

Unaccounted impacts of diterpene emissions on atmospheric aerosol loadings

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19

20 Abstract

21 Diterpenes (C₂₀H₃₂) are commonly found in trees, but their emissions into the atmosphere were previously considered unlikely
22 due to their low volatility. Consequently, they have been disregarded in atmospheric chemistry processes. Recent
23 improvements in sampling and analytical instrumentation have enabled the detection and quantification of diterpenes in the
24 gas phase. However, the atmospheric implications of these emissions, including their potential to form secondary organic
25 aerosol (SOA), are not well understood. This study provides the first quantification of kaurene emissions and their potential
26 contribution to secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation. Here, we incorporate all available emission measurements of
27 kaurene (the most measured diterpene species) and findings from laboratory investigations of SOA formation into a global
28 chemistry transport model to quantify the importance of diterpenes on SOA loads in the atmosphere. Chamber experiments
29 revealed an SOA yield of 4% to 7%, demonstrating the rapid gas-to-particle phase transition, while global kaurene emissions,
30 estimated at 5.1 Tg yr⁻¹, contribute to an SOA burden of 0.005 Tg. Our findings suggest that diterpenes contribute to SOA
31 formation, establishing new links to the biosphere-atmosphere interactions that are increasingly important due to climate
32 warming.

33

34 Secondary organic aerosol (SOA) is the dominant type of fine-mode aerosol mass¹, yet large scale
35 models generally underpredict the magnitude of observed organic aerosol²⁻⁶. These aerosols, formed
36 from the oxidation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), have profound impacts on the global
37 radiation balance, either directly by scattering^{7,8} and absorbing solar radiation⁹, or indirectly by
38 impacting cloud and rain formation processes^{10,11}. Furthermore, they can boost global primary
39 productivity up to 25% for some ecosystems via diffuse radiation fertilization¹². Therefore, it is essential
40 to understand which VOCs are emitted, how large those emissions are, and what fraction of a given
41 VOC will ultimately be able to form SOA.

42 Isoprenoids are a group of biogenic VOCs (BVOC) that have been identified as the dominant sources
43 of SOA globally^{1,13,14}. These compounds can protect against oxidative damage at the (sub-)cellular level
44 and can serve as signalling compounds within plant-plant and plant-insect interactions, as well as at the
45 plant and ecosystem levels, providing protection against biotic and abiotic stress¹⁵. Isoprenoids can be
46 emitted *de novo*, from recently photosynthesized carbon, like isoprene (C₅) and some monoterpenes
47 (C₁₀) or be released from storage pools like most monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes (C₁₅). Despite
48 diterpenes (C₂₀) being constituents of many plants' essential oils^{16,17}, they were until recently thought
49 not to be emitted into the gas phase due to their low volatility¹⁸, and thus have never been considered
50 relevant for atmospheric chemistry.

51 Diterpenes have important roles inside plants, such as growth regulators, providing an essential building
52 block for chlorophyll (a diterpene conjugate), and playing crucial roles in ecological interactions
53 between plants and other organisms, such as signalling and defence against herbivores in the form of
54 oleoresins^{18,19}. There is a wide range of diterpene molecular species (S.I. Sec. 1), and some reports have
55 pointed that emissions are temperature dependent²⁰⁻²² and derived from storage pools^{21,23}. These studies
56 also point out that diterpenes are most likely emitted from plants with a highly active secondary
57 metabolism²¹. Nevertheless, considerable gaps still exist in understanding the diterpene emissions from
58 vegetation given the small number of plant species measured for diterpene emissions and the scarce
59 ambient observations available up to date.

60 Methodological improvements in both sampling and detection have enabled observations of diterpenes
61 in the gas phase. Ambient air mixing ratios of diterpenes have been reported from a rural site in
62 Amazonia and two temperate forests (Landes forest in France and the Rocky mountains in the USA)
63 ranging from 19 ppq to 2 ppt^{24,25}. Diterpene emissions from plants have been recently detected from
64 mosses²⁶, temperate²⁷ and boreal conifer trees^{20,28}, grasses²², broadleaf trees²⁹, Mediterranean shrubs^{21,30}
65 and soil emissions from permafrost³¹. Additionally, diterpene emissions were observed during cooking
66 with herbs³². In order to give a proper overview, we have performed a literature review on all available
67 diterpene measurements to date. We selected only kaurene emissions and derived basal emission factors
68 (needed for BVOC emission modelling) for those studies that did not report it. This literature synthesis
69 can be found in the Supplementary Information (SI section 2).

