

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

# Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury at Ny-Ålesund (79° N), Svalbard, spring 2002

**J. Sommar<sup>1</sup>, I. Wängberg<sup>2</sup>, T. Berg<sup>3</sup>, K. Gårdfeldt<sup>1</sup>, J. Munthe<sup>2</sup>, A. Richter<sup>4</sup>, A. Urba<sup>5</sup>, F. Wittrock<sup>4</sup>, and W. H. Schroeder<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, Göteborg University, Kemivägen 4, 41296 Göteborg, Sweden

<sup>2</sup>IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, P.O. Box 47086, 40258 Göteborg, Sweden

<sup>3</sup>Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), P.O. Box 100, 2027 Kjeller, Norway

<sup>4</sup>Institute of Environmental Physics, University of Bremen, NW1, Otto-Hahn-Allee 1, 28359 Bremen, Germany

<sup>5</sup>Ecological Spectroscopy Laboratory, Institute of Physics, Gostauto 12, 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania

<sup>6</sup>Environmental Canada: Meteorological Service of Canada, 4905 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Canada

Received: 27 October 2003 – Accepted: 3 March 2004 – Published: 19 March 2004

Correspondence to: J. Sommar (sommar@chem.gu.se)

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

## Abstract

Mercury in different environmental compartments has been measured at Ny-Ålesund (78°54' N, 11°53' E) during an intensive campaign, 17 April to 14 May 2002. Time-resolved speciated determination of mercury in the atmosphere and snow was conducted at the Norwegian research station at the Zeppelin mountain, 474 m above the sea level, and at the Italian research facility Dirigibile Italia, 12 m above the sea level. Total Gaseous Mercury (TGM) was present in the range <math><0.1</math> to <math>2.2</math> ng m<sup>-3</sup> during the campaign. Three mercury depletion events, identified as periods with decreased TGM concentrations, were observed. At the lower altitude, TGM concentrations following such events were found to exhibit both higher magnitude and larger variability in comparison to results from the Zeppelin station. Oxidised mercury species in air and fall-out with snow as well as mercury attached to particles were also measured and their concentrations were found to be anti-correlated with TGM in air. The strongest modulation was observed for total mercury concentration (Hg-tot) in snow (range 1.5–76.5 ng L<sup>-1</sup>). Solid evidence for photo-stimulated emissions of Hg<sup>0</sup>(g) from the snow pack in conjunction to depletion events were obtained from gradient measurements as well as from flux chamber measurements. Steep diurnal concentration variations of Hg<sup>0</sup>(aq) in surface seawater were also found to concur with changing solar radiation. The concentration of Hg<sup>0</sup>(aq) in seawater was found to be in the range 12.2–70.4 pg L<sup>-1</sup>, which corresponds to supersaturation. Hence, the seawater surface constituted a source emitting elemental mercury. The concentrations of the transient mercury forms RGM (Reactive Gaseous Mercury) and PM (Particulate Mercury) respectively and BrO column densities detected using a zenith and off-axis sky viewing DOAS instrument were very low except for a few individual samples during the major depletion event. An evaluation of trajectories for selected events and comparisons with BrO vertical column densities obtained by the GOME (Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment) instrument aboard the earth remote sensing satellite ESR-2 indicates that the air masses exhibiting low Hg<sup>0</sup> concentrations originated from areas with high BrO densities. It was concluded that the

### Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

observed depletion events at Ny-Ålesund were a results of transport from areas with high photochemical activity around the polar region.

## 1. Introduction

Among the metals emitted to the atmosphere from natural, industrial and combustion processes, highly toxic mercury is unique as being mainly released in its gaseous elemental state (Hereafter, assigned  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$  or Gaseous Elemental Mercury, GEM). The semi-volatility of other environmentally relevant mercury compounds (e.g.  $\text{HgCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{HgCl}$ ) further underlines the atmophilic character of mercury. The latter oxidative state of mercury (e.g. mercuric compounds alternatively denoted  $\text{Hg}^{II}$ ) has moderate residence times and a higher affinity to condensed phases. The apparently passive pollutant  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$  is distributed on a global scale, exhibiting intra-hemispherical and vertical uniformity with a gradient of  $\sim 25\%$  over the inter-hemispherical convergence zone (Schroeder and Munthe, 1998). Monitoring of mercury at global atmospheric watch mid-latitude stations does not currently reveal any consistent trend in tropospheric mercury load and a weak seasonality (Munthe and Palm, 2003). The seasonal cycle of boundary-layer airborne mercury in Polar Regions is however distinctly different from that observed at mid-latitude background sites (Ebinghaus et al., 2002) which has led to a considerable interest during the last 5 years. As tropospheric transport is a major channel for the distribution of mercury (Brosset, 1982; Lindqvist and Rodhe, 1985), the high level of mercury contamination present in the Arctic environment suggests an enhanced atmospheric sink strength here (e.g. due to the depositional mechanism and/or by the fractional composition of airborne mercury). The possibility that mercury undergoes “global distillation” (Goldberg, 1975) was suggested by Lantzy and MacKenzie (1979) and was further investigated by Mackay et al. (1995). For mercury, temperature-driven processes have however been suggested to be less important (Lindberg et al., 2002).

Dramatic boundary Ozone Depletion Events (ODEs) occur in the Arctic and Antarctic

### Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

during and after polar sunrise (Barrie et al., 1988). These events cannot be explained by changing meteorology alone and occur when the atmosphere is in a chemically perturbed condition. The main chemical mechanism of the ODEs is believed to be a halogen-catalysed process. Volatile Br(I) species can be absorbed by fresh, partly frozen sea salt particles at low temperature (<253 K) more efficiently than to aqueous droplets. Ensuing are hydrolytic dark reactions such as hypobrominous-halide disproportionation to volatile diatomic elemental or inter-halogens, which can undergo photo dissociation (Adams et al., 2002). Formation of Br<sub>2</sub> is normally prevalent for reasons of thermo-chemical equilibria (Air-water distribution and aqueous complexation) and furthermore its actinic absorption extends out to longer wavelengths than Cl<sub>2</sub> and BrCl. The relative importance of the Br<sub>2</sub> photo-dissociation channel for the production of free halogen atoms is thus increased at high solar zenith angles. The multi-phase environment required for a “bromine explosion” (Ravishankara and Longfellow, 1999; Wennberg, 1999) suggests elevated concentrations especially close to relevant frozen surfaces, such as “frost flowers” (Rankin et al., 2002). Ozone is under such circumstances destroyed:



During daytime, the self-reaction BrO + BrO is competitive to photolysis only at high BrO levels. The latter processes reform Br(g) with unity quantum yield while photolysis and possible cross reactions (e.g. BrO+ Aldehydes/HO<sub>2</sub>) to various extent produce reservoir compounds. As long as ozone is not completely depleted, most Br atoms react with ozone sustaining the BrO level to a certain extent.

Simultaneously with the modulation of the atmospheric ozone content, many other trace substances, among these Hg<sup>0</sup>(g) vary considerably indicating the influence of reactive halogen species (Schroeder et al., 1998). Hg<sup>0</sup> depletions (GEMDEs) cannot be quantitatively explained by the action of atomic chlorine in the gas-phase even if the reaction rate is set at diffusion-controlled limit (Sommar, 2001). A recent determination of the Hg+Cl reaction yielded a rate of  $(1.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  which corresponds to 10% of the diffusion controlled limit (Ariya et al., 2002). Concerning the reaction

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

$\text{Hg}^0(\text{g}) + \text{BrO}(\text{g})$ , Hönninger (2002) estimated the lower limit for the reaction rate from field experiments to  $k_{\text{Hg}+\text{BrO}} \geq 3.7 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Raofie and Ariya (2003) report further constraints on  $k_{\text{Hg}+\text{BrO}} \leq 1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Boudries and Bottenheim (2000) postulated from hydrocarbon “clock” measurements that BrO radicals ( $x=1$ ) rather than bromine atoms ( $x=0$ ) oxidise atomic mercury to form molecular mercury products according to reaction (2).



Assuming prompt formation of  $\text{HgO}(\text{g})$ , reaction (2,  $x=1$ ) appears improbable using thermo-chemical arguments (Shepler and Peterson, 2003; Sommar, 2001; Tosell, 2003). However, insertion product complexes like  $\text{HgBrO}$  are strongly bound and therefore feasible products (Balabanov and Peterson, 2003). Based on relative rate determinations of the homogeneous gas-phase reaction between  $\text{Hg}^0 + \text{Br}$  the following rate coefficient,  $k = (3.2 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  was obtained (Ariya et al., 2002) and the authors proposed that this reaction may explain Arctic GEMDEs. In Malcolm et al. (2003) typical oxidation rates of  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$  in the MBL have been listed for a large number of oxidants also including BrO and ClO using previously unpublished kinetic data from Batelle Inc. The importance of the  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g}) + \text{ClO}(\text{g})$  reaction in the perturbed Polar atmosphere and elsewhere suggested by Stutz et al. (2002) have less support in Malcolm et al. (2003). Likewise a theoretical prediction of the homogeneous rate coefficient for the reaction  $\text{Hg}^0 + \text{ClO} \rightarrow \text{HgO} + \text{Cl}$  at elevated temperatures ( $400^\circ \text{ K} < T < 1800^\circ \text{ K}$ ; 1 atm) by Xu et al. (2003) resulted in a relatively low value of  $\sim 5 \times 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  at  $273^\circ \text{ K}$  (Arrhenius form:  $k \sim 2.29 \times 10^{-12} \exp(-4183/T) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ).  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$  is currently categorised into the families of compounds (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$  and ozone) modulated by bromine species as a key oxidant during depletions (Bottenheim et al., 2002; Lindberg et al., 2002). Although exhibiting disparate physico-chemical properties, the uniform temporal behaviour of GEM and  $\text{O}_3(\text{g})$  in connection with depletions in the surface layer is striking. We are aware that during the Antarctic summer, a persistence in elevated concentrations of molecular divalent oxidative state mercury products in the gaseous phase (usu-

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

ally denoted RGM; for a discussion see Schroeder et al., 2003) has been reported and suggested to be controlled by HO<sub>x</sub> classes rather than reactive halogenated species (Sprovieri et al., 2002; Temme et al., 2003).

GEMDEs have been observed to occur annually often repetitively throughout maritime circumpolar stations: Alert, Ellesmere Island (Schroeder et al., 1998), Barrow, Alaska (Lindberg et al., 2002), Nord, Greenland (Skov et al., 2002), Neumayer, Queen Maud's Land (Ebinghaus et al., 2002), Ny-Ålesund, Spitzbergen (Berg et al., 2003), Terra Nova Bay, Victoria Land (Sprovieri et al., 2002) and apparently in the Siberian Arctic (Golubeva et al., 2003; Steffen and Schroeder, 2002). At sub-polar latitudes, Hönninger (2002) in co-laboration with Poissant and co-workers presents measurements of GEMDEs at 55°N surrounded by seawater ice in Hudson Bay. Stutz et al. (2002) propose that GEMDEs take place over saline dry lakes in mid-latitudes. The observations made throughout the Arctic and Antarctica suggest that GEMDEs occur over large spatial scales and can thus be considered as analogues to ozone holes.

