In situ measurements of aerosol size distributions inside the Asian Summer Monsoon Anticyclone

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March 9, 2016

Asian Monsoon Workshop

NCAR

POPS description:

Size range: 140 – 3000 nm diameter (dry)

Sampling: 3 cm³ s⁻¹

Weight: 1 kg

Communication: 8 size bins with O₃, CFH, COBALD (limited by the iMet bandwidth)





The Institute for Atmospheric Physics/Chinese Academy of Science Long Trek VII UAS

- POPS integration and test flights in November 2015



UAS implementation

The NOAA Pacific Marine Environment Laboratory (PMEL)

- POPS and ULR have been fully integrated
- Successful test flights in January 2015
- First field mission in April 2015 Svalbard, Norway in collaboration with PMEL

The University of Colorado Pilatus UAS

- POPS integration in February 2015
- Test flight in March 2015
- First field mission in April 2015 Oliktok Point, AK in collaboration with Dept. of Energy, University of Colorado, and Physical Sciences Division (PSD)

The Laboratory for Atmosphere and Cyclone (LACy, Reunion, France) R² Drone

- POPS integration right now
- Test flight in this month
- First field mission in Indian Ocean in collaboration with LACy







POPS (optical particle counter) and miniSASP (sun photometer): Aerosol optical density and hygroscopicity



Instrumented auto-homing glider (Skywalker X8)



Flight control by Black Swift Technologies







Aug 13, 2015: NCEP 100 mb hgt



Aug 14, 2015: NCEP 100 mb hgt









Aug 17, 2015: NCEP 100 mb hgt







Size distribution 2015 08 13







Altitude (km)





- In a general sense the ATAL is NOT unique!
 Brock et al., Science (1995)
- The air in the ASMA, similar to the air in the tropics, is trapped and moving upward slowly.
- Condensables have sufficient time to form new particles or condense on existing particles.
- Tropical aerosol layer too thin to be detected by satellites?



O₃ is significantly higher above ~26 km





A crude mixing model:

- Ascent rate determined by the local heating rate and local thermal structure
- Particles = Trop. tracer
- $O_3 = Strat. tracer$
- Mixing in strat can be derived from these three.

(Arguably ascent is easier to calculate than mixing)



Conclusions

1) ATAL appears to be robust feature

2) The particle enhancement has implications (additional heating)

3) In the ASMA LS these particles are a good tracer of the tropospheric air

- Size distributions suggest formation/growth in UT
- Tropospheric air is moving up into stratosphere

4) ATAL is similar to the tropical aerosol layer

5) Measureable mixing tracers: O_3 and aerosol

6) A crude model may be useful for LS mixing rate

