

Greenhouse gas emissions from forest invaders

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Many concerns surrounding invasive species focus on the ecological interactions that are affected due to addition/loss from the trophic structure, modifying energy flow. Also of concern are interactions with the environment. A 12 week microcosm study to examine the effects of earthworms on greenhouse gas production was carried out to determine if invasive earthworms may be responsible for increased greenhouse gas emissions from invaded forests. Results indicate that two species of worms increase CO_2 respired from forest soils. Also, nutrient analysis suggest that earthworms modify system to increase availability to plants for uptake. This supports the work that small organisms can have a monumental impact when habitual behavior is continued en masse.