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# Comprehensive characterization of atmospheric organic carbon at a forested site

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43 **Comprehensive characterization of atmospheric organic carbon at a forested site**  
44  
45 **Atmospheric organic compounds are central to key chemical processes that influence air**  
46 **quality, ecological health, and climate. However, longstanding difficulties in predicting**  
47 **important quantities such as organic aerosol formation and oxidant lifetimes indicate that**  
48 **our understanding of atmospheric organic chemistry is fundamentally incomplete, likely**  
49 **due in part to the presence of organic species that are unmeasured using standard**  
50 **analytical techniques. Here we present measurements of a wide range of atmospheric**  
51 **organic compounds, including previously unmeasured species, taken concurrently at a**  
52 **single site (a ponderosa pine forest during summertime) by five state-of-the-art mass**  
53 **spectrometric instruments. The combined dataset provides a comprehensive**  
54 **characterization of atmospheric organic carbon, covering a wide range in chemical**  
55 **properties (volatility, oxidation state, and molecular size), and exhibiting no obvious**  
56 **measurement gaps. This enables the first construction of a measurement-based local**  
57 **organic budget, highlighting the high emission, deposition, and oxidation fluxes in this**  
58 **environment. Moreover, previously unmeasured species, including semivolatile and**  
59 **intermediate-volatility organic species (S/IVOCs), account for one-third of the total organic**  
60 **carbon, and (within error) provide closure on both OH reactivity and potential SOA**  
61 **formation.**

62       Reactive organic species (carbon-containing compounds other than methane, CO, and  
63 CO<sub>2</sub>) play a central role in the chemistry of the atmosphere in numerous respects: they can  
64 directly impact human and ecosystem health, they influence atmospheric oxidant levels, and their  
65 oxidation products include secondary species such as ozone and secondary organic aerosol

66 (SOA). However, our ability to model such processes is limited by our incomplete understanding  
67 of the amount, identity, and chemistry of atmospheric organic compounds. Ambient (field)  
68 measurements have revealed a number of large gaps in our understanding of key atmospheric  
69 chemical quantities, including secondary organic aerosol<sup>1</sup>, total OH reactivity,<sup>2</sup> and total non-  
70 methane organic carbon.<sup>3</sup> Such gaps strongly suggest that a substantial fraction of atmospheric  
71 organic carbon remains essentially unmeasured and uncharacterized. This places severe limits on  
72 our ability to describe the overall lifecycle (emission, reactivity, and loss) and impacts of  
73 atmospheric organic compounds. The detection, characterization, and quantification of this  
74 unmeasured carbon is thus central for the accurate modeling of air quality, ecological health, and  
75 global climate.

76         However, such measurements are limited by significant analytical challenges. A very  
77 large number of organic species are emitted into the atmosphere, and exhibit extraordinary  
78 diversity in terms of chemical structure, properties, and reactivity<sup>4</sup>. All are subject to atmospheric  
79 oxidation, leading to the formation of new oxidized organic products, exponentially increasing  
80 the number and diversity of atmospheric organic species<sup>5</sup>. Volatilities of atmospheric organic  
81 compounds span an exceedingly wide range, from volatile organic compounds (VOCs, species  
82 present entirely in the gas phase), to intermediate-volatility organic compounds (IVOCs, less  
83 volatile species that are still present only in the gas phase), to semivolatile organic compounds  
84 (SVOCs, which can be present in both the gas and condensed phases), to extremely low-  
85 volatility organic compounds (ELVOCs, which at equilibrium are found almost entirely in the  
86 particle phase)<sup>6-8</sup>. This diversity in properties poses detection and quantification challenges since  
87 no one instrument is able to measure or characterize all organic compounds in a given sample.

88 Moreover, S/IVOCs are efficiently lost to inlet/instrument surfaces, and so are not easily  
89 measured by standard instrumentation.

90 Here we describe the first attempt at comprehensive characterization of atmospheric  
91 organic carbon, by integrating measurements taken by multiple state-of-the-art mass  
92 spectrometric instruments co-located at a montane ponderosa pine forest site. This work expands  
93 on earlier compilations of organic carbon measurements<sup>9-11</sup> by including data from several new  
94 analytical instruments that target known gaps in analytical measurements (multifunctional  
95 species, S/IVOCs), and examining not only the amount of atmospheric organic carbon but also  
96 its key properties (volatility, carbon number, and carbon oxidation state). We present  
97 measurements of organic species spanning the entire volatility range found in the atmosphere,  
98 from VOCs to low-volatility organic aerosol components, over a range of oxidation states, from  
99 reduced to highly oxidized. Such comprehensive measurements allow for closure between top-  
100 down and bottom-up measurements of OH reactivity (OHR) and SOA formation, and enable the  
101 construction of a measurement-based local budget of atmospheric organic carbon.

102

### 103 **Concentrations and properties of atmospheric organic species**

104 All measurements were made as part of the BEACHON-RoMBAS field campaign, which  
105 took place at the Manitou Experimental Forest Observatory in the Colorado Rocky Mountains in  
106 July-August 2011<sup>12</sup>. Data were collected by five instruments, three of which were essentially  
107 new to field deployment, and included both speciated techniques (measuring individual  
108 compounds) and ensemble techniques (characterizing total amounts and average properties of  
109 mixtures). The five instruments were: an Aerodyne time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer with  
110 thermal denuder (TD-AMS)<sup>13,14</sup>, measuring ensemble composition and volatility of organic

111 aerosol; a proton transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-MS)<sup>15</sup>, measuring  
112 speciated VOCs; an acetate-ion chemical ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometer with a  
113 micro-orifice volatilization impactor (MOVI-CIMS)<sup>16</sup>, measuring speciated gas- and particle-  
114 phase organic acids; a semivolatile thermal-desorption aerosol gas chromatograph (SV-TAG)<sup>17</sup>,  
115 measuring speciated and ensemble elutable (nonpolar) semivolatile species; and a thermal  
116 desorption electron ionization mass spectrometer (TD-EIMS)<sup>18</sup>, measuring ensemble  
117 composition and volatility of S/IVOCs. All five instruments utilize a high-resolution time-of-  
118 flight mass spectrometer (HTOF-MS, ToFwerk AG), providing measurements of elemental  
119 formulas of the ions<sup>13</sup>, and hence of elemental ratios<sup>19</sup> and carbon oxidation state ( $\overline{\text{OS}}_C$ )<sup>5</sup>.  
120 Further, all instruments provide information on either the carbon number ( $n_C$ ) of the individual  
121 species or the effective saturation vapor concentration ( $c^*$ ) distribution of the ensemble mixture;  
122 one can be estimated from the other from expressions relating carbon number, elemental ratios,  
123 and volatility<sup>20,21</sup>.

124 Figure 1 shows the combined measurements from all five instruments, each averaged  
125 over its entire measurement period. Diurnal profiles and day vs. night averages are given in the  
126 Supporting Information; due to the challenges associated with clearly separating various  
127 processes (emissions, photochemistry, transport, etc.), here we focus only on campaign averages.  
128 Sampling periods for the instruments did not perfectly overlap, but the relative uniformity of the  
129 campaign time series indicates that comparisons of campaign averages over different time  
130 periods do not introduce major biases (see SI). Data are presented within two complementary  
131 frameworks for representing complex organic mixtures for visualization and modeling, the  $\overline{\text{OS}}_C$ -  
132 vs- $c^*$  space<sup>6</sup> (the “two-dimensional volatility basis set”, or 2DVBS, Figure 1a), and  $\overline{\text{OS}}_C$ -vs- $n_C$   
133 space<sup>5</sup> (Figure 1b). Major identified compounds are labeled in Fig. 1b; most remaining markers

134 denote species (or ensembles of species) for which the amount and formula (or average formula)  
135 are known, but detailed structures are not.

136 Figures 1c-e show the concentration distributions of  $c^*$ ,  $n_C$ , and  $\overline{OS}_C$ , assuming no  
137 overlap between measurements by different instruments (except in unambiguous cases, described  
138 in the SI). The summed concentration, 26.7 (25.7-28.6)  $\mu\text{gC m}^{-3}$ , represents an upper limit to  
139 total observed organic carbon. The lower limit, from assuming maximum overlap among the  
140 instruments (see SI), is not substantially different (22.6 (21.7-24.1)  $\mu\text{gC m}^{-3}$ ), indicating that  
141 overlap in measurements by the different instruments does not have a major effect on the total  
142 inferred concentrations.

143 As shown in Figure 1, measured organic species span over 19 orders of magnitude in  
144 volatility, and exhibit no obvious measurement gaps in any of the dimensions examined. (There  
145 are some specific compound classes that may not be measured by this instrument suite; these are  
146 likely to be relatively minor, and are discussed in the SI.) Each instrument measures organic  
147 compounds in a relatively localized region of chemical space, due to the selectivity of each  
148 technique (e.g., the SV-TAG mostly measures low- $\overline{OS}_C$  species, whereas the CIMS mostly  
149 measures higher- $\overline{OS}_C$  species), yet overall the measurements are in general agreement. In areas  
150 of measurement overlap (e.g. TD-AMS and TD-EIMS), measured values of  $\overline{OS}_C$ ,  $n_C$ , and  $c^*$  are  
151 broadly consistent. This suggests that these five independent instruments provide a self-  
152 consistent, and reasonably complete, picture of atmospheric organic carbon.

153 The measurements in Figure 1 include relatively little information about the chemical  
154 structures of the organic species; obtaining such information would require the use of additional  
155 molecular-level (and possibly offline) techniques, but the present online measurements of the  
156 amounts and key ensemble properties ( $c^*$ ,  $n_C$  and  $\overline{OS}_C$ ) still reveal broad trends in the measured



157 organic species, and provide insight into the underlying chemistry of the system. In general,  
158 concentrations decrease with decreasing volatility (Figure 1c), increasing carbon number (1d),  
159 and increasing oxidation state (1e). The organic carbon is dominated by relatively volatile,  
160 reduced compounds – the primary terpenoid emissions 2-methyl-3-buten-2-ol (MBO) and  
161 monoterpenes (the spikes in Fig. 2d at  $n_C=5$  and 10) but also small oxygenates (acetone,  
162 methanol, etc.), which can be primary or secondary. Most of the remaining carbon is more  
163 oxidized than these species and is likely to be products of oxidation reactions. Reactions of  
164 primary emissions can lead to decreases in volatility (via functionalization reactions), to form  
165 more oxidized, less-volatile gas-phase species (S/IVOCs) and OA. At the same time, the  
166 oxidized species tend to have smaller carbon skeletons (lower  $n_C$ ) as  $\overline{OS}_C$  increases (Figure 1b),  
167 with the vast majority (96%) made up of molecules with 10 or fewer carbon atoms. Only OA is  
168 made up predominantly of larger compounds; thus it may be formed from large precursors (e.g.,  
169 sesquiterpenes) and/or oligomerization reactions within the condensed phase. Still, the overall  
170 trend of decreasing  $n_C$  with increasing  $\overline{OS}_C$  suggests the importance of fragmentation reactions  
171 during the oxidation of organic species<sup>5</sup>. Such reactions form small, volatile, highly-oxidized  
172 species, such as formic and oxalic acids (the spikes in Fig. 2e at  $\overline{OS}_C=+2$  and +3), as well as CO  
173 and CO<sub>2</sub> (whose production is difficult to observe). This loss to inorganic carbon, as well as to  
174 ongoing deposition<sup>23,24</sup>, results in the low levels of organic carbon at high values of  $\overline{OS}_C$ .

