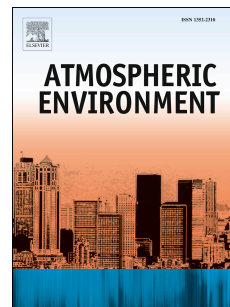


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European and Mediterranean mercury modelling: local and long-range contributions to the deposition flux

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Abstract

Mercury (Hg) is a global pollutant that is known to have adverse effects on human health, and most human exposure to toxic methylmercury is through fish consumption. Soluble Hg compounds in the marine environment can be methylated in the water column and enter the base of the food chain. Atmospheric deposition is the most important pathway by which Hg enters marine ecosystems. The atmospheric chemistry of Hg has been simulated over Europe and the Mediterranean for the year 2009, using the WRF/Chem model and employing two different gas phase Hg oxidation mechanisms. The contributions to the marine deposition flux from dry deposition, synoptic scale wet deposition and convective wet deposition have been determined. The Hg deposition fluxes resulting from transcontinental transport and local/regional emission sources has been determined using both Br/BrO and O₃/OH atmospheric oxidation mechanisms. The two mechanisms give significantly different annual deposition fluxes (129 Mg and 266 Mg respectively) over the modelling domain. Dry deposition is more significant using the O₃/OH mechanism, while proportionally convective wet deposition is enhanced using the Br/BrO mechanism. The simulations using the Br/BrO oxidation compared best with observed Hg fluxes in precipitation. Local/regional Hg emissions have the most impact within the model domain during the summer. A com-

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parison of simulations using the 2005 and 2010 AMAP/UNEP Hg emission inventories show that although there is a decrease of 33% in anthropogenic emissions between the two reference years, the total simulated deposition in the regions diminishes by only 12%. Simulations using the 2010 inventory reproduce observations somewhat better than those using the 2005 inventory for 2009.

Keywords: Mercury, Modelling, Mediterranean, Deposition

1 1. Introduction

2 Mercury (Hg) is a global pollutant, and the subject of the recent Mi-
3 namata convention (<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/>) which aims to
4 protect the environment and human health from the deleterious effects of
5 Hg exposure (Selin, 2014). As was the case in Minamata (see the Mina-
6 mata mercury events timeline in UNEP (2013b,a)) most human exposure to
7 methylmercury is through the consumption of contaminated sea food (Chen
8 et al., 2008; Oken et al., 2012). Methylmercury bioaccumulates through the
9 food web and therefore is found in high concentrations in long-lived piscivo-
10 rous fish.

11 Recent research suggests that inorganic Hg compounds can be methylated in
12 the water column (see Sunderland et al. (2009); Mason et al. (2012); Blum
13 et al. (2013); Lamborg et al. (2014); Žagar et al. (2014)). The main input of
14 inorganic Hg (as Hg^{II} compounds) to marine ecosystems occurs via deposi-
15 tion from the atmosphere, through both dry and wet deposition processes. **A**
16 **number of global, regional and box models to study the Hg cycle in the atmo-**
17 **sphere have been developed over the last 20 years. Recently with the advent**
18 **of ever more powerful computers, the possibilities for modelling atmospheric,**
19 **oceanic, terrestrial and riverine Hg have multiplied. A recent review by Ariya**
20 **et al. (2015) gives a very thorough summary of recent modelling progress,**
21 **and stumbling blocks that still exist.** Using the WRF/Chem-Hg model sim-
22 ulations of the atmospheric Hg cycle over Europe and the Mediterranean
23 for the year 2009 have been performed using the most recent AMAP/UNEP
24 anthropogenic emission inventory (2010) (AMAP/UNEP, 2013). The re-
25 sults are compared to those obtained using the 2005 emission inventory
26 (AMAP/UNEP, 2008), to see how the differences in the inventories – to-
27 tal emissions, speciation and emission height – impact on the simulated Hg
28 deposition fields. The results have been analysed in order to evaluate the
29 contribution to total Hg deposition fluxes from dry, synoptic and convective
30 wet deposition. The Mediterranean troposphere is influenced by emissions
31 originating within Europe, North America and even Asia (Lelieveld et al.,
32 2002), and therefore model runs with the aim distinguishing the local, versus
33 long-range transport, contributions to the deposition fields were performed.
34 **The results using the 2005 and 2010 emission inventories were compared to**
35 **see how much the reduction of local anthropogenic emissions was reflected in**
36 **proportion of Hg deposition from local versus long-range transport.** Due to
37 the continuing debate over the precise atmospheric Hg oxidation mechanism

38 (Hynes et al., 2009; Subir et al., 2011, 2012; Weiss-Penzias et al., 2014), sim-
39 ulations using a Br/BrO based Hg oxidation mechanism rather than O₃/OH
40 were performed.

41 2. Model Description

42 Gas phase chemistry of Hg and a parametrised representation of atmo-
43 spheric Hg aqueous chemistry have been added to the RADM2 chemical
44 mechanism in WRF/Chem (version 3.4) using KPP (Sandu and Sander,
45 2006) and the WKC coupler (Salzmann and Lawrence, 2006). Anthropogenic
46 and natural Hg emissions have also been included and dry and wet deposi-
47 tion processes for Hg have been implemented (see the SI and Gencarelli et al.
48 (2014) for further details).

49 2.1. Model domain

50 A coarse domain covering Europe and the Mediterranean, including parts
51 of North Africa and the Middle East (81 by 81 km) and 28 sigma vertical lev-
52 els from the surface to 50 hPa was used. Within this a nested domain (27
53 by 27 km) covering all of the Mediterranean and a large part of Europe was
54 used, figure 1. Meteorological input was from the Global Forecast System
55 (GFS, 1° by 1°) at six hourly intervals, and nudging applied for temperature,
56 wind and moisture parameters. Chemical initial and boundary conditions
57 (IC/BC) were taken from the global Hg model ECHMERIT (Jung et al.,
58 2009; De Simone et al., 2014). Further details of the model, and the vari-
59 ous physics options employed can be found in Gencarelli et al. (2014) and
60 references therein.

61 2.2. Emissions

62 2.2.1. Anthropogenic emissions

63 Some recent modelling studies have made use of modified anthropogenic
64 emission inventories, either in terms of emission totals or in terms of the
65 emission speciation (see for example Selin et al. (2008); Amos et al. (2012);
66 Kos et al. (2013); Horowitz et al. (2014)). However, these studies mostly
67 consider the problem of Hg speciation in coal fired power plants as speci-
68 fied in the U.S. National Emissions Inventory. The speciation of Hg in the
69 AMAP/UNEP emissions inventory has been questioned (Bieser et al., 2014),
70 however this study referred to the 2005 inventory and not the most recent
71 2010 inventory. The AMAP/UNEP 2010 inventory (AMAP/UNEP, 2013) is

72 a significant improvement over the 2005 version (AMAP/UNEP, 2008) and
73 has been used here. However a year long simulation using the 2005 inventory
74 was also performed in order to assess how significant the changes in emissions
75 and deposition are over the modelling domain, and particularly in terms of
76 deposition to the Mediterranean. The differences in the two inventories (for
77 the fine modelling domain used in this study can be found in Table A.1.
78 For non-mercury anthropogenic emissions the RETRO ([http://www.retro.
79 enes.org/](http://www.retro.enes.org/)) and EDGAR v4 (<http://www.edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>) databases
80 were used.
81 The WRF/Chem emission preprocessor package (Freitas et al., 2011) was
82 used to prepare all the anthropogenic emission input files.

83 2.2.2. Natural emissions

84 Hg emissions from biomass burning are included making use of the Hg/CO
85 enhancement ratio (Friedli et al., 2009), the FINNv1 emissions inventory
86 (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011) and the built in plume rise module (Grell et al.,
87 2011). Evasion of Hg^0 from the sea surface (based on Wanninkhof (1992)
88 parametrisation), has also been included for all the marine regions in the
89 modelling domain, (see Gencarelli et al. (2014) for details). Biogenic emis-
90 sions of non-Hg species are calculated on-line with the Guenther scheme
91 (Guenther et al., 1993, 1994), using the option available in WRF/Chem.
92 Biogenic emissions of Hg are not included.

93 2.3. Hg oxidation

94 Gas phase oxidation of $\text{Hg}_{(g)}^0$ by O_3 and OH were added to the RADM2
95 mechanism in WRF/Chem using KPP (Damian et al., 2002; Sandu and
96 Sander, 2006) and the WKC coupler (Salzmann and Lawrence, 2006). As
97 described in Gencarelli et al. (2014) aqueous phase oxidation of $\text{Hg}_{(aq)}^0$ is
98 parametrised assuming that O_3 , OH and Hg in the aqueous phase are in equi-
99 librium with their respective gas phase concentrations according to Henry's
100 Law.

101 To perform the simulations using the Br oxidation pathway rather than
102 O_3/OH an approach similar to that described in Holmes et al. (2010) has
103 been used. Oxidation of Hg proceeds firstly by reaction with Br to form
104 unstable diatomic HgBr^* (Donohoue et al., 2006), this can then either react
105 further with OH or Br to form Hg^{II} (Goodsite et al., 2012), or thermally
106 dissociate to leave Hg and Br again.

