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1 **Are gridded precipitation datasets a good option for streamflow simulation**  
2 **across the Juruá river basin, Amazon?**

3 Frédéric Satgé<sup>1\*</sup>, Benjamin Pillot<sup>1</sup>, Henrique Roig<sup>2</sup> and Marie-Paule Bonnet<sup>1</sup>

4

5 <sup>1</sup> ESPACE-DEV, Univ Montpellier, IRD, Univ Antilles, Univ Guyane, Univ Réunion, Montpellier, France

6 <sup>2</sup> Instituto de Geociência (IG), Universidade de Brasília, Brasília-DF, Brazil

7

8 \*Corresponding author: frederic.satge@ird.fr

9

10 **Abstract**

11 Over the past few decades, many gridded P-datasets with nearly global coverage have become available. These  
12 P-datasets offer an unprecedented opportunity to constrain hydrological modeling in remote region where the  
13 gauge network is sparse. However, few studies report on P-datasets reliability for discharge simulations limiting  
14 the use of these datasets. This study investigates the reliability of available gridded P-datasets for streamflow  
15 simulations for 10 basins of the Juruá watershed, located in the Amazon region. A total of 19 P-datasets  
16 including both satellite-based and reanalysis-based precipitation estimates, are considered to provide a  
17 comprehensive overview of currently available options. Used as forcing data in two lumped hydrological  
18 models (GR4j and HyMOD), some P-datasets led to a more realistic simulation of daily and monthly streamflow  
19 than the simulation based on precipitation estimates derived from the gauges network. P-dataset ranking  
20 depends on the considered basin and time step (i.e. daily, monthly), suggesting variability in spatial reliability  
21 for all considered P-datasets. In addition, the P-dataset reliability increases with the surface area of the  
22 considered basins. This can be partially explained by the aggregation of precipitation on larger spatial scales  
23 counterbalancing potential spatial inconsistencies at more local scales in the P-dataset, and by the better  
24 modeling of smoother hydrographs at the outlets of larger basins. Overall, IMERG-F v.6 and CMORPH-BLD  
25 appear to be the most efficient P-datasets for the region under consideration.

26

## 27 **1. Introduction**

28 Global warming and increasing anthropogenic pressure threaten the sustainability of water resources in many  
29 parts of the world and undermine the integrity of the ecosystems and societies on which they depend. In this  
30 context, observing and quantifying precipitation and its evolution over time is particularly important for  
31 estimating the recharge processes of surface and groundwater systems with respect to their use. Precipitation  
32 is traditionally estimated from networks of in-situ stations whose data are still collected manually in many  
33 regions, then digitized, and therefore exposed to reporting errors. The spatial distribution of the stations,  
34 constrained by the maintenance costs depending on the accessibility to the installation sites, is very  
35 heterogeneous, and leads to vast areas without any observation. The high maintenance cost is often  
36 prohibitive for many countries. This results in substantial gaps in the surveyed time series and to sparsely  
37 populated station networks usually distributed among easily accessible areas. The precipitation estimate in  
38 remote ungauged areas is then based on the interpolation of scattered and remote stations, which are not very  
39 representative of the local precipitation dynamics. Similar difficulties are common in transboundary regions  
40 where international conflicts on water resources may limit the access to the data from the national monitoring  
41 networks. Thus, in this context, open-access gridded precipitation datasets (P-datasets) providing near-global  
42 spatial coverage stand for a particularly attractive alternative.

43 Over the past 20 years, 30 near global-scale P-datasets with different space–time coverage and resolution have  
44 been identified (Sun et al., 2018). On a general way, the precipitation estimates are derived from different  
45 inputs such as gauges observation (i.e. CPC, CRU, GPCC) and/or satellite information (i.e. IMERG, TMPA,  
46 CMORPH) and/or physical and dynamical models output (reanalysis dataset) (i.e. ERA5, MERRA2, WFDEI).  
47 Therefore, P-datasets estimates present discrepancies in space and time depending on the inputs sensitivity to  
48 local climate and topographic context. For instance, gauge-based precipitation estimates reliability is closely  
49 related to the gauges network density and distribution used for the interpolation process (Sun et al., 2015).  
50 Satellite-based precipitation estimates rely on PMW and IR sensors which measurements are not only  
51 influenced by precipitations but also by quick change in topographic and surface emissivity (Ferraro et al.,  
52 1998; Levizzani et al., 2002). Satellite-based precipitation estimates are generally less reliable across  
53 mountainous region (Hussain et al., 2017; Satgé et al., 2017), snow covered area and big lake/river regions  
54 (Paiva et al., 2011; Satgé et al., 2016; Tian and Peters-Lidard, 2007). Moreover, the irregular sampling of the

55 satellites hardly capture short-term and slight precipitation events (Gebregiorgis and Hossain, 2013; Tian et al.,  
56 2009). Finally, reanalysis-based precipitation estimates reliability vary in space and time as the models are  
57 generally more adapted for large-scale stratiform systems than small-scale convective precipitation cells (i.e.  
58 Beck et al., 2019, Satgé et al., 2020).

59 In this context, P-dataset estimates are generally compared to gauges observations to report on P-  
60 dataset space and time reliability across different regions (i.e. Beck et al., 2019; Maggioni et al., 2016; Maggioni  
61 and Massari, 2018; Satgé et al., 2020). In gauge-scarce regions, this comparison is limited as only one gauge per  
62 grid-cell is usually available for comparison. As a result, many precipitation events observed at the grid-cell  
63 level (areal measurement of P-datasets) may be lost or underestimated at the gauge level (point measurement  
64 of gauges) introducing uncertainties in the comparison (i.e. Salles et al., 2019; Satgé et al., 2019; Tang et al.,  
65 2018). To overcome this issue, an alternative approach is to compare the simulated streamflow (using P-  
66 datasets as forcing data) with the observed streamflow. Because streamflow is function of basin-wide  
67 precipitation estimates, this comparison overcomes the spatial scale discrepancy between grid-cell and rain  
68 gauges observation. Based on this method, recent studies use P-datasets as forcing data for streamflow  
69 modelling to assess the reliability and suitability of P-datasets for streamflow modelling.

70 Accordingly, Satgé et al. (2019) assessed 7 satellite-based P-datasets (SM2RAIN-CCI, SM2RAIN-ASCAT,  
71 IMERG-E, -L and -F v.6, CHIRPS v.2 and MSWEP v.2.2) over 2 basins located in the south American Andean  
72 plateau. Results show that daily streamflow modelled with MSWEP v.2.2 and IMERG-F were in close agreement  
73 with the observed one. Another study compared 7 P-datasets including satellite-based (IMERG-E, IMERG-F,  
74 PRISM-SMAP, PRISM-SMOS, GPM+SM2Rain), reanalysis-based (ERA5) and gauge-based (GPCC) ones for  
75 streamflow modelling of 10 basins across Europe and Africa (Brocca et al., 2020). This work shows that P-  
76 datasets offer a great opportunity for streamflow modelling over scarcely gauged basins. Across 15 basins  
77 located across the European Mediterranean Sea region, 4 satellite-based P-datasets (TMPA-RT v.7, CMORPH,  
78 PERSIANN, SM2RAIN-CCI) provided less realistic streamflow simulation than precipitation gauges observations  
79 (Camici et al., 2018). Additionally, 3 P-datasets (TMPA-RT, CMORPH and SM2RAIN-ASCAT) were evaluated for  
80 the streamflow modelling of 1318 European basins (Camici et al., 2020). According to the authors, these P-  
81 datasets can reasonably be used as forcing data for the considered basins. Jiang and Bauer-Gottwein, (2019)  
82 assessed 3 P-datasets (TMPA-adj v.7, IMERG-E and -L v.6) for streamflow modelling of 300 Chinese basins and

83 found that IMERG P-datasets provide comparable streamflow simulations to gauge-based precipitation  
84 estimates. Tarek et al., (2020) used ERA5 P-dataset to force hydrological modelling for 3138 basins located  
85 across North America. Results show that ERA5-based hydrological modelling performance is equivalent to the  
86 one using gauges observations over most of the considered basins.

87 In the above-described context, P-datasets represent a clear opportunity for streamflow modelling  
88 especially across remote regions where gauge information is often lacking or missing. However, the current  
89 state of the art only considers a limited number of P-datasets (up to 7 in the above example). With 30 P-  
90 datasets recently listed (Sun et al., 2018) there is a need for considering a more exhaustive P-dataset sample in  
91 order to provide a comprehensive reliability overview of the available P-datasets. In this line of work, 17 and 18  
92 P-datasets including satellite, reanalysis and gauges-based P-datasets were considered for hydrological  
93 modelling across the West African basin of Volta basin (Dembele et al., 2020) and 8 large scale basins  
94 (Mazzoleni et al., 2019), respectively. According to Mazzoleni et al. (2019), there is no unique best performing  
95 P-dataset for all basins and results strongly depend on the basin characteristics.

96 In this context, the present study assesses 19 P-datasets for hydrological modelling across 10 basins  
97 located in the Juruá watershed, one of the large tributary streams of the Amazon River. The analysis is  
98 conducted at both daily and monthly time steps and aims at providing important feedback to support P-dataset  
99 selection by potential users, and improve development of the next-generation P-datasets.

100

101 **2. Materials**

102 **2.1. Study Area**

103 Juruá basin covers 188,290 km<sup>2</sup> of which 93.8 % is in Brazil and 6.2 % in Peru. The basin has a mean elevation  
104 of 203 m ranging from 18 to 760 m in the Andean region forming the western border with Peru. The mean  
105 annual basin precipitation is 2,260 mm-year<sup>-1</sup> with a rainy season from October to April and a dry season from  
106 May to September contributing to 77.5 % and 22.5 % of total annual precipitations.

