

1 **Atmospheric fate of two relevant unsaturated ketoethers: kinetics, products and**  
2 **mechanisms for the reaction of hydroxyl radicals with (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-**  
3 **one and (*1E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one.**

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1 **Abstract**

2 The kinetics of the gas-phase reactions of hydroxyl radicals with two unsaturated  
3 ketoethers (UKE) at  $(298 \pm 3)$  K and 1 atm of synthetic air have been studied for the first  
4 time using the relative rate technique in an environmental reaction chamber by in situ  
5 FTIR spectrometry. The rate coefficients obtained using propene and isobutene as  
6 reference compounds were (in units of  $10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) as follows:  $k_{\text{TMBO}}(\text{OH} +$   
7  $(E)\text{-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one}) = (1.41 \pm 0.11)$ , and  $k_{\text{MMPO}}(\text{OH} + (E)\text{-1-methoxy-2-}$   
8  $\text{methyl-1-penten-3-one}) = (3.34 \pm 0.43)$ . In addition, quantification of the main oxidation  
9 products in the presence of  $\text{NO}_x$  has been performed and degradation mechanisms for  
10 these reactions were developed. Methyl formate, methyl glyoxal, PAN and PPN were  
11 identified as main reaction products and quantified for both reactions. The results of the  
12 present study provide new insights regarding the contribution of these multifunctional  
13 VOCs in the generation of secondary organic aerosols (SOAs) and long-lived nitrogen  
14 containing compounds in the atmosphere. Atmospheric lifetimes and implications are  
15 discussed in light of the obtained results.

16  
17 *Keywords:*  $(E)\text{-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one}$ ,  $(E)\text{-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one}$ ,  
18 OH radical kinetic, tropospheric chemistry, gas phase degradation mechanism, biomass  
19 burning, PAN and carbonyl formation.

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## 1 **1. Introduction**

2 Oxygenated volatile organic compounds (OVOCs) are ubiquitous atmospheric  
3 constituents of anthropogenic and natural origin. From those OVOCs, carbonyls have  
4 both direct and indirect sources, as a result of biogenic and anthropogenic activities, and  
5 because they are formed during chemical degradation processes, which occur in the  
6 atmosphere. Unsaturated carbonyls present high reactivity and are easily decomposed  
7 throughout chemical reactions into various OVOCs products.

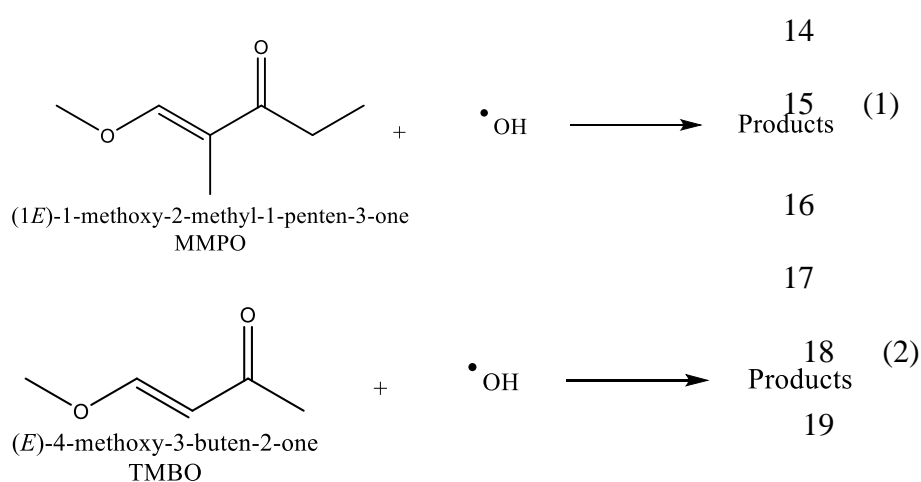
8 Ketones are one of the dominant groups of carbonyls found in the lower troposphere.  
9 They can be emitted into the atmosphere by anthropogenic activities from industry,  
10 combustion engine vehicle exhaust and in a large extent are formed as reaction products  
11 of other VOCs in the troposphere (Calvert et al., 2011; Jiménez et al., 2014; Mellouki et  
12 al., 2015).

13 More complex unsaturated carbonyls, namely the  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones and  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -  
14 unsaturated ethers are either emitted by plants or are produced as a result of atmospheric  
15 oxidation of conjugated dienes (Lv et al., 2018; Mellouki et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2006).  
16 These compounds have been considered as precursors for SOAs (Calvert et al., 2011).

17  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketoethers are compounds with high structural complexity found in the  
18 atmosphere. They were detected as reaction products of the atmospheric degradation of  
19 furans and unsaturated ethers, compounds, which received substantial interest in the last  
20 decade since they are considered promising alternative fuels (Cilek et al., 2011; Li et al.,  
21 2018; Villanueva et al., 2009; Zhou et al., 2006). UKEs are also produced during  
22 combustion and more specifically in biomass burning (Hatch et al., 2015). They are also  
23 of great interest in the pharmaceutical industry since they are often used as precursors  
24 and/or intermediates in the production of new anticancer drugs (Gøgsig et al., 2012;  
25 Kumar et al., 2016).

1  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  -unsaturated ketoethers are a special type of olefins, with an electron rich  $\pi$  system,  
2 which makes them more susceptible to rapid oxidation by addition of the OH radical to  
3 the double bond. Secondary pollutants, which are formed in such a reaction sequence,  
4 could be even more harmful than primary pollutants emitted into the atmosphere.  
5 Examples of such secondary harmful pollutants are organic peroxy nitrates, highly  
6 oxidized molecules and SOAs (Atkinson, 2000; Calvert et al., 2015).  
7 Accordingly, it is important to study in detail how the OH radical initiated oxidation of  
8 these compounds can affect the chemical composition and reactivity of the troposphere  
9 and, furthermore, the impact of the secondary pollutants formed during their gas phase  
10 chemical degradation.

11 In the present work the OH radical initiated reactions of (1*E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-  
12 penten-3-one and (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one have been investigated:



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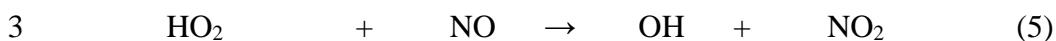
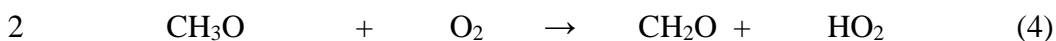
21 In addition to the kinetic information, the gaseous reaction products of reactions (1) and  
22 (2) have been quantified and reaction mechanisms have been derived for both compounds.  
23 The present study represents the first experimental determination of the rate coefficients  
24 ( $k_{\text{TMBO}}$  and  $k_{\text{MMPO}}$ ) and the reaction products formed from the gas phase reactions in the

1 presence of NO<sub>x</sub>. The obtained results could be used to generate more complete  
2 atmospheric chemical degradation mechanisms, i.e. the master chemical mechanism,  
3 which is necessary for a better estimation of the contribution of such compounds to  
4 photooxidant and SOAs formation.

## 5 **2. Experimental**

6 All experiments were performed in a 1080 L quartz-glass reaction chamber at (298 ± 3)  
7 K and a total pressure of (760 ± 10) Torr of synthetic air. A pumping system consisting  
8 of a turbo-molecular pump backed by a double stage rotary fore pump was used to  
9 evacuate the reactor to 10<sup>-3</sup> Torr. Three magnetically coupled Teflon mixing fans are  
10 mounted inside the chamber to ensure homogeneous mixing of the reactants. The  
11 photolysis system consists of 32 superactinic fluorescent lamps (Philips TL05 40W: 290–  
12 480 nm, λ<sub>max</sub>= 360 nm) and 32 low-pressure mercury vapor lamps (Philips TUV 40W;  
13 λ<sub>max</sub> = 254 nm), which are spaced evenly around the reaction vessel. The lamps are wired  
14 in parallel and can be switched individually, which allows variation of the light intensity,  
15 and thus also the photolysis frequency/radical production rate, within the chamber. The  
16 chamber is equipped with a White type multiple-reflection mirror system with a base  
17 length of (5.91 ± 0.01) m for sensitive in situ long path infrared absorption monitoring of  
18 reactants and products in the spectral range 4000 – 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The White system was  
19 operated at 82 traverses, giving a total optical path length of (484.7 ± 0.8) m. Infrared  
20 spectra were recorded with a spectral resolution of 1 cm<sup>-1</sup> using a Nicolet Nexus FTIR  
21 spectrometer equipped with a liquid nitrogen cooled mercury-cadmium-telluride (MCT)  
22 detector.  
23 OH radicals were generated by photolysis of CH<sub>3</sub>ONO/air mixtures at 360 nm using  
24 fluorescent lamps:

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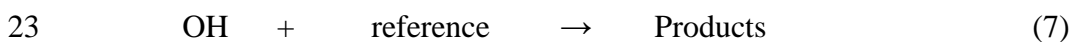
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5 Quantification of TMBO and MMPO and gas phase products was performed by  
6 comparison with calibrated reference spectra contained in the IR spectral data bases of  
7 the Wuppertal laboratory.

