

生物质炭的性质及其对土壤环境功能影响的研究进展

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摘要: 在厌氧或者绝氧的条件下对生物质进行热解, 可产生含碳丰富的固体物质, 称为生物质炭。由于生物质炭在农业和环境中的巨大应用前景和对土壤碳的增汇减排作用, 近期成为土壤学和环境科学的研究热点。综述了生物质炭的一些基本性质及其对土壤环境功能的影响, 分析了该领域未来的发展趋势。国内外的研究表明: 生物质炭含有大量植物所需的营养元素, 可以促进土壤养分的循环和植物的生长; 生物质炭一般呈碱性, 施用生物质炭可以降低土壤的酸度和有毒元素如铝和重金属对植物的毒性; 生物质炭表面含有丰富的-COOH、-COH 和-OH 等含氧官能团, 它们产生的表面负电荷使生物质炭具有较高的阳离子交换量(CEC), 施用后可以提高土壤的 CEC; 生物质炭对农药等有机污染物和重金属等有很强的吸附能力, 可用于污染土壤的修复; 生物质炭具有高度的孔隙结构, 可以增加土壤的空隙度和保水能力, 降低土壤容重, 有利植物根系生长; 生物质炭是一种含碳的聚合物, 主要由单环和多环的芳香族化合物组成, 这种结构特点决定了生物质炭具有较高的化学和生物学稳定性, 较强的抵抗微生物分解的能力, 增强了土壤的固碳作用, 减少碳向大气的再释放。该文可为从事农业废弃物的资源化利用、固碳减排、污染土壤修复和土壤改良与管理等领域的科研人员提供参考。

关键词: 生物质炭的性质; 土壤肥力; 固碳减排; 污染土壤修复

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在南美洲的亚马逊河流域, 人们发现了一种黑土(Terra Preta)^[1], 它呈黑色, 通常情况下有两英尺厚。它含有高浓度的碳, 较高的 pH 值, 很多有机物质如植物残留物、动物粪便、动物残体和鱼骨等, N、P、Ca、Zn、Mn 等营养元素含量较高。这类土壤的含碳量达 9%, 而附近其它土壤仅为 0.5%; 氮和磷的含量近乎附近其它土壤的 3 倍; 农作物产量是附近其它土壤上的 2 倍^[2]。这类土壤中微生物的活性也比附近其它土壤中的高得多。经过土壤学家、建筑学家、地理学家、农学家和人类学家的共同研究发现这是一种人为土, 是前哥伦比亚印第安人为了增加土壤的肥力而把各种垃圾烧成炭(生物质炭)施入到土壤里, 导致土壤呈黑色。这种土壤是亚马逊河流域发现的一种非常黑、非常肥沃的人为土, 是亚马逊流域最好的土壤。亚马逊黑土的发现揭开了人们对生物质炭研究的序幕。

在厌氧或者绝氧的条件下对生物质进行热解, 除生成 CO₂、可燃性气体、挥发性油类和焦油类物质, 还产生含碳丰富的固体物质, 一般称之为生物质炭^[3-4]。产生的生物质油或生物质气可以用来发电、精炼或用作燃料。生物质炭是含碳丰富、具有高热值而无污染的固体生物质燃料^[5]。生物质炭最重要的方面是它对土壤环境功能的影响^[6]。向土壤中施入生物质炭可以对土壤产生多方面的有益影响, 生物质炭可以提高土壤对营养元素的吸持能力

和阳离子交换量(CEC)、降低土壤的酸度和有毒元素对植物的毒性、提高土壤养分的利用率、增强土壤的保湿能力、改善土壤结构和其它物理性质、促进土壤微生物种群的发展并增强土壤微生物的活性、减少水稻土 N₂O 和 CH₄ 的排放、促进土壤养分的循环, 并且可以增加土壤有机碳的含量, 从而可以促进植物的生长^[7-11]。

制备生物质炭的生物质原料包括各种天然物质及其衍生物, 如木屑、农业和工业活动产生的有机废弃物、城市固体垃圾、畜禽粪便、水生植物和藻类等^[5], 但大多数原料来源于农业废弃物。将农业废弃物通过热解过程转变为生物质炭可以减少农业废弃物对环境的污染, 并可作为再生能源替代不可再生能源^[12-14]。生物质炭通过碳-负效应可以近乎永久性地将大气中的碳固定起来, 因此, 近年来生物质炭引起全球环境学家、土壤学家和农学家越来越多的关注^[15]。与制备生物质炭的原料相比, 生物质炭可以减少 CO₂、CH₄ 和 N₂O 等温室气体的排放^[16,17]。将生物质炭施入到土壤中近来被认为是一种对陆地生态系统中的 CO₂ 起到长期碳汇作用的新方法^[18-21]。

