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# Determination of the biogenic secondary organic aerosol fraction in the boreal forest by AMS and NMR measurements

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## Abstract

The study investigates the sources of fine organic aerosol (OA) in the boreal forest, based on measurements including both filter sampling (PM<sub>1</sub>) and online methods and carried out during a one-month campaign held in Hyytiälä, Finland, in spring 2007.

Two aerosol mass spectrometers (Q-AMS, ToF-AMS) were employed to measure on-line air mass concentrations of major non-refractory aerosol species, while the water extracts of the filter samples were analyzed by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy for organic functional group characterization of the polar organic fraction of the aerosol. AMS and NMR spectra were processed separately by non-negative factorization algorithms, in order to apportion the main components underlying the submicrometer organic aerosol composition and depict them in terms of both mass fragmentation patterns and functional group compositions.

The NMR results supported the AMS speciation of oxidized organic aerosol (OOA) into two main fractions, which could be generally labelled as more and less oxidized organics. The more oxidized component was characterized by a mass spectrum dominated by the *m/z* 44 peak, and in parallel by a NMR spectrum showing aromatic and aliphatic backbones highly substituted with oxygenated functional groups (carbonyls/carboxyls and hydroxyls). Such component, contributing on average 50 % of the OA mass throughout the observing period, was associated with pollution outbreaks from the Central Europe. The less oxidized component showed features consistent with less oxygenated aerosols and was enhanced in concomitance with air masses originating from the North-to-West sector, in agreement with previous investigations conducted at this site. NMR factor analysis was able to separate two distinct components under the less oxidized fraction of OA. One of these NMR-factors was associated to the formation of terrestrial biogenic secondary organic aerosol (BSOA), based on the comparison with spectral profiles obtained from laboratory experiments of terpenes photo-oxidation. The second NMR factor associated with western air masses was linked to biogenic marine sources, and was enriched in low-molecular weight aliphatic amines. Such findings provide evidence of at least two independent sources originating

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biogenic organic aerosols in Hyytiälä by oxidation and condensation mechanisms: reactive terpenes emitted by the boreal forest and compounds of marine origin, with the latter relatively more important when predominantly polar air masses reach the site.

This study is an example of how spectroscopic techniques, such as proton NMR, can add functional group specificity for certain chemical features (like aromatics) of OA with respect to AMS. They can therefore be profitably be exploited to complement aerosol mass spectrometric measurements in organic source apportionment studies.

## 1 Introduction

Atmospheric aerosol particles directly impact air quality, visibility and the radiation balance of the Earth, which in turn contributes to regulating the climate system on both regional and global scales (Ravishankara, 2005; IPCC, 2007). Since organic compounds constitute a large fraction of submicrometer particles mass on the global scale, up to 90% (Kanakidou et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2007), their accurate quantification and source apportionment are necessary in order to determine their role in the above environmental issues and define efficient abatement strategies.

Secondary organic aerosols (SOA), formed by gas-to-particle conversion of oxidized vapors, and other oxygenated organic aerosols formed by chemical ageing of existing particles (Fuzzi et al., 2005), are expected to contribute to a large fraction of total organic particulate mass outside urban areas (Baltensperger et al., 2005; Lanz et al., 2007). Nevertheless, current estimates of global SOA production remain inaccurate. They vary by over 2 orders of magnitude, because they are not well constrained by organic source apportionment studies (Simpson et al., 2007). The importance of biogenic sources is thought to be significant, given that global emissions of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) are up to ten times greater than those from anthropogenic sources (Calvert, 2002; Atkinson and Arey, 2003; Guenther et al., 1995). It is estimated that biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) oxidation represents the largest SOA global source, ranging from 12 to 70 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> (Hallquist et al., 2009).

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5 Combined experimental and modelling studies have investigated the formation of SOA from the photo-oxidation of several simple VOCs, such as alkyl-benzenes and terpenoids, obtaining a considerable amount of data for controlled (laboratory) conditions (Surratt et al., 2010; Paulot et al., 2009; Rickard et al., 2009; Cao et al., 2008; Ng et al., 2007; Song et al., 2007; Johnson et al., 2004). The evaluation of SOA formation mechanisms in the field remains challenging because of multiple contributing sources, variable oxidant concentrations and composition, and the contribution of background gases and aerosols (De Gouw and Jimenez, 2009).

10 The elucidation of SOA chemical composition in ambient air, believed to encompass several hundreds of thousands of individual compounds (Goldstein and Galbally, 2007), represents a major challenge for state-of-the-art analytical techniques. The recovery of gas-chromatographic/mass spectrometric (GC/MS) techniques with respect to total aerosol organic carbon (OC) is normally below 15 % (Cahill et al., 2006). Hence, organic source apportionment methods based on GC/MS techniques rely on the existence of source-specific molecular markers that are stable under atmospheric conditions (Schauer et al., 1996; Claeys et al., 2004). However, the actual stability of important molecular markers, such as levoglucosan, has been questioned by recent observations (Capes et al., 2008).

15 An alternative approach is based on the integral chemical features of OC (e.g. mass fragments, functional groups, elemental ratios, isotopic ratios, ions, etc.) rather than on individual species. Such a bulk approach has been proposed by using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) (Russell et al., 2010, 2011) and proton nuclear magnetic resonance ( $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ) spectroscopies (Decesari et al., 2007, 2011). Most widespread applications exploit aerosol mass spectrometry (AMS) coupled with multivariate statistical analysis methods for the decomposition of the mass spectra timeline into contributions of “factors”, which are considered as proxies for chemical classes of organic compounds sharing common formation processes. Several multivariate statistical analysis methods have been applied to deconvolve AMS spectra of ambient organic particles into a few major components, e.g. multi component analysis (MCA)

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(Zhang et al., 2005a, b, 2007), and positive matrix factorization (PMF) (Lanz et al., 2007; Ulbrich et al., 2009; Paatero et al., 1994). The most commonly identified PMF-AMS factors have been named hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA) and oxygenated organic aerosol (OOA), and are thought to be strongly linked to primary and secondary organic aerosol (POA and SOA), respectively. In some environments, OOA are further split into different types, including a more oxidized type, or OOA1, and a less oxidized one, OOA2, also called low-volatility and semivolatile oxidized organic aerosols, LV-OOA and SV-OOA, on the basis of parallel measurements of particle volatility and chemical composition (Jimenez et al., 2009).

Even if important insights on OA composition have been obtained so far, they are often method-dependent, i.e. affected by the sensitivity of the employed methodology to specific chemical features of aerosol OC. Since each technique has its own strengths and weaknesses, a complementary approach is highly recommended.

The present manuscript explores the variability of organic aerosol composition during an intensive EUCAARI (Kulmala et al., 2009; Kerminen et al., 2010) field study held in spring 2007 in Hyytiälä (Finland), employing <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and AMS characterization methods. The NMR analysis complements here the AMS characterization by providing information on the functionalities, which are not speciated well by the AMS. On the other hand, AMS permits OA to be analysed at a higher time resolution. For the attribution of spectral fingerprints to natural and anthropogenic sources, use was made of data acquired during reaction chamber experiments performed in the SAPHIR facility, Jülich.

## 2 Experimental

Submicrometer aerosol particles were sampled during a one-month campaign in spring 2007 at the Finnish Station for Measuring Forest Ecosystem–Atmosphere Relations (SMEAR II, Hari and Kulmala, 2005; <http://www.atm.helsinki.fi/SMEAR/>) located in Hyytiälä (61°51′ N, 24°17′ E, 181 m a.s.l.). This forestry station is located in the middle

of a more than 40-year old Scots pine stand (*Pinus Sylvestris L.*), which homogeneously surrounds the site for several hundreds meters. Tampere is the largest neighbouring city and is situated about 60 km S-SW. Measurements were carried out from 27 March to 17 May 2007. However, the present work focuses on the collection period of PM<sub>1</sub> filter samples analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy, i.e. the days from 29 March to 19 April.

## 2.1 Aerosol measurements

Atmospheric particles were sampled by a suite of co-located online instruments throughout the campaign. A twin Differential Mobility Particle Sizer (DMPS) continuously monitored the size distribution of submicrometer aerosol particles and its evolution with a 10 min time resolution (Aalto et al., 2001). Real-time measurements of the concentrations of non-refractory PM<sub>1</sub> aerosol organic matter and inorganic ions including sulphate, nitrate, ammonium and chloride were performed by two aerosol mass spectrometers running in parallel: (a) an Aerodyne Quadrupole Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (Q-AMS), and (b) a High Resolution Time-of-Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (ToF-AMS). A thorough description of the instruments and associated calibration and operation procedures is provided elsewhere (Jayne et al., 2000; Allan et al., 2003; Jimenez et al., 2003; Alfarra et al., 2004; De Carlo et al., 2006; Canagaratna et al., 2007). During the campaign, the ToF-AMS suffered from some technical problems thus the Q-AMS data are used here for the absolute concentrations. However, because of the higher spectral resolution, the ToF-AMS provided useful data for the interpretation of the presented data set.

