

the newly formed aerosol particles can grow to 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. This is clear evidence that regional aerosol particles originating from such regional NPF events have a significant fraction in the particulate mass concentration of fine particles ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) and also in the number concentration of CCN. In the same case study, the ultrafine fraction of aerosol particles contributed to about 30% of the  $\text{PM}_{10}$  concentration during the initial stage of such intensive regional NPF event.

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## **LAND USE CHANGE SUPPRESSES PRECIPITATION**

*W. Junkermann(1), J. Hacker(2), T. Lyons(3) and Udaysankar Nair(4)*

(1) FZK, IMK-IFU, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

(2) Airborne Research Australia, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

(3) Murdoch University, Perth, Australia

(4) National Space Science Technology Center, Huntsville, Alabama, USA  
wolfgang.junkermann@imk.fzk.de

Aerosols of natural and anthropogenic origin have important climate effects through interaction with clouds, which are among the main uncertainties in climate models due to the large variability of aerosol sizes, types and 3D-distributions [1]. Experimental investigations are typically restricted to high concentrations in industrial and urban aerosol plumes although in more remote areas already slight changes in the aerosol concentrations can have a large impact. This study reports on investigations of aerosols over a remote natural laboratory, along the ~1500 km long Vermin Proof Fence, also called “State Barrier Fence”, in Western Australia. This Fence, built in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, separates an area of >100.000 square km of homogeneous terrain, converted to arable land (west), from the natural vegetation of inner Australia, conserved as a nature preserve (east). The Fence protects the agriculture from an invasion of animals but also protects the nature preserve from farming pressure and serves as a clear cut between the two types of landscape. Recent satellite images indicate that the Fence also works as a separation line between different meteorological regions. Clouds, for example, develop more often over regions with natural vegetation [2]. Early surveys of aerosols over Australia [3] found generally clean conditions with less than 1000 ultrafine (~ 20 nm) particles /  $\text{cm}^3$  throughout most of Australia. Local enhancements were occasionally observed in coastal areas, but, for the analysis of particle distributions they were considered to be unimportant. However, higher numbers of ultrafine particles were now also found downwind of tropical eucalyptus forests on the Australian east coast.

The rationale for this project was to investigate the processes behind the regional

change of the precipitation patterns in Western Australia [4]. The western tip of the continent has experienced a reduction of precipitation by about 30% (from an average of 325 mm/a) since the 1970's. This reduction of precipitation pattern is most probably due to a combination of regional processes. Modifications of albedo and surface roughness by land use affect regional meteorology and cloudiness. A regional change of aerosol populations would be another important factor controlling the conversion of water vapour and cloud condensation nuclei to raindrops. A response of clouds to additional aerosols depends on convection and temperature levels, but in general, precipitation would be reduced. A recent critical review of the current state of research indicated the difficulties to relate rainfall depletion to increased anthropogenic aerosol numbers [5] as precipitation is an effect of both, cloud dynamics and aerosol driven cloud microphysics and these processes cannot be separated.

Here we report on a new biogenic, though human-induced, source of ultrafine particle production observed over continental Australia, which was previously overlooked. This source is intense enough to double the number of CCN on a regional scale. Their identification was possible only with the deployment of novel instrumentation for particle size distributions.

In contrast to previous results from European boreal forests with new particle production over forests in Western Australia ultrafine particle numbers were up to an order of magnitude higher over agricultural areas while over forests continental background concentrations were found. These particles show the typical behaviour of nucleation mode aerosols which grow within a couple of hours into CCN. As a source for nucleation precursors the scattered salt lakes in then agriculture could be identified, salt lakes in the natural vegetation never emitted particles. The contribution of nucleation mode particles doubled the available CCN over the deforested area.

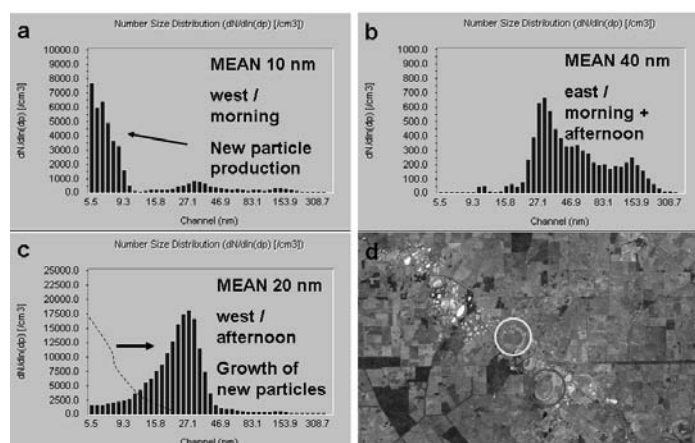


Fig. 1. Aerosol size distributions under calm conditions (wind speed below 2.5 m/s). Nucleation mode particles were found only over selected salt lakes. The white spots are smaller salt lakes (d). Size distributions over Lake Stubbs (circle) in the west in the morning (a) and three hours later after aging of the particles (c). Size distribution over natural vegetation (b) without change between morning and afternoon. Note also the different scales in the total numbers.

A closer look into cloud microphysics of a single layer of cumulus clouds confirmed the expected dependence of cloud droplets on additional aerosols. The higher number of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) over the agriculture lead to an increase in droplet number, and a reduction of droplet size and the number of droplets above 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Though more water vapour was available over the agriculture the liquid water content was higher within the clouds over the natural vegetation.

The production mechanism for the observed enhanced CCN precursor aerosols finally could be traced back to changes in the ground water table following large scale deforestation.

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## **THE EFFECT OF KOLA PENINSULA AIR POLLUTION TO THE AIR QUALITY IN EASTERN LAPLAND**

*Ella-Maria Kyrö, Ville Vakkari, Aki Virkkula, Katrianne Lehtipalo, Ilona Riipinen, Markku Kulmala*

University of Helsinki, Finland  
ella-maria.kyro@helsinki.fi

The air quality in the Eastern Lapland is generally good, characterized with very intense, short-term pollution episodes originating from the Kola Peninsula [1]. These moments of increased SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have a severe impact to the atmosphere in Eastern Lapland [2]. At SMEAR I –station, these episodes of high trace gas concentrations alongside with aerosol and meteorological measurements, have been investigated and measured since the early 1990’s [3].

In the late 1980’s the yearly sulphur dioxide emissions of Monchegorsk and Nikel were greater than those of Finland in total [3]. Highest concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> are observed usually at wintertime, when the air mass is passing over Kola Peninsula, i.e. the local wind direction is between North and East. The median and mean concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> at SMEAR I over the measuring period 1991 to 2008 were 0.5 µg m<sup>-3</sup> and 2.2 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively (Table 1). The peak values, which correspond to the pollution episodes from Kola, have a clear decreasing trend since the late 1990’s (Fig. 1). According to the EU directive, the hourly and annual limits for SO<sub>2</sub> are 350 µg m<sup>-3</sup> and 20 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively.

Most of the SO<sub>2</sub>(S) dry deposition measured at SMEAR I –station is originated from Kola Peninsula smelters with an average yearly sum of 0.07 g m<sup>-2</sup>. On contrary to the decreasing trend of SO<sub>2</sub> concentration, there is no visible trend in SO<sub>2</sub>(S) dry deposition. Although the SO<sub>2</sub> concentration is as high in the air coming from the direction of Nikel as it is from the Monchegorsk direction, Monchegorsk dominates the dry deposition of SO<sub>2</sub>.