

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Variations in time and space of trace metal aerosol concentrations in urban areas and their surroundings

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Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Abstract

Using an unprecedentedly large geochemical database, we compare temporal and spatial variations in inhalable trace metal background concentrations in a major city (Barcelona, Spain) and at a nearby mountainous site (Montseny) affected by the urban plume. Both sites are contaminated by technogenic metals, with V, Pb, Cu, Zn, Mn, Sn, Bi, Sb and Cd all showing upper continental crust (UCC) normalised values > 1 in broadly increasing order. The highest metal concentrations usually occur during winter at Barcelona and summer in Montseny. This seasonal difference was especially marked at the remote mountain site in several elements such as Ti and Rare Earth Elements, which recorded campaign maxima, exceeding PM₁₀ concentrations seen in Barcelona. The most common metals were Zn, Ti, Cu, Mn, Pb and V. Both V and Ni show highest concentrations in summer, and preferentially fractionate into the finest PM sizes (PM₁/PM₁₀ > 0.5) especially in Barcelona, this being attributed to regionally dispersed contamination from fuel oil combustion point sources. Within the city, hourly metal concentrations are controlled either by traffic (rush hour double peak for Cu, Sb, Sn, Ba) or industrial plumes (morning peak of Ni, Mn, Cr generated outside the city overnight), whereas at Montseny metal concentrations rise during the morning to a single, prolonged afternoon peak as contaminated air transported by the sea breeze moves into the mountains. Our exceptional database, which includes hourly measurements of chemical concentrations, demonstrates in more detail than previous studies the spatial and temporal variability of urban pollution by trace metals in a given city. Technogenic metalliferous aerosols are commonly fine in size and therefore potentially bioavailable, emphasising the case for basing urban background PM characterisation not only on physical parameters such as mass but also on sample chemistry and with special emphasis on trace metal content.

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



1 Introduction

It is by now well established that high concentrations of airborne particulate matter have negative effects on human health (US EPA, 2009 and references therein), this evidence having led to a revision of the WHO Air Quality Guidelines and increasingly worldwide imposition of mandatory limits for PM₁₀ concentrations in the air we breathe (WHO, 2000; Council Directive 2008/50/EC; US EPA, 2004; Moreno et al., 2007). However there is still no common agreement on which size fraction (which will determine its deposition pattern in the respiratory tract) of such particles is causing most damage and likewise which chemical components are most implicated in harmful bioreactions. Key suspects among such chemical components are trace metals which, although low in mass concentration, are ubiquitous in our urban environments, and are thought to play an important role in human health problems due to their commonly high bioreactivity (e.g., Gavett et al., 2003; Schaumann et al., 2004; Valko et al., 2005; Guastadisegni et al., 2010).

Although the presence of trace metals in ambient air is due in part to emissions directly from natural processes such as volcanic eruptions, dust storms or rock weathering, most metalliferous particles are anthropogenic in origin. For example, V, Ni, Co, Sb, Cr, Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, As and Sn are emitted to the atmosphere by fossil hydrocarbon combustion and metallurgical industrial activity (e.g., Pacyna, 1986; Querol et al., 2002; Lin et al., 2005; Alastuey et al., 2005), and traffic pollution involves a wide range of trace element emissions that include Ba, Pb, Cu, Cr, Sn, Sb and Zr (e.g., Pacyna, 1986; Birmili et al., 2006; Amato et al., 2009a; Bukowiecki, et al., 2010). Although all of these metals are typically present in elevated concentrations in the urban atmosphere, only a very few of them are legislated. The European Union for example has set annual limits for Pb (500 ng m⁻³; 2008/50/CE), and target values for As (6 ng m⁻³), Ni (20 ng m⁻³) and Cd (5 ng m⁻³) (2004/107/CE), whereas the WHO has published guideline values for Cd (5 ng m⁻³), Mn (150 ng m⁻³), Pb (500 ng m⁻³) and V (1000 ng m⁻³, daily values).

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Atmospheric metalliferous particles are often preferentially concentrated in the finer fractions of particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$ and PM_1), tending to occur in sizes below $1\ \mu m$ (Milford and Davidson, 1985; Utsunomiya et al., 2004; Birmili et al., 2006; Pérez et al., 2008), which not only results in large surface areas being available for reaction with human fluids, but also makes them able to be transported over distances of hundreds of kilometres. Thus air pollutants generated in urban environments can travel to remote and rural areas, increasing the concentration of metal airborne particles in otherwise clean environments (e.g., Harrison and Williams, 1982; Pakkanen et al., 2001; Azimi et al., 2003; Ledoux et al., 2006; Shah et al., 2006). The transport of such metalliferous particles will depend on a series of factors including the atmospheric and weather conditions (humidity, rain scavenging potential, wind direction and wind speed, re-circulation of air masses, dispersive atmospheric conditions), the geography of the area (proximity to the coast, topography, type of soil cover), the season of the year and time of the day (affecting the emissions of specific metals depending on the source intensity), and the size and even morphology of the particles themselves that can favour the resuspension and transport of the particle.

The primary aim of the work presented here is to improve our understanding of the variations in inhalable metalliferous airborne particle concentrations in time and space between major cities and surrounding rural areas. To do this we use a very large database of more than 600 inorganic chemical analyses involving different inhalable size fractions on 12 h samples collected during both winter and summer. In addition, for the winter data we also obtained hourly concentrations of metals. The results of this study are part of the DAURE (Determination of the sources of atmospheric Aerosols in Urban and Rural Environments in the Western Mediterranean; <http://tinyurl.com/daure09>) project, the campaign fieldwork for which was carried out during 2009 (Pandolfi et al., 2011) with the purpose of collecting aerosol measurements simultaneously at an urban site in Barcelona (NE Spain) and Montseny, a relatively remote site high in the Catalan Coastal Ranges (CCR) NNE of the city.

2 Methodology

2.1 Sites description

The urban nucleus of the city of Barcelona has 1 621 537 inhabitants (data 2009), making it the second most populated city in Spain and the tenth within the European Union, with a density of 15 991 hab km⁻². The city is located in the NE of the Iberian Peninsula, narrowly constricted between the Mediterranean and the Catalan Coastal Ranges. The latter form a prominent NE-SW line of low mountains (Littoral and Pre-Littoral ranges: Fig. 1) which help protect the city from the more severe continental weather conditions typical of inland Catalonia, but they also reduce the advective effects of cleansing, Atlantic-derived air masses. Along its northern and southern margins the city is delimited by the Llobregat and Besòs river valleys that canalise the winds and also contain important linear concentrations of industrial activity and road transport lines. The selected urban background measurement site in Barcelona (BCN) was located in the southwestern side of the city, at about 500 m away from the Diagonal Avenue, which is one of the main highways (> 100 000 vehicles per day) feeding traffic through the city (41°23'24.01" N 02°6'58.06" E, 80 m a.s.l.).

Given the distinctive geography of the area, the transport and dispersion of atmospheric pollutants within BCN are controlled mainly by fluctuating thermally driven coastal winds which typically blow in from the sea during the day (sea breeze) and, less strongly, from the land during the night (mountain breeze). This atmospheric dynamic and the geographic setting have the potential to produce high concentrations of locally derived pollutants within the city. In addition, the activation of up-slope winds combined with the sea breeze (Pérez et al., 2008; Jorba et al., 2011) promotes the transport of pollution from the city and its surrounding industrial areas (including emissions from road and marine traffic, and industrial, agricultural and power generation activities) along the NE-SW oriented coastline and inland regional/rural areas. This is well illustrated within Montseny Natural Park where there is a regional background air monitoring station (MSY: 41°46'45.63" N 02°21'28.92" E, 720 m a.s.l.; 50 km NW

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Barcelona) belonging to the Air Quality network of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia. This monitoring site is also included in the EUSAAR (European Supersites for Atmospheric Aerosol research) network and is known to be liable to contamination, depending on atmospheric conditions, from the urban pollution plume emanating from Barcelona (Pérez et al., 2008; Pey et al., 2010a).

