

## ***Response to reviewers' comments***

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We would like to sincerely thank the editor for the suggestions made to improve the grammar and style

### **Editor**

Non-public comments to the Author:

One reviewer has seriously challenged your presentation style. Yet, I can not find a severe deficiency in the presented English that would warrant a rejection or major revision. Likely an accumulated amount of small errors have prompted the reviewer to be so negative. If you do not have access to a native English speaker for grammatical editing, I suggest to include the following improvements for a revision, in addition to the already discussed improvements in your response to the reviewer comments.

Suggested improvements:

Line 87: 2 - 13 July 2012: change to: July 2-13 2012

Line 89: 5-16 August 2013 – similar as above

Line 96 had been demonstrated -> was demonstrated

Line 97 are covered -> are measured?

Line 107: had been cleaned - > were cleaned

Line 129: A glass column....

Line 272: The distance to...

Line 433: confirmed the occurrence...

Line 435: (perhaps a better phrasing): These substances are obviously subject to intercontinental transport and might indeed be distributed ubiquitously.

Line 453: The understanding of....or Our understanding of...

Yes, thanks. All these changes followed.

Line 453: this last and final sentence (Although our observations....) is very convoluted and unclear – I suggest either revision by a native English speaker or to simply rephrase this sentence.

Yes, thanks. Rephrased by shortening, now reads: “Both, the kinetics of NPAH formation and photolysis remain to be quantitatively studied under conditions for the background atmosphere i.e., low NO<sub>x</sub> and on various aerosol matrices, including sea salt.”

**Nitro-polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons - gas-particle partitioning, mass size distribution, and formation along transport in marine and continental background air**

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**Abstract**

Nitro-polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (NPAH) are ubiquitous in polluted air but little is known about their abundance in background air. NPAHs were studied at one marine and one continental background site i.e., a coastal site in the southern Aegean Sea (summer 2012) and a site in the central Great Hungarian Plain (summer 2013), together with the parent compounds, PAHs. A Lagrangian particle dispersion model was used to track air mass history. Based on Lagrangian particle statistics, the urban influence on samples was quantified for the first time as a fractional dose to which the collected volume of air had been exposed to.

At the remote marine site, the 3-4 ring NPAH (sum of 11 targeted species) concentration was 23.7 pg m<sup>-3</sup> while the concentration of 4-ring PAHs (6 species) was 426 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. 2-nitrofluoranthene (2NFLT) and 3-nitrophenanthrene were the most abundant NPAHs. Urban fractional doses in the range <0.002–5.4% were calculated. At the continental site, the  $\Sigma_{11}$  3-4rNPAH and  $\Sigma_6$  4rPAH were 58 and 663 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively, with 9-nitroanthracene and 2NFLT being highest concentrated amongst the targeted NPAHs. The NPAH levels observed in the marine background are the lowest ever reported and remarkably lower, by more than one order of magnitude, than one decade before. Day-night variation of NPAHs at the

continental site reflected shorter lifetime during the day, possibly because of photolysis of some NPAHs. The yields of formation of 2NFLT and 2-nitropyrene (2NPYR) in marine air seem to be close to the yields for OH-initiated photochemistry observed in laboratory experiments under high NO<sub>x</sub> conditions. Good agreement is found for prediction of NPAH gas-particle partitioning using a multi-phase poly-parameter linear free energy relationship. Sorption to soot is found less significant for gas-particle partitioning of NPAHs than for PAHs. The NPAH levels determined in the southeastern outflow of Europe confirm intercontinental transport potential.

**Keywords:** long-range transport potential, semi-volatile organic compounds, PAH photochemistry,

## 1. Introduction

PAHs may undergo chemical transformations in the gaseous and in the particulate phase (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000; Keyte et al., 2013). Nitro-PAHs (NPAHs) observed in urban and rural areas (Nielsen et al., 1984; Feilberg et al., 2001; Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000; Keyte et al., 2013) and predicted based on smog-chamber experiments (Atkinson and Arey, 1994), seem to be most significant derivatives: Mutagenicity of atmospheric aerosols in general is mostly related to NPAHs (Grosjean et al., 1983; Garner et al., 1986; Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000; Claxton et al., 2004; Hayakawa, 2016). A large part, more than one third, of the mutagen potential of ambient aerosols may be attributable to NPAHs (Schuetzle, 1983).

Secondary formation of NPAH from PAHs is thought to occur on short time scales (hours). This has been observed for PAHs collected on filters (Ringuet et al., 2012a; Zimmermann et al., 2013; Jaryasopit et al., 2014a, 2014b), and also in in urban plumes (Bamford and Baker, 2003; Arey et al., 1989; Reisen and Arey, 2005). Although many NPAHs are emitted from road traffic, only a few are abundant in this source type (Arey, 1998; Keyte et al., 2013 and 2016; Inomata et al., 2015; Alves et al., 2016). The occurrence of various isomers of nitrofluoranthene (NFLT) and nitropyrene (NPYR) can be used to study PAH sources, PAH chemical transformations and the role of the photo-oxidants hydroxyl radical (OH) and nitrate radical (NO<sub>3</sub>) (Ciccioli et al., 1996; Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts 2000). E.g., 3- and 2-nitrofluoranthene (3-, 2NFLT) are indicative of primary and secondary sources, respectively. These substances have been suggested as tracers for air pollution on the time scales of hours

to days (Ciccioli et al., 1996; Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts 2000; Keyte et al. 2013), but their atmospheric lifetimes are still unknown.

Like their precursors, NPAHs are semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), partitioning between the phases of the atmospheric aerosol. Similar to other SVOCs, the NPAHs' phase distribution was found to depend on temperature (summer and winter campaigns in the Alps; Albinet et al., 2008b) and results from both absorptive as well as adsorptive contributions (Tomaz et al., 2016). NPAHs have primarily been observed in polluted areas (e.g. Pitts et al., 1985; Ramdahl et al., 1986; Garner et al., 1986; Albinet et al., 2007 and 2008a; Ringuet et al., 2012a and 2012b; Zimmermann et al., 2012; Barrado et al., 2013; Li et al., 2016). Though there are a few studies in rural environments i.e., in Germany (Ciccioli et al., 1996), in the French Alps (100-1000 pg m<sup>-3</sup> range for the sum of 10 NPAHs; Albinet et al., 2008a) and in northern China (Li et al., 2016). Very few measurements have been performed in the remote atmospheric environment i.e., in the Mediterranean (Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2007), high altitude sites in the Himalayas (single data; Ciccioli et al. 1996) and French Alps (Albinet et al., 2008a), and in the Arctic (with so-called Arctic haze; Masclet et al. 1988; Halsall et al. 2001). With regard to the long-range transport potential, the state of the knowledge is that at least some NPAHs are expected to go into intercontinental transport (Lafontaine et al., 2015) and might be ubiquitous in the global atmosphere (Ciccioli et al., 1996).

However, there is limited NPAH data from remote atmospheric environments is obvious and little is known about their long-range transport potential. The aim of this study was to characterise the long-range transport potential of NPAHs by measurements at remote sites of Europe, addressing the continental background and the outflow of the continent.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Sampling

High-volume air sampling was conducted at a marine background site, Finokalia (35.3°N/25.7°E, 250 m a.s.l.), in the context of a coordinated field experiment ~~2-13~~ July ~~2-13~~ 2012 (Lammel et al., 2015) and at a continental background site in central Europe, K-puszt (46°58'N/19°33'E, 125 m a.s.l.; Degrendele et al., 2016), ~~5-16~~ August ~~5-16~~ 2013. The Finokalia site is located on a cliff at the northern coast of Crete, some 70 km east of major significant anthropogenic emissions (Iraklion, a city of 100000 inhabitants with airport and industries; Mihalopoulos et al., 1997; Kouvarakis et al., 2000). The K-puszt site is located on a clearing, characterised by uncultivated grassland, in a mostly coniferous forest in the

95 Hungarian (Pannonian) Great Plain, ca. 70 km and 270 km southeast of Budapest and Vienna,  
96 respectively ( $\approx 2$  mn inhabitants each). The background site character of both observatories  
97 ~~washad been~~ demonstrated (Borbély-Kiss et al., 1988; Kouvarakis et al., 2000; Vrekoussis et  
98 al., 2005). Meteorological parameters and trace gases are ~~measurements are covered at~~ by both  
99 observatories, which are stations of the EMEP network (EMEP, 2015).

