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# Modelling effects of acid deposition and climate change on soil and run-off chemistry at Risdalsheia, Norway

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## Abstract

Elevated carbon dioxide levels, caused by anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, and higher temperature may lead to increased plant growth and uptake of nitrogen, but increased temperature may lead to increased nitrogen mineralisation causing enhanced nitrogen leaching. The overall result of both counteracting effects is largely unknown. To gain insight into the long-term effects, the geochemical model SMART2 was applied using data from the catchment-scale experiments of the RAIN and CLIMEX projects, conducted on boreal forest ecosystems at Risdalsheia, southern Norway. These unique experiments at the ecosystem scale provide information on the short-term effects and interactions of nitrogen deposition and increased temperature and carbon dioxide on carbon and nitrogen cycling and especially the run-off chemistry. To predict changes in soil processes in response to climate change, the model was extended by including the temperature effect on mineralisation, nitrification, denitrification, aluminium dissolution and mineral weathering. The extended model was tested on the two manipulated catchments at Risdalsheia and long-term effects were evaluated by performing long-time runs. The effects of climate change treatment, which resulted in increased nitrogen fluxes at both catchments, were slightly overestimated by SMART2. The temperature dependency of mineralisation was simulated adequately but the temperature effect on nitrification was slightly overestimated. Monitored changes in base cation concentrations and pH were quite well simulated with SMART2. The long-term simulations indicate that the increase in nitrogen run-off is only a temporary effect; in the long-term, no effect on total nitrogen leaching is predicted. At higher deposition levels the temporary increase in nitrogen leaching lasts longer than at low deposition. Contrary to nitrogen leaching, temperature increase leads to a permanent decrease in aluminium concentrations and pH.

**Keywords:** elevated carbon dioxide, temperature, forest ecosystem, modelling, nitrogen run-off.

## Introduction

Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere may lead to an increase in global temperature over the next few decades. The largest changes are expected at high latitudes (Houghton *et al.*, 1990). Primary productivity in boreal ecosystems has increased in large regions of northern Europe and eastern North America due to enhanced nitrogen (N) deposition, since these systems are N-limited (Kauppi *et al.*, 1992). Higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations may lead to increased plant growth, carbon (C) sequestration and uptake of N. Increased temperatures, on the other hand, may lead to increased mineralisation (Stanford *et al.*, 1973; Edwards, 1975), causing CO<sub>2</sub> production and enhanced N leaching. The overall result, particularly the long-term effects, are largely unknown.

Large-scale whole-ecosystem experiments provide a tool to study the response of ecosystems and to evaluate geochemical models that include global change processes. At Risdalsheia, southern Norway, the effects and interactions of N deposition, increased temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> on C and N cycling and especially on the run-off chemistry have been examined using catchment-scale experiments on boreal forest ecosystems (Van Breemen *et al.* 1998; Wright, 1998). Run-off chemistry is of particular interest since it provides a sensitive integrated signal of change in terrestrial catchments while changes in the internal N cycle are often difficult to discern directly due to spatial and temporal variability.

To quantify the impacts of acid deposition, land use and climate change at large (regional to national) scale,

simulation models are being used. The models MERLIN (Wright *et al.*, 1998b) and MAGIC7 (Wright *et al.*, 1998a) have been applied at Risdalsheia to determine the effects of climate change on run-off chemistry and the same data set has been used to apply SMART2. SMART2 has been developed to integrate soil acidification processes and nutrient cycling and to predict long-term effects of acid deposition scenarios on a national and continental scale. To quantify the effects of climate change on soil processes, the effect of temperature on these processes was included to integrate effects of climate change, acid deposition and nutrient cycling in a quantitative way. This extended version of SMART has also been applied on the European scale (Ferrier and Helliwell, 2000).

In this paper, the enhanced SMART2 model is evaluated using the control and the manipulated catchments at Risdalsheia. The Risdalsheia experimental catchments are very suitable for application of SMART2 because the experimental design of the catchments corresponds with the temporal and spatial resolution of the model output. Annual fluxes of solutes in run-off are used corresponding to the time step of one year used by SMART2 (Wright, 1998). The aims are to: (i) test the hypothesised temperature effects by calibration and validation of the model on a manipulated catchment, and (ii) evaluate long-term effects of climate change on C and N cycling and especially on N run-off.

To test the temperature effect in SMART2, the model was first calibrated at the control catchment ROLF and next, after the incorporation of the temperature effect, at the EGIL catchment where soil temperature was increased. Finally, the model was evaluated at the KIM catchment which was subjected to elevated air temperature and CO<sub>2</sub>-pressure. The effect of deposition reduction was only evaluated at the KIM catchment. Long-term effects of deposition reduction, temperature rise and increase of CO<sub>2</sub>-pressure were evaluated by extrapolating the existing treatments at Risdalsheia for 30 years.

## Site description and manipulation experiments

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Risdalsheia is located near Grimstad, southern Norway, (58°23'N, 8°19'E) at 300 m above sea level (Wright *et al.*, 1998a). The site is representative of large areas of upland southern Norway. Mean annual precipitation is 1400 mm, run-off is 1200 mm and mean annual temperature is 5°C (mean of -3°C in January and +16°C in July). Vegetation is mainly a sparse cover of pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) and birch (*Betula pubescens* L.) with heather (*Calluna Vulgaris* L.)

and blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.) as dominant ground species. Risdalsheia receives relatively high levels of acid deposition with mean values for 1984–1992 of 113 meq S m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> and 132 meq N m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> (Wright *et al.*, 1993).

### MANIPULATION EXPERIMENTS

Two sets of manipulation experiments have been conducted at Risdalsheia (Table 1). The first set of experiments (the RAIN-project; Reversing Acidification In Norway) entailed exclusion of ambient N and S deposition (Wright *et al.*, 1993) at the roofed KIM catchment from June 1984 until August 1999. The roofed EGIL catchment received recycled ambient acid rain. The uncovered catchment ROLF served as outside control. The decrease in sulphur (S) and N deposition resulted in a strong decrease of sulphate (SO<sub>4</sub>) and N concentrations in the run-off, accompanied by decrease in base cation concentrations and increase in acid neutralising capacity (ANC) (Wright *et al.*, 1993; Wright and Jenkins, 2001).

