

## Reviewer 1

### *Summary:*

*The authors collected samples of functionalized organic compounds from a wildfire using an aircraft platform. Particles were collected on filters and sampled using LC and GC techniques offline, while gas phase compounds were collected in adsorbent tubes and sampled primarily using the LC method offline. The authors illustrate the importance of sulfide compounds, concluding that sulfides are formed through secondary chemistry and are a major contributor to CHONS compounds after plume aging. They discuss possible sources of these sulfur compounds. The measurements and analysis are quite interesting, and definitely of interest to others researching organic compounds (particularly lower volatility gases and particulate speciation). I have one major issue with how the authors quote numbers for relative contributions of sulfide and CHONS in the abstract, rather than using (dilution corrected) absolute concentrations to really prove that secondary formation is occurring. The data supporting abstract-level conclusions needs to be presented in the main paper, rather than the SI figures. This issue can be resolved through reorganization, and after addressing that along with my other comments, I would recommend for publication.*

We thank the reviewer for their supportive comments. We modified our figure presentation and our discussion of the data in the abstract and manuscript to address both the absolute and relative contributions from CHONS and sulfide species. We discuss our edits in detail in the line-by-line responses below.

### *Specific Comments:*

*Abstract, Sect 3.1, 3.2, etc.: In several places in the main text and figs including the abstract, Sects. 3.1 and 3.2, you present data by relative abundance of each screen. You present that the relative contribution of sulfides increases with plume age, and quote those numbers in the abstract in the context of saying sulfides are formed through secondary chemistry from S/IVOCs. However, the change in relative contribution alone could have several causes: sulfides could be being formed from chemistry in the plume (which is what you show with Fig. S6A with the CO-normalized plots), or sulfides could just be evaporating less than other functional groups and thus becoming relatively more important. Like I said, with Fig. S6A you show that the absolute concentration (when dilution corrected) is increasing, so there is some chemical formation, but you're not presenting your data or quoting the right numbers in the abstract to back up this conclusion. I believe this conclusion is really the main conclusion that you're trying to show with this work, and that's why you go on to a lot of discussion of possible secondary sources of sulfides in Sect. 3.5. But you're only showing it with an SI figure. This is a major issue with the organization of manuscript, in my opinion. And in the abstract, the quoted numbers seem potentially misleading to me. You present the numbers for relative increase (which on their own don't necessarily mean secondary formation, and might not quantitatively represent the amount of secondary formation), but the context is that sulfides are being formed through secondary chemistry. I think you need to be showing CO-normalized data in the main paper figs and quote those numbers in the abstract. As an imprecise use of data to back up conclusions in the abstract, I say it's a major issue, but it should be easy to resolve and it won't change your conclusions.*

We thank the reviewer for bringing up this important distinction. In Figure 1 and the associated discussion, we showed the contribution of CHONS and sulfide species in terms of their relative prevalence, to contrast changes in CHONS and sulfide contributions with other compound classes and functional groups in the observed complex mixture of emissions and transformation products. We agree that changes in relative contributions could be driven by a number of factors, such as chemical formation and different relative rates of evaporation that could vary between compound classes and functional groups. For this study, we were interested in looking at both the absolute formation of CHONS and sulfide species *and* the evolution of the overall complex mixture of compound classes/functional groups. As a result, we chose to include relative contributions of compound classes and functional groups in the main text, and in the interest of space, absolute contributions corrected for dilution (using carbon monoxide measurements) in the SI. We recognize that both ways of presenting results (i.e. as relative or absolute contributions) are valuable for different purposes. In both cases, the observed trends in CHONS and sulfide contributions were similar. Both approaches showed an overall growing contribution of CHONS and sulfides from screen 1 to 4, peaking at screen 4.

To address the reviewer's concern and provide more information the reader in the main text, we added an inset to Figure 1 that shows the absolute contributions of CHONS and sulfides with plume age (using dilution-corrected abundances). We added an inset rather than replacing the full figure because we did not want to lose the information presented in the current Figure 1A-C on the evolution of the complex mixture as a whole. In Figure 1's caption, we added an additional reference to the SI figures that show all compound classes and functional groups by absolute dilution-corrected abundance. We also note that we already show dilution corrected values for the gas-phase data in Figure 4. Also, in the abstract (lines 21-22 and 24-26) and in other instances where we reported the change in relative contribution of CHONS and sulfide species, we added a mention of their increase in dilution-corrected abundance. Finally, we included a note to the results section that draws attention to both methods of tabulation (lines 187-192).

*Line 180: Again, the increase in relative abundance of sulfides among CHONS species doesn't tell us whether sulfides are being formed, or if they're just evaporating/reacting more slowly than other functional groups. But the discussion here all assumes secondary formation. This is the same as my first comment, really.*

This concern is addressed above. At line 186-187, we added a sentence to show increases in absolute abundance (corrected for dilution using CO) to more strongly support the conclusion of CHONS formation. Similar additions were made when sulfides were discussed (lines 207-208).

*Fig. S5 and elsewhere: What is the difference between abundance and occurrence? I don't see it explained anywhere, so I don't know what point you're trying to make by showing plots of occurrence.*

The results shown in select SI figures tabulated by both abundance and occurrence are for comparison purposes only. The results tabulated by abundance are the ones discussed throughout the manuscript. However, due to uncertainty in ionization efficiency of individual multifunctional compounds within the complex mixture, we provide the reader with supporting data on the detailed distribution of compound classes, volatility ranges, and functional groups by occurrence as well (i.e. by number of compounds in each category). Trends in most cases were similar, suggesting that the interpretation of the abundance-weighted results was not substantially skewed by differences in ionization efficiency. This was originally discussed briefly at the end of SI Section S4. To address the reviewer's comment, we added a mention of the specific figures in the SI for which we showed both abundance-weighted and occurrence-based results for emphasis (SI lines 287-289). We also added a reference to Section S4 in the captions of the relevant figures, to draw attention to the discussion (Figures S5, S6, S8, S9).

*Line 195: How are you estimating the volatility of the compounds? It looks like you might be explaining in line 201 (and Fig. S8, S9 captions), but it would be good to give that detail in the methods section before you start discussing volatilities here.*

Thank you for the suggestion. We added a few sentences to the Materials and Methods section to discuss this for adsorbent tubes and filters (clarified lines 113-124, added lines 127-130 and lines 157-162).

*Line 82: Could you provide a little more info about the two-plume structure of the fire? Was it two spots of active burning/smoldering, and if so how close were they, or was it one spot that evolved two plumes with different ages? Mainly, I just want to know if both plumes in a given screen were sampled at approximately the same age. Maybe you could indicate an approximate location of the start of the second plume in Fig S1.*

Based on analyses of satellite imagery and ground meteorological measurements, the NP was likely from the same source as the South Plume (SP). The NP likely occurred due to a switch in wind direction just prior to sampling. This means that the NP may be slightly older than the SP—we estimate this age difference to be <30 minutes, so they are roughly the same age. We added a brief mention of the ages of the plumes to the caption of Figure S1. Because the source of the NP was not identified via satellite imagery, it is not included explicitly in Figure S1 (this is mentioned in the caption).

*Line 87: What were the altitudes sampled in each screen?*

The average altitude of samples varied ~650-1650 m for adsorbent tubes (collected on distinct low and high altitude passes through the plume), and ~900-1600 m for filters (one filter per screen). Average altitudes were originally shown in Table S1, and we

added a reference to this table at line 90 to ensure that this information is readily found by readers.

*Line 214: There are a lot of acronyms and methods involved in your analysis (not a criticism, just an observation!), so it can be a little tricky to follow that you're switching now from discussing the particle phase that was sampled via filters to discussing the gas phase sampled via adsorbent tubes. I'd recommend just adding a quick note here to say this more explicitly, that in order to try to understand the particle phase filter measurements presented earlier, you're now doing targeted analysis of the gas phase sampled via adsorbent tubes.*

We edited this sentence to make the transition clearer to readers (line 246-248).

*Line 300: Could you discuss whether or not there are any sulfur-containing compounds included in any fire suppressant materials that could have been deposited on this fire?*

Smoke from this fire was sampled when the fire was less than 1 hour old and there had been no prior active fire suppression activities. Fire suppressant from past applications could have deposited on forest surfaces and re-volatilized, though historically, fire suppressants are not heavily used this region due to the abundance of lakes in the area. Also, this region uses water almost exclusively as a fire retardant. While it is possible that non-water fire suppressants were applied historically, the exact type and quantity are uncertain. It appears that one of the most commonly used fire suppressants in Canada today contains ammonium phosphate salts, sometimes with sulfate-containing salts mixed in. The exact composition of a few example fire suppressants that we searched for were proprietary, so the contribution of sulfate salts is unknown, but likely minor compared to that of phosphate salts. The contribution of any sulfur-containing compounds from fire suppressants to the observed gas/particle-phase species is therefore expected to be minor or negligible (if 100% water was used). We added a sentence to briefly mention fire suppressants at lines 366-368.

*Sects. 3.4 and 3.5: Both of these sections are entirely 'discussion' of what could be explaining your data, and not presentation of your 'results'. Thus, they don't need to have their own sections under your 'results and discussion' header. You should either move them up into the previous sections where you actually present the results you're discussing, or change Sect. 3 to just 'Results' and have Sect. 4 be "Discussion" including these two sections (and make Conclusions be Sect. 5).*

Thank you for the suggestion. We turned section 3 into "Results", moved 3.4-3.5 to "Discussion" (now 4.1-4.2), and adjusted the "Conclusions" to become section 5.

*SI line 75: extra s in VOCs*

This has been corrected.

*Fig. S9: Should include a legend for screens 1-5, as in Fig S5, for completeness*

We added a legend to panel A.

*Section S5: This whole section is great! Provides really nice context for interpreting all of the measurements you present throughout the manuscript. I'd advocate for moving Sect. S5 to the end of the main paper methods section.*

We thank the reviewer for the supportive comment. We felt that the comprehensive discussion of the differences between LC-ESI and GC-APCI methods was better suited to the SI, so that we could include several numerical details that described the types of compounds accessible with each technique without bogging down the reader with too many supplemental details in the main text. However, we have taken the reviewer's recommendation and added a short paragraph to the end of the Materials and Methods section that introduces the longer discussion in the SI (lines 148-156).

*Fig 1A along with Section S5: So Fig. 1A is really showing the relative abundance of the part of OA that could be sampled using the LC-ESI-MS method. You say LC is better for larger, more polar, more functionalized, less volatile compounds. How could this be biasing your percentages in Fig. 1A? E.g., maybe the sulfur compounds tend to be lower volatility and better sampled, while some less oxidized, less polar CHO compounds are poorly sampled? Some discussion would be useful, especially if you bring Sect. S5 to the main paper.*

The LC-ESI methods used in this work are better suited for detecting more functionalized and polar compounds present in the OA sampled on PTFE filters (IVOCs-SVOCs included). LC-ESI (using both positive and negative mode) is known to be effective for a wide range of species that contain at least one oxygen atom or one nitrogen atom (in addition to combinations of sulfur with oxygen and/or nitrogen, and combinations of all three heteroatoms), making it conducive for measurements of biomass burning emissions and transformation products. While these methods exclude CH and CHS species (i.e. fully reduced hydrocarbons and compounds containing reduced sulfur only), this was acknowledged in the text and filter samples were run on the GC-APCI to explore the contribution of CH and CHS species to the particle-phase. From the GC-APCI analysis of particle-phase samples, we observed a greater contribution from CHO species and relatively lower fractions of the other heteroatom-containing groups, including CHS. This is likely because these other heteroatom-containing species were less GC-amenable, and thus were lost during solvent extraction, lost to the GC inlet, or lost to the GC column during analysis.

Both LC-ESI and GC-APCI methods have column transmission and ionization strengths and weaknesses for different classes of compounds. The focus of this manuscript was on the formation of functionalized products from biomass burning emissions, so the LC-ESI approach and results were more extensively used because they were better suited for highly-functionalized species. The compositional percentages shown in Figure 1A are shifted in an absolute sense by the exclusion of CH and CHS compounds, but particle-phase CH and CHS species were outside the scope of this study. We did not up including

the full Section S5 in the main text, but to address the reviewer's concerns we added a shorter paragraph summarizing Section S5 (lines 148-156) and included an acknowledgement in that section that LC-ESI methods excluded CH and CHS species.

*Title: It would be good to change the last word from "compounds" to "organic compounds" to make it more clear that organic compounds are the focus.*

Agreed, we have edited our title accordingly.

## **Reviewer 2**

*ACP manuscript 2020-619 reports on the detailed chemical composition of gas- and particle-phase samples collected from a boreal forest fire under ambient conditions. Samples were analyzed using gas and liquid chromatography (GC, LC) with detection by high-resolution and tandem mass spectrometry (MS, MS/MS). The focus of the analysis was on organic compounds, particularly those containing carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and/or sulfate functionalities ("CHONS"); including as a function of plume age. Targeted and non-targeted approaches were used. Using both GC and LC allowed analysis of less polar (GC) and more polar/more functionalized compounds (LC) than could be achieved using a single method. Results are largely discussed in the context of elemental composition, with less focus on compound identification. It was observed that during aging particle-phase CHO compounds became less abundant, while particle-phase CHON(S) became significantly more abundant. The paper also presents precursors and pathways leading to the formation of observed sulfides included among the CHONS compounds. The paper is well written and presents interesting analysis and results that have not been presented before. The results, implications, and approach should be of interest to ACP readers. The methods are generally well described and could be reproduced based on the information provided in the SI. A few comments are provided below, both technical and editorial in content. The most significant comment on the technical side is that there are places in the manuscript where it is not clear if the compound volatility classes are being appropriately defined (i.e., based on published saturation vapor concentration ranges) based on the observed gas- and particle- phase distributions.*

We thank the reviewer for their supportive comments. We have addressed each of their comments below, including a discussion of volatility.

### **Technical Comments:**

*line 96: Is the uncertainty on the MCE values really +/- 0.4? That seems very large, given the typical range of ambient MCE values.*

We thank the reviewer for pointing this out. This was originally a typo. This has been revised in the main text to say +/- 0.01.

*Starting on line 104, the description of the volatility range of compounds sampled is a little unclear. It seems that compounds that are largely in the gas phase at OA mass loadings of 10-30 ug/m<sup>3</sup> would be classified as I/VOCs and not SVOCs. On the other end of the spectrum, C10-20*

*compounds that are largely in the gas phase may be in the VOC range (and not necessarily in the I/SVOC range).*

We thank the reviewer for pointing out this possible point of confusion for readers. We would like to clarify that all volatility bins (VOC, IVOC, SVOC, LVOC, ELVOC) were based on fixed values of saturation mass concentration,  $C^*$  (as discussed in e.g. Donahue et al., 2009, and Murphy et al., 2014) at typical OA mass loadings (e.g. 18-22  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of OA during the adsorbent tube sampling times). In these conditions, VOCs extend up through hydrocarbons (i.e. CH compounds) with 11 carbon atoms (specifically compounds with an n-alkane-equivalent volatility of  $C_{11}$ ). IVOCs include hydrocarbons with 12-18 carbon atoms, which are shown to equilibrate primarily to the gas-phase in outdoor conditions at the observed particle loadings. SVOCs, which begin with hydrocarbons with 19 carbon atoms, are present in both the gas- and particle-phase, with hydrocarbons less than  $C_{22}$ - $C_{23}$  existing predominantly in the gas-phase in the observed conditions. To estimate gas-particle partitioning of these  $C_{22}$ - $C_{23}$  compounds, we used the partitioning coefficient calculation described in Donahue et al., 2009 (Equation 1 in the SI), which relates the effective saturation mass concentration of mixture components to the overall OA mass loading. This is discussed in the SI (lines 230-243) and in Table S2.

To ensure that our volatility calculations and definitions were clear, we edited the Materials and Methods discussion of volatility for adsorbent tube samples (lines 113-130), and added more discussion of the volatility calculations for filter samples (lines 157-162). We also added a note at line 123 to direct readers to Section S3 and Table S2 in the SI, which discuss volatility further.

#### References:

- Donahue et al., “Atmospheric organic particulate matter: From smoke to secondary organic aerosol.” *Atmospheric Environment*, 2009
- Murphy et al., “A naming convention for atmospheric organic aerosol.” *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2014

*This continues in 204-205, with discussion of “particle-phase” IVOCs; it isn’t clear why at mass loadings of 10-30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of OA, particle-phase IVOCs would be above detection limits. By definition, such compounds are largely in the gas phase except at high OA loadings.*

The IVOCs discussed here refer specifically to functionalized particle-phase compounds, where polarity can affect partitioning behavior. We have observed particle-phase IVOCs in several past studies by our group (e.g. Ditto et al., 2018, Ditto et al., 2020) and others (e.g. studies of isoprene oxidation products that show species like 2-methyltetrols and methylglyceric acid in the particle phase, e.g. Carlton et al., *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 2009), which could be attributed to the presence of more polar and water-soluble compounds that are commonly observed in organic aerosol.

References:

- Ditto et al., “An omnipresent diversity and variability in the chemical composition of atmospheric functionalized organic aerosol.” *Communications Chemistry*, 2018
- Ditto et al., “Nontargeted Tandem Mass Spectrometry Analysis Reveals Diversity and Variability in Aerosol Functional Groups across Multiple Sites, Seasons, and Times of Day.” *Environmental Science and Technology Letters*, 2020
- Carlton et al., “A review of Secondary Organic Aerosol (SOA) formation from isoprene.” *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2009

*In lines 241-243, it is suggested that compound types that have widely been observed in gas-phase smoke samples, evaporated with dilution. While a fraction of the directly emitted gas-phase compounds may partition to the particles, many of the compounds in the classes listed are not expected to contribute directly to the particle phase. Such compounds first undergo chemical transformation to create lower volatility products and then condense to the particle phase. It is not clear whether the parent compounds and their products would be observed as the same mass fragments using the techniques described.*

We thank the reviewer for pointing out this potentially confusing phrasing. In our original text, we intended to discuss the possibility of evaporation of these compound classes from particle-phase emissions, in addition to direct gas-phase emissions of these compound classes. Evaporation of particle-phase species to the gas-phase has been observed in many past studies of IVOCs and SVOCs (e.g. those referenced at line 267, in addition to other studies on the semivolatile nature of primary organic aerosol such as Robinson et al., *Science*, 2007). We have edited this section in the text to ensure that our intended meaning is clear (line 276-278).

References:

- Robinson et al., “Rethinking Organic Aerosols: Semivolatile Emissions and Photochemical Aging.” *Science*, 2007

*The discussion of volatility and partitioning needs to be carefully reviewed throughout the manuscript, and revised for accuracy, consistency, and clarity.*

We have carefully gone through the text to ensure that our discussion of volatility and partitioning was clear, and have edited language to improve clarity where needed.

