

Supplement of Atmos. Chem. Phys., 16, 10313–10332, 2016
<http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/16/10313/2016/>
doi:10.5194/acp-16-10313-2016-supplement
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Atmospheric
Chemistry
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Supplement of

Evaluation of European air quality modelled by CAMx including the volatility basis set scheme

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Supplement

Table S1*. Properties of the VBS space (adapted from Koo et al., 2014). Carbon numbers for each volatility bin are calculated using the group-contribution of Donahue et al. (2011).

Basis sets	C* ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	Carbon oxidation state	Carbon Number	Oxygen Number	Hydrogen number	Molecular weight	OA/OC
SV-OOA	0	0.102	7	4.90	9.10	172	2.05
	1	-0.188	7.25	4.38	10.1	167	1.92
	10	-0.463	7.5	3.84	11.2	163	1.81
	100	-0.724	7.75	3.30	12.2	158	1.70
	1000	-0.973	8	2.74	13.3	153	1.59
HOA-like	0	-1.52	17	2.69	31.3	278	1.36
	1	-1.65	17.5	2.02	33.0	275	1.31
	10	-1.78	18	1.34	34.7	272	1.26
	100	-1.90	18.5	0.632	36.4	268	1.21
	1000	-2.00	19	0.0	38.0	266	1.17
BBOA-like	0	-0.704	10	4.32	15.7	205	1.71
	1	-1.02	11	3.60	18.4	208	1.58
	10	-1.29	12	2.85	21.1	211	1.47
	100	-1.52	13	2.08	23.9	213	1.37
	1000	-1.73	14	1.27	26.7	215	1.28

* Properties of the lowest volatility bins refer to all OA with $C^* \leq 0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (non-volatile OA).

Table S2. Statistical analysis for nitrate for February-March 2009 at different AMS sites with 50% reduction of ammonia scenario.

Site	Mean	Mean modelled	Mean modelled	MB	MB
	observed	NO ₃ ⁻	NO ₃ ⁻	Base case	50% red.
	NO ₃ ⁻	Base case	50% red. NH ₃	(VBS_BC)	NH ₃
	(µg m ⁻³)	(µg m ⁻³)	(µg m ⁻³)	(µg m ⁻³)	(µg m ⁻³)
Barcelona	3.6	5.8	3.6	2.19	< 0.1
Cabauw	2.2	6.7	5.3	4.49	3.08
Chilbolton	2.7	4.0	2.7	1.33	< 0.1
Helsinki	1.0	1.9	0.7	0.93	-0.28
Hyytiälä	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.75	< 0.1
Mace Head	0.6	1.7	0.8	1.11	0.17
Melpitz	3.1	4.3	3.1	1.25	< 0.1
Montseny	3.1	5.9	3.2	2.83	< 0.1
Payerne	3.9	5.7	5.0	1.81	1.11
Puy de Dôme	0.9	2.7	2.0	1.81	1.15
Vavihill	2.8	3.7	2.3	0.89	-0.56

Table S3. Statistical analysis for the OA concentration and different sensitivity scenarios for February-March 2009 periods at 11 AMS sites.

Site	Mean observed OA ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Mean modelled OA ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	MB ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	ME ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	MFB [-]	MFE [-]
NOVBS						
Barcelona	8.2	2.0	-6.25	6.27	-1.08	1.10
Cabauw	1.2	1.0	-0.27	0.52	-0.18	0.49
Chilbolton	2.4	0.6	-1.82	1.82	-1.14	1.15
Helsinki	2.7	2.0	-0.64	1.46	-0.21	0.64
Hyytiälä	1.3	0.6	-0.67	0.69	-0.69	0.72
Mace Head	0.8	0.2	-0.61	0.62	-0.71	0.90
Melpitz	1.5	0.5	-0.98	0.99	-0.86	0.88
Montseny	3.1	2.5	-0.53	1.69	-0.05	0.62
Payerne	4.1	1.1	-2.97	2.99	-1.03	1.07
Puy de Dôme	0.6	1.0	0.36	0.68	0.56	0.92
Vavihill	3.9	1.1	-2.79	2.79	-1.06	1.07
VBS_ROB						
Barcelona	8.2	1.3	-6.96	6.96	-1.39	1.39
Cabauw	1.2	0.4	-0.85	0.87	-0.96	1.01
Chilbolton	2.4	0.3	-2.10	2.10	-1.50	1.50
Helsinki	2.7	0.9	-1.73	1.76	-0.88	0.92
Hyytiälä	1.3	0.4	-0.90	0.90	-1.18	1.18
Mace Head	0.8	0.2	-0.54	0.57	-0.43	0.77
Melpitz	1.5	0.2	-1.26	1.26	-1.48	1.48
Montseny	3.1	1.6	-1.51	1.87	-0.51	0.78
Payerne	4.1	0.7	-3.44	3.44	-1.45	1.46
Puy de Dôme	0.6	0.5	-0.15	0.46	-0.14	0.81
Vavihill	3.9	0.4	-3.44	3.44	-1.61	1.61
VBS_BC						

Barcelona	8.2	3.1	-5.11	5.15	-0.80	0.82
Cabauw	1.2	1.1	-0.14	0.53	-0.13	0.50
Chilbolton	2.4	0.7	-1.70	1.70	-1.09	1.10
Helsinki	2.7	2.9	0.26	1.64	0.08	0.62
Hyytiälä	1.3	1.0	-0.28	0.52	-0.48	0.60
Mace Head	0.8	0.4	-0.38	0.43	-0.29	0.70
Melpitz	1.5	0.5	-0.95	0.98	-0.94	0.97
Montseny	3.1	3.9	0.88	1.88	0.31	0.57
Payerne	4.1	1.8	-2.33	2.43	-0.85	0.90
Puy de Dôme	0.6	1.4	0.78	0.96	0.68	0.91
Vavihill	3.9	1.4	-2.53	2.53	-1.04	1.04

