

## **Response to Reviewers' comments**

We thank the editor and reviewers for their thoughtful and constructive comments that help us improve the manuscript substantially. We have revised the manuscript accordingly. Listed below is our point-to-point response in blue to each comment that was offered by the reviewers. We hope that our revised manuscript will now be suitable for publication in ACP.

### **Response to Editor:**

The authors revised their MS in accordance to the reviewers' comments. The MS is virtually ready for publication. I just wonder if the authors would go through the figures containing several colour shades considering the comment from the file validation process.

R: Thanks for the suggestion. We have carefully reviewed the figures with multiple color shades. Using the Coblis – Color Blindness Simulator, we have adjusted the color schemes of Fig. S5 and 8. The revised figures were added to the revised manuscript and supplement.

Please ensure that the colour schemes used in your maps and charts allow readers with colour vision deficiencies to correctly interpret your findings. Please check your figures using the Coblis – Color Blindness Simulator (<https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/>) and revise the colour schemes accordingly with the next file upload request. -> Fig. S5, 8

R: Thanks for the suggestion. We have adjusted the color schemes of Fig. S5 and 8 and verified them using the Coblis – Color Blindness Simulator to ensure accurate interpretation by readers. The revised figures have been included in the updated manuscript and supplement and are also shown below.

