

Anonymous referee 1

We thank the referee for the time invested in reviewing this manuscript, and for their comments which helped improve the new version.

Reviewer comment 1:

Although the contribution of isoprene towards calculated OH reactivity is less in this observation, conducted out of canopy, still isoprene substantially contributes calculated OH reactivity. It seems to me that additional discussion about photochemical aging time scale would be beneficial to make the reasoning of the large contributions of OVOCs towards calculated OH reactivity more convincing by analyzing isoprene to MVK+MACR ratios or some other indicators. I was a bit confused by taking a look at Figure 5 a) that the relative contribution of isoprene does not seem to change too much as observational altitudes get higher. Moreover, if there is any unquantified reactive VOC causing missing OH reactivity inside of the canopy as previously observed, the quantitative analysis may provide clues on the potential contributions of those compounds in the observed altitudes.

Response: Thanks for the suggestion to consider isoprene oxidation products vs. isoprene to show more clearly how the VOCs become more oxidized towards the top of the tower. We have now added a figure and a paragraph about isoprene and monoterpene oxidation product/precursor ratios which also shows more clearly that the isoprene contribution is decreasing towards the top. Oxidation timescales can, however, not be derived from this, because this would require knowledge of mixing and transport time scales, which are unfortunately unavailable.

We thought about extrapolating the gradients towards canopy height so that we could potentially draw conclusions on the fractions of OVOCs and their precursors in previous studies, where the measurement height was lower. However, we dismissed this option as too speculative, because we do not know whether the gradients are linear and whether the mixing and turbulence are different directly above the canopy. Indeed, it is expected that the roughness layer extends to 3-4x the canopy height, meaning that the 80 m sampling height would be inside the roughness layer, while 150 m and 320 m are not. Moreover, it has to be noted that the 80 m measurement height in this study overlaps with the highest height included in Nölscher et al. (2016).

Nonetheless, we added a new figure (Fig. 6) and the following paragraph to the manuscript in Sect. 3.2.3:

“Fig. 6 (e) illustrates the increasing photochemical age of air towards the top of the tower by showing ratios of isoprene and monoterpene oxidation products vs. precursors. The monoterpene oxidation products/monoterpenes (MTO/MT) ratios are generally lower than the isoprene oxidation products/isoprene ratios (IsopO/Isop) because the oxidation of isoprene with OH is faster than that of the average monoterpene. For the ATTO monoterpene mixture as identified by TD-GC-ToF-MS (Table S1), the ratio of $k(\text{OH} + \text{isoprene})/k(\text{OH} + \text{monoterpenes})$ was around 1.38. In agreement with this difference in OH oxidation velocity, the ratio $(\text{IsopO}/\text{Isop})/(\text{MTO}/\text{MT})$ was between 1.01 (80 m, rainy season) and 2.34 (80 m, dry season).

Figure 6 also shows seasonal variability of the oxidation state and oxidation product/precursor ratios. Fractions of highly oxygenated VOCs (Fig. 6 (a-d)) and oxidation product/precursor ratios (Fig. 6 e) were lowest in the rainy season (March 2018) and higher in the transition (June 2019) and dry seasons (October 2018, September 2019). This seasonality in ratio corresponds to the seasonal differences in solar irradiation with higher OH production rate in the dry season and thus increased photochemistry. The low MTO/MT ratio in September 2019 was due to similar concentrations of oxidation product despite higher monoterpene concentrations than in June 2019.”

