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Aerosol liquid water promotes the formation of water-soluble organic nitrogen in submicrometer aerosols in a suburban forest

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23 **ABSTACT:** Water-soluble organic nitrogen (WSON) affects the formation, chemical 24 transformations, hygroscopicity, and acidity of organic aerosols as well as 25 biogeochemical cycles of nitrogen. However, large uncertainties exist in the origins and formation processes of WSON. Submicrometer aerosol particles were collected at a 26 27 suburban forest site in Tokyo in summer 2015 to investigate relative impacts of 28 anthropogenic and biogenic sources on WSON formations and their linkages with aerosol liquid water (ALW). The concentrations of WSON (ave. $225 \pm 100 \text{ ngN m}^{-3}$) 29 and ALW exhibited peaks during nighttime, which showed a significant positive 30 31 correlation, suggesting that ALW significantly contributed to WSON formation. Further, 32 the thermodynamic predictions by ISORROPIA-II suggest that ALW was primarily 33 driven by anthropogenic sulfate. Our analysis, including positive matrix factorization, 34 suggests that aqueous-phase reactions of ammonium and reactive nitrogen with biogenic volatile organic compounds (VOCs) play a key role in WSON formation in 35 submicrometer particles, which is particularly significant in nighttime, at the suburban 36 forest site. The formation of WSON associated with biogenic VOCs and ALW was 37 partly supported by the molecular characterization of WSON. The overall result 38 suggests that ALW is an important driver for the formation of aerosol WSON through 39 40 a combination of anthropogenic and biogenic sources.

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43 **INTRODUCTION.**

Water-soluble organic nitrogen (WSON) typically accounts for up to ~30% of water-44 soluble total nitrogen by mass in atmospheric aerosols.¹⁻⁴ WSON can affect water-45 solubility, acidity, and hygroscopicity of aerosol particles,^{3, 5, 6} which are closely linked 46 with air quality and climate-relevant factors such as cloud formation. Moreover, the 47 48 atmospheric deposition of WSON onto terrestrial and marine environments affects the 49 structure and function of natural ecosystems, such as eutrophication and changes in biodiversity.^{5, 7-10} Therefore, it is of great importance to understand the origins and 50 51 formation processes of WSON in aerosols.

52 WSON in atmospheric aerosols can be associated with primary emissions from terrestrial vegetation such as fragments of plants, bacteria, fungi, and pollen.^{1, 3, 11} In 53 54 addition, secondary formation is also a possible source of WSON, which includes reactions of biogenic volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as monoterpenes and 55 isoprene, with reactive nitrogen.¹²⁻¹⁴ A laboratory chamber experiment conducted by 56 Surratt et al.¹⁵ reported that the oxidation of isoprene with nitrogen oxide (NO_x) results 57 in the formation of methacryloyl peroxynitrate (MPAN)-derived ON in particle phase. 58 Other laboratory experiments have demonstrated the production of nitrooxy 59 organosulfates (NOSs) and other organic nitrates (e.g., dihydroxynitrates and 60 monohydroxynitrates) through reactions of α -/ β -pinene and NO_x.^{14, 16, 17, 18} Furthermore, 61 glyoxal monomers can react with ammonium (NH4⁺)/ammonia (NH3) to form nitrogen-62 containing organic compounds (NOCs) in aqueous-phase particles or nanodroplets 63 containing ammonium.^{19, 20} Nevertheless, there are still substantial gaps in our current 64

knowledge on the sources and formation processes of WSON in ambient aerosols.

66	It has been recognized that aerosol liquid water (ALW) can significantly enhance
67	secondary organic aerosol (SOA) mass yield. ²¹⁻²⁵ This is because ALW not only
68	facilitates partitioning of gas-phase water-soluble organic matter into the particle phase
69	but also provides a medium for aqueous reactions to form SOA. ^{21, 23, 26} Previous studies
70	have reported that the amount of ALW is closely associated with local ambient
71	conditions, such as relative humidity (RH) and aerosol mass of chemical components
72	(e.g., sulfate or nitrate). ^{22, 25, 27-29} In general, forest environments have potentially high
73	RH and larger emissions of water-soluble precursors of biogenic SOA compared to
74	urban environments. ³⁰ In addition, a forest region influenced by anthropogenic air
75	masses with high NO_x concentrations is expected to promote SOA associated with
76	ALW. ^{31, 32} A recent field study conducted at a cool-temperate forest site suggested that
77	biogenic SOA and primary biological aerosol particles (PBAPs) accounted for
78	substantial fractions of the submicrometer water-soluble organic carbon (WSOC)
79	aerosols by mass. ³³ Despite WSON being an important compound class of WSOC, the
80	potential roles of ALW in the formation of WSON aerosols, particularly in the forest
81	atmosphere, are not well-documented.

In this study, we present the ambient measurements of the concentrations of WSON, the predicted ALW, and the relevant chemical parameters in submicrometer aerosol particles collected at a suburban forest site in Tokyo in summer 2015. The aims of the study are (1) to investigate the origins of ALW and WSON in the aerosols at the forest site, (2) to elucidate the role of ALW in WSON formation, and (3) to investigate the potential formation processes for WSON with a focus on the relative impacts ofanthropogenic and biogenic sources.

