The origin of new particles that can replace those scavenged by precipitation processes etc. in the marine boundary layer has been a focus of research for many years. We have demonstrated for the first time that diurnal processes in the marine boundary layer related to both aerosol formation and transformation can be observed in the dynamic response of the aerosol size distribution. We were able to show that new particle production was negligible in this region and that heterogeneous conversion/formation of sulfate took place on existing aerosol. We also demonstrated that subsidence (as evidence by ozone variability) contributed new nuclei into the boundary layer from aloft and that cloud processing and heterogeneous chemistry "grew" them to larger sizes. This process was shown to be modulated by diurnal photochemistry. We have also developed a thermal DMA system that demonstrated that sea-salt particles from breaking waves extend down to sizes as small as 10 nm and that these particles can be distinguished from other aerosol (e.g. sulfate) based upon their volatility.
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AEROSOL PHYSICOCHEMISTRY AT CHRISTMAS ISLAND: LINKS TO THE OCEANIC SULFUR CYCLE

LONG TERM GOALS

Our intent is to quantify the response of the marine aerosol to specific chemical, physical and dynamic processes in the marine boundary layer. Our focus is on the marine sulfur cycle and includes processes related to the source, transformation and evolution of aerosol physicochemistry with particular interest in sulfate, ammonia and sea-salt. Ultimately we wish to link these processes to better model the cycling of aerosol in the marine boundary layer and the related impacts on the optical properties of the marine aerosol. The instrumentation and approach is designed to do this on short time scales and with instrumentation that could be deployed operationally to provide input to a predictive aerosol optics model.

FULFILLING OUR SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVE

We succeeded in linking the dynamic variability in the aerosol number and mass distributions (eg. diurnal response to photochemistry etc.) to the chemical source terms for sulfate (eg. oceanic DMS) and to physical and chemical processes active in the boundary layer (eg. condensational growth, nucleation, entrainment, precipitation, breaking waves etc.). This was done at Christmas Island because of its location in clean Southern Hemisphere air that is steadily advected over regions of high DMS with little removal from precipitation. Working jointly with Dr. Alan Bandy (Drexel) measuring gas phase sulfur species and Dr. Barry Huebert (UH) doing aerosol chemistry of major ions allowed us to our link our aerosol microphysics to these measurements and to specific aspects of the sulfur-sulfate-aerosol cycle in marine regions.

We have improved our understanding of the coastal sea-salt production process and the production of submicrometer sea-salt. This includes the role of breaking waves to the production of atmospheric nuclei and the impact of coarse and fine sea-salt to EO propagation in the marine boundary layer. This has led to new experiments designed to quantify these observations and provide a predictive capability for the process.
APPROACH

Our approach has been to depend strongly on the integration of techniques that can rapidly assess the physics and chemistry of the aerosol in near-real time.

1) Measure the concentration and volatility of condensation nuclei with diameters above 0.02 µm using a differential mobility analyzer, DMA. These are typically the subclass of atmospheric nuclei that are most exhibit changes in response to nucleation, growth and removal processes.

2) Measure the CN remaining after heating to 300°C. Such refractory particles in the atmosphere are surface derived. These are either soot, sea-salt or dust, and can be dominated by continental contributions. Hence, they are a separate subclass of CN that can vary independently from the total CN. We find the ratio of the heated to unheated CN to be a clear indicator of air mass character that tends to be high for continental and combustion sources but low in cleaner marine air.

3) Measure the ultrafine particles in the size range of 0.02 to 0.003 µm. that are identified by the difference between the TSI 3025 and TSI 3760 CN counts. These particles have a short atmospheric lifetime due to loss by diffusion to existing surfaces (larger aerosol etc.). High concentrations in the atmosphere often indicate in-situ production of new aerosol by homogeneous nucleation.

4) Carry out continuous aethalometer (soot) measurements in order to assess the concentration of soot present in the air mass as an indicator of aerosol from anthropogenic emissions or biomass burning.

5) Measure ozone concentrations as an indicator of the magnitude of photochemical destruction and of entrainment from above the boundary layer.

