# Effects of Fertilizer Addition on Microbial Respiration and Uptake of Carbon Monoxide in a Cerrado Soil

Marirosa Molina<sup>1</sup>, Richard Zepp<sup>1</sup>, Alessandra Kozovits<sup>2</sup>, Joana Bresolin<sup>2</sup>, and Mercedes Bustamante<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. EPA, Athens, GA
 <sup>2</sup>Universidade de Brasilia, Brasilia, Brazil







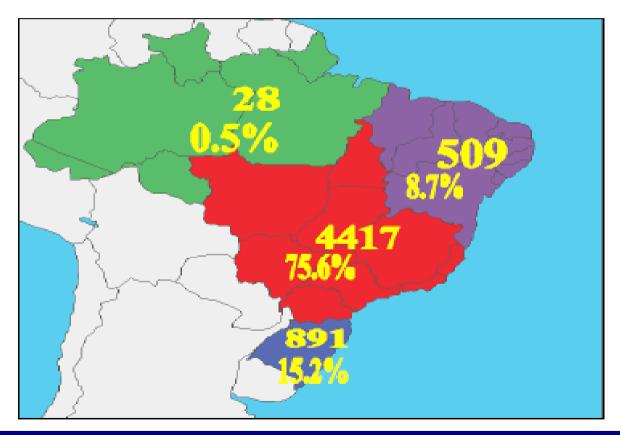
### O Cerrado Brasileiro

The Cerrado is a Region of Rapid Land Conversion



#### 1999

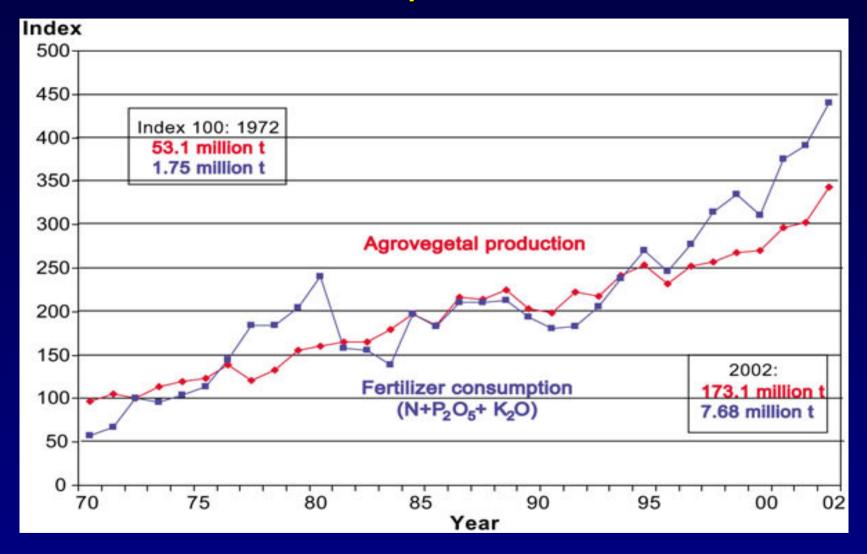
### NPK Consumption by Region ('000 MT nutrient)



Wilson ARMELIN Manah SA

BRAZIL

#### Fertilizer Use and Crop Production in Brazil



A.S. Lopes, FAO Corporate Document, 2002

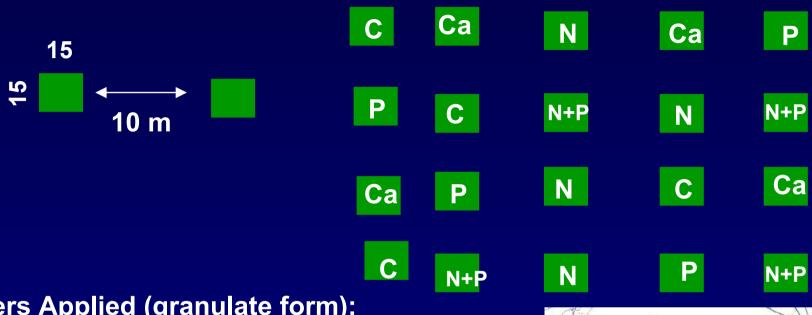
### **Objective**

 To determine the effect of fertilizer treatments on the microbial decomposition rates of soil organic matter (SOM) pools and consumption of carbon monoxide (CO) in soil samples from native Cerrado areas.

