



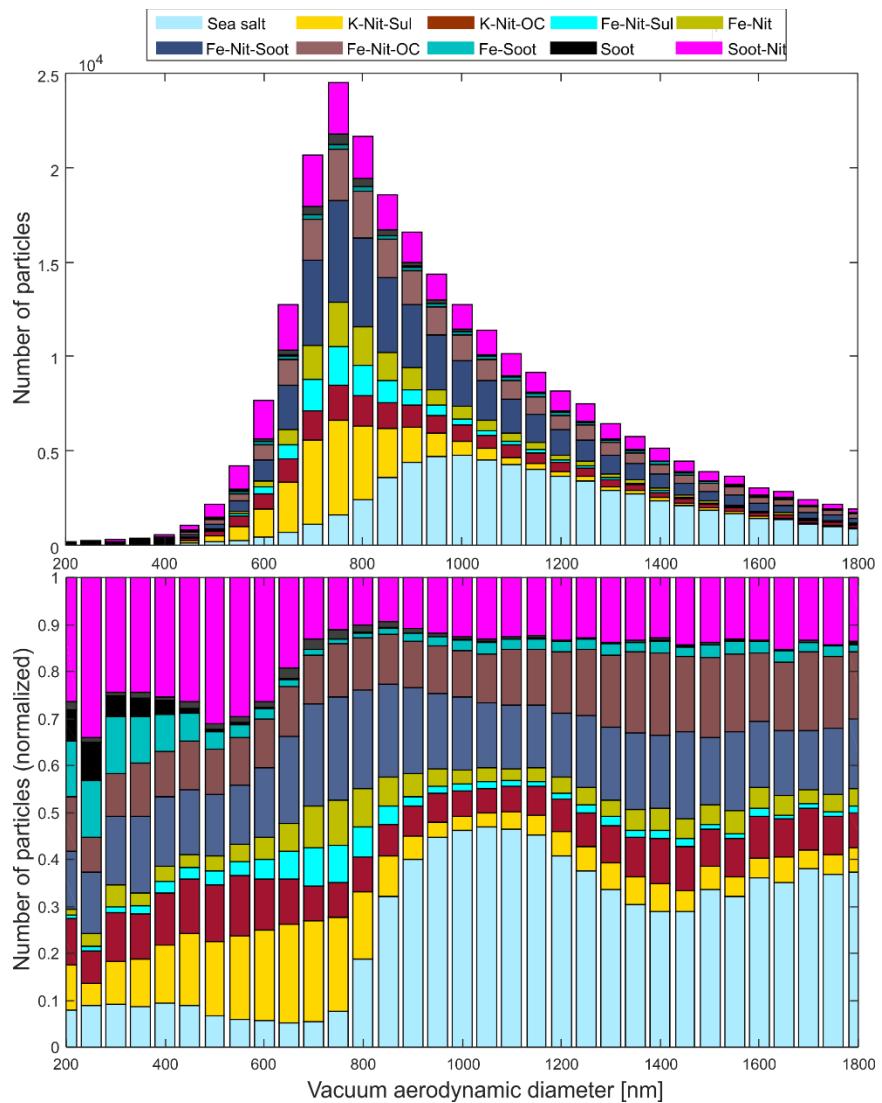
*Supplement of*

## **Single-particle characterization of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in background air in northern Europe**