8 To investigate the mechanism of the OH-radical initiated oxidation of the  $\alpha$ ,  
9  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketoethers, the mixtures of the compound,  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONO}$  and air were  
10 irradiated for periods of 10-30 minutes during which infrared spectra were recorded with  
11 the FTIR spectrometer. Typically, up to 128 interferograms were co-added per spectrum  
12 over a period of approximately 40 s and 15-20 such spectra were collected. Prior to the  
13 reaction initiated by OH radicals, 5 spectra have been collected in dark to check the  
14 homogeneity and unexpected dark decay of the compounds under investigations (e.g. wall  
15 losses; dark reactions).

16 The TMBO, MMPO and reference compounds were monitored at the following infrared  
17 absorption frequencies (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): TMBO at 958, 1253 and 3020, MMPO at 1245, 1653  
18 and 2850, isobutene at 3085 and propene at 3091.

19 Rate coefficients for the reactions of OH radicals with MMPO and TMBO were  
20 determined by comparing their decay rate with that of the corresponding decay of the two  
21 reference compounds, isobutene and propene:



24 Provided that the reference compound and TMBO and MMPO are lost only by reactions  
25 (6) and (7), it can be shown that:

$$\ln \left\{ \frac{[UKE]_0}{[UKE]_t} \right\} = \frac{k_{UKE}}{k_{reference}} \ln \left\{ \frac{[reference]_0}{[reference]_t} \right\} \quad (I)$$

where,  $[UKE]_0$ ,  $[reference]_0$ ,  $[UKE]_t$  and  $[reference]_t$  are the concentrations of the  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketoethers and the reference compound at times  $t=0$  and  $t$ , respectively, and  $k_{UKE}$  and  $k_{reference}$  are the rate coefficients of reactions (6) and (7), respectively.

The initial mixing ratios of the reactants in ppmV ( $1 \text{ ppmV} = 2.46 \times 10^{13} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$  at 298 K and 1 atm) were TMBO (1-3), MMPO (2-4), isobutene (3-5) and propene (3-5).

Methyl nitrite (6 ppmv) photolysis has been used for OH radical formation. No additional NO has been introduced in the reaction chamber.

Possible additional losses due to interferences and/or interactions with the reactor walls could be neglected or corrected. To verify this assumption, mixtures of  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONO}$ /air with the  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketoethers and the reference compound were prepared and allowed to stand in the dark for two hours. In all cases, the decay of the organic species in the presence of the OH radical precursor and in the absence of UV light was negligible. Furthermore, to test for a possible photolysis of the compounds, the reactant mixtures without OH radical precursor were irradiated for 30 minutes, using all lamps surrounding the chamber. No significant photolysis of any of the reactants was observed and no additional decay has been monitored due to a possible reaction with interfering radicals.

### 3. Materials

The following chemicals, with purities as stated by the supplier, were used without further purification: synthetic air (Air Liquide, 99.999%), propene (Messer Schweiz AG, 99.5%), isobutene (Messer, 99%), (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one technical grade (Aldrich, 90%) and (*1E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one (Aldrich, > 89.5 %). Methyl nitrite was prepared by the drop-wise addition of 50% sulfuric acid to a saturated solution of sodium

1 nitrite in water and methanol (Taylor et al., 1980). The products were carried by a stream  
2 of nitrogen gas through a saturated solution of sodium hydroxide followed by calcium  
3 chloride, to remove the excess of acid, water and methanol, respectively. Methyl nitrite  
4 was collected and stored at 193 K in dry ice.

5

## 6 **4. Results and Discussion**

### 7 *4.1 Rate coefficients for the reaction with OH radicals*

8 Plots of the kinetic data obtained from the experiments of the reaction of OH radicals with  
9 TMBO and MMPO using two different reference compounds are shown in Fig. 1 and 2,  
10 respectively. At least two experiments have been performed for each reference compound  
11 and linear plots were obtained in all cases. For better representation, data for all  
12 experiments have been plotted against both references. Rate coefficient ratio  
13  $k_{\text{UKE}}/k_{\text{Reference}} (\pm 2\sigma)$  obtained by combining the experiments results in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2  
14 were: for TMBO,  $k_{\text{TMBO}}/k_{\text{isobutene}} = (2.56 \pm 0.13)$  and  $k_{\text{TMBO}}/k_{\text{propene}} = (5.08 \pm 0.16)$ . For  
15 MMPO,  $k_{\text{MMPO}}/k_{\text{isobutene}} = (6.40 \pm 0.31)$  and  $k_{\text{MMPO}}/k_{\text{propene}} = (11.64 \pm 0.82)$ .

16 The linearity of the plots with near-zero intercepts confirms that no interferences have  
17 affected the rate coefficient determination. Additionally, the very good agreement of the  
18 rate coefficients using the two reference compounds proved the correctness of the  
19 investigations.

20 Table 1 lists the values of the rate coefficient ratio  $k_{\text{UKE}}/k_{\text{Reference}}$  obtained in the  
21 individual experiments at 298 K and 1 atm for each  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketoether. The errors  
22 given for the  $k_{\text{UKE}}/k_{\text{reference}}$  ratios are the  $2\sigma$  statistical errors from the linear regression.  
23 The rate coefficients  $k_{\text{UKE}}$  for reactions 1 and 2 were calculated using the recommended  
24 values  $k_{\text{propene}} = (2.90 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-11} \text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Atkinson et al., 2006) (OH +



1 propene) and  $k_{\text{isobutene}} = (5.23 \pm 0.24) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (OH + isobutene) (Atkinson  
2 and Aschmann, 1984).

3 In addition, Table 1 shows the rate coefficients for individual experiments of each  
4 reference compound employed in this study as well as the final quoted rate coefficients  
5 for the reactions of OH with UKE compounds as an average from all experimental values  
6 obtained for the corresponding compound. The error quoted for those final UKE rate  
7 coefficients are obtained by using an error propagation approach.

8 To the best of our knowledge rate coefficients for the reactions of OH radicals with (*E*)-  
9 4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one and (*1E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one have not been  
10 reported previously in the literature.

#### 11 *4.1.1 Reactivity trends*

12 There is a general lack of studies on the reactivity of poly-substituted oxygenated  
13 unsaturated compounds, such as the unsaturated ketoethers studied in this work.

14 Only the reactivity of (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one towards ozone was investigated by  
15 Grosjean and Grosjean (1999) who reported a rate coefficient  $k_{\text{O}_3}$  of  $1.3 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3$   
16  $\text{molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Grosjean and Grosjean, 1999). The authors identified and quantified two  
17 main products from the ozonolysis of (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one, namely  
18 methylglyoxal ( $31.2 \pm 1.9\%$ ) and methyl formate ( $> 15.7\%$ ). These two species are  
19 potential products of the OH-initiated oxidation of (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one as well.

20 It is well known that OH-initiated atmospheric degradation of unsaturated VOCs  
21 proceeds mainly through the addition of the OH radical to the double bond (Calvert et al.,  
22 2015). Some studies also suggested that the presence of oxygenated functional groups in  
23 unsaturated VOCs leads to an increase of  $k_{\text{OH}}$ , perhaps due to the possibility of hydrogen  
24 bonding transition complexes stabilizing the transition states involved in these reactions  
25 (Blanco et al., 2012; Gaona-Colmán et al., 2017; Mellouki et al., 2003).

1 Considering the findings mentioned above, it is interesting to analyze the possible effect  
2 on  $k_{OH}$  when the ether group (R-O) is directly attached to the C=C bond of the unsaturated  
3 ketones and the presence of different substituents in the molecule. For this purpose, Table  
4 2 present two basic structures of unsaturated ketones (I and II) and the OH rate  
5 coefficients for different unsaturated ketones obtained experimentally and/or estimated  
6 using a SAR method (US EPA. Estimation Programs Interface Suite™ for Microsoft®  
7 Windows, 2018).