1 生物质炭的性质

生物质炭的环境功能主要决定于其理化性质。制备生物质炭的材料和制备条件如温度、氧气含量和时间对生物质炭的性质有比较大的影响^[22-24]。因此, 由于制备生物质炭的原料不同, 制备条件各有

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差异,获得的生物质炭的性质存在很大差异。例如,畜禽粪制备的生物质炭养分含量高于木屑制备的生物质炭的。高温条件下制备的生物质炭(700 °C)比低温下制备的生物质炭(400 °C)有更高的孔隙度,吸附能力也较强^[25]。

1.1 生物质炭的元素组成

生物质炭中含有大量植物所需的营养元素,除C含量较高外,N、P、K、Ca和Mg的含量也较高,C和N的含量由于燃烧和挥发的原因随温度的升高而降低,而K、Ca、Mg和P的含量随温度的升高而增加^[26]。由于热解过程中某些养分被浓缩和富集,生物质炭中P、K、Ca、Mg的含量高于其制备物料中的。原料的化学组成对生物质炭的元素组成和含量有重要影响,研究发现生物质炭中营养元素的含量和其来源物料中元素的含量呈直线相关^[27]。Yuan和Xu比较了由油菜秸秆、小麦秸秆、玉米秸秆、稻草、稻糠、大豆秸秆、花生秸秆、蚕豆秸秆和绿豆秸秆制备的生物质炭的元素含量,发现由于4种豆科植物秸秆中Ca、Mg和K含量高于5种非豆科植物残体的,4种豆科秸秆制备的生物质炭中这些养分的含量也明显高于5种非豆科植物残体制备的生物质炭的^[28]。畜禽粪便和堆肥含有大量的营养元素^[29],以这些有机物为原料制备的生物质炭的营养元素含量也很高^[30-32];木材来源的生物质炭总C含量高、灰分低、N、P、K、S、Ca和Mg含量低,阳离子交换量和交换性阳离子的含量也较低;由树叶制备的生物质炭养分含量介于上述两种生物质炭之间。造纸厂污泥来源的生物质炭的总Ca、交换性Ca和CaCO₃的含量均较高,但总K和交换性K含量很低^[33],由于Cu含量较高,长期农用可能造成二次污染。生物质炭富含碳,在400~500 °C条件下由畜禽粪便、花生壳和松木屑制备的生物质炭的碳含量介于40%~78%之间。所以,生物质炭具有固碳和用作有机肥的潜力。

1.2 生物质炭的碱性

生物质炭含有一定量的碱性物质,一般呈碱性。采用厌氧热解的方法分别于300、500和700 °C下制备了油菜秸秆、玉米秸秆、大豆秸秆和花生秸秆的生物质炭,研究发现生物质炭的碱含量和pH值均随制备温度的升高而增加。X射线衍射(XRD)图谱表明生物质炭中有碳酸盐晶体的生成,同时用气量法定量分析了生物质炭中碳酸盐的量,结果表明生物质炭中碳酸盐总量和结晶碳酸盐含量均随制备温度的升高而增加,碳酸盐是生物质炭中碱性物质的主要存在形态。红外光声光谱(FTIR-PAS)表明生物质炭表面含有丰富的-COO⁻(-COOH)和-O⁻(-OH)等含氧官能团,这些官能团在pH较高条件下以阴离子形态存在,可以与H⁺发生缔合反应,因此有机阴离子是生

