

放牧对草原土壤的影响

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摘要:介绍了放牧对草原土壤物理性质(容重、渗透率)、化学性质(有机质、N 素)和微生物的影响。由于草原土壤系统本身的复杂性、滞后性和弹性,放牧对土壤性质的影响不尽相同。一般而言,随放牧强度的增大,动物践踏作用的增强,土壤孔隙分布的空间格局发生变化,土壤的总孔隙减少,特别是大孔隙($>50\mu\text{m}$)和较大中等孔隙($9\sim50\mu\text{m}$)减少,使土壤容重增加,土壤的渗透阻力加大,土壤的保水和持水能力下降。但在有机质含量很低的沙质土壤中,超载过牧,造成有机质含量降低,土壤的团粒结构减少,稳定性团聚体减少,土壤结构遭到破坏,使得土壤容重反而降低。土壤有机质和放牧之间存在复杂的相互关系,土壤有机质对放牧的响应受多种因素的影响,这些因素包括植被和土壤的初始状况;环境因素,特别是水分和温度;放牧历史(强度、频率、持续时间和动物类型)。同时,土壤有机质含量低的土壤比含量高的土壤更易受放牧的影响,而使有机质发生变化。土壤微生物量碳是最具活性的土壤碳库,对环境的变化敏感,能较早地指示生态系统功能的变化。当考虑时间尺度时,高强度放牧对土壤肥力有负面的影响,短期内,由于加速了养分的循环效率,产生有利的影响,但长期无管理的超载放牧必然造成系统物质(资源)输入和输出的不平衡,最终导致草原生态系统退化,特别是在相对脆弱的干旱和半干旱生态区。为了保护草原的土壤资源,应改变只注重草原的经济功能(获取各种畜产品)的观念,而更应注重发挥草原的生态功能和社会功能,使草原得到修养生息。

关键词:放牧;草原生态系统;土壤性质;养分循环;土壤微生物

The effects of grazing on grassland soils

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Abstract: The effects of grazing on physical properties (bulk density, water infiltration), chemical properties (soil organic matter, nitrogen) and soil microbes of grassland soils were reviewed based on published literature. The effects of grazing on soil properties were inconsistent, because of the complexity of the soil system, time lag after disturbance and resilience of soil system to perturbation. In general, because of the impact of animal trampling, there are changes in soil pore size distribution as well as total porosity with increasing stocking rate. The decrease in macropores ($>50\mu\text{m}$) and larger mesopores ($9\sim50\mu\text{m}$) could lead to higher bulk density, greater penetration resistance and a decreased soil water holding capacity. However, bulk density may decrease in sandy soil with lower organic matter content, because overgrazing causes soil organic matter to decrease, influences the stability of soil aggregates and results in collapsed soil structure. There exists a complex interaction between grazing and soil organic matter. Many factors determine the response of soil organic matter to livestock grazing. These factors include the initial conditions of vegetation and soil, environmental factors, especially moisture and temperature, and grazing history (intensity, frequency, duration, and type of animal). Soils with inherently low soil organic matter are more prone to change in response to grazing than soils high in organic matter. Microbial biomass is the most labile C and N

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pool in soil and can be used as a rapid and sensitive indicator of change in the soil management system. Grazing at high stocking rates may have opposing effects on soil fertility depending on the time-scale considered. In the short term, benefits may occur because of increased nutrient cycling efficiency. But, in the long term, overgrazing without management may cause a decline in soil fertility due to imbalanced nutrient input and output, which finally leads to the degradation of grassland, especially in the more fragile arid and semi-arid regions.

