

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

This discussion paper is/has been under review for the journal Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (ACP). Please refer to the corresponding final paper in ACP if available.

Boreal forest fire emissions in fresh Canadian smoke plumes: C₁–C₁₀ volatile organic compounds (VOCs), CO₂, CO, NO₂, NO, HCN and CH₃CN

I. J. Simpson¹, S. K. Akagi², B. Barletta¹, N. J. Blake¹, Y. Choi³, G. S. Diskin³, A. Fried⁴, H. E. Fuelberg⁵, S. Meinardi¹, F. S. Rowland¹, S. A. Vay³, A. J. Weinheimer⁴, P. O. Wennberg⁶, P. Wiebring⁴, A. Wisthaler⁷, M. Yang^{1,3}, R. J. Yokelson², and D. R. Blake¹

¹Department of Chemistry, University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697, USA

²Department of Chemistry, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, USA

³NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681, USA

⁴National Center for Atmospheric Research, 1850 Table Mesa Dr., Boulder, CO 80305, USA

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



⁵Department of Meteorology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA

⁶Division of Engineering and Applied Science and Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA

⁷Institute of Ion Physics and Applied Physics, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria

Received: 2 March 2011 – Accepted: 15 March 2011 – Published: 22 March 2011

Correspondence to: I. J. Simpson (isimpson@uci.edu)

Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

ACPD

11, 9515–9566, 2011

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Abstract

Boreal regions comprise about 17% of the global land area, and they both affect and are influenced by climate change. To better understand boreal forest fire emissions and plume evolution, 947 whole air samples were collected aboard the NASA DC-8 research aircraft in summer 2008 as part of the ARCTAS-B field mission, and analyzed for 79 non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs) using gas chromatography. Together with simultaneous measurements of CO₂, CO, CH₄, CH₂O, NO₂, NO, HCN and CH₃CN, these measurements represent the most comprehensive assessment of trace gas emissions from boreal forest fires to date. Based on 105 air samples collected in fresh Canadian smoke plumes, 57 of the 80 measured NMVOCs (including CH₂O) were emitted from the fires, including 45 species that were quantified from boreal forest fires for the first time. After CO₂, CO and CH₄, the largest emission factors (EFs) for individual species were formaldehyde ($2.1 \pm 0.2 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$), followed by methanol, NO₂, HCN, ethene, α -pinene, β -pinene, ethane, benzene, propene, acetone and CH₃CN. Globally, we estimate that boreal forest fires release $2.4 \pm 0.6 \text{ Tg C yr}^{-1}$ in the form of NMVOCs, with approximately 41% of the carbon released as C₁–C₂ NMVOCs and 21% as pinenes. These are the first reported field measurements of monoterpene emissions from boreal forest fires, and we speculate that the pinenes, which are relatively heavy molecules, were detected in the fire plumes as the result of distillation of stored terpenes as the vegetation is heated. Their inclusion in smoke chemistry models is expected to improve model predictions of secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation. The fire-averaged EF of dichloromethane or CH₂Cl₂, $(6.9 \pm 8.6) \times 10^{-4} \text{ g kg}^{-1}$, was not significantly different from zero and supports recent findings that its global biomass burning source appears to have been overestimated. Similarly, we found no evidence for emissions of chloroform (CHCl₃) or methyl chloroform (CH₃CCl₃) from boreal forest fires. The speciated hydrocarbon measurements presented here show the importance of carbon released by short-chain NMVOCs, the strong contribution of pinene emissions from boreal forest fires, and the wide range of compound classes in the most

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



abundantly emitted NMVOCs, all of which can be used to improve biomass burning inventories in local/global models and reduce uncertainties in model estimates of trace gas emissions and their impact on the atmosphere.

1 Introduction

Boreal forests account for roughly one-third of the global forested area and include vast areas of Russia (which contains 22% of the global forested area), Canada (7%) and Nordic countries (2%) (<http://www.borealforest.org>). Fires in boreal regions are estimated to account for 9% of global fire carbon emissions, primarily from forest fires with the remainder from agricultural waste fires (van der Werf et al., 2010). Boreal forest fire emissions can greatly perturb atmospheric composition and chemistry on regional and even global scales. For example, major boreal forest fires in Russia from 2002–2003 were largely responsible for anomalous global growth rates of many trace gases including carbon monoxide (CO), methane (CH₄) and ethane (C₂H₆) (Kasischke et al., 2005; Yurganov et al., 2005; Simpson et al., 2006). These short-term global trace gas anomalies have been linked to El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) indices (Jones and Cox, 2005; Simpson et al., 2006), most likely via the influence of ENSO events on large-scale biomass burning activity (Baltzer et al., 2005; Carmona-Morena et al., 2005).

In addition to inter-annual influences such as ENSO, boreal forest fire activity is expected to increase on a multi-decade scale in response to global climate change (Soja et al., 2007). At high latitudes (>55° N), amplification of the global warming signal may lead to increased dryness and temperature, resulting in greater fire activity (Marlon et al., 2008). The area burned in Canada has increased since 1970 (Gillett et al., 2004; Girardin, 2007) most likely due to rising temperatures and the increased frequency of large fire years (Gillett et al., 2004; Kasischke and Turtesky, 2006). In the future, fire occurrences are predicted to increase across Canada, with an estimated 30% increase by 2030 (Wotton et al., 2010) and a 74–118% increase in the area burned by

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



2100 under a tripled CO₂ scenario (Flannigan et al., 2005). The resulting increased fuel consumption is, in turn, expected to lead to a near-doubling of CO₂-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions from Canadian fires (Amiro et al., 2009).

Because of the global impact of boreal forest fire emissions and the sensitivity of high-latitude ecosystems to global climate change, boreal forest fires were the major focus of the summer phase of NASA's Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS-B) field mission (June–July, 2008). Based primarily in Cold Lake, Alberta (Canada), ARCTAS-B sought to quantify boreal forest fire emissions, assess the near-field chemical evolution of the fire plumes, and understand the implications of boreal forest fires on regional and global atmospheric composition (Jacob et al., 2010). During Flights 17–23 of ARCTAS-B, the University of California, Irvine (UC-Irvine) collected 947 whole air samples, including 105 samples collected in fresh Canadian boreal forest fire plumes and 13 in an aged Siberian plume. Each whole air sample was analyzed for 79 speciated C₁–C₁₀ non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs). Here we quantify boreal forest fire emissions ratios (ERs) and emission factors (EFs) for 57 NMVOCs, including 45 species that, to our best knowledge, have not previously been characterized from boreal forest fires. The measurements are also used to clearly identify those NMVOC species that are not emitted from boreal forest fires, and we also present simultaneous measurements of other major species that are emitted from biomass burning (CO₂, CO, CH₄, CH₂O, NO₂, NO, HCN and CH₃CN).

2 Experimental

UC-Irvine has used ground-based and airborne research platforms to measure speciated VOCs from diverse environments since the late 1970s (Simpson et al., 2010 and references therein). Our sampling and analysis technique during the ARCTAS mission has been described in Simpson et al. (2010) and is summarized here.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



2.1 Airborne whole air sampling (WAS)

This work focuses on the seven northernmost flights of ARCTAS-B (Flights 17–23), which were 8-h science flights flown from 29 June–10 July 2008 over Canada, Greenland, and the Arctic Ocean from bases in Cold Lake, Alberta (54° 28' N; 110° 11' W) and Thule, Greenland (77° 28' N, 69° 14' W) (see Jacob et al., 2010 for flight tracks). Our sampling technique collects whole air samples (WAS) into 2-L electropolished, conditioned, evacuated stainless steel canisters each equipped with a Swagelok Nupro metal bellows valve (Solon, OH). The canisters were prepared for field use via a series of pump-and-flush procedures, after which they were evacuated to 10⁻² Torr and injected with 17 Torr of purified water to minimize surface adsorption. During ARCTAS-B we collected up to 168 WAS per flight. The sampling was manually controlled and used a stainless steel dual head metal bellows pump to draw outside air into a window-mounted 1/4 in. forward-facing inlet, through our air sampling manifold, and into one of the 168 canisters until it was filled to 40 psig. Samples were typically collected over a 1 min period every 3–5 min during horizontal flight legs, and every 1–2 min during ascents, descents, and plume encounters. A total of 947 whole air samples were collected during Flights 17–23.

2.2 Laboratory analysis of NMVOCs

After sampling the canisters were returned to our UC-Irvine laboratory and analyzed within 7 days. Rigorous storage tests have shown that alkene growth in the canisters is negligible over a 7 day period (<1.4 pptv), and all other compounds reported here are stable over this period to within the stated uncertainties (e.g., Sive, 1998). In particular, the more poorly constrained precision and accuracy for the oxygenated hydrocarbons (Table 1) reflects that they can increase or decrease in the canisters at a rate of few percent per day. The NMVOC analysis uses three gas chromatographs (GCs) coupled with two flame ionization detectors (FIDs), two electron capture detectors (ECDs), and a quadrupole mass spectrometer detector (MSD). For each sample a 1520 cm³

ACPD

11, 9515–9566, 2011

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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

aliquot is introduced to the analytical system and passed through a loop filled with glass beads maintained at liquid nitrogen temperature. A Brooks Instrument mass flow controller (Model 5850E) keeps the flow below $500 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$ to completely trap the less volatile sample components (e.g., VOCs) while the more volatile components (e.g., N_2 , O_2) are pumped away. To introduce analytes into the GC columns, the less volatile species are re-volatilized by immersing the loop in hot water (80°C) and then flushed by a helium carrier. The sample flow is split into five streams and sensed by five column/detector combinations listed in Simpson et al. (2010). The FID and ECD signals are output to a personal computer and digitally recorded using Chromeleon Software; the MSD signal uses Chemstation software. To optimize the quality of our measurements, each peak of interest on every chromatogram was individually inspected and manually integrated, for a total of more than 100 000 hand-modified peaks during ARCTAS-B.

International intercomparison experiments have demonstrated that our analytical procedures consistently yield accurate identification of a wide range of blindly selected hydrocarbons and produce excellent quantitative results (e.g., Apel et al., 1999, 2003). During ARCTAS the measurements were calibrated using both working standards collected in the Sierra Nevada mountains (analyzed every 4–8 samples) and absolute standards (analyzed once or twice daily). Our hydrocarbon standards are NIST-traceable and the halocarbon standards are either NIST-traceable or were made in-house and have been compared to standards from other groups such as NOAA/ESRL and AGAGE. It is important to note that the alkyl nitrate measurements use a new calibration scale that was implemented in June 2008, just before the ARCTAS-B mission. The new scale was provided to us by Prof. Elliot Atlas (University of Miami) and corrects some problems with the alkyl nitrate assignments in the primary mixture upon which the previous calibrations had been done. The correction factors that we have applied here are 2.13, 1.81, 1.24, 1.17 and 1.13 for the C_1 , C_2 , C_3 , C_4 and C_5 alkyl nitrates, respectively.

2.3 CO₂, CO, CH₄, CH₂O, NO₂, NO, HCN and CH₃CN measurements

This paper also presents measurements of CO, CH₄, carbon dioxide (CO₂), formaldehyde (CH₂O), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), nitric oxide (NO), hydrogen cyanide (HCN) and acetonitrile (CH₃CN) from ARCTAS-B. These eight gases were measured in situ aboard the DC-8 by six research teams each using fast-response, continuous real-time instruments, with analytical details given in Table 1. Briefly, CO₂ was measured using the NASA Langley Atmospheric Vertical Observations of CO₂ in the Earth's Troposphere (AVOCET) instrument (Vay et al., 2003). Methane and CO were measured by the NASA Langley Differential Absorption CO Measurement (DACOM) instrument (Sachse et al., 1987; Fried et al., 2008). Formaldehyde was measured using a Difference Frequency Generation Absorption Spectrometer (DFGAS) (Wiebring et al., 2006, 2008). Note that even though CH₂O was measured separately, in the discussions below it is grouped together with the other 79 NMVOCs, for a total of 80 NMVOCs. The nitrogen oxides were measured using the 4-channel NCAR NO_{xy}O₃ chemiluminescence instrument (Weinheimer et al., 1994). Hydrogen cyanide was measured using a Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometer (CIMS) (Crouse et al., 2006), and CH₃CN was measured using a Proton Transfer Reaction Mass Spectrometer (PTR-MS) (Sprung et al., 2001). For correlation purposes, the CO₂, CH₄, CO, CH₂O, NO₂, NO, HCN and CH₃CN data are based only on the average of those 1 s measurements (0.5 s for HCN and CH₃CN) that overlapped the VOC sampling times (i.e., the so-called hydrocarbon data merge). The complete 0.5 s and 1 s data sets for these eight compounds are available at: ftp://ftp-air.larc.nasa.gov/pub/ARCTAS/DC8_AIRCRAFT/.

ACPD

11, 9515–9566, 2011

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



3 Calculations

3.1 Emission Ratios (ERs)

Trace gas emissions from biomass burning can be expressed as emission ratios or emission factors. An ER is the excess mixing ratio of trace gas X measured in a fire plume above its background value ($\Delta X = X_{\text{plume}} - X_{\text{bkgd}}$) divided by the excess mixing ratio of a simultaneously measured reference gas, usually CO or CO₂ (Andreae and Merlet, 2001). The ER occurs at $t = 0$, or in the very freshest smoke plumes (de Gouw et al., 2006). Because most of the NMVOCs that we measure are released during smoldering combustion (e.g., Blake et al., 1996; Meinardi et al., 2003), we use CO as our reference gas:

$$ER_{X/\text{CO}} = \frac{\Delta X}{\Delta \text{CO}} = \frac{X_{\text{plume}} - X_{\text{bkgd}}}{\text{CO}_{\text{plume}} - \text{CO}_{\text{bkgd}}} \quad (1)$$

$ER_{X/\text{CO}}$ can be determined through a standard linear regression, or by first subtracting off the background average from each smoke plume sample, then calculating a slope by forcing the fit of the resulting excess values through zero (Yokelson et al., 1999). We chose the latter method because we could readily establish a background value, and because forcing the fit through zero causes higher values (i.e. those with a higher signal-to-noise ratio) to have a greater weighting in the slope determination. The difference between the two methods was found to be less than 7%.

As soon as they are released from fires, emitted compounds begin to undergo chemical changes that can deplete or enhance their mixing ratios. This can affect the ER and EF calculations and becomes increasingly important for shorter-lived compounds. Because the compounds considered here are predominantly OH-controlled species, we defined long-lived compounds as those with $k_{\text{OH}} < 8.52 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (the rate constant for the reaction of ethene + OH), or a lifetime of more than ~ 1.4 d. Of the 57 emitted NMVOCs, 35 were considered to be long-lived and 22 were short-lived (Table 1). For the long-lived species, five fresh Canadian biomass burning plumes were

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



selected for the ER calculations ($n = 105$). The plumes were encountered during three local flights departing from and returning to Cold Lake (Flights 17, 18, 19). The location and characteristics of each plume are shown in Fig. 1 and Table 2. Briefly, Plume 1 was sampled on 29 June 2008 (Flight 17) over major active fires near Lake Athabasca, Saskatchewan. Plumes 2 and 3 were sampled on 1 July 2008 (Flight 18) during a detailed characterization of fire plumes on time-scales of minutes to hours. Note that Plume 2 represents many plumes sampled in a relatively large region of hotspot activity, with detailed sampling of a fire centered at 56.5° N and 106.8° W. Plume 3 sampled this same fire again, but later in the day. Plumes 4 and 5 were sampled on 4 July 2008 (Flight 19) in northwest Ontario and near Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan, respectively. The background measurements for each plume were based on same-flight measurements made at a similar time, location and altitude to the sampled plume, typically before and after the plume encounter ($n = 86$). For each plume, the ER was calculated for each trace gas as described above (*n*-butane is shown as an example in Fig. 2). The five resulting ERs were averaged to give a fire-averaged ER, and its uncertainty is given as the standard deviation of the five ERs.

The plume selection was more restrictive for the short-lived compounds and included only smoke samples that were less than 17 min old, as follows. Plumes 2 and 3 included near-field perpendicular plume crossings downwind of the fire centered at 56.5° N, 106.8° W (Table 2). We defined the smoke source location based on the highest 1 s CO measurement ($14\,170$ ppbv at 56.483° N, 106.837° W) and we selected only those samples collected within 10 km of the source, namely three smoke samples collected 3.7, 3.2 and 7.3 km from the source and two background samples collected 7.9 and 8.5 km from the source (Table 2). Although this careful analysis yielded only a small number of data points, we are confident that fresh smoke very close to the source was sampled. The measured wind speed was 8.4 m s^{-1} , 6.1 m s^{-1} and 7.0 m s^{-1} for the three smoke samples, corresponding to an estimated time since emission of 7 min, 9 min and 17 min, respectively. The ER for each trace gas was calculated as described above (isoprene is shown as an example in Fig. 3a–b), and the uncertainty in the

calculated ER is given as the standard error of the slope. Note that because only one fire was used in the ER calculations for short-lived compounds, the uncertainty only represents sample-to-sample variability rather than plume-to-plume variability, and is likely underestimated.