**Johannes Passig et al.**

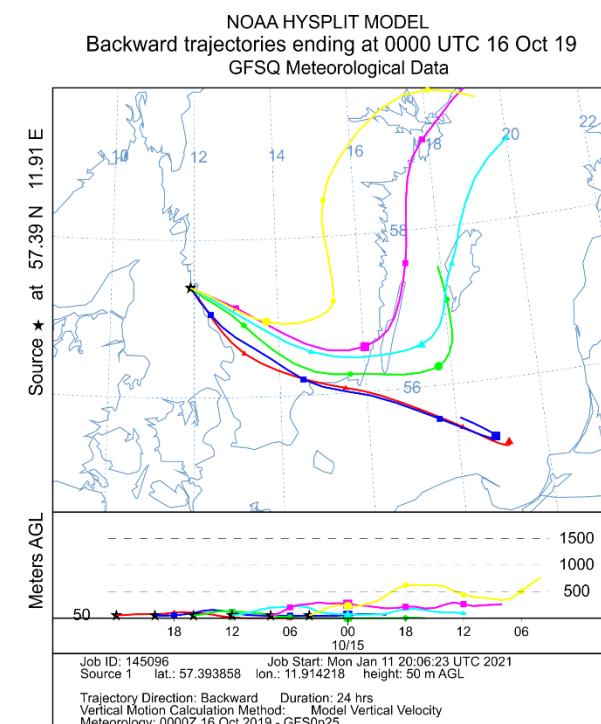
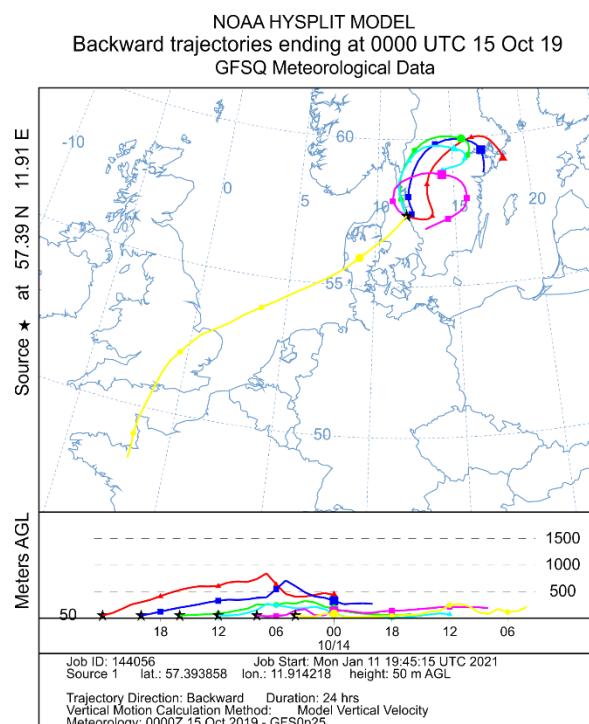
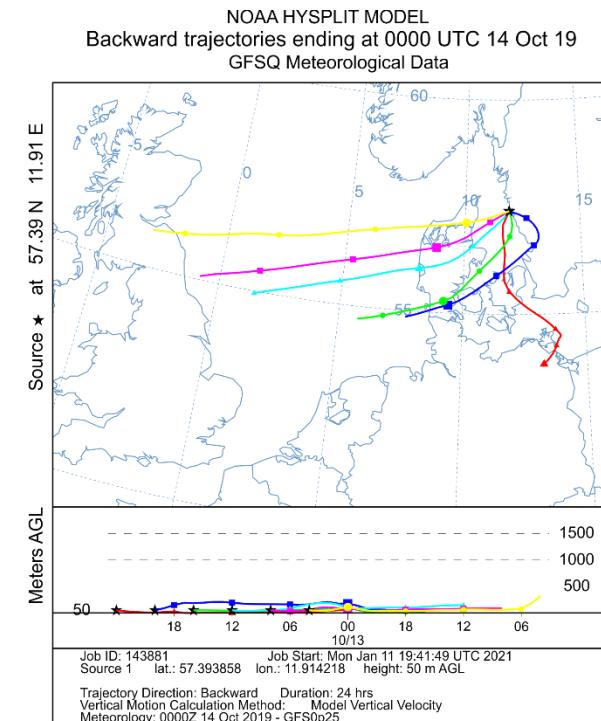
