1 **Daily and hourly chemical impact of springtime transboundary aerosols**

2 **on Japanese air quality**

good title

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16

17 **Abstract**

18 The regular eastward drift of transboundary aerosol intrusions from the Asian mainland

19 into the NW Pacific region has a pervasive impact on air quality in Japan, especially

20 during springtime. Analysis of 24-hour filter samples (ICP-AES and ICP-MS) and hourly

21 Streaker (PIXE) samples reveal the chemistry of successive waves of natural mineral

22 desert dust ("*Kosa*") and metalliferous sulphatic pollutants arriving in western Japan

23 during spring 2011. The main aerosol sources recognised by PMF analysis of Streaker

24 data are mineral dust and fresh sea salt (both mostly in the coarser fraction $PM_{2.5-10}$), As-

25 bearing sulphatic aerosol ($PM_{0.1-2.5}$), metalliferous sodic PM interpreted as aged,

26 industrially contaminated marine aerosol, and ZnCu-bearing traffic-related emissions.

27 Whereas mineral dust arrivals are typically highly transient, peaking over a few hours,

28 sulphatic intrusions build up and decline more slowly, and are accompanied by notable

29 rises in ambient concentrations of metallic trace elements such as Pb, As, Zn, Sn and Cd.

30 The magnitude of the loss in regional air quality due to the spread and persistence of

31 pollution from mainland Asia is especially clear when cleansing oceanic air advects

32 westward across Japan, removing the continental influence and reducing concentrations of

33 the ~~more~~ undesirable metalliferous pollutants by over 90%.

possibly local ←

? are they really cleaning, or simply dilute or displace the polluted air mass.

All the acronyms should be given in full first time used. ICP-AES, ICP-MS and PIXE[1] are well known; PMF and PM more obscure.

34

Keywords: Transboundary atmospheric pollution; Japan air quality; Arsenic, sulphatic aerosols.

37

1 Introduction

The spectacular growth of the Chinese economy in recent years has been accompanied by an equally impressive deterioration in regional air quality (Liu and Mauzerall, 2007; Ohara et al., 2007; Chan and Yao, 2008; Aikawa et al., 2010). The problem is on such a scale that a plume of particulate matter (PM) rich in secondary inorganic compounds (SIC) regularly contaminates millions of square kilometres across the NW Pacific region and beyond (Prospero et al., 2003; Liu et al., 2008; Fairlie et al., 2010; Moreno et al., 2012). The Japanese archipelago and the Korean Peninsula are especially affected by these transboundary aerosol intrusions. A common scenario is for stagnant anticyclonic conditions over central China concentrating pollutants which later become transported oceanward, sometimes mixing with Gobi desert dust blown in from the NW (Guo et al., 2004; Ma et al., 2004; Uno et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2004; Chung and Kim, 2008; Zhang et al., 2010; Takahashi et al., 2010). The exportation of the resulting aerosol cocktail (Fig. 1) is so frequent as to create in Japan what has been described as a "quasi-permanent" state of regional atmospheric pollution (Lasserre et al., 2008), and has led inevitably to concerns over possible health effects on the Japanese population (e.g. Ichinose et al., 2005; Ueda et al., 2010; Watanabe et al., 2010; Onishi et al., 2012). However there is still a relative paucity of detailed information published on the variations in chemical concentrations of the aerosols people are inhaling during these transboundary pollution events.

With the above observation in mind in 2010 we conducted a pilot campaign to analyse 24-hour PM_{10} filters collected during three transient transboundary pollution episodes crossing western Japan. Our results confirmed the pronounced bimodality and inhomogeneity between natural and anthropogenic PM in East Asian transboundary aerosol intrusions (Moreno et al., 2012). Furthermore, although the number of filters analysed was relatively small, it was nevertheless enough to demonstrate the highly metalliferous and chemically complex nature of sulphatic plumes arriving from industrial China. Such plumes drift across Japan, creating regional pollution clouds that dissipate only slowly due to the dominance of atmospherically persistent submicron accumulation

2

The MS would be better with a more detailed map of the collection site, showing coast, industry and nearby major roads.

67 mode PM. It was this aspect of the chemical data, rather than the already well-

68 characterised nature of the "natural" Gobi-desert derived *Kosa* intrusions, which seemed

69 to us in more urgent need of further study. In this context this ~~present~~ manuscript moves

70 forward by presenting a new database collected during a 6-week period of continuous

71 hourly and daily measurements in Kumamoto, SW Japan. The study adopts an unusually

72 multi-analytical approach by integrating results from Particle Induced X-ray Emission

73 (PIXE), Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry/Atomic Emission (ICPMS/AE)

74 spectroscopy, chromatography and thermal-optical transmission methods, allowing

75 comparison between hourly (Streaker) and 24-hour (filter) data. Such data are

76 unprecedented in the chemical detail they offer on Japanese air chemistry during

77 transboundary aerosol inflows.

78

2   Methodology

Samples

this really shows the regional situation

80 ~~Data~~ were obtained in March and April 2011 at the top of a nine-storey building within the

81 Kumamoto University precinct on the island of Kyushu in Western Japan (Fig. 1)

82 approximately midway between Tokyo (c. 1000km ENE) and Shanghai (c. 1000km

83 WSW). Kumamoto city is not impacted by any nearby heavy industrial point sources,

84 making it an excellent location to observe the arrival of transboundary aerosol intrusions.

85 The monitoring site can be classified as an urban background site influenced to some

86 extent by road traffic emissions from a city centre arterial road 1400 m to the west and a

87 minor two-lane road crossing the University area.

see comment above

88 We measured hourly element concentrations continuously from 17th March to 28th April

89 using a Streaker sampler collecting hourly aerosol samples in two size ranges (0.1-2.5 μm

90 and 2.5-10 μm) at an air flow rate of 1 lmin^{-1} that were then analyzed by Particle Induced

91 X-Ray Emission (PIXE, see Lucarelli et al., 2011 for details) at the LABEC-INFN facility

92 in Florence (based on a 3 MV Tandetron accelerator, where an external beam set-up is

93 fully dedicated to atmospheric aerosol studies. For daily samples we used a SIBATA HV-

94 1000F high volume PM sampler (60 m^{3}h^{-1}) which excluded particles larger than 10 μm, *this collected*

95 ~~obtained~~ 24 hr filter samples from 22nd March until 28th April (from 12:00 pm local time).

