

1 **Laboratory photochemical processing of aqueous aerosols: formation and**
2 **degradation of dicarboxylic acids, oxocarboxylic acids and α -dicarbonyls**

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15 **Abstract.** To better understand the photochemical processing of dicarboxylic acids and
16 related polar compounds, we conducted batch UV irradiation experiments on two types of
17 aerosol samples collected from India, which represent anthropogenic (AA) and biogenic
18 aerosols (BA), for time periods of 0.5 h to 120 h. The irradiated samples were analyzed for
19 molecular compositions of diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls. The results show that
20 photochemical degradation of oxalic (C_2) and malonic (C_3) and other C_8 - C_{12} diacids
21 overwhelmed their production in aqueous aerosols whereas succinic acid (C_4) and C_5 - C_7
22 diacids showed a significant increase (ca. 10 times) during the course of irradiation
23 experiments. The photochemical formation of oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls overwhelmed their
24 degradation during the early stages of experiment, except for ω -oxooctanoic acid (ωC_8) that
25 showed a similar pattern to that of C_4 . We also found a gradual decrease in the relative
26 abundance of C_2 to total diacids and an increase in the relative abundance of C_4 during
27 prolonged experiment. Based on the changes in concentrations and mass ratios of selected
28 species with the irradiation time, we hypothesize that iron-catalyzed photolysis of C_2 and C_3
29 diacids dominates their concentrations in Fe-rich atmospheric waters, whereas photochemical
30 formation of C_4 diacid (via ωC_8) is enhanced with photochemical processing of aqueous
31 aerosols in the atmosphere. This study demonstrates that the ambient aerosols contain
32 abundant precursors that produce diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls, although some species
33 such as oxalic acid decompose extensively during an early stage of photochemical processing.

34 **1 Introduction**

35 Dicarboxylic acids and related polar compounds constitute a significant fraction of
36 water-soluble organic aerosols in the atmosphere (Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999; Pavuluri
37 et al., 2010; Saxena and Hildemann, 1996). They have a potential contribution to the
38 formation of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) due to their water-soluble and hygroscopic
39 properties (Giebl et al., 2002; Saxena and Hildemann, 1996). Thus diacids and related
40 compounds have an impact on the indirect radiative forcing and hydrological cycle (Albrecht,
41 1989; Twomey, 1977). They also involve in a series of reactions occurring in gas phase,
42 aerosols and atmospheric waters (Chebbi and Carlier, 1996; Wang et al., 2010b). Although
43 diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls can be directly emitted into the atmosphere from
44 incomplete combustion of fossil fuels (Kawamura and Kaplan, 1987) and biomass burning
45 (Narukawa et al., 1999), they are mainly formed by secondary processes of volatile organic
46 compounds of anthropogenic and biogenic origin (Kanakidou et al., 2005; Kawamura et al.,
47 1996a; Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999). They are further subjected to photochemical
48 oxidation during long-range transport; e.g., carbonyls to carboxylic acids (Tilgner and
49 Herrmann, 2010) and breakdown of higher to lower diacids (Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999;
50 Matsunaga et al., 1999; Wang et al., 2010a).

51 Molecular distributions of diacids in atmospheric aerosols have generally been reported
52 with a predominance of oxalic (C_2) acid followed by malonic (C_3) or succinic (C_4) acid in
53 different environments (Kawamura and Kaplan, 1987; Kawamura and Ikushima, 1993;
54 Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999; Narukawa et al., 1999; Pavuluri et al., 2010). The
55 predominance of C_2 in different environments is likely explained because it is an ultimate end
56 product in the chain reactions of diacids and various precursors including aromatic
57 hydrocarbons, isoprene, alkenes and α -dicarbonyls (Carlton et al., 2007; Charbouillot et al.,
58 2012; Ervens et al., 2004b; Kawamura et al., 1996a; Lim et al., 2005; Warneck, 2003). In

59 contrast, C₄ was reported to be more abundant than C₂ in some aerosol samples collected
60 from Antarctica (Kawamura et al., 1996b), the Arctic (Kawamura et al., 2010) and over the
61 Arctic Ocean (Kawamura et al., 2012) as well as in ice core samples from Greenland
62 (Kawamura et al., 2001). In addition, a significant reduction in C₂ diacid concentration and an
63 inverse relationship between C₂ and Fe has been reported in stratocumulus clouds over the
64 northeastern Pacific Ocean (Sorooshian et al., 2013). The predominance of C₄ over C₂ in ice
65 core samples and atmospheric aerosols from polar regions, particularly in the Arctic marine
66 aerosol samples collected under overcast conditions with fog or brume event (Kawamura et
67 al., 2012) and the reduction of C₂ in cloud water, suggest that photochemical formation of C₄
68 and/or degradation of C₂ (Pavuluri and Kawamura, 2012) should be enhanced in atmospheric
69 waters.

70 However, the photochemical formation and degradation of diacids and related
71 compounds are not fully understood, particularly in aqueous phase because the composition
72 of aqueous solutions used in laboratory experiments do not reflect the complex mixture of
73 organic and inorganic aerosol constituents in the atmosphere and the experimental conditions
74 are not necessarily atmospherically relevant (Ervens et al., 2011). Hence, it is required to
75 investigate the fate of diacids and related polar compounds with photochemical processing in
76 atmospheric waters. In this study, we conducted a laboratory experiment using two types of
77 ambient aerosol samples collected from Chennai, India, which represent anthropogenic (AA)
78 and biogenic aerosols (BA). The samples were exposed to UV irradiation in the presence of
79 moisture for different time ranging from 0.5 h to 120 h and then analyzed for diacids,
80 oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls. Here, we report their molecular compositions and discuss the
81 photochemical formation and/or degradation of diacids as a function of the irradiation time.
82 Based on the results obtained, we propose possible photochemical formation and degradation
83 pathways of diacids and related compounds with atmospheric implications.