5 3.2 Emission Factors (EFs)

An EF for compound X uses the amount of fuel burned as its reference, rather than a trace gas such as CO or CO₂. Here we have calculated an EF for each species using the carbon mass balance technique described in detail by Yokelson et al. (1999):

$$EF_X \left(\frac{\text{g}}{\text{kg}} \right) = F_C \times \frac{MM_X}{MM_C} \times \frac{C_X}{C_T} \quad (2)$$

10 where F_C is the mass fraction of carbon in the fuel (assumed to be 500 g C kg⁻¹ fuel; Susott et al., 1996), MM_X is the molecular mass of compound X , MM_C is the molecular mass of carbon (12.011 g mol⁻¹), and C_X/C_T is the number of emitted moles of compound X divided by the total number of moles of carbon emitted. For long-lived species, C_X/C_T was calculated using:

$$15 \frac{C_X}{C_T} = \frac{\frac{\Delta C_X}{\Delta \text{CO}_2}}{\sum_{Y=1}^n (nC_Y \times \frac{\Delta C_Y}{\Delta \text{CO}_2})} \quad (3)$$

where $\Delta C_X/\Delta \text{CO}_2$ is the fire-averaged ER of species X to CO₂, nC_Y is the number of carbon atoms in compound Y , and the sum is over all measured carbon-containing species including CO₂, CO and CH₄. For short-lived species, C_X/C_T was calculated as above except using the single ER calculated from the three very fresh smoke samples and the two background samples (Sect. 3.1). This method of EF determination
20 assumes that the measured carbon-containing emissions account for all the burned carbon, which is accurate to within a few percent if CO₂, CO, and CH₄ are all measured (Yokelson et al., 1999; Akagi et al., 2010).

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



4 Results and Discussion

4.1 General features

Biomass burning was the dominant feature of the air masses sampled during ARCTAS-B. Carbon monoxide is a general tracer of incomplete combustion, and scatter plots versus CO of many of the trace gases presented here clearly show their combustive emissions from the boreal forest fires (Figs. 4–10). In total, 57 of the 80 measured NMVOCs were considered to be emitted from boreal forest fires, based on positive correlations with CO and statistically enhanced mixing ratios in the average of the five smoke plumes compared to the corresponding background air masses (Table 1). The 57 compounds include all the measured alkanes (except 2,3-dimethylbutane); all the measured alkenes, alkynes, aromatics, sulphur species and alkyl nitrates; all the oxygenated compounds (except the gasoline additive methyl *tert*-butyl ether, or MTBE); six of the simplest halocarbons (CH₃Cl, CH₃Br, CH₃I, C₂H₅Cl, 1,2-dichloroethane, and CH₂Br₂); and CH₂O. Note that ethanol and CH₂Br₂ have been classified among the emitted species despite high plume-to-plume variability (see Sect. 4.2.3). The 23 compounds that were not emitted by the fires were primarily halocarbons and are discussed in Sect. 4.3.

Although biomass burning was the major focus of ARCTAS-B, industrial emissions from Alberta oil sands mining operations were briefly sampled during Flight 23 and showed remarkably elevated levels of many hydrocarbons and solvents (Simpson et al., 2010). For most gases, their industrial and biomass burning influences are clearly distinguished as separate wings in Figs. 4–10, because many of the NMVOCs were released via evaporation (rather than combustion) from the oil sands and other industries, and therefore did not correlate with CO. Mixing ratios in the biomass burning wing far exceeded those in the industrial wing for most alkenes, alkynes, oxygenated compounds, methyl halides and aromatics (Figures 6-8, 10). By contrast, the strength of the biomass burning and industrial wings varied with chain length for the alkanes. Shorter-chained alkanes (C₂–C₃) were predominantly emitted by biomass burning (Figs. 5a–b),

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



while longer-chained alkanes ($\geq C_5$) were more strongly emitted by the oil sands industry (Figs. 5e–f). The biomass burning and industrial wings were of similar magnitude for the C_4 alkanes in these airborne samples (Fig. 5c–d). The maximum alkyl nitrate enhancements were stronger in the biomass burning wing than in the industrial wing for methyl nitrate (Fig. 9a), and weaker for the C_2 – C_5 alkyl nitrates (Fig. 9b–e).

Of the 57 NMVOCs that were released from the fires, the lightest species were the most abundant in the five boreal forest fire plumes on a molar basis, similar to findings from all previous studies of biomass burning (e.g., Blake et al., 1994 – boreal forests; Sinha et al., 2003 – savanna; Yokelson et al., 2007; 2009 – tropical forests; Akagi et al., 2010 – literature survey). Maximum mixing ratios in the smoke plumes included a range of compound classes and were (in descending order): formaldehyde (39 ppbv), methanol, ethene, ethane, ethyne, propene, acetone, benzene, propane and β -pinene (Table 1). The monoterpenes are of particular interest because they are known to react with ozone (O_3) and produce secondary organic aerosol (SOA) (e.g., Robinson et al., 2007). Monoterpenes are naturally emitted by vegetation, with stronger emissions from coniferous ecosystems than temperate deciduous forests (Fuentes et al., 2000). Here the maximum levels of α -pinene (1727 pptv) and β -pinene (2915 pptv) were respectively 36 \times and 19 \times the average background mixing ratio for the five fire plumes (48 ± 21 pptv and 154 ± 85 pptv, respectively). The strong release of the pinenes from the fires – despite that fact that they are C_{10} compounds and therefore relatively heavy – is rarely measured but expected, and likely due to heating which would distill large amounts of stored terpenes, not all of which would be oxidized in the flames. To our best knowledge this is the first time that monoterpene emissions have been reported from field measurements of boreal forest fires, though release of these species due to heating or stressing vegetation is well known (e.g., Yokelson et al., 1996; Greenberg et al., 2006; Holopainen and Gershenson, 2010; Ninemets, 2010). Monoterpenes have been observed in smoke by mass spectrometric or infrared spectroscopy techniques, but they are difficult to speciate using those techniques due to spectral overlap of the various monoterpene features (Yokelson et al.,

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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

1996). By contrast, here we achieved a good separation and accurate speciation of the pinenes. Inclusion of monoterpenes in a smoke chemistry model has previously been shown to improve the model agreement with observed SOA (Alvarado and Prinn, 2009), and we expect that the results presented here will help to further constrain model predictions of SOA formation. Although we did not measure limonene because it eluted after our analytical runs were stopped, its emission from boreal forest fires – as well as the emission of other major stored biogenic VOCs such as carene – should also be investigated.

4.2 Emission ratios and emission factors

4.2.1 CO₂, CH₄, CO

Emission ratios and emission factors are given in Table 1 for CO₂ (EF only), CO, CH₄, NO₂, NO, HCN, CH₃CN, and the 57 NMVOCs that were found to be emitted from boreal forest fires. The ERs for all trace gases use CO as the reference gas, except for CO which uses CO₂. As expected based on numerous previous studies of biomass burning, the highest EFs were calculated for CO₂ ($1616 \pm 180 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$), CO ($113 \pm 72 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$) and CH₄ ($4.7 \pm 2.9 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$). As shown in Table 3, the ERs and EFs reported here for CO₂, CH₄ and CO agree well with those from previous airborne studies of boreal forest fires in Alaska (Nance et al., 1993; Cofer et al., 1998; Goode et al., 2000; de Gouw et al., 2006). They also agree very closely with a literature compilation of extratropical forest fires (Andreae and Merlet, 2001), even though the compilation also includes temperate forests. Emission factors from boreal forest fires have been recently reassessed in a literature survey by Akagi et al. (2010), using an average of ground-based and airborne EFs from various boreal forest fire studies. Even though our EFs are included in the airborne EF estimates used by Akagi et al., and therefore comparing with the Akagi et al. EFs is somewhat circular, they have been included in Table 3 for completeness. Table 3 also shows the ARCTAS enhancement ratios and EFs that have been calculated for CO₂ and CH₄ using the higher resolution 1 s data set (Singh et

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



al., 2010; Vay et al., 2011); these values agree with those reported here to within the stated uncertainties.

4.2.2 Nitrogen-containing species

Both HCN and CH₃CN are widely recognized as useful tracers for biomass burning (de Gouw et al., 2003; Li et al., 2000; 2003). Hydrogen cyanide had previously been assigned a “best guess” extratropical forest EF of 0.15 g kg⁻¹ (Andreae and Merlet, 2001). Our measurements show that the HCN EF for boreal forest fires is considerably larger with a value of 0.87 ± 0.28 g kg⁻¹ (Table 3). This EF is also slightly larger than those for other types of forest fires as reviewed in Yokelson et al. (2009). The CH₃CN ER and EF values reported here are generally within the range reported in the literature (Table 3). The calculated NO_x EF is also in generally good agreement with the literature. However our NO EF is significantly lower than that calculated from three black spruce fires (B280, B349 and B309) sampled by Goode et al. (2000). Goode et al. measured airborne plumes in 1997 (a drought year in Alaska), and the sampled smoke had a higher relative contribution from flaming emissions. Modified combustion efficiency (MCE) is an indicator of a fire’s combustion stage, ranging from 0.80 for smoldering combustion to 0.99 for flaming combustion (Akagi et al., 2010). The MCE range for Goode et al. was 0.92–0.93 (~64% flaming) as opposed to our average MCE of 0.89 (~47% flaming). Because NO is a flaming compound and Goode et al. also sampled closer to the source, their higher EF for NO is expected and also identifies the naturally occurring variation in the emission of this species.

4.2.3 NMVOCs

Of the 57 NMVOCs that were enhanced in the smoke plumes, the greatest ERs were (in descending order): formaldehyde, methanol, ethene, ethane, propene, ethyne, benzene, α-pinene, β-pinene, and propane (Table 1). Ethanol was included among the emitted species despite strong plume-to-plume variability (Sect. 4.1). It is emitted by

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



plants and is a solvent and chemical feedstock (Gara et al., 1993; Kesselmeier and Staudt, 1999). Although its average mixing ratio in the plumes was higher than in the background air (Table 1; Fig. 8b), it correlated poorly with CO in Plumes 1–4 ($r^2 < 0.22$) but showed some correlation with CO in Plume 5 ($r^2 = 0.51$) (Fig. 11a–b), which is the plume that showed maximum mixing ratios for roughly two-thirds of the emitted NMVOCs. Ethanol showed very good correlation with the biogenic tracer methanol in Plume 5 ($r^2 = 0.83$), suggesting that it could potentially be co-released with methanol from burning or heated vegetation, with high plume-to-plume variability. By contrast, Karl et al. (2007) did not observe ethanol emissions during a study of tropical biomass burning. Like ethanol, CH_2Br_2 enhancements were not detected in each plume and its fire-averaged ER was not significantly different from zero (Table 1). However, despite poor correlation between CH_2Br_2 and CO in Plumes 2, 4 and 5 ($0.06 \leq r^2 \leq 0.36$), they correlated strongly in Plume 1 ($r^2 = 0.85$) and well in Plume 3 ($r^2 = 0.63$) (Fig. 11c–d). This suggests that CH_2Br_2 is released from boreal forest fires with high plume-to-plume variability. Note that ethanol and CH_2Br_2 , the two species with high plume-to-plume variability, were not emitted in the same plumes.

The sulphur-containing compounds carbonyl sulphide (OCS) and dimethyl sulphide (DMS) were clearly released from the fires (Table 1; Fig. 9f). Isoprene, the shortest-lived species that we report (2.8 h; Table 1), is known to be a major emission from various types of biomass burning (Christian et al., 2003; Yokelson et al., 2008). It has a strong terrestrial plant source from deciduous trees such as aspen (e.g., Sharkey et al., 2008; Warneke et al., 2010), which is a common species in Canadian mixedwood forests (<http://www.borealforest.org>). Here isoprene correlated strongly with CO in the three very fresh smoke samples that were analyzed for short-lived compounds ($r^2 = 0.92$; Fig. 3a–b), showing its emission from boreal forest fires. It is possible that some of the measured isoprene excess in this study was due to entrainment and rapid vertical transport of isoprene-rich surface air, in addition to direct emissions from the fires.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

I◀

▶I

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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

Hydrogen cyanide, CH_3CN and the 57 NMVOCs together comprised 1.4% of the total carbon measured in the plumes, compared with 98.6% for CO_2 , CO and CH_4 . The maximum NMVOC EFs in the smoke plumes were (in descending order): formaldehyde, methanol, ethene, α -pinene, β -pinene, ethane, benzene, propene, acetone and furan (Table 1; Fig. 12). Note that heavier molecules such as the pinenes have a higher ranking as EFs than as ERs, because the EF calculation takes molecular weight into account (Sect. 3.2). The top 10 NMVOCs listed above comprise 77% of the total carbon mass released from the fires as NMVOCs (formaldehyde, 13%; α -pinene, 11%; ethene, 11%; β -pinene, 10%; benzene, 8%; methanol, 7%; ethane, 7%; propene, 5%; acetone, 3%; and furan, 3%). These results show the strong contribution of relatively few species to the NMVOC carbon that is released from the fires. In particular, the C_1 – C_2 NMVOCs comprised 41% of the measured NMVOC carbon, and α -pinene and β -pinene comprised 21%. The EFs of just the two pinenes sums to approximately 1.5 g kg^{-1} , which is a significant fraction of the total mass of co-emitted fine particles for boreal forest fires ($15.3 \pm 7.0 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$; Akagi et al., 2010). This further illustrates the need to consider these reactive terpenes in smoke models.

The results also show the co-emission of a wide range of NMVOC compound classes from the fires. To our best knowledge, only 12 of the 57 NMVOCs have been previously quantified from boreal forest fires, and boreal forest fire emissions of 45 NMVOCs are presented here for the first time. Only a few NMVOCs previously measured from boreal forest fires are not included in this work, mainly formic acid and acetic acid (compiled in Akagi et al., 2010). The 12 NMVOCs quantified here and in previous work are shown in Table 3 together with values from the literature. Note that this study and Goode et al. (2000) report ERs ($\Delta\text{NMVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ at $t = 0$), whereas de Gouw et al. (2006) and Singh et al. (2010) report enhancement ratios (Enh.R.), which account for aging over a transport time Δt (Lefer et al., 1994; de Gouw et al., 2006). In general the NMVOC ERs and EFs reported here show good agreement with the literature, to within the stated uncertainties. An exception is acetone, in which the ER reported here is statistically lower than the Enh.R. reported by de Gouw et al. (2006). Even though acetone is one

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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

of our most poorly constrained measurements, with an accuracy of 30% (Table 1), the Enh.R. reported by de Gouw et al. (6.3 ± 1.8 pptv ppbv⁻¹) is still almost 4× greater than our ER (1.6 ± 0.4 pptv ppbv⁻¹), i.e. well outside our measurement uncertainty, which includes potential wall losses inside the canisters (Sect. 2.2). The de Gouw et al. value is a fire-averaged ratio from 11 Alaskan fire plumes sampled in July, 2004. Because there was no reason to justify excluding it (J. de Gouw, personal communication, 2011), the average includes an Enh.R. that was 10× greater than for the other plumes (see original work). When it is excluded, their average Enh.R. decreases to 4.6 ± 1.5 pptv ppbv⁻¹, which is similar to that reported by Singh et al. (2010) (4.7 ± 3.3 pptv) using high-frequency in situ PTR-MS measurements in fresh biomass burning plumes (0–2 km), nearly all of which were sampled during ARCTAS-B (H. Singh, personal communication, 2011). The UC-Irvine acetone measurements agreed with the PTR-MS acetone measurements to within 54% during Flights 17–19 (not shown), and there is a limited extent to which measurement uncertainty, wall losses, or possible interferences on the MS of the PTR-MS (see de Gouw et al., 2006) can explain the differences among the studies. Further, plume aging may impact the observed acetone-to-CO ratio by means of secondary acetone formation (Jost et al., 2003). Based on our previous experience with oxygenated species we suspect that the differences among the studies are primarily related to fire-to-fire variability. Likewise, the difference in ethene ERs between this study and Goode et al. (2000) is expected to be related to emission variability.