### **LBA Study Sites**



#### Fertilization Experiment - Cerrado Stricto sensu



Fertilizers Applied (granulate form):

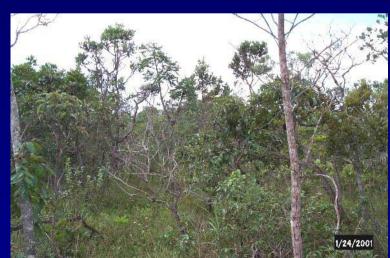
N: 100 kg N/ha (ammonium sulfate)

P: 100Kg P/ha (Super phosphate simple)

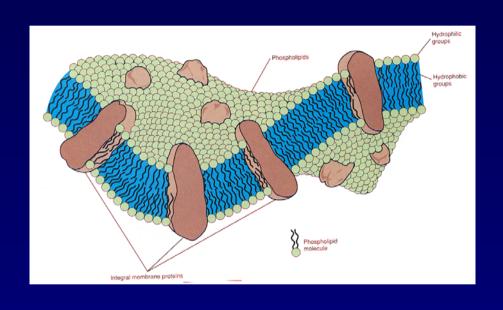
N + P: 100 Kg/Ha (each)

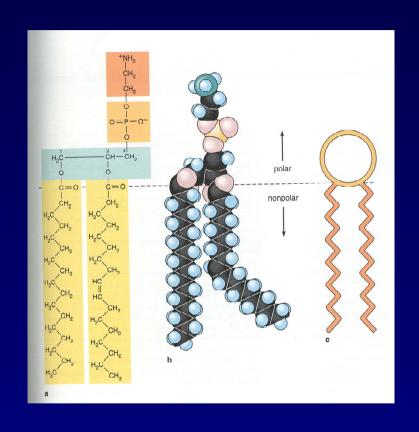
Ca: 4000 kg/ha (lime + calcium phosphate)

C: control



### Phospholipid Fatty Acid (PLFA) Analysis





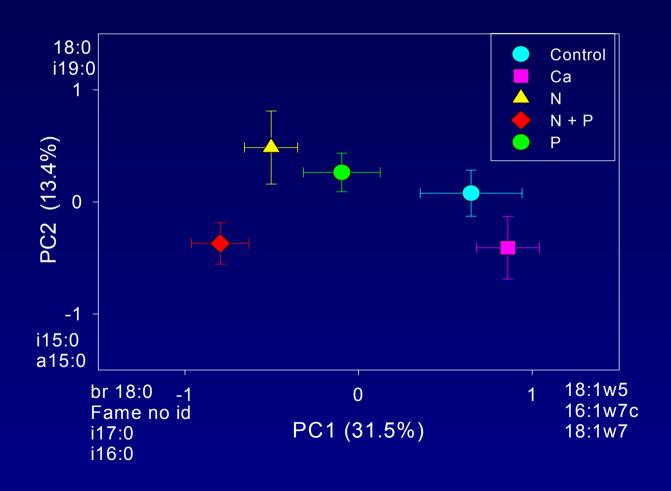
Nomenclature:

