# Effect of varying experimental conditions on the viscosity of $\alpha$-pinene derived secondary organic material

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**Abstract.** Knowledge of the viscosity of particles containing secondary organic material (SOM) is useful for predicting reaction rates and diffusion in SOM particles. In this study we investigate the viscosity of SOM particles as a function of relative humidity and SOM particle mass concentration, during SOM synthesis. The SOM was generated via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene at <5 % relative

5  humidity (RH). Experiments were carried out using the poke-and-flow technique, which measures the experimental flow time ($\tau_{exp,flow}$) of SOM after poking the material with a needle. In the first set of experiments, we show that $\tau_{exp,flow}$ increased by a factor of 3,600 as the RH increased from <0.5 % RH to 50 % RH, for SOM with a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. Based on simulations, the viscosities of the particles were between 6 x 10$^5$ and 5 x 10$^7$ Pa s at <0.5 % RH

10  and between 3 x 10$^2$ and 9 x 10$^3$ Pa s at 50 % RH. In the second set of experiments we show that under dry conditions $\tau_{exp,flow}$ decreased by a factor of 45 as the production mass concentration increased from 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ to 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. From simulations of the poke-and-flow experiments, the viscosity of SOM with a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ was determined to be between 4 x 10$^4$ and 1.5 x 10$^6$ Pa s compared to between 6 x 10$^5$ and 5 x 10$^7$ Pa s for SOM with

15  a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. The results can be rationalised by a dependence of the chemical composition of SOM on production conditions. These results emphasise the shifting characteristics of SOM, not just with RH and precursor type, but also with the production conditions, and suggest that poduction mass concentration and the RH at which the viscosity was determined should be considered both when comparing laboratory results and when extrapolating these results

20  to the atmosphere.

## 1 Introduction

Aerosol particles are ubiquitous in the Earth's lower atmosphere, of which a major source is the oxidation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Andreae and Crutzen, 1997). VOCs are emitted from the Earth's surface by both human and natural sources and, once in the atmosphere, are readily oxidised to form secondary organic material (SOM) that can condense to the particle phase (Hallquist et al., 2009). Aqueous-phase reactions also provide an important pathway to the production of SOM (Ervens et al., 2011).

Atmospheric particles containing SOM play an important role in governing the Earth's energy budget, both directly via the scattering or absorption of solar radiation (Yu et al., 2006) and indirectly by acting as cloud condensation nuclei (Solomon et al., 2007) and possibly as ice nuclei (Berkemeier et al., 2014; Choularton et al., 2007; Knopf and Rigg, 2011; Ladino et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2012b; Murray et al., 2010; Schill et al., 2014). SOM particles may also play a role in human health (Baltensperger et al., 2008) and the chemistry of the atmosphere by providing solid or liquid phases for reactions (Hallquist et al., 2009). Despite the importance of SOM particles, many of their physical properties, such as viscosity, are poorly understood.

The viscosity of SOM is important for a number of reasons. First, the viscosity of SOM governs the rate at which organic molecules can diffuse through particles, and knowledge of the viscosity is thus required to predict the mechanism, rate of growth, total mass, and size of modelled particles (Riipinen et al., 2011; Shiraiwa et al., 2011; Shiraiwa and Seinfeld, 2012; Shiraiwa et al., 2013; Zaveri et al., 2014). Viscosity is also important for predicting the long range transport of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (Zelenyuk et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2012), as well as rates of both heterogeneous and photochemical processes (Houle et al., 2015; Kuwata and Martin, 2012; Lignell et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2013). In addition, if viscosities are high in particles containing SOM the optical properties of the particles may be altered (Adler et al., 2013; Robinson et al., 2014), and both the crystallization of inorganic salts (Bodsworth et al., 2010; Murray and Bertram, 2008; Song et al., 2012) and the ability of particles to uptake water (Bones et al., 2012; Hawkins et al., 2014; Lu et al., 2014; Price et al., 2014; Tong et al., 2011) may be inhibited. Furthermore, if SOM particles are solid or 'glassy' in phase under atmospheric conditions they may provide a surface for ice nucleation (Baustian et al., 2013; Berkemeier et al., 2014; Knopf and Rigg, 2011; Ladino et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2012b; Murray et al., 2010; Schill et al., 2014).

Researchers have traditionally assumed particles containing SOM to be of low viscosity when modelling particle growth (Hallquist et al., 2009). However, recent measurements have suggested that this may not be the case under certain conditions. Measurements that have suggested SOM can have high viscosities include (1) direct measurements of viscosity of SOM or proxies for SOM (Booth et al., 2014; Renbaum-Wolff et al., 2013; Pajunoja et al., 2014; Song et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2015), (2) measurements of diffusion rates and mixing times in SOM (Abramson et al., 2013; Loza et al., 2013; Perraud et al., 2012), (3) bounce measurements off surfaces (Bateman et al., 2015;

Kidd et al., 2014; Saukko et al., 2012; Virtanen et al., 2010, 2011), (4) measurements of the flatness of particles after impaction (O'Brien et al., 2014), (5) measurements of rates of evaporation from
60  SOM (Cappa and Wilson, 2011; Vaden et al., 2011), and (6) measurements of reactivity of SOM (Kuwata and Martin, 2012; Wang et al., 2012a, 2015). Nevertheless, the viscosities and diffusion rates of SOM are still a matter of debate (Saleh et al., 2013; Robinson et al., 2013; Yatavelli et al., 2014; Price et al., 2015).

Recently we investigated the viscosity of the water-soluble component of SOM produced from
65  the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene in an environmental chamber (Renbaum-Wolff et al., 2013). The current manuscript is an extension of the work by Renbaum-Wolff et al. (2013). Similar to Renbaum-Wolff we study the viscosity of SOM particles derived via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene; however, in contrast, the current study focuses on particles consisting of the whole SOM, meaning both the water-soluble fraction and water-insoluble fraction.

70  In the first set of experiments, we investigated the viscosity of the whole SOM as a function of the relative humidity at which the viscosity was measured. In all cases the SOM was generated via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene under dry conditions, and hence the effect of relative humidity on the SOM chemistry was not explored. Reported here are viscosity measurements at RH values between <0.5 % and 50 % RH, using SOM with production mass concentrations of 520 and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. The
75  results add to the few existing measurements of the effect of RH on the viscosity of SOM produced via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene (Renbaum-Wolff et al., 2013; Bateman et al., 2015; Kidd et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2015). Understanding the effect of RH on the viscosity of SOM is important as RH in the boundary layer regularly varies between roughly 20 % and 100 % RH with varied time and location in the planetary boundary layer (Hamed et al., 2011).

