

## ***Interactive comment on “Measurement and modelling of rainfall partitioning by deciduous *Potentilla fruticosa* shrub on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, China” by Si-Yi Zhang and Xiao-Yan Li***

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Dear anonymous Referee #2,

We would like to thank you for your valuable and constructive comments. The comments are very helpful to the improvement of the manuscript, and will be well incorporated into the revision of the paper. The following paragraphs respond to your comments one by one.

General comments:

The manuscript (ms) reports on measurement and modelling of rainfall interception by a deciduous shrub species. Although several studies have already been published on

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the rainfall interception by deciduous shrubs, only in a few modelling was done. The specific characteristics of these cover-types, with drastic seasonal changes in canopy structure, could make this study quite useful and liable to provide relevant contributions on the subject. However, I think that the ms has several important shortcomings in the present form and that its focus/rationale needs to be improved and clarified. In my opinion, the ms needs a major revision before it can be considered for publication in HESS.

Thank you very much. We appreciate your suggestions and revised the ms accordingly, and improve and clarify its focus and rationale. Hope it can reach the standard of HESS.

Specific comments:

1. The English is poor and the ms does not read well (sometimes it is hard to understand what the authors are trying to say).

Thanks! The revised version will be edited and refined by a company of language services before it is resubmitted.

2. In some cases, standard terminology on rainfall interception is not used correctly by the authors. Usually, “interception” is used to describe the interaction process between rainfall and vegetation while “interception loss” refers to its evaporation component (the amount of water retained in plants surfaces that evaporates back into the atmosphere). The authors use the term “interception” with both meanings resulting in a confusing text (e.g., page 2, line 10–12, “The gross precipitation reaches the canopy is redistributed to interception, stemflow and free throughfall”; page 18, lines 12–14, “The stemflow are the part of interception that run down the stem, so if the interception reduces, the stemflow would reduce”). The authors should check all text and differentiate between concepts using the appropriate terminology.

Thanks! We checked text throughout and made sure the appropriate terminology was

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used. The details will be showed in the revised ms

3. The description of the experimental site and vegetation characteristics needs further information and to be reorganized. In page 5, lines 16–17, the authors say “The coverage of shrub is 26%, and the height of shrub is 35.4 cm”. How was this cover fraction evaluated? Does this value correspondent to the (average?) cover fraction of an individual plant or to the total percentage of cover area in the experimental site? Is the given value for shrub height a mean? What about other characteristics of individual plants (average number of stems per plant, mean diameter of each stem,...)? Although some of this data is presented in the ms, it is dispersed across several sub-sections (e.g., page 13, line 7). All this disperse information should be gathered together.

Thanks! More details were added in the ms.

Three 5 m by 5 m sample areas were selected randomly in the experimental site to survey the plant characteristic. evaluated by measuring each shrub patches area in three 5 m by 5 m sample areas. The shrub patches were treated as ellipses, and their axes were measured using a measuring tape. And the height of the shrub was measured in each patch. Six patches were selected to count their stems and measure their base diameters using a vernier caliper. The aboveground biomass of three of the six patches was collected and oven-dried at 65 °C and then weighed in June and another 3 patches in August.

The stem coverage (cs) within the shrub patches was estimated by taking and interpreting photos above the canopy in the leafless period. In the leafed period, the leaves in shrub patches nearby the stemflow and throughfall measuring plots were collected and scanned to calculate the one-sided leaf area before they were oven dried at 65 °C and weighted. The area of the shrub patches was measured and the leaf area index (LAI) was calculated as the leaf area of per unit of shrub patch area. The relationship between leaf coverage (cl) and LAI was simplified as linear and was set as 1 when the LAI was maximum (eq. (1)).

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$$cl=LAI/LAI_{max} \quad (1)$$

The LAI was thought to have linear relationship with day of year in the foliation and defoliation period and the linear equations were built up by measuring the LAI at the same time of the stemflow measurement in 11, 20 and 29 June, 17 and 31 July, 22 August and 2 and 11 September, respectively.

The stem density of the *P. fruticosa* is 385 stems per m<sup>2</sup> in the shrub patches. The given shrub height is a mean. The plant characteristic will be gathered together in Results 3.1.

4. Concerning the measurement of rainfall, throughfall, stemflow and micrometeorological variables, important information is missing. Location and type of the different gauges (tipping bucket and/or bottles) are not given. How were rain gauge locations chosen? How far from the edge of the patches were they placed? Did the gauges/bottles stay in fixed positions or were moved to new random positions each time they were measured? At what height were the micrometeorological sensors installed? Where were these sensors installed: above a shrub patch or in open areas between patches? What is the footprint for these data? Although micrometeorological data is from a previous study, it should be briefly described here. All this information is relevant to the study (measurement and modelling of rainfall interception) and should be presented in the ms. An aerial photography of the site with the location of the used devices (rainfall, throughfall and stemflow gauges and the Bowen ratio tower), would be helpful.