#C:#Bw#

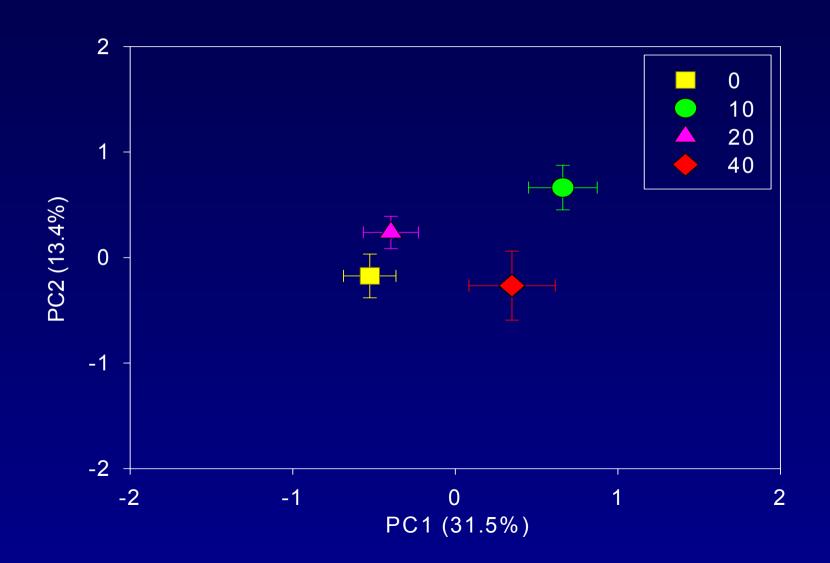
i.e.,

17:1w8

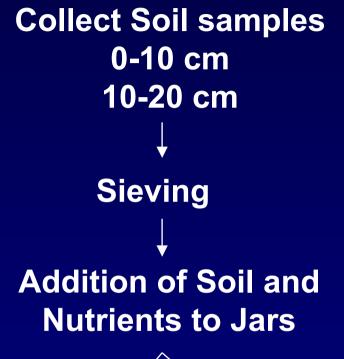
## **Effect of Different Fertilization Treatments on the Microbial Community Structure in Cerrado Soils**



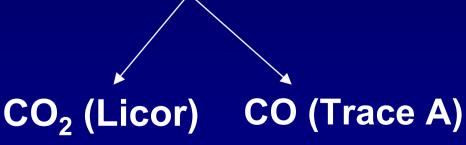
## Microbial Community Structure in Fertilized Cerrado Soils as a Function of Time (Days after Fertilization)



#### **Long-term Incubation Experiment**

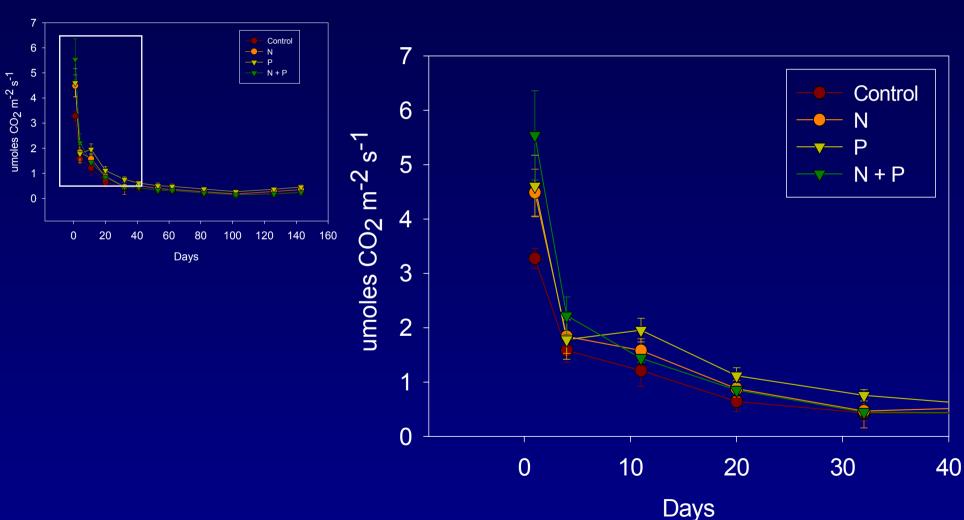


- Fertilizers added: N, P, N+P
- •All fertilizers added in granular form
- •Jars were incubated in the dark at room temperature, at 60% WHC for 143 days.