The second set of experiments (the CLIMEX-project; Climate change experiment) began in April 1994 and involved manipulation with CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature. These new treatments (Dise and Jenkins, 1995) were superimposed on the ongoing RAIN treatments. Both the KIM catchment and the EGIL catchment were divided into a treatment section and a control section. At the KIM catchment, CO<sub>2</sub> was added to the air during the growing season at target concentration of 560 ppm and the air was warmed by +5°C in January and +3°C in July, with intermediate temperature during the intervening months. Run-off chemistry of both treatment sections was analysed. Wright (1998) found increased nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) and ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>) concentrations in run-off in response to elevated temperature. At the EGIL catchment, the soil was warmed by means of electric heating cables placed beneath the litter in the treatment section, resulting in an average soil

Table 1. Overview of the treatments at the catchments at Risdalsheia in the CLIMEX project

		Deposition <sup>1</sup>	Climate <sup>2</sup>
ROLF	Control	Ambient	None
EGIL	Control	Ambient	None
	Treatment	Ambient	Soil warming
KIM	Control	Clean	None
	Treatment	Clean	CO <sub>2</sub> +air warming

<sup>1</sup> Deposition manipulation started in 1984

<sup>2</sup> Climate manipulation started in 1994

temperature rise of 3.7°C at 5 cm depth during the first three years of treatment. The run-off chemistry was analysed only in the treatment section of the EGIL catchment. Lükewille and Wright (1997) found a significant increase in N concentrations in run-off in response to elevated soil temperature during the first 15 months of treatment.

At the EGIL catchment, there was no change in growth or biomass of the shrubs or pine trees and no change in N concentrations in the shrub foliage (Arp, pers. comm.). Beier and Rasmussen (1997) found a small increase in N concentrations in pine needles at both catchments. Arp and Berendse (1997) found a small increase in growth of the shrubs at the KIM catchment.

Mineralisation and nitrification measurements were performed for three years: one control year (1994) and two treatment years (1995 and 1996). Verburg (1998) and Verburg *et al.* (1999) found an increase in net N-mineralisation and nitrification due to climate change, but variability was high. At the EGIL catchment there was no significant change in mineralisation and nitrification. At the KIM catchment the increase in net mineralisation was significant. Decomposition rates of fresh litter were not affected by temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> treatments.

## Modelling approach

### MODEL DESCRIPTION

SMART2 (Kros *et al.*, 1995) is a simple one-compartment soil acidification and nutrient cycling model that includes the major hydrological and biogeochemical processes in the vegetation, litter and mineral soil. Apart from pH, the model also predicts changes in aluminium (Al), divalent base cations (BC2, i.e. Magnesium (Mg) + Calcium (Ca)), monovalent base cations (BC, i.e. sodium (Na) + potassium (K)), NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, chloride (Cl) and bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) concentrations in the soil solution and solid phase characteristics that reflect the acid-base status of the soil, i.e. carbonate content, base saturation and readily available Al content. The SMART2 model consists of a set of mass balance equations, describing the soil input-output relationships and a set of equations describing the rate-limited and equilibrium soil processes.

The soil solution chemistry in SMART2 depends on the net element input from the atmosphere (the product of deposition and filtering factor) and groundwater (seepage), canopy interactions (foliar uptake, foliar exudation), geochemical interactions in the soil (CO<sub>2</sub> equilibria, weathering of carbonates, silicates and/or Al-hydroxides, SO<sub>4</sub> sorption and cation exchange) and a complete nutrient cycle (litterfall, mineralisation, root uptake, immobilisation,

nitrification and denitrification) for base cations and N. Litterfall and growth of the vegetation are modelled by a logistic growth function, which acts as a forcing function for nutrient uptake. Nutrient uptake is only limited when there is a shortage in the soil solution. Mineralisation of fresh litter is set as a fraction of the input of litterfall and root decay in the litter compartment. The remaining fresh litter is transferred to the old litter pool. The mineralisation flux of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K and BC2 from this litter pool ( $X_{milt}$ ) is described by first order kinetics (Van Veen, 1977):

$$X_{milt} = k_{milt} \cdot Am_{lt} \cdot ctX_{lt} \quad (1)$$

where  $X_{milt}$  is mineralisation flux of element X from old litter (mol<sub>c</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>),  $k_{milt}$  is the mineralisation rate constant from old litter (yr<sup>-1</sup>),  $Am_{lt}$  is amount of old litter (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and  $ctX_{lt}$  is content of element X in old litter (mol<sub>c</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup>). The nutrient cycling factor (*ncf*) is defined as the total root turnover of N divided by the aboveground litter production of N. Nitrification and denitrification for the complete soil layer are described as a fraction of the net N input (deposition and mineralisation minus root uptake and immobilisation). In the model, factors such as pH in the organic layer and moisture content influences nitrification and denitrification, but not weathering and exchange reactions, nor in this application mineralisation.

### MODEL ADAPTATION

The effect of temperature was considered for: (i) the mineralisation of old litter, nitrification and denitrification; (ii) Al hydroxide dissolution; and (iii) weathering of primary minerals. A direct temperature effect on growth was not included because observations did not clearly indicate a change in growth (Van Breemen *et al.*, 1998) and the effects of temperature rise and increase of CO<sub>2</sub> on growth are still ambiguous (Mohren, pers. comm.). There might be, however, an indirect effect of temperature on growth due to a larger N availability as a result of increased mineralisation. In SMART2, this would increase N uptake but not biomass, so the N-content in biomass would increase to a maximum level.

The same dependency was chosen for mineralisation, nitrification and denitrification, as the temperature dependencies of these processes are similar. The temperature effect on N mineralisation is often described by a Q<sub>10</sub> function. Kätterer *et al.* (1998) and Stanford *et al.* (1973) found Q<sub>10</sub> values between 2.0 and 2.5. Kirschbaum (1995) found a temperature dependent Q<sub>10</sub> for mineralisation with higher values at lower temperatures, which is in agreement with Ross and Bridger (1978).