Thanks! The gross precipitation was measured by a tipping rainfall gauge (ARG100, Campbell, USA, 0.2 mm per tip). The rainfall gauge was located in a relatively flat, open area, and about 1 m above the ground, much higher than the shrubs. The throughfall and stemflow were collected by bottles. The gauge and bottles stayed in fixed positions in order not to disturb the shrub patches too often. The distance between the rainfall gauge and stemflow bottles / throughfall bottles was less than 100 m.

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The Bowen ratio tower is located on a shrub patch. The net radiation was measured at 2 m above the canopy with a 240-100 net radiation sensor (NOVALYNX, USA). The air temperature and relative humidity were measured at 1 m and 2 m above the canopy with the 225-HMP50YA sensor (NOVALYNX, USA). The soil heat flux was measured using a HFP01 sensor (Dynamax Inc., USA) at a depth of 0.05 m underground. Soil temperature and moisture was measured using a ECH2O 5TE sensor (Decagon Devices, USA) at a depth of 0.1 m underground. Wind speed and direction were measured using a 05103-5 sensor (RM-YOUNG, USA) at 2 m above the canopy. The footprint was not accurately analyzed. However, the Bowen ratio tower located in the core of a nearly homogeneous area larger than 500 m in diameter, which means its footprint can be consistent regardless of the wind direction.

No aerial photography of the site was taken. The Bowen ratio tower was shown in Figure 1, and the stemflow and throughfall were measured in the vicinity of 100 meters.

<Figure 1 The Bowen ratio tower>

5. To extrapolate stemflow measurements to the total patch area the authors used a stepwise methodology to derive a regression model. Which were the independent variables considered in this analysis? Though the final model has only three variables (page 7, eq. 1), were other structural features/rainfall characteristic considered? One of the variables included in eq. 1 is  $q$ , "the number of rainfall events that generate stemflow" (page 7, lines 5–6). How was  $q$  evaluated? In page 6, lines 14–16, it is stated that "Because it is very difficult to collect stemflow in the remote area, we did not measure stemflow for each rainfall events, and we measured and recorded stemflow eight times during the study period". Given this, how do the authors know the number of rainfall events that generate stemflow in each period?

The considered independent variables in the regression modelling included stem canopy structure parameters (basal diameter, basal area, stem length, stem biomass, leaf biomass, leaf area, aboveground biomass) and rainfall characteristics (rainfall

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amount, rainfall intensity, maximum rainfall intensity in 10 min, rainfall duration, wind speed). The final model with three variables entered is the best model with the least root-mean-square of residuals.

$q$  is the number of rainfall events that generate stemflow, that is, the amount of rainfall larger than that required to saturate the stem ( $P_G$ ), which can be calculated using the micrometeorological and canopy data.

6. It seems to me that the authors do not totally understand the sparse version of Gash's analytical model.

(a) They say that the model requires several parameters and refer that "the free throughfall coefficient ( $p$ ) and the canopy coverage ( $c$ )" are two of them (page 9, line 19). In page 18, lines 16–17, they restate that  $p$  is a parameter of the model. This is not correct! The sparse version of the Gash model only requires  $c$ , the proportion of covered area relative to the total area.

Thank! We agree with you, and modified the description in the ms. As a substitute for direct measurement, the coverage can be assumed to be one minus free throughfall coefficient (Shi et al., 2010; Fan et al., 2014). The free throughfall coefficient can be estimated as the slope of the linear regression of throughfall against gross precipitation for small rainfall events that were insufficient to exceed canopy storage capacity (Jackson, 1975; Shi et al., 2010; Fan et al., 2014).

(b) Although not acknowledged, the authors mix the sparse version of the Gash model proposed by Gash et al. (1995) with the slightly different version presented later by Valente et al. (1997) (e.g., the amount of rainfall required to saturate the trunks ( $P_g$ ) is only defined by Valente et al. (1997)).

Thanks! We have modified the description in the ms. In the sparse version of the Gash model proposed by Gash et al (1995), the amount of rainfall required to saturate the trunks was defined as  $St/pt$ .

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(c) Two of the most important parameters of the sparse version of the Gash model are  $R$  and  $E_c$  (and not  $E$ , as it is said in page 10, line 3). According to Gash et al. (1995), these parameters are the mean rainfall rate and the mean evaporation rate during saturated conditions, respectively, and should be representative for the whole modelling period. Following Gash (1979), the method usually used to derive  $R$  is the average of all hours with rainfall equal or greater than 0.5 mm (two bucket tips) for the whole modelling period. How did the authors calculate  $R$ ? Nothing is said about this. The same happens with  $E_c$ . The authors say they used data obtained with the Bowen Ratio/Energy Balance method (BREB) (page 11, lines 10–11), but do not say how.

