

## Response Letter

June 27, 2015

Dr. Markus Ammann  
Editor, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics

**RE:** *Manuscript Number:* acp-2014-967R; *Manuscript Title:* Laboratory photochemical processing of aqueous aerosols: formation and degradation of dicarboxylic acids, oxocarboxylic acids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls.

Dear Dr. Ammann,

Thank you for your decision letter of May 26, 2015. According to your (and reviewer #2) comment, we revised the manuscript. Our responses and changes are detailed as below. We uploaded the revised MS with and without track changes. Please check them. We believe that the revised MS is now ready to be accepted for the publication.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

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### **Editor Comment**

The reviewer of the revised version has still a major concern regarding the interpretation of your experiments in view of the 185 nm radiation and its impact on photolysis. I think this is a valid point. As he notes, it would be best, if you could provide results from control experiments. On the hand, I would also agree with a more quantitative assessment of the photolysis rates at 185 nm. In your present section 2.3 you are quoting appropriate references, but using cross sections for photolysis for the compounds of interest and using the irradiance you have in your experiment at 185nm as compared to 256 nm, you could substantiate your point more.

**Response:** Since we used atmospheric aerosol filter samples, which contain a complex mixture of organic and inorganic contents, it is difficult to conduct the control experiments to examine the potential photolysis of individual compounds of interest by the radiation of 185 nm in this study.

However, following the Editor's suggestion, we provided an additional discussion to substantiate our point that the photolysis of organics by 185 nm light is insignificant during our experiment as described below.

The photolysis of organics by the radiation of 185 nm, whose intensity is 100 times lower than that of 254 nm, should be insignificant during the experiment because the intensity of the 185 nm light emitted from UV lamp is small and is mostly absorbed by water due to its high absorption coefficient ( $1.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 25 °C) (Weeks et al., 1963). It is well established that the photolysis rates of organics by the radiation of 185 nm are elevated only in the absence of dissolved oxygen (Shirayama et al., 2001) whereas in aerated solutions, mainly water

undergoes photolysis under irradiation of 185 nm and produce the hydrogen atoms, which are scavenged by oxygen to form HO<sub>2</sub><sup>•</sup> radicals that finally converted to HO<sup>•</sup> (Chitose et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2008). These points are described in the revised MS. Please see section 2.3, lines 156-169.

#### Reviewer #2 Comment

The paper is now better but as a photochemist, I am not relay convinced by your answer on my first remark about the wavelength of irradiation. I really think that experiments at wavelength higher than 300 nm or experiments with the same lamp but with organic products alone in water could be very useful to confirm or infirm the mentioned results and the low effect of the shorter wavelengths (254 and 185 nm) on the photolysis of organic compounds.

**Response:** We agree with the reviewer's opinion that the use of UV light of solar spectrum and organic compounds alone is better to study the reaction pathways of specific compounds. However, the organic compounds alone in water do not reflect a complex mixture of organic and inorganic aerosol constituents in the atmosphere (Ervens et al., 2011). Therefore, we believe that the laboratory experiments on complex mixture of organic and inorganic compounds under atmospherically relevant conditions could provide more useful information on the photochemical formation and degradation processes of organics in the atmosphere with photochemical aging. These points are noted in introduction section of the MS (please see lines 70-76).

In fact, as detailed in section 2.3 of the revised MS, photolysis of the compounds of interest under the irradiance of both 254 nm and 185 nm lights in this study is insignificant. Hence, our results and interpretations are reasonable, which can significantly contribute to the community of atmospheric chemistry and relevant sciences.

#### Citations:

- Chitose, N., Ueta, S., Seino, S. and Yamamoto, T. A.: Radiolysis of aqueous phenol solutions with nanoparticles. 1. Phenol degradation and TOC removal in solutions containing TiO<sub>2</sub> induced by UV, γ-ray and electron beams, *Chemosphere*, **50**, 1007–1013, 2003.
- Ervens, B., Turpin, B. J. and Weber, R. J.: Secondary organic aerosol formation in cloud droplets and aqueous particles (aqSOA): a review of laboratory, field and model studies, *Atmos Chem Phys*, **11**, 11069–11102, doi:10.5194/Acp-11-11069-2011, 2011.
- Shirayama, H., Tohezo, Y. and Taguchi, S.: Photodegradation of chlorinated hydrocarbons in the presence and absence of dissolved oxygen in water, *Water Research*, **35**, 1941–1950, 2001.
- Weeks, J. L., Meaburn, G. M. A. C. and Gordon, S.: Absorption Coefficients of Liquid Water and Aqueous Solutions in the Far Ultraviolet, *Radiation Research*, **19**, 559–567, 1963.
- Yang, L. M., Ray, M. B. and Yu, L. E.: Photooxidation of dicarboxylic acids- Part 1: effects of inorganic ions on degradation of azelaic acid, *Atmos Environ*, **42**, 856–867, 2008.