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EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

91 Site Description. Intensive measurements of aerosol and gas species were performed 92 from July 23 to August 8 in 2015 at the Field Museum Tama Hill (FM-Tama, 35.6385°N, 93 139.3781°E) measurement station of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.^{34, 35, 36} The site is located approximately 30 km west of center of Tokyo, 94 Japan (Figure S1a). The dominant species of the trees at the forest site are Quercus 95 serrata (Japanese konara oak), Quercus acutissima (sawtooths oak), and Cryptomeria 96 japonica (Japanese cedar). The biogenic emissions of VOCs and aerosols have been 97 previously reported for this forest site.³⁴ Because the forest site is characterized as a 98 99 typical suburban forest area, the site is also expected to be influenced by anthropogenic air masses transported from the urban area.³⁶ 100

101 Meteorological parameters, including local wind speeds and wind directions, amount of rainfall, RH, ambient temperature, and photosynthetically active radiation 102 (PAR), were monitored at the site. The local wind speeds were mostly $< 5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ during 103 104 the study period (Figures S1b and S2a), indicating that most of the observed aerosols were affected by emission sources in the forest area. However, the wind speeds 105 sometimes exceeded 5 m s^{-1} , particularly in daytime when the southerly winds were 106 predominantly observed, suggesting that the observed air masses were mostly 107 108 transported from the south directions of the urban area during the daytime. This suggests that the forest site was also influenced by anthropogenic air masses in addition to the local biogenic sources, particularly in daytime. Only four rainfall events occurred during the entire sampling period (**Figure S2**), indicating that the removal of atmospheric components by rainfall is likely insignificant in this study.

Aerosol Sampling, Chemical Analysis, and Measurements of Gas Species. 113 114 Submicrometer aerosol particles (with diameters of less than 0.95 µm) were 115 continuously collected using a high-volume air sampler (HVAS; Model 120SL, Kimoto Electric, Osaka, Japan). A cascade impactor (CI; Series 230, Tisch Environmental, 116 117 Cleves, OH, USA) was attached to HVAS, which collected submicrometer particles 118 onto quartz fiber filters (25 cm \times 20 cm) set on the bottom stage of CI. The duration of each aerosol sampling was approximately 3 h during daytime (9:00-18:00 LT) and 119 120 approximately 15 h during nighttime (18:00-9:00 LT). The collected aerosol samples 121 were stored individually in glass jars with a Teflon-lined screw top cap at -20 °C prior 122 to the analysis.

For the determination of inorganic ions, a portion of each filter sample was extracted with ultrapure water (>18 M Ω cm⁻¹) using an ultrasonic bath. The extracts were then filtrated with a disc filter (Millex-GV, 0.22 µm, Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA). The mass concentrations of major inorganic ions, including sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium, were measured using an ion chromatograph (Model 761 compact IC; Metrohm).³⁷

129 To determine the concentrations of WSOC and water-soluble total nitrogen 130 (WSTN), another filter cut was extracted with ultrapure water. The extracts were

filtrated with the disc filter in the same way as above, and WSOC and WSTN concentrations were determined using a total organic carbon (TOC)/total nitrogen (TN) analyzer (Model TOC-Vcsh, Shimadzu).³⁸ In this study, the mass concentrations of WSOC were converted to those of water-soluble organic matter (WSOM) using a conversion factor of 1.8.^{33, 39-41} The mass concentration of WSON is defined as the difference in the concentrations between WSTN and inorganic nitrogen (IN = NH₄⁺_N + NO₃⁻_N + NO₂⁻_N), namely [WSON] = [WSTN] – [IN].

For the analysis of biogenic molecular tracer compounds, a filter portion was 138 139 extracted with dichloromethane/methanol. The -COOH and -OH functional groups in 140 the extracts were reacted with N,O-bis-(trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) to 141 derive trimethylsilyl (TMS) esters and TMS ethers, respectively. The TMS derivatives 142 were then analyzed for 2-methyltetrols, 3-methyl-1,2,3-butanetricarboxylic acid (3-143 MBTCA), pinic acid, pinonic acid, arabitol, mannitol, sucrose, and trehalose (Table S1) by using a capillary gas chromatograph (GC7890, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA) 144 coupled with a mass spectrometer (5973 MSD, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA).¹ 145

To determine the concentrations of NOSs, another filter portion was extracted with methanol. Prior to the extraction, sodium ethyl sulfate-d5 was added to each filter sample as an internal standard. The extracted sample was injected into negative-mode electrospray ionization/liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (ESI/LC-MS) (LC-MS-2020, Shimadzu).⁴² In this study, we measured a molecular marker of isoprenederived NOS detected at m/z 260 (isoprene NOS).⁴² Sodium methyl sulfate was used as the surrogate standard for NOS, because it has been often used as a surrogate standard for isoprene organosulfate.⁴³ It is noted that several chromatographic peaks were
observed for the NOS of m/z 260, suggesting that several isomers are present for NOS.
In the present study, the sum of these isomers was used to calculate the total
concentrations of the NOS of m/z 260.

