

Figure 6 Structural Equation Models (SEMs) on the effect of earthworms and deposited compounds (Na, N, PAHs; combined) on mass loss of litter in deciduous (left) and coniferous forests (right) via changes in soil pH and microbial biomass (for models on individual deposited compounds see Fig. S4 and Table S4). Solid arrows represent marginally significant or significant relationships ($P \leq 0.1$), dashed grey arrows represent non-significant relationships ($P > 0.1$). Dark red, red and yellow arrows represent negative effects of N, Na or PAHs, green, light blue and dark blue arrows represent positive effects. Arrow width is proportional to standardized path coefficients. Non-standardized path coefficients associated with solid arrows are not shown (see Fig. S4, Table S4); $n = 80$ (2 deposited compounds treatments \times 2 earthworm treatments \times 4 replicates \times 5 sampling times); pH and microbial biomass refer to pH and microbial biomass in soil underneath the litterbags. The fauna-driven litter mass loss refers to the difference in litter mass loss between coarse and fine litterbags; microbial-driven mass loss refers to the litter mass loss in fine litterbags.