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*Supplement of*

## **Probing key organic substances driving new particle growth initiated by iodine nucleation in coastal atmosphere**

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Figure S2. (a), (c) Number concentration of 2-7 nm particles ( $N_{2-7}$ ), tidal height and solar radiation intensity during the Iodine-initiated NPF (I-NPF) days from May 9 to 11 and the continental regional NPF (C-NPF) days from February 11 to 13. Particle number size distribution and 10-56 nm particle mass concentration during (b) I-NPF days from May 9 to 11, (d) C-NPF days from February 11 to 13 and (e) non-NPF days from April 16 to 18.

Figure S3. Reconstructed mass spectra of the 7 elemental groups in ESI- and ESI+ modes for the four size bins.

Figure S4: DBE vs. C atom number diagrams of all the CHON and CHO formulas detected in 10–18 nm particles in ESI+ mode. (a) (b) +H adducts, (c) (d) +Na adducts. The color bar denotes the O number in the formulas. The size of the circles reflects the relative intensities of molecular formulas on a logarithmic scale.

Figure S5: Relative intensities of subgroups according to O atom number in CHON, CHO, CHONI and CHOI formulas in the four size bins in ESI+ (in red) and ESI- (in blue). The intensity of the most abundant subgroup is defined as 1 and those of other subgroups are normalized by it. The relative intensities of non-iodinated OC formulas (iodinated OC formulas) are plotted in the region above (below) zero line.

Figure S6: O atom number of vs. N atom number of  $C_{10}H_xO_yN_z$  compounds detected in 180–560 nm particles (a) and  $C_{18}H_xO_yN_z$  compounds detected in 10–18 nm particles in ESI- mode (b).

Figure S7: Simplified reaction scheme showing the formation of oxygenated and nitrated CHO and CHON compounds from  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid oxidation in the atmosphere.

Figure S8: Simplified reaction scheme showing the formation of oxygenated CHO compounds from unsaturated C<sub>28</sub> FA (C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) oxidation in the atmosphere.

Figure S9: Simplified reaction scheme showing the formation of oxygenated CHON compounds containing a -NH<sub>2</sub> group from unsaturated C<sub>18</sub> amino alcohol (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>37</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>) oxidation in the atmosphere.

**Tables:**

Table S1. Predicted saturation concentration (C\*) range of most abundant CHON and CHO formulas, as well as their possible precursors.

### **ESI-FT-ICR MS operation conditions**

A syringe pump infused the sample extract continuously into the ESI unit with a flow rate of 180  $\mu\text{L h}^{-1}$ . The ESI source conditions were as follows: the nebulizer gas pressure was 1 bar; the dry gas ( $\text{N}_2$ ) pressure was 4 bar and its temperature was 200  $^\circ\text{C}$ ; the capillary voltage was 4.5 kV. The ion accumulation time in the argon-filled hexapole collision pool with 1.5 V of direct current voltage and 1400 Vp-p of radio frequency (RF) amplitude was 0.05 s, followed by transport ions through a hexapole ion guide to the ICR cell for 0.7 ms. 4 M words of data were recorded over the mass range of 150-1000 for each run. A total of 128 scans were collected to enhance the signal/noise (S/N) ratio and dynamic range.

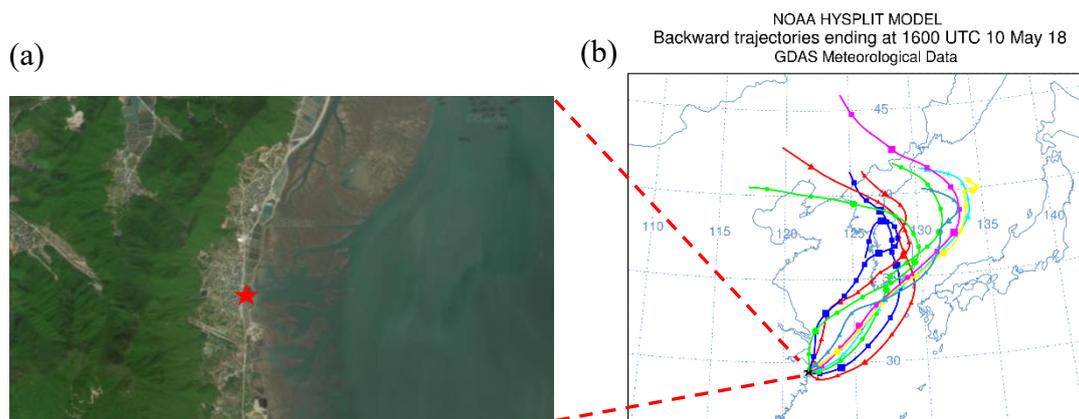


Figure S1. (a) The observation site, indicated as a red star, in an aerial photograph.