84

85 **2 Materials and Methods**

86 **2.1 Atmospheric aerosol samples**

87 In this study, we used two types of atmospheric aerosol (PM₁₀) samples that were collected in
88 winter on January 28 (IND104) and in summer on May 25 (IND178), 2007 during daytime
89 (ca. 06:00-18:00 h local time) from Chennai (13.03° N; 80.17° E), India using a high volume
90 air sampler and pre-combusted (450 °C, 4 h) quartz fiber filters. Sampling was conducted on
91 the rooftop of the Mechanical Sciences building (~18 m a.g.l. (above the ground level)) at the
92 Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) campus. The details of sampling site and
93 meteorology are described elsewhere (Pavuluri et al., 2010). The sample filter was placed in a
94 preheated glass jar with a Teflon-lined screw cap and stored in darkness at -20°C prior to the
95 experiment. Figure 1 presents ten-day backward air mass trajectories arriving in Chennai at
96 500 m AGL for every 6 h during the sampling periods of IND104 and IND178. Table 1
97 shows concentrations of elemental carbon (EC), organic carbon (OC), levoglucosan and sums
98 of hopanes (specific biomarkers of petroleum and coal) and lipid class compounds: fatty
99 acids and fatty alcohols, in IND104 and IND178 (Fu et al., 2010; Pavuluri et al., 2011).

100 The air mass trajectories showed that the air masses for the IND104 sample originated
101 from the north Indian subcontinent passing over the Bay of Bengal (Fig. 1). In North India,
102 anthropogenic emissions are mainly derived from fossil fuel combustion and forest fires
103 (Lelieveld et al., 2001; Reddy and Venkataraman, 2002a). This sample is enriched with EC
104 (Table 1). The anthropogenic signature of IND104 is further supported by high abundances of
105 hopanes. In contrast, the air masses for the IND178 sample originated from the Arabian Sea
106 passing over the south Indian subcontinent (Fig. 1), where the emissions from marine biota,
107 combustion of biofuels (e.g., cow-dung) (Reddy and Venkataraman, 2002b) and livestock
108 (Garg et al., 2001) are important. In addition, emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

109 from tropical plant species in India is enhanced in summer (Padhy and Varshney, 2005). This
110 sample is enriched with OC but EC is less abundant (Table 1). The biogenic signature of
111 IND178 is supported by high abundances of fatty acids and fatty alcohols (Table 1). Hence,
112 we consider that IND104 represents anthropogenic aerosols (AA) whereas IND178 represents
113 biogenic aerosols (BA).

114

115 **2.2 Determination of trace elements, metals and water-soluble iron species**

116 Trace elements and metals were determined using an inductively coupled plasma mass
117 spectrometry (ICP-MS, Thermo Electron X Series) after the acid microwave digestion of
118 samples (a filter disc of 1.8 cm in diameter) as reported by Theodosi et al. (2010b).
119 Recoveries obtained with the use of certified reference materials ranged from 90.0 to 104.1%.
120 Water-soluble iron (Fe_{WS} : sum of Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} species) was determined spectrometrically
121 using the Ferrozine colorimetric method developed by Stookey (1970) as reported by
122 Theodosi et al. (2010a). Fe^{2+} was measured using the same procedure without adding the
123 reducing agent (hydroxylamine hydrochloride), and then Fe^{3+} was estimated indirectly as the
124 difference between Fe_{WS} and Fe^{2+} . The recovery was ~98.3% for both Fe_{WS} and Fe^{2+} .

125

126 **2.3 Irradiation experiment of aerosol samples**

127 Batch UV irradiation experiments using two aerosol samples (AA and BA) were conducted
128 separately for 0.5, 1.5, 3.0, 6.0, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 72, 96 and 120 h, because both primary
129 and secondary chemical species that are associated with aerosols can be subjected for
130 significant photochemical processing through out their stay (i.e., up to 12 days) in the
131 atmosphere (Warneck, 2003). In each experiment, ~12 cm² (ca. 3 × 4 cm) of sample filter
132 was cut into 3~4 pieces and placed vertically in a cleaned quartz reaction vessel (cylinder,
133 100 ml) with the sample surface facing to UV light as depicted in Fig. 2. The sample was

134 fully wetted by injecting ~0.4 ml of ultra pure organic free Milli Q water and sealed with
135 Teflon-lined screw cap under the ambient pressure. Further, the available excess Milli Q
136 water (Fig. 2) may promote humid (RH = 100%) environment in the reaction vessel by
137 equilibrium between water vapor and Milli Q water. The aqueous ambient aerosol sample
138 was then irradiated with a low-pressure mercury lamp (Ushio, UL0-6DQ) that emits a UV,
139 whose spectra are characterized by main peak at 254 nm and minor peak at 185 nm as well as
140 broad peak at >254 nm. The experimental setup (Fig. 2) was covered with a cartoon box
141 containing a hole on each side for the passage of ambient air, and placed in a draft chamber.
142 The temperature around the experimental system (i.e. inside cartoon box) was equivalent to
143 room temperature (25±1°C).

144 The main objective of UV irradiation with a wavelength primarily at 254 nm, rather
145 than a solar spectrum, was to produce significant amount of hydroxyl radicals (HO[•]) from
146 various sources described below that should be sufficient enough to act as the main oxidant in
147 our experimental system. Although we do not preclude a minor photolysis of some organic
148 compounds present in the aerosol samples by irradiation at ≤254 nm, it is well established
149 that low molecular weight diacids, oxoacids and α-dicarbonyls including pyruvic acid and
150 methylglyoxal have negligible absorbance at 254 nm and exhibit minimal photolysis,
151 particularly when HO[•] reactions of organics are significant (Carlton et al., 2006; Tan et al.,
152 2012; Yang et al., 2008a). Because sulfate is abundant in non-irradiated AA and BA
153 (Pavuluri et al., 2011), the production of organosulfates should be significant upon irradiation
154 (Noziere et al., 2010) in both the samples. However, the sulfate contents may not have
155 significant impact on the production rate of diacids and related compounds (Tan et al., 2009).
156 Further, the radiation of 185 nm is mostly absorbed by water to subsequently produce HO[•]
157 and thus minimize the photolysis of organics during the experiment (Yang et al., 2008a). On
158 the contrary, iron-dicarboxylate complexes (e.g., oxalate and malonate) can photolyze by

159 absorbing both UV-C (254 nm) and UV-A light and their photolysis rate depends on the
160 concentration of Fe in the given sample rather than the UV light wavelength (Pavuluri and
161 Kawamura, 2012; Wang et al., 2010b; Zuo and Hoigne, 1994). In addition, radiation at 254
162 nm has been reported to impose only a marginal photolysis of most of the inorganic species,
163 except for nitrate, which is one of the HO[•] sources (Yang et al., 2008a).

