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Inverse modelling of European CH_4 emissions during 2006–2012 using different inverse models and reassessed atmospheric observations

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S1. Atmospheric models

The atmospheric models used in this study are described in the following (see also Table 3 of paper).

S1.1 TM5-4DVAR

The TM5-4DVAR inverse modelling system is described in detail by *Meirink et al.* [2008], and subsequent updates by *Bergamaschi et al.* [2010; 2015]. TM5-4DVAR is based on the two-way nested atmospheric zoom model TM5 [*Krol et al.*, 2005]. In this study we apply the zooming with 1°×1° resolution over Europe, while the global domain is simulated at a horizontal resolution of 6° (longitude) × 4° (latitude). TM5 is an offline transport model, driven by meteorological fields from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA-Interim reanalysis [*Dee et al.*, 2011]. Here, we employ an updated TM5 version using 3-hourly ERA-Interim interpolated meteorological fields (while previous versions used 6-hourly data for the 3-dimensional meteorological fields). 25 vertical layers are used (defined as a subset of the 60 layers of the ERA-Interim reanalysis). For non-resolved vertical mixing by deep and shallow cumulus convection the parameterisation of *Tiedtke* [1987] is used. Vertical turbulent mixing near the surface has been parameterised according to *Holtslag and Moeng* [1991], and in the free troposphere the parametric model of *Louis* [1979] is applied. The capability of TM5 to simulate the boundary layer dynamics has been evaluated in detail by *Koffi et al.* [2016].

The 4-dimensional variational (4DVAR) optimization technique minimizes iteratively a cost function using the adjoint of the tangent linear model [*Krol et al.*, 2008; *Meirink et al.*, 2008] and the m1qn3 algorithm [*Gilbert and Lemaréchal*, 1989] for minimization. We apply a 'semi-lognormal' description of the probability density function (pdf) for the 'a priori' emissions to force the 'a posteriori' emissions to remain positive [*Bergamaschi et al.*, 2010; *Bergamaschi et al.*, 2015]. In inversions S1, S2, and S4, four groups of CH_4 emissions are optimized independently: (1) wetlands, (2) rice, (3) biomass burning, and (4) all remaining sources [*Bergamaschi et al.*, 2015]. We assume uncertainties of 100% per grid-cell and month for each source group and apply a spatial correlation scale length of 200 km in S1, S2, and S4. The temporal correlation timescales are set to zero for wetlands, rice, and biomass burning, and 12 months for the 'remaining' CH_4 sources. In S3, only total emissions are optimized, using a homogeneous distribution of emissions over land and over the ocean, respectively, as starting point for the optimization (as described in *Bergamaschi et al.* [2010; 2015]). In this case, uncertainties of 500% per grid-cell and month, a spatial correlation scale length of 50 km, and a temporal correlation timescale of 1 month are applied. The photochemical sinks of CH_4 in the troposphere (OH), and stratosphere (OH, Cl, and $O(^1D)$) are simulated as described in *Bergamaschi et al.* [2010]. The use of different global OH fields (and different spatial correlation lengths between 100 and 300 km) has been investigated by *Bergamaschi et al.* [2010], which showed only a very small impact on the derived European CH_4 emissions. For the continuous CH_4 measurements from the InGOS stations, the given "working standard repeatability" (see section 2 of main paper) has been used as observation error (using a minimum error of 3 ppb), while for the discrete air samples a constant observation error of 3 ppb was applied. The model representation error is estimated as a function of local emissions and 3-dimensional gradients of simulated mole fractions [*Bergamaschi et al.*, 2010].

S1.2 TM5-CTE

The TM5-CTE inverse modelling system is described in detail by *Tsuruta et al.* [2017]. The system uses TM5 similarly to TM5-4DVAR, but with a slightly different zoom area that extends to northern Europe (up to 74°N latitude). As TM5-4DVAR, it uses 25 vertical layers and pre-calculated 3-hourly meteorology from ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis. The photochemical sink of CH_4 due to tropospheric and stratospheric OH, and stratospheric Cl and $O(^1D)$ was pre-calculated based on *Houweling et al.* [2014] and *Brühl and Crutzen* [1993] and not adjusted in the optimization scheme. The optimization scheme is based

on the Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF) [*Evensen*, 2003], with a fixed-lag smoother [*Peters et al.*, 2005]. Emissions were optimized region-wise at weekly (7 days) resolution with an ensemble size of 500 and a lag of 5 weeks. In this study, we report monthly emission estimates aggregated from the weekly estimates. Regions were defined based on 15 modified TransCom regions and six land-ecosystem types (LET) [*Tsuruta et al.*, 2017]. Overall, the number of regions optimized was 58 globally. In inversion S1, S2 and S4, CH_4 emission estimates for anthropogenic and biospheric (LPX-Bern v1.0 [*Spahni et al.*, 2013]) sources were optimized independently. In addition, CH_4 emission estimates for biomass burning (GFED v3 [*Randerson et al.*, 2013; *van der Werf et al.*, 2010], termites [*Ito and Inatomi*, 2012], and ocean [*Lambert and Schmidt*, 1993] were included, but these were not optimized in the system. In the flat prior inversion (S3), the sum of anthropogenic and biosphere emission sources were optimized.

In all inversions, Gaussian probability density functions (pdfs) were used, and the prior uncertainty was assumed 80% of the emissions per region. Errors in the prior emissions were assumed to be uncorrelated between the different LETs. Within each LET, the spatial correlation scale length was set to 900 km. Observation errors were assumed to be uncorrelated in space and time. For InGOS stations, the working standard repeatability reported for the InGOS observation data set was used as the measurement error. The model representation errors are assigned to the individual sites according to their location and model ability to reproduce atmospheric CH_4 at each sites, which ranged from 7.5 ppb to 75 ppb.

S1.3 LMDZ-4DVAR

The LMDz-PYVAR inverse system is based on the offline and adjoint models of the Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, version 4 (LMDz) general circulation model [*Hourdin and Armengaud*, 1999; *Hourdin et al.*, 2006]. LMDz-PYVAR uses pre-computed air masses by the LMDz on-line general circulation model nudged to the ERA-Interim horizontal wind to get appropriate meteorology. The LMDz-PYVAR inverse system has been extensively described in *Chevallier et al.* [2005] and in *Pison et al.* [2009] for LMDz-PYVAR-SACS, which includes the oxidation chain of methane. Here the zooming capability of the model has been applied over Europe as in *Bergamaschi et al.* [2015]. Using the zoom, the model grid is stretched in order to get a resolution of around 1.2°(longitude) × 0.8°(latitude) resolution over Europe while keeping the same number of horizontal grid cells (96 in longitude and 73 in latitude), leading to a maximum grid size of 7.2°×3.6°. In the vertical, 19 hybrid pressure levels extend from the surface to about 3 hPa. This corresponds to a vertical resolution of about 300-500 m in the planetary boundary layer (first level at 70 m height) and to a resolution of about 2 km at the tropopause (with 7-9 levels in the stratosphere). The 4-dimensional variational optimization technique minimizes iteratively a cost function using the adjoint of the tangent linear model and the M1QN3 algorithm for minimization [*Gilbert and Lemaréchal*, 1989]. The chemistry module includes sinks of methane through tropospheric and stratospheric OH and stratospheric $O(^1D)$ oxidation. The total net emissions of methane are optimized at the grid-cell resolution for 8-days periods. Gaussian probability density functions (pdfs) were used for all inversions. Uncertainties are set at 100% per grid-cell and per period with a spatial correlation scale length of 500 km for all inversions, except inversion S3 where the uncertainties were set at 600%. The given "working standard repeatability" provided for the INGOS sites has been used as observation error (using a minimum error of 3 ppb). For other sites a constant observations error of 3 ppb was applied. The model error, larger than the instrumental error, has been quadratically added and depends on the model performance at each site, ranging from 15 ppb to 100 ppb. The OH concentration fields are based on the Transcom OH dataset [*Patra et al.*, 2011; *Spivakovsky et al.*, 2000] and are simultaneously inverted using methyl-chloroform observations [*Pison et al.*, 2009].

S1.4 TM3-STILT

In the Jena inversion system, regional-scale high-resolution inversions are performed with the coupled TM3-STILT system. TM3-STILT [*Trusilova et al.*, 2010] is based on a combination of the fine-scale regional Stochastic Time-Inverted Lagrangian Transport model STILT [*Gerbig et al.*, 2003; *Lin et al.*, 2003] and the coarse-grid global 3-dimensional atmospheric offline transport model TM3 [*Heimann and Koerner*, 2003], coupled according to the two-step nesting scheme of *Rödenbeck et al.* [2009]. This nesting scheme allows the use of completely independent models for the representation of global and regional transport and hence facilitates an easy exchange of either component. The same variational inversion algorithm [*Rödenbeck*, 2005] is applied in the global and in the regional inversion step of the Jena inversion system. In this study, the global transport model TM3 is used with a spatial resolution of 4°×5° and 26 vertical levels, driven by 3-hourly ERA-Interim reanalysis [*Dee et al.*, 2011]. STILT is driven by meteorological fields from ECMWF operational analysis, used here with a spatial resolution of 0.25°×0.25° and confined to the lowest 61 vertical layers. The regional TM3-STILT inversions are conducted in this study on a 0.25°×0.25° horizontal resolution grid covering the greater part of Europe (15°W-35°E, 33°N-73°N). Chemical processes are only taken into account in the global model simulations, where the photochemical sinks of CH_4 are parameterized using the same pre-optimized monthly OH fields and stratospheric sink as described in *Patra et al.* [2011]. On the regional scale CH_4 is treated as a conservative tracer because of its relatively long lifetime. In all TM3-STILT inversions, the total emissions are optimized. In all inversions, Gaussian probability density functions (pdfs) were used for the prior uncertainties. Uncertainties of 100% per grid cell and month, with a spatial correlation scale length of 300 km and a temporal correlation time scale of 1 month, are assumed in the regional inversions S1, S2, and S4, whereas the uncertainties are set to 500% with a correlation scale length of 60 km in S3. The "working standard repeatability" reported for the InGOS data set was used as estimate of the observation error. For all other stations the observation error was set to 3 ppb. Model representation errors are assigned to the individual sites according to their location with respect to continental, remote or oceanic situations [*Rödenbeck*, 2005], ranging from 45 ppb to 15 ppb, respectively.

Sensitivity studies for S1 are also carried out using the same modular nesting technique to couple STILT with the global baseline provided by TM5-4DVAR results for the S4 case. The regional inversion step itself is again performed in the Jena inversion system. This combination is referred to as TM5-STILT in the presentation of results.

S1.5 NAME

The Met Office's inverse modelling system (InTEM = Inversion Technique for Emission Modelling) using the NAME Lagrangian atmospheric dispersion model has evolved since the work of *Manning et al.* [2011] and the NitroEurope project [*Bergamaschi et al.*, 2015] and is now based on a Bayesian methodology. Gaussian probability density functions (pdfs) were used for all inversions. The "working standard repeatability" reported in the InGOS data set was used as observation error. Model-measurement mismatch errors were also applied to each measurement and they were calculated using a metric based on the modelled wind speed and boundary layer height. Times of low wind speed or boundary layer height were assigned high uncertainty on a sliding scale depending on these values. In addition these model errors were inflated based on the difference between the model release height above sea level and the true altitude of the observation. 200 km horizontal and 12 hour observation correlations were applied in the inversions. Grid boxes (0.5625° × 0.375° for period 01/2006-03/2010 and 0.3516° × 0.2344° for 03/2010-12/2012) were aggregated based on the sensitivity of measurements to emissions, creating around 100-150 course grid regions within the inversion domain (23.8° W - 39.2° E, 31.6° N - 79.6° N). A non-negative least square solver was used to optimise the solution thus preventing negative emissions from being estimated. The prior grid of emissions was given an uncertainty so that the UK had an aggregated uncertainty of 40%. All measurements were included in the inversion, averaged into 3-hourly time periods, except those from the high altitude mountain stations Jungfraujoch (JFJ), Pic du Midi

(PDM), and Kasprowy Wierch (KAS). These were considered to have a too severe mismatch between the modelled and actual altitude to be correctly interpreted. A total of eleven extra 'boundary condition' variables were estimated as part of the inversion. The CH_4 composition of air arriving into the domain was considered a variable within the inversion. A prior time-series was calculated using data at Mace Head when well-mixed 'clean' air arrived from the North Atlantic Ocean and the inversion then used eleven multiplying factors to calculate posterior mole fractions of the background air arriving from eight horizontal (SSE, SSW, WSW,…, ESE) boundaries at 0-6 km, two boundaries (north and south) from 6 to 9 km, and a boundary at 9 km (upper troposphere to stratosphere).

S1.6 CHIMERE

The CHIMERE inversion system is fully described and evaluated in *Berchet et al.* [2015a; 2015b]. It relies on forward transport simulations with the Eulerian mesoscale chemistry transport model CHIMERE [*Menut et al.*, 2013] on a limited-area domain covering all Europe. Boundary conditions are taken from global LMDz inversions [*Bousquet et al.*, 2011], interpolated at the border of the CHIMERE domain, and further optimized in the regional inversion. The transport operator **H** is explicitly computed from the influence of a set of separated "emission regions" (50 emission sub-regions in Europe + boundary conditions interpolated at the border of the CHIMERE domain from LMDz global simulations as described in *Bousquet et al.* [2011]) on the observation sites. The 3-dimensional domain embraces roughly all the troposphere with 29 vertical layers geometrically spaced from the surface to 300 hPa. The domain is simulated with a horizontal resolution of 40 km x 40 km, with meteorological fields interpolated from 3-hourly ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis. The CHIMERE inversion system is an analytical system explicitly solving the posterior state vector $\mathbf{x}^a$ and posterior uncertainties $\mathbf{P}^a$. To account for the uncertainties in the prior error matrices **R** and **B**, the posterior probability density function $p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}^0 - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}^b, \mathbf{x}^b)$ is computed as a weighted sum of the marginal Gaussian pdfs $p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}^0 - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}^b, \mathbf{x}^b, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{B})$. This so-called marginalized inversion is implemented through a Monte-Carlo experiment of 60'000 (**R**, **B**) matrix couples. The distribution of possible (**R**, **B**) couples in the Monte Carlo sampling is deduced from a maximum likelihood algorithm following *Dee* [1995]. Therefore, uncertainty matrices are computed in the inversion system itself, and not prescribed based on expert knowledge. About 2/3 of observations are removed because of too high prior mismatches model-observation differences. For the remaining observations which are used in the inversion, the combined measurement and model uncertainties range between 1 to 10 ppb. The system is applied to scenario S4 for the year 2010 only.

S1.7 COMET

The COMET model is a Lagrangian model that can be used for both predictive and inverse modelling purposes [*Eisma et al.*, 1995; *Vermeulen et al.*, 1999; *Vermeulen et al.*, 2006]. COMET uses backward trajectories to establish the source-receptor relationship, the so-called source-receptor matrix (SRM). The calculations described in this paper were performed using trajectory and mixing layer height data derived from 3-hourly resolution ECMWF ERA-Interim meteorological data at 1 degree longitude / latitude resolution, interpolated to 10 × 10 minutes (0.17° × 0.17°) resolution. All 60 vertical model layers of the ERA-Interim are used in the FLEXTRA V5 trajectory model [*Stohl and Seibert*, 1998] to calculate 3-D 144 h backward trajectories from the ECMWF wind fields for all observation stations and arrival heights. The GRIB encoded fields required by FLEXTRA were generated using the FLEXPART/FLEXTRA preprocessing routines V4.

