



1 Phenomenology of summer ozone episodes over the Madrid 2 Metropolitan Area, central Spain

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31

32 Abstract

33 Various studies have reported that photochemical nucleation of new ultrafine particles (UFP)
34 in urban environments within high insolation regions occurs simultaneously with high ozone
35 (O₃). In this work, we evaluate the atmospheric dynamics leading to summer O₃ episodes in the
36 Madrid Air Basin (Central Iberia) by means of measuring a 3D distribution of concentrations for
37 both pollutants. To this end, we obtained vertical profiles (up to 1200 m, above ground level)
38 using tethered balloons and miniaturised instrumentation at a suburban site located to the SW
39 of the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA), Majadahonda site (MJDH) in July 2016.
40 Simultaneously, measurements of an extensive number of air quality and meteorological
41 parameters were carried out at 3 supersites across the MMA. Furthermore, data from O₃-
42 soundings and daily radio-sounding were also used to interpret the atmospheric dynamics.

43 The results demonstrate the concatenation of venting and accumulation episodes, with
44 relative O₃ lows (venting) and peaks (accumulation) in surface levels. Regardless of the episode
45 type, fumigation of high altitude O₃-rich layers contributes the major proportion of surface O₃
46 concentrations. Accumulation episodes are characterised by a relatively thinner planetary
47 boundary layer (PBL < 1500 m at midday, lower in altitude than the orographic features), low
48 synoptic winds and the development of mountain breezes along the slope of the Guadarrama
49 Mountain Range (W and NW of MMA, maximum altitude >2400 m). This orographic-



50 meteorological setting causes the vertical recirculation of air masses and the enrichment of O₃
51 in the lower tropospheric layers. When the highly polluted urban plume from Madrid is
52 affected by these dynamics, the highest O_x (O₃+NO₂) concentrations are recorded in the MMA.

53 Vertical O₃ profiles during venting episodes, with marked synoptic winds and a deepening of
54 the PBL reaching >2000 m above sea level, were characterised by an upward gradient in O₃
55 levels, whereas low-altitude O₃ concentration maxima due to local/regional production were
56 found during the accumulation episodes. The two contributions to O₃ surface levels
57 (fumigation from high altitude strata and local/regional production) require very different
58 approaches for policy actions. In contrast to O₃ vertical top-down transfer, UFP are formed in
59 the lowest levels and are transferred upwards progressively with the growth of the PBL.

60

61 **Keywords:** Ozone, ultrafine particles, photochemical pollution, air quality, vertical profiles.

62

63 1. Introduction

64 The EU Directive 2008/50/EC, amended by Directive 2015/1480/EC, on ambient air quality
65 establishes the need to comply with air quality standards to protect citizens and ecosystems. If
66 these are not met, plans to improve air quality must be implemented. Despite the
67 considerable improvements in air quality during the last decade, non-compliances with the
68 European air quality standards are still reported in most Europe. In particular the limit values
69 for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and tropospheric ozone (O₃)
70 target value are frequently exceeded. Therefore, in 2013, the National Plan for Air Quality and
71 Protection of the Atmosphere (Plan AIRE) 2013-2016, was drawn up, and approved by the
72 Council of Ministers' Agreement of 12/04/2013.

73 Measures to effectively reduce NO₂ and PM pollution are relatively easy to identify. However,
74 defining policies for abating O₃, other photochemical pollutants and the secondary
75 components of PM is much more complex.

76 Photochemical pollution is a subject of great environmental importance in Southern (S) Europe
77 due to its climatic and geographical characteristics. Sub-products of this type of contamination
78 are many, noteworthy tropospheric O₃, secondary PM (nitrate, sulphate and secondary organic
79 compounds), and the generation of new ultra-fine particles (UFP) by nucleation (Gomez-
80 Moreno et al., 2011, Brines et al., 2015).

81 The abatement of tropospheric O₃ levels in this region is a difficult challenge due to its origin,
82 which may be local, regional or transboundary (Millán et al., 2000 and Millán, 2014), the
83 complexity of the meteorological scenarios leading to severe episodes (Millán et al., 1997,
84 Gangoiti et al., 2001, Dieguez et al., 2009 and 2014 and Millán, 2014), as well as the complexity
85 of the chemical processes that drive its formation and sinks, which are not linear in many cases
86 (Monks et al., 2014, and references therein).

87 This complex context has led to a lack of 'sufficient' O₃ abatement in Spain and Europe; while
88 for primary pollutants, such as SO₂ and CO, and the primary fractions of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} the
89 improvement has been very evident (EEA, 2016). Thus, the latest air quality assessment for



90 Europe (EEA, 2016) shows that: i) there has been a tendency for the peak O₃ concentration
91 values to decrease in the recent years, but not sufficiently to meet WHO guidelines and EC
92 standards; and ii) the problem of O₃ episodes is more pronounced in the S than in Northern (N)
93 and Central Europe. Likewise, O₃ levels are higher in rural than in urban areas, both due to the
94 generation process, which requires time from the emission of urban, industrial and biogenic
95 precursors, and the consumption (NO titration) of O₃ that takes place in urban areas. Apart
96 from this EEA report, other recent studies such as EMEP (2016), Escudero et al., (2014), Garcia
97 et al (2014) and Querol et al. (2014 and 2016) also evidenced that there is a general tendency
98 for O₃ to increase in urban areas, including traffic sites, probably due to the greater relative
99 reduction of NO emissions compared to NO₂, and therefore to the lower NO titration effect. It
100 is also found that O₃ levels in the regional background have remained constant over the last 15
101 years, but acute episodes have been drastically reduced compared to the late 1990s, and these
102 markedly increase during heat waves such as those in summer 2003 and 2015 (EEA, 2016,
103 Diéguez et al., 2009 and 2014 and Querol et al., 2016). A recent study reported that an
104 increase of 30-40% in ambient air O₃ levels along with a decrease of 20-40% in NO₂ from 2007
105 to 2014 in Madrid, may have led to a large concentration increase of up to 70% and 90% in OH
106 and NO₃ (the main tropospheric oxidants), respectively, thereby changing the oxidative
107 capacity of this urban atmosphere (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2017). We still do not know if this increase
108 is due to a decrease in the effect of NO titration or to the fact that the O₃ formation is by
109 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) dominated.

110 Intensive research on O₃ pollution has been carried out since the late 1980s in the Western
111 Mediterranean, which has been key to understand the behaviour of this pollutant in Europe,
112 and to establish the current air quality European standards (Millán et al., 1991, 1996a, 1996b,
113 1996c, 2000, 2002; Millán, 2002; EC, 2002, 2004; Millán and Sanz, 1999; Mantilla et al., 1997;
114 Salvador et al., 1997, 1999; Gangoiti et al., 2001; Stein et al., 2004, 2005; Doval et al., 2012;
115 Castell et al., 2008a, 2008b, 2012; Millán et al., 2014, Escudero et al., 2014). Diéguez et al.
116 (2009 and 2014) described in detail the temporal and spatial variation of O₃ levels in Spain.
117 These studies highlight the low inter-annual variability in regional background stations, as well
118 as the existence of specific areas, such as the Madrid air basin, Northern valleys influenced by
119 the Barcelona urban plume, Puertollano basin or the interior of the Valencian region, where
120 very high O₃ episodes are relatively frequent, and point to urban and industrial hot spots as
121 relevant sources of precursors. Recently, Querol et al. (2016) evidenced that the highest O₃
122 episodes, with hourly exceedances of the information threshold to the population (180 µg/m³)
123 for 2000-2015 occurred mostly around these densely populated or industrialised areas.

124 Querol et al. (2017) reported that the load of O₃ and precursors from the plume of the
125 metropolitan area of Barcelona contributed decisively to the exceedances of the information
126 threshold in the northern areas of Barcelona during the acute O₃ episodes in July 2015. They
127 also demonstrated that the meteorology associated was very complex, similar to the scenarios
128 reported by Gangoiti et al. (2001), Millán (2014) and Diéguez et al. (2014) for other regions of
129 the Western Mediterranean. Regional transport of O₃ is also very relevant, and that acute O₃
130 episodes, exceeding the information threshold, were caused by a dominant regional
131 contribution (also with high contributions from local formation recirculated during prior days)
132 to O₃, on top of which an additional smaller local 'fresh' contribution was added. It was also



133 shown that the vast majority of these exceedances are recorded in the month of July of the
134 respective years.

135 In addition to the primary emissions, nucleation or new particle formation (NPF) processes give
136 rise to relevant contributions to the urban ambient air UFP concentrations, mostly during
137 photochemical pollution episodes in spring and summer (Brines et al., 2015 and references
138 therein). Ambient conditions favouring urban NPF are high insolation, low relative humidity,
139 available SO₂ and VOCs, as well as low pre-existing particle surface area (low condensation
140 sink), common features that enhance new particle formation events (Kulmala et al., 2004;
141 Kulmala and Kerminen, 2008, Sipilä, et al., 2010, Salma et al., 2016).

142 In this study, we evaluate the temporal and spatial variability of O₃ (and UFP) in the Madrid
143 city/basin, to investigate the causes of acute summer episodes of both pollutants, and to
144 investigate possible inter-relationships. In a subsequent twin article we will focus on the
145 phenomenology of UFP nucleation episodes linked with these photochemical events. Data on
146 UFP are included in this paper only where they assist in interpreting the behaviour of O₃.

147

148 **2. Methodology**

149 **2.1. The study area**

150 The Madrid air basin and the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA) are located in the central
151 plain, or Meseta, of the Iberian Peninsula at around 700 m a.s.l. Regarding the topographic
152 features, the Guadarrama range which runs in the NE-SW direction reaches heights up to 2400
153 m a.s.l. and is located 40 km north from the MMA. To the S, are the Toledo Mountains which
154 run from E to W (Figure 1). Lower mountains are also located to the NE and E, which are part
155 of the Iberian range. Consequently, the Madrid plain shows a NE-SW channelling of winds,
156 forced by the main mountain ranges, and following the basin of the Tagus River and its
157 tributaries. In particular, the MMA is located to the NE of the river basin and at its right side.

158 Climatologically, the area is characterised by continental conditions with hot summers and
159 cold winters with both seasons typically being dry. Mean annual precipitation of around 400
160 mm is mainly concentrated in autumn and spring. The MMA is one of the most densely
161 populated regions in Spain, with more than 5 million inhabitants, including Madrid City and
162 surrounding towns. According to Salvador et al. (2015), the main anthropogenic emissions are
163 dominated by road traffic and residential heating (in winter), with minor contributions from
164 industry and a large airport.