The mass concentrations of organic carbon (OC) and elemental carbon (EC) were 157 measured using an OC/EC analyzer.³⁸ The concentrations of α -pinene and limonene 158 were measured using a proton-transfer-reaction mass spectrometer (PTR-MS, 159 IONICON).³⁴ Ambient measurements of ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), and NO_x 160 $(= NO + NO_2)$ concentrations were simultaneously performed using an ultraviolet 161 162 absorption analyzer (Thermo Scientific, model 49C), a non-disperse infrared absorption analyzer (Thermo Scientific, model 48C), and a chemiluminescence analyzer (Thermo 163 Scientific, model 42iTL).³⁴ 164

Predicting ALW using a Thermodynamic Model. To predict the mass 165 concentration of ALW, we used a thermodynamic model, ISORROPIA-II,^{27, 29} which 166 calculates the ALW concentration with particle-phase concentrations of Na⁺, SO₄²⁻, 167 NH4⁺, NO₃⁻, Cl⁻, Ca²⁺, K⁺, and Mg²⁺, as well as meteorological conditions (RH and 168 ambient temperature) as input. For our analysis, the inputs to ISORROPIA-II included 169 170 the inorganic ions measured by IC as well as the RH and temperature monitored at the forest site (Supporting Information (SI)). To estimate the contributions of particle 171 water associated with organic fractions to ALW, the organic hygroscopicity parameter 172 was calculated (SI). ALW was calculated as the sum of water associated with individual 173 aerosol chemical components (i.e., the sum of ions and lumped organics) based on the 174

175 Zdanovskii–Stokes–Robinson (ZSR) relationship.^{29, 44, 45} The calculation assumed that
176 the particles were internally mixed.

177

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Temporal Variations of Water-Soluble Components in Submicrometer Aerosol 178 Particles. Figures 1a and 1b show the time series of the mass fractions and 179 180 concentrations of the major components of submicrometer water-soluble aerosols. On average, WSOM and sulfate were the dominant components, which accounted for $33 \pm$ 181 11% and 49 \pm 13% of the submicrometer water-soluble aerosols, respectively. 182 183 Ammonium was the third most abundant chemical component, whose concentrations 184 showed a temporal variation similar to that of sulfate (Figure 1b). During July 27 to 185 August 3, the mass concentration levels and fractions of sulfate tended to increase, 186 whereas those of WSOM (WSOC) showed an opposite trend. The mass fractions and 187 concentrations of WSOC exhibited a distinct diurnal cycle, with a maximum in the morning until noontime and a minimum in the nighttime. A clear diurnal pattern was 188 189 also observed for the sulfate concentrations, with peaks in the afternoon. These dissimilarities in the temporal variations of WSOM and sulfate suggested that the 190 191 dominant sources differed between these two major components.

Figure 1c shows temporal variations in the concentrations of 2-methyltetrols and 3-MBTCA, which are oxidation products of isoprene and α -pinene, respectively.^{1, 46-48} The temporal variation of 2-methyltetrols was similar to that of WSOC during the study period ($R^2 = 0.47$, P < 0.001). Moreover, the temporal variations of the concentrations of 3-MBTCA and WSOC were similar during the entire sampling period ($R^2 = 0.74$, P 197 < 0.001). These results indicated that most of the WSOC in the submicrometer aerosols 198 was associated with the emissions of isoprene and α -pinene and their oxidation at this 199 forest site.

The average concentration of sulfate in the submicrometer particles was 5.5 ± 3.1 200 μ g m⁻³ during the study period. Regarding the possible sources of the observed sulfate, 201 202 the local wind data suggested that the observed sulfate was likely transported by the surrounding urban area in both daytime and nighttime, as mentioned above (Figure S1). 203 Therefore, it is likely that anthropogenic sources dominantly contributed to the 204 205 observed sulfate at this forest site, which is also supported by the negligible contribution of sea salt to the observed sulfate (0.1%) in this study. The major sources of sulfate 206 observed in Tokyo are attributable to manufacturing industries and energy production.⁴⁹ 207 208 The average concentration observed at the current forest site was larger than that (ave. $3.2 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}$) reported for an urban area of Tokyo in summer.²⁹ The observed sulfate at 209 210 this forest site was likely more aged due to the transport from the urban area, which can explain the difference in the concentration levels. 211

Overall, the temporal variation in the concentrations of WSON is similar to that of sulfate, rather than WSOC (**Figures 1b** and **1d**). At some specific nights (e.g., July 31 to August 1 and August 7–8), WSON showed a significant increase in the concentrations, which is contrary to the case of WSOC. This resulted in no significant difference in the average concentration of WSON between daytime and nighttime (**Table S1**). The WSON concentrations also showed a temporal trend similar to that of ALW concentrations (**Figure 1d**). The similarity in the temporal variations suggests

that WSON formation is closely linked with ALW at this forest site.

In general, volatile species like ammonium are expected to be volatilized more 220 221 in daytime when ambient temperature was higher. In this study, the sampling duration was set for 3 hours in daytime, partly in order to avoid volatilization of the aerosol 222 223 components within this shorter time of the sampling in daytime. However, ammonium, 224 which is one of the major volatile species in this study, systematically showed larger 225 concentrations in daytime than in nighttime. Moreover, the diurnal variations of isoprene SOA and monoterpene SOA were similar to those of their precursor VOCs 226 obtained by in-situ measurements³⁴ during the entire period. Although the possibility of 227 228 volatilization loss during the sampling cannot be ruled out, it is expected that the 229 difference in the sampling time between daytime and nighttime did not significantly 230 affect our discussion.