Key words:grazing; grassland ecosystems; soil property; nutrient cycling; soil microbes

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全球草地面积约为 $3.42 \times 10^9 \text{ hm}^2$, 约占陆地面积的 40%^[1,2]。我国草地面积近 $4 \times 10^8 \text{ hm}^2$, 占全国陆地面积的 40.7%^[3]。它们不仅是重要的绿色生态屏障, 而且也是重要的畜牧业生产基地, 其功能的正常发挥对维持全球及区域性生态系统平衡有极其重要的作用。

由于大规模的农业活动和对土壤资源掠夺性的过度利用, 土壤退化现象在全球范围内日益严重, 已经成为严重威胁人类生存与发展的全球性农业与环境健康问题, 受到世界各国的广泛关注^[4]。土壤退化可以理解为一个对人类活动影响极为敏感的自然过程。人为活动可以诱导、加速土壤退化的过程, 同时也可以对土壤退化过程进行有效的阻止和防治。虽然土壤退化某种程度可以视为与成土作用一样的自然过程, 但人为活动诱导的土壤退化往往表现出比原来的自然过程更高的退化速率^[5]。对土地资源的过度利用和不当的管理方式等多种人为活动均可能诱导或者加速土壤的退化进程。按照联合国粮农组织 1997 年数据, 各种人类活动影响全球土壤退化面积比例分别是: 过度放牧 34.5%, 森林破坏 29.5%, 农业利用 28.2%, 过度开发 6.8%, 污染 1.7%。因而从全球范围内看, 过度放牧使全球土壤侵蚀(风蚀、水蚀)和盐渍化面积大大增加, 是土壤退化的主要驱动因素^[6,7]。在我国草地退化现象也十分严重, 据统计, 全国牧区可利用的 2.27 亿 hm^2 草原中, 退化、沙化、盐渍化面积占 $1/3$ ^[8]。南美阿根廷广大的干旱和半干旱草原因过度放牧也正经受着生态退化和沙化的危险^[9]。

放牧是草地利用的主要方式之一。放牧家畜主要通过采食、践踏影响土壤的物理结构(如紧实度、渗透率)^[10]; 同时通过采食活动及畜体对营养物质的转化和排泄物归还等影响草地营养物质的循环, 导致草地土壤化学成分的变化, 而草地土壤的物理变化和化学变化之间也相互作用、相互影响^[11,12]。在草原生态系统中, 土壤是生物量生产最重要的基质, 是许多营养的储存库, 是动植物分解和循环的场所, 是牧草和家畜的载体。因此, 研究放牧对土壤生物和理化性质的影响, 认识不合理放牧影响下草原土壤退化的过程和机制, 以便采取合理的管理措施, 对防止草原退化、保证草地畜牧业的可持续发展具有重要的意义。

1 放牧对草原土壤物理性质的影响

研究放牧和草原土壤理化性质的关系, 既能阐明放牧的生态学后果, 又有助于揭示过度放牧导致土壤退化的机理。过度放牧导致了干旱和半干旱草原生态系统显著的改变, 从中长期看, 将严重危害这些生境的稳定性和存在, 因为过度放牧对土壤和植物的破坏似乎是不可复原的^[13]。放牧主要影响表层土壤的理化性质^[14], 如家畜践踏的直接影响和刈牧的间接影响等。由于过度放牧, 土壤的容重和渗透阻力增加, 因风蚀和水蚀而损失的土壤量也大大增加, 同时, 土壤孔隙的空间分布发生变化, 土壤团聚体稳定性和渗透率降低^[15~17]。

1.1 对土壤容重的影响

土壤容重是土壤紧实度的指标之一, 它与土壤的孔隙度和渗透率密切相关。容重的大小主要受到土壤有机质含量、土壤质地及放牧家畜践踏程度的影响。贾树海等^[18]认为土壤的容重对草地的退化具有敏感性, 可以作为草地退化的数量指标。国内外许多学者在放牧强度对土壤压实效应方面做了大量的工作^[19~21], 一般认为, 随着放牧压力的增强, 牲畜对土壤的压实作用愈来愈强烈, 土壤的容重逐渐增加。王仁忠^[22]对松嫩草原羊草草地的研究表明, 重度和过度放牧阶段土壤容重比轻度放牧阶段分别增加了 47.4% 和 64.9%。贾树海等^[18]研究认为, 放牧压力对土壤容重的影响仅限于 0~10 cm 的土壤, 且 0~10 cm 土壤容重随放牧强度的增加而增加, 其中对 0~5 cm 土壤的影响最明显, 这与 Maria 等^[23]研究结果一致。戎郁萍等^[24]的研究结果表明, 不放牧与各放牧处理之间土壤容重差异显著, 不同放牧处理对土壤容重的影响差异不显著, 主要是由于土壤容重的增加具有累积效应, 这与 Greenwood 等^[17]的试验结果一致。他们的研究结果还表明, 放牧羔羊对下层土壤容重的影响不大。但姚爱兴^[25]在奶牛的放牧试验中发现放牧强度使下层土壤的容重也增大, 这是由于放牧大家畜的缘故。