Existing data on PM₁₀ levels over the last 10 yr in the city of Barcelona show levels for urban background sites varying from 28–42 µg PM₁₀ m⁻³, 18–27 µg PM_{2.5} m⁻³, and 13–20 µg PM₁ m⁻³, but these levels increase up to 39–55 µg PM₁₀ m⁻³ in traffic hot spot sites, or in specific industrial areas with higher contamination (updated from Querol et al., 2008). Given the geographically confined nature of the city, and the paucity of central urban green spaces, urban background levels breathed by the local population are strongly contaminated by vehicle emissions. In addition to locally sourced air pollution, a further contribution to ambient PM concentrations in Barcelona is frequently made by the arrival of dusty air masses from the Sahara and Sahel desert regions of North Africa (e.g., Rodríguez et al., 2001; Moreno et al., 2006; Pérez et al., 2008; Querol et al., 2009). This contribution is estimated as directly adding around 1–2 µg PM₁₀ m⁻³ and 0.2–1 µg PM_{2.5} m⁻³ to annual averages in the city (Escudero et al., 2007), as well as being responsible for 10–20 of the annual daily limit value exceedances (23–27 % of total exceedances). Considering, however, that the total mineral contribution to PM₁₀ mass in Barcelona averages around 8–16 µg m⁻³, it becomes obvious that African dust intrusions per se are not the primary direct source of mineral aerosols in the city air. Most such particles (i.e. 5–15 µg PM₁₀ m⁻³) are in fact anthropogenic in origin, in the sense that, although being natural materials derived from rocks and soils (mostly felsic silicates and calcium carbonate) they are released into the atmosphere by resuspension from moving traffic, pavement abrasion, construction/demolition work and other human activities (Amato et al., 2009a).

A description of the mesoscale and local meteorological processes affecting both BCN and MSY sites is provided in Pey et al. (2010b) and Pandolfi et al. (2011a). Whereas Barcelona pollution is dominated by local anthropogenic emission sources,

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



at Montseny the particulate matter composition is mainly related to meteorological controls. Thus during summer, due to the predominance of high pressure and high insolation, air pollutants are concentrated by local/regional circulations at different altitudes in the atmosphere (Rodríguez et al., 2002, 2003). In contrast, during winter the advection of air masses from the Atlantic is favoured by the location of the Azores anticyclone, thus reducing levels of pollutants in the area. Nevertheless, pollution episodes related with strong anticyclonic conditions are frequently observed in winter, increasing the levels of pollutants at a regional scale (Pey et al., 2010a). In addition breeze patterns also play an important role in the transport of contaminants from the urban to the rural sites. In Barcelona the sea breeze develops around 10:00 UTC, reducing especially PM₁ concentrations in the city, whereas levels increase after 18:00 UTC when the mountain breeze starts bringing pollution in from the surrounding industrial valleys and the wider metropolis around the city centre. In the hills of Montseny the opposite is the case, with the finer PM fraction tending to increase during the daytime due to the outcoming sea breeze bringing contaminants from Barcelona, and decrease during the evening (Pérez et al., 2008; Pey et al., 2010b).

Measurements and sampling of aerosols during the DAURE campaign were simultaneously conducted at both sites, BCN and MSY, during winter (February/March 2009) and summer (July 2009). Three generalised atmospheric scenarios have been described during the winter campaign, one being characterised by cleansing Atlantic-derived advective winds, and the others involving increasing air pollution under the stagnating influence of anticyclonic conditions and differing only in whether MSY lay within or above the atmospheric boundary layer (ABL). Regarding summer conditions, these were mainly differentiated into regional pollution scenarios involving recirculation of polluted air masses at regional scale (with MSY always lying within the ABL during the day), Atlantic advections, and the presence of air masses from the African continent (Pandolfi et al., 2011a).

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

2.2 Sample collection and analysis

Two sampling campaigns were run in order to investigate the differences between summer and winter pollution scenarios at both urban and rural sites. Each campaign lasted for a whole month, taking place on February-March and July 2009. Data were obtained using gravimetric PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and PM₁ high-volume instruments at a flow of 30 m³ h⁻¹ (MCV-CAV and DIGITEL-DH80), that were continuously sampling at each site (BCN and MSY) during periods of 12 h (09:00–21:00 and 21:00–09:00 UTC), with the exception of the PM₁ fraction during the summer campaign when only 24 h filters were collected at both sites. A total of 630 samples were collected on quartz fibre filters (Munktell MK360 for the winter and Pall 2500QAT-UP for the summer campaigns respectively, 150 mm) previously pre-heated at 200 °C during 4 h, conditioned at 20–25 °C and 25–30 % of relative humidity during at least 24 h, and subsequently weighed three times on different days. After sampling, the filters were conditioned again and weighed as previously described. Once the gravimetric determination was performed the filters were treated and analyzed for the determination of the chemical composition of PM. For this, one quarter of each filter was acid digested (HF : HNO₃ : HClO₄), kept at 90 °C in a Teflon reactor during 6 h, driven to dryness and re-dissolved with HNO₃ to make up a volume of 25 ml with bidistilled water, for chemical analysis using Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry for the determination of the major elements (ICP-AES: IRIS Advantage TJA Solutions, THERMO) and Mass Spectrometry for the trace elements (ICP-MS: X Series II, THERMO). To assure the quality of the analytical procedure a small amount (15 mg) of the NIST-1633b (fly ash) reference material loaded on a 1/4 quartz micro-fibre filter was also analysed, these reaching values < 10 % for all trace elements. The rest of each filter was kept for the determination of soluble ion concentrations, the analysis of organic and elemental carbon and the determination of levoglucosan and dicarboxylic acids, which are not dealt with in this manuscript as they are described in other works from the DAURE campaign.

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



In addition, elemental characterisation of size-segregated PM was performed with hourly resolution at both urban and rural sites continuously during the winter campaign. To this aim a rotating drum impactor (Bukowiecki et al., 2009; Richard et al., 2010) from the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI, from Switzerland) was installed to collect hourly aerosol samples in three size ranges (0.1–1 μm , 1–2.5 μm and 2.5–10 μm). The collected samples were analysed by synchrotron radiation X-Ray fluorescence spectrometry (SR-XRF, see Bukowiecki et al., 2009, for details).

Meteorological variables including atmospheric pressure, wind direction and speed, solar radiation, temperature and relative humidity were provided from a nearby meteorological station by the Faculty of Physics from Barcelona University (in the case of the urban site in BCN) and a meteorological station located in the monitoring site (in the case of the rural site at MSY).

3 Results

3.1 Metal enrichments and seasonal variations

Normalising average metal values of our atmospheric PM samples against those for average upper continental crust (ppm metal in sample/ppm metal in UCC) (Wedepohl 1995) reveals the extent of atmospheric enrichment in technogenic elements associated with traffic and industrial emissions. Examples of these pollution markers are illustrated in Fig. 2 where V, Pb, Cu, Zn, Mn, Sn, Bi, Sb and Cd all show UCC normalised values > 1 , in broadly increasing order, a technogenic enrichment which contrasts with “crustal” elements such as Rb and Sr which are depleted in the atmosphere relative to their UCC concentrations. Figure 2 also illustrates key seasonal differences between PM_{10} normalised levels at the two monitoring sites. The metal enriched nature of the summer air in MSY as compared to winter is apparent in the case of V, Mn and Sn, whereas at BCN, with the exception of V (and Ni, see Table 1), the technogenic pollutants are always present in higher average relative enrichments during winter. A similar

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



pattern is shown by the finest PM₁ fraction in which most elements (except again V and Sn) show higher winter concentrations at MSY as well as BCN (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The variations in average elemental concentrations during summer and winter campaigns at both sites are emphasised in Table 1 (highest levels in bold). These data confirm how most of the highest levels recorded for individual elements (both average and maxima) occurred either during the winter at BCN or during the summer at MSY. Thus in the case of the PM₁₀ filters collected during the BCN winter, these show highest average concentrations of Zn (81 ng m⁻³), Cu (27 ng m⁻³), Sn (6 ng m⁻³), Sb (3 ng m⁻³), Tl (0.4 ng m⁻³), Pb (13 ng m⁻³) and Bi (0.4 ng m⁻³). The contrasting exceptions of V and Ni at the BCN site registered highest average concentrations in summer (13 ng m⁻³ and 6 ng m⁻³, respectively) rather than winter (9 ng m⁻³ and 5 ng m⁻³, respectively). In the case of the finer fractions (PM_{2.5} and PM₁), once again the BCN winter samples were far more metalliferous, with PM_{2.5} highs in Cu, Zn, As, Rb, Cd, Sb, Ta, Tl, Pb and Bi and PM₁ maxima in the majority of trace elements (Table 1). Only V, Ni, Co and Sb registered BCN maxima in the averages for summer PM₁ (Table 1).

