



Biological and dust aerosols as sources of ice-nucleating particles in the eastern Mediterranean: source apportionment, atmospheric processing and parameterization

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Abstract. Aerosol–cloud interactions in mixed-phase clouds (MPCs) are one of the most uncertain drivers of the hydrological cycle and climate change. A synergy of in situ, remote-sensing and modelling experiments were used to determine the source of ice-nucleating particles (INPs) for MPCs at Mount Helmos in the eastern Mediterranean. The influences of boundary layer turbulence, vertical aerosol distributions and meteorological conditions were also examined. When the observation site is in the free troposphere (FT), approximately 1×10^6 aerosol particles serve as INPs around -25°C . The INP abundance spans 3 orders of magnitude and increases in the following order: marine aerosols; continental aerosols; and, finally, dust plumes. Biological particles are important INPs observed in continental and marine aerosols, whereas they play a secondary, although important, role during Saharan dust events. Air masses in the planetary boundary layer (PBL) show both enriched INP concentrations and a higher proportion of INPs to total aerosol particles, compared with cases in the FT. The presence of precipitation/clouds enriches INPs in the FT but decreases INPs in the PBL. Additionally, new INP parameterizations are developed that incorporate the ratio of fluorescent-to-nonfluorescent or coarse-to-fine particles and predict $> 90\%$ of the observed INPs within an uncertainty range of a factor of 10; these new parameterizations exhibit better performance than current widely used parameterizations and allow ice formation in models to respond to variations in dust and biological particles. The improved parameterizations can help MPC formation simulations in regions with various INP sources or different regions with prevailing INP sources.

1 Introduction

Clouds in the atmosphere can be composed solely of liquid-water droplets, ice crystals or a mixture of both (mixed-phase clouds; MPCs). The cloud phase regulates the optical properties and microphysical characteristics of clouds, further influencing their impacts on the hydrological cycle and climate (Tan et al., 2016; Lohmann and Neubauer, 2018; Zhou et al., 2022). Modulation of cloud properties by anthropogenic particles is one of the leading sources of uncertainty in anthropogenic climate change (e.g. Seinfeld et al., 2016). MPCs are ubiquitous (D'Alessandro et al., 2019) but have a much more uncertain impact on climate compared with single-phase clouds (Bjordal et al., 2020). This uncertainty stems from the large number of interactions that can take place among liquid droplets, ice crystals and water vapour – each of which can cool or warm the climate. Furthermore, MPCs exhibit considerable dynamic variability over time and space, as they are thermodynamically unstable. Under supercooled conditions, the saturation vapour pressure with respect to ice (S_i) is higher than that with respect to water (S_w), which favours the mass transfer – through deposition from the vapour phase – of liquid water from particles onto ice existing in MPCs, i.e. the growth of the latter at the expense of the former. This process is known as the Wegener–Bergeron–Findeisen (WBF) process (Wegener, 1912; Bergeron, 1935; Findeisen, 1938; Findeisen et al., 2015). The number of ice crystals in MPCs is also regulated by the abundance of aerosol particles capable of initiating ice formation, i.e. ice-nucleating particles (INPs). INPs can trigger primary ice formation in the MPC regime (Kanji et al., 2017; Burrows et al., 2022; Knopf and Alpert, 2023) with the absence of spontaneous ice formation via the homogeneous freezing of solution droplets, which requires temperatures (T) lower than the homogeneous nucleation temperature (Barahona and Nenes, 2009; Lohmann et al., 2016). Thus, the heterogeneous ice nucleation of INPs can lead to MPC glaciation. An added complexity is ice multiplication (or secondary ice processes, SIPs) occurring in warmer MPCs, which can multiply ice crystal numbers by orders of magnitude above the primary ice levels generated by INPs (Field et al., 2017; Sullivan et al., 2018; Georgakaki et al., 2022; Pasquier et al., 2022). Therefore, constraining the abundance and origin of INPs is critical for understanding MPC formation and the effects of MPCs on the hydrological cycle and climate.

MPCs persistently exist in mountainous terrain where local and remote air masses may be present (Pousse-Nottelmann et al., 2015; Lohmann et al., 2016; Henneberg et al., 2017). Different air masses (e.g. continental pollution, dust plumes and sea spray aerosols from remote marine areas) may contain distinct INP populations with a characteristic abundance and ice formation ability (DeMott et al., 2010; Tobo et al., 2013; McCluskey et al., 2018; Brunner et al.,

2021). The INP type, which depends on its air mass source, is crucial for determining MPC formation. Different types of INPs nucleate ice in different T regimes. Biological particles, as effective INPs, are active at T values warmer than $-15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, whereas dust particles generally form ice at T values lower than $-15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (Murray et al., 2012). In addition, the formation and evolution of MPCs over orographic terrain are influenced by the planetary boundary layer height (PBLH) (Miltenberger et al., 2020), which regulates the aerosol sources depending on whether the observation site is inside or outside of the planetary boundary layer (PBL) (Conen et al., 2015; Wieder et al., 2022). In situ observations at high altitudes in mountainous terrain provide the possibility to specifically investigate INP populations relevant for MPCs under different atmospheric conditions, given that the relative position of a mountaintop in the atmosphere can vary with a changing PBLH (Foskinis et al., 2024).

We study the source of INPs and the characteristics of different INP sources relevant for orographic MPCs in the eastern Mediterranean region. A field campaign, the Cloud-Aerosol InteractionS in the Helmos background Troposphere (CALISHTO), was conducted at the Helmos Hellenic Atmospheric Aerosol and Climate Change (“(HAC)²” hereafter) station (37.9843° N , 22.1963° E ; 2314 m a.s.l., metres above sea level) close to the summit of Mount Helmos. It is reported that (HAC)² is a station among 12 in Europe with the lowest impacts from the PBL (Collaud Coen et al., 2018), suggesting that it is an appropriate station to study INPs from remote sources and to evaluate the characteristics of INPs under background conditions, e.g. in the free troposphere (FT).

This study presents the observations of INPs and aerosol properties at (HAC)² during the CALISHTO campaign from a period between 12 October and 27 November 2021. The objectives of this study are twofold. First, we aimed to identify different INP sources at Mount Helmos and evaluate the characteristics of these INP sources. To this end, a synergy of in situ aerosol property measurements, remote-sensing measurements and model simulations of air mass trajectories were used to identify different INP sources. In addition, the influence of precipitation and/or clouds on the INP characteristics was also investigated, considering that precipitation or clouds may serve as sinks or sources of aerosol particles (Isokääntä et al., 2022; Khadir et al., 2023), thereby impacting the INP abundance of the source. Second, we aimed to use the data and analysis carried out to evaluate existing INP parameterizations and propose new ones that more successfully capture the INP number concentration (N_{INP}) for the wide diversity of particle types encountered at Mount Helmos during CALISHTO. Compared with different parameterizations reported in the literature (DeMott et al., 2010, 2015; Niemand et al., 2012; Tobo et al., 2013; Ullrich et al., 2017; McCluskey et al., 2018), the improvement provided by new INP parameterizations is based on the advantage pro-

vided by the inclusion of source characteristics, i.e. the partitioning of fluorescent and non-fluorescent (or coarse and fine) particles, yielding important implications for modelling studies aimed at quantifying climate effects of cloud–aerosol interactions in MPCs.

2 Methods

2.1 Overview of field campaign

(HAC)² is an atmospheric monitoring station that has been contributing data to the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) and Aerosols, Clouds and Trace gases Research Infrastructure (ACTRIS) since 2016 (Laj et al., 2020); it is located near the summit of Mount Helmos, at the heart of the Peloponnese, in Greece. (HAC)² is frequently situated in the FT or at the FT–PBL interface (Foskinis et al., 2024), and it is also frequently covered by clouds in the fall and springtime. These conditions allow for the in situ study of aerosol–cloud interactions for warm and MPC clouds. (HAC)² is also located at a crossroads of different air masses, including continental pollution, Saharan dust events, long-range-transported biomass burning and marine sea spray aerosols. This allows one to explore the effects of different aerosol types on cloud formation, as is done here. The experimental set-up of the CALISHTO observations is presented in Fig. 1, including in situ ice nucleation (IN) experiments; observations of aerosol properties (size distribution, chemical composition, fluorescent and optical properties) at (HAC)²; remote-sensing measurements conducted at Vathia Lakka (VL), a site 500 m lower than (HAC)²; and back-trajectory analysis to calculate the origin of air masses sampled at (HAC)². Furthermore, meteorological standard parameters recorded at (HAC)² were used to correct the measured INP and aerosol particle number concentrations to values under the equivalent atmospheric standard conditions (i.e. per standard volume of sampled air, hereafter denoted using “std”).

2.2 INP observations

2.2.1 Offline INP observation

The Ice Nucleation Spectrometer of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (INSEKT) freezing assay (Schiebel, 2017; Schneider et al., 2021) was used to measure the immersion freezing of INPs from 0 to -25°C (Fig. 1). INSEKT measures the freezing T of small water volumes ($50\ \mu\text{L}$) that contain aerosol suspended in them. To prepare the freezing aliquots, aerosol particles were first sampled onto filters ($0.2\ \mu\text{m}$ Whatman Nuclepore track-etched polycarbonate membranes, $47\ \text{mm}$, with a flow rate of $9\ \text{L}\ \text{min}^{-1}$) from an omnidirectional total inlet at (HAC)². They were then extracted in Nanopure water that had been filtered beforehand through a $0.1\ \mu\text{m}$ Whatman syringe filter. The aerosol suspension was diluted using two different ratios, 15 : 1 and

225 : 1, and pipetted into two 96-well polymerase chain reaction (PCR) plates. In addition to the original solution and the dilutions, some of the wells (~ 32) were filled with Nanopure water for freezing background tests. The PCR plates were then placed in an aluminium block cooled by an ethanol chiller to perform freezing experiments, and the frozen fraction of the prepared aliquots was recorded as a function of T . Following the analysis protocol reported in Vali (1971) and Vali (2019), the INP concentration of aerosol samples (in particles L^{-1}) as a function of T can be calculated using the tested frozen fraction, the sampled aerosol volume, the suspended liquid volume and the dilution ratio. The sampling time of each filter sample was approximately 24 h, although a few filter samples had a longer sampling time. Detailed information on each INSEKT filter will be provided in a follow-up overview paper for the CALISHTO campaign.

2.2.2 Online INP observations

A portable ice nucleation experiment (PINE) (Möhler et al., 2021) chamber was used for automated real-time observations of INPs at (HAC)² (Fig. 1). The PINE chamber is designed on the basis of the expansion cooling of air parcels (Möhler et al., 2003), where ambient air ($10\ \text{L}$) is sampled into a pre-cooled cloud chamber after passing through Nafion dryers to remove excess moisture and avoid chamber frosting. The air is then expanded and cools down until supersaturation is reached, causing the aerosol particles in the sample to form supercooled droplets and/or ice crystals. Both the number concentration and phase of aerosol particles are monitored, so INPs that activate to ice crystals can be differentiated from droplets and counted. The PINE instrument can be operated in repeated cycles by refilling the cloud chamber with fresh aerosol at the end of an expansion. In this study, the PINE chamber was operated in a T range from -23 to -28°C and at a saturation ratio with respect to water (S_w) > 1.0 to measure INPs activating as ice in all freezing mechanisms. A single PINE expansion cycle has a time resolution of 6 min, and the INP number concentration detection limit for a single experiment is approximately $0.5\ \text{particles}\ \text{L}^{-1}$; averaging over an hour of samples reduces the detection limit to approximately $0.05\ \text{particles}\ \text{L}^{-1}$ (Möhler et al., 2021). The same sampling inlet was used for both the PINE and INSEKT instruments.

2.3 Aerosol property measurements

2.3.1 In situ aerosol property monitoring

Ambient air was sampled through a total inlet for in situ aerosol property measurements at (HAC)² (Fig. 1). A downstream inlet with an impaction stage supplies particulate matter (aerosol) with an aerodynamic diameter of less than $10\ \mu\text{m}$ (PM_{10}) to a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS; Vienna-type differential mobility analyser, DMA, and condensation particle counter, CPC; model 3772, TSI Inc., USA)

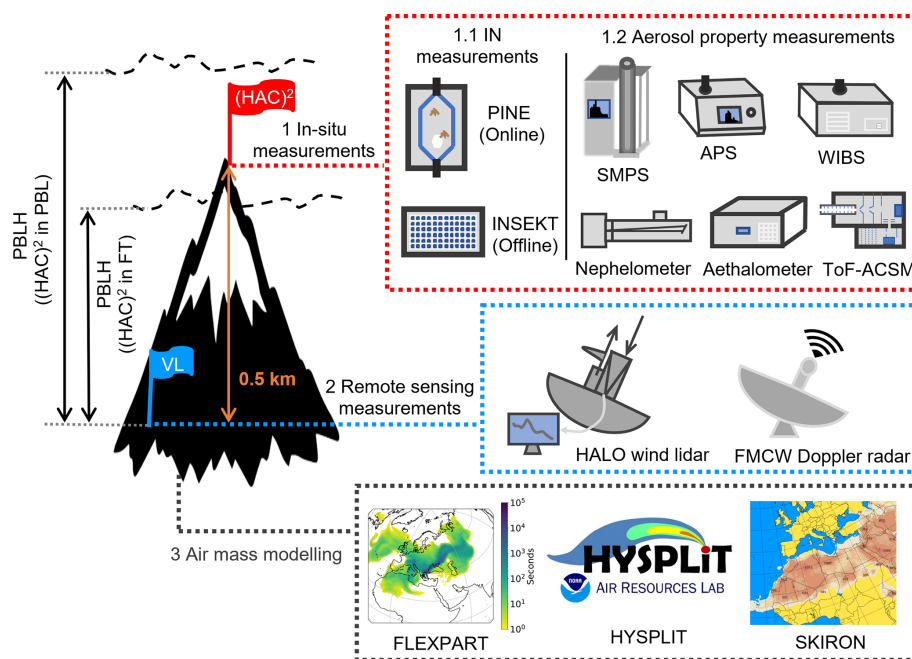


Figure 1. Overview of the instrumentation set-up for the CALISHTO campaign. 1: $(\text{HAC})^2$ represents the mountaintop station where in situ measurements were performed, including ice nucleation measurements and aerosol property measurements using a portable ice nucleation experiment (PINE) instrument, a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS), an aerodynamic particle sizer (APS), a wideband integrated bioaerosol sensor (WIBS), a nephelometer, an Aethalometer, and a time-of-flight aerosol chemical speciation monitor (ToF-ACSM). Filters were collected for offline analysis using the Ice Nucleation Spectrometer of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (INSEKT). 2: VL represents the Vathia Lakka site at the base of Mount Helmos, at an altitude of ~ 1.8 km, at which a HALO wind lidar and a frequency-modulated continuous wave (FMCW) Doppler radar (working at 94 GHz) were placed for remote sensing of wind fields, aerosols and clouds. 3: Modelling products include the FLEXPART model to determine the source regions of aerosol particles reaching the site, the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model to acquire air mass atmospheric trajectories and the SKIRON model to obtain dust forecasts. PBL is the planetary boundary layer, FT is the free troposphere and PBLH stands for PBL height relative to VL.

and an aerodynamic particle sizer (APS; model 3321, TSI Inc., USA) to measure the aerosol particle size distribution range from 10 to 800 nm (electrical mobility diameter) and from 0.5 to 20 μm (aerodynamic diameter), respectively. The number concentration of aerosol particles larger than 95 nm ($\text{SMPS } N_{>95\text{nm}}$) was calculated from the SMPS data and used with a threshold value (100 std cm^{-3}) to determine if $(\text{HAC})^2$ is inside or outside of the PBL (Herrmann et al., 2015; Brunner et al., 2021), given that large aerosol particles are much rarer outside of the PBL. This threshold is confirmed by other methods determining the PBLH using wind lidar and other data (Foskinis et al., 2024). The number concentrations of total, coarse ($> 1.0 \mu\text{m}$, aerodynamic diameter) and fine ($< 1.0 \mu\text{m}$) particles were also calculated based on APS data, termed $\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$, $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ and Fine_{APS} , respectively. In addition, the combined aerosol particle distribution observed by both SMPS and APS was calculated using the method reported in Khlystov et al. (2004). Accordingly, the number concentrations of total particles ($\text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$) and total fine particles ($\text{Fine}_{\text{SMPS+APS}} <$

$1.0 \mu\text{m}$, aerodynamic diameter) observed by both SMPS and APS were also calculated.

A wideband integrated bioaerosol sensor–new electronics option (WIBS-5–NEO, Droplet Measurement Technologies, LLC., USA) was used at $(\text{HAC})^2$, sampling aerosols with a PM_{10} impactor, to measure the size distribution of aerosol particles with optical sizes larger than $0.5 \mu\text{m}$. The WIBS also measures the fluorescence of aerosols on a single-particle basis using ultraviolet light to trigger the excitation of the particle and then detecting the fluorescence at three fluorescent channels: FL1 (excitation wavelength at 280 nm and emission detection at the 310–400 nm waveband), FL2 and FL3 (emission detection waveband of 420–650 nm probing particles excited at 280 and 370 nm, respectively). These three channels target different biologic fluorophores: tryptophan-containing proteins, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NAD(P)H) co-enzymes and riboflavin, respectively (Kaye et al., 2005; Savage et al., 2017), which are ubiquitous in microbes (Pöhlker et al., 2012). Particles showing fluorescence exclusively in any one of the three channels are attributed to a type of A_{WIBS} (FL1 only),

B_{WIBS} (FL2 only) or C_{WIBS} (FL3 only), respectively. Particles carrying two types of fluorophores and simultaneously detected by two channels are termed AB_{WIBS} (FL1 and FL2), AC_{WIBS} (FL1 and FL3) or BC_{WIBS} (FL2 and FL3). Particles showing fluorescence in any one of the three channels are termed $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$. Particles detected in all three channels are attributed to a type of ABC_{WIBS} , which are much more likely to be of biological origin compared with the other types (Hernandez et al., 2016; Savage et al., 2017). Note that non-biological particles may also present in B_{WIBS} , C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} channels, behaving as interfering particles, such as some black carbon and dust particles associated with fluorescent materials (Toprak and Schnaiter, 2013; Savage et al., 2017). The fluorescence detection limit was determined by subtracting the mean background signal plus 9 times the standard deviation measured from routinely forced trigger tests. The WIBS data can be resampled to a customized time span because of their 15 μs high time resolution for single-particle detection. The measurement rates of WIBS-5-NEO are up to 9500 cm^{-3} for all particles irrespective of fluorescence and up to 466 cm^{-3} for fluorescent particles.

The hourly mean light-scattering coefficient of dry PM_{10} aerosols at (HAC)² was measured using an integrating nephelometer (model 3563, TSI Inc., USA) at three wavelengths (450, 550 and 700 nm, termed $\text{Scatt}_{450\text{nm}}$, $\text{Scatt}_{550\text{nm}}$ and $\text{Scatt}_{700\text{nm}}$, respectively) (Laj et al., 2020). Using light-scattering coefficients measured at wavelengths of 450 and 700 nm, the Ångström exponent (α) can be calculated as follows:

$$\alpha = -\frac{\ln[\text{Scatt}_{700\text{nm}}/\text{Scatt}_{450\text{nm}}]}{\ln(700/450)}. \quad (1)$$

The wavelength pair of 450 and 700 nm was used because the larger difference in the measured scattering coefficients gives more accurate α values (Mordas et al., 2015). A lower α value suggests the dominance of coarse particles in the sampled aerosols, whereas a larger α value indicates the dominance of fine particles (Pereira et al., 2008); this helps to differentiate continental aerosols mainly containing fine particles from dust plumes dominated by coarse particles. In addition, the mass concentration of refractory and carbonaceous aerosol particles, i.e. elemental black carbon (eBC), sampled through a PM_{10} cut-off inlet was monitored by an Aethalometer (AE31, Magee Scientific, USA) at 880 nm with a minimum time base of 2 min. The chemical composition of non-refractory species of submicron ambient aerosols, including organics (Org), sulfate (SO_4^{2+}), nitrate (NO_3^-), ammonium (NH_4^+) and chloride (Cl^-), was monitored by a time-of-flight aerosol chemical speciation monitor (ToF-ACSM, Aerodyne Research Inc., USA) with a time resolution of 10 min (Zografou et al., 2024).