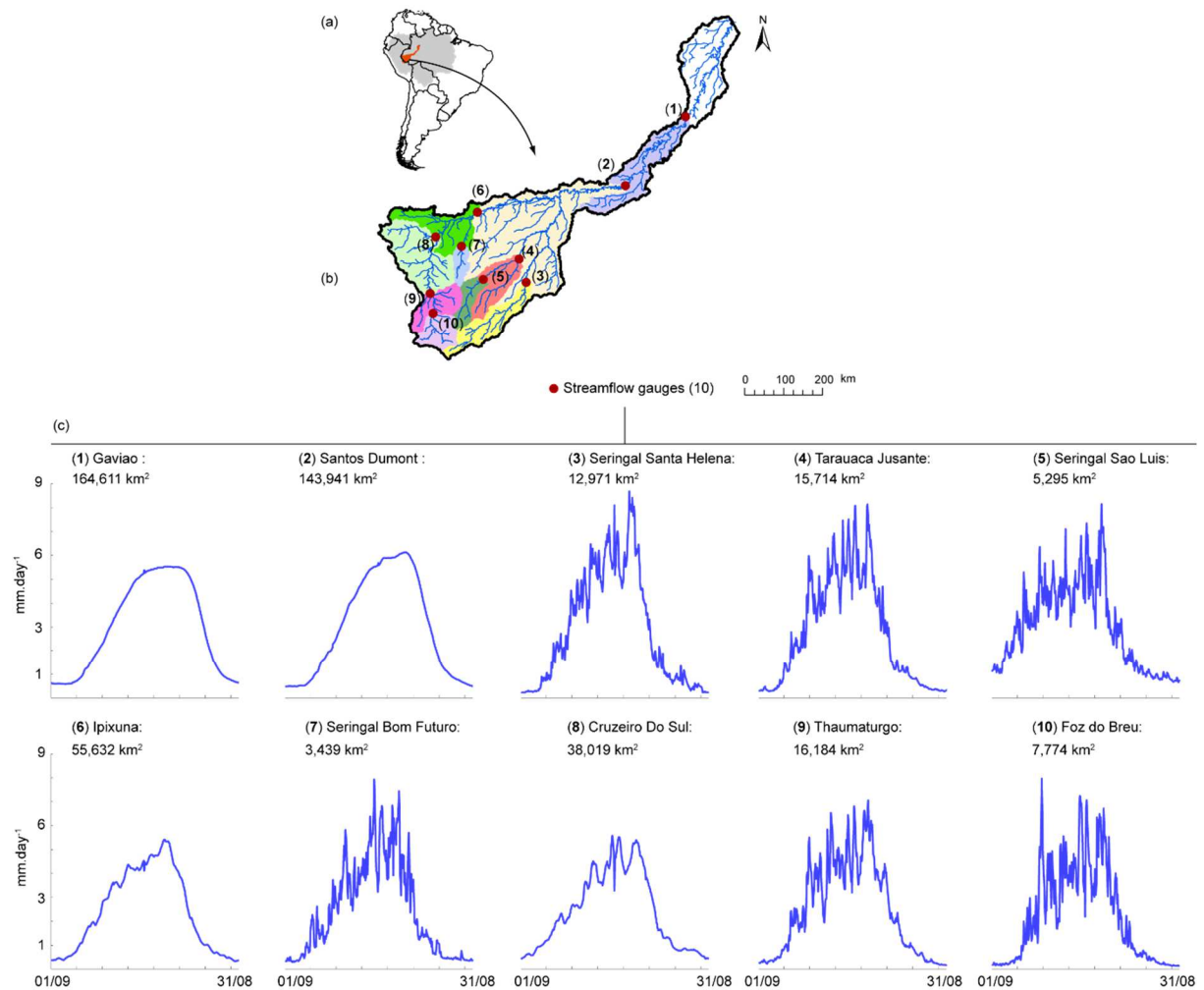
107 Ten basins of the Juruá river watershed are considered. They correspond to the areas drained by each  
108 streamflow gauge available in the Juruá watershed. Their surface area ranges from 3,439 km<sup>2</sup> to 164,611 km<sup>2</sup> at  
109 the streamflow station *Seringal bom futuro* and *Gavião*, respectively (Figure 1c).

110 **2.2. Reference observation**

111 We used the daily gridded precipitation datasets for Brazil firstly developed by Xavier et al. (2015) and updated  
112 to version 2.1 by Xavier et al., (2017). This dataset provides precipitation on a regular 0.25° grid for the 1980-  
113 2015 period. Precipitation estimates are derived from the interpolation (angular distance weighting) of 9,259  
114 rain gauges operated by the *Agência Nacional de Aguas (ANA)* and the *Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia*  
115 (INMET), from which 36 are included in the Juruá basin.

116 The Catchment Attributes and MEteorology for Large-sample Studies datasets for Brazil (CAMELS-BR)  
117 is used for reference streamflow observations (Chagas et al., 2020). CAMELS-BR consists in 3,679 streamflow  
118 gauges with daily observations operated by the ANA from which 25 are located in the Juruá basin. Each series  
119 comes with a daily flag indicating whether the observation was quality checked by the ANA. We used this flag  
120 to select gauges with more than 95% of daily observations for the 2001-2010 period for a total of 10  
121 streamflow gauges (Figure 1).

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Figure 1. Juruá basin location into the Amazon system (a) with considered sub-basins location (b) and corresponding mean daily streamflow's record over the 2001-2010 period (c). Also reported the drained area (km<sup>2</sup>) at each considered station

126

### 2.3. Gridded Precipitation datasets

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This study evaluates 19 P-datasets covering the 10 years period (2001–2010) with streamflow data for the 10

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basins. P-datasets are based on three main types of input data to retrieve precipitation:

129

- Satellite-based precipitation estimates derived from passive/active microwaves and infrared sensors

130

- Reanalysis-based precipitation estimates derived from physical and dynamical models

131

- Gauge-based precipitation datasets (i.e. CPC, CRU, GPCC, GPCP, CHPclim and WorldClim2)

132

Gauge-based precipitation datasets are generally used to adjust the precipitation estimates derived from

133

satellite-based and/or reanalysis-based precipitation estimates. Therefore, the P-datasets considering gauge-

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based precipitation datasets are expected to provide more reliable precipitation estimates than the other P-

135

datasets. In this context, the 19 P-datasets under consideration in this study were divided into 3 main groups:



- 136 - P-datasets relying only on satellite-based and/or reanalysis-based estimates (CHIRP v.2, ERA5, GSMaP-  
137 RT v.6, IMERG-E v.6, IMERG-L v.6, MERRA2-FLX and TMPA-RT v.7),  
138 - P-datasets considering gauge-based precipitation datasets and only satellite-based or reanalysis-based  
139 (CMORPH-BLD, CMORPH-CRT, GSMaP-Adj v.6, IMERG-F v.6, MERRA2-LND, PERSIANN-CSS-CDR,  
140 PERSIANN-CDR, TMPA-Adj v.7, WFDEI-CRU, WFDEI-GPCC)  
141 - P-datasets including satellite-based, reanalysis-based and gauge-based precipitation estimates  
142 (CHIRPS v.2 and MSWEP v.2.2)

143 Finally, it is worth mentioning that P-dataset estimates are available with temporal latency ranging from hours  
144 to months after the observation. This is an important feature to take into consideration as P-datasets with  
145 short temporal latency are adapted for near-real time data requirement (e.g. flood or landslides forecasting,  
146 water resource management for agriculture) while the others are better suited to retrospective climate  
147 studies. Also, P-datasets without gauge-based information are available with the shorter temporal latency  
148 which ranges from few hours (IMERG-E and -L v.6) to few days (CHIRP v.2, TMPA-RT v.7, GSMaP-RT v.6). With  
149 few hours' temporal latency, IMERG-E and -L v.6 would be particularly adapted for near-real time requirement.  
150 For more information about the considered P-datasets, readers should refer to the main references listed in  
151 Table 1.

152 *Table 1. Main characteristics and references of the P-datasets. In the data source column, S, R, and G stands for satellite,*  
153 *reanalysis, and gauge information.*

Acronym	Full Name	Data	TemporalCoverage	Spatial Resolution	Temporal latency	References
CHIRP v.2	Climate Hazards Group InfraRed v.2	S, R	1981-Present	0.05°	2 days	(Chris Funk et al., 2014)
CHIRPS v.2	CHIRP with stations v.2	S, R, G	1981-Present	0.05°	1 month	(Chris Funk et al., 2014)
CMORPH-CRT	Climate Prediction Center MORPHing bias corrected	S, G	1998-Present	0.25°	6 months	(Xie et al., 2011)
CMORPH-BLD	CMORPH satellite-gauge merged	S, G	1998-Present	0.25°	1 month	(Xie et al., 2011)
ERA5	European Centre for MediumRange Weather Forecasts fifth generation	R	1981-Present	0.1°	1 month	Muñoz Sabater et al., 2019
GSMaP-RT v.6	Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation standard v.6	S	2000-Present	0.1°	3 days	(Ushio et al., 2014; Yamamoto et al., 2014)

GSMaP-Adj v.6	GSMaP Adjusted v.6	S, G	2000-Present	0.1°	3 days	(Ushio et al., Yamamoto et al., 2014)
IMERG-E v.6	Integrated Multi-Satellite Retrievals for GPM Early Run v.6	S	2000-Present	0.1°	4 hours	(Huffman et al., 2010)
IMERG-L v.6	IMERG-Late Run v.6	S	2000-Present	0.1°	12 hours	(Huffman et al., 2010)
IMERG-F v.6	IMERG-Final Run v.6	S, G	2000-Present	0.1°	3 months	(Huffman et al., 2010)
MERRA2-FLX	Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis for Research and Applications 2	S, R, G	1980-Present	0.625°×0.5°	2 months	(Gelaro et al., 2017)
MERRA2-LND	MERRA2 Land	S, R, G	1980-Present	0.625°×0.5°	2 months	(Gelaro et al., 2017)
MSWEP v.2.2	Multi-Source Weighted Ensemble Precipitation v.2.2	S, R, G	1979-2017	0.1°	Stopped	(Beck et al., 2016)
PERSIANN-CDR	Precipitation Estimates from Remotely Sensed Information using Artificial Neural Network and Climate Data Record	S, G	1983-2016	0.25°	6 month	(Ashouri et al., 2014)
PERSIANN-CSS-CDR	PERSIANN-Cloud Classification System-CDR	S, G	1983-2016	0.04°	6 month	(Sadeghi et al., 2017 Review)
TMPA-RT v.7	TRMM Multi-satellite Precipitation Analysis Real Time v.7	S	1998-Present	0.25°	1 day	(Huffman et al., 2010)
TMPA-Adj v.7	TMPA Adjusted v.7	S, G	2000-Present	0.25°	3 months	(Huffman et al., 2010)
WFDEI-CRU	WATCH Forcing Data methodology applied to ERA-Interim-Climatic Research Unit	R, G	1979-2016	0.5°	stopped	(Weedon et al., 2014)
WFDEI-GPCC	WFDEI-Global Precipitation Climatology Center	R, G	1979-2016	0.5°	stopped	(Weedon et al., 2014)