The Q-AMS measurements started in early March and measurements continued up to the end of June, although here we focus on the NMR data taken in the period from 29 March to 19 April. Before 4 April the Q-AMS was operated by alternating between mass spectrum (MS) and particle time of flight (pTOF) modes (Jimenez et al., 2003), and saving data every ten minutes, and then, between 4 and 6 April, it was prepared for particle flux measurements (Nemitz et al., 2008). In practice this meant that 30 min

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of every hour was spent on flux measurements, and during the remaining 30 min the Q-AMS was alternating between MS, pTOF and jump mass spectrum (JMS) modes (Crosier et al., 2007). Because only one sixth of the time was spent on mass concentration (the MS mode) measurements, the Q-AMS data increased in noise. Therefore, they are presented here as 30 min averages.

The so-obtained Q-AMS total mass concentrations compare fairly well with total particle volume calculated from particle size distributions (DMPS). However, it seems that the AMS/DMPS ratio changed during the 4–6 April break, when the AMS was prepared for flux measurements, being about 0.4 and 0.8 before and after the break, respectively. The most likely explanation for this is a bending of the particle inlet, which may have led to the loss of particles. Ionization efficiency changes are unlikely, because the air beam signal did not change during this period.

The concentrations of major ionic species in submicrometer particles were also determined by a Particle-into-Liquid Sampler (PILS; Metrohm Peak Inc) coupled with two ion chromatographs (IC; Dionex ICS-2000) and using a virtual impactor (VI; Loo and Cork, 1988) with a cut-off size of 1.3  $\mu\text{m}$  prior to the PILS-ICs system (Orsini et al., 2003).

A high volume sampler (HiVol) working at 850  $\text{l min}^{-1}$  and configured to remove particles with aerodynamic diameter larger than 1  $\mu\text{m}$  was employed from 29 March to 19 April to collect fine particles on quartz-fiber filters (12 cm diameter, QMA grade). The quartz-fiber filters were washed with Milli-Q water and heated for 1 h at 800  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  before sampling to reduce blank values. After sampling, lasting on average 10 h, the collected  $\text{PM}_{10}$  filters were stored in a fridge at 4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis.

Total Carbon (TC) content was measured directly from small sub-samples of the HiVol filters (about 2 % of sampled area) by evolved gas analysis. Measurements were performed by a Multi N/C 2100 analyser (Analytik Jena, Germany) equipped with a module for solid samples, which are exposed to increasing temperature (up to 950  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in a pure oxygen carrier gas. Under these conditions all carbonaceous matter (organic, carbonate and elemental carbon) is converted into  $\text{CO}_2$  (Gelencser et al., 2000) and



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TC is measured as total evolved CO<sub>2</sub> by a non-dispersive infrared (NDIR) analyser. The remaining portion of each HiVol filter was extracted with deionized ultra-pure water (Milli-Q) in a sonication bath for 1 h and the water extract was filtered on PTFE membranes (pore size: 0.45 μm) in order to remove suspended particles. Aliquots of the water extracts were used to determine the water-soluble organic carbon (WSOC) content by a Multi N/C 2100 total organic carbon analyser (Analytik Jena, Germany) equipped with a module for liquid samples. For each sample, parallel measurements of carbonate carbon and total organic carbon were carried out: the difference between total soluble carbon and carbonate carbon results in WSOC (Rinaldi et al., 2007). The difference between TC and WSOC and carbonate carbon resulted in the water-insoluble carbon (WINC).

The remaining aliquots of the water extracts were dried under vacuum and re-dissolved in deuterium oxide (D<sub>2</sub>O) for functional group characterization by proton-Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (<sup>1</sup>H-NMR) spectroscopy (Decesari et al., 2000). The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were acquired at 400 MHz with a Varian Mercury 400 spectrometer in 5 mm probes. Sodium 3-trimethylsilyl-(2,2,3,3-d<sub>4</sub>) propionate (TSP-d<sub>4</sub>) was prevalently used as referred internal standard, adding 50 μl of a TSP-d<sub>4</sub> 0.05 % (w/w) solution in D<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 μmol H belonging to the standard in the probe). In some cases, methanol (MeOH) was used as internal standard (0.5 μmol H) instead of TSP-d<sub>4</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy in protic solvents provides the speciation of hydrogen atoms bound to carbon atoms. On the basis of the range of frequency shifts (the chemical shift, ppm) in which the signals occur, they can be attributed to different H-C –containing functional groups.

### 2.2 Factor analysis of AMS and NMR spectral data sets

The time-dependent organic mass spectra from the Q-AMS measurements were selected for the Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF). The analysis was performed applying the PMF Evaluation Tool (Ulbrich et al., 2009) based on version 4.2 of PMF2 algorithm (Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Paatero, 1997). Standard data pre-treatment, applying minimum error criteria and down weighting weak variables and *m/z* 44 related peaks,

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was performed as described in Ulbrich et al. (2009). The PMF analysis turned out to be quite difficult due to noisy data series, a leak of air signal ( $m/z$  28) to organic  $m/z$  29, an electronic interference problem manifested as a transient series of peaks with  $m/z$  10 difference, and relatively low variations in organic oxidation state, at least compared with the 2005 data series (Raatikainen et al., 2010). Zero-averaged noise was not in itself a problem, merely decreasing the relative error ( $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$ ) to a value much lower than one. An additional explanation for the low  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  is that original single ion noise may have been overestimated. To avoid finding a noise factor, the  $m/z$  29 peak was down weighted by a factor of five. In order to try to remove the periodic electronic interference explicitly, test calculations were performed where one factor was allowed to vary without the non-negativity constraint. This interference was found to vary around zero. To investigate numerical stability, the PMF solution space was explored by varying seeds, numbers of factors (1–5), and rotational parameter FPEAK. After this processing, it was very clear that a good solution could not be found for more than two factors. Indeed, a two-component PMF analysis, where the factors were identified as OOA1 and OOA2 provided reasonable solutions having fairly identical concentration time series and  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  values for FPEAK values from  $-0.4$  to  $0.4$ . The main difference between these solutions is the fraction of  $m/z$  44 peak (f44) of OOA2 ranging from 0.00 to 0.08, for FPEAK greater than  $-0.08$  and lower than  $-0.16$ , respectively. An average solution with OOA2 f44 = 0.04 and FPEAK =  $-0.12$  was thus selected as the final solution, being zero f44 values not expected.

Like the Q-AMS, the ToF-AMS was able to resolve two factors reliably: OOA1 and OOA2. The additional variance provided by higher-order solutions did not show any distinctly new features in the profile spectra and were deemed to be more indicative of technical issues with the instrument, such as subtle nonlinearities introduced by thresholding or signal saturation. It should be noted that PMF analysis has been performed successfully on datasets subsequently obtained with the same instrument (Allan et al., 2010; Robinson et al., 2010). Therefore, the lack of additional factors should be taken as indicative of the lack of variation in total mass terms within the dataset,

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further supporting the conclusion that OOA1 and OOA2 were the only significant factors present, limited by the short time period (two weeks) of ToF-AMS sampling. In the ToF-AMS case, a solution with  $FPEAK = -0.5$  was chosen, as non-negative values resulted in solutions where the  $f_{44}$  value of OOA2 was zero. It should also be borne in mind that many choices of  $FPEAK$  would probably produce valid solutions, while negative  $FPEAK$  values tend to produce factors whose time series are more distinct but with more similar mass spectra and vice versa for the positive values (Allan et al., 2010). In the light of the findings of Morgan et al. (2010) and Ng et al. (2010), a solution where the  $f_{44}$  value was non-zero was deemed more chemically meaningful. In this instance, the OOA1 factor had an  $f_{44}$  of 0.17 and an  $f_{43}$  of 0.09, while OOA2 had an  $f_{44}$  of 0.09 and an  $f_{43}$  of 0.12.

The NMR spectral dataset was also processed by factor analysis (FA) methodologies, in order to establish contributions and spectral profiles of major components of WSOC. It should be noted that the carbon fraction insoluble in water (WINC) was not analyzed by NMR in this study. The raw NMR spectra were subjected to several pre-processing steps prior to FA, in order to avoid any misleading source of variability. All the spectra were corrected for the baseline drift using a polynomial fit of the baseline in blank samples. After accurate alignment of the spectra using the internal standards as references for the chemical shift scale ( $T_{sp}-d_4 = 0$  ppm; methanol = 3.36 ppm), the peaks of contaminants identified in blank samples were systematically removed from the dataset. In order to limit the effect of possible small variations in NMR peak position, the original resolution of the spectra was decreased by binning over 0.03 ppm and 0.01 ppm intervals, that provided matrices of 400 and 200 points, respectively. The resulting spectral dataset was processed using three different factor analysis algorithms, namely: (1) the PMF 3.0v software using the multilinear engine algorithm provided by US Environmental Protection Agency; (2) the non-negative matrix factorization (N-NMF) software with projected gradient bound-constrained optimization (Lin et al., 2007) (hereafter “N-NMF-GRA”); and (3) the multivariate curve resolution-alternating least squares (MCR-ALS) software (Tauler et al., 1995).