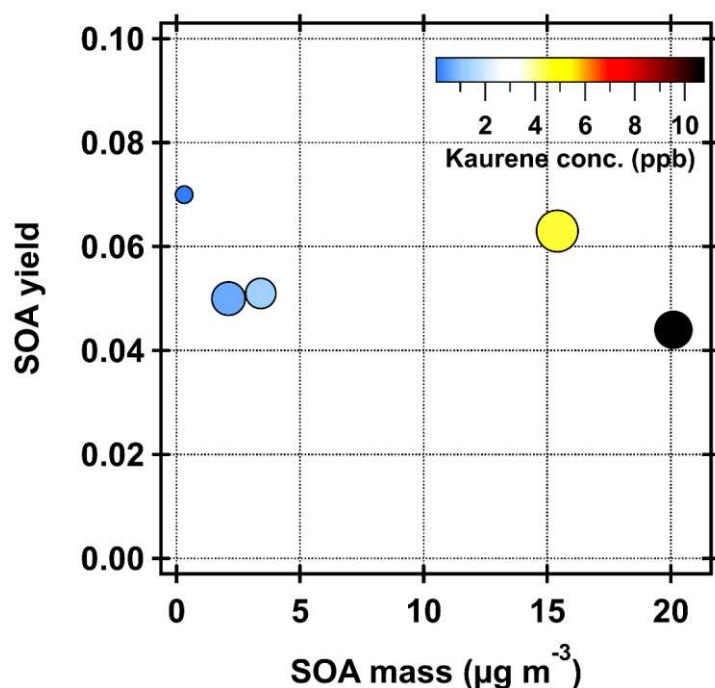
70 For this study, we focus on *ent*-kaurene as it is the most studied diterpene. While our conclusions may
71 not apply equally to all diterpenes, it offers strong evidence for their overall significance. When emitted
72 into the atmosphere, all C₂₀ compounds are expected to impact aerosol loading simply due to their mass,
73 similar to other large highly reactive isoprenoids such as the sesquiterpenes (C₁₅)^{33,34}. Very recently,
74 kaurene ozonolysis was shown to produce a wide range of different highly oxygenated products able to
75 condense and form SOA³⁵. Importantly, due to its exocyclic double bond³⁶, kaurene is expected to be
76 among the least reactive diterpenes, hence using kaurene as a representative C₂₀ species establishes only
77 the lower limit for the atmospheric impact of diterpenes, indicating that the cumulative impact of all
78 diterpenes is higher. In addition, diterpenes could be a part of the so-called missing OH reactivity due
79 to their terpene nature as suggested for different environments^{37,20}.

80 There is a substantial lack of data available to refine current emission models³⁸ and aerosol formation
81 from diterpenes. To address these knowledge gaps, we performed the first experimental SOA chamber
82 aerosol forming potential studies for kaurene where we were able to obtain the first kaurene SOA yield.
83 This new result, in conjunction with improved emission estimates, was used in the Multiscale Online
84 Non-hydrostatic Atmosphere Chemistry model (MONARCH) to assess the potential impact of
85 kaurene emissions on the atmospheric SOA loading.

86 Results

87 **SOA chamber experiments to determine the kaurene SOA formation yield.** We performed chamber
88 experiments using authentic kaurene standard (see Methods for details) to simulate the relevant
89 atmospheric processes. Kaurene and ozone were injected into the chamber, resulting in kaurene
90 oxidation by ozone, but to some extent also by hydroxyl radicals (OH) formed from the ozone-alkene
91 reactions. Also in the atmosphere, kaurene will be oxidized by both O₃ and OH, and therefore the
92 conditions can be assumed roughly representative of atmospheric conditions. We added ammonium
93 sulphate aerosols to the chamber to act as seeds for condensation of the oxidation products. The
94 experiments were performed at loadings ranging from 0.11 to 11 ppb, and the best estimate derived for
95 the SOA molar yield from kaurene oxidation by O₃ and OH is 4-7% (Figure 1). This yield was lower
96 than anticipated based on typical values observed for other terpenes, where larger molecular sizes often
97 correlate with higher SOA yields^{33,39-41}. However, it is well known that the VOC structure has an
98 important role, as e.g. monoterpene SOA yields vary from negligible to several tens of percent⁴¹.

99 Kaurene has one exocyclic double bond, which is not a favourable structure for autoxidation which may
 100 suppress the formation of highly oxygenated species. To some extent, it can be compared to the
 101 monoterpene β -pinene, which also has a similar exocyclic double bond and typically shows a much
 102 lower SOA yield from ozonolysis than its counterpart α -pinene⁴⁰, where the double bond is endocyclic.
 103 This comparison suggests that kaurene falls within the lower range of SOA yields for diterpenes,
 104 compared to diterpenes with endocyclic double bonds, like e.g. cembrene. Our SOA yield estimates are
 105 in agreement with the gas-phase kaurene oxidation measurements performed under the same conditions,
 106 where a highly oxygenated organic molecules (HOM) molar yield of a few percent was reported³⁵.



107
 108 Figure 1: Measured SOA molar yield as a function of formed SOA mass. Colouring of the markers is based on
 109 the average kaurene concentration (range 0.11 to 11 ppb) and the size of markers is based on the average
 110 ammonium sulphate seed concentration (ranging from 5.8 to 42 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in the chamber for the corresponding
 111 SOA steady state time period.
 112

113 **Global simulations of kaurene emissions and the production of kaurene SOA.** We used the global
 114 chemical transport model, MONARCH^{42–48}, to estimate global emissions and SOA burdens of kaurene
 115 for the year 2018. In this work, MONARCH was adapted to consider emissions of kaurene from
 116 vegetation as provided by the literature synthesis given in SI sect. 2, and the SOA formation yield from
 117 the experimental chamber results performed for this study.

