative gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O), AVS, CRS, Eh, soil water content between the non-limed soils and limed soils (p<0.05).

# **5.5 Results**

### 5.5.1 Soil pH, EC, redox potential, soil water content, SOC, TN and mineral N

The initial soil pH was around 5.5 in all soil depths. The initial soil EC was around 0.3 mS cm<sup>-1</sup> and decreased with soil depth. The initial soil organic carbon (SOC) content was around 5% and decreased with soil depth. The initial total nitrogen (TN) was around 0.5% and decreased with soil depth (Table 5.2).

The target pH of 7 was reached in the limed treatment under flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (Fig. 5.1b, c). Under the dry treatment, the pH reached 7 within 3 days of the beginning of experiment and decreased to 6.6 after lime addition while the pH decreased from 5.7 to 5.2 in the dry treatment in the non-limed soils (Fig. 5.1a). The pH consistently remained at 6 in the flooded treatment in the non-limed soil (Fig. 5.1b). In the wet-dry cycle treatment, the pH decreased from 6 to 5.7 on day 10 and increased to 5.9 at the end of the experimental period (Fig. 5.1c)

The Eh of the soil followed the fluctuating soil moisture conditions. There was no significant difference in Eh between the lime treatment and no lime treatment with all water table treatments (p>0.05). The Eh in the

dry treatment increased from +230 mV to +295 mV in the non-limed soils and increased from +201 mV to +285 mV in the limed soil during the incubation period (Fig. 5.1d). In the flooded treatment, the Eh decreased from -118 mV to -205 mV and decreased from -166 mV to -206 mV in non-limed and limed soils respectively (Fig. 5.1e). When soils were subjected to the wet-dry cycle treatment, Eh oscillated between +140 and +278 mV in the non-limed soil and between +131 and +266 mV in the limed soil (Fig. 5.1f)

There were no significant differences in soil water content between limed and non-limed soils under dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle conditions (p>0.05) (Fig. 5.1g, h, i). In the dry treatment, soil water content decreased by 71.2%, 73.2% in the non-limed and limed soils, respectively, by the end of the treatment.

The soils remained saturated in the flooded treatment and the soil water content was 100% in both limed and non-limed soils (Fig. 5.1h). The wet-dry cycle treatment led to the soil water content fluctuating according to the cycles. In each wet-dry cycle treatment, soil water content decreased by 16.7% and 16.1% from the initial 100% on average in the non-limed and limed soils respectively, from flooded periods to drained periods (Fig. 5.1i).

The SOC decreased under all treatments compared with the initial value (Table 5.3) and indicated the decomposition of SOC occurred. Figure 5.2 shows the NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration at the end of the inundation treatments in both non-limed and limed soils. In the dry treatment, the NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations significantly increased compared to the initial soils in both non-limed and limed soils (p<0.05). In the flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations significantly decreased compared to initial soils in both non-limed and wet-dry cycle treatments, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations significantly decreased compared to initial soils in both non-limed and limed soils (p<0.05). In the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments, the NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration in non-limed soil was higher than that in the limed soil in the 0-5 cm soil layer. Under the flooded treatment, the NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations in limed soils were higher than that in non-limed soil in the 0-5 cm and 10-20 cm soil layers.

The net change in NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations in the non-limed soil was significantly higher than that in the limed soil under dry and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05) (Table 5.4). The NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration in limed soil increased following the flooded treatment in the 5-20 cm soil layer. The sequence of net change of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration in water table treatment was dry treatment > wet-dry cycle treatment > flooded treatment. The net change in NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentrations in flooded treatment was significantly higher than that in the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05) (Table 5.4).

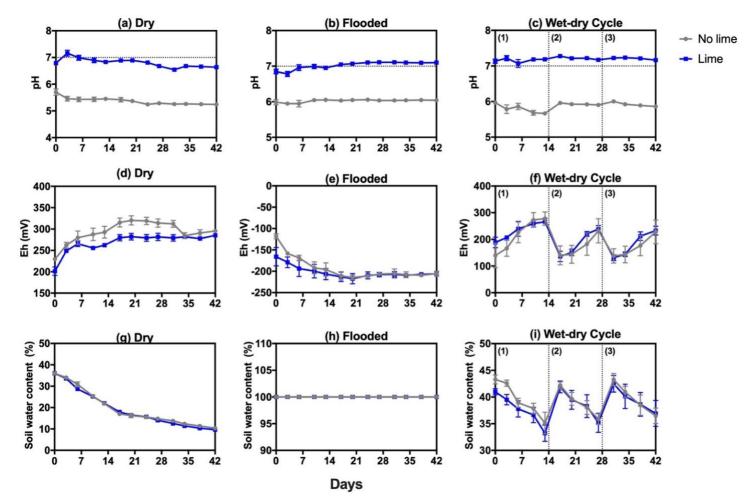


Fig. 0.1 Temporal variations under dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments in pH (a, b, c), Eh (d, e, f), soil water content (g, h, i). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4). (1), (2), (3) represent three wet-dry cycles and started from 100% WFPS

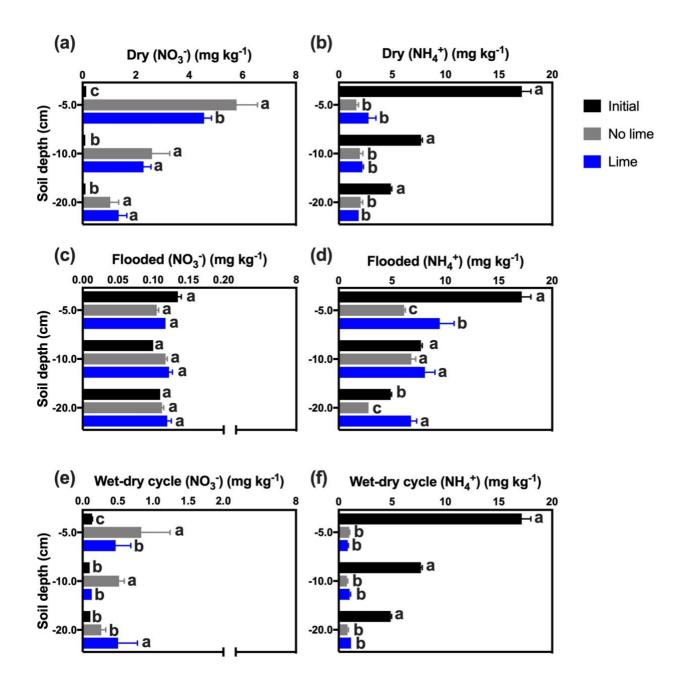


Fig. 0.2 NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration under the dry (a, b), flooded (c, d), wet-dry cycle (e, f) in both non-limed and limed soils. Different small letters within each horizon indicate significant differences between the lime treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p < 0.05; n = 4). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4).

