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Gas-phase alkyl amines in urban air; comparison with a boreal forest site and importance for local atmospheric chemistry

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- 12 Highlights
- *Several alkyl amines were observed in urban background air
- *The concentrations of alkyl amines were higher in boreal forest air than in urban background air
- * Amines strongly impacted local atmospheric chemistry

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- 17 Abstract
- 18 Low-molecular-weight aliphatic amines were measured in the ambient urban background air at the
- 19 SMEAR III station (Station for Measuring Forest Ecosystem-Atmosphere Relations III) in Helsinki,
- Finland, from May until late August 2011. The alkyl amines measured were dimethylamine (DMA),
- 21 ethylamine (EA), trimethylamine (TMA), propylamine (PA), diethylamine (DEA), butylamine
- 22 (BA) and triethylamine (TEA).
- Of these amines, DMA+EA and TMA+PA were the most abundant, with average concentrations of
- 24 and 8 ppt. The ranges of weekly mean concentrations of DMA+EA and TMA+PA were < DL
- 25 (9.5 ppt) 55 ppt and 4--27 ppt. The concentrations of all amines in urban background air in
- Helsinki were lower than at a boreal forest site (SMEAR II), indicating the presence at the latter site
- of some additional sources. Amine lifetimes are short, varying from 2.3 h to 7.6 h against hydroxyl
- 28 (OH) radicals. The amine concentrations were scaled against OH reactivity and compared with the
- 29 OH reactivities of aromatic hydrocarbons and terpenes. The results showed that amines strongly
- 30 influenced the total OH reactivity, especially at the boreal forest site in May, September and
- 31 October, showing contributions almost as high as those of monoterpenes.

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33 Keywords: Amines; urban air; OH reactivity; VOCs

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