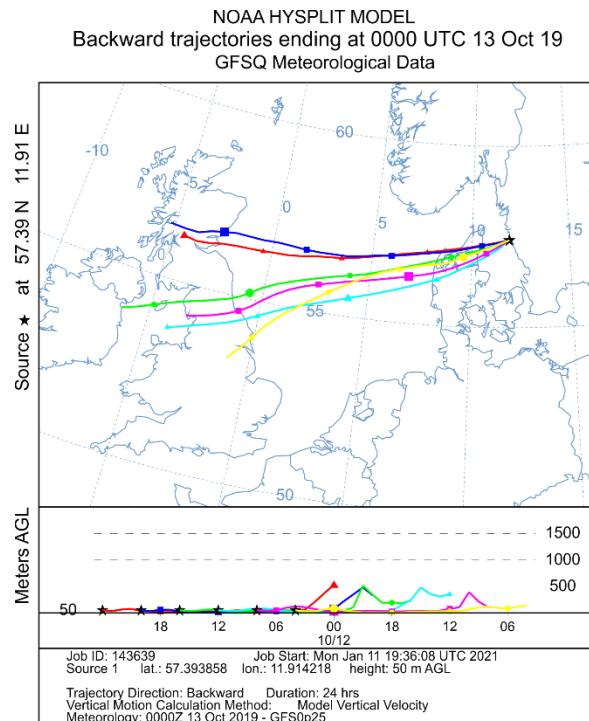
*Correspondence to:* Johannes Passig (johannes.passig@uni-rostock.de)