VBS_BC_2xBVOC

Barcelona	8.2	3.3	-4.98	5.03	-0.77	0.80
Cabauw	1.2	1.1	-0.11	0.54	-0.12	0.50
Chilbolton	2.4	0.7	-1.67	1.68	-1.08	1.09
Helsinki	2.7	2.9	0.26	1.64	0.08	0.62
Hyytiälä	1.3	1.0	-0.28	0.52	-0.48	0.60
Mace Head	0.8	0.4	-0.37	0.42	-0.29	0.70
Melpitz	1.5	0.5	-0.92	0.97	-0.92	0.96
Montseny	3.1	4.1	1.02	1.96	0.33	0.58
Payerne	4.1	1.8	-2.27	2.39	-0.83	0.88
Puy de Dôme	0.6	1.5	0.86	1.04	0.70	0.93
Vavihill	3.9	1.4	-2.51	2.51	-1.03	1.03

VBS_BC_2xBBOA

Barcelona	8.2	4.8	-3.43	3.91	-0.45	0.56
Cabauw	1.2	1.7	0.45	0.81	0.20	0.55
Chilbolton	2.4	1.0	-1.40	1.42	-0.87	0.89
Helsinki	2.7	5.0	2.32	2.93	0.50	0.75
Hyytiälä	1.3	1.9	0.59	0.96	0.07	0.54
Mace Head	0.8	0.5	-0.26	0.36	-0.23	0.68

Melpitz	1.5	0.9	-0.59	0.85	-0.55	0.70
Montseny	3.1	6.2	3.11	3.37	0.67	0.73
Payerne	4.1	3.2	-0.94	1.90	-0.37	0.57
Puy de Dôme	0.6	2.8	2.16	2.24	1.11	1.18
Vavihill	3.9	2.6	-1.31	1.93	-0.60	0.72

Table S4. Statistical analysis for the OA concentration and different sensitivity scenarios for June 2006 period at Payerne site.

Scenario	Mean observed OA ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Mean modelled OA ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	MB ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	ME ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	MFB [-]	MFE [-]
NOVBS	6.0	2.6	-3.5	3.5	-0.91	0.93
VBS_ROB	6.0	1.7	-4.3	4.3	-1.11	1.11
VBS_BC	6.0	2.4	-3.6	3.6	-0.85	0.86
VBS_BC_2xBVOC	6.0	3.4	-2.6	2.8	-0.63	0.66
VBS_BC_2xBBOA	6.0	2.8	-3.3	3.3	-0.75	0.76

