Skewness of Temperature Data Implies an Abrupt Change in the Climate System between 1985 and 1991

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Abstract

Instrumental records of mean annual temperature extend back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries at multiple sites in Europe. For such long time series, we expect and find that histograms of mean annual temperature data become skewed towards higher temperatures with time because of global warming. However, we also find that skewness changed abruptly and started increasing between 1985 and 1991 (95% confidence) at 17 sites. We argue that this finding may imply an abrupt change in the climate system affecting Europe which probably occurred at this time. One possible cause is a climate tipping point having been passed. Of known tipping elements, we find Arctic sea ice loss, potentially linked to reduced sulfate aerosol emissions and coupled to temperature by an albedo feedback mechanism, a likely candidate. This is based on good correlations of sea ice extent and sulfate aerosol emissions with skewness of mean annual temperature data.

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7	Key Points:								
8	• Skewness is used to search for abrupt changes in temperature time series from Europe								
9	• An abrupt change is identified at 17 sites probably between 1985 and 1991								
10 11	• Arctic sea ice loss potentially coupled with sulfate aerosol emission reductions is a possible cause								
12 13	• Slowdown of Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation is less likely as a cause								

14 Abstract

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- 16 centuries at multiple sites in Europe. For such long time series, we expect and find that
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- 18 time because of global warming. However, we also find that skewness changed abruptly and
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- 20 finding may imply an abrupt change in the climate system affecting Europe which probably
- 21 occurred at this time. One possible cause is a climate tipping point having been passed. Of
- known tipping elements, we find Arctic sea ice loss, potentially linked to reduced sulfate aerosol
 emissions and coupled to temperature by an albedo feedback mechanism, a likely candidate. This
- is based on good correlations of sea ice extent and sulfate aerosol emissions with skewness of
- 25 mean annual temperature data.

26 Plain Language Summary

27 In this study we find evidence of a sudden change in the climate that affected Europe and

- probably occurred between 1985 and 1991. This finding is based on a statistical analysis of
- temperature data collected since the seventeenth or eighteenth century at 17 sites in Europe. Our
- analysis shows that the chance of a given year being warmer than average started to rise at all
- 31 sites at that time. We compared the results of our analysis with possible causes of a change to the
- 32 climate. The causes we considered were changes of ocean circulation, loss of sea ice from the
- Arctic Ocean and a reduction in particle emissions in Europe. Based on this comparison, we
- were able to show that loss of sea ice, possibly linked to particle emission reductions, was a
- possible cause of the change we detected. We note that sea ice loss becoming irreversible is a possible tipping point in the climate system. This is because sea ice loss makes the Earth darker
- which allows it to absorb more heat from the Sun, making the Earth even warmer. Based on our
- findings, we suggest that this climate tipping point may have been passed.

39 **1 Introduction**

The one instrumental record of temperature extending back to the seventeenth century 40 (1659) is held at the Hadley Centre in England. Instrumental records of temperature extending 41 back to the eighteenth century are held in Uppsala, Stockholm, Torino, Milan, Kremsmünster, 42 Regensburg, Padua, Prague, Vienna, Innsbruck, Karlsruhe, Budapest, Hohenpeissenberg, 43 44 Münster, Verona and Stuttgart. Data collected from these stations show 2000-2009 average 45 temperatures ranging from 1.2°C (Hadley Centre) to 2.7°C (Münster) higher than corresponding 1850-1899 averages (Manley, 1953; 1974; Parker et al., 1992; Auer et al., 2007). These values 46 47 can be compared with corresponding average temperature increases, calculated here from the HadCRUT4 temperature time series (Morice et al., 2012), of 1.4°C for Europe and 0.7°C 48 globally. The rates of warming from 1990 to 2018, calculated here from the same temperature 49 time series, are 0.37°C/decade ($R^2 = 0.58$) in Europe and about 0.17°C/decade ($R^2 = 0.71$) 50 globally. For comparison and of relevance for this study, Arctic air temperatures increased at a 51 rate of 0.76°C/decade from 1998 to 2012 (Huang et al., 2017). Here, we use the change in 52 asymmetry in the distribution of mean annual temperature data, quantified by change in 53 skewness, to test the hypothesis that the observed increase in the rate of warming occurred 54 abruptly. We focus on the time period from the first half of the twentieth century to the early 55

56 twenty-first century and restrict our analysis to Europe because of the availability of instrumental

- 57 records of mean annual temperature that extend back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries,
- which is required for our statistical approach to give meaningful results.