The temperature dependency of nitrification (cf. Grundmann *et al.*, 1995; Stark, 1996) and denitrification (Grant, 1991; Nõmmik and Larson, 1989) are mostly described by an Arrhenius equation. A  $Q_{10}$  function is, however, also used (e.g. Knowles, 1982, who gives in a review  $Q_{10}$  values of 1.5 to 3.0 for denitrification). To have a comparable description, a  $Q_{10}$  function was selected for all three micro biological processes as:

$$X(T) = X(T_{ref}) * Q_{10}^{\frac{(T-T_{ref})}{10}} \quad (2)$$

where  $X$  represents either the mineralisation rate constant of old litter ( $\text{yr}^{-1}$ ), or the nitrification factor or the denitrification factor (-),  $T$  is temperature (K) and  $T_{ref}$  is the reference temperature (K). For all these N transformation processes, an optimum  $Q_{10}$  value of 1.6 was obtained. The temperature effect on mineralisation refers to the mineralisation of old litter, because the decomposition rate of fresh litter was not different under the different treatments (Verburg, 1998).

For the Al oxide dissolution the temperature dependency was described by Van't Hoff's equation (e.g. Stumm and Morgan, 1981):

$$K_{Al\ ox}(T) = K_{Al\ ox}(T_{ref}) + \frac{\Delta H^\circ}{2.303 R} \left( \frac{1}{T_{ref}} - \frac{1}{T} \right) \quad (3)$$

where  $K_{Al\ ox}$  is log10 of Al oxide dissolution constant (-),  $\Delta H^\circ$  is reaction enthalpy ( $= -95.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) and  $R$  is the gas constant ( $8.3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ). Temperature rise will lead to a decrease of  $K_{Al\ ox}$ .

The temperature effect on weathering rates was described as (Sverdrup, pers. comm.):

$$X_{we}(T) = X_{we}(T_{ref}) * e^{3600 * \left( \frac{1}{T_{ref}} - \frac{1}{T} \right)} \quad (4)$$

where  $X_{we}$  is weathering rate ( $\text{eq m}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ). A temperature increase from  $5^\circ\text{C}$  to  $8.7^\circ\text{C}$  implies an increase of weathering of 20%. The effect of increased  $\text{CO}_2$  pressure was not included for the biochemical processes, but for the geochemical equilibria  $\text{pCO}_2$  is included. The  $\text{pCO}_2$  in soil air was calculated as a factor of the  $\text{pCO}_2$  in the atmosphere. Consequently, increase in  $\text{CO}_2$  pressure in the atmosphere directly implies an increase in  $\text{pCO}_2$  in soil air.

## MODEL PARAMETERISATION

To test the model and the included temperature dependencies, SMART2 was applied to two catchment experiments at Risdalsheia. For simulation of the concentrations of different elements in run-off, the model was calibrated at the ROLF catchment. The Al oxide

dissolution constant, the mineralisation constant and the nitrification factor were calibrated manually using the concentrations of  $\text{NO}_3$ ,  $\text{NH}_4$ , BC2 and Al and pH in the run-off. The inclusion of temperature-dependencies of N-processes and of the Al oxide dissolution constant was tested from 1995, the year the temperature rise started at the EGIL catchment. SMART2 was validated for both temperature and deposition changes by applying it at the KIM catchment.

The soil parameters were either derived from measurements (Wright *et al.*, 1993) or from the MAGIC7 calibration at Risdalsheia (Wright *et al.*, 1998a) (Table 2). The selectivity constant for Al-BC exchange ( $KAl_{ex}$ ) was calculated by using Gaines-Thomas equations:

$$KAl_{ex} = \frac{frBC2_{ac}^3 \cdot [Al^{3+}]^2}{frAl_{ac}^2 \cdot [BC^{2+}]^3} \quad (5)$$

and for H-BC exchange ( $KH_{ex}$ ) by:

$$KH_{ex} = \frac{frBC2_{ac} \cdot [H^+]^2}{frH_{ac}^2 \cdot [BC^{2+}]} \quad (6)$$

where  $frX_{ac}$  is the fraction of the adsorbed element X,  $[X]$  is concentration of element X. The adsorbed fractions and run-off concentrations were derived from Wright *et al.* (1993). Averages of measured adsorbed fractions and concentrations at the three catchments were used.

The vegetation parameters (Table 2) were taken either from measurements or from estimates. For shrubs, data were derived from Arp and Berendse (1997) and Arp (pers. comm.), while for trees the data were based on Beier and Rasmussen (1997) and Beier (pers. comm.). Parameters that were not measured or estimated at Risdalsheia were taken from Kros *et al.* (1995) using the values for heather. The measured aboveground litterfall of the shrubs (Arp, pers. comm.) and of the trees (Beier, pers. comm.) were summed. The root turnover was calculated using the measured litterfall and assuming a nutrient cycling factor ( $ncf$ ) of 0.5 for trees and a  $ncf$  of 3.0 for shrubs (Kros *et al.*, 1995). These amounts of litterfall in combination with these nutrient cycling factors resulted in a biomass weighted average  $ncf$  of 1.8. At the EGIL catchment, N-mineralisation fluxes were 10–15% higher than the measured N mineralisation fluxes. (Table 3). The total litterfall values are much lower (approximately less by half) than the values mentioned in Wright *et al.* (1998b) who only used estimates since measurements were not available at that time.

The influence of soil solution pH on mineralisation was excluded because it had too strong a positive feedback: increased pH which in turn increased mineralisation, causing an unrealistic overestimation of the N concentration. Furthermore, experimental support for the positive feedback of pH on mineralisation is rather weak.

Table 2. Fixed parameters for KIM and EGIL used in calibration of SMART2.

