



Future
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forcing in Eastern
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Future biogeochemical forcing in Eastern Siberia: cooling or warming?

A. Arneth¹, S. Olin², R. Makkonen³, P. Paasonen³, T. Holst², M. Kajos³,
M. Kulmala³, T. Maximov⁴, P. A. Miller², and G. Schurgers²

¹Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institute of Meteorology and Climate
Research/Atmospheric Environmental Research, Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany

²Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science, Lund University, Sölvegatan 12,
22362 Lund, Sweden

³Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, P.O. Box 64, 00014 University of Helsinki,
Finland

⁴Department of Plant Ecological Physiology and Biochemistry Lab., Institute for Biological
Problems of Cryolithozone SB RAS, 41, Lenin ave, Yakutsk 677980, Russia

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Correspondence to: A. Arneth (almut.arneth@kit.edu)

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Abstract

Over-proportional warming in the northern high latitudes, and large carbon stocks in boreal and (sub)arctic ecosystems have raised concerns as to whether substantial positive climate feedbacks from biogeochemical process responses should be expected. Such feedbacks occur if increasing temperatures lead to e.g., a net release of CO₂ or CH₄. However, temperature-enhanced emissions of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC) have been shown to contribute to a cooling feedback via growth of secondary organic aerosol (SOA), and related aerosol forcings. Combining measurements in Eastern Siberia with model-based estimates of vegetation and permafrost dynamics, BVOC emissions and aerosol growth, we show here that the additional climate forcing from changes in ecosystem CO₂ balance and BVOC-SOA interactions nearly cancel on a regional scale. The interactions between emissions and vegetation dynamics that underlie individual forcing estimates are complex and highlight the importance of addressing ecosystem-climate feedbacks in consistent, process-based model frameworks that account for a multitude of system processes.

1 Introduction

Warming effects on ecosystem carbon cycling in northern ecosystems (Serreze et al., 2000; Tarnocai et al., 2009), and the potential for large climate-feedbacks from losses of CO₂ or CH₄ from these carbon-dense systems have been widely discussed (Khvorostyanov et al., 2008; Schuur et al., 2009; Arneth et al., 2010). Other biogeochemical processes can lead to negative feedbacks, in particular through emissions of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC) that act as precursors for secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation and hence have a net cooling effect at clean-air locations (Arneth et al., 2010; Makkonen et al., 2012b; Paasonen et al., 2013). Condensation of monoterpenes (MT), a group of BVOC with large source strength from coniferous vegetation, on pre-existing particles increases the observed particle mass, as well

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text). Total present-day modelled soil C pools over the top 2 m in Eastern Siberia are 216 Gt C, and 454 Gt C for circumpolar soils above 40° N (Table 1). A recent data-base estimated was 191, 495, and 1024 Pg C in the 0–30, 0–100 and 0–300 cm soil layer, of permafrost-affected soils, respectively (Tarnocai et al., 2009). These numbers indicate that the values calculated with LPJ-GUESS are lower than observation-based ones, most likely underestimating C-density in particular in the soil layers below few tenths of cm.

BVOC emissions models, whether these are linked to DGVMs or to a prescribed vegetation map, all rely on using emission potentials (E^* , leaf emissions at standardised environmental conditions) or some derivatives as part of their algorithms. In LPJ-GUESS, production and emissions of leaf and canopy isoprene and monoterpenes are linked to their photosynthetic production, specifically the electron transport rate, and the requirements for energy and redox-equivalents to produce a unit of isoprene from triose-phosphates (Niinemets et al., 1999; Arneth et al., 2007b; Schurgers et al., 2009a). A specified fraction of absorbed electrons used for isoprene (monoterpene) production (ε) provides the link to PFT-specific E^* (Arneth et al., 2007a); in case of monoterpenes emitted from storage an additional correction is applied to account for their light-dependent production (taking place over parts of the day) and temperature-driven (taking place the entire day) emissions (Schurgers et al., 2009a).