107 As in Gencarelli et al. (2014) the oxidation product is assumed to 50:50 solu-
 108 ble Hg^{II} associated with particulate matter and $\text{Hg}_{\text{g}}^{\text{II}}$. A fuller description of
 109 how soluble and insoluble Hg associated with atmospheric particulate matter
 110 can be found in the SI. The oxidation reactions used in the model are shown
 111 in table 1.

112

Reaction	Rate constant $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	Reference
(1) $\text{Hg}^0 + \text{O}_3 \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}^{\text{II}} + \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}_{(\text{aq})}^{\text{II}}$	$3.0 \cdot 10^{-20}$	Hall (1995)
(2) $\text{Hg}^0 + \text{OH} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}^{\text{II}} + \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}_{(\text{aq})}^{\text{II}}$	$8.7 \cdot 10^{-14}$	Sommar et al. (2001)
(3) $\text{Hg}_{(\text{aq})}^0 + \text{O}_{3(\text{aq})} \longrightarrow \text{Hg}_{(\text{aq})}^{\text{II}}$	$4.7 \cdot 10^7$ (*)	Munthe (1992)
(4) $\text{Hg}^0 + \text{Br} \longrightarrow \text{HgBr}$	$3.7 \cdot 10^{-13} (\text{T}/298)^{-2.76}$	Goodsite et al. (2012)
(5) $\text{HgBr} + \text{Br} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}^{\text{II}} + \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}_{(\text{aq})}^{\text{II}}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{-10} (\text{T}/298)^{-0.57}$	Goodsite et al. (2004)
(6) $\text{HgBr} + \text{OH} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}^{\text{II}} + \frac{1}{2}\text{Hg}_{(\text{aq})}^{\text{II}}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{-10} (\text{T}/298)^{-0.57}$	Goodsite et al. (2004)
(4) $\text{HgBr} \longrightarrow \text{Hg}^0 + \text{Br}$	$4.0 \cdot 10^9 \exp(-7292/\text{T})$	Goodsite et al. (2012)

Table 1: Reactions used in the model. (*) units are $\text{M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

113 Br and BrO input concentrations were obtained from the off-line three-
 114 dimensional tropospheric chemical transport model p-TOMCAT, modified
 115 to include a detailed bromine chemistry scheme (Yang et al., 2005, 2010).
 116 The 6 hourly output from p-TOMCAT was interpolated to hourly values
 117 using the ratio between incoming solar radiations and daily maximum solar
 118 shortwave radiation. **The validation of tropospheric bromine chemistry mod-
 119 els is hampered by a lack of measurements, most validation is performed by
 120 comparing modelled atmospheric column BrO with satellite retrievals hence
 121 without vertical resolution, see Parrella et al. (2012).**

122 However, for the marine boundary layer (MBL) the parametrization (based
 123 on Platt and Janssen (1995)) used in Holmes et al. (2010) was implemented
 124 to calculate hourly Br concentrations,

$$[\text{Br}] = [\text{BrO}] \frac{J_{\text{BrO}} + k_1[\text{NO}]}{k_2[\text{O}_3]} \quad (1)$$

125 J_{BrO} , $[\text{NO}]$ and $[\text{O}_3]$ were calculated on-line in the model, k_1 and k_2 were
 126 obtained from Platt and Janssen (1995) and a uniform value of 1 ppt was
 127 used for $[\text{BrO}]$ (Holmes et al., 2010).

128 2.4. Deposition

129 Dry deposition of gas phase species in WRF/Chem is treated using the
130 approach developed by Wesely (1989) (see Grell et al. (2005)), and for Hg was
131 calculated as described in Lin et al. (2006). Wet deposition of Hg species has
132 been implemented, adding the Hg compounds to the scheme in WRF/Chem
133 for gas and particulate convective transport and wet deposition. The in-
134 cloud and below-cloud scavenging approach described by Neu and Prather
135 (2012)) has been adapted to include Hg species. **Hg^{II} compounds have**
136 **been assumed to behave as HNO₃ (Gencarelli et al., 2014), and the origi-**
137 **nal WRF/Chem routine for convective deposition (based on the Grell and**
138 **Dévényi (2002) parametrization) has been adapted to include the deposition**
139 **of Hg due to convective precipitation.**

140 2.5. Simulations

141 **The simulations were all performed for the year 2009, and were as follows:**

- 142 • “Base”, complete emission datasets as described in section 2.2, O₃/OH
143 oxidation mechanism, IC/BC from ECHMERIT (De Simone et al.,
144 2014);
- 145 • “2005”, the same as “Base” but using 2005 anthropogenic emissions,
146 section 2.2.1;
- 147 • “Local”, as above but without the Hg species BC;
- 148 • “Long-range”, no emissions within the modelling domain;
- 149 • “Br”, the same as “Base” but uses the Br oxidation pathway, sec-
150 tion 2.3;
- 151 • “Br-Local”, as “Local” but with Br oxidation;
- 152 • “Br-long-range”, as “Long-range” but with Br oxidation;

153 3. Results and Discussion

154 3.1. Modelled and Observed Hg species concentrations

155 The simulation results from the “Base”, “2005” and “Br” cases have
156 been compared to observations from the European Monitoring and Evalua-
157 tion Programme (EMEP) monitoring stations (<http://ebas.nilu.no/>), as
158 in Gencarelli et al. (2014). Not all the stations distinguish between Hg_(g)⁰
159 and Hg_(g)^{II} and the modelled values are summed to give Total Gaseous Mer-
160 cury (TGM) for comparison with observations. Of the EMEP stations within
161 the fine domain during the simulation period, nine measured gas phase Hg,

162 eight measured Hg associated with particulate matter (Hg^{P} or PBM), and
 163 sixteen collected Hg in precipitation. Only one site (Waldhof, in Germany)
 164 had $\text{Hg}_{(\text{g})}^{\text{II}}$ measurements for 2009, the comparison with model output is in-
 165 cluded in the SI, these results have also been discussed in Bieser et al. (2014).
 166 The frequency of measurements is not the same at all the sites and there-
 167 fore monthly averaged values of TGM observations have been used (Aas and
 168 Breivik, 2011) and the corresponding average calculated from the model out-
 169 put. Comparison of observed and modelled TGM, for all three simulations,
 170 are mostly similar to those obtained previously (Gencarelli et al., 2014), al-
 171 though the correlation and bias between observations are slightly improved
 172 in the “Base” and “Br” simulations with respect to the “2005” case. The
 173 standard deviation in the “Base” case is slightly higher than the “2005” case,
 174 but still not as high as the observations, see table A.2.

175 Whisker and plot figures of the comparison of between the monthly averaged
 176 observed and simulated TGM, RGM and PBM, and the monthly total Hg in
 177 precipitation are in the SI, figures A.1 - A.4, and the comparison of observed
 178 and measured Hg in precipitation can be found in table A.3.

179 Monthly mean concentrations of PBM are generally well reproduced by the
 180 models, while the wet deposition is distinctly overestimated, especially during
 181 the spring and summer in the “Base” and “2005” simulations. This suggests
 182 that the O_3/OH mechanism tends to produce too much $\text{Hg}_{(\text{g})}^{\text{II}}$ which is readily
 183 scavenged as discussed in Gencarelli et al. (2014).

184 *3.2. The contributions of dry, synoptic scale and convective wet deposition* 185 *to total deposition flux*

186 The deposition fluxes resulting from dry deposition (DD), synoptic scale
 187 wet deposition (SWD) and convective wet deposition (CWD) were summed
 188 separately and are reported in table 2 for the “Base”, “Br” and “2005” sim-
 189 ulations. In all cases it can be seen that DD processes dominate in hot
 190 months, with a maximum in July, while wet deposition ($\text{WD} = \text{SWD} +$
 191 CWD) dominates the Hg deposition flux during the colder months. This
 192 tendency is greater in the “Base” and “Br” simulations than it is in the
 193 “2005” simulations. The total deposition within the modelling domain, il-
 194 lustrated in 2 is mostly influenced by the oxidation mechanism chosen, and
 195 comparing the totals obtained from the “Base” and “2005” runs the differ-
 196 ence is $36.9 \text{ Mg year}^{-1}$ ($\approx 12\%$). This decrease in deposition depends on a
 197 decrease of $73.7 \text{ Mg year}^{-1}$ ($\approx 33\%$) in anthropogenic emissions between the
 198 two inventories (within the modelling domain), see Table A.1. Therefore over

199 Europe and the Mediterranean emission reductions have a direct effect on Hg
 200 deposition. However, it should also be borne in mind that the characteristics
 201 of the anthropogenic emissions differ between the two inventories, in terms
 of speciation and the emission height distribution.