物质炭中碱性物质的另一种存在形态。研究表明,生物质炭中有机阴离子的含量随制备温度的升高而减小,因此,较低温度下制备的生物质炭中有机阴离子对生物质炭总碱含量的贡献大于较高温度下制备的生物质炭的^[34-35]。在350 °C条件下用不同农作物残体制备了9种生物质炭,并测定碱性物质的含量,发现豆科物料制备的生物质炭的含碱量要高于非豆科物料制备的生物质炭的,说明物料种类对生物质炭的含碱量也有影响^[28]。由于植物生长过程对养分的吸收使得植物体内含有一定量的Ca²⁺、Mg²⁺和K⁺等金属阳离子,为保持体内电荷平衡,植物在生长过程中会在体内积累一定量的碱基(有机阴离子),在热解过程中,这些碱基被浓缩,使生物质炭呈碱性^[36]。因此生物质炭可以用作酸性土壤的改良剂来中和土壤酸度,提高土壤的pH值^[13,37-39]。

1.3 生物质炭的孔隙结构

生物质炭的孔隙度决定了生物质炭表面积的大小。按生物质炭孔径的大小可将其孔隙分为小孔隙(<0.9 nm)、微孔隙(<2 nm)和大孔隙(>50 nm)^[40]。大孔隙可以影响土壤的通气性和保水能力,同时也为微生物提供了生存和繁殖的场所;小孔隙可以影响生物质炭对分子的吸附和转移。用污水处理厂脱水污泥制备的生物质炭,在300~900 °C温度范围内生物质炭的孔隙结构随制备温度升高而增强^[41]。用玉米秸秆制备的生物质炭的孔隙度也随制备温度的升高而增加,在900 °C时炭的微孔隙和小孔隙的数量达最大值,然后随制备温度的进一步升高而下降^[42]。生物质炭的孔隙度对生物质炭保持养分离子的能力有很重要的作用^[29,43],生物质炭对养分的保持能力是通过保持水分的保持实现的。生物质炭的孔隙结构能减小水分的渗透速度,增强土壤对溶液中移动性很强和容易淋失养分元素的吸附能力,如高pH条件下的NO₃⁻和低pH值条件下的盐基阳离子^[44]。低温条件下制备的生物质炭,由于低温热解过程中产生的易挥发性的有机物在生物质炭表面的重新凝聚堵塞了生物质炭的毛孔,降低了生物质炭的吸附能力^[45-47]。生物质炭的孔隙结构可以为菌根和细菌这些有益的微生物提供生存和繁殖的场所^[48],微生物的基础呼吸作用、微生物生物量、微生物数量的增长和微生物的功能均随木炭施入水平(50、100和150 g·kg⁻¹)的增加呈线性增加^[49]。

1.4 生物质炭的表面化学性质

生物质炭是一种含碳的聚合物,FTIR-PAS分析表明生物质炭表面含有丰富的-COOH、-COH和-OH等含氧官能团^[35,50-53]。这些含氧官能团使得生物质炭表面呈现出亲水、疏水和酸碱的缓冲能力,这些性质决定了生物质炭在土壤中的功用。生物质炭表面的-COOH和-OH是其表面带负电荷的主要原因,zeta

电位(是胶体滑动面上的电位,它数值的大小和正负符号反映了胶体的表面电荷状况)的测定结果表明,随着体系 pH 升高,生物质炭的 zeta 电位数值变得更负,说明-COOH 和-OH 的离解增加了生物质炭表面的负电荷数量。生物质炭表面的-COOH 和-OH 含量随热解温度的升高而减少,使得生物质炭表面所带的负电荷减少。用 Boehm 滴定对生物质炭表面含氧官能团进行了定量分析,结果表明生物质炭表面的-OH 的数量多于-COOH,两者均随热解温度的升高而降低^[54],这与 FTIR-PAS 及 zeta 电位的分析结果一致。生物质炭表面丰富的含氧官能团所产生的表面负电荷使得生物质炭具有较高的 CEC。向土壤中施入生物质炭可以提高土壤的 CEC^[28,33,39,55]。研究表明生物质炭的 CEC 与氧原子和碳原子的比值(O/C)相关性较好,O/C 比值越高,CEC 值越大。高的 O/C 比值与快速热解制备的炭表面存在有羟基、羧基和羰基的现象相一致^[56]。生物质炭表面某些官能团会发生氧化,导致表面含氧官能团的数量增加,因此随着生物质炭在土壤中存在时间的增加,其 CEC 增加^[44,47,57]。