Leaf BVOC emissions are stimulated in a future environment in response to warmer temperatures. Moreover, warmer temperatures and CO₂-fertilisation of photosynthesis lead to enhanced vegetation productivity and leaf area, with additional positive effects on BVOC emissions. But higher CO₂ concentrations have also been shown to inhibit leaf isoprene production. Even though the underlying metabolic mechanism is not yet fully understood, this effect has been observed in a number of studies (for an overview see Fig. 6 in Arneth et al., 2011). Due to limiting experimental evidence, whether or not a similar response occurs in monoterpene producing species is to date not confirmed, especially in species that emit from storage. The model is set-up to test this hypothesis (see Fig. A1). Multiple interacting processes can thus lead to enhanced

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boundary layer, after which a fraction of 15% is assumed to form SOA. Half of the SOA is assumed to be of such low volatility that it can partition to particles already at nucleation size (~ 2 nm), increasing the formation of 2–3 nm particles and hence the modelled total number concentration. However, most of the oxidized organic mass will be distributed to larger aerosols, increasing the coagulation and condensation sink. The increase in sink will act to decrease formation of new particles (O'Donnell et al., 2011). Whether or not BVOCs can increase the availability of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) depends on the availability of sub-CCN sized particles (O'Donnell et al., 2011). Anthropogenic primary emissions are introduced to the model as 60 nm particles, hence condensation of sulfuric acid and organic vapours is generally needed in order to grow these particles to CCN sizes. In Siberia, the modelled primary particle emissions are dominated by wildfires, which are assumed to inject large particles with 150 nm diameter.

ECHAM5.5-HAM2 was run with different BVOC emission scenarios in year 2000 and 2100 (see previous section). All simulations are initiated with a six months spin-up, followed by one year simulation for analysis. The model is nudged towards year 2000 meteorology, reducing the noise arising from differing meteorological fields. Anthropogenic aerosol and precursor emissions were taken from Dentener et al. (2006) for the year 2000 and from RCP-8.5 (Riahi et al., 2007) for the year 2100. The emissions of dust and sea salt are modeled interactively (Zhang et al., 2012). To study the effect of changing wildfire emissions on CCN, we implemented one additional simulation pair with year 2000 and 2100 BVOC emissions with $E^* = 1.9$, but both applying year 2000 wildfire and anthropogenic emissions. These simulations were also done with a slightly higher resolution of T63L31.

Estimates of radiative forcing due to changes in CCN followed Spracklen et al. (2008b). We calculate the change in cloud albedo (ΔR_c) as

$$\Delta R_c = (1/3)R_c(1 - R_c)\Delta CDNC/CDNC,$$

assuming that calculated CCN values correspond to changes in cloud droplet number concentrations (CDNC). Cloud albedo R_c is assumed to vary between 0.1 and 0.8. From change in cloud albedo, we estimate change in short-wave forcing as

$$\Delta F = -F_0 A_c T_a^2 \Delta R_c,$$

- 5 where F_0 is top-of-atmosphere incoming solar radiation (204 W m^{-2}), A_c is average cloud cover (assumed 0.65), T_a is fractional atmospheric transmission of short-wave radiation above cloud layer (0.76).

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Present-day BVOC emissions

10 The dynamic global vegetation model LPJ-GUESS reproduces the present-day circumpolar permafrost distribution and, with the exception of the Kamchatka peninsula, simulates also the expanse of the larch-dominated forests in Eastern Siberia (Fig. 1, Miller and Smith, 2012; Tarnocai et al., 2009; Wagner, 1997). Maximum leaf area index (LAI) calculated by the model for the Spasskaya Pad forest, where the BVOC measurements were obtained, was 2.0 (averaged over years 1981–2000; not shown), and
15 is in good agreement with the measured values during that period (1.6, Takeshi et al., 2008). BVOC emissions models, whether linked to dynamic global vegetation models (DGVMs) or applying prescribed vegetation maps, require emission potentials (E^* , leaf BVOC emissions at standardised environmental conditions) or some derivatives
20 as part of their algorithms. For the “larch” plant functional type in LPJ-GUESS (Schurgers et al., 2009a), $E^* = 2.4 \mu\text{g C m}^{-2} (\text{leaf}) \text{ h}^{-1}$ was adopted in previous simulations from Guenther et al. (1995), a recommendation that at that time did not include observations from any larch species.

25 Kajos et al. (2013) measured for the first time MT E^* from *L. cajanderii*. Their measurements, taken over an entire growing season at Spasskaya Pad, suggested values

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additional factors to the concentrations of SO_2 and $\text{OH}\bullet$ are seemingly limiting aerosol production in non-polluted environments (Kulmala et al., 2005).

