



1       **Sensitivity of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) to land**  
2       **surface parameterizations and vegetation distributions in California**

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24 **Abstract.** Current climate models still have large uncertainties in estimating biogenic  
25 trace gases, which can significantly affect atmospheric chemistry and secondary aerosol  
26 formation that ultimately influences air quality and aerosol radiative forcing. These  
27 uncertainties result from many factors, including uncertainties in land-surface processes  
28 and specification of vegetation types, both of which can affect the simulated near-surface  
29 fluxes of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs). In this study, the latest version  
30 of Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN v2.1) is coupled  
31 within the land surface parameterization CLM4 in the Weather Research and Forecasting  
32 model with chemistry (WRF-Chem). In this implementation, MEGAN v2.1 shares a  
33 consistent vegetation map with CLM4 for estimating BVOC emissions. This is unlike  
34 MEGAN v2.0 in the public version of WRF-Chem that uses a standalone vegetation map  
35 that differs from what is used by land surface parameterizations. This improved modeling  
36 framework is used to investigate the impact of two land surface parameterizations, CLM4  
37 and Noah, on BVOCs and examine the sensitivity of BVOCs to vegetation distributions  
38 in California. The measurements collected during the Carbonaceous Aerosol and  
39 Radiative Effects Study (CARES) and the California Nexus of Air Quality and Climate  
40 Experiment (CalNex) conducted in June of 2010 provide an opportunity to evaluate the  
41 simulated BVOCs. Sensitivity experiments show that land surface parameterizations do  
42 influence the simulated BVOCs, but the impact is much smaller than that of vegetation  
43 distributions. This study indicates that more effort is needed to obtain the most  
44 appropriate and accurate land cover datasets for climate and air quality models in terms  
45 of simulating BVOCs, oxidant chemistry, and consequently secondary organic aerosol  
46 formation.



## 47 **1. Introduction**

48 Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the atmosphere play an important role in  
49 atmospheric chemistry, and therefore can significantly affect ozone and secondary  
50 organic aerosol (SOA) formation and ultimately air quality and climate [e.g., Chameides  
51 et al., 1992; Fehsenfeld et al., 1992; Andreae and Crutzen, 1997; Pierce et al., 1998;  
52 Poisson et al., 2000; Sanderson et al., 2003; Claeys et al., 2004; Arneth et al., 2010].  
53 Significant effort has been made on obtaining accurate predictions of atmospheric VOC  
54 concentrations; however, there remain large differences between observed and simulated  
55 values. These uncertainties result from many factors, including biogenic emission rates  
56 that are influenced by near-surface meteorological processes, sub-surface processes,  
57 representation of vegetation distributions, and plant biology [Guenther et al., 2013].

58 Biogenic emissions are a major source of VOCs [e.g., Zimmerman et al., 1978;  
59 Mueller, 1992] in the atmosphere. In particular, isoprenoids (consisting mainly of  
60 isoprene and monoterpenes) that dominate biogenic VOCs (BVOCs) have been  
61 extensively investigated during the last five decades [e.g., Went, 1960; Rasmussen, 1972;  
62 Zimmerman et al., 1979; Lamb et al., 1987; Pierce et al., 1998; Niinemets et al., 1999 and  
63 2002; Arneth et al., 2007; Schurgers et al., 2009; Guenther et al., 1995 and 2012]. BVOC  
64 emissions were originally computed offline, producing prescribed emission inventories  
65 used by regional and global models [e.g., Huang et al., 2011]. However, emissions of  
66 BVOCs depend on diurnal, multi-day, and seasonal variations in light intensity,  
67 temperature, soil moisture, vegetation type, and leaf area index (LAI) [e.g., Pierce et al.,  
68 1998; Niinemets et al., 1999 and 2002; Arneth et al., 2007; Schurgers et al., 2009;  
69 Guenther et al., 2012]. Therefore, various BVOCs emission algorithms have been



70 proposed that extrapolate limited laboratory and field measurements to prescribed  
71 regional and global ecosystems [e.g., Pierce et al., 1998; Niinemets et al., 1999 and 2002;  
72 Arneth et al., 2007; Schurgers et al., 2009; Guenther et al., 1995 and 2012]. The  
73 uncertainties in biogenic emission parameterizations are mainly due to the scarcity of  
74 observations of BVOCs fluxes and vegetation distributions over regional scales.  
75 Inappropriate coupling strategies between biogenic emission and land-surface  
76 parameterizations may also introduce errors in estimating atmospheric BVOCs. For  
77 example, some models specify different vegetation distributions for biogenic emissions  
78 and land-atmosphere interaction processes as applied in different parts of models.

79 BVOCs play a significant role in affecting the air quality and regional climate  
80 over California, where there have been many studies, such as the Carbonaceous Aerosol  
81 and Radiative Effects Study (CARES) [Zaveri et al., 2012] and the California Nexus of  
82 Air Quality and Climate Experiment (CalNex) [Ryerson et al., 2013], investigating the  
83 impacts of BVOCs and their interaction with anthropogenic pollutants. In the past 20  
84 years, California's economy has grown rapidly and the population has increased by 33%  
85 [Cox et al., 2009]. Although California has reduced the emissions of most primary  
86 pollutants, poor air quality still affects the well-being of millions of people. Nearly all  
87 Californians live in areas that are designated as nonattainment for the state (about 99%)  
88 and national (about 93%) health-based O<sub>3</sub> and/or PM standards. Accurate predictions of  
89 O<sub>3</sub> and PM concentrations are needed to develop effective attainment strategies, but this  
90 is complicated, in part, due to uncertainties associated with long-range transport of  
91 pollutants and local natural emission sources such as BVOCs.

92 In California, the complex topography and distribution of vegetation makes it





93 difficult for models to capture the variability of BVOCs at regional and local scales. For  
94 example, Fast et al. [2014] showed that simulated biogenic emissions varied by as much  
95 as a factor of 2 within 8 km of an observation site in Cool, California. They also found  
96 that daytime mixing ratios of isoprene and monoterpenes from a regional simulation  
97 using the Weather Research and Forecasting model with chemistry (WRF-Chem) [Grell  
98 et al., 2005; Fast et al., 2006] are usually a factor of two smaller than the observations  
99 collected both at the rural Cool site and an urban Sacramento site. Conversely, simulated  
100 monoterpene mixing ratios were similar to observations during the day but a factor of  
101 three too high at night at the observation site in Cool. They suggested that the biogenic  
102 emission rates calculated based on the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from  
103 Nature version 2.0 (MEGAN v2.0) might contribute to major biases in their simulations.  
104 Knote et al. [2014] also found that their simulations using WRF-Chem with MEGAN  
105 v2.0 produced BVOCs concentrations that were too small over Los Angeles, and  
106 suggested that there might be deficiencies in the description of vegetation in urban areas.  
107 Thus, it is evident that uncertainties in simulated atmospheric BVOCs can arise from how  
108 well vegetation is represented in models. Furthermore, to our knowledge, none of the  
109 numerous chemical transport modeling studies for California have investigated the  
110 sensitivity of BVOC simulations to land surface parameterizations and vegetation  
111 distributions.

112 To better understand the uncertainties in simulating BVOCs associated with land  
113 surface parameterizations and vegetation distributions in California, the latest version of  
114 MEGAN (MEGAN v2.1) is coupled into the CLM4 land surface parameterization of  
115 WRF-Chem in this study. Multiple sensitivity experiments are conducted using this



116 improved modeling framework at a relatively high spatial resolution to capture the  
117 region's complex topography and vegetation distribution. Simulations are conducted  
118 using WRF-Chem with “fully” coupled version of CLM4 and MEGAN v2.1 (i.e., CLM4  
119 and MEGAN share a consistent vegetation dataset) and compared with the measurements  
120 collected during CARES and CalNex conducted in June 2010. This new coupling also  
121 adds the capability of quantifying the impact of different vegetation distributions on  
122 simulating BVOCs. Simulations are also performed using two land surface  
123 parameterizations (Noah and CLM4) coupled with MEGAN v2.0. As with previous  
124 studies using WRF-Chem, MEGAN v2.0 uses a different vegetation dataset from the land  
125 surface parameterizations. The WRF-Chem experiments with MEGAN v2.0 and  
126 MEGAN v2.1 are included together here as a reference for future studies in the  
127 community and for users interested in migrating from the widely used v2.0 to v2.1.

128 The rest of manuscript is organized as follows. Sections 2 and 3 describe the  
129 WRF-Chem model and the observations used in this study, respectively. The sensitivity  
130 of modeling BVOCs to the land surface schemes and the vegetation distributions are  
131 analyzed in section 4. The findings are then summarized and discussed in section 5.

132

## 133 **2. Model Description and Experimental Design**

### 134 **2.1 WRF-Chem**

135 The WRF-Chem (v3.5.1) configuration is similar to that used by Fast et al. [2014]  
136 for studying aerosol evolution over California, except that this study excludes aerosols  
137 and focuses on simulated BVOCs. The model includes numerous options for the  
138 treatment of physics and chemistry processes. In this study, the SAPRC-99



139 photochemical mechanism [Carter, 2000a,b] is selected to simulate gas-phase chemistry,  
140 and the Fast-J parameterization [Wild et al., 2000] for photolysis rates. For all the  
141 simulations in this study, we use the Yonsei University (YSU) parameterization [Hong et  
142 al., 2006] for the planetary boundary layer (PBL), the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory  
143 [Paulson, 1970] to represent the surface layer, the Morrison two-moment  
144 parameterization [Morrison et al., 2009] for cloud microphysics, the Kain-Fritsch  
145 parameterization [Kain 2004] for sub-grid scale clouds and precipitation, the RRTMG  
146 parameterization for longwave and shortwave radiation [Iacono et al., 2008]. Since Fast  
147 et al. [2014] has evaluated the simulated meteorological fields and gases and aerosols  
148 with a similar model configuration, this study will focus primarily on the BVOCs  
149 simulation.

## 150 **2.2 Land surface parameterizations**

151 Two land surface parameterizations, Noah and CLM4.0, are used to quantify how  
152 differences in the treatment of land surface processes, including latent and sensible heat  
153 fluxes, soil moisture, and surface albedo, affect near-surface meteorological conditions  
154 and consequently simulated BVOC emissions and concentrations. The Noah land surface  
155 parameterization, described by Barlage et al. [2010] and LeMone et al. [2010a, 2010b],  
156 has been used in numerous studies with WRF-Chem. Noah has four soil layers, with a  
157 total depth of two meters and a single slab snow layer lumped with the top-soil layer,  
158 which is set to a depth of 10 cm. Noah does not treat sub-grid scale variability within a  
159 model grid cell.

160 The Community Land Model version 4.0 (CLM4) [Lawrence et al. 2011; Jin et  
161 al., 2012] was recently coupled and released with WRF (since v3.5) as one of the land



162 surface parameterization options. CLM4 in global and region applications has been  
163 shown to be accurate in describing snow, soil, and vegetation processes [Zeng et al.,  
164 2002; Jin and Miller, 2007; Zhao et al., 2014]. CLM4 includes five layers for snow, 10  
165 layers for soil, and a single-layer for vegetation. The soil is divided into 19 categories  
166 defined according to percentages of sand and clay. The two-stream approximation  
167 [Dickinson, 1983] is applied to vegetation when calculating solar radiation reflected and  
168 absorbed by the canopy as well as radiation transfer within the canopy. Each model grid  
169 cell can be divided into a maximum of 10 smaller cells to account for sub-grid scale  
170 heterogeneity and its impact on the land surface processes. The 24 United States  
171 Geological Survey (USGS) land use types are mapped to the 16 plant functional types  
172 (PFT's) in CLM4 based on a lookup table derived from Bonan et al. [1996]. Additional  
173 technical details of CLM4 are provided in Oleson et al. [2004].