	Total (Mg)			DD (Mg)			SWD (Mg)			CWD (Mg)		
	Base	2005	Br	Base	2005	Br	Base	2005	Br	Base	2005	Br
Jan	15.6	20.6	12.0	3.6	7.1	4.4	11.7	13.1	6.2	0.4	0.4	1.5
Feb	15.6	19.5	13.6	3.4	6.2	4.0	11.8	13.0	7.9	0.3	0.4	1.7
Mar	21.6	25.0	20.7	5.5	7.5	7.7	15.9	17.2	11.3	0.3	0.3	1.7
Apr	18.4	21.5	12.7	7.6	7.9	5.9	10.4	13.0	6.6	0.4	0.4	0.2
May	21.6	23.2	11.3	10.0	10.3	5.9	10.7	11.9	5.0	1.0	1.0	0.3
Jun	21.4	23.8	8.6	11.0	11.3	5.4	8.9	11.1	2.9	1.4	1.5	0.3
Jul	20.7	22.5	8.3	12.1	12.5	5.9	7.0	8.6	2.1	1.6	1.4	0.3
Aug	43.2	46.4	7.6	21.8	24.5	5.7	18.7	19.3	1.6	2.6	2.6	0.2
Sep	34.4	37.5	8.1	15.9	18.6	5.8	15.9	16.4	2.0	2.6	2.6	0.3
Oct	28.2	31.4	9.2	9.7	12.0	4.9	17.1	18.0	4.1	1.4	1.4	0.3
Nov	14.6	17.7	8.5	5.2	7.4	4.7	9.0	9.9	3.5	0.4	0.4	0.2
Dec	11.0	14.1	8.2	2.7	4.6	3.3	8.0	9.1	4.6	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total	266.3	303.2	128.8	108.5	129.9	63.6	145.1	160.6	57.8	12.7	12.7	7.2
				DD (%)			SWD (%)			CWD (%)		
Jan				22.9	34.3	36.3	74.7	63.7	51.1	2.4	2.0	12.6
Feb				21.8	31.7	29.7	76.0	66.5	57.6	2.1	1.8	12.7
Mar				25.3	30.0	37.3	73.4	68.8	54.8	1.4	1.2	8.0
Apr				41.4	37.1	46.7	56.4	61.1	51.8	2.2	1.8	1.5
May				46.1	44.4	52.8	49.4	51.3	44.5	4.5	4.3	2.7
Jun				51.6	47.5	62.4	41.7	46.4	34.2	6.7	6.1	3.4
Jul				58.4	55.5	70.7	33.7	38.3	25.2	7.9	6.2	4.1
Aug				50.5	52.8	75.7	43.4	41.5	21.7	6.1	5.7	2.6
Sep				46.3	49.5	72.1	46.2	43.6	24.8	7.5	6.9	3.1
Oct				34.3	38.2	53.2	60.7	57.3	43.9	5.0	4.5	2.8
Nov				35.7	41.7	55.5	61.7	56.2	41.6	2.5	2.1	2.9
Dec				24.9	32.8	40.8	72.1	64.8	56.4	3.0	2.4	2.8
Total				40.7	42.8	49.4	54.5	53.0	44.9	4.8	4.2	5.6

Table 2: Monthly Hg deposited by dry deposition (DD), synoptic scale (SWD) and convective (CWD) wet deposition.

202 The decrease in the deposition flux seen when comparing the “Base” and
 203 “2005” simulations is largely due to a decrease in DD over the modelling
 204 domain, it decreases by $21.4 \text{ Mg year}^{-1}$ ($\approx 12\%$), while SWD decreases by
 205 $16.1 \text{ Mg year}^{-1}$ ($\approx 10\%$). The decrease in DD is most evident in Autumn
 206 and Winter, while the decrease in SWD is more marked in the Spring.
 207 Comparing the “Base” and “Br” simulations the difference in overall depo-
 208

209 sition flux is immediately apparent. The relative importance of deposition
 210 pathways is also different, the “Br” simulation shows a higher proportion of
 211 DD and CWD, and relatively lower SWD. The changes in relative deposi-
 212 tion flux show that the “Br” case predicts higher relative DD in the summer
 213 months and higher wintertime SWD than the “Base” case. The proportion
 214 of CWD is higher overall in the “Br” case and particularly so in the early
 215 months of the year. The spatial distributions of the deposition fluxes also
 216 differ, figures A.5-A.8 show the monthly deposition fluxes of Hg simulated
 217 for the “Base” and “Br” cases respectively. Apart from the clear differences
 218 in the magnitude of the deposition fluxes predicted by the two simulations,
 219 there are significant differences in the spatio-temporal distribution of the
 220 fluxes. From figures A.5-A.8 a number of instances of quite different simu-
 221 lated fluxes can be seen. In particular the “Br” simulation predicts high fluxes
 222 of CWD in the Eastern Mediterranean in January and February which are
 223 not present in the “Base” case. In July, August and September the “Base”
 224 simulation predicts high fluxes over most of the Mediterranean Region as
 225 well as much of Western/Central Europe, the “Br” case predicts fluxes 4 to
 226 10 times lower. Clearly there is a case to be made for the extension of the
 227 current precipitation monitoring network to the south, see figure 1. While it
 228 is as yet not possible to **experimentally** determine DD fluxes with accuracy,
 229 the simulations suggest that in a large part of the domain, and particularly
 230 in summertime, DD is the dominant deposition pathway. The monthly ratio
 231 between wet and dry deposition is shown in figure A.9.

232 3.3. Local and long-range transport influences on deposition

233 The centred spatial correlation coefficient (R) between the deposition flux
 234 calculated in the “Base” and “Br” simulations and their respective counter-
 235 parts where only long-range transport or local emissions were considered
 236 have been calculated. R is a measure of the correlation between two **bidi-**
 237 **mensional** spatial distributions (Santer et al., 1995, 1996), and in the case
 238 described here can be used give an indication of the relative influence of
 239 long-range Hg transport and local Hg emissions on the simulated deposition
 240 flux. Table A.4 shows the monthly spatial correlation coefficients for DD,
 241 and WD (SWD+CWD) between the “Base” simulation and the “Local” and
 242 “Long-range” simulations, and between the “Br” simulations and the cor-
 243 responding local and long-range simulations, respectively. Comparing the
 244 values of R_{lr}^{DD} and R_{loc}^{DD} it can be seen that DD pattern are mainly affected
 245 by long-range Hg transport ($0.62 \leq R_{lr}^{DD} \leq 0.95$). Except in August where

246 $R_{lr}^{DD} \approx R_{loc}^{DD}$, correlation with DD due to long-range transport is always
 247 higher than DD due to local emissions. For WD the influence of long-range
 248 transport is principally during the cold months and associated with synoptic
 249 scale wet deposition, while stable meteorological conditions, particularly over
 250 the Mediterranean Basin during the summer months, result in local emissions
 251 having a greater influence on WD fluxes. Long-range transport of Hg is the
 252 dominant influence on the Hg deposition flux for a large part of the year
 253 (from January to March, and from October to December, with correlation
 254 coefficients between 0.60 and 0.90). Local emissions make a greater contri-
 255 bution to Hg deposition in the modelling domain principally in hot months
 256 (from April to September with correlation coefficients between 0.70 and 0.82).
 257 February shows the largest contribution to WD from long-range transport
 258 (0.89), while in September there is the principal contribution to the DD flux
 259 (0.98) is from local emissions. Qualitatively the results are in agreement with
 260 Lelieveld et al. (2002) in terms of long-range/local influences over the Euro-
 261 pean/Mediterranean region, and with Pongprueksa et al. (2008) in terms of
 262 the importance of boundary conditions in determining GEM concentrations
 263 and WD flux in a regional scale modelling study (over North America).

264 4. Discussion

265 Table 3 sums up the seasonal differences in Hg deposition to land and
 266 sea regions in the modelling domain. In the "Br" simulation a third of de-
 267 position occurs over the seas, while in the "Base" simulation it is only one
 268 quarter. In the "Br" simulation deposition to both the Mediterranean and
 269 the Northern European Seas is roughly 35% lower than in the "Base" sim-
 270 ulation. Certainly a greater effort to expand the network measuring Hg in
 271 precipitation further south is required. The differences seen in the simulated
 272 deposition fluxes, and the less obvious differences in TGM and PBM, suggest
 273 that the most opportune way to identify Hg impact is to measure deposition
 274 rather than gas phase concentrations. However there is no doubt that de-
 275 termining the nature of atmospheric $\text{Hg}_{(g)}^{\text{II}}$ would be a great step forward in
 276 understanding the cycling of Hg in the atmosphere, should be added here.
 277 While the case for the Br driven oxidation of $\text{Hg}_{(g)}^0$ may seem clear, it is not,
 278 as it is generally formulated in models up until now, able to explain all the
 279 observed variations in atmospheric $\text{Hg}_{(g)}^{\text{II}}$. A modelling study attempting to
 280 reproduce $\text{Hg}_{(g)}^{\text{II}}$ observations made on board ship during the Mediterranean
 281 summer (Sprovieri et al., 2010), showed that the thermal instability of the

		Total		MAM	JJA	SON	DJF
		(Mg)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Total	“Base”	266.3		23	32	29	16
	“Br”	128.8		35	20	19	25
Total land	“Base”	200.8	75	23	33	29	15
	“Br”	86.0	67	34	22	21	24
Tot. Marine	“Base”	65.5	25	23	28	31	18
	“Br”	42.8	33	38	17	16	29
Med. Sea	“Base”	34.3	13	22	21	37	21
	“Br”	21.6	17	36	13	14	37
North and Baltic Sea	“Base”	9.7	4	20	45	22	11
	“Br”	6.4	5	42	23	19	17

Table 3: Yearly and seasonal Hg deposited over the different regions of the modelling domain.

