Influence of plumes from biomass burning on atmospheric chemistry over the equatorial and tropical South Atlantic during CITE 3

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Abstract. During all eight flights conducted over the equatorial and tropical South Atlantic (27°-35°W, 2°N-11°S; September 9-22, 1989) in the course of the Chemical Instrumentation Test and Evaluation (CITE 3) experiment, we observed haze layers with elevated concentrations of aerosols, O₃, CO, and other trace gases related to biomass burning emissions. They occurred at altitudes between 1000 and 5200 m and were usually only some 100-300 m thick. These layers extended horizontally over several 100 km and were marked by the presence of visible brownish haze. These layers strongly influenced the chemical characteristics of the atmosphere over this remote oceanic region. Air mass trajectories indicate that these layers originate in the biomass burning regions of Africa and South America and typically have aged at least 10 days since the time of emission. In the haze layers, O₃ and CO concentrations up to 90 and 210 ppb were observed, respectively. The two species were highly correlated. The ratio ΔO₃/ΔCO (Δ, concentrations in plume minus background concentrations) is typically in the range 0.2-0.7, much higher than the ratios in the less aged plumes investigated previously in Amazonia. In most cases, aerosol (0.12-3 μm diameter) number concentrations were also elevated by up to 400 cm⁻³ in the layers; aerosol enrichments were also strongly correlated with elevated CO levels. Clear correlations between CO and NOₓ enrichments were not apparent due to the age of the plumes, in which most NOₓ would have already reacted away within 1-2 days. Only in some of the plumes could clear correlations between NOₓ and CO be identified; the absence of a general correlation between NOₓ and CO may be due to instrumental limitations and to variable sinks for NOₓ. The average enrichment of ΔNOₓ/ΔCO was quite high, consistent with the efficient production of ozone observed in the plumes. The chemical characteristics of the haze layers, together with remote sensing information and trajectory calculations, suggest that fire emissions (in Africa and/or South America) are the primary source of the haze layer components.

Introduction

Satellite studies have shown high levels of ozone in the troposphere over the tropical and equatorial South Atlantic [Fishman and Larsen, 1987; Fishman et al., 1990, 1991]. Ozone soundings made at Natal on the east coast of Brazil also show the presence of layers with elevated ozone concentrations in the middle and upper troposphere [Kirchhoff and Nobre, 1986; Kirchhoff et al., 1990, 1991]. At Ascension Island, in the center of the tropical South Atlantic, the same enhancement of ozone in the middle and upper troposphere has been observed [Cros et al., 1992]. This phenomenon is most pronounced during the southern hemisphere dry season in South America and Africa, when burning of savannas and tropical forests is widespread. Since the ozone-laden air masses over the South Atlantic have passed over the African and South American continents, it has been proposed that the formation of ozone is due to photochemical reactions in the plumes from biomass burning in the African and South American tropics [Kirchhoff and Nobre, 1986; Fishman et al., 1990; Watson et al., 1990]. This view is supported by the observation of high concentrations of CO in the middle and upper troposphere over Southern Africa, South America, and the South Atlantic made by the space-borne MAPS instrument in November 1981 and October 1984 [Reichle et al., 1986, 1990].

The second part of the Chemical Instrumentation Test and Evaluation (CITE 3) expedition [Hoell et al., 1993] took place over the tropical and equatorial Atlantic in September 1989. The main objective of the CITE 3 experiment was an intercomparison of various instruments to measure atmospheric sulfur species, but instruments to measure O₃, CO, nitrogen oxides, and various aerosol characteristics were also present on the research aircraft. This provided an opportunity to conduct the first in situ measurements in biomass burning plumes over the South Atlantic. Similar measurements had been conducted previously much closer to the source regions in South America.
titration technique with National Institute for Standards and Technology (formerly National Bureau of Standards) traceable calibration gases. It has a response time of about 2 s to 90% of reading, a precision of 2 ppb or 2% (whichever is largest) for a 10-s average, and an absolute accuracy of 5 ppb or 5%. Sample air was delivered to the instrument via a Teflon-lined inlet which extended about 30 cm out from the aircraft skin into relatively undisturbed airflow. Data were recorded at 1-s intervals; 10-s averages were used for the profiles and analyses presented in this paper.

Carbon Monoxide

CO measurements were provided by the differential absorption CO measurement (DACOM), a diode-laser-based instrument designed to measure CO aboard an aircraft platform. The instrument determines CO by modulating the laser wavelength across an isolated absorption line in the 4.7-µm band and then detecting the periodic attenuation experienced by the laser beam due to the absorption by CO molecules in the White cell. The pressure in the White cell is maintained at 50 torr to narrow the CO absorption line and other potentially interfering absorption lines. An inlet probe is extended past the slipstream of the aircraft to capture the sample air, which is then passed through a chemical dryer to remove H2O vapor by reaction with Mg(ClO4). The sample air then enters the pressure-controlled sample cell which contains a 12.5-m-folded optical path and then is continuously pumped overboard. Approximately 20% of the diode laser power is directed to a wavelength stabilization leg which provides an error signal when the laser wavelength sweep drifts from the CO absorption line center. The instrument is calibrated approximately every 15 min by passing a calibration gas of known CO concentration through the sample system. Precision and accuracy are improved by interpolating between these frequent calibrations. Power fluctuations are removed by dividing the differential absorption signal by the transmitted power from the laser, which can be measured using an optical chopper and a lock-in amplifier.