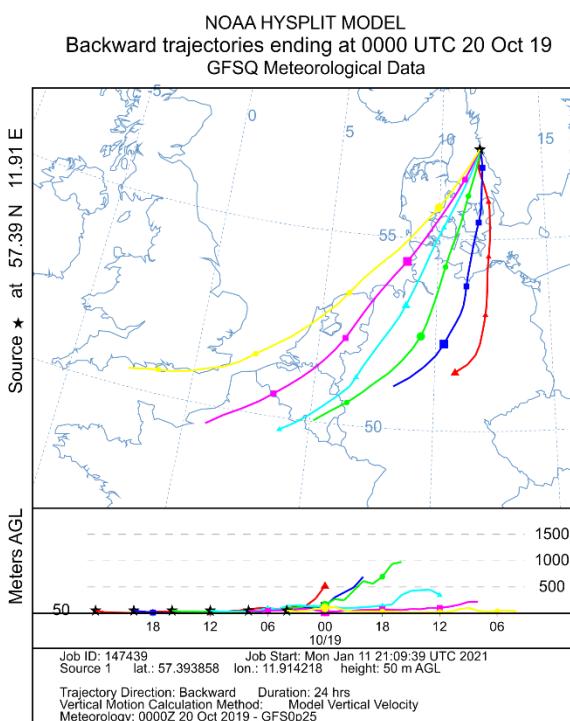
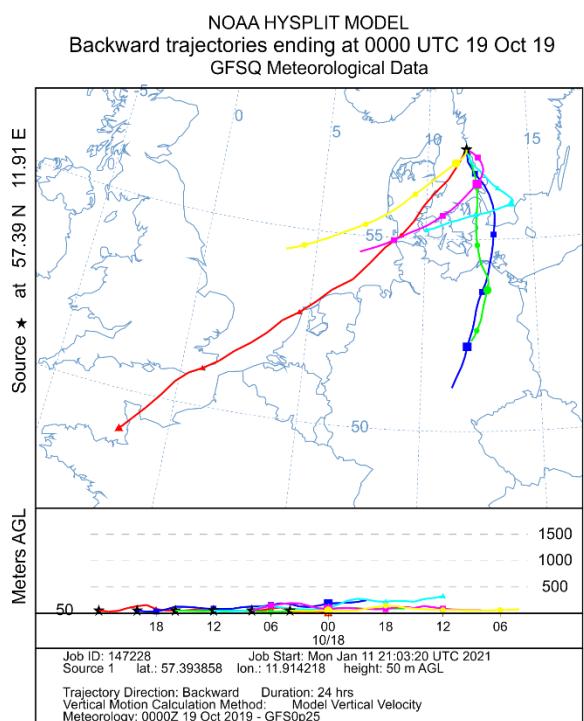
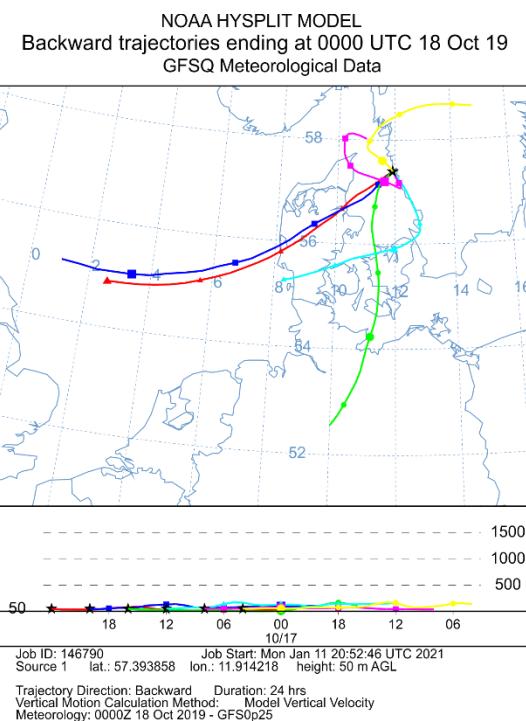
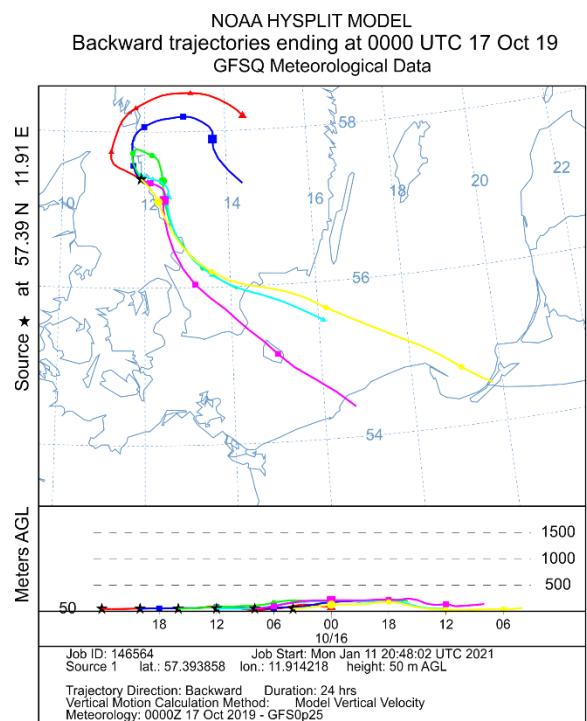