164 The irradiation of wetted aerosol sample at 254 nm induces the formation of O₃ from
165 the dissolved O₂ followed by generation of H₂O₂, and photolysis of H₂O, NO₃⁻, NO₂⁻, H₂O₂,
166 Fe(OH)²⁺ and certain organic compounds, and Fenton's reaction of photochemically formed
167 Fe²⁺ and H₂O₂ to produce HO[•] in aqueous phase (Arakaki and Faust, 1998; Carlton et al.,
168 2006; Yang et al., 2008a). In fact, high amount of Fe, including water-soluble Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺
169 species, is available in both AA and BA samples (Table 1), which could promote the
170 Fenton's reaction upon UV irradiation. In addition, O₃, H₂O₂, HOO[•] and NO₂ formed in
171 aqueous phase reactions may be partitioned into gas phase and generate the gaseous HO[•] that
172 should be re-partitioned into aqueous phase (Arakaki and Faust, 1998). These sources of HO[•]
173 are similar to those of atmospheric waters: (i) gas/drop partitioning of HO[•] and (ii) gas/drop
174 partitioning of O₃ followed by reaction with peroxy radical (HOO[•]), (iii) photolysis of H₂O,
175 NO₃⁻, NO₂⁻, H₂O₂, Fe(OH)²⁺ and certain organic compounds, and (iv) Fenton's reaction of
176 Fe²⁺ and H₂O₂ (Arakaki and Faust, 1998).

177 Unfortunately, we could not approximate the actual concentrations of HO[•] in our
178 experiments because we did not add any chemical (e.g., a standard compound whose kinetics
179 are known) in order to keep our experimental system as realistic as possible. Furthermore, the
180 formation of O₃ from the initially available O₂ (~0.94 mM) in the reaction vessel may not
181 cause the deficit of the O₂ that could potentially induce the polymerization of organics during
182 the irradiation on aerosols for several hours, because the additional O₂ could be produced

183 from the gaseous HOO[•] formed by photolysis of organics and Fenton's reaction (Arakaki and
184 Faust, 1998) during the experiment.

185

186 **2.4 Measurements of diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls**

187 Immediately after the irradiation, samples were analyzed for diacids, oxoacids and
188 α -dicarbonyls using a method reported elsewhere (Kawamura, 1993; Kawamura and
189 Ikushima, 1993). Briefly, the irradiated sample filter was extracted with Milli-Q water (10
190 mL x 3) under ultra sonication for 10 min and the extracts were concentrated to near dryness
191 using a rotary evaporator under vacuum. The extracts were then derivatized with 14%
192 BF₃/n-butanol at 100°C to butyl esters and/or butoxy acetals. Both the esters and acetals were
193 extracted with *n*-hexane and then determined using a capillary GC (HP 6890) and GC-MS
194 (Thermo Trace MS). Recoveries of authentic standards spiked to a pre-combusted quartz
195 fiber filter were 73% for oxalic (C₂) acid and more than 84% for malonic (C₃), succinic (C₄)
196 and adipic (C₆) acids (Pavuluri et al., 2010). The analytical errors in duplicate analysis of the
197 aerosol filter sample are within 9% for major species. Gas chromatogram of the field and
198 laboratory blanks showed small peaks for C₂, phthalic (Ph) and glyoxylic acids.
199 Concentrations of all the species reported here are corrected for the non-irradiated field
200 blanks (Pavuluri et al., 2010).

201

202 **2.5 Quality control**

203 To examine the possible experimental errors, including the distribution of organic/inorganic
204 constituents over the filter sample, we conducted replicate experiments (n = 3) for 18 h
205 irradiation of AA sample by using the sample cut taken from different parts of the filter
206 sample for each experiment because a deviation in the results of the irradiation experiment
207 should become large if the impact of potential variance in chemical composition of aerosol at

208 different parts of the single filter, size of the filter sample used (i.e., amount of aerosols) and
209 the amount of Milli Q water added is significant. The experimental errors, including the
210 analytical errors, were found to be within 11% for major species, except for C₃ diacid (19%).
211 These results suggest that organic and inorganic constituents are well distributed over the
212 filter sample and took up water evenly distributed upon wetting. In addition, two irradiation
213 experiments were conducted to check the procedural blank by using a clean quartz filter for
214 1.5 h and 6.0 h. No peaks were detected, except for a small peak for C₂ and Ph. These results
215 indicate that the occurrence of bias during the experiment is insignificant.

216

217 **3 Results and discussion**

218 **3.1 Concentrations of trace elements, metals and water-soluble iron species**

219 Concentrations of trace elements, metals and water-soluble Fe species (Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺)
220 determined in non-irradiated AA and BA samples are presented in Table 1. The trace
221 elements and metals in AA sample, which mainly originate from soil dust (e.g., P, Al, Ca and
222 Fe), non-ferrous metallurgical industrial activities (Cd, Cu and Zn) and fossil fuel combustion
223 (Cr, Pb and V) (Mahowald et al., 2008; Pacyna and Pacyna, 2001), are significantly more
224 abundant than in BA (by up to several times higher), except for S, Ni and Sb (Table 1). The
225 high abundances of trace metals in AA further suggest that the AA sample should contain
226 high abundances of anthropogenic organic matter. The high abundances of S, Ni and Sb in
227 BA than in AA may be due to high emissions of the S from intensive consumption of biofuels,
228 particularly cow-dung that contains higher S content (Reddy and Venkataraman, 2002b),
229 while Ni and Sb are from some specific industrial activities in southern India. Although
230 water-soluble Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺ species are abundant in both AA and BA, their concentrations in
231 BA are 30-50% higher than in AA (Table 1). Further the fraction of water-soluble Fe (F_{ewS}:

232 sum of Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺) in total particulate Fe (Fe_{Tot}) is 2.77% in AA whereas it is 14.6% in
233 BA.

