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2       **Effects of transport on a biomass burning plume from Indochina**  
3                   **during EMeRGe-Asia identified by WRF-Chem**

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37 **Abstract.**

38 The Indochina biomass burning (BB) season in springtime has a substantial  
39 environmental impact on the surrounding areas in Asia. In this study, we evaluated the  
40 environmental impact of a major long-range BB transport event on 19 March 2018 (a  
41 flight of the HALO research aircraft, flight F0319) preceded by a minor event on 17  
42 March 2018 (flight F0317). Aircraft data obtained during the campaign in Asia of the  
43 Effect of Megacities on the transport and transformation of pollutants on the Regional  
44 to Global scales (EMeRGe) were available between 12 March and 7 April 2018. In the  
45 F0319, results of 1-min mean carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), acetone (ACE),  
46 acetonitrile (ACN), organic aerosol (OA) and black carbon aerosol (BC) concentrations  
47 were up to 312.0 ppb, 79.0 ppb, 3.0 ppb, 0.6 ppb, 6.4 μg m<sup>-3</sup>, 2.5 μg m<sup>-3</sup> respectively,  
48 during the flight, which passed through the BB plume transport layer (BPTL) between  
49 the elevation of 2000–4000 m over the East China Sea (ECS). During F0319, CO, O<sub>3</sub>,  
50 ACE, ACN, OA and BC maximum of the 1 minute average concentrations were higher  
51 in the BPTL by 109.0 ppb, 8.0 ppb, 1.0 ppb, 0.3 ppb, 3.0 μg m<sup>-3</sup> and 1.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup>  
52 compared to flight F0317, respectively. Sulfate aerosol, rather than OA, showed the  
53 highest concentration at low altitudes (<1000 m) in both flights F0317 and F0319  
54 resulting from the continental outflow in the ECS.

55 The transport of BB aerosols from Indochina and its impacts on the downstream  
56 area was evaluated using a WRF-Chem model. The modeling results tended to  
57 overestimate the concentration of the species, with examples being CO (64 ppb), OA  
58 (0.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup>), BC (0.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup>) and O<sub>3</sub> (12.5 ppb) in the BPTL. Over the ECS, the  
59 simulated BB contribution demonstrated an increasing trend from the lowest values on  
60 17 March 2018 to the highest values on 18 and 19 March 2018 for CO, fine particulate  
61 matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), OA, BC, hydroxyl radicals (OH), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), total reactive  
62 nitrogen (NO<sub>y</sub>), and O<sub>3</sub>; by contrast, the variation of J(O<sup>1</sup>D) decreased as the BB

63 plume's contribution increased over the ECS. In the low boundary layer (<1000 m), the  
64 BB plume's contribution to most species in the remote downstream areas was <20 %.  
65 However, at the BPTL, the contribution of the long-range transported BB plume was as  
66 high as 30–80 % for most of the species (NO<sub>y</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, BC, OH, O<sub>3</sub>, and CO) over  
67 South China (SC), Taiwan, and the ECS. BB aerosols were identified as a potential  
68 source of cloud condensation nuclei, and the simulation results indicated that the  
69 transported BB plume had an effect on cloud water formation over SC and the ECS on  
70 19 March 2018. The combination of BB aerosol enhancement with cloud water resulted  
71 in a reduction of incoming shortwave radiation at the surface in the SC and ECS by 5-  
72 7% and 2-4%, respectively, which potentially has significant regional climate  
73 implications.

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75

## 76 **1 Introduction**

77 Biomass burning (BB) is one of the main sources of aerosols, greenhouse gases, and air  
78 pollutants (e.g. Ramanathan et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2009; 2014; Tang, 2003; Carmichael  
79 et al., 2003; Chi et al., 2010; Fu et al., 2012; Lin N.H. et al., 2012; Chuang et al., 2016).  
80 Reid et al. (2013) and Giglio et al. (2013) investigated the seasonal aerosol optical depth  
81 over Southeast Asia and have indicated that Indochina is a major contributor of carbon  
82 emissions in springtime. Galanter et al. (2000) estimated that BB accounts for 15–30 %  
83 of the entire tropospheric CO background. Huang et al. (2013) indicated that the  
84 contribution of BB in Southeast Asia to the aerosol optical depth (AOD) in Hong Kong  
85 and Taiwan could be in the range of 26-62 %. Moreover, BB emissions over Indochina  
86 are a significant contributor to black carbon (BC), organic carbon (OC), and O<sub>3</sub> in East  
87 Asia (Lin et al., 2014). In their BB modeling study, Lin et al. (2014) identified a  
88 northeast (NE) to southwest (SW) zone stretching from South China (SC) to Taiwan

89 with a reduction in shortwave radiation of approximately  $20 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  at the ground  
90 surface. In addition, the total carbon emission from BB in Southeast Asia is  
91 approximately  $91 \text{ Tg C yr}^{-1}$ , accounting for 4.9 % of the global total (Yadav et al.,  
92 2017). According to Xu et al. (2018), BB in Indochina leads to BC production at high  
93 concentrations of up to  $2\text{--}6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in spring. The authors reported that BC particles  
94 were transported to the glaciers in the Tibetan Plateau, where it significantly affected  
95 the melting of the snow, causing some severe environmental problems, such as water  
96 resource depletion. Ding et al. (2021) indicated that BB aloft aerosols strongly increase  
97 the low cloud coverage over both land and ocean and affect the monsoon in the  
98 subtropical Southeast Asia.

99 Although many researchers have indicated the importance of BB emissions, their  
100 precise estimation and applying in the modeling study remains challenging (Fu et al.  
101 2012; Huang et al. 2013; Pimonstree et al. 2018; Marvin et al. 2021). For example,  
102 Heald et al. (2003) conducted an emission inventory in Southeast Asia and reported that  
103 the uncertainties of BB emission estimations could be a factor of three or even higher.  
104 Following an inverse model analysis, Palmer et al. (2003) also indicated the  
105 overestimation of regional BB emissions over Indochina. Shi and Yamaguchi (2014)  
106 pointed out BB emissions exhibited strong temporal interannual variability between  
107 2001 and 2010 over southeast Asia. Satellite data can be used to easily locate hotspots  
108 such as those where agricultural residuals burning and forest wildfires are occurring  
109 worldwide. However, accurately quantifying the amount of BB emission from satellite  
110 data is difficult because anthropogenic pollutants and BB emissions are typically mixed  
111 in the atmosphere. During the NASA Transport and Chemical Evolution over the  
112 Pacific (TRACE-P) aircraft mission in spring 2001, Jacob et al. (2003) observed that  
113 warm conveyor belts (WCBs) lift both anthropogenic and BB (from SE Asia) air  
114 pollution to the free troposphere, resulting in complex chemical signatures.

115 Wiedinmyer et al. (2011) demonstrated that the uncertainty of emission estimation  
116 could be as high as a factor of 2 because of the error introduced by estimates in fire  
117 hotspots, area burned, land cover maps, biomass consumption, and emission factors in  
118 the model. In this context, Lin et al. (2014) highlighted the uncertainty of emission  
119 estimation in the first version of Fire Inventory from NCAR (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011).

120 The transport of BB pollution is strongly dependent on the atmospheric structure  
121 and weather conditions. Tang et al. (2003) noted that most BB aerosols, having their  
122 source in Indochina (mainly south of 25 °N and be alofted to an altitude of 2000–4000  
123 m) during the TRACE-P campaign were associated with outflow in the WCB region  
124 after frontal passage. Lin et al. (2009) suggested a mountain lee-side troughs as an  
125 important mechanism, resulting in BB product transport from the surface to >3000 m.  
126 BB pollution is often transported from its sources to the East China Sea (ECS), Taiwan,  
127 and the western North Pacific within a few days.

128 The airborne field experiment EMeRGe ( Effect of Megacities on the transport and  
129 transformation of pollutants on the Regional to Global scales) over Asia was led by the  
130 University of Bremen, Germany and conducted in collaboration with Academia Sinica,  
131 during the inter-monsoon period in 2018 ([http://www.iup.uni-  
132 bremen.de/emerge/home/home.html](http://www.iup.uni-bremen.de/emerge/home/home.html)). The EMeRGe aircraft mission consists of two  
133 parts. The first mission phase was conducted in Germany in July 2017 and the second  
134 phase was conducted from Taiwan in 2018 (Andrés Hernández et al. 2022).EMeRGe in  
135 Asia aimed at the investigation of the long range transport (LRT) of local and regional  
136 pollution originating in Asian major population centers (MPCs) from the Asian  
137 continent into the Pacific. A central part of the project was the airborne measurement  
138 of pollution plumes on-board of the High Altitude and Long Range Research Aircraft  
139 (HALO). The HALO platform was based in Tainan, Taiwan (Fig. 1a-b), and made  
140 optimized transects and vertical profiling in regions north or south of Taiwan,

141 dependent on the relevant weather and emission conditions. HALO measurements  
142 additionally provide important information for the evaluation of the LRT of BB  
143 emissions and its potential environmental impact in East Asia between 12 March and 7  
144 April 2018. During the EMeRGe-Asia campaign, HALO carried out 12 mission flights  
145 in Asia and 4 transfer flights from Europe to Asia with a total of 110 flight hours.

146 This paper is organized as follows: the model configuration and BB emission  
147 analysis employed in the model simulation are described in Section 2, and the weather  
148 conditions and HALO measurement results are presented in Section 3. The model  
149 performance, as well as the evaluation of BB product transport and effects on East Asia  
150 selected regions are discussed in Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

151

## 152 **2 Aircraft data and Model configuration**

### 153 **2.1 HALO aircraft data**

154 The HALO aircraft was equipped with a number of instruments and a detailed  
155 description of the measurement systems onboard the HALO was presented in Andrés  
156 Hernández et al.(2022). In this study, aerosol data (OA, BC,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), and  
157 trace gases such as CO,  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{NO}_y$ , acetone (ACE), acetonitrile (ACN), HCHO,  
158 HONO, and photolysis rate  $J(\text{O}^1\text{D})$ ,  $J(\text{NO}_2)$  were employed in the analysis.

### 159 **2.2 WRF-Chem Model and model configuration**

160 We used the Weather Research Forecasting with Chemistry (WRF-Chem) model (Ver.  
161 4.1.1) (Grell et al., 2005; Powers et al. 2017) to study the LRT of air masses associated  
162 with BB pollutants in Indochina. The initial and boundary meteorological conditions  
163 for WRF-Chem were obtained from National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
164 (NCEP)-GDAS Global Analysis data sets at 6-h intervals. The Mellor–Yamada–Janjic  
165 planetary boundary layer scheme (Janjic, 1994) was applied. The horizontal resolution  
166 for the simulations performed was 10 km, and the grid box had  $442 \times 391$  points in the

167 east–west and north–south directions (Fig. 1a). A total of 41 vertical levels were  
168 included, with the lowest level at an elevation of approximately 50 m. To improve the  
169 accuracy of the meteorological fields, a grid nudging four-dimensional data  
170 assimilation scheme was applied using the NCEP-GDAS Global Analysis data.

171 The cloud microphysics used followed the Lin scheme (Morrison et al., 2005). The  
172 rapid radiative transfer model (Zhao et al., 2011) was used for both longwave and  
173 shortwave radiation schemes. Moreover, land surface processes are simulated using the  
174 Noah-LSM scheme (Hong et al., 2009). In terms of transport processes, we considered  
175 advection by winds, convection by clouds, and diffusion by turbulent mixing. The  
176 removal processes in this study were gravitational settling, surface deposition, and wet  
177 deposition (scavenging in convective updrafts and rainout or washout in large-scale  
178 precipitation). The kinetic preprocessor (KPP) interface was used in both of the  
179 chemistry schemes of the Regional Atmospheric Chemistry Mechanism (RACM,  
180 Stockwell et al., 1990). The secondary organic aerosol formation module, the Modal  
181 Aerosol Dynamics Model for Europe (Ackermann et al., 1998)/Volatility Basis Set  
182 (Ahmadov et al., 2012), was also employed in the WRF-Chem model. In RACM, the  
183 “KET” represents acetone and higher saturated ketones (KET) (Stockwell et al. 1997).  
184 According to Singh et al. (1994), BB and the primary anthropogenic emissions could  
185 contribute 26% and 3%, respectively, to the atmospheric acetone sources. The model  
186 configuration and physics and chemistry options are listed in Table 1.

187

### 188 **2.3 Emission Inventories**

189 Anthropogenic emissions, such as NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, nonmethane volatile organic  
190 compounds, sulfate, nitrate, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, were adopted on the basis of the emission  
191 inventory in Asia – MICS-Asia III which is the year in 2010 (Li et al., 2020; Kong et  
192 al., 2020). For BB emissions FINNv1.5 (<https://www.acom.ucar.edu/Data/fire/>) was

193 employed. FINN provided daily, 1000 m resolution, global estimates of the trace gas  
194 and particle emissions from open BB, which included wildfires, agricultural fires, and  
195 prescribed burning but not biofuel use and trash burning (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011). The  
196 anthropogenic emissions in Taiwan were obtained from the Taiwan Emission Data  
197 System (TEDS) which is the emission inventory of the air-pollutant monitoring  
198 database of the Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration. The TEDS version  
199 used for this study was V9.0 (2013) and contained data on eight primary atmospheric  
200 pollutants: CO, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub>.

201

### 202 **3 Characteristics of the field experiment**

#### 203 **3.1 MODIS Aerosol optical depth and Weather conditions**

204 Figures 2a and b visualizes the numerous fire hotspots and high aerosol optical depth  
205 on 17 March 2018 registered by the MODIS satellite. Indeed, a large number of BB fire  
206 hotspots frequently occurred over Indochina during the springtime (Supplementary  
207 Figure S1a) and the EMeRGe-Asia campaign (Supplementary Figure S1b). **During the**  
208 **EMeRGe-Asia campaign, a relatively weaker forest fire activity in the year 2018**  
209 **(Figure S1a) than in the past decade (2011-2020) over Indochina.** On 17 March 2018  
210 at 06:00 UTC (14:00 LT; LT = UTC+8:00) the weather data indicated a series of high-  
211 pressure systems in northern China and a separate high-pressure system over the Japan  
212 sea (Fig. 2c). At 1000 hPa, a strong northerly continental outflow was identified over  
213 southern Japan, the ECS, and Taiwan (Fig. 2d). On 19 March 2018, a new frontal  
214 system was located from Korea to the Guangdong province in SC (Fig. 2e). On the  
215 same day at 06:00 UTC, a discontinued flow was identified at the frontal zone to the  
216 north of Taiwan in the ECS (Fig. 2f). In other words, Taiwan was located at the  
217 prefrontal and warm conveyor area due to the surrounding southerly flow on 19 March  
218 2018 at 06:00 UTC (Figs. 2e and 2f, respectively). The southerly wind was gradually



219 replaced by the northeasterly after another frontal passage on 20 March 2018 at 00:00  
220 UTC (data not shown).

221 In the upper layer (700 hPa; Figs. 2g–2j), the flow pattern differed from that at the  
222 near-ground surface (1000 hPa; Figs. 2d and 2f). A southwesterly strong wind, coming  
223 from the east side of the Tibetan Plateau in SC, moving to the North Eats i.e. Korea, is  
224 converted to a polar front wave flow in northeastern China and Korea on 17 March  
225 2018 (Fig. 2g). This high-elevation northward strong wind belt distribution at 700 hPa  
226 was associated with a corresponding lee-side trough at the east of the Tibetan Plateau,  
227 whereas a ridge was noted over the east coast of China on the same day (Fig. 2h).  
228 Consistent with the mechanism reported by Lin et al. (2009), once a significant lee-side  
229 trough formed, it provided favorable conditions for the upward motion over the lee-side  
230 of the Tibetan Plateau and brought BB emission to the free troposphere layer following  
231 the strong wind belt transport to the downwind area. After the weather system moved  
232 to the east, the north–south trough turned to SW–NE such that the strong wind belt was  
233 in an approximately SW–NE direction and located between 20 and 30 °N on 19 March  
234 2018 (Figs. 2i and 2j). In conclusion, the Indochina BB pollutants were driven by the  
235 strong wind belt from Indochina, northward to SC on 17 March 2018 and then eastward  
236 passing over Taiwan between 20 and 30 °N to the south of Japan on 19 March 2018.