80  In the second set of experiments, we investigated the effect on viscosity of the production mass concentration of SOM particles (in units of micrograms of SOM per m$^3$ of gas) used when generating SOM. Experiments have shown that the composition of SOM particles can change with production mass concentration (Shilling et al., 2009), possibly affecting the viscosity of the SOM particles. The production mass concentrations of the SOM in the current study ranged from 121 to 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$.

85  ## 2 Experimental

SOM particles were produced either in a flow tube (particle mass concentrations of 520 to 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$) or a chamber (particle mass concentrations of 121 and 230 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$) at <5 % RH and collected on hydrophobic substrates with an impactor (Section 2.1 and 2.2). The poke-and-flow technique in conjunction with simulations of fluid flow was used to determine the viscosity of the SOM (Sections
90  2.3 and 2.4).

## 2.1 Production and collection of SOM generated at production mass concentrations from 520 to 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$

For the production of SOM at production mass concentrations from 520 to 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$, a previously described flow tube was used (Shrestha et al., 2013) to generate the SOM. Alpha-pinene (Sigma-Aldrich, $\geqslant$99.5 % purity, 97 % enantiomeric excess) and 2-butanol (Sigma-Aldrich, $\geqslant$99.5 % purity; used as an OH scavenger) were introduced into the flow tube at an $\alpha$-pinene:2-butanol ratio of 1:49, using a dry air flow rate of 0.50 sLpm. Ozone was produced prior to the inlet of the flow tube by passing dry air through an ozone generator (Jetlight, Model 600) at a rate of 3.0 sLpm, resulting in an ozone concentration of 12 ppm at the inlet of the flow tube, as measured by an ozone sensor (Ecosensors, UV-100). Residence time in the flow tube was 38 $\pm$ 1 s, giving an O$_3$ exposure (O$_3$ concentration x time) of 456 ppm s. For comparison purposes the background concentration of O$_3$ in the atmosphere is 30 ppb, and assuming a reaction time of one hour an exposure of 110 ppm s is calculated. The concentration of the $\alpha$-pinene entering the flow tube was varied to produce samples at a total of five different particle mass concentrations (as measured using an SMPS; TSI, model 3934), with the ozone concentration being kept in constant excess. Table 1 shows the mass concentrations and collection times used in the flow tube experiments, as well as the mean geometric size of the particles produced in the flow (Sample names Flow tube #1 - Flow tube #5).

After exiting the flow tube the 2 Lpm of dry flow was diluted with an 8 Lpm flow of humidified air, giving a total airflow of 10 Lpm with a humidity of 68 $\pm$ 2 % RH, as measured using an RH meter (Rotronic, HC2-S). The airflow then passed through a single stage impactor (MSP Corp.), within which a hydrophobic glass substrate was mounted. Over the course of an experiment sub-micron sized SOM particles impacted on a hydrophobic glass substrate, with the humidified gas serving to reduce the fraction of particles that bounced in the impactor. Over time the particles coagulated to form super-micron sized particles. The loss of some volatile components during the humidification cannot be ruled out. Loss of volatile components in the impactor should be relatively minor since the impactor used for collection has a small pressure drop (20 % or less). The production mass concentration, mode diameter, geometric standard deviation, and collection times are detailed in Table 1. After collection, the samples were stored at 253 K until use. All samples were used within 4 weeks of production. To determine the impact of storing samples at 253 K, the viscosity of one sample (produced using a mass concentration of 6,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$) was measured first after four days of storage and again after 24 further days of storage. The measured lower and upper limits of viscosity differed by <20 % (which is within experimental uncertainty) when measured at both 30 % and <0.5 % RH.

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## 2.2 Production and collection of SOM generated at production mass concentrations of 121 and 230 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$

For production mass concentrations <500 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ the time required to collect enough material for the poke-and-flow experiments was >12 hours using the flow tube setup described above. As a result, to collect SOM using production mass concentrations less than 500 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ we used the Leipzig Aerosol Chamber (LEAK), a cylindrical 19 m$^3$ Teflon bag (Iinuma et al., 2009). The LEAK chamber could be sampled at higher flow rates than the flow tube (16 Lpm as opposed to 2 Lpm), reducing the required collection time.

First, ozone was introduced into LEAK, which was operating under dry conditions (<5 % RH). The ozone concentration was held between 64-72 ppb (ozone monitor; 49c Ozone Analyzer, Thermo Scientific, USA). Afterwards $\alpha$-pinene (Sigma-Aldrich, $\geqslant$99.5 % purity, 97 % enantiomeric excess) was injected into LEAK, and the formation and growth of SOM particles within LEAK was monitored using an SMPS (TROPOS-type). No OH scavenger was used during experiments. After 80 minutes of reaction, giving an O$_3$ exposure of 300-350 ppm s, the submicron sized particles were collected by pumping air from the chamber at a flow rate of 16 Lpm. At the exit of LEAK the air passed through a humidifier unit (FC300-1660-15-LP-01, Perma Pure LLC, NJ, USA), and upon exiting the humidifier unit the air was determined to be at 91 $\pm$ 2.5 % RH, as measured using a handheld RH meter (RH85, Omega, USA). The airflow then passed through a single stage impactor, as described in Section 2.1. Particles collected and coagulated on a hydrophobic slide located with the impactor. As for before, the loss of some volatile components during humidification prior to collection cannot be ruled out, whilst the loss of volatile components in the impactor are expected to be relatively minor. After collection, the samples were stored at 253 K until use. All samples were used within 10 weeks of production. The production mass concentration, mode diameter, geometric standard deviation, and collection times are detailed in Table 1 (Samples named Chamber sample #1 and Chamber sample #2)

## 2.3 Poke-and-flow technique

A schematic of the setup for the poke-and-flow experiments is shown in Figure 2. The technique builds upon the qualitative technique described by Murray et al. (Murray et al., 2012) and has been described in detail previously (Grayson et al., 2015; Renbaum-Wolff et al., 2013). In short, a hydrophobic glass slide, containing super-micron sized particles, was placed in a flow cell, and the flow cell mounted to a microscope. Experiments were performed at 293-295 K, with the temperature of the cell being monitored throughout by a thermocouple located directly beneath the slide surface. A flow of gas was passed through a bubbler located in a temperature controlled water bath prior to entering the cell, allowing control over humidity in the cell. The dewpoint of the gas was measured by a dewpoint monitor (General Eastern; Model 1311DR), which was positioned at the exit of the

flow cell. The dewpoint monitor was calibrated using the deliquescence dewpoint of potassium car-
bonate, and found to give readings within 0.1 K of the expected value at 43 % RH. Each sample of
particles on a substrate was allowed to equilibrate in the flow cell for 30 minutes prior to poke-and-
flow experiments to ensure the particles reached thermal equilibrium with their surroundings after
removal from storage at 253 K.