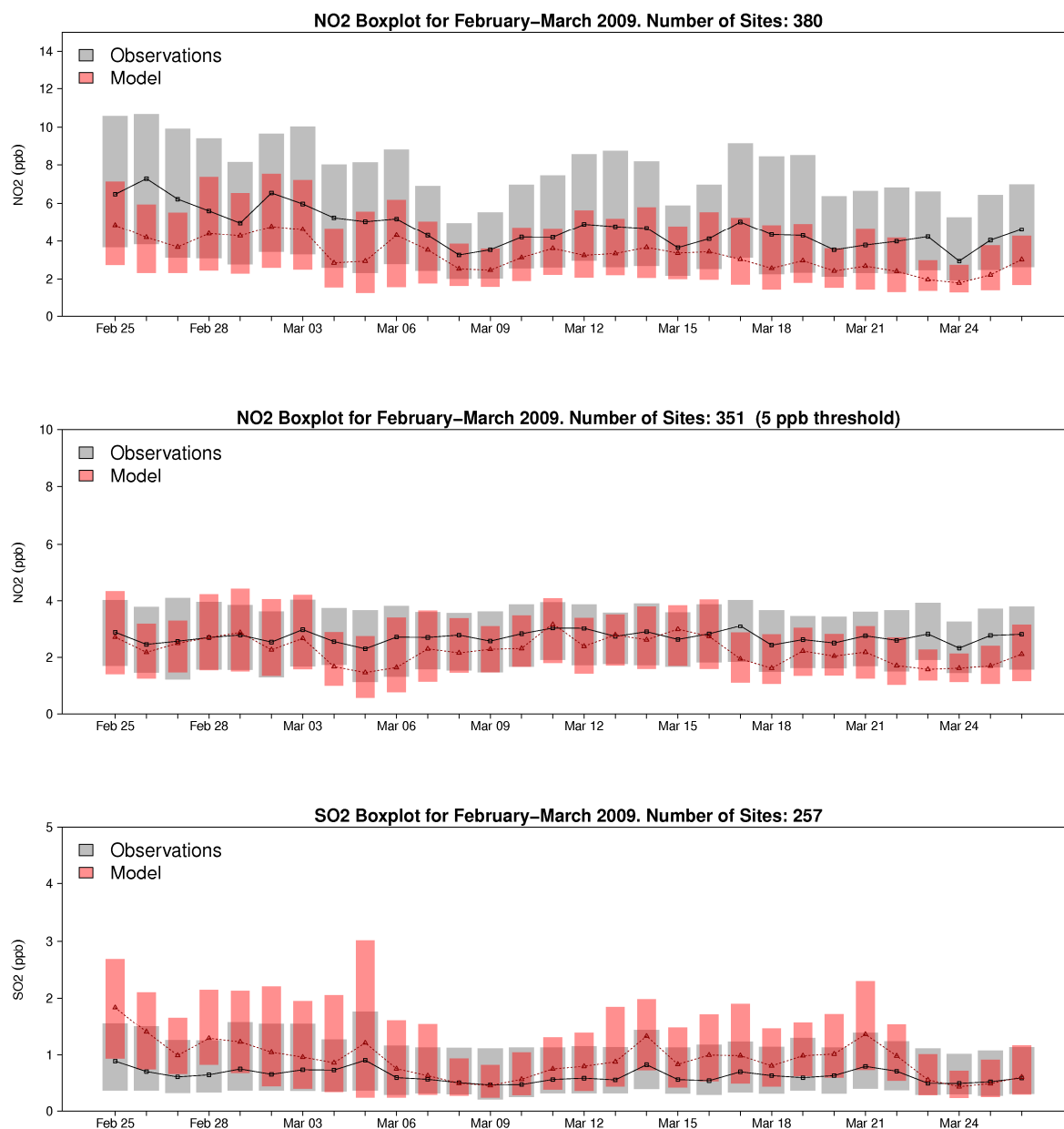


Figure S1. Comparison of modelled (VBS_BC) (red) and measured (grey) NO₂ (upper panel) and SO₂ (lower panel) concentrations at AirBase rural background sites (as in Table 2). The middle panel shows the comparison at stations where NO₂ concentrations do not exceed 5ppb. The extent of the bars indicates the 25th and 75th percentiles. The black and red lines represent measured and modelled medians, respectively.

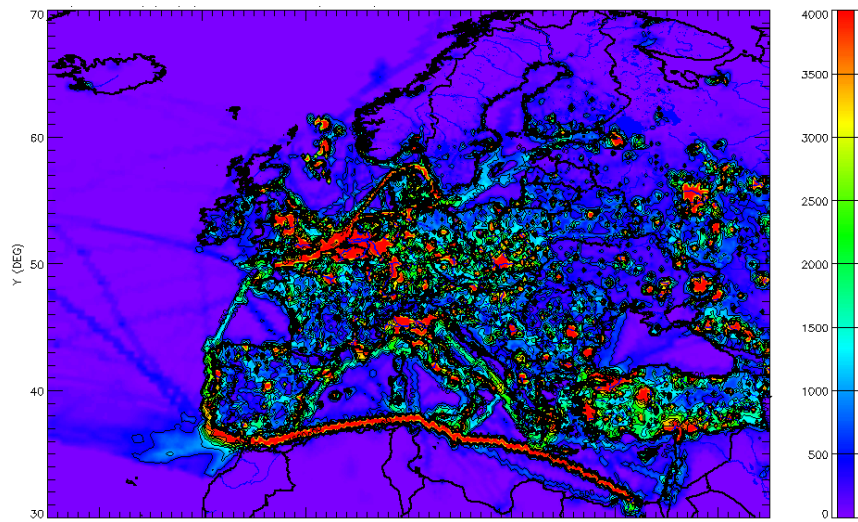
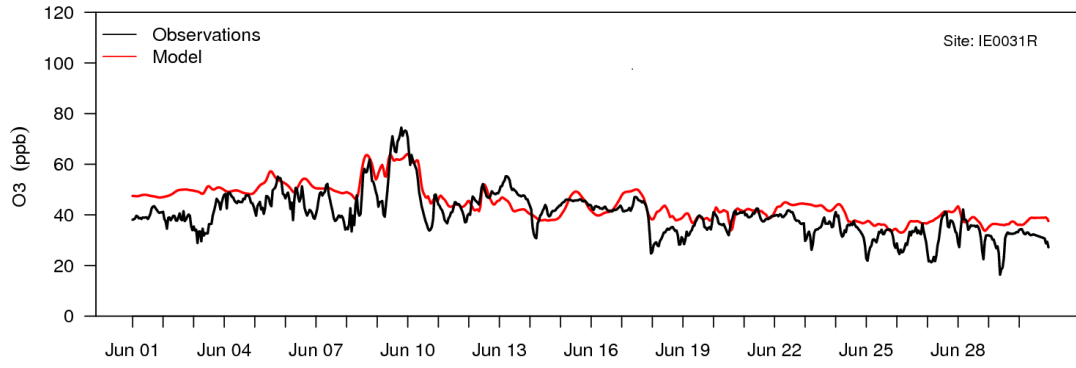
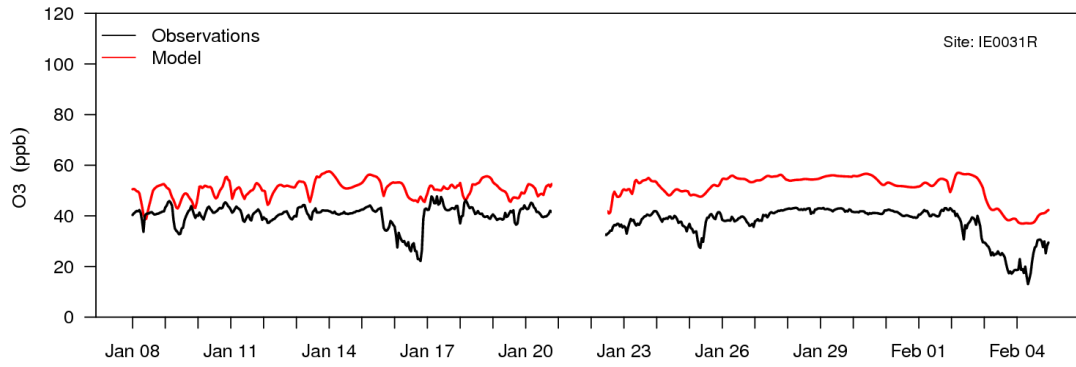