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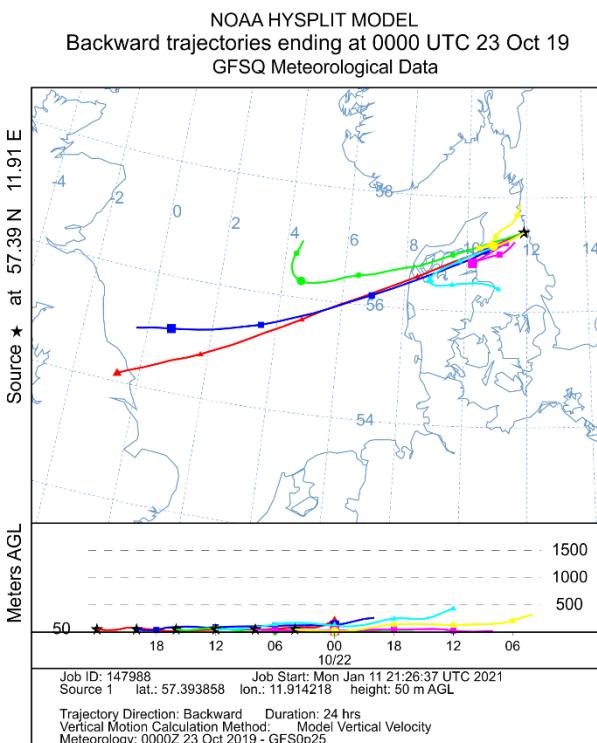
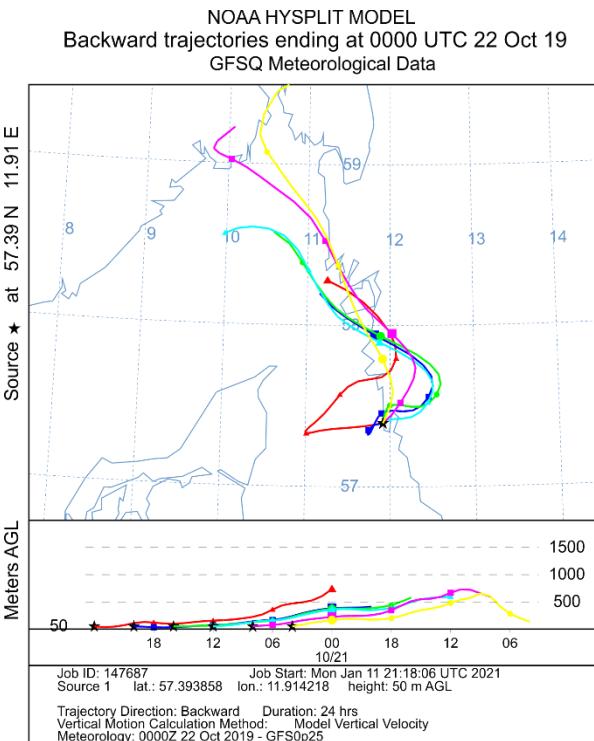
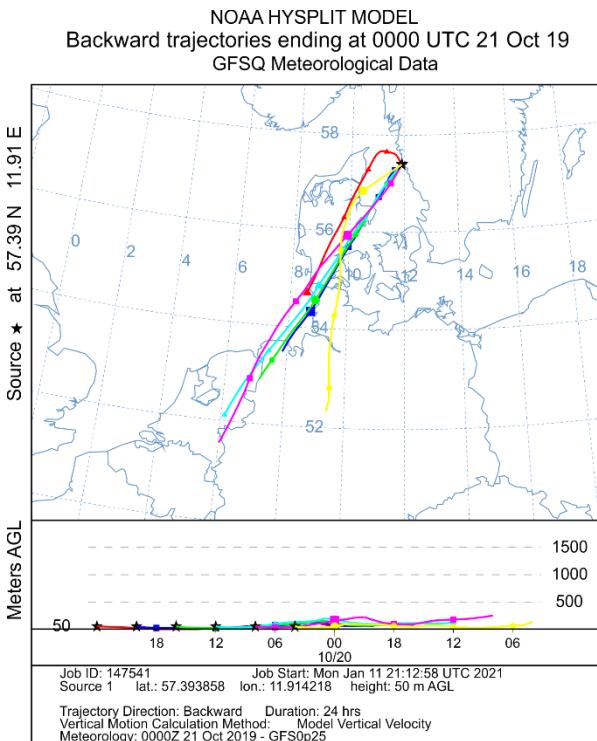