6) Carry out sun photometer measurements of aerosol optical depth to compare to our in-situ aerosol microphysics and to constrain our models of optical properties.

7) Carry out continuous integrating nephelometer measurements at ambient conditions in order to validate the in-situ aerosol optical properties derived from our microphysical measurements. These include an impactor with a cut at 1.0µm in order to establish the contribution of coarse and fine aerosol to the scattering and backscattering coefficients.

The above measurements provided evaluations of the aerosol properties related to its chemistry, source regions, transformation properties and optical effects. Microphysical data were also used to model EO properties in the MBL and validated by measurements of MBL optical depth.
TASKS COMPLETED OR TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This past year we completed analysis of the Christmas Island data and published a paper on this. This paper focussed upon the diurnal dynamics evident in the DMA size distribution, ozone and condensation nuclei and their relationship to gas to particle conversion in the boundary layer and aerosol evolution. Data was stratified into periods of clean onshore flow and periods when winds were almost parallel to the shoreline and bringing sea-salt aerosol up to our sample tower inlet. The former allowed us to focus on issues related to clean marine sulfate while the latter allowed us to examine new evidence for submicrometer sea-salt production from breaking waves. This information was used and evaluated to provide guidance to a more focussed effort at understanding these processes as part of our current ONR grant (#N00014-96-1-0320).

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

We have demonstrated for the first time that diurnal processes in the marine boundary layer related to both aerosol formation and transformation can be observed in the dynamic response of the aerosol size distribution. We were able to show that new particle production was negligible in this region and that heterogeneous conversion/formation of sulfate took place on existing aerosol. We also demonstrated that subsidence (as evidence by ozone variability) contributed new nuclei into the boundary layer from aloft and that cloud processing and heterogeneous chemistry "grew" them to larger sizes. This process was shown to be modulated by diurnal photochemistry.

We also demonstrated that sea-salt particles from breaking waves extend down to sizes as small as 10 nm and that these particles can be distinguished from other aerosol (eg. sulfate) based upon their volatility.

SIGNIFICANCE

The origin of new particles that can replace those scavenged by precipitation processes etc. in the marine boundary layer has been a focus of research for many years. The notion that new particles were likely to be produced in regions with high DMS emissions has not been easy to demonstrate. Our Christmas Island data supports some of our recent work that suggests that the source of the new particles is actually in the free troposphere and that they replenish the boundary layer through subsidence. Once in the boundary layer they grow by heterogeneous processes that are linked to the sulfur cycle in the boundary layer. This has important implications to our understanding of the global aerosol cycling, the cycling of sulfur species in the boundary layer, the formation and evolution of cloud condensation nuclei and the relationship of aerosol sulfate to particle size and its related impact on optical effects.

The detection of small sea-salt aerosol down to 10 nm from breaking waves indicates that sea-salt number concentrations are probably underestimated by older techniques. These small particles may also form a site for heterogenous formation of other aerosol (eg. sulfate).
PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS

3. Clarke, A.D. Thermal volatility techniques and their application to current problems in atmospheric chemistry, opening speaker - Gordon Conference on Atmospheric Chemistry, R.I., June 1995 (invited)
4. Schulman, D. E., A. D. Clarke, M. Litchy and J. Li, Submicrometer Aerosol: Laboratory and Coastal Measurements from Breaking Waves, Fall AGU 1996

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Invited speaker for opening presentation at Gordon Conference in Atmospheric Chemistry, 1995, Salve Regina, R.I. 6/95

Appointed to National Research Council Panel on the Atmospheric Effects of Aircraft Emissions (PAEAN), 3/95

Given Tenure as Associate Research Professor at University Of Hawaii, 8/95
Aerosol dynamics in the equatorial Pacific Marine boundary layer: Microphysics, diurnal cycles and entrainment

