NAS Strong isoprene emission response to temperature in tundra vegetation

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Biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs)





If so, you have detected a concentration of 400 parts per million (ppm). There's more than 400 ppm of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere. **Small amounts of powerful substances have big effects.**

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BVOCs are found at concentrations
 1.000-1.000.000 times lower (~ppbv-pptv) than CO₂

Biological roles of BVOCs



BVOC climatic implications



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Aerosols in current and future Arctic climate

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Table 1 | Measurement gaps and modelling issues for Arctic processes





Total emission of terpenes (µg m⁻³)

Boreal Forests SCIENCE VOL 312 14 APRIL 2006

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High Natural Aerosol Loading over

Arctic and boreal leaf temperature

Large difference between air and leaf temperature – no leaf cooling like in other biomes



Arctic BVOC emissions



Multiple scale measurements for atmosphere-surface exchange





Season-long Eddy Covariance with PTR-TOF-MS

- Ecosystem-scale flux measurements taking advantage of air turbulence
- High time resolution
- Continuous measurements
- No manipulation of the vegetation or environment





2 tundra sites in Scandinavia







2018 Abisko campaign





Turbulence

 Atmospheric flow is a complex superposition of many different horizontal scales of motion, where the scale

Table 9.1 Scales of horizontal	motion in the atmosphere
--------------------------------	--------------------------

C+...II 2005

		Stuli 2005
Larger than	Scale	Name
20,000 km		Planetary scale
2,000 km		Synoptic scale
200 km	Meso-α)
20 km	Meso-β	Mesoscale
2 km	Meso-γ	J
200 m	Micro-α	Boundary-layer turbulence
20 m	Micro-β	Surface-layer turbulence
2 m	Micro-γ	Inertial subrange turbulence
2 mm	Micro- δ	Fine-scale turbulence
Air molecules	Molecular	Viscous dissipation subrange



- Swirls (eddies) of many sizes that are superimposed and interact nonlinearly to create quasirandom, chaotic motions. Each individual eddy is evanescent and quickly disappears to be replaced by a succession of different eddies.
- But when averaged over many eddies, we can observe persistent patterns and similarities that can be measured and described.

Statistical description of turbulence



Reynolds decomposition

In turbulent flow, vertical flux can be presented as: (*s* is the dry mole fraction of the gas of interest in the air)

Burba 2013

Eddy Covariance

Reynolds decomposition is then used to break terms into means and deviations:

there as: there is the air) $F = \overline{\rho_d ws}$ $F = \overline{(\overline{\rho_d} + \rho'_d)(\overline{w} + w')(\overline{s} + s')}$

Opening the parentheses:

$$F = \overline{(\overline{\rho}_{d}\overline{ws} + \overline{\rho}_{d}\overline{ws'} + \overline{\rho}_{d}w's + \overline{\rho}_{d}w's' + \overline{\rho}_{d}\overline{ws} + \rho_{d}'\overline{ws'} + \rho_{d}'w's + \rho_{d}'w's')}$$

averaged deviation from the average is zero

Equation is simplified:

$$F = (\overline{\rho}_{d} \overline{WS} + \overline{\rho}_{d} \overline{W'S'} + \overline{W}\overline{\rho}_{d}'S' + \overline{S}\overline{\rho}_{d}'W' + \overline{\rho}_{d}'W'S')$$

Now an important assumption is made (for conventional eddy covariance) – air density fluctuations are assumed to be negligible:

$$F = (\overline{\rho_d ws} + \overline{\rho_d w's'} + \overline{w\rho_d's'} + \overline{s\rho_d'w'} + \overline{\rho_d'w's'}) = \overline{\rho_d ws} + \overline{\rho_d w's'}$$

Then another important assumption is made – mean vertical flow is assumed to be negligible for horizontal homogeneous terrain (no divergence/convergence):

Eddy Covariance mathematical principle

$$F \approx \overline{\rho}_{a} \overline{w's'}$$

'Eddy Flux'

Vertical flux can be represented as a covariance of the vertical velocity and concentration of the entity of interest

Air flow in Ecosystem



Burba & Anderson 2010

- Air flow can be imagined as a horizontal flow of numerous rotating eddies
- Each eddy has 3-D components, including a vertical wind component
- The diagram looks chaotic but components can be measured from tower

How does the Eddy Covariance method work?



At a single point on the tower:

Eddy 1 moves parcel of air c_1 down with the speed w_1 , then eddy 2 moves parcel c_2 up with the speed w_2

Each parcel has concentration, temperature, humidity; if we know these and the speed – we know the flux

- The eddy covariance method works by measuring vertical turbulent transport of gas to and from the surface
- With no flux added into the mean flow by the measured area, the eddies move the same number of gas molecules up and down



Mean flow carries gas molecules over the measured area Measured area adds no molecules into the mean flow (= no flux) Eddy motions carry the same number of molecules up and down

- With flux added into the mean flow by the measured area, the eddies move more gas up than down, transporting it from the surface into the atmosphere
- If we know the bias between up and down motions, we know how much was added into the mean flow by the measured area





Longest eddy covariance isoprene flux dataset ever reported for tundra ecosystems 2 full growing seasons

Comparison to single-point MEGAN v2.1 emission model



MEGAN v2.1

- Default isoprene emission factor (1600 μg m⁻² h⁻¹)
- Leaf temperature prescribed to equal the measured vegetation surface (IR radiometer)
- Overall, MEGAN performed reasonably well but with some discrepancies

Temperature sensitivity of isoprene fluxes





Isoprene temperature response algorithm from MEGAN

Temperature sensitivity of isoprene fluxes



Conclusions

- We showed that the strong temperature response –as earlier shown by experimental work with chamber-based methods– holds in the "real" world
- Tundra has the potential to substantially boost its isoprene emissions in response to rising temperatures, at rates that exceed the current Earth System Model predictions.
 - Potential repercussions for the regional atmospheric chemistry and climate in the unpolluted high-latitude environments
 - Models need to account for this temperature response
 - Interaction with warming-induced vegetation composition changes

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