4.3 Compounds not released by boreal forest fires

Of the 80 measured NMVOCs, 23 were not emitted by the boreal forest fires. These were primarily anthropogenic halocarbons and included short-lived solvents such as tetrachloroethene (C₂Cl₄) (Fig. 13a) and long-lived compounds such as chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs (Table 4). With the exceptions of trichloroethene (C₂HCl₃) and HCFC-141b, the fire-averaged mixing ratios of these species were not significantly different from their background average. We were unable to assess the biomass burning source of C₂HCl₃ because of a slight CO-elution with an adjacent peak on the ECD

that became more prominent at high mixing ratios. However, like the other heavily chlorinated industrial solvents that we measured, we do not expect C_2HCl_3 to have a biomass burning source. Similarly, even though the average HCFC-141b mixing ratio was statistically greater in the smoke plumes than in the background air (Table 4), it is included here among the non-emitted species because it seems highly improbable that this chlorofluorinated species was released from the fires.

Although many of the 23 compounds not emitted from the fires are purely anthropogenic and were not expected to have a biomass burning source (e.g., CFCs, C_2Cl_4), the ARCTAS measurements are particularly useful for compounds whose biomass burning source is currently being reassessed in the literature. Chloroform is an industrial solvent, and previous studies have suggested a minor global biomass burning source of $CHCl_3$ on the order of 2 Gg Cl yr^{-1} (Keene et al., 1999; Lobert et al., 1999). During ARCTAS-B, $CHCl_3$ and CO did not correlate in the fire plumes ($r^2 < 0.01$; Fig. 13b) and its fire-averaged ER of $(-0.7 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-6} \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$ was not significantly different from zero, showing that it was not released from the fires. Likewise, previous measurements of CH_2Cl_2 in African savanna fires yielded ERs to CO of $(2.5 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-5} \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$ (Rudolph et al., 1995) from which global CH_2Cl_2 biomass burning emissions of about 58 Gg yr^{-1} (49 Gg Cl yr^{-1}) were calculated (Lobert et al., 1999). A subsequent study in Tasmanian wildfires measured much lower ERs of $< 1-6 \times 10^{-7} \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$ (Simmonds et al., 2006). Here CH_2Cl_2 did not correlate with CO ($r^2 < 0.01$; Fig. 13c) and its fire-averaged ER of $(2.0 \pm 2.5) \times 10^{-6} \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$ was not significantly different from zero. Therefore the overall body of evidence now suggests that global emissions of CH_2Cl_2 from biomass burning are much lower than previously estimated, most likely by more than a factor of 10.

Whereas CH_3CCl_3 was previously believed to have a minor biomass burning source of $2-10 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$ (Rudolph et al., 2000), subsequent work in very concentrated smoke plumes in the Australian savanna showed that its biomass burning source is likely negligible ($< 0.014 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$; Simpson et al., 2007). Here CH_3CCl_3 did not correlate with CO ($r^2 < 0.01$; Fig. 13f) and its fire-averaged ER of $(-3.0 \pm 9.8) \times 10^{-8} \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



was not significantly different from zero, further supporting that it is not emitted from biomass burning. In fact, CH_3CCl_3 showed a small negative correlation with CO_2 in Australian flaming samples, which suggested that it could be destroyed at high temperature during biomass burning. During ARCTAS-B, the fire-averaged ER of CH_3CCl_3 to CO_2 was $(-0.1 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-8}$ ppbv ppbv⁻¹; i.e., negative but not significantly different from zero. Likewise, although some of the poly-brominated species showed a negative correlation with CO during ARCTAS (e.g., Fig. 13d–e) their fire-averaged ERs were not significantly different from zero. The possibility of CH_3CCl_3 destruction at high temperature and the general idea that biomass burning can be a sink for some compounds is intriguing, but requires further investigation.

4.4 Comparison of Canadian and Siberian plumes

Although the ARCTAS-B deployments focused on emissions from Canadian boreal forest fires, a smoke plume from Siberia was intercepted on 29 June 2008 during Flight 17, just north of the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Ten-day backward kinematic trajectory plots suggest that the plume was most likely emitted 3–5 days prior to sampling (not shown), which is consistent with MODIS satellite imagery of widespread fire activity in southeast Russia at the time (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=20148>). Therefore short-lived gases such as toluene and ethene (1–2 d) had become depleted in the Siberian plume samples, whereas longer-lived species such as methanol (12 d) were still enhanced (Fig. 14).

As discussed in Sect. 3.1, meaningful ER and EF calculations should consider only the freshest smoke plumes. For the Siberian plume we calculated an ER relative to CO only for ethane, because it was clearly elevated compared to the local background for the Siberian plume (Fig. 3c–d) and because its 47 d lifetime is considerably greater than the Siberian plume age. The ethane ER for the Siberian plume, $(4.63 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-3}$ ppbv ppbv⁻¹, was identical to that measured in the five fresh Canadian plumes, $(4.6 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-3}$ ppbv ppbv⁻¹ (Table 1), which suggests a characteristic boreal forest fire emission signature, at least for some species. This

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



is consistent with findings during the Arctic Boundary Layer Expedition (ABLE-3B) over eastern Canada in summer 1990, in which the NMVOC composition of fresh smoke plumes exhibited a relatively low variability, indicating the existence of a typical emission signature (Blake et al., 1994). Similarly, as part of the ARCTAS mission, emission characteristics from the boreal forest fires were compared with those from California wild fires sampled earlier during the mission (Flights 12–15; 18–24 June 2008) and were found to be broadly comparable (Singh et al., 2010).

4.5 Global emissions from boreal forest fires

This study significantly expands the amount of sampling and the range of species measured in boreal forest fire smoke plumes for both Canada and Siberia. In addition, the ER for ethane was similar for the Canadian and Siberian plumes, and the ERs and EFs from this study generally agreed well with other boreal forest fire emissions data in the literature. Therefore, we use our data to estimate global NMVOC emissions from boreal forest fires. The estimates will be a lower limit for some compounds because our EFs are based on airborne measurements, which may underestimate smoldering combustion. However, they are useful to update the approximate contribution to global budgets for numerous species.

With the exception of boreal Asia (BOAS), 2008 was a relatively low fire year with global carbon emissions from open burning of 1680 Tg C, including 49 Tg C and 165 Tg C in boreal North America (BONA) and BOAS, respectively, based on the Global Fire Emissions Database-version 3 (GFED3) (van der Werf et al., 2010). By comparison, the average annual global carbon emission from 1997–2009 was 2013 Tg C yr⁻¹, with 54 Tg C yr⁻¹ and 128 Tg C yr⁻¹ released in BONA and BOAS, respectively. Therefore the total carbon released from boreal forest fires in 2008 (214 Tg yr⁻¹) was about 18% greater than in an average year (182 Tg yr⁻¹) due to strong emissions from Asia. In Canada, Saskatchewan fires accounted for 1.1 million hectares (Mha) of the 1.5 Mha that burned in Canada in 2008 (Soja et al., 2008). For each emitted trace gas that we measured, we estimated its average global emission from boreal forest fires (Gg

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



species yr⁻¹) using its calculated EF (Table 1), the average carbon emission from boreal forest fires from 1997–2009 (182 Tg C yr⁻¹), and a carbon mass fraction of 500 g C kg⁻¹ fuel (Susott et al., 1996). The corresponding boreal emission estimates for 2008 can be calculated by multiplying the results in Table 1 by 1.18. Note that the uncertainty in the global emissions is underestimated because it does not include uncertainty in the GFED3 emissions.

In an average year, boreal forest fires account for ~9% of global carbon emissions from biomass burning (Sect. 1). Because our boreal forest fire EFs differ somewhat from EFs for other major ecosystems such as savanna burning (Akagi et al., 2010), we have not used our data to calculate global biomass burning emissions. However, a rough estimate of global biomass burning emissions for each trace gas can be determined by multiplying its boreal forest fire emission by a factor of 10. To more easily compare with the literature, the estimated emissions from Table 1 (Gg species yr⁻¹) have been converted to Gg C yr⁻¹ below and in Table 5. Our CO emission estimate from boreal forest fires (18 ± 11 Tg C yr⁻¹) is ~6% of global CO emissions from biomass burning (312 Tg C yr⁻¹; Akagi et al., 2010), and the CH₃OH emission estimate (0.17 ± 0.04 Tg C yr⁻¹) is ~5% of global CH₃OH emissions from biomass burning (3.3 Tg C yr⁻¹; Jacob et al., 2005). Again recall that our values are likely to be lower limits because they may underestimate the contribution from smoldering emissions, which can have 2× larger EFs for some species during below-ground biomass burning. The total NMVOC emission from boreal forest fires is estimated as 2.4 ± 0.6 Tg C yr⁻¹, with 29% of the carbon released as oxygenated hydrocarbons, 21% as pinenes, 20% as other alkenes, 14% as aromatics, 13% as alkanes, 3.5% as alkynes, and negligible contributions from halocarbons, sulfur compounds and alkyl nitrates (Table 5). The two pinenes alone account for nearly 0.5 Tg C yr⁻¹. This is a significant fraction of the estimated total monoterpene emission from live vegetation (7.5 Tg C yr⁻¹; Guenther et al., 2000) and it represents a major previously unquantified source of carbon to the global atmosphere. The contribution of terpenes to emitted NMVOC carbon may be even larger if other stored terpenes such as limonene and carene are similarly emitted from boreal

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



forest fires.

5 Conclusions

Based on airborne measurements from the summer 2008 ARCTAS mission, this work represents the most comprehensive characterization of trace gas emissions from boreal forest fires to date. Forty-five NMVOCs were quantified for the first time, and this work also provides new or updated emission estimates for other compounds such as HCN and CH₃CN. Carbon dioxide, CH₄ and CO comprised 98.6% of the measured carbon released from the fires, compared to 1.4% for 57 NMVOCs that were emitted. Apart from CO₂, CH₄ and CO, short-chained NMVOCs such as formaldehyde and methanol were released in greatest abundance from the fires, and the C₁–C₂ NMVOCs comprised 41% of the carbon released as NMVOCs. In an average year, boreal forest fires are estimated to release $2.4 \pm 0.6 \text{ Tg C yr}^{-1}$ in the form of NMVOCs, namely as oxygenated hydrocarbons (29%), pinenes (21%), other alkenes (20%), aromatics (14%), alkanes (13%), alkynes (3.5%), and halocarbons, sulfur compounds and alkyl nitrates (<0.3%). The pinene emissions were measured for the first time, and globally we estimate that roughly 0.5 Tg C yr^{-1} is released from boreal forest fires in the form of pinenes. Our measurements did not include limonene or carene, two other major stored biogenic VOCs, and they may also be released from boreal forest fires in significant amounts. Acetaldehyde, formic acid, and acetic acid are other major VOCs that were not included in this work, and our estimate of the carbon released as NMVOCs is expected to represent a lower limit. 1,2-Dichloroethane was the only polyhalogenated compound to be clearly emitted from the fires, though there was evidence that CH₂Br₂ was emitted with high plume-to-plume variability. Use of these speciated emission estimates in biomass burning inventories and global models should help to reduce the uncertainty in the model estimates of their emissions and chemistry.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Acknowledgements. The ARCTAS mission was funded by the NASA Global Tropospheric Chemistry Program, the NASA Radiation Sciences Program, and the California Air Resources Board. The VOC research presented here was funded by NASA grant NNX09AB22G. The CH₃CN measurements were supported by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG-ALR) and the Tiroler Zukunftstiftung, and were carried out with the help of T. Mikoviny, M. Graus, A. Hansel and T. D. Maerk. The HCN instrument was run by J. Crouse and A. Kuerten. We gratefully acknowledge the ARCTAS crew and science team, and the team of laboratory technicians and staff at UC-Irvine, especially B. Chisholm, R. Day, J. Glabe, G. Liu, B. Love, and A. Ly. We also thank E. Atlas (University of Miami) for updated alkyl nitrate calibrations and C. Wiedinmyer (NCAR) for help with the MODIS data acquisition.

References

- Akagi, S. K., Yokelson, R. J., Wiedinmyer, C., Alvarado, M. J., Reid, J. S., Karl, T., Crouse, J. D., and Wennberg, P. O.: Emission factors for open and domestic biomass burning for use in atmospheric models, *Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.*, 10, 27523–27602, doi:10.5194/acpd-10-27523-2010, 2010.
- Alvarado, M. J. and Prinn, R. G.: Formation of ozone and growth of aerosols in young smoke plumes from biomass burning: 1. Lagrangian parcel studies, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 114, D09306, doi:10.1029/2008JD011144, 2009.
- Amiro, B. D., Cantin, A., Flannigan, M. D., and de Groot, W. J.: Future emissions from Canadian boreal forest fires, *Can. J. For. Res.*, 39(2), 383–395, 2009.
- Andreae, M. O. and Merlet, P.: Emission of trace gases and aerosols from biomass burning, *Global Biogeochem. Cycles*, 15(4), 955–966, 2001.
- Apel, E. C., Calvert, J. G., Gilpin, T. M., Fehsenfeld, F. C., Parrish, D. D., and Lonneman, W. A.: The Nonmethane Hydrocarbon Intercomparison Experiment (NOMHICE): Task 3, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 104(21), 26069–26086, 1999.
- Apel, E. C., Calvert, J. G., Gilpin, T. M., Fehsenfeld, F., and Lonneman, W. A.: Nonmethane Hydrocarbon Intercomparison Experiment (NOMHICE): Task 4, ambient air, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D9), 4300, doi:10.1029/2002JD002936, 2003.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



- Baltzer, H., Gerard, F. F., George, C. T., Rowland, C. S., Jupp, T. E., McCallum, I., Shvidenko, A., Nilsson, S., Sukhinin, A., Onuchin, A., Schmullius, C.: Impact of the Arctic Oscillation pattern on interannual forest fire variability in Central Siberia, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 32, L14709, doi:10.1029/2005GL022526, 2005.
- 5 Blake, D. R., Smith Jr., T. W., Chen, T.-Y., Whipple, W. J., and Rowland, F. S.: Effects of biomass burning on summertime nonmethane hydrocarbon concentrations in the Canadian wetlands, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 99(D1), 1699–1719, 1994.
- Blake, N. J., Blake, D. R., Sive, B. C., Chen, T.-Y., Rowland, F. S., Collins Jr., J. E., Sachse, G. W., and Anderson, B. E.: Biomass burning emissions and vertical distribution of atmospheric methyl halides and other reduced carbon gases in the South Atlantic region, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 101(D19), 24151–24164, 1996.
- 10 Carmona-Morena, C., Belward, A., Malingreau, J.-P., Hartley, A., Garcia-Alegre, M., Antonovskiy, M., Buchshtaber, V., and Pivovarov, V.: Characterizing interannual variations in global fire calendar using data from Earth observing satellites, *Global Change Biol.*, 11(9), 1537–1555, 2005.
- 15 Christian, T. J., Kleiss, B., Yokelson, R. J., Holzinger, R., Crutzen, P. J., Hao, W. M., Saharjo, B. H., and Ward, D. E.: Comprehensive laboratory measurements of biomass-burning emissions: 1. Emissions from Indonesian, African, and other fuels, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108, 4719, doi:10.1029/2003JD003704, 2003.
- 20 Cofer, W. R. III, Winstead, E. L., Stocks, B. J., Goldammer, J. G., and Cahoon, D. R.: Crown fire emissions of CO₂, CO, H₂, CH₄, and TNMHC from a dense jack pine boreal forest fire, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 25(21), 3919–3922, 1998.
- Crouse, J. D., McKinney, K. A., Kwan, A. J., and Wennberg, P. O.: Measurement of gas-phase hydroperoxides by chemical ionization mass spectrometry, *Anal. Chem.*, 78(19), 6726–6732, 2006.
- 25 de Gouw, J. A., Warneke, C., Parrish, D. D., Holloway, J. S., Trainer, M., and Fehsenfeld, F. C.: Emission sources and ocean uptake of acetonitrile (CH₃CN) in the atmosphere, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D11), 4329, doi:10.1029/2002JD002897, 2003.
- de Gouw, J. A., Warneke, C., Stohl, A., Wollny, A. G., Brock, C. A., Cooper, O. R., Holloway, J. S., Trainer, M., Fehsenfeld, F. C., Atlas, E. L., Donnelly, S. G., Stroud, V., and Lueb, A.: Volatile organic compounds composition of merged and aged forest fire plumes from Alaska and western Canada, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D10303, doi:10.1029/2005JD006175, 2006.
- 30