165 Plaza et al. (1997), Pujadas et al. (2000) and Artífano et al. (2003) described the major
166 meteorological patterns affecting the dispersion of pollutants in the basin, and their
167 seasonality. For summer, Plaza et al. (1997) concluded that the development of strong thermal
168 convective activity and the influence of the mountain ranges produce characteristic mesoscale
169 re-circulations and the development of a very deep mixing layer (Crespí et al., 1995). These
170 authors report that these re-circulations contribute markedly to the high O₃ episodes recorded
171 in the region. According to Plaza et al (1997) and Diéguez et al. (2009 and 2014) the
172 arrangement of the Guadarrama range favours the early heating of its S slopes that causes a
173 clockwise turning of wind direction from a NE component during the night, towards an E and S
174 during the early morning and midday, and to the SW during the late afternoon thus defining



175 the north-western sector downwind the city as the prone area for O₃ transport. Night time
176 downslope winds inside the basin induce the observed north-easterlies at lower levels.
177 Influenced by these contributions, the barrier effect of the Guadarrama range against the N
178 and NW (Atlantic) winds, as well as the repeated clockwise circulation described above, cause
179 movement of the urban plume of Madrid across the basin. This meteorological system allows
180 local O₃ formation and transport. Regarding the vertical scale, Plaza et al. (1997) also showed
181 that fumigation from high O₃-rich layers (injected by upslope winds the previous day or days,
182 or transported from other areas outside the Madrid basin) could also contribute to enhance
183 the surface O₃ concentrations across the basin. This was attributed to the upward gradient in
184 concentrations in the lower 1 km of the atmosphere measured in the early morning, and the
185 subsequent mixing across the planetary boundary layer (PBL) at midday. Similar results were
186 found by balloon soundings at the Vic Plain (N Barcelona) by Querol et al. (2017), and by
187 earlier studies of Millán et al. (1991, 1992, 1996a to c, 2000, 2002).

188 On the other hand, Gómez Moreno et al. (2011) and Brines et al. (2015) reported both
189 intensive summer and winter NPF episodes in the western border of Madrid City often with
190 the simultaneous occurrence of the highest O₃ episodes.

191 **2.2. Monitoring sites and instrumentation**

192 To characterise acute summer episodes of O₃ and UFP and to investigate their possible
193 relationships we devised an intensive field campaign in the MMA. Three measurement
194 supersites in and around Madrid, following a WNW direction, according the previously
195 described dynamics, were deployed in an area where the highest levels of O₃ are usually
196 recorded (Reche et al., 2017 submitted) inside the Madrid basin (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the
197 equipment available at the three following supersites:

- 198 • Madrid-CSIC, located at the Spanish National Research Council headquarters. This site is
199 located in central Madrid on the sixth floor of the building of the Instituto de Ciencias
200 Agrarias.
- 201 • CIEMAT, located at the Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y
202 Tecnológicas headquarters, at 4 km in a WNW direction from the CSIC site in a suburban
203 area.
- 204 • MJDH-ISCI, located in the Instituto de Salud Carlos III in Majadahonda, at 15 km in a NW
205 direction from the CSIC site.

206 At MJDH-ISCI, a PTR-ToF-MS has been deployed from 04 to 19/07/2017 and provides insights
207 into the O₃ Formation Potential (OFP) of the VOC mixture over the MMA area. The operation
208 procedure of the PTR-ToF-MS and OFP calculation are detailed in Table S1 and Figure S1.

209 Furthermore, from 11 to 14/07/2016, 28 profiles of pollutant and meteorological parameters
210 up to 1200 m a.g.l. were obtained using tethered balloons and a fast winch system (Figure S1,
211 Tables 2). The instrumentation attached to the balloons is summarised in Table 1. The profiles
212 were performed at the Majadahonda Rugby Course (MJDH-RC Figure 1). The balloons were
213 equipped with a Global Position System (GPS) and as set of the instruments (Figure S3),
214 including:



215 • A miniaturized CPC (Hy-CPC, Hanyang University) was used to measure number
216 concentration of particles larger than 3 nm (PN₃) with a time resolution of 1 s and a flow
217 rate of 0.125 L/min, using butanol as working fluid (Lee et al., 2014). Previous inter-
218 comparison studies with conventional CPCs have yielded very good results (Minguillón et
219 al., 2015). In this work, we will use the terms UFP and PN₃ as equivalents but we measure
220 concentrations between 3 and 1000 nm strictly while UFP is <100 nm. However, 80% of
221 the total particle concentration falls in the range of UFPs.

222 • A PO3M O₃ monitor (2B Technologies) was used to determine O₃ concentrations. It was
223 calibrated against an ultraviolet spectrometry reference analyser showing good
224 agreement ($n=34$; $PO3MO_3=1.1058*RefO_3+4.41$, $R^2=0.93$). Concentrations (on 10 s basis)
225 are reported in standard conditions (20 °C and 101.3 kPa) and corrected for the reference
226 method.

227 In addition to the above instrumentation we obtained the following additional meteorological
228 and air quality data:

229 • Meteorological data from the CIEMAT meteorological tower (four instrumented levels
230 between surface and 54 m a.g.l.), as well as from several AEMET (Spanish Met Office)
231 standard meteorological stations spread out across the basin: Madrid Airport (40.46°N,
232 3.56°W, 609 m a.s.l), Colmenar Viejo (40.69°N, 3.76°W, 994 m a.s.l), and El Retiro (in
233 Madrid, 40.40°N, 3.67°W, 667 m a.s.l).

234 • Hourly data for air pollutants (NO, NO₂, SO₂, O₃, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) supplied by the air
235 quality networks of the city of Madrid, the Regional Governments of Madrid, Castilla la
236 Mancha, Castilla y León, and the EMEP monitoring network, supplied by the National Air
237 Quality Database of the Ministry of the Environment of Spain (MAPAMA).

238 • High resolution O₃-sounding data performed by AEMET at midday each Wednesday at
239 Madrid Airport.

240 • High resolution meteorological sounding data obtained each day at 00:00 and 12:00 h
241 local time by AEMET also at Madrid Airport. They were used to estimate the height of the
242 PBL at 12:00 UTC by means of the simple parcel method (Pandolfi et al., 2014).

243 Hourly averaged wind components were calculated and used in polar plots with hourly PM₁,
244 PM_{2.5}, NO₂, O₃, O_x (O₃+NO₂), BC and UFP concentrations, by means of the OpenAir R package
245 (Carslaw and Ropkins, 2012).

246

247 **3. Results**

248 **3.1. Meteorological context**

249 Figure 2 shows the time series of the recorded meteorology, measured at a surface station
250 representative of the conditions in the MMA during the field campaign of July 2016 (El Retiro,
251 in central Madrid). In order to put the field campaign into the context of the more general
252 meteorological situation, the time series is extended backwards to the end of June and
253 forward to the end of July 2016. Figure 2 also shows the corresponding time series of O₃, NO₂
254 and O_x concentrations in the MMA, demonstrating the occurrence of well-marked peaks
255 alternating with relatively low O₃ and O_x concentrations periods. The intensive field campaign



256 (11-14/07/2016, marked with a green frame) coincides with a low O₃ interval preceding a
257 higher O₃ period in the last two days red and blue frames in Figure 2 show days in which high
258 resolution O₃ free soundings were performed (red and blue indicate intervals within high and
259 low O₃ respectively).

260 The AEMET O₃ soundings are represented in Figure 3 together with the maps of the 500 hPa
261 geopotential heights (gph in metres) and the MSLP (mean sea level pressure, in mb) contours
262 at 12:00 UTC obtained from the Climate Forecast System (CFS) reanalysis (Saha et al., 2014)
263 downloaded from <http://www.wetterzentrale.de/>. The low/high O₃ periods coincide with the
264 500 hPa gph passage of respectively upper level troughs/ridges over the area, associated with
265 cold/warm deep advection of air masses. Cold advections have usually an Atlantic origin.

266 The local meteorology during the field campaign was characterized by a progressive drop in T
267 (-4°C in the maximal daily T) and an increase in the early morning RH (+20%), with insolation
268 remaining constant (maxima of 900-950 W/m²) (Figure 4). During the nocturnal and early
269 morning conditions of the first half of the field campaign (11-12/07/2016), relatively weak
270 northerly winds prevailed at the main meteorological surface stations inside the basin,
271 including CIEMAT in Figure 4, and Retiro and Colmenar in Figure 5. This is probably related with
272 drainage (katabatic) conditions inside the Madrid basin, with a progressive turn to a more
273 synoptic westerly component in the central period of the day, consistent with a convective
274 coupling with the more intense upper level wind. This coupling is also accompanied by an
275 important increase of the wind speed at midday, up to 8 m/s (venting stage), that renewed air
276 masses in the whole basin. During the second half of the campaign, intense and persistent
277 north-easterly winds replaced the westerlies from the evening of 12/07/2016, after the
278 evolution of the upper level trough. In contrast to the previous period, during 13-14/07/2016
279 night-time and early morning conditions registered more intense NE winds (up to 10 m/s) than
280 at midday, after a decrease in intensity down to calm conditions (1 m/s) during the 12/07
281 morning facilitating both fumigation from upper levels and local O₃ photochemical production.
282 A weak wind veering to the south was also registered at the mentioned surface stations during
283 the 13/07 afternoon, which lasted only for 3 hours, and which is more characteristic of an O₃
284 enrichment episode, when the veering lasted longer (Plaza et al., 1997). A progressive
285 decrease of the PBL height (-600 m difference) is observed in the AEMET daily radio-soundings
286 that showed a gradual decrease of the midday PBL height, with 3400, 2200, 1900 and 1600 m
287 a.s.l. from 11 to 14/07/2016, Figure S3). This decrease is also observed in the 12 and
288 14/07/2017 UFP profiles (Figures 7-9, 11). As will be detailed later these meteorological
289 patterns allow O₃ and UFP to smoothly and progressively accumulate in the basin (Figure 4)
290 during the campaign.

291 In the vertical dimension, during both high and low O₃ periods analysed here, all the soundings
292 show at midday two well defined layers separated by a temperature inversion marking the
293 limit of the growing convection inside the PBL (Figure 3).

294 In high O₃ periods (6 and 27/07/2016) we found lower PBL heights (approximately 1300-1500
295 m a.s.l.), with weak winds from the E or NE (less than 4-5 m/s) or calm conditions. This is
296 consistent with the scheme proposed by Plaza et al., (1997), who also described a rapid
297 evolution of the PBL height up to 2500-3000 m a.s.l. at 15:00 UTC during their field campaigns
298 in the area under "summer anticyclonic conditions". They also described a morning radiative



299 surface inversion at around 1000 m a.s.l., which was usually “destroyed 1 hour after dawn”,
300 and containing NE winds associated with nocturnal drainage flows at lower levels (following
301 the slope of the Madrid basin). In this context, residual layers containing pollutants processed
302 during the previous day can develop above the stably stratified surface layer during night-time
303 conditions. These pollutants can be transported towards the S by weak north-easterly winds,
304 or either remain stagnant under calm conditions and lead to fumigation and mixing with fresh
305 pollutants emitted at the surface after the destabilization of the surface layer as we evidenced
306 in our profiles. These residual layers are topped by the subsidence anticyclonic inversion
307 (1000-1500 m a.s.l.) according to Plaza et al. (1997).

308 Conversely, the soundings corresponding to low O₃ periods have in common more elevated
309 PBL heights (2000-2500 m a.s.l.) with more intense winds (above 6-7 m/s) that can blow from
310 different sectors: from the NE, on the 13/07/2016 (with intense N-Westerlies blowing in the
311 free troposphere) or from the S-SW as observed on the 29/06/2016 and 20/07/2016. The O₃
312 sounding on 13/07/2016, a unique day within the field campaign, presents the final stage of a
313 low O₃ period with winds in the free troposphere with a clear NW component while channelled
314 north-easterly winds dominate below 2000 m a.s.l. The decrease of surface temperature
315 observed in Figure 2 during the field campaign, is also consistent with the cold advection
316 associated with the troughing in the 500 hPa heights.

