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# Secondary organic aerosol production from modern diesel engine emissions

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Received: 24 July 2009 – Accepted: 13 August 2009 – Published: 27 August 2009

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Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

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## Abstract

Secondary organic aerosol (SOA) production was observed at significant levels in a series of modern diesel exhaust (DE) aging experiments conducted at the European Outdoor Photoreactor/Simulation Chamber (EUPHORE). The greatest production occurred in DE with toluene addition experiments (>40%), followed by DE with HCHO (for OH radical generation) experiments. A small amount of SOA (3%) was observed for DE in dark with  $N_2O_5$  (for  $NO_3$  radical production) experiments. The analysis for a limited number (54) of polar organic compounds (POC) was conducted to assess the composition of modern DE and the formation of photochemical transformation products. Distinct POC formation in light versus dark experiments suggests the role of OH initiated reactions in these chamber atmospheres. A trend of increasing concentrations of dicarboxylic acids in light versus dark experiments was observed when evaluated on a compound group basis. The four toluene addition experiments in this study were performed at different  $[tol]_0/[NO_x]_0$  ratios and displayed an average SOA% yield (in relation to toluene) of  $5.3 \pm 1.6\%$ , which is compared to past chamber studies that evaluated the impact of  $[tol]_0/[NO_x]_0$  on SOA production in more simplified mixtures.

## 1 Introduction

Oxidation of hydrocarbons from biogenic sources contributes to the major fraction of secondary organic aerosol (SOA) in the global atmosphere (Griffin et al., 1999; Szidat et al., 2004). Yet anthropogenic SOA is thought to contribute significantly to the total aerosol mass in urban/downwind urban areas, and may contribute up to one third of global SOA (Volkamer et al., 2006). It has recently been suggested that underestimation of SOA formation in models is in part due to the oxidation of underrepresented semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC) from vehicle emissions (Robinson et al., 2007). Primary diesel exhaust (DE) is a complex mixture, composed of hundreds of organic and inorganic compounds in both gas and particle phases (Sagebiel et al., 1996;

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Zielinska et al., 2004a, 2004b). The physical and chemical transformations of primary DE in the atmosphere are a concern for both human health and climate regulation purposes (Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998; Zielinska, 2005).

Although a number of laboratory studies have been carried out to elucidate the photochemical and oxidative processes that could lead to SOA formation (Kamens et al., 1981, 1982; Stern et al., 1987; Pandis et al., 1991; Forstner et al., 1997; Kleindienst et al., 2002, 2004; Kroll, 2006), most of these studies have focused on single precursor compounds or simplified chemical mixtures investigated in simulation chamber experiments with or without inorganic seed particles (such as ammonium sulfate). For example, the reaction of aromatic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) that are important constituents of motor vehicle emissions, have been studied in a series of photochemical chamber experiments (Zielinska et al., 1989a, b; Atkinson and Arey, 1994; Arey, 1998; Volkamer et al., 2001; Johnson 2004, 2005; Martin and Wirtz, 2005; Hamilton et al., 2005; Alvarez et al., 2007). A comparison of these laboratory studies with results obtained from analysis of ambient aerosol particles is not straightforward, and discrepancies in results (e.g. aerosol yields and partitioning) may be attributed to the more simple chemical mixture and aerosol matrices in which these reactions occur, compared to those in the real atmosphere (Graber and Rudich, 2006). Thus, there is a need to investigate transformation processes of real mixtures arising from various combustion processes such as DE (Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008).

Atmospheric transformations of DE and associated SOA production was examined in a set of experiments carried out in Valencia, Spain, with the aid of the European Photoreactor (EUPHORE) outdoor simulation chamber. EUPHORE is currently one of the best equipped and largest ( $\sim 204 \text{ m}^3$ ) outdoor simulation chambers in the world (Becker, 1996), which allows investigation of atmospheric transformation processes under pseudo-realistic ambient conditions (dilution in the range of 1:300–400). The specific aims of this study were to characterize the gas and particle phase products of atmospheric transformations of DE under the influence of sunlight, ozone, hydroxyl radicals (OH), and nitrate radicals (in the dark); and explore the changes in biological

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activity of DE before and after the atmospheric transformations take place (Zielinska et al., 2009).

This article focuses on the SOA production and characterization of polar organic compounds (POC) from aged DE in a series of experiments carried out at EUPHORE in 2006. A more comprehensive discussion of the project is available in Zielinska et al. (2009).

## 2 Experimental system and analysis

### 2.1 EUPHORE facility and experimental design

A modern diesel engine (i.e. a common rail direct injection, turbocharged, inter-cooled engine) was obtained from Ford Motor Company in England. The 1.8 L, Lynx V277 90PS Stage 3, Delphi Fuel System, Fixed Geometry Turbo engine is used in Ford Focus and Transit Connect automobiles. The dynamometer system is equipped with a continuous gas analyzer (Horiba), which monitors the engine-out gaseous emissions ( $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{THC}$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ ). The system also records fluid temperatures, RPM, and load. The engine was operated under a load of 60 Nm, which represents approximately 50% of total engine power. A low sulfur diesel fuel (47 ppm, with 15% total aromatic content) was utilized, and steady-state conditions were achieved (30 min. warm-up) prior to each DE injection. The initial two series of experiments were carried out in January 2005 (winter campaign) and May 2005 (summer campaign), followed by a second summer campaign in May–June 2006. The test matrix provided experiments that examine the effects of aging and  $\text{NO}_3$  radical (obtained from  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  decomposition) reactions in the dark, photo-oxidation, and OH radical reactions in the light on the composition of DE.

Table 1 shows the combined dark (D) and light (L) experimental matrix, which is the focus of this article. All D runs were done with the chamber protective cover on, and all L runs with the protective cover removed. The purpose of the light exposures was to

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examine the effects of photolysis reactions on the exhaust composition, while the dark experiments provide a baseline dataset for modern DE aging without the influence of sunlight. The EUPHORE chamber is made of a fluorine-ethene-propene (FEP) foil, with a thickness of 127  $\mu\text{m}$  (Du Pont). This foil transmits more than 80% of the radiation in the wavelength range of 280–640 nm, and the surface-to-volume ratio of the chamber is 0.96  $\text{m}^{-1}$  (Becker, 1996). All experiments were conducted at a relative humidity <1%.

The modern diesel engine emits very low amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOC), which resulted in typical concentrations of less than 1 ppb of VOC in the chamber atmosphere following DE injections (confirmed by in-situ GC/MS and canister sampling followed by GC/MS analysis). In most urban ambient atmospheres, VOC excess due to various source emissions, such as gasoline vehicles, is chemically available (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000; Zielinska et al., 2004a). Therefore, in some experiments additions to the chamber atmosphere were made to enhance the reactivity of the mixture. Light experiments with addition of formaldehyde (OH radical formation from the photolysis reaction), toluene as a representative VOC ( $2190 \pm 259 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ; see Table 4 for specific values), or a mixture of several aromatic compounds including naphthalene, were conducted. Two different VOC mixtures were added to the chamber for three experiments in 2006 to supplement the gaseous atmospheres. The compositions of both mixtures and the resulting initial concentrations in the chamber are listed in Table S1 (<http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/9/17665/2009/acpd-9-17665-2009-supplement.pdf>).