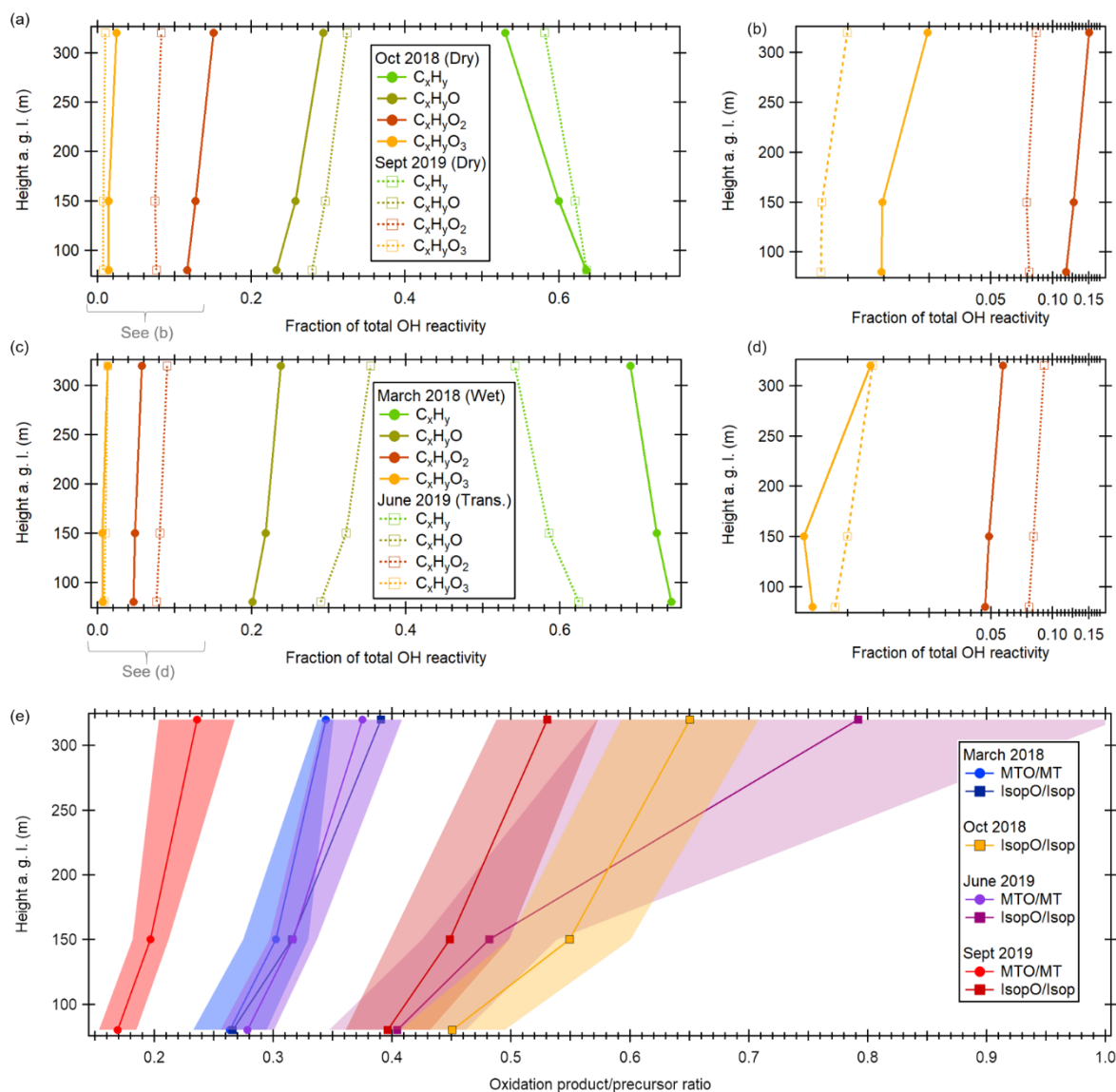


Figure 6. (a) Vertical profiles of average daytime OH reactivity contribution by general chemical formula (C_xH_y , C_xH_yO , $C_xH_yO_2$, $C_xH_yO_3$) for both dry seasons. (b) Enlarged lower range of (a) in log scale. (c) Same as (a), but for wet and transition seasons. (d) Enlarged lower range of (c) in log scale. (e) Ratios of oxidation products over their precursors by height above ground level and season. MTO/MT: m/z 139.11 (monoterpene oxidation products) vs. monoterpenes. IsopO/Isop: m/z 71.05 (isoprene oxidation products) vs. isoprene. For October 2018, no monoterpene oxidation product data were available due to issues with peak identification at this ion mass. Data are given for noontime to early afternoon (11:00-15:00).