Thanks! For the sparse version of the Gash model, the mean rainfall rate ( $R$ ) was the average of all hours with rainfall equal or greater than 0.4 mm (two tips) for the whole modelling period. For the new version model, the ( $R_j$ ) was the average of all hours in each rainfall event ( $j$ ).

The  $E$  estimated using BREB was 10 min interval. For the sparse version of the Gash model, the mean evaporation ( $E$ ) was the average of all hours with rainfall equal or greater than two tips for the whole modelling period. For the new version model, the ( $E_j$ ) was the average of all hours in each rainfall event ( $j$ ).

These details have been added to the ms.

(d) Besides, it seems that the authors do not fully understand the meaning of  $E_c$ . It represents the evaporation rate at which intercepted water can evaporate from a fully saturated canopy. But the authors say that  $E_c = E/c$  (page 10, line 8). What is the meaning of  $E$  in the context of the sparse version of the model? If  $E$  is the actual measured evaporation rate from a fully wet vegetation and it is assumed that the only water source is the studied wet vegetation then this relationship is correct. Otherwise, it is not. It seems to me that the authors did not get it correctly. In fact, the authors say (page 23, lines 12–13) that “the average evapotranspiration in *P. fruticosa* shrub meadow was 0.11 mm h<sup>-1</sup> during the experimental period”. How was this calculated?

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They also refer that “the hourly evaporation varied greatly in different time, ranging from -0.04 to 0.87 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, controlled mainly by radiation” (page 23, lines 16–17). However, during rainy/cloudy conditions (when the canopy is saturated), radiation is typically low and evaporation rate should not change much. This may suggest that the aforementioned values include periods where the vegetation is not fully wet, possibly not representative of saturated canopy conditions.

Thanks!  $E$  is the actual measured evaporation rate from a fully wet vegetation.  $E = 0.11$  mm h<sup>-1</sup> was the average actual measured evaporation rate of all hours with rainfall equal or greater than 0.4 mm (two tips) for the whole modelling period.

It is true that during rainy/cloudy conditions, radiation is typically low. However, the weather is changeable, especially on the Plateau and in summer. It is common that there are a few hours of sunshine between two showers, or alternation of sunny day and shower with inter-event times less than 8 h. In this condition, the radiation and evaporation can change greatly and have a high peak in the fine weather (see the grey parts in Figure 2).

<Figure 2>

(e) The authors present three equations (page 10) to calculate the different components of rainfall interception (interception loss, stemflow and throughfall). Although based in the model version proposed by Valente et al. (1997) (again not acknowledged here), these equations do not describe the sparse version of the Gash model. As the authors say (page 9, lines 11–13), one of the assumptions of the model is that  $E_c$  and  $R$  are assumed constant over the whole modelling period. However, while gross precipitation seems to be constant (since the  $j$  index is missing in  $P_g$ ), but should not,  $E_c$  and  $R$  can change from storm to storm (because they have a  $j$  index). Moreover and contrary to the current practice, trunk storage capacity ( $St$ ) is expressed in mm on a projected cover area basis (that is why it is necessary to multiply  $St$  by  $c$  in eq. 4 and 5). Whenever the units of a parameter are water depth (e.g., mm), it should be clearly stated in

C8

the text what is the reference area (e.g., ground area, covered area, . . .).

Equations you referred to have been modified to adapt the sparse version of the revised Gash model. These equations were all right when used in the modelling, however, when wrote the ms, they were copied from the equations for the new version model, and some details were not modified. These mistakes were corrected. All the symbols in text and eqs. were checked and mistakes were revised.

The patch canopy water storage capacity ( $S$ , mm), the leaf water storage ( $Sl$ , mm) and the stem water storage ( $Ss$ , mm) were defined as the water storage per patch area and were estimated using the data of patch aboveground biomass, stem biomass and leaves biomass along with the patch area from plant survey. The  $Sl$  would change along with the foliation and defoliation. The  $Ss$  was thought to be constant in the experimental period as the stem grows quite slowly in the cold region.

(f)The authors present a new version of this model to adapt it to the studied deciduous shrub (page 10, line 17 to page 12, line 10). They assume that the evaporation rates from all the vegetation components (canopy, stems and inter-patch herbs) are the same. I am not sure if this is a realist assumption, since roughness and/or the micrometeorological conditions are seldom similar.

Thanks! We agree to the fact that there is difference between the evaporation rates from different vegetation components due to the reasons the reviewer identified. We proposed this assume just think it could be better than the original assumes considering the leafless period and the height of the shrub. Zheng (2015) reported that in the growing season, the mean evaporation rates for the shrub and nearby grass land were 2.80 mm d<sup>-1</sup> and 2.52 mm d<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The results of Zheng (2015) showed that the evaporation rates from shrub patches and inter-patch grass land can be roughly equal and the grass land evaporation should not be neglected. The original model assumed the trunk evaporation only happens in the drying out period and the inter-patch evaporation is assumed as zero. The original assume of course is not the real fact,

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too. Especially, in the leafless period, rain can fall on the stems and then evaporated directly. The evaporation is a complicated process, and it is difficult to distinguish evaporation rates on different surfaces. The original and present assumes are all for simplify in modeling these process.

