On behalf of all authors, I thank the referee for the evaluation and constructive comments. In the text and tables below, responses to the points raised by the referes are answered in green and italic.

Response to Anonymous Referee #2:

Summary: The manuscript by Dr. Marx and co-authors describes how the inclusion of GW d13C DIC data can improve the modelling of stream CO2 evasion estimates from small headwater streams, that contribute substantially to global freshwater evasion fluxes (Aufdenkampe et al., 2011, Raymond et al., 2013). For this, GW isotope data is incorporated into a stream degassing model that considers isotope fractionation (d13C) to estimate degassing. This approach is different than the most commonly applied method for estimating CO2 evasion. Commonly this flux is estimated by combining measurements of pCO2 in streams with modelled and/or measured gastransfer coefficients (k) (Dinsmore et al., 2013, Raymond et al., 2013, Wallin et al., 2013, Schelker et al., 2016). Thus the study aims to provide an alternative way to validate previous methods and to give a methodologically independent estimate of CO_2 evasion form a small, acidic headwater stream.

Overall I find the work to be reasonably well performed and as such a possible basis for a publication. However, at present there are several points that hamper the story to me as a reader. Therefore I would ask the authors to rethink and revise the manuscript following the comments provided below.

The authors thank the reviewer for the positive and constructive evaluation of the manuscript.

Main comments:

1) There appears to be little data. The stream sampling covers only one single stream at very coarse temporal resolution (4-weeks interval for two years). Similarly, GW data is only from one single GW well (1) at three different depth. As a comparison, a similar study covering also POC and DIC stable isotope data (Polsenaere et al., 2013) measured 9 streams for one year at 2-weeks interval. That is _9 times more data than presented in this study. There is not much the authors can do about this now, but in case any other relevant datasets are available I would strongly encourage the authors to include any additional relevant material in the analysis.

The sampling for isotopes in the investigated catchment was performed over a period of 20 months. We noticed that the study by Polsenaere et al. (2012) used more data points (in terms of time and space), however, in our study of the Uhlirska headwater catchment only one representative stream exists in the catchment. For logistic and scientific reasons we decided to increase the sampling time at cost of a lower frequency (every month) to cover a longer time span (20 month; almost two years). Measuring longer time spans will allow for the consideration of seasonal changes in the model approach. We considered this as more important than a higher temporal resolution of the data.

Groundwater data is from three different wells in the wetland. The wells have different depths with 2.7, 3.7 and 5.2 m below ground level. Calculated averages for the three wells are used for modeling. We assume that these wells do best reflect carbon inputs to the stream. Groundwater wells in headwater catchments are largely uncommon and thus to provide original groundwater data that are often not available in other studies are the best we can offer. In the conclusion chapter, we argue that more representative groundwater data are certainly necessary to strengthen the model.

2) The analysis clearly demonstrates the strong dependence of stream CO2 evasion estimates to the respiration of the stream ecosystem. Within the analysis a wide range of R-

values is used; scenarios cover a very large range from 14 to 75%. As such, the methods for estimating stream metabolism from dissolved oxygen dynamics are well established and developed (Odum, 1956, Fisher & Likens, 1973, Demars et al., 2015) and some formulations have even explicitly considered the potential for GW inflows (Hall & Tank, 2005). The relevant measurement can for example be done by a dissolved oxygen logger for _1000 USD (for example from ONSET HOBO) that would have logged dissolved O2 dynamics continuously. Unfortunately, it appears no oxygen measurements were applied in parallel to the C-isotope sampling that would allow an estimation of ecosystem respiration for this specific stream. Here I would at least expect that a literature analysis on streams with similar characteristics is performed to narrow down the possible range of respiration. However, in the paper only 'scenarios' for different contributions of ER to CO2 evasions are used and little is provided on this matter.

In the streamCO₂-DEGAS model the term R stands for the proportion of CO₂ coming from respiration in water along the entire river course (Polsenaere & Abril, 2012, eq. (1)). This is different from ecosystem respiration and cannot be quantified by dissolved oxygen methods; R has to be considered together with isotope changes caused by diffusion. If the CO₂ stems from respiration in the unsaturated zone, its isotope composition changes by up to 4.4 ‰ by diffusion. If the CO₂ originates from respiration in water, its isotope composition is identical to soil organic matter and diffusion does not apply. Therefore the term R indicates the relative contributions of respiration from saturated and unsaturated zones. In our model, R was varied between 10 and 75 %.