随放牧强度的增大, 动物践踏作用的增强, 土壤孔隙分布的空间格局发生变化, 土壤的总孔隙减少, 土壤容重增加^[26,27]。但在有机质含量很低的沙质土壤中, 超载过牧造成有机质含量降低, 土壤的团粒结构减少, 稳定性团聚体减少, 土壤结构遭到破坏, 而使得土壤容重反而降低^[21,28]。

1.2 对土壤渗透力的影响

透水性和土壤饱和导水率是水分研究的重要参数, 是衡量土壤渗透能力的重要指标。透水性强弱反映土壤水分和养分保蓄

能力的大小,还影响土壤的通气状况和水分利用,也是土壤肥力状况的指标之一^[29]。一般认为,草地状况越好,则土壤渗透率越大^[30]。Leithead^[31]和 Rauzi 等^[32]报道,就土壤渗透而言,适牧大于轻牧,且轻牧大于禁牧。这与 Giflond 等^[33]的结论是相矛盾的。他们发现,轻牧到适牧的渗透率是禁牧的 3/4,重牧仅为禁牧的 1/2。Hiernaux 等^[34]则认为适牧能大大增加土壤的渗透率,过牧则导致渗透率的降低。张蕴薇等^[35]研究发现,随放牧强度的增加,土壤水分渗透率呈下降趋势,开始时渗透率最大,随着时间的推移,渗透率降低。在渗透的各阶段,重牧区土壤渗透率都明显低于其它处理,说明重牧严重破坏了土壤的结构,使土壤紧实,渗透率下降,而且随着渗透时间的推移,重牧区渗透率下降幅度明显增大,重牧导致土壤蓄水能力下降。牛海山等^[36]研究认为,随放牧率的增大,土壤饱和导水率显著下降。土壤饱和导水率与土壤孔隙状况密切相关,特别是大孔隙分布显著影响饱和导水率。随牧压的增强,牲畜对土壤的压实作用变强,导致土壤孔隙度降低^[37]。Maria 等^[23]认为,土壤表层总孔隙度放牧地比未放牧地低 17%,主要原因就是因为过度放牧导致大孔隙($>50\mu\text{m}$)和较大中等孔隙($9\sim50\mu\text{m}$)的丧失。Greenwood 等^[17]也认为绵羊对土壤的压实作用主要局限在 5 cm 以上的表土层,而且孔隙度的降低主要是 1.2 mm 当量孔隙的减少。有的试验证明放牧使表土层和亚表土层的孔隙都明显减少^[38]。总之,随着放牧率的增大,一定深度内土壤孔隙度的下降,尤其大孔隙的丧失^[39],是造成饱和导水率下降的重要原因。

2 放牧对草原土壤化学性质的影响

放牧对草原生态系统中化学元素组成的直接影响是由于食草动物将化学元素固持、转移和空间上再分配(如从草原区向非草原区出售畜产品;牲畜以排泄物的形式从放牧区向非放牧区转移化学元素)。放牧对草原生态系统中化学元素的间接影响是改变化学元素的循环过程和行为特征。通过草食动物的践踏,植物残体变得破碎,植物盖度下降,土壤容重增加,其结果提高了土壤表面温度,这些环境因素的变化均有利于植物残体的分解,加速了养分的循环过程^[40]。从较长时间看,由于食草动物对植物的选择性采食使植物的群落结构发生变化,从而也影响了草原群落养分循环动态。