The atmosphere-surface partitioning behaviour appears however to be more complex possibly involving physico-chemical controls at the interface. While gradients of ozone are present in surface air/interstitial snow air suggesting a sink mechanism at the boundary between air, ice and water, a reversible red-ox balance may well be in control for mercury in snow which will strongly adjust its mobility. Hg<sup>II</sup> deposited as a result of Hg<sup>0</sup> depletion events is chemically (photo)labile toward reduction in the snow, hence to certain extent transformed into Hg<sup>0</sup>(aq) and ventilated to the atmosphere (Lalonde et al., 2002; Schroeder et al., 2003; Steffen et al., 2002). Moreover, GEMDEs correspond to short lived polar night ODEs that have been speculated to derive from local-driven chemistry (Foster et al., 2001). Since air-surface exchange and redox processes occurring in the condensed phase seem to be of prime importance, models describing only gas-phase processes cannot be used to evaluate atmospheric mercury budgets over snow-covered surfaces.

Being a high priority toxic element with diametrically opposite physico-chemical properties of the environmentally relevant oxidative states (e.g. Hg<sup>0</sup>/Hg<sup>II</sup>), efforts to estimate

---

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

its atmospheric mass balance (e.g. perform speciation/fractionation of airborne mercury in the field) during GEMDEs are of crucial importance. When comparing results of measurements of airborne mercury species during GEMDEs at different stations, it is evident that a closure of airborne mercury mass balance is not achieved. This is concordant with the strong tendency of RGM or mercury attached to existing particles (PM) to undergo physical removal during transport. In terms of quantity and composition, the transient mercury groups discussed above tend in Hg<sup>0</sup>(g)-depleted air masses to be site specific (Lindberg et al., 2002; Lu et al., 2003; Steffen et al., 2002; Temme et al., 2003). In some cases, the air masses are almost truly free from mercury while frequently the transient products are detected at elevated mixing ratios composing up to ~90% of the Total Gaseous Mercury (hereafter abridged TGM, for a definition see below) load present in background air.

In this paper, we report and discuss results from the Norwegian high Arctic. The research area at Ny-Ålesund is located about 1300 km from the North Pole (cf. Fig. 1) and was established for long-term monitoring of airborne mercury in 1994. In 2000 high-time resolution measurement were started that allowed the identification of mercury depletion events (Berg et al., 2001; Berg et al., 2003). In addition, sampling of mercury in various other environmental compartments has been undertaken (Berg et al., 2001). Pongratz and Heumann (1998) have performed studies of the methylated mercury species (e.g. monomethylmercury, CH<sub>3</sub>HgX: hereafter Methyl-Hg and dimethylmercury: (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Hg) produced in the sea by different macro algae. They proposed that biogenic very toxic (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Hg can be released from the sea surface and contribute to the polar atmospheric load of mercury (Pongratz and Heumann, 1999). Observations of important ozone destruction halogen catalysts XO over this location have been made during ODEs since 1995 for a series of consecutive years (X=Cl; e.g. Tuckermann et al., 1997; X=Br; e.g. Müller et al., 2002; X=I, e.g. Wittrock et al., 2000) in the range up to a few ten ppt. ODEs at Ny-Ålesund coincide with elevated mixing ratios of XO essentially only for X=Br. The role of X=Cl is much less clear and X=I apparently lacking correlation. The corresponding integrated concentrations of atomic

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

halogens have been estimated during ODEs ( $\text{Cl} \sim 10^{10} \text{ s cm}^{-3}$  and  $\text{Br} \sim 10^{12} \text{ s cm}^{-3}$ ) using hydrocarbon “clock” measurements (Ramacher et al., 1999; Solberg et al., 1996). In a recent historical survey of the temporal and spatial occurrence of ODEs, Tarasick and Bottenheim (2002) report the incidence of ODEs an order of magnitude lower at Ny-Ålesund (together with e.g. Neumayer) compared to Alert. It has been suggested that the relative low frequency of ODEs at Ny-Ålesund is to some extent related to its local topography and the presence of open oceanic water (Lorenzen-Schmidt et al., 1998).

The purpose of this study was to provide further quantitative information on mercury in different environmental compartments including air, snow and seawater during polar spring and extend the database of GEMDEs. To contribute to the knowledge, we have conducted time-resolved speciated determination of mercury in the atmosphere and snow at two altitudes. At the sea level, we focused on collecting data for gas-transfer calculations over snow and sea surfaces. In addition, this paper includes an analysis of meteorological and BrO data obtained by using multiple remote platforms (ground-based as well as satellite-based) and an assessment of how these factors influence the evolution of signatures in various samples collected during the campaign. Information needs/data gaps recognized at the first international Arctic atmospheric mercury research workshop 26–28 August 2002 will be addressed and discussed (Schroeder et al., 2003).

## 2. Experimental section

### 2.1. Sampling location

Experiments were performed during an intensive campaign (17 April to 14 May 2002) in the presence of 24-h daylight at three locations within the Ny-Ålesund International Research and Monitoring Facility. This establishment ( $78.9^\circ \text{ N}$ ,  $11.9^\circ \text{ E}$ ) is situated at the southern shore of Kongsfjorden on the West Coast of Spitzbergen in the Norwegian

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

high Arctic (Fig. 1) and is partly surrounded by mountains with peaks of 1000–1500 m altitude. It is situated about 15 km from the northern-most Barents Sea. An offshoot of the waning Gulf Current (West Spitzbergen current) causes ice-free conditions along the west coast of Spitzbergen during the entire year. Sea ice was in-turn dominant north of a border approximately demarcated by latitude  $\sim 80^\circ$  N and longitude  $\sim 10^\circ$  E (Fig. 1). When covered by ice, the local climate is however modulated to be more continental by the adjacent fjord. In connection with low-lying cloud cover, the presence of distant open water was discernible by noticeably darker skies over water. General large-scale circulation is steered by the Iceland low and the high-pressure systems over Greenland and the Arctic Ocean, forcing warm and humid air from the North Atlantic ocean along cyclone tracks to the Barents sea. The large differences in air temperature between air masses of Arctic or Atlantic origin cause large fluctuation in weather conditions at Ny-Ålesund. Positive phases of the North Atlantic and Arctic oscillations have recently created warming anomalies of circumpolar continental areas that partly are compensated by cooling over the northern North Atlantic. An overall descending tendency in the thickness and area extent of sea-ice is observed e.g. in the Arctic Ocean's Atlantic layer. Owing to positive feedbacks, greenhouse warming has been proposed to be amplified in the Arctic yielding seasonally increased precipitation.

Samples of airborne mercury and mercury in snow were taken at the Global Atmospheric Watch monitoring observatory operated by the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) at Zeppelinfjellet (474-m a.s.l). From the Zeppelin mountain Station (ZS,  $78^\circ 54' 42''$  N,  $11^\circ 55' 30''$  E), there is a steep downhill slope to the north towards the settlement situated at 2-km distance. South of ZS is also a slope whereas there are higher mountain peaks in the east and west. This channels the local wind into either of the upslope directions, north-northwest and south-southeast (Beine et al., 2001). The station is typically positioned well above frequent ground inversion of the fjord valley (Braathen et al., 1990). Air and snow sampling were also carried out downhill at 12-m a.s.l close to the Italian Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) Base Artica “Dirigibile Italia” (DI). The air sampling at this location comprised vertical gradient mea-

surements at two heights and flux chamber measurements on the snow surface. The extensive snow pack in the experimental area is seasonal (usually melted by end of June) and has maritime characterisation with numerous layers of aged snow. Surface seawater samples were collected in Kongfjorden close to or offshore the settlement when manageable by jolly boat.

### 2.1.1. Sampling and analytical protocols

### 2.1.2. Airborne mercury

#### Ambient TGM

Ambient air point samples were collected and analysed with automatised instruments. In addition to the stationary Tekran (Model 2537A) gas-phase mercury vapour analyser at Zeppelin, two other Tekran (Model 2537A) instruments were employed to measure TGM. The abbreviation TGM refers to gaseous elemental mercury (GEM) and small contributions of other gaseous mercury species (<1% at ambient conditions) that may pass through the sampling line and be detected as  $\text{Hg}^0$  (Schroeder et al., 1995; Temme et al., 2003). The TGM measurements were made according to the well-established method with a  $0.45\ \mu\text{m}$  front particle filter. The stationary instrument was also equipped with a heated sampling line.

Prior to moving to other sampling sites the instruments were calibrated using manual injections of known amounts of  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$  from a Tekran 2505 mercury vapour source. The nominal settings of each Tekran's internal permeation tube were verified within a few %. The internal calibration systems were further used on a daily basis for calibration during the campaign. The instruments were operated in continuous mode at  $1.5\ \text{L}\ \text{min}^{-1}$  sample flow rate and with 5 min sampling intervals. The detector response to standards automatically invoked from the internal permeation source showed a high degree of stability from calibration to calibration. Succeeding this exercise, the instruments were in-turn intercalibrated for ambient air with their respective inlet tubes

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

during ~40 h, spanning over a concentration range from  $<0.1 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$  to ambient background.

### Transient mercury fractions RGM and PM

RGM and PM were sampled by collection on KCl-coated denuders (Landis et al., 2002; Wängberg et al., 2003a; Xiao et al., 1997) and on filters (Berg et al., 2001; Wängberg et al., 2003b), respectively. An automated unit using sequential sampling of RGM and fine PM (nominal cut-off  $3 \mu\text{m}$ , f-PM) was mounted on the roof of the Zeppelin station ~2 m above ground and connected through a heated line to a Tekran 2357A analyser. The transient mercury forms were concentrated and analysed with 1.5-hour time step after thermal conversion to  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$ , enabling separate quantification after transfer to the Tekran instrument. The temperatures and flows through the sampling components in quartz were controlled by a set of furnaces, pumps and fans programmed by a Set point Programmer. The programme was triggered by a signal from a Tekran 1120 Standard Addition Controller. Special attention was paid the reduction of the partitioning of mercury to the walls of the sampling inlet (Ariya et al., 2002; Landis et al., 2002; Sommar et al., 1997) by treating the surfaces with a perhalogenated carbon product. Based on  $3\sigma$  of the sample blank, the Detection Limit (DL) of RGM and f-PM was estimated to be ~2 and  $\sim 5 \text{ pg m}^{-3}$ , respectively. The fraction of f-PM was typically below the DL and this result will not further be commented. Manual denuders for RGM sampling with lower time resolution were also used. Two manual denuders were used in parallel. The denuders were contained in protective housings thermostatted to  $40^\circ\text{C}$  during sampling. The two sampling systems were identical except that one of the samplers was equipped with Teflon grid inlet. Manual RGM sampling was conducted at ZS in the beginning of the campaign and later moved to DI. Total PM (TPM) was collected at ZS using glass fibre filters according to Berg et al. (2001). Each filter sample was exposed during 1–3 days. All concentrations given are dimensioned to resemble mass of  $\text{Hg}^0 \text{ m}^{-3}$  at STP ( $0^\circ\text{C}$  and

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

1013 hPa). Time reported is in UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time).

### 2.1.3. Tropospheric BrO

Daily averaged BrO Vertical Column Densities obtained from the GOME instrument were used to interpret the mercury observations. The GOME is a UV/VIS double monochromator spectrometer with a spectral range of 240–793 nm and a resolution of 0.2 nm ( $\lambda < 400$  nm) and 0.4 nm ( $\lambda > 400$  nm), respectively. The instrument operates onboard ERS-2, which is on a sun-synchronous orbit since April 1995 (Burrows et al., 1999). BrO columns are retrieved from the measured radiances using the well-known Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS) technique. Details on the BrO retrieval can be found in Richter et al. (1998). Ground-based zenith sky UV/VIS – DOAS measurements are also continuously performed at Ny-Ålesund (Wittrock et al., 1996). Since March 2002, the instrument has been upgraded to observe not only the zenith-sky, but also directions close to the horizon. By combining zenith-sky and horizon measurements, some information on the vertical distribution can be retrieved, and the sensitivity to boundary layer BrO explosions is much enhanced (Wittrock et al., 2003). Unfortunately, the instrument was not operational on 22 April, thereby missing part of the large depletion event observed during the campaign.

