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We thank Pr. Scot Martin for his comments. We corrected the missing references on the reference list.

Discussion on the kappa results obtained during this works was made in lot of details in our two previous papers (Petters et al., 2009; Wex et al., 2009) which both included a discussion with the paper of King et al. (2007) suggested by Pr. Scot Martin. Thus, we do not think that we have to discuss again on the kappa determination which is not the main output of this third paper.

Reference

King, S. M., Rosenoern, T., Shilling, J. E., Chen, Q., and Martin, S. T.: Cloud condensation nucleus activity of secondary organic aerosol particles mixed with sulfate, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 34, L24806, doi:10.1029/2007GL030390, 2007,

Petters, M. D., Wex, H., Hallberger, E., Poulain, L., Carrico, C. M., McMeeking, G. R., Kreidenweis, S. M., Stratmann, F., and Massling, A.: Towards closing the gap between hygroscopicity and activation for secondary organic aerosol: Part II - theoretical approaches, *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 9, 3999-4009, 2009, <http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/9/3999/2009/>.

Wex, H., Petters, M. D., Hallberger, E., Poulain, L., Carrico, C. M., McMeeking, G. R., Kreidenweis, S. M., Stratmann, F., and Massling, A.: Towards closing the gap between hygroscopicity growth factor and activation of secondary organic aerosol: Part I - Evidence of measurements, *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 9, 3987-3997, 2009, www.atmos-chem-phys.net/9/3987/2009.