317 **3.2. Surface O₃, O_x and UFP during the field campaign**

318 Figure 4 shows the time series of meteorological parameters (CIEMAT tower), NO₂, NO, O₃, BC
319 and UFP concentrations at Madrid-CSIC, Madrid-CIEMAT and MJDH-ISCIII, as well as at MJDH-
320 RC, for the period 11-15/07/2016. As previously stated, the field campaign was characterised
321 by atmospheric venting conditions with the two latter days being in the transitional period to a
322 more stable anticyclonic episode of increasing O₃. The lowering of the wind speed during
323 diurnal periods and other meteorological features mentioned above favoured the gradual
324 accumulation of pollutants as indicated by the progressive increase of the O₃ maxima at MJDH-
325 ISCIII where the O₃ maximum was reached at 15:00 UTC on 13/07/2016 and at 17:00 UTC on
326 14/07/2016 (Figure 4). The typical accumulation O₃ cycle for the zone was found only on 13
327 and 14/07/2016 with a maximum at 14:00 UTC on 13/07/2016 and at 16:00 UTC on
328 14/07/2016. The two previous days presented a more irregular daily pattern, indicating
329 unstable and atypical situations for July (perturbed conditions with prevalence of the synoptic
330 winds). Furthermore, these meteorological conditions and the high insolation induced the
331 concatenation of nucleation episodes in the basin (with low BC and very high UFP levels at the
332 central hours of the day), such as the one on 13/07/2016 (Figure S5).

333 From 11 to 12/07/2016 the highest concentrations of O₃ were recorded for W-SW and W
334 winds, and peak UFP (PN₃) concentrations were observed with W, SW, WNW and NE winds;
335 however on 13-14/07/2016 both O₃ and UFP concentrations maximized during calm and NE
336 winds (Figure 6). PM_{2.5} levels were independent of the UFP and O₃ variation, increasing in calm
337 situations in the first two days, and with less variation but with somewhat higher
338 concentrations with NE winds in the last two days (Figure 6).

339 In Figure S5 the evidence for the occurrence of a NPF episode on 13/07/2016 is shown.
340 Morning-midday UFP bursts were caused by nucleation and growth episodes. As previously



341 stated, in a twin article we will focus on the phenomenology and the vertical occurrence of
342 these nucleation-growth events.

343 **3.3. Vertical O₃ and UFP profiles during the field campaign**

344 Considering the O₃ profiles in Figure 3, high O₃ concentrations (greater than 70 ppb) can be
345 observed above the PBL, between 3000 and 5000 m a.s.l., which may be related to larger scale
346 transport of pollutants previously uplifted to the mid-troposphere. However, at lower levels
347 (inside the PBL) the higher concentrations correspond to the accumulation days (06 and
348 27/07/2016). As will be demonstrated in this section, O₃ concentrations within the PBL
349 increase throughout the day under all atmospheric conditions due to fumigation from the
350 residual layer, and new O₃ formation from fresh precursors emitted at night-time and through
351 the day. However, larger increases of O₃ concentrations were registered on poorly ventilated
352 days.

353 As shown in Figure S2 and Table 2, the vertical profiles for 14/07/2016 were the most
354 complete of the campaign (wind speed was relatively low and this allowed extended
355 measurements along the day), and for that reason we begin with the description on this day.

356 Figure 7 shows that there is a rapid growth of the PBL between 08:05 and 11:01 h UTC, as
357 deduced from the vertical profile of UFP (PN₃₋₃₀₀) concentrations. At the beginning of the
358 measurements the upper limit of the PBL was above 1030 m a.s.l. and in 2 h 40 min it was
359 lifted 400 m (around 2.5 m/min). In this initial period, the vertical profile of O₃ was
360 characterized by a succession of strata of different concentrations, but with a clear tendency
361 to increase towards higher altitudes (around 20 ppb of difference between surface level and
362 1950 m a.s.l. was observed). The discontinuity of the PBL ceiling reflected in the UFP, T and RH
363 profiles did not seem to affect at all the O₃ profile. In other words, we did not notice
364 accumulation of O₃ layers in the top of the PBL, but a general trend to increase towards the
365 highest altitudes reached with the tethered balloons.

366 Through the course of the day the profile of concentrations of UFP and O₃ became
367 homogenous in the lowest 1200 m a.g.l. (this being the maximum height reached), and a
368 growth of O₃ concentrations at all altitudes was observed until 16:11 h UTC. This
369 homogenisation and growth of O₃ concentrations in the PBL, caused by intense mixing by
370 convection, resulted in an uneven growth through the day with an increase of 43 ppb at
371 surface and only 10 ppb at 1900 m a.s.l. (Figure 8).

372 Figure 9 shows the results from measurements taken at a fixed height (1400-1200 m a.s.l.)
373 made to capture the effect of the growth of the PBL on O₃ and UFP levels. We started at
374 around 700 m a.g.l. at 09:32 UTC with 60 ppb of O₃ and around 6000 #/cm³. At 10:25 UTC the
375 top of the PBL reached the balloon as deduced from the sharp increase in UFP concentrations
376 (up to 20000 #/cm³). Meanwhile, O₃ concentrations experimented only a slight decrease
377 suggesting that O₃ fluxes are top down and not bottom up as recorded for UFP. From 16:11 h
378 UTC onwards, a reduction of O₃ levels at lower heights was observed (-50 ppb at surface levels
379 from 15:55 to 17:45 h UTC while at 1900 m a.s.l. levels remained stable, Figure 8).

380 The first balloon flight on 13/07/2016 was performed at 10:45 UTC because earlier the wind
381 speed was too high (Figure 10). At that time the top of the PBL had developed beyond the
382 maximum height reached with the tethered balloons, so in the profile above 1100 m a.g.l. a



383 very homogeneous concentration was detected. At this time on 14/07/2016 the upper bound
384 of the PBL was perfectly identifiable in the UFP vertical profile over 700 m a.g.l., thus the
385 growth of the PBL was faster on 13/07/2016 than on 14/07/2016. Similarly to 14/07/2016, the
386 13/07/2016 O₃ profiles were characterised by a progressive increase of concentrations with
387 height (more accentuated in different strata). The profiles started with concentrations close to
388 40 ppb O₃ at the surface, and reached 83 ppb at the upper heights. As occurred on
389 14/07/2016, through the course of the day surface concentrations increased differentially with
390 respect to the upper layers, to almost homogenize concentrations in the whole profile
391 (between 68 and 80 ppb at all heights at 15:00 UTC).

392 In Figure 11 it can be observed that similar results to those described for UFP profiles on the
393 14/07/2016 were found on 12/07/2016 (upwards growth of the top of the PBL from the early
394 morning):

- 395 • Around 700 m a.g.l. at 07:30 UTC (5000 #/cm³ surface concentrations, 2000 #/cm³ at the
396 top of the PBL, and 900 #/cm³ in the free troposphere).
- 397 • Around 900 m a.g.l. at 09:00 UTC (9000, 5000 and 2000 #/cm³ for the above three levels).
- 398 • Above 1200 m a.g.l. (this being the maximum measurement height) at 10:00 UTC (10000
399 #/cm³ surface concentrations and 7000 #/cm³ at 1200 m a.g.l.) and 12:55 y 13:42 h (10000
400 #/cm³ surface concentrations and 20000 #/cm³ at the maximum height of 900 m a.g.l.).

401 In the early morning of 12/07/2016 O₃ strata at different heights within the PBL were
402 detected, with concentrations reaching 30 to 55 ppb and higher levels (55 to 65 ppb) at the
403 highest altitude reached. During the 10:00 UTC flight O₃ levels reached 75 ppb at the top level
404 decreasing gradually down to 40 ppb at surface levels. At 12:00 UTC concentrations at the top
405 of the profile reached 87 ppb, 70-75 ppb in the 100-700 m a.g.l. transect and 60 ppb in the
406 lowest 100 m a.g.l., where NO titration and O₃ deposition was more efficient. Thus, the
407 12/07/2016 profiles again showed a vertical trend characterised by i) higher O₃ concentrations
408 at the highest sounding altitude in the early morning, ii) increase in O₃ concentrations as the
409 morning progressed (more pronounced at low altitudes), and iii) homogenous O₃
410 concentration along the entire vertical profile, except in the surface layers, where the
411 deposition and titration markedly decreased O₃ levels reached at midday. These vertical
412 trends, with concentrations exceeding 75 ppb O₃ above 100-250 m a.g.l., and a marked
413 decrease down to 60 ppb at surface levels was also evident during the short profiles obtained
414 on 11/07/2016 at 18:28-18:41 UTC (Figure 11).

415

416 4. Discussion

417 According to the O₃-soundings and radio-soundings analysed above, as well as previous
418 evidence described by Plaza et al. (1997) and the surface air quality measurements presented
419 in this study, surface O₃ formation from precursor emissions within the MMA seems to
420 develop in the core of regional processes, modulated by large scale meteorological conditions,
421 distinguishing two types of episodes:

- 422 • ACCUMULATION, occurring in stable stagnant conditions and regional accumulation of
423 pollutants (in the sense of Millan et al., 1997, 2000; Gangoiti et al., 2001, Millán, 2014), with
424 high O₃ reserve strata accumulated during the previous day in the residual layer and



425 associated with fumigation around midday in the following day. The O₃ concentrations are
426 high along the whole atmospheric column, but enriched in the lower section by additional
427 local formation of O₃ within the PBL and transport-recirculation of the urban plume of
428 Madrid around the area. This transport is characterised by a net transport to the NW-N
429 during daytime, after vertical mixing, and to the S and SW during night-time, inside the
430 residual layer and decoupled from a more stable nocturnal surface layer. Typically
431 pollutants accumulate during periods of 2-6 days resulting in a well-marked peak and valley
432 concentration periods that affect background, peri-urban and in-city stations. This is the
433 case for the O₃-soundings of 29/06/2016 (not shown), and particularly 27/07/2016 (Figure
434 12), or the measurements with captive and free balloons by Plaza et al. (1997) in 1993 and
435 1994, with very high concentrations of O₃ in the lower atmospheric layers, usually forming a
436 bump in the vertical profile of O₃, below a height of 2000 m a.s.l., easily reachable after
437 daytime convection (Figure 12). As illustrated for 06/07/2017, OFP (Table S1 and Figure S1)
438 may be largely dominated by the carbonyls (mostly formaldehyde and acetaldehyde),
439 followed by aromatic compounds (benzene, toluene, C8 aromatics, C9 aromatics and C10
440 aromatics) when considering the VOC pool during the morning traffic peaks. The influence
441 of aromatic VOCs on OFP rapidly decreases while the influence of biogenic VOCs (primary
442 and secondary) increase throughout the day resulting in a similar potential influence of
443 biogenic and aromatic VOCs on O₃ formation during accumulation periods, but with an OFP
444 still dominated by carbonyls (see supplementary information for additional supporting
445 material).

446 • VENTING, occurring in advective atmospheric conditions (in the sense of Millan et al., 1997,
447 2000; Gangoiti et al., 2001, Millán, 2014) with O₃-soundings characterized by (probably
448 external) contributions from high altitude O₃ strata, and their fumigation on the surface
449 (episodes 11-14/07/2016). There is no accumulation of pollutants above the stable
450 nocturnal boundary layer, if any, because more intense and steady winds are charged to
451 sweep out the local production during the preceding day. OFP contributions of carbonyls
452 (dominating OFP), aromatic and biogenic VOCs did not significantly vary for 13 and
453 14/07/2017 from what it is described above for 06/07/2017.

