could increase the sensitivity of the wicks to weathering and contamination of the soil solutions. This could increase the requisite duration for an optimal cleaning of the wicks, in the laboratory and in the field. In conclusion, we believe that the concluding statement by Goyne et al. (2000) should be more nuanced in that PCAPS might be useful to monitor the composition of dilute soil solution after a suited pretreatment of the fiberglass wicks. Therefore, in agreement with Goyne et al. (2000), we also believe that it is necessary to develop and to investigate alternative pretreatments to improve the cleaning of the fiberglass rope prior to use PCAPS in acid forest soils.


Response to “Comments on ‘Artifacts Caused by Collection of Soil Solution with Passive Capillary Samplers’”

We thank Drs. Brahy and Delvaux for their comments regarding our manuscript. Like these authors, we maintain that passive capillary samplers (PCAPS) have potential utility in geochemical studies. The abstract in Goyne et al. (2000) states that “the PCAPS used in this study are not suitable for aqueous geochemical studies of dilute solutions.” Further, the conclusions state that “they can be.”