Figure 1.

Indices of decomposition: a) soil respiration (Rs) measured at the Abisko sites around midday during the July 2001 growing season (mean and SE are shown, three measurement occasions, n = 10); b) litter decomposition of standard birch litter over 4 y at forest and subarctic/alpine tundra heath sites at Dovrefjell, Abisko, and Joatka, the litter decomposition is averaged over the three study sites (mean and SE are shown, n = 30); c) SOM aromaticity in forest and subarctic/alpine tundra heath sites at Dovrefjell, Abisko, and Joatka, the aromaticity is averaged over the three study sites based on data from 2000 (mean and SE are shown, n = 6), unfilled and filled bars represent tundra heath and forest sites, respectively.