### 174 **2.3 MEGAN and coupling with CLM4**

175 MEGAN is a modeling framework for estimating fluxes of biogenic compounds  
176 between terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere using simple mechanistic algorithms  
177 to account for the major known processes controlling biogenic emissions [Guenther et al.,  
178 2006, 2012]. Two versions (v2.0 and v2.1) of MEGAN are used in this study. MEGAN  
179 v2.1 is an update from MEGAN v2.0 [Guenther et al., 2006; Sakulyanontvittaya et al.,  
180 2008] that includes additional compounds, emission types, and controlling processes.  
181 MEGAN v2.1 estimates emissions ( $F_i$ ) for 19 compound classes ( $i$ ) from terrestrial  
182 landscapes based on emission factors ( $\varepsilon_{i,j}$ ) at standard conditions for vegetation type  $j$   
183 with fractional grid box areal coverage  $\chi_j$ , i.e.,  $F_i = \gamma_i \sum \varepsilon_{i,j} \chi_j$ , where  $\gamma_i$  is emission activity  
184 factor from the processes controlling emission responses to environmental and



185 phenological conditions [Guenther et al., 2006, 2012].

186 For emission factors, MEGAN v2.0 enabled users to customize vegetation  
187 emission type schemes ranging from detailed (e.g. individual plant species or sub species)  
188 to generic (e.g. a few broad vegetation categories). MEGAN2.1 emission factors can be  
189 specified from gridded maps based on species composition and species-specific emission  
190 factors or by using PFT distributions and the PFT specific emission factors. MEGAN2.0  
191 defined emission factors as the net flux of a compound into the atmosphere, while  
192 MEGAN2.1 emission factor represents the net primary emission that escapes into the  
193 atmosphere but is not the net flux because it does not include the downward flux of  
194 chemicals from above canopy.

195 The publically available version of WRF-Chem includes the MEGAN v2.0  
196 parameterization for calculating BVOC emission fluxes (WRF-Chem user guide:  
197 [http://ruc.noaa.gov/wrf/WG11/Users\\_guide.pdf](http://ruc.noaa.gov/wrf/WG11/Users_guide.pdf)). It has been widely used for gas and  
198 aerosol simulations [e.g., Shrivastava et al., 2011, 2013; Gao et al., 2011, 2014; Knote et  
199 al., 2014; Fast et al., 2014]. However, MEGAN v2.0 was originally not coupled into the  
200 land surface scheme in WRF-Chem (since v3.1), and used the climatological monthly  
201 mean surface air temperature and solar radiation to represent the values for last few days  
202 for biogenic emission calculation that needs both instantaneous values and mean values  
203 of past days of surface temperature and solar radiation. Figure 1 shows the example of the  
204 comparison between the input climatological and model simulated monthly mean surface  
205 air temperature in June. It is apparent that the monthly-averaged simulated surface air  
206 temperature is much different from the climatology value. In addition, the vegetation  
207 dataset (referred to as VEG-M, will be discussed in Section 2.4) used in MEGAN v2.0



208 for calculating BVOC emission fluxes is also different from the one used by the land  
209 surface parameterization, which allows MEGAN v2.0 to be used with any of the  
210 available land surface parameterizations in WRF-Chem. This inconsistency in vegetation  
211 distributions may introduce errors in simulating emissions and concentrations of BVOC.  
212 To avoid this inconsistency, we have coupled MEGAN v2.1 with WRF-Chem embedded  
213 in the CLM4 land surface parameterization. Therefore, the coupling of MEGAN v2.1 and  
214 CLM4 in WRF-Chem now has the same functionality as CLM4 in the Community Earth  
215 System Model (CESM) [Lawrence et al. 2011]. With this coupling strategy, MEGAN  
216 also uses the same vegetation dataset (i.e., 16 PFT's converted from the USGS dataset as  
217 discussed in Section 2.2) that CLM4 uses for all other land surface processes; this means,  
218 however, that MEGAN v2.1 can only be used with CLM4 in WRF-Chem. In addition,  
219 MEGAN v2.1 can compute BVOC emissions that account for the sub-grid variability of  
220 vegetation distributions within CLM4.

#### 221 **2.4 Vegetation datasets**

222 As mentioned previously, the first 16-PFT dataset (referred to as USGS hereafter)  
223 used by CLM4 is converted from the default 24 USGS land cover dataset used by WRF-  
224 Chem based on a lookup table derived from Bonan et al. [1996]. This method is also  
225 applied to three other 16-PFT's datasets (referred to as VEG1, VEG2, and VEG3) used  
226 by CLM4 in WRF-Chem. The sensitivity of simulating BVOC emissions by CLM4 to  
227 these four 16-PFT's datasets is quantified. The VEG1, VEG2, and VEG3 datasets are  
228 derived from different sources as described next.

229 The VEG1 dataset is from the PFT fractional cover product by Ke et al. [2012],  
230 which was developed from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer



231 (MODIS) PFT classifications for the year 2005 for determining seven PFTs including  
232 needleleaf evergreen trees, needleleaf deciduous trees, broadleaf evergreen trees,  
233 broadleaf deciduous trees, shrub, grass and crop for each 500 m pixel. The WorldClim 5  
234 arc-minute (0.0833°) [Hijmans et al., 2005] climatological global monthly surface air  
235 temperature and precipitation data was interpolated to a 500 m grid and used to further  
236 reclassify the PFTs into 15 PFTs, and fractions of crop grasses were mapped based on the  
237 method presented in Still et al. [2003]. Pixels with barren land and urban areas were  
238 reassigned to the bare soil class. The bare soil and the 15 PFTs from the 500-m grid were  
239 then aggregated to a 0.05° grid.

240 The VEG2 dataset is obtained from the NCAR CESM data repository [Oleson et  
241 al., 2010], available on a 0.05° grid and derived using a combination of the 2001 MODIS  
242 Vegetation Continuous Field (VCF), MODIS land cover product for year 2000  
243 [Lawrence and Chase, 2006; Lawrence and Chase, 2007], and 1992-1993 AVHRR  
244 Continuous Field Tree Cover Project data [Lawrence and Chase, 2007; Lawrence et al.,  
245 2011]. The monthly surface air temperature and precipitation data from Willmott and  
246 Matsuura [2001] was used to further reclassify the seven PFTs into bare soil and 15 PFTs  
247 in the tropical, temperate and boreal climate groups based on climate rules described by  
248 Bonan et al. [2002]. Fractions of crop grasses were mapped based on the method  
249 presented in Still et al. [2003].

250 The VEG3 dataset is derived from a high-resolution (30 arc-second) dataset over  
251 the U.S. with 16 PFT classifications for the year 2008. The dataset was created by  
252 combining the National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD, Homer et al., 2004) and the  
253 Cropland Data Layer (see <http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape/>), both of which were



254 based on the 30-m LANDSAT-TM satellite data. Vegetation species composition  
255 information was obtained from the Forest Inventory and Analysis (see  
256 <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>) and the soil data from the Natural Resources Conservation  
257 Services (see <http://sdmdataaccess.nrcs.usda.gov/>). The processing included adjusting  
258 the NLCD tree cover estimates in urban areas to account for the substantial  
259 underestimation of trees in the LANDSAT-TM data [Duhl et al., 2012]. This was  
260 accomplished using the regionally specific adjustment factors for urban NLCD developed  
261 by Greenfield et al. [2009] using the high-resolution imagery.

262 Figure 2 shows the spatial distributions of the dominant PFT in each  $4 \times 4$  km<sup>2</sup> grid  
263 cell of the simulation domain from each of the four datasets. Not only are the grid-  
264 dominant PFTs very different among the four datasets, but the sub-grid distributions of  
265 PFTs are different as well (not shown). The domain-averaged fractions of 16 PFTs from  
266 the four datasets listed in Table 1 also illustrate the differences in PFT distributions. For  
267 example, the fraction of temperate broadleaf deciduous tree ranges from 0.4% in VEG1  
268 to 1.8% in VEG2 and the fraction of temperate broadleaf deciduous shrub ranges from  
269 10.8% in VEG3 to 37.5% in VEG1. This difference in PFT distributions can affect the  
270 BVOC emission calculations. For example, Figure 3 shows the biogenic isoprene  
271 emission factor for each PFT prescribed in MEGAN v2.1 in CLM4. It shows that  
272 temperate broadleaf deciduous tree (PFT 7 listed in Table 1) has a large isoprene  
273 emission factor, while temperate needleleaf evergreen tree (PFT 1 listed in Table 1) has a  
274 small isoprene emission factor. Finally, the distribution of broadleaf tree, needleleaf tree,  
275 shrub, and herbaceous vegetation categories used by MEGAN v2.0 (refer to VEG-M) is  
276 shown in Figure 4. In MEGAN v2.0 of WRF-Chem, only these four PFT's are considered





277 for the biogenic emission calculation because they are the only ones included in the  
278 MEGAN v2.0 PFT scheme. As discussed previously, these are different from the USGS  
279 vegetation distribution used by Noah and CLM4 and may cause additional biases.

280

## 281 **2.5 Numerical experiments**

282 The simulations are performed using a domain encompassing California (Fig. 1)  
283 with a horizontal grid spacing of 4 km and 279×279 grid cells (113°W-128°W, 32°N-  
284 43°N) and 51 vertical layers up to 100 hPa with about 35 layers below 2 km. The  
285 simulation period is from May 25 to June 30 2010, but only the results in June are used  
286 for analysis to allow for the model to “spin-up” realistic distributions of trace gases. The  
287 initial and boundary conditions are prescribed by large-scale meteorological fields  
288 obtained from the North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR) data with updates  
289 provided at 6-h intervals, which also provide the prescribed sea surface temperature  
290 (SST) for the simulations. The modeled u-component and v-component wind and  
291 atmospheric temperature are nudged towards the NARR reanalysis data with a nudging  
292 time scale of 6 hours [Stauffer and Seaman, 1990]. Chemical lateral boundary conditions  
293 are from the default profiles in WRF-Chem, which are based on the averages of mid-  
294 latitude aircraft profiles from several field studies over the eastern Pacific Ocean  
295 [McKeen et al., 2002].

296 Anthropogenic emissions were obtained from the CARB 2008 ARCTAS emission  
297 inventory developed for the NASA Arctic Research of the Composition of the  
298 Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellite (ARCTAS) mission over California [Pfister et  
299 al., 2011]. The CARB inventory contains hourly emissions for a 13-day period using a 4-



300 km grid spacing over California. We created diurnally averaged emissions from 5 of the  
301 weekdays and 2 of the weekend days and used those averages for all weekdays and  
302 weekends and applied these over the entire simulation period. Anthropogenic emissions  
303 from the 2005 National Emissions Inventory (NEI) (WRF-Chem user guide from  
304 [http://ruc.noaa.gov/wrf/WG11/Users\\_guide.pdf](http://ruc.noaa.gov/wrf/WG11/Users_guide.pdf)) were used for regions outside of  
305 California. Biomass burning is not considered in the present study, because satellite  
306 detection methods indicated that there were very few fires in California during the  
307 simulation period. Biogenic emissions were computed on-line using the MEGAN model  
308 and lumped into isoprene, terpenes, and sesquiterpenes for the SAPRC-99 photochemical  
309 mechanism.