(g)Nevertheless, the requirements of the energy and water balances should be met. When all the vegetation is saturated, the measured BREB values ( $E$ ) represent the evaporation of the total area and not just of the wet shrubs cover (see my previous comment 6.(d)). It seems to me that the authors did not took into account the water balance equation in their new modelling proposal (page 12, eqs. 8 and 9 and Table 2). How were these new equations obtained? An explanation is needed.

Thanks! When all the vegetation is saturated, the measured BREB values ( $E$ ) represent the evaporation of the total area and not just of the wet shrubs covered. And it is assumed that the evaporation rates from all the vegetation components (canopy, stems and inter-patch herbs) are the same. So, the BREB values ( $E$ ) also represent the evaporation rates of the canopy.

The new equations for the new model were obtained as following Supplement I:

(h)Another important missing information is the “time-step” used to run the model. Although the model is storm-based, it is usually run assuming that each rain day is an independent rainfall event. Which procedure did the authors used?

The micrometeorological data is 10 min average, and the evaporation was calculated in 10-min step firstly. For the new version model, the 10-min interval rainfall intensity and evaporation rate were averaged in each rainfall event. The model was run basing on storm record, not basing on rain day. A simple Matlab (Version R2008b) procedure was wrote by the authors and was used in the modeling.

7. The authors present results on the water storage capacity of leaves and stems (page 13, lines 12–16) but do not explain how they were obtained. Only the method used

C10

to measure branch water storage capacity is described. Furthermore, they do not explain how ml were converted into mm (page 13, line 18). What is the reference area in the latter? The method used to estimate another model parameter (pt) is not also described in the text.

The canopy storage capacity was measured under artificial simulated rainfall. Firstly, the stretch angle of branches of *P. fruticosa* were measured in situ. Then, they were excavated and carefully took back to the laboratory in a whole plant with some soil to assure that they were fresh. In the laboratory, branches were cut off from the base and weighed and then fixed on a wood base at their original angle. Artificial simulated rainfall was implemented immediately. Other three fresh bare stem without leaves were also experienced in the artificial simulated rainfall. After rainfall, each branch was weighed again, the difference of the weight before and after the rainfall was the water the branch stored. Then, leaves were picked away, the bare stems were dried to their original weight (when the weight of three bare stems equaled their original weight). The simulated rainfall was implemented again. After rainfall, each stem was weighed again, the difference of the weight before and after the rainfall was the water the stem stored. The difference of the stored water by the branches and the stems is the water stored by the leaves. The leaves were scanned with a scanner to calculate the one-sided leaf area. The stems and leaves then were oven-dried and weighed. Totally, 33 branches were measured in the simulated rainfall at a rainfall intensity of 10.9 mm h<sup>-1</sup> and a rainfall duration of 1h. 10.9 mm h<sup>-1</sup> is the minimum intensity that the rainfall simulator could reach. The relationship between stem water storage capacity (Cst, ml) and stem dry mass (Mst, g), and leaves water storage capacity (Clf, ml) and leaves dry mass (Mlf, g) were thought to be linear. Wb (ml g<sup>-1</sup>), Wst (ml g<sup>-1</sup>) and Wlf (ml g<sup>-1</sup>) were the branch, stem and leaf water storage capacity per mass, respectively.

$$Wst=Cst/Mst \quad (3)$$

$$Wlf=Clf/Mlf \quad (4)$$

C11

The patch canopy water storage capacity (S, mm), the leaf water storage (Sl, mm) and the stem water storage (Sst, mm) were defined as the water storage per patch area and were estimated using the data of patch aboveground biomass, stem biomass and leaves biomass along with the patch area from plant survey.

$$Sst=0.1*Mst*Pst/A \quad (5)$$

$$Sl=0.1*Ml*Pl/A \quad (6)$$

where Pb, Pst and Pl are the aboveground dry biomass (g), stem dry mass (g), leaf dry mass (g) of a shrub patch; A is the patch area (cm<sup>2</sup>). The leaf mass and Sl were thought to have linear relationship with day of year along with the foliation and defoliation. The Sst was thought to be constant in the experimental period as the stem grows quite slowly in the cold region.

pt is estimate of the slope of the linear regression of stemflow against PG.