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

3  
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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  $\alpha$ -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  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls overwhelmed their  
24 degradation during the early stages of experiment, except for  $\omega$ -oxooctanoic acid ( $\omega C_8$ ) 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  $\omega C_8$ ) 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  $\alpha$ -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 (Saxena and Hildemann, 1996; Kawamura  
37 and Sakaguchi, 1999; Pavuluri et al., 2010). They have a potential contribution to the  
38 formation of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) due to their water-soluble and hygroscopic  
39 properties (Saxena and Hildemann, 1996; Giebl et al., 2002). Thus diacids and related  
40 compounds have an impact on the indirect radiative forcing and hydrological cycle (Twomey,  
41 1977; Albrecht, 1989). 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  $\alpha$ -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 (Kawamura et al., 1996a; Kawamura and  
47 Sakaguchi, 1999; Kanakidou et al., 2005). 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  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls (Kawamura et al., 1996a; Warneck, 2003;  
58 Ervens et al., 2004b; Lim et al., 2005; Carlton et al., 2007; Charbouillot et al., 2012). In

59 contrast, C<sub>4</sub> was reported to be more abundant than C<sub>2</sub> 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 C<sub>2</sub> diacid concentration and an  
63 inverse relationship between C<sub>2</sub> and Fe has been reported in stratocumulus clouds over the  
64 northeastern Pacific Ocean (Sorooshian et al., 2013). The predominance of C<sub>4</sub> over C<sub>2</sub> 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 C<sub>2</sub> in cloud water, suggest that photochemical formation of C<sub>4</sub>  
68 and/or degradation of C<sub>2</sub> (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  $\alpha$ -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.

## 85 2 Materials and Methods

### 86 2.1 Atmospheric aerosol samples

87 In this study, we used two types of atmospheric aerosol (PM<sub>10</sub>) 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)

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

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

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

## 2.3 Irradiation experiment of aerosol samples

Batch UV irradiation experiments using two aerosol samples (AA and BA) were conducted separately for 0.5, 1.5, 3.0, 6.0, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 72, 96 and 120 h, because both primary and secondary chemical species that are associated with aerosols can be subjected for significant photochemical processing through out their stay (i.e., up to 12 days) in the atmosphere (Warneck, 2003). In each experiment, ~12 cm<sup>2</sup> (ca. 3 × 4 cm) of sample filter was cut into 3~4 pieces and placed vertically in a cleaned quartz reaction vessel (cylinder, 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<sup>•</sup>) 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<sup>•</sup> reactions of organics are significant (Carlton et al., 2006; Yang et al.,  
152 2008b; Tan et al., 2012). Because sulfate is abundant in non-irradiated AA and BA (Pavuluri  
153 et al., 2011), the production of organosulfates should be significant upon irradiation (Noziere  
154 et al., 2010) in both the samples. However, the sulfate contents may not have significant  
155 impact on the production rate of diacids and related compounds (Tan et al., 2009).

156 Further, the photolysis of organics by the radiation of 185 nm, whose intensity is 100  
157 times lower than that of 254 nm, should be insignificant during the experiment because the  
158 185 nm light intensity is small and is mostly absorbed by water due to its high absorption

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**Deleted:** is mostly absorbed by water to subsequently produce HO<sup>•</sup> and thus minimize the photolysis of organics

162 coefficient ( $1.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ) (Weeks et al., 1963). It is well established that the photolysis  
163 rates of organics by the radiation of 185 nm are elevated only in the absence of dissolved  
164 oxygen (Shirayama et al., 2001) whereas in aerated solutions, mainly water undergoes  
165 photolysis under irradiation of 185 nm and produce the hydrogen atoms, which are scavenged  
166 by oxygen to form  $\text{HO}_2^\bullet$  radicals that finally converted to  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  (Chitose et al., 2003; Yang et  
167 al., 2008b). Thus, the minor 185 nm light emitted from UV source promotes the production  
168 of  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  during the experiment rather than the photolysis of the compounds of interest in this  
169 study. On the contrary, iron-dicarboxylate complexes (e.g., oxalate and malonate) can  
170 photolyze by absorbing both UV-C (254 nm) and UV-A light and their photolysis rate  
171 depends on the concentration of Fe in the given sample rather than the UV light wavelength  
172 (Zuo and Hoigne, 1994; Wang et al., 2010b; Pavuluri and Kawamura, 2012). In addition,  
173 radiation at 254 nm has been reported to impose only a marginal photolysis of most of the  
174 inorganic species, except for nitrate, which is one of the  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  sources (Yang et al., 2008b).

175 The irradiation of wetted aerosol sample at 254 nm induces the formation of  $\text{O}_3$  from  
176 the dissolved  $\text{O}_2$  followed by generation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , and photolysis of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  
177  $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})^{2+}$  and certain organic compounds, and Fenton's reaction of photochemically formed  
178  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to produce  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  in aqueous phase (Arakaki and Faust, 1998; Carlton et al.,  
179 2006; Yang et al., 2008b). In fact, high amount of Fe, including water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$   
180 species, is available in both AA and BA samples (Table 1), which could promote the  
181 Fenton's reaction upon UV irradiation. In addition,  $\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{HOO}^\bullet$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  formed in  
182 aqueous phase reactions may be partitioned into gas phase and generate the gaseous  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  that  
183 should be re-partitioned into aqueous phase (Arakaki and Faust, 1998). These sources of  $\text{HO}^\bullet$   
184 are similar to those of atmospheric waters: (i) gas/drop partitioning of  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  and (ii) gas/drop  
185 partitioning of  $\text{O}_3$  followed by reaction with peroxy radical ( $\text{HOO}^\bullet$ ), (iii) photolysis of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,

186  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})^{2+}$  and certain organic compounds, and (iv) Fenton's reaction of  
187  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (Arakaki and Faust, 1998).

188 Unfortunately, we could not approximate the actual concentrations of  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  in our  
189 experiments because we did not add any chemical (e.g., a standard compound whose kinetics  
190 are known) in order to keep our experimental system as realistic as possible. Furthermore, the  
191 formation of  $\text{O}_3$  from the initially available  $\text{O}_2$  (~0.94 mM) in the reaction vessel may not  
192 cause the deficit of the  $\text{O}_2$  that could potentially induce the polymerization of organics during  
193 the irradiation on aerosols for several hours, because the additional  $\text{O}_2$  could be produced  
194 from the gaseous  $\text{HOO}^\bullet$  formed by photolysis of organics and Fenton's reaction (Arakaki and  
195 Faust, 1998) during the experiment.