454 As detailed in sections 3.1 and 3.2, with weakening of general atmospheric circulation by the
455 end of the campaign period, O₃ and UFP smoothly and progressively accumulated in the basin
456 (Figure 7). An observed decrease of the PBL depth (up to -1800 m at midday according AEMET
457 radio-soundings during the campaign Figure S4), probably also contributed to the progressive
458 increase of pollutant concentrations through the campaign.

459 With respect to the vertical variability, the general pattern for UFP (N₃) clearly showed a rapid
460 and marked growth of the PBL in the first hours of daylight (Figure 13). In these early stages of
461 the day, O₃ profiles were characterized by a succession of strata of different concentrations,
462 but with a clear increasing trend towards the higher levels (Figure 13). The discontinuity of the
463 PBL ceiling, reflected in the UFP, temperature and humidity profiles, was not identified as such
464 in the O₃ profiles (Figures 7, 9 and 11). As the day progresses the UFP and O₃ concentration
465 profiles are homogenized and a progressive diurnal growth of O₃ concentrations occurs until
466 16:00 or 17:00 UTC (Figure 13) which is observed most clearly at the surface. This vertical
467 variability points to different aspects such as: (i) the relevance of fumigation from high altitude
468 O₃-rich strata; ii) surface titration and deposition of O₃; (iii) surface photochemical generation



469 of O₃ from precursors (with higher concentrations close to the surface); and (iv) horizontal O₃
470 and precursor surface transport from the urban plume of Madrid towards MJDH-RC. The upper
471 O₃-rich strata might have an external (to the Madrid basin) origin, or might have been injected
472 regionally at high altitudes on the previous day(s) by the complex re-circulations of air masses
473 already reported by Millán et al. (1997, 2000, 2002); EC (2002 and 2004); Gangoiti (2001),
474 Mantilla et al. (1997), Castells et al. (2008a and b) and Millán (2014) for the W Mediterranean,
475 by McKendry et al. (2000) for other parts of the world; and by Plaza et al (1997), and Diéguez
476 et al. (2007 and 2014) for the Madrid area.

477 According to the last referenced authors, due to the orientation of the Sierra de Guadarrama
478 (Figure 1) the heating of its S slopes throughout the day forces the wind direction to veer,
479 describing an arc that sweeps the zones to the N of Madrid clockwise, from the W to the NE.
480 Dieguéz et al. (2014) showed that the O₃ maxima are recorded at an intermediate point on this
481 route (El Pardo, Colmenar V., see location in Figures 14 and S6) determined by the wind speed,
482 the initial composition of the urban plume, and the result of photochemical processes on its
483 route from the metropolitan area to tens of kilometres away. In addition, our results and those
484 of Plaza et al. (1997) show that O₃ fumigation from high atmospheric layers decisively
485 contributes to the increases in the surface levels, since surface concentrations during our
486 measurements never exceeded those recorded at the highest altitude reached, and at midday
487 homogeneous O₃ levels are measured across the lower 1.2 km of the PBL. During the whole
488 month of July 2016 the described veering of the urban plume, towards W (MJDH-San Martin
489 de V., see location in Figures 14 and S6) in the early hours, and towards NW, N-NE, and, in
490 some cases E and SE, followed by the decoupling and onset of the nocturnal flow towards SW,
491 seems to be causally associated with the O₃ information threshold exceedances, since the
492 maps of exceedances recorded by the official air quality network follow this spatial and
493 temporal evolution (Figure S6). These plume impacts occur in periods when the O₃
494 concentration is already high because of accumulation in the air mass from one day to the next
495 which is not completely renewed due to general circulation conditions. The relevance of the
496 latter has been recently demonstrated by Otero et al. (2016) who reported the maximum
497 temperature as the parameter more directly related with high O₃ concentrations in central
498 Europe, whereas in the Mediterranean regions it was a high O₃ concentration recorded with a
499 lag of -24 h.

500 The differential afternoon-evening decrease of O₃ surface concentrations compared with those
501 found at the top of the flights can be attributed to (i) the lower intensity or weakening of the
502 fumigation processes; (ii) a greater O₃ titration and deposition in the lower PBL; and (iii) the
503 lower photochemical O₃ production after the midday insolation maxima. Thus, this process
504 again demonstrates the relevance of high altitude layers and their fumigation to the surface, in
505 the hours of maximum convection.

506 Regarding the concentrations of UFP, they were very homogeneous throughout the PBL during
507 the vertical profiles, especially in the hours of maximum convection, showing a marked
508 increase from 11 to 14/07/2016 in the whole depth for all profiles (Figure 13). Thus, on the
509 12/07/2016, the upper limit of the PBL (marked by a sharp reduction of UFP levels) reached
510 900-1200 m a.g.l. respectively in the flights conducted at 08:05 and 10:12 UTC (Figure 13). In
511 turn, on the 14/07/2016, the top of the PBL at midday exceeded 1200 m a.g.l. only in the
512 afternoon, being constrained to 300 to 700 m a.g.l. from 08:05 and 10:45 h UTC (also shown in



513 the progressive loss of -1800 m in the midday PBL height from 11 to 14/07/2016, revealed by
514 AEMET radio-soundings).

515 The enhanced convection on the 12/07/2016 probably favoured the dilution of UFP
516 concentrations and reinforced the fumigation of O₃ from upper levels. Conversely, the lower
517 development of the PBL on 14/07/2016 hindered the fumigation of upper O₃ layers, resulting
518 in an opposite temporal trend for O₃ and UFP along the profile. Thus, a weaker development of
519 the PBL might result in the increase of UFP concentrations, even if UFP emission/formation
520 rates did not vary significantly. However, we cannot discard the possibility that this UFP
521 increase on the last day was the result of a higher intensity and duration of the nucleation
522 episodes.

523 Consideration of the evolution of surface O₃ concentrations (as shown in Figure 14, on the 11
524 and 12/07/2016) depicts a double wave: the first peak around midday (11:00-14:00 UTC on the
525 first day, and 12:00-13:00 on the second) and the second one in the afternoon-evening (19-
526 22:00 and 16:00-20:00 UTC, respectively), showing relative peaks (not always, sometimes just
527 a plateau). We interpret that the morning increase of O₃ concentrations is dominated by both
528 local production, still dominated by anthropogenic VOCs (Figure S1), and fumigation of upper
529 levels, with an early maximum when layers above are rich in O₃, which progressively decrease
530 with dilution with surface concentrations. The secondary evening concentration peak
531 corresponds to the advection of a locally enriched O₃ air mass (titration always causes O₃
532 depletion towards nocturnal values). When both processes (morning fumigation and evening
533 advection) are not so strong, O₃ local production results in a more typical diurnal time
534 evolution with a single maximum at 15:00-16:00 UTC on 13-14/07/2016 (Figure 14).

535 The relative importance of the local contribution of the MMA to the O_x concentrations
536 registered in the monitoring stations has also been elucidated by comparing the observations
537 at upwind and downwind locations relative to the city. At this respect, Atazar and Alcobendas
538 (Figure 14) are located downwind for 11 and 12/07/2016 and MJDH and Fuenlabrada are
539 upwind while the opposite occurs for 13 and 14/07/2016. As the urban air mass is transported
540 towards the E and NE during the first two days, a local O_x contribution is superimposed to the
541 background at Atazar and Alcobendas where recorded O_x was the highest in the basin (Figure
542 14). The contrary holds during the next two days, when these sites show lower concentrations
543 than the rest. MJDH and Fuenlabrada show a reversed behaviour, with lower concentrations
544 during the first two days and higher for the last days.

545

546 5. Conclusions

547 The phenomenology of O₃ episodes in the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA, Central Iberia)
548 has been characterised. We found that O₃ episodes linked with precursors emitted in the
549 Madrid conurbation are modulated by the complex regional atmospheric dynamics.

550 Vertical profiles (up to 1200 m a.g.l.), obtained using tethered balloons and miniaturised
551 instrumentation in Majadahonda (MJDH), a sub-urban site located on the southwestern flank
552 of the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA) during 11-14/07/2016, showed how critical processes
553 developed with altitude. Simultaneously, measurements of a number of air quality and



554 meteorological parameters were carried out at 3 supersites within the MMA, where spatial
555 differences highlight the influence of atmospheric dynamics at different scales.

556 The results presented here confirm prior findings regarding the concatenation of relative low
557 (venting) and high (accumulation) O₃ episodes in summer. In the MAB, during both types of
558 episodes, fumigation of high altitude O₃-rich layers contributes with a relevant proportion to
559 surface O₃ concentrations. Moreover, we propose here a conceptual model shown in Figure
560 15. Particularly, accumulation episodes are activated by a relatively thinner PBL (< 1500 m
561 a.g.l. at midday), low synoptic winds, and the development of anabatic winds along the slope
562 of the Sierra de Guadarrama (W and NW of MAB, with >2400 m a.g.l. peaks). This PBL height,
563 lower than the mountain range, and the development of the mountain breezes cause the
564 vertical recirculation of air masses and the enrichment of O₃ in the lower troposphere as well
565 as the formation of reserve strata that fumigate to the surface as the diurnal convective
566 circulation develops. These atmospheric dynamics account for the occurrence of the high Ox
567 (O₃+NO₂) surface concentrations. During venting episodes with a more intense synoptic wind
568 and the top of the PBL usually reaching >2000 m a.g.l, vertical O₃ profiles were characterised
569 by an upward increase of concentrations, whereas lower altitude O₃ maxima were observed in
570 the accumulation periods. Interestingly, vertical profiles demonstrated that during the study
571 period O₃ fumigation (top-down flow) from upper layers prevailed as a contribution to surface
572 O₃ concentrations, whereas the increase of UFP takes place bottom-up, progressing with the
573 development of the PBL and the occurrence of nucleation and growth episodes occurring
574 within the PBL. Thus, when crossing the boundary of the PBL from the free troposphere
575 increases of UFP concentrations by an order of magnitude and a slight decrease of O₃ levels
576 were registered. This O₃ and UFP vertical distribution through the day is consistent with the
577 existence of an efficient venting mechanism, which is able to sweep out the local production of
578 the day. Thus, there is no accumulation of pollutants above the observed stable nocturnal
579 boundary layer from one day to the next, and new UFP production is added from below the
580 following day. The presence of O₃ enriched layers well above the stable nocturnal boundary
581 layer suggests a remote origin of this pollutant in photochemical processes developed at least
582 the day before away from the Madrid basin.

583 The results obtained in this intensive field campaign can be summarized in the following
584 conclusions and recommendations concerning O₃ abatement policies:

- 585
- 586 • The phenomenology of O₃ episodes in S Europe is extremely complex, mainly due to
587 the close relation between photochemistry processes and mesoscale atmospheric
588 dynamics, requiring, consequently, abatement policies very different to the ones
589 useful for Central Europe, as intensive research has demonstrated in the last decades.
 - 590 • During the highest O₃ (accumulation) episodes, apart from the fumigation contribution
591 (X in Figure 15) to surface O₃ concentrations there is an added fraction of O₃ produced
592 locally or transported horizontally (Y in Figure 15). If sensitivity analyses demonstrate
593 that abatement of specific precursors would have an effect reducing O₃ peaks, the
594 reduction strategies (geographic extension, timing...) to decrease Y and X components
595 are very different, and, in most cases, the X component will dominate in the relative
596 contributions. Thus, probably, structural measures over wider regions would be more
effective than episodic tactics that might have a larger effect on the Y component. In



597 terms of precursors, the OFP analysis carried out at ISCIII site shows that even if
598 anthropogenic emissions may still dominate the O₃ formation through the potential
599 impact of alkenes and alkanes (not measured here) and the high contribution of
600 carbonyls (formaldehyde and acetaldehyde), biogenic emissions must be considered.
601 Biogenic VOC (primary and secondary) and aromatic compounds (C6 to C10)
602 contribute to the same extent to the OFP.