175

## 176 **Total observed organic carbon**

177 The measurements presented in Figure 1 cover a wide and continuous area of chemical  
178 space; notably they include S/IVOCs, filling a longstanding measurement gap<sup>25</sup>, as well as  
179 unspiciated volatile species that are not typically reported. As a result, they cover a substantially

180 larger fraction of the total organic carbon than has been measured in previous field campaigns.  
181 Figure 2a shows organic carbon binned into five major classes, defined by their  $\overline{OS}_C$ , volatility,  
182 and atmospheric lifetime: VOCs (reactive, reduced volatile species), OVOCs (reactive, oxidized  
183 volatile organic species), long-lived VOCs (LL-VOCs; less-reactive volatile species, with  
184 oxidation lifetimes over 1 day), S/IVOCs (gas-phase species with  $c^* \leq 10^7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), and OA  
185 (particulate organic carbon). OA accounts for only 4% of the measured organic carbon ( $1.0 \mu\text{gC}$   
186  $\text{m}^{-3}$ ). LL-VOCs are the most abundant, accounting for 40% of the measured organic carbon; this  
187 may be underestimated somewhat since small ( $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ ) alkanes are not measured. VOCs, OVOCs,  
188 and S/IVOCs have somewhat lower and approximately equal carbon mass concentrations. The  
189 species reported for the first time in this study – S/IVOCs and unspciated (O)VOCs – account  
190 for  $8.7 (8.1\text{-}10.3) \mu\text{gC m}^{-3}$  of organic carbon, which represents 31 (29-35)% of the total observed  
191 organic carbon (TOOC). Such species were generally not measured/reported in previous field  
192 campaigns, and thus measured organic carbon has been traditionally dominated by speciated  
193 VOCs and LL-VOCs. For example, in a series of North American field observations, LL-VOCs  
194 generally accounted for  $\geq 50\%$  of TOOC, with limited measurements of OVOCs and virtually no  
195 measurements of S/IVOCs<sup>9</sup>.

196 While the present measurements of these species enable the characterization of a larger  
197 fraction of atmospheric reactive carbon than has previously been possible, the precise extent of  
198 carbon closure cannot be assessed fully, given that total organic carbon (TOC) was not  
199 measured. While gas-phase TOC instruments have been used in the past<sup>3,26</sup>, they were not  
200 deployed in the present campaign. At the same time, TOC measurements as single, scalar  
201 quantities may be insufficient for fully describing atmospheric organic carbon, since they

202 provide no chemical information, and can overlook key low-volatility species (S/IVOCs, OA)  
203 that make up a relatively small fraction of the total.

204

### 205 **Closure in OH reactivity and potential SOA formation**

206         Nonetheless, the completeness of the measured suite of organic compounds, and the  
207 importance of previously-unmeasured species (S/IVOCs and unspciated (O)VOCs), can be  
208 assessed by examining closure for two key atmospheric quantities, OHR and SOA formation.  
209 Such closure involves comparison of measurements of the total quantity of interest (“top-down”)  
210 with the sum of estimated contributions from all individual measured species (“bottom-up”); in  
211 most previous studies, for both OHR and SOA formation the bottom-up approach generally  
212 underestimates the total, often by a substantial amount<sup>1,2</sup>.

213         OHR is computed from measured concentrations and known/estimated OH rate constants  
214 (see Methods). Contributions to OHR from each component (using the upper-limit measurements  
215 of organic carbon, Figure 2a) are given in Figure 2b. Reactivity is dominated by MBO and  
216 reactive terpenoids (isoprene and monoterpenes); these account for 16% of TOOC but 62% of  
217 the total OHR, and thus dominate local photochemical activity. The LL-VOCs, a set of small  
218 oxygenated VOCs dominated by acetone, methanol, and formic acid, make up only a small  
219 fraction (3%) of reactivity despite their large (40%) contribution to TOOC. Unspciated  
220 (O)VOCs and S/IVOCs account for the remaining 25%; this represents a significant, and usually  
221 unmeasured, component of OH reactivity. Summed OH reactivity from all measured components  
222 is  $7 \pm 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Using the lower-limit concentrations gives a value of  $6 \pm 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .) Total (ensemble) OH  
223 reactivity was not measured during this campaign, but was found to be  $10 \text{ s}^{-1}$  at the same site the  
224 previous summer<sup>27</sup>. After adjusting for differences in emissions between the two summers (see

225 SI), this corresponds to a value of  $8 \pm 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  for the present campaign. The agreement between  
226 bottom-up and top-down determinations of OH reactivity suggests that the previously-  
227 unmeasured compounds quantified in this work (S/IVOCs and unspiciated (O)VOCs) are  
228 sufficient to account for the missing OH reactivity at this site. In fact, our measurement of a 25%  
229 contribution by these species to OH reactivity agrees well with the estimated 30-40%  
230 contribution from unmeasured compounds from this site in previous years<sup>27,28</sup>.

231 Top-down measurements of the amount of SOA that can be generated from the OH-  
232 initiated oxidation of ambient organic compounds were made using an oxidation flow reactor  
233 (OFR), which exposes ambient air to high levels ( $3.9\text{-}15 \times 10^8 \text{ molecules/cm}^3$ ) of OH radicals,  
234 under conditions in which  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{HO}_2$  reactions dominate<sup>29</sup>. OA formation was always observed;  
235 after correction for various loss processes in the reactor (see SI), the campaign-average  
236 maximum increase in OA carbon was  $0.9 \text{ (}0.6\text{-}1.2\text{) } \mu\text{gC/m}^3$ . Contributions from individual  
237 components, estimated from measured concentrations multiplied by carbon yields (from  
238 laboratory studies or estimates, as discussed in Methods) are shown in Figure 2c. Total SOA  
239 formation is calculated to be  $1.4 \text{ (}1.2\text{-}2.0\text{) } \mu\text{gC/m}^3$ , using the upper-limit measurements, or  $0.8$   
240  $\text{ (}0.6\text{-}1.4\text{) } \mu\text{gC/m}^3$  using the lower-limit measurements; this range is in agreement with the OFR  
241 measurements, providing closure (within error) in potential SOA formation. The measured  
242 S/IVOCs are critical to this closure, accounting for a large fraction, 78% (74-85%), of the total  
243 SOA formation. This highlights the importance of S/IVOCs as SOA precursors; without them,  
244 SOA formation from the other measured species is calculated to be only  $0.32 \text{ (}0.29\text{-}0.35\text{) } \mu\text{gC m}^{-3}$ ,  
245 far less than was observed.

246

247 **Local organic carbon budget**

248           The present measurements, combined with calculated reaction rates and estimates of  
249 emission<sup>30</sup> and deposition fluxes<sup>23,31</sup>, enable the first construction of an observationally-based  
250 local budget for atmospheric organic carbon, shown in Figure 3. Details of these calculations are  
251 given in the Methods section.

252           Reactive BVOCs dominate the emission of organic carbon (though LL-VOCs are also  
253 major contributors). Once emitted, BVOCs oxidize to form a range of products: OVOCs, OA,  
254 LL-VOCs, and CO/CO<sub>2</sub>. The fate of OVOCs and OA is more complex, since these organic  
255 classes may undergo deposition and gas-particle partitioning, as well as oxidation to form other  
256 compounds of the same type. (Because of such recycling reactions, denoted by curved arrows,  
257 the total flux out of a given category does not necessarily equal the total flux in.) Depositional  
258 loss of carbon, while uncertain, is dominated by OVOCs and S/IVOCs, consistent with previous  
259 work<sup>23,24</sup>. The LL-VOC carbon is largely a “dead end” with respect to the local oxidation  
260 chemistry, since this pool contributes relatively little to the reactivity or SOA formation at the  
261 site (Fig. 2). On the timescales accessed in this study (minutes to hours after emission), LL-  
262 VOCs are therefore similar to inorganic oxidation products (CO and CO<sub>2</sub>). By contrast, most of  
263 the remaining species (BVOCs, OVOCs, and S/IVOCs) are associated with large oxidation and  
264 deposition rates, indicating that such reactive organic carbon is highly dynamic, with average  
265 lifetimes of no more than a few hours.

266           At the same time, most of these rates are highly uncertain (with typical uncertainties of  
267 >50%), or are even completely unconstrained. This highlights our low level of understanding of  
268 the processes that govern the atmospheric lifecycle of organic carbon (emission, deposition, and  
269 oxidation), and the need for improved constraints on these rates. Centrally important are the  
270 product distributions of the oxidation reactions; these include not only the branching among

271 different product classes (e.g., the yields of OVOCs, OA, LL-VOCs, and CO/CO<sub>2</sub> from VOC  
272 oxidation), but also how molecular species or classes change upon oxidation (i.e., their  
273 movement through the 2D spaces in Figure 1), which is poorly constrained at present. Similarly,  
274 while the additional organic carbon measured/reported in this work appears to be sufficient,  
275 within error, to close longstanding gaps in OH reactivity and SOA formation (Figs 2b-c), the  
276 errors in such estimates remain substantial. These arise predominantly from uncertainties in  
277 oxidation rate constants and SOA yields of the unspciated compounds.

278         This work thus points to the continuing need for additional process-based (laboratory)  
279 studies of the transformation of atmospheric organic carbon from one form to another, using the  
280 same types of measurements used in the present field study (ideally in conjunction with more  
281 detailed measurements of chemical speciation and structure). These can provide important  
282 constraints on the rates, branching, and product distributions of key organic species and classes,  
283 particularly those that have not been measured routinely until now. Additionally, this work  
284 emphasizes the need for an improved understanding of the coupling of chemistry and dynamics  
285 (e.g., timescales of chemical reaction vs. deposition vs. transport) when interpreting field  
286 observations and assessing the lifecycle of atmospheric organic carbon.  
287

288 **References.**

289

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375

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378

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394

395 **Author Contributions.**

396 Instrument deployment, operation, and data analysis were carried out by: J.F.H, E.S.C, A.J.C.,  
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399 and A.H.G. (SV-TAG). D.A.D. organized the BEACHON-RoMBAS field campaign along with  
400 J.N.S., A.G., and J.L.J. J.F.H. and D.A.D. compiled the multi-instrument data; J.F.H, D.A.D,  
401 D.R.W, C.L.H, J.L.J., and J.H.K, interpreted the compiled dataset. J.F.H. and J.H.K. wrote the  
402 paper. All authors commented on the manuscript.

403

404 **Competing Financial Interests.** The authors declare no competing financial interests.

405

406 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

407

408 **Figure 1:** Campaign-average measurements of non-methane organic carbon loadings and  
409 properties during BEACHON-RoMBAS, colored by the analytical technique used (see legend).