118 BVOC emissions were computed online within MONARCH using the Model of Emissions of Gases
 119 and Aerosols from Nature biogenic emissions (MEGANv2.04: Guenther et al., 2006⁴⁹). A new biogenic
 120 VOC species was added to account for kaurene emissions. The model estimates BVOC emission based
 121 on plant functional types (PFT). From our literature synthesis on all available measurements of kaurene
 122 emissions by vegetation^{20,21,52,22–25,28,30,50,51}, we were able to derive average basal emission factors
 123 (standardised emissions rates at 30°C) for kaurene for needle leaf trees^{28,50}, shrubs^{21,30}, broadleaf trees²⁹
 124 and grasses²² (see Table SI. 2.2).

125 The basal emission factors reported exhibit significant variability. Moreover, there is limited data
 126 available for grasses and broadleaf trees, with only one study reporting values for each. Despite the
 127 evident need for more measurements, we have applied the average basal emission factor for needle leaf
 128 and shrubs species, and the one available value for grasses and broadleaf trees, respectively.
 129 Furthermore, for grass and broadleaf trees, we used the sum of diterpenes, not only kaurene. While we

130 acknowledge the inherent uncertainty in this assumption, it presents the best approach for our
131 simulations, which are prone to considerable uncertainty due to both scarcity of data on kaurene
132 emissions and their potential for atmospheric aerosol formation. At the same time, it allows us to
133 investigate the impacts of kaurene vegetation emissions on atmospheric aerosol loadings.

134 The percentage of VOC emissions from vegetation is an important computational assumption. For
135 instance, for isoprene, monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes, the model assumes that 100% of vegetation
136 emits these compounds (albeit at different rates depending on PFT, as different vegetation types are
137 assumed to have very different potentials to emit these compounds). Since the precise fraction of
138 vegetation emitting kaurene is unknown (i.e. we do not know if all plant species emit kaurene), we have
139 established one very conservative scenario with only 10% of vegetation emitting kaurene, and a less
140 conservative scenario of 50% of vegetation emitting kaurene, to understand the sensitivity of the system.
141 The consequent emission factors for kaurene employed in this study are provided in Table 1.
142

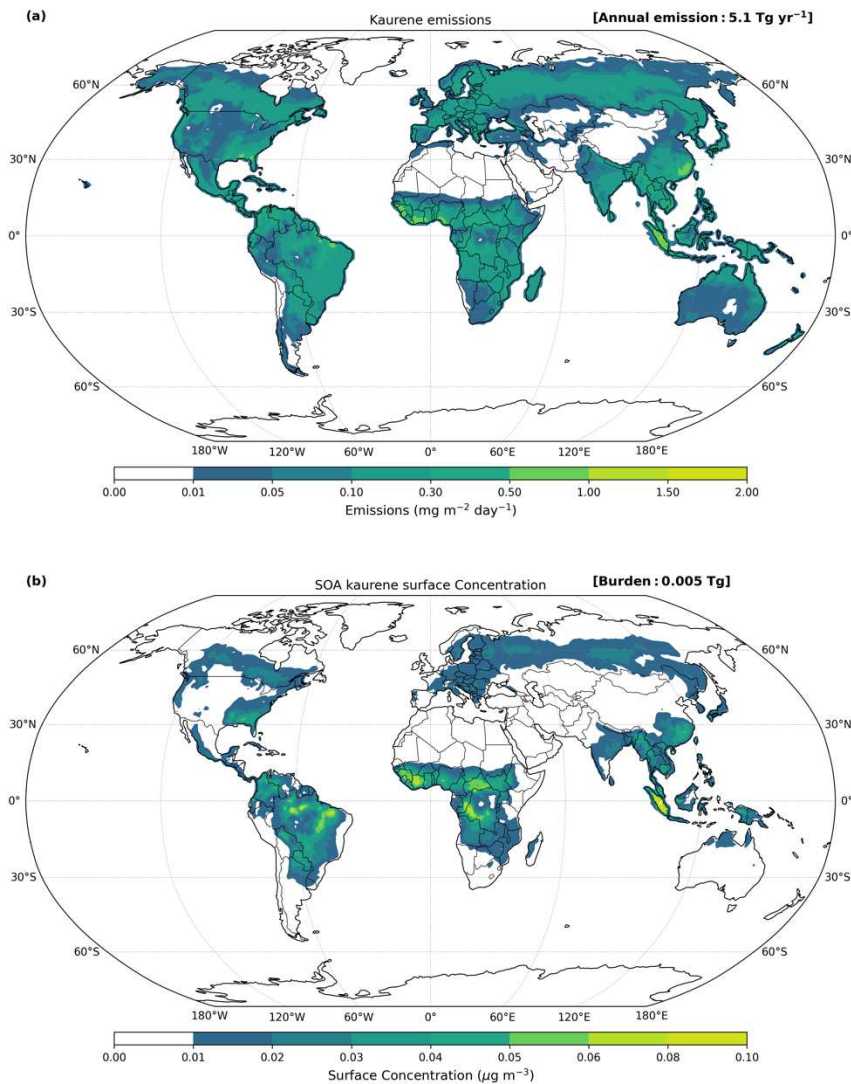
143 Table 1: Selected basal emission factors for kaurene for the different PFTs available in the model for kaurene
144 emissions at a global scale. The values are expressed in micrograms per square meter per hour ($\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{hr}^{-1}$). The
145 basal emission factors used for α -pinene, β -pinene and β -caryophyllene are also shown for comparison. The large
146 difference in the distributions between different PFT for kaurene compared to other terpenes may indicate that
147 that diterpene emissions are very different than other terpenes, or that the limited emission observations cause
148 large uncertainties.

