Water Uptake by Fresh Indonesian Peat Burning Particles is Limited by Water Soluble Organic Matter

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1 **Abstract**

2   The relationship between hygroscopic properties and chemical characteristics of Indonesian

3   biomass burning (BB) particles, which are dominantly generated from peatland fires, was

4   investigated using the humidified tandem differential mobility analyzer. In addition to peat,

5   acacia (a popular species at plantation) and fern (a pioneering species after disturbance by fire)

6   were used for experiments. Fresh Indonesian peat burning particles are almost non-hygroscopic

7   (mean hygroscopicity parameter, $\kappa < 0.06$) due to predominant contribution of water-insoluble

8   organics. The range of κ spans from $\kappa = 0.02-0.04$ (dry diameter = 100 nm, hereinafter) for Riau

9   peat burning particles, while that for Central Kalimantan ranges from $\kappa = 0.05-0.06$. Fern

10   combustion particles are more hygroscopic ($\kappa = 0.08$), whereas the acacia burning particles have

11   a mediate κ value (0.04). These results suggest that κ is significantly dependent on biomass types.

12   This variance in κ is partially determined by fractions of water soluble organic carbon (WSOC),

13   as demonstrated by a correlation analysis ($R = 0.65$). κ of water soluble organic matter is also

14   quantified, incorporating the 1-octanol-water partitioning method. κ values for the water extracts

15   are high, especially for peat burning particles (A_0 (a whole part of water-soluble fraction): $\kappa =$

16   0.18, A_1 (highly water-soluble fraction): $\kappa = 0.30$). This result stresses the importance of both

17   WSOC fraction and κ of water soluble fraction in determining hygroscopicity of organic aerosol

18   particles. Values of κ correlate positively ($R = 0.89$) with fraction of m/z 44 ion signal quantified

19   using a mass spectrometric technique, demonstrating the importance of highly oxygenated

20   organic compounds to the water uptake by Indonesian BB particles. These results provide an

21   experimentally validated reference for hygroscopicity of organics-dominated particles, thus

22   contributing to more accurate estimation of environmental and climatic impacts driven by

23   Indonesian BB particles in both regional and global scales.

1. Introduction

In Southeast Asia, tropical peatland fires, which occur by combustion of both peat and vegetation, have become frequent during the last few decades (van der Werf et al., 2010; Reddington et al., 2014; Marlier et al., 2015; Spracklen et al., 2015; Stockwell et al., 2016). As one of the most important biomass burning types, the peatland fires keep smoldering for months, releasing huge amounts of greenhouse gases and fine particles to the atmosphere, impacting atmospheric radiation (Levine et al., 1999; Page et al., 2002; van der Werf et al., 2010). In addition, the peatland burning particles cause transboundary air pollution, influencing visibility and human health (Kunii et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2004; Marlier et al., 2013; Crippa et al., 2016; Koplitz et al., 2016). These regional and global climate impacts have been commonly evaluated using different models (e.g., large eddy simulation (LES) and global climate models (GCMs)) but with large uncertainties likely due to the inaccurate estimation of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) number concentration and subsequent cloud formation and precipitation processes (Mircea et al., 2005; Rose et al., 2010; Bougiatioti et al., 2016). One of the essential uncertainty contributors to the complex aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions is water uptake properties of peatland burning particles, as water vapor alters aerosol physical and chemical characteristics, such as particle diameter.

Water uptake properties of biomass burning particles, including those emitted from peatlands, have been explored in laboratory through measurements of hygroscopic growth and CCN activity (Chand et al., 2005; Dusek et al., 2005; Day et al., 2006; Petters et al., 2009; Carrico et al., 2010; Dusek et al, 2011). In general, freshly emitted biomass burning particles have been found to be hygroscopic. For instance, the reported range of hygroscopicity parameter, κ, which serves as a metric for water uptake properties, varies from weakly ($\kappa = 0.02$) to highly hygroscopic ($\kappa = 0.80$) (Day et al., 2006; Petters and Kreidenweis, 2008; Petters et al., 2009; Carrico et al., 2010). A field observation of water uptake properties of Indonesian biomass burning plumes also demonstrated that these particles are hygroscopic, with a median hygroscopic growth in light scattering (f(RH)) of 1.65 between 20% and 80% relative humidity (RH) (Gras et al., 1999). On the other hand, freshly emitted Indonesian peat burning particles generated in a laboratory were suggested to be non-hygroscopic with respect to quite a low f(RH) = 1.05 at 90% RH (Chand et al., 2005), and they were almost CCN inactive especially for

particles larger than 150 nm (equivalent to $\kappa = 0.05$ for 100 nm particles, calculated with an assumed surface tension of 0.072 N m^{-1} at 25 °C) (Dusek et al., 2005). The uniqueness of water uptake property of freshly emitted Indonesian peatland burning particles as well as the discrepancy between the previously reported laboratory and field data need to be consistently understood based on their chemical compositions for accurate evaluation on the environmental impacts.

Chemical composition of biomass burning particles, including these from Indonesian peatland fires, is dominated by a complex mixture of organic species (Jimenez et al., 2009; Ng et al., 2010; Cubison et al., 2011; Stockwell et al., 2016). The complexity in chemical composition inhibits understanding their water uptake properties at molecular levels (Asa-Awuku et al., 2008; Psichoudaki and Pandis, 2013; Riipinen et al., 2015). To overcome this difficulty, classification of organic compounds using multiple solvents (Carrico et al., 2008; Polidori et al., 2008; Chen et al., 2016), liquid-liquid extraction using 1-octanol and water (Kuwata and Lee, 2017), and solid phase extraction (Asa-Awuku et al., 2008) has been conducted. Functional group analysis of segregated organic matter has also been demonstrated as a strong tool to characterize complex mixture of organic compounds (Chen et al., 2016). For instance, chemical characteristics of water soluble organic matter (WSOM) have been intensively investigated, revealing that WSOM is predominantly consisted of levoglucosan-like species, carboxylic acids, aldehydes, ketones, aliphatic alcohols, and polyacids (Decesari et al., 2000; Peng et al., 2001; Suzuki et al., 2001; Mayol-Bracero et al., 2002; Chan et al., 2005; Psichoudaki and Pandis, 2013). Recently, the important roles of functional groups on water uptake properties were also investigated by both theoretical and experimental approaches (Suda et al., 2014; Petters et al., 2016).

In this study, hygroscopic growth of Indonesian peatland burning particles was investigated in a series of laboratory experiments to understand the relationships between water uptake properties and chemical characteristics. Hygroscopic growth of various types of fresh peat burning particles, along with those originating from combustion of peatland dried plants, was measured using the humidified tandem differential mobility analyzer (HTDMA) for the first time. Chemical characterization was also conducted using the Aerodyne Time of Flight-Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ToF-ACSM). In addition, ratios of water soluble organic carbon (WSOC) to organic carbon (OC) were quantified. The concurrent HTDMA and ToF-ACSM

measurements were also performed for the bulk WSOM and its highly hydrophilic fraction classified with the 1-octanol-water partitioning method in terms of water solubility (Kuwata and Lee, 2017). This method provides a new angle (i.e., water solubility) to characterize chemical properties of WSOM, facilitating a more detailed investigation on particle water uptake property with the first application of the method in HTDMA measurements of highly hydrophilic organic fraction. These data were synergistically combined to provide a detailed picture on water uptake properties of freshly emitted Indonesian peatland burning particles.

2. Experiment

2.1. Combustion setup

Figure 1(a) shows the experimental setup. Peat and biomass samples were collected at peatlands in Riau and Central Kalimantan provinces in Indonesia (Table 1). The sampling sites include both burnt and undisturbed forest areas. In this region, peatland fire frequently reoccurs, and vast areas are experiencing regeneration of vegetation after fire events. The peat samples were segregated for different sampling depths, as detailed in Table 1. Two other types of biomasses from Riau, including *pteridium aquilinum* (called as fern here) and leaves of *acacia mangium* (abbreviated as acacia), were also employed for the experiment. Fern is one of the major pioneer species after peatland fires (Aswin et al., 2004). Acacia is one of the representative trees for plantations over drained peatland. Both acacia and fern samples were dried at ambient temperature after sampling. Further detailed information on the biomass samples is available in Budisulistiorini et al. (2017).

The biomass samples were used without desiccation. Approximately 1.0 g of biomass sample was combusted in a sealed 100 L stainless steel container using a crucible, which was heated at 350 °C by a ribbon heater, thermocouple, and PID controller (Kuwata et al., 2017). The target heating temperature was normally achieved within $2 - 3$ min. Visual inspection confirmed that the combustion condition was mostly smoldering, consistent with a previous report (Usup et al., 2004). Particle-free air was continuously supplied to the container. Excess amount of particle-free air was released to the laboratory, allowing conducting the experiments at room pressure. Particles generated by the burning experiments were diluted by a two-stage dilution

system. Size distributions of biomass burning particles were measured using the Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer (SMPS, TSI Inc.). The measurement range of the SMPS was set as 14.6 − 685.4 nm, and time resolution was 3-min. Chemical compositions of particles were quantified using the Aerodyne ToF-ACSM (Fröhlich et al., 2013), while water uptake property was measured using the HTDMA (Massling et al., 2003, 2007; Duplissy et al., 2009). Online instruments such as SMPS, ToF-ACSM, and HTDMA were all operated following the dilution. Each combustion experiment lasted for ~ 1 h. Detailed descriptions about the ToF-ACSM and HTDMA are provided in the following sections.

