



1 **Aerosol characteristics and particle production in the upper troposphere**
2 **over the Amazon Basin**

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32 **Abstract**

33 Airborne observations over the Amazon Basin showed high aerosol particle concentra-
34 tions in the upper troposphere (UT) between 8 and 15 km altitude, with number densities (nor-
35 malized to standard temperature and pressure) often exceeding those in the planetary boundary
36 layer (PBL) by one or two orders of magnitude. The measurements were made during the Ger-
37 man-Brazilian cooperative aircraft campaign ACRIDICON-CHUVA on the German High Altitude
38 and Long Range Research Aircraft (HALO). The campaign took place in September/October
39 2014, with the objective of studying tropical deep convective clouds over the Amazon rain-
40 forest and their interactions with atmospheric trace gases, aerosol particles, and atmospheric radi-
41 ation.



42 Aerosol enhancements were observed consistently on all flights during which the UT was
43 probed, using several aerosol metrics, including condensation nuclei (CN) and cloud condensa-
44 tion nuclei (CCN) number concentrations and chemical species mass concentrations. The UT
45 particles differed in their chemical composition and size distribution from those in the PBL, rul-
46 ing out convective transport of combustion-derived particles from the BL as a source. The air in
47 the immediate outflow of deep convective clouds was depleted in aerosol particles, whereas
48 strongly enhanced number concentrations of small particles (<90 nm diameter) were found in UT
49 regions that had experienced outflow from deep convection in the preceding 5-72 hours. We also
50 found elevated concentrations of larger (>90 nm) particles in the UT, which consisted mostly of
51 organic matter and nitrate and were very effective CCN.

52 Our findings suggest a conceptual model, where production of new aerosol particles takes
53 place in the UT from volatile material brought up by deep convection, which is converted to con-
54 densable species in the UT. Subsequently, downward mixing and transport of upper tropospheric
55 aerosol can be a source of particles to the PBL, where they increase in size by the condensation
56 of biogenic volatile organic carbon (BVOC) oxidation products. This may be an important
57 source of aerosol particles in the Amazonian PBL, where aerosol nucleation and new particle
58 formation has not been observed. We propose that this may have been the dominant process sup-
59 plying secondary aerosol particles in the pristine atmosphere, making clouds the dominant con-
60 trol of both removal and production of atmospheric particles.

61

62 **1. Introduction**

63 Aircraft measurements in the upper troposphere (UT) have consistently shown large re-
64 gions with very high aerosol particle number concentrations, typically in the tens of thousands of
65 particles per cm³, with the strongest enhancements reported in tropical and subtropical regions
66 (Clarke et al., 1999; Andreae et al., 2001; de Reus et al., 2001; Twohy et al., 2002; Krejci et al.,
67 2003; Lee et al., 2003; Young et al., 2007; Ekman et al., 2008; Yu et al., 2008; Froyd et al.,
68 2009; Weigelt et al., 2009; Borrmann et al., 2010; Clarke and Kapustin, 2010; Mirme et al.,
69 2010; Weigel et al., 2011; Waddicor et al., 2012; Reddington et al., 2016; Rose et al., 2017). In
70 most cases, these elevated aerosol concentrations were in the nucleation and Aitken mode size
71 ranges, i.e., at particle diameters smaller than about 90 nm, with maxima typically between 20
72 and 60 nm (e.g., de Reus et al., 2001; Lee et al., 2003; Weigel et al., 2011; Waddicor et al.,



73 2012). They generally occur as layers of a few hundred to thousand meters in thickness, often ex-
74 tending over large horizontal distances, and are found over continents as well as over the most
75 remote oceanic regions. The high concentrations of these aerosols in the UT are of great signifi-
76 cance for the climate system, because they make this region an important reservoir of particles
77 for the transport either downward into the planetary boundary layer (PBL) (Clarke et al., 1999;
78 Clarke et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2016a) or upward into the Tropical Transition Layer (TTL) and
79 the lower stratosphere (Weigel et al., 2011; Randel and Jensen, 2013), where they can grow into
80 the optically and cloud-microphysically active size range.

81 Where enhanced particle concentrations in the accumulation mode (larger than about 90
82 nm) have been observed, the enrichment was frequently attributed to sources of sulfur dioxide
83 (SO₂) and other combustion emissions, especially biomass burning, based on correlations with
84 combustion tracers, such as carbon monoxide (CO), and air mass trajectories (e.g., Andreae et al.,
85 2001; Clarke and Kapustin, 2010; Weigel et al., 2011; Clarke et al., 2013). After having been
86 lofted to the UT by deep convection, particles in this size range can be transported over hemi-
87 spheric distances, because removal processes are very inefficient at these altitudes (Andreae et
88 al., 2001; Clarke and Kapustin, 2010).

89 The enhanced particle concentrations in the ultrafine (UF) size range (here defined as par-
90 ticles smaller than 90 nm), on the other hand, cannot be explained by transport from the lower
91 troposphere, since they far exceed typical concentrations in the PBL and generally are too short-
92 lived to survive deep convection and long-range transport. Therefore, nucleation and new parti-
93 cle formation (NPF) from gas phase precursors brought into the UT by the outflow from deep
94 convection have been proposed as the source of these enhanced particle concentrations (Clarke et
95 al., 1999; Twohy et al., 2002; Krejci et al., 2003; Lee et al., 2003; Young et al., 2007; Froyd et
96 al., 2009; Merikanto et al., 2009; Weigel et al., 2011; Waddicor et al., 2012; Carslaw et al.,
97 2017). High actinic flux, low preexisting aerosol surface area, and low temperatures make the
98 UT an environment that is highly conducive to nucleation and NPF.

99 The nature of the gaseous species involved in particle nucleation and growth has been the
100 subject of some debate (Kulmala et al., 2006). Most of the earlier papers attributed the nucleation
101 to H₂SO₄ in combination with H₂O and NH₃, especially in marine and anthropogenically influ-
102 enced regions, where a sufficient supply of sulfur gases from either DMS oxidation or pollution



103 sources is available (e.g., Clarke et al., 1999; Twohy et al., 2002; Lee et al., 2003; Merikanto et
104 al., 2009). However, there is growing evidence that, in most cases, there is not enough H₂SO₄
105 available to explain the observed rates of growth. Therefore, the condensation of organics has
106 been proposed to dominate particle growth after nucleation, especially over unpolluted vegetated
107 areas such as the Amazon Basin (Ekman et al., 2008; Weigel et al., 2011; Waddicor et al., 2012;
108 Murphy et al., 2015).

109 In fact, H₂SO₄ may not always be required even to be the initially nucleating species. Re-
110 cent studies conducted as part of the Cosmics Leaving OUtdoor Droplets (CLOUD) project have
111 shown that organic vapors alone can produce particle nucleation (Kirkby et al., 2016) and that
112 nearly all nucleation throughout the present-day atmosphere involves ammonia or biogenic or-
113 ganic compounds (Dunne et al., 2016). Highly oxygenated multifunctional organic compounds
114 (HOMs) formed by ozonolysis of α -pinene were found to nucleate aerosol particles, especially
115 when aided by ions. Extremely low volatility organic compounds (ELVOCs, which may be at
116 least in part identical to HOMs) are also produced from the O₃- or OH-initiated oxidation of bio-
117 genic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) (Jokinen et al., 2015). Following nucleation by the
118 lowest-volatility species, with increasing particle size the condensation of progressively more
119 volatile compounds is facilitated by the decrease in the Kelvin effect (Tröstl et al., 2016). These
120 laboratory studies were confirmed by field observations at a mountain site in the free tropo-
121 sphere, where NPF was found to take place through condensation of HOMs, albeit from anthro-
122 pogenic precursor VOCs, within 1-2 days after being lofted from the PBL (Bianchi et al., 2016).

123 The production of particles in the UT may be a key component of the atmospheric budget
124 of optically and cloud-microphysically active aerosols, especially in pristine or relatively unpol-
125 luted regions, as was suggested in a modeling study by Merikanto et al. (2009). Studies in the
126 Amazon have shown that NPF almost never takes place under clean conditions in the PBL over
127 the Amazon Forest (Zhou et al., 2001; Martin et al., 2010; Andreae et al., 2015) and rarely oc-
128 curs over the taiga forest in remote Siberia (Heintzenberg et al., 2011). Over the Amazon, down-
129 ward transport of aerosols from the free troposphere (FT) has been identified as an important, if
130 not dominant, source of particles to the lower troposphere (LT) (Zhou et al., 2001; Roberts and
131 Andreae, 2003; Wang et al., 2016a). In turn, the concentrations of aerosols in the PBL have a
132 pronounced influence on the characteristics of convection and thereby influence cloud radiative



133 forcing and atmospheric dynamics (Sherwood, 2002; Rosenfeld et al., 2008; Fan et al., 2012;
134 Rosenfeld et al., 2014; Stolz et al., 2015; Cecchini et al., 2017).

135 Understanding the processes that control the aerosol burden in the pristine atmosphere is
136 an essential prerequisite for assessing the magnitude of the climate forcing by anthropogenic aer-
137 osols, since it forms the baseline from which anthropogenic forcing is derived. Because of the
138 strong non-linearity of the relationship between particle number concentration and cloud-medi-
139 ated aerosol effects, the uncertainty regarding the aerosol burden of the pristine atmosphere is the
140 largest contributor to the uncertainty in estimates of anthropogenic aerosol climate forcing
141 (Carslaw et al., 2013; Carslaw et al., 2017). For example, model calculations suggest that the in-
142 clusion of ion-induced particle formation from biogenic HOMs in the natural atmosphere reduces
143 the cloud-albedo radiative forcing by about one-third because of the higher albedo calculated for
144 the clouds in the pre-industrial atmosphere (Gordon et al., 2016).

145 In this paper, we present the results of aerosol measurements made in the upper tropo-
146 sphere across the Amazon Basin during the ACRIDICON-CHUVA campaign on the German
147 HALO aircraft during September and October 2014 (Wendisch et al., 2016). ACRIDICON
148 stands for “Aerosol, Cloud, Precipitation, and Radiation Interactions and Dynamics of Convec-
149 tive Cloud Systems”; CHUVA is the acronym for “Cloud Processes of the Main Precipitation
150 Systems in Brazil: A Contribution to Cloud Resolving Modeling and to the GPM (Global Precip-
151 itation Measurement)”. We characterize these UT aerosol particles in terms of their microphysi-
152 cal and chemical properties, and contrast them with the LT aerosols. From their spatial distribu-
153 tion and their relationship to deep convection and convective outflow, we derive hypotheses
154 about their mode of formation. Finally, we discuss the role of upper tropospheric aerosol for-
155 mation in the life cycle of the atmospheric aerosol.

156

157 **2. Methods**

158 The observations discussed in this paper were collected aboard the HALO aircraft
159 (<http://www.halo.dlr.de/>), a modified Ultra Long Range Business Jet G 550 (manufactured by
160 Gulfstream, Savannah, USA). Because of its high ceiling altitude (up to 15 km) and long endur-
161 ance (up to eight hours with a scientific payload), HALO is capable of collecting airborne meas-
162 urements of cloud microphysical and radiative properties, aerosol characteristics, and chemical



163 tracer compounds in the upper troposphere, in and around tropical deep convective clouds. The
164 aircraft and its instrumentation are described in the ACRIDICON-CHUVA overview paper by
165 Wendisch et al. (2016).

166 In-situ meteorological and avionics data were obtained at 1 Hz from the BASic HALO
167 Measurement And Sensor System (BAHAMAS). This data set includes pressure, temperature,
168 wind direction and speed, humidity, water vapor mixing ratio, aircraft position, and altitude. All
169 concentration data have been normalized to standard temperature and pressure ($T = 273.15$ K
170 and $p = 1000$ hPa).

171 **2.1. The HALO aerosol submicrometer inlet (HASI)**

172 All aerosol sampling was conducted using the HALO aerosol submicrometer inlet
173 (HASI), designed for HALO by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in collaboration with en-
174 viscope GmbH (Frankfurt, Germany) with the aim of providing up to 30 l min^{-1} sample air flow
175 (divided over four sample lines) to aerosol instruments mounted inside the aircraft cabin. HASI
176 samples the air on top of the fuselage outside of the aircraft boundary layer. The air stream is
177 aligned in the inlet using a front shroud and decelerated by a factor of approximately 15. Four
178 sample tubes with 6.2 mm outer diameter and frontal diffusors protrude into the decelerated air
179 stream. The design goal is to allow regulating the sample airflow in each of the four sample lines
180 to achieve isokinetic sampling conditions according to the actual speed of the aircraft. Since the
181 automatic adjustment had not been implemented at the time of the field experiment, the flow was
182 fixed to values providing near-isokinetic sampling for typical flight conditions based on geomet-
183 ric considerations and preliminary flow simulations for the initial design of the inlet. The geo-
184 metric design should prevent large cloud droplets and ice crystals from entering the sample lines
185 directly. The inlet position is located in the shadow zone for larger ice crystals, which precludes
186 artifacts by shattering and break-up of larger ice particles at the inlet tip (Witte, 2008). Judging
187 from the first measurements with HASI, it appears that measurements of interstitial aerosol in
188 liquid clouds are affected by artifacts, while in ice clouds there is no indication for such artifacts.
189 The data selection procedures to exclude artifacts are discussed in section 2.2.



190 2.2. Condensation nuclei

191 Condensation nuclei (CN) number concentrations (N_{CN}) were measured using the Aerosol
192 Measurement System (AMETYST). This system was designed to provide an instrument package
193 for HALO to measure basic microphysical properties of the ambient atmospheric aerosol (inte-
194 gral number concentration, sub-micrometer size distribution, fraction of non-volatile particles,
195 and particle absorption coefficient). AMETYST includes four butanol-based condensation parti-
196 cle counters (CPCs, modified Grimm CPC 5.410 by Grimm Aerosol Technik, Ainring, Ger-
197 many) with flow rates of 0.6 and 0.3 l min⁻¹, configured with different nominal lower cutoff di-
198 ameters at 4 nm and 10 nm (set via the temperature difference between saturator and condenser).
199 In addition, two differential mobility analyzers (Grimm M-DMA) with a nominal size range be-
200 tween 5.5 and 350 nm using ²⁴¹Am radioactive sources as aerosol neutralizers are part of the sys-
201 tem.

202 Two of the four CPCs are generally set to measure the integral particle concentrations,
203 while for the two other CPCs the configuration is selectable depending on measurement priori-
204 ties. They can be used either as detectors for the DMAs or for additional integral concentration
205 measurements. The DMAs can either be set to select specific diameters or operated as a DMPS
206 (differential mobility particle sizer) system scanning the size distribution at predefined diameter
207 steps. The integration times at each step have to be chosen such that meaningful statistics can be
208 achieved depending on the measurement strategy. AMETYST also includes an optional ther-
209 modenuder, which heats a section of the sample line to 250°C for the measurement of the non-
210 volatile particle fraction.

211 The raw CPC data are corrected using an empirical, pressure-dependent flow correction
212 to account for changes in the volume flow at different flight altitudes (D. Fütterer, PhD thesis, in
213 preparation). Particle losses in the sampling lines have been estimated with the particle loss cal-
214 culator by von der Weiden et al. (2009). Accounting for these effects leads to an increase of the
215 effective cutoff diameter for all CPCs. The effective cutoffs are calculated as a convolution of
216 the pressure-dependent CPC counting efficiency and the size-dependent transmission efficiency
217 of the sample lines. The data reported here were taken by the CPC operated at 0.6 l min⁻¹, with a
218 nominal cutoff of 4 nm. Due to inlet losses, the effective cutoff diameter increases to 9.2 nm at
219 1000 hPa, 11.2 nm at 500 hPa, and 18.5 nm at 150 hPa. This implies that the present setup of



220 AMETYST essentially does not detect nucleation mode particles below 10 nm at low altitudes
221 and below 20 nm in the UT. Typical uncertainties of CPC number concentration measurements
222 are estimated to be of the order of 5 to 10% (Petzold et al., 2011).

223 To eliminate artifacts from cloud hydrometeors and bias from local pollution, we ex-
224 cluded measurements using the following criteria: (1) All cloud passages below 6 km were re-
225 moved. During passages through water clouds, the CPCs showed erratic, unreasonably high
226 number concentrations that are probably caused by droplet shattering at the probe tip. Cloud pas-
227 sages were identified from the observation of elevated concentrations of particles $>3 \mu\text{m}$ using
228 the hydrometeor probes (see below). (2) In the mixed phase and ice phase regimes, all cloud pas-
229 sages were inspected for possible shattering artifacts, and suspect data were rejected. Cloud pas-
230 sages through pure ice clouds did not show evidence of hydrometeor shattering. (3) The flight
231 segments during departure and approach to Manaus airport were removed to avoid pollution
232 from the airport and its surroundings. (4) Flights segments through the Manaus urban plume,
233 which was sampled during joint flight experiments with the DOE G1 aircraft and in the course of
234 tracer studies in the PBL, were excluded in order to provide a sampling representative of the dry
235 season atmosphere over the Amazon Basin away from local pollution. (5) Fire plumes that were
236 sampled deliberately to study fresh emissions were not analyzed for this paper. (6) Segments
237 where the aircraft passed through its own exhaust were also excluded from the data analysis.

238 **2.3. Aitken mode aerosol size spectra**

239 To obtain aerosol size spectra for particle sizes up to 300 nm, the DMAs within
240 AMETYST were connected to two of the CPCs and operated in scanning mode for selected
241 flight sequences (especially during longer flight legs, where relatively homogeneous conditions
242 can be assumed). The size range covered by the scans was typically between 20 and 300 nm di-
243 ameter in nine steps. To improve the time resolution, the two DMPS were usually set to scan the
244 same sequence in opposite direction. The DMPS data are then analyzed taking into account a
245 correction for multiple charges following Wiedensohler (1988) after correcting the measured
246 concentrations to standard atmospheric conditions. To derive modal parameters for the particle
247 size distribution, a bi-modal log-normal fit to the data points was computed.



248 **2.4. Accumulation mode aerosol particles**

249 For the purposes of this paper, we define the accumulation mode as the particle size range
250 from 90 nm to 600 nm and the total number concentration in this size class as the accumulation
251 mode number concentration, N_{acc} . The particle concentrations in this range were measured with
252 an optical particle counter (OPC), the Ultra High Sensitivity Aerosol Spectrometer (UHSAS;
253 Droplet Measurement Technologies, Inc., Longmont, CO) (Cai et al., 2008; Brock et al., 2011).
254 The UHSAS combines a high-power infrared laser ($\lambda=1054$ nm) and a large solid angle range in
255 sideways direction for the detection of light scattered by individual particles. Due to the resulting
256 almost monotonic increase of instrument response with particle size, the UHSAS enables high-
257 resolution measurements (100 selectable channels). The high laser intensity enables the detection
258 of particle diameters down to about 60 nm, with the upper limit being approximately 1 μm . Parti-
259 cle concentrations of up to 3000 cm^{-3} are recorded without significant counting coincidence
260 losses (Cai et al., 2008). The airborne instrument version is mounted in an under-wing canister
261 and equipped with a forward facing diffusor inlet. The slowed airflow is subsampled by a second
262 inlet at approximately isokinetic conditions. The sample is not actively dried before the measure-
263 ment, but due to combined heating effects the measured diameters can be assumed to be close to
264 their dry diameters (Chubb et al., 2016). The UHSAS was calibrated with monodisperse polysty-
265 rene latex (PSL) spheres of known refractive index and size. The evaluation of the OPC calibra-
266 tion results and the derivation of realistic uncertainty estimates for the OPC size distributions is
267 outlined in a recent study by Walser et al. (2017). Due to changes in the laser and instrument pa-
268 rameter settings during the campaign, only the size range from ~ 90 nm to ~ 600 nm is considered
269 here.

270 **2.5. Cloud condensation nuclei**

271 The number concentration of CCN (N_{CCN}) was measured with a continuous-flow stream-
272 wise thermal gradient CCN counter (CCNC, model CCN-200, DMT, Longmont, CO, USA)
273 (Roberts and Nenes, 2005; Rose et al., 2008). The CCN-200 consists of two columns, in which
274 particles with critical supersaturations (S) above a preselected value are activated and form water
275 droplets. Droplets with diameters ≥ 1 μm are detected by an optical particle counter (OPC) at the
276 exit of the column. The inlet flow rate of the column used was 0.5 L min^{-1} with a sheath-to-aero-
277 sol flow ratio of 10. The water pump was operated at the CCNC setting of “high” liquid flow.



278 Variations in ambient pressure have a strong influence on the S inside the CCNC. For this pur-
279 pose, a novel constant pressure inlet without significant particle losses was deployed on HALO.
280 The instrument was calibrated before, during, and after the campaign at different pressures and
281 flow rates according to Rose et al. (2008). For the data used in this study, we sampled from the
282 HASI inlet and measured at $S = 0.52 \pm 0.05\%$ and a time resolution of 1 Hz.

283 Since the flow in the instrument was kept constant for the data used here, the error in S
284 resulted from the calibration uncertainty, as described by M. Pöhlker et al. (2016); it is estimated
285 to be in the range of 10%. According to Krüger et al. (2014), the error in N_{CCN} is based on the
286 counting error of the measured particle number and is 10% of N_{CCN} for large concentrations; given
287 that mostly low concentrations prevailed, the mean error was about 20% of N_{CCN} .

288 **2.6. Cloud droplet and ice particle measurements**

289 While measurements of liquid water and ice hydrometeor concentrations are not a subject
290 of this paper, they were used to determine whether the aircraft was sampling inside clouds and if
291 so, whether the cloud particles were liquid or frozen. For this purpose, we used data from the
292 Cloud Droplet Probe (CDP) and the Cloud and Aerosol Spectrometer (CAS-DPOL), both of
293 which are based on the principle of forward scattering detection. The CDP detects particles with
294 sizes from 3 μm to 50 μm , and classifies them into size histograms of bin widths between 1 and
295 2 μm . The CAS-DPOL covers the size range of 0.6–50 μm in 17 bins of varying width. The
296 probes are described in Voigt et al. (2017) and probes and data correction techniques in Weigel
297 et al. (2016).

298 Information regarding the ice particle properties was obtained from the Particle Habit Im-
299 aging and Polar Scattering Probe (PHIPS-HALO), a single-particle cloud probe that measures
300 microphysical and angular light scattering properties of individual particles (Abdelmonem et al.,
301 2016). The instrument is composed of a stereoscopic imager that takes two brightfield images
302 from the particles under a viewing angle difference of 120°. Simultaneously to collecting the im-
303 ages, the scattering part of the instrument measures the angular scattering function of the parti-
304 cles from 18° to 170° with an angular resolution of 8°. The optical resolution of the imager is
305 about 2.5 μm .



306 **2.7. Aerosol mass spectrometer**

307 For in-situ chemical analysis of submicrometer aerosol particles a compact time-of-flight
308 aerosol mass spectrometer (C-ToF-AMS) (Drewnick et al., 2005; Schmale et al., 2010) was op-
309 erated onboard HALO. The C-ToF-AMS was sampling through the HASI inlet for ambient aero-
310 sol measurements. The aerosol particles enter the instrument via a pressure-controlled inlet and
311 are focused into a narrow beam by an aerodynamic lens. In the vacuum chamber, the particles
312 are flash-vaporized and the resulting gas-phase molecules are ionized by electron impact. The
313 ions are guided into the Time-of-Flight mass spectrometer, separated by their mass-to-charge ra-
314 tio, and detected by a microchannel plate detector. The C-ToF-AMS was operated with a time
315 resolution of 30 seconds, providing mass concentrations of particulate organics, nitrate, sulfate,
316 chloride, and ammonium.

317 **2.8. Refractory black carbon**

318 An eight-channel Single Particle Soot Photometer (SP2) was used to detect and quantify
319 refractory black carbon (rBC) particles using laser-induced incandescence (Stephens et al., 2003;
320 Schwarz et al., 2006). The instrument measures the time-dependent scattering and incandescence
321 signals produced by individual aerosol particles when crossing a Gaussian-shaped laser beam
322 (Nd:YAG; $\lambda = 1064$ nm). The particles containing rBC cores absorb the laser light and evaporate
323 within the optical chamber emitting thermal radiation (incandescence). The peak intensity of the
324 incandescence signal, recorded by two photomultiplier tubes over two different wavelength inter-
325 vals, is linearly proportional to the mass of the rBC in the particle (Laborde et al., 2013). The in-
326 strument is sensitive to rBC cores in the nominal size range of 70 - 500 nm mass-equivalent di-
327 ameter, assuming a density of 1.8 g cm^{-3} . The SP2 also detects the intensity of the light scattered
328 by the particles using an avalanche photo-detector in order to determine the optical size of purely
329 scattering particles in the diameter range of 200 - 400 nm.

330 The SP2 incandescence signal was calibrated several times (at the beginning, during, and
331 at the end of the campaign) using size-selected fullerene soot particles. The scattering signal was
332 calibrated using either spherical polystyrene latex size standards (208, 244, and 288 nm) or am-
333 monium sulfate particles of different diameters selected by a differential mobility analyzer
334 (DMA).