96 Quartz fibre filters (ADVANTEC QR-100) were conditioned (30-40% relative humidity

97 over 48h) and weighed before and after sampling to determine 24h PM$_{10}$ concentrations

98 by standard gravimetric procedures. Once the gravimetric determination was performed

99 the filters were treated and analysed for the determination of the chemical composition of

PM$_{10}$. One quarter of each filter was acid digested (HF:HNO$_3$:HClO$_4$, with a mixture of 2.5:1.25:1.25 ml, kept at 90°C in a Teflon reactor during 6h, driven to dryness and re-dissolved with 1.25 ml HNO$_3$ to make up a volume of 25 ml with water) for the chemical analysis using ICP-AES and ICP-MS. To assure the quality of the analytical procedure 5 mg of the NIST-1633b (fly ash) reference material loaded on a ¼ quartz micro-fibre filter were also analysed. Detection limit and accuracy of the techniques were estimated as 0.18 ngm^{-3} and 1-3% respectively for ICP-AES, and 0.007 ngm^{-3} and 0-7% respectively for ICP-MS. The detection limits for Zr and Hf are higher (0.05 ngm^{-3}). Another ¼ of each filter was water leached (6h at 60°C, preceded by incubation in an ultrasound bath for 10 minutes, in 50 ml sealed PVC bottles) for the determination of soluble ion concentrations by ion chromatography (sulphate, nitrate and chloride) and ion selective electrode (ammonium), allowing an average detection limit for the analysed components of 25-30 ngm^{-3}. A portion (1.5 cm^2) of the remaining half of each filter was also used for the determination of organic and elemental carbon (OC and EC, respectively) by a thermal–optical transmission technique (Birch and Cary, 1996) using a Sunset Laboratory OC-EC Analyser with the EUSAAR-2 standard temperature programme. The accuracy of the equipment is in the rage of 5-10%, depending on the relative quantities of OC and EC on the filter, and the detection limit 0.2 μgm^{-3} for both OC and EC. The sum OC+EC is C$_{total}$. The OM+EC (organic matter plus elemental carbon) value was obtained after applying a 1.6 factor to the OC concentrations (Turpin et al., 2000).

SiO$_2$ and CO$_3^{2-}$ were indirectly determined on the basis of empirical factors (Al*1.89= Al$_2$O$_3$, 3*Al$_2$O$_3$=SiO$_2$ and 1.5*Ca+ 2.5*Mg=CO$_3^{2-}$, see Querol et al., 2001). Blank field filters were used for every stock purchased for sampling and analysed in the same batches of their respective filter samples. The corresponding blank concentrations were subtracted from each sample.

A Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF, Paatero and Tapper, 1994) was performed on the two data matrices of concentrations and uncertainties of hourly Streaker samples values. This provides a reliable estimation of the main sources contributing to the measured PM by weighting each data point by its analytical uncertainty and solving the following equation:

$$X_{ij} = \sum_{h=1}^{p} g_{ih} f_{hj} + e_{ij} \qquad (1)$$

needs a bit more maybe?
How reliable?

4

131 The model uses the least squares method where the indices i, j and h refer to the number of

132 samples, chemical components and factors respectively, while the matrices x, g and f refer

133 to the concentration data, factor contribution (or factor scores) and factor profiles (or

134 factor loading), respectively. The matrix e is the matrix of residuals defined as:

135
$$e_{ij} = x_{ij} - \sum_{h=1}^{p} g_{ih} f_{hj} \qquad (2)$$

136 The matrices g and f are found by minimizing the loss function Q defined as the sum of

137 the squared residuals weighted by the uncertainty u_{ij} associated with the each data point:

138
$$Q = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \left[\frac{e_{ij}}{u_{ij}} \right]^2 \qquad (3)$$

139 Individual estimates of the concentration errors were calculated following the

140 methodology described by Amato et al. (2009). The uncertainty estimate provides a basis

141 to separate species which retain a significant signal from the ones dominated by noise.

142 This principle is based on the signal-to-noise S/N ratio described by Paatero and Hopke

143 (2003). However, due to the sensibility of S/N to sporadic values much higher than the

144 level of noise, the percentage of data above detection limit (ADL) was used as

145 complementary criterion. Given the relatively low number of samples, species were

146 selected to perform the source apportionment study. The selection was based on the Signal

147 to Noise (S/N) ratio and % of data above detection limit criteria (Amato et al., 2009).

148 The transport pathways of air-masses into the Kumamoto area during the monitoring

149 period were assessed using the HYSPLIT-model (Draxler and Rolph, 2003), with

150 vertically modelled transport back-trajectories being calculated for 5 days at 750, 1500

151 and 2500 m a.s.l. In addition dust and sulphate maps forecasted by the Chemical Weather

152 Forecasting System (CFORS) were obtained from the website of the National Institute for

153 Environmental Studies (http://www-cfors.nies.go.jp/~cfors/) from 24th March onwards

154 (before this date the system had been disrupted by the Great Eastern Japan earthquake on

155 11th March). CFORS numerically calculates distributions of Asian dust and anthropogenic

156 sulphate aerosols every three hours, the results being uploaded on the website every day

157 (Uno et al., 2003; Satake et al., 2004), and is widely referred to as a source of real-time

158 information on movements of dust and pollution plumes over Asia. Finally, weather

159 conditions (wind velocity and direction, precipitation, relative humidity and ambient

160 temperature) were obtained from the Kumamoto Meteorological Observatory, located

161 about 2 km west of the sampling site.

162

3 Results

164 Our PMF analysis of the Streaker coarse fraction ($PM_{2.5-10}$) data allows us to detect 4 main

165 source factors (Fig. 2a) which are: 1. **Mineral dust** with major elements Si, Al, Ca, Fe, K,

166 Mg and a range of trace elements that includes several metals such as Ti, Mn, Cu ; 2.

167 **Metalliferous sodic aerosol**, accounting for 55% of Na and significant proportions of S,

168 Mg, Ca, Cu, Zn and Sr; 3. **Fresh marine aerosol**, explaining almost 90% of Cl

169 concentrations and including also Na and smaller amounts of Mg; 4. **ZnCu aerosol**

170 attributed to traffic emissions and associated with mineral elements (Si, Al, Mg, Ca, K, Ti)

171 related to dust resuspension processes.

172 With regard to the fine aerosol fraction ($PM_{0.1-2.5}$) once again the best PMF solution is

173 obtained with 4 factors (Fig. 2b), although with distinct differences from those of the

174 coarser fraction: 1. **As- bearing Sulphatic aerosol**, dominated by S and As but also with

175 smaller amounts of many other elements (K, Se, Sr, Ti, Mn, Fe, Zn) ; 2. **Metalliferous**

176 **sodic aerosol**, which in this size fraction accounts for >80% of Na, associated with Se, Sr,

177 Mg, Cu, Ca and S; 3. **Mineral dust**, including Al (Si not analysed), Ca, Fe, K, and Mg; 4.

178 **Zn-Cu aerosol** again attributed mostly to traffic and explaining most of Zn and Cu (as

179 seen in the coarse fraction), but also associated with Mn, K, Se, Fe, S and Sr suggesting a

180 more mixed source for this very fine metalliferous component.

181 The chemical results for the 37 PM_{10} filter samples reveal considerable daily variation in

182 PM concentrations. The full analyses are provided in Supplementary Information

183 Appendix on Table S1 but a selected sample group representing the main chemical

184 variation is provided in Table 1. The ICP-AES and MS database confirms predictions

185 made by CFORS and HYSPLIT data and identifies two extended periods when

186 transboundary sulphatic air pollution was most prominent (28th March-3rd April and 9-18th

187 April), separated by a cleansing episode induced by the advection of oceanic air across

188 Japan. Levels of nss-SO_4^{2-} rose to peaks exceeding 15 μgm^{-3} during the two pollution

189 events (samples 290311, 150411 and 170411 on Table 1), but fell to a minimum of <2

190 μgm^{-3} during the intervening clean period (040411 and 190411 Table 1). The data also

191 indicate the presence of elevated levels of mineral dust in several samples (e.g. 220311,

192 280311, 090411, 100411, 210411 Table 1), recorded by increased concentrations of

193 typically "geological" major elements such as Al, Ca, Fe. Levels of Ti, a reliable tracer for

194 mineral dust, rise above 55 ngm^{-3} during these *Kosa* events (Table 1).

