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*Supplement of*

## **Nitrogen-containing secondary organic aerosol formation by acrolein reaction with ammonia/ammonium**

**Zhijian Li et al.**

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**Table S1: The top 30 ion peaks in the mass spectra for acrolein-ammonia and acrolein-ammonium residue samples. The peaks are sorted by their  $m/z$  values.**

| Top 30 ion peaks of the acrolein-ammonia residue sample |                        |                     | Top 30 ion peaks of the acrolein-ammonium sulfate residue sample |                        |                     | Top 30 ion peaks of the acrolein-ammonium chloride residue sample |                        |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Measured $m/z$                                          | Assigned formula       | Mass accuracy (ppm) | Measured $m/z$                                                   | Assigned formula       | Mass accuracy (ppm) | Measured $m/z$                                                    | Assigned formula       | Mass accuracy (ppm) |
| 111.0915                                                | $C_6H_{11}N_2^+$       | -1.6                | 148.0968                                                         | $C_6H_{14}O_3N^+$      | -0.1                | 166.1074                                                          | $C_6H_{16}O_4N^+$      | +0.1                |
| 112.0756                                                | $C_6H_{10}ON^+$        | -0.8                | 168.1018                                                         | $C_9H_{14}O_2N^+$      | -0.6                | 168.102                                                           | $C_9H_{14}O_2N^+$      | +0.6                |
| 129.1021                                                | $C_6H_{13}ON_2^+$      | -1.1                | 185.1283                                                         | $C_9H_{17}O_2N_2^+$    | -0.8                | 186.1127                                                          | $C_9H_{16}O_3N^+$      | +1.2                |
| 166.1338                                                | $C_9H_{16}N_3^+$       | -0.4                | 186.1125                                                         | $C_9H_{16}O_3N^+$      | +0.2                | 204.1232                                                          | $C_9H_{18}O_4N^+$      | +0.8                |
| 167.1175                                                | $C_9H_{15}ON_2^+$      | -2.3                | 187.1159                                                         | unassigned             |                     | 206.118                                                           | $C_{12}H_{16}O_2N^+$   | +2.2                |
| 168.1021                                                | $C_9H_{14}O_2N^+$      | +1.2                | 204.123                                                          | $C_9H_{18}O_4N^+$      | -0.2                | 222.1335                                                          | $C_9H_{20}O_5N^+$      | -0.4                |
| 183.1604                                                | $C_9H_{19}N_4^+$       | -0.1                | 206.1178                                                         | $C_{12}H_{16}O_2N^+$   | +1.2                | 224.1286                                                          | $C_{12}H_{18}O_3N^+$   | +2.1                |
| 184.1444                                                | $C_9H_{18}ON_3^+$      | -0.2                | 222.1334                                                         | $C_9H_{20}O_5N^+$      | -0.9                | 241.1544                                                          | $C_{12}H_{21}O_3N_2^+$ | -1.1                |
| 185.1279                                                | $C_9H_{17}O_2N_2^+$    | -3.0                | 224.1283                                                         | $C_{12}H_{18}O_3N^+$   | +0.8                | 242.1394                                                          | $C_{12}H_{20}O_4N^+$   | +3.0                |
| 186.1125                                                | $C_9H_{16}O_3N^+$      | +0.2                | 241.1545                                                         | $C_{12}H_{21}O_3N_2^+$ | -0.7                | 243.1436                                                          | unassigned             |                     |
| 204.1232                                                | $C_9H_{18}O_4N^+$      | +0.8                | 242.1390                                                         | $C_{12}H_{20}O_4N^+$   | +1.3                | 260.1500                                                          | $C_{12}H_{22}O_5N^+$   | +2.9                |
| 210.1602                                                | $C_{11}H_{20}ON_3^+$   | +0.5                | 243.1428                                                         | unassigned             |                     | 261.1591                                                          | $C_{15}H_{21}O_2N_2^+$ | -2.5                |
| 221.1760                                                | $C_{12}H_{21}N_4^+$    | -0.3                | 244.1334                                                         | $C_{15}H_{18}O_2N^+$   | +0.8                | 262.1445                                                          | $C_{15}H_{20}O_3N^+$   | +2.8                |
| 222.1599                                                | $C_{12}H_{20}ON_3^+$   | -0.8                | 260.1496                                                         | $C_{12}H_{22}O_5N^+$   | +1.3                | 278.1596                                                          | $C_{12}H_{24}O_6N^+$   | -0.8                |
| 223.1446                                                | $C_{12}H_{19}O_2N_2^+$ | +2.2                | 278.1599                                                         | $C_{12}H_{24}O_6N^+$   | +0.3                | 279.1708                                                          | $C_{15}H_{23}O_3N_2^+$ | +1.7                |
| 224.1287                                                | $C_{12}H_{18}O_3N^+$   | +2.6                | 279.169                                                          | unassigned             |                     | 280.1570                                                          | unassigned             |                     |
| 239.1868                                                | $C_{12}H_{23}ON_4^+$   | +0.7                | 280.1575                                                         | unassigned             |                     | 281.1583                                                          | unassigned             |                     |
| 240.1724                                                | unassigned             |                     | 297.1812                                                         | $C_{15}H_{25}O_4N_2^+$ | +1.1                | 297.1813                                                          | $C_{15}H_{25}O_4N_2^+$ | +1.4                |