335 **2.9. Trace gases**

336 Ozone (O_3) was measured by a dual-cell ultraviolet (UV) absorption detector (TE49C,
337 Thermo Scientific) operating at a wavelength of 254 nm. Signal differences from a cell with the
338 sample air and a parallel cell with ozone-scrubbed air are used to infer the concentration of O_3 .
339 Sample air was drawn into the instruments through the standard HALO gas inlet via a Teflon
340 PFA line using an external pump at a nominal flow rate of 1 l min^{-1} . The calibration of the instru-
341 ment is traceable to the O_3 standard of the Global Atmosphere Watch station at Hohenpeißen-
342 berg, Germany. The data output of the instrument is corrected for the temperature and pressure in
343 the absorption cells. The precision of the O_3 measurements is 2% or 1 ppb, whichever is larger,
344 the accuracy is 5%. Details on the use of this instrument can be found in Huntrieser et al. (2016).

345 Carbon monoxide (CO) was detected with a fast-response fluorescence instrument
346 (AL5002, Aerolaser, Garmisch, Germany) (Gerbig et al., 1999). The detection of CO is based on
347 the excitation of CO at 150 nm using a CO_2 resonance UV lamp. The fluorescence light is de-
348 tected by a UV-sensitive photomultiplier. The CO detector was calibrated in-flight using onboard
349 calibration and zero gas sources. Data are recorded at 1 Hz. The precision and accuracy are 3 ppb
350 and 5%, respectively.

351 Nitrogen monoxide (NO) and total reactive nitrogen (NO_y) were measured by a dual-
352 channel chemiluminescence detector (CLD-SR, Eco Physics). For the NO_y channel, the chemilu-
353 minescence detector is combined with a custom-built Au converter which reduces all oxidized
354 reactive nitrogen species to NO (Ziereis et al., 2000). Detection of ambient NO is performed via
355 reaction with O_3 in a chamber and the luminescence signal of the excited NO_2 produced by this
356 reaction. Both detector channels are equipped with a pre-reaction chamber for determination of
357 cross-reactions of O_3 with interfering species. Sampling of ambient air is conducted via a stand-
358 ard HALO gas inlet using a Teflon line. The precision and accuracy of the measurements depend
359 on the ambient concentrations, typical values are 5% and 7% (NO) and 10% and 15% (NO_y), re-
360 spectively.

361 **2.10. Trajectories and air mass history analysis**

362 Backtrajectories were calculated for each minute, starting at the location of the HALO
363 aircraft and using the FLEXPART (“FLEXible PARTicle”) Lagrangian Particle Dispersion



364 Model version 9.02 (Stohl et al., 1998; Stohl and Thomson, 1999; Seibert and Frank, 2004; Stohl
365 et al., 2005). Trajectories were driven by six-hourly analyses, interlaced with the three-hour fore-
366 casts, from the Global Forecast System (GFS) of the National Centers for Environmental Predic-
367 tion (NCEP), provided on a 0.5 x 0.5 degree horizontal grid
368 (<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/products/gfs/>, last accessed 8 Sep 2016). For each trajec-
369 tory, 10,000 ‘particles’ (infinitesimally small air parcels) are released and followed back in time
370 for 10 days. Sub-grid-scale processes like convection and turbulence act stochastically on each
371 ‘particle’, resulting in a trajectory location probability distribution at each point in time. For con-
372 venience, the location probability distribution is simplified using a clustering algorithm, calculat-
373 ing five cluster centers of most probable trajectory locations (Stohl et al., 2002). Additional tra-
374 jectory calculations were performed using the HYSPLIT model (Stein et al., 2015) with NCEP
375 GDAS1 data and model vertical velocities.

376 We examined the history of the sampled airmasses for interactions with deep convection
377 using the FLEXPART trajectories and GOES (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satel-
378 lite) imagery. Every one-minute flight position was traced back in time in one-hour steps up to
379 120 hours. Each position was then matched in time to the closest GOES-13 (Geostationary Oper-
380 ational Environmental Satellite) infrared brightness temperature (T_b). As a proxy for deep con-
381 vection, we searched for cloud top T_b below -30 °C and looked up the minimum T_b in a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$
382 box around the center of the back-traced parcel. An example of this procedure is available in the
383 Supplement (Figs. S1-S3). From these data, we recorded the time difference between the mo-
384 ment that HALO was sampling the airmass and its encounter with deep convection, possibly in-
385 cluding multiple contacts with deep convection. We also noted the “deepest convection” (mini-
386 mum T_b) encountered by the parcels and their height at the time of the encounter, as well as the
387 number of hours that the parcel was within boxes with deep convection ($T_b < -30$ °C).

388 **3. Results and Discussion**

389 **3.1. The ACRIDICON-CHUVA campaign**

390 The ACRIDICON-CHUVA flights covered most of the Amazon Basin, reaching from the
391 Atlantic coastal waters in the east to near the Colombian border in the west, and from the Guy-



392 anas border in the north to the arc of deforestation in the south. The flight tracks of the flights an-
393 alyzed in this paper are shown in Fig. 1, where the flight segments at altitudes >8 km are shown
394 as heavier lines.

395 **3.2. Synoptic situation and chemical context**

396 3.2.1. Meteorological overview

397 During boreal summer, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) undergoes a seasonal
398 northward shift towards the northernmost part of South America, so that almost all of the Ama-
399 zon Basin is in the meteorological Southern Hemisphere. Examination of cloud top height and
400 precipitation images showed that the ITCZ was located between about 4 and 12 °N during the
401 campaign (6 Sep to 1 Oct 2014), but was often not very well defined over South America
402 (worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov, accessed 13 Jan 2017). This seasonal shift establishes the large-
403 scale thermodynamic conditions that define the dry season over the Amazon Basin, characterized
404 by synoptic-scale subsidence, a relatively dry planetary boundary layer (PBL) and mid-tropo-
405 sphere, and warm temperatures at the top of the PBL, resulting in elevated convective inhibition
406 energy (CINE) (Fu et al., 1999; Wang and Fu, 2007; Collow et al., 2016). During the dry season,
407 there is less shallow convection, cloud cover, and rainfall than in the wet season, but the convec-
408 tion that does occur is more organized with pronounced vertical development because of the sim-
409 ultaneous presence of high convective available potential energy (CAPE) and high CINE
410 (Machado et al., 2004; Collow et al., 2016; Giangrande et al., 2017; Zhuang et al., 2017). The
411 deep convective cloud fraction peaks in the late afternoon and evening (1600LT to 2400LT) with
412 a cloud fraction maximum between 9 and 13 km altitude and a minimum near and above the
413 freezing level between 4 and 7 km (Collow et al., 2016; Zhuang et al., 2017).

414 During the ACRIDICON-CHUVA campaign, the intense warm sea-surface temperature
415 (SST) anomaly that had earlier prevailed in the southern South Atlantic and a less intense cold
416 SST anomaly in the northern South Atlantic and near the Equator were strongly reduced, and a
417 warm SST anomaly in the equatorial Pacific was building to form the 2015 El Nino (see also
418 Martin et al., 2016). Consequently, the pattern of wind and omega (vertical motion) field anoma-
419 lies decreased to nearly normal conditions. However, during the campaign there was a clear
420 northeast-southwest contrast with drier conditions in the northeast and wetter ones in the south-
421 west, as seen in the columnar precipitable water anomaly data from the NCEP Climate Forecast



422 System Version 2 Reanalysis (Fig. 2) (Saha et al., accessed 20 March 2017). The majority of
423 HALO flights were over the drier anomaly or the neutral region. As a consequence of this drier
424 anomaly, these regions presented warmer temperatures and lower relative humidity than the nor-
425 mal climatology. The synoptic pattern during the campaign resulted in a spatial rainfall distribu-
426 tion with a meridional pattern, with more intense rainfall in the west, around 300 mm in Septem-
427 ber, and less than 100 mm in the eastern Amazon (Fig. 3). Nine cold fronts penetrated into Brazil
428 during September, however, only two moved northward and they had little interaction with Ama-
429 zon convection. Only the cold front on 20 to 23 September was able to organize convection in
430 the south of the Amazon Basin.

431 Figures 4a and 4b show the low (850 hPa) and high (200 hPa) level wind fields during
432 September 2014. The mean low-level flow at 850 hPa shows the typical easterly winds through-
433 out the Amazon Basin (Fig. 4a), decelerating near the Andes and curving to the subtropics. At
434 high levels (Fig. 4b), there is a weak anticyclonic circulation over the southern basin, featuring
435 the initial increased deep convection in the transition from the dry to the wet season (September)
436 and the development of the Bolivian High during the onset of the wet season (December to
437 March) (Virji, 1981; Zhou and Lau, 1998).

438 During the research flights, HALO reached maximum altitudes of 12.6 to 14.4 km a.s.l.,
439 corresponding to potential temperatures between 352 and 360 K (Fig. 5), i.e., the bottom of the
440 tropical tropopause layer (TTL). The vertical profiles of temperature and potential temperature
441 were remarkably consistent between the flights, showing a fairly stable stratification up to about
442 8 km and a slightly weaker gradient in potential temperature above this altitude. Relative humid-
443 ity shows a broad minimum in the region between 6 and 10 km. For comparison, the data from
444 radiosonde soundings at Manacapuru (a site southwest of Manaus) are provided in the supple-
445 ment (Fig. S4).

446 Based on the soundings, the mean height of the thermal tropopause during the campaign
447 was 16.9 ± 0.6 km, corresponding to a potential temperature of about 380 K. During September
448 2014, the mean CAPE was 1536 J kg^{-1} and the mean CINE value was 37 J kg^{-1} , the precipitable
449 water was 42 mm, the lifting condensation level 919 hPa, and the bulk shear 4.8 m s^{-1} (difference
450 between the mean wind speed in the first 6 km and 500 meters). These values give a clear idea



451 about the typical cloud base expected, the high instability, the need of a forcing due to the CINE,
452 the high shear, and the amount of integrated water vapor.

453 In this paper, we use the following terminology to describe the different layers of the
454 tropical atmosphere: The region from the surface to the convective cloud base (typically about
455 1.2 to 1.7 km during mid-day) is the planetary boundary layer (PBL), above which is the convec-
456 tive cloud layer (CCL), which typically reached to altitudes of about 4-5 km during our cam-
457 paign. The region between the CCL and the TTL is the free troposphere (FT), which we subdiv-
458 ide into the middle troposphere (MT) between about 5 km and 9 km and the and the upper tropo-
459 sphere (UT) above ca. 9 km.

460 3.2.2. Airmass origins and history

461 For an overview of airmass movement in the UT over the central Amazon during the
462 campaign, we obtained trajectory frequency statistics for airmasses arriving at altitudes between
463 10 and 14 km over the central Amazon Basin. The frequency analysis indicated that airmass
464 movement in the upper troposphere was generally relatively slow and tended to follow anticy-
465 clonic patterns (Fig. 6), consistent with the 200 hPa streamlines shown in Fig. 4b. The frequency
466 diagram for the 72-h trajectories initialized at 12 km altitude (Fig. 6a) shows that most airmasses
467 had remained over the basin for the preceding three days (only about 1% of the endpoints fall
468 outside of the basin). The 10 and 14 km statistics show essentially the same patterns (Supplement
469 Figs. S5-S6), as do the individual trajectories calculated from the aircraft positions along the
470 flight tracks (not shown).

471 The 120-h trajectory statistics (Fig. 6b) and the examination of the individual trajectories
472 along the flight tracks indicate that the air sampled in the UT had followed a number of different
473 general flow patterns before being sampled by HALO: 1) flow from the Pacific with an anticy-
474 clonic loop of variable extent over the basin, ranging from almost zonal west-to-east flow to a
475 huge loop going as far south as Argentina and as far east as the Atlantic, and then returning to the
476 basin (types A and B in Table 1), 2) flow from the Atlantic, often almost zonal (type C), 3) inter-
477 nal circulation within the basin, usually along anticyclonic loops, but sometimes erratic (type D),
478 and 4) flow from the Caribbean, often following an anticyclonic pattern (type E). The flow pat-
479 terns of the UT airmasses that were enriched in aerosol particles are given in Table 1.

480 3.2.3. Atmospheric chemical environment

481 The atmospheric chemical environment over the Amazon Basin shows a pronounced sea-
482 sonal variation (Talbot et al., 1988; Andreae et al., 1990b; Talbot et al., 1990; Andreae et al.,
483 2002; Artaxo et al., 2002; Martin et al., 2010; Andreae et al., 2012; Artaxo et al., 2013; Andreae
484 et al., 2015). During the rainy season, regional biomass burning is at a minimum and biological
485 sources dominate trace gas and aerosol emissions in the basin, resulting in often near-pristine
486 conditions. The most significant pollution input during this season is long-range transport from
487 North and West Africa, which brings in a mixture of mineral dust and emissions from biomass
488 and fossil fuel burning (Talbot et al., 1990; Wang et al., 2016b). In contrast, ACRIDICON-
489 CHUVA took place during the dry season, when the Amazon Basin is impacted by a mixture of
490 pollution from regional and remote sources (Andreae et al., 1988; Talbot et al., 1988; Artaxo et
491 al., 2013). Deforestation and pasture-maintenance burning occurs throughout the basin, with the
492 highest intensity along the southern periphery, the so called “arc of deforestation”. This creates a
493 steep gradient of pollutant concentrations from the relatively moist and less densely developed
494 northern and western basin to the drier and highly deforested and developed southern basin
495 (Andreae et al., 2012).

496 Long-range transport from Africa affects pollution levels over the Amazon, in addition to
497 regional sources. In the northern part of the basin, part of the 10-day backtrajectories arriving at
498 the aircraft positions in the lower troposphere reach West Africa, where biomass burning and
499 fossil-fuel emissions are prevalent, while other trajectories follow the northeastern coast of Bra-
500 zil, which is densely populated. As one moves south, the influence of long-range transport from
501 Southern Africa becomes more prevalent. This was clearly observed during flight AC19, which
502 extended over the Atlantic east of the Brazilian coast. On this flight, an extended, 300-m thick
503 layer of pollution at 4 km altitude was identified over the Atlantic with elevated rBC concentra-
504 tions up to $2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (see section 3.4.4). The backtrajectories from the Amazon south of the Equa-
505 tor very frequently end in the central and eastern tropical Atlantic (see Fig. 3 in Andreae et al.,
506 2015), where high levels of ozone, aerosols, and other pollutants from biomass burning have
507 been documented by in-situ and satellite observations starting in the 1980s (Watson et al., 1990;
508 Fishman et al., 1991; Andreae et al., 1994; Browell et al., 1996; Fishman et al., 1996).



509 3.3. Vertical distribution of aerosol particle number concentrations over the Amazon Basin

510 Figure 7a shows a statistical summary of all CN number concentrations (N_{CN}) observed
511 during the campaign. Data affected by local pollution and cloud artifacts have been removed as
512 discussed in section 2.2. (Additional information about the flight segments on which elevated
513 N_{CN} were encountered is provided in Table 1.) In the PBL, which typically reached heights of 1.4
514 to 1.8 km during the afternoon, mean N_{CN} ranged from $\sim 750 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ on the least polluted flights to
515 $\sim 4500 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the most polluted regions over the southern part of the basin. Above the PBL, CN
516 concentrations typically remained relatively high within the lower troposphere up to about 3–4
517 km, and then declined with altitude. N_{CN} reached a minimum of $\sim 700 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at about 4–5 km alti-
518 tude everywhere over the basin. This aerosol minimum coincides with the minimum in cloud
519 cover that has been observed at and above the freezing level, which has been suggested to be as-
520 sociated with rain development by the Wegener-Findeisen-Bergeron process at this level
521 (Collow et al., 2016).

522 Above this level, we found a general increase in particle concentrations, such that above 8
523 km, N_{CN} were typically in the range of 2000 to $10,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. This altitude corresponds approxi-
524 mately to the 340 K potential temperature level, above which elevated CN concentrations had
525 also been found in previous studies (Borrmann et al., 2010; Weigel et al., 2011).

526 While the statistical plot in Fig. 7a shows a general particle enrichment in the UT, indi-
527 vidual vertical profiles show more complex structures (Fig. 7b). The highest N_{CN} , sometimes
528 reaching up to $65,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, were encountered in thin layers often only a few hundreds of meters
529 thick. A distinct example for such a layer is seen in the descent profile (segment A2) from flight
530 AC09 (Fig. 4b), with peak CN concentrations of ca. $35,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. Other profiles, e.g., the descent
531 profile from flight AC07 (segment G), show enhancements over a layer about 3 km thick, with
532 N_{CN} of $10,000 - 20,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

533 The CN enrichments in the UT consist predominantly of ultrafine particles in the size
534 range below 90 nm. In contrast to N_{CN} , the enhancement of accumulation mode particles (N_{acc} ,
535 defined here as the particles in the size range 90 to 600 nm) in the UT is much less pronounced.
536 The concentration of accumulation mode particles in the LT typically ranged from ~ 500 to
537 $\sim 3000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, depending on the level of pollution (Fig. 8a). Like the vertical profile of N_{CN} , the
538 profile of N_{acc} also shows a decrease above the LT to a minimum around 4–5 km, followed by an



539 increase towards the upper troposphere. Over the more polluted regions in the southern basin,
540 N_{acc} in the UT was often considerably lower than in the LT.

541 Figure 8b illustrates the different behavior of CN and accumulation mode particle number
542 concentrations at the example of a sounding in the central Amazon Basin from flight AC19. In
543 the LT, N_{CN} and N_{acc} have similar values and decline to a minimum at about 4.7 km. Above this
544 altitude, N_{CN} shows several sharp concentration peaks, with one at about 7.4 km reaching con-
545 centrations around $65,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. These peaks are only weakly, if at all, reflected in N_{acc} , which
546 shows a broad enhancement in the UT to values around 1000 cm^{-3} . Consequently, we find two
547 types of aerosol enrichments in the UT: at one extreme, thin layers with extremely high N_{CN} val-
548 ues but no significant increase in particles larger than 90 nm, at the other, broad overall particle
549 enrichments with modest values of both N_{CN} and N_{acc} .

550 **3.4. Differences between UT and LT aerosols**

551 The high concentrations of particles in the UT over the Amazon Basin beg the question of
552 their origin. Three different mechanisms can be considered: vertical transport of particles from
553 the PBL by deep convection, horizontal long-range transport from remote source regions, and in-
554 situ new particle formation. To assess these possibilities, we discuss in the following sections the
555 chemical and physical properties of the UT aerosols and contrast them with the LT aerosol.

556 A first argument against vertical transport as the dominant source mechanism for the
557 large particle concentrations in the UT comes simply from the observed CN concentrations.
558 Since we are using concentrations normalized to standard temperature and pressure, N_{CN} should
559 not change with vertical transport alone, and the values measured in the UT should not exceed
560 those measured in the PBL. The fact that CN concentrations in the UT across the entire Amazon
561 Basin are higher than the PBL values we measured anywhere in the basin, often by very large
562 factors, rules out vertical transport of particles from the Amazon PBL as the dominant source of
563 UT particles.

564 **3.4.1. Particle size**

565 The particles in the UT have a very different size distribution from those in the LT, which
566 also shows that they could not have originated from upward transport of PBL aerosols by deep
567 convection. Unfortunately, a detailed analysis of the size distribution of the particles in the UT is



568 hampered by the significant losses of small particles in our inlet system. As discussed in section
569 2.2, the particle losses increase with altitude such that in the UT most of the particles below ca.
570 20 nm are lost in the inlet system before reaching the CPC. Because of a longer inlet tubing con-
571 nection and lower sample flow, the losses were even more significant for the DMPS, and as a re-
572 sult of this and other operational limitations, valid particle size distributions are only available
573 from the LT.

574 The DMPS measurements in the LT showed that the aerosol size distribution was domi-
575 nated by an accumulation mode centered at about 190 nm, flanked by an Aitken mode with a
576 maximum at about 80 nm (Fig. 9), in good agreement with the size distributions measured previ-
577 ously at ground level in the Amazon (Zhou et al., 2002; Rissler et al., 2006; Andreae et al., 2015;
578 Pöhlker et al., 2016) and those obtained over the Amazon on the G1 aircraft during the GoAma-
579 zon 2014 campaign (Martin et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2016a). For comparison, we show size
580 spectra from GoAmazon 2014 from Wang et al. (2016a), the only published size spectra from the
581 FT over central Amazonia. Unfortunately, even these data reach only up to 5.8 km, the ceiling
582 altitude of the G1 aircraft. In the PBL, these spectra were similar to our measurements from the
583 LT. With increasing altitude, total particle concentrations increased and the size spectrum be-
584 came dominated by an Aitken mode at ca. 50 nm (Wang et al., 2016a). A previous study over the
585 northern Amazon in Suriname had also found a decrease in the modal diameter of the Aitken
586 mode from ~70 nm in the LT to ~30 nm in the UT above 10 km (Krejci et al., 2003). Assuming
587 that similar size distributions prevailed in the UT during ACRIDICON-CHUVA and given the
588 fact that inlet losses limited our measurements to particle diameters >20-30 nm, it seems justified
589 to conclude that our N_{CN} concentrations in the UT are actually lower limits and that the true con-
590 centrations might have been significantly higher.

591 In the absence of full size spectra, we use the ultrafine fraction [UFF, defined as the frac-
592 tion of particles with diameters between 90 nm (the lower cutoff of the UHSAS) and ~20 nm
593 (the lower cutoff of the CPC), i.e., $UFF = (N_{CN} - N_{acc})/N_{CN}$] as a metric for the contribution of the
594 Aitken and nucleation modes to the total observed particle concentration. The summary profile
595 plot (Fig. 10a) shows the dramatic difference between the UFF in the LT and UT: In the LT, the
596 mean UFF is about 0.05 to 0.2, showing the dominance of the accumulation mode. The share of
597 ultrafine particles increases throughout the middle troposphere, and in the UT they account for
598 the vast majority of particles, with UFF values around 0.7 in regions where both N_{acc} and N_{CN} are



599 moderately enriched, and values approaching 1.0 in the layers with very high N_{CN} . This shows
600 up more clearly in individual profiles, e.g., the soundings in Fig 10b from flight AC18. The
601 highly enriched layers are represented by UFF peaks in the range of 0.7 to 1.0, whereas the back-
602 ground UT enrichment exhibits UFF values of 0.5 to 0.8. The highest UFF values were measured
603 in the very young aerosol layer in segment E2 at 13.5 km (Fig. 10b), with an estimated particle
604 age of about 1-5 hours (more on this layer in section 3.5.2).

605 3.4.2. Cloud nucleating properties

606 The cloud nucleating ability of aerosol particles depends both on their size and their
607 chemical composition. Here we focus on CCN concentrations at 0.52% supersaturation ($N_{CCN0.5}$),
608 which are dominated by the particles in the accumulation mode size range, but also include a
609 fraction of the Aitken mode. A full discussion of the CCN measurements during ACRIDICON-
610 CHUVA will be presented elsewhere (M. Pöhlker et al., 2017, in preparation).

611 Figure 11a shows the vertical distribution of CCN for the entire campaign, indicating
612 strong variability in the LT, a minimum at ca. 5 km, and elevated concentrations in the UT. The
613 $N_{CCN0.5}$ variability in the LT was related to the variable level of pollution, mostly from biomass
614 burning, which was much higher in the southern part of the basin than in the north. In contrast,
615 there was no systematic difference between the CCN concentrations in the UT above polluted
616 and relatively clean regions. Therefore, depending on the level of pollution in the lower tropo-
617 sphere, the $N_{CCN0.5}$ in the UT during our campaign were higher or lower than those in the LT.
618 This is illustrated at the example of $N_{CCN0.5}$ profiles from Flights AC09 and AC12+13, from a
619 clean region (AC09) and one polluted by biomass burning emissions (AC12+13), respectively
620 (Fig. 11b). While there was a large difference in the CCN concentrations in the LT, the values in
621 the UT were very similar between these flights, indicating that the CCN enrichments in the UT
622 are independent of the pollution levels in the LT.

623 The CCN concentrations at a supersaturation $S=0.52\%$ in the UT were consistently
624 greater than the corresponding values of accumulation particle number concentrations, N_{acc} , re-
625 sulting in a median $N_{CCN0.5}/N_{acc}$ ratio of 1.66 (quartile range 1.32 – 2.32, $N=53,382$) above 8 km.
626 This implies that some of the particles smaller than 90 nm are also able to nucleate cloud drops at
627 $S=0.52\%$. Because size-selective CCN measurements were not performed during ACRIDICON-
628 CHUVA, it was not possible to derive the actual critical diameters and hygroscopicity factors (κ ,



629 Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007) for the CCN on this campaign. However, a consistency check
630 can be made using the measured chemical composition. As will be discussed in detail in section
631 3.4.4, the UT particles consist predominantly of organic material, with minor amounts of nitrate
632 and very small fractions of sulfate. The hygroscopicity of particles consisting completely of or-
633 ganic matter can vary greatly, with κ between near 0 and about 0.3 (Jimenez et al., 2009). Our
634 AMS measurements (see section 3.4.4) showed that the UT secondary organic aerosol (SOA)
635 contains a substantial fraction of organics derived from the oxidation of isoprene (IEPOX-SOA)
636 (Schulz et al., 2017), which has relatively high hygroscopicity ($\kappa \geq 0.1$) (Engelhart et al., 2011;
637 Thalman et al., 2017). Assuming a conservative value of $\kappa_{\text{org}} \cong 0.1$, which had been found previ-
638 ously for the Amazon PBL (Gunthe et al., 2009; Pöhlker et al., 2016), pure SOA particles would
639 have to have diameters of ≥ 80 nm to act as CCN at 0.52% supersaturation, whereas for pure am-
640 monium sulfate particles ($\kappa \cong 0.6$), the critical diameter would be ca. 45 nm (Petters and
641 Kreidenweis, 2007). At a typical organic mass fraction of 0.8 for the UT aerosol (see section
642 3.4.4), an effective κ of ca. 0.2, corresponding to a critical diameter of ~ 65 nm, is likely. Given
643 the expected steep increase in particle concentration between the N_{acc} cutoff of 90 nm and the es-
644 timated critical diameter of 65 nm, a $N_{\text{CCN}0.5}/N_{\text{acc}}$ ratio of the observed magnitude appears thus
645 quite reasonable.