8. Considering the characteristics of the studied vegetation (deciduous), it would be expectable the presentation of data on the time evolution of some parameters, namely canopy cover, and canopy and stem storage capacities. This would provide support on the need of using time variable parameters instead of the usual constant values. Besides, as the authors used different Ec and R, it would be relevant to have a graph of their values along the modelling period. Neither of these variable parameters, nor the constant ones needed to run the sparse version of the Gash model are given in the ms.

Good idea. The coverage and water storage capacity of stems were thought to be constant as the stems grow very slowly in the high and cold region.

The time evolution of leaf area index (LAI) was showed in Figure 3. The LAI increased linearly until the end of July, and then decreased linearly until the end of experiment. The LAI had a maximum of 2.47 measured in 31 July, 2012. The leaf storage capacity also change along with the LAI with a maximum of 0.59 mm (Figure 4). The coverage

C12

of leaf ranged 0.53 to 1 and the total coverage ranged 0.84 to 1 (Figure 5). The rain intensity (rain larger than one tip) and the mean evaporation rates during the rain event were showed in Figure 6. The rain intensity ranged 0.06 to 2.40 mm h<sup>-1</sup> with an average of 0.76. The mean evaporation rates ranged 0.03 to 0.17 mm h<sup>-1</sup> with an average of 0.11 mm h<sup>-1</sup>.

<Figure 3 The change of leaf area index (LAI) along with the day of year (DOY)>

<Figure 4 The change of leaf storage capacity (SI) along with the day of year (DOY)>

<Figure 5 The change of patch coverage (C) and leaf coverage (CI) along with the day of year (DOY)>

<Figure 6 The intensity of rain events and the evaporation rates during the storms. The horizontal axis is the day of year (DOY) when the rains began. (Rain events which was only one tip were not showed)>

9. The performance of the tested models was only evaluated by the total error (EE). However, EE per se does not evaluate the quality of model performance throughout the simulation period. For that purpose, authors should have applied some additional measure, such as modelling efficiency (see Mayer and Butler, 1993, *Ecol. Modelling*, 68: 21-32).

According to the method of Mayer and Butler (1993), the modelling efficiency was calculated for the two models (Table 1). The variable parameters Gash model had better performance than the revised Gash model in all three rainfall partitioning. The modelling efficiency of throughfall, stemflow and interception of the VPG were 0.99, 0.99 and 0.79, respectively.

Table 1 Validation measures for throughfall, stemflow and interception of the revised Gash model (RG) and the variable parameters Gash model (VPG). MAE: the mean absolute error; MA%E: mean absolute percent error; RMSE: the root mean square error; RMSE%: the ratio of the EMSE to the range of observed values; EF: modelling

C13

efficiency	Throughfall	Stemflow	Interception	RG	VPG	RG	VPG	RG	VPG	MAE
7.47	1.52	6.56	2.37	3.58	2.17	39.09	10.52	15.08	11.00	23.02
14.75	10.31	2.04	11.99	3.27	4.05	2.72	19.20	3.80	10.55	2.88
15.38	15.38	0.89	0.99	0.53	0.79					

10. As in many other studies, the authors have conducted a sensibility analysis of the sparse version of the Gash model. The question is: what is new about this? If they have used their own model version this could be interesting. What has been done is just a repetition that does not bring any new insight on the subject. Furthermore, the presentation of the results and their discussion are incomplete. Why is not shown a positive change of c in the graphs (Fig. 2)?

In what concerns canopy cover (S), model sensitivity to this parameter was found to be very small which is not in accordance with most previous findings. However, the authors state that “the results in this paper are in accordance with [the] results” of other studies and will not be discussed in the ms (page 17, lines 6–8). On the other hand, they state that “the canopy storage capacity is the most important parameter in the interception modelling” (page 19, lines 11–12) which is contradictory. In my opinion, the authors should focus their work in what is new and relevant to the subject (modelling the rainfall interception process in a deciduous shrub cover).

Thanks. The sensibility analysis will be deleted in the revised ms, and the contradictory description will be eliminated.

11. Minor comments:

(a)Page 3, line 13 & page 4, line 6 – replace “Analytical” by “Conceptual”. The Rutter model is not an “analytical model”.

We replaced “Analytical” with “Conceptual”.

(b)Page 4, line 6 – what are semi-constants?

There are two values for a parameter, such as a Sc for leafless period and another for

C14

leafed period. Maybe they can be said constants after all.

(c)Page 4, lines 16–20 & page 4, lines 1–6 – the objectives of the work should be presented in a concise way. This text should be simplified and avoid repetitions.

Thanks! The objectives of this study were (1) to measure and analyze the rainfall interception, stemflow and throughfall of *P. fruticosa* shrub on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, China, and (2) to adapt the revised Gash model to the deciduous shrub using the directly measured variable parameters and to compare the results. The adapted model will consider the special canopy structure of deciduous shrubs. Some hypotheses would be reset due to the special canopy structure and weather condition. The changes of canopy parameter relating to the process of foliation and defoliation were monitored and some important canopy parameter measured directly.