A sharp, sterilized needle was attached to a micromanipulator, which could move the needle in the
x, y, and z, axes. The needle was aligned vertically above a particle, typically 50-70 $\mu$m in diameter,
and then moved downwards along the z-axis, passing through the particle and impacting the substrate
surface. Upon removal of the needle the behavior of the particle was observed via reflectance optical
microscopy and recorded using a charge coupled device (CCD).

In the majority of cases the penetration and removal of the needle resulted in the material of
the particle forming a half-torus geometry (see Figure 4, panel a2 for an example). Over time the
material flowed, and the area of the hole at the centre of the half-torus decreased. Ultimately, the de-
pression filled and the particle re-attained its initial, energetically favourable, roughly hemi-spherical
geometry. From the images the area A of the depression was determined. An equivalent area diam-
eter d was determined from the equation d = $(4A/\pi)^{1/2}$. The experimental flow time, $\tau_{exp,flow}$, was
the time at which the equivalent area diameter decreased to half its original size. Though the value
of $\tau_{exp,flow}$ is also dependent on physical properties other than viscosity, such as particle size, the
values reported here are the raw values (i.e., no corrections have been applied to take account of
particle dimensions).

During poke-and-flow experiments the SOM was exposed to a dry or humid gas flow over a period
of 3-15 h. During this time semi-volatile components of the SOM may undergo evaporation. If the
semi-volatile components were behaving as plasticizers within the SOM, the viscosity of the SOM
may change. To determine whether this process occurred here and, if so, whether it had a significant
effect on the results, the volumes of particles consisting of whole SOM and produced with a mass
concentration of 6,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ were determined for up to 45 h while exposed to a dry (<0.5 %
RH) flow of nitrogen gas (see Section S1 for further experimental details). Within experimental
uncertainty the volume of the particles remained unchanged (Fig. S1).

In addition, the viscosity of particles consisting of whole SOM and produced with a mass concen-
tration of 6,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ were determined after both 1 h and 45 h of exposure to a dry (<0.5 %)
flow of nitrogen gas. The mean lower and upper limits of viscosity were determined to be roughly
double after 45 h of exposure compared to their values after 1 h of exposure (Table S1 in the Supple-
ment). In the Supplement (Section S1 and Table S2) we also show, using the Arrhenius mixing rule,
that this small increase in viscosity could be due to evaporation of a small amount of semi-volatile
material during the exposure to dry nitrogen, with the volume of the evaporated material being below
the detection limit of the measurements of particle volume, but enough to result in a small increase in
viscosity. Alternatively, oligomerisation or polymerisation, such as via condensation (e.g. Reinhardt

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et al., 2007), could occur within the samples at room temperature, with the products of this process being of higher viscosity than their precursors. This doubling in viscosity should be considered as a conservative upper limit to the effect of evaporation in the rest of the experiments reported here, which were carried out on a time scale of 3-15 h.

Two or three samples were analyzed per set of conditions, and the results of the three samples combined to give the values reported here. In total, this study contains the results from experiments on a total of 436 particles.

## 2.4 Simulations of fluid flow

Limits of viscosity were determined via simulation for each particle using the microfluidics module of COMSOL, a multiphysics program. Particles that exhibited flow were simulated using a half-torus geometry. Full details are shown in Figure 2 of Grayson et al. (2015). The top and sides of the half-torus geometry, which represented the air-SOM interface, were allowed to undergo free deformation in all directions. The bottom of the half-torus geometry, which represented the SOM-hydrophobic glass interface, was allowed to undergo free deformation only in the horizontal plane. In the simulations the material flowed to minimize the surface energy, as was observed to occur in the experiments. For the simulations a mesh consisting of $\approx$5800 elements and a mesh spacing of 3.92-337 nm was used, with the range in values of mesh spacing being required to accurately model the shape of the half torus, as well as track its movement over time. The model flow time, $\tau_{model,flow}$, was determined to be the time at which the diameter of the hole at the centre of the half-torus decreased to half its original size, with simulations performed until $\tau_{model,flow}$ was within 1 % of $\tau_{exp,flow}$. Based on prior observations of Newtonian behaviour in sucrose-water solutions Hosny et al. (2013); Saggin and Coupland (2004), which are commonly used as proxies for SOM, the SOM was assumed to be Newtonian in nature for simulations.

Simulations were performed using estimates of the physical properties of SOM (i.e., particle-substrate slip length, surface tension, particle-substrate contact angle, and density) (Table S3). In addition images of each experiment were used to determine the dimensions of each particle and its value of $\tau_{exp,flow}$. Contact angles were determined using 3-D images of the super-micron particles suspended on hydrophobic surfaces using a confocal fluorescence microscope (Leica SP5 II, with an excitation wavelength of 458 nm) with a 20x objective, a schematic of which is shown in Fig. S2a. A z-stack series of images with a step size of 0.5 $\mu$m, was acquired for each particle. Contact angles were subsequently measured from the 2-D cross-sections in the y-z plane using the LB-ADSA plugin for ImageJ (Fig. S2b). Contact angles were determined by measuring multiple particles from each sample and are reported in Table S4. The values used during simulations of a given particle are those determined for particles of the corresponding sample.

The main source of uncertainty in the viscosity of the SOM arises from uncertainty in the physical properties of SOM that are used in simulations, including the slip length, the particle-substrate

contact angle, and the surface tension at the particle-gas interface. The variability in viscosity from particle to particle was only a small component of the overall uncertainty (discussed further in Section S2).

