We agree with the point that the manuscript could have been supplemented (and may be improved) by a chapter discussing the products of metabolic processes and pathways of litter degradation. However, the lack of such a chapter was related to the fact that specifically these issues are addressed in our forthcoming publication. The publication will offer data concerning species dynamics of fungi participating in the decomposition of spruce and pine needle litter, as well as content of VOCs emitted into the gas phase by the predominant fungi species (T. polysporum, Penicillum citrinum, etc.). In the near future, we will have the pleasure of presenting this manuscript to BGS.

Nonetheless, following Reviewer's recommendation, the revised version of the present manuscript will include additional bibliographical references (Fioretto et al., 2007; Leff and Fierer, 2008) supporting the hypothesis.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 7, 1727, 2010.