3.3 Future carbon pools, vegetation distribution and BVOC emissions in Siberia

In a warmer environment with higher atmospheric CO_2 levels, the simulations indicated drastically reduced area of permafrost in Siberia (Fig. 1). Total net primary productivity in the simulated domain increased from an annual average of 3.5 Pg C a^{-1} to 5.9 Pg C a^{-1} at the end of the 21st century. An overall C loss of 100 Pg C (in the form of CO_2) at the end of the 21st century was calculated from the shrinking Siberian areas of permafrost (Table 1). However, warming and higher levels of atmospheric CO_2 led also to increasing LAI, and to larch dominated areas showing the expected north- and north-eastwards shift (Fig. 1) compared to present-day climate (Miller and Smith, 2012). The carbon uptake in expanding vegetation into permafrost-free areas, combined with enhanced productivity across the simulation domain overcompensates for the losses from C-pools in permafrost areas (Table 1).

Future MT emissions were enhanced directly as a result of warmer leaves, and augmented by the future higher LAI of larch and evergreen conifers (Figs. 1d and A1; Table 1). Since the emissions scale with the emission factors applied, the proportional increase between present-day and future climate conditions is independent of the value of E^* . Whether or not leaf MT emissions are inhibited by increasing atmospheric CO_2 levels to similar degree to what was found for isoprene is difficult to assess from today's limited number of studies (e.g., Niinemets et al., 2010, and references therein). Similarities in the leaf metabolic pathways of isoprene and MT production suggest such an inhibition, but possibly this effect does not become apparent in plant species where produced MT are stored, unless the storage pools become measurably depleted by the reduced production. By contrast, species emitting MT in an "isoprene-like" fashion immediately after production should more directly reflect CO_2 inhibition. Evergreen conifers typically emit MT mostly from storage pools, whereas based on the leaf-level measurements, larch could follow a hybrid pattern between emission after production

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smaller compared to the estimate in the overall CO₂-C budget, the large uncertainties that arise from the modelled processes (both in case of vegetation dynamics, and carbon cycle, and in case of secondary aerosols and wildfire) make it unlikely that the difference would be statistically significant.

Our analysis is the first that seeks to quantify a number of climatically relevant ecosystem processes in the large Eastern Siberian region in a consistent observational and modelling framework that accounts for the multiple interactions between emissions, vegetation and soils. These suggest that, regionally, the potential climate feedbacks from CO₂ and SOA are of approximately equal magnitude. Clearly, these numbers are uncertain but they pinpoint the necessity for assessing surface–atmosphere exchange processes comprehensively in climate feedback analyses. It thus remains to be investigated whether a similar picture would emerge when additional cooling or warming mechanisms are taken into consideration, e.g. SOA formation from isoprene (Henze and Seinfeld, 2006) or the albedo effect of northwards migrating vegetation (Betts, 2000).

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Table 1. Simulated changes in net primary productivity, BVOC emissions, and C pool size in vegetation and soils. Unless stated otherwise, values are for the simulated Siberian domain (76–164° E, 46–71° N), and represent an area of 1.2×10^7 km². NPP_{global} (given as a reference value) is global vegetation net primary productivity. BVOC in Tg C a^{-1} , CO_2 -C fluxes in Pg C a^{-1} , C pools in Pg C . Simulations for monoterpene emissions for the boreal needleleaf summer-green (BNS) plant functional type were made using maximum ($9.6 \mu\text{g C g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$) and minimum ($1.9 \mu\text{g C g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$) values for E^* measured in Spasskaya Pad (see text), $E^* = 6.2 \mu\text{g C g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$ represents a weighted average from all observations at the Spasskaya Pad location. For BVOC, CO_2 inhibition was switched on and off (Arneth et al., 2007b).