Photo source: Baidu Map. (b) 72-hour air mass back trajectories ending at 100 m above ground level at the observation site computed by HYSPLIT model during the I-NPF events from May 8 to 10, 2018.

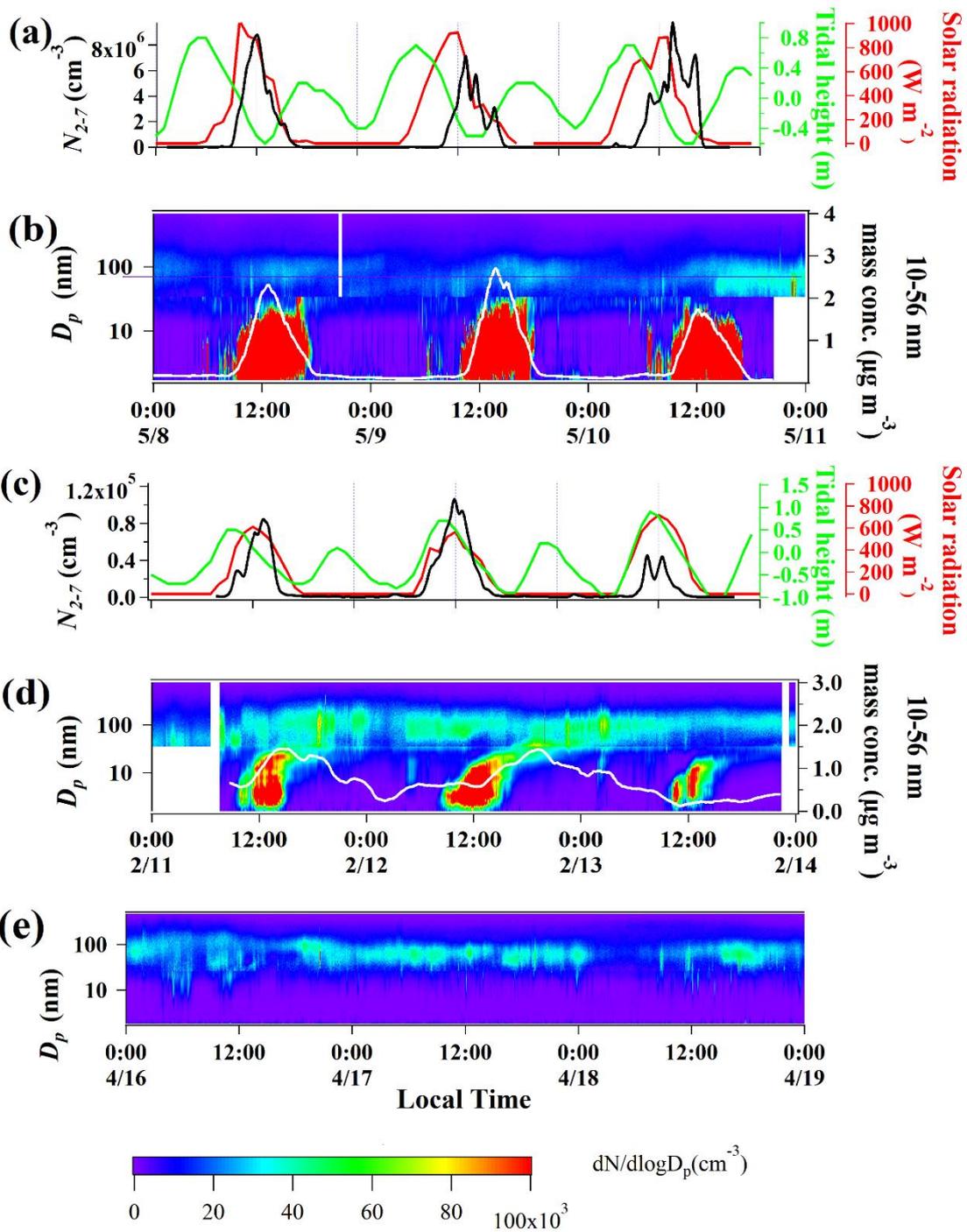


Figure S2. (a), (c) Number concentration of 2-7 nm particles ( $N_{2-7}$ ), tidal height and solar radiation intensity during the Iodine-initiated NPF (I-NPF) days from May 9 to 11 and the continental regional NPF (C-NPF) days from February 11 to 13. Particle number size distribution and 10-56 nm particle mass concentration during (b) I-NPF days from May 9 to 11, (d) C-NPF days from February 11 to 13 and (e) non-NPF days from April 16 to 18.

