

HelmholtzZentrum münchen

German Research Center for Environmental Health



"Vegetation - atmosphere interactions – the crucial role of tropospheric ozone "

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Importance of biogenic volatile organic compounds (bVOCs)

Environmental health

Human health & wellbeing

VOCs

Plant fitness & defence

in changing environments

Antioxidants

Defence

Photosmog

Blue haze

Spice

Parfumes

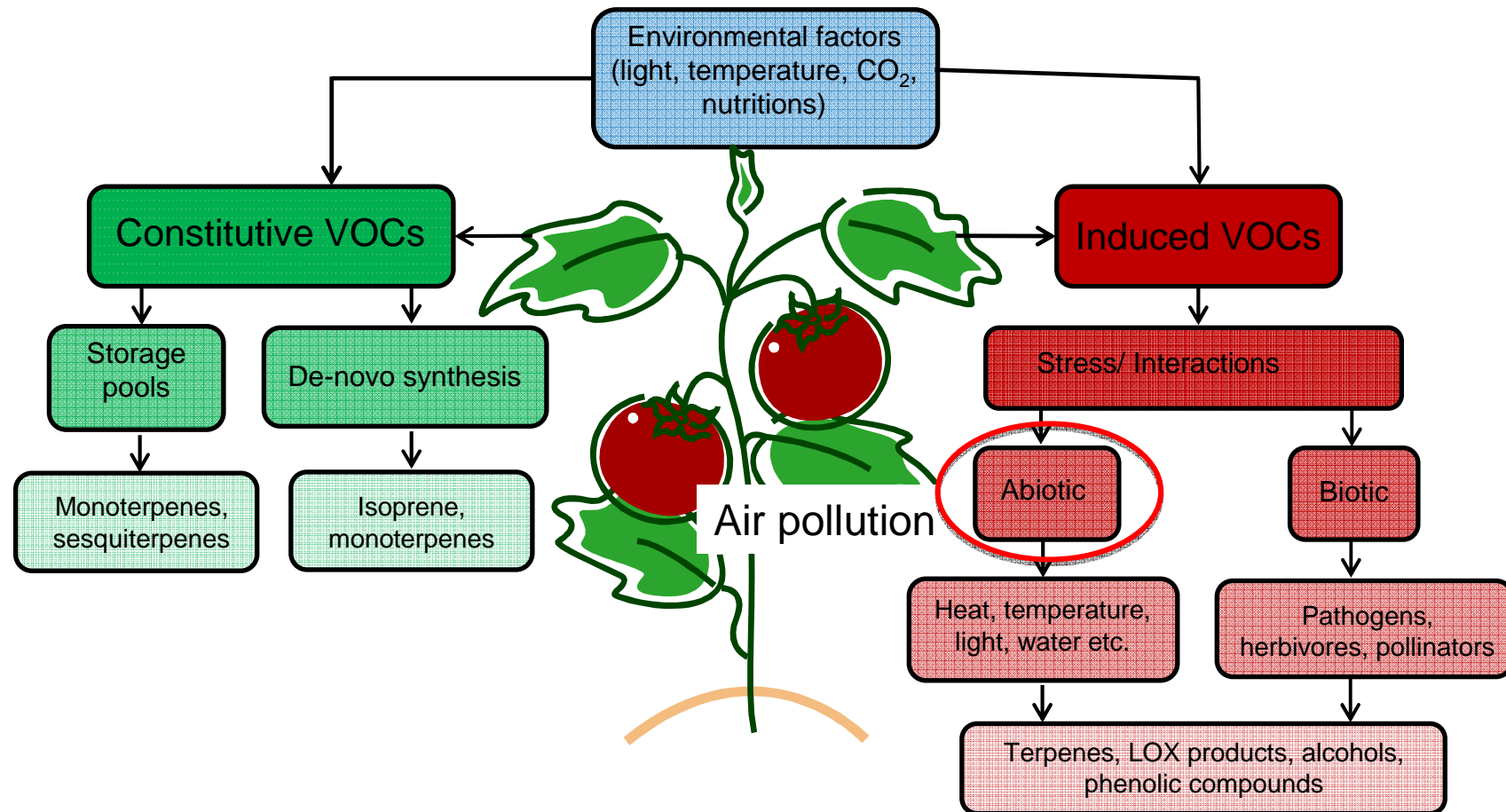
Smells

Medicine

Attraction

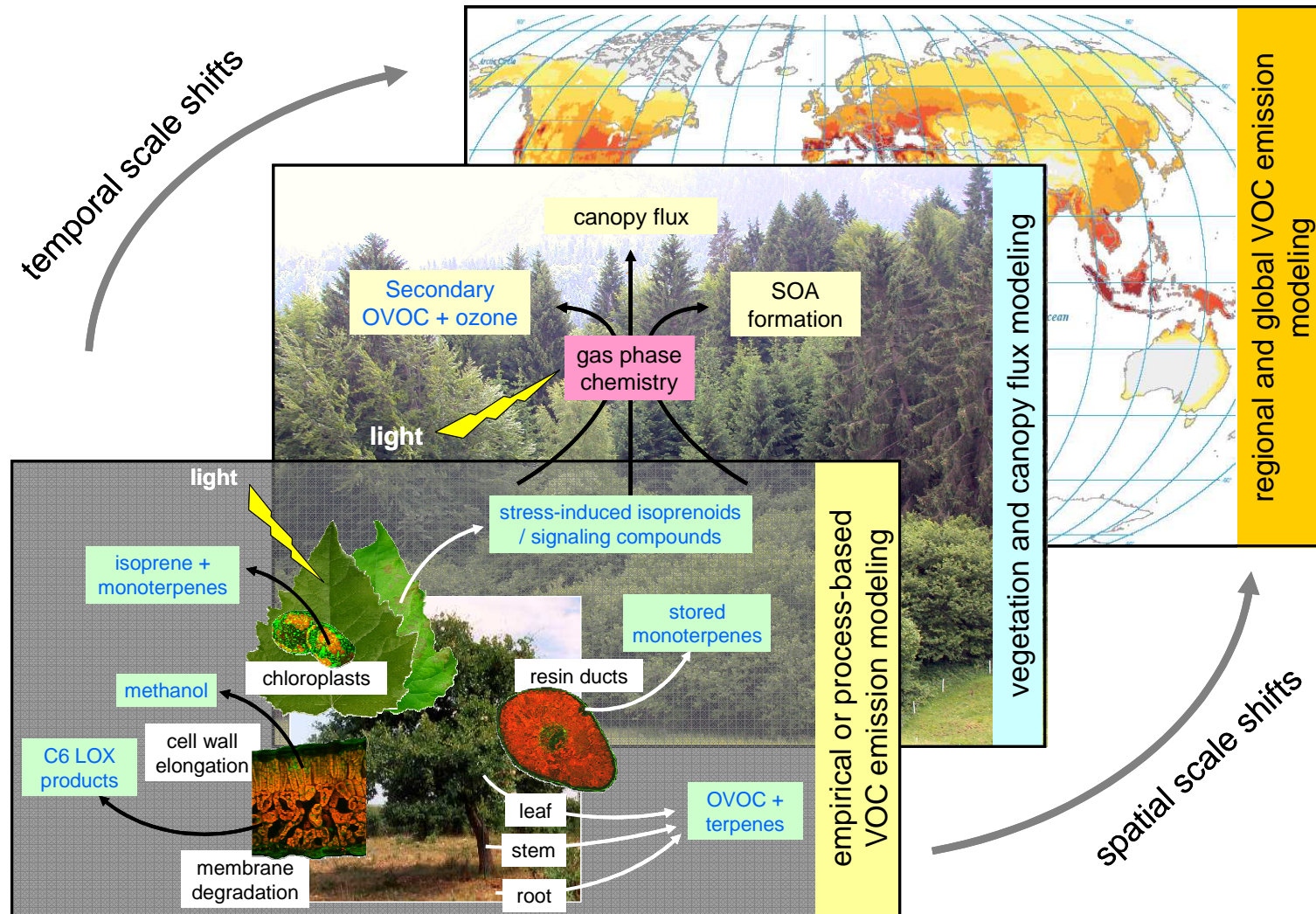
Smelling

Multiple drivers and sources of plant volatile emissions

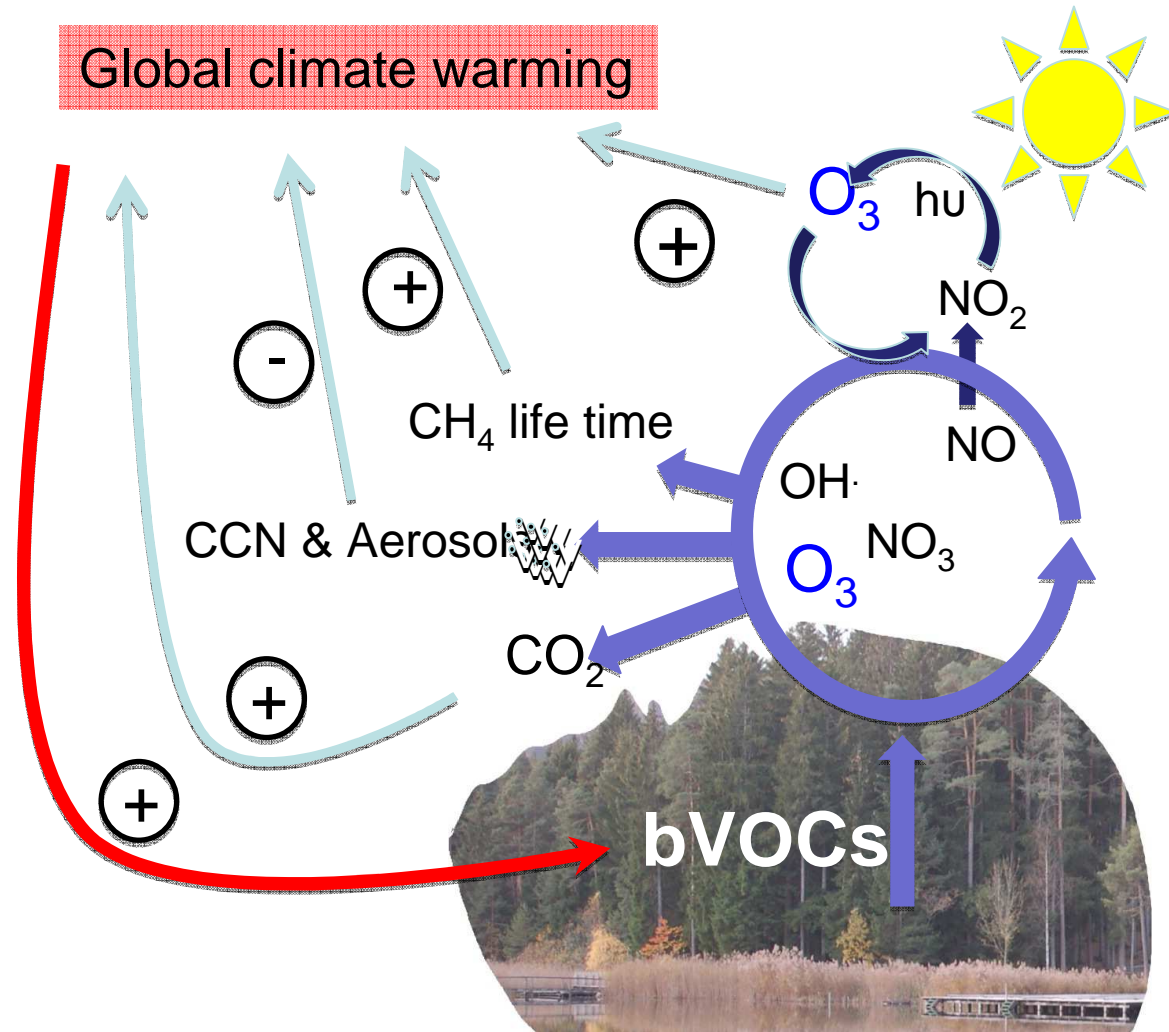


VOCs in air chemistry

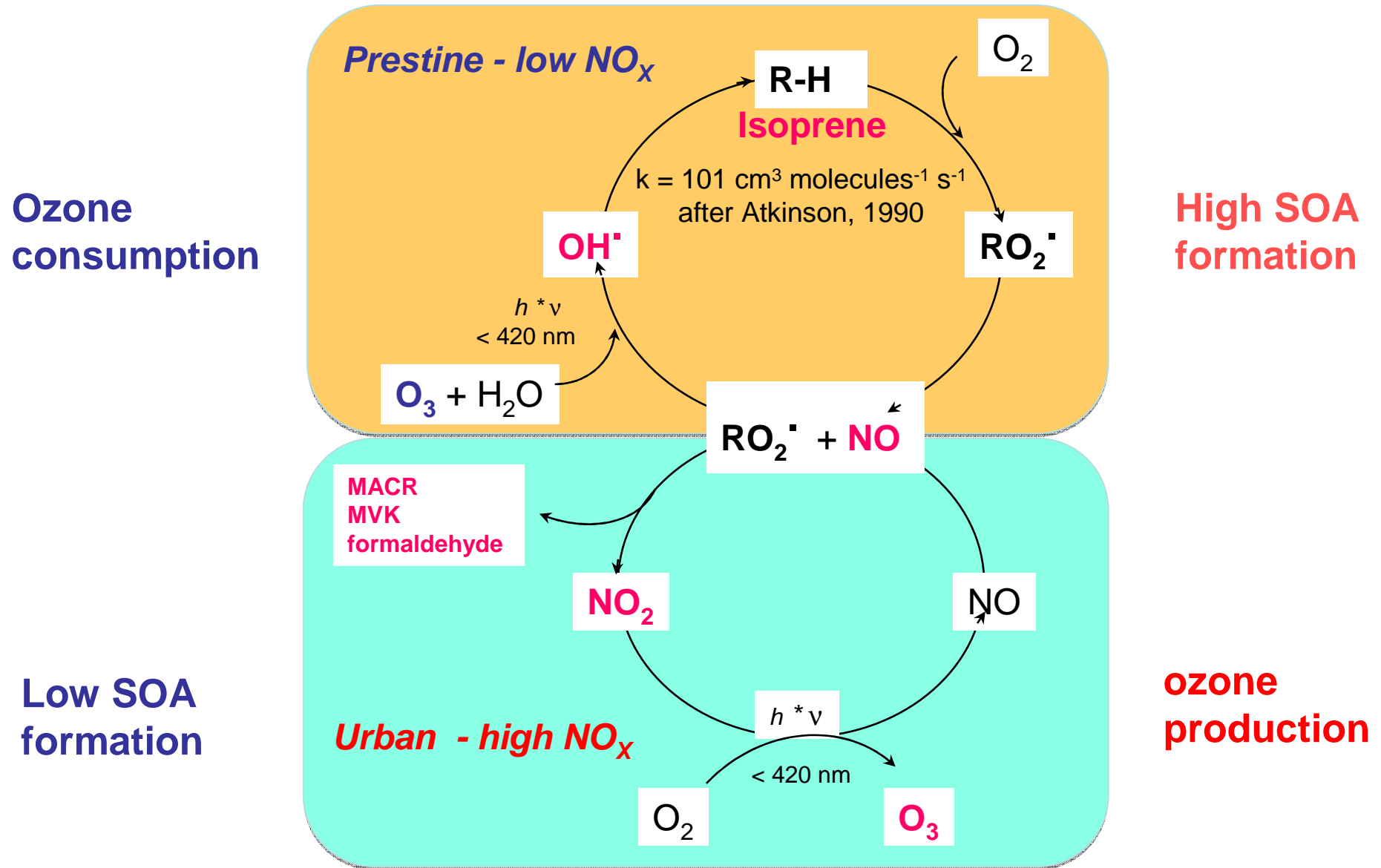
Vegetation – Atmosphere Interactions



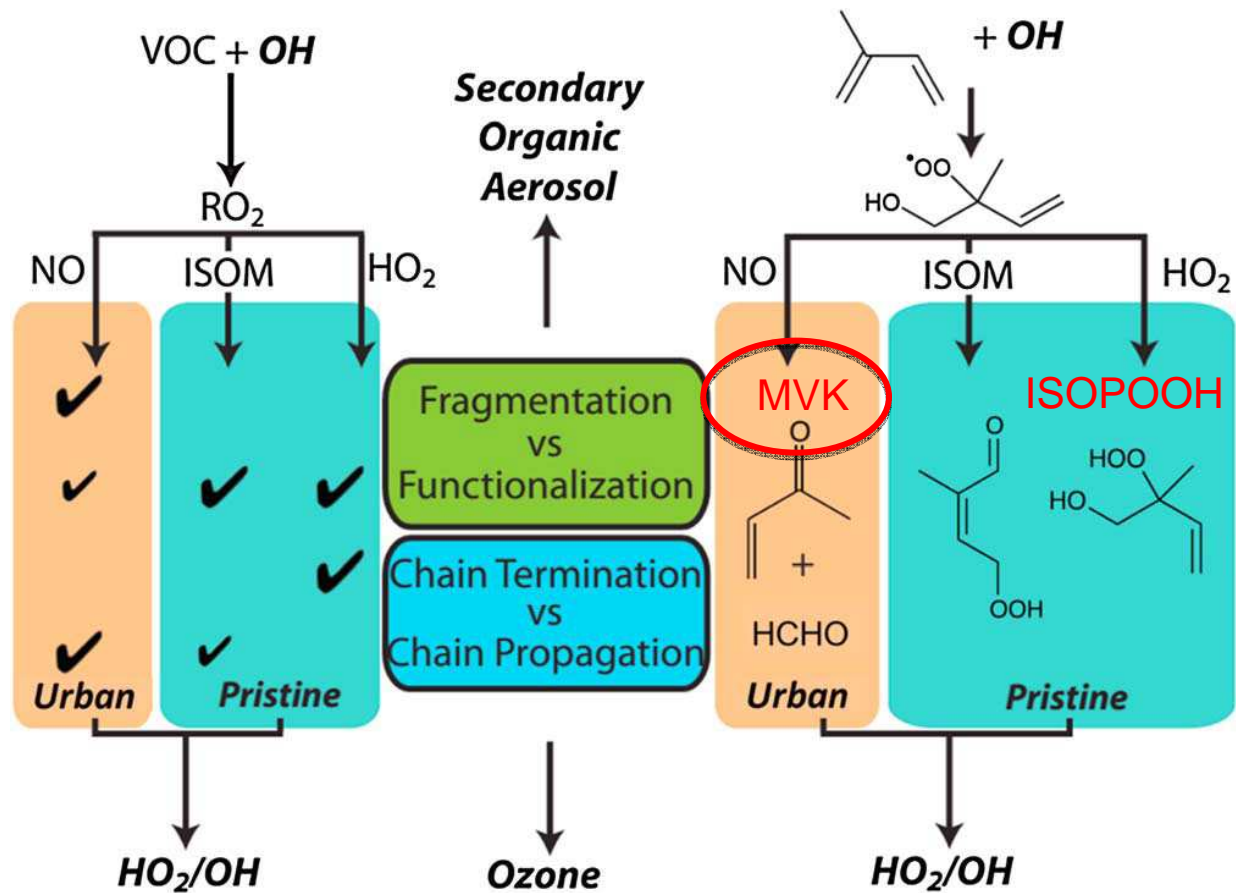
VOCs and their multiple roles in air chemistry