410 Panels a and b: plots of carbon oxidation state ( $\overline{OS}_C$ ) vs. volatility ( $c^*$  at 298K,  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and  
411 carbon number ( $n_C$ ), respectively; circle area is proportional to total carbon mass. Panels c-e  
412 show the projections onto the three unique axes in panels a and b, assuming minimal overlap  
413 between the organic species measured by each instrument (see text). Determination of error bars  
414 ( $1\sigma$ ) is described in the Methods section.

415

416 **Figure 2.** Observed organic carbon concentrations, OHR, and SOA formation, colored by  
417 instrument and organized into major classes of organic species. Gas-phase species are classified  
418 into four categories: LL-VOCs ( $\tau > 1\text{d}$ ), S/IVOCs ( $\tau \leq 1\text{d}$ , and  $c^* \leq 10^7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), VOCs ( $\tau \leq 1\text{d}$ ,  $c^* > 10^7$   
419  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , and  $\overline{OS}_C < -1$ ), and OVOCs ( $\tau < 1\text{d}$ ,  $c^* > 10^7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , and  $\overline{OS}_C \geq -1$ ); error bars, summed for  
420 each category, are  $1\sigma$ . Unlabeled boxes indicate unidentified species or ensemble measurements.  
421 It is assumed there is no overlap in measurements by different instruments, so all values represent  
422 upper limits. Values of OHR and SOA are calculated as described in the Methods section.

423

424 **Figure 3.** Observationally-constrained budget of atmospheric reactive carbon in the study region,  
425 based on campaign-averaged loading measurements and estimated rates of emission, deposition,  
426 and oxidation. Units are in  $\mu\text{gC m}^{-3}$  (loadings) and  $\mu\text{gC m}^{-3} \text{hr}^{-1}$  (rates); all errors are  $1\sigma$ . Organic  
427 classes are simplified from those in Figure 2, with VOCs and sesquiterpenes combined into a single  
428 BVOC category, and S/IVOCs and OVOCs combined. Arrow color denotes type of process: red

429 – oxidation; blue – emission/deposition; grey – other physical processes (transport, dilution,  
430 partitioning). Dashed arrows denote processes for which rates are largely unconstrained.  
431 Calculation details are given in Methods.

432 **METHODS**

433

434 **Details of the sampling site.** Measurements were made at the Manitou Experimental Forest in  
435 the Colorado Rocky Mountains, as part of the “Bio-hydro-atmosphere interactions of Energy,  
436 Aerosols, Carbon, H<sub>2</sub>O, Organics & Nitrogen – Rocky Mountain Biogenic Aerosol Study”  
437 (BEACHON-RoMBAS), running 15 July to 30 August, 2011. The site is located at 2370 m  
438 elevation in the Colorado Rockies, 40 km northwest of Colorado Springs and 70 km southwest of  
439 Denver, CO (39.10 N, 105.10 W), in a ponderosa pine plantation surrounded by forests with  
440 pine, other conifers, and aspen. Details of the site and measurements are described by Ortega et  
441 al.<sup>12</sup>

442

443 **Instruments and data analysis.**

444 All mass spectrometric measurements used for this analysis were ground-based, with the  
445 five instruments located in four temperature-controlled trailers. Sampling height was 25 m for  
446 the PTR-MS and 4-5 m for the other instruments.

447 *Thermal Denuder – Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (TD-AMS).* A high-resolution time-of-  
448 flight AMS (Aerodyne Research Inc., Billerica, MA)<sup>13</sup> sampled air downstream of a thermal  
449 denuder<sup>14</sup> for 5 minutes every 30 minutes from 20 July to 2 Aug and 9 to 30 Aug. The  
450 temperature was cycled from ~20 °C to 250 °C and back to ~20 °C every two hours. The AMS  
451 quantifies total OA for submicron non-refractory particles, and provides calibrated elemental  
452 ratios using high-resolution peak fitting, with an empirical correction for biases arising from  
453 molecular thermal decomposition and ion fragmentation<sup>19</sup>. For additional details of operation,  
454 calibration, and analysis of the HR-ToF-AMS and alternating sampling configuration, see Palm

455 et al.<sup>29</sup> The  $c^*$  mass distribution was calculated following the empirical method of Faulhaber et  
456 al.<sup>32</sup> Error in the OC measurement is 40%, based on errors from total organic mass<sup>33</sup> and from  
457 elemental ratio determinations<sup>19</sup>.

458 *Thermal Desorption – Electron Ionization Mass Spectrometer (TD-EIMS)*. Thermograms  
459 of S/IVOC mass spectra were collected every ~11 minutes using the Thermal Desorption  
460 Electron Ionization mass spectrometer (TD-EIMS)<sup>18</sup>. The instrument uses cryogenic trapping of  
461 the sample followed by temperature-programmed desorption to determine mass concentrations  
462 and bulk chemical composition (approximate elemental composition) as a function of volatility,  
463 calibrated using *n*-alkanes with known vapor pressures, and reported from  $\log(c^*) = 1$  to 7. The  
464 TD-EIMS operated for a total of 8 days (26 July, 28 to 29 July, and 8 to 12 Aug), collecting 794  
465 individual desorptions. Error in the OC measurement from the TD-EIMS is estimated to be a  
466 factor of three in each volatility bin, accounting for variations in collection, desorption, and  
467 detection efficiencies for the range of compounds expected in the ambient environment. This  
468 reduces to an error of +75%/-25% for the sum of the volatility bins. The instrument precision  
469 during  $\alpha$ -pinene calibrations is much better ( $\sim 0.75 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  over the calibration range of 5-15  
470  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), arising from variability in the collection, desorption and background on a run-to-run  
471 basis. Applying this to the ambient average of  $3.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  gives an error of 28%. Additional  
472 details of the calibration procedures and analysis are given in the SI.

473 *Micro-Orifice Volatilization Impactor – Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometer*. A high-  
474 resolution time-of-flight mass spectrometer (MOVI-CIMS, Aerodyne Research Inc., Billerica,  
475 MA) using the acetate ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$ ) reagent ion was used to selectively detect gas and particle-  
476 phase organic acids<sup>16</sup>. The MOVI interface allows for both gas-phase analysis during aerosol  
477 collection on a stainless steel post and thermal desorption of collected aerosol in ultra-high purity



478 N<sub>2</sub>. Data were collected from 20 Aug to 30 Aug at a time resolution of ~1.5 hours, yielding a  
479 single gas and particle-phase mass spectrum every sampling/analysis cycle. These mass spectra  
480 are used for multi-peak fitting yielding identification (elemental formula) and quantifications of  
481 1374 molecular ions, attributed to acids<sup>34</sup>. Due to the possibility of thermal decomposition of  
482 thermolabile species<sup>35,36</sup>, particle-phase data are reported as a volatility-resolved ensemble, rather  
483 than as individual species. Particle-phase concentrations were calculated using background-  
484 subtracted average thermograms of all organic ions (containing C, H, O, and N) identified in the  
485 high-resolution mass spectra. Conversion from peak desorption temperature to saturation  
486 concentration ( $c^*$ ) was achieved by measuring calibration thermograms of mixtures of 4 organic  
487 acids<sup>37</sup>. The average thermograms were then fitted to a set of basis functions, whose shapes and  
488 positions were determined by the calibration measurements. Their areas of these peaks yielded  
489 the volatility distributions. To obtain elemental ratios, average thermograms of total signal for O,  
490 H, and C were calculated. Average  $n_C$  values for individual volatility bins were calculated using  
491 the same methods as for the TD-AMS and TD-EIMS. This results in a larger particle-phase  
492 concentration and organic acid fraction of OA (48%) than has been previously reported (29%)  
493 for the dataset<sup>38</sup>, but increases sensitivity to fragment ions resulting from desorption of  
494 thermolabile, low-volatility molecules. Measurement error is 5% for known, calibrated  
495 compounds. For unknown/uncalibrated compounds, error is estimated to be a factor of three  
496 based on the range in calibration slopes of known acids. Applying this error to the individual  
497 unknown ions and adding in quadrature gives an ensemble error of 35%. Additional details on  
498 instrument configuration, data collection, background subtraction, and data analysis are given  
499 elsewhere<sup>38,39</sup>.

500            *Proton Transfer Reaction Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (PTR-MS)*. The time-of-  
501 flight PTR-MS (IONICON Analytik, Innsbruck, Austria)<sup>15</sup> collected data from 19 July to 9 Aug.  
502 Details of instrument configuration, operation, and calibration are described in Kaser et al.<sup>40</sup>  
503 High-resolution peak fitting was performed on 30-second averaged raw spectra, fitting 513 peaks  
504 in the range  $m/z$  14-391, yielding both signal intensity and elemental formula. Background  
505 spectra were fit separately, spectra were then averaged to 1 hour, and then background spectra  
506 were subtracted after ion fitting. Ion signals were converted to concentrations using in-field  
507 standard calibrations for 10 compound gases and an average sensitivity for the remainder of  
508 peaks. For this analysis, only the 305 compounds containing at least one carbon atom were used.  
509  $C_5H_9^+$  ion signal was assigned to MBO (which is primarily measured as  $C_5H_{11}O^+$ ) and isoprene  
510 in a 9:1 ratio, based on previous work at the site<sup>30</sup>;  $C_3H_7O^+$  was assigned entirely to acetone and  
511  $C_2H_5O_2^+$  to acetic acid (rather than propanal and glycolaldehyde, respectively), given the large  
512 emissions and long lifetimes of those species. For known (calibrated) compounds, error in  
513 measured concentrations is 10%. For unknown ions, concentrations were calculated using a  
514 relative rate approach with a calibration compound<sup>41</sup>. This contributes an error of 30% per ion,  
515 leading to an ensemble error of ~8% when added in quadrature.

516            *Semivolatile Thermal-Desorption Aerosol Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer (SV-*  
517 *TAG)*. S/IVOCs were measured by the semivolatile thermal desorption aerosol gas-  
518 chromatograph/aerosol mass spectrometer (SV-TAG-AMS) from 19 to 30 Aug. The details of  
519 the instrument are described in Chan et al.<sup>42</sup> In brief, compounds are collected on a metal fiber  
520 filter cell for 90 minutes, and thermally desorbed in helium carrier gas to a gas  
521 chromatography/mass spectrometer (GC/MS). Authentic standards and deuterated internal  
522 standards are used for mass calibration and quantification. A large number of individual species

523 were detected and quantified, but these made up a negligible fraction of TOOC and so here only  
524 ensemble measurements (binned by volatility) are reported. Ion signals are separated by their  
525 elemental formulas ( $C_xH_yO_z^+$ ) and the hydrocarbon ions ( $C_xH_y^+$ ) quantified using a set of  
526 analytical standards<sup>42</sup>. The total ion chromatogram is divided into decadal volatility bins based  
527 on the measured retention times and known vapor pressures of *n*-alkanes. Error in measured OC  
528 is estimated to be 60%, based on the range of calibration factors found for standards within any  
529 individual  $c^*$  bin.

