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SOLID-STATE ^{13}C AND ^{15}N NMR SPECTROSCOPIC ANALYSIS OF ORGANIC MATTER IN A MEDITERRANEAN SOIL AFTER AMENDMENT OF N-AMMOXIDIZED LIGNINS

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Nitrogen (N) availability is a crucial factor for maintaining soil productivity. However, application of mineral N fertilizer encounters environmental concerns. Therefore, the use of ammonoxidised technical lignins was suggested, since they may act as potential slow N-release fertilizers. Testing their applicability to agricultural soils, studying their impact on soil organic matter composition and stability, bioavailability of added N and the impact on soil fertility and are still needed, and were the major goals of this study. For those purposes we performed pot experiments in which *Lolium perenne* was grown on a typical Andalusian soil (calcareous Rhodoxeralf) after amendment of N-lignins, highly enriched in ^{15}N (^{15}N -Sarkanda and ^{15}N -Indulin ammonoxidized lignins) for 75 days (Liebner et al, 2011). The ^{15}N enrichment allowed the application of solid-state ^{15}N NMR spectroscopy. The solid-state ^{13}C NMR spectra of the ^{15}N -lignins showed the typical lignin pattern and the respective solid-state ^{15}N CPMAS NMR spectra demonstrated signals assignable to pyrrole-type N, aminobenzoquinones, aminohydroquinones, aromatic amines and ammonium. However, after 30 days of incubation those signals disappeared in favor to signals typical for peptide structures, although some intensity remained in the chemical shift region assignable to pyrrole-type N. The shift of ^{15}N signal intensity is most tentatively caused by the fast and efficient recycling of amino groups released from the lignin backbone for the build-up of new microbial biomass. With respect to soil organic C, the solid-state ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy revealed no major alteration due to incubation. Reference; Liebner, F., et al., 2011. *Angewandte Chemie* 50, 34-39.