To account for mixing of the source signal in the planetary boundary layer with the free troposphere, two vertical layers are distinguished in the COMET model, a mixing layer and a reservoir layer. The initial tracer concentration at the start of each trajectory is taken in this case from the TM5-4DVAR optimised concentration fields at 1°×1° resolution over Europe and at

global 6°×4° resolution (outside the European TM5 zoom domain) depending on the location. The height of the planetary boundary layer is taken from the ECMWF analysed BLH (GRIB code 159 parameter). All emissions are first accumulated in this mixed layer and when the mixed layer height changes, mass transfer takes place with the reservoir layer.

The area that influences the concentrations in the column of air in the mixed layer is assumed to be circular and the diameter of this circle is assumed to change linearly with travel time; from large (80 km) at the start (-144 hours) of the backward trajectory to small (20 km) at the destination. This cone-shaped trajectory path defines a highly simplified parametrised form of the real region of influence, determined by advection, convection and turbulent diffusion.

In inverse mode the model stores for each time step the sensitivity to emissions on a grid of 0.1°×0.1° within the domain over western Europe and the difference between measured concentration **C** and background concentration $\mathbf{C_{back}}$ at the start of each trajectory. Uncertainties of 30% per grid cell were assumed for the prior emissions (using Gaussian probability density functions). Tall tower measurements are evaluated using all measurements below the instantaneous BLH at the position of the tower as best estimate of the bulk concentration in the mixed layer. When the trajectory is at any point in time above the boundary layer, no sensitivity is added for that point. When the BLH changes the whole sensitivity matrix for that time step is scaled with the calculated dilution factor between reservoir and mixed layer. Model errors ranging between 17 and 102 ppb were assumed for the different stations (but measurement error were not considered separately).The accumulated sensitivity matrix over an evaluation period is normalized by finding the grid square with maximum sensitivity. Starting from that point a recursive routine aggregates neighbouring grid points two by two until the joined area has a sensitivity equal or larger than the maximum. This reduces the sensitivity matrix **S** of 400×600 to a vector **s** of about 200 emission regions with members filled with numbers of the same order of magnitude, thereby improving stability of the following inversion routine. For each aggregated grid area also the average emission for each region is calculated as a prior emission estimate vector **E**. The system $\mathbf{C}$-$\mathbf{C_{back}}$=**E**.**s** is solved for the unknown values of **E** using a Singular Value Decomposition method [*Press et al.*, 1992]. Areas with high variability of the best fitting emission are assigned the prior emission value for that region (contributions from these areas are removed from the $\mathbf{C}$-$\mathbf{C_{back}}$ vector), and areas with high covariance with other areas are aggregated. The SVD inversion is repeated recursively until a stable solution has been reached. The COMET inversion method has been tested extensively and always reaches an excellent fit with aggregated prior emissions in synthetic inversions, despite the distortion of the source areas into lumped areas due to the aggregation. It could be applied to any SRM, including those from more sophisticated LPDM's, but is applied here to a simple trajectory model as this enables the system to do a full inversion for a one year period on a single PC in about 15 minutes.

S2. Evaluation of integrated enhancement of observations and model simulations compared to the background

The enhancements of observations and model simulations are evaluated as difference of the measurements / model simulations and the background mole fractions, (1) integrated over the entire boundary layer, and (2) integrated over the lower troposphere up to ~3-4 km. The enhancements of observations and model simulations, integrated over the boundary layer, are denoted as $\Delta c_{OBS\,BL}$ and $\Delta c_{MOD,\,BL}$, respectively, and are evaluated as follows:

$$\Delta c_{OBS,BL} = \frac{1}{p_{surf} - p_{BLH}}\left[(p_{surf} - p_1)\,(c_{OBS,1} - c_{BG,1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1}(p_i - p_{i+1})\frac{(c_{OBS,i} - c_{BG,i}) + (c_{OBS,i+1} - c_{BG,i+1})}{2} + (p_k - p_{BLH})\,(c_{OBS,k} - c_{BG,k})\right]$$

and

$$\Delta c_{MOD,BL} = \frac{1}{p_{surf} - p_{BLH}} \left[(p_{surf} - p_1)\,(c_{MOD,1} - c_{BG,1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (p_i - p_{i+1}) \frac{(c_{MOD,i} - c_{BG,i}) + (c_{MOD\,i+1} - c_{BG,i+1})}{2} + (p_k - p_{BLH})\,(c_{MOD,k} - c_{BG,k}) \right]$$

where p_{surf} is the surface pressure (taken from ECMWF ERA-INTERIM based meteorological fields in TM5), p_i the pressure at which aircraft measurements were taken, $c_{OBS,i}$, $c_{MOD,i}$, $c_{BG,i}$ the dry air mole fractions of observations, model simulations, and (simulated) background, respectively (for level i). p_k is the uppermost level within the boundary layer, and p_{BLH} the pressure of the top of the boundary layer (taken from TM5). The applied formula implies extrapolation of the lowermost measurement ($c_{OBS,1}$) (or model simulations) to the surface and of the uppermost measurements ($c_{OBS,k}$) (or model simulation) to the top of the boundary layer. We use only profiles for which (1) at least 2 measurements within the boundary layer are available, (2) $\Delta c_{OBS,\,BL}$ is equal or greater than 20 ppb, and (3) the boundary layer is at least 500 m.

The background mole fractions for observations and model simulations for all global models (i.e. TM5-4DVAR, TM5-CT, and LMDZ) are calculated by TM5-4DVAR (based on the scheme of *Rödenbeck et al.* [2009]), using the TM5-4DVAR zoom domain (which is the domain shown in Figure 2 and Figures S1-S3). For STILT and NAME, the background CH_4 of the observations ($c_{BK,\,i}$) is calculated (by TM5-4DVAR) for the STILT and NAME domains, respectively, while for the evaluation of the model enhancements the actual background applied in the NAME and STILT inversions is used (i.e. based on observations at Mace Head (NAME), and global TM3 inversions (STILT), respectively).The integration over the total column (lower troposphere) is performed in a similar way as the integration over the boundary layer described above, using the entire profile (for ORL, HNG, and BIK), typically extending up to ~3-4 km (and without any extrapolation of the uppermost sample)

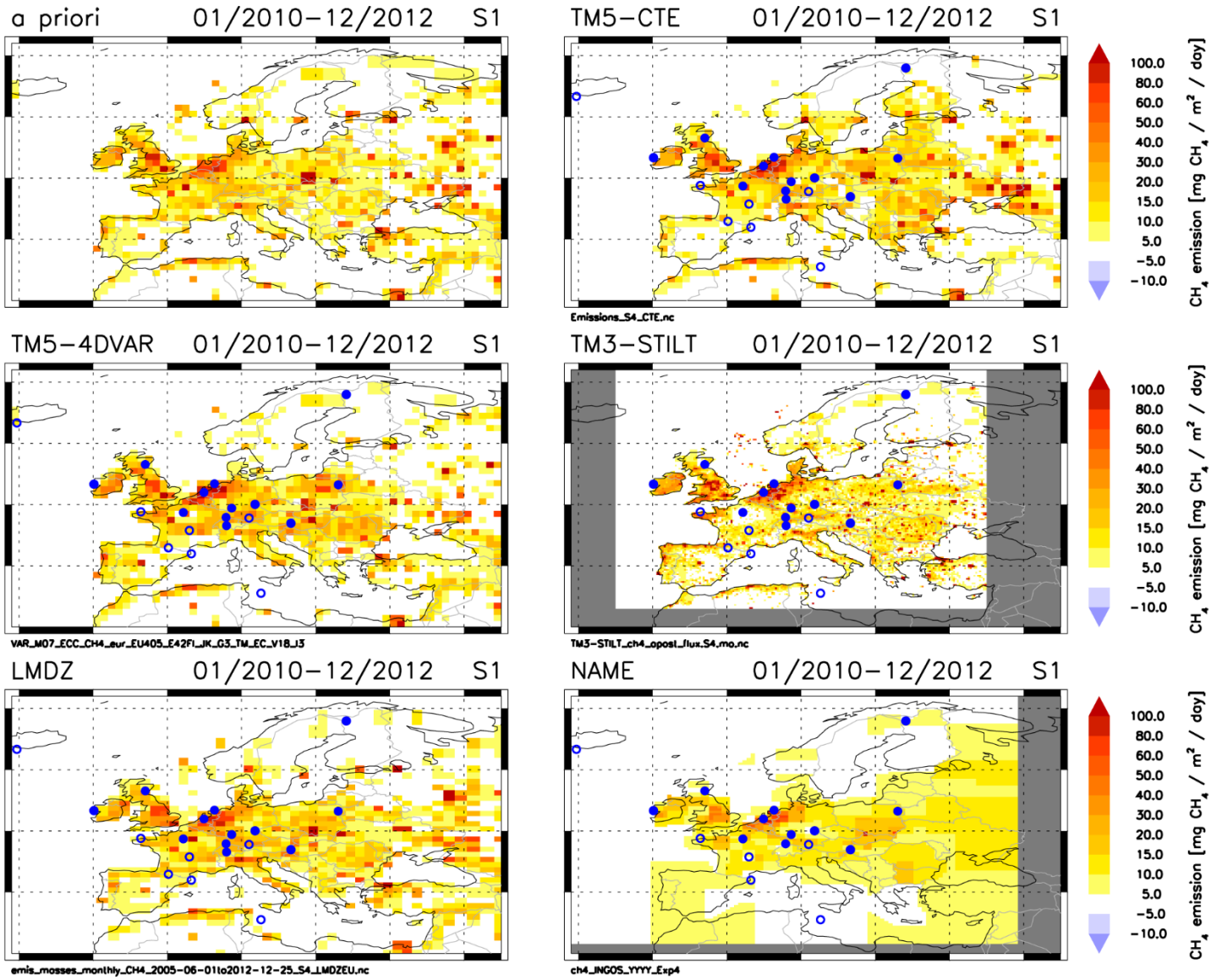
$$\Delta c_{OBS,COL} = \frac{1}{p_{surf} - p_k} \left[(p_{surf} - p_1)\,(c_{OBS,1} - c_{BG,1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (p_i - p_{i+1}) \frac{(c_{OBS,i} - c_{BG,i}) + (c_{OBS,i+1} - c_{BG,i+1})}{2} \right]$$

and

$$\Delta c_{MOD,COL} = \frac{1}{p_{surf} - p_k} \left[(p_{surf} - p_1)\,(c_{MOD,1} - c_{BG,1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (p_i - p_{i+1}) \frac{(c_{MOD,i} - c_{BG,i}) + (c_{MOD,i+1} - c_{BG,i+1})}{2} \right]$$

For the IMECC profile an explicit upper integration limit of 4 km is applied.

Only profiles for which $\Delta c_{OBS,\,COL}$ is equal or greater than 20 ppb are evaluated further.



45 **Figure S1:** European CH_4 emissions (average 2010–2012) for inversion S1. Filled blue circles are InGOS measurement stations with in-situ measurements, open circles are discrete air sampling sites. Upper left panel shows a priori CH_4 emissions (as applied in TM5-4DVAR at 1°×1° resolution).

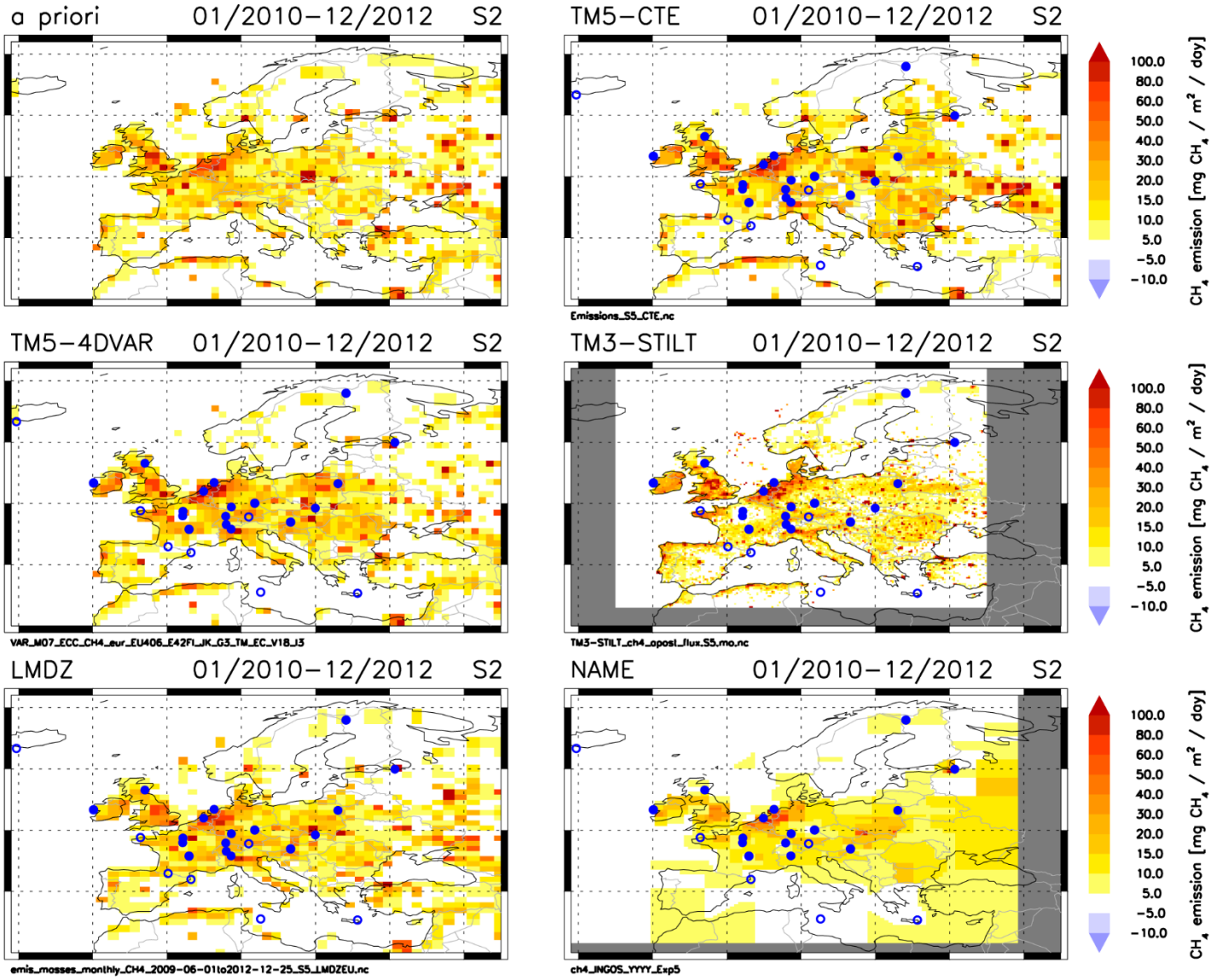
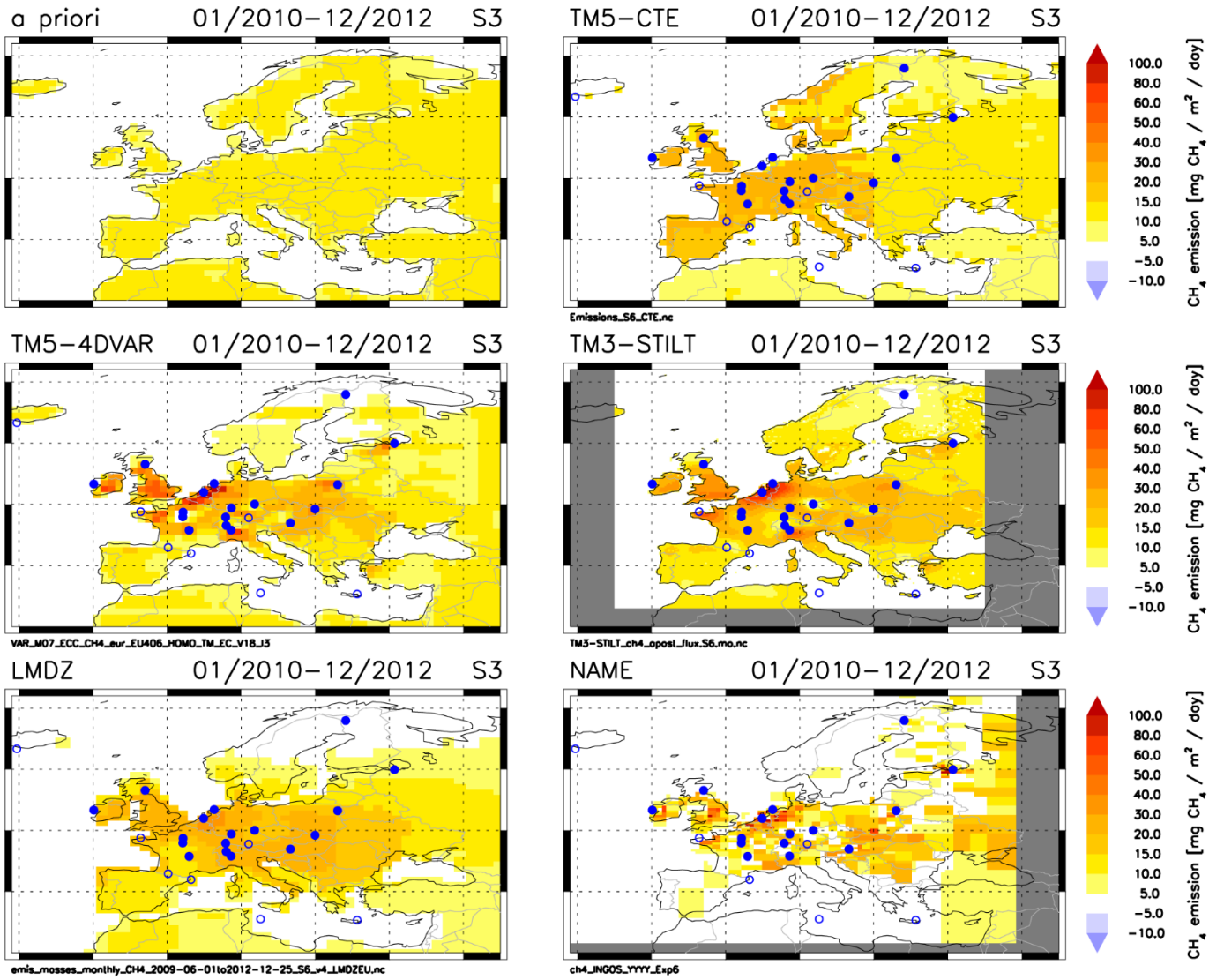