*line 134: What were the “strict” QC/QA guidelines for peak retention? These are not defined in the manuscript or SI.*

A brief discussion of QA/QC was originally included in the SI in section S3.1. We added a note in the main text so readers know to consult this section for QA/QC information (line 145). We also added “QA/QC” to the section titles for S3.1 and S3.2 to emphasize this discussion. The QA/QC methods are discussed more thoroughly in the following publications referenced in the manuscript:



- Ditto et al., “An omnipresent diversity and variability in the chemical composition of atmospheric functionalized organic aerosol.” *Communications Chemistry*, 2018
- Ditto et al., “Nontargeted Tandem Mass Spectrometry Analysis Reveals Diversity and Variability in Aerosol Functional Groups across Multiple Sites, Seasons, and Times of Day.” *Environmental Science and Technology Letters*, 2020

*line 198: Is quantification of filter species affected at all by compound volatility? Or is the extraction process sufficient to extract the presumed ELVOCs with reasonable recovery?*

We expect that the filter extraction process across the reported volatility ranges should be fairly uniform. It is possible that the solvent extraction is slightly more or less effective for different chemical functionalities (i.e. compound classes), though upon testing, we did not observe any distinct trends with compound class, and the selected solvent (methanol) has been used extensively in past work (e.g. Riva et al., 2016, Surratt et al., 2008, Ng et al., 2008) that studied similarly functionalized organic aerosol species. We added a mention of this to the Supporting Information (SI line 250-252).

References:

- Riva et al., “Characterization of organosulfates in secondary organic aerosol derived from the photooxidation of long-chain alkanes.” *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2016
- Surratt et al., “Organosulfate Formation in Biogenic Secondary Organic Aerosol.” *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 2008
- Ng et al., “Secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation from reaction of isoprene with nitrate radicals (NO<sub>3</sub>).” *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2008

*SI line 48: How was the collection efficiency of the AMS determined? Lim et al. 2019 ACP demonstrated the significant impact of CE on*

The collection efficiency of the AMS was determined using the method of Middlebrook et al. (Aerosol Science and Technology, 2012). The collection efficiency was also estimated by comparing the total mass concentrations with those derived from the UHSAS (Ultra-high sensitivity aerosol spectrometer). UHSAS volume concentrations were converted to mass concentrations using densities weighted by the AMS components. Both methods yielded similar results. In addition, there was no evidence to suggest that the AMS collection efficiency changed in and out of the fire plumes, which is consistent with previous AMS wildfire deployments (e.g. in the published data sets associated with ARCTAS – Hecobian et al., 2011; Cubison et al., 2011; SEAC4Rs – Liu et al., 2016; SCREAM – May et al., 2015). We have added a mention of these methods to the Supporting Information (SI line 47-52).

References:

- Middlebrook et al., "Evaluation of Composition-Dependent Collection Efficiencies for the Aerodyne Aerosol Mass Spectrometer using Field Data." *Aerosol Science and Technology*, 2012
- Hecobian et al., "Comparison of chemical characteristics of 495 biomass burning plumes intercepted by the NASA DC-8 aircraft during the ARCTAS/CARB-2008 field campaign." *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2011
- Cubision et al., "Effects of aging on organic aerosol from open biomass burning smoke in aircraft and laboratory studies." *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2011
- Liu et al., "Agricultural fires in the southeastern U.S. during SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS: Emissions of trace gases and particles and evolution of ozone, reactive nitrogen, and organic aerosol." *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 2016
- May et al., "Observations and analysis of organic aerosol evolution in some prescribed fire smoke plumes." *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 2015

*SI line 83: I'm assuming that the field blanks were used to correct for background, and not to reduce background as stated here.*

Yes, blanks were used to account and correct for any contamination in the sampling and analytical systems. We have changed the word "reduce" to "correct for", now at SI line 87.

*Editorial Comments: line 62: In this context, what is meant by "unprecedented"? Is it in reference to the analytical techniques used? Or the extent of chemical composition data obtained? Other?*

In this context, we used "unprecedented" to mean that the analytical methods and degree of chemical speciation were novel. We removed the term to reduce possible confusion.

*line 113: No hyphen is needed between "gas" and "phase" (also in line 224 in the SI).*

These have been corrected.

*SI line 75: remove one of the "s" on "VOCs"*

Corrected.

*line 129: "mode" should be plural*

Corrected.

*SI line 295: suggest to move the Kroll et al reference as it suggests the values themselves (rather than the approach) are from Kroll et al.*

We moved the reference so that it appears earlier in the sentence.

1 **Atmospheric Evolution of Emissions from a Boreal Forest Fire: The Formation of Highly-**  
2 **Functionalized Oxygen-, Nitrogen-, and Sulfur-Containing Organic Compounds**

3  
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14  
15 **Abstract**

16 Forest fires are major contributors of reactive gas- and particle-phase organic compounds  
17 to the atmosphere. We used offline high resolution tandem mass spectrometry to perform a  
18 molecular-level speciation of gas- and particle-phase compounds sampled via aircraft from an  
19 evolving boreal forest fire smoke plume in Saskatchewan, Canada. We observed diverse  
20 multifunctional compounds containing oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur (CHONS), whose structures,  
21 formation, and impacts are understudied. The dilution-corrected absolute ion abundance of  
22 particle-phase CHONS compounds increased with plume age by a factor of 6.4 over the first 4  
23 hours of downwind transport, and their relative contribution to the observed functionalized

24 organic aerosol (OA) mixture increased from 19% to 40%. The dilution-corrected absolute ion  
25 abundance of particle-phase compounds with sulfide functional groups increased by a factor of  
26 13 with plume age, and their relative contribution to observed OA increased from 4% to 40%.  
27 Sulfides were present in up to 75% of CHONS compounds and the increases in sulfides were  
28 accompanied by increases in ring-bound nitrogen; both increased together with CHONS  
29 prevalence. A complex mixture of intermediate- and semi-volatile gas-phase organic sulfur  
30 species was observed in emissions from the fire and depleted downwind, representing potential  
31 precursors to particle-phase CHONS compounds. These results demonstrate CHONS formation  
32 from nitrogen/oxygen-containing biomass burning emissions in the presence of reduced sulfur  
33 species. In addition, they highlight chemical pathways that may also be relevant in situations  
34 with elevated emissions of nitrogen- and sulfur-containing organic compounds from residential  
35 biomass burning and fossil fuel use (e.g. coal), respectively.

36

## 37 **1 Introduction**

38 Forest fires are predicted to become increasingly prevalent and severe with climate  
39 change (Abatzoglou and Williams, 2016; Barbero et al., 2015; Jolly et al., 2015). These fires are  
40 an important and uncontrolled source of gas- and particle-phase compounds to the atmosphere,  
41 including a complex mixture of gas-phase reactive organic carbon, primary organic aerosol  
42 (POA), carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, and black carbon  
43 (Akagi et al., 2011; Gilman et al., 2015; Hatch et al., 2015, 2018; Koss et al., 2018; Vicente et  
44 al., 2013; Yokelson et al., 2013). Many of these emitted compounds are precursors to downwind  
45 ozone and secondary organic aerosol (SOA) production (Ahern et al., 2019; Buysse et al., 2019;  
46 Gilman et al., 2015; Hennigan et al., 2011; Lim et al., 2019).

47 Primary and secondary pollutants from biomass burning have important effects on air  
48 quality locally, regionally, and continentally (Burgos et al., 2018; Colarco et al., 2004; Cottle et  
49 al., 2014; Dreessen et al., 2016; Forster et al., 2001; Rogers et al., 2020; Val Martín et al., 2006),  
50 and their impacts on human health and climate (e.g. via light absorbing brown and black carbon)  
51 have been well documented (Forrister et al., 2015; Jiang et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2017; Di Lorenzo  
52 et al., 2018; Reid et al., 2016; Sengupta et al., 2018; Wong et al., 2019). These health and climate  
53 effects are sensitive to the elemental and structural composition of gas- and particle-phase  
54 emissions and transformation products (Hallquist et al., 2009; Nozière et al., 2015). As a result,  
55 past studies have used online and offline mass spectrometry techniques to characterize the  
56 chemical composition of fresh and aged biomass burning [emissions](#) and have revealed a wide  
57 array of emitted hydrocarbons and oxygen-, nitrogen-, or sulfur-containing functionalized  
58 species (Ahern et al., 2019; Bertrand et al., 2018; Gilman et al., 2015; Hatch et al., 2015, 2018,  
59 2019; Inuma et al., 2010; Koss et al., 2018; Laskin et al., 2009; Yokelson et al., 2013).  
60 However, the emissions and chemical transformations occurring in ambient biomass burning  
61 plumes are extremely complex and despite previous measurements remain poorly understood at  
62 the molecular-level.

63 In this study, we used an aircraft sampling system developed to collect offline gas- and  
64 particle-phase organic compounds [above](#) a boreal forest fire. We examined the molecular-level  
65 emissions and evolution of the forest fire plume [via an](#) analysis of [these](#) offline samples using  
66 gas and liquid chromatography (GC/LC) with high resolution mass spectrometry (MS), including  
67 tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS). This degree of detailed chemical speciation is important to  
68 advance knowledge of in-plume chemical pathways and reaction products, long-distance

69 transport, and fate of biomass burning products—all of which will improve modeling capabilities  
70 and our understanding of the health and environmental impacts of biomass burning.

71 Specifically, the goals of this study were: (1) to perform a detailed speciation of gas- and  
72 particle-phase organic compounds derived from the boreal forest fire in terms of elemental and  
73 functional group composition, to assess changes in composition at the molecular-level as the  
74 plume aged; and (2) to examine the evolution of oxygen-, nitrogen-, and sulfur-containing  
75 (CHONS) compounds. These CHONS compounds made up 19-40% of functionalized [OA](#) here  
76 and have been observed at other ambient sites (e.g. 9-11% (Ditto et al., 2018)), though little is  
77 known about their structures or formation mechanisms. Using our observations of gas-phase  
78 sulfur species, we identified possible precursors and reaction pathways involved in the formation  
79 of these CHONS compounds.

80

## 81 **2 Materials and Methods**

82 On June 25th, 2018, two research flights were conducted by Environment and  
83 Climate Change Canada as part of their Air Pollution research program. These flights sampled  
84 two boreal wildfire smoke plumes originating near Lac La Loche in northern Saskatchewan,  
85 Canada (Figure S1). The region is dominated by pine and spruce trees (Canada's National Forest  
86 Inventory, 2020). Gas- and particle-phase samples were collected from the National Research  
87 Council of Canada's Convair-580 research aircraft for analysis with offline high resolution mass  
88 spectrometry, alongside many other measurements (Supporting Information S1-S2). The aircraft  
89 flew the same straight-line tracks at multiple altitudes through the smoke plumes ([average](#)  
90 [altitudes shown in Table S1](#)), which when stacked created a virtual screen intercepting the  
91 plumes at each of five downwind locations ([with](#) flight design similar to those previously

92 reported (Li et al., 2017; Liggio et al., 2016)). Screen 1 was ~10 km from the fire with screens 2-  
93 4 following the plumes downwind, and screen 5 intercepting the plumes after they had passed  
94 over several major surface and in-situ mining oil sands facilities (Figure S1). The samples  
95 discussed here were collected across both plumes to ensure that enough mass was present to [well](#)  
96 surpass the mass spectrometer’s detection limits. Based on satellite information and aircraft  
97 measurements at the start of sampling (i.e. screen 1), the fire was a low-intensity surface fire  
98 with smoldering conditions; aircraft measurements indicated a modified combustion efficiency  
99 of  $0.90 \pm 0.01$  for both plumes.

100 Combined gas- and particle-phase samples were collected onto custom adsorbent tubes  
101 packed with high-purity quartz wool, glass beads, Tenax TA, and Carbopack X (Sheu et al.,  
102 2018). Samples were collected along screens 1-4 in Figure S1 (no adsorbent tubes collected at  
103 screen 5) via an external pod mounted under the wing of the aircraft, which included remote  
104 switching between adsorbent tubes at various transect altitudes and online measurements of  
105 temperature, pressure, and flow (Supporting Information S1, Figure S2).

106 All adsorbent tubes were analyzed using a GERSTEL Thermal Desorber TD 3.5+ with  
107 gas chromatography (Agilent 7890B GC), atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI), and  
108 quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry (Agilent 6550 Q-TOF), similar to past work (Khare  
109 et al., 2019). For adsorbent tubes, the APCI was operated in positive ionization mode and the Q-  
110 TOF was operated in MS mode (i.e. TOF data collection only, hereafter “GC-APCI-MS”).

111 Adsorbent tube data were processed primarily via a targeted approach for  $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_l$ ,  $C_xH_yS_l$ ,  
112 and  $C_xH_yN_l$  compounds using custom Igor Pro code (Supporting Information S2-S3).

113 In order to reduce losses of lower volatility gases onto upstream surfaces, particles were  
114 not explicitly filtered out at the inlet of the wing-pod sampler used for adsorbent tube collection.

115 For several reasons, it was concluded that the  $C_xH_y$  hydrocarbons smaller than  $C_{22-23}$  (and  
116  $C_xH_yS_1/C_xH_yO_1/C_xH_yN_1$  compounds of similar volatility) measured in the adsorbent tubes were  
117 predominantly in the gas-phase. This was based on (1) significant undersampling for particles at  
118 the wing pod inlet since the adsorbent tube sampling flow rate was a factor of  $\sim 4$  lower than its  
119 corresponding isokinetic flow rate, resulting in a significant divergence of particles away from  
120 the inlet during sampling; and (2) partitioning theory, using average in-plume organic aerosol  
121 (OA) concentrations of  $18-22 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  across adsorbent tube sampling periods for screens 1-4,  
122 concurrently measured by an aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) onboard the aircraft (see  
123 Supporting Information S1, S3, Table S2). Thus, the  $C_{22}$  and smaller  $C_xH_y$  compounds (and other  
124 compound classes of similar volatility) should have primarily been in the gas phase at  
125 equilibrium. As such, we limited the following adsorbent tube data analysis to compounds in the  
126  $C_{10}-C_{25}$  range to focus on intermediate-volatility and semivolatile (I/SVOCs) compounds present  
127 in the gas phase. In our analyses and interpretation, the compounds included in each of these  
128 volatility ranges are defined based on fixed values of saturation mass concentrations (e.g.  
129 Donahue et al., 2011; Murphy et al., 2014) at the observed  $18-22 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  OA loadings present  
130 during adsorbent tube sampling times.

131         Dedicated particle-phase samples were collected on 47 mm PTFE filters (2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  pore;  
132 Pall Corporation) from a sampling manifold in the aircraft cabin containing six independent  
133 anodized aluminum filter holders. The filters were sampled behind an isokinetic inlet with a size  
134 cutoff of approximately 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . One filter sample was collected per screen for screens 1-5  
135 shown in Figure S1.

136         Filter samples were extracted in methanol (Ditto et al., 2018). Samples were analyzed via  
137 liquid chromatography (Agilent 1260 LC) with electrospray ionization (ESI) and the same Q-



138 TOF. For filters, the ESI source was operated in both positive and negative ionization modes,  
139 and the Q-TOF was operated in both MS mode (i.e. TOF data collection, “LC-ESI-MS”) and  
140 MS/MS mode (i.e. tandem mass spectral data collection, “LC-ESI-MS/MS”) (Ditto et al., 2018,  
141 2020). Filter extracts were also analyzed using GC-APCI-MS in positive ionization mode. Filter  
142 data from LC-ESI-MS, LC-ESI-MS/MS, and GC-APCI-MS were analyzed with a non-targeted  
143 approach, using Agilent Mass Hunter, SIRIUS with CSI:FingerID, and custom R code  
144 (Supporting Information S2-S3) (Ditto et al., 2018, 2020). All peaks that passed strict [QA/QC](#)  
145 [\(Section S3\)](#) were assigned molecular formulas, with candidate formulas limited to 20 oxygen, 3  
146 nitrogen, and/or 1 sulfur atom(s). [Hereafter, LC-ESI](#) compound classes are discussed here  
147 without subscripts.

148 [The particle-phase compounds observed via LC-ESI vs. GC-APCI techniques varied](#)  
149 [significantly in their oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur content since these two chromatographic and](#)  
150 [ionization approaches are sensitive towards different types of compounds \(see Section S5\). As](#)  
151 [the forest fire plume aged, the complex mixture of emissions and secondary products became](#)  
152 [increasingly functionalized and thus less GC-amenable without derivatization. Therefore, we](#)  
153 [focused on LC-ESI-MS data to study these functionalized particle-phase compounds. We](#)  
154 [acknowledge that this method excludes fully-reduced hydrocarbons and fully-reduced sulfur-](#)  
155 [containing particle-phase compounds \(i.e. CH and CHS \(Ditto et al., 2018\)\) and thus these](#)  
156 [compound classes are not accounted for in the relative particle-phase distributions shown here.](#)

157 [For particle-phase analyses, we estimated saturation mass concentration based on the Li](#)  
158 [et al. parameterization \(Li et al., 2016\), then grouped compounds based on fixed volatility bins](#)  
159 [\(Donahue et al., 2011; Murphy et al., 2014\). Particle-phase compounds were observed across the](#)  
160 [IVOC, SVOC, LVOC, and ELVOC ranges. Particle-phase IVOCs have been observed in the](#)

161 past, and despite their higher volatility, may exist in the particle-phase due to their polarity and  
162 water solubility. Additional details on these methods, including a discussion of total mass  
163 analyzed from filters/adsorbent tubes and QA/QC, are discussed in Supporting Information S1-  
164 S5, with a methods summary shown in Figure S3.

### 166 3 Results

#### 167 3.1 Evolution of organic aerosol elemental composition and functionality with plume age

168 Our analysis of functionalized OA showed several compositional trends in the evolving  
169 boreal forest fire smoke plume (screens 1-4) and exhibited marked changes after emissions from  
170 the oil sands facilities were mixed with the forest fire plume (screen 5). Here, we focused on the  
171 forest fire plume in screens 1-4. We observed a diverse elemental composition in functionalized  
172 OA across oxygen-, nitrogen-, and/or sulfur-containing compound classes (Figure 1A-1B, Figure  
173 S5). This included oxygenates (CHO), such as common biomass burning tracers and their  
174 isomers (e.g. levoglucosan, Supporting Information S2); as well as oxygen- and nitrogen-  
175 containing compounds (CHON); oxygen- and sulfur-containing compounds (CHOS); reduced  
176 nitrogen-containing compounds (CHN); reduced nitrogen- and sulfur-containing compounds  
177 (CHNS); as well as compounds containing oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur (CHONS).

178 There was a continual decrease in the relative abundance of particle-phase CHO  
179 compounds in the observed functionalized OA across screens 1-4, accompanied by a consistent  
180 relative increase in CHON and CHONS compounds (Figure 1B). Notably, the relative abundance  
181 of CHONS compounds increased from 19% to 40% of measured functionalized OA from screens  
182 1 to 4. Trends in absolute ion abundances were also similar (note: carbon monoxide mixing ratio  
183 was used to account for dilution). This is shown in Figure 1C (inset) and Figure S5C; CHO

184 generally decreased from screens 1 to 4, while CHONS and CHON generally increased,  
185 suggesting that CHONS compounds were possibly formed from CHO, CHN, and/or CHON  
186 precursors in the gas- and/or particle-phases. Specifically, the dilution-corrected abundance of  
187 CHONS species increased by a factor of 6.4 from screen 1 to 4 (Figure 1C, inset). In Figure 1,  
188 we primarily presented data as relative contributions to functionalized OA to examine changes in  
189 the evolution of the complex mixture as a whole and the relationships between different  
190 compound classes and functional groups with plume age. However, dilution-corrected  
191 abundances are also important for understanding absolute formation (or depletion), and are  
192 shown for all species in Figures S5-S6.

