Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you very much for your careful review and helpful comments of our manuscript. We believe our revisions address all the major issues that were raised by the reviewers and hope that our manuscript is now suitable for publication. Our reply to each comment is written in **blue**. In addition, changes to the text in the manuscript are written in **blue**. We hope that our reply is clear and look forward to hearing from you on the status of our manuscript.

**Editorial comments:**  
1. Please take this opportunity to thoroughly proofread the manuscript to ensure that there are no spelling or grammar issues. The JoVE editor will not copy-edit your manuscript and any errors in the submitted revision may be present in the published version.  
We thoroughly proofread the manuscript and checked spelling and grammar issues.  
  
**Reviewers' comments:**

**Reviewer #1:**   
1. Line 389, first two words - "Figure 7b" should read "Figure 6b".

Corrected  
  
**Reviewer #2:**   
1. Further control over environmental variables should be possible. Eliminating ambient temperature variations should not be difficult for instance. Also, I wonder if the air flow turbulence should be defined as it could have an effect on the evaporation rate.

Thank you for the comment. Control over additional environmental variables in possible. We added a discussion on this topic to lines 354-355 for temperature control and a discussion on airflow turbulence was added to lines 403- 406.   
  
2. 102: I would use the present tense for uniformity

corrected  
  
3. 136: perhaps "the" is not necessary here?

corrected  
  
4. Because the procedures described could be applied to a variety of soils, perhaps soil characteristics could be defined within representative results" rather than in chapter 4.

Corrected, moved to line 321.

**Reviewer #3:**   
1. The discussion part is weak, it looks more like a summary. The authors should pinpoint the limitations of the experimental method, and compare with others. The discussion part needs rewritten.

The discussion highlights many of the key design parameters and more critical components of the experimental apparatus. The discussion was clarified to read more clearly especially the purpose of the experimental method. As this experimental apparatus can be modified for a variety of climate and soil conditions as well as dimensions, this was further clarified in lines 514-521.