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



- Flannigan, M. D., Logan, K. A., Amiro, B. D., Skinner, W. R., and Stocks, B. J.: Future area burned in Canada, *Clim. Change*, 72, 1–16, 2005.
- Friedli, H. R., Atlas, A., Stroud, V. R., Giovanni, L., Campos, T., and Radke, L. F.: Volatile organic trace gases emitted from North American wildfires, *Global Biogeochem. Cycles*, 15(2), 435–452, 2001.
- Fuentes, J. D., Lerdau, M., Atkinson, R., Baldocchi, D., Bottenheim, J. W., Ciccioli, P., Lamb, B., Geron, C., Gu, L., Guenther, A., Sharkey, T. D., and Stockwell, W.: Biogenic hydrocarbons in the atmospheric boundary layer: A review, *B. Am. Meteorol. Soc.*, 81(7), 1537–1575, 2000.
- Fuelberg, H. E., Harrigan, D. L., and Sessions, W.: A meteorological overview of the ARCTAS 2008 mission, *Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.*, 9, 18417–18478, doi:10.5194/acpd-9-18417-2009, 2009.
- Gara, R. I., Littke, W. R., and Rhoades, D. F.: Emission of ethanol and monoterpenes by fungal infected lodgepole pine trees, *Phytochemistry*, 34, 987–990, 1993.
- Gillett, N. P., Weaver, A. J., Zwiers, F. W., and Flannigan, M. D.: Detecting the effect of climate change on Canadian forest fires, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 31, L18211, doi:10.1029/2004GL020876, 2004.
- Girardin, M. P.: Interannual to decadal changes in area burned in Canada from 1781 to 1982 and the relationship to Northern Hemisphere land temperatures, *Global Ecol. Biogeogr.*, 16(5), 557–566, 2007.
- Goode, J. G., Yokelson, R. J., Ward, D. E., Susott, R. A., Babbitt, R. E., Davies, M. A. and Hao, W. M.: Measurements of excess O₃, CO₂, CO, CH₄, C₂H₄, C₂H₂, HCN, NO, NH₃, HCOOH, CH₃COOH, HCHO, and CH₃OH in 1997 Alaskan biomass burning plumes by airborne Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (AFTIR), *J. Geophys. Res.*, 105(D17), 22147–22166, 2000.
- Greenberg, J. P., Friedli, H., Guenther, A. B., Hanson, D., Harley, P., and Karl, T.: Volatile organic emissions from the distillation and pyrolysis of vegetation, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 6, 81–91, doi:10.5194/acp-6-81-2006, 2006.
- Guenther, A., Geron, C., Pierce, T., Lamb, B., Harley, P., and Fall, R.: Natural emissions of non-methane volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and oxides of nitrogen from North America, *Atmos. Environ.*, 34, 2205–2230, 2000.
- Holopainen, J. K. and Gershenson, J.: Multiple stress factors and the emission of plant VOCs, *Trends Plant Sci.*, 15(3), 176–184, 2010.
- Jacob, D. J., Field, B. D., Li, Q., Blake, D. R., de Gouw, J., Warneke, C., Hansel, A., Wisthaler,

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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

A., Singh, H. B., and Guenther, A.: Global budget of methanol: Constraints from atmospheric observations, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 110, D08303, doi:10.1029/2004JD005172, 2005.

Jacob, D. J., Crawford, J. H., Maring, H., Clarke, A. D., Dibb, J. E., Emmons, L. K., Ferrare, R. A., Hostetler, C. A., Russell, P. B., Singh, H. B., Thompson, A. M., Shaw, G. E., McCauley, E., Pederson, J. R., and Fisher, J. A.: The Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) mission: design, execution, and first results, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 10, 5191–5212, doi:10.5194/acp-10-5191-2010, 2010.

Jones, C. D. and Cox, P. M.: On the significance of atmospheric CO₂ growth rate anomalies in 2002–2003, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 32, L14816, doi:10.1029/2005GL023027, 2005.

Jost, C., Trentmann, J., Sprung, D., Andreae, M., McQuaid, J. B., and Barjat, H.: Trace gas chemistry in a young biomass burning plume over Namibia: Observations and model simulations, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D13), 8482, doi:10.1029/2002JD002431, 2003.

Karl, T. G., Christian, T. J., Yokelson, R. J., Artaxo, P., Hao, W. M., and Guenther, A.: The Tropical Forest and Fire Emissions Experiment: method evaluation of volatile organic compound emissions measured by PTR-MS, FTIR, and GC from tropical biomass burning, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 7, 5883–5897, doi:10.5194/acp-7-5883-2007, 2007.

Kasischke, E. S., Hyer, E. J., Novelli, P. C., Bruhwiler, L. P., French, N. H. F., Sukhinin, A. I., Hewson, J. H., and Stocks, B. J.: Influences of boreal fire emissions on Northern Hemisphere atmospheric carbon and carbon monoxide, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 19, GB1012, doi:10.1029/2004GB002300, 2005.

Kasischke, E. S. and Turetsky, M. R.: Recent changes in the fire regime across the North American boreal region – Spatial and temporal patterns of burning across Canada and Alaska, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 33, L09703, doi:10.1029/2006GL025677, 2006.

Keene, W. C., Khalil, M. A. K., Erickson, D. J. III, McCulloch, A., Graedel, T. E., Lobert, J. M., Aucott, M. L., Gong, S. L., Harper, D. B., Kleiman, G., Midgley, P., Moore, R. M., Seuzaret, C., Sturges, W. T., Benkovitz, C. M., Koropalov, V., Barrie, L. A., and Li, Y. F.: Composite global emissions of reactive chlorine from anthropogenic and natural sources: Reactive Chlorine Emissions Inventory, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 104(D7), 8429–8440, 1999.

Kesselmeier, J. and Staudt, M.: Biogenic volatile organic compounds (VOC): An overview on emission, physiology and ecology, *J. Atmos. Chem.*, 33, 23–88, 1999.

Lefer, B. L., Talbot, R. W., Harriss, R. C., Bradshaw, J. D., Sandholm, S. T., Olson, J. O., Sachse, G. W., Collins, J., Shipham, M. A., Blake, D. R., Klemm, K. I., Klemm, O., Gorzelska, K., and Barrick, J.: Enhancement of acidic gases in biomass burning impacted air masses over

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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

- Canada, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 99(D1), 1721–1737, 1994.
- Li, Q., Jacob, D. J., Bey, I., Yantosca, R. M., Zhao, Y., Kondo, Y., and Notholt, J.: Atmospheric hydrogen cyanide (HCN): Biomass burning source, ocean sink?, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 27(3), 357–360, 2000.
- 5 Li, Q., Jacob, D. J., Yantosca, R. M., Heald, C. L., Singh, H. B., Koike, M., Zhao, Y., Sachse, G. W., and Streets, D. G.: A global three-dimensional model analysis of the atmospheric budgets of HCN and CH₃CN: Constraints from aircraft and ground measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D21), 8827, doi:10.1029/2002JD003075, 2003.
- Lobert, J. M., Keene, W. C., Logan, J. A., and Yevich, R.: Global chlorine emissions from biomass burning: Reactive chlorine emissions inventory, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 104, 8373–8389, 10
1999.
- Marlon, J. R., Bartlein, P. J., Carcaillet, C., Gavin, D. G., Harrison, S. P., Higuera, P. E., Joos, F., Power, M. J., and Prentice, I. C.: Climate and human influences on global biomass burning over the past two millennia, *Nature Geoscience* 1, 69–702, 2008.
- 15 Meinardi, S., Simpson, I. J., Blake, N. J., Blake, D. R., and Rowland, F. S.: Dimethyl disulfide (DMDS) and dimethyl sulphide (DMS) emissions from biomass burning in Australia, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 30(9), 1454, doi:10.1029/2003GL016967, 2003.
- Nance, J. D., Hobbs, P. V. and Radke, L. F.: Airborne measurements of gases and particles from an Alaskan wildfire, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 98(D8), 14873–14882, 1993.
- 20 Niinemets, Ü.: Mild versus severe stress and BVOCs: thresholds, priming and consequences, *Trends Plant Sci.*, 15(3), 145–153, 2010.
- Robinson, A. L., Donahue, N. M., Shrivastava, M. K., Weitkamp, E. A., Sage, A. M., Grieshop, A. P., Lane, T. E., Pierce, J. R., and Pandis, S. N.: Rethinking organic aerosols: Semivolatile emissions and photochemical aging, *Science*, 315(5816), 1259–1262, 2007.
- 25 Rudolph, J., Khedim, A., Koppman, R., and Bonsang, B.: Field study of the emissions of methyl chloride and other halocarbons from biomass burning in western Africa, *J. Atmos. Chem.*, 22, 67–80, 1995.
- Rudolph, J., von Czapiewski, K., and Koppmann, R.: Emissions of methyl chloroform (MCF) from biomass burning and the tropospheric methyl chloroform budget, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 27, 1887–1890, 2000.
- 30 Sachse, G. W., Hill, G. F., Wade, L. O., and Perry, M. G.: Fast-response, high-precision carbon monoxide sensor using a tunable diode laser absorption technique, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 92(D2), 2071–2081, 1987.

Schade, G. W. and Goldstein, A. H.: Increase of monoterpene emissions from a pine plantation as a result of mechanical disturbances, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 30(7), 1380, doi:10.1029/2002GL016138, 2003.

Sharkey, T. D., Wiberley, A. E., and Donohue, A. R.: Isoprene emission from plants: Why and how, *Annal. Botany*, 101, 5–18, 2008.

Simmonds, P. G., Manning, A. J., Cunnold, D. M., McCulloch, A., O'Doherty, S., Derwent, R. G., Krummel, P. B., Fraser, P. J., Dunse, B., Porter, L. W., Wang, R. H. J., Grealley, B. R., Miller, B. R., Salameh, P., Weiss, R. F., and Prinn, R. G., Global trends, seasonal cycles, and European emissions of dichloromethane, trichloroethene, and tetrachloroethene from the AGAGE observations at Mace Head, Ireland, and Cape Grim, Tasmania, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D18304, doi:10.1029/2006JD007082, 2006.

Simpson, I. J., Rowland, F. S., Meinardi, S., and Blake, D. R.: Influence of biomass burning during recent fluctuations in the slow growth of global tropospheric methane, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, L22808, doi:10.1029/2006GL027330, 2006.

Simpson, I. J., Blake, N. J., Blake, D. R., Meinardi, S., Sulbaek Andersen, M. P., and Rowland, F. S., Strong evidence for negligible methyl chloroform (CH₃CCl₃) emissions from biomass burning, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 34, L10805, doi:10.1029/2007GL029383, 2007.

Simpson, I. J., Blake, N. J., Barletta, B., Diskin, G. S., Fuelberg, H. E., Gorham, K., Huey, L. G., Meinardi, S., Rowland, F. S., Vay, S. A., Weinheimer, A. J., Yang, M., and Blake, D. R.: Characterization of trace gases measured over Alberta oil sands mining operations: 76 speciated C₂–C₁₀ volatile organic compounds (VOCs), CO₂, CH₄, CO, NO, NO₂, NO_y, O₃ and SO₂, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 10, 11931–11954, doi:10.5194/acp-10-11931-2010, 2010.

Singh, H. B., Salas, L., Herlth, D., Kolyer, R., Czech, E., Viezee, W., Li, Q., Jacob, D. J., Blake, D., Sachse, G., Harward, C. N., Fuelberg, H., Kiley, C. M., Zhao, Y., and Kondo, Y.: In situ measurements of HCN and CH₃CN over the Pacific Ocean: Sources, sinks, and budgets, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D20), 8795, doi:10.1029/2002JD003006, 2003.

Singh, H. B., Anderson, B. E., Brune, W. H., Cai, C., Cohen, R. C., Crawford, J. H., Cubison, M. J., Czech, E. P., Emmons, L., Fuelberg, H. E., Huey, G., Jacob, D. J., Jimenez, J. L., Kaduwela, A., Kondo, Y., Maoi, J., Olson, J. R., Sachse, G. W., Vay, S. A., Weinheimer, A., Wennberg, P. O., and Wisthaler, A.: Pollution influences on atmospheric composition and chemistry at high northern latitudes: Boreal and California forest fire emissions, *Atmos. Environ.*, 44, 4553–4564, 2010.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



- Sinha, P., Hobbs, P. V., Yokelson, R. J., Bertschi, I. T., Blake, D. R., Simpson, I. J., Gao, S., Kirchstetter, T. W., and Novakov, T.: Emissions of trace gases and particles from savanna fires in southern Africa, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D13), 8487, doi:10.1029/2002JD002325, 2003.
- 5 Soja, A. J., Tchepakova, N. M., French, N. H. F., Flannigan, M. D., Shugart, H. H., Stocks, B. J., Sukhinin, A. I., Parfenova, E. I., Chapin, F. S. III, and Stackhouse Jr., P. W.: Climate-induced boreal forest change: Predictions versus current observations, *Global Planet. Change*, 56(3–4), 274–296, 2007.
- Soja, A. J., Stocks, B., Maczek, P., Fromm, M., Servranckx, R., Turetsky, M., and Benscoter, B.: ARCTAS: The perfect smoke, *The Canadian Smoke Newsletter*, Fall 2008, 2–7, 2008.
- 10 Sprung, D., Jost, C., Reiner, T., Hansel, A., and Wisthaler, A.: Airborne measurements of acetone and acetonitrile in the tropical Indian Ocean boundary layer and free troposphere: Aircraft-based intercomparison of AP-CIMS and PTR-MS measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 106(D22), 28511–28528, 2001.
- Susott, R. A., Olbu, G. J., Baker, S. P., Ward, D. E., Kauffman, J. B., and Shea, R.: Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and thermogravimetric analysis of tropical ecosystem biomass, in *Biomass Burning and Global Change*, edited by: Levine, J. S., 350–360, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1996.
- 15 an der Werf, G. R., Randerson, J. T., Giglio, L., Collatz, G. J., Mu, M., Kasibhatla, P. S., Morton, D. C., DeFries, R. S., Jin, Y., and van Leeuwen, T. T.: Global fire emissions and the contribution of deforestation, savanna, forest, agricultural, and peat fires (1997–2009), *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 10, 11707–11735, doi:10.5194/acp-10-11707-2010, 2010.
- Vay, S. A., Woo, J.-H., Anderson, B. E., Thornhill, K. L., Blake, D. R., Westberg, D. J., Kiley, C. M., Avery, M. A., Sachse, G. W., Streets, D., Tsutsumi, Y., and Nolf, S.: The influence of regional-scale anthropogenic emissions on CO₂ distributions over the western North Pacific, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D20), 8801, doi:10.1029/2002JD003094, 2003.
- 25 Vay, S. A., Choi, Y., Vadvrevu, K. P., Blake, D. R., Tyler, S. C., Wisthaler, A., Hecobian, A., Kondo, Y., Diskin, G. S., Sachse, G. W., Woo, J.-H., Weinheimer, A. J., Olsen, E. T., Stohl, A., Burkhardt, J. F., and Wennberg, P. O.: Patterns of CO₂ and radiocarbon across high northern latitudes during IPY 2008, in review, *JGR*, 2011.
- 30 Warneke, C., de Gouw, J. A., Del Negro, L., Brioude, J., McKeen, S., Stark, H., Kuster, W. C., Goldan, P. D., Trainer, M., Fehsenfeld, F. C., Wiedinmyer, C., Guenther, A. B., Hansel, A., Wisthaler, A., Atlas, E., Holloway, J. S., Ryerson, T. B., Peischl, J., Huey, L. G., and Case Hanks, A. T.: Biogenic emission measurement and inventories determination of biogenic

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



emissions in the eastern United States and Texas and comparison with biogenic emission inventories, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 115, D00F18, doi:10.1029/2009JD012445, 2010.

Weibring, P., Richter, D., Fried, A., Walega, J. G., and Dyroff, C.: Ultra-high-precision mid-IR spectrometer II: System description and spectroscopic performance, *Appl. Phys. B*, 85(2–3), 207–218, doi:10.1007/s00340-006-2300-4, 2006.

Weibring, P., Richter, D., Walega, J. G., and Fried, A.: First demonstration of a high performance Difference Frequency Spectrometer on airborne platforms, *Opt. Express*, 15(21), 13476–13495, 2007.

Wotton, B. M., Nock, C. A., and Flannigan, M. D.: Forest fire occurrence and climate change in Canada, *Intl. J. Wildland Fire*, 19(3), 253–271, 2010.