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>ROLF</i>	<i>EGIL</i>	<i>KIM</i>		<i>Reference</i>
SOIL PARAMETERS					
Soil depth (m)	0.10	0.10	0.10	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
Bulk density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	0.66	0.53	0.73	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1993)
Porosity (m m <sup>-1</sup> )	0.5	0.5	0.5	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
CEC (meq kg <sup>-1</sup> )	87.0	97.0	97.0	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1993)
Organic matter (kg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	0.252	0.262	0.242	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1993)
Initial C/N (-)	25.3	25.3	25.3	Calibrated	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
SO <sub>4</sub> -ads. Half saturation (eq m <sup>-3</sup> )	60.	60.	60.	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
SO <sub>4</sub> -ads. Max. capacity (eq m <sup>-3</sup> )	6.0	6.0	6.0	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
Solubility Al(OH) <sub>3</sub> (log10)	7.2	7.2	7.2	Calibrated	This study
Sel. constant Al-BC exchange (log10)	-1.63	-1.63	-1.63	Calculated	Required data from Wright <i>et al.</i> (1993)
Sel. constant H-BC exchange (log10)	2.85	2.85	2.85	Calculated	Required data from Wright <i>et al.</i> (1993)
Total organic acid (eq m <sup>-3</sup> )	0.12	0.12	0.12	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
pCO <sub>2</sub> (multiple of pCO <sub>2</sub> in air) (-)	6.32	6.32	6.32	Measured	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
BC <sub>2</sub> -weathering (eq m <sup>-3</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.005	0.005	0.005	Calibrated	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
Na-weathering (eq m <sup>-3</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.001	0.001	0.001	Calibrated	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
K-weathering (eq·m <sup>-3</sup> ·yr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.000	0.000	0.000	Calibrated	(Wright <i>et al.</i> , 1998a)
VEGETATION PARAMETER					
	<i>ROLF and EGIL</i>		<i>KIM</i>		
Ammonium foliar uptake fraction (-)	0.4		0.4	Estimated	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
Proton foliar uptake fraction (-)	0.4		0.4	Estimated	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
K foliar exudation fraction (-)	0.65		0.65	Estimated	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
Max. amount of litterfall (kg m <sup>-2</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.175		0.209	Measured	(Arp, pers comm.; Beier, pers comm.)
Reallocation fraction (-)	0.10		0.10	Estimated	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
BC <sub>2</sub> leaf contents (%)	0.81		0.61	Measured	(Arp and Berendse, 1997)
K leaf contents (%)	0.73		0.53	Measured	(Arp and Berendse, 1997)
N contents in litterfall (%)	0.96		0.84	Measured	(Arp, pers comm.; Beier, pers comm.)
Logistic growth rate constant (yr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.15		0.15	Derived	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
Growth half time (yr.)	10.		10.	Derived	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
Max. amount of biomass (kg m <sup>-2</sup> )	3.2		3.1	Estimated	(Arp, pers comm.; Beier, pers comm.)
N nutrient content (%)	1.13		0.63	Measured	(Arp and Berendse, 1997)
BC <sub>2</sub> nutrient content (%)	0.002		0.002	Measured	(Arp and Berendse, 1997)
K nutrient content (%)	0.002		0.002	Measured	(Arp and Berendse, 1997)
Mineralisation factor fresh litter (-)	0.4		0.4	Estimated	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
Min. rate constant old litter (yr <sup>-1</sup> )	0.16		0.16	Calibrated	this study
Fraction roots in litter layer (-)	0.75		0.75	Estimated	(Kros <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
Nutrient cycling factor (-)	1.77		1.82	Calculated	Data from Arp and Beier, pers. comm.

Table 3. Three years average pre and post treatment N-fluxes as calculated by SMART2, MERLIN and observed (mmol m<sup>-2</sup> yr). The standard deviations are given in brackets.

EGIL	KIM		MERLIN		Observed		SMART2		MERLIN		Observed	
	SMART2		pre	post	pre	post	pre	post	pre	post	pre	post
	pre	post										
Deposition	77 (22)	83 (21)	76	59	77 (22)	83 (21)	21 (8)	0 (-)	14	0	21 (8)	0 (-)
Litterfall	262 (6)	257 (1)	485	487	-	-	195 (4)	197 (3)	469	477	-	-
Mineralisation	269 (1)	312 (3)	418	456	245 (-) <sup>1</sup>	271 (57) <sup>2</sup>	225 (2)	256 (2)	437	472	147 (-) <sup>1</sup>	201 (7) <sup>2</sup>
Uptake	307 (6)	301 (3)	486	485	-	-	238 (2)	247 (3)	470	482	-	-
Nitrification	10 (7)	30 (7)	-	-	45 (-) <sup>1</sup>	67 (11) <sup>2</sup>	4 (3)	8 (2)	-	-	2 (-) <sup>1</sup>	3 (0) <sup>2</sup>
Denitrification	0 (0)	2 (0)	-	-	-	-	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-	-	-
Leaching	18 (13)	54 (12)	28	48	28 (6)	47 (10)	5 (5)	8 (3)	4	9	3 (1)	9 (4)

<sup>1</sup> n = 1

<sup>2</sup> n = 2

The calibration of the simulated run-off chemistry without temperature effect was performed by comparing simulated concentrations with observed concentrations from the ROLF catchment (Fig. 1). The temperature effect was evaluated at the EGIL catchment from 1995 (Fig. 2).

## Results

### MODEL CALIBRATION

#### Calibration at the ROLF control catchment

Chloride concentrations were reproduced very well, indicating a well-simulated hydrology (Fig. 1). The NO<sub>3</sub> and the NH<sub>4</sub> concentrations were also well reproduced. The dynamics in SO<sub>4</sub> and BC2 concentrations were not fully reproduced by SMART2. The fluctuations of SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations were underestimated, as was also found by Van der Salm *et al.* (1995), who attributed this effect to the lack of vertical heterogeneity of the model. SMART2 considers the mineral soil as one-layer, neglecting vertical heterogeneity and consequently it underestimates the retardation of absorbing compounds. The pH was overestimated for the years before 1990, whereas the Al concentrations were overestimated during the entire simulation period. Changing the Al oxide dissolution constant leads either to an increase or decrease in both pH and Al concentrations, so calibration of the Al oxide dissolution constant cannot improve predictions of pH and Al concentrations at the same time. Wesselink and Mulder (1995) likewise could not reproduce both pH and Al concentrations by Al oxide solubility; this was attributed to

Al complexation with dissolved organic matter. An optimum value of the Al oxide dissolution constant was selected resulting in satisfactory pH values and BC2 concentrations. Taking into account Al complexation with organic compounds might lead to better results.