59 2 Time series of mean annual temperature measurements

With the exception of the record held at the Hadley Centre, all instrumental records used 60 in our study (Table 1; Fig. 1) are from recognized World Meteorological Office (WMO) 61 Centennial Observing Stations or catalogued as part of the Historical Instrumental 62 63 Climatological Surface Time Series of the Greater Alpine Region (HISTALP: Auer et al., 2007). Mean annual temperature data are homogenized at all sites with the exception of Prague-64 Klementinum. The purpose of homogenization is to filter effects, such as changes in location, 65 changes in site surroundings (urban heat island), change of instruments and changes of 66 observation times from the data. The procedures used for homogenization of data from the 67 HISTALP sites are described by Auer et al. (2007). The procedures used for homogenization of 68 69 data from Stockholm and Uppsala are described by Moberg et al. (2002) and Bergström & Moberg (2002). The instrumental record held at the Hadley Centre is compiled from overlapping 70 records from multiple sites in central England. The record until 1991 was compiled by Manley 71 72 (1953, 1974) and Parker et al. (1992) and is kept up to date by the Hadley Centre at the UK

- 73 Meteorological Office. The procedures used for homogenization of data are described by Parker
- et al. (1992) and presently a -0.2°C adjustment for urban warming is applied.

75 **3** Skewness as a test for abrupt changes of mean annual temperature

Skewness has been used previously to test for regime shifts in ecological systems (Guttal 76 and Jayaprakash, 2008) and abrupt changes in precipitation (He et al., 2013). Skewness has also 77 78 been used with variance and autocorrelation as an early warning signal for a critical transition to 79 eutrophication (Wang et al., 2012) and in conjunction with a tipping point analysis of Antarctic ice mass loss (Golledge et al., 2017). Here we use change of skewness to test for abrupt changes 80 81 of mean annual temperature. For a time series from year y to year Y consisting of measurements of mean annual temperature (T_i : i = y, ..., Y), the sample Pearson skewness coefficient (γ_Y) is 82 given by (Sokal and Rohlf, 1995): 83

84
$$\gamma_Y = \frac{\sum_{i=y}^{Y} (T_i - \bar{T})^3 / (Y - y)}{s^3}$$
 (1)

85 where \overline{T} is the sample mean and s is the standard deviation. For each instrumental record of mean annual temperature (Fig. 1), we calculate skewness (γ_Y), with Y - y (which defines a 86 "sliding window") set to a fixed length of 175 years. We then plotted time series of skewness for 87 each instrumental record (Fig. 2). Each time series of Y starts 175 years after the first year of 88 measurement and ends on the last year for which measurements are published. The chosen length 89 of the sliding window represents a trade off between having sufficient data for our analysis and 90 91 being able to capture changes during the latter half of the twentieth century. However, by using sliding windows of different lengths for the longer time series from the Hadley Centre and 92 Uppsala, we show that our results are fairly insensitive to window length (Fig. S1). 93

The skewness of mean annual temperature data from all sites show an abrupt change at some point between 1975 and 1999 (Fig. 2). The mean of this range is between 1985 and 1991 (95% confidence). The median year is 1990. Before this change occurred, skewness was close to zero or negative at all sites and gradually decreasing at most sites. After this change occurred, 98 skewness started increasing gradually at a few sites and sharply at most sites. Reinforcing this

⁹⁹ finding, an overall change from negative skew, i.e. towards cooler temperatures (before 1901) to

100 positive skew i.e. towards warmer temperatures (after 1990) can be visualized qualitatively on

101 histograms of mean annual temperature data (Fig. 3).

102 **4 An abrupt change in the climate system**

Here we argue that the sharp increase of positive skewness of mean annual temperature data between 1985 and 1991 points to an abrupt change in the climate system or some other anthropogenic change causing warming in Europe. Possible candidates which are known to have changed during the twentieth century include slowdown of Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (Rahmstorf et al., 2015), reduced sulfate aerosol emissions (Acosta Navarro et al., 2016) and Arctic sea ice loss (Schweiger et al., 2019).