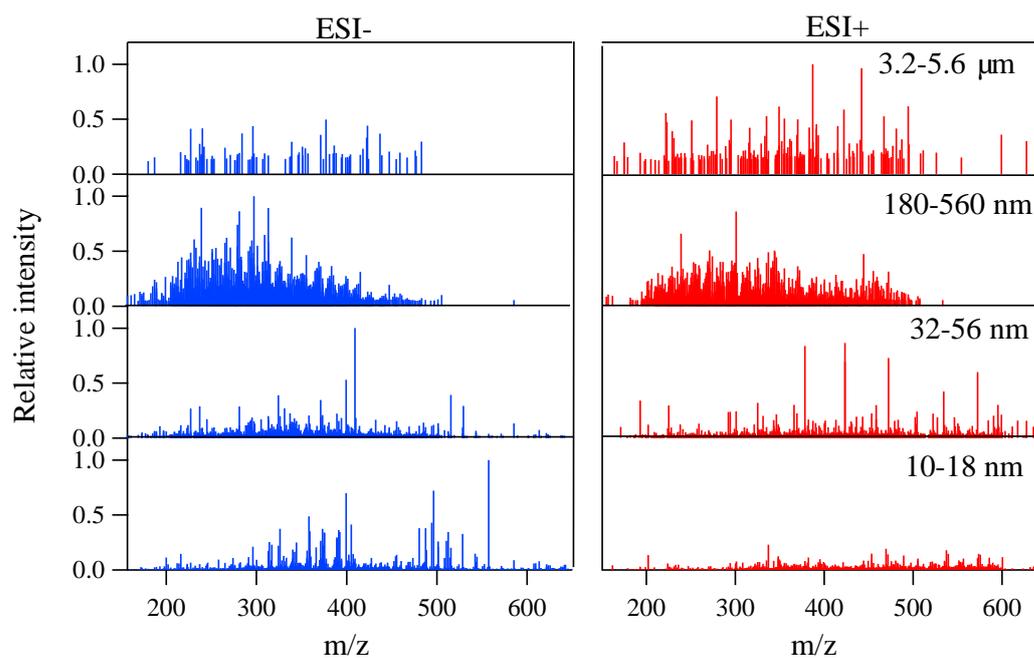


Figure S3. Reconstructed mass spectra of the 7 elemental groups in ESI- (left panels) and ESI+ (right panels) modes for the four size bins. The signals are normalized against the intensity of the most abundant molecular ions in a size bin.

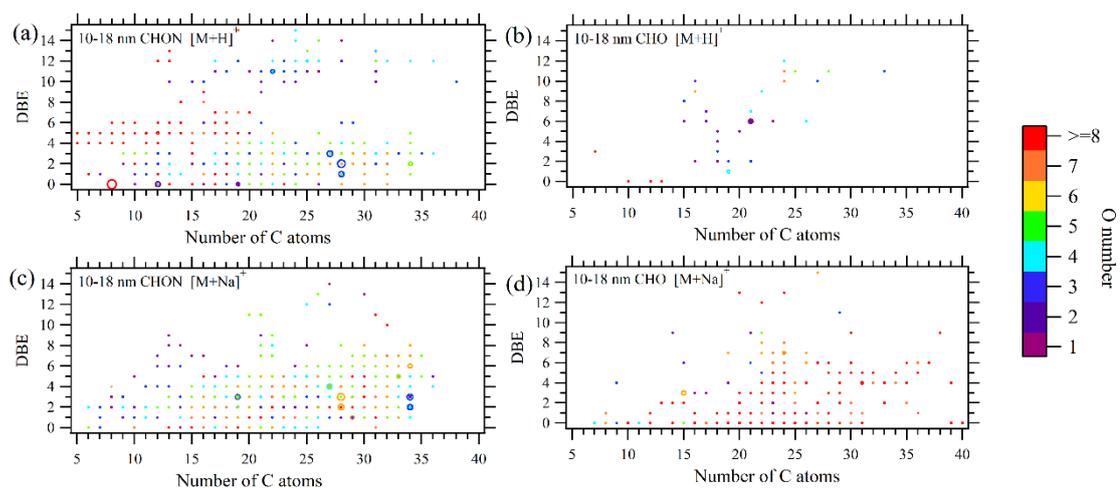


Figure S4. DBE vs. C atom number diagrams of all CHON and CHO formulas detected in 10–18 nm particles in ESI+ mode. (a) (b)  $[M+H]^+$  adducts, (c) (d)  $[M+Na]^+$  adducts.