282 HgBr^{*}, 1, means that the Br/BrO mechanism as it is most usually adopted
 283 cannot reproduce measured Hg_(g)^{II} concentrations in hot weather. The same
 284 study also showed that the O₃/OH mechanism greatly overestimated the pro-
 285 duction of Hg_(g)^{II} in the summertime Mediterranean Marine Boundary Layer
 286 (MBL). More work is needed to clarify the reactions/mechanisms of atmo-
 287 spheric Hg_(g)⁰ oxidation and also potential atmospheric reduction pathways.
 288 The high bias and RMSE seen in the comparison of the simulations using
 289 the O₃/OH oxidation mechanism, and the observed Hg in precipitation casts
 290 some doubt on the mechanism’s ability to reproduce the atmospheric oxida-
 291 tion of Hg. The photoreduction of Hg^{II}-dicarboxylic acid complexes has been
 292 suggested as a potential reduction pathway in cloud droplets (Bash et al.,
 293 2014). A similar scheme is currently being implemented in WRF/Chem-Hg.
 294 It should also be pointed out however that the comparison made here relies
 295 on precipitation data from a limited number of sites almost all of which are
 296 in the north of Europe and many of which are influenced by westerlies from
 297 the Atlantic. It would be extremely useful to have Hg in precipitation mea-
 298 surements from the south of Europe and in the Eastern Mediterranean. One
 299 good reason for this is that the higher frequency of convective precipitation
 300 in these regions would allow the model to be further constrained, because
 301 of the different vertical distributions the O₃/OH and Br/BrO in the tropo-
 302 sphere. The Br/BrO mechanism predicts higher free troposphere oxidised

303 Hg concentrations, and convective precipitation effectively washes out the
304 whole column from the ground to the cloud top. This mechanism therefore
305 simulates higher Hg fluxes than in CWD than does O₃/OH. Conversely the
306 O₃/OH predicts higher oxidised Hg concentrations in the boundary layer,
307 and thus higher Hg deposition from synoptic precipitation. Thus it would be
308 possible to use precipitation data to attempt to distinguish the atmospheric
309 oxidation pathway or pathways.

310

311 5. Conclusions

312 The WRF/Chem-Hg model has been used to evaluate the atmospheric
313 Hg deposition over Europe and the Mediterranean. Anthropogenic and nat-
314 ural emissions, transport and removal processes were simulated for the year
315 2009 with two different oxidation mechanisms.

316 The results appear to reinforce the view that the gas phase conversion of
317 Hg_(g)⁰ to Hg_(g)^{II} by ozone and the hydroxyl radical is less consistent with ob-
318 servational data and in particular with measured Hg fluxes in precipitation,
319 than the Br/BrO oxidation pathway. Emissions from within the modelling
320 domain correlate most to the overall deposition flux in the summer and long-
321 range transport of Hg contributes most in the winter. Investigating the
322 relative roles of convective and synoptic scale precipitation showed that syn-
323 optic scale precipitation is responsible for a far greater deposition flux than
324 convective events. Although the percentage of Hg deposition from CWD is
325 low, it is highest in the “Br” case and most noticeably so from January to
326 March (table 2). Dry deposition, according to the simulations is a major, and
327 at times the major component of the Hg deposition flux, but at the present
328 time there is no tried and tested experimental way of validating this result.
329 Comparing the simulations performed using the two most recent AMAP/UNEP
330 inventories, 2005 and 2010, showed that the lower emissions in 2010 resulted
331 in lower simulated deposition fluxes, but that the deposition reduction was
332 noticeably less than the emission reduction within the domain.

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557 6.1. Figures

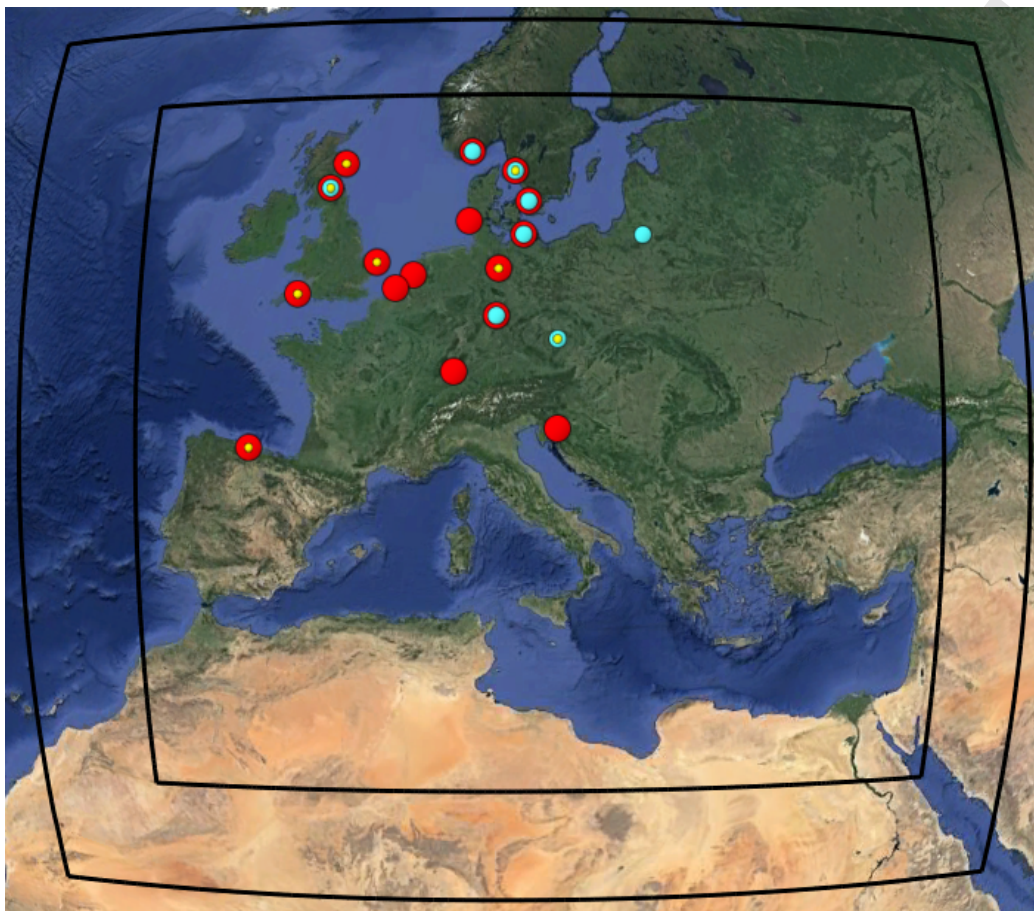


Figure 1: Model domains and location to the EMEP measurement stations used for measurement comparisons (red points for wet deposition, cyan for TGM and yellow for PBM) displayed in Google™ Earth.

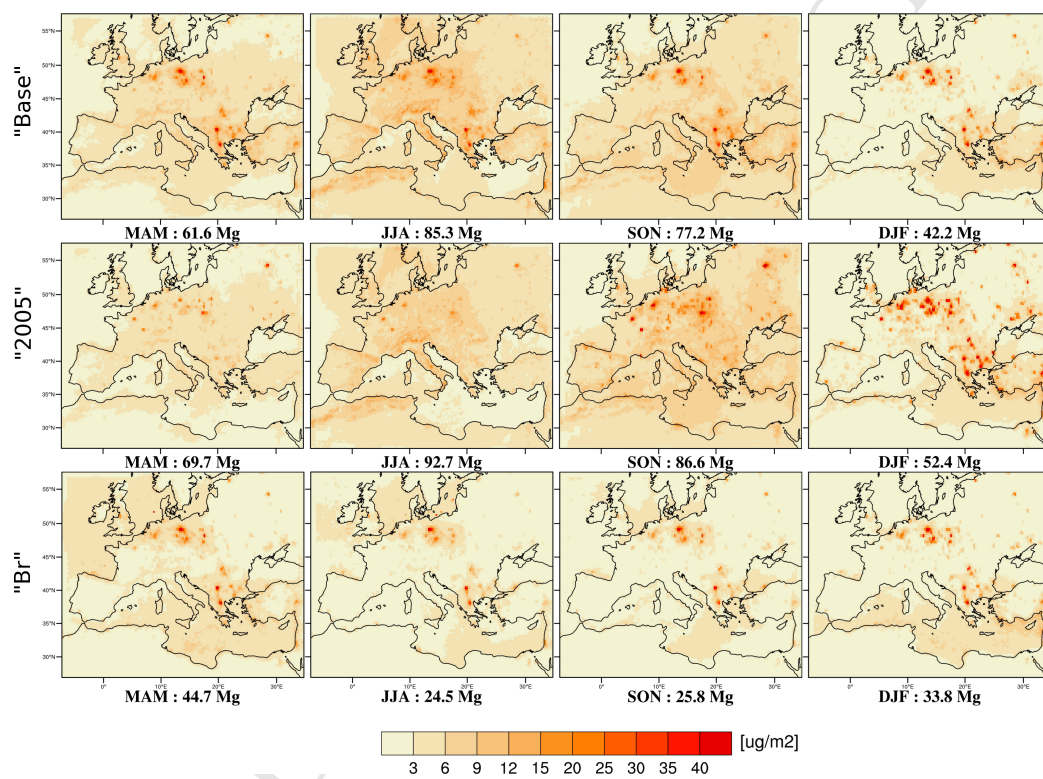


Figure 2: Seasonal total Hg deposition in the different experiments.