PFT	Kaurene	α -pinene	β -pinene	β -caryophyllene
Grass/crops	5.4	2	1.5	0.9
Broadleaf	0.024	180	90	30
Needle leave tree	162.8	450	300	60
Shrub + bush	8.81	200	100	45

149
150

151 The global annual emission for kaurene is estimated as 5.1 Tg yr^{-1} , in contrast to 424.8 Tg yr^{-1} for
152 isoprene, 90.3 Tg yr^{-1} for monoterpenes or 13.5 Tg yr^{-1} for sesquiterpenes, as derived from the same
153 modeling framework (for more details see SI. Figs. 3.2.1., 3.2.2. and 3.2.3.). For comparison, our
154 isoprene emission estimate aligns closely with previous literature estimates⁵³.

155



156

157 Figure 2: Annual average (a) kaurene emission rates [$\text{mg m}^{-2} \text{day}^{-1}$] and (b) SOA kaurene surface concentration
 158 [$\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$] estimates for 2018 assuming only 10% of the vegetation emits kaurene.
 159

160 The emission of kaurene exhibits significant variability both spatially and seasonally (Fig. 2a and Fig.
 161 SI 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.), being strongly influenced by the emission factors integrated into the model (Table
 162 1). Globally, peak emissions typically occur in summer. Tropical rainforests demonstrate a relatively
 163 consistent emission pattern throughout the year, with heightened emissions observed in Southeast Asia
 164 and Southwestern Africa. Conversely, the boreal region and Southeastern US experience elevated
 165 kaurene emissions during the growing season. These emissions suggest that even if the basal emission
 166 of needle leaf trees is overestimated, kaurene emissions are still dominant in tropical forests, where
 167 needle leaf trees are not present or in very little abundance⁵⁴.

168 To derive the first estimates of the potential effect of the contribution of kaurene to SOA formation, we
 169 analyze the MONARCH results that were adapted to the experimental data obtained by the controlled
 170 SOA formation experiments. Thus, we considered 7% SOA yield for kaurene, 1% for isoprene, 10%
 171 for monoterpenes and 20 % for sesquiterpenes. The yields for isoprene⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷, monoterpenes^{40,56} and
 172 sesquiterpenes^{56,58,59} were approximated in this way given the wide range of yields reported in literature.

173

	Precursor emission (Tg yr ⁻¹)	Burden (Tg)	Source (Tg yr ⁻¹)	Dry dep. (Tg yr ⁻¹)	Wet dep. (Tg yr ⁻¹)	Total dep. (Tg yr ⁻¹)	Lifetime (days)
SOA kaurene (10%/50% veg. emits)	5.1/25.5	0.005/0.025	0.36/1.8	0.07/0.36	0.29/1.43	0.36/1.81	5.0
SOA isoprene	424.8	0.066	4.25	0.62	3.62	4.24	5.6
SOA monoterpenes	90.3	0.125	9.03	1.72	7.31	9.02	5.1
SOA sesquiterpenes	13.5	0.042	2.71	0.45	2.25	2.70	5.7

174 Table 2. Global annual average vegetation emission and SOA burden (mass in the atmosphere of a
175 specific SOA species in Tg) for kaurene, isoprene, monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes for the year 2018. Annual
176 depositions, production and lifetime are also reported. Kaurene results are reported for the two simulations
177 available, one scenario with only 10% of the vegetation emitting kaurene and a second scenario where 50% of the
178 vegetation emits kaurene. See S.I. Table 3 for comparison of isoprene, monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes with
179 other studies.

180
181 The average aerosol mass in the atmosphere, i.e., the burden) of SOA from kaurene vegetation emission
182 for 2018 was 0.005 Tg with a SOA production of 0.36 Tg yr⁻¹, which is lower than the SOA burden
183 from monoterpenes (0.125 Tg) or sesquiterpenes (0.042 Tg). Given that we only consider a single
184 diterpene species, this result suggests that the real SOA burden of diterpenes is expected to be larger as
185 some diterpenes may have larger SOA yields than kaurene, summing up to a potentially considerable
186 SOA contributor globally. Following the kaurene emission trends, the highest kaurene SOA production
187 globally takes place in northern hemispheric summer, although year-around production of SOA occurs
188 around the tropics, especially in South West Africa and Indonesia. Kaurene SOA production follows a
189 similar regional trend as kaurene vegetation emissions (Figs. 2 and SI 3.1.3 and 3.1.4.).

