

The authors thank Dr. Marsham for suggesting the comparison of our results with that provided by Ryder et al. (2013).

We are aware about the complexity of comparing column integrated size distributions and in-situ aircraft measurements. Several authors (e.g. Reid et al, 2003; Müller et al., 2010; 2012) warned about the considerable variations between coincident-time dust size distributions retrieved from different measurement techniques. Furthermore, our own experience in the framework of the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) aerosol program at the Izaña Atmospheric Observatory indicates strong differences in aerosols size distribution depending on the technique used (DMA, APS, etc). Obviously, this is a challenging and important aerosol research issue, but is out of the scope of our paper. Therefore, it makes little sense comparing our monthly mean column integrated size distributions with in-situ observations at different height levels from short-term aircraft campaigns as those provided by Ryder et al. (2013), making this comparison to be merely indicative, and with no quantitative significance. However, we have just pointed out in the paper that the AERONET coarse modal geometrical radius (2.24 μm) is within the radius interval (1-3.5 μm) of maximum volume distributions showed by most of the aircraft campaigns reported by Ryder et al. (2013).

Short Comment References

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