234

235 **3.2 Molecular compositions of diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls**

236 A homologous series of normal (C₂-C₁₂) and branched chain (iso C₄-C₆) saturated
237 α,ω -diacids were detected in both non-irradiated and irradiated AA and BA samples as well
238 as aliphatic unsaturated diacids such as maleic (M), fumaric (F), and methylmaleic (mM)
239 acids and aromatic diacids such as phthalic (Ph), isophthalic (*i*-Ph), and terephthalic (*t*-Ph)
240 acids. Diacids with an additional functional group, i.e., malic (hydroxysuccinic, hC₄),
241 ketomalonic (kC₃), and 4-ketopimelic (kC₇) acids, were detected, together with ω -oxoacids
242 (ω C₂- ω C₉), pyruvic acid (Pyr), and α -dicarbonyls, i.e., glyoxal (Gly) and methylglyoxal
243 (MeGly). ω C₆ will not be reported here due to the overlapping peak on GC chromatogram.

244 Oxalic (C₂) acid was found as the most abundant diacid in non-irradiated samples
245 (accounting for 54% of total diacids in AA and 53% in BA), followed by Ph (10%), C₄ (9%),
246 C₃ (8%) and C₉ (4%) in AA and by malonic (C₃) (9%), C₄ (6%) and *t*-Ph (6%) acids in BA.
247 Branched chain diacids were significantly lower than the corresponding normal structures in
248 both samples. Glyoxylic (ω C₂) acid is the most abundant oxoacid, comprising 64% and 57%
249 of total oxoacids in AA and BA, respectively, followed by Pyr (13%) and 4-oxobutanoic
250 (ω C₄) acid (10%) in AA and ω C₄ (18%) and Pyr (13%) in BA. MeGly is more abundant than
251 Gly in AA whereas their abundances are equivalent in BA.

252

253 **3.3 Changes in concentrations of diacids and related compounds as a function of UV** 254 **irradiation time**

255 Changes in concentrations of individual and total diacids as a function of UV irradiation time
256 in AA and BA are depicted in Fig. 3, while those of oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls as well as

257 total oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls in Fig. 4. Concentrations of C₂ diacid were sharply
258 decreased by a factor of 3-9 (from 553 ng m⁻³ to 61.7 ng m⁻³ in AA and from 339 to 118 ng
259 m⁻³ in BA) within 6 h and 12 h of UV irradiation, respectively (Fig. 3a). Then, the
260 concentrations started to increase to maximize at 24 h (292 ng m⁻³) in AA and 18 h (306 ng
261 m⁻³) in BA on further irradiation. They gradually decreased toward the end (120 h) of the
262 experiment (Fig. 3a). Interestingly, C₃ diacid showed a temporal variation similar to C₂ in
263 both AA and BA, except for few points (Fig. 3b). Relative abundances of C₂ in total diacids
264 gradually decreased from non-irradiated samples (54% in AA and 53% in BA) toward the
265 end (120 h) of the experiment (3.2% in AA and 9.2% in BA, Fig. 5).

266 Concentrations of ω C₂, an immediate precursor of C₂ (Kawamura et al., 1996a; Lim et
267 al., 2005; Warneck, 2003), increased with irradiation time up to 18 h in both AA and BA,
268 except for two cases (3 and 6 h) of AA, and then gradually decreased until the end (120 h) of
269 the experiment, except for one case (36 h) in AA (Fig. 4a). Pyr, Gly and MeGly, which are
270 the precursors of ω C₂ acid, are all produced by the oxidation of VOCs of anthropogenic and
271 biogenic origin (Carlton et al., 2006; Ervens et al., 2004b; Lim et al., 2005; Warneck, 2003).
272 They also increased with irradiation time up to 18~24 h in both samples and then gradually
273 decreased (except for MeGly in AA) until the end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig. 4g, i, j).
274 However, the other precursor of C₂ diacid, kC₃ diacid (Kawamura et al., 1996a), showed a
275 decrease with irradiation time throughout the experiment, except for few cases (Fig. 3v)
276 whereas hC₄, a precursor of C₃ diacid (Kawamura et al., 1996a), increased up to 18 h in BA
277 and 24 h in AA and remained relatively high until 72 h and then gradually decreased until the
278 end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig. 3u).

279 In contrast, concentrations of C₄ diacid showed a gradual increase with irradiation time
280 up to 72 h in BA and 96 h in AA followed by a slight decrease in the AA and a sharp
281 decrease in BA (Fig. 3c). Relative abundance of C₄ diacid in total diacids also increased from

282 8.9% (non-irradiated) to 82% (120 h) in AA and from 6.4% to 88% in BA (Fig. 5). Similarly,
283 C₅ diacid in AA (Fig. 3d) showed a gradual increase with irradiation up to 36 h and stayed
284 almost constant until 96 h followed by a slight decrease. Similar trend was found in BA (Fig.
285 3d). Both C₆ and C₇ diacids showed an increase with irradiation up to 6~36 h and then a
286 gradual decrease until the end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig. 3e,f). Concentrations of *i*C₄
287 diacid also increased with irradiation up to 18 h in BA and 36 h in AA and stayed relatively
288 constant until 72 h or 96 h. Then, the concentrations gradually decreased until the end (120 h)
289 of the experiment (Fig. 3l). *i*C₅ and *i*C₆ diacids (Fig. 3m,n) showed very similar trend with
290 their corresponding normal diacids (Fig. 3d,e).

291 Long-chain (C₈-C₁₂) diacids showed a sharp decrease with irradiation up to 12 h and
292 then a gradual decrease until the end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig. 3g-k). C₈, C₉ and C₁₂
293 diacids became below the detection limit within several hours, particularly in BA. On the
294 other hand, unsaturated aliphatic (M, F, mM, and Ph) and aromatic diacids (*i*-Ph and *t*-Ph)
295 showed a gradual decrease with irradiation, except for few cases during the early stages of the
296 experiment (Fig. 3o-t). Concentrations of *k*C₇ increased with irradiation time up to 18 h and
297 then decreased gradually until 120 h (Fig. 3w) whereas oxoacids: ω C₃, ω C₇ and ω C₉ acids,
298 showed a gradual decrease with irradiation, except for few cases (Fig. 4b,d,f). On the other
299 hand, ω C₄ acid showed a sharp increase up to 12 h and then a sharp decrease toward 24 h
300 (Fig. 4c). Interestingly, temporal pattern of ω C₈ acid (Fig. 4e) was similar to that of C₄ diacid
301 (Fig. 3c).