646 The vertical distribution of the CCN fraction, i.e., the ratio $N_{\text{CCN}0.5}/N_{\text{CN}}$, shows a pro-
647 nounced decrease with altitude (Fig. 12a), reflecting the smaller particle size in the UT. It also
648 exhibits a strong inverse relation to the total particle concentration, N_{CN} . This is illustrated at the
649 example of flight AC18 (Fig. 12b), where the data from different flight segments are plotted.
650 Segments A and F (yellow and orange) are from soundings in the somewhat more polluted cen-
651 tral part of the Amazon Basin, while B and C (green) are from the cleaner westernmost part and
652 show the lowest CCN concentrations and the highest CCN fractions. Both soundings have high-
653 CN layers at altitudes between 7 and 13 km, with N_{CN} up to almost $23,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and correspond-
654 ingly low $N_{\text{CCN}0.5}/N_{\text{CN}}$. Segment E2 (red) is from a layer that was intercepted downwind of a
655 massive convective complex, with a transport time of 1-5 hours between the anvil and the air-
656 craft (see section 3.5.2). This layer had N_{CN} values up to $45,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, CCN fractions down to
657 0.01, and $\text{UFF} \cong 0.98$, suggesting that these recently formed particles were too small to act as
658 CCN. This layer was embedded in a region of moderately elevated CN (segment E1 at 13-14 km;
659 lilac), which had much higher $N_{\text{CCN}0.5}/N_{\text{CN}}$ (0.2-0.5) and lower UFF (0.6-0.8), indicating larger



660 particle sizes and likely a more aged aerosol. Segment D (blue), at 11-12 km altitude, had similar
661 properties to E1. These observations point to the presence of two distinct aerosol populations in
662 the UT. At one extreme are aerosols with very high N_{CN} and ultrafine fractions and low CCN
663 fractions (e.g., E2), presumably representing newly formed particles with sizes too small to act as
664 CCN. At the other extreme are populations with modest N_{CN} , but high UFF and CCN fractions,
665 indicating a more aged aerosol with larger particles (e.g., E1 and D).

666 The existence of these two populations is confirmed in plots of $N_{CCN0.5}$ and $N_{CCN0.5}/N_{CN}$
667 against supersaturation. Examples are shown in Fig. 13a and 13b, with AC18-DD representing a
668 segment dominated by larger and aged particles, AC07-F a region with high concentrations of
669 small and younger particles, and AC09-AA a mixed case with short periods of very high N_{CN}
670 over a background of moderately elevated particle concentrations. Even though the mean CN
671 concentration exceeds 8900 cm^{-3} in AC07-F, the mean $N_{CCN0.5}$ in the same region is only 13 cm^{-3}
672 and therefore the $N_{CCN0.5}/N_{CN}$ vs. S plot falls essentially on the baseline. In contrast, AC18-DD
673 presents a fairly “classical” supersaturation spectrum, and AC09-AA is a mixed case with the
674 measurements made during the N_{CN} peaks showing very low $N_{CCN0.5}/N_{CN}$.

675 In Fig. 13c and 13d, we compare the mean supersaturation spectra from the lower, middle
676 and upper troposphere obtained on flights AC12 and AC13, which were taken on successive
677 days over the same region and where the LT was influenced by biomass burning pollution. In the
678 LT, the CCN fraction is in the range observed at ground level at the Amazon Tall Tower Obser-
679 vatory (ATTO) site (Pöhlker et al., 2016) and in close agreement with measurements in the
680 southern Amazon during the biomass burning season (Vestin et al., 2007). In the UT, we ob-
681 served low CCN fractions representing the regions with high N_{CN} and UFF, mostly at altitudes of
682 10-11 km, and higher CCN fractions at 12 km and above corresponding to a region with elevated
683 CCN (cf. Fig. 11b, which shows the CCN concentrations from these flights). In the middle tropo-
684 sphere (5-8 km) we found intermediate CCN fractions, consistent with a mixture of LT and UT
685 aerosols.

686 3.4.3. Volatility

687 On several flights (AC16, 18, 19, and 20), a second CPC was operated behind a ther-
688 modenuder at a temperature of $250\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, in parallel to the regular CPC. The results of these meas-
689 urements are shown in Fig. 14a in the form of the volatile fraction (VF), i.e., $(N_{CN} - N_{\text{nonvol}})/N_{CN}$,



690 plotted against altitude. In the LT, most particles are nonvolatile and the VF is typically between
691 10 and 20%. This is consistent with the behavior described by Clarke and Kapustin (2010) and
692 Thornberry et al. (2010), who found that aged combustion aerosols (from biomass of fossil-fuel
693 burning) are non-volatile and mostly in the accumulation mode size fraction. With increasing al-
694 titude, the VF increases, closely resembling the profile of the UFF. In the UT, the mean VF
695 reaches about 80%, and approaches 100% in the most highly enriched layers (e.g., segment E2).
696 In previous campaigns, high volatile fractions had also been observed in the tropical UT and
697 TTL, with the highest VF in the region between 340 and 360 K potential temperature, corre-
698 sponding to about 9-15 km (Borrmann et al., 2010; Weigel et al., 2011).

699 More detail can be seen when looking at data from an individual flight. In Fig. 14b we
700 show the profiles from AC18, which we had already discussed in the context of CCN concentra-
701 tions in the previous section. The profiles (segments A, B, C, and F) show the overall increase in
702 VF with height, with peak values at embedded high-CN layers. The freshest layer (E2), which
703 had the highest UFF, also has the highest VF. In contrast, segments D and E1, representing larger
704 UT regions with moderate CN enrichments, larger particles, and higher CCN fraction also have
705 lower VFs, between 0.4 and 0.7. A contribution from aged combustion aerosols can be ruled out
706 as source for the non-volatile particles in these layers, because the rBC concentrations are close
707 to zero (see below). As we will show in the next section, it appears that these low-volatility parti-
708 cles represent a more aged organic aerosol.

709 3.4.4. Chemical composition

710 As discussed above, the LT aerosol over the Amazon during the dry season is dominated
711 by the products of biomass burning, with increasing concentrations from north to south. This is
712 clearly reflected in its chemical composition, which is dominated by carbonaceous matter (or-
713 ganic and elemental carbon) and only contains minor fractions of inorganic species, such as po-
714 tassium, sulfate, and nitrate. Elemental or black carbon is a unique tracer of combustion emis-
715 sions and was measured on HALO in the form of refractory black carbon (rBC).

716 The vertical profile of rBC shows a sharp separation between LT and FT (Fig. 15). The
717 average rBC concentration in the region below 5 km was $0.31 \pm 0.29 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, whereas in the FT
718 above 6 km it was $0.0026 \pm 0.0069 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in terms of mass concentrations, and $99 \pm 92 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ vs.
719 $1.5 \pm 2.5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in number concentrations of rBC particles. Interestingly, these concentrations over



720 the Amazon Basin are only slightly higher than the values measured over the tropical Western
721 Atlantic during the Saharan Aerosol Long-range Transport and Aerosol-Cloud-Interaction Ex-
722 periment (SALTRACE), June/July 2013: ca. $0.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in the LT and ca. $0.001 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in the FT
723 (Schwarz et al., 2017), which suggests that a significant fraction of the rBC is entering the basin
724 by long-range transport from Africa.

725 In 14 instances, elevated rBC concentrations were seen for short durations (usually less
726 than 30 sec) in the UT. Most of the time, they occurred during cloud penetrations in the course of
727 vertical cloud microphysics profiling. In the case of the flights over the northern half of the Ama-
728 zon Basin, they could likely be attributed to sampling of HALO's own exhaust, based on the
729 flight track and the presence of associated NO enhancements in the absence of strong enhance-
730 ments of CO and other aerosol species (CCN , N_{acc} , N_{CN}). On flights over the southern Amazon
731 (AC07, AC12, AC13, and AC20), where the PBL was more polluted and active fires were pre-
732 sent, there were a few instances when elevated rBC coincided with peaks in CO and accumula-
733 tion mode particles, which suggests upward transport of biomass smoke aerosols. In view of the
734 scarcity of such events during our campaign and their modest rBC concentrations, it is clear that
735 they do not represent a major source of combustion aerosol for the UT during our campaign. No
736 elevated rBC concentrations were observed during the extensive outflow sampling legs on any of
737 the flights. A detailed discussion of the rBC measurements during the campaign will be pre-
738 sented in a companion paper (Holanda et al., 2017).

739 The drop in rBC concentration by two orders of magnitude between LT and FT implies
740 that rBC, and by extension other aerosols (which are likely even more prone to being removed
741 by nucleation scavenging), are efficiently removed during deep convection and consequently that
742 there is little transport of LT aerosols into the FT. Consequently, enrichments in N_{CN} and N_{acc} in
743 the FT cannot be explained by vertical transport of particles from the FT.

744 The AMS measurements also show pronounced differences in the composition of the LT
745 and UT aerosols (Fig. 16). In Table 2 we present a detailed analysis of the results from three
746 flights, AC07 from a polluted region in the southern Amazon, and AC09 and AC18 from rela-
747 tively clean regions in the northern and northwestern parts of the Basin, respectively. Organic
748 aerosol (OA) is the dominant aerosol species in all three regions at all altitudes, as expected in an



749 area where biomass burning and secondary organic aerosol (SOA) production are the dominant
750 sources.

751 In the LT, (ammonium) sulfates (SO₄) are together with rBC the next most important
752 species. Here, we see a clear difference between the BB-dominated region in the south (with
753 high OA, ammonium [NH₄], and rBC, and relatively low SO₄) versus the northern basin, where
754 SO₄, likely from long-range transport, plays a more important role. The ratio OA/rBC in the LT
755 is in the range 3-11, consistent with values from BB aerosols. The biomass burning marker, f₆₀
756 (Schneider et al., 2006; Alfarra et al., 2007), is present in all the measurements from the LT, but
757 always mixed with oxidized secondary organics. It should also be noted that the f₆₀ marker is not
758 an inert tracer but decays with time, and an observed background level of the f₆₀ tracer is 0.3% of
759 OA (Cubison et al., 2011).

760 In the UT, SO₄ shows lower concentrations than in the LT, with the most pronounced
761 difference on flights AC07 and AC18. The latter flights also show a large difference in the
762 OA/SO₄ ratio, which is around 10 in the UT and around 2 in the LT. Because of the high BB
763 component in flight AC07, this ratio is also high in the LT on this flight. The most pronounced
764 differences between UT and LT are seen in the nitrogen species. Ammonium is usually present
765 in the BL, sometimes at considerable levels (e.g., on AC07), but always below the detection limit
766 in the UT. In contrast, nitrate (NO₃) is a minor species in the LT, whereas in the UT it is compa-
767 rable or greater than SO₄, so that the ratio NO₃/SO₄ is about an order of magnitude higher in the
768 UT than in the LT. High concentrations of organics, especially oxidized organics, and nitrate had
769 been seen previously in the UT by Froyd et al. (2009).

770 The nature of the nitrate signal in the UT cannot be definitely identified from our data.
771 The absence of NH₄ and the ratio of the peaks associated with ammonium nitrate make it un-
772 likely that the NO₃ signal represents ammonium nitrate (Fry et al., 2009; Bruns et al., 2010). It
773 may be, at least to a large part, indicative of organonitrates, which have been shown to account
774 for 15-40% of SOA mass in laboratory experiments (Berkemeier et al., 2016) and whose for-
775 mation is enhanced at low temperatures (Lee et al., 2014).

776 A closer look at the aerosol-enriched layers in the UT from these flights reinforces these
777 conclusions (Table 2). In these layers, the ratios OA/SO₄ and NO₃/SO₄ can reach very high val-
778 ues, especially in the SO₄-poor UT of flight AC07. On flights AC09 and AC18, we encountered



779 extended periods when N_{acc} and $N_{\text{CCN}0.5}$ were elevated, while N_{CN} did not show extremely high
780 values (AC09-AA, AC18-AA, and AC18-DD). The AMS data from these segments were gener-
781 ally similar to the UT averages, suggesting that they are representative of the ambient UT aero-
782 sols. The layers with very high N_{CN} on these flights (AC09-BB, AC09-EE, AC09-A1+A2, and
783 AC18-A1, AC18-A2, AC18-E2, AC18-F) also did not show significant differences from the UT
784 means on these flights, likely because the numerous, but very small CN in these layers did not
785 contain enough mass to influence the measurements in a detectable way.

786 We attempted to examine this hypothesis further by investigating the size dependence of
787 the AMS signals, but because of the small aerosol mass concentrations in the UT, size infor-
788 mation from the AMS data required extended integration periods, which precluded obtaining size
789 data from the relatively short segments with very high N_{CN} . The most robust size data were from
790 the segments where relative high N_{acc} concentrations prevailed over extended periods of time,
791 e.g., segment DD (Table 2) on flight AC18. Here, the organic aerosol (OA) showed a broad
792 mode between 80 and 250 nm, with a modal diameter at 150 nm. This confirms that the AMS
793 compositional data are dominated by the accumulation mode, while the particles that make up
794 most of the UF fraction in the UT do not have enough mass to provide a clear AMS signal. An
795 exception may be some segments on AC09 (BB and EE), where OA and NO₃ data suggest a
796 mass mode between 60 and 120 nm. Here, the UFF is quite high (0.85 and 0.92, compared to
797 segment DD on flight AC18, where it was 0.61) suggesting a smaller and therefore younger aer-
798 osol population.

799 More detailed information on the origin of the organics in the UT aerosol can be obtained
800 from specific markers. In the UT, the BB marker f_{60} is typically not detectable, which in combi-
801 nation with the fact that the ratio OA/rBC is of the order of 1000, precludes a significant contri-
802 bution of aerosols from biomass burning or other primary combustion aerosols to the OA in the
803 UT. In contrast, the marker f_{82} , which is indicative of IEPOX-SOA formed by the photooxidation
804 of isoprene (Robinson et al., 2011; Hu et al., 2015), is found in the aerosol-enriched layers in the
805 UT, suggesting oxidation of isoprene and other biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC) as
806 source of the OA (Schulz et al., 2017). The plot f_{43} vs. f_{44} is frequently used to represent the ag-
807 ing of organic aerosols (Ng et al., 2011). In Fig. 17, we show the median locations of the LT and
808 UT aerosol in this plot, which indicates that both are fairly well aged and oxidized, with the UT
809 data plotting slightly towards less oxidized and younger values. This may reflect an overall



810 younger aerosol, or the admixture of recent material either by condensation on the accumulation
811 mode particles or in the form of an external mixture of larger aged particles with small younger
812 ones. The individual segments from flight AC18, which had the lowest OA/SO₄ and NO₃/SO₄
813 ratios, also plot in this region, showing that they are dominated by a relatively well-aged aerosol.
814 In contrast, segments AC09-AA, and AC07-AA1, AC07-AA2, and AC07-GG, which have the
815 highest OA/SO₄ and NO₃/SO₄ ratios and much higher N_{CN}, plot much further to the lower right
816 indicating a less oxidized, fresher aerosol. On this flight, the concentrations of accumulation
817 mode aerosols in the UT were relatively low, so that freshly formed aerosol could be more evi-
818 dent because of a lower background of aged aerosol.

819 In summary, the chemical composition data show that, while both LT and UT aerosols
820 are dominated by aged organics, their sources must be different because the UT aerosol is essen-
821 tially devoid of the combustion tracers, rBC and f₆₀, whereas the OA/rBC ratios in the LT are
822 consistent with combustion aerosols. Nitrate is strongly elevated in the UT, and may consist to a
823 large extent of organonitrates. NH₄ is a significant component in the LT, whereas it is below the
824 detection limit in the UT. Size-selective chemical analysis is difficult because of the low aerosol
825 mass concentrations, but the available data suggest that the AMS measurements are dominated
826 by the accumulation mode, and the strong N_{CN} enhancements are not distinctly seen in the AMS
827 data. Chemical marker analysis shows the general absence of BB tracers in the UT, while the
828 marker f₈₂ indicates production of IEPOX-SOA from isoprene. Most of the UT organics are aged
829 and oxidized, but in some of the CN-enriched layers, younger and less oxidized OA was evi-
830 denced by much lower f₄₄/f₄₃ ratios. A detailed discussion of the AMS measurements during
831 ACRIDICON-CHUVA will be presented in Schulz et al. (2017).

832 3.5. Relationship to Deep Convection

833 In the preceding section, we have documented the differences between the aerosols in the
834 LT and the UT, which rule out the possibility that convective transport of PBL aerosols can be an
835 important source for the UT aerosols. This opens the question about the source of these particles:
836 are they the result of long-range transport from remote sources or do they originate over the Am-
837 azon Basin? In the latter case, are they directly released in the outflow from the convective
838 clouds or are they produced by subsequent nucleation and growth in the UT?



839 For the larger particles in the accumulation mode, represented by elevated N_{acc} and
840 $N_{CCN0.5}$ in the UT, long-range transport cannot be excluded, because such particles can have long
841 lifetimes in the upper troposphere (Williams et al., 2002). While the absence of detectable rBC
842 still rules out an origin from pollution aerosols lofted from the LT, they may have formed days or
843 weeks ago by gas-to-particle formation mechanisms anywhere in the free troposphere. In con-
844 trast, the high concentrations of small UF particles that we observed with high frequency in the
845 UT cannot come from distant sources, as they persist only for hours to a few days before grow-
846 ing to larger sizes and decreasing in concentration due to coagulation and dilution processes
847 (Williams et al., 2002; Krejci et al., 2003; Ekman et al., 2006).

848 3.5.1. Aerosols in cloud tops, anvils and outflows

849 First, we consider the possibility of these particles having been produced already inside
850 the clouds and released by outflow into the UT. In earlier studies, NPF had been shown to occur
851 in ice clouds in the tropical/subtropical UT, especially in conditions where the available surface
852 area of ice particles was relatively low (e.g., Lee et al., 2004; Frey et al., 2011). To look for this
853 phenomenon, we examined the particle concentrations during passages through the upper levels
854 of deep convective clouds and in the anvils directly attached to active cumulonimbus clouds
855 (Cb). Our measurements during these passages consistently show lower CN and CCN concentra-
856 tions than in the surrounding UT air, as exemplified in Fig. 18a by data from flight AC18. Dur-
857 ing this flight segment we performed multiple penetrations of the tops of growing Cb at altitudes
858 between 10.7 and 12.0 km and temperatures in the range of 225 to 236 K. During each cloud
859 passage (indicated in Fig. 18a by the ice particle concentrations) the aerosol concentrations de-
860 creased sharply, to values of N_{CN} around 800 cm^{-3} and $N_{CCN0.5}$ around 250 cm^{-3} during the longer
861 cloud passages. (Here, we use $N_{CCN0.5}$ as proxy for the accumulation mode particles, since the
862 N_{acc} measurements in clouds were perturbed by shattering at the probe tip, whereas the N_{CN} and
863 $N_{CCN0.5}$ measurements showed no artifacts in ice clouds.) In the case of N_{CN} , the values in the
864 cloud tops are about the same as the PBL concentrations measured in the same region, while for
865 $N_{CCN0.5}$ they are significantly lower than the PBL values of around 400 cm^{-3} .

866 The same behavior was found for all cloud penetrations in the UT during the campaign.
867 In particular, extensive cloud top and outflow sampling on AC09, AC15, and AC16 also showed



868 $N_{CCN0.5}$ values down to 160-250 cm^{-3} and N_{CN} values down to 600-1000 cm^{-3} . The lowest parti-
869 cle concentrations were seen in a large outflow sampled on AC13 (20:08-20:30 UTC), when
870 both N_{CN} and $N_{CCN0.5}$ reached values below 50 cm^{-3} (Fig. 18b). In this airmass, NO and NO_y
871 were strongly elevated indicating recent NO production by lightning in the large Cb from which
872 this outflow originated.

873 Given that the air sampled during the cloud passages had already mixed in by lateral en-
874 trainment some of the surrounding air with much higher particle concentrations (Bertram et al.,
875 2007; Yang et al., 2015), these low particle concentrations in the cloud tops and outflows are
876 clear evidence that in-cloud processes were a sink and not a source of particles in the size class
877 measureable with our instrumentation. A rough estimate of the scavenging efficiency of the con-
878 vective process can be gained by using CO as a conservative tracer. For example, on flight AC18
879 the PBL concentrations of CO and N_{CN} averaged ~ 120 ppb and 780 cm^{-3} , and the UT during the
880 cloud penetrations around 1900 UTC had CO ~ 95 ppb and $N_{CN} \sim 1500$ cm^{-3} . In the cloud, CO
881 rose to 108 ppb and N_{CN} dropped to 750 cm^{-3} . Following the approach of Bertram et al. (2007),
882 we can estimate that the fraction of PBL air in the center of the cloud was ca. 0.52, and that with-
883 out scavenging, $N_{CCN0.5}$ would be ca. 1130 cm^{-3} . From these values, a scavenging loss of 90% or
884 more of CCN can be estimated, in good agreement with previous studies (e.g., Andreae et al.,
885 2001; Yang et al., 2015), and with the absence of detectable rBC.

886 Flight AC20 was the only exception to this behavior. Here, CN were strongly enhanced
887 during cloud passages and even CCN were slightly elevated in some passages. The cloud that
888 was sampled on this flight appears to have been a pyrocumulus that had been ingesting fresh bio-
889 mass smoke, as suggested by the strongly elevated CO during the cloud passages. This flight will
890 be discussed as a separate case study below (section 3.6.).

891 While these results show that the high particle concentrations we observed in the UT
892 were not directly released from the cloud tops, they do not rule out the possibility that new parti-
893 cle formation had already started in the clouds or anvils. This is because the newly formed parti-
894 cles observed in the earlier studies were almost exclusively in the size range below 20 nm (Lee et
895 al., 2004; Frey et al., 2011). Since our measurements are limited to particle sizes >20 nm, we
896 would not have been able to detect such freshly nucleated particles, and therefore the earliest
897 phases of particle nucleation and NPF over Amazonia will have to be addressed in future studies.



898 Our data do show, however, that release of particles by hydrometeor evaporation following deep
899 convection is not a net source of particles to the UT over Amazonia, in contrast to what was ob-
900 served over the Indian Ocean region by Engström et al. (2008). Because the N_{CN} and $N_{CCN0.5}$
901 concentrations in the ambient air in the UT are actually higher than in the air detrained by the Cb
902 clouds, the detrainment leads at least initially to a reduction in UT particle concentrations in the
903 size class >20 nm. Only through subsequent NPF can this be reversed and deep convection then
904 become a net source of UT aerosols.

905 3.5.2. Relationship between aerosol enhancements and airmass history

906 Connections between the presence of aerosol enhancements and the outflow from con-
907 vective systems had been observed in some previous studies (de Reus et al., 2001; Twohy et al.,
908 2002; Benson et al., 2008; Weigelt et al., 2009). We examined the connection between deep con-
909 vection (DC) and the presence of high CN concentrations by a combination of backtrajectory cal-
910 culations and the analysis of cloud-top temperatures from GOES-13 weather satellite images,
911 similar to the approach used in some previous studies (de Reus et al., 2001; Froyd et al., 2009;
912 Weigelt et al., 2009). We analyzed backtrajectories initialized at the aircraft locations where we
913 had observed elevated aerosol concentrations, as listed in Table 1. Then we checked for each
914 hour along the backtrajectories whether the airmass had crossed a region with DC (cloud top
915 temperatures below -30 °C). The results show that in almost all cases, the aerosol enriched air-
916 masses had encountered deep convection within the last 120 hours.

917 In Fig. 19 we present the results from two flights (AC09 and AC18) as examples. We
918 find that for all flight segments that showed high aerosol concentrations in the UT (dark shad-
919 ing), the airmasses had made contact with DC with cloud tops typically reaching about -80 °C.
920 Of course, given the abundance of convection over Amazonia, it is to be expected that most air-
921 masses would have interacted with convection within 120 hours (such as the example shown in
922 the Supplement Fig. S2). For comparison, over the northeastern United States during summer-
923 time, Bertram et al. (2007) had found that more than 50% of UT air had encountered DC within
924 the previous 2 days.

925 The cumulative plot of the time since the most recent DC contact (Fig. 20a) shows that on
926 all flights (except AC19, the flight over the Atlantic) almost all aerosol-enhanced air masses had
927 seen DC within the last 30-40 hours. The cloud tops during these encounters typically reached -



928 70 to $-80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Fig. 20b). In many cases, the airmass history analysis shows multiple contacts with
929 deep convection within the preceding 72 hours. It must be noted, however, that the physical in-
930 teraction between an UT airmass and a specific deep convective event is not represented in the
931 trajectory model and that the trajectory history preceding the most recent such encounter be-
932 comes much more uncertain.

933 In some cases, the airmasses could be tracked back to regions where the cold cloud en-
934 countered by the tracked airmass looked more like cirrus than identifiable deep convective out-
935 flow. The same favorable conditions for nucleation (low temperature, low pre-existing aerosol
936 surface) as in the outflow regions prevail also in native cirrus, and Lee et al. (2004) had reported
937 NPF in cirrus without immediate connection to DC. This might also have occurred in our cam-
938 paign, but it is usually difficult to distinguish cirrus and very aged outflow.