Potential Sources of ALW. To investigate the potential sources of ALW in the 231 submicrometer aerosols, Figure 2 investigates different outputs of the ALW 232 concentrations calculated by ISORROPIA-II to evaluate the contribution of sulfate and 233 nitrate to the ALW mass. The calculation showed insignificant difference (~5.4%) in 234 235 the ALW concentrations between the cases with and without an NH₄NO₃ input. In 236 contrast, the calculation without an $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ input resulted in a significant decrease in the ALW concentrations compared to the base-case calculation. On average, 237 (NH₄)₂SO₄ contributed to 75% of the ALW mass at the forest site. The average fractions 238 of the ALW mass derived by (NH₄)₂SO₄ were similar during daytime (75%) and 239 nighttime (72%). The results quantitatively suggest that most of the ALW mass was 240

241 controlled by sulfate. Cheng et al.⁵⁰ suggested that SO_2 from anthropogenic sources can 242 be trapped by alkaline aerosol components such as ammonium in fine particles during 243 a haze event, followed by oxidation by NO_2 to form sulfate. This production mechanism 244 of sulfate might be self-amplified with an increase in ALW concentrations⁵⁰.

Figure 2 also includes the ALW concentrations derived by organic matter. On 245 246 average, the mass concentrations of the ALW derived by organics were similar during daytime $(0.98 \pm 0.35 \ \mu g \ m^{-3})$ and nighttime $(1.02 \pm 0.43 \ \mu g \ m^{-3})$. Organic components 247 in aerosols can promote or inhibit water uptake, which depends on the chemical 248 249 composition and relative abundance of organic matter as well as particle mixing states.⁵¹⁻⁵⁶ In this study, the calculation assumed a hygroscopic parameter κ of 0.1 for 250 organic matter, which is a typical value for biogenic SOA.^{33, 57, 58} The calculation 251 252 resulted in an insignificant increase (ave. 16%) in ALW concentration (Figure 2). The ALW concentrations driven by organics were substantially lower than those derived by 253 (NH₄)₂SO₄ both in daytime and nighttime, suggesting that the contribution of organic 254 255 matter to the ALW mass was insignificant in this study. Insignificant contribution of organics to the ALW mass was also suggested by a previous study, which predicted 256 ALW in the urban area of Tokyo.²⁹ The overall results suggest that the amount of ALW 257 in the submicrometer aerosol particles was mainly controlled by that of sulfate at this 258 forest site. 259

ALW mainly driven by anthropogenic sulfate has been reported by previous studies.^{27, 29, 45, 59} However, the current result differs from those obtained by Hodas et al. in an agricultural region in Po Valley, Italy.²⁵ They suggested that anthropogenic

nitrate from local sources mainly controls the formation of ALW in PM_{2.5}. Indeed, the 263 concentrations of nitrate reported by Hodas et al.²⁵ are much larger than the values 264 265 presented in this study. Thus, the difference in the major contributor to ALW may be due to the differences in the relative abundance of the aerosol components (i.e., sulfate 266 vs. nitrate) responsible for ALW, as also suggested by Hodas et al.²⁵ Moreover, it is 267 268 expected that in regions with larger NO_x emission under the concentration levels of biogenic VOCs and sulfate similar to those in this study, the formation of ALW may be 269 promoted. 270

Possible Sources of WSOC and WSON and their Linkages with ALW. While 271 ISORROPIA-II was used to predict the ALW mass, a positive matrix factorization 272 (PMF) analysis⁶⁰ was performed to apportion sources of the measured WSOC and 273 274 WSON. The PMF resolved six interpretable factors, which were characterized by the 275 enrichment of each tracer compound (Figure S3). Figure 3 presents the contribution of each factor to the mass concentrations of WSOC, WSON, and ALW during daytime and 276 nighttime. The PMF showed that, on average, most of the WSOC mass was attributable 277 to biogenic sources both in daytime (86%) and nighttime (77%). Most of the biogenic 278 sources are isoprene-SOA and α -pinene-SOA (F2 and F3), followed by PBAPs such as 279 280 bacteria, fungi, and pollen (F4 and F5) (Figures 3a and 3d). As shown previously, the mass concentrations of WSOC showed a distinct diurnal variation with a maximum in 281 daytime. The overall result suggests that most of the WSOC mass was attributable to 282 local biogenic sources. In contrast, anthropogenic sulfate-rich factor (F1) contributed 283 small fractions of WSOC mass both in daytime (9.4%) and nighttime (19%), suggesting 284

that organic carbon from anthropogenic sources contributed to the small fraction ofWSOC mass.

287 In contrast, the anthropogenic sulfate-rich factor (F1) contributed to 48% and 61% of WSON mass during the daytime and nighttime, respectively (Figures 3b and 3e). In 288 289 addition, the sum of the biogenic-SOA-relevant factors (F2 and F3) and the pollen-rich 290 factor (F5) accounted for 51% (daytime) and 38% (nighttime) of WSON mass, which are also significant sources. The PMF showed that most of ALW concentrations were 291 attributable to the anthropogenic sulfate-rich factor (F1) both in daytime (74%) and 292 293 nighttime (83%), as shown in Figures 3c and 3f. This result agrees with those derived by ISORROPIA-II, where (NH₄)₂SO₄ is a major factor controlling ALW mass in this 294 295 study (Figure 2).