Two filter samples were also collected simultaneously for each of the experiments. Particles were collected onto two 47 mm diameter filters housed in stainless steel filter holders (BGI Inc.) for half an hour at flowrates of 5.0 lpm. Teflon filters (0.2 µm pore size, Fluoropore™, Sigma Aldrich) were used for WSOM samples, while quartz filter samples were employed for carbon analysis by the thermal-optical method. The collected samples were stored under refrigeration at −20 °C until analysis.

2.2. Extraction and nebulization of WSOM

Filter samples were extracted using approximately 20 ml of ultrapure water (Type I) by sonicating them for 30-min at room temperature. The resulting solutions were filtered through 0.2 µm PTFE syringe filters (514-0070, VWR), yielding water extracts (denoted as A_0, i.e., a whole part of or bulk water-soluble fraction). An aliquot of A_0 was mixed with the same volume (5 ml) of 1-octanol (Wako first grade, Wako) using a separatory funnel for classification by 1-octanol-water extraction (Valvani et al., 1981). The aqueous phase following the 1-octanol-water extraction is denoted as A_1 (slightly less than 5 ml), corresponding to the highly water-soluble fraction. Details of the extraction method are provided in Kuwata and Lee (2017).

The aqueous solutions were nebulized using a glass nebulizer. A mass flow controller (MC-20 SLPM-D, Alicat Scientific, Inc.) was used to regulate the flow rate (3.5 lpm) of particle-free air supplied to the nebulizer. Following nebulization, the sample was desiccated by a diffusion dryer (Model 42000, Brechtel Manufacturing, Inc.) filled with silica gel (Chameleon 83000.360, VWR International). The desiccated particles were measured using the HTDMA,

ToF-ACSM, and SMPS. The analysis of A_0 and A_1 were conducted only for peat (sampled from a burnt area, Riau-4), acacia, and fern samples.

2.3. HTDMA

Hygroscopic growth of particles was measured using the HTDMA (Massling et al., 2003, 2007; Duplissy et al., 2009; Gysel et al., 2009). The HTDMA system consists of three major components: 1) the first DMA (TSI Inc. Model 3081) to select monodisperse particles of a specific diameter, 2) the humidification unit for hydrating the classified particles at a target RH, and 3) the second DMA (TSI Inc. Model 3081) and a condensation particle counter (CPC, TSI Inc. Model 3775) to detect humidified size distributions (Figure S1).

Aerosol particles were dried using a diffusion dryer (Model 42000, Brechtel Manufacturing, Inc.), and introduced to the first DMA at a flow rate of 0.3 lpm. The first DMA selected 50, 100, and 200 nm particles. Both the first and second DMAs were operated at sheath-to-sample flow ratios of 10:1. The resulting monodisperse particles were exposed to a predefined RH environment using two Nafion membrane tubes (Permapure Inc. Model MD-110-12S-4) in series. The target RH, which was set at 90%, was regulated by controlling the flow ratio of humidified and dry air flows via a PID controlling software (National Instruments Inc. Labview). The particle residence time between the humidifier and the second DMA was approximately 10 seconds. The RH-controlled humid air was used as the sheath flow for the second DMA. The RH and temperature of the second DMA were continuously monitored at both the sample inlet and sheath outlet using two capacitive RH and temperature probes (Rotronic Inc. Hygroclip HC2-S). The RH differences between the sample and sheath flows were less than 2%. RH of humidified sample air was slightly higher than that of the sheath outflow for the setup shown in Figure S1.

The operating conditions of the DMAs were checked using 100 ± 3 nm polystyrene latex particles (PSL, Thermo Scientific Inc., Cat. No.: 3100A). Hygroscopic growth of particles in the HTDMA was calibrated by measuring growth factor (g), which is defined as a diameter ratio of humidified ($D(\mathrm{RH})$) and dry particles (D_0) ($g = (D(RH)/D_0)$, of ammonium sulfate particles. The measured value of g at RH = 85% was 1.71 ($D_0 = 150$ nm), which is comparable to a literature data ($g = 1.69$) (Tang and Munkelwitz, 1994). The stability of detected RH of the

1 HTDMA system was within ± 1.0% RH (peak-to-peak) for the target RH of 90% (see Figure S2).

2 A volume mean growth factor (GF) was calculated using measured probability density function

3 of g (i.e., $c(g, D_0)$) as $GF = \left(\int_0^\infty g^3 c(g, D_0) dg \right)^{1/3}$.

4 **2.4. Chemical characterization**

5 The Aerodyne ToF-ACSM was utilized to measure chemical compositions of non-

6 refractory submicron particles (NR-PM$_1$) (Fröhlich et al., 2013). Five specific chemical

7 components, including organic matter (OM), sulfate (SO$_4^{2-}$), nitrate (NO$_3^-$), ammonium (NH$_4^+$),

8 and chloride (Cl$^-$), were quantitatively detected (Allan et al., 2003), with a time resolution of 3-

9 min.

10 Bulk OC, elemental carbon (EC), and WSOC contents were also analyzed for 10 samples

11 (Table 3) using quartz-fiber filter samples (47 mm in diameter). All the quartz-fiber filters were

12 prebaked at 900 ℃ for 3 h before sampling. The filter samples were stored in a refrigerator (−20

13 °C) until analysis. For each sampling, a back-up quartz-fiber filter was used to account for

14 potential influence of adsorption of gas phase organic components (Turpin et al., 1994). OC

15 loading on the back-up filter was subtracted from that on the front filter to estimate particulate

16 OC (i.e., corrected OC).

17 OC and EC were analyzed by thermal-optical reflectance analysis (Chow et al., 1993)

18 using a Sunset Laboratory OC/EC Analyzer, following the IMPROVE-A protocol. WSOC was

19 quantified with a Sievers 800 Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Analyzer after extraction of biomass

20 burning filter samples by water. A portion (8 mm φ) of each WSOC sample was extracted using

21 10 ml of HPLC-grade water. The samples were shaken by an orbital shaker for 21 h. The

22 extracted sample solutions were filtered with syringe filters (pore size of 0.2 µm) prior to

23 injection to the TOC analyzer. The particulate WSOC of peat burning particles was also

24 corrected following the similar procedure to that of particulate OC.

26 **3. Results and discussion**

Both the HTDMA and chemical analysis data are summarized in Table 2 and 3. The ToF-ACSM and OC/EC data (Table 3) demonstrate that chemical composition of submicron biomass burning particles is dominated by organic species, accounting for approximately 99% in mass (Budisulistiorini et al., 2017). Contributions of other species, including inorganic ionic species and EC, were minimal. In the following, the relationships between hygroscopic property and chemical characteristics of organic species are discussed.

3.1. Hygroscopic growth factor

Figure 2 shows normalized particle number size distributions of peat sampled from a burnt area (Riau-4), acacia leaves, and fern burning particles following hygroscopic growth at RH = 90% (D_0 = 100 nm). The data shown in Figure 2 include both online (a) and offline ((b): A_0, and (c): A_1)) measurements. In all cases, narrow monodisperse distributions were observed (see Figure S3), demonstrating that chemical compositions of particles were uniform (Gysel et al., 2007; Carrico et al., 2010). For online measurements, diameter change induced by hygroscopic growth was minimal for the peat and acacia burning particles (g = 1.05 ~ 1.09), while diameter of fern burning particles significantly increased following exposure to high RH (g = 1.17). The variation in hygroscopic properties is attributed to differences in organic chemical composition, as these biomass burning particles contain negligible fractions of inorganic ionic species (Budisulistiorini et al., 2017).

Table 2 summarizes all the values of GF. Values of GF for most of peat samples from burnt peatland in Riau were less than 1.1. Sampling depths of peat did not significantly affect GF. There was no clear size-dependence of GF. For instance, GF values of particles from combustion of peat at drained and burnt areas in Riau were 1.07 ± 0.04 (D_0 = 50 nm), 1.06 ± 0.02 (D_0 = 100 nm), and 1.07 ± 0.02 (D_0 = 200 nm). Particles emitted from the undisturbed forest area in Riau (i.e., Riau-Zam) were more hygroscopic (GF = 1.11 for D_0 = 100 nm) than those generated from other samples from Riau, while GF of particles emitted by combustion of a peat sample from the secondary forest in Riau (i.e., Riau-SF) was very similar to those from Riau peat samples from burnt areas (i.e., Riau-1~4). The similarity is probably due to the short distance between the two sampling sites (less than 10 km). Particles emitted from peat samples collected

1   at Central Kalimantan (i.e., C.K.-DB and C.K.-DF) were relatively more hygroscopic (GF > 1.11)

2   than those from Riau.

3   Hygroscopic growth of bulk water-soluble fraction (A_0) is much more significant than

4   those of the online measurements. Specifically, the mean diameter growth factors were 1.34

5   (peat sampled from a burnt area, Riau-4), 1.23, (acacia), and 1.28 (fern) for 100 nm particles.