190
191 The simulated global emission for the sum of monoterpenes is 90.3 Tg yr⁻¹. With a 10% SOA yield, this
192 would lead to 9 Tg yr⁻¹ of SOA produced from monoterpenes. This value, together with the average
193 SOA burden of 0.125 Tg, makes the average lifetime of the monoterpene SOA just over 5 days, which
194 is consistent with literature^{60,61}. As a comparison, kaurene SOA lifetime derived from the simulation
195 stands at 5 days consistently.

196

197 Discussion and conclusions

198 This study provides the first estimate for kaurene ozonolysis SOA yield. Leveraging the estimated yield
199 of HOM³⁵ and considering the low volatility of kaurene and its oxidation products, our findings suggest
200 that kaurene influences SOA formation, which was not previously considered. Through experimental
201 data, we model the global vegetation emission of kaurene and SOA production, incorporating empirical
202 constraints for kaurene SOA formation, namely SOA yields and emission rates. Our analysis yields a
203 global estimate of kaurene emissions totalling 5.1 Tg yr⁻¹ for the year 2018. Additionally, we
204 estimate the global kaurene SOA production to be 0.36 Tg yr⁻¹ for 2018 based on experimentally
205 determined SOA yield.

206 The major uncertainty in this study lies in the provided emission factors for the different plant functional
207 types, necessitating caution with the simulated kaurene vegetation emission and kaurene SOA burden.
208 The uncertainty arises not only from the scarcity of studied plant species but also from the extremely
209 high variability in the reported emission magnitudes, with differences of up to three orders of
210 magnitude. The proportion of kaurene emission factors among the different PFTs is different than for
211 other more known terpenes. This could be due to three reasons: 1) kaurene emissions might be
212 fundamentally different from other terpenes, 2) the non-needle-leaf tree emission factors might be

213 highly underestimated, or 3) the needle leaf tree emission factor might be highly overestimated. In the
214 latter case, it is crucial to note that the needle leaf tree emission factor is an average of all measured
215 needle leaf tree species, and this basal emission may have been overestimated for certain needle leaf
216 tree species, such as *C. Japonica* and *C. Obtusa*, as their basal emission factors differ by up to three
217 orders of magnitude higher from other plant species. Nevertheless, a recent study reported extremely
218 high emissions for *C. Obtusa*²³, suggesting this species may have a very high emission capacity for
219 kaurene. This underscores the necessity for comprehensive screening of kaurene emissions across
220 different plant species. While the uncertainties of emissions are large, the emission factors used in this
221 study are based on values reported in the literature, and exhibit equally high variability as
222 monoterpenes⁶².

223 Our study represents an important step towards quantifying diterpene emissions and investigating their
224 impacts on SOA production. Kaurene is only one of the many diterpene species, and thus total diterpene
225 emissions will be larger than the single species investigated here. In fact, for some tree species, such as
226 Norway Spruce²⁰, kaurene emissions were not detected, but several other diterpenes appeared to
227 dominate the emission profile. Furthermore, the molecular structure of kaurene suggests it should be
228 less reactive than other diterpenes given its exocyclic bond. Therefore, the SOA yield for other
229 diterpenes than kaurene is expected to be higher, amplifying their impact on the SOA budget and
230 emphasizing the need for further investigation into these compounds.

231 In this study, we demonstrate that kaurene emission by vegetation can influence global SOA formation,
232 and thus must be considered in atmospheric models. Our finding helps towards understanding the so-
233 called *unmeasured compounds*, as diterpenes (including kaurene) are not often measured largely
234 because of their high molecular weight, and can in part explain the ‘missing OH reactivity’³⁷.
235 Furthermore, aerosols formed from kaurene ozonolysis may contribute to elucidating the unidentified
236 fraction of Biogenic SOA⁶³. However, it is imperative to enhance the precision of diterpene emission
237 and SOA yield estimates. Such observations need to take into account a broader pool of plant species,
238 including tropical forest species, for which there are no reported emission, but ambient air observations
239 are available and indicate diterpene emissions by vegetation.

240 Here we took the first steps towards quantifying global kaurene vegetation emissions and their impact
241 on SOA formation. We experimentally derived the first kaurene SOA yield of 4-7% from chamber
242 experiments, and their potential to form SOA. The modelled SOA burden of 0.005 Tg from this one
243 diterpene species suggests that this is a compounds group with potentially large implications on
244 atmospheric reactivity and SOA production. The SOA-forming potential of kaurene suggests that
245 current global SOA models may be underestimating the contribution of biogenic sources, particularly
246 in regions where kaurene-emitting plants are abundant. These findings could inform future air quality
247 models and guide conservation efforts in regions where kaurene-emitting plants play a significant role
248 in local atmospheric chemistry, and add an important piece of information for studying biosphere-
249 atmosphere interactions in a warming world.