302 Thus the changes in the concentrations of individual diacids, oxoacids and
303 α -dicarbonyls as well as relative abundances of individual diacids in total diacids and mass
304 ratios of selected species in AA and BA found to be similar (Figs. 3-6), although significant
305 differences are recognized between AA and BA samples during irradiation. Such similarities
306 in the temporal variations of diacids and related polar compounds infer that their

307 photochemical formation and degradation pathways in aqueous aerosols (Fig. 7) are almost
308 same between anthropogenic and biogenic aerosols. However, there were significant
309 differences in the rate of formation and/or degradation of diacids and related compounds
310 between AA and BA, which might have been driven by the differences in the abundances of
311 the diacids and related compounds as well as their precursor compounds in the original
312 (non-irradiated) AA and BA samples. In fact, total diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls were
313 higher in non-irradiated AA than in BA. On the contrary, OC that contains several precursor
314 compounds (including fatty acids) of diacids and related polar compounds is higher in BA
315 than in AA (Table 1).

316

317 **3.4 Production and decomposition of short-chain diacids and related compounds**

318 A sharp increase was observed in the concentrations of ω C₂, ω C₄, Pyr, Gly and MeGly, but
319 not ω C₃, with irradiation up to 18~24 h following a gradual decrease (Fig. 4), demonstrating
320 an enhanced photochemical production of short-chain (\leq C₄) oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls
321 during an early stage of photochemical processing. It is likely because ω C₂, Pyr, Gly and
322 MeGly are significantly produced by photochemical oxidation of aliphatic olefins and
323 aromatic hydrocarbons whereas ω C₄ from cyclic olefins and unsaturated fatty acids (Bandow
324 et al., 1985; Hatakeyama et al., 1987; Kawamura et al., 1996a; Lim et al., 2005; Warneck,
325 2003) but ω C₃ may not be significantly produced from any of these precursor compounds
326 (Fig. 7). On the other hand, the increasing trends of mass ratios of C₂ to its precursor
327 compounds: ω C₂, Pyr, Gly and MeGly as well as C₃ (but not C₄) diacid (Carlton et al., 2007;
328 Ervens et al., 2004b; Kawamura et al., 1996a; Lim et al., 2005; Warneck, 2003), were found
329 for BA toward to 120 h (Fig. 6a-e and f). It is noteworthy that C₃/ ω C₇ ratios also showed a
330 slight increase, although they are not clear in the later stages of experiment (Fig. 6g),
331 suggesting a potential formation of C₃ diacid via ω C₇ that is derived from unsaturated fatty

332 acids and/or cyclic olefins. In addition, F/M ratios showed an increase with irradiation up to
333 48 h in AA and 18 h in BA followed by a gradual decrease until the end of experiment (Fig.
334 6i), indicating a significant photochemical transformation during an early stage of experiment
335 and decomposition in a later stage.

336 Photochemical degradation of C₂ and C₃ diacids should have overwhelmed their
337 photochemical production even in an early stage of experiment, except for few cases (Fig.
338 3a,b). Diacids and other compounds containing a carbonyl group can form stable carboxylate
339 salts with amines upon photochemical oxidation. However, based on laboratory studies, C₂
340 and C₃ diacids have been reported to decompose in aqueous phase in the presence of Fe³⁺
341 (and C₂ diacid even in the presence of Fe²⁺) under UV irradiation at 254 nm as well as at a
342 solar spectrum (>300 nm) (Pavuluri and Kawamura, 2012; Wang et al., 2010b; Zuo and
343 Hoigne, 1994), but C₂ diacid (and maybe C₃ diacid) is relatively stable in the absence of Fe
344 species (Pavuluri and Kawamura, 2012). It is well documented that both C₂ and C₃ diacids
345 have the strongest chelating capacity with Fe³⁺ among all diacids and tend to form mono, di
346 and tri oxalato (equilibrium constant log₁₀(b) = 9.4, 16.2 and 20.4, respectively) and malonato
347 (equilibrium constant log₁₀(b) = 7.5, 13.3 and 16.9, respectively) complexes by acting as
348 ligands in aqueous phase, which exhibit a strong light absorbing ability (Wang et al., 2010b).
349 Although the equilibrium constant of Fe³⁺-malonato complex is slightly lower than that of
350 Fe³⁺-oxalato, both diacids photolyze upon the absorption of UV light to result in Fe²⁺ and
351 CO₂ (Wang et al., 2010b; Zuo and Hoigne, 1994).

352 We found that non-irradiated AA and BA samples contain significant amounts of
353 water-soluble Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺ species (Table 1). Because high abundance of particulate Fe is
354 present in both AA and BA (Table 1), the concentrations of water-soluble Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺
355 species in both AA and BA samples may increase upon UV irradiation; the water-insoluble
356 Fe can be transformed into water-soluble forms by photochemical processing of mineral

357 aerosols (Solmon et al., 2009; Srinivas et al., 2012). However, we did not measure the
358 concentrations of Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} species in the irradiated samples. In fact, the mass ratio of C_2
359 diacid to Fe^{3+} is 15:1 in non-irradiated AA and 7:1 in BA, which are close to the ratio (10:1)
360 used in laboratory experiments conducted by Pavuluri and Kawamura (2012) for
361 Fe-catalyzed photolysis of C_2 diacid in aqueous phase, in which the photolysis of C_2 is very
362 fast ($k = 206 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) and 99% of the C_2 is degraded in 0.5 h. Therefore, available
363 water-soluble Fe^{3+} (and Fe^{2+}) in AA and BA should be enough to promote the catalytic
364 photochemical degradation of C_2 (and C_3) upon UV irradiation (Fig. 7) and thus the
365 degradation rate of C_2 (and C_3) should have increased with the prolonged experiment due to
366 enhancement in Fe^{3+} (and Fe^{2+}) levels in the given sample.