Average PM₁₀ and PM₁ trace metal concentrations during summer and winter at both sites are shown in Fig. 3. At the MSY site, the differences between the two campaigns are generally smaller than in BCN. However, for both MSY PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} there were lower levels of most metals during winter (except for Cr, Cu, Zn, Cd, Sb, and Pb) whereas in summer the average concentrations of some elements in these PM size fractions can climb to levels exceeding even those in Barcelona city (Ti and REE). The distribution of metals in the finest fraction measured at MSY (PM₁) is quite different, despite the same mass levels, with the winter PM being generally much more metalliferous and showing campaign maxima for average levels of Ti, Cr, Zr, Hf, REE, W, and Bi (Fig. 3). Other metals such as Mn, Co, Ni, As and Sb were very similar during both campaigns, with only MSY V and Sn having average PM₁ concentrations higher in summer than winter, as previously shown by their relative enrichment respect to UCC levels.

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



With regard to relative abundance, in BCN $Zn > Ti > Cu$ were the three most common metals in both winter (all in concentrations $> 27 \text{ ng PM}_{10} \text{ m}^{-3}$) and summer (all $> 19 \text{ ng PM}_{10} \text{ m}^{-3}$) filter samples, followed by Mn, Pb, Zr and V. In the case of MSY Zn and Ti were again all dominant metals in both winter and summer PM_{10} fractions (both $> 20 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$). Average levels of those metals regulated by the EU (As, Cd, Ni, Pb) did not exceed the annual limit target concentrations. Highest average levels of most of these toxic metals/metalloids in PM_{10} were recorded in the winter data collected from BCN monitoring station as expected, with the exception of Ni that was higher in summer (Table 1).

We also observe notable variations in metal concentrations between daytime (09:00–21:00 UTC) and night-time (21:00–09:00 UTC) as shown in Table 2. At both BCN and MSY sites daytime samples contain higher concentrations of most metals compared to those collected at night, this presumably reflecting the inclusion of both morning and evening traffic rush hour periods in the daytime samples. Such daytime enrichment of airborne metals is especially marked in the MSY winter data where levels of many metals such as Ti, Mn, Cu, Sn, Sb, and REE are around double those during the night as a consequence of the transport of polluted air masses in the afternoon driven by the sea breeze. The notable exception to this general rule, and in contrast to MSY, is that in all BCN samples average concentrations of Cu, Zn, As and Pb show night enrichments. This differing behaviour of these four transition elements occurs in both winter and summer, and is also shown by Cr and Sb during the summer only (Table 2). In the case of MSY only Cr and finest Ti, La and Ce were richer during the winter nights, whereas in summer $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ night-time samples were slightly more metalliferous than during the day (Ti, Cr, Ni, Rb, Sr, REE).

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



3.2 Hourly variations in airborne metal concentrations

Daily cycles of metal concentrations were revealed by the rotating drum impactor data collecting hourly samples in three different PM size fractions (0.1–1, 1–2.5 and 2.5–10 μm) at both BCN and MSY during the winter campaign. There are striking differences in the concentration variation patterns shown by trace metals at the BCN site. Some metals (notably Cu, Sb, and also Sn, Ba) record two peaks during the day (07:00–08:00 and 20:00–21:00 UTC) whereas others (Ni, and also Mn, Cr) show only a morning peak (08:00–09:00 UTC) (Fig. 4a–c). The “double peak” metal pattern in BCN is attributed to the influence of traffic, reaching maximum levels at rush-hours in the morning and evening. It is notable that this double peak pattern is particularly well displayed by the coarser PM fraction, indicating the presence of PM from mechanical abrasion and road dust resuspension processes. This is well illustrated by elements such as Sb and Cu, classic road traffic trace metal marker, which show strong PM₁₀ peaks but little daily variation in the PM₁ size fraction (Fig. 4a,b).

The “single morning peak” metal group identified during the winter campaign at BCN is particularly well displayed by Ni (Fig. 4c), and also Cr, and is attributed mostly to industrial metallurgical emissions. These metals, together with Mn and Fe, contribute to the winter morning industrial pollution plumes driven seaward overnight by land breezes channelled along the Llobregat River, which delimits the western side of Barcelona (Fig. 1; Pey et al., 2010b; Pandolfi et al., 2011a). Reversal of wind direction, as the morning sea breezes begin, can result in the advection of this contaminated air into the city before daytime dilution and dispersal of the metals occur within the expanding mixing layer. A similar pattern can also be observed in some metals due to the breeze patterns in the Llobregat Basin. The land breeze coming down into BCN in the first hours of the day is responsible for high concentrations of industrial metals such as Zn (Fig. 4d) and Pb, this being especially pronounced in the case of the finer particles. During the afternoon the cleansing effect of the sea breeze within the urban atmosphere is evidenced by the reduction in the concentration of elements such

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



as Sb and Cu (Fig. 4a,b), showing levels similar to those measured during the night. The results from MSY are different from any pattern identified at BCN. For most metals there is a single metalliferous peak rising in the mid-morning to a midday-afternoon high before declining in the late afternoon (Fig. 4e). Despite the relatively unpolluted nature of the MSY site during winter, it is clear that the area was being contaminated by the daytime arrival of technogenic pollution peaking during the afternoon as shown by the daytime chemical analysis (Table 2). The same pattern of an afternoon peak value was shown for all three size fractions. Finally, several of the more “crustal” elements, such as Ti, Zr, Sr and Rb, do not conform to either pollution pattern outlined above. These metals increase in overall concentration during the day, but without displaying obvious peaks (Fig. 4f). Their presence in the ambient urban atmosphere is attributed partly to resuspension processes such as traffic movement but especially to ubiquitous construction activity that was taking place during the campaign (Amato et al., 2011; Reche et al., 2011).

3.3 Size fractionation

In order to observe patterns of PM size distribution for each metal, finest and coarsest (PM_1 and PM_{10}) concentrations were compared for each site and campaign (Fig. 5). Metals that are especially concentrated in the PM_1 fraction in the BCN samples ($PM_1/PM_{10} > 0.5$) include V, Ni and Cd for both summer and winter (Fig. 5), while As, Se, Y, some REE and U were only finer in the winter. In contrast, metals strongly favouring the coarser fraction ($PM_1/PM_{10} < 0.1$) in the urban site are mostly crustal elements such as Ti and Sr, Li, Ga and some REE (the latter only during the summer). In the case of MSY winter samples showed more metals especially concentrated in the finer fraction, these being Ni, Se, Y, Cd, most REE and U, with coarse metalliferous PM (< 0.1 ratio) only being observed in the summer campaign, finer metals during this time of the year included V, Ni, Zr, Cd, Sn, Hf, Pb and Bi (Fig. 5).

Looking at differences between the day/night samples (only for the winter campaign as 12h PM_1 was not analysed in the summer), in MSY evening samples tended to

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



be smaller in size, with the exception of Ni, Cu and Bi. This is especially clear in the case of crustal elements such as Li, Ti, Rb and all REE. In the case of BCN while most of metals also followed this pattern, some as V, Cr, Zr, Sn, Sb, Ba, and Pb were preferentially concentrated in the finer fractions in the daytime samples.