109 The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a system of ocean currents which are driven by water density differences related to temperature and salinity. The AMOC 110 redistributes heat making it an integral part of the climate system. Observed cooling in the 111 subpolar Atlantic as well as direct measurements indicate that the AMOC has been slowing 112 down (Sroskosv and Bryden 2015, Rahmstorf et al., 2015, Caeser et al., 2018), a change which 113 has been identified as a tipping element in the climate system (Lenton et al., 2008; 2019). It has 114 been argued that AMOC slowdown couples with warming in Europe and might, for example, 115 have been a contributory cause of the 2015 heat wave (Duchez et al., 2016). The AMOC started 116 slowing down in the 1950s, recovered partly between 2000 and 2010, but has slowed down again 117 118 since then (Fig. 4a). Here, we test for correlation between the AMOC index of Caeser et al. (2018) and skewness of mean annual temperature data from 17 sites to test the hypothesis that 119 abrupt changes of skewness at these sites relate to AMOC slowdown. The AMOC index used by 120 Caeser et al. (2018) was calculated from sea-surface temperature (SST) data from the Hadley 121 Centre Sea Ice and Sea Surface Temperature data set (HadISST) using a calibration factor to 122 convert from SST to flow in Sverdrups, Sv (1 Sv = $1 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) of 3.8 Sv/K which was derived 123 from the CMIP5 models. In our analysis: 1) we used Spearman's rank correlation coefficients 124 (r_s) because our tests concern abrupt nonlinear changes; 2) we (arbitrarily) used Evans (1996) 125 classification for describing correlation strength; and 3) we considered a value of r_s significant if 126 a *p-value* below 0.05 was calculated after correcting for multiple testing. Following this 127 procedure, we calculated significant values of r_s at 9 of 17 sites. These values range from 0.390 128 to 0.618 at 8 sites (Table 2) implying a "moderate" positive correlation. The value obtained at the 129 ninth site is -0.405 (Table 2) implying a "moderate" negative correlation. Given that we obtained 130 both positive and negative values of r_s and, at the other 8 of 17 sites, values of r_s were less than 131 0.4 and *p*-values were greater than 0.05, we rule out AMOC slowdown as a probable cause of the 132 abrupt change of skewness. 133

Sulfate aerosols emissions have decreased since the 1980s in Europe (Fig. 4b). Because 134 sulfate aerosols reflect solar radiation, reduced emissions of sulfate aerosols are thought to 135 increase radiative forcing (Myhre et al., 2013). Also, reduced sulfate aerosol emissions have 136 been put forward as one cause of amplified warming in the Arctic region (Acosta Navarro et al., 137 2016). Here, we test for correlation between sulfate aerosol emissions in Europe from Smith et 138 139 al. (2011) and skewness of mean annual temperature data from 17 sites to test the hypothesis that abrupt changes of skewness at these sites relates to sulfate aerosol emissions reductions. We 140 calculated significant values of r_s at 14 of 17 sites. These values range from -0.471 to -0.860 141

implying a "strong" negative correlation (Table 2). Therefore, we cannot rule out reduced sulfateaerosol emissions as a contributory cause of the abrupt change of skewness.

Arctic sea ice loss has also been identified as a tipping element in the climate system 144 (Lenton et al., 2008; 2019). Gridded extent from historical observations (Walsh et al., 2019) and 145 model reconstructions (Schweiger et al., 2011; 2019) indicate a reduction in sea ice extent and 146 147 volume. This loss of sea ice has been highlighted as a cause of amplified warming in the Arctic (Dai et al., 2019). The Pan-Arctic Ice Ocean Modeling and Assimilation System (PIOMAS and 148 PIOMAS-20C) reconstructions of Arctic sea ice volume show a weak decline from 1900 to 149 1940, an overall increase from 1940 to 1990, and thereafter a rapid decline (Fig. 4c). Here we 150 test for correlation between sea ice volume from the PIOMAS and PIOMAS-20C model 151 reconstructions (Schweiger et al., 2011; 2019) and sea ice extent from SIBT1850 historical 152 observations (Walsh et al., 2019) and skewness of mean annual temperature data from 17 sites to 153 test the hypothesis that abrupt changes of skewness at these sites relates to Arctic sea ice loss. 154 For PIOMAS, we calculated significant values of r_s at 16 of 17 sites. These values range from 155 -0.725 to -0.914 (Table 2), implying a "strong" to "very strong" negative correlation. For 156 PIOMAS-20C, we calculated significant values of r_s at 13 of 17 sites. These values range from -157 0.439 to -0.896 (Table 2), implying a "strong" negative correlation. For SIBT1850, we calculated 158 significant values of r_s at 13 of 17 sites. These values range from -0.416 to -0.701 (Table 2), 159 implying a "moderate" to "strong" negative correlation. Overall, we cannot rule out Arctic sea 160