In the initial phase of these experiments (Winter, 2005) it was recognized that the specific aims of this work could not be achieved without effective denudation of  $\text{NO}_x$  ( $\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$ ) prior to infusion of exhaust into the reaction chamber (Samy et al., 2009). Modern light-duty diesel engines emit relatively low VOC and particulate matter, while  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions range from 300–500 ppm. At these high levels of  $\text{NO}_x$  (>1 ppm in-chamber mixing ratio for  $30 \mu\text{g/m}^3$  DPM in-chamber mass concentrations), the formation of OH radicals and ozone will be extremely low and any OH or ozone produced will be rapidly removed from the system through reactions with NO to form  $\text{NO}_2$  and

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nitric acid (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000). The photochemical transformation of organic compounds will be effectively shut down, making the photochemical experiments carried out in the sunlight not efficient or relevant to atmospheric conditions. Therefore, a newly developed  $\text{NO}_x$  denuder was used in the 2006 experiments discussed in this article (unless otherwise stated). For more information on the  $\text{NO}_x$  denuder development and application see Samy et al. (2009).

## 2.2 Sampling instrumentation and analysis

Determination of particle size number and volume concentrations were accomplished using a Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer (SMPS) (TSI-3936).  $\text{NO}_x$  and  $\text{NO}_y$  species were monitored using chemiluminescence (ECO Physics CLD 770AL, Teledyne API 200AU, Advanced Pollution Instrumentation, Inc., San Diego, CA) and Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR; NICOLET Magna 550 w/liquid  $\text{N}_2$  cooled MCT detector) instruments. The White mirror FTIR system (553.5 m optical path) monitored toluene and formaldehyde in experiments with specified additions, along with other gas phase species (glyoxal, methylglyoxal) with a spectral resolution of  $1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a time resolution of 5 min. See Alvarez et al. (2007) for description of FTIR determination of glyoxal and methylglyoxal at EUPHORE. An ozone monitor (Monitor Labs ML9810) and  $\text{J}_{\text{NO}_2}$  radiometers (for direct and reflected sunlight) were interfaced with the EUPHORE data acquisition system. The volume of the chamber was supplemented with the dry, clean air to keep the chamber at a slightly positive pressure and the dilution rate was monitored by  $\text{SF}_6$  addition to the chamber at the beginning of each experiment. Several past studies have addressed chamber specifications and systems (e.g. Koltz et al., 1998; Volkamer et al., 2001; Martin and Wirtz, 2005).

In-situ VOC measurements were periodically made with the EUPHORE GC/MS system (Varian 3400 interfaced with a MS Saturn 2000), which incorporates a cryogenic sample pre-concentration trap (SPT). The GC/MS system is located on the platform below the chamber, and is interfaced with a sampling port (2.5 m, 1/8" PTFE sampling line). The GC was equipped with a 30 m DB-624 (Cyanopropenyl Polysiloxane) fused

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silica capillary column (J&W Scientific, 0.32 mm id, 1.8  $\mu$ m film). A 15 min sample collection time with an EMF controller (40 ml/min; total sample volume=600 ml) was used, and desorption was performed at 270°C.

The particle-associated SVOC were collected from the chamber at the end of the exposures, using an XAD-4 (Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.) coated annular denuder followed by a 90 mm Teflon-impregnated glass fiber (TIGF) filter and XAD-4 cartridge with a 100 SLPM flow (Gundel et al., 1995). The XAD-denuder strips the gas-phase species by molecular diffusion out of a laminar flow stream, before collection of the particles on the second stage (filter/cartridge) (Peters et al., 2000). DPM was collected on quartz fiber filters following each experiment and analyzed for organic and elemental carbon (OC/EC) by thermal/optical reflectance (Chow et al., 2004). Sulfate and nitrate analysis was performed by ion chromatography (Dionex, DX500). All filter/XAD samples were stored in a freezer at the EUPHORE facility and shipped to the Desert Research Institute (DRI) at the conclusion of the campaigns. Samples were packed in coolers with frozen blue ice and shipped using an overnight delivery service (which resulted in 2–4 days transfer time).

Prior to the campaign, Teflon-impregnated glass fiber (TIGF) filters (90 mm) were cleaned by sonication for 10 min in dichloromethane ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) twice, with the solvent replaced and drained, and sonicated for 10 min in methanol twice with the solvent replaced. Amberlite XAD-4 (Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.) was washed with liquinox soap and rinsed with hot water, followed with DI water and technical grade methanol (3–4 times). The XAD-4 was then extracted using a Dionex Accelerated Solvent Extractor (Dionex ASE 300 Accelerated Solvent Extractor) for 15 min/cell with dichloromethane ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) at 1500 psi and 80°C, followed by acetone. It was then dried in a vacuum oven at 50°C.

The SVOCs collected on each denuder-filter-XAD sampling train were extracted separately with high-purity, HPLC grade solvents (Fisher Sci.). Filters and XAD were extracted with ~170 mL 1:1:1 of dichloromethane (DCM), hexane and methanol (MeOH) by accelerated solvent extraction (ASE) at DRI. The ASE method pressurizes and

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heats the media for 15 min/cell at 1500 psi and 80°C. All media was extracted twice under the same conditions and then combined for each sample to assure completed extraction of analytes. Samples from both light and dark exposures were analyzed for a suite of SVOC, which includes POC listed in Table S2, and are classified by compound groups including: alkanolic acids, alkanedioic acids, and aromatics acids. The following deuterated POC internal standards were added to the samples prior to extraction: hexanoic acid- $\text{d}_{11}$ , benzoic acid- $\text{d}_5$ , succinic acid- $\text{d}_4$ , adipic acid- $\text{d}_{10}$ , suberic acid- $\text{d}_{12}$ , homovanillic-2,2 acid- $\text{d}_2$ , myristic acid- $\text{d}_{27}$ , oleic-9,10 acid- $\text{d}_2$ , tetradecanedioic acid- $\text{d}_{24}$ , eicosanoic acid- $\text{d}_{39}$ , cholesterol- $\text{d}_6$ . The extract underwent a trimethylsilyl (TMS) derivatization (Nolte et al., 2002; Rinehart et al., 2006), utilizing a mixture of bis-(trimethylsilyl)-trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA)+1% (wt) trimethylchlorosilane (TMCS) with pyridine (silylation grade) to enhance detection sensitivity. Derivatized samples were analyzed by electron impact (EI) GC/MS at DRI. A Varian CP-3800 GC equipped with a CP-8400 Autosampler and interfaced to a Varian 4000 Ion Trap Mass Spectrometer was used to perform splitless injections onto a 30 m 5% phenylmethylsilicone fused silica capillary column (DB-5MS, Agilent Technologies), with an integrated 10 m of deactivated guard column. Calibration checks were analyzed following sample analyses. All individual compound calibration checks were within 20% (usually <10%). Field blanks underwent extraction and analysis in the same manner for blank subtraction.