Reviewer comment 2: A more detailed description on sampling, particularly potential sampling loss would be beneficial. I agree that the comparison analysis between observed and calculated OH reactivity was performed for the samples collected from the same inlets so comparison

itself is applicable to apple comparisons. However, it is certainly possible highly oxidized VOCs or large VOCs such as sesquiterpenes that happen to be soluble and wall reactive may substantially contribute towards calculated OH reactivity. At least, rough estimates based upon empirical proof are highly desirable based upon the wall loss test instead of a short description as presented in the manuscript.

Response:

The loss of OH reactivity and individual VOCs during sampling can be due to a) chemical loss as a result of reactions with ozone (which is not scrubbed before air enters the inlet line because the same line is used for ozone measurements), and b) reversible loss due to interaction with the Teflon surfaces. Regarding a), we considered the VOCs measured that react fastest with ozone, i.e. sesquiterpenes. The sesquiterpenes observed at 80 m above ground and higher are relatively unreactive, as the most reactive ones never even reach this altitude, but are lost in the upper canopy. The speciation of sesquiterpenes by TD-GC-ToF-MS revealed α -copaene, cyperene, longifolene, and cyclosativene (see Table S1), with a weighted average reaction rate coefficient of $1.23\text{E-}16 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecules}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ towards ozone in their most reactive composition (dry season, lowest height). Using this reaction rate coefficient and the highest diel ozone mixing ratio in the dry seasons of ca. 17 ppb, the lifetime of the here observed sesquiterpene mixture towards ozone is 5.5 h, and therewith much longer than the 80 seconds the VOCs spend in the inlet tube. We therefore conclude that loss of VOCs due to ozone reactions in the inlet is negligible.

Regarding b), the reversible loss, literature confirms that inlet tubing acts similarly to a chromatographic column, i.e. that VOCs can adhere to the surfaces temporarily, but are eventually driven through, so that peaks are broadened while actual overall concentration losses are low. This means that the total OH reactivity observed in this study may be underestimated in its peak values and smeared towards later hours of the day, but that the overall daytime sum should be correct. The inlet tubing is constantly flushed even when it is not being sampled, so that surfaces are assumed to be saturated.

We added a new section to the methods to include this information:

“2.4 Inlet effects

Due to the length of the inlet tubing of more than 320 m from the top of the ATTO tower to the instrumentation, potential sampling losses have to be considered. Losses can be irreversible due to oxidation with ozone, or reversible due to interactions with the tubing. The most ozone-reactive VOCs observed in this study are sesquiterpenes, and the sesquiterpene mixture at 80 m a.g.l. and higher was relatively unreactive, as can be seen in the TD-GC-ToF-MS-derived speciation in Table S1. The most reactive sesquiterpene mixture observed (lowest height, dry season) had an average reaction rate coefficient of $1.23\text{E-}16 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecules}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ towards ozone and thus a lifetime of ca. 5.5 h for peak diel ozone concentrations of 17 ppb (dry season). The inlet residence time of 80 s is therefore not considered to be long enough for significant losses in sesquiterpenes. Potential chemical losses due to ozone being present in the inlet tube are thus considered negligible.

VOCs, especially polar compounds, can partition reversibly from the gas phase to Teflon tubing walls (Deming et al., 2019; Pagonis et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2019). This causes a delay in the time profile of the VOCs, similar to the effect a chromatographic column (Pagonis et al., 2017). In consequence, concentration peaks are smeared and broadened, which causes an underestimation of observed concentrations (Deming et al., 2019). The ATTO inlet tubing was constantly flushed even when not being sampled, so that surfaces were assumed to be saturated or near to equilibrium, so that inlet

interactions are minimized. We determined inlet losses in peak concentrations from the 320 m inlet to the instrument by introducing a calibration gas mixture from the top of the tower. The losses in peak concentration ranged between 11 % and 30 % for all substances in the calibration mixture. We did not correct final data for inlet losses in order to keep VOC and total OH reactivity data, which were both measured from the same inlet, comparable (inlet loss correction for total OH reactivity would change according to its composition, which is not entirely known), and because loss fractions for substances not included in the calibration mixture are not known. This means that the total OH reactivity and VOC concentrations observed in this study may be underestimated in their peak values and smeared towards later times of the day, but that the overall daytime sum should be unaffected.