196

#### 197 **2.4 Measurements of diacids, oxoacids and $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls**

198 Immediately after the irradiation, samples were analyzed for diacids, oxoacids and  
199  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls using a method reported elsewhere (Kawamura, 1993; Kawamura and  
200 Ikushima, 1993). Briefly, the irradiated sample filter was extracted with Milli-Q water (10  
201 mL x 3) under ultra sonication for 10 min and the extracts were concentrated to near dryness  
202 using a rotary evaporator under vacuum. The extracts were then derivatized with 14%  
203  $\text{BF}_3/\text{n-butanol}$  at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  to butyl esters and/or butoxy acetals. Both the esters and acetals were  
204 extracted with *n*-hexane and then determined using a capillary GC (HP 6890) and GC-MS  
205 (Thermo Trace MS). Recoveries of authentic standards spiked to a pre-combusted quartz  
206 fiber filter were 73% for oxalic ( $\text{C}_2$ ) acid and more than 84% for malonic ( $\text{C}_3$ ), succinic ( $\text{C}_4$ )  
207 and adipic ( $\text{C}_6$ ) acids (Pavuluri et al., 2010). The analytical errors in duplicate analysis of the  
208 aerosol filter sample are within 9% for major species. Gas chromatogram of the field and  
209 laboratory blanks showed small peaks for  $\text{C}_2$ , phthalic (Ph) and glyoxylic acids.

210 Concentrations of all the species reported here are corrected for the non-irradiated field  
211 blanks (Pavuluri et al., 2010).

212

## 213 **2.5 Quality control**

214 To examine the possible experimental errors, including the distribution of organic/inorganic  
215 constituents over the filter sample, we conducted replicate experiments ( $n = 3$ ) for 18 h  
216 irradiation of AA sample by using the sample cut taken from different parts of the filter  
217 sample for each experiment because a deviation in the results of the irradiation experiment  
218 should become large if the impact of potential variance in chemical composition of aerosol at  
219 different parts of the single filter, size of the filter sample used (i.e., amount of aerosols) and  
220 the amount of Milli Q water added is significant. The experimental errors, including the  
221 analytical errors, were found to be within 11% for major species, except for  $C_3$  diacid (19%).  
222 These results suggest that organic and inorganic constituents are well distributed over the  
223 filter sample and took up water evenly distributed upon wetting. In addition, two irradiation  
224 experiments were conducted to check the procedural blank by using a clean quartz filter for  
225 1.5 h and 6.0 h. No peaks were detected, except for a small peak for  $C_2$  and Ph. These results  
226 indicate that the occurrence of bias during the experiment is insignificant.

227

## 228 **3 Results and discussion**

### 229 **3.1 Concentrations of trace elements, metals and water-soluble iron species**

230 Concentrations of trace elements, metals and water-soluble Fe species ( $Fe^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$ )  
231 determined in non-irradiated AA and BA samples are presented in Table 1. The trace  
232 elements and metals in AA sample, which mainly originate from soil dust (e.g., P, Al, Ca and  
233 Fe), non-ferrous metallurgical industrial activities (Cd, Cu and Zn) and fossil fuel combustion  
234 (Cr, Pb and V) (Pacyna and Pacyna, 2001; Mahowald et al., 2008), are significantly more

235 abundant than in BA (by up to several times higher), except for S, Ni and Sb (Table 1). The  
236 high abundances of trace metals in AA further suggest that the AA sample should contain  
237 high abundances of anthropogenic organic matter. The high abundances of S, Ni and Sb in  
238 BA than in AA may be due to high emissions of the S from intensive consumption of biofuels,  
239 particularly cow-dung that contains higher S content (Reddy and Venkataraman, 2002b),  
240 while Ni and Sb are from some specific industrial activities in southern India. Although  
241 water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  species are abundant in both AA and BA, their concentrations in  
242 BA are 30-50% higher than in AA (Table 1). Further the fraction of water-soluble Fe ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{WS}}$ :  
243 sum of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ) in total particulate Fe ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{Tot}}$ ) is 2.77% in AA whereas it is 14.6% in  
244 BA.

245

### 246 3.2 Molecular compositions of diacids, oxoacids and $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls

247 A homologous series of normal ( $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_{12}$ ) and branched chain (iso  $\text{C}_4$ - $\text{C}_6$ ) saturated  
248  $\alpha,\omega$ -diacids were detected in both non-irradiated and irradiated AA and BA samples as well  
249 as aliphatic unsaturated diacids such as maleic (M), fumaric (F), and methylmaleic (mM)  
250 acids and aromatic diacids such as phthalic (Ph), isophthalic (*i*-Ph), and terephthalic (*t*-Ph)  
251 acids. Diacids with an additional functional group, i.e., malic (hydroxysuccinic,  $\text{hC}_4$ ),  
252 ketomalonic ( $\text{kC}_3$ ), and 4-ketopimelic ( $\text{kC}_7$ ) acids, were detected, together with  $\omega$ -oxoacids  
253 ( $\omega\text{C}_2$ - $\omega\text{C}_9$ ), pyruvic acid (Pyr), and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls, i.e., glyoxal (Gly) and methylglyoxal  
254 (MeGly).  $\omega\text{C}_6$  will not be reported here due to the overlapping peak on GC chromatogram.