Depth (cm)	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)	рН	EC (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Bulk Density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Soil water content (%)	SOC (%)	Total N (%)	C/N
0-5	0	83	17	$5.64\pm0.005$	$0.34\pm0.003$	$0.74\pm0.02$	$35.78\pm0.93$	4.99	0.46	10.91
5-10	0	78	22	$5.38\pm0.01$	$0.23\pm0.001$	$0.83\pm0.02$	$30.25\pm0.42$	4.56	0.43	10.73
10-20	0	79	21	$5.47\pm0.03$	$0.27\pm0.001$	$0.91{\pm}0.01$	$28.64\pm0.64$	3.19	0.30	10.63

Table 0.2 Physical and chemical characteristics of the soils

Horizons			Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry Cycle
( <b>cm</b> )	Treatmen	t	(%)	(%)	(%)
0.5		SOC	4.30	3.94	4.39
0-5		Ν	0.41	0.38	0.41
		C/N	10.62	10.50	10.85
5 10	No lime	SOC	3.59	3.52	3.71
5-10	No linie	Ν	0.33	0.32	0.34
		C/N	10.87	11.0	10.82
10.20		SOC	2.64	2.66	2.76
10-20		Ν	0.25	0.24	0.25
		C/N	10.78	11.18	11.14
0-5		SOC	4.78	4.41	4.0
0-3		Ν	0.39	0.35	0.34
		C/N	12.33	12.52	11.95
5-10	Lime	SOC	3.84	3.57	3.44
5-10	Line	Ν	0.36	0.36	0.33
		C/N	10.80	10.05	10.58
10-20		SOC	2.67	2.82	3.07
10-20		Ν	0.24	0.26	0.29
		C/N	11.13	10.73	10.75

Table 0.3 SOC and TN after dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments in both non-limed and limed soils

a) $\Delta \text{ NO}_3^-$				
Depth	Treatme	Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry cycle
	nt			
0-5	No lime	$5.65\pm0.67~^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-0.03\pm0.001^{\mathrm{cA}}$	$0.70\pm0.05^{bA}$
	Lime	$4.43\pm0.05^{aB}$	$\text{-}0.02\pm0.001^{\text{cA}}$	$0.34\pm0.04^{bB}$
5-10	No lime	$2.50\pm0.03^{aA}$	$0.018\pm0.001^{cA}$	$0.42\pm0.03^{bA}$
	Lime	$2.19\pm0.03^{aA}$	$0.023 \pm 0.005^{bA}$	$0.03\pm0.002^{\mathrm{bB}}$
10-20	No lime	$0.93\pm0.05^{aB}$	$0.003 \pm 0.0005^{cB}$	$0.16\pm0.03^{\mathrm{bB}}$
	Lime	$1.25\pm0.02^{aA}$	$0.01\pm0.002^{cA}$	$0.40\pm0.05^{bA}$
b) $\Delta \text{ NH}_{4^+}$				
0-5	No lime	$-15.51 \pm 1.2^{bA}$	$-11.01 \pm 1.1^{aB}$	$-16.16 \pm 0.8^{bA}$
	lime	$-14.37\pm1.4^{bA}$	$-7.67 \pm 0.8^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-16.31 \pm 1.2^{bA}$
5-10	No lime	$-5.73\pm0.5^{bA}$	$\text{-}0.91\pm0.05^{aB}$	$-6.94\pm0.08^{bA}$
	lime	$-5.5\pm0.6^{bA}$	$0.39\pm0.04^{aA}$	$-6.68\pm0.8^{bA}$
10-20	No lime	$-2.84\pm0.3^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-2.09\pm0.2^{\mathrm{aB}}$	$-4.05\pm0.5^{bA}$
	lime	$-3.0\pm0.4^{\text{bA}}$	$1.91\pm0.2^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-3.72\pm0.5^{\text{bA}}$
c) $\Delta \underline{N_{min}}$				
0-5	No lime	$-9.88 \pm 1.2^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-11.05 \pm 1.3^{aB}$	$-15.47 \pm 1.8^{bA}$
	lime	$-9.95\pm0.8^{aA}$	$-7.69\pm0.7^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-15.98 \pm 1.7^{\mathrm{bA}}$
5-10	No lime	$-3.24\pm0.5^{\text{bA}}$	$\text{-}0.90\pm0.1^{aB}$	$-6.53\pm0.05^{\rm cA}$
	lime	$-3.32\pm0.4^{\text{bA}}$	$0.40\pm0.03^{aA}$	$-6.66\pm0.5^{cA}$
10-20	No lime	$-1.92\pm0.3^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-2.09\pm0.3^{\mathrm{aB}}$	$-3.90\pm0.5^{\text{bA}}$
	lime	$-1.78\pm0.1^{\mathrm{bA}}$	$1.91 \pm 0.2^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$-3.32\pm0.2^{\text{bA}}$

Table 0.4 Net changes of mineral N forms under different water level treatments in both non-limed and limed soils during the incubation (N mg kg<sup>-1</sup>)

<sup>a</sup> Means ± standard errors (n = 4). Difference between the N content at the end and before the incubation.  $N_{min} = NO_3^-$ +  $NH_4^+$ . Different small letters within each row represent significant differences in mean value between the water table treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, *p*<0.05). Different capital letters within each column represent significant differences in mean value between different lime treatments in  $\Delta NO_3^-$ ,  $\Delta NH_4^+$  and  $\Delta N_{min}$  respectively (t test, *p*<0.05)

### 5.5.2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The highest CO<sub>2</sub> flux in the dry treatment occurred on Day 24 with 118.3 ( $\pm$  40.2) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the nonlimed soils, and on Day 24 with 152.9 ( $\pm$  38.4) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the limed soils (Fig. 5.3a). In the flooded treatments, the highest CO<sub>2</sub> flux occurred on Day 24 with 56.1 ( $\pm$  8.1) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the non-limed soils and on Day 42 with 117.6 ( $\pm$  25.6) mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the limed soils (Fig. 5.3c). In the wet-dry cycle treatment, during the first 14 days of the first cycle, the CO<sub>2</sub> flux decreased from 61.8 to 58.8 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 6 and increased to 67.6 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 14 in the non-limed soils. During the second cycle, the CO<sub>2</sub> flux reached peak value on Day 3, then decreased in the non-limed soils (Fig. 5.3e). In the limed soils, the CO<sub>2</sub> flux increased from 55.7 to 87.3 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 6 and decreased to 77.2 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> during the first cycle and followed the same trend in the second and third cycle during the wet-dry cycle treatment (Fig. 5.3e).

The cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were significantly higher in the limed soils than non-limed soils in all inundation (p<0.05). The lime treatment increased the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 29.9%, 71.3%, 44.6% in the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments respectively compared to no lime treatment (Table 5.5). Significant differences in the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were observed between different inundation treatments (p<0.05), with the amounts decreasing in the order of dry treatment> wet-dry cycle treatment> flooded treatment.

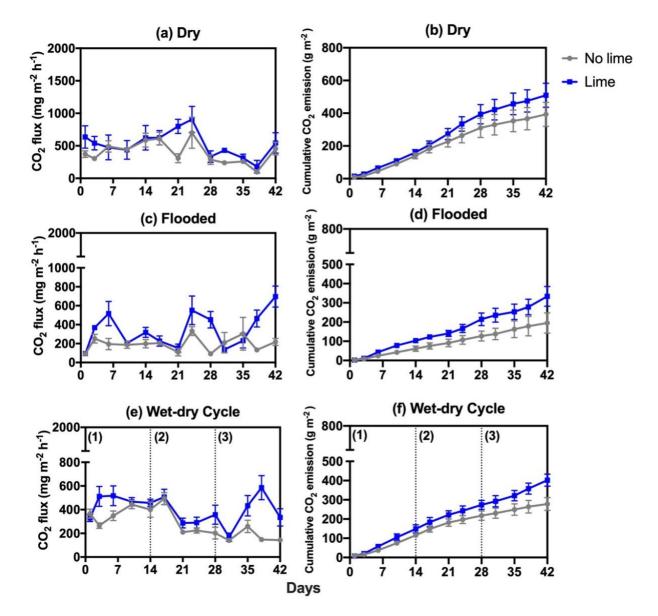


Fig. 0.3 Temporal variations of  $CO_2$  flux and cumulative  $CO_2$  emissions under the dry (a, b), flooded (c, d), and wet-dry cycle (e, f) treatments. Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4). (1), (2), (3) represent three wet-dry cycles and started from 100% WFPS.