## 3   Results and Discussion

### 3.1   Effect of relative humidity on the viscosity of SOM

The effect of relative humidity on the viscosity of SOM was determined for SOM produced with production mass concentrations of 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. Shown in Figure 2 are images of SOM produced in the flow tube with a production mass concentration of 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and studied at <0.5 % and 50 % RH. Shown in Fig. 2a (Panels a1-a3) is SOM being studied at <0.5 % RH. Prior to poking the SOM is in a hemispherical geometry (Fig. 2, Panel a1). The act of poking the SOM with the needle led to the formation of a half-torus geometry (Fig. 2, Panel a2). Upon removal of the needle the material flowed and the hole began to close, with a $\tau_{exp,flow}$ of 1,074 s (Fig. 2, Panel a3). Shown in Fig. 2b (Panels b1-b3) is SOM being studied at 50 % RH. As for the SOM in Fig. 2a, the SOM was hemispherical in geometry prior to being poked (Fig. 2, Panel b1), and the act of poking the SOM also lead to the formation of a half-torus geometry (Fig. 2b, Panel b2). However in this case the flow rate was clearly faster, and the SOM was determined to have a $\tau_{exp,flow}$ of 4.3 s (Fig. 2, Panel a3).

Figure 3 summarizes the RH dependent studies. For SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ the mean $\tau_{exp,flow}$ value was a factor of 460 lower at 50 % RH than at <0.5 % RH (Fig. 3a). By comparison, SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ the mean $\tau_{exp,flow}$ value was a factor of 3,600 lower at 50 % RH than at <0.5 % RH (Fig. 3b).

Based on simulations of the poke-and-flow experiments the viscosities of SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ the viscosity was between 3 x 10$^5$ and 2 x 10$^7$ Pa s at <0.5 % RH and between 4 x 10$^2$ and 3 x 10$^4$ Pa s at 50 % RH (Fig. 3c). The viscosity of SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ was determined to be between 2 x 10$^6$ and 6 x 10$^7$ Pa s at <0.5 % RH and between 1.8 x 10$^2$ and 1.4 x 10$^4$ Pa s at 50 % RH. The results suggest the viscosity of both samples was between that of window putty and tar pitch at <0.5 % RH and that of ketchup and window putty at 50 % RH. The RH-dependent results are consistent with previous work that has shown that the viscosity of SOM can depend strongly on RH (Saukko et al., 2012; Renbaum-Wolff et al., 2013; Bateman et al., 2015; Song et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2015), with the dependence of the viscosity on RH likely being a combination of water behaving as a plasticiser and the fraction of water present in a particle increasing with RH (Koop et al., 2011).

### 3.2 Effect of production mass concentration used when generating the SOM on the viscosity of SOM

Viscosity of SOM as a function of production mass concentration used to generate SOM was studied at 30 % RH and <0.5 % RH. Figure 4 shows examples of SOM generated at production mass concentrations of 14,000, 520, and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ being poked at <0.5 % RH. In all cases the SOM exhibited flow, and there is a trend of increasing experimental flow time with decreasing production mass concentration.

A summary of the $\tau_{exp,flow}$ and viscosity values as a function of production mass concentration at <0.5 % RH is shown in Figure 5. Considering all the data together, as the production mass concentration decreases from 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ to 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$, the mean $\tau_{exp,flow}$ values increase by a factor of 45 (Fig. 5a). Based on simulations of the poke-and-flow experiments the viscosities of the SOM samples are between 4 x 10$^4$ and 1.5 x 10$^6$ Pa s for SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and between 6 x 10$^5$ and 5 x 10$^7$ Pa s for SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ (Fig 5b).

The inverse relationship between viscosity and production mass concentration is consistent with results of Shilling et al. (2009), who observed an inverse relationship between production mass concentration and the oxidation level of the resulting SOM. As previously mentioned, higher oxidation levels are linked to higher glass transition temperatures and an increased likelihood that a particle rebounds from an impactor surface.

The results for SOM produced in the flow tube (production mass concentrations of 14,000 to 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$) and produced in the chamber (production mass concentrations of 230 and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$) each exhibit the same trend: $\tau_{exp,flow}$ increases as production mass concentration decreases. However, the data are not in perfectly aligned. If the data from the flow tube are extrapolated to lower particle mass concentrations, slightly higher $\tau_{exp,flow}$ values are predicted compared to observations using samples from the chamber (roughly a factor of 2-3 higher). This difference could be due to some differences in experimental conditions. For example, the flow tube studies were carried out in the presence of an OH scavenger, 2-butanol, whereas no OH scavenger was used in the chamber studies. The presence of 2-butanol decreases the SOM yield from a given amount of precursor (Jonsson et al., 2008; Henry and Donahue, 2011). The reaction of OH with both $\alpha$-pinene, as well as first generation products of $\alpha$-pinene ozonolysis, can alter the chemical composition of the SOM produced (Vereecken and Peeters, 2012). Another difference in experimental conditions between the flow tube and the chamber studies was the RH at which the SOM was collected - 68 $\pm$ 2 % in flow tube studies and 91 $\pm$ 2.5 % in chamber studies. The increased humidity while SOM was being collected during the chamber studies may have resulted in a larger fraction of the more volatile components being present in the particle phase as material was collected, possibly explaining the lower than expected viscosity of the samples collected during chamber studies.

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300    Also included in Figure 5 are previous measurements of the viscosity of $\alpha$-pinene derived SOM measured under dry conditions. Zhang et al. (2015) studied material produced in the same flow tube as the material used here using a production mass concentration of $\approx 70$ $\mu$g m$^{-3}$, and Renbaum-Wolff et al. (2013) studied the water-soluble component of SOM produced at a production mass concentration of $\approx 50$ $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ in an environmental chamber. The results of Zhang et al. (2015) are

305    consistent with the results obtained here. The results from Renbaum-Wolff et al. are not inconsistent with the current results due to the observed inverse relationship between viscosity and production mass concentration.

Other researchers have measured diffusion rates (Cappa and Wilson, 2011; Perraud et al., 2012; Abramson et al., 2013), or mixing times under dry conditions Robinson et al. (2013); Saleh et al.