	1981–2000	2031–2050	2081–2100
NPP_{global}	58 ± 15	66 ± 17	76 ± 14
NPP	3.5 ± 0.2	4.5 ± 0.2	5.9 ± 0.2
Carbon in circumpolar permafrost region			
Vegetation	109 ± 0.7	106 ± 1.6	78 ± 1.8
Litter	81 ± 0.5	68 ± 0.3	44 ± 0.3
Soil (0 to 2 m depth)	454 ± 0.03	392 ± 0.4	255 ± 0.5
Total	644 ± 0.4	567 ± 1.1	377 ± 1.0
C-pools in permafrost area of study domain			
Vegetation	41 ± 0.6	38 ± 0.6	35 ± 0.7
Litter	40 ± 0.3	34 ± 0.2	23 ± 0.2
Soil (0 to 2 m depth)	216 ± 0.06	187 ± 0.1	140 ± 0.3
Total	297 ± 0.4	259 ± 0.4	198 ± 0.2
C-pools in entire Siberian study domain			
Vegetation	45 ± 0.5	56 ± 1.5	77 ± 2.8
Litter	41 ± 0.5	43 ± 0.3	41 ± 0.7
Soil (0 to 2 m depth)	219 ± 0.3	221 ± 0.3	223 ± 0.3
Total	305 ± 1.1	320 ± 2.1	342 ± 2.0

Table 1. Continued.

	1981–2000	2031–2050	2081–2100
BVOC, with CO₂ inhibition			
Total_iso	4.11 ± 0.29	4.52 ± 0.32	4.80 ± 0.24
BNE, MT	1.03 ± 0.07	1.06 ± 0.06	1.02 ± 0.04
BINE, MT	0.23 ± 0.01	0.23 ± 0.01	0.18 ± 0.01
BNS, MT_1.9	0.09 ± 0.01	0.10 ± 0.02	0.09 ± 0.01
BNS, MT_6.2	0.28 ± 0.04	0.33 ± 0.06	0.29 ± 0.04
BNS, MT_9.6	0.43 ± 0.06	0.52 ± 0.09	0.45 ± 0.06
Total_MT _{BNS_1.9}	1.40 ± 0.09	1.44 ± 0.10	1.33 ± 0.06
Total_MT _{BNS_6.2}	1.60 ± 0.11	1.68 ± 0.14	1.53 ± 0.88
Total_MT _{BNS_9.6}	1.75 ± 0.12	1.86 ± 0.16	1.69 ± 0.10
BVOC, no CO₂ inhibition			
Total_iso	3.9 ± 0.29	6.0 ± 0.48	11.0 ± 1.06
BNE, MT	0.99 ± 0.07	1.41 ± 0.1	2.33 ± 0.19
BINE, MT	0.22 ± 0.01	0.30 ± 0.02	0.42 ± 0.02
BNS, MT_1.9	0.08 ± 0.01	0.14 ± 0.02	0.20 ± 0.03
BNS, MT_6.2	0.21 ± 0.03	0.35 ± 0.06	0.52 ± 0.07
BNS, MT_9.6	0.42 ± 0.06	0.69 ± 0.11	1.02 ± 0.13
Total_MT _{BNS_1.9}	1.34 ± 0.09	1.92 ± 0.13	3.04 ± 0.23
Total_MT _{BNS_6.2}	1.47 ± 0.10	2.13 ± 0.16	3.36 ± 0.27
Total_MT _{BNS_9.6}	1.67 ± 0.13	2.47 ± 0.22	4.90 ± 0.47

Abbreviations:

NPP: net primary productivity

BNE: boreal needleleaf evergreen PFT, shade tolerant

BINE: boreal needleleaf evergreen PFT, intermediate shade-tolerant

BNS: boreal needleleaf summergreen PFT ("larch"), shade intolerant
 continentality index as in Sitth et al. (2003)