The color bar denotes O number in the formulas. The size of the circles reflects the relative intensities of molecular formulas on a logarithmic scale.

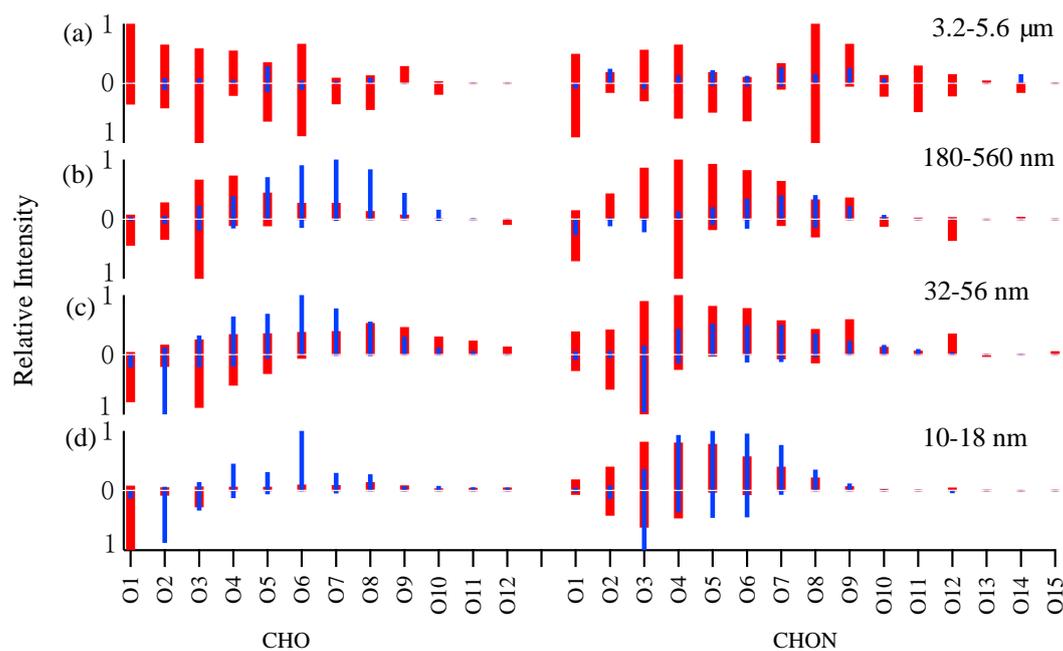


Figure S5. Relative intensities of subgroups according to O atom number in CHON, CHO, CHONI and CHOI formulas in the four size bins in ESI+ (in red) and ESI- (in blue). The intensity of the most abundant subgroup in a size bin is defined as 1 and those of other subgroups are normalized by it. The relative intensities of non-iodinated OC formulas (iodinated OC formulas) are plotted in the region above (below) zero line.