Since PMF also requires uncertainties, an uncertainty matrix was derived here from the noise to signal ratios of the NMR spectra. Moreover, due to constraints to the number of variables in the PMF, this algorithm could be applied only to low-resolution spectra, 200 points, while N-NMR-GRA and MCR-ALS were employed for the factorization of both 200 and 400 points spectra.

### 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Concentrations of main submicrometer aerosol components

##### 3.1.1 On-line measurements results

Between 29 March and 19 April, the air concentrations of the major aerosol species experienced large variations (Fig. 1). The highest organics loads were observed at the beginning of the period, from 29 to 30 March, when sulphate, nitrate and ammonium concentrations also peaked, as registered by the AMS and by the PILS-IC systems. Medium to relatively high concentrations were recorded in other two episodes on 10–11 and 15–17 April. During the remaining days, the concentrations of the above aerosol components were very low:  $0.49 \pm 0.54 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (organic matter),  $0.21 \pm 0.14 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (sulphate),  $0.05 \pm 0.05 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (nitrate) and  $0.06 \pm 0.07 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (ammonium) based on the Q-AMS measurements. On the same days of background conditions, sodium and chloride ions showed highest concentrations, as measured by the PILS-IC system (Fig. 1b). The good correlation observed between sodium and chloride concentrations indicates that they originate mainly from sea salt.

The  $\text{PM}_{10}$  potassium ion, often used as stable tracer for biomass burning plumes (Andreae, 1983; Ma et al., 2003), showed very high levels in the first period, between 28 and 30 March, and occurred in significant concentrations only sporadically in the remaining part of the campaign (Fig. 1c).

In order to evaluate whether these concentration time trends coincided with air masses of particular origin, the NOAA HYSPLIT model (Hybrid Single-Particle

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Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory, <http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT.php>) was used to calculate back-trajectories (BTs) every day from 29 March to 19 April. A plot of the 48 h backward BTs at 500 m above ground level and calculated every 4 h, is reported in Fig. 2. The analysis of the BTs showed that higher PM<sub>1</sub> sea salt levels were registered when the site was influenced by air masses originated from the Norwegian Sea and from the Arctic, while the highest aerosol mass concentrations of sulphate, nitrate, ammonium and organics occurred in concomitance with continental air masses, which is consistent with previous observations at the Hyytiälä station (Allan et al., 2006; Cavalli et al., 2006; Tunved et al., 2006; Raatikainen et al., 2010). Figure 3 summarizes the chemical composition patterns averaged over periods corresponding to the main BTs typologies observed, i.e. marine/Arctic (m/A), continental/modified marine (C/mm), continental from the West-to-NorthWest sector (C(W-NW)) and continental from the South-to-SouthWest sector (C(S-SW)).

The particle size distributions as measured by the DMPS (Fig. 4) appear as well to fit this preliminary classification of the observation period based on BT typologies. Several new particle formation episodes were detected throughout the observation period, except for the first days when C(S-SW) prevailed and only accumulation mode particles were observed. Freshly formed particles were clearly a significant source of Aitken mode particles during the experiment, even in moderately polluted periods as C/mm and C(W-NW).

### 3.1.2 Off-line analysis results

The PM<sub>1</sub> total carbonaceous (TC) mass concentrations spanned from less than 1 up to 8.5 µg C m<sup>-3</sup>, as shown by filter measurements (Fig. 5, upper panel). The sampled carbonaceous mass was primarily constituted by polar, oxygenated compounds, while the water-soluble organics fraction (WSOC) being generally high, accounted on average for more than 70 % of the total carbon.

It should be noticed that on the basis of the OM: OC ratios reported in literature (Russell et al., 2003) and those extrapolated by the AMSs for this data set, the measured

WSOC has to be multiplied by a coefficient included between 1.8 and 2.00 to be converted in water-soluble organic matter (WSOM).

The Q-AMS organics concentrations, averaged over the filter sampling times, are also reported in Fig. 5 for comparison. Even if well correlating throughout the whole period ( $R = 0.93$ ), Q-AMS OM concentrations were quite lower than filter water-soluble organic matter, still pointing to some particles loss.

The functional group distributions of the NMR-detected WSOC are also reported in the lower panel of Fig. 5. Since  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectroscopy is mainly sensitive to protons attached to carbon atoms (i.e. H-C bonds), H/C ratios based on the stoichiometry expected for each functional group (Tagliavini et al., 2006), were used to convert the concentrations of organic non-exchangeable hydrogen atoms into organic carbon concentrations. The main functional groups identified include: (i) “alkyls” (HC-C<), i.e. aliphatic groups bound to saturated carbon atoms, such as methyls/methylenes/methynes; (ii) oxygen-containing aliphatic groups, like “carbonyls/carboxyls” (HC-C=O), i.e. alkyls adjacent to unsaturated carbon atoms, and like “hydroxyls” (HC-O), i.e. alkyls directly attached to oxygen atoms such as alcohols, ethers/esters, and (iii) “aromatics” (H-Ar). In addition, nitrogen- and sulfur-containing groups, such as “amines” (HC-N), and sulfonic groups (HC-SO<sub>3</sub>, such as methane sulfonic acid, “MSA”, were detected.

On average, the WSOC fraction comprising NMR-detectable organic carbon atoms was 50%. The missing carbon could be due to: (a) the presence of carbons not carrying protons, as in compounds containing highly branched chains or fully substituted aryls (Moretti et al., 2008), and (b) a fraction of WSOC constituted by semi-volatile organics that may be lost during the evaporation step prior to the NMR measurement. Few laboratory tests, consisting in replicated WSOC measurements prior and after the evaporation step, showed that the carbon fraction due to the evaporation accounted in average for less than 30% of the WSOC mass. Thus it means that overall the detected functional groups represent the major WSOC composition. On the contrary for the samples collected in the background regime the evaporative losses resulted particularly increased, reaching up to 70% of the WSOC mass, indicating a substantial

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contribution of semi-volatile organics in such particles. These observations were also confirmed by OC measurements performed on a series of back up filters of PM<sub>1</sub> samples collected during the same campaign but at lower time resolution than those used for this manuscript. Indeed, the ratio of the back up OC up to the front OC resulted dramatically increased for samples collected when marine air masses prevailed.

## 3.2 Oxygenated organic aerosol composition

### 3.2.1 AMS factors

The time-dependent organic mass spectra recorded by the two AMSs (Q-AMS and ToF-AMS) were separately processed by the PMF methods as described in the experimental section, and exploring solutions with 2 up to 5 factors. Two types of oxygenated organic aerosol (OOA) groups, namely OOA1 and OOA2, were particularly stable within all tested solutions and accounted for most of the organic mass signal in both datasets. Concerning results from Q-AMS data, the final OOA1 and OOA2 mass spectra are shown in Fig. 6 and time series in Fig. 7.

The mass spectra of these two OOA components, with the ions at  $m/z$  44 (CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>) dominating the OOA type 1 and  $m/z$  43 (mostly C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>) dominating the OOA type 2, closely match those most commonly isolated in previous studies (Zhang et al., 2007; Lanz et al., 2007). Overall, they strongly resemble those found at Hyytiälä in spring 2005 (Raatikainen et al., 2010). In the cited studies, the OOA1 represented the more oxidized, aged organic fraction, and the OOA2 represented the less oxidized, fresher secondary organics.

Other commonly found organic groups, such as hydrocarbon-like (HOA) and biomass burning organic aerosol (BBOA), were not isolated here. On average, the  $m/z$  57 peak, which is often related to HOA (e.g. Lanz et al., 2007) and also BBOA (Aiken et al., 2009), is less than 1 % of the total organic signal. There are a few time periods with higher  $m/z$  57 mass fractions, however it seem to be too low to be detected by the PMF method. For comparison, average  $m/z$  44 mass fraction is 11 %.