2.3.2 Air mass remote-sensing measurements

Figure 1 shows that remote-sensing measurements were performed at VL at an altitude 500 m lower than (HAC)² to measure the PBLH, radar equivalent reflectivity factor (Z_e) and mean Doppler velocity (MDV). The PBLH was calculated using the Doppler velocity of aerosols measured by a pulsed Doppler scanning lidar system (StreamLine Wind Pro model, HALO Photonics, UK). The lidar was operated in the vertical stare azimuth display mode at a wavelength of 1.5 μm with a time resolution of 10 min and a vertical spatial resolution of 30 m. The vertical wind speed distribution at a certain distance from the lidar was calculated (Barlow et al., 2011; Schween et al., 2014). The PBL top boundary is defined at a position where the standard deviation of the wind vertical velocity, σ_w , drops below 0.1 m^2s^{-2} (Foskinnis et al., 2024). The vertical distance between VL and the PBL top boundary is then the PBLH. Note that the PBLH may be undetermined during cloudy periods, as the lidar signal is quickly attenuated in clouds; moreover, when too few particles are present, an insufficient backscattering signal will inhibit PBLH determination. When PBLH results were unavailable, SMPS $N_{>95\text{nm}}$ results were compared to the threshold value (100 std cm^{-3}) to define the (HAC)² position with respect to the PBL (Herrmann et al., 2015; Brunner et al., 2021). In addition, a frequency-modulated continuous wave (FMCW) wideband Doppler spectral zenith profiler (WProf) was deployed to measure the radar reflectivity at a wavelength of 3.2 mm (corresponding to 94 GHz) up to 10 km a.g.l. (above ground level; Kuchler et al., 2017; Billault-Roux et al., 2023; Ferrone and Berne, 2023). The Doppler radar results at the (HAC)² level (500 m above VL) were used to evaluate the presence of precipitation and clouds.

2.3.3 Air mass modelling

As shown in Fig. 1, the footprint and trajectory of air masses arriving at (HAC)² were calculated by the FLEXible PARTicle dispersion Model (FLEXPART) (Stohl et al., 2005; Pisso et al., 2019; Vratolis et al., 2023) and the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPPLIT) model (Draxler and Hess, 1998; Stein et al., 2015). FLEXPART was used to calculate the residence time of aerosol particles with a geometric mean diameter of 400 nm (10 nm–10 μm ; Fig. S1 in the Supplement) and a standard deviation of 3.3 in defined locations in the prior 10 d. The spatial resolution of the model corresponds to a grid cell size of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$. Note that more than 90 % of the aerosol particles used in FLEXPART simulations have diameters larger than 100 nm, and particles of this size range (> 100 nm) are mainly responsible for the observed INPs. The 24 h aerosol footprint simulation for each calendar day was run every 3 h (from 00:00 to 24:00 LT, local time, UTC+2) by releasing 40 000 air parcels from (HAC)². Local wind, local turbulence and mesoscale wind fluctuations were

considered in the dispersion and transport calculations. Dry and wet aerosol deposition processes were also included in the model. The residence time of aerosol particles in each location was integrated from a height of 0 to 500 m a.g.l.

The HYSPLIT model was run to calculate the 7 d back trajectories of air masses arriving at (HAC)². Input meteorological data from the Global Data Assimilation System (GDAS, 1° × 1° resolution) (Stein et al., 2015; Kostrykin et al., 2021) were used for the back-trajectory calculations. The source height was set at three height levels of 100, 1000 and 2000 m a.g.l. The model was launched every 6 h backward from the start time. The start time of back trajectories on a day was decided depending on the need to specify if there was an aerosol source change during the day.

Finally, the SKIRON model (Kallos et al., 2006; Spyrou et al., 2010) was used to calculate the time series of dust mass concentration at (HAC)² at different height levels of 1250, 1614, 1881 and 2170 m a.s.l. Along with the with the Coarse_{APS} particle concentration and the aerosol footprints from FLEXPART, dust mass concentrations below (HAC)² predicted by SKIRON help to determine the occurrence and intensity of dust plumes and their source region.

2.4 Aerosol source apportionment and type classification

In general, transported aerosol particles from remote regions showed trajectories from the north in early October, at the beginning of the campaign, but changed in a counter-clockwise direction during the campaign. Figure 2 presents exemplary FLEXPART results throughout the campaign to show major aerosol sources from remote regions. Aerosol particles arriving at (HAC)² on 12 October (Fig. 2a) were seen to come from the north and the northeast, which can be attributed to continental aerosols, whereas later, on 3 November, marine aerosols from the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea might have made up a large fraction of aerosols transported to (HAC)² (Fig. 2b). On 4 November and later, dust from the Sahara, possibly mixed with marine aerosols, reaches the station (Fig. 2c and d). Notably, the Saharan dust event increases the aerosol content (Fig. 2c) by more than 1 order of magnitude compared with the marine aerosols (Fig. 2b). At the beginning of the Saharan dust event, the case in Fig. 2c spanned ~ 3 h and was possibly a transition period with a lower mixture of local aerosols. After that, Saharan dust (Fig. 2d) persisted for about 1 week. Later on, dust mixed with continental particles reached the site (Fig. 2e), followed by primarily continental aerosols from the north of (HAC)², e.g. the Balkans (Fig. 2f). Note that FLEXPART results provide an overview of aerosol sources on a daily basis, but the further identification of particle sources at (HAC)² relies on both in situ and remote-sensing results with a time resolution of 1 h. For example, the synergy of in situ and remote-sensing results enables one to differentiate between the distinct characters of the sources in Fig. 2b and c.

In addition to aerosol footprints, we consider following criteria to specifically classify the sources of air masses at (HAC)²:

- comparing the PBLH (SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$) with a threshold value of 0.5 km (100 std cm⁻³) to examine the relative position of (HAC)² with respect to the PBL;
- comparing Coarse_{APS} with a threshold value of 20 particles std L⁻¹ to judge the presence of remotely transported air masses in the FT;
- comparing Ze (MDV) with a threshold value of 10 dBZ (−0.5 ms⁻¹) to evaluate the presence of precipitation/clouds;
- comparing α with a threshold value of 1.0 to diagnose the occurrence of Saharan dust events.

Figure 3 summarizes the classified aerosol sources and presents their characteristics to demonstrate their distinct nature. Hourly averaged data are presented in Fig. 3; however, the presented data for the source of “South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols” (in Fig. 3 and following figures) are resampled every 15 min due to the short period of observation (< 3 h). First, a PBLH of less than 0.5 km or an SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ of less than 100 std cm⁻³ (if no PBLH results are available) means that (HAC)² is above the PBL (Fig. 3a or b). Moreover, if Coarse_{APS} is less than 20 std L⁻¹, the period will be attributed to (HAC)² in the FT (Fig. 3c). Furthermore, periods of Ze values larger than 10 dBZ (Hagen and Yuter, 2006) and MDV values less than −0.5 ms⁻¹ are classified as periods influenced by precipitation. For periods with slightly lower Ze values, (HAC)² is likely in cloud or fog. During the campaign, periods of precipitation frequently alternated with cloudy periods. Therefore, we consider such periods jointly. If there is no influence from remotely transported air masses (Coarse_{APS} < 20 particles std L⁻¹), depending on the presence of precipitation/clouds, the condition is classified as “(HAC)² in the FT under background conditions” and “(HAC)² in the FT with precipitation/clouds”, respectively. For periods of Coarse_{APS} > 20 particles std L⁻¹, the influence of remotely transported aerosols was considered. Continental aerosols have α values larger than 2.0 (Fig. 3d) when (HAC)² is in the PBL. The distinct particle properties of continental aerosols also include high SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ values (median value of > 200 std cm⁻³ in Fig. 3b), moderate Coarse_{APS} values (median value of ~ 200 particles std L⁻¹ in Fig. 3c) and very low dust particle abundance values (< 0.1 µg std m⁻³ in Fig. 3e). Such an aerosol source is termed “North continental aerosols in the PBL”. When continental aerosols are sources of particles at (HAC)² but the site is above the PBL (Fig. 3a and b), the 75th quartile for the Coarse_{APS} of the aerosols decreases to 91 particles std L⁻¹ (Fig. 3c) and becomes lower than the 9th percentile for the Coarse_{APS} of North continental aerosols in the PBL. Moreover, the α value of the source termed “North continental

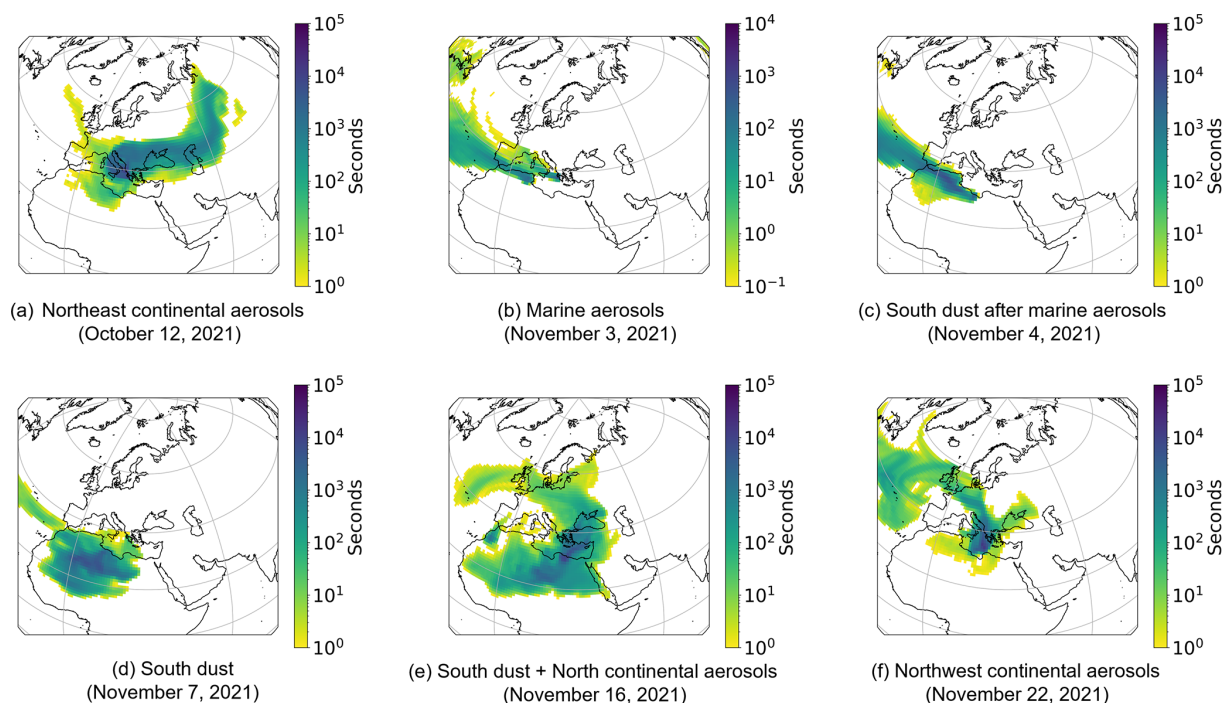


Figure 2. Overview of aerosol sources as seen from exemplary FLEXPART 10 d backward residence time maps: **(a)** Northeast continental air masses on 12 October 2021; **(b)** Marine air masses on 3 November 2021; **(c)** South dust after marine air masses on 4 November 2021; **(d)** South dust on 7 November 2021; **(e)** South dust and North continental air masses on 16 November 2021; **(f)** Northwest continental air masses on 22 November 2021. The colour map scales the residence time of the particles from a height between 0 and 500 m a.g.l. in the 10 d backward trajectories.

aerosols above the PBL” decreases (25th quartile > 1.67), but the median value is still higher than 2.0 (Fig. 3d). Therefore, North continental aerosols above the PBL are distinctly different from the aerosols in the PBL. In addition, the distinction of marine aerosols above the PBL is indicated by the highest Cl^- fraction range compared with the other scenarios not under FT conditions (Fig. 3f), given that a high Cl^- concentration is reported to be a character of marine aerosols (Xiao et al., 2018). Khan et al. (2015) reported that the particle number concentration of coarse-mode sea spray aerosols is approximately 100 times less than that of dust aerosols, which is consistent with the observations in this study (Fig. 3c). Hence, a “Marine aerosols above the PBL” scenario can be classified. Followed by marine aerosols, a distinct period of several hours (on 4 November) at the beginning of a dust event (from 4 to 10 November) was observed for $(\text{HAC})^2$ in the PBL. It shows high $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentrations (> 450 particles stdL^{-1} in Fig. 3c), low α values (close to 1.0 in Fig. 3d) and the presence of dust particles (Fig. 3e). Thus, such a source is classified as South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols. Afterwards, the dust event period is termed “South dust in the PBL” which shows the highest $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentration (9th percentile > 1000 particles stdL^{-1} in Fig. 3c), low α values (close to 1.0, Fig. 3d) and the largest dust mass concentra-

tion (25th quartile $> 10 \mu\text{g std m}^{-3}$ in Fig. 3e). Lastly, periods of aerosol footprints similar to Fig. 2e and showing aerosol properties in Fig. 3 between those of South dust and North continental aerosols are classified as “South dust with North continental aerosols”, i.e. a mixture of both aerosols. Hereafter, we use the remotely transported aerosols identified in Fig. 3 to name the aerosol sources at $(\text{HAC})^2$. However, we note that particles from local sources may also be relevant for aerosol particles reaching $(\text{HAC})^2$, depending on the $(\text{HAC})^2$ position with respect to the PBL.

2.5 INP parameterization methods

INP parameterization is critically important for climate models to express cloud–aerosol interactions in both ice clouds and MPCs. As a minor subset of total aerosol particles, N_{INP} exponentially increases with decreasing T , as supported by both theory (Kampe and Weickmann, 1951) and observations (reviewed in Kanji et al., 2017). N_{INP} also shows dependence on the concentration of available aerosol particles (Burrows et al., 2022) and their surface characteristics (e.g. IN active site density), to trigger the activation (Vali et al., 2015; Knopf and Alpert, 2023). DeMott et al. (2010) developed a parameterization (termed “DeMott2010” in Table 1) to predict N_{INP} using T and the number concentration of aerosol particles larger than $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ($\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$), based on a suite of

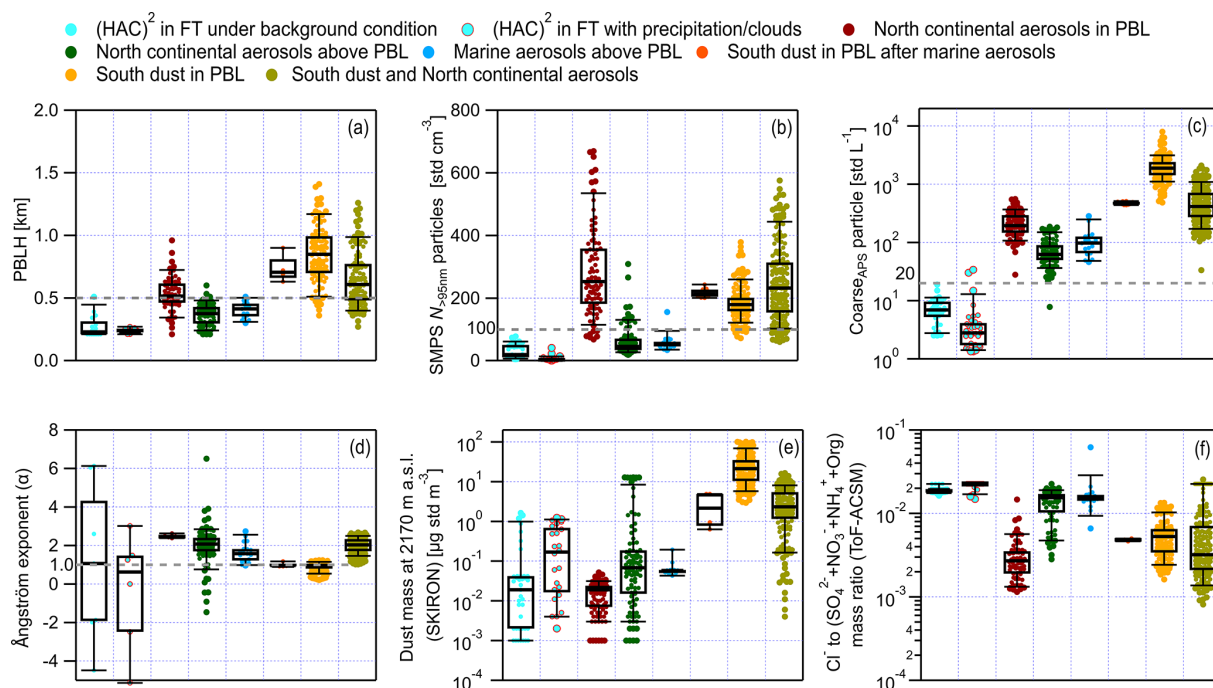


Figure 3. Box plots for the characteristics of identified aerosol sources: **(a)** PBLH with respect to VL; **(b)** number concentration of particles larger than 95 nm measured by SMPS ($SMPS N_{>95\text{ nm}}$) at $(HAC)^2$; **(c)** coarse-particle ($> 1.0\ \mu\text{m}$) number concentration measured by APS ($Coarse_{APS}$) at $(HAC)^2$; **(d)** Ångström exponent (α) at the wavelength pair of 450 and 700 nm calculated using nephelometer data recorded at $(HAC)^2$; **(e)** dust mass concentration at 2170 m a.s.l. (~ 140 m below $(HAC)^2$) calculated by the SKIRON model; **(f)** the mass ratio of Cl^- to other species measured by ToF-ACSM at $(HAC)^2$. The box shows the median line and the range between 25th and 75th quartiles; the lower and upper caps of the box indicate the 9th and 91th percentiles, respectively.

INP measurements at various locations globally. Tobo et al. (2013) augmented the DeMott2010 formulation and developed a new parameterization (termed “Tobo2013FBAP” in Table 1) to calculate N_{INP} using the number concentration of fluorescent aerosol particles monitored by a UV-APS (ultraviolet APS, n_{FBAPS}), to consider the explicit contributions from biological and dust particles to the coarse-mode population. Compared with DeMott2010, Tobo2013FBAP shows increased predictability with respect to calculating N_{INP} from aerosol sources containing biological particles (Tobo et al., 2013). DeMott et al. (2015) used $Total_{APS}$ and augmented Tobo2013FBAP by introducing a calibration factor (cf); they then calculated a new suite of parameters for the formulation by fitting it to integrated laboratory and field data (termed “DeMott2015” in Table 1). However, the N_{INP} of different aerosol sources may not scale to the total aerosol particle number concentration (e.g. $Total_{APS}$ or n_{FBAPS}) following the same rule as used in the above-mentioned parameterizations. This is because the IN ability of potential INPs from different sources varies, and different types of INPs dominate the N_{INP} in different T regimes (Murray et al., 2012; Kanji et al., 2017).