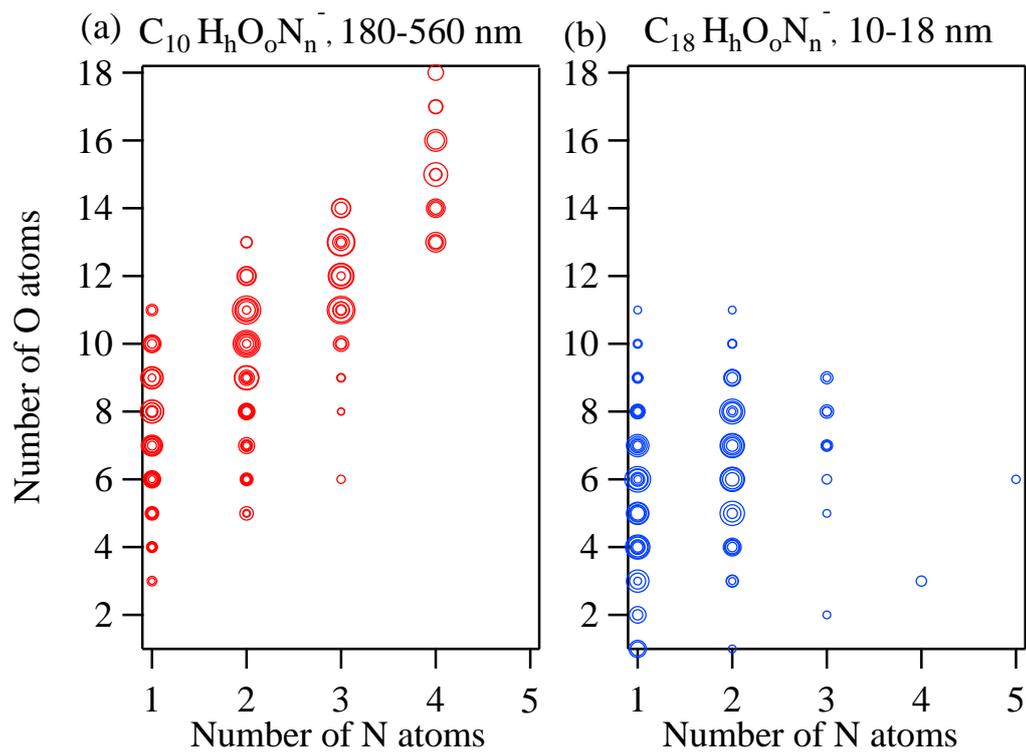


Figure S6. O atom number of *vs.* N atom number of  $C_{10}H_hO_oN_n^-$  compounds detected in 180–560 nm particles (a) and  $C_{18}H_hO_oN_n^-$  compounds detected in 10–18 nm particles in ESI- mode (b).

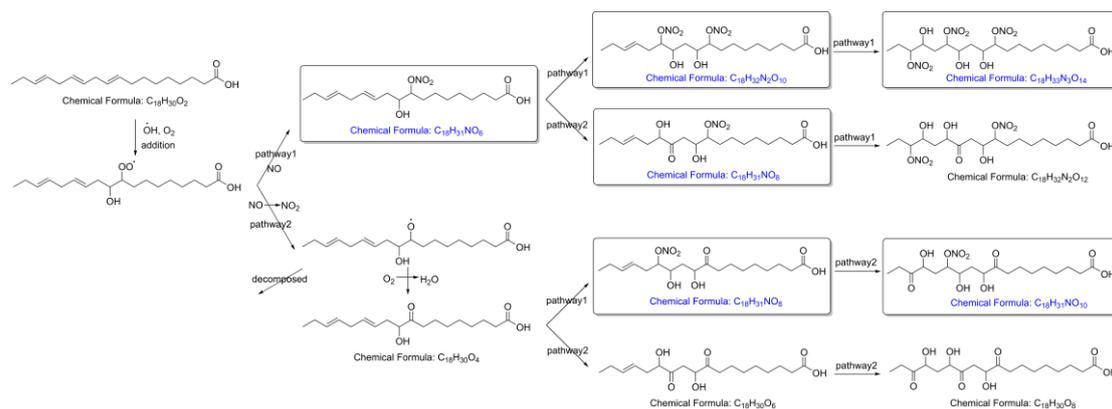
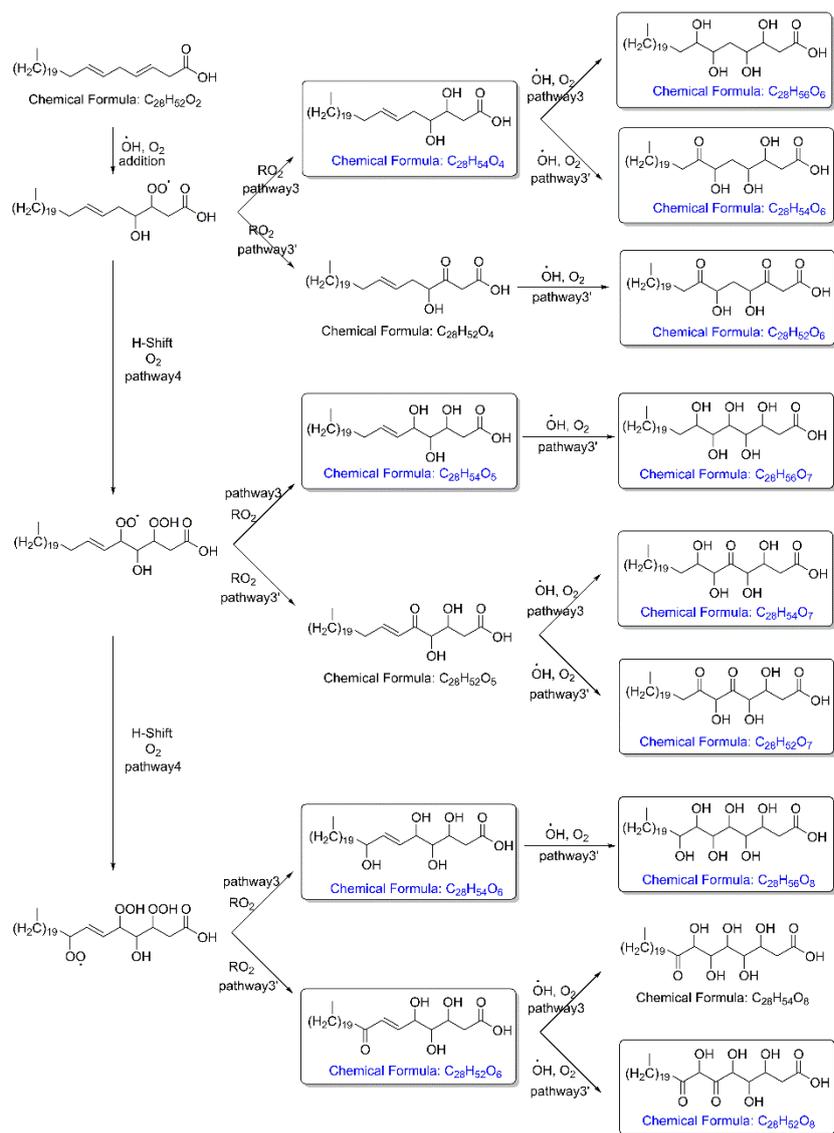