310 As discussed previously, multiple numerical experiments summarized in Table 2  
311 are conducted with different combinations of land surface schemes and vegetation  
312 datasets to investigate the sensitivity of BVOCs simulation to land surface  
313 parameterizations and vegetation distributions. First, we conduct two experiments using  
314 MEGAN v2.0 coupled with the Noah (Mv20Noah) and CLM4 (Mv20CLM) land surface  
315 parameterizations, respectively. The Noah land surface scheme is only coupled with  
316 MEGAN v2.0 in WRF-Chem. In these two experiments, the two land surface  
317 parameterizations use the USGS vegetation distributions while MEGAN v2.0 uses a  
318 separate vegetation map (VEG-M) to estimate BVOCs emissions. By comparing these  
319 two experiments, the impact of land surface parameterizations on simulated BVOC  
320 concentrations are examined. Second, we conduct four experiments using MEGAN v2.1  
321 embedded in the CLM4 land surface parameterization with four different vegetation  
322 datasets, i.e., USGS (Mv21USGS), VEG1 (Mv21V1), VEG2 (Mv21V2), and VEG3



323 (Mv21V3). The differences among these four experiments show the impact of vegetation  
324 distributions on simulated BVOC concentrations.

325 We note that MEGAN v2.0 and v2.1 use different vegetation datasets and are  
326 implemented in WRF-Chem in different ways, but the objective of this study is not to  
327 explore how the formulations of these two versions of MEGAN affect BVOC  
328 concentrations. The better way for exploring the version difference of MEGAN is to  
329 implement both versions in the same way and use the same vegetation dataset. The  
330 simulated BVOC emissions and concentrations by WRF-Chem with MEGAN v2.0 and  
331 MEGAN v2.1 are included together here as a reference for future studies in the  
332 community and for users interested in migrating from the widely used v2.0 to v2.1.

333

### 334 **3. Observations**

335 Measurements of VOCs collected by proton transfer reaction mass spectrometer  
336 (PTR-MS) instruments [Lindinger et al., 1998] and a gas chromatography instrument  
337 [Gentner et al., 2012] over California during June of 2010 as part of the CARES and  
338 CalNex campaigns are used to evaluate the simulated isoprene and monoterpene  
339 concentrations. CARES was designed to address science issues associated with the  
340 interactions of biogenic and anthropogenic precursors on SOA, black carbon mixing state,  
341 and the effects of organic species and aerosol mixing state on optical properties and the  
342 activation of cloud condensation nuclei [Zaveri et al., 2012]. As shown in Figure 5,  
343 ground-based instruments were deployed at two sites (T0 and T1) in northern California:  
344 T0 in Sacramento (38.649 °N, -121.349°W, ~ 30 m m.s.l., denoted by red upward  
345 triangle) and T1 in Cool (38.889°N, -120.974°W, ~ 450 m m.s.l., denoted by red



346 downward triangle), a small town located about 40 km northeast of Sacramento. The U.S.  
347 Department of Energy (DOE) Gulfstream 1 (G-1) research aircraft sampled  
348 meteorological, trace gas, and aerosol quantities aloft in the vicinity of the T0 and T1  
349 sites, denoted by black lines in Figure 6. Zaveri et al. [2012] described the  
350 instrumentation for each of the surface sites and Shilling et al. [2013] described VOC  
351 measurements on the G-1. Most of the sampling during CARES occurred between 2 and  
352 28 June, and only the aircraft sampling within 1 km of the surface is used to evaluate  
353 model simulations because G-1 sampled below 1 km for the majority of time.

354 CalNex was designed to address science issues relevant to emission inventories,  
355 dispersion of trace gases and aerosols, atmospheric chemistry, and the interactions of  
356 aerosols, clouds, and radiation [Ryerson et al., 2013]. Ground-based instruments were  
357 deployed at two sites in southern California as shown in Figure 5: one in Pasadena  
358 (34.141°N, -118.112°W, ~240 m m.s.l., denoted by the red circle) and one in Bakersfield  
359 (35.346°N, -118.965°W, ~ 123 m m.s.l., denoted by the red square). The NOAA WP-3D  
360 research aircraft sampled meteorological, trace gas, and aerosol quantities aloft along  
361 flight paths shown in Figure 5 (denoted by blue lines). While most of the CalNex aircraft  
362 tracks below an altitude of 1 km were conducted in southern California in the vicinity of  
363 the Los Angeles basin, the WP-3D also flew within the Central Valley and in the vicinity  
364 of Sacramento on some days. A detailed description of the instrumentation for each of the  
365 CalNex surface sites and mobile platforms is given by Ryerson et al. [2013]. Most of the  
366 sampling during CalNex was conducted before June 16 and only the aircraft sampling  
367 below 1 km is used to evaluate the model simulations.

368



## 369 **4. Results**

### 370 **4.1 Impact of land surface schemes**

#### 371 4.1.1 Biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emissions

372 Figure 5 shows the spatial distributions of biogenic isoprene emissions averaged  
373 over June for the six simulations listed in Table 2. Biogenic isoprene emissions occur in  
374 vegetated regions of California with the highest emission rates along the foothills of the  
375 Sierra Nevada where oak trees are the dominant plant species. To show the difference in  
376 biogenic isoprene emissions among the cases more clearly, Figure 6a and 6b zoom in on  
377 the CARES (northern California) and CalNex (southern California) sampling regions,  
378 respectively. In both regions the differences in land surface parameterizations had a  
379 relatively small impact on the biogenic isoprene emissions over California in terms of  
380 both spatial distribution and magnitude, although the emissions from Mv20CLM were a  
381 little larger than those from Mv20Noah. The domain summed biogenic isoprene  
382 emissions for the entire month of June from Mv20Noah and Mv20CLM are  $1.4 \times 10^9$  and  
383  $1.6 \times 10^9$  mole, respectively. Figure 7a and 7b are similar to Figure 6a and 6b, except that  
384 biogenic monoterpene emission fluxes are shown. In general, the spatial patterns of  
385 emissions of the two biogenic species are similar, except that the peak areas of  
386 monoterpene emissions are shifted slightly. For example, the peak monoterpene  
387 emissions in northern California occur further northeast at higher elevations of the Sierra  
388 Nevada that are dominated by needleleaf evergreen trees. The impact of land surface  
389 schemes on biogenic monoterpene emissions is also small over California in terms of  
390 both spatial patterns and magnitudes, although the emissions from Mv20CLM are a little  
391 larger than those from Mv20Noah. The domain summed biogenic monoterpene emissions



392 for the entire month of June from Mv20Noah and Mv20CLM are  $1.0 \times 10^8$  and  $1.1 \times 10^8$   
393 mole, respectively.

394 The similarity in estimating biogenic emissions between the experiments with two  
395 land surface parameterizations is also summarized in Figures 8 and 9, which show the  
396 average diurnal biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emission rates at the four observation  
397 sites. The similarity between Mv20Noah and Mv20CLM (red and orange lines) is likely  
398 due to the same vegetation map in MEGAN v2.0 to estimate biogenic emissions.  
399 Although the two land surface parameterizations produce some difference in surface  
400 temperature (Fig. 1), soil moisture (not shown), and net solar radiation near the surface  
401 (not shown), their impact on the biogenic emissions was small. Both BVOC species have  
402 peak emission rates in the early afternoon. One noteworthy difference in diurnal variation  
403 of the two biogenic species emission rates is that there is no isoprene emitted during the  
404 night while the amount of monoterpenes emitted during the night is small but not  
405 negligible. This can contribute to differences in the diurnal variation of the mixing ratios  
406 of two biogenic species, as will be discussed next.

#### 407 4.1.2 Isoprene and monoterpene mixing ratios

408 Figures 10a,b and 11a,b show the spatial distributions of monthly-averaged  
409 surface mixing ratios of isoprene+MVK(methyl-vinylketone)+MACR(methacrolein) and  
410 monoterpenes, respectively, around the CARES (northern California) and the CalNex  
411 (central and southern California) sampling regions simulated by the six experiments  
412 listed in Table 2. Due to the fast chemical transition from isoprene to MVK and MACR,  
413 the sum of isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios can better reflect the impact of  
414 biogenic isoprene emissions than isoprene mixing ratio alone [Shilling et al., 2013]. In



415 general, the spatial patterns and magnitudes of surface isoprene+MVK+MACR and  
416 monoterpene mixing ratios over the two regions are similar from the two MEGAN v2.0  
417 experiments with the Noah and CLM4 land surface parameterizations, respectively. The  
418 spatial patterns of surface mixing ratios of isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene are  
419 similar to the spatial variability in the emission rates.

420         There is difference between the two experiments at specific locations, which is  
421 partly reflected in the comparison of average diurnal variations of surface mixing ratios  
422 of isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene at the four observation sites shown in  
423 Figure 12. Note that the values for the Bakersfield and Pasadena sites are averaged over  
424 the first two weeks of June to be consistent with the observations. Although both  
425 experiments with Noah and CLM4 (red and orange lines, respectively) simulate similar  
426 isoprene emission fluxes with the maximum in the afternoon (Fig. 8), their  
427 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios are different at the four sites, particularly at the  
428 site T0, where the Mv20CLM simulated isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios during  
429 the daytime are about a factor of 2 larger than those from Mv20Noah. This difference  
430 mainly results from the difference in the near surface meteorology, such as net surface  
431 radiation and temperature, between the two experiments (not shown) that affects  
432 photochemistry. When compared to the observations, both experiments significantly  
433 underestimate the isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios except at the Bakersfield site.  
434 Figure 13 is identical to Figure 12, except for surface monoterpene mixing ratios. Note  
435 that there were no monoterpene data reported for the Bakersfield and Pasadena sites, so  
436 only the simulation results are shown. In contrast to isoprene+MVK+MACR,  
437 monoterpenes exhibit peak surface mixing ratios during the nighttime due to the strong



438 photolysis activity that makes the lifetime of monoterpenes short during the daytime and  
439 the small emissions into a shallow boundary layer during the nighttime (Fig. 9). In  
440 general, the difference between the Mv20Noah and MV20CLM experiments in  
441 monoterpene mixing ratios is relatively small at these four sites, particularly during the  
442 daytime. When compared to the observations, both experiments overestimate the diurnal  
443 variation and the nighttime surface monoterpene mixing ratios at the T0 and T1 sites.

444         Figures 14 and 15 show the comparison of the observed and simulated mixing  
445 ratios of isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene, respectively, along the G-1 and WP-  
446 3D flight tracks below 1 km. Model results are sampled along the flight tracks. As shown  
447 in Figure 5, the G-1 flight mainly flew over northern California around the T0 and T1  
448 sites, while the WP-3D flew over a larger area covering both southern California and the  
449 Central Valley. To better reflect the spatial variability in the BVOCs, the flight tracks of  
450 both flights are separated into two regions as indicated by the black lines in Figure 10a,b  
451 and Figure 11a,b. For the G-1, the flight paths are divided into regions of southwest and  
452 northeast of the black line shown in Figures 10a and 11a that is parallel to the Sierra  
453 Nevada. The two regions have significantly different vegetation (Fig. 2) resulting in large  
454 differences in biogenic emissions. For the WP-3D, the flight paths are divided into  
455 regions of south and north of the black line shown in Figures 10b and 11b to separate  
456 southern California and the Central Valley. Over southern California, the measured  
457 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios by the PTR-MS over the WP-3D are the upper  
458 limit since the PTR-MS may have a small interference in urban areas for isoprene and  
459 MVK+MACR.