Particle-surface-area-based approaches have also been reported in the literature, such as the approaches termed “Niemand2012” (Niemand et al., 2012), “Ullrich2017” (Ullrich et

al., 2017) and “McCluskey2018” (McCluskey et al., 2018) in Table 1. Given that different types of INPs originate from different sources and may have different IN active site densities over the particle surface, the INP concentrations calculated from different particle-surface-area-based approaches developed from different aerosol sources can vary by more than 3 orders of magnitude (Niemand et al., 2012; McCluskey et al., 2018). Further improvements to INP prediction may require parameterizations to explicitly consider additional characteristics of resolved aerosol properties to point to their sources. Mignani et al. (2021) reported that the ratio of large aerosol particles ($> 2.0\ \mu\text{m}$) recorded by APS can be used as an identity to characterize INPs from Saharan dust and that the implementation of the ratio into the INP parameterization improves its predictability. We expand upon this and use the detailed INP source apportionment and type classification (Sect. 2.4) to incorporate INP source characteristics into the INP parameterizations developed here. The new parameterizations proposed for INPs at Mount Helmos are expressed as a function of T , aerosol particle concentration recorded by APS or WIBS, and the ratio of the particle number concentration recorded in different channels of the APS or WIBS. We demonstrate (1) the feasibility of predicting INPs from different sources using one suite of parameters for the proposed parameterizations (see Sect. 3.4) and (2) the superior

Table 1. INP parameterizations from the literature.

INP parameterization	Region	Included major aerosol types	T range of INP observations	Formulation
DeMott2010	Global observation covering Colorado, Wyoming and Alaska in the USA; Eastern Canada and Ottawa; the Pacific region; and the Amazon Basin	Dust and biological particles	−35 to −9 °C ($S_w > 100\%$)	$N_{\text{INP}} = a(-T)^b \cdot \text{Total}_{\text{APS}}^{(-cT+d)}$ ($a = 0.0000594$, $b = 3.33$, $c = 0.0264$, $d = 0.0033$) ($\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$ in std cm^{-3} ; T in °C)
Tobo2013FBAP	Rocky Mountain region	Biological particles	−35 to −9 °C ($S_w = 103\%–106\%$)	$N_{\text{INP}} = \text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}^{(-aT+b)} \cdot \exp(-cT + d)$ ($a = -0.108$, $b = 3.8$, $c = 0$, $d = 4.605$) ($\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}^a$ in std cm^{-3} ; T in °C)
DeMott2015	Pacific Ocean basin and the Virgin Islands	Laboratory dust samples and dust particles in the atmosphere	−35 to −20 °C ($S_w = 105\%$)	$N_{\text{INP}} = \text{cf} \cdot \text{Total}_{\text{APS}}^{(-aT+b)} \cdot \exp(-cT + d)$ ($\text{cf} = 3$, $a = 0$, $b = 1.25$, $c = 0.46$, $d = -11.6$) ($\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$ in std cm^{-3} ; T in °C)
Niemand2012	Laboratory experiments	Dust	−36 to −12 °C ($S_w > 100\%$)	$N_{\text{INP}} = 1000 \cdot S_{\text{SMPS+APS}} \cdot \exp(aT + b)$ ($a = -0.517$, $b = 8.934$) ($S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}^b$ in $\text{std m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$; T in °C)
Ullrich2017	Laboratory experiments	Dust	−30 to −14 °C ($S_w > 100\%$)	$N_{\text{INP}} = 1000 \cdot S_{\text{SMPS+APS}} \cdot \exp(a(273.15 + T) + b)$ ($a = -0.517$, $b = 150.577$) ($S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ in $\text{std m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$; T in °C)
McCluskey2018	West coast of Ireland	Sea spray aerosols, marine organics and offshore biological particles	−27 to −10 °C ($S_w > 100\%$)	$N_{\text{INP}} = 1000 \cdot S_{\text{SMPS+APS}} \cdot \exp(aT + b)$ ($a = -0.545$, $b = 1.0125$) ($S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ in $\text{std m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$; T in °C)

^a $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ represents the number concentration of fluorescent particles larger than 0.5 μm measured by WIBS. Note that Tobo et al. (2013) used UV-APS to measure fluorescent particles showing fluorescence signals in the wavelength range of 400–575 nm after being excited at 355 nm. ^b $S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ total particle surface area was measured by SMPS and APS.

performance of the new parameterizations compared with the approaches reported in the literature (Table 1).

3 Results and discussions

In this section, we first provide evidence of the distinct characteristics of individual sources (Sect. 3.1) classified in Sect. 2.4. An overview of INPs observed at Mount Helmos is presented as a function of T , and the results are contrasted against literature observations, for both the global area and (specifically) the Mediterranean region (Sect. 3.2). The INP abundance and its correlation with the aerosol properties of each INP source are then examined. We also focus on a case study in which precipitation effects on INPs in the PBL are explicitly studied (Sect. 3.3). Finally, the ability of published parameterizations to reproduce observed INPs at Mount Helmos is examined, followed by the introduction of new parameterizations that we develop which explicitly consider the characteristics of different INP sources and display superior performance (Sect. 3.4).

3.1 Properties of identified aerosol sources

3.1.1 The particle size distribution for different aerosol types and air mass classifications

Figure 4a shows the combined particle size distribution of different INP sources measured by both SMPS and APS. Scatter plots in Fig. 4b and c present the apportionment of fine ($< 1.0 \mu\text{m}$, $\text{Fines}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ in Fig. 4b and Fine_{APS} in Fig. 4c) and coarse ($> 1.0 \mu\text{m}$, $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$) particles for different aerosol sources. The results of the concentration of aerosol particles in different size ranges are provided in Fig. S2. Based on all observations, we summarize that aerosols at (HAC)² during CALISHTO generally exhibit four size modes: an ultrafine mode ($D_a < 0.04 \mu\text{m}$), an Aitken mode ($0.04 < D_a < 0.1 \mu\text{m}$), an accumulation mode ($0.1 < D_a < 1.0 \mu\text{m}$) and a coarse mode ($D_a > 1.0 \mu\text{m}$). When (HAC)² is in the FT, aerosol particles in the size range $D_a > 0.1 \mu\text{m}$ (Fig. 4a), with and without the influence of precipitation/clouds, exhibit a similar size distribution, with a characteristic decrease in number with increasing size, resembling a power law (Kim et al., 1992). Particles larger than 4.0 μm in the FT show negligible abundance. Precipitation/clouds decrease the number of particles smaller than 0.4 μm , while the absence of a distinct accumulation mode may suggest inap-

preciable influences from anthropogenic surface emissions on FT aerosols (Ran et al., 2022).

FT aerosols with $D_a < 0.1 \mu\text{m}$ show a broad Aitken mode under both background and precipitation/cloudy conditions, but the latter conditions tend to suppress the ultrafine and accumulation modes (Fig. 4a). Such size growth for Aitken-mode particles and a number concentration decrease in ultrafine particles may be facilitated by the larger temperature and relative humidity gradients during precipitation/cloudy periods, both of which promote particle growth and gas-to-particle conversion processes (Schroder and Strom, 1997; Bates et al., 1998; Kamra et al., 2003; Peter et al., 2010). Such processes are also promoted by particle decreases in the accumulation mode, leading to decreased sinks for ultrafine particles and gas-phase materials (Khadir et al., 2023). As shown in Fig. 4b, the increase in $\text{Fine}_{\text{SMPS}+\text{APS}}$ particles may not always happen in the FT with the presence of precipitation/clouds. Nonetheless, while new particle formation and particle growth are often reported under PBL conditions, we show that these processes may also occur under FT conditions (Kerminen et al., 2018).

Among all aerosol sources, the North continental aerosols in the PBL source shows the largest particle concentration in the accumulation mode, indicating substantial influences from anthropogenic particles (Zaizen et al., 2004). The North continental aerosols in the PBL source also contains some Aitken- and coarse-mode particles. Above the PBL, an overall particle number decrease in the Aitken, accumulation and coarse modes can be observed for North continental aerosols, whereas this source shows an increase in ultrafine-mode particles; this is in agreement with Ristovski et al. (2010), who reported that the size distribution of continental aerosols penetrated into the FT. Showing a generally overlapping $Q_{25\%}$ – $Q_{75\%}$ range (Fig. 4a), marine aerosols have a similar particle size distribution to the North continental aerosols when both are above the PBL. Following marine aerosols, a dust plume intrusion period in the PBL (South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols) shows a particle size distribution with substantial increases in the coarse, accumulation and Aitken modes, which agrees with the aerosol content increase presented in Fig. 2c compared to Fig. 2b, but it shows a slight decrease in ultrafine-mode particles. The large increase in coarse-mode particles, especially particles larger than $10 \mu\text{m}$ (Fig. 4a), suggests the concurrent presence of dust particles (Brunner et al., 2021). The increase in accumulation- and Aitken-mode particles may be attributed to the diurnal cycling of $(\text{HAC})^2$ in and out of the PBL. Gini et al. (2022) noted that Saharan dust events are usually associated with a lower PBLH. The distinct size distribution characteristic of South dust in the PBL is that this source has the highest concentration of coarse-mode particles compared with all aerosol sources, but it contains less finer particles ($< 1.0 \mu\text{m}$; Fig. 4b and c). Lastly, the South dust and North continental aerosols source shows a size distribution with coarse-mode particles between South dust in the PBL and North continen-

tal aerosols in the PBL, and the mixed source shows slightly fewer particles in the other modes compared with the North continental aerosol in the PBL source.

3.1.2 Fluorescent properties of particles from different aerosol sources

Figures 5 and 6 present the respective relative fractions and size distributions of different types of fluorescent particles for different aerosol sources. Figure 7 provides the results of the $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ particle number concentration, the asphericity factor of $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ particles, and the correlation between $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ particles and the dust (eBC) mass concentration in different aerosol sources. Figure 5a shows that fluorescent particles are mainly comprised of B_{WIBS} -, C_{WIBS} - and BC_{WIBS} -type particles as well as a few A_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particles when $(\text{HAC})^2$ is in the FT under background conditions without the influence of remotely transported air masses. The particles detected in the B_{WIBS} , C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} channels may be attributed to non-biological fluorescent particles (Crawford et al., 2016; Ziemba et al., 2016), whereas the signals for the A_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} channels are probably from bioaerosols (Crawford et al., 2015). Despite a low number concentration of fluorescent particles when $(\text{HAC})^2$ is in the FT under background conditions (Figs. 6 and 7a), some of the fluorescent particles with biogenic materials may contribute to INPs. With the influence of precipitation/clouds in the FT, the dominance of A_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particles and the fractional increase in AB_{WIBS} particles (Fig. 5a) may be attributed to bacteria for small particles ($< 2.0 \mu\text{m}$) and to fungal spores or plant fragments for large particles ($> 2.0 \mu\text{m}$). This is consistent with the release of biological particles during or after precipitation/cloud events (Prenni et al., 2013; Jung et al., 2017; Iwata et al., 2019; Negron et al., 2020; Khadir et al., 2023). Those biological particles are potentially active INPs at warm temperatures.

For North continental aerosols and marine aerosols above the PBL, both aerosol sources contain particles from all WIBS channels; the only difference is that the former has more observation data (Fig. 5d and e). This means that both aerosol sources contain similar types of fluorescent particles that might be in a mixed state of biological particles and interfering particles, such as dust particles carrying biological matter. D. Tang et al. (2022) reported that biological particles in continental aerosols are mainly observed in the A_{WIBS} , AB_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} channels. It has also been reported that biological particles in marine aerosols may show fluorescence in the A_{WIBS} , B_{WIBS} , AB_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} channels (Kawana et al., 2021; Moallemi et al., 2021). Some C_{WIBS} ($\sim 20\%$) and BC_{WIBS} ($\sim 20\%$) particles in marine and continental aerosols above the PBL may be attributed to residual particles associated with fluorescent materials but may not necessarily be biological particles (Pöhlker et al., 2012).

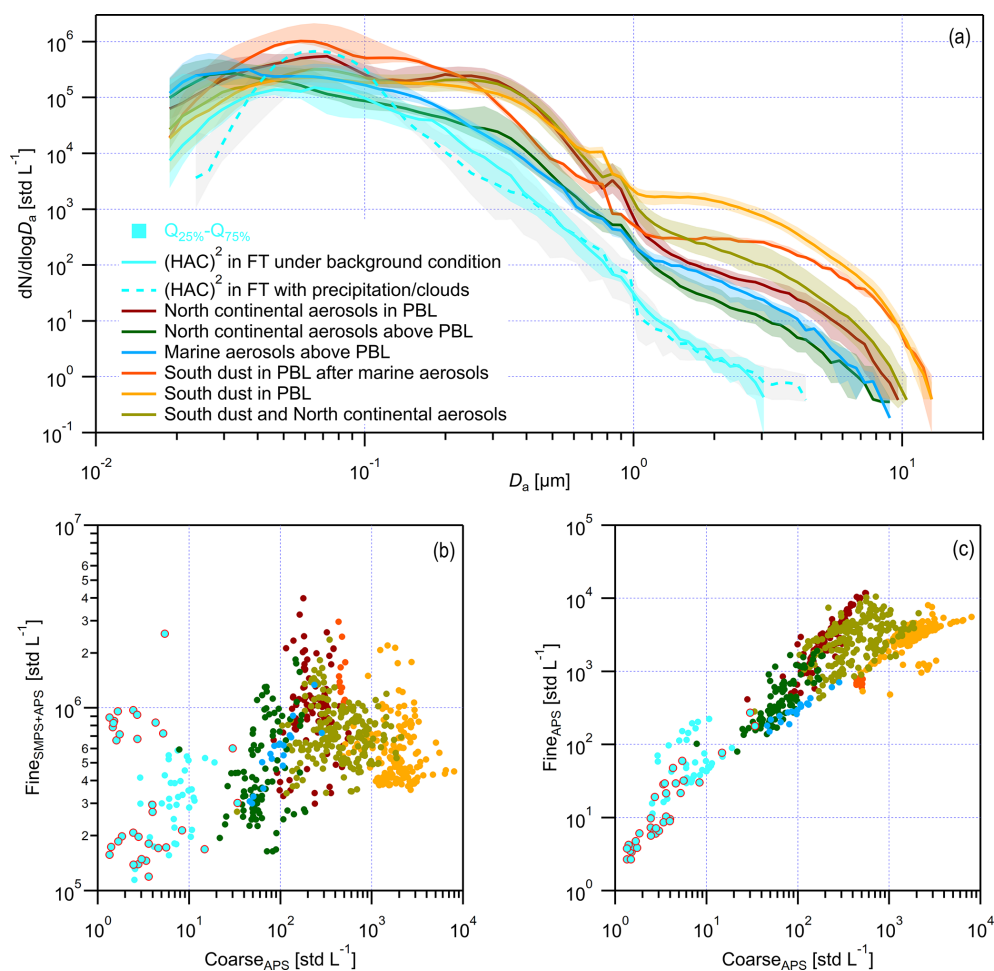


Figure 4. Particle size distribution of different aerosol sources. **(a)** Combined size distribution of particles measured by SMPS (10–800 nm in mobility diameter) and APS (0.5–20 μm in aerodynamic diameter). The solid line is the median of the particle size distribution. The shaded area shows the 25th to 75th percentiles of the particle size distribution of each aerosol source. **(b)** Scatter plots of the $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle (> 1.0 μm, on the x axis) number concentration and $\text{Fine}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ particle (particles < 1.0 μm measured by both SMPS and APS, on the y axis) number concentration. **(c)** Scatter plots of the $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle (> 1.0 μm, on the x axis) number concentration and Fine_{APS} particle (particles < 1.0 μm measured by APS, on the y axis) number concentration. The aerosol sources are indicated in the legend of panel (a).

The major types of fluorescent particles for aerosol sources containing dust particles, i.e. South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols and South dust in the PBL, are B_{WIBS} , C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} (Fig. 5). This is consistent with Longo et al. (2014) and Violaki et al. (2021), who both showed a strong association of bioaerosols with mineral dust plumes. This is also in agreement with Yue et al. (2022), who reported a correlation between dust particles and C_{WIBS} (as well as BC_{WIBS}) particles. Moreover, it is reported that soil dust may be co-emitted with organics (O’Sullivan et al., 2014), which may show fluorescence in the B_{WIBS} and C_{WIBS} channels (Després et al., 2012; Graber and Rudich, 2012). According to the results shown in Fig. 6c–e, B_{WIBS} particles in dust-containing aerosols are generally small (< 2.0 μm), whereas both C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} particles are larger (> 2.0 μm). This suggests that B_{WIBS} particles might be attributed to small

soil dust particles, while both C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} particles may be more relevant for large mineral dust particles that show fluorescence. Furthermore, the results in Fig. 7c and d indicate that fluorescent particles in dust plumes may not be purely bioaerosols, given the weak correlation between ABC_{WIBS} and the dust mass concentration estimated by the SKIRON model ($R = 0.14$ and $\rho = 0.35$). We note that C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} particles might be the most relevant types of fluorescent particles for mineral dust from Saharan dust; this is supported by the strong and significant correlations between the calculated dust mass concentration and C_{WIBS} (or BC_{WIBS}) particles, compared with the other types of fluorescent particles that show insignificant correlations (Fig. S3).