296 Figures 4a and 4b show the concentrations of WSOC and WSON as functions of ALW concentrations. The WSOC concentrations tended to increase with increasing 297 ALW concentrations. However, the concentrations of these two parameters showed less 298 significant correlation coefficient ($R^2 < 0.1$) in this study. This result is different from 299 that obtained by a recent study conducted in an agriculture area in Italy,²⁵ according to 300 301 which the WSOC concentrations showed a significant positive correlation with ALW 302 concentrations in PM_{2.5}. Their study implied that ALW promoted the formation of particulate WSOC in PM_{2.5}. The difference between the current study and Hodas et al.²⁵ 303 may be due to the additional contributions of the other formation processes of WSOC 304 in this study, such as gas-phase reactions of biogenic VOCs, and PBAPs (Figures 3a 305 and **3d**), and/or the difference in the size cut of aerosol particles. 306

In contrast, the concentrations of WSON showed significant positive correlations with those of ALW both in daytime ($R^2 = 0.41$, P < 0.01) and nighttime ($R^2 = 0.55$, P < 0.01), as also expected from **Figure 1d**. The overall results suggest that the amount of ALW, mainly driven by anthropogenic sulfate, is significantly linked with WSON formation. Moreover, the mass ratio of WSON/WSOC showed significant correlations with ALW concentrations (**Figure 4c**), indicating that the increasing rate of the WSON mass was higher than that of WSOC with increasing mass of ALW.

Possible Formation Mechanisms of WSON. As shown in the previous section, the 314 315 current result suggests that ALW, mainly driven by anthropogenic sulfate, significantly 316 contributed to WSON formation at the forest site. One plausible mechanism for WSON formation is the aqueous-phase reactions of NH₃/NH₄⁺ with biogenic organic carbon.¹² 317 318 The formation of NOCs has been found in recent laboratory experiments as a result of reactive uptake of NH₃ by carbonyl species in aqueous-phase SOA.^{12, 61, 62} More 319 recently, Gen et al.²⁰ reported that NH₃/NH₄⁺ in the aqueous phase can react with 320 glyoxal monomers to form NOCs (e.g., imidazole, 2,2'-biimidazole, and imidazole-2-321 carboxaldehyde). In our current study, the concentrations of WSON indeed showed 322 323 positive correlations with those of NH_4^+ (Figure S5a).

Gen et al.²⁰ also suggested that the formation rates of NOCs can be increased due to the "salting-in" effect caused by a large concentration of salts such as sulfate. In addition, it has also been reported that organic gas species have a stronger potential to be partitioned in the liquid phase compared to particle-phase organic matter.²⁶ It is thus likely that high abundance of ALW in this study promotes NOC formation. In the 329 present study, the WSON concentrations showed significant positive correlations with 330 those of sulfate and ALW (**Figure S4**). The overall results support the idea that WSON 331 formation from NH_4^+ -related aqueous-phase reactions is promoted by the increased 332 mass of ALW.

333 As shown in Figure 3e, the anthropogenic sulfate-rich factor (F1) contributed to 334 the dominant source fraction of WSON, which was much larger in nighttime than in daytime. Moreover, the correlation coefficient between WSON and NH₄⁺ in nighttime 335 336 was larger than that in daytime (Figure S5a). This result also indicated that the aqueous-337 phase reactions of biogenic VOCs with NH4⁺ to form WSON were more important in nighttime at this forest site. In general, relatively high RH in nighttime leads to the 338 phase partitioning of NH₃ into liquid phase, followed by a rapid equilibrium of NH₃ 339 with the particle phase.⁶³ Previous laboratory studies suggested that chemical aging of 340 biogenic SOA formed by ozonolysis of both α -pinene and limonene under the presence 341 of NH₃/NH₄⁺ can produce a significant amount of NOCs.⁶⁴⁻⁶⁸ Such NOC formation 342 associated with NH₃/NH₄⁺ has been attributed to the mechanism of carbonyl-to-imine 343 conversion.^{64, 65, 68} In order to support the idea that NH₃/NH₄⁺ efficiently reacted with 344 biogenic VOCs to form WSON in our study, we compared the WSON and the product 345 346 of ozone with α -pinene and limonene which were simultaneously measured at the sampling site. The results showed that the mass concentrations of WSON significantly 347 correlated with the product of ozone with α -pinene and limonene particularly in 348 nighttime with R^2 of 0.57 and 0.49, respectively (Figures S6a and S6b). This result 349 350 together with the PMF analysis provides evidence that aqueous-phase reactions of NH₃/NH₄⁺ with biogenic VOCs can partly explain the WSON formation in
submicrometer particles at the forest site. Consequently, the increases in ALW
concentrations in nighttime can serve as an abundant medium for NH₄⁺-related aqueous
reactions to form WSON.

355 Another possible mechanism is the formation of organic nitrate through reactions 356 of biogenic VOCs and NO_x. Previous studies have suggested that NO_x oxidation of isoprene is closely related to the formation of MPAN, which can account for 8-13% of 357 gas-phase organic nitrate.⁶⁹⁻⁷¹ These organic nitrates can be partitioned into the particle 358 phase, followed by reactions in the aqueous phase.^{14, 71, 72} In addition, particulate NOCs, 359 including NOSs, dihydroxynitrates, and monohydroxynitrates, were found to be the 360 reaction products of α -/ β -pinene and NO_x.^{14, 17} To support the reactions of biogenic 361 362 VOCs with reactive nitrogen to form organic nitrate, Figure 5 compares the concentrations of isoprene NOS identified by ESI/LC-MS and WSON during a specific 363 period (July 31 to August 2, 2015) of this study. The concentrations of WSON showed 364 a positive correlation with those of isoprene NOS, which is formed through the 365 reactions of isoprene with NO_x and sulfate. Although this NOS is one example and it is 366 367 difficult to cover all the molecular compounds of WSON, this result provides a direct evidence for WSON formation, partly by the reactions of biogenic VOCs and NO_x. 368