237

### 238 **3.2 Characteristics of LRT BB to the ECS by WRF-Chem model**

239 Figure 3 shows latitude longitude plots of the simulated CO concentration  
240 differences with and without BB emission at an elevation of 1000 m (Fig. 3a), mainly  
241 in Indochina, SC, and the South China Sea on 17 March 2018. The ambient flow was  
242 easterly and then northward from the South China Sea to SC at 1000 m elevation  
243 between 00:00 and 12:00 UTC on 17 March 2018 (Fig. 3a-b). **To identify the high CO**  
244 **concentration in the South China Sea at 1000 meters in Figures 3a and b, the HYSPLIT**

245 (Stein et al., 2021) backward trajectories with multiple points by  $1^{\circ}\times 1^{\circ}$  in the area (110-  
246  $115^{\circ}\text{E}$ ,  $17.5\text{-}22.5^{\circ}\text{N}$ ) in the South China Sea started at 00 UTC 17 March 2018 as shown  
247 in Figure 3e. The locations and dates of fire hot spots were distributed randomly in  
248 Indochina Peninsula as shown in the supplementary Figure S1c. The backward trajectories  
249 in the South China Sea indicated air masses mainly transported 48-72 and even 96 hrs. In  
250 other words, there could be contributed by fires occurring between  $100\text{-}110^{\circ}\text{E}$  and  $12\text{-}20^{\circ}\text{N}$   
251 (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam) during 13-15 March 2018. The BB plume  
252 accumulated and persisted for an extended period in the lower part of the boundary  
253 layer on 17 and 19 March 2018 (Figs. 3a-b, and 4a-b). In contrast, the high CO  
254 concentration followed the southwesterly or westerly strong wind belt (Figs. 3c-d, and  
255 4c-d) and its weather conditions (Fig. 2) at an elevation of 3000-m (700 hPa). Following  
256 the movement of the ridge and trough at the 700 hPa geopotential height (Fig. 2h and  
257 2j), the associated strong wind belt turned to move eastward in the SW-NE direction  
258 between 17 and 19 March 2018. The BB plume transport over Indochina was affected  
259 by a fast-moving strong flow at 700 hPa (Fig. 2g and 2i), shifting the plume toward  
260 Taiwan and the ECS, during 17-19 March 2018. The backward trajectories in the East  
261 China Sea (ECS) started at 04 UTC on 19 March 2018 at 3000 m indicating air masses  
262 mainly transported 48-72 and even 96 hrs (15-17 March) ago from Indochina as shown  
263 in Figure 4e. The highest CO concentration contributed by the BB plume was  $>150$  ppb,  
264 originally sourced from Indochina, and it was mainly transported northward on 17  
265 March 2018 (Figs. 3c-d) and then covered a large area in East Asia at a CO  
266 concentration of  $>100$  ppb on 19 March 2018 (Figs. 4 c-d). Figure 5 indicates  
267 simulation differences for the contribution of BB along an E-W cross-section at  $30^{\circ}\text{N}$   
268 at 16:00 UTC on 18 March 2018 (Fig. 5a) and 06:00 UTC on 19 March 2018 (Fig. 5b).  
269 We noted that a strong wind at 2000 m elevation and a high CO concentration ( $>70$  ppb)  
270 due to BB at the BPTL. Moreover, the CO concentration attributed to BB was low at

271 the elevation of >4000 m on 19 March at 06:00 UTC (Fig. 5b), showing that the BB  
272 pollutants mainly affect altitudes below 4000 m.

273

### 274 **3.3 Aircraft measurements**

275 Two HALO flights were scheduled to the ECS to measure the pollutants following the  
276 continental outflow; the flights departed on 17 (Fig. 6a) and 19 (Fig. 7a) March 2018  
277 and followed similar tracks. To indicate the measurement results along the flight path,  
278 the 1-min average data is shown in Figures 6b and 7b. On 17 March 2018, the flight  
279 departed from Tainan (Fig. 1b) at 01:09 UTC (09:09 LT) first southbound and then  
280 northward to the ECS (Fig. 6a). The elevation for sample collection was mainly <4000  
281 m, where the CO concentration was found to be <200 ppb in most cases on that day  
282 (Fig. 6b). At elevations between 2000 and 4000 m, the concentration of the major  
283 aerosol components (i.e., OA, BC,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) was mostly <2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ,  
284 except just above western Taiwan after 08:00 UTC (Figs. 6a–6d). The peak  
285 concentrations for OA, BC,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  were 3.4, 1.2, 2.1, and 0.7  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ,  
286 respectively, at the altitude between 2000 and 4000 m.  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  demonstrated the highest  
287 concentration among the aerosol components, especially during 04:00–04:37 and  
288 05:48–06:15 UTC (peaking at 5.1  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) when the flight was north of 30 °N and an  
289 elevation of <1000 m (Figs. 6a–6c). This result could be attributed to anthropogenic  
290 pollution from the continental outflow (Lin et al. 2012) or probably part from Japan  
291 contributed to the high sulfate concentration in the boundary layer over the ECS. As for  
292 the trace gases such as ACE, ACN and  $\text{O}_3$ , their concentrations between 2000 and 4000  
293 m were ranging between 1–2 ppb, 0.1–0.3 ppb, and 60–70 ppb (Fig. 6b), respectively,  
294 implying minor influence over the ECS by the BB plume in this flight. Figure 6e  
295 illustrates the 96-h backward trajectories, which identified the air mass origin starting  
296 at 02:00 UTC, followed by 04:00, 06:00, and 09:00 UTC. The continental outflow

307 contributed to higher sulfate concentrations ( $3\text{--}5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  at  $33^\circ\text{N}$ ) at 04:00 and 06:00  
308 UTC (Figs. 6b, 6c, and 6e) at  $<1000$  m along the flight path. In contrast, south of  $25^\circ\text{N}$   
309 and above Taiwan, the local pollution and continental outflow are dominating sources  
310 on 17 March 2018.

311 The HALO flight on 19 March 2018 departed at 00:19 UTC (08:19 LT). It was  
312 bound northward and sampled air at an altitude of  $<4000$  m most of the time, as shown  
313 in Figures 7a and 7b. Figures 7c and 7d indicate the latitude-height variation of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$   
314 and OA mass concentrations along the flight path on 19 March 2018. As the flight left  
315 Taiwan, it maintained an elevation of  $3000$  m during 01:00–02:00 UTC (Fig. 7a,  $121\text{--}$   
316  $126^\circ\text{E}$ ) and then descended to  $<1000$  m during 02:00–02:40 UTC (Fig. 7b). The OA  
317 mass concentration was higher at  $3000$  m than at the low altitude during 01:00–03:00  
318 UTC (Figs. 7b and 7d). In particular, CO, OA and BC exhibited a substantial peak  
319 concentration of  $312$  ppb,  $6.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and  $2.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  at 01:54 and 02:51 UTC at  $26^\circ\text{N}$ ,  
320  $125\text{--}126^\circ\text{E}$ , and an altitude of  $2000\text{--}4000$  m, where a BPTL was observed. The trace  
321 gases such as ACE, ACN, and even  $\text{O}_3$  (Fig. 7b) have consistent peak times in the BPTL  
322 with concentrations of  $3.0$  ppb,  $0.6$  ppb, and  $79$  ppb, respectively. In this flight,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$   
323 had the second-highest concentration among the aerosol components ( $1\text{--}2.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ;  
324 Figs. 7b and 7c) upstream of Taiwan ( $25\text{--}27^\circ\text{N}$ ) during 1:00–3:00 UTC.

325 In the northern part of the flight between 03:00 and 05:00 UTC at an elevation of  
326  $>3000$  m, the aerosol component concentrations were all at their lowest level (Figs. 7b–  
327 7d). During 05:00–07:00 UTC, the HALO aircraft flew back southward to  $25^\circ\text{N}$ , where  
328 high OA mass concentrations appeared again between  $2000$  and  $4000$  m (Figs. 7a, 7b,  
329 and 7d). Sulfate was the species with the highest concentration between 05:30 and  
330 06:30 UTC (Figs. 7b and 7c) when the flight's elevation was  $<1000$  m in the lower  
331 boundary between  $25$  and  $27^\circ\text{N}$  (upstream of Taiwan). The reason explaining this  
332 observation is that the transport of anthropogenic pollutants of continental origin takes

323 place mainly in the boundary layer (Figs. 7b–7d). Other aerosol species, such as  $\text{NO}_3^-$   
324 and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , demonstrated low concentrations, except when the elevation was  $<1000$  m,  
325 where they ranged up to  $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (Fig. 7b).

326 The 96-h HYSPLIT backward trajectory starting from the flight locations at  
327 02:00–07:00 UTC (Fig. 7e) indicated that the air masses at elevations between 2000  
328 and 4000 m were potentially transported from Indochina. North of  $30^\circ\text{N}$  and at altitudes  
329 of  $>3000$  m at 04:00 UTC, the concentrations of air pollutants (including OA,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  
330  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) were low (Figs. 7b and 7e) even though the air mass in the low  
331 boundary was sourced from SC and the Taiwan Strait. In general, the BPTL was mainly  
332 located south of  $30^\circ\text{N}$  as presented by Carmichael et al. (2003), and Tang et al. (2003).  
333 However, the ACN still could be around 300ppt or less as the flight at the north of  $30^\circ\text{N}$   
334 (during 3:30–4:30 UTC) and could be recognized as the contribution of BB (Förster et al.  
335 2022). In other words, it might still have BB products being transported to the north of 30  
336 N under favorable weather conditions although the ACN concentration was low compared  
337 to the south of it at the layer of BPTL (between 2000 and 4000 m). The fact that higher  
338 OA was observed rather in the higher altitudes than in the lower boundary also  
339 demonstrated the vertical distribution over the ECS.

340 Figure 8 displays the vertical distribution of the gases and major aerosol  
341 components found on the flights on 17 (blue) and 19 (green) March 2018 as well as the  
342 mean concentrations noted in the seven flights (on 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, and 30 March and  
343 4 April 2018; red) to the ECS during EMeRGe-Asia. Figure 8 illustrates all profiles  
344 calculated as 1-min mean and every 500-m interval with one standard deviation ( $\pm\sigma$ ).  
345 The number of the data points is displayed on the right side of each figure. The mean  
346 CO concentration profile demonstrated a decreasing trend from 240 ppb near the  
347 ground to 150 ppb at an altitude of 2500 m and 140–160 ppb at altitudes  $>6000$  m (Fig.  
348 8a). The concentration for 17 March 2018 (flight F0317) was similar to the mean

349 concentration profile, except for that at the <1500 m elevation in the lower boundary.  
350 However, a higher CO concentration (40–80 ppb) enhancement was noted on 19 March  
351 2018 (flight F0319) than the mean profile and flight F0317. The mean difference in CO  
352 concentration between flights F0319 and F0317 was as high as 80 ppb at an elevation  
353 of 3000-3500 m (Fig. 8a). Similarly, OA concentration was significantly higher in the  
354 BPTL vertical distribution in flight F0319 than in the mean profile and flight F0317  
355 (Fig. 8b). The mean OA concentration for the flight F0319 peaked at an elevation of  
356 2000–2500 m, increasing to  $2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  more than in the mean profile and flight F0317.  
357 Other aerosol components such as  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (Supplementary Fig. S2a-c)  
358 also had a similar vertical distribution trend, but the concentration differences were  
359 minor compared with OA concentrations. The magnitude of the maximum differences  
360 between the flights F0319 and F0317 in the BPTL was 1.3, 0.7, and  $0.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for  
361  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , and  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , respectively. The maximum difference concentration of BC can  
362 be as high as  $1.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  at 2000-2500 m between the flights F0319 and F0317 (Fig.8c).  
363 Regarding the variations in ACN (Fig. 8d) and ACE (Fig. 8e) in the BPTL, their  
364 maximum mean concentrations in the flight F0319 were higher than those in the profile  
365 of the flight F0317 by 0.18 and 0.9 ppb, respectively. In other words, flight F0319 had  
366 a more significant impact on the CO, OA, BC, and volatile organic compound (VOC)  
367 species such as ACN and ACE in the BPTL, which might account for the effect of BB  
368 emission transport from Indochina. The ozone concentration was lower in both flights  
369 F0317 and F0319 than in the mean profile at the elevations <2000 m (Fig. 8f). The  
370 ozone titration by  $\text{NO}_x$  in the low boundary might also play a role. However, it was  
371 approximately 5–7 ppb higher in the flight F0319 than in the flight F0317 between the  
372 elevations of 1500 and 3000 m. In their downwind area, LRT of BB emissions might  
373 increase this concentration further at the BPTL (Tang et al., 2003; Lin et al., 2014) and  
374 also discussed in section 4. By contrast, the J value [ $\text{J}(\text{O}^1\text{D})$ ] (Fig. 8g) was higher for

375 flight F0317 than for F0319 in the elevation range 1000–3000 m, in line with high aerosol  
376 concentrations and associated cloud enhancement that typically lead to decreased  
377 photolysis frequencies [i.e.,  $J(\text{O}^1\text{D})$ ] (Tang et al., 2003). Figure S3 (Supplementary  
378 indicated the aircraft measurement for the J value ( $\text{JO}^1\text{D}$ ) and CCN (Cloud  
379 Condensation Nuclei; at a constant instrument supersaturation of 0.38 %) along the  
380 flight on 19 March 2018. The CCN number concentration (per  $\text{cm}^3$ ), was consistently  
381 increased with the aerosol species (such as OA) as the flight passed through the BPTL  
382 (2000-4000 m). Consistently, at altitudes >4000 m the presence of clouds below the aircraft  
383 led to greater J values.

384 The concentrations of other species such as  $\text{NO}_y$  (Fig.8h) and HONO  
385 (Supplementary Fig. S2d) were also greater in flight F0317 than in flight F0319 by 0.4-  
386 1.2 ppb and 10-34 ppt, respectively, in the low boundary (<1500 m). At the BPTL, the  
387 concentration of  $\text{NO}_y$  (1-2 ppb) in the flight F0319 was higher than in the flight F0317,  
388 but the difference was less than 0.6 ppb. The results from the TRACE-P campaign,  
389 which examined the Asian outflow of  $\text{NO}_y$ , also demonstrated large increases in  $\text{NO}_y$   
390 concentrations (0.5-1 ppb) downwind from Asia. The  $\text{NO}_y$  consisted mainly of  $\text{HNO}_3$   
391 and peroxyacetyl nitrate (Miyazaki et al., 2003; Talbot et al., 2003).

392

## 393 **4 Simulation results and discussion**

### 394 **4.1 Model performance and BB transport identification**

395 Tables 2 and 3 and Fig. 9 plot the Pearson correlation coefficients between 5-min  
396 merged observations on board the HALO and the simulation for flights F0317 and  
397 F0319. Meteorological parameters such as potential temperature ( $\theta$ ), relative  
398 humidity (RH), and wind speed (WS) were all captured well by the model along the  
399 HALO flight path on the 2 days. The correlation coefficient (R) for meteorological  
400 parameters was high, ranging from 0.92 to 0.99 (Table 2). The strong correlation

401 indicates the high representativeness of the reanalysis of meteorological data used in  
402 the simulation. Among the trace species and aerosol components, toluene (TOL), NO<sub>x</sub>,  
403 BC, OA, ketones (KET), HONO, SO<sub>2</sub>, and HCHO demonstrated an R of >0.5 (good  
404 correlation) and CO and O<sub>3</sub> showed an R of nearly 0.5 (Table 2). The simulation  
405 performance was investigated in the BL (<1000 m; Fig. 9), at 2000–4000 m altitude  
406 (Table 3 and Fig. 9) and for the whole period of both flights (Table 2 and Fig. 9; blue  
407 dot). Even in the BPTL, the simulated meteorological parameters presented a good  
408 correlation (R > 0.93), followed by OA, BC, KET, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> as well as NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and  
409 NO<sub>y</sub> (R > 0.5) (Table 3). In other words, at the BPTL, the R for the simulation  
410 significantly increased for OA, BC, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>y</sub> and KET (Tables 2 and 3 and Fig. 9),  
411 which are indicators for BB being a source of pollution in the model. In contrast, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>,  
412 NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, TOL, XYL, HCHO and HONO had better correlation in the lower part  
413 of the boundary layer, at altitudes <1000 m (see Fig. 9) than in the BPTL. We explain  
414 this by the transport of anthropogenic pollutants in the continental outflow in the lower  
415 part of the boundary layer in ECS.