GHGs	Treatment	Dry (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Flooded (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Wet-dry cycle (g m <sup>-2</sup> )
CO <sub>2</sub>	No lime	$392.70 \pm 73.64^{aB}$	$195.10 \pm 52.67^{\text{cB}}$	$278.0 \pm 33.60^{\mathrm{bB}}$
	Lime	$509.60 \pm 73.63^{aA}$	$333.8 \pm 51.30^{cA}$	$402.20 \pm 31.76^{bA}$
CH <sub>4</sub>	No lime	$0.27\pm0.02^{\rm cA}$	$62.20\pm8.91^{aB}$	$1.76\pm0.19^{\mathrm{bA}}$
	Lime	$0.23\pm0.03^{cA}$	$108.80\pm9.35^{aA}$	$1.35\pm0.13^{\text{bA}}$
$N_2O$	No lime	$0.30\pm0.03^{aA}$	$0.19\pm0.02^{bA}$	$0.39\pm0.03^{aA}$
	Lime	$0.22\pm0.02^{\text{bB}}$	$0.16\pm0.01^{bA}$	$0.28\pm0.04^{aB}$

Table 0.5 Cumulative CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emission in both non-limed and limed soils during incubation periods

Values represent means of four replicates. Different small letters within each row represent significant differences in mean value between the water level treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05). Different capital letters within each column represent significant differences in mean value between different lime treatments in CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O respectively (t test, p<0.05)

## 5.5.3 CH4 emissions

In the dry treatment, CH<sub>4</sub> flux decreased from 1.7 to 0.004 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the non-limed soils and decreased from 0.9 to 0.008 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the limed soils (Fig. 5.4a). In the flooded treatment, CH<sub>4</sub> flux increased slowly from 0.3 to 1.1 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the first 6 days and then significantly increased from 10.2 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 10 to 151 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> to the end of incubation experiment in the non-limed soil. The lime treatment increased the CH<sub>4</sub> flux from 2.9 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the beginning to 328.5 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 35 and subsequently decreased to 95.2 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> at the end of experimental period (Fig.5. 4c). In the wet-dry cycle treatment, the peak value of CH<sub>4</sub> flux in the non-limed soil occurred on Day 6 with 4.3 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> and decreased to 0.4 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> to the end of the treatment. With the addition of lime, CH<sub>4</sub> flux in the beginning was 3.7 times higher than that in the non-limed soil. The CH<sub>4</sub> flux decreased from 6.1 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 1 to 0.4 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> to the end of the treatment in limed soil (Fig. 5.4e).

The cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were significantly higher in limed soils than non-limed soils in the flooded treatment (p<0.05). There was no significant difference between non-limed and limed soils in the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments (p>0.05). The cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were 0.75 time higher in limed soil compared to the non-limed soil in the flooded treatment (Table 5.5). There was a significant difference in the CH<sub>4</sub> emissions between different inundation treatments (p<0.05), with the sequence of flooded treatment > dry treatment.

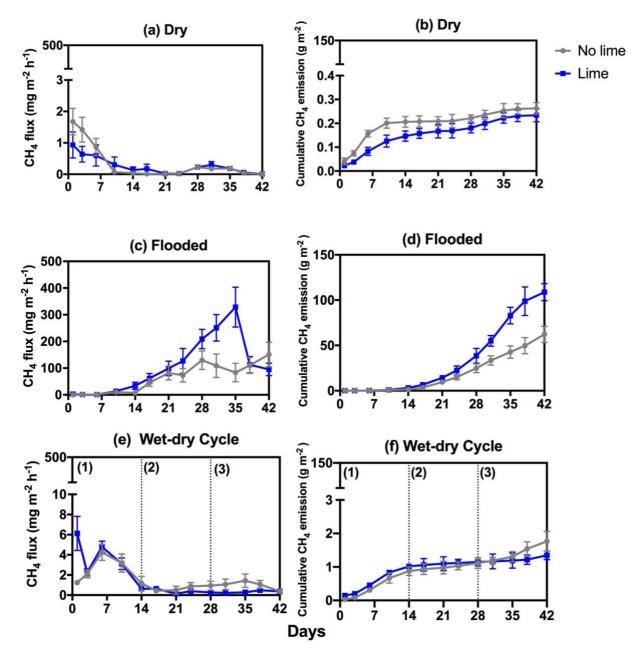


Fig. 0.4 Temporal variations of  $CH_4$  flux and cumulative  $CH_4$  emissions under the dry (a, b), flooded (c, d), wetdry cycle (e, f). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4). (1), (2), (3) represent three wet-dry cycles and started from 100% WFPS.

## 5.5.4 N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

In the dry treatment, the N<sub>2</sub>O flux increased from 0.36 to 0.41 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 17 and decreased to 0.09 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> at the end of the treatment in the non-limed soil. The lime treatment decreased the N<sub>2</sub>O flux from 0.35 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the beginning to 0.07 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 42. The N<sub>2</sub>O flux in the limed soil was lower than that in the non-limed soil during the whole incubation period (Fig. 5.5a). In the flooded treatment, the N<sub>2</sub>O flux increased from 0.21 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the beginning to 0.38 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 17 and decreased to 0.08 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the end in the non-limed soil. The lime treatment decreased the N<sub>2</sub>O flux from 0.2 to 0.06 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>. In the wet-dry cycle treatment in the non-limed soil, the N<sub>2</sub>O flux decreased from 0.45 to 0.35 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> and increased to 0.48 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> during the first wet-dry cycle, and decreased from 0.48 to 0.35 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> and increased to 0.47 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> during the second cycle, and decreased from 0.47 to 0.37 mg m<sup>-2</sup>

 $^{2}$  h<sup>-1</sup> and reached 0.43 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> during the third cycle (Fig. 5.5e). The lime treatment increased the N<sub>2</sub>O flux from 0.23 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the beginning to 0.4 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> on Day 14 and subsequently decreased to 0.32 mg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in the end (Fig. 5.5e).

The lime treatment significantly decreased the cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions compared with non-limed soils under the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05). The lime treatment decreased cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by 36% and 39% in the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments respectively compared to non-limed treatment (Table 5.5). There was no significant difference between limed soils and non-limed soils under flooded treatment (p>0.05). The cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were significantly higher in wet-dry cycle treatment than that in the flooded treatment in both limed and non-limed soils (p<0.05) (Table 5.5).

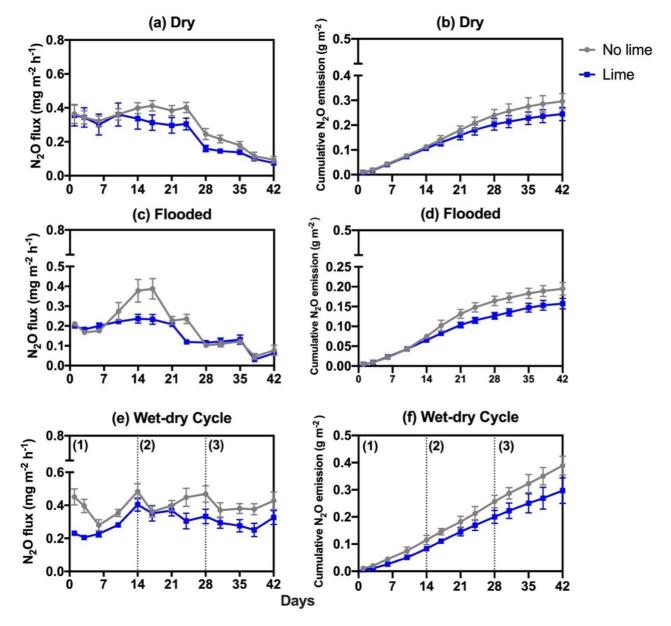


Fig. 0.5 Temporal variations of  $N_2O$  flux and cumulative  $N_2O$  emissions under the dry (a, b), flooded (c, d), wet-dry cycle (e, f). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4). (1), (2), (3) represent three wet-dry cycles and started from 100% WFPS

#### 5.5.5 Conversion to CO<sub>2</sub>-eq

Based on the cumulative emissions shown in Table 5.5 and the global warming potential of 298 for N<sub>2</sub>O and 25 for CH<sub>4</sub>, GHGs were converted to CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. The CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions after conversion are shown in Table 5.6. Generally, the GHG emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) in limed soils were 18.83%, 71.62%, 14.95 times higher under dry, flooded, wet-dry cycle treatments, respectively, compared with that in non-limed soils. The total GHG emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) in non-limed and limed soils were 116.39 and 138.31 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> under the dry treatment, and were 430.17, 738.44 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> under the flooded treatment, and were 107.31, 123.66 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq ha<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> under the wet-dry cycle treatment. In both non-limed and limed soils, CO<sub>2</sub> was the main GHG (80.33%, 87.72%), followed by N<sub>2</sub>O (18.29%, 11.29%), and CH<sub>4</sub> (1.38%, 0.99%) in the dry treatment respectively. CH<sub>4</sub> comprised the main part of total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions in the flooded treatment (86.07%, 87.70%) in the non-limed and limed soils respectively. In the wet-dry cycle treatment, CO<sub>2</sub> was the main gas contributing to the global warming potential (61.68%, 77.44%), followed by N<sub>2</sub>O (25.79%, 16.06%), and CH<sub>4</sub> (12.54%, 6.50%) in the non-limed and limed soils respectively.