Figure S2. NO emissions in [mol / (h cell)] for 1 March 2009, at 6:00 AM

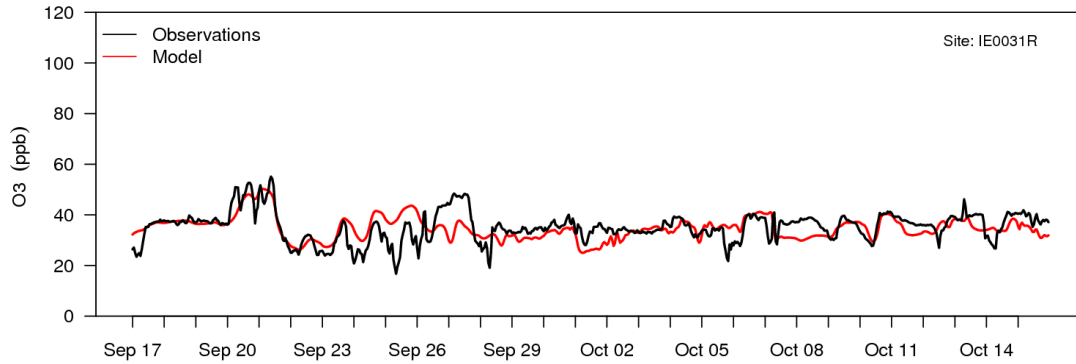
O3 for AirBase Site: IE0031R



O3 for AirBase Site: IE0031R



O3 for AirBase Site: IE0031R



O3 for AirBase Site: IE0031R

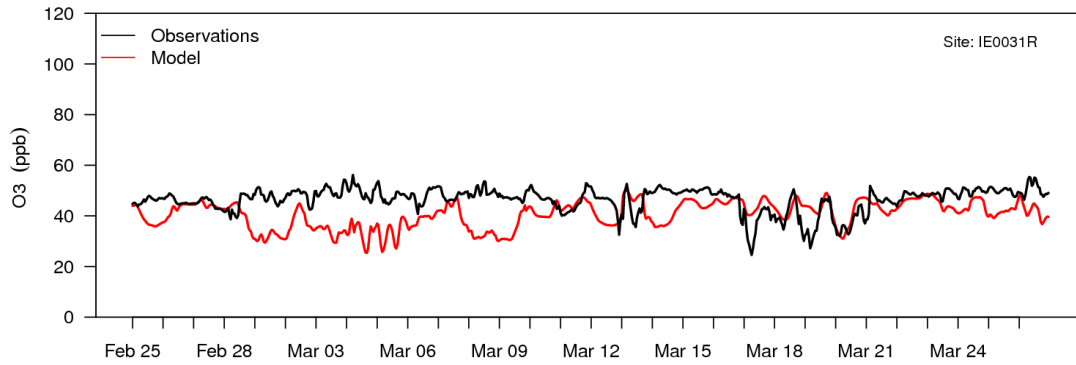


Figure S3. Comparison of modelled (base case, VBS_BC) and measured O₃ mixing ratios at Mace Head (IE0031R) for the four simulated periods: from top to bottom: June 2006, January-February 2007, September-October 2008, February-March 2009.