310    (2013) within SOM produced via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene. In the supplemental material we have converted these measurements to viscosities using the Stokes-Einstein relationship. It should be kept in mind that the Stokes-Einstein relationship may break down for small molecules (Bones et al., 2012; Price et al., 2015) and for large molecules when the viscosity is high and near the glass transition temperature (Champion et al., 1997; Corti et al., 2008). Further discussion on the conversion

315    of reported diffusion coefficients or mixing times to viscosities for each of these studies is given in Section S3. Figure S3 shows that most of these previous studies (Cappa and Wilson, 2011; Perraud et al., 2012; Saleh et al., 2013) are not inconsistent with those presented here. Some of the results are outside of the range reported here (Abramson et al., 2013; Robinson et al., 2013) suggesting factors beyond just a simple relationship between viscosity and production mass concentration are required

320    to explain previous measurements. Differences may be due to invalid assumptions made when using the Stokes-Einstein relationship or other factors.

The effect of production mass concentration on viscosity was also studied at 30 % RH (Figure S4). At this RH, the effect of particle mass concentration was not as dramatic. For the samples produced in a flow tube, as the production mass concentration decreases from 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ to 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$,

325    the mean $\tau_{exp,flow}$ values increase by a factor of 5 (Fig. S4a). For the samples produced in the chamber, as the production mass concentration decreased from 230 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$, the mean $\tau_{exp,flow}$ values increase by a factor of 1.5. Similar to the experiments at <0.5 % RH, if the results from the flow tube are extrapolated to lower particle mass concentrations, they predict larger $\tau_{exp,flow}$ values than observed from the chamber studies. As mentioned above, these differences

330    may be due to small differences in experimental conditions between the flow tube and chamber.

Based on simulation the viscosity of the SOM at 30 % RH is between 1.0 x 10$^3$ and 9 x 10$^4$ Pa s at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and between 1.2 x 10$^3$ and 1.2 x 10$^5$ Pa s at a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ (Fig S4b). The smaller dependence of viscosity on production mass concentration at 30 % RH compared to <0.5 % RH can be explained

335    by the dependence of the viscosity on the water content of the SOM. Under dry conditions the measured viscosity is due only to the viscosity of the SOM. However as RH is increased the SOM

uptakes water, and the viscosity of the different SOM samples become increasingly dependent on the viscosity of water and converge, finally approaching the viscosity of water, $\approx 10^{-3}$ Pa s, at 100 % RH.

340    Also included in Fig S4b are viscosities of $\alpha$-pinene-derived SOM measured at 30 % RH by Zhang et al. (2015) and Renbaum-Wolff et al. (2013). As mentioned above Zhang et al. (2015) studied material produced in the same flow tube as the material used here, and Renbaum-Wolff et al. (2013) studied the water-soluble component of SOM produced in an environmental chamber. One possible explanation of the results shown in Figure S4b is a very strong dependence of viscosity

345    on production mass concentration in the range of 50 and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. To determine if a strong dependence of viscosity in the range of 50 and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ shown in Fig S4b exists or due to other factors, additional studies are needed. More importantly, additional studies are needed to determine if the viscosity of the water-soluble component of SOM is the same as the viscosity of the whole SOM (water-soluble and water insoluble components) produced at production mass concentrations

350    around 50 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. In addition, further comparison studies using the technique introduced by Zhang et al. (2015) and the poke-and-flow technique used here would be beneficial. Finally, the studies here are carried out at production mass concentrations greater than those found under ambient conditions (Hallquist et al., 2009; Slowik et al., 2010). Studies carried out using material produced under ambient conditions would provide further useful information. The inverse relationship between viscosity

355    and production mass concentration suggests the results determined here likely represent a lower limit of viscosity for SOM produced by the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene in the atmosphere.

### 3.3    Effect of the water-insoluble component on the viscosity of SOM

To better understand the difference between the viscosity of water-soluble SOM and SOM containing both the water-soluble and water-insoluble components, additional measurements were carried

360    out using just the water-soluble component of SOM generated by the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. Particles were generated using the flow tube as discussed in Section 2.1, and particles from the outlet of the flow tube were collected on a Teflon filter. After collection, SOM was extracted from the Teflon filter by placing it in a clean glass jar and immersing the filter in 10 mL of Millipore (18.2 M$\Omega$ cm) water. The jar was shaken for 1.5 h,

365    with the filter being flipped over half way through, after which the filter was removed from the jar, resulting in a solution of the water-soluble component of the SOM. The solution was then nebulized and sprayed onto a hydrophobic glass substrate, producing super-micron sized particles. The particles were then studied using the poke-and-flow technique and their viscosities determined using simulations of fluid flow as described in Sections 2.3, 2.4, and S4.

370    Shown in Figure 6 are images of a particle comprised of the water-soluble fraction of SOM (Fig. 6a) and a particle comprised of the whole SOM, both the water-soluble and water-insoluble fractions (Fig. 6b). Both were produced at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and studied at

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<0.5 % RH. Although the production of both the water-soluble SOM and the whole SOM took place using equivalent flow tube conditions, the images of the SOM during the poke-and-flow experiments were clearly different, with the water-soluble SOM cracking and showing no observable flow over the course of 14 hours (Fig. 6a, Panels a2 & a3), whilst the whole SOM exhibited flow, with a $\tau_{exp,flow}$ of 1074 s (Fig. 6b, Panels b2 & b3).

Table 2 summarizes experimental results at <0.5 % RH for both the water-soluble SOM and the whole SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. The $\tau_{exp,flow}$ and viscosity of the water-soluble component were both at least a factor of 300 greater than the $\tau_{exp,flow}$ and viscosity of the whole SOM.

The difference in viscosity between the whole SOM and the water-soluble SOM may arise from differences in the extent of oxidation of the SOM. Water-soluble SOM is assumed to be composed of the more oxidized components of the whole SOM and literature suggests that higher oxidation is related to a warmer glass transition temperature (Koop et al., 2011; Berkemeier et al., 2014; Dette et al., 2014), implying that viscosity increases with oxidation level.

The results for Table 2 correspond to a high production mass concentration. At lower SOM particle concentrations such as concentrations used by Renbaum-Wolff et al. (2013) the difference between water-soluble SOM and whole SOM is likely smaller, since as the production mass concentration decreases, the extent of oxidation in the particle phase is expected to increase and hence the amount of water insoluble material in the particle phase should decrease. In addition, literature suggests that the SOM formed from the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene is largely composed of water-soluble organic compounds (Hall and Johnston (2011)) produced using a production mass concentration of <500 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. Further, mass spectral analysis has revealed little difference in the chemical composition of SOM produced via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene and extracted using either water or a methanol:water solution (Heaton et al. (2007)), and cloud condensation measurements suggest SOM generated via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene is not limited by solubility of the organic material in water (King et al., 2009) for SOM produced at production mass concentrations of <100 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. Based on these arguments the results shown in Table 2 should be considered as an upper limit to the difference between the viscosity of water-soluble SOM and whole SOM produced using production mass concentrations lower than 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$.