460         In Figure 14, it is interesting to note that both experiments Mv20Noah and





461 Mv20CLM reasonably capture the variability seen in the G-1 isoprene+MVK+MACR  
462 measurements over the southwest region even though they underestimate the surface  
463 observations by as much as a factor of 2 at the T0 site (Fig. 12). While both experiments  
464 are slightly smaller than observed, the Mv20CLM simulated mixing ratios are a little  
465 larger than those from Mv20Noah and closer to the observations. Over the northeast  
466 region, both experiments produced similar mixing ratios that were significantly smaller  
467 than the observations, which is consistent with the comparison between the simulated and  
468 observed isoprene+MVK+MACR at the T1 site (Fig. 12). As shown in Figure 14, the  
469 Mv20CLM simulation produced somewhat larger isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios  
470 than Mv20Noah in both southern California and the Central Valley. This is consistent  
471 with the comparison at the Bakersfield and Pasadena surface sites. Both simulations also  
472 underestimate and overestimate the isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios over southern  
473 California and the Central Valley, respectively. The comparison of  
474 isoprene+MVK+MACR with aircraft observations may suggest that both experiments  
475 underestimate biogenic isoprene emissions over the forested foothills of Sierra Nevada  
476 and southern California around Los Angeles, but overestimate the emissions over the  
477 Central Valley. The model biases may also be affected, to some extent, by anthropogenic  
478 emissions with large uncertainties and the associated non-linear chemistry due to the  
479 mixing of anthropogenic and biogenic plumes [Fast et al., 2014].

480 Figure 15 shows that both experiments Mv20Noah and Mv20CLM significantly  
481 underestimate the monoterpene mixing ratios over all the regions sampled by the G-1 and  
482 WP-3D aircraft and that the differences between the simulations were negligible. The  
483 average monoterpene mixing ratios sampled by the G-1 below 1 km was comparable to



484 the surface measurement at the T0 site during the daytime, but somewhat higher than the  
485 observations at the T1 site. The simulated mixing ratios averaged along the flight tracks  
486 were much smaller than those at the two surface sites, suggesting that it may be difficult  
487 for model to simulate the large spatial heterogeneity of the monoterpene mixing ratios.  
488 This could result from the biases in biogenic monoterpene emissions and/or the chemical  
489 mechanism for monoterpene oxidation and how chemistry is coupled with turbulent  
490 mixing within the simulated convective boundary layer. It also needs to be noted that the  
491 G-1 and WP-3D measured monoterpene mixing ratios are generally below the Limit Of  
492 Detection (LOD) of instruments (0.1-0.3 ppbv). Therefore, the true monoterpene mixing  
493 ratios could be range between 0 ~ 0.1-0.3 ppbv, which may also contribute to the  
494 discrepancy between observations and simulations.

495

## 496 **4.2 Impact of vegetation distributions**

### 497 4.2.1 Biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emissions

498 Figures 6a,b and 7a,b show that the differences in biogenic isoprene and  
499 monoterpene emission distributions due to using the various vegetation datasets are larger  
500 than the differences resulting from the two land surface parameterizations. The domain  
501 summed biogenic isoprene emissions for the entire month of June are 2.3, 0.76, 1.7, and  
502  $0.92 (\times 10^9)$  mole) from the experiments of Mv21USGS, Mv21V1, Mv21V2, and  
503 Mv21V3, respectively, and biogenic monoterpene emissions are 2.5, 1.7, 1.9, and 1.1  
504  $(\times 10^8)$  mole) from the four experiments, respectively. Each of the four simulations  
505 produces high biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emission rates along the Sierra Nevada  
506 that is covered mainly by oak and pine forests. However, the different forest



507 classifications and their coverage (Table 1) produce different biogenic isoprene and  
508 monoterpene emission rates along the Sierra Nevada. Another distinct difference among  
509 these four simulations is found over the Central Valley, where the Mv21V1 and Mv21V3  
510 experiments produce significantly lower biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emissions  
511 than the Mv21USGS and Mv21V2 experiments. This results from their different spatial  
512 distributions of vegetation types. For example, the vegetation dataset in MV21USGS  
513 assigns a relatively larger fraction of vegetation over the Central Valley to broadleaf trees,  
514 which are biggest contributors of isoprene emissions (Fig. 3).

515         The differences in the spatial distributions of biogenic isoprene and monoterpene  
516 emissions due to various vegetation distributions is also illustrated by the average diurnal  
517 biogenic isoprene emission rates at the four observation sites shown in Figures 8 and 9.  
518 For example, the Mv21V3 simulation produces the largest biogenic isoprene and  
519 monoterpene emissions at three of the sites. At the T1 site over the forested foothills of  
520 the Sierra Nevada, the Mv21USGS and Mv21V3 simulations produce much larger  
521 biogenic isoprene emissions than Mv21V1 and Mv21V2. Even though forest is the  
522 dominant vegetation type along the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in all four vegetation  
523 datasets (Fig. 2), their different forest classifications and coverage result in biogenic  
524 isoprene emission rates that differ by as much as a factor of 8 at the T1 site. Similar to  
525 isoprene emissions, the Mv21USGS simulation produces the largest monoterpene  
526 emissions at the T1 site. However, the differences in monoterpene emissions among the  
527 four vegetation dataset experiments are smaller overall than that for biogenic isoprene  
528 emissions. Different vegetation distributions for a typical urban area can also lead to  
529 differences in biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emissions. For example at the urban



530 T0 and Pasadena sites, biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emission rates are almost 0 in  
531 the Mv21USGS and Mv21V1 experiments, while the rates were significant larger in the  
532 Mv21V3 experiment. This could have profound implications on local oxidant chemistry  
533 influencing urban air quality.

#### 534 4.2.2 Isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene mixing ratios

535 As expected, the differences in biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emissions  
536 among the four different vegetation distribution experiments lead to large differences in  
537 the simulated surface isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene mixing ratios (Figs.  
538 10a,b and 11a,b). Although all the four experiments simulate highest biogenic  
539 isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene mixing ratios along the forested foothills of  
540 Sierra Nevada, the Mv21V1 and Mv21V3 experiments have the lowest  
541 isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene mixing ratios, respectively, corresponding to  
542 their lowest biogenic emission rates. Over the Central Valley, Mv21USGS and Mv21V2  
543 experiments produce significantly higher isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios than the  
544 other two experiments, while Mv21V3 simulates the lowest monoterpene mixing ratios  
545 among all the experiments.

546 At the T1 site located in the forested foothills of Sierra Nevada, the Mv21V1  
547 simulation produces the lowest isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios (Fig. 12),  
548 significantly underestimating the peak concentrations during the day. In contrast, the  
549 Mv21USGS and Mv21V3 simulations reasonably capture the observed  
550 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios during the daytime. All four experiments  
551 underestimate the isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios by about a factor of 2 during the  
552 night. This may indicate that the transported isoprene+MVK+MACR from the



553 surrounding areas of T1 was too low. The negative biases of simulated  
554 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios over the areas surrounding T1 can be reflected by  
555 Figure 14 that shows all the four experiments significantly underestimate the observed  
556 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios below 1 km in the northeast area around the T1  
557 site (Fig. 10a). Figure 14 also shows that Mv21USGS and MV21V3 simulate larger  
558 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios averaged over the northeast region of northern  
559 California than Mv21V1 and Mv21V2. All four experiments produce similar surface  
560 monoterpene mixing ratios, which are smaller than that from the Mv20Noah and  
561 Mv20CLM with MEGAN v20 and are closer to the observed values particularly during  
562 the night. This is consistent with their much lower biogenic monoterpene emissions  
563 during the night (Fig. 9). The four experiments with MEGAN v21 simulate higher  
564 daytime monoterpene mixing ratios averaged along the flight tracks below 1 km than the  
565 two experiments with MEGAN v20. The simulated mixing ratios are still much lower  
566 than the aircraft observations, although the simulated surface mixing ratios are higher  
567 than the observations at the T1 site (Fig. 13). However, the aircraft measured  
568 monoterpene mixing ratios may also be higher than the true values due to the LOD of  
569 instruments (0.1-0.3 ppbv).

570 At the T0 site, an urban site, the vegetation coverage in both the Mv21USGS and  
571 Mv21V1 experiments is small so that the isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene  
572 mixing ratios are significantly lower than observed during the daytime. The Mv21V2 and  
573 Mv21V3 experiments reasonably simulate isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios during  
574 the daytime. Over the area surrounding the T0 site (i.e., the southwest area in Fig. 10a), it  
575 is interesting to note that the Mv21USGS and Mv21V2 simulations produced larger



576 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios than Mv21V1 and Mv21V3 and closer to the  
577 observations (Fig. 14). This is mainly due to the relatively large isoprene+MVK+MACR  
578 mixing ratios over the northwest corner of CARES sampling region (Fig. 10a) in the  
579 Mv21USGS and Mv21V2 simulations, consistent with the distributions of biogenic  
580 isoprene emissions over the region. The Mv21V2 and Mv21V3 simulations produced  
581 higher monoterpene mixing ratios than Mv21USGS and Mv21V1, but are still smaller  
582 than the observed values during the daytime not only for the T0 site but also for the  
583 region surrounding T0 as shown in Figure 15.

584 At the Bakersfield site, only isoprene mixing ratios were reported. The  
585 experiments often simulate significantly larger isoprene mixing ratios than the  
586 observations, except for the Mv21V1 simulation that was always too small. The Mv21V3  
587 simulation produced the highest isoprene mixing ratios among the experiments. This is  
588 consistent with its biogenic isoprene emission rates (Fig. 8). In addition, the observed  
589 surface isoprene mixing ratios show negligible diurnal variation in contrast to the  
590 experiments that produced larger diurnal variations. The Mv21V3 simulation produced  
591 peak isoprene mixing ratios during the daytime that were likely controlled by its large  
592 daytime local biogenic isoprene emission rates (Fig. 8). The Mv21USGS and Mv21V2  
593 simulations produced peak isoprene mixing ratios during the early evening, possibly the  
594 result of chemistry and transport from regions with higher biogenic emissions. All four  
595 experiments produce small diurnal variation of surface monoterpene mixing ratios. The  
596 Mv21USGS and Mv21V3 simulations produce larger monoterpene mixing ratios than the  
597 other two, consistent with their local emission rates (Fig. 9).

598 At the Pasadena site, the Mv21V3 simulation reproduces the observed diurnal



599 variation of isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios reasonably well. This is consistent  
600 with the area surrounding the Pasadena site, in which the Mv21V3 simulation produces  
601 the largest mixing ratios of isoprene+MVK+MACR both at the surface (Fig. 10b) and  
602 aloft (Fig. 14) in the vicinity of Los Angeles. The other three experiments simulated  
603 significantly smaller mixing ratios of isoprene+MVK+MACR. Although the values from  
604 the other three experiments are still smaller than the observations, they are much closer to  
605 the aircraft measurements (within a factor of 2) than at the Pasadena site (Fig. 12).  
606 Among the four vegetation sensitivity simulations, Mv21V3 produces higher surface  
607 monoterpene mixing ratios than the other three experiments, consistent with their  
608 emission rates (Fig. 9). All four vegetation sensitivity experiments produced much lower  
609 monoterpene mixing ratios below 1 km (Fig. 15), compared to the aircraft measurements  
610 over southern California that may overestimate the true values due to the LOD of  
611 instruments (0.1-0.3 ppbv).

612 As discussed previously, all four experiments simulate significantly different  
613 isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene mixing ratios over the Central Valley (Figs.  
614 10a,b and 11a,b). The Mv21USGS and Mv21V2 simulations produce much larger  
615 isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios (0.6 ppbV and 0.5 ppbV, respectively) over the  
616 Central Valley than the observed values (~0.1 ppbV). The Mv21V1 and Mv21V3  
617 simulations produce monoterpene mixing ratios much closer to observed values. This  
618 may indicate that the fraction of broadleaf trees (the main emitter over the region) over  
619 the Central Valley from the vegetation datasets USGS and VEG2 are overestimated or  
620 the biogenic emission factors estimated for the broadleaf trees are overestimated for this  
621 area. For monoterpenes, the Mv21V3 simulation was much smaller than observed, while



622 the mixing ratios from the other three experiments were more comparable. This suggests  
623 that the fraction of vegetation emitting monoterpenes is significantly underestimated over  
624 this area in the VEG3 dataset.

