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- Recent Final Revised Papers
- Volumes and Issues
- Special Issues
- Library Search
- Title and Author Search

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Submission

Review

Production

Subscription

Comment on a Paper





Volumes and Issues Contents of Issue 1

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Coastal zone production of IO precursors: a 2dimensional study

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Abstract. At Mace Head, Eire, in the coastal East Atlantic, diiodomethane has been identified as an important precursor of iodine oxide radicals. Peak concentrations of both CH_2I_2 and IO at low water indicate that the intertidal region is a strong source of organo-iodines. Atmospheric measurements of CH_2I_2 made in marine air are compared with the concentrations predicted by a 2-dimensional model incorporating horizontal and vertical dispersion of surface emissions. The model shows that micrometeorological variability, proximity of the site to emissions, and photolysis all play important roles in determining the CH_2I_2 concentrations at Mace Head. In addition to a tidal-height dependent intertidal flux, which was estimated from seaweed production data, a contribution from offshore (non-local) sources was required in order to reproduce the strong signature of photolysis in the CH_2I_2 observations. A combination of an

offshore flux and an intertidal flux (of up to 1.4×10^9 molecules cm⁻²s⁻¹ at low water) results in good agreement between the measured and modelled CH₂I₂ concentrations. Although this study does not necessarily infer emission of CH₂I₂ from the open ocean, it suggests that air-sea exchange of CH₂I₂ in coastal waters does occur.

■ <u>Final Revised Paper</u> (PDF, 242 KB) ■ <u>Discussion Paper</u> (ACPD)

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