603

604 • The meteorological scenarios causing the summer accumulation episodes in the MAB
605 (high temperatures, low synoptic winds and relatively thinner PBL) should be forecast,
606 to drive an effective alert system on the possible occurrence of pollution episodes.

607 • It is necessary to achieve a more detailed characterisation of O₃ precursors (VOC and
608 biogenic VOCs, BVOCs) in the MAB, especially in the source areas, to effectively predict
609 the photochemical evolution of the plumes, and the main impact areas where O₃ from
610 high altitude layers formed the day(s) before from other precursors fumigates to the
611 surface levels enriched in O₃ and other precursors.

612 • Sensitivity analyses using modelling techniques will permit simulation of the real
613 situation concerning the O₃ abatement potential but only if the following is achieved in
614 advance: i) reproduce the recirculation cells and other local/regional complex
615 meteorological patterns such as the fumigation processes and the plume transport; ii)
616 include a geographically resolved and accurate emission inventory of O₃ precursors in
617 the source areas; and iii) reproduce the origin of the high altitude O₃ strata from
618 external origins.

619 The conceptual model described here for O₃ episodes confirming the relevance of the vertical
620 re-circulations that Millan et al (1997, 2000), Gangoiti et al. (2001) and Millán (2014)
621 highlighted, and controlled in this case by specific synoptic conditions the PBL depth, may be
622 also applicable to most S Europe. Thus, Otero et al. (2016) demonstrated that in central Europe
623 the highest temperature is the most statistically related parameter for O₃ episodes, while in S
624 Europe it is the O₃ levels recorded the day before (reflecting re-circulation).

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637

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814 **FIGURES AND TABLES**

815

816 **Figure Captions**

817 Figure 1. Location of the study area, profiles showing the major orographic patterns and
818 location of three supersites (CSIC, CIEMAT, ISCIII) and the site where vertical profile
819 measurements were carried out (MJDH).

820 Figure 2. Top: Hourly meteorological parameters recorded at El Retiro air quality monitoring
821 station in central Madrid (from 28/06/2016 to 01/08/2016). Middle: Hourly concentrations of
822 O₃ and O_x (O₃+NO₂) recorded at a selection of air quality monitoring station representing the
823 Greater Madrid area, together with those from the remote background station of
824 Campisábalos. Bottom: Hourly NO₂ concentrations recorded at the same sites for the same
825 period. Periods with available AEMET free-soundings of O₃ are bracketed with red
826 (accumulation) or blue (venting) squares. The vertical O₃ and UFP profiling campaign is marked
827 with a green square.

828 Figure 3: Left: Climate Forecast System Reanalysis (CFSR) for the 500 hPa geopotential heights
829 (gpdams) and mean sea level pressure (MSLP) contours (hPa) at 12:00 UTC in July 2016
830 (Wetterzentrale, <http://www.wetterzentrale.de/>), simultaneous with Right: AEMET O₃-free
831 soundings at Madrid airport.

832 Figure 4. Variation of meteorological parameters (temperature, relative humidity, solar
833 radiation and wind speed and direction), and levels of NO₂, NO, O₃, PM_{2.5}, PM₁, BC and UFP
834 (with lower detection limits of 1, 3 and 7 nm, PN₁, PN₃ and PN₇) measured at Madrid-CSIC,
835 Madrid-CIEMAT and ISCIII, as well as in MJDH-RC from 11 to 14/07/2016.

836 Figure 5. Wind roses for Madrid-CIEMAT and AEMET (El Retiro and Colmenar Viejo stations)
837 and location of the vertical profiling site (MJDH-RC).

838 Figure 6. Polar plots of the concentrations of hourly O₃ (upper), UFP (PN₃, medium) and PM_{2.5}
839 (lower) concentrations measured at Madrid-CSIC, Madrid-CIEMAT and MJDH-ISCIII from 11 to
840 14/07/2016. Wind data used in all cases is the one from the CIEMAT meteorological tower.

841 Figure 7. Vertical profiles of levels of O₃, UFP (PN₃), temperature and relative humidity
842 obtained on 14/07/2016 (8:05 to 17:45 UTC). A: Ascending; D: Descending.

843 Figure 8. Vertical profiles of levels of O₃, UFP (PN₃), temperature and relative humidity
844 obtained on 14/07/2016 (8:05 to 17:45 UTC), showing a top-down growth of differential O₃
845 concentrations from 08:05 with respect to those from 15:55 UTC, as well as a bottom up
846 decrease of this differential concentration between 15:55 and 17:45 UTC. A: Ascending; D:
847 Descending.

848 Figure 9. UFP (PN₃) concentrations for different vertical profiles obtained on 14/07/2016, as
849 well as O₃ and UFP during two periods focusing to evaluate changes produced in a fixed height
850 when reached by the growth of the PBL.

851 Figure 10. Vertical profiles of levels of O₃, UFP (PN₃), temperature and relative humidity
852 obtained on 13/07/2016 between 10:45 and 15:06 UTC. A: Ascending; D: Descending.



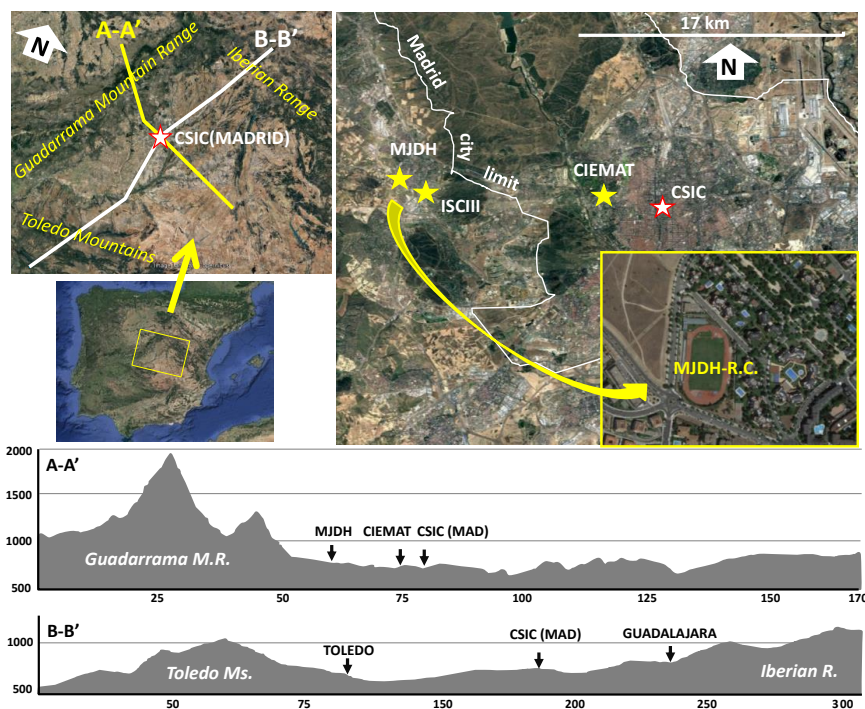
853 Figure 11. Vertical profiles of levels of O₃, UFP (PN₃), temperature and relative humidity
854 obtained on 12 and 11/07/2016. A: Ascending; D: Descending.

855 Figure 12. Top: Vertical profiles of O₃ levels, and temperature obtained on 12/07/1994 (with
856 free sounding) and 15/07/1993 (with tethered balloons). Data obtained from Plaza et al
857 (1997). Bottom: Vertical profiles of O₃ levels of the free soundings by AEMET at Madrid airport
858 (26.6 km east of MJDH-RC) in 06-07/2017.

859 Figure 13. 11-14/07/2017 profiles of O₃ and UFP (PN₃) grouped by hourly stretches from
860 morning to afternoon.

861 Figure 14. Time evolution of hourly O_x (O₃+NO₂) and O₃ concentrations from 11 to 14/07/2016
862 at selected air quality monitoring sites of the Madrid Basin and an external reference site
863 (Campisábalos), as well as the locations of these monitoring sites.

864 Figure 15. Conceptual model of the venting and accumulation O₃ episodes in the Madrid Air
865 Basin, their associated vertical O₃ profiles and the X (fumigation from upper layers) and Y
866 (local/regional) contributions to surface O₃ concentrations in the accumulation episodes.



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Figure 1

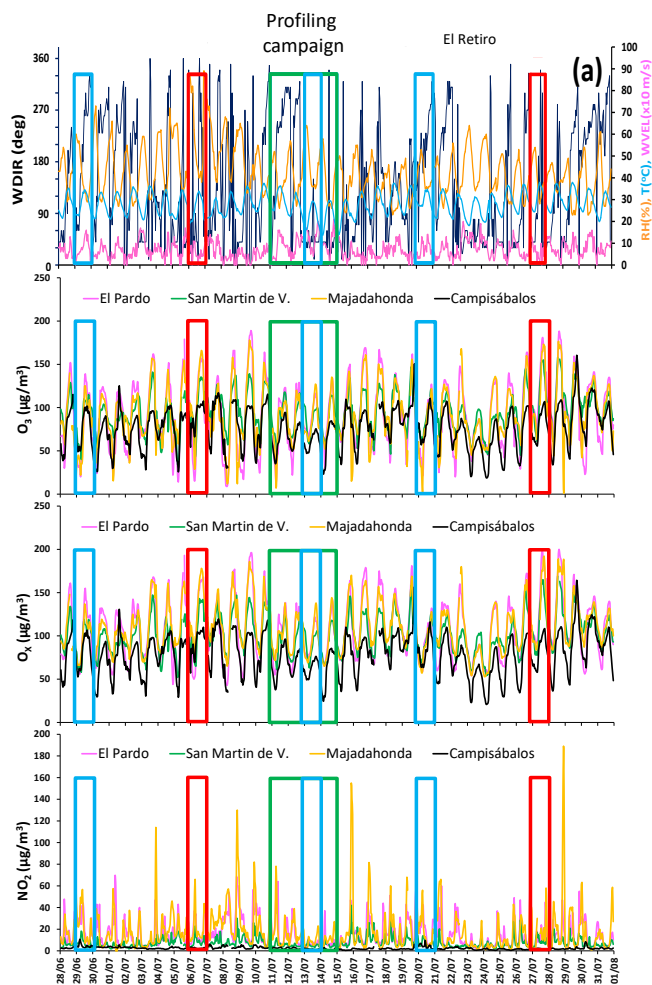
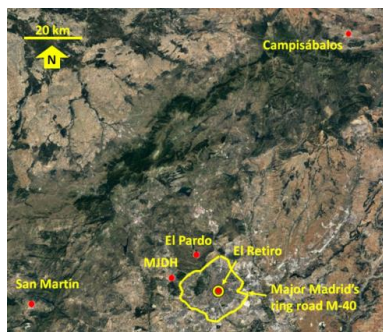