939 More specific information about the time required for particle production and the evolu-
940 tion of the aerosol populations in the UT can be derived from a close examination of the trajec-
941 tories for individual flight segments. Flight AC18 provides some illustrative examples. The trajec-
942 tories of the first particle plumes encountered (A1 and A2, Table 1) had passed close to areas of
943 intense deep convection (-30 to $-60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) about 17-21 hours before sampling. Because it is likely
944 that the aerosol precursor substances are formed by photochemical reactions, we also looked at
945 the amount of time that the airmass was exposed to sunlight (Lee et al., 2003). Since the convec-
946 tive encounters occurred between 16LT and 00LT and the measurements were taken at about
947 11LT, the airmass had only about 5-7 h of sun exposure. Assuming that the formation of the par-
948 ticles required photochemical processes, this implies that about 5-7 h were sufficient to produce
949 particle concentrations above $20,000\text{ cm}^{-3}$ with sizes $>20\text{ nm}$. The enrichment in this case oc-
950 curred only in the particles sizes $<90\text{ nm}$, with a UFF of about 0.98, while N_{acc} remained at the
951 same levels as in the surrounding background FT. Segment F, near the end of the flight, was
952 sampling a similar region as A1, with a similar airmass trajectory. Since this segment was taken
953 near the end of the day, the airmass had experienced about 11 hours of sunlight. There is some-
954 what of a shift towards larger particles, but this might also be coincidental.

955 The air in segments B and C had traveled along similar trajectories as A1 and A2, but un-
956 fortunately there are no GOES images available for the time when they crossed the convective



957 region encountered by A1 and A2, and so no conclusions can be drawn for these segments. Seg-
958 ments D and E1 represent airmasses that had made multiple and extended convection encounters
959 over the central and western Amazon during the past 3 days. Here, we find only weak enhance-
960 ments in N_{CN} , but significantly elevated $N_{CCN0.5}$ and N_{acc} , with a UFF of 0.73 and 0.82, respec-
961 tively, suggesting that coagulation and growth had taken place over this time period.

962 Some of the highest N_{CN} (up to ca. $45,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and UFF (0.98) were found in Segment
963 AC18-E2, which was sampling the air just a few hours downwind of a massive convective sys-
964 tem that reached well above our flight altitude of almost 14 km. The air sampled here had trav-
965 eled for about one hour after leaving the convective complex before being encountered by
966 HALO and had been interacting with this complex for up to 5 h, all of them in daylight. As in
967 A1, A2, and F, there was no detectable enhancement in aerosol mass, as represented by N_{acc} and
968 $N_{CCN0.5}$. The strongest enhancement in aerosol mass, on the other hand, was seen in the early part
969 of segment E1, which didn't show a strong increase in number concentration. The air during this
970 segment had made its last contact with a convective system about 65-72 hours before sampling.

971 Another illustrative case is flight AC09 over a clean region in the northern Amazon. Seg-
972 ments A1-A3 sampled clear air that had DC contact about 16 and 60 hours ago and the UFF
973 around 0.94 indicated a moderately aged aerosol. Segments B1 and B2 were taken in air immedi-
974 ately surrounding a Cb anvil, with previous DC contacts at about 14, 80, and 120 hours before.
975 Here, the relatively low UFF of ~ 0.92 signaled no influence from the freshly outflowing air. Seg-
976 ments C, D, and E were in air close to a Cb, within its anvil, and in a large anvil/outflow, respec-
977 tively. Otherwise, they had a DC contact history similar to B. Here also, the UFF remains fairly
978 low, and there is no evidence of particle production directly in the anvil/outflow.

979 To summarize, our observations indicate that, while there is no evidence of immediate
980 production of detectable particles (i.e., $>20 \text{ nm}$) in the actual anvil or outflow, a small number of
981 daylight hours are sufficient to produce very large concentrations of particles with sizes larger
982 than about 20 nm in the FT. This is consistent with the observations made in the outflow of a
983 convective complex off Darwin, Australia, where maximum Aitken concentrations were reported
984 after ca. 3 hours since the outflow (Waddicor et al., 2012). During NPF events in the FT on the
985 Jungfrauoch, high concentrations of particles $>20 \text{ nm}$ were observed about 4-6 hours after sun-
986 rise (Bianchi et al., 2016). In the FT over other regions, growth may be considerably slower; for



987 example the measurements over oceanic regions by Weigelt et al. (2009) showed that it took
988 about 12 hours for particles >12 nm to reach their maximum concentrations.

989 Considerably longer times (a few days) are required, however, before increases are de-
990 tectable in the size class >90 nm. The development of significant amounts of particles in the ac-
991 cumulation mode appears to take two days or more, in agreement with the observations of Froyd
992 et al. (2009), who had found enhanced aerosol organic mass concentrations over the Caribbean in
993 UT air originating from Amazonia after 2-4 days in the atmosphere. Since many, if not most of
994 our trajectories remain over Amazonia for this amount of time, there is enough time available in
995 the UT over the Amazon Basin to produce CCN-sized aerosols within the region, which can sub-
996 sequently be transported downward or be exported to other regions.

997 3.5.3. Aerosol enhancements and chemical tracers

998 The relationship between new particle production and the input of boundary layer air is
999 also reflected in a correlation between N_{CN} and CO. When taking all data above 8 km, this corre-
1000 lation is highly significant given the large number of data points ($N=68,360$) but not very close
1001 ($r^2=0.52$) because of the large variability of CO concentrations in the PBL and UT background
1002 between flights (Fig. 21). Closer relationships are obtained when looking at individual flights
1003 and especially at individual profiles within flights.

1004 Weigel et al. (2011) had seen a strong correlation between CO and nucleation mode parti-
1005 cles over West Africa and interpreted it as indication of anthropogenic inputs. In contrast, over
1006 Amazonia we have not seen any evidence that UT aerosol production shows any relationship to
1007 boundary layer pollution, and we interpret the correlation between N_{CN} and CO simply as reflect-
1008 ing the input of air from the PBL, which generally has higher CO concentrations than the UT, by
1009 the cloud outflow. An opposite relationship is generally seen between N_{CN} and O_3 , which tends
1010 to be lower in the particle-enriched layer. We also see this as an indication of injection of air
1011 from the PBL, which generally has lower O_3 concentrations than the UT.

1012 The nitrogen oxides show a complex relationship with the particle enhancements in the
1013 UT, as illustrated at the example of a flight segment from AC07 (Fig. 22). The highest NO con-
1014 centrations are found in the Cb anvils or freshest outflows, as identified by significant concentra-
1015 tions of ice particles (e.g., at 2056, 2119, and 2154 UTC). In these regions, we typically observed
1016 particle minima, as discussed above. In these airmasses, NO has been formed very recently by



1017 lightning, and the NO to NO_y ratios are usually still very high. Here, the particles are still de-
1018 pleted by convection scavenging and there has not been enough time for new particles to form, at
1019 least not in the size range detectable by our instrumentation. On the other hand, there is a strong
1020 positive relationship between NO_y and N_{CN}, as seen in Fig. 22 during the entire period from 2051
1021 to 2210 UTC. Regions with high concentrations of new particles generally show elevated NO_y,
1022 typically in the range of 1 to 3 ppb, indicating that photochemical reactions have taken place that
1023 both produced new particles and converted NO to NO_y.

1024 **3.6. Flight AC20: A special case with NPF from biomass smoke**

1025 On flight AC20, HALO performed detailed sampling of the anvil and outflow of a large
1026 Cb over northern Rondonia, a state with a high incidence of deforestation burning. Numerous
1027 outflow penetrations around this Cb were made, and the ice particles sampled here could be
1028 clearly identified as freshly produced in the Cb top. The CN concentrations in the UT away from
1029 the outflow were unimpressive, typically in the range 2000 to 10,000 cm⁻³. However, in sharp
1030 contrast to the other flights, where the air in the outflow always had been depleted in aerosol par-
1031 ticles, on this flight the outflow often showed much higher CN concentrations, between 10,000
1032 and 20,000 cm⁻³ (Fig. 23a). The concentrations of CCN and nonvolatile CN in the outflow were
1033 either the same as in the surrounding air or slightly higher, also contrasting with the observations
1034 on the other flights, where they had been depleted. Since the N_{CN} in the outflow were also much
1035 higher than in the PBL (~2000 cm⁻³), entrainment of PBL air cannot explain the CN enrichment.

1036 The mixing ratios of CO, NO, and NO_y were also elevated in the outflow (Fig. 23b),
1037 which in the case of CO and NO_y might be explained by inputs from the PBL, where CO and
1038 NO_y levels were around 120-200 ppb and 2-3 ppb, respectively. The NO values in the PBL, on
1039 the other hand, were only about 0.13 ppb, similar to the UT values, requiring an additional NO
1040 source for the outflow.

1041 The explanation for this unusual behavior may be found in the layer between 11.5 and
1042 12.5 km that was penetrated during both ascent and descent (Fig. 23c). In this layer, N_{CN} reached
1043 30,000 cm⁻³, CO was elevated to ~140 ppb, N_{acc} to 850 cm⁻³, and NO_y to ~1.6 ppb. The data also
1044 suggest a slight enrichment in rBC, but this is close to the limit of detection. These values sug-
1045 gest that this is a detrainment layer polluted with biomass smoke, as we have often seen on previ-
1046 ous campaigns over the burning regions in southern Amazonia (Andreae et al., 2004). An urban



1047 origin of this pollution is unlikely, since the only town in the region, Porto Velho, lies about 50-
1048 100 km downwind of the sampling area. The enhancement ratios in this layer, however, differ
1049 from fresh biomass smoke. The ratio $\Delta N_{\text{acc}}/\Delta \text{CO}$ is $\sim 6\text{--}12 \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ and the ratio $\Delta \text{CCN}/\Delta \text{CO}$
1050 about $2.5 \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$, much lower than the typical ratios in fresh smoke, which are about 20–40
1051 $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ (Janhäll et al., 2010), indicating removal of CCN-sized particles during the upward
1052 transport. In contrast, the ratio $\Delta \text{CN}/\Delta \text{CO}$ was about $350 \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$, almost an order of magni-
1053 tude above the values typical of fresh smoke. These results suggest that biomass smoke was
1054 brought to the UT either from the strongly smoke-polluted PBL in this region or actually by a
1055 pyro-Cb over an active fire, and that the concentration of the larger particles was strongly re-
1056 duced by scavenging, which allowed new particle formation in this smoke layer. The enrich-
1057 ments seen in the outflow penetrations at altitudes above the 12-km layer may be the result of en-
1058 trainment of air from this layer or of rapid particle formation in situ. While we have this kind of
1059 observations from only one flight, which took place over the most polluted region sampled dur-
1060 ing this campaign, they are suggestive of the potential of rapid particle formation and growth in
1061 smoke detrainment layers, an issue that merits further study in future campaigns.

1062 **3.7. Conceptual model and role in aerosol life cycle**

1063 The discussion in the preceding sections can be summarized in a conceptual model of the
1064 aerosol life cycle over the Amazon Basin (Fig. 20). In the Amazon PBL, the classical nucleation
1065 events characterized by the rapid appearance of large numbers of particles $< 10 \text{ nm}$ and subse-
1066 quent growth into an Aitken mode (e.g., Kulmala and Kerminen, 2008) has never been reported,
1067 in spite of several years of observations by several teams (Martin et al., 2010; Rizzo et al., 2013;
1068 Andreae et al., 2015). This has been attributed to the low emissions of gaseous sulfur species in
1069 the basin (Andreae and Andreae, 1988; Andreae et al., 1990a), which result in H_2SO_4 vapor con-
1070 centrations that are too low to induce nucleation (Martin et al., 2010). Nucleation of particles
1071 from organic vapors alone is not favored in the Amazonian PBL because of high temperatures
1072 and humidity as well as the competition by the condensation sink on pre-existing particles, which
1073 results in organic coatings on almost all primary and secondary particles in the Amazonian PBL
1074 (Pöschl et al., 2010; Pöhlker et al., 2012).

1075 Cloud updrafts in deep convection bring air from the PBL into the middle and upper trop-
1076 osphere, where it is released in the convective outflow (Krejci et al., 2003). During this process,



1077 most pre-existing aerosols are removed by precipitation scavenging, especially the larger parti-
1078 cles that account for most of the condensation sink (Ekman et al., 2006). Most likely, VOCs with
1079 low and very low volatilities are also removed by deposition on hydrometeors, which provide a
1080 considerable amount of surface area inside the clouds (Murphy et al., 2015).

1081 The outflow regions in the UT present an ideal environment for particle nucleation, as
1082 had already been suggested in some earlier studies (Twohy et al., 2002; Lee et al., 2004; Kulmala
1083 et al., 2006; Weigelt et al., 2009). The temperatures are some 60-80 K lower than in the PBL,
1084 which decreases the equilibrium vapor pressure of gaseous species (Murphy et al., 2015) and in-
1085 creases the nucleation rate. Based on classical nucleation theory and molecular dynamics calcu-
1086 lations, Yu et al. (2017) have estimated an increase in nucleation rate by one order of magnitude
1087 per 10 K. Nucleation rate measurements in the CERN CLOUD chamber indicate a similar tem-
1088 perature dependence (Dunne et al., 2016). Because the preexisting aerosol has been depleted dur-
1089 ing the passage through convective clouds before being released into the UT from the cloud out-
1090 flow, the low particle surface area in the UT presents very little competition to nucleation from a
1091 condensation sink (Twohy et al., 2002; Lee et al., 2003; Lee et al., 2004; Young et al., 2007;
1092 Benson et al., 2008).

1093 The rapid transport of PBL air to the UT inside deep convective clouds facilitates lofting
1094 of reactive BVOCs from the Amazon boundary layer (Colomb et al., 2006; Apel et al., 2012).
1095 Here, the initially O₃- and NO_x-poor boundary layer air is supplied with O₃ by mixing with UT
1096 air and addition of NO from lightning, creating a highly reactive chemical environment. This
1097 mixture is exposed to an extremely high actinic flux due to the high altitude and multiple scatter-
1098 ing by ice particles. Because of the low air mass at UT altitudes, the actinic flux is already very
1099 high shortly after sunrise. In this environment, rapid photooxidation of BVOCs and formation of
1100 ELVOCs/HOMs is to be expected. In laboratory studies, HOMs have been shown to be rapidly
1101 produced at fairly high yields both by ozonolysis of terpenes and by reactions with OH radicals
1102 (Ehn et al., 2014; Jokinen et al., 2015; Berndt et al., 2016; Dunne et al., 2016).

1103 In the absence of measurements of the relevant gaseous sulfur species and the composi-
1104 tion of the nucleating clusters, we cannot make firm conclusions about the actual nucleation
1105 mechanism. Over marine regions and polluted continental regions, the particles observed in out-
1106 flows and in the UT were mostly identified as sulfates (Clarke et al., 1999; Twohy et al., 2002;



1107 Kojima et al., 2004; Waddicor et al., 2012), and consequently H_2SO_4 has been proposed as the
1108 nucleating species. However, since in some cases this identification was based only on the vola-
1109 tility of the particles, they could have also consisted of organics or mixtures of organics and
1110 H_2SO_4 . Over the Amazon, nucleation by H_2SO_4 cannot be excluded based on our observations,
1111 especially if there was already some SO_2 or H_2SO_4 present in the UT before the injection of the
1112 organic-rich PBL air. However, since the Amazonian BL contains very little SO_2 , the sulfur spe-
1113 cies would have had to come from outside the region and thus they would have had the oppor-
1114 tunity to be oxidized to H_2SO_4 and nucleate into particles during its travel in the UT well before
1115 entering Amazonia. It is therefore much more likely that the particles in the Amazon UT formed
1116 by homogeneous nucleation of organics, as has been suggested by several authors (Kulmala et
1117 al., 2006; Ekman et al., 2008; Murphy et al., 2015). Nucleation by formation of clusters contain-
1118 ing both H_2SO_4 and oxidized organic molecules is of course also a possibility that we cannot ex-
1119 clude (Metzger et al., 2010; Riccobono et al., 2014). However, recent studies have shown that
1120 HOM compounds can nucleate to form particles even in the absence of H_2SO_4 , especially in the
1121 UT (Bianchi et al., 2016; Kirkby et al., 2016), and nucleation of HOMs without involvement of
1122 H_2SO_4 has been suggested to be the dominant mode of new particle formation in the pre-indus-
1123 trial atmosphere by the modeling study of Gordon et al. (2016). The importance of ions produced
1124 from cosmic radiation in this nucleation process is still controversial (Lee et al., 2003; Yu et al.,
1125 2008; Bianchi et al., 2016; Kirkby et al., 2016).

1126 Regardless of the actual nucleating species, H_2SO_4 or HOMs/ELVOCs, the growth of the
1127 particles observed in our campaign must have been dominated by organics, as shown by the
1128 composition of the aerosol measured by the AMS. The dominance of organics in the growth of
1129 aerosols in pristine environments has also been suggested on the basis of modeling studies, both
1130 for the lower troposphere (Laaksonen et al., 2008; Riipinen et al., 2012; Öström et al., 2017) and
1131 the UT (Ekman et al., 2008; Murphy et al., 2015). In particular, isoprene-derived SOA has been
1132 suggested to be important in the growth of sub-CCN-size particles to CCN (Ekman et al., 2008;
1133 Jokinen et al., 2015), which would be consistent with the prevalence of isoprene in the Amazo-
1134 nian PBL and our observations of IEPOX-SOA in the UT aerosol. As the particles grow, the de-
1135 crease of the Kelvin (curvature) effect with increasing size of the growing particles implies that
1136 subsequently relatively more volatile organics can condense (Tröstl et al., 2016), in agreement
1137 with the observed high volatile fraction we observed in the upper tropospheric CN.



1138 While in general the volatile fraction of the particles in the UT was very high, there were
1139 also regions with a significant fraction of particles that did not evaporate at 250 °C (see section
1140 3.4.3). These were dominated by relatively aged organics, which, based on the absence on de-
1141 tectable rBC, must also be of secondary origin. Such thermally refractory organics may explain
1142 the presence of non-volatile particles in the tropical UTLS, which had been observed in previous
1143 campaigns especially in the region above 360 K (Borrmann et al., 2010).

1144 Once particles have nucleated in the UT and grown into the Aitken mode and in some
1145 cases even into the accumulation mode size ranges, they can be transported downward towards
1146 the lower troposphere both by general subsidence under the prevailing high pressure system over
1147 Amazonia and by downdrafts associated with deep convective activity. Large-scale entrainment
1148 of UT and MT air into the boundary layer has been suggested as the major source of new parti-
1149 cles in marine regions (Raes, 1995; Katoshevski et al., 1999; Clarke et al., 2013). Over Amazo-
1150 nia with its high degree of convective activity, downdrafts are likely to play a more important
1151 role. Downward transport of UT air by downdrafts associated with deep convective activity has
1152 been shown to inject air with lower moisture content, lower equivalent potential temperature, and
1153 elevated O₃ into the PBL (Zipser, 1977; Betts et al., 2002; Sahu and Lal, 2006; Grant et al., 2008;
1154 Hu et al., 2010; Gerken et al., 2016). It would follow that the same mechanism also brings down
1155 aerosol-rich air from the UT into the PBL. Indeed, in a recent aircraft study over the central Am-
1156 azon, this mechanism was shown to be an important source of atmospheric aerosols, predomi-
1157 nantly in the Aitken mode, to the Amazonian PBL (Wang et al., 2016a). Here, they can continue
1158 to grow by condensation of BVOC-derived organics into the accumulation mode and become
1159 available as CCN, closing the aerosol cycle over Amazonia.

1160 **4. Summary and Conclusions**

1161 As part of the ACRIDICON-CHUVA 2014 aircraft campaign, we investigated the char-
1162 acteristics and sources of aerosols in the upper troposphere over the Amazon Basin. We observed
1163 regions with high number concentrations of aerosol particles (tens of thousands per cm³ STP) in
1164 the UT on all flights that reached above 8 km. The aerosol enhancements were commonly in the
1165 form of distinct layers with thicknesses of a few hundreds to a few thousands of meters. Such
1166 layer structures are a common feature of the free troposphere and have been related to detrain-
1167 ment from deep convection and large-scale subsidence (Newell et al., 1999).



1168 In other regions, upward transport of aerosols from the PBL had been suggested to be an
1169 important source of UT aerosols, based on the abundance of low-volatility particles (Clarke and
1170 Kapustin, 2010), TEM analysis of individual particles (Kojima et al., 2004), or modeling of
1171 cloud processes (Yin et al., 2005). Over Amazonia, however, the UT aerosol was fundamentally
1172 different from the aerosol in the LT, indicating that upward transport of PBL aerosols, especially
1173 combustion aerosols from BB, is not an important source of aerosols to the Amazonian UT.

1174 The number concentrations of particles in the UT were often by several orders of magni-
1175 tude higher than in the LT, and their size distribution was dominated by the Aitken rather than
1176 the accumulation mode. In contrast to the LT, the particles in the UT were predominantly vola-
1177 tile at 250 °C and had much higher organics and nitrate contents. The extremely low concentra-
1178 tions of rBC in the MT and UT show that the aerosols above the LT are not combustion-derived
1179 and indicate that the low-volatility fraction must be representing secondary organics of extremely
1180 low volatility (ELVOCs/HOMs). Regarding the size class large enough to act as CCN (larger
1181 than 60-80 nm), we can conclude based on the absence of rBC and the lack of BB indicators in
1182 the AMS measurements that the enhanced CCN in the UT are not related to upward transport of
1183 combustion products, in contrast to most previous studies (e.g., Krejci et al., 2003; Engström et
1184 al., 2008; Clarke et al., 2013).

1185 By analyzing the history of the particle-enriched airmasses and comparing the transport
1186 paths to GOES infrared imagery, we could show in almost all cases that these airmasses had
1187 been in contact with deep convective outflow. Measurements inside the cloud tops and the out-
1188 flow anvils close to the clouds showed that the pre-existing aerosols in the ascending air had
1189 been almost completely scavenged by in-cloud processes, making the clouds initially a net aero-
1190 sol sink. The near-complete scavenging is consistent with the hypothesized large water vapor su-
1191 persaturation in pristine tropical deep convective clouds, which can nucleate particles that are
1192 much smaller than the commonly defined CCN (Khain et al., 2012).

1193 Based on our measurements, we propose that BVOCs in the cloud outflow are rapidly ox-
1194 idized to HOMs/ELVOCs, which because of the low temperatures and low condensation sink
1195 can readily nucleate new particles and grow to sizes ≥ 20 nm within a few hours, making deep
1196 convective clouds an indirect aerosol source. This had also been concluded based on a large sta-
1197 tistical sampling of UT air in the Northern Hemisphere by the CARIBIC aircraft measurement



1198 program (Weigelt et al., 2009). The importance of NPF in the UT for the budget of CN and CCN
1199 had been proposed previously on the basis of modeling studies (Yu et al., 2008; Merikanto et al.,
1200 2009; Carslaw et al., 2017), and is evident in the global enhancement of CN in the UT, especially
1201 in tropical regions, seen in compilations of data from numerous aircraft campaigns (Yu et al.,
1202 2008; Reddington et al., 2016). In this way, aerosol production by BVOC oxidation in the UT
1203 can provide the “missing source” of FT organic aerosol, which had been deduced from a mis-
1204 match between models and observations (Heald et al., 2005).

1205 The high aerosol concentrations in the UT provide a reservoir of particles that are availa-
1206 ble for downward transport into the PBL both by large-scale downward motion and by convec-
1207 tive downdrafts. In a recent study, we have shown that transport of aerosols by downdrafts from
1208 the free troposphere is an important, if not the dominant, source of particles to the lower tropo-
1209 sphere (LT) over the Amazon (Wang et al., 2016a). The particles that are produced by this mech-
1210 anism in the UT over the Amazon (and probably other tropical continents as well) can be trans-
1211 ported globally due to their long lifetime in the UT (Williams et al., 2002; Clarke et al., 2013)
1212 and affect the microstructure of low-level clouds after they eventually descend into the PBL,
1213 possibly at very large distances from the source areas of their precursors.

1214 Our study and the results of some previous studies (Lee et al., 2003; Froyd et al., 2009)
1215 suggest that UT aerosol production is especially important in the tropics because of the high rate
1216 of BVOC production and the abundance of deep convection, but its relevance may also extend to
1217 temperate and boreal regions. Our measurements both in the Amazon and at a remote site in cen-
1218 tral Siberia, distant from SO₂ emission sources and thus experiencing very low H₂SO₄ concentra-
1219 tions, show that classical nucleation events are very rare to absent at such sites and may not pro-
1220 vide a strong source of new particles (Heintzenberg et al., 2011; Andreae et al., 2015;
1221 Wiedensohler et al., 2017). Consequently, the UT may be an important, possibly even the domi-
1222 nant source of tropospheric aerosol particles in regions that are not strongly affected by anthro-
1223 pogenic aerosols. This would assign clouds a central role in the aerosol life cycle, controlling
1224 both source and sink of aerosol particles, at least in regions of low anthropogenic pollution. Fur-
1225 thermore, the relevance of UT aerosol production may not be limited to the troposphere, because
1226 the UT and the TTL are also important reservoirs for the transport of particles into the lower
1227 stratosphere (Fueglistaler et al., 2009; Borrmann et al., 2010; Randel and Jensen, 2013). Organic



1228 aerosols in the lower stratosphere have been shown to have significant radiative effects (Yu et
1229 al., 2016).