#### Calibration of the temperature effect at the EGIL catchment

The temperature effect was calibrated at the EGIL catchment using measured mineralisation and nitrification rates. The observed and simulated relative increase in N-mineralisation were comparable, about 10% (Table 3). Nitrification at EGIL was underestimated but the relative temperature effect was overestimated, which indicates that the Q<sub>10</sub> for nitrification might be too high. An increase in simulated NO<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub> concentrations started from 1995 (Fig. 2). This is also found for the observed concentrations, though to a lesser extent. The concentrations before 1995 were clearly underestimated, resulting in an underestimation of the three years pre-treatment N-leaching fluxes. This was probably caused by an overestimation of N-uptake, since N-mineralisation was slightly overestimated (Table 3). The relative increase in N leaching due to temperature rise was overestimated by SMART2. The observed increase was 68% whereas the simulated increase was 200 % (Table 3).

The higher measured N-contents in needles (Beier and Rasmussen, 1997) indicate a higher N-uptake after temperature rise, which was not predicted by SMART2. Even though SMART2 calculates a higher mineralisation and, therefore, a higher N availability, the N-uptake did not increase because the N-content in the biomass had already

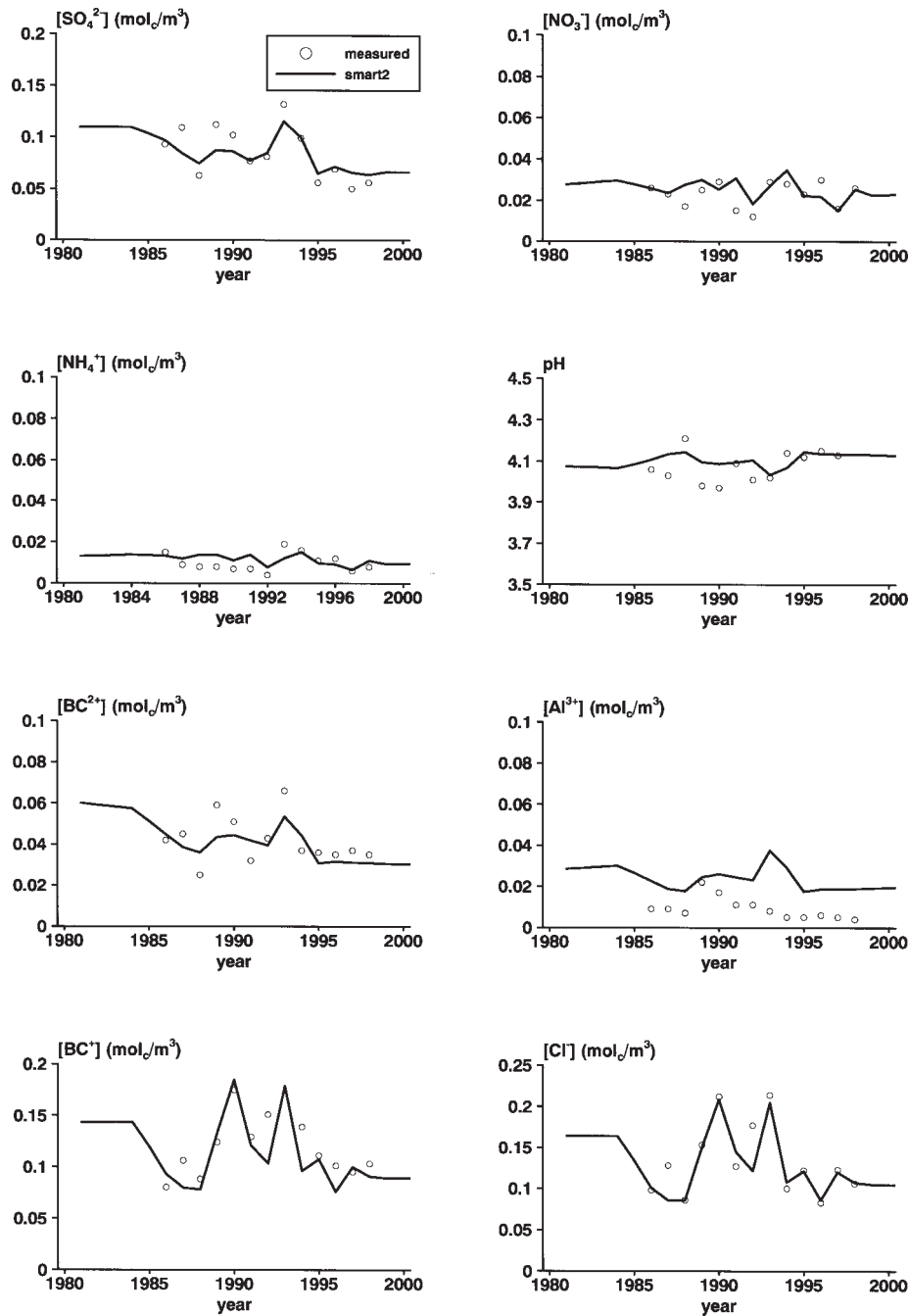


Fig. 1. Measured and simulated concentrations of  $SO_4$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $NH_4$ , pH,  $BC_2$ , Al, BC and Cl for the ROLF control catchment.

reached the maximum value before the temperature rise. In SMART2, N uptake can only increase if the N content in biomass is not maximal.

The lower actual Al hydroxide dissolution constant due to temperature rise (Eqn. 3) caused a decrease in calculated Al concentrations and pH with temperature rise. Furthermore,  $BC_2$  and BC concentrations increased due to higher weathering rates. This effect, however, was not sufficient to compensate the pH decrease due to a shift in

the Al hydroxide equilibrium and the increase in  $NO_3$  concentration due to enhanced mineralisation.