Iso: isoprene

MT, monoterpenes

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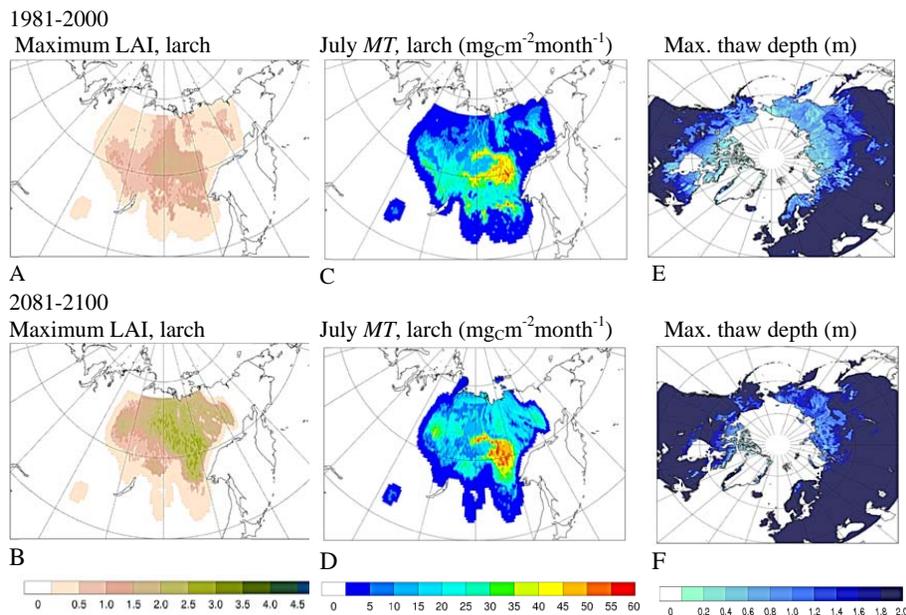


Figure 1. Simulated maximum summer leaf area index (LAI; **A, B**) and July emissions of monoterpenes (**C, D**; $\text{mg C m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$) from Eastern Siberian larch. The latter were calculated applying emission factors of 6.2, obtained from the measurements at Spasskaya Pad. (**E, F**) Maximum permafrost thaw depth (August), shown as circumpolar map for comparison with Tarnocai et al. (2009). Values are averages for a simulation 1981–2000 (**A, C, E**), and for 2081–2100 (**B, D, F**), applying climate and CO₂ concentrations from ECHAM-RCP8.5. Emissions in (**C, D**) do not account for direct CO₂ inhibition.

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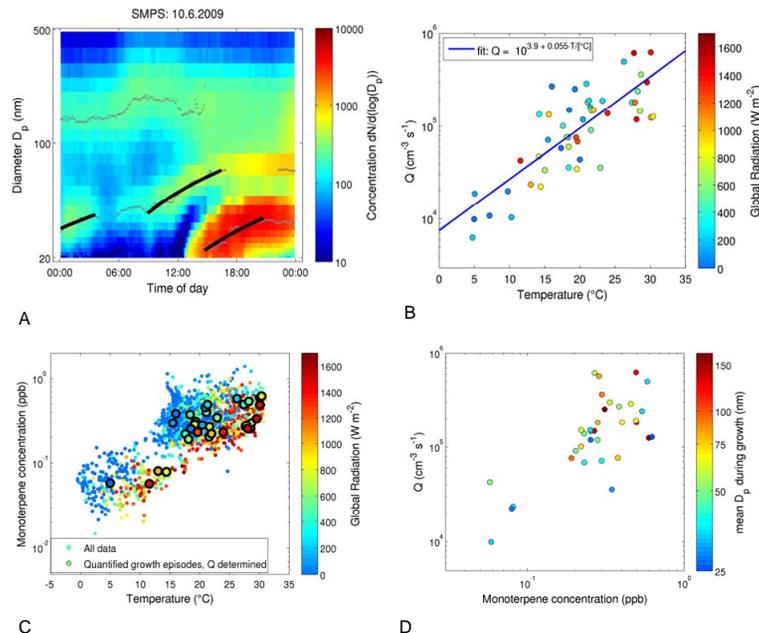


Figure 2. Particle growth rates obtained from particle number size distribution (**A**, example from day 10 June 2009). The colours indicate the measured concentrations ($dN/d\log D_p$, cm^{-3}) of particles with different diameters (D_p , nm) over the course of a day, small circles are mean diameters of concentration modes fitted for each measurement, and the temporal change of these diameters is represented with black lines from which the growth rate is calculated. (**B**) shows the calculated volumetric source rates of condensing vapours (Q) as a function of air temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$); data are separated by levels of global radiation. (**C**) Monoterpene concentrations (half hourly data) measured above the canopy vs. temperature (data separated by radiation, the data applied in (**B**) and (**D**) are indicated by encircled symbols), and relationship between volumetric source rate of condensing vapours and monoterpene concentration (**D**; data separated by particle diameter).