Small carbonaceous (Bond et al., 2013) and combustion-generated particles can carry polycyclic aromatic hydrocar-

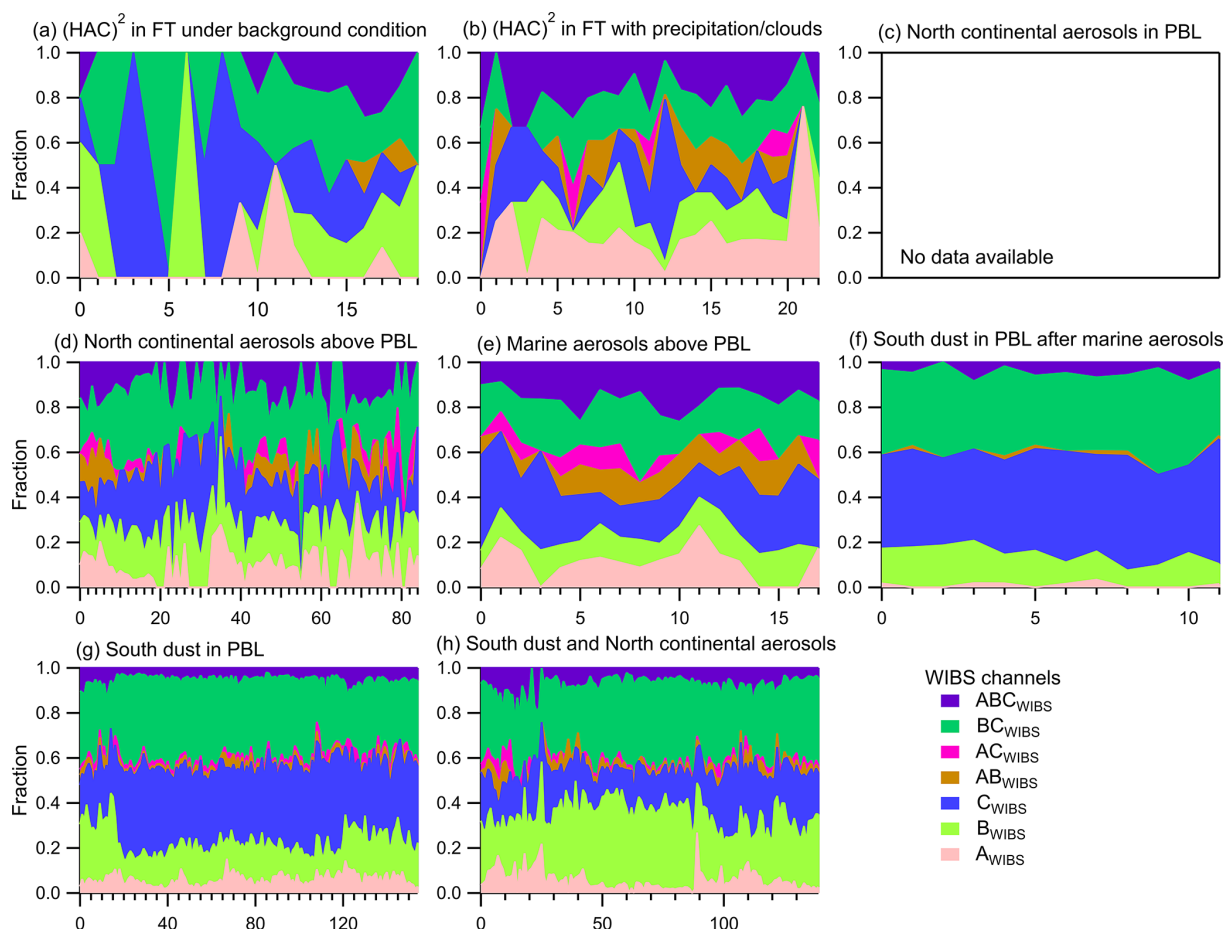


Figure 5. The fractional pattern of different types of fluorescent particles classified by WIBS. Different particle types are indicated in the legend. The x axis indicates the number of observations, while the y axis scales the fraction of each type of particle from an identified aerosol source. WIBS data were resampled every 15 min for the source of South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols due to the short period of observation (< 3 h), whereas hourly averaged results were presented for the rest of the aerosol sources.

bons (PAHs) or other compounds that fluoresce (Fennelly et al., 2018), and they may contribute to the B_{WIBS} , C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} populations (Fig. 6c–e). This is supported by the significant correlation ($p < 0.05$) between $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ particles and the eBC mass concentration (Fig. 7e). ABC_{WIBS} , however, is not correlated with the eBC mass concentration (Fig. 7f), suggesting that ABC_{WIBS} is indeed a distinct population – biological particles – which is unaffected by sources that contribute to eBC. Results in Fig. S4 show that eBC particles are generally correlated with B_{WIBS} , C_{WIBS} and BC_{WIBS} populations. Compared with the aerosol source of South dust in the PBL, the mixed source of South dust and North continental aerosols shows a larger fraction in B_{WIBS} but a smaller fraction in C_{WIBS} particles (Fig. 5g and h). The higher content of B_{WIBS} particles may be explained by a larger particle number concentration of small carbonaceous particles ($< 2.0 \mu\text{m}$), such as soot from anthropogenic emissions in continental sources. Furthermore, the small fraction of A_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particles in dust (Fig. 5g and h) sug-

gests the presence of biological particles from near-ground sources in the PBL. This can be explained by the high PBLH (Fig. 3a) that exceeds the $(\text{HAC})^2$ altitude, meaning that the site is in the PBL and, thus, directly influenced by bioaerosols emitted by the surrounding forested area, such as bacteria, fungi and/or fungal spores.

A comparison of $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ and ABC_{WIBS} particles in different aerosol sources in and above the PBL (Figs. 6 and 7) shows that sources in the PBL contain more fluorescent particles (by approximately 1 order of magnitude) than sources above the PBL. This suggests that particles from biogenic sources can be significantly reduced when the atmospheric conditions change from the PBL to the FT. In addition, we discuss the impacts of anthropogenic emissions on different aerosol sources by using the observed eBC results. Figure 7e and f show that all identified aerosol sources contain eBC, despite low eBC concentrations under conditions in the FT with and without precipitation/clouds ($< 0.05 \mu\text{g std m}^{-3}$). Thus, anthropogenic pollution may even impact $(\text{HAC})^2$ when it is

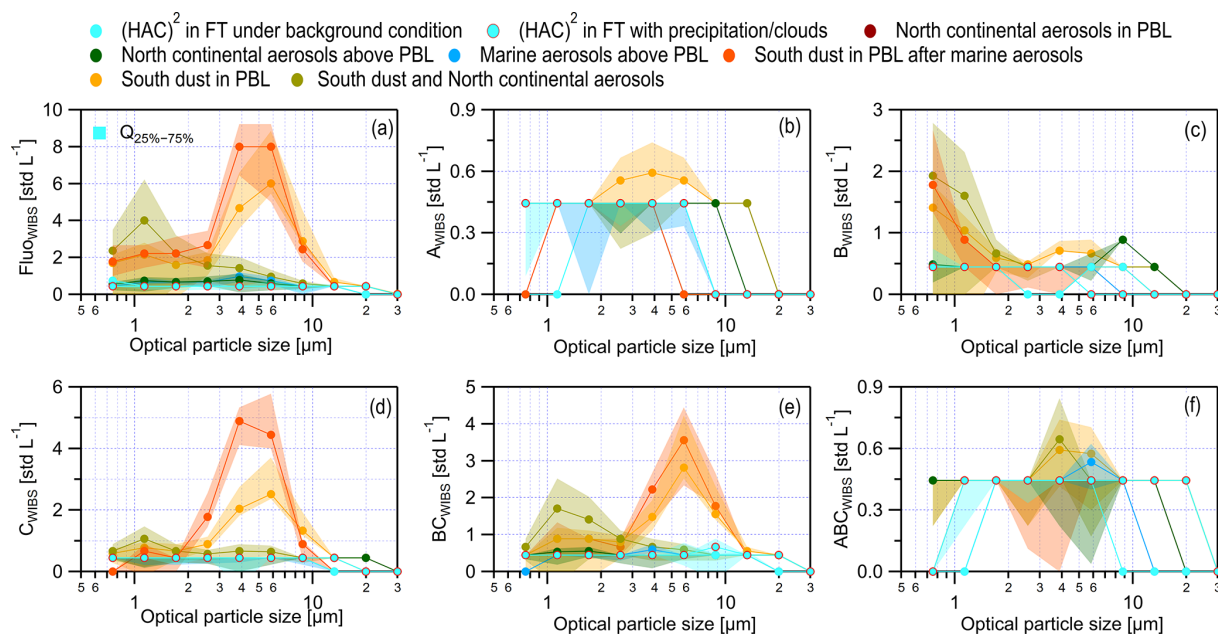


Figure 6. Fluorescent particle number concentration in 10 different size bins, including [0.50 0.75 μm], (0.75 1.13 μm), (1.13 1.71 μm), (1.71 2.57 μm), (2.57 3.87 μm), (3.87 5.83 μm), (5.83 8.78 μm), (8.78 13.22 μm), (13.22 19.92 μm) and (19.92 30.00 μm). Data points represent median values. The uncertainty is the range between the 25th and 75th percentiles, indicated by $Q_{25\%}-75\%$. Different aerosol sources are indicated in the legend. No WIBS data are available for the source of North continental aerosols in the PBL. Different types of fluorescent particles are presented in different panels, including (a) FluorWIBS, (b) AWIBS, (c) BWIBS, (d) CWIBS, (e) BCWIBS and (f) ABCWIBS. The results for ABWIBS and ACWIBS are not presented, as they are minor in all aerosols sources.

in the FT (Collaud Coen et al., 2018). Moreover, this shows that the occurrence of precipitation/clouds does not completely remove eBC (Fig. 7e and f), likely due to its hydrophobic properties (Gao et al., 2022). North continental aerosols show a higher eBC concentration in the PBL than above the PBL, also indicating the importance of the atmospheric conditions with respect to determining the impacts of anthropogenic emission. The presence of eBC in long-range-transported marine aerosols above the PBL may suggest a long atmospheric residence time for eBC. The high eBC mass concentration observed in South dust aerosols may be due to air mass exchange between dust plumes and PBL aerosols, given that dust events may suppress PBL air masses and enhance air parcel entrainment (Zhang et al., 2022).

3.2 INPs at Mount Helmos

3.2.1 Overview

INP concentrations at Mount Helmos (Fig. 8) generally increase with decreasing T ; the concentration spans from 10^{-3} to 10^2 particles std L^{-1} . For $T > -15$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$, the observed INPs may be attributed to biological particles, especially at the warmest temperatures (Murray et al., 2012; Kanji et al., 2017). These bioaerosols may originate from local and/or transported continental biogenic sources, such as vegetation and living organisms, and from the sea surface microlayer,

which releases marine diatoms and/or diatom exudates (Deprés et al., 2012). Soil dust particles emitted from agricultural lands (local and continental), which are reported to be able to nucleate ice at $T > -10$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (García et al., 2012; Harrison et al., 2016; Hill et al., 2016), and organic material emitted by marine organisms, some of which can freeze at T values close to -10 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ via the immersion freezing mode (Wilson et al., 2015), may also contribute to INPs observed at warm temperatures. The higher median INP concentrations at $T > -10$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ observed at Mount Helmos compared with those at lower temperatures (-11 and -12 $^{\circ}\text{C}$) are due to the limited observations at such warm temperatures. Furthermore, we note that the INSEKT measurement uncertainty is higher at warmer T values. For $T < -15$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (> -27 $^{\circ}\text{C}$), mineral dust and soil dust particles of arid and agricultural origin are more important INPs than bioaerosols (Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Murray et al., 2012; Tobo et al., 2014). Moreover, local and transported ash particles emitted from industrial coal combustion and domestic fuel use may contribute to the observed INPs for $T < -15$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Umo et al., 2015). Additionally, we note that INPs observed by the PINE chamber at $T = -24$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ show higher concentrations than those measured by the INSEKT instrument at the same T . This may partly result from the decreased particle collection efficiency of INSEKT filters due to overloading under high-particle-concentration conditions. The INP concentration difference is more pronounced at $T = -24$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$, as this temperature was

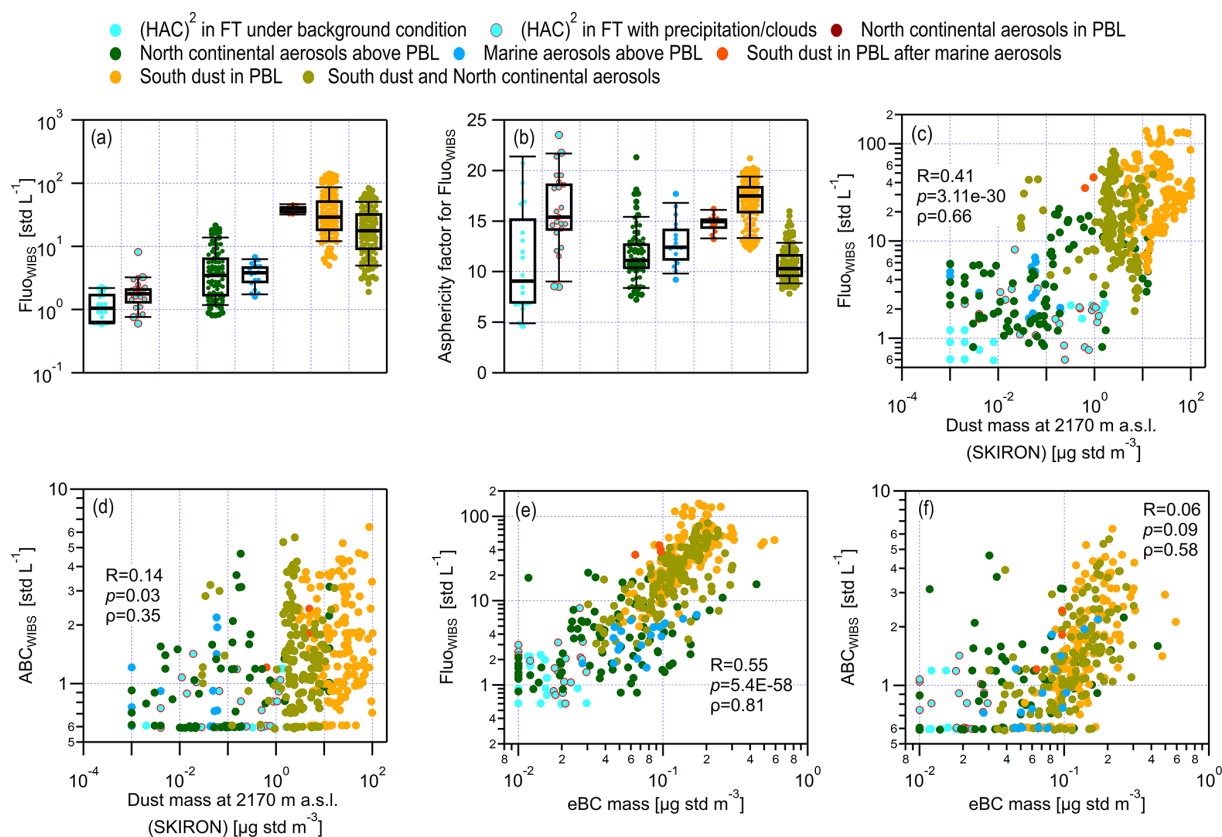


Figure 7. Fluorescent properties of aerosol particles from different sources: **(a)** number concentration of FluowIBS particles; **(b)** asphericity factor of FluowIBS particles; **(c)** scatter plots of the FluowIBS particle concentration and dust mass concentration estimated by the SKIRON model at 2170 m a.s.l. (~ 140 m lower than (HAC)²); **(d)** scatter plots of the ABCwIBS particle concentration and dust mass concentration estimated by SKIRON at 2170 m a.s.l.; **(e)** scatter plots of the FluowIBS particle concentration and eBC mass concentration; **(f)** scatter plots of the ABCwIBS particle concentration and eBC mass concentration. The Pearson correlation coefficient (R), the corresponding p value calculated from an F test and the Spearman rank coefficient (ρ) are provided to evaluate the correlation between parameters on the x axis and y axis.

employed for PINE experiments in order to observe a long-period dust event from 4 to 10 November. More details about the difference between INPs recorded by the PINE and INSEKT instruments are provided in Figs. S5 and S6. Note that the PINE chamber, measuring INPs activated by different IN mechanisms (Möhler et al., 2021), is technically different from the INSEKT instrument, which only detects INPs in the immersion freezing mode. This may also partly explain the higher INP concentrations observed by the PINE chamber compared with the INSEKT instrument. Moreover, some INPs may not be tested by the INSEKT instrument if aerosol particles collected on the filter are not extracted completely. Therefore, the PINE chamber reports higher INP concentrations than the INSEKT instrument, as the PINE chamber tests INPs in total aerosols.

Figure 8 also shows that INPs at Mount Helmos are generally distributed in the global envelope range reported by Petters and Wright (2015), particularly for $T > -25^{\circ}\text{C}$, and are consistent with the results reported for other campaigns

in the Mediterranean region (Tarn et al., 2020; Beall et al., 2022; K. Tang et al., 2022). Wieder et al. (2022) observed higher INP concentrations for $T > -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ over the Alps in wintertime compared with this study. This may be attributed to higher vegetation coverage (or differences in species, rainfall or season) in the wintertime Alps and, hence, larger bioaerosol sources relevant for INPs compared with Mount Helmos. Also notable is that Wieder et al. (2022) report INPs active at T values as high as -4°C , which implies the presence of INPs that are more efficient in the Alps than at Mount Helmos.

3.2.2 INP concentrations for different sources

The high frequency of PINE measurements allows for the calculation of hourly averaged INP concentrations for different aerosol sources. The small T spread ($< 4.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) of PINE measurement conditions throughout the campaign also allows for a thorough comparison of the INP abundance from different sources (at similar T values). As shown in

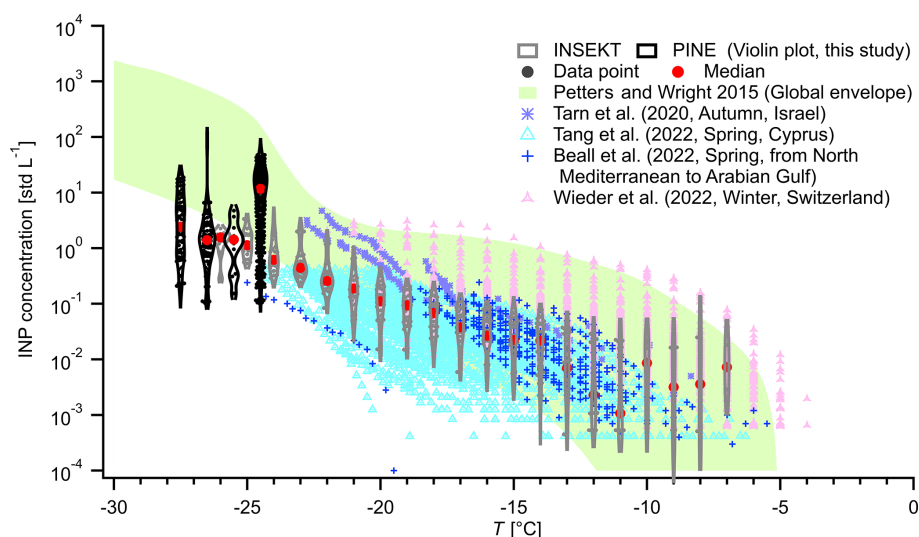


Figure 8. INP concentrations observed at Mount Helmos as a function of temperature (T) contrasted against INP levels reported in selected field campaigns in the Mediterranean region (Tarn et al., 2020; Beall et al., 2022; K. Tang et al., 2022; Wieder et al., 2022) and from a global envelope (Petters and Wright, 2015). INP data measured by offline INSEKT and online PINE instruments in this study are presented as violin plots, indicated by a grey or black violin box, respectively. Each violin box presents data points in a T interval of 1°C . Round red markers in the violin box represent the median value. Symbols for PINE INPs are offset by -0.5°C for legibility. Higher PINE INP concentrations at -24°C compared with lower T values are because the PINE instrument was run during the Saharan dust event (i.e. the source of South dust in the PBL, as defined in Fig. 3), whereas INPs at lower T values originate from other aerosol sources with lower IN abilities.

Fig. 9, the INP concentration is less than 1.0 particle stdL^{-1} ($T = -24.7^\circ\text{C}$) when $(\text{HAC})^2$ is in the FT under background conditions without precipitation/clouds. This is in agreement with Lacher et al. (2021), who measured INPs at Jungfraujoch in Switzerland under FT conditions (reported range of 0.01 – 1.0 particle stdL^{-1} at -25°C in immersion freezing mode). Note that the lower INP concentrations observed at Jungfraujoch compared with $(\text{HAC})^2$ can be attributed to the much higher altitude of the former. Moreover, the results in Fig. 9a, c and d are consistent with Mignani et al. (2021), who reported decreased $\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$ and $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particles but slightly increased INPs after precipitation events. With the influence of precipitation/clouds, INPs in the FT at $(\text{HAC})^2$ approximately increase to 1.0 particle stdL^{-1} ($T = -25.7^\circ\text{C}$). The enriched INPs may be attributed to cloud-processed particles (Khadir et al., 2023) and the bioaerosols (likely AWIBS , ABWIBS and ABCWIBS in Fig. 5a) released near the ground that are produced by precipitation splash (Prenni et al., 2013; Jung et al., 2017). Cloud-processed particles, which are a result of evaporated/sublimated hydrometeors, are originally active INPs and show an enhanced IN ability compared with the particles before cloud processing (Jahl et al., 2021). In addition, during precipitation/cloudy periods, PBL air masses containing bioaerosols close to the cloud base may be entrained into the FT close to the cloud top, such that more INPs are measured in the FT at $(\text{HAC})^2$. We also note that the overall lower T conditions (by 1.0°C) for PINE experiments for $(\text{HAC})^2$ in the FT with precipita-

tion/clouds may also partly contribute to its higher tested INP concentrations.