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Abstract. During July-August of 1994 we measured the size-resolved physicochemical properties of aerosol particles at Christmas Island in the equatorial Pacific. In spite of rapid diurnal conversion of dimethylsulfide (DMS) to sulfur dioxide (SO2) we found no evidence for new particle production in the marine boundary layer (MBL) and more than 95% of all particles were consistently larger than 0.02μm diameter, indicating an aged aerosol. The submicrometer aerosol number (size-distribution) was bimodal with peaks near 0.05μm and 0.2μm particle diameter (Da) and had a cloud-processed intermode minimum at about 0.09μm that varied in phase with diurnal changes in ozone concentration. This suggests that the number distribution for condensation nuclei (CN) and cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) was maintained by a quasi-equilibrium between entrainment (estimated to be 0.6 +/−0.2 cm s$^{-1}$) from sources aloft and processes in the MBL. This implies a replenishment timescale for nuclei of about 2 and 4 days for this region. The stability of the distribution and the 0.09 μm cloud processed minima suggests trade wind cumulus supersaturations near 0.35% and updrafts near 1 m s$^{-1}$.

Introduction

Characterizing the response of the marine aerosol size distribution to the production of sulfate from DMS has been an elusive goal of numerous field programs because these particles are an important dynamic reservoir in the atmospheric cycling of species such as sulfur. Aerosol number, size and composition determine their effectiveness as cloud condensation nuclei [Pruppacher and Klett, 1990; Charlson, 1987] and their effect on atmospheric radiative transfer [Charlson et al., 1992]. However, direct evidence for diurnal conversion of DMS to sulfate mass has been difficult to observe because growth processes (e.g. gas to particle conversion) often involve small changes in particle mass compared to other processes. The origin of MBL particle number is also uncertain, although evidence for particle production has been seen under unusual conditions [Covert et al., 1992] or related to pronounced subsidence events [Clarke and Porter 1993; Covert et al, 1995]or in the vicinity of clouds [Hegg et al., 1992; Hoppel et al., 1994]. Even so, models differ regarding the likelihood of nucleation in the MBL, although most models that include pre-existing aerosol surface area find that this suppresses MBL nucleation [Shaw, 1989; Raes and Van Dingenen, 1992]. Alternately, high nuclei concentrations measured in the clean upper troposphere suggest that aerosol formation and evolution aloft may supply the boundary layer with "new" CN and CCN [Clarke, 1993]. This is consistent with models that predict aerosol nucleation to be favored there [Raes and Van Dingenen, 1993] as well as a three year interhemispheric Pacific MBL study [Covert et al., 1995] that found more and smaller nuclei in high pressure (subsidence) regions than in low pressure regions, again consistent with a source of nuclei from aloft. The narrow range of CN concentrations observed in the remote MBL has also been predicted by this mechanism [Raes, 1995]. Even so, the most effective process for producing and sustaining MBL nuclei and their link to the sulfur cycle remains unclear.

Experiment

Christmas Island (CI) is located at 2°N-157°W and south of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone in a region of equatorial upwelling with strong DMS emitted into an easterly flow of clean southern hemisphere air. The stable meteorology of this region and low precipitation with high insolation, provides optimal conditions for evaluating the DMS-aerosol sulfate link. Our cooperative experiment included extensive measurements of major gas phase sulfur species [Bandy et al., this issue] and aerosol chemistry [Huebert et al., this issue] along with our aerosol microphysics data.

A 20m sampling tower was located 10m from the coast on the NE shore of CI. The aerosol was transported from the top of the tower to instruments in 2-4sec. through a 10cm diam. aluminum tube with less than 1% particle loss. Meteorological variables were continuously recorded and profiles were obtained from 4 to 8 radiosonde launches per day. Particle data was obtained from an Ultrame Condensation Nucleus counter (UCN-210; Dp=0.003μm), a condensation nucleus counter (CN-210; Dp=0.015μm), a scanning 17 bin differential mobility analyzer (DMA-210; 0.22-Dp<0.5μm) and an ozone monitor (TCO-Model 49) with a separate teflon line. The DMA was operated near 20% relative humdity (RH) to get distributions of dry aerosol mass.

Fig. 1. Typical DMA dry size distributions. The change between these consecutive morning and afternoon averages reveals the number increase at night in the minima region and the growth out of that region during the day.