5 3.4 Metalliferous pollution incidents

Detailed study of the geochemical database summarised in Tables 1 and 2 reveals periods of time during both campaigns when the average concentrations of specific metals were anomalously high. The more short-lived of these spikes in metal concentrations, lasting less than 36 h and involving metal pairings such as V-Ni, Mn-Cu, and Zn-Pb, were most commonly registered during calm winds in BCN, and during the influence of SE winds in MSY. Thus they corresponded with stagnating conditions in the city (BCN), and transported plume arrival (MSY). Such events usually occurred at only one or the other of the monitoring sites at a given time, although in the case of Zn or Pb, transient peaks of these metals during the winter campaign were occasionally registered simultaneously at both 12 h filters in BCN and MSY.

Several of the more extended episodes of high metal concentrations, of at least of 2 days duration, happened partly simultaneously in both sites. In this context, during the winter campaign there were three prominent metalliferous pollution episodes all under light, variable winds: (i) 27 February–2 March 2009 (BCN) and 27–28 February 2009 (MSY) with high levels of Sb, Sn, V, Ni and Mn; (ii) 13–17 March 2009 (BCN) and 11–13 March 2009 (MSY) with elevated levels of Zn, Se, Ni, Sn, Pb, Mn (plus Cu and Cr in MSY), and (iii) 23–25 March 2009 (BCN and MSY) with elevated levels of crustal elements. During the summer four main metalliferous episodes were identified: (i) 1–5 July 2009 (BCN and MSY) with Pb, Mn, Cd, Zn, Sn under W-S winds, (ii) V, Ni, Sb, La, Sn, Ti from 14–16 July 2009 (E–SE winds, only recorded in BCN), (iii) Cd, As, V, Ni during 21–23 July 2009 (SW winds only recorded in BCN), whereas these same dates MSY showed more clearly the impact of the arrival of air masses from north Africa with high levels of crustal metals; (iv) 26–28 July 2009 with As, Sr, Pb, Zn, Cu (BCN)

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



and in MSY during 27–29 July 2009 there were higher concentrations of Ti and Mn, and, to a lesser extent, Cu, Sr, Zr, both under predominantly SW winds. Overlooking the database it is clear that most metals showed their highest concentrations jointly with others, producing a “cocktail-effect” polymetallic spike. This was especially the case during the daytime in the summer campaign, whereas during winter these spikes occurred irrespective of the time of day.

4 Discussion and conclusions

It is clear from our data that the chemical mixture of trace metals breathed at any given place varies enormously. To our knowledge no other study has combined such a wealth of geochemical data to define both short and long-term variations in inhalable metal concentrations within a major city. Previous source apportionment studies applied to the BCN site have identified various sources relevant to metal PM emissions, including vehicle exhaust (Sn, As and Cd), mineral dust (Ti, Sr, Rb and Mn), road dust (Cu, Sb, Cr and Sn), fuel oil combustion (V, Ni) and metallurgical industrial processes (Pb, Zn, Sb, Mn, and Cd) (Amato et al., 2009b; Pey et al., 2009). At the rural site (MSY), fewer specific source factors have been identified due to PM mixing and dilution during wind-blown transport. In the urban environment of Barcelona, as with other cities, build-up of these technogenic pollutants is typically favoured by stagnant atmospheric conditions during winter thermal inversions within a thin, densely polluted mixing layer. Thus we observe during winter in Barcelona that average concentrations of Pb, Cu, Zn, Mn, Bi, Sb and Cd in PM₁₀ are all > 40% higher than in summer. In contrast, the remote mountainous site of Montseny shows higher levels of most PM₁₀ inhalable metals in summer. A summer increase in inhalable metal concentrations at MSY was predicted, due to the effect of a thicker tropospheric mixing layer facilitating the intrusion of contaminated urban plumes higher into the mountains. Some of this summer increase at MSY can be attributed to higher levels of crustal particles, this for example producing highest campaign PM₁₀ averages of Ti and REE.

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Another important contribution of this paper is the chemical analysis of different size fractions within the outreaching urban plume at a relatively remote mountainous site (MSY) beyond the city. In this context the interesting observation that the finest PM₁ fraction has higher winter concentrations of metals at MSY but not in summer highlights a key difference between the city centre and contaminated hinterland (Fig. 3). At MSY the summer air is more contaminated by the coarser PM fraction (PM₁₀) whereas the winter air has relatively finer PM (PM₁). We attribute this seasonal difference to the thicker summer atmospheric mixing layer allowing intrusion of coarser PM higher into the mountains. During the winter, these coarser particles remain trapped at lower altitudes whereas contaminated finer PM are still able to rise high enough to reach the MSY monitoring site. The seasonal variations trends within BCN and MSY must also be understood taking into account the synoptic scenario in the Western Mediterranean Basin. Summer regional episodes when PM is transported from urban/industrial to rural sites by meso-scale circulations has already been described by previous works (e.g., Millán et al., 1997; Rodríguez et al., 2003). During these episodes local wind circulations dominate the atmospheric dynamics in the area, helping the regional accumulation of pollutants and resulting in enhanced aerosol concentrations in MSY due to the scarce renovation of air masses (Rodríguez et al., 2002; Pey et al., 2009).

The summer increases in both V and Ni shown by our database stand out as a special case. These high summer levels are presumably also the result of anthropogenic contamination, and the fact that concentrations of both elements at MSY are not negligible suggests a regional-scale influence. Vanadium and Ni are the most abundant metals present in crude oil, commonly in concentrations that exceed 1000 ppm V and 100 ppm Ni (Moreno et al., 2010 and references therein). Oil combustion-related atmospheric emissions of Ni have around doubled and V tripled since the early 1980s, with an estimated 240 000 t of V being globally emitted annually by 1995 (Pacyna and Pacyna, 2001). Much of this combustion-derived atmospheric V and Ni is present in the finest PM size fraction, and is therefore capable of travelling large distances. In our database, PM₁/PM₁₀ values for these two metals are indeed among the highest

(> 0.45 for both sites, Fig. 5) making the combustion of heavy hydrocarbons the primary suspect for V/Ni pollution at BCN and MSY.

Unfortunately, however, distinguishing between the presence of V and Ni in crustal versus anthropogenic PM is hampered by the considerable overlap between V/Ni values in natural mineral dusts and combustion emissions. The average value for V/Ni in UCC is around 2, with most sedimentary rocks, the finer fractions of soils, and ambient atmospheric PM exhibiting values confined within a range of 1–4 (Rudnick and Gao 2004; Pey et al., 2009). Similarly, V/Ni values in low-sulphur petcoke and fuel oils typically lie a range of 1–3, increasing to 4–8 in high sulphur residues such as petcoke and the cheaper bunker oils used as fuel by shipping on the open seas where harbour controls on sulphurous emissions do not apply (Moreno et al., 2010; Pandolfi et al., 2011b). In the case of the MSY and BCN averaged data, all three PM size fractions show a range in V/Ni of 1–3, making unlikely any significant influence from high-sulphur shipping emissions. In addition, average La/Ce values are consistently < 0.55, ruling out any major contribution from fluid catalytic converter (FCC) oil refineries (Moreno et al., 2008a,b; Sánchez de la Campa et al., 2011). Rather than invoking refinery or open sea shipping emissions, therefore, we suggest instead that the raised levels in atmospheric V and Ni at our urban and rural sites as most probably derived from the regional-scale dispersal of low-sulphur fuel oil combustion plumes such as those emanating from industrial smokestacks and shipping emissions close to land where fuel controls apply.