6   The significant hygroscopic growth of A_0 from peat burning particles could be due to high water

7   uptake by the highly water-soluble fraction, A_1 (GF = 1.50). The GFs of A_1 for acacia and fern

8   burning particles were 1.42 and 1.33, respectively. Although water uptake by fresh peat burning

9   particles was much less than those of vegetation burning particles, the water soluble fraction of

10 peat burning particles was the most hygroscopic. This result stresses the importance of

11 understanding hygroscopic properties of WSOM as well as WSOC fraction in total OC.

12 **3.2. Hygroscopicity parameter (κ)**

13   Hygroscopicity parameter (κ) was calculated using the κ–Köhler theory (Petters and

14 Kreidenweis, 2007):

15 $$\kappa = (GF^3 - 1) \cdot \left(\frac{\exp\left(\frac{4\sigma_{s/a} \cdot M_w}{\rho_w \cdot R \cdot T \cdot D_0 \cdot GF} \right)}{RH} - 1 \right),$$ (1)

16 where $\sigma_{s/a}$ is the surface tension of the solution/air interface (0.0718 N m^{-1} at 25 °C), Mw is the

17 molecular weight of water (18 g mol^{-1}), ρ_w is the density of water (1.0 g cm^{-3}), R is the universal

18 gas constant (8.31 J K^{-1} mol^{-1}) and T is temperature (298 K). The calculated κ results for our

19 HTDMA measurements are summarized in Figure 3 and Table 2. It is worth noting that κ is

20 related with molar volume of water soluble compounds (M_s/ρ_s), which is calculated from both

21 the molecular weight (M_s) and density (ρ_s) by the following equation (Rose et al., 2008):

22 $$\kappa = i_s \frac{\rho_s M_w}{\rho_w M_s},$$ (2)

where i is van't Hoff factor. This equation (2) was mainly employed to derive κ from the experimental data of Asa-Awuku et al. (2008), which has calculated the mean molar volume of WSOM extracted from biomass burning particles with a CCN measurement.

The range of κ for peat burning particles in Riau (sampled from burnt areas) is 0.02 to 0.04, while that for Central Kalimantan samples is 0.05 to 0.06 (100 nm). These values may be compared with CCN activity of peat burning particles reported by Dusek et al. (2005). Based on the experimental data by Dusek et al. (2005), the critical supersaturation for CCN activation of Indonesian peat burning particles is derived as 0.53% for 100 nm particles. This value can be converted to κ of 0.05, which is very similar to the values summarized in Figure 3 and Table 2. The consistently low values of κ suggest that water uptake by freshly emitted peat burning particles is minimal. The range of κ observed for acacia and fern burning particles ($\kappa = 0.04-0.08$) is comparable to that observed for less hygroscopic mode by previous laboratory experiments on biomass burning particles (Carrico et al., 2010).

The values of κ observed for water extracts (A_0) span from 0.11 (acacia, 100 nm) to 0.18 (peat sampled from a burnt area, Riau-4, 100 nm) (Figure 4 and Table 2). The κ value for peat burning particles (A_0) is significantly higher than those emitted from the acacia and fern leaves, highlighting the importance of understanding hygroscopicity of WSOM as well as water soluble fraction in quantitatively understanding water uptake properties. The value of κ for acacia burning particles is similar to that was measured for WSOM extracted from a prescribed forest fire experiment in Georgia (USA) ($\kappa = 0.10$), which was estimated from a molar volume of $1.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ (Asa-Awuku et al., 2008).

The κ values for A_1 are higher than those for A_0. Namely, κ observed for A_1 were 0.30 (peat sampled from a burnt area, Riau-4), 0.24 (acacia), and 0.18 (fern), respectively. Although it is the first hygroscopic measurement for WSOM classified with 1-octanol-water liquid-liquid extraction technique, the value could be compared with those for hydrophilic fractions classified by XAD-8 column. Kuwata and Lee (2017) demonstrated that classification of WSOM by XAD-8 column, which is one of the most frequently used materials for solid phase extraction of WSOM, has a strong relationship with 1-octanol-water partitioning coefficient (K_{OW}). Namely, XAD-8 column selectively traps hydrophobic chemical species in WSOM, which tend to partition to 1-octanol phase ($K_{OW} > 1$). Thus, hydrophilic fraction separated by XAD-8 is dominantly composed of chemical species, which has $K_{OW} < 1$. The WSOM in A_1 is also

dominantly composed of organic compounds with lower values of K_{OW} ($K_{OW} < 1$), suggesting that A_1 and WSOM classified by XAD-8 are comparable. The κ value of biomass burning WSOM separated by XAD-8 is estimated as 0.29, using molar volume (6.2×10^{-5} m^3 mol^{-1}) estimated from a CCN measurement by Asa-Awuku et al. (2008). The comparison provides a typical range of κ for hydrophilic ($K_{OW} < 1$) fraction of WSOM emitted from biomass burning as 0.2~0.3. Our results of water uptake by organic compounds (e.g., bulk organic material, bulk WSOM, and highly hydrophilic WSOM) would be further employed to verify a theoretical framework, which uses distributions of water solubility as input parameters (Riipinen et al., 2015).

3.3. κ (online) and WSOC/OC

WSOC/OC ratios of Indonesian peat and vegetation burning particles are summarized in Table 3. In general, WSOC/OC ratios for peat burning particles from the burnt area in Riau are small, ranging from 0.93% to 1.80%. Particles emitted from combustion of peat collected in other areas tend to contain higher fractions of WSOC (WSOC/OC = 2.03−6.08%). The variability in WSOC/OC ratio could be due to differences in chemical composition of peat sampled at different areas (Hikmatullah and Sukarman, 2014). These values are an order of magnitude lower than the experimental data by Iinuma et al. (2007), which reported WSOC/OC ratio for Indonesian peat burning particles from South Sumatra as 39%. The significant difference in WSOC/OC ratio could be stemmed from the variations in chemical compositions of peat as well as combustion conditions. Both a systematic laboratory experiment and chemical analysis of freshly emitted peat burning particles are needed to address the difference in the data. The WSOC fractions for acacia and fern burning particles were relatively higher (WSOC/OC = 3.42−6.56%) than those from peat combustion.

Figure 5 compares κ and WSOC/OC ratios. κ and WSOC/OC correlate to some extent (R = 0.65), although the variation ranges for both variables are small. Fern burning particles contain significantly higher fraction of WSOM than other samples, providing an explanation for higher κ value for fern burning particles. Nevertheless, the correlation between these two parameters is not tight. This result suggests that other factors, such as chemical composition and hygroscopic

1 property of water soluble fraction, should also be considered to quantitatively understand water

2 uptake property.

3.4. κ and OM mass spectra

4 Figure 6 shows the ToF-ACSM mass spectra for online, A_0, and A_1 particles, including

5 those from peat (sampled at a burnt area, Riau-4), acacia and fern burning. The online mass

6 spectra have intense signals at m/z 41 ($C_3H_5^+$), 43 (most likely $C_3H_7^+$), 55 ($C_4H_7^+$) and 57 ($C_4H_9^+$),

7 suggesting that these particles are highly hydrogenated (Canagaratna et al., 2015). On the other

8 hand, fractions of ions at m/z 44 (f_{44}, mostly CO_2^+) are limited ($f_{44} < 0.02$), especially for peat

9 burning particles. This result signifies that the freshly emitted Indonesian biomass burning

10 particles, especially those from peat, are not highly oxygenated (Ng et al., 2011). This is in

11 accordance with a previous study, which showed that f_{44} values for primary hydrocarbon-like

12 organic compounds are usually less than 0.05 (Ng et al., 2011). In addition, m/z 60 and m/z 73

13 (mainly from $C_2H_4O_2^+$ and $C_3H_5O_2^+$, respectively), marker ions of levoglucosan-like species (a

14 tracer for cellulose in biomass burning particles) (Simoneit et al., 1999; Cubison et al., 2011),

15 were especially pronounced for fern burning particles.

16 The mass spectra of A_0 are significantly different from those of online measurements. The

17 most abundant ion in the mass spectra of A_0 is m/z 44. Hydrocarbon peaks, such as m/z 41, 43, 55,

18 and 57, are still significant, yet less abundant than those of the online measurements. In addition,

19 contributions of m/z 60 and 73 are also enhanced. These results consistently support the idea that

20 A_0 fraction is highly oxygenated. Especially, A_0 fraction for peat burning particles is much more

21 oxidized than those of fern and acacia samples.

22 The mass spectra of A_1 from acacia and fern burning show that the A_1 fraction is more

23 oxidized than A_0, as indicated by higher values of f_{44}. For instance, f_{44} of A_1 from fern burning

24 particles is 0.08, while that of A_0 is 0.05. Another notable characteristic of A_1 mass spectra is the

25 smaller fraction of high molecular weight (HMW) ions, which is observed for the region of $m/z >$

26 100. The HMW fractions (f_{HMW}) for A_0 and A_1 are 15.8% and 16.0% (peat sampled at a burnt area,

27 Riau-4), 21.8% and 11.6% (acacia), and 17.4% and 8.2% (fern), which are significantly lower

28 than the corresponding values for online measurements (Table 3). These results suggest that A_1

1 contains lower fractions of high molecular weight species, although decomposition during

2 ionization process makes the estimation of actual contributions of these compounds difficult.