#### EVALUATION AT THE KIM CATCHMENT

##### *Deposition reduction (1984–1994)*

After calibration the model was evaluated at the KIM catchment using the same parameter set for the soil, except

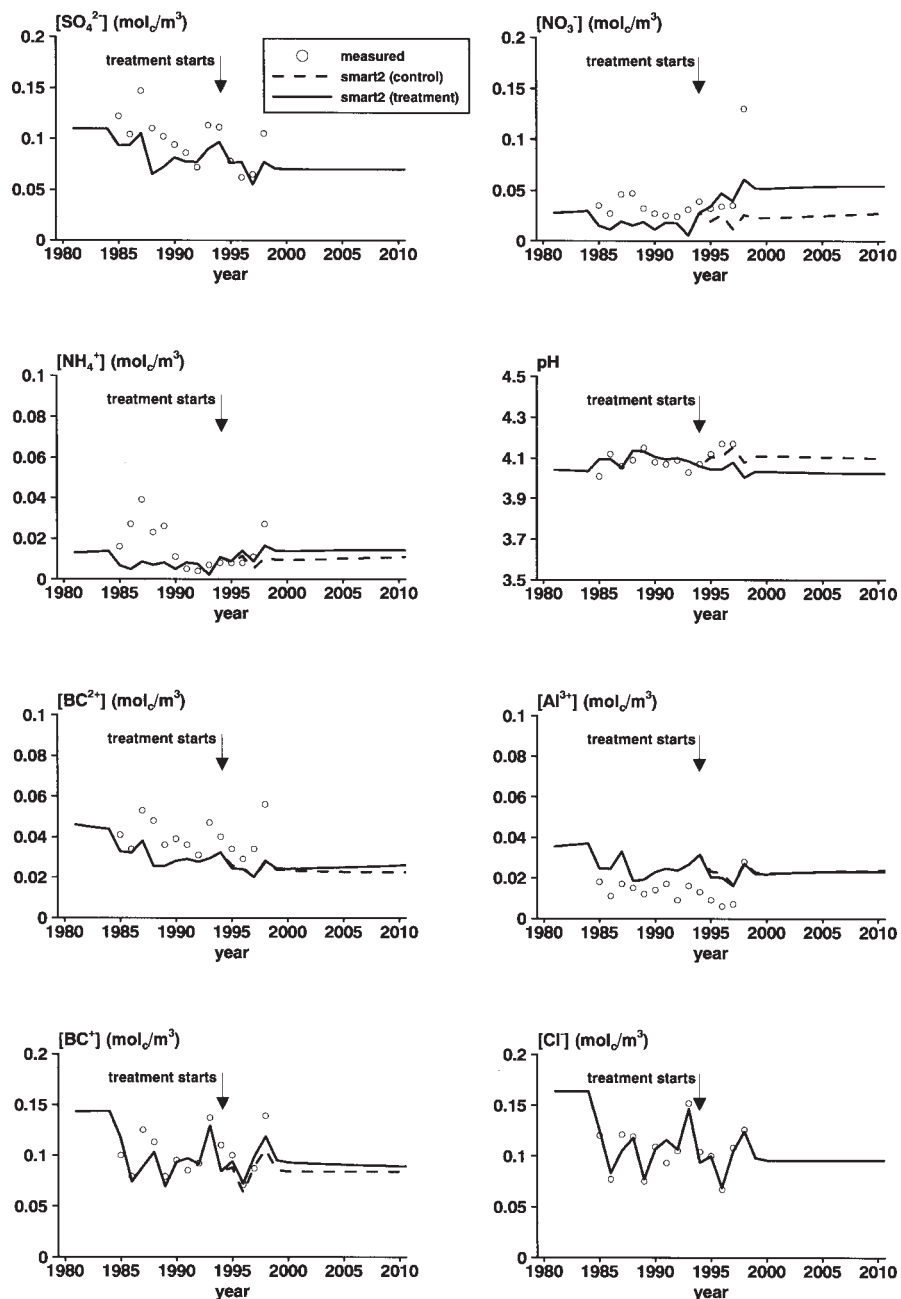


Fig. 2. Measured and simulated concentrations of  $SO_4$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $NH_4$ , pH, BC2, Al, BC and Cl for the EGIL catchment with a soil temperature increase starting in 1994.

for bulk density, CEC and organic matter (Table 2). The vegetation-related parameters differed at the two catchments: at the KIM catchment the ground vegetation was mainly *Calluna Vulgaris* L. whereas at the EGIL catchment it was *Vaccinium myrtillus* L. The predicted trends in  $SO_4$ ,  $NO_3$  and  $NH_4$  concentrations in run-off corresponded well with the observed trends but SMART2 underestimated the  $SO_4$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $NH_4$  and BC2 concentrations and overestimated pH (Fig. 3). Aluminium, BC and Cl concentrations were well

predicted. The underestimation of the concentration of  $SO_4$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $NH_4$  and BC2 might be caused by too strong a response to the reduction in deposition, which may be caused by an underestimation of  $SO_4$  desorption and too fast a release of N. BC2 concentrations are strongly correlated to  $SO_4$  input and higher acid input, due to higher  $SO_4$  input, induces an exchange of base cations by H and Al resulting in higher BC2 concentrations.