Figure S2: European CH_4 emissions (average 2010–2012) for inversion S2. Filled blue circles are InGOS measurement stations with in-situ measurements, open circles are discrete air sampling sites. Upper left panel shows a priori CH_4 emissions (as applied in TM5-4DVAR at 1°×1° resolution).



45 **Figure S3:** European CH_4 emissions (average 2010–2012) for inversion S3. Filled blue circles are InGOS measurement stations with in-situ measurements, open circles are discrete air sampling sites. Upper left panel shows the homogeneous distribution of emissions over land (and over the ocean; not visible in chosen colour scale because of low magnitude), as applied in TM5-4DVAR as starting point for the optimization (as "weak a priori").

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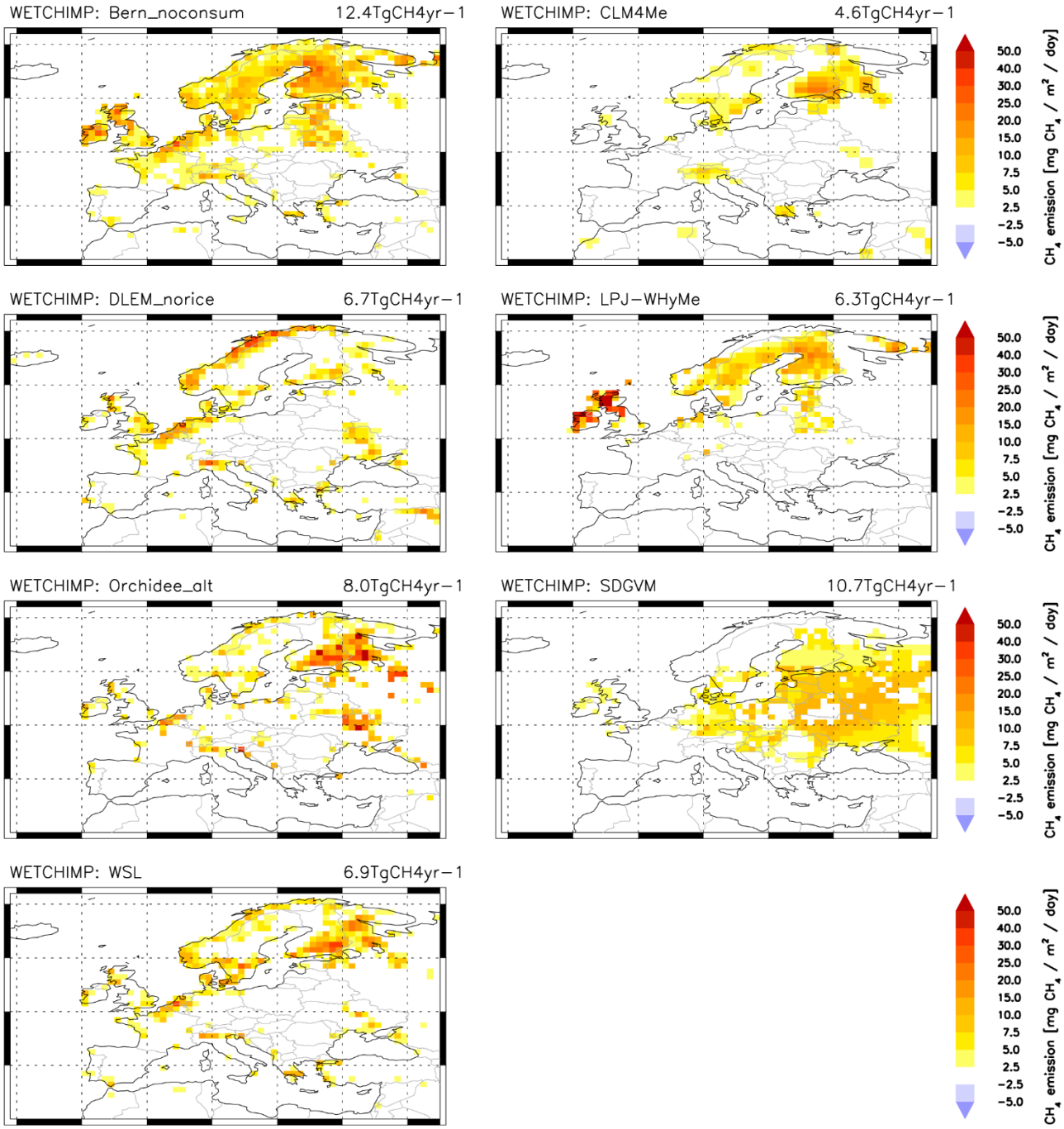

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60 **Figure S4:** European wetland CH_4 emissions (average 1993-2004) from different wetland models of the "Wetland and Wetland CH_4 Inter-comparison of Models Project" (WETCHIMP) [*Melton et al.*, 2013; *Wania et al.*, 2013].

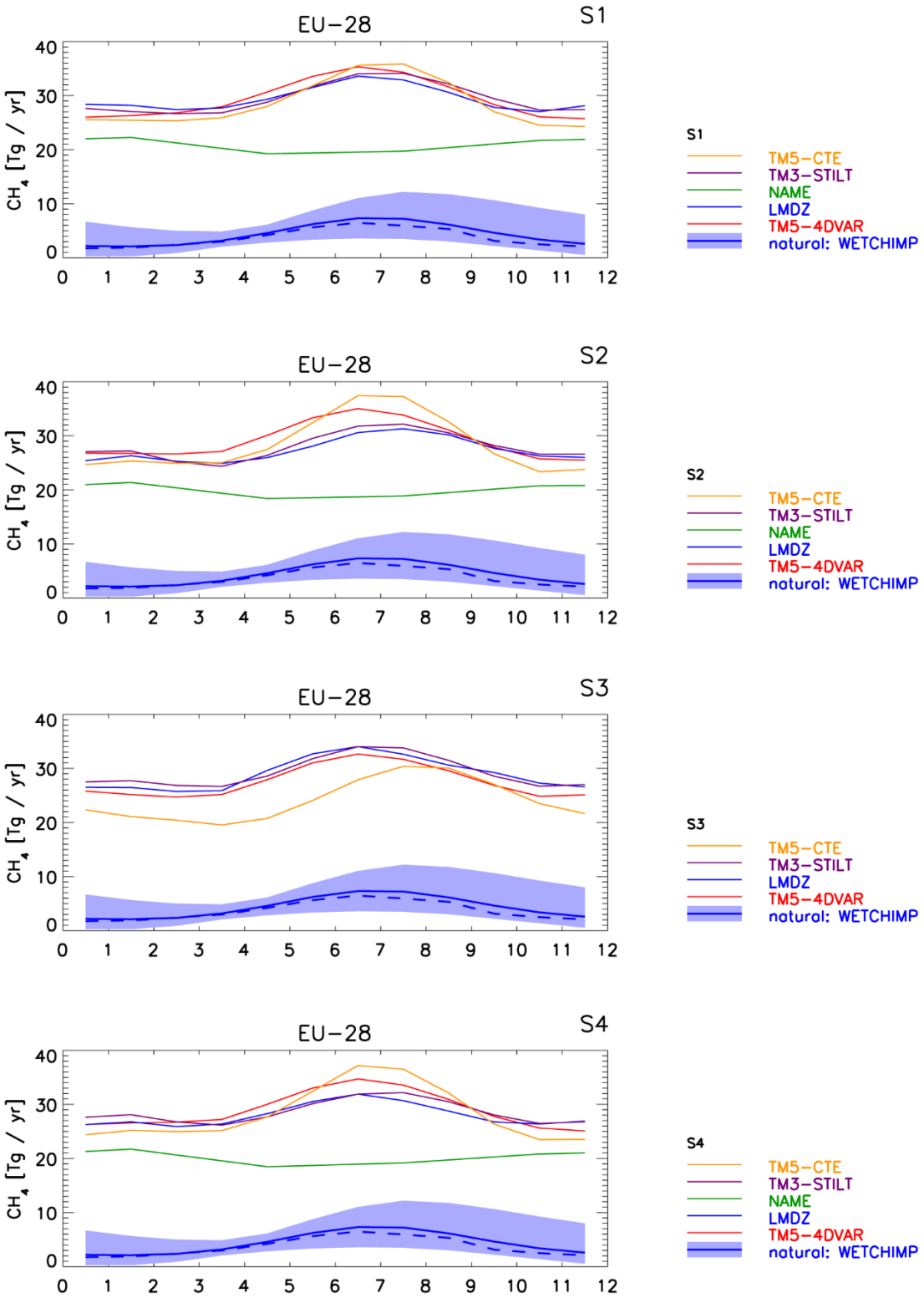


Figure S5: Mean seasonal cycle of CH_4 emissions (for EU-28) derived in inversions S1 (average 2006-2012) and S2-S4 (average 2010-2012). In addition, the mean seasonal cycle of CH_4 emissions from the WETCHIMP ensemble is shown (mean (blue solid line); median (blue dashed line); minimum-maximum range (light-blue range)).

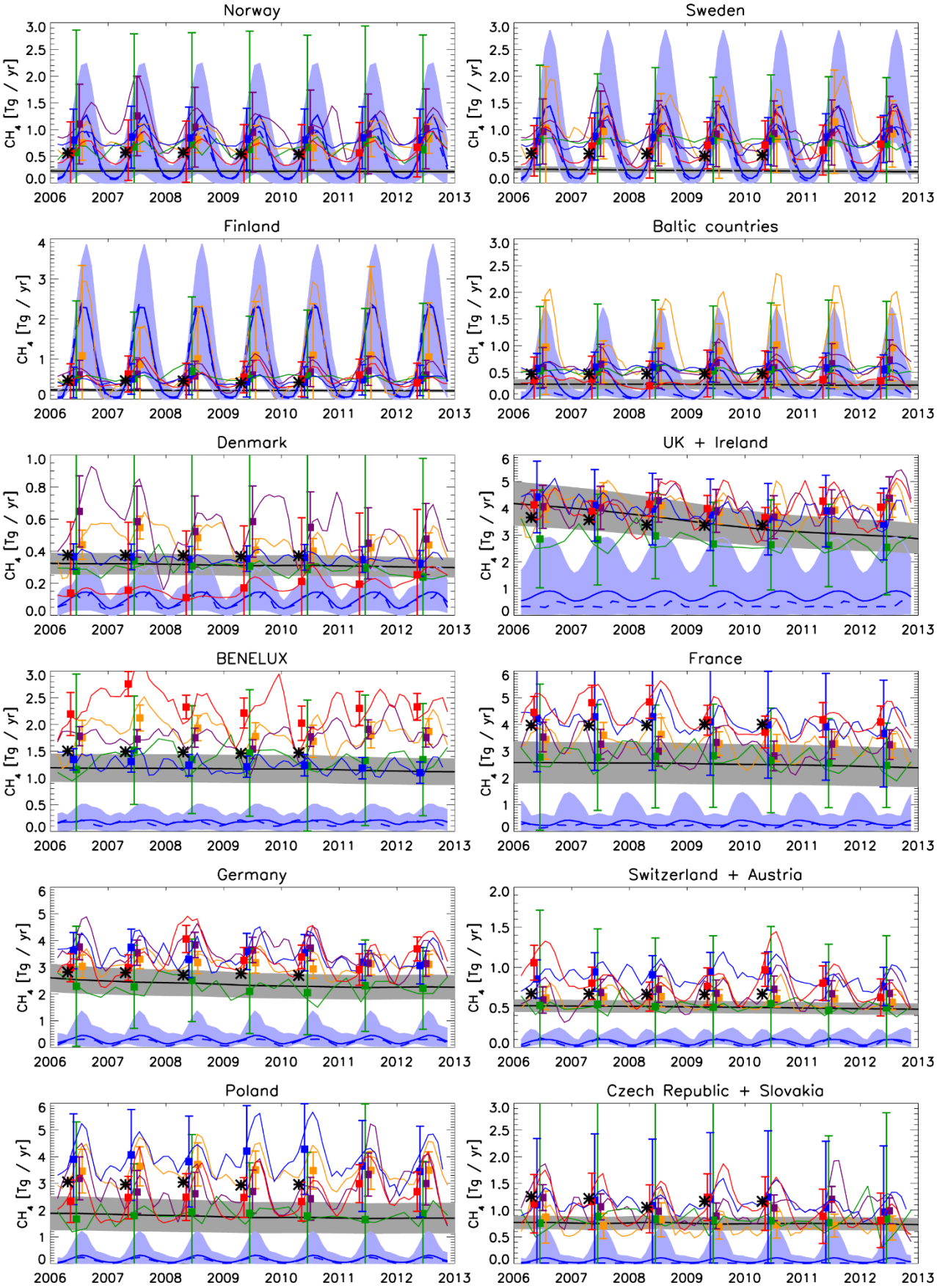


Figure S6: Annual total (coloured symbols) and seasonal variation (coloured solid lines) of CH_4 emissions derived from inversions for European countries. For comparison, anthropogenic CH_4 emissions reported to UNFCCC (black line), and from EDGARv4.2FI (black stars) are shown. Furthermore, the blue lines show wetland CH_4 emissions from the WETCHIMP ensemble of seven models (mean (blue solid line); median (blue dashed line); minimum-maximum range (light-blue range)).

