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1 Statistical Analysis and Parameterization of the Hygroscopic Growth

- of the Sub-micrometer Urban Background Aerosol in Beijing
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13 Abstract

The take-up of water of aerosol particles plays an important role in heavy haze 14 15 formation over North China Plain, since it is related with particle mass concentration, visibility degradation, and particle chemistry. In the present study, we investigated the 16 size-resolved hygroscopic growth factor (HGF) of sub-micrometer aerosol particles 17 (smaller than 350 nm) on a basis of 9-month Hygroscopicity-Tandem Differential 18 19 Mobility Analyzer measurement in the urban background atmosphere of Beijing. The mean hygroscopicity parameter (κ) values derived from averaging over the entire 20 sampling period for particles of 50 nm, 75 nm, 100 nm, 150 nm, 250 nm, and 350 nm 21 in diameters were 0.14 ± 0.07 , 0.17 ± 0.05 , 0.18 ± 0.06 , 0.20 ± 0.07 , 0.21 ± 0.09 , and 22 23 0.23±0.12, respectively, indicating the dominance of organics in the sub-micrometer 24 urban aerosols. In the spring, summer, and autumn, the number fraction of hydrophilic 25 particles increased with increasing particle size, resulting in an increasing trend of 26 overall particle hygroscopicity with enhanced particle size. Differently, the overall 27 mean κ values peaked in the range of 75-150 nm and decreased for particles larger

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