100 High volume air samples were collected using a HV-100P (Baghirra, Prague, Czech  
101 Republic), equipped with a multi-stage cascade impactor (Andersen Instruments Inc.,  
102 Fultonville, New York, USA, series 230, model 235) with five impactor stages, corresponding  
103 to 10–7.2, 7.2–3, 3–1.5, 1.5–0.95 and 0.95–0.49  $\mu\text{m}$  of aerodynamic particle size,  $D$ , (spaced  
104 roughly equal  $\Delta \log D$ ), a backup filter collecting particles  $< 0.49 \mu\text{m}$  and, downstream, two  
105 polyurethane foam plugs (PUFs, Molitan, Břeclav, Czech Republic, density  $0.030 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  
106 placed in a glass cartridge), together 10 cm high. Particles were sampled on slotted QFF  
107 substrates (TE-230-QZ, Tisch Environmental Inc., Cleves, USA,  $14.3 \times 13.7 \text{ cm}$ ) and glass  
108 fibre filters (Whatman,  $20.3 \times 25.4 \text{ cm}$ ). The filters ~~werehad been~~ cleaned prior to use by  
109 heating  
110 108 ( $330^\circ\text{C}$ ). PUFs were cleaned (8 hour-extraction in acetone and 8 hours in  
111 dichloromethane (DCM)), wrapped in two layers of aluminum foil, placed into zip-lock  
112 polyethylene bags and kept in the freezer prior to deployment. The sampler was operated at  
113 constant flow rate of  $68 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$ . Day/night sampling (changing at sunset and sunrise) of  
114 gaseous samples (PUF) was performed at both sites ( $V = 600\text{--}1000 \text{ m}^3$ ), while at the marine  
115 site the impactor filter (QFF) samples were collected over 24 h (5) or 48 h (3).

116 PUFs were cleaned (8 hour-extraction in acetone and 8 hours in dichloromethane (DCM)),  
117 wrapped in two layers of aluminum foil, placed into zip-lock polyethylene bags and kept in  
118 the freezer prior to deployment. The sampler was operated at constant flow rate of  $68 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$ .  
119 Day/night sampling of gaseous samples (PUF) was performed at both sites (12 h,  $V \approx 700 \text{ m}^3$ ),  
120 while at the marine site the impactor filter (QFF) samples were collected over 12 h ( $n = 1$ ), 24  
121 h (4) or 48 h (3).

122 Particle number concentration,  $N$ , was determined by an optical particle counter (Grimm  
123 model 107, Ainring, 31 channels between 0.25 and  $32 \mu\text{m}$  of aerodynamic particle diameter,  
124  $D$ ). Aerosol surface concentration,  $S \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$ , was derived as  $S = \pi \sum_i N_i D_i^2$  assuming  
125 sphericity. Hereby, true  $S$  will be underestimated, in particular if particles of irregular form  
126 were abundant (e.g. Jaenicke, 1988). Comparisons with absolute methods (e.g. Pandis, et al.  
127 1991) suggest that the discrepancy may reach up to a factor of 2-3. The mass median diameter

( $D_m$ ,  $\mu\text{m}$ ), was derived as  $\log D_m = \sum_i m_i \log D_i / \sum_i m_i$  with  $m_i$  denoting the mass in size class  $i$ ,  $D_i$  being the geometric mean diameter collected on stage  $i$  of the cascade impactor.

## 2.2 Chemical analysis

All air samples were extracted with DCM using an automatic warm Soxhlet extractor (Büchi B-811, Switzerland). Deuterated PAHs (D8-naphthalene, D10-phenanthrene, D12-perylene; Wellington Laboratories, Canada) were used as surrogate standards for both PAHs and NPAHs. Deuterated PAHs proved to be suitable surrogate standards for NPAHs. These were spiked on each PUF prior to extraction. The extract was split in two parts, 1/9 for PAHs and Nitro-PAHs analysis, 9/10 for PBDEs, PCBs and OCPs. The PAHs and Nitro-PAHs aliquot was a subject to open column chromatography clean-up. A glass column (1 cm i.d.) was filled with 5 g activated silica (150°C for 12 h), sample was loaded and eluted with 10 mL *n*-hexane, followed by 40 mL DCM. The cleaned sample was evaporated under a stream of nitrogen in a TurboVap II apparatus (Biotage, Sweden), transferred into a conical GC vial and spiked with recovery standard, terphenyl, the volume was reduced to 100  $\mu\text{L}$ .

GC-MS analysis of 4-ring PAHs (fluoranthene (FLT), pyrene (PYR), benzo(b)fluorene (BBN), benzo(a)anthracene (BAA), triphenylene (TPH) and chrysene (CHR)) and 2-4 ring NPAHs (1- and 2-nitronaphthalin (1-, 2NNAP), 3- and 5-nitroacenaphthene (3-, 5NACE), 2-nitrofluorene (2NFLN), 9-nitroanthracen (9NANT), 3- and 9-nitrophenanthren (3-, 9NPHE), 2- and 3-nitrofluoranthene (2-, 3NFLT), 1- and 2-nitropyrene (1-, 2NPYR), 7-nitrobenz(a)anthracene (7NBAA), 6-nitrochrysene (6NCHR) was performed using a gas chromatograph atmospheric pressure chemical ionization tandem mass spectrometer (GC-APCI-MS/MS) instrument, Agilent 7890A GC (Agilent, USA), equipped with a 60m  $\times$  0.25mm  $\times$  0.25 $\mu\text{m}$  DB-5MSUI column (Agilent, J&W, USA), coupled to Waters Xevo TQ-S (Waters, UK). Injection was 1  $\mu\text{L}$  splitless at 280°C, with He as carrier gas at constant flow 1.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The GC oven temperature program was as follows: 90°C (1 min), 40°C/min to 150°C, 5°C/min to 250°C (5 min) and 10°C/min to 320°C (5 min). APCI was used in charge transfer conditions. The isomers 2- and 3NFLT were not separated by the GC method, but co-eluted and are reported as sum.

Recovery of native analytes varied 72-102% for PAHs and deuterated PAHs, 70-110% for NPAHs (details see supplementary material (SM), Table S1a). The results were not recovery corrected. The mean of field blank values was subtracted from the sample values. Values below the mean + 3 standard deviations of the field blank values were considered to be

<LOQ. Field blank values of some analytes in air samples were below the instrument limit of quantification (ILOQ), which corresponded to 0.004-0.069 pg m<sup>-3</sup> for NPAHs (except for 1NNAP for which it ranged 0.60-0.87 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) and 0.010-0.126 pg m<sup>-3</sup> for 4-ring PAHs (except for FLT and PYR for which it ranged 0.17-0.59 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) (Table S1).

Higher LOQs were determined for some of the NPAHs and for all 4-ring PAHs in gaseous air samples (PUFs), namely 0.006-0.009 ng (corresponding to 3.5-8.0 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) for 3NACE and 2NPYR, 0.028-0.097 (corresponding to 16-86 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) for 2NNAP, 2NFLT and 1NPYR, and 0.10-0.27 ng (corresponding to ≈60-240 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) for 4-ring PAHs (except for FLT and PYR for which it was 1.71 and 1.05 ng, respectively, corresponding to ≈600-1500 pg m<sup>-3</sup>). In particulate phase samples, where separate field blanks for the 2 different QFFs were determined (on the impactor stages on one hand side and the backup filter on the other hand side), higher LOQs were determined for some of the NPAHs and for all 4-ring PAHs, namely 0.008-0.089 ng (corresponding to 4.6-79 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) for 2NNAP, 2NFLT, 1NPYR and 2NPYR, 0.26-0.31 ng (corresponding to 150-274 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) for 9NANT, and 0.05-0.22 ng (corresponding to ≈30-200 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) for 4-ring PAHs (except for FLT and PYR for which it was 0.79 and 0.36 ng, respectively, corresponding to ≈200-700 pg m<sup>-3</sup>).

The breakthrough in PUF samples was estimated (Pankow, 1989; ACD, 2015; Melymuk et al., 2016), and as a consequence, 2-3 ring PAHs and 2-ring NPAHs results were excluded from this study as their sampling may have been incomplete. We, therefore, report  $\Sigma_6$  4rPAH and  $\Sigma_{11}$  3-4rNPAH.

Particulate matter mass (PM<sub>10</sub>) was determined by gravimetry (microbalance, filters accommodated to stable temperature and humidity, 3 replicate weighings), and organic matter (OM) and elemental carbon (EC) contents of PM by a thermal-optical method (Sunset Lab., USA; EUSAAR protocol).