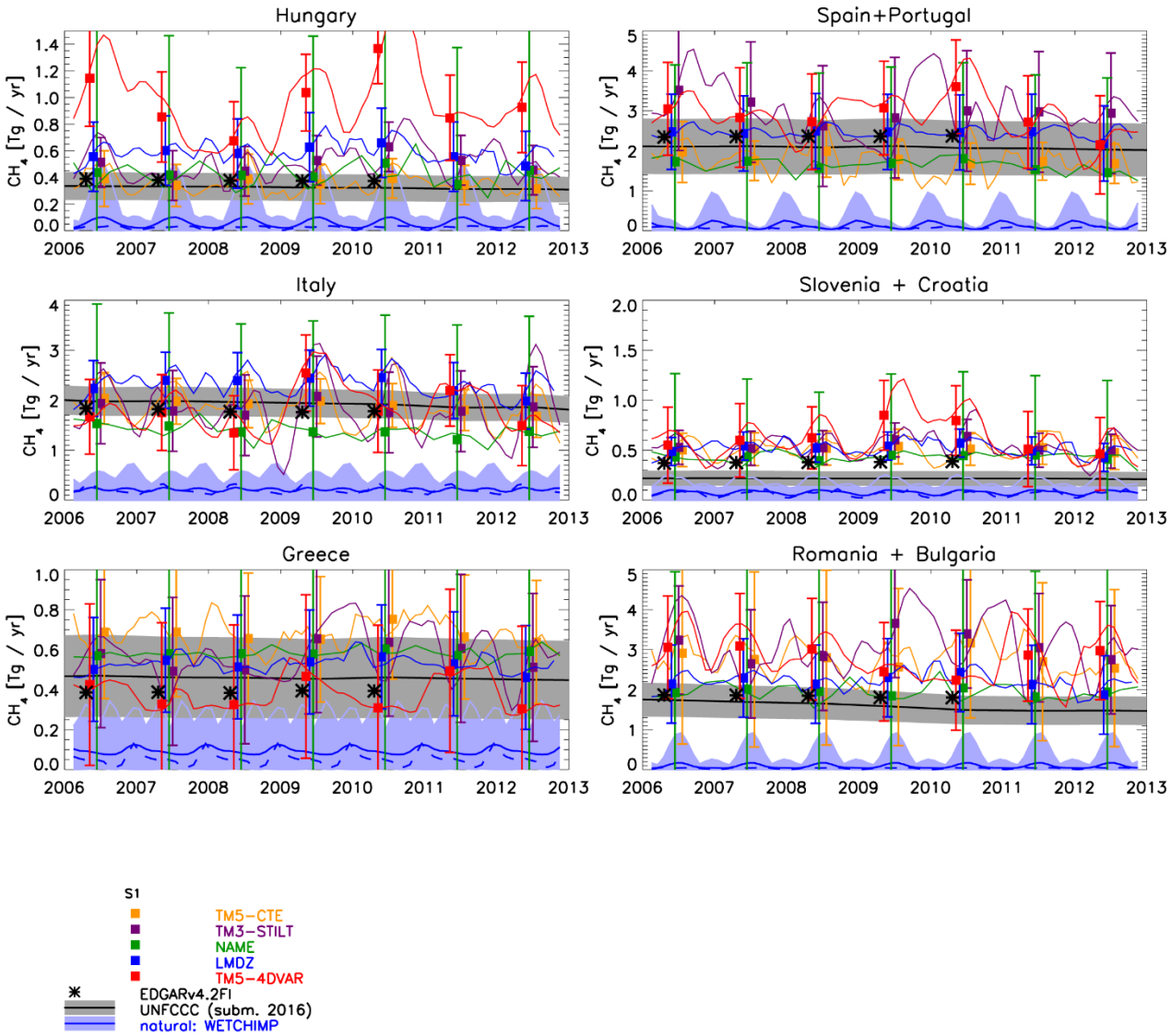


Figure S6 (continued)

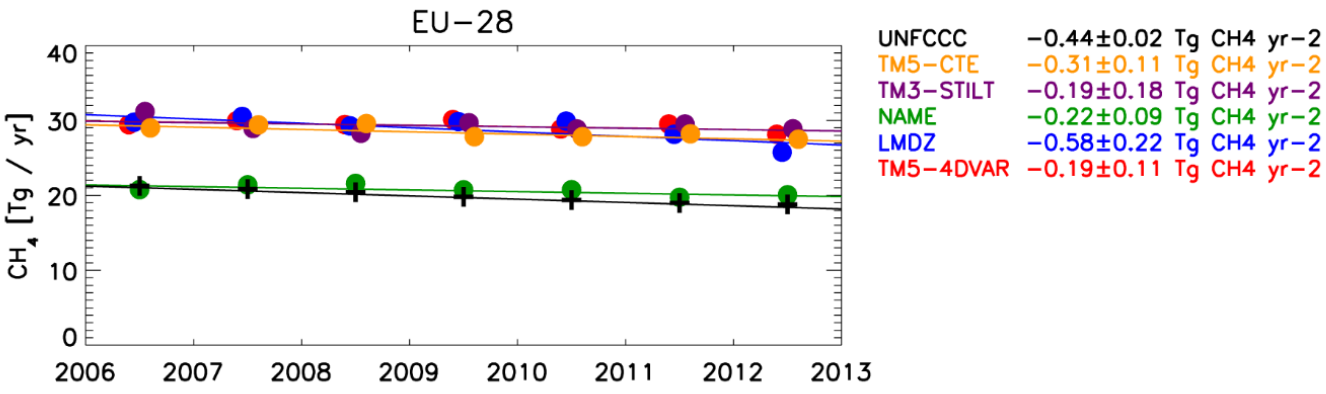


Figure S7: Analysis of trends in CH_4 emissions for EU-28 between 2006 and 2012. The calculated trends are based on a linear regression. The given uncertainties are the 1σ uncertainties of the regression, and do not take into account the uncertainties of the annual mean emissions nor the error correlations between different years.

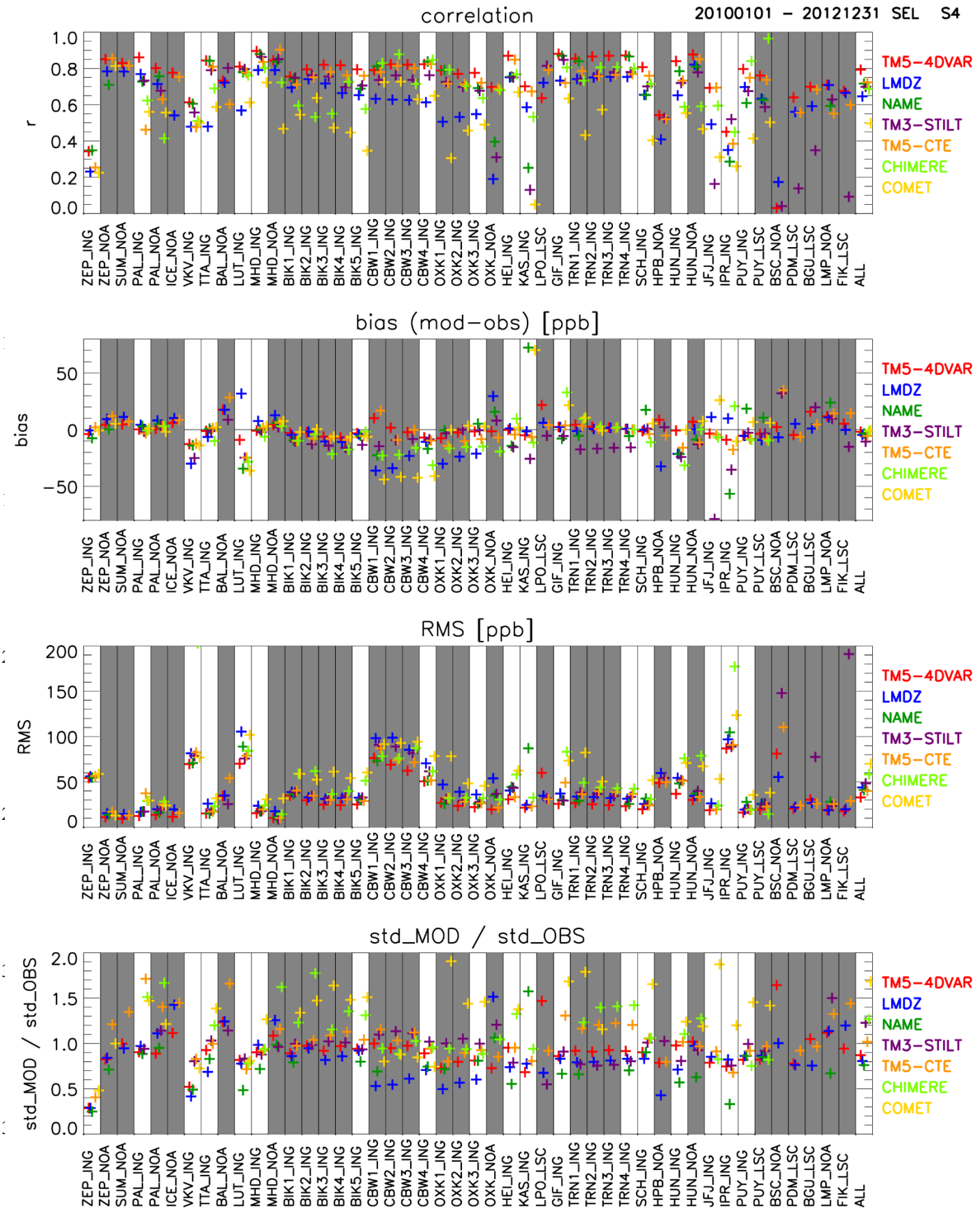


Figure S8: Comparison of modelled and observed CH_4 at European monitoring stations: correlation coefficients *r* (first row), bias (second row), root mean square (rms) differences (third row), and ratio between modelled and observed standard deviation (fourth row) for inversion S4. 'All' denotes the mean correlation coefficient, bias, rms difference, and ratio of standard deviation, averaged over those stations, for which results were available from all models. White background indicates stations that were assimilated in inversion S4, and grey background stations that were used for validation only.

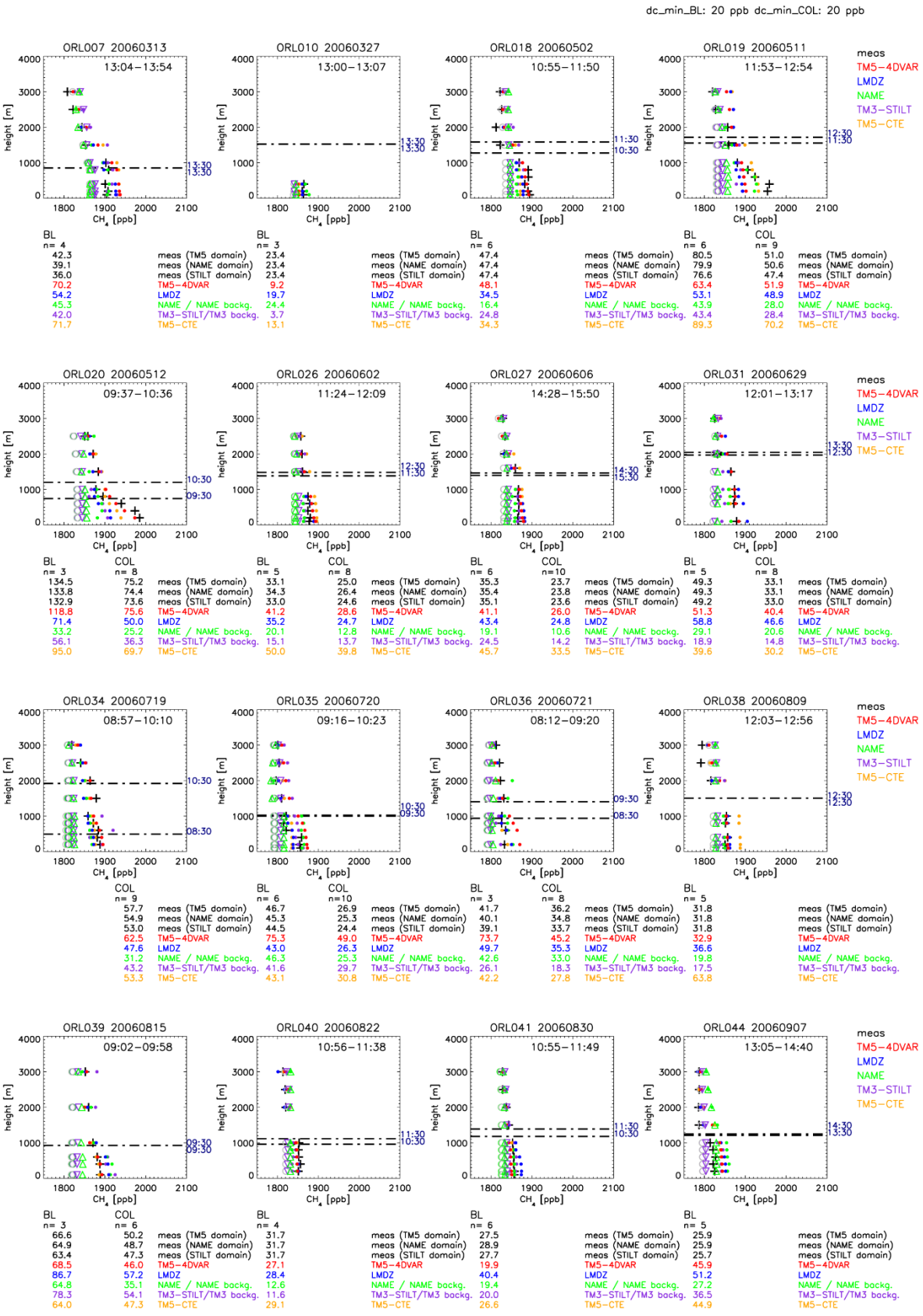


Figure S9: Individual aircraft profiles from Orléans (ORL), France. Black crosses: measurements; filled coloured symbols: corresponding model simulations; open circles: simulated background mole fractions, based on the method of *Rödenbeck et al.* [2009], calculated with TM5-4DVAR for the TM5-4DVAR zoom domain (grey), and for the NAME (green) and TM3-STILT (violet) domains (the latter are, however, only partially visible, since they largely overlap with the background for the TM5-4DVAR zoom domain). The open upper triangles (green) are the background mole fractions used in NAME (based on baseline observations at Mace Head), and open lower triangles (violet) are the background mole fractions used in TM3-STILT (based on TM3 model). Below each panel the calculated enhancements integrated over the entire boundary layer ($\Delta c_{MOD,\,BL}$ and $\Delta c_{OBS,\,BL}$) and integrated over the entire profile ($\Delta c_{MOD,\,COL}$ and $\Delta c_{OBS,\,COL}$) are given. The integrated enhancements of the measurements vs background (evaluated by TM5-4DVAR) are evaluated separately for the TM5-4DVAR zoom domain and for the NAME and STILT model domains. For NAME the model enhancement has been evaluated using the NAME background, for TM3-STILT using the TM3 background, while for all other models the TM5-4DVAR background is used. *n* denotes the number of samples used to evaluate the integrated enhancements. The dash-dotted lines indicate the top of the boundary layer diagnosed by TM5 at the given times.