625

## 626 **5. Summary and discussion**

627 In this study, the latest version of MEGAN (v2.1) is coupled within the CLM4  
628 land scheme as part of WRF-Chem. Specifically, MEGAN v2.1 is implemented into the  
629 CLM4 scheme so that a consistent vegetation map can be used for estimating biogenic  
630 VOC emissions as well as surface fluxes. This is unlike the older version of MEGAN  
631 (v2.0) in the public-released WRF-Chem that uses a standalone vegetation map that  
632 differs from what is used in land surface schemes. With this improved WRF-Chem  
633 modeling framework coupled with CLM4-MEGAN v2.1, the sensitivity of biogenic VOC  
634 emissions and hence the atmospheric VOC mixing ratios to vegetation distributions is  
635 investigated. The WRF-Chem simulations are also conducted with the two land surface  
636 schemes, Noah and CLM4, with the MEGAN v2.0 scheme for biogenic emissions in each  
637 case. The comparison between the Noah and CLM4 driven MEGAN v2.0 biogenic  
638 emissions not only serves for investigating the impact of different land surface schemes  
639 on the emissions but also provides a reference for all previous studies that used the Noah  
640 land surface scheme. Experiments are conducted for June 2010 over California,  
641 compared with the measurements from the CARES and CalNex campaigns. The main  
642 findings about the modeling sensitivity to the land surface schemes and vegetation  
643 distributions include:

- 644 • The WRF-Chem simulation with the CLM4 land surface scheme and the MEGAN





645 v2.0 module (Mv20CLM) produces similar biogenic isoprene and monoterpene  
646 emissions in terms of spatial patterns, magnitudes, and diurnal variations as the one  
647 with the Noah land surface scheme (Mv20Noah) in June over California. The  
648 similarity in the biogenic emissions between the experiments using two different land  
649 schemes is primarily because of using MEGAN v2.0 and the same vegetation map in  
650 the two experiments. The spatial patterns and magnitudes of surface  
651 isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpene mixing ratios are generally similar  
652 between the two experiments with the Noah and CLM4 land surface schemes,  
653 although there are significant differences at some specific locations due to their  
654 differences in the near surface meteorology such as surface net radiation and  
655 temperature. Compared with surface and aircraft measurements, both experiments  
656 generally underestimate the daytime mixing ratios of isoprene+MVK+MACR but  
657 overestimate the nighttime mixing ratios of monoterpenes.

- 658 • The experiments with the four vegetation datasets result in much larger differences in  
659 biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emissions than the ones with the two land surface  
660 schemes. The simulated total biogenic isoprene and monoterpene emissions over  
661 California can differ by a factor of 3 among the experiments and the difference can be  
662 even larger over specific locations. The comparison of mixing ratios of  
663 isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpenes with the observations indicates the  
664 simulation biases can be largely reduced with accurate vegetation distributions over  
665 some regions of California. For example, at an observation site at the forested  
666 foothills of Sierra Nevada, two experiments with the vegetation distributions from the  
667 USGS and VEG3 datasets capture the observed daytime surface mixing ratios of



668 isoprene+MVK+MACR well, with values that are much larger than the experiments  
669 with the other two vegetation datasets.

670 • Although vegetation distributions from some datasets do significantly improve the  
671 model performance in simulating BVOCs mixing ratios more than others, the optimal  
672 vegetation dataset cannot be determined, because the improvement by vegetation  
673 datasets has dependence on both the region and BVOC species of interest. For  
674 example, over the Central Valley, the experiments with the VEG1 and VEG3  
675 vegetation datasets simulate isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios that are much  
676 closer to observations than the USGS and VEG2 datasets, while the VEG3 dataset  
677 significantly underestimates the observed monoterpene mixing ratios. Large biases  
678 over some regions of California in all the experiments with current vegetation  
679 datasets imply that more effort is needed to improve land cover datasets and/or  
680 biogenic emission factors.

681 There are still some large biases existing over some regions of California  
682 regardless of the vegetation distributions. For example, all the experiments significantly  
683 underestimate the observed isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios below an altitude of 1  
684 km over the forest-covered Sierra Nevada. Over the Pasadena area, all the experiments  
685 simulate significantly smaller monoterpene mixing ratios than observed. The biases in  
686 BVOCs identified in this study may be partly due to inaccurate vegetation distributions in  
687 all the vegetation distribution datasets. The biases can also result from the uncertainties in  
688 BVOCs emission factors for the individual types of vegetation commonly found in  
689 California. The constraints on BVOCs emission factors applied in models are limited due  
690 to sparse measurements of BVOCs emission fluxes. The MEGAN scheme in WRF-Chem



691 uses the global averaged emission factors for BVOCs emissions for each PFT. Over  
692 California, the broadleaf temperate trees are primarily oaks that have relatively higher  
693 BVOCs emission factors compared to the global mean values for temperate broadleaf  
694 trees. In addition, the needleleaf trees are pines that have relatively larger monoterpene  
695 emission factors compared to global mean values. These biases in emission factors may  
696 partly explain why all the experiments generally underestimate mixing ratios of  
697 isoprene+MVK+MACR and monoterpenes over the regions with large amounts of trees.  
698 The MEGAN scheme using the location-specified emission factor maps that accounts for  
699 species composition of trees may provide a better estimate on regional scales.

700 This study demonstrates large difference between the experiments with the two  
701 versions of MEGAN (v20 versus v21), and that MEGAN v21 results in a better  
702 comparison with the observations over some parts of the study domain. However, this  
703 difference should not be fully attributed to the improvement of MEGAN between the two  
704 versions, because the two versions also use different vegetation distributions. The results  
705 highlight the importance of sub-grid vegetation distributions in simulating biogenic  
706 emissions even at a relatively high horizontal grid spacing (e.g., 4 km in this study). The  
707 biogenic emissions can be significantly different even though the dominant vegetation  
708 within a model grid box is similar. The comparison of the simulations and the  
709 observations at the surface sites and along the aircraft tracks reflects the large spatial  
710 variability of biogenic emissions and BVOCs mixing ratios over California. It is  
711 challenging for model to capture such a spatial heterogeneity of BVOCs if the vegetation  
712 distributions are not appropriately represented in the simulation. The relatively large  
713 LOD of instruments on the aircrafts for monoterpenes compared to the true



714 concentrations also make the evaluation of simulated monoterpenes difficult. Over a  
715 region with relatively low monoterpene concentrations, an instrument with lower LOD is  
716 needed. Finally, it is also noteworthy that factors other than biogenic emissions can  
717 influence the simulated BVOCs mixing ratios over California, such as anthropogenic  
718 emissions and the oxidation mechanism of BVOCs used in simulations. Therefore,  
719 additional direct measurements of biogenic emission fluxes are needed for a better  
720 evaluation of simulated BVOCs fluxes.

721

## 722 **Code availability**

723 The WRF-Chem version 3.5.1 release can be obtained at  
724 [http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get\\_source.html](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get_source.html). Code modifications for  
725 implementing MEGANv2.1 into CLM are available upon request by contacting the  
726 corresponding author and will be released to public WRF-Chem version.

727

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741  
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1026 Zimmerman, P.: Testing of hydrocarbon emissions from vegetation, leaf litter and aquatic  
1027 surfaces and development of a method for compiling biogenic emission inventories,  
1028 Tech. Rep. EPA-450-4-70-004, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research  
1029 Triangle Park, California, USA, 1979.

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**Table 1** Average percentage of PFT's over the simulation domain

PFT # and description	USGS	VEG1	VEG2	VEG3
0 Bare soil	26.0	7.6	38.1	41.6
1 Needleleaf evergreen tree – temperate	13.0	12.5	9.1	10.7
2 Needleleaf evergreen tree - boreal	0.0	0.1	0.0	4.9
3 Needleleaf deciduous tree – boreal	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
4 Broadleaf evergreen tree – tropical	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5 Broadleaf evergreen tree – temperate	0.0	0.4	1.9	0.0
6 Broadleaf deciduous tree – tropical	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
7 Broadleaf deciduous tree – temperate	1.5	0.4	1.8	1.5
8 Broadleaf deciduous tree – boreal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
9 Broadleaf evergreen shrub - temperate	21.1	5.3	0.0	0.3
10 Broadleaf deciduous shrub – temperate	20.0	37.5	27.4	10.8
11 Broadleaf deciduous shrub – boreal	0.9	0.2	0.0	1.0
12 C <sub>3</sub> arctic grass	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.2
13 C <sub>3</sub> grass	1.0	28.0	14.9	18.9
14 C <sub>4</sub> grass	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 Crop	3.2	6.5	4.1	6.3

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<sup>1</sup>USGS is the 16-PFT dataset converted from the default 24 USGS land cover dataset based on a lookup table derived from Bonan et al. [1996];  
<sup>2</sup>VEG1 is from the PFT fractional cover product by Ke et al. [2012];  
<sup>3</sup>VEG2 is obtained from the NCAR CESM data repository [Oleson et al., 2010];  
<sup>4</sup>VEG3 is derived from a dataset over the U.S. with 16 PFT classifications by combining the National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD, Homer et al., 2004) and the Cropland Data Layer (see <http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape/>).

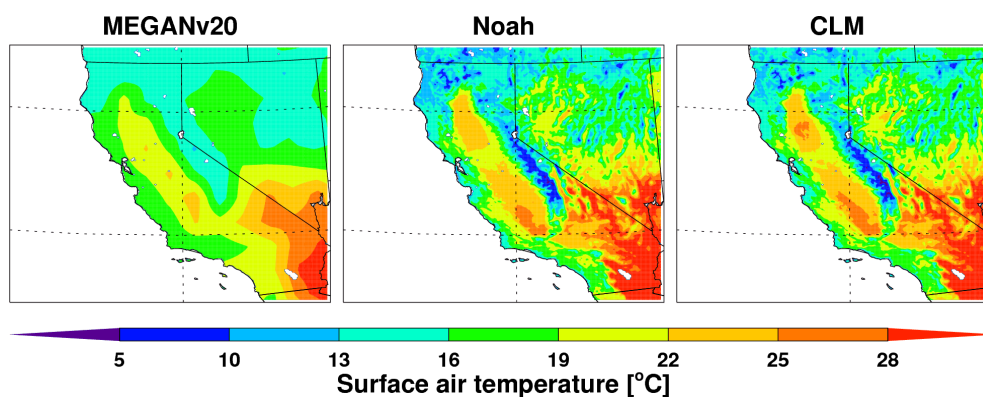
**Table 2** Experiments of WRF-Chem

	Surface scheme	BVOC scheme	Plant Function Type Dataset				
			USGS/VEG-M	USGS	VEG1	VEG2	VEG3
WRF-Chem	CLM4.0	MEGANv2.0	Mv20CLM	-	-	-	-
		MEGANv2.1	-	Mv21USGS	Mv21V1	Mv21V2	Mv21V3
	Noah	MEGANv2.0	Mv20Noah	-	-	-	-

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1064 **Figure 1** Spatial distributions of monthly mean surface air temperature in June 2010 from  
1065 the MEGAN v2.0 climatology dataset (MEANv20, prescribed) and the WRF-Chem  
1066 simulations with the Noah (Noah, simulated) and CLM4 (CLM, simulated) land surface  
1067 parameterizations.