416 The modeling results tended to overestimate the concentration of the species, with  
417 examples being CO (64 ppb), OA (0.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup>), BC (0.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup>) and O<sub>3</sub> (12.5 ppb;  
418 Table 3) in the BPTL. Because high concentrations of CO, BC and OA in BPTL are  
419 accurate indicators of BB in the model, the BB emission from the source of FINN data  
420 are probably also overestimated (Lin et al., 2014). Except for OA and BC, the  
421 correlations for other aerosol components such as NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> were poor (0.13 and  
422 0.2, respectively). The poor correlation for SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> may result from the large uncertainty  
423 in the emission of SO<sub>2</sub>.

424 Because the meteorological parameters were simulated well, the simulation  
425 discrepancies for chemical species are either caused by the emission estimation  
426 uncertainties or by inaccuracies in the simulation of chemical oxidation processes



427 during LRT. Because CO, OA, and BC are accurate indicators of simulated BB  
428 transport from Indochina (Carmical et al., 2003), the airborne measurements on board  
429 the HALO are used as reference to evaluate the performance of the model for the flight  
430 F0319 (Fig.10). The 5-min merged simulation of CO concentration with (blue line) and  
431 without (green line) BB was compared to that measured on board the HALO (red line);  
432 the concentration was mostly in the range of 100–200 ppb, with its peak approaching  
433 300 ppb (at 01:50, 02:50, and 04:00 UTC) at the BPTL (Fig. 10a). In general, the  
434 simulation captured the CO variation along the flight path. However, it overestimated  
435 the observations by nearly 100 ppb for the simulation with BB at the BPTL during  
436 01:00–02:00, 03:40–04:20, 05:00–05:40, and 06:30–07:20 UTC (Fig.10a). Notably, the  
437 simulation difference was minor when the flight was in the lower part of the boundary  
438 layer (02:30 and 06:00 UTC) i.e. < 1000m or at elevations of >4000 m (03:00–03:30  
439 and 04:20–05:00 UTC). The model underestimated CO concentration in the lower part  
440 of the boundary (<1000 m) (02:30 and 05:50–06:30 UTC) over the ECS. In conclusion,  
441 our model simulation overestimates BB emissions but underestimates continental CO  
442 emissions from China due to the underestimation of the emission inventory of the  
443 MICS-Asia III (Kong et al.,2020) was adopted in this study.

444 OA and BC are also important BB indicators and were reasonably captured by the  
445 model before 03:00 UTC when the flight was south of 28 °N at elevations of <4000 m  
446 (Fig.10 b-c). The time series of simulated OA and BC has peak concentrations of nearly  
447 4-5.5  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and 2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , respectively, during HALO shuttle flights passing through  
448 the BPTL (2000–4000 m) around 01:50 and 02:50 UTC. When BB emission was not  
449 included in the simulation, the concentration peaks were not observed (see Fig. 10b-c,

450 green plot). Similar to the simulated CO results, the simulated OA and BC overestimate  
451 the amounts of these species to the north of 28 °N during 03:30-04:20 UTC (Fig. 7a  
452 and 10). Furthermore, when the simulation only considered direct effect (case ROCD,  
453 purple), the overestimations were increased as shown in Figure 10b-c. As mentioned  
454 earlier, a frontal system was just located from the ECS to SC (Fig. 2e) on 19 March  
455 2018. In other words, the effect of wet scavenging reduced the aerosol concentration  
456 bias in the ECS and SC, as for the frontal system providing the moist air mass in the  
457 event flight F0319. The model after 07:30 UTC, which was related to local emissions  
458 before HALO landed over western Taiwan on 19 March 2018. In general, our model  
459 simulation captured reasonably well OA and BC with an R of 0.61 and 0.74,  
460 respectively. A minor mean bias for OA (BC) is  $0.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  ( $0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and the root  
461 mean square error (RMSE) of OA (BC) is  $1.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  ( $0.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) (Table 2). The R for  
462 OA (BC) reached 0.85(0.79), with an RMSE of  $0.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  ( $0.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) when we  
463 calculated the BB transport layer only between 2000 and 4000 m (Table 3 and Fig. 9).  
464 In addition to OA and BC, simulated aerosol species such as  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  was overestimated,  
465 whereas  $\text{NO}_3^-$  was underestimated although their concentrations were low (Table 3).  
466 Because the BPTL was mainly between altitudes of 2000 and 4000 m, the subsequent  
467 discussion focuses on the influence of the BPTL from Indochina on the downstream  
468 areas, particularly the ECS and Taiwan.

#### 469 **4.2 Effects of LRT BB plume from Indochina on East Asia**

470 To investigate the regional impacts of BB plume transport from Indochina, we  
471 compared the simulation with and without BB emission for the events on 17 and 19  
472 March 2018. The analysis of the calculations focused on the impact over SC, Taiwan  
473 and ECS. These three selected regions are SCA (in South China), TWA (covered the  
474 whole Taiwan), and ECSA (in the ECS) as shown in Figure 1a. After being emitted the  
475 BB pollutants from Indochina were then transported northward to China and  
476 subsequently northeastward. The exact flow pattern depended on the weather  
477 conditions and flow types (ridge or trough) at 700 hPa (3000 m) between 17 and 19  
478 March 2018 (see Fig. 2). Consequently, we investigated the hourly variation in the area  
479 mean concentrations or mixing ratios of air pollutant trace constituents to assess the  
480 importance of BB emissions from Indochina on the selected downstream region e.g. the  
481 ECSA (Fig. 11), SCA, TWA and ECSA (Table 4). The contribution of CO (or others  
482 species) due to BB was estimated by the difference between simulations with and  
483 without the BB emission. These differences are then expressed as a fraction in  
484 percentage shown in Figure 11 (blue line). The mean concentration of CO (red line)  
485 over the ECSA (Fig. 11a) was at its lowest (115 ppb) on 17 March 2018; it gradually  
486 increased to a peak concentration of 280 ppb on 18 March 2018 and then remained  
487 stable at 260 ppb on 19 March 2018. The contribution of CO from BB (blue line) ranged  
488 from 19 % (<22 ppb) on 17 March 2018 to a peak of 42 % (~113 ppb) on 18 March  
489 2018 and then gradually declined to 26 % on 19 March 2018 (Fig. 11a). As for OA  
490 (BC), the lowest percent contribution by BB was 14-16% (<5%) between 16 and 17  
491 March 2018 while the highest could be more than 40% (80%) during 18 and 19 March  
492 2018 (Fig. 11b and c). The BB contributed to PM<sub>2.5</sub> was 19 % (0.39  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) on 17  
493 March 2018 (Fig. 11d), increasing to 45 % (3.6  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) on 18-19 March 2018 because  
494 the BB plume spread by the strong wind to the ECSA.

495 The variation of O<sub>3</sub> (Fig. 11e) depends on transport and photochemistry, which  
496 involves the precursors NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC and the photolysis frequency of NO<sub>2</sub>, J(NO<sub>2</sub>).  
497 For the elevations between 2000–4000 m, O<sub>3</sub> changes are similar to those of CO, NO<sub>x</sub>  
498 and KET, which were mainly contributed by the LRT BB plume and related to the  
499 ozone precursor after 18 March 2018. The lowest and highest O<sub>3</sub> concentrations on 17  
500 and 18 March 2018 were 56 and 75 ppb, respectively, of which we estimate that 5.6  
501 ppb (10 %) and 34 ppb (45 %) were BB's contributions, respectively. Although the  
502 mean NO<sub>x</sub> concentration was relatively small (0.06–0.18 ppb), the BB contributed 35–  
503 70 % (0.02–0.13 ppb) during 17–19 March 2018 (Supplementary Fig. S4a). The KET  
504 concentration was in the range 0.4 to 2.7 ppb, with BB contributing nearly 20–26 %  
505 (0.08–0.7 ppb) during 17–19 March 2018 (Supplementary Fig. S4b).

506 The area-mean OH contributed by BB increased from its lowest level (<30 %) on  
507 17 March 2018 to its highest (nearly 70 %) on 19 March 2018 (Fig. 11f). HO<sub>2</sub> also has  
508 an increasing trend from 10 % to 40 % during daytime over the period 17–19 March  
509 2018 (Supplementary Fig. S4c). The amounts of the oxidizing agent, OH, and the free  
510 radical HO<sub>2</sub> depend on the amounts of trace gases, which produce and remove these  
511 radicals, (eg. NO<sub>x</sub>, water vapor, ozone, hydrocarbons, etc.) and the relevant photolysis  
512 frequencies J(O<sub>3</sub>→O<sup>1</sup>D), J(NO<sub>2</sub>) etc.. However, BB's contribution to photolysis  
513 frequencies J(O<sub>3</sub>→O<sup>1</sup>D) (Fig. 10g), J(NO<sub>2</sub>) (Supplementary Fig. S4d) etc. decreased  
514 as the mean BB aerosol concentration increased over the ECS during 17–19 March  
515 2018. This is because photolysis calculation results used simulated aerosol and cloud  
516 formation, which increased over the ECSA (Fig. 13).

517 The NO<sub>y</sub>, mean concentration ranged from 1.0 to 4.5 ppb, of which BB's  
518 contribution was from 55 to 82 % (Supplementary Fig. S4e). Such a high contribution  
519 from BB also demonstrated the effects of long-distance transport. Figure 11h indicates  
520 an increasing trend of HCHO concentration from 17 to 19 March 2018. HCHO

521 formation and destruction depend on the rate of reaction of OH with HCHO precursors  
522 and the rate of reaction of HCHO with OH and the photolysis frequency of HCHO. As  
523 a result, HCHO production varied with OH concentration. The lowest and highest  
524 concentrations of HCHO were on 17 and 19 March 2018, respectively. In summary,  
525 the consistent variations in BB contributions to CO, OA, BC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, OH, HCHO, NO<sub>x</sub>,  
526 NO<sub>y</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> peaked on 18 or 19 March 2018, whereas J(O<sup>1</sup>D) decreased between 17  
527 and 19 March 2018.

528 Figure 12 displays the fraction in % that the long-range transported BB emission  
529 contributes to the amounts of NO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>y</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, OA, BC, OH, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, KET, HO<sub>2</sub>,  
530 HCHO and J(O<sup>1</sup>D), over the ECSA on 17 and 19 March 2018. Except for NO<sub>y</sub>, BB  
531 contribution was generally <11 % at elevations of <1000 m over the ECSA. The scatter  
532 distribution of the simulation results indicates that the effect of BB emission at  
533 elevations of <1000 m (Fig. 12a) was significantly lower than that between the  
534 elevations of 2000 and 4000 m (Fig. 12b). For NO<sub>y</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, BC, OH, O<sub>3</sub>, and CO,  
535 the BB contribution was >30 % at the elevation of 2000–4000 m over the ECSA (Fig.  
536 12b). Table 4 further summarizes the effect of BB emission on the downwind areas  
537 (SCA, TWA, and the ECSA) at the <1000 m and 2000–4000 m elevations. The  
538 contribution of BB to NO<sub>y</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, BC, OH, O<sub>3</sub> and CO was at least 30–80 % at  
539 the elevation of 2000–4000 m over the regions SCA, TWA and ECSA (Table 4). In the  
540 lower boundary layer (i.e. <1000 m), the BB contribution for most species at the remote  
541 downstream areas was <20 %, except for TWA. Because of the high mountains (Lin et  
542 al. 2021) present in TWA, the BB plume passing over Taiwan was potentially  
543 transported downward through mountain–valley circulation to the lower boundary layer  
544 (Ooi et al., 2021). The influence of BB over TWA was the highest among these three  
545 downstream regions (see Table 4) as its location was directly on the transport pathway  
546 for the BB plume on the major event day (flight F0319).

547 Figure 13a displays the simulated cloud water difference with and without BB  
548 emission over different regions on 17 and 19 March 2018. BB aerosols are a potential  
549 source of cloud nuclei. The simulations show the impact of BB on cloud water  
550 enhancement (Fig. 13a) in the vertical distribution. Cloud water enhancement over SCA  
551 was associated with aerosol enhancement from the BB in the altitude range 1000–4000  
552 m: the peak being 1.8-2.0 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> at 2000 m on these 2 days (Fig. 13a). The abundance  
553 of BB emissions transported from Indochina to SCA (Figs. 3 and 4) is expected to  
554 contribute to the high cloud water formation over SCA. Furthermore, the southerly flow  
555 (Figs. 3 and 4) that transports warm and moist air mass from the South China Sea may  
556 have favored cloud formation in flights F0317 and F0319. High cloud water related to  
557 BB can be seen in the simulations of these two days. In the remote ECSA regions, the  
558 cloud water substantially increased on 19 March 2018 (Fig. 13a) compared to 17 March  
559 2018 because of a significant difference in BB emissions transported to the ECSA  
560 between 17 and 19 March 2018 (Figs. 3 and 4). Similarly, the cloud water enhancement  
561 over Taiwan also only appeared on 19 March 2018 (Fig. 13a). Furthermore, nearly no  
562 difference in the cloud water vertical distribution over the region IDCA (Fig. 1a) in  
563 Indochina was noted because in the Indochina region, spring is the dry season (Lin et  
564 al., 2009) and thus unfavorable for cloud water formation. Figure 13b shows the cloud  
565 water difference when the aerosol indirect effect turned off in the simulation over  
566 different regions on 19 March 2018. The significant cloud water shortage over ECSA,  
567 and SCA could be as high as 2.4 mg/kg and 1.5 mg/kg, respectively (Fig.13b). In other  
568 words, the role of the chemistry-microphysics interactions (indirect effect) plays an  
569 important role in the cloud water enhancement in the SCA and ECSA in this study.

570 The simulated downward shortwave flux at the noontime at ground surface due  
571 to BB was 2-4% and 5-7% reduction over the regions ECSA and SCA, respectively,  
572 (supplementary Fig. S5a-b, blue line) during 18-19 March 2018. However, a significant

573 shortwave flux reduction at the noontime at ground surface could be 15-20% due to  
574 aerosol indirect effect in the region SCA during 18-19 March 2018 (supplementary Fig.  
575 S5a-b blue dashed line). The combination of BB aerosols enhancement and increased  
576 cloud water results in shortwave radiation reduction, implying the possibility of  
577 regional climate change in East Asia driven by BB aerosols.

578

## 579 **5. Summary**

580 The BB during spring in Indochina has a significant impact on the chemistry and  
581 composition of the troposphere in the surrounding regions of East Asia. During the  
582 EMERGE campaign in Asia, atmospheric pollutants were measured on board the HALO  
583 aircraft. In this study, a minor long-range BB transport event was observed from  
584 Indochina on 17 March 2018 (flight F0317), followed by a major long-range BB  
585 transport event on 19 March 2018 (flight F0319). The impact on tropospheric trace  
586 constituent composition and the environment has been investigated.

587 During the major BB transport event F0319, the 1-min mean of the peak  
588 concentrations of the trace constituents CO, O<sub>3</sub>, ACE, ACN, OA and BC between the  
589 altitudes of 2000 and 4000 m over the ECS were 312.0 ppb, 79.0 ppb, 3.0 ppb, 0.6 ppb,  
590 6.4  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , 2.5  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  respectively. In comparison during the F0317 event CO, O<sub>3</sub>,  
591 ACE, ACN, OA and BC were 203.0 ppb, 71.0 ppb, 2.0 ppb, 0.3 ppb, 3.4  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , 1.2  
592  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  respectively.