The concentration of INPs from North continental aerosols in the PBL is between 2.2 and 71.6 particles stdL^{-1} , with a median of 14.1 particles stdL^{-1} ($T = -26.7^\circ\text{C}$). When North continental aerosols serve as INP sources for $(\text{HAC})^2$ above the PBL, the observed INP concentration decreases substantially (about 10-fold). The results suggest that the INP concentration from a similar continental air mass depends on its relative position in the atmosphere, which is consistent with published studies to date (e.g. Gong et al., 2022). INPs in marine aerosols above the PBL range between 0.3 and 3.4 particles stdL^{-1} (median of 1.3 particles stdL^{-1}) at $T = -25.5^\circ\text{C}$, which is higher than the values reported in Lacher et al. (2021) from a source attributed to marine aerosols from the western Mediterranean Sea. It is likely that the lower INP concentrations (even at a lower experimental T) observed by Lacher et al. (2021) at Jungfraujoch in Switzerland are the result of the longer transportation of marine aerosols, during which particle deposition and ageing-induced deactivation may occur (Schrod et al., 2020). The dust plume after marine aerosols shows the highest INP concentration among all sources, with an average of 121.3 ± 14.7 particles stdL^{-1} and a median of 121.1 particles stdL^{-1} ($T = -23.9^\circ\text{C}$, resampled every 15 min due to the short period of observations < 3 h). Such a high INP concentration in Saharan dust was also observed at Jungfraujoch in Switzerland (> 200 particles stdL^{-1} for $T = -30^\circ\text{C}$; Brunner et al., 2021). Moreover, the observed INP concentra-

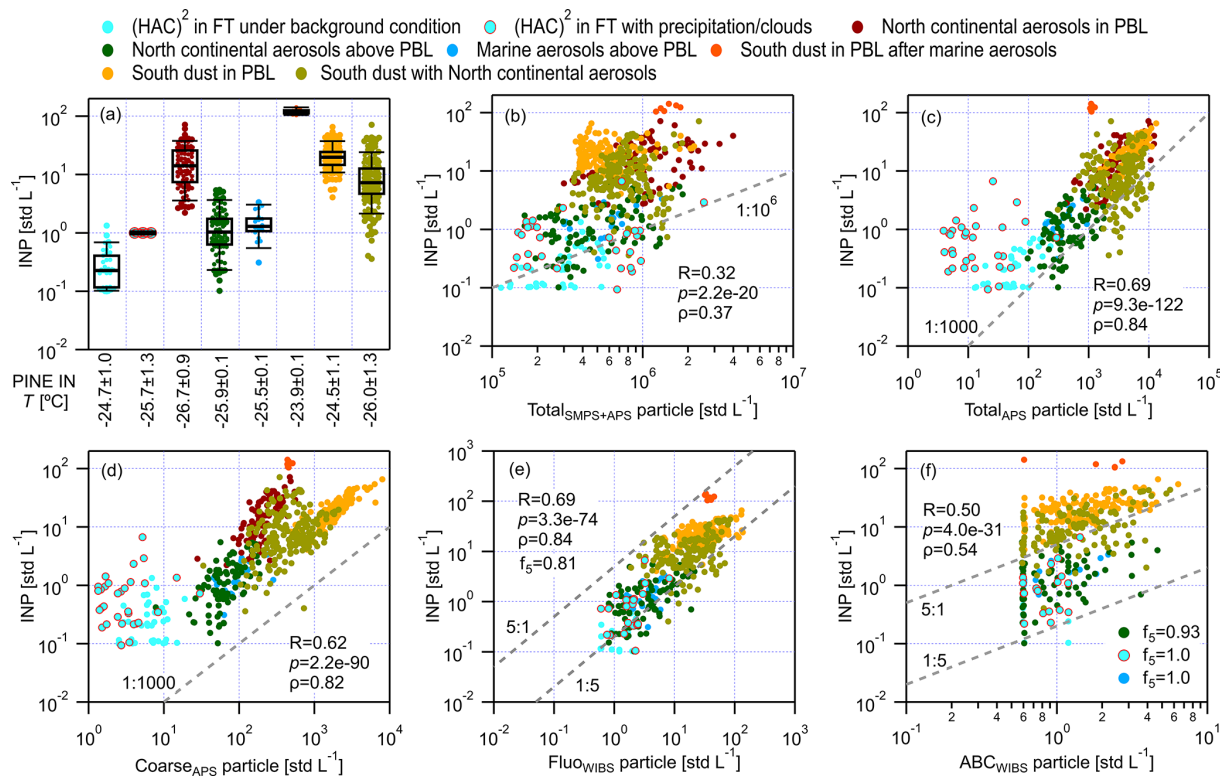


Figure 9. The PINE INP concentration for different aerosol sources and the relationship between INP and aerosol particle concentrations. **(a)** Box plots for the INP concentration from different aerosol sources; the average T for PINE IN experiments for each source is indicated on the bottom axis, and the uncertainty is 1 standard deviation. **(b)** Scatter plots of INP and Total_{SMPS+APS} concentrations. **(c)** Scatter plots of INP and Total_{APS} concentrations. **(d)** Scatter plots of INP and Coarse_{APS} concentrations. **(e)** Scatter plots of INP and Fluow_{IBS} concentrations. **(f)** Scatter plots of INP and ABC_{wIBS} concentrations. The Pearson correlation coefficient (R), the corresponding p value calculated from an F test and the Spearman rank coefficient (ρ) are provided to evaluate the correlation between the INP concentration and different aerosol particle concentrations. The p value is the probability of obtaining an R value no smaller than the true R value if there is no linear correlation between INPs and the given parameter.

tion is substantially higher than the ABC_{wIBS} concentration (< 10 particles stdL⁻¹ in Fig. 9f), suggesting that dust particles – but not any associated biological particles – make the primary contribution to the observed INPs in the dust plume. The median INP concentration decreases to 19.8 particles stdL⁻¹ ($T = -24.5$ °C) when the dust plume is more extensively mixed with local aerosols in the PBL, i.e. the source of South dust in the PBL. Furthermore, the median INP concentration decreases further to 7.3 particles stdL⁻¹ ($T = -26.0$ °C) when the dust plume is also mixed with continental aerosols, i.e. the source of South dust with North continental aerosols. It is likely that the source of South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols may contain more fresh dust particles than the following sources, which comprise more aged and deactivated dust particles (Boose et al., 2019).

Among all of the sources presented in Fig. 9, the INP concentration in the PBL is considerably larger than that in the FT, by approximately more than 1 order of magnitude (median value), although it depends on INP sources. Both continental aerosols from the North and dust from the South are

major sources of INPs at Mount Helmos. Fresh dust plume contains a larger number of INPs than the other sources mixed with local emissions and/or continental aerosols. Such a decrease in the INP abundance in the mixed dust-containing sources may result from the dilution of air masses or aerosol-ageing-induced INP deactivation. Furthermore, we note that the INP concentration range in North continental aerosols ($T = -26.7$ °C) is analogous to that of South dust ($T = -24.5$ °C) when both are mixed with local emissions in the PBL.

Figure 9 and Table 2 also provide the correlation between the INP concentration and different concentrations of aerosol particles, including Total_{SMPS+APS}, Total_{APS}, Coarse_{APS}, Fluow_{IBS} and ABC_{wIBS}. The concentration of PINE INPs is approximately higher than 1 per 1×10^6 of Total_{SMPS+APS}, 1 per 1×10^3 of Total_{APS} and 1 per 500 of Coarse_{APS}, respectively, consistent with the established view that INPs in the atmosphere show a size dependence and that larger aerosol particles have a higher probability of behaving as INPs. Overall, a significant and positive correlation between the

INP concentration and aerosol particle concentrations can be found in Fig. 9. A ρ value larger than 0.80 for the relationship of INPs with $\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$, $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ or $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ ($> 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, optical size) means that the INP concentration increases with those three particle concentrations following a strong monotonic trend. In comparison with $\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$, $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$, $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ (Fig. 9) or $\text{Total}_{\text{WIBS}}$ (Fig. S7), the smaller R and ρ values for the relationship between $\text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ and INPs also indicate that small aerosol particles in the SMPS size range may play a minor role with respect to serving as INPs compared with larger particles measured in the APS and WIBS size range. The IN dependence on the size of aerosol particles is more pronounced for the sources of North continental aerosols and South dust when both sources supply potential INPs for $(\text{HAC})^2$ in the PBL, as shown by the fact that the R value for the relationship of INPs with $\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$ or $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ for South dust in the PBL does not show a significant difference compared with the R value for the relationship of INPs with $\text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ (Table 2). This is because the source of South dust in the PBL contains a much smaller proportion of fine particles with respect to the total than for the source of North continental aerosols in the PBL (Fig. 4). Furthermore, the ρ value of the relationship between INPs and $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particles for North continental aerosols is larger than that of South dust in the PBL, suggesting that INPs in North continental aerosols may be more dependent on coarse-mode particles.

In addition to size dependence, we note that the observed INP concentration is close to the concentration of fluorescent particles, as it is shown that more than 80 % of INP data points are within a factor of 5 compared to $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ data (Fig. 9e). Moreover, INPs from most sources show a significant correlation with $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ particles (except for the source of South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols, owing to limited number of observations). This suggests that particles showing fluorescence are of significant relevance for INPs observed at Mount Helmos. The results are also in agreement with Mason et al. (2015), who reported that INPs observed between -15 and -25°C at a coastal site are strongly correlated with fluorescent particles. Furthermore, the results are consistent with Pereira Freitas et al. (2023), who found fluorescent biological aerosol particles to be dominant sources of INPs activating at T values of around -15°C . ABC_{WIBS} would constitute a subset of the observed total INPs, as the latter is approximately 5 times larger (Fig. 9f) and shows a significant correlation with ABC_{WIBS} particles in the source (Table 2). In particular, more than 90 % of the observed INP data from sources of aerosols in the FT influenced by precipitation/clouds, marine aerosols and continental aerosols above the PBL are within a range of less than a factor of 5 compared to ABC_{WIBS} particles in the source (Fig. 9f). Such a close correlation highlights the importance of biological particles in those INP sources when dust particles are absent. Notably, the correlation between INPs and ABC_{WIBS} particles for aerosols in

the FT influenced by precipitation/clouds becomes significant compared to the case without precipitation/cloud effects (Table 2), suggesting that precipitation/clouds may lead to an increase in ABC_{WIBS} (Fig. 7) and contribute to observed INPs. Lastly, Table 2 shows that, of all the sources, ABC_{WIBS} particles from marine aerosols show the strongest correlation with INPs. This is consistent with the important role of marine biogenic aerosols in serving as INPs in the MPC regime (Wilson et al., 2015).

3.2.3 The ice nucleation ability of particles in different aerosol sources

Figure 10a uses the ratio of the INP concentration to the $\text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ concentration to estimate the INP proportion in total aerosol particles for different sources, and it uses the ratio as a measure to evaluate the average IN ability of aerosol particles from different sources. To clarify, we note that the ratio statistically refers to the overall ice formation ability of the particle population in the source. However, the ratio is not relevant to the IN ability of single particles, as the IN ability specifically relies on the physicochemical properties of the particle, given that sources containing a low concentration of INPs may have effective INPs activating at warm temperatures. When $(\text{HAC})^2$ is in the FT under background conditions without remotely transported air masses and without precipitation/clouds, the observed INP ratio is approximately 1 per 1×10^6 aerosol particles and the median ratio value is less than that presented in Rogers et al. (1998), who reported ~ 30 INPs out of 1×10^6 particles at an altitude of 10.6 km in the upper troposphere and at a T range of between -15 and -40°C . Influenced by precipitation/clouds, the INP ratio in the FT generally increases because of the decrease in total aerosol particles and the increase in INPs (Sects. 3.1 and 3.2.2). Figure 10a also suggests that the $(\text{HAC})^2$ position with respect to the PBL regulates the average IN ability of particles from the North continental aerosol source, as shown by the larger INP ratio when the source is in the PBL than above the PBL. This is because active INPs from the source in the PBL may primarily come from $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particles that otherwise take a smaller proportion when the source is above the PBL (Fig. 10b). The INP ratio of marine aerosols above the PBL is analogous to that of North continental aerosols above the PBL (Fig. 10a), suggesting a similar IN ability of particle populations in both aerosol sources. In addition, the INP ratio of aerosol sources containing dust particles decreases if the source is more influenced by the PBL or if it is mixed with North continental aerosols.

The results in Fig. 10 also evaluate the dependence of the INP ratio on the particle size and fluorescent/nonfluorescent particle partitioning of the source, including the ratio of $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ to $\text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$, $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ to Fine_{APS} , $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ to $\text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ and $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ to $\text{NonFluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$ (the difference between $\text{Total}_{\text{WIBS}}$ and $\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}$) particles. In general, the average INP ratio of a source increases with

Table 2. The Pearson correlation coefficient (R) and the Spearman rank coefficient (ρ) for the relationship evaluation between the INP and aerosol particle concentrations from different sources. A critical p value of 0.05 from an F test for R is used to assess the significance level of the relationship. A p value smaller than 0.05 suggests that the probability of obtaining an R value no smaller than the true R value is less than 5 % if there is actually no linear correlation between the INPs and the given parameter; thus, the calculated R is of statistical significance. Evaluated significant relationships are indicated using bold font. Note that the correlation between INPs and Total_{WIBS} particles is not included in Fig. 9, but it is provided in Fig. S7.

INP sources	Total _{SMPS+APS} ^a		Total _{APS} ^b		Coarse _{APS} ^c		Total _{WIBS} ^d		Fluo _{WIBS} ^e		ABC _{WIBS} ^f	
	R (p)	ρ	R (p)	ρ	R (p)	ρ	R (p)	ρ	R (p)	ρ	R (p)	ρ
(HAC) ² in the FT under background conditions	0.41 0.01	0.57	0.76 <0.001	0.66	0.13 0.46	0.19	0.41 0.07	0.31	0.53 0.03	0.34	-0.50 0.22	-0.43
(HAC) ² in the FT with precipitation/clouds	0.28 0.10	0.06	0.09 0.62	0.11	0.04 0.81	0.03	0.17 0.45	0.27	0.52 0.01	0.56	0.56 0.01	0.33
North continental aerosols in the PBL	0.33 0.003	0.35	0.71 <0.001	0.78	0.73 <0.001	0.72	NA ^g NA	NA	NA NA	NA	NA NA	NA
North continental aerosols above the PBL	0.53 <0.001	0.34	0.53 <0.001	0.48	0.59 <0.001	0.54	0.53 <0.001	0.45	0.62 <0.001	0.58	0.32 0.008	0.30
Marine aerosols above the PBL	0.61 0.007	0.48	0.53 0.02	0.69	0.48 0.04	0.69	0.60 0.009	0.67	0.55 0.02	0.47	0.71 <0.001	0.71
South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols	0.59 0.21	0.71	0.12 0.82	0.26	0.01 0.99	0.03	-0.17 0.75	-0.26	-0.38 0.46	-0.43	-0.59 0.29	0.36
South dust in the PBL	0.05 0.56	0.01	0.80 <0.001	0.80	0.84 <0.001	0.85	0.84 <0.001	0.85	0.56 <0.001	0.52	0.59 <0.001	0.50
South dust with North continental aerosols	0.29 <0.001	0.09	0.24 0.001	0.21	0.13 0.07	0.34	0.21 0.01	0.29	0.59 <0.001	0.38	0.65 <0.001	0.51
All observations	0.32 <0.001	0.37	0.69 <0.001	0.84	0.62 <0.001	0.82	0.73 <0.001	0.89	0.69 <0.001	0.84	0.50 <0.001	0.54

^a Total particle (0.01–20.0 μm) number concentration measured by both SMPS and APS. ^b Total particle (0.5–20.0 μm) number concentration measured by APS. ^c Coarse-particle (> 1.0 μm) number concentration measured by APS. ^d Total particle (0.5–30.0 μm in optical size) number concentration measured by WIBS. ^e Number concentration of particles showing fluorescence in any one of the WIBS fluorescent channels. ^f Number concentration of particles showing fluorescence in all three WIBS fluorescent channels. ^g Data not available.

an increasing proportion of Coarse_{APS} (> 1.0 μm ; Fig. 10b and c) and Fluo_{WIBS} (Fig. 10d and e) particles in the source, but such a correlation varies with respect to its strength among individual sources. Figure 10b shows that the INP ratio of North continental aerosols (for both above and in the PBL) has a weaker correlation with Coarse_{APS} particles (see the R and ρ values in Table S1 in the Supplement) compared with that of South dust in the PBL. Again, this is because North continental aerosols contain more fine-mode particles, which are less effective INPs, than aerosols from South dust in the PBL. A larger slope for North continental aerosols in Fig. 10b compared with South dust in the PBL suggests that INPs in North continental aerosols are more dependent and sensitive to Coarse_{APS} particles. This may be because individual Coarse_{APS} particles in continental aerosols of biological origin are generally more effective INPs than those in dusty aerosols. This can be true if those coarse-mode particles in continental aerosols are of biologic origin. Moreover, the insignificant correlation between the INP ratio of sources containing North continental aerosols and the ratio of Coarse_{APS} to Fine_{APS} particles in the source (Fig. 10c

and Table S1) suggests that some particles smaller than the APS size detection range ($\sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$) may contribute to the observed INPs at $\sim -26^\circ\text{C}$. Figure 10c shows that the correlation between the INP ratio and the Coarse_{APS}-to-Fine_{APS} ratio is less significant (see Table S1) for the source of South dust in the PBL compared with the correlation between the INP ratio and the Coarse_{APS}-to-Total_{SMPS+APS} ratio, also suggesting a contribution of some small particles (< 0.5 μm) to observed INPs. This is consistent with a field study in Israel (in the eastern Mediterranean region) that focused on the IN ability of size-resolved Saharan dust particles; the aforementioned study reported that 0.3 μm (aerodynamic diameter) dust particles are effective INPs at the T range from -20 to -30°C (Reicher et al., 2019). In addition, an increasing Fluo_{WIBS}-to-Total_{SMPS+APS} ratio can generally predict an increasing INP ratio of an aerosol source (Fig. 10d; no data available for the source of North continental aerosols). However, Fig. 10e shows that the INP ratio for different aerosol sources generally decreases with an increasing Fluo_{WIBS}-to-NonFluo_{WIBS} ratio. The results on the x axis of Fig. 10e show that the Fluo_{WIBS}-to-NonFluo_{WIBS} ratios in different sources