European and Mediterranean mercury modelling: local and long-range contributions to the deposition flux,

by,

Christian N. Gencarelli, Francesco De Simone, Ian M. Hedgecock, Francesca Sprovieri, Xin Yang and Nicola Pirrone

Highlights:

- Gas phase conversion of Hg^0 to Hg^{II} by O_3/OH is inconsistent with observations
- A Br/BrO oxidation mechanism compared best with observed Hg precipitation fluxes
- Local emissions contribute most to the overall Hg deposition flux in the summer
- Long-range transport of Hg contributes most to Europe winter Hg deposition

Supplementary Information
for
European and Mediterranean mercury modelling: local
and long-range contributions to the deposition flux

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Appendix A. Supplementary Information

Appendix A.1. Model Set-up

Using KPP (Damian et al., 2002; Sandu et al., 2003; Sandu and Sander, 2006) and the WKC coupler (Salzmann and Lawrence, 2006) mercury species ($\text{Hg}^0\text{Hg}^{\text{P}}\text{Hg}^{\text{II}}\text{Hg}_{\text{aq}}^{\text{II}}$) have been added to the RADM2 (Stockwell et al., 1990) chemical mechanism. Hg^0 and Hg^{II} represent Gaseous elemental mercury and gaseous oxides mercury respectively. Hg^{P} represents Hg associated with particulate which is emitted from anthropogenic sources (and is considered insoluble), and $\text{Hg}_{\text{aq}}^{\text{II}}$ represents Hg which has been oxidised in the atmosphere and is considered as particulate when the atmospheric liquid water content is below a threshold value. In the presence of model cell liquid water content above the threshold value, $\text{Hg}_{\text{aq}}^{\text{II}}$ is assumed to be completely scavenged by the aqueous phase. Dry deposition of Hg species in WRF/Chem is treated using the approach developed by Wesely (1989) and calculated as described by Lin et al. (2006), with a deposition velocity for Hg^{II} equal to that of $\text{HNO}_{3(\text{g})}$ (due to the similarity in their solubility (Seigneur et al., 2004), while for Hg^{P} and $\text{HgI}\text{Hg}_{\text{aq}}^{\text{II}}$, the dry deposition flux is calculated using WRF/Chem particulate deposition parametrisations. Wet deposition of Hg species has

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been implemented by adding Hg compounds to the scheme in WRF/Chem for gas and particulate convective transport and wet deposition. In-cloud and below-cloud scavenging of Hg species was included by adapting an already available module in WRF/Chem, based on the approach described by Neu and Prather (2012). In the model, the fraction of the grid box exposed to scavenging is calculated using the algorithm described in Neu and Prather (2012), and the Hg species scavenging rate is assumed to be the same as that for $\text{HNO}_{3(g)}$. For convective deposition the original WRF/Chem routine (based on the Grell and Dévényi (2002) parameterization) has been adapted to include the deposition of $\text{Hg}_{\text{aq}}^{\text{II}}$ resulting from convective precipitation.

Dry deposition of Hg^0 and its re-emission have recently been reviewed by Zhang et al. (2009). There is still significant uncertainty associated with the net Hg^0 flux (and its direction) over terrestrial surfaces, and therefore in this version of the model, it has not been included. Moreover dry and wet deposition of Hg^0 is assumed to be negligible in comparison Hg^{P} , Hg^{II} and $\text{Hg}_{\text{aq}}^{\text{II}}$ deposition, with a magnitude equivalent to emissions from natural sources (Baker and Bash, 2012).

Inventory (Total in Mg)	2005 (219.6)			2010 (145.9)		
	Hg^0	Hg^{II}	Hg^{P}	Hg^0	Hg^{II}	Hg^{P}
Total (%)	60	32	8	65	28	7
0 - 50 m (%)	26	17	4	13	6	1
50 - 150 m (%)	20	4	1	30	5	2
> 150 m (%)	14	11	3	22	17	4

Table A.1: Comparison of the 2005 and 2010 AMAP/UNEP emission inventories (AMAP/UNEP, 2008, 2013), totals, speciation and height distribution.

1

station	Observations	"Base"			"2005"			"Br"		
	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	RMSE	bias	Mean \pm SD	RMSE	bias	Mean \pm SD	RMSE	bias
CZ03	0.68 \pm 0.62	1.50 \pm 0.13	1.00	0.82	1.53 \pm 0.11	1.05	0.85	1.55 \pm 0.08	1.04	0.87
DE02	1.69 \pm 0.13	1.66 \pm 0.12	0.13	-0.03	1.68 \pm 0.10	0.16	-0.01	1.69 \pm 0.09	0.11	0.00
DE08	1.70 \pm 0.17	1.52 \pm 0.12	0.25	-0.18	1.54 \pm 0.10	0.23	-0.16	1.55 \pm 0.08	0.21	-0.15
DE09	1.48 \pm 0.22	1.65 \pm 0.10	0.24	0.17	1.65 \pm 0.09	0.24	0.17	1.67 \pm 0.06	0.27	0.19
GB48	1.11 \pm 0.34	1.52 \pm 0.04	0.52	0.41	1.55 \pm 0.03	0.54	0.44	1.53 \pm 0.03	0.52	0.42
NO01	1.68 \pm 0.18	1.54 \pm 0.07	0.23	-0.14	1.55 \pm 0.07	0.23	-0.13	1.55 \pm 0.04	0.22	-0.13
PL05	1.25 \pm 0.25	1.58 \pm 0.12	0.37	0.33	1.62 \pm 0.11	0.42	0.37	1.60 \pm 0.09	0.39	0.35
SE11	1.40 \pm 0.14	1.61 \pm 0.09	0.23	0.21	1.64 \pm 0.08	0.26	0.24	1.62 \pm 0.06	0.24	0.22
SE14	1.51 \pm 0.11	1.59 \pm 0.08	0.12	0.08	1.60 \pm 0.07	0.13	0.09	1.60 \pm 0.06	0.12	0.09

Table A.2: TGM concentration statistical analysis in the EMEP stations. Mean (M), Standard Deviation (SD) and Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) and bias are in ng m^{-3} .

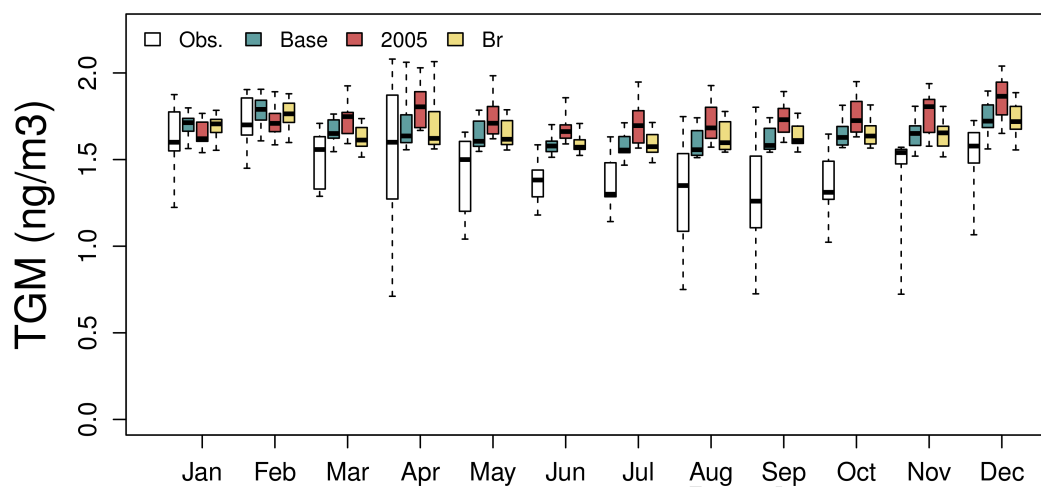


Figure A.1: Monthly distribution of measured and modelled TGM concentrations at EMEP measurement stations.

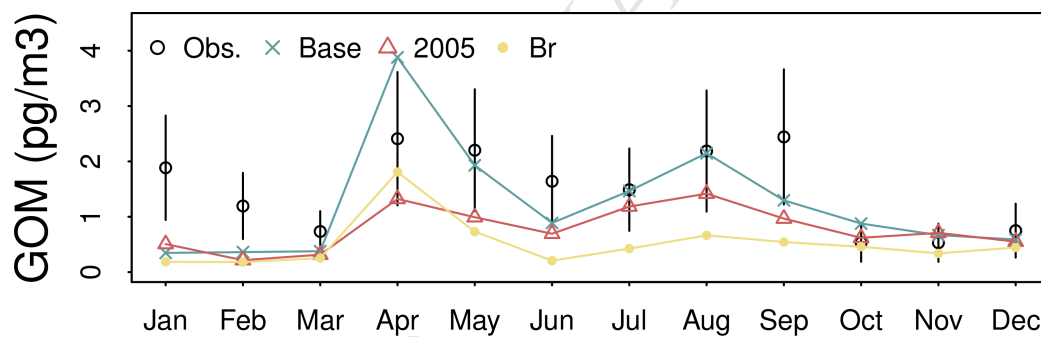


Figure A.2: Monthly distribution of measured and modelled PBM concentrations at EMEP measurement stations.