593 When the elevation was <1000 m for both the F0317 and F0319 events, the sulfates,  
594 rather than OA, had the highest concentrations. The peak concentration could be as high  
595 as 5.1  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in the low boundary for the event F0317 in the ECS. This observation is  
596 most likely explained by a continental outflow from regions having fossil fuel  
597 combustion in the lower boundary layer over the ECS.

598 In this study, the WRF-Chem model was employed to evaluate the BB plume

599 transported from Indochina and its influence on the downstream areas including South  
600 China, Taiwan, and the ECS. The contribution of the BB plume for most species in the  
601 remote downstream areas was <20 % in the lower boundary layer (altitude <1000 m).  
602 In comparison, the contribution of long-range transported BB plume was 30–80 %, or  
603 even higher, for many of the trace constituents ( $\text{NO}_y$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$ , CO, OH,  $\text{O}_3$ , BC and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ )  
604 in the altitude range between 2000 and 4000 m for SC, Taiwan, and the ECS. The large  
605 influence of BB over Taiwan is most probably because the BB transport passes directly  
606 over Taiwan.

607 BB aerosols are potential sources of cloud nuclei. The WRF simulations estimate  
608 the effect of the BB plume on cloud water formation over SC and the ECS. We observe  
609 in the simulations cloud water enhancement over SC at elevations of 1000–4000 m.  
610 This increase of cloud water is consistent with an increase in aerosol, caused by BB  
611 emissions, transported from Indochina to SC. In remote regions of the ECS, the  
612 simulated cloud water was significantly larger during the major BB event on 19 March  
613 2018 than the minor BB event on 17 March 2018. The simulated decrease of the  
614 photolysis frequency ( $J(\text{O}^1\text{D})$  and  $J(\text{NO}_2)$ ) is attributed to the difference in aerosol  
615 concentrations and associated cloud enhancement between the two events over the ECS.  
616 This we explain by the significant differences in BB emissions transported to the ECS  
617 between the two events. The simulated downward shortwave flux at the noontime at  
618 ground surface due to BB was 2-4% and 5-7% reduction over the regions ECS and SC,  
619 respectively. The combination of increased BB aerosol concentration and increased  
620 amounts of cloud water led to reductions in the amount of incoming shortwave radiation  
621 at the surface over the ECS and SC. This influences tropospheric chemistry and  
622 composition, regional climate, precipitation, ocean biogeochemistry, agriculture, and  
623 human health.

624



625 ***Data availability***

626 The EMeRGe data are available at the HALO database  
627 (<https://doi.org/10.17616/R39Q0T>, DLR, 2022) and can be accessed upon registration.  
628 Modeling data can be made available upon request to the corresponding author.

629 ***Author contribution***

630 CYL conceived the idea, analyzed the data, writing and editing of the manuscript. WNC  
631 and YYC run the model and analyzed the data. CKC joined the manuscript  
632 discussion. CYLiu provided the MODIS data. HZ and HS provided trace gases data. EF  
633 provided acetonitrile data. FO performed the ozone measurement. OOK, BAH and  
634 MLP were responsible for the BC measurement. KK and JS were responsible for C-  
635 ToF-MS measurements. KP and BW provided HONO data. JPB and MDAH led the  
636 EMeRGe-Asia experiment. All authors have read and agree to the published version of  
637 the manuscript.

638 ***Competing interests***

639 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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850 Table 1: WRF-Chem model configuration and physics and chemistry options in this  
 851 study. (RRTMG=Rapid Radiative Transfer Model for General Circulation Models;  
 852 FINN=Fire Inventory from National Center for Atmospheric Research)  
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Resolution	10km
Microphysics	Lin
Cumulus parameterization	Grell 3D ensemble scheme
Planetary Boundary Layer	Mellor-Yamada-Janjic TKE scheme
Longwave radiation	RRTMG
Shortwave radiation	RRTMG
Fire emissions	FINN V1.5
Anthropogenic emissions	MICS-Asia III(2010) + Taiwan Emission Data System ver 9.0 (2013)
Biogenic emissions	MEGAN V2.04
Chemistry option	RACM Chemistry with MADE/VBS aerosols using KPP library along with the volatility basis set (VBS) used for Secondary Organic Aerosols
Photolysis option	Madronich
wet scavenging	On , (Neu and Prather, 2012)
Cloud chemistry	On,
feedback from the aerosols to the radiation schemes	On
the time interval for calling the biomass-burning plume rise subroutine	180 min
feedback from the parameterized convection to the atmospheric radiation and the photolysis schemes	On
Subgrid-scale wet scavenging	on
Subgrid aqueous chemistry	on

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863 Table 2 Observed and simulated mean values for bias (BIAS), root mean square error  
 864 (RMSE), and correlation coefficients (R) for EMeRGe HALO flights on 17 and 19  
 865 March 2018. KET\*: the observed Acetone is applied to compare with simulated ketones  
 866 (KET).

	OBS_ave	SIM_ave	BIAS	RMSE	R
THETA(K)	304.8	304.2	-0.6	1.1	0.99
WS(m/s)	9.1	8.5	-0.6	2.0	0.94
RH(%)	63.6	62.9	-0.6	10.7	0.92
OA( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	1.2	1.4	0.3	1.1	0.61
BC( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.74
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	1.1	2.5	1.4	2.3	0.42
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.2	0.6	0.5	2.1	0.31
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.4	0.7	0.3	1.2	0.49
CO(ppb)	170.8	191.8	20.9	72.8	0.45
SO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	0.2	0.7	0.4	1.2	0.55
O <sub>3</sub> (ppb)	59.7	63.2	3.5	14.4	0.43
NO <sub>x</sub> (ppb)	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.72
NO <sub>y</sub> (ppb)	1.2	2.6	1.3	2.3	0.03
KET* (ppb)	1.4	1.6	0.1	0.9	0.59
TOL(ppb)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.75
XYL(ppb)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.40
HCHO(ppb)	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.51
HONO(ppb)	10.5	1.0	-9.4	15.3	0.56

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868 Table 3 Observed and simulated mean values at an elevation between 2 km and 4 km  
 869 for bias (BIAS), root mean square error (RMSE), and correlation coefficients (R) during  
 870 EMeRGe HALO flights on 17 and 19 March 2018. KET\*: the observed Acetone is  
 871 applied to compare with simulated ketones (KET).

	OBS_ave	SIM_ave	BIAS	RMSE	R
THETA(K)	307.5	306.7	-0.7	0.9	0.98
WS(m/s)	8.2	7.9	-0.3	1.7	0.93
RH(%)	55.8	56.0	0.2	7.6	0.96
OA( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	1.3	1.6	0.3	0.7	0.85
BC( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.79
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.8	2.5	1.7	2.1	0.20
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.3	0.13
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.52
CO(ppb)	164.4	228.7	64.2	85.4	0.58
SO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.07
O <sub>3</sub> (ppb)	60.1	72.6	12.5	15.0	0.55
NO <sub>x</sub> (ppb)	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.53
NO <sub>y</sub> (ppb)	1.0	3.6	2.6	3.0	0.51
KET*(ppb)	1.5	2.0	0.5	1.0	0.70
TOL(ppb)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.16
XYL(ppb)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.17
HCHO(ppb)	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.25
HONO(ppt)	6.0	0.6	-5.4	7.2	0.23

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892 Table 4: Simulated biomass burning contribution (with and without BB emission in  
893 Indochina) in percentage (%) on 17 and 19 March, 2018 for different regions: SCA,  
894 TWA, ECSA as shown in Figure 1a

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Average	SCA		TWA		ECSA	
	< 1KM	2-4KM	< 1KM	2-4KM	< 1KM	2-4KM
NO <sub>y</sub>	13.6	72.2	39.7	83.3	14.8	69.9
NO <sub>x</sub>	-1.3	58.1	2.9	71.1	1.4	51.0
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	7.5	46.0	15.1	55.6	7.6	34.4
OA	5.3	41.4	7.5	48.1	4.4	28.5
BC	8.0	79.5	16.4	81.4	6.8	47.9
OH	14.7	43.8	24.1	67.4	9.2	48.3
O <sub>3</sub>	18.8	34.2	23.2	39.2	9.2	31.3
CO	9.8	31.7	21.9	38.4	11.1	32.2
KET	6.2	17.8	9.5	27.5	7.2	24.7
HCHO	-4.2	9.8	-4.8	20.6	-4.7	10.4
HO <sub>2</sub>	8.8	2.6	15.2	35.8	6.3	23.2
J(O <sup>1</sup> D)	-1.5	-0.8	-1.1	0.5	-1.5	-1.0

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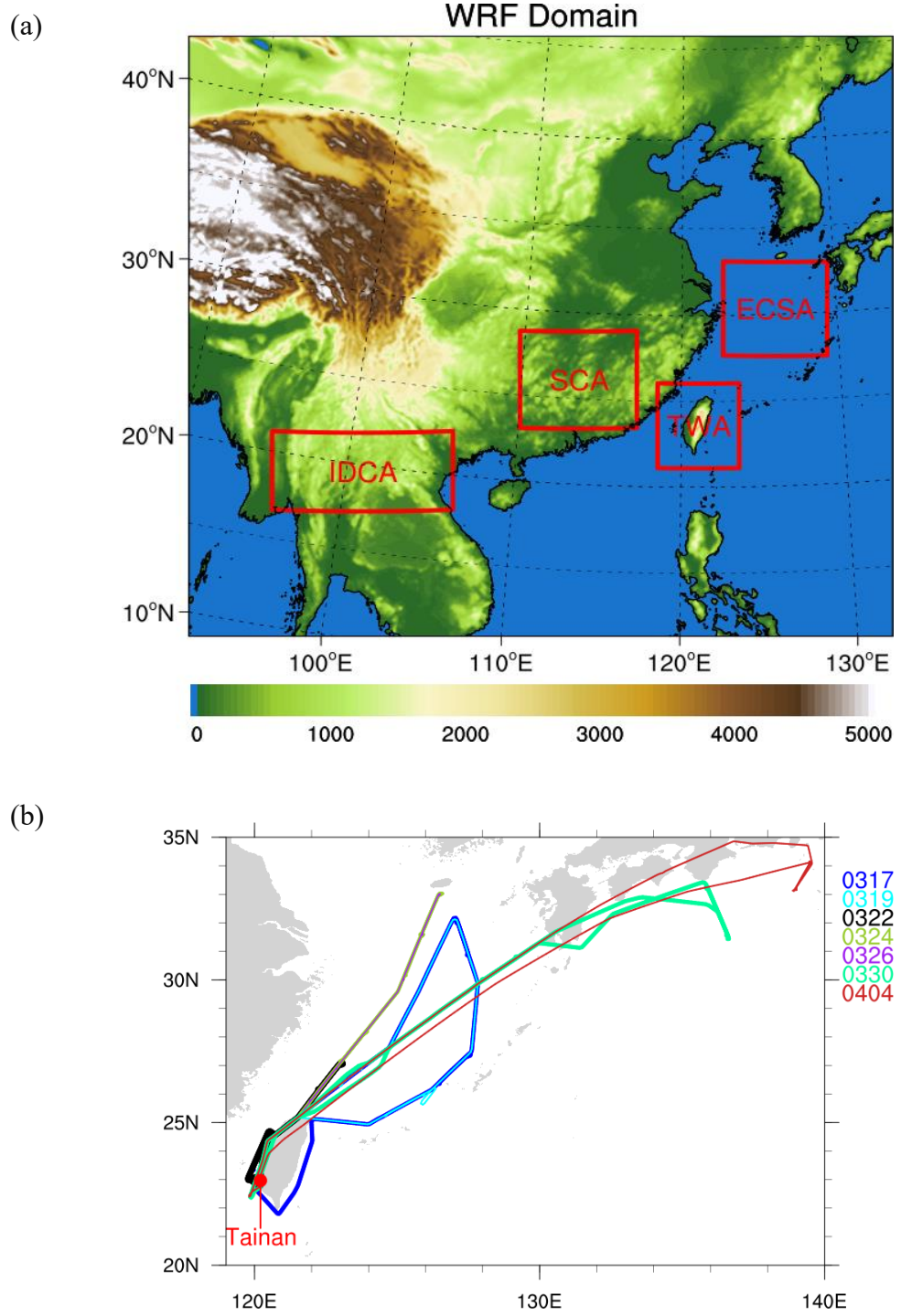
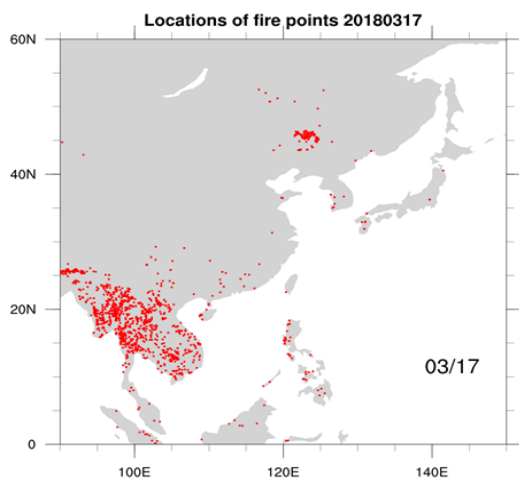
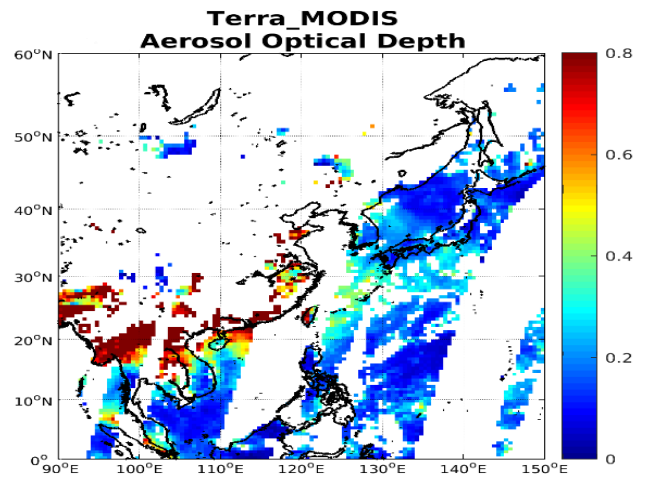


Figure 1 (a) Configuration of Weather Research and Forecasting model domain, topography, and location of proposed study areas in East Asia, namely IDCA (Indochina area), SCA (southern China area), TWA (Taiwan area) and ECSA (East China Sea area, respectively. (b) The HALO flights on 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 30 March, and 04 April during EMERGE Asia campaign. Different colors indicated different flights over East Asia. Maps and plots were produced using NCAR Command Language (NCL) version 6.6.2.

