Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 20, EGU2018-6236, 2018 EGU General Assembly 2018 © Author(s) 2018. CC Attribution 4.0 license.



The SPARC water vapour assessment II: Quality assessment of stratospheric ∂D -H₂O observations from satellite

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Within the framework of the second SPARC (Stratosphere-troposphere Processes And their Role in Climate) water vapour assessment (WAVAS-II), the quality of satellite observations of the isotopic ratio between HDO and H_2O (δD - H_2O) is evaluated based on data obtained by Odin/SMR (Sub-Millimetre Radiometer), SCISAT/ACE-FTS (Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment-Fourier Transform Spectrometer) and Envisat/MIPAS (Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding). The evaluation uses a set of profile-to-profile and climatological comparisons from the upper troposphere to the lower mesosphere.

We find clear quantitative differences in the isotopic ratio. This concerns primarily the comparisons to the SMR data set, caused by issues both in HDO and H_2O . The MIPAS and ACE-FTS data sets agree rather well in most of the comparisons. Exceptions are found below 100 hPa and in the upper stratosphere which is the upper altitude limit where comparisons between these data sets are possible.