Perhaps the best illustration of the temporal variability of inhalable metal pollutants in and around our cities comes from our data on hourly levels (Fig. 4). At our urban background site within Barcelona locally sourced metalliferous PM concentrations derived from traffic flow exhibit a classic double peak rush-hour pattern. During the mornings the first of these peaks is supplemented by raised levels of metalliferous pollutants which we attribute to industrial sources lying outside the city. This additional influence is characterised by increased levels of specific metals, notably Cr and Ni, which suggest a metallurgical source such as stainless steel manufacture. This extra

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



component of air pollution affecting the city results from the distinctive orographic character of Barcelona, lying on the coast adjacent to the CCR (Fig. 1). Thus the city is contaminated by the outpouring of inland-derived industrial pollution on land breezes overnight combined with the containment and blowback of the resulting plumes during wind reversal and the onset of daytime sea breezes. It will presumably be the case that every city will display distinctive microclimatic controls on air movements, superimposing added complexity on the typical double-peak traffic-derived PM concentrations.

Different again from the patterns detected at BCN is the long afternoon peak exhibited by hourly concentrations of metalliferous PM at MSY, emphasising the severe impact of urban/industrial pollution plumes on outlying, apparently pristine areas. Our hourly data were only obtained during the winter campaign, but, given the 12 h summer database, it seems likely that the spread of contaminated air into the Montseny hills during summer days is greater still. Once again the coastal location and orography provide a controlling influence, with urban contaminants brought in by sea breezes which maintain higher levels during the whole day until the mountain breeze cleanses the air in the evening (Pérez et al., 2008).

The severity of urban pollution by trace metals, its chemical character, and its outreach to surrounding areas will depend on a complex interplay of factors that include local geomorphology, annual and daily meteorological variations, patterns of road use and specific contributions from industrial hotspots. The detailed chemical database presented in this paper demonstrates in more detail than previous studies the spatial and temporal variability of atmospheric trace metal content that is a likely characteristic of all major cities and their surroundings, and offers insight into the controls on metalliferous particle size segregation and their transportation. The various cocktails of technogenic metalliferous aerosols are typically extremely fine in size and therefore potentially bioavailable, making a good case for basing urban background PM characterisation not only on physical parameters such as mass but also on sample chemistry and with special emphasis on trace metal content.

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

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Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

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Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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Table 1. Average, maximum, and standard deviation values for trace metal concentrations in all three size fractions (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁) analysed in gravimetric filters in BCN and MSY during the winter and summer campaigns. Highest levels are shown in bold. PM values are in µg m⁻³ and elemental concentrations in ng m⁻³.

	BCN winter												BCN summer												MSY winter												MSY summer											
	PM ₁₀				PM _{2.5}				PM ₁				PM ₁₀				PM _{2.5}				PM ₁				PM ₁₀				PM _{2.5}				PM ₁				PM ₁₀				PM _{2.5}				PM ₁			
	Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv		Avg	Max	stdv	
PM	41.94	85.60	18.05	26.96	51.79	11.65	25.95	47.17	10.24	36.84	60.20	8.54	23.45	40.01	6.21	11.42	17.26	3.00	32.63	79.82	15.46	17.39	38.60	7.59	13.34	29.80	6.22	29.60	53.96	7.52	22.66	41.47	7.67	13.35	17.45	2.77												
Li	0.49	1.61	0.34	0.19	0.60	0.13	0.10	0.39	0.08	0.44	1.27	0.19	0.15	0.42	0.07	0.03	0.09	0.02	0.36	0.96	0.23	0.08	0.20	0.04	0.08	0.63	0.09	0.43	1.77	0.29	0.12	0.45	0.09	0.04	0.07	0.01												
Ti	26.46	92.84	19.60	7.65	30.91	6.15	2.77	8.89	1.86	29.22	92.92	15.87	7.41	26.68	4.69	1.13	5.66	1.30	20.96	69.09	15.86	5.03	18.34	3.56	2.97	13.74	2.70	32.74	105.29	20.43	6.98	41.78	8.09	1.53	5.19	0.27												
V	9.48	40.67	6.60	6.98	30.11	4.91	5.47	25.34	4.09	12.99	47.94	9.30	12.53	51.49	8.82	8.24	23.79	5.42	3.63	11.22	2.36	2.14	7.30	1.49	1.73	6.50	1.32	4.36	14.22	2.73	2.89	10.14	2.00	2.82	6.27	1.06												
Cr	4.68	13.86	2.21	2.41	9.85	1.81	1.57	7.65	1.19	3.48	10.63	1.93	1.78	9.93	1.59	0.81	1.48	0.20	5.87	24.81	3.74	4.50	22.49	8.69	1.40	6.25	1.65	1.66	2.81	0.82	0.77	1.64	0.45	0.35	0.69	0.01												
Mn	15.46	115.56	14.87	6.08	20.32	3.21	13.24	13.98	3.33	9.58	26.58	4.64	5.42	17.69	2.88	1.44	3.55	0.66	6.74	16.87	4.06	1.72	4.05	0.86	0.97	2.53	0.55	7.92	29.09	4.66	1.81	7.35	1.40	0.80	1.28	0.46												
Co	0.25	0.72	0.13	0.10	0.44	0.07	0.06	0.22	0.04	0.25	0.95	0.11	0.13	0.42	0.08	0.07	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.37	0.08	0.05	0.22	0.04	0.03	0.09	0.02	0.17	0.69	0.12	0.06	0.23	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.01												
Ni	4.61	20.00	3.87	3.11	11.16	1.96	2.56	10.74	1.76	6.72	25.62	4.68	5.14	21.09	3.81	2.93	9.54	2.07	1.85	5.70	1.11	1.08	2.71	0.61	1.02	2.57	0.63	2.03	5.69	1.08	1.39	4.39	0.85	0.94	1.84	0.83												
Cu	21.11	66.20	14.04	8.06	21.49	4.12	3.91	11.76	2.41	19.79	36.79	7.32	5.97	17.22	3.33	2.05	5.13	0.85	7.41	17.97	3.81	2.28	7.97	1.57	1.58	6.80	1.27	4.96	11.15	2.06	1.89	8.39	1.48	0.91	1.60	0.53												
Zn	81.14	544.11	75.07	45.74	208.47	36.08	27.12	110.11	22.17	86.46	161.94	27.67	25.76	129.48	27.63	6.82	25.50	5.50	38.91	106.62	25.38	18.10	60.87	13.67	14.23	56.77	11.72	23.91	61.89	11.70	8.31	21.78	4.82	3.80	7.31	2.11												
Ga	0.16	0.46	0.10	0.07	0.21	0.04	0.05	0.12	0.03	0.15	0.42	0.07	0.06	0.13	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.12	0.31	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.16	0.79	0.13	0.04	0.20	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.01												
As	0.85	1.85	0.32	0.48	1.37	0.24	0.37	1.21	0.19	0.54	2.50	0.37	0.29	1.00	0.33	0.26	1.01	0.18	0.33	0.70	0.16	0.21	0.47	0.11	0.16	0.34	0.09	0.34	0.75	0.15	0.17	0.85	0.13	0.12	0.19	0.06												
Se	0.91	5.52	0.94	0.77	4.75	0.82	0.56	2.37	0.61	0.70	1.87	0.38	0.50	2.07	0.31	0.16	0.53	0.05	0.48	1.34	0.34	0.38	1.17	0.25	0.29	1.29	0.24	0.57	1.85	0.29	0.35	0.79	0.13	0.08	0.15	0.01												
Rb	0.93	3.43	0.85	0.40	1.12	0.31	0.21	0.76	0.19	0.69	2.15	0.34	0.21	0.60	0.11	0.04	0.09	0.03	0.66	1.61	0.41	0.17	0.37	0.08	0.12	0.53	0.08	0.74	3.06	0.52	0.15	0.77	0.14	0.07	0.15	0.04												
Sr	3.98	13.50	2.45	1.14	4.11	0.90	0.39	0.99	0.29	4.71	9.75	1.63	1.59	7.27	0.98	0.21	0.84	0.25	2.03	4.86	1.25	0.46	1.57	0.30	0.26	0.63	0.16	2.96	12.25	2.03	0.67	3.18	0.66	0.16	0.39	0.06												
Y	0.30	1.15	0.21	0.27	0.83	0.16	0.18	0.75	0.16	0.33	1.47	0.22	0.17	0.61	0.11	0.06	0.11	0.04	0.26	0.82	0.14	0.19	0.41	0.11	0.17	0.40	0.09	0.39	0.90	0.18	0.21	0.52	0.10	0.08	0.15	0.01												
Zr	11.96	27.73	5.09	6.71	14.44	4.65	4.58	12.89	4.40	4.53	15.21	2.45	2.16	10.82	2.62	0.61	1.78	0.48	9.38	23.03	5.82	6.90	14.24	4.41	7.72	16.66	5.08	1.69	15.52	4.01	4.18	17.08	4.02	5.61	7.54	3.80												
Nb	0.46	1.01	0.20	0.16	0.35	0.08	0.09	0.23	0.07	0.38	1.04	0.25	0.16	0.53	0.15	0.06	0.22	0.04	0.27	0.64	0.17	0.08	0.20	0.06	0.09	0.40	0.09	0.35	1.93	0.33	0.14	0.51	0.14	0.11	0.22	–												
Cd	0.27	3.13	0.46	0.21	1.30	0.18	0.16	1.37	0.17	0.11	0.71	0.10	0.09	0.67	0.09	0.06	0.33	0.04	1.34	3.25	0.10	0.80	0.30	0.06	0.08	0.29	0.06	0.07	0.22	0.04	0.05	0.14	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.04												
Sn	5.99	17.49	3.67	2.50	10.54	2.13	1.67	8.09	1.75	5.13	17.15	3.67	3.42	14.24	3.45	1.81	7.11	1.76	1.24	4.53	1.00	0.71	2.65	0.57	0.59	2.12	0.48	1.21	4.88	0.81	0.98	4.22	0.69	0.70	2.03	0.15												
Sb	2.87	7.98	1.72	0.86	2.80	0.53	0.43	1.49	0.29	1.82	5.13	0.84	0.67	1.83	0.39	0.32	0.69	0.13	0.59	2.40	0.50	0.22	1.08	0.20	0.18	0.77	0.16	0.39	0.96	0.21	0.14	0.28	0.08	0.15	0.32	0.07												
Cs	0.14	0.38	0.09	0.10	0.25	0.06	0.10	0.15	0.04	0.09	0.14	0.03	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd	<cd											
La	0.30	0.97	0.19	0.13	0.31	0.07	0.05	0.15	0.03	0.32	0.72	0.15	0.13	0.27	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.23	0.66	0.14	0.06	0.26	0.04	0.05	0.48	0.07	0.32	1.33	0.22	0.09	0.36	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.01												
Ce	0.65	1.89	0.40	0.29	0.89	0.16	0.16	0.40	0.08	0.61	1.79	0.29	0.24	0.57	0.11	0.04	0.12	0.03	0.51	1.63	0.																											