367 The concentration of C_2 diacid in AA decreased by 30% in 1.5 h and continued to
368 decline by 90% until 12 h (Fig. 3a). On the other hand, the experiment of BA showed that the
369 concentration of C_2 decreased by 47% and 51% in 0.5 h and 1.5 h, respectively, and then
370 gradually declined. The concentrations of C_3 also showed similar trends with C_2 (Fig. 3b).
371 Although C_2 and C_3 diacids decreased sharply during early stages of experiment, they
372 decreased gradually in the later stages, despite possibly enhanced levels of water-soluble Fe^{2+}
373 and Fe^{3+} species. These trends imply that photolysis of C_2 and C_3 diacids is highly significant
374 in the presence of water-soluble Fe^{3+} (and Fe^{2+}) (Fig. 7). On the other hand, the formation of
375 both C_2 and C_3 diacids is also intensive with the photochemical processing of their precursor
376 compounds in AA and BA. However, the net rate of production or degradation of C_2 and C_3
377 diacids in each experiment (Figs. 3a,b) should depend on the abundances of water-soluble
378 Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} species and their precursors in AA and BA.

379 We found an increase in the mass ratios of MeGly to Gly with irradiation toward the
380 end of the experiment, except for an early stage of experiment (up to 6 h) in AA, whereas in
381 BA they remained relatively constant up to 36 h and then increased gradually up to 72 h

382 followed by a rapid decrease (Fig. 6n). As noted earlier, concentrations of Gly and MeGly
383 increased with experiment up to 18~24 h in both AA and BA. Thereafter, Gly decreased
384 toward the end of experiment in both AA and BA whereas MeGly remained relatively
385 constant in the AA, but decreased in BA (Fig. 4i,j). Such differences should be caused by the
386 difference in their production rates depending on the concentrations of potential precursors
387 and their oxidation products in AA and BA: benzene and glycolaldehyde for Gly, acetone and
388 higher alkanes ($>C_3$) and alkenes ($>C_2$) for MeGly (Fu et al., 2008), rather than the reaction
389 rates of the Gly ($1.1 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ S}^{-1}$) and MeGly ($6.44 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ S}^{-1}$) with HO^\bullet in aqueous
390 phase (Tan et al., 2012). Therefore, the high abundance of MeGly in AA than Gly can be
391 attributed to its enhanced production than the later species during photochemical processing
392 of aqueous aerosols derived from anthropogenic sources. Further, the oligomerization of Gly
393 and MeGly (Lim et al., 2010; Tan et al., 2009; Tan et al., 2012) might have also played an
394 important role on the changes in their concentrations with irradiation time, however, we did
395 not focus on the measurements of oligomers here because of the analytical limitations.

396

397 **3.5 Possible photochemical pathways of long-chain diacids and oxoacids**

398 Enhanced concentrations of normal and branched C_4 - C_7 diacids during an early stage
399 (18~36 h) (Fig. 3c-f), despite degradation of C_2 and C_3 and longer-chain $>C_7$) diacids (Fig. 3a,
400 b, g-k), may be caused by photochemical oxidation of the first generation products derived
401 from the oxidation of anthropogenic and/or biogenic VOCs (e.g., cycloalkenes, monoterpenes,
402 and sesquiterpenes) and unsaturated fatty acids (Gao et al., 2004; Kalberer et al., 2000) (Fig.
403 7). In addition, the photochemical oxidation of the polymers of polyunsaturated fatty acids, if
404 available, can significantly produce the long-chain ($\geq C_4$) diacids (Harvey et al., 1983), a
405 subject of future research. In fact, polyunsaturated fatty acids (e.g., linolenic acid ($C_{18:3}$)) can
406 undergo free radical oxidative cross-linking in the air and produce high molecular weight

407 organic compounds (e.g., fulvic acid) (Harvey et al., 1983; Wheeler, 1972). Harvey et al.
408 (1983) found a series of C₄-C₉ diacids by oxidizing the marine fulvic acid in a laboratory
409 study. On the other hand, the chelating capability of succinate (equilibrium constant log₁₀(b)
410 = 7.5 (Wang et al., 2010b)) and other long-chain diacids with Fe³⁺ is weak and hence, their
411 photolysis is insignificant. However, they should be further oxidized to result in lower diacids
412 (Kawamura et al., 1996a; Matsunaga et al., 1999). The degradation of these diacids should be
413 increased with increasing chain length because the oxidation rate of C₄ to C₉ diacids is
414 increased with increasing carbon number (Yang et al., 2008b).

415 The relatively constant levels of C₅, *i*C₄ and *i*C₅ during 36 h and 72~96 h (Fig. 3d,l,m)
416 may be due to the balance between photochemical production and degradation. The increases
417 in the concentrations of C₄ with a prolonged irradiation up to 72 h in BA and 96 h in AA
418 further demonstrate its formation from higher diacids and other precursors in aqueous
419 aerosols (Charbouillot et al., 2012; Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999) (Fig. 7). In fact, total
420 diacids stayed relatively constant from 24 h to 72~96 h (Fig. 3x). In addition, mass ratios of
421 C₄ to C₅-C₇ showed a gradual increase throughout the experiment (until 120 h) in both AA
422 and BA (Fig. 6k-m). These results support a photochemical breakdown of longer-chain (≥C₅)
423 diacids resulting in C₄ (Charbouillot et al., 2012; Matsunaga et al., 1999; Yang et al., 2008b).
424 Yang et al. (2008b) reported that the production of C₄ diacid is predominant followed by C₅
425 diacid during a laboratory photochemical oxidation of C₆-C₉ diacids.