193 Based on MS/MS analyses, these evolving CHO, CHN, CHON, and CHONS compounds  
194 were often comprised of variable combinations of hydroxyl and ether functional groups (e.g.  
195 primary emissions from forest fires like methoxyphenols and similar structures), as well as  
196 amine, imine, and sulfide groups, along with cyclic nitrogen structural features (consistent with  
197 past laboratory observations of biomass burning emissions (Laskin et al., 2009; Lin et al., 2018;  
198 Liu et al., 2015; Updyke et al., 2012)).

199

### 200 3.2 Detailed speciation of CHONS compounds in functionalized OA

201 While some individual CHONS species contained grouped oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur  
202 atom moieties (e.g. sulfonamides), the majority of CHONS compounds had a combination of  
203 multiple separate oxygen-, nitrogen-, and/or sulfur-containing functional groups (Figure 2A-2B).  
204 Sulfide groups were important contributors to CHONS compounds (Figure 2B) and showed a  
205 notable increase in relative contribution to the overall functional group distribution with plume  
206 age (Figure 1C). They increased from 4% to 40% of measured compound abundance across

207 screens 1 [to](#) 4 (Figure 1C), [which corresponded to an increase by a factor of 13 in terms of their](#)  
208 [dilution-corrected abundance \(Figure 1C, inset\)](#). Their increasing relative contribution to  
209 CHONS compounds with plume evolution was even more pronounced—by screen 4, the sulfide  
210 functional group was present in 75% of detected CHONS compound abundance (Figure S7A).  
211 Here, we focused on the presence of sulfides in CHONS compounds because most of the  
212 observed particle-phase sulfides occurred as part of CHONS species (71%), while a smaller  
213 fraction occurred [in](#) CHOS (21%) or CHNS (8%) [compounds](#) (Figure 3A).

214 To explore possible precursors and formation pathways for these particle-phase sulfide-  
215 containing CHONS species, we used MS/MS to identify nitrogen-containing functional groups  
216 that co-occurred with sulfides. In CHONS compounds, most sulfides co-occurred with cyclic  
217 nitrogen (36% [of sulfide-containing species](#)), amine (32%), or imine features (43%) (Figure 3B).  
218 The prevalence of sulfide and cyclic nitrogen features in the measured functionalized OA  
219 increased together screen-to-screen, and increased together with the rising proportion of CHONS  
220 compounds (Figure 3C). While sulfides often co-occurred with amines or imines and while  
221 amines and imines were prevalent in all 4 screens (Figure 1C), there was no relationship between  
222 [these functional groups](#) and the increasing contribution of CHONS compounds to measured  
223 functionalized OA (Figure S7B).

224 The sulfide substructures observed via MS/MS often contained linear carbon chains or  
225 phenyl groups bonded to the sulfur atom (Figure 3C inset). Thus, we hypothesize that precursors  
226 with similar reduced sulfur-containing structures reacted with cyclic nitrogen-containing species  
227 to form the observed [particle-phase](#) sulfide-containing CHONS compounds [\(see further](#)  
228 [discussion of possible](#) precursors in Section 3.3, [and](#) potential chemical pathways in Section [4.2](#)).

229 CHONS compounds were predominantly SVOCs in screens 1-4 (i.e. 89% of CHONS ion  
230 abundance, Figure 2C, Figure S8), suggesting that these compounds were formed from higher  
231 volatility gas-phase species. In contrast, with the added influence of the oil sands facilities in  
232 screen 5, 68% of CHONS compounds were extremely low volatility organic compounds  
233 (ELVOCs), though CHONS made up only 2% of functionalized OA at screen 5.

234 Overall, dilution-corrected abundances of functionalized OA in each particle-phase  
235 volatility bin increased with plume age, but the relative contribution of SVOCs increased from  
236 37% to 58% while the relative contribution of IVOCs dropped from 38% to 20%, potentially due  
237 to oxidation reactions that formed SVOCs and/or due to evaporation (Figure S9). These particle-  
238 phase IVOCs consisted predominantly of CHO, CHN, and CHON ( $O/N < 3$ ) compounds, which  
239 could include possible non-sulfur containing precursors to the observed CHONS species.  
240 Fragmentation of particle-phase L/ELVOC compounds also could have contributed to some of  
241 the observed SVOC mass, but the overall increasing total abundance across all volatility bins  
242 with plume age supports the idea that these compounds were predominantly formed from more  
243 volatile precursors (e.g. I/SVOCs).

244

### 245 3.3 Targeted search for CHONS precursors in the gas-phase

246 To investigate the precursors and chemistry that could have formed the sulfide-containing  
247 CHONS species observed in the particle-phase samples, we performed a targeted search for  
248 possible gas-phase I/SVOC species in each adsorbent tube, across all  $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$   $C_xH_yS_1$  species  
249 with the equivalent of 0-15 double bonds and/or rings (i.e.  $C_xH_{2x+2}S_1$ -  $C_xH_{2x-28}S_1$ , Figure 4A,  
250 Figure S10). We observed a distribution of  $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds and their isomers; based on the  
251 high mass resolution and high mass accuracy molecular formulas from targeted GC-APCI-MS

252 analysis, 27% of  $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds were fully saturated (i.e.  $C_xH_{2x+2}S_1$ ) and 25% contained the  
253 equivalent of 4-6 double bonds and/or rings (i.e.  $C_xH_{2x-6}S_1$ -  $C_xH_{2x-10}S_1$ ), which included single  
254 ring aromatics. We focused on these sulfur-containing gases as candidate precursors to the  
255 observed particle-phase sulfide-containing CHONS compounds as they contained sulfur  
256 substructures with linear carbon chains or phenyl groups, similar to those observed on particle-  
257 phase CHONS compounds via MS/MS analysis (Figure 3C inset, Figures S10-S11). However,  
258 we also observed contributions from other sulfur-containing structures (e.g. with the equivalent  
259 of 1-3 double bonds and/or rings, Figure 4A), which could also have been precursor species.

260 The observed gas-phase  $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$   $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds were present in gas-phase emissions  
261 from the fire and likely also evaporated from primary OA during early plume dilution. Gas-phase  
262  $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$   $C_xH_yS_1$  concentrations increased relative to carbon monoxide from screen 1 to 2, then  
263 steadily decreased with plume age (Figure 4B, Figure S12A). This suggests the gas-phase  
264 emission and/or evaporation of  $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds from OA between screens 1 and 2, and  
265 subsequent participation in plume chemistry from screens 2 to 4.

266 Similar OA evaporation with plume dilution has been observed in many past studies  
267 (Ahern et al., 2019; Garofalo et al., 2019; Hennigan et al., 2011; Lim et al., 2019). To better  
268 understand the dynamics of these sulfur-containing compounds and their possible particle-phase  
269 origin, we compared their concentrations to those of  $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$  aliphatic and aromatic  $C_xH_y$  and  
270  $C_xH_yO_1$  species from a similar targeted search of adsorbent tube gas-phase compounds. Overall,  
271  $C_xH_y$  and  $C_xH_yO_1$  compound classes dominated the observed  $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$  compounds (Figure 4B,  
272 Figure S12B), with 61%  $C_xH_y$ , 36%  $C_xH_yO_1$ , and just 3%  $C_xH_yS_1$  on average.  $C_xH_y$  and  $C_xH_yO_1$   
273 concentrations generally increased with plume age (Figure 4B) and included many known  
274 compound types (e.g. monoterpenes, aromatics, hydroxyls, carbonyls (Akagi et al., 2011;

275 Andreae, 2019; Gilman et al., 2015; Hatch et al., 2015, 2019; Koss et al., 2018)). This suggests  
276 the direct emission of these gas-phase compound classes from the fire (observed at screen 1)  
277 along with the evaporation of semivolatile particle-phase emissions as the plume evolved, and  
278 formation of  $C_xH_yO_1$  via  $C_xH_y$  oxidation. AMS measurements of total OA concentrations  
279 provided supporting evidence of OA evaporation; the ratio of AMS OA concentration to CO  
280 decreased by 7% from screen 1 to 2 (corresponding to an AMS OA/CO ratio of -0.0044 or a  
281 decrease in OA concentrations of  $-2.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), while the ratio of total gas-phase  $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_1$ ,  
282 and  $C_xH_yS_1$  concentration to CO increased by 55% (corresponding to a total gas-phase  
283 concentration/CO ratio of 0.022 or an increase in gas-phase concentration of  $7.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , with  
284 changes summarized in Table S3). While not the focus of the analytical approaches applied in  
285 this study, to further substantiate the observation of OA evaporation, we performed the same  
286 targeted analysis of  $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$   $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_1$ , and  $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds in the particle-phase filter  
287 sample extracts analyzed via GC-APCI-MS. We observed a similar decrease in concentration  
288 from screen 1 to 2. However, these filter measurements (even with APCI ionization) were not  
289 geared towards  $C_xH_y$  and  $C_xH_yS_1$  speciation due to possible solubility limitations in the  
290 extraction solvent (Supporting Information S4). Direct thermal desorption of quartz filters with  
291 GC-APCI analysis would be better suited for these  $C_xH_y$  and  $C_xH_yS_1$  measurements (as  
292 performed in this study with adsorbent tubes).

293 As discussed in *Materials and Methods*, the observed compounds with volatilities below  
294 that of  $\sim C_{22}$ - $C_{23}$  hydrocarbons existed primarily in the gas-phase (Table S2), while larger  
295 compounds favored the particle-phase (with a smaller fraction in the gas-phase at equilibrium).  
296 The presence of gas-phase compounds across this I/SVOC range (e.g. Figures S10, S13) further  
297 corroborates the possibility of contributions from both direct gas-phase emissions and from

298 evaporation [of particle-phase emissions](#) (Supporting Information S3). In contrast to  $C_xH_y$   
299 concentrations,  $C_xH_yS_1$  concentrations dropped markedly after screen 2 despite similarities in the  
300 volatility distribution of  $C_xH_y$  and  $C_xH_yS_1$  I/SVOC mixtures (Figure 4A, Figures S10 and S13).  
301 This difference [across screens](#) shows that the observed  $C_xH_yS_1$  I/SVOCs were removed ([e.g. via](#)  
302 [chemical reactions](#)) more [quickly](#) than  $C_xH_y$  ([Figure 4B](#)), thus supporting their potential  
303 contribution to CHONS formation.

304 In addition to the  $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$   $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds measured in the adsorbent tubes, smaller  
305 sulfur-containing compounds could have also acted as CHONS precursors, like those identified  
306 by the onboard proton transfer reaction-mass spectrometer (PTR-ToF-MS). While dimethyl  
307 sulfide (DMS, previously observed in biomass burning smoke (Andreae, 2019)) was often below  
308 [the instrument's](#) limit of detection, both dimethyl and diethyl sulfide showed good correlation  
309 with acetonitrile ([a well-known biomass burning product \(Andreae, 2019\)](#)) in the smoke plume  
310 during screen 1 ( $r \sim 0.95$ , Figure S12C). This suggests that these compounds were co-emitted by  
311 the fire.

312

## 313 **4 Discussion**

### 314 4.1 Investigating possible origins of gas-phase sulfur compounds

315 The gas-phase sulfur-containing compounds observed in the plume were emitted from the  
316 smoldering fire. However, their origins are uncertain, since the broader range of sulfur species  
317 found here (Figure 4A, Figures S10-11) has not been [previously](#) reported; many of the  
318 compounds in the complex [mixture of sulfur-containing compounds discussed in this work](#) were  
319 outside the detection range [of](#) previously employed methods (Hatch et al., 2015; Khare et al.,  
320 2019; Koss et al., 2018; Sekimoto et al., 2018). Here, we explore two potential origins of these



321 gas-phase sulfur-containing precursors to the observed particle-phase CHONS compounds: the  
322 biomass fuel itself and the deposition of sulfur species from anthropogenic/industrial operations.

323 *Fuel:* In past studies, emissions of sulfur-containing organic compounds were typically  
324 minor compared to oxygen- or nitrogen-containing compounds, and the relative balance of  
325 oxygen-, nitrogen-, or sulfur-containing compound emissions was typically proportional to fuel  
326 content (Hatch et al., 2015; Ward, 1990). The estimated N:S ratio for boreal forest fuel near the  
327 fire was ~10:1 (Huang and Schoenau, 1996), which was similar to the average N:S ratio from a  
328 non-targeted search for nitrogen- and sulfur-containing I/SVOCs from the adsorbent tube  
329 samples in this study of  $(8.1 \pm 4.8):1$ . Sulfur is an essential nutrient in plants, and can be taken up  
330 from soil (as sulfate) or from the atmosphere via deposition (as SO<sub>2</sub> and sulfate) (Aas et al.,  
331 2019; Gahan and Schmalenberger, 2014; Leustek, 2002). Both SO<sub>2</sub> and sulfate are metabolized  
332 in plants to yield a variety of compounds critical to plant functions including cysteine and a  
333 range of other sulfur- (as well as oxygen- and nitrogen-) containing compounds (Leustek, 2002).  
334 In addition, disulfide bonds contribute to plant protein structure, and these bonds can cleave and  
335 form thiols (Gahan and Schmalenberger, 2014; Leustek, 2002; Onda, 2013). Sulfur-containing  
336 compounds like these may have been emitted during the fire, along with other known sulfur  
337 products from boreal fuels (e.g. DMS, thiophenes (Akagi et al., 2011; Hatch et al., 2015; Koss et  
338 al., 2018; Landis et al., 2018)).

339 *Deposition:* While sulfur can be naturally occurring, it is also associated with  
340 anthropogenic activities (e.g. transportation, power generation, industry, etc.). A portion of the  
341 sulfur in the forest fire emissions could have originated from sulfur deposited via such  
342 anthropogenic activities. The closest large anthropogenic sulfur source to the fire location was  
343 the oil sands mining region north of Fort McMurray, Alberta, which was approximately 150 km

344 away and which contains known SO<sub>2</sub> emitters (Liggio et al., 2017; McLinden et al., 2016).  
345 Regional concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> or other sulfur species from these nearby industrial activities  
346 could have led to accumulated deposition of inorganic and/or organic sulfur compounds over  
347 time, though it is uncertain how much of this deposited sulfur would have been taken up and  
348 transformed by vegetation due to sulfur uptake and assimilation regulatory pathways in plants  
349 (Davidian and Kopriva, 2010). This possible accumulated deposition may have acted as a  
350 reservoir of sulfur to be emitted during fires via the re-volatilization of deposited compounds, in  
351 addition to the evaporation of typical sulfur metabolites or the formation of sulfur-containing  
352 combustion by-products. This hypothesis is consistent with recent deposition measurement and  
353 modeling results for the region, which indicated that sulfur deposition from the oil sands  
354 [operations](#) potentially impacted areas downwind, including the region where this fire occurred  
355 (Makar et al., 2018).

356 Interestingly, lichen and spruce trees, which are prominent in the region of the fire  
357 discussed here, have been reported to accumulate sulfur from SO<sub>2</sub> in regions near large industrial  
358 SO<sub>2</sub> sources (Meng et al., 1995; Nyborg et al., 1991). Also, past studies have reported  
359 enhancements in sulfate (as well as nitrate/ammonium) aerosols [coming](#) from biomass burning in  
360 areas with urban influence (Fenn et al., 2015; Hecobian et al., 2011; Hegg et al., 1987).  
361 Inorganic aerosol components from both urban (e.g. Edmonton, Alberta) and industrial (e.g. oil  
362 sands) sources could deposit in the area surrounding the emissions source along with an organic  
363 phase, which we postulate could contain a range of sulfur-containing species including the  
364 C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>S<sub>1</sub> compounds shown here. [These deposited inorganic and organic species may have re-](#)  
365 [volatilized during the fire](#). However, further work is needed to disentangle the contribution of  
366 natural vs. anthropogenic sulfur to biomass burning [emissions in the region](#). [Also, we note that](#)

367 the fire was ~1 hour old at the time of sampling, so the recent application of fire suppressants  
368 was unlikely to contribute to the species observed.

#### 370 4.2 Potential reaction pathways leading to sulfides in CHONS from sulfur precursors

371 A number of potential reactions involving sulfur-containing precursors, often thiols (R-  
372 SH), may have contributed to the formation of the observed sulfide functional groups in particle-  
373 phase CHONS compounds (Figure S14). On average, our gas-phase measurements were  
374 comprised of 27% fully saturated sulfur-containing hydrocarbons (i.e.  $C_xH_{2x+2}S_1$ , Figures S10-  
375 11). It is likely that some fraction of the sulfur compounds observed in the gas-phase adsorbent  
376 tube measurements (e.g. the compounds identified as  $C_xH_{2x+2}S_1$ ) and in PTR-ToF-MS  
377 measurements (e.g. dimethyl sulfide, diethyl sulfide) were thiols, but the distinction between  
378 sulfide vs. thiol isomers was challenging with these methods without specific internal standards.

379 In some of the following possible reactions, a thiol interacts with a non-sulfur precursor  
380 to yield a sulfide-containing compound. The non-sulfur precursor (in the gas- or particle-phase)  
381 may have contained O and N atoms, thus yielding a CHONS compound immediately after  
382 participating in one of the proposed reactions. Alternatively, the newly formed sulfide-containing  
383 compound may have undergone subsequent, separate reactions with oxygen- and/or nitrogen-  
384 containing species (in the gas- or particle-phase) to form the observed sulfide-containing  
385 CHONS species. Here, we focused on possible reactions that could have contributed the sulfide  
386 group to these oxygen- and/or nitrogen-containing compounds (known emissions from forest  
387 fires, as discussed above). Earlier, we postulated that because most of the observed particle-  
388 phase CHONS compounds were SVOCs, these compounds were predominantly formed by  
389 reactions with more volatile gas-phase compounds. However, it is uncertain whether these

390 sulfide-forming and CHONS-forming reactions [all](#) occurred in the gas-phase with subsequent  
391 partitioning to the particle-phase, heterogeneously, or in a combination of separate gas- and  
392 particle-phase chemistry. We suggest some possible sulfide-forming reactions here, yet we note  
393 that these proposed reactions are likely not comprehensive. Further work to elucidate the  
394 chemistry driving this sulfide and CHONS formation is needed.

