



Iodic acid and new particle formation observed at the high-altitude station of Maïdo (Réunion)

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Iodine oxides have been frequently shown to play a major role in intense new particle formation (NPF) events observed in coastal sites, perhaps the best known from the investigations conducted at Mace Head field station in western Ireland [1, 2]. Due to the photolability of the main iodine emissions (e.g., I₂, CH₂I₂ and HOI) their contribution to atmospheric NPF is believed to be mainly local with negligible influence over longer distances. Very recent ice-core sampling studies have indicated tripling of atmospheric iodine levels since 1950 [3, 4]. Field measurements were conducted at the high-altitude research station of Maïdo Observatory (2150 m) [5] on Réunion Island as a part of the intensive operation period (IOP) of the OCTAVE measurement campaign. In-situ oxidant and aerosol precursor budgets were retrieved with chemical ionization mass spectrometers (CIMS) and various gas analysers, and the atmospheric charged and neutral nanoparticle size distributions were determined with a collection of instrumentation including neutral air ion spectrometer (NAIS) and particle size magnifier (PSM).

Iodic acid (HIO₃), a proposed key compound for coastal iodine-related NPF [2], was frequently observed at Maïdo shortly after sunrise, and was followed by NPF events whose strength and timing were correlated with the experimental conditions. During the IOP, various meteorological conditions were encountered from change of trade winds to tropical cyclones, constituting a highly variable dataset to inspect the generality of the observations. Especially the nearby volcanic eruption observed in the late part of the campaign resulted in peculiarly strong NPF events in which the halogen species potentially played an important role.

References

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