

General comments

R. Oswald et al., 2014 has reported a background HONO measurement at both 1 m above ground surface and 2m above forest canopy. HONO budget features low contribution of other processes except for photolysis of HONO and unknown sources in background HONO chemistry. The gradient and diurnal profile of HONO may infer something we don't know yet. Overall, the introduction is in detail and accurate. The dataset is valuable and the analysis is reasonable. Thus I recommend publication in ACP although several weakness that will be discussed in specific comments.

Specific Comments

1. In line 26 page 7828 and in line 25 in page 7837, the author mentioned drying ground surface would be a source of HONO and the change of temperature of soil surface in the morning. It was inferred from early morning to noontime with the temperature increasing, drying soil surface would be a HONO source. In fact, not only soil surface, leaf surface may also be a source due to drying of dew in the morning, see He Y et al., 2006. Both higher NO concentration in the early morning in figure 1 and smaller ratio of $L_{\text{phot}}/P_{\text{unknown}}$ in the morning than the noontime, see line 4 page 7840 and figure 5 indicate HONO and NO emission in the morning. Intensively increasing of HONO concentration in figure 1 after “the short and strong rain (line 15 page 7833)” before sun rise and when NO_x concentration were still low also infers a emission source. Soil emission experiment reported in this manuscript may use disturbed soil and hence cannot represent the reactivity of the nitrous acid rich soil surface due to deposition in the night. Failure to account for this term potentially jeopardizes the reliability of correlation analysis in Figure 6, especially for the data point from the morning.
2. In line 27 and 28 page 7835, the author cited Wong et al., 2013:” the contribution of vertical transport to surface loss of HONO was estimated to be about 50 to 60%”, yet no mention of how to calculate this term in equation (8) and no such term in Fig.5.
3. In line 25 page 7840, the author mentioned:” the wild fire pollution plumes transported from Russia”. The author should point out which data point came from this particular event in figure 1 and figure 8, also what is the intention and implication to involve the data point in HONO chemistry analysis in a forest. I would also suggest to point out other special events if any in figure 1 and also in result section.
4. In line 7 page 7839, Zhou et al., 2003, 2011 didn't intend to recommend an enhancement factor of 43. Thus it is improper to rule out absorbed HNO₃ as a HONO precursor with the data the author presented.

Reference

He, Y., Zhou, X., Hou, J., Gao, H., and Bertman, S. B.: Importance of dew in controlling the air-surface exchange of HONO in rural forested environments, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 33, L02813, doi:10.1029/2005GL024348, 2006