

Dear Editor,

We have finished the revisions to our article to address all concerns of our reviewers. We have replied point-by-point to their suggestions and questions in the individual responses in our Interactive Discussion. Here we summarize the changes we made to our study and manuscript.

Following the recommendations of our reviewers, we included a comparison to additional observational data and performed extra modeling runs and calculations to clarify the uncertainties connected with different aspects of our results. Concerning the content of the manuscript, the major revisions were confined in the Results section, where we described the model performance with regard to the new observational data and modeling runs. Section 3.4 was thoroughly revised and we believe the message, which we originally intended for it to provide, is now more clear and understandable. We have included new figures (currently 1, 6) and revised previously shown figures (currently 3, 9, 10) and Table 1 to include the new comparisons and findings. Further improvements throughout the paper are addressed in more details in the reply to each reviewer.

On behalf of all the co-authors, I would like to thank the reviewers for their detailed and constructive comments. We feel that the revisions have resulted in a much-improved manuscript that we hope is now suitable for publication.

Kind regards,

Denica Bozhinova