8 Starting with the less substituted compound, when the substituents  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  are all  
9 hydrogen atoms (3-buten-2-one), a value of  $k_{OH} = 2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  was  
10 experimentally observed (Holloway et al., 2005). Successive replacement of H atoms  
11 with methyl groups, for the positions  $R_2$ (3-penten-2-one) and  $R_3$ (4-methyl-3-penten-2-  
12 one), leads to a considerable increment on the reactivity as shown in Table 2 (Blanco et  
13 al., 2012; Gaona-Colmán et al., 2017). Considering the experimental errors of the  
14 measurements it is reasonable to conclude that the addition of each methyl group leads to  
15 an increase of approximately  $4 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  in the rate coefficient relative to  
16 those of basic structure I.

17 The methyl group added in positions  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  would stabilize the radical formed after  
18 the addition of the OH at the  $C_\alpha$  for two different effects: (i) the positive inductive effect  
19 (I+) by the methyl group, which stabilizes the positive charge in the  $C_\beta$  atom and (ii) the  
20 stabilization due to the hyperconjugation of the carbocation formed at the  $C_\beta$ .

21 Comparing the experimental value  $k_{TMBO} = 1.41 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  obtained in the  
22 present work for (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one with its methylated analogue 3-penten-2-  
23 one, one can easily realize the increase by a factor of 2 in the rate coefficient when the  $R_3$   
24 substituent is a methoxy group. This can be explained by the oxygen's lone pair of  
25 electrons, which delocalizes and increases the electron density within the C=C bond. On

1 the other hand, the methoxy group is electron withdrawing through a negative inductive  
2 effect (I-) via the  $\sigma$  bonds. However, the mesomeric effect is stronger than the inductive  
3 one, which is reflected by an increase of the (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one + OH reaction  
4 rate coefficient compared to its mono and bi-methylated analogues that can stabilize the  
5 corresponding radical structures only by the inductive effect and hyperconjugation, but  
6 not by a mesomeric effect.

7 A similar assessment can be performed considering the basic structure (II). The increasing  
8 trend in the reactivity towards OH radicals is quite similar when methyl groups replace H  
9 atoms in the structure of 1-pentene-3-one. The experimental rate coefficient  $k_{\text{MMPO}}=3.34\times$   
10  $10^{-10}\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  obtained in the present work for the reaction of OH radicals with  
11 (*1E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one is quite high but considering the approximate  
12 individual contribution of the substituents on the C=C bond as it was assumed previously  
13 for the basic structure (I) reflects entirely the system reactivity.

14

#### 15 *4.1.2 Structure-activity relationship (SAR) calculations*

16 In the present work, the AOPWIN software included in the EpiSuite 4.1 was used to  
17 estimate the rate coefficients of the structures listed in Table 2 (US EPA. Estimation  
18 Programs Interface Suite™ for Microsoft® Windows, 2018).

19 It is worth mentioning that calculated  $k_{\text{OH}}$  with AOPWIN fit quite well with the  
20 experimental values of the simplest structures of the unsaturated ketones shown in Table  
21 2, namely 3-buten-2-one and 1-penten-3-one. However, when the hydrogen atoms are  
22 replaced by methyl groups in the C=C system for structures (I) and (II), differences  
23 between experimental values and those estimated using SAR method become evident by  
24 a factor of 1.2 and 1.5, respectively. For structure (I) with two methyl substituents (4-  
25 methyl-3-penten-2-one) the difference remains approximately the same (factor 1.3).

1 Comparing the kinetic results obtained in this work for MMPO and TMBO with those  
2 predicted by AOPWIN, the differences become substantially larger. In Table 2 it can be  
3 seen that for  $k_{\text{TMBO}}$  the results differ by a factor of two and for  $k_{\text{MMPO}}$  by a factor of three.  
4 This fact highlights the limitations of the AOPWIN-SAR method for predicting the  
5 specific site for the addition of the OH radical to each carbon atom of an asymmetrical  
6 alkene, ignoring a possible stabilization of the reaction intermediate. The stabilization  
7 could generate transition states involving the formation of hydrogen bonding complexes  
8 between the OH radical and the oxygenated substituents as it was suggested in previous  
9 publications (Blanco et al., 2012; Gaona-Colmán et al., 2017; Mellouki et al., 2003).  
10 In conclusion, the AOPWIN-SAR estimation of reaction rate coefficients is a useful tool  
11 for simple molecules. However, the OH rate coefficients of the unsaturated ketoethers  
12 reported in this work showed significant discrepancies compared with the predicted ones.  
13 Probably, as suggested recently by Vereecken et al. (2018) it is not clear if the SAR  
14 method can be easily expanded to multifunctional compounds, especially given the small  
15 training set available from which to derive cross-substituent parameters or base rate  
16 coefficients (Vereecken et al., 2018).

17

## 18 *4.2 Reaction product distribution and mechanism*

### 19 *4.2.1(E)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one+ OH radicals*

20 Figure 3 shows an IR spectrum recorded before (trace A) UV irradiation applied for a  
21 mixture of TMBO and  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONO}$  in air. Trace B shows the spectrum recorded after 10  
22 min of UV irradiation of the reaction mixture. Trace D exhibits the product spectrum after  
23 subtraction of not reacted TMBO (from the reference spectra trace C), NO,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  
24  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONO}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Traces E, F and G show reference spectra of methyl formate,  
25 peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) and methyl glyoxal, respectively. Trace H exhibits the

1 residual product spectrum that is obtained after subtraction of known products from the  
2 product spectrum in trace D. The absorption from CO<sub>2</sub> has been removed in all traces for  
3 clarity since the band was saturated and no information could be obtained from it  
4 accordingly. Methyl formate, peroxyacetyl nitrate, and methyl glyoxal were readily  
5 identifiable as reaction products. Concentration–time profiles of TMBO and the  
6 identified products, methyl formate, PAN, and methyl glyoxal are shown in Fig.4. The  
7 concentration–time distribution supports that methyl formate, methyl glyoxal and PAN  
8 are primary reaction products. There is also easily to observe the constant concentrations  
9 of TMBO prior to reaction begin. This is accountable for homogeneity of the reaction  
10 mixture. Five spectra have been collected before switching on the light which corresponds  
11 to 240 s. No decay of TMBO is present in this time suggesting missing dark interference  
12 in the reaction system. From Fig. 4 could be observed a conversion of up to 80% of  
13 TMBO in 10 min of reaction time.

14 Depending on the side addition of the OH radical leading to the C<sub>α</sub> or C<sub>β</sub>, hydroxyalkoxy  
15 radicals, A<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>1</sub> will be formed respectively (Scheme 1). Decomposition of the A<sub>1</sub>  
16 radical will lead to the formation of methyl formate and methyl glyoxal as primary  
17 products. On the other hand, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> bond scission in the B<sub>1</sub> radical will lead to the  
18 formation of methyl formate and methyl glyoxal. Additionally, the radical B<sub>1</sub> could  
19 decompose through a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> scission generating 2-hydroxy-2-methoxyacetaldehyde and  
20 the acetyl radical. This route would, beside the formation of 2-hydroxy-2-  
21 methoxyacetaldehyde, be responsible for the primary generation of PAN through further  
22 reaction of the acetyl radical with O<sub>2</sub>/NO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, PAN is known to be formed due  
23 to the oxidation of methyl glyoxal (Fischer et al., 2014). The reaction of OH radicals with  
24 methyl glyoxal occurs exclusively by abstraction of the aldehydic H atom to form  
25 CH<sub>3</sub>C(O)CO radicals, which have a very short lifetime, dissociating to form CH<sub>3</sub>CO +

1 CO (Green et al., 1990). Finally, it is expected that acetyl radicals react, in the presence  
2 of O<sub>2</sub>, with NO<sub>2</sub> to form PAN (Fischer et al., 2014). Acetyl radicals are of particular  
3 importance in atmospheric chemistry as they are key contributors to important pollutants  
4 in the atmosphere. PAN (peroxyacetyl nitrate), in high NO<sub>x</sub> environments, is formed  
5 exclusively from acetyl peroxy radicals. However, in low NO<sub>x</sub> environments, acetyl  
6 radicals, in the presence of oxygen, generates acetyl peroxy radicals, which further reacts  
7 with HO<sub>2</sub> radicals producing CH<sub>3</sub>C(O)OOH, CH<sub>3</sub>C(O)OH, O<sub>3</sub> and OH radicals. These  
8 secondary products could have a high impact on the atmospheric chemistry on the global  
9 scale (Winiberg et al., 2016).

