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## ***Interactive comment on “Acidic reaction products of mono- and sesquiterpenes in atmospheric fine particles in a boreal forest” by M. Vestenius et al.***

**M. Vestenius et al.**

mika.vestenius@fmi.fi

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We thank the referees for valuable comments on the manuscript. The comments were very useful, they have all been carefully considered when revising the manuscript and we think they improved the quality of our manuscript a lot. The changes made to the manuscript are described in detail below following the chronology of the comments by the referee.

-Spelling and grammar has now been checked by the native English speaker.

-Abstract: The average, median and max/min concentrations of all measurements are now mentioned in the abstract.

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-Sampling strategy has been described better.

-Appendix A1 has changed into Table 3.

-List of sampling periods has been checked and ordered.

-We are sorry about the mess in the table. Some dates were not correct. Some back-up filters were also included in the table. We accidentally uploaded a wrong table. There was no parallel sampling.

-The values below LODs were taken as half of the detection limit. This has now also been added to the text.

-In figure 2, the samples were considered to belong to the month where most of the sampling took place. The figure 2 was redrawn as requested by the referee 2. In cases of all the measurement values were below detection limit, monthly mean were left out from figure 2.

-The reviewer asked more specific information concerning the uncertainty, especially of the calibration curve. We added the following sentence to describe our procedure to the experimental section: "The samples were analysed, using external standards on a four-point calibration curve representing the entire measurement area. The uncertainty of the analysis based on duplicate analysis was less than 50% close to the detection limits, and less than 20% for higher concentrations. The uncertainties of average concentrations were added as standard deviations into table 1 and figure 2". - The reviewer asked us to add medians and standard deviations to the Table 2. The values were taken from the literature and the medians and standard deviations were not provided in the original papers by Warnke et al and Parshnitsev et al. In Kourtchev et al medians and ranges were given, but since this was the only one giving medians we decided not to include them.

-The reviewer reminded that we should keep in mind the work in recent years on volatility and influence of aerosol mass, which affect yields of the compounds with differ-

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ent vapour pressures. Therefore we added the following sentence: “Also background aerosols, often present in ambient air, complicates the comparison with smog chamber results. Pre-existing aerosol mass is known to effect yields of compounds with differing vapor pressures (e.g. Chan et al., 2007)”

P. 2858 line 2 . We rephrased the sentence as suggested by the reviewer. P. 2858 line 7 Place where standard was synthesized was removed from the abstract P. 2859 line 9. We added “occurrence of” to the sentence. P 2860, line 19 The samples were analyzed in a negative ion mode. P.2860 L19 The results of the efficiency tests are added. The efficiency of the denuder was checked by taking samples of more volatile organic compounds (aromatic hydrocarbons and monoterpenes) than measured in this study using pumped adsorbent tube sampling and their concentrations were found to be negligible after denuder. P2861 L5: The word fast was replaced by the word “quickly” and in L10: matrice is replaced by matrix P2861 L13: The standard deviation of detection limits was lower within compounds than between compounds. This sentence has been added to the text. P2861 L23 for→as P2861 The sentence in L26 has been removed P2862 calcd→calculated P2864 L.14: The reviewer wondered if other tree species, such as birch, would be responsible for limonene emissions in this area? This is indeed true. There are few birches in the area. The following sentence was added to the text:” There are also few birches growing in the area and birches emit limonene early summer (Hakola et al., 2001)”. P2864 L. 24: with -> at. Kamen -> Kamens. P2864 L28. typography checked, correlation changed to “somewhat correlated”. P2865 L1: ‘averagely’ was changed to ‘on average’ as suggested by the reviewer P2865 L8: References requested were added to the last sentence i.e. Warnke et al. 2006, Kourtchev et al.2008, Parshintsev et al. 2010 P2865 L18: The reviewer was worried about our comparison in VOC and acid concentrations although the measuring times were not matching together all the time. This is true and we clearly state that our calculated ratios are approximates only. We also added a sentence: “In the on-line VOC measurements, there were several breaks due to malfunction of the instrument and because the sampling times of the acids where sometimes several days, the overlapping

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of VOC and acid analysis are not complete. Thus comparing these seasonal means represents approximates only. However, since the daily variation in VOC mixing ratios is quite modest compared to the seasonal variability, it is justified to compare VOC and acid concentrations.” The reviewer stressed that when comparing our data with previous smog chamber studies, we should be careful and consider differences in reaction conditions (seed aerosol yes/no, temperature) and quantification. We agree and added the following sentence:” Background aerosols, often present in ambient air, also complicated comparison with the smog chamber results. Preexisting aerosol masses are known to affect the yields of compounds with differing vapour pressures (e.g. Chan et al., 2007).” It is also mentioned in the text that temperature is a controlling factor in phase partitioning of organic acids. In addition to this we are not claiming these ratios are production yields, but only concentration ratios in the air. P2866 L. 1-2: Limonic acid was detected by Glasius et al. in 2000 (Environ. Sci. Technol., 34, 1001). This reference has been added. P2866 L5-6: Due to the large associated uncertainties the reviewer proposed to change "suggests" to "could indicate" or a similar term. This has been changed as suggested. P2866 L. 27-28: The description of the sampler was asked to be moved to the experimental section. This was moved. P2867 L25-26 The word "concomitant" is not the right word here, as noticed by the reviewer. We replaced it with the sentence “The results were compared with”

The standard deviations were added to the Table 1.

Table 2: The reviewer wanted to add medians and standard deviations to the Table 2. The values were taken from the literature and the medians and standard deviations were not provided in the original papers by Warnke et al and Parshnitsev et al. In Kourtchev et al medians and ranges were given, but since this was the only one giving medians we decided not to include them. In Figure 1 the isomeric form of pinonic acid was added, but our standard for limonic acid did not specify the isomeric form.

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