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Detection of Large Biomass Burning in the Amazon
With Satellite Images

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NOAA 8/9 full resolution (1 Km) satellite images of the Amazon region were recorded during July and August 1985. The number of biomass burning fires and the area covered by smoke plumes increased significantly with the transition from the wet to the dry season. Extremes varied from 3 plumes with 3,750 km² of smoke for the first image to 45 plumes with 65,000 km² of smoke at the last image. Concentrations of particulate matter and gases measured by the GTE/ABLE-2A experiment a few hundred kilometers away indicated the long range transport of the plumes. Preliminary trajectory analysis of the plumes corroborated their transport.