Figure 2

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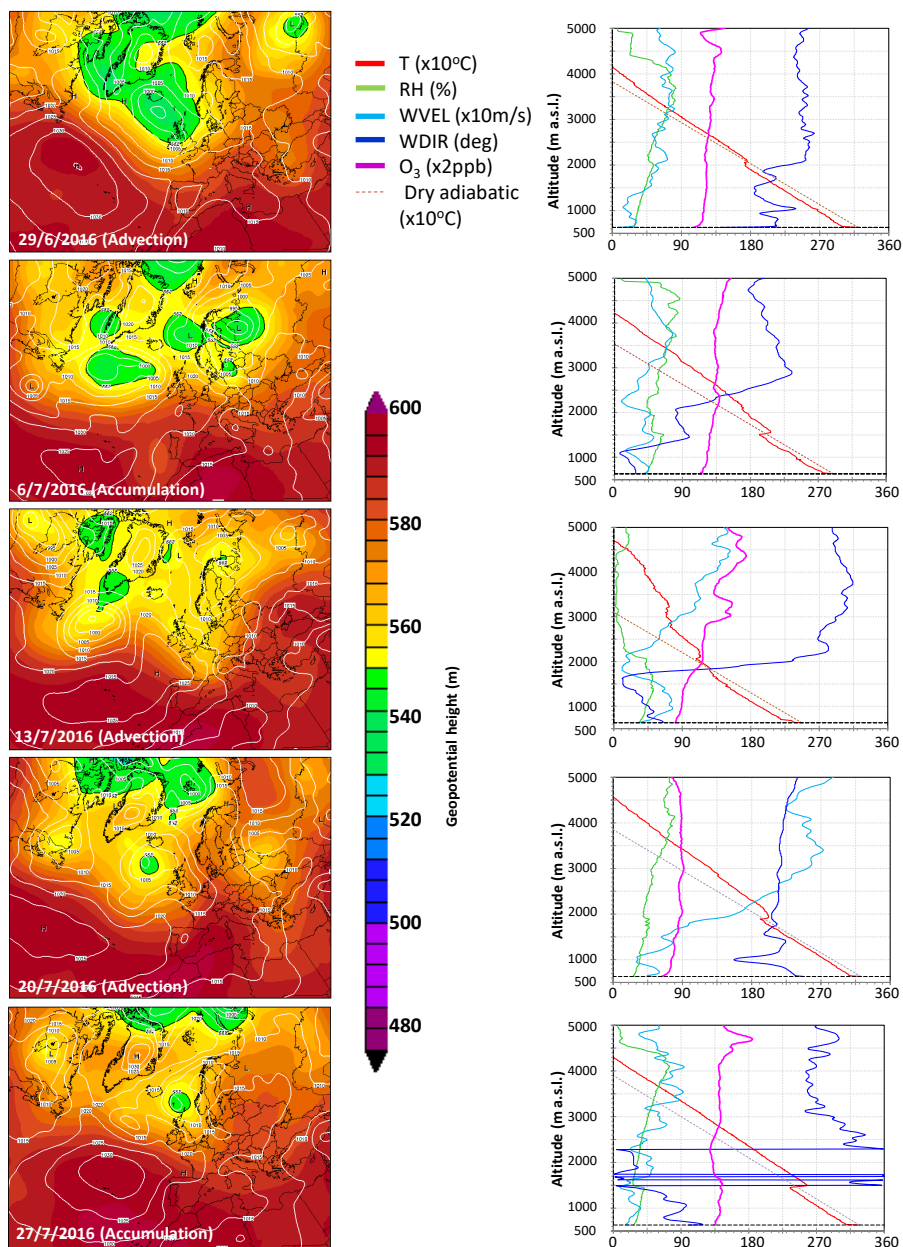


Figure 3

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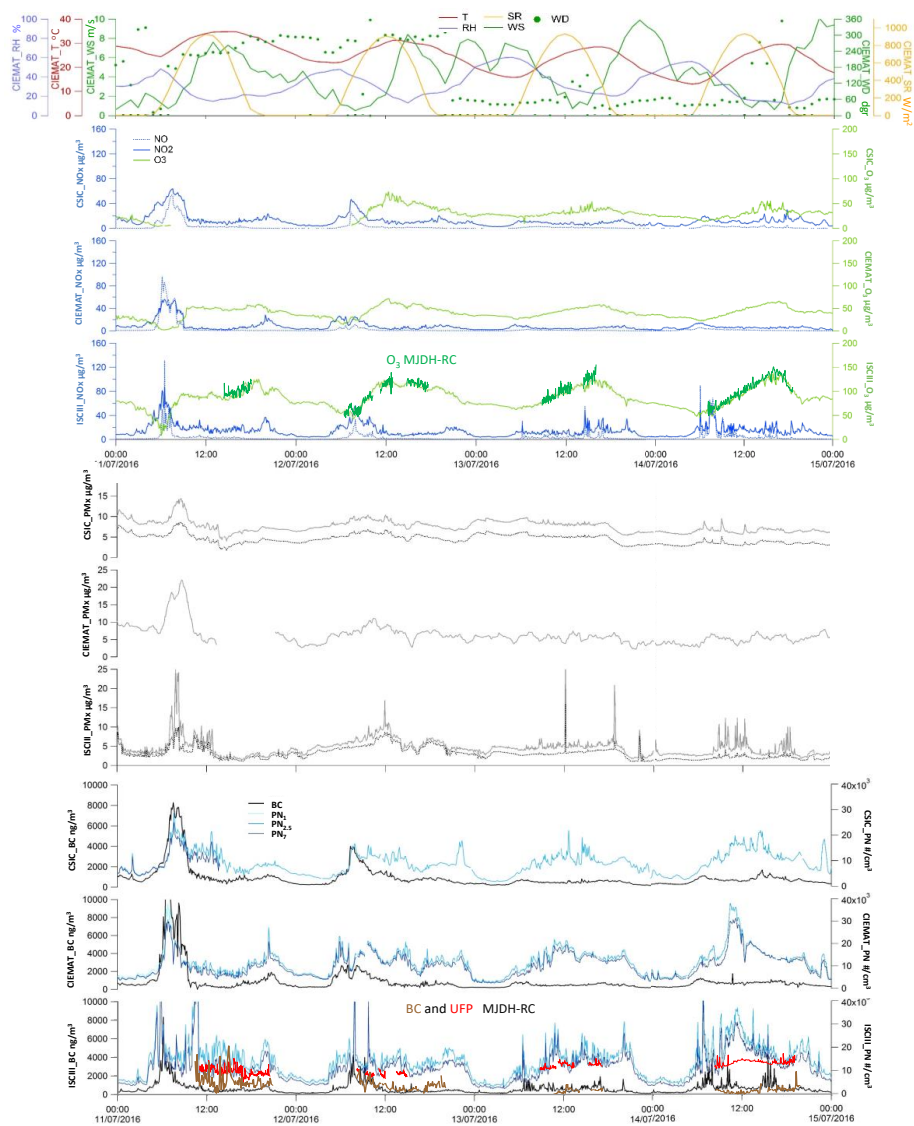
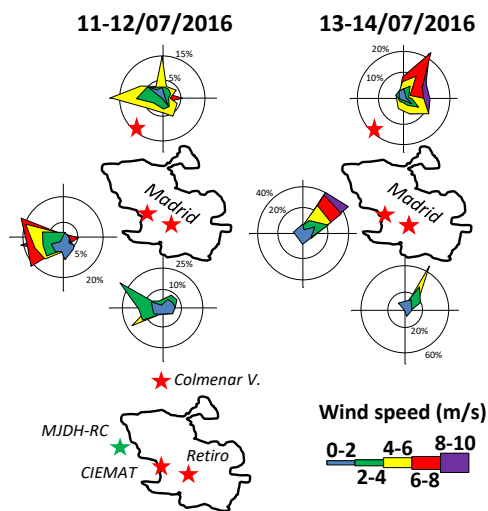


Figure 4

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Figure 5.