“

Reviewer comment 3: A detailed presentation on OVOC speciation would be informative. I would recommend to add more information on relative contributions of each OVOCs and their origins (parent compounds) towards calculated OH reactivity.

Response: We agree it is a good idea to elaborate on OVOC speciation due to the relevance of these VOCs for the results. A detailed speciation of OVOCs as well as the other compounds can be found in Table S1. As can be seen there, for most OVOCs, the identification is relatively uncertain because several possible structural formulas could be attributed to the corresponding chemical formula. This is also why the identification of potential parent molecules is not feasible. However, we added two figures to illustrate the distribution of the OH reactivity of OVOCs by molecular mass (new Fig. S4) and show vertical profiles by number of oxygens in the molecule and by ratio of oxidation products vs. precursors (new Fig. 6).

We added the following to the manuscript in Sect. 3.2.3:

“In all seasons during daytime, the OH reactivity contribution of directly emitted BVOCs (isoprene, terpenoids) decreased with height (e.g. for isoprene from 51 % at 80 m to 39 % at 320 m in October 2018), while the fraction of oxidation products, i.e. OVOCs, increased (e.g. from 31 % to 39 % in October 2018). Also, the number of oxygen atoms in OVOCs increased with height, while the OH reactivity fraction of non-oxygenated C_xH_y VOCs decreased, as shown in Fig. 6 (a-d). This is due to the increasing average photochemical age of the air mass with height, which increases the abundance of OVOCs relative to primary BVOCs such as isoprene (Karl et al., 2009). Fig. 6 (e) illustrates the increasing photochemical age of air towards the top of the tower by showing ratios of isoprene and monoterpene oxidation products vs. precursors. The monoterpene oxidation products/monoterpenes (MTO/MT) ratios are generally lower than the isoprene oxidation products/isoprene ratios (IsopO/Isop) because the oxidation of isoprene with OH is faster than that of the average monoterpene. For the ATTO monoterpene mixture as identified by TD-GC-ToF-MS (Table S1), the ratio of $k(\text{OH} + \text{isoprene})/k(\text{OH} + \text{monoterpenes})$ was around 1.38. In agreement with this difference in OH oxidation velocity, the ratio (IsopO/Isop)/(MTO/MT) was between 1.01 (80 m, rainy season) and 2.34 (80 m, dry season).

Figure 6 also shows seasonal variability of the oxidation state and oxidation product/precursor ratios. Fractions of highly oxygenated VOCs (Fig. 6 (a-d)) and oxidation product/precursor ratios (Fig. 6 e) were lowest in the rainy season (March 2018) and higher in the transition (June 2019) and dry seasons (October 2018, September 2019). This seasonality in ratio corresponds to the seasonal differences in solar irradiation with higher OH production rate in the dry season and thus increased

photochemistry. The low MTO/MT ratio in September 2019 was due to similar concentrations of oxidation product despite higher monoterpene concentrations than in June 2019.

”