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Results

DMA distributions were taken every 20-30 minutes in order to assess the response of the size-distribution to factors controlling the CN and CCN population. Figure 1 shows two typical DMA number distributions revealing the bimodal nature characteristic of aerosol processed by clouds [Hoppel et al., 1994]. The mode at larger diameters reflects aerosol that were activated and grew into cloud droplets of several micrometer diameter while the smaller mode is comprised of unactivated nuclei. The rapid decrease in concentration for smaller sizes near 0.02μm (Fig. 1) is characteristic of an aged aerosol and consistent with other observations in this region [Clarke et al., 1987; Clarke and Porter, 1993; Covert et al., 1995].

The integral DMA number closely tracked those of total CN but were about 10-15% lower due to losses in the DMA [Covert et al., 1992]. The small difference between CN and UCN data confirmed that particles smaller than 0.02μm were less than 5% of the total CN (Fig. 2e). Furthermore, if significant nucleation had occurred near cloud level to result in nuclei similar to the observations (mean Dc < 0.007 μm) at mid-latitudes [Hoppel et al., 1994] then the calculated lifetime for coagulation with the MBL aerosol is in excess of a day and longer than MBL mixing times. Both UCN counts and the lower tail of the DMA distribution (Fig. 1) should have regularly shown evidence of such nucleation but they did not. Hence, if gas to particle conversion occurred in the MBL the it was heterogeneous and did not form appreciable new nuclei.

The sulfate mass inferred from our dry DMA distributions (Fig. 2d) averaged about 200ppbv and roughly 75% of the total measured non-sea salt sulfate (nss-SO2) [Huebert et al., this issue]. If a significant fraction of the estimated daily DMS flux [Bandy et al., this issue] is converted to submicrometer nss-SO2, then it should appear as a small change in the DMA size distribution. However, the size distribution may also vary with different source strengths, different trajectories, periodic precipitation events, varying dilution due to different entrainment etc. Indeed, marked fluctuations common to both DMA and CN data were evident and often persisted for several hours (Figure 2d). In order to help separate changes in mass through heterogeneous growth from other processes, we divide the distribution into two modes at 0.09μm (Figure 1) with the larger identified as the accumulation mode and the smaller the nuclei mode. We define the mass per particle (MP) of a mode as the integral mass divided by the integral number per cm^2 in that mode. This is an effective growth index for each mode and increases when the average particle size of the mode increases even if the total mass and/or number is reduced either from precipitation or prior history etc. Figure 2b and 2c show MP, and MP, for the accumulation and nuclei modes respectively. During periods when episodic squalls were at the site (Day of Year - DOY 216 @ 18:00; 211 @ 15:00) and when the excursion in RH (not shown) suggested earlier squalls upwind (DOY 214 @ 15:00) both CN number or total mass decrease significantly while the MP values show little change.

Regular diurnal excursions in ozone evident in Figure 2a also relate to aerosol behavior. A superposition of these measurements relative to each daily mean (Figure 3) for the experiment reveal a mean diurnal cycle consistent with a complete chemical model of the ozone budget for the equatorial Pacific [Thompson et al., 1993]. Our measurements have a greater amplitude because they were made near the seasonal ozone maximum, resulting in values approaching twice those of Thompson et al. measured in February-March near the seasonal minimum [Olffmans and Komhyr, 1986]. The diurnal decrease in ozone is due to photochemical destruction and formation of OH but the compensating increase in ozone at night (Figure 3) reflects a replenishment by subsidence and entrainment from

![Fig. 3. Diurnal ozone variability (white line) relative to each daily ozone mean and Thompson et al., diurnal fit (black line) for the "low ozone" period (February-March).](image-url)
aloft where ozone concentrations are higher. This entrainment of ozone into the MBL must also be accompanied by an entrainment of aerosol from aloft.