Yokelson, R. J., Griffith, D. W. T., Burkholder, J. B., and Ward, D. E.: Accuracy and advantages of synthetic calibration of smoke spectra, in: *Optical Remote Sensing for Environmental and Process Monitoring*, 365–376, Air & Waste Manage. Assoc., Pittsburgh, PA., 1996.

Yokelson, R. J., Goode, J. G., Ward, D. E., Susott, R. A., Babbitt, R. E., Wade, D. D., Bertschi, I., Griffith, D. W. T., and Hao, W. M.: Emissions of formaldehyde, acetic acid, methanol, and other trace gases from biomass fires in North Carolina measured by airborne Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 104(D23), 30109–30125, 1999.

Yokelson, R. J., Karl, T., Artaxo, P., Blake, D. R., Christian, T. J., Griffith, D. W. T., Guenther, A., and Hao, W. M.: The Tropical Forest and Fire Emissions Experiment: overview and airborne fire emission factor measurements, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 7, 5175–5196, doi:10.5194/acp-7-5175-2007, 2007.

Yokelson, R. J., Christian, T. J., Karl, T. G., and Guenther, A.: The tropical forest and fire emissions experiment: laboratory fire measurements and synthesis of campaign data, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 8, 3509–3527, doi:10.5194/acp-8-3509-2008, 2008.

Yokelson, R. J., Crouse, J. D., DeCarlo, P. F., Karl, T., Urbanski, S., Atlas, E., Campos, T., Shinozuka, Y., Kapustin, V., Clarke, A. D., Weinheimer, A., Knapp, D. J., Montzka, D. D., Holloway, J., Weibring, P., Flocke, F., Zheng, W., Toohey, D., Wennberg, P. O., Wiedinmyer, C., Mauldin, L., Fried, A., Richter, D., Walega, J., Jimenez, J. L., Adachi, K., Buseck, P. R., Hall, S. R., and Shetter, R.: Emissions from biomass burning in the Yucatan, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 9, 5785–5812, doi:10.5194/acp-9-5785-2009, 2009.

Yurganov, L. N., Duchatelet, P., Dzhola, A. V., Edwards, D. P., Hase, F., Kramer, I., Mahieu, E., Mellqvist, J., Notholt, J., Novelli, P. C., Rockmann, A., Scheel, H. E., Schneider, M., Schulz, A., Strandberg, A., Sussmann, R., Tanimoto, H., Velazco, V., Drummond, J. R., and

Gille, J. C.: Increased Northern Hemispheric carbon monoxide burden in the troposphere in 2002 and 2003 detected from the ground and from space, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 5, 563–573, doi:10.5194/acp-5-563-2005, 2005.

5

9546

Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper

ACPD

11, 9515–9566, 2011

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Table 1. Analytical details, measurement statistics, emission ratios (ERs) and emission factors (EFs) for CO₂, CO, CH₄, NO, NO₂, HCN, CH₃CN and 57 NMVOCs that were statistically enhanced in five Canadian boreal forest fire plumes compared to background measurements during the summer 2008 ARCTAS field mission. For both long-lived and short-lived compounds, “Plume avg.” is the average mixing ratio calculated from the five smoke plume averages; “Bkgd. avg.” is the average of the five corresponding background air masses; and “Plume max.” is the maximum mixing ratio measured in all five smoke plumes. However the ERs and EFs presented here for the short-lived compounds are based on a much smaller subset of data (see text).

Compound	Formula	Lifetime ^a	LOD (pptv)	Precision ^b (%)	Accuracy (%)	Bkgd. Avg. (pptv)	Plume Avg. (pptv)	Plume max. (pptv)	ER to CO (ppbv ppbv ⁻¹)	EF (g kg ⁻¹)	Boreal emission (Gg yr ⁻¹)
<i>Long-lived</i>											
Carbon dioxide	CO ₂	> 100 yr	n/a	0.1 ppmv	0.25 ppmv	381.7 ± 1.4 ppmv	384.7 ± 1.5 ppmv	402.5 ppmv		1616 ± 180	588 ± 66 (Tg)
Carbon monoxide	CO	2 mo	n/a	1	1	160 ± 21 ppbv	674 ± 151 ppbv	1898 ppbv		113 ± 72	41 ± 26 (Tg)
Methane	CH ₄	9 yr	n/a	0.1	2	1848 ± 7 ppbv	1882 ± 11 ppbv	2000 ppbv	0.072 ± 0.044	4.7 ± 2.9	1.7 ± 1.1 (Tg)
Hydrogen cyanide	HCN	5 mo	15	n/a ^c	50 ^c	549 ± 205	3539 ± 1053	12196	(8.2 ± 2.0) × 10 ⁻³	0.89 ± 0.29	326 ± 105
Acetonitrile	CH ₃ CN	6 mo	20	10	30	210 ± 50	1202 ± 325	3930	(1.8 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻³	0.30 ± 0.06	109 ± 21
Ethane	C ₂ H ₆	47 d	3	1	5	1041 ± 95	3463 ± 764	12168	(4.6 ± 0.9) × 10 ⁻³	0.56 ± 0.13	204 ± 46
Propane	C ₃ H ₈	11 d	3	2	5	245 ± 41	932 ± 213	3586	(1.3 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻³	0.23 ± 0.05	83 ± 19
<i>i</i> -Butane	C ₄ H ₁₀	5.5 d	3	3	5	16 ± 5	63 ± 14	229	(8.8 ± 1.6) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.021 ± 0.004	7.6 ± 1.6
<i>n</i> -Butane	C ₄ H ₁₀	4.9 d	3	3	5	40 ± 10	212 ± 54	776	(3.2 ± 0.5) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.076 ± 0.015	28 ± 5
<i>i</i> -Pentane	C ₅ H ₁₂	3.2 d	3	3	5	12 ± 5	46 ± 12	220	(6.5 ± 1.6) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.019 ± 0.005	6.9 ± 1.9
<i>n</i> -Pentane	C ₅ H ₁₂	3.0 d	3	3	5	16 ± 4	93 ± 24	337	(1.4 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.042 ± 0.008	15.3 ± 3.0
<i>n</i> -Hexane	C ₆ H ₁₄	2.2 d	3	3	5	4.4 ± 2.1	46 ± 14	188	(7.9 ± 1.4) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.027 ± 0.006	10.0 ± 2.1
2+3-Methylpentane	C ₆ H ₁₄	2.2 d	3	3	5	3.5 ± 2.5	30 ± 9	141	(5.1 ± 1.1) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.018 ± 0.004	6.4 ± 1.6
<i>n</i> -Heptane	C ₇ H ₁₆	1.7 d	3	3	5	2.8 ± 1.8	34 ± 10	144	(5.9 ± 0.6) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.024 ± 0.004	8.7 ± 1.3
Ethyne	C ₂ H ₂	2 wk	3	3	5	205 ± 57	1244 ± 397	5904	(2.1 ± 0.9) × 10 ⁻³	0.22 ± 0.09	80 ± 34
Propyne	C ₃ H ₄	2 d	5	30	20	4.8 ± 4.0	95 ± 37	506	(1.8 ± 0.8) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.029 ± 0.013	10.7 ± 4.7
Benzene	C ₆ H ₆	9.5 d	3	3	5	99 ± 36	992 ± 319	4359	(1.7 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻³	0.55 ± 0.11	200 ± 40
Toluene	C ₇ H ₈	1.7 d	3	3	5	33 ± 14	371 ± 139	1849	(6.7 ± 1.6) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.24 ± 0.06	91 ± 23
Ethylbenzene	C ₈ H ₁₀	2.1 d	3	3	5	2.1 ± 1.7	32 ± 14	179	(5.8 ± 2.1) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.025 ± 0.009	9.1 ± 3.4
<i>n</i> -Propylbenzene	C ₉ H ₁₂	2.0 d	3	3	5	0.7 ± 1.2	10 ± 5	58	(1.8 ± 0.8) × 10 ⁻⁵	(8.9 ± 4.2) × 10 ⁻³	3.2 ± 1.5
Methanol	CH ₃ OH	12 d	50	30	20	4268 ± 528	9586 ± 1785	32740	(9.6 ± 1.9) × 10 ⁻³	1.2 ± 0.3	451 ± 101
Ethanol	C ₂ H ₅ OH	3.6 d	20	30	20	205 ± 26	325 ± 78	1278	(1.5 ± 1.5) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.027 ± 0.029	9.9 ± 10.4
Acetone	C ₃ H ₆ O	15 d	100	30	30	1042 ± 109	1845 ± 245	4552	(1.6 ± 0.4) × 10 ⁻³	0.37 ± 0.10	133 ± 36
Methyl ethyl ketone	C ₄ H ₈ O	9.5 d	5	30	20	94 ± 15	299 ± 69	1190	(3.8 ± 1.0) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.11 ± 0.03	40 ± 11
Methyl nitrate	CH ₃ NO ₃	1 mo	0.02	5	10	7.5 ± 0.5	9.8 ± 0.9	21.7	(4.6 ± 2.8) × 10 ⁻⁶	(1.4 ± 0.9) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.52 ± 0.32
Ethyl nitrate	C ₂ H ₅ NO ₃	2-4 wk	0.02	5	10	4.8 ± 0.7	6.2 ± 0.5	9.8	(2.4 ± 1.2) × 10 ⁻⁶	(8.8 ± 4.5) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.32 ± 0.16
<i>i</i> -Propyl nitrate	C ₃ H ₇ NO ₃	1-3 wk	0.02	5	10	4.0 ± 0.6	6.2 ± 0.7	13.3	(3.8 ± 2.3) × 10 ⁻⁶	(1.6 ± 1.0) × 10 ⁻³	0.58 ± 0.37
<i>n</i> -Propyl nitrate	C ₃ H ₇ NO ₃	1-2 wk	0.02	5	10	0.8 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.1	2.1	(3.7 ± 2.8) × 10 ⁻⁷	(1.6 ± 1.2) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.057 ± 0.044
2-Butyl nitrate	C ₄ H ₉ NO ₃	1-2 wk	0.02	5	10	2.3 ± 0.6	4.7 ± 0.7	13.0	(4.0 ± 2.4) × 10 ⁻⁶	(1.9 ± 1.2) × 10 ⁻³	0.70 ± 0.43
2-Pentyl nitrate	C ₅ H ₁₁ NO ₃	4-5 d	0.02	5	10	0.6 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.1	2.8	(8.9 ± 5.7) × 10 ⁻⁷	(4.8 ± 3.1) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.17 ± 0.11
3-Pentyl nitrate	C ₅ H ₁₁ NO ₃	4-5 d	0.02	5	10	0.6 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.1	3.5	(6.8 ± 3.0) × 10 ⁻⁷	(3.6 ± 1.7) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.13 ± 0.06
3-Methyl-2-butyl nitrate	C ₆ H ₁₃ NO ₃	4-5 d	0.02	5	10	0.9 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.2	4.6	(1.1 ± 0.8) × 10 ⁻⁶	(5.7 ± 4.6) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.21 ± 0.17
Methyl chloride	CH ₂ Cl	1.0 yr	50	5	10	551 ± 8	622 ± 23	825	(1.4 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.029 ± 0.007	10.7 ± 2.7
Methyl bromide	CH ₂ Br	0.7 yr	5	5	10	8.6 ± 0.2	11.0 ± 0.8	18.9	(4.7 ± 1.1) × 10 ⁻⁴	(1.8 ± 0.5) × 10 ⁻³	0.66 ± 0.17
Methyl iodide	CH ₂ I	4 d	0.005	5	20	0.28 ± 0.05	0.66 ± 0.12	1.6	(6.9 ± 1.4) × 10 ⁻⁷	(3.9 ± 0.9) × 10 ⁻³	0.14 ± 0.03
Dibromomethane	CH ₂ Br ₂	3-4 mo	0.01	5	20	0.83 ± 0.02	0.87 ± 0.03	1.07	(0.6 ± 1.1) × 10 ⁻⁷	(4.1 ± 8.0) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.015 ± 0.029
Ethyl chloride	C ₂ H ₅ Cl	1 mo	0.1	5	30	2.2 ± 0.2	3.2 ± 0.4	8.0	(1.4 ± 1.3) × 10 ⁻⁶	(3.7 ± 3.5) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.14 ± 0.13
1,2-Dichloroethane	C ₂ H ₄ Cl ₂	1-2 mo	0.1	5	10	9.9 ± 0.3	10.6 ± 0.3	12.4	(1.6 ± 1.3) × 10 ⁻⁶	(6.4 ± 5.1) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.23 ± 0.19
Carbonyl sulphide	OCS	2.5 yr	10	2	10	451 ± 11	511 ± 19	706	(1.2 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.029 ± 0.007	10.5 ± 2.5
Dimethyl sulphide	C ₂ H ₆ S	1-2 d	1	10	20	4.4 ± 0.8	9.6 ± 1.9	38	(9.2 ± 4.5) × 10 ⁻⁶	(2.3 ± 1.2) × 10 ⁻³	0.84 ± 0.42

Title Page

Abstract Introduction

Conclusions References

Tables Figures

◀ ▶

◀ ▶

Back Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Table 1. Continued.

Compound	Formula	Lifetime ^a (d)	LOD (pptv)	Precision ^b (%)	Accuracy (%)	Bkgd. Avg. (pptv)	Plume Avg. (pptv)	Plume max. (pptv)	ER to CO (ppbv ppbv ⁻¹)	EF (g kg ⁻¹)	Boreal emission (Gg yr ⁻¹)
<i>Short-lived</i>											
Nitric oxide	NO	1 d	20	2	10	40 ± 36	182 ± 113	1831	(2.4 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻³	0.29 ± 0.03	n/a
Nitrogen dioxide	NO ₂	1 d	30	5	10	173 ± 121	1228 ± 799	12462	(5.6 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻³	1.03 ± 0.13	n/a
Formaldehyde	CH ₂ O	1 d	200	n/a ^d	200 ^d	388 ± 30	4617 ± 5696	39235	(17.5 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻³	2.1 ± 0.2	771 ± 86
Ethene	C ₂ H ₄	1.4 d	3	3	5	378 ± 186	4084 ± 1434	18693	(7.3 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻³	0.82 ± 0.09	300 ± 33
Propene	C ₃ H ₆	11 h	3	3	5	89 ± 48	1095 ± 428	5465	(2.3 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻³	0.38 ± 0.04	139 ± 15
1-Butene	C ₄ H ₈	8.8 h	3	3	5	14 ± 8	169 ± 69	867	(3.4 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.077 ± 0.009	28 ± 3
<i>i</i> -Butene	C ₄ H ₈	5.4 h	3	3	5	13 ± 5	119 ± 49	604	(2.5 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.056 ± 0.007	20 ± 3
<i>cis</i> -2-Butene	C ₄ H ₈	4.9 h	3	3	5	0.7 ± 1.0	14 ± 9	193	(6.7 ± 0.4) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.015 ± 0.002	5.5 ± 0.7
<i>trans</i> -2-Butene	C ₄ H ₈	4.3 h	3	3	5	0.6 ± 1.1	12 ± 9	184	(8.7 ± 0.7) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.020 ± 0.003	7.1 ± 1.0
1,3-Butadiene	C ₄ H ₆	4.2 h	3	3	5	8.4 ± 6.0	125 ± 66	802	(3.2 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.070 ± 0.008	25 ± 3
Methacrolein	C ₄ H ₆ O	9.6 h	5	30	20	75 ± 26	203 ± 45	878	(1.5 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.043 ± 0.005	16 ± 2
Methyl vinyl ketone	C ₄ H ₆ O	14 h	5	30	20	186 ± 49	443 ± 91	1906	(3.4 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.097 ± 0.012	35 ± 4
Furan	C ₄ H ₄ O	3.4 h	10	30	20	26 ± 17	471 ± 177	2344	(1.0 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻³	0.28 ± 0.03	102 ± 12
Isoprene	C ₅ H ₈	2.8 h	3	3	5	265 ± 110	346 ± 101	1634	(2.7 ± 0.5) × 10 ⁻³	0.074 ± 0.017	27 ± 6
<i>m</i> + <i>p</i> -Xylene	C ₈ H ₁₀	12–19 h	3	3	5	6.8 ± 4.1	82 ± 42	563	(1.4 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻⁴	0.060 ± 0.008	22 ± 3
<i>o</i> -Xylene	C ₈ H ₁₀	20 h	3	3	5	3.0 ± 2.4	46 ± 24	328	(6.4 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.027 ± 0.003	10.0 ± 1.2
2-Ethyltoluene	C ₉ H ₁₂	23 h	3	3	5	0.5 ± 1.0	6.4 ± 3.4	43	(1.1 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁻⁵	(5.2 ± 0.9) × 10 ⁻³	1.9 ± 0.3
3-Ethyltoluene	C ₉ H ₁₂	15 h	3	3	5	0.9 ± 1.3	13.4 ± 6.3	89	(2.4 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.012 ± 0.002	4.3 ± 0.8
4-Ethyltoluene	C ₉ H ₁₂	24 h	3	3	5	0.7 ± 1.3	7.2 ± 3.3	44	(1.5 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁻⁵	(7.4 ± 1.3) × 10 ⁻³	2.7 ± 0.5
1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene	C ₉ H ₁₂	8.5 h	3	3	5	3.4 ± 3.7	22.0 ± 11.5	206	(5.1 ± 0.3) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.025 ± 0.003	9.1 ± 1.1
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	C ₉ H ₁₂	8.5 h	3	3	5	2.2 ± 3.0	16.0 ± 8.0	112	(3.2 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻⁵	0.015 ± 0.002	5.6 ± 0.6
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	C ₉ H ₁₂	4.9 h	3	3	5	0.6 ± 1.3	1.9 ± 1.6	20	(6.0 ± 0.9) × 10 ⁻⁶	(2.9 ± 0.5) × 10 ⁻³	1.1 ± 0.2
<i>α</i> -Pinene	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	5.3 h	3	3	5	48 ± 19	172 ± 82	1727	(1.5 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻³	0.81 ± 0.10	296 ± 36
<i>β</i> -Pinene	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	3.7 h	3	3	5	154 ± 51	549 ± 210	2916	(1.3 ± 0.1) × 10 ⁻³	0.72 ± 0.09	262 ± 31