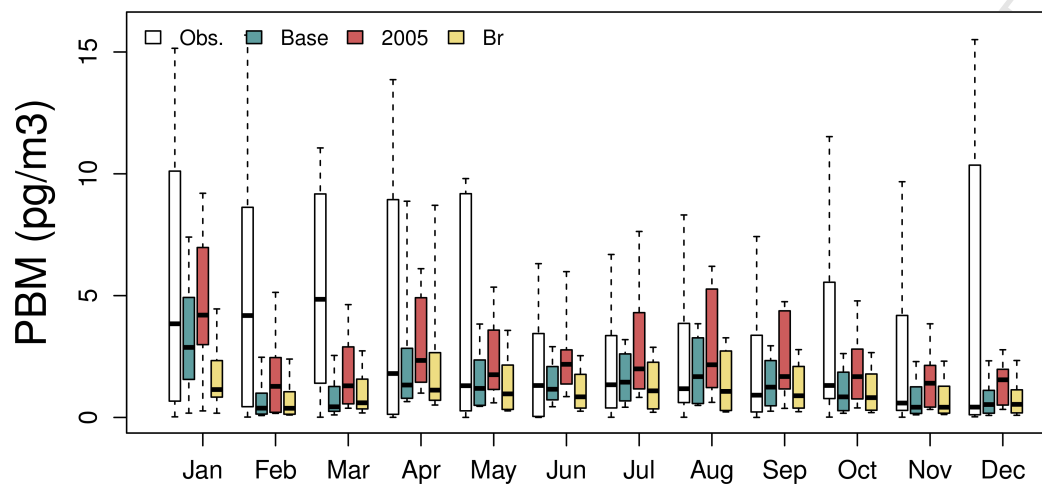


Figure A.3: Monthly distribution of measured and modelled PBM concentrations at EMEP measurement stations.

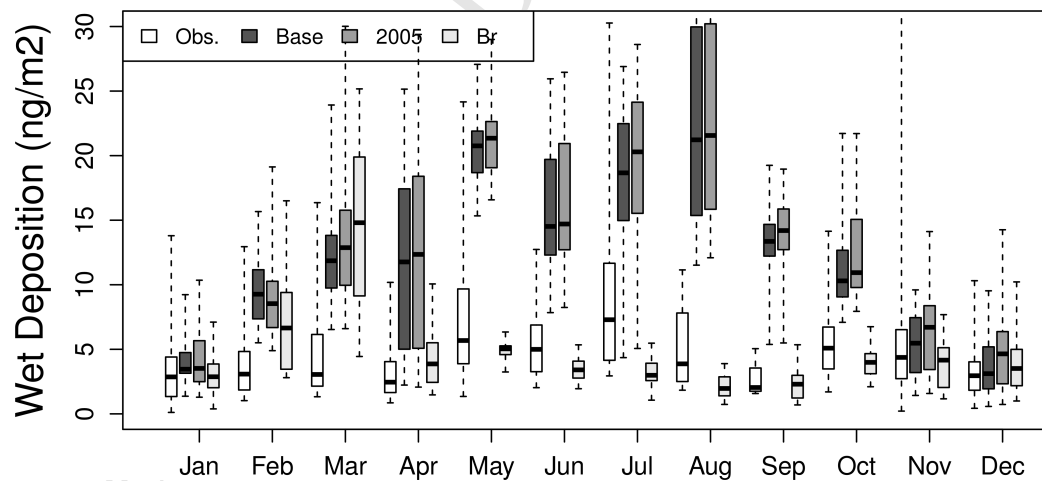


Figure A.4: Monthly mean to the mercury wet deposition flux in EMEP sites and in correspondents model cells.

station	Mean	Mean			bias			RMSE		
	Obs	Base	2005	Br	Base	2005	Br	Base	2005	Br
BE14	9.5	31.3	30.2	10.8	21.8	20.7	1.3	31.7	30.5	9.7
DE01	7.4	16.3	15.9	9.2	8.8	8.5	1.8	13.1	12.2	8.9
DE02	8.4	29.1	28.7	11.4	20.7	20.4	3.0	24.2	23.7	7.5
DE03	10.1	17.3	15.4	4.4	7.2	5.3	-5.7	10.1	8.4	8.5
DE08	6.1	21.0	19.3	5.8	14.9	13.2	-0.4	20.7	19.0	4.9
DE09	5.7	25.3	24.9	16.7	19.6	19.2	11.0	25.0	25.1	18.6
ES08	6.8	33.9	30.3	9.6	27.1	23.5	2.8	50.1	46.1	9.3
GB13	3.8	20.3	19.8	5.2	16.6	16.0	1.5	21.1	20.5	4.0
GB17	7.0	32.1	32.3	10.7	25.2	25.3	3.8	32.4	32.0	7.7
GB48	3.5	23.4	23.1	6.2	19.9	19.6	2.7	26.4	25.8	5.6
GB91	4.6	21.0	20.9	5.5	16.5	16.3	0.9	22.8	22.4	4.9
NL91	10.1	25.6	24.9	13.7	15.6	14.8	3.7	21.3	20.4	14.2
NO01	11.1	17.8	17.1	5.6	6.8	6.1	-5.5	15.4	14.6	6.6
SE11	12.0	37.2	29.4	14.0	25.2	17.4	2.0	37.0	28.2	11.5
SE14	15.0	21.3	20.2	9.3	6.2	5.2	-5.7	11.7	9.8	8.6
SI08	5.9	16.9	16.9	4.7	11.0	11.0	-1.3	15.5	15.4	4.2

Table A.3: Comparison of the wet deposition flux statistical analysis in the EMEP stations for “Base”, “2005” and “Br” simulations. The Means, Bias and Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) are in ng m^{-2} .

	"Base"						"Br"					
	R_{lr}	R_{loc}	R_{lr}^{WD}	R_{loc}^{WD}	R_{lr}^{DD}	R_{loc}^{DD}	R_{lr}	R_{loc}	R_{lr}^{WD}	R_{loc}^{WD}	R_{lr}^{DD}	R_{loc}^{DD}
Jan	0.87	0.13	0.91	0.09	0.91	0.09	0.86	0.14	0.90	0.10	0.82	0.18
Feb	0.87	0.13	0.83	0.17	0.83	0.17	0.75	0.25	0.79	0.21	0.66	0.34
Mar	0.80	0.20	0.76	0.24	0.76	0.24	0.63	0.37	0.67	0.33	0.53	0.47
Apr	0.66	0.34	0.82	0.18	0.82	0.18	0.69	0.31	0.49	0.51	0.80	0.20
May	0.63	0.37	0.76	0.24	0.76	0.24	0.78	0.22	0.61	0.39	0.84	0.16
Jun	0.61	0.39	0.72	0.28	0.72	0.28	0.77	0.23	0.63	0.37	0.81	0.19
Jul	0.64	0.36	0.71	0.29	0.90	0.10	0.79	0.21	0.55	0.45	0.90	0.10
Aug	0.29	0.71	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	0.83	0.17	0.49	0.51	0.82	0.18
Sep	0.40	0.60	0.58	0.42	0.58	0.42	0.78	0.22	0.61	0.39	0.79	0.21
Oct	0.51	0.49	0.59	0.41	0.59	0.41	0.80	0.20	0.79	0.21	0.82	0.18
Nov	0.67	0.33	0.84	0.16	0.84	0.16	0.87	0.13	0.87	0.13	0.87	0.13
Dec	0.80	0.20	0.91	0.09	0.91	0.09	0.91	0.09	0.93	0.07	0.86	0.14

Table A.4: Pattern correlation coefficient between "Base - Local", "Base - Long-range", "Br - BrLocal" and "Br - BrLong-range", for total, only wet and only dry deposition.