(d)Page 6, line 6 – specify tip sensitivity of rainfall gauge.

The sensitivity is 0.2 mm per tip. We added this information to the ms.

(e)Page 6, lines 16–17 – there are only seven periods with measurements.

Thanks. We measured 8 times. Unfortunately, some stemflow and throughfall data was missed in July 17, 2012. But the data of leaf area index and rainfall characteristic in this period were analyzed. We added more details in the ms to illustrate it.

(f)Data from the 17th July 2012 is missing (Tables 3, 4 and 5). Authors should mention that in the text.

We added more details in the ms to illustrate it.

(g)Page 6, line 18 – are stem diameter units correct (mm)? A stem with 3.4 mm seems too small to support any collecting device to measure stemflow.

Yes. It is hard to collect the stemflow from such small stem. But we tried and found a device (Figure 7) to do it and it worked well. The stemflow was measured following the method of Zhang et al. (2015). A small sink was established by wrapping a piece of

C15

aluminium foil at the base of stem, the collected stemflow in the sink was drained to a storage bottle through a flexible plastic tube. The sink edges were 1~2 mm away from the wrapped shrub stems.

<Figure 7 Stemflow collection apparatus on a branch (photo courtesy of Si-Yi Zhang)>

(h)Page 7, line 19 – what is the meaning of “10 min frequency data”? Do the authors mean “10 min average data”?

Yes. It means “10 min average data” and was modified in the revised ms.

(i)Page 8, lines 15–17 – this sentence should go to the discussion section.

We'll discussed it in the discussion section of the revised ms.

(j)Page 9, line 6 – replace (Gash, 1975) by (Gash, 1979).

We revised it as your suggestion.

(k)Page 11, line 10 – the acronym BREB should be previously defined.

We'll defined it in the Section Materials and methods.

(l)Page 12, lines 1 and 4 – the subscript j is missing in the symbols.

Thanks. All the symbols in text and eqs. were checked and mistakes were revised.

(m)Page 12, line 15 – do the authors mean a storm with 50 years' return period?

Yes. The sentence was revised as: “The total rainfall amounted to 531.0 mm, and ranged from 0.2 mm and 40.0 mm except for a 106.2 mm storm with 50 years' return period in August.”

(n)Page 13, line 9 – according to eqs. 1 and 10, symbol for stemflow should be SF<sub>v</sub>, not SF<sub>b</sub>.

Thanks. All the symbols in text and eqs. were checked and mistakes were revised.

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(o)Table 1 – please remove the reference to Pg ; this variable is not in table.

It is removed.

(p)Table 3 – table not referred in text.

We now refer it in Section 3.2 Observed rainfall partitioning pattern.

(q)Figure 1 b) – I do not understand this graph. What do the authors want to show with it? Please explain.

Yes. It is somewhat hard to understand. It showed the cumulative number and amount of rainfalls whose rainfall depths were not larger than a given rainfall depth. We delete it and add a figure about the intensity and evaporation rate.

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Zhang S., Li X., Li L., Huang Y., Zhao G., Chen H.: The measurement and modelling of stemflow in an alpine myricaria squamosa community, *Hydrol. Process.*, 29(6), 889-899, 2015.

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C17

Chinese with English abstract).

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/hess-2016-589/hess-2016-589-AC2-supplement.pdf>

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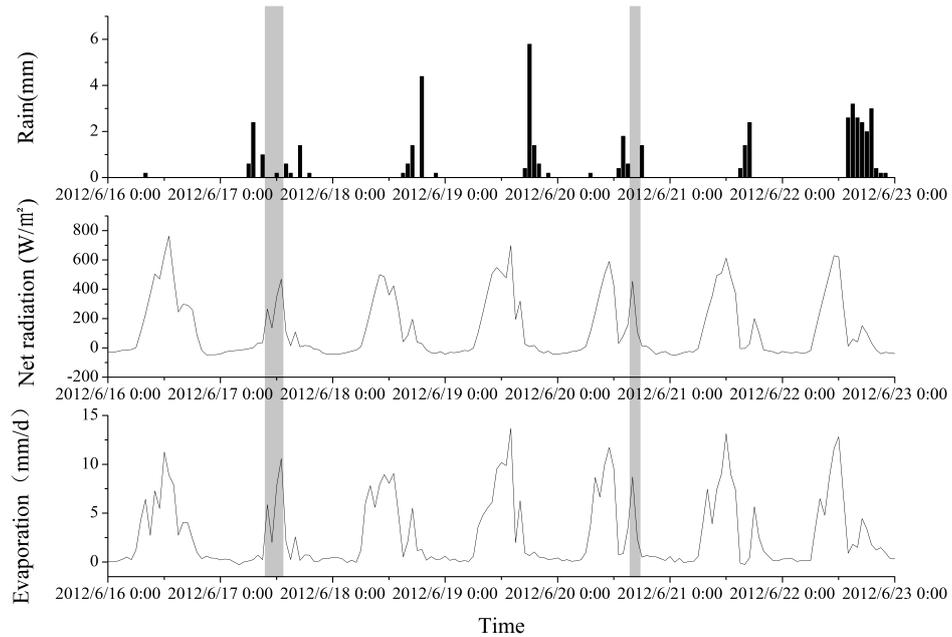
Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., doi:10.5194/hess-2016-589, 2016.