GHGs	Treatment	Dry (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -eq ha <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> )	Flooded (kg CO2-eq ha <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> )	Wet-dry cycle (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -eq ha <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> )
CO <sub>2</sub>	No lime	$93.50 \pm 17.53^{aB}$	$46.45 \pm 12.54^{bB}$	$66.19 \pm 8.00^{\mathrm{aB}}$
	Lime	$121.33 \pm 17.53^{aA}$	$79.48 \pm 12.21^{cA}$	$95.76 \pm 7.56^{bA}$
CH <sub>4</sub>	No lime	$1.61 \pm 0.12^{cA}$	$370.24 \pm 53.04^{aB}$	$13.45 \pm 1.73^{bA}$
C114	Lime	$1.37\pm0.18^{cA}$	$647.62 \pm 55.65^{aA}$	$8.04\pm0.77^{bA}$
NO	No lime	$21.29\pm2.13^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$13.48 \pm 1.42^{bA}$	27.67 ± 2.13 <sup>aA</sup>
N <sub>2</sub> O	Lime	$15.61 \pm 1.42^{bB}$	$11.35\pm0.71^{\text{bA}}$	$19.87 \pm 2.84^{\mathrm{aB}}$

Table 0.6 Cumulative CO2	CH <sub>4</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O emission afte	r converting to CO <sub>2</sub> -eq
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Values represent means of four replicates. Different small letters within each row represent significant differences in mean value between the water level treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05). Different capital letters within each column represent significant differences in mean value between different lime treatments in CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O (CO<sub>2</sub>-eq) respectively (t test, p<0.05)

## 5.5.6 AVS, CRS, TAA, ANC and Net acidity

AVS ranged from 0 to 27.5  $\mu$ g/g and CRS ranged from 37.27 to 187.04  $\mu$ g/g in the non-limed soils in the inundation treatments. AVS ranged from 0 to 15  $\mu$ g/g and CRS ranged from 18.26 to 146.83  $\mu$ g/g in the limed soils amongst all inundation treatments (Table 5.7). CRS was the dominant component of RIS.

Under the flooded treatment, significantly higher concentrations of CRS were found compared with other treatments in most soil depths in both limed and non-limed soils (p<0.05) (Table 5.7). Under the dry treatment, significantly lower concentrations of CRS were found in all soil depths in both the limed and non-limed soils (Table 5.7).

Significantly higher concentrations of CRS were found in the non-limed soil compared to the limed soil under the dry treatment in the 0-20 m soil layer and in the wet-dry cycle treatment in the 0-10 cm soil layer (p<0.05). However, the CRS concentration was significantly higher in the limed soil than the non-limed soil in the 10-20 cm soil layer under the flooded treatment (p<0.05) (Table 5.7).

CRS was positively correlated with SOC in the non-limed soils (p<0.05) and AVS was positively correlated with the C/N ratio in the limed soils (p<0.05) (Table 5.8).

The TAA significantly increased in all the inundation treatments in the non-limed soil compared to the initial state (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.6). The dry treatment had the highest TAA in the non-limed soil. The TAA in the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatment was 5.8-11.2 times, 2.9-7.0 times, 2.9-7.7 times higher compared with the initial state respectively (Fig. 5.6a, d, g). TAA was not observed in the 0-5 cm soil layer in the limed soil in all inundation treatments, while ANC was only found in the 0-5 cm soil layer in the limed soil. There was no significant difference in TAA between non-limed and limed soils in the 10-20 cm layer in the flooded treatment (p>0.05) (Fig. 5.6d).

The net acidity was negative in the 0-5 cm layer in limed soils in all inundation treatments (Fig. 5.6c, f, i). The net acidity in dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatment was 4.9-10.3 times, 2.5-3.9 times, 1.2-4.4 times higher compared with initial state respectively (Fig. 5.6c, f, i). Lime treatment significantly lowered the TAA and net acidity compared with non-limed treatment in all soil layers under dry and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.6a, g, c, i).

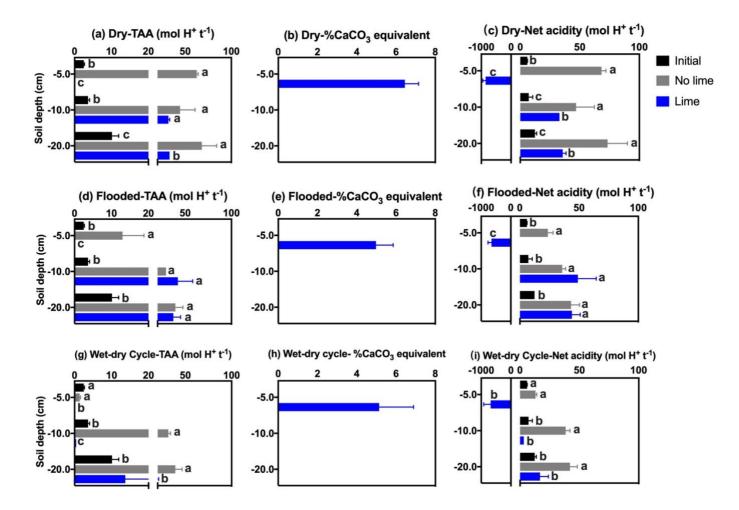


Fig. 0.6 TAA (Titratable actual acidity), acid neutralisation capacity (ANC) and net acidity under dry (a, b, c), flooded (d, e, f) and wet-dry cycle (g, h, i) treatments. Different small letters within each horizon indicate significant differences between the lime treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05; n = 4). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4).

inneu sons						
Horizons (cm)	Treatment	RIS	Initial	Dry	Flooded	Wet-dry Cycle
			$(\mu g/g)$	$(\mu g/g)$	(µg/g)	$(\mu g/g)$
0-5	No lime	4 1/0	0 <sup>bA</sup>	0 <sup>bB</sup>	$27.5\pm3.7^{aA}$	0 <sup>bA</sup>
	Lime	AVS	$0^{bA}$	$7.5\pm1.5^{aA}$	$15\pm2.3^{aB}$	0 <sup>bA</sup>
	No lime	CDS	$105.24 \pm 20.3^{bA}$	$92.85\pm15.6^{bA}$	$142.89\pm18.5^{aA}$	$187.04\pm20.7^{aA}$
	Lime	CRS	$104.34 \pm 12.5^{bA}$	$44.29\pm5.3^{bB}$	$146.83\pm20.6^{aA}$	$20.17\pm3.4^{bB}$
5-10	No lime	4.170	0 <sup>bA</sup>	$0^{bA}$	$10\pm2.5^{aA}$	0 <sup>bA</sup>
	Lime	AVS	0 <sup>bA</sup>	$0^{\mathrm{aA}}$	0 <sup>aB</sup>	0 <sup>aA</sup>
	No lime	CDS	$56.44\pm5.8^{bA}$	$37.27\pm3.6^{bA}$	$95.82\pm12.7^{aA}$	$111.90\pm14.6^{\mathrm{aA}}$
	Lime	CRS	$54.45\pm4.6^{bA}$	$18.26\pm2.3^{cB}$	$110.37\pm12.3^{aA}$	$44.15\pm6.4^{bB}$
10-20	No lime	110	$0^{bA}$	$20\pm3.2^{aA}$	$0^{bA}$	$0^{bA}$
	Lime	AVS	$0^{bA}$	$5\pm1.3^{aB}$	$0^{bA}$	$0^{bA}$
	No lime	CDS	$56.06\pm7.8^{aA}$	$63.74\pm7.6^{aA}$	$62.58\pm5.8^{aB}$	$48.09\pm5.9^{aA}$
	Lime	CRS	$57.32\pm6.5^{aA}$	$35.82\pm3.4^{cB}$	$109.06\pm11.5^{aA}$	$50.34\pm4.7^{bA}$