Radical chemistry of ozone / HO· / NO_x

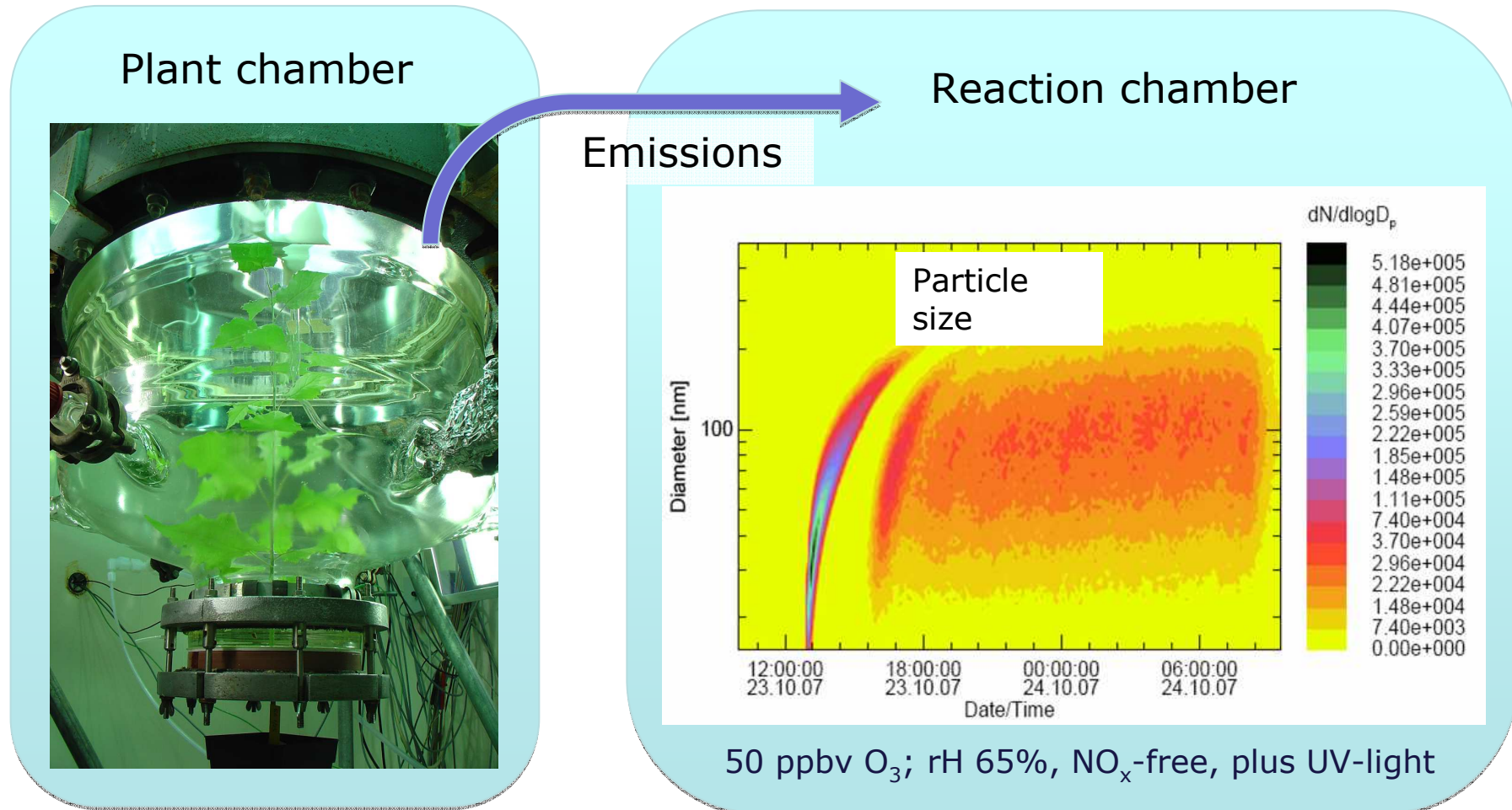


Atmospheric VOC oxidation mechanisms under pristine and urban conditions



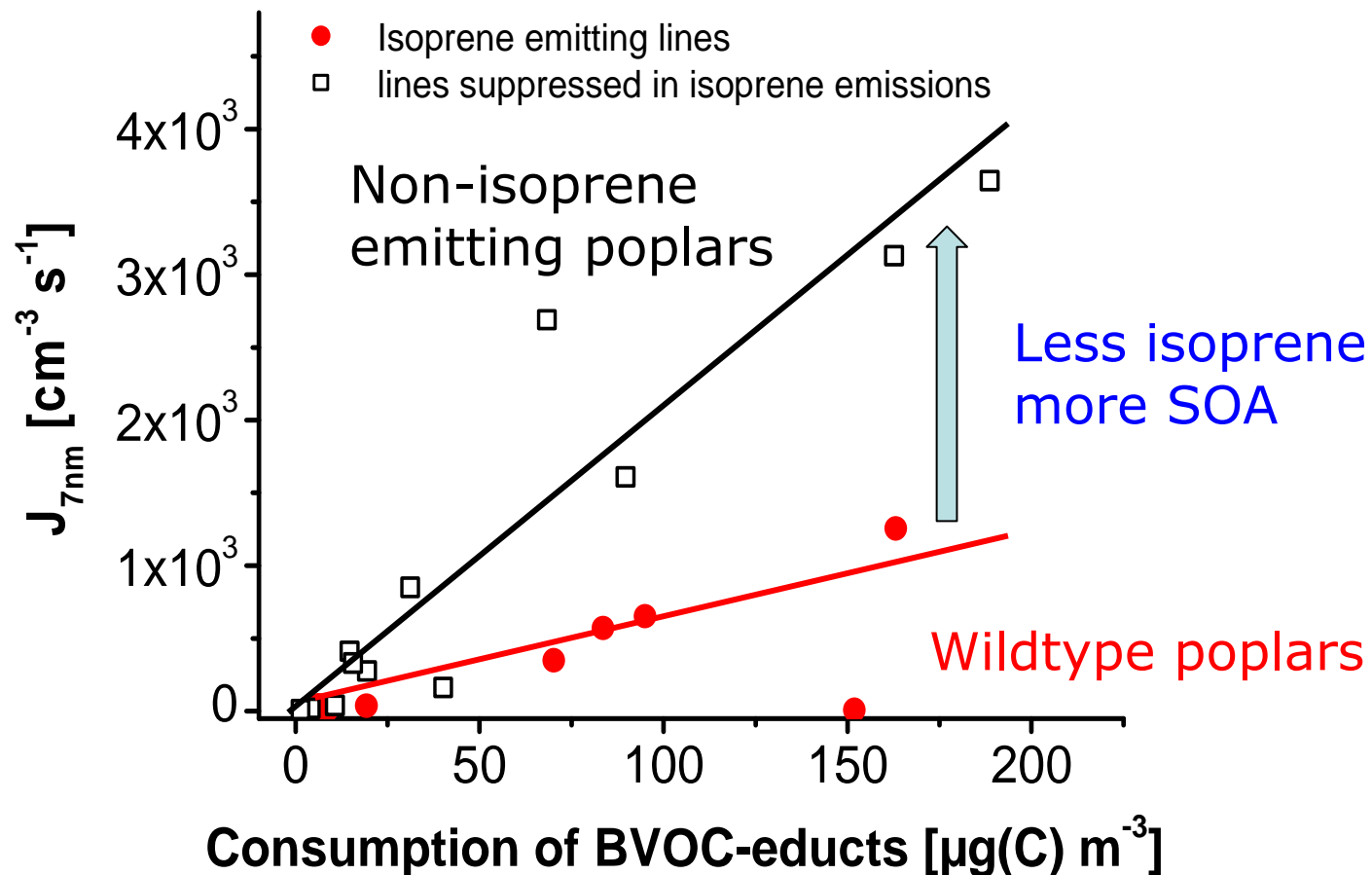
MVK is bioactive/toxic inducing stress responses upon plant deposition