3 Figure 7 displays f_{44}, f_{60}, and mean κ for different types of Indonesian biomass burning

4 particles. The data points in Figure 7 distribute to two different regions. Low f_{44} and f_{60} values are

5 observed for particles emitted from Sumatran peat burning (i.e., Riau-1, -2, -3, -4). The f_{44} of

6 acacia burning particles is slightly higher but f_{60} is low. By contrast, distinctly higher f_{44} and f_{60}

7 are observed for fern, undisturbed peat (Riau), and peat (Central Kalimantan) burning particles.

8 This is also in accordance with the proton nuclear magnetic resonance (^{1}H NMR) analysis, which

9 suggests that functional group distributions of peat and acacia burning particles are significantly

10 different from that emitted from fern burning particles. Namely, the peat and acacia samples

11 contain a significantly higher fraction of saturated aliphatic group (i.e., H-C; 71.7 % for peat, and

12 64.0 % for acacia) in comparison to that of the fern sample (38.6 %, see panel (a) of Figure S4),

13 which readily prohibits the bulk hygroscopic growth of fresh peat burning particles. Besides, the

14 highly polar structure (i.e., H-C-O) in the peat (6.0 %) and acacia (8.1 %) samples is distinctly

15 lower than that in the fern sample (15.5 %, Figure S4(a)). This likely contributes to the higher

16 WSOC fraction of fern burning particles, and the corresponding higher κ values could be related

17 with the higher f_{44} and f_{60}.

18 Figure 8 shows a correlation of κ with f_{44} for both online (i.e., bulk organic matter) and

19 offline (i.e., bulk WSOM and highly hydrophilic WSOM fraction) measurements of peat

20 sampled at a burnt area (Riau-4), acacia and fern burning particles. Similar correlations for all

21 the biomass burning samples are displayed in Figure S5 of the supplementary material. The

22 correlation of these two variables is represented as $\kappa = 2.31 \times f_{44} + 0.02$ ($R = 0.89$). The slope

23 is very close to that reported for the relationship between the hygroscopicity of organics (κ_{org})

24 and f_{44} ($\kappa_{org} = 2.2 \times f_{44} - 0.13$, Duplissy et al., 2011). The correlation demonstrates that the

25 degree of oxidation, which is represented by f_{44}, is the key controlling parameter in determining

26 hygroscopicity of Indonesian peatland burning particles. As discussed above, f_{44} of peat burning

27 particles (Riau-4) is extremely small (Table 3). Minimal water uptake by peat burning particles

28 (Riau-4) could be associated with low water-soluble fraction (Table 3), considering that both κ

29 and f_{44} for the corresponding A_0 or A_1 sample are high. One notable difference of the correlation

30 found in this work from previous studies is the inclusion of highly soluble fraction to the analysis.

1 Although the κ - f_{44} correlations have been related to enhanced water solubility, the relationships

2 among these three parameters (i.e., κ, f_{44}, and water solubility) have not been shown prior to this

3 study.

4   The correlation shown in Figure 8 has a significant divergence, especially at the region

5 for high f_{44} and κ values (upper right corner of the figure), suggesting that degree of oxidation is

6 not the only one parameter, which controls water uptake property. Especially, comparison of A_0

7 and A_1 for peat burning particles highlights the limitation of correlating f_{44} and κ. The values of

8 f_{44} for these two fractions are almost the same, while κ for A_1 is significantly higher than that for

9 A_0. As discussed in section 3.2, the difference of A_0 and A_1 could be related to that of

10 hydrophobic and hydrophilic WSOM separated by XAD-8 (Graber and Rudich, 2006; Sullivan

11 and Weber, 2006). The hydrophobic fraction separated by XAD-8 is typically considered as

12 humic-like substances (HULIS), which has high molecular weight (e.g., fulvic and humic acids,

13 Gysel et al., 2004; Graber and Rudich, 2006; Fan et al., 2013). These results suggest that

14 quantification of HULIS as well as evaluation of their water uptake property will be important

15 for understanding hygroscopicity of biomass burning particles, including those emitted from

16 Indonesian peatland fires.

17   The present study demonstrates the importance of water-soluble organic fraction, which

18 includes highly soluble one, in quantifying the hygroscopic growth of freshly emitted biomass

19 burning particles. Addition of these different water-soluble organic fractions could provide an

20 accurate estimation on hygroscopic growth, which is based on theoretical background. Only size-

21 unresolved bulk chemical data were employed for the present study. However, chemical

22 characteristics of actual atmospheric particles could depend on both particle size and mixing

23 state. These factors would also need to be considered in applying the laboratory data to future

24 studies.

26 **4. Conclusions**

27   Hygroscopic growth of freshly emitted Indonesian biomass burning particles was

28 investigated in laboratory using the humidified tandem differential mobility analyzer (RH =

1 90%). The biomass samples included peat, fern, and acacia leaves collected at Riau and Central

2 Kalimantan in Indonesia. Hygroscopicity was measured for the freshly emitted particles (online),

3 bulk water-soluble fraction (A_0), and highly water-soluble fraction (i.e., fraction with lower K_{OW}

4 values) classified by the 1-octanol-water partitioning method (A_1). Hygroscopicity parameter κ

5 was derived from the growth factor data. Chemical compositions of these particles were also

6 quantified using both online and offline techniques.

7 Hygroscopicity of fresh Indonesian peat burning particles is highly dependent on the

8 origin and condition (e.g., pristine and disturbed) of peat. Particles emitted from combustion of

9 disturbed peat in Riau were nearly non-hygroscopic (mean $\kappa = 0.02-0.04$), while those from

10 undisturbed areas were more hygroscopic ($\kappa = 0.03-0.05$). Particles emitted from Central

11 Kalimantan peat samples were generally more hygroscopic ($\kappa = 0.05-0.06$) than those from Riau.

12 For biomass samples, acacia burning particles were slightly hygroscopic ($\kappa = 0.03-0.04$), and

13 fern burning particles were the most hygroscopic ($\kappa = 0.04-0.09$) among all samples. These

14 values loosely correlated with ratio of WSOC to OC ($R = 0.65$). This result suggests that WSOC

15 fraction could play an important role in determining κ, yet other factors, such as difference in

16 hygroscopicity of slightly and highly water-soluble fractions, should also be considered.

17 Hygroscopicity data of A_0 and A_1 fractions were significantly different from those of

18 online measurements. The values of κ for A_0 were $0.17-0.20$ (Riau disturbed peat), $0.09-0.14$

19 (acacia), and $0.10-0.16$ (fern). These values were even higher for A_1 ($\kappa = 0.26-0.31$ for Riau

20 disturbed peat, $\kappa = 0.19-0.24$ for acacia, and $\kappa = 0.16-0.20$ for fern). These results demonstrate

21 that the low hygroscopicity of Riau peat burning particles (online) is due to small water soluble

22 fraction.

23 The variation in κ was related with aerosol mass spectra of organics. f_{44}, which is an

24 indicator for degree of oxygenation, correlated well with κ ($R = 0.89$), demonstrating that

25 oxygenated functional groups are important for water uptake. In addition, comparison of A_0 and

26 A_1 data suggested the importance of high molecular weight species, such as humic-like

27 substances, in determining the magnitude of hygroscopicity for water soluble fraction.

28 Our experimental results are consistent with previous laboratory studies, which reported

29 insignificant water uptake by fresh Indonesian peat burning particle (Chand et al., 2005; Dusek et

al, 2005). On the contrary, Gras et al. (1999) showed that particles observed in wildfire plume from Kalimantan were hygroscopic. The differences between field observation and laboratory experiments could be caused by atmospheric processes (e.g., secondary formation and chemical aging of particles), and likely resulted from the differences of burnt materials, their origins and combustion conditions in practical situations as well. In the future, observations of both chemical composition and hygroscopic growth of particles emitted from peatland fires need to be conducted both at vicinity and downstream regions to address the question. The last but not the least, our results can provide an experimentally validated reference for organics-dominated particle hygroscopicity, thus lowering uncertainties in current climate models and contributing to more accurate estimations of climate impacts caused by Indonesian peatland burning particles in both regional and global scales.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Singapore National Research Foundation (NRF) under its Singapore National Research Fellowship scheme (National Research Fellow Award, NRF2012NRF-NRFF001-031), the Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Nanyang Technological University. M. I. was funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology for Science Research (15H05625), the Ministry of Environment for Global Environment Research (4-1504), and Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Japan. T. M. and Y. K. were supported by the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (2-1403) of the Ministry of Environment, Japan, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), KAKENHI Grant number JP26550021. We acknowledge the help of Harris Gunawan and Satomi Shiodera in some biomass samples collection in Indonesia. We also thank Gissella B. Lebron for assisting in the laboratory combustion experiments and Pavel Adamek for improving

1   the English writing. The authors are grateful to the editor and two anonymous referees for their

2   insightful comments.

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Table 1. Summary of Indonesian peat and biomasses used for the laboratory combustion experiments. Samples 9, 15, and 16 were also used for offline experiments of their aqueous extracts (A_0 and A_1).

