Interactive comment on “Soil biogenic emissions of nitric oxide from a semi-arid savanna in South Africa” by G. T. Feig et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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This is a comprehensive study of NO emissions from soils at different positions within a semi-arid landscape in South Africa. It is scientifically interesting, methodologically sound, clearly written and well presented. My only minor concern is the choice of unit for NO consumption. As I understand, this parameter was determined by applying a high and a low concentration of NO, measuring the net NO flux at these concentrations, and dividing the difference in net flux by the difference in concentration applied. Net flux of NO is expressed in the unit [ng kg⁻¹ s⁻¹] (Eq. 1). Yet, NO consumption is expressed in the unit [m³ kg⁻¹ s⁻¹] (e.g. Page 2809, line 15) or by mistake in [m³ kg⁻² s⁻²] (page 2803, line 8). Why not express is in a unit more directly comparable to NO net flux, say as [ng kg⁻¹ s⁻¹ ppb⁻¹]?

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 5, 2795, 2008.