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Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions

Interactive comment on "Chemical composition of PM_{10} and PM_1 at the high-altitude Himalayan station Nepal Climate Observatory-Pyramid (NCO-P) (5079 m a.s.l.)" *by* S. Decesari et al.

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We have found an error in the calculation of the TC concentrations in PM1 samples. The actual values are 37% lower than reported in the discussion paper and in the revised version of the manuscript. This factor applies systematically to all PM1 samples, and it does not affect seasonal trends and diurnal patterns. We therefore believe that correcting the TC values does not contradict any statements in the manuscript refering to the PM1 data set. On the contrary, it reconciles the apparent disagreement in the water-insoluble carbon fraction between PM10 and PM1 samples: In our previous attempts to explain such discrepancy we attributed it to differences in the

size-distributions of WSOC and TC. However, after correcting the TC concentrations in PM1, the WSOC/TC and TC/SO4 ratios in PM1 are much more consistent with those characteristic of the PM10 samples. We will therefore drop any statements assessing a clear mismatch between the water-insoluble carbon in PM1 with respect to PM10. Absolute concentrations of TC in PM1 samples will be corrected in Figure 2 and in related tables of the newly revised manuscript.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, 25487, 2009.