

**Table S1.** Parameter settings used in the RTM in the simulation.

Parameters	
Type of radiative transfer model	scattered light in a spherical atmosphere
Target species	aerosol, NO <sub>2</sub>
Wavelength (nm)	360
Single scattering albedo (SSA)	0.9
Asymmetry parameter (AP)	0.72
Surface albedo	0.06
Solar zenith angle (SZA, °)	60
Relative azimuth angle (RAA, °)	120
Elevation angles (EA, °)	Setting I (10 EAs): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 15, 30, 90 Setting II (6 EAs): 2, 4, 8, 15, 30, 90 Setting III (6 EAs): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 90 Setting IV (6 EAs): 5, 6, 8, 15, 30, 90
Aerosol optical depth (AOD)	0.3
NO <sub>2</sub> Vertical column density (VCD, 10 <sup>16</sup> molec. cm <sup>-2</sup> )	1.0
Profile types and parameters	<p>Exponential: <math>f_E(z) = A_E(h_E) \times \exp(\frac{-z}{h_E})</math> with scale height <math>h_E</math> of 0.5 km;</p> <p>Gaussian: <math>f_G(z) = A_G(h_G, \sigma) \times \exp(\frac{-(z-h_G)^2}{2\sigma^2})</math> with peak height <math>h_G</math> of 1.0 km, and the full width at half maximum (FWHM) <math>\sigma</math> of 0.5 km;</p> <p>Boltzmann: <math>f_B(z) = \frac{A_B(h_B)}{1 + \exp(\frac{-(z-h_B)}{0.3})}</math> with the effective profile height <math>h_B</math> of 1.5 km.</p> <p>The <math>z</math> is the altitude. The normalization factors <math>A_E</math>, <math>A_B</math>, and <math>A_G</math> were determined by numerical integration from 0 to 4 km altitude such that the integrals of <math>f_E</math>, <math>f_G</math>, and <math>f_B</math> were equal to 1. [22]</p>
Pressure and temperature profiles	U.S. Standard Atmosphere (NASA, 1976) [44]
Vertical resolution of the input profile (m)	100, 200