**Fig. S1:** Vacuum aerodynamic diameter of the general particle classes with respect to LDI mass spectra.

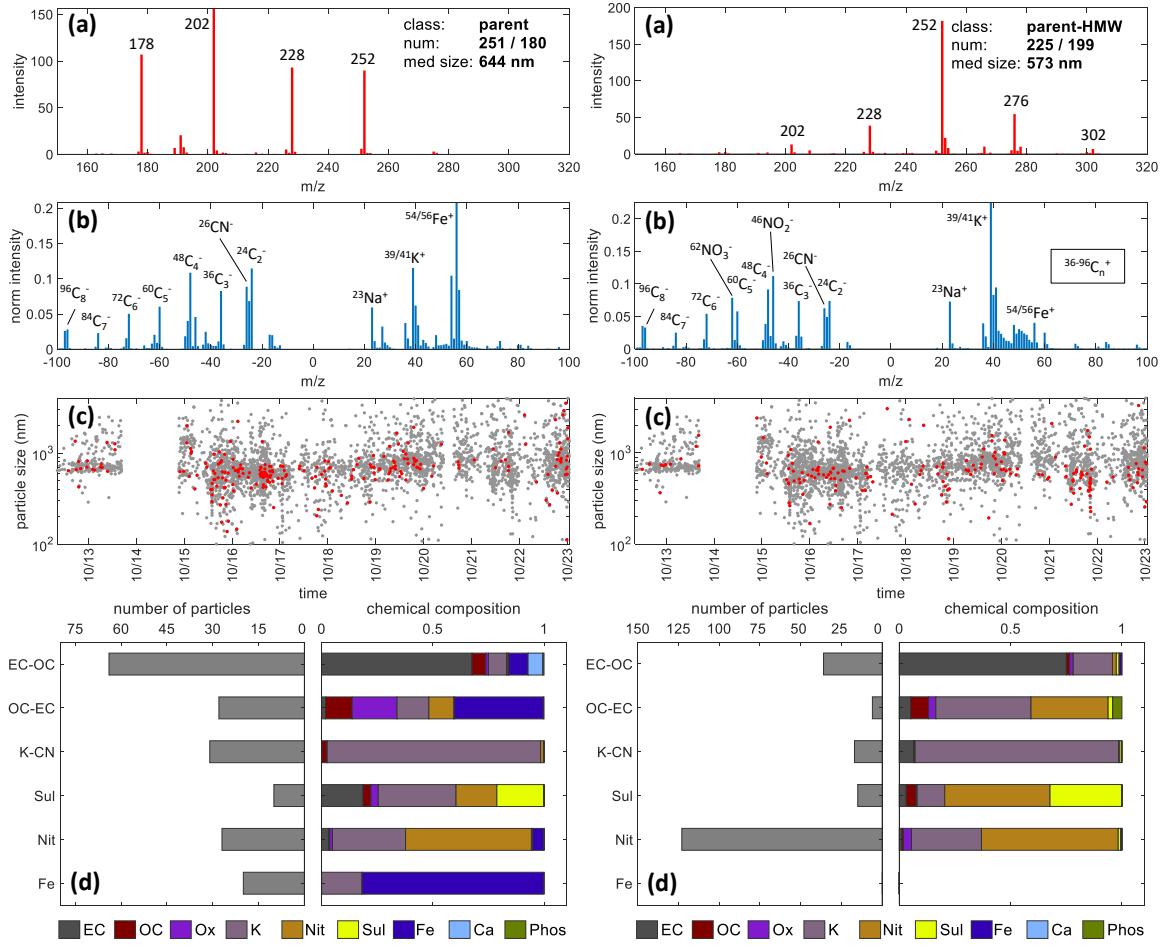
**Fig. S2 (below):** HYSPLIT back trajectories for 24 h run time, ending at the measurement site.