369 Production of organic nitrates in aerosols has been observed in nighttime at forest
370 sites in northeastern Bavaria, Germany;¹⁶ K-puszta, Hungary;⁷³ and Antwerp,
371 Belgium.⁷⁴ These field studies suggest the importance of nitrate radical (NO₃)-driven
372 chemistry in the formation of SOA. Such importance of NO₃ chemistry in nighttime

373 was also demonstrated by laboratory experiments, using sulfate seed aerosol under the conditions of both high and intermediate NO_x levels.¹⁷ In this study, the observed 374 375 concentration of NO_x was larger in nighttime (Table S1). Moreover, a positive correlation between the concentrations of WSON and the product of NO_x and O₃ 376 377 $([NO_x][O_3]])$ was evident only in nighttime (P < 0.05) (Figure S6c). The results indicate 378 that the NO_x-related reactions were more important in the formation of WSON in 379 nighttime than in daytime. It is noted that photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) as a surrogate of the sunlight did not show any significant correlations with ALW or NO₃⁻ 380 $(R^2 < 0.1)$ in this study (data not shown). This also supports that WSON and ALW is 381 382 not a coincidence but are linked in terms of the formation of WSON.

Particle acidity is also an important factor affecting NO_x-involved chemistry to 383 produce organic nitrates from isoprene and α -/ β -pinene.^{14, 22} In particular, particle 384 acidity with pH < 2 can significantly influence the ring-opening reactions of isoprene 385 epoxydiols.^{22, 75} Indeed, the average pH values predicted by ISORROPIA-II in this 386 387 study were as low as 1.18 ± 0.67 and 1.52 ± 0.50 in daytime and nighttime, respectively (Table S1). The high particle acidity supports the fact that the acid-catalyzed 388 mechanism can also promote WSON formation from biogenic VOCs. This is in 389 accordance with the conclusion of Miyazaki et al.,¹ who also indicated that a strong 390 aerosol acidity can promote WSON formation. 391

392 Note that the pollen-rich factor (F5), which represents PBAPs, accounted for 18%
393 of WSON in daytime (Figure 3b), whereas it was negligible in nighttime (<1.0%)
394 (Figure 3e). Such PBAPs can contain amino acids, which are one of the most well-

known NOCs.^{76, 77} While our study suggests the dominance of secondary processes in
WSON formation in summer, similar studies need to be conducted in the other seasons,
such as spring and autumn, when PBAP emissions are expected to be large.^{33, 76}

In conclusion, our study suggests that ALW, mainly driven by local 398 399 anthropogenic sulfate, significantly promoted WSON formation in submicrometer 400 aerosol particles at this study site. Although it is difficult to quantitatively estimate the 401 WSON mass increased by ALW only from our data, the coefficient of determination between WSON and ALW, at least showed that 41% (daytime) and 55% (nighttime) of 402 403 the variability in the WSON mass concentrations can be explained by ALW. Aqueousphase reactions involving ammonium and biogenic VOCs are likely important 404 405 pathways for WSON formation. In addition, the interactions between biogenic VOCs 406 and atmospheric reactive nitrogen also play a key role in WSON formation in aqueousphase submicrometer particles, particularly in nighttime, at this forest site. These 407 findings may provide not only new insights to the formation processes of WSON 408 409 associated with ALW but also management strategies to control the abundance of submicrometer aerosol particles. 410

411 **ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

412 Supporting Information

413 Details of the calculation of ALW and pH, PMF analysis, one table (Table S1), and five

414 extensive figures (Figures S1–S6) (PDF)

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100 FIGURE CALITONS	700	FIGURE	CAPTIONS
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702 Figure 1. Temporal variations in (a) the mass fractions of the chemical components in 703 submicrometer water-soluble aerosols, mass concentrations of (b) WSOC, sulfate, and 704 ammonium, (c) 2-methyltetrols and 3-MBTCA, and (d) WSON and ALW. Shaded areas 705 in each panel indicate nighttime. 706 707 Figure 2. Temporal variations in the mass concentrations of ALW, compared to those without ammonium sulfate and ammonium nitrate, and those derived from organics 708 709 calculated by ISORROPIA-II. 710

Figure 3. Contribution of each PMF-derived factor to the mass concentrations of (a)
WSOC, (b) WSON, and (c) ALW during daytime and (d) WSOC, (e) WSON, and (f)
ALW during nighttime.

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Figure 4. Mass concentrations of (a) WSOC, (b) WSON, and (c) mass ratios of WSON
to WSOC as a function of ALW concentrations during daytime (open circles) and
nighttime (solid circles).

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Figure 5. Scatter plot of mass concentrations of WSON and isoprene NOS with its chemical structure in submicrometer aerosol samples obtained during July 31 to August 2, 2015. Isoprene NOS is a molecular marker of isoprene-derived nitrooxy organosulfate detected at m/z 260 by ESI/LC-MS. Note that the chemical structure includes isomers of that compound.

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727 Figures

- **Fig. 1.**







Fig. 4.