|          |                        |      |          |                        |      |          |                        |      |
|----------|------------------------|------|----------|------------------------|------|----------|------------------------|------|
| 241.1551 | $C_{12}H_{21}O_3N_2^+$ | +1.8 | 298.1675 | unassigned             |      | 298.1671 | unassigned             |      |
| 242.1390 | $C_{12}H_{20}O_4N^+$   | +1.3 | 315.192  | $C_{15}H_{27}O_5N_2^+$ | +1.8 | 315.1919 | $C_{15}H_{27}O_5N_2^+$ | +1.4 |
| 260.1500 | $C_{12}H_{22}O_5N^+$   | +2.9 | 316.1834 | unassigned             |      | 316.1787 | unassigned             |      |
| 278.1865 | $C_{15}H_{24}O_2N_3^+$ | +0.7 | 333.2029 | $C_{15}H_{29}O_6N_2^+$ | +2.7 | 317.1867 | $C_{18}H_{25}O_3N_2^+$ | +2.3 |
| 295.2136 | $C_{15}H_{27}O_2N_4^+$ | +2.5 | 334.1903 | unassigned             |      | 335.1975 | $C_{18}H_{27}O_4N_2^+$ | +2.9 |
| 296.1993 | unassigned             |      | 335.1975 | $C_{18}H_{27}O_4N_2^+$ | +2.9 | 336.187  | unassigned             |      |
| 297.1862 | unassigned             |      | 353.2072 | $C_{18}H_{29}O_5N_2^+$ | +0.3 | 353.2076 | $C_{18}H_{29}O_5N_2^+$ | +1.4 |
| 315.1922 | $C_{15}H_{27}O_5N_2^+$ | +2.4 | 354.1958 | unassigned             |      | 354.1993 | unassigned             |      |
| 316.1999 | $C_{14}H_{22}N_9^+$    | +2.0 | 371.2182 | $C_{18}H_{31}O_6N_2^+$ | +1.4 | 371.2181 | $C_{18}H_{31}O_6N_2^+$ | +1.2 |
| 334.2135 | $C_{18}H_{28}O_3N_3^+$ | +2.9 | 389.2325 | $C_{23}H_{33}O_5^+$    | +0.6 | 391.2236 | $C_{21}H_{31}O_5N_2^+$ | +2.2 |
| 351.2396 | $C_{18}H_{31}O_3N_4^+$ | +1.5 | 409.2344 | $C_{21}H_{33}O_6N_2^+$ | +2.7 | 409.2345 | $C_{21}H_{33}O_6N_2^+$ | +2.9 |
| 401.2905 | $C_{23}H_{37}O_2N_4^+$ | -1.5 | 427.245  | $C_{21}H_{35}O_7N_2^+$ | +2.6 | 427.2449 | $C_{21}H_{35}O_7N_2^+$ | +2.4 |