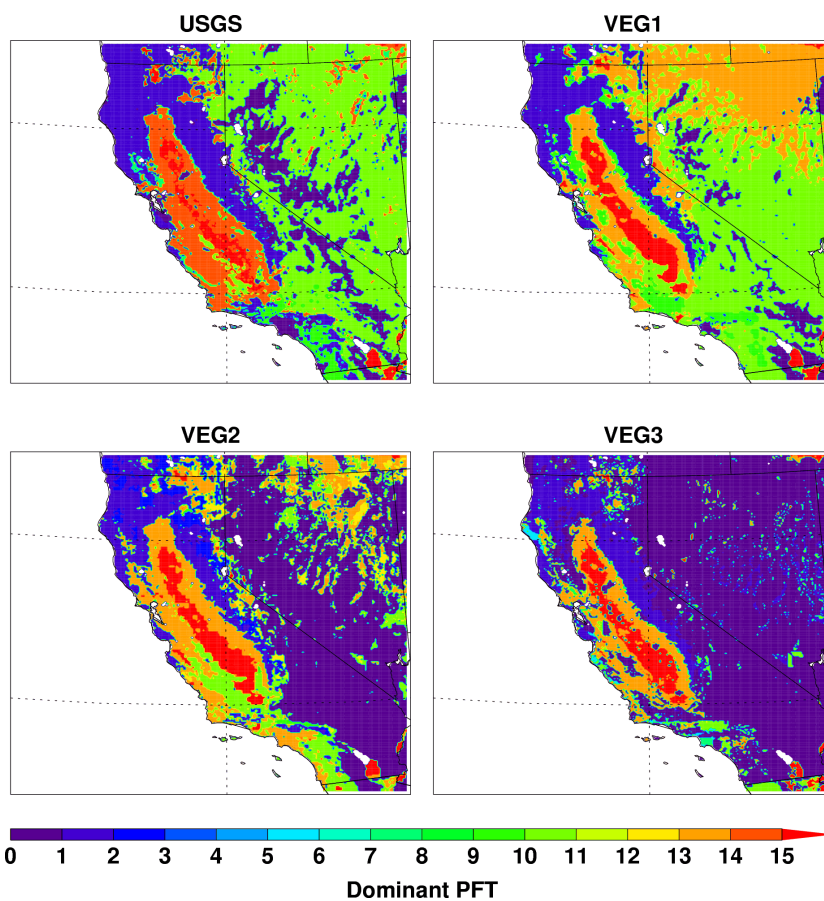
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1081 **Figure 2.** Spatial distribution of dominant PFT's over the simulation domain from the  
1082 four datasets: USGS, VEG1, VEG2, and VEG3. The PFT number is referred to the list in  
1083 Table 1.

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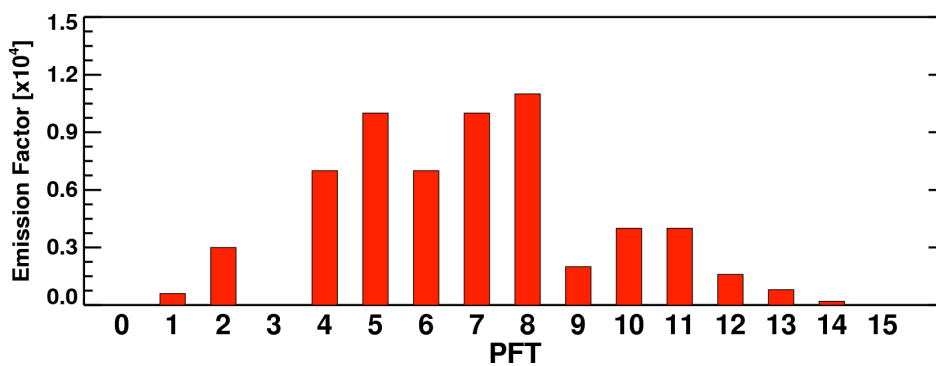
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**Figure 3.** Biogenic isoprene emission factor for each PFT in MEGAN v2.1. The PFT number is referred to the list in Table 1.



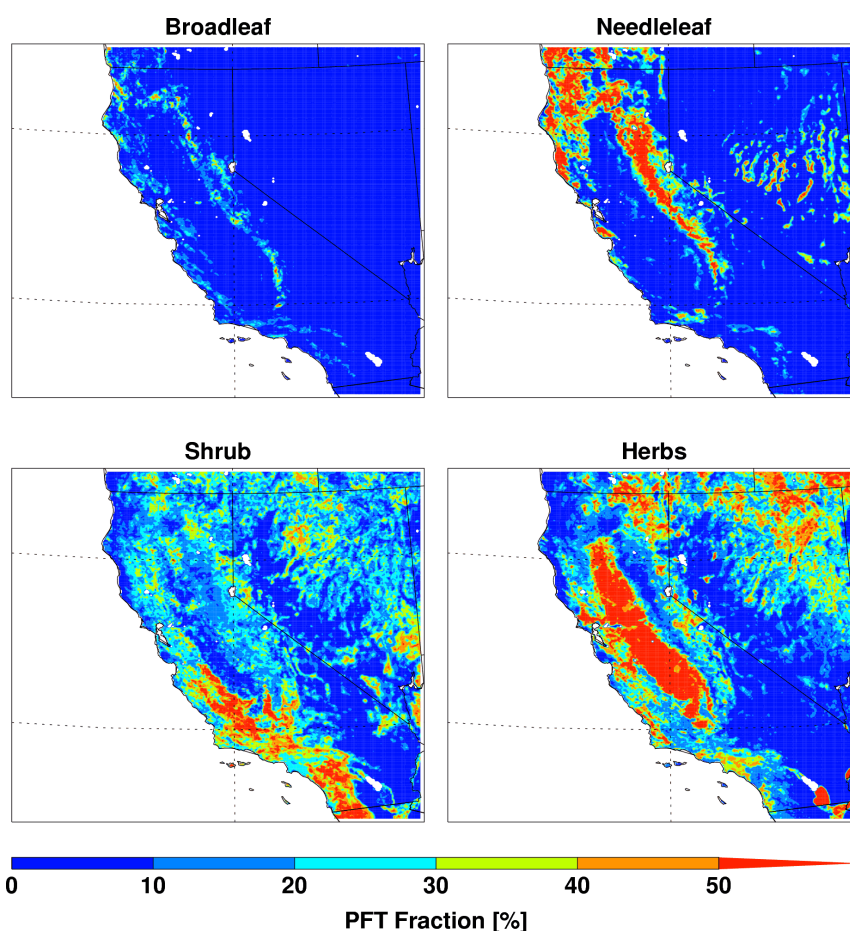
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1113 **Figure 4.** Spatial distribution of percentage of the four PFTs from the VEG-M used by  
1114 MEGAN v2.0 over the simulation domain.

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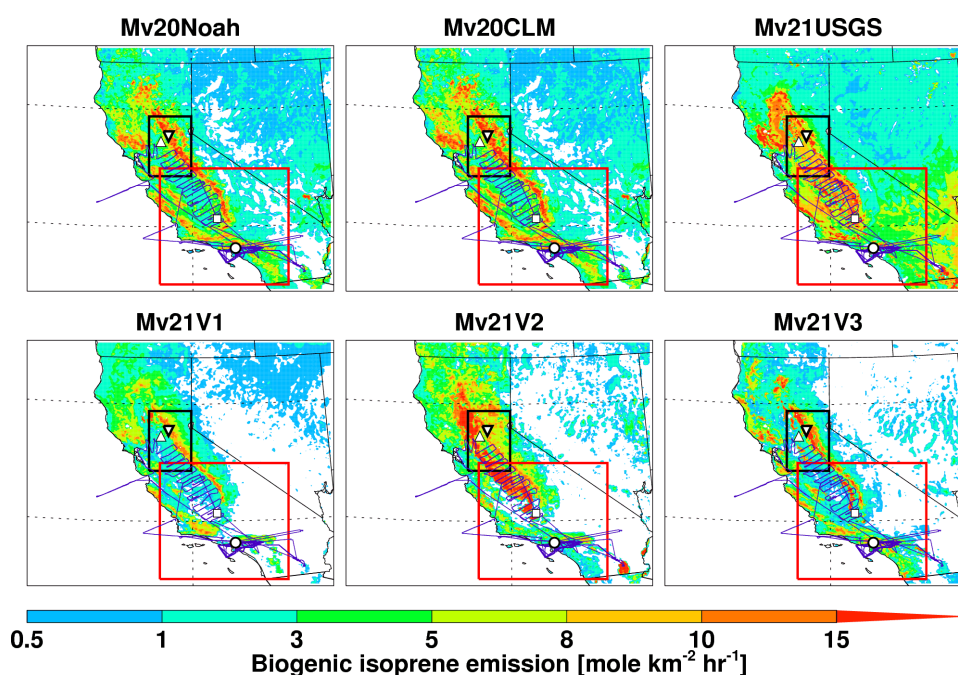
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1124 **Figure 5.** Spatial distributions of biogenic isoprene emissions averaged in June estimated  
1125 in the six simulations as listed in Table 2. The four observation sites are shown as T0  
1126 (white upward triangle), T1 (white downward triangle), Bakersfield (white square), and  
1127 Pasadena (white circle). The CalNex WP-3D flight tracks below 1 km (blue line) during  
1128 June 2010 are also shown. The black and red boxes denote the predominant CARES and  
1129 CalNex regions, respectively.

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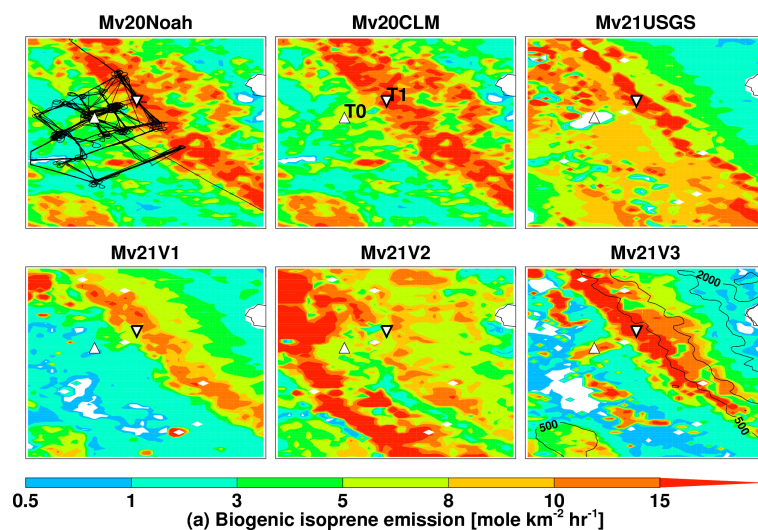
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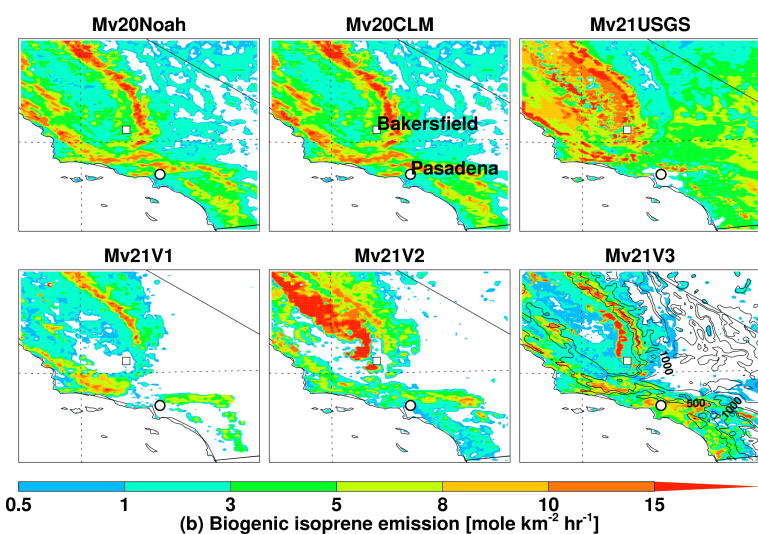