### 2.1.4. Mercury in snow

Surface-snow samples were collected on a daily basis and brought indoors where they were allowed to melt into acid cleaned 125 ml volume Teflon bottles. Each sample was preserved by adding 0.5 ml HCl (Merck, Suprapur). All samples were analysed for total mercury (Hg-tot; Bloom and Crecelius, 1983) and a few for methyl-Hg (Lee et al., 1994)

### 2.1.5. Mercury in seawater

Surface seawater samples from Kongsfjorden were collected from a small boat or from a landing using an acid cleaned Teflon bottle of 1.3 L volume. The bottle consisted

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

of a 1.0 m long tube with 4 cm inner diameter. The container was equipped with a glass frit in the bottom and had two functions, both sample collector and impinger. Each water sample was immediately transported to the nearby laboratory where 0.5 L of the sample was extracted for Dissolved Gaseous Mercury (hereafter denoted: DGM  $\approx \text{Hg}^0(\text{aq})$ ) during 60 min using purified inert gas ( $0.3 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ ). The extracted elemental mercury was collected on an Au-trap connected to the outlet at the top of the tube. The Au-trap was heated to  $40^\circ\text{C}$  to avoid condensation of moisture. The Au traps were analysed using the standard dual amalgamation and CVAFS detection technique. Detailed information about the procedure, its efficiency and reproducibility is found in Gårdfeldt et al. (2002).

In some cases part of the seawater were transferred into 125 ml volume acid cleaned Teflon bottles before DGM extraction. The samples were preserved with HCl (see Sect. 2.2.3.) and transferred to IVL in Sweden for analysis of Hg-tot.

#### 2.1.6. Methods for mercury flux estimations

##### Gas-exchange model

A gas-exchange model (Wanninkhof, 1992) was used to estimate mercury evasion fluxes from the sea. The model requires TGM and DGM concentrations and water temperature and wind speed as the input parameters. Further parameterisation was made following the principles reported in Gårdfeldt et al. (2003).

##### Vertical gradient measurements and flux chamber measurements of TGM

Vertical gradient concentration measurements of TGM were performed at 20 and 180 cm above the snow surface. A teflonised three-way magnetic valve synchronised with the instrument's preconcentration cycle was used enabling periodic alternate sampling from each level with a Tekran 2537A instrument.

Flux chamber measurements were made over the snow surface adjacent to the gra-

dient measurements. The dynamic flux chamber (DFC) was made of FEP Teflon after a prototype from Oak Ridge National Laboratories (Kim and Lindberg, 1995). An external aluminium frame supported the rectangular, open-bottom chamber  $60 \times 20 \times 20 \text{ cm}^3$ . The flux was estimated using Eq. (3):

$$F = Q \times (C_{out} - C_{in}) / A \quad (3)$$

where  $Q$  is the total airflow rate pulled through the chamber by means of a pump connected to the chamber wall. The inlet air enters 20 cm above the snow surface through a port opposite to the pump side of the chamber.  $A$  is the snow surface covered by the chamber.  $C_{out}$  and  $C_{in}$  corresponds to the Hg concentration leaving and entering into the chamber, respectively. These two concentrations were measured in sequence using one Tekran 2537A operating in continuous mode with sampling intervals of 5 minutes. The measurements were initiated by a blank check where the chamber was placed on a FEP Teflon film. After some time when sufficiently low  $C_{out} - C_{in}$  values were obtained the measurement was started by putting the chamber on a flat snow plot. The blank procedure was repeated twice during the measurements after which the chamber was relocated on a fresh snow surface. The temperature in the ambient surface snow as well as that within the DFC was probed with embedded thermocouples in the snow. The sensors were connected to a mini meteorological logger (Skye Datahog 2 type SDL 5360).

#### 2.1.7. Meteorological parameters

Meteorological parameters and surface ozone at ZS were measured by NILU (accessible via the Norwegian Institute for Air Research, see <http://www.nilu.no/niluweb/services/zeppelin/>). Extensive sets of meteorological data collected adjacent to DI and vertical profiles of ozone and temperature above Ny-Ålesund were kindly provided by the German Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research. The temporal behaviour of TGM and ozone were investigated by calculating  $(\Delta[X]/\Delta t)$  ratios. Relative removal rates were calculated using Eq. (4), where  $[X]_1$  denotes the concentration

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

of TGM at time  $t_1$  etc.

$$\frac{\Delta \log[X]}{\Delta t} = \frac{\log([X]_2/[X]_1)}{t_2 - t_1} \quad (4)$$

Back trajectories were obtained using the Hybrid single-particle lagrangian integrated trajectory (HYSPLIT) model. The calculations were made interactively using the FNL meteorological datasets, which is provided on the web by Air Resources Laboratory, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration after permission (<http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready/hysplit4.html>). The stability of the back trajectories was verified by expanding the starting area or by calculating at different ending heights.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Variability of local point ozone and local vertically resolved point TGM observations

Time-series of TGM measured at two altitudes are shown in Fig. 2c. Two depletion events (GEMDEs) are clearly depicted. The first and major episode was only measured from ZS, while the following GEMDEs were sampled at both ZS and DI. TGM dropped to undetectable levels in the first and major event and below  $0.5$  and  $0.9 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ , respectively, during two minor events. The major depletion is characterised by a very fast decrease in TGM; within 24 h the concentration changed from  $\sim 1.6 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$  to  $< 10 \text{ pg m}^{-3}$ . It is obvious that there also exist other significant spike-dip-like features in the TGM record in-between depletions. During the period between the polar sunrise 2002 and the start of the campaign, no major GEMDE was recorded with the stationary instrument at Zeppelinfjellet. As shown in Fig. 3a, the corresponding probability distribution of TGM is strongly left-skewed by events of low GEM influencing the arithmetical mean concentration ( $1.15 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ). The annual TGM mean at the site is  $1.4\text{--}1.5 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$  as

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

derived from measurements made during recent years (Berg et al., 2001; Berg et al., 2003).

In addition to TGM, ozone was also measured at ZS. The complete ozone concentration-time series is shown in Fig. 2b while Fig. 4a displays the data confined to the major ODEs. The TGM and ozone data sets were compared as 709 paired hourly mean values. They were found to be correlated with maximum positive cross-correlation ( $R > 0.9$ ) for a time lag of  $< 1$  h. For ambient air data measured by two autonomous instruments, the correlation is very high, but a similar resemblance has been obtained at other polar sites (Schroeder et al., 1997; Temme et al., 2003). By solely including the depletion periods even higher positive 1-h correlation coefficient was obtained ( $R \sim 0.98$ ). The Zeppelin station is situated over or at least at the top of the marine boundary layer. The time series of the TGM measurements at 12 m a.s.l. and 474 m a.s.l. are altogether highly correlated as one can anticipate. Conversely to invariant gradients generally observed during GEMDE's, considerable concentration difference between the stations was often observed successive to depletions (Fig. 2c). During the period 6–8 May the TGM values at DI exhibit a more than fivefold higher variance in comparison to that of ZS. The substantially larger variability in TGM data from DI is illustrated in Fig. 3, where the diurnal variation in TGM at DI and ZS is depicted in a Box and Whiskers diagram. The mean, the upper and lower 95% confidence intervals and extremes are shown for 15 min per bin diurnally integrated samples. The assembled data for DI shows a further distinct maximum around noon, which is influenced by a few days of TGM concentration peaks well above  $2.0 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ . Usually no time lag in the concentration variations was monitored. However during the observed depletions, the recovery phase appear to start earlier at the sea level. The vertical spatial gradient in TGM and its temporal development is likely to be due to re-emission of mercury from the snow surface, an effect that is enhanced by restricted mixing of air on a micrometeorological scale. Similar seasonal and altitudinal ozone measurements have been performed by Lorenzen-Schmidt et al. (1998). In contrast to TGM, there is no evidence for emission from the snow-pack to the atmosphere concerning ozone.

---

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

## 3.2. Compositional change of mercury during and after incidence of GEM depletions

### 3.2.1. Airborne transient mercury fractions

Concentration-time series of RGM at two altitudes and TPM at ZS are shown in Fig. 2e and d, respectively. The concentrations measured were in the range  $<2\text{--}95\text{ pg m}^{-3}$  for RGM and  $<1\text{--}140\text{ pg m}^{-3}$  for TPM. Except for a few samples during GEMDEs the concentrations of these fractions generally were very low (median mixing ratios present in the sub-ppq (parts-per  $10^{15}$ )). The highest values were measured in connection to the first depletion. The sum of RGM and TPM corresponds to 16% of the TGM loss inferred. During GEMDEs year 2000, elevated levels of RGM and TPM also were observed in ozone-depleted air masses received at ZS. The corresponding concentrations extended to 12 and  $47\text{ pg m}^{-3}$ , respectively, but corresponded only to up to a few percent of TGM normally present in ambient air. The previous measurements also showed that RGM and TPM generally are low at ZS with concentrations often below  $10\text{ pg m}^{-3}$  (Berg et al., 2001; Berg et al., 2003; Lu et al., 2003).

Within the week of 6 to 12 May, during the two minor GEM depletion events, matching RGM measurements at two altitudes were undertaken. The RGM measured at the higher altitude showed a modest variability around typical background concentrations while the parallel variance was significantly (F-test,  $P < 0.01$ ) larger at DI and the anti-correlation with TGM during GEMDEs more substantial.

### 3.2.2. Mercury in snow and seawater

The result from mercury analysis of snow samples, collected at two altitudes (ZS and DI), is shown in Fig. 2f. While Methyl-Hg was consistently undetectable ( $<0.06\text{ ng L}^{-1}$ ) during the period, time series of total mercury (Hg-tot) presents a moderate maximum during the major GEMDE and becomes highly episodic during the minor events with peaks as high as  $77\text{ ng L}^{-1}$ . The strong peaks during the period 5 to 11 May are related to snowfall events. The highest values were obtained during the second depletion

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

in conjunction to snowfall, which started in the late afternoon of 5 May. Two snow samples were collected that day, as shown in Fig. 2f. The ZS sample was collected before the snowfall started and contained small amounts of mercury. The DI sample was collected approximately one hour after the snowfall started and contained high amounts of mercury (~15-fold increase). Hence, this observation clearly indicates that the mercury arrived with the snow.

Some surface water samples from Kongsfjorden were collected during May 10-11 and analysed for Hg-tot. Quite high Hg-tot arithmetic mean concentrations were determined ( $2.1 \pm 1.5$  ( $1\sigma$ )  $\text{ng L}^{-1}$ ,  $n=5$ ). This value can be compared with  $0.8 \text{ ng L}^{-1}$  as reported as the corresponding mean for filtered water samples ( $0.45 \mu\text{m}$  pore size) collected at the same site during summer (Pongratz and Heumann, 1998). It is likely that the high concentrations observed here are due to deposition of snow enriched in mercury originating from GEMDEs. Only a few other Hg-tot data for Arctic waters have been published (Coquery et al., 1995, “Arctic coastal waters of northern Siberia”).