395       Some possible reactions include: (1) thiol-ene reactions, where a thiol reacts with an  
396 alkene (or alkyne), which can form carbon-sulfur bonds (Lowe, 2010). Alkenes are known to be  
397 prominent in emissions from boreal fires (Gilman et al., 2015; Hatch et al., 2015), and we  
398 observed similar structures in our gas-phase samples that likely included alkenes, cyclic alkanes,  
399 and/or monoterpenes (Figure S13). (2) Thiol reactions with carbonyls, which can form  
400 hemithioacetals that subsequently dehydrate in the atmosphere to yield sulfides (Jencks and  
401 Lienhard, 1966). This reaction is similar to the formation of enamines from carbonyls and  
402 dimethyl amine via the formation and subsequent dehydration of a carbinolamine, which has  
403 been shown to occur in ambient conditions (Duporté et al., 2016, 2017). (3) Thiol reactions with  
404 alcohols, which can form sulfides; [these](#) reaction rates are low in the absence of catalysts and  
405 require relatively high temperature to occur (i.e. 200-450°C ([Mashkina, 1991](#)), temperatures that  
406 are relevant very close to the fire but unlikely in the [cooled](#) plume). (4) Another possibility is that  
407 a radical intermediate product formed during atmospheric oxidation of DMS (e.g. the  
408 methylthiomethyl radical ( $\text{CH}_3\text{SCH}_2^\bullet$ ) from  $\text{OH}^\bullet$ -driven hydrogen abstraction of DMS (Barnes et  
409 al., 2006)) interacted with CHN and CHON precursors to yield the observed sulfide-containing  
410 CHONS products. However, the concentrations of the methylthiomethyl radical and similar  
411 radicals from other small sulfide precursors would likely be lower than those of other major

412 drivers of in-plume radical chemistry (e.g. O<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, etc.), thus making this reaction pathway less  
413 likely to contribute.

414         Based on our observations of these sulfide-containing products across flight screens, the  
415 overall timescale for these sulfide-forming reactions was likely approximately 1 hour (or less).  
416 For the literature reactions referenced above, reaction timescales ranged from minutes to hours in  
417 laboratory experiments, but extrapolation to rates in an ambient wildfire plume is uncertain.  
418 Specifically, it is challenging to compare to predicted timescales for the proposed reactions  
419 without knowing the exact structure/identities of the reactants or the possible role of other key  
420 modifying factors in the plume (e.g. aerosol pH, presence of water).

421

## 422 **5 Implications and Conclusions**

423         In this work, we performed the first high resolution tandem mass spectrometry analysis of  
424 an evolving plume from a smoldering boreal forest fire. The results show clear evidence of gas-  
425 phase sulfur-containing emissions from the fire, and an increasing contribution from particle-  
426 phase CHONS compounds with sulfide functional groups as the plume evolved. Together, these  
427 results suggest the emission of gas-phase sulfur-containing compounds from the fire and  
428 subsequent gas- and/or particle-phase chemistry that produced multifunctional sulfide-containing  
429 CHONS compounds.

430         Sulfide functional groups in ambient air have been reported at a range of U.S. locations  
431 from urban inland (1-7% sulfides), urban coastal (5-12% sulfides), and remote forested (7%  
432 sulfides), and on average, sulfides comprised 28% of sulfur-containing functional groups at these  
433 sites (Ditto et al., 2020). However, in past work, 53% of these sulfides were present in CHOS  
434 compounds, while 34% were CHONS, and 13% were CHNS (in contrast to 21%, 71%, and 8%

435 in this study, respectively). Notably, at a Northeastern U.S. coastal site where there were several  
436 pollution events linked to long distance transport of biomass burning smoke during field  
437 sampling (Rogers et al., 2020), 70-90% of sulfides were present in CHONS compounds (Ditto et  
438 al., 2020), similar to the [compound class distribution of](#) sulfides discussed here (Figure 3A).

439         These results, along with past observations, highlight that this type of chemistry and these  
440 types of reaction products may be relevant to other regions where concentrations of nitrogen and  
441 sulfur-containing precursors are high, such as in developing regions, emerging economies, or  
442 megacities where residential biomass burning is common and coincident with extensive use of  
443 sulfur-containing fossil fuels (e.g. coal). CHONS compounds have been reported in similar  
444 regions in past studies (Lin et al., 2012; Pan et al., 2013; Song et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2017a,  
445 2016, 2017b). Their formation is potentially important since the presence of sulfur, oxygen, and  
446 nitrogen [atoms in organic compounds](#) can affect [particle](#) phase state (e.g. solid, semi-solid,  
447 liquid), [and](#) mixing state (e.g. well-mixed, phase-separated) (DeRieux et al., 2018; Ditto et al.,  
448 2019; Van Krevelen and Te Nijenhuis, 2009). These physical properties may influence particles'  
449 chemical reactivity and [overall](#) persistence in the atmosphere, all of which contribute to the  
450 health and environmental impacts that communities and ecosystems experience from OA  
451 exposure. Future work to identify prominent functional groups in CHONS species in regions  
452 with high CHONS concentrations will help elucidate the formation chemistry of these  
453 functionalized compounds and understand and mitigate their associated impacts.

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457

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471

472 **Author Contributions**

473 J.C.D. ran samples, processed filter data, compiled and interpreted results. M.H. processed  
474 adsorbent tube data. T.H-M. contributed to MS/MS analysis. S.G.M., K.H., J.L., and D.R.G.  
475 collaborated on data interpretation. K.H. collected and processed AMS data. A.L. collected and  
476 processed PTR-ToF-MS data. S.-M.L. designed the aircraft adsorbent tube collection system.  
477 P.L. and J.J.B.W. implemented the wing pod design. P.L. prepared the wing pods for collection  
478 and J.J.B.W. and J.L. collected the adsorbent tube samples. M.J.W. and J.L. designed the filter  
479 collection system. M.J.W. and K.H collected filter samples. S.-M.L., K.H., and J.L. designed the  
480 aircraft sampling study. J.C.D. and D.R.G. wrote the manuscript, with input from all co-authors.

481 **Competing Interests**

482 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

483

484 **Code and Data Availability**

485 Code and data are available upon request.

486

487 **References**

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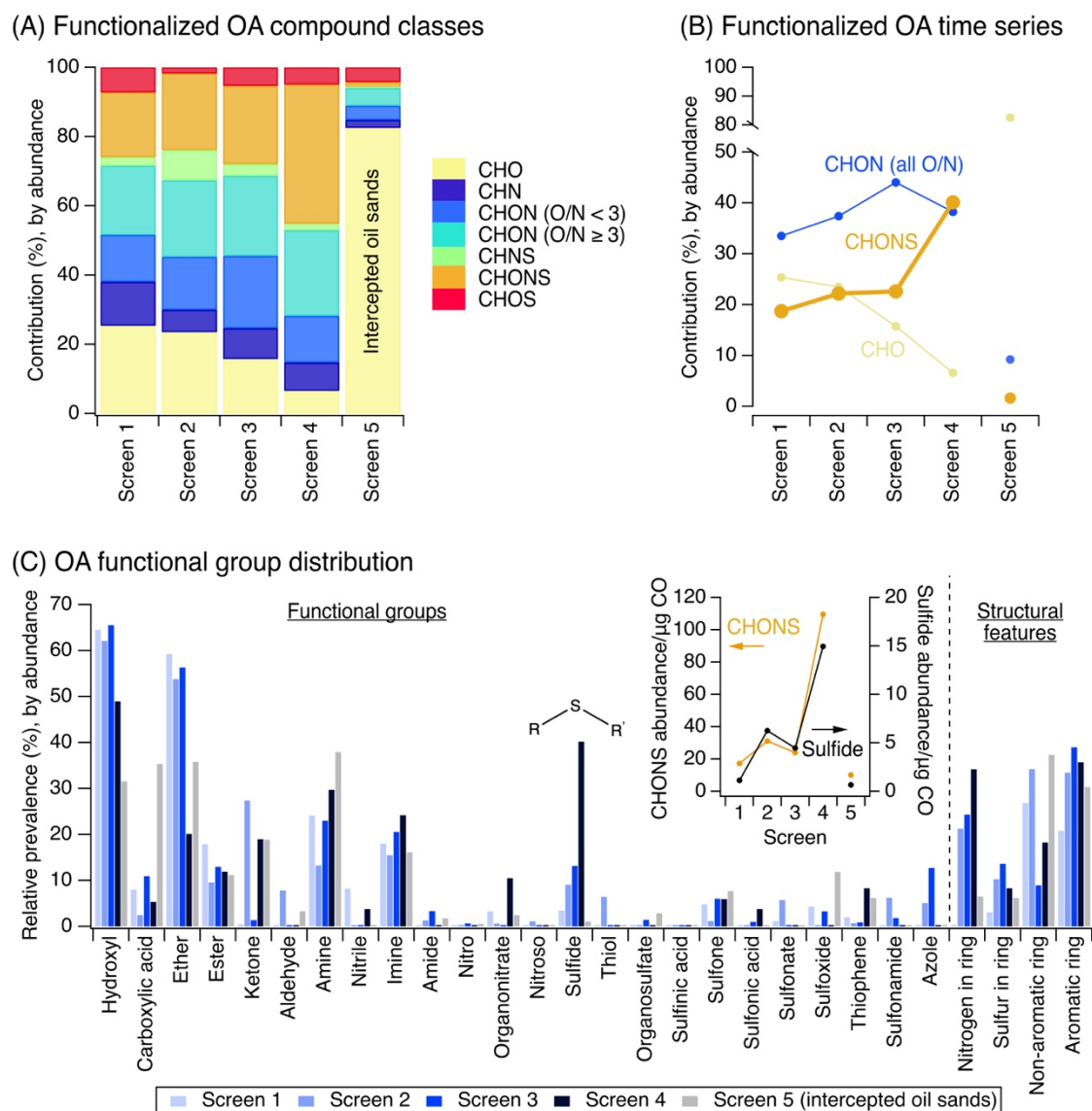
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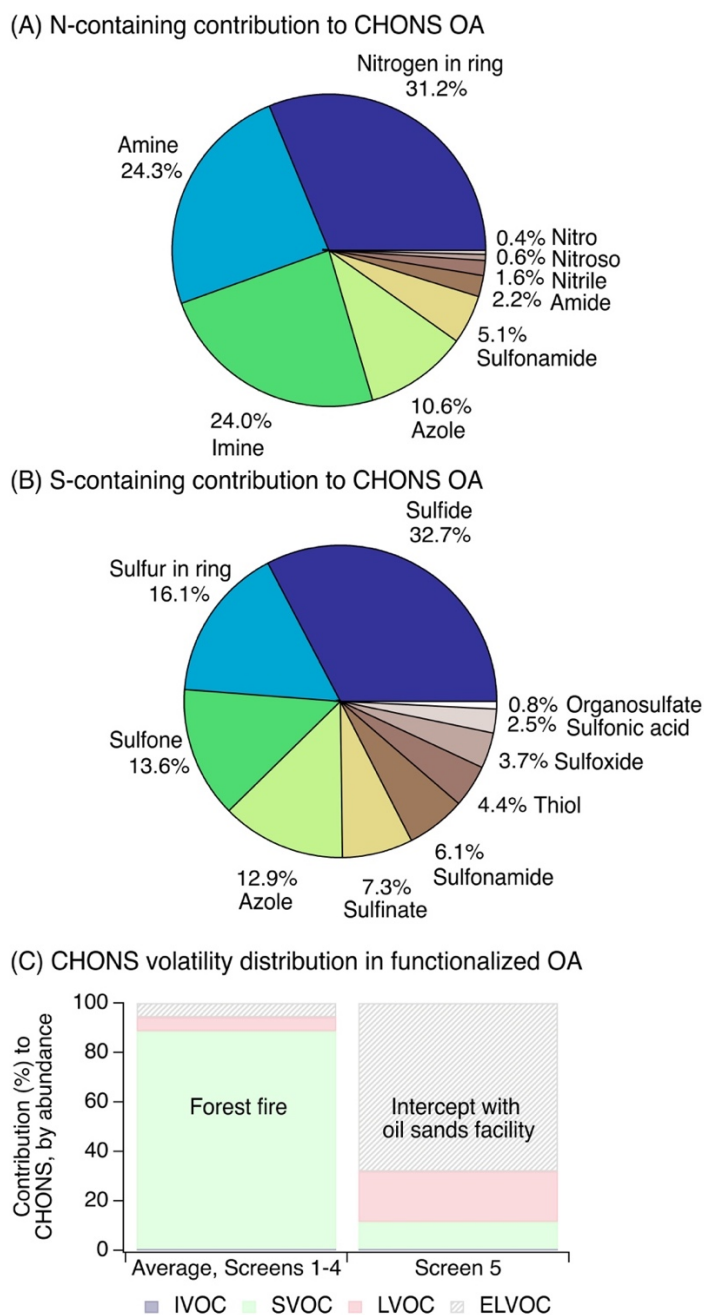
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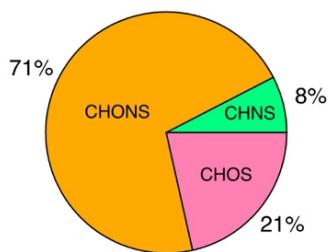


799 **Figure 1.** (A) The compound class distribution of functionalized OA (from non-targeted LC-  
800 ESI-MS) weighted by ion abundance, shown as percent contribution of each compound class to  
801 the total compound abundance measured by LC-ESI-MS. (B) Percent contribution of CHO,  
802 CHON, and CHONS compound classes in functionalized OA as a function of plume age. CHON  
803 compounds in panel B are summed across all O/N ratios. (C) Functional groups and structural  
804 features present in measured functionalized OA (from non-targeted LC-ESI-MS/MS). The  
805 sulfide functional group is shown here for emphasis, and will be the subject of subsequent  
806 analyses. The inset in panel C shows the absolute CHONS ion abundance normalized by CO  
807 mass (orange trace, left y-axis) and the absolute sulfide ion abundance normalized by CO mass  
808 (black trace, right y-axis). Full CO-adjusted compound class and functional group  
809 abundance data are shown in Figures S5-S6. For panels A-C, results tabulated by occurrence are also  
810 in Figure S5-S6.

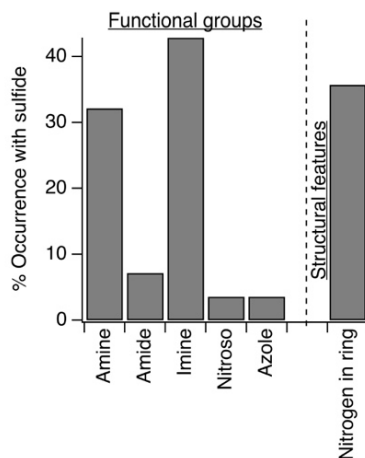


811 **Figure 2.** (A) The distribution of nitrogen-containing functional groups to particle-phase  
 812 CHONS compounds (organonitrates are excluded here due to challenges with their identification  
 813 using SIRIUS with CSI:FingerID, but contributed minimally to CHONS, Supporting Information  
 814 S3). (B) The distribution of sulfur-containing groups to particle-phase CHONS compounds.  
 815 For panels A-B, data are averaged across screens 1-4, with individual screens shown in Figure  
 816 S7A. (C) Volatility distribution of particle-phase CHONS species. These volatility data were  
 817 averaged across screens 1-4, and individual screens are shown in Figure S8. Volatility was  
 818 estimated with the parameterization in Li et al. (Li et al., 2016) and grouped according to  
 819 volatility bins in Donahue et al. (Donahue et al., 2011).

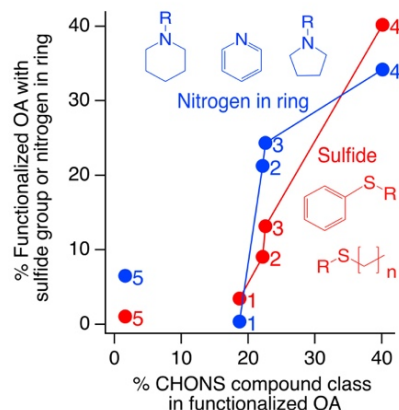
(A) Compound class of sulfides in functionalized OA



(B) N-groups co-occurring with sulfides in functionalized OA



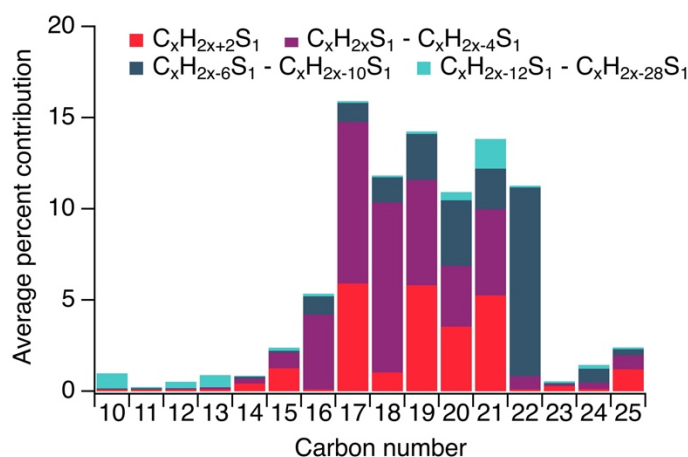
(C) Evolution with CHONS OA



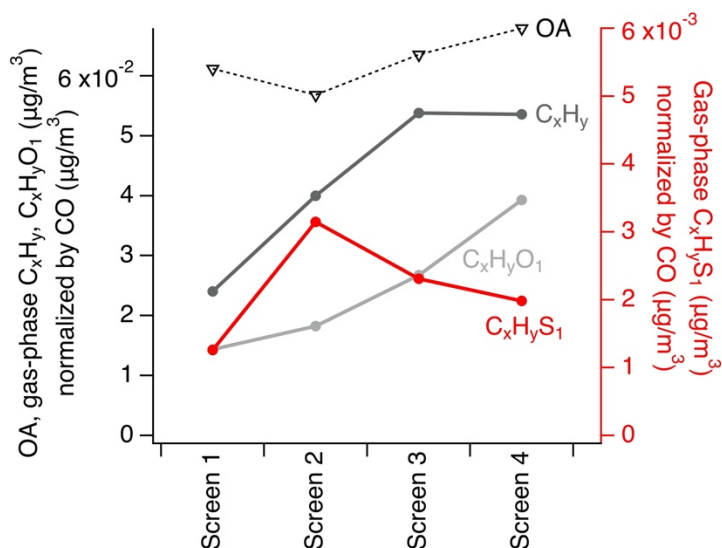
820 **Figure 3.** (A) Compound class distribution of sulfide groups: 71% of sulfide functional groups  
821 observed (weighted by ion abundance) were present in CHONS compounds. (B) Co-occurrence  
822 of sulfides and nitrogen-containing groups. Data shown in panels A-B are cumulative across  
823 compounds in screens 1-4. (C) The relative contribution of sulfides and cyclic nitrogen groups to  
824 all functionalized OA increased together with the increasing contribution of CHONS  
825 compounds. The other functional groups in panel B showed no relationship with the increase in  
826 CHONS (Figure S7B). Structures represent examples of commonly observed sulfide and cyclic  
827 nitrogen substructures from SIRIUS and CSI:FingerID (Supporting Information S3), where ring  
828 structures associated with nitrogen heteroatoms were free standing, adjacent to other rings,  
829 and/or contained additional attached functional groups.