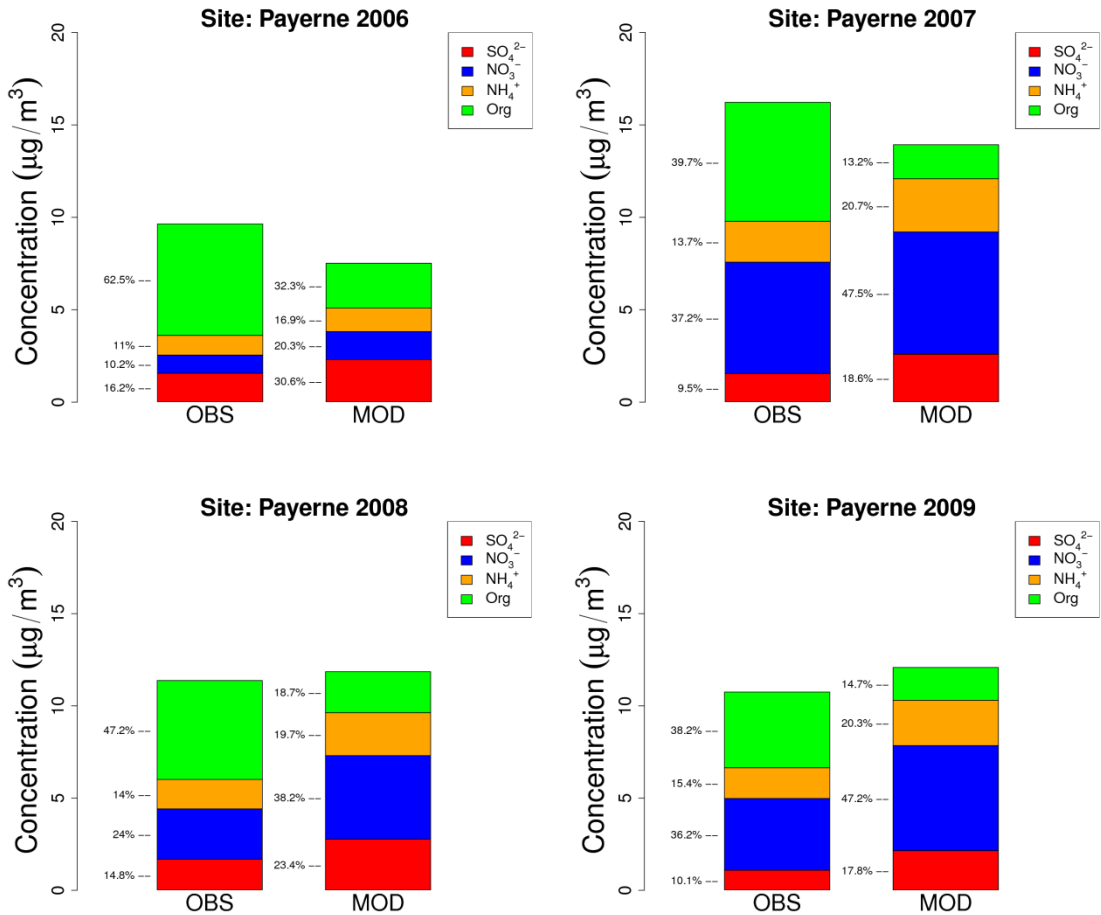


Figure S4. Comparison of observed (OBS) non-refractory PM₁ and modelled (MOD) PM_{2.5} components at Payerne for all the investigated periods.

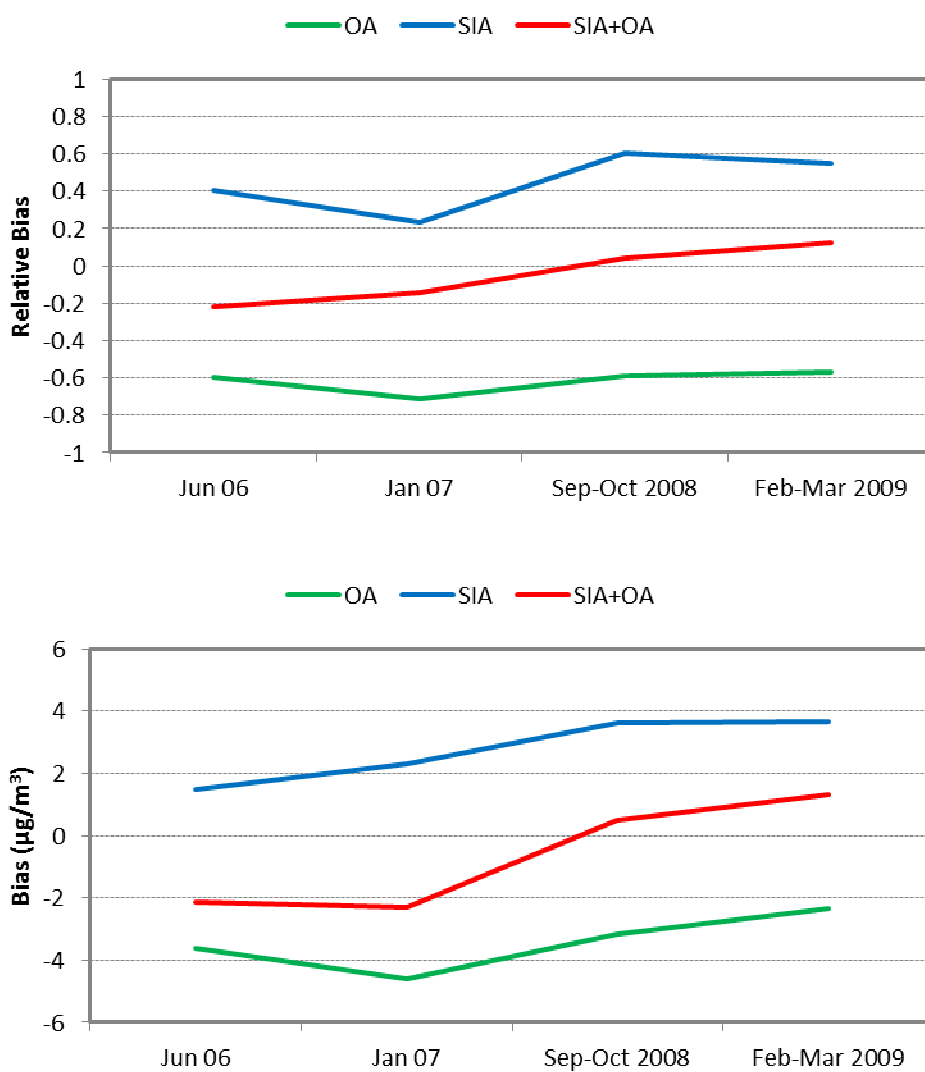


Figure S5. Absolute and relative biases for organic aerosol (OA), secondary organic aerosol (SIA) and OA+SIA in Payerne for all the investigated periods.