SOA formation from stress-induced poplar VOCs

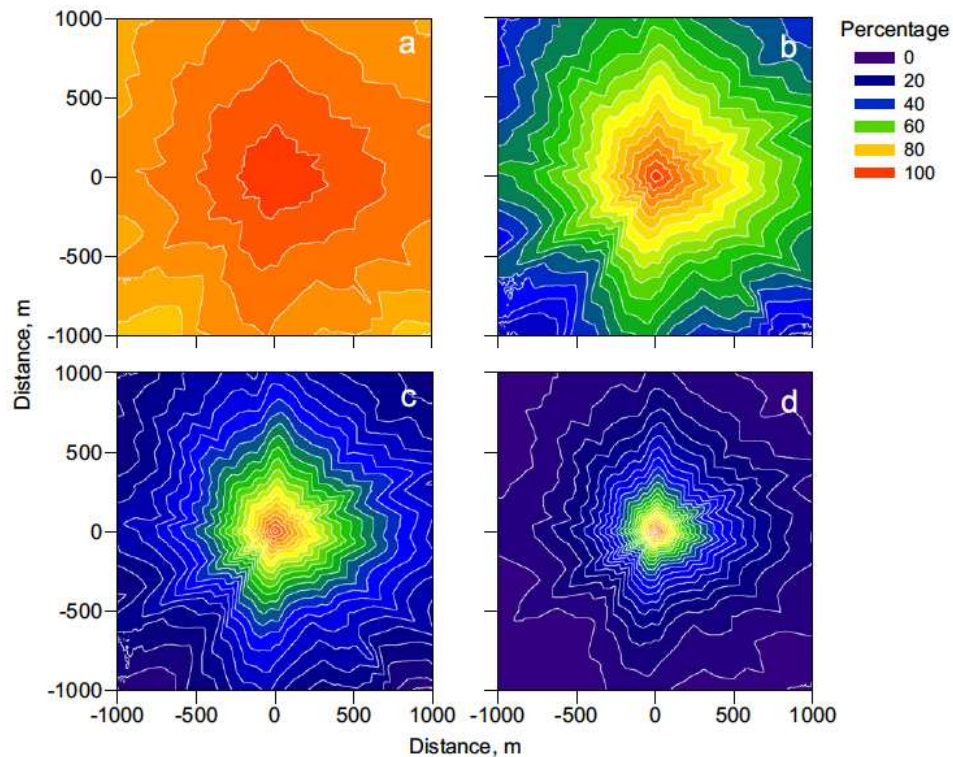


approx. 50 % of VOCs converted to SOA

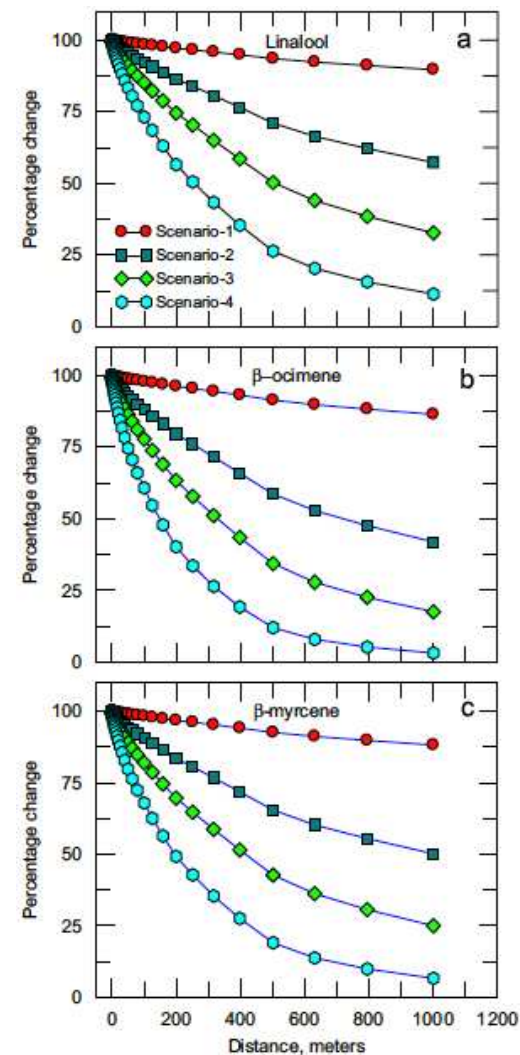
Isoprene's impact on nucleation rates (J_{7nm}) of bVOC (MTs, SQTs, BZs) educts oxidized by $\text{OH}\cdot$ and O_3



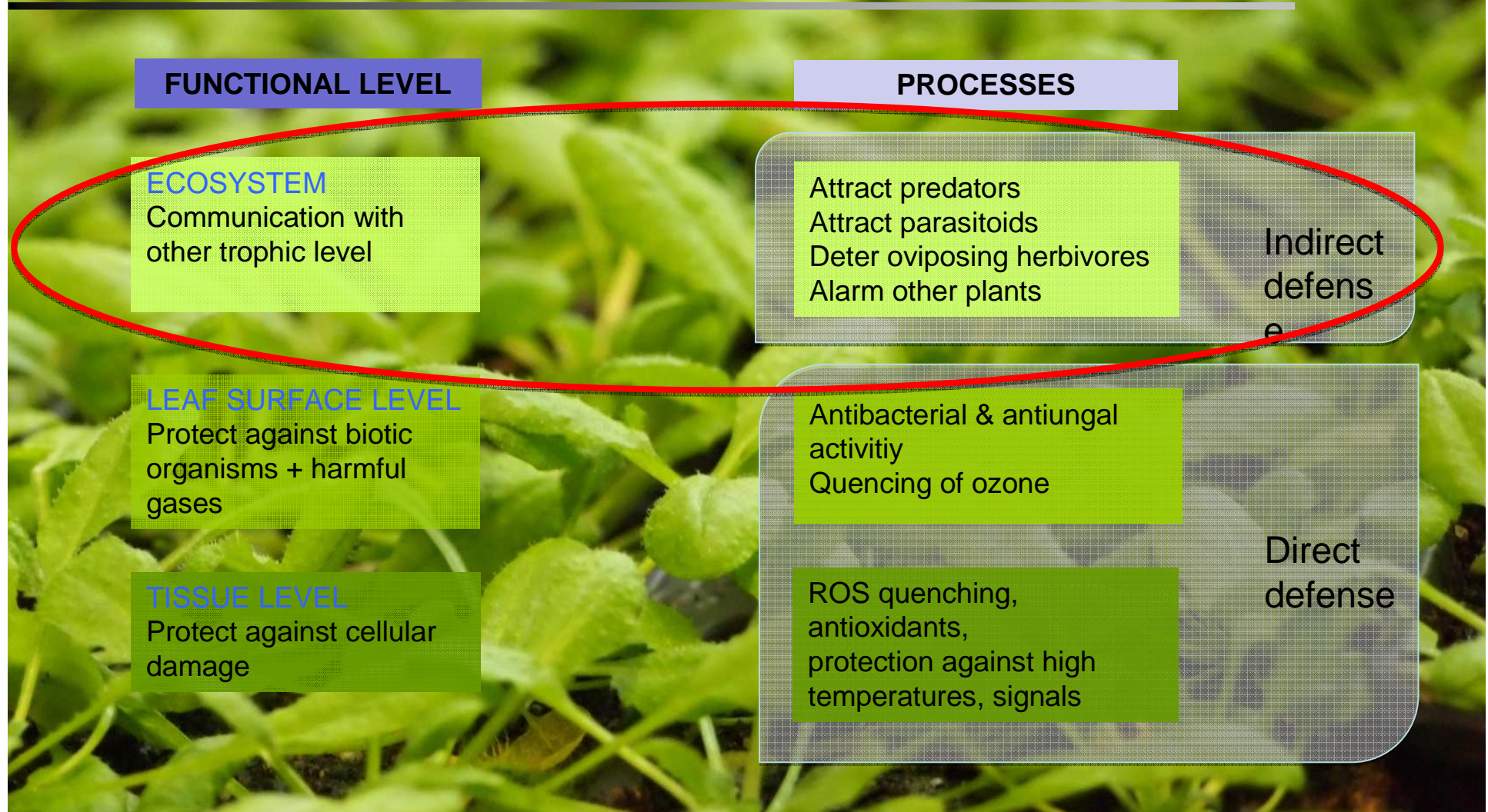
Oxidation of terpenes reduces it's atmospheric dispersal



Scenario	[O ₃] in ppbv	[HO] in pptv	[NO ₃] in pptv
I	20	0.02	0
II	40	0.20	1
III	80	0.41	2
IV	120	0.81	5



How does degradation of VOCs influence their biological functions?