1.5 温度和物料来源对生物质炭性质的影响

在影响生物质炭性质的诸多因素中,温度和物料来源比较重要,相关的研究报道也比较多。高温热解(>550 °C)产生的生物质炭一般具有较大的表面积(>400 m²·g⁻¹)和高度的芳香化结构,因此可以更好地抵抗微生物的分解,也是良好的吸附剂。低温条件(<550 °C)下制备的生物质炭,炭的产率和某些营养元素如N、K和S的含量较高。低温制备的生物质炭,C结构比较松弛,多为无定形态,比高温下制备的生物质炭的芳香度低^[58],在土壤中的活性比较高,对土壤肥力的贡献比较大。研究发现,生物质炭的灰分含量、pH值和表面碱度随热解温度的升高而增加,表面酸度随热解温度的升高而降低^[33]。因此,高温下制备的生物质炭对提高土壤pH的效果较好^[59-61]。厌氧消化后的甘蔗渣制备的生物质炭较之于新鲜甘蔗渣制备的生物质炭具有更高的pH值、更大的表面积、更高的阳离子交换量、更高的阴离子交换量(AEC)、较强的疏水性和较多的负电荷,生物质炭的这些性质使得生物质炭可以用作土壤改良剂、污染土壤修复剂及净化废水的处理剂^[62]。

2 生物质炭对土壤物理性质和保水能力的影响

2.1 生物质炭对土壤物理性质的影响

在亚马逊河流域的某些黑土中,上层土壤的容重比下层土壤低,土壤容重随土壤剖面深度的增加而增加^[63],这主要是生物质炭所起的作用。生物质炭的多孔结构使表层土壤空隙度增加,容重减小,这种结构有利植物根系的生长,从而促进作物地上部的生长,提高作物的产量^[64]。某些土壤条件下,尤其是

干旱条件下作物根的伸长会受到限制,这种状况可以通过施入生物质炭得到改善^[38]。生物质炭还可以降低土壤的抗张强度,增加土壤的田间持水量^[38]。

除改善表层土壤的物理性状外,生物质炭还可随水分沿土壤剖面向下迁移,使底层土壤的物理性状也能得到一定程度的改善^[65]。一个35年的长期实验结果表明,在生长甘蔗的田地里,由甘蔗残余物燃烧形成的生物质炭迁移到了心土层中^[66]。在另一些地方,生物质炭经过100多年的时间才迁移到心土层中^[67]。生物质炭的迁移情况跟土壤中的生物质炭颗粒的粒径随着时间的增加逐渐变小有关^[68]。

2.2 生物质炭对土壤保水能力的影响

土壤水分含量和有效性是世界范围内衡量土壤生产力的重要指标。生物质炭可以吸附和保持水分,并且可以增强土壤水分的渗透性^[69,70]。土壤的田间持水量随施入生物质炭数量的增加而增加^[70]。亚马逊河流域某些地区,施入生物质炭可使土壤的保水能力提高18%^[44]。生物质炭使土壤的孔径和分布发生变化,从而改变了土壤水分的渗滤模式、停留时间和流动路径^[71]。用生物质炭提高土壤的田间持水量,对砂性土意义更大,因为这类土壤对水分的保蓄能力很弱。因此生物质炭可以作为提高干旱地区砂性土保水能力的一种有效手段^[47]。添加生物质炭引起土壤水分含量的变化,并对土壤有机质的分解^[72]、营养元素的有效性^[73]和微生物活性^[74]产生影响。

3 生物质炭的稳定性与土壤固碳作用

3.1 生物质炭的稳定性

亚马逊黑土含有大量的碳,碳同位素测定表明土壤中的这些碳属于“前-哥伦比亚时期”^[75]。生物质炭主要由单环和多环的芳香族化合物组成,这种结构特点决定了它比其来源的母体碳具有更高的化学和生物学稳定性,具有更强的抵抗微生物分解的能力,在某些条件下它可以在土壤中稳定存在上千年^[76]。

在全球碳循环过程中生物质炭是一个稳定的碳库,生物质炭的稳定性是影响其作为土壤碳汇的重要性质,这种稳定性还会受到周围环境的影响。Nguyen 和 Lehmann 研究了不同水分条件下由玉米秸秆和桉木屑在 350 °C 和 600 °C 下制备的生物质炭的稳定性,在 30 °C 下培养 1 a,结果表明玉米秸秆炭在淹水条件下的矿化和氧化速率低于土壤水分不饱和条件下的;桉木屑炭也有相似的趋势^[77]。肯尼亚西部持续 100 年的土壤生物质炭样品的数据表明,前 30 年生物质炭性质的变化速度大于后 70 年,而且前 30 年生物质炭的性质的变化主要发生在炭颗粒表面。O/C 的比值在前 10 年和前 30 年分别增加了 133%和 192%,这说明表面氧化作用是控制生物质炭稳定性的一个重要过程^[78-79]。为期 1 年的室内培养实验结果表明,灭菌处理培养炭的过程中碳