### 2.3 Gas-particle partitioning

Gas-particle partitioning was studied by applying a multiphase ppLFER model, which was recently introduced (Shahpoury et al., 2016). In brief, partitioning of semivolatile compounds in air can be described (Yamasaki et al., 1982), by

$$(1) \quad K_p = c_{ip} / (c_{ig} \times c_{PM})$$

where  $K_p$  ( $\text{m}^3 \text{air} (\text{g PM})^{-1}$ ) is the temperature dependent partitioning coefficient,  $c_{\text{PM}}$  ( $\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) is the concentration of particulate matter in air,  $c_{\text{ip}}$  and  $c_{\text{ig}}$  are the analyte (i) concentrations ( $\text{ng m}^{-3}$ ) in the particulate and gas phase, respectively.  $K_p$  can be predicted using models based on single- and poly-parameter linear free energy relationships (spLFER, ppLFER). spLFER's relate the partitioning coefficient to one physic-chemical property i.e., assume one process to determine the sorption process, while ppLFER's in principle account for all types of molecular interactions between solute and matrix (Goss and Schwarzenbach, 2001). The observed particulate mass fraction data,  $\theta = c_p / (c_g + c_p)$  (Table 2), were tested with both a spLFER and a ppLFER model. The spLFER chosen is the widely used  $K_{\text{oa}}$  model of Finizio et al., 1997 (results presented in the Supplementary material (SM), S2.3). The ppLFER is a multi-phase model recently presented (Shahpoury et al., 2016) and applied for NPAHs (Tomaz et al., 2016). It is based on linear solvation energy relationships (Abraham, 1993; Goss, 2005):

$$(2) \quad \log K_p = eE + sS + aA + bB + lL + c$$

$$(3) \quad \log K_p = sS + aA + bB + vV + lL + c$$

where capital letters E, S, A, B, L, and V are solute-specific Abraham solvation parameters for excess molar refraction (describes interactions between  $\pi$ - and lone (n-) electron pairs), polarizability/ dipolarity, solute H-bond acidity, solute H-bond basicity, logarithm of solute hexadecane-air partitioning coefficient (unitless), and McGowan molar volume ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1}$ )/100, respectively (Endo and Goss, 2014). The corresponding parameters e, s, a, b, l, and v reflect matrix-specific solute-independent contribution to  $K_p$ . In lack of experimental data, the solute descriptors for NPAHs were taken from M.H. Abraham (personal communication). The multi-phase ppLFER considers adsorption onto soot,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ , and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , and absorption into particulate organic matter (OM). OM is assumed to be constituted of two separate phases, low to mid molecular mass, both organic soluble and water soluble OM. For these, ppLFER equations for dimethyl sulfoxide-air (representing the low molecular mass range) and for polyurethane ether-air (representing the high molecular mass OM) are used, respectively (Shahpoury et al., 2016).

A conventional single-parameter LFER ( $K_{\text{oa}}$ ) model is applied, too.



## 2.4 Air mass history analysis

The HYSPLIT (Draxler and Rolph, 2003) and FLEXPART (Stohl et al., 1998, 2005) models were used to identify air mass histories over 10 and 2 days, respectively. The possible influence of polluted air on samples was quantified using a novel method of applying Lagrangian particle statistics (FLEXPART, see SM, S2.2). To this end, for the entire sampling period, one particle per second was released. The model output is generated at  $0.062^\circ$  ( $\approx 7$  km), every 30 minutes and expressed as 'residence time' i.e., a measure of the time particles resided in grid cells. ECMWF meteorological data ( $0.125^\circ \times 0.125^\circ$  resolution, hourly) were used as input.

## 2.5 Quantification of urban influence on samples

The potential urban influence for individual samples collected at the marine site was based on the fraction of released Lagrangian particles which travelled through an urban boundary layer. A backward run from the sampling site was performed with Lagrangian particles (i.e. air parcels) being released during the entire sampling period. Three urban areas were considered, i.e. Izmir ( $\approx 300$  km direct distance,  $38.2$ - $38.8^\circ\text{N}/26.2$ - $27.3^\circ\text{E}$ ), Athens ( $\approx 300$  km,  $37.8$ - $38.1^\circ\text{N}/23.5$ - $23.8^\circ\text{E}$ ) and Istanbul ( $\approx 500$  km away,  $40.8$ - $41.1^\circ\text{N}/28.6$ - $29.5^\circ\text{E}$ ).

The urban fractional dose,  $D_{ui}$ , an air mass collected in sample  $i$  had received for a given simulation period  $\Delta t$  can be derived as:

$$(4) \quad D_{ui} = \sum_t N_{blua}(t) \times \Delta t_{Rblua} / (N_{tot}(t) \times \Delta t_i)$$

with  $N_{blua}(t)$  = number of virtual particles within the urban boundary layer during the specific time step, model output time resolution  $\Delta t_{Rblua} = 0.5$  h, and  $N_{tot}(t)$  = number of virtual particles present during the specific time step. Under the given flow conditions in the region, a 2-day time horizon is considered here. Hence, the simulation period is given as:

$$(5) \quad \Delta t_i = \Delta t_{sample} + 48\text{h}$$

with  $\Delta t_{\text{sample}}$  being the sampling time.  $D_{u\ i}$  takes values between 0 and 1, corresponding to none or all, respectively, of the entire sample air having crossed the urban boundary layer. The  $D_u$  time series with allocation to 3 urban areas is shown in the SM, Fig. S3.

The comparison of urban influence in samples of various sample volume,  $V$ , requires normalisation to  $V$ , a relative dose (equ. (5), with  $n$  = total number of samples collected). Values of  $D_{ru\ i}$  may exceed 1.

$$(6) \quad D_{ru\ i} = [\sum_n V_n / (n V_i)] \times D_{u\ i}$$

The urban fractional dose,  $D_{u\ i}$ , accuracy is limited by the meteorological input data (here  $0.125^\circ \times 0.125^\circ$  resolution, hourly) and boundary layer depth calculation. In the FLEXPART model, the latter is done according to Voegelezang and Holtslag, 1996.

### 3. Results and discussion

The NPAH levels are distinctly lower at the marine than at the continental site,  $\sum_{11\ 3-4r} \text{NPAH} = 22.5$  and  $58.5\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , respectively (Table 1). The NPAHs showing the highest concentrations were 2NFLT and 3NPHE at the marine (Fig. 1b) and 9NANT and 2NFLT at the continental site (Fig. 1d, Table 2). The substance patterns (composition of NPAH mixture) at both sites are similar, though ( $R^2 = 0.76$ ,  $P > 0.99$ , t-test). At the marine site, advection was northerly, with air masses originating (time horizon 10 days) in eastern and central Europe and, towards the end of the campaign, in the western Mediterranean. The site was placed into the southeastern outflow of Europe.  $\text{NO}_x$  (0.2-0.6 ppbv), EC (0.2-0.8  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  (18.3-39.3  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) reflect background conditions. Air mass history analysis suggests that the somewhat elevated concentration in the first sample collected at the marine site (Fig. 1a) is related to long-range transport influenced by passage over the urban areas of Izmir and Istanbul (urban fractional dose  $D_u = 5.0\%$ , in contrast to the mean which was  $1.6\%$ ; Fig. S3). Overall, urban fractional dose in the range  $<0.002$ – $5.4\%$  was received at the marine site. Across all samples at the marine site,  $D_u$  is found to be significantly correlated with the pollutant sum concentrations  $\sum_{6\ 4r} \text{PAH}$  and  $\sum_{11\ 3-4r} \text{NPAH}$  ( $R^2 = 0.61$  and  $0.69$ , respectively, both  $P > 0.99$ ).