Surface water samples for analysis of dissolved gaseous mercury (DGM) were also collected at Kongsfjorden. Time series of the DGM concentration during 8–14 May is shown in Fig. 5. A strong diurnal concentration variation is displayed; ranging from 12 to  $70 \text{ pg L}^{-1}$ . The variation in DGM is clearly linked to solar radiation, which suggests photolytic reduction of oxidised mercury species in the surface water. The DGM values correspond to a supersaturation of 40–480% as estimated using Henry’s Law coefficients valid at low water temperatures (Gårdfeldt et al., 2003).

### 3.2.3. Evasion of volatile mercury from snow and water surfaces

As discussed above in Sect. 3.1., the observations of diurnal patterns in the surface TGM concentration indicates a light-dependent evasional flux from condensed surfaces. These processes were further investigated by flux measurements using the DFC technique as well as vertical gradient measurements over snow plots outside DI. As shown in Fig. 6b, an accumulation of TGM was generally reached in the air passing through the DFC. This corresponds to mid-day peak emissions of up to  $70 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

as calculated from Eq. (3). Elevated fluxes were observed contiguous to enhanced deposition events during the two latter GEMDEs. The average DFC-flux obtained is  $\sim 8 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ . It should be noted that blank tests and repositioning of the chamber was concurrent with periods of enhanced mercury deposition. As shown in Fig. 6, a discernable diurnal variation in snow surface temperature exists with temperature maximum during mid-day. When directly sunlit the DFC creates a greenhouse effect that strongly influences the enclosed surface's temperature. Gillis and Miller (2000) and Wallschlager et al. (1999) have examined the feasibility of DFCs in order to measure mercury gas exchange and found it significantly biased by physical constraints such as turnover rates and the degree of exposure to ambient wind. In papers by Lindberg and co-workers (Lindberg and Zhang, 2000; Zhang et al., 2002) it was established that a high-limit flux is attained when the enclosure is sufficiently ventilated. This limit steady-state is however not directly comparable either in time or in quantity with e.g. micrometeorological approaches. The highest emission rates are concurrent with surface snow temperatures inside the DFC around  $0^\circ\text{C}$  indicating that reduction and emission occurs mainly in melting snow. Thus, these results may not be significant for ambient snow temperatures (i.e.  $T < 0^\circ\text{C}$ ).

The vertical two level TGM measurements over snow at DI generally displayed very small concentration differences ( $< 0.1\text{--}0.2 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) during the period of sampling (3–13 May). They were frequently insignificant if taking the instrumental precision into consideration. Given the position of each intake, the invariant gradients are in accordance with results from Alert reported by (Steffen et al., 2002). However, during one event, solid evidence for photo-stimulated emissions of  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$  from the snow pack was obtained. Results from this period are shown in Fig. 7. The TGM gradients represents 9 h following a snowfall during which a large increase in Hg-tot was observed in consecutive samples on May 5 and 6 (see Fig. 2d). The snow episode ended at  $\sim 9:30$  the 6 May and was followed by calm winds, a stable temperature at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  and mostly overcast skies. During this period with low wind speeds ( $< 1\text{--}3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  at 2 m above the ground) and strong pulses of short-wave direct solar radiation, a period of frequently

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

significant TGM vertical gradients were observed. Multiple reflections and scattering of shortwave radiation between the surface and the atmosphere enhances the solar flux over the high albedo surface ( $\geq 80\%$ ). Single TGM measurements yielded a difference of 30 to 50% between the lower and higher sampling heights. Rapid photo-induced production of GEM in the snow followed by gas-transfer from interstitial air to the overlying air is thus implied.

The magnitude of the corresponding fluxes during the period was estimated by applying a basic dispersion model (Olofsson et al., 2001). The upwind fetch of the gradient measurements, a snow-covered relatively flat plain without obstacles, was assumed to exhibit homogeneous source strength and surface properties. The contribution from sources at each level sampled ( $z_1=1.8$  m and  $z_2=0.2$  m) was described by the Gaussian plume dispersion equation. If assuming neutral stability and an aerodynamic roughness length of 1.5 cm, the vertical concentration gradient observations are consistent with fluxes in the range  $20\text{--}40$  ng m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>. This interval compares satisfactorily with the figures derived from the present DFC measurements. The model predictions are also consistent with the low range emissions ( $<10$  ng m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) obtained by the DFC and the observed absence of large TGM vertical gradients over snow. TGM fluxes obtained at Alert during spring 2002 using DFC and micrometeorological methods yielded similar values. At Point Barrow, highly variable emission rates were observed by DFC during snowmelt 2002 ranging up to  $0.6$  μg m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> (Schroeder et al., 2003).

The mechanism behind the formation of volatile mercury in the sunlit snow is not well understood. The reactions are presumably abiotic and involve reactants present on the ice crystal surface. In a study by Lalonde et al. (2003), it was indicated that newly deposited mercury was highly labile in snowpacks due to Hg(II) photoinduced reduction to volatile Hg<sup>0</sup>. The environmental feasibility of aqueous reduction mechanism of mercuric species was investigated and discussed by Gårdfeldt et al. (2003). It was concluded that Hg<sup>0</sup> is not formed through consecutive one-electron reductions under aerated conditions. However, formation of Hg<sup>0</sup> can occur for example via fragmentation of an organic ligand bound to Hg(II) under actinic radiation.

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

The seawater in Kongsfjorden was supersaturated in respect to DGM as mentioned above, which suggests reemission of mercury from the water surface as well. Gas-exchange model calculations yielded flux values from 0.1 to  $7 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ . It should, however, be mentioned that the bay was partly covered by ice which limited the wave field. The flux values obtained are therefore likely to be overestimated.

### 3.3. Surface depletions, occurrence of tropospheric BrO and the influence of transport

#### 3.3.1. Local boundary-layer chemical and meteorological observations

Both ODEs and GEMDEs have recently been assumed to be a result of halogen chemistry as mentioned above. The occurrence of BrO is frequently used as a tracer for such processes. As can be seen in Fig. 2b, ground based DOAS BrO measurements at Ny-Ålesund revealed incidence of elevated BrO column densities simultaneous to the periods of low  $\text{Hg}^0$  and  $\text{O}_3$  surface levels. This initial signature hints that air parcels at this receptor may exhibit an augmented oxidation capacity. In order to evaluate the role of transport and transformation, various regimes of the TGM/ $\text{O}_3$  concentration-time series were evaluated. Features in composition change are generally reproduced for both gas-phase constituents but during May the patterns became increasingly less correlated. Events of concurrent significant variations in TGM and ozone concentration are given in Table 1 together with corresponding meteorological information. Shift in meteorological parameters is frequently encountered during the on-set of depletions and most utterly marked during the most intense depletion (see Fig. 4c–f). The on-set of the first depletion is associated with falling temperature and raising wind speed ( $\Delta T \approx -15 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and  $\Delta u \approx 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  during a few hours) and rapid shift in wind direction from SE to N-NW indicating intrusion of an Arctic airmass. It should be noticed that the local wind-direction during phases of the most distinct changes in TGM were strictly in-between WNW and NNW. This represents a sector almost entirely free from adjacent land masses (Fig. 1). In correspondence to observations made by Solberg et al. (1996)

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

covering ODE's at Ny-Ålesund during 1988–1993, the on-set of the present GEMDES is associated with a cold boundary layer. Contrary to the suggestions given by Lu et al. (2001), depletions at Ny-Ålesund appear not to be restricted to stagnant synoptic situations (Solberg et al., 1996; Tuckermann et al., 1997). The major depletion episode indeed concurred under strong winds as shown in Fig. 4.

The temporal descents in TGM and  $O_3$  ( $\Delta[X]/\Delta t$ ) were during the on-set of the major GEMDE in the order of  $\sim -0.5 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ h}^{-1}$  and  $\sim -30 \mu\text{g m}^{-3} \text{ h}^{-1}$ , respectively. The latter value exceeds the most rapid variation features of ODEs reported previously for this site. The very fast drop may be interpreted as a combination of halogen chemistry and fast advection of an air mass extending to the surface that has already been affected by depletion for an extensive period of time. The relative variations of  $O_3$  and TGM were evaluated by calculating  $\Delta \log[X]/\Delta t$  ratios for the relevant period of time (see Table 1). It is evident that there exists a near 1:1 relationship between  $O_3$  and TGM in most of the cases. This suggests a common meteorological influence by e.g. advection or turbulent dispersion. Nevertheless, due to the presence of moderately elevated BrO concentrations (a few ppt), bromine chemistry forming BrO must have occurred in the air mass. It is however not certain that ozone is a limiting factor.

### 3.3.2. Remote-sensing circumpolar BrO observations, trajectory and sea-ice intersect analysis

To further test whether the low TGM concentrations observed might be a result of transport of air masses already depleted from mercury, back trajectories were calculated and compared with daily average BrO vertical column density maps obtained from the GOME satellite. The results from this investigation regarding the first and the second depletion are shown in Fig. 8. The air received at Ny-Ålesund the 22 April (the day with maximum depletion) arrived via a north-north-west path as shown in Fig. 8a. The trajectory is of four days length and originates from the Western High Arctic Sea. BrO vertical column densities mapped in Fig. 8a are from 18 April, the starting day of

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

the trajectory. According to the GOME BrO maps related to the days in-between the 18 to 22 April the trajectory was not passing through areas with elevated BrO. Hence, this would suggest that the air mass with depleted mercury originated far from Ny-Ålesund. However, although not observed by the GOME satellite (BrO GOME data directly above Ny-Ålesund are not available from the 22 April) the ground based BrO measurements proved that the air mass actually contained elevated concentrations of BrO.

The climax of BrO concentrations concurrent with the very intrusion of the cold air mass indicates a sustained chemical oxidation of  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$ . This implies that the transition phase with active oxidation of GEM must have happened close to Spitzbergen. Conversely, physical removal of the majority of the airborne mercuric products onto snow and ice is a process requiring some time which therefore suggests that most of the GEM must have been oxidised quite far from Ny-Ålesund. Figure 8b shows a back trajectory ending at Ny-Ålesund at the 24 April. The GEM concentration was subsequently almost back to normal and as shown the air received does not originate from areas with elevated BrO. According to the back trajectories calculated there is no air transport between Ny-Ålesund and the area with high BrO column densities seen north west of Greenland. The next episode with low GEM concentrations occurred in the beginning of May, with a GEM minimum at the 5 May, see Fig. 8c. According to the BrO maps from this period, the low GEM concentration also seems to be a consequence of transport of an air mass depleted from mercury. However, considerable amounts of oxidised mercury were transported to the measurement area via snow, as mentioned above.

Following the approach of Temme et al. (2003), 3-day backward trajectories were interactively generated to describe diurnal (12-h interval separated) transport of air masses to Ny-Ålesund during the entire period. The transport denoted by twelve 6-h interval positions for each trajectory were indexed by the degree of sea ice coverage if such were available. The weight factors were obtained from the ice charts of the US-National Ice Center (<http://www.natice.noaa.gov/index.htm>). In Fig. 9, the concentration/density-time series of TGM,  $\text{O}_3$  and BrO are spread above the surface

of the summed-up 6-h resolved index ( $\Sigma$  ice coverage, base unit 10%). It gives an unambiguous signal that the on-set of measured GEMDE's coincides with the arrival of air masses with high degree of sea-ice transect.