Exp. No.	Sample name	Sample depth (cm)	Type /Species	Location	Description
1	Riau-1	Surface ~ 10	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
2	Riau-1.1	10−20	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
3	Riau-1.2	30−40	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
4	Riau-2	Surface ~ 10	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
5	Riau-2.1	10−20	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
6	Riau-2.2	30−40	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
7	Riau-3	Surface ~ 10	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
8	Riau-3.1	10−20	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
9	**Riau-4**[**]	**Surface ~ 10**	**Peat**	**Riau, Sumatra**	**D&B* peatland**
10	Riau-4.1	10−20	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	D&B* peatland
11	Riau-SF	Surface ~ 5	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	Secondary forest
12	Riau-Zam	Surface ~ 5	Peat	Riau, Sumatra	Undisturbed peat forest
13	C.K.-DF	Surface ~ 5	Peat	Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan	D&UB# peat forest
14	C.K.-DB	Surface ~ 5	Peat	Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan	D&B* peat forest
15	**acacia**[**]	**N/A**	**Acacia mangium**	**Riau, Sumatra**	**Dried leaves**
16	**fern**[**]	**N/A**	**Pteridium aquilinum**	**Riau, Sumatra**	**Dried leaves**

* D&B stands for the drained and burnt condition.

D&UB represents the drained but unburnt case.

** Teflon filter samples were collected during online combustion experiments.

1 **Table 2.** Volume weighted mean GF and κ values (average ± 1 standard deviation, S.D.) of

2 different types of Indonesian peat and biomasses. The results of their aqueous extracts (A_0 and

3 A_1) are also shown.

	Sample name		Mean GF (RH = 90%)			Mean κ (RH = 90%)		
			50 nm	100 nm	200 nm	50 nm	100 nm	200 nm
Online — **Sumatra** (Burnt peatland) (Secondary forest) (Undisturbed area)	**Sumatra**	Riau-1	1.17 ± 0.07	1.09 ± 0.06	1.04 ± 0.01	0.089 ± 0.042	0.039 ± 0.028	0.016 ± 0.002
		Riau-1.1	1.15 ± 0.06	1.05 ± 0.01	1.04 ± 0.01	0.080 ± 0.036	0.021 ± 0.005	0.014 ± 0.002
		Riau-1.2	1.00 ± 0.002	1.08 ± 0.04	1.06 ± 0.01	0.001 ± 0.001	0.036 ± 0.017	0.025 ± 0.002
		Riau-2	–	1.07 ± 0.01	1.12 ± 0.06	–	0.029 ± 0.005	0.052 ± 0.032
		Riau-2.1	1.06 ± 0.04	1.06 ± 0.01	1.06 ± 0.01	0.029 ± 0.019	0.023 ± 0.005	0.024 ± 0.005
		Riau-2.2	1.05 ± 0.02	1.09 ± 0.02	1.10 ± 0.02	0.024 ± 0.010	0.037 ± 0.009	0.042 ± 0.009
		Riau-3	1.07 ± 0.04	1.05 ± 0.01	1.08 ± 0.01	0.035 ± 0.022	0.022 ± 0.006	0.033 ± 0.006
		Riau-3.1	1.05 ± 0.02	1.05 ± 0.02	1.08 ± 0.01	0.024 ± 0.012	0.022 ± 0.010	0.031 ± 0.006
		Riau-4	1.04 ± 0.01	1.08 ± 0.01	1.05 ± 0.002	0.017 ± 0.003	0.034 ± 0.003	0.019 ± 0.001
		Riau-4.1	1.07 ± 0.10	0.99 ± 0.01	1.02 ± 0.01	0.059 ± 0.063	N/A	0.007 ± 0.003
		Riau D&B[#]	1.07 ± 0.04	1.06 ± 0.02	1.07 ± 0.02	0.040 ± 0.023	0.029 ± 0.010	0.026 ± 0.007
		Riau-SF	1.04 ± 0.05	1.07 ± 0.004	1.09 ± 0.01	0.025 ± 0.028	0.028 ± 0.002	0.034 ± 0.003
		Riau-Zam	1.10 ± 0.07	1.11 ± 0.04	1.08 ± 0.004	0.053 ± 0.038	0.048 ± 0.017	0.032 ± 0.002
	Kalimantan	C.K.-DF	1.11 ± 0.06	1.13 ± 0.01	1.11 ± 0.01	0.057 ± 0.033	0.058 ± 0.005	0.046 ± 0.004
		C.K.-DB	1.11 ± 0.05	1.12 ± 0.02	1.13 ± 0.01	0.055 ± 0.028	0.054 ± 0.011	0.056 ± 0.005
		acacia	1.05 ± 0.01	1.09 ± 0.01	1.09 ± 0.01	0.026 ± 0.005	0.039 ± 0.006	0.037 ± 0.006
		fern	1.08 ± 0.02	1.17 ± 0.02	1.20 ± 0.03	0.039 ± 0.011	0.078 ± 0.010	0.088 ± 0.014

Aqueous extracts: A_0 (the water extracts), A_1 (the 1-octanol water extracts)

		Sample name	Mean GF (RH = 90%)			Mean κ (RH = 90%)		
			50 nm	100 nm	200 nm	50 nm	100 nm	200 nm
Offline	A_0	**peat**[*]	1.29 ± 0.05	1.34 ± 0.06	1.38 ± 0.09	0.168 ± 0.039	0.179 ± 0.038	0.198 ± 0.058
		acacia	1.17 ± 0.03	1.23 ± 0.04	1.28 ± 0.05	0.090 ± 0.019	0.110 ± 0.025	0.135 ± 0.027
		fern	1.18 ± 0.03	1.28 ± 0.03	1.32 ± 0.05	0.100 ± 0.016	0.141 ± 0.020	0.157 ± 0.031
	A_1	**peat**[*]	1.47 ± 0.06	1.50 ± 0.09	1.47 ± 0.11	0.311 ± 0.052	0.302 ± 0.074	0.262 ± 0.083
		acacia	1.32 ± 0.04	1.42 ± 0.03	1.44 ± 0.07	0.195 ± 0.027	0.237 ± 0.023	0.239 ± 0.049
		fern	1.28 ± 0.04	1.33 ± 0.05	1.39 ± 0.05	0.162 ± 0.026	0.177 ± 0.034	0.205 ± 0.038

1 − Data are unavailable due to low particle number concentration.

2 # **Riau D&B** represents the averages of all the D&B peat samples collected from different

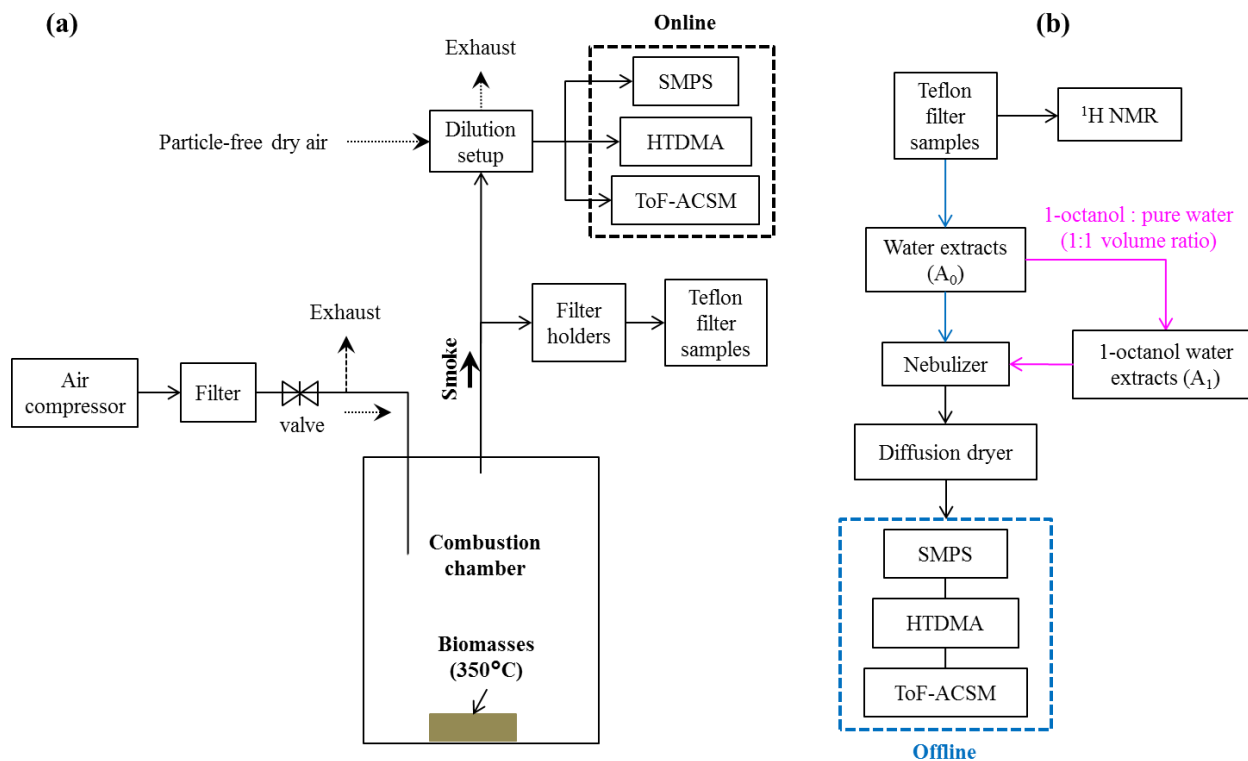
3 depths of the Sumatran peatlands (i.e., samples used for **Exp. 1-10** in Table 1).