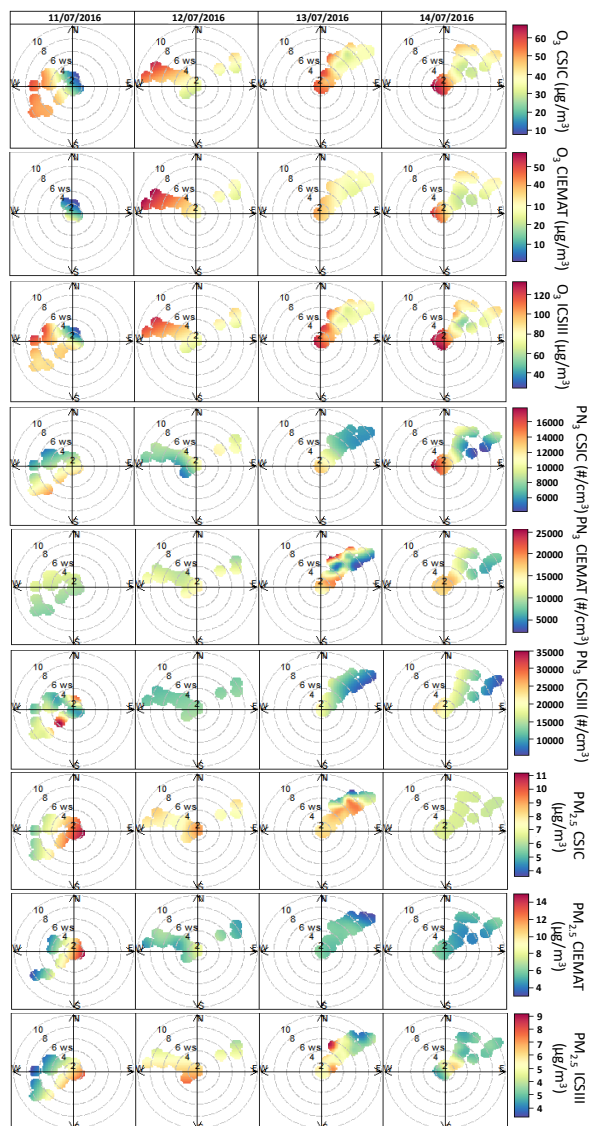


Figure 6

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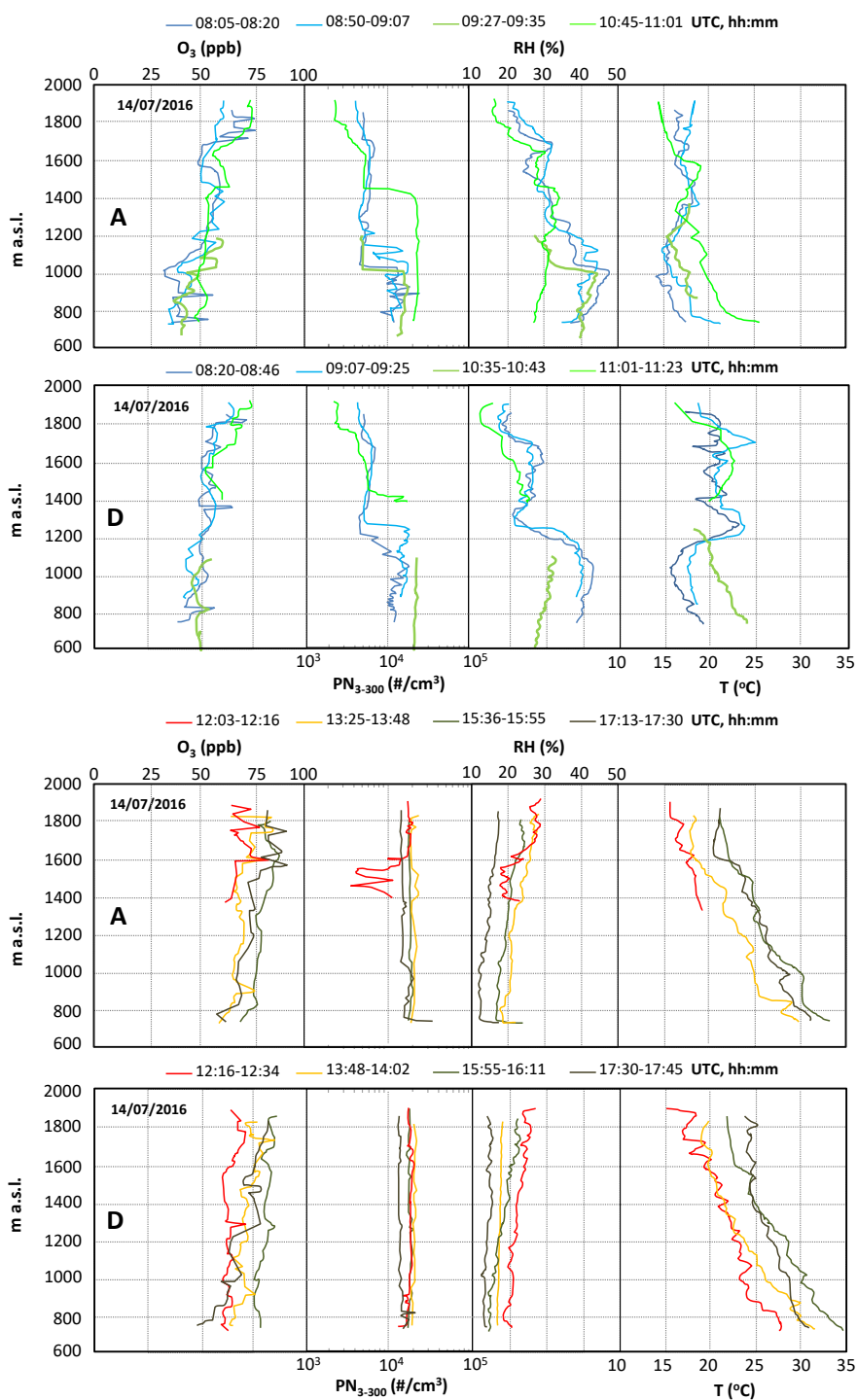


Figure 7

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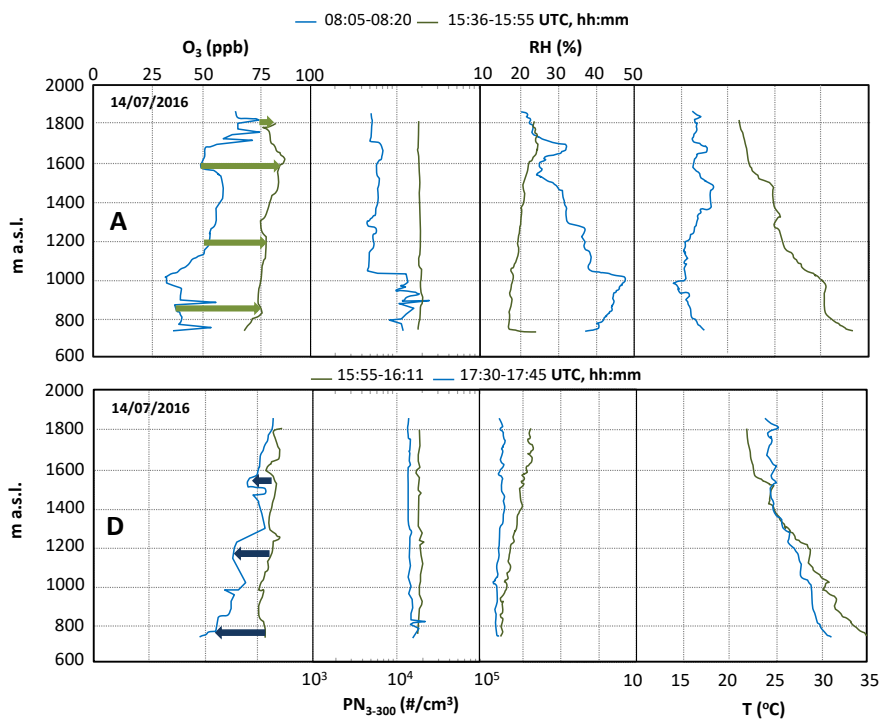
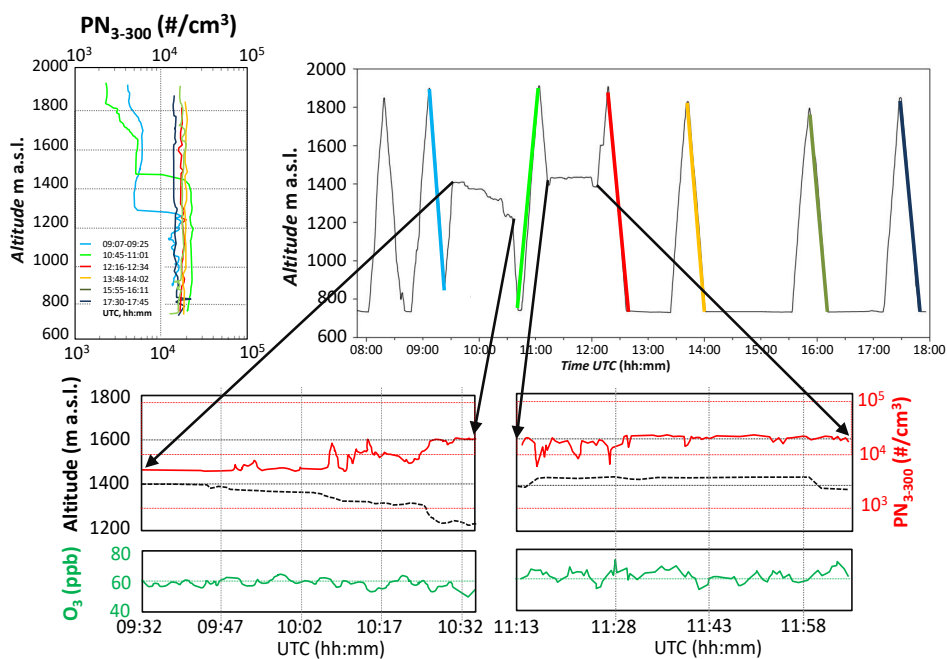


Figure 8

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Figure 9



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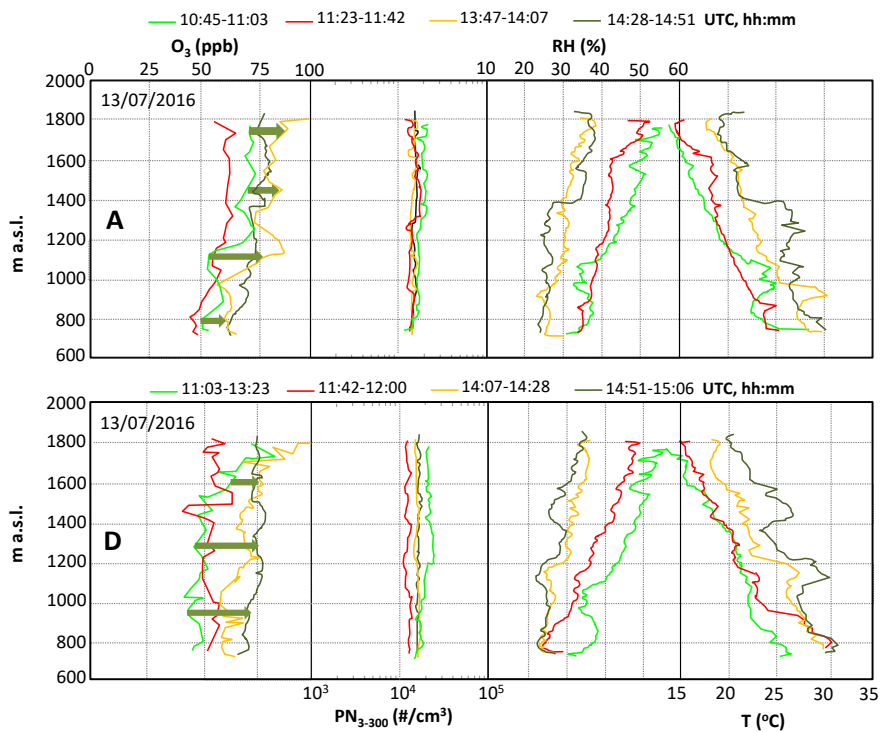


FIGURE 10

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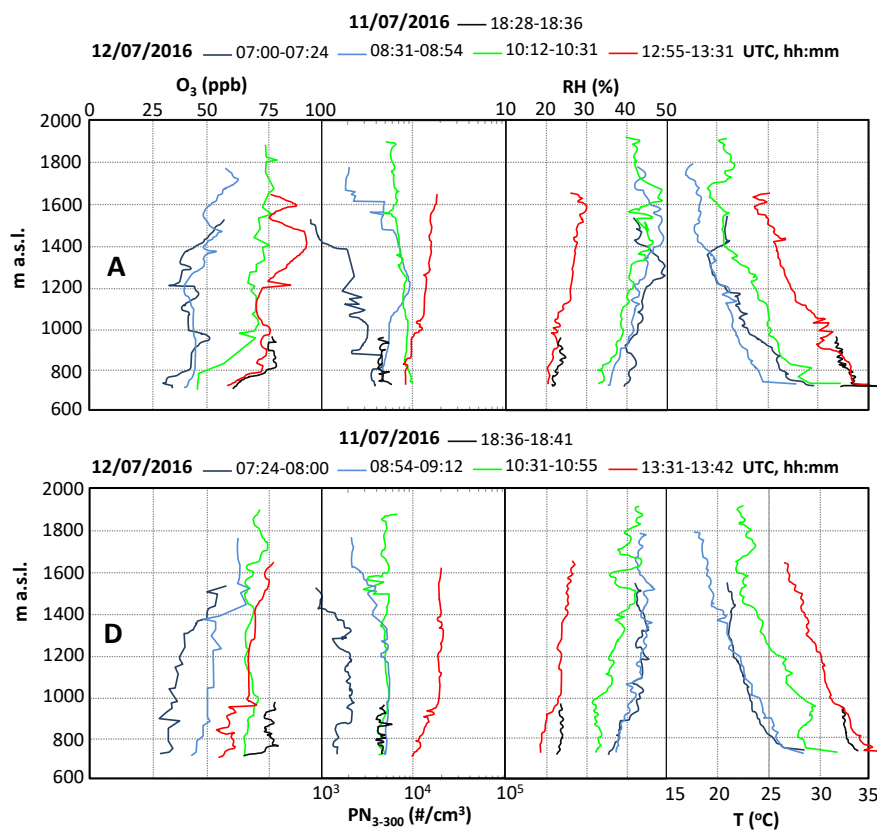


FIGURE 11

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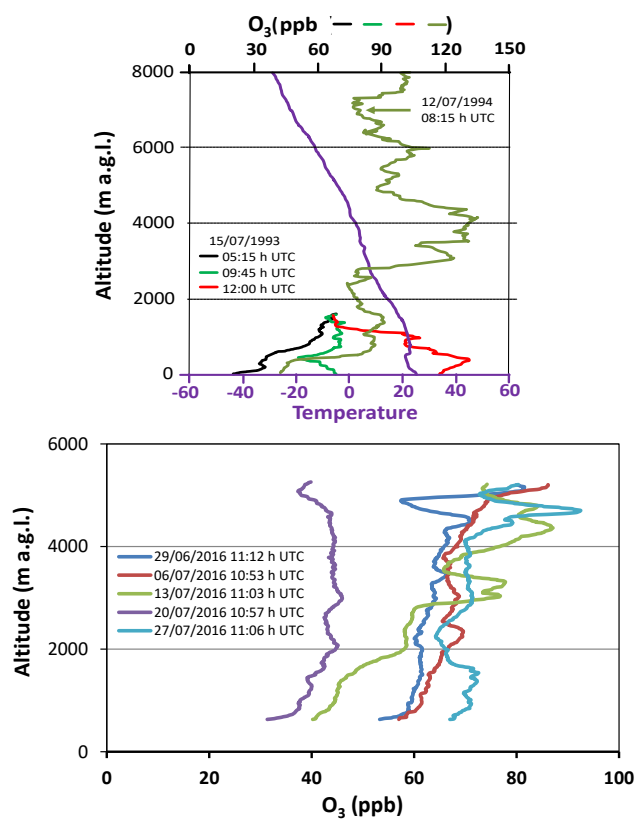


FIGURE 12

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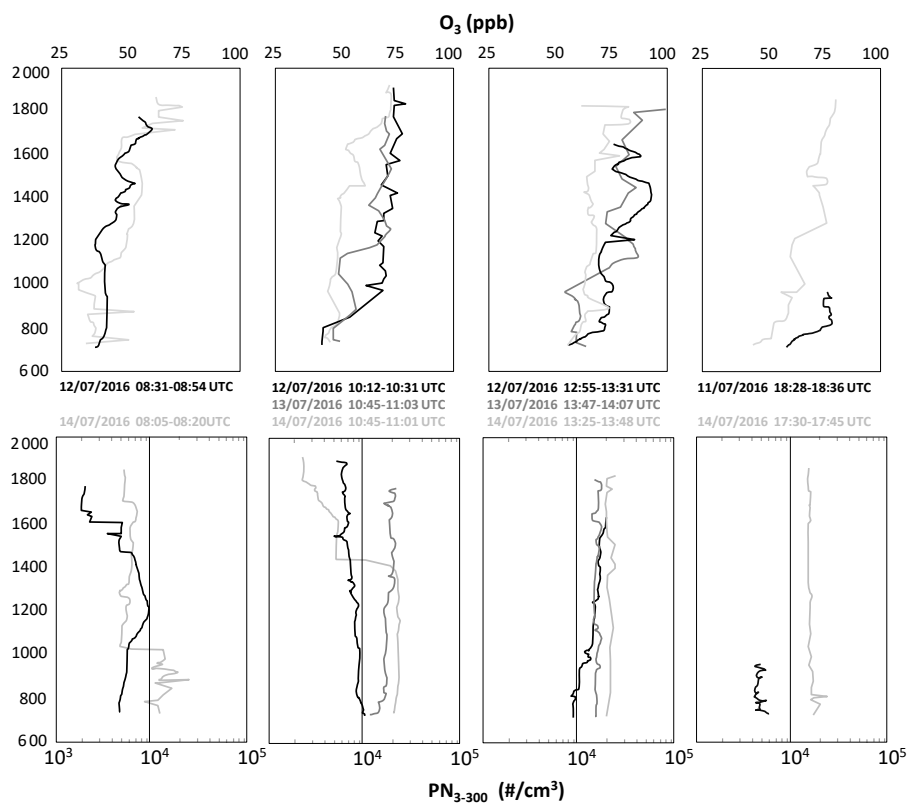


Figure 13

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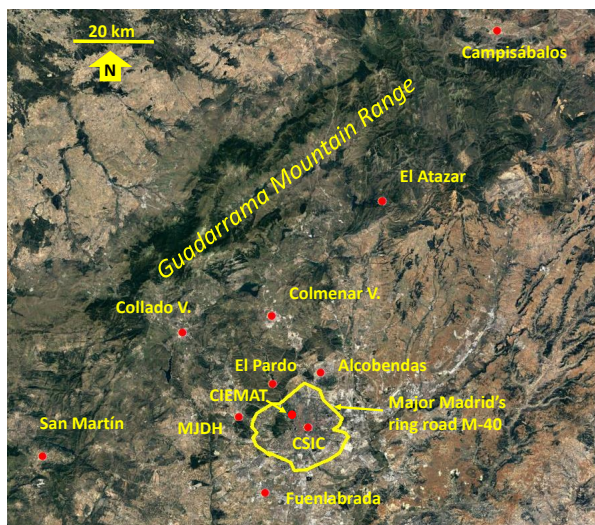
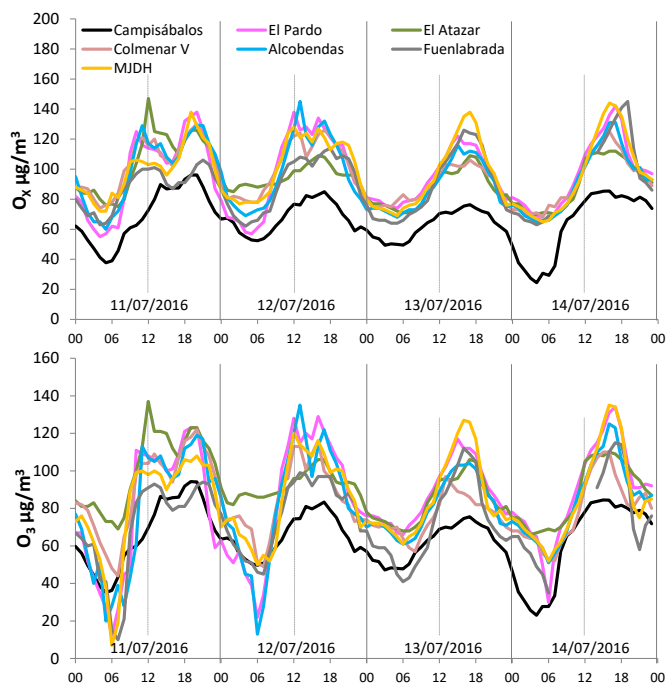


FIGURE 14

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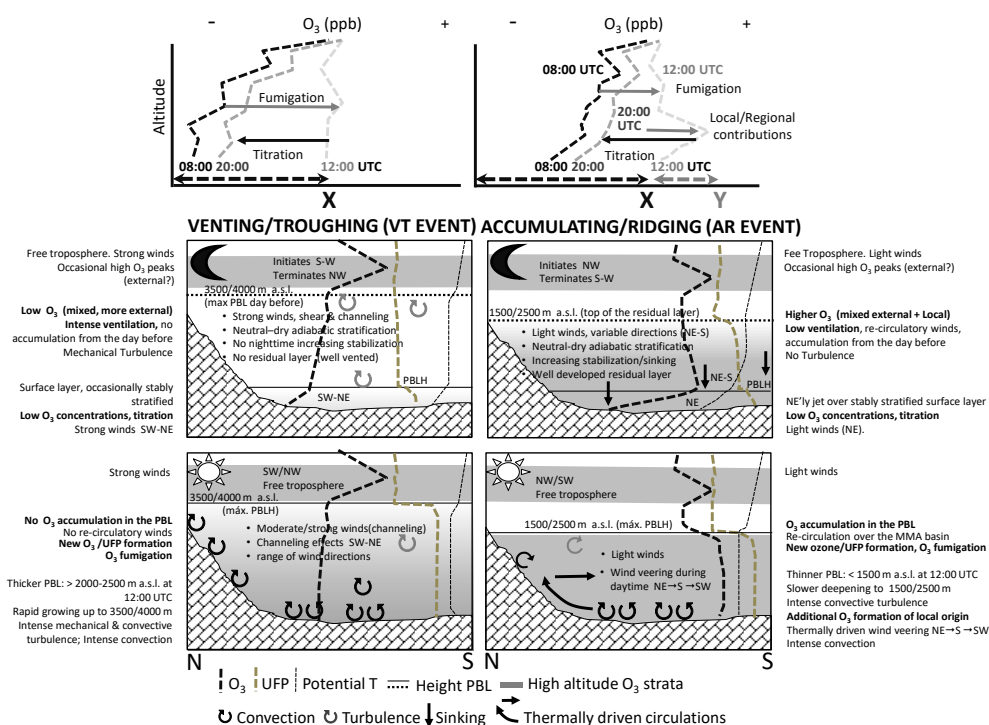


FIGURE 15

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912 **TABLES**
 913 Table 1. Details of the instrumentation used in the three supersites and the platform mounted
 914 on tethered balloons.

Site	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Altitude (m a.s.l.)	Parameter (Device-Model)	Operation period
CSIC	40°26'25"	03°41'17"	713	NO _x (Teledyne API 200EU) O ₃ (2B Technologies 202) UFP>2.5nm (CPC-TSI 3775) BC (Aethalometer-AE33) PM ₁ (OPC-GRIMM 1107)	09-20/07/2016
CIEMAT	40°27'23"	03°43'32"	669	NO _x (THERMO 17i) O ₃ (THERMO 49i) UFP>7nm (CPC-TSI 3772) UFP>2.5nm (CPC-TSI 3776) BC (Aethalometer-AE33) PM _{2.5} (TEOM®) Meteorological tower	04-20/07/2016
ISCIII	40°27'27"	03°51'54"	739	NO _x (THERMO 17i) O ₃ (THERMO 49i) UFP>7nm (CPC-TSI 3783) UFP>2.5nm (CPC-TSI 3776) BC (MAAP-THERMO) PM ₁ (OPC-GRIMM 1108) PTR-ToF-MS (HR 8000, Ionicon)(operating procedures described in SI)	04-20/07/2016
MJDH-RC (vertical profiles)	40°28'30"	03°52'55"	729	UFP>3nm (CPC Hy-CPC) O ₃ (PO3M™ 2B Technologies) Meteorology (Temp., RH, Press., wind speed and direction)	11-14/07/2016

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Table 2. Vertical measurement profiles obtained during 11-14/07/2016 at Majadahonda (MJDH-RC).

Day	Starting hour (UTC)	Final hour (UTC)	Number of profiles	Maximum height (m a.s.l.)
11/07/2016	18:30	18:45	2	200
12/07/2012	07:02	07:40	2	850
	08:30	09:10	2	1000
	10:10	10:56	2	1100
	11:55	13:43	2	900
13/07/2008	10:45	11:25	2	1000
	11:25	12:00	2	1000
	13:47	14:29	2	1000
	14:29	15:12	2	1100
14/07/2004	08:03	08:44	2	1150
	08:48	10:37	2	1100
	10:46	12:45	2	1200
	13:22	14:02	2	1100
	15:23	16:13	2	1025
	17:12	17:31	2	1100

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