255 Oxalic ( $\text{C}_2$ ) acid was found as the most abundant diacid in non-irradiated samples  
256 (accounting for 54% of total diacids in AA and 53% in BA), followed by Ph (10%),  $\text{C}_4$  (9%),  
257  $\text{C}_3$  (8%) and  $\text{C}_9$  (4%) in AA and by malonic ( $\text{C}_3$ ) (9%),  $\text{C}_4$  (6%) and *t*-Ph (6%) acids in BA.  
258 Branched chain diacids were significantly lower than the corresponding normal structures in  
259 both samples. Glyoxylic ( $\omega\text{C}_2$ ) acid is the most abundant oxoacid, comprising 64% and 57%

260 of total oxoacids in AA and BA, respectively, followed by Pyr (13%) and 4-oxobutanoic  
261 ( $\omega$ C<sub>4</sub>) acid (10%) in AA and  $\omega$ C<sub>4</sub> (18%) and Pyr (13%) in BA. MeGly is more abundant than  
262 Gly in AA whereas their abundances are equivalent in BA.

263

### 264 3.3 Changes in concentrations of diacids and related compounds as a function of UV 265 irradiation time

266 Changes in concentrations of individual and total diacids as a function of UV irradiation time  
267 in AA and BA are depicted in Fig. 3, while those of oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls as well as  
268 total oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls in Fig. 4. Concentrations of C<sub>2</sub> diacid were sharply  
269 decreased by a factor of 3-9 (from 553 ng m<sup>-3</sup> to 61.7 ng m<sup>-3</sup> in AA and from 339 to 118 ng  
270 m<sup>-3</sup> in BA) within 6 h and 12 h of UV irradiation, respectively (Fig. 3a). Then, the  
271 concentrations started to increase to maximize at 24 h (292 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) in AA and 18 h (306 ng  
272 m<sup>-3</sup>) in BA on further irradiation. They gradually decreased toward the end (120 h) of the  
273 experiment (Fig. 3a). Interestingly, C<sub>3</sub> diacid showed a temporal variation similar to C<sub>2</sub> in  
274 both AA and BA, except for few points (Fig. 3b). Relative abundances of C<sub>2</sub> in total diacids  
275 gradually decreased from non-irradiated samples (54% in AA and 53% in BA) toward the  
276 end (120 h) of the experiment (3.2% in AA and 9.2% in BA, Fig. 5).

277 Concentrations of  $\omega$ C<sub>2</sub>, an immediate precursor of C<sub>2</sub> (Kawamura et al., 1996a;  
278 Warneck, 2003; Lim et al., 2005), increased with irradiation time up to 18 h in both AA and  
279 BA, except for two cases (3 and 6 h) of AA, and then gradually decreased until the end (120  
280 h) of the experiment, except for one case (36 h) in AA (Fig. 4a). Pyr, Gly and MeGly, which  
281 are the precursors of  $\omega$ C<sub>2</sub> acid, are all produced by the oxidation of VOCs of anthropogenic  
282 and biogenic origin (Warneck, 2003; Ervens et al., 2004b; Lim et al., 2005; Carlton et al.,  
283 2006). They also increased with irradiation time up to 18~24 h in both samples and then  
284 gradually decreased (except for MeGly in AA) until the end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig.

285 4g, i, j). However, the other precursor of C<sub>2</sub> diacid, kC<sub>3</sub> diacid (Kawamura et al., 1996a),  
286 showed a decrease with irradiation time throughout the experiment, except for few cases (Fig.  
287 3v) whereas hC<sub>4</sub>, a precursor of C<sub>3</sub> diacid (Kawamura et al., 1996a), increased up to 18 h in  
288 BA and 24 h in AA and remained relatively high until 72 h and then gradually decreased until  
289 the end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig. 3u).

290 In contrast, concentrations of C<sub>4</sub> diacid showed a gradual increase with irradiation time  
291 up to 72 h in BA and 96 h in AA followed by a slight decrease in the AA and a sharp  
292 decrease in BA (Fig. 3c). Relative abundance of C<sub>4</sub> diacid in total diacids also increased from  
293 8.9% (non-irradiated) to 82% (120 h) in AA and from 6.4% to 88% in BA (Fig. 5). Similarly,  
294 C<sub>5</sub> diacid in AA (Fig. 3d) showed a gradual increase with irradiation up to 36 h and stayed  
295 almost constant until 96 h followed by a slight decrease. Similar trend was found in BA (Fig.  
296 3d). Both C<sub>6</sub> and C<sub>7</sub> diacids showed an increase with irradiation up to 6~36 h and then a  
297 gradual decrease until the end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig. 3e,f). Concentrations of *i*C<sub>4</sub>  
298 diacid also increased with irradiation up to 18 h in BA and 36 h in AA and stayed relatively  
299 constant until 72 h or 96 h. Then, the concentrations gradually decreased until the end (120 h)  
300 of the experiment (Fig. 3l). *i*C<sub>5</sub> and *i*C<sub>6</sub> diacids (Fig. 3m,n) showed very similar trend with  
301 their corresponding normal diacids (Fig. 3d,e).

302 Long-chain (C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>) diacids showed a sharp decrease with irradiation up to 12 h and  
303 then a gradual decrease until the end (120 h) of the experiment (Fig. 3g-k). C<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>9</sub> and C<sub>12</sub>  
304 diacids became below the detection limit within several hours, particularly in BA. On the  
305 other hand, unsaturated aliphatic (M, F, mM, and Ph) and aromatic diacids (*i*-Ph and *t*-Ph)  
306 showed a gradual decrease with irradiation, except for few cases during the early stages of the  
307 experiment (Fig. 3o-t). Concentrations of kC<sub>7</sub> increased with irradiation time up to 18 h and  
308 then decreased gradually until 120 h (Fig. 3w) whereas oxoacids: ωC<sub>3</sub>, ωC<sub>7</sub> and ωC<sub>9</sub> acids,  
309 showed a gradual decrease with irradiation, except for few cases (Fig. 4b,d,f). On the other

310 hand,  $\omega$ C<sub>4</sub> acid showed a sharp increase up to 12 h and then a sharp decrease toward 24 h  
311 (Fig. 4c). Interestingly, temporal pattern of  $\omega$ C<sub>8</sub> acid (Fig. 4e) was similar to that of C<sub>4</sub> diacid  
312 (Fig. 3c).