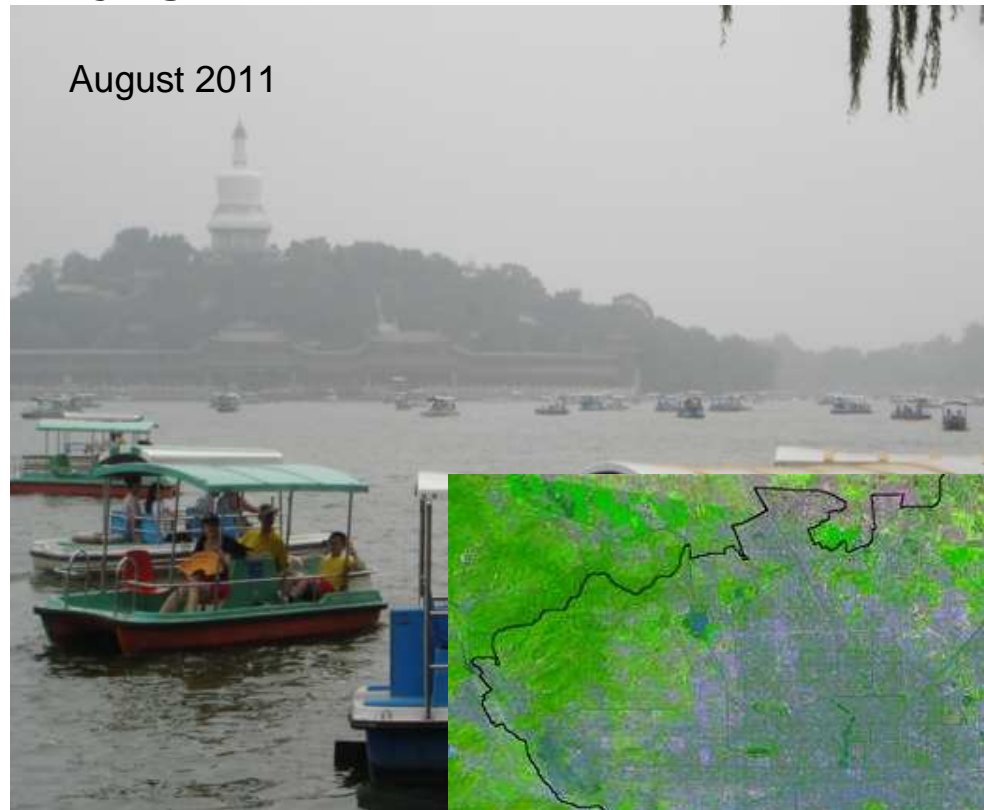


VOCs as markers of environmental stress

VOCs as markers for environmental (urban) stress in a megacity

No.	Species name
1	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (Mill.) Swingle
2	<i>Berberis poiretii</i> Schneid.
3	<i>Catalpa bungei</i> C.A. Mey
4	<i>Diospyros kaki</i> L.f.
5	<i>Euonymus japonicas</i> (Thunb.) cv <i>microphyllus</i>
6	<i>Forsythia ovata</i> Nakai
7	<i>Fraxinus velutina</i> Torr.
8	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> L.
9	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> Laxm.
10	<i>Ligustrum vicaryi</i> L.
11	<i>Liriodendron chinese x tulipikera</i> (Hemsl.) Sarg.
12	<i>Lonicera maacki</i> Maxim.
13	<i>Magnolia denutata</i> Desr.
14	<i>Malus x micromalus</i> Makino
15	<i>Plantanus acerifolia</i> Willd.
16	<i>Populus tomentosa</i> Carriere
17	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Ehrh. cv. <i>atropurpurea</i>
18	<i>Prunus persica</i> cv. <i>duplex</i>
19	<i>Salix babylonica</i> L.
20	<i>Sophora janonica</i> L. (Schott)
21	<i>Syringa pekinensis</i> Rupr.
22	<i>Ulmus pumila</i> L.

BVOC screening of broad leafed urban tree in Beijing, China



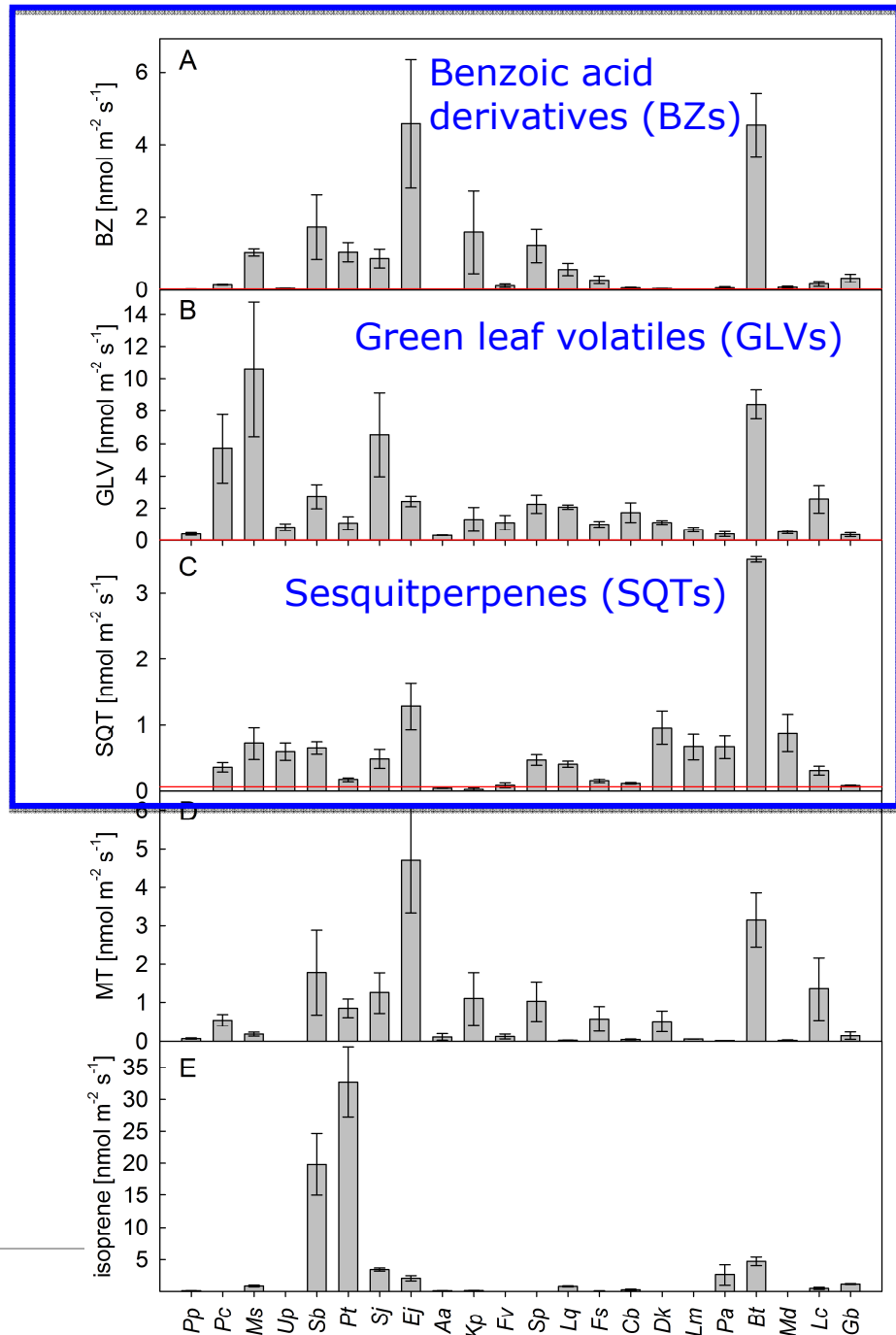
Emission profiles indicative for urban stress