(A) Average gas-phase  $C_xH_yS_1$  distribution



(B) Gas-phase and AMS OA concentrations normalized by CO



830 **Figure 4.** (A) The average  $C_xH_yS_1$  distribution from targeted GC-APCI-MS across all gas-phase  
831 adsorbent tube samples from screens 1-4 (see Figure S10 for individual  $C_xH_yS_1$  screens, and  
832 Figure S13 for  $C_xH_y$ ). (B) Concentrations of gas-phase  $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_1$ ,  $C_xH_yS_1$  from targeted GC-  
833 APCI-MS analysis of adsorbent tubes, shown with total OA from AMS, all corrected for dilution  
834 using carbon monoxide measurements (see Figure S12A for non-normalized concentrations).  
835 Data in panel B are averaged over low and high altitude adsorbent tube samples.

1 Supporting Information:

2

3 **Atmospheric Evolution of Emissions from a Boreal Forest Fire: The Formation of Highly-**  
4 **Functionalized Oxygen-, Nitrogen-, and Sulfur-Containing Organic Compounds**

5

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## 24 S1. Supporting sample collection details

25           The gas- and particle-phase samples discussed here were collected alongside a variety of  
26 other measurements including trace gas mixing ratios (e.g. NO<sub>x</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>), black  
27 carbon concentrations, and gas- and particle-phase chemical characterization via online mass  
28 spectrometry. Carbon monoxide mixing ratios, select gas-phase tracer mixing ratios from PTR-  
29 ToF-MS, and AMS organic aerosol (OA) concentrations were used as supporting data in this  
30 study.

31           Carbon monoxide mixing ratios were measured with a Picarro G2401 analyzer every 2  
32 seconds during the flights. When absolute ion abundances from adsorbent tube or filter data were  
33 used to discuss [in-plume](#) chemical transformations, abundances were normalized by the total  
34 carbon monoxide mass observed during the corresponding sampling period.

35           A proton transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-ToF-MS, Ionicon  
36 Analytik GmbH, Austria) was installed on the aircraft and collected measurements of volatile  
37 organic compounds (VOCs) with a time resolution of 1 second during the flights. The PTR-ToF-  
38 MS used a proton transfer reaction with H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> as the primary reagent ion. VOCs were separated  
39 according to their mass to charge (*m/z*) ratio and detected using a high resolution time-of-flight  
40 mass spectrometer. The data were processed using the TOFWARE software (Tofwerk AG).  
41 Additional details on these methods can be found in past work (Li et al., 2017).

42           A high resolution aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS, Aerodyne Inc) was used to measure  
43 mass concentrations of [aerosol-phase](#) organics, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub> (only organics are discussed  
44 here). Using an aerodynamic lens, particles were sampled into a region of low vacuum where  
45 they impacted a heated surface (600°C), were vaporized, and then ionized by 70 eV impaction.  
46 Ions were detected with a time-of-flight mass spectrometer. The AMS was operated in V mode

47 with 10 second time resolution. A collection efficiency of 0.5 was determined using the method  
48 from Middlebrook et al. (Middlebrook et al., 2012), and applied to the data. The collection  
49 efficiency was also estimated by comparing the total mass concentrations with those derived  
50 from the UHSAS onboard the aircraft (ultra-high sensitivity aerosol spectrometer). UHSAS  
51 volume concentrations were converted to mass concentrations using densities weighted by the  
52 AMS components. Both methods yielded similar results.

53  
54 *Sl.1. Adsorbent tubes:* Combined gas- and particle-phase samples were collected on adsorbent  
55 tubes using a novel wing pod sampler (Figure S2) and integrated across a set of low and high  
56 altitudes in screens 1-4 (Figure S1, Table S1). The wing pod (a standard PMS canister) contained  
57 multiple adsorbent tubes, selection valves, a flow meter, a pump, and control and data acquisition  
58 electronics. The wing pod sample inlet consisted of a 7” long Teflon tube (1/8” diameter),  
59 connected to an inlet manifold for distribution to multiple installed adsorbent tubes (Figure S2).  
60 The small length of Teflon inlet tubing and manifold were designed as the only upstream  
61 components to have potential contact with the air sample before it entered the adsorbent tubes  
62 (residence time ~0.3 seconds). The inlet manifold was heated to slightly above ambient  
63 temperature, with temperature monitored by the control software. Solenoid valves were  
64 positioned downstream from each adsorbent tube to remotely switch the air flow through any one  
65 single tube at a time. Air was drawn through the selected tube by a small DC pump with an  
66 orifice and mass flow meter (Alicat Scientific) regulating and monitoring flow. A  
67 temperature/pressure sensor was attached on the inlet manifold for monitoring the  
68 thermophysical properties of sampled air. All flows, valve positions, temperatures, and pressures  
69 were recorded using a data acquisition board (LabJack T7) integrated into the pod.

70 Communications with the pod were performed via the aircraft's internal Ethernet network using  
71 custom LabVIEW software. This remote access allowed sampling to be triggered by an operator  
72 in flight, while minimizing the amount of sample inlet needed to supply ambient air to the  
73 adsorbent tubes.

74 The total adsorbent tube sampling times ranged from 4-52 minutes (depending on the  
75 time required to complete a set of transects) at an average flow rate of 285 sccm, yielding a total  
76 sample volume of ~1-15 L. These sampling times and flow rates were similar to those tested  
77 extensively in past work with the same adsorbent tubes (e.g. 6-25 L at 125-250 sccm (Sheu et al.,  
78 2018)), though the slightly higher flow rate in our study was verified to [confirm](#) minimal analyte  
79 breakthrough. VOCs from a mixture of C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>13</sub> species were used (hydrocarbons and  
80 functionalized species from a multicomponent gas cylinder mixture (Apel-Riemer)), consistent  
81 with past breakthrough testing with the same adsorbent tubes (Sheu et al., 2018). Our results  
82 showed good retention when adsorbent tubes were tested at 300 sccm for 15 up to 60 minutes  
83 (7% loss on average), with some loss of C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> compounds at longer sampling times (13% loss on  
84 average). Therefore, this study was focused on hydrocarbons and functionalized species C<sub>10</sub> and  
85 larger, to ensure that compounds had similar or lower volatility than the breakthrough test  
86 analyte sets, and thus similar or greater retention in the adsorbent tubes during field sampling.

87 To [correct for](#) any background contamination in subsequent data analyses, field blank  
88 adsorbent tubes were collected throughout the campaign by installing adsorbent tubes in the  
89 wing pod sampler during flight [without sampling on them](#). All adsorbent tubes were [spiked with](#)  
90 [a deuterated standard \(containing n-hexadecane-d34, diethyl phthalate-d4, benz\(a\)anthracene-](#)  
91 [d12, n-octane-d18, ethylbenzene-d10, octanoic acid-d15, benzene-d6, and n-dodecanol-d25\)](#), and  
92 stored with 1/4" brass Swagelok caps in a -30°C freezer before analysis.

93 S1.2. Filters: Particles were sampled through a forward-facing isokinetic diffuser inlet (DMT)  
94 mounted on the roof of the aircraft. Particles [with diameters](#) approximately <2.5 µm were  
95 expected to be transmitted through this sampling setup based on transmission efficiency  
96 calculations using inlet dimensions and volume flow rates. Particles were collected onto PTFE  
97 filters using a multi-filter holder assembly mounted in the cabin of the aircraft. Filter sampling  
98 times ranged from 29-101 minutes, at an average flow rate of 46 L/min. One filter sample was  
99 collected per screen for screens 1-5 (Figure S1, Table S1).

100 Similar to adsorbent tube methods, filter field blanks were collected throughout the  
101 campaign by installing filters in the sampler with no air flow. Filters were [spiked with the same](#)  
102 [deuterated standard discussed above, and](#) stored in closed sterile petri dishes in a -30°C freezer  
103 before analysis.

104

## 105 S2. Supporting analytical methods details

106 S2.1. Adsorbent tubes: Adsorbent tubes were run on a GERSTEL Thermal Desorber TD 3.5+,  
107 with a 6 minute dry purge at 100 mL/min helium flow at 35°C to eliminate excess water trapped  
108 on the tubes, followed by a 10 minute desorption at 310°C, trapping desorbed analytes in the  
109 GERSTEL Cooled Injection System (CIS) at -100°C. Tubes were spiked with a range of  
110 standards (the multicomponent gas cylinder mixture discussed above, in addition to a set of  
111 functionalized liquid standards with a range of oxygen-, nitrogen-, and sulfur-containing  
112 functional groups from Sigma Aldrich and AccuStandard (Ditto et al., 2018, 2020)) to evaluate  
113 possible losses associated with dry purging. While some losses of higher volatility compounds  
114 were observed as expected (Ochiai et al., 2014), analytes generally showed good retention  
115 (~86% retained on average) during this preparatory step (Figure S4). CIS contents were

116 subsequently desorbed at 325°C onto a DB5-MS-UI GC column (30 m x 320 μm x 0.25 μm).  
117 The column was held at 35°C for 5 minutes, followed by a 10°C/minute ramp to 325°C, and a 3-  
118 minute hold at 325°C. Helium carrier gas flowed through the column at 1.5 mL/min. The APCI  
119 source was operated in positive mode and the Q-TOF was operated in MS mode, following  
120 methods in past work (Khare et al., 2019).

121 Daily system check standards were run with adsorbent tube samples, including diluted  
122 diesel fuel (#2 diesel fuel from AccuStandard, DRO-AK-102-LCS-10X-R1) to confirm  
123 calibration and transmission of a complex hydrocarbon mixture through the analytical system,  
124 along with a mixture of hydrocarbons and functionalized species from the multicomponent gas  
125 cylinder mixture discussed above (Sheu et al., 2018). NIST Reference Gulf of Mexico 2779  
126 Macondo Crude Oil was also run for response factor mass calibrations across the analyte range  
127 of interest, discussed in Section S3 (Khare et al., 2019).

128  
129 S2.2 Filters: Filters were extracted in methanol with 60 minutes of sonication, and solvent was  
130 evaporated down to 200 μL under gentle N<sub>2</sub> flow (Ditto et al., 2018). Next, 5 μL aliquots were  
131 analyzed on an SBAQ reverse phase column using water (A) and methanol (B) as mobile phases,  
132 running the following solvent gradient: 95% (A) for 2 minutes, then solvents ramped to 10% A  
133 and 90% B for 20 minutes, then held at 10% A and 90% B for 5 minutes, and finally returned to  
134 initial conditions for the next run (Ditto et al., 2018). The ESI source was operated in positive  
135 and negative ionization mode, and the Q-TOF was operated in both MS and MS/MS mode,  
136 following previously described methods (Ditto et al., 2018, 2020). All data discussed here report  
137 both positive and negative mode peaks; when a compound ionized well in both modes, its  
138 abundances in positive and negative mode were averaged, and it was only tabulated once.

139 Filter extracts were also analyzed via GC-APCI-MS using the GERSTEL TD 3.5+. For  
140 GC-APCI-MS analysis, 1  $\mu$ L aliquots were automatically injected by the GERSTEL system into  
141 the TD inlet. The inlet was subsequently desorbed at 310°C for 10 minutes, while trapping  
142 analytes on the CIS at -100°C, as described above. The APCI and Q-TOF operating conditions  
143 were the same as for adsorbent tubes.

144 Daily system checks using authentic standards were run with filter samples on LC and  
145 GC, focusing on a set of functionalized liquid standards with a range of oxygen-, nitrogen-, and  
146 sulfur-containing functional groups (discussed above). These standards were used to determine  
147 an average response factor of functionalized analytes, which was in turn used to estimate mass  
148 concentration analyzed with the filter samples (Section S4).

149 In addition, as part of data quality control for both adsorbent tubes and filters, we  
150 performed a targeted search through sample data for common biomass burning tracers such as  
151 levoglucosan, benzenediols, methoxyphenols, vanillin, vanillic acid, acetovanillone, and  
152 dehydroabietic acid, among others. However, the goal of this study was to examine the complex  
153 mixture in forest fire smoke and to study molecular-level trends in the evolution of the mixture  
154 as a whole. As such, the methods applied here for sample analysis and data analysis were geared  
155 towards this purpose, rather than to focus on particular tracer compounds, which were targeted  
156 by other instruments in the aircraft payload (e.g. PTR-ToF-MS). While several of these tracers  
157 were outside of the carbon number range of interest in this study, we searched for them in the  
158 adsorbent tube and filter data to ensure that our methods captured a range of expected biomass  
159 burning emissions and transformation products based on past field and laboratory observations  
160 (e.g. levoglucosan was observed in the particle phase across all 5 screens; vanillin and



161 acetovanillone were observed in all 4 screens of gas-phase measurements; vanillic acid was  
162 observed prominently in both phases (Schauer et al., 2001; Simoneit et al., 1993)).

163

### 164 S3. Supporting data analysis methods details

165       There are two types of analyses discussed in this work: non-targeted (primarily for  
166 particle-phase LC-ESI-MS, LC-ESI-MS/MS, and GC-APCI-MS) and targeted (primarily for gas-  
167 phase GC-APCI-MS). The details of both approaches are discussed in previous work, but we  
168 summarize the important points here.

169

170 S3.1 Non-targeted analysis and QA/QC for particle-phase samples: In brief, for non-targeted  
171 analysis, the Q-TOF examined mass spectra across the entire LC elution time for a particular  
172 sample. Peak, formula, and structural identifications were extensively quality controlled  
173 (including subtraction of any contaminants or artifacts from field blanks, and elimination of low  
174 quality peaks and formula/structural identifications (Ditto et al., 2018, 2020)) but were not  
175 restricted to target a particular set of compounds. Elemental formula parameters were set to  $C_{3-}$   
176  ${}_{60}H_{4-122}O_{0-20}N_{0-3}S_{0-1}$ , and no significant change in top-ranked identifications was observed when  
177 expanding the nitrogen and sulfur elemental counts. For LC-ESI-MS/MS analysis, mass spectra  
178 were imported to SIRIUS with CSI:FingerID, and this software was used to predict structures.  
179 We note that in this study, we did not focus on exact molecular configurations but rather the  
180 presence or absence of functional groups, similar to past work (Ditto et al., 2020). We also note  
181 that organonitrates were tallied according to prior approaches; this functional group was poorly  
182 identified by SIRIUS and CSI:FingerID, so characteristic neutral losses were used to identify  
183 organonitrates (see reference for further discussion (Ditto et al., 2020)). However, as a result, the

184 co-occurring functional groups on organonitrate compounds (predicted by SIRIUS and  
185 CSI:FingerID) were assumed to be invalid. So, organonitrates were included in the functional  
186 group tally shown in Figure 1C and Figure S6, but not in any subsequent analyses of functional  
187 group co-occurrence. The effect of this exclusion was minor since organonitrates had minimal  
188 presence in the particle phase in this relatively fresh forest fire plume (~3% on average; Figure  
189 1C). In addition, nitrogen or sulfur atoms in non-aromatic rings were tallied both as a “nitrogen  
190 in ring” or “sulfur in ring” (Figure 1C) *and* as any other applicable functional group (e.g. amine,  
191 sulfone). Hence, they are reported separately as structural features throughout the manuscript  
192 (e.g. Figure 1C, Figure S6-S7A). Importantly, we note that none of the sulfide-containing  
193 compounds identified in this work were present as ring-bound sulfur.

194  
195 *S3.2. Targeted analysis and QA/QC for gas-phase samples:* For targeted analysis, we searched  
196 for specific large sets of molecular ions across C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>25</sub> with double bond equivalents (DBE) or  
197 corresponding degrees of unsaturation from 0-15 for C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>, C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>O<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>S<sub>1</sub>, and C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>N<sub>1</sub>  
198 compound classes. While some compounds with a greater heteroatom count could be present in  
199 the adsorbent tube (i.e. gas-phase) samples, heteroatom counts were limited to one for each  
200 compound class to facilitate the targeted ion search. We focused on this carbon number range to  
201 supplement other on-board instrumentation measuring VOCs (i.e. PTR-ToF-MS) and also  
202 because the adsorbent tubes’ sampling and analytical conditions were optimized for this range of  
203 molecular weights.

204 Peaks for each ion were extracted at 10 ppm mass tolerance and integrated with custom  
205 Igor Pro code. Samples were all blank subtracted (using field blanks), and known contaminants  
206 and artifacts were removed. Peak areas for C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub> ions were converted to mass using a C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>

207 response factor for individual carbon numbers and DBEs, determined based on the known  
208 distribution of carbon numbers and DBEs in the NIST Gulf of Mexico 2779 Macondo Crude Oil  
209 standard with GC and soft ionization (Khare et al., 2019; Worton et al., 2015). To convert  
210  $C_xH_yO_1$  and  $C_xH_yS_1$  peak areas to mass, we applied the average  $C_xH_y$  response factors for  
211 aromatic compounds (which had limited fragmentation in the APCI source) based on an  
212 intercomparison of mass responses from available oxygen- and sulfur-containing individual  
213 authentic standards, evaluations of fragmentation patterns of these functionalized species, and  
214 determination of an analogous carbon number based on the volatility difference introduced by  
215 adding an oxygen or sulfur heteroatom to a  $C_xH_y$  hydrocarbon, [as discussed in past work](#) (Khare  
216 et al., 2020). This resulted in shifting the average response factors up by 1 or 2 carbon numbers  
217 when accounting for the presence of oxygen or sulfur heteroatoms, respectively, and accounting  
218 for the ratio of  $[M+H]^+$  to  $[M]^+$  ion abundance observed.  $C_xH_yO_1$  and  $C_xH_yS_1$  response factors  
219 were based on the  $C_xH_y$  response factor because of limited availability of individual oxygen- or  
220 sulfur-containing standards across the entire carbon number and structural range, and because of  
221 greater structural ambiguity in these complex functionalized mixtures (due to a range of possible  
222 oxygen- and sulfur-containing functional groups and the possibility of double bonds both in the  
223 carbon backbone structure and in the functional group itself). We acknowledge that this approach  
224 comes with added uncertainty and apply it here to provide useful context for the relative mass of  
225  $C_xH_yO_1$  and  $C_xH_yS_1$  compared to  $C_xH_y$ . However, it is critical to note that the uncertainty in the  
226 conversion from peak area to mass does not affect our results that describe trends across screens  
227 and the diversity of molecular size and structure observed (e.g. straight/branched vs. aromatic)—  
228 these features were all observed in the ion abundance data prior to mass estimation.  $C_xH_yN_1$  was  
229 studied here in terms of peak area only.