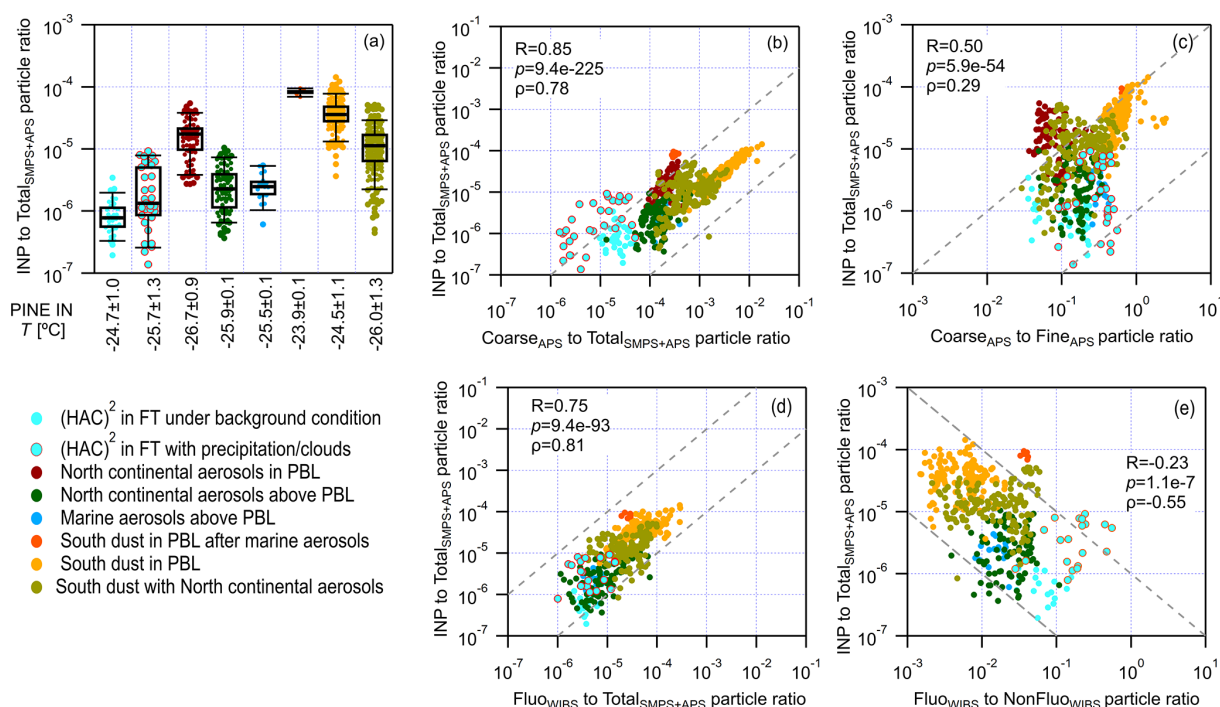


Figure 10. (a) Box plots of the ratio of the INP concentration to the Total_{SMPS+APS} concentration; the average T for the PINE IN experiments for each INP source is indicated on the bottom axis, and the uncertainty is 1 standard deviation. (b) Scatter plots of the ratio of INPs to Total_{SMPS+APS} particles and the ratio of Coarse_{APS} to Total_{SMPS+APS} particles. (c) Scatter plots of the ratio of INPs to Total_{SMPS+APS} particles and the ratio of Coarse_{APS} to Fine_{APS} particles. (d) Scatter plots of the ratio of INPs to Total_{SMPS+APS} particles and the ratio of Fluow_{WIBS} to Total_{SMPS+APS} particles. (e) Scatter plots of the ratio of INPs to Total_{SMPS+APS} particles and the ratio of Fluow_{WIBS} to NonFluow_{WIBS} (the difference between Total_{WIBS} and Fluow_{WIBS}) particles. The Pearson correlation coefficient (R), the corresponding p value calculated from an F test and the Spearman rank coefficient (ρ) are provided to evaluate the correlation between INP abundance and particle partitioning. The p value is the probability of obtaining an R value no smaller than the true R value if there is no linear correlation between INPs and the given parameter. The grey dashed lines in the panel confine a range of 2 orders of magnitude on both the x axis and y axis.

are in reverse order compared with the other ratios presented in Fig. 10b–d. Such a difference suggests that the INPs of biological origin become less important when the overall IN ability and INP abundance of the source is higher, such as dust plumes, indicating a less pronounced role of biological particles in dust-containing sources with respect to serving as INPs.

Overall, the scatter patterns of the INP ratio versus different aerosol partitioning indices (presented in Fig. 10) spread over 2 orders of magnitude (confined by grey dashed lines in Fig. 10b–e). Both the Coarse_{APS}-to-Fine_{APS} ratio and Fluow_{WIBS}-to-NonFluow_{WIBS} ratio show significant correlations ($p < 0.05$ in Table S1) with the ratio of INPs to Total_{SMPS+APS} particles (Fig. 10c and e), although the strengths of these two correlations are weaker compared with the results using Total_{SMPS+APS} data in Fig. 10b and d. This suggests the proportion of particles with different sizes and fluorescent properties conveys the IN ability of particles from different aerosol sources, which may benefit the prediction of INPs in parameterizations. In Sect. 3.4, these ratios will

be incorporated into INP parameterizations to improve their prediction skill.

3.3 The influence of precipitation/clouds on INPs in the PBL

3.3.1 Different scenarios classified during the case study

In addition to the effects of precipitation/clouds on INPs for periods during which (HAC)² was in the FT, precipitation/cloudy periods were also observed when the site resided in the PBL; however, these periods had different aerosol sources, so we treat them separately. For this, we focus on a case study (23 November) during which (HAC)² was in the PBL and influenced by continental aerosols. The FLEXPART footprints and the HYSPLIT back trajectories (Figs. S9 and S10, respectively) suggest that a North continental air mass dominated the aerosol source at (HAC)² during this time (with a possible minor contribution of South dust). The dominance of North continental aerosols is also

supported by nephelometer results, as $\alpha \sim 2.0$ (Mordas et al., 2015). Following the methodology introduced in Sect. 2.4, the observations during the day are classified based on the presence of precipitation/clouds and the position of $(\text{HAC})^2$ with respect to the PBL, by using Ze and MDV values from radar measurements presented in Fig. 11a and b, respectively. The position of $(\text{HAC})^2$ with respect to the PBL is evaluated using SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ time series in Fig. 11c, as the PBLH results from lidar are not always available during the day. Thus, observations on 23 November are classified into five periods (“cases”), including $(\text{HAC})^2$ in the FT with precipitation (case 1) from 00:00 to 04:00 LT, $(\text{HAC})^2$ in the FT with precipitation (case 2) from 05:00 to 09:00 LT, $(\text{HAC})^2$ around the PBL and close to the cloud top (case 3) from 10:00 to 15:00 LT, $(\text{HAC})^2$ in the PBL (case 4) from 15:30 to 18:00 LT, and $(\text{HAC})^2$ in the PBL with precipitation/clouds (basically precipitation below $(\text{HAC})^2$, case 5) from 19:00 to 24:00 LT. The box plots of INP abundance observed by the PINE chamber and the correlation between INPs and aerosol particles for different cases are presented in Fig. 12. Additionally, the aerosol property results, including the particle size distribution for different cases (Fig. S11); $\text{Total}_{\text{SMPS}+\text{APS}}$, $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$, $\text{SMPS } N_{<95\text{ nm}}$, Flu_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particle concentrations; and the eBC mass concentration (Fig. S12) are provided in the Supplement and used to understand the changing INP abundance of the different scenarios presented in this section.

3.3.2 Particle properties

The aerosol particle properties for each case are shown in Figs. 11c–e and S11–S13. Figure 11c shows that the PBL boundary generally evolves from a position below $(\text{HAC})^2$ to a position above $(\text{HAC})^2$ throughout the day, as the SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ increases. The increasing PBLH is also indicated by size distribution shifts to coarse particles in Fig. S11 during the day. When $(\text{HAC})^2$ is in the FT with precipitation (case 1), $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particles at $(\text{HAC})^2$ show a median concentration of ~ 1.5 particles stdL^{-1} (Fig. S12b). The median value is well below the critical value of 20 particles stdL^{-1} (see Sect. 2.4), suggesting that the site is exposed to clean background conditions at this time with a low probability of influence from remotely transported aerosols above the PBL. This is also supported by the low eBC mass concentration ($\sim 0.01 \mu\text{g std m}^{-3}$) shown in Fig. S12f.

When $(\text{HAC})^2$ is in the FT with precipitation (case 2), $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentrations at $(\text{HAC})^2$ are occasionally higher than 20 particles stdL^{-1} and show a median of ~ 16.7 particles stdL^{-1} (Fig. S12b). This likely suggests that remotely transported continental aerosols exert an influence on aerosols at $(\text{HAC})^2$, although $(\text{HAC})^2$ is still above the PBL with an SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ smaller than 100 std cm^{-3} . Furthermore, it is possible that precipitation from higher-altitude clouds compared with case 1 results in downdraughts that drive the mass entrainment of remotely transported aerosols.

Moreover, compared with case 1, the decrease in ABC_{WIBS} particles in case 2 suggests negligible biological particles in downdraughts from high altitudes (Fig. S12e), whereas the increase in the eBC mass concentration is a result of transportation (Fig. S12f). Additionally, the comparison between case 1 and 2 suggests that a $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentration of less than 20 particles stdL^{-1} is a more conservative evaluation standard to diagnose $(\text{HAC})^2$ inside the FT compared with the criterion of an SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ value of less than 100 std cm^{-3} (also see Sect. 2.4). In addition to the differences between the vertical particle sources for case 1 and case 2, we note that the average wind speed decreases from $\sim 13 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (case 1) to 6 m s^{-1} (case 2) (not shown), which would decrease the emission rate of ABC_{WIBS} particles from near-ground sources, such as soils and trees.

When $(\text{HAC})^2$ is around the PBL and close to the cloud top (case 3), the $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentration increases to a level larger than 20 particles stdL^{-1} (Fig. S12b) due to the increased influence from PBL aerosols. The adoption of aerosols from the PBL is supported by occasional updraughts (as shown in Fig. 11b) and by the increasing SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ (close to 100 std cm^{-3}). For the two scenarios in which $(\text{HAC})^2$ is in the PBL with and without precipitation/clouds (case 4 and 5 respectively), the $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentration is well above 20 particles stdL^{-1} . The presence of precipitation/clouds leads to a decrease in the $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentration, showing a decreased median value from 414.1 to 330.2 particles stdL^{-1} (Fig. S12b). This suggests the wet removal effects of precipitation on coarse-mode particles in the PBL. However, the presence of precipitation/clouds causes an increase in SMPS $N_{<95\text{ nm}}$ particles (Figs. S11, 11c and S12c), suggesting that the effect of precipitation/clouds in the PBL may also include new particle formation (Khadir et al., 2023).

In general, it can be summarized that the $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentration increases when $(\text{HAC})^2$ is deeper inside the PBL (indicated by a larger SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$; Fig. S12b), suggesting that the PBL is the major source of aerosol particles at $(\text{HAC})^2$ on 23 November. With increased influences from the PBL, the increases in both ABC_{WIBS} and eBC particles (Fig. S12e and f) suggest that ABC_{WIBS} particles are related to biological particles and that eBC emissions are mainly from the PBL. However, the occurrence of precipitation/clouds in the PBL leads to a decrease in ABC_{WIBS} particles, which is the inverse of the effect on aerosols in the FT (see Sect. 3.1.2). This may result from the wet removal effects of precipitation/clouds on ABC_{WIBS} particles that may dominate over any production of ABC_{WIBS} from precipitation splash (Khadir et al., 2023). The occurrence of precipitation/clouds in the PBL results in a small decrease in eBC mass (Fig. S12f), from 0.07 to $0.05 \mu\text{g std m}^{-3}$ (median), suggesting the slight wet deposition of eBC particles during precipitation/cloudy periods.

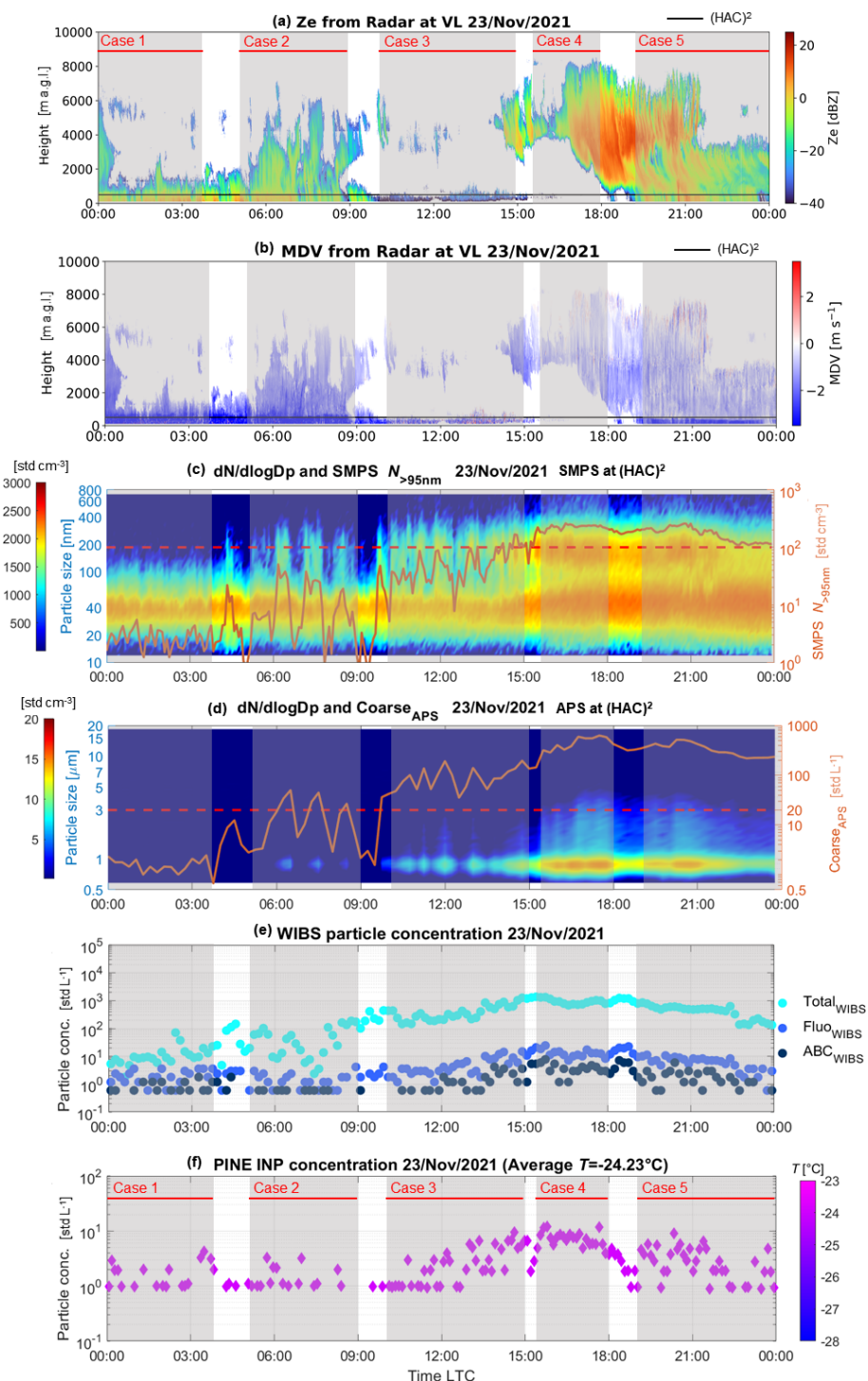


Figure 11. Time series of precipitation condition, aerosol particle and INP concentration on 23 November 2021. **(a, b)** Ze and MDV measured by the radar at VL, respectively. The (HAC)² level is indicated by the black line in the panels **(a)** and **(b)**. **(c)** Particle size distribution measured by SMPS at (HAC)² for particles smaller than 800 nm (mobility diameter) and the number concentration of SMPS $N_{>95\text{nm}}$ particles used to evaluate the (HAC)² position with respect to the PBL. The left axis shows the size for the particle size distribution colour map, while the right axis scales SMPS $N_{>95\text{nm}}$ values. **(d)** Particle size distribution measured by APS at (HAC)² for particles with a size between 0.5 and 20 μm (aerodynamic diameter) and the number concentration of Coarse_{APS} particles ($> 1.0 \mu\text{m}$). The left axis shows the size for the particle size distribution colour map, while the right axis scales Coarse_{APS} values. **(e)** Total_{WIBS}, Fluor_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particle number concentrations recorded by WIBS at (HAC)². **(f)** The PINE INP concentration measured at (HAC)² with time resolution of ~ 6 min. The temperature T for the PINE INP experiments is indicated by the marker colour scale shown by the colour bar.

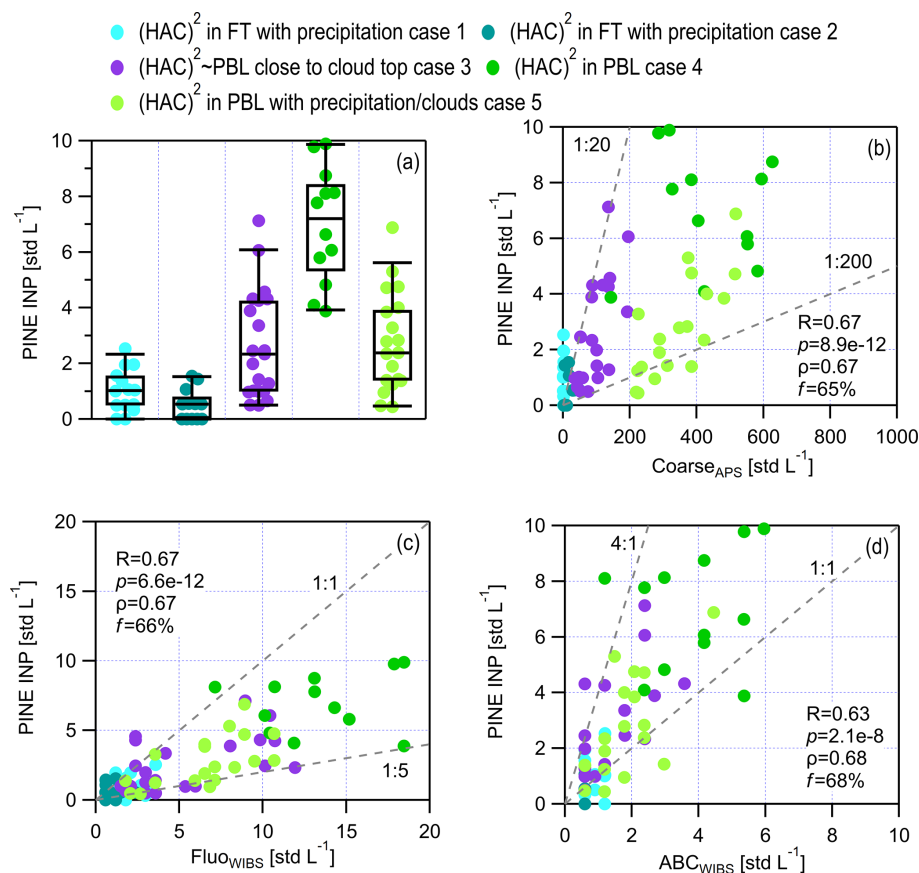


Figure 12. The INP concentration and the relationship between INPs and aerosol particles under different scenarios. **(a)** Box plots of the PINE INP abundance for different scenarios classified on 23 November. **(b)** Scatter plots of the PINE INP and Coarse_{APS} particle concentration. **(c)** Scatter plots of the PINE INP and Flu_{WIBS} particle concentration. **(d)** Scatter plots of the PINE INP and ABC_{WIBS} particle concentration. The Pearson correlation coefficient (R), the corresponding p value calculated from an F test and the Spearman rank coefficient (ρ) are provided to evaluate the correlation between INP abundance and particle partitioning. The p value is the probability of obtaining an R value no smaller than the true R value if there is no linear correlation between INPs and the given parameter. The value of f represents the percentage of data points within the range confined by the dashed lines in the panel.