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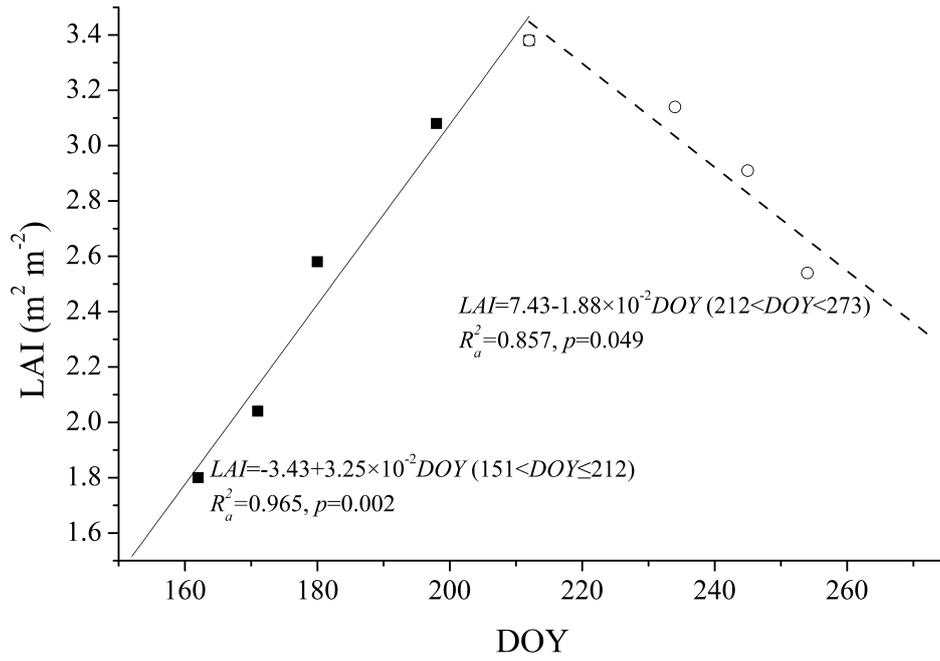
**Fig. 1.** The Bowen ration tower

C19



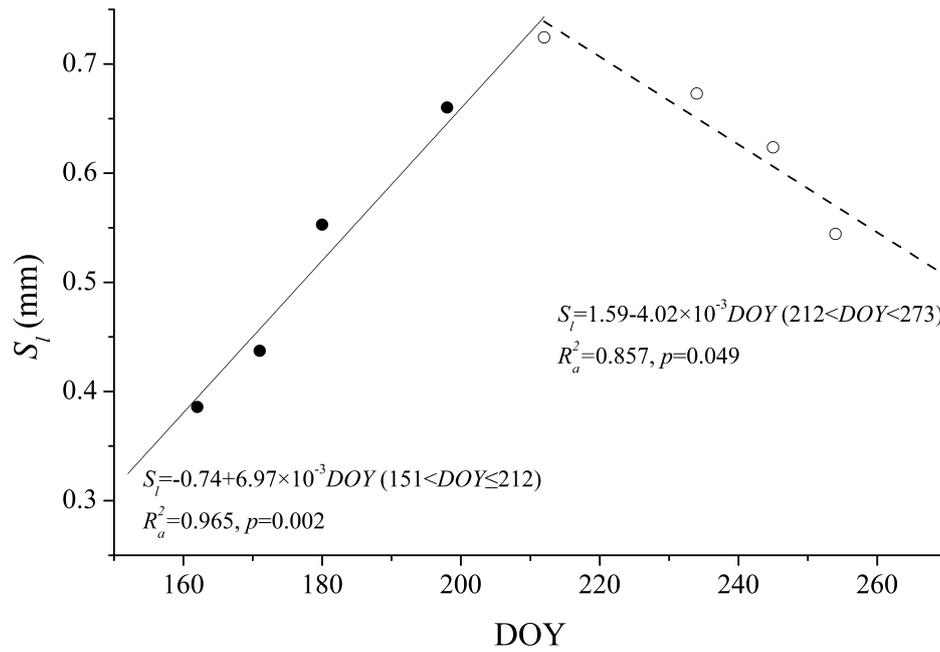
**Fig. 2.** Rain pulses and fluctuation of net radiation and evaporation during June 16, 2012 and June 22, 2012