1230 The conceptual model proposed here implies a profound difference between the present-
1231 day polluted atmosphere and the pristine pre-industrial situation, especially over the continents.
1232 In the pristine atmosphere, the gradient of particle number concentrations may have been from
1233 high values in the UT to low values in the PBL, as we have found in Amazonia. In polluted con-
1234 tinental regions, on the other hand, nucleation and NPF occur predominantly in the lower tropo-
1235 sphere, which thus has become the dominant source of atmospheric aerosols in today's atmos-
1236 phere over much of the world. Consequently, in the anthropocene the aerosol concentration pro-
1237 file has been turned upside down in polluted regions, since now the highest concentrations are
1238 found in the PBL.

1239 This has important consequences for the Earth's climate system. The aerosol concentra-
1240 tions in the PBL influence cloud microphysical properties and radiative energy fluxes, which af-
1241 fect the characteristics of convection and thereby influence cloud radiative forcing, atmospheric
1242 stability, precipitation, and atmospheric dynamics at all scales (Jiang et al., 2008; Koren et al.,
1243 2008; Rosenfeld et al., 2008; Koren et al., 2010; Fan et al., 2012; Rosenfeld et al., 2014;
1244 Gonçalves et al., 2015; Stolz et al., 2015; Dagan et al., 2016; Braga et al., 2017). By their radia-
1245 tive and microphysical effects on convection dynamics, aerosols are also able to increase upper
1246 tropospheric humidity, which plays an important role in the Earth's radiation budget (Sherwood,
1247 2002; Kottayil and Satheesan, 2015; Riuttanen et al., 2016) and may also affect the potential for
1248 aerosol nucleation in the UT, thus providing an additional feedback.

1249

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1270



1271 6. Figure Captions

1272

1273 Figure 1: Tracks of the flights on which measurements at high altitude were made during
1274 ACRIDICON-CHUVA. The flight segments at altitudes >8 km are shown as heavier lines.

1275 Figure 2: Columnar precipitable water anomaly for September 2014 (based on the 1981-2010 av-
1276 erage NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis).

1277 Figure 3: Total rainfall (mm per month, 1° resolution) for September 2014. Data from the Global
1278 Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC).

1279 Figure 4: Mean wind speeds during September 2014 at a) 850 hPa and b) 200 hPa (Data from
1280 NCEP/NCAR).

1281 Figure 5: Vertical profiles of potential temperature, static air temperature, and relative humidity
1282 measured on HALO during the ACRIDICON-CHUVA flights over the Amazon Basin.

1283 Figure 6: Trajectory statistics based on (a) 72-hour and (b) 120-hour backtrajectory calculations
1284 for September 2014, initialized at Manaus at an elevation of 12 km.

1285 Figure 7: Vertical profiles of CN concentrations, N_{CN} ; a) overall statistics from all flights, b) ex-
1286 amples from individual profiles on flight AC07 (segment G) and AC09 (segments A1 and A2).

1287 Figure 8: Vertical profiles of accumulation mode particle concentrations, N_{acc} ; a) 1-min averaged
1288 data from all flights, b) N_{acc} profile from flight AC19 together with the profile of N_{CN} from the
1289 same flight (1-sec data).

1290 Figure 9: Size spectra: The black line shows the mean boundary layer DMPS size spectrum from
1291 a segment in the PBL on flight AC13 (16:55 to 17:18 UTC). The square black symbols represent
1292 the mean, the grey shaded area the standard deviation of the measurements. The line is a loga-
1293 rithmic fit with modal diameters of 74 and 175 nm. The colored lines represent size distributions
1294 from 0.65 to 5.8 km from a G1 flight during GoAmazon (Wang et al., 2016a).

1295 Figure 10: Vertical profiles of the ultrafine fraction (UFF); a) overall statistics from all flights, b)
1296 examples from individual profiles on flight AC18.

1297 Figure 11: Vertical profiles of CCN concentrations at 0.52% supersaturation; a) overall statistics
1298 from all flights (1-min averages), b) examples from individual profiles on flights AC09 (green)



1299 and AC12+13 (red). Flights AC12 and AC13 were conducted over the same region on successive
1300 days.

1301 Figure 12: a) CCN fraction ($N_{CCN0.5}/N_{CN}$) vs altitude, all data. b) CCN fraction vs. CN concentra-
1302 tion for specific segments from flight AC18 (see text for discussion).

1303 Figure 13: a) CCN fractions ($N_{CCN0.5}/N_{CN}$) and b) CCN concentrations ($N_{CCN0.5}$) vs. supersatura-
1304 tion from selected legs from flights AC09, AC10, and AC18; c,d) data from flights AC12 and
1305 AC13 for the LT, MT, and UT.

1306 Figure 14: Volatile fraction. a) statistics from all flights; b) individual segments from flight
1307 AC18 (see text for discussion).

1308 Figure 15: Refractory black carbon vs altitude, all flights, 30-second averages.

1309 Figure 16: Aerosol chemical composition as determined by AMS and SP2 measurements in the
1310 lower, middle and upper troposphere.

1311 Figure 17: Plot of the AMS factors f_{44} vs. f_{43} , indicating the median values for the LT and UT
1312 and values for some UT flight segments with elevated aerosol concentrations. With increasing
1313 degree of oxidation, the measurements move to the upper left of the triangle

1314 Figure 18: Measurements during passages through cumulonimbus cloud tops and outflow anvils:
1315 a) Several cloud top penetrations at 10.7 to 12 km altitude on flight AC18 showing reduced N_{CN}
1316 and $N_{CCN0.5}$ inside the cloud top; b) Outflow from a large active cumulonimbus, showing strong
1317 aerosol depletion and NO production by lightning.

1318 Fig. 19: Airmass contacts with deep convection. The colors indicate the cloud top temperature of
1319 the convective system with which the trajectory had the most recent contact. The aircraft altitude
1320 at which the airmass was sampled is indicated by the red line. The colored dots are plotted at the
1321 altitude at which the airmass crossed the grid cell with the convective system. The dots are only
1322 plotted if this altitude is greater than 6 km and if it encountered a DC region (i.e., $T_b < -30$ °C).
1323 The shaded areas correspond to the flight segments with elevated CN concentrations. a) flight
1324 AC09, b) flight AC18.

1325 Figure 20: a) Number of hours since last contact with deep convection for flight segments with
1326 elevated aerosol concentrations (cumulative frequency, all flights); b) frequency distribution of



- 1327 minimum GOES brightness temperature (T_b) for selected flights legs (within 5-day backward tra-
1328 jectories).
- 1329 Figure 21: CN vs CO concentrations in the upper troposphere above 8 km (15-second averages).
- 1330 Figure 22: CN, NO, and NO_y concentrations in a flight segment in the upper troposphere on
1331 flight AC07.
- 1332 Figure 23: a) Measurements of $N_{\text{CCN}0.5}$, N_{CN} , N_{nonvol} , and ice particles during cloud top penetra-
1333 tions on flight AC20. b) Concentrations of CO, NO, and NO_y on the same flight segments. c)
1334 Measurements of N_{acc} , N_{CN} , rBC, CO, and O_3 during the climb from 11.0 to 13.5 km.
- 1335 Figure 24: Conceptual model of the aerosol life cycle over the Amazon Basin.

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1337

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Table 1: Properties of the flight legs on which elevated aerosol concentrations were measured during ACRIDICON-CHUVA.

Flight	Leg	Start UTC	End UTC	Altitude range m	N _{CN} max. cm ⁻³	N _{CN} mean cm ⁻³	N _{CCN0.5} mean cm ⁻³	N _{acc} mean cm ⁻³	Ultrafine fraction	Trajectory type	Min T _b [min,max] ^a °C	Time since last DC [min,max] ^b hours	Time in DC Sampling environment		
													[min,max] ^c hours	hours	
AC07	A1	1622	1626	8300-9200	17200	9360	657	696	0.93	A	[-76,-65]	[0,0]	[21,27]	in and near outflows	
AC07	AA1	1626	1627	9140	36100	19230	775	588	0.97	A	---	---	---	in and near outflows	
AC07	A2	1627	1633	8100-9100	38400	24250	471	499	0.98	A	[-77,-76]	[0,0]	[19,26]	clear air	
AC07	AA2	1633	1637	6700-8200	26700	6450	708	565	0.91	A	---	---	---	clear air	
AC07	B	1714	1717	7000-8400	15900	7140	214	270	0.96	A	[-75,-68]	[0,0]	[13,28]	clear air	
AC07	C	1923	1929	9000	22600	16480	272	389	0.98	A	[-78,-74]	[0,0]	[27,40]	clear air	
AC07	D1	2024	2027	8500-10500	23200	14270	---	146	0.99	A	[-74,-68]	[0,0]	[29,40]	clear air near outflow	
AC07	D2	2028	2112	11000	28200	15160	---	76	0.99	A	[-76,-68]	[0,0]	[12,28]	outflow, mixed with cirrus	
AC07	E	2126	2129	13100	33500	15140	---	---	---	A	[-72,-67]	[0,0]	[21,28]	pristine ice cirrus	
AC07	F	2130	2147	13200	25300	12030	13	---	---	A	[-72,-69]	[0,5]	[24,32]	clear air	
AC07	G	2205	2211	13000-10000	20500	15470	284	---	---	A	[-76,-51]	[0,0]	[24,31]	cirrus	
AC07	GG	2210	2212	10200-9500	19500	16840	-	869	0.95	A	---	[0,0]	[24,31]	cirrus	
AC08	No useful high alt CN data. CCN moderately elevated at ca. 10 and 13 km, ca. 1200 /cc														
AC09	A1	1453	1455	11400	24100	10370	901	572	0.94	B	[-74,-71]	[16,16]	[22,41]	clear air	
AC09	A2	1455	1458	11900	27600	12970	1103	808	0.94	B	[-76,-72]	[16,17]	[34,41]	clear air	
AC09	A3	1501	1503	11000	35100	14470	629	697	0.95	B	[-72,-70]	[17,17]	[38,40]	clear air	
AC09	B1	1815	1820	11000	19100	10540	1393	954	0.91	B	[-76,-74]	[14,14]	[49,54]	around Cb anvil	
AC09	B2	1821	1827	11300-11600	28300	15370	1414	1012	0.93	B	[-78,-73]	[14,14]	[47,57]	around Cb anvil	
AC09	C	1830	1838	11600	31700	9130	1490	1127	0.88	B	[-79,-76]	[1,19]	[45,56]	clear air	
AC09	D	1838	1923	11300-11900	13000	5690	1012	869	0.85	B, C	[-80,-74]	[1,1]	[34,57]	outflow region	
AC09	E	1929	1957	11300	24200	12790	891	856	0.93	B, C	[-76,-70]	[2,21]	[24,48]	outflow region	
AC10	A	1709	1714	6700-8600	27400	13040	355	389	0.94	C	[-66,-54]	[6,7]	[9,32]	clear air	
AC10	B	1721	1728	9200	32500	12480	850	861	0.91	D	[-78,-72]	[4,10]	[34,56]	clear air	
AC10	C	1800	1808	9200	26000	13100	1020	937	0.91	B	[-79,-71]	[7,10]	[33,56]	clear air	
AC10	D	1811	1815	9200-10100	33000	20180	1130	684	0.95	B	[-77,-71]	[5,5]	[23,51]	clear air	
AC10	E	1817	1833	10800-13600	33400	22210	712	289	0.98	E	[-84,-72]	[0,12]	[42,76]	thin cirrus	
AC10	F	1835	1906	13800	34700	16540	464	---	---	E	[-80,-68]	[0,0]	[33,54]	cirrus layer	
AC10	G	1912	1919	10600-7500	24200	10220	1230	1160	0.83	B	[-80,-58]	[0,14]	[11,60]	clear air	



AC11	A	1603	1605	8700-9700	47400	26280	572	323	0.98	E	[-54,-32]	[3,44]	[1,18]	clear air
AC11	B	1613	1630	11800	4700	3850	1390	763	0.80	E, D	[-76,-58]	[0, 6]	[14,41]	clear air
AC11	C	1633	1642	11800-10800	31700	6080	1436	937	0.78	D	[-80,-77]	[0, 0]	[30,46]	around anvil
AC11	D	1831	1850	5200-6700	25000	14380	---	187	0.98	C	[-79,-79]	[0, 0]	[18,19]	outflow region
AC11	E	1907	1930	9900-12200	36100	29280	---	330	0.99	D	[-85,-74]	[0, 0]	[26,82]	outflow region
AC11	F1	1940	1942	12200	54900	22060	---	674	0.95	E, D	[-84,-84]	[0, 0]	[55,55]	outflow region
AC11	F2	1942	1951	12200	32800	20720	---	549	0.97	E, D	[-84,-84]	[0, 0]	[55,55]	outflow region
AC11	G	2005	2030	13700-14200	2830	10090	---	---	---	D	[-84,-84]	[0, 0]	[55,55]	outflow region
AC11	H	2042	2057	12200-10400	47900	20240	---	663	0.96	A	[-84,-84]	[0, 0]	[55,55]	outflow region
AC12	A	1512	1518	9800-11300	19300	8040	1130	341	0.95	E	[-79,-74]	[0, 0]	[23,37]	clear
AC12	B	1524	1527	11300	24700	9290	1120	358	0.95	A	[-83,-71]	[0, 0]	[26,66]	thin outflow
AC12	C	1537	1541	7300-5600	26200	7760	356	186	0.95	B	[-78,-57]	[1, 1]	[7,16]	clear
AC12	D	1922	1925	8000-9700	17400	11980	650	132	0.99	B	[-71,-71]	[17,20]	[6,12]	clear
AC12	E	1928	1933	10800-12200	25300	15740	423	75	0.99	B	[-70,-57]	[20,24]	[8,18]	clear
AC12	F1	1936	1950	12200-13100	7020	5940	2010	698	0.88	D	[-80,-67]	[0,38]	[12,40]	clear
AC12	F2	1952	2015	13100	7300	5950	1190	594	0.90	B, D	[-82,-74]	[0,21]	[28,77]	aged outflow
AC12	G	2017	2020	13200-12800	19600	10930	661	422	0.96	E	[-79,-75]	[0, 0]	[26,49]	outflow
AC12	H	2023	2027	11300-9600	23900	16930	849	372	0.98	C	[-80,-77]	[0, 0]	[37,59]	mostly clear air
AC13	A	1520	1533	11000-11900	43500	13830	1054	---	---	C	[-78,-75]	[0,12]	[27,43]	mostly cirrus and old outflow
AC13	B	1550	1607	11900-6900	36300	11890	1012	476	0.95	A	[-83,-50]	[1, 8]	[11,47]	mostly cirrus and old outflow
AC13	C	1901	1908	9500	25700	17870	687	---	---	A	[-72,-66]	[0, 0]	[13,24]	clear air around anvils
AC13	D1	1909	1912	10700	26200	18600	910	---	---	A	[-70,-66]	[0, 0]	[15,19]	''''
AC13	D2	1916	1919	10700	28200	19170	1017	---	---	A	[-73,-69]	[0, 0]	[24,25]	''''
AC13	D3	1921	1926	10700	29500	19010	919	---	---	A	[-69,-68]	[0, 0]	[15,26]	''''
AC13	D4	1930	1933	10700	21600	10890	727	---	---	A	[-68,-67]	[0, 0]	[14,17]	''''
AC13	E	1939	1942	11900	22500	15100	770	---	---	A	[-57,-47]	[10,10]	[5, 8]	''''
AC13	F	2036	2043	12200	18600	7840	912	---	---	A	[-78,-76]	[0, 0]	[34,43]	clear air, some cirrus
AC14														no useable high alt data
AC15	A	1415	1419	10500-11700	58500	38170	687	453	0.98	D	[-81,-78]	[0, 9]	[63,68]	air around a huge Cb anvil
AC15	B	1419	1424	11800-12900	67900	46970	701	405	0.98	D	[-81,-81]	[0, 0]	[59,66]	mostly cirrus and old outflow
AC15	C	1431	1432	13200	49500	20900	1070	747	0.94	D	[-84,-84]	[0, 0]	[55,55]	''''
AC15	D	1436	1437	13200	38300	15300	1009	633	0.92	D	[-84,-77]	[0, 0]	[50,56]	''''



AC15	E	1448	1449	12500	44500	29220	603	718	0.97	D	[-81,-79]	[0,0]	[54,59]	""
AC15	F	1452	1455	12500	60500	45100	672	514	0.97	D	[-79,-75]	[0,0]	[52,56]	""
AC15	G	1456	1500	12500-11900	59200	38070	748	574	0.98	D	[-82,-72]	[0,0]	[53,62]	""
AC15	H	1502	1505	11900-11600	49800	16440	1114	750	0.94	D	[-76,-73]	[0,0]	[62,69]	""
AC15	I	1518	1519	11300	46800	22000	1848	931	0.93	D	[-79,-73]	[0,0]	[65,71]	""
AC15	J	1526	1528	10700	21700	8980	1292	817	0.86	D	[-76,-75]	[0,0]	[59,65]	""
AC16	A	1554	1600	10700-12200	40300	21210	606	223	0.98	B	[-75,-68]	[0,0]	[9,18]	clear air
AC16	B	1749	1757	10000-10300	28200	11350	926	282	0.97	B	[-68,-57]	[0,0]	[8,10]	air around a large Cb anvil
AC16	C	1803	1815	10300-10700	27200	15180	746	208	0.98	B	[-75,-60]	[0,0]	[9,12]	air around a large Cb anvil
AC16	D	1818	1820	10700-11300	23100	11540	789	356	0.97	B	[-75,-67]	[0,0]	[10,17]	air around a large Cb anvil
AC16	E	1824	1826	12000	26700	14070	488	354	0.97	B	[-75,-75]	[0,0]	[17,19]	air around a large Cb anvil
AC16	F	1857	1911	12600-11900	19500	11210	598	521	0.94	B	[-73,-66]	[0,0]	[22,28]	air around a large Cb anvil
AC16	G	1925	1935	11900	22700	12880	703	492	0.95	B	[-73,-70]	[0,0]	[22,30]	air around a large Cb anvil
AC16	H	1950	2000	11900-9600	27100	12670	806	444	0.96	B	[-75,-65]	[0,0]	[13,29]	air around a large Cb anvil
AC17														no high alt data
AC18	A1	1454	1456	8300-8600	20700	10698	-	219	0.98	B	[-60,-10]	[14,17]	[2,5]	clear air
AC18	A2	1520	1522	12900-8400	22500	14538	479	400	0.97	C	[-58,-38]	[14,18]	[1,5]	clear air
AC18	B	1753	1801	7100	10040	6255	400	312	0.95	C	[-30,-0]	[0,0]	[1,2]	clear air around anvils
AC18	C	1833	1834	7100-7400	14200	10713	404	280	0.97	C	[-52,-28]	[22,22]	[1,1]	clear air around anvils
AC18	D	1913	2005	11300-12000	4000	2367	916	640	0.73	A,D	[-75,-37]	[0,16]	[3,46]	clear air around anvils
AC18	E1	2017	2034	13000-13700	8170	4841	1481	892	0.82	A,D	[-84,-68]	[0,44]	[21,45]	clear air
AC18	E2	2040	2043	13700-13200	44700	13679	469	283	0.98	D	[-77,-71]	[0,0]	[28,42]	clear air downwind of large Cb
AC18	F	2053	2057	9500-8100	15800	8778	444	318	0.96	C,D	[-68,-32]	[1,20]	[1,11]	clear air
AC19	A1	1518	1519	7300-7700	30600	28480	451	339	0.99	B	[-82,-65]	[14,43]	[7,14]	clear air
AC19	A2	1536	1601	12600	3600	2910	679	268	0.91	E	[-72,-58]	[43,94]	[6,19]	clear air, high alt leg
AC19	E1	2009	2010	8500-8900	14700	11470	642	271	0.98	B	[-75,-59]	[16,92]	[8,16]	clear air
AC19	E2	2023	2100	13800	3900	2690	1024	498	0.81	A	[-76,-29]	[0,105]	[1,22]	clear air
AC19	E3	2106	2119	13800	10200	2770	1073	950	0.65	B	[-73,-57]	[0,1]	[6,25]	outflow
AC19	E4	2127	2128	7500-6600	66000	16210	440	414	0.96	D	[-60,-59]	[3,22]	[4,7]	clear air
AC20	A	1654	1658	11700-12500	30300	21540	881	616	0.97	A,D	[-77,-53]	[1,1]	[7,28]	NPF at top of smoke layer
AC20	B	1901	1905	12300	21300	9340	614	381	0.95	A,D	[-78,-70]	[0,0]	[14,42]	NPF at top of smoke layer



- ^{a)} Minimum and maximum temperature at top of most recent deep convection in grid boxes through which the trajectories for the flight leg had passed.
- ^{a)} Trajectories were calculated for each minute of the leg, and for each trajectory the time between sampling and the most recent encounter with DC was determined. Given are the shortest and the longest of these time intervals.
- ^{a)} Minimum and maximum length of time that the trajectories from each leg had spent in grid boxes with DC.



Table 2: Composition of UT aerosols based on AMS and SP2 measurements

Flight	Time	N _{CV}	N _{CCNO.5}	N _{acc}	OA	NO ₃	SO ₄	NH ₄	rBC	OA/SO ₄	NO ₃ /SO ₄	Ultrafine fraction	CO
	UT	cm ⁻³	cm ⁻³	cm ⁻³	μg m ⁻³				ppb				
AC07													
<4 km	-	1620±680	1070±410	1363±651	1.15±0.82	0.057±0.031	0.14±0.07	0.21±0.16	0.40±0.21	8.1±5.8	0.40±0.29	0.19±0.16	-
>7 km	-	9300±7420	300±210	278±232	0.43±0.36	0.052±0.036	0.038±0.032	0.07±0.47	0.003±0.007	11.3±13.5	1.4±1.5	0.92±0.008	-
AA1	16:24-16:29	19200	650	588	1.03	0.097	<0.005	-	0.002	>200	>20	0.97	-
AA2	16:33-16:37	6450	710	565	0.90	0.086	0.011	-	0.002	82	7.8	0.89	-
GG	22:09-22:11	16800	-	921	1.72	0.143	<0.005	-	0.002	>350	>30	-	-
AC09													
<5 km	-	920±490	290±95	395±189	0.42±0.29	0.020±0.027	0.26±0.12	0.02±0.13	0.085±0.095	2.2±1.8	0.14±0.13	0.51±0.26	-
>9 km	-	8020±5180	1090±430	861±338	2.53±0.60	0.31±0.17	0.24±0.19	0.02±0.17	0.001±0.003	13.4±6.3	1.6±1.1	0.86±0.07	-
AA	14:48-15:08	2280	1050	754	2.23	0.30	0.14	0.013	0.001	24.0	3.0	0.54	-
BB	18:18-19:23	8060	1200	922	2.63	0.32	0.27	0.023	0.001	10.7	1.3	0.85	-
EE	19:28-19:58	12000	950	892	2.75	0.31	0.23	0.018	0.001	12.8	1.4	0.92	-
A1+A2	14:53-14:58	12100	1040	724	2.50	0.36	0.15	0.039	<0.001	23.9	3.4	0.91	-
AC18													
<5 km	-	740±220	350±100	473±212	1.61±1.26	0.070±0.054	0.92±0.47	0.17±0.16	0.15±0.15	1.6±0.8	0.078±0.055	0.51±0.26	-
>10 km	-	2950±2640	920±310	560±145	2.66±0.98	0.32±0.15	0.40±0.12	<0.05	0.002±0.005	7.0±3.0	0.85±0.38	0.86±0.07	-
AA	15:06-15:16	(1740)	870	545	2.20	0.28	0.35	<0.05	0.001	6.9	0.89	1.50	-
DD	19:21-20:05	2360	910	639	2.75	0.31	0.39	<0.05	0.002	7.8	0.88	0.61	-
A1	14:54-14:56	87000	-	203	0.52	0.099	0.27	<0.05	0.002	2.5	0.44	-	-
A2	15:20-15:22	17400	500	433	1.36	0.157	0.27	<0.05	0.002	5.1	0.62	0.97	-
E2	20:40-20:43	15900	360	-	1.28	0.157	0.35	<0.05	-	3.9	0.44	0.98	-
F	20:54-20:56	11600	460	361	1.37	0.164	0.42	<0.05	0.002	3.3	0.39	0.96	-
UT	9-15 km	7700±8000	840±440	568±313	2.57±1.12	0.273±0.165	0.32±0.23	0.21±0.22	0.003±0.003	8.1±6.7	0.86±0.78	0.86±0.11	116±39
MT	5-8 km	2130±3100	410±150	284±169	1.07±0.80	0.075±0.103	0.35±0.22	0.22±0.16	0.007±0.015	3.0±3.0	0.21±0.32	0.79±0.15	97±22
PBL	0-4 km	1650±980	950±700	1261±876	4.71±3.65	0.189±0.212	0.82±0.61	0.43±0.59	0.39±0.26	5.8±6.2	0.23±0.31	0.28±0.23	157±54



Figure 1: Tracks of the flights on which measurements at high altitude were made during ACRIDICON-CHUVA. The flight segments at altitudes >8 km are shown as heavier lines.