230 The vast majority of the total compound mass observed via targeted analysis of adsorbent  
231 tube samples in the C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>25</sub> range should have existed in the gas phase. This is based in part on  
232 significant undersampling for particles at the adsorbent tube inlet (discussed in the main text).  
233 This is also based on partitioning coefficients calculated with estimated aerosol loading (from  
234 AMS OA concentration data, Figure 4B) and the approximate saturation mass concentration for  
235 this carbon number range (Equation 1, from Donahue et al., 2009) (Donahue et al., 2009, 2011):

$$236 \quad \xi_i = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{C_i^*}{C_{OA}}} \quad [1]$$

237 In Equation 1,  $\xi_i$  is a partitioning coefficient of compound  $i$ ,  $C_i^*$  is the effective saturation  
238 concentration of compound  $i$ , and  $C_{OA}$  is the mass concentration of the existing organic particle  
239 phase. As shown in Table S2, compounds below ~C<sub>22</sub>-C<sub>23</sub> should have existed mostly in the gas  
240 phase, though compounds ~C<sub>20</sub> and up would have readily partitioned from and equilibrated with  
241 the particle phase with small changes in OA concentration. This range of observed compounds  
242 therefore had likely contributions from semivolatile particle-phase species evaporating with  
243 plume dilution, as discussed in the main text in Section 3.3 and Figure 4B.

#### 244

#### 245 S4. Representativeness of mass analyzed via filter and adsorbent tube samples

246 The analysis of particle-phase samples discussed here used methods geared towards  
247 functionalized OA, i.e. OA with one or more oxygen-, nitrogen-, and/or sulfur-containing  
248 functional groups or structural features. Samples were extracted in methanol due to its  
249 effectiveness at extracting polar analytes from similar filter media in past studies (Ditto et al.,  
250 2018; Ng et al., 2008; Riva et al., 2016a, 2016b; Seinfeld et al., 2008); no distinct trends were  
251 observed that suggested major differences in extraction efficiency among heteroatom-containing  
252 compounds.

253 Samples were analyzed using electrospray ionization (ESI), which is sensitive towards  
254 compounds with oxygen-, nitrogen-, and/or sulfur-containing functional groups that readily  
255 interact with protons and other ions in the mobile phase solvents to form charged adducts. For  
256 particle-phase samples analyzed with LC-ESI-MS, CH and CHS compound classes were not  
257 measured, as they ionized poorly in the ESI source (Ditto et al., 2018, 2019). For these same  
258 particle-phase samples analyzed via GC-APCI-MS, CH and CHS were measured (due to  
259 improved ionization via APCI), but the contribution of CH was likely underestimated due to  
260 fragmentation of alkanes in the ionization source (discussed in Figure S5 and explicitly  
261 calibrated for in the targeted adsorbent tube analysis focused on gas-phase compounds (Khare et  
262 al., 2019)) and due to possible CH/CHS solubility limitations in the methanol extraction solvent.

263 Though not designed to be an exact intercomparison for mass closure, we evaluated the  
264 total mass analyzed from the filters (via LC-ESI, since these results are the ones primarily  
265 displayed and discussed throughout the manuscript) and adsorbent tubes (via GC-APCI) in this  
266 study. The sample preparation and analysis methods for filters were tailored for the analysis of  
267 functionalized OA; an estimate of functionalized compound mass loading from non-targeted LC-  
268 ESI-MS analysis of filter samples with average ESI response factors (Ditto et al., 2018)  
269 suggested that these functionalized components represented an average of  $26 \pm 6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  across  
270 screens 1-4. For comparison, the average AMS OA mass concentration across these same filter  
271 sampling times was  $31 \pm 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . However, there is evidence in this and in past studies for an  
272 important contribution from non-functionalized biomass burning OA (i.e. CH compounds)  
273 (Corrigan et al., 2013; Zhou et al., 2017), which would not be measured by the filter sampling  
274 methods discussed here. This suggests that these LC-ESI and AMS methods may have measured  
275 some overlapping but some differing subsets of OA mass. For comparison, adsorbent tube

276 samples contained  $21 \pm 6$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of gas-phase  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y$ ,  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_1$ , and  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{S}_1$  compounds, from  
277 targeted search results [in the C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>25</sub> range](#).

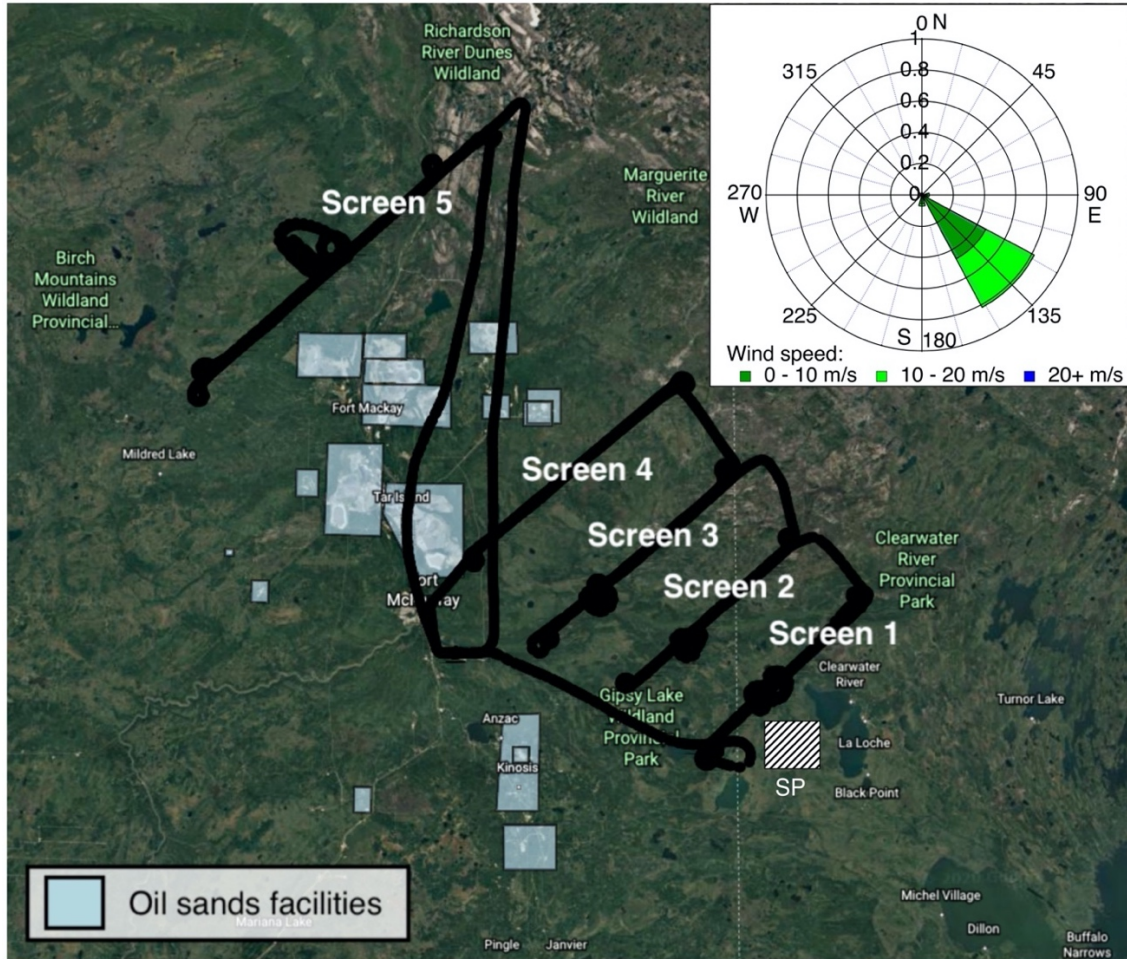
278 In LC-ESI-MS, we have observed response factors for individual standards to vary across  
279 complex mixtures with evident but uncertain relationships to compound classes and functional  
280 groups, resulting in sensitivity differences between compounds in the ESI source. In this and in  
281 past work, we compared compounds across these diverse multi-functional mixtures by both  
282 occurrence and abundance. For the latter, it was necessary to assume an equal ionization  
283 efficiency across all compounds (and thus an identical average response factor) because of the  
284 challenges associated with assigning compound-specific ionization efficiencies to hundreds of  
285 multifunctional compounds in a complex mixture without sufficient reference standards (Ditto et  
286 al., 2020). Thus, for comparison, we showed results tabulated both by occurrence and by  
287 abundance where applicable ([e.g. Figure S5, S6, S8, S9](#)). [Results tabulated by occurrence were](#)  
288 [otherwise not used in any of the analyses discussed here, and were provided as supporting data to](#)  
289 [aid in the interpretation of results](#).

#### 291 S5. Differences in LC and GC results for particle-phase data

292 [As mentioned in Materials and Methods](#), we observed compounds with different oxygen,  
293 nitrogen, and sulfur content [in](#) LC-ESI and GC-APCI [measurements](#) for particle-phase filter  
294 samples, [resulting from](#) differences in chromatographic and ionization approaches. LC is better  
295 suited for more polar compounds that are less volatile and contain more functional groups. In  
296 contrast, GC-amenable compounds tend to be less polar and more thermally [stable](#), with [overall](#)  
297 [less functionality](#). ESI is very sensitive towards functionalized species (e.g. that can be readily  
298 protonated or deprotonated), while APCI [in the configuration used here](#) can more effectively

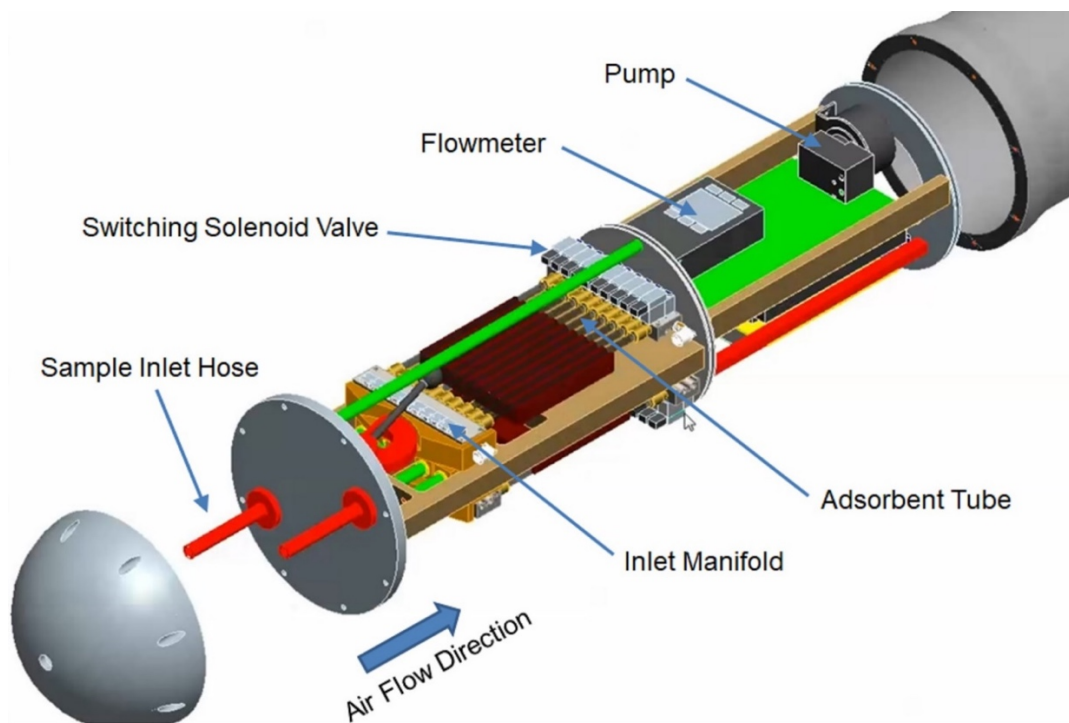
299 ionize less polar analytes (Kondyli and Schrader, 2019). For example, particle-phase compounds  
300 from filter samples observed via non-targeted LC-ESI analysis contained an overall average of  
301 4.7 oxygen atoms, with  $\overline{O/C} = 0.4$ . Nitrogen-containing compounds had an  $\overline{O/N} = 2.5$ , and  
302 sulfur-containing compounds had an  $\overline{O/S} = 5.0$ . In contrast, compounds from these same filter  
303 samples observed via non-targeted GC-APCI analysis contained an overall average of 2.1  
304 oxygen atoms, with  $\overline{O/C} = 0.2$ . Nitrogen-containing compounds had an  $\overline{O/N} = 1.8$ , and sulfur-  
305 containing compounds had an  $\overline{O/S} = 3.3$ . An estimate of carbon oxidation state for CH and CHO  
306 compounds (Kroll et al., 2011) yielded  $\overline{OSc} = -0.5$  for LC-ESI filter samples and a less oxidized  
307  $\overline{OSc} = -1.3$  for GC-APCI filter samples.

308 An analysis of filter extracts with non-targeted GC-APCI-MS (Figure S5) showed greater  
309 contributions of carbon-, hydrogen-, and oxygen-containing (CHO) and carbon- and hydrogen-  
310 containing (CH) compound classes than non-targeted LC-ESI-MS because these compound  
311 classes are more GC-amenable, while LC-ESI-MS highlighted contributions from more  
312 functionalized species, along with CHO species. As the complex mixture of compounds in the  
313 forest fire plume aged, it became increasingly functionalized and likely less GC-amenable. Thus,  
314 using exclusively GC techniques to study the evolution of smoke plumes may miss more  
315 functionalized, non-GC amenable compounds. Here, we focused on LC-ESI-MS data for the  
316 particle phase to study these functionalized species. While LC-ESI-MS does not ionize CH and  
317 CHS compound classes effectively, these were outside the scope of our study.

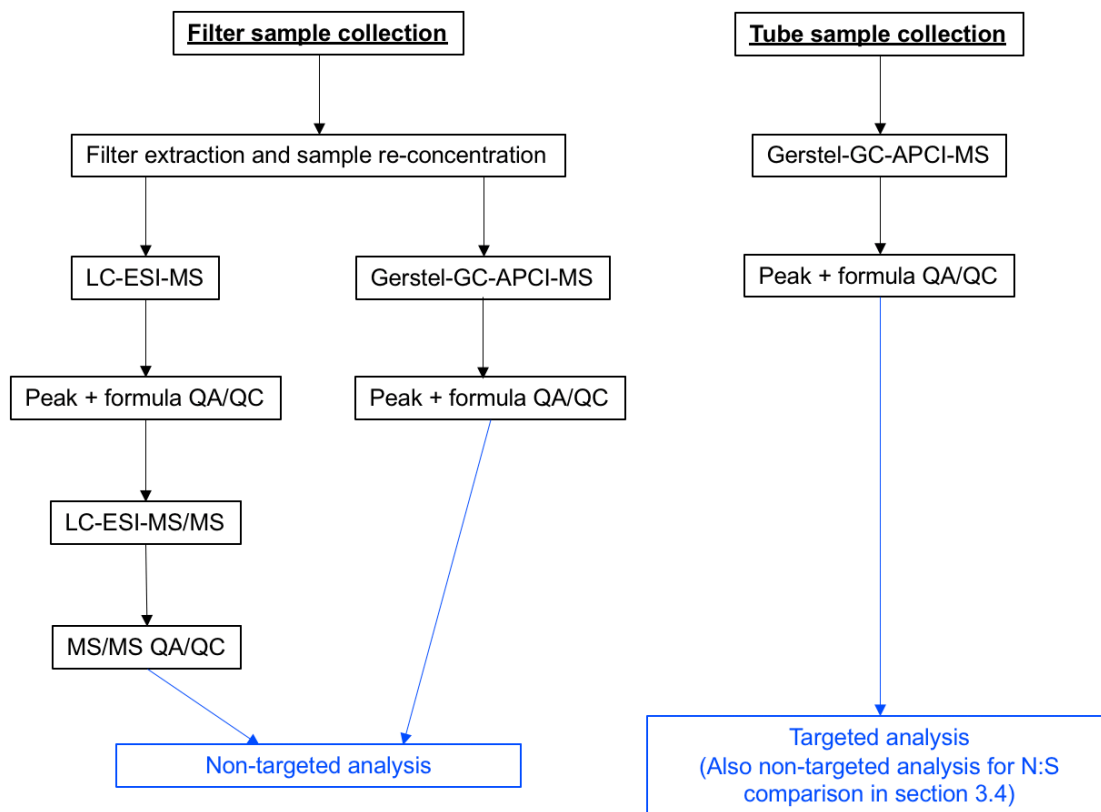


318 **Figure S1.** The flight path tracking the forest fire plume on June 25, 2018. Shaded blue regions  
 319 represent local oil sands processing facilities. Cross hatching represents approximate location of  
 320 the fire source, located ~10 km from screen 1 (SP is the south plume, whose source was  
 321 identified via satellite imagery; the north plume source was not identified via satellite imagery,  
 322 so it is not explicitly shown here but was ~8-19 km to the northeast of the SP at screen 1 and  
 323 both plumes were estimated to be approximately the same age). Screens 1 and 2 were ~26 km  
 324 apart, screens 2 and 3 were ~24 km apart, screens 3 and 4 were ~29 km apart, and screens 4 and  
 325 5 were ~83 km apart. Prevailing winds were from the southeast during the sampling period as  
 326 shown by the wind rose in the upper right. Map used to plot flight tracks: © Google Earth:  
 327 Google, Maxar Technologies.