10 After subtraction of the identified products, the most prominent absorption feature in the  
11 IR residual spectra (Fig. 3 trace H) is a carbonyl band at 1730 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is more  
12 characteristic for an aldehydic than a ketone absorption. This feature suggests the  
13 formation of 2-hydroxy-2-methoxyacetaldehyde, which is unfortunately not  
14 commercially available. Therefore, direct identification in the residual product spectrum  
15 is not possible by using a recorded IR reference spectrum.

16 Carbonyl absorptions in the IR spectra are present in the 1600-1800 cm<sup>-1</sup> range and 2-  
17 hydroxy-2-methoxyacetaldehyde identification in this region of the IR spectrum is not  
18 possible. Beside the parent compound, which is presenting features in this carbonyl  
19 absorption specific region, many other products formed during the reaction have  
20 absorptions in this range. All the products formed in the reaction system have a specific  
21 absorption in the carbonyl range (methylglyoxal, methyl formate, PAN and 2-hydroxy-  
22 2-methoxyacetaldehyde). However, the later one must have an important pronounced  
23 peak in the O-H absorption area; therefore, we may assume the unique absorption at 3550  
24 cm<sup>-1</sup> as being attributed to the O-H absorption of 2-hydroxy-2-methoxyacetaldehyde (SI

1 Fig.S1). This is a strong indication of the 2-hydroxy-2-methoxyacetaldehyde formation,  
2 which is in agreement with the proposed mechanism in Scheme 1.  
3 Plots of the concentrations of the carbonyls formed vs reacted TMBO give molar  
4 formation yields of  $(65 \pm 12)$  % for methyl formate,  $(56 \pm 16)$  % for PAN and  $(69 \pm 14)$   
5 % for methyl glyoxal. The yields have been corrected for secondary reactions with OH  
6 radicals as well as for the photolysis and wall deposition processes where necessary  
7 (Tuazon et al., 1986). Exemplary plots for the product formation yields are shown in the  
8 SI Fig. S2.

9

#### 10 4.2.2(1E)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one+ *OH radicals*

11 Figure 5, trace A shows the infrared spectrum for an initial reaction mixture of a  
12 MMPO/CH<sub>3</sub>ONO/air mixture prior to irradiation; trace B exhibits the spectrum recorded  
13 after 10 min of irradiation and hence the occurring reaction; trace C shows a reference  
14 spectrum of MMPO recorded in a separate experiment in air at 1 atm and 298 K; trace D  
15 shows the product spectrum recorded after 10 min of irradiation and after subtraction of  
16 not reacted MMPO as well as subtraction of CH<sub>3</sub>ONO, NO, H<sub>2</sub>O and NO<sub>2</sub> absorption  
17 bands; trace E shows a reference spectrum of methyl formate; trace F a reference  
18 spectrum of 2,3-pentanedione and trace G a reference spectrum of peroxypropionyl  
19 nitrate (PPN). Trace H shows the residual product spectrum after subtraction of the  
20 identified reaction products in trace D.

21 The absorption from CO<sub>2</sub> has been removed in all traces for clarity since the band was  
22 saturated and no additional information could be obtained, accordingly. Methyl formate  
23 and peroxypropionyl nitrate were identified as reaction products. Concentration–time  
24 profiles of MMPO, methyl formate and peroxypropionyl nitrate are shown in Fig.6.  
25 Figure 6 supports that methyl formate and peroxypropionyl nitrate are primary reaction

1 products. MMPO concentration is constant during 5 spectra recorded in dark which  
2 consist of 120 s mixing time. Perfect homogeneity and no dark interferences could be  
3 observed. From Fig. 6 could be observed a total conversion of MMPO in 10 min of  
4 reaction time.

5 After the addition of the OH radical to the double bond of MMPO and subsequent addition  
6 of an oxygen molecule followed by reaction with NO, two different hydroxyalkoxy  
7 radicals, A<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> (scheme 2) could be generated. Unlike for TMBO, the reaction of  
8 MMPO with OH radicals at the C<sub>β</sub> position could lead to the formation of the more stable  
9 tertiary radical A<sub>2</sub> due to the presence of a methyl group in the α position to the carbonyl  
10 group.

11 Scheme 2 shows that both addition channels would lead to the formation of methyl  
12 formate and 2,3-pentanedione if the hydroxyalkoxy radical would follow dissociation of  
13 bond I in the A<sub>2</sub> radical intermediate and the dissociation of bond II in the B<sub>2</sub> radical  
14 intermediate.

15 The hydroxyalkoxy radical B<sub>2</sub> could lead, beside the formation of 2,3-pentanedione and  
16 methyl formate by following scission of bond II, to the formation of 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-  
17 3-oxopentanal as product and formaldehyde as reaction co-product as a result of the  
18 decomposition of the B<sub>2</sub> radical from scission of bond I. Formaldehyde could not be  
19 identified as reaction product since it is formed from CH<sub>3</sub>ONO photolysis and is present  
20 in the reaction spectra. 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-3-oxopentanal is not commercially available  
21 and in the absence of a mass spectrometry technique, which could at least identify the  
22 mass of this product there, its formation is only an assumption.

23 Decomposition channel for the A<sub>2</sub> radical could follow route I leading to the formation  
24 of 2,3-pentanedione and the radical CH<sub>3</sub>OCHOH, which could further, in the presence of  
25 oxygen, form methyl formate as a co-product. Figure 5 trace E shows a reference



1 spectrum of methyl formate. The absorption bands at  $1210\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1755\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were used  
2 to identify and quantify the formation of methyl formate.

3 The formation of 2,3-pentanedione is confirmed qualitatively by comparison of the  
4 product spectrum (Fig.5 trace D) with the existing reference spectrum (Fig.5, trace F).  
5 Although there is no doubt in the formation of 2,3-pentanedione, the partial or total  
6 overlap of the low intensity absorption bands did not allow us to perform reliable  
7 subtraction results to proceed for its quantification. 2,3-pentanedione exists  
8 predominantly in the keto form with the enol form being present to a few percent, at the  
9 most, in the gas phase at room temperature (Kung, 1974; Szabó et al., 2011). The  
10 predominance of the keto form for this compound makes its reactivity toward OH radicals  
11 much lower. Furthermore, in comparison with 2,4-pentanedione, a dicarbonyl compound  
12 having the enolic form predominantly and thus being more reactive toward OH radicals  
13 ( $9.05 \times 10^{-11}\text{ cm}^3\text{ molecule}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$ ) (Zhou et al., 2008), 2,3-pentanedione, with a rate  
14 coefficient for the reaction with OH radicals of  $2.25 \times 10^{-12}\text{ cm}^3\text{ molecule}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$  (Szabó et  
15 al., 2011) is 40 times less reactive and consequently the secondary reaction with OH  
16 radicals could be of less importance (Messaadia et al., 2015).

17 On the other hand, photolysis quantum yields for 2,3-pentanedione using XeF laser  
18 radiation and UV lamps at room temperature in 1000 mbar of air were studied by Szabó  
19 et al., 2011. The results obtained in their work suggest that 2,3-pentanedione would suffer  
20 significant photochemical changes even at relatively long wavelengths involving short  
21 photolysis lifetime in the troposphere. If we consider these facts, it would be possible to  
22 expect a non-negligible photolysis of the compound in our experimental system under the  
23 conditions used for this study.

24 Decomposition of the A2 hydroxyalkoxy radical could follow the scission on route II  
25 leading to 1-hydroxy-1-methoxypropan-2-one and propionyl radical. 1-hydroxy-1-

1 methoxypropan-2-one is not commercially available and thus is not possible to identify  
2 this compound by comparison with an infrared reference spectrum. However, the  
3 absorption band with the maximum at  $3512\text{ cm}^{-1}$  could be assumed to be the OH stretching  
4 band of 1-hydroxy-1-methoxypropan-2-one (see SI Fig.S3). The infrared spectrum in  
5 Fig.S3 presents one main absorption feature that could be attributed to the O-H stretching  
6 of 1-hydroxy-1-methoxypropan-2-one produced by the more stable tertiary radical ( $A_2$ ).  
7 The propionyl radical could further form peroxypropionyl nitrate (PPN) (Fig. 5 trace G)  
8 in the presence of  $O_2$  and  $NO_2$ .  
9 Plots of the concentrations of methyl formate and PPN formed against reacted MMPO in  
10 the OH radical reaction give molar formation yields of  $(40 \pm 12)\%$  and  $(17 \pm 6)\%$   
11 respectively. The yields have been corrected for secondary reactions with OH radicals  
12 using the method outlined by Tuazón et al., 1986. Exemplary plots of the product  
13 formation yields are shown in the SI Fig. S4.