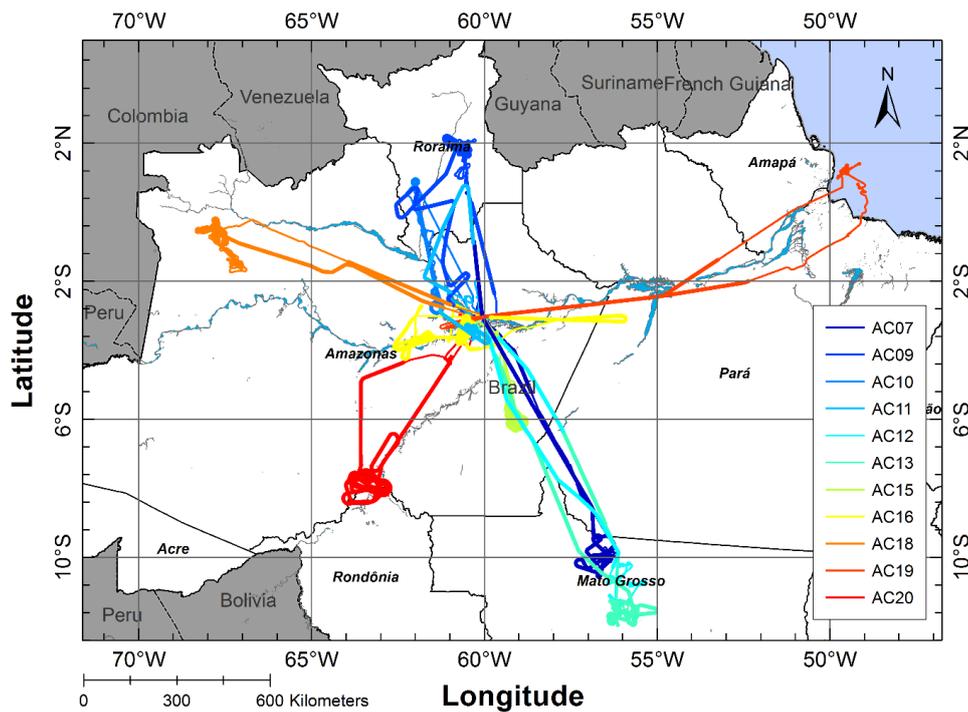




Figure 2: Columnar precipitable water anomaly for September 2014 (based on the 1981-2010 average NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis).

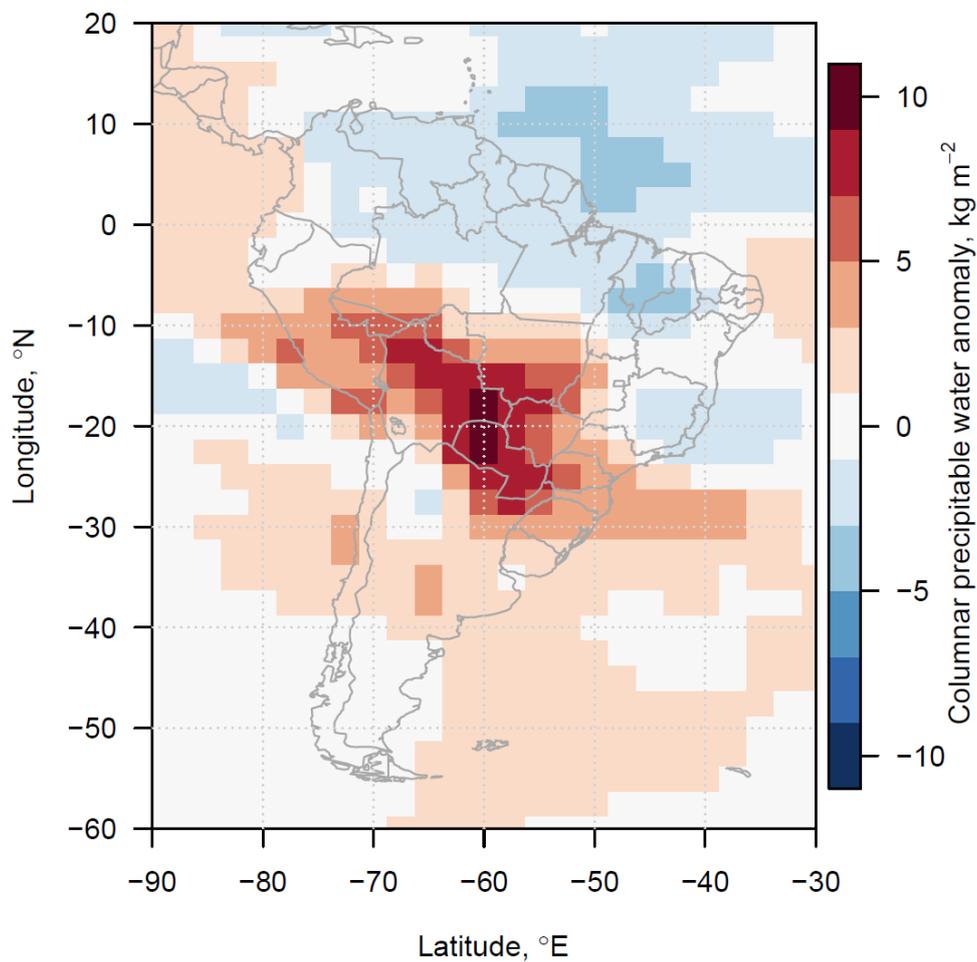




Figure 3: Total rainfall (mm per month, 1° resolution) for September 2014. Data from Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC).

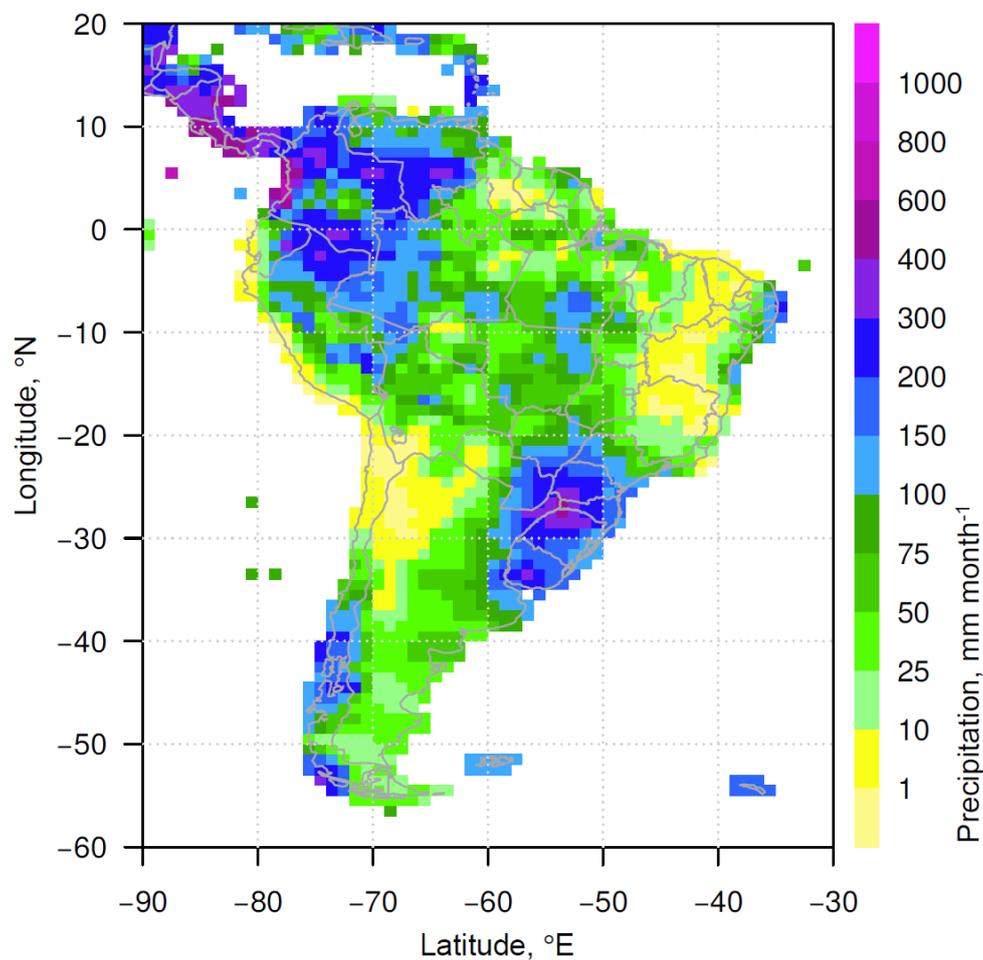




Figure 4: Mean wind speeds during September 2014 at a) 850 hPa and b) 200 hPa (Data from NCEP/NCAR).

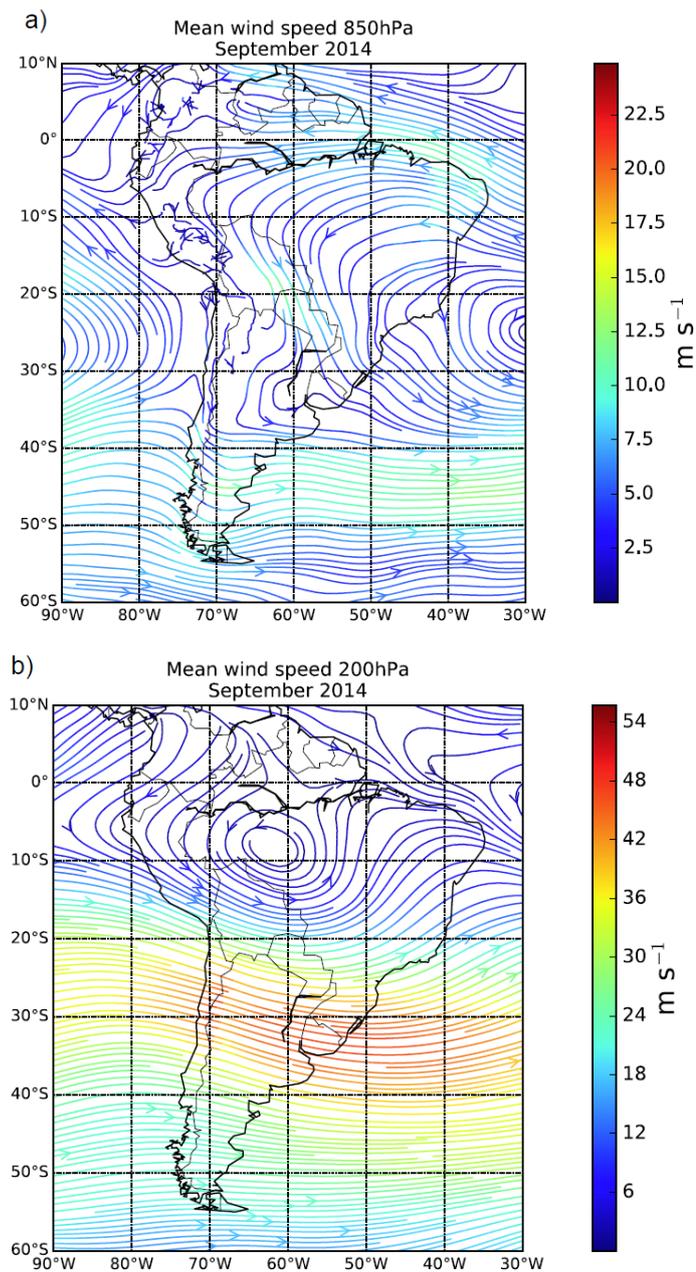




Figure 5: Vertical profiles of potential temperature, static air temperature and relative humidity measured on HALO during the ACRIDICON-CHUVA flights over the Amazon Basin.

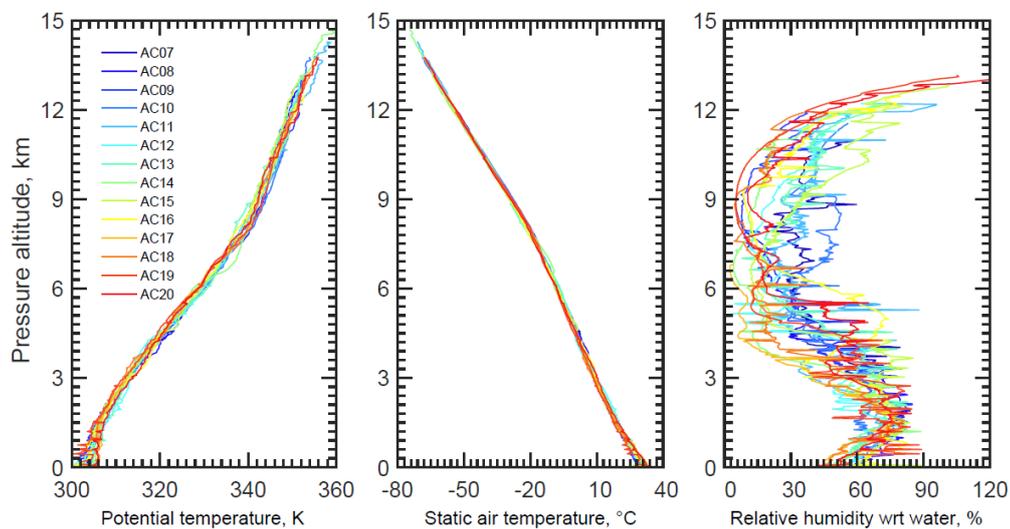




Figure 6: Trajectory statistics based on (a) 72-hour and (b) 120-hour backtrajectory calculations for September 2014, initialized at Manaus at an elevation of 12 km.

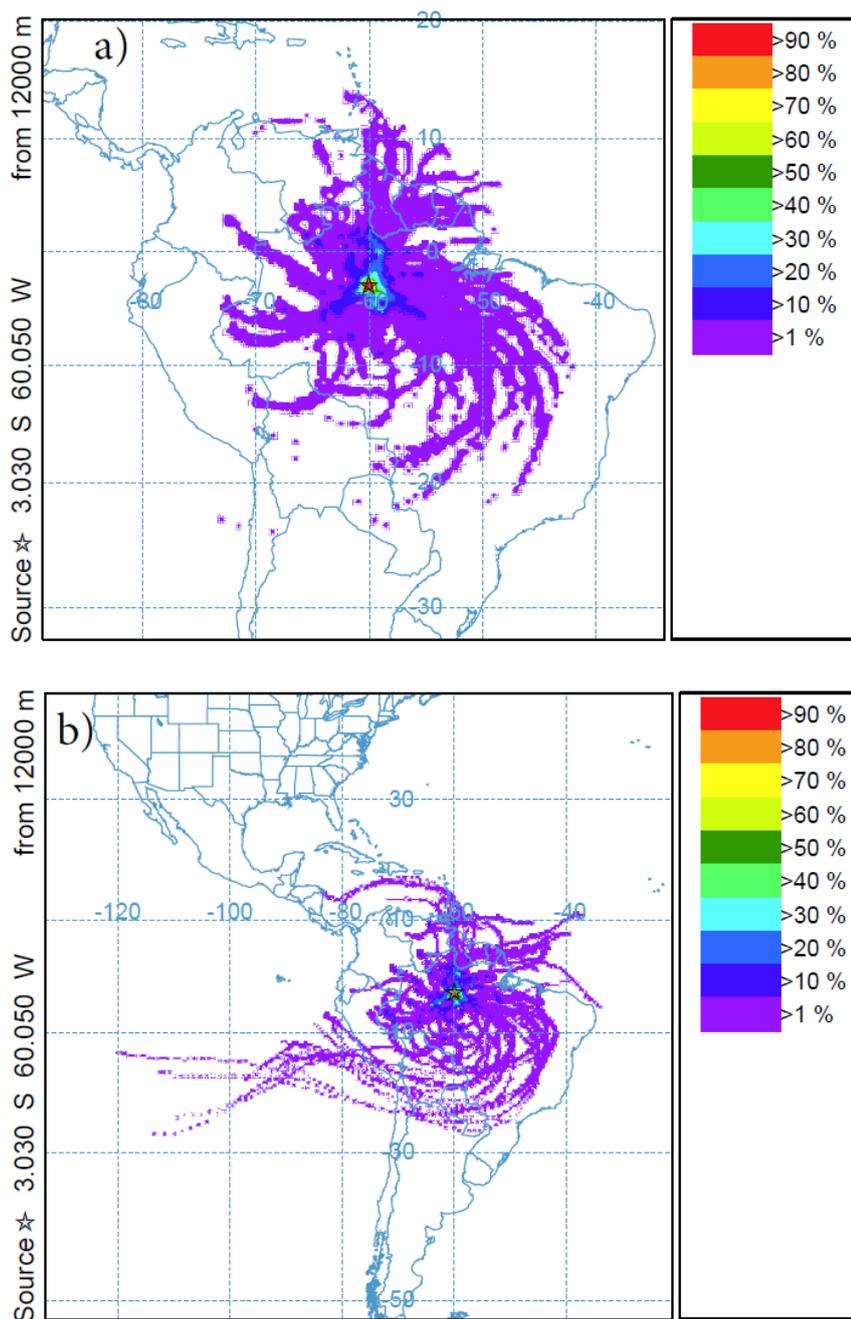




Figure 7: Vertical profiles of CN concentrations, N_{CN} ; a) overall statistics from all flights, b) examples from individual profiles on flight AC07 (segment G) and AC09 (segments A1 and A2).

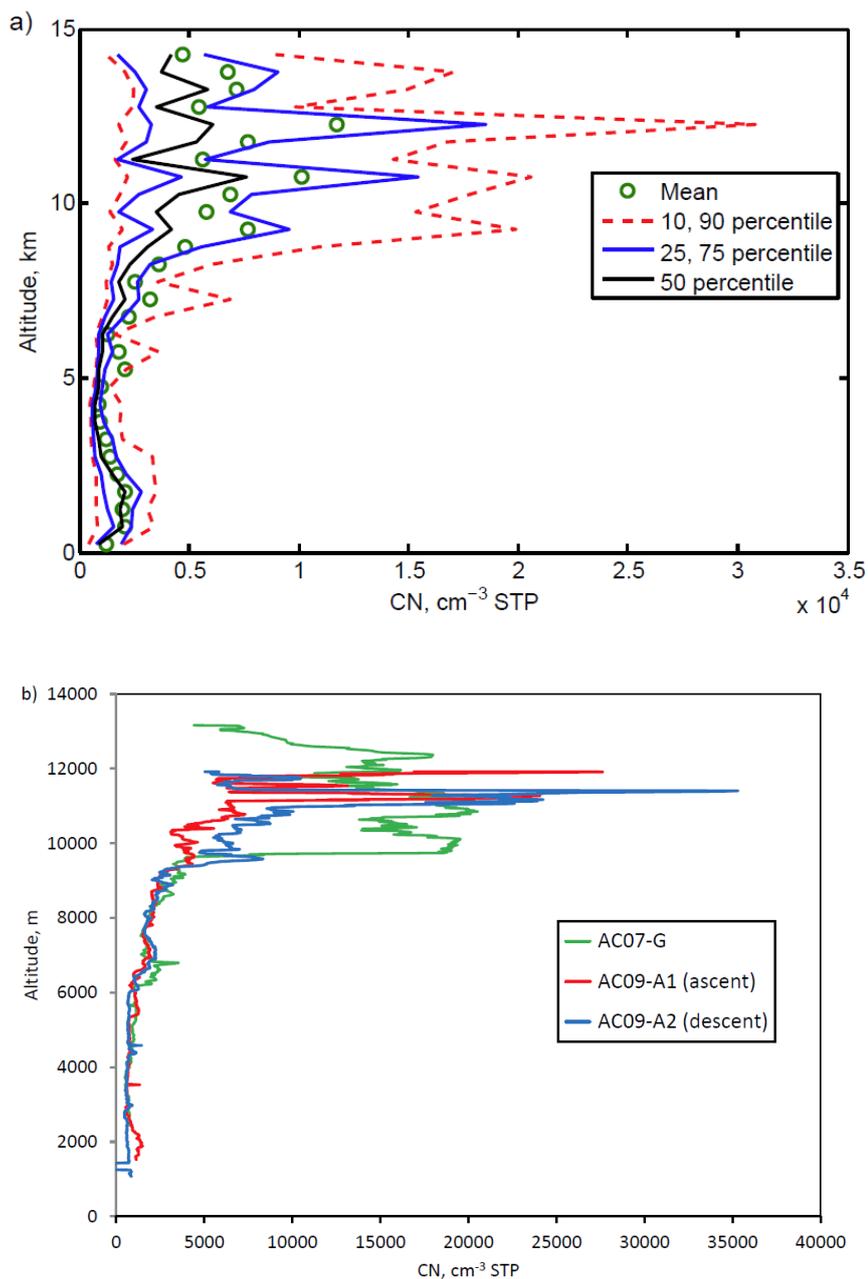




Figure 8: Vertical profiles of accumulation mode particle concentrations, N_{acc} ; a) 1-min averaged data from all flights, b) N_{acc} profile from flight AC19 together with the profile of N_{CN} from the same flight (1-sec data).

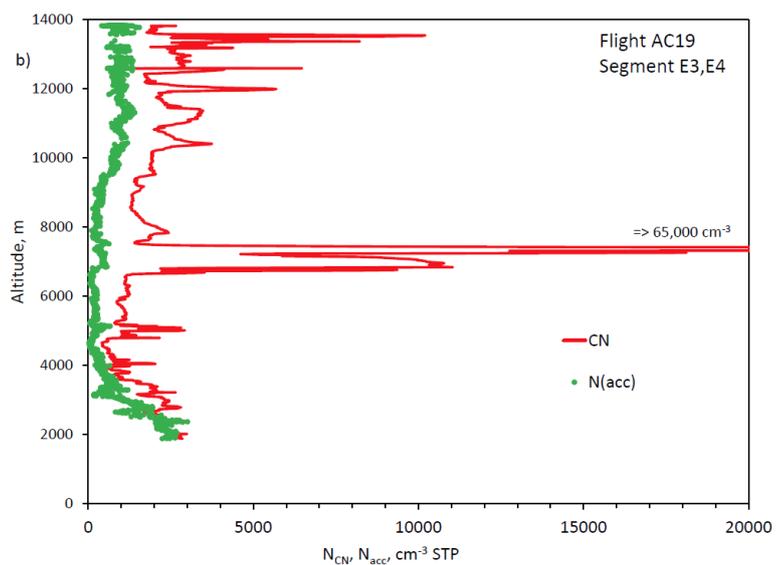
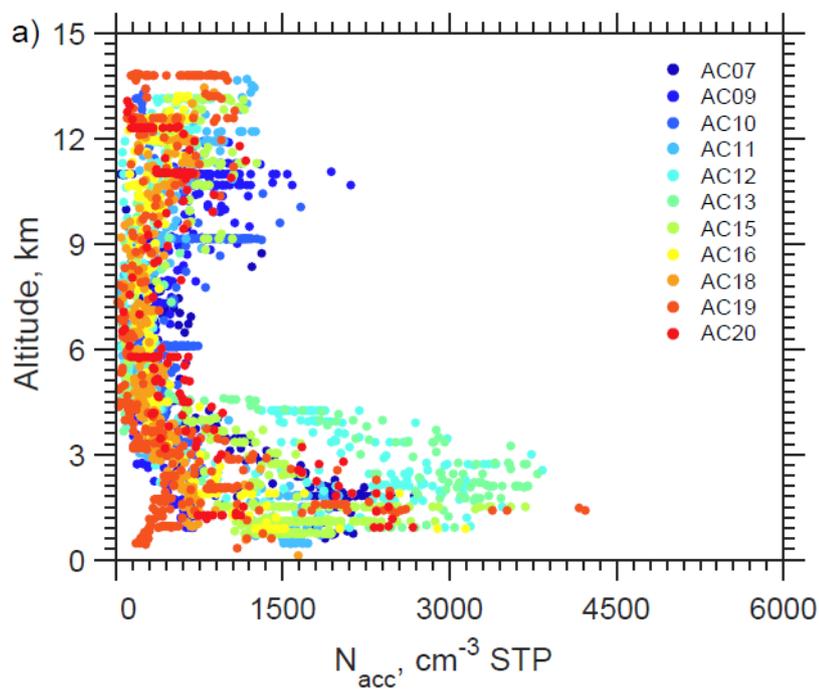




Figure 9: Size spectra: The black line shows the mean boundary layer DMPS size spectrum from a segment in the PBL on flight AC13 (16:55 to 17:18UT). The square black symbols represent the mean, the grey shaded area the standard deviation of the measurements. The line is a logarithmic fit with modal diameters of 74 and 175 nm. The colored lines represent size distributions from 0.65 to 5.8 km from a G1 flight during GoAmazon (Wang et al., 2016a).