770 Fig. 5.
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Aerosol liquid water promotes the formation of water-soluble organic nitrogen in submicrometer aerosols in a suburban forest

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Aerosol Liquid Water (ALW) and pH Calculated by ISORROPIA-II

The mass concentrations of ALW associated with inorganic species were predicted 38 by ISORROPIA-II.¹⁻³ This thermodynamic model also calculated the equilibrium 39 particle hydronium ion concentration per volume air (H⁺_{air}), which along with ALW 40 was then used to predict particle pH.^{1,4} The calculation was based on concentrations of 41 inorganic ions (Na⁺, SO₄²⁻, NH₄⁺, NO₃⁻, Cl⁻, Ca²⁺, K⁺, and Mg²⁺) measured by the ion 42 43 chromatograph, as well as relative humidity (RH) and ambient temperature (T). In this study, ISORROPIA-II was run in the "reverse mode", which involves predicting the 44 45 thermodynamic composition based only on the aerosol composition (i.e., without gasphase parameters) together with RH and T as input. Moerover, the reverse mode with 46 the thermodynamically metastable state was selected.^{1, 2, 5} 47

48 Additionally, the "forward mode" was run with inputs of only aerosol-phase data, T, and RH. The resulting prediction of ALW concentration remained almost identical 49 (reverse vs. forward: slope = 0.96, intercept: $-0.2 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}$, and r = 0.99) irrespective of 50 the mode used. This is in agreement with the findings of Guo et al.¹ and Hennigan et 51 52 al.⁶. When the ALW mass derived from organic matter accounts for less than 50% of the total ALW mass, the prediction of H⁺_{air} by ISORROPIA-II is less sensitive to the 53 amount of water derived by organics.¹ In such a case, ISORROPIA-II can calculate 54 H^+_{air} without a large uncertainty even if the inputs are only inorganic species, T, and by 55 the forward mode.^{1, 4} Moreover, a previous study suggested that gas-phase input does 56 not have an important impact on H⁺_{air} calculation.^{1, 4} Therefore, we also ran 57

ISORROPIA-II in the forward mode to estimate pH values of submicrometer aerosolparticles.

The concentrations of ALW derived from organic compounds were estimated using a simplified model with the Zdanovskii–Stokes–Robinson (ZSR) mixing rule.² This rule shows that the hygroscopic growth of aerosol mixtures can be calculated using weighted hygroscopicity of each composition based on their dry volume fractions.^{2, 7, 8} The ALW concentration derived from organic compounds was predicted according to the following equation:

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$$V_{\rm w, o} = V_{\rm o} \kappa_{\rm org} a_{\rm w} / (1 - a_{\rm w})$$
 (1)

67 where $V_{w, o}$ and V_{o} are volumes of ALW and organic components, respectively. κ_{org} 68 represents the hygroscopicity parameter for organics, and a_w is water activity. For the 69 calculation, the a_w value is considered equal to ambient RH based on the assumption 70 that the effect of aerosol curvature is limited and that the effect of aerosol water uptake 71 on ambient vapor pressure can be ignored.⁷ In addition, the typical values of 1.4 g cm⁻³ 72 and 0.1 were used for the density of organics and κ_{org} , respectively.⁹⁻¹⁶

The total concentration of ALW from inorganic and organic fractions was calculated using the aerosol inorganic–organic mixture functional group activity coefficient (AIOMFAC) model.¹⁷ Hodas et al.¹⁷ suggested that organic compounds that are not measured in aerosols may change aerosol hygroscopicity, resulting in over- or under-estimates of the ALW concentrations. Consequently, the κ -Kohler theory with the ZSR mixing rule has been generally accepted as a reliable method for predicting ALW concentration from the organic fraction in aerosols.^{2, 7, 8}

80 **Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) Analysis.**

The PMF version 5.0 (PMF 5.0)¹⁸ was applied to develop source apportionments of WSOC, WSON, and ALW in submicrometer aerosol particles. Sixteen chemical components were used as the model inputs, including 2-methyltetrols, pinic acid, 3methyl-1,2,3-butanetricarboxylic acid (3-MBTCA), arabitol, mannitol, trehalose, sucrose, ammonium, sulfate, calcium, potassium, nitrate, EC, ALW, WSON, and WSOC.

We ran the PMF model with 4–9 factors and changed the seed value from 1 to 40. Moreover, we examined the Q(robust) and Q(true) values as well as the number of scaled residuals beyond three standard deviations to select the optimal number of factors. The uncertainties of the PMF solutions for each test run were estimated using the analyses of displacement (DISP) and bootstrap (BS).^{19, 20}

The PMF analysis resulted in six interpretable factors, as shown in Figure S3. 92 Factor 1 (F1) was dominated by sulfate (85%) and ammonium (79%). As stated in the 93 94 main text and shown in Figure S1, the local wind data suggest that the forest site was 95 influenced by anthropogenic air masses transported from the urban area in the south, as well as by local biogenic sources, particularly in daytime. Therefore, F1 is referred to 96 as "anthropogenic sulfate-rich sources." Factor 2 (F2) is characterized by the 97 dominance of pinic acid, which is the first-generation oxidation product of α -pinene.²¹, 98 ²² Thus, F2 is referred to here as "less oxidized α -pinene SOA." 99

Factor 3 (F3) is characterized by large contributions of 3-MBTCA (67%) and 2methyltetrols (58%). This profile can be explained by the dominant contributions of

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both more oxidized α -pinene SOA and isoprene SOA.²²⁻²⁴ F3 is defined as "more oxidized α -pinene SOA and isoprene SOA." Note that 54% of nitrate and 49% of EC also contributed to this factor. While the observed concentrations of nitrate and EC were relatively low (Table S1), the result implies that anthropogenic sources also contributed to F3 to some extent, and that NO_x was likely involved in the reactions with biogenic VOCs (see text).