2.1 对土壤有机质的影响

土壤有机质(主要指土壤 C 素)是陆地生物圈生物地球化学循环的主要成分之一,是指示土壤健康的关键指标^[41]。在草原生态系统中,虽然总碳量在不同的草地类型中变化显著不同,但有机碳在多年生草地生态系统中的相对分布相当一致,总体上,植物生物量中的碳占草原总碳储量相对较少的部分(少于 10%),且大部分保存在根系中($80\%\sim90\%$)^[42],所以只有不足 1% 的有机碳分布在地上植物生物量中^[43]。土壤有机质(SOM)是最大的有机碳库,占整个系统有机碳的 90% 左右^[1, 43]。且土壤有机质是植物养分元素循环的中心,影响水分关系和侵蚀潜力,在土壤结构中是一个关键因子^[44]。同时,凋落物和土壤有机质能增加土壤团聚体、团聚体的稳定性和渗透率,可减少雨滴和径流等对土壤的影响^[45],因而有机质库的动态稳定是生态系统健康运行的基础。

有机质的动态转化过程十分复杂,受很多因素的影响,如温度、降水、植被、土壤和管理措施^[46]。放牧管理是草原管理的重要措施,但放牧管理影响下草原碳循环和分布的生态过程没有完全被认识,从已有的文献中很难得出放牧管理与碳滞留量之间明确的关系。一些研究认为,放牧对土壤有机质没有影响^[47~49],认为草原生态系统对放牧有相当的弹性^[50, 51]。Frank 等^[52]利用 ^{13}C 技术研究了不同放牧率对土壤有机质的影响,发现与围栏(1976 年)相比适牧样地土壤有机质有轻微降低,而重牧样地土壤有机质没有下降,主要是因为重牧后没有土壤侵蚀发生,而且植物组成发生了很大的变化, C_4 植物大大增加,这些 C_4 植物有较浅的根系和较高的有机质生产能力。也可能是因为食草动物排泄物的归还使土壤表层速效养分增加,土壤的矿化作用加强。植物根系集中在表层的比例增加,深层分布的根系量减少。因此表层土壤有机质在特定阶段内可以维持在原有水平或更高水平^[27]。而其他一些报道放牧增加了土壤有机质^[42, 53~57]。主要是由于放牧管理技术的应用增加了牧草的产量,也潜在增加了土壤有机质和 C 沉积量^[58]。然而,甚至当放牧管理导致牧草产量降低时,以土壤有机质形式沉积的 C 量也增加。这是由于放牧使植物的组成发生变化,导致了低的产草量,但植物有较大的根冠比率(Root/shoot ratio),因而增加了 C 向地下的分配量^[55]。放牧还使凋落物积累量减少,这是由于动物的践踏使凋落物破碎并与土壤充分接触,这有助于凋落物的分解,也有助于 C 和养分元素转移到土壤中^[59]。同时凋落物减少,使土壤表层变暖,有利于早春植物的返青。也使植物冠层采光增强,光合效率提高^[60]。这些都有助于土壤有机质的积累。而且这些系统多是土壤有机质含量较高,植被没有退化或有轻微退化,且气候条件较好,并有一定的管理措施(施肥等)。也有较少的研究认为放牧降低了土壤有机质^[61~63]。Johnston 等^[64]和 Greene 等^[14]认为放牧动物使草地生态系统 C 的移出量增加(牲畜的屠宰和动物的消化过程)。如屠宰一头 500 kg 的牛将使约 50 kg C 从系统中移出,而且动物在消化过程中也放出大量的 CO_2 (动物呼吸作用)和一定量的 CH_4 (动物肠胃中的厌氧发酵过程)。也有人认为在重牧条件下有机质的降低是土壤侵蚀加重所致。若放牧地土壤本身含有较低的有机质,土壤的缓冲性能低,放牧后,也可导致土壤有机质降低。特别是在生态环境相对脆弱的半干旱和干旱地区^[34]。而 Milchunas 和 Lauenroth^[48]对比了世界 236 个点的放牧和禁牧资料,结果发现,有机 C、N 的变化与放牧间没有统一的变化规律,有时呈正相关,有时呈负相关。这些不一致的结果表明放牧和土壤有机质之间存在复杂的相互关系,土壤有机质对放牧的响应受多种因素的影响。这些因素包括:(1) 植被和土壤