313 Thus the changes in the concentrations of individual diacids, oxoacids and  
314  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls as well as relative abundances of individual diacids in total diacids and mass  
315 ratios of selected species in AA and BA found to be similar (Figs. 3-6), although significant  
316 differences are recognized between AA and BA samples during irradiation. Such similarities  
317 in the temporal variations of diacids and related polar compounds infer that their  
318 photochemical formation and degradation pathways in aqueous aerosols (Fig. 7) are almost  
319 same between anthropogenic and biogenic aerosols. However, there were significant  
320 differences in the rate of formation and/or degradation of diacids and related compounds  
321 between AA and BA, which might have been driven by the differences in the abundances of  
322 the diacids and related compounds as well as their precursor compounds in the original  
323 (non-irradiated) AA and BA samples. In fact, total diacids, oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls were  
324 higher in non-irradiated AA than in BA. On the contrary, OC that contains several precursor  
325 compounds (including fatty acids) of diacids and related polar compounds is higher in BA  
326 than in AA (Table 1).

327

### 328 **3.4 Production and decomposition of short-chain diacids and related compounds**

329 A sharp increase was observed in the concentrations of  $\omega$ C<sub>2</sub>,  $\omega$ C<sub>4</sub>, Pyr, Gly and MeGly, but  
330 not  $\omega$ C<sub>3</sub>, with irradiation up to 18~24 h following a gradual decrease (Fig. 4), demonstrating  
331 an enhanced photochemical production of short-chain ( $\leq$ C<sub>4</sub>) oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls  
332 during an early stage of photochemical processing. It is likely because  $\omega$ C<sub>2</sub>, Pyr, Gly and  
333 MeGly are significantly produced by photochemical oxidation of aliphatic olefins and  
334 aromatic hydrocarbons whereas  $\omega$ C<sub>4</sub> from cyclic olefins and unsaturated fatty acids (Bandow

et al., 1985; Hatakeyama et al., 1987; Kawamura et al., 1996a; Warneck, 2003; Lim et al., 2005) but  $\omega\text{C}_3$  may not be significantly produced from any of these precursor compounds (Fig. 7). On the other hand, the increasing trends of mass ratios of  $\text{C}_2$  to its precursor compounds:  $\omega\text{C}_2$ , Pyr, Gly and MeGly as well as  $\text{C}_3$  (but not  $\text{C}_4$ ) diacid (Kawamura et al., 1996a; Warneck, 2003; Ervens et al., 2004b; Lim et al., 2005; Carlton et al., 2007), were found for BA toward to 120 h (Fig. 6a-e and f). It is noteworthy that  $\text{C}_3/\omega\text{C}_7$  ratios also showed a slight increase, although they are not clear in the later stages of experiment (Fig. 6g), suggesting a potential formation of  $\text{C}_3$  diacid via  $\omega\text{C}_7$  that is derived from unsaturated fatty acids and/or cyclic olefins. In addition, F/M ratios showed an increase with irradiation up to 48 h in AA and 18 h in BA followed by a gradual decrease until the end of experiment (Fig. 6i), indicating a significant photochemical transformation during an early stage of experiment and decomposition in a later stage.

Photochemical degradation of  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3$  diacids should have overwhelmed their photochemical production even in an early stage of experiment, except for few cases (Fig. 3a,b). Diacids and other compounds containing a carbonyl group can form stable carboxylate salts with amines upon photochemical oxidation. However, based on laboratory studies,  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3$  diacids have been reported to decompose in aqueous phase in the presence of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (and  $\text{C}_2$  diacid even in the presence of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) under UV irradiation at 254 nm as well as at a solar spectrum ( $>300$  nm) (Zuo and Hoigne, 1994; Wang et al., 2010b; Pavuluri and Kawamura, 2012), but  $\text{C}_2$  diacid (and maybe  $\text{C}_3$  diacid) is relatively stable in the absence of Fe species (Pavuluri and Kawamura, 2012). It is well documented that both  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3$  diacids have the strongest chelating capacity with  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  among all diacids and tend to form mono, di and tri oxalato (equilibrium constant  $\log_{10}(b) = 9.4, 16.2$  and  $20.4$ , respectively) and malonato (equilibrium constant  $\log_{10}(b) = 7.5, 13.3$  and  $16.9$ , respectively) complexes by acting as ligands in aqueous phase, which exhibit a strong light absorbing ability (Wang et al., 2010b).

360 Although the equilibrium constant of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -malanato complex is slightly lower than that of  
361  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -oxalato, both diacids photolyze upon the absorption of UV light to result in  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  
362  $\text{CO}_2$  (Zuo and Hoigne, 1994; Wang et al., 2010b).