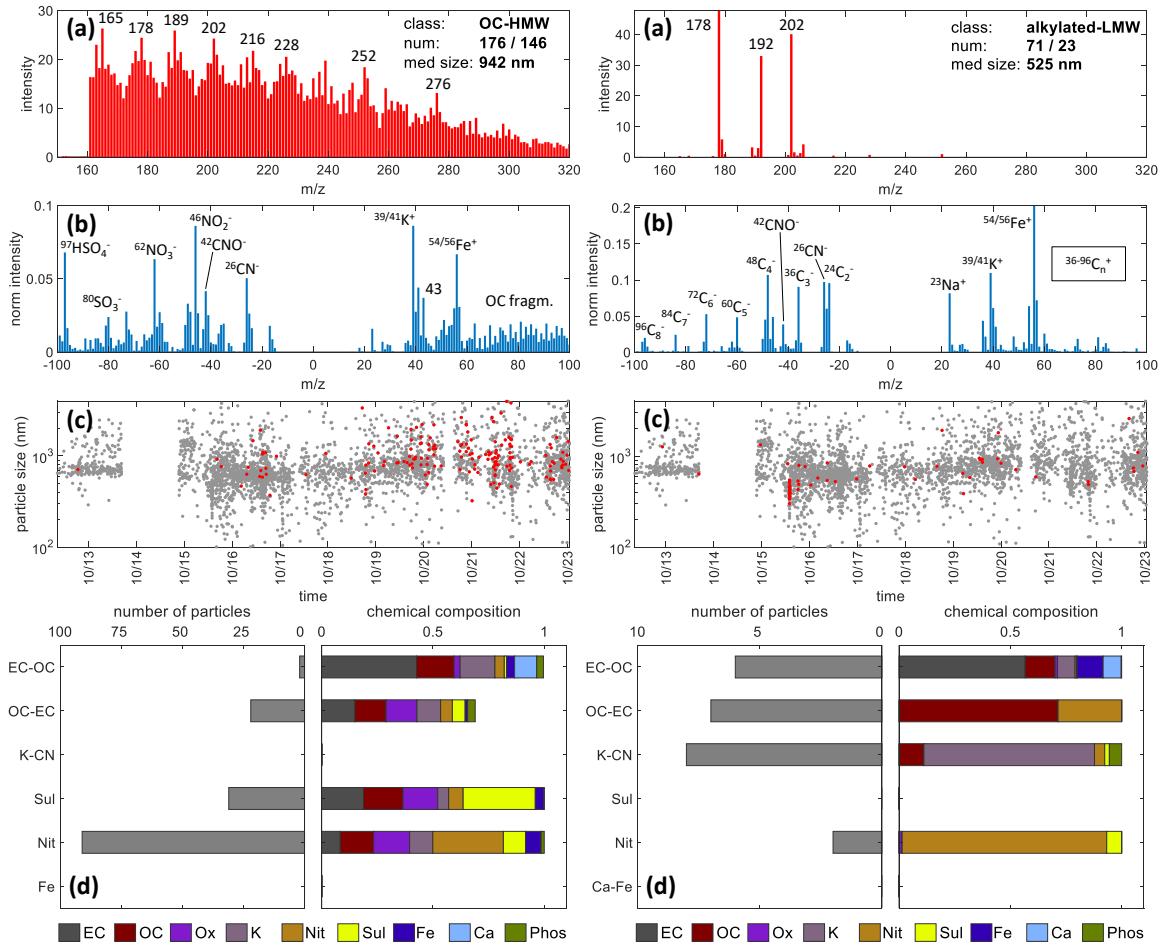


**Fig. S2: HYSPLIT back trajectories for 24 h run time, ending at the measurement site.**



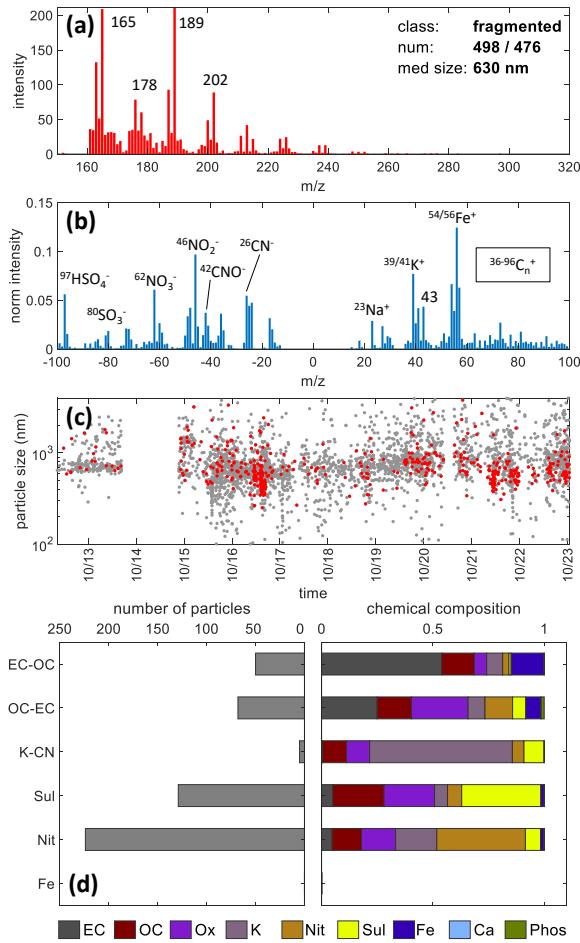
**Fig. S3:** Particles with signatures of only ‘parent’ PAHs show secondary nitrate more frequently than the “common” type (manuscript, Fig. 5), possibly as a result of PAH degradation by atmospheric ageing. (For figure explanation, see Fig. 5.)