942 (a)

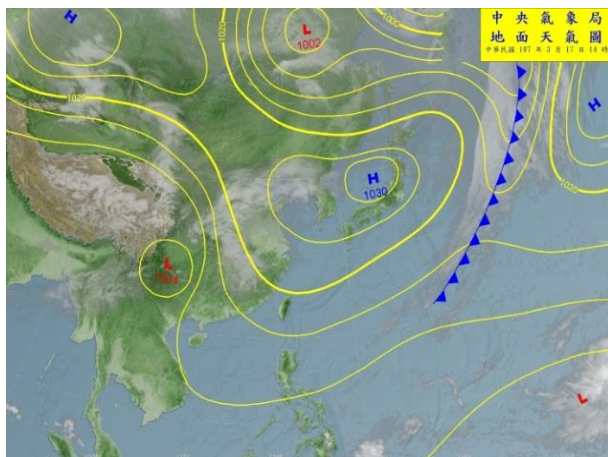


(b)

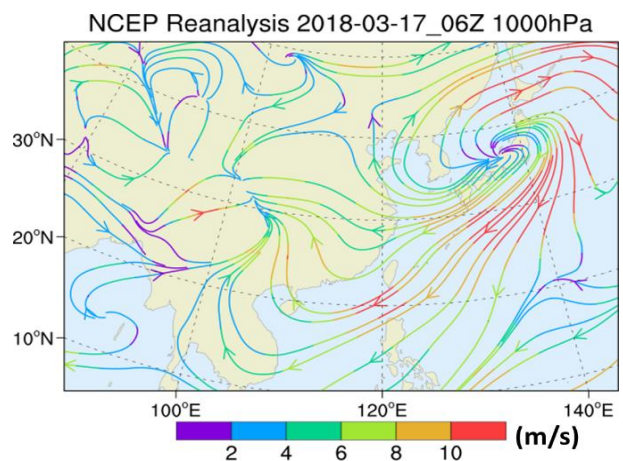


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944 (c)



(d)



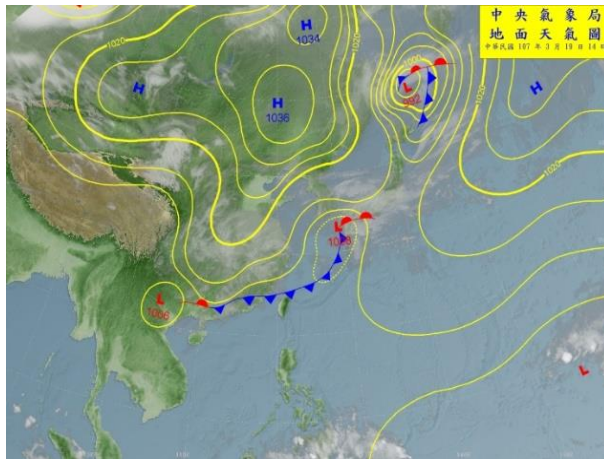
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946 Fig.2 (a) MODIS fire hot spots on 17 March 2018 (source: [https://modis-](https://modis-fire.umd.edu/guides.html)  
 947 [fire.umd.edu/guides.html](https://modis-fire.umd.edu/guides.html)) and (b) Composited Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) from  
 948 MODIS onboard NASA Terra satellite. The Collection 6.1 AOD is downloaded from  
 949 NASA Earth Data website (<https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/learn/find-data>), and  
 950 composited for 0110, 0115, 0120, 0125, 0130, 0250, 0255, 0300, 0305, 0310, 0430,  
 951 0435, 0440, 0445, 0610, 0615, 0620, 0745 and 0750UTC data granules on 17 March  
 952 2018. (c) weather Chart at 06:00 UTC on 17 March 2018 (d) 1000 hPa streamlines at  
 953 06:00 UTC, 17 March 2018 (e) and (f) same as (c) and (d) but on 19 March 2018 ;(g)  
 954 700 hPa streamlines at 06:00 UTC, on 17 March 2018 (h) 700 hPa geopotential height  
 955 at 06:00 UTC, on 17 March 2018; (i) and (j) same as (g) and (h) but on 19 March  
 956 2018.

957 Near-surface weather charts and satellite images were provided by Central Weather  
 958 Bureau (CWB) Taiwan. The near-surface and 700 hPa streamlines and geopotential  
 959 height were deduced from NCEP Reanalysis data. Maps and plots were produced using  
 960 NCAR Command Language (NCL) version 6.6.2.



961 (e)

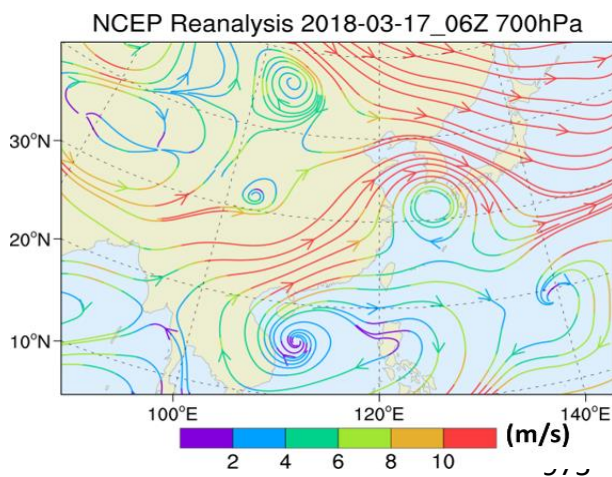


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964 (g)

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979 Figure 2 e-h continued

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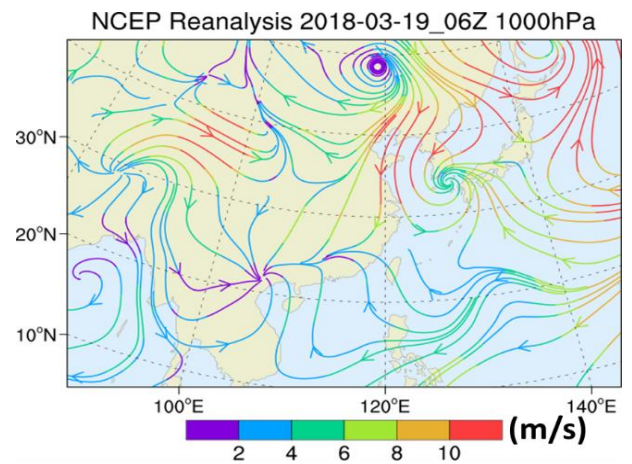
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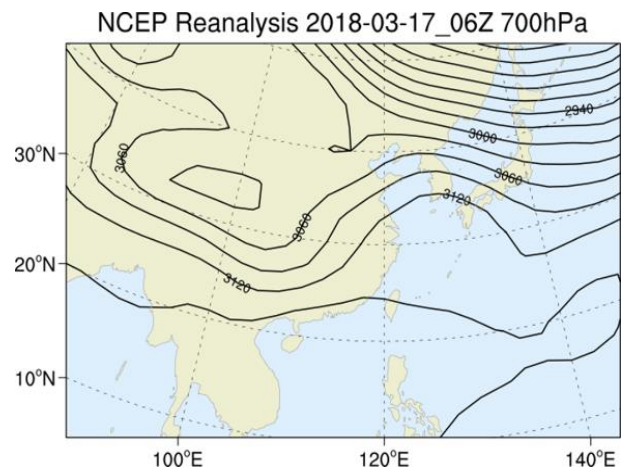
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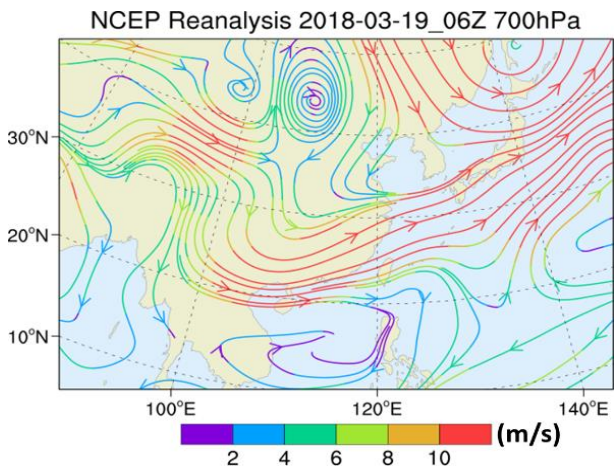
(f)



(h)

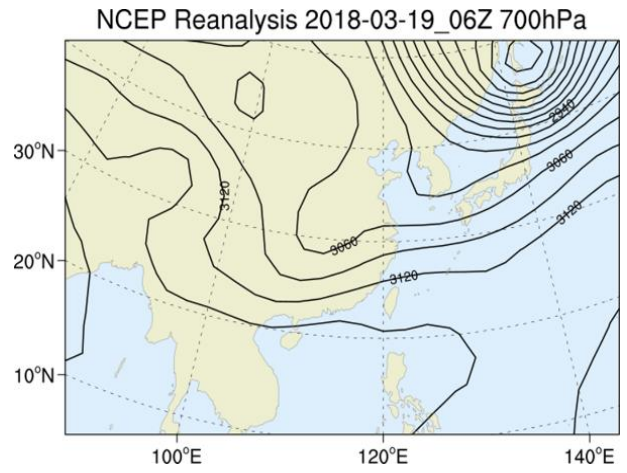


989 (i)  
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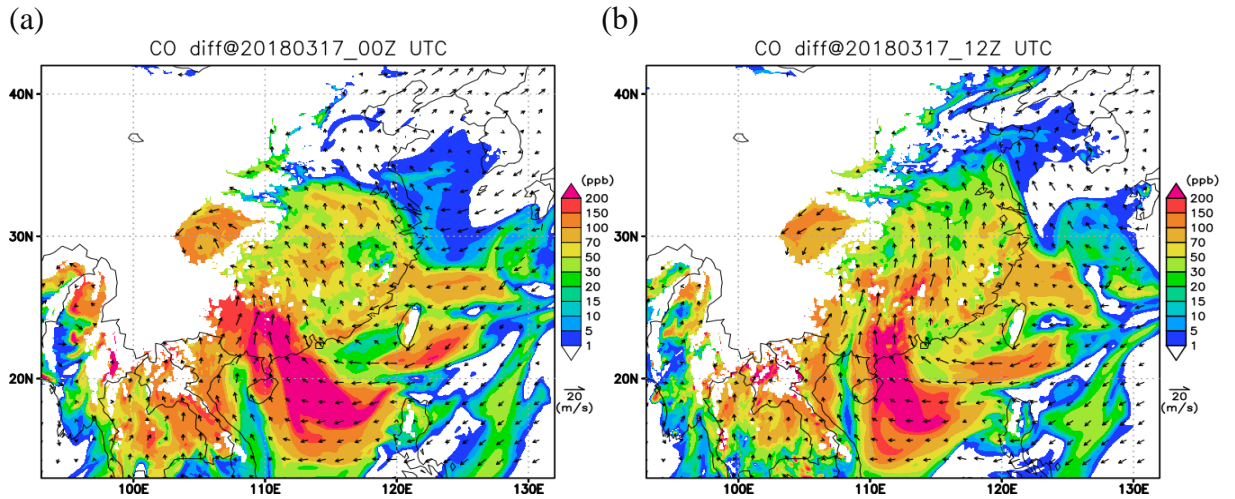
(j)



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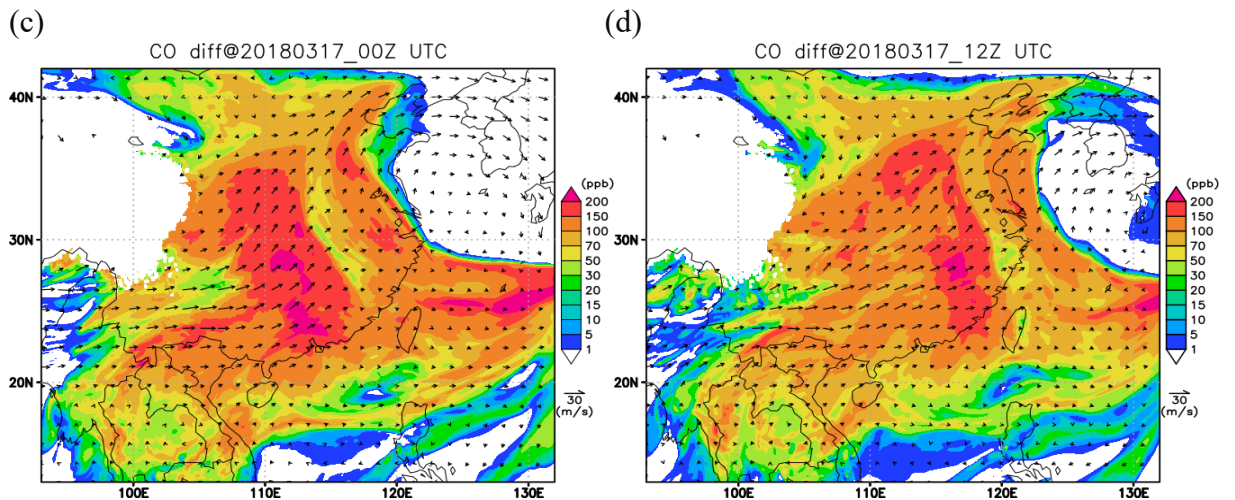
Fig. 2 i-j continued

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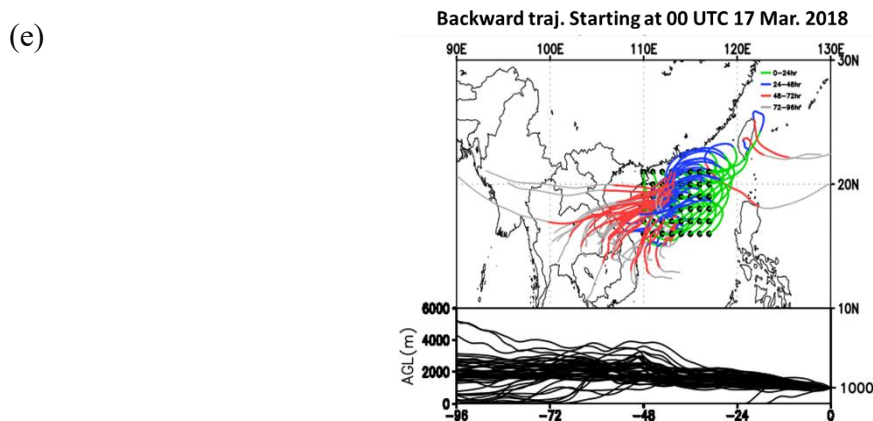
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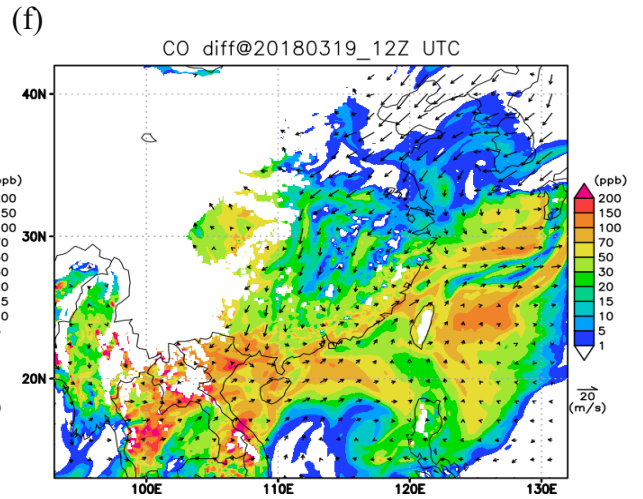
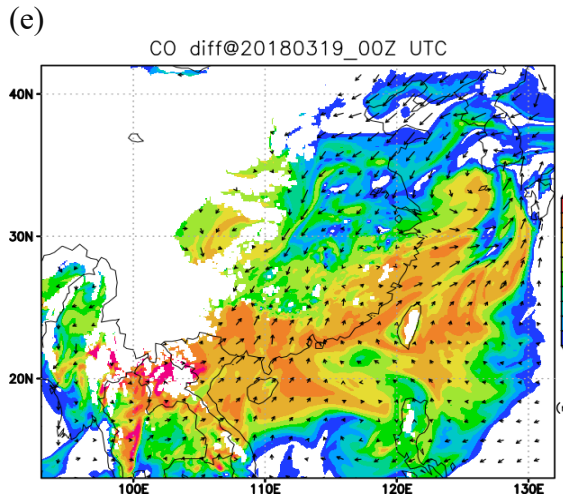
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1031 Fig 3. Simulated wind field ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) distribution and concentration (unit: ppb) difference  
 1032 with and without BB emission for CO on 17 March, 2018 at 00:00 UTC (a, c) and 12:00  
 1033 UTC (b, d) for 1km altitude (a, b) and 3km altitude (c, d). (unit: ppb). (e) **The results of**  
 1034 **the HYSPLIT model backward trajectory analysis at 1000 meters with multiple points**  
 1035 **by  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  in the area (110-115°E, 17.5-22.5°N) of East China Sea started at 00:00 UTC**  
 1036 **17 March 2018.**