250 **METHODS**

251 1. Controlled kaurene SOA experiments

252 Kaurene ozonolysis experiments were conducted in a 2 m³ Teflon (FEP, supplied by Vector Foiltec,
253 Germany) chamber, the COALA chamber at the University of Helsinki, Finland. An authentic pure
254 solid kaurene standard was purchased from OLChemIm Ltd., Olomouc, Czech Republic. The total flow
255 was around 36 L min⁻¹ consisting of purified air, varying amounts of O₃ and diterpene ent-kaurene, and
256 80 nm inorganic seed particles comprised of ammonium sulphate (AS). The chamber was operated at
257 room temperature (26 ± 1 °C) and under dry condition (RH <1%). The composition of VOCs was
258 measured with the Vocus Proton Transfer Reaction Time of Flight mass spectrometer (Vocus PTR-
259 ToF)⁶⁴. The chemical composition of SOA was measured with a Long ToF Aerosol Mass Spectrometer
260 (LToF-AMS)⁶⁵. In addition, we had a custom-built scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS) to measure

261 the particle number size distribution. Based on the SMPS data, we also calculated area and volume
 262 concentrations. The SOA, ammonium sulphate (AS) and total particle mass concentrations were
 263 calculated by using the total particle volume from the SMPS combining it with the density and SOA to
 264 AS ratio measured with the AMS. More information on this experiment set up can be found in Luo et
 265 al., 2022³⁵. This approach, rather than directly using the measured mass concentrations from the AMS,
 266 was utilized since the collection efficiency of the AMS varies as a function of the ratio between organics
 267 and AS⁶⁶. The details of the chamber facility, instruments, and experiments are found elsewhere⁶⁷.

268 All instruments sampled the chamber air continuously, and the input into the chamber was varied (Fig.
 269 3) to achieve different concentrations and ratios of kaurene and O₃. The O₃ concentrations ranged from
 270 ~70 to ~110 ppb for different experiments, and the kaurene concentration was at most ~20 ppb. Seed
 271 aerosols were added at different times in order to initiate condensation onto aerosols rather than chamber
 272 walls, which is usually the dominant sink for low-volatility vapours. The injection of kaurene was one
 273 of the most challenging parts of the experiments due to its low volatility. Gas-phase kaurene was
 274 introduced into the chamber by flushing nitrogen (N₂) through a vial containing the solid kaurene, and
 275 the flow was subsequently directed into the chamber. In addition, a heater was placed under the vial to
 276 promote the evaporation of kaurene. During the experiments, the vial's bottom temperature stayed
 277 below 45 °C, except for the last experiment day when the vial reached a temperature around 60 °C.
 278 Already at low heating, the solid kaurene had melted to liquid form, but we did not see indications of
 279 decomposition of the kaurene from the heating in any of our mass spectra. Variable levels of kaurene
 280 in the chamber were achieved, either by turning the heater on and off or changing the flow rate of the
 281 N₂ carrier gas, which was controlled with a mass flow controller (MKS, G series, Andover, MA, USA).
 282 Due to the low volatility of kaurene, residual amounts were introduced into the chamber also when no
 283 active addition was performed, presumably due to evaporation from surfaces in the tubing and chamber.

284 2. SOA yield estimation

285 As we used a steady state chamber, the SOA yield cannot simply be calculated by dividing the measured
 286 SOA mass with an amount of reacted VOC, as would be the case in batch-mode chambers. Instead, we
 287 estimate the SOA yield using a simple box model of our chamber, changing the effective SOA yield (as
 288 the only free parameter) to match the measured SOA. Next, a short description of the box model is
 289 presented.

290 We assume that the SOA is formed from low volatility vapors (LVOCs) produced from the kaurene +
 291 ozone reactions, formed with a molar yield of $yield_{LVOC}$. The sink of these LVOCs is condensation
 292 onto the AS-seed and the chamber walls. At steady state, when the sources and sinks are equal, we can
 293 write the LVOC concentration as:

$$294 \quad LVOC = \frac{[O_3] * [kaurene] * k_{O_3+kaurene} * yield_{LVOC}}{k_{wall} + CS},$$

295 where $k_{O_3+kaurene}$ is the reaction rate coefficient for kaurene and ozone, k_{wall} is the wall loss rate of
 296 LVOC, and CS is the condensation sink to the AS-seed. The CS was simply estimated from the
 297 measured mass concentration, scaled linearly using the relation $CS = 0.0015 \frac{s^{-1}}{\mu g / m^3} * m_{tot}$, where m_{tot}
 298 is the total particle mass concentration, based on Peräkylä et al. (2020) who used an identical approach
 299 in our chamber. k_{wall} is estimated as $1/400 s^{-1}$ for our chamber, based also on Peräkylä et al. (2020).
 300 The change in the SOA mass concentration is now governed by the source (condensation of LVOCs)
 301 and the sink (flush-out from the chamber):

$$302 \quad \frac{\Delta SOA}{\Delta t} = [LVOC] * CS * C_{m,LVOC} - SOA * k_{outflow},$$