Hosny et al. (2016) recently studied the viscosity of SOM generated from the ozonolysis of myrcene and observed a difference in viscosity between the water soluble fraction and the whole SOM samples. In their case similar viscosities were observed at the lowest RH values studied (<40 %) but the whole SOM samples had a higher viscosity than the water soluble fraction at the highest RH values studied (>70 %). The reason for the difference between the results here and those of Hosny et al. (2016) is not clear.

## 4 Summary

The effect of various experimental parameters on the viscosity of SOM derived via the ozonolysis of
$\alpha$-pinene have been studied. First, the effect of relative humidity on the viscosity of the whole SOM
was studied. For each sample studied the $\tau_{exp,flow}$ values were larger and the simulated viscosities
higher as the RH was decreased from 50 % to <0.5 % (Figs. 2 & 3). Specifically, for SOM produced
at a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$, the $\tau_{exp,flow}$ increased by a factor of 3,600 as
the relative humidity (RH) decreased from 50 % to <0.5 % RH. Based on simulations, the viscosities
of the particles were between 3 x 10$^2$ and 9 x 10$^3$ Pa s at 50 % RH and between 6 x 10$^5$ and 5 x 10$^7$
Pa s at <0.5 % RH.

Second, the effect on viscosity of the production mass concentration used during the production
of SOM was investigated at 30 % and <0.5 % RH. The measurements provide evidence of an inverse
relationship between production mass concentration in the reaction vessel and viscosity of the SOM
material (Figs. 4 & 5). The effect was most prominent at <0.5 % RH where $\tau_{exp,flow}$ increased by a
factor of 45 as the particle mass concentration decreased from 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ to 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. From
simulations of the poke-and-flow experiments, the viscosity of the SOM produced at a production
mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ are between 4 x 10$^4$ and 1.5 x 10$^6$ Pa s and the viscosity
of SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ are between 6 x 10$^5$ and 5 x
10$^7$ Pa s at <0.5 % RH (Fig. 5). These studies were carried out at production mass concentrations
greater than those found under ambient conditions. The inverse relationship between viscosity and
production mass concentration suggests the results determined here likely represent a lower limit of
viscosity for SOM produced by the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene in the atmosphere.

We also observed that $\tau_{exp,flow}$ and viscosity of the water-soluble component of SOM was at least
a factor of 300 greater than the $\tau_{exp,flow}$ and viscosity of the whole SOM when using a production
mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$. This result should be considered as a upper limit to the
difference between the viscosity of water-soluble SOM and whole SOM produced at production
mass concentrations lower than 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$.

Overall the results suggest that the RH at which the viscosity was determined and the mass con-
centration at which the SOM was produced should be considered when laboratory experiments are
being compared or when used to infer viscosities of atmospheric particles.

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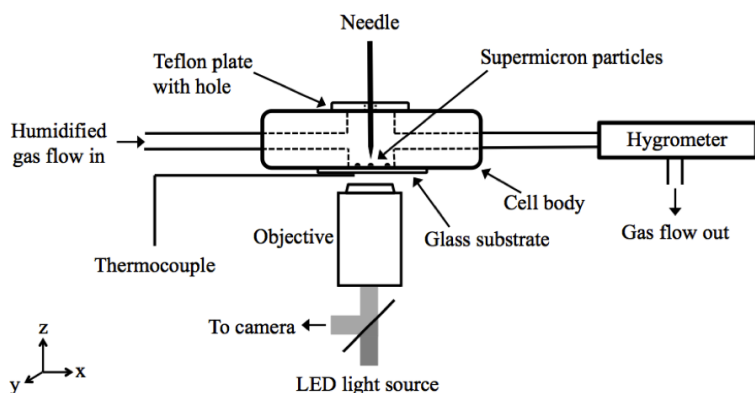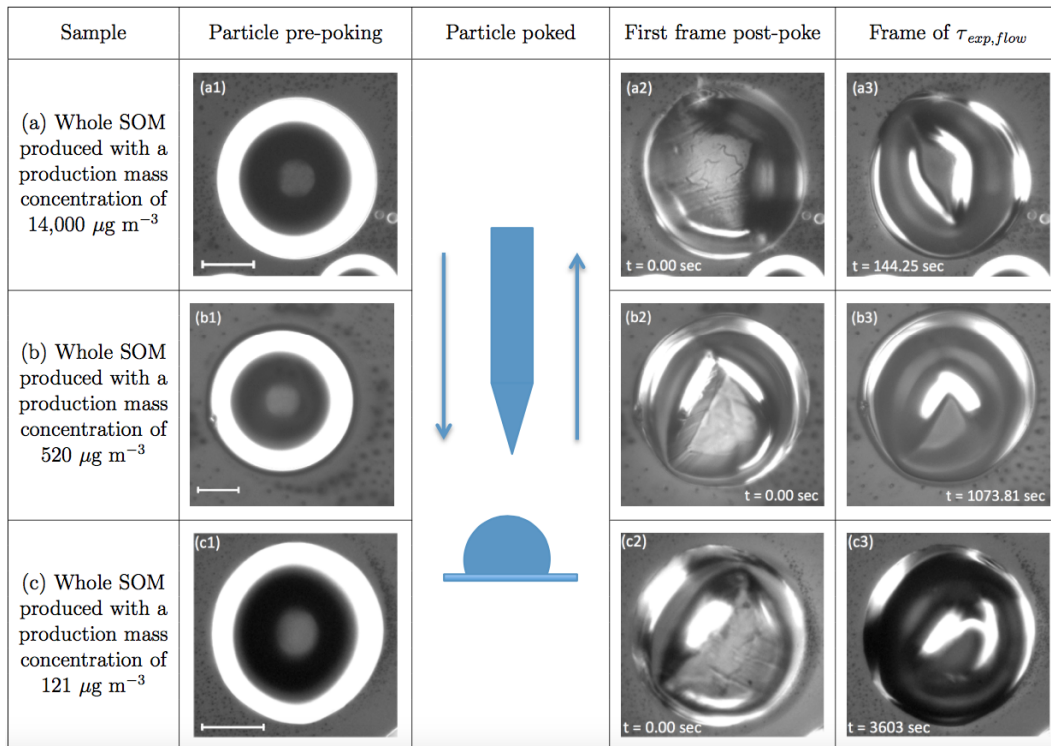