6

195   The Streaker data are summarized in Fig. 3a-d and also clearly identify the two main

196   pollution episodes (280311-030411 and 09-180411) separated by a phase of oceanic

197   advection. Increased levels of fine sulphate (represented by S $PM_{0.1-2.5}$ on Fig. 3a) are

198   typically accompanied by higher concentrations of the more toxic metallic elements (e.g.

199   Pb, As on Fig. 3b). A somewhat contrasting pattern of fluctuations in the natural mineral

200   dust component is represented by concentrations of Al and Ca (hourly Streaker data)

201   plotted in Fig. 3c, revealing a series of transient peaks of these crustal elements as waves

202   of Gobi dust crossed Kyushu during the 6-week sampling period. With reference to Fig. 3

203   we now consider these air quality events in more detail by subdividing the results from the

204   sampling period into five distinct phases.

205

206 **3.1 Phase 1: 17-27 March**

207   The first 10 days of the Streaker campaign (and 6 days of the filter sampling campaign)

208   were characterized by NW winds feeding in transient and relatively dilute waves of

209   aerosols from the Asian mainland (both Gobi desert dust and Chinese industrial

210   pollutants) clockwise around anticyclones moving east from central China. Meteorological

211   conditions did not favour the stagnation and concentration of anthropogenic pollutants in

212   central China so the amount of atmospheric particulates entering Japan was not

213   exceptional and PM levels stayed below 40 μgm^{-3}, with both nss-SO_4^{2-} and NO_3^-

214   concentrations being confined to a narrow range (3-6 μgm^{-3}). The amounts of mineral dust

215   fluctuated between 5-14 μgm^{-3} depending on the timing of the arrival of Gobi intrusions.

216   Whereas the first desert dust event recorded (19th March) was relatively uncontaminated,

217   later peaks (filter samples 220311, 240311 Table 1) coincide with peaks in $S_{0.1-2.5}$ (Fig. 3a,

218   c) and so show elevated concentrations of both crustal and SIC ($SO_4^{2-}+NO_3^-+ NH_4^+>10 \mu$

219   ngm^{-3}). The cleanest conditions were produced by rainfall (afternoon of 20th March), and

220   five short-lived NaCl hourly peaks occurred during periods of increased wind speed

221   blowing sea spray into the island (Fig. 3d). The passing waves of aerosols arriving into

222   Kyushu from offshore were interspersed with periods of light winds and low temperatures

223   when traffic-derived local pollutants in Kumamoto took precedence over transboundary

224   PM intrusions. Such conditions favoured high NO_3^- relative to SO_4^{2-} and concentration

225   spikes in several metals (Cr, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Sb) and C which we attribute to traffic

226   emissions (the best example being 240311 Table 1).

227

228 **3.2 Phase 2: 28 March – 3 April**

229 The air quality data from this period track a major sulphatic transboundary intrusion event

230 driven by an anticyclone initially persisting in east central China then moving east,

231 dragging the pollution plume oceanward to cover Japan and much of the NW Pacific (Fig.

232 1). Kyushu was constantly visited by this vast, recirculating plume of dispersing pollutants

233 as it waxed and waned across the region, raising peak daily average PM_{10} concentrations

234 at Kumamoto to 66 μgm^{-3} (Sample 290311 Table 1). Most of the increase in ambient PM

235 is due to an important sharp rise in SIC (from <10 μgm^{-3} to >20 μgm^{-3}), but on some days

236 there were also increases in Gobi desert dust as cold high level air sourced from Mongolia

237 raised daily mineral dust levels back above 10 μgm^{-3} (Fig. 3c, sample 280311 Table 1).

238 Streaker data demonstrate these *Kosa* peaks to have been highly transient in nature, rising

239 and falling over half a day or less (Fig. 3c). In contrast, metalliferous sulphatic pollutants

240 build up more gradually to successive peaks which tend to arrive slightly later than the

241 "mineral dust" peak, and linger in the atmosphere as fine grained, atmospherically

242 persistent particles (Fig. 3b). Another chemical characteristic of this phase is relatively

243 high levels of NO_3^- which over the first four days rise above 8.0 μgm^{-3}. Such

244 concentrations are attributed to the mixing of cold, humid air with industrial pollutants,

245 inhibiting thermal dissociation of ammonium nitrate and so favouring high levels of

246 particulate NH_4NO_3 which attained a campaign maximum on 29-30th March (see NO_3^- and

247 NH_4^+ levels of sample 290311 on Table 1) when rainy conditions in Kumamoto were

248 accompanied by poor visibility and average temperatures remained below 10°C. From the

249 following day onwards during the campaign average daily temperatures were to rise into

250 double figures and such elevated levels of NO_3^- were not recorded again.

251

252 **3.3 Phase 3: 3-8 April**

253 There is a complete change in air quality as winds rotate clockwise away from the Asian

254 mainland, sourcing firstly from the NE (Sea of Japan: 3-5th April) then progressively from

255 the SE and S (Pacific Ocean: 6-8th April). The advection of marine air across Kyushu

256 results in a series of NaCl peaks recorded by the Streaker data, building up eventually to

257 the most prominent in response to the influence of a warm, rapidly moving airstream from

258 the open ocean to the south (Fig. 3d, peak on 8th April; sample 080411 Table 1). Under

259 these conditions of cleansing marine air advection there is a fall in ambient PM_{10} levels to

260 around 20 μgm^{-3} (samples 060411 and 070411, Table S1), and levels of contaminants C_t,

261 NO_3^-, SO_4^{2-}, NH_4^+, Sc, V, Ni, Cu, As, Cd, Sn, Pb, and Bi all decline to a campaign

262 minimum. In fact, by the end of this phase, concentrations of the most toxic elements such

8

use the equation or name not both together

does the rainfall also increase during this period?

263   as Pb, Bi, As, and Cd are a mere 5-8% of their maxima reached during Phase 2 the

264   previous week. Ambient levels of mineral dust are subdued to within the narrow range of

265   5-8 μgm^{-3}, with the exception of a transient peak on 7th April (Fig. 3c) which we attribute

266   to a local resuspension event under unusually strong afternoon winds (6 ms^{-1}).

