

**Supplementary Information**

**Spatial Variations of Soil N<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O Emissions  
from a Temperate Forest: Quantified by the *In Situ*  
<sup>15</sup>N Labeling Method**

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**Upper slope**

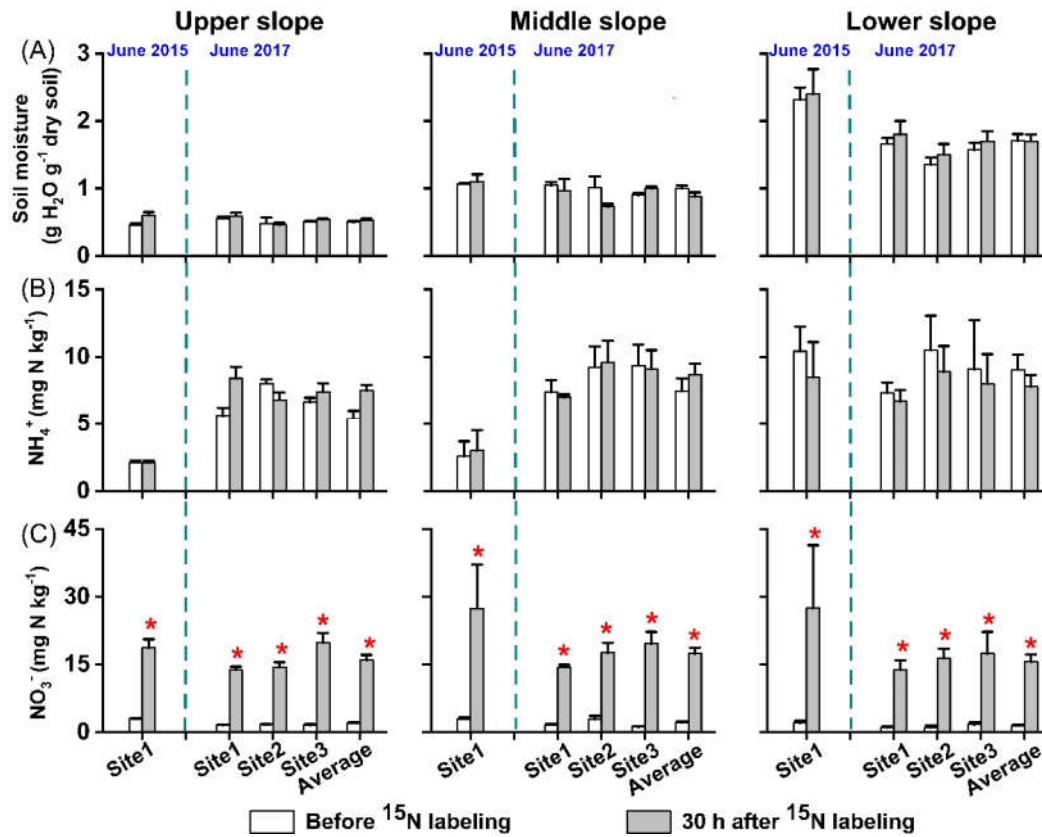


**Middle slope**

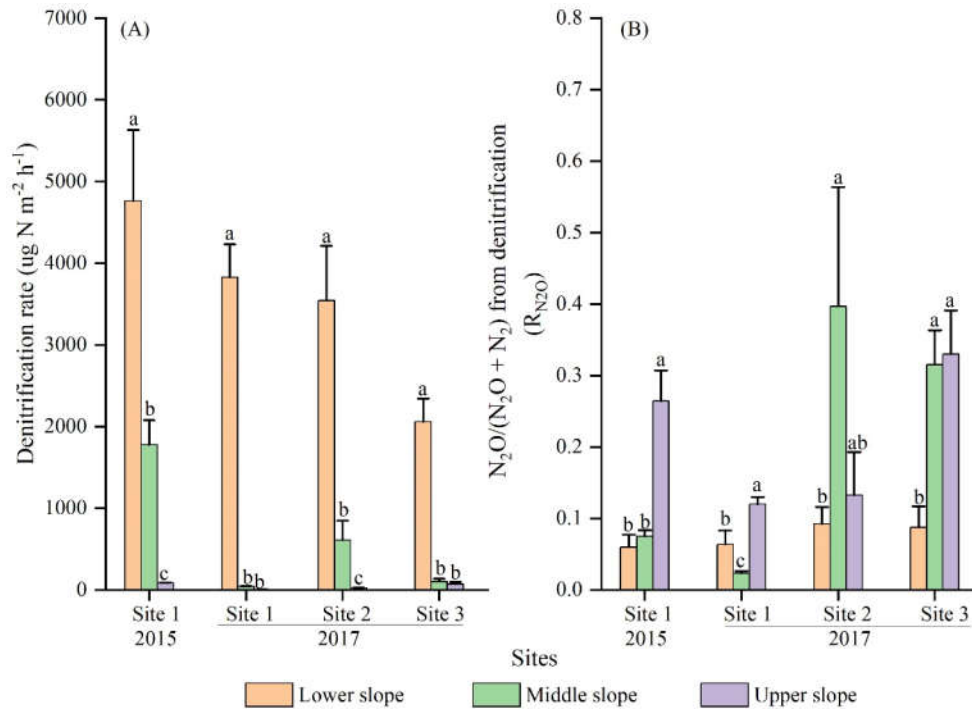


**Lower slope**

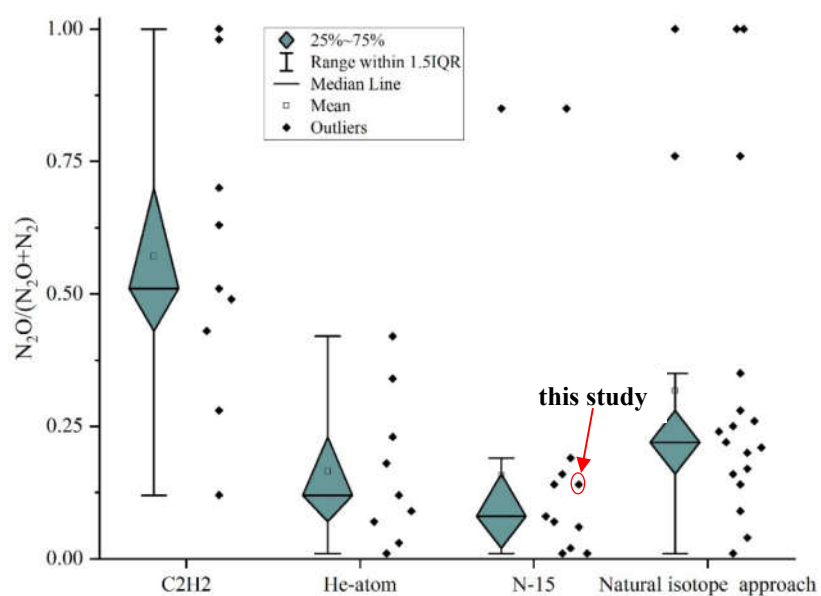
**Figure S1.** The sampling photos at the three slope positions (site 1) in the mixed forest of Qingyuan station in Northeast China.