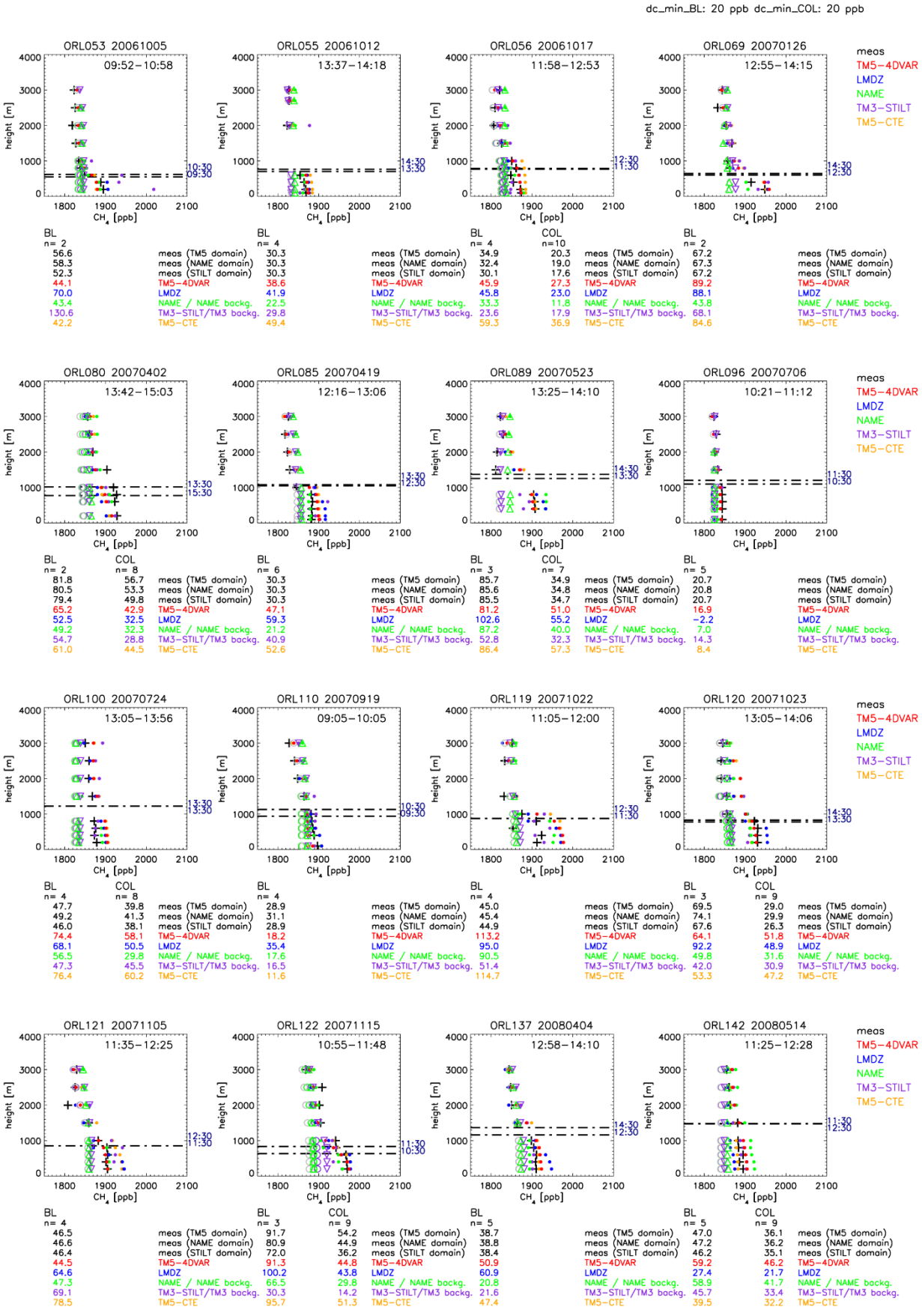


Figure S9: continued

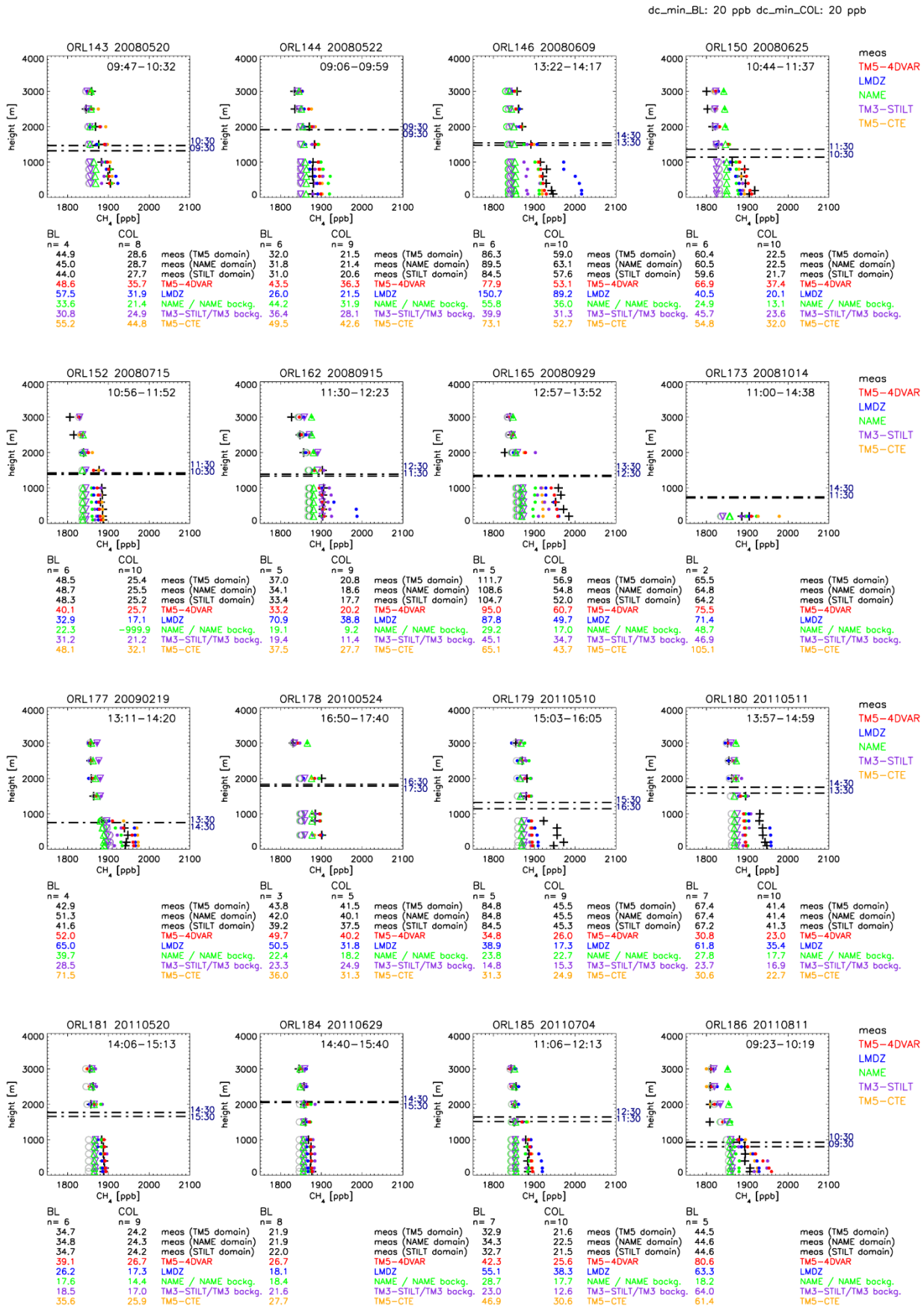


Figure S9: continued

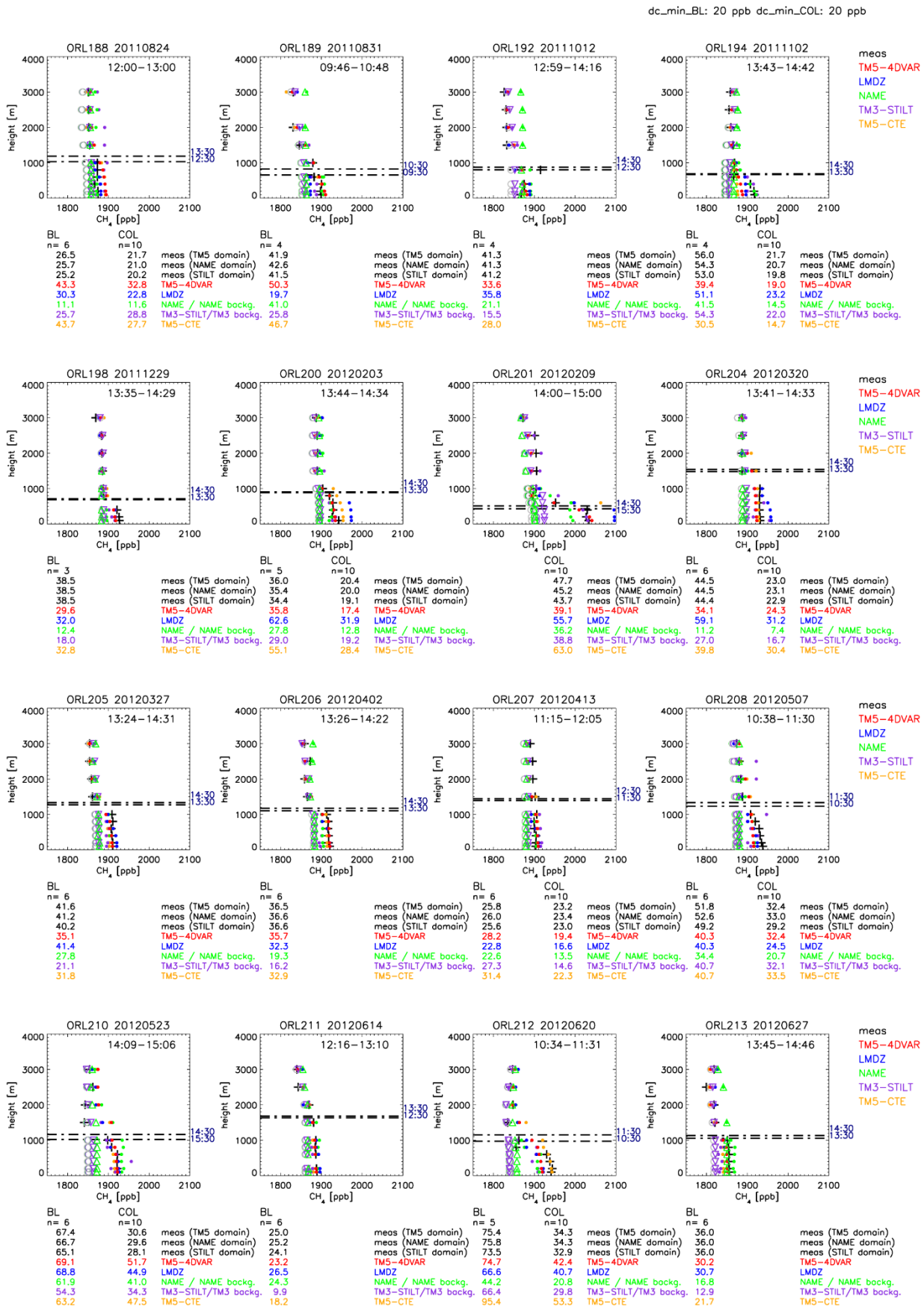
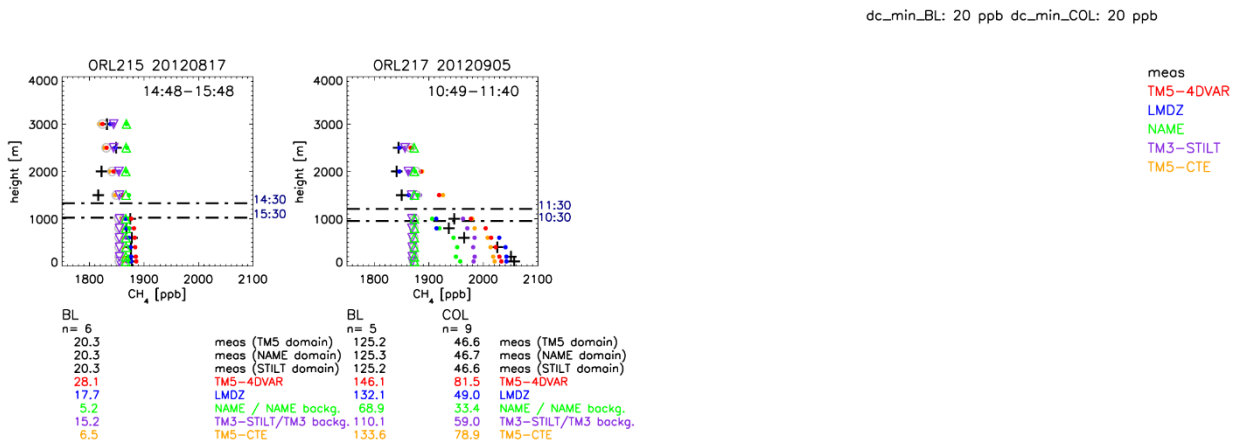


Figure S9: continued



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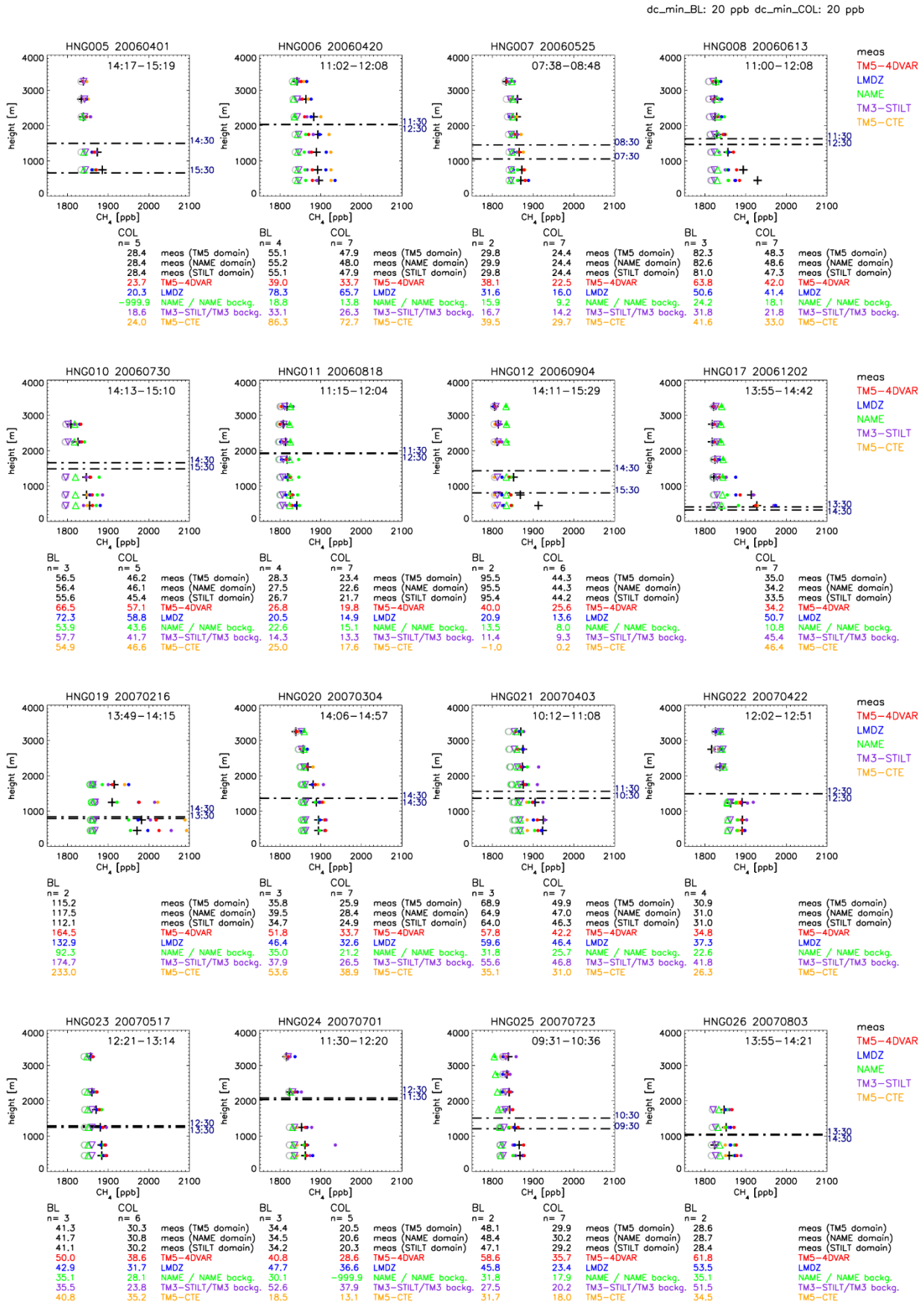


Figure S10: Same as Fig. S9, but for aircraft profiles from Hegyhátsál (HNG), Hungary.