From the marine site data set, subsets of each two samples are formed, representing minimum (i.e., almost no influence from industrialised area 48 hours prior to arrival (hereforth called

285 'marine background', urban fractional dose  $D_u = 0.4\%$ ) and maximum observed influence  
 286 (hereforth called 'background with urban influence',  $D_u = 3.1\%$ ; SM Table S2, Figure S3).  
 287 The results for these subsets are listed in Tables 1-3. Such classification was not deemed  
 288 meaningful for the samples collected at the continental site, as the relevant source distribution  
 289 in central Europe was too homogeneous during this episode. Advection was mostly from  
 290 northwest and partly from easterly directions, with air mass origin (time horizon of 10 days)  
 291 mostly in central Europe and, to a lesser extent in eastern Europe and the western Balkans.  
 292 The  $\text{NO}_2$  (1.2-2.6 ppbv), total carbon ( $3\text{-}6\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  ( $10.7\text{-}46.3\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) levels during  
 293 the campaign reflect continental background conditions.  
 294 The 4-ring PAH concentrations in samples from the continental site on the one hand, and in  
 295 background air with urban influence collected at the marine site (urban areas 300-500 km  
 296 away) on the other hand, are similar (Table 2). Also, the substance patterns are more similar  
 297 than when relating all samples at the marine site i.e.,  $R^2 = 0.88$  ( $P > 0.999$ , t-test) instead of  $R^2$   
 298  $= 0.76$ . The investigation of the diffusive air-surface exchange processes during the  
 299 measurements presented here showed that 4rPAHs were in fact influenced by secondary  
 300 emissions, namely throughout day and night from the soil at the continental site (by average  
 301  $16.3$  and  $9.3\ \text{pg m}^{-2}\ \text{h}^{-1}$  for FLT and PYR, respectively; Degrendele et al., 2016) or  
 302 occasionally from surface seawater at the marine site (during at least 1 day-time interval out of  
 303 in total 3 of this data subset; Lammel et al., 2016). In the data set from the continental site, we  
 304 study day/night (D/N) effects (subsets listed in Tables 1-3, too): PAH concentrations ( $c_{\text{tot}}$ )  
 305 were  $\approx 60\%$  higher during the day than during the night, while  $c_{\text{tot}}$  of NPAH were by average  
 306  $\approx 5\%$  lower during the day (Table 2). NPAHs are subject to photolysis, while PAHs are not. At  
 307 the site, the PAH concentrations were driven by re-volatilisation from soil, determined by  
 308 temperature variation (Degrendele et al., 2016). For NPAHs (partly primary emitted) this  
 309 indicates that the higher emissions during the day (due to re-volatilisation and road traffic)  
 310 were compensated by shorter lifetime. NPAH lifetimes may be limited by heterogeneous  
 311 photolysis, but available kinetic data are scarce and limited to few aerosol types (Fan et al.,  
 312 1996; Feilberg and Nielsen, 2000, 2001; García-Berríos et al., 2017). Also, different  
 313 NPAH/PAH ratios (the potential NPAH yields), which were 5.6% and 8.9% at the marine and  
 314 continental sites, respectively, reflect the combination of emission sources and photochemical  
 315 sinks. The NPAH/PAH ratios at the two sites were influenced by similar substance patterns  
 316 upon emission, similar irradiation (summer, no or almost no clouds) and deposition velocities  
 317 ( $\theta$  in the range 0.05-0.20 for  $\Sigma_{11}\ 3\text{-}4\text{rNPAH}$  and  $\Sigma_6\ 4\text{rPAH}$ , no precipitation), but different re-

volatilisation fluxes and different characteristic transport times elapsed. ~~The d~~Distance to major urban source areas was 300- >1000 km at the marine and 100-500 km at the continental site. The NPAH/PAH ratios being lower at the more distant receptor site, the marine site, may suggest that photochemical degradation of NPAHs along transport was on average faster than degradation of the precursors. xxx

The NPAH levels observed in marine background air are the lowest ever reported. Remarkably, the concentrations are much lower, by more than one order of magnitude, than one decade before at the same site during the same season (Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2007). The concentrations observed now are a factor of 4-10 lower than in a forest site in Amazonia two decades before (which might have been influenced by biomass burning emissions), a factor of 3 lower (for 2NPYR) than observed at an extremely remote site in the Himalayas two decades before (Ciccioli et al., 1996), and comparable to a high altitude site in the Alps (with the exception of 2NPYR which was observed one order of magnitude higher there in winter; Albinet et al., 2008a; Table 3). The NPAH levels observed at the marine site with influence of pollution and at the continental site are comparable, but also at the lower end of the range spanned by previous observations at rural and remote sites (Table 3).

### **Gas-particle partitioning**

The time-weighted mean NPAH phase distributions ( $\Sigma_{11}3-4rNPAH$ ) differ, corresponding to  $\theta = 0.05$  and  $0.17$  at the marine and continental sites, respectively, – despite similar temperatures (Table 1). In contrast and despite of similar temperature ranges, the 4-ring PAHs' ( $\Sigma_6 4rPAH$ ) particulate mass fraction was higher at the marine than at the continental site ( $\theta = 0.42$  and  $0.20$ , respectively). Both 4-ring PAHs and 3-4 ring NPAHs were more associated with PM in polluted air than in clean air. This trend is weak for PAHs with  $\theta = 0.02$  for  $\Sigma_6 4rPAH$  in marine background but  $0.07$  in background with urban influence (and  $\theta = 0.09$  and  $0.20$  for CHR; Table 2), but is obviously strong for NPAHs, namely  $\theta = 0.19$  for 2NPYR in marine background but  $0.69$  in background with urban influence,  $\approx 0.93$  in polluted continental air, and  $\theta = 0.01$  for  $\Sigma_{11}3-4rNPAH$  in marine background but  $0.22$  in background with urban influence (Table 2). The urban influenced air at the marine site is also reflected in a much higher OC (a factor of 3 higher than the all-campaign mean) and elevated EC, (less prominent,  $\approx 50\%$  above mean). This confirms the understanding that gas-particle partitioning

of both PAHs (Lohmann and Lammel, 2004; Shahpoury et al., 2016) and NPAHs (Tomaz et al., 2016) is mostly determined by absorption in POM and adsorption to soot. When comparing polluted air at the continental site and background with urban influence at the marine site, a strong shift of  $\Sigma_6 4rPAH$  towards the particulate phase,  $\theta \approx 0.21$  vs. 0.07, respectively, is found, while for  $\Sigma_{11} 3-4rNPAH$   $\theta$  are similar i.e.,  $\approx 0.16$  vs. 0.22, respectively. This phase partitioning trend of the 4rPAHs could be explained by sorption to EC, which is a factor of  $\approx 2$  higher, but not by OC (only  $\approx 20\%$  higher). In conclusion, these observations consistently indicate that sorption to soot is less significant for gas-particle partitioning of NPAHs than for PAHs.

While NPAHs were significantly phase-shifted ( $\theta = 0.24$  during day-time but  $\theta = 0.58$  during night-time), this was not the case for 4rPAHs ( $\theta = 0.18$  during day-time and  $\theta = 0.23$  during night-time). This is in line with the perception that the temperature sensitivity of phase change is stronger for the substance class with stronger molecular interactions in the condensed phase, NPAHs. E.g., the enthalpies of phase change between air and OC of FLT and NFLT are  $-98$  and  $-75 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , respectively (OC represented by DMSO; ACD, 2015).

Good agreement is found for the prediction of NPAH partitioning using the multi-phase (3-phase) ppLFER with most values predicted within one order of magnitude of the observed values (Fig. 2; quantification of deviations in S2.3.1). While the sensitivity of assumptions regarding PM phase composition, made in the model do not contribute significantly to the deviations ( $\ll 1$ , log  $K_p$  units), a significant part can be attributed to the usage of estimated solute-specific Abraham solvation parameters (taken from ACD, 2015), in lack of experimentally based descriptors. E.g., for an urban site (Tomaz et al., 2016) it was found that experimentally based descriptors used for 9NPAH lead to better predictions than the estimated descriptors i.e., RMSEs differed by 0.43 log units. The agreement of the ppLFER prediction is better than assuming absorption (into OM) to be the only relevant process ( $K_{oa}$  model; see S2.3.2, Fig. S5). The same was found when studying gas-particle partitioning of NPAHs in urban air (Tomaz et al., 2016). This supports the perception that gas-particle partitioning of NPAHs is governed by various molecular interactions with OM, with its polarity being well represented by DMSO, better than by octanol. Earlier, it had been found for eight 3-4rNPAHs at urban and rural sites (Li et al., 2016) that the dual model, assuming adsorption (to soot) and absorption (into OM) predicts better than single adsorption (to the total aerosol surface i.e., Junge-Pankow) or single absorption ( $K_{oa}$ ) models do.

The interactions with the aerosol matrix of 9NPHE (continental site) and 5NACE, 2NFLN, 2NFLT and 1NPYR (marine site) are less well represented than other NPAHs by the model as suggested by low slopes of their  $\log K_p \text{ experimental} / \log K_p \text{ predicted}$  relationships. The reason is unknown. Moreover, sampling or sample handling artefacts cannot be excluded, even so same temperature range, sampler and sampling protocols applied across sites with both satisfactory and deficient agreement between predicted and observed  $K_p$ . Further conclusions are not supported by the limited amount of data and uncertainties on both the model (estimated ppLFER parameters) and experimental (concentrations close to LOQ) sides.