**Figure 1.** Schematic representation of poke-and-flow experimental setup.



**Figure 2.** Optical images recorded during typical poke-and-flow experiments of whole SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ being poked at (a) <0.5 %, and (b) 50 %, RH. Images a1 and b1 correspond to SOM prior to poking. Images a2 and b2 correspond to the first frame post-poke (i.e. the first frame after the needle has been removed). Images a3 and b3 correspond to images of the experimental flow time, $\tau_{exp,flow}$, the point at which the diameter of the hole at the centre of the torus has decreased to 50 % of its original size. Scale bar in Images a1 and b1: 20 $\mu$m.
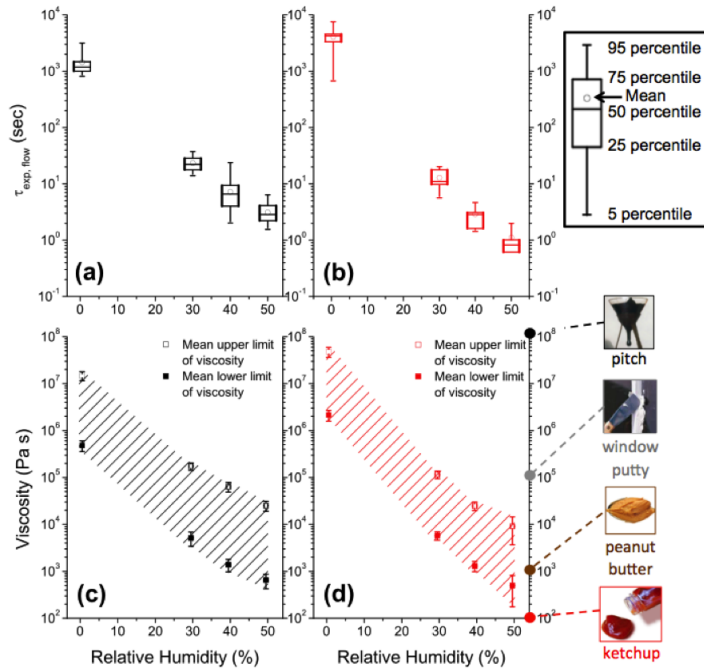
**Figure 3.** Summary of poke-and-flow experiments from <0.5 % to 50 % RH performed on samples of the whole SOM produced at mass concentrations of 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ (Panels (a) and (c)) and 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ (Panels (b) and (d)). Panels (a) and (b) show box plots of observed $\tau_{exp,flow}$ times for particles poked at different RHs. Panels (c) and (d) show the simulated lower (filled symbols) and upper (open symbols) limits of viscosity. Y-error bars represent 95 % confidence intervals, and x-error bars represent the range of RH at which measurements were made. The shaded regions are included to guide the eye of the reader. The viscosities of common substances at room temperature have been added to (a) to provide points of reference, as per Koop et al., 2011. The image of pitch is part of an image from the pitch drop experiment (image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, GNU Free Documentation License, University of Queensland, John Mainstone).

| Sample | Particle pre-poking | Particle poked | First frame post-poke | Frame of $\tau_{exp,flow}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Whole SOM produced with a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ | (a1) | | (a2) t = 0.00 sec | (a3) t = 144.25 sec |
| (b) Whole SOM produced with a production mass concentration of 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ | (b1) | | (b2) t = 0.00 sec | (b3) t = 1073.81 sec |
| (c) Whole SOM produced with a production mass concentration of 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ | (c1) | | (c2) t = 0.00 sec | (c3) t = 3603 sec |

**Figure 4.** Optical images recorded during typical poke-and-flow experiments of particles of the whole SOM produced at production mass concentrations of (a) 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$, (b) 520 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$, and (c) 121 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ being poked at <0.5 % RH. Images a1, b1 and c1 correspond to SOM prior to poking. Images a2, b2 and c2 correspond to the first frame post-poke (i.e. the first frame after the needle has been removed). Images a3, b3 and c3 correspond to images of the experimental flow time, $\tau_{exp,flow}$, the point at which the diameter of the hole at the centre of the torus has decreased to 50 % of its original size. Scale bar in Images a1, b1 and c1: 20 $\mu$m.
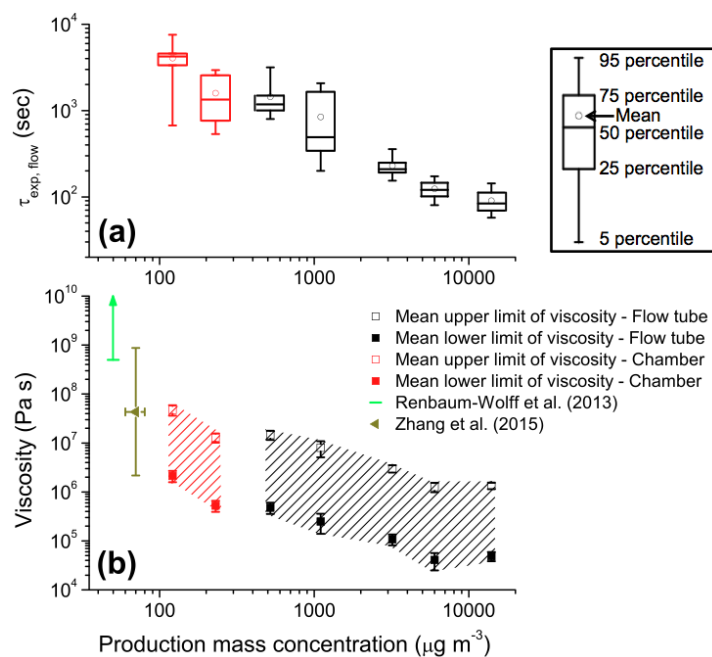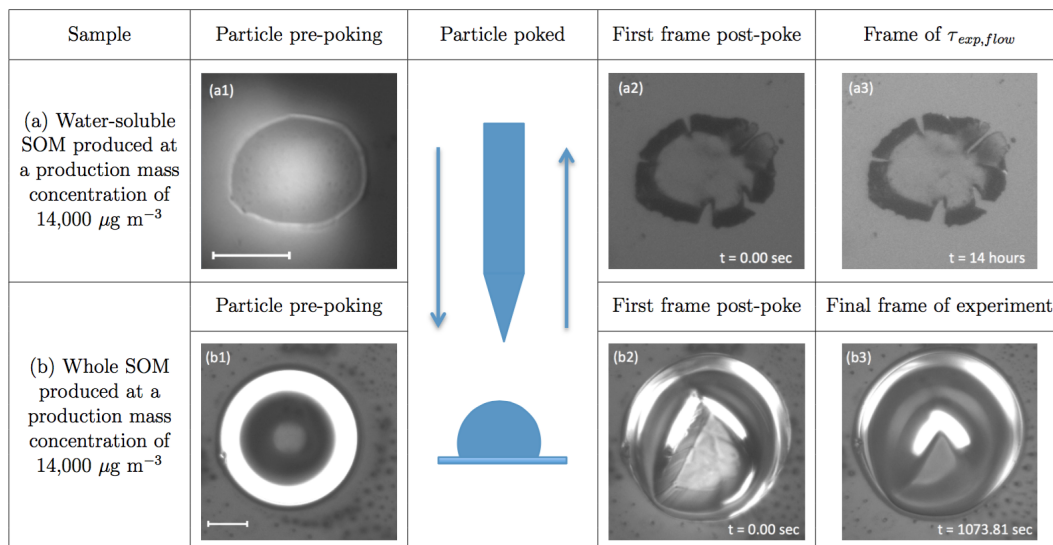
**Figure 5.** Summary of poke-and-flow experiments performed on samples of whole SOM at <0.5 % RH. Black symbols represent results from particles produced in a flow tube, whilst red symbols represent results from particles produced in a chamber. Panel (a) shows box plots of observed $\tau_{exp,flow}$ times at different production mass concentrations for particles poked <0.5 % RH. Boxes represent the 25, 50, and 75 percentiles, open circles represent median values, and whiskers represent the 5 and 95 percentiles. Panel (b) shows the simulated lower (filled squares) and upper (open squares) limit of viscosity for particles at each production mass concentration poked at <0.5 %. Symbols represent mean values. The y error bars represent 95 % confidence intervals. The shaded regions are included to guide the eye of the reader. Also included in (b) are literature viscosities for SOM produced via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene (Renbaum-Wolff et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2015).

