

## **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.**