### Mass size distribution

The NPAH mass size distribution had its maximum in the  $<0.49 \mu\text{m}$  size range at both sites. The 4-ring PAHs mass size distribution had 2 maxima,  $<0.49 \mu\text{m}$  and between  $0.95$  and  $1.5 \mu\text{m}$ , at the marine site, but one at  $<0.49 \mu\text{m}$  at the continental site (Table 1). This is probably related to the presence of aged aerosol at the marine site vs. a larger contribution of fresh aerosols at the continental site. This is, furthermore, supported by the analysis of air mass origins that shows significant influence of urban areas for only few samples at the marine and for all samples at the continental site (SM S2).

Sums of NPAHs' and PAHs' mass size distributions are found unimodal with the maximum in particles  $<0.49\mu\text{m}$ , except PAHs at the marine site, which shows a second maximum between  $1.5$  and  $3.0 \mu\text{m}$  (Fig. 3). At the marine site, 50 and 69% of 1NPYR and 2NFLT, respectively, were found associated with particles  $<0.45\mu\text{m}$  and 68 and 86%, respectively, with particles  $<0.95 \mu\text{m}$ , and even more, 83% and 100%, respectively, with particles  $<0.45\mu\text{m}$  at the continental site.

$\Sigma_6$  4rPAH mass size distributions are shifted to larger particles in background with urban influence as compared to marine background air (both collected at the marine site) i.e., MMD = 0.19 and 0.28, respectively. However, such a trend is not apparent for NPAHs (Table 2). The size shift of PAHs is not corresponding to the  $\text{PM}_{10}$  mass size distribution: The MMD of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  for all samples collected at the marine site was  $0.58 \mu\text{m}$ , while it was  $1.13$  and  $0.62 \mu\text{m}$  in the marine background and background with urban influence data subsets, respectively. The  $\text{PM}_{10}$  as well as the OC mass size distributions were bimodal with maxima corresponding to  $< 0.49 \mu\text{m}$  and  $3.0\text{--}7.2 \mu\text{m}$  particles (MMDs listed in Table 2), while the EC mass size distribution was unimodal, with the maximum concentration in the finest fraction. At the continental site, the  $\Sigma_{11}$  3-4rNPAH mass size distribution was bimodal with maxima corresponding to  $< 0.49$

$\mu\text{m}$  and 7.2-10  $\mu\text{m}$  particles, while the  $\Sigma_6 4\text{rPAH}$  mass size distribution was unimodal, with the maximum concentration in the finest fraction (for all samples as well as for day and night data subsets; Table 1).

The formation of a second maximum, at larger particles than emitted, reflects the redistribution of semivolatile organics in an aged aerosol, hence, is expected at receptor sites such as the marine site. This was also observed in polluted air, at rural and suburban sites, but not at traffic sites or in winter at a rural site, when primary emissions dominated (unimodal; Albinet et al., 2008b; Ringuet et al., 2012b).

#### **Substance patterns and NPAH formation during long-range atmospheric transport**

Among the targeted NPAHs and apart from NNAPs, which were highest concentrated, 2NFLT and 3NPHE prevailed at the marine site (accounting together for  $\approx 60\%$  of the NPAH mass, excluding the NNAPs), while at the continental site 9NANT and 2NFLT prevailed (accounting for  $\approx 65\%$  together) (Fig. 1, summarised in Fig. S4). The analytical method did not separate the isomers 2NFLT and 3NFLT, but at receptor sites, far from diesel emissions it appears justified to assume  $c_{2\text{NFLT}} \gg c_{3\text{NFLT}}$  (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000; Zimmermann et al., 2012). The ratio 1NPYR/2NPYR is higher,  $\approx 1$ , at the continental site than at the marine site ( $\approx 0.25$ ), which reflects the significance of primary sources for polluted air (Atkinson and Arey, 1994; Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000; Zimmermann et al., 2012). This ratio was found similarly high or even higher at urban sites (Ringuet et al., 2012c; Tomaz et al., 2016). Similarly, the ratio 2NFLT/1NPYR, the concentration of a secondarily formed over a primary emitted NPAH, has been used as indicator for fresh emissions (if  $< 5$ ) vs. photochemically aged air mass (Keyte et al., 2013). These values were  $\gg 5$  in 21 out of 22 and 7 out of 8 samples at the marine and continental sites, respectively. The only sample collected at the continental site with elevated primary NPAH (2NFLT/1NPYR = 4.3) was possibly influenced by emissions from Budapest, which was passed by the advected air within the last hours before arrival. The only sample collected at the marine site with elevated primary NPAH (2NFLT/1NPYR = 5.9) was indeed directly influenced by emissions into the boundary layer above the Izmir and Istanbul metropolitan areas (urban fractional dose  $D_u = 5.0\%$  for samples no. 1 and 2 in Fig. S3). In conclusion, these results from receptor / background sites confirm the existing knowledge about primary emitted and secondarily formed NPAHs.

The ratio of two secondarily formed NPAHs, 2NFLT/2NPYR, indicative for day- vs. night-time formation paths (Atkinson and Arey, 1994; Ciccioli et al., 1996), is found  $\approx 2$  at the

448 marine and  $\approx 8$  at the continental site (normalised to the precursor ratio i.e.,  
 449 2NFLT/2NPYR/(FLT/PYR); Table 4). Such low values point to day-time (OH initiated)  
 450 formation, while night-time ( $\text{NO}_3$  initiated) formation was negligible, practically excluded at  
 451 the marine site. This is in line with the perception that  $\text{NO}_3$  must have been very low in this  
 452 remote environment. ( $\text{NO}_x$  levels at the marine site were in the range 0.2-0.6 ppbv). A similar  
 453 conclusion had been drawn in a semi-rural environment (Feilberg et al., 2001).  
 454 For 2NFLT and 2NPYR (secondary sources only) and for 1NPYR, which has mostly primary  
 455 sources (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000; Ringuet et al., 2012a; Jariyasopit et al., 2014a,  
 456 2014b) we infer the potential yields (Table 4). Here, yield is defined as  $c_{\text{NPAH}}/c_{\text{PAH}}$  (total  
 457 concentrations). This yield is called ‘potential’ as it reflects an upper estimate, as other PAH  
 458 photochemical sinks, such as formation of oxy-PAHs, are neglected. The yield of 2NFLT in  
 459 polluted air exceeds the one in background air only slightly, while the yield of 2NPYR in  
 460 polluted air exceeds the one in background air much more (a factor of 3 higher).  
 461 As expected, the highest potential yield of 1NPYR is found in polluted air (both sites),  
 462 reflecting the dominance of primary emissions of 1NPYR. Similarly, higher yields of  
 463 secondary NPAHs are found for marine background air compared to background air with  
 464 urban influence (marine site), reflecting the longer reaction times elapsed since PAH  
 465 emission. The yield for 2NFLT,  $c_{2\text{NFLT}}/c_{\text{FLT}}$ ,  $\approx 2\text{-}4\%$  at both sites ranges higher than the one  
 466 for 2NPYR,  $c_{2\text{NPYR}}/c_{\text{PYR}}$ , which is found  $\approx 0.5\text{-}2\%$ . Note that because of the co-elution of  
 467 2NFLT and 3NFLT, and neglect of 3NFLT, the so derived values of  $c_{2\text{NFLT}}/c_{\text{FLT}}$  represent  
 468 actually upper estimates. Apart from sites which were immediately influenced by PAH sources  
 469 (road traffic, power plant, biomass burning), only very few studies reported NPAH together  
 470 with precursor data in both phases of ambient air.  $c_{2\text{NPYR}}/c_{\text{PYR}} = 1.0\%$ , similar to our finding at  
 471 remote sites, but a very high  $c_{2\text{NFLT}}/c_{\text{FLT}} = 12.9\%$  were reported from a suburban site in France  
 472 in summer during day-time (corresponding values for night-time were 2.0 and 9.4%,  
 473 respectively; Ringuet et al., 2012c). 2NFLT was not separated from 3NFLT (similar to our  
 474 data set). A suburban site will be influenced by direct 3NFLT emissions, such that  $c_{2\text{NFLT}}/c_{\text{FLT}}$   
 475 is an upper estimate. Much lower ratios,  $c_{2\text{NFLT}}/c_{\text{FLT}} = 0.20\%$  and  $c_{2\text{NPYR}}/c_{\text{PYR}} = 0.08\%$  were  
 476 reported as the median values for 90 sites of various categories, rural and urban, in northern  
 477 China in summer (Lin et al., 2015). These yields are somewhat higher for the subset of the  
 478 rural sites. The potential yields found at the marine site in our study are close to the yields for  
 479 OH-initiated photochemistry observed in laboratory experiments under high  $\text{NO}_x$  conditions  
 480 i.e., 3% for  $c_{2\text{NFLT}}/c_{\text{FLT}}$  and 0.5% for  $c_{2\text{NPYR}}/c_{\text{PYR}}$  (Atkinson and Arey, 1994).