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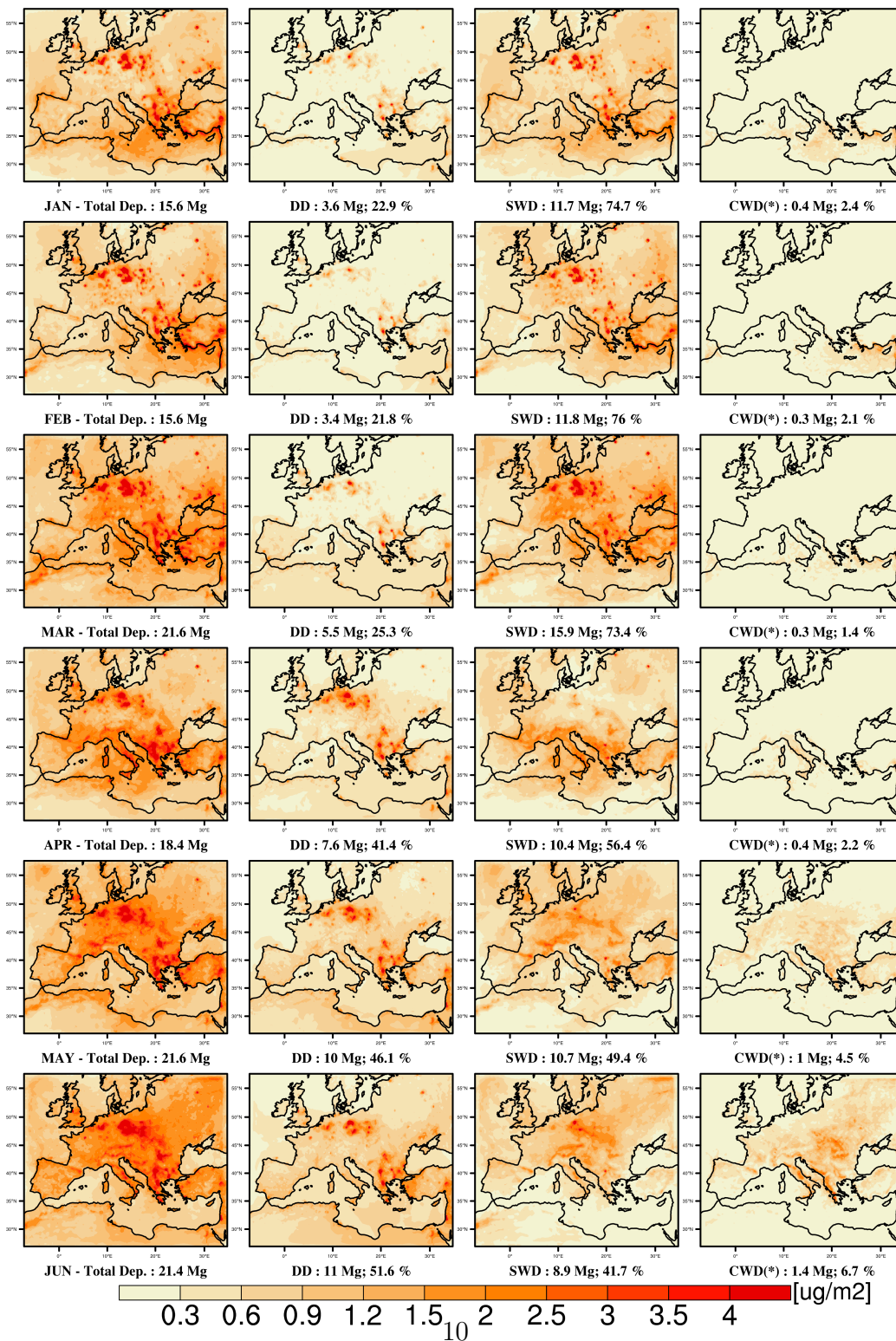


Figure A.5: Monthly total Hg deposition and fraction of DD, SWD and CWD in “Base” simulations.

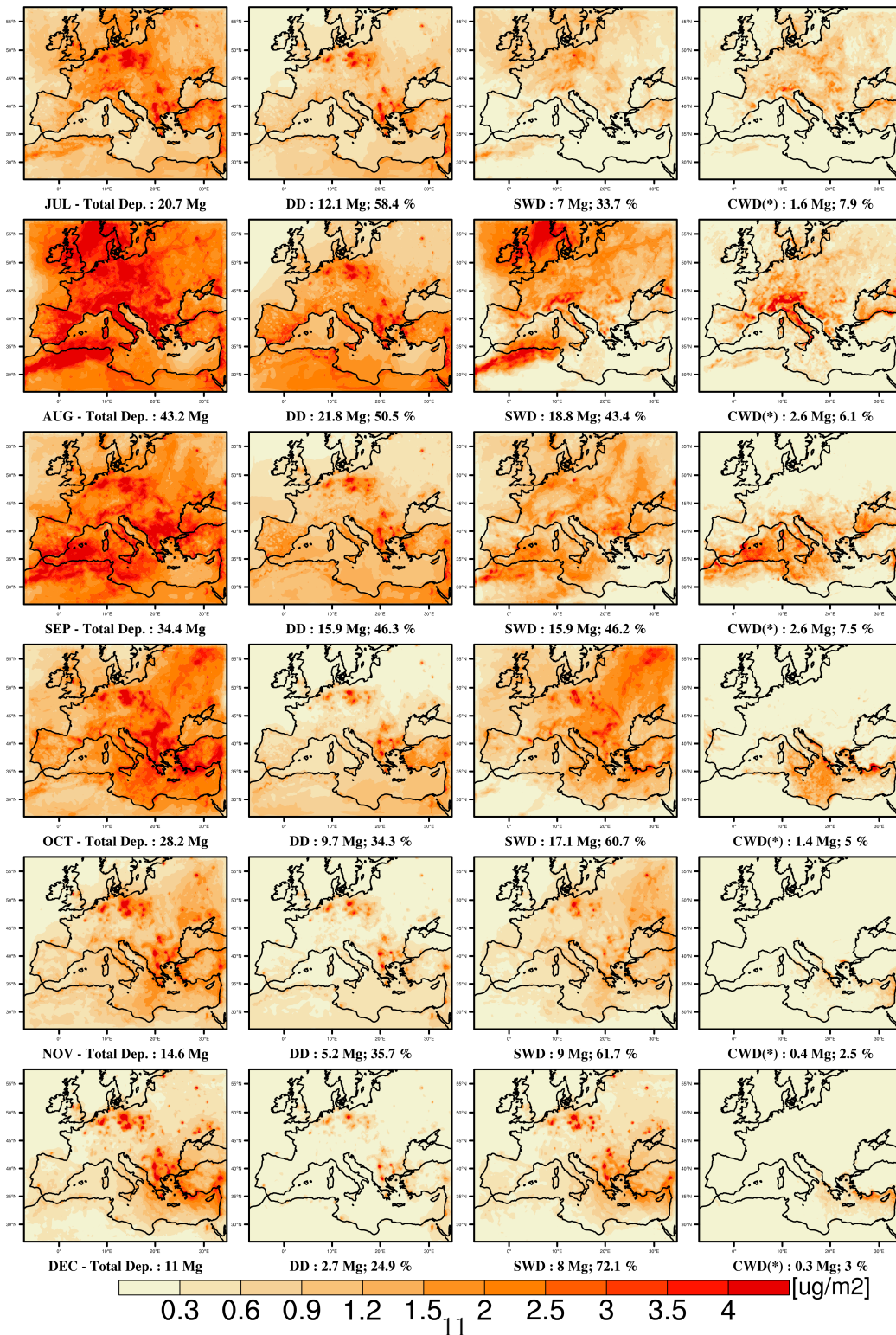


Figure A.6: Continue from figure A.5.