5 The sea-ice transport index is surprisingly constant in the slow recovery phase of  $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g})$  during the major GEMDE's. The apparent recovery phase (22 April–) is associated with local transport over the barren interior of Spitzbergen Island that may well include mixing of air-masses (mixing-in from above with mercury-rich air from the free troposphere). Analogous to ODEs, the influence from local topography may thus obscure the perception of the scale of the phenomenon, making local GEMDEs at  
10 Ny-Ålesund display shorter duration and lower magnitude (Solberg et al., 1996).

#### 4. Conclusions

The measurements made during spring 2002 strongly suggest that the observed GEMDEs were caused by transport of air already depleted from mercury rather than the action of solely atmospheric chemistry in the air at Ny-Ålesund. One of the findings  
15 proposing transport is that the GEMDEs occurred in conjunction with weather changes. The major depletion for example, was initiated when the wind direction changed from south to north and a cold air mass with wind speeds above  $10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  was received. Since some time is needed for an air mass to get depleted from oxidised forms of mercury via deposition of RGM and the particulate fraction to ice and snow surfaces,  
20 the low content of airborne oxidised mercury constitutes an additional evidence for transport. During the major depletion the Total Airborne Mercury ( $\text{TAM} = \Sigma(\text{GEM}, \text{RGM}, \text{TPM})$ ) corresponded to less than 20% of the normal background value of TGM, indicating a >80% loss of airborne mercury. This is considerably lower in comparison to observations made at Nunavut and Alaskan sites (Steffen and Schroeder, 2002; Lindberg et al., 2002) where TAM values corresponding to 70–90% of the background TGM  
25 concentration have been observed. With marked referral to the publications by Brooks et al. (2002), Garbarino et al. (2002), Lindberg et al. (2002a) and Lu et al. (2001) re-

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

spectively covering the American Arctic, Table 2 hints that the deposition pattern here appears to be stronger after Polar sunrise. The GOME BrO maps and back trajectories (Fig. 8) also support transport. The ground based BrO data indicate that elevated BrO concentrations can be sustained in an ozone depleted air mass. Low ozone values are large compared to BrO concentrations (a few ppt at most) possibly implying that ozone concentrations are just not the limiting factor for BrO formation. Another important aspect of the present study is the observation of increased evasion of elemental mercury from snow surfaces. This process appears to be a result of photo induced reduction of new deposited oxidised mercury on snow and ice and has been reported to be important from investigations on other Arctic sites (Lalonde et al., 2002; Schroeder et al., 2003; Steffen et al., 2002). Here we report evidence for a similar process occurring in seawater. The concentration of DGM in the surface water in Kongsfjorden showed a pronounced daily variation well correlated with solar radiation. Hence, it seems like a significant part of the oxidised mercury deposited onto snow and water surfaces is quickly re-emitted back to the atmosphere as elemental mercury. The ratio between deposition and re-emission is an important parameter that determines the impact of mercury depletion in the Arctic environment. It is now clear that GEMDEs constitute a phenomenon of large geographical scale in Polar Regions. More research is needed to improve our understanding of this spectacular aspect of environmental mercury cycling.

*Acknowledgements.* We would like to acknowledge financial support from the Ny-Ålesund Large Scale Facility Program (Contract LSF NILU #71/2001), the Norwegian Research Council (T. Berg) and the Norwegian State Pollution Control Authority (T. Berg). We wish to thank Italian CNR for allowing access to Base Arctica CNR Dirigibile Italia. Additionally, we would like to thank the staff at the Norwegian Polar Institute and Kings Bay A/S, Ny-Ålesund for support during the campaign. Special thanks to M. Olofsson from Department of Chemistry, Göteborg University for flux calculation from gradient measurements. Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research generously provided meteorological data. GOME lv1 data have been provided by ESA through DFD-DLR Oberpfaffenhofen.

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

## References

- Air Resources Laboratory, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): HYbrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory Model, <http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready/hysplit4.html>.
- Adams, J. W., Holmes, N. S., and Crowley, J. N.: Uptake and reaction of HOBr on frozen and dry NaCl/NaBr surfaces between 253 and 233 K, *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2, 79–91, 2002.
- Ariya, P. A., Khalizov, A., and Gidas, A.: Reactions of gaseous mercury with atomic and molecular halogens: Kinetics, product studies, and atmospheric implications, *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 106, 7310–7320, 2002.
- Balabanov, N. B. and Peterson, K. A.: Mercury and Reactive Halogens: The Thermochemistry of  $\text{Hg}+\{\text{Cl}_2, \text{Br}_2, \text{BrCl}, \text{ClO}, \text{and BrO}\}$ , *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 107, 7465–7470, 2003.
- Barrie, L. A., Bottenheim, J. W., Schnell, R. C., Crutzen, P. J., and Rasmussen, R. A.: Ozone Destruction and Photochemical-Reactions at Polar Sunrise in the Lower Arctic Atmosphere, *Nature*, 334, 138–141, 1988.
- Beine, H. J., Argentini, S., Maurizi, A., Mastrantonio, G., and Viola, A.: The local wind field at Ny-Ålesund and the Zeppelin mountain at Svalbard, *Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics*, 78, 107–113, 2001.
- Berg, T., Bartnicki, J., Munthe, J., Lattila, H., Hrehoruk, J., and Mazur, A.: Atmospheric mercury species in the European Arctic: measurements and modelling, *Atmospheric Environment*, 35, 2569–2582, 2001.
- Berg, T., Sekkesæter, S., Steinnes, E., Valdal, A.-K., and Wibetoe, G.: Arctic springtime depletion of mercury in the European Arctic as observed at Svalbard, *Science of the Total Environment*, 304, 43–51, 2003.
- Bloom, N. S. and Crecelius, E. A.: Determination of Mercury in Seawater at Sub-Nanogram Per Liter Levels, *Marine Chemistry*, 14, 49–59, 1983.
- Bottenheim, J. W., Fuentes, J. D., Tarasick, D. W., and Anlauf, K. G.: Ozone in the Arctic lower

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

troposphere during winter and spring 2000 (ALERT2000), *Atmospheric Environment*, 36, 2535–2544, 2002.

Boudries, H. and Bottenheim, J. W.: Cl and Br atom concentrations during a surface boundary layer ozone depletion event in the Canadian high Arctic, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 27, 517–520, 2000.

Braathen, G. O., Hov, Ø., and Stordal, F.: Arctic atmospheric research station on the Zeppelin mountain (474 m a.s.l.) near Ny-Ålesund on Svalbard (78°54′29″ N, 11°52′53″ E), Report, OR 85/90, NILU, Lillestrøm, Norway, 1990.

Brooks, S., Lindberg, S. E., Goodsite, M., Skov, H., Larsen, M., Scott, K., Southworth, G., Meyers, T., and McConville, G.: Barrow atmospheric chemical conversion and speciation of atmospheric mercury pollution. Paper presented at the Second AMAP International Symposium on Environmental Pollution of the Arctic, Rovaniemi, Finland, 2002.

Brosset, C.: Total Airborne Mercury and Its Possible Origin, *Water Air and Soil Pollution*, 17, 37–50, 1982.

Burrows, J. P., Weber, M., Buchwitz, M., Rozanov, V., Ladstätter-Weißenmayer, A., Richter, A., DeBeek, R., Hoogen, R., Bramstedt, K., Eichmann, K.-U., Eisinger, M., and Perner, D.: The Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME): Mission concept and first scientific results, *Journal of Atmospheric Science*, 56, 151–175, 1999.

Coquery, M., Cossa, D., and Martin, J. M.: The Distribution of Dissolved and Particulate Mercury in three Siberian Estuaries and Adjacent Arctic Coastal Waters, *Water Air and Soil Pollution*, 80, 653–664, 1995.

Ebinghaus, R., Kock, H. H., Temme, C., Einax, J. W., Lowe, A. G., Richter, A., Burrows, J. P., and Schroeder, W. H.: Antarctic springtime depletion of atmospheric mercury, *Environmental Science & Technology*, 36, 1238–1244, 2002.

Foster, K. L., Plastridge, R. A., Bottenheim, J. W., Shepson, P. B., Finlayson-Pitts, B. J., and Spicer, C. W.: The role of Br<sub>2</sub> and BrCl in surface ozone destruction at polar sunrise, *Science*, 291, 471–474, 2001.

Garbarino, J. R., Snyder-Conn, E., Leiker, T. J., and Hoffman, G. L.: Contaminants in arctic snow collected over northwest Alaskan sea ice, *Water Air and Soil Pollution*, 139, 183–214, 2002.

Gårdfeldt, K., Horvat, M., Sommar, J., Kotnik, J., Fajon, V., Wängberg, I., and Lindqvist, O.: Comparison of procedures for measurements of dissolved gaseous mercury in seawater performed on a Mediterranean cruise, *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*, 374, 1002–

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

1008, 2002.

Gårdfeldt, K.: Transformation of Mercury Species in the Aqueous Phase, Doctoral Thesis, pp. 59, Division of Inorganic Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Göteborg University, Göteborg, 2003.

5 Gårdfeldt, K., Sommar, J., Ferrara, R., Ceccarini, C., Lanzillotta, E., Munthe, J., Wangberg, I., Lindqvist, O., Pirrone, N., Sprovieri, F., Pesenti, E., and Stromberg, D.: Evasion of mercury from coastal and open waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, *Atmospheric Environment*, 37, 73–84, 2003.

Gillis, A. and Miller, D. R.: Some potential errors in the measurement of mercury gas exchange at the soil surface using a dynamic flux chamber, *Science of the Total Environment*, 260, 181–189, 2000.

Goldberg, E. D.: Synthetic organohalides in the sea, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B-Biological Sciences*, 189, 277–289, 1975.

10 Golubeva, N., Burtseva, L., and Matishov, G. G.: Measurements of mercury in the near-surface layer of the atmosphere of the Russian Arctic, *The Science of the Total Environment*, 306, 3–9, 2003.

Hönninger, G.: Halogen Oxide Studies in the Boundary Layer by Multi Axis Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy and Active Longpath-DOAS., Doctoral Thesis, pp. 262, Institute of Environmental Physics, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, 2002.

20 Kaleschke, L., Lüpkes, C., Vihma, T., Haarpaintner, J., Bochert, A., Hartmann, J., and Heygster, G.: Sea Ice Remote Sensing for Mesoscale Ocean-Atmosphere Interaction Analysis (DMSP-SSM/I), *Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing*, <http://www.seaice.de>, 27, 5, 526–537, 2001.

Kim, K. H. and Lindberg, S. E.: Design and Initial Tests of a Dynamic Enclosure Chamber for Measurements of Vapor-Phase Mercury Fluxes over Soils, Water Air and Soil Pollution, 80, 1059–1068, 1995.

25 Lalonde, J. D., Poulain, A. J., and Amyot, M.: The role of mercury redox reactions in snow on snow-to-air mercury transfer, *Environmental Science & Technology*, 36, 174–178, 2002.

Landis, M. S., Stevens, R. K., Schaedlich, F., and Prestbo, E. M.: Development and characterization of an annular denuder methodology for the measurement of divalent inorganic reactive gaseous mercury in ambient air, *Environmental Science & Technology*, 36, 3000–3009, 2002.