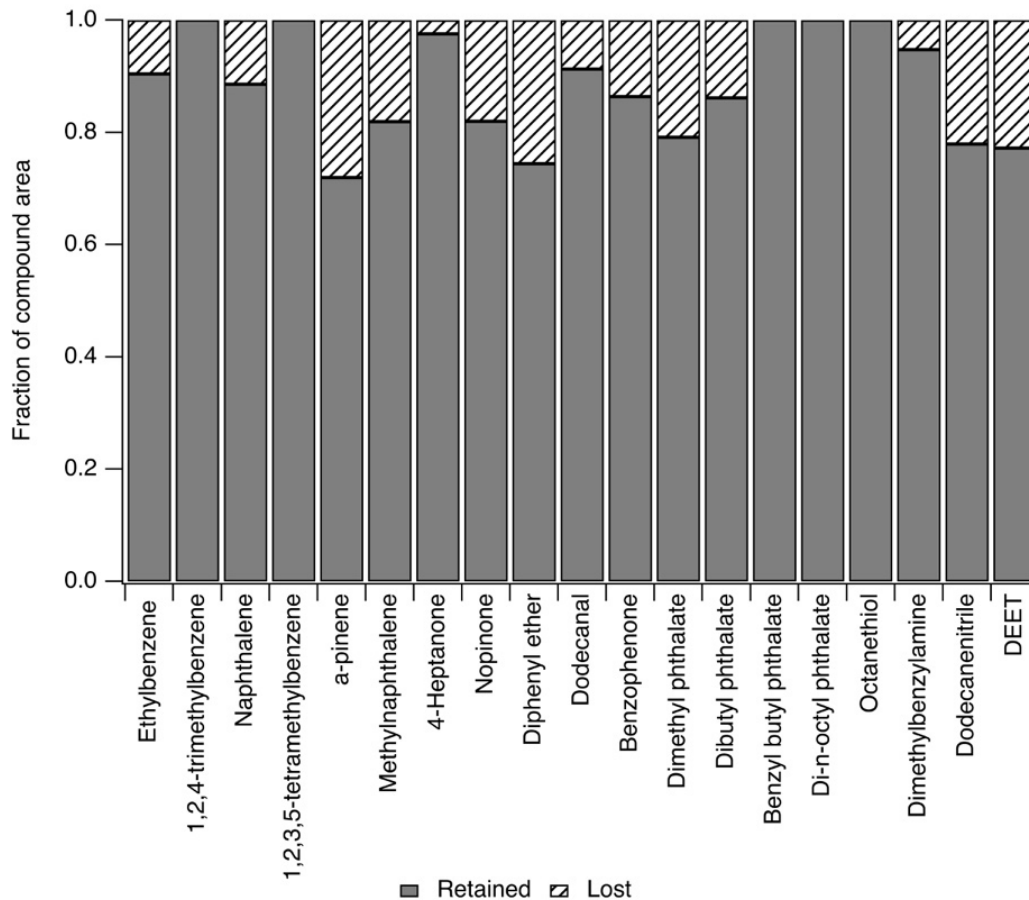




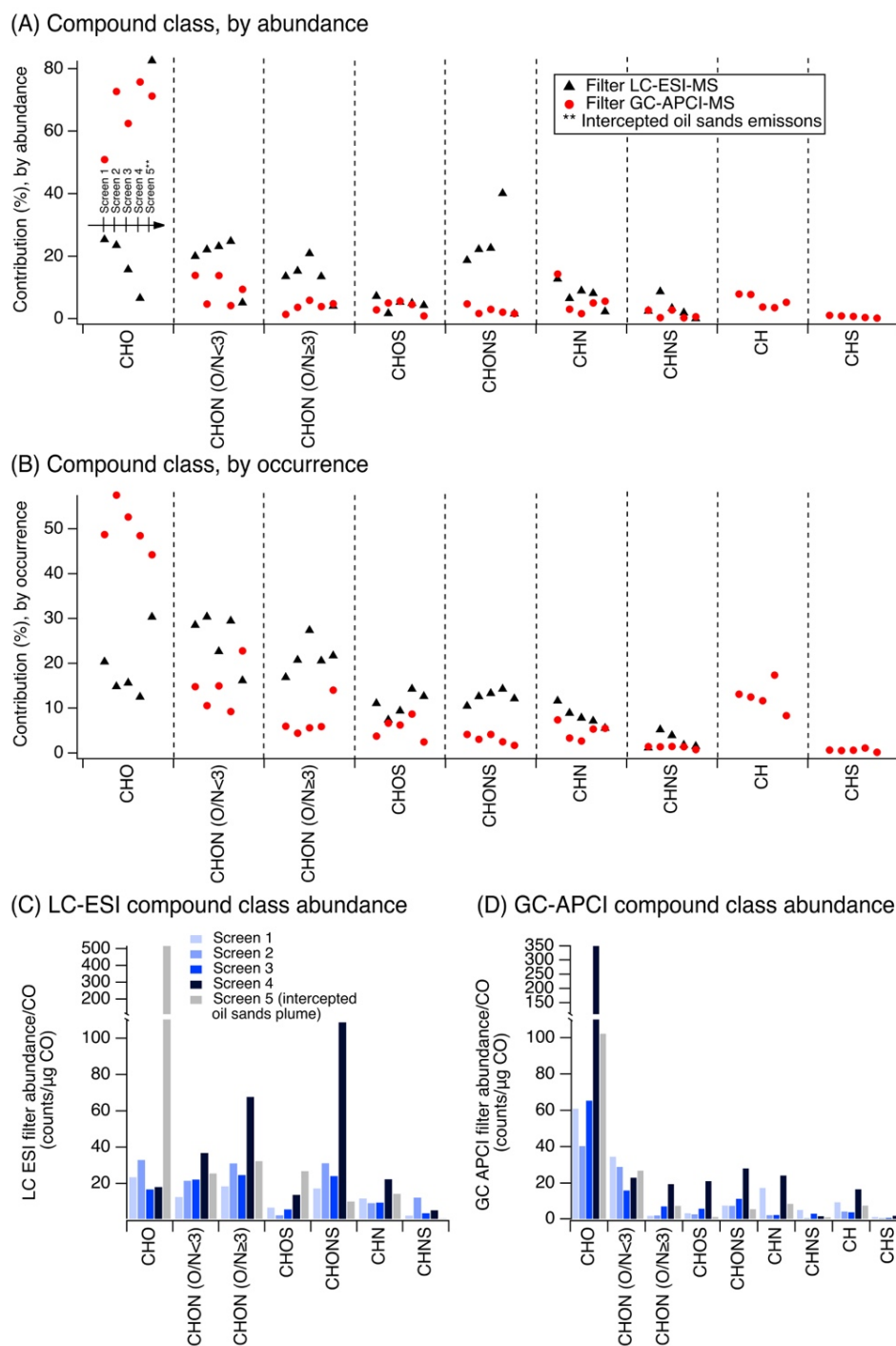
328 **Figure S2.** Drawing depicting the key components of the wing pod sampler. Teflon tubing (7"  
329 long, 1/8" diameter) was connected to the sample inlet hose and to the inlet manifold. A  
330 temperature and pressure sensor was attached to the inlet manifold to monitor the properties of  
331 sampled air. Adsorbent tubes for the entire flight were loaded into the sampler, and each tube  
332 was connected to the manifold. A solenoid valve was positioned downstream of each adsorbent  
333 tube to remotely switch air flow between samples. A flow meter and pump were installed further  
334 downstream to control air flow.



335 **Figure S3.** Summary of adsorbent tube and filter sample collection methods and data analysis.



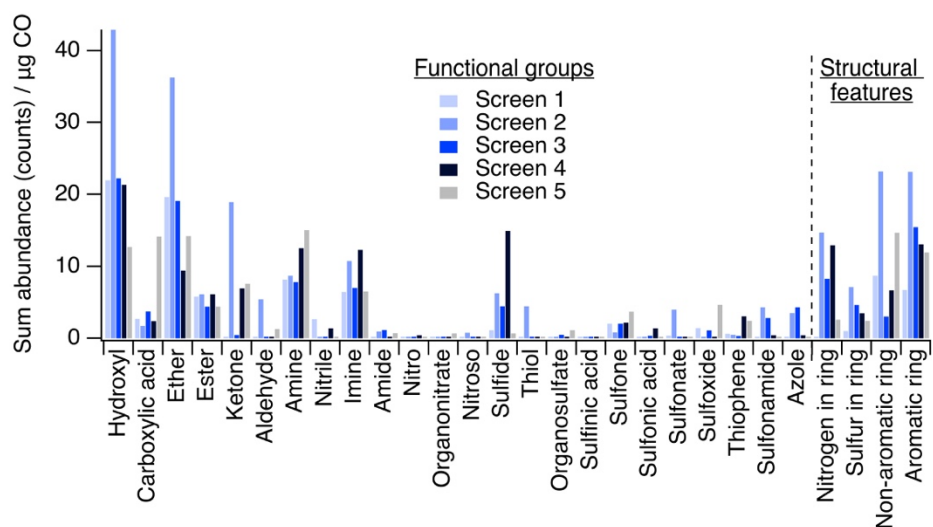
336 **Figure S4.** Evaluation of losses associated with adsorbent tube dry purge prior to tube desorption  
 337 and analysis. Peak areas from experiments using standards with and without a dry purge were  
 338 compared (y-axis). While some loss of volatile analytes is expected (Ochiai et al., 2014), most  
 339 analytes across a range of functional groups were retained reasonably well (~86% retained, on  
 340 average).



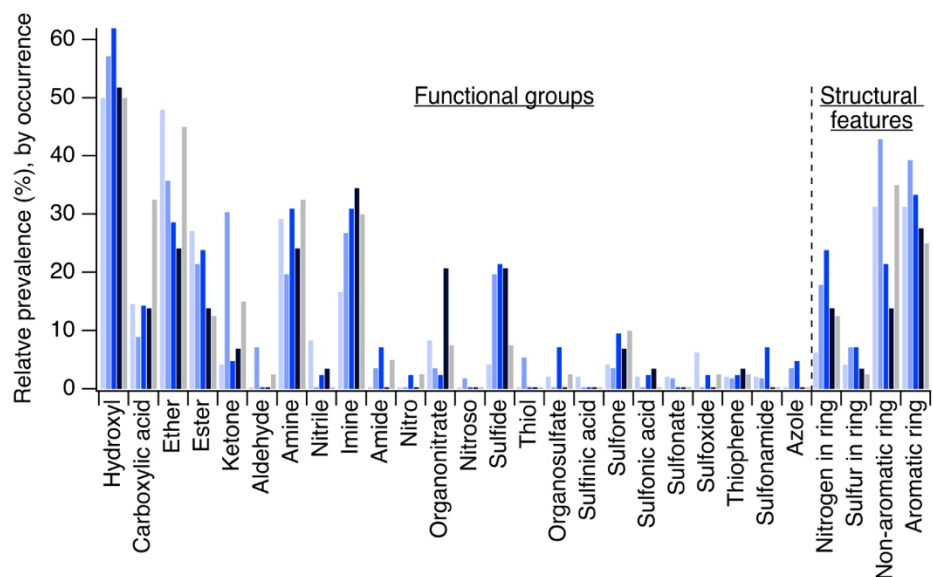
341 **Figure S5.** (A) Compound class distribution for particle-phase non-targeted LC-ESI-MS and  
 342 GC-APCI-MS analyses, weighted by ion abundance. Percent contribution on the y-axis refers to  
 343 each compound class' contribution to all observed compound ion abundance in LC or GC  
 344 analysis. (B) For comparison, compound class distribution for particle-phase non-targeted LC-  
 345 ESI-MS and GC-APCI-MS analyses, shown by occurrence (i.e. the number of compounds in  
 346 each category—see Section S4 for further discussion). (C) Compound class distribution from  
 347 particle-phase LC-ESI-MS analysis, and (D) compound class distribution from particle-phase

348 GC-APCI-MS analysis, both shown as raw ion abundance normalized by the average carbon  
349 monoxide measurement corresponding to the filter sampling period. In all panels, CH and CHS  
350 compounds are excluded from LC-ESI-MS analysis due to poor ESI ionization efficiency  
351 (Section S5). CH in GC-APCI-MS analysis may be underestimated due to known fragmentation  
352 of alkanes in the APCI source. This fragmentation is accounted for in the mass calibrated,  
353 targeted analysis of adsorbent tube compounds. These data are shown to support Figure 1A-B.  
354 GC-APCI-MS data from filter extracts are shown here for comparison with LC-ESI-MS data, but  
355 are not used in subsequent analyses. Differences between GC and LC results are due to  
356 differences in ionization techniques used in both methods (see Section S5) as well as changes in  
357 mixture composition that shift its GC- and LC-amenability.

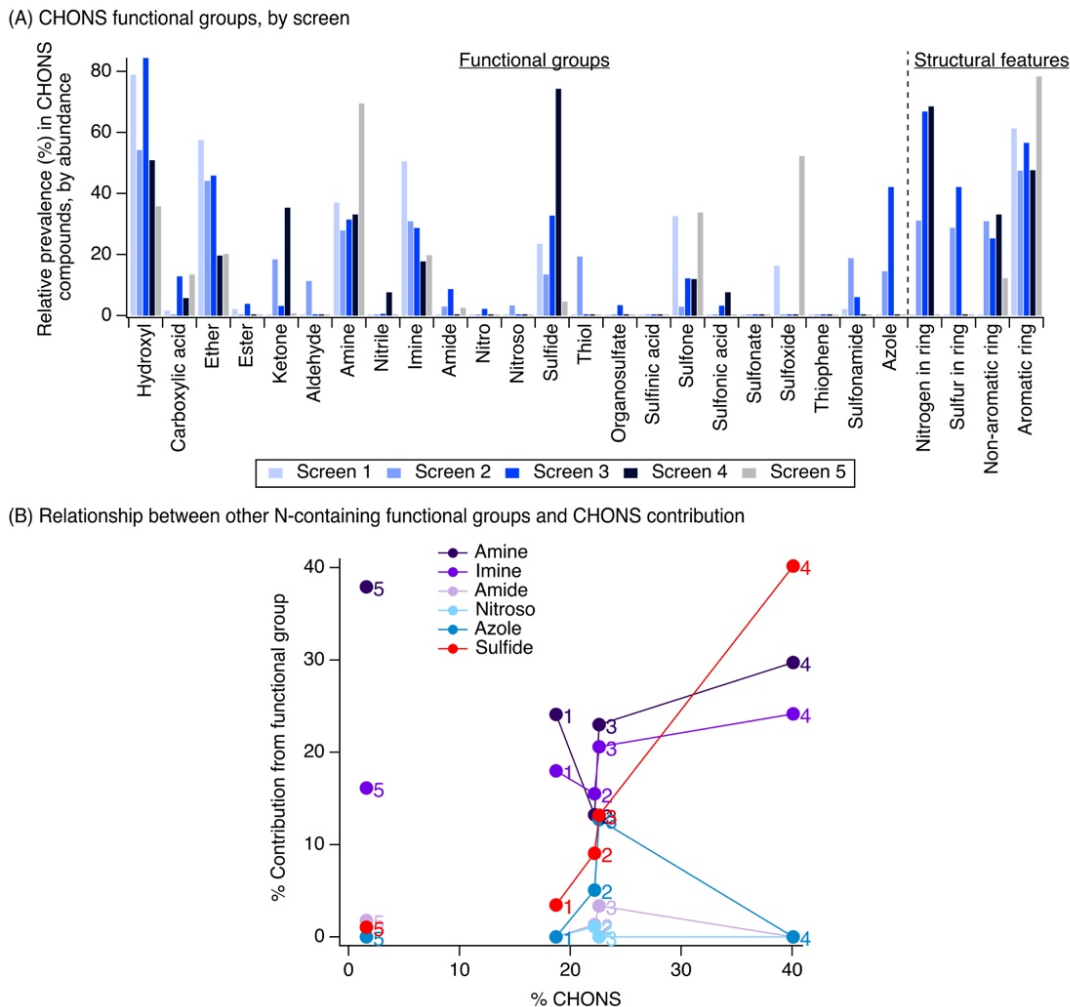
(A) Functional group distribution, by ion abundance normalized by carbon monoxide mass



(B) Functional group distribution, by occurrence

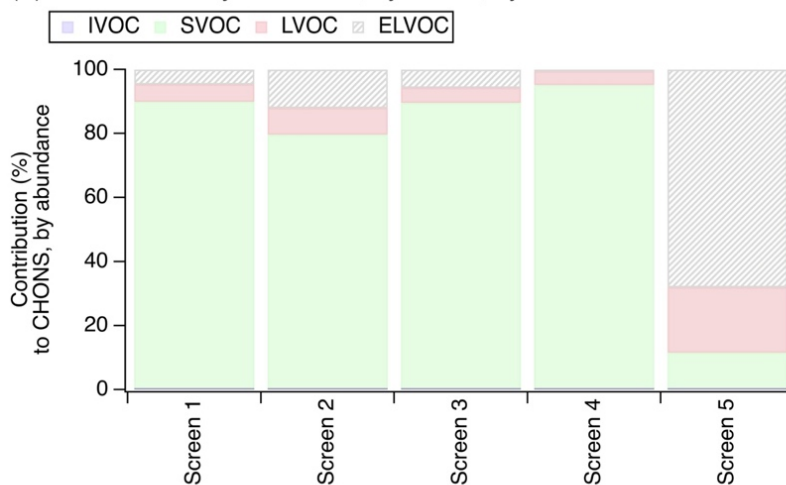


358 **Figure S6.** Functional group distribution of particle-phase functionalized OA from LC-ESI-  
359 MS/MS analysis represented (A) by raw abundance (normalized by carbon monoxide mass from  
360 corresponding sampling time) and (B) by occurrence (i.e. not weighted by abundance, not  
361 normalized by carbon monoxide—see Section S4 for further discussion). These data are shown  
362 to support Figure 1C.

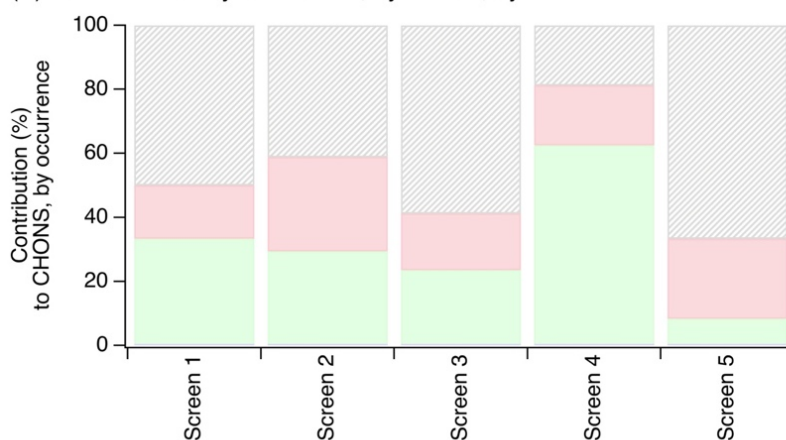


363 **Figure S7.** (A) Functional groups that contributed to CHONS compounds, weighted by  
 364 abundance and shown by screen (shown to support Figure 2A-B). (B) Relationship between the  
 365 contribution of amine, imine, amide, nitroso, azole, and sulfide groups to all functionalized OA  
 366 and the contribution of the CHONS compound class prevalence. Numbers beside each marker  
 367 represent screen number.

