

Thank you to the reviewer for this insightful comment and for providing us with the opportunity to clarify this point.

In general, we do not expect large variations in the extinction coefficient for moderate changes in the aspect ratio of spheroidal particles. The extinction is governed by the extinction efficiency, which previous studies have shown to exhibit only weak sensitivity to particle shape for modest deviations from sphericity. For example, Gasteiger and Wiegner (2018) showed in their Figure 2a that the extinction efficiency curves for spheres and prolate spheroids with an aspect ratio (ε) of 1.4 are nearly indistinguishable over a broad size-parameter range. Furthermore, their Table 3 indicates that even for $\varepsilon = 2$, the differences between spherical and spheroidal particles remain relatively small and are of the same order as the $\sim 2\%$ variation reported in our study.

To further address the reviewer's comment and improve the clarity of the manuscript, we have added new text in Lines 222–233. In addition, we included a supplementary appendix table (Page 28) containing:

- (i) the input parameters used in the MOPSMAP simulations (refractive index = $1.52 + 0.002i$, wavelength = 532 nm, and spheroidal shape parameterizations with $AR = 1, 1.45, 2, \text{ and } 3$), and
- (ii) the corresponding simulation results.