4 * **Peat** in Table 2 refers to the Riau-4 sample collected from burnt peatlands in Sumatra (see

5 Sect.2 for details).

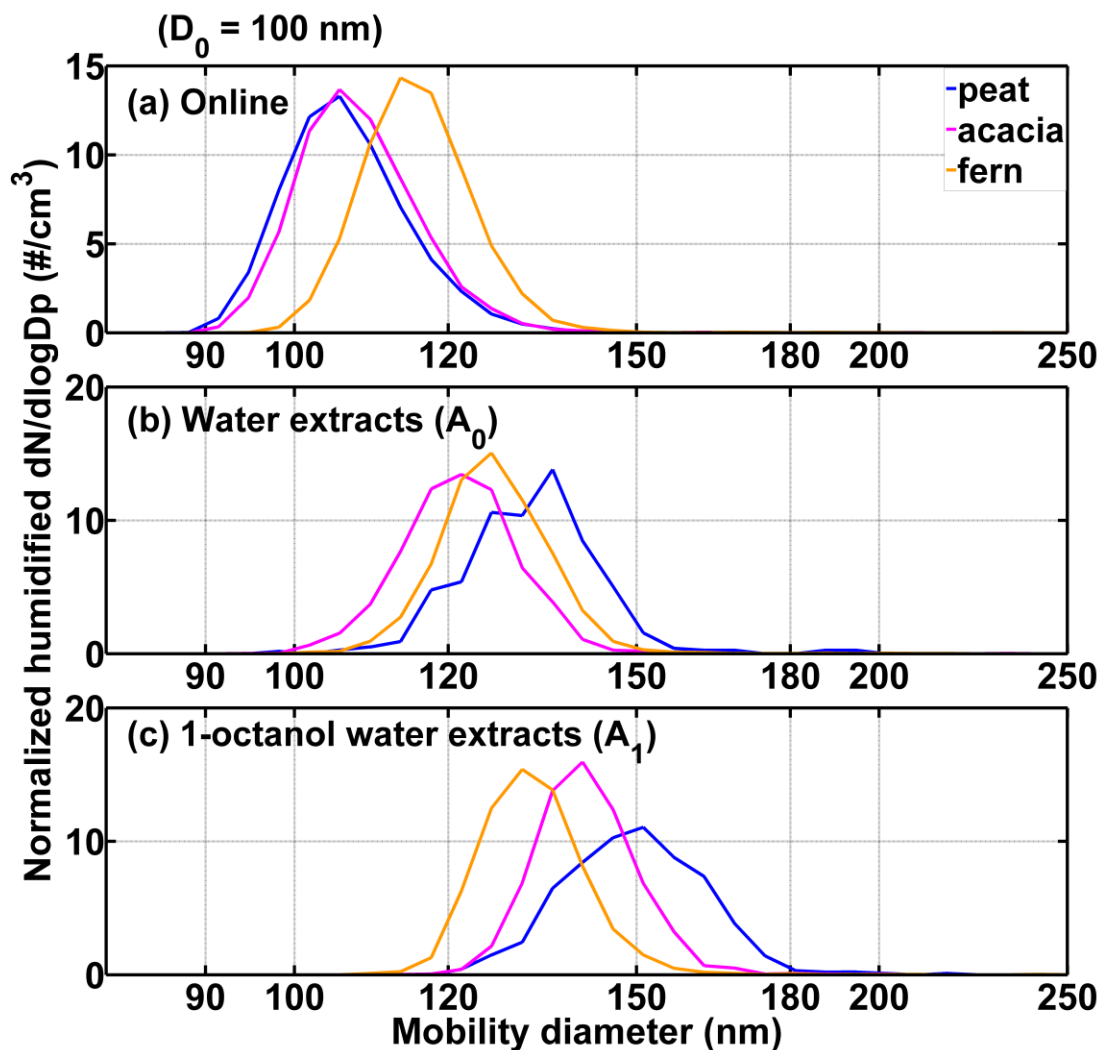
1   **Table 3.** Summary of chemical characteristics of different types of Indonesian peat and biomass

2   burning particles.

Sample name		Mean κ (100 nm)	f_{44} (%)	f_{HMW} (%)	OC (mg C)	EC (mg C)	WSOC/OC (%)
Sumatra	Riau-1	0.039	0.4	42.9	12.69	0.13	0.93
	Riau-2	0.029	0.7	26.9	14.08	0.12	1.80
	Riau-3	0.022	0.7	31.7	13.58	0.13	1.63
	Riau-4	0.034	0.5	29.0	18.86	0.13	1.51
	Riau-SF	0.028	1.7	21.1	7.64	0.07	4.15
	Riau-Zam	0.048	1.6	23.8	2.58	0.03	6.08
Kalimantan	C.K.-DF	0.058	2.0	19.5	5.58	0.05	4.16
	C.K.-DB	0.054	1.9	19.3	7.51	0.05	2.03
	acacia	0.039	1.1	27.0	14.61	0.05	3.42
	fern	0.078	1.9	21.5	13.34	0.07	6.56
A0	**peat**[*]	0.179	9.5	15.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
	acacia	0.110	4.7	21.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
	fern	0.141	5.2	17.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
A1	**peat**[*]	0.302	9.3	16.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
	acacia	0.237	6.6	11.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
	fern	0.177	7.9	8.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

2   **Fig. 1** Schematic diagrams of the laboratory experimental setups.

3   (a) The experimental setup for combustion experiment and subsequent online measurements, and

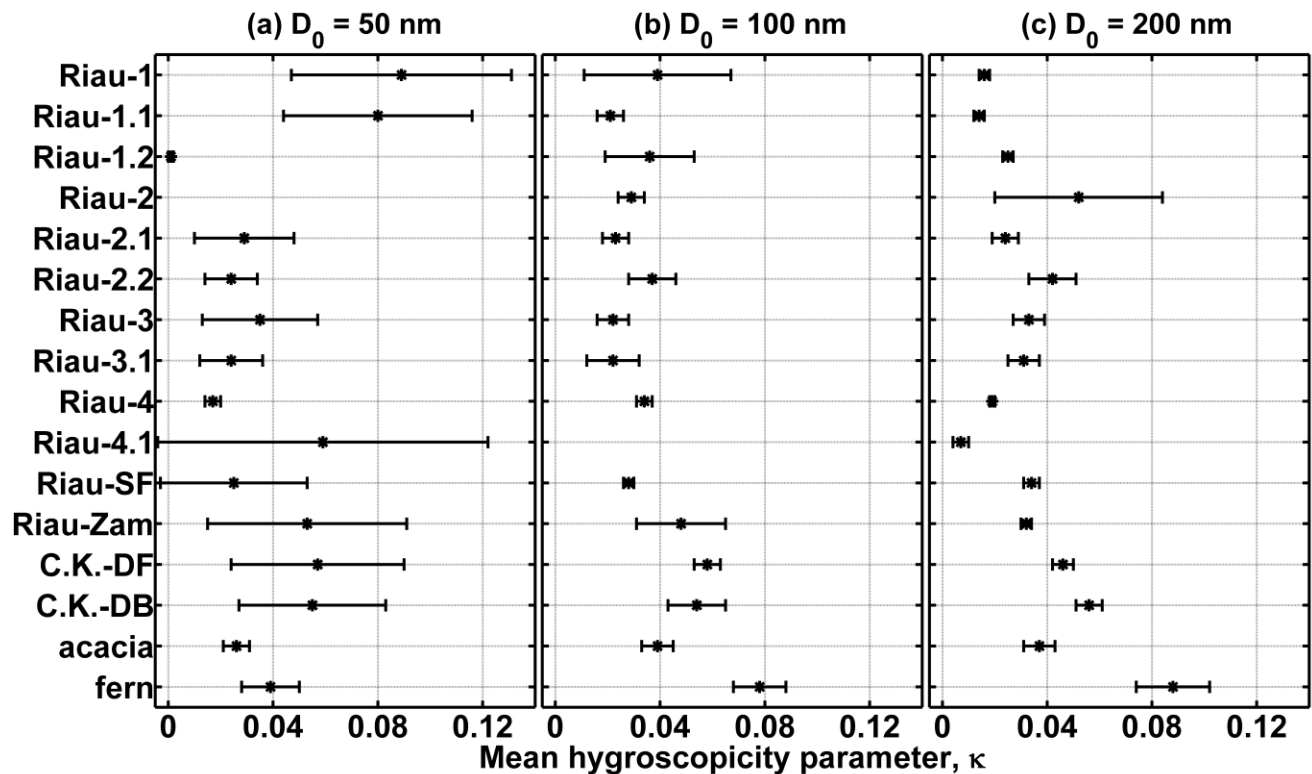
4   (b) experimental setup for offline measurements of water extracts (A_0, blue arrows) and 1-

5   octanol water extracts (A_1, magenta arrows) from the filter samples.

