

Effects of different functional groups on soil function, biodiversity and plant production (expanded from Lavelle, 1996).

<i>Functional Group</i>	<i>Effects on soil function</i>	<i>Effects on biodiversity</i>	<i>Effects on plant production</i>
Roots	Aggregation, porosity, water and nutrient cycles, plant production, soil organic matter availability, soil biological activity	Selection pressures on rhizo-sphere microorganisms, associated food webs and root feeders	Absorption of nutrients and water, production of signals and hormones which regulate plant growth
Ecosystem engineers	Bioturbation (regulation of soil physical properties and processes), dynamics of soil organic matter, nutrient cycling, soil biological activity	Selection pressures on litter transformers and microbiota, mutualisms with microflora, dissemination of organisms	Positive or negative direct and indirect effects on root and shoot biomass and seed banks
Litter transformers	Nutrient mineralization, organic matter protection and decomposition (some bioturbation)	Selection pressures on microflora	Mostly indirect effects
Phytophages and Plant parasites	Some bioturbation	Selection pressures on plants	Negative
Micropredator foodweb	Nutrient mineralization	Selection pressures on microflora	Mostly indirect effects
Microflora: Symbionts, plant growth promoters, pathogens, nutrient cyclers, biocontrol agents	Aggregation, decomposition rates, biodegradation of toxic materials, nutrient cycles and availability, biocontrol	Selection pressures on plants and other soil biota (exerted mostly by pathogens and mutualists)	Positive or negative direct and indirect effects on plant biomass