的释放量是加入微生物处理碳释放量的50%~90%，2种处理碳的释放量均随炭制备温度的升高而下降，说明高温下制备的生物质炭具有更高的稳定性，微生物对生物质炭仍有一定的降解作用^[80]。自然氧化过程对生物质炭的稳定性影响，主要表现在以下几点：(1)元素组成的变化：氧的含量从7.2%增大到了24.8%，碳的含量从90.8%降低到了70.5%；(2)含氧官能团的形成：尤其是羧基和酚羟基的含量增加；(3)生物质炭表面负电荷增加。生物质炭的性质变化表现在元素组成、表面化学性质和吸附性能方面。老化作用使生物质炭的含氧量和表面负电荷量增大、表面酸性增强，但使其C含量、pH值、表面碱性、净电荷零点和吸附能力降低。老化过程受时间和温度的影响，高温和长时间培养能增强生物质炭的老化作用^[81]。以¹⁴C标记的黑麦草为原料制备生物质炭，并进行了为期3.2年的室内培养实验考察其稳定性，结果表明生物质炭的平均停留时间(MRT)大约为2000 a，半衰期大约为1400 a。培养过程中由于生物质炭降解而产生的CO₂非常小^[21]，这也进一步证明生物质炭对温室气体CO₂的减排起到了积极的作用。生物质炭在土壤中的平均停留时间因土壤类型和生物质炭的种类而异^[10]。

3.2 生物质炭与土壤固碳和温室气体的减排

农业活动排放温室气体，一个固定碳的方法就是把含碳物质经过加热处理使其变为稳定物质^[82]。通过高温热解生产生物质炭和生物质能源可以降低碳的排放^[21,83]。有机物质的燃烧是自然界光合作用循环的一部分，将碳固定在生物质炭中，从而使碳从这一循环过程脱离出来，这样对于整个大气层来说是一个碳的净减少。CO₂通过光合作用固定在生物质中，生物质分解释放出CO₂，生物质炭间接阻止了生物质的分解过程，使碳以一种稳定的形态贮存起来，阻止了碳向大气的再释放，这就是所谓的生物质炭的“碳-负”(carbon-negative)效应。由于生物质炭通过“碳-负”效应能长期将大气中的碳固定在土壤中而正在成为人们关注的热点。

通过热解的方式把易降解的生物质转变成难降解的较稳定的生物质炭，可以减少温室气体的排放^[3]。生物质炭中的碳以稳定的芳香化结构存在，相对于制备它的物料来说，即使在适宜的环境条件下它也很难转变为CO₂。把农业废弃物转变成生物质炭可以减少农业废弃物造成的污染，作为一种清洁的可再生能源可以替代部分传统的化石燃料^[84]，可以提高农业的生产力，也有利于碳的减排^[14,17,85]。这符合《京都议定书》中的清洁发展机制(Clean Development Mechanism, CDM)^[86-87]。生物质炭在缓解全球变暖和解决全球粮食安全方面是一个双赢的策略。由于生物质炭的化学稳定性较高，碳的含

量较高，并且能够长期稳定存在于土壤中，有望成为一个长时间的碳汇。

生物质炭对氮的固定作用和反硝化作用方面的研究比较少^[88]。生物质炭可以催化N₂O还原为N₂的反应，可以减少温室气体N₂O的排放，但还有待更多实验数据的验证^[55]。