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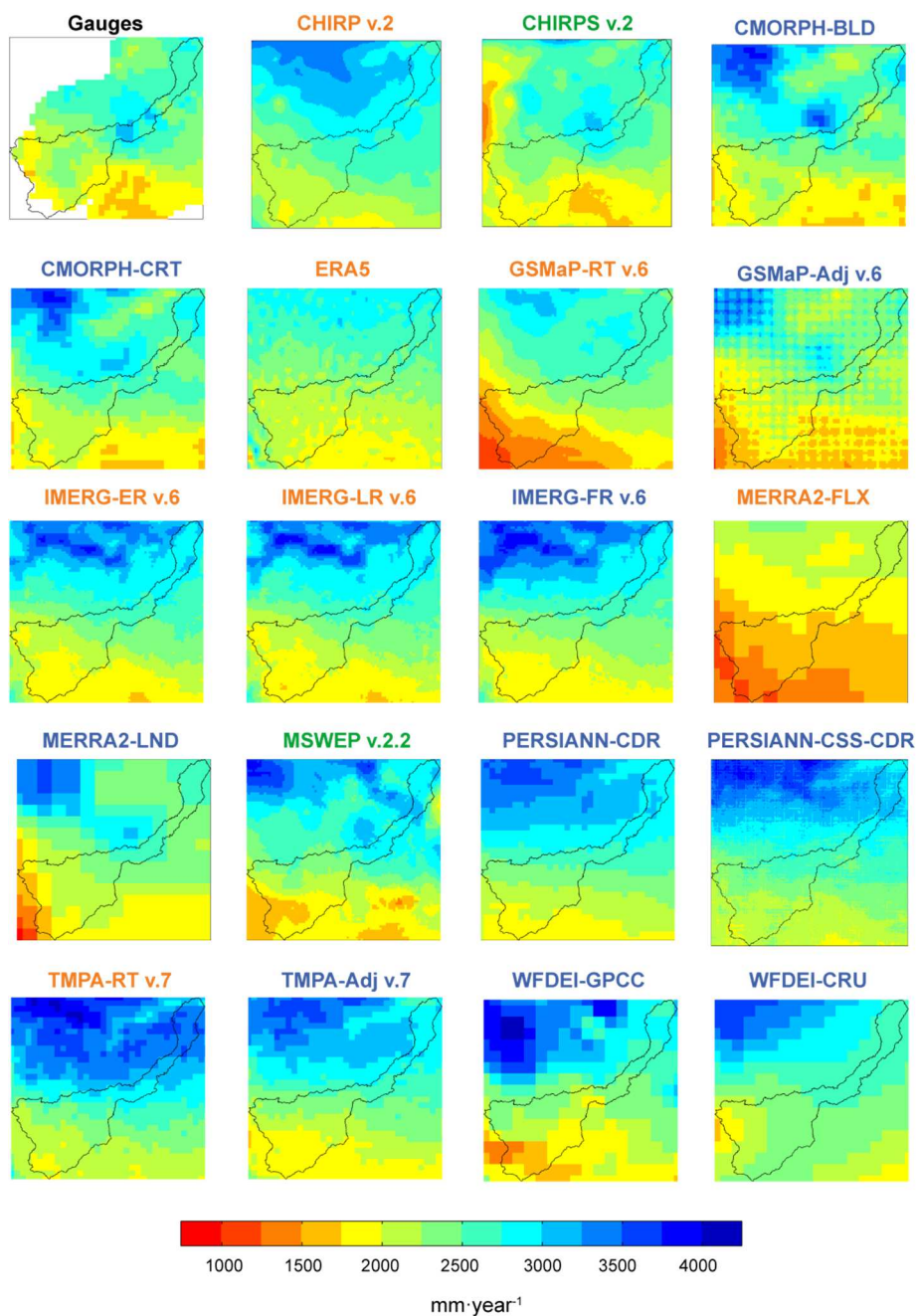
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Figure 2 shows the mean annual precipitation derived from all considered P-datasets at their original spatial resolution over the 2001-2010 period. Although all P-datasets are able to represent the south-north precipitation pattern, they differ in terms of total amount and local patterns. These differences may reflect in the evaluation presented in this study. The blocky effect observed for GSMaP-Adj v.6 and PERSIANN-CSS-CDR may be attributed to the post adjustment of these P-datasets based on CPC and GPCP, respectively. Similar effects were observed for IMERG-F v.3, which was progressively removed along with the development of the updated version 4, 5 and now 6 (Satgé et al., 2018).



163

164 *Figure 2. Mean annual precipitation maps from the considered P-datasets over the 2002-2010 period with different color*  
 165 *name for P-datasets using gauge-based information (blue), P-datasets without gauge-based information (orange) and P-*  
 166 *datasets using gauge, satellite and reanalysis-based information*

167 **2.4. GLEAM ETp**

168 The potential evapotranspiration (ETp) from the Global Land Evaporation Amsterdam Model version 3a  
 169 (GLEAM v.3a) (ETp) (Martens et al., 2017) is selected in this study as forcing data for the hydrological models.

170 GLEAM v.3a estimates are derived from the Priestley and Taylor equation using ERA-Interim as forcing data  
171 (net radiation and air temperature). Available at daily time step and 0.25° spatial resolution, this dataset was  
172 previously validated across the Altiplano (Satgé et al., 2019a) and used for hydrological modelling across the  
173 same region (Satgé et al., 2020) and West Africa (i.e. Dembélé et al., 2020).

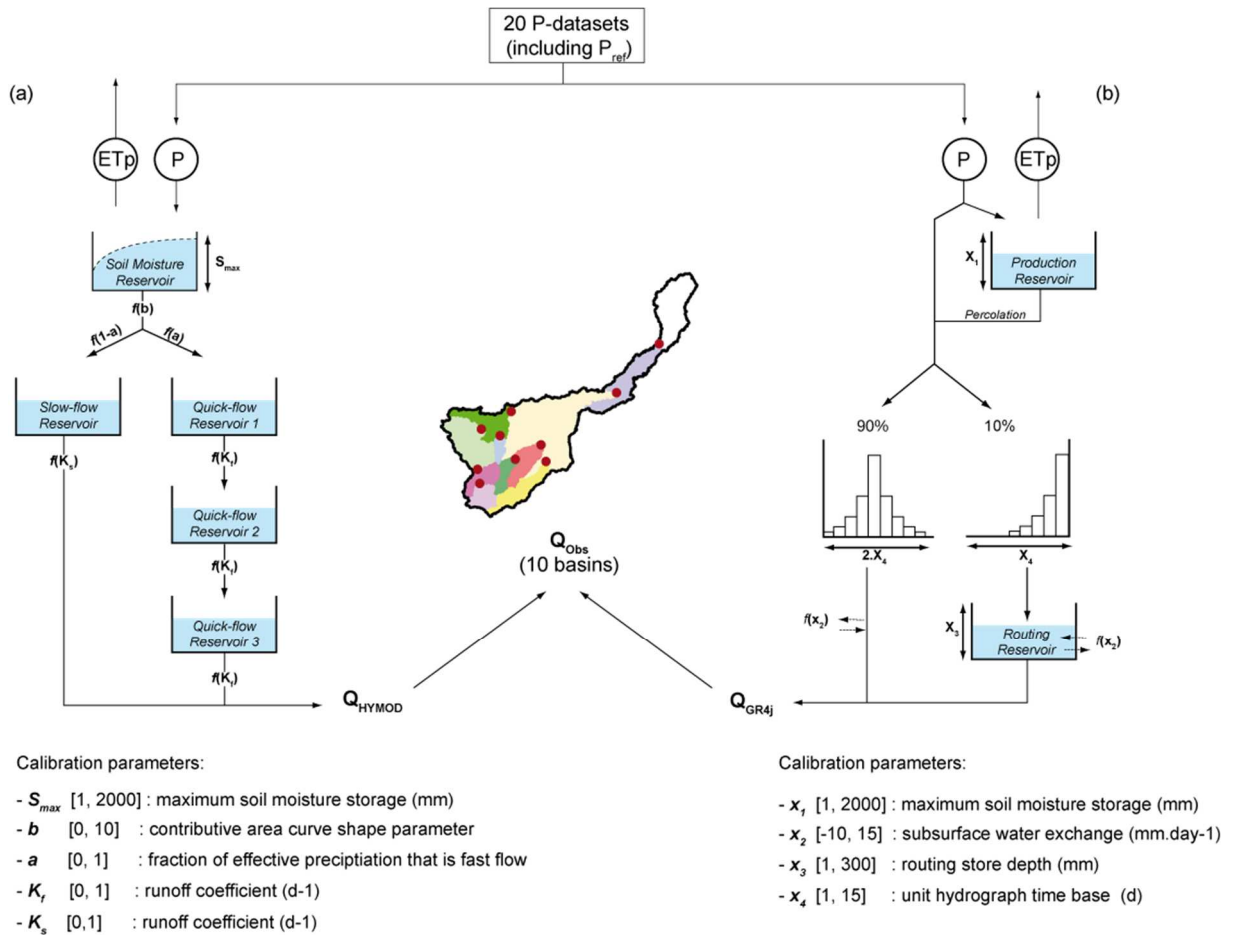
## 174 **2.5. Hydrological Models**

175 Two lumped hydrological models, GR4j (Perrin et al., 2003) and HyMOD (Wagener et al., 2001), were selected  
176 for the analysis to avoid any influence from the models on the gridded P-dataset performance. Both models  
177 require ETp and P as forcing data.

178 GR4j was successfully used in studies conducted over the South American continent (Satgé et al., 2019  
179 and 2020). However, in comparison to 35 hydrological models (including GR4j) HyMOD aims at performing  
180 relatively better in baseflow-dominated catchments without flashy streamflow behavior (Knoben et al., 2020)  
181 as observed over the Amazonian basin. Therefore, HyMOD should provide more accurate streamflow  
182 simulations and is considered for comparison.

183 HyMOD is a 5-parameter and 5-storage model (Figure 3a). It is based on a soil moisture storage in  
184 order to compute and separate the excess precipitation into quick and slow runoff. Quick runoff is routed  
185 through a Nash cascade of three identical linear reservoirs whereas slow runoff is routed in a parallel reservoir.  
186 The streamflow at the catchment outlet is computed by summing up quick and slow runoff.

187 GR4j is a 4-parameter and 2-storage model (Figure 3b). It first computes the amount of water available  
188 for runoff (i.e. effective precipitation) by using a production module. Then a routing function splits the effective  
189 precipitation into two components (90 % and 10%) through separate unit hydrographs (UH1 and UH2) in order  
190 to represent the delayed and direct runoff, respectively. Finally, the delayed and direct runoff are summed to  
191 get the catchment outlet streamflow.