Figure S7. Simplified reaction scheme of the formation of oxygenated and nitrated CHO and CHON compounds from  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid ( $C_{18}H_{30}O_2$ ) oxidation in the atmosphere. One representative structure is shown for each chemical formula. Chemical formulas in the boxes are found in the formula list detected in 10–18 nm particles. Pathway 1: OH and  $O_2$  addition followed by reaction with NO to form a  $ONO_2$  group; pathway 2: OH and  $O_2$  addition followed by reaction with NO to form an alkoxy radical that further reacts with  $O_2$  to form a  $-C=O$  group.



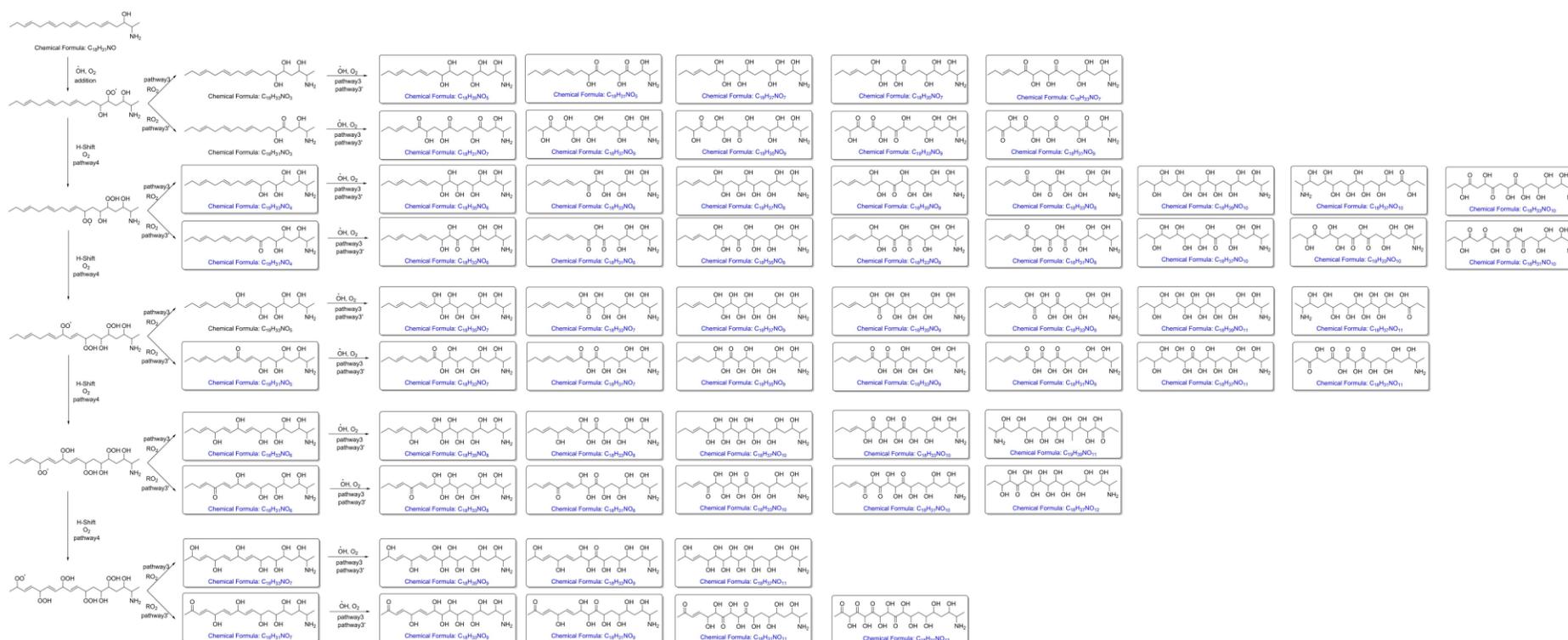


Figure S9. Simplified reaction scheme of the formation of oxygenated CHON compounds containing a –NH<sub>2</sub> group from unsaturated C<sub>18</sub> amino alcohol (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>37</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>) oxidation in the atmosphere. One representative structure is shown for each chemical formula. Chemical formulas in the boxes are found in the formula list detected in 10–18 nm particles. Pathway 3: OH and O<sub>2</sub> addition followed by reaction with RO<sub>2</sub> to form a –OH or a –C=O group; Pathway 4: successive intermolecular H-shift/O<sub>2</sub> addition autoxidation to form RO<sub>2</sub> radicals with –OOH group.

Table S1. Predicted saturation concentration (C\*) range of most abundant CHON and CHO formulas, as well as their possible precursors.

Formula	Predicted C* ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	Predicted C* of possible precursors ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )
ESI- mode		
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>33</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	$1.62 \times 10^{-5}$ – $2.06 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-1}$ –8.91
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>33</sub> NO <sub>6</sub>	$7.66 \times 10^{-10}$ – $1.33 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-1}$ – $8.87 \times 10^1$
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$7.62 \times 10^{-11}$ – $1.32 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-2}$ –8.91
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	$5.21 \times 10^{-13}$ – $9.06 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-2}$ –8.91
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	$1.30 \times 10^{-15}$ – $5.56 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-2}$ –8.91
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>36</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	$1.44 \times 10^{-8}$ – $1.10 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-2}$ – $8.87 \times 10^1$
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>36</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$9.83 \times 10^{-11}$ – $7.54 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-2}$ – $8.87 \times 10^1$
C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>36</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	$6.72 \times 10^{-13}$ – $5.15 \times 10^{-7}$	$3.40 \times 10^{-2}$ – $8.87 \times 10^1$
C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>39</sub> NO <sub>7</sub>	$3.40 \times 10^{-12}$ – $1.15 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-1}$ – $3.51 \times 10^1$
C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>57</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	$7.44 \times 10^{-8}$ – $6.69 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.29 \times 10^{-6}$ – $1.16 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>59</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	$5.58 \times 10^{-9}$ – $1.58 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.29 \times 10^{-6}$ – $1.14 \times 10^{-4}$