303 where $k_{outflow}$ is the chamber flush-out, given as the reciprocal of the average chamber residence time
 304 (~36 min), and $C_{m,LVOC}$ is a conversion factor for converting the LVOC number concentration to mass

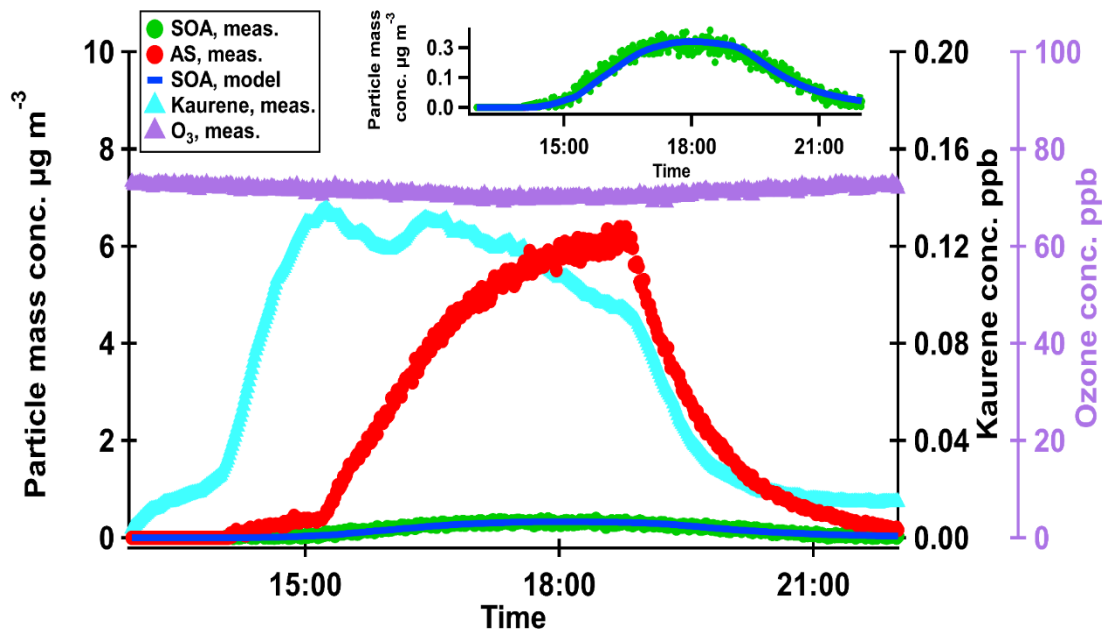
305 concentration. For $C_{m,LVOC}$, we assume that the mass of LVOCs to be on average 352 Da, which
 306 represents the mass of a $C_{20}H_{32}O_5$ molecule. The change in SOA can thus be modelled by:

$$307 \quad \frac{\Delta SOA}{\Delta t} = [O_3] * [kaurene] * k_{O_3+kaurene} * yield \frac{d_{LVOC} * C_{m,LVOC} * CS}{CS + k_{wall}} - SOA * k_{outflow}$$

308 For every time step in the model, we used the measured kaurene, ozone and AS-seed concentrations.
 309 Therefore, only the concentration of SOA was modelled. A value of $0.5 \cdot 10^{-15} cm^3 s^{-1}$ was used for
 310 the reaction rate coefficient for kaurene + ozone, determined during these experiments, similar to other
 311 studies²⁰. More details on how we derived such coefficient can be found elsewhere³⁵.

312 The $yield_{LVOC}$ corresponds to the molar yield of condensable vapors (LVOC). In our chamber, some
 313 fraction of these LVOC condenses onto the walls (typically around 20-30 %, based on calculations from
 314 Peräkylä et al. (2020), but in the atmosphere these would all contribute to SOA formation. The final
 315 SOA yield is normally defined as a mass yield, meaning that our molar yield needs to be multiplied by
 316 the mass increase, i.e. $yield_{SOA} = yield \frac{d_{LVOC} * m_{LVOC}}{m_{kaurene}} = yield_{LVOC} * 1.29$. We note here that both
 317 $yield_{LVOC}$ and m_{LVOC} could be varied to match the measured SOA, but the $yield_{SOA}$ parameter only
 318 depends on their product, which means that it is independent of the exact choice of either. As such, the
 319 SOA yield is effectively the only free parameter in the model. An example of a simulated experiment
 320 is shown in Fig. 3. The SOA yields obtained for time periods where we had a stable SOA concentration
 321 in the chamber is presented in the same figure.