The XAD coated glass annular denuder was extracted at the EUPHORE facility immediately following sampling, with the same solvent ratio previously described. Approximately 200 mL of solvent was poured into the denuder section, which had been capped at one end. The other end was capped, and the denuder was manually inverted about 30 times. The solvent was drained and the procedure repeated two more times. Extractions of field blanks were performed on-site and all extracts were concentrated to ~3 mL by rotary evaporation. All annular denuder extracts were refrigerated during the campaign, followed by shipment (with filter/XAD samples) to DRI for analysis by GC/MS.

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## 2.3 Chamber wall loss correction and percent yield

SOA mass production was determined following a size-segregated, first-order wall-loss correction. First-order wall-loss beta ( $\beta$ ) coefficients as defined by Fuchs (1964),

$$\frac{dN(D_p, t)}{dt} = -\beta(D_p)N(D_p, t) \quad (1)$$

were calculated using diesel in dark (no addition) experimental SMPS data for selected bins (14 total) throughout the size range (17.5–1015 nm), followed by extrapolation to determine all bin values. In this approach, the diesel in dark (no addition) experiment can be viewed as a “baseline” chamber atmosphere when evaluating SOA mass production. The size-segregated  $\beta$  values ranged from  $1\text{--}15 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and displayed good agreement with diameter specific values and theoretical trends discussed in previous work (Crump and Seinfeld, 1981; Park et al., 2001; Johnson et al., 2005). Particle loss for each size bin was accounted for and added to SMPS number concentrations for each 5 min time-step before conversion to total particle volume concentration assuming spherical particles. This procedure was performed for all reported experiments, and the conversion to mass assumes an aerosol density of  $1 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ .

SOA percent (%) yield (SOA mass formed ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )/toluene mass reacted ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) multiplied by 100) for toluene addition experiments (L-3) was determined by monitoring toluene (FTIR, 5 min average) data for changes in mass concentrations (corrected for dilution) during aging. Glyoxal and methylglyoxal yields were determined following correction for secondary loss (photolysis [ $J(\text{glyoxal}) = J(\text{NO}_2) \times 0.0109$ ] from Klotz et al., 2001; [ $J(\text{methylglyoxal}) = J(\text{NO}_2) \times 0.019$ ] from Plum et al., 1983; and OH-reaction  $K_{\text{OH}}$  from Meller et al., 1991) as described in Volkamer et al. (2001). A plot of concentrations of each compound versus reacted precursor (toluene determined by FTIR) was evaluated for slope following a least-squares linear regression. The slope in this analysis was used to determine yield (Alvarez et al., 2007).

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## 3 Results and discussion

### 3.1 SOA production

Figure 1 displays a 2006 diesel in dark baseline experiment (D-1, 31 May 2006) with both collected and wall loss corrected SMPS data (as discussed above). After over 2 h of aging, the corrected value is within 0.1% of the initial aerosol mass following injection. This indicates that the wall loss correction procedure does account for the main loss mechanism in a dark baseline experiment (values are included in Table 2). In addition, examination of corrected particle profiles at different stages of aging (e.g. 1 h, 2 h) also indicates an appropriate accounting for the main aerosol loss mechanism with profiles that appear to be uniformly conserved and centered in the accumulation mode (see Fig. S1 in <http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/9/17665/2009/acpd-9-17665-2009-supplement.pdf>).

SOA mass production values from the 2006 campaign can be viewed in Table 2. The %SOA of the final in-chamber mass concentration following aging was calculated using the mass difference (i.e. mass production) between the post-injection and pre-sampling masses corrected for wall losses. SOA% production increased with OH radical (from HCHO photolysis) experiments (L-2), versus diesel in light (L-1) experiments. The greatest % production values are from the diesel in light with toluene addition (L-3) experiments. The OH radical concentrations for the L-3a and L-3b experiments were  $5.4 \times 10^6$  and  $3.3 \times 10^6 \text{ mol cm}^{-3}$ , respectively, indicating a similar in-chamber atmosphere reactivity (values calculated using rate constant from Atkinson, 1994). See the toluene addition experiment (Sect. 3.3) for more discussion.

Figure 2 displays the L-2b experiment (06/07/06 in Table 2) with aerosol mass concentrations ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and VOC (ppb) data through out the DE injection, aging, and the beginning of sample collection. This figure includes both non-corrected and size-resolved wall loss corrected SMPS data. Nearly a quarter of the resulting aerosol mass (Table 2) at the beginning of sampling is newly formed SOA. Decomposition of shorter life time VOC (o-xylene, isobutyl benzene) is observed, while less reactive

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VOC (benzene) displays very little decomposition for the 4.75 h sunlight exposure time (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000). GC/MS analysis indicated a similar decomposition for all substituted benzene derivatives (listed in Table S1), and naphthalene concentrations decreased below the detection limit prior to sample collection (see discussion below). The significant production of o-toluic acid in this experiment is notable with approximately 3 times the concentration found in the particle phase, relative to the L-2a experiment without VOC addition. See Sect. 3.2 for more discussion on the o-toluic acid concentrations and production pathway.

The addition of VOC in the L-2b experiment did significantly increase the SOA% production, relative to the L-2a experiment without VOC addition (06/05/06). Assuming complete reaction of VOC in Table S1 (excluding benzene, GC/MS data indicated concentrations of VOC at or near detection limit following aging), a 2.3% yield relative to consumed VOC was determined for the L-2b experiment, which corresponds to the “low yield aromatics” yield values presented and discussed by Odum et al. (1997). A similar trend in SOA% production was observed in the 2005 summer campaign and values can be viewed in the supplemental Table S3 (<http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/9/17665/2009/acpd-9-17665-2009-supplement.pdf>). Due to changes in the NO<sub>x</sub> denuder technology, and several other factors (discussed in the Supplement) a direct comparison of the 2005 to 2006 data was not made here (Zielinska et al., 2009).

### 3.2 POC concentrations

The analysis for a limited number of POC (54 listed in Table S2) was conducted to assess the composition of modern DE and the formation of photochemical transformation products. Understanding the relationship between SOA production and changes in POC composition in light versus dark chamber experiments may help to delineate the compound specific contribution to overall SOA mass production. Gas and particle phase concentrations of selected POC are shown in Table 3. Note that all organic compound concentrations are expressed in relation to elemental carbon (i.e. microgram of species per milligram of EC). The inherent assumption in this normalization procedure

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is that EC mass will remain unchanged while atmospheric transformations of speciated organic compounds take place within the chamber atmosphere.

Gas phase POC concentrations are generally more dominated by alkanolic and aromatic acids, while particle phase alkanedioic (diacids) values are relatively higher (Figs. 3 and 4), as would be expected from partitioning theory (Pankow, 1994; Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998). The L-3 experiments display the greatest diacids production (particle phase) relative to the dark experiments (D-1, D-2), followed by the L-2 experiments (with or without VOC). The significant difference between the L-3 experiments may be due to the reduced solar radiation input, due to overcast conditions on 06/09/06 (see Sect. 3.3 for further discussion).