530

531 **Determination of  $\overline{OS}$ ,  $n_C$ , and  $c^*$ .** For all instruments, the average carbon oxidation state (of  
532 individual species or the ensemble) is determined from the formula  $\overline{OS}_C = 2 O/C - H/C$ <sup>5</sup>. The  
533 presence of peroxide groups and reduced nitrogen introduces some errors into this calculation,  
534 but unless these moieties are extremely abundant, these errors are small<sup>5</sup>. CIMS and AMS  
535 measurements suggest that nitrogen-containing organic species are present in very low  
536 abundances ( $N/C < 0.03$ ) at this site<sup>34,43</sup>. For the ensemble electron ionization instruments (TD-  
537 AMS, TD-EIMS, TAG) elemental ratios may be biased by ion fragmentation; however such  
538 biases introduce little error to the determination of  $\overline{OS}_C$ <sup>19</sup>.

539 Each instrument also provides measurements of  $n_C$  (speciated measurements: CIMS(g),  
540 PTR-MS) or  $c^*$  (ensemble, thermally-separated measurements: TD-AMS, TD-EIMS, CIMS(p),  
541 SV-TAG), requiring determination of the remaining quantity. For identified organic species (e.g.,  
542 simple VOCs, OVOCs, and LL-VOCs), literature  $c^*$  values<sup>44</sup> are assigned. For other compounds  
543 measured by speciated techniques,  $c^*$  is estimated from the SIMPOL structure-activity  
544 relationship<sup>21</sup>, assuming an alkane carbon skeleton and functional groups based on the measured  
545 number of oxygen atoms and the best estimate for the functional groups measured. For the

546 CIMS, the first two oxygen atoms are assigned to an acid group and the remaining ones to  
547 hydroxyl groups, an approach that leads to the strongest agreement between measured and  
548 calculated partitioning<sup>39</sup>. For the PTR-MS, oxygen atoms are assigned to carbonyl groups, since  
549 molecules with hydroxyl moieties tend to be lost in the unheated inlet of the instrument or to  
550 dehydrate upon ionization. In the latter case, this approach may lead to errors in  $c^*$  (but not in  
551  $\overline{OS_C}$ ); this effect is difficult to quantify but is unlikely to affect overall results significantly. For  
552 the TD-EIMS, TD-AMS, and the SV-TAG, for which  $c^*$  distributions are measured, average  
553 values of  $n_C$  are determined using the approach of Daumit et al.<sup>20</sup>, assigning a functional group  
554 distribution from measured values of  $c^*$ , O/C, and H/C. This approach assigns all double bond  
555 equivalents to carbonyl groups, so the presence of C=C double bonds or rings would lead to a  
556 modest overestimate in  $n_C$ ; however the presence of other common functional groups (e.g.,  
557 peroxides, nitrates) is unlikely to introduce substantial errors in this approach<sup>20</sup>. The high  
558 temperatures associated with measurements of low-volatility species (OA and S/IVOCs, as  
559 measured by the TD-AMS, TD-EIMS, SV-TAG, and MOVI-CIMS) may lead to thermal  
560 decomposition of oligomeric (and other thermolabile) species. In these cases the derived  $c^*$  and  
561  $n_C$  values correspond not to the exact values of the ambient species but instead to effective values  
562 associated with both physical partitioning and chemical reaction<sup>35,36</sup>.

563

564 **Reactivity calculations.** OH reactivity (Figure 2b) and reaction rates of the organic species  
565 (Figure 3) were estimated based on rates of reactions with OH, O<sub>3</sub>, and NO<sub>3</sub> as well as  
566 photolysis. For rate calculations, diurnally averaged concentrations of [OH]= $2.0 \times 10^6$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup>  
567 <sup>27</sup>, [O<sub>3</sub>]= $9.8 \times 10^{11}$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup> <sup>12</sup>, and [NO<sub>3</sub>]= $4.9 \times 10^6$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup> <sup>43</sup> were used. Rate coefficients  
568 were taken from the literature when available (see Table S1), and a 30% uncertainty is assumed.

569 For unidentified species, oxidation is assumed to be driven by H-atom abstraction by OH, with  
570 rate coefficients estimated using the relationship given by Donahue et al.<sup>45</sup> This method accounts  
571 for differences in the rate coefficient due to the number of carbon, hydrogen, and hydrogen  
572 atoms, as well as the “trapping effect,” wherein oxidation slows for lower-volatility compounds  
573 partitioned in the condensed phase. A factor of three uncertainty is used for these estimated OH  
574 rate coefficients. If C=C double bonds are an abundant moiety in the unidentified species,  
575 oxidation rates (due to reaction with OH, NO<sub>3</sub>, or O<sub>3</sub>) may be substantially faster. Unfortunately,  
576 given the importance of cyclic structures in biogenic species, the abundance of C=C bonds  
577 cannot be determined from the present measurements.

578

579 **SOA formation calculations.** The aerosol mass formed after oxidation (Figure 2c) was  
580 calculated from measured SOA carbon yields, assuming this is the maximum SOA formed from  
581 a given precursor. Oxidative processes that are likely to be unimportant within the OFR, such as  
582 aqueous-phase oxidation, were not considered. For compounds whose SOA yields have been  
583 measured in the laboratory at ambient OA loadings (and low-NO<sub>x</sub> conditions), literature mass  
584 yield values were used, and converted to carbon yields using measured OM/OC values (see SI).  
585 Error is estimated to be 30%. For the remainder of the compounds, carbon yield was  
586 parameterized using an approach similar to that of Donahue et al.,<sup>46</sup> in which yield is a function  
587 of the  $c^*$  of the precursor. Details of this parameterization are given in the SI; uncertainty in  
588 these yields is estimated to be a factor of three.

589

590 **Flux calculations.** Emission fluxes of the dominant VOCs, OVOCs and LL-VOCs were taken  
591 from flux measurements made at the same site during the previous summer<sup>30,47</sup>. These were

592 taken at nearly the same time of year (3 Aug to 8 Sept, 2010); photosynthetically-active radiation  
593 (PAR) was slightly higher and temperature was on average 2°C lower than the present (2011)  
594 measurements (see Fig. S2). This leads to increased fluxes in 2011 for all species except MBO,  
595 which decreased slightly (differences were calculated using the equations given in Kaser et al.<sup>30</sup>).  
596 Flux measurements were of fluxes out of the canopy, meaning that the amount of VOCs that  
597 react below the canopy must also be accounted for. This component is estimated by multiplying  
598 the measured VOC reaction rate by the average canopy height (16 m), which assumes relatively  
599 rapid transport of air out of the canopy. This is added to the out-of-canopy flux to determine the  
600 total flux, and then the result divided by the average boundary layer height to determine the  
601 column average reaction rate. Although the adjustment for differences in temperature and  
602 radiation is fairly robust, it is possible that other differences between 2010 and 2011 (such as  
603 rainfall) could lead to differences in the emissions between the two years. Additionally, the  
604 measured fluxes are restricted to a relatively small number of compounds with concentrations  
605 large enough to be measurable. Because about half of the reactive carbon is made up of  
606 unidentified compounds with small concentrations, it is possible that the fluxes could be up to a  
607 factor of two larger. This positive error is included in the BVOC flux in Figure 3.

608         Oxidation rates were determined using one of two methods, depending on the lifetime of  
609 the species. For species whose overall lifetimes are sufficiently long relative to the mixing  
610 timescale (1.5 hours on average; see SI), they are treated as vertically well-mixed, and oxidation  
611 rate ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3} \text{ hr}^{-1}$ ) is determined by dividing concentration by oxidative lifetime. Shorter-lived  
612 species, namely the primary biogenic VOCs (daily average lifetime  $\sim 1.2$  hr) are likely not well-  
613 mixed, and thus their ground-level concentrations are unlikely to be representative of the average  
614 concentration in the mixed layer. Instead, these short-lived species are assumed to be in steady-

615 state, so that their reactive rate can be assumed to be equal to the total emission rate (described  
616 above). Uncertainties in oxidation rates (Fig. 3) are calculated from estimated rate coefficients,  
617 as described above.

618 Deposition fluxes were estimated using the approach described by Hodzic et al.<sup>31</sup> The  
619 deposition velocities estimated in this way range from 0 for volatile species and plateau at 4 cm/s  
620 for low-volatility species. These estimated velocities are qualitatively similar to measured  
621 deposition velocities reported by Nguyen et al.<sup>23</sup>, who found peak velocities in the 1-5 cm/s  
622 range for a variety of organic and inorganic molecules. The daily average deposition velocity for  
623 formic acid in Nguyen et al. was approximately  $0.5 \pm 0.2$  cm/s, which is somewhat higher than  
624 the calculated value of 0.14 cm/s used in this study. This difference is likely due to a  
625 combination of errors in the calculation methods, and real differences in the two field sites and  
626 meteorological conditions. Particle dry deposition velocities were not measured at this site and so  
627 were taken from Zhang et al.<sup>48</sup>, which gives values of 0.1 to 1.0 cm/s for vegetated surfaces. An  
628 average value of 0.5 cm/s was used for this analysis. These are somewhat higher than particle  
629 deposition velocities measured at other forested sites (0.1 to 0.2 cm/s)<sup>49</sup>. Uncertainties in  
630 deposition velocities are estimated to be a factor of two. Wet deposition is neglected in this  
631 budget, but is not expected to dominate given the relatively low precipitation during the  
632 measurement period.

633

634 **Data availability.** The data that support the findings of this study are available from the  
635 corresponding author upon reasonable request.

636

637

638 **References only in Methods**

639

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1 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

2 **for**

3 **Comprehensive characterization of atmospheric organic carbon at a forested site**

4  
5 James F. Hunter, Douglas A. Day, Brett B. Palm, Reddy L. N. Yatavelli, Arthur W. H. Chan,  
6 Lisa Kaser, Luca Cappellin, Patrick L. Hayes, Eben S. Cross, Anthony J. Carrasquillo, Pedro  
7 Campuzano-Jost, Harald Stark, Yunliang Zhao, Thorsten Hohaus, James N. Smith, Armin  
8 Hansel, Thomas Karl, Allen H. Goldstein, Alex Guenther, Douglas R. Worsnop, Joel A.  
9 Thornton, Colette L. Heald, Jose L. Jimenez, Jesse H. Kroll

10  
11 **Quality control.**

12 The data from many of the instruments consist of 2D matrices with both large numbers of time  
13 points as well as large numbers of individual compounds. Because many of the individual ions  
14 that are measured correspond to compounds that are unidentified, some quality control of the  
15 data was required that is independent of molecular identity. A basic screen was applied to all the  
16 time series to eliminate features that are likely non-physical or associated with instrument  
17 background or electronic interference (e.g. signal spikes). Approximately 1% of the time points  
18 were excluded.

19  
20 **Classes of organic species not measured by this instrument suite.**

21 The instrumentation suite measures most known classes of atmospheric organic species,  
22 including oligomeric species in the aerosol phase, which are detected by both the AMS and the  
23 MOVI-CIMS<sup>1,2</sup>. The main organic classes which are not measured by any of the five instruments

24 are volatile reduced species, namely C<sub>≤13</sub> alkanes and C<sub>≤4</sub> alkenes, and gas-phase ELVOCs,  
 25 which condense on particles rapidly after formation and so are present in only very small  
 26 concentrations. It is also possible that some functionalized (non-acidic) IVOCs may not be  
 27 detected efficiently by the instrument suite; such compounds can in principle be detectable by the  
 28 PTR-MS and TD-EIMS, but may be lost to inlet surfaces (PTR-MS) or undergo thermal  
 29 decomposition (TD-EIMS) prior to mass spectrometric detection.