322



323 Figure 3. Yield experiment with the particle mass concentration on the y-axis for measured SOA (in green),
 324 ammonium sulphate-seed (in red) and modelled SOA concentrations (in blue), together with the concentration of
 325 kaurene on the right-axis and blue triangles and the concentration of ozone on the right-axis with purple triangles,
 326 from a day with $yield_{SOA} = 7\%$. The inset plot is zoomed in from the actual plot to see more clearly the match
 327 between measured and modelled SOA concentrations.
 328
 329

330 3. Model implementation

331 We have used the Multiscale Online Nonhydrostatic Atmosphere Chemistry model (MONARCH)<sup>42-
 332 48</sup> to estimate emissions and SOA global burdens of kaurene. The simulations were conducted with
 333 MONARCH model, which was run at the global scale on a regular longitude-latitude grid of a global

334 domain at $0.7^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ horizontal resolution and on 48 hybrid sigma-pressure vertical levels. The year
335 2018 was simulated driven by the meteorology of the ERA5 reanalysis⁶⁸. The anthropogenic emissions
336 applied are based on the CAMS-GLOB-ANTv4.2 database⁶⁹, and the biomass-burning emissions were
337 from the Global Fire Assimilation System v1.2 biomass-burning emissions (GFAS)⁷⁰. Additionally,
338 other meteorology-driven emissions are computed within MONARCH, such as mineral dust⁵⁷ and sea
339 salt⁵⁶.

340 MONARCH is a fully on-line integrated system for mesoscale to global-scale applications developed
341 at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC). MONARCH is designed to provide short to medium-
342 range forecasts of atmospheric aerosols for a wide range of scales⁷¹. The model allows running both
343 global and regional simulations with telescoping nests. As multiple choices of gas- and aerosol
344 chemistry schemes can be selected in the model, here we describe the configuration used in this work.
345 The gas-phase chemistry solves the carbon bond mechanism with extended chlorine chemistry
346 (CB05)⁷². The model describes the lifecycle of dust, sea-salt, black carbon, organic matter (both primary
347 and secondary), sulphate, ammonium, nitrate aerosols and non-speciated aerosols. While a sectional
348 approach is used for dust and sea salt, a modal representation of the other aerosol species is adopted⁴⁷.
349 A simplified gas–aqueous–aerosol mechanism has been introduced in the module to account for the
350 sulfur chemistry⁴⁷ and a simple scheme is used for the formation of secondary organic aerosols⁶⁰.

351 Organic aerosol is represented by a hydrophobic mode with atmospheric aging that transfers mass to a
352 hydrophilic mode with a conversion lifetime of 1.15 days. Half of the primary emissions are emitted as
353 hydrophobic species with an OM:OC (Ambient organic-mass-to-organic-carbon) ratio of 1.4, while the
354 hydrophilic counterpart is emitted assuming an OM:OC ratio of 2.1. Marine primary organic emissions
355 are neglected in our simulations. SOA contributions from biogenic, pyrogenic and anthropogenic
356 sources are accounted for with fixed SOA yields adjusted to match results from more complex
357 schemes⁶⁰ (e.g., volatility basis set). Half of the biogenic SOA is emitted directly in the aerosol phase
358 to account for the near-field formation of SOA, while the rest describes the gas-phase SOA products
359 that partitions to SOA with a conversion lifetime of 1 day⁶⁰.

360 Biogenic emissions are computed online using the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from
361 Nature biogenic emissions (MEGANv2.04⁴⁹), which is the available version for the MONARCH set
362 up, and provided the uncertainties on kaurene emissions, the use of this more simplified MEGAN
363 version is suitable. A new biogenic VOC species has been added to account for kaurene emissions.
364 From the literature review we performed on kaurene vegetation emissions (SI sec 2) we have derived
365 basal emission factors which have been separated into the four plant functional types used in
366 MEGANv2.04 (see description in Table 1). The β -coefficient used for deriving basal emission factors
367 was $0.15 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$. This value was the average β -coefficient values reported in literature (a subset of the
368 reviewed literature). Since both kaurene and β -pinene have an exocyclic double bond and due to the
369 lack of experimental data on kaurene oxidation, we used β -pinene as a surrogate for kaurene for the
370 MEGAN parameter where no information for kaurene was available within MEGANv2.04.

371 To provide first global estimates of the potential significance of kaurene contribution to SOA formation
372 from the ozonolysis of kaurene, we extended the biogenic SOA production scheme in MONARCH⁶⁰ to
373 kaurene adapting accordingly to the experimental data obtained by the controlled SOA formation
374 experiments. Thus, we considered 7% SOA yield for kaurene, 1% for isoprene, 10% for monoterpenes
375 and 20 % for sesquiterpenes. The yields for isoprene^{55–57}, monoterpenes^{40,56} and sesquiterpenes^{56,58,59}
376 were approximated in this way given the wide range of yields reported in literature.

377 **Data availability statement**

378 The data is available upon request to the corresponding author.

379 **Author Contribution Statement**

380 Conceptualization: AMYS, JP, TK, DT, AG, ME

381 Investigation: AMYS, JP, OJ, FG, MM, OG, YZ, HL, YL, AP, DT, ME
382 Data curation: AMYS, OJ, DT, FG, HH, SS, LV, TS, EB, ME
383 Funding acquisition and administration: JP, OJ, ME
384 Methodology: AMYS, OJ, FG, OG, MM, ME
385 Visualization: AMYS, JP, OJ, FG, ME
386 Formal analysis: AMYS, OJ, FG, ME
387 Resources: AMYS, JP, OJ, ME
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391
392

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405

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- 552

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