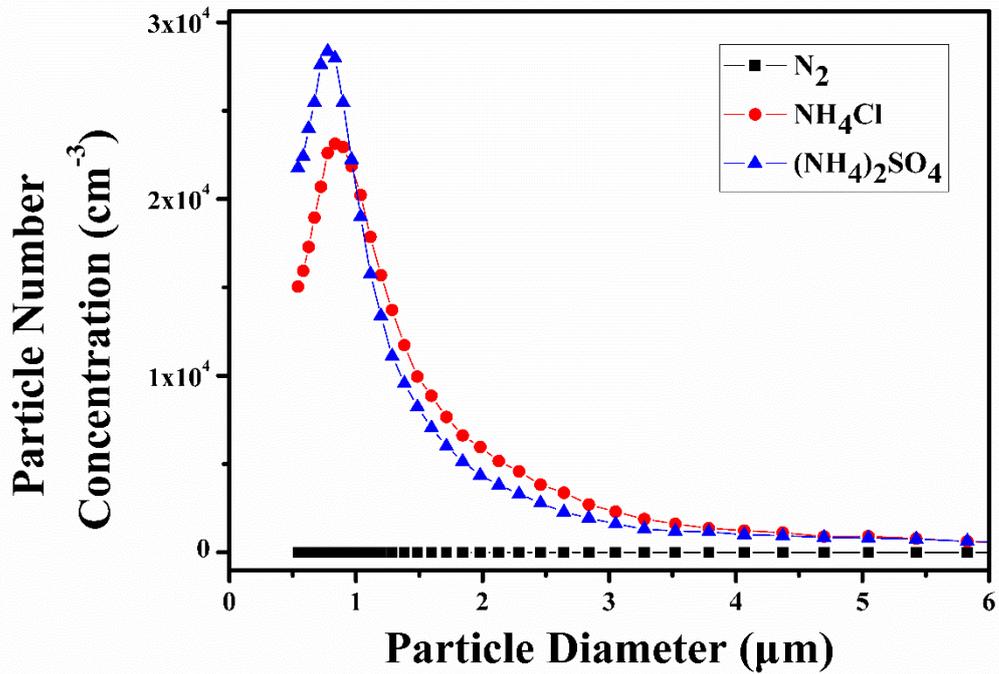
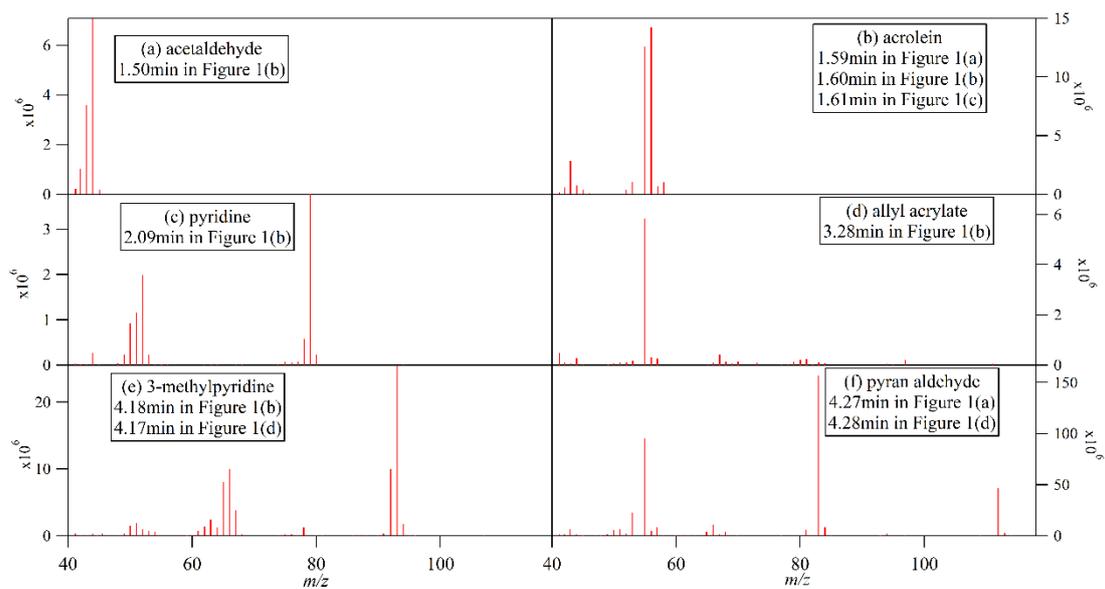
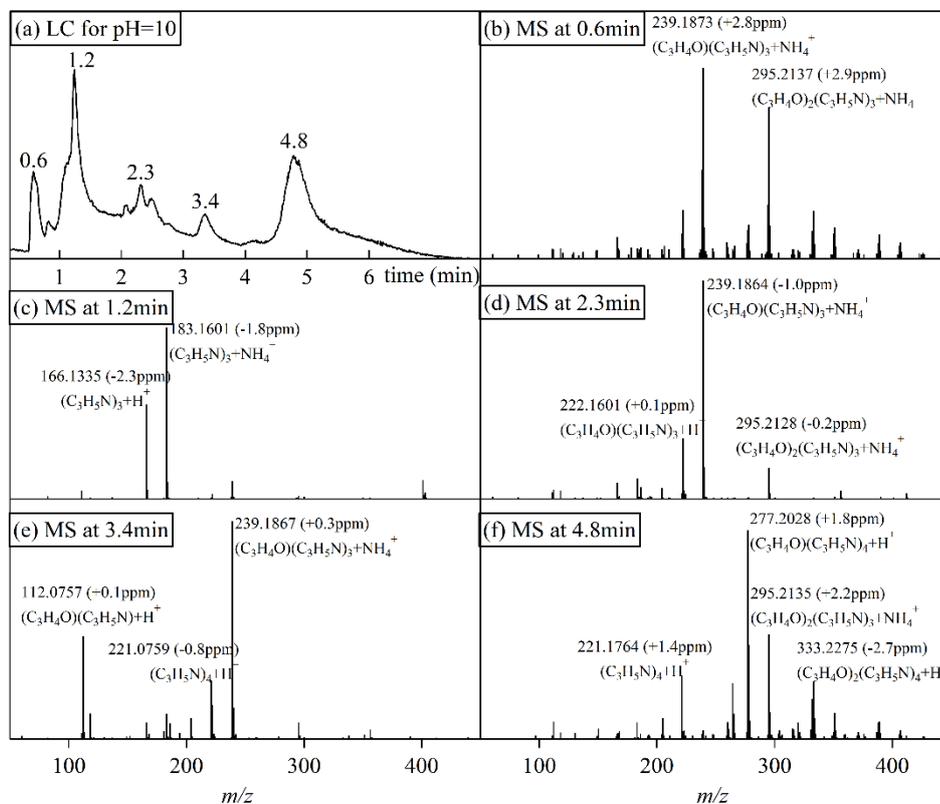