Table 0.7 AVS and CRS concentrations between treatments in different soil horizons in both non-limed and limed soils

Values represent means of four replicates. Different small letters within each row represent significant differences in mean value between the water level treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p<0.05). Different capital letters within each column represent significant differences in mean value between different lime treatments in AVS and CRS respectively (t test, p<0.05)

#### Table 0.8 Pearson correlation analysis between RIS (AVS and CRS) and soil parameters

Parameters	AVS		CRS		
	No	Lime	No	Lime	
	lime		lime		
SOC	-0.087	0.53	0.72*	0.06	
ΔSOC	0.38	-0.34	0.20	-0.14	
C/N	-0.54	0.77*	-0.46	0.06	

Pair sample size, n=9 for SOC,  $\Delta$ SOC (initial-after treatment) and C/N in the soil layer (0-20 cm) after the dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments in all sites. \*p<0.05 correlations are significant

#### 5.5.7 Trace metals and anions

Limed soils had significantly lower Al concentration compared to non-limed soils under flooded and wetdry cycle conditions in all horizons (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.7b, c) and in the 0-5 cm soil layer in the dry treatment (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.7a). The Fe concentration in limed soils was significantly lower compared to non-limed soils under flooded and wet-dry cycle conditions in the 0-5 cm soil layer (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.7e, f). The Mn concentration in limed soils was significantly lower compared to non-limed soils under dry and wet-dry cycle conditions in the 0-5 cm soil layer (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.7g, i).

The Al and Fe concentrations increased significantly in the flooded treatment in the non-limed soils in all horizons (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.7b, e). The Al and Fe concentration decreased significantly in the dry treatment in

non-limed soils in the 0-10 cm soil layer (p<0.05) (Fig. 5.7a, d). The Al concentration decreased significantly in limed soils compared with non-limed soils in the 0-20 cm soil layer under flooded and wetdry cycle treatments (p<0.05). The Fe concentration decreased significantly in the limed soil compared to non-limed soil in the 0-5 cm soil layer under flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (p<0.05).

The  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentration increased in the dry treatment in both limed and non-limed soils (Fig. 5.8a). In the flooded treatment, the  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentration decreased in both limed and non-limed soils (Fig. 5.8c). The Cl<sup>-</sup>/SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> increased following the flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (Fig. 5.8d, f). Lower Cl<sup>-</sup>/SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> were observed in the 5-20 cm soil layer under the dry treatment (Fig. 5.8b).

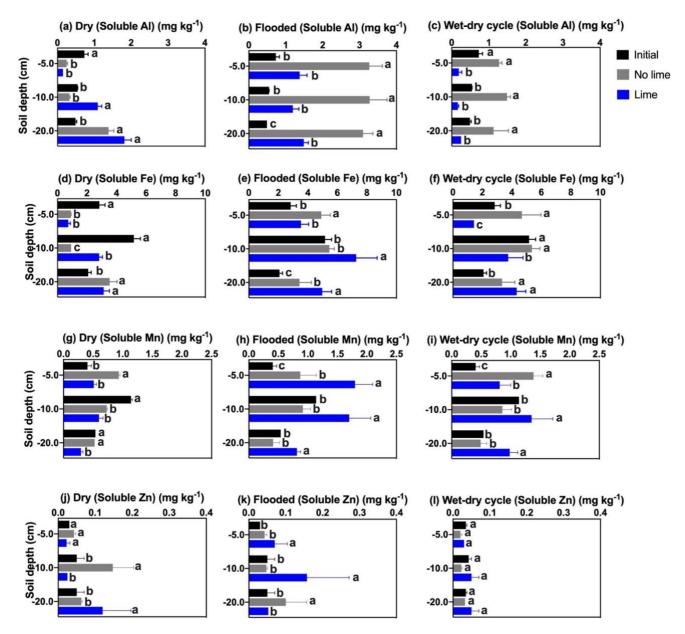


Fig. 0.7 Soluble trace metals Al, Fe, Mn, and Zn under dry (a, d, g, j), flooded (b, e, h, k) and wet-dry cycle (c, f, i, l) treatments. Different small letters within each horizon indicate significant differences between the lime treatments (one-way ANOVA, Tukey test, p < 0.05; n=4). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4)

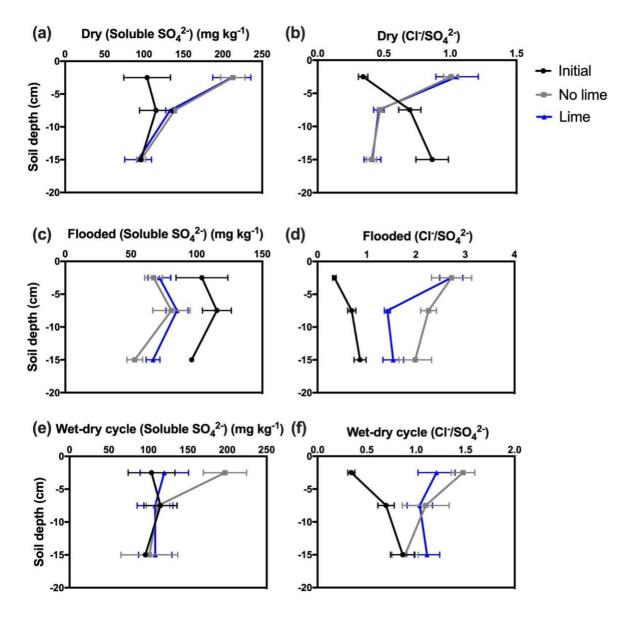


Fig. 0.8 Soluble  $SO_4^{2-}$  and Cl<sup>-</sup>/ $SO_4^{2-}$  under the dry (a, b), flooded (c, d), wet-dry cycle (e, f). Vertical bars denote standard error of means (n=4).

# 5.6. Discussion

#### 5.6.1 Influence of lime and inundation on AVS, CRS and acidity

The oxidation of RIS species (in the form of FeS<sub>2</sub>, FeS) under the dry treatment can promote the generation of acidity (Cook et al., 2000; Lin et al., 1995) TAA is used to estimate the pool of exchangeable  $H^+$  in ASS (McElnea et al., 2002) and significantly increased in the dry treatment. The oxidation of Fe<sup>2+</sup> in the dry treatment can lead to hydrolysis and generation of H<sup>+</sup> (Johnston et al., 2011), which can contribute to the increase in TAA.

TAA and net acidity in the flooded treatment was lower compared with the dry treatment in non-limed soils (Fig. 5.6). The flooded treatment changed the geochemical conditions of the soils and promoted reduction of

Fe<sup>3+</sup> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> (Berner, 1984). These reductive reactions in flooded conditions can consumed acidity (White et al., 1997) and promote the reformation of iron sulfide minerals like FeS<sub>2</sub> and FeS (Hicks et al., 2003; Johnston et al., 2009a). These suggestions are supported by significantly higher concentrations of CRS observed under flooded conditions (Table 5.6). Inundated conditions also allow the conversion from FeS to FeS<sub>2</sub> which was also observed in the high concentrations of CRS (Rickard and Luther, 2007).

The addition of lime can increase the soil pH at the surface. The addition of lime neutralized the acidity in the soils and therefore decreased the TAA and net acidity under the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments. Wu et al. (2015) reported that CaCO<sub>3</sub> and Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments could reduce the acidity in ASS in Finland. Wong et al. (2016b) found that lime addition can also neutralize the acidity in coastal floodplain soils in Australia.

