Toxicological Responses to Ozone Aging of Aerosols from Small-scale Biomass Combustion

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Small scale wood combustion for domestic heating and energy production is being regarded as a climate friendly alternative to fossil fuel combustion. Inefficient wood combustion emits elevated levels of aerosol particles and has therefore been recognized as a potential health threat, partly due to high content of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), of which several are rated as carcinogenic. When emitted to the ambient air the wood smoke aerosol is subjected to atmospheric aging, a process which physically and chemically transforms the aerosol, Kocbach Bølling et al (2009) states that more research is needed about health effects from aging of biomass combustion aerosol. The aim of this project was to investigate the toxicological response from fresh and aged biomass burning aerosol and link that to atmospheric transformation due to ozone aging and chemical composition of the aerosol.

A conventional wood stove was used in the study, operated in two modes, normal firing procedure at nominal load (NOM) and adjusted sooty procedure which gave a more incomplete combustion (denoted wood smoke, WS) (two experiments of each). To study the toxicological effects of aging a new method was developed, which allowed us to use the same batch of wood smoke aerosol for both studies of fresh and aged aerosol. The emissions were diluted and sampled to a 15.3 m³ reaction chamber (Nyström et al., 2013). The emissions were characterized using online techniques (TEOM and SMPS), PUF + filters (gas and particulate PAHs), OC/EC filter sampling and gas monitors (NOx and CO). For the toxicological studies filters were collected using a Dekati gravimetric impactor (DGI), the collected filters were also analyzed for PAHs, metals and ions. After characterization and filter sampling of the fresh aerosol, Kocbach Bølling et al. (2009) Part Fibre Toxicol, 6, 29. states that the ozone aging induces surface reactions. The relative particulate PAHs content measured on the DGI filters decreased from 0.39 % to 0.18 % when the WS mode aerosol was aged, which is an indication that the ozone aging induces surface reactions.

### Table 1. Chemical composition of fresh and aged aerosol.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experimental situation</th>
<th>OC (%)</th>
<th>EC (%)</th>
<th>NOx (%)</th>
<th>Zn (%)</th>
<th>K+Cl+ (%)</th>
<th>SO4 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WS-fresh</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS-aged</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOM-fresh</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOM-aged</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fresh WS mode particles were significantly more cytotoxic than the particles from the NOM mode. Ozone aging increased the cytotoxicity for both combustion modes. Fresh WS mode particles caused increased inflammatory responses compared to fresh NOM mode particles. The inflammatory responses was increased when the cells was exposed to aged NOM mode particles, compared to fresh. This effect could not be seen for the WS mode aerosol. All aerosol samples induced genotoxic responses higher than the control level. Due to the low viability of the cells exposed to the highest dose of fresh and aged WS mode aerosol, the samples could not be analyzed for genotoxicity. Aged aerosol from the WS mode gave by far the greatest genotoxic response.

The newly developed method was successful and made it possible to investigate the toxicity of fresh and aged biomass combustion emissions from two combustion situations, as well as characterizing the aerosol. The toxicity of aerosol from biomass combustion is affected by the combustion conditions and atmospheric aging. Aging of aerosol from incomplete combustion increases the DNA damage response compared to fresh samples of aerosol from the same combustion batch.

### References:


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