Factor 4 (F4) is characterized by arabitol (81%), mannitol (86%), and trehalose (82%), whereas Factor 5 (F5) is dominated by sucrose (84%). On the basis of the characteristics of each source profile, F4 and F5 are referred to here as "a mixture of bacteria and fungi origins"^{19, 25} and "pollen-rich"¹⁹, respectively. Factor 6 (F6) is dominated by nss-Ca²⁺ (91%) and K⁺ (75%). Moreover, there were some contributions of three sugar compounds, such as trehalose, to F6. Based on these characteristics, F6 is referred to here as "a mixture of soil and biomass burning origins".

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	Daytime				Nighttime		
	Min.	Max.	Mean \pm SD	Min.	Max.	Mean ± SD	
WSON (µgN m ⁻³)	0.04	0.42	0.23 ± 0.10	0.05	0.44	0.21 ± 0.10	
WSOC (µgC m ⁻³)	1.40	8.39	4.84 ± 1.72	1.12	4.03	2.44 ± 0.83	
$SO_4^{2-}(\mu g m^{-3})$	1.09	12.84	6.02 ± 3.19	0.75	8.70	4.24 ± 2.42	
$NO_{3}^{-}(\mu g m^{-3})$	0.39	1.46	0.65 ± 0.26	0.12	0.50	0.21 ± 0.09	
$NH_4^+ (\mu g m^{-3})$	0.44	4.57	2.16 ± 1.04	0.27	2.77	1.41 ± 0.76	
2-methyltetrols (ng m ⁻³)	2.90	43.07	16.92 ± 9.62	1.60	15.28	6.70 ± 3.40	
3-MBTCA (ng m ⁻³)	2.55	89.11	38.23 ± 20.33	4.41	34.35	16.80 ± 8.64	
Pinonic acid (PNA) (ng m ⁻³)	0.36	29.59	9.52 ± 5.87	1.12	3.81	2.06 ± 0.78	
Pinic acid (PA) (ng m ⁻³)	0.11	9.41	2.70 ± 2.28	0.78	4.98	2.45 ± 1.25	
Arabitol (ng m ⁻³)	0.04	7.81	2.94 ± 1.86	0.42	3.88	1.14 ± 0.93	
Mannitol (ng m ⁻³)	0.28	20.99	7.73 ± 5.64	0.80	8.15	2.56 ± 2.02	
Sucrose (ng m ⁻³)	0.07	21.35	4.38 ± 4.62	0.04	2.08	0.48 ± 0.60	
Trehalose (ng m ⁻³)	0.07	9.31	3.33 ± 2.47	0.34	8.63	1.82 ± 2.11	
EC (μ gC m ⁻³)	BDL ^a	0.22	0.13 ± 0.08	0.10	0.18	0.16 ± 0.04	
NO ₂ (ppbv)	1.42	5.90	3.57 ± 1.27	5.48	10.67	8.30 ± 1.59	
NO (ppbv)	BDL ^a	0.98	0.44 ± 0.36	0.50	2.45	1.07 ± 0.63	
O ₃ (ppbv)	19.85	104.96	64.79 ± 23.32	5.57	49.34	21.28 ± 11.2	
Temperature (°C)	27.00	34.85	30.63 ± 1.58	25.81	28.13	26.79 ± 0.77	
RH (%)	40.14	79.85	60.80 ± 6.99	63.83	83.62	75.38 ± 6.37	
Inorganic ALW (µg m ⁻³)	1.01	13.46	5.69 ± 2.82	1.33	17.97	7.00 ± 5.00	
Organic ALW (µg m ⁻³)	0.31	1.85	0.98 ± 0.35	0.39	1.96	1.02 ± 0.43	
Total ALW (µg m ⁻³)	1.32	14.96	6.68 ± 2.96	1.72	19.05	8.01 ± 5.20	
pН	0.09	3.51	1.18 ± 0.67	0.26	1.90	1.52 ± 0.50	

Table S1. The minimum, maximum, and mean values of the major parameters observed

a BDL indicates value is below detection limit



151 **Figure S1.** (a) The location of the sampling site. The observed frequencies of the local

152 wind directions with wind speeds in (a) daytime and (b) nighttime.



Figure S2. Temporal variations in (a) amount of rainfall and wind speed, (b) temperature, relative humidity, and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), (c) NO and NO₂ mixing ratios, and (d) O₃ and CO mixing ratios at the aerosol sampling site. Shaded areas in each panel indicate the nighttime.



Figure S3. Six factor profiles derived from the PMF solution. The percentage of





Figure S4. Diagrams presenting Spearman correlations among the parameters in the submicrometer aerosols for (a) daytime, (b) nighttime, and (c) all the data. The color of a solid circle denotes a correlation coefficient value *r*. The size of the solid circle indicates a significance of the correlation between the two corresponding parameters: the larger circle indicates that the correlation is more significant, whereas the smallest circle indicates *P*-value less than 0.05.



Figure S5. Scatterplots of the mass concentrations of WSON with those of (a) NH_4^+ and (b) NO_3^- . Black and red lines show regression lines in daytime and nighttime, respectively.



Figure S6. The mass concentrations of WSON as functions of the products by O_3 with (a) α -pinene ([α -pinene][O_3]), (b) limonene ([limonene][O_3]), and (c) NO_x ([NO_x][O_3]). Black and red lines show regression lines in daytime and nighttime, respectively.

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