Field campaign in 2011



Ghirardo et al. (2016) ACP

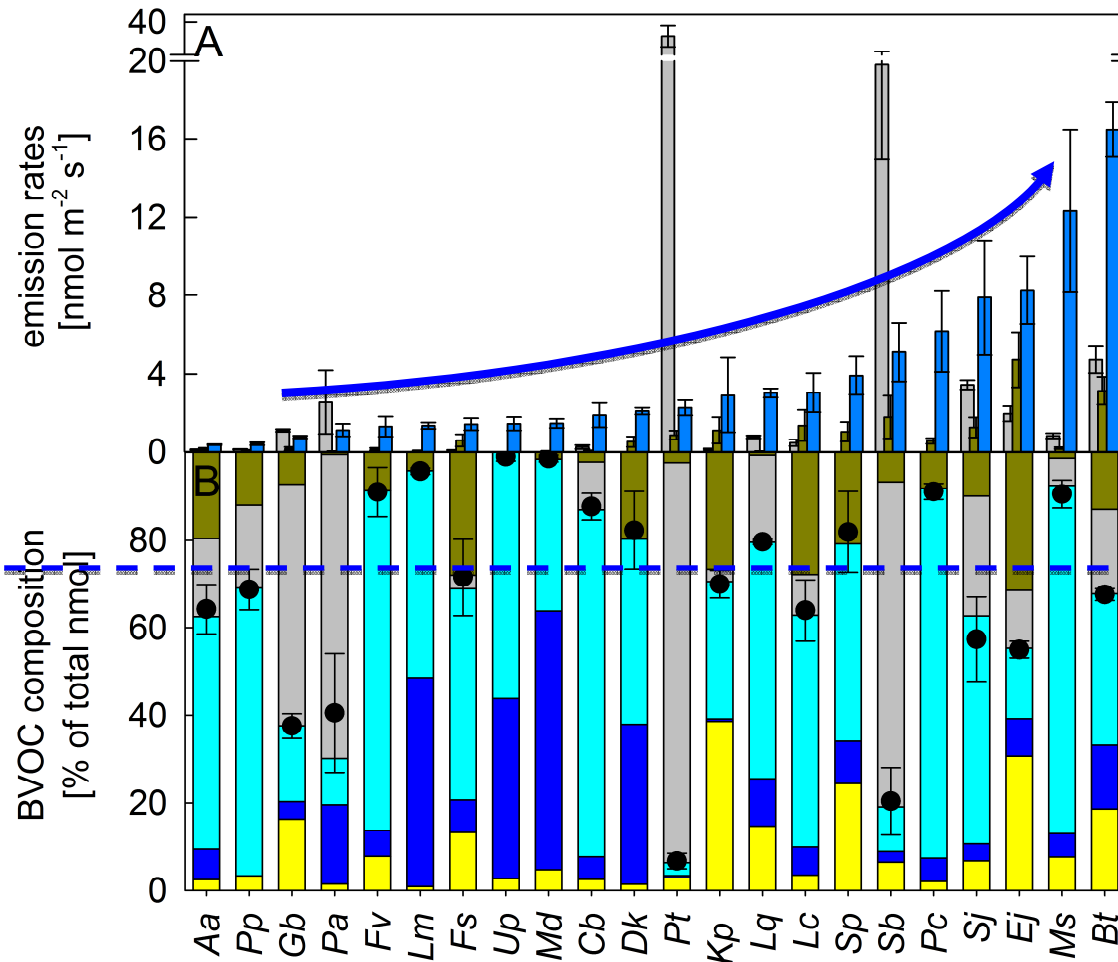
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Inherent problems in evaluating stress-induced VOC emissions

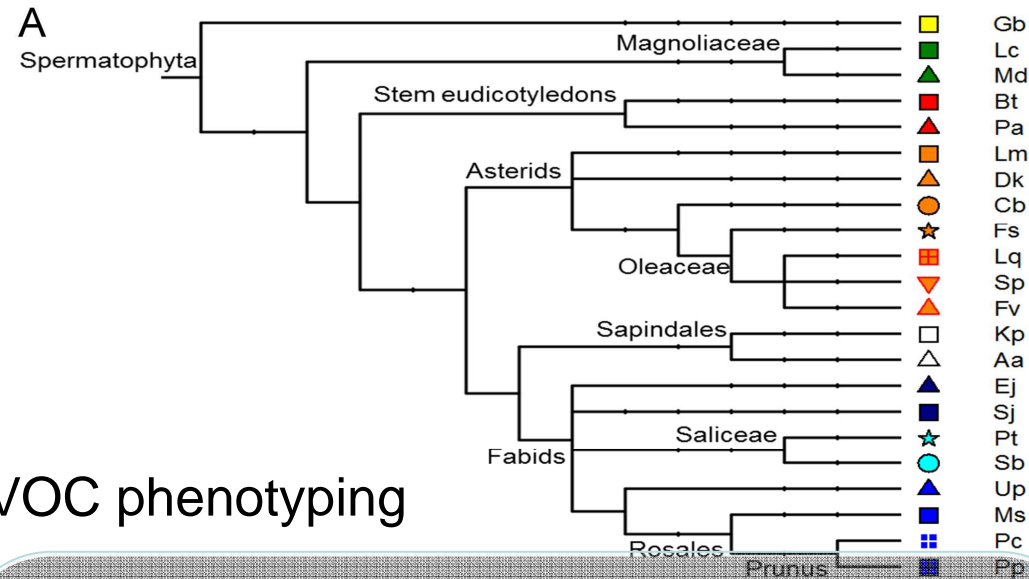
Predisposition / Priming (hr, day)		Short-term (sec, min)	
		Gene expression & protein turnover	pH, redox status, metabolic shifts
	Circadian clock		
	Morphology		
Abiotic factors	Atmospheric CO ₂		
	Drought, salt		
	Temperature		
	Irradiance (total, spectral)		
	Air pollution (O ₃)		
	Mechanical injury		

Stress-induced VOCs dominate in many species

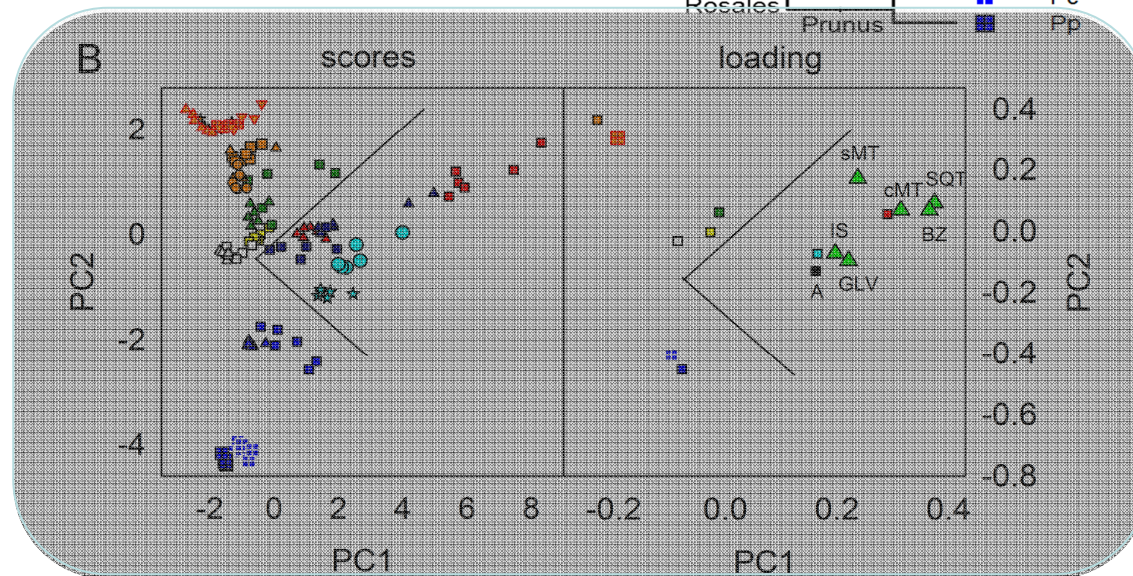


In average c. 75%
stress-induced VOCs
(BZs, GLVs, SQTs)