30

### 31 **Rate coefficients used in reaction rate calculations.**

32 The literature rate coefficients used in this study are presented in Table S1. All values were  
 33 obtained from the Master Chemical Mechanism (v3.3)<sup>3,4</sup> (<http://mcm.leeds.ac.uk/MCM>), which  
 34 in turn were generally obtained from IUPAC recommendations<sup>5</sup>. All the rates were calculated for  
 35 a temperature of 20 °C for simplicity. This value is marginally higher than the measured mean  
 36 temperature (17.5 °C), leading to only a small difference in the calculated rates. Photolysis rates  
 37 were calculated as a function of diurnal hour for solar zenith angles from the midpoint of the  
 38 campaign and subsequently averaged.

39

40 **Table S1.** Rate coefficients used in this study.

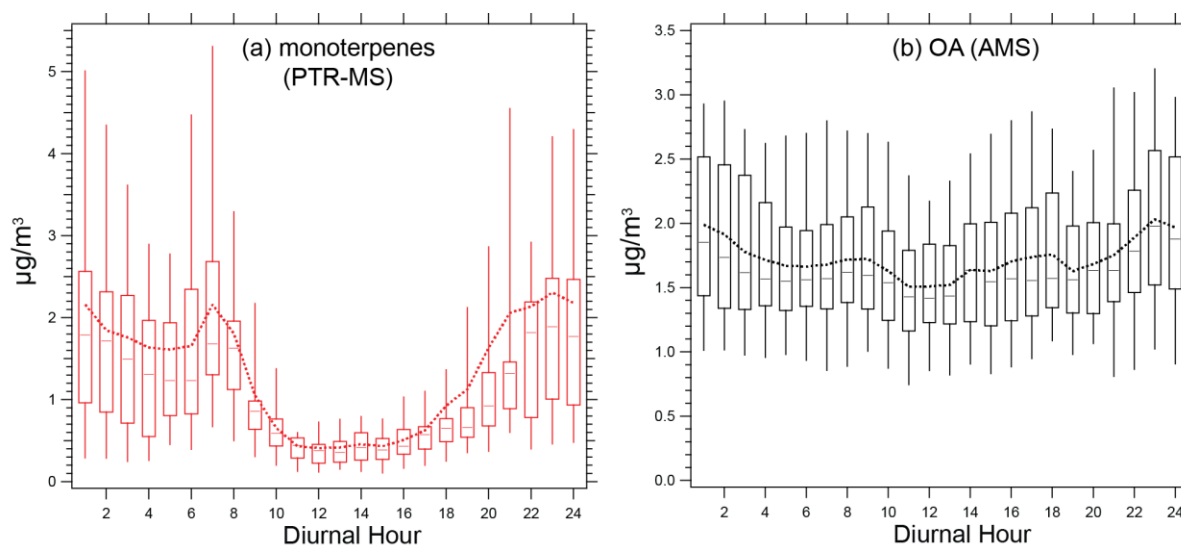
Compound	O <sub>3</sub> Rate Coefficient (cm <sup>3</sup> molec <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	OH Rate Coefficient (cm <sup>3</sup> molec <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	NO <sub>3</sub> Rate Coefficient (cm <sup>3</sup> molec <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	Photolysis rate (s <sup>-1</sup> )
Formaldehyde	-	8.50E-12	-	2.83E-05
Methanol	-	9.00E-13	-	-
Acetaldehyde	-	1.50E-11	-	1.35E-06
Formic Acid	-	4.50E-13	-	-
Ethanol	-	3.20E-12	-	-
Acetone	-	1.05E-13	-	5.9E-06
Acetic Acid	-	8.00E-13	-	-
Isoprene	1.27E-17	1.00E-10	-	-
Methacrolein	1.22E-18	2.90E-11	-	6.31E-06

Methylglyoxal	-	1.30E-11	-	5.35E-05
MEK	-	1.10E-12	-	1.77E-05
Benzene	-	1.20E-12	-	-
MBO	1.00E-17	1.60E-10	1.10E-14	-
Toluene	-	5.70E-12	-	-
Xylene	-	2.31E-11	-	-
Monoterpenes	8.70E-17	5.25E-11	6.10E-12	-
Sesquiterpenes (avg) <sup>a</sup>	1.16E-14	1.6E-10	1.8E-11	-
Humulene	1.16E-14	2.93E-10	3.9E-11	-
Longifolene	0	4.7E-11	6.8E-13	-
Aromadendrene	6.5E-15	-	-	-
Alloaromadendrene	6.5E-15	-	-	-
Muurolene	9.7E-15	-	-	-

41  
42 <sup>a</sup>The average rate coefficients for sesquiterpenes were calculated from TAG speciated sesquiterpene  
43 concentrations and associated rate coefficients. The ozone rate coefficient for aromadendrene was  
44 obtained from Pollman et al<sup>6</sup>, and the coefficients for aromadendrene and muurolene were estimated to be  
45 1x and 1.5x the rate of aromadendrene. These speciated sesquiterpenes make up about 10% of the total  
46 sesquiterpene signal from the PTR-MS. Photolysis rates are calculated and averaged for solar zenith  
47 angles corresponding to the middle of the campaign.

48  
49 **Uniformity of concentrations over the entire campaign.**

50 The values reported in this work reflect campaign averages for instruments, each of  
51 which had somewhat different measurement periods. Combining them into a single campaign  
52 average is reasonable given the relatively uniform time series, in which approximately the same  
53 concentrations and diurnal patterns were measured day to day for all instruments. Figure S1  
54 shows the full time series for two major organic types, monoterpenes (panel a, from PTR-MS  
55 measurement) and OA (panel b, from AMS measurements), plotted diurnally such that the  
56 overall variability is apparent. Monoterpenes are highly reactive and have highly variable  
57 emissions, and therefore should give an upper limit to the amount of variability within the



**Figure S1.** Variability of measured species during BEACHON-RoMBAS, illustrated by the campaign time series of summed monoterpenes (panel a) and organic aerosol (panel b). The dashed line is the average, the whiskers extend to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, and the box contains the median bounded by the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles. The variability is approximately a factor of two for both monoterpenes (short-lived) and organic aerosol (long-lived) with no significant departures from the average diurnal profile excepting a handful of points. This suggests that the chemistry was similar day-to-day, and supports the comparison of average data from instruments in this study that had somewhat different sampling periods.

58 dataset. OA is much longer lived, and should give a lower limit to the variability due to day to  
 59 day differences in chemistry. Both quantities have approximately a factor of two spread in their  
 60 concentrations, with the exception of a few much higher points for monoterpenes (which do not  
 61 significantly impact the overall average); further, no obvious campaign-wide trends are seen in  
 62 either dataset. This indicates that there were no significant departures from campaign-averaged  
 63 chemistry during the campaign, supporting the use of overall diurnal averages, and allowing for  
 64 comparisons of measurements taken over somewhat different periods. The concentrations and  
 65 calculated fluxes also vary over the course of the day, but these differences do not significantly  
 66 change the overall conclusions, and a 24-hour average is therefore used throughout the text  
 67 (except for in the discussion of diurnal cycles, below). The uniformity of the time series gives

68 confidence in the comparability of the data sets from the five instruments in this study in spite of  
69 the differences in their collection periods.

70

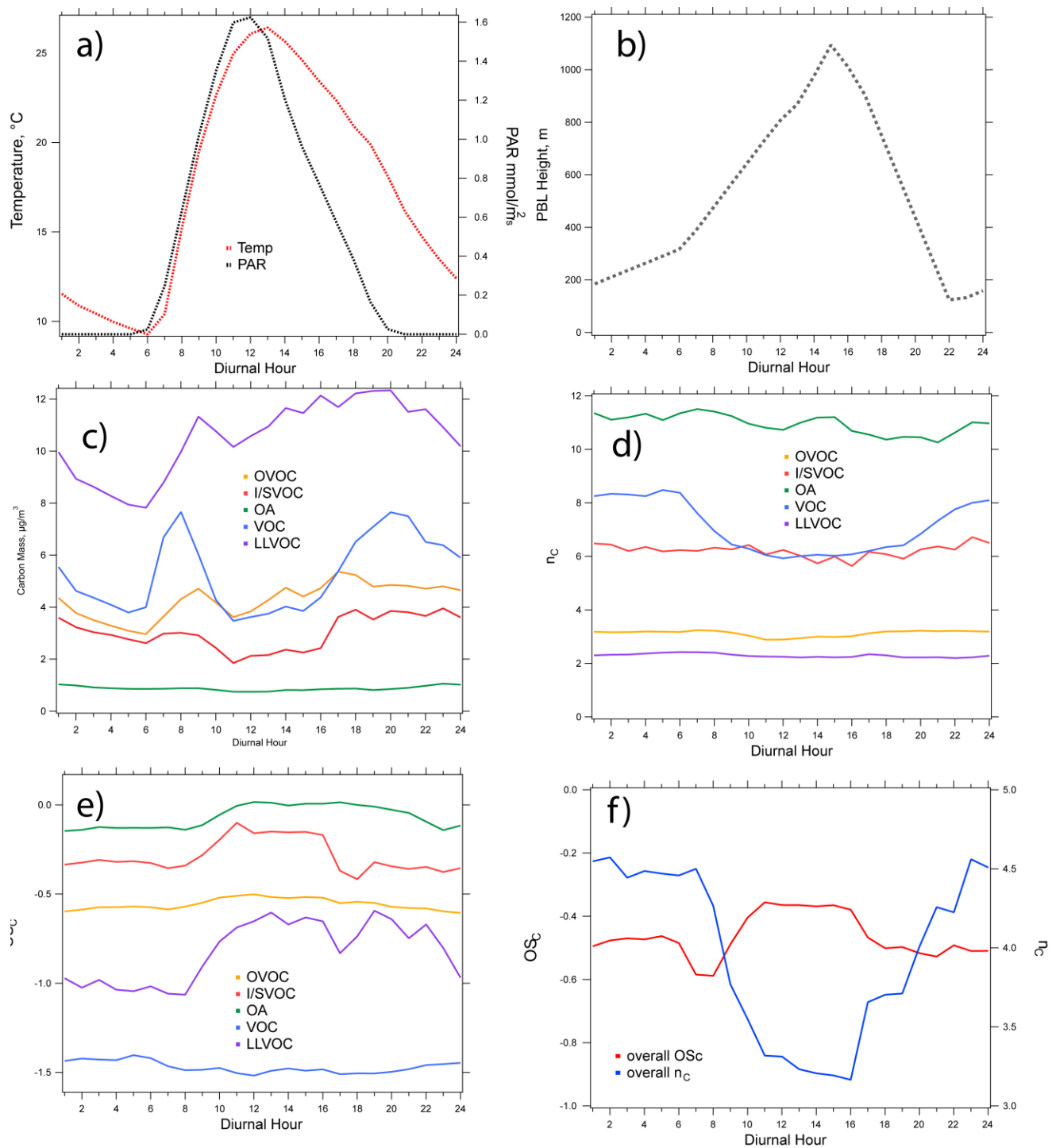
### 71 **Estimates of vertical mixing time.**

72         Approximate estimates of the mixing time can be constructed from the roughness  
73 velocity ( $u^*$ ) and Monin-Obukhov length ( $L$ , a measure of atmospheric stability) available for  
74 the field site, which enable the calculation of the vertical eddy diffusion coefficient ( $K_{zz}$ )<sup>7</sup>; the  
75 mixing timescale is calculated by dividing  $K_{zz}$  by the square of the boundary layer height. The  
76 diurnally-averaged timescale ranges from 8 minutes during midday (when convection is strong)  
77 to a maximum of 6.3 hours at night (when the boundary layer is stable). Because  $K_{zz}$  is expected  
78 to change with changing height, this estimate constructed from the surface-layer sonic  
79 measurements may not accurately describe the overall mixing time. However, the mixing time  
80 during the day can also be estimated using the convective velocity  $w^*$  (approximately  $1 \text{ m/s}$  <sup>7</sup>),  
81 resulting in a time of about 18 minutes. This is reasonably comparable to the value calculated  
82 using the M-O methods, and suggests these estimates of mixing times are reasonable.

83

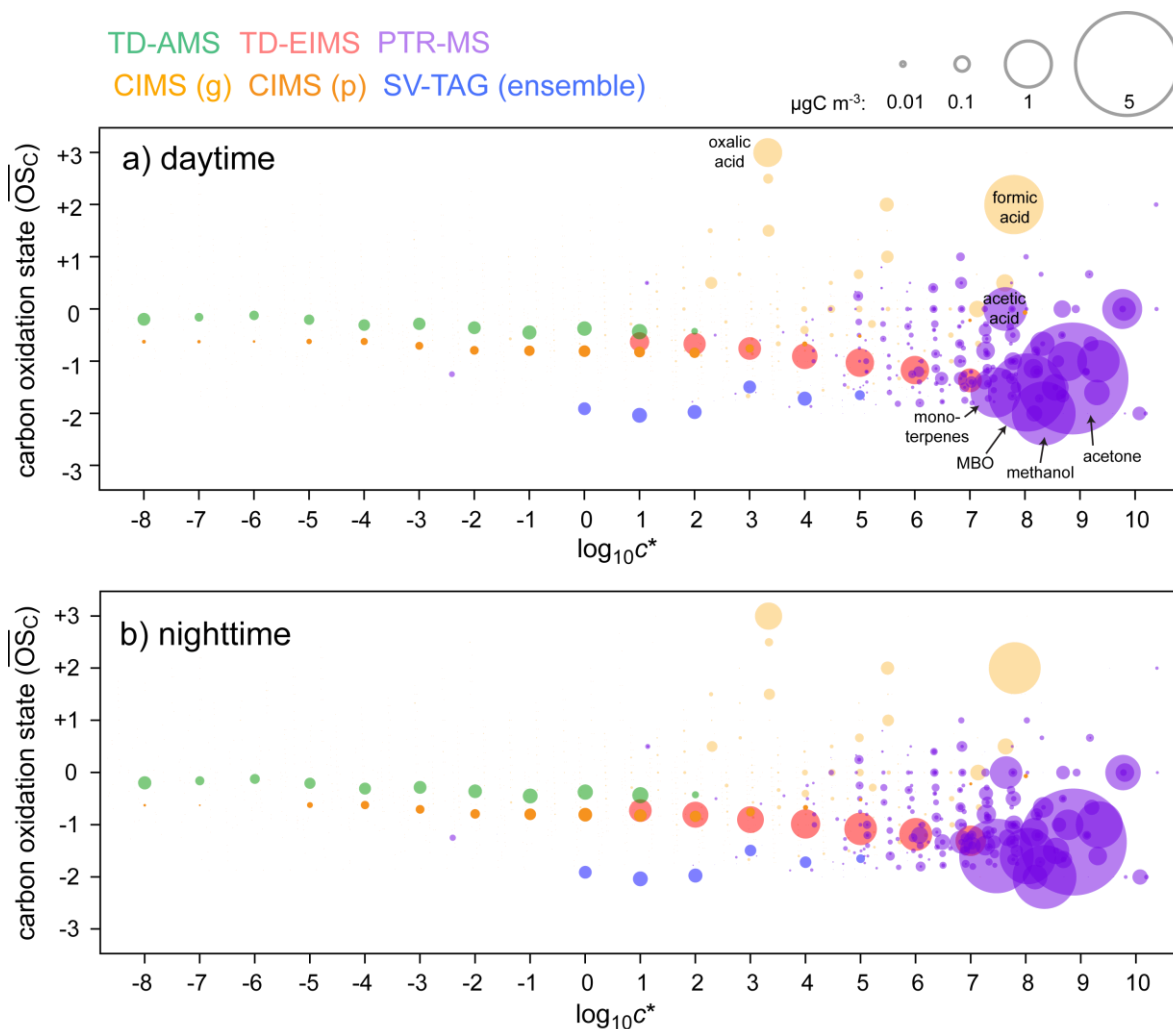
### 84 **Diurnal trends.**

85         Diurnal trends for the campaign are shown in Figure S2 and S3. Such trends can result  
86 from a number of factors, including changes to emissions (which in turn depend on temperature,  
87 and, in some cases, light), oxidant levels, transport, vertical mixing, and boundary layer height.  
88 Figure S2a shows average diurnal profiles in temperature and photosynthetically active radiation  
89 (PAR) for the campaign (1 July to 27 Aug); both increase at the same time starting around 6 h,



**Figure S2:** Campaign-average diurnal trends. Panel a: temperature and PAR; b: boundary layer height; c: concentrations of organic carbon for each organic class; d: carbon-weighted  $n_C$  for each class; e: carbon-weighted  $\overline{OS}_C$  for each class; f: average  $n_C$  and  $\overline{OS}_C$  for all measured organic carbon.





**Figure S3:** Average 2DVBS distributions of ambient organic species measured during the daytime (panel a, 06:00 to 17:00) and nighttime (panel b, 18:00 to 05:00). Day-night differences are consistent with the diurnal plots in Fig. S2. Differences include substantially higher levels of MBO (due to higher emissions), higher levels of formic and acetic acids (due to higher emissions and/or photochemical formation), and lower levels of monoterpenes (due to the higher boundary layer) during the daytime. Additionally monoterpene and S/IVOC levels are higher during the nighttime, possibly due to the low boundary layer and the lack of photochemical sinks.

91 with with temperature reaching a maximum of 26°C (from a low of 9°C) around 13 h. Light  
 92 intensity reaches a maximum slightly earlier, and decreases much more rapidly than does  
 93 temperature. This leads to emissions of temperature- and light-dependent compounds increasing  
 94 sharply together in the morning, and temperature-driven emissions (e.g., some monoterpenes)  
 95 persisting longer than compounds with strong light-dependent emissions (e.g., MBO) in the  
 96 afternoon. The resulting concentrations are also a strong function of the boundary layer height

97 (S2b) and the intensity of photochemistry, both of which peak in midday; this can lead to lower  
98 concentrations even though emission rate of primary compounds and formation rates of  
99 secondary compounds are highest at this time.

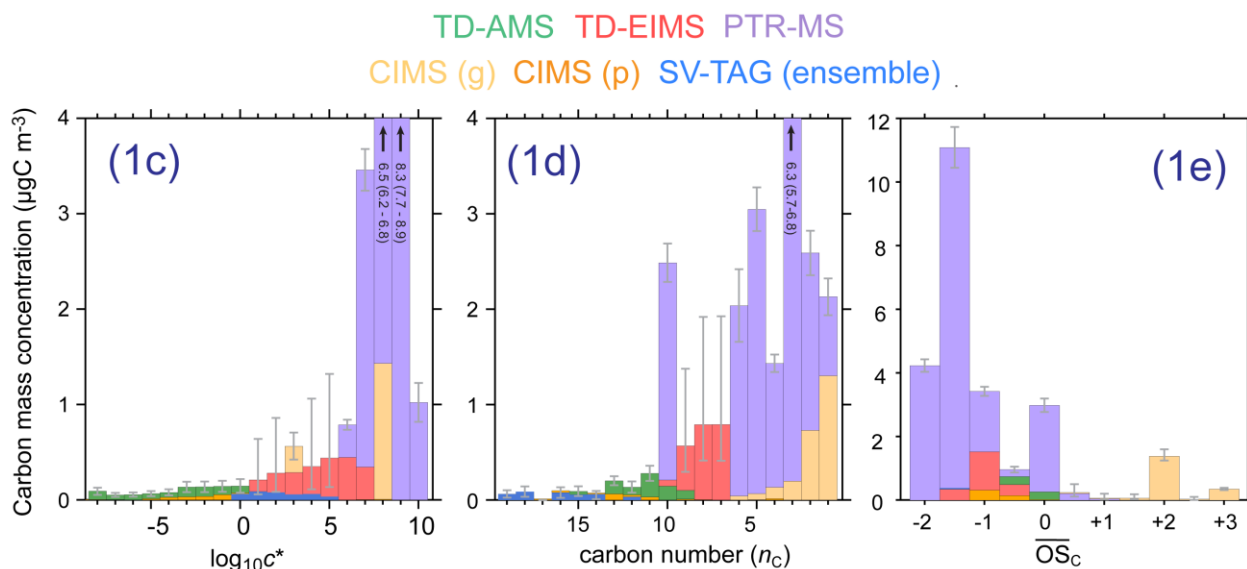
100 Figures S2c-f and S3 show diurnal changes to the amounts and properties of the  
101 measured organic carbon. Figure S2c shows diurnal changes to each of the categories of  
102 organics; diurnal trends in carbon number ( $n_C$ ) and oxidation state ( $\overline{OS}_c$ ) for each category are  
103 given in Figs. S2d and S2e, respectively, and the average  $n_C$  and  $\overline{OS}_c$  for all measured organic  
104 species are given in Figure S2f. VOC concentrations increase sharply in the morning with the  
105 onset of light-driven emissions (e.g. MBO) and to a smaller degree with increasing temperature-  
106 driven emissions (monoterpenes) into a shallow boundary layer. Concentrations decrease sharply  
107 in the late morning due to photooxidation and the boundary layer height increasing to an  
108 afternoon peak of about 1100 m. Concentrations rise again in the evening as photochemistry  
109 slows and temperature-driven emissions (e.g. monoterpenes) continue into a shrinking boundary  
110 layer (which eventually reaches a midnight minimum of about 100 m). This diurnal pattern of  
111 MBO and monoterpene emissions is reflected in Figure S3, as well as in the average carbon  
112 number for VOCs (Fig. S2d). Secondary, reactive species (OVOCs and S/IVOCs) behave  
113 similarly, but with somewhat delayed profiles due to their formation from oxidation processes.  
114 The long-lived VOCs show substantial variability over the course of the day, indicating their  
115 sources (emissions, secondary formation, influx) and sinks (efflux) are important over these  
116 timescales, even though oxidative loss is not. This lack of oxidation explains why their  
117 concentrations remain high throughout the afternoon, with no characteristic dip. Diurnal changes  
118 in LL-VOCs are driven by increases in acetone and formic acid (by emissions and/or secondary  
119 production) during the daytime; these increases lead to the large increase in  $\overline{OS}_c$  (but no change

120 to  $n_C$ ) over the daylight hours. OA stays relatively constant over the course of the day, with a  
121 distinct increase in  $\overline{OS}_c$  during the daytime (which is also reflected in the  $\overline{OS}_c$  of S/IVOCs),  
122 possibly indicating more intense oxidation (aerosol aging or formation of more-oxidized SOA)  
123 during this time.

124

### 125 **Lower-limit calculations of organic carbon distributions.**

126 The distributions of organic carbon provided in the text (Figs 1c-e, 2, and 3) all assume no  
127 overlap between the carbon measured by different instruments (except in unambiguous cases of  
128 overlap), providing an upper limit for the amount of carbon measured. The specific areas of  
129 overlap that are accounted for in the upper limit case are: AMS and CIMS particle phase (for  
130 which the AMS measurement is used), formic acid in the PTR-MS and CIMS (for which CIMS  
131 measurement is used), and sesquiterpenes in the TAG and PTR-MS (for which the PTR-MS  
132 measurement is used). The corresponding lower limits in carbon concentrations, in which  
133 maximal overlap is assumed, are shown in Figure S4. Results are not dramatically different than  
134 those from the upper-limit calculation: the total loading is reduced by  $4.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (15%), with the  
135 largest differences being the loadings of S/IVOCs (since they are measured by the most  
136 instruments). In almost all cases these such upper-limit/lower-limit differences (including in  
137 individual “bins” in Figs. 1 and S4) are smaller than measurement uncertainty (error bars). Thus  
138 the two cases agree to within error of the measurements, and details of the treatment of  
139 instrument overlap does not substantially affect conclusions about the overall amounts,  
140 properties, or reactivity of the measured organic species.



**Figure S4:** Lower-limit campaign-average carbon distributions, assuming maximum overlap among measurements from different instruments (so bars are overlain rather than stacked, as in the upper-limit case in Figure 1). Panel numbers give the corresponding upper-limit figure/panel number in the main text.

141

#### 142 **Scaling of OH reactivity by emissions.**

143 OH reactivity was not measured in 2011, but were measured the previous year as part of the  
 144 BEACHON-ROCS campaign<sup>8</sup>. In order to extrapolate the 2010 OH reactivity to 2011, the  
 145 differences in estimated emissions of the species primarily responsible for OH reactivity were  
 146 used. These differences in emissions are themselves calculated from differences in the known  
 147 temperature and PAR and the equations given in Kaser et al.<sup>9</sup> for temperature- and light-  
 148 dependent emissions of BVOCs. MBO and monoterpenes are the two largest sources of OH  
 149 reactivity (59% of the total), and are the only significant sources of OH reactivity for which  
 150 emissions measurements are available. Therefore, the year-to-year difference in emissions for  
 151 these species only were used to calculate the scaling factor for OH reactivity. The 2011 OH  
 152 reactivities for MBO and monoterpenes were normalized by their 2011 emissions, and the  
 153 resulting factors used to calculate the 2010 MBO and monoterpene OH reactivities. These were  
 154 then scaled proportionally such that their sum was equal to the 2010 measured value for total OH

155 reactivity ( $10 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). These scaled OH reactivities were then multiplied by the 2010-11 fractional  
 156 changes in emissions to estimate the 2011 total reactivity ( $8 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Although emissions of  
 157 monoterpenes and other BVOCs increased from 2010 to 2011, the relative contribution of MBO  
 158 to the OH reactivity is so much larger that its decrease from 2010 to 2011 dominates the overall  
 159 change.

160

161 **SOA formation estimates.**

162 For all known/studied SOA precursors, the SOA yields, OM/OC values, and carbon yields (equal  
 163 to SOA yield divided by OM/OC), along with references for each, are given in Table S2. To  
 164 ensure proper comparison with the oxidation flow reactor (OFR) measurements, these include  
 165 only measurements from experiments in which  $\text{RO}_2$  chemistry is dominated by reaction with  
 166  $\text{HO}_2$ , with no influence from aqueous-phase uptake, etc. Relative error for carbon yields is  
 167 estimated to be 30%. For unknown/unmeasured species (unspeciated (O)VOCs and all I/SVOCs  
 168 except sesquiterpenes), yields are estimated from the  $c^*$  of the precursor species, using the  
 169 general approach of Donahue et al.<sup>10</sup> The functional form used is shown in Figure S5; error in  
 170 this approach is likely high, conservatively assumed to be a factor of three (indicated by shaded  
 171 grey region in Figure S5). Note that the resulting range includes the strict upper limit of a 100%  
 172 carbon yield for low-volatility species.

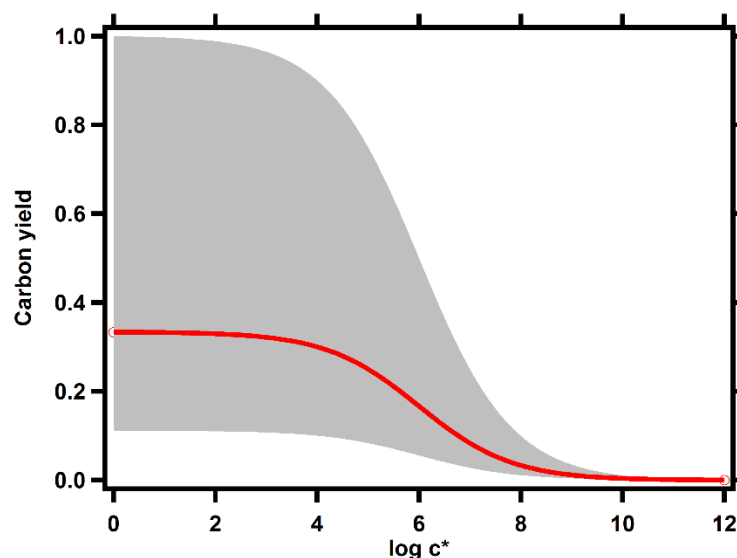
173 **Table S2.** Aerosol yields used in this study.

SOA precursor	Aerosol yield ( $c_{\text{OA}} = 1.8$ )	OM/OC	Aerosol carbon yield
Sesquiterpenes	13.2% <sup>a</sup>	1.47 <sup>d</sup>	9.0%
Methacrolein	2.4% <sup>b</sup>	1.87 <sup>b</sup>	1.3%
Isoprene	3.2% <sup>a</sup>	1.91 <sup>b</sup>	1.7%
Toluene	13.8% <sup>a</sup>	2.0 <sup>b</sup>	6.9%
Xylene	21.6% <sup>c</sup>	2.1 <sup>b</sup>	10.3%
Monoterpenes	12.5% <sup>a</sup>	1.7 <sup>b</sup>	7.4%

174 <sup>a</sup>Palm et al 2016,<sup>11</sup> <sup>b</sup>Chhabra et al 2011,<sup>12</sup> <sup>c</sup>Loza et al 2012,<sup>13</sup> <sup>d</sup>Tasoglou et al 2015.<sup>14</sup>

175

176



**Figure S5:** Functional form used to estimate aerosol yields for unspiciated compounds similar to the method used in Donahue et al.<sup>10</sup> Grey shaded region indicates range of a factor of three in estimated yields.

177

### 178 SOA formation measurement.

179 A detailed description of the OFR measurements during this field study can be found in Palm et  
180 al.<sup>11</sup>; a brief summary is presented here. *In situ* SOA formation was measured by the AMS and a  
181 scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS) after OH oxidation of ambient air inside the OFR. The  
182 maximum amount of SOA formation was observed after 0.4–1.5 equivalent days of OH aging  
183 (assuming a typical ambient OH concentration of  $1.5 \times 10^6 \text{ molec m}^{-3}$ )<sup>15</sup>. On average in this  
184 photochemical age range,  $0.93 \mu\text{gC m}^{-3}$  SOA ( $2.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  total SOA) was formed from the  
185 precursors in ambient air. This number includes a correction to account for the fate of  
186 condensable organic vapors in the OFR (referred to as the “LVOC fate correction” in Palm et al.,  
187 2016)<sup>11</sup>. When LVOCs are formed by oxidation in the OFR, they can have several fates,  
188 including condensing on existing particles to form SOA, condensing on the internal OFR walls

189 (similar to chamber wall losses)<sup>16</sup>, being oxidized again prior to condensation leading to volatile  
190 fragmentation products, or exiting the OFR to condense rapidly on sampling line walls. The  
191 latter three fates do not result in SOA formation. In the atmosphere, the dominant fate of such  
192 condensable gases is condensation onto aerosols to form SOA<sup>17-19</sup>. This correction is thus  
193 applied in order to relate the OFR measurements to what would occur in the atmosphere. This  
194 model was verified using sulfate aerosol formation from SO<sub>2</sub> during this study<sup>11</sup>. The average  
195 overall correction factor is 1.8x.

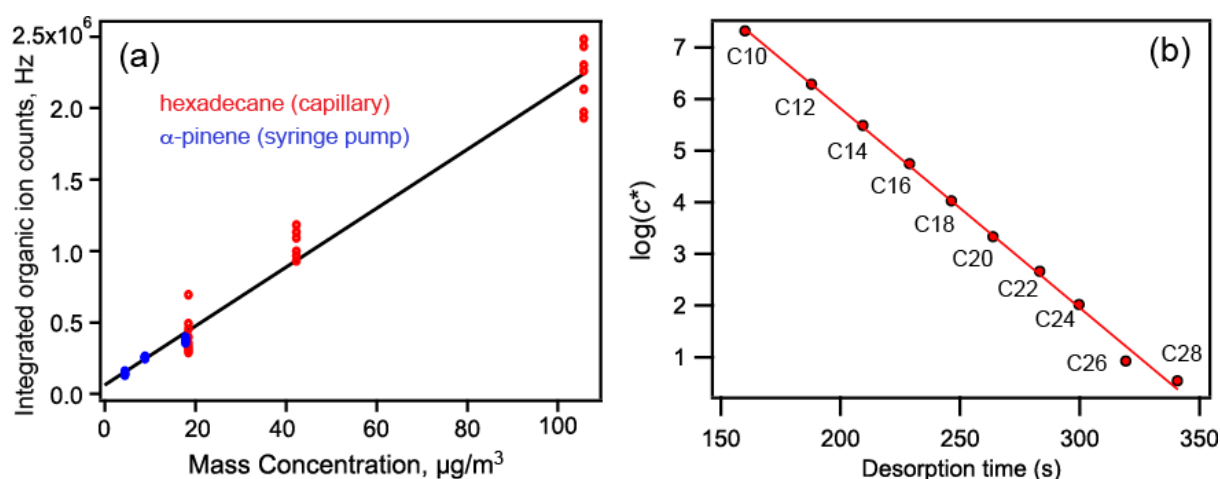
196

### 197 **TD-EIMS calibration and analysis.**

198 The specific instrumental calibration and analysis procedures used in the BEACHON-RoMBAS  
199 field campaign are discussed in detail elsewhere for all instruments<sup>11,20-22</sup> with the exception of  
200 the TD-EIMS. The TD-EIMS instrument is described by Cross et al.<sup>23</sup>, but a set of new  
201 calibration and data-processing routines were developed for the present campaign; these are  
202 discussed in this section.