14

## 15 **5. Atmospheric Implications and Conclusions**

16 Once emitted into the atmosphere, it is expected that unsaturated ketoethers such as  
17 TMBO and MMPO will follow gas phase degradation processes initiated by the main  
18 tropospheric oxidants (OH radicals, ozone, chlorine atoms and  $NO_3$  radicals). Rate  
19 coefficients obtained in this work for the reaction of TMBO and MMPO with OH radicals  
20 were used to calculate their tropospheric lifetimes using the expression  $\tau_x = 1/k_{ox}[Ox]$   
21 where  $[Ox]$  is the typical atmospheric concentration of the oxidant in the troposphere and  
22  $k_{ox}$  is the rate coefficient for the reaction of the TMBO and MMPO towards the oxidants.  
23 Considering 12-h day-time average OH radical concentration of  $2 \times 10^6$  molecule  $cm^{-3}$   
24 (global weighted-average concentration) (Bloss et al., 2005) an average lifetime of 0.98  
25 and 0.42 hours were estimated for TMBO and MMPO, respectively. As mentioned

1 before, in the literature there is only one experimental determination for the TMBO  
2 reaction rate coefficient with O<sub>3</sub> performed by Grosjean et al. (1999). By using  $k_{O_3}=1.3 \times$   
3  $10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and a 24-h average O<sub>3</sub> concentration of  $7 \times 10^{11} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$   
4 (Logan, 1985) an estimated tropospheric residence time of 3.1 hours was calculated. A  
5 similar tropospheric lifetime is expected for MMPO towards ozone but due to the lack of  
6 kinetic data, no exact value could be calculated for MMPO. Unfortunately, no kinetic data  
7 are available for the reactions of TMBO and MMPO with Cl atoms and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals.  
8 However, it is reasonable to conclude that reaction with OH radicals is the main  
9 tropospheric removal pathway during daytime for the two ketoethers studied due to the  
10 short lifetimes calculated in this work. For ethers it is known that photodissociation  
11 quantum yields are relatively low and the photolysis of ketones becomes important only  
12 at high altitudes (Mellouki et al., 2015). Thus, it is reasonable to assume that photolysis  
13 of the studied compounds is only of minor importance for their atmospheric removal.

14 The reaction products of the OH radical initiated degradation of MMPO and TMBO  
15 confirm that the main degradation mechanisms follow the addition pathways to the double  
16 bonds. Products, identified and quantified from these reactions, are carbonyls like methyl  
17 formate, methyl glyoxal and 2,3-pentanedione and long-lived nitrogen containing  
18 compounds such as PAN and PPN. Both type of these oxygenated products could have  
19 further impact on atmospheric processes. The present study proposes new gas phase  
20 contributors to the total budget of methyl glyoxal in the atmosphere a well known  
21 precursor for SOAs formation (Fu et al., 2008). Even more this study becomes important  
22 since MMPO and TMBO are VOCs possibly released from open biomass burning events  
23 whose emissions factors for methyl glyoxal are not well established (Zarzana et al., 2018).  
24 PAN and PPN, quantified also as reaction products, are phytotoxic air pollutants, which  
25 act as NO<sub>x</sub> reservoir in remote areas (Taylor, 1969). Beside a large number of PAN

1 measurement campaigns, most recent chemical transport models still unsolved the PANs  
2 global distributions due to the lack of understanding of the PAN source attribution in the  
3 atmosphere (Fischer et al., 2014). Although the acetyl radical is intermediary in the  
4 formation of PAN in this study, by its acetyl peroxy radical formed in the presence of  
5 oxygen, this radical it could play an important role in the HO<sub>x</sub> balance over the low NO<sub>x</sub>  
6 environment. The acetyl peroxy radical is a well known precursor of OH radicals as a  
7 result of the reaction with HO<sub>2</sub> in the remote atmosphere (Winiberg et al., 2016).  
8 Therefore, the gas phase mechanism proposed in this study could be of importance for  
9 understanding atmospheric processes at the global scale, either in the atmosphere with  
10 low NO<sub>x</sub> levels or in the atmosphere with increased NO<sub>x</sub>. The results of the present study  
11 provide improved insights regarding the important contribution of multifunctional VOCs  
12 in the chemistry of atmosphere.

13

## 14 **6. Competing interests**

15 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

16

## 17 **7. Author contribution**

18 RG, IB, IGB, PW designed experimental setup, RG conducted the measurements, RG and  
19 IGB processed the data, RG, IGB and PW prepared the manuscript with contribution from  
20 all the co-authors on different stages of writing process.

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22

23

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1 **Figure Captions**

2 **Figure 1:** Relative rate data for the reaction of OH radicals with (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one  
3 using propene (■) and isobutene (●) as reference compounds at 298 K and atmospheric pressure  
4 of air.

5

6 **Figure 2:** Relative rate data for the reaction of OH radicals with (1*E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-  
7 penten-3-one using propene (■) and isobutene (●) as reference compounds at 298 K and  
8 atmospheric pressure of air.

9

10 **Figure 3:** Infrared spectral data: trace A infrared spectrum of a TMBO/CH<sub>3</sub>ONO/air reaction  
11 mixture before irradiation; trace B mixture after 10 min irradiation; trace C reference spectrum of  
12 TMBO; trace D product spectrum; trace E reference spectrum of methyl formate; trace F reference  
13 spectrum of peroxyacetyl nitrate; trace G reference spectrum of methyl glyoxal; trace H residual  
14 spectrum after subtraction of the identified reaction products in trace D.

15 **Figure 4:** Concentration–time dependencies for the reaction of TMBO (■) + OH radicals and the  
16 quantified products, methyl formate (◆MF), peroxyacetyl nitrate (●PAN), and methyl glyoxal  
17 (▲MG).

18 **Figure 5:** Infrared spectral data: trace A infrared spectrum of a MMPO/CH<sub>3</sub>ONO/air reaction  
19 mixture before irradiation; trace B mixture after 10 min irradiation; trace C reference spectrum of  
20 MMPO; trace D product spectrum; trace E reference spectrum of methyl formate; trace F reference  
21 spectrum of 2, 3-pentanedione; trace G reference spectrum of PPN; trace H residual spectrum  
22 after subtraction of the identified reaction products in trace D.

23 **Figure 6:** Concentration–time profiles for the reaction of MMPO (■) + OH radicals and  
24 the quantified product methyl formate (◆MF) and peroxypropionyl nitrate (●PPN).

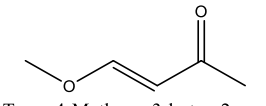
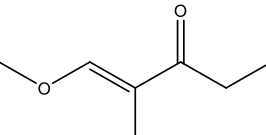
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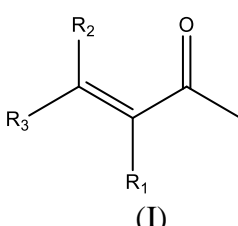
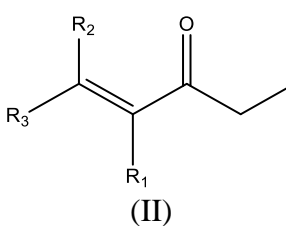
1 **Table 1.** Rate coefficient ratios  $k_{\text{UKE}}/k_{\text{Reference}}$  and rate coefficients for the reaction of OH radicals  
 2 with (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one and (*1E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one at  $(298 \pm 3)$  K  
 3 in 1 atm of air.

Compound	Reference	$k_{\text{UKE}}/k_{\text{Reference}}$	$k_{\text{UKE}}$ ( $10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ )
 Trans-4-Methoxy-3-buten-2-one	Isobutene	$2.41 \pm 0.02$	$1.26 \pm 0.06$
	Isobutene	$2.74 \pm 0.04$	$1.43 \pm 0.07$
	Isobutene	$2.67 \pm 0.09$	$1.40 \pm 0.10$
	Propene	$5.02 \pm 0.06$	$1.46 \pm 0.05$
	Propene	$5.20 \pm 0.07$	$1.51 \pm 0.06$
	<b>Average</b>		<b><math>1.41 \pm 0.11</math></b>
 ( <i>E</i> )-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one	Isobutene	$6.30 \pm 0.12$	$3.30 \pm 0.16$
	Isobutene	$6.54 \pm 0.38$	$3.42 \pm 0.25$
	Propene	$11.00 \pm 0.77$	$3.19 \pm 0.25$
	Propene	$11.88 \pm 0.49$	$3.45 \pm 0.19$
	<b>Average</b>		<b><math>3.34 \pm 0.43</math></b>

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1 **Table 2.** OH rate coefficients for different unsaturated ketones obtained experimentally  
 2 and predicted using a SAR method.

