**We would like to thank C. He for the comment. Our response is given below.**

**Short comment by C. He: Received and published: 9 January 2017**

**Short Comment:** The authors used different methods to investigate the relative contributions of BC, BrC, and coating enhancement to the total absorption of biomass burning aerosols. The analysis and results could improve our understanding on aerosol absorption for biomass burning emissions. I have a short comment.
Recent studies showed that BC optical properties are also significantly influenced by particle (coating) structures in addition to coating thickness (He et al., 2015, 2016), which could be an important uncertainty source in determining aerosol absorption. It would be useful if the author could include these references and add some discussions on this aspect to highlight potential uncertainty associated with these important factors in affecting BC/BrC absorption.

**Author Response:** We appreciate the comment by C. He and find the work cited to be relevant and interesting. However, we do not feel that it would be appropriate to insert a discussion of how advanced models that include BC morphology predict adjustments to the optical properties of coated BC because we do not present experimental results that can verify or reject the importance of these particular effects.