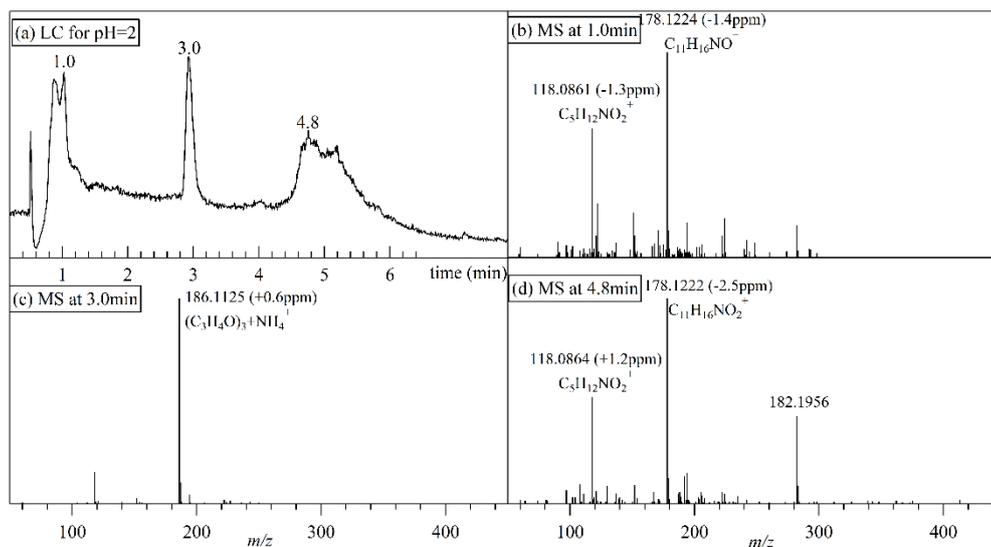
Figure S1: Size distributions of the ammonium sulfate (blue triangles) and ammonium chloride (red circles) particles we made in this work. Soon after a bag was filled with ~100L N<sub>2</sub> and ammonium aerosol particles (generated by the atomizer), the aerosols in the bag were directly detected by an Aerodynamic Particle Sizer (APS). The N<sub>2</sub> control (black squares) shows that no particles were present in the nitrogen flow used in the experiments.