Table 2. Average trace metal concentrations analysed in BCN and MSY during day (09:00–21:00 UTC) and night (21:00–09:00 UTC) time in all three size fractions (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and PM₁) for both winter and summer campaigns. PM values are in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and elemental concentrations in ng m^{-3} .

Day	Day samples										Night samples													
	BCN winter			BCN summer			MSY winter			MSY summer			BCN winter			BCN summer			MSY winter			MSY summer		
	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁
PM	44.41	27.03	22.10	36.85	23.50	38.52	19.62	14.11	32.01	24.17	PM	39.74	27.25	21.93	36.83	23.63	27.17	15.11	12.54	27.26	21.15			
Li	0.61	0.22	0.11	0.48	0.15	0.47	0.10	0.06	0.46	0.11	Li	0.38	0.15	0.09	–	–	0.25	0.07	0.09	0.40	0.12			
Ti	35.68	9.39	3.01	32.03	7.55	33.25	5.88	2.81	33.94	5.88	Ti	21.64	5.91	2.91	24.29	7.35	15.35	4.39	3.14	31.58	7.24			
V	9.91	7.34	5.98	14.69	14.30	4.43	2.59	2.08	4.97	3.13	V	9.33	6.83	5.23	11.23	10.29	2.90	1.71	1.38	3.78	2.65			
Cr	5.39	2.82	1.64	3.45	1.82	5.43	4.88	1.25	1.70	0.60	Cr	4.02	1.95	1.12	3.50	1.92	6.32	4.18	1.53	1.61	0.90			
Mn	17.53	5.98	2.97	9.93	5.72	8.82	2.09	1.15	8.63	1.87	Mn	13.61	6.03	3.50	9.21	5.06	4.81	1.38	0.80	7.23	1.75			
Co	0.29	0.11	0.07	0.27	0.14	0.18	0.06	0.04	0.18	0.06	Co	0.21	0.09	0.06	0.22	0.12	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.17	0.07			
Ni	4.65	3.31	2.85	6.38	5.76	2.23	1.33	1.26	2.30	1.36	Ni	4.08	2.92	2.43	5.04	4.41	1.50	0.87	0.81	1.75	1.42			
Cu	26.26	7.19	3.38	17.73	5.41	9.52	2.74	2.08	6.17	1.93	Cu	28.30	8.69	4.49	21.93	6.49	5.47	1.91	1.09	3.80	1.84			
Zn	64.87	35.87	21.47	46.36	21.70	42.64	19.82	15.49	27.63	9.40	Zn	97.91	53.45	32.47	66.93	29.48	35.45	16.82	12.96	20.31	7.21			
Ga	0.19	0.08	0.04	0.16	0.06	0.15	0.03	0.02	0.17	0.03	Ga	0.13	0.07	0.05	0.52	0.23	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.16	0.05			
As	0.66	0.46	0.35	0.47	0.33	0.40	0.25	0.18	0.36	0.18	As	0.64	0.49	0.39	0.61	0.44	0.26	0.17	0.14	0.31	0.15			
Se	0.84	0.70	0.52	0.71	0.47	0.60	0.46	0.35	0.61	0.35	Se	0.81	0.70	0.51	0.69	0.51	0.35	0.31	0.24	0.54	0.35			
Rb	1.09	0.41	0.20	0.77	0.20	0.88	0.20	0.13	0.79	0.13	Rb	0.78	0.37	0.22	0.61	0.22	0.46	0.14	0.12	0.68	0.16			
Sr	4.62	1.29	0.41	4.76	1.36	2.41	0.51	0.28	3.07	0.56	Sr	3.38	0.89	0.37	4.65	1.75	1.68	0.43	0.26	2.65	0.78			
Y	0.35	0.26	0.18	0.34	0.18	0.27	0.20	0.17	0.41	0.20	Y	0.26	0.26	0.17	0.33	0.17	0.25	0.19	0.17	0.37	0.22			
Zr	11.90	6.50	4.84	4.55	2.37	9.60	6.95	7.91	6.49	4.35	Zr	12.01	6.35	4.20	4.52	2.63	9.13	6.85	7.52	5.89	3.98			
Nb	0.52	0.17	0.10	0.41	0.19	0.35	0.08	0.11	0.33	0.12	Nb	0.41	0.13	0.08	0.35	0.15	0.20	0.08	0.08	0.37	0.16			
Cd	0.30	0.20	0.17	0.13	0.10	0.18	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.05	Cd	0.23	0.20	0.14	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.04			
Sn	6.08	2.59	1.84	5.22	3.52	1.76	0.96	0.80	1.54	1.12	Sn	5.71	2.13	1.28	5.04	3.22	0.75	0.47	0.40	0.89	0.83			
Sb	2.97	0.85	0.47	1.56	0.58	0.84	0.34	0.24	0.46	0.14	Sb	2.84	0.84	0.40	2.08	0.75	0.35	0.11	0.11	0.29	0.14			
Cs	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.09	–	–	–	–	–	–	Cs	0.15	0.12	0.11	0.09	–	–	–	–	0.11	–			
La	0.36	0.14	0.05	0.36	0.14	0.32	0.07	0.04	0.33	0.08	La	0.24	0.11	0.06	0.28	0.12	0.16	0.05	0.06	0.31	0.10			
Ce	0.77	0.31	0.15	0.63	0.24	0.69	0.17	0.09	0.73	0.16	Ce	0.55	0.27	0.17	0.58	0.25	0.34	0.13	0.12	0.69	0.20			
Pr	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.01	Pr	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.02			
Nd	0.26	0.10	0.04	0.23	0.05	0.27	0.06	0.04	0.29	0.06	Nd	0.17	0.08	0.04	0.20	0.06	0.14	0.05	0.06	0.28	0.09			
Sm	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.02	Sm	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.03			
Eu	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	–	–	–	–	0.06	–	Eu	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.06	–	–	–	–	0.06	–			
Gd	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.03	Gd	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.03			
Tb	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	–	0.01	–	0.04	0.01	Tb	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	–	0.01	–	0.04	0.02			
Dy	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.04	Dy	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.04			
Ho	0.01	0.01	–	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02	Ho	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02			
Er	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	Er	0.02	0.02	0.01	–	–	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01			
Yb	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	Yb	0.02	0.02	0.01	–	–	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01			
Hf	0.62	0.37	0.26	0.33	0.17	0.40	0.28	0.37	0.34	0.18	Hf	0.59	0.35	0.24	0.33	0.19	0.38	0.27	0.32	0.37	0.10			
Ta	0.09	0.12	0.20	0.04	0.02	–	–	0.06	0.06	0.04	Ta	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.03	–	–	0.06	0.12	–			
W	0.48	0.10	0.06	0.23	0.06	0.30	–	0.11	0.16	–	W	0.37	0.09	0.04	0.18	0.06	0.18	–	0.15	0.11	–			
Tl	0.20	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.07	–	–	–	0.17	–	Tl	0.57	0.47	0.41	0.21	0.15	–	–	–	–	–			
Pb	10.86	8.00	5.40	5.81	4.36	5.95	3.72	3.00	3.57	2.10	Pb	14.49	9.78	6.35	8.00	5.54	3.21	2.19	1.86	2.39	1.87			
Bi	0.35	0.18	0.10	0.20	0.12	0.31	0.27	0.22	0.17	0.13	Bi	0.41	0.21	0.12	0.34	0.24	0.11	0.09	0.06	0.08	0.10			
Th	0.14	0.07	0.04	0.12	0.04	0.12	0.05	0.03	0.15	0.06	Th	0.11	0.06	0.04	0.11	0.05	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.13	0.06			
U	0.14	0.12	0.09	0.13	0.06	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.14	0.11	U	0.12	0.12	0.09	0.14	0.07	–	–	–	0.12	0.12			