#### 5.6.2 Influence of lime and inundation on trace metals

The soluble Fe concentration decreased in the top horizon with lime addition. This might be due to the formation of Fe oxides causing the concentration of Fe to decrease under the lime treatment in the dry treatment. This may be due to oxidising conditions created in the dry treatment which then leads to the precipitation of Fe<sup>3+</sup> in the soil and lower concentration of Fe (Dent and Pons, 1995; Virtanen et al., 2017). Dalhem et al. (2019) has previously described the stability of Fe can shift towards schwertmannite and iron oxides with a raised pH and consequently, the Fe concentrations are decreased. Mosley et al. (2014a) also observed that dissolved Fe can form amorphous Fe oxides when acidic drainage water mixes with alkaline river water. Also, the low concentration of soluble Fe in the flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments could be potentially due to the formation of FeS through the reaction of H<sub>2</sub>S with Fe<sup>2+</sup>. Under the flooded treatment, the increase in AVS and CRS in all soil depths (Table 5.7) and the decrease in SO4<sup>2-</sup> concentration (Fig. 5.8) suggested that the reformation of iron sulfide in both non-limed and limed soils had occurred.

The effect of lime can also be seen in the marked decrease in Al concentrations in all horizons in the flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments (Fig. 5.7b, c). This was expected because the solubility of Al is strongly pH dependent and an increase in soil pH in the surface layer can lead to the hydrolysis and precipitation of Al hydroxides (Dalhem et al., 2019). Hogfors-Ronnholm et al.(2018) demonstrated that CaCO<sub>3</sub> was the best mitigation method to lower metal release from ASS.

#### 5.6.3 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Soil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are produced due to the decomposition of soil organic matter and plant root respiration (Amundson and Davidson, 1990). Soil pH affects CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as microbial acitivity is influenced by soil pH (Oertel et al., 2016). Jugsujinda et al. (1996) observed that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increased with increasing soil pH in ASS.The carbonate from the added lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) can neutralize the acidity in the non-limed soil to

produce CO<sub>2</sub> (West and McBride, 2005). Hamilton et al. (2007) concluded that use of lime in agriculture can also act as a source of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Lime addition significantly increased the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared with non-limed soil in all inundation treatments. Liming can increase the availability of organic carbon to microbes which are most likely initially limited by low soil pH, and this therefore leads to increased SOC mineralisation (Grover et al., 2017; Rousk et al., 2009). Aciego Pietri and Brookes (2008) observed that an increase in pH up to 7 with added CaCO<sub>3</sub> improved soil microbial biomass function in an arable soil in the UK , confirming the significance of a neutral pH to stimulate microbial biomass growth and mineralization of soil organic matter. Fuentes et al. (2006) also found that higher respiration rates from limed soil compared to non-limed soils, which were attributed to neutral soil pH. Therefore, the additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in limed soils are from both lime dissolution and organic matter mineralisation.

Significantly higher cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were observed in the dry treatment and wet-dry cycle treatments compared with the flooded treatment. This is because dry treatment and dry periods of wet-dry cycle treatment led to oxic conditions and increased soil respiration, promoting higher cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Hirota et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2013). Yang et al. (2013) observed that the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were significantly higher under oxic conditions at lowest water table positions in a freshwater marsh.

#### 5.6.4 CH4 emissions

CH<sub>4</sub> is produced by decomposition of organic matter under highly reducing conditions (Bartlett et al., 1987; Keller and Stallard, 1994; Moore and Roulet, 1993). Liming significantly increased the cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions compared to non-limed soils in the flooded treatment. The pH value has effects on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions because methanogenesis only proceeds at a high rate when the pH is maintained in the neutral range (Jones et al., 1987; Wang et al., 1993; Zinder, 1994). Most methanogenic bacteria function in a pH range between 6.7 and 7.4, but optimally at pH 7.0-7.2 and the rate of CH<sub>4</sub> production may decrease if the pH is lower than 6.1 or higher than 8.3 (Bitton, 1994; Lay et al., 1997). Murakami et al. (2005) observed that liming increased CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in acid peat soils because the decomposition of organic matter was enhanced under limed condition and therefore increased substrate supply for methanogenic microorganisms.

The flooded treatment had significantly higher cumulative CH<sub>4</sub> emissions compared to the dry and wet-dry cycle treatments. The Eh in the flooded treatment in the study was around -200 mV and the CH<sub>4</sub> flux increased significantly after 10 days' incubation. CH<sub>4</sub> is produced by methanogenesis when Eh < -150 mV (Jugsujinda et al., 1996) so we can assume that methanogenesis is the main gas pathway under the flooded condition.

#### 5.6.5 N<sub>2</sub>O emission

Lower cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were observed in the limed soils compared with non-limed soils in all inundation treatments (Table 5.5). This might be attributed to the lower conversion of  $NH_4^+$  to  $NO_3^-$  and lower nitrifying activity in limed soils.  $NH_4^+$  is quickly consumed and converted to  $NO_3^-$  under aerobic conditions and the increase in  $NO_3^-$  can indicate nitrifying activity under the dry treatment and dry periods of the wet-dry cycle treatment. Neutral soil pH can promote the activity of N<sub>2</sub>O reductase and stimulate the conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> (Bakken et al., 2012; Galbally et al., 2010). In the non-limed soil, the soil pH was around 5.5 in our study. Low soil pH in the dry treatment during oxic conditions promoted the production of N<sub>2</sub>O because N<sub>2</sub>O reductase is not sensitive at lower soil pH values. Wang et al. (2018) also found that low soil pH can increase N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, indicating that liming can be used as a tool to mitigate N<sub>2</sub>O emissions.

N<sub>2</sub>O was produced by nitrification in the dry treatment and the dry period of the wet-dry cycle treatment. This is because the dry treatment significantly increased the NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration and decreased NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> concentration in both non-limed and limed soils. The flooded treatment decreased NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in both non-limed and limed soils. The flooded treatment decreased NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in both non-limed and limed soil in the 0-5 cm layer because of denitrification as NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is reduced to N<sub>2</sub>O or N<sub>2</sub> under anoxic conditions. The cumulative N<sub>2</sub>O emission was highest in the wet-dry cycle treatment compared to the dry and flooded treatments. This is because during the wet-dry cycle treatment, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> was most likely oxidized to NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in the dry periods by nitrification and then NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> was then likely reduced to N<sub>2</sub>O or N<sub>2</sub> by denitrification. The initial WFPS was 100% during flooded periods of wet-dry cycle treatment, which can promote N<sub>2</sub>O production. Davidson (1993) also observed that the dominant source was N<sub>2</sub>O when WFPS > 60% during denitrification under anaerobic conditions.

#### 5.6.6 Influence of lime and inundation on GHG emissions

The total GHG emissions after  $CO_2$ -eq conversion in limed soils were higher compared with non-limed soils under all inundation treatments. Even though lime addition decreased N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increased in all inundation treatments and increased CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in the flooded treatment. When considering lime as a GHG mitigation tool, we also need to consider CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions together. Lime enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions because the lime can react with the acid in the soil to form CO<sub>2</sub>. Abalos et al. (2020) also indicated that liming can increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and decrease N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in Denmark.

Based on  $CO_2$ -eq, the decreasing order of the total GHG emissions in both non-limed and limed soils were flooded treatment > dry treatment > wet-dry cycle treatment. This is because CH<sub>4</sub> comprised the primary GHG of total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions in the flooded treatment.

# **5.7 Conclusion**

Based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq, the total GHG emissions were higher in limed soils than non-limed soils. This is because lime increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in all inundation treatments and increased CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in the flooded treatment. Overall, liming as a mitigation strategy for GHG emissions should consider the increased CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and water table fluctuations in coastal wetlands even though lime can decrease N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. Inundation decreased the total CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and increased the CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. This is because CH<sub>4</sub> was the dominant GHG in the total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions in the flooded treatment. Lime raised the pH of soil, mitigated net acidity and heavy metals (Al, Fe, Mn) in most horizons under dry and wet-dry cycle treatments. The flooded treatment lowered TAA and net acidity compared with the dry treatment. The TAA and net acidity, heavy trace metals decreased following flooded treatment. Thus, inundation is an effective method to reduce the acidity and heavy metals in this study.