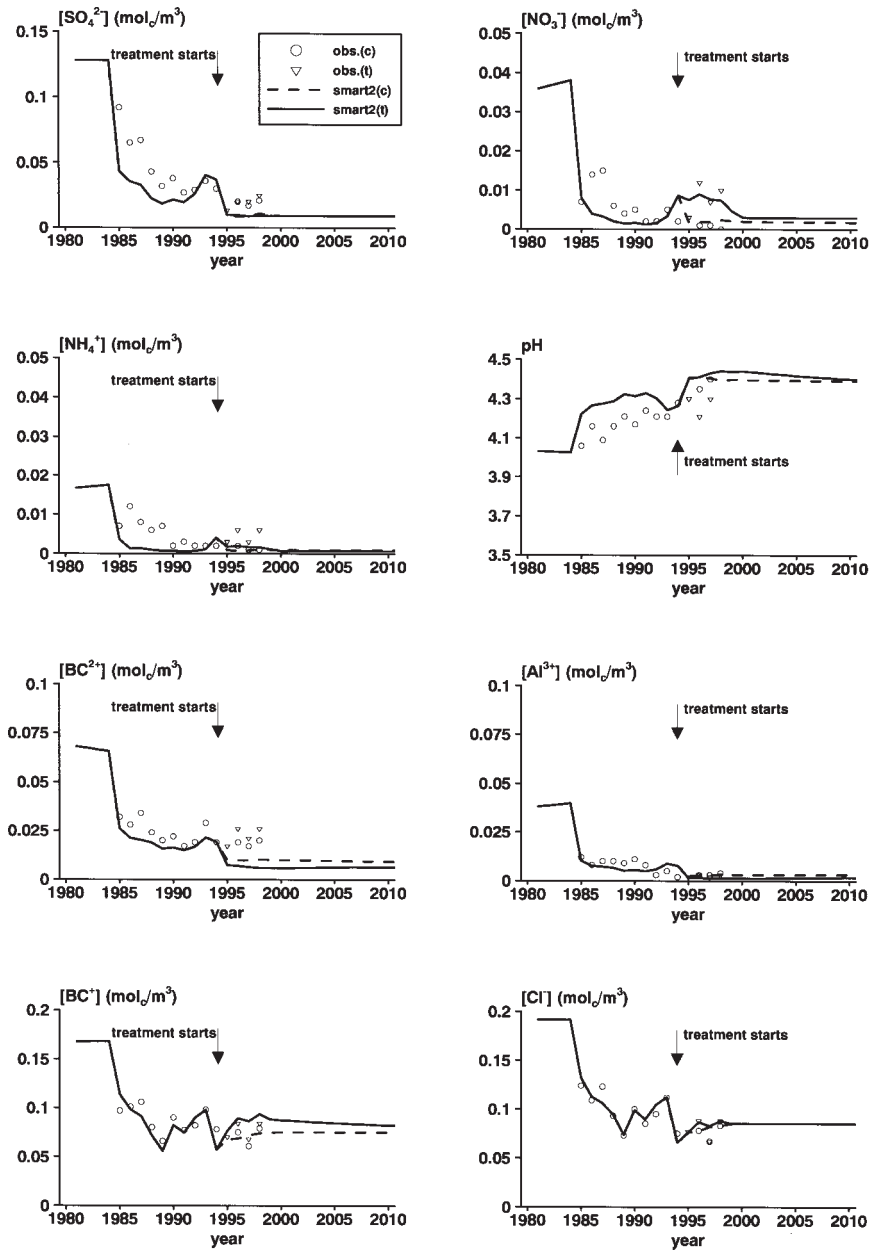


Fig. 3. Measured and simulated concentrations of  $SO_4$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $NH_4$ , pH,  $BC_2$ , Al, BC and Cl for KIM catchment with deposition reduction as from 1984 and a  $CO_2$  and air temperature increase starting in 1994.

### Temperature rise

The response of N concentrations to temperature rise after 1994 was simulated fairly well (Fig. 3), especially the increase in  $NO_3$  concentrations. In contrast to the EGIL catchment, SMART2 simulated an increase of N uptake due to temperature rise (Table 3). At the KIM catchment, the N content in the leaves increased because the maximum N content was not yet reached, which resulted in a higher N uptake.

The field experiments show little response to treatment in  $BC_2$  concentrations and no response in  $SO_4$  concentrations, whereas the model gave a decrease in  $BC_2$  concentrations and no response to  $SO_4$  concentrations (Fig. 3). SMART2 predicted a pH increase in response to temperature rise, whereas the observed pH actually fell. The Al concentrations were simulated adequately both before and after the temperature rise, although the effect was small. Both simulated and measured Al concentrations decreased due to temperature rise. The response of BC concentrations

to increase temperature was simulated well. Both the simulated and observed BC concentrations increased in response to increased temperature.

Since the short-term effect of soil heating was rather small, the possible long-term effect of temperature rise was evaluated by simulating the soil heating treatment at EGIL for a period of 200 years. The deposition during this 200-year period was taken as the average of 1995–1998. SMART2 predicts the climate change effect on N-leaching to be temporary (Fig. 4). After 100 years, the N leaching in the treatment run is equal to that of the control run. At the actual temperature, it took more than 100 years to reach a steady state (N saturation), whereas at the elevated temperature it took less than 50 years. At higher temperature, less N was accumulated in the soil because of a higher mineralisation rate. The  $\text{NO}_3^-/\text{NH}_4^+$  ratio changed due to increased nitrification. In the long term,  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentrations increased whereas  $\text{NH}_4^+$  concentrations decreased. At the KIM catchment (low deposition) a new steady state was already reached within five years (Fig. 3). Due to the lower

Al oxide dissolution constant at 8.7°C than at 5°C, the Al concentrations after temperature rise were lower than before resulting in lower pH.

## Discussion and conclusions

In general, the observed time-series in run-off chemistry in response to deposition reduction and temperature rise were well reproduced by the SMART2 model. At the roofed sites, however, SMART2 tended to underestimate the concentrations of  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and BC2, though the simulated trends were well reproduced. Mol-Dijkstra *et al.* (1998) tested the performance of SMART2 in response to deposition reduction at a spruce forest (Speuld) in the Netherlands, where two-weekly soil solution samples were taken with four replicates. The SMART2 results were compared with flux-weighted averaged concentrations obtained from observed soil solution chemistry and modelled hydrology. This uncertainty in fluxes due to high soil variability at Speuld frustrated the model validation. In