192

193

Figure 3. HyMOD (a) and GR4j (b) model description along with general workflow for P-dataset reliability in streamflow

194

simulation.

### 195 3. Method

#### 196 3.1. SPPs vs. Gauge Observations

197 To ensure a consistent comparison, all P-datasets (including the reference) were previously resampled from  
 198 their original spatial resolution (table 1) to the 0.1° grid-cell size. This process relies on a bilinear mean  
 199 (interpolation) for P-datasets with original spatial resolution <0.1° (>0.1°). Then, based on a weighted average  
 200 for the grid-cells not fully included in the basins, the area-averaged daily P series were computed for each P-  
 201 dataset and compared to the one derived from the reference ( $P_{ref}$ ) using the Kling–Gupta efficiency (KGE)  
 202 (Gupta et al., 2009) (eq. 1-4).

203 KGE is commonly used to assess P-dataset reliability as it combines the correlation coefficient ( $R$ ), bias ( $Bias$ )  
 204 and ratio of variability ( $V_r$ ) between reference observations (in this case, the gauge observations) and  
 205 evaluated P-datasets, all of which are relevant scores to look at for efficient management of water resources.

$$KGE \tag{1}$$

$$= 1 - \sqrt{(R - 1)^2 + (Bias - 1)^2 + (Vr - 1)^2}$$

206

$$R = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{1}^n \frac{(o_n - \mu_o) * (s_n - \mu_s)}{\sigma_o * \sigma_s} \tag{2}$$

$$Bias = \frac{\mu_s}{\mu_o} \tag{3}$$

$$Vr = \frac{\sigma_s / \mu_s}{\sigma_o / \mu_o} \tag{4}$$

207 Where  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  are the distribution mean and standard deviation, respectively; and s and o stand for the  
 208 estimate and the reference, respectively.

### 209 3.2. SPPs vs Hydrological Modelling

210 The open source Modular Assessment of Rainfall–Runoff Models Toolbox v.1.2 (MARRMOT) was used to run  
 211 the GR4j and HyMOD hydrological models (Knoben et al., 2019). Each of the two models was implemented in  
 212 the 10 basins under study. Note that each basin is treated independently of the other, including for nested  
 213 watersheds. This means that for each basin, the precipitation was aggregated over the whole area located  
 214 upstream of the streamflow gauges. MARRMOT uses the Nelder–Mead simplex algorithm for the objective  
 215 function optimization to calibrate the models. Generally, KGE and/or Nash Shuttle Efficiency score (NSE) are  
 216 used as objective functions for streamflow modelling (i.e. Fallah et al., 2020; Jiang and Bauer-Gottwein, 2019b;  
 217 Tarek et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2020). A previous study assessing P-dataset reliability for streamflow modeling  
 218 has shown that P-dataset efficiency ranking remains equal independently of using KGE or NSE as objective  
 219 function (Satgé et al., 2020). Therefore, we only used KGE as objective function for this study.

220 For each precipitation input ( $P_{ref}$  and P-datasets), both models (i.e. GR4j and HyMOD) were calibrated over the  
 221 2001–2010 period (10 years) using the 2001 year as a spin-up period. As the objective of this study was to  
 222 assess P-dataset reliability for streamflow modelling rather than the hydrological model robustness, we did not  
 223 consider a validation period.

## 224 4. Results

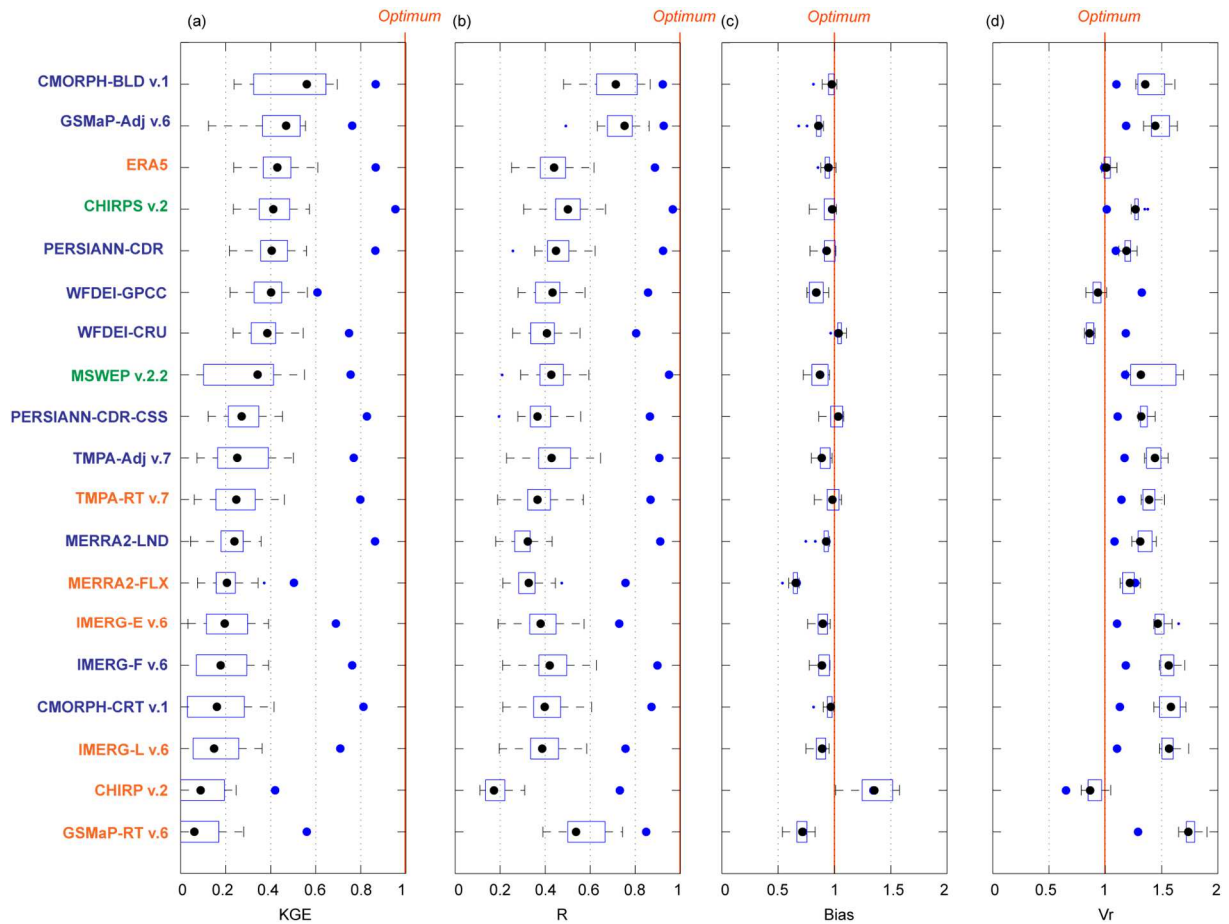
### 225 4.1. SPPs vs. Gauge Observations

226 Figure 4 shows reliability of the P-datasets in representing daily and monthly average precipitations over the 10  
227 considered basins.

228 At the daily time step, the 5 most efficient P-datasets are CMORPH-BLD v.1, GSMaP-Adj v.6, ERA5,  
229 CHIRPS v.2 and PERSIANN-CDR with KGE superior to 0.4 (0.56, 0.47, 0.43, 0.41 and 0.4, respectively). In terms  
230 of R, CMORPH-BLD v.1 and GSMaP-Adj v.6 present the highest scores of 0.71 and 0.75 while all other SPPs have  
231 R inferior to 0.6. In terms of Bias, most of the P-datasets present Bias close to one. However, MERRA2-FLX and  
232 GSMaP-RT v.6 (PERSIANN-CDR, CHIRP v.2) strongly underestimate (overestimate) precipitation amounts.  
233 Finally, in terms of Vr, all P-datasets present higher precipitation variability than reference precipitation with Vr  
234 superior to 1. Among the top 5 P-datasets (in terms of KGE) ERA5 is the only one with Vr close to 1.

235 When considering the monthly time step, the P-dataset ranking changes to CHIRPS v.2, CMORPH-BLD  
236 v.1, ERA5, MERRA2-LND and PERSIANN-CDR with KGE value of 0.95, 0.87, 0.87, 0.87 and 0.86, respectively.  
237 CHIRPS v.2 ranked first (instead of CMORPH-BLD v.1 at daily time step), MERRA2-LND is now in the top 5 P-  
238 dataset and GSMaP-Adj v.6 is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> with a KGE value of 0.76.

239 The different ranking observed at daily and monthly time step can partially be attributed to (i) the time  
240 step of the gauge-based datasets used for the precipitation adjustment and (ii) the 24-hours window used to  
241 calculate the daily precipitation amount (F. Satgé et al., 2020). For example, CMORPH-BLD v.1 is based on daily  
242 gauge-based datasets (CPC) while CHIRPS v.2 uses both daily and monthly gauge-based datasets (CHPclim +  
243 Gauges). As a result, CMORPH-BLD v.1 is the most efficient at the daily time step while it is CHIRPS v.2 at the  
244 monthly time step. Similarly, GSMaP-Adj v.6 uses daily gauge-based information and thus ranks in the top 5  
245 daily P-datasets but no longer at the monthly time step. Additionally, the 24-hour time window used to retrieve  
246 daily precipitation does not systematically match that of the observed data. Therefore, the daily time step  
247 reliability might be influenced by this temporal mismatch (i.e. CHIRPS v.2, CMORPH-BLD v.1, PERSIANN-CDR-  
248 CSS). However, the monthly comparison is not affected, as the temporal mismatch is very low at this time step  
249 (few hours). It is important to note the difference in P-dataset performance at daily and monthly time step  
250 since the choice of the P-dataset may differ according to the intended use.



251

252 *Figure 4. P-dataset reliability to represent the regional average precipitation of the 10 considered basins in terms of KGE (a),*  
 253 *R (b), Bias (c) and Vr (d). The right and left edges of the boxes represent the 25th and 75th percentile values, respectively.*  
 254 *The P-datasets are sorted from the most (top) to the least (bottom) efficient in terms of KGE and for the daily time step with*  
 255 *different color name for P-dataset using gauge-based information (blue), P-dataset without gauge-based information*  
 256 *(orange) and P-datasets using gauge, satellite and reanalysis-based information. Black and Blue dots represent the median*  
 257 *value obtained at daily and monthly time step, respectively.*

258 Figure 5 shows the KGE along with the average absolute difference between P-dataset and  $P_{ref}$  (in  
 259 terms of absolute value simplicity purpose) value obtained from all P-datasets and for all considered  
 260 catchments. Only KGE and Bias are represented because Bias was found to have the dominant influence on  
 261 KGE values (Satzg  et al., 2020).