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<i>Basic structure</i>	<i>Substituent -R</i>	<i>Compound name</i>	<i>Experimental k<sub>OH</sub></i> (cm <sup>3</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>SAR calculated k<sub>OH</sub><sup>f</sup></i> (cm <sup>3</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
 <p>(I)</p>	$R_1=R_2=R_3=H$	3-buten-2-one	$(2.0 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-11a}$	$H_{abs}=1.02 \times 10^{-13}$ $OH_{Add}=2.37 \times 10^{-11}$ <b>Overall= <math>2.38 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>
	$R_1=H, R_2=H, R_3=CH_3$	3-penten-2-one	$(7.22 \pm 1.74) \times 10^{-11b}$	<i>(E)-isomer</i> $H_{abs}=2.38 \times 10^{-13}$ $OH_{Add}=5.76 \times 10^{-11}$ <b>Overall= <math>5.78 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>
	$R_1=H, R_2=CH_3, R_3=CH_3$	4-methyl-3-penten-2-one	$(1.02 \pm 0.20) \times 10^{-10c}$	$H_{abs}=3.74 \times 10^{-13}$ $OH_{Add}=7.82 \times 10^{-11}$ <b>Overall= <math>7.86 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>
	$R_1=H, R_2=H, R_3=OCH_3$	<i>(E)</i> -4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one	$(1.41 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{-10d}$	$H_{abs}=9.32 \times 10^{-13}$ $OH_{Add}=7.49 \times 10^{-11}$ <b>Overall= <math>7.58 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>
 <p>(II)</p>	$R_1=R_2=R_3=H$	1-penten-3-one	$(2.90 \pm 0.79) \times 10^{-11e}$	$H_{abs}=1.23 \times 10^{-12}$ $OH_{Add}=2.37 \times 10^{-11}$ <b>Overall= <math>2.49 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>
	$R_1=H, R_2=H, R_3=CH_3$	<i>(E)</i> -4-hexen-3-one	$(9.04 \pm 2.12) \times 10^{-11b}$	<i>(E)-isomer</i> $H_{abs}=1.37 \times 10^{-12}$ $OH_{Add}=5.76 \times 10^{-11}$ <b>Overall= <math>5.90 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>
	$R_1=H, R_2=CH_3, R_3=CH_3$	5-methyl-4-hexen-3-one	-	$H_{abs}=1.50 \times 10^{-12}$ $OH_{Add}=7.82 \times 10^{-11}$ <b>Overall= <math>7.97 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>
	$R_1=CH_3, R_2=H, R_3=OCH_3$	<i>(1E)</i> -1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one	$(3.34 \pm 0.43) \times 10^{-10d}$	$H_{abs}=2.20 \times 10^{-12}$ $OH_{Add}=1.02 \times 10^{-10}$ <b>Overall= <math>1.04 \times 10^{-10}</math></b>

4 a-(Holloway et al., 2005); b-(Blanco et al., 2012); c-(Gaona-Colmán et al., 2017); d- This work; e-(Blanco  
 5 and Teruel, 2011)

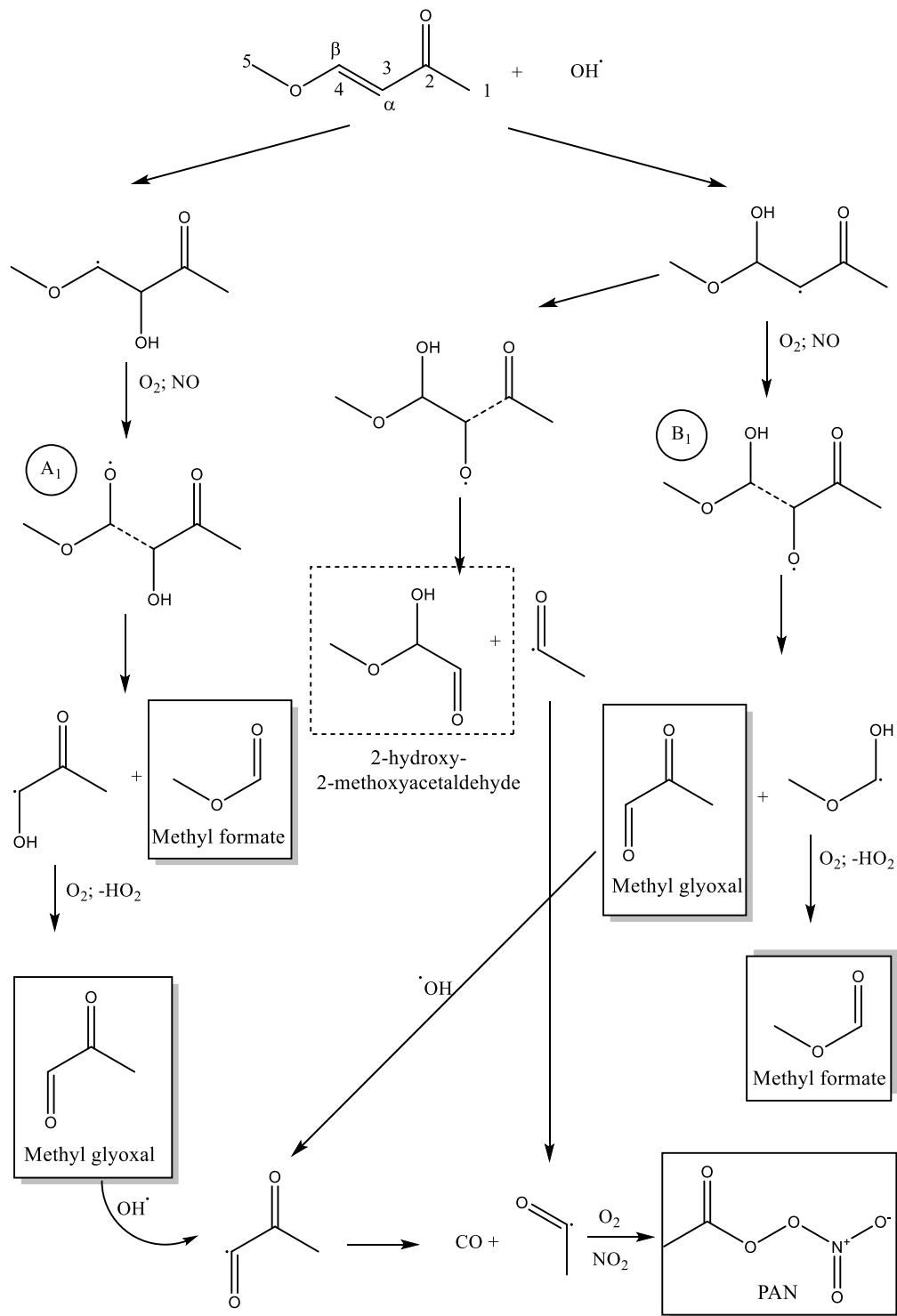
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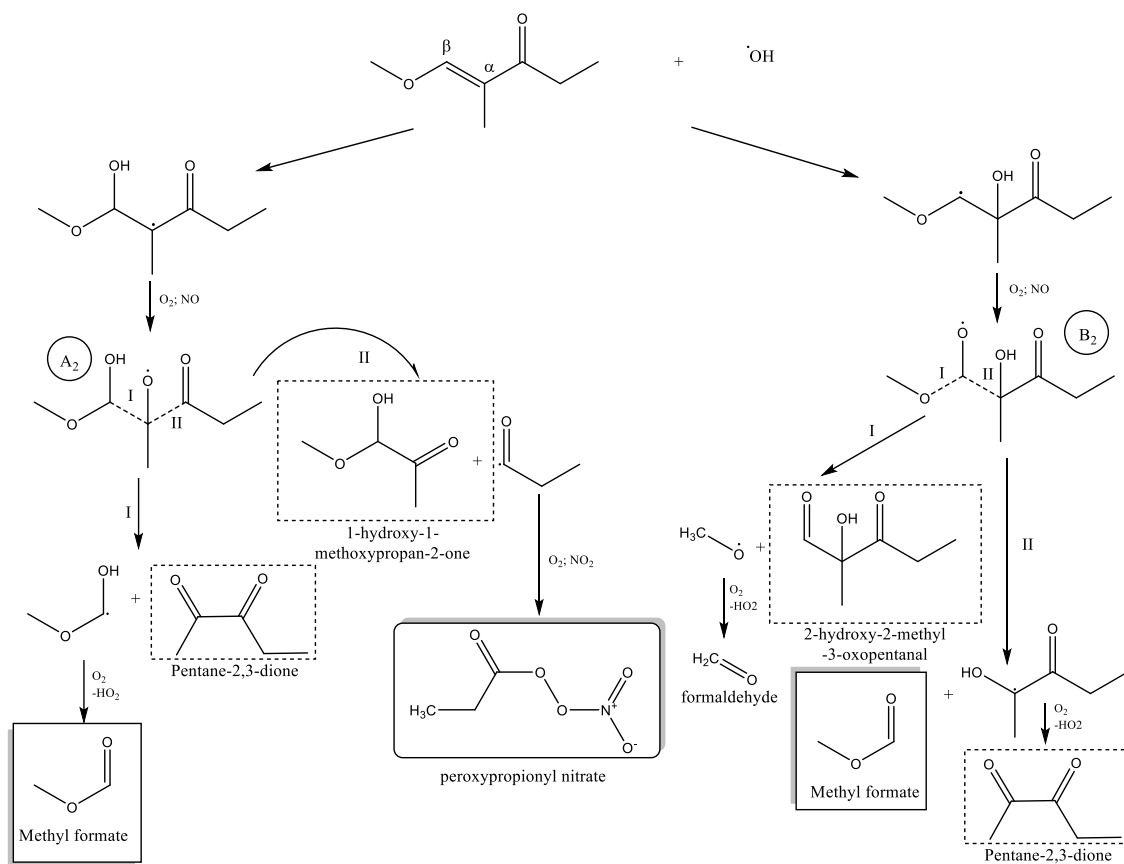
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1 **Scheme 1.** Simplified reaction mechanism for the addition channel in the OH-radical initiated  
 2 oxidation of the (*E*)-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one. Quantified products appear in the boxes and the  
 3 identified products are rounded by a dashed rectangle.  
 4