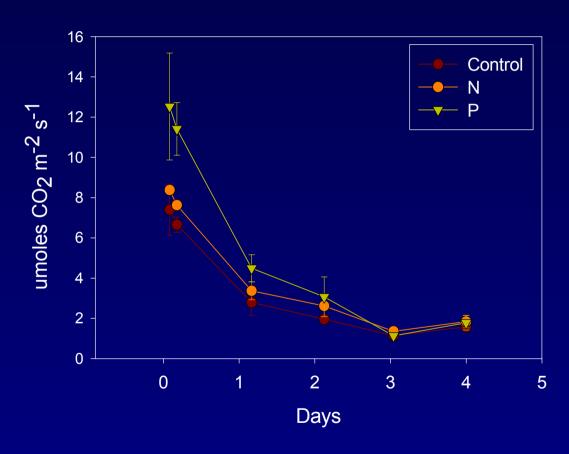




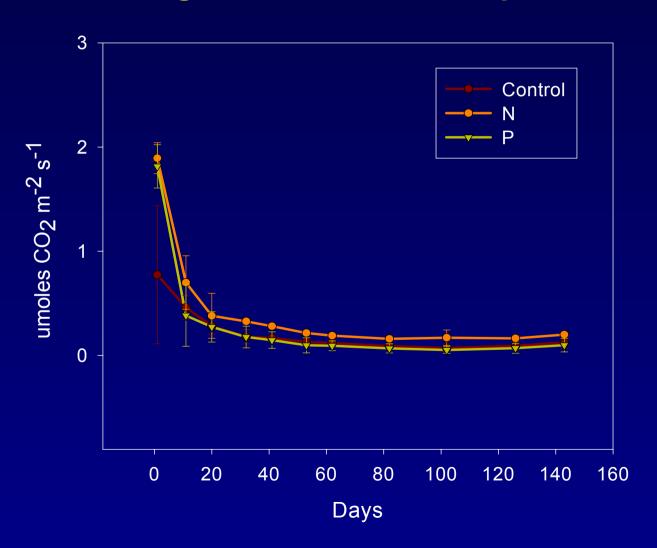
# Average CO<sub>2</sub> flux from soils (0-10 cm depth) amended with N and P (Long Term Incubation Experiment)



# CO<sub>2</sub> flux in Soils (0-10 cm deep) Amended with Fertilizers (Long Term Incubation Experiment)



## Average CO<sub>2</sub> Flux in Soils (10-20 cm depth) Amended with N and P in a Long Term Incubation Experiment

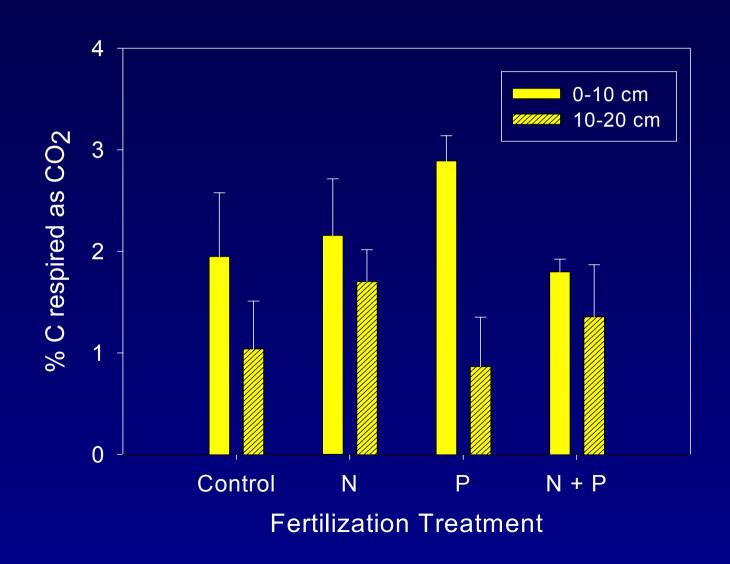


## **Exponential Decay Constants for the Active and Slow C Pools in Cerrado Soils Amended with Fertilizers**

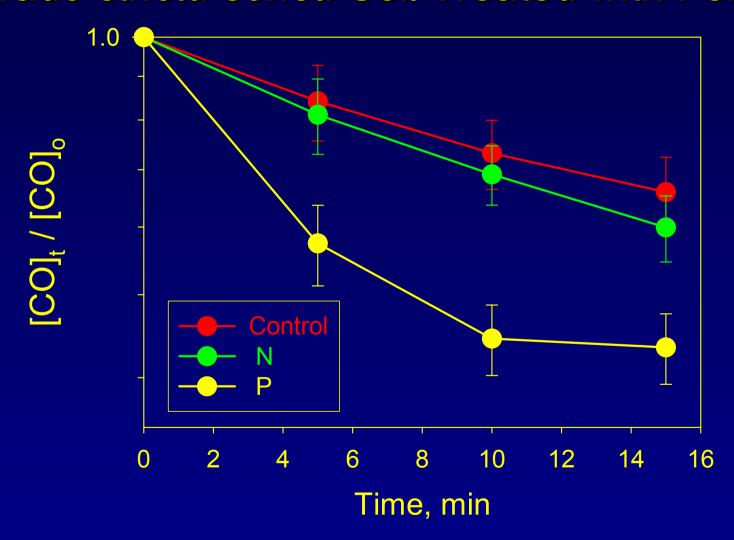
Treatments	Original Soil Depth (cm)	Active C ka	T <sub>99</sub> (days)	Slow C ks	T <sub>99</sub> (days)
Control	0-10	1.22	3.77	0.024	188.52
N		1.17	3.93	0.026	175.25
Р		1.19	3.87	0.018	258.43
N+P		0.62	7.41	0.034	133.72
Control	10-20	0.06	70.88	9.9 x 10 <sup>-12</sup>	4.6 x 10 <sup>11</sup>
N		0.13	34.56	4.5 x 10-3	1022.2
Р		0.23	19.90	1.5 x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	314.42
N+P		0.13	36.31	1.2 x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	369.77