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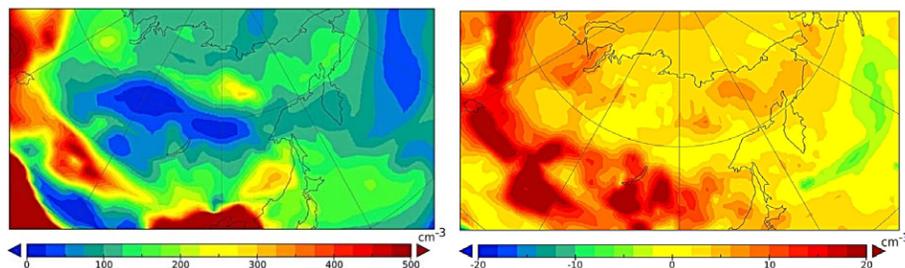


Figure 3. Annual average boundary-layer CCN (0.2%) concentration ($\# \text{cm}^{-3}$) in Siberia with present-day anthropogenic and BVOC (for BNS: $E^* = 1.9$) emissions (left panel), and changes in CCN (0.2%; right panel) concentration due to increase in BVOC emission between years 2000 and 2100 (simulations with CO_2 inhibition off).

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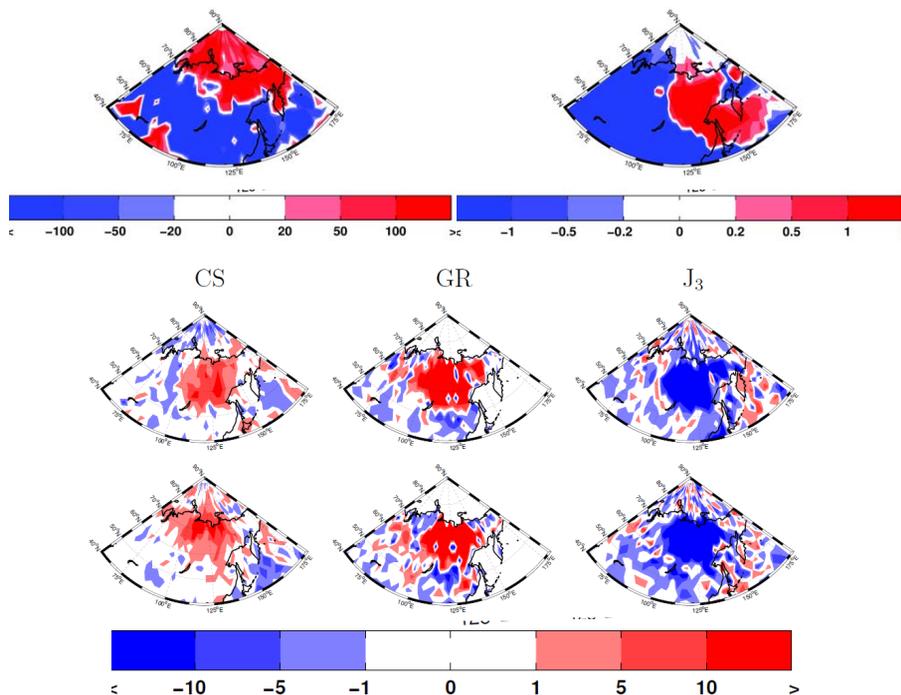


Figure 4. Top panel: absolute change in CN (top left) and CCN (0.2%) concentrations (top right, cm^{-3}) between years 2000 and 2100 using BVOC emission estimates that included $E^* = 6.2$ for the BNS PFT. Lower panel: relative change in condensation sink (CS), aerosol growth rate (GR) and formation rate, J , of 3 nm particles for year 2000 (top row) and 2100 (bottom row). Effects of different BVOC emissions are shown by % differences for simulations using BVOC emissions with $E^* = 9.6$ and $E^* = 1.4$ for the BNS PFT.