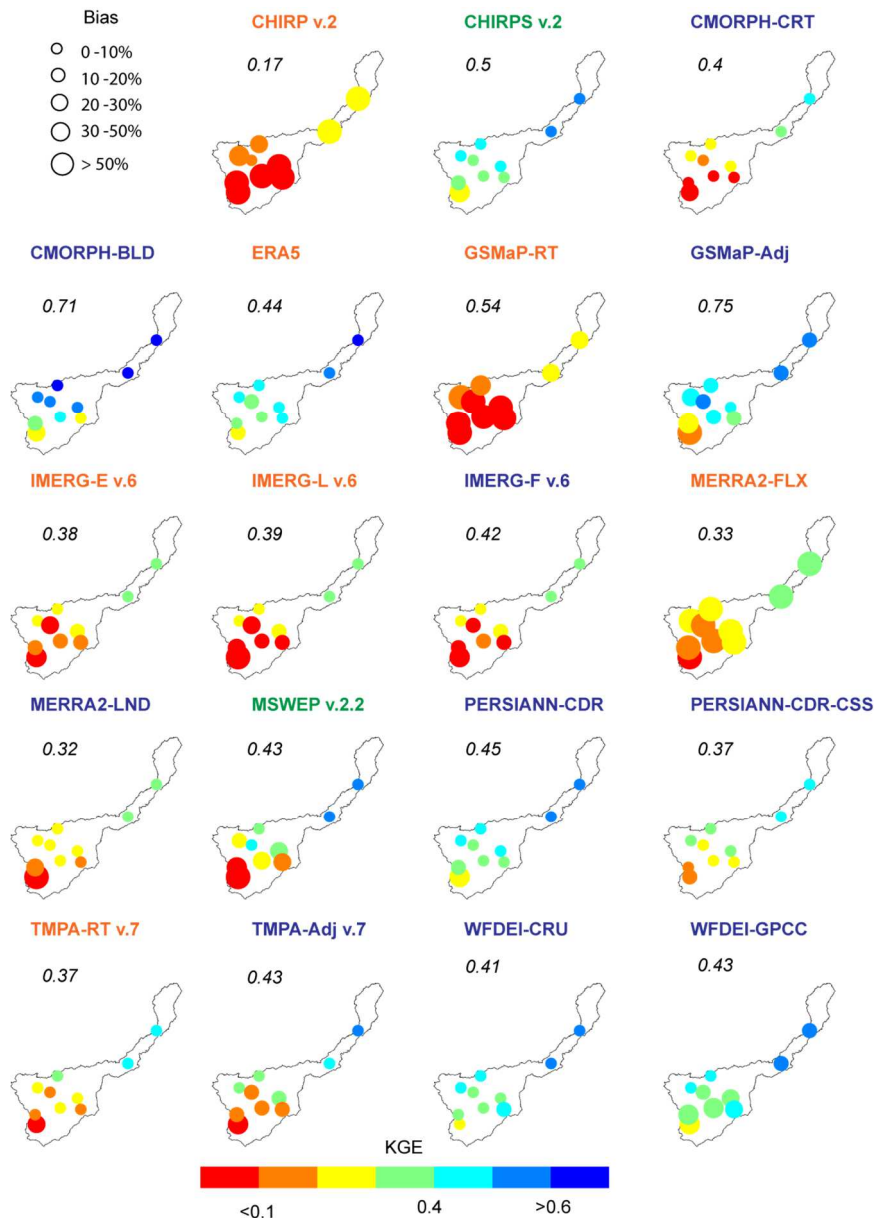
262 In general, the reliability of most of the considered P-datasets presents a south-north gradient with an  
 263 increasing KGE value from south to the north. Along this gradient, the surface extent of the catchments  
 264 increases showing an improvement between P-datasets and  $P_{ref}$  observations (grid-cell spatial average vs.  
 265 point observation).



266 While CHIRPS v.2 and MSWEP v.2.2 include satellite, reanalysis and gauge-based estimates, they do  
267 not provide the most reliable daily precipitation estimates across the considered basins (Fig. 5). However, when  
268 considering the monthly time step, CHIRPS v.2 is the most reliable P-dataset in terms of KGE, and MSWEP v.2.2  
269 is the most reliable in terms of R (Fig. 4 a and b). This discrepancy between daily and monthly reliability for  
270 CHIRPS v.2 and MSWEP v.2.2 may partially be related to the time step of the gauge-based information they  
271 used. Indeed CHIRPS v.2 is based on monthly gauge-based estimates (CHPclim) and therefore performs better  
272 at monthly than daily time step. This is in line with previous results obtained across West Africa showing the  
273 influence of the gauge-based information time step over the P-dataset reliability (Satgé et al., 2020). Similarly,  
274 MSWEP v.2.2 uses both daily and monthly gauge-based estimates instead of only daily gauge-based estimates,  
275 which may attenuate the daily dataset influence in MSWEP precipitation estimates. Additionally, the daily-  
276 gauge based datasets used in MSWEP v.2.2 (Rain gauges from different sources) differ from the one used by  
277 the other P-datasets (CPC). The gauge-based information used by MSWEP v.2.2 might be less reliable than CPC  
278 (in the Juruá basin) and accounts for the relatively lower reliability of MSWEP at the daily time step.

279 Finally, the improvement observed from CHIRP v.2 (GSMaP-RT v.6) to CHIRPS v.2 (GSMaP-Adj v.6) is  
280 notable with an increase (decrease) of the KGE (Bias) for all considered basin (Figure 5). However, taking into  
281 account gauge-based precipitation estimates does not systematically lead to such an improvement. Indeed,  
282 considering the IMERG-E, -L and -F v.6 datasets, the daily KGE and Bias patterns are very similar regardless of  
283 the IMERG versions (Figure 5). Similarly, MERRA2-FLX and -LND present a similar KGE pattern and the  
284 improvement from MERRA2-FLX to MERRA2-LND is limited to a noticeable decrease in Bias. Despite a slight  
285 increase in terms of KGE from TMPA-RT to TMPA-Adj v.6, the inclusion of gauge-precipitation estimates also led  
286 to a slight increase of Bias value.

287



288

289 *Figure 5 Daily P-dataset KGE and Bias (absolute difference between P-dataset and  $P_{ref}$  for simplicity purpose) for the 10*  
 290 *basins with different color name for P-dataset using gauge-based information (blue), P-dataset without gauge-based*  
 291 *information (orange) and P-datasets using gauge, satellite and reanalysis-based information. Italic values indicate the*  
 292 *median R value obtained from the 10 basins.*

293

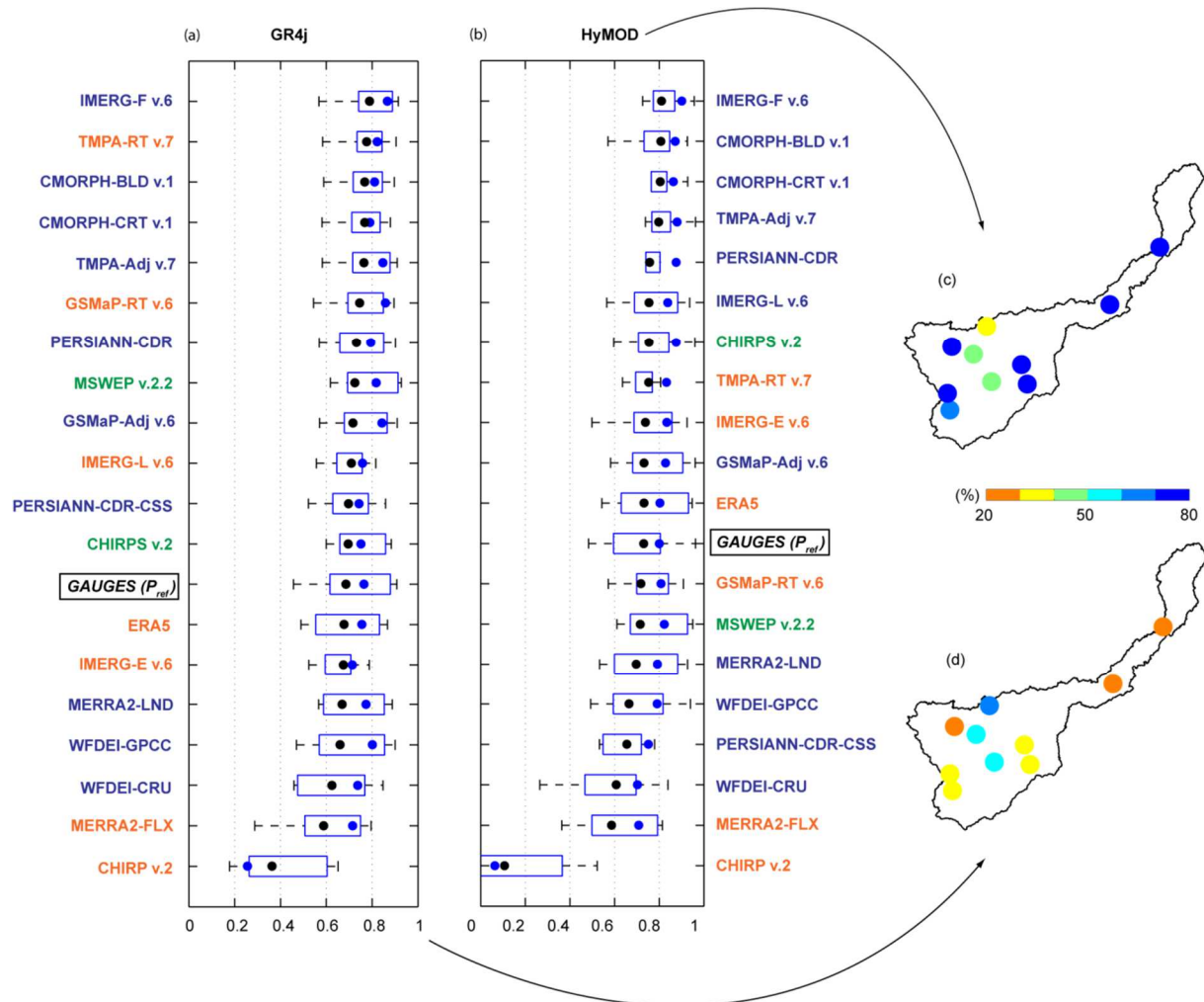
#### 294 4.2. SPPs vs Hydrological Modelling

295 Figure 6 depicts the performance of the 19 P-datasets and  $P_{ref}$  for streamflow modelling using GR4j and  
 296 HyMOD. For both models, IMERG-F v.6 as forcing data provides the most efficient streamflow simulation with  
 297 median KGE of 0.79 and 0.81. Conversely, CHIRP v.2 provides the less efficient streamflow simulation with KGE  
 298 value of 0.36 and 0.11 using GR4j and HyMOD, respectively. Interestingly,  $P_{ref}$  is not the most efficient option  
 299 for streamflow modelling over the Juruá basin. Actually, half of the considered P-datasets provide more

300 realistic streamflow simulations. This could be related to the few gauges available across the region, which are  
301 not able to consistently represent the local precipitation pattern. Different observations could be achieved  
302 across basins with higher gauge density.