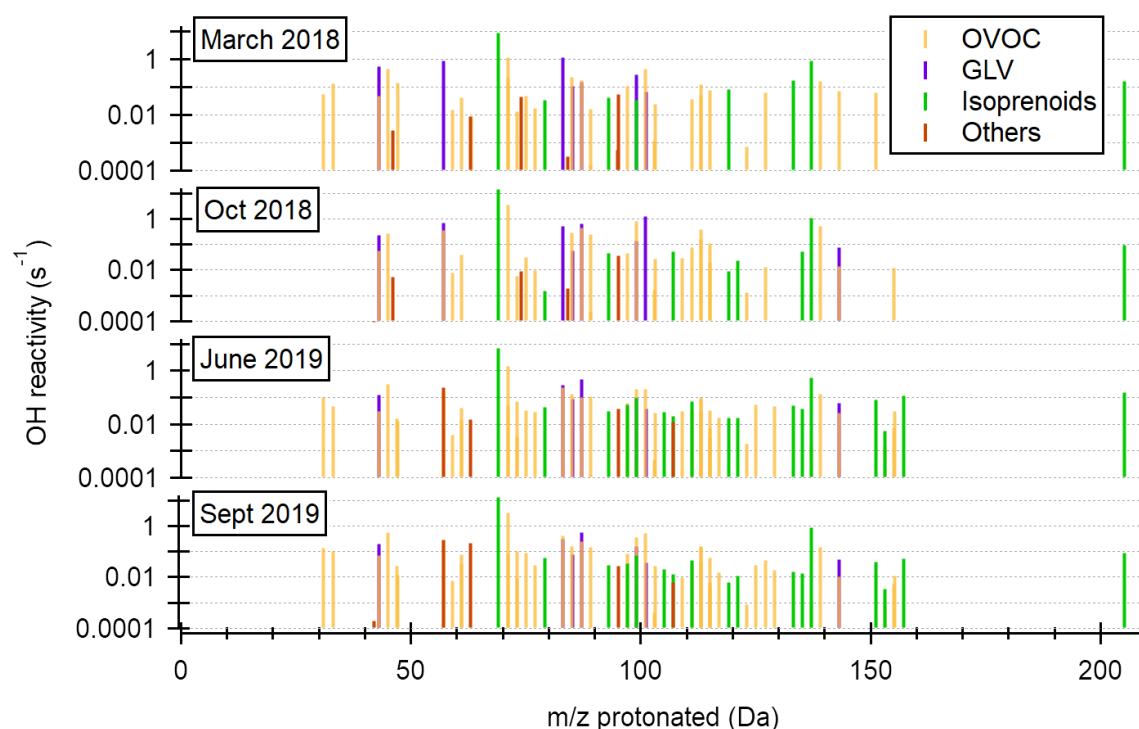


Figure S4. Daytime OH reactivity for each season by protonated mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) of PTR-ToF-MS ions and colored by compound class (see Table S1). Isoprenoids include isoprene, monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes as specified in Table S1 (including primarily emitted oxygenated monoterpenes). Ions colored as isoprenoids or GLVs include fragments as denoted in Table S1. Note that the y axis is in logarithmic scale.

Reviewer comment 4:

Figure 6: it is difficult to read out which factor either temperature or PAR (likely both) would cause trend. I would recommend to chop out certain ranges of PAR to see the temperature dependence.

Response: Thanks for this comment. It is true that it is difficult to disentangle PAR and temperature impacts on OH reactivity from one another. The best graphical solution to this problem we found was to also show OH reactivity vs. PAR plots, now in Fig. S5. These illustrate that the correlation of OH reactivity with PAR is weaker than with temperature. We have two reasons to use temperature rather than PAR to parameterize OH reactivity: 1) There is a nighttime temperature dependence of OH reactivity (i.e. see datapoints with PAR = 0) which we could not explain by using a PAR-dependent parameterization. We added plots of OH reactivity vs PAR to the supplement for illustration of the large OH reactivity range at PAR = 0. The correlation of OH reactivity with temperature is, as the comparison with Fig. 7 shows, better than its correlation with PAR. 2) Temperature is, during daytime, strongly influenced by PAR and therefore should be a proxy for it.

Thus, we assume that PAR influences on OH reactant levels at the ATTO tower will be sufficiently captured by using the temperature-dependent parameterization given.

We rephrased the beginning of Sect 3.3.1 as following: “As illustrated in Fig. S5 and by the color scaling in Fig. 7, higher temperature and OH reactivity often co-occurred with higher PAR because temperature is driven by PAR in the daytime. PAR is a driver of reactive emissions in the rainforest (Kuhn et al., 2004a; Jardine et al., 2015). However, there is a PAR-independent temperature dependence visible at PAR = 0, i.e. during the night, and the correlation of OH reactivity with PAR was weaker than with temperature (Fig. 7, Fig. S5). This is why we chose to parameterize OH reactivity based on temperature rather than PAR. Air temperature can serve as a proxy for the combined effects of direct light- and temperature-dependent emission as well as transport, which all influence observed total OH reactivity. Thus, in this simplistic approach, we assume that any PAR- and transport-related influences on OH reactant levels at the ATTO tower will be captured indirectly by using a temperature-dependent parameterization. ”