161 ice loss as a contributory cause of the abrupt change of skewness.

162 **5 Conclusions**

Based on skewness of mean annual temperature data from 17 sites in Europe, we identify 163 an abrupt change in the climate system affecting Europe which probably occurred between 1985 164 and 1991. By testing for correlations of skewness of main annual temperature data with the 165 AMOC index, sulfate aerosol emissions and measures of Arctic sea ice loss, we identify Arctic 166 sea ice loss and sulfate aerosol emission reductions in Europe as possible contributory causes of 167 this abrupt change. We note that sulfate aerosol emission reductions in Europe, as one potential 168 cause of Arctic warming (Acosta Navarro et al., 2016), and Artic sea ice loss are coupled, and 169 may both have contributed to the abrupt change discussed in the present study. We further note 170 that Pistone et al. (2013) estimated that measured albedo forcing due to Arctic sea ice loss (0.21 171 ± 0.03 W/m²) equates to 10% of radiative forcing from increased carbon dioxide concentrations 172 (estimated to 2.1 W/m² for 412 ppmv CO₂ using the equation of Myhre et al., 1998). We thus 173 infer that coupling between mean annual temperature in Europe and Arctic sea loss could relate 174 to an albedo feedback mechanism. If so, we argue that a climate tipping point, beyond which 175 complete loss of summer Arctic sea ice is inevitable, might have been passed between 1985 and 176 1991. We conclude by emphasizing the urgent need for a rapid reduction of greenhouse gas 177 emissions so as to limit further irreversible damage to the climate system due to anthropogenic 178 179 global warming.

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Two anonymous reviewers are thanked for thorough and constructive reviews. The data
 used in this study are provided as supplementary information (Table S1). These data can also be
 accessed as follows. Hadley: Hadley Centre (https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadcet/);
 Uppsala: Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

- 185 (https://www.smhi.se/data/meteorologi/temperatur/uppsalas-temperaturserie-1.2855, click on
- 186 "Uppsalas temperaturserie 1722-2019"); Stockholm: Bolin Centre Database
- 187 (https://bolin.su.se/data/stockholm); Prague: Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
- 188 (http://portal.chmi.cz/historicka-data/pocasi/praha-klementinum?l=en); All other site: Historical
- 189 Instrumental Climatological Surface Time Series of the Greater Alpine Region
- 190 (http://www.zamg.ac.at/histalp/). This research was conducted using funds provided by the Bolin
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- 275

276 Figure captions

277

Figure 1. Time series of mean annual temperature data. Temperature data (grey lines) with 11year moving averages (black lines) are shown for stations and time intervals listed in Table 1.
Note that the length of the y-axis (mean annual temperature) is the same (6 degrees) for all plots
but values differ between plots. Also, note that the x-axis is from 1650 to 2020 for the Hadley
Centre, 1700 to 2020 for Uppsala, and 1750 to 2020 for all other stations