303           When comparing daily and monthly streamflow simulations, for both models, the streamflow  
304 simulations are closer to the observations at monthly time step than daily. Interestingly, the P-dataset ranking  
305 efficiency differs between daily and monthly simulations. Indeed, IMERG-F v.6, TMPA-RT v.7 and CMORPH-BLD  
306 v.1 (IMERG-F v.6, CMORPH-BLD v.1 and CMORPH-CRT v.1) are the top 3 P-datasets for GR4j (HyMOD) at daily  
307 time step whereas IMERG-F v.6, GSMaP-RT v.6 and TMPA-Adj v.7 (IMERG-F v.6, TMPA-Adj v.7 and CHIRPS v.2)  
308 are the top 3 P-datasets at the monthly time step. The better performance of TMPA-Adj v.7, PERSIANN-CDR  
309 and CHIRPS v.2 at the monthly time step can be partially explained by the adjustment of the precipitation  
310 estimates using monthly precipitation datasets. Despite a precipitation adjustment based on monthly data  
311 (GPCC), IMERG-F v.6 is the most efficient P-dataset at both daily and monthly time step.

312           Finally, when comparing GR4j and HyMOD performances, the use of the HyMOD model led to a  
313 slightly more accurate streamflow simulation than GR4j (Figure 6 c and d) at all basin outlets, except at the 3  
314 outlets located in the west-central region. Based on this observation the following analysis only considers  
315 HyMOD model.



316

317 *Figure 6. P-dataset reliability in terms of KGE to represent the streamflow at the outlet of the 10 considered basins using*  
 318 *GR4j (a) and HyMOD (b). The right and left edges of the boxes represent the 25th and 75th percentile values, respectively.*

319 *For each model, the P-datasets are sorted from the most (top) to the least (bottom) efficient in terms of KGE. HyMOD (c) and*  
 320 *GR4j (d) frequency to reach the highest KGE considering all P-datasets at daily time step and for all basins. The blue dots*  
 321 *represent the median KGE obtained at the monthly time step.*

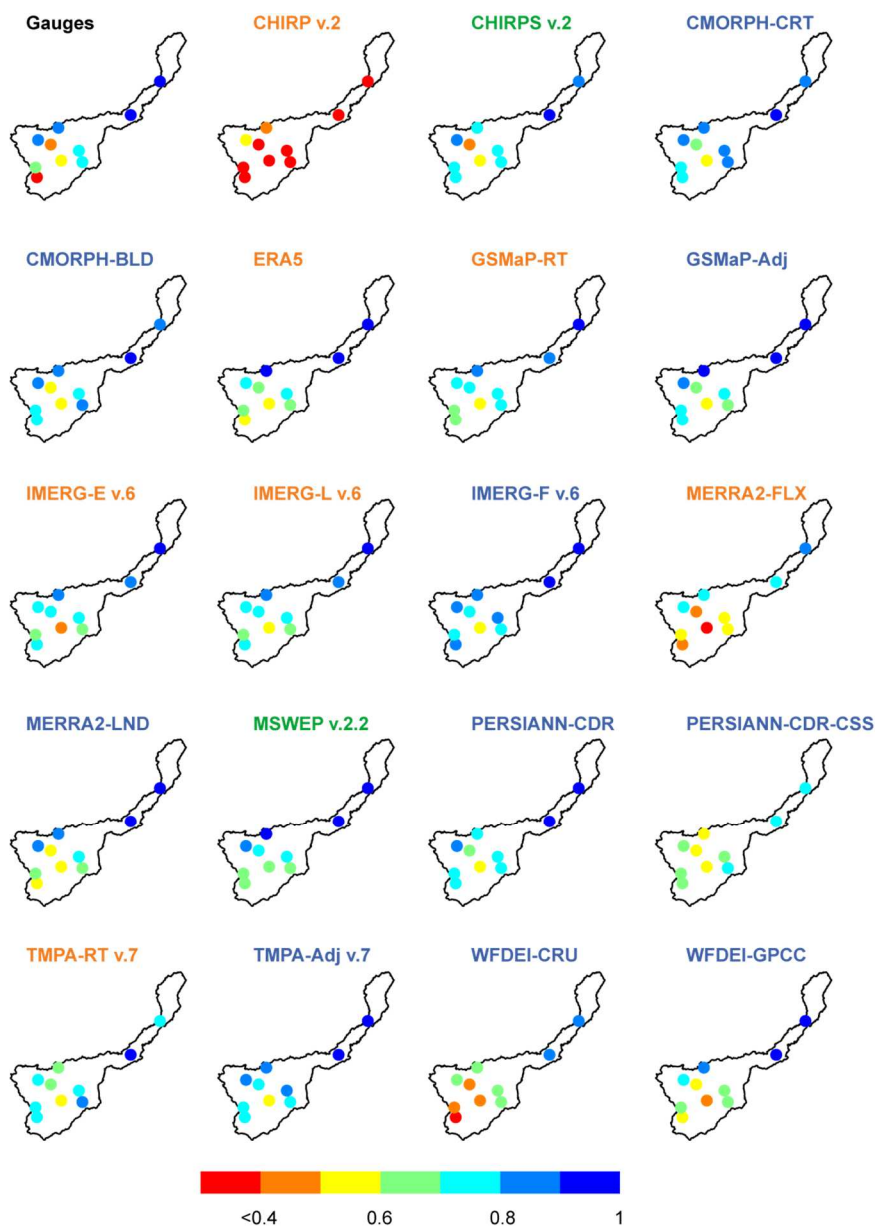
322 Figure 7 shows the P-dataset reliability for daily streamflow modeling at the outlet of the 10  
 323 considered basins. All P-datasets (including  $P_{ref}$ ) are more reliable for the two basins located eastward (Figure  
 324 7), as the hydrograph is smoother (Figure 1) and therefore easier to simulate. Actually, the P-datasets are less  
 325 reliable for the streamflow simulation of the smallest basins located westward, as their hydrographs are much  
 326 more reactive to daily precipitation variability (Figure 1). This trend is clearly observable in Figure 8, which  
 327 shows that the fit between modelled and observed streamflow improves with basin area.

328 Interestingly, the incorporation of a precipitation post-adjustment in CHIRPS v.2 and IMERG-F v.6  
329 considerably increases their reliability for daily streamflow modeling compared to their non-adjusted version  
330 CHIRP v.2 and IMERG-E and -L v.6, respectively. Indeed, CHIRP v.2 considerably overestimates streamflow for  
331 both high and low flow periods. This is even more significant for the small catchments under study (Figure 8).  
332 Regarding the IMERG datasets, the overestimation of IMERG-E and -L v.6 streamflow's observed during the high  
333 flow period is consistently corrected in IMERG-F v.6, showing the benefit of including gauge-based precipitation  
334 estimates. To a lesser extent, a similar improvement is observed for TMPA-Adj v.7 and MERRA2-LND compared  
335 to their no-adjusted versions TMPA-RT v.7 and MERRA2-FLX, respectively. Indeed, the TMPA-RT v.7 (MERRA2-  
336 FLX) streamflow overestimation during the high flow (low flow) period (Fig. 8) is well corrected in TMPA-Adj v.7  
337 (MERRA2-LND) (Fig. 8). Interestingly, KGE values are similar for GSMaP-RT and -Adj v.6 (Fig. 7). However, when  
338 examining the streamflow series, GSMaP-RT v.6 presents a "time lag" consisting in a streamflow  
339 overestimation (underestimation) for the first (second) part of the hydrological cycle (Fig. 8). Thus, the positive  
340 and negative bias (i.e. streamflow over and underestimation) are balanced, leading to similar KGE value to that  
341 of GSMaP-Adj v.6. However, despite similar KGE values, GSMaP-Adj v.6 streamflow simulation are much more  
342 reliable as it removes the "time lag" observed for GSMaP-RT v.6 (Fig. 8).