3   **Fig.2** Normalized number size distributions measured by the HTDMA (D_0 = 100 nm; RH =

4   90%) of peat, fern and acacia burning particles. (a) online data, (b) A_0, and (c) A_1. For online data,

5   peat burning particles are nearly non-hygroscopic, while fern burning particles are more

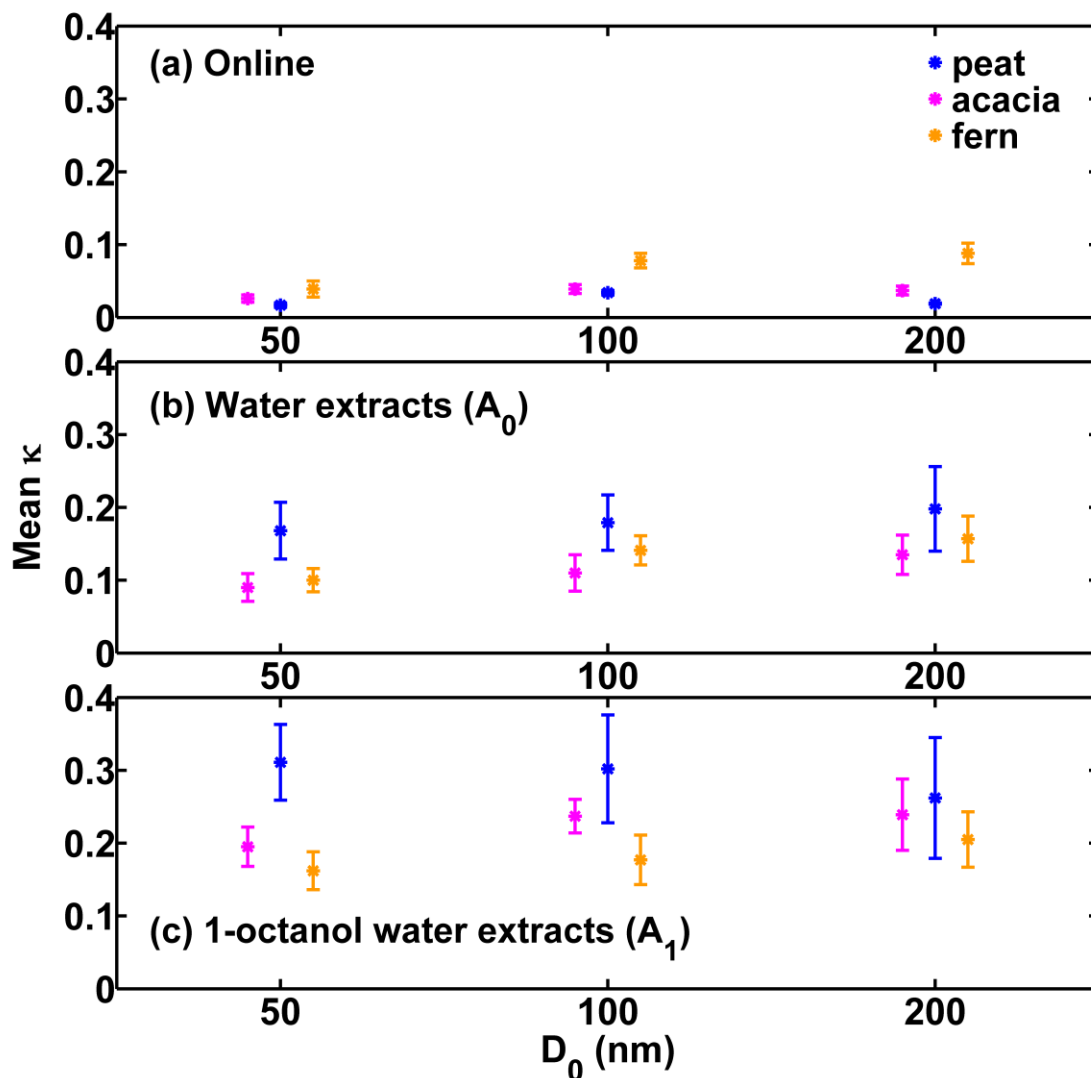
6   hygroscopic. Aqueous extracts of peat burning particles are the most hygroscopic among the

7   three types of biomasses. The x-axis is on a logarithmic scale.

3 **Fig.3** Mean κ values of fresh Indonesian biomass burning particles measured for (a) $D_0 = 50$ nm,

4 (b) $D_0 = 100$ nm, and (c) $D_0 = 200$ nm particles. In all cases, κ values are lower than 0.1. The

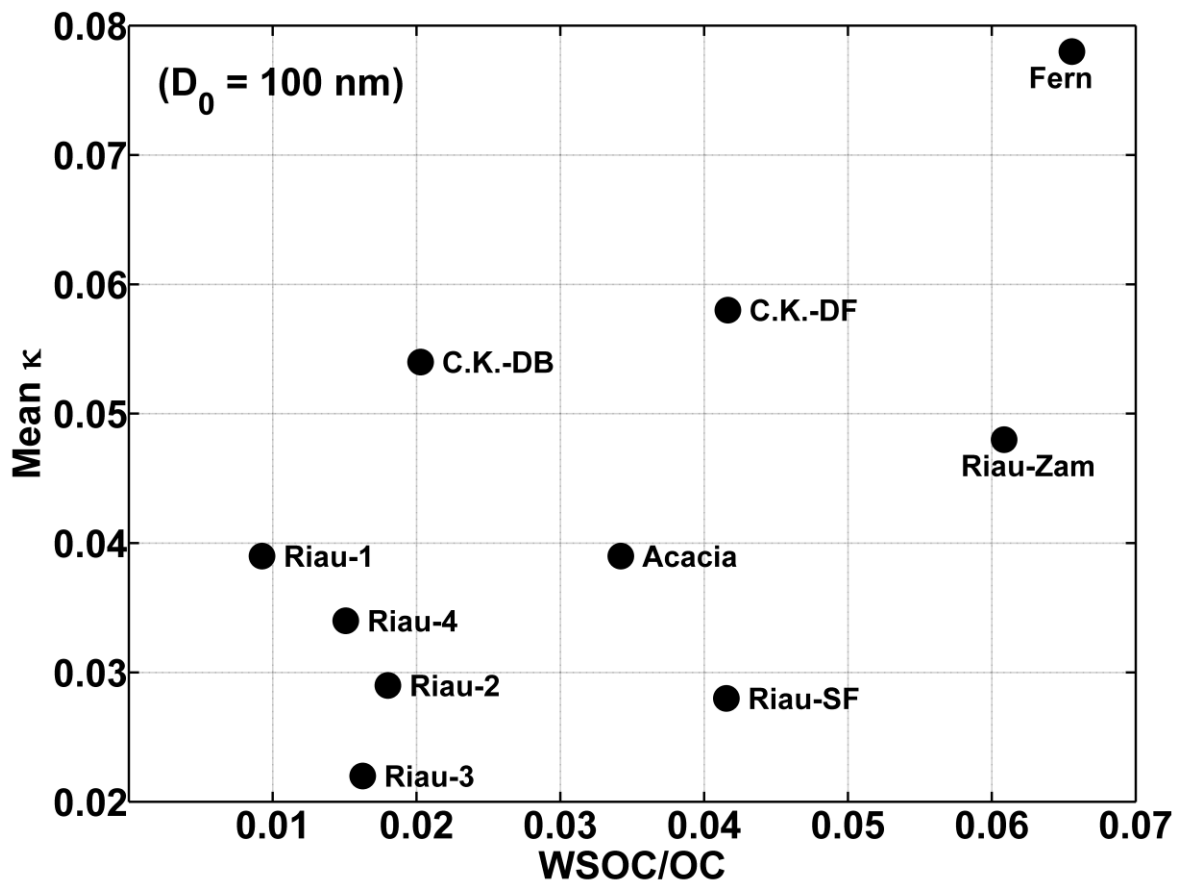
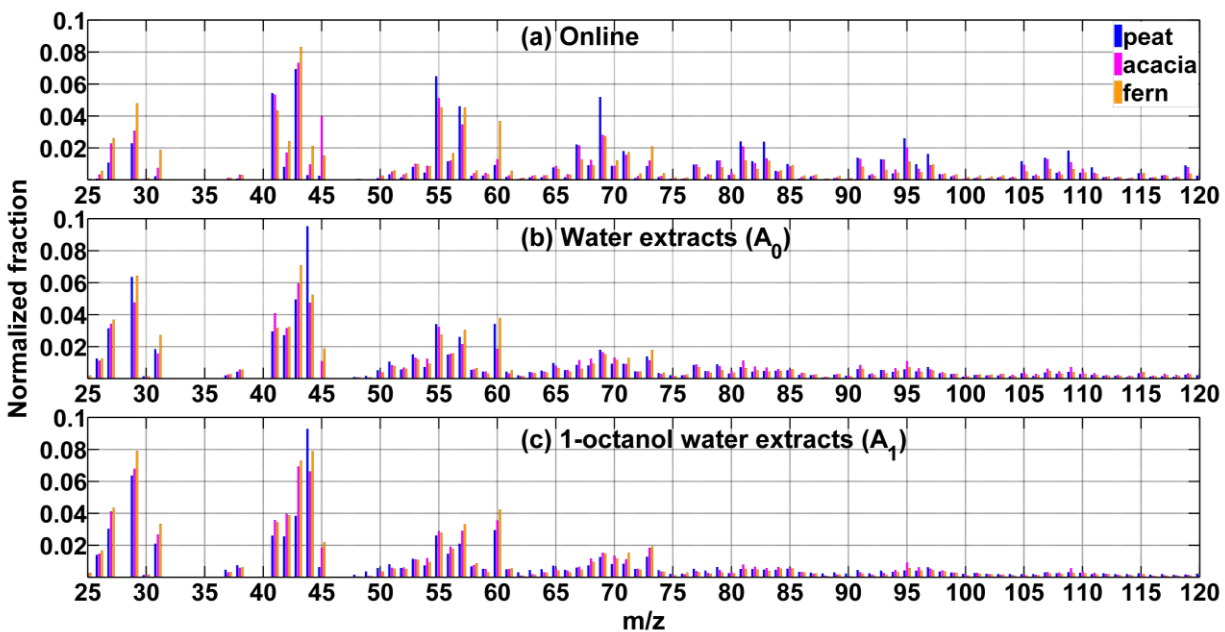
5 largest κ values were measured for fern burning particles ($D_0 = 100$ nm and $D_0 = 200$ nm).