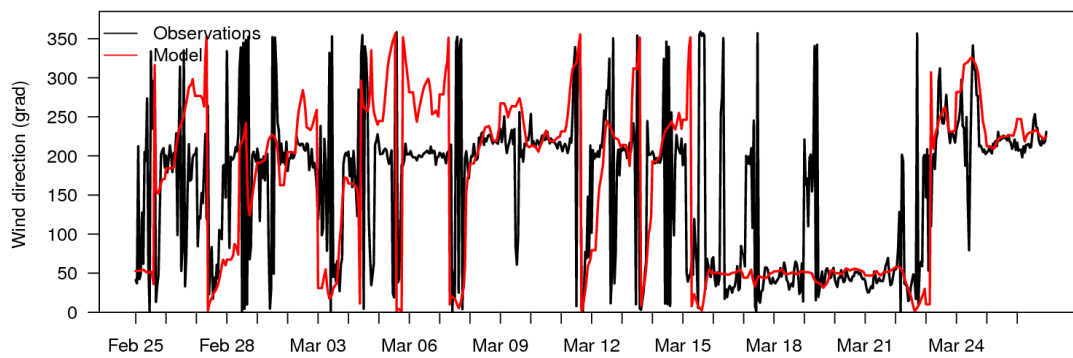
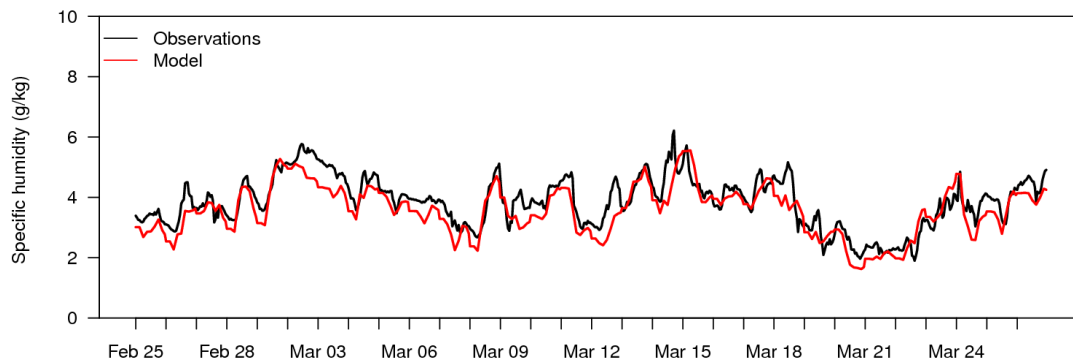
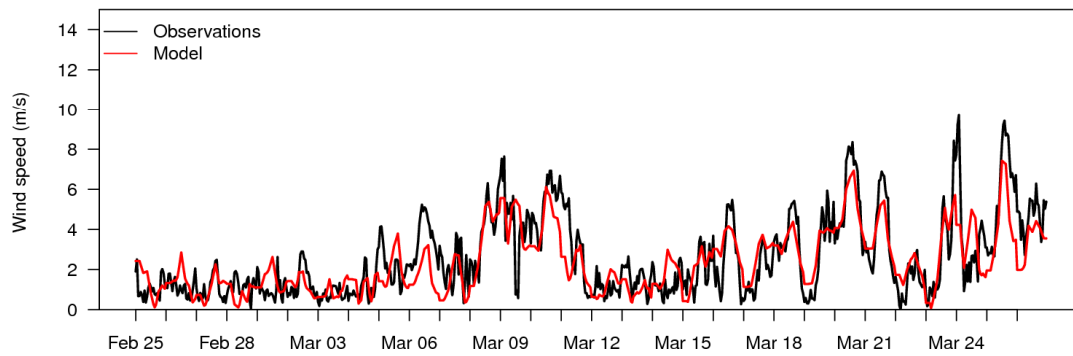
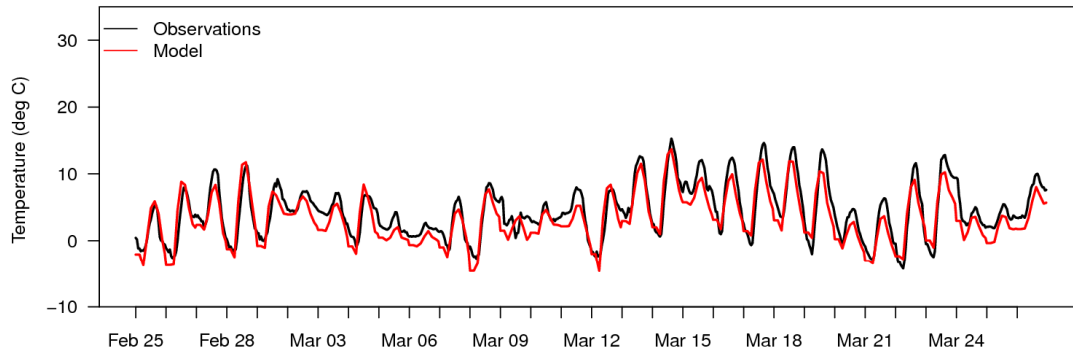


Figure S6. Comparison of observed and modelled temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), wind speed (m s^{-1}), specific humidity (g/kg) and wind direction ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) comparisons at Payerne in February-March 2009.