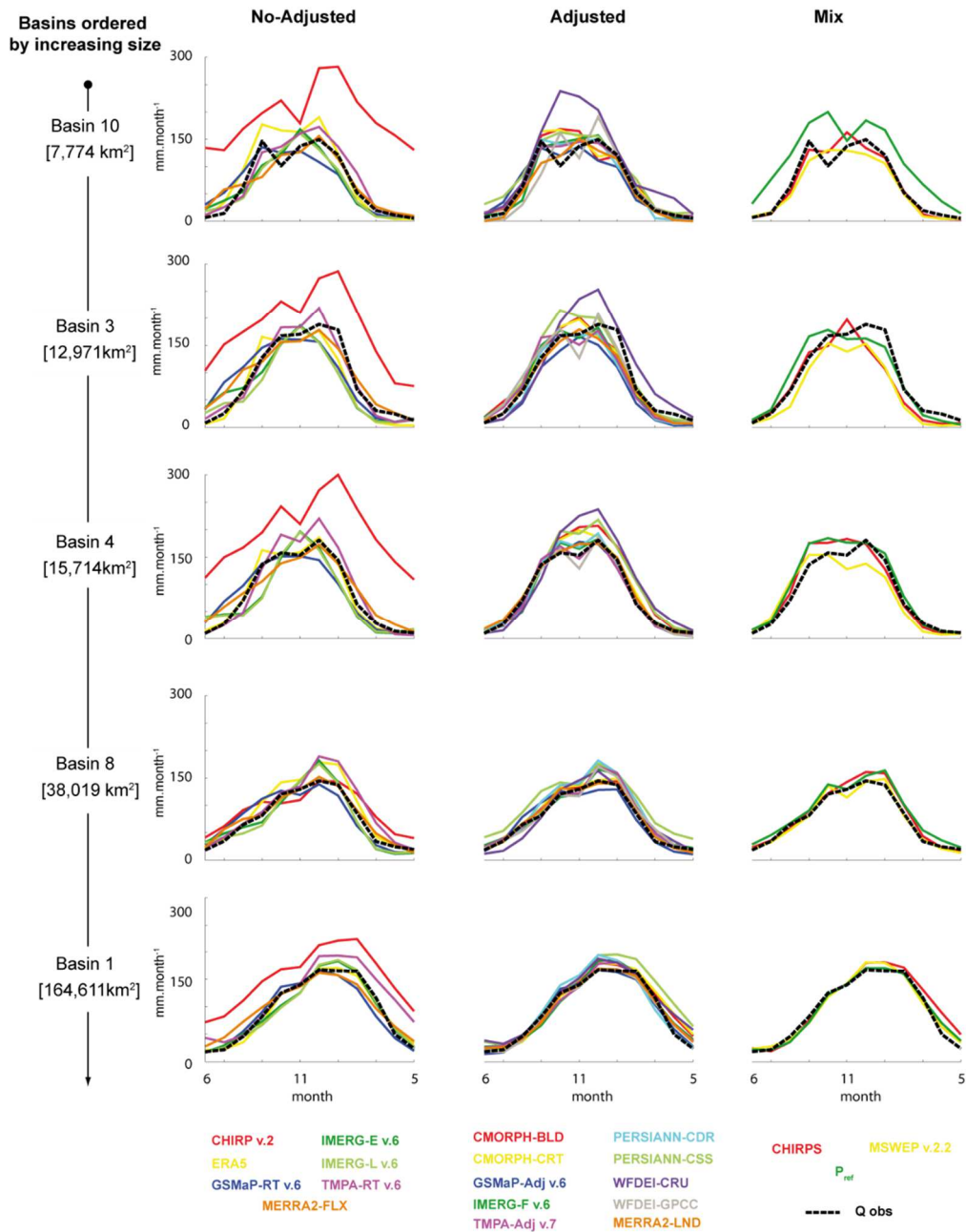
343 Interestingly, even if CHIRPS v.2 and MSWEP v.2.2 include satellite, reanalysis and gauge-based  
344 precipitation estimates, they do not provide the most reliable streamflow simulation across the considered  
345 basins (Figure 6). As reported in the previous section, this might be partially related to the relatively lower  
346 reliability of the gauge-based precipitation used in CHIRPS v.2 and MSWEP v.2.2 when compared to the one  
347 used by the other P-datasets.

348 Finally, even if the P-datasets including gauge-based precipitation estimates (IMERG-F v.6, CMORPH-  
349 BLD, CMORPH-CRT and TMPA-Adj v.7) generally outperform the other P-datasets (Figure 6) they are not  
350 systematically the most reliable for all considered basins (Figure 7). This shows that P-datasets are subject to  
351 spatial "inconsistency" even in a relatively restricted region such as the Juruá basin. This is consistent with  
352 previous results having highlighted the importance of evaluating P-datasets, in order to ensure that the most  
353 reliable P-dataset is selected (Satgé et al. 2020, Pius et al., 2021 Beck et al., 2019). Finally, for long term  
354 analysis, with approximately 40 years of observations, PERSIANN-CDR appears as the most interesting option to  
355 follow daily streamflow dynamics across the Juruá basin. Despite a higher spatial resolution (0.04°), the  
356 recently released PERSIANN-CSS-CDR is not as reliable as the lower spatial resolution (0.25°) PERSIANN-CDR.

357 Indeed, even for the smallest basins considered in our study, the PERSIANN-CSS-CDR product shows worse  
 358 performance than PERSIANN-CDR. Moreover, CHIRPS v.2, which presents the second best spatial resolution  
 359 among P-datasets, does not provide the better score across small basins (Figure 7).



360  
 361 *Figure 7. P-dataset reliability for HyMOD's daily streamflow simulation expressed in the form of KGE at the outlet of the 10*  
 362 *considered basins with different color name for P-dataset using gauge-based information (blue), P-dataset without gauge-*  
 363 *based information (orange) and P-datasets using gauge, satellite and reanalysis-based information. Italic values indicate the*  
 364 *median correlation value obtained from the 10 basins*



365

366 *Figure 8. HyMOD's mean monthly streamflow for the 2002-2010 period obtained from all considered P-dataset and for 5 out*  
 367 *of the 10 basins. The basins are sorted from the largest (bottom) to the smallest (top) area.*

368 **5. Discussion**

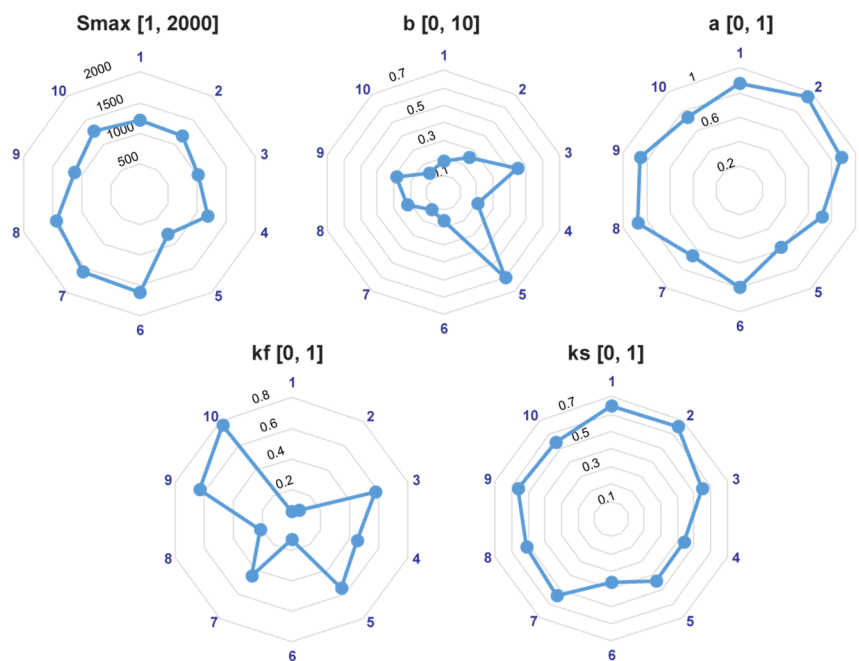
369 **5.1 Hydrologic model parameter consistency**

370 Figure 9 shows the median parameters values derived from all P-datasets and for all considered basins. The  
 371 values of the parameters "b" and "Smax" ( $0.1 < b < 0.6$  ;  $808 < S_{max} < 1606$ ) which control the soil moisture  
 372 storage capacity are relatively similar among the watersheds, except for catchment 5 which has a lower storage  
 373 capacity. Parameter "a" divides the quick and slow flows, its value varies between 0.58 and 0.94. Parameter

374 “Kf” controls the exchange between the 3 quick flow storages and its value varies between, 0.05 up to close  
 375 0.77. The highest “Kf” values are found for the headwater basins (smallest one). “Ks” that controls the slow  
 376 flow ranges from 0.36 to 0.65.

377 Overall, all parameter values remain within the range advised by model developers and relatively  
 378 constant among basins. The most variable parameter is “Kf” reflecting the slope change across the study area.  
 379 Moreover, the parameter “b” remains low (<0.7) while the parameter “a” is in its upper half range (>0.5) for all  
 380 considered basins especially the headwater ones (basins 5, 6, 7, 8). This means that precipitation is more likely  
 381 to contribute to quick flow than slow flow. This feature drastically differs with GR4j model and might explain  
 382 that HyMOD performs better than GR4j across the Juruá basin. Indeed, in GR4j 90% and 10% of the  
 383 precipitation are arbitrarily routed as slow and quick flow, respectively (fig. 3) whereas routing is calibrated in  
 384 HyMOD. This parametrization favors quick flow in the Juruá basin.

385



386

387 *Figure 9. HyMOD’s mean parameter values obtained from all considered P-datasets and for all considered basins*

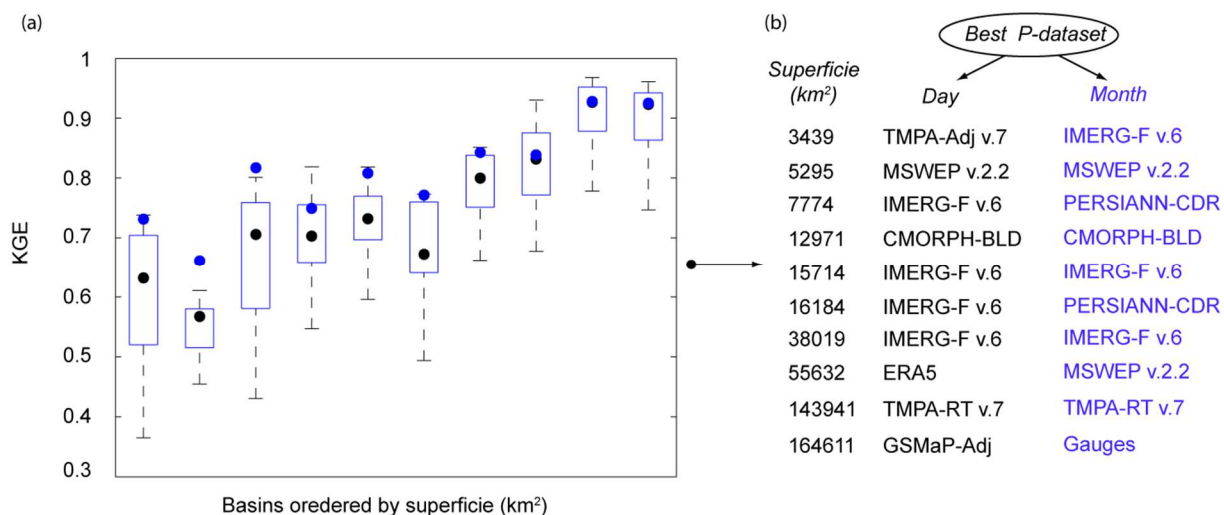
388 **5.2. P-dataset reliability for different basins’ sizes**

389 A previous study led across the Mediterranean region has shown that P-datasets are less reliable for small  
 390 basin areas (Camici et al., 2018). As a similar pattern emerged from Figures 7 and 8, Figure 10 shows the P-  
 391 dataset reliability for the different basins and according to their surface areas. P-dataset reliability grows with



392 the size of the considered basins. Actually, KGE superior to 0.8 is observed for basin areas superior to  
 393 approximately 16,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Figure 10). Precipitation aggregation over a large area minimizes the influence of  
 394 local precipitation variation. With a spatial resolution of several km<sup>2</sup>, the P-datasets are not suitable for  
 395 representing local precipitation dynamics. This drawback is less significant when considering larger basin and  
 396 could explain why P-dataset reliability increases with the basin area. Obviously, hydrological models are also  
 397 more efficient in representing smooth hydrographs as observed over large basins than dynamic ones as  
 398 observed over smaller basins. It is worth mentioning that KGE values do not reflect the absolute P-dataset  
 399 reliability because lumped models such as HyMOD are not the best approach for large basins. These values are  
 400 only given to compare P-dataset reliability with each other.

