

Interactive comment on “Exploring the atmospheric chemistry of nitrous acid (HONO) at a rural site in Southern China” by X. Li et al.

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The authors discuss in the introduction the possibility of HONO formation from excited NO₂ with H₂O, as reported by Li et al (2008).

Even though the authors exclude themselves this reaction as a major source of the observed HONO, we would point out our recent work showing clearly, that the observed OH radicals in the work of Li et al originate from a process involving at least 2 photons:

Direct observation of OH radicals after 565 nm multi-photon excitation of NO₂ in the presence of H₂O Chemical Physics Letters, Volume 513, Issues 1-3, 6 September 2011, Pages 12-16 Damien Amedro, Alexander E. Parker, Coralie Schoemaeker, Christa Fittschen

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Therefore this reaction is of no importance for the atmosphere.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 11, 27591, 2011.

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