A closer look at the L-1a and L-1b experiments in Figs. 3 and 4, reveals the significant changes to the overall POC concentrations and profile resulting from the addition of VOC. While other experimental conditions are similar (e.g. post-injection mass, aging time) and the two experiments exhibit no significant SOA production, the changes in chemical composition do suggest a significant chemical transformation has taken place in both gas and particle phases. Interestingly, the L-2a and L-2b experiments do not display such drastic changes in total POC concentrations, but do exhibit a significant difference in SOA production (Table 2). Although post-injection mass is lower in the L-2b experiment, leading to a reduced total aerosol surface area (i.e. particle size profiles are similar), the %SOA production is over 2.6 times greater than the L-2a experiment. Only targeted POC were quantified for these exposures by the derivitization followed by GC/MS analysis method. This technique does not include analysis for multifunctional, highly oxygenated and/or nitrogenated, oligomeric compounds that may have been produced and may explain the differences in the observed %SOA production (Zielinska et al., 2009).

In general, many of the POC analyzed in this study showed significant variability across all experiments. A trend of greater concentrations of shorter chain alkanolic acids (C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>11</sub>) in light exposure experiments versus dark, and lower concentrations of longer chain acids (C<sub>14</sub>–C<sub>24</sub>) in light versus dark, suggests multigenerational

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photochemical decomposition pathways of longer chain unsaturated and/or polyaromatic compounds. For example, the concentration of *cis*-9-octadecenoic (oleic) acid (a known precursor of nonanoic acid) does decrease in light exposures, relative to dark (Kawamura and Gagosian, 1987; Fraser et al., 2003). See Fig. 5 for chemical structures.

Figure 6 displays the particle phase concentrations ( $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}\text{EC}$ ) of 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid (phthalic acid) and phenylacetic acid (only detected in L-1b, L-2b w/VOC experiments). These two compounds were not detected in the dark baseline (D-1) experiments, and the highest concentrations are associated with experiments that included VOC (w/naphthalene) additions (D-2, L-2b, L-1b). Phthalic acid has been shown to be the only major product from the photolysis of naphthalene on  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  surfaces in air (Barbas et al., 1993), and more recent chamber experiments have identified phthalic anhydride and phthaldialdehyde as a transformation product of the OH radical initiated reactions of naphthalene (Wang et al., 2007).

Phthalic acid has been proposed as an indicator for photochemical SOA formation, and as a surrogate for SOA contribution to ambient samples in past studies (Fine et al., 2004; Fraser et al., 2003). However, phthalic acid may also be the photooxidation product of larger molecular weight semi-volatile PAHs that are less abundant than naphthalene (Jang and McDow, 1997). It is clear from the L-1 or L-2 experiments with (L-1b, L-2b) and without (L-1a, L-2a) VOC addition, that the initial concentration of possible precursors (e.g. naphthalene, o-xylene, 1,2-diethylbenzene) does ultimately impact the concentration of such proposed tracers and a determination of %SOA from a single compound may produce significant errors in estimations (see Table 2 for related %SOA). For example, the L-1b experiment displays the highest relative phthalic acid concentration but does not show any significant SOA production.

The D-2 ( $\text{NO}_3$  radicals from  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  decomposition) experiment provides an example of relatively high phthalic acid production in the absence of light.  $\text{NO}_3$  radicals are very reactive and are observed during late evening and nighttime hours in the atmosphere, followed by rapid removal via photolysis and reaction with NO during the day.  $\text{NO}_3$

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radical reactions with naphthalene proceed by initial addition to the aromatic rings to form nitrooxycyclohexadienyl-type radicals, which can react with  $\text{O}_2$  or  $\text{NO}_2$  to yield various products (Pitts et al., 1985; Atkinson et al., 1987; Sasaki et al., 1997). While the ring retaining reaction pathways, which result in the formation of nitronaphthalenes and hydroxynitronaphthalenes represents the major product formation yields (Atkinson and Arey, 2007), the ring cleavage pathways may contribute to the production of carboxylic aromatic acids.

Decomposition followed by oxidation of the substituted ( $\geq\text{C}_2$ ) benzene derivatives and/or PAH, is the likely production pathway for the observed phenylacetic acid. For example, the ethylbenzene-OH pathway proposed by Forstner et al. (1997) is a possible production route for phenylacetic acid in the L-2b and L-1b experiments (Fig. 5). A change in chamber atmosphere reactivity due to VOC addition is apparent, with the L-2b having the maximum ozone production of all experiments (251 ppb), followed by the L-1b experiment (188 ppb) (see Table S4 for all values). This may have promoted the production of a more complex set of transformation products.

Table 3 displays the toluic acid isomer concentrations in both gas and particle phases. Dominated by gas phase production and observed at the highest levels in VOC mix#2 addition experiments (L-1b, L-2b), o-toluic acid is likely to be the second generation oxidation product of o-xylene, which initially forms o-tolualdehyde at significant yields following hydrogen abstraction from one of the methyl groups (Atkinson et al., 1991). Further oxidation of o-tolualdehyde results in the formation of o-toluic acid (Forstner et al., 1997).

The 5 dimethylbenzoic acid isomers (2,6-; 2,5-; 2,4-; 3,5-; 3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid) analyzed in this study are presented as a sum value in both gas and particle phases in Table 3. The highest gas phase concentrations are in experiments with VOC addition (L-1b>D-2>L-2b), indicating a gas phase transformation of 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, which was included in the VOC mix (Table S1) and monitored for decomposition by GC/MS. Further confirmation of this production pathway was achieved by delineation of isomers that are likely products from oxidation of 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene methyl groups

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(2,5-; 3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid), versus isomers with prohibitive structures (2,6-; 2,4-; 3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid). For example, Fig. 7 provides a closer look at the 3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid concentrations in both gas and particle phases. This isomer was not detected in the D-1 experiment, and was only present in the VOC addition experiments in the particle phase. In addition, the relatively high corresponding gas phase concentration in these experiments suggests a gas phase oxidation leading to saturation and partitioning (Pankow, 1994).

Several dicarboxylic acids listed in Table 3, including: succinic, methylsuccinic, glutaric, suberic, and sebacic were identified as major components in atmospheric PM during photochemical smog episodes (Grosjean et al., 1978). Succinic acid has been shown to be present at relatively high concentrations in many global urban sites (Ho et al., 2006 and references therein). Possible precursors (in DE) suggested in a past study (Hatakeyama et al., 1987) include cyclopentene for glutaric or succinic acids, and 3-methylcyclopentene for methylsuccinic. However, the modern DE used in this study had very low concentrations of these potential precursors, and the contribution from other precursors (e.g. aromatic compounds) can not be ruled out. The longer chain carboxylic acids do generally decrease in abundance (Table 3), and diacid compounds such as 1,12-dodecanedicarboxylic acid ( $C_{14}$ ) and 1,11-undecanedicarboxylic acid ( $C_{13}$ ) were not detected in the majority of experiments.

