

*Reviewer #1:*

*The manuscript by Kawana et al. studies the relationship between ambient bioaerosols (measured using single-particle autofluorescence) and various chemical and biological parameters of aerosols and sea water. The data was collected through a transect on the Pacific Ocean. The authors find various correlations between the concentration of fluorescent aerosol particles and biogenic sea water proxies and windspeed. From these observations, various parameterizations are developed to predict the concentration of FAPs in the marine atmosphere using biogenic sea water proxies and wind speed.*

*The manuscript is well written and the analysis appear (at least for main parts) sound and thorough. The study presents new and useful observational data which can be used to develop model parameterizations. My main criticism relates to the statistical significance of the presented findings and the developed parameterizations. Due to the limited number of samples (which is natural due to the comprehensive analysis needed) some of the equations and statements seem to come with a very large uncertainty. However, a thorough error analysis and discussing is currently missing and should be added before being finally published in ACP. This and further detailed comments are given below.*

We would like to thank the reviewer for providing valuable comments and better perspective on our work. Our responses are given below. All changes are shown in color in the revised manuscript.

*Introduction: Many of the references are selective. I would suggest to add "e.g." before them to indicate that the references are just a selection.*

We corrected as suggested in the revised manuscript.

*Page 1, line 26: could -> can*

We corrected as suggested in the revised manuscript.

*Page 3, line 7: More details on the aerosol inlet are needed. For example, was a size cut used? What was the length of the inlet? Was it heated or was the sample flow dried? What was the average RH at the inlet of the WIBS?*

We have added the following sentences about the inlet:

"For WIBS-4A, ambient particles were sampled using a total suspended particles (TSP) inlet (URG, URG-2000-30DG) installed at ~18 m above sea level on the compass deck. Particles passed through a stainless-steel tube with a volumetric flow rate of 30 L min<sup>-1</sup>, to the research room and a large diameter Nafion tubing drier (Perma Pure Inc., MD-700) to dry the sample flow. Before passing through the dryer, the flow was iso-kinetically separated into two lines. One line was for a bypass vent flow, whose volumetric flow rate was 29 L min<sup>-1</sup>, while the other passed through the drier was further separated into relative humidity (RH) monitor, WIBS-4A, and other instruments in the conductive silicone tube. During the cruise, the RH remained

below 40% at room temperature.” (Page 3, Lines 7-13).

*Page 4, line 5: Since the instrument does not only count but also sizes the particles by optical means, I would suggest to replace OPC by OPSS: optical particle size spectrometer.*

We appreciate this comment. Though OPSS may indeed be an accurate description, we will keep OPC in the manuscript as the product name is “Handheld optical particle counter”.

*Page 5, line 6: Why was a starting (or arrival) altitude of 500 m and not sea level (or inlet height) chosen for the trajectory analysis? I could imagine that it could make a difference for some of the trajectories.*

The starting altitude lower than 500 m increased the number of cases where the air parcel hit the sea surface and discontinuity occurred. Calculations were also carried out with a starting altitude of 1000 m and there was no essential difference in the results. Therefore, only the results with the starting altitude of 500 m were presented. As described in the manuscript, the timing of change of air masses suggested by the trajectories from 500 m was consistent with the timing of the increase in the ozone concentration, and thus the results of the trajectories are considered to be reasonable.

*Figure 1 and 2: To save space you could consider to move those figures to the supplement as well since they are mainly used to justify the two periods and don't provide much information concerning the biological aerosol particles.*

We partly agree with the comment, but after considering that Fig. 1 includes information on the cruise track and air mass origins and that Fig. 2 includes information on the meteorological condition (especially wind direction and wind speed are important) we decided to keep the figures in the main text.

*Figure 3 and 4: It would be helpful to also indicate the different periods here.*

We corrected as suggested in the revised manuscript.

*Figure 4b: There are two striking peaks for ABC particles (right at the beginning and close to the 11th of March. Is this linked to ship pollution?)*

The first peak just after the beginning of measurement was excluded because of a possible influence of ship pollution or instability of the instrument. The second peak on 11-12 March was not removed as the OPC data were not regarded suspicious. The data points of CO and ozone were less; this was because the ozone level was low (~10 ppb) and the data filtering criterion to remove hourly data with the standard deviation of 1-min data exceeded 10% of the hourly average was easily met, while in reality the air mass was not affected by the ship exhaust. As such we could not identify the cause of the second peak and therefore included it in the plot.

*Page 6, last paragraph and Figure 5: The number of samples from the Bioplorer analysis is limited to only 10 samples, correct? Or the Bioplorer data been averaged to match the filter chemical analysis? An overview table with the performed analysis, instruments and their temporal resolution / number of samples would be useful (e.g. within the method part).*

Yes, ten samples were obtained during the cruise; manual workload required for each sampling and analysis (e.g., setting the gold-coated filter, flow control, retrieval, and post-analysis) was high and thus the number of samples was limited (information added in Table 1). Even under this limitation, however, the temporal/spatial variabilities of the target particles were well captured as demonstrated in Figure 5. For each sample, fluorescent particles were separately counted for 30 sub-gridded areas of the filter with the Bioplorer. Also, the total count followed Poisson distribution and provided information of random uncertainty. We added the following sentence and Table 1 in the revised manuscript:

“The observed parameters are summarized in Table 1.” (Page 3, Line 4).