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**Chapter 6.** Discussion and concluding remarks

# **6.1 General discussion**

In ASS, large amounts of organic matter and interconnected reactions of sulfur and nitrogen make them potential sources of GHGs. In recent years, there has been an increase in studies identifying the GHGs derived from large areas of ASS (Denmead et al., 2011; Šimek et al., 2014). ASS are often found in low lying areas globally, including tropical coastal areas, estuarine floodplains and mangrove marshes, which provide waterlogged environments for pyrite formation (Dent and Pons, 1995).

The Australian studies (chapter 2, 3 and 5) described how coastal wetlands are highly vulnerable to inundation due to sea level rise and storm surge events. The intermittent tidal (wet-dry) cycles in coastal wetlands can cause variations in the watertable, affecting decomposition of organic matter which transforms SOC and N and therefore affects GHGs (Liu et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2017). Wet-dry cycles also occur over longer time periods due to seasonal changes from precipitation, storm surge events and seasonal flooding (Livesley and Andrusiak, 2012). When coastal wetlands are inundated, the depletion of O<sub>2</sub> results in a predictable sequence of anaerobic processes which follows the sequence: denitrification, Mn reduction, Fe(III) reduction, SO4<sup>2-</sup> reduction and methanogenesis (Ponnamperuma, 1972). Under anaerobic conditions, organic matter can undergo anaerobic microbial respiration to produce CH4. This study has demonstrated that CH4 was the main gas contributing to global warming based on CO2-eq when ASS was inundated or subjected to wet-dry cycle conditions. CH<sub>4</sub> production occurred under strict anaerobic conditions (Dutaur and Verchot, 2007). This study also found that the CO<sub>2</sub> flux and N<sub>2</sub>O flux were higher when the soils were drained compared to the flooded periods in wet-dry cycle treatments. The drained periods in the wet-dry cycle treatment led to enhanced O<sub>2</sub> penetration and promoted aerobic respiration and therefore enhanced the CO<sub>2</sub> flux compared with flooded periods in all sites. Wet-dry cycles also allow O<sub>2</sub> penetration into the soil during dry periods and NH4<sup>+</sup> was converted to NO3<sup>-</sup> by nitrification, thus enhancing N<sub>2</sub>O flux.

 $CO_2$  and  $N_2O$  comprised a small part of total  $CO_2$ -eq emissions under anaerobic conditions (Chapter 2). The low  $N_2O$  emissions in inundated soils may be caused by 1) reduction of  $NO_3^-$  to  $N_2$  by denitrifiers under reducing conditions (Ruser et al., 2006); 2) the layer of surface water acting as a diffusion barrier and preventing emissions diffusing from the soil to the atmosphere; or 3) the low  $NO_3^-$  concentration which limits the denitrification process.

When ASS were drained and oxidized due to either natural processes such as coastal regression, isostatic land uplift (Boman et al., 2010a), or through human actions such as drainage of coastal areas for agriculture (Burton et al., 2006a; Mathew et al., 2001), the decomposition of organic matter was accelerated and CO<sub>2</sub> is produced (Tobias and Neubauer, 2019). This study has also found that when the soils were under dry

conditions,  $CO_2$  comprised the principle part of total  $CO_2$ -eq emissions. N<sub>2</sub>O was the second largest gas contributing to global warming under dry condition mainly due to nitrification processes because of the conversion from  $NH_4^-$  to  $NO_3^-$ .

Vegetation type in ASS influence GHG emissions by providing different quantities and qualities of SOC and N. The C/N ratio in soils is used to determine the potential decomposability of organic matter (Bai et al., 2005). This research demonstrated that *Phragmites australis* had the highest CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions compared to other sites because it had the highest SOC compared to other sites and the C/N ratio is comparatively lower compared to the *Leptospermum lanigerum* site. This promotes higher decomposition rates in the *Phragmites australis* site. This study also suggests that *Apium gravedens* and *Paspalum distichum* sites can be easily be decomposed compared to *Leptospermum lanigerum* species sides due to the lower C/N ratios in ASS environments.

When ASS was disturbed or exposed to the atmosphere by lowering of water tables, acidification of soil and water will occur and lead to the release of heavy metals (Boman et al., 2010b; Grealish et al., 2014). This study demonstrated that drying can cause the oxidation of sulfide minerals, acidification and increase dissolved trace metals. However, inundation of ASS by oceanic water or freshwater can improve water quality because of the neutralization of soil acidity by reduction reactions of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and SO4<sup>2-</sup> (Johnston et al., 2014; Johnston et al., 2012). This research has shown that brackish water inundation prevented further oxidation of RIS and is an effective mitigation method to reduce net acidity in coastal ASS environments.

In Finland, almost all fields need artificial drainage before they can be properly cultivated. Lime is widely used to increase the soil pH (Dalhem et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2015). However, declining rates of liming can result in gradual lowering of soil pH and enhanced N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. In the Finnish study (Chapter 4), the results indicated that addition of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) can increase the soil pH to neutral conditions and reduce N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in most horizons. The total GHG production based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq in the lime treatments was significantly lower than that in the non-limed control treatment in surface soils of ASS.

Less attention has been paid to the effects of lime addition on GHGs in ASS in Australia. This study determined whether the lime treatment was effective in reducing GHGs in coastal areas in Australia even though the formation of ASS is different compared to their formation in Finland (Chapter 5). The results showed lime addition decreased N<sub>2</sub>O emissions but increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in all inundation treatments. Total GHG emissions based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq conversion in limed soils were higher compared with non-limed soils under all inundation treatments in temperate coastal wetlands in Australia. This is in contrast to what was found in the Finnish study.

Overall, our results demonstrated that GHGs were mainly affected by SOC, mineral N, soil pH and inundation in ASS. Lime treatment and inundation strategies are two practical methods to remediate ASS as they can improve soil pH, reduce soil acidification and transport of trace metals. From the incubation experiments applied in Finland and Australia, it is suggested that lime treatment should be carefully applied to reduce emissions, because there might be additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced when the lime neutralizes the acidity produced.

## **6.2 Future research**

Generally, liming reduced GHG emissions based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq in ASS in Finland, provided that topsoil dominated the GHG production of the soil profile. However, it was less efficient in reducing the total GHG emissions in subsoils in Finland due to enhanced microbial respiration and denitrification. Australian soils had higher GHG emissions based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq with lime addition in all horizons compared with non-limed soils. The liming had different effects on GHG emissions between Finland and Australia. The mineral N contents (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N) in Australian ASS was generally lower than that in the Finnish ASS. The N<sub>2</sub>O emission only contributed to small proportion in the total GHG emissions in the Australian ASS. However, the N<sub>2</sub>O emission contributed to large proportion in the total GHG emissions in the top horizon in the Finnish ASS. Therefore, even though liming decreased N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in Australian ASS, the higher GHG emissions in limed soils were due to enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The efficiency of liming on GHG emissions in different soil horizons were also different in Finland. Therefore, the contributions of different soil horizons in the field remain topics for future research.

Further field-based studies should consider the different environmental factors like soil temperature, diurnal and seasonal variations, tides, storms, rainfall together affecting GHG emissions over longer periods of time in ASS. Incubation experiments in Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 were undertaken in a controlled environment which analysed the effects of specific treatments on GHG emissions. Scaling up these experiments in to the field to measure the GHG emissions at a landscape scale among different vegetation types when the floodplain is subjected to cyclical inundation will better represent the effects due to sea level rise and storm surge events.

In our study, adding lime to soils increased  $CO_2$  emissions when the lime neutralized the acidity in ASS in the closed system. In the open system, the acid generated in ASS might be exported through groundwater

flow. Therefore, how the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions affected by adding lime in the natural soils for longer periods of time needs to be identified in the future.