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Since the unit mass resolution of the Q-AMS prevents an unambiguous identification of the ions in the mass spectra, within this dataset the oxygen content of the organic groups was estimated on the basis of the linear fit between oxygen to carbon atomic ratio (O:C) and their  $m/z$  44 peaks (Aiken et al., 2008). The estimated O:C ratios for the OOA1 and OOA2 isolated from the Q-AMS dataset were, respectively, 0.73 and 0.23. These values turned out to be very close to those obtained by Raatikainen, 2010 (i.e.  $0.77 \pm 0.10$  and  $0.23 \pm 0.08$ ), and were also similar to 0.73 and 0.17 averages from several observations (Ng et al., 2010).

Unfortunately the ToF-AMS data covered mainly the second half of the campaign, overlapping with the Q-AMS and NMR data for a limited time interval, with C(W-NW) and partially m/A prevailing. Nevertheless the analysis of the high-resolution ToF-AMS spectra enabled the direct determination of the molecular ratios within this time interval. Elemental analysis was performed on the W mode high resolution data according to Aiken et al. (2007, 2008). On average, the H:C ratio was estimated to be 1.36, the O:C ratio 0.64 and the OM:OC ratio 1.97. No statistically significant variation was found within the measurement period. As part of the work of Robinson et al. (2010), the 82 peak was investigated specifically for signs of methylfuran, which was associated with isoprene SOA in the tropics. While a peak was identified, it was found to be much smaller compared to tropical datasets, indicating that the process was not significant in this environment.

### 3.2.2 NMR factors

A total of seventeen  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra at 200 points resolution were subjected to the factorization models mentioned in the experimental section (PMF, N-NMF-GRA and MCR-ALS) and the solutions resulting from factors 2 up to 8 were explored. Within all the models, most of the variance turned out to be explained by a limited number of factors, the residual of the order of the baseline noise being for more than 3 factors. The largest drop in the  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  ratios was registered between two and three factors, but additional factors continued to reduce  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  toward 1 until no strong change in slope



was observable for more than five factors. Beyond five factors, two or more factors were found to be strongly correlated, suggesting that the measurements were not adequate to differentiate additional independent factors. In the following discussion, the analysis is limited to the most simple and conservative solutions with three and four factors.

5 Profiles and loadings resulting for 3- and 4-factor solutions are shown in Figs. 8 and 9. Only profiles from a single model (MCR-ALS) are reported for sake of clarity. Concerning the factor loadings, the values obtained by the three models were generally convergent, particularly in the three factor case (Fig. 9a). Conversely, the 4-factor case appears more affected by a certain degree of rotational ambiguity of the models in  
10 splitting the F3 and F4 factors, especially for samples collected on 15 and 16 April (Fig. 9b), with better results obtained with higher resolution, 400 points (not shown).

The isolated NMR factors are described as follows.

F1: the first factor (hereinafter referred to as “glycols” factor) is characterized by compounds with hydroxyl (or ether) linkages and n-butyl chains, showing a spectrum similar  
15 to commercial butyl-glycols that, to our knowledge, finds no equivalents in other atmospheric environments. Such factor contributed randomly to the set of samples (Fig. 9) but was completely absent in blank samples, thus excluding any filter contaminations prior/post sampling. Nonetheless positive artefacts or accidental contaminations during the sampling cannot be definitely ruled out.

20 F2: the second factor (hereinafter referred to as “HULIS-containing” factor) has spectral features similar to those characterizing samples collected in sites impacted by anthropogenic emissions (Fig. 10a), and already reported in literature (Decesari et al., 2000, 2007). In terms of functional group distribution, polluted samples typically show a more pronounced band of aromatics (visible in the range between 6.5–  
25 8.5 ppm) with respect to samples collected in remote locations. Besides this feature, the HULIS-containing factor’s profile retains low but appreciable signals of levoglucosan (visible in the spectral interval between 3.5–4.5 ppm), a well known atmospheric tracer for biomass combustion emissions (Simoneit et al., 1999; Nolte et al., 2001). As shown in Fig. 9, this factor accounted for most of the signal in the 30 March sample, C (S-SW)

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regime, and to a much lesser extent, it contributed to the less polluted samples collected in the final part of the campaign, C(W-NW). Moreover, the concentrations for this factor were positively correlated ( $R = 0.99$ ) with those of potassium ion, pointing again to a mix of combustion sources, i.e. long-range transported pollution/wood burning products. This is in agreement with recent results from satellite-based data coupling aerosol and fires, which assess wildfires in Eastern Europe with significant impacts on the fine aerosol load even in the Scandinavian region, particularly in April (Barnaba et al., 2011).

F3: the third factor (hereinafter referred to as “amines” factor) included intense peaks attributable to low-molecular weight alkyl amines, i.e. diethyl and dimethyl amines (DEA, DMA), and to methane-sulphonic acid (MSA), overlapping a broad background band in the aliphatic region (0.5–4.5 ppm). Such compounds (MSA and di-alkyl amines) have previously been found by the authors in clean marine OA (Fig. 10b) (Faccini et al., 2008; Decesari et al., 2011). Moreover, this factor accounted mainly for the OA composition when concentrations reached very low levels during the background regime (m/A), but it also contributed to the rise of concentrations during the last days of the sampling period, C (W-NW). The air mass origin from the Atlantic during the first two weeks of April, together with the presence of MSA and di-alkyl amines, suggest that the “amines” factor can be impacted by biogenic marine sources.

F4: the fourth factor (hereinafter referred to as “terpene-SOA-like” factor) is found prevalently in the samples collected between 15 and 17 April, C(W-NW) and also, to a lesser extent, in the 30 March sample (Fig. 9). Unlike the “HULIS-containing” factor profile, aromatic protons (H-Ar) are scarcely visible in the “terpene-SOA-like” factor, except for two weak peaks, also present in the “glycols” and “amines” profiles, which may be due to defective splitting. Besides this, main distinguishing features of this factor is the presence of single peaks overlapping the background signal in the region between 0.7–1.8 ppm which comprises non-functionalized alkyls (HC-C), e.g. methyl or methylene groups. Again, aliphatic alcohols and ethers/esters (HC-O) also contribute to characterizing the profile of such “terrestrial biogenic” factor in the range of chemical

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shifts between 3.3–4.5 ppm. By comparing the spectral profile of F4 with reference <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of ambient and laboratory-generated water-soluble aerosols, the best match was found with the BSOA produced in the SAPHIR simulation chamber during photo-oxidation and ozonolysis of terpene mixtures, representative of VOCs emitted by conifer tree species (Fig. 10c). In particular, the closest similarity was found with BSOA generated with mixtures of monoterpenes (MT) and sesquiterpenes (SQT), including:  $\alpha/\beta$ -pinene, limonene,  $\Delta^3$ -carene, ocimene,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene and  $\alpha$ -farnesene (Finessi et al., 2011).

### 3.2.3 Comparison between AMS and NMR factors for OA source attribution

Major components underlying the oxygenated organic aerosol fraction isolated from NMR data were compared to those apportioned by AMS and averaged upon filter sampling times (Fig. 11). As explained above, the NMR-factor “glycols” are suspected to be contaminations, and are excluded from the following analysis. It should be noted that no filter samples were collected at night-time during the background period, and therefore the off-line NMR analyses did not account for the nocturnal peaks of OOA2 observed by the AMSs in such conditions.

In order to compare NMR and AMS factor loadings, the concentration metrics used by the two techniques need to be homogenized, in an attempt to retrieve equivalent organic mass concentrations from the organic non-exchangeable hydrogen concentrations provided by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis. As a first step, water-soluble organic carbon concentrations comprising the NMR factors were derived from hydrogen concentrations by using factor-specific H/WSOC ratios. The latter were extrapolated from WSOC and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR measurements for spectral datasets representative for source types of the OA of interest to the present study. In particular, H/C molar ratios values of 0.8, 0.9 and 1 were used for the “terpene-SOA-like”, “amines” and “HULIS-containing” NMR-factors, respectively, on the basis of the analysis of laboratory terpene SOA samples (Finessi et al., 2011), marine aerosols in clean air masses sampled at the Irish station of Mace Head (Decesari et al., 2011), and of samples of biomass burning aerosols

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(Tagliavini et al., 2006). The WSOC concentrations estimated using such H/WSOC factors account for fully-substituted carbon atoms, which cannot be directly detected by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis. However, the sum of WSOC concentrations derived for the three factors is still lower than the measured WSOC, probably because of losses of volatile compounds during sample preparation. Finally, to derive equivalent organic matter concentrations, a simple conversion factor of 1.8 was used to convert WSOC loadings into water-soluble organic mass concentrations ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ). Along with the NMR-detected WSOC components, both the unaccounted-WSOC and the WINC fractions are included in Fig. 11 to facilitate comparison with AMS-detected OM. The conversion coefficients 1.8 and 1.4 were used to derive organic mass concentrations of the unaccounted-WSOM and WIOM, respectively.

The OA mass concentrations reconstructed by the two independent techniques turned out to be in overall agreement, following fairly the same trend throughout the whole observation period.