的初始状况,(2)环境因素,特别是水分和温度,(3)放牧历史(强度,频次,持续时间和动物类型)。如 Frank 等^[65]研究了景观(主要指地形和气候)与放牧两个因素对土壤养分动态循环的影响,认为景观的影响是放牧影响的 13 倍。

根据有机物质的周转时间可将有机物划分为活性(active)、缓性(slow)和惰性(passive)3 种组分^[66]。土壤有机质中的活性组分对放牧敏感,能够较早指示土壤质量变化。对澳大利亚 2 类半干旱草原的研究表明,重度放牧 6~8a 之后对草地有机碳的总储量没有显著的影响,但活性碳(active carbon)储量分别下降了 24%和 51%,微生物量(MB)/全碳(TC)比率也随之降低,说明微生物对放牧压力的响应比土壤全碳更敏感。而长期放牧条件下,轻牧和重牧处理均使土壤微生物生物量碳和全碳降低,使 MB/TC 比率变化不大^[67]。同时, Franzluebbers 等^[68]研究了美国南部山麓地带 5 个系统 14 种不同的管理方式的 14 个样地,认为颗粒状有机 C 和 N (>0.06mm)对土地利用方式的变化比较敏感,也能较早地反映土壤质量的变化。

2.2 对土壤氮素循环的影响

在草原生态系统中,有效性氮素是初级生产力首要的限制资源^[69],也是决定系统物种组成的主要因子^[70]。放牧能影响草原生态系统的土壤养分动态循环。一般认为,食草动物能加速有排泄物斑块的养分循环^[71~74],也能通过降低植物根茎的 C/N 比率来增加植物残体的分解速率^[71, 75~78]。而且,植物经常通过减少根生产量对刈牧(defoliation)做出响应^[77, 79],从而降低了土壤 C 和 C/N 比率^[77]。放牧地植物残体和土壤较低的 C/N 比率,使微生物矿化作用加强,CO₂/氮的净矿化(CO₂: net nitrogen mineralized)的比率降低,固定作用减弱,进而增加了土壤氮的净矿化量^[77, 80, 81]。也有研究认为放牧减缓了养分循环^[82]。放牧是加速(accelerating)还是减缓(decelerating)氮素养分循环,主要受土壤碳的有效性控制。碳的有效性是控制微生物矿化-固定动态循环的重要因子^[83, 84]。可利用性碳相对于氮充足时,微生物对氮的需求高,氮的固定潜能高。相反,当可利用性碳相对于氮缺乏时,氮的固定潜能低,氮的净矿化可能升高。放牧减少了 C 向地下的分配,通过根分泌供给微生物的 C 减少,因而提高了氮的净矿化。这是系统的主要优势种对动物采食的一种补偿机制^[85],使植物的富氮组织和器官增加^[86, 87],凋落物分解加速,加上动物的排泄物,系统的周转加快,加速了氮的净矿化速率。而当放牧引起植物群落发生变化时,又能抑制氮素的矿化和有效性。这种过程主要是食草动物对优质牧草的择食而增加了劣质植物(较低的 N 含量或化学防御的有机化合物)的多度^[88],凋落物品质降低,分解速度变慢。

另外,不同基质的草原的其他营养元素(磷、钾、钙和镁)对放牧也有一定的响应。如东北草甸草原,过度放牧使土壤 pH 值升高,土壤有机质下降,土壤盐碱化程度加重。土壤中养分元素(磷、钾、钙和镁)含量降低,特别是土壤中含量较低的钙、镁等元素损失更为严重^[89]。

3 放牧对土壤微生物的影响

土壤微生物是土壤物质循环的调节者,是活的土壤有机质部分^[90],主要包括细菌、放线菌、真菌、藻类、微小动物和原生动物。土壤微生物量主要指土壤中体积小于 $5 \times 10^3 \mu\text{m}$ 的活体生物总量^[91]。微生物量虽然只占土壤有机质的很小一部分(1%~5%),但却是控制生态系统中碳、氮和其它养分循环的关键^[92]。微生物既可固定养分,作为养分暂时的“库”,又可释放养分,作为养分的“源”^[83, 93]。微生物的周转时间很快,大致为 0.14~6a 左右^[94~96]。微生物生物量库的任何变化将影响养分的循环和有效性^[97],同时,微生物生物量 C 和 N 对环境的变化敏感,能较早地指示生态系统功能的变化^[91, 98]。