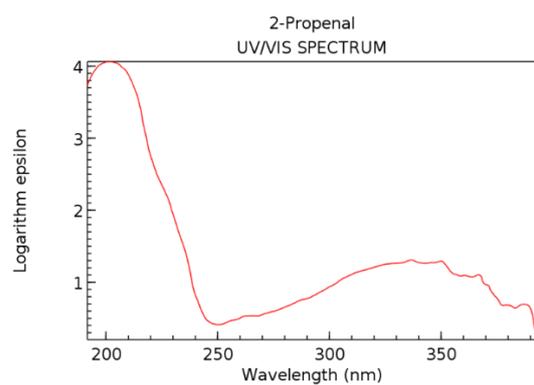
**Figure S2:** The observed electron impact mass spectra for the main chromatographic peaks in GC traces in Figure 1.



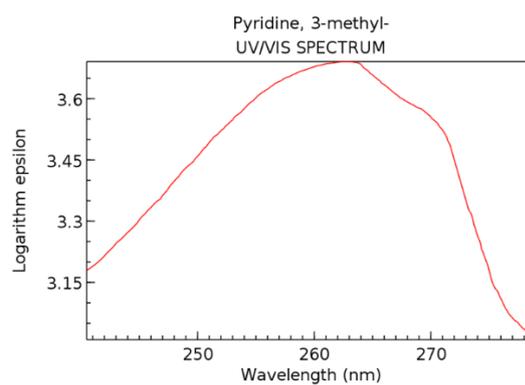
**Figure S3: The UPLC HRMS results for the acrolein reaction with ammonium in the alkaline bulk solutions. (a) The UPLC traces for samples in bulk solutions with pH=10. (b-f) the mass spectra for the peaks around 0.6 min, 1.2 min, 2.3 min, 3.4 min and 4.8 min. The  $m/z$  values and the corresponding assigned formulae for main ions are marked. The figures in the parentheses are the fractional deviations between the detected and theoretical  $m/z$  of the assigned ionic formulas.**



**Figure S4:** The UPLC ESI HR-MS results for the acrolein reaction with ammonium in the highly acidic bulk solutions. (a) the LC traces for samples in bulk solutions with pH=2. (b-d) the mass spectra for the peaks around 1.0 min, 3.0 min and 4.8 min. The  $m/z$  values and the corresponding assigned formulae for main ions are marked. The figures in the parentheses are the fractional deviations between the detected and theoretical  $m/z$  of the assigned ionic formulas.



NIST Chemistry WebBook (<https://webbook.nist.gov/chemistry>)



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**Figure S5: The reference UV/vis spectra for acrolein and 3-methylpyridine, adopted from NIST chemistry webbook (<http://webbook.nist.gov/chemistry>)**