 $CO_2$  flux =  $C_a e^{-kat} + C_s e^{-kst}$ 

## % Organic Carbon respired as CO<sub>2</sub> in Soils Amended with Fertilizers



## Laboratory Studies of CO Uptake By Cerrado *strictu sensu* Soil Treated with Fertilizer

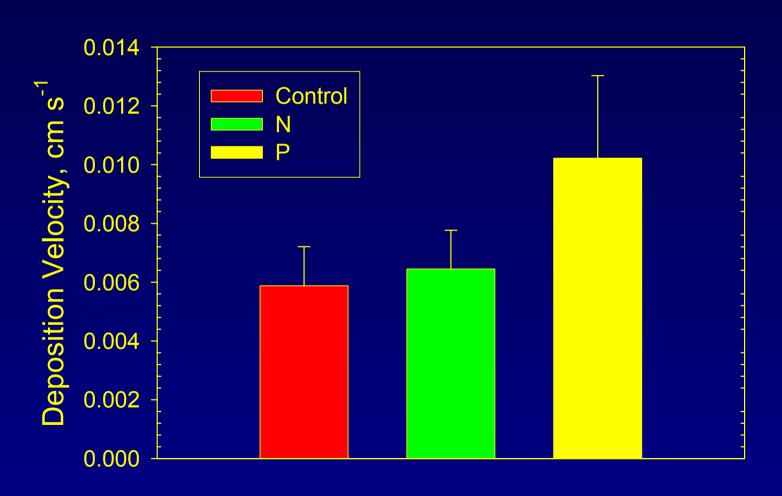


# Definition of Deposition Velocity (cm s<sup>-1</sup>)

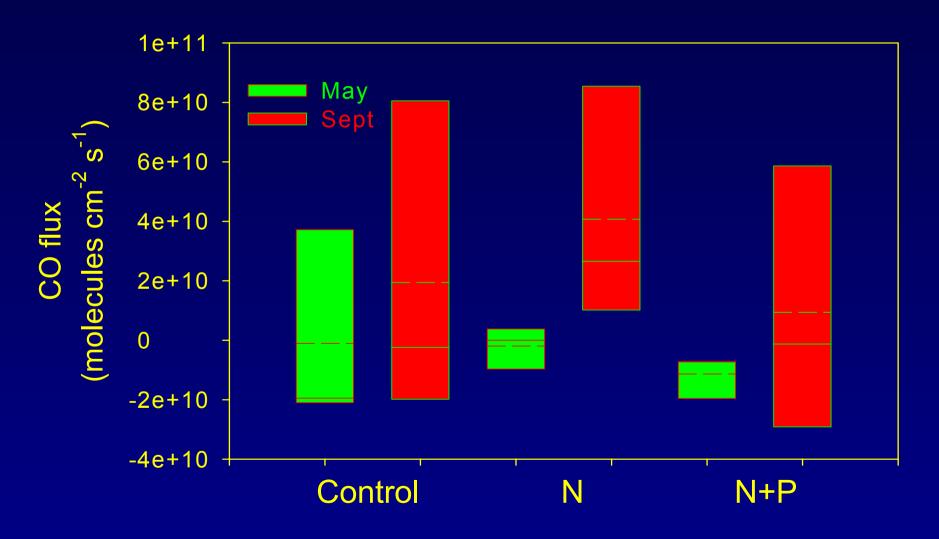
= Flux / [CO]

= First order k x vol/surface area

### Deposition Velocities for CO Uptake By Soil Treated With Fertilizer



## CO Fluxes For Field Studies in Fertilized Plots at Cerrado *strictu sensu* Sites in IBGE



#### Conclusions

- Addition of fertilizers increases the fraction of available organic carbon that is respired by the microbial community at both the 0-10 and 10-20 cm soil depths,
- The presence of fertilizers significantly changes the microbial community in the field and might offer an explanation for the difference observed with the CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. Also the fast decrease in the respiration rate observed during the first days in the jars corresponds to the rapid change in microbial community observed within 10 days in the field.
- P has the strongest effect on the CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes at 0-10 cm, increasing by almost 1% the CO<sub>2</sub> respired from TOC, while N seems to increase the utilization at 10-20.
- Both CO uptake and deposition velocity of CO are enhanced in the presence of P.



### PROCESSES DRIVING CO<sub>2</sub> and CO EXCHANGE IN AGROECOSYSTEMS