^a The lifetimes of short-lived OH-controlled species vary temporally and are shorter in the summer when the abundance of OH radicals is greater. The VOC lifetimes may be even shorter in the smoke plumes due to elevated OH levels. With the exceptions of the furan, acetone and the halocarbons, the NMVOC lifetimes are based on OH rate constants from Atkinson and Arey (2003) and assume a 12-h daytime average OH radical concentration of 2.0×10^6 molec cm⁻³. The lifetime estimate for furan is from Atkinson et al. (2005) and also uses a 12-h daytime OH value of 2.0×10^6 molec cm⁻³. The total tropospheric lifetime of acetone is based on Jacob et al. (2002). The total lifetimes of the long-lived halocarbons (> 1.0 yr) are based on Clerbaux et al. (2007). The global HCN lifetime is from Li et al. (2003, 2009) and Singh et al. (2003). The global CH₃CN lifetime is from Karl et al. (2003) and Singh et al. (2003). Because NO and NO₂ interchange quickly, their lifetimes are cited as a NO_x (=NO + NO₂) lifetime.

^b The VOC precision deteriorates as we approach our detection limit. At low values the precision is either the stated precision or 3 pptv, whichever is larger. The NO and NO₂ precision values are for high mixing ratios as were encountered in the smoke plumes. At low mixing ratios their precision is 20 pptv.

^c The total uncertainty in the HCN measurement, a combined measure of precision and accuracy, is conservatively ± 50% + 50 pptv at 2σ.

^d The total uncertainty in the CH₂O measurement is 200 pptv.

^e The OH-lifetimes of *m*-xylene and *p*-xylene are 12.0 and 19.4 h, respectively.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Table 2. Characteristics of five biomass burning plumes that were used to analyze the long-lived NMVOCs (1.4 d). A small subset of Plumes 2 and 3 were used for the analysis of short-lived NMVOCs (≤ 1.4 d). All times are local (UTC – 7 h). n = number of samples; SK = Saskatchewan.

Plume	Flight	Leg	Date	BKGD		PLUME						
				Alt (km)	n	Alt (km)	n	Time (LT)	Lat ($^{\circ}$ N)	Long ($^{\circ}$ W)	Location	Characteristics
<i>Long-lived</i>												
1	17	18	29 Jun	1.3–1.8	13	1.7–1.8	12	14:44–15:20	59.16–59.61	104.86–108.44	Saskatchewan	Major active fires; entered into fire plume
2	18	5–13	1 Jul	0.8–3.6	39	0.7–2.9	51	13:09–17:13	52.01–56.50	99.95–106.88	Saskatchewan	Detailed characterization of SK fire plumes
3	18	17–19	1 Jul	0.8–2.3	21	0.8	20	18:36–19:37	55.05–56.55	106.84–107.42	Saskatchewan	Detailed characterization of SK fire plumes
4	19	13–14	4 Jul	0.8–3.7	11	3.5–5.4	12	14:44–15:47	51.71–52.21	84.95–90.19	Ontario	Near-field evolution of fire plumes
5	19	22	4 Jul	2.6–4.7	2	1.6–3.5	10	19:10–19:29	55.16–55.66	102.33–102.80	Saskatchewan	Near-field evolution of fire plumes
<i>Short-lived</i>												
2	18	5	1 Jul	2.8	1	0.8–0.9	2	13:15–13:16	56.46–56.50	106.79–106.88	Saskatchewan	Detailed characterization of SK fire plumes
3	18	17	1 Jul	0.8	1	0.8	1	18:36	56.55	106.84	Saskatchewan	Detailed characterization of SK fire plumes

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


Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Table 3. Comparison of boreal forest fire ERs and EFs from this study with those from previous boreal forest fire studies. Note that Andreae and Merlet (2001) is a literature survey for extratropical forests that includes both boreal and temperate ecosystems. ER = emission ratio; Enh.R. = enhancement ratio; EF = emission factor; n/a = not available.

Compound	This study	Goode et al. (2000)	de Gouw et al. (2006)	Singh et al. (2010)	This study	Nance et al. (1993)	Cofer et al. (1998)	Goode et al. (2000)	Vay et al. (2011)	Andreae and Merlet (2001)	Akagi et al. (2010)
	ER (pptv/ppbv)	ER (pptv/ppbv)	Enh.R. (pptv/ppbv)	Enh.R. (pptv/ppbv)	EF (g kg ⁻¹)						
CO ₂	n/a	n/a	n/a	9400 ± 3700	1616 ± 180	1640 ± 25	1515 ± 94	1667 ± 19	1698 ± 220	1569 ± 131	1485 ± 107
CO	110 ± 70	86 ± 9	n/a	n/a	119 ± 72	81 ± 12	110 ± 32	91 ± 8	n/a	107 ± 37	126 ± 45
CH ₄	72 ± 44	55 ± 5	n/a	80 ± 30	4.7 ± 2.9	2.6 ± 1.0	2.3 ± 0.8	2.9 ± 0.5	n/a	4.7 ± 1.9	5.9 ± 3.1
CH ₂ O	17.5 ± 0.3	19 ± 2	n/a	n/a	2.1 ± 0.2	n/a	n/a	1.9 ± 0.4	n/a	2.2 ± 0.5	1.8 ± 1.2
Ethane	4.6 ± 0.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.56 ± 0.13	0.66 ± 0.35	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.60 ± 0.15	1.8 ± 1.1
Ethene	7.3 ± 0.1	19 ± 6	n/a	n/a	0.82 ± 0.09	n/a	n/a	1.8 ± 0.6	n/a	1.12 ± 0.55	1.4 ± 0.5
Ethyne	2.1 ± 0.9	2.7 ± 0.2	n/a	n/a	0.22 ± 0.09	0.26 ± 0.07	n/a	0.23 ± 0.05	n/a	0.27 ± 0.09	0.18 ± 0.10
Propane	1.3 ± 0.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.23 ± 0.05	0.23 ± 0.17	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.25 ± 0.11	0.43
Propene	2.3 ± 0.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.38 ± 0.04	0.51 ± 0.18	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.59 ± 0.16	1.1 ± 0.6
Benzene	1.7 ± 0.3	n/a	n/a	1.1 ± 0.4	1.6 ± 0.3	0.55 ± 0.11	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.49 ± 0.08	1.1
Toluene	0.67 ± 0.16	n/a	0.73 ± 0.36	0.18 ± 0.52	0.7 ± 0.2	0.25 ± 0.06	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.40 ± 0.10	0.49
Methanol	9.6 ± 1.9	13.7 ± 0.5	10.8 ± 4.4	15.6 ± 9.2	1.2 ± 0.3	n/a	n/a	1.4 ± 0.2	n/a	2.0 ± 1.4	2.8 ± 1.6
Acetone	1.6 ± 0.4	n/a	6.3 ± 1.8	4.7 ± 3.3	0.37 ± 0.10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.52 ± 0.59	0.73
MEK	0.38 ± 0.10	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.11 ± 0.03	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.22
OCS	0.12 ± 0.02	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.029 ± 0.007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.030 ± 0.036	0.46 ± 0.47
HCN	8.2 ± 2.0	n/a	n/a	5.6 ± 3.0	0.89 ± 0.29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	(0.15)	1.5 ± 0.8
CH ₃ CN	1.8 ± 0.3	n/a	2.4 ± 0.4	2.0 ± 0.5	0.30 ± 0.06	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.19	0.59
NO _x (as NO)	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.5 ± 4.2	0.97 ± 0.12	1.5 ± 0.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.0 ± 1.4	0.90 ± 0.69
NO ₂	5.6 ± 0.3	n/a	n/a	1.03 ± 0.13	n/a						
NO	2.4 ± 0.1	n/a	n/a	0.29 ± 0.03	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.5 ± 0.1	n/a	n/a	n/a

^a Goode et al. (2000) sampled fresh Alaskan fire plumes in June, 1997 (airborne study).

^b de Gouw et al. (2006) sampled aged Alaskan fire plumes in July 2004 (airborne study).

^c Singh et al. (2000) sampled fresh Canadian fire plumes in spring and summer, 2008 during ARCTAS-A and ARCTAS-B (airborne study).

^d Nance et al. (1993) sampled one fresh Alaskan fire plume in June, 1990 (airborne study).

^e Cofer et al. (1998) sampled crown fires in the Northwest Territories in June and July 1997 (helicopter study).

^f Vay et al. (2011) sampled fresh Canadian fire plumes in June and July 2008 during ARCTAS-B between 50–60° N and 80–120° W (airborne study).

^g Andreae and Merlet (2001) give average EFs for extratropical (temperate + boreal) forest fires based on a literature compilation.

^h Akagi et al. (2010) give average EFs for boreal forest fires based on a literature compilation.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Table 4. Analytical details and measurement statistics for 23 NMVOCs that were not statistically enhanced in five boreal forest fire plumes as compared to background measurements made during ARCTAS-B. “Plume avg.” and “Bkgd. avg.” are as in Table 1.

Compound	Formula	Lifetime	LOD (pptv)	Precision (%)	Accuracy (%)	Bkgd. Avg. (pptv)	Plume Avg. (pptv)
Methyl <i>tert</i> -butyl ether	C ₅ H ₁₂ O	3.9 d	1	30	20	<LOD	<LOD
2,3-Dimethylbutane	C ₆ H ₁₄	2.0 d	3	3	5	<LOD	0.7 ± 2.3
CFC-11	CCl ₃ F	45 yr	10	1	3	253.2 ± 0.9	254.5 ± 0.9
CFC-12	CCl ₂ F ₂	100 yr	10	1	3	536.3 ± 1.7	536.8 ± 1.8
CFC-113	C ₂ Cl ₃ F ₃	85 yr	5	1	3	78.9 ± 0.3	79.4 ± 0.3
CFC-114	C ₂ Cl ₂ F ₄	300 yr	1	1	10	16.5 ± 0.1	16.6 ± 0.1
Carbon tetrachloride	CCl ₄	26 yr	1	1	5	92.8 ± 0.3	92.6 ± 0.2
Methyl chloroform	CH ₃ CCl ₃	5.0 yr	0.1	1	5	12.40 ± 0.05	12.38 ± 0.03
HCFC-22	CHF ₂ Cl	12 yr	2	2	5	198.0 ± 2.5	200.1 ± 2.3
HCFC-141b	C ₂ H ₃ Cl ₂ F	9.3 yr	0.5	3	10	20.9 ± 0.3	21.7 ± 0.3
HCFC-142b	C ₂ H ₂ ClF ₂	18 yr	0.5	3	10	19.9 ± 0.4	20.1 ± 0.3
HFC-134a	C ₂ H ₂ F ₄	14 yr	1	3	10	47.4 ± 0.9	47.9 ± 0.7
HFC-152a	C ₂ H ₄ F ₂	1.4 yr	1	3	10	11.0 ± 2.2	11.4 ± 2.1
Halon-1211	CBrClF ₂	16 yr	0.1	1	5	4.32 ± 0.02	4.32 ± 0.02
Halon-1301	CBrF ₃	65 yr	0.1	10	10	3.24 ± 0.05	3.23 ± 0.05
Halon-2402	C ₂ Br ₂ F ₄	20 yr	0.01	1	5	0.516 ± 0.003	0.518 ± 0.004
Chloroform	CHCl ₃	3–5 mo	0.1	5	10	12.4 ± 0.6	12.6 ± 0.5
Dichloromethane	CH ₂ Cl ₂	3–5 mo	1	5	10	35.8 ± 2.9	36.9 ± 1.3
Tetrachloroethene	C ₂ Cl ₄	2–3 mo	0.01	5	10	3.06 ± 0.09	3.08 ± 0.07
Bromoform	CHBr ₃	11 mo	0.01	10	20	0.64 ± 0.06	0.56 ± 0.05
Bromodichloromethane	CHBrCl ₂	2–3 mo	0.01	10	50	0.19 ± 0.01	0.18 ± 0.01
Dibromochloromethane	CHBr ₂ Cl	2–3 mo	0.01	10	20	0.13 ± 0.02	0.13 ± 0.02

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Table 5. Summary of global NMVOC emissions from boreal forest fires by compound class (left four columns) and by carbon number (right four columns).

Compound class	Annual Emission (Gg C yr ⁻¹)	Uncertainty (Gg C yr ⁻¹)	Percent Contribution (%)	Carbon number	Annual Emission (Gg C yr ⁻¹)	Uncertainty (%)	Percent Contribution
Oxygenates	699	46	29.3	C ₁	482	51	20.2
Pinenes	493	42	20.7	C ₂	500	56	21.0
Other alkenes	474	32	19.9	C ₃	279	30	11.7
Aromatics	329	43	13.8	C ₄	238	13	10.0
Alkanes	299	40	12.6	C ₅	43	6	1.8
Alkynes	84	9	3.5	C ₆	198	37	8.3
Halocarbons	2.7	0.6	0.12	C ₇	90	21	3.8
Sulfur compounds	2.4	0.5	0.10	C ₈	37	4	1.5
Alkyl nitrates	0.9	0.3	0.04	C ₉	25	2	1.0
				C ₁₀	493	42	20.7
Total NMVOC	2385	648	100.0	Total NMVOC	2385	648	100.0

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


Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

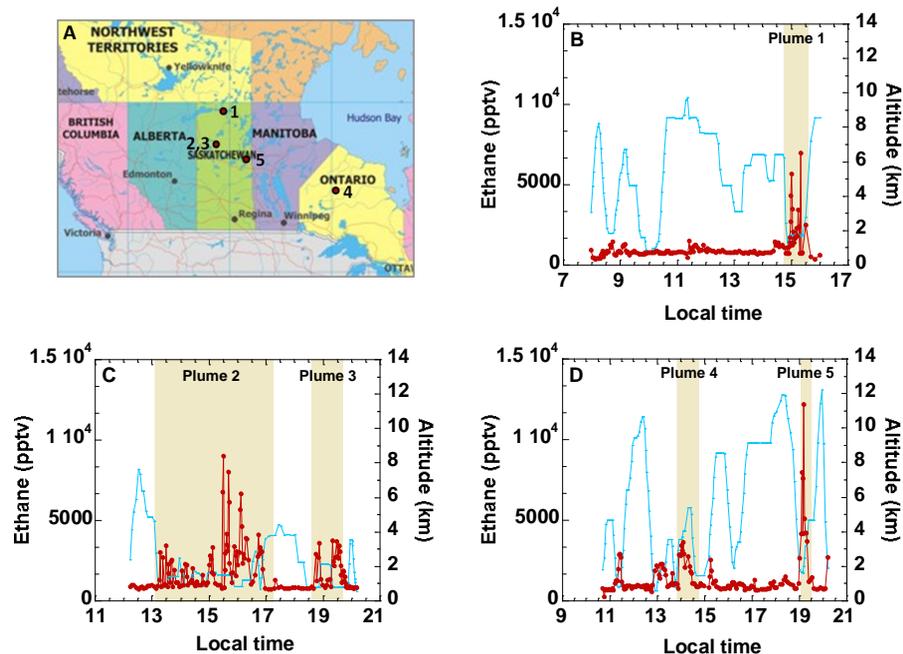


Fig. 1. (a) Approximate locations of five fire plumes that were sampled in 2008 during the summer phase of ARCTAS on 29 June (Plume 1), 1 July (Plumes 2 and 3), and 4 July (Plumes 4 and 5). The plume locations are based on the maximum 1 s CO measurement for each plume encounter, even though they were sampled over a larger area (see Table 2). (b–d) Time series of ethane (red circles) and altitude (blue line) for (b) Flight 17; (c) Flight 18; and (d) Flight 19, showing the duration of each plume encounter (shaded area).

