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First measurements of NO_3 reactivity in air – surprises from the boreal forest.

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We describe the first instrument for measurement of the total reactivity (s^{-1}) of NO₃ in ambient air. The instrument can measure reactivities between 0.005 s^{-1} and 45 s^{-1} with an accuracy of ~16 % (Liebmann et al., 2016). Results from the deployment of the instrument during the IBAIRN campaign (Influence of Biosphere-Atmosphere Interactions on the Reactive Nitrogen budget, September 2016) in a boreal environment in Hyytiälä, Finland are presented. The NO₃ reactivity (in canopy at a height of 8.5 m) showed a strong diel profile with a night-time mean and maximum values of 0.11 and 0.94 s^{-1} , respectively. The corresponding day-time values (excluding the contribution of NO) are 0.04 and 0.5 s^{-1} . The NO₃ reactivity at night displayed a strong vertical gradient between 8 m (in canopy) to 25 m (above canopy) with maximum values close to the ground. On average, BVOCs accounted for only ~10% of the observed nighttime NO₃ reactivity, though on some occasions this was even less than 1%. The highest night-time reactivities coincided with major depletion of canopy level ozone. Possible explanations for these findings and their implications for reactive nitrogen in the boreal forest are discussed.