To evaluate whether diacids are relatively more abundant than monoacids in the light exposure experiments, a ratio of the quantified (Table S2) alkanedioic to alkanioic acids is shown in Fig. 8. Even though our analytical method determined the concentrations of a limited number of compounds, it is apparent that both the gas and particle phases display a higher ratio for the light versus dark experiments. The high particle phase ratio in the L-1b experiment can be explained in part by the relatively high  $C_4$  and  $C_5$  diacids production (Table 3), which may be the result of a combination of factors including: higher actinic flux during L-1b ( $J(NO_2)=8.7\pm0.7\times10^{-3}$ ) versus L-1a ( $J(NO_2)=6.4\pm1.2\times10^{-3}$ ), addition of VOC in L-1b resulting in a more reactive mixture with increased concentrations of possible precursors and a greater ozone concentra-

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tion (190 ppb maximum in L-1b versus 20 ppb in L-1a), and the highest post-injection mass concentration ( $49.4\mu g/m^{-3}$ ; Table 2) leading to increased particle phase partitioning (Donahue et al., 2006).

In addition to condensation of oxygenated compounds formed via photochemical reactions, heterogeneous reactions on DPM during aging can lead to a more polar composition (Lee et al., 2004; Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008). These reactions can be catalyzed by indigenous sulfuric acid (or  $HNO_3$ ), which is dependent upon the initial fuel composition and is present in the particle phase DE (Jang et al., 2002; Zielinska et al., 2009). The ionic analysis (sulfate, nitrate) of DPM did not provide any discernable correlation between SOA production and particle bound nitrates or sulfates, which may have contributed to particle acidity. However, the acids detected in this study can also contribute to an acidic environment in the particle phase allowing proton (H) exchange and increases in reaction rates and chemical transformations, which would otherwise be thermodynamically hindered (Barsanti and Pankow, 2006). For example, the presence of maleic, phthalic, and succinic acids ( $pK_a=1.9, 2.9, 4.2$ ; respectively) at relatively high concentrations (Table 3) can result in hydrogen donation to reduce activation energies in otherwise unlikely reactions (Carey and Sundberg, 1990; Johnson et al., 2005).

Several factors impact SOA production and the associated changes in DE composition. For example, SOA formation from a variety of precursors has been shown to be significantly impacted by  $NO_x$  concentrations (Song et al., 2005; Kroll et al., 2006; Pathak et al., 2007) possibly due to the formation of different condensable products under different  $NO_x$  conditions. In addition, Johnson et al. (2004) displayed the need to increase model species-independent partitioning coefficient scaling factors as  $NO_x$  concentrations increased in past toluene photooxidation studies at EUPHORE, indicating a systematic impact on the SOA production process (Sect. 3.3). Since most atmospheric oxidation reactions of organics produce alkyl radicals, multifunctional organic nitrates may also be produced at significant concentrations as observed by Lim and Ziemann (2005) and Forstner et al. (1997).

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With the exception of the L-1a experiment (Fig. 9), all light exposures exhibit an increase in OC/EC relative to dark experiments. The L-1a atmosphere was not photochemically active (as discussed above) due to the very low concentrations of VOC. Several experiments exhibit a percent increase in OC/EC (relative to dark experiments) that exceeds 100% (L-1b, L-2b, L-3a), with the L-1b experiment displaying the highest increase at 204%. The L-3 (toluene addition) and VOC addition experiment in sunlight L-1b, show significant contribution of pyrolyzed organic carbon, which indicates the presences of highly polar and/or oligomeric organic compounds formed as SOA. See Zielinska et al. (2009) for more detail on OC/EC, and pyrolyzed organic carbon results. With the limited number of POC analyzed in this study, it is not surprising that the particle phase di-/monoacid ratio (Fig. 8) did not display a significant correlation with OC/EC ( $R^2=0.33$ ). This indicates that the reduction in volatility associated with the addition of a carboxylic acid group and the expected increase in particle phase partitioning, only provides a simplified window to partially understand the chemistry of complex mixtures (Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008).

### 3.3 Toluene addition experiments

To determine if SOA production (%yield) from toluene in the presence of a complex mixture (modern DE), is significantly different from SOA% yield in simplified experimental mixtures (Johnson et al., 2004), the four L-3 experiments were further evaluated. Table 4 displays the % yield  $[(\text{SOA } (\mu\text{g m}^{-3})/\Delta\text{tol}(\mu\text{g m}^{-3}) \times 100]$  for all L-3 experiments, with the initial toluene concentration ( $[\text{tol}]_0$ ) and  $[\text{tol}]_0/[\text{NO}_x]_0$  ratio. Generally, the % yield values (average  $=5.3 \pm 1.6$ ) are within the range of “low- $\text{NO}_x$ ” ( $[\text{tol}]_0/[\text{NO}_x]_0$  range 10.9–17.8) experiments conducted by Johnson et al. (2004) and Hurley et al. (2001). However, these experiments were conducted without seed aerosol and the increase in yield with decreasing  $[\text{tol}]_0/[\text{NO}_x]_0$  ratio observed in our experiments is in more agreement with trends observed by Odum et al. (1997), which included seed aerosol and a more complex mixture of VOC.

Although our yield values are generally lower than those reported by Odum, our

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highest yield experiments, L-3b ( $6.8 \pm 1.4$ ) and L-3c ( $6.4 \pm 1.3$ ), are in good agreement with values (within 20% analytical error) for the highest  $[\text{tol}]_0/[\text{NO}_x]_0$  (5.47) experiment conducted by Odum and coworkers on 10 July 1996 (yield = 7.4%). It is important to note that Odum did enhance the reactivity of their mixtures by adding propene (i.e. production of radicals), and this may explain the generally higher yield trend. Upon further evaluation, Odum et al. (1997) classify toluene (along with other single substituted methyl/ethyl benzene derivatives) as a “high-yield aromatic” and using a two-product model (Pankow, 1994), produce yield curves where the amount of aerosol produced ( $\Delta M_o$ ) is in the range of our experiments ( $22.7\text{--}64.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ). Our observed % yields ( $3.3 \pm 0.7$  to  $6.8 \pm 1.4$ ) fall within the proposed range of 4–7% (Odum et al., 1997), and are in agreement with more recently reported observations (Stroud et al., 2004).

Formation of glyoxal (CHOCHO) in our L-3 experiments was observed, and the %yield (relative to reacted toluene) is reported in Table 4. Glyoxal has been identified as a major primary product from the OH-initiated oxidation of toluene (Volkamer et al., 2001), and more recent work at EUPHORE has further confirmed the dicarbonyl route proposed by Atkinson et al. (1980) (see Alvarez et al., 2007). Our observations of nearly immediate (with 5 min time resolution) glyoxal formation following toluene addition, supports the proposed ring-cleavage pathways involving the bicycloalkyl radical (Volkamer et al. 2001), and the L-3b experiment % yield (37.6) is in agreement with values reported recently ( $37 \pm 2$ ) by Alvarez et al. (2007). The significantly lower actinic flux (approximately  $1/2$ ) in the L-3b experiment may explain the higher yield. Glyoxal loss due to photolysis is addressed in Volkamer et al. (2005), and the reassessment of % yields from previous work (Volkamer et al., 2001) resulted in a reported value of  $30.6 \pm 6\%$  (previously  $39 \pm 10.2\%$ ), which is in agreement (within error) with our higher yield experiments (L-3b, L-3c, L-3d). The  $J$  (glyoxal) used for loss correction in these experiments ranged from  $4.5\text{--}9.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and are typical values for natural sunlight at mid-latitude locations (Volkamer et al., 2005). Interestingly, the lowest % yield (L-3a) experiment was also the experiment with the lowest SOA yield, and the highest  $[\text{tol}]_0/[\text{NO}_x]_0$  ratio (19.2), which indicates that an inhibition of the dicarbonylic route

in this system plays a role in SOA production efficiency (Alvarez et al., 2007). Formation of glyoxal oligomer species in relation to SOA formation processes has been discussed in previous studies (Kalberer et al., 2004; Hastings et al., 2005). While some correlation between glyoxal and SOA yield is observed here ( $R^2=0.61$ ), more experimentation with atmospherically relevant mixtures is needed to sufficiently parameterize these processes.