有些试验证明,放牧使高原草原土壤微生物量 C、N 显著增加^[99]。而过度放牧使土壤微生物量、微生物量 C 占全碳的比例下降,土壤脲酶和酰胺酶活性降低^[67]。也有一些试验结果表明长期的草地管理措施(排水、施用化学肥料)对土壤微生物量的影响不显著^[100, 101]。李香真等^[27, 102]观察到放牧对内蒙草原土壤微生物量的影响并不一致,羊草草原放牧处理与禁牧处理微生物 C、N 量(C_{mic}、N_{mic})均无显著差异,似乎放牧区还要大些;大针茅草原放牧区 C_{mic}、N_{mic}比禁牧区小;严重退化草地的 C_{mic}、N_{mic}显著地低于未放牧地和轻度利用草地。在内蒙古典型草原不同放牧率试验中也发现,C_{mic}只有在极端过牧时才显著降低,一定放牧率下 N_{mic}反而高于无牧处理。赵吉^[103]研究表明,冷蒿小禾草草原不同强度下放牧 4a 和 9a 后,各试验区内的土壤微生物各类群数量都有一些变化,与栏外自由放牧区相比,栏内各轮牧区的微生物数量几乎都有增加。在一定放牧强度下,土壤微生物数量总体随放牧率的增加呈递减趋势,但微生物量在 4 羊/hm² 小区相对较高,土壤速效氮、磷含量也有所增加,说明一定的放牧干扰能加快养分的循环,过牧则导致土壤微生物量降低。同时,柳丽萍等^[104]研究发现,放牧能够使土壤微生物类群组成发生一些变化。在内蒙古典型草原生态系统中,随放牧强度的增加,土壤中好气性细菌、丝状真菌和放线菌有不同程度的减少,芽孢杆菌的种类也有减少的趋势。而在适度放牧条件下丝状真菌群属较多,认为在草原中适当放牧刺激会使丝状真菌属群数有所增加,这一发现支持 Connell^[105]所提出的中度干扰导致最大多样性的假说。

4 土壤退化和草原生态系统退化

草原的退化是整个草原生态系统的退化,贯穿到生态系统的各组分与功能过程中,包括植被退化、土壤退化以及连接各功能组分能流和物流数据土壤的退化是草原退化的具体体现,虽然土壤的退化滞后于植被的退化,但土壤退化是比植被退化更严重的退化,土壤严重退化后整个草原生态系统的功能会遗失殆尽。为了保护草原的土壤资源,要改变只注重草原的经济功能(放

取各种畜产品)的观念,应注重发挥草原的生态功能和社会功能,使草原得到修养生息。需要强调指出,人们对草原生态系统作为重要的碳素储藏库或碳素封存(Carbon sequestration)库的功能认识不足。由于草原生态系统中碳素的周转率(Turn-over time)较慢(一般 60a),且地下生物量占的比例较高,所以草原生态系统也是缓解日益提高的大气二氧化碳浓度最重要的生态系统之一^[106]。

5 小结

放牧对土壤理化和生物性质的影响并没有单一和一致的结论,特别是在化学性质方面,一方面,这反映了草原土壤系统具有滞后性和容量性(弹性);更反映了气候、地形、土壤性质、植物组成、放牧动物类型、放牧历史等因素对土壤化学性质有重要的影响。另一方面,适牧、重牧、和过牧这样的定性指标不能进行定量比较,因为不同地区、国家的人会有不同的理解。颗粒状有机 C 和 N (particulate organic C and N)、土壤微生物量 C 和土壤微生物量 N 等指标对人为干扰的影响敏感,能很好地反映土壤质量变化情况。适牧对草原土壤系统没有负面的影响,或有积极的影响,但长期超载过牧(特别是在相对脆弱的干旱和半干旱生态系统)会使系统崩溃。因此,必须改变只注重草原的经济功能(获取各种畜产品)的观念,注重发挥草原的生态功能和社会功能,使草原得到修养生息。

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