

Interactive comment on “Quantifying biostabilisation effects of biofilm-secreted and synthetic extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) on sandy substrate” by Wietse I. van de Lageweg et al.

R. Hodge (Editor)

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Both reviewers agree that this is an interesting paper that is worthy of publication following some revisions. Reviewer 1 identifies a number of points that require clarification, but which should be fairly straightforward to address. Reviewer 2 presents a slightly more critical appraisal of the paper. Some of their reservations could be addressed by clarifying the aim and novelty of the paper. The most novel aspect of this paper seems to be the systematic analysis of the impact of different types of synthetic EPS, however in the methods these experiments seem to be of secondary importance. In line

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with Reviewer 2's comments, it would be helpful early on to explain the connections between the two different sets of experiments (flumes and synthetic EPS). (Does it matter that the comparison between the flume and synthetic EPS experiments is comparing a sample from a flume bed with a far smaller sample in a petri dish?) You also need to clarify the novelty of the flume experiments over existing biofilm experiments. I don't think that it necessarily matters whether a specific system is being reproduced in the flume, but the choice of flume conditions should be justified. Both reviewers provide a number of minor comments that should also be taken into consideration. I look forward to receiving the revised version of this paper.

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