426 In addition, ωC₈ acid, which can be produced by the oxidation of cyclic olefins and
427 unsaturated fatty acids (Gao et al., 2004; Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999), showed a gradual
428 increase (Fig. 4e) similar to that of C₄ diacid (Fig. 3c) in both AA and BA, suggesting a
429 significant photochemical production of C₄ via ωC₈ until the consumption of the precursor
430 compounds derived from anthropogenic and biogenic VOCs and biogenic unsaturated fatty
431 acids (Gao et al., 2004; Kalberer et al., 2000). In fact, ratios of C₄ to C₅-C₇ were 10 times

432 higher in BA than in AA whereas those of $C_4/\omega C_8$ were similar in both the BA and AA (Fig.
433 6j). However, their temporal profiles with irradiation time are similar in both AA and BA.
434 These results suggest that the formation of C_4 and ωC_8 is much higher in biogenic aerosols
435 than in anthropogenic aerosols compared to C_5 - C_7 diacids, but their formation/degradation
436 processes may be similar irrespective of the origin of precursors. However, it is not clear
437 from this study if C_4 is mainly derived (via ωC_8) from cyclic olefins or unsaturated fatty acids
438 (Fig. 7).

439 It is well established that long-chain (C_8 - C_{12}) diacids are formed by photochemical
440 oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids (e.g., oleic acid) (Kawamura and Gagosian, 1987;
441 Matsunaga et al., 1999) (Fig. 7). However, unsaturated fatty acids were not abundant (e.g.,
442 oleic acid was 0.89 ng m^{-3} in AA and below detection limit in BA) in non-irradiated samples
443 (Fu et al., 2010). Hence, photochemical formation of long-chain diacids from the oxidation of
444 unsaturated fatty acids should be less important during the experiment, although chemical
445 forms of polymerized and/or partially oxidized unsaturated fatty acids may be abundant in the
446 aerosols. On the other hand, photooxidation rate constant of diacids increases with an
447 increase in carbon number of individual diacids ($\geq C_4$) (Yang et al., 2008b). Hence,
448 photochemical breakdown of C_8 - C_{12} diacids to lower diacids (Matsunaga et al., 1999; Yang
449 et al., 2008b) should be very likely (Fig. 7). The gradual decreases of aliphatic unsaturated
450 diacids, aromatic diacids, and oxoacids, except for ωC_8 , with irradiation are likely caused by
451 the photochemical degradation (Fig. 7).

452

453 **3.6 Atmospheric implications**

454 As discussed above, this study reveals that photochemical degradation of C_2 and C_3 (due to
455 Fe-catalyzed photolysis) in aqueous aerosols overwhelmed their production whereas C_4
456 diacid showed photochemical formation. These results are consistent with the recent

457 atmospheric observations: a significant reduction in C₂ diacid concentration and an inverse
458 relationship between the C₂ and Fe in cloud water (Sorooshian et al., 2013), and the
459 replacement of the predominance of C₂ by C₄ in the Arctic aerosols (Kawamura et al., 2010;
460 Kawamura et al., 2012). It was also reported that C₄ and C₅ diacids are most abundant among
461 C₃-C₈ diacids determined during the photochemical oxidation of C₆-C₉ diacids in a laboratory
462 experiment (Yang et al., 2008b).

463 On the contrary, enhanced degradation of C₂ and C₃ and formation of C₄ diacid upon
464 prolonged irradiation, are not consistent with previous laboratory, observation and model
465 studies on photochemical production and degradation of diacids and related compounds in
466 aqueous phase (e.g., cloud processing) (Carlton et al., 2007; Charbouillot et al., 2012; Ervens
467 et al., 2004b; Kawamura et al., 1996a; Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999; Lim et al., 2005;
468 Warneck, 2003). In fact, previous studies did not consider Fe-catalyzed photolysis of C₂
469 diacid, which is significant at least in Fe-rich atmospheric waters. On the other hand, the
470 formation processes and potential precursor compounds of C₄ diacid have not been fully
471 explored yet. Moreover, previous laboratory experiments on aqueous solutions of specific
472 species did not consider the mixing state of organic and inorganic constituents in atmospheric
473 aerosols (Ervens et al., 2011), although simplified experiments sometimes provide useful
474 information on mechanisms.

475 Generally, it has been considered that the anthropogenic contributions of α -dicarbonyls
476 to organic aerosols are minor: 8% for Gly and 5% for MeGly (Fu et al., 2008). To the best of
477 our knowledge, their production in atmospheric waters has not well been recognized yet. Our
478 laboratory experiments indicate that the photochemical production of Gly and MeGly is
479 significant in aqueous aerosols. The production of MeGly is more pronounced compared to
480 Gly with prolonged photochemical processing of aqueous anthropogenic aerosols. Finally,
481 our findings based on the batch laboratory experiment emphasize the importance of the

482 photolysis of C₂ and C₃ diacids and photochemical production of C₄ diacid and α -dicarbonyls
483 in aqueous aerosols to reconcile the current atmospheric model(s) such as cloud parcel model
484 (Ervens et al., 2004a), and to better understand the secondary organic aerosol budget and its
485 climatic impacts.

486

487 **4 Summary and conclusions**

488 In this study, we conducted batch UV irradiation experiments on anthropogenic (AA) and
489 biogenic (BA) aerosol samples collected from Chennai, India in the presence of moisture for
490 the reaction time of 0.5 h to 120 h. The irradiated samples were analyzed for molecular
491 compositions of diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls. Concentrations of C₂ and C₃ and C₈-C₁₂
492 diacids decreased with an increase in 12-24 h. In contrast, C₄ diacid (and C₅-C₇) showed a
493 significant increase with reaction time up to 72 h in BA and 96 h in AA. Oxoacids and
494 α -dicarbonyls showed a significant increase during an early stage of irradiation followed by a
495 gradual decrease in the prolonged experiment, except for ω C₈ acid that showed a pattern
496 similar to C₄ diacid and for methylglyoxal that remained relatively abundant from 24 h to the
497 end of the experiment in AA. The mass ratios of C₂ diacid to its precursors: glyoxylic acid,
498 pyruvic acid, α -dicarbonyls (glyoxyal and methylglyoxal) and C₃, showed a considerable
499 increase with irradiation, while those of C₄ to C₅-C₇ diacids and ω C₈ acid and methylglyoxal
500 to glyoxal in AA showed a significant increase with irradiation. These results demonstrate
501 that degradation of C₂ and C₃ (and C₈-C₁₂) and formation of C₄ (and C₅-C₇) is enhanced with
502 photochemical processing of aqueous aerosols. This study further infers that iron-catalyzed
503 photolysis of C₂ and C₃ diacids and photochemical formation of C₄ diacid via ω C₈ acid
504 derived from cyclic olefins and/or unsaturated fatty acids play an important role in
505 controlling their abundances in the atmosphere with photochemical processing of aqueous

506 aerosols. This study also suggests that photochemical production of α -dicarbonyls, in
507 particular methylglyoxal, in anthropogenic aerosols is significant.