Since entrainment rates could not be calculated without ozone profile information we interpret our data with reference to previous measurements (March, 1993) on CI (S.Oltmans, NOAA/CMML, personal correspondence). These data show an increasing linear gradient in ozone concentrations between the surface and about 1,800m with higher and more variable values above. The ratio of values at 1,800m to surface values varied from 1.2 to 3.6 for the 9 cases we examined but averaged about a factor of 2. In order to assess the significance of the entrainment rate, we estimate it from a simple model that includes these previous observations and a constant surface deposition velocity ($v_d$) of 0.05 cm s^{-1} [Warneck, 1988], our mean measured daily surface ozone concentration ($C_s$) of 14.5ppb and the mean observed rate of increase (dC/dt) during the night of about 4.3 ppb day^{-1}.

Subsidence into the MBL will result in both boundary layer growth (and/or divergence) while mixing both ozone and air into the MBL. Hence, the time rate of change of nighttime ozone mass [Mass=Concentration(C) x height (h) x Area] in a unit area column in the MBL can be approximated by:

$$C_{ave} \frac{dh}{dt} + h \frac{dC_{ave}}{dt} = C_s w_a + C_s v_d$$  (1)

$C_{ave}$ is average concentration in column, $C_s$ and $C_a$ the concentrations above the MBL (top of column) and at the surface respectively and $w_a$, the entrainment (subsidence) rate. For a linear gradient, $C_{ave}$ can be written as ($C_s+C_a)/2$ and if $C_s$ is assumed to vary slowly and randomly relative to diurnal changes in $C_a$ then the mean dC/dt=0. If the increase in column volume represented above as dh/dt is replaced with $w_a$ we get,

$$w_a = 1/(C_s/C_a -1) \left\{ \frac{h}{C_s} \frac{dC}{dt} + 2 v_d \right\}$$  (2)

For our observed values of $C_s$ and dC/dt this expression is most sensitive to the ratio of $C_s/C_a$ and h. In Table 1 we select three ratios (R) that encompass most of the 9 profiles mentioned above and three heights that span the range of mixed layer heights suggested by our radiosonde data. Relatively constant ozone values between the equator and Samoa [Thompson et al., 1993] and the nine years of measurements at Samoa [Oltmans and Komhyr, 1986] that show a July-August peak in average monthly surface values of about 20ppb suggest that an estimate of about 30 ppb above the mixed layer is likely at CI, corresponding to about R=2 in Table 1. The underlined values in Table 1 reflect our favored assumptions that either R=2 is most representative and independent of height (vertical entries) or that R tends to increase with height (diagonal entries). Together these values show $w_a=0.4-0.8$ cm s^{-1} to be representative of our data and consistent with estimates [Huebert et al., this issue] from another method. The table also shows the related time to fill the mixed layer with subsiding air (replenish time or 50/50 dilution time) of 2-3 days.

In view of this entrainment, it is of interest to compare the size distribution in early morning, before the onset of photochemistry, to the distribution in the late afternoon. Figure 1 reveals aerosol number concentrations in the minima region are higher in the morning than the afternoon and have slightly larger sizes in the afternoon. Because this distinction is not always so apparent, we return to the notion of mass per particle introduced above for modes larger and smaller than 0.05µm. Note that the number increase (Figure 1) for the nuclei mode is greatest for the larger sizes in that mode, tending to raise values of $M_P$, while for the accumulation mode the increase is at the smallest diameters and tends to lower $M_P$. Consequently, an increase of particles distributed over the cloud-processed minima will have opposite effects on the values of $M_P$ and $M_{P_c}$. This behavior is clearly evident in Figure 2b and 2c both diurnally and over longer periods. The lack of variability for sizes below about 0.05µm (Figure 1) suggests that these sizes and concentrations are similar to values aloft. This implies that MBL removal mechanisms are slow for these sizes, consistent with both their slow diffusion/coagulation and their inability to activate in the non-precipitating cumulus typical for this region. Aerosol larger than 0.1µm tend to be fewer in the morning than the afternoon, indicating that the aerosol aloft has fewer large particles than in the boundary layer. These observations and the tendency for maximum change near the intermode minima, suggest that the aerosol aloft is monomodal with a number peak between about 0.06 and 0.1 µm. This agrees with modeled size distributions for aged subsiding aerosol nucleated in the upper troposphere [Raes, 1995].