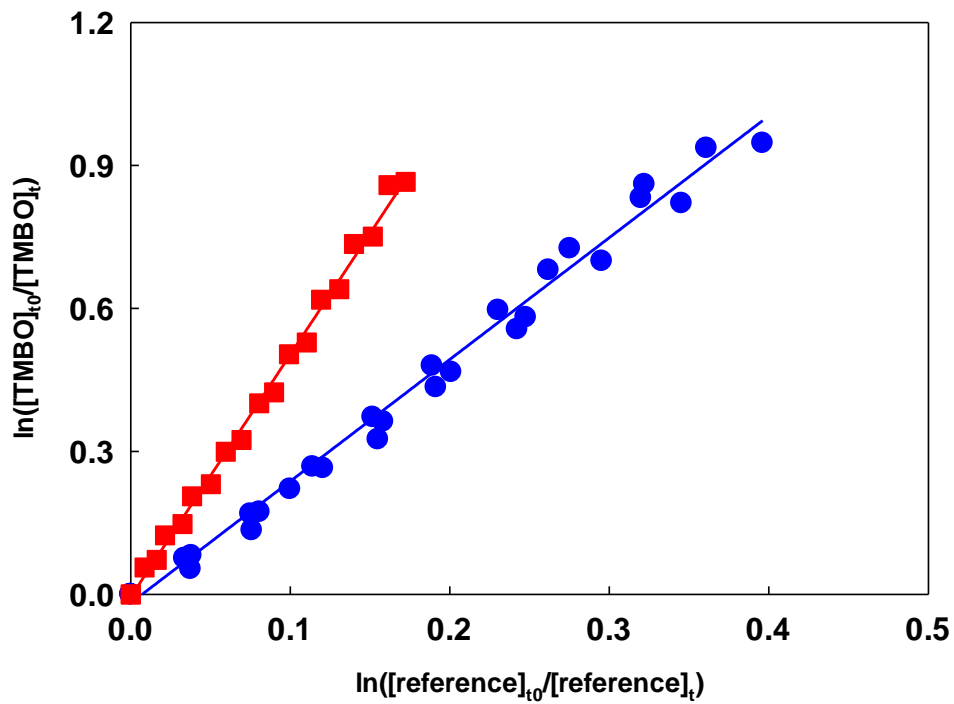


1 **Scheme 2.** Simplified reaction mechanism for the addition channel in the OH-radical  
 2 initiated oxidation of (1*E*)-1-methoxy-2-methyl-1-penten-3-one. Quantified products appear  
 3 in the boxes and the identified products are rounded by a dashed rectangle.  
 4