Stress-induced VOCs are species-specific



Justification for VOC phenotyping

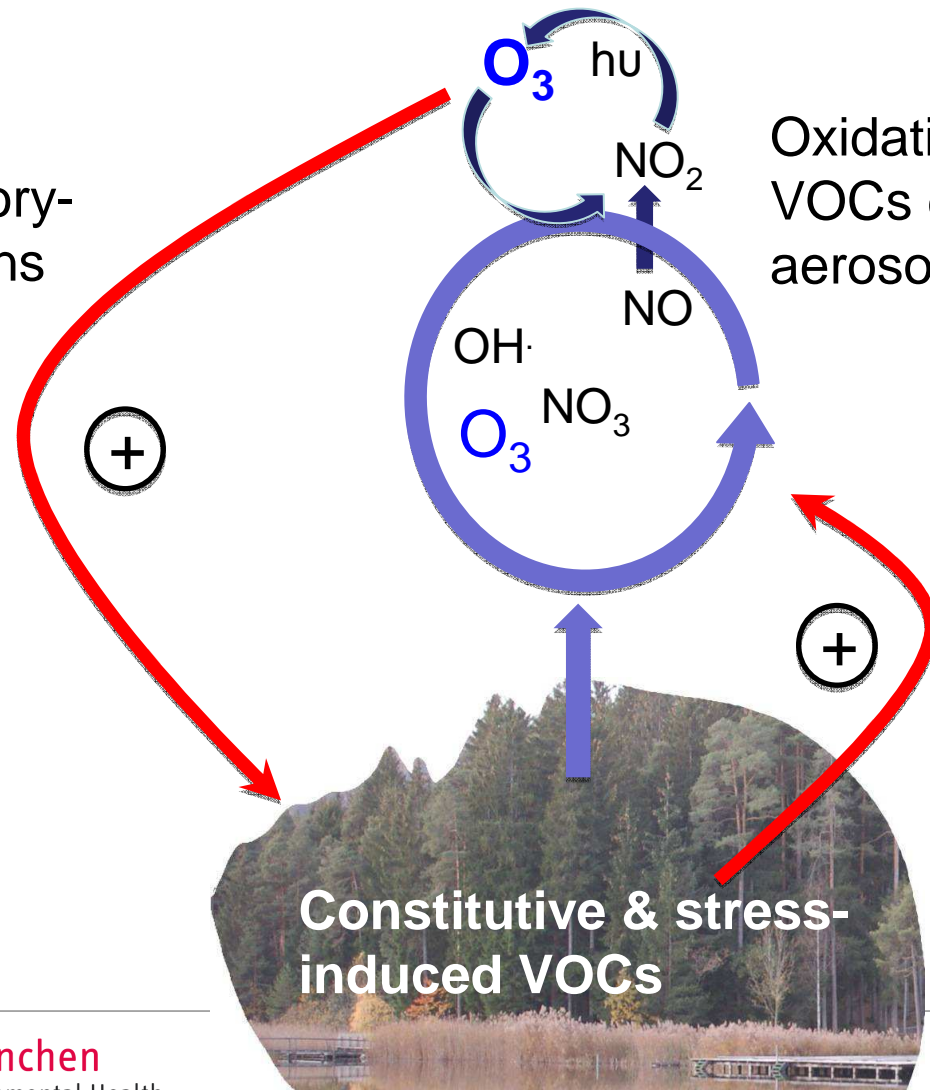


Ghirardo et al. (2016) ACP

Positive feedback loop of stress-induced bVOCs on photo smog

Air pollution in megacities stimulates herbivory-like VOC emissions

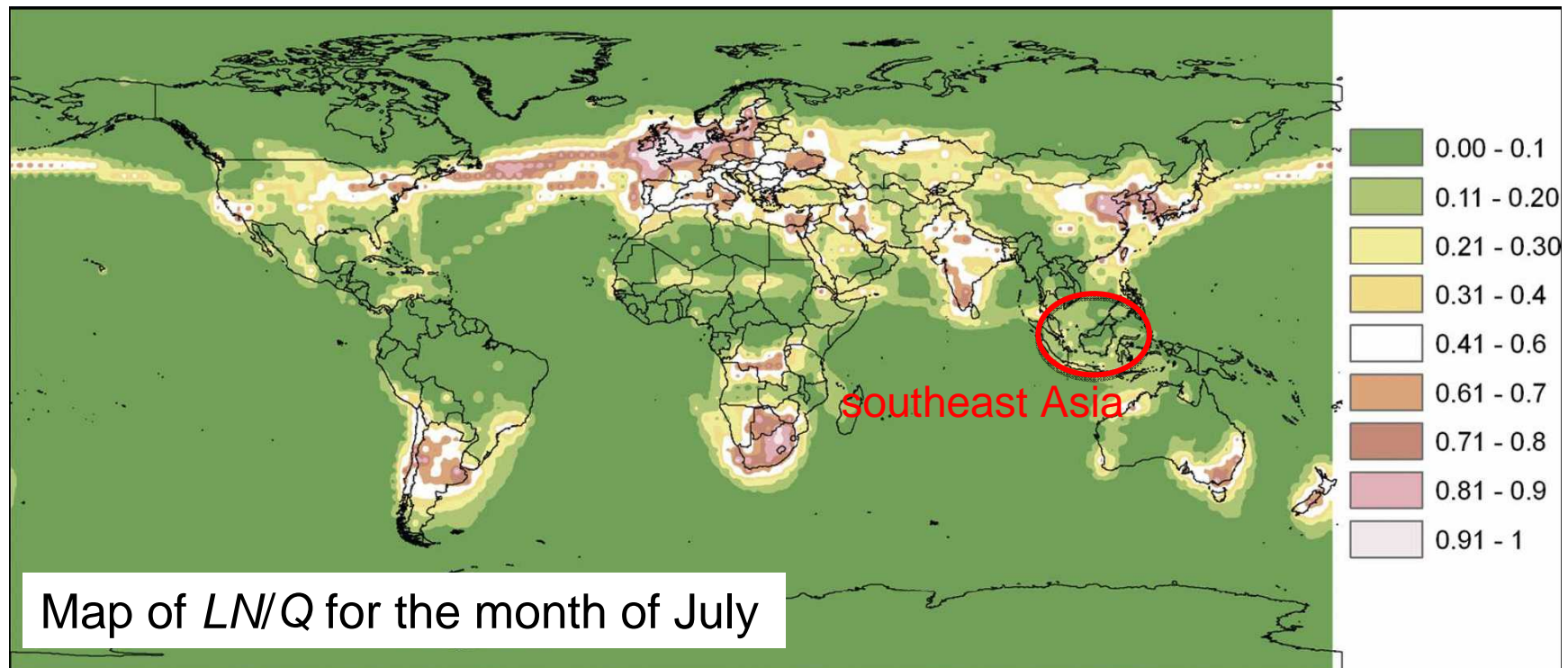
Oxidation of stress-induced VOCs enforces ozone and aerosol formation



Bioenergy plantations and impact on tropospheric ozone formation

Ozone production sensitivity to biogenic VOCs

LN / Q ratio: <0.5 : O_3 production is sensitive to NO_x
 >0.5 , O_3 production is sensitive to VOCs