C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>59</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	$6.28 \times 10^{-10}$ – $8.62 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.29 \times 10^{-6}$ – $1.16 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>59</sub> NO <sub>5</sub>	$4.52 \times 10^{-12}$ – $1.32 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.29 \times 10^{-6}$ – $1.16 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>59</sub> NO <sub>6</sub>	$2.64 \times 10^{-13}$ – $8.93 \times 10^{-9}$	$4.29 \times 10^{-6}$ – $1.16 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>60</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$1.66 \times 10^{-14}$ – $3.76 \times 10^{-13}$	$4.36 \times 10^{-5}$ – $1.16 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>40</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$2.13 \times 10^{-10}$ – $4.83 \times 10^{-9}$	$5.28 \times 10^{-1}$ – $1.39 \times 10^1$
C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>42</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$8.32 \times 10^{-11}$ – $1.88 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.07 \times 10^{-1}$ – $5.46 \times 10^0$
C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>44</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	$6.95 \times 10^{-7}$ – $1.57 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.15 \times 10^{-2}$ – $2.15 \times 10^0$
C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	$1.06 \times 10^{-7}$ – $2.39 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.25 \times 10^{-2}$ – $3.3 \times 10^{-1}$
C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>52</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	$1.60 \times 10^{-8}$ – $3.63 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.90 \times 10^{-3}$ – $5.05 \times 10^{-2}$
C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>54</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$2.87 \times 10^{-13}$ – $6.49 \times 10^{-12}$	$7.42 \times 10^{-4}$ – $1.97 \times 10^{-2}$
C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>56</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	$2.41 \times 10^{-9}$ – $5.47 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-4}$ – $7.67 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>56</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$1.11 \times 10^{-13}$ – $2.51 \times 10^{-12}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-4}$ – $7.67 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>58</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$4.29 \times 10^{-14}$ – $9.73 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.12 \times 10^{-4}$ – $2.98 \times 10^{-3}$
C <sub>33</sub> H <sub>66</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$9.56 \times 10^{-16}$ – $2.17 \times 10^{-14}$	$2.54 \times 10^{-6}$ – $6.77 \times 10^{-5}$
C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>76</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	$3.66 \times 10^{-22}$ – $8.30 \times 10^{-21}$	$2.18 \times 10^{-8}$ – $5.85 \times 10^{-7}$
ESI+ mode		
C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	$4.73 \times 10^{-9}$ – $3.63 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.21 \times 10^0$ – $5.61 \times 10^2$
C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	$1.85 \times 10^{-9}$ – $1.42 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.85 \times 10^{-1}$ – $2.26 \times 10^2$
C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>35</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	$9.26 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-1}$ – $2.23 \times 10^{-1}$
C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>36</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	$4.35 \times 10^{-9}$ – $3.34 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-1}$ – $3.52 \times 10^0$
C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>37</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	$1.20 \times 10^{-3}$ – $2.71 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-1}$ – $2.23 \times 10^{-1}$