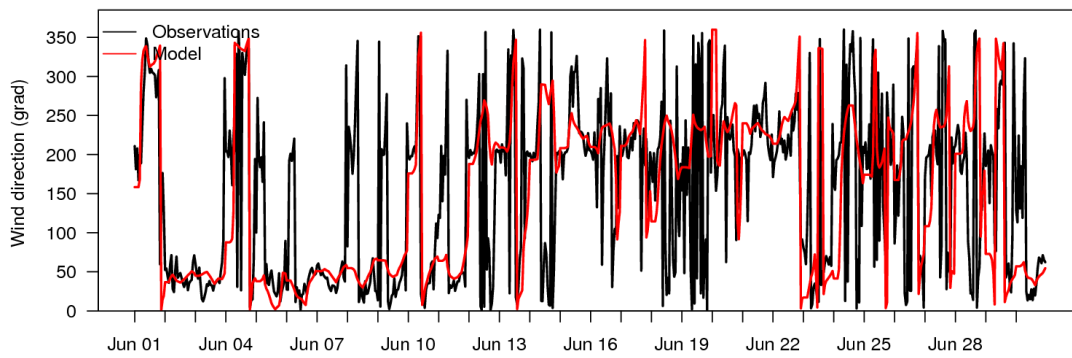
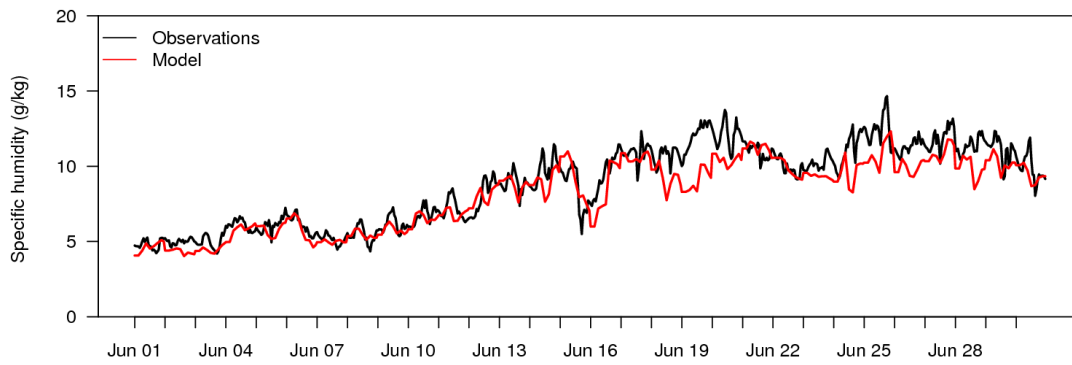
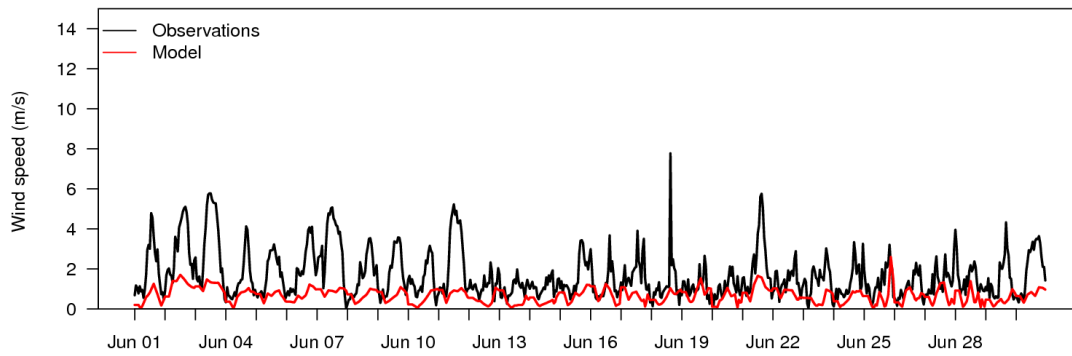
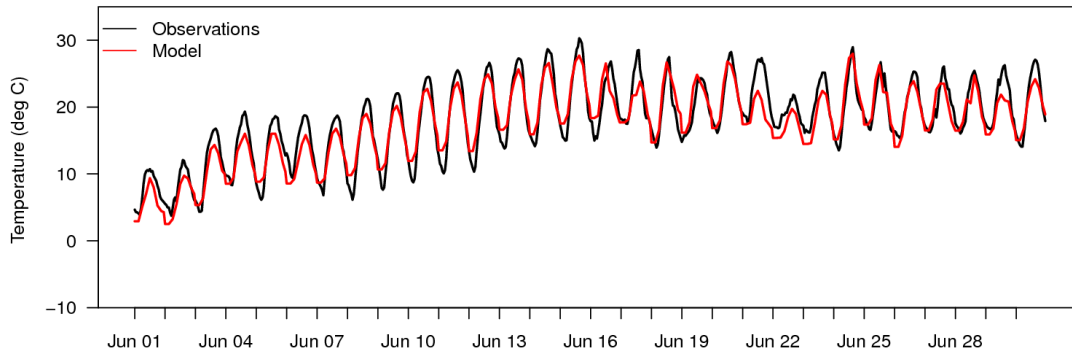


Figure S7. Comparison of observed and modelled temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), wind speed (m s^{-1}), specific humidity (g/kg) and wind direction ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) comparisons at Payerne in June 2006.