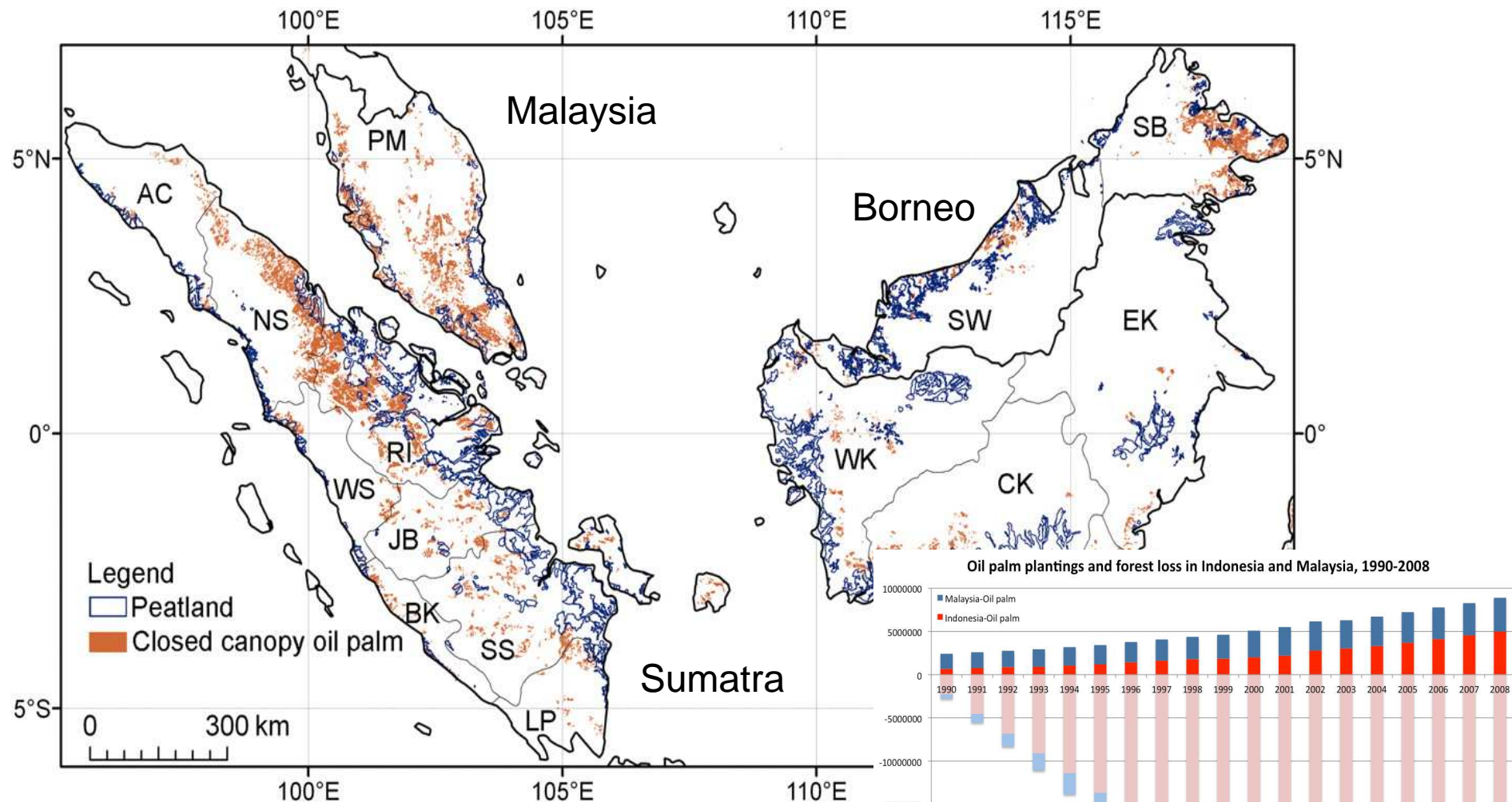


LN : Loss of radicals from reactions with NO/NO_2

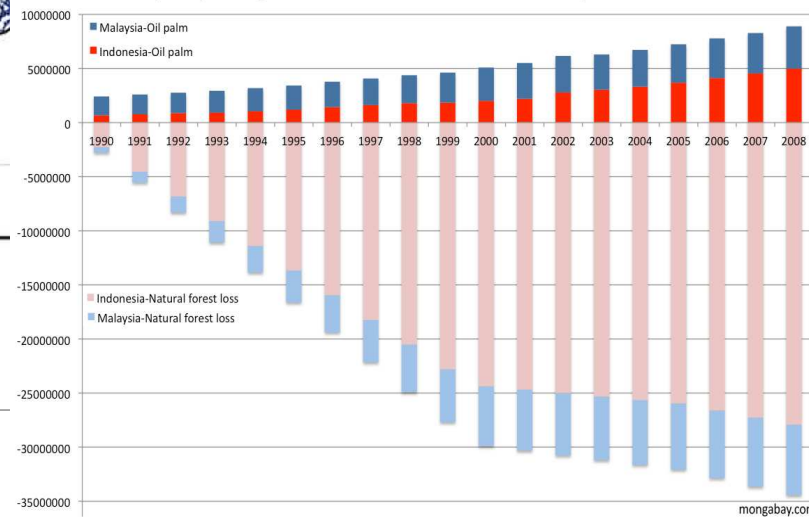
Q : sum of radical sinks

From Wiedinmyer et al. (2006) *Earth Interactions* 10, 1-19

Distribution of oil palm plantations in southeast Asia

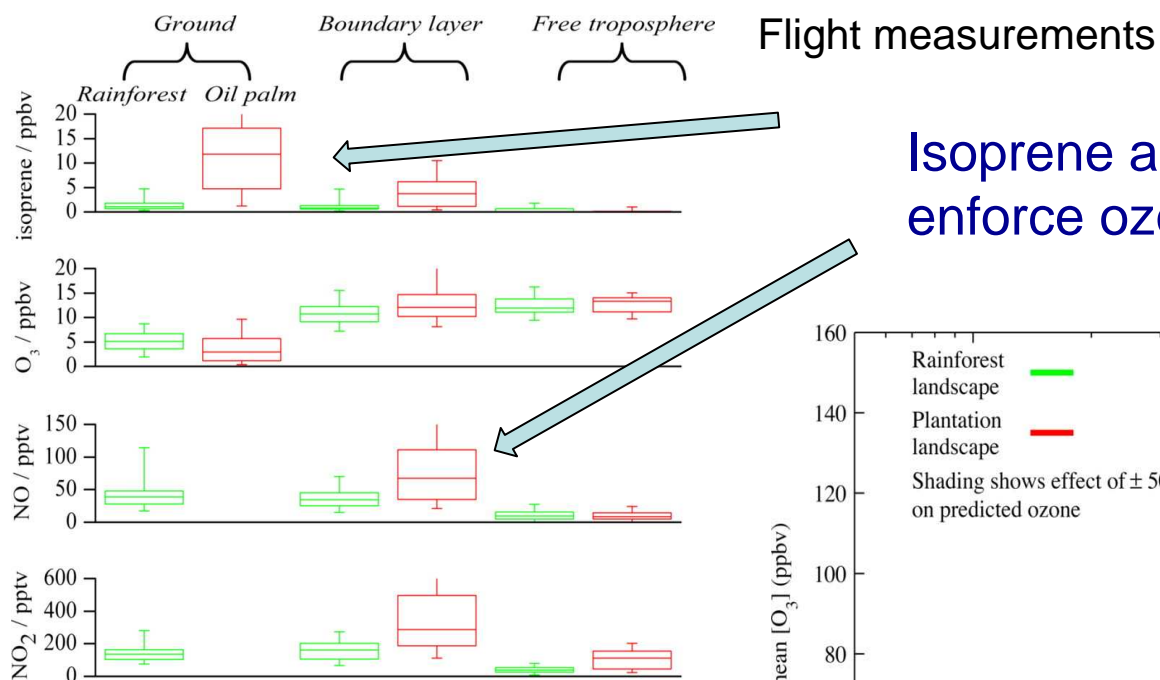


Oil palm plantings and forest loss in Indonesia and Malaysia, 1990-2008

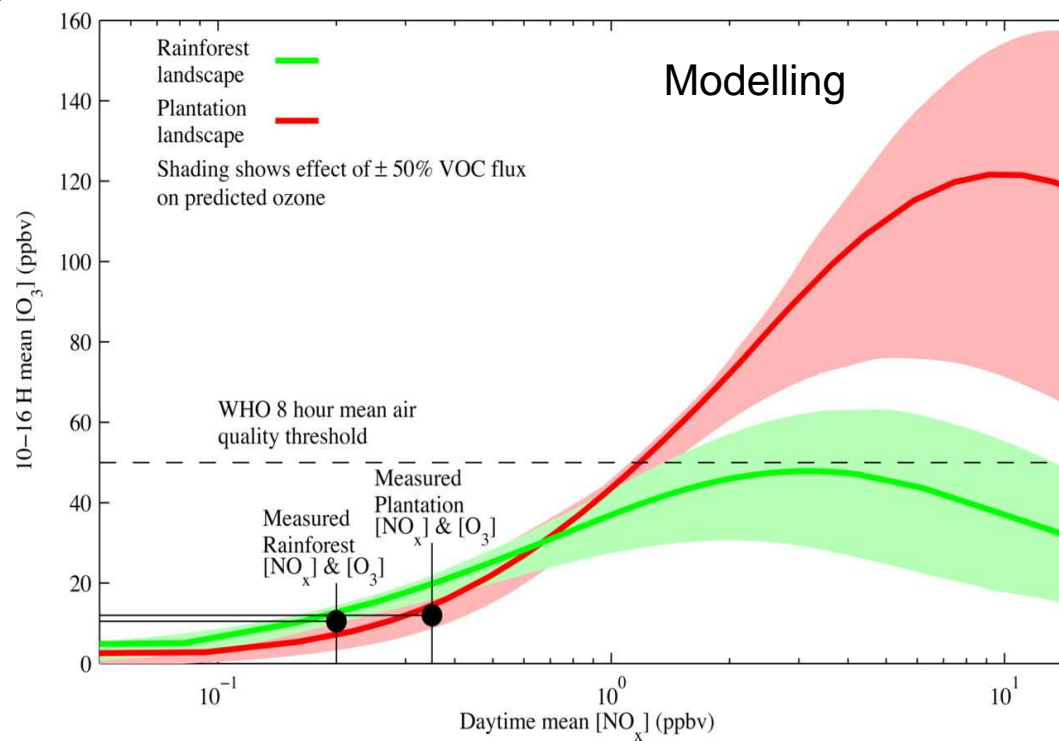


Koh L P et al. PNAS (2011) 108:5127-5132

Ozone formation related to oil palm VOC emissions



Isoprene and NO_x emissions enforce ozone formation



Does isoprene impacts human mortality by increase of ozone.....?

nature
climate change

LETTERS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 6 JANUARY 2013 | DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE1788

Impacts of biofuel cultivation on mortality and crop yields

Suggestion: SRC plantations in eastern Europe

K. Ashworth[†], O. Wild and C. N. Hewitt[★]

Ground-level ozone is a priority air pollutant, causing ~22,000 excess deaths per year in Europe¹, significant reductions in crop yields² and loss of biodiversity³. It is produced in the troposphere through photochemical reactions involving oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The biosphere is the main source of VOCs, with an estimated 1,150 TgC yr⁻¹ (~90% of total VOC emissions) released from vegetation globally⁴. Isoprene (2-methyl-1,3-butadiene) is the most significant biogenic VOC in terms of mass (around 500 TgC yr⁻¹) and chemical reactivity⁴ and plays an important role in the mediation of ground-level ozone concentrations⁵. Concerns about climate change and energy security are driving an aggressive expansion of bioenergy crop production and many of these plant species emit more isoprene than the traditional crops they are replacing. Here we quantify the increases in isoprene emission rates caused by cultivation of 72 Mha of biofuel crops in Europe. We then estimate the resultant changes in ground-level ozone concentrations and the impacts on human mortality and crop yields that these could cause. Our study highlights the need to consider more than simple carbon budgets when considering the cultivation of biofuel feedstock crops for greenhouse-gas mitigation.

turn over these areas from crops, grassland and wasteland within our model vegetation distribution to SRC cultivation. Figure 1a shows the distribution of biofuel feedstock (as a fraction of total vegetation) used in our scenario. These additional SRC crops are projected to provide ~120 Mtyr⁻¹ of gasoline equivalent¹³, sufficient to meet present EU targets⁶.

Effects on ground-level ozone

Planting 72 Mha of SRC species (poplar, willow or eucalyptus) in place of crops, grass or barren ground results in a substantial increase in isoprene emissions (from 11.5 TgC yr⁻¹ to 16.0 TgC yr⁻¹), and hence concentrations, across the model domain, shown in Fig. 1b. The spatial distribution of these increases follows the land-use change in Fig. 1a as isoprene has a short atmospheric lifetime (1–3 h). NO_x emissions resulting from fertilizer use are assumed to remain unchanged when food and fodder crops are replaced with biofuel crops^{13,14}. The relatively high background levels of NO_x in Europe mean that the rate of photochemical production of ozone is generally limited by the availability of VOCs, with an increase in isoprene emissions leading to enhanced ozone formation². Following SRC planting in the model, annual mean ground-level ozone concentrations increase by an average

Future research questions

On the plant level:

- Understanding the feedback loops of VOC fluxes between vegetation and atmosphere
- Elucidating plant surface VOC-ozone interactions
- Characterising oVOC deposition/detoxification mechanisms

On the vegetation level:

- Understanding the impact of ozone on VOC-based communication (natural and agricultural systems)

On the landscape level:

- Quantifying the impact of bioenergy plantations (i.e. oil palm, eucalypts, poplar) on ozone formation potentials in urban/suburban areas and the tropics