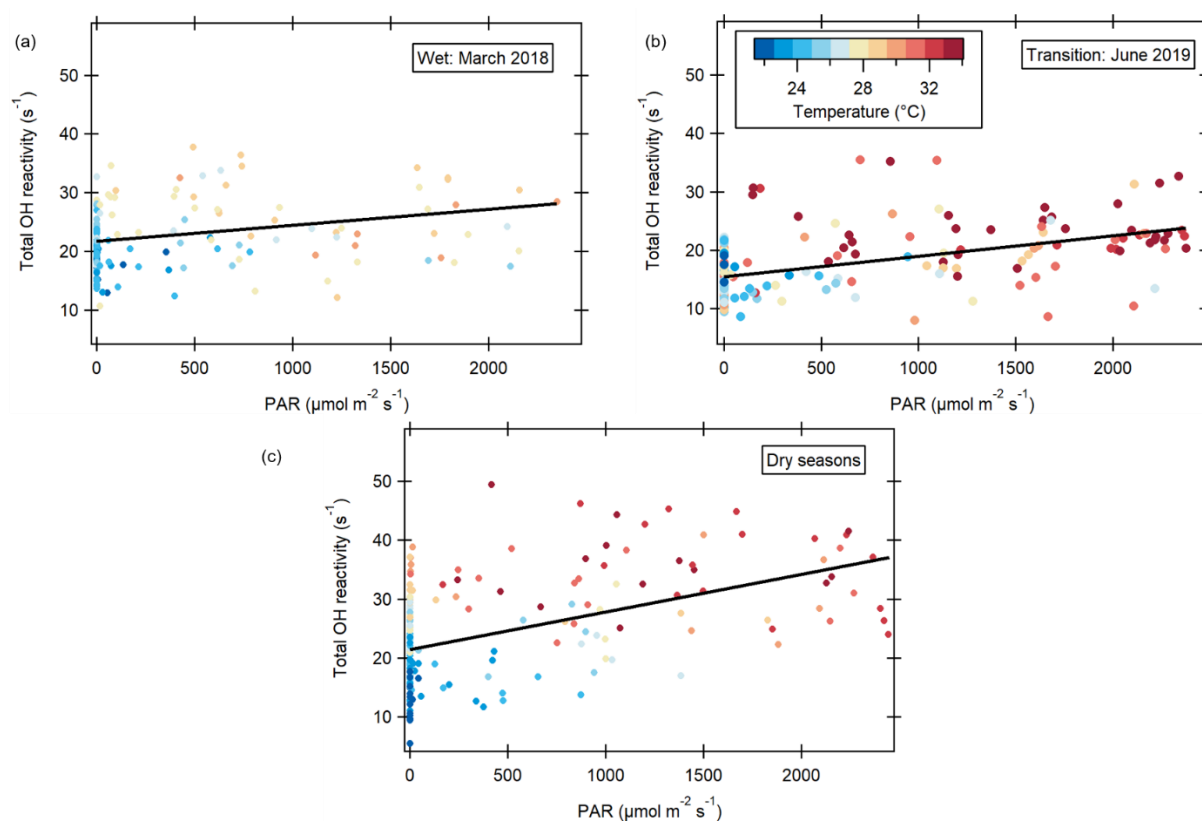


Figure S5. Hourly averages of total OH reactivity at 80 m a. g. l. at the ATTO tower as a function of photosynthetically active radiation (PAR). Temperature color scale shown in (b) for all panels. (a) Wet season (March 2018), fit function: $R = 21.7 - 0.003 * [PAR]$, $r^2 = 0.08$ (b) Transition season (June 2019), fit function: $R = 15.4 - 0.004 * [PAR]$, $r^2 = 0.27$ (c) Dry seasons (October 2018 and September 2019), fit equation: $R = 21.4 - 0.006 * [PAR]$, $r^2 = 0.27$.