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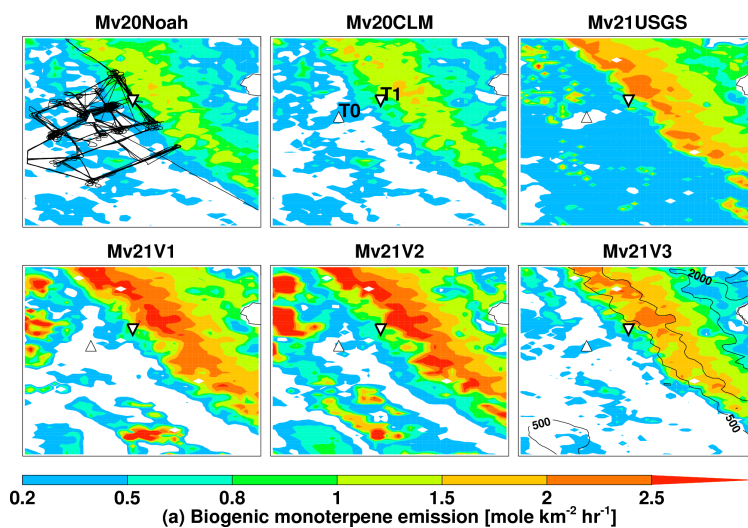
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1139 **Figure 6.** a) Spatial distributions of biogenic isoprene emissions around the CARES  
1140 observational sites T0 and T1 (the black box shown in Fig. 5) estimated in the six  
1141 simulations as listed in Table 1. The CARES G-1 flight tracks below 1 km (black line)  
1142 during June 2010 are also shown with the Mv20Noah result; the terrain height is also  
1143 shown as the black contour lines with the Mv21V3 result. b) Same as a) except around  
1144 the CalNex observational sites Bakersfield and Pasadena (the red box shown in Fig. 5).  
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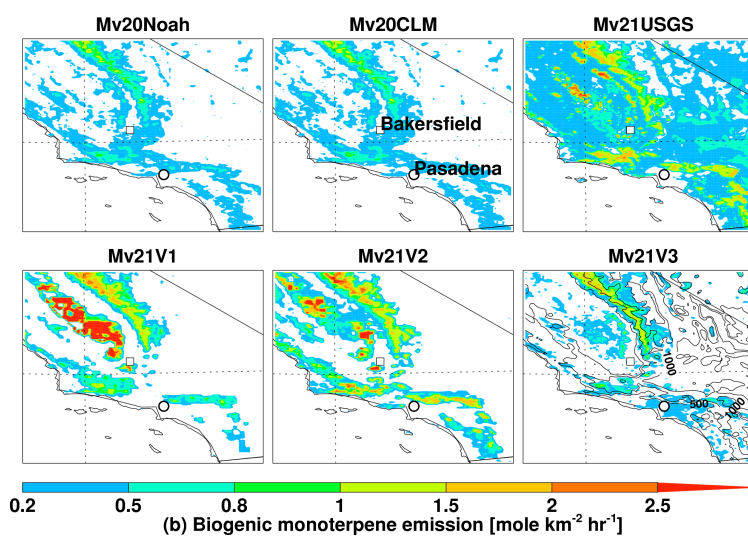


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1150 **Figure 7.** Same as Fig. 6, except for biogenic monoterpene emissions.

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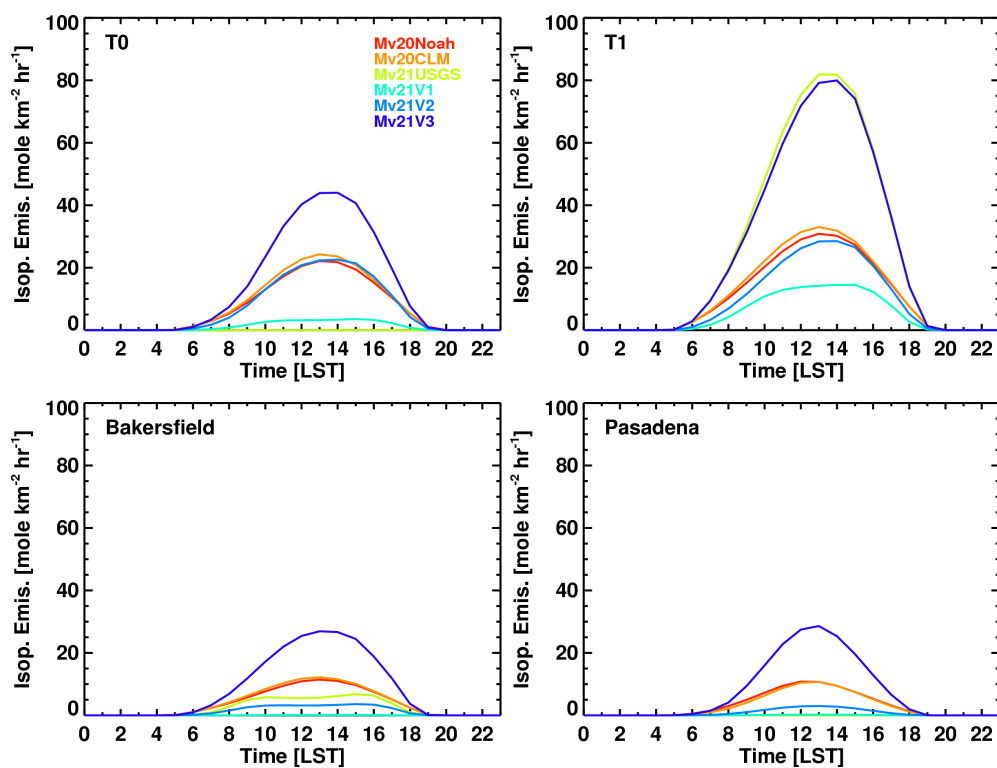
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1158 **Figure 8.** Average diurnal variation of biogenic isoprene emissions at the four

1159 observation sites from the six simulations listed in Table 1.

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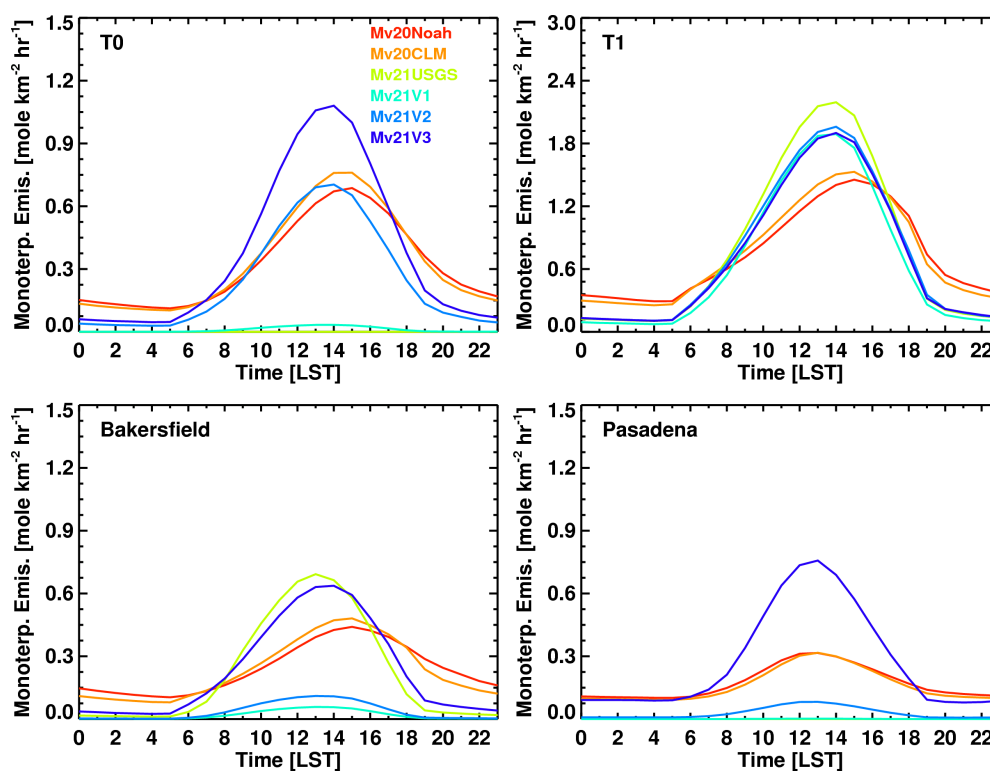
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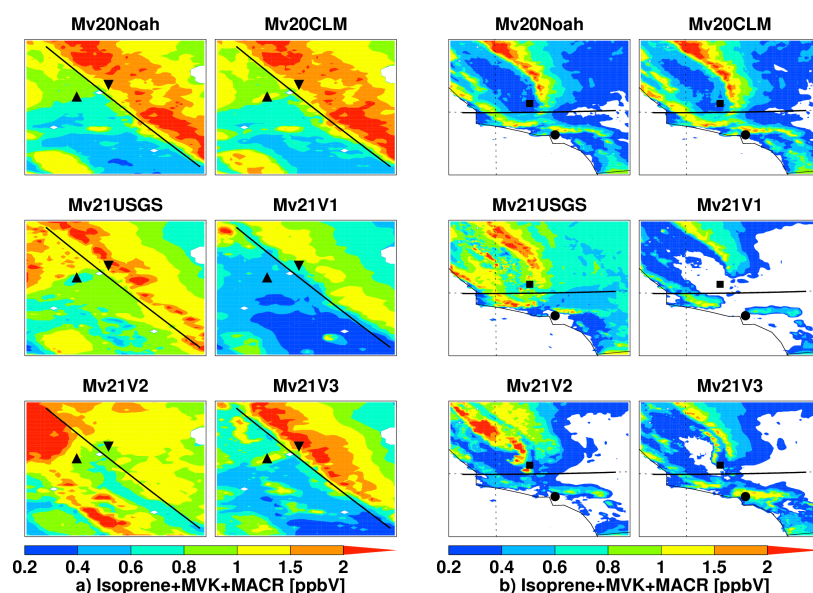


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**Figure 9.** Same as Fig.8, except for biogenic monoterpene emissions.



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1183 **Figure 10.** a) Spatial distributions of monthly averaged surface isoprene mixing ratios  
1184 around the CARES T0 and T1 observational sites from the six simulations as listed in  
1185 Table 1. The black lines parallel to the Sierra Nevada divide the region to the Southwest  
1186 and the Northeast for comparison with CARES G-1 aircraft measurements shown in Fig.  
1187 14 and 15. b) Same as a) except around the CalNex observational sites Bakersfield and  
1188 Pasadena. The black lines divide the region to southern California and the Central Valley  
1189 for comparison with CalNex WP-3D aircraft measurements shown in Fig. 14 and 15.  
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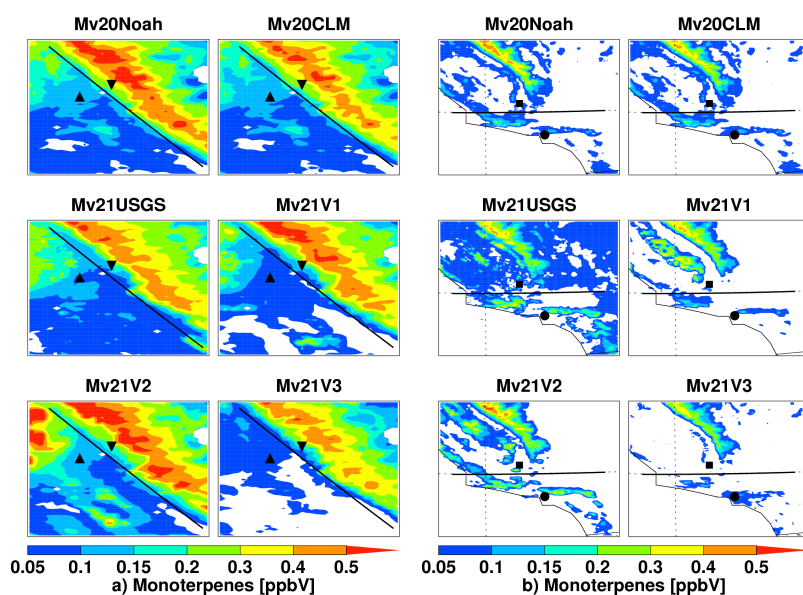


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1201 **Figure 11.** Same as Fig. 10, except for monoterpene.