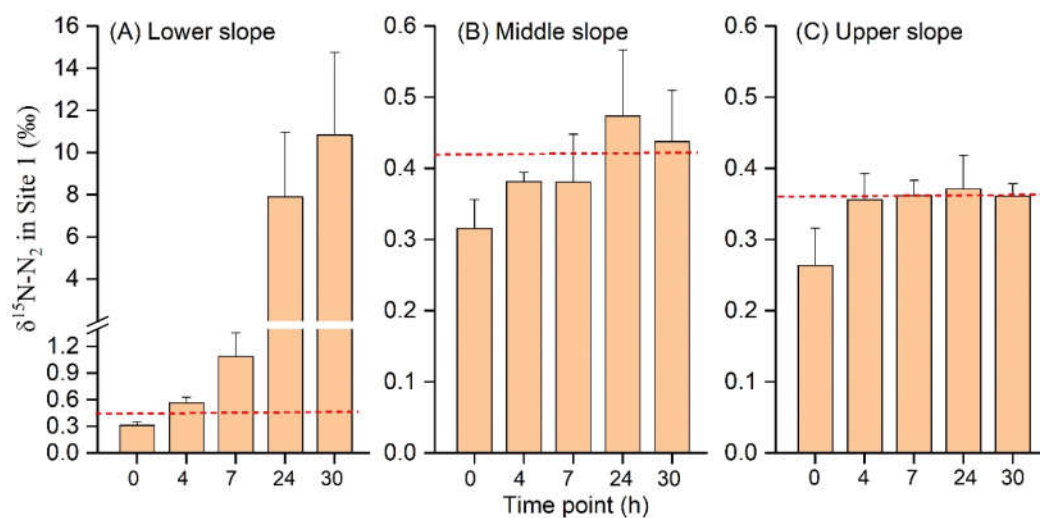
**Figure S2.** Changes of 0–20 cm soil moisture (A, express as gravity water content), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, B), and nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, C) contents before and after <sup>15</sup>N labeling at different slope positions in the mixed forest of Qingyuan station in Northeast China. Differences were analyzed by T paired-sample test ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Figure S3.** The rates (A) and  $N_2O/(N_2O + N_2)$  ratios (B) from denitrification over a 30 h incubation after *in situ*  $^{15}NO_3^-$  addition ( $2.5 \text{ g } ^{15}N \text{ m}^{-2}$ ) at different slope positions in the mixed forest of Qingyuan station in Northeast China. Values from different sites (1, 2, 3) and overall average were shown. Different lowercase letters indicate significant differences among slopes ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Figure S4.** Comparison of  $N_2O/(N_2O+N_2)$  ratios obtained by different methods for forest soils.



**Figure S5.** Changes of  $\delta^{15}\text{N-N}_2$  (‰) value with incubation time at the lower (A), middle (B), and upper (C) slope in site 1, respectively, after soil was labelled with  $^{15}\text{NO}_3^-$  addition ( $2.5 \text{ g } ^{15}\text{N m}^{-2}$ ) in the mixed forest of Qingyuan station in Northeast China. The red dotted line indicates the minimum detectable change for  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  (0.11‰) and the error bars represent standard errors.

**Table S1.** Recompilation of the values of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}/(\text{N}_2 + \text{N}_2\text{O})$  ratio in natural forest soils.

Location	Forest type	Methods	$\text{N}_2\text{O}/(\text{N}_2 + \text{N}_2\text{O})$	Notes	References
Kiel, Germany (Temperate)	Beech forest	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$	1.00	Field study	16, 24
	Alder forest	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$	0.70	Field study	
Tuttlingen, Germany (Temperate)	Beech forest	He-atm	0.23	Lab study	
		He-atm	0.03	Lab study	
Munich, Germany (Temperate)	Beech forest	He-atm	0.12	Lab study	
	Spruce forest	He-atm	0.34	Lab study	
Mississippi, America (Temperate)	Hardwood forest	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$	0.28	Lab study	
		$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$	0.12	Lab study	
Gottinger, Germany (Temperate)	Beech forest	N-15	0.85	Lab study	
Solling, Germany (Temperate)	Beech forest	N-15	0.19	Lab study	
Michigan, America (Temperate)	Sugar maple forest	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$	0.98	Lab study	
	Silver maple forest	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$	0.63	Lab study	
America (Temperate)	Hardwood forest	N-15	0.16	Lab study	
Northeast China (Temperate)	Pine forest	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$	0.49	Field study	
America (Temperate)	Wetland forest	N-15	0.02	Lab study	7
America (Temperate)	Hardwood forest	N-15	0.008	Field study	27
		He-atm	0.01	Lab study	
Puerto Rico (Tropical)	Cloud forest	N-15	0.06	Lab study	8
England (Temperate)	Deciduous woodland forest	N-15	0.07	Field study	28
	Mixed woodland forest	N-15	0.01	Field study	
America (Temperate)	Hardwood forest	He-atm	0.18	Lab study	9
Canada (Temperate)	Hardwood forest	He-atm	0.09	Lab study	10
America (Temperate)	Hardwood forest	He-atm	0.42	Lab study	
America (Temperate)	Hardwood forest	He-atm	0.07	Lab study	