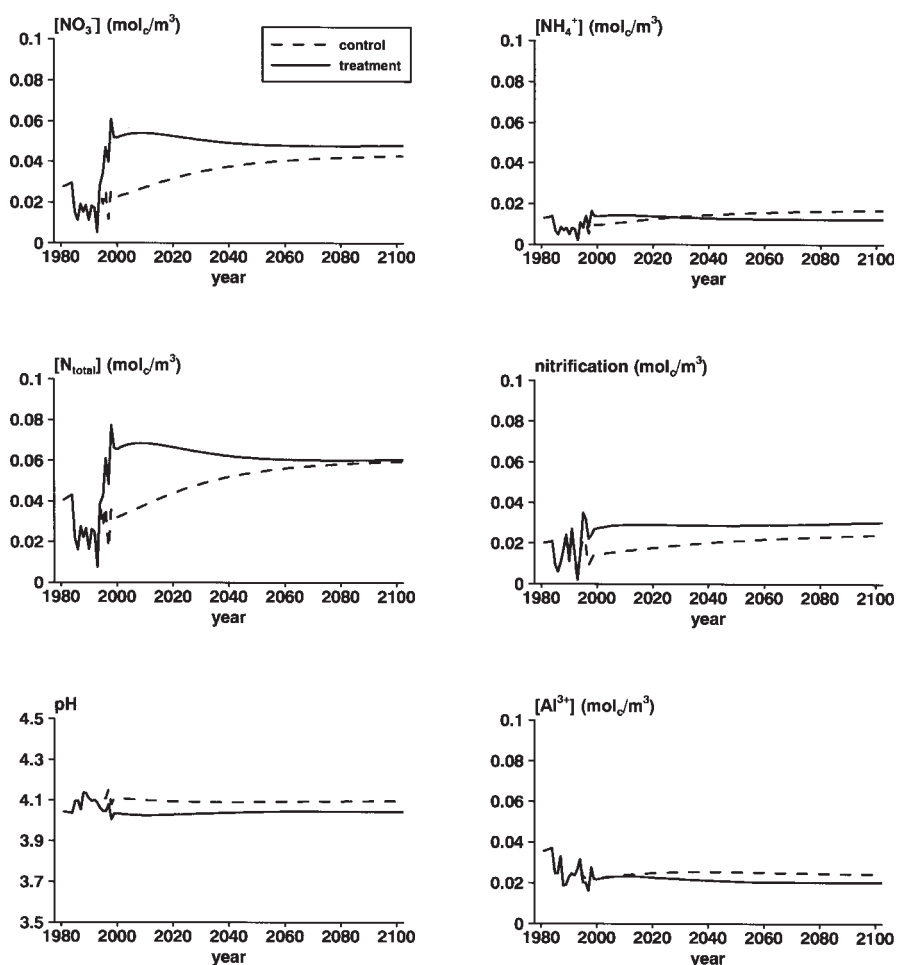


Fig. 4. Simulated concentrations of  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , total N and nitrification for the EGIL catchment in the long term

contrast to the observations at Speuld, the observations at the Risdalsheia catchments are observed annual average concentrations in run-off from the whole catchment, which means that the time and space resolution of measurements and modelling are similar. This application, with quite a long observation period, contributes to an increase in confidence in using SMART2 at the regional scale, especially to evaluate deposition scenarios.

The inclusion of the climate change effect in SMART2 was restricted to the temperature effect on mineralisation of old litter, nitrification, denitrification, weathering and Al oxide dissolution constant. For the N related processes, a  $Q_{10}$  value of 1.6 was obtained. Kätterer *et al.* (1998), however, found  $Q_{10}$  values for mineralisation of about 2.5 for comparable soil and vegetation types. Kirschbaum (1995) even found a  $Q_{10}$  value of 5.0 at a temperature of 5°C. Although there was an indication that N-uptake increased, the temperature effect on growth was not included because the effect on growth is not clear and the temperature dependency as well as the CO<sub>2</sub> dependency of growth is not well-known. An increase in N availability, however, induced an increase in N-uptake at the KIM catchment, which was caused by an increase in N content in the biomass. This increase was possible since at that low N input, the N content in the biomass was below its maximum. At the EGIL catchment, the maximum N content was already reached due to higher N input, so there was no response in N uptake. The inclusion of the temperature dependencies gave satisfactory results. The observed increase in N-run-off was well reproduced by the model, just like the observed increase in mineralisation and nitrification. Still, there is need to pay attention to the N-cycling in SMART2, considering the adaptation of the pH influence on mineralisation in this application.

Wright *et al.* (1998b) applied MERLIN at Risdalsheia. This model is of comparable complexity to SMART2 and gave comparable results. MERLIN is a simple process-orientated model focused on simulation of concentrations of inorganic N in soil leachate and run-off in terrestrial ecosystems (Cosby *et al.*, 1997). The model links the C and N cycles. The ecosystem is simplified to one plant compartment and two soil organic matter compartments (labile and refractory organic matter). The effect of temperature was included by changing the decomposition rate in 1995, the year the temperature treatment started. MERLIN calculated a higher N turnover than SMART2, due to a higher N input via litterfall (Table 3). Wright *et al.* (1998b) used estimated litterfall fluxes for shrub vegetation, whereas in SMART2 recently measured litterfall fluxes were used (Arp, pers. com.). Both models, however, calculated comparable N leaching fluxes. Considering the three years

pre- and the three years post-treatment, MERLIN calculated the increase of N leaching very well, but the year-to-year variations were not well reproduced. As with SMART2, MERLIN predicted increased N run-off in response to temperature rise. In the long term, however, MERLIN predicted an enduring higher N run-off in response to temperature rise (Wright *et al.*, 1998b), while SMART2 predicted only a transient increase.

The length of the period with increased N run-off in response to elevated temperature depends on deposition level. The SMART2 simulations indicate that with high deposition levels, the temporal effect of increased N leaching is longer than with lower deposition levels. Due to increased nitrification, the ratio between NO<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub> concentrations changes. NO<sub>3</sub> concentrations increase and NH<sub>4</sub> concentrations decrease.

It seems that the biochemical processes give a transient response to temperature rise, whereas the geochemical processes change is permanent. To test the model more rigorously in its suitability to predict responses to climate change, additional years of treatment would be needed. For instance, the strong temporal variability in the mineralisation and nitrification measurements makes it difficult to test the model behaviour in response to temperature rise over such a short period. Application to other soil warming experiments (Rustad *et al.*, 2001) would be additional to test the prediction climate change response of the model. The long term runs showed a transient effect of temperature rise dependent on deposition level and it would be essential to test this effect in the field.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Commission of European Communities (DYNAMO ENV4-CT95-0030). Data from Risdalsheia came from the CLIMEX project. CLIMEX was supported by the Commission of European Communities (EV5V-CT91-0047 and EV5V-CT95-0185), the Dutch Global Change Program, the Research Council of Norway, the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, the National Environment Research Council (UK), Hydrogas Norge A/S, and the Norwegian Institute for Water Research. We thank Wim Arp, Claus Beier and Richard F. Wright for providing unpublished data. CLIMEX was a contribution to core research category 1 of the Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems (GCTE) core project under the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP). We thank Richard F. Wright and Wim de Vries for their comments on the manuscript. Bert Jan Groenenberg is thanked for the derivation of some temperature dependencies.

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