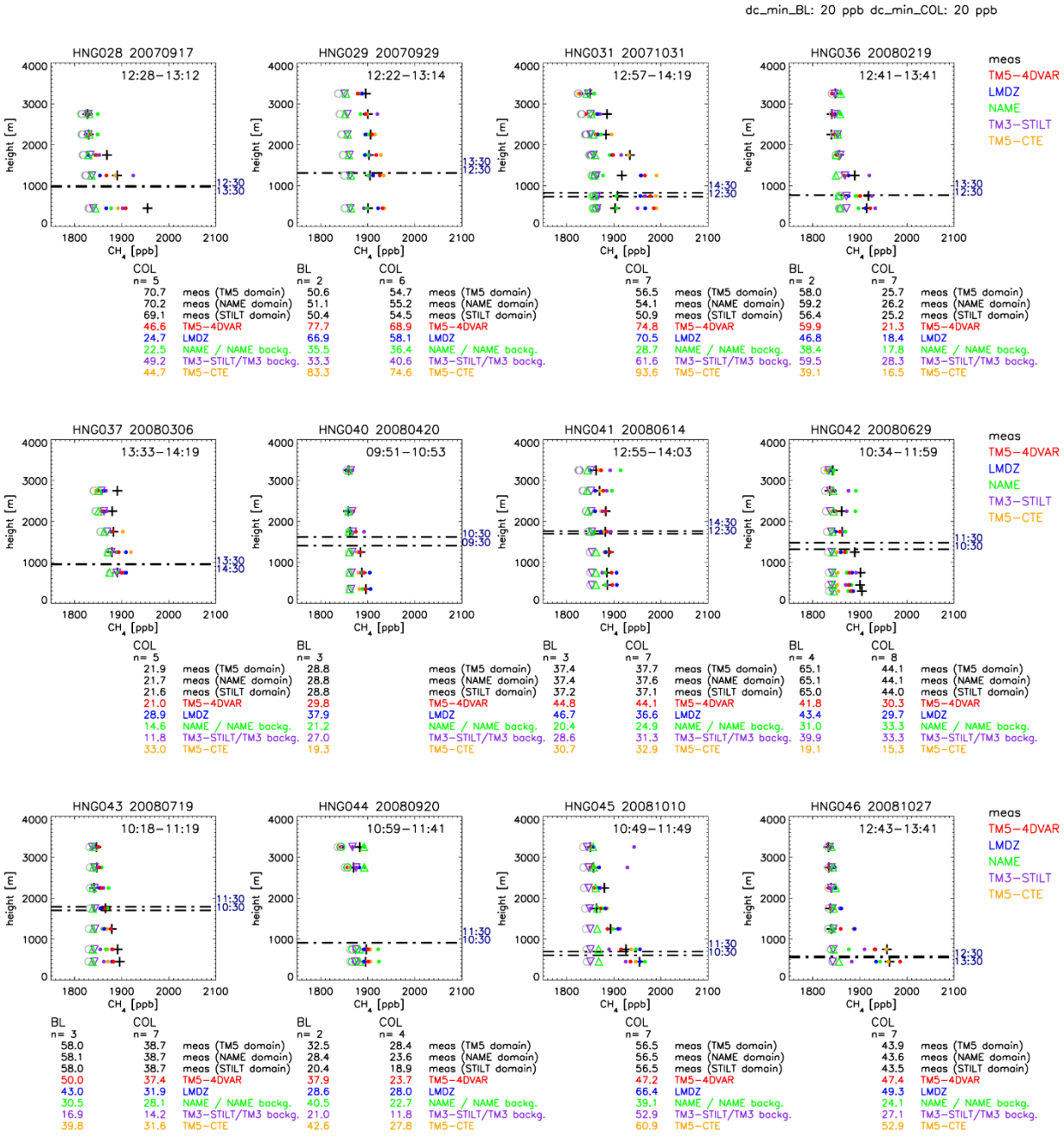


Figure S10: continued

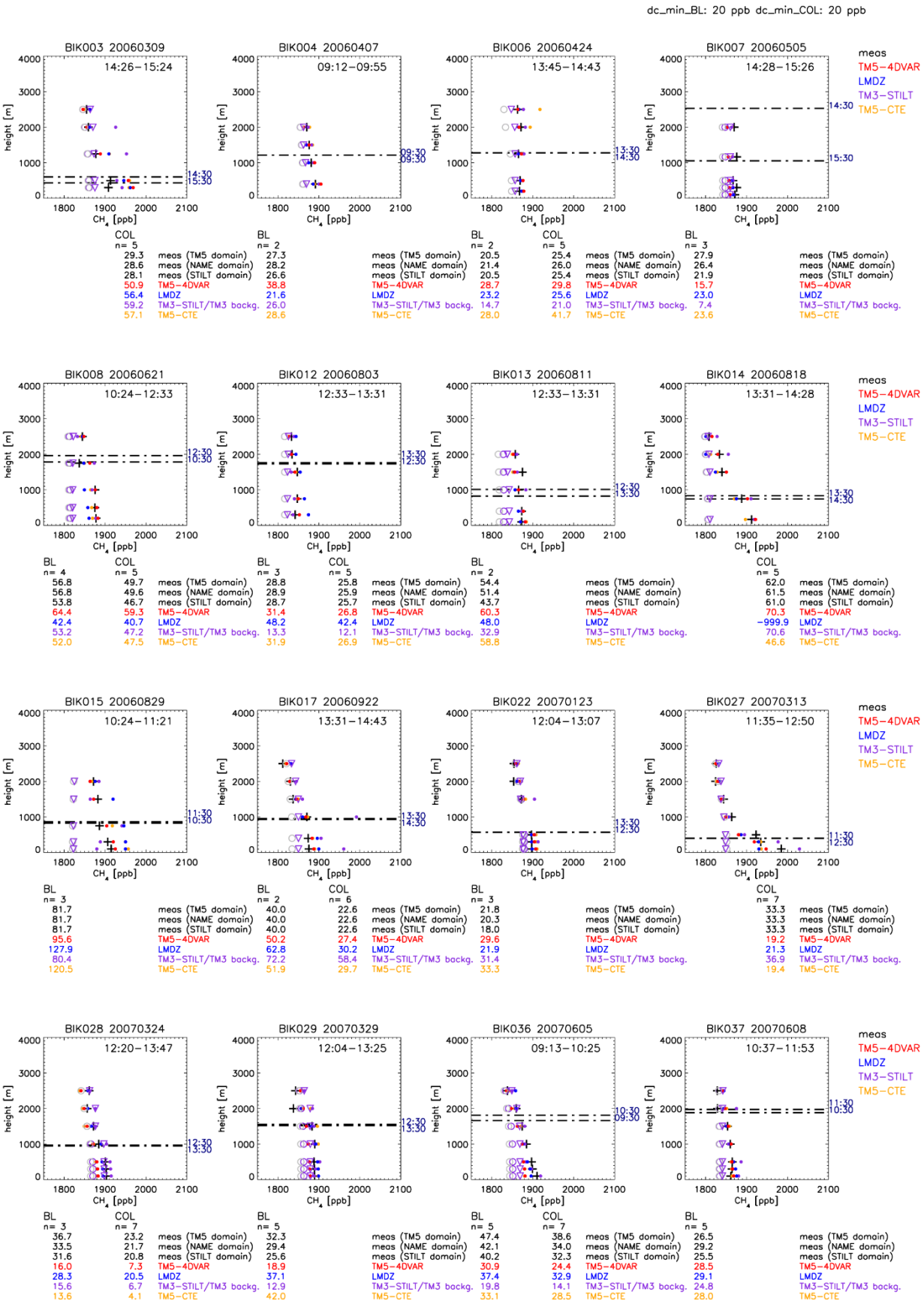


Figure S11: Same as Fig. S9, but for aircraft profiles from Bialystok (BIK), Poland.

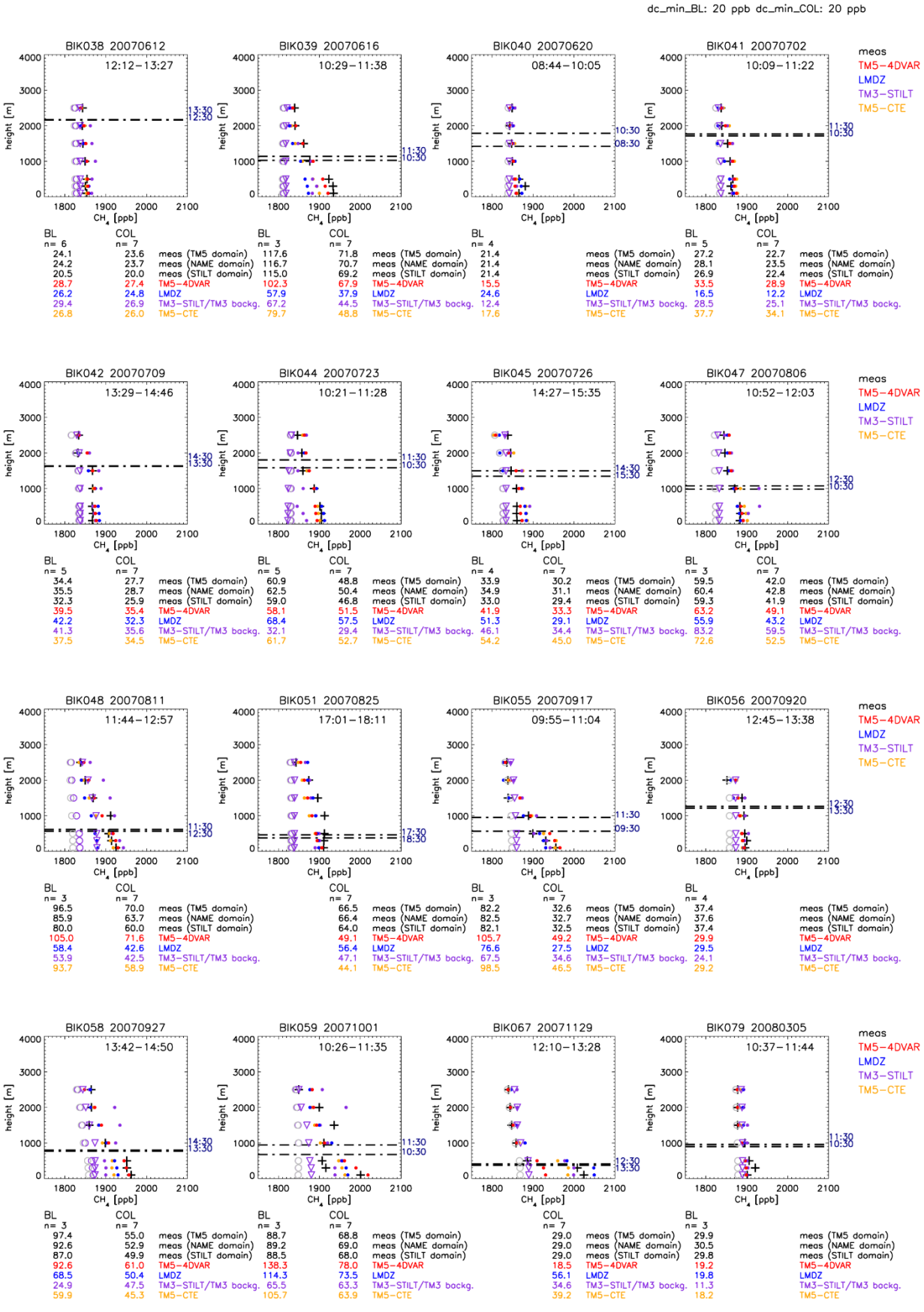
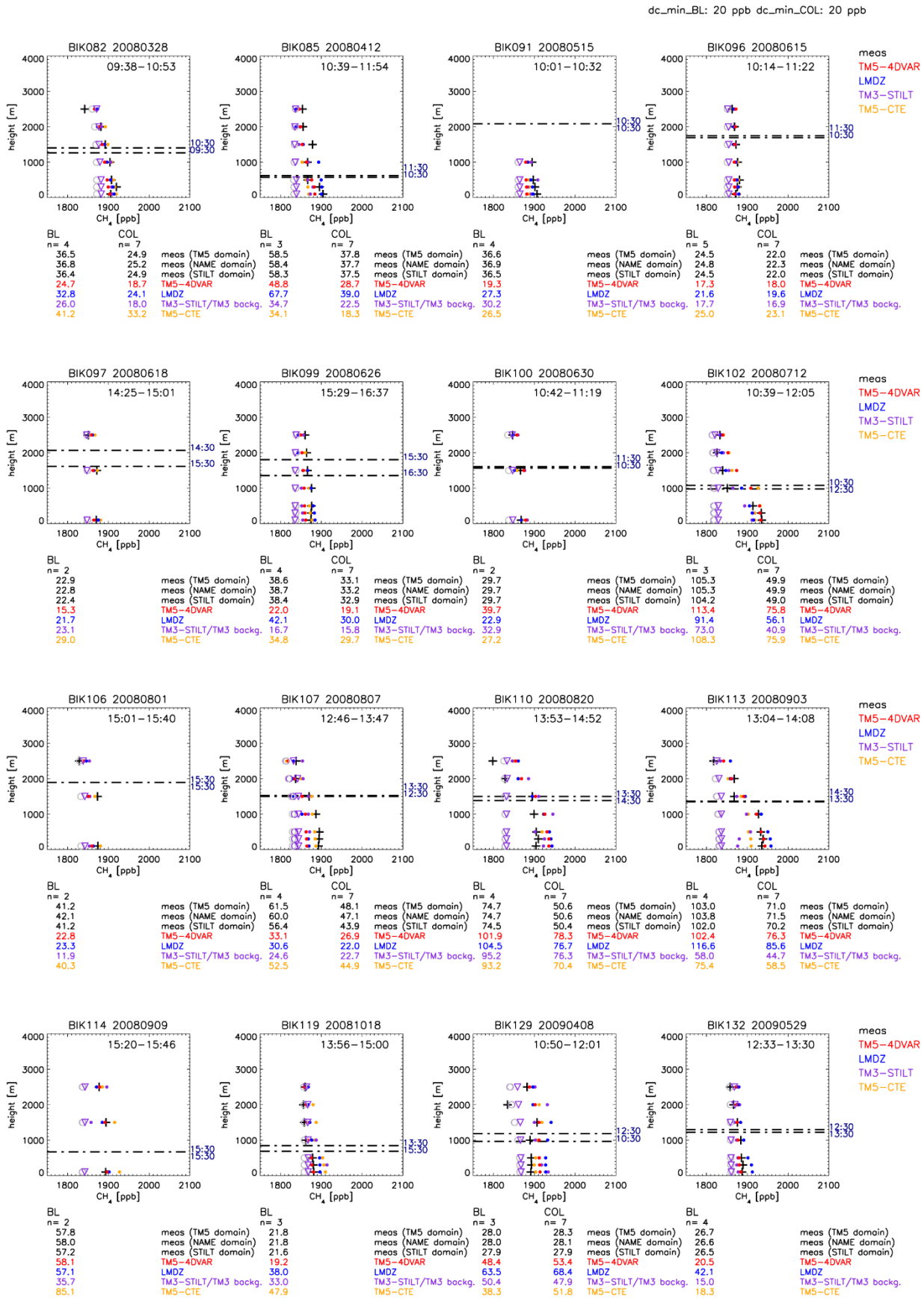