Location	Forest type	Methods	N <sub>2</sub> O/(N <sub>2</sub> +N <sub>2</sub> O)	Notes	References
Southern China (Tropical)	Primary forest	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	0.51	Lab study	30
		N-15	0.14	Lab study	
	Second forest	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	0.43	Lab study	
		N-15	0.08	Lab study	
Southern China (Tropical)	Primary broad-leaved forest1	natural N and O isotope approach	0.09		24, 52
	Second broad-leaved forest		0.35		
	Primary broad-leaved forest2		0.14		
Northern China (Temperate)	coniferous forest (old-aged)		0.01		
	coniferous broad-leaved		0.04		
America (Tropical)	Tropical rain forests1	Natural isotope approach	0.76	Precipitation gradient	53
	Tropical rain forests2		0.28		
	Tropical rain forests3		0.25		
	Tropical rain forests4		0.20		
	Tropical rain forests5		0.16		
	Tropical rain forests6		0.17		
	Tropical rain forests1		1.00	Chronosequence	
	Tropical rain forests2		1.00		
	Tropical rain forests3		0.22		
	Tropical rain forests4		0.26		
	Tropical rain forests5		0.24		
	Tropical rain forests6		0.21		
Northeast China (Temperate)	Broad-leaved forest	N-15	0.16 <sup>a</sup>	Field study	This study
			0.15 <sup>b</sup>		
Mean			0.30		

Note: The references can be seen in the main text. <sup>a</sup> indicates ratio of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>denitrification</sub> to N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>denitrification</sub> plus N<sub>2denitrification</sub>; <sup>b</sup> indicates ratio of bulk N<sub>2</sub>O to bulk N<sub>2</sub>O plus total N<sub>2</sub>.



**Table S2.** Pearson correlations between soil properties in the mixed forest of Qingyuan station in Northeast China.

	Bulk density	pH	WFPS	TOC	TN	C/N ratio	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> /NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ratio
Bulk density	1.00	0.01	-0.07	-0.42**	-0.39**	-0.30*	-0.32*	0.22	-0.25
pH	0.01	1.00	-0.15	-0.13	-0.09	-0.23	0.22	-0.23	0.31*
WFPS	-0.07	-0.15	1.00	0.37*	0.25	0.60**	0.24	-0.09	0.23
TOC	-0.42**	-0.13	0.37**	1.00	0.91**	0.62**	0.77**	-0.20	0.51**
TN	-0.39**	-0.09	0.25	0.91**	1.00	0.37*	0.77**	-0.30*	0.54**
C/N ratio	-0.30*	-0.23	0.60**	0.62**	0.37*	1.00	0.31*	0.11	0.18
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	-0.32*	0.22	0.24	0.77**	0.77**	0.31*	1.00	-0.19	0.58**
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.22	-0.23	-0.09	-0.20	-0.30*	0.11	-0.19	1.00	-0.75**
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> /NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ratio	-0.25	0.31*	0.23	0.51**	0.54**	0.18	0.58**	-0.75**	1.00

\* and \*\* represent correlation significance at  $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.01$ , respectively.