

***Interactive comment on “Aerosol characterization in Northern Africa, Northeastern Atlantic, Mediterranean Basin and Middle East from direct-sun AERONET observations” by S. Basart et al.***

**S. Basart et al.**

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Received and published: 22 June 2009

Dear Dr. Alados-Arboledas,

Thank you for your comments. Please find below a reply to your points.

Since the emphasis of the study is on coarse-mode mineral particles, the bias introduced by the AOD>0.15 filter is not expected to be so important. In fact, AODs associated to dust conditions are usually higher. If we analyze the quartiles of each station, we can observe that percentile 25 of AOD is <0.15 in stations located in the Iberian

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Peninsula and around the Mediterranean Basin, as well as some specific sites such as the Izana station, where the presence of coarse-mode mineral dust is sporadic. However, it is true that in the manuscript, it could be necessary to emphasize the seasonal evolution of the available data and the proportion of measurements with AOD<0.15. We could include a table with the seasonal distribution of the data and the percentage of AOD<0.15.

About the use of “AdA” space, we believe it is better to keep this acronym for the sake of brevity.

We will include several references suggested by the reviewer that describe some of the results included in the paper, and will modify the manuscript according to your comments.

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, 7707, 2009.