
The authors have addressed most of my previous concerns, and I appreciate the effort to revise the validation analysis. However, I still have one question regarding the revision of Figure 11. The authors state that the original single-point comparison has been replaced by a 135-station network-mean diagnostic. However, the revised Figure 11 appears to show nearly identical temporal variations in the Reference series (blue curves) compared with the original single-point version. Moreover, the reported linear trends remain exactly the same (e.g., $+0.0729\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/10\text{a}$ for temperature and $+0.0208\text{ g/kg}/10\text{a}$ for specific humidity).