Even if the very few time-integrated filter samples cannot account for the great variability of OA composition observed by the online methods, when averaging the AMS factors over the filter sampling times, the OA composition patterns were comparable to those obtained by off-line measurements. The comparison between the patterns obtained by the AMS and NMR techniques is facilitated when looking at the averaged data over each distinct regime and the entire observing period (Figs. 12 and 13).

Two types of oxygenated organic components attributable to more and less oxidized organics, respectively, appeared particularly stable in all tested solutions used for factor analysis. They accounted for most of the detected mass in both methodologies (Fig. 13) and are attributable to a more and a less oxidized organic fraction. The more oxidized, aged organic fraction, represented by the AMS OOA1 and by the NMR “HULIS-containing” factors, accounted for about 50% of the detected organic mass in both cases, when considering the entire period (Fig. 13). This fraction, labelled as “more oxidized”, shows a mass spectrum dominated by the  $m/z$  44 ( $\text{CO}_2^+$ ) peak, and in parallel a NMR spectrum enriched in oxidized functional groups, such as

5 carbonyls/carboxyls and hydroxyls. Additionally, it shows high correlation coefficients with sulphate, ammonium, nitrate and potassium ions, and particularly contributed to the organic mass during the so-called continental regime from the South-to-SouthWest sector. Thus, for all the above reasons, it has been linked to transported pollution, including wood burning products. By contrast, the second major component, labelled as less oxidized, is represented by the AMS OOA2 and by the NMR factors related to biogenic OA, and greatly contributed to enhancing the OA mass during the marine/Arctic and C(W-NW) regimes.

10 The NMR factor analysis further isolated two distinct components within the a less oxidized OA fraction, namely the “amines” and “terpene-SOA-like” factors. Their relative concentrations appeared strongly dependent on the air mass regime. Indeed, when prevalently polar air masses reached the site (m/A regime), the NMR analysis assigned about 50 % of WSOC to the “amines” factor. This was based on similarities with spectral signatures of aerosol collected in clean marine environments, including MSA and alkyl amines signals and, therefore could be linked to a biogenic OA source of marine origin. By contrast, the “terpene-SOA-like” factor is related to terrestrial secondary products originating from the gas-to-particle conversion of VOCs emitted by conifer forests, on the basis of similarities with BSOA formed in chamber experiments with monoterpenes plus sesquiterpenes. Overall, a significant fraction of WSOC can be assigned to the terrestrial biogenic factor throughout the whole period (about 30 %), indicating a persistent source active in the area around the sampling site. It was also particularly enriched during the so-called C(W-NW) regime, reaching up to 50 % of the detected WSOC. The back-trajectories analysis showed that air masses influencing the site during the C(W-NW) period originated mainly from North West, undergoing a marine to continental transition over the Scandinavian forest area. Thus the BSOA enrichment in concomitance to prevailing C(W-NW) is reasonably connected to the longer time spent by the clean air masses over the Boreal forest with respect to that spent by the air masses arriving from North. This is consistent with previous investigations at Hyytiälä observing aerosol properties during the marine-to-continental

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transition (Allan et al., 2006; Cavalli et al., 2006; Tunved et al., 2006; Raatikainen et al., 2010). Since a few short pollution episodes were still detected during this period, a higher particle concentration may be also considered as a possible explanation for the BSOA enhancement with respect to low concentration periods, e.g. by acting as condensation sink for locally emitted gaseous precursors. However, the same composition patterns are not observed during the C(S-SW) period, when still high particle concentrations were registered but the air masses originated from Central Europe. In summary, the longer time spent over the Boreal forest by the air masses reaching the site within C(W-NW) remains the most plausible explanation of the observed BSOA enrichment.

## 4 Conclusions

Submicrometer organic aerosol characterization was performed in the Finnish forest environment at Hyytiälä, exploiting parallel AMS and NMR measurements with aim of source apportionment. The three-week EUCAARI campaign carried out in April 2007 covered different atmospheric conditions and transport patterns, from very clean background to fairly polluted regimes. Results from factor analysis applied separately on AMS and NMR spectral datasets showed that air mass origin had a strong impact on organic composition, in agreement with findings of previous investigations at this site. Two types of oxygenated organic components, one more and one less oxidized, appeared to be particularly stable within any tested solution used for the factor analysis applied, mostly accounting for the detected mass for both methodologies. The more oxidized component, defined as OOA1 for AMS and “HULIS-containing” for NMR, showed a mass spectrum dominated by the  $m/z$  44 peak and a NMR spectrum enriched in oxidized functional groups, such as carbonyls/carboxyls and hydroxyls. This component correlated clearly with pollution/wood burning outbreaks in Central Europe. By contrast, the less oxidized component, showing features consistent with fresher aerosols, was strongly enhanced in concomitance with air masses originating from the North to West sector.

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NMR factor analysis further isolated two distinct subcomponents within such less oxidized OA fraction, that were respectively linked to terrestrial and marine biogenic sources on the basis of similarities with spectral fingerprints and back-trajectory analysis. Overall, such terrestrial and marine biogenic components contributed equally to OA mass (about 30 % each) when averaging over the whole observing period, but showed relative abundances strongly depending on the North-to-West air-mass transition. In summary, the findings trace and quantify at least two independent sources originating biogenic secondary organic aerosols in Hyytiälä through oxidation and condensation phenomena: a first source involving products of marine origin, which is more important during low aerosol concentration regimes with predominantly polar air masses, and a second source involving reactions of locally emitted terpenes, which becomes more important with increasing time spent by air masses over the Boreal forest.

The complementary approach exploited here between independent source apportionment methods has proven to give a more complete and accurate picture of organic aerosol variability, and has provided the opportunity to trace biogenic SOA in the environment.

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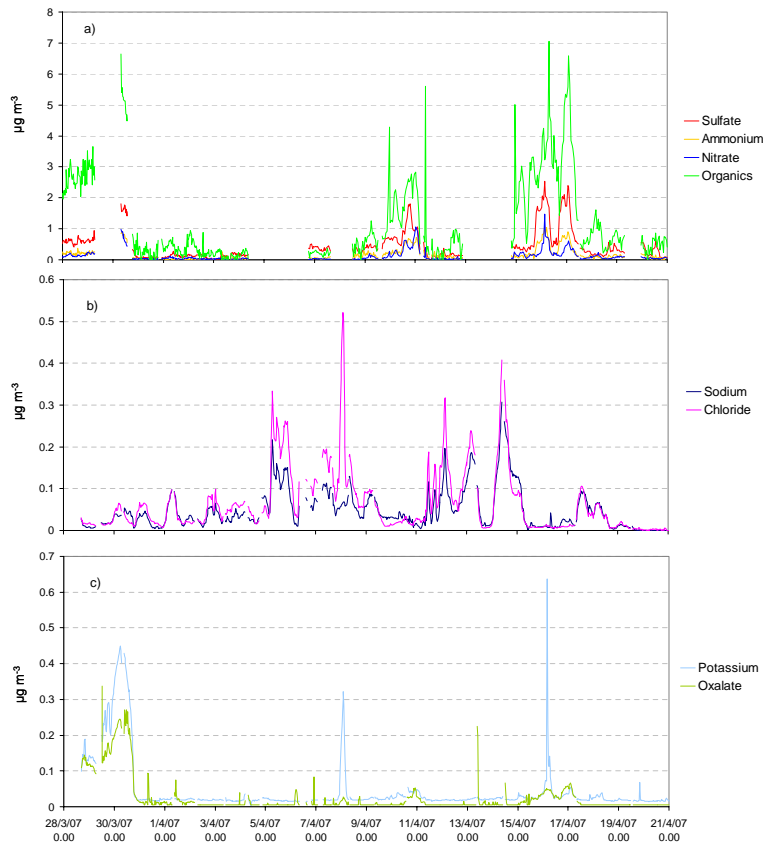
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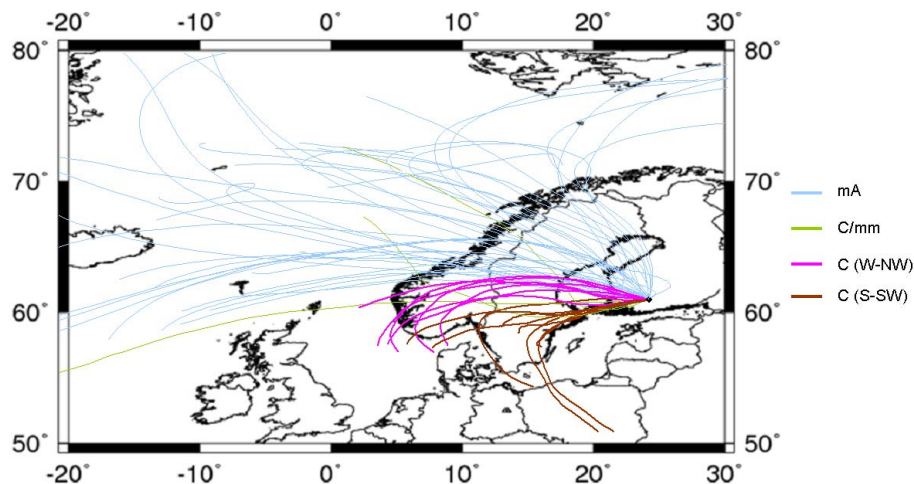
**Fig. 1.** Time-series ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) of the non-refractory PM<sub>1</sub> species measured by Q-AMS (a). Chloride, sodium, potassium and oxalate ions particle air mass concentrations as detected by the PILS-IC system (b, c).

