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Supplement of

Ambient carbonaceous aerosol levels in Cyprus and the role of pollution transport from the Middle East

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Section S1. PMF methodology

Initially, the reference factor profile (RFP) BBOA from Ng et al., 2011 was used to constrain the PMF. The m/z 60 cannot be explained by any combination of a-values (constrained). The combinations presented in Table S1 have been used and resulted in non-optimum correlations between BCwb vs BBOA. The correlation of BCwb with the other factor that contained m/z 60 was better with an $R^2$ up to 0.84.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a-value</th>
<th>$r^2$ of BCff vs HOA-1</th>
<th>$r^2$ of BCwb vs BBOA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The second step was to search for a local BBOA factor. The unconstrained solutions have shown very good correlation for BBOA vs BCwb. Thus, the unconstrained runs have been used to calculate the local BBOA reference factor. Both 4-factor and 5-factor solution runs were tested. For the 4-factor solution, the HOA factor retrieved had a clear pattern containing the alkane and alkene related fragments and wasn’t containing m/z 44. BBOA factor retrieved was containing 99% of the m/z 60 included in the dataset. The 5-factor solution of unconstrained PMF runs exhibits a separation between primary and secondary factors, however the solution among the runs isn’t that stable. Critically, the BBOA profile factor wasn’t as stable as in the 4-factor solution (Fig. S1).

Figure S1. Factor profiles for the four- (a) and five- (b) factor unconstrained runs for the 2017 cold period dataset.
As observed in Fig. S2, the 4-factor solution was having quite similar factor profiles for BBOA compared to the 5-factor unconstrained runs. Thus, the 4-factor solution has been used to derive this BBOA-like local factor in Nicosia (BBOA_{cy} more effectively. In the figure S3 the mass spectra of the calculated BBOA_{cy} is presented.

Applying a-values (0-0.5 with a step of 0.02) for the BBOA_{cy} revealed that the best solution was to use an a-value of 0.46. It was the most stable solution among all, having good correlation of BBOA factor with BC_{wb} (r^2 = 0.84), and HOA factor with BC_{ff} (r^2 = 0.67). Additionally, the a-value of 0.46 also had the most stable factor profile results.
Afterwards, the optimum a-value for HOA was selected. To do so, the BBOA\textsubscript{CY} factor was anchored with an a-value of 0.46 and a first-dimension sensitivity analysis for the HOA-like reference factor from Ng et al., (2011) was used with a-values ranging from 0 to 0.2 with a step of 0.02. All a–values ranging 0.1 to 0.2 resulted in similar correlation between HOA factors and BC\textsubscript{ff} ($r^2 = 0.65$). However, the contribution of HOA factor increased as the a-value was increased. Finally, the a-value of 0.2 was selected so that maximum freedom was given to the system to explain all possible emissions from fossil fuel combustion.
Table S2: ACSMs sampling setup at Nicosia site for the 6-month measuring period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>RF\textsubscript{NO\textsubscript{3}}</th>
<th>4.78 \times 10^{-11}</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>\text{RIE}_{\text{NH}_4}</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>\text{RIE}_{\text{SO}_4}</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>\text{RIE}_{\text{Cl}}</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Figure S4: a) Mass closure exercise between daily averaged reconstructed PM\textsubscript{1} (ACSM+BC) and measured PM\textsubscript{1} by SMPS. b-e) Scatterplot of chemically speciated ACSM measurements versus filter analyses for organic matter (compared to OC filter-based measurements), nitrate, sulfate and ammonium. f) Comparison of daily average BC and EC concentrations.
Figure S5. Wind roses for (a) the cold season and (b) the warm season respectively. Wind direction and velocity data obtained by the Athalassa Forestry Park Meteorological Station operated by the Cyprus Department of Meteorology.
Figure S6: Cluster analysis for backward trajectories of air masses during the cold (a) and warm (b) period. Percentage change in Total Spatial Variance as a function of the number of clusters for the (c) cold and (d) warm periods. Calculated 72h back trajectories arriving at the measuring site every 6 hours for both the cold (e) and warm (f) periods.
Figure S7: Difference in mean annual modelled surface concentrations of (a, b) SO$_4^-$, (c, d) SO$_2$ and (e, f) PM$_{2.5}$ in absolute values (a, c, e) and percentage (b, d, f) between the baseline S0 and no-shipping emissions S1 simulations.
Figure S8: Diurnal profile of the planetary boundary layer height calculated by the LIDAR measurements for both periods in Nicosia.