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Fig. 1

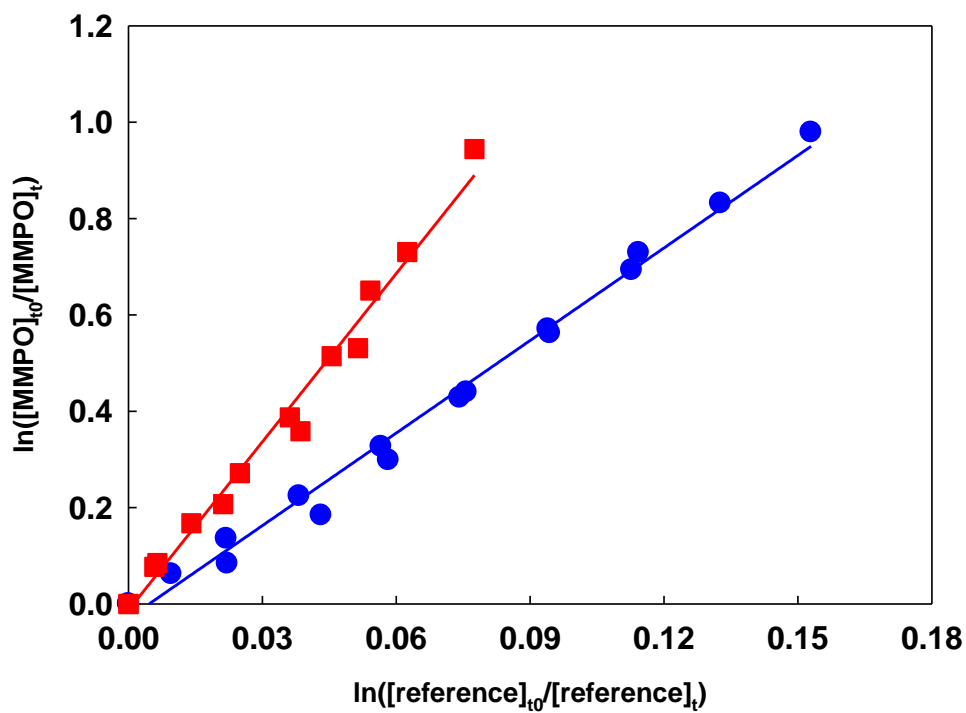


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Fig.2



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Fig. 3

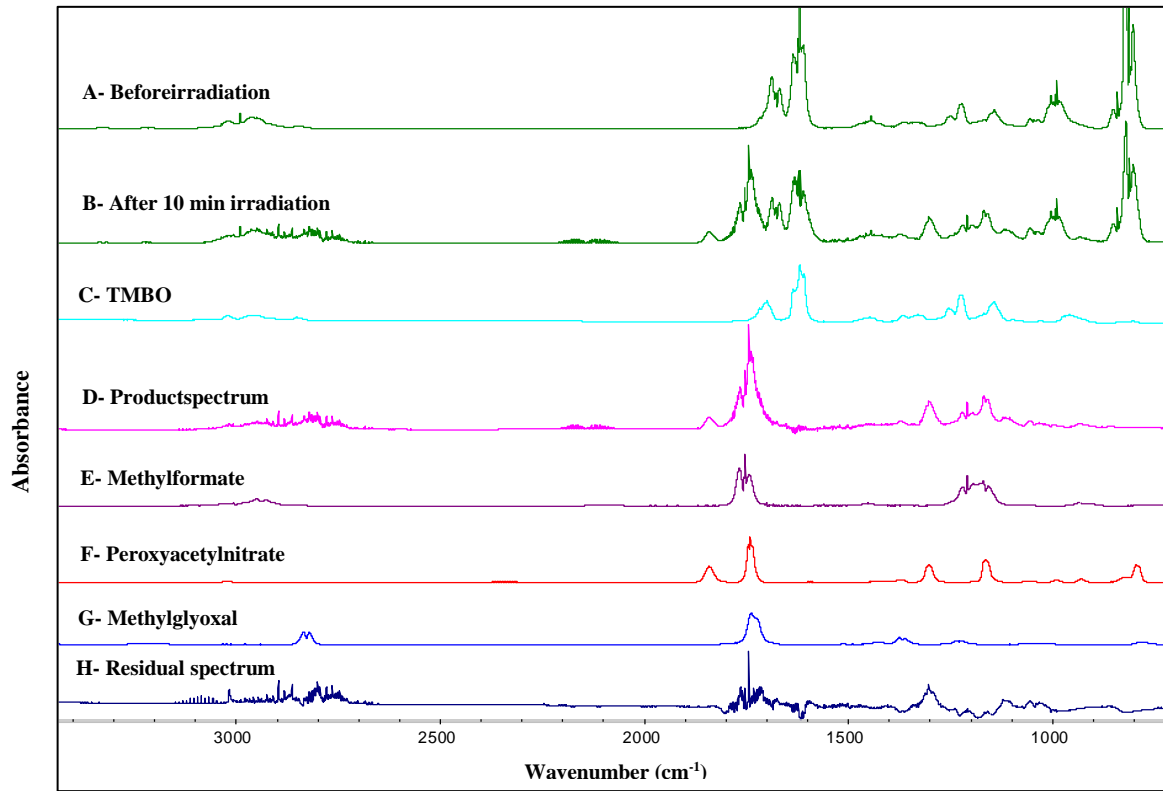
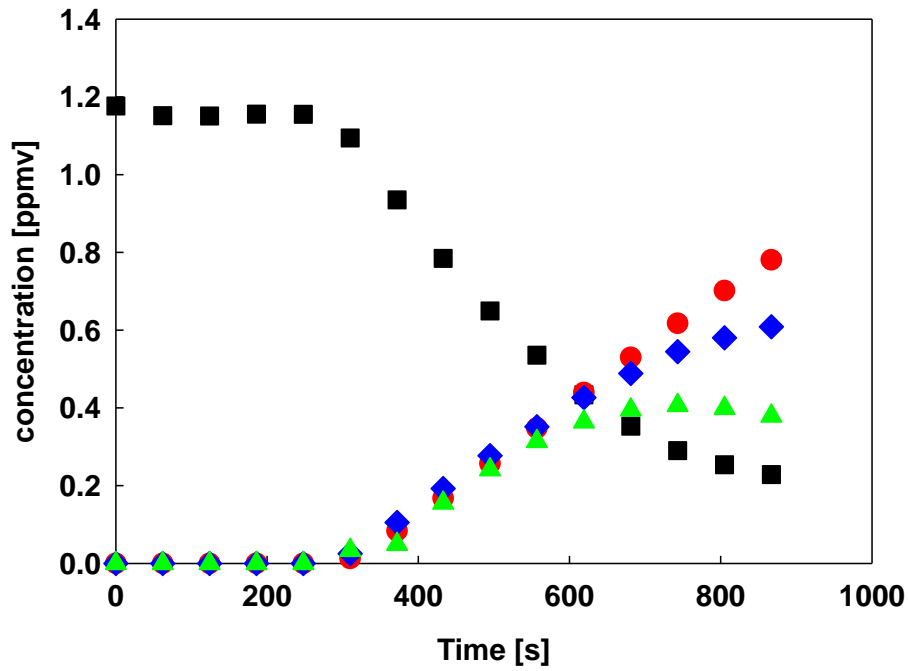
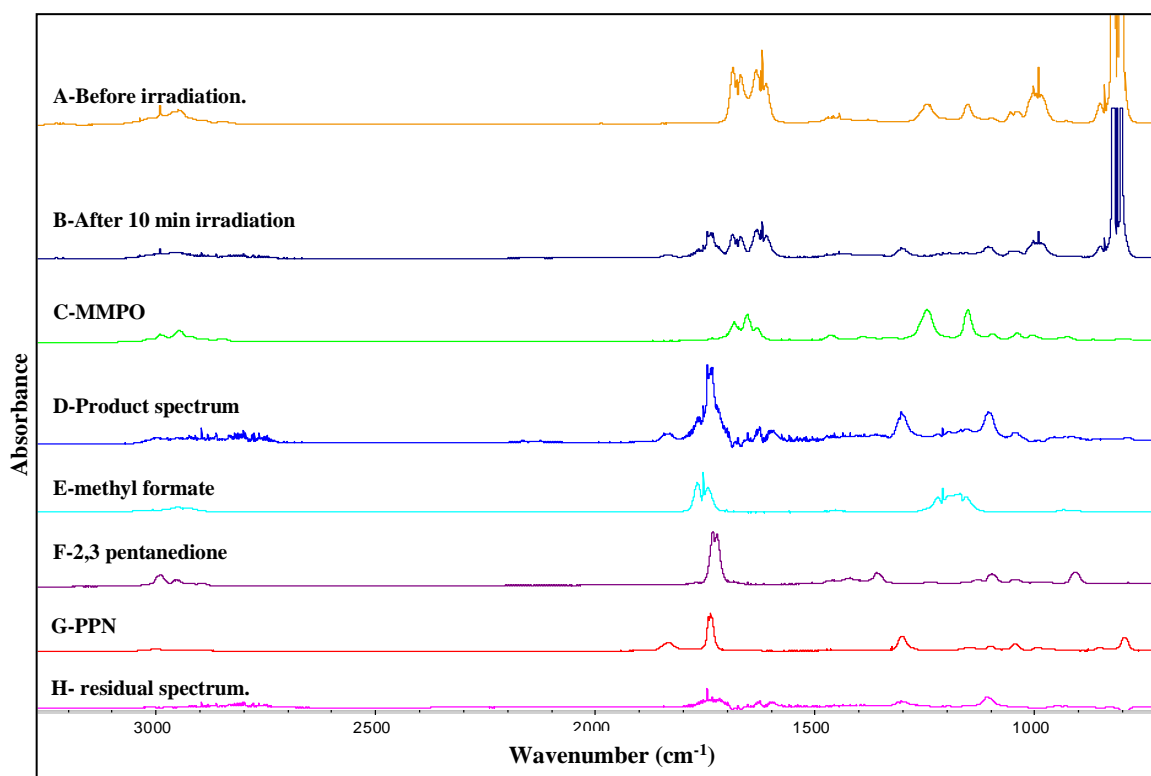


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

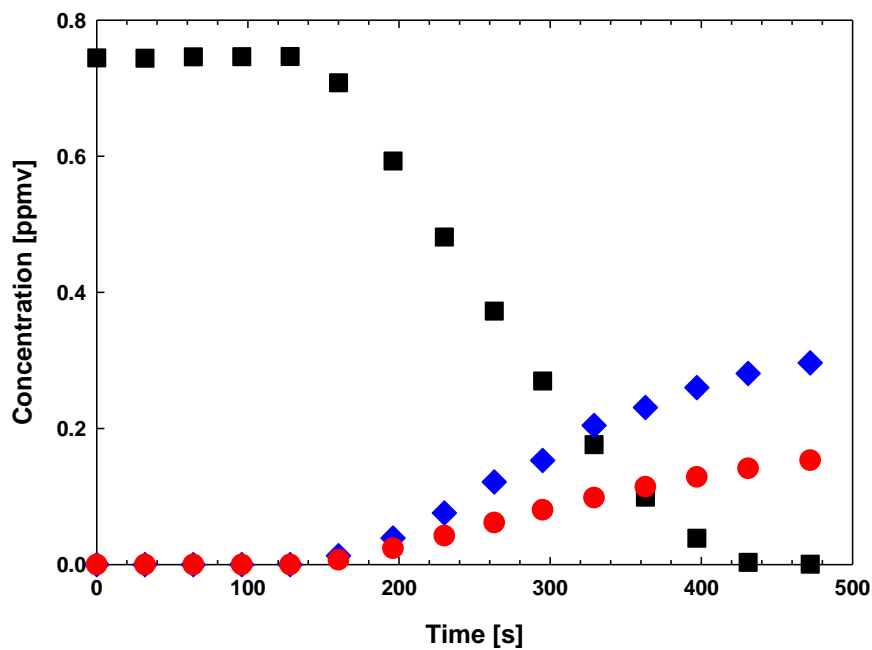


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Fig. 6



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