**Fig. S4:** Additional ‘parent’ PAH peaks at high masses can result from wood combustion, but the further increased nitrate and sulfate signals could also be indicative for an advanced stage of ageing. (For figure explanation, see Fig. 5.)



**Fig. S5:** Rows of high-mass OC peaks dominating are frequently associated with strong sulfate signals in addition to the nitrate, indicating enhanced SOA and oligomer formation by particle acidity. (For figure explanation, see Fig. 5.)

**Fig. S6:** Particles with strong signals from alkylated PAHs of low molecular weight could be attributed to a green waste burning fire at the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. (For figure explanation, see Fig. 5.)



**Fig. S7:** Some particles show a characteristic fragment pattern with additional peaks at -2 m/z for each PAH signal and strong signals from secondary nitrate and sulfate. They could so far not be associated with a specific source or atmospheric process. (For figure explanation, see Fig. 5.)

**Tab. S1:** Assignment of the top-300 clusters of the ART-2a analysis of LDI mass spectra to main particle classes. The cluster spectra and temporal behavior are given in Fig. S8.

Sea salt	K-Nit-Sul	K-Nit-OC	Fe-Nit-Sul	Fe-Nit	Fe-Nit-Soot	Fe-Nit-OC	Fe-Soot	Soot	Soot-Nit
1	2	16	36	10	27	43	62	220	192
3	4	26	37	11	28	53	149		200
5	14	69	40	12	39	67	155		204
6	19	105	70	18	44	68	165		234
7	25	131	73	24	47	77	176		258
8	34	133	124	29	49	83	178		263
9	104	141	125	48	50	84	197		278
13	114	161	127	74	51	85	231		
15	119	175	147	86	52	90			
17	170	181	151	138	55	96			
20	174	186	158	139	58	97			
21	177	193	187	236	60	101			
22	182	199	209	238	66	106			
23	189	206	288		75	109			
30	190	212			76	110			
31	191	228			78	111			
32	194	233			79	112			
33	195	240			80	113			
35	202	245			81	117			
38	205	247			88	121			
41	207	248			89	122			
42	224	249			91	126			
45	229	251			92	128			
46	230	253			94	130			
54	250	262			95	132			

56	252	265		98	148		
57	254	270		99	150		
59	255	271		100	152		
61	256	272		103	153		
63	257	275		107	154		
64	264	280		108	157		
65	282	281		115	164		
71	290	286		116	166		
72	293	287		118	172		
82	295	291		120	179		
87	299	292		129	198		
93		300		134	221		
102				136	223		
123				140	232		
135				144	235		
137				145	259		
142				146	261		
143				156	266		
160				159	273		
163				162	284		
169				167			
171				168			
180				173			
183				208			
184				213			
185				214			
188				217			
196				218			
201				219			
210				222			
211				237			
215				237			
225				239			
226				242			
227				243			
241				244			
246				260			
267				269			
268				276			
274				277			
283				279			
289				294			
298				296			
				297			

Tab. S2: Assignment of the top-300 clusters of the ART-2a analysis of REMPI mass spectra to main (PAH) particle classes. The cluster spectra and temporal behavior are given in Fig. S9. The missing clusters reveal high-mass signatures of inorganic compounds (e.g.  $\text{Pb}^+$ ,  $\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4^+$  etc.) but no PAHs.