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

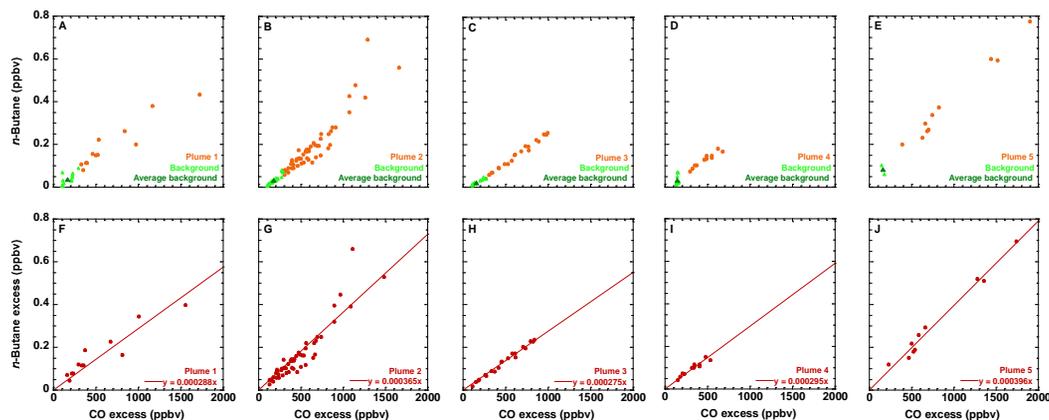


Fig. 2. Mixing ratios of *n*-butane versus CO in five biomass burning plumes (orange circles) and background air (light green triangles). The average background mixing ratio (dark green triangle) was subtracted from each mixing ratio measured in the biomass burning plumes to give an excess mixing ratio (red circles) for each air sample. Linear fits to the excess mixing ratios plots were forced through zero to give the emission ratio (ER) for each smoke plume. Panels (a) and (f): Plume 1; (b) and (g): Plume 2; (c) and (h): Plume 3; (d) and (i): Plume 4; (e) and (j): Plume 5.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

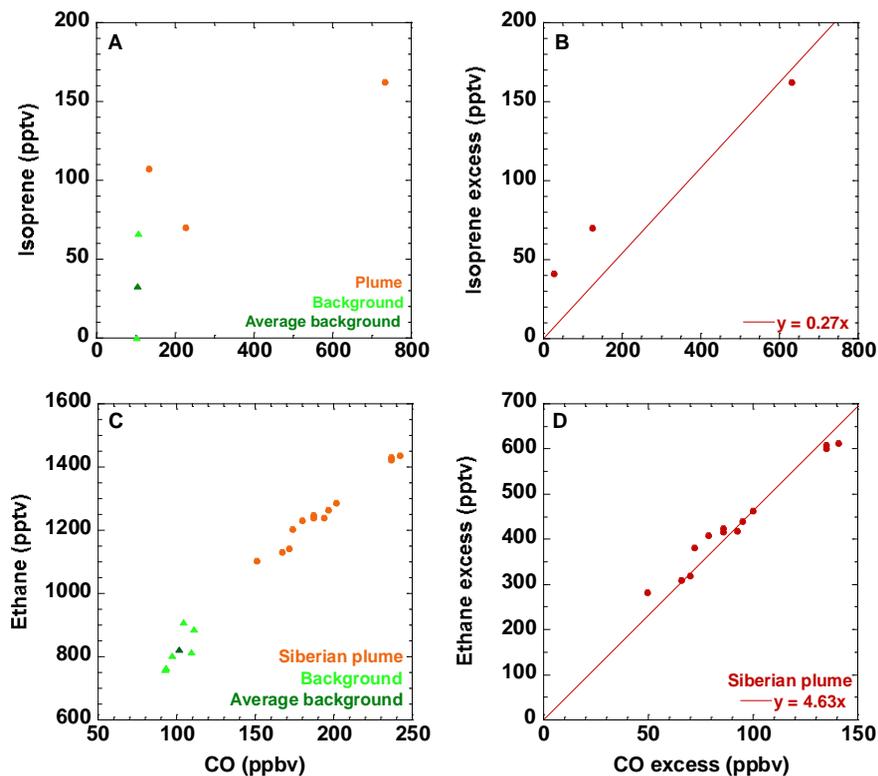


Fig. 3. As in Fig. 2 but for (a–b) isoprene using samples selected for the analysis of short-lived compounds, and for (c–d) ethane using biomass burning samples from the Siberian plume (see text).

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

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

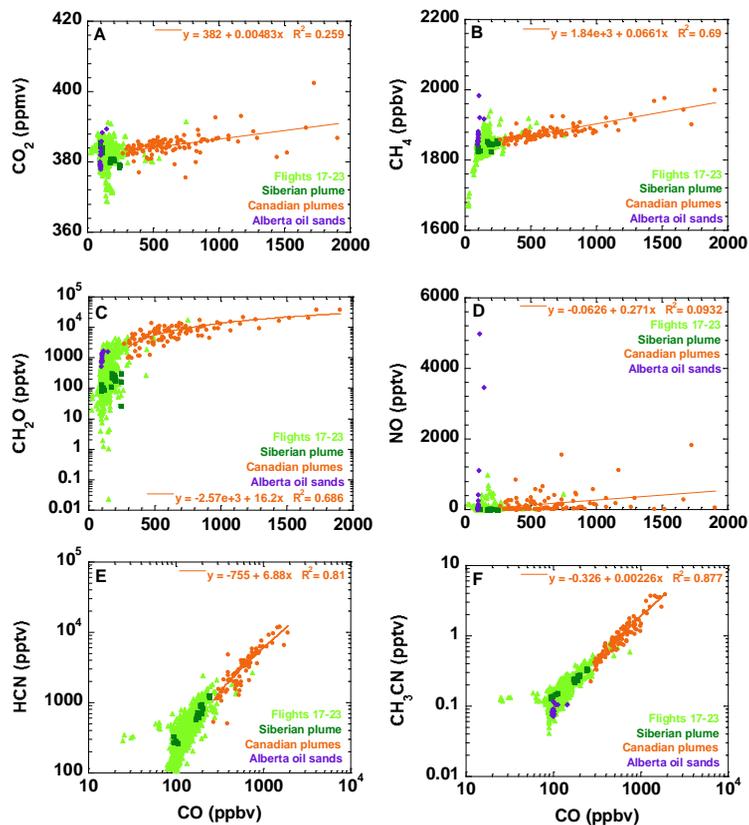


Fig. 4. Scatter plots of CO vs. (a) CO₂, (b) CH₄, (c) CH₂O, (d) NO, (e) HCN and (f) CH₃CN for all 947 whole air samples collected during ARCTAS-B (Flights 17–23). Dark green squares: Siberian boreal forest fire plume ($n = 13$); orange circles: Canadian boreal forest fire plumes ($n = 105$); purple diamonds: Alberta oil sands plume; light green triangles: rest of Flight 17–23.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

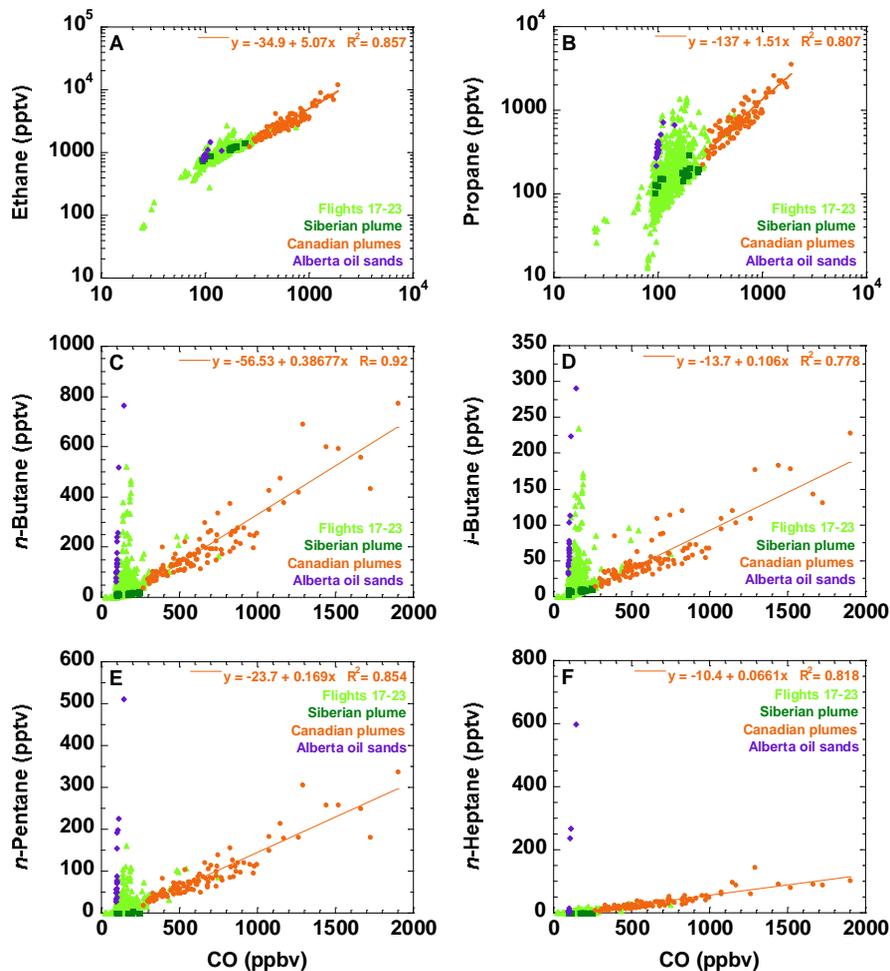


Fig. 5. As in Fig. 4 but for selected alkanes.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

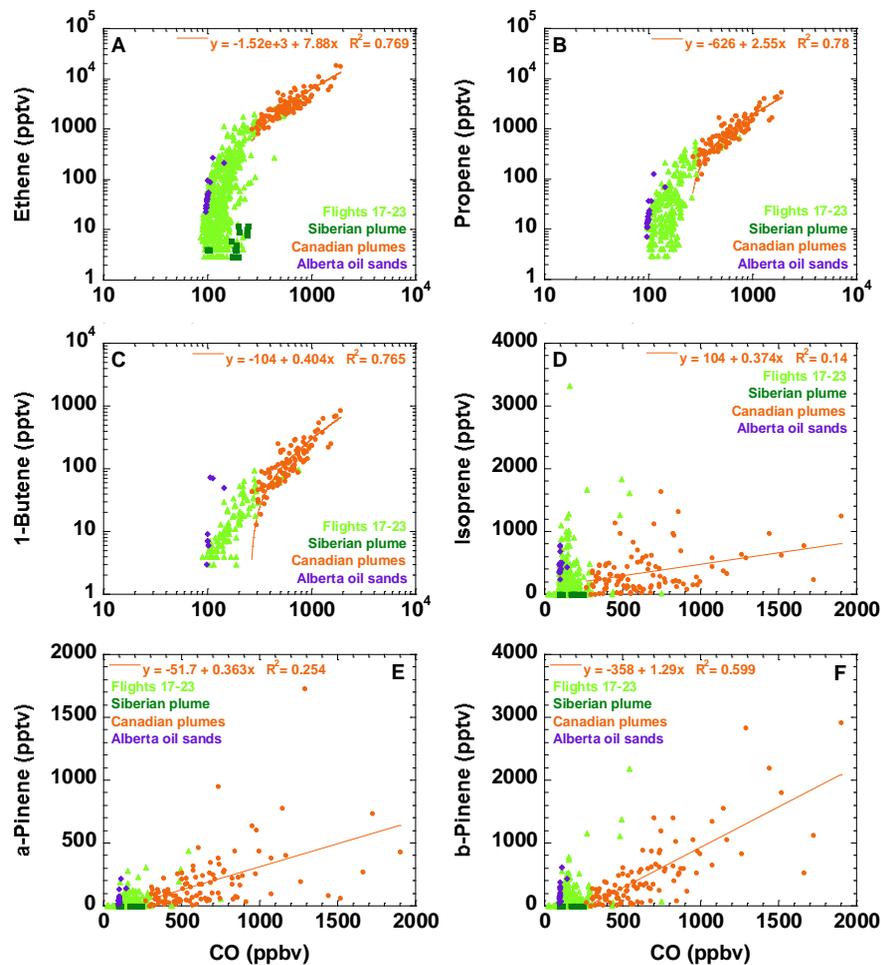


Fig. 6. As in Fig. 4 but for selected alkenes.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

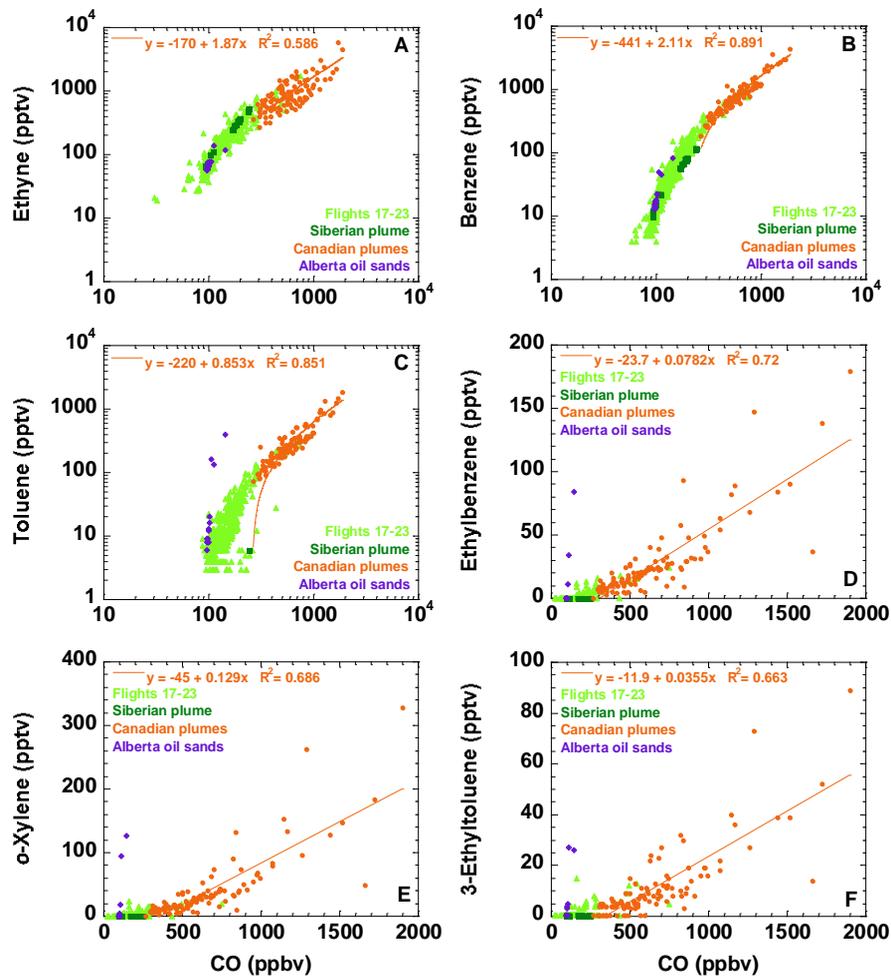


Fig. 7. As in Fig. 4 but for ethyne and selected aromatics.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