508

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705 **Table 1.** Concentrations of carbonaceous components, organic molecular tracer compounds,
 706 diacids and related compounds, trace elements, metals and water-soluble iron species in
 707 non-irradiated IND104 (anthropogenic aerosols: AA) and IND178 (biogenic aerosols: BA)
 708 aerosol samples collected from Chennai, India.

	Concentrations (ng m ⁻³)	
	IND104 (AA)	IND178 (BA)
Organic carbon ^a	6400	9820
Elemental carbon ^a	4810	1810
Levoglucosan ^b	79.1	158
Hopanes (C ₂₇ -C ₃₅) ^b	11.8	3.9
Fatty acids (C ₈ -C ₃₄) ^b	167	297
Fatty alcohols (C ₁₄ -C ₃₄) ^b	93.3	178
Total diacids	1030	640
Total oxoacids	110	62.2
Total α -dicarbonyls	10.9	11.6
Al	15100	914
Ca	1640	0.00
Cd	10.7	1.73
Co	1.07	0.00
Cr	5.33	0.00
Cu	796	13.9
Fe	2070	553
K	1220	893
Mg	679	90.2
Mn	129	19.1
Na	1890	408
Ni	58.7	106
P	62.9	0.00
Pb	133	39.9
S	4640	5820
Sb	13.9	29.5
V	9.60	0.00
Zn	2030	137
Fe _{WS} ^c	57.0	78.3
Fe ²⁺	20.5	30.0
Fe ³⁺	36.6	48.4

709 ^a: Data is obtained from Pavuluri et al. (2011), ^b: Data is obtained from Fu et al. (2010), ^c:

710 Fe_{WS} is water-soluble Fe.

711 **Figure Captions**

712 **Fig. 1.** A map of South Asia with sampling site, Chennai (13.04°N; 80.17°E), India together
713 with plots of 10-day air mass trajectories arriving at 500 m a.g.l. over Chennai, India.

714 **Fig. 2.** Schematic of experimental setup for irradiation of atmospheric aerosol filter sample.

715 **Fig. 3.** Changes in concentrations of individual dicarboxylic acids and total diacids as a
716 function of UV irradiation time in anthropogenic (AA) and biogenic aerosols (BA).

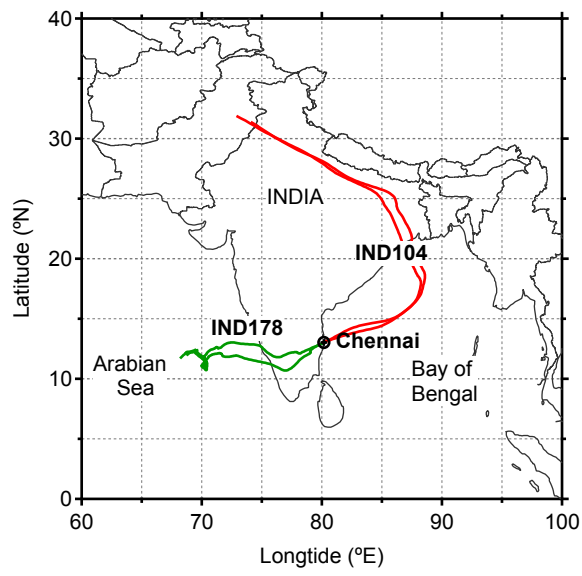
717 **Fig. 4.** Changes in concentrations of individual oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls and total
718 oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls as a function of UV irradiation time in AA and BA.

719 **Fig. 5.** Changes in relative abundances of straight chain diacids (C₂-C₁₀) to total diacids as a
720 function of UV irradiation time in AA and BA.

721 **Fig. 6.** Changes in mass ratios of selected diacids, oxoacids and α -dicarbonyls as a function
722 of UV irradiation time in AA and BA.

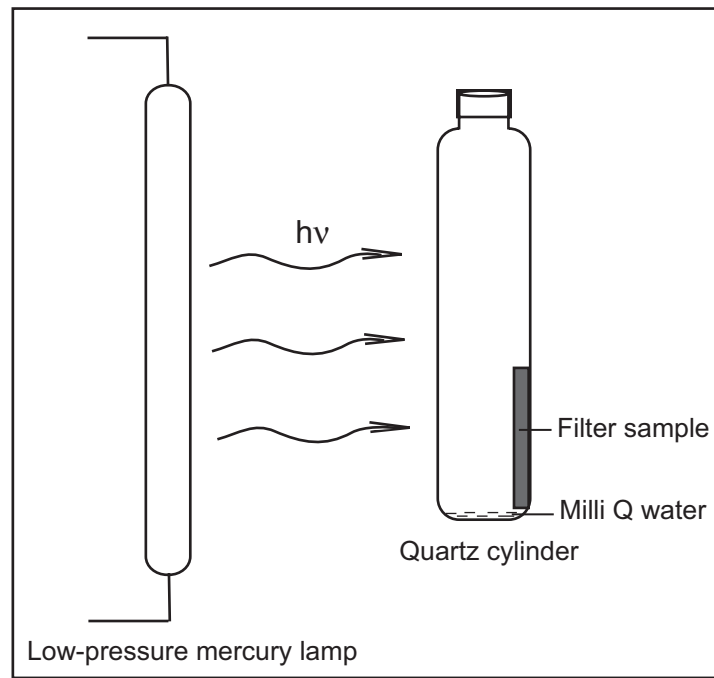
723 **Fig. 7.** Possible photochemical formation and/or degradation pathways of diacids, oxoacids
724 and α -dicarbonyls in aqueous aerosols.

725 **Fig. 1.**



726

727 **Fig. 2.**



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