#### 4. Conclusions

For the first time pollution contained in individual background air samples was quantified, by means of a fractional dose. The fractional dose indicated how much the collected volume of air had been exposed to an urban boundary layer within a given time horizon. This is found suitable to discriminate among samples and discuss results, clearly beyond qualitative reasoning on back trajectories alone. The concept could be applied to any type of georeferenced origin and might be useful to track the influence of land use of various kind, or ship and aircraft routes.

Our measurements confirmed the occurrence of mutagenic NPAHs, earlier reported from polluted atmospheric environments of America, Europe and Asia, also for the European background atmosphere and the outflow of Europe. These substances are obviously subject to intercontinental transport and might indeed be distributed ubiquitously. ~~These substances obviously go into intercontinental transport and might be indeed ubiquitous.~~ The mass size distribution is determined by the particle size upon emission (primary NPAHs) and condensation and redistribution in the aerosol along transport, hence, does not include the short-lived coarse mass fraction. This indicates a high long-range transport potential. However, the observation of 3.8 and 0.92 pg m<sup>-3</sup> of 2NFLT and 2NPYR, respectively, measured at the southeastern outflow of Europe (the lowest ever reported concentrations; Table 3), may indicate that their abundance in the remote global environment could be less than anticipated. Earlier, this was based on a single measurement of 2NPYR, 3 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, at an extremely remote site in central Asia two decades before (Ciccioli et al., 1996). Moreover, this air, classified as marine background, was not completely clean, but had been exposed to a non-zero fractional urban pollution dose (0.4% of the total, time horizon of 2 days). More measurements at remote sites should verify NPAH levels globally. PAHs have been abated significantly in Europe during the last decades (EEA, 2014), which should also be reflected in long-term trends of their derivatives. However, a temporal trend for the Aegean or the southeastern outflow of Europe in summer cannot be inferred based on the current and the earlier (2002; Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2007) campaign data. NPAHs should be included in monitoring programmes to better assess the exposure of human health hazards of atmospheric pollution, even in remote areas.

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Our understanding of NPAH formation in ambient air is still rudimentary. ~~Although our observations of a potential NPAH yield are in agreement with laboratory studies of OH-initiated photochemistry~~Both, the kinetics of NPAHs, both formation from parent PAHs and photolysis remains to be quantitatively studied under relevant conditions ~~of~~for the background atmosphere i.e., low NO<sub>x</sub> and on various aerosol matrices, including sea salt, ~~respectively~~. More studies into NPAH atmospheric fate, both field observations and kinetic data, are needed in order to assess and quantify spatial and temporal trends, the long-range transport potential and persistence.

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723 Table 1. Overview time weighted mean concentrations in the particulate and gas phases, and  
724 ambient temperature. Data subsets (B = background, P = polluted, D = day mean, N = night  
725 mean) and mass size distribution (<0.45/0.45-0.95/0.95-1.5/1.5-3.0/3.0-7.2/7.2-10  $\mu\text{m}$   
726 aerodynamic equivalent diameter) in brackets.

Site	Phase	$\Sigma_{11} 3\text{-}4\text{rNPAH}$ ( $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ )	$\Sigma_6 4\text{rPAH}$ ( $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ )
Marine	particulate (n = 8)	4.1 (3.5/0.6/0.2/0.03/0.03/0.00) (B: 0.2/P: 8.7)	43 (28/8.1/1.2/6.2/4.3/1.7) (B: 7.9/P: 42.4)
	gas (n = 21)	18.4 (B: 13.2/P:31.1)	403 (B:321/P:580)
	T( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	25.6 (B: 27.1/P: 22.0)	
Continental	particulate (n = 22)	24.3 (20.5/2.9/0.7/0.04/0.06/0.15) (D:13.9/N:34.6)	129 (87/28/12/0.6/0.0/0.0) (D:146/N:116)
	gas (n = 22)	34.2 (D:42.9/N:25.5)	517 (D:649/N:384)
	T( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	23.1 (D:28.8/N:17.5)	

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729 Table 3. Comparison of total (g + p) concentrations in air,  $c_{\text{tot}}$  (pg/m<sup>3</sup>), with other  
730 measurements at remote and rural sites

	1NPYR (pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2NFLT (pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2NPYR (pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	References
background CEu summer 2013	1.1	15 <sup>a</sup>	1.3	this work (continental)
E Mediterranean summer 2012	0.74	8.6 <sup>a</sup>	2.5	this work (marine)
E Mediterranean clean summer 2012	0.21	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	0.92	this work (marine background <sup>b</sup> )
E Mediterranean clean summer 2002	-	29	21	Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2007
Ross Sea coast, Antarctica	<0.02 <sup>c</sup>	<0.03 <sup>c</sup>		Vincenti et al., 2001
Himalayas, Nepal 1991	-	-	3	Ciccioli et al., 1996
Forest Amazonia 1993	2	15	8	
Rural Northern Germany 1991	-	-	3	
Rural Denmark winter-spring 1982	9±5 <sup>c</sup>	-	-	Nielsen et al., 1984
Semi-rural Denmark all year 1998-99	40	97	6.3	Feilberg et al., 2001
Remote Alps 2002	2.2	-	-	Schauer et al., 2004
Rural Alps 2002	6.6	-	-	
Rural Alps <sup>d</sup> winter 2002-03	21	96 <sup>a</sup>	81	Albinet et al., 2008a
Rural Alps <sup>d</sup> summer 2003	4.2	28 <sup>a</sup>	5.7	
Remote Alps <sup>e</sup> winter 2002-03	2.4	1.3 <sup>a</sup>	14.8	
Remote Alps <sup>e</sup> summer 2003	0.6	1.8 <sup>a</sup>	0.7	
Rural Southern France 2004	0.6	2.6 <sup>a</sup>	1.6	Albinet et al., 2007

731 <sup>a</sup> co-eluted with 3NFLT, assuming  $c_{\text{3NFLT}} = 0$

732 <sup>b</sup> samples No. 9, 10, 19 and 22 in Fig. S3

733 <sup>c</sup> particulate phase concentration only

734 <sup>d</sup> Val de Maurienne sites (Albinet et al., 2008a)

735 <sup>e</sup> Plan de l'Aiguille site (Albinet et al., 2008a)

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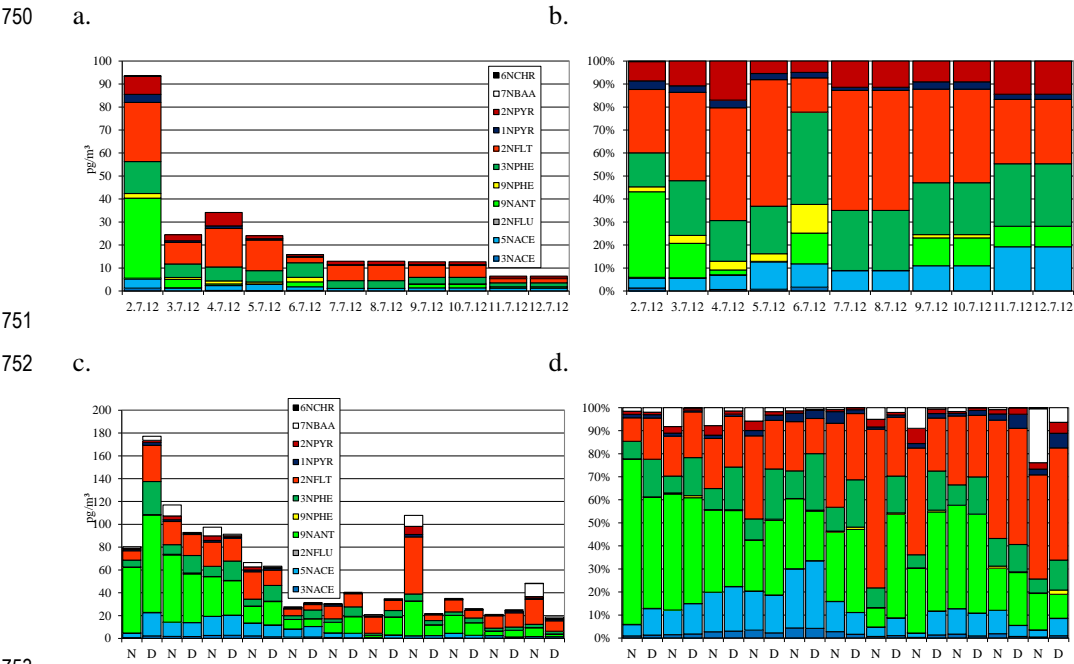
Table 4: Selected 4-ring PAHs and primary and secondary 3-4 ring NPAH total (g + p) time-weighted mean concentrations  $\pm\sigma$  ( $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ ). Potential yields,  $c_{\text{NPAH}}/c_{\text{PAH}}$ , in brackets.  $\sigma$  given for  $n > 2$ .