267

268   **3.4 Phase 4: 8-19 April**

269   The next phase begins as a repeat performance of Phase 2, with anticyclonic conditions

270   once again favouring atmospheric stagnation and the concentration of anthropogenic

271   pollutants over a wide area across the Chinese central lowlands from Wuhan to Shanghai

272   and Qingdao. This pollution plume is invaded from the NW by a Gobi desert dust

273   intrusion and both masses move eastward into the Yellow Sea. Over the first 3 days (8-

274   10th April) the anticyclone moves east across Japan, replacing initially rainy overcast

275   conditions with dry bright hazy conditions under light winds as the contaminating

276   transboundary pollution plume (both dust and SIC) rotates clockwise around the eastward

277   drifting anticyclone. The southern edge of the SO_4^{2-} plume, still relatively dilute, arrives in

278   Kyushu on the afternoon of 8th April (Fig. 3a), followed that evening by Gobi dust which

279   peaks the following midday (Fig. 3c). This is the biggest *Kosa* event in the campaign

280   (sample 090411 Table 1, 45 $\mu gPM_{10}m^{-3}$) and is followed by further mineral dust peaks

281   over the next two days (Fig. 3c) as the dust intrusion recirculates over Kyushu producing

282   campaign maxima in Ca, Al, Fe, K, Mg, Li, Be, Sc, Ti, Mn, Co, Rb, Sr, REE, Ta, U

283   (samples 090411, 100411 Table 1). Sulphur $PM_{0.1-2.5}$ recorded by the Streaker also peaks

284   at midday 9th April but then does not decline significantly (unlike the mineral dust), rising

285   later to a final peak on 11th April (Fig. 3a) in response to a new wave of pollutants brought

286   in by a second anticyclone once again moving eastward from central China. By this time

287   virtually the whole of Japan has been covered with the mixed sulphatic+mineral dust

288   plume.

289   The effect of the new anticyclonic ridge building out from central China was not only to

290   add new contaminants to the system, but also to disperse the existing plume even more

291   widely over the W Pacific region, creating a vast recirculating mass of contaminants, some

292   of which arrive back into their original source area on the mainland. Kyushu lay in a

293   central but relatively dilute part of this huge pollution plume, experiencing only minor

294   insults to air quality (around 12th April, Fig. 3) until a more concentrated band of the same

295   mixed aerosol mass was pushed back into the island. Under these conditions on 13-14th

296 April there was a repeat of events 3 days earlier, with mineral dust and metalliferous $S_{0.1-2.5}$

297 PM attaining new peaks (Figs. 3a, c).

298 The final part of this prolonged regional pollution event was especially interesting.

299 Whereas all previous arrivals of SIC contaminants had travelled out from China via a NW

300 corridor typically involving transport over the Yellow Sea, by 15th April a concentrated

301 wave of industrial pollutants was travelling directly east from the Shanghai coast into

302 western Japan. This fresh new wave of transboundary aerosols produced the most

303 pronounced pollution event during the campaign (18 $\mu gSO_4^{2-}m^{-3}$). Beginning with the

304 arrival around midnight on 15th April of a brief peak of aluminous dust accompanied by

305 SIC (Figs. 3a, c), levels of anthropogenic contaminants were to hit new maxima on the

306 16th and 17th April (Fig. 3b; samples 150411, 160411, 170411 Table 1). The trace element

307 content accompanying this sulphatic and carbonaceous aerosol intrusion is again very

308 metalliferous (high V, Cd, Sn, Bi, K, Pb, Sb, As, Zn, W) but the chemical mix is subtly

309 different from those recorded previously, with unusually high levels of total carbon, V,

310 Cd, Sn and differences in element ratios (e.g. higher As/Se). This multiple pollution event

311 was finally terminated on the evening of 18th April with the arrival of strong, clean NNW

312 winds carrying enough sea spray to mark a marine event (Fig. 3d).

313

314 **3.5 Phase 5: 19-28 April**

315 The northerly advection event which swept the Phase 4 pollution plume south of Japan

316 during 18-19th April was initially accompanied by an uncontaminated *Kosa* event which

317 briefly raised crustal dust levels as SIC concentrations continued to fall rapidly (compare

318 Figs. 3a and 3c, 18th April). The following day, still dominated by a strong northerly

319 Russian airflow moving into Kyushu via the Korean Peninsula and Sea of Japan, provided

320 the cleanest 24h filter of the entire sampling campaign, with PM_{10} levels dropping to 18.6

321 μgm^{-3}, mineral dust to 3 μgm^{-3} and SIC to 4 μgm^{-3} (sample 190411 Table 1). However

322 this rapid and thorough atmospheric cleansing event provided only brief respite from the

323 Chinese pollution plume, which continued to recirculate widely across the NW Pacific and

324 returned into Japan on 20th April. For the remainder of the campaign this diluted but

325 persistent SO_4^{2-} haze recirculated over Japan, occasionally supplemented by influxes of

326 fresh mainland contaminants and Gobi dust to produce several minor $S_{0.1-2.5}$ and $Al_{2.5-10}$

327 peaks (Fig. 3a and 3c; sample 240411 Table 1). Comparison between the coarser and finer

328 PM fractions in the Streaker data indicate an increase in the coarser sulphate particles

[handwritten margin note: Any signal in the S. The more northern Chinese coals tend to have more pyrite than northern coals?]

10

329 ($S_{PM0.1-2.5/PM2.5-10}$ drops from 20.4 in Phase 4 to 9.9 in Phase 5), suggesting a relative

330 coarsening by coagulation and chemical interaction of PM with gaseous precursors with

331 time as the regional pollution plume ages and persists across the NW Pacific region (Fig.

332 3a).

333

334 **4 Discussion and conclusions**

335 The chemical data summarized in this paper allow us to view both hourly and daily

336 fluctuations in transboundary aerosols affecting Japanese ambient air quality over a 6-

337 week period in spring, and provide a clearer idea of the reality of what people are inhaling

338 at that time of the year. The PMF analysis of Streaker hourly data confirm that natural PM

339 dominate in the coarser PM fraction ($PM_{2.5-10}$), with continental mineral dust dominant

340 over fresh marine aerosol. In the finer fraction ($PM_{0.1-2.5}$) however the mineral dust is

341 much less abundant and instead the dominant component is As-bearing sulphatic aerosol.

342 The metalliferous sodic PM component recognised in both size fractions is suggested to

343 represent dechlorinated, sulphate-enriched aged sea salt aerosols contaminated by

344 industrial emissions during long-distance transport.

345 No extreme *Kosa* events (when average daily PM_{10} concentrations in Japan can rise

346 dramatically to well above 100 μgm^{-3}) were recorded during the campaign, but instead our

347 sampling interval was typical of what these days may be considered normal springtime

348 conditions. Under such conditions prevailing NW winds bring frequent but normally brief

349 intrusions of Gobi dust into western Japan so that during the combined 4-week period of

350 phases 1, 2 and 5 our data recorded nine such "natural" events when concentrations of Al

351 exceeded 1 μgm^{-3} (Fig. 3c) for a few hours. A notably heavier loading of mineral dust

352 occurred during the pollution episode of Phase 4, but even here the peaks remained highly

353 transient, with concentrations of Al rising from around 1 $\mu g/m^3$ to double or triple over 2

354 or 3 hours but then falling back equally rapidly. In contrast the anthropogenic component

355 of suspended particulate matter in the atmosphere usually builds up more slowly and does

356 not fully decline as rapidly as the mineral dust. Once $S_{0.1-2.5}$ levels rose above 2 μgm^{-3}

357 during the pollution episodes of Phases 2 and 4 they stayed high, reflecting the

358 atmospherically persistent nature of this extremely fine sulphatic PM. The same behaviour

359 can be seen in the metalliferous components, well displayed by Pb, Zn, Sn and As on Figs.

360 3a-b which consistently correlate more with the sulphatic component than with the natural

361 mineral dust.