Figure S11: continued



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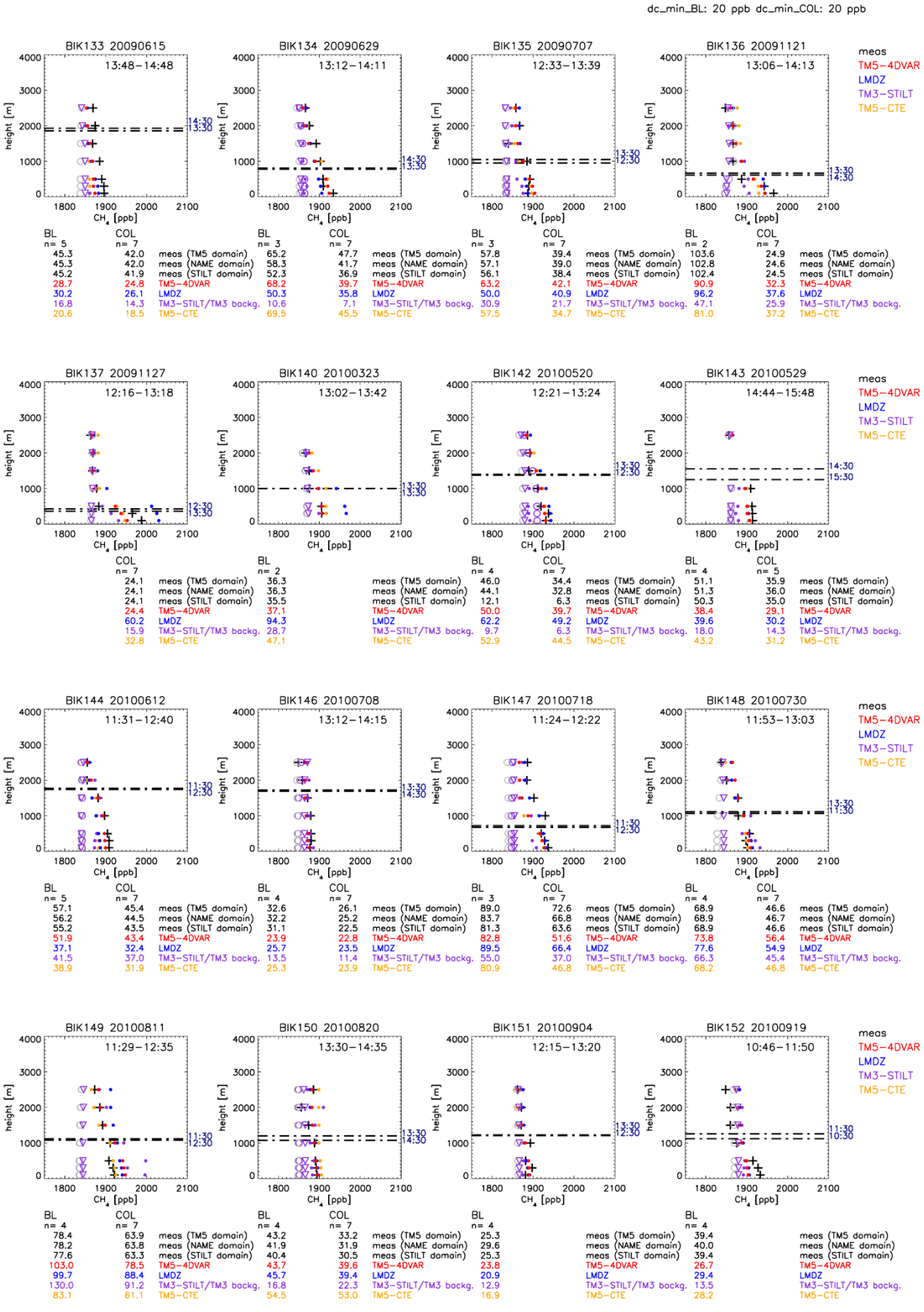

Figure S11: continued

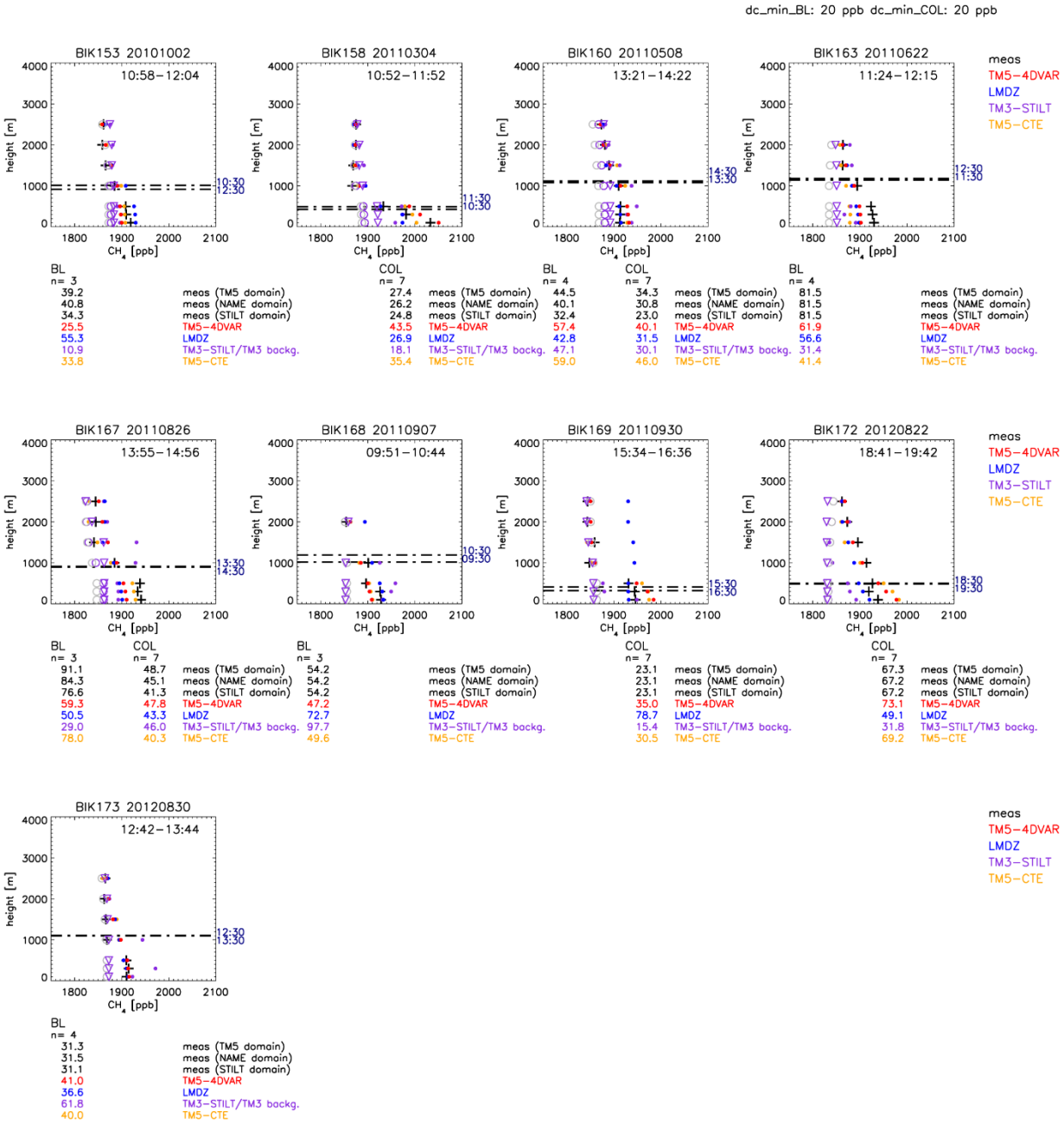

Figure S11: continued

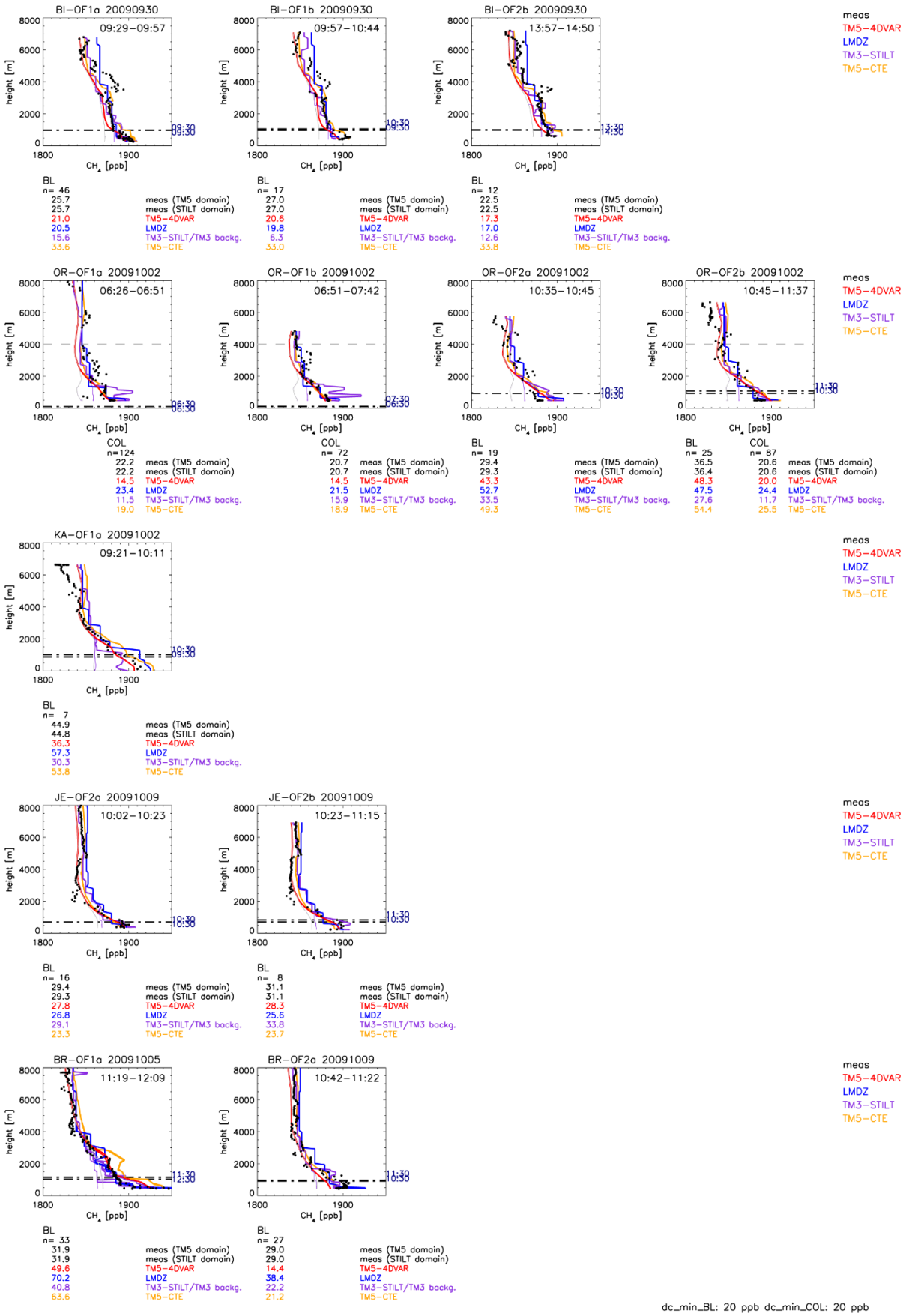

Figure S12: Individual aircraft profiles from IMECC. Black dots: measurements; thick coloured lines: corresponding model simulations; thin grey line: simulated background mole fractions, based on the method of *Rödenbeck et al.* [2009] calculated with TM5-4DVAR; thin violet line: background mole fractions used in TM3-STILT (based on TM3 model). Below each panel the calculated enhancements integrated over the entire boundary layer ($\Delta c_{MOD,\,BL}$ and $\Delta c_{OBS,\,BL}$) and integrated over the lower troposphere ($\Delta c_{MOD,\,COL}$ and $\Delta c_{OBS,\,COL}$) are given. The integrated enhancements of the measurements vs. background (calculated with TM5-4DVAR) are evaluated separately for the TM5-4DVAR zoom domain and the STILT model domains. For TM3-STILT the model enhancement has been evaluated using the TM3 background, while for all other models the TM5-4DVAR background is used. *n* denotes the number of samples used to evaluate the integrated enhancements. The dash-dotted lines indicate the top of the boundary layer diagnosed by TM5 at the given times. The grey dashed line indicates the upper boundary (4 km) for the integration over the lower troposphere.