Site		Marine			Continental
Data subset		all ( $n = 8^a$ )	marine background ( $n = 2^b$ )	background with urban influence ( $n = 2^c$ )	all ( $n = 22$ )
Primary	FLT	213 $\pm$ 161	161	259	342 $\pm$ 215
	PYR	146 $\pm$ 130	103	188	226 $\pm$ 131
Primary and secondary (potential yield)	2NFLN <sup>d</sup>	0.038 $\pm$ 0.12	<0.18	0.15	0.034 $\pm$ 0.044
	1NPYR	0.62 $\pm$ 1.1 (0.4 $\pm$ 0.2%)	0.21 (0.2%)	1.4 (0.7%)	1.1 $\pm$ 0.6 (0.6 $\pm$ 0.3%)
Secondary (yield)	2NFLT <sup>e</sup>	7.7 $\pm$ 8.5 (3.6 $\pm$ 2.0%)	1.68 (1.0%)	11.0 (4.2%)	15 $\pm$ 10 (6.5 $\pm$ 7.5%)
	2NPYR	2.2 $\pm$ 2.6 (1.5 $\pm$ 0.7%)	0.92 (0.9%)	3.3 (1.8%)	1.3 $\pm$ 1.7 (0.74 $\pm$ 1.09%)

<sup>a</sup> 8 filter and 21 PUF samples  
<sup>b</sup> 2 filter and 6 PUF samples i.e., No. 9-10 and 19-22 in Fig. S3 (urban fractional dose  $D_u = 0.4\%$ )  
<sup>c</sup> 2 filter and 5 PUF sample i.e., No. 1-2 and 15-18 in Fig. S3 ( $D_u = 3.1\%$ )  
<sup>d</sup> no yield given as  $c_{\text{FLN}}$  not quantified  
<sup>e</sup> co-eluted with 3NFLT, assuming  $c_{3\text{NFLT}} = 0$



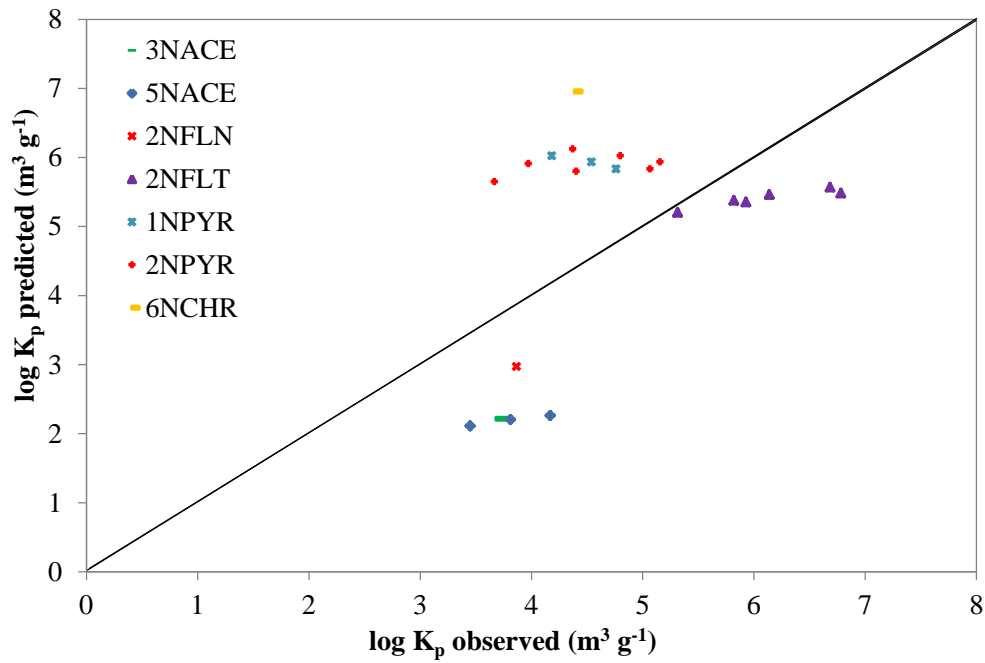
Fig. 1: Time series of absolute (a, c;  $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ ) and relative (b, d) total (gas + particulate) NPAH concentrations at the (a, b) marine (24 h means shown <sup>a</sup>) and (c, d) continental site (day / night means)



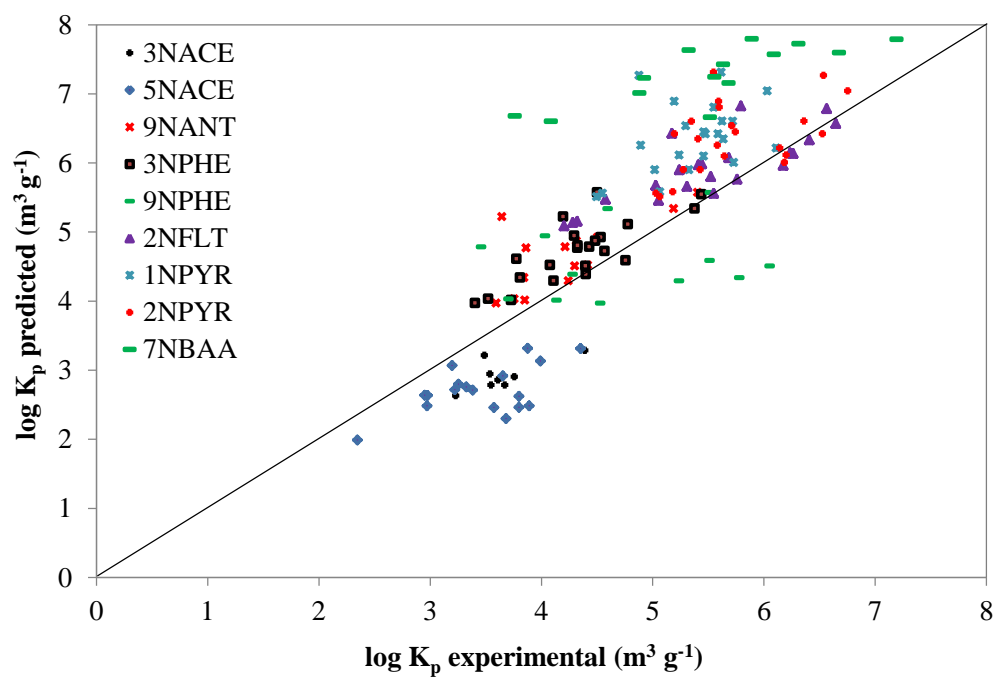
<sup>a</sup> gas-phase (PUF) sampled day / night, particulate phase (filter) sampled 1-4 subsequent days / nights, 4 during the period 7.-12.7.12

757 Fig. 2: Predicted versus experimental log K<sub>p</sub> (m<sup>3</sup> air g<sup>-1</sup> PM) for NPAHs using the multi-phase  
758 ppLFER model at the (a) marine and (b) continental site

759 a.