11

362 It is clear that transboundary aerosol intrusions arriving into Japan are chemically

363 inhomogeneous. As we have observed in our precursor pilot study of *Kosa* events in

364 Kyushu, some waves of Gobi dust are more calcareous than others, presumably depending

365 on their geological source area (Yuan et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2005; Shao et al., 2008;

366 Moreno et al., 2012). The Streaker data reinforce this observation of natural chemical

367 variables in transboundary events, with later mineral dust peaks in phases 4 and 5

368 registering as more aluminous than earlier, more calcareous ones (Fig. 3c). Furthermore,

369 our data reveal distinct differences in the chemical signature of the Asiatic mainland

370 pollution plume, even after a journey of around 1000 km or more from source. The best

371 example is provided by the unusually high levels of SO_4^{2-}, V, Cd, Sn, Bi, Cu, As, Sb, and

372 Pb in response to the arrival of pollution directly from East China into Kyushu on 15th

373 April. Yet another confounding factor for those trying to determine the possible health

374 effects of transboundary aerosols is the way peak concentration arrivals of mineral dust

375 are commonly not synchronous with anthropogenic pollution peaks. A good example of

376 this is provided by Phase 4 when the initial arrival of a *Kosa* PM wave was accompanied

377 by a much slower buildup to a sulphate peak (Figs. 3a and c). Indeed, the high levels of

378 natural dust at the beginning of Phase 4 contrast greatly with the later peaks in

379 anthropogenic contaminants as the sulphatic plume was repeatedly recharged by

380 mainland-sourced pollution without any additional influence of Gobi desert dust. Finally,

381 while still on the theme of chemical variation within the East Asian pollution plume, our

382 data show considerable differences in ambient PM nitrate concentration (from 1 to 16

383 μgm^{-3}), depending not just on local *versus* exotic sources but also on temperature

384 controlling the volatility of atmospheric ammonium nitrate.

385 The magnitude of the loss in air quality over Japan due to the 21st century spread of the

386 mainland Asiatic pollution plume is emphasized by our Phase 3 record of 5 days when

387 winds brought air from the oceanic rather than continental sector. As the origin of these

388 winds crossing SW Japan rotated clockwise from north to east to south we see proof of

389 how little regional industrial air pollution these days originates from the Japanese

390 archipelago. The arrival of contaminated air masses from mainland Asia is forecasted

391 daily by the Chemical Weather Forecasting System (CFORS) which numerically

392 calculates distributions of Asian dust and anthropogenic sulphate aerosols every three

393 hours, the results being uploaded on the website every day (http://www-

394 cfors.nies.go.jp/~cfors/). Average levels of anthropogenic pollutants elements fall

395   abruptly, in some cases by >90%, as the continental source is removed. This is especially

396   true of the most undesirable pollutants: Pb from >60 to 3 ngm^{-3}, As from 6 to 0.3 ngm^{-3}, Cd

397   from 1.1 to 0.09 ngm^{-3}. Things, of course, were not always this way, with extreme levels of

398   Japanese air pollution accompanying rapid industrialization in the mid 1950s to mid-

399   1960s, leading to the introduction of the Basic Law for Environmental Pollution Control

400   in 1967 (Kawamoto et al., 2011). The modern problem in Japan thus has to be placed in

401   perspective, and is clearly less severe than impacts on air quality in many parts of urban

402   China (Kan et al., 2007; Okuda et al., 2008; Zhao et al., 2008; Saikawa et al., 2009; Zheng

403   et al., 2011). However, even given the more dilute character of the transboundary plumes

404   reaching neighbouring receptor countries, their atmospheric persistence and highly

405   respirable nature create reasonable cause for concern. Much of this concern has focussed

406   more on the pulmonary toxicity and corresponding acute effects of PM inhalation,

407   especially on asthmatic patients (e.g. Ichinose et al., 2005; Ueda et al., 2010; Watanabe et

408   al., 2010), or on the potential transport of active bioaerosols between countries (e.g. Chen

409   et al., 2010). However, a greater health problem is more likely to be related to premature

410   deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases resulting from long-term exposure to

411   elevated levels of atmospherically persistent, respirable, metalliferous PM (Chan et al.,

412   2008; Liu et al., 2009). Our 6-week continuous database from Kumamoto demonstrates

413   the constantly changing chemical complexity of this pernicious problem.

414

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423   **References**

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Figure and table captions

Figure 1. Location map overviewing the area affected by the transboundary expulsion of anthropogenic aerosols from China into the NW pacific region. Arrows depict typical atmospheric circulation patterns driving the pollution eastward out from the mainland, in this case by an anticyclone centred near Shanghai during the sampling period at the end of March 2011 (based on CFORS, a database widely referred to as a source of real-time information on movements of dust and pollution plumes over Asia: http://www-cfors.nies.go.jp/~cfors/). The monitoring site in Kumamoto lies on the island of Kyushu in SW Japan, in the area most frequently visited by transboundary PM outflows from the mainland. The main source areas of springtime desert dust intrusions into the area are also shown (Wang et al., 2004).

Figure 2. Chemical profile for each factor identified by Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) for hourly Streaker samples showing concentration histograms and the explained variation for each element.

Figure 3. Hourly selected elemental concentrations (ng/m^3) obtained with the Streaker sampler for the five air quality phases identified during the monitoring campaign, with coloured bands highlighting main episodes of continental pollution and advection of salty marine air across Kumamoto. Fig. **3a** shows both coarse ($PM_{2.5-10}$) and fine ($PM_{0.1-2.5}$) sulphatic aerosol intrusions. Whereas the finer fraction of these aerosols is always dominant (compare different scales), there is a clear tendency towards coarsening as the pollution plume introduced during Phase 4 is briefly forced south by northerly winds but brought back to age and recirculate over Japan during Phase 5. Fig. **3b** uses Pb and As hourly concentrations to illustrate how toxic metallic aerosols accompany the sulphatic intrusions. Fig. **3c** uses hourly concentrations of Al and Ca to reveal the rise and fall of Gobi desert PM introduced by NW winds crossing NE China and therefore usually mixed to some extent with anthropogenic pollutants. Fig **3d** uses hourly concentrations of Na and Cl to identify marine aerosol episodes, with Phase 1 recording several transient periods of strong NW winds accompanied by Gobi dust and sea spray sourced from the Yellow Sea, whereas Phase 3 shows a prolonged period of atmospheric cleansing under non-continental winds sourcing initially from the Sea of Japan and then from the Pacific Ocean.