401 Note that in most cases, the best streamflow simulation is always achieved using a P-dataset instead  
 402 of P<sub>ref</sub> (Figure 10). However, this statement is only true for the region under study because only few gauges are  
 403 available to develop the P<sub>ref</sub>. An opposite conclusion could be drawn if more rain gauges were available across  
 404 the region. According to the actual context and for the time being, P-datasets offer a great opportunity for  
 405 streamflow simulation.



406  
 407 *Figure 10. Overall P-dataset reliability for streamflow simulation (HyMOD) for different basins areas sorted according to*  
 408 *increasing size (a), with the best P-datasets at daily and monthly time step (b). Black (blue) dots represent the median KGE*  
 409 *obtained at the daily (monthly) time step.*

410 **5.1. Gauges vs. hydrological modeling assessment**

411 Daily KGE is low for most of the considered P-datasets (KGE <0.4 for 14 out of 19 P-dataset) when comparing to  
412  $P_{ref}$ . Indeed, P-datasets provide spatially average precipitation observation across grid-cell superficial extent  
413 ranging from 16 km<sup>2</sup> (PERSIANN-CDR-CSS) to 3,125 km<sup>2</sup> (MERRA2-FLX, -LND) while rain gauges provide point  
414 measurement at the exact gauge location. Across tropical regions, precipitation presents high variation in space  
415 so that many precipitation events captured at the grid-cell level might be unregistered at the gauge level.  
416 Therefore, the relationship (i.e. KGE in this study) between the observations made by the P-datasets and the  
417 rain gauges improves with the number of rain gauges used to represent the rainfall of the considered grid-cell  
418 (Salles et al., 2019, Tang et al., 2018). Similar discrepancy between the basin spatially average measurement  
419 observed by the P-datasets and  $P_{ref}$  occurs in this study and explains the low relationship between P-datasets  
420 and  $P_{ref}$ . This discrepancy is less pronounced at the monthly time step as monthly precipitation generally shows  
421 lower spatial variation than daily one.

422 The mismatch between P-dataset grid-cell measurement and point gauge observation clearly shows the limit of  
423 such P-dataset reliability evaluation (especially in the case of scarce gauge network such as the Juruá amazon  
424 basin) and the necessity of alternative methods such as the one using hydrological modelling.

425 Indeed, despite being a point measurement, the streamflow observation is directly connected to the spatially  
426 average precipitation of its corresponding basin. With spatially average observations (grid-cell), P-datasets are  
427 likely to provide more reliable basin spatially average precipitation estimates than  $P_{ref}$ , which relies on the  
428 interpolation of scarce gauge network.

429 Actually, the streamflow simulation obtained using  $P_{ref}$  are less reliable than the one obtained using most of the  
430 P-datasets (10 and 12 out of 19 if using HyMOD or GR4j model, respectively). However, P-dataset reliability  
431 based on hydrological modelling presents some limits such as : (1) the influence of the model parameters  
432 adjustment which can compensates part of the P-dataset uncertainty, (2) the model itself as different  
433 conclusions should be drawn according to the considered models (Figure 6), and (3) the impossibility of  
434 assessing P-dataset at very local scale (grid-cell to grid-cell) as precipitation are averaged at the basin scale.

435 Despite the advantage of using streamflow modelling to assess P-dataset reliability, in many region P-dataset  
436 reliability can only be assessed through comparison with rain gauge estimates as streamflow data are not  
437 available or because the basin hydrological dynamic is highly influenced by human activities (withdraw,

438 agriculture, cities, dams etc.). In this context, it is crucial to use statistical indices leading to the most relevant  
439 conclusion that would have been drawn using a streamflow modelling approach.

440 A recent study led across Europe has shown that common statistic indicators used to assess P-dataset  
441 reliability against rain gauge observations do not reflect the true P-dataset potential for streamflow modeling  
442 (Camici et al., 2020). The authors show that Relative Root Mean Square error (RRMSE eq.4) and Absolute  
443 relative Mean Error (AME eq. 5) better reflect P-dataset potential than KGE. In this context, we follow the  
444 same approach as Camici et al. (2020) to verify this statement across the region of interest.

$$RRMSE = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (s_i - o_i)^2}}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n o_i} \quad (5)$$

$$AME = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (s_i - o_i)}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (o_i)} \quad (6)$$

445

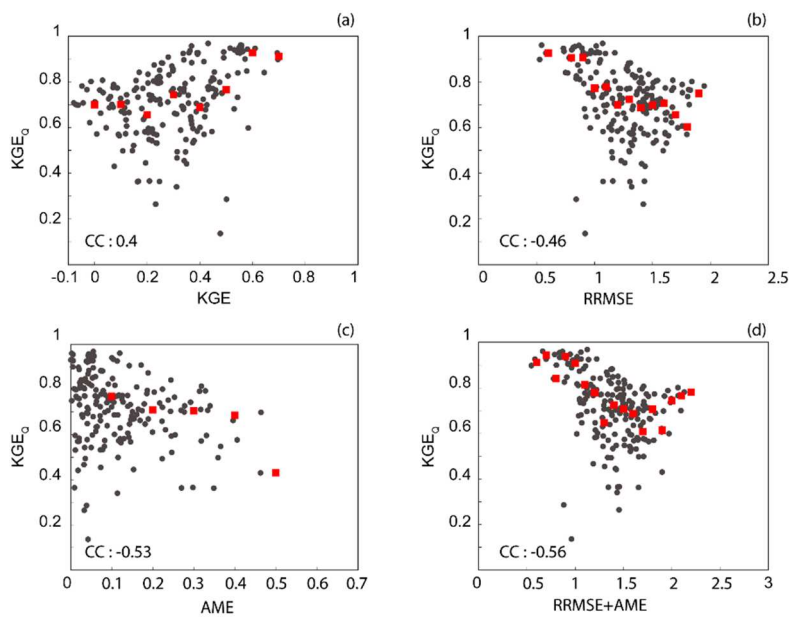
446 Where s and o indicate the estimate and the reference, respectively

447 Figure 11 compares the KGE obtained for streamflow modeling ( $KGE_Q$ ) with KGE, RRMSE and AME  
448 obtained when comparing basin average precipitation derived from the P-dataset with the one derived from  
449  $P_{ref}$ . Additionally, the median  $KGE_Q$  obtained for successive classes (with 0.1 step) of KGE, RRMSE and AME is  
450 also represented. Finally, we also consider the sum of RRMSE and AME in the analysis (Figure 11d).

451  $KGE_Q$  is less correlated to KGE (CC=0.4) than to RRMSE (CC=-0.46) and AME (CC=-0.53). This is in line with  
452 the results obtained across Europe (Camici et al. 2020). The results suggest that in the absence of streamflow  
453 observation, P-dataset assessment for hydrological modelling should use RRMSE and AME metrics instead of  
454 KGE. Actually, it is even more adapted to consider both RRMSE and AME as the correlation with  $KGE_Q$  is higher  
455 (CC= -0.56).

456 Across the Juruá basin, a threshold of 1.1 (RRMSE) and/or 0.1 (AME) and/or 1.1 (RRMSE+AME) leads to  
457 very good P-dataset performance for streamflow modelling ( $KGE_Q \geq 0.75$ ). It is worth to mention here that  
458 these thresholds could vary according to the region of interest and basin size as P-dataset reliability varies in

459 space (i.e. Satgé et al., 2020, Beck et al., 2019) and depends on the basin area (i.e. Camici et al., 2018 and  
460 Figure 10).



461

462 *Figure 11. P-dataset statistic score when compared to gauges or streamflow with the red square representing the median*

463 *KGE<sub>Q</sub> obtained for successive classes (with 0.1 step) of KGE (a) RRMSE (b), AME (c) and RRMSE+AME (d)*

464

465 **Conclusion**

466 This study assesses for the first time the reliability of 19 P-datasets for streamflow modelling across the Juruá  
467 basin, located in the Amazon region, using two lumped hydrological models over 10 basins. The results can be  
468 summarized as follows:

- 469 - When compared to rain gauge observations, all P-datasets are more reliable at the monthly than daily  
470 time step. However, the reliability of the P-datasets at the daily time step does not systematically  
471 reflect its efficiency at the monthly time step. In fact, the observed ranking at daily and monthly time  
472 step differs. This is partially explained by the gauge-based estimates time step used for the post  
473 adjustment. Using daily (monthly) gauge-based estimates for adjustment improves daily (monthly) P-  
474 dataset reliability.
- 475 - P-dataset reliability increases with the basin surface area. This is partially explained by (i) precipitation  
476 aggregation at the basin scale which minimizes P-dataset limits to represent local precipitation  
477 variations and (ii) the hydrograph smoothness for large basins which is easier to simulate by the  
478 hydrological models.
- 479 - In the absence of streamflow data to assess P-dataset reliability for streamflow modelling, the  
480 comparison of P-dataset amounts to gauge observations should be based on RRMSE and AME statistic  
481 metric rather than KGE. Indeed, RRMSE and AME better reflect P-dataset reliability for streamflow  
482 modelling than KGE.
- 483 - Among the P-datasets under study, IMERG-F v.6 is the most reliable one for daily and monthly  
484 streamflow modelling. However, IMERG-F v.6 only covers the 2000-present period. Therefore, users  
485 interested in longer temporal coverage should consider using PERSIANN-CDR, CHIRPS v.2, ERA5 and  
486 MSWEP v.2.2 (in this order) which cover the last 40 years.
- 487 - With shorter delay between observation measurement and availability of the data, only the satellite-  
488 based P-datasets TMPA-RT v.7, IMERG-L v.6 and GSMaP-RT v.6 provide satisfactory streamflow  
489 simulation. These P-datasets should be considered in the case of “near real time” observation  
490 requirement.

491

492 - Despite a finer spatial resolution than PERSIANN-CDR, PERSIANN-CSS-CDR does not provide more  
493 reliable precipitation estimates across the Juruá basin.

494 Overall, the results obtained in this study provide very useful information about the application of an  
495 exhaustive sample of available P-datasets (19) in simulating river discharge at basin scale across the Amazon  
496 region. This should be very helpful for data users facing the selection of the best P-datasets for long term and  
497 near real time applications.

498

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