30 Landis, M. S. and Stevens, R. K.: Comment on “Measurements of Atmospheric Mercury Species at a Coastal Site in the Antarctic and over the South Atlantic Ocean during Polar

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

- Summer", *Environmental Science & Technology*, 37, 3239–3240, 2003.
- Lantzy, R. J. and Mackenzie, F. T.: Atmospheric Trace-Metals – Global Cycles and Assessment of Mans Impact, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 43, 511–525, 1979.
- Lee, Y.-H., Munthe, J., and Iverfeldt, Å.: Experiences with the analytical procedures for the determination of methylmercury in environmental samples, *Applied Organometallic Chemistry*, 8, 659–664, 1994.
- Lindberg, S. E. and Zhang, H.: Air/water exchange of mercury in the Everglades II: measuring and modeling evasion of mercury from surface waters in the Everglades Nutrient Removal Project, *Science of the Total Environment*, 259, 135–143, 2000.
- Lindberg, S. E., Brooks, S., Lin, C. J., Scott, K. J., Landis, M. S., Stevens, R. K., Goodsite, M., and Richter, A.: Dynamic oxidation of gaseous mercury in the Arctic troposphere at polar sunrise, *Environmental Science & Technology*, 36, 1245–1256, 2002.
- Lindqvist, O. and Rodhe, H.: Atmospheric Mercury – a Review, *Tellus Series B-Chemical and Physical Meteorology*, 37, 136–159, 1985.
- Lorenzen-Schmidt, H., Wessel, S., Unold, W., Solberg, S., Gernandt, H., Stordal, F., and Platt, U.: Ozone measurements in the European Arctic during the ARCTOC 1995 campaign, *Tellus Series B-Chemical and Physical Meteorology*, 50, 416–429, 1998.
- Lu, J. Y., Schroeder, W. H., Barrie, L. A., Steffen, A., Welch, H. E., Martin, K., Lockhart, L., Hunt, R. V., Boila, G., and Richter, A.: Magnification of atmospheric mercury deposition to polar regions in springtime: the link to tropospheric ozone depletion chemistry, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 28, 3219–3222, 2001.
- Lu, J. Y., Schroeder, W. H., and Keeler, G.: Field intercomparison studies for evaluation and validation of the AESminiSampIR™ technique for sampling and analysis of total particulate mercury in the atmosphere, *Science of the Total Environment*, 304, 115–125, 2003.
- Malcolm, E. G., Keeler, G. J., and Landis, M. S.: The effects of the coastal environment on the atmospheric mercury cycle, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 108, art. no.-4357, ACH 4: 1–10, doi:10.1029/2002JD003084, 2003.
- Müller, R. W., Bovensmann, H., Kaiser, J. W., Richter, A., Rozanov, A., Wittrock, F., and Burrows, J. P.: Consistent interpretation of ground based and GOME BrO slant column data, *Remote Sensing of Trace Constituents in the Lower Stratosphere, Troposphere and the Earth's Surface: Global Observations, Air Pollution and the Atmospheric Correction*, *Advances in Space Research*, 29, 1655–1660, 2002.
- Munthe, J. and Palm, A. E.: The Atmospheric Cycling of Mercury and Persistent Organic Pollu-

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

tants – Final Report, IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, PO Box 47086, S-402 58 Göteborg, Sweden, 2003.

National Ice Center, Regional-scale analyses of sea ice in the Arctic available at internet address <http://www.natice.noaa.gov/index.htm>, US National Ice Center, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Washington D.C.

Norwegian Institute for Air Research, NILU: Data bank of meteorological and chemical measurements at the Zeppelin Station accessible at <http://www.nilu.no/niluweb/services/zeppelin/>, Norsk institutt for luftforskning, Postboks 100, 2027 Kjeller, Norway.

Olofsson, M., Ek-Olausson, B., Langer, S., and Ljungström, E.: Flux of organic compounds from a grass site measured by relaxed eddy accumulation technique, Paper presented at the 2nd Informal Conference on Reaction Kinetics and Atmospheric Chemistry, Helsingør, Denmark, 2001.

Poissant, L., Amyot, M., Kwan, M., and Bégin, M.: Atmospheric mercury transport, oxidation and fallout in northern Québec (Nunavik): An important potential route of contamination, Report, Northern Contaminants Program, Synopsis of Research 2000–2001, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, Montréal, 2001.

Pongratz, R. and Heumann, K. G.: Production of methylated mercury and lead by polar macroalgae – A significant natural source for atmospheric heavy metals in clean room compartments, *Chemosphere*, 36, 1935–1946, 1998.

Pongratz, R. and Heumann, K. G.: Production of methylated mercury, lead, and cadmium by marine bacteria as a significant natural source for atmospheric heavy metals in polar regions, *Chemosphere*, 39, 89–102, 1999.

Ramacher, B., Rudolph, J., and Koppmann, R.: Hydrocarbon measurements during tropospheric ozone depletion events: Evidence for halogen atom chemistry, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 104, 3633–3653, 1999.

Rankin, A. M., Wolff, E. W., and Martin, S.: Frost flowers: Implications for tropospheric chemistry and ice core interpretation, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 107, art. no.-4683, AAC 4: 1–15, doi:10.1029/2002JD002492, 2002.

Raofie, F. and Ariya, P. A.: Kinetics and products study of the reaction of BrO radicals with gaseous mercury, *Journal de Physique IV*, 107, 1119–1121, 2003.

Ravishankara, A. R. and Longfellow, C. A.: Reactions on tropospheric condensed matter, *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics PCCP*, 1, 5433–5441, 1999.

Richter, A., Wittrock, F., Eisinger, M., and Burrows, J. P.: GOME observations of tropospheric

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

BrO in northern hemispheric spring and summer 1997, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 25, 2683–2686, 1998.

Schroeder, W. H., Ebinghaus, R., Shoeib, M., Timoschenko, K., and Barrie, L. A.: Atmospheric Mercury Measurements in the Northern-Hemisphere from 56-Degrees to 82.5-Degrees N Latitude, *Water Air and Soil Pollution*, 80, 1227–1236, 1995.

Schroeder, W. H., Anlauf, K., Barrie, L. A., Berg, T., and Schneeberger, D. R.: Atmospheric mercury and polar sunrise tropospheric ozone depletion at Alert in the Canadian high Arctic in 1995, Paper presented at the International Symposium on Atmospheric Chemistry and Future Global Environment, Nagoya, Japan, 1997.

Schroeder, W. H., Anlauf, K. G., Barrie, L. A., Lu, J. Y., Steffen, A., Schneeberger, D. R., and Berg, T.: Arctic springtime depletion of mercury, *Nature*, 394, 331–332, 1998.

Schroeder, W. H. and Munthe, J.: Atmospheric mercury – An overview, *Atmospheric Environment*, 32, 809–822, 1998.

Schroeder, W. H., Steffen, A., Scott, K., Bender, T., Prestbo, E., Ebinghaus, R., Lu, J. Y., and Lindberg, S. E.: Summary report: first international Arctic atmospheric mercury research workshop, *Atmospheric Environment*, 37, 2551–2555, 2003.

Shepler, B. C. and Peterson, K. A.: Mercury monoxide: A systematic investigation of its ground electronic state, *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 107, 1783–1787, 2003.

Skov, H., Goodsite, M. E., Christensen, J., Geernaert, G., Zeuthen Heidam, N., Jensen, B., Wählin, P., and Feilberg, A.: Fate of Atmospheric Mercury in Arctic: results from Station Nord, Paper presented at the Arctic Atmospheric Mercury Research Workshop, Toronto, Canada, 2002.

Solberg, S., Schmidbauer, N., Semb, A., Stordal, F., and Hov, O.: Boundary-layer ozone depletion as seen in the Norwegian Arctic in Spring, *Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry*, 23, 301–332, 1996.

Sommar, J., Hallquist, M., Ljungström, E., and Lindqvist, O.: On the gas phase reactions between volatile biogenic mercury species and the nitrate radical, *Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry*, 27, 233–247, 1997.

Sommar, J.: The Atmospheric Chemistry of Mercury – Kinetics, Mechanisms and Speciation, Doctoral Thesis, pp. 94, Division of Inorganic Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Göteborg University, Göteborg, 2001.

Sprovieri, F., Pirrone, N., Hedgecock, I. M., Landis, M. S., and Stevens, R. K.: Intensive Atmospheric Mercury Measurements at Terra Nova Bay in Antarctica, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*,

**Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

107, art. no.-4722, ACH 20: 1–8, doi:10.1029/2002JD002057, 2002.

Steffen, A. and Schroeder, W.: Atmospheric Mercury in the High Arctic from 1995–2002, paper presented at the Second AMAP International Symposium on Environmental Pollution of the Arctic, Rovaniemi, Finland, 2002.

5 Steffen, A., Schroeder, W., Bottenheim, J., Narayan, J., and Fuentes, J. D.: Atmospheric mercury concentrations: measurements and profiles near snow and ice surfaces in the Canadian Arctic during Alert 2000, *Atmospheric Environment*, 36, 2653–2661, 2002.

Stutz, J., Ackermann, R., Fast, J. D. and Barrie, L.: Atmospheric reactive chlorine and bromine at the Great Salt Lake, Utah, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 29, art. no.-1380, doi:10.1029/2002GL014812, 2002.

10 Tarasick, D. W. and Bottenheim, J. W.: Surface ozone depletion episodes in the Arctic and Antarctic from historical ozonesonde records, *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2, 197–205, 2002.

Temme, C., Einax, J. W., Ebinghaus, R., and Schroeder, W. H.: Measurements of atmospheric mercury species at a coastal site in the Antarctic and over the south Atlantic Ocean during polar summer, *Environmental Science & Technology*, 37, 22–31, 2003.

Tosell, J. A.: Calculation of the Energetics for Oxidation of Gas-Phase Elemental Hg by Br and BrO, *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 107, 7804–7808, 2003.

15 Tuckermann, M., Ackermann, R., Gölz, C., Lorenzen-Schmidt, H., Senne, T., Stutz, J., Trost, B., Unold, W., and Platt, U.: DOAS-observation of halogen radical-catalysed arctic boundary layer ozone destruction during the ARCTOC-campaigns 1995 and 1996 in Ny-Ålesund, Spitzbergen, *Tellus Series B-Chemical and Physical Meteorology*, 49, 533–555, 1997.

20 Wallschläger, D., Turner, R. R., London, J., Ebinghaus, R., Kock, H. H., Sommar, J., and Xiao, Z. F.: Factors affecting the measurement of mercury emissions from soils with flux chambers, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 104, 21 859–21 871, 1999.

25 Wanninkhof, R.: Relationship between wind speed and gas exchange over the ocean, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 97, 7373–7382, 1992.

Wennberg, P.: Atmospheric chemistry – Bromine explosion, *Nature*, 397, 299, 1999.

30 Wittrock, F., Eisinger, M., Ladstätter-Weissenmayer, A., Richter, A., and Burrows, J. P.: Ground based UV/VIS measurements of O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, BrO and OCIO over Ny-Ålesund (78° N), paper presented at the 3rd European Polar Ozone Symposium, Schliersee, Germany, 1996.

Wittrock, F., Müller, R., Richter, A., Bovensmann, H., and Burrows, J. P.: Measurements of iodine monoxide (IO) above Spitzbergen, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 27, 1471–1474, 2000.