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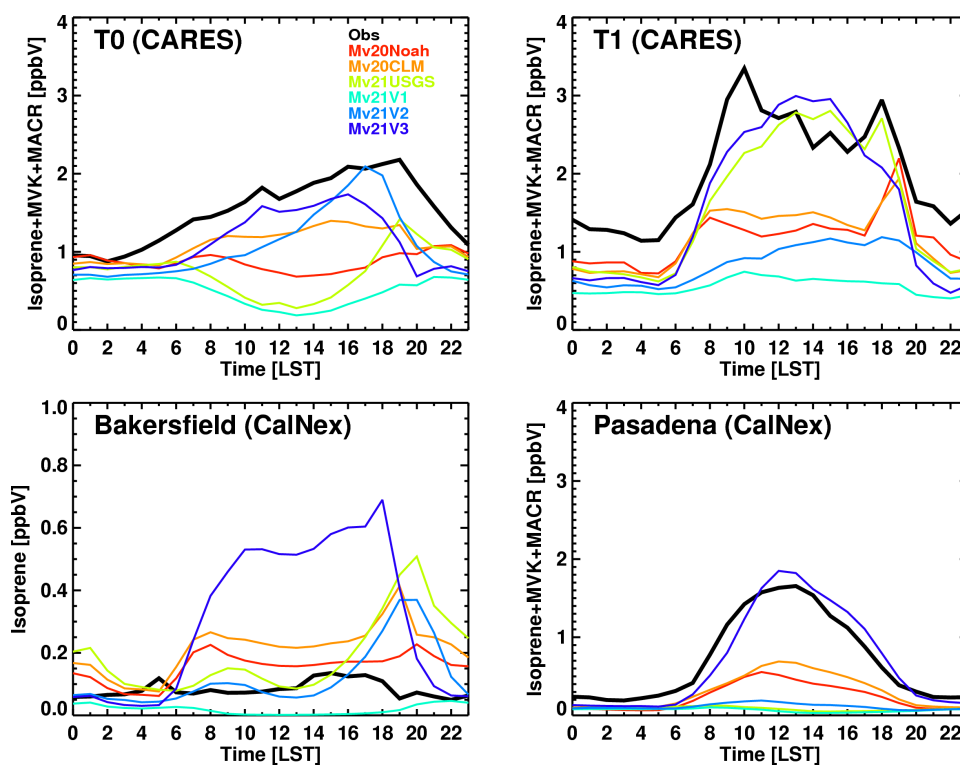
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1216 **Figure 12.** Monthly averaged diurnal variation of surface isoprene mixing ratios at the  
1217 four observation sites from the observations and six simulations listed in Table 2. The  
1218 simulated values for the Bakersfield and Pasadena sites are averaged for the first two  
1219 weeks of June to be consistent with the observations.

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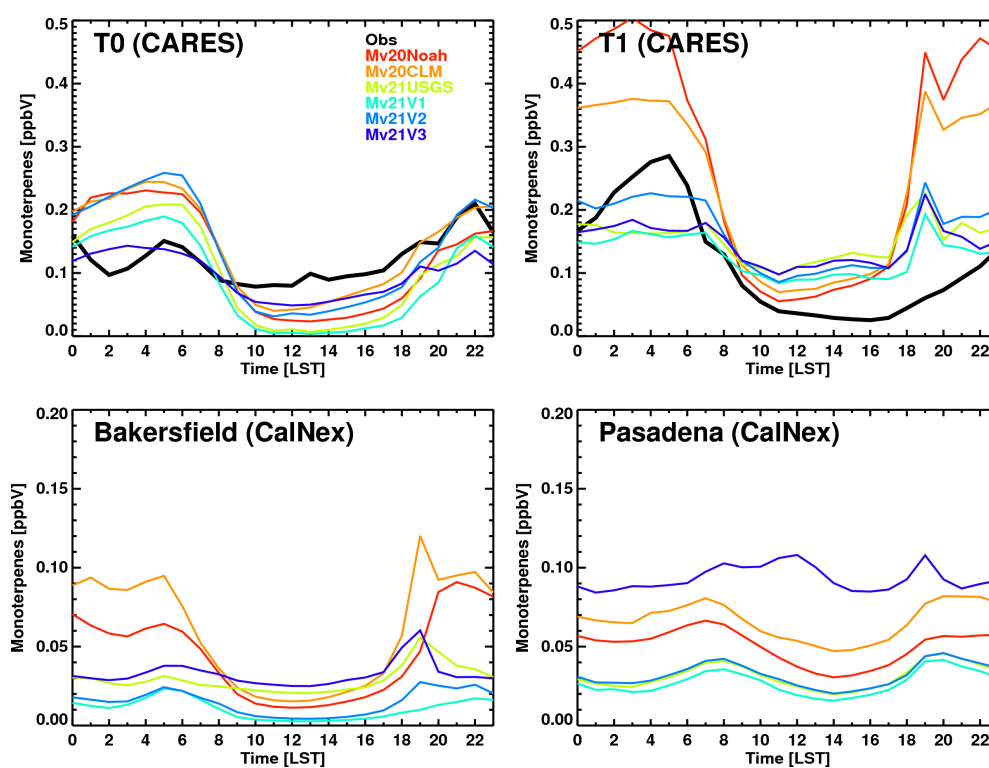
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1229 **Figure 13.** Monthly averaged diurnal variation of surface monoterpene mixing ratios at

1230 the four observation sites from the observations and six simulations as listed in Table 2.

1231 There are no observations for the Bakersfield and Pasadena sites in June.

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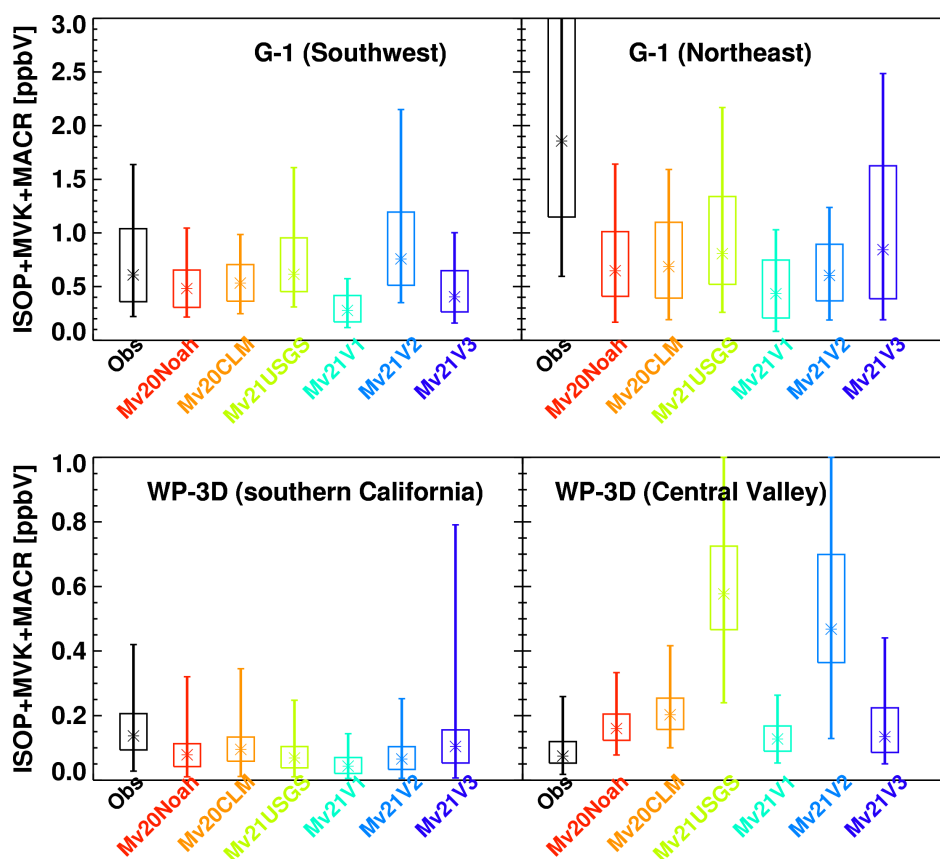
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1241 **Figure 14.** Comparison of isoprene+MVK+MACR mixing ratios averaged below 1 km  
 1242 from the observations by G-1 flights over the Southwest and Northeast regions (as  
 1243 marked in Fig. 10a) and WP-3D flights over southern California and the Central Valley  
 1244 (as marked in Fig. 10b) and the corresponding simulations. Asterisk denotes the 50<sup>th</sup>  
 1245 percentiles. Vertical lines denote 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles, and the boxes denote the 25<sup>th</sup>  
 1246 and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles.

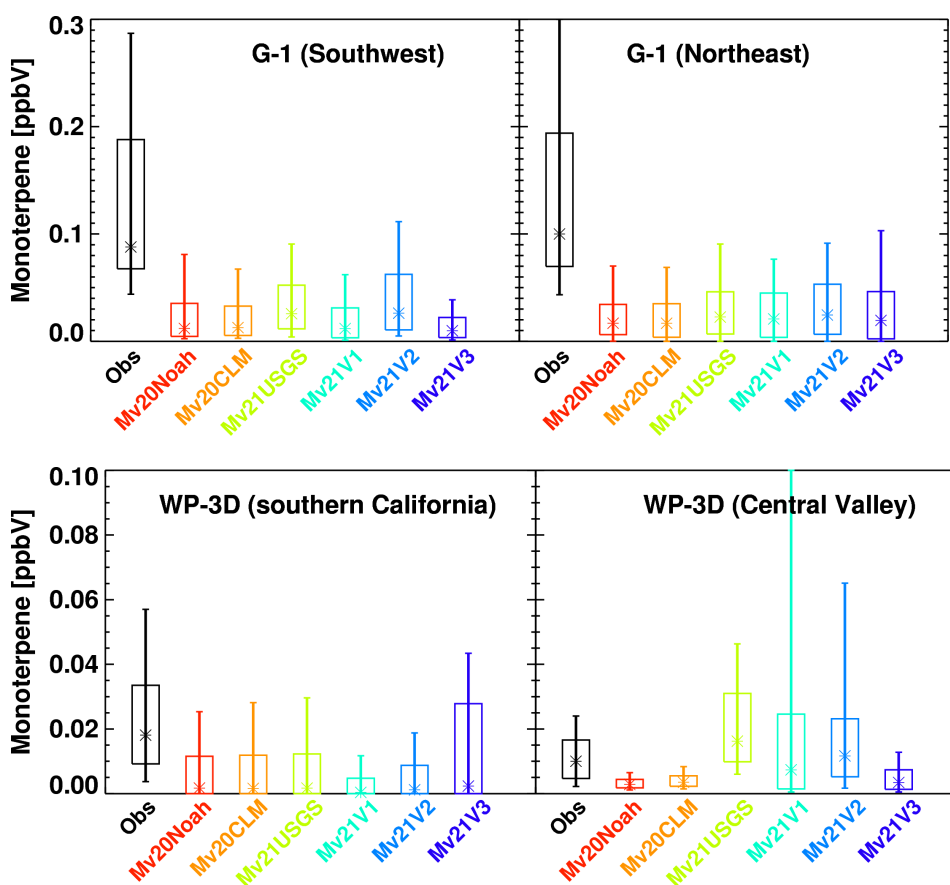
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Figure 15. Same as Fig. 14 except for monoterpene mixing ratios.