“The air samples for Bioplorer were collected with a flow rate of  $\sim 1 \text{ L min}^{-1}$  directly onto gold-coated membrane filters for 1-2 hr (pore size:  $0.4 \mu\text{m}$ , KB-VKF02, Koyo Sangyo Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) where epifluorescence detection was conducted.” (Page 3, Lines 26-28).

“Although the samples for the Bioplorer were not measured repeatedly, the random uncertainty of the count was estimated to be 6%, assuming that the count followed the Poisson distribution.” (Page 7, Lines 17-19).

Table 1. Summary of observations during the cruise (\*batch sampling/offline analysis).

Observed parameters	Instruments	Time resolution	Number of data/samples
Fluorescent particles	WIBS-4A	1 hr	456
Ozone, CO	Ozone monitor CO monitor	1 hr	302
Number-size distribution	OPC	1hr	234
*Chemical composition	High-Volume air sampler	24-72 hr	9
*Biological particles	Bioplorer	(1-2 hr, sampling duration)	10
*TEP, CSP, Bacteria, Chl-a, and Nutrients (surface seawater)	See text	See text	15

*Page 7, line 15ff and Figure S2: The correlations are for certain parts driven by a few data points only. It should be stated that the statistics is still limited due to the low number of samples.*

Error bars were added for TEP and CSP, whose uncertainties were estimated from

reproducibility. Also, in the revised manuscript, it was clearly stated that the correlation was evaluated with a limited number of samples.

“It should be noted that the analysis was made with a limited number of data points.” (Page 8, Line 18).

*One major weak point of this study is that no measurement uncertainties or other statistical parameters (like standard deviations or percentiles) are given. The study would significantly improve if uncertainty bars would be added to the key figures or given in tables and discussed within the text. In Sect. 3.4, the presented parameterizations (Eq. 1-3) need more profound statistical analysis. This is important because readers and potential users need to be aware of the potentially large uncertainties involved here. For example, it can be easily seen that the relationship between bioaerosol concentration and the chl-a\*ws parameter is driven essentially by one point (Fig. 9a). I would therefore like to ask the authors to add an uncertainty analysis (incl. error bars in the main figures, especially Fig. 9). The parameters of Equations 1-3 should include uncertainties. One approach could be to use a bivariate weighted fit (see e.g. York et al., 2004). Please also check the units of all coefficients carefully (e.g. the intercepts need units).*

We appreciate this valuable comment. We thoroughly estimated uncertainties of the quantities studied in this manuscript and revised sentences as follows:

“Uncertainties in the observation data and equations include random errors such as temporal variation and from measurements, and systematic errors due to the instruments. Among these, the random uncertainties (TEP, CSP, and WIBS data) are shown as error bars in the figures.” (Page 11, Lines 1-3).

Although repeated measurements were not performed for Chl-a, the precision and values of coefficient of variation (CV) are mentioned in the revised manuscript (Page 7, Lines 26-29) and the range of measured values for bacteria are shown in Fig. 6.

In Fig. 9, the equations were revised to those from orthogonal regression lines, and the uncertainties of slopes and intercepts were included as follows.

$$y \text{ (particles L}^{-1}\text{)} = (0.076 \pm 0.014) \cdot [\text{TEP, } \mu\text{g XGeq L}^{-1}] \cdot \text{WS (m s}^{-1}\text{)} + (5.4 \pm 4.1) \text{ (R: 0.88)} \quad (1)$$

$$y \text{ (particles L}^{-1}\text{)} = (0.0052 \pm 0.0013) \cdot [\text{bacteria, cells } \mu\text{L}^{-1}] \cdot \text{WS (m s}^{-1}\text{)} + (9.3 \pm 4.8) \text{ (R: 0.80)} \quad (2)$$

and

$$y \text{ (particles L}^{-1}\text{)} = (20.0 \pm 19.0) \cdot [\text{Chl-a, mg m}^{-3}] \cdot \text{WS (m s}^{-1}\text{)} + (0.29 \pm 25) \text{ (R: 0.47)} \quad (3)$$

(Page 10, Lines 24-27, and caption in Fig. 9).

“It should also be noted when using the equations that additional systematic uncertainty of the factor of ~2 would be present considering the difference between the number densities derived from WIBS-4A and Bioplorer (see Sect. 3.2). Future studies with a larger number of samples

are warranted for full validation.” (Page 11, Lines 3-5)

*I would recommend that the authors include in the presentation and discussion of their results the study by Santander et al (2021), who recently characterized the performance of the WIBS in controlled sea spray experiments.*

As suggested, we added the following sentence.