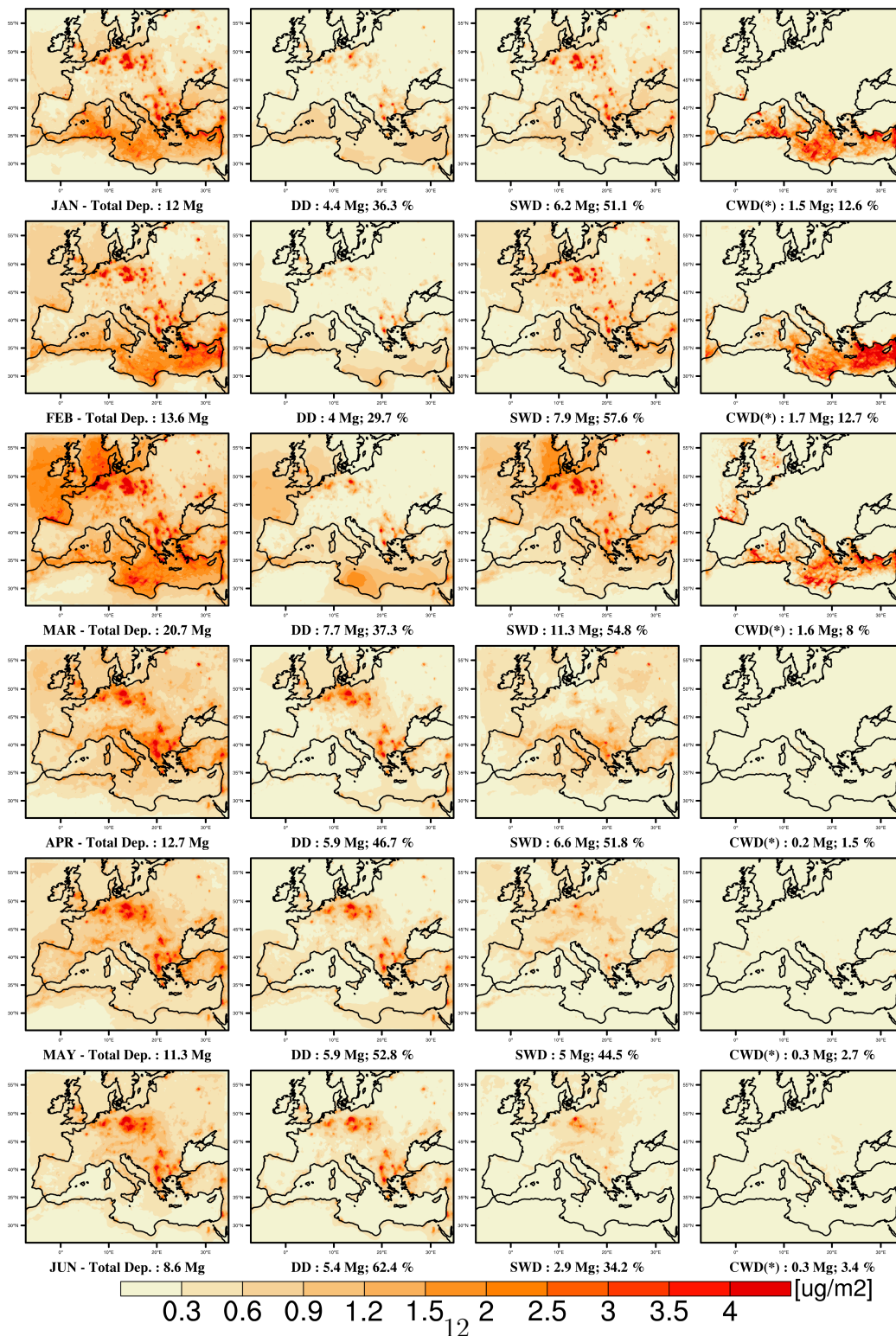


Figure A.7: Monthly total Hg deposition and fraction of DD, SWD and CWD in “Br” simulations.

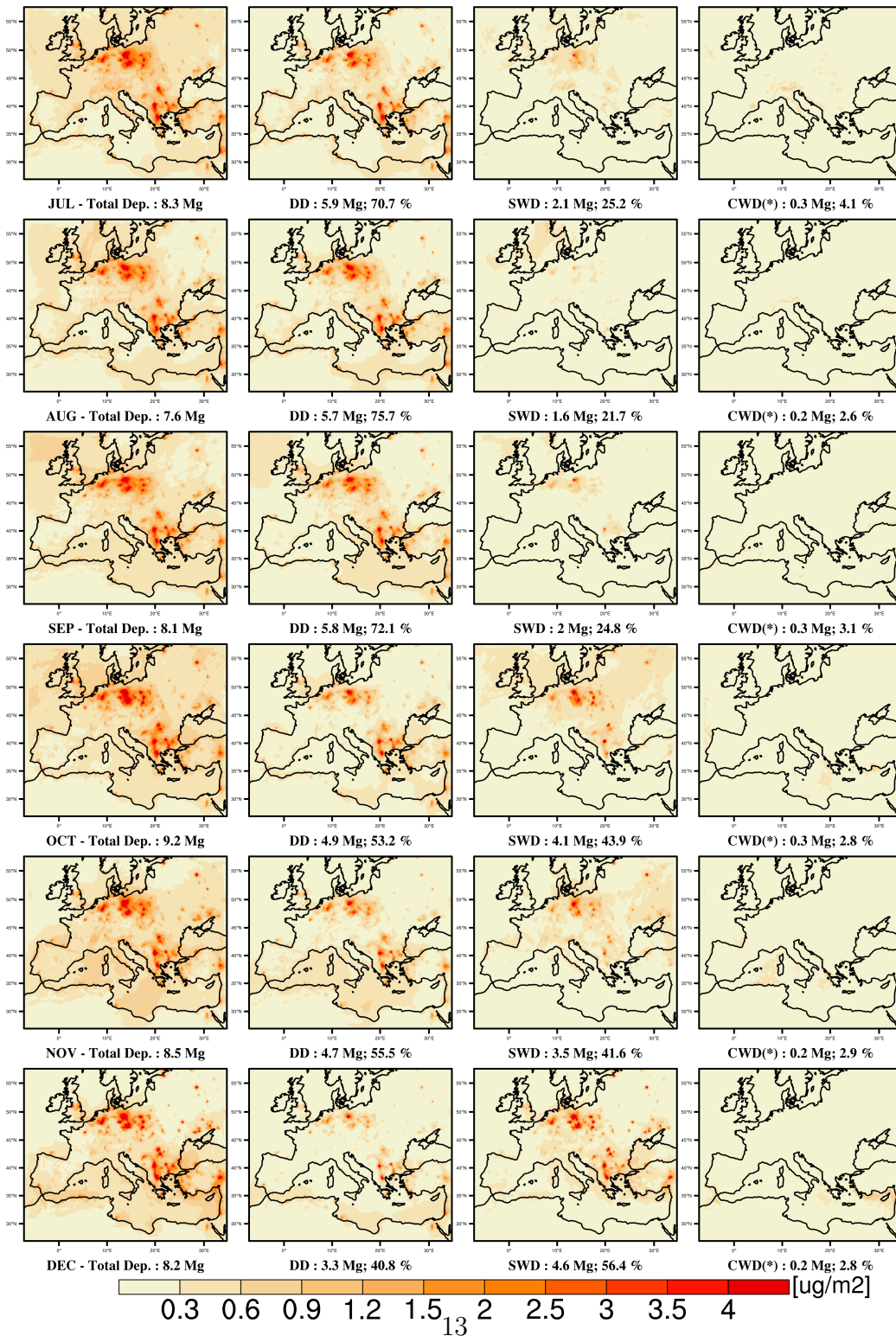


Figure A.8: Continue from figure A.7.

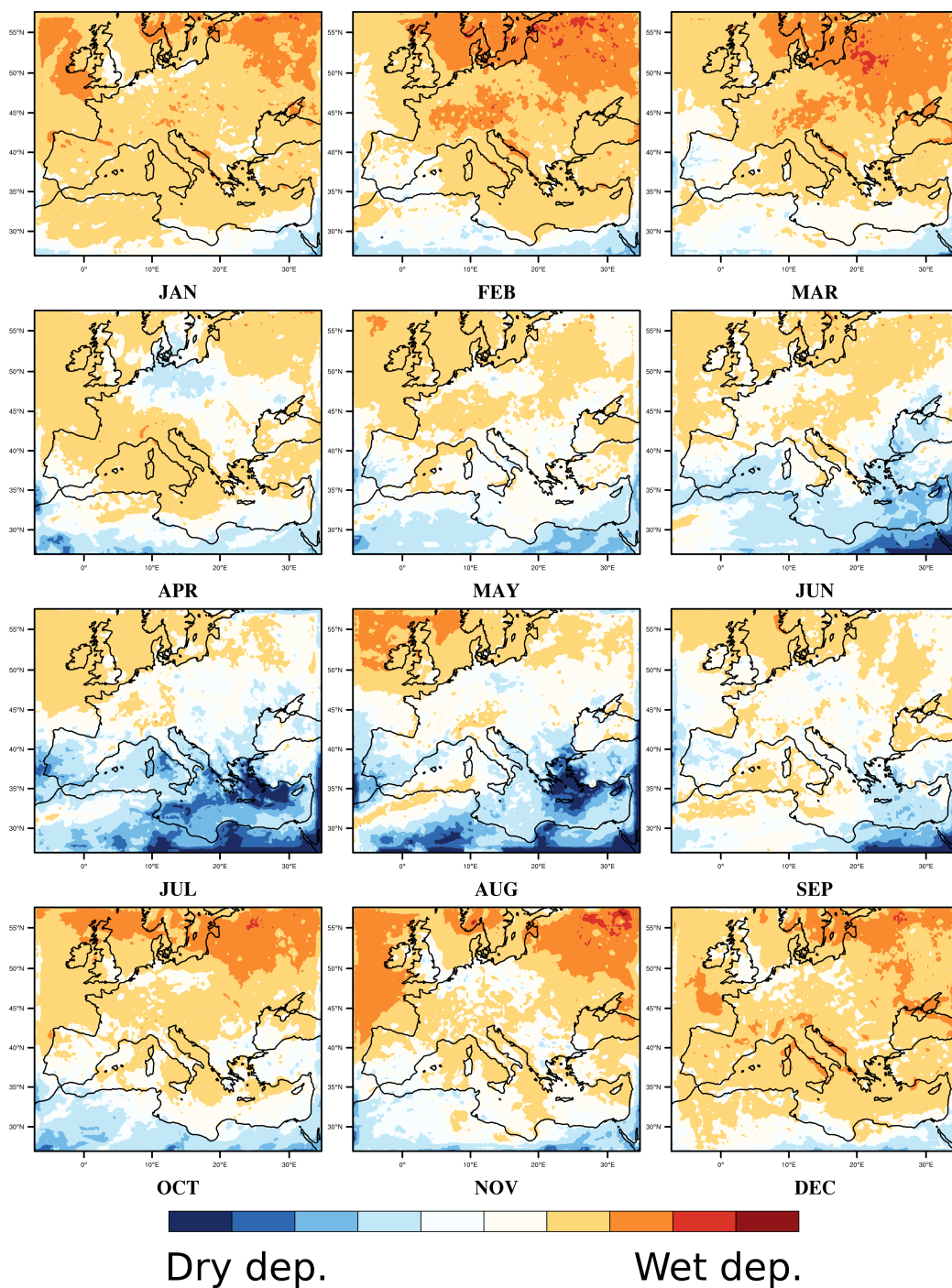


Figure A.9: Ratio between wet and dry deposition processes.