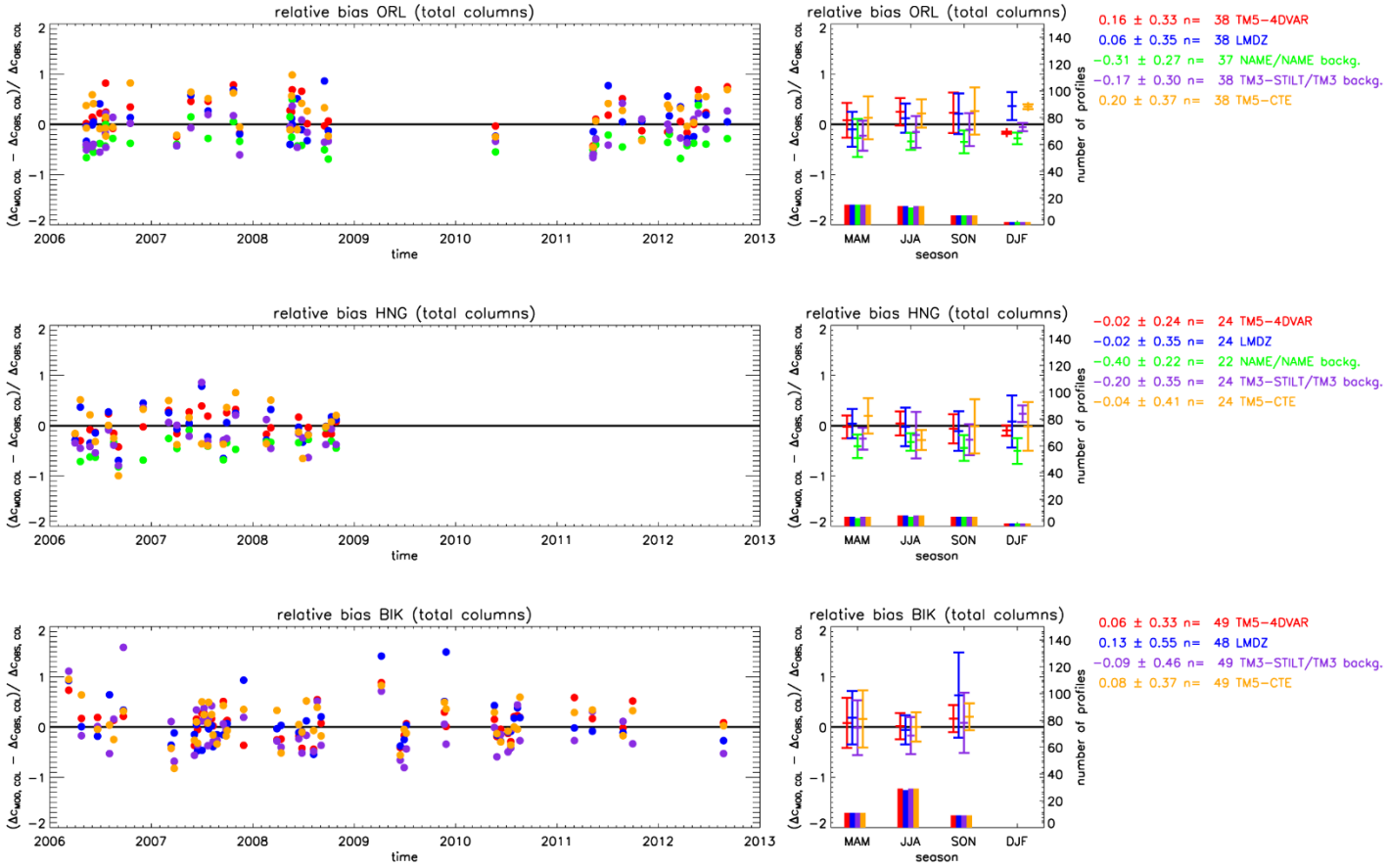

Figure S13: 'relative bias' within the lower troposphere evaluated from simulated and observed mole fraction enhancements compared to the background (rb_{COL} = ($\Delta c_{MOD,\,COL}$ - $\Delta c_{OBS,\,COL}$) / $\Delta c_{OBS,\,COL}$); see section 4.2). For NAME the model enhancement has been evaluated using the NAME background, for TM3-STILT using the TM3 background, while for all other models the TM5-4DVAR background is used. Left: time series; right: seasonal averages (including 1σ standard deviation) with numbers of available profiles given as bargraphs (see right axis). The numbers on the right side are the average relative bias, 1σ standard deviation, and total number of profiles over the entire period.

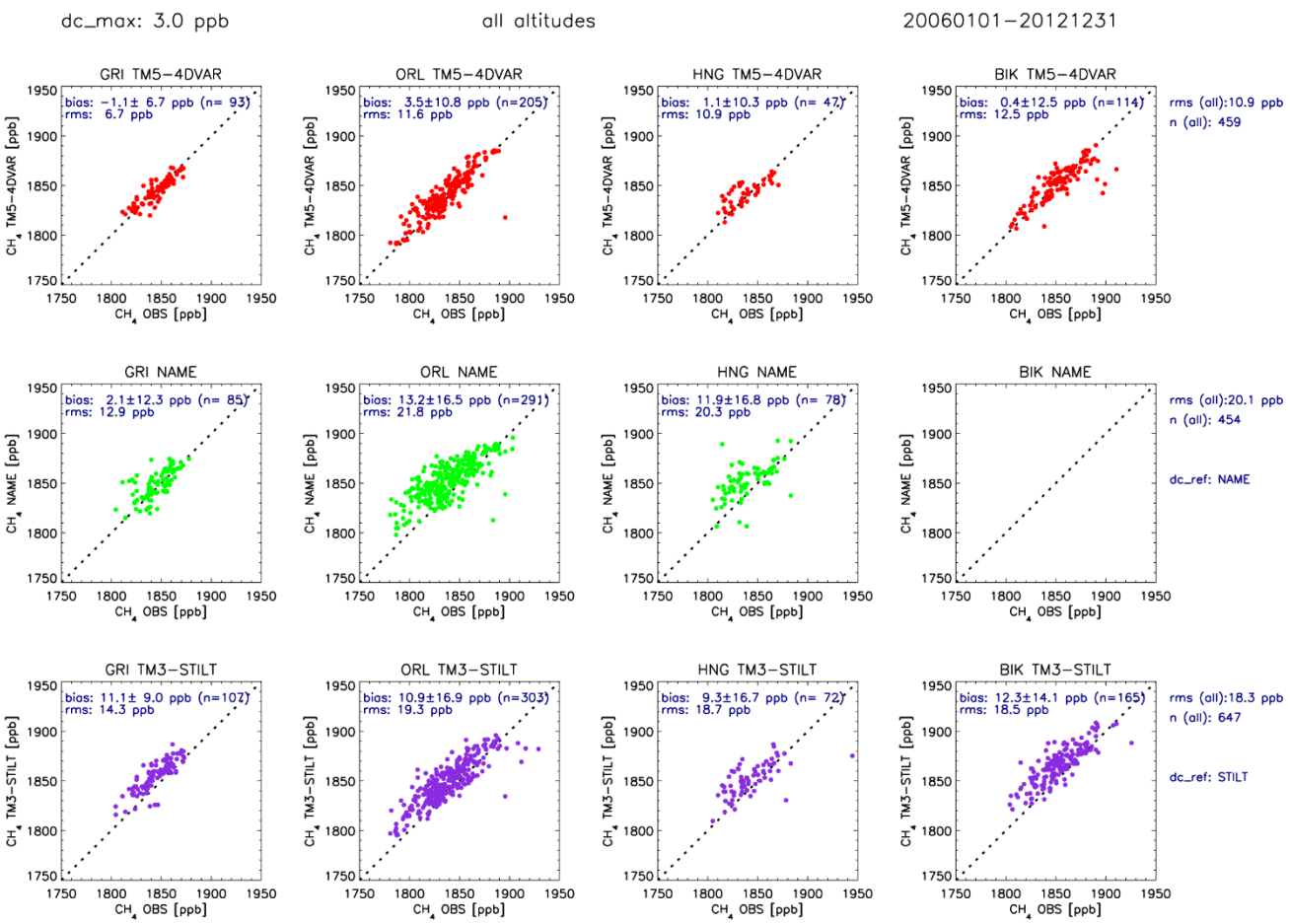

Figure S14: Comparison of model simulations with the aircraft observations for events with very low simulated contribution (≤ 3 ppb) from European CH_4 emissions.

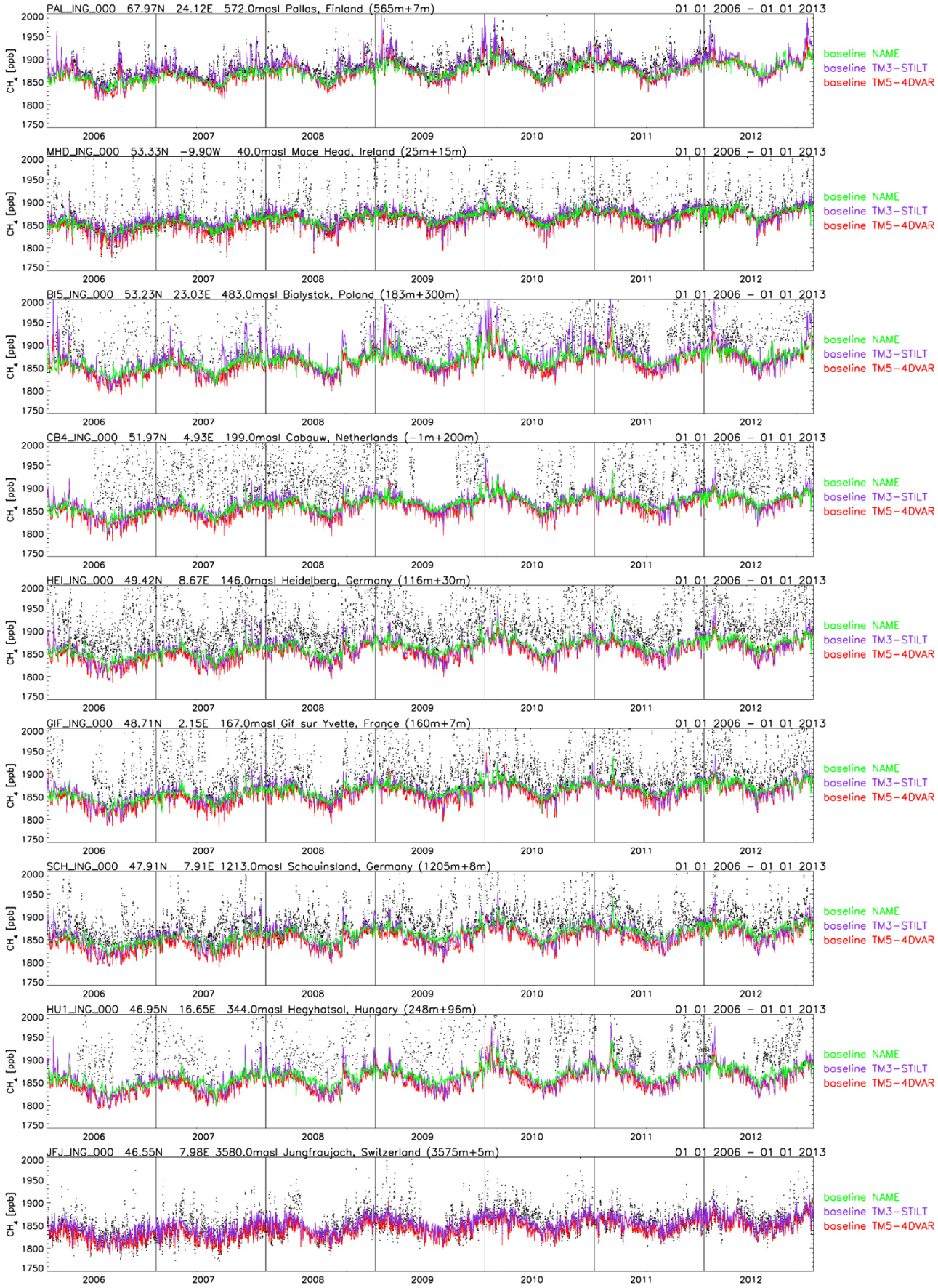

Figure S15: Background CH_4 at European monitoring stations, calculated by TM5-4DVAR (red), TM3 (used by TM3-STILT; violet), and used by NAME (based on baseline observations at Mace Head; green). The black dots are the (hourly) measurements.

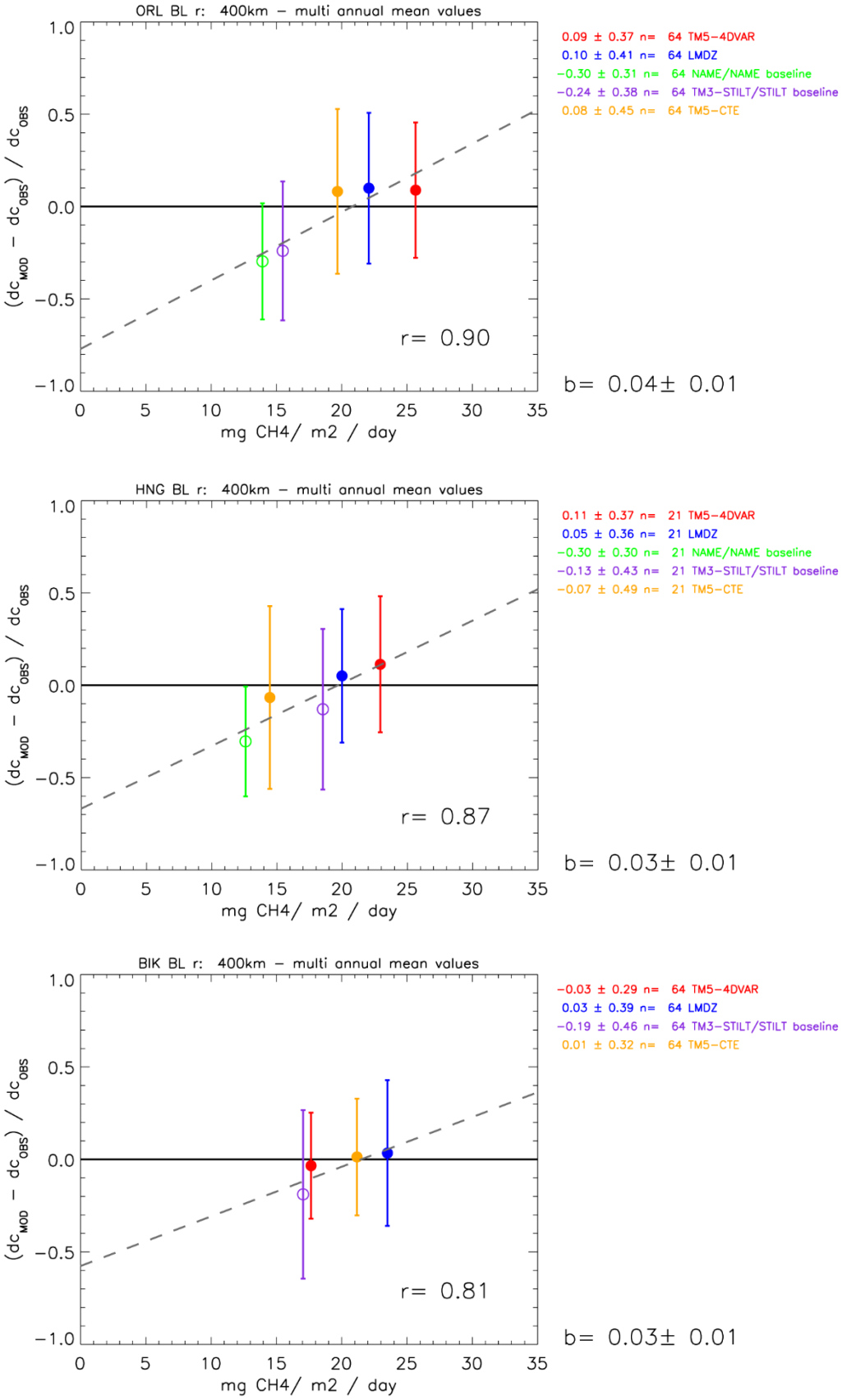

Figure S16: Relationship between rb_{BL} and the average model emissions around the aircraft site, integrating all model grid cells with a maximum distance of 400 km from the aircraft site. Top: ORL (Orléans, France); middle HNG (Hegyhátsál, Hungary); bottom: BIK (Bialystok, Poland).

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