6 Particles emitted from combustion of peat at Central Kalimantan are generally more hygroscopic

7 than those from Riau, Sumatra. Error bars denote the corresponding standard deviations.

3   **Fig.4** Comparison of κ values for (a) online, (b) water extracts (A_0), and (c) 1-octanol water

4   extracts (A_1). The data for peat (Riau-4), acacia, and fern are shown. Indonesian peat burning

5   particles are almost non-hygroscopic for online data, while their water soluble organic fractions

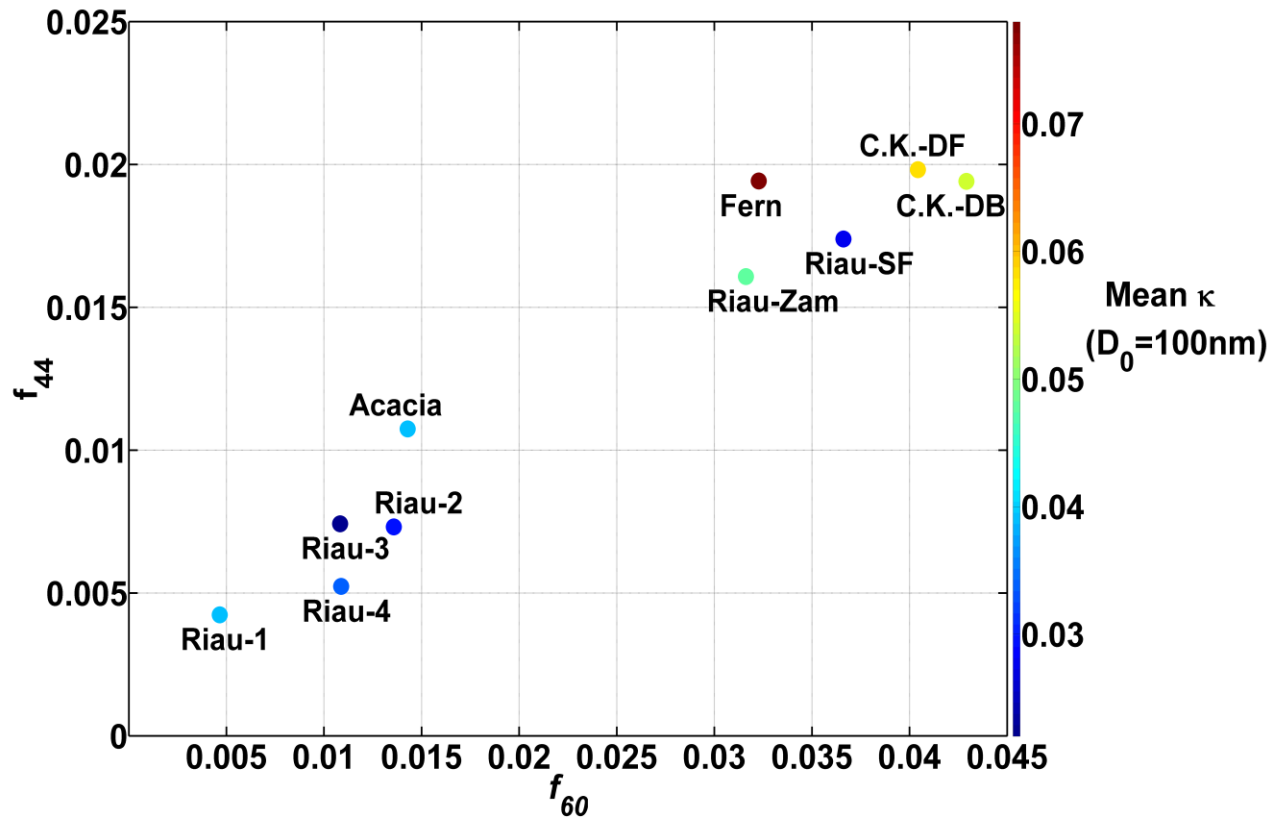
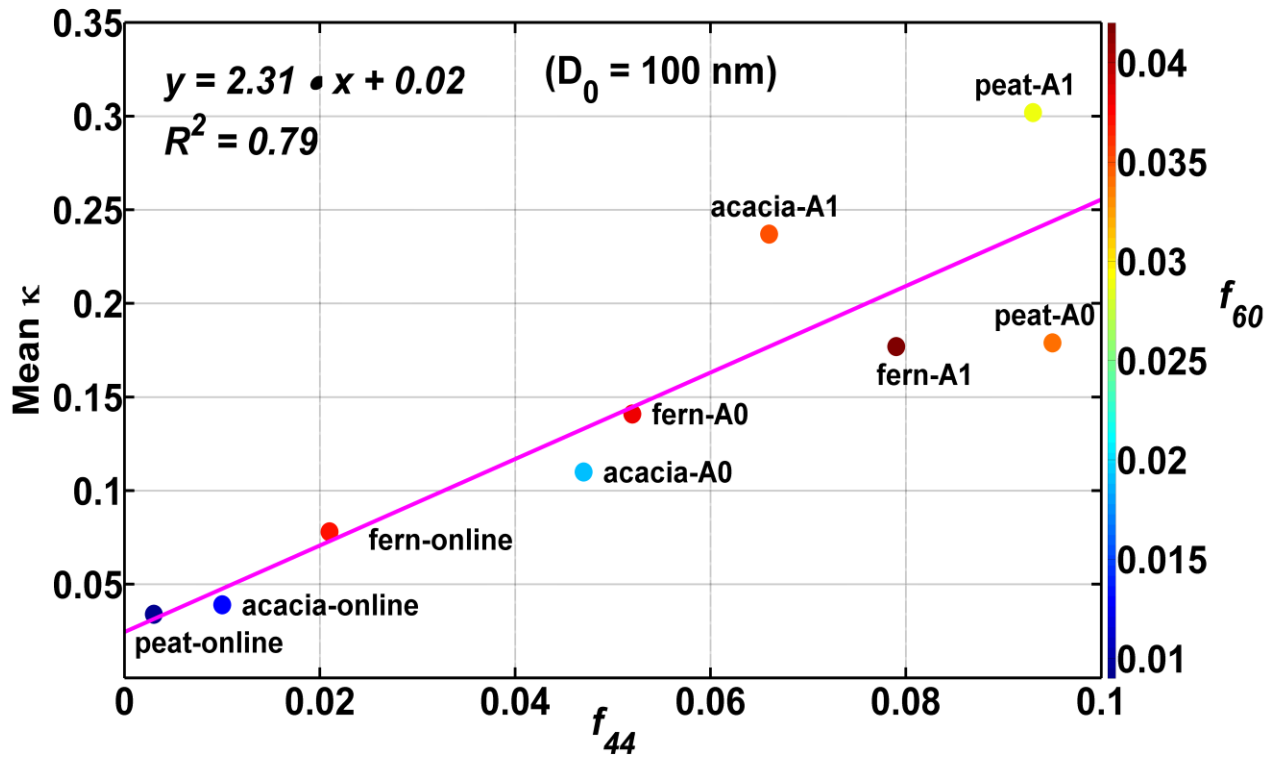
6   are highly hygroscopic.

3   **Fig.5** Correlation of κ and WSOC/OC ratio for different types of Indonesian peat and biomasses.

2 **Fig.6** Mass spectra of organics in Indonesian biomass burning particles measured for peat, acacia,

3 and fern samples. (a) online, (b) A_0, and (c) A_1 data are shown. Ion signals (m/z) from

4 hydrocarbon-like organic compounds (e.g., m/z 41, 43, 55, 57) are prominent for online data,

5 while intensities of ions for oxygenated organics (e.g., m/z 44) and biomass burning tracers (e.g.,

6 m/z 60, 73) are relatively less intense. On the other hand, both m/z 44 and m/z 60 signals are

7 significant for mass spectra of A_0 and A_1. See the text for details.

3   **Fig.7** Correlation of f_{44} and f_{60} for different types of Indonesian peat and biomasses.

3   **Fig.8** Correlation of κ and f_{44}. The magenta line shows the result of fitting by the least-squares

4   method.