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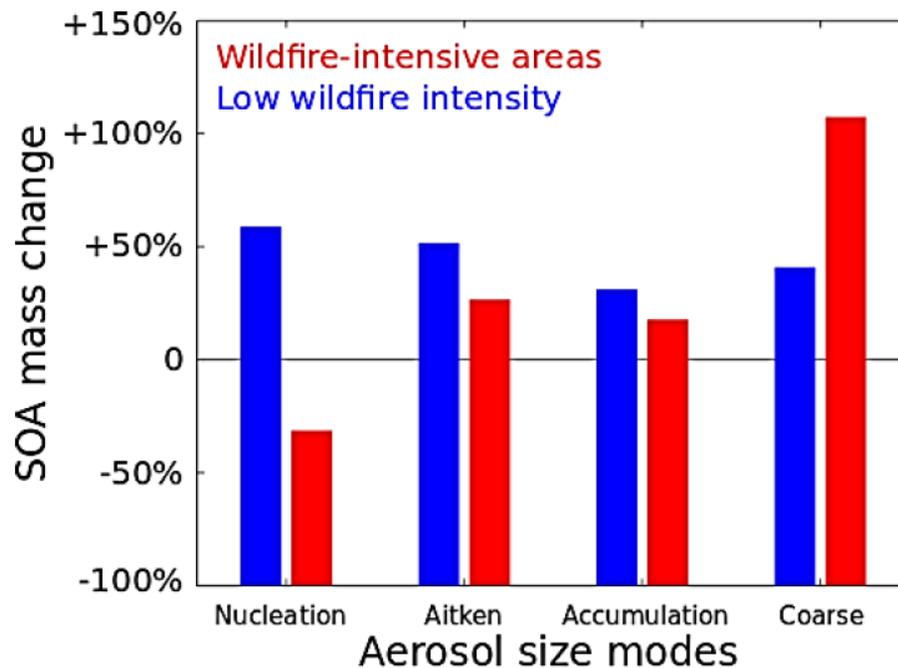
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Figure 5. Relative increase in SOA mass, simulated by ECHAM5-HAM in different aerosol size modes due to BVOC emissions increase from the year 2000 to 2100. The areas are averaged over Siberia, and the BVOC emissions for years 2000 to 2100 (example is for $E^* = 1.9$).

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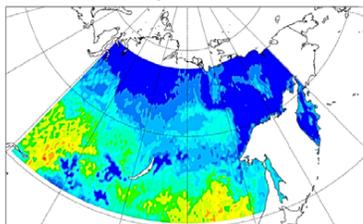
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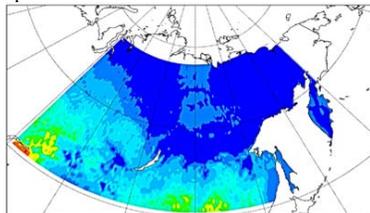
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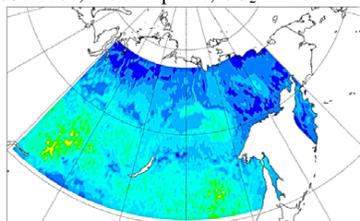
1981-2000, Monoterpenes



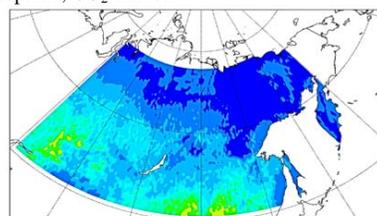
Isoprene



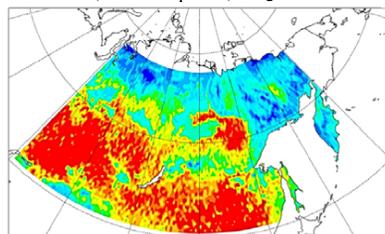
2081-2100, Monoterpenes, CO₂-inh. on



Isoprene, CO₂-inh. on



2081-2100, Monoterpenes, CO₂-inh. off



Isoprene, CO₂-inh. off

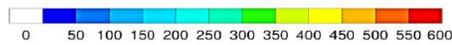
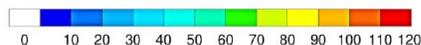
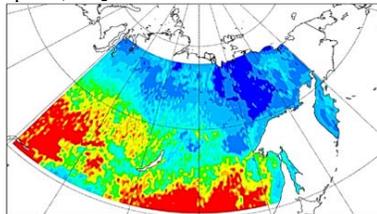


Figure A1. Present-day (top: 1981–2000) and end of 21st century (bottom: 2081–2100) total monoterpene (left) and isoprene (right) emissions for the month July ($\text{mg C m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$). Simulations show results with CO₂ inhibition switched on and off.