575

576

577 Table 1. Daily, average, maximum, and standard deviation values for elemental

578 concentrations analysed in selected PM_{10} gravimetric filters collected in Kumamoto

579 March-April 2010 (see text for details), including average values for the full dataset from

580 22 March to 28 April. Each sample bears the date when 24-hour sampling started at

581 midday and therefore includes the first half of the following day. PM and major element

582 concentrations are in $\mu g/m^3$, trace elemental concentrations in ng/m^3. Mineral=CO_3^{2-}

583 +SiO_2+Al_2O_3+Ca+Fe+K+Mg; OM+EC= Organic matter + elemental carbon;

584 SIC=NH_4^++NO_3^-+SO_4^{2-}; Marine=Na+Cl.

585
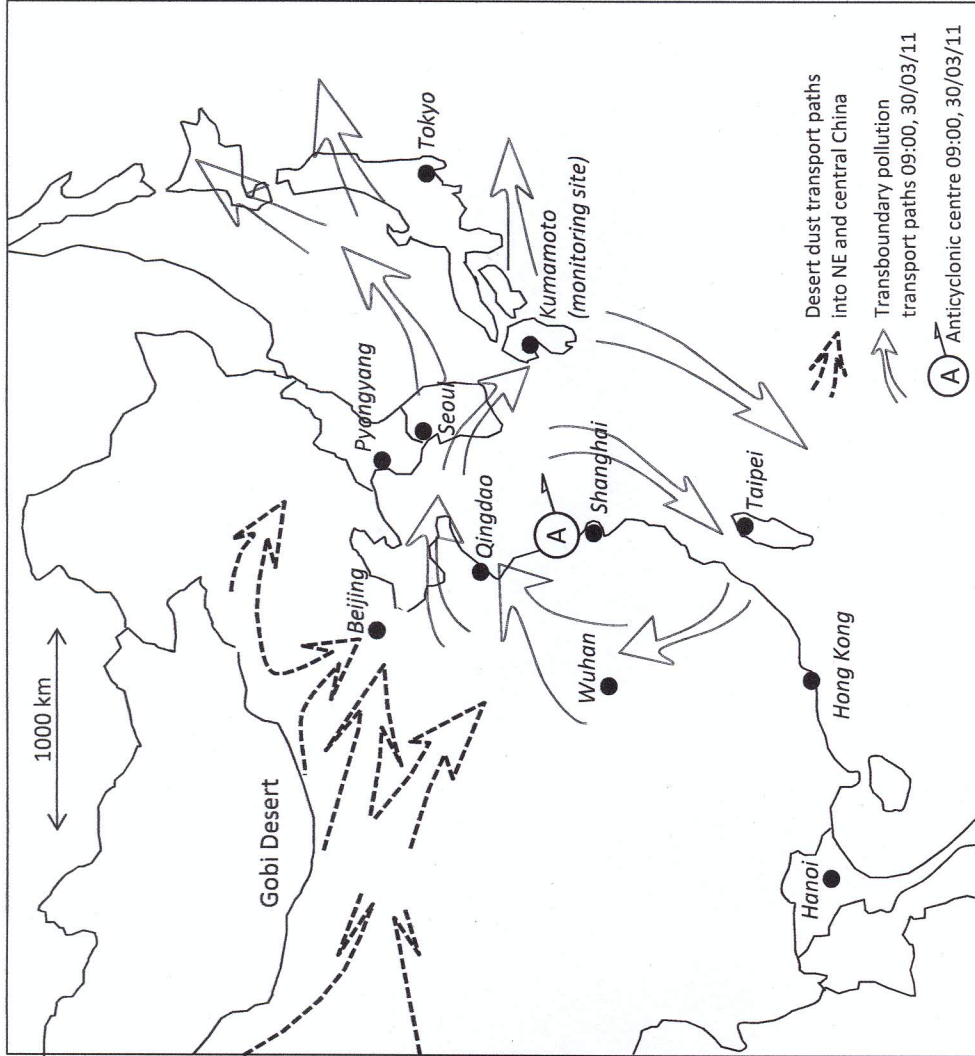
Fig. 1

A bit too
abstract?
Could the land
masses have a
gentle shading?