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page

Abstract Introduction

Conclusions References

Tables Figures

◀ ▶

◀ ▶

Back Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



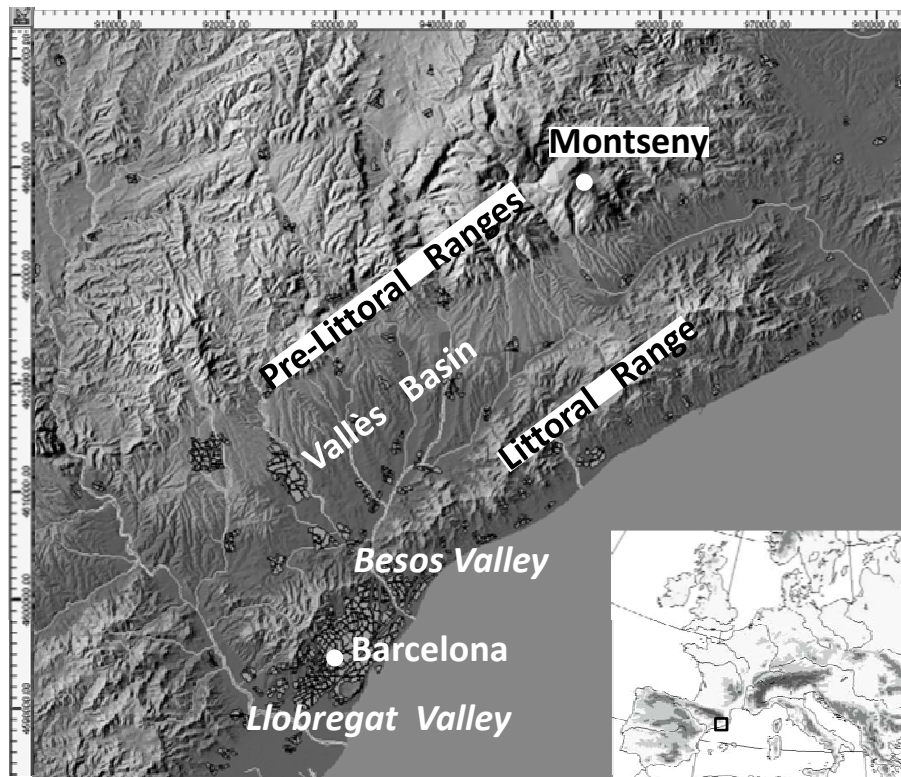


Fig. 1. Location map of both monitoring sites, Barcelona and Montseny; indicating the main topographic features that influence the air pollutant concentrations and transport. The major coastal city of Barcelona is confined between the Mediterranean Sea and the Littoral Range. The urban pollution plume commonly moves from the coast into the Vallès Basin, contaminating the hinterland of the Pre-Littoral Ranges where the remote Montseny monitoring site is located.

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

Title Page	
Abstract	Introduction
Conclusions	References
Tables	Figures
◀	▶
◀	▶
Back	Close
Full Screen / Esc	
Printer-friendly Version	
Interactive Discussion	



Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

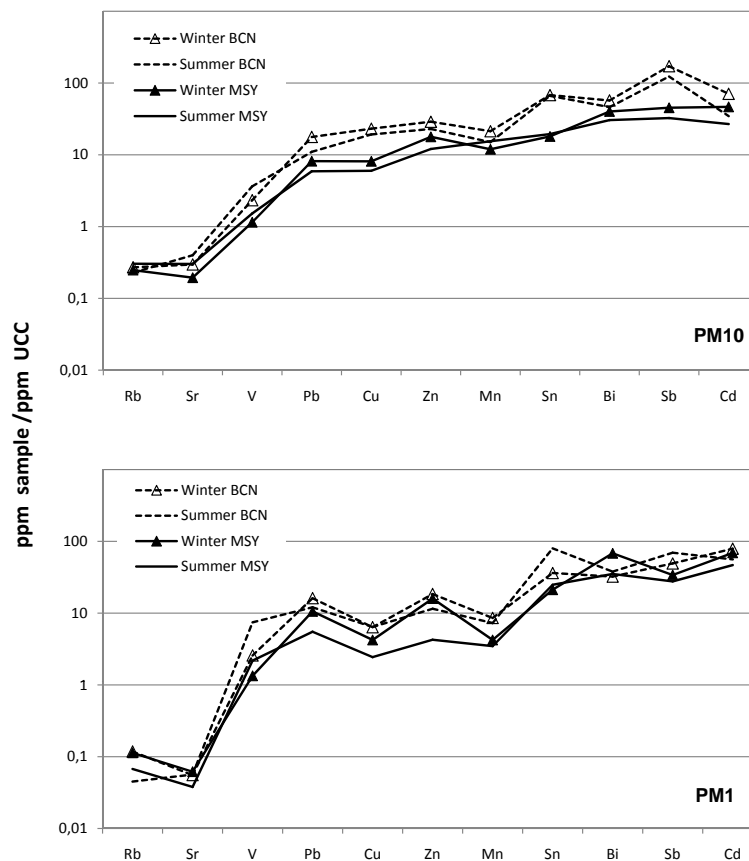


Fig. 2. Average metal values of BCN and MSY atmospheric PM_{10} and PM_1 samples normalised to the average concentrations in the upper continental crust (UCC) (Wedepohl, 1995). Only the nine most technogenic metals (ratio > 1) are shown, plus for comparison Rb and Sr which represent more “crustal” PM sources.