Our inability to directly confirm this inferred monomodal size distribution for the subsiding air at CI prompted related measurements one year later at Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO, alt: 3,400m) and a coastal site, Kumukahi, in Hawaii on July 23-24, 1995. Although Hawaii is not in the same equatorial air mass, at this time of year it is characterized by pollution-free long-range transport, a regional scale subsidence into the MBL and comparable meteorology. We chose a period with E-NE flow both at the surface and at MLO with wind speeds about 6 ms^{-1} for both so that air above and below the inversion would have moved together for several days. The meteorological condition most different from CI was the presence of more developed cumulus in the MBL accompanied by occasional showers. DMA distributions were accumulated at MLO during nighttime downslope flow (01:00 LST) characteristic of the free troposphere and compared with a sea-level distribution from later that day during onshore flow (ca. 14:00 LST). Figure 4 show that the nighttime MLO distribution is monomodal with a peak diameter near 0.06µm while the coastal MBL aerosol is bimodal with an intermode "cloud processed" minima at about the same diameter as CI. These data reveal a higher concentration of monomodal nuclei aloft (3,400m) that can subside into the MBL where they both grow and are removed in response to cloud processes, as described for CI. In both regions the cloud processed minima for the ammonium sulfate aerosol distribution (Figures 1 and 4) would be expected after activation in cloud at about 0.35% supersaturation (consistent with updrafts of about 1 m s^{-1}) [Pruppacher and Klett, 1980].

The time series of $M_{P_c}$ values for the CI accumulation mode tend to increase during daytime and decrease at night (Figure 2c). This suggests a daytime growth in response to photochemical production of sulfate [Huebert et al., this issue] or aqueous phase oxidation of SO$_2$, that is sufficient to overcome the decrease arising from the continuous entrainment.

| Table 1. Estimated $w_a$ (cm s^{-1}) and MBL replenishment time |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| h(m)             | R=1.5            | R=2              | R=2.5            | R=1.5            | R=2.5            |
| 800              | 0.75             | 0.37             | 0.25             | 1.2              | 2.5              | 3.7              |
| 1200             | 1.0              | 0.51             | 0.34             | 1.4              | 2.7              | 4.0              |
| 1800             | 1.4              | 0.72             | 0.48             | 1.5              | 2.9              | 4.4              |
of smaller particles. The average apparent daytime increase in M_p (in units of pptv per particle per cm^3) over the 12 days is about 0.18 (Figure 2c). The average nighttime decrease of 0.20 is assumed to reflect constant ensonst we must increase the "apparent" daytime increase in M_p to 0.38 to account for this continuous loss term. For a mean MBL accumulation mode aerosol concentration of 150 cm^3 this implies about 5 pptv sulfate formed per day or 25% of the total in this mode. This suggests a replenishment time for aerosol mass in the region of about 4 days. This is about 70% of the 74 pptv reported for total filter measurements (Huiebert et al., this issue). Although uncertainties in absolute quantities present in the combined techniques (about 20% for DMA data and 10% for filter data) could account for this difference, we expect that some of this is due to accumulation of sulfate on sizes larger than the 0.4 μm measured by the DMA.

Conclusion

We have characterized the changes in submicrometer MBL aerosol in response to diurnal processes associated with entrainment and aerosol growth in the remote MBL. We found no evidence for significant particle production in the MBL. The variability of ozone is consistent with photochemical models for this region and suggests an entrainment rate of about 0.6 cm s^{-1} that can replenish MBL aerosol number in about 2-4 days with aged nuclei from the free troposphere. The data also suggest that about 20% of the measured DMS flux is eventually converted to sulfate on the accumulation mode particles with diameters below 0.3 μm. A combination of cloud processes (nonprecipitating) and photochemical formation appears to result in preferential growth of cloud activated aerosol (D_p>0.07 μm) that amounts to about 25% of the mean submicrometer sulfate. This suggests a 4 day replenishment time for aerosol mass that is similar to the entrainment time scales and helps explain the quasi-stable size distribution and submicrometer mass in this low precipitation region.

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