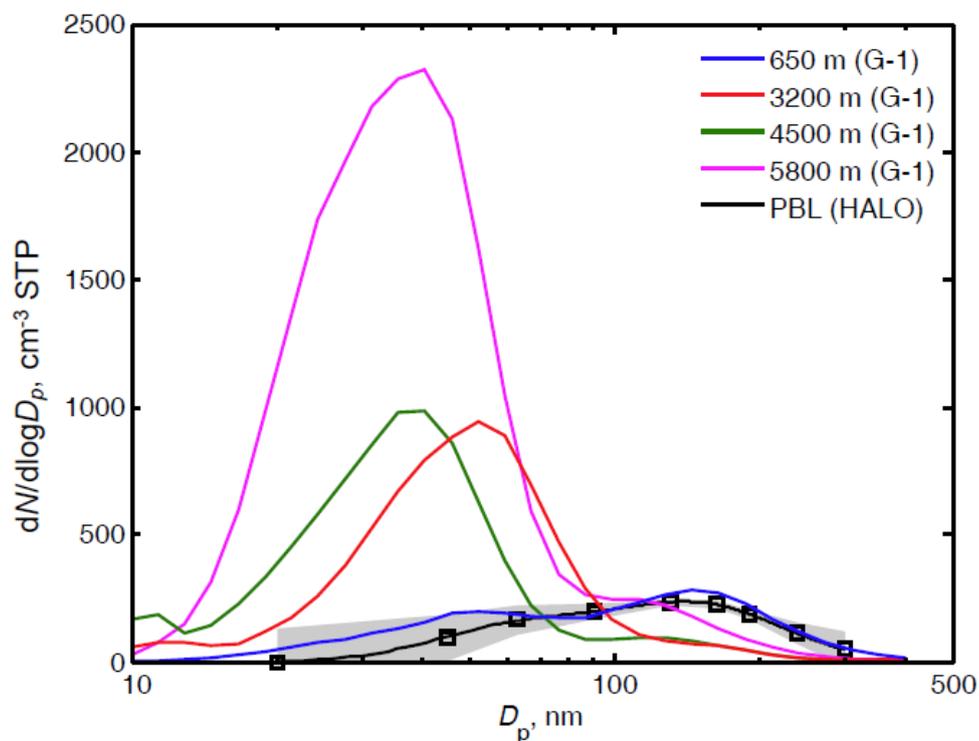




Figure 10: Vertical profiles of the ultrafine fraction (UFF); a) overall statistics from all flights, b) examples from individual profiles on flight AC18.

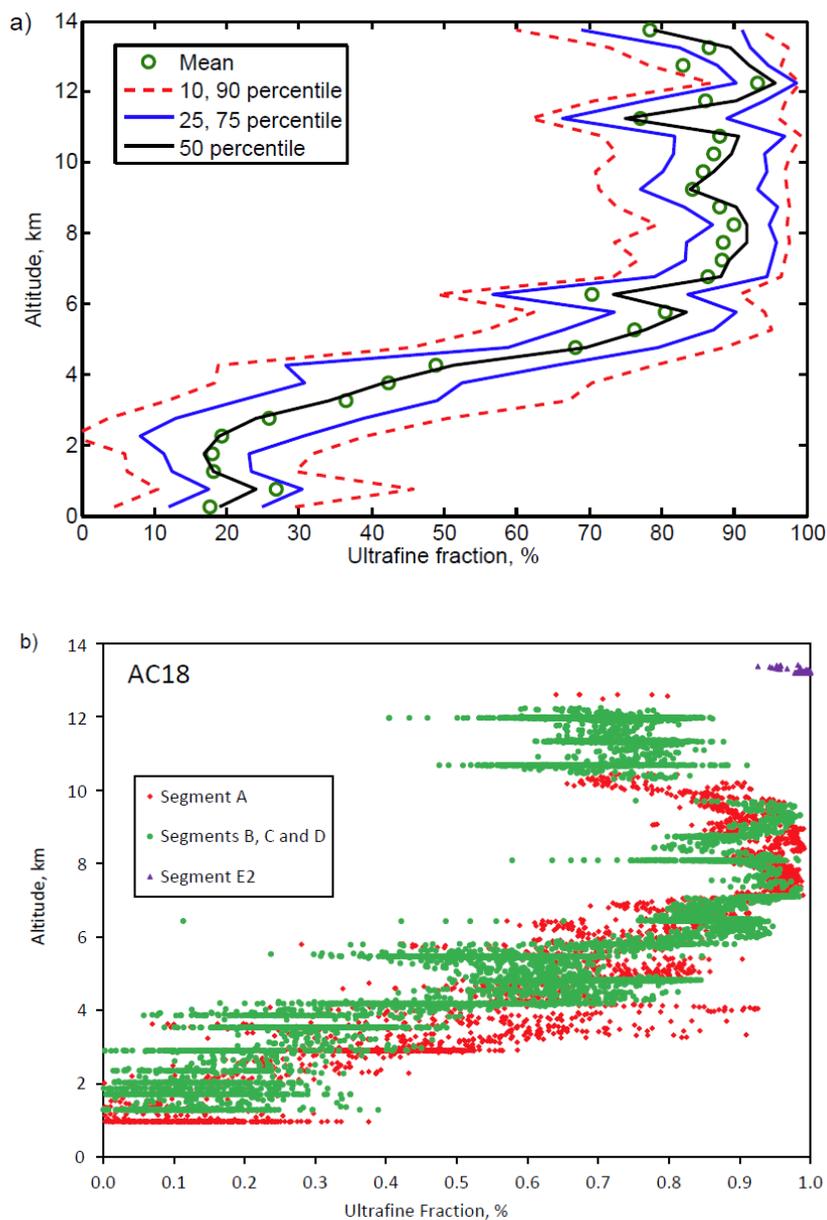




Figure 11: Vertical profiles of CCN concentrations at 0.52% supersaturation; a) overall statistics from all flights (1-min averages), b) examples from individual profiles on flights AC09 (green) and AC12+13 (red). Flights AC12 and AC13 were conducted over the same region on successive days.

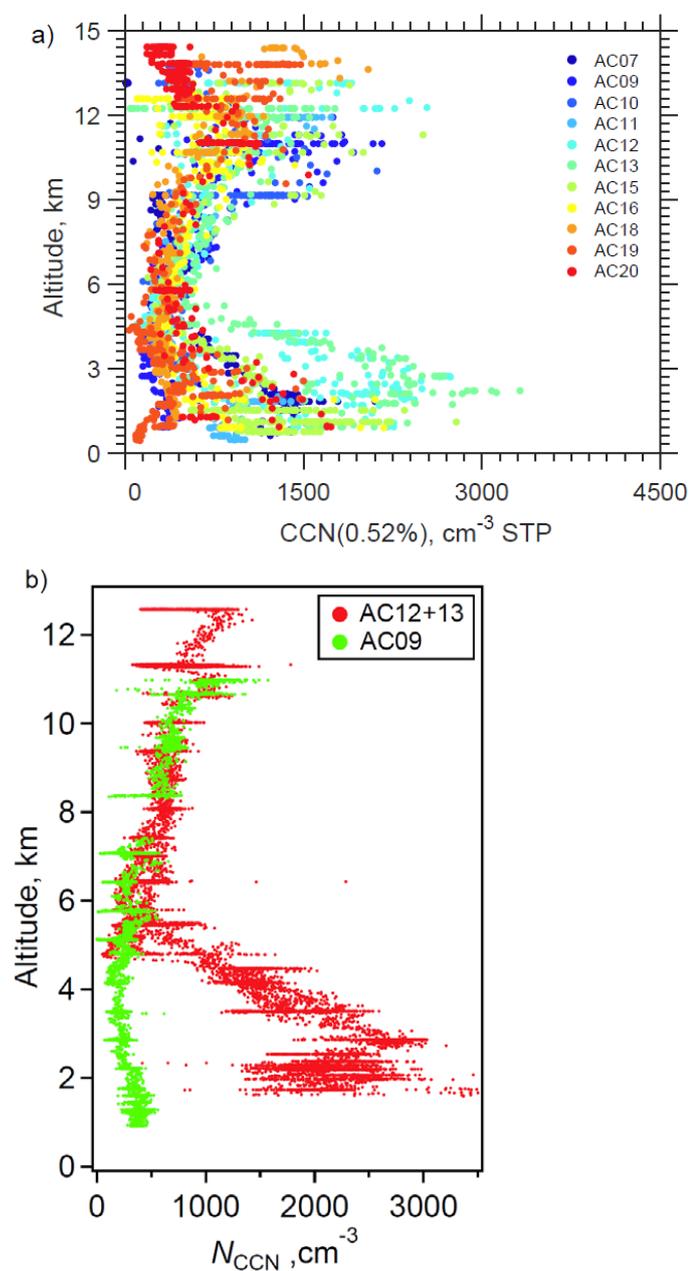




Figure 12: a) CCN fraction vs altitude, all data. b) CCN fraction vs. CN concentration for specific segments from flight AC18 (see text).

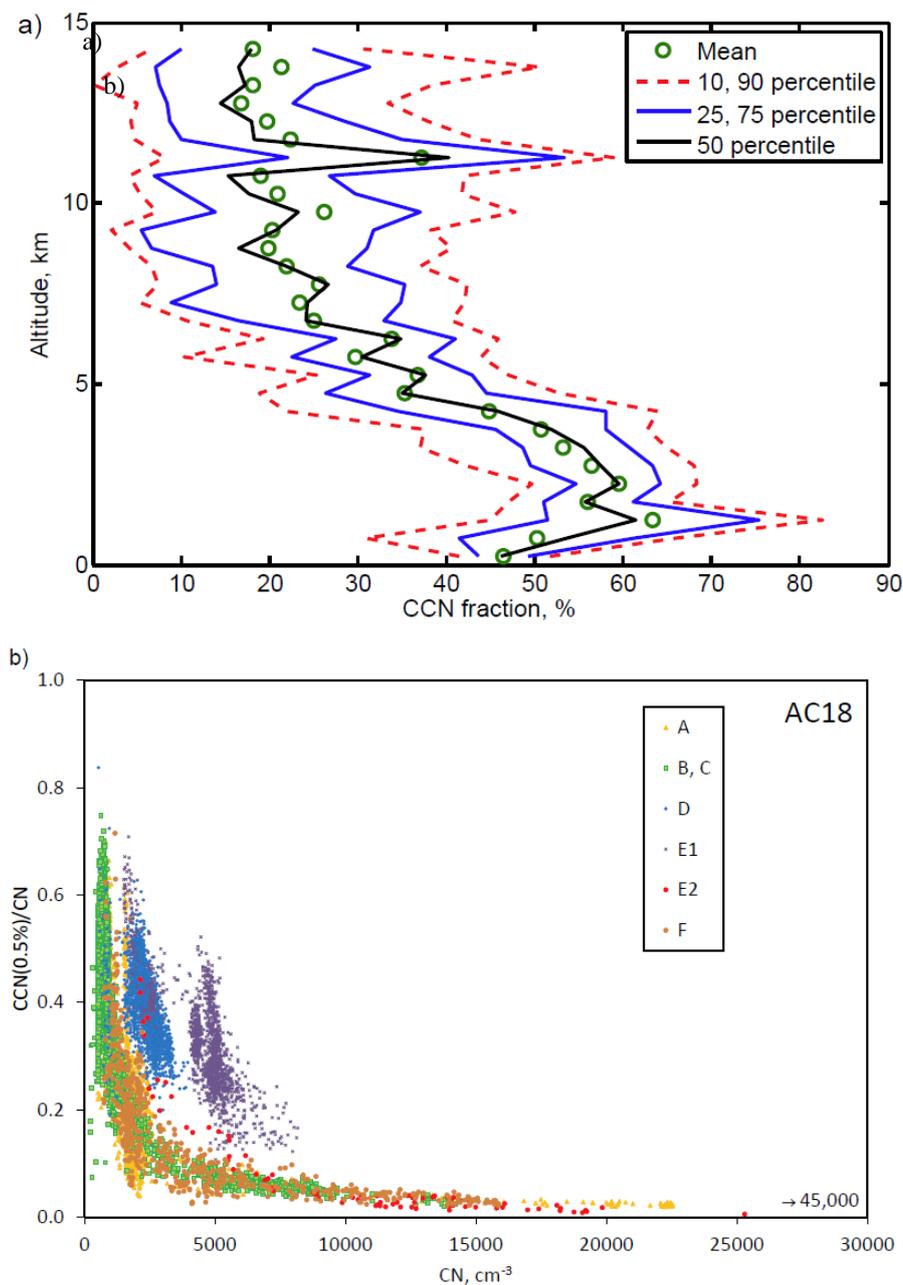
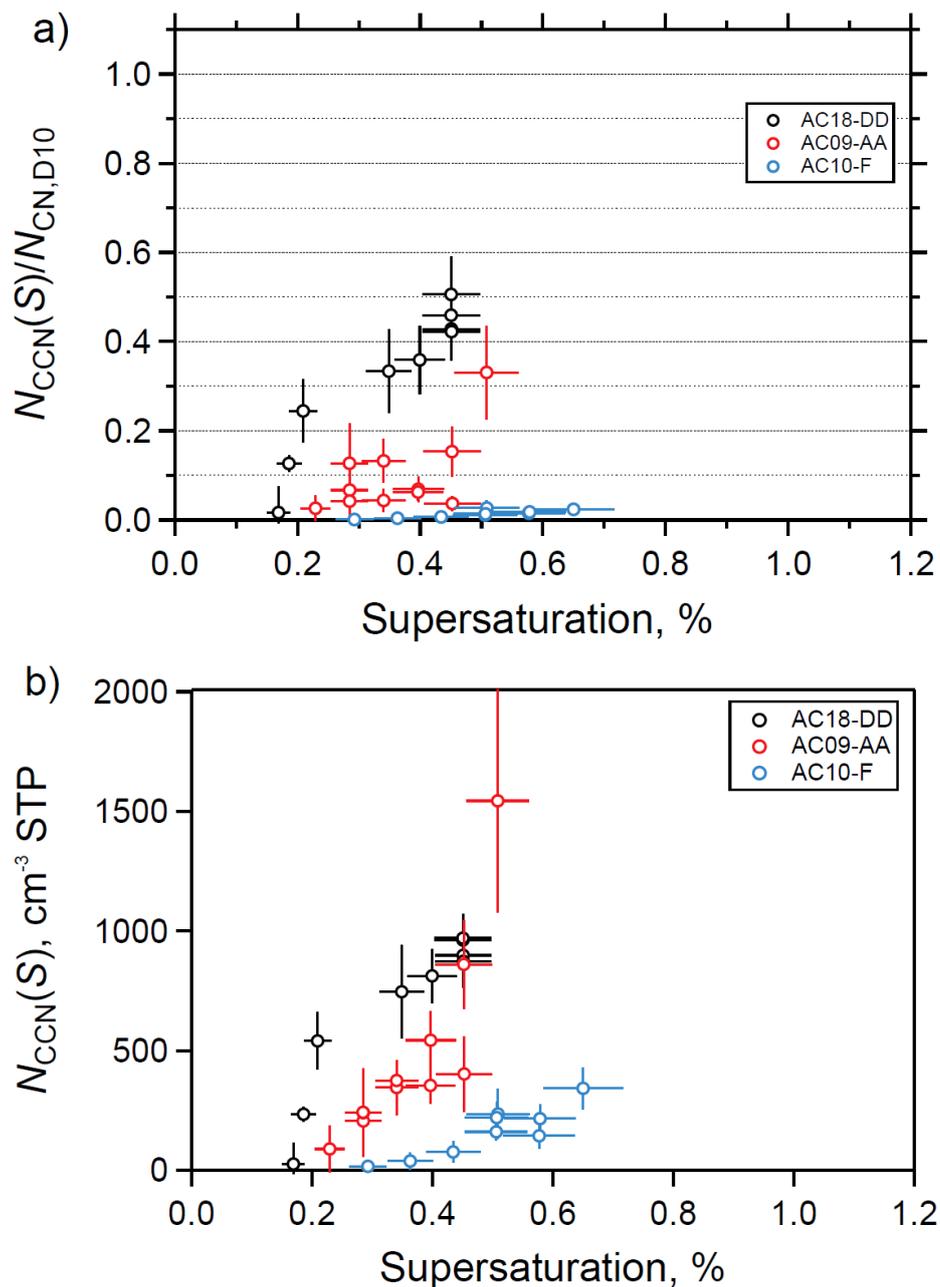




Figure 13: a) CCN fractions ($N_{CCN0.5}/N_{CN}$) and b) CCN concentrations ($N_{CCN0.5}$) vs. supersaturation from selected legs from flights AC09, AC10, and AC18; c,d) data from flights AC12 and AC13 for the LT, MT, and UT.



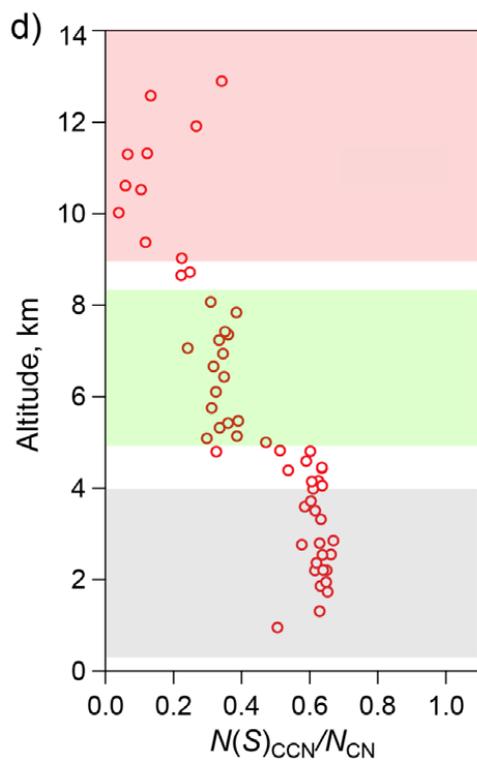
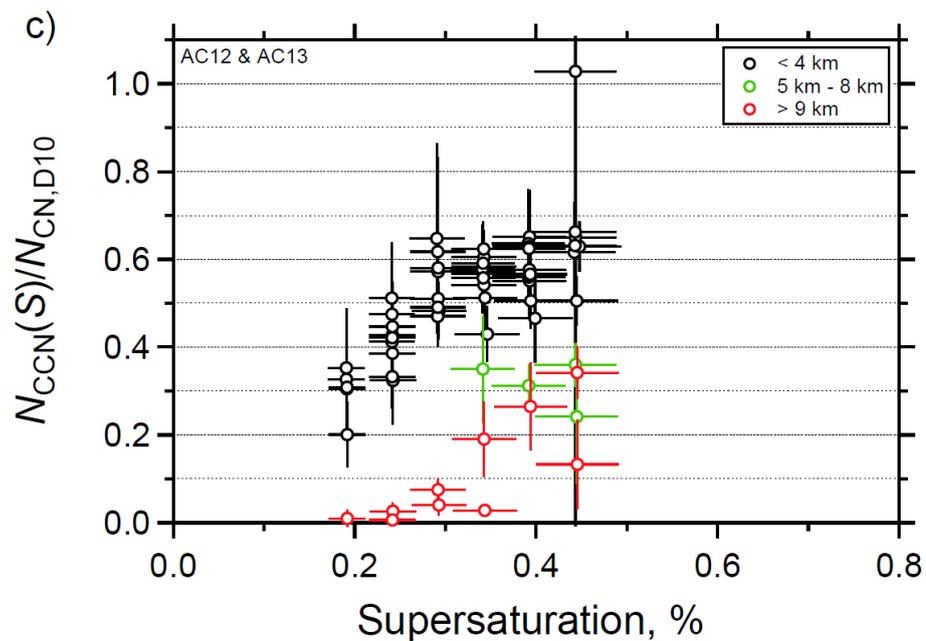




Figure 14: Volatile fraction. a) statistics from all flights; b) individual segments from flight AC18 (see text)

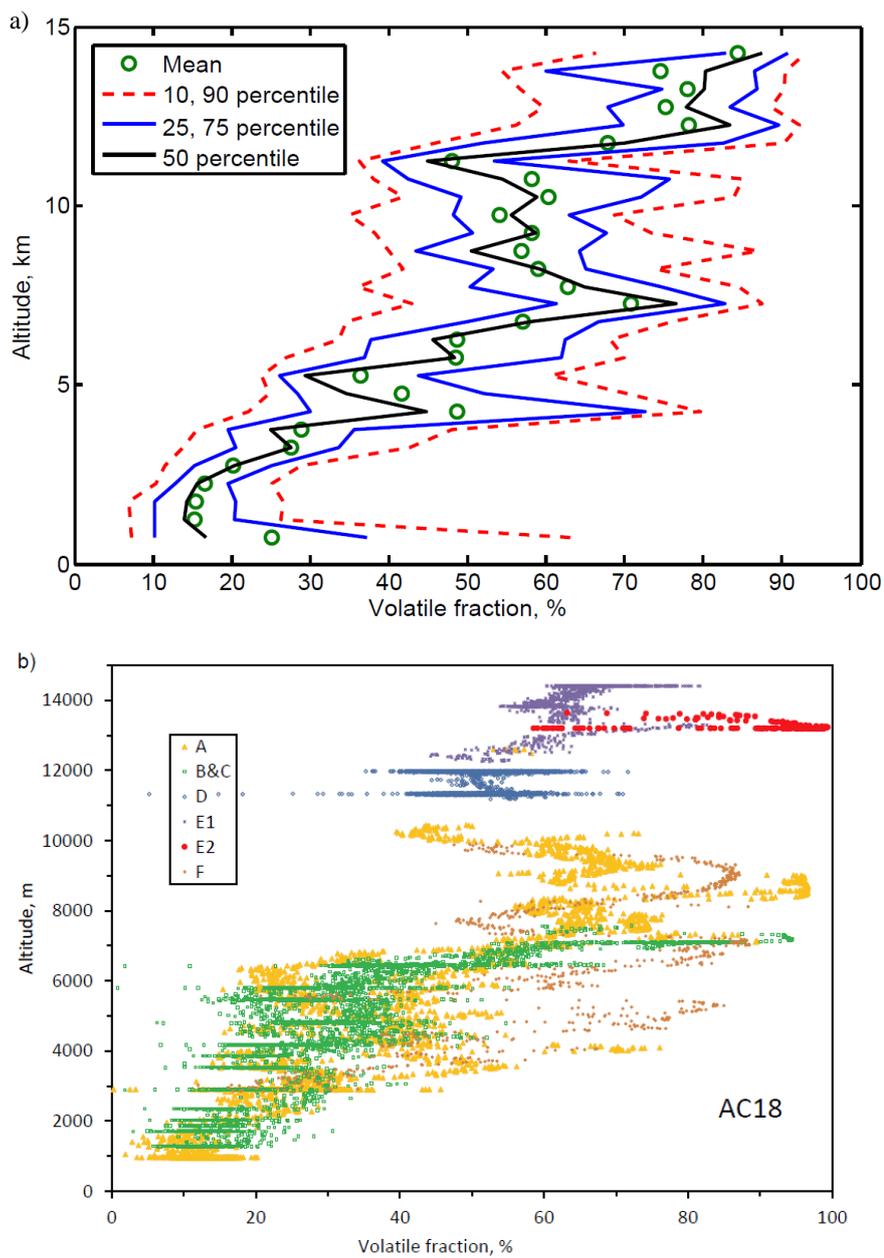




Figure 15: Refractory black carbon vs altitude, all flights, 30-second averages.

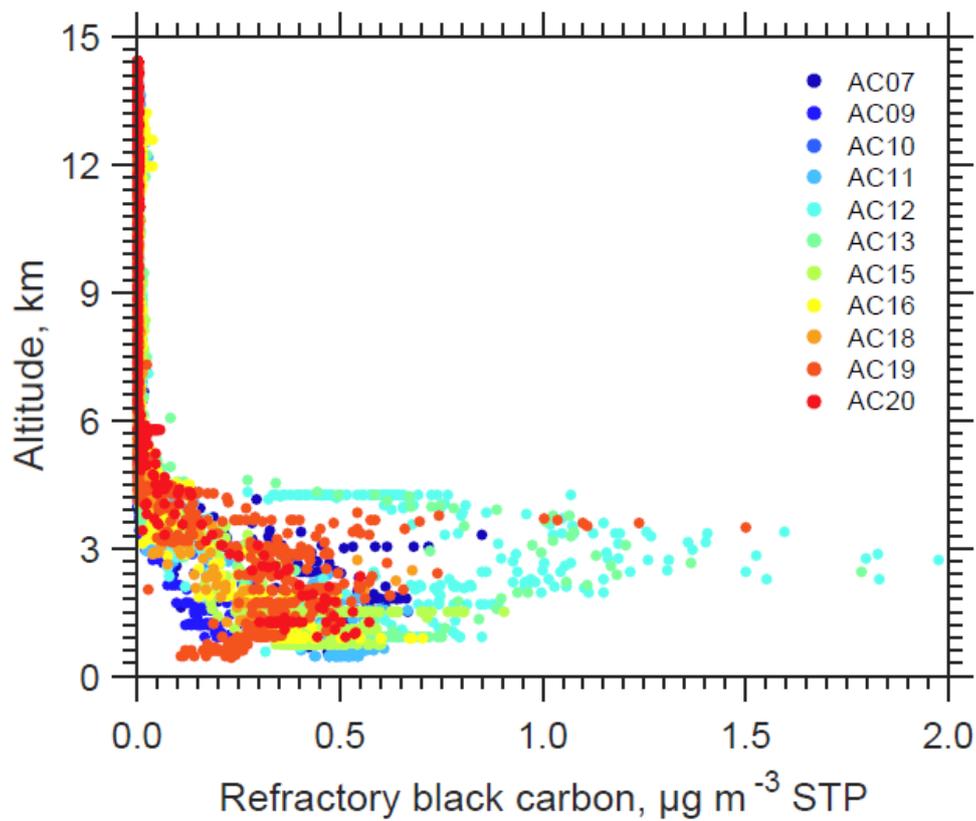




Figure 16: Aerosol chemical composition as determined by AMS and SP2 measurements in the lower, middle and upper troposphere.