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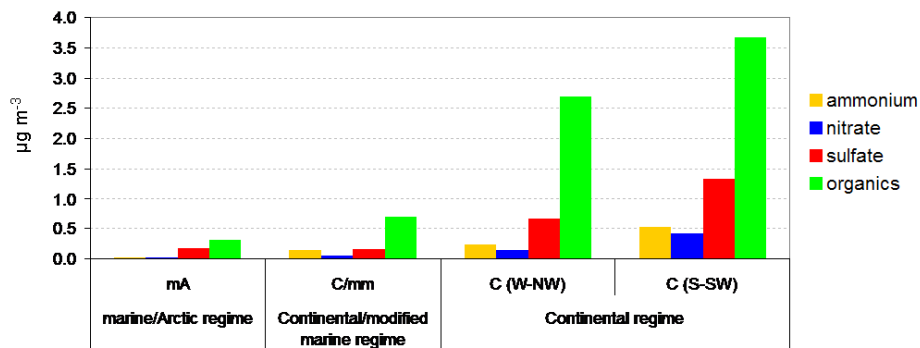


**Fig. 2.** Back-trajectory plots (48 h backward, 500 m a.g.l. height) obtained by running the HYSPLIT model every four hours from 28 March to 21 April. Colours are used for distinct air mass typologies: marine/Arctic (mA), Continental/modified marine (C/mm), Continental from the W-NW sector and Continental from the S-SW sector.

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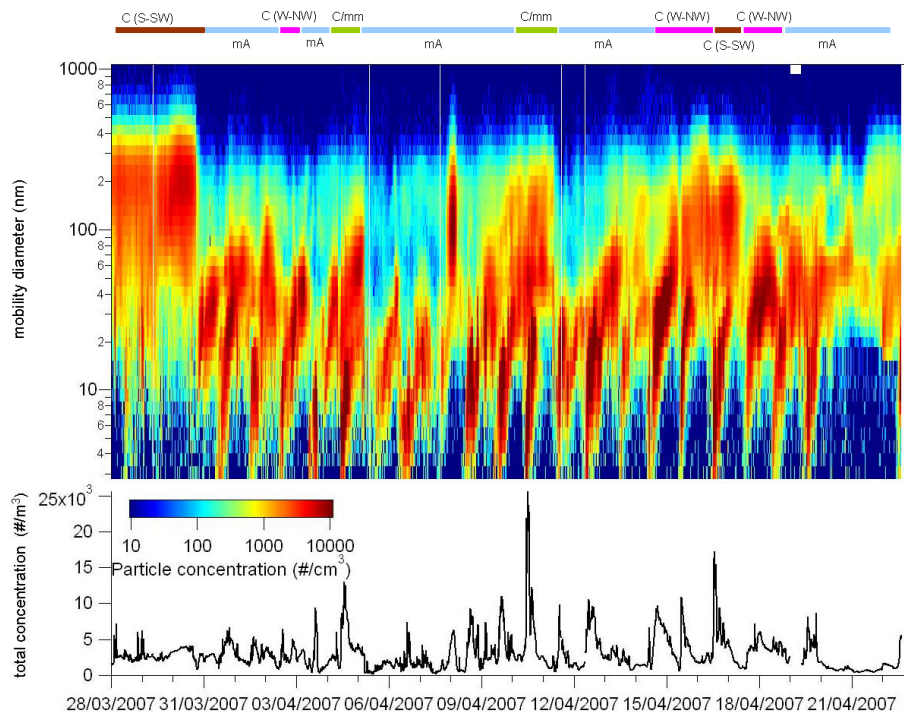


**Fig. 3.** PM<sub>1</sub> chemical composition (Q-AMS) averaged within the four distinct periods of Fig. 2.

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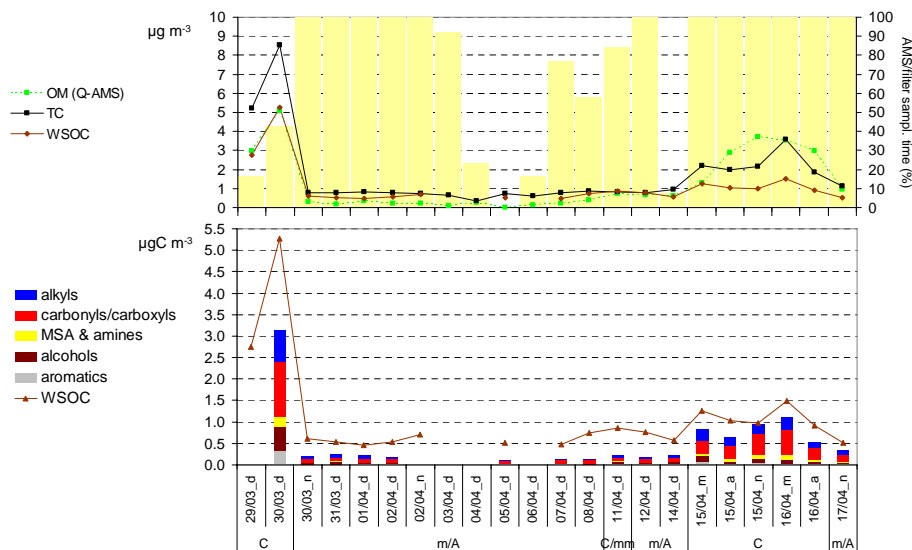


**Fig. 4.** Aerosol number size distribution measured by DMPS. Colours coded labels for the BTs distinct periods shown in Fig. 2 are also reported on the top.

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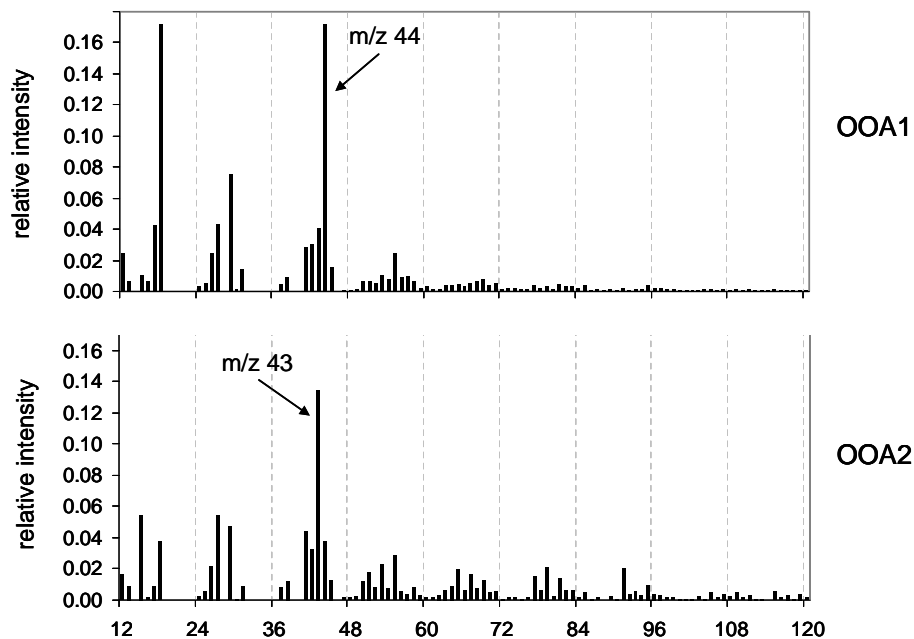


**Fig. 5.** Upper panel,  $\text{PM}_{10}$  filter samples carbonaceous mass concentrations expressed as total carbonaceous (black), water-soluble organics in (dark brown) in  $\mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$ . Q-AMS organics conc. ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) averaged upon filter sampling times are shown in green. The coverage of filter sampling times by AMS (percentage) is reported by yellow bars. Lower panel, functional groups distribution of the NMR-detected WSOC.

