

Table S1. Characteristics of organic material used in the aerobic incubation experiment ^a.

	Soluble fraction	Lignin content	(Hemi) cellulose	Polyphenols	Ash	Total N	Total C
	(g kg ⁻¹ dry plant material)						
Young maize plants	599 (6.5) ^b	25 (1.1)	311 (8.0)	2 (0.2)	62 (2.3)	34 (0.6)	422 (1.9)
NDF ^c	0	63 (2.8)	776 (15.4)	6 (0.4)	155 (2.9)	19 (0.5)	405 (1.8)

^a Data derived from Ramirez-Villanueva et al. [12], ^b Value between parentheses is the standard deviation; ^c NDF: Neutral detergent fibre.