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**J. Sommar et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

- Wittrock, F., Oetjen, H., Richter, A., Fietkau, S., Medeke, T., Rozanov, A., and Burrows, J. P.: MAX-DOAS measurements of atmospheric trace gases in Ny-Ålesund, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 3, 6109–6145, 2003.
- 5 Wängberg, I., Edner, H., Ferrara, R., Lanzillotta, E., Munthe, J., Sommar, J., Svanberg, S., Sjöholm, M., and Weibring, P.: Mercury emissions from a Chlor-alkali plant in Sweden, Science of the Total Environment, 304, 29–41, 2003a.
- Wängberg, I., Munthe, J., Ebinghaus, R., Gårdfeldt, K., Iverfeldt, Å., and Sommar, J.: Distribution of TPM in Northern Europe, Science of the Total Environment, 304, 53–59, 2003b.
- 10 Xiao, Z., Sommar, J., Wei, S., and Lindqvist, O.: Sampling and determination of gas phase divalent mercury in the air using a KCl coated denuder, Fresenius Journal of Analytical Chemistry, 358, 386–391, 1997.
- Xu, M. H., Qiao, Y., Zheng, C. G., Li, L. C., and Liu, J.: Modeling of homogeneous mercury speciation using detailed chemical kinetics, Combustion and Flame, 132, 208–218, 2003.
- 15 Zhang, H., Lindberg, S. E., Barnett, M. O., Vette, A. F., and Gustin, M. S.: Dynamic flux chamber measurement of gaseous mercury emission fluxes over soils, Part 1: simulation of gaseous mercury emissions from soils using a two-resistance exchange interface model, Atmospheric Environment, 36, 835–846, 2002.

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

**Table 1.** TGM and ozone depletion temporal ascent and descent rates at 474 m a.s.l. during 2002 depletion events.

Start (yy-mm-dd hh:mm)	Stop (yy-mm-dd hh:mm)	Start [Hg] (ng m <sup>-3</sup> )	Stop [Hg] (ng m <sup>-3</sup> )	Start Ozone (μg m <sup>-3</sup> )	Stop Ozone (μg m <sup>-3</sup> )	Wind Direct. (deg)	Wind Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Temp. (°C)	$\frac{\Delta \log[\text{Hg}]}{\Delta t}$ (h <sup>-1</sup> )	$\frac{\Delta \log[\text{O}_3]}{\Delta t}$ (h <sup>-1</sup> )
02-04-20 22:00	02-04-21 00:00	1.47	0.43	81.7	24.3	304	11.9	-6.0	-0.27	-0.26
02-04-21 07:00	02-04-21 11:00	0.41	1.13	19.1	51.5	322	7.0	-14.4	0.11	0.11
02-04-21 13:00	02-04-21 15:00	0.94	0.25	46.7	17.3	313	6.3	-15.2	-0.29	-0.22
02-04-21 16:00	02-04-21 21:00	0.17	0.00	15.1	0.3	295	5.0	-16.3	-0.33	-0.34
02-04-21 22:00	02-04-22 00:00	0.005	0.12	0.5	4.7	345	2.5	-16.7	0.69	0.49
02-04-22 06:00	02-04-22 08:00	0.15	0.28	8.9	16.5	212	1.5	-16.1	0.14	0.13
02-04-22 19:00	02-04-23 01:00	0.14	0.50	16.5	44.1	164	1.4	-17.7	0.09	0.07
02-04-23 02:00	02-04-23 05:00	0.57	0.73	40.9	49.9	151	1.7	-18.0	0.04	0.03
02-05-03 08:00	02-05-04 08:00	1.36	0.77	87.1	46.7	119	7.3	-6.9	-0.01	-0.01
02-05-04 19:00	02-05-04 21:00	1.12	0.74	55.3	39.1	139	2.0	-11.7	-0.09	-0.08
02-05-05 04:00	02-05-05 06:00	0.72	0.55	39.7	26.7	135	4.7	-13.2	-0.06	-0.09
02-05-06 07:00	02-05-06 11:00	0.59	1.24	25.9	60.7	140	3.8	-12.6	0.08	0.09
02-05-10 09:00	02-05-10 15:00	0.93	1.47	41.3	64.7	288	4.5	-5.5	0.03	0.03
02-05-11 01:00	02-05-11 10:00	1.18	1.50	57.3	83.7	290	5.8	-5.9	0.01	0.02

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

**Table 2.** Observations of Hg-tot in snow for some Arctic coastal and marine sites (see Fig. 1 for some of the locations).

Coastal or Marine Site	Hg-tot in surface snow (ng L <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
<b>Lincoln Sea/Baffin Sound</b>		
Alert (82°85' N, 62°3' W)	5/22 (land/sea-ice; dark, 2000) 121/182 (land/sea-ice; light, GEMDEs, 2000) 5 (dark, 1999) 185 (light, GEMDEs)	Steffen et al. (2002)
Resolute (~75° N, ~95° W)	30–156 (3/97–5/97)	Lu et al. (2001)
<b>Beaufort Sea</b>		
Barrow (71°19' N, 156°37' W)	~90 (GEMDEs, May 2001) >400 (Falling snow, GEMDE) ~300 (Surface snow, GEMDE)	Lindberg et al. (2002) Brooks et al. (2002)
Admiralty Bay (70°54' N, 155°49' W)	10±1 (04/28/96)	Garbarino et al. (2002)
Elson Lagoon (71°12' N, 155°34' W)	11±4 (04/27/96)	
Dease Inlet (71°06' N, 155°20' W)	23±2 (04/28/96)	
Ice Station SHEBA	7.8 (11/97–1/98) 34 (2/98–5/98)	Lu et al. (2001)

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

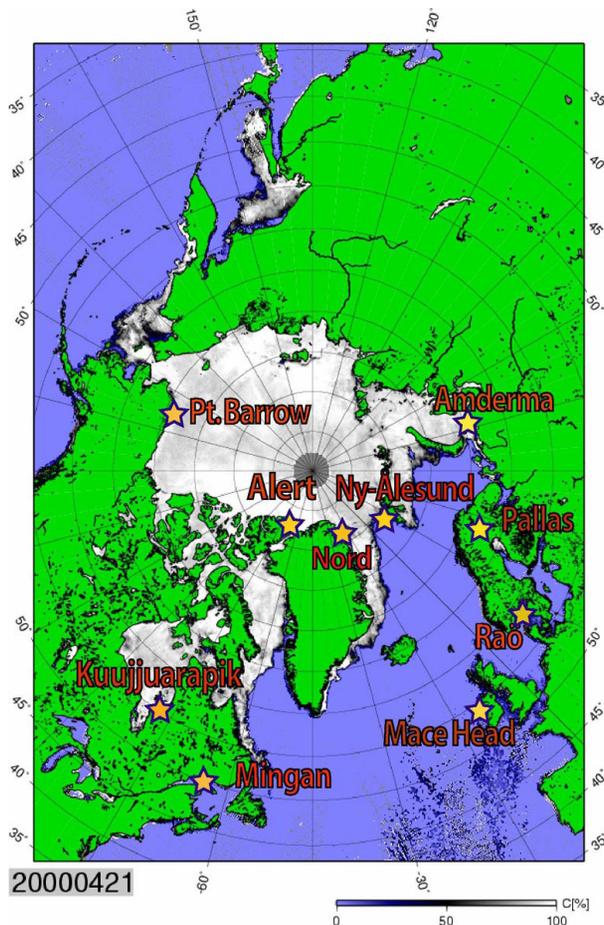
**Table 2.** Continued.

Coastal or Marine Site	Hg-tot in surface snow (ng L <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
<b>Chukchi Sea</b> Kasegaluk Lagoon (69°22' N, 163°05' W) (70°12' N, 162°10' W)	100±60 (04/26/96) 214±5 (04/26/96)	Garbarino et al. (2002)
<b>Eastern Canadian Arctic, Hudson Bay, and Greenland</b>	25–160	Lu et al. (2001)
<b>Hudson Bay</b> Kuujjuarapik (55°30' N, 77°73' W)	82 (GEMDEs, April 2000)	Poissant et al. (2001)
<b>Greenland Sea/Barents Sea</b> Scoresbysund (~71° N, ~22° W) Ny-Ålesund (78°54' N, 11°53' E)	<2 (Spring 1997, 1998) 10 (GEMDEs, April 2000) 38 (GEMDEs, April 2001) 20–77 (GEMDEs, April–May, 2002)	Lu et al. (2001) Berg et al. (2003) This paper

---

**Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury**

J. Sommar et al.



20000421

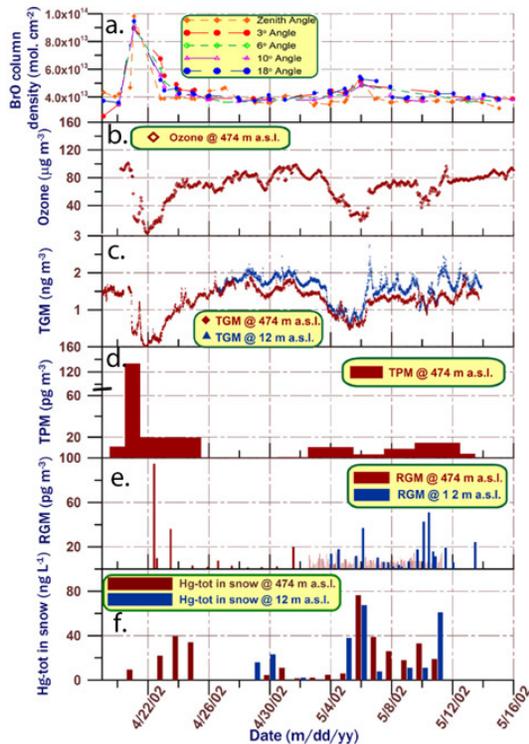
0 50 100 C[%]

**Fig. 1.** Some Arctic and sub-Arctic mercury sampling locations including long-time monitoring, and profiles of distribution of winter sea ice on 21 April 2002. Courtesy of L. Kaleschke (Kaleschke et al., 2001).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.



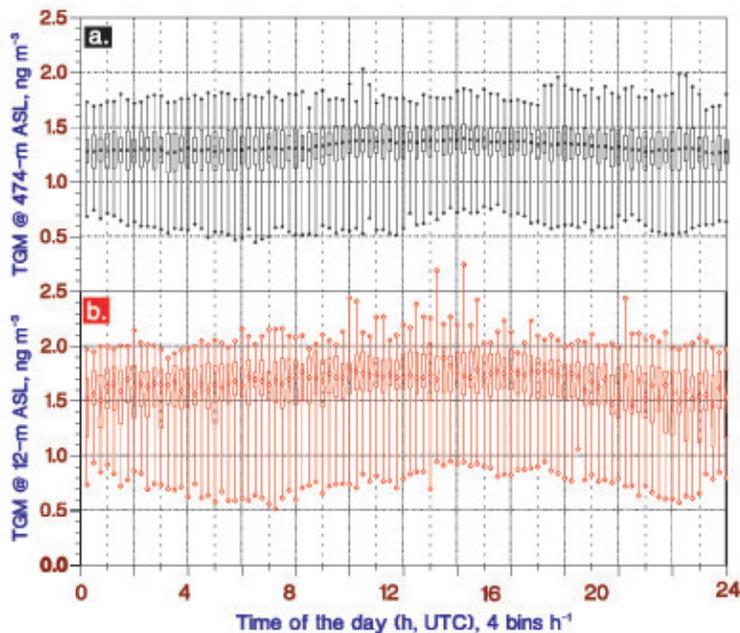
**Fig. 2.** Temporal trend of column densities of tropospheric BrO **(a)**, concentrations of ozone at 474-m a.s.l. **(b)** and of fractions of mercury at two altitudes in different environmental compartments **(c)–(f)**. Time-intervals without samples are present in the lower (d)–(f) Panels. The whole duration of a TPM sample is included in Panel (d), while the column bars in (e)–(f) are centred at the mid-time for a sample. All measurements are shown. The BrO column density measurements from ground-based platform successfully captured the very on-set of the major GEMDE and its early recovery phase but unfortunately were non operational during the incidence of the truly GEM depleted air ( $\text{Hg}^0(\text{g}) < 0.1 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ).