3) What is the exact topic of the paper? As such the material could provide a number of different angels. However, it appears as if the authors cannot really decide on which topic to choose. At present, the work is presented as a methodological advancement paper of the method of using stable C isotopes of GW to improve stream CO2 estimates. To really anchor the paper in the literature, an additional estimate of evasion fluxes by the more commonly used gas-transfer equation (Raymond et al., 2013) would have been required. Only then, one could conclude the true value of the new approach. Second, the paper is presently also placed as a contribution to the global literature on CO2 evasion estimates form headwater streams. For this, there is in fact very little data (only one stream) with a low temporal resolution (only one sample per month). Thus and despite the fact that this new approach is interesting and promising, I find only limited use of the manuscript in this context. So in simple words: At present, I see the paper as 'neither apples nor oranges' and suggest the authors to revise the focus of the paper as good as it is possible.

We agree with the reviewer that the estimation of CO_2 fluxes by gas-transfer equations is a common approach. However, in our study we decided not to include CO_2 fluxes calculated by the gas transfer velocity k (Raymond et al., 2013) for comparison with our model results, because the use of k values is not recommended for headwater streams and exhibit very large uncertainties (Huotari et al. 2013, Wallin et al. 2011). For instance, comparing our results to those calculated according to Raymond et al. 2013 yielded large differences with an average of about 50 % with a range from 4 to 87 % for different dates. We think these discrepancies are due to uncertainties in the selection of an appropriate k value for heterogeneous headwater streams where tubulances, flow velocities and stream morphologies rapidly change. Thus, these estimates should not be the basis to evaluate the value of our approach. Nevertheless we included Fluxes determined with k values in the revised manuscript.

Overall, our study is a methological manuscript, in which we present, model and test actual data from a real-world headwater catchment. It contributes to the global CO_2 evasion discussion by providing an advanced method, however, we are not claiming to improve global datasets with this study alone.

4) The overall quality of the writing can be improved and is sometimes unprecise. There are many examples where statements are not clear, especially in the discussion. I have given

some indications for these in my detailed comments below. Please rework the discussion. Also, make sure all the text is past-tense.

The authors appreciate the reviewer's detailed and constructive comments that we will address in detail in the table below.

Minor comments: Title: Good.

Below we reply on each specific comment.

Comment by reviewer	Answer/ action by authors
Abstract:	
L14/15: appears contradicitive: they (small headwaters) contribute 36% from all rivers and stream worldwide. How about changing 'all rivers and streams worldwide' with 'fluvial ecosystems on the globe' or something similar?	We changed the text as recommended.
Introduction: P1, L33: suggest to revise to "excluded streams of Strahler order below three" and leave the reference to Strahler out, as this is common knowledge, at least in hydrology. Also numbers below six should be spelled out (that's at least what I learned back in the days).	Done.
P2, L4: suggest to also reference (Schelker et al., 2016) for the statement on gas transfer velocities.	We added the reference.
P2, L6: the Hotchkiss et al., reference does not appear to be a good reference here. It is a modeling paper that is based on a large number of streams.	<i>We replaced the reference by Stets et al.</i> (2017).
P2, L11, Schelker et al., 2016 would again,fit well.	We added the suggested reference.
P2, L16: (Reichert et al., 2009) would be a good reference, as they provide estimates of the upstream length that significantly contributes to what is measured at the sampling location x donwstream.	We added the reference as recommended by the referee.
P3, L1: "the aim was" - past tense.	We changed the text as recommended.
P3, L2: Please add "and their stable isotope signature" to "measured groundwater contributions"	Done.
Methods: L17: How is 'runoff intensity' defined and what unit would this variable have? This is not a standard term in hydrology! A sum of discharge? Or peak-discharge? Besides the need to clarify the term (or replacing it), I suggest to provide some numbers for this in Table 1.	Sentence is changed to: "However, during snowmelt the monthly average runoff doubles (>50 L s ⁻¹) compared to the other months' runoff (Table 1)."
P5, L2: As pointed out in my main comment, it is unfortunate, that there is so little data. A	The referee is correct. The data is insufficient to cover the relevant runoff