363 We found that non-irradiated AA and BA samples contain significant amounts of  
364 water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  species (Table 1). Because high abundance of particulate Fe is  
365 present in both AA and BA (Table 1), the concentrations of water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$   
366 species in both AA and BA samples may increase upon UV irradiation; the water-insoluble  
367 Fe can be transformed into water-soluble forms by photochemical processing of mineral  
368 aerosols (Solmon et al., 2009; Srinivas et al., 2012). However, we did not measure the  
369 concentrations of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  species in the irradiated samples. In fact, the mass ratio of  $\text{C}_2$   
370 diacid to  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  is 15:1 in non-irradiated AA and 7:1 in BA, which are close to the ratio (10:1)  
371 used in laboratory experiments conducted by Pavuluri and Kawamura (2012) for  
372 Fe-catalyzed photolysis of  $\text{C}_2$  diacid in aqueous phase, in which the photolysis of  $\text{C}_2$  is very  
373 fast ( $k = 206 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) and 99% of the  $\text{C}_2$  is degraded in 0.5 h. Therefore, available  
374 water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) in AA and BA should be enough to promote the catalytic  
375 photochemical degradation of  $\text{C}_2$  (and  $\text{C}_3$ ) upon UV irradiation (Fig. 7) and thus the  
376 degradation rate of  $\text{C}_2$  (and  $\text{C}_3$ ) should have increased with the prolonged experiment due to  
377 enhancement in  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) levels in the given sample.

378 The concentration of  $\text{C}_2$  diacid in AA decreased by 30% in 1.5 h and continued to  
379 decline by 90% until 12 h (Fig. 3a). On the other hand, the experiment of BA showed that the  
380 concentration of  $\text{C}_2$  decreased by 47% and 51% in 0.5 h and 1.5 h, respectively, and then  
381 gradually declined. The concentrations of  $\text{C}_3$  also showed similar trends with  $\text{C}_2$  (Fig. 3b).  
382 Although  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3$  diacids decreased sharply during early stages of experiment, they  
383 decreased gradually in the later stages, despite possibly enhanced levels of water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$   
384 and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  species. These trends imply that photolysis of  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3$  diacids is highly significant

in the presence of water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) (Fig. 7). On the other hand, the formation of both  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3$  diacids is also intensive with the photochemical processing of their precursor compounds in AA and BA. However, the net rate of production or degradation of  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3$  diacids in each experiment (Figs. 3a,b) should depend on the abundances of water-soluble  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  species and their precursors in AA and BA.

We found an increase in the mass ratios of MeGly to Gly with irradiation toward the end of the experiment, except for an early stage of experiment (up to 6 h) in AA, whereas in BA they remained relatively constant up to 36 h and then increased gradually up to 72 h followed by a rapid decrease (Fig. 6n). As noted earlier, concentrations of Gly and MeGly increased with experiment up to 18–24 h in both AA and BA. Thereafter, Gly decreased toward the end of experiment in both AA and BA whereas MeGly remained relatively constant in the AA, but decreased in BA (Fig. 4i,j). Such differences should be caused by the difference in their production rates depending on the concentrations of potential precursors and their oxidation products in AA and BA: benzene and glycolaldehyde for Gly, acetone and higher alkanes ( $>\text{C}_3$ ) and alkenes ( $>\text{C}_2$ ) for MeGly (Fu et al., 2008), rather than the reaction 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  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  in aqueous phase (Tan et al., 2012). Therefore, the high abundance of MeGly in AA than Gly can be attributed to its enhanced production than the later species during photochemical processing of aqueous aerosols derived from anthropogenic sources. Further, the oligomerization of Gly and MeGly (Tan et al., 2009; Lim et al., 2010; Tan et al., 2012) might have also played an important role on the changes in their concentrations with irradiation time, however, we did not focus on the measurements of oligomers here because of the analytical limitations.

### 3.5 Possible photochemical pathways of long-chain diacids and oxoacids

Enhanced concentrations of normal and branched C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> diacids during an early stage (18~36 h) (Fig. 3c-f), despite degradation of C<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>3</sub> and longer-chain >C<sub>7</sub>) diacids (Fig. 3a, b, g-k), may be caused by photochemical oxidation of the first generation products derived from the oxidation of anthropogenic and/or biogenic VOCs (e.g., cycloalkenes, monoterpenes, and sesquiterpenes) and unsaturated fatty acids (Kalberer et al., 2000; Gao et al., 2004) (Fig. 7). In addition, the photochemical oxidation of the polymers of polyunsaturated fatty acids, if available, can significantly produce the long-chain ( $\geq$ C<sub>4</sub>) diacids (Harvey et al., 1983), a subject of future research. In fact, polyunsaturated fatty acids (e.g., linolenic acid (C<sub>18:3</sub>)) can undergo free radical oxidative cross-linking in the air and produce high molecular weight organic compounds (e.g., fulvic acid) (Wheeler, 1972; Harvey et al., 1983). Harvey et al. (1983) found a series of C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> diacids by oxidizing the marine fulvic acid in a laboratory study. On the other hand, the chelating capability of succinate (equilibrium constant log<sub>10</sub>(b) = 7.5 (Wang et al., 2010b)) and other long-chain diacids with Fe<sup>3+</sup> is weak and hence, their photolysis is insignificant. However, they should be further oxidized to result in lower diacids (Kawamura et al., 1996a; Matsunaga et al., 1999). The degradation of these diacids should be increased with increasing chain length because the oxidation rate of C<sub>4</sub> to C<sub>9</sub> diacids is increased with increasing carbon number (Yang et al., 2008a).