[Title Page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[References](#)
[Tables](#)
[Figures](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[Back](#)
[Close](#)
[Full Screen / Esc](#)
[Print Version](#)
[Interactive Discussion](#)

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.



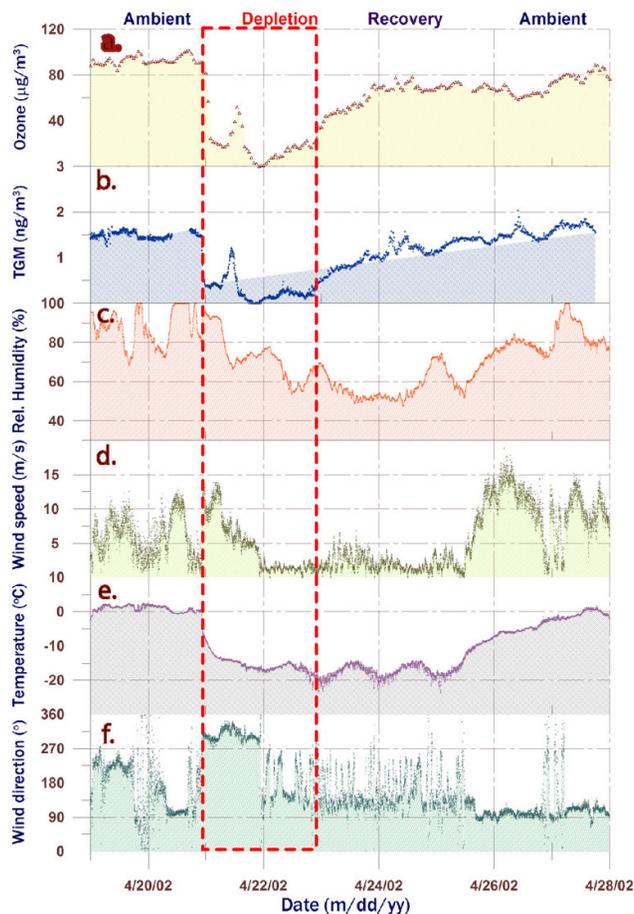
**Fig. 3.** Diurnality of TGM concentrations measured at Zeppelin Station **(a)** and Dirigibile Italia **(b)**. The assemblies include the overlapping TGM data-sets shown in Fig. 2c. The mean, the upper and lower 95% confidence intervals and extremes are shown for 15 min per bin diurnally integrated samples.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

---

**Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

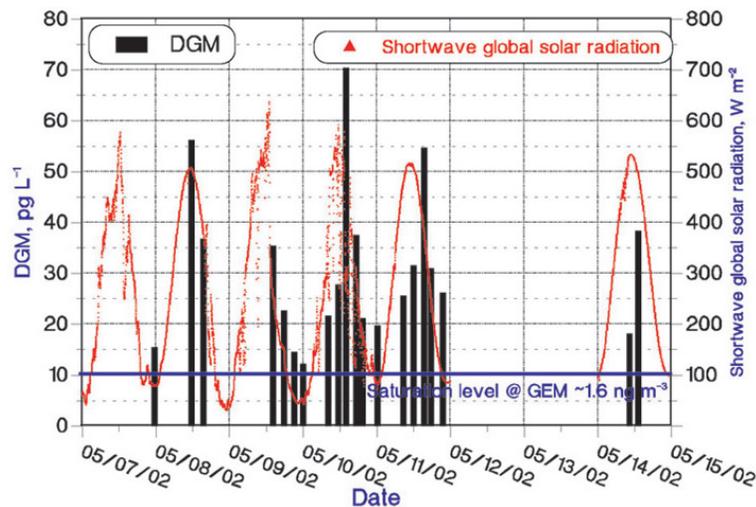


**Fig. 4.** Local surface meteorological and chemical composition data for the major mercury depletion event.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.



**Fig. 5.** Diel resemblance in shortwave global solar radiation as well as of Dissolved Gaseous Mercury (DGM) in seawater. The blue extended line represents the saturation level of DGM at sub-zero water temperature and a TGM concentration of  $\sim 1.6 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ .

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

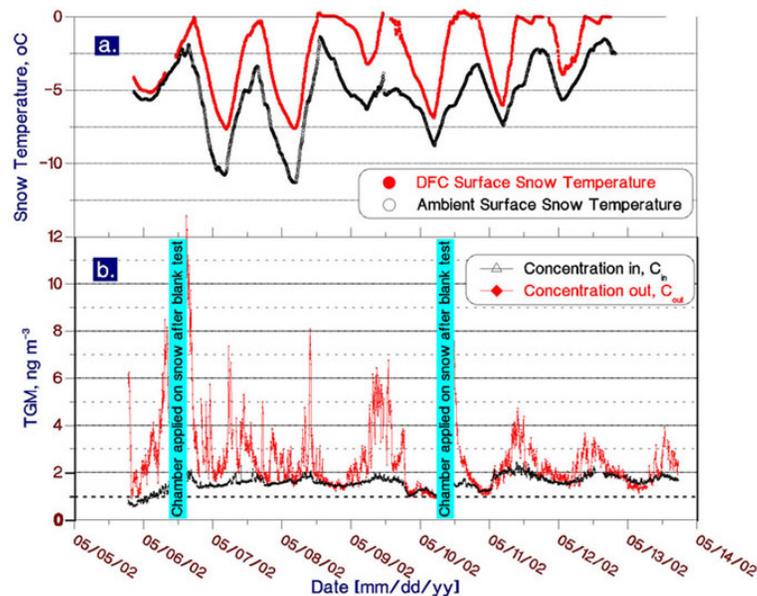
Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Circumpolar  
transport and  
air-surface exchange  
of atmospheric  
mercury

J. Sommar et al.

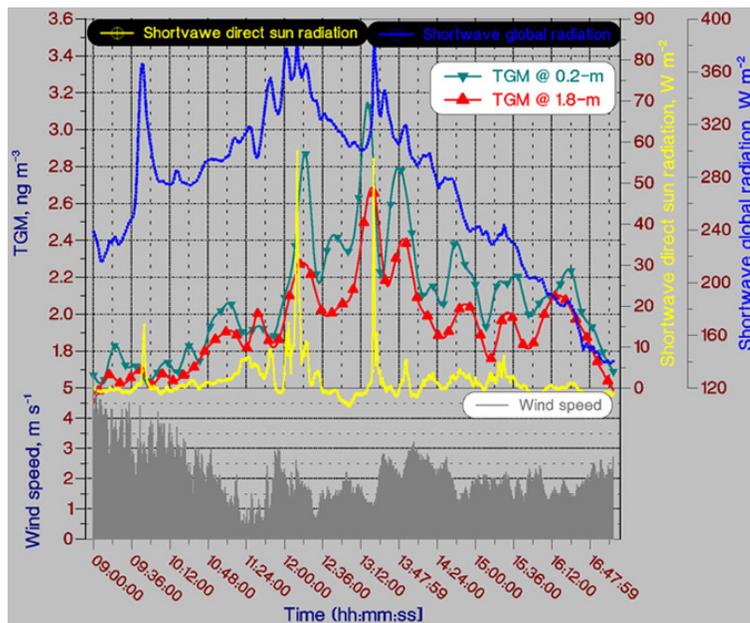


**Fig. 6.** Comparison of **(a)** surface snow temperature within and outside the DFC, respectively, and **(b)** TGM concentrations in ambient air and air passing through the DFC, respectively.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.



**Fig. 7.** Vertical 5' measurements of TGM at  $z_1=1.8$  m and  $z_2=0.2$  m over snow pack during 6 May following the major mercury fall-out episode in snow.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

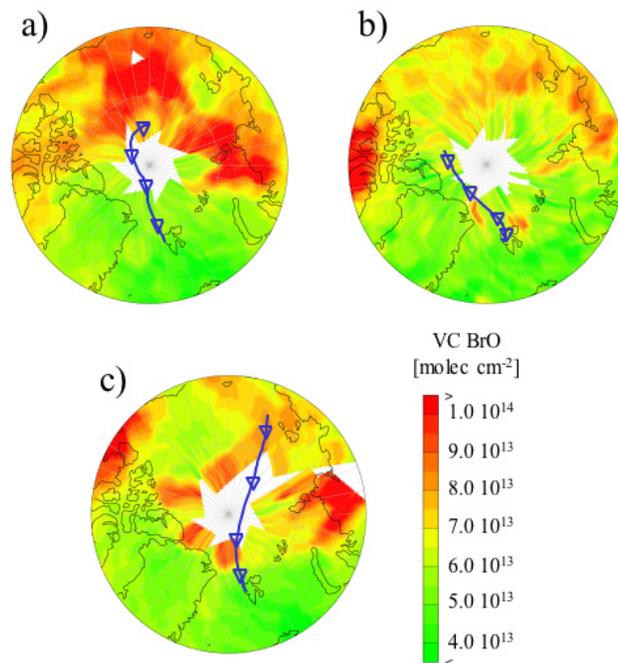
Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury**

J. Sommar et al.

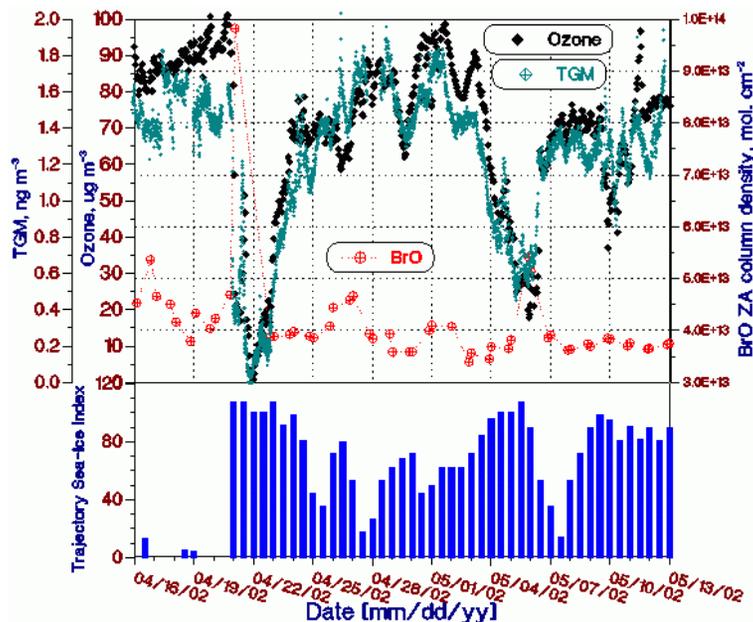


**Fig. 8.** BrO maps showing the average BrO column on **(a)** 18 April, **(b)** 21 April and **(c)** 2 May, respectively. 96 h back trajectory ending at 12:00 UTC at Ny-Ålesund on (a) 22 April, (b) 24 April and (c) 5 May, respectively. Triangles denote 24 h intervals.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

## Circumpolar transport and air-surface exchange of atmospheric mercury

J. Sommar et al.



**Fig. 9.** Surface layer ozone (1-h average) and TGM (12 samples  $\text{h}^{-1}$ ) and Zenith slant columns of BrO intermittently sampled over Ny-Ålesund together with indexed (integrated 6-h average) sea-ice transect of 72-h backward trajectories ending at Ny-Ålesund 6, 12, 18 and 24 UTC.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion