Size-dependent Molecular Characteristics and Possible Sources of Organic Aerosols at a Coastal New Particle Formation Hotspot of East China

Huan Yu¹, Yibei Wan¹, Xiangpeng Huang², Xinlei Ge², Bin Jiang³, Yuhong Liao³, Qian Yan¹, Qin Shuai¹, and Hang Xiao⁴

¹China University of Geosciences ²Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology ³Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, CAS ⁴Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences

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Abstract

We investigated size-dependent molecular characteristics of coastal organic aerosols from $< 0.032 \ \mu\text{m}$ to 3.2 μm at a new particle formation (NPF) hotspot of east China by using Fourier transform-ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometry (FT-ICR-MS). Strong connection between C₂₀₋₃₃H_hO_o/C_{18,30}H_hO_oN_n compounds in particles smaller than 0.10 μm and the VOCs emitted from local intertidal macroalgae suggests that the organic compounds (OC) in ultrafine particles are formed probably via the gas-phase oxidation of long-chain fatty aldehydes or acids, followed by particle-phase accretion reactions or imine formation during the coastal NPF events. In 0.18-0.56 μm particles, dominant C₈-C₂₀ CHO, CHON, CHOS and CHONS compounds (maximum: C₁₀ or C₁₅) are suggested most likely to be terpene oxidation products. Highly oxygenated compounds with 0.6 [?] H/C [?] 1.5 and 0.67 [?] O/C [?] 1.2 reside mostly in 0.18-0.56 μm particles, accounting for 5% of the OC formulas in this size range. Iodinated OC are subsequently formed via electrophilic substitution of non-iodinated OC by iodine cations in iodine-rich particles. CHN and Cl/Br-containing OC account altogether for only 1-4% of total OC intensity. As a result of the above compound distribution, the intensity weighted unsaturation degree and carbon oxidation state of OC increase with particle size. The distribution of aromatic compounds (i.e. Aromaticity Index > 0.5) is bimodal with peaks in 0.056-0.18 μm and 1.0-3.2 μm . In addition, our study observed higher unsaturation degree, carbon oxidation state and aromaticity of OC in coastal PM_{2.5} than inland urban PM_{2.5} in the same region.

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7 8	¹ School of Environmental Studies, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, 430074, China						
9 10	² School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, Nanjing, 210044, China						
11 12	³ Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510640, China						
13 14	⁴ School of Material Science and Chemistry, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, 430074, China						
15 16	⁵ Ningbo Urban Environment Observation and Research Station, Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xiamen 361021, China						
17 18	Corresponding author: H. Yu (<u>yuhuan@cug.edu.cn</u>)						
19 20	Key Points:						
21 22	• Size-dependent organic molecular characteristics was revealed by FT-ICR-MS measurement at a coastal new particle formation hotspot.						
23 24	• SPME-GC-MS analysis linked coastal ultrafine organic aerosols with VOC emission from local intertidal macroalge.						
25 26 27	• We conducted a systematical comparison of PM _{2.5} chemical composition between the coastal NPF hotspot and a typical inland urban site.						

28 Abstract

We investigated size-dependent molecular characteristics of coastal organic 29 aerosols from $< 0.032 \mu m$ to 3.2 μm at a new particle formation (NPF) hotspot of east 30 China by using Fourier transform-ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometry (FT-ICR-31 MS). Strong connection between C20-33HhOo/C18,30HhOoNn compounds in particles 32 smaller than 0.10 µm and the VOCs emitted from local intertidal macroalgae suggests 33 34 that the organic compounds (OC) in ultrafine particles are formed probably via the gas-35 phase oxidation of long-chain fatty aldehydes or acids, followed by particle-phase accretion reactions or imine formation during the coastal NPF events. In 0.18-0.56 µm 36 particles, dominant C8-C20 CHO, CHON, CHOS and CHONS compounds (maximum: 37 C_{10} or C_{15}) are suggested most likely to be terpene oxidation products. Highly 38 oxygenated compounds with $0.6 \le H/C \le 1.5$ and $0.67 \le O/C \le 1.2$ reside mostly in 39 0.18-0.56 µm particles, accounting for 5% of the OC formulas in this size range. 40 41 Iodinated OC are subsequently formed via electrophilic substitution of non-iodinated OC by iodine cations in iodine-rich particles. CHN and Cl/Br-containing OC account 42 altogether for only 1-4% of total OC intensity. As a result of the above compound 43 distribution, the intensity weighted unsaturation degree and carbon oxidation state of 44 OC increase with particle size. The distribution of aromatic compounds (i.e. 45 Aromaticity Index > 0.5) is bimodal with peaks in 0.056-0.18 μ m and 1.0-3.2 μ m. In 46 47 addition, our study observed higher unsaturation degree, carbon oxidation state and aromaticity of OC in coastal PM2.5 than inland urban PM2.5 in the same region. 48

49 **1 Introduction**

Organic aerosols (OA) contributes 20%-90% of submicron aerosol mass in the 50 troposphere (Jimenez et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2007). The OA in coastal atmosphere 51 is expected to be more diverse than continental OA due to the contributions from both 52 continental and marine sources. Unlike the deeper understanding of continental OA, the 53 OA from marine sources is less investigated and thus poorly quantified in aerosol-54 cloud-climate models. The seawater contains a complex mixture of dissolved organic 55 matter (DOM) including amino acids, proteins, fatty acids, carbohydrates and humic-56 type components etc. (Garrett, 1967; Hansell & Carlson, 2014; Liss & Duce, 1997). 57 They are exported to marine aerosols primarily via the formation of sea spray aerosol 58 (SSA) (Lapina et al., 2011; Prather et al., 2013). Direct marine volatile organic 59 compound (VOC) emissions include biological vapor emissions from marine biota 60 (Gašparović et al., 1998; Žutić et al., 1981) and abiotic production of functionalized 61 VOCs from sea surface microlayer (Brüggemann et al., 2018; Carpenter & Nightingale, 62 2015; Chiu et al., 2016). Subsequent photochemistry of these VOCs may lead to marine 63 and coastal secondary OA (SOA) formation. 64

Halogen (Cl, Br and I) is a group of non-negligible atmospheric constituents in
both gas and aerosol phases. Their sources include sea salt aerosols (Finlayson-Pitts,
2003; Rossi, 2003), halogenated methane emission from the ocean (Gribble, 1992;
Mosher et al., 1993), biomass burning (Rahn et al., 2006) and fossil fuel combustion
(Maenhaut et al., 1993; Xu et al., 2005). There have been many studies of halogen

chemistry in the stratosphere and the troposphere, however, mainly focusing on their
atmospheric sources, cycle mechanisms, the reactivity of halogen atoms towards VOC
and ozone depletion mechanism (Farman et al., 1985; Peter, 1996; Riva et al., 2015;
Tham et al., 2016; Thornton et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2017a; Wennberg et al., 1994).
So far, Cl/Br/I-containing organic compounds (OC) in aerosol particles are seldom
reported (Wang & Ruiz, 2017; Wang et al., 2020), altought they may play an important
role in regulating the recycling of active halogens from particles to gas phase.

77 Traditionally, Gas Chromatography or Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS or LC-MS) were widely used in the offline molecular 78 characterization of OA. Electron ionization instruments like Aerosol Mass 79 Spectrometry (SP-AMS) and Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM) have also 80 been widely used to provide fragment ion information of both inorganic and organic 81 components in complex aerosol samples (Canagaratna et al., 2007; DeCarlo et al., 82 83 2006). Soft ionization techniques like Chemical Ionization (CI), Electrospray Ionization (ESI) and EESI (Extractive ESI) interfaced with High Resolution (HR)-MS such as 84 Time-of-Flight (ToF)-MS, Orbitrap-MS, Fourier transform-ion cyclotron resonance 85 MS (FT-ICR-MS) (Laskin et al., 2018) make it possible to examine molecular ions of 86 OA, either online or offline, in laboratory experiments (Kundu et al., 2012; Putman et 87 al., 2012), field campaigns (Lin et al., 2012; Mazzoleni et al., 2012; O'Brien et al., 2014; 88 Wang et al., 2016; Willoughby et al., 2016) or specific emission sources (Cui et al., 89 2019; Fleming et al., 2017; Laskin et al., 2009). One of the recent hot topics arising 90 from the application of online CI-APi-TOF is the investigation of highly oxygenated 91 organic molecules (HOM), which are believed to play an important role in SOA 92 formation and new particle formation (NPF) (Bianchi et al., 2019). 93

Herein, we reported size-resolved molecular characteristics of OA collected at 94 a coastal NPF hotspot in east China coastline. We presented a comprehensive analysis 95 of elemental composition, carbon number distribution, oxidation degree, unsaturation 96 degree, aromaticity and the content of highly oxygenated compounds (HOC) of organic 97 elemental groups with a high size resolution. VOC emission from local coastal 98 macroalgae was measured with Solid Phase Micro-Extraction (SPME)-GC-MS 99 technique to assist in interpreting the sources and formation mechanism of OA. 100 Chemical composition of bulk aerosol particles was also compared between coastal and 101 urban PM_{2.5} in the region to obtain a better understanding of OA in the context of severe 102 PM pollution in China. 103

- 104 2 Materials and Methods
- 105 2.1 Sample collection

Size-resolved coastal aerosol particles were collected at Xiangshan gulf (29°29'
N, 121°46' E) of east China, a coastal NPF hotspot where iodine-induced NPF (I-NPF)
occurred regularly from spring to summer (Yu et al., 2019). The sampling site is about
40 and 200 m away from at high tide and low tide, respectively. 13-stage nano MicroOrifice Uniform Deposit Impactor (nano-MOUDI, MSP Corp, Shoreview, MN) was
used with 50% aerodynamic cutoff sizes 18, 10, 5.6, 3.2, 1.8, 1.0, 0.56, 0.32, 0.18, 0.10,

0.056, 0.032, 0.018, and 0.010 µm. Pre-baked Aluminum foil filters were used as 112 sampling substrate to reduce the adsorption of gaseous species. In order to reduce 113 potential particle-bounce artifacts, two nano-MOUDI were placed side by side to collect 114 0.010-0.10 µm particles (on stages 10-13; other stages were silicon greased) and 0.10-115 18 µm particles (on stages 1-9) separately. The sampling lasted continuously for 72 116 hours from 9-11 May 2018 when NPF occurred daily, so that particle chemical 117 composition of the NPF events can be obtained from offline analyses. Afterwards one 118 set of field blank samples was collected alike, but with a high efficiency particulate air 119 (HEPA) filter being placed at the gas inlet of nano-MOUDI. Particle number size 120 distribution during the period is shown in Figure S1. Detailed information of PNSD 121 measurement could be found in Yu et al. (2019). 122

A 23-hour PM_{2.5} sample was collected onto 90 mm diameter pre-baked quartz 123 fiber filter in another I-NPF day from 27-28 April 2018 at the same site. To make 124 125 comparison, a 23-hour PM_{2.5} sample was collected simultaneously at an inland urban site (32°20' N, 118°71' E) in Nanjing, a megacity in the same region (Yangtze River 126 Delta region). The urban sampling site is located at the third floor (15m above the 127 ground level) of an academic building on the Nanjing University of Information Science 128 and Technology (NUIST) campus. PM2.5 samples were collected using a median-129 volume aerosol sampler (TH-150C, Wuhan Tianhong Ltd., China) at a flow rate of 100 130 131 L min⁻¹. Field blank filters were collected at both sites. All samples were stored at -20°C in a refrigerator until chemical analysis. 132

133 2.2 ESI-FT-ICR-MS

Half of a MOUDI filter or one quarter of a PM2.5 filter was extracted by 134 ultrasonication in an ice-water bath for 40 min with 10 mL mixed solvent (1:1 v/v water 135 and methanol; LCMS grade) and was filtered through a 0.2 µm PTFE membrane 136 syringe filter. The extract was dried using a rotary evaporator below 40 °C and 137 redissolved in 0.5 mL water. Sample solution was directly infused into an ESI-FT-ICR-138 MS (SolariX XR 9.4T instrument, Bruker Daltonics, Coventry, UK) at a flow rate of 139 180 μL h⁻¹. ESI source conditions were as follows: nebulizer gas pressure 1 bar; dry gas 140 pressure 4 bar and its temperature 200 °C; capillary voltage 4.5 kV. Ion accumulation 141 time in argon-filled hexapole collision pool with 1.5 V of direct current voltage and 142 1400 Vp-p of radio frequency (RF) amplitude was 0.05 s, followed by transporting ions 143 through a hexapole ion guide to the ICR cell for 0.7 ms. 4 M words of data were 144 145 recorded over the mass range of 150-1000 for each run. A total of 128 scans were collected to enhance signal/noise (S/N) ratio and dynamic range. The OC analysis was 146 conducted only for aerosol particles smaller than 3.2 µm. The extracts of 10-18 nm 147 sample and 18-32 nm sample were combined to enhance the sensitivity of OC detection 148 in small particle sizes. Field blank samples were treated following the same procedure. 149

A resolving power (m/ Δ m_{50%}) 550,000 at m/z 300 of the FT-ICR-MS allows the determination of possible formulas for singly charged molecular ions. Only m/z values between 150-1000 Th that satisfies S/N > 10 were considered. Formula assignment fulfils the following criteria (Fuller et al., 2012; Mazzoleni et al., 2012): molecular

formulas are restricted to C1-50H1-100X0-3N0-5O1-50S0-2 in ESI- mode and C1-50H1-100X0-154 $_{3N_{0}-50}O_{0}$ in ESI+ mode (X=Cl/Br/I); mass tolerance is ± 0.5 ppm. H/C, O/C, and N/C 155 ratios are limited to 0.3-3, 0-3 and 0-1.3 in the ESI+ mode. H/C, O/C, N/C and S/C 156 ratios are limited to 0.3-3, 0-3, 0-0.5 and 0-0.2 in the ESI- mode. Isotopologue-157 containing formulas are removed from the formula lists. A formula with m/z > 500 is 158 not reported if it did not belong to any CH₂ homologous series. S, Cl and Br containing 159 formulas are assigned only if their isotope patterns match with the theoretical ones. 160 Formula calculation was done following the same procedure for the field blank samples. 161 All formulas found in the field blank samples, regardless of peak intensity, were 162 excluded from the formula lists of real samples. 163

To evaluate the degree of unsaturation and oxidation state of a molecular 164 formula C_cH_hX_xN_nO_oS_s, double bond equivalent (DBE) and carbon oxidation state 165 (OSC) are calculated as follows (Kroll et al., 2011; Mazzoleni et al., 2012; Minerath & 166 167 Elrod, 2009):

$$DBE = 1 + 0.5 \times (2c - h + n - x)$$
(1)

169

$$OSC = 2 \times \frac{o}{c} - \frac{h}{c} \tag{2}$$

DBE was required to be non-negative. To evaluate the degree of unsaturation 170 or oxidation state of a group of molecular formulas in a sample, relative intensity (RI) 171 weighted (DBE/C)_w and OSC_w are calculated as: 172

173
$$(DBE/C)_{w} = \sum RI_{i} \times (DBE/C)_{i} / \sum RI_{i}$$
(3)

174
$$OSC_w = \sum RI_i \times OSC_i / \sum RI_i$$

where RI_i , $(DBE/C)_i$ and OSC_i are the RI, DBE/C and OSC of an individual 175 molecular formula i in a sample. 176

(4)

Aromaticity index (AI) of a molecular formula is calculated as 177

178
$$AI = \frac{DBE_{AI}}{C_{AI}} = \frac{1+c-o-s-0.5h}{c-o-s-n}$$
 (5)

179

For the formulas detected in the ESI- mode, half of the oxygen (O) atoms are assumed to be associated with σ -bond. Equation (5) is then modified to AI = $\frac{DBE_{AI}}{C_{AI}}$ = 180

181
$$\frac{1+c-0.5o-s-0.5h}{c-0.5o-s-n}$$
. If DBE_{AI} ≤ 0 or C_{AI} ≤ 0 , then AI = 0. Threshold value of AI ≥ 0.5

provides unambiguous minimum criteria for the presence of aromatic structure in a 182 molecule (Koch & Dittmar, 2006; Yassine et al., 2014). 183

We define highly oxygenated compound (HOC) as a compound with 0.6 < H/C184 $\leq 1.5, 0.67 \leq O/C \leq 1.2$ according to its position in a Van Krevelen diagram (Ning et al., 185 2019; Wozniak et al., 2008; Wu et al., 2019). Apparently, HOC is not equivalent to 186 HOMs, which is defined by Bianchi et al. (2019) as high O/C molecules formed via gas 187 phase autoxidation reaction. Nevertheless, HOC can be used as a proxy to show the 188 intensity and size distribution of HOMs in aerosol particles. 189

190 2.3 SP-AMS

Half of each quartz fiber filter was extracted, dried and redissolved in 20 mL 191 water, as above, for PM2.5 bulk chemical composition analysis by using a Soot Particle-192 AMS (Aerodyne Research Inc., Massachusetts, USA). The aliquot of PM_{2.5} sample 193 solution was atomized by an aerosol atomizer (TSI Model 3076) and dehumidified to 194 RH less than 10% through a diffusion dryer filled with silica-gel before entering the 195 SP-AMS. The aerosols in the sample flow were thermally vaporized at 600 °C using a 196 197 resistively heated tungsten vaporizer. The resulting vapor was ionized in an EI source (70ev). The SP-AMS was switched between a high sensitive V-mode and a high mass 198 resolution W-mode. The m/z range was ~ 1000 for V-mode and ~ 450 for W-mode, 199 respectively. In this study, we used only W-mode data for characterization of non-200 refractory components in the PM_{2.5} samples. The relative ionization efficiencies (RIE) 201 of sulfate, nitrate, organics, ammonium and chloride were 1.2, 1.1, 1.4, 3.8 and 1.0, 202 203 respectively. Field blank samples were treated alike. Detailed procedures for offline analysis of PM chemical composition using SP-AMS can be found in Ge et al. (2017) 204 and Sun et al. (2010). 205

206 2.4 SPME-GC-MS

Fresh macroalgae (Undaria pinnatifida) was collected from intertidal zone at 207 Xiangshan gulf and stored at -20 °C until the SPME-GC-MS analysis of the VOCs 208 emitted by the algae. About 0.5 g algae was capped in a 20 mL headspace vial, where 209 the emitted VOCs were extracted onto 100 µm polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) coated 210 211 fiber (Supelco, Bellefonte, PA, USA) at 60 °C and an agitation speed of 500 rpm for 40 min equilibration time on an automatic injection platform (MPS, Gerstel, Germany). 212 The fiber was then removed from the headspace vial and inserted into the injection port 213 of a GC-MS apparatus (GCMS-QP2010 Plus, Shimadzu). The compounds on the fiber 214 were desorbed for 2 min at 280 °C in the injection port operated in splitless mode. 215 Carrier gas was He with a flow rate of 1.5 mL min⁻¹. The analytes were separated in a 216 Rtx-5MS capillary column (30 m, 0.25 mm i.d. 0.25 µm film of 5% diphenyl-217 polysiloxane and 95% dimethyl-polysiloxane). Oven temperature program was held at 218 50 °C for 2 min, ramped to 230 °C at the rate of 20 °C min⁻¹, ramped to 280 °C at 2.5 219 °C min⁻¹ and held for 2 min. MS conditions were as follows: EI 70 eV, interface 220 temperature 240 °C, ion source 220 °C, solvent delay time 1 min. MS detector was 221 operated in full scan mode, by scanning a mass range of m/z 10-450. The most probable 222 223 identities of the analytes were obtained based on the best matching score by comparing with the reference mass spectra in the NIST library. 224 225

226 **3 Results and Discussion**

227 3.1 PM_{2.5} bulk chemical composition



228

Figure 1. Mass contributions of organics (Org), sulfate (SO₄²⁻), nitrate (NO₃⁻), ammonium (NH₄⁺) and chloride (Cl⁻) in coastal PM_{2.5} (left) and urban PM_{2.5} (right).

Figure 1 shows a comparison of PM_{2.5} bulk chemical composition between the 231 coastal site and the urban site measured by offline SP-AMS. Coastal PM_{2.5} contains a 232 higher OA and SO₄²⁻ mass fraction than urban PM_{2.5}, probably due to stronger primary 233 emission or high conversion ratio of precursor vapors (like SO₂, dimethyl sulfide and 234 other VOCs) at the coast site (Andreae, 1990; Kettle et al., 1999). On the contrary, 235 urban PM_{2.5} contains more NO₃⁻ (43% vs. 24%) and Cl⁻ (7% vs. 0%) than coastal PM_{2.5}. 236 237 Nitrate is the end product of NO_x photochemistry that is expected to be more active in urban atmosphere (Liao et al., 2004). The higher mass fraction of Cl⁻ in urban PM_{2.5} is 238 probably a result of primary Cl⁻ emission from fossil fuel combustion. The absence of 239 Cl⁻ in coastal PM_{2.5} indicates that Cl⁻ is probably abundant in coarse-mode sea salt 240 aerosols (SSA), but not in fine particles. 241

242 3.2 Molecular formula assignments

The formulas detected as deprotonated species in the ESI- mode are grouped 243 into 7 subgroups based on their elemental composition: CHO⁻, CHON⁻, CHOS⁻, 244 CHONS⁻, iodine containing OC (I-OC⁻), chloride containing OC (Cl-OC⁻) and bromine 245 containing OC (Br-OC⁻). The subgroups in the ESI+ mode include 6 subgroups (CHO⁺, 246 247 CHON⁺, CHN⁺, I-OC⁺, Cl-OC⁺ and Br-OC⁺) detected as protonated species and 2 subgroups (CHO+Na and CHON+Na) detected as sodium adducts. We show the 248 formula numbers of each OC subgroup in Table 1, as well as their relative contributions 249 to total OC intensity in the PM2.5 samples and size-resolved coastal samples in Figure 250 2b and 2c. 251

Size-dependent OC formula number and total intensity show a bimodal 252 distribution in coastal aerosols (Figure 2a). Surprisingly high formula number and total 253 intensity in < 56 nm particles are obviously attributed to intense NPF events during the 254 sampling period. Another peak of OC number and total intensity is in 0.32-0.56 µm 255 particles, after which OC decreases rapidly with particle size. Organic composition of 256 coastal aerosols is highly size-dependent and high similarities are only seen in 257 neighboring size bins (e.g., $0.18-0.32 \mu m$ and $0.32-0.56 \mu m$, < 32 nm and 32-56 nm). 258 This can be seen in Table S1 showing the repeatability of molecular formulas in any 259 two of nine size bins. One exception is the OC in 0.56-1.0 µm particles. 260

	< 0.032	0.032-0.056	0.056-0.10	0.10-0.18	0.18-0.32	0.32-0.56	0.56-1.0	1.0-1.8	1.8-3.2	Coastal	Urban
	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm	PM _{2.5}	PM _{2.5}
ESI- mode											
CHO ⁻	518	561	146	370	505	473	241	37	18	937	1023
CHON ⁻	929	620	216	271	329	344	106	23	25	754	2176
CHOS ⁻	162	208	59	211	230	369	110	38	22	657	628
CHONS ⁻	126	107	34	93	79	118	21	11	10	217	555
I-OC ⁻	89	93	22	56	17	15	12	8	17	625	36
Cl-OC ⁻	24	5	7	7	0	0	0	1	0	2	35
Br-OC ⁻	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Total	1850	1594	484	1008	1160	1320	490	118	92	3195	4453
	ESI+ mode										
CHO^+	43	101	20	109	239	338	92	3	10	611	316
CHO+Na	165	284	310	181	118	21	67	103	96	523	1116
CHON^+	437	467	225	372	717	713	178	36	27	2162	1544
CHON+Na	782	681	635	210	118	25	48	58	36	445	1315
CHN^+	15	14	17	18	3	2	3	2	5	17	24
$I-OC^+$	48	127	47	77	27	15	26	48	58	682	21
$Cl-OC^+$	1	3	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	8	11
$Br-OC^+$	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Total	1335	1542	1196	920	1150	1104	402	247	229	4055	3828
Summary											
Non-halogen OC	2629	2549	1535	1640	2003	2163	804	307	248	5052	6847
I-OC	124	200	68	123	39	28	34	53	68	1203	56
Cl-OC	25	8	9	9	2	0	0	2	1	10	46
Br-OC	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	4

Table 1. Formula numbers of subgroups for size-resolved coastal aerosols, coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5} in both ESI+ and ESI- modes.

263 36-87% of the formulas in 0.56-1.0 μ m particles are also present in < 0.56 μ m particles. The results 264 imply that the OC in 0.56-1.0 μ m particles, to some extent, originated from smaller particles.

Among 6953 formulas in coastal PM_{2.5} and 6271 formulas in urban PM_{2.5}, nearly half of 265 them (3526) were commonly found in both samples. Coastal PM_{2.5} sample and size-resolved 266 MOUDI samples were both collected during I-NPF days at the same site and are thus expected to 267 have similar composition. However, only 3009 formulas are commonly present in PM2.5 (6953 268 formulas in total) and size-resolved samples (6013 formulas in total). More specifically, 83-89% 269 of OC formulas in 0.18-1.0 µm particles are also present in coastal PM2.5, but only 43-57 % of OC 270 formulas in $< 0.1 \,\mu\text{m}$ particles and 35-38% in $> 1.0 \,\mu\text{m}$ particles are present in coastal PM_{2.5} (Table 271 S1). This suggests that the $PM_{2.5}$ sampling offers an approach to assess the chemical composition 272 of only submicron particles (0.18-1.0 μ m), not ultrafine (< 0.1 μ m) or supermicron (> 1.0 μ m) 273 particles. 274





276

Figure 2. (a) The number (grey bars) and total intensity (blue and red lines for ESI- and ESI+ modes, respectively) of OC in size-resolved coastal aerosols. (b) Intensity fraction of 7 subgroups in ESI- mode. (c) Intensity fraction of 8 subgroups in ESI+ mode.

280

281 3.3 Size-dependent molecular characteristics and sources of OC subgroups

Size-dependent carbon number distribution, OSC_w, (DBE/C)_w and aromaticity are shown in Figure 3 for all OC subgroups in size-resolved coastal aerosols. The comparison of these parameters between coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5} is shown in Figure 4.

285 3.3.1 CHO compounds

CHO subgroup is the second largest contributor of OC in coastal ultrafine particles. In 286 general, the fraction of CHO in total OC intensity increases with particle size (Figure 2). The 287 intensity distribution of CHO⁻ compounds is bimodal in terms of particle size (Figure 3a), being 288 dominated by $C_{20,24,28,32}$ and $C_{21,25,29,33}$ in < 56 nm particles and C_{10-20} in 0.18-0.56 µm particles. 289 The intensity distribution of CHO⁺ compounds is unimodal dominated by C_{12-18} species in 0.18-290 0.56 µm particles (Figure 3a). The (DBE/C)_w and OSC_w values of CHO compounds are higher in 291 submicron particles than those in ultrafine particles (Figure 3b). The percentage of aromatic 292 compounds (i.e. AI > 0.5) in CHO subgroup is below 10% and increases with particle size. 293





304

Figure 3. (a) Carbon number distributions (circles) and total intensity (gray lines) for each OC subgroup in size-resolved coastal aerosols. Circle size is proportional to the relative intensities of molecular formulas on a logarithmic scale. Note that the circle sizes of CHN⁺, I-OC⁻, I-OC⁺, Cl-OC⁺ and Cl-OC⁻ subgroups are not scaled proportionally with other subgroups, due to their

relatively small intensities. (b) Intensity weighted OSC, DBE/C and the percentage of aromatic compounds with AI > 0.5 for subgroups and all OC formulas.

To assess the sources of CHO compounds at the coastal NPF hotspot, we compare the OC 311 formulas in ultrafine, submicron and supermicron size ranges with those in ozonolysis products of 312 biogenic terpenes (terpene SOA), cooking OA (COA) and biomass burning OA (BBOA) reported 313 in the literature (Table 2). It shows that 15%-27%, 48-62% and 7-16% of total CHO intensity in 314 ultrafine, submicron and supermicron particles can be attributed to identical molecular formulas 315 detected in ozonolysis products of isoprene (Nguyen et al., 2010), α-pinene (Putman et al., 2012), 316 d-limonene (Kundu et al., 2012) and β -caryophyllene (Kundu et al., 2017). Out of 69 CHO 317 formulas detected in food cooking emission by Reyes-Villegas et al. (2018), 9, 33 and 5 formulas 318 are observed in the ultrafine, submicron and supermicron particles collected at the coastal site, 319 respectively. Among them are typical COA tracer linoleic acid (C₁₈H₃₂O₂), vernolic acid 320 (C₁₈H₃₂O₃) and arachidonic acid (C₂₀H₃₂O₂) (He et al., 2010). Fleming et al. (2017) reported 28 321 CHO formulas in aerosol particles collected from brushwood burning smoke. Among them, 5, 12 322 and 3 formulas are observed in the ultrafine, submicron and supermicron particles at the coastal 323 site, respectively, including typical biomass burning phenolic tracers such as C14H16O4 and 324 C₁₄H₁₆O₃. In summary, terpene SOA is the major contributor to the CHO compounds in submicron 325 particles, and its contribution is less important in ultrafine and supermicron particles. 326





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Figure 4. (a) Carbon number distribution for OC subgroups in urban PM_{2.5} and coastal PM_{2.5}. (b) Comparison of (DBE/C)_w, OSC_w and the percentage of aromatic compounds between urban PM_{2.5} and coastal PM_{2.5}.

332 Interestingly, a total of 26 $C_{20,24,28,32}$ HbO3-8 and $C_{21,25,29,33}$ HbO4-8 formulas with DBE =1, which are not found in the terpene SOA, COA or BBOA above, make up approximately 32% of 333 the total intensity of CHO⁻ formulas in ultrafine particles. The most prominent formulas among 334 335 them are of 4 or 6 O atoms. The interval of 4 carbon number of these formulas suggests they may be organic accretion reaction products of C₂₀ and C₄ precursors in particle phase. The VOC 336 emission measurement from local macroalgae supports this hypothesis. Total ion chromatogram 337 produced by SPME-GC-MS analysis is shown in Figure 5. The 15 most notable peaks are C4 338 butyraldehyde and butane-2,3-diol, C_{8.9} fatty alcohols, C_{9.11,12,20,21} fatty aldehydes and C_{14,18,20,22} 339 fatty acids. The formation of the most abundant CHO compounds C_{20.24,28,32}H_hO_{4,6} in the ultrafine 340 341 particles is thus proposed from the reaction of the most abundant C₂₀ icosanal and C₄ precursors (butyraldehyde and butane-2,3-diol). A three-step Scheme I is shown in Figure 6: first, the 342

autoxidation of icosanal and subsequent reaction with RO₂ produce C₂₀ hydroxyaldehydes. Second, low-volatility C₂₀ hydroxyaldehydes condense onto nano-particles to form particle-phase C₂₀ hydroxyaldehydes, their hydrolysis products, as well as C₂₄ α , β -unsaturated aldehydes via the aldol condensation with butyraldehyde. Third, C_{28,32} acetal or hemiacetal formation between all above aldehyde products and butane-2,3-diol.

348



349

Figure 5. Total ion chromatogram of macroalgae (*Undaria pinnatifida*) emission: 1.
Butyraldehyde, 2. Butane-2,3-diol, 3. Amyl vinyl carbinol, 4. 2-Nonenal, 5. 2-Nonen-1-ol, 6.
Undecanal, 7. Dodecanal, 8. Icosanal, 9. Henicosanal, 10. Tetradecanoic acid, 11. Petroselinic
acid, 12. Stearic acid, 13. Linolenic acid, 14. Eicosapentaenoic acid, 15. Docosahexaenoic acid.

The end products of Scheme I are the eight most abundant C_{20,24,28,32} polyhydroxy alcohols 354 with one C=C or C=O bond and 4 or 6 O atoms. The formation of other similar products with 3, 355 5, 7 and 8 O atoms are also possible if the number of added O atoms is varying in the gas phase 356 oxidation intermediates. C_{21,25,29,33} H_hO₄₋₈ can be formed similarly from their precursor C₂₁ 357 henicosanal. In our previous study, we have confirmed that the NPF events at this coastal NPF 358 hotspot were induced by iodine species (Yu et al., 2019). In this work, we further establish the 359 relationship between the OC in ultrafine particles and the VOCs emitted from local intertidal 360 macroalgae. These VOCs are thus most likely emitted mutually with iodine or iodomethanes from 361 the macroalgae, although iodine or iodomethanes were not observed by the SPME-GC-MS 362 technique. 363

364 3.3.2 CHON compounds

CHON is the most abundant subgroup in ultrafine particles, accounting for 53 % and 80% 365 of total OC intensity in the ESI- and ESI+ modes respectively (Figure 2). The fraction of CHON 366 in total OC intensity decreases with particle size. CHON- and CHON+Na are characterized by 367 significant peaks around $C_{18,30}$, and $C_{20,28}$ in < 32 nm particles, respectively. CHON⁺ is dominated 368 by C₁₀₋₂₀ peaks (maximum: C₁₅) in 0.18-0.56 µm particles (Figure 3a). The (DBE/C)_w and OSC_w 369 of CHON compounds increase generally with particle size. The percentage of aromatic compounds 370 exhibits a bimodal size distribution with peaks in 0.056-0.18 μ m (~10%) and 1.0-3.2 μ m (~30%) 371 (Figure 3b). 372

373

Table 2. *Number (n) and carbon number distribution of identical OC formulas detected both in*

376 size-resolved coastal aerosols and potential sources. Also shown is the percentage of total OC 377 intensity that can be attributed to those identical molecular formulas. The last column shows the

······································	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	J F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F						
Potential source	Ultrafine	submicron	Supermicron	MS technique				
		CHO						
Isoprene ozonolysis ^a	n=139 (15%),	n=408 (48%),	n=31 (12%),	LTQ-Orbitrap MS				
	C _{8,15,20}	$C_{9,15,20}$	$C_{11,16,21}$	_				
α-pinene ozonolysis ^D	n=136 (15%),	n=354 (44%),	n=21 (7%),					
	C _{9,15,20,23}	C _{9,15,20,24}	C _{8,15,19}					
Limonene ozonolysis ^e	n=145 (16%),	n=361 (45%),	n=20 (7%),	FT-ICRMS				
0 1 11	$C_{9,15,20}$	$C_{9,15,19}$	$C_{8,15,19}$	11101000				
p-caryponyllene	n=235(27%),	n=497 (62%),	n=43 (16%),					
OZONOIYSIS ⁻	$C_{9,14,19,24}$	$C_{9,15,19,24}$	$C_{11, 16}$	EICAEDO TOE				
Food cooking emission	$n=9, C_{8,9,12,16}$	$n=33, C_{6,8-14,16-}$	$n=5, C_{9,11,12,17,21}$	FIGAERO-10F-				
Druchwood hurning	18,20,21	n = 12 C	n-2 C	LTO Orbitron MS				
emission ^f	$n=3, C_{12,13,18}$	$n=12, C_{10-14,18}$	$n=5, C_{10-13}$	LIQ-Orbitrap MS				
emission		СНС	N					
a-ninene ozonolysis	n-8 C ₁₀	$\frac{1}{n-28}$ C _{5.10}	$\frac{n-3}{n-3}$ C ₁₀	FIGAERO TOE-				
$(NO)^{g}$	$n=0, C_{10}$	$11-20, C_{7-10}$	$n=3, C_{10}$	CIMS				
$(1 \otimes_X)$	10.0	01.0	1.0					
Brushwood burning	$n=10, C_{10-14}$	$n=21, C_{7, 10-15}$	$n=1, C_{13}$	LIQ-Orbitrap MS				
emission		Constant - Community						
Nine monoterpenes SOA ^h	$n=6, C_{9-10}$	$n=19, C_{7-10}$	$n=9, C_{7-10}$					
B-carvophyllene SOA	n-9 Course	n-14 Course	n-1 Co	UPLC/ESI-TOF				
p-earyophynene SOM	n-9, C9,14-16	II-1-7, C9,14-16	n=1, C9	MS				
		CHN						
Druchwood huming	m_2 C	-2 C	ND					
brushwood burning	$n=5, C_{13-14}$	$n=5, C_{13}$	ND					
Crop biomaga burning	n-2 C	n-2 C	ND	LTQ-Orbitrap MS				
emission ^j	$11-2, C_{13}$	$11-5, C_{13}$	ND	- •				
chilission	Formulas tent	Formulas tentatively attributed to algae emission						
	CapatananaHiO		Con as an an H					
	$C_{20,24,28,32}\Pi_hO_0$, $C_{21,25,20,22}H_hO_0$	$C_{20,24,28,32}\Pi_hO_0$, $C_{21,25,20,22}H_hO_0$	DRF-1					
The reaction of C_{10} fatty	DBF=1	DRF=1	n=2(7%)					
acid and C _{20 21} fatty	n=26(32%)	n=7(0.4%)		SPME-GC-MS				
aldehvdes in macroalgae	$C_{18,30}H_bO_0N_r$	$C_{1830}H_bO_0N_r$	$C_{18,30}H_bO_0N_r$					
emission	DBE=1-4:	DBE=1-4:	DBE=1-4:					
	n=78(36%)	n=22 (6%)	n=3(8%)					

378 *MS techniques used to detect the OC formulas from potential sources.*

Note. a. Nguyen et al. (2010), b.Putman et al. (2012), c. Kundu et al. (2012), d. Kundu et al. (2017)
e. Reyes-Villegas et al. (2018), f. Fleming et al. (2017), g. Lee et al. (2016), h.Surratt et al. (2008),
i. Chan et al. (2010), i. Wang et al. (2017b)

i. Chan et al. (2010), j. Wang et al. (2017b).

382

CHON compounds in urban PM_{2.5} contain more carbon atoms than those in coastal PM_{2.5} (Figure 4a). The most abundant C number subclasses of CHON⁻, CHON⁺ and CHON+Na formulas are C₁₅\C₁₅\C₁₉ and C₁₀\C₁₅\C₁₅ in urban and coastal PM_{2.5}, respectively. The (DBE/C)_w, OSC_w and the percentage of aromatic compounds in urban PM_{2.5} are lower than those in coastal PM_{2.5}, which are consistent with CHO compounds (Figure 4b).

Nitrogen atoms in CHON compounds could exist as either oxidized form (-NO₂ or -ONO₂) or reduced form (e.g. amine and imine). The average O/N ratios of CHON formulas in sizeresolved aerosols are shown in Figure S2. No matter in ESI+ or ESI- mode, CHON formulas in the submicron particles have higher average O/N ratios (2.3-5.7) than ultrafine particles (3.2-6.8)

and supermicron particles (2.4-5.3). This implies there are more amine or imine-containing CHON 392 compounds in the ultrafine and supermicron particles than in the submicron particles. 78 393 $C_{18,30}H_hO_0N_n$ formulas with DBE=1-4 contribute 36% of the total intensity of CHON⁻ formulas in 394 ultrafine particles. C_{18,30}H_hO_oN_n are also the most abundant formulas among all OC formulas 395 detected in the coastal aerosols (Figure 3a). Among them, at least 47 formulas should contain at 396 least one amine or imine group, because their O atom numbers or DBE values are not large enough 397 to allow the assignment of -NO₂ for all N atoms. On the other hand, we note that there is no N-398 containing compound in the VOCs emitted from the macroalgae sample (Figure 5). This leads to 399 the conclusion that the reduced-N atoms in $C_{18,30}H_hO_oN_n$ compounds must be from atmospheric 400 reactions. 401

The most plausible formation mechanism of $C_{18,30}H_hO_0N_n$ with DBE=1-4 is proposed to 402 stem from linolenic acid (the highest abundant organic acid in the algae emission), ammonia and 403 C₁₂ fatty aldehyde in a 3-step Scheme II (Figure 6): first, OH and O₂ addition to C=C double bonds 404 of linolenic acid and subsequent reaction with RO_2 form oxygenated C_{18} fatty acids containing 405 hydroxyl or carbonyl group. Second, those low-volatility C₁₈ products then condense onto aerosol 406 particles and C₁₈H_hO₀N_n compounds are formed via imine formation reactions with NH₃ or 407 ammonolysis. Third, C₁₈ imine products react with another carbonyl-containing C₁₂ fatty aldehyde 408 to form C₃₀H_hO₀N_n. It should be noted that the products in Scheme II include merely some of the 409 most abundant formulas detected in the ultrafine particles. Other C₁₈ and C₃₀ products with 3-8 O 410 atoms are possible, given the unsaturation degree of C_{18} fatty acid precursors and the extent of 411 oxygen addition in the gas phase are varying. In addition, C_{20,28}H_hO₀N_n compounds detected in the 412 ESI+ mode might be formed similarly via imine formation reactions between NH₃ and the 413 carbonyl-containing C_{20,28}H_hO₀ products formed in Scheme I. 414

As shown in Table 2, 33 CHON formulas are commonly found in field and α -pinene 415 chamber experiments by Lee et al. (2016). They are supposed to be organic nitrate products 416 initiated by nitrate radical (NO₃) or by O₃ or OH in the presence of NO_x. Among them, we find 28 417 418 C7-10 compounds in submicron particles, but only 8 and 3 C10 compounds in ultrafine and supermicron particles, respectively. Fleming et al. (2017) reported 150 CHON formulas in aerosol 419 particles collected from brushwood burning smokes. Among them, 10, 21 and 1 formulas are 420 observed in the ultrafine, submicron and supermicron particles at our coastal site, respectively. 421 422 These results indicate that being compared to ultrafine aerosol particles, the CHON compounds in submicron particles are largely attributed to terpene SOA products in the high NOx condition or 423 424 biomass burning smokes.





Figure 6. Scheme I: formation mechanism of $C_{20,24,28,32}H_hO_o$ (DBE=1) species from icosanal emission; Scheme II: formation mechanism of $C_{18,30}H_hO_oN_n$ (DBE=1-4) species from linolenic acid emission. Formulas in red were detected by FT-ICR-MS.

→ OH (CH₂)7

OH OH C₁₈H₃₆O₈

OH OH OH

433 3.3.3 S-containing compounds (CHOS and CHONS)

The total intensity of CHOS formulas is 2.6 times on average that of CHONS formulas in 434 size-resolved coastal aerosols. The size distribution of S-containing compounds is unimodal 435 dominated by C₈₋₁₈ species (maximum: C₁₀) in 0.18-0.56 µm particles (Figure 3a). More than 90% 436 of CHOS or CHONS formulas in size-resolved aerosol particles have O/S ratios greater than 4. 437 50%, 83% and 57% of CHONS compounds have O/S ratios greater than 7 in ultrafine, submicron 438 and supermicron particles, respectively, implying the existence of nitrooxy-organosulfates. In 439 general, the (DBE/C)_w and OSC_w of S-containing compounds increase with particle size. Similar 440 to CHON, the percentage of aromatic compounds in CHOS and CHONS subgroups exhibits a 441 bimodal size distribution with peaks in 0.056-0.10 µm and 1.0-3.2 µm (Figure 3b). 442

S-containing compounds accounted for 33% and 28% of total OC intensity (ESI- mode, Figure 2b) in coastal and urban PM_{2.5}, respectively. The most abundant C number subclass of Scontaining compounds are C₁₀ in coastal PM_{2.5}, while carbon number shift more to C₁₅ in urban PM_{2.5} (Figure 4a). (DBE/C)_w, OSC_w and the percentage of aromatic compounds in S-containing compounds in urban PM_{2.5} are again lower than those in coastal PM_{2.5} (Figure 4b).

Surratt et al. (2008) and Chan et al. (2010) conducted a series of photooxidation 448 experiments on 9 monoterpenes and β -caryophyllene in the presence of acidified sulfate seed 449 aerosols, respectively (Table 2). They identified 36 CHOS and 16 CHONS formulas in the 450 products (Chan et al., 2010; Surratt et al., 2008). Among them, 14, 32 and 9 formulas are observed 451 in our coastal ultrafine, submicron and supermicron particles, respectively. 35 and 34 of them are 452 observed in coastal PM2.5 and urban PM2.5, respectively, including two most abundant compounds 453 $C_{10}H_{17}NO_{10}S$ and $C_{10}H_{17}NO_{9}S$. This suggests that S-containing compounds in our sites were 454 probably formed via the reactions of CHO and CHON compounds with sulfate in the aerosol 455 particles. 456

457 3.3.4 CHN compounds

A total of 42 CHN formulas are observed in size-resolved coastal aerosols, accounted for 458 less than 4% of the total OC intensity in each size bin. CHN formulas are dominated by C_{13-20} 459 species in ultrafine particles (Figure 3a), among which C₁₉H₂₃N₃, C₁₅H₁₃N₃ and C₁₈H₂₀N₆ are the 460 most abundant formulas. 17 and 24 CHN formulas accounted for less than 0.5% of the total OC 461 intensity in coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5}, respectively. The most abundant formulas in coastal 462 PM_{2.5} are C₂₀H_{11,13}N₇ and C₂₉H₂₉N₃, while the most abundant one in urban PM_{2.5} is C₂₇H_{25,27,29}N₃. 463 All these high-intensity formulas had AI values > 0.5, indicating the possible presence of benzene 464 rings or heterocyclic amines in their molecular structures (Song et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2010). 465

466 (DBE/C)_w and OSC_w of CHN formulas show relatively small variation with particle size 467 (Figure 3b), except for 1.0-1.8 μ m particles. On the other hand, a strong variation with particle size 468 is seen for the percentage of aromatic compounds. Among all the subgroups in the coastal aerosols, 469 CHN formulas possess relatively high (DBE/C)_w, low OSC_w and high percentage of aromatic 470 compounds. These three parameters in urban PM_{2.5} are again lower than those in coastal PM_{2.5} 471 (Figure 4b).

472 CHN compounds, also known as alkaloids, have been proved as the main composition of
473 BBOA by the previous studies (Laskin et al., 2009; Lin et al., 2012; Magda et al., 2012; Samy et
474 al., 2013). Fleming et al. (2017) and Wang et al. (2017b) identified 101 and 74 CHN formulas,
475 respectively, in the burning emissions of brushwood, straw, corn and wheat. However, only 5 of

- them ($C_{13}H_{10,24}N_2$, $C_{14}H_{18}N$ and $C_{13}H_{11,19}N_3$) are found in ultrafine and submicron particles at the coastal site. Another five formulas $C_{10}H_{14}N_2$, $C_{11,15}H_{20}N_2$, $C_{14}H_{18,20}N_2$ and $C_{10}H_{14}N_2$ are found in the PM_{2.5} samples. This indicates that the burning emissions of these biomass materials play a
- 479 minor role in the formation of OC in coastal and urban aerosol particles.
- 480 3.3.5 Halogen-containing organic compounds
- There are 1216 and 106 halogen-containing formulas in coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5}, respectively. The vast difference of halogen-containing formula numbers between coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5} is due to the different numbers of I-OC formulas.