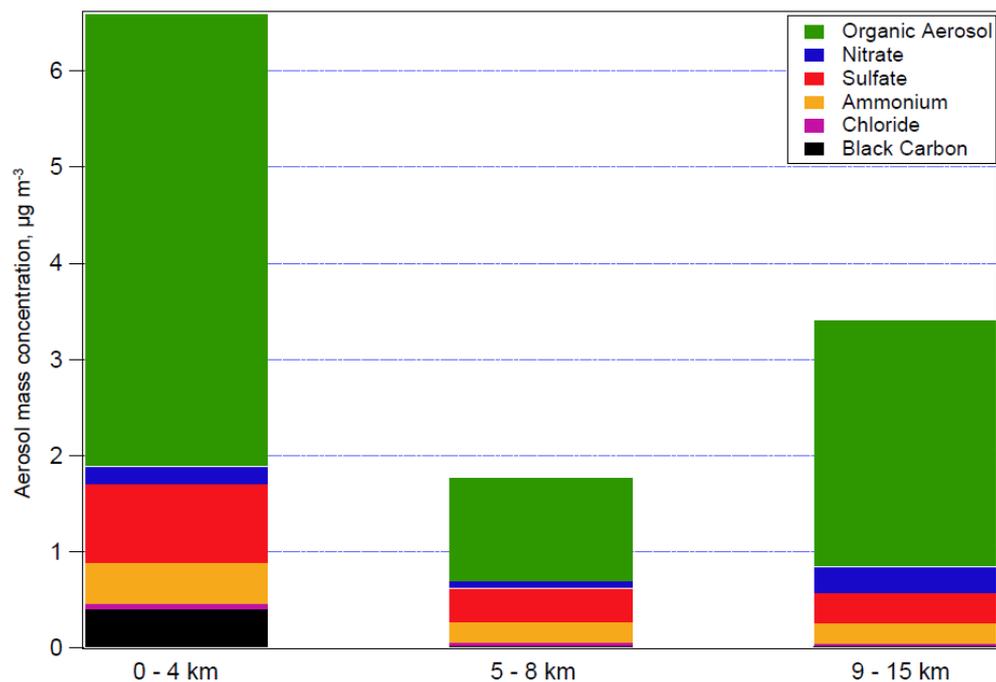




Figure 17: Plot of the AMS factors f_{44} vs. f_{43} , indicating the median values for the LT and UT and values for some UT flight segments with elevated aerosol concentrations. With increasing degree of oxidation, the measurements move to the upper left of the triangle

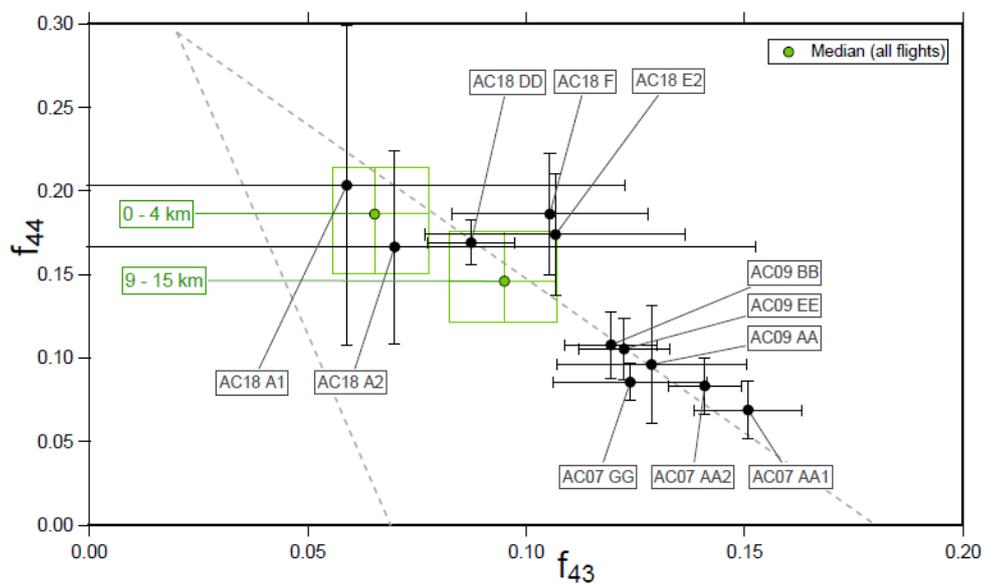




Figure 18: Measurements during passages through cumulonimbus cloud tops and outflow anvils: a) Several cloud top penetrations at 10.7 to 12 km altitude on flight AC18 showing reduced N_{CN} and $N_{CCN0.5}$ inside the cloud top; b) Outflow from a large active cumulonimbus, showing strong aerosol depletion and NO production by lightning.

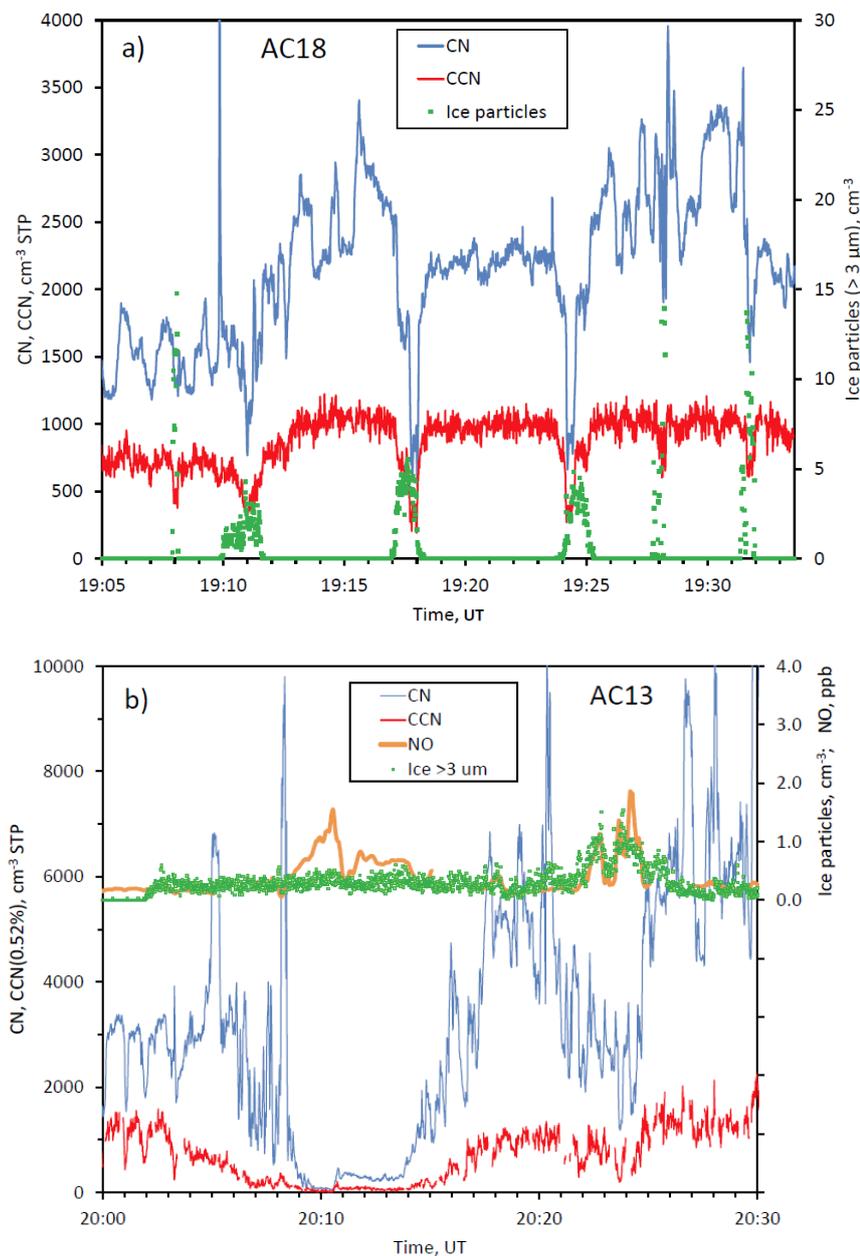




Fig. 19: Airmass contacts with deep convection. The colors indicate the cloud top temperature of the convective system with which the trajectory had the most recent contact. The aircraft altitude at which the airmass was sampled is indicated by the red line. The colored dots are plotted at the altitude at which the airmass crossed the grid cell with the convective system. The dots are only plotted if this altitude is greater than 6 km and if it encountered a DC (i.e., $T_b < -30$ °C). The shaded areas correspond to the flight segments with elevated CN concentrations. a) flight AC09, b) flight AC18.

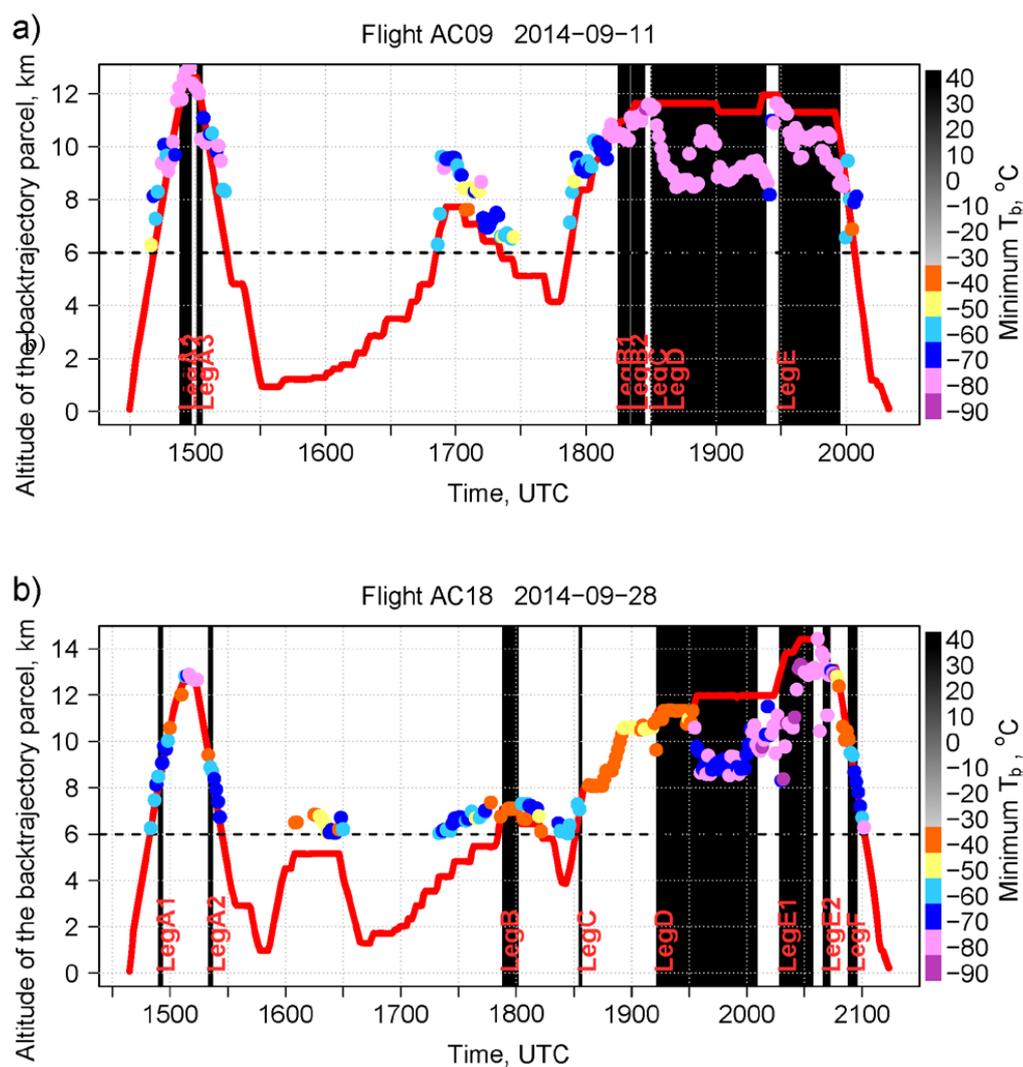




Figure 20: a) Number of hours since last contact with deep convection for flight segments with elevated aerosol concentrations (cumulative frequency, all flights); b) frequency distribution of minimum GOES brightness temperature (T_b) for selected flights legs (within -5 days backward trajectories).

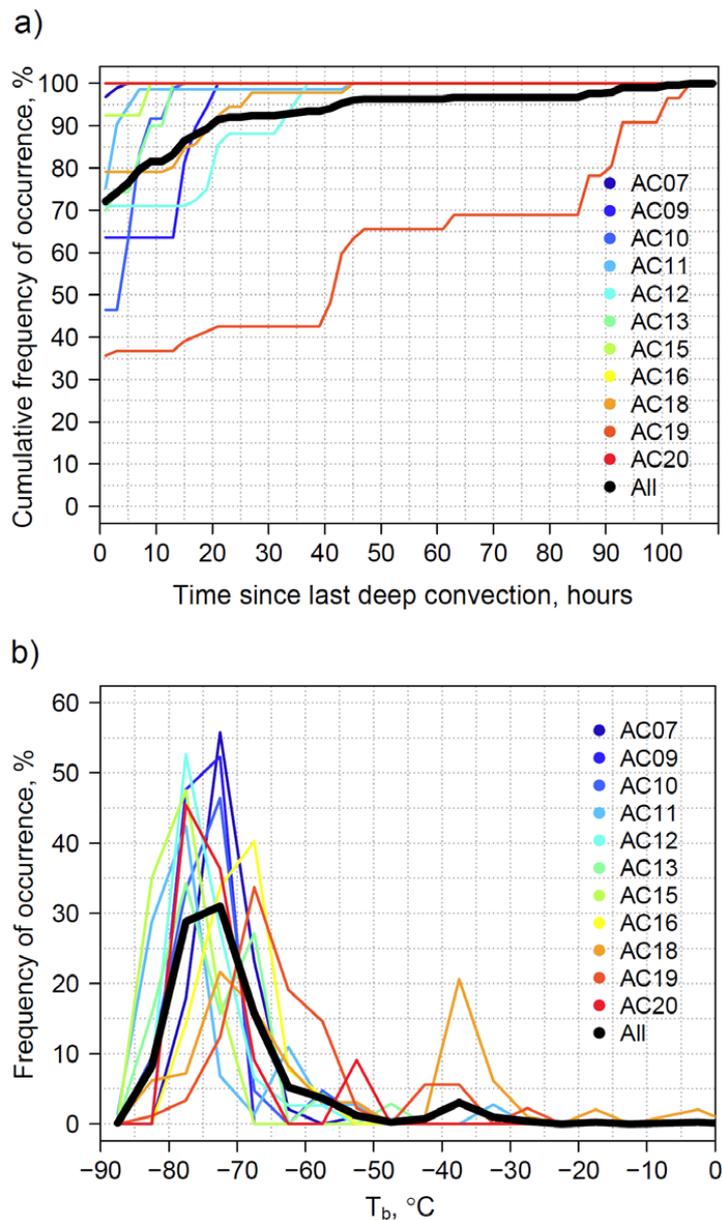




Figure 21: CN vs CO in the upper troposphere above 8 km (15-second averages).

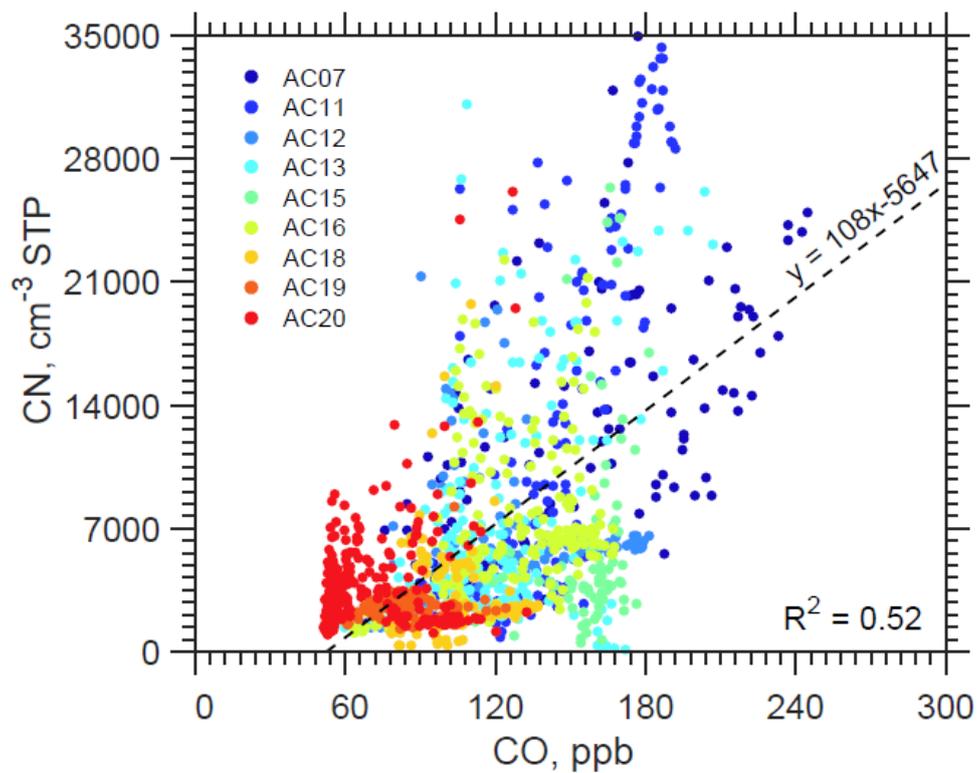




Figure 22: CN, NO and NO_y in a flight segment in the upper troposphere on flight AC07.

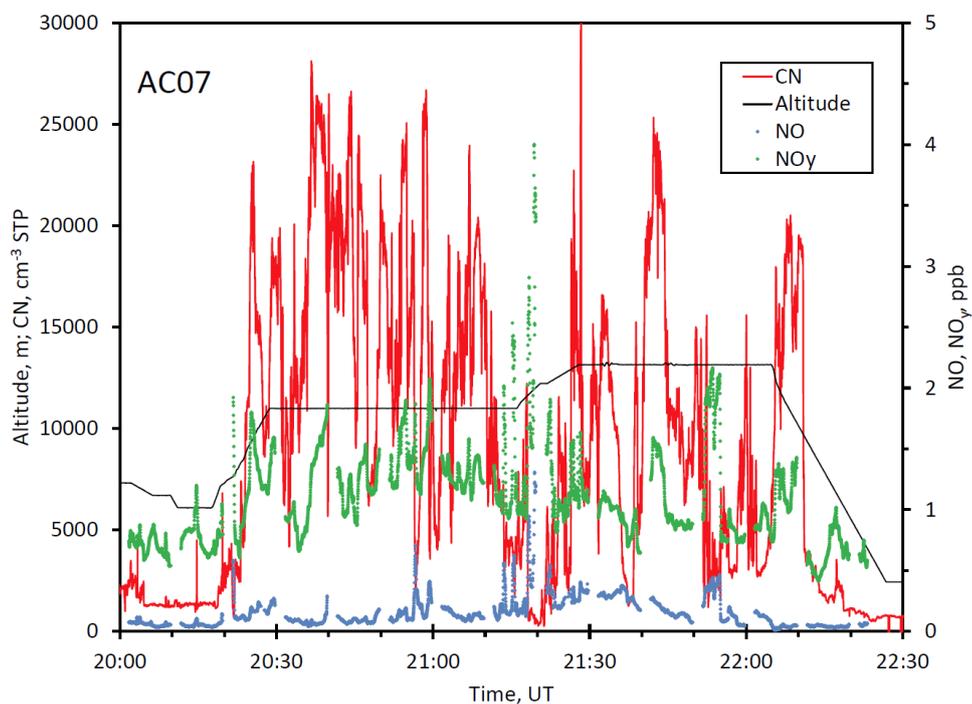
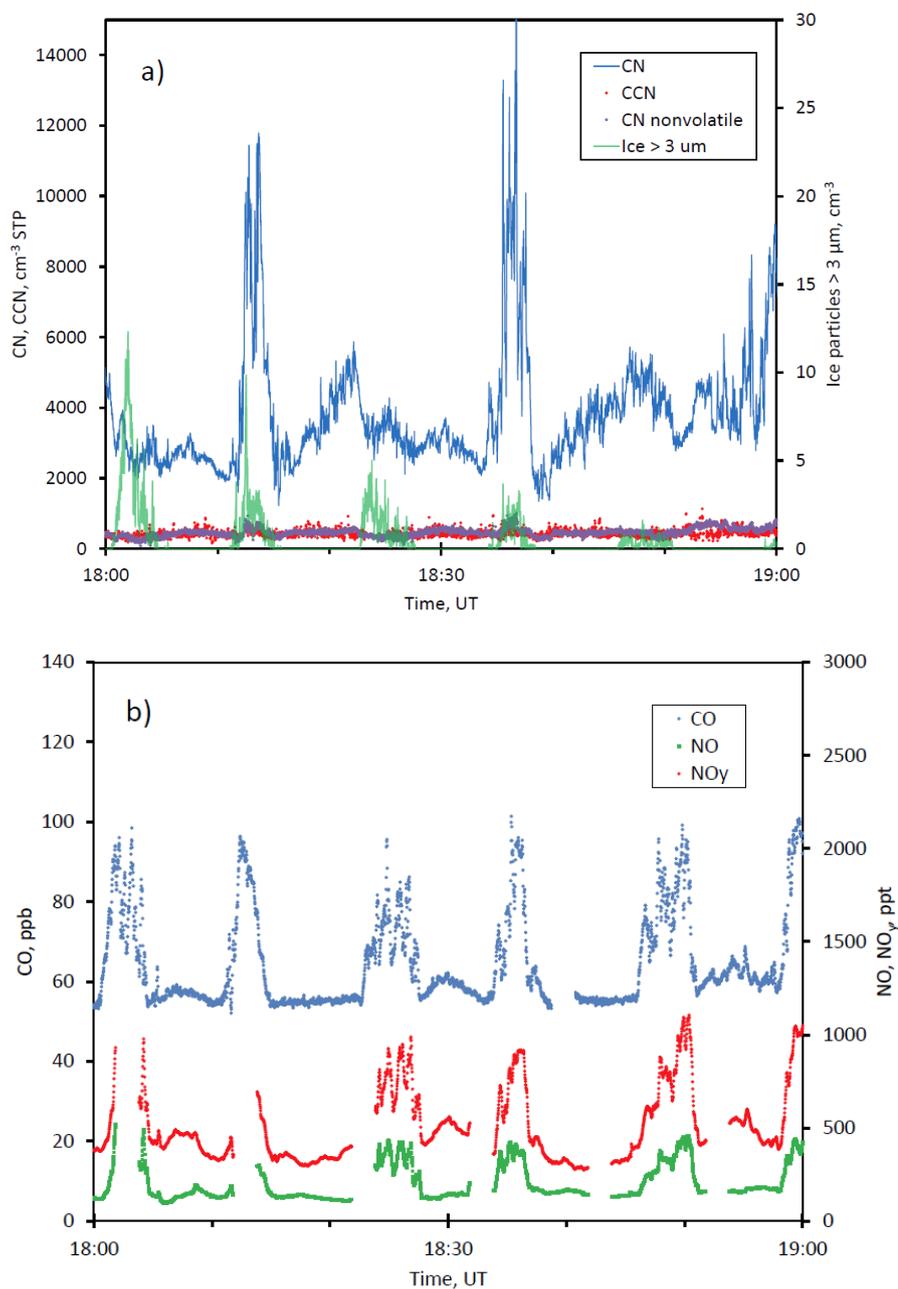




Figure 23: a) Measurements of $N_{CCN0.5}$, N_{CN} , N_{nonvol} , and ice particles during cloud top penetrations on flight AC20. b) Concentrations of CO, NO, and NO_y on the same flight segments. c) Measurements of N_{acc} , N_{CN} , rBC, CO, and O_3 during the climb from 11.0 to 13.5 km.



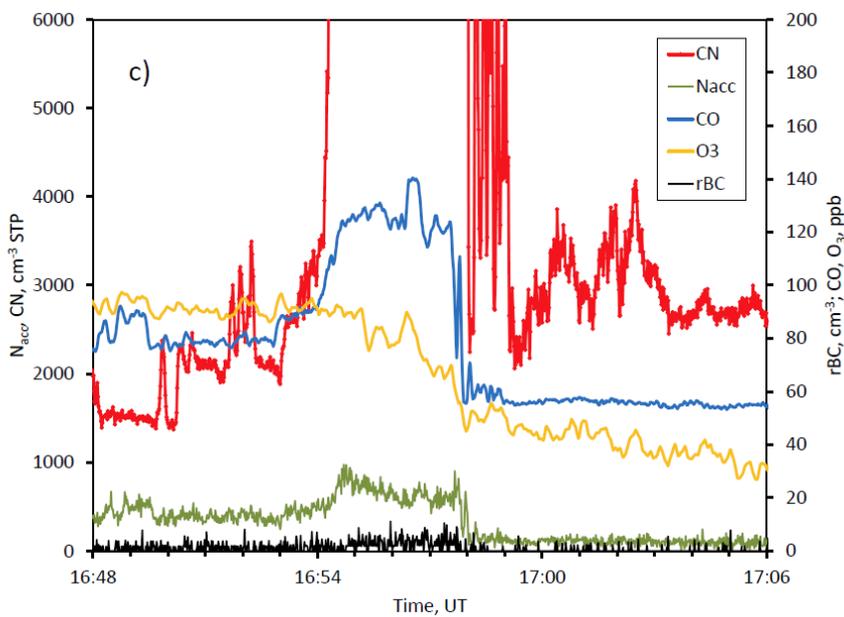




Figure 24: Conceptual model of the aerosol life cycle over the Amazon Basin