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Table 1
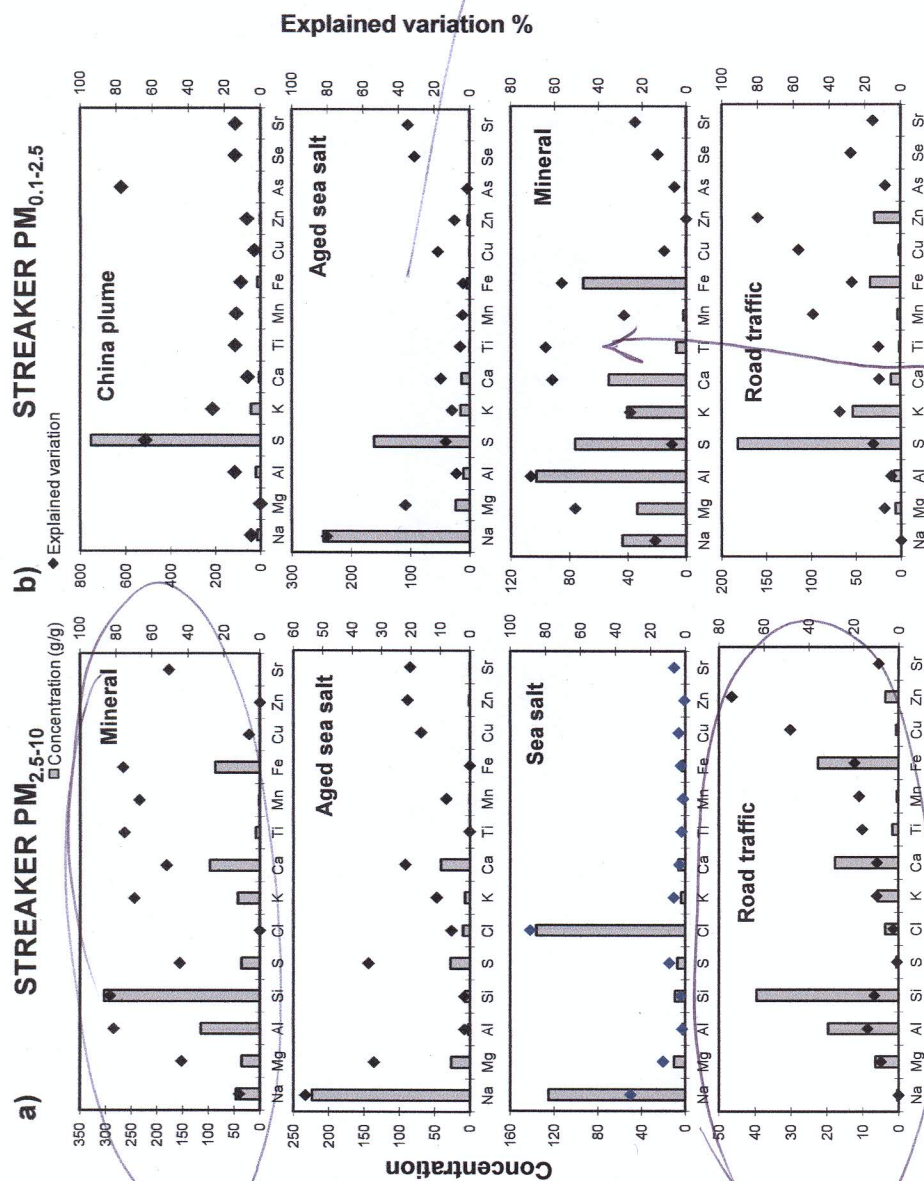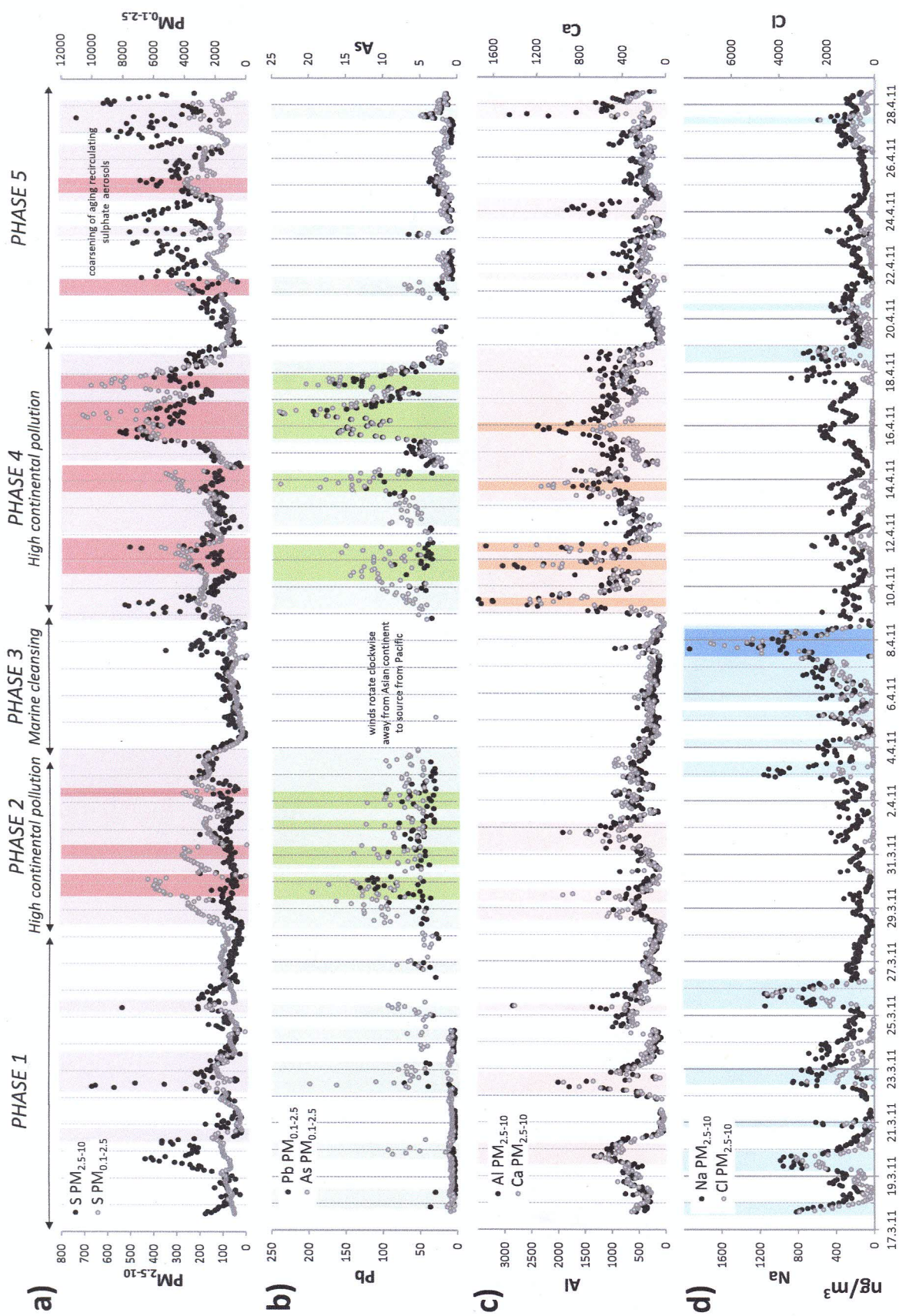
Date	220311	230311	240311	280311	280311	040411	080411	090411	100411	150411	160411	170411	190411	210411	240411	average	max	std.dev
$\mu g/m^3$																		
PM_{10}	38.85	22.94	36.39	47.89	65.73	22.94	27.72	45.07	52.34	54.86	63.99	54.73	18.60	47.58	36.34	37.62	65.73	12.41
OM+EC	7.03	6.93	11.23	11.03	11.78	4.53	4.26	8.72	10.42	9.01	18.16	13.40	5.13	11.67	9.05	8.96	18.16	3.14
OC	3.99	3.96	6.13	6.24	6.80	2.60	2.49	5.41	6.14	5.17	10.33	7.88	2.78	6.78	5.20	5.12	10.33	1.81
EC	0.84	0.54	1.21	1.02	0.76	0.42	0.39	0.52	0.80	0.71	1.30	0.76	0.60	0.89	0.45	0.72	1.30	0.24
CO_3^{2-}	2.19	0.86	1.65	1.83	1.00	0.94	1.13	2.41	2.11	1.25	1.44	1.33	0.60	1.89	0.55	1.20	2.41	0.47
SiO_2	6.78	2.44	4.97	5.52	3.73	4.66	4.25	8.33	7.24	3.60	4.43	4.15	1.40	8.46	1.38	4.10	8.46	1.84
Al_2O_3	2.26	0.81	1.66	1.84	1.24	1.55	1.42	2.78	2.41	1.20	1.48	1.38	0.47	2.82	0.46	1.37	2.82	0.55
Ca	0.79	0.30	0.68	0.80	0.44	0.39	0.36	0.85	0.80	0.42	0.48	0.45	0.20	0.77	0.20	0.45	0.85	0.18
Fe	0.81	0.32	0.68	0.77	0.59	0.61	0.49	0.99	0.94	0.50	0.55	0.55	0.19	0.90	0.24	0.52	0.99	0.19
K	0.54	0.23	0.37	0.53	0.52	0.19	0.33	0.70	0.46	0.55	0.67	0.59	0.61	0.55	0.37	0.40	0.70	0.17
Na	0.61	0.38	0.32	0.36	0.25	0.52	0.30	0.51	0.88	0.88	1.09	1.02	0.61	0.81	0.25	0.55	1.11	0.25
Mg	0.40	0.16	0.25	0.25	0.14	0.19	0.30	0.46	0.37	0.25	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.08	0.21	0.48	0.08
Cl	0.80	0.17	0.47	0.36	0.79	0.14	n.a.	0.19	0.10	0.43	0.65	0.64	0.47	0.21	0.38	0.48	1.22	0.28
NO_3^-	4.40	3.87	5.98	8.13	18.12	1.77	1.31	4.21	4.58	6.15	4.42	3.74	2.02	2.91	5.03	4.58	16.12	2.82
SO_4^{2-}	5.10	3.15	3.73	8.21	18.56	1.90	4.57	4.57	6.97	18.00	11.21	18.99	1.90	7.25	10.46	6.88	18.00	4.10
$nss-SO_4^{2-}$	5.03	3.10	3.70	9.16	18.53	1.85	4.03	4.51	6.97	17.89	11.08	18.87	1.90	7.18	10.43	6.92	17.89	4.10
NH_4^+	0.58	0.54	0.65	0.85	4.31	0.31	0.86	0.75	1.13	1.72	1.79	1.66	0.72	0.72	1.54	0.88	4.31	0.77
ng/m^3																		
Li	0.92	0.31	0.69	0.87	0.92	0.40	0.55	1.15	1.13	0.70	0.76	0.72	0.15	0.83	0.30	0.57	1.15	0.25
Be	0.06		0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.01
Sc	0.84	n.a.	0.82	0.80	0.38	0.50	0.24	2.61	4.12	5.01	1.00	0.73	0.42	0.85	1.79	1.10	4.12	0.86
Ti	58.08	28.19	55.06	60.66	43.66	50.45	43.59	87.21	77.30	41.64	49.82	44.50	17.98	91.01	17.87	45.10	91.01	16.15
V	4.72	3.16	3.44	3.71	3.52	2.55	3.44	4.37	5.14	8.57	4.65	5.19	1.34	3.65	2.83	3.59	8.57	1.34
Cr	2.82	1.84	4.02	4.80	4.90	2.41	1.49	2.71	3.06	5.63	2.28	1.93	0.42	1.90	1.11	2.15	5.63	1.46
Mn	29.19	14.38	30.58	35.45	32.31	19.23	20.97	30.85	36.86	27.50	25.90	23.57	8.13	29.51	12.85	21.61	36.86	7.91
Co	0.36	0.20	0.34	0.38	0.31	0.28	0.33	0.44	0.42	0.27	0.27	0.31	0.35	0.35	0.11	0.24	0.42	0.08
Ni	2.68	2.05	4.33	4.58	4.46	3.12	1.85	2.19	2.78	4.39	2.98	3.12	1.18	1.63	1.47	2.81	4.90	1.20
Cu	5.88	4.60	7.84	8.93	9.89	4.24	3.42	5.68	9.84	10.69	7.29	8.48	3.26	6.71	5.82	5.88	11.12	2.28
Zn	67.15	73.18	88.72	120.21	143.00	34.80	30.03	58.59	112.05	130.90	97.85	87.01	23.14	56.53	70.14	71.53	151.49	38.14
Ga	0.63	0.31	0.52	0.84	1.24	0.29	0.40	0.63	0.75	0.68	0.67	0.64	0.09	0.54	0.38	0.47	1.24	0.23
As	3.41	2.02	2.76	5.89	5.33	1.75	1.10	2.82	3.21	5.31	4.48	4.48	0.52	2.18	1.95	2.61	5.89	1.52
Se	0.77	0.36	0.80	1.53	0.96	0.53	0.69	0.98	1.81	0.59	0.53	0.76	0.35	0.85	0.18	0.76	1.89	0.37
Rb	2.48	0.97	1.76	2.47	2.54	0.91	1.34	3.09	3.24	2.56	2.52	2.28	0.38	2.24	1.44	1.72	3.24	0.79
Sr	6.15	2.25	4.02	4.79	3.33	2.41	3.67	7.40	6.28	3.88	3.71	3.71	1.05	5.31	1.44	3.27	7.40	1.41
Cd	0.66	0.31	0.39	0.77	1.11	0.28	0.33	0.44	0.65	1.13	0.89	0.88	0.15	0.35	0.40	0.47	1.13	0.28