| Sample | Particle pre-poking | Particle poked | First frame post-poke | Frame of $\tau_{exp,flow}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Water-soluble SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ | (a1) | | (a2) t = 0.00 sec | (a3) t = 14 hours |
| | Particle pre-poking | | First frame post-poke | Final frame of experiment |
| (b) Whole SOM produced at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ | (b1) | | (b2) t = 0.00 sec | (b3) t = 1073.81 sec |

**Figure 6.** Optical images recorded during poke-and-flow experiments using particles consisting of (a) the water-soluble component of the SOM and (b) the whole SOM (i.e., both the water-soluble and the water-insoluble components). In both experiments the SOM was produced using a mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and was poked at <0.5 % RH. Images a1 and b1 correspond to the SOM prior to being poked. The brightness in Image a1 is due to reflection of the source light by the needle positioned just above the particle. Images a2 and b2 correspond to the first frame post-poke (i.e. the first frame after the needle has been removed). The particle comprised of the water-soluble component of SOM exhibited cracking behaviour and, as shown in Image a3, no change in the size or shape of the cracks can be observed 14 hours after the particle has been poked. The particle comprised of whole SOM exhibited flow, and Image b3 corresponds to an image of the particle at its experimental flow time, $\tau_{exp,flow}$, the point at which the diameter of the hole at the centre of the torus has decreased to 50 % of its original size. Scale bar in Images a1 and b1: 20 $\mu$m.

**Table 1.** Conditions used for generating and collecting samples of SOM generated via the ozonolysis of $\alpha$-pinene. The whole SOM (both water soluble and water insoluble component of the SOM) was collected.

| Sample name | Samples studied | Production mass concentration ($\mu$g m$^{-3}$) | Mode diameter (nm) | Geometric standard deviation | Collection time (min) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flow tube sample #1 | 3 | $(1.4 \pm 0.1)$ x $10^4$ | $265 \pm 7$ | 1.43 | 20 |
| Flow tube sample #2 | 3 | $(5.9 \pm 0.7)$ x $10^3$ | $194 \pm 5$ | 1.47 | 90 |
| Flow tube sample #3 | 3 | $(3.4 \pm 0.1)$ x $10^3$ | $163 \pm 2$ | 1.46 | 150 |
| Flow tube sample #4 | 3 | $(1.2 \pm 0.2)$ x $10^3$ | $121 \pm 8$ | 1.46 | 450 |
| Flow tube sample #5 | 3 | $(5.2 \pm 0.2)$ x $10^2$ | $132 \pm 2$ | 1.52 | 800 |
| Chamber sample #1 | 2 | $(2.3 \pm 0.1)$ x $10^2$ | $181 \pm 12$ | | 95 |
| Chamber sample #2 | 2 | $(1.2 \pm 0.1)$ x $10^2$ | $169 \pm 12$ | | 180 |

**Table 2.** Summary of $\tau_{exp,flow}$ times and viscosities of whole SOM and water-soluble SOM produced in the flow tube at a production mass concentration of 14,000 $\mu$g m$^{-3}$ and studied at <0.5 % RH.

| | $\tau_{exp,flow}$ [a] | Viscosity (Pa s) [b] |
|---|---|---|
| Water-soluble SOM | >4.3 x 10$^4$ | >4.8 x 10$^8$ |
| Whole SOM | 90 (57, 144) | 3.8 x 10$^4$ - 1.5 x 10$^6$ |

[a] For the whole SOM, $\tau_{exp,flow}$ values represent experimental values in the form "mean (5th percentile, 95th percentile)". For the water-soluble SOM, the lower limit to $\tau_{exp,flow}$ represents the shortest experimental time that the particles were observed.

[b] For whole SOM, the lower limit of viscosity represents the lower 95 % confidence interval of the lower limit of viscosity, whilst the upper limit of viscosity represents the upper 95 % confidence interval of the upper limit of viscosity. For water-soluble SOM the lower limit of viscosity was calculated for the particles observed over the shortest experimental time.