(A) CHONS volatility distribution, by screen, by abundance

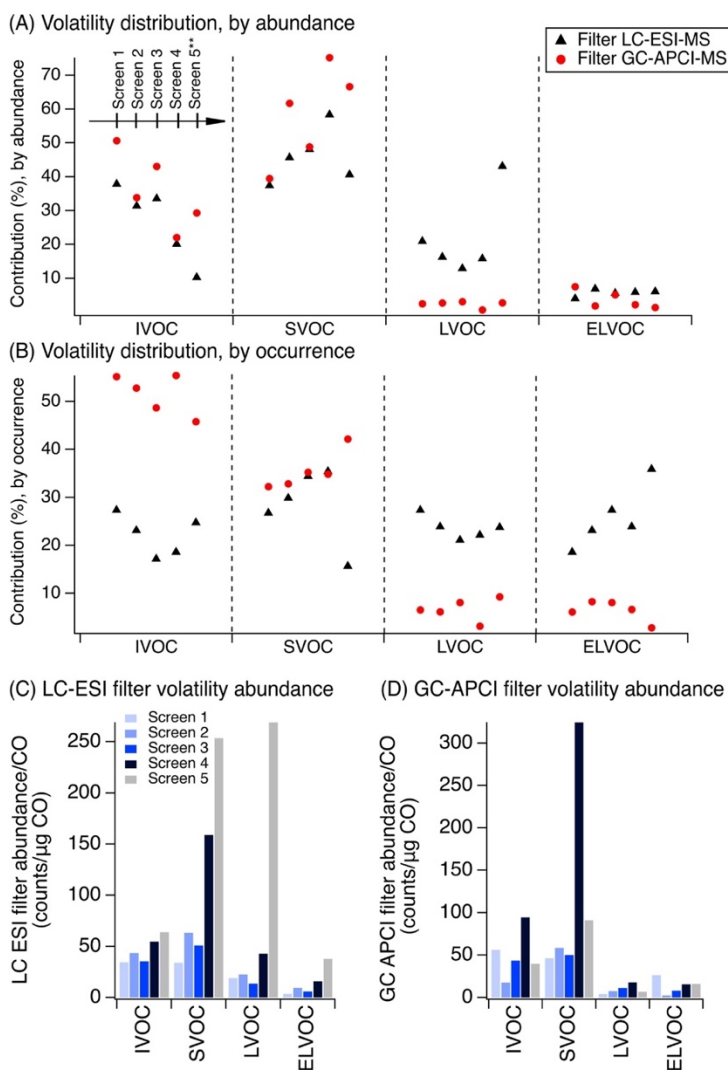


(B) CHONS volatility distribution, by screen, by occurrence

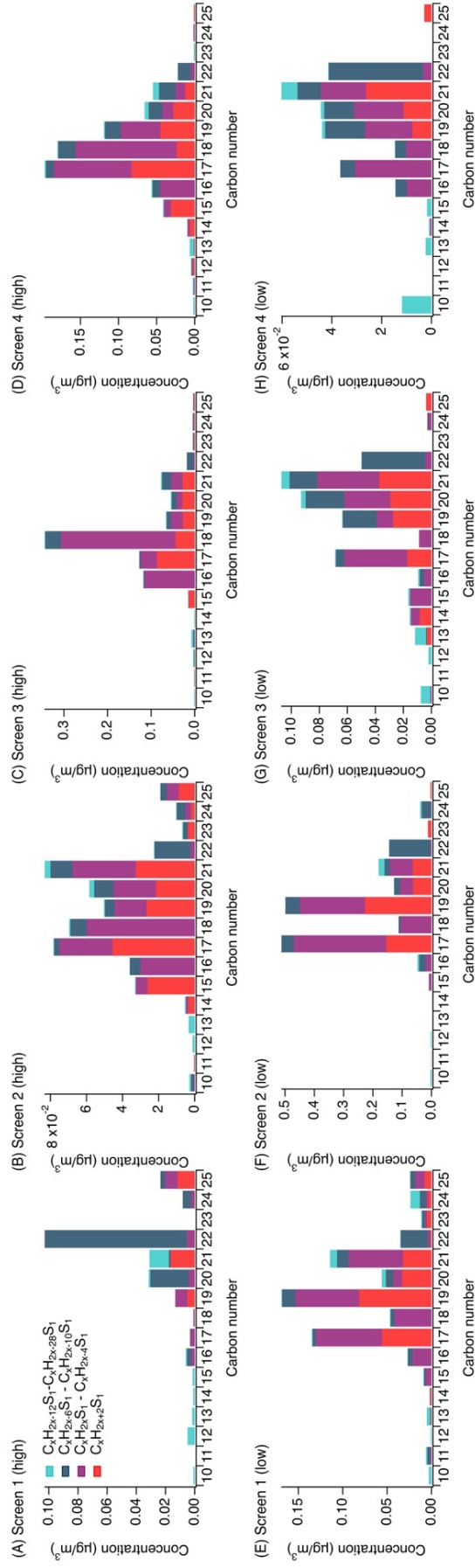


368 **Figure S8.** Volatility distribution of CHONS compounds, (A) shown by screen, weighted by  
369 abundance (to support Figure 2C), and (B) shown by occurrence (for comparison—see Section  
370 S4 for further discussion). Volatility was estimated using the parameterization in Li et al. (Li et  
371 al., 2016) and grouped into volatility bins following Li et al. and Donahue et al. (i.e. IVOC:  $300$   
372  $< C_0 < 3 \times 10^6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , SVOC:  $0.3 < C_0 < 300 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , LVOC:  $3 \times 10^{-4} < C_0 < 0.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , ELVOC:  
373  $C_0 < 10^{-4}$  (Donahue et al., 2011; Li et al., 2016)).

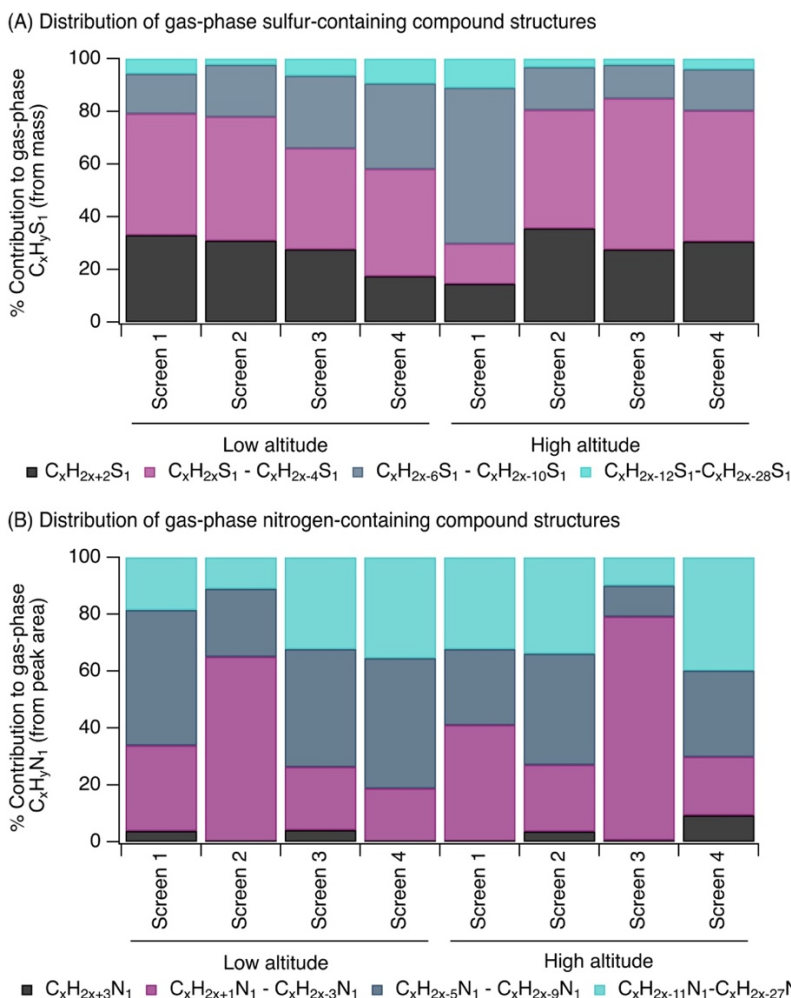




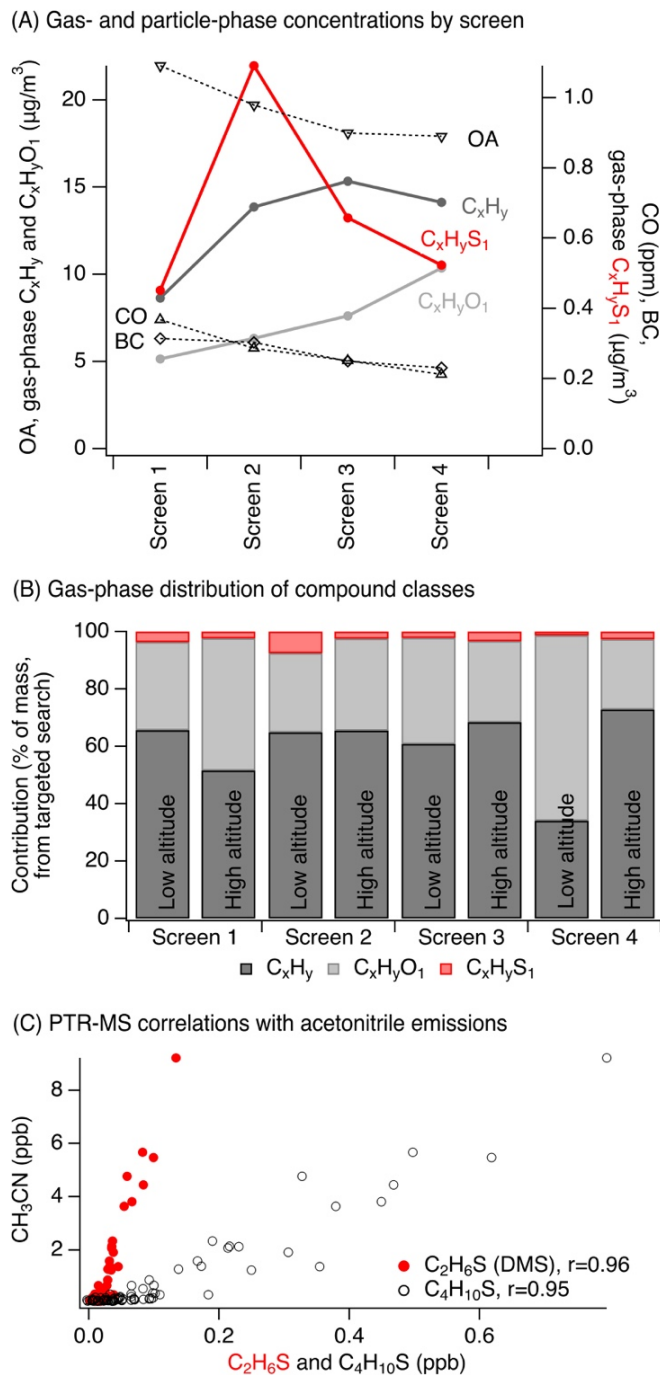
374 **Figure S9.** Volatility distribution of particle-phase compounds from non-targeted analysis, (A)  
 375 weighted by abundance, (B) by occurrence (for comparison—see Section S4 for further  
 376 discussion), (C) for particle-phase LC-ESI-MS samples, shown as raw abundance normalized by  
 377 carbon monoxide, and (D) for particle-phase GC-APCI-MS samples, shown as raw abundance  
 378 normalized by carbon monoxide. For (A-D), volatility was estimated using the parameterization  
 379 in Li et al and grouped into volatility bins following Li et al. and Donahue et al. (i.e. IVOC:  $300 < C_0 < 3 \times 10^6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , SVOC:  $0.3 < C_0 < 300 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , LVOC:  $3 \times 10^{-4} < C_0 < 0.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , ELVOC:  
 380  $C_0 < 10^{-4}$  (Donahue et al., 2011; Li et al., 2016)).  
 381



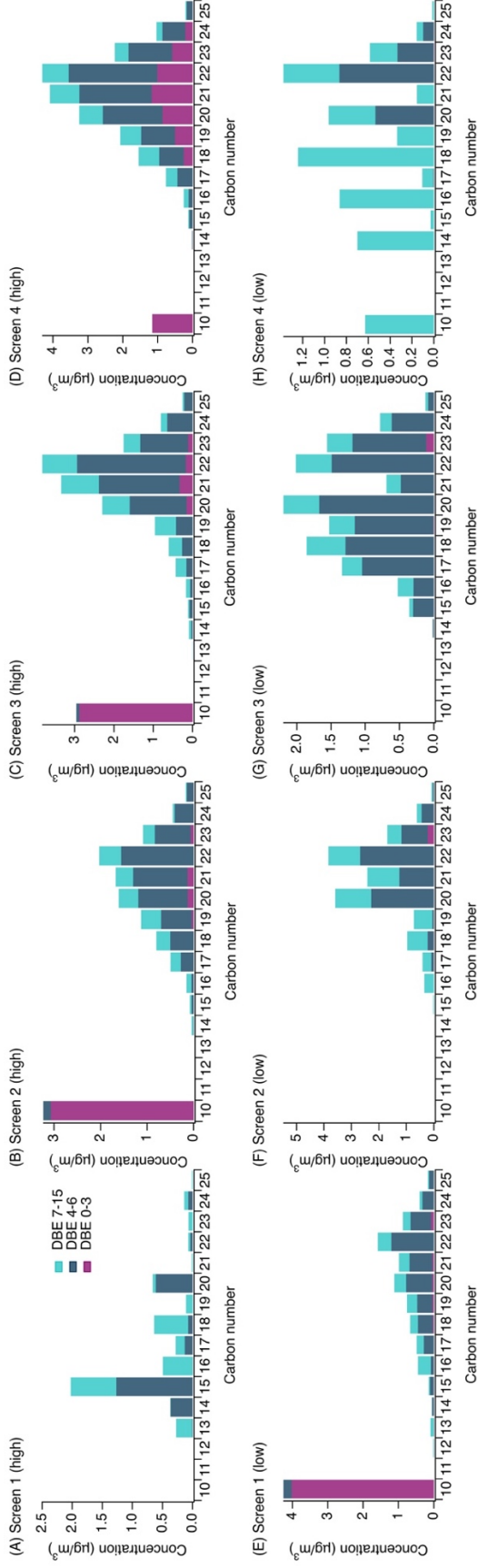
382 **Figure S10.** Distribution of carbon backbone structures for  $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds collected on adsorbent tubes across screens 1-4, from  
 383 targeted GC-APCI-MS analysis. Here,  $C_xH_{2x+2}S_1$  represents saturated sulfur-containing compounds,  $C_xH_{2x}S_1 - C_xH_{2x-4}S_1$  represents  
 384 sulfur-containing compounds with the equivalent of 1-3 double bonds and/or rings,  $C_xH_{2x-6}S_1 - C_xH_{2x-10}S_1$  represents sulfur-containing  
 385 compounds with the equivalent of 4-6 double bonds and/or rings (e.g. single-ring aromatics), and  $C_xH_{2x-12}S_1 - C_xH_{2x-28}S_1$  represents  
 386 sulfur-containing compounds with the equivalent of 7-15 double bonds and/or rings (e.g. PAHs). Screen 1 (low altitude) and screens  
 387 2, 3, and 4 (high altitude) showed the highest acetonitrile concentration, suggesting that the corresponding adsorbent tube samples  
 388 were collected from the most concentrated portions of the plume (when comparing each low/high altitude pair at each screen). Values  
 389 on each y-axis were not normalized by carbon monoxide measurements, to show absolute concentration measured on each adsorbent  
 390 tube. To account for dilution, concentrations were normalized by carbon monoxide (e.g. Figure 4B). Mixing ratios are shown in Table  
 391 S1.



392 **Figure S11.** (A) Distribution of multiple bonds or ring structures for gas-phase  $C_xH_yS_1$   
 393 compounds from targeted GC-APCI-MS analysis, where sulfur-containing compound peak areas  
 394 were converted to mass as discussed in Section S3. (B) Distribution of multiple bonds or ring  
 395 structures for gas-phase  $C_xH_yN_1$  compounds from targeted GC-APCI-MS analysis. The nitrogen  
 396 distribution was based on peak area. This contained a range of nitriles, pyrroles, pyridines, and  
 397 other structures similar to past work (Akagi et al., 2011; Andreae, 2019; Gilman et al., 2015;  
 398 Hatch et al., 2015; Koss et al., 2018). For (A-B), sulfur and nitrogen can form single or multiple  
 399 bonds, so the presence of multiple bonds or rings may be in the carbon backbone structure or on  
 400 the sulfur/nitrogen heteroatom. Here, black bars represent saturated compounds, pink bars  
 401 represent those with the equivalent of 1-3 double bonds and/or rings, dark teal bars represent  
 402 those with the equivalent of 4-6 double bonds and/or rings (e.g. single ring aromatics), and light  
 403 teal bars represent those with the equivalent of 7-15 double bonds and/or rings (e.g. PAHs).



404 **Figure S12.** (A) Concentration of gas-phase  $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_1$ , and  $C_xH_yS_1$  compounds, BC, OA  
 405 from AMS, and CO as tracers of plume dilution (shown to support Figure 4B, concentrations not  
 406 normalized by carbon monoxide here). (B) Relative contribution of  $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_1$ , and  $C_xH_yS_1$   
 407 compounds from the targeted search in the gas phase ( $C_{10}$ - $C_{25}$ ) from GC-APCI-MS analysis.  
 408  $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_1$ , and  $C_xH_yS_1$  contributions were converted to mass concentrations prior to  
 409 analysis.  $C_xH_yN_1$  was not included here because  $C_xH_yN_1$  was examined in terms of peak area  
 410 only. (C) Correlation between concentration of  $C_2H_6S$  (dimethylsulfide (DMS) and isomers) and  
 411  $C_4H_{10}S$  (diethylsulfide and isomers) versus acetonitrile from aircraft PTR-ToF-MS data.



**Figure S13.** Distribution of carbon backbone structures for gas-phase  $C_xH_y$  hydrocarbons collected on adsorbent tubes across screens 1-4 (from targeted GC-APCI-MS analysis). DBE 0-3 represents alkanes, alkenes, and cyclic alkanes. DBE 4-6 represents single ring aromatics. DBE 7-15 represents polycyclic aromatics hydrocarbons (PAHs). The observed  $C_{10}$  compounds classified as DBE 0-3 (pink) were dominated by monoterpenes. Screen 1 (low altitude) and screens 2, 3, and 4 (high altitude) showed the highest acetonitrile concentration, suggesting that the corresponding adsorbent tube samples were collected from the most concentrated portions of the plume. Values on each y-axis were not normalized by carbon monoxide measurements, to show absolute concentration measured on each adsorbent tube. To account for dilution, concentrations were normalized by carbon monoxide (e.g. Figure 4B). Mixing ratios are shown in Table S1.

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427 **Table S2.** Fraction of hydrocarbons from adsorbent tubes in the gas- vs. particle-phase, based on  
 428 AMS OA concentration (18-22  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , averaged across low and high altitude adsorbent tube  
 429 sampling times) and the effective saturation concentration of hydrocarbons in the carbon number  
 430 range of interest (Donahue et al., 2009, 2011).

$C^*$ ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	$\text{Log}_{10}(C^*)$ ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Number of carbon atoms	Fraction in the gas phase	Fraction in particle phase
1000000	6.00	12.4	1.00	0.00
100000	5.00	14.5	1.00	0.00
10000	4.00	16.6	1.00	0.00
1000	3.00	18.7	0.98	0.02
100	2.00	20.8	0.84	0.16
50	1.70	21.4	0.72	0.28
30	1.48	21.9	0.61	0.39
20	1.30	22.3	0.51	0.49
10	1.00	22.9	0.34	0.66
1	0.00	25.0	0.05	0.95

431 **Table S3.** Comparison of AMS OA concentration and total targeted gas-phase  $C_xH_y$ ,  $C_xH_yO_1$ ,  
 432  $C_xH_yS_1$  compound concentration, shown as a change between screens 1 and 2. Columns show  
 433 concentration difference and the ratio of targeted gas-phase compound concentration difference  
 434 to carbon monoxide concentration difference.

Screen 1→2	Concentration difference	Ratio of concentration difference to CO concentration difference
AMS OA	-2.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	-0.0044 (7% decrease)
$\Sigma(C_xH_y, C_xH_yO_1, C_xH_yS_1)$ from targeted adsorbent tube search	+7.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	+0.022 (55% increase)

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