Sn	1.28	0.84	1.58	2.40	3.02	0.81	0.96	1.42	2.32	3.88	2.50	2.44	0.51	1.56	1.29	1.55	3.88	0.77
Sb	1.13	0.95	1.84	2.42	2.81	0.92	0.92	1.51	2.69	3.01	2.98	2.02	0.87	1.69	1.53	1.88	6.86	1.13
Cs	0.34	0.14	0.24	0.38	0.43	0.17	0.16	0.42	0.48	0.41	0.33	0.31	0.04	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.48	0.13
Ba	13.95	8.97	12.89	19.39	11.15	5.04	8.83	17.62	19.88	10.29	9.92	9.09	4.20	15.31	7.79	10.22	23.48	4.41
La	0.77	0.33	0.63	0.68	0.37	0.24	0.49	0.93	0.94	0.48	0.58	0.58	0.15	0.70	0.25	0.45	0.94	0.20
Ce	1.47	0.62	1.11	1.31	0.89	0.63	0.96	1.87	1.88	0.90	0.97	0.94	0.40	1.39	0.55	0.87	1.88	0.38
Pr	0.17	0.07	0.11	0.14	0.08	0.06	0.11	0.22	0.19	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.15	0.03	0.08	0.22	0.05
Nd	0.56	0.24	0.33	0.43	0.17	0.17	0.32	0.71	0.64	0.27	0.32	0.30	0.08	0.55	0.12	0.28	0.71	0.16
Sm	0.13	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.08	0.15	0.13	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.02	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.15	0.04
Eu	0.04	0.03	0.03	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.01	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.01
Gd	0.13	0.07	0.01	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.01	0.08	0.13	0.14	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.13	0.02	0.06	0.13	0.04
Tb	0.02	0.01	0.01	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	<d.l.	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Dy	0.11	0.08	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.08	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.03	0.12	<d.l.	0.12	0.02	0.06	0.13	0.04
Ho	0.02	0.01	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	<d.l.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Er	0.05	0.03	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.01	<d.l.	0.06	0.01	0.02	0.08	0.02
Tm	0.02	0.02	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	<d.l.	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.02
Yb	0.05	0.03	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	<d.l.	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.02
Lu	0.02	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	<d.l.	0.02	<d.l.	0.02	0.06	0.02
Hf	0.49	0.53	0.47	0.57	0.48	0.42	0.56	0.51	0.56	0.34	0.37	0.35	0.32	0.64	0.56	0.48	0.84	0.09
Ta	<d.l.	0.05	0.02	0.04	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.03	0.09	0.09	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.04	<d.l.	0.04	0.10	0.03
W	0.66	0.86	1.08	0.83	1.30	0.60	0.40	0.79	0.95	1.35	1.68	0.96	0.56	1.02	0.44	0.79	2.06	0.40
Tl	0.14	0.07	0.13	0.18	0.39	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.37	0.33	0.34	0.34	0.02	0.13	0.18	0.17	0.39	0.11
Pb	27.65	14.45	24.37	45.34	62.50	6.84	13.76	28.87	44.71	57.39	44.36	40.47	4.44	14.46	28.98	24.63	62.50	16.26
Bi	0.51	0.25	0.64	0.96	1.38	0.24	0.73	0.55	0.95	1.65	0.99	0.97	0.19	0.41	0.74	0.57	1.65	0.36
Th	0.17	0.09	0.09	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.05	0.04	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.04	0.08	<d.l.	0.29	0.08	0.13	0.29	0.07
U	0.17	0.15	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.15	0.21	0.18	0.33	0.04	0.05	<d.l.	0.19	0.06	0.10	0.21	0.06
$\mu g/m^2$																		
Mineral	13.76	5.11	10.25	11.55	7.67	8.49	8.20	16.46	14.57	7.77	9.36	8.72	3.11	15.70	3.15	8.25	16.46	3.16
OM+EC	7.03	6.93	11.23	11.03	11.78	4.53	4.26	8.72	10.42	9.01	18.16	13.40	5.13	11.67	9.05	8.96	18.16	3.14
SIC	10.08	7.56	10.36	18.88	36.99	3.99	6.23	9.53	12.73	25.86	22.41	17.42	4.18	10.88	17.03	12.54	36.99	7.03
Marine	1.40	0.56	0.79	0.72	1.04	1.62	2.07	0.70	0.56	1.31	1.74	1.66	1.08	0.81	0.62	1.06	2.33	0.43
Trace metals	0.24	0.18	0.25	0.33	0.34	0.15	0.15	0.28	0.35	0.33	0.27	0.25	0.07	0.27	0.18	0.21	0.37	0.08