“Our interpretation is consistent with Santander et al. (2021), where the dominance of bacteria in fluorescent sea spray aerosols was confirmed with laboratory-generated aerosol particles and seawater.” (Page 11, Lines 17-18)

*Why hasn't the size information of the WIBS not been fully exploited? How did the particle size of the different fluorescent particle classes (e.g., Fig. 4) change with time? The authors could think to add an overview table to the manuscript or the SI that gives averages parameters (and their variation) of the different classes. Figure S1 does show that certain FAP classes have much larger diameters. Could these be more primary bioaerosols? See also paper by Santander et al. (2021).*

We added a figure summarizing the size differences of fluorescent particles between Periods 1 and 2 (Figure S1e). They are shown individually for the particle classes emitting fluorescence in a single band (types of A, B, and C) and multiple bands (types of AB, BC, and ABC). They did not show a significant difference between the two periods; the average particle sizes for types A, B, and C during Period 1 (Period 2) ranged from 1.35–1.47  $\mu\text{m}$  (1.17–1.55  $\mu\text{m}$ ), and those for types AB, BC, and ABC during Period 1 (Period 2) ranged from 1.93–3.07  $\mu\text{m}$  (1.69–3.01  $\mu\text{m}$ ), respectively.

We added the following sentence.

“The size was slightly smaller than that reported for the type A particles (identified as bacteria), ~2–3  $\mu\text{m}$ , generated with coastal seawaters (Santander et al., 2021).” (Page 6, Lines 29-30)

*The last paragraph of Sect 3.4 could be shortened and combined with the conclusions.*

As suggested, the last paragraph of Section 3.4 of the previous manuscript was fully moved to Conclusions.

*Data availability: It would be beneficial to the reader and the community if the data behind this study can be found on a public repository to follow the FAIR principles of data sharing (see data policy of ACP, [https://www.atmospheric-chemistry-andphysics.net/policies/data\\_policy.html](https://www.atmospheric-chemistry-andphysics.net/policies/data_policy.html)).*

We are now submitting the data used in this paper to the PANGAEA data repository, and the data will be available soon. We added the following sentence.

“The data discussed in this manuscript are available through the following websites. Cruise

data: <https://doi.org/10.17596/0001976>, JAMSTEC (2019) MIRAI MR18-06 Leg4 Cruise Data and PANGAEA data repository – Data Publisher for Earth & Environmental Science: <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.xxxxxx>” (Page 12, Lines 23-26; link to be finalized before revision).

*In general, the time series figures could be increased in size (mainly width). Especially for Fig. 3, 4, 6 and 7 it is hard to discriminate all the features.*

As suggested, the size in the figures was increased.

*Figure 8: Similar to the comment above, what kind of regression was used? It should be an orthogonal one. Please add this information to the text or figure caption(s).*

As suggested, we switched to the orthogonal fittings and this was mentioned in Fig. 8.

“The black lines in Fig. 8d represent the orthogonal regression lines for all Type A+C data and for all Type B data as an example.”

*Figure S2: As mentioned above, it is also clear from this figure that the correlation coefficients are driven by a few outliers. This should be properly discussed within the text.*

As suggested, we added the following sentence.

“It should be noted that the analysis was made with a limited number of data points. If the last data point during the cruise was omitted where both terrestrial and biogenic sources seemed to contribute, the correlations among all biological indicators (TEP, CSP, Chl-*a*, bacteria) were not remarkable ( $R: \sim 0.6$ ). As it has been shown that there is a high correlation between TEP concentration and *Synechococcus* abundance in the oligotrophic ocean (Zamanillo et al., 2019), the contribution to the formation of marine gel particles will vary among phytoplankton communities. Our cruise observation was conducted over several ocean regions, and nutrient concentrations (Fig. 6a) and phytoplankton community composition (Fig. S5) varied widely. Such variations may have reduced the relationships between the bioindicators in the entire observation area.” (Page 8, Lines 18-24)

*Figure S5: This is an interesting figure (which could be moved to the main manuscript?) since it shows that the contribution of phytoplankton species clearly changed through the cruise. Is there any link between the WIBS particles classes with the phytoplankton species? Or is this not to be expected? The authors could test if they see a relationship of intensive parameters from the WIBS (e.g. ratios of particle classes) to the phytoplankton species contribution.*

We thank the reviewer for this comment.

Although tried, we did not find a clear relationship between Chl-*a* concentration calculated by the contribution from each phytoplankton species and each class of fluorescent bioaerosols in the WIBS. Capturing the relationship is difficult with the limited number of samples in this study. For bioaerosol production, not only the community of phytoplankton species but also TEP

production associated with different nutrient environments and wind-driven effects are also important. More future studies are required.

*Other changes:*

- 1) We excluded all observation data from 12:23 on 07 March 2019 12:23 to 00:10 on 09 March 2019, due to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- 2) We changed the colors in the markers in Fig.7, Fig.8, Fig.S3, and Fig.S4 for clarity.

*Reference:*

Santander, M. V., B. A. Mitts, M. A. Pendergraft, J. Dinasquet, C. Lee, A. N. Moore, L. B. Cancelada, K. A. Kimble, F. Malfatti, K. A. Prather.: Tandem Fluorescence Measurements of Organic Matter and Bacteria Released in Sea Spray Aerosols, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 55, 8, 5171-5179, 2021.