Methylglyoxal yields are included in Table 4 for the 2006 experiments. The significant production observed in the L-3b experiment is similar to % yield values recently reported ( $37\pm2$ ) (Alvarez et al., 2007). When combined with the glyoxal yield, a significant fraction of the reacted toluene can be account for (L-3a=28%. L-3b=75%). Formation of formaldehyde (HCHO) from decomposition of more complex organic compounds can be the result of reactions involving multi-generational products (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000). In this study HCHO % yields relative to decomposed toluene (following correction for photolysis and OH radical loss) ranged from 18–23%, and showed no significant variability between the four L-3 experiments (assuming a 30% error). HCHO can originate from multiple precursors, for example, from the photolysis of glyoxal or methylglyoxal (Koch and Moortgat, 1998). Therefore, HCHO yield values reported here should be seen as a reaction system characteristic and not as an indication of a specific production pathway. The low actinic flux experiment (L-3b) did result in the lowest yield value (18%), and observed formic acid production generally coincided with HCHO production (Fig. S2).

#### 4 Conclusions

Overall, the poor understanding of the polar fraction of atmospheric transformation products is a significant knowledge gap within the atmospheric science community. EUPHORE experimental data showed significant increases of polar compounds in most, but not all, of the aging experiments that occurred in sunlight. Changes in reactivity of the chamber atmosphere due to VOC additions significantly impacted compo-

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sitional profiles.

Distinct POC production in light versus dark experiments suggests the role of OH initiated reactions in these chamber atmospheres (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000). Many of these compounds are thought to be formed by photooxidation reactions of VOC and SVOC, which result in SOA formation (Kleindienst et al., 2002, 2004). For example, phthalic acid, a dicarboxylic aromatic acid may be a gas phase reaction product of naphthalene and has been associated with SOA production in ambient samples (Fine et al., 2004). Yet a significant correlation between SOA production and phthalic acid concentrations was not observed in this study.

Changes in composition of aging aerosols are evident from the EUPHORE experiments, and production of diacids demonstrates a consistent indicator for photochemical transformation in relation to past studies in the ambient atmosphere (Fine et al., 2004). Our data suggests that addition of VOC, including naphthalene, results in a relatively higher concentration of these potential SOA tracers in a complex mixture (DE). However, the lack of correlation between %SOA and specific compound concentrations (e.g. phthalic acid) suggests that more extensive chemical characterization data near sources and following aging/transport need to be considered for more accurate estimations in the ambient atmosphere.

An evaluation of OC values indicated that the secondary organic species formed in some of these exposures were highly oxygenated, with significant levels of pyrolyzed organic carbon detected (Zielinska et al., 2009). Evidence from the real-time data in the gas phase (e.g. glyoxal), increased organic material and POC (e.g. di-carboxylic acids and distinct isomers) in time-integrated data, and the decrease in other organic species (VOC and SVOC) suggests that significant reactions were occurring that produced more polar and oxidized reaction products.

*Acknowledgements.* The financial support for this study was provided by the Health Effect Institute (HEI). We would like to thank M. Vazquez, E. Borrás García, A. Muñoz and other staff at EUPHORE. A. Cunningham and the Organic Analytical Laboratory (OAL) staff at DRI are thanked for all of their efforts.

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**Table 1.** Dark (D) and Light (L) Exposure Test Matrix.

Run Description	Purpose	# of Runs
Diesel Exhaust Dark (D-1)	Determine changes in exhaust composition due to aging in chamber	3
Diesel Exhaust+N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> , Dark (D-2)	Investigate effects of NO <sub>3</sub> on diesel exhaust composition. N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> decomposes to form NO <sub>2</sub> and NO <sub>3</sub>	3
Diesel Exhaust Only, Light (L-1)	Examine effects of photolysis reactions on exhaust composition, low NO <sub>x</sub>	4
Diesel Exhaust+HCHO, Light(L-2)	Study reactions of OH radicals (from HCHO photolysis) with diesel exhaust under low NO <sub>x</sub>	6
Diesel Exhaust+Toluene, Light(L-3)	Diesel exhaust as seed aerosol during the oxidation of toluene. Low NO <sub>x</sub> conditions	4

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**Table 2.** %SOA of the final in-chamber mass concentration prior to sample collection. "Post-injection mass" indicates in-chamber DPM immediately following injection. "Pre-sampling mass" indicates DPM concentration following aging and has been correct for wall-loss.

Date mm/dd/yy	Experiment	Aging Time (hours)	Post- injection mass ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	Pre- sampling mass ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	Mass Differ- ence ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	%SOA of Final Mass
05/31/06	D-1, Diesel in Dark (baseline)	2.08	29.5	29.4	-0.1	0.0
06/08/06	L-1a, Diesel in Light	4.42	44.1	41.7	-2.4	0.0
06/02/06	L-1b, Diesel in Light with VOC mix#2	4.75	49.5	46.1	-3.4	0.0
06/01/06	D-2, Diesel in dark w/ $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ +VOC mix#1	2.90	28.8	29.7	0.9	3.0
06/05/06	L-2a, Diesel in Light with HCHO	4.83	40.7	44.8	4.1	9.2
06/07/06	L-2b, Diesel in Light with HCHO+VOC mix#2	4.75	29.3	38.8	9.5	24.5
06/06/06	L-3a, Diesel in Light with Toluene ( $1990 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	3.92	32.9	55.6	22.7	40.8
06/09/06	L-3b, Diesel in Light with Toluene ( $1960 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	4.27	40.7	73.8	33.1	44.9

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**Table 3.** Gas and particle phase concentrations ( $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}\text{EC}$ ) for selected organic acids.