monthly sampling for a stream with a nival flow episodes. In the conclusions we now regime, essentially means, that all relevant runoff episodes will, if at all, just be sampled by chance and then only one. If one is nulocky, there is not a single sample from the spring freshet. For me this is a major drawback of this dataset and of this study. We deleted the reference. P5, L4: no need to cite anything here. Remove ef, or give the reader some information, why this ref is relevant here. We deleted the reference. P5, L23: replace 'usually multiplied by 1000' with 'expressed as per mill' Due to comments of referee #1 the methods section was thouroughly revised. We shifted the first sentence to the end of the section, as it is not very relevant instead a sentence or two that outline the model choices: "At the Ulhirsk headwater catchment the original streamCO_DEGAS model was appropriate. P6, L11: I am not convinced that the a-priori assumption that there is no relevant primary production is reasonably, as for example many northem streams have relevant PP, at least cluing summer lowflow, at the same time as the cluing summer lowflow, at the same time as the cluing summer lowflow, at the same time as the cluing summer lowflow, at the same time as the specific stream. P6, L12: The precise statement in the reference by Hotchkise et al.; "Median internation" fields the range instead of cold corganic matter (6 ¹³ C _{DCD}) data to better constrain initial CO ₂ values and to reduce the paper I suggest the authors to write something along the lines of 'For our study we assumption data the approing the stream of 'a cond's pro- residence times often leave insufficient time for substantial degradation of DCO (Raymond et al., 2016; Catalan et al., 2016). However, the poten		
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production increases from 14% (credible range reflect the range instead of the median	•	-
	production increases from 14% (credible range	reflect the range instead of the median

= $10-19\%$ []". So as a matter of fact, this	value suggested by Hotchkiss et al. 2015
study does not give a single value, but rather a	(also see our comment above).
possible range of R. I suggest to consider this	
range, rather than a single value here and in	
other instances of the manuscript where R is discussed.	
P7, L5 methods well described. Also great to	We appreciate the given credit.
see that one can extract a k-value that is then	we appreciate the given creak.
comparable to other studies.	
P7, L12: Be sure to know the difference	The nomenclature is now consistent and
between a model parameter and an input	changed throughout the text.
variable and use the terms accordingly. At least	ů ů
in hydrological modelling, a measured value is	
not a parameter.	
Results:	
P8, L5: Please improve the writing here. If you	We thank the reviewer for pointing this
begin a new section, add a topic sentence so	out. We went through the entire
that the reader knows what is described in the	manuscript and hopefully improved this
following paragraph. At present, this is just a	aspect according to the reviewer's
horrible start of a results section. Similarly,	suggestion.
please try to describe the results as such, and	This section now starts with:
not just in which table/figure these are	"We were able to estimate DIC export with
presented.	modelled CO_2 outgassing and calculated
	lateral export of HCO_3^- , CO_2^* as well as of total DIC (Table 2). These data sever a
	total DIC (Table 3). These data cover a
	period of 20 months and measurements took place at the catchment outlet,
	whereas modelling results relate to CO_2
	outgassing between the stream source
	and the catchment outlet (UHL)."
P8, L14: This sentence belongs to the methods,	We moved the sentence to the methods
but not the results. Also, even if data normalized	and changed it according to:
to the catchment area is interesting (and maybe	"To allow for inter-catchment comparisons
better), most other studies on CO2 evasion	the carbon losses were normalised to the
have used the normalization by stream surface	stream surface area. In addition, to avoid
area. Thus I suggest to provide both these	often imprecise stream lengths and
numbers (catchment and stream surface area	surface areas, the carbon losses were
normalized), so that the reader can compare	also normalised to the catchment area."
with past results. Finally, I may add, that the	The mean stream surface area of 1.49
argument for normalization by stream surface	<i>km</i> ² (calculated from stream geometry)
area has been, that remote sensing techniques	was added to Table 1. Fluxes normalized
can	to stream surface area were added to the
	results section.
L20, averaged	We think "mean values" would be the
	more precise term here. We changes
D0 11: interacting numbers!	"averages" to "mean values".
P9, L1: interesting numbers!	We agree. This means that a large
	amount of inorganic carbon is outgassed in the form of CO ₂ .
P9, L4 please do not use any references in the	The reviewer is correct and we apologize $\frac{1}{2}$
results. Here only the data from this study is	for this inconsistency of the structure. We
discussed, whereas any similarities and	moved all statements with references from
dissimilarities with other studies should be	the results to the discussion section.
discussed din the discussion section.	

L4 and 5: Is there any relationship of k600 and Q? Most studies assume this (Raymond et al., 2012), as higher Q means higher flow velocity and therefore turbulence and gasexchange.	The k600 values obtained with our model correlation versus Q has an R ² of 0.6 and for modeling with groundwater data the R ² is 0.4 (see Figures below). However, the k600 values from our model depend on discharge. The reason is that k600 is calculated from F which is the flux that is calculated by multiplying the modeled concentration by discharge. For this reason we prefer Figure 4, which displays model results (CO ₂ loss in mg/L) versus discharge rather then a plot of Q vs. k600.
L6: Unfortunatly it is only here, that the reader understands that now some different models (or scenarios) are compared. Please add the purpose of these different scenarios/ models to the methods section (see earlier comment).	The fact that two different approaches were used is now outlined at the beginning of section 2.3 in the revised manuscript (see comment above).
L13, please be precise. Concentration of what? As a reader I only know what relationship this is, after looking at the figure!	We changed the sentence to: "Moreover, for CO_2 loss in mg L ⁻¹ and daily average discharge in L s ⁻¹ a negative concentration-discharge relationship was observed (Fig. 4)."
L15: revise to 'does not follow this proposed relationship'. The observation as such is very interesting.	We moved the sentence to the discussion section.
L16: again, no references nor comparisons within the results!	We deleted the sentence from the results section.
Discussion: Please begin the discussion with describing the key result in a larger context "This study shows/demonstrates!" to create a red line for the forthcoming discussion. At present there is no red line here.	The revised the discussion. The section now starts with: "Our study shows that the uncertainty of the respiration parameter (R) can be circumvented by incorporating wetland groundwater $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ into the streamCO ₂ - DEGAS model. In a first step the original CO ₂ -DEGAS model was run with an R value of 25, 50 and 75 % (Fig. 2, Supplement Table S2). By doing so, the initial soil pCO ₂ had to be extremely large (> 150000 ppmV) for selected months to reach the convergence of both $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ and pCO ₂ at the same iteration (Polsenaere and Abril, 2012)"
P12, L2: This first sentence is a prime example for my criticisms of unprecise writing. Have Polsanere and Abril really conclusively shown for this(!) catchment that initial pCO2 represents soil pCO2? This is how I read this sentence. Instead of making such bold statements, the authors should discuss, why they believe this is the case	We rephrased our statement to: "The streamCO ₂ -DEGAS model assumes that the modelled initial pCO_2 represents soil pCO_2 (Polsenaere and Abril, 2012). For the Uhlirska catchment this would mean that soil pCO_2 values ranged between"
L: 8 and following: I agree with the enhanced soil respiration, which is a function of	The referee correctly identified an inconstistent line of argument. We

temperature and humidity. However, the sentence: "The main reason for higher soil	corrected the statement to the fact that higher respiration rates exist in summer
pCO2 are larger contributions of CO2-enriched GW to stream water " does not make sense! How would GW flowing into the stream affect soil pCO2 in a positive way, meaning increasing it?	due to warmer temperatures.
L20-24: There is in fact some literature that has raised this point: (Pacific et al., 2008, Boodoo et al., 2017)	These helpful references were incorporated into the revised version: "Although this type of respiration was not measured directly, we can assume a large potential of respiration in waters of the organic-rich wetland and of riparian soils with peak values during late summer and early fall (Pacific et al., 2008). In addition, respiration in gravel bar waters along the stream (Boodoo et al., 2017) can lead to an exceedance of 19 % for R along the Cerna Nisa stream."
P13, L3: Good english writing means that place and time are placed at the end of the sentence, and in the order given before. Here (and in some other instances) this is not the case.	We changed the sentences to: "Total alkalnity was low with 218 and 196 μ mol L ⁻¹ in the Uhlirska catchment during June and July 2015. In contrast, $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ values and in situ pCO ₂ were increased with -15.0 and -15.2 ‰ as well as 2120 and 1910 ppmV, respectively."
L8-10: This is the core results of the study! Please present this somewhere more prominent, rather than here, in the middle of the discussion!	We agree. We included this point to the beginning of the section: "Our study shows that the uncertainty of the respiration parameter (R) can be circumvented by incorporating wetland groundwater $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ into the streamCO ₂ -DEGAS model" (Also see comment above).
L17 and following: These comparisons are good and interesting. How about a tbale that compares you findings on K600 with other studies. The advantage would be that the reader would actually get to see the other values and not just a 'in the range' statement. Obviously such a literature overview should only on stream of the same stream order, and somewhat similar characteristics.	A table with corresponding values was added (see below).
On a similar matter and also concerning Figure 4: Here a comparison with other studies on a per-area (stream surface) would be great, as stream surface area and water volume increase with increasing discharge, so that the observed pattern of decreasing CO2 per volume may be countered on a per area.	We agree that a comparison with other studies would be beneficial. However, the term of CO_2 loss is model-specific and the model would then first have to be applied to other catchments. By calculating fluxes normalized to stream surface areas (e.g. mg m ⁻² month ⁻¹) CO_2 loss would have to be multiplied by runoff. Thus this flux term would not be independent of runoff and a plot against runoff not advisable (see

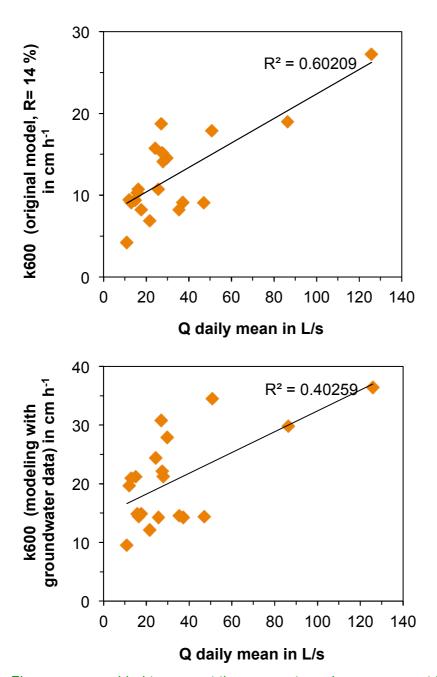
	answer above). No changes done.
Conclusions: P13, L25	
L27: 'the Uhlriska' is redundant here and can be	We removed 'the Uhlriska' at the end of
removed.	the sentence.
L30: The point that snowmelt puts out more	We agree with the referee and will add a
CO2 would be much clearer, if the per	time series figure of CO ₂ flux normalized
stream area values would be compared (see	to the area to the Figures we transferred
earlier comment)	from the supplement to the main text.
P14, L7 and following: I don't really understand	We advocated direct pCO_2 measurements
this If the isotopes give such wonderful new	here, because we think that they provide
possibilities, why are the authors then arguing	better inputs than its calculation via DIC,
that more chamber measurements should be	pH and T.
done? Besides the fact that these have their	Chambers are mentioned here because
own problems, the best would probably be	they can be used to directly measure
chambers with C-isotopes, as it is already used	(time-weighted average) pCO ₂ values. In
in some terrestrial systems using a laser ring	our opinion this determination of stream
down spectroscopy analyzer. Please revise or	pCO_2 has smaller uncertainties than its
remove. The results are not suggesting to do	calculation via DIC, T and pH.
more bastviken-style chamber work!	
Figures:	We abaded the equation areas to bightight
Figure 1: I can't really see the large map of	We shaded the country areas to highlight
Germany, Poland etc. lines too thin.	the borders. Please see the revised
	version of Fig.1 below.
Figure 2 and 3: Essentially these two show the	We updated Figure 2 with $R = 10 - 19$ %.
same thing: A timeseries of the different model	Due to the complexity of the figure we
scenarios (different Rs and the model with GW)	suggest to keep Figure 2 and 3 separated
as well as the respective uncertainties. Thus I	and instead combine them into a single
suggest to merge the figures into one.	Figue 2 with the revised figures as Figures
Uncertainty ranges can then be shown by	2 A and 2 B (see below).
background shading of different pattern and/or color.	
	Dono
Other comments: F2 caption: 'do not apply to'.	Done.
Also, remove last sentence, as redundant,	
especially if figures are merged.	
Fig4: A nice figure. Maybe add a little	
information, on the 'one outlier', that is the event	The outlier relates to a model result,
with the highest flow either in the caption or	where no convergence was reached and
directly in the figure (using an arrow). Also, how	the model largely overestimates CO2 loss.
about plotting an exponential function to the	Thus it does not show CO ₂ release related
data (maybe with the outlier removed), as this	to runoff generation.
relationship seems pretty strong.	We decided to plot the figure without the
Next is COO less defined as a target larget	outlier and included a regression line.
Next, is CO2 loss defined as a term? I may	Please find the revised Figure 4 below.
have overlooked it, but its important that the	The term of CO lease beside the
reader knows if this is equal to CO2 evasion.	The term of CO_2 loss basically is the
Finally, plagas and my partian commant, on the	model result and equals the loss of CO_2
Finally, please see my earlier comment, on the	via outgassing upstream of the
unit of 'loss' and how this pattern may change, if	measurement point.
one takes a look at the entire stream reach.	We revised the figure caption.
	For the answer regarding the unit of 'loss'
	see above.
	SEE 800VE.

Tables:T1: Add runoff seasonality during the study years (see earlier comment). Also, stream length is 2.0km here, whereas it 2100m in the text.	The reviewer is right. We changed the stream length to 2.1 km as it is the correct value. Regarding runoff seasonality we added: "Snowmelts in 2015 and 2016: Q> 50 L s ⁻ 1"
T3: caption: these are not parameter, but results! Please revise. One option would be to write 'DIC partitioning according to the model'	We changed the caption as recommended by the reviewer.
Supplementary: Fig.S1 and S2. These show some of the nice data of this work! Please compress these (for example discharge can be shown in all graphs in grey in the background) and present them as full figures in the manuscript. No reason to hide them.	They now appear in the main text as Figure 3.
TS1: please add a note on missing values	We marked the missing values by '*' and added a note beneath the table.

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Figures

Figures are provided to support the answer to reviewer comment 'P9 L4 and L5' about the relationship between k600 and Q.

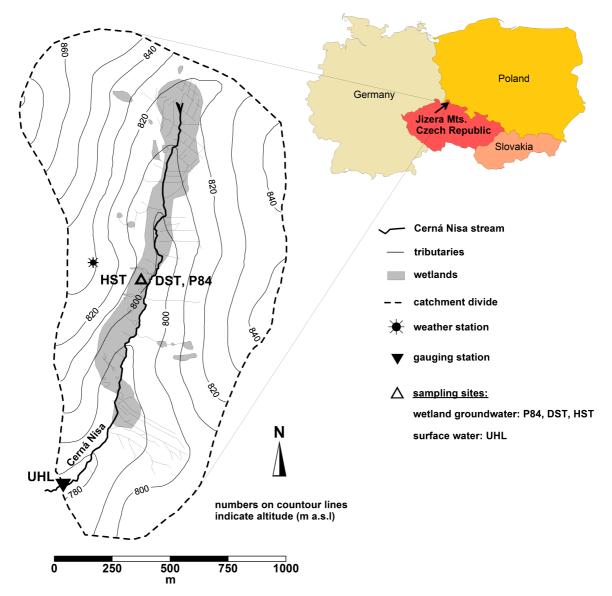


Figure 1: Location of the Uhlirska catchment and sampling sites modified from Sanda et al. (2014).

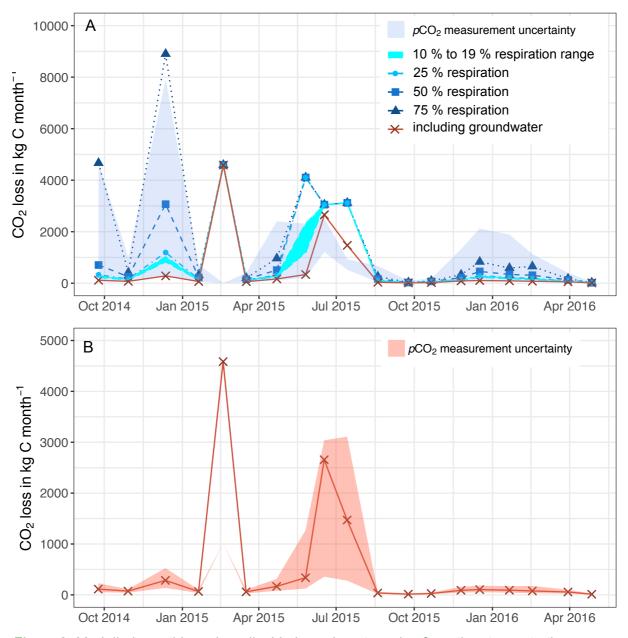
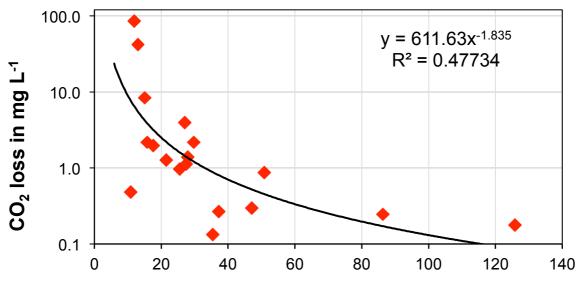


Figure 2: Modelled monthly carbon dioxide loss via outgassing from the stream to the atmosphere upstream of the Uhlirska catchment outlet (UHL) based on the model by Polsenaere and Abril (2012) for proportion river respiration (R) between 10 and 75 % (A) and modified with measured groundwater $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ (A and B). The areas shaded in blue (A) and red (B) indicate uncertainties in calculation of pCO₂ with ±21 %. Convergence criteria were not fulfilled for data points that lie outside the shaded area (see Sect. 4).



Daily average discharge in L s⁻¹

Figure 4: Modelled CO₂ loss via outgassing upstream of the measurement point (UHL) versus daily average discharge. Modelling results correspond to modeling with groundwater input.

Region	Stream order	k ₆₀₀ in m	Reference
Temperate streams (25°-50°)	-	4.8 ^{b, c}	Aufdenkampe et al. (2011)
Uhlirska, Czech Republic	1	4.9 ^{a, b}	This study
Rene, France	-	2.9 ^a	Polsenaere and Abril (2012)
United States	<4	4.5 ^b	Butman and Raymond (2011)
Wiesent, Germany	-	6.3 ^ª	van Geldern et al. (2015)
Rappbode, Germany	-	2.9 ^a	Halbedel and Koschorrek (2013)
Hassel, Germany	-	2.4 ^ª	Halbedel and Koschorrek (2013)
Zillierbach, Germany	-	2.2 ^ª	Halbedel and Koschorrek (2013)
Ochsenbach, Germany	-	2.5 ^ª	Halbedel and Koschorrek (2013)
Boreal and arctic streams (50°-90°)	-	3.1 ^{b, c}	Aufdenkampe et al. (2011)
Québec, Canada	1	0.6ª	Campeau et al. (2014)
Québec, Canada	2	0.6ª	Campeau et al. (2014)
Québec, Canada	3	0.5ª	Campeau et al. (2014)
Québec, Canada	4	1.4 ^ª	Campeau et al. (2014)
Alaska, United States	≦4	6.5 ^ª	Crawford et al. (2013)
Sweden	1	15.5ª	Humborg et al. (2010)
Sweden	2	12.4ª	Humborg et al. (2010)

 Table 4. Gas transfer velocities (k600) normalized to a stream temperature of 20°C of low order streams.

^a Mean values. ^b Median values.

^c Running waters in Aufdenkampe et al. (2011) have < 60 – 100 m width.