4 生物质炭对污染土壤的修复功能

生物质炭的多孔结构和表面丰富的含氧官能团使得生物质炭具有较强的吸附有毒物质的能力，并且可以用来修复污染土壤。生物质炭可以吸附农药等有机污染物，降低这些污染物在土壤中的化学活性和毒性。生物质炭对杀虫剂的吸附能力是土壤的2000倍，即使在土壤中施入少量的生物质炭(0.05%)也能有效降低有机污染物对植物的毒害作用，降低杀虫剂和其它有机污染物在植物中的积累^[89-91]。加入生物质炭使土壤孔隙水中多环芳烃(PAH)的浓度降低了50%^[92]。生物质炭对有机污染物的去除机理主要有以下几方面：(1)生物质炭具有丰富的孔隙结构，这种结构对有机污染物起固定作用^[28,93]；(2)生物质炭具有巨大的比表面，使其可以作为一种去除污染物的良好吸附剂^[58]；(3)高温条件下制备的生物质炭的极性比较强，这样的生物质炭对有机物质的亲和能力强，因此能更有效地去除有机污染物^[94,95]；(4)生物质炭能增强土壤中微生物的活性，从而也增强了微生物对有机污染物的降解能力^[92]。

生物质炭对重金属也有很高的吸附容量，向土壤中添加生物质炭可以增加土壤对重金属的吸附容量。用取自污染场地的土壤进行了为期60d的培养实验，结果表明，加入生物质炭使土壤孔隙水中镉的浓度降低了10倍，从而减少了镉对植物的毒害作用。这说明生物质炭可以用来修复污染场地^[92]。生物质炭可以通过提高土壤pH降低重金属(Cu和Zn)在土壤中的移动性^[96]，对重金属起到固定作用^[97]。生物质炭表面的官能团可以增强土壤保持重金属元素(Ni²⁺、Cu²⁺、Pb²⁺和Cd²⁺)的能力，因此在选择生物质炭作为土壤改良剂时应根据改良的目的和土壤的性质选择合适的生物质炭^[98]。

5 研究展望

(1)虽然生物质炭对土壤环境功能有多方面积极的影响，但大量施用也可能存在一些不利的方面，如生物质在热解过程中可能产生少量有毒有机物。因此生物质炭长期农业利用的环境风险还有待评估，特别在大规模推广应用之前，需要考虑其可能的负面影响。

(2)关于生物质炭对土壤的改良作用，目前大部分研究都针对热带和亚热带地区高度风化的可变电荷土壤，在其它地区土壤中应用研究的报道较少，有待加强。

(3)目前的研究多以室内模拟和小规模的田间

小区试验为主,大规模的推广还需要解决生物质炭的大批量、廉价的制备方法问题。

(4)生物质炭对植物养分状况和产量的影响研究中,主要选择农作物作为研究对象,对草地、灌木和森林的研究比较少。

(5)生物质炭对土壤和农业生态系统环境功能影响的机理目前还不完全清楚。短期实验过程中生物质炭可能显现出促进作物生长、改善土壤养分和降低 N_2O 排放的功能,但是生物质炭呈现这些有益作用的机理还有待探索,生物质炭施用的长期效果也有待进一步研究。

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Progress of the research on the properties of biochars and their influence on soil environmental functions

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Abstract: In the partial or total absence of oxygen, thermal decomposition of plant-derived biomass can be manipulated to yield a solid carbon-rich residue generically referred to as biochar. The research on biochar has received a wide attention recently because of its potential applications in various areas including agriculture, environment protection, and carbon abatement by increasing the carbon sink in soils. This article summarizes various basic properties of biochars and their effects on soil environmental functions and discusses the future trends in this area. Biochars contain large amounts of nutrients, which can enhance nutrient cycling and plant growth. One important property of biochars is that they are commonly alkaline and thus can ameliorate soil acidity and reduce the toxicity of aluminum and heavy metals to plants. Many oxygen-containing functional groups such as -COOH, -COH, and -OH are present in biochars. These functional groups can increase the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of biochars and in turn increase the soil CEC when biochars are applied in soils. Biochars have a high adsorption capacity for organic pollutants and heavy metals and thus can be used to remediate contaminated soils. With enriched porous structures, biochars can increase the porosity and water retention capacity of soils and can thus reduce soil bulk density, which is beneficial to root growth. Biochars are carbonaceous materials that contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons with an array of other functional groups. This feature is responsible for the high chemical and biological stability and strong resistance to microbiological degradation observed for biochars. It is also responsible for the enhanced carbon sequestration capacity for soils and the reduction in the release of carbon to the atmosphere. This article should be of interest to large groups of researchers in various areas such as agricultural waste utilization, sequestration of carbon and its emission reduction, remediation of contaminated soils, and amelioration and management of soils.

Key words: carbon sequestration and emission reduction; physicochemical properties of biochar; remediation of contaminated soil; soil fertility