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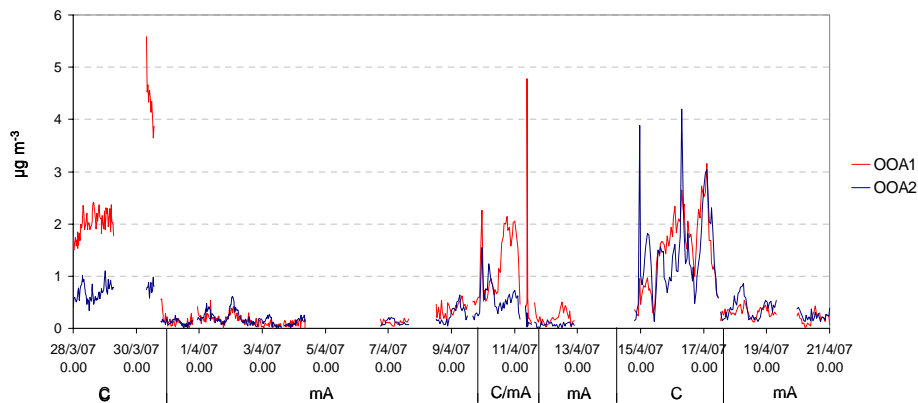
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**Fig. 6.** OOA1 and OOA2 mass spectra (Q-AMS).[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

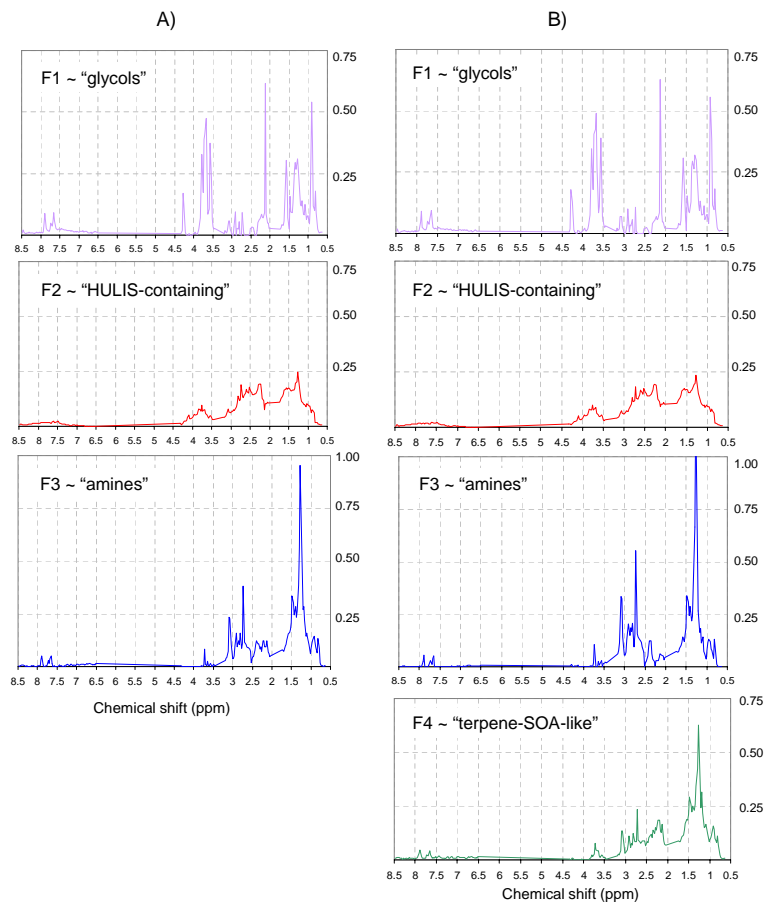
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**Fig. 7.** Q-AMS-factors time series. Labels for the observed distinct BTs regimes are reported under the time x-axis.

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**Fig. 8.** NMR-factor profiles isolated by applying the MCR-ALS model with a 3-factor solution (a), and a 4-factor solution (b). All factor profiles are vertically normalized to 1 and are plotted versus the NMR chemical shifts.

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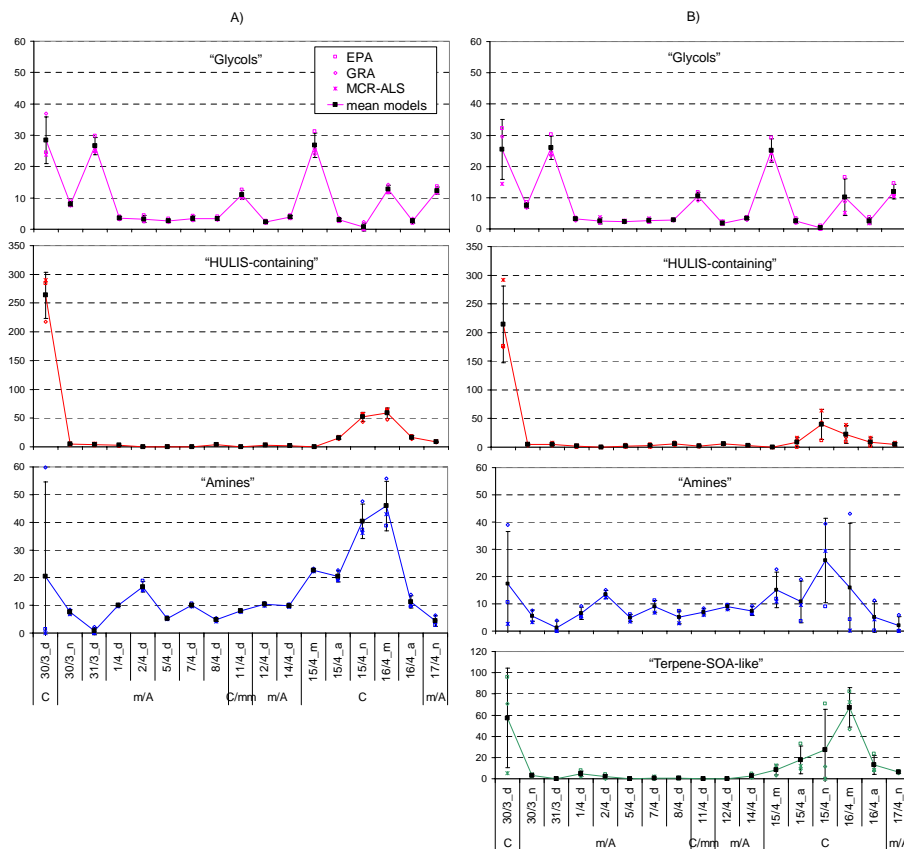
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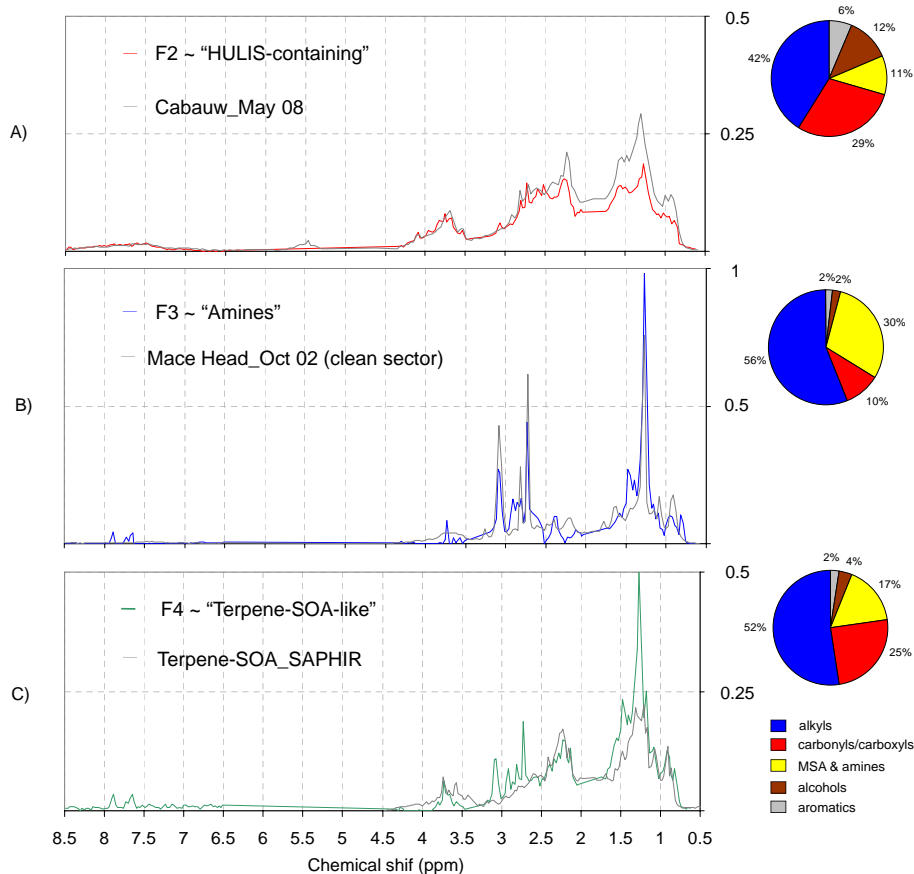
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**Fig. 9.** NMR-factor loadings generated by the models applied to the low-resolution matrix with 3-factor solution (a) and 4-factor solution (b). Within each factor, distinctive coloured symbols are used for different models while the black squared symbols represent mean values with vertical bar as standard deviations. Loadings are expressed as absolute values in  $\text{nmol H m}^{-3}$ .