- Centre, 1700 to 2020 for Uppsala, and 1750 to 2020 for all other stations.
- **Figure 2**. Time series of skewness (γ_Y) of mean annual temperature data. Skewness (γ_Y) is shown from year *y* to year *Y* (plotted on the x-axis) for sites listed in Table 1. The year in which an abrupt change is indicated by change of skewness (i) was estimated as the intersection of linear regressions of data before (red circles) and after (blue circles) time i for which a maximum sum of R² values was obtained. The mean value of i for 17 sites falls between 1985 to 1991 (95% confidence). The median year is 1990.
- **Figure 3**. Histograms of mean annual temperature data. Histograms show mean annual
- temperature data for stations and time intervals listed in Table 1. The y-axes are the same for all sites except the Hadley Centre and that the length of the x-axis (mean annual temperature) is the
- sites except the fractery centre and that the length of the x-axis (mean annual temperature) is the same (6 degrees) for all plots except for Vienna and Münster but values differ between plots.
- **Figure 4**. Time series of (a) the AMOC index of Caeser et al., 2016 (blue circles), (b) sulfate
- emissions reported by Smith et al., 2011 (yellow circles) and (c) PIOMAS (orange circles,
- 295 primary axis) and PIOMAS-20C (red circles, primary axis) model reconstructions of Arctic sea
- ice volume (Schweiger et al., 2011; 2019) and SIBT1850 data (purple circles, secondary axis)
- historical observations of Artic sea ice extent (Walsh et al., 2019).
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- **Table 1.** Instrumental records of mean annual temperature, sorted according to starting year of
- 301 time series.
- 302

Site	Country	Time series	Homogenized	WMO	HISTALP	Reference	
Hadley Centre	England	1659-2018	Х			Parker et al. 1992	
Uppsala	Sweden	1722-2018	Х	х		Bergström & Moberg 2002	
Stockholm	Sweden	1756-2018	Х	х		Moberg et al. 2002	
Torino	Italy	1760-2010	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Milan	Italy	1763-2011	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Kremsmünster	Germany	1768-2018	Х	х	Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Regensburg	Germany	1773-2014	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Padua	Italy	1774-2010	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Prague	Czech Republic	1775-2018		х		CHMI	
Vienna	Austria	1775-2018	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Innsbruck	Austria	1777-2018	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Karlsruhe	Germany	1779-2014	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Budapest	Hungary	1780-2014	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Hohenpeissenberg	Germany	1781-2018	Х	х	Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Münster	Germany	1781-2014	Х		Х	Auer et al. 2007	
Verona	Italy	1788-2011	X		x	Auer et al. 2007	
Stuttgart	Germany	1792-2014	x		x	Auer et al. 2007	

303 Note. Abbreviations WMO = World Meteorological Office Centennial Observing Stations;

HISTALP = Historical Instrumental Climatological Surface Time Series of the Greater Alpine
 Region; and CHMI = Czech Hydrometeorological Institute.

306

307 **Table 2.** Correlation matrix for skewness of mean annual temperature data with AMOC index,

308 with SO₂ aerosol emissions in Europe, and with PIOMAS and PIOMAS-20C model

309 reconstructions of Arctic sea ice volume and SIBT1850 measurements of Arctic sea ice extent.

