

***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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Received and published: 15 October 2011

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

Therefore this reaction is of no importance for the atmosphere.

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

ACPD

11, C10430–C10431,
2011

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C10431