In this study, a lab-based closed chamber method was applied to measure GHG flux. The results from chamber method deliver data at the scale of a soil core (0.5-5m<sup>2</sup>) (Reimann et al., 2009). At an ecosystem scale, the fluxes of energy, matter and organisms are important drivers (Limberger et al., 2017). CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> flux contribute to ecosystem flux and can provide insights into how climate change affects the carbon budget at an ecosystem scale (Baldocchi, 2003; Xiao et al., 2011). However, in the field, GHG fluxes are the result of decomposition of organic matter and interactions with inundation and biological activity. Towerbased approaches such as eddy covariance provide quasi-continuous measurement of gas exchange at the ecosystem scale and can quantify GHG flux over larger areas (McNicol et al., 2017). The whole ecosystem CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> flux can be measured using eddy covariance flux tower (Teh et al., 2011). N<sub>2</sub>O flux can be measured using the static flux chamber approach. Eddy covariance flux tower is a micrometeorological method, which uses vertical turbulence to analyse the gas exchange between soil surface and atmosphere in terms of gas, energy, and momentum (Vesala et al., 2006). The eddy covariance technique can be applied to measure continuous carbon flux and incorporate areas up to the medium local scale (5-50 km<sup>2</sup>) (Myklebust et al., 2008; Reimann et al., 2009). Therefore, to scale up the effects of inundation on carbon cycling and GHG emissions over the floodplain with different vegetation types from this study, closed chamber methods and eddy covariance flux towers should be coupled to identify the floodplain fluxes at an ecosystem level.

In ASS, sulfur cycling is also an important biogeochemical process and necessary for sulfate reduction, pyrite formation, heavy metal transport and atmospheric sulfur emissions (SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S) (Luther et al., 1986). SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S are significant pollutants and can change the acid-base chemistry of the atmosphere, playing an important role in the global sulfur cycle. van Breemen et al. (1993) and Macdonald et al. (2004b) suggested that large potential acidity stores in pyritic sediments can be a source of SO<sub>2</sub>. Kinsela et al. (2011) demonstrated that drained ASS are potentially large sources of biogenic H<sub>2</sub>S and SO<sub>2</sub> and found SO<sub>2</sub> fluxes were closely related to surface soil temperatures and moisture content, while H<sub>2</sub>S was emitted regardless of these factors. Studies on H<sub>2</sub>S and SO<sub>2</sub> have been widely conducted in wetlands. However, the studies about biogenic S emissions (H<sub>2</sub>S and SO<sub>2</sub>) from ASS are lacking. Sulfur is an important redox element under natural conditions and can also undergo different biogeochemical transformations under different soil pH and redox potentials. Thus, this is a gap in our understanding of emissions from ASS environments.

In this study, the GHG emissions from coastal wetlands and agriculture land were measured. In the future, evaluating GHG emissions and soil organic carbon from other types of wetlands, such as restored and drained wetlands and peatlands in ASS environments is important to understand the mechanisms and

implications in a changing climate and with changing land-use. The data and knowledge generated from the research can aid the policy-makers for GHG accounting purposes. The research will improve assessment approaches about wetlands under different land-uses in ASS environments and provide support to climate mitigation and adaptation plans.

# **6.3 Conclusions**

The overall aim of this thesis was to determine the GHGs in ASS from coastal wetlands due to sea level rise in Australia and from agricultural land due to the post-glacial rebound by isostatic uplift in Finland. The results will assist land managers in remediating ASS using lime treatments and inundation strategies.

The thesis had the following objectives:

# **Objective 1: Identify the effects of inundation on GHGs under controlled conditions in coastal acid sulfate soils (CASS) with sea level rise with different vegetation types in southern Australia.**

Chapter 2 addressed this objective by assessing the effects of inundation caused by sea level fluctuations and sea level rise with climate change on GHGs. Soil cores from different vegetation types in the floodplain were incubated under dry, flooded and wet-dry cycle treatments. During the dry treatment, CO<sub>2</sub> is the dominant GHG while CH<sub>4</sub> dominates in flooded conditions. Under the wet-dry cycle treatment, CH<sub>4</sub> was the main gas contributing to global warming, followed by CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O. In addition, treatments with *Phragmites australis* had higher global warming potential based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq compared with other vegetation types like rushes, pastures, woody vegetation due to the higher organic matter.

# Objective 2: Identify the effect of inundation on soil chemistry in CASS with different vegetation types in southern Australia.

Chapters 3 and 5 addressed this objective by assessing the effects of inundation caused by sea level fluctuation and sea level rise on soil chemistry, including RIS in terms of AVS and CRS, potential acidity and trace metals (Fe, Al, Mn, Zn, Ni). The flooded treatment significantly increased AVS and CRS in most soil depths. The highest net acidity occurred in the dry treatment and lowest net acidity was observed following the flooded treatment in most soil depths. Brackish water inundation provides a mechanism to prevent further oxidation of RIS and can be an effective tool to reduce acidity by forming or reforming

pyrite in temperate ASS environments. These results highlighted that inundation could be considered when planning remediation approaches for ASS.

# Objective 3: Determine the effect of lime $(CaCO_3)$ addition on GHGs $(N_2O \text{ and } CO_2)$ and the product ratio of denitrification $N_2O/(N_2O+N_2)$ in ASS and non-ASS under aerobic and anaerobic conditions in boreal agricultural land and coastal wetland

Chapters 4 and 5 addressed this objective by identifying the effects of lime treatments on GHG emissions from ASS. Low soil pH in ASS inhibits the reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> and leads to N<sub>2</sub>O becoming the more dominant GHG. Low soil pH limits the availability of organic C and mineral N to denitrifying bacteria. Lime decreased N<sub>2</sub>O due to the conversion from N<sub>2</sub>O to N<sub>2</sub> via N<sub>2</sub>O reductase during denitrification. The product ratio of N<sub>2</sub>O/(N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) in the limed soils was lower than non-limed soils in most horizons. Chapters 4 and 5 applied lime to ASS from Finnish agricultural land and an Australian coastal wetland and observed that lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) can reduce the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, but also increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to the dissolution of CaCO<sub>3</sub> and the increased SOC mineralization. In Chapter 4, lime can also increase the total denitrification product (N<sub>2</sub>O+N<sub>2</sub>) because lime addition increased the availability of organic carbon and nitrogen to the microbes which were initially limited by low soil pH in the ASS. Therefore, mitigating GHG emissions by liming of soils in the field should be done with caution due to concurrently increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and denitrification.

# Objective 4: Identify the effects of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and inundation on GHGs and potential acidity in a coastal wetland soil in southern Australia.

Chapter 5 addressed this objective by examining the inundation and lime treatments on RIS, TAA, net acidity, trace metals (Fe, Al, Mn, Zn, Ni) in a coastal wetland in Australia. The highest net acidity occurred in the dry treatment. Inundation can reduce acidity by forming or reforming pyrite in ASS. The lime added to the pasture soils raised the soil pH effectively. Liming neutralized the acidity in the soils and therefore decreased net acidity. Lime addition generally decreased Al and Fe concentrations in most horizons because the increase in soil pH can lead to the precipitation of Al and Fe minerals.

In general, this study showed that SOC, mineral N, water levels, soil pH together can affect GHG emissions in ASS from coastal wetlands in Australia and agricultural land in Finland. CH<sub>4</sub> was the main gas contributing to global warming potential based on CO<sub>2</sub>-eq when ASS was inundated while CO<sub>2</sub> was the largest contributor of total CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions when ASS were in dry conditions. Lime treatments are widely used to remediate drained ASS for agriculture. Lime addition was effective in improving soil pH, decreasing  $N_2O$  emissions and  $N_2O/(N_2O+N_2)$ , but the increased  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  emissions contribute to higher global warming potential based on  $CO_2$ -eq with liming. Overall, the inundation and lime strategies can reduce the net acidity and trace metals in ASS if they are oxidized and can assist land managers to remediate ASS. However, lime treatment needs to carefully applied due to the increased  $CO_2$  emissions derived from the dissolution of CaCO<sub>3</sub>. Also, the inundation treatment might lead to higher global warming potential due to the dominant  $CH_4$  emissions.

# **6.4 References**

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