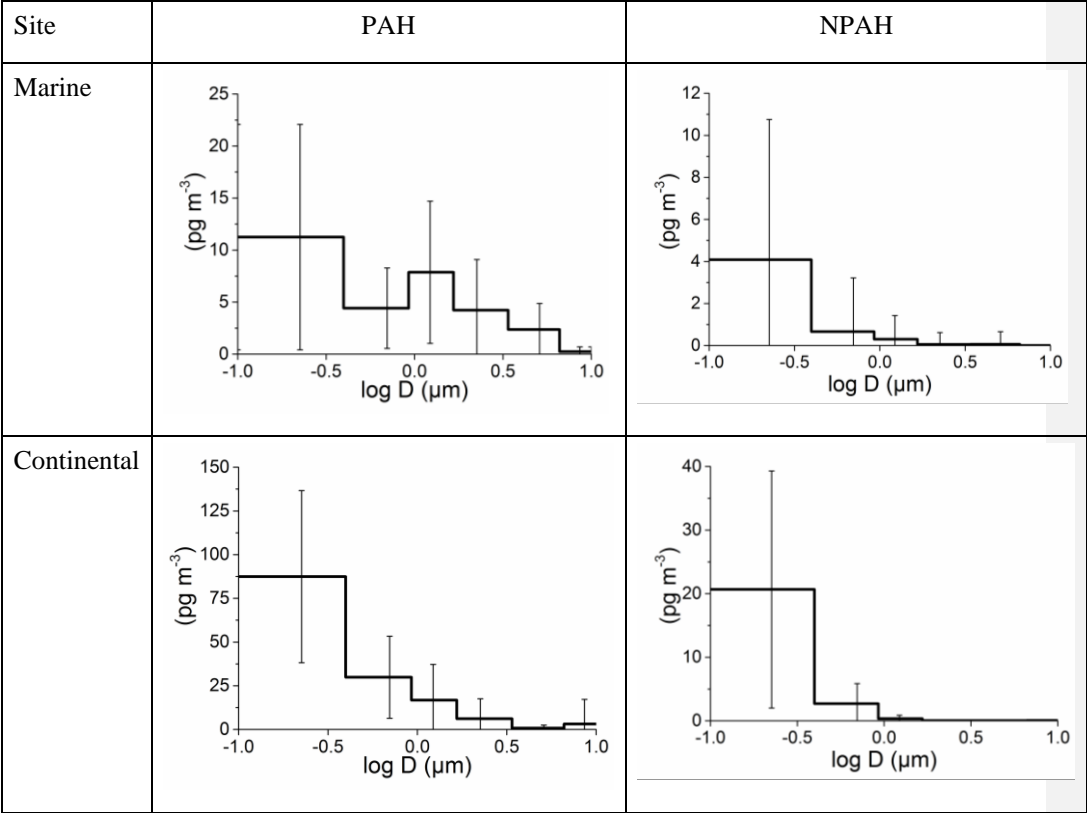


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761 b.



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765 Fig. 3. Time-weighted mean  $\Sigma_6$  4rPAH and  $\Sigma_{11}$  3-4rNPAH mass size distributions ( $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ ) at  
 766 the marine and continental sites. The error bars show the standard deviation from the  
 767 campaign mean.



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Table 2. Total (g + p) time-weighted concentrations,  $c_{\text{tot}}$  ( $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ ), particulate mass fraction,  $\theta = c_p / c_{\text{tot}}$ , and mass median diameter (MMD,  $\mu\text{m}$ ), of of 2-4-ring NPAHs and 4-ring PAHs at the marine (as ‘mean (background mean/ urban influence mean)’,  $n = 8(2^a/2^b)$ ) and continental (as ‘mean (day mean/ night mean)’,  $n = 22(11/11)$ ) sites, together with temperature and supporting aerosol parameters ( $\text{PM}_{10}$  and carbonaceous mass fractions). LOQ = limit of quantification, nd = no data.

	Marine			Continental		
	$c_{\text{tot}}$ ( $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ )	$\theta$	MMD ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$c_{\text{tot}}$ ( $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ )	$\theta$	MMD ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
FLT	226 (161/259)	0.07 (0.03/0.07)	0.58 (0.43/0.52)	342 (432/251)	0.11 (0.11/0.12)	0.062 (0.101/0.034)
PYR	158 (103/188)	0.04 (0.01/0.05)	0.21 (0.022/0.22)	226 (276/176)	0.18 (0.18/0.19)	0.075 (0.105/0.055)
BBN	4.1 (2.0/5.5)	0.01 (nd/0.05)	0.022 (nd/0.022)	15 (16/13)	0.61 (0.58/0.65)	0.079 (0.127/0.053)
BAA	2.8 (<LOQ/3.4)	0.28 (nd/0.29)	0.022 (nd/0.022)	16 (14/18)	0.91 (0.90/0.92)	0.070 (0.090/0.060)
TPH	12 (8.5/14)	0.02 (nd/0.05)	0.022 (nd/0.022)	23 (26/21)	0.51 (0.41/0.63)	0.070 (0.090/0.057)
CHR	23 (10/29)	0.22 (0.09/0.20)	0.15 (0.022/0.15)	41 (44/38)	0.75 (0.71/0.80)	0.074 (0.105/0.055)
$\Sigma_6 4\text{rPAH}$	426 (284/499)	0.07 (0.02/0.07)	0.31 (0.19/0.28)	663 (808/517)	0.21 (0.19/0.25)	0.071 (0.10/0.051)
3NACE	0.21 (0.17/0.39)	0.05 (0.00/0.14)	0.022 (nd/0.022)	1.0(1.0/1.0)	0.05 (0.01/0.11)	0.022 (nd/0.022)
5NACE	1.8 (1.5/2.0)	0.07 (0.00/0.00)	0.022 (nd/nd)	6.8 (7.6/6.0)	0.03 (0.01/0.05)	0.022 (0.022/0.022)
2NFLN	0.01 (<LOQ/0.15)	0.02 (nd/0.00)	1.19 (nd/nd)	0.035 (0.035/0.034)	0.00 (0.00/0.00)	nd
9NPHE	0.73 (0.84/0.55)	0.00 (0.00/0.00)	nd	0.21 (0.28/0.13)	0.36 (0.43/0.20)	0.022 (0.022/nd)

3NPHE	4.8 (3.4/5.0)	0.00 (nd/nd)	nd	7.4 (10.0/4.8)	0.24 (0.15/0.44)	0.109 (0.067/0.116)
9NANT	4.2 (1.1/8.2)	0.00 (0.00/0.00)	nd	22 (22/22)	0.23 (0.14/0.33)	0.022 (0.022/0.022)
2NFLT <sup>c</sup>	8.6 (3.8/11)	0.32 (nd/0.45)	0.040 (nd/0.080)	15 (13/18)	0.78 (0.54/0.95)	0.054 (0.035/0.050)
1NPYR	0.75 (0.21/1.4)	0.33 (0.00/0.58)	0.061 (nd/0.14)	1.1 (1.1/1.2)	0.82 (0.76/0.88)	0.030 (0.031/0.029)
2NPYR	2.5 (0.92/3.3)	0.53 (0.19/0.69)	0.058 (0.060/0.055)	1.3 (0.73/2.0)	0.93 (0.83/0.97)	0.070 (0.040/0.061)
7NBAA	<LOQ	nd	nd	2.5 (0.77/4.2)	0.91 (0.56/0.97)	0.074 (0.038/0.057)
6NCHR	0.02 (<LOQ/0.07)	1.00 (nd/1.00)	2.12 (nd/2.12)	0.01 (<LOQ/0.02)	1.00 (nd/1.00)	0.022 (nd/0.022)
Σ <sub>113</sub> - 4rNPAH	23.7 (11.8/32.0)	0.22 (0.01/0.22)	0.34(0.33/0.34)	58 (56/59)	0.16 (0.13/0.17)	0.039 (0.036/0.040)
PM <sub>10</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	34.9 (21.0/55.5)		0.58 (1.13/0.62)	22.1 (19.5/24.5)		nd
EC (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.11 (0.09/0.17)		0.03(0.05/0.03)	0.31 (0.28/0.33)		0.21(0.19/0.22)
OC (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	1.9 (1.5/3.0)		0.17(0.16/0.15)	3.6 (3.3/3.9)		0.16(0.13/0.18)
T (°C)	25.6 (27.0/22.2)			23.1 (28.8/17.5)		

<sup>a</sup> 2 filter and 4 PUF samples i.e., No. 9, 10, 19 and 22 in Fig. S3

<sup>b</sup> 1 filter and 1 PUF sample i.e., No. 1 and 2 in Fig. S3

<sup>c</sup> co-eluted with 3NFLT, assuming  $c_{3NFLT} = 0$