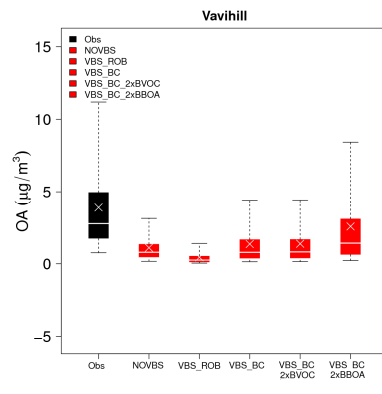
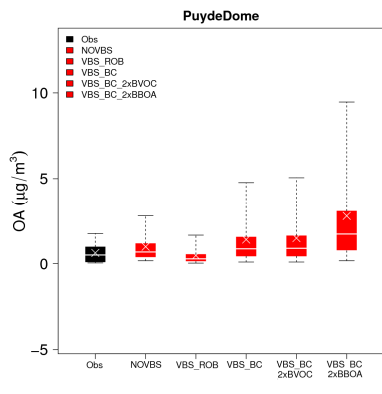
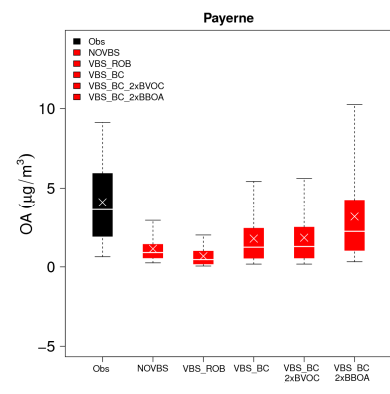
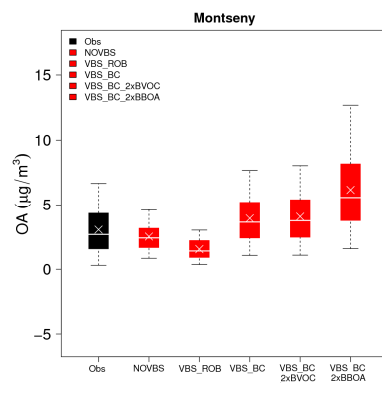
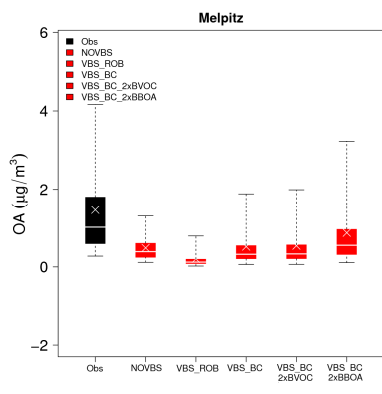
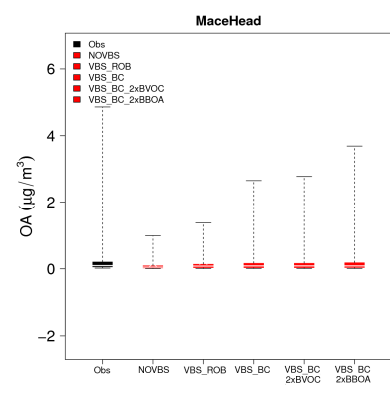
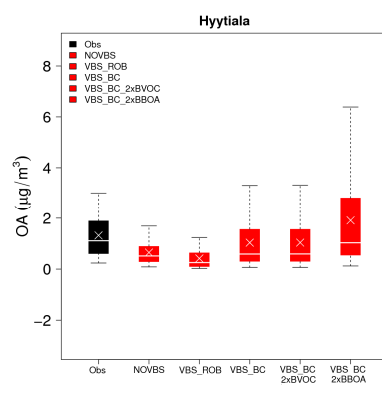
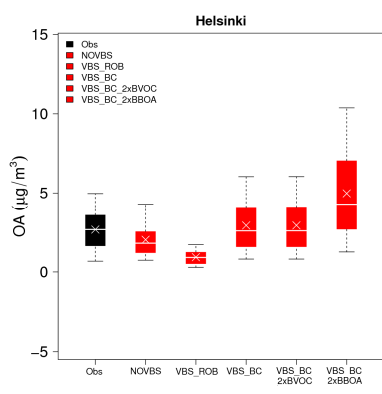
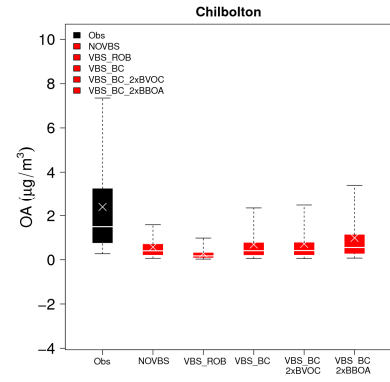
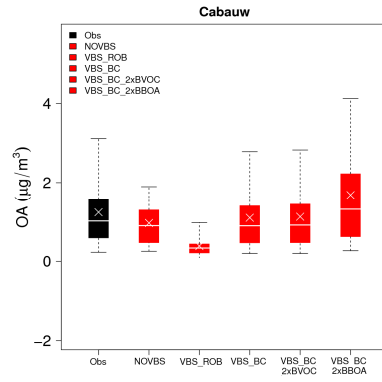
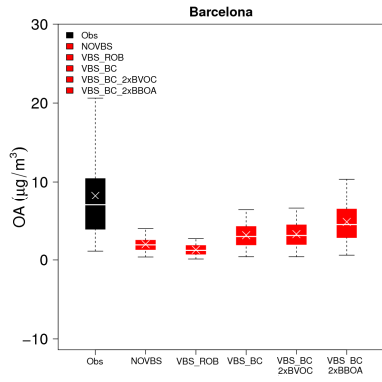


Figure S8. Observed and modelled OA concentrations using 5 scenarios at AMS sites for the period February-March 2009: Boxplots indicate medians, 5th, 25th, 75th and 95th quantiles for observations (black) and sensitivity tests (red). The crosses represent the arithmetic means.

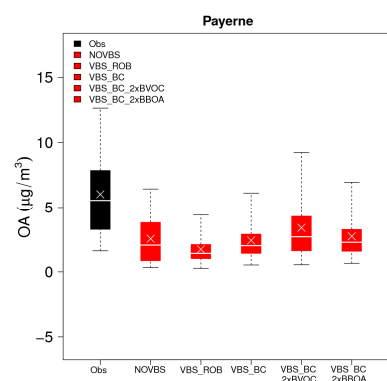


Figure S9. Observed and modelled OA using 5 scenarios at Payerne sites for the period June 2006: Boxplots indicate median, 5th, 25th, 75th and 95th quantile for observations (black) and sensitivity tests (red). The crosses represent the arithmetic means.