3.3.3 INPs observed under different scenarios

The INP concentration for (HAC)² in the FT with precipitation (case 1) in Fig. 12a shows a median value of 1.0 particle stdL⁻¹, consistent with Fig. 9a for the case of (HAC)² in the FT with precipitation/clouds sampled from the other similar periods during CALISHTO. Compared with case 1 (Fig. 12a), case 2 shows a slightly lower INP concentration (median value of 0.6 particles stdL⁻¹), which is attributed to the decreased availability of Flu_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particles (Figs. 11e, S12d and S12e). The results also show that Flu_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particles are more important sources of potential INPs than Coarse_{APS}, given that a 10-fold increase in Coarse_{APS} particles does not lead to an increase in INPs for case 2.

When (HAC)² is around the PBL and close to the cloud top (case 3), it shows an increase in INPs compared with both case 1 and case 2 when (HAC)² is in the FT. The increase in INPs may be attributed to the increased availability of

Flu_{WIBS} and ABC_{WIBS} particles (and probably Coarse_{APS} particles as well). When (HAC)² is in the PBL (case 4), the INP concentration reaches a peak during the day, with a median of 7.2 particles stdL⁻¹. A short period of cloudiness around (HAC)² after 18:00 LT and the presence of precipitation/clouds at (HAC)² (in the PBL) around 19:00 LT lead to a decrease in INPs (Fig. 11), likely because of the wet removal effects on aerosol particles. This is different from the results presented in Fig. 9a that show enriched INPs after a period of precipitation/clouds. The different INP changes caused by precipitation in the FT and in the PBL can be attributed to the corresponding increase and decrease in ABC_{WIBS} particles in the FT (Fig. 9f) and in the PBL (Fig. S12e), respectively, highlighting the importance of ABC_{WIBS} particles with respect to regulating the INP abundance under different atmospheric conditions. When (HAC)² is in the FT (Fig. 9a), where background INPs are rare, ABC_{WIBS} particles produced by precipitation may easily play a pronounced role

in influencing INP concentrations. In this case, ABC_{WIBS} particles may come from cloud-processed particles released from hydrometeors in the precipitation/clouds (Prenni et al., 2013), biological particles or soil dust containing biological components produced by precipitation upon impact with the vegetation or soil surface (Conen et al., 2011, 2017). In contrast, precipitation- or cloud-enriched INPs comprise a small proportion of the total INPs when $(HAC)^2$ is in the PBL (Fig. 12). Instead, the wet removal effect of precipitation/clouds for $(HAC)^2$ in the PBL may play the major role and remove some ABC_{WIBS} particles in the coarse mode that might be active INPs. Therefore, the overall effect of precipitation/clouds on INPs observed at $(HAC)^2$ for temperatures around -24.2°C (Fig. 11f) shows a decrease when $(HAC)^2$ lies within the PBL.

Figure 12 also shows that the INP concentration observed at $(HAC)^2$ on 23 November generally has a significantly positive correlation with the $Coarse_{APS}$, $Fluo_{WIBS}$ and ABC_{WIBS} particle concentration. The concentration of $Coarse_{APS}$ particles is generally > 20 times ($> 65\%$ in Fig. 12b) higher than that of INPs. Moreover, 66% of INP concentration values are lower than those of $Fluo_{WIBS}$ (Fig. 12c), whereas 68% of INP concentration values are higher than those of ABC_{WIBS} (Fig. 12d). These results mean that INPs are from coarse particles ($> 1.0\ \mu\text{m}$) showing fluorescence, and ABC_{WIBS} particles are not the only source of INPs.

3.4 INP parameterization

3.4.1 Predicting INPs observed at Mount Helmos using published parameterizations

A variety of parameterizations, as summarized in Table 1, have been proposed to estimate N_{INP} using aerosol properties, such as particle number concentration and particle surface area. We evaluate their ability to reproduce the observed N_{INP} at Mount Helmos. Here, we note that $Fluo_{WIBS}$ is used to substitute the n_{FBAPs} (the number concentration of fluorescent aerosol particles monitored by a UV-APS) used in Tobo et al. (2013). The predictability of those parameterizations is evaluated by comparing N_{INP} observations to the calculated N_{INP} results. The evaluation of the predictability of each INP parameterization (in Table 1) for INPs from different INP sources (discussed in Sect. 2.4) is presented in Figs. S14–S19. In addition, we note that INSEKT INPs evaluated as lower estimations beyond a factor of 5 via comparison with PINE INPs (see Sect. S3) are excluded from the parameterization dataset. The overall consistent trend between INSEKT and PINE data clusters in Figs. 13 and 14 for all INP parameterizations suggests that the filtered INSEKT dataset does not show a discrepancy compared to the PINE dataset and does not influence the INP parameterization development.

DeMott2015 can predict 80% of data points within a factor of 10 compared to observations (Fig. 13b), which is better than DeMott2010 (66%; Fig. 13a). Generally, more INP

data points are overestimated by DeMott2015 than are underestimated (Fig. 13b). For Tobo2013FBAP, we first note that the $Fluo_{WIBS}$ particle concentration used in this study is larger than the fluorescent particle concentration measured by UV-APS, as used in Tobo et al. (2013). Such an input difference would have led to an overprediction of INPs if data from Mount Helmos were similar to those observed in Tobo et al. (2013). We find, however, that Tobo2013FBAP generally underestimates INPs at Mount Helmos, especially for temperatures lower than -20°C when dust particles dominate the INP sources (Fig. S16h and i). This discrepancy may be explained when considering that Tobo2013FBAP was developed based on an INP population of biological particles that activate as ice at warm temperatures ($> -15^\circ\text{C}$). Thus, given that the abundance of biological particles is lower than that of dust particles, Tobo2013FBAP underestimates INPs originating from dust particles activating ice at lower temperatures. Nevertheless, Tobo2013FBAP is able to agree with 63% of INP observations in Mount Helmos within 2 orders of magnitude (Fig. 13c).

The results in Fig. 13d–f are based on the subset of data for which both SMPS and APS data (hereafter $INP_{SMPS+APS}$ data) are available. Both Niemand2012 and Ullrich2017 systematically overestimate $INP_{SMPS+APS}$ (Fig. 13d and e); this may be attributed to the database used for the development of both parameterizations (dust samples tested in laboratory studies), which may have exhibited a larger active site density compared with the atmospheric particles investigated in this study. On the contrary, McCluskey2018 systematically underestimates the observed $INP_{SMPS+APS}$ data (Fig. 13f), likely because it is based on sea spray aerosols, which may have a lower active site density compared with the INPs observed in this study.

Of all of the literature parameterizations tested, DeMott2015 is the best with respect to predicting INPs at Mount Helmos. Its comparatively good performance can be attributed to its larger and more inclusive database from both laboratory and field experiments. Therefore, DeMott2015 will be adapted in Sect. 3.4.2 to optimize its applicability for Mount Helmos by proposing new parameters.

3.4.2 Parameterizations for INPs using the CALISHTO data

Nine parameterizations using different aerosol properties are developed (Table 3), including parameterizations adapted from the literature and proposed parameterizations depending on the observed relations between INPs and aerosol properties. We first adapt the DeMott2015 parameterization with a new set of parameters calculated by fitting the formula to the relevant data collected at Mount Helmos (hereafter “Helmos DeMott2015”). Considering that the IN ability of aerosol sources shows a significant correlation with the $Coarse_{APS}$ -to- $Fine_{APS}$ ratio (Fig. 10c), the ratio, termed “ APS_{ratio} ” hereafter, is included in a new

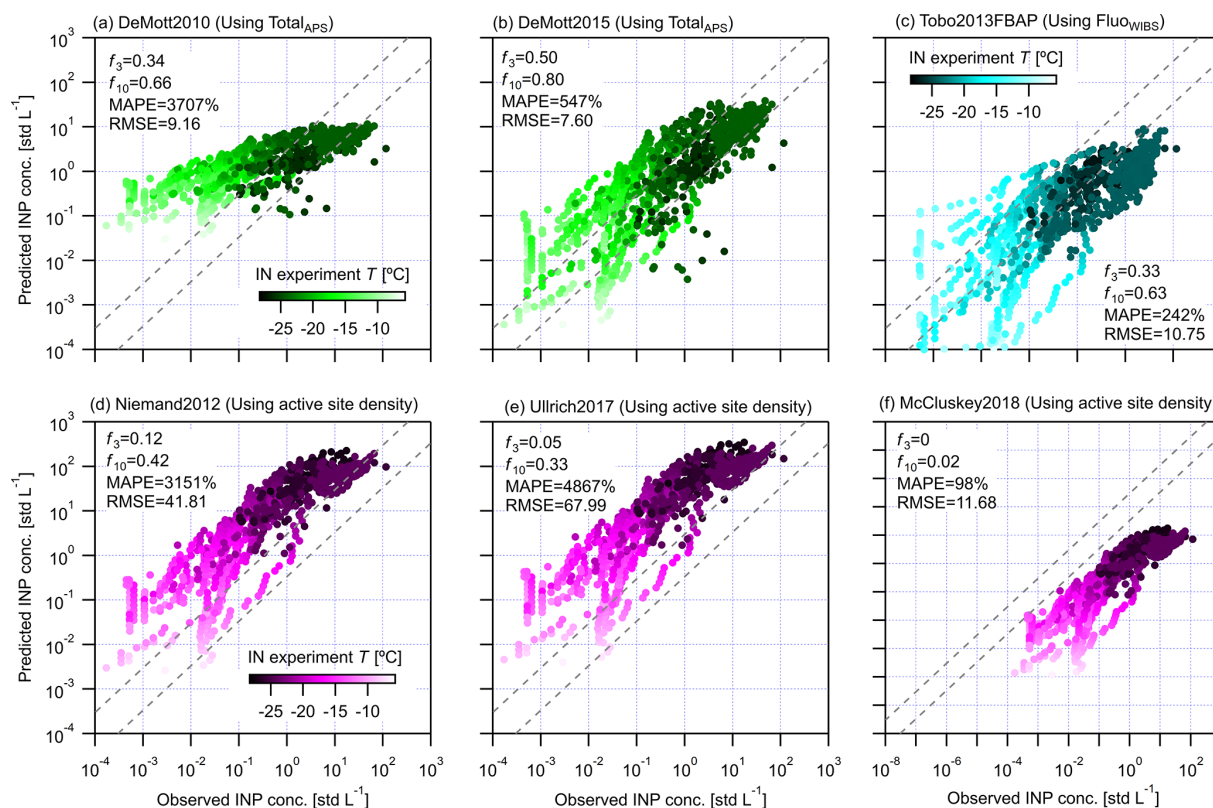


Figure 13. Scatter plots of the observed INP concentration and the concentration calculated by parameterizations (in Table 1) from the literature. Panels (a)–(c) show the following parameterizations: (a) DeMott2010, (b) DeMott2015 and (c) Tobo2013FBAP. Here, Fluow_{WIBS} is used to substitute n_{FABPs} measured by UV-APS, as used in Tobo et al. (2013). Panels (d)–(f) show the following parameterizations: (d) Niemand2012, (e) Ullrich2017 and (f) McCluskey2018. The temperature condition for INP data is scaled as shown in the colour bar. Parameterizations using the same aerosol properties use the same colour bar. The dashed lines confine the range for observed and predicted data points within a factor of 3. The fractions of observed and predicted data points within a factor of 3 (f_3) and 10 (f_{10}) are provided in each panel, respectively. MAPE stands for mean absolute percentage error. RMSE is the root-mean-square error used as a measure of the difference between observed and predicted data.

INP parameterization termed “Helmos Total_{APS}”. We also adapt Tobo2013FBAP with new parameters, and it will be compared to a new parameterization that we develop (termed “Helmos Fluow_{WIBS}”) that predicts INPs as a function of Fluow_{WIBS}, WIBS_{ratio} (Fluow_{WIBS} to NonFluow_{WIBS}) and T . Compared with Tobo2013FBAP, the new factor “(WIBS_{ratio})^($eT+f$)” in Helmos Fluow_{WIBS} is used to capture the contribution of fluorescent particles to the observed INPs at different temperatures. Given that Fluow_{WIBS} may not include all potential INPs (especially for $T < -20^\circ\text{C}$, where nonbiological particles dominate), we propose two parameterizations (“Helmos Total_{WIBS_1}” and “Helmos Total_{WIBS_2}”) using Total_{WIBS} to represent aerosol particles that may serve as sources of INPs. Both parameterizations depend on Total_{WIBS}, WIBS_{ratio} and T but have different formula forms. Compared with DeMott2015 and DeMott2010, Helmos Total_{WIBS_1} and Helmos Total_{WIBS_2} also consider the effect of fluorescent particle portioning in different INP sources by using the corresponding fac-

tor including WIBS_{ratio}. Moreover, Total_{SMPS+APS} is used as the input for INP source particles to calculate N_{INP} to include potentials in a larger size range, given that particles smaller than $0.5\mu\text{m}$ may also be relevant for INPs (Kanji et al., 2017). With and without including the ratio of Coarse_{APS} to Fines_{SMPS+APS} particles (SMPS_{APSratio}), two parameterizations (“Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_1}” and “Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_2}”, using a similar formula to that of DeMott2015 and DeMott2010, respectively) are proposed to calculate N_{INP} based on Total_{SMPS+APS} and T . We also provide parameters for a surface-area-based parameterization (“Helmos S_{SMPS+APS}”) using the concept of surface-active sites. In the following, we discuss the performance of the INP parameterizations introduced above (Fig. 14) and evaluate the predictability of each INP parameterization (Figs. S20–S35) for INPs from different INP sources discussed in Sect. 2.4.

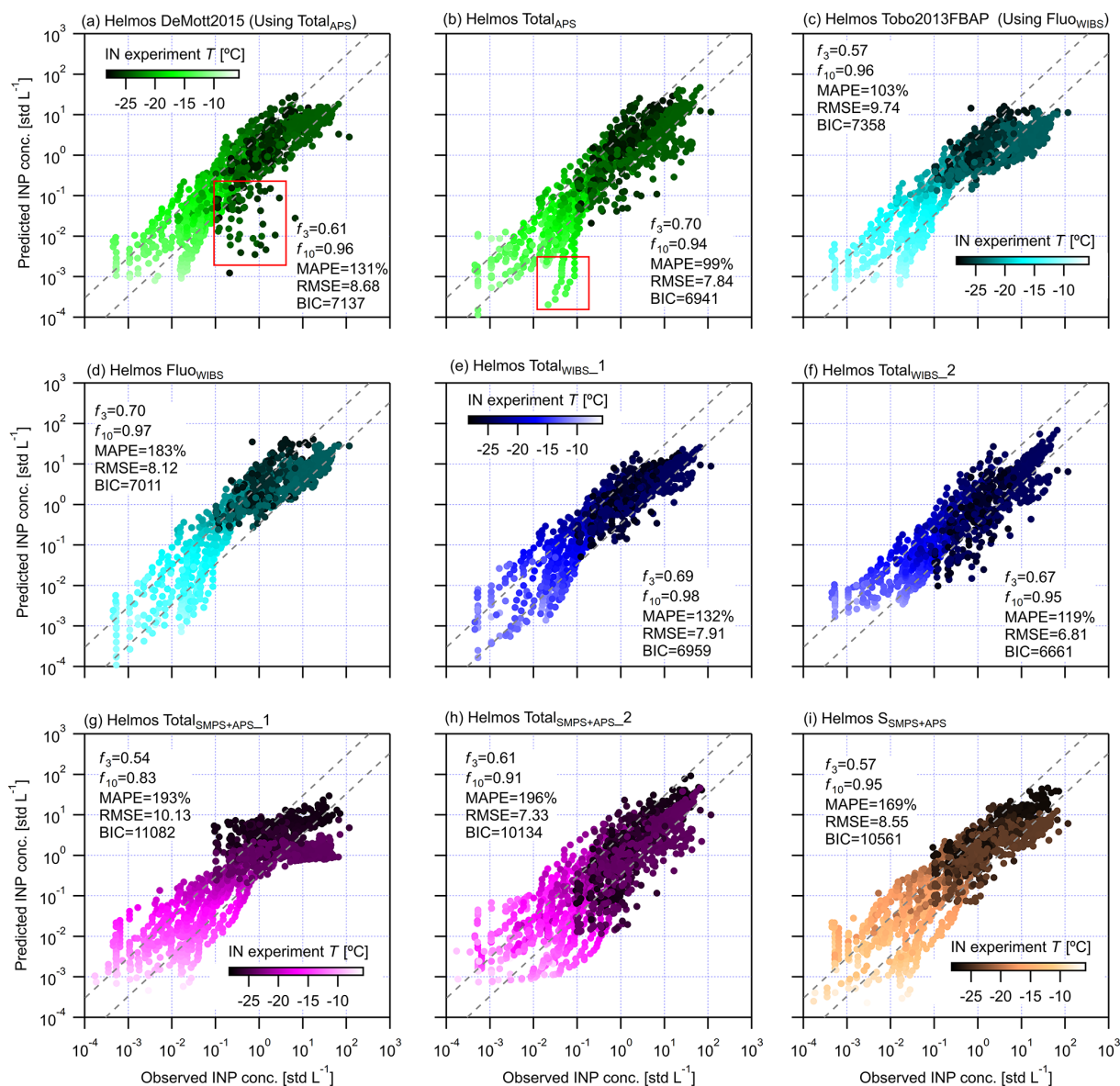


Figure 14. Different parameterizations for predicting INPs at $(\text{HAC})^2$. Parameterizations in panels (a)–(f) are based on the dataset for which both APS and WIBS are available. Parameterizations in panels (g)–(i) are based on the overlapping APS and WIBS dataset. The parameterization shown in the figure as follows: (a) Helmos DeMott2015, (b) Helmos Total_{APS}, (c) Helmos Tobo2013FBAP, (d) Helmos Fluor_{WIBS}, (e) Helmos Total_{WIBS_1}, (f) Helmos Total_{WIBS_2}, (g) Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_1}, (h) Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_2} and (i) Helmos S_{SMPS+APS}. The temperature condition for INP data is scaled as shown in the colour bar. Note that parameterizations using the same aerosol properties use the same colour bar. The dashed lines confine the range for observed and predicted data points within a factor of 3. The fraction of observed and predicted data points within a factor of 3 (f_3) and 10 (f_{10}) is provided in each panel, respectively. MAPE stands for mean absolute percentage error. RMSE is the root-mean-square error used as a measure of the difference between observed and predicted data. BIC is a value calculated by applying the Bayesian information criteria to evaluate the goodness of fit of parameterizations based on the same dataset (Schwarz, 1978).

3.4.3 INP parameterizations using the Total_{APS} particle concentration

The results in Fig. 14a and b compare the predictability of Helmos DeMott2015 and Helmos Total_{APS}. After adaption, the percentage of N_{INP} data points within 2 orders of magni-

tude compared to observations increases by 16 % for Helmos DeMott2015 (96 %; Fig. 14a) in comparison to DeMott2015 (80 %; Fig. 13a). Furthermore, ~ 11 % of the 16 % comes from the predictions of N_{INP} values within a factor of 3 compared to the observations. However, Helmos DeMott2015 does not show improvement with respect to predicting INPs

Table 3. Different parameterizations proposed for predicting INPs at Mount Helmos.