Figure S9: Scatter plot and linear regression of OA measured in Nicosia during the cold period versus \( BC_{wb} \) obtained by the aethalometer model.
Figure S10: Correlation matrices of resolved OA factor profiles against selected factor profiles found in the literature. Note that the m/z 18, 28 were excluded from the comparison to literature mass spectra.
Figure S11: Comparison of OA factor time series with external tracers during the cold period
Figure S12: Mass fraction of m/z 55 and 57 ($f_{55}$ and $f_{57}$) for primary organics. $f_{55}$ and $f_{57}$ linear fits extracted from various PMF COA and HOA factors (red and black line accordingly), as well as from cooking and traffic source emission studies (red and black dashed line accordingly) reported in (Mohr et al., 2012). Data points are coloured according to time of day.
Figure S13: Spatial variability of space-based (SP5-TROPOMI) vertical columns of NO$_2$ in the East Mediterranean (a) and Cyprus (b) for the entire period of the campaign. Cold and warm period (c and d) with the geolocation of the main urban centers and power plants in Cyprus and the location of the background station CAO (x Nicosia).
Figure S14: Non-Parametric Wind (NWR) regression polar plots for (a) HOA-1, (b) HOA-2, (c) BBOA, (d) LO – OOA and (e) MO – OOA, calculated for the cold period in Nicosia. Non-Parametric Wind (NWR) regression polar plots calculated for (f) SO$_4^{2-}$ at the CAO-NIC (g) SO$_2$ at the residential and (h) SO$_2$ at the traffic site, for the cold period in Nicosia.

Figure S15 Comparison of OA factor timeseries with external tracers during the warm period
Figure S16: Non-Parametric Wind (NWR) regression polar plots for (a) HOA-1, (b) HOA-2, (c) LO – OOA and (d) MO – OOA, calculated for the warm period in Nicosia. Non-Parametric Wind (NWR) regression polar plots calculated for (e) SO2 at the residential and (f) SO2 at the traffic site, for the warm period in Nicosia.
Table S3: OA factor sources mean, standard deviation, median concentrations and respective contribution to total OA during cold and warm periods in Nicosia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>µg m⁻¹</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Contribution (%)</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Contribution (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOA - 1</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBOA</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOA - 2</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO - OOA</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LO - OOA</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Cold Period SO₄²⁻ PSCF (75th percentile)](image)

(a)

![Warm Period SO₄²⁻ PSCF (75th Percentile)](image)

(b)
Figure S17: PSCF calculated for the 75\textsuperscript{th} percentile for SO$_4^{2-}$ for the (a) cold and (b) warm period respectively. Log10(n+1) trajectory density plots for both the (c) cold and (d) warm periods.

Figure S18. Non-Parametric Wind regression (NWR) polar plots calculated for BC$_\text{P}$ during the (a) cold and (b) warm period in Nicosia.
Figure S19: Temporal variability of BCff and MO-OOA concentrations during the entire measuring period.

Figure S20: Correlation between measured and modelled BCff for the cold (a) and warm (b) period. The correlation curve (red lines) were calculated using the least orthogonal distance fit method.

Figure S21: BCff contributions related to the sources retrieved from OA source apportionment for the cold (left) and warm (right) period.
Section S3. Aethalometer model

For the selection of the optimum AAE values for the aethalometer model a sensitivity analysis was performed. In this context, the aethalometer model was implemented using all the different combinations with $a_{ff}$ varying between 0.8 and 1.2 with an increment of 0.05 and $a_{wb}$ varying from 1.4 through 2.4 with an increment of 0.1. Linear regression was consequently performed between $BC_{wb}$ and the OA concentration at $m/z = 60$, a fragment directly linked to levoglucosan, thus used as a biomass-burning tracer. Furthermore, linear regression of $BC_{ff}$ vs xylenes ($C_8H_{11}$) was also performed for the cold period, when VOC measurements were available.

![Figure S22: Squared Pearson correlation coefficient ($R^2$) for the linear regression of (a) $BC_{wb}$ versus OA at $m/z=60$ and $BC_{ff}$ versus xylenes, keeping an $a_{ff}$ value of 1 and varying $a_{wb}$.](image)

As depicted in Fig. 3 when keeping an $a_{ff}$ value of 1, no change has been observed for the correlation of $BC_{wb}$ to OA at $m/z=60$ with varying values for $a_{wb}$, with $R^2$ being 0.822 constantly for $a_{wb}$ above 1.5. For the same scenario, a rather insignificant increase in $R^2$ values was observed for the correlation of $BC_{ff}$ to xylenes when moving from $a_{wb}=2$ to $a_{wb}=2.1$.

Finally, the correlation between daily averaged $BC_{wb}$ values and concurrent levoglucosan concentrations, a well-established biomass burning tracer, obtained through filter sampling, is excellent ($R^2 = 0.94$) when using the “default” AAE values ($a_{ff}=1$ and $a_{wb}=2$). Thus, the selection of these values for the Aethalometer model, seems to provide results that capture the residential wood burning phenomenon in a quite satisfactory manner for the urban background conditions in Nicosia.
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