$C_{19}H_{38}N_2O_3$	$2.71 \times 10^{-3} - 5.04 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-2} - 3.52 \times 10^0$
$C_{24}H_{46}N_2O_4$	$5.73 \times 10^{-9} - 4.39 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.24 \times 10^{-4} - 3.28 \times 10^{-2}$
$C_{25}H_{43}NO_4$	$3.07 \times 10^{-7} - 1.72 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.83 \times 10^{-4} - 1.28 \times 10^{-2}$
$C_{26}H_{51}NO_5$	$1.73 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.88 \times 10^{-4} - 3.13 \times 10^{-4}$
$C_{27}H_{50}N_2O_4$	$6.42 \times 10^{-10} - 3.29 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.23 \times 10^{-6} - 1.95 \times 10^{-3}$
$C_{27}H_{50}N_2O_5$	$3.11 \times 10^{-11} - 1.05 \times 10^{-6}$	$7.23 \times 10^{-6} - 1.95 \times 10^{-3}$
$C_{27}H_{52}N_2O_3$	$4.94 \times 10^{-8} - 2.76 \times 10^{-6}$	$7.23 \times 10^{-6} - 1.95 \times 10^{-3}$
$C_{28}H_{52}N_2O_6$	$1.14 \times 10^{-14} - 8.03 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.81 \times 10^{-6} - 7.57 \times 10^{-4}$
$C_{28}H_{54}N_2O_6$	$5.95 \times 10^{-15} - 1.03 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.81 \times 10^{-6} - 7.57 \times 10^{-4}$
$C_{28}H_{56}N_2O_3$	$6.09 \times 10^{-8} - 1.38 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.81 \times 10^{-6} - 7.57 \times 10^{-4}$
$C_{28}H_{56}N_2O_6$	$1.89 \times 10^{-14} - 5.88 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.81 \times 10^{-6} - 7.57 \times 10^{-4}$
$C_{28}H_{58}N_2O_3$	$3.18 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.81 \times 10^{-6} - 4.66 \times 10^{-6}$
$C_{29}H_{56}N_2O_6$	$2.30 \times 10^{-15} - 3.99 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.09 \times 10^{-6} - 2.94 \times 10^{-4}$
$C_{29}H_{59}NO_7$	$2.85 \times 10^{-17} - 6.47 \times 10^{-16}$	$1.11 \times 10^{-5} - 2.94 \times 10^{-4}$
$C_{33}H_{59}NO_5$	$1.05 \times 10^{-12} - 3.02 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.49 \times 10^{-7} - 6.65 \times 10^{-6}$
$C_{34}H_{59}NO_6$	$2.13 \times 10^{-15} - 1.38 \times 10^{-9}$	$9.64 \times 10^{-8} - 2.57 \times 10^{-6}$
$C_{34}H_{66}N_2O_3$	$1.15 \times 10^{-11} - 3.58 \times 10^{-9}$	$9.45 \times 10^{-9} - 2.57 \times 10^{-6}$
$C_{34}H_{68}N_2O_3$	$2.03 \times 10^{-10} - 4.61 \times 10^{-9}$	$9.45 \times 10^{-9} - 2.57 \times 10^{-6}$
$C_{34}H_{68}N_2O_5$	$3.75 \times 10^{-15} - 2.88 \times 10^{-9}$	$9.45 \times 10^{-9} - 2.57 \times 10^{-6}$