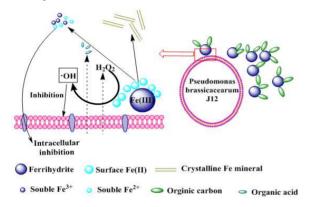
## Iron minerals inhibit bacterial decomposers via a free-radical mechanism: Implications for soil carbon storage

HAIYAN DU<sup>1</sup>, GUANGHUI YU<sup>1</sup>\*, FUSHENG SUN<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing 210095, PR China (duhaiyandu@126.com) or \*correspondence (yuguanghui@njau.edu.cn)

## Introduction

Natural minerals in soil can inhibit the growth of bacterial decomposers that protect organic carbon from decay. Here, using a series of cultivation experiments and biological, chemical as well as synchrotron-based spectral analyses, we indicated that Fe(III)-containing minerals inhibit bacterial decomposers via a free-radical mechanism.



**Figure 1.** Schematic of the bacterial inhibition by Fe(III)-containing minerals through a free-radical mechanism.

## Discussion

Surface Fe<sup>2+</sup> is produced from the reduction of Fe(III) on the surface of Fe(III)-containing minerals, promoting the production of HO<sup>•</sup> through the Fenton reaction or Fenton-like reaction. Oxidative damage of extracellular HO<sup>•</sup> may lead to bacterial inactivation, and protection of C from microbial degradation.

Unpublished works