The relatively constant levels of C<sub>5</sub>, *i*C<sub>4</sub> and *i*C<sub>5</sub> during 36 h and 72~96 h (Fig. 3d, l, and m) may be due to the balance between photochemical production and degradation. The increases in the concentrations of C<sub>4</sub> with a prolonged irradiation up to 72 h in BA and 96 h in AA further demonstrate its formation from higher diacids and other precursors in aqueous aerosols (Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999; Charbouillot et al., 2012) (Fig. 7). In fact, total diacids stayed relatively constant from 24 h to 72~96 h (Fig. 3x). In addition, mass ratios of C<sub>4</sub> to C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> showed a gradual increase throughout the experiment (until 120 h) in both AA and BA (Fig. 6k-m). These results support a photochemical breakdown of longer-chain ( $\geq$ C<sub>5</sub>)

434 diacids resulting in C<sub>4</sub> (Matsunaga et al., 1999; Yang et al., 2008a; Charbouillot et al., 2012).  
435 Yang et al. (2008a) reported that the production of C<sub>4</sub> diacid is predominant followed by C<sub>5</sub>  
436 diacid during a laboratory photochemical oxidation of C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> diacids.

437 In addition,  $\omega$ C<sub>8</sub> acid, which can be produced by the oxidation of cyclic olefins and  
438 unsaturated fatty acids (Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999; Gao et al., 2004), showed a gradual  
439 increase (Fig. 4e) similar to that of C<sub>4</sub> diacid (Fig. 3c) in both AA and BA, suggesting a  
440 significant photochemical production of C<sub>4</sub> via  $\omega$ C<sub>8</sub> until the consumption of the precursor  
441 compounds derived from anthropogenic and biogenic VOCs and biogenic unsaturated fatty  
442 acids (Kalberer et al., 2000; Gao et al., 2004). In fact, ratios of C<sub>4</sub> to C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> were 10 times  
443 higher in BA than in AA whereas those of C<sub>4</sub>/ $\omega$ C<sub>8</sub> were similar in both the BA and AA (Fig.  
444 6j). However, their temporal profiles with irradiation time are similar in both AA and BA.  
445 These results suggest that the formation of C<sub>4</sub> and  $\omega$ C<sub>8</sub> is much higher in biogenic aerosols  
446 than in anthropogenic aerosols compared to C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> diacids, but their formation/degradation  
447 processes may be similar irrespective of the origin of precursors. However, it is not clear  
448 from this study if C<sub>4</sub> is mainly derived (via  $\omega$ C<sub>8</sub>) from cyclic olefins or unsaturated fatty acids  
449 (Fig. 7).

450 It is well established that long-chain (C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>) diacids are formed by photochemical  
451 oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids (e.g., oleic acid) (Kawamura and Gagosian, 1987;  
452 Matsunaga et al., 1999) (Fig. 7). However, unsaturated fatty acids were not abundant (e.g.,  
453 oleic acid was 0.89 ng m<sup>-3</sup> in AA and below detection limit in BA) in non-irradiated samples  
454 (Fu et al., 2010). Hence, photochemical formation of long-chain diacids from the oxidation of  
455 unsaturated fatty acids should be less important during the experiment, although chemical  
456 forms of polymerized and/or partially oxidized unsaturated fatty acids may be abundant in the  
457 aerosols. On the other hand, photooxidation rate constant of diacids increases with an  
458 increase in carbon number of individual diacids ( $\geq$ C<sub>4</sub>) (Yang et al., 2008a). Hence,

photochemical breakdown of C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> diacids to lower diacids (Matsunaga et al., 1999; Yang et al., 2008a) should be very likely (Fig. 7). The gradual decreases of aliphatic unsaturated diacids, aromatic diacids, and oxoacids, except for ωC<sub>8</sub>, with irradiation are likely caused by the photochemical degradation (Fig. 7).

### 3.6 Atmospheric implications

As discussed above, this study reveals that photochemical degradation of C<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>3</sub> (due to Fe-catalyzed photolysis) in aqueous aerosols overwhelmed their production whereas C<sub>4</sub> diacid showed photochemical formation. These results are consistent with the recent atmospheric observations: a significant reduction in C<sub>2</sub> diacid concentration and an inverse relationship between the C<sub>2</sub> and Fe in cloud water (Sorooshian et al., 2013), and the replacement of the predominance of C<sub>2</sub> by C<sub>4</sub> in the Arctic aerosols (Kawamura et al., 2010; Kawamura et al., 2012). It was also reported that C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>5</sub> diacids are most abundant among C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> diacids determined during the photochemical oxidation of C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> diacids in a laboratory experiment (Yang et al., 2008a).

On the contrary, enhanced degradation of C<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>3</sub> and formation of C<sub>4</sub> diacid upon prolonged irradiation, are not consistent with previous laboratory, observation and model studies on photochemical production and degradation of diacids and related compounds in aqueous phase (e.g., cloud processing) (Kawamura et al., 1996a; Kawamura and Sakaguchi, 1999; Warneck, 2003; Ervens et al., 2004b; Lim et al., 2005; Carlton et al., 2007; Charbouillot et al., 2012). In fact, previous studies did not consider Fe-catalyzed photolysis of C<sub>2</sub> diacid, which is significant at least in Fe-rich atmospheric waters. On the other hand, the formation processes and potential precursor compounds of C<sub>4</sub> diacid have not been fully explored yet. Moreover, previous laboratory experiments on aqueous solutions of specific species did not consider the mixing state of organic and inorganic constituents in atmospheric

484 aerosols (Ervens et al., 2011), although simplified experiments sometimes provide useful  
485 information on mechanisms.

486 Generally, it has been considered that the anthropogenic contributions of  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls  
487 to organic aerosols are minor: 8% for Gly and 5% for MeGly (Fu et al., 2008). To the best of  
488 our knowledge, their production in atmospheric waters has not well been recognized yet. Our  
489 laboratory experiments indicate that the photochemical production of Gly and MeGly is  
490 significant in aqueous aerosols. The production of MeGly is more pronounced compared to  
491 Gly with prolonged photochemical processing of aqueous anthropogenic aerosols. Finally,  
492 our findings based on the batch laboratory experiment emphasize the importance of the  
493 photolysis of  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  diacids and photochemical production of  $C_4$  diacid and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls  
494 in aqueous aerosols to reconcile the current atmospheric model(s) such as cloud parcel model  
495 (Ervens et al., 2004a), and to better understand the secondary organic aerosol budget and its  
496 climatic impacts.

