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Characteristics and Origins of Carbonaceous Aerosol in the Sichuan Basin, China

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2 **Basin**, China

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15 Abstract

The Sichuan Basin is a low visibility area in southwest China, where the hilly and 16 basin topography, plus humid and stagnant weather, lead to unique pollution patterns. 17 To identify the characteristics and sources of carbonaceous aerosols, one-year record 18 of 24-h PM_{2.5} samples were analyzed for organic carbon (OC) and elemental carbon 19 (EC) content following the thermal/optical transmission protocol at three cities 20 (Chengdu (CD), Neijiang (NJ), and Chongqing (CQ)) in the region during May 2012 21 to April 2013. The annual average concentrations were 19.0 \pm 13.3 µg OC m⁻³ and 22 $4.6\pm2.6 \ \mu g \ EC \ m^{-3}$ in CD, $18.3\pm8.4 \ \mu g \ OC \ m^{-3}$ and $4.1\pm1.8 \ \mu g \ EC \ m^{-3}$ in NJ, and 23 $15.2\pm8.4 \ \mu g \ OC \ m^{-3}$ and $4.0\pm1.6 \ \mu g \ EC \ m^{-3}$ in CQ, respectively. Organic matter 24 (1.6OC) plus EC contributed about 40% of PM_{2.5} mass and displayed weak regional 25 uniformity. Relatively high ratios of OC to EC were observed in the region with 4.3 26 for CD, 4.6 for NJ, and 3.8 for CQ, respectively. OC and EC pollution in the region 27 28 exhibited interesting season-dependent characteristics with the lowest concentrations and OC/EC ratios in summer, but higher levels in other seasons. Higher OC/EC ratios 29 in spring and autumn resulted from biomass burning, and in winter were from the 30

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