I-OC There are 450 I-OC formulas in total detected in size-resolved coastal aerosols, less 484 than 1203 I-OC formulas in coastal PM_{2.5}, indicating positive artifacts are formed via chemical 485 reactions between iodine and OC in coastal PM_{2.5}. The size distribution of I-OC is bimodal (Figure 486 3a). Those in ultrafine particles include (1) nine $C_{18}H_hO_0N_nI$ formulas with DBE = 1-4, (2) 487 C₉H₁₆NO₃I and its C₁₀-C₁₃ homologues, (2) diiodo acetic acid C₂H₂O₂I₂, diiodomethane CH₂I₂, 488 (3) iodinated C₂₁ carbonyls C₂₁H₃₉OI and C₂₁H₄₁OI, (4) iodinated C_{21,25,27,29} alcohols or ethers with 489 490 DBE = 0, (5) iodinated C₁₀ and C₁₅ terpene and sesquiterpene oxidation products and (6) iodinated organic sulfate C₈H₁₇N₂SO₈I and C₂₁H₄₃SO₄I. The I-OC in supermicron particles are dominated 491 by C₄₋₁₀ species, the most abundant of which are iodinated C₄-C₆ CHO and CHON compounds 492 with DBE = 3-6. Therefore, I-OC is most likely formed in iodine-rich particles via electrophilic 493 substitution of aromatic hydrogen or α -H of carbonyl and carboxyl groups in non-iodine 494 compounds by iodine cations (probably from HOI or I₂). 495

The 1203 I-OC formulas in coastal $PM_{2.5}$ accounted for 14% and 21% of total OC intensity in the ESI- and ESI+ modes, respectively. On the contrary, 56 I-OC formulas in urban $PM_{2.5}$ accounted for only 0.2% and 0.1% of total OC intensity in the two ESI modes. These results indicate that the coastal site is an emission hotspot of aerosol particles rich in organic iodine compounds.

Cl/Br-OC 10 and 46 Cl-OC formulas are detected in coastal PM2.5 and urban PM2.5, 501 respectively, account for less than 0.5% of the total OC intensity in both samples. More Cl-OC 502 formulas in urban is consistent with the higher Cl⁻ content observed by using SP-AMS. These Cl 503 species arose probably from the combustion of fossil fuels or biomass in the urban areas. A total 504 of 50 Cl-OC formulas (S/N: 10.7-1164) is observed in the size-resolved coastal samples. 25 Cl-505 OC formulas are detected in $< 0.032 \,\mu m$ particles, among which C₁₈H₃₆ClNO₂ is the most abundant 506 one. The number of Cl-OC formulas decreases with increasing particle size. Wang et al. (2020) 507 studied chlorine-initiated oxidation of alpha-pinene in the presence of NOx in chamber 508 experiments. C₁₀H₁₅ClO₅₋₆ detected in urban PM_{2.5} fits well to the reaction mechanism proposed 509 by Wang et al. (2020). 510

Virtually no prior studies have reported Br-OC in aerosol particles. Only 3, 3 and 4 Br-OC formulas are found in the MOUDI samples, coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5}, respectively. The total intensity of Br-OC is one order of magnitude lower than that of Cl-OC. The 10 Br-OC formulas (S/N: 10.7-27.4), as well as the Cl-OC with S/N over 100, are listed in Table S2. Br-OC can be either from primary emission in aerosol particles or the reaction of reactive bromine species towards organic compounds in the atmosphere. It thus seems that both pathways are not effective for the formation of Br-OC.

518 3.4 Highly Oxygenated Compounds (HOC)



Figure 7. (a) Carbon number distribution of HOC formulas (circles) and the number percentage of HOC formulas in OC formulas of a sample. (b) The number percentage (green lines), intensity percentage (black lines) and carbon number distributions (red and blue circles) of HOC formulas in a subgroup of coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5} sample.

⁵²⁴ HOC are dominated by C₇₋₁₃ species (maximum: C₁₀) in submicron particles from 0.1 μ m ⁵²⁵ to 0.56 μ m (Figure 7a). 69, 170 and 34 formulas are assigned to HOC in ultrafine, submicron and ⁵²⁶ supermicron particles, respectively, contributing < 2%, 5% and 5-8% of the formulas in the three ⁵²⁷ size ranges. Our data lead to the conclusion that organic compounds in aged submicron particles ⁵²⁸ are more oxygenated than those in fresh ultrafine particles.

⁵²⁹ 742 and 502 HOC formulas are observed in coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5}, contributing ⁵³⁰ 8% and 11% of total formulas in the two samples, respectively (Figure 7a). The total intensity of ⁵³¹ HOC in coastal PM_{2.5} is higher than urban PM_{2.5} (Figure 7b). This indicates a higher oxidation ⁵³² degree of OC in coastal PM_{2.5} than urban PM_{2.5}. In terms of elemental subgroup, 20% to 37% of ⁵³³ CHO⁻, CHON⁻, CHOS⁻ and CHO+Na formulas are HOC in coastal PM_{2.5}, while only 10% of ⁵³⁴ CHON⁻ formulas are HOC in urban PM_{2.5}. HOC in coastal PM_{2.5} and urban PM_{2.5} have similar ⁵³⁵ carbon number distribution that is dominated by C₈₋₁₅ species (maximum: C₁₀).

536 4 Conclusions

519

537 We conducted a comprehensive analysis of elemental composition, unsaturation degree, carbon oxidation state and aromaticity of coastal OA with a high size resolution. A systematical 538 comparison of bulk PM_{2.5} chemical composition between a coastal NPF hotspot and a typical 539 inland urban site was shown in the context of severe PM pollution in the Yangtze River Delta 540 region of China. Our analysis shows that the molecular composition of organic aerosols is highly 541 size-dependent at the coastal NPF hotspot, including the OC in ultrafine particles generated in NPF 542 543 events, secondary products of terpene oxidation in aged submicron particles and the OC in sea salt particles. The analysis based on size-resolving sampling technique and ultrahigh resolution MS 544 helps to understand the molecular characteristics and sources of organic aerosols. On the contrary, 545 PM_{2.5} sampling is subject to both the loss of ultrafine particle components due to lower collection 546 efficiency and positive artifacts formed via post-sampling reactions among aerosol components 547 (e.g. I-OC). 548

phase oxidation of $C_{20,21}$ fatty aldehydes and C_{18} fatty acids, followed by organic accretion reaction

with small aldehyde/alcohol in aerosol particles. The presence of abundant reduced-N atoms in the

553 OC of this size range suggests the involvement of ammonia via imine formation reaction. On the

other hand, CHO, CHON, CHOS and CHONS compounds in 0.18-0.56 μ m submicron particles are dominated by C₈-C₂₀ peaks (maximum: C₁₀ or C₁₅). They can be most likely attributed to

are dominated by C_8 - C_{20} peaks (maximum: C_{10} or C_{15}). They can be most likely attributed to terpene SOA products by comparing with previous chamber experiment studies. Submicron

557 particles also accommodate most of highly oxygenated compounds. Organic iodine compounds

are suggested to form via electrophilic substitution of all above compounds by iodine cations in

iodine-rich particles. In total, CHN and Cl/Br-containing OC only accounted for 1-4% of total OC
 intensity of organic aerosols at this coastal NPF hotspot site.

560 561

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567

Data availability: datasets for this research are available in the in-text data citation reference Yu et al. (2020)

570

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