C20



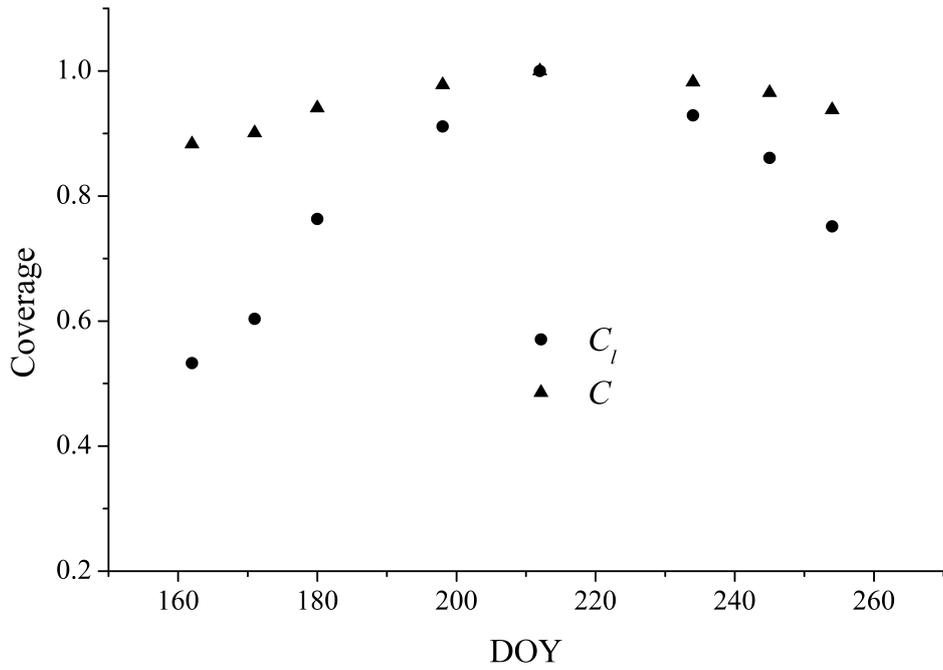
**Fig. 3.** The change of leaf area index (LAI) along with the day of year (DOY)

C21



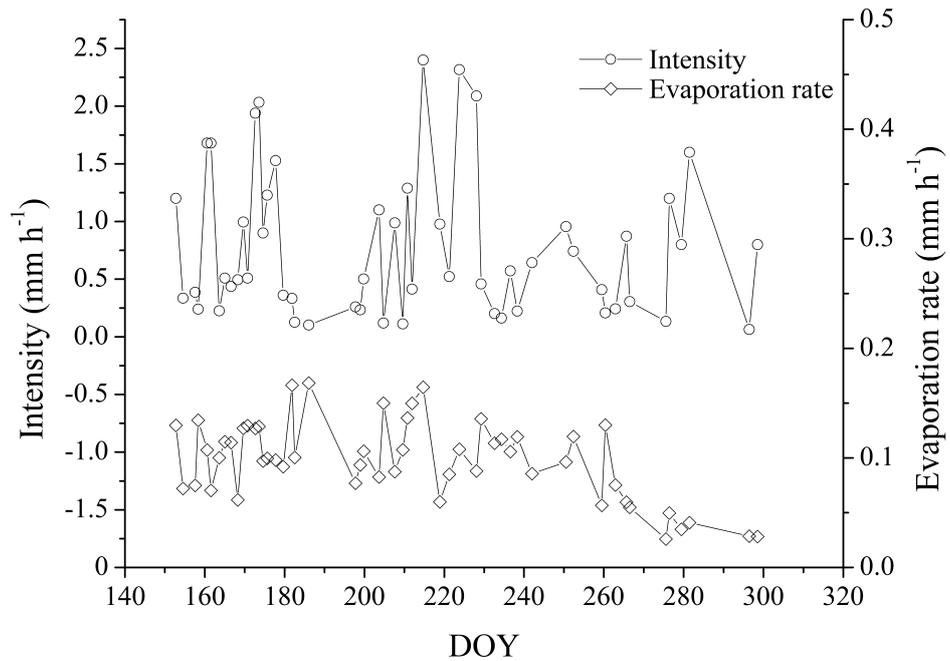
**Fig. 4.** The change of leaf storage capacity (SI) along with the day of year (DOY)

C22



**Fig. 5.** The change of patch coverage ( $C$ ) and leaf coverage ( $C_l$ ) along with the day of year (DOY)

C23



**Fig. 6.** The intensity of rain events and the evaporation rates during the storms. The horizontal axis is the day of year (DOY) when the rains began. (Rain events which was only one tip were not showed)

C24



**Fig. 7.** Stemflow collection apparatus on a branch (photo courtesy of Si-Yi Zhang)