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

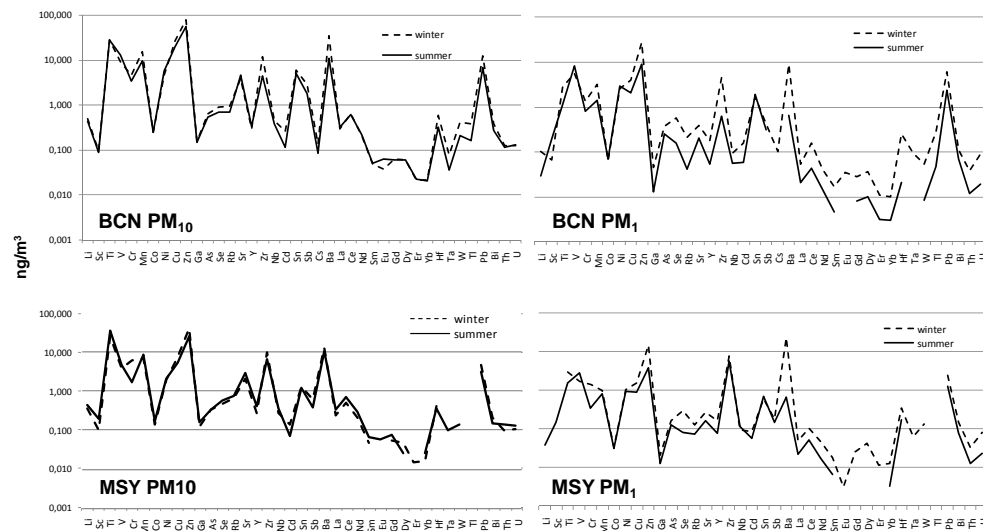


Fig. 3. Average PM_{10} and PM_1 trace metal concentrations at the BCN and MSY sites for both summer and winter campaigns. In BCN PM_{10} metal concentrations were clearly higher during winter, whereas differences between campaigns were smaller in MSY (with PM_{10} showing lower levels of most metals during winter). Whereas in BCN same pattern was observed in the PM_1 size fraction, the distribution of metals in this fraction at MSY was however quite different, with the winter PM being generally much more metalliferous.

[Title Page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[References](#)
[Tables](#)
[Figures](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[Back](#)
[Close](#)
[Full Screen / Esc](#)
[Printer-friendly Version](#)
[Interactive Discussion](#)

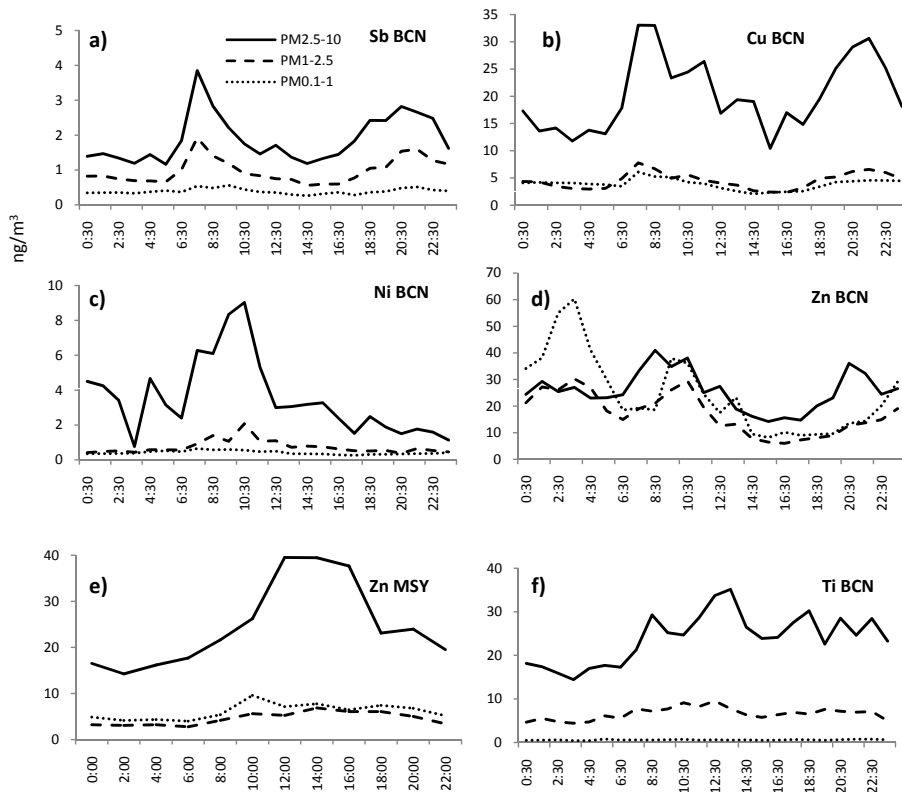



Fig. 4. Different daily cycles of metal concentrations from hourly levels recorded by the rotating drum impactor in three different PM size fractions (0.1–1, 1–2.5 and 2.5–10 μm) during the winter campaign. **(a)** Sb in Barcelona (mainly traffic); **(b)** Cu in Barcelona (mainly traffic); **(c)** Ni in Barcelona (mainly industrial); **(d)** Zn in Barcelona (traffic and industry); **(e)** Zn in Montseny (traffic and industry); **(f)** Ti in Barcelona (mainly crustal).

Variations in time and space of trace metal concentrations

T. Moreno et al.

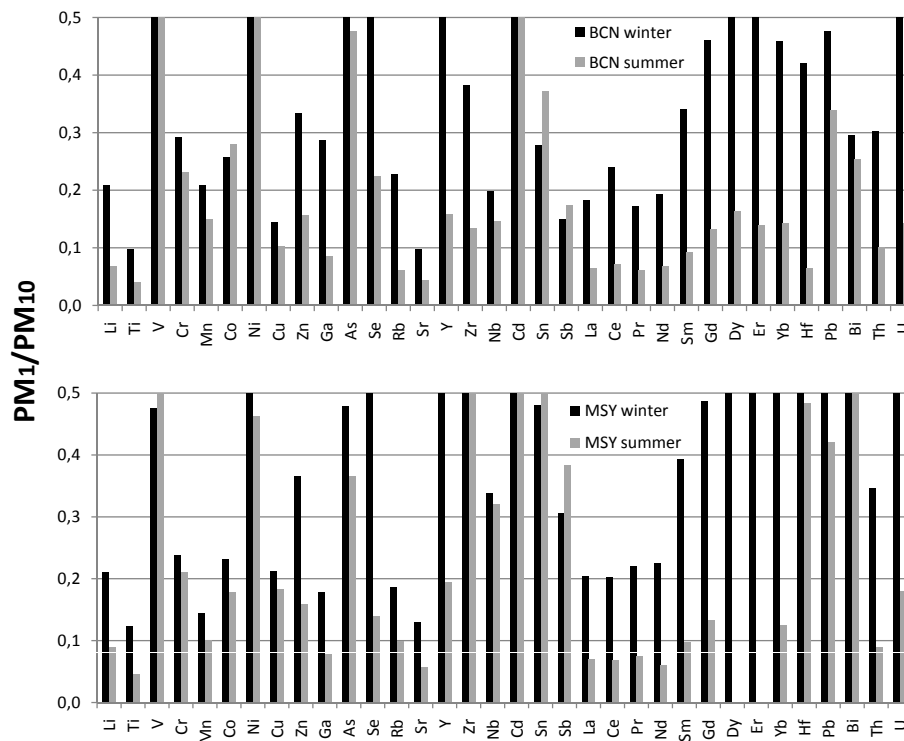


Fig. 5. PM₁/PM₁₀ ratios of average trace metal concentrations measured in BCN and MSY during the summer and winter campaigns. Metals especially concentrated in the finer fraction in BCN (PM₁/PM₁₀ > 0.5) include V, Ni and Cd for both summer and winter. In contrast, metals in the coarser fraction (PM₁/PM₁₀ < 0.1) are mostly crustal elements such as Ti and Sr, Li, Ga and some REE. In MSY winter samples showed more metals in the fine fraction than in summer, with coarse metalliferous PM (PM₁/PM₁₀ < 0.1) only being observed in the summer campaign.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