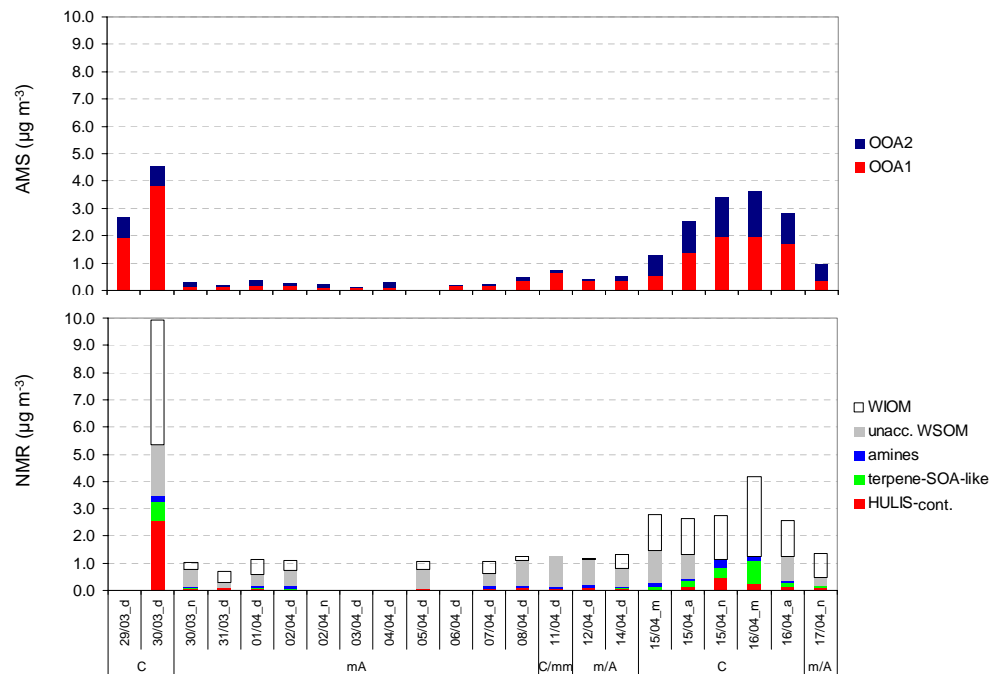




**Fig. 10.** NMR-factors profiles (MCR-ALS) emerging from the Hyytiälä dataset (coloured lines) overlapped with reference spectra (grey lines). The comparison includes spectral signatures obtained in other field (**a**, **b**) and chamber (**c**) campaigns. The functional groups patterns (%) corresponding to each factor are reported on the left.

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**Fig. 11.** OM apportionment by factorization of AMS- and NMR-data. Upper panel: Q-AMS-factor contributions averaged upon filter sampling times. Lower panel: unaccounted water-soluble and insoluble OM classes have been included. No data have been reported for NMR samples below detection limits. WSOM classes concentrations in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  have been obtained by multiplying for 1.8 the corresponding values in  $\mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$  except for WINC where 1.4 as conversion coefficient has been used.

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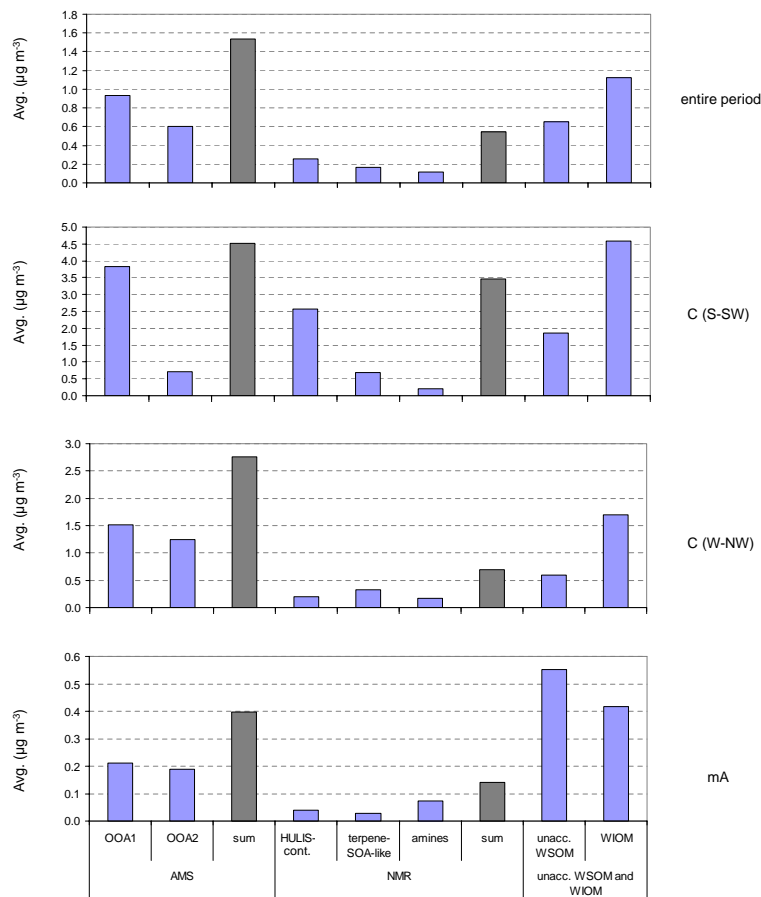
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**Determination of the biogenic SOA fraction in the boreal forest**

E. Finessi et al.



**Fig. 12.** Absolute concentrations ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) of the Q-AMS OOAs and filters organic components averaged upon the entire sampling period (upper panel) and each distinct sub-periods (lower panels).

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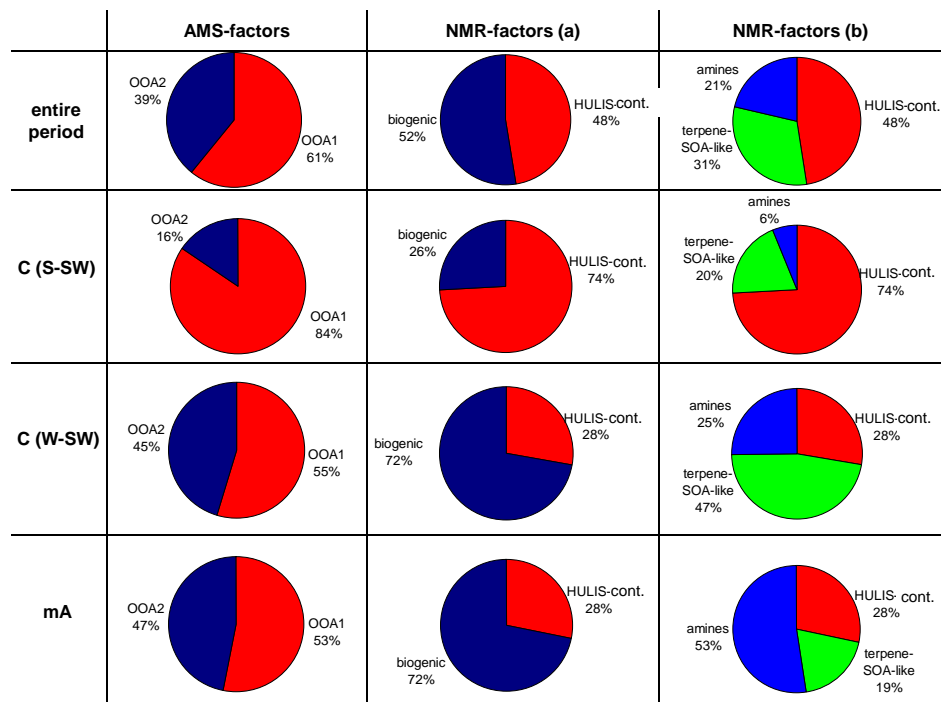
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## Determination of the biogenic SOA fraction in the boreal forest

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**Fig. 13.** Relative factors abundances (percentage) averaged over the whole observing period and over the above-described distinct regimes. Two columns are reported for NMR data showing the biogenic NMR-factors merged together **(a)** and separately **(b)**.

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