310

Site		AMOC index	SO ₂ (Europe)	PIOMAS	PIOMAS-20C	SIBT1850
	14	0.300	-0.860	-0.902	-0.605	-0.255
Hadley	r _s	(0.121, 0.461)	(-0.909, -0.788)	(-0.953, -0.802)	(-0.720, -0.457)	(-0.420, -0.073)
•	р	0.06	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.30
Unncolo		0.390	-0.645	-0.725	-0.212	-0.170
Oppsala	r_s	(0.217, 0.539)	(-0.753, -0.504)	(-0.860, -0.493)	(-0.386, -0.024)	(-0.343, 0.014)
	р	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	1.35	3.44
	14	0.574	-0.229	0.024	0.208	0.336
Stockholm	15	(0.399, 0.709)	(-0.435, -0.001)	(-0.294, 0.337)	(-0.013, 0.410)	(0.130, 0.515)
	р	< 0.01	2.38	45.12	3.19	0.08
	r	0.067	-0.552	-0.862	-0.675	-0.591
Torino	15	(-0.160, 0.287)	(-0.704, -0.352)	(-0.939, -0.704)	(-0.790, -0.513)	(-0.729, -0.407)
	р	28.73	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
	r	-0.405	0.026	-0.852	-0.472	-0.416
Milan	1 s	(-0.585, -0.188)	(-0.212, 0.261)	(-0.933, -0.688)	(-0.640, -0.262)	(-0.594, -0.200)
	р	0.02	42.56	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.01
	r	0.336	-0.720	-0.882	-0.510	-0.551
Kremsmünster	15	(0.112, 0.528)	(-0.830, -0.555)	(-0.943, -0.763)	(-0.675, -0.298)	(-0.700, -0.355)
	р	0.17	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
	r.	0.593	-0.599	-0.843	-0.403	-0.441
Regensburg	15	(0.396, 0.738)	(-0.751, -0.386)	(-0.926, -0.683)	(-0.597, -0.165)	(-0.622, -0.215)
	р	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.05	0.01
	r.	0.216	-0.800	-0.837	-0.518	-0.518
Padua	15	(-0.037, 0.442)	(-0.886, -0.662)	(-0.926, -0.656)	(-0.688, -0.295)	(-0.687, -0.295)
	p	4.55	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
-	r.	0.375	-0.655	-0.911	-0.565	-0.541
Prague	• 3	(0.142, 0.569)	(-0.792, -0.454)	(-0.958, -0.818)	(-0.723, -0.350)	(-0.699, -0.332)
	р	0.09	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
T 74	r_{c}	0.446	-0.499	-0.872	-0.439	-0.476
Vienna	- 3	(0.221, 0.626)	(-0.681, -0.259)	(-0.938, -0.746)	(-0.628, -0.201)	(-0.649, -0.255)
	p	0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.02	< 0.01
	$r_{\rm c}$	0.344	-0.731	-0.914	-0.713	-0.581
Innsbruck	- 3	(0.105, 0.540)	(-0.844, -0.554)	(-0.959, -0.824)	(-0.828, -0.538)	(-0.731, -0.378)
	p	0.25	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
1 711 -	rs	0.267	- U.6U8	-0.829	-0.722	-0.452
Karlsrune		(-0.003, 0.301)	(-0.703, -0.384)	(-0.920, -0.029)	(-0.838, -0.341)	(-0.049, -0.200)
	p	2.50	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.03
Der dam ant	rs	0.222 0.716	-0.015		-0.010	-U.400
Budapest		(0.333, 0.710)	(-0.771, -0.369)	(-0.931, -0.700)	(-0.703, -0.403)	(-0.031, -0.230)
	p	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.01
II. how af a out out	r_s	(0.160)	-0.4/1	- U.899	-0./13	-0.5/0
Honenpeissenberg	<u> </u>	(-0.070, 0.415)	(-0.070, -0.211)	(-0.931, -0.793)	(-0.852, -0.550)	(-0.727, -0.530)
	p	0.20	0.03	< 0.01	0.461	0.274
Münstor	r_s	$(0.413 \ 0.764)$	-0.275	-0.012	-0.401	-0.574
winister		(0.413, 0.704)	(-0.514, 0.008)	(-0.910, -0.028)	(-0.034, -0.213)	(-0.380, -0.124)
	P	0.545	-0 748	-0.01	-0.680	-0 594
Varana	r_s	$(0.295 \ 0.725)$	(-0.866 - 0.553)	(-0.958 - 0.701)	(-0.824 - 0.482)	(-0.759 - 0.358)
v ci ulla	n	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	(-0.024, -0.402)	< 0.01
	P	0.486	-0.617	-0.872	-0.896	-0 701
Stuttgart	r_s	(0.222, 0.684)	(-0.790 - 0.352)	(-0.940 -0.735)	(-0.948 -0.708)	(-0.831 - 0.498)
L'EULCUIL						
~~~~~	p	0.02	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01

- 311 Notes: Spearman's rank correlations  $(r_s)$  are reported with 95% confidence intervals (bracketed
- and in italics) and 2-sided p-values (p) corrected for multiple testing. Entries in bold differ from
- *zero with 95% confidence after correction for multiple testing. These entries are shaded with*
- 314 greyscale intensity following Evins (1966) classification for describing correlation strength: i.e.
- 315 weak ( $r_s = 0.20-0.39$ : light shading), moderate ( $r_s = 0.40-0.59$ ; moderate shading), strong ( $r_s = 0.40-$
- 316 0.60-0.79; heaving shading) and very strong ( $r_s = 0.80-1.00$ ; very heavy shading) correlations.
- 317

Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Mean annual temperature (°C)

Mean annual temperature (°C)

Figure 4.