particle phase compounds	D-1	D-2 (VOC)	L-1a	L-1b (VOC)	L-2a (OH)	L-2b (OH) (VOC)	L-3a (TOL)	L-3b (TOL)
heptanoic acid ( $\text{C}_7^{\text{a}}$ )	100	58	49	634	201	708	6537	1684
nonanoic acid ( $\text{C}_9^{\text{b}}$ )	274	546	36	278	207	161	453	84
Oleic acid ( $\text{C}_{18}$ )	198	150	ND <sup>c</sup>	87	161	4	147	91
maleic acid (d- $\text{C}_4$ )	ND	ND	ND	2189	542	367	16408	6663
Succinic acid (d- $\text{C}_4$ )	154	300	181	1541	1349	180	600	464
methylsuccinic acid (d- $\text{C}_5$ )	24	52	23	330	184	208	188	105
glutaric acid (d- $\text{C}_5$ )	ND	ND	ND	9	26	76	ND	ND
suberic acid (d- $\text{C}_8$ )	ND	ND	ND	3	ND	3	ND	ND
Sebacic acid (d- $\text{C}_{10}$ )	ND	ND	ND	7	ND	ND	27	27
1,11-undecanedicarboxylic acid (d- $\text{C}_{13}$ )	ND	ND	ND	6	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,12-dodecanedicarboxylic acid (d- $\text{C}_{14}$ )	ND	10	ND	9	ND	ND	ND	4
3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid	0	1235	4	1685	65	69	46	6
dimethylbenzoic acid isomers <sup>d</sup> (sum)	3239	2781	553	2023	ND	644	17	1346
o-toluic acid	10	13	9	312	5	15	5	6
m-toluic acid	12	21	5	23	12	6	8	5
p-toluic acid	16	28	10	169	23	23	12	10
phthalic acid	ND	492	166	743	285	630	324	257
phenylacetic acid	ND	ND	ND	13	ND	26	ND	ND
gas phase compounds								
3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid	ND	71	ND	154	ND	14	ND	ND
dimethylbenzoic acid isomers (sum)	30	2016	9	2360	136	186	147	16
o-toluic acid	27	35	6	657	79	98	73	5
m-toluic acid	13	52	2	86	36	16	31	3
p-toluic acid	89	267	18	913	288	201	238	20

<sup>a</sup> "C#" indicates carbon number, while "d" signifies whether the compound is a diacid.

<sup>b</sup> Both particle and gas phases included as sum for nonanoic acid

<sup>c</sup> ND, not detected

<sup>d</sup> Isomers include: 2,6-; 2,5-; 2,4-; 3,5-; 3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid

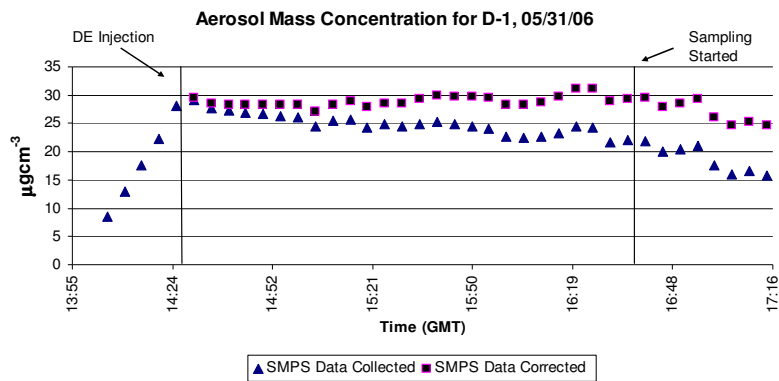
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**Table 4.** L-3, toluene addition experiments conducted at EUPHORE.

Name, Date	[tol] <sub>0</sub> (ppb)	[tol] <sub>0</sub> / [NO <sub>x</sub> ] <sub>0</sub> ratio	aging time (hours) <sup>a</sup>	J(NO <sub>2</sub> ) (s <sup>-1</sup> ) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	[OH] <sup>b</sup> (mol cm <sup>-3</sup> ) × 10 <sup>6</sup>	ozone <sup>c</sup> (ppb)	% yield <sup>d</sup> (SOA)	% yield <sup>e</sup> (glyoxal)	% yield <sup>f</sup> (methyl- glyoxal)
L-3a, 06/06/06	528	19.2	3.62	8.3+/-0.7	5.37	112	3.3±0.7	17.0±5.1	11.6±3.5
L-3b, 06/09/06	520	5.0	4.90	4.1+/-1.5	3.32	185	6.8±1.4	37.6±11.3	37.7±11.3
L-3c, 05/19/05	616	4.3	5.02	8.7+/-0.7	4.96	287	6.4±1.3	22.1±6.6	na <sup>g</sup>
L-3d, 05/20/05	661	6.3	4.15	8.8+/-0.9	8.34	251	4.9±1.0	21.9±6.6	na

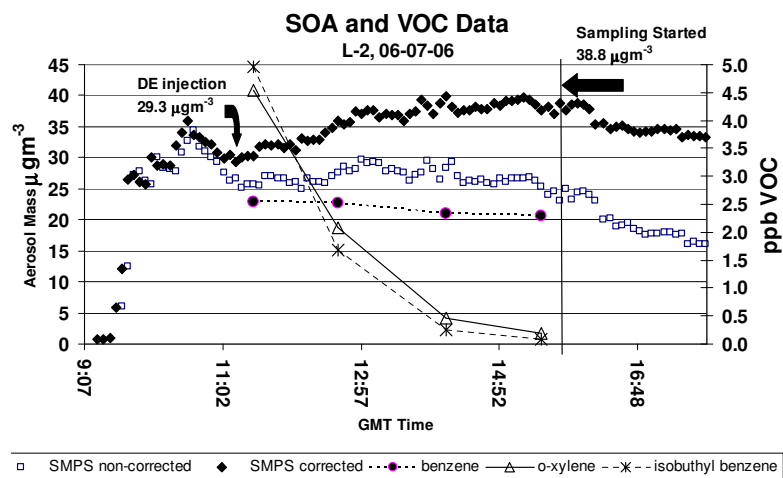
<sup>a</sup> Aging time is the total time DE aged following chamber injection and prior to beginning of sample collection.  
<sup>b</sup> Decay of toluene was used to estimate the concentration of OH radicals using rate constant from Atkinson (1994).  
<sup>c</sup> Maximum ozone production during aging  
<sup>d</sup> % yield calculated following size-resolved wall-loss correction, assuming a 20% analytical error  
<sup>e</sup> Corrected for photolysis loss using Koltz et al. (2001); correct for OH loss using Meller et al. (1991); 30% error applied  
see Volkamer et al. (2005) for detailed discussion on potential sources of error  
<sup>f</sup> 30% error applied  
<sup>g</sup> Data not available

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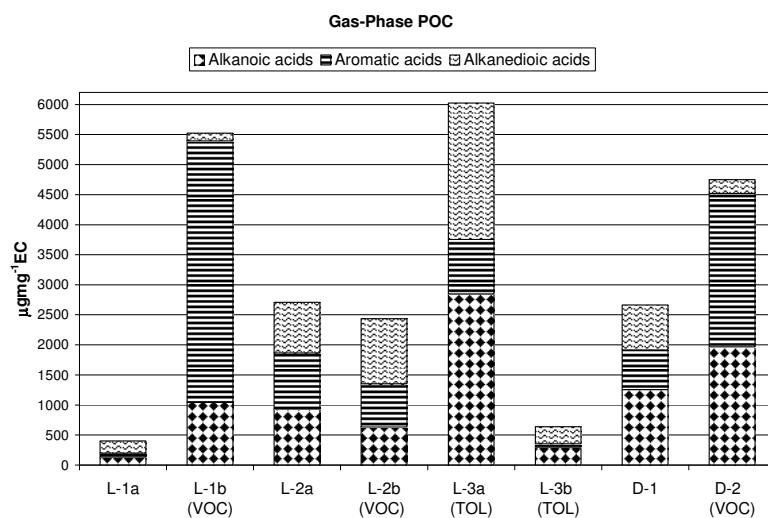
**Fig. 1.** SMPS data correct for wall loss in a diesel in dark experiment, D-1 on 31 May 2006.