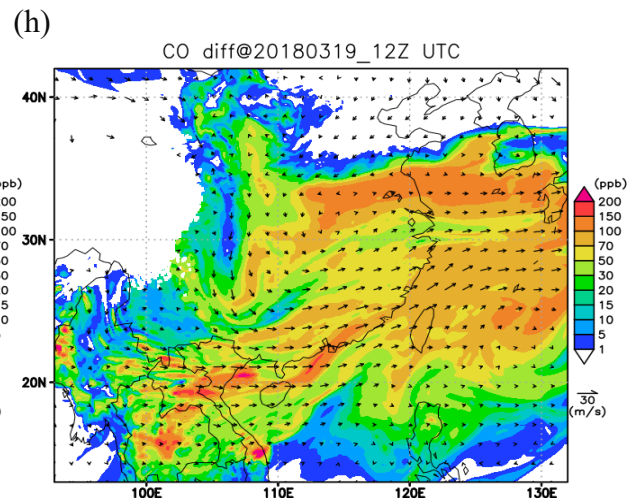
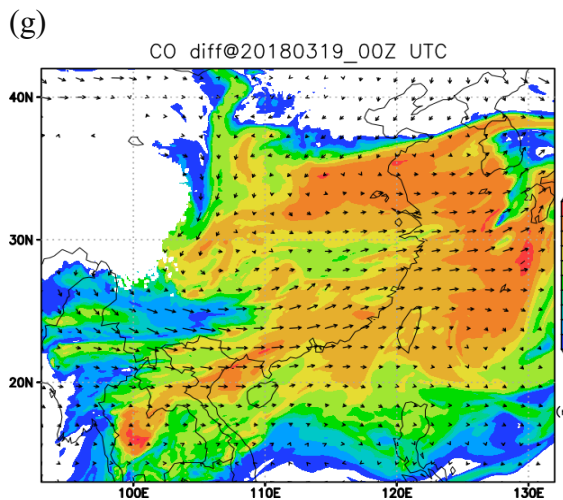


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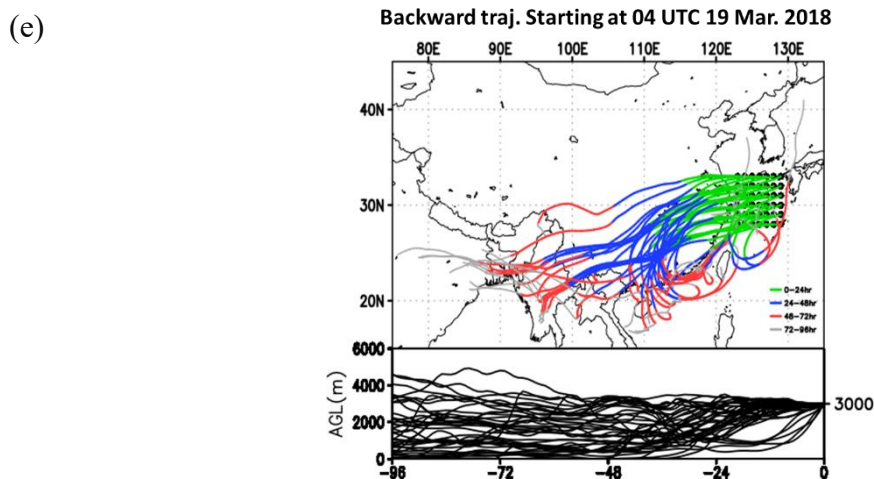
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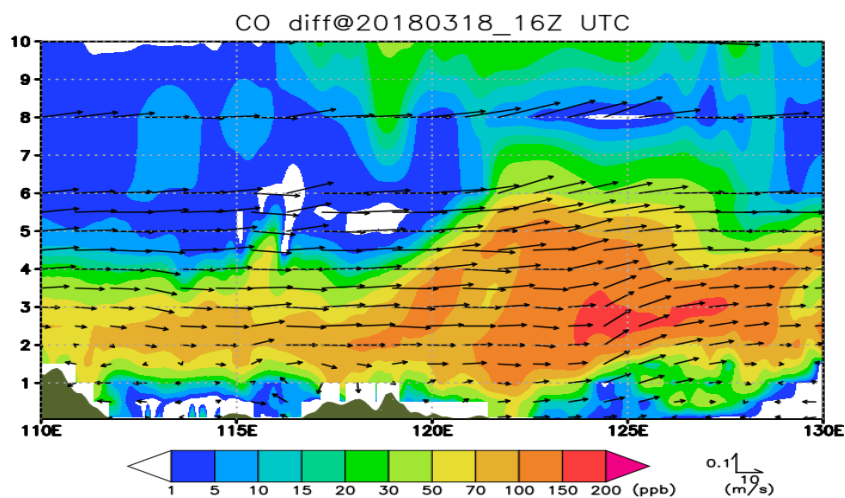
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Fig 4 Simulated wind field ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and concentration (unit: ppb) difference with and without BB emission for CO on 19 March, 2018 at 00:00 UTC (e, g) and 12:00 UTC (f, h) for 1km altitude (e, f) and 3km altitude (g, h). (e) The results of the HYSPLIT model backward trajectory analysis at 3000 meters with multiple points by  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  in the area ( $122\text{-}130^\circ\text{E}$ ,  $28\text{-}33^\circ\text{N}$ ) of East China Sea started at 04:00 UTC 19 March 2018.



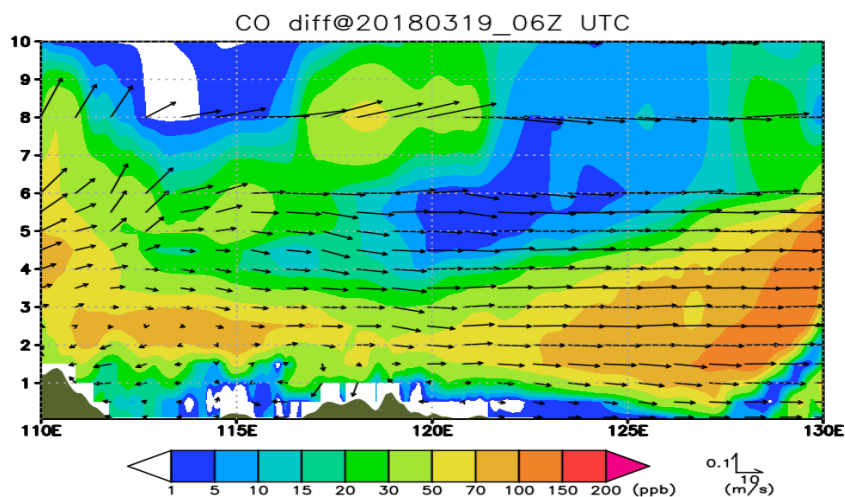
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(a)



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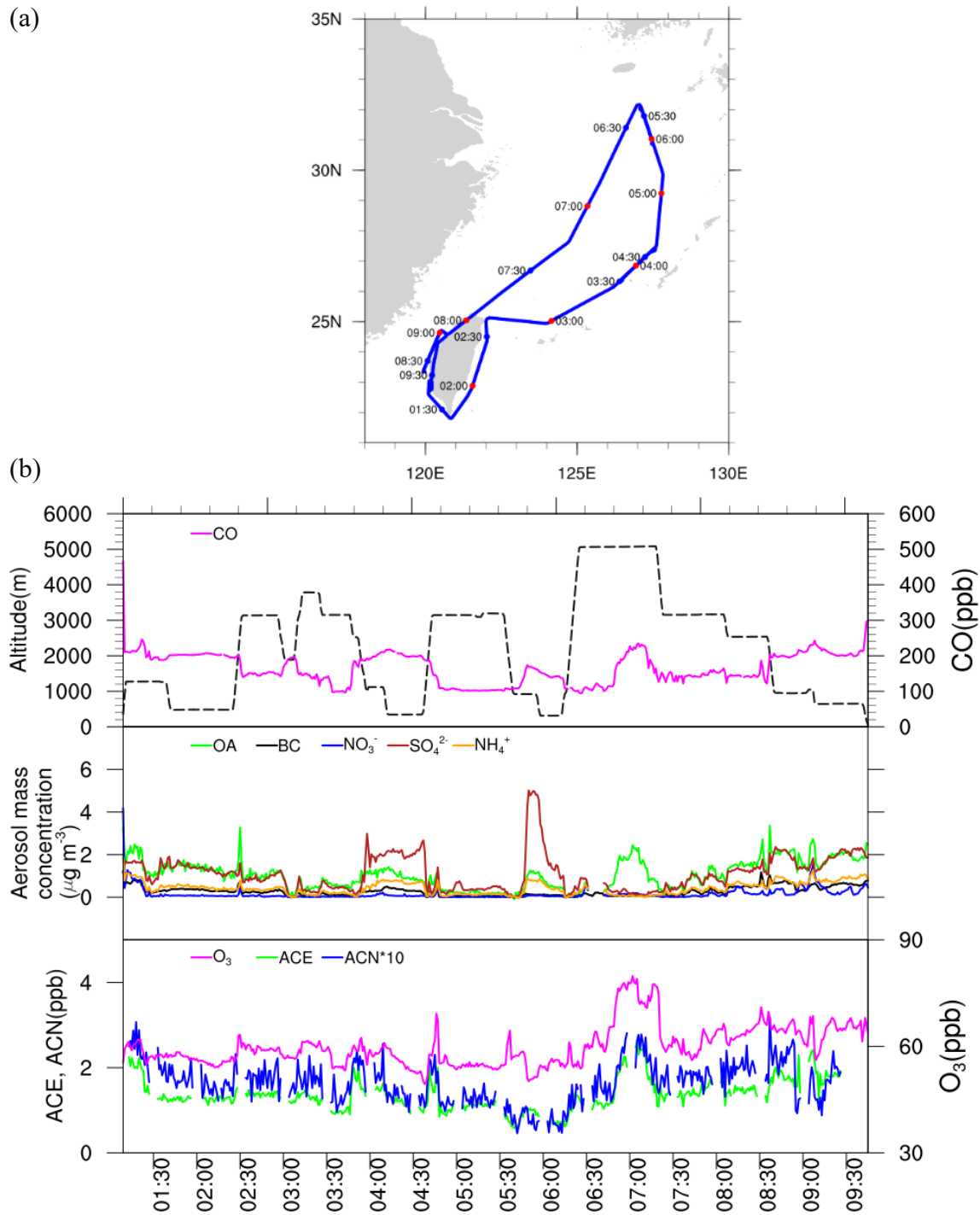
(b)



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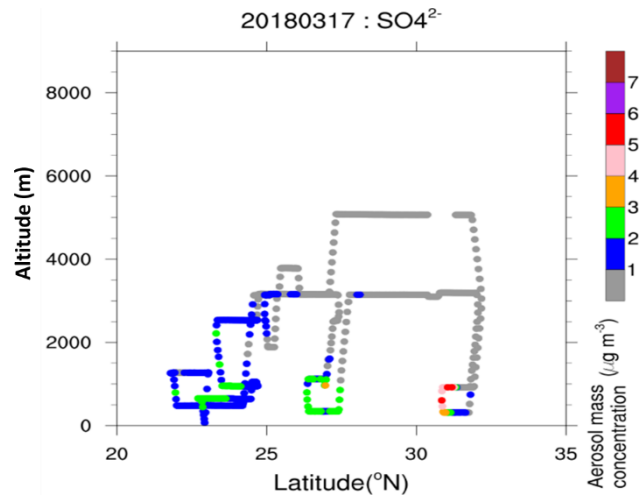
Fig. 5 Simulated wind field ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) distribution and the concentration (ppb) difference between with and without BB emission for CO at cross-section  $30^\circ\text{N}$  (a) 16:00 UTC 18 March 2018 (b) 06:00 UTC, 19 March 2018. Wind vectors represent along section winds, with scales shown at the down-right corner of plot (unit:  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

1080 (a)  
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 1091 (b)



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 1093 Fig. 6 (a) The HALO flight and detailed locations on 17 March 2018. (b) Flight altitude  
 1094 and 1-min mean of observed concentrations for CO (upper), Organic aerosol (OA), BC  
 1095 aerosol (BC),  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  (middle),  $\text{O}_3$ , acetone (ACE) and acetonitrile (ACN)  
 1096 (bottom) on 17 March. (c) The observed  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass concentration by HALO along  
 1097 with height-latitude variations on 17 March 2018 (d) The observed OA mass  
 1098 concentration by HALO along with height-latitude variations on 17 March 2018 (e)  
 1099 Result of the HYSPLIT model backward trajectory analysis started at the location of  
 1100 the HALO flight path at 02:00, 04:00, 06:00, 09:00 UTC on 17 March 2018.

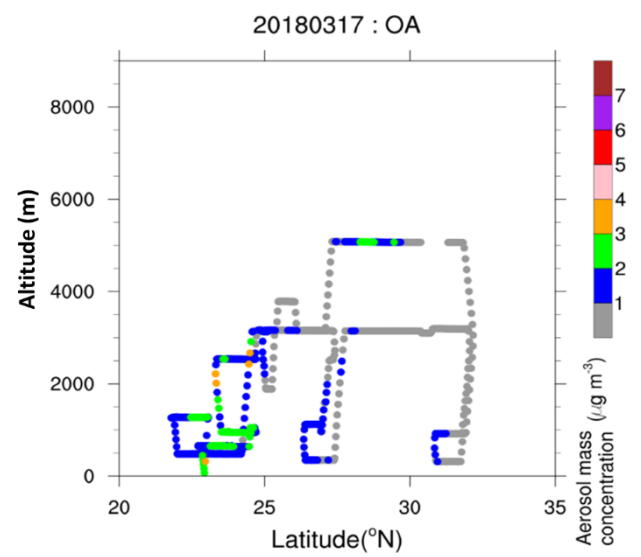
1101 (c)



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1113 (d)



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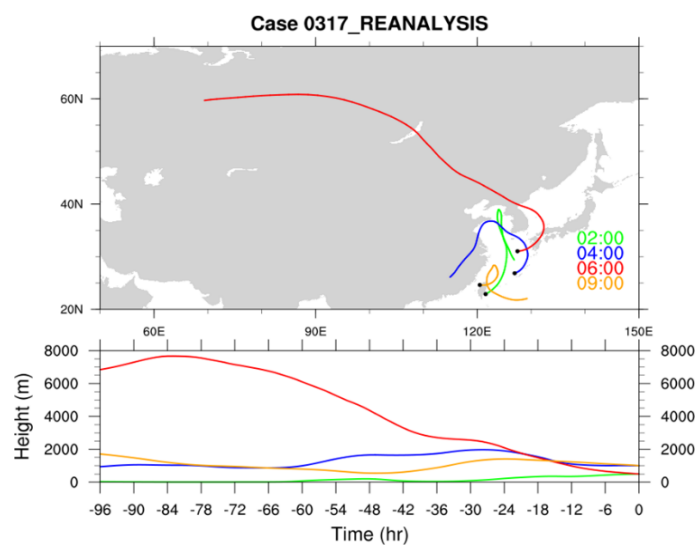
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1125 (e)



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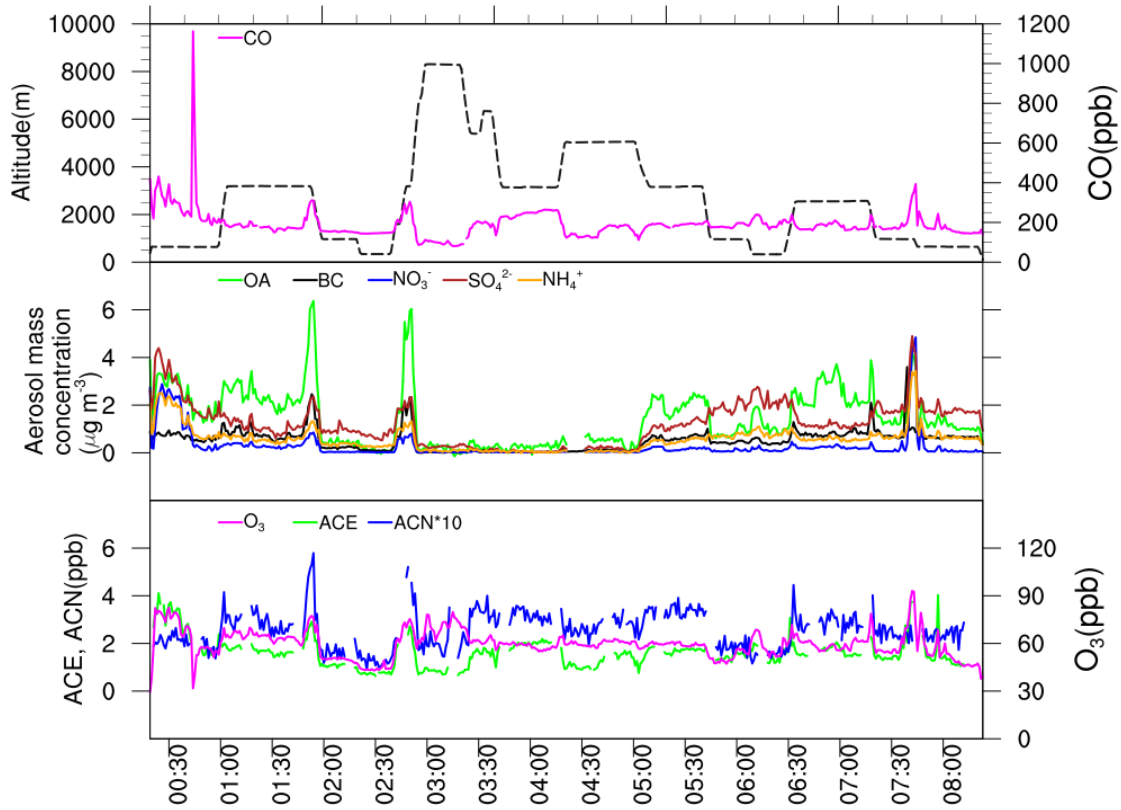
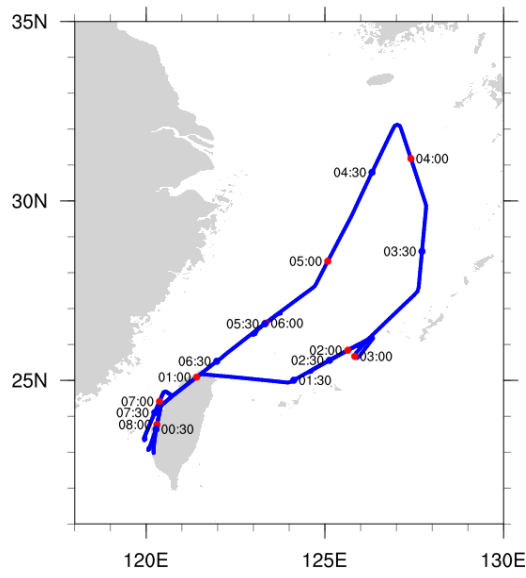
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1137 Figure 6 c-e

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1139 (a)  
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 1151 (b)



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Figure 7 (a) The HALO flight and detailed locations on 19 March. (b) Flight altitude and 1-min mean of observed concentrations for CO (upper), Organic aerosol (OA), BC aerosol (BC),  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  (middle),  $\text{O}_3$ , acetone (ACE) and Acetonitrile (ACN) (bottom) on 19 March 2018. (c) The observed  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  mass concentration by HALO along with height-latitude variations on 19 March 2018 (d) The observed OA mass concentration by HALO along with height-latitude variations on 19 March 2018 (e) Result of the HYSPLIT model backward trajectory analysis started at the location of the HALO flight path at 02:00, 04:00, 05:00, 07:00 UTC on 19 March 2018.

1161 (c)

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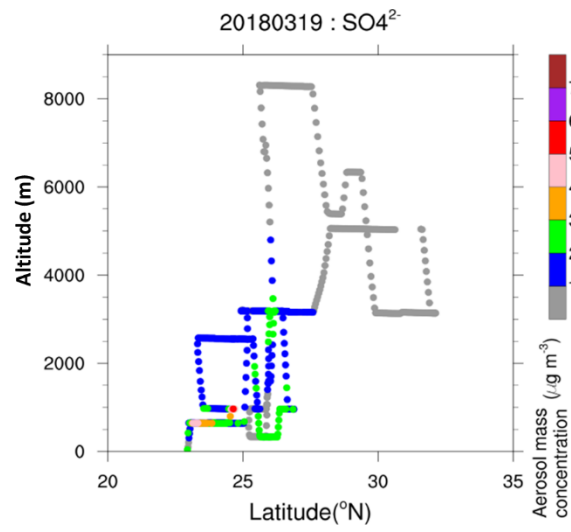
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1173 (d)

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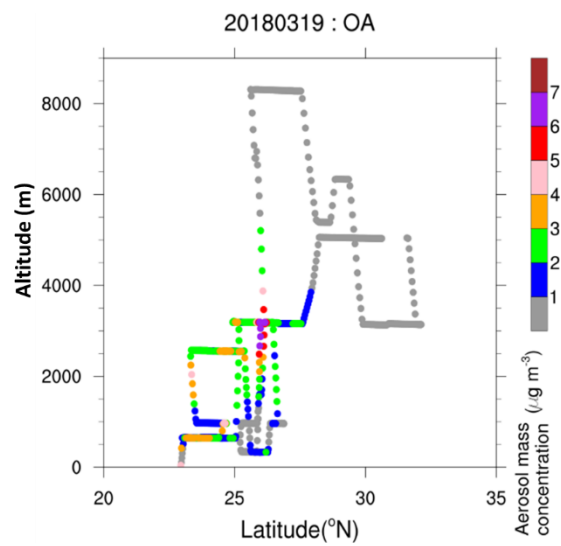
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1186 (e)

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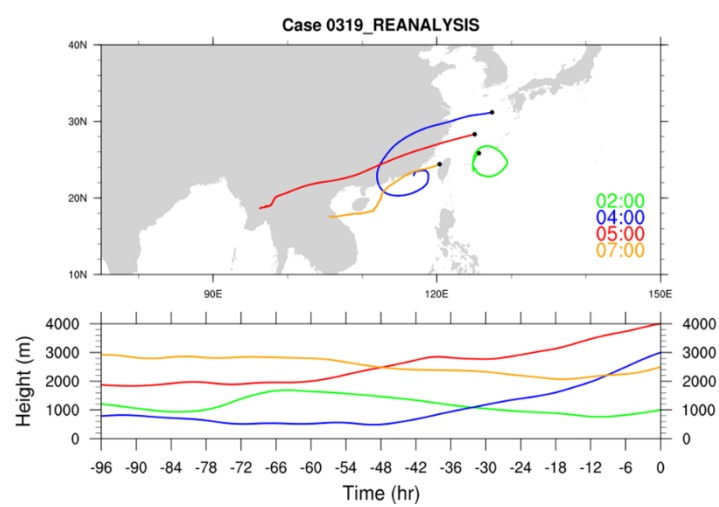
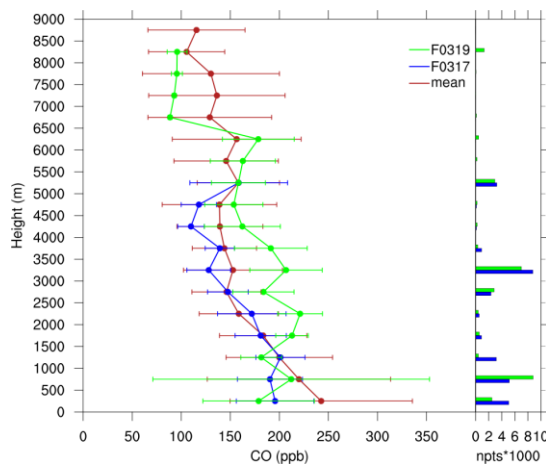
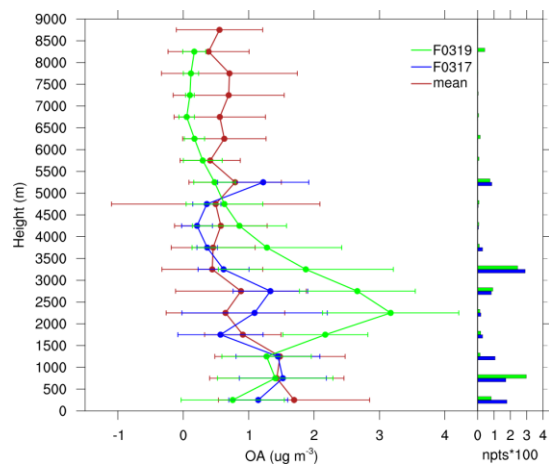


Figure 7 c-e

1199 (a)  
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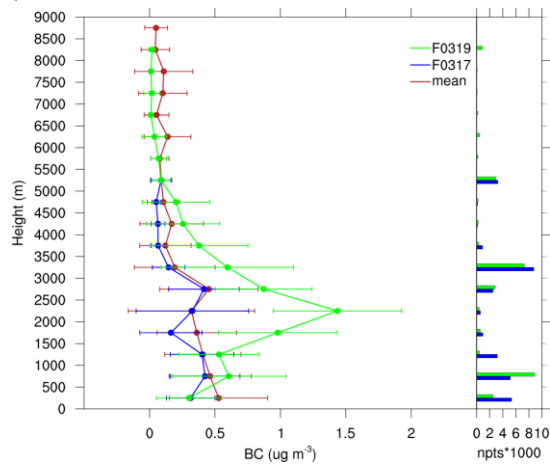


(b)

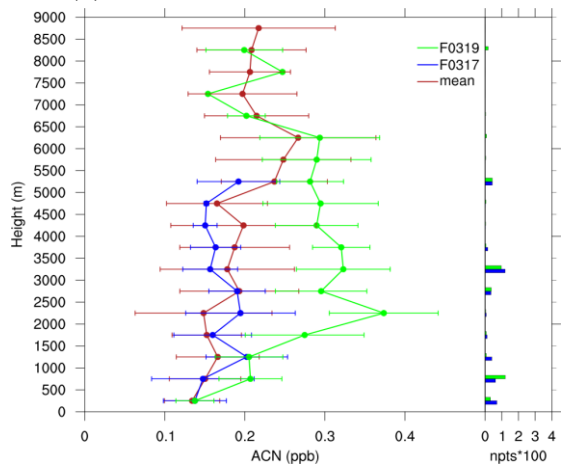


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1202 (c)



(d)



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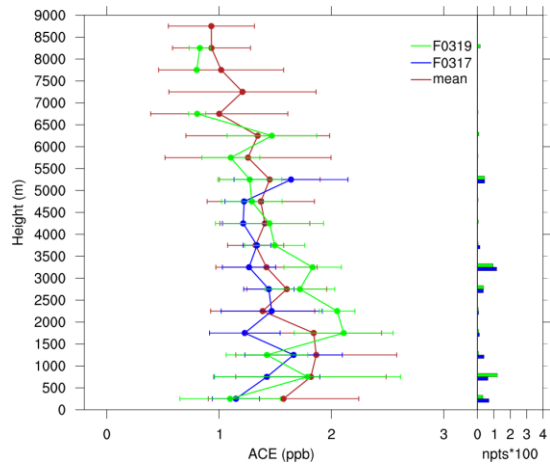
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1207 Fig.8 Observed vertical distribution calculated as 1-min mean and 500 m interval with  
1208 one standard deviation of the concentrations for the mean profiles (red) (including 17,  
1209 19, 22, 24, 26, 30 March, and 04 April 2018) and flights on 17 (blue) and 19 (green)  
1210 March 2018. (a) CO (b) OA (c) BC (d) Acetonitrile (ACN) (e) Acetone (ACE) (f) O<sub>3</sub>  
1211 (g) J (O<sup>1</sup>D) (h) NO<sub>y</sub>. The number of data points is shown in the right panel.

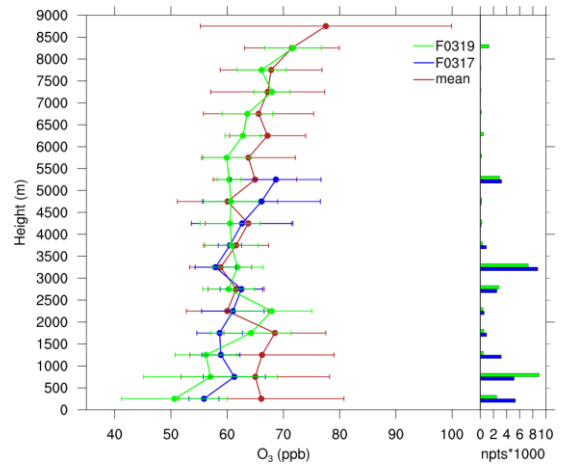
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1214 (e)

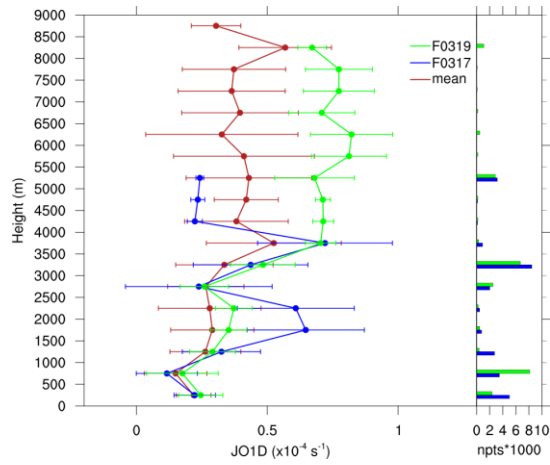


(f)

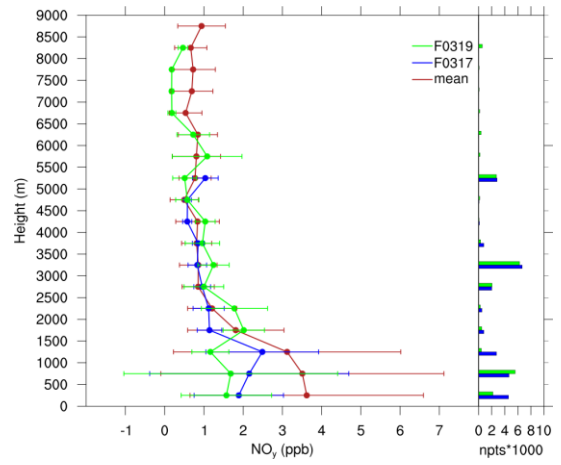


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1216 (g)



(h)



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1223 Fig. 8 continued

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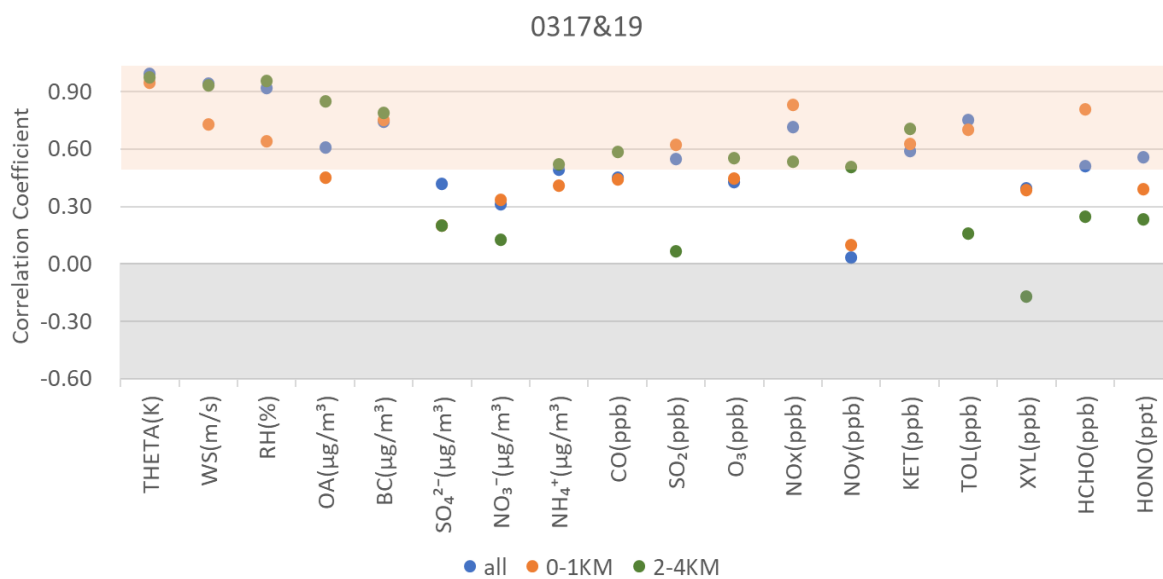
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1235 Fig. 9 Correlation Coefficient (R) between observation and simulation along with the  
1236 HALO flights at the elevations 0-1 km, 2-4 km, and the whole track (all) on 17 and 19  
1237 March 2018.