203 *Mass concentration calibration.* To compute the total mass of S/IVOCs in a given mass  
204 spectrum, the sum of organic ion counts for a given data point was computed, and an analogous  
205 sum computed for a measurement of background signal (zero air). For unit-mass resolution data,  
206 organic signal was separated from inorganic signal by applying a filter to the data to exclude ions  
207 at mass-to-charge ratios that are primarily inorganic (e.g.,  $m/z$  28, 32, 40, 44). The background  
208 signal was subtracted from the sample signal, and the difference in ion counts was multiplied by  
209 an empirically measured proportionality constant to convert to total mass. This empirical  
210 measurement was performed by vaporizing a compound (*n*-hexadecane or  $\alpha$ -pinene) at a known  
211 rate into the sample gas stream using a syringe pump or diffusion cell. For the syringe pump, the

212 flow rate and infusion rate were both known, permitting an accurate calculation of gas phase  
213 concentration. The diffusion cell was a capillary coated with a given calibrant; pressure was then  
214 applied to one end of the capillary, resulting in a controlled flow of saturated vapor, at the rate  
215 measured using a flow-meter, or calculated using Poiseuille's equation. Calibrations were  
216 performed using at least three gas phase concentrations to check for linearity. A typical  
217 calibration plot taken during the campaign is shown in Figure S6a. Laboratory calibrations have  
218 found the observed linearity to extend to even lower concentrations.



219 **Figure S6:** Sample TD-EIMS calibration runs. Panel a: calibration for determining organic mass from  
220 organic ion counts. Known concentrations were introduced into the instrument using a diffusion cell for  
221 hexadecane and a syringe pump for  $\alpha$ -pinene. The calibration constant (slope) incorporates the collection  
222 and transmission efficiency, which is the same for both molecules for the sampling parameters used  
223 during calibration. Panel b: Volatility calibration, relating  $c^*$  to desorption times, using a standard  $n$ -  
224 alkane mixture. The known saturation vapor concentrations of these molecules can be interpolated with a  
225 linear fit, yielding an estimate of volatility for material desorbing at any time/temperature.  
226  
227

228 *Volatility calibration.* To compute S/IVOC mass as a function of volatility, individual  
229 desorptions are split into bins computed using measured a standard mixture of  $n$ -alkanes (C<sub>10</sub>-  
230 C<sub>28</sub>) with known saturation vapor pressures. The relationship between desorption time and  
231  $\log(c^*)$ , shown in Fig. S6b, is linear; because the temperature ramp is itself linear, equivalent bin  
232 boundaries can be drawn in both temperature and time space. Conversion to  $c^*$  bins involves

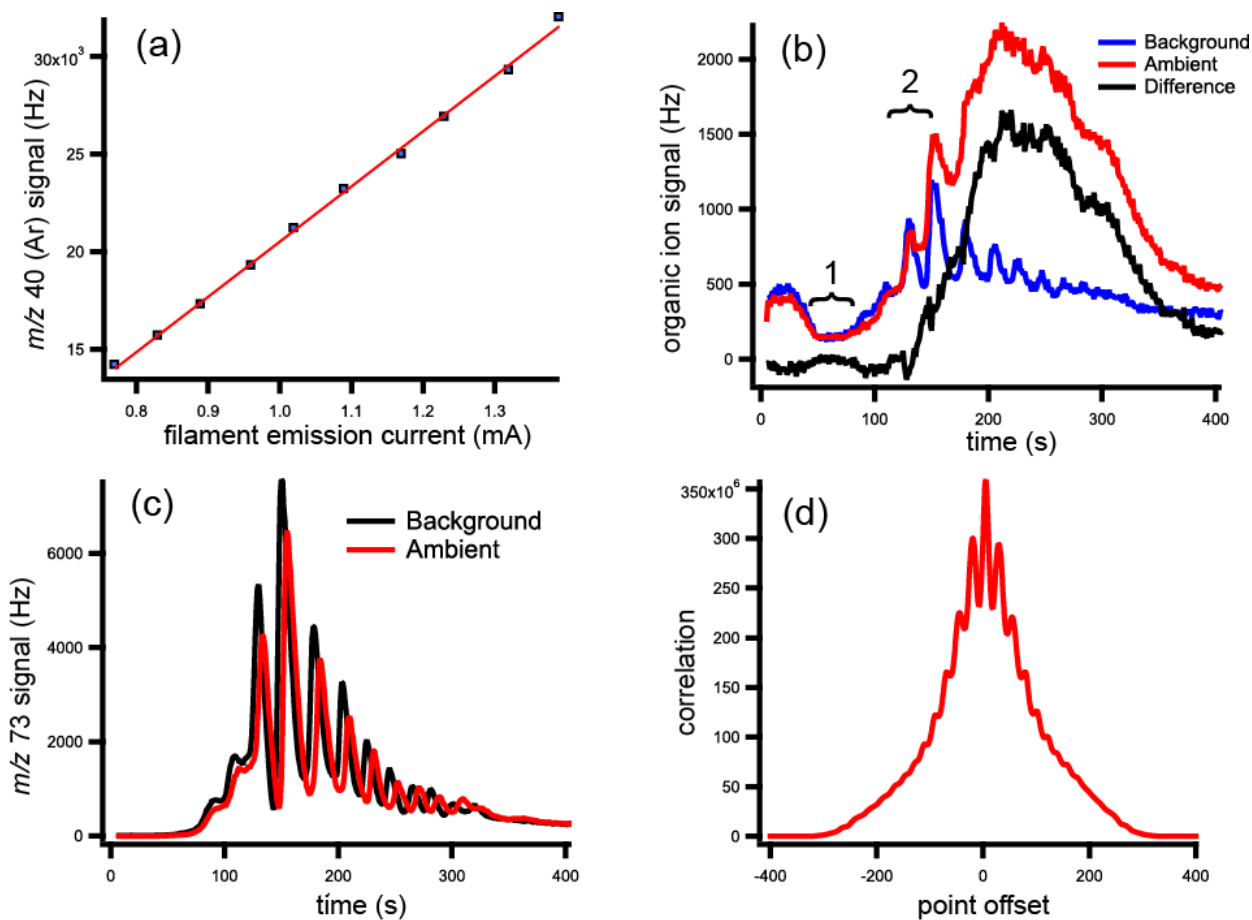


233 integrating between the boundaries and subtracting an appropriate background (discussed further  
234 below). The measured desorption times/temperatures are likely a function of the sorption  
235 characteristics as well as the vapor pressure of a given molecule, and therefore the reported  $c^*$   
236 values are in alkane-equivalent volatilities.

237 *Processing routines for high-resolution mass spectrometric data.* The data analysis  
238 procedures for the TD-EIMS use the Squirrel and Pika modules  
239 ([http://cires1.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/wiki/index.php/ToF-AMS\\_Analysis\\_Software](http://cires1.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/wiki/index.php/ToF-AMS_Analysis_Software)).  
240 Separation of organic and inorganic ions is greatly simplified, since individual ions can be  
241 quantified within a single nominal mass (e.g.  $\text{CO}_2^+$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}^+$  at  $m/z = 44$ ). Since the  
242 composition of individual ions is known, elemental analysis is possible by summing the total  
243 signal for carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen for all ions, a procedure that has been  
244 described in the literature<sup>24</sup>. The correction factors described in Aiken et al. (accounting for  
245 systematic undercounting of oxygen due to electronegativity) have not been measured for the  
246 TD-EIMS. The TD-EIMS is also unable to quantify  $\text{CO}_2^+$  due to significant gas-phase  
247 interference. Together, these two effects likely lead to an estimate of the O/C that may be biased  
248 somewhat low. Elemental analysis is performed using the same approach for summation and  
249 background subtraction as the determination of organic mass, described below.

250 *Background subtraction.* Background subtraction procedures involve the subtraction of  
251 an appropriate thermogram for an S/IVOC-free air sample (zero air). Blank thermograms are  
252 taken at least twice a day to check for zero-drift and the possibility of accumulation of low-  
253 volatility material. At least two blank desorption runs are taken in succession in order to assess  
254 variability. Blank subtraction was performed in time space during BEACHON-RoMBAS.  
255 Several additional steps are necessary to maximize the quality of the resulting data, shown in

256 Figure S7. The first is that the tungsten filament is subject to rapid erosion, significantly  
257 increasing emission current over the course of the day, and thereby affecting the ionization  
258 efficiency (number of ions produced per microgram of sample). To counteract this, a calibration  
259 for signal as a function of emission current was performed (Figure S7a), and the fit function used  
260 to normalize all data points to an emission current of 1.0 mA (matched to the value used for the  
261 mass calibration). The second is that the signal intensity fluctuates from desorption to desorption  
262 independently of the emission current and independently of the total organic loading. The initial  
263 part of each desorption is entirely due to air ions, and should be essentially identical in all  
264 desorptions. Sample desorptions are therefore normalized such that the air signal matches that of  
265 the blank desorption, shown in Figure S7b, region 1. These corrections are on the order of 5%.  
266 The last issue is that due to irregularities in the triggering and recording of mass spectra, the  
267 desorptions have a small random offset of up to 5 seconds. The offset is difficult to separate from  
268 real differences in the desorption, and can lead to large changes in the apparent volatility  
269 distribution if not accounted for, especially around sharp peaks (see Figure S7b, region 2). We  
270 use siloxanes as an internal standard due to their narrow peak shape and consistent profile,  
271 allowing for the correction for the time offset (Figure S7c). By correlating  $m/z$  73 (dominated by  
272 siloxanes) for the sample and blank desorptions, and applying a peak finding routine to the  
273 resulting profile (Figure S7d), the offset can be determined and applied to the blank run,  
274 allowing for an accurate background subtraction (black curve in Figure S7b). Differences  
275 between signal in different background measurements (summed across all volatility bins) was on  
276 the order of  $0.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , so are unlikely to affect averaged results.



277

278 **Figure S7:** Details of TD-EIMS background subtraction. Panel a: differences in filament emission current  
 279 over time are compensated for using the argon signal calibration shown. Panel b: a measured background  
 280 desorption (blue curve) is normalized to a part of the ambient desorption (red curve) containing mostly  
 281 inorganic ions (region 1). Panel c: Differences in run-to-run desorption times are found using siloxanes  
 282 ( $m/z$  73) as an internal standard. Panel d: the convolution of  $m/z$  73 between background and ambient  
 283 desorptions gives the time offset necessary to optimize background subtraction (black curve in panel b).

284

285

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