497

#### 498 **4 Summary and conclusions**

499 In this study, we conducted batch UV irradiation experiments on anthropogenic (AA) and  
500 biogenic (BA) aerosol samples collected from Chennai, India in the presence of moisture for  
501 the reaction time of 0.5 h to 120 h. The irradiated samples were analyzed for molecular  
502 compositions of diacids, oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls. Concentrations of  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  and  $C_8$ - $C_{12}$   
503 diacids decreased with an increase in 12-24 h. In contrast,  $C_4$  diacid (and  $C_5$ - $C_7$ ) showed a  
504 significant increase with reaction time up to 72 h in BA and 96 h in AA. Oxoacids and  
505  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls showed a significant increase during an early stage of irradiation followed by a  
506 gradual decrease in the prolonged experiment, except for  $\omega C_8$  acid that showed a pattern  
507 similar to  $C_4$  diacid and for methylglyoxal that remained relatively abundant from 24 h to the  
508 end of the experiment in AA. The mass ratios of  $C_2$  diacid to its precursors: glyoxylic acid,

509 pyruvic acid,  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls (glyoxyal and methylglyoxal) and  $C_3$ , showed a considerable  
510 increase with irradiation, while those of  $C_4$  to  $C_5$ - $C_7$  diacids and  $\omega C_8$  acid and methylglyoxal  
511 to glyoxal in AA showed a significant increase with irradiation. These results demonstrate  
512 that degradation of  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  (and  $C_8$ - $C_{12}$ ) and formation of  $C_4$  (and  $C_5$ - $C_7$ ) is enhanced with  
513 photochemical processing of aqueous aerosols. This study further infers that iron-catalyzed  
514 photolysis of  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  diacids and photochemical formation of  $C_4$  diacid via  $\omega C_8$  acid  
515 derived from cyclic olefins and/or unsaturated fatty acids play an important role in  
516 controlling their abundances in the atmosphere with photochemical processing of aqueous  
517 aerosols. This study also suggests that photochemical production of  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls, in  
518 particular methylglyoxal, in anthropogenic aerosols is significant.

519

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

	Concentrations (ng m <sup>-3</sup> )	
	IND104 (AA)	IND178 (BA)
Organic carbon <sup>a</sup>	6400	9820
Elemental carbon <sup>a</sup>	4810	1810
Levoglucosan <sup>b</sup>	79.1	158
Hopanes (C <sub>27</sub> -C <sub>35</sub> ) <sup>b</sup>	11.8	3.9
Fatty acids (C <sub>8</sub> -C <sub>34</sub> ) <sup>b</sup>	167	297
Fatty alcohols (C <sub>14</sub> -C <sub>34</sub> ) <sup>b</sup>	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 <sub>WS</sub> <sup>c</sup>	57.0	78.3
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	20.5	30.0
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	36.6	48.4

725 <sup>a</sup>: Data is obtained from Pavuluri et al. (2011), <sup>b</sup>: Data is obtained from Fu et al. (2010), <sup>c</sup>:

726 Fe<sub>WS</sub> is water-soluble Fe.

727 **Figure Captions**

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

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

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

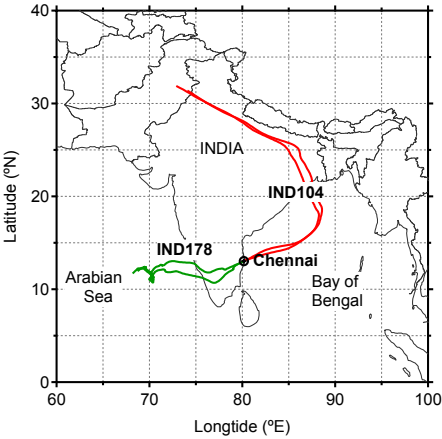
733 **Fig. 4.** Changes in concentrations of individual oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls and total  
734 oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls as a function of UV irradiation time in AA and BA.

735 **Fig. 5.** Changes in relative abundances of straight chain diacids (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) to total diacids as a  
736 function of UV irradiation time in AA and BA.

737 **Fig. 6.** Changes in mass ratios of selected diacids, oxoacids and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls as a function  
738 of UV irradiation time in AA and BA.

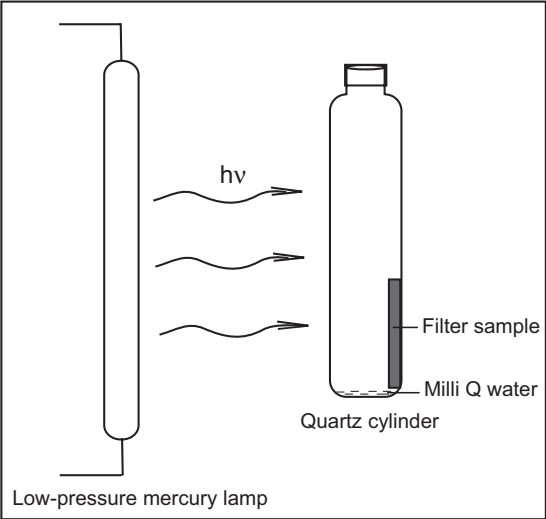
739 **Fig. 7.** Possible photochemical formation and/or degradation pathways of diacids, oxoacids  
740 and  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls in aqueous aerosols.

741 **Fig. 1.**



742

743 **Fig. 2.**



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