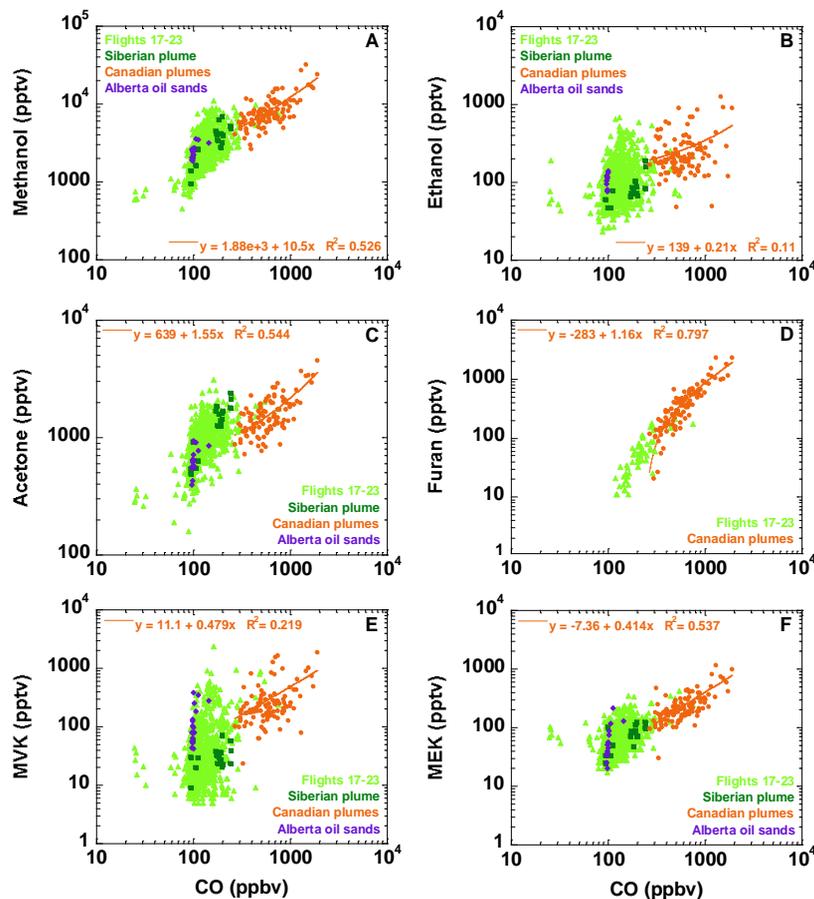


Fig. 8. As in Fig. 4 but for selected oxygenated compounds. MVK = methyl vinyl ketone; MEK = methyl ethyl ketone.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



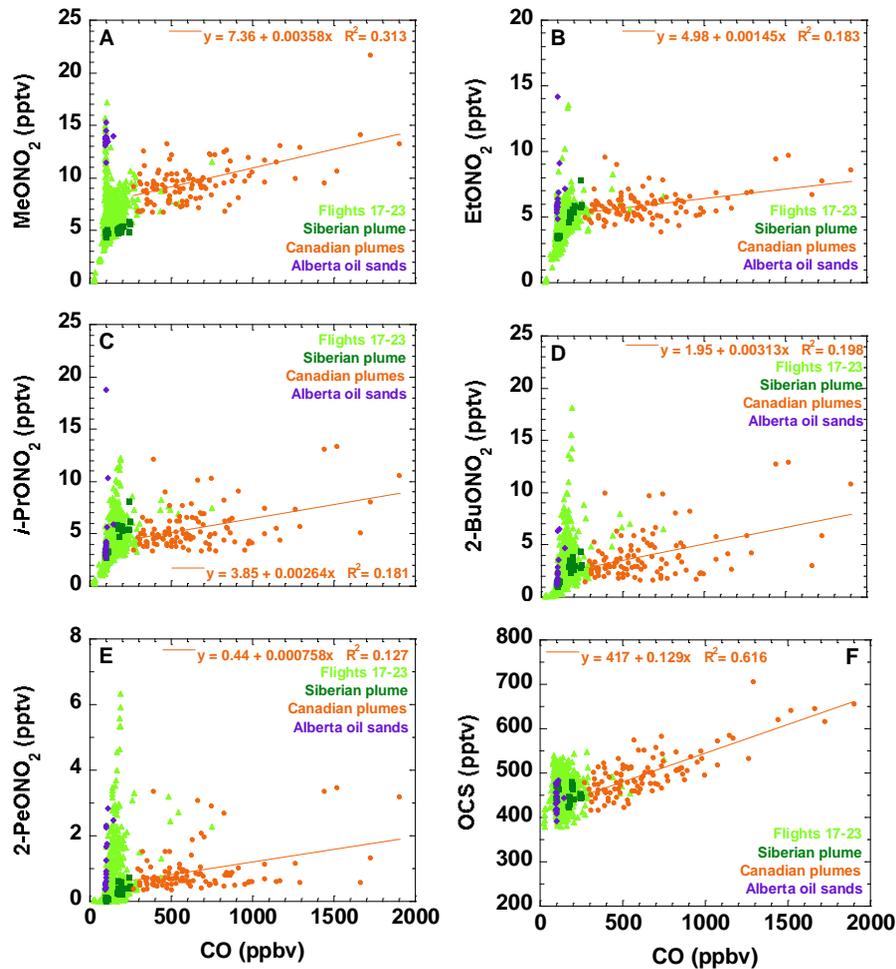


Fig. 9. As in Fig. 4 but for selected alkyl nitrates and OCS.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

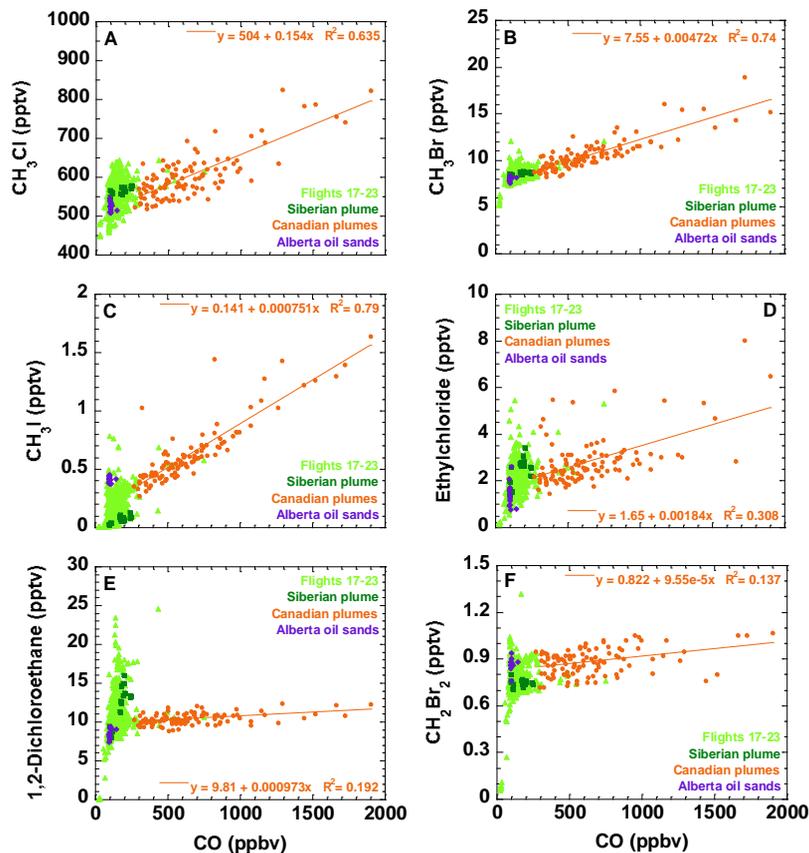


Fig. 10. As in Fig. 4 but for the six halocarbons that were released from the fires. Dibromomethane (CH_2Br_2) has been included despite high plume-to-plume variability (see text).

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

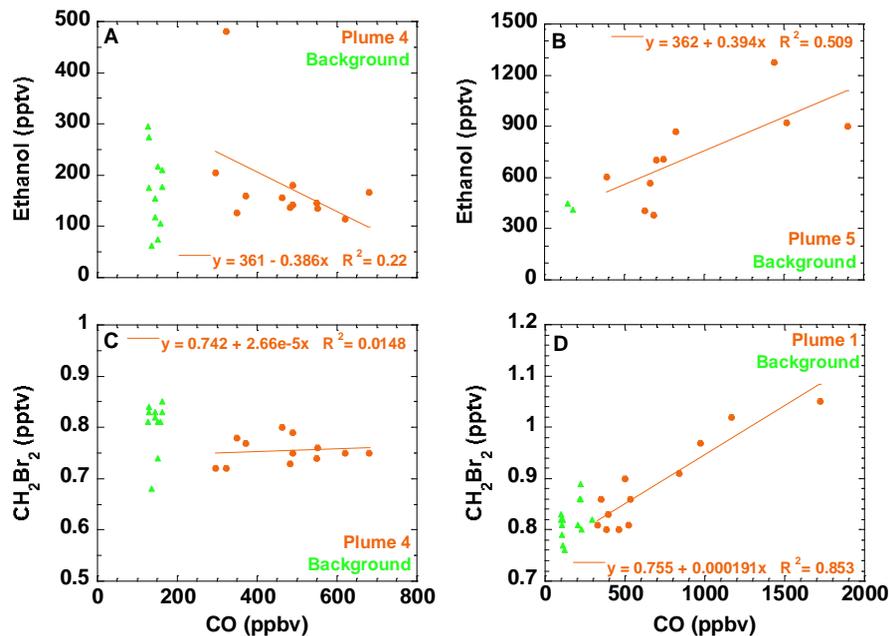


Fig. 11. Ethanol mixing ratios in (a) Plume 4 and (b) Plume 5, and CH_2Br_2 mixing ratios in (c) Plume 4 and (d) Plume 1, which shows their high plume-to-plume variability. Green triangles = background air; orange circles = smoke plumes.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

I◀

▶I

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



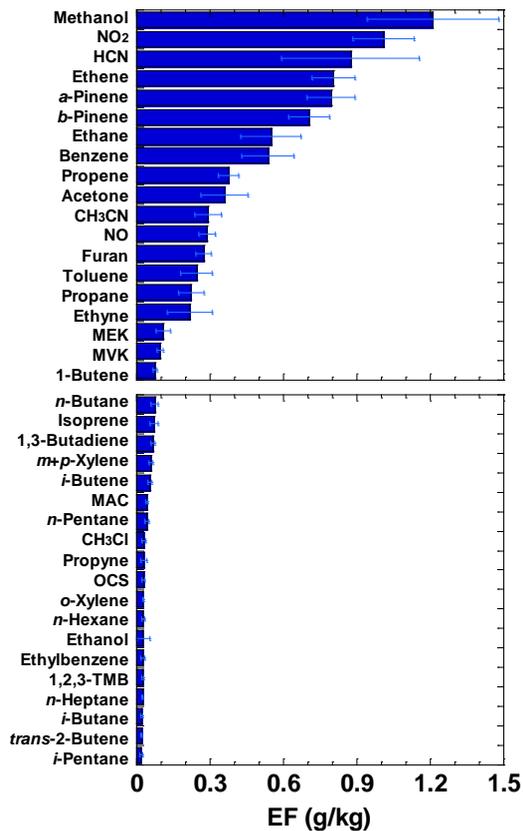


Fig. 12. Emission factors for NO₂, NO, HCN, CH₃CN, and the top 34 NMVOCs emitted from fresh Canadian boreal forest fires, excluding CH₂O. The results show the importance of light NMVOCs and the pinenes, and the co-emission of a wide range of compound classes from the fires.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

Title Page

Abstract Introduction

Conclusions References

Tables Figures

◀ ▶

◀ ▶

Back Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



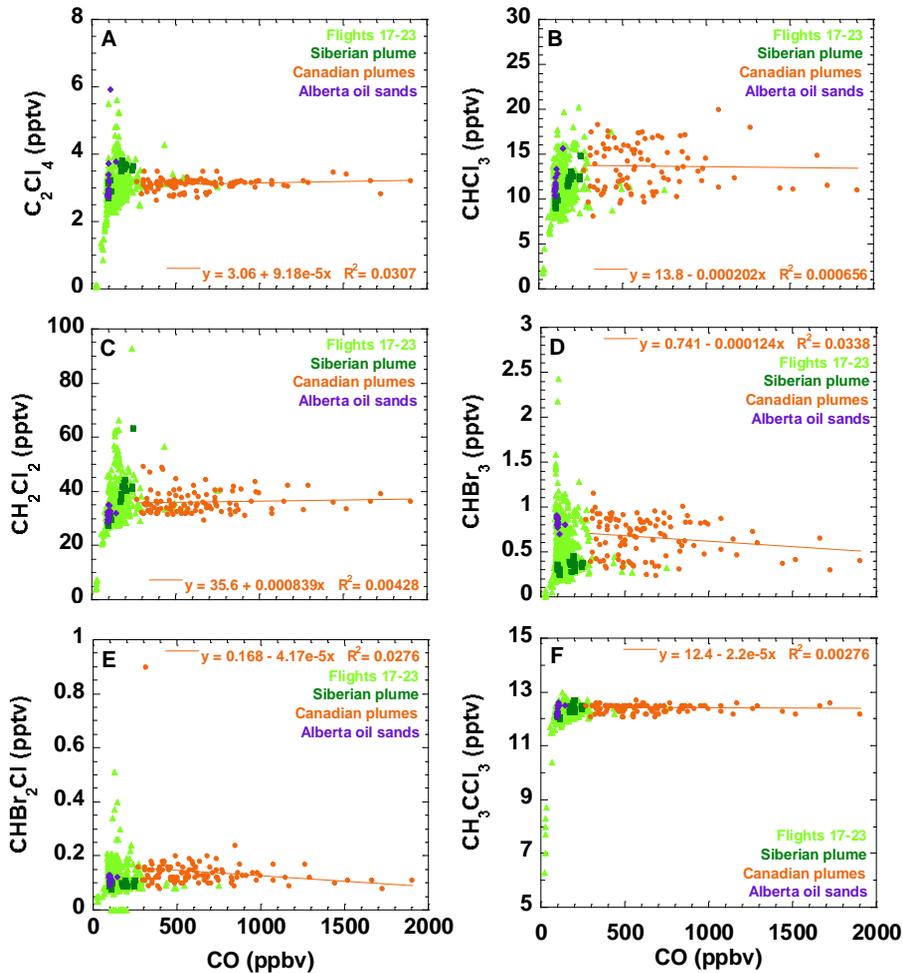


Fig. 13. As in Fig. 4 but for selected halocarbons that were not released from the fires.

Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

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



Boreal forest fire emissions

I. J. Simpson et al.

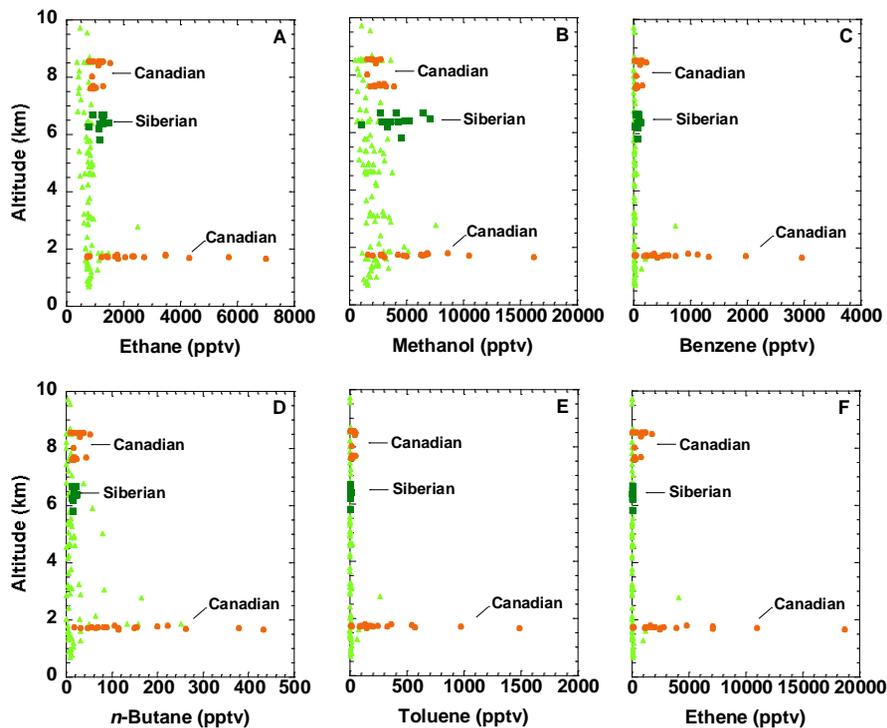


Fig. 14. Altitude profiles (lifetimes) of (a) ethane (47 d); (b) methanol (12 d); (c) benzene (9.5 d); (d) *n*-butane (4.9 d); (e) toluene (2.1 d); and (f) ethene (1.4 d) during Flight 17, showing encounters with Canadian (orange circles) and Siberian (dark green squares) smoke plumes.

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