INP parameterizations	Used aerosol property	Formulation
Helmos DeMott2015	Total _{APS} (std cm ⁻³)	$N_{\text{INP}} = \text{cf} \cdot \text{Total}_{\text{APS}}^{(-aT+b)} \cdot \exp(-cT + d)$ (cf = 3, a = 0.09, b = -1.05, c = 0.49, d = -12.66; T in °C)
Helmos Total _{APS}		$N_{\text{INP}} = a(-T)^b \cdot (\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}/1000)^{(-cT+d)} \cdot (\text{APS}_{\text{ratio}} \cdot (eT + f))$ (a = 900, b = -9.56, c = 0.14562, d = -2.769, e = -32 000 000, f = 860 000)
Helmos Tobo2013FBAP	Fluo _{WIBS} (std cm ⁻³)	$N_{\text{INP}} = \text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}^{(-aT+b)} \cdot \exp(-cT + d)$ (a = 0.096, b = -1.49, c = 0.96, d = -18.9; T in °C)
Helmos Fluo _{WIBS}		$N_{\text{INP}} = \exp(aT + b) \cdot (\text{Fluo}_{\text{WIBS}}/1000)^{(cT+d)} \cdot (\text{WIBS}_{\text{ratio}})^{(eT+f)}$ (a = -0.096725, b = -3.6932, c = -0.16288, d = -3.04, e = 0.024358, f = 0.44052; T in °C)
Helmos Total _{WIBS_1}	Total _{WIBS} (std L ⁻¹)	$N_{\text{INP}} = \exp(aT + b) \cdot \text{Total}_{\text{WIBS}}^{(cT+d)} \cdot (\text{WIBS}_{\text{ratio}} \cdot e + f)$ (a = 0.45678, b = -3.456, c = -0.15, d = -2.7989, e = 220 000, f = 18 400; T in °C)
Helmos Total _{WIBS_2}		$N_{\text{INP}} = a(-T)^b \cdot \text{Total}_{\text{WIBS}}^{(cT+d)} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\text{WIBS}_{\text{ratio}} \cdot e + f} \right)$ (a = -4 244 444.44, b = -5.5, c = -0.119, d = -1.69, e = 641.55, f = -154.31; T in °C)
Helmos Total _{SMPS+APS_1}	Total _{SMPS+APS} (std cm ⁻³)	$N_{\text{INP}} = \text{cf} \cdot \text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}^{(-aT+b)} \cdot \exp(-cT + d)$ (cf = 1e - 5, a = 0.04, b = -0.19, c = 0.2, d = 2; T in °C)
Helmos Total _{SMPS+APS_2}		$N_{\text{INP}} = a(-T)^b \cdot \text{Total}_{\text{SMPS+APS}}^{(-cT+d)} \cdot (\text{SMPS}_{\text{APSratio}} \cdot (eT + f))$ (a = 9 000 000, b = -10.3, c = 0.16, d = -2.769, e = -3 200 000, f = 800; T in °C)
Helmos S _{SMPS+APS}	S _{SMPS+APS} (std m ² cm ⁻³)	$N_{\text{INP}} = 1000 \cdot S_{\text{SMPS+APS}} \cdot \exp(aT + b)$ (a = -0.5, b = 6.6; T in °C)

Note: APS_{ratio} is the ratio of Coarse_{APS} to Fine_{APS} particle concentration, WIBS_{ratio} is the ratio of Fluo_{WIBS} to NonFluo_{WIBS} particle concentration and SMPS_{APSratio} is the ratio of Coarse_{SMPS} to Fine_{SMPS+APS} particle concentration.

for aerosol sources in the FT, as indicated by the underestimated values in the red square in Fig. 14a (also Fig. S20b and c). In particular, as shown in Fig. S20c, only 41 % of predictions from Helmos DeMott2015 are within a factor of 10 compared to the observations when (HAC)² is in the FT with the influence of precipitation/clouds. Figure 14b shows that the consideration of the APS_{ratio} in the Helmos Total_{APS} parameterization can improve its predictability by increasing the f_3 from 0.61 to 0.70, compared with Helmos DeMott2015. Moreover, the lower mean absolute percentage error (MAPE), root-mean-square error (RMSE) and Bayesian information criteria (BIC) values of Helmos Total_{APS} suggest its slightly better performance than Helmos DeMott2015, by showing a smaller deviation, a smaller overall error and a larger formula goodness of fit, respectively. However, Helmos Total_{APS} cannot predict INPs within the f_{10} range at warm temperatures (> -20 °C), probably due to biological particles from continental aerosols (Garcia et al., 2012; Pummer et al., 2015), as marked by the red square in Fig. 14b. Those data points are from two INSEKT filter samples col-

lected on 28 and 29 October when (HAC)² is affected by continental aerosols (Fig. S21i).

3.4.4 INP parameterizations using the Fluo_{WIBS} particle concentration

With a new set of parameters, Helmos Tobo2013FBAP in Fig. 14c shows improved predictability with respect to N_{INP} , displaying increased (f_3 and f_{10} by 0.24 and 0.33, respectively) in comparison with Tobo2013FBAP in Fig. 13c. This suggests that the INP populations observed at Mount Helmos might have different IN abilities from those observed in Tobo et al. (2013). After incorporating WIBS_{ratio} into Helmos Fluo_{WIBS}, the parameterization can further increase the f_3 predictability to 0.70 (Fig. 14d) compared with Helmos Tobo2013FBAP. Moreover, Helmos Fluo_{WIBS} shows lower RMSE and BIC values, suggesting a slightly better fitting goodness. On the other hand, Helmos Fluo_{WIBS} shows a larger MAPE value, which is due to its more scattered predictions with respect to INPs at warm temperatures (> -20 °C).

3.4.5 INP parameterizations using the Total_{WIBS} particle concentration

Helmos Total_{WIBS_1} and Total_{WIBS_2} show comparable f_3 and f_{10} predictions, larger than 0.67 and 0.95, respectively (Fig. 14e and f). Compared with Helmos Total_{WIBS_1}, Helmos Total_{WIBS_2} shows smaller MAPE and RMSE values, suggesting an overall slightly smaller deviation in N_{INP} predictions. Except for INPs from the source of South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols, Helmos Total_{WIBS_1} can predict N_{INP} from the other sources with an f_{10} larger than 97% (Fig. S24). The exceptional performance for the source of South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols may be due to the limited observations, for which other parameterizations show similar results (see results in Sect. S9). Compared with Helmos Total_{WIBS_1}, the slightly overall lower f_3 and f_{10} predictability of Helmos Total_{WIBS_2} is because of its relatively poor predictions for INPs from the source of aerosols in the FT with precipitation/clouds (Fig. S25c).

3.4.6 INP parameterizations using the Total_{SMPS+APS} particle concentration

Figure 14g shows an f_3 and f_{10} prediction of 0.54 and 0.83, respectively, for Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_1}. Its N_{INP} prediction skill is the lowest amongst the parameterizations shown in Fig. 14, possibly due to its poor ability to predict dust INPs (Fig. S26h). Compared with Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_1}, the inclusion of $SMPS_APS_{\text{ratio}}$ into Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_2} helps the parameterization to capture INPs from different particle populations and increases the f_{10} prediction by 7% (Fig. 14h). Predictions from Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_2} also show a more symmetric distribution around the 1 : 1 line. However, Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_2} shows a decreased predictability for INPs from the source of aerosols in the FT with precipitation/clouds ($f_3 = 0.10$ and $f_{10} = 0.48$ in Fig. S27c) compared with Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_1} ($f_3 = 0.86$ and $f_{10} = 1.0$ in Fig. S26c).

3.4.7 INP parameterizations using the $S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ total particle surface area

The parameterization based on active site density (Young, 1974; DeMott, 1994; Connolly et al., 2009) is expressed as a function of T and the particle surface area ($S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$). Compared with Niemand2012, Ullrich2017 and McCluskey2018 (Table 1), the parameter b for Helmos $S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ (Table 3) is adjusted to obtain a better prediction, which enables Helmos $S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ to predict more than 90% of data points within a factor of 10 compared to observations (Fig. 14). Helmos $S_{\text{SMPS+APS}}$ can also predict INPs from different aerosol sources with an f_{10} larger than 93% (Fig. S28), except INPs sourced from South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols.

3.4.8 Summary of the parameterizations and recommendations

All of the parameterizations presented in Fig. 14 can predict > 80% of the measured INP concentrations at Mount Helmos within a factor of 10 of all observations of the corresponding dataset (see the caption of Fig. 14). Comparing all parameterizations with the same data subset in Fig. 14, four newly proposed parameterizations, including Helmos Total_{APS}, Helmos Fluow_{WIBS}, Helmos Total_{WIBS_1} and Helmos Total_{WIBS_2}, show f_3 and f_{10} predictions of approximately 70% and 95%, respectively. The superior performance of these four parameterizations is likely due to the incorporation of aerosol particle ratios that are implicitly linked to specific particle types with distinct INP characteristics, thereby leading to better predictions of IN activity of particles. Helmos Total_{WIBS_2} has the smallest BIC value, suggesting it may have the highest overall optimality in terms of the model dimension and the maximum likelihood of the prediction (Schwarz, 1978). Notably, only Helmos Total_{WIBS_1} can predict INPs from all different sources with an f_{10} prediction larger than 95%, which suggests its broad applicability for INPs from various sources. In addition, we further evaluate and compare parameterizations in Fig. 14a–f by using them to predict a larger dataset than the subset of data used for their development (Figs. S29–S35). The results suggest that Helmos Total_{WIBS_1} outperforms the others by showing an f_{10} INP prediction that is larger than 95% for all aerosol sources (except INPs sourced from South dust in the PBL after marine aerosols) as well as for the larger testing dataset (Fig. S34); hence, it is the parameterization of choice for models that can constrain all of the required input. Without including aerosol fluorescent properties, the results in both Fig. S30d (for Helmos DeMott2015) and Fig. S31d (Helmos Total_{APS}) suggest that INP parameterizations considering only APS data cannot predict INPs from continental aerosols at warm temperatures, which are likely of biological origin. If considering only the aerosol particle number concentration for INP prediction, Helmos Tobo2013FBAP outperforms Helmos DeMott2015 and Helmos Total_{SMPS+APS_1} (Fig. S22) with respect to predicting more than 90% of INPs from different sources, although it shows an f_{10} of 0.5 for the dust case.

4 Summary and conclusions

Here, we study the characteristics of different aerosol sources and their INP abundances in mixed-phased clouds at the high-altitude Helmos Hellenic Atmospheric Aerosol and Climate Change station, (HAC)², Mount Helmos, Greece, during the Cloud–Aerosol InteractionS in the Helmos background Troposphere (CALISHTO) campaign for a period between October and November 2021. INPs were measured for $T > -27^\circ\text{C}$ with online (PINE, all IN mechanisms) and offline (INSEKT, immersion freezing mode) techniques.

The relationship between INPs and different aerosol particle types was unravelled to understand the ice formation ability of particles from different aerosol sources. Specific INP source apportionment was carried out using a synergy of in situ aerosol property characterization measurements, remote-sensing measurements and modelling experiments. The relative position of (HAC)² in the atmosphere with respect to the planetary boundary layer (PBL) was determined using both PBL height results from a pulsed Doppler scanning lidar system (HALO) and the number concentration of particles larger than 95 nm measured by a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$), so as to differentiate the air mass sampled from the PBL to free troposphere (FT). The presence of precipitation/clouds at (HAC)² was also monitored by a wideband Doppler spectral zenith profiler (WProf) radar using the radar equivalent reflectivity factor (Z_e) and mean Doppler velocity (MDV). The size distribution (SMPS and APS, aerodynamic particle sizer), optical properties (nephelometer) and chemical composition (ToF-ACSM, time-of-flight aerosol chemical speciation monitor) of different aerosol particle populations were characterized when analysing the footprints and back trajectories of aerosol particles using FLEXPART and HYSPLIT results. Such a comprehensive synthesis for the purpose of INP source apportionment is not often reported in the literature. We conclude the following key findings:

- Specific and detailed INP source apportionment was achieved, as demonstrated by the distinct characteristics of different sources, including continental aerosols, marine aerosols, dust aerosols, and a mixture of continental and dust aerosols. Fine particles ($< 1.0\ \mu\text{m}$) dominate continental aerosols, leading to an Ångström exponent (α) larger than 2.0, whereas coarse particles ($> 1.0\ \mu\text{m}$) comprise a substantial proportion of dust aerosols, showing a fairly constant α of approximately 1.0. Marine aerosols show the highest content of Cl^- . The distinction of different aerosols is also indicated by their different particle portioning conditions, such as the fine-to-coarse particle ratio and fluorescent-to-nonfluorescent particle ratio.
- In addition to the PBLH and SMPS $N_{>95\text{ nm}}$ used to diagnose the PBL conditions of the observation site, we note that a threshold value of 20 particles stdL^{-1} for the $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ particle concentration can be used as a more conservative standard to qualitatively examine the observation site conditions with respect to the PBL. A higher or lower (compared to 20 particles stdL^{-1}) value than the threshold indicates that the observation site is inside or outside the PBL, respectively. Under strictly defined FT conditions without the influence of local and remote aerosols, i.e. background conditions, only 1 in 1×10^6 of all aerosol particles acts as an INP for $T = -25 \pm 1.0\ ^\circ\text{C}$. Additionally, we note that the INP abundance is also regulated by the property of relevant

aerosol source and meteorological conditions, e.g. precipitation (Testa et al., 2021), in addition to temperatures and FT/PBL scenarios.

- Notably, the particle properties and INP abundance of different aerosol sources also depend on the atmospheric conditions, i.e. the relative position with respect to the PBL. Compared with the conditions in the PBL, continental aerosols in the FT contain less particles. In particular, the decrease in coarse particles ($> 1.0\ \mu\text{m}$) for continental aerosols in the FT is more significant than the decrease in fine particles ($< 1.0\ \mu\text{m}$), which is responsible for its reduced INP abundance compared with the conditions in the PBL. The INP abundance in North continental aerosols is higher than that of background conditions in the FT by more than 1 order of magnitude when the air mass is in the PBL. Marine aerosols above the PBL show a similar INP abundance to that of North continental aerosols above the PBL. Dust-containing aerosols present the highest INP abundance among all sources. When dust is mixed with continental aerosol, the INP abundance decreases due to dilution, deposition and deactivation by atmospheric ageing.
- The effects of precipitation/clouds lead to a slight decrease in coarse aerosol particles when the observation site is in the FT; however, this results in a small increase in the INP abundance. Such an enrichment in INPs is attributed to the release of cloud-processed particles and/or near-ground particle production caused by precipitation splash, both of which supply active INPs. On the other hand, the presence of precipitation/clouds results in decreased INP abundance when the observation site is in the PBL due to the wet removal of aerosol particles.
- The INP attribution results suggest that biological particles from PBL air masses may be important INP sources for continental and marine aerosols, whereas coarse dust particles play the primary role in the observed INPs in dust aerosols. The concentrations of INPs from marine and continental aerosols above the PBL are within a range of a factor of 5 compared to ABC_{WIBS} particles for more than 93 % of the PINE-observed INPs, suggesting that biological particles likely make an important contribution to the activated INPs. For dust-containing sources, biological particles may play a secondary role in the observed INPs after dust particles. We highlight that the fluorescent particle concentration recorded by WIBS (including biological particles and non-biological particles showing fluorescence) is able to describe all PINE-observed INP concentrations (for $T = -24\text{--} -27\ ^\circ\text{C}$) within a factor of 5 for more than 80 % of observed data points. Additionally, we note that mineral dust and carbonaceous particles may fluoresce

because of some association with biological material or PAHs from combustion. Both eBC and dust particles can be transported over a long distance in the FT.

- The IN ability of different aerosol sources shows distinguishable characteristics and presents correlations with $\text{Coarse}_{\text{APS}}$ and fluorescent particle proportions. The above new findings were used to improve the predictability of INP parameterizations, which predict observed INPs for more than 90 % of data points for all identified INP sources and outperform existing INP parameterizations in the literature. The APS-based INP parameterizations (Helmos $\text{Total}_{\text{APS}}$ in Table 3) show a less satisfactory INP predictability for warm temperatures ($> -20^\circ\text{C}$) compared with their predictability for cold temperatures ($< -20^\circ\text{C}$), suggesting their inadequate capability with respect to capturing biological INPs. Using particle fluorescence characteristics can improve INP parameterization predictability at warm temperatures. The parameterization developed from a data subset ($\sim 80\%$ of observations) was evaluated by predicting all observations with both WIBS and INP data. Considering biological particles that fluoresce and the proportion of those particles, our INP parameterization (Helmos $\text{Total}_{\text{WIBS}_1}$ in Table 3) is able to predict the INP abundance for different sources within a factor of 10 for more than 95 % of data points, thereby outperforming the existing parameterizations in the literature and the others proposed in this study.
- Existing INP parameterizations in the literature may be improved by including the fluorescent-to-nonfluorescent or coarse-to-fine particle ratios if available. Firstly, regional models, like the mesoscale Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model, can use the improved INP parameterizations to calculate the ice formation processes for MPCs which ultimately helps to predict the local weather condition changes, such as storm formation and evolution (Georgakaki et al., 2024). Moreover, published datasets from existing field studies can be reorganized into a large and inclusive database for the development of more general INP parameterizations for MPCs at global scales. By doing so, the predictability and applicability of the developed INP parameterizations for climate models can be improved. In particular, MPC simulations for regions with different INP sources, such as the crossroads of different air masses, like (HAC)², or for different regions with different prevailing INP sources, such as continental or marine regions, can be better achieved. Ultimately, the regional and global simulations of aerosol–cloud interactions as well as climate modelling can benefit from the improved INP parameterization.

Due to insufficient aerosol particle collection during aerosol sampling and/or filter washing, an underestimation

of INPs from INSEKT experiments may partly influence the INP parameterizations. In this regard, INSEKT data, which are analysed as lower estimations by more than a factor of 5 compared with PINE INPs (Sect. 3.4.1), were filtered before use for parameterization. We note that the underestimation of INPs caused by insufficient sampling of aerosol particles for offline INP analysis may also result in a lower estimation of aerosol–cloud interactions for warm temperatures in the MPC regime (e.g. $> -15^\circ\text{C}$); this could have important implications with respect to inducing biases in the microphysical evolution of clouds in models. Therefore, the particle collection efficiency should be evaluated for existing INP data and INP parameterizations in the literature before they are used for climate models. Filter sampling (Conen et al., 2015; Schneider et al., 2021) and liquid impingers (Wieder et al., 2022) have commonly been used to collect INP samples for offline analysis in existing studies. Standard sampling protocols for both methods are required to ensure sampling efficiency inter-comparison. For future studies, we suggest more flexible aerosol sampling strategies for offline INP measurements compared with that used in this study (~ 1 d for INSEKT), such as (1) employing automated filter samplers that allow sampling periods to be adjusted according to the changing aerosol particle concentrations or (2) using wet cyclones to collect aerosol particles in liquids. The optimized sampling strategies for offline INP measurements should avoid filter overloading during dust events. To further test and validate the predictability of WIBS data-based INP parameterizations, a larger dataset that spans different seasons and is based on observations at different sites in different regions is required. The further development of WIBS data-based INP parameterizations will be addressed in our following work.

Data availability. The data presented in this publication are available at <https://doi.org/10.16904/envidat.538> (Gao et al., 2024).

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Author contributions. AN, AP and KE organized the CAL-ISHTO campaign. KuG and AN conceived and led this study. KuG led the analysis; wrote the original manuscript with input from AN; and prepared all of the figures with contributions from RF, ACBR and SV. KuG analysed the data and interpreted the results with input from AN, AP, RF and PG. AN, AP, KE, RF, ACBR, FV, SV, MIG, OZ and PF conducted the experiments and collected the raw data. SV performed FLEXPART simulations. KuG ran HYSPLIT with support from AP. All authors discussed, reviewed and edited the manuscript.

Competing interests. The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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