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PII: S1352-2310(17)30780-X

DOI: [10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.11.035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.11.035)

Reference: AEA 15692

To appear in: *Atmospheric Environment*

Received Date: 28 June 2017

Revised Date: 14 November 2017

Accepted Date: 18 November 2017

Please cite this article as: Li, Y., Tasoglou, A., Liangou, A., Cain, K.P., Jahn, L., Gu, P., Kostenidou, E., Pandis, S.N., Cloud condensation nuclei activity and hygroscopicity of fresh and aged cooking organic aerosol, *Atmospheric Environment* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.11.035.

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# Cloud Condensation Nuclei Activity and Hygroscopicity of Fresh and Aged Cooking Organic Aerosol

Yanwei Li<sup>1</sup>, Antonios Tasoglou<sup>2,5</sup>, Aikaterini Liangou<sup>3</sup>, Kerrigan P. Cain<sup>2</sup>, Leif Jahn<sup>2</sup>, Peishi Gu<sup>2</sup>, Evangelia Kostenidou<sup>3,4</sup>, Spyros N. Pandis<sup>\*2,3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Collaborative Innovation Center on Forecast and Evaluation of Meteorological Disasters, Key Laboratory for Aerosol-Cloud-Precipitation of China Meteorological Administration, Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology, Nanjing, China

<sup>2</sup>Center for Atmospheric Particle Studies, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

<sup>3</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Patras, Patra, Greece

<sup>4</sup>Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences (ICE-HT), FORTH, Patra, Greece

<sup>5</sup>RJ Lee Group, Inc. Monroeville, USA

## Abstract

Cooking organic aerosol (COA) is potentially a significant fraction of organic particulate matter in urban areas. COA chemical aging experiments, using aerosol produced by grilling hamburgers, took place in a smog chamber in the presence of UV light or excess ozone. The water solubility distributions, cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) activity, and corresponding hygroscopicity of fresh and aged COA were measured. The average mobility equivalent activation diameter of the fresh particles at 0.4% supersaturation ranged from 87 to 126 nm and decreased for aged particles, ranging from 65 to 88 nm. Most of the fresh COA had water solubility less than  $0.1 \text{ g L}^{-1}$ , even though the corresponding particles were quite CCN active. After aging the COA fraction with water solubility greater than  $0.1 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  increased more than 2 times. Using the extended Köhler theory for multiple partially soluble components in order to predict the measured activation diameters, the COA solubility distribution alone could not explain the CCN activity. Surface tensions less than  $30 \text{ dyn cm}^{-1}$  were required to explain the measured activation diameters. In addition, COA particles appear to not be spherical, which can introduce uncertainties into the corresponding calculations.

**Key words:** Cooking aerosol; hygroscopicity; CCN; chemical aging; particle shape.

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