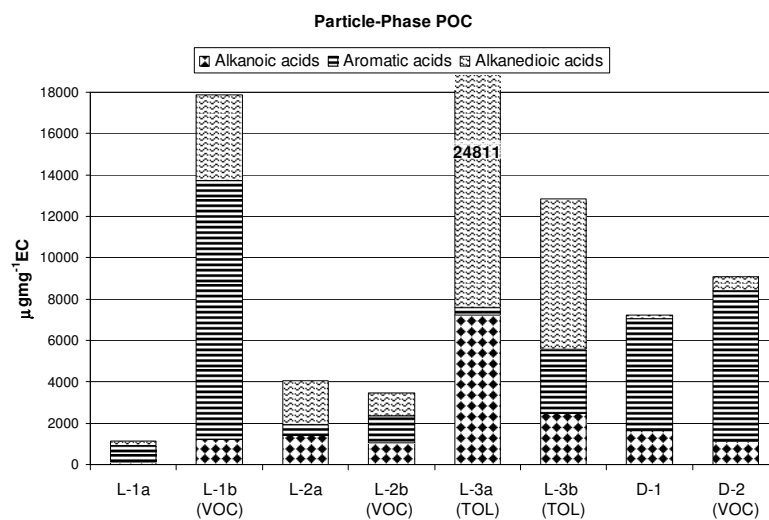
**Fig. 2.** L-2b (OH) , 06/07/06 SOA (left y-axis) and VOC (right y-axis) data.

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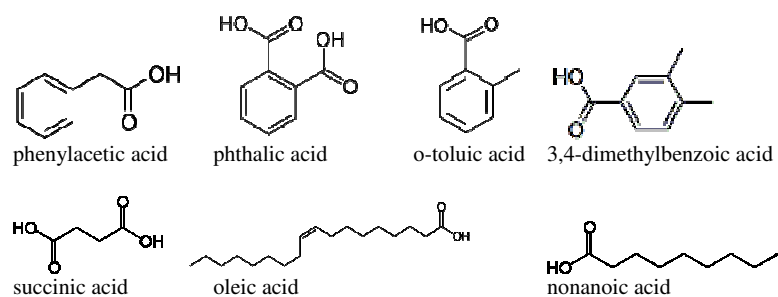
**Fig. 3.** Gas-phase POC concentrations for three compound classes.

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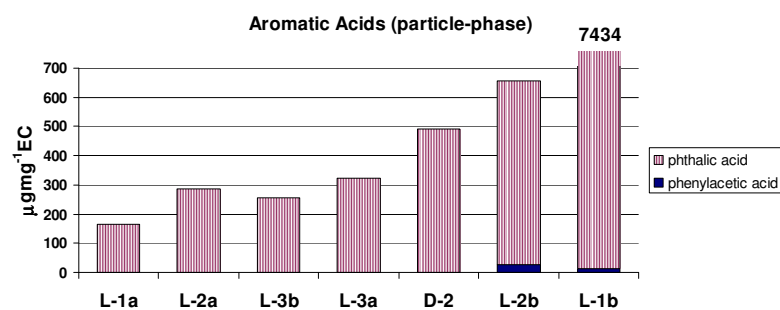
**Fig. 4.** Particle-phase POC concentrations for three compound classes.

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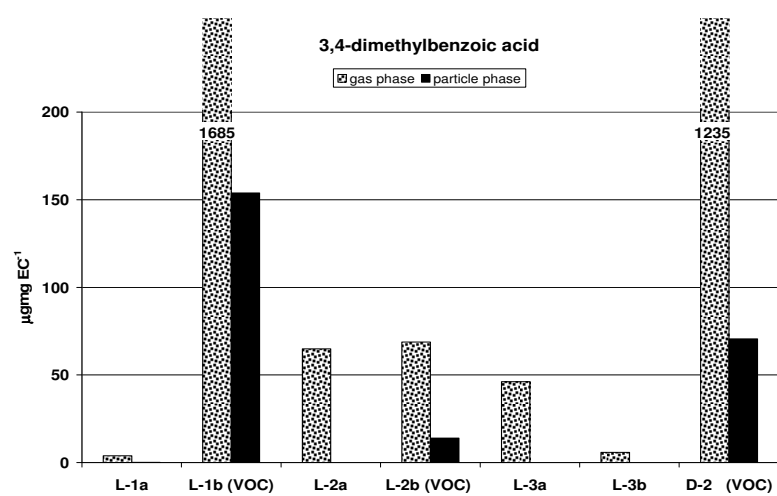
**Fig. 5.** Selected chemical structures.

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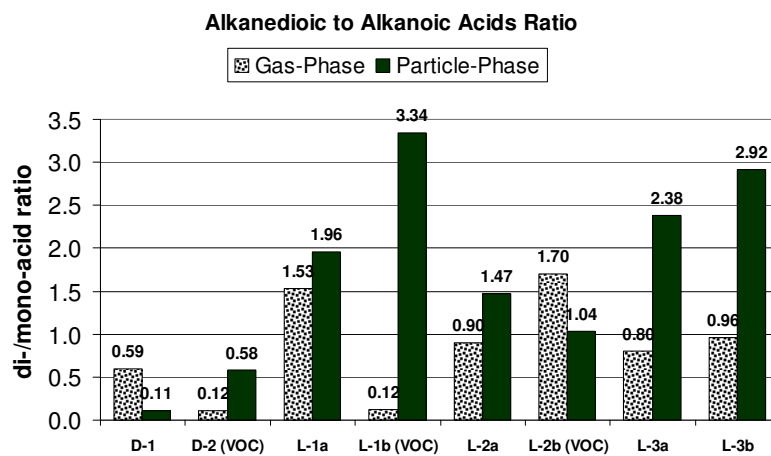
**Fig. 6.** Concentrations of phthalic and phenylacetic acids in particle-phase.

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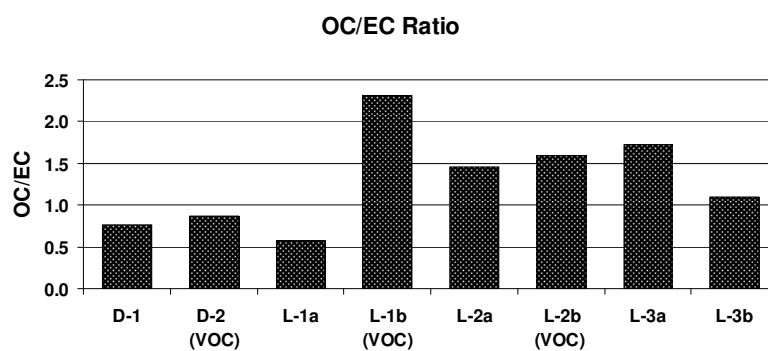
**Fig. 7.** Concentration of 3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid.

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**Fig. 8.** Ratio of alkanedioic to alkanoic acids for 2006 diesel aging experiments.

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**Fig. 9.** OC/EC ratio for 2006 EUPHORE experiments.

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