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1257 (a)

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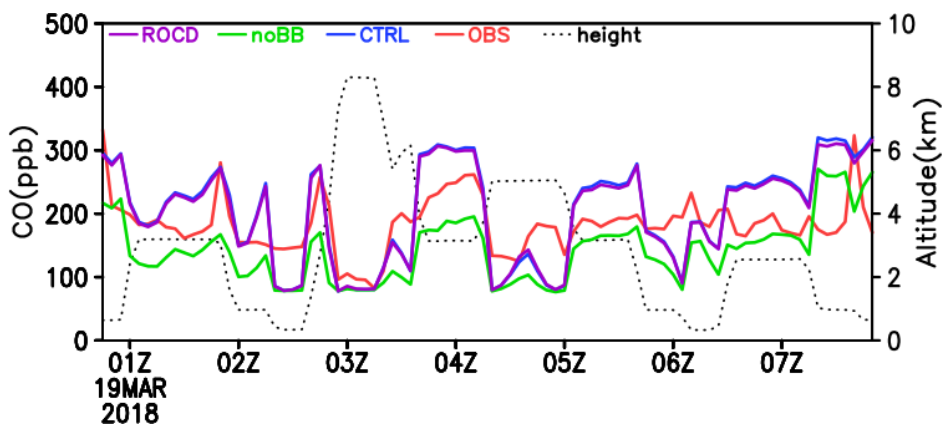
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1268 (b)

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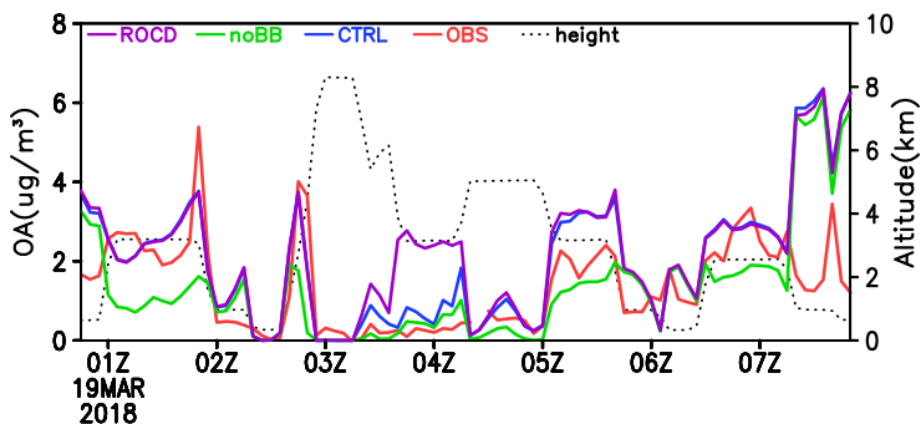
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1279 (c)

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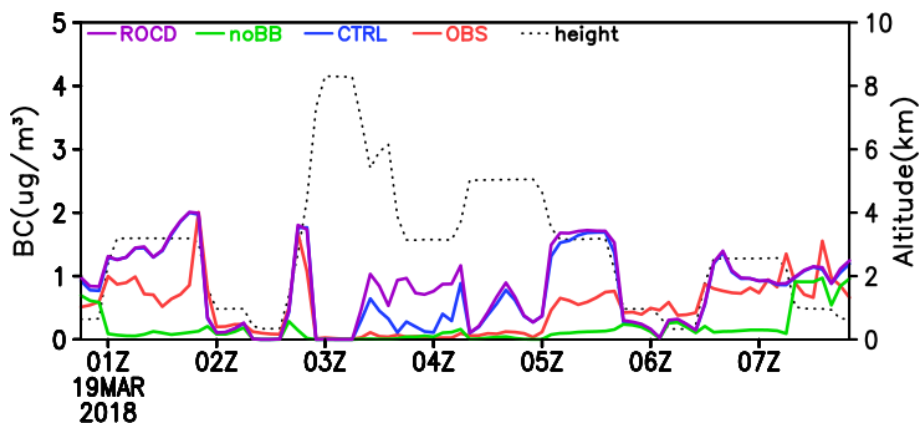
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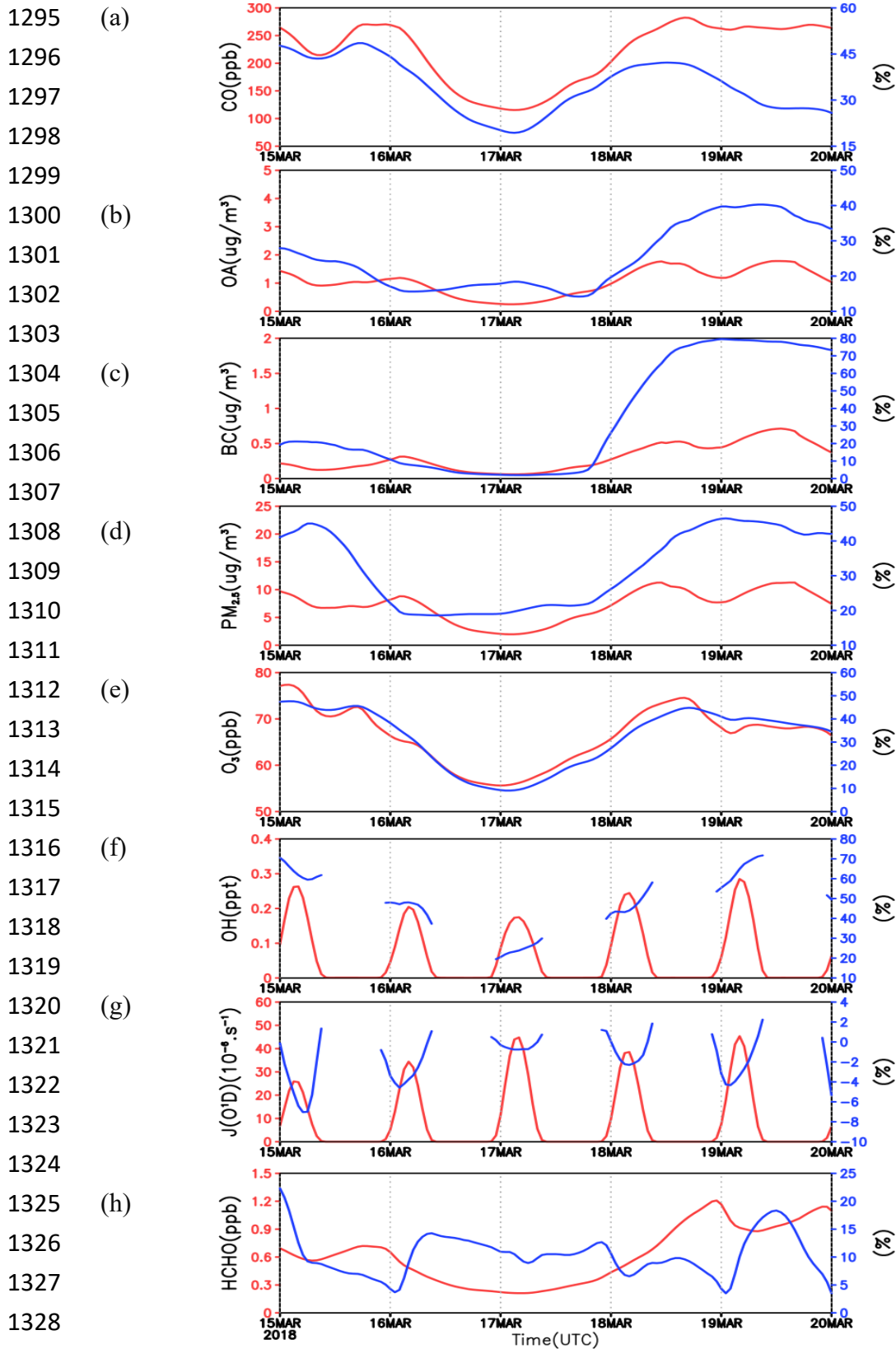
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1291 Fig.10 Observed (OBS, red) and simulated concentration (CTRL, blue), and the simulation  
1292 without indirect effect (ROCD, purple), without BB emission (noBB, green) along with the  
1293 flight altitude for (a) CO (ppb) (b) OA ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) (c) BC ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) on 19 March 2018.

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1330 Fig. 11 Hourly variation of simulated mean concentration (red) and contributed by BB  
 1331 (%) (blue) between 2 km and 4 km over the region ECSA in Fig.1a during 15-19 March  
 1332 2018. (a) CO (b) OA (c) BC (d) PM<sub>2.5</sub> (e)O<sub>3</sub> (f) OH (g) J(O<sup>1</sup>D), and (h) HCHO

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1334 (a)

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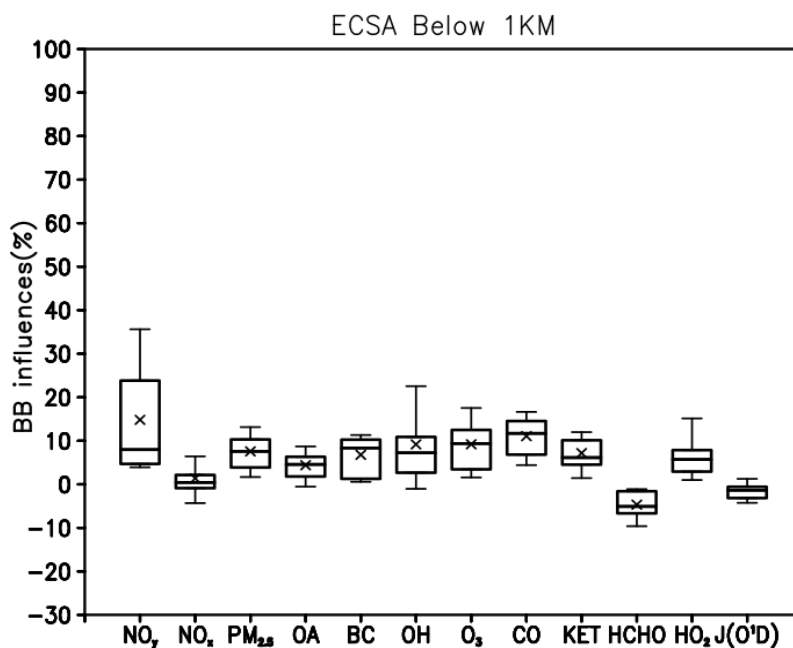
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1349 (b)

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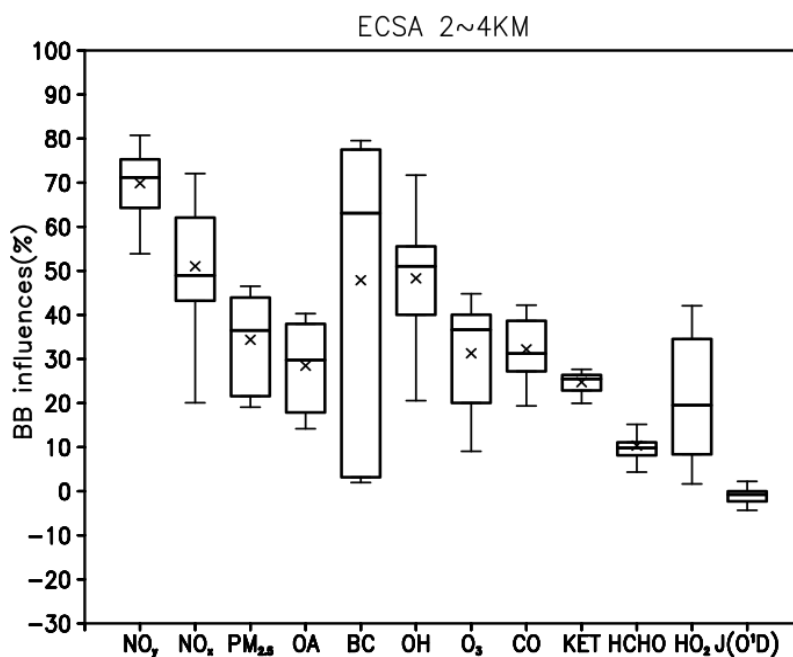
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Fig. 12 Box plots of simulated BB influences (%) on NO<sub>y</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, OA, BC, OH, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, KET, HCHO, HO<sub>2</sub>, and J(O<sup>1</sup>D) over the region ECSA in Fig. 1a on 17 and 19 March 2018. (a) below 1 km, (b) between 2 km and 4 km

1371 (a)

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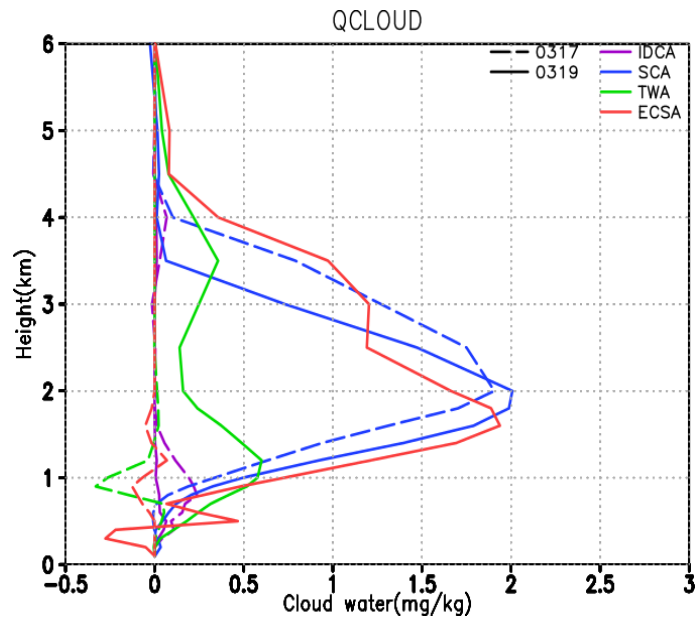
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1386 (b)

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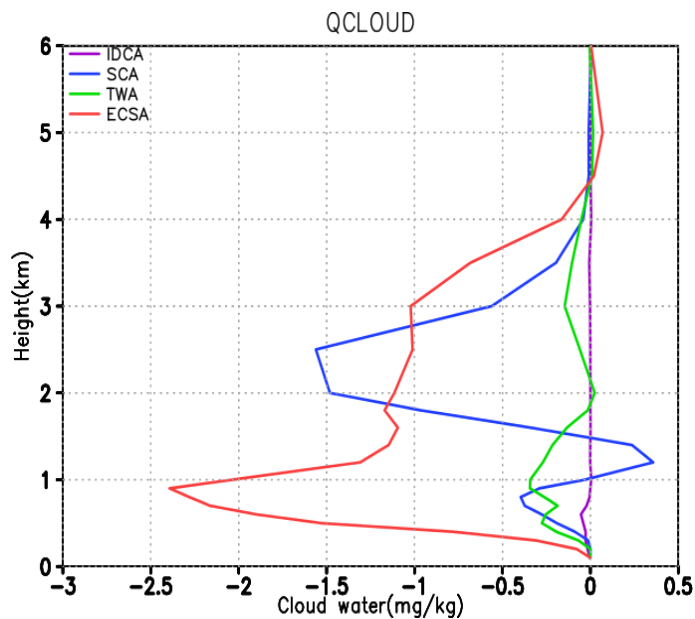
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1403 Fig. 13 (a) Simulated vertical distribution of BB influences on cloud water difference

1404 between with and without BB emission on 17 (dash) and 19 (solid) March 2018. (b)

1405 Simulated vertical distribution of cloud water difference between with and without

1406 indirect effect in the model on 19 March 2018.

1407 Regions include IDCA, SCA, TWA, and ECSA as shown in Figure 1a.

1408