Nitrogen Oxides

Nitric oxide, NO2, and NOy were measured simultaneously with the Georgia Tech two-photon/laser-induced fluorescence (TP/LIF) instrument [Bradshaw et al., 1985; Sandholm et al., 1990, 1992]. This spectroscopically selective NO technique was used to simultaneously determine NO, NO produced from the photolysis of NO2, and NO produced from the reduction of NOx compounds using a 300°C gold catalytic surface with 0.3% CO as a reducing agent. A 1-kW photolytic converter was operated with a photolysis passband of 350 nm < A < 410 nm, a photolytic yield ranging from 30 to 60%, and sample residence times ranging from 2 to 4.5 s. A porcelain-glass-coated inlet was used to sample ambient air in an orientation perpendicular to the airstream. These N2O5 measurements were reported using an integration time of 180 s. Accuracy of the instrument calibration is estimated to be ±16% for NO and ±18% for NO2 and NOy at the 95% confidence limit. Limits of detection for a 180-s signal integration were ~3 ppt for NO and ~10 ppt for NO2 with a signal-to-noise ratio of 2:1. The typical measurement precision for NOx (at 95% confidence limit) was approximately ±10% at 500 ppt increasing to approximately ±20% at 200 ppt [Sandholm et al., 1990, 1992]. The NOy measurements included some fractional component of fine particulate nitrate-containing aerosols. The plume layers generated
a memory effect in the unheated portion of the NOy sampling line. Measurements adversely affected by this phenomenon were not included in the analysis of the data.

Aerosols

Aerosol densities as a function of time and size diameter were measured with two optical scattering probes mounted externally to the aircraft. Both probes were manufactured and calibrated by particle measuring systems (Boulder, Colorado). An active scattering aerosol spectrometer probe (ASASP) was used to monitor 0.12- to 3.1-μm-diameter particles, while a forward scattering spectrometer probe (FSSP) was used for the 0.5- to 8.0-μm range. According to the manufacturer’s specifications, the ASASP, or “small” aerosol probe, classifies particles into 15 size bins of progressively increasing width: bin 1 is 0.025 μm wide, bin 2 is 0.050 μm wide, and bin 3 is 0.075 μm wide. The FSSP, or “large” aerosol probe, also provides 15 channels of information, but it sizes particles into 0.5-μm wide bins. In both probes the relative humidity inside the measurement cavity is close to the ambient value. Profile and size distribution plots were prepared from 10- and 60-s averaged data, respectively. In the case of the size distribution plots, ASASP data were used for the 0.12 to 0.5 μm range while FSSP data filled the 0.5- to 8.0-μm range.

Nonmethane Hydrocarbons

The analytical details for the determination of nonmethane hydrocarbons were described in detail by Blake et al. (1992). Samples for the determination of nonmethane hydrocarbons were collected in specially manufactured and cleaned stainless steel canisters. The air sample in the canister was compressed to a pressure of 2.7 bar using a metal-bellows pump. Samples were analyzed by gas chromatography based on elevated levels of aerosol particles, CO, O3, and other trace gases. In the following paragraphs we will describe the origin and transport paths of these smoke-laden air masses using some typical examples. The first such layer was encountered during the second half of flight 12, the transit flight from Barbados to Natal (Figure 2). The occurrence of elevated concentrations of pyrogenic chemical species coincides exactly and 26°S latitude, while in the middle troposphere (700–500 hPa, ~3–6 km) the mean ridge axis was situated farther north, between 12° and 20°S latitude. Pronounced subsidence along the northern periphery of the South Atlantic subtropical anticyclone contributed to the well-defined trade wind inversion and the highly stratified nature of the atmosphere which was frequently observed over the study area.

With this circulation regime prevailing deep easterly to southeasteasterly trade wind flow was present in the vicinity of Natal, with a long low-level fetch over the tropical South Atlantic. A westerly flow off the Southern American continent dominated south of the ridge axis. Some high-altitude recirculation of air from South America was observed, as was cross-equatorial transport which had come from northern Africa.

Variations in the relative positions and intensities of circulation features over South America, Africa, and the South Atlantic basin led to pronounced differences between the transport pathways of air sampled during the seven Natal flights. Intense midlatitude cyclones propagating eastward across the South Atlantic perturbed the location and strength of individual subtropical anticyclone centers. Disturbances also moved westward across the tropical Atlantic, initiating episodes of cross-equatorial flow from Africa.

Air Mass Origin and Transport

As discussed in detail below, haze layers originating from biomass burning plumes were identified during flights 12–19 based on elevated levels of aerosol particles, CO, O3, and other trace gases. In the following paragraphs we will describe the origin and transport paths of these smoke-laden air masses using some typical examples. The first such layer was encountered during the second half of flight 12, the transit flight from Barbados to Natal (Figure 2). The occurrence of elevated concentrations of pyrogenic chemical species coincides exactly
ants in this air mass. Air sampled on flight 13 at altitudes above 3 km had some of the highest \(O_3/CO\) ratios of the whole expedition (Figure 4) and appeared to be a mixture of high-altitude plumes and upper tropospheric air.

Air mass origins in South America (southern Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina) are also suggested by the trajectories for some of the plumes sampled during flights 18 and 19 (Figure 5; September 22/23, 1989). This applies particularly to the altitude range up to \(\sim 2.5\) km, below the trade wind inversion, where the air had been slowly recirculating around the subtropical anticyclone.

Most of the haze plumes, however, appear to originate in Africa. The 10-day trajectories originate predominantly in two regions: West Africa, particularly Liberia and Ivory Coast (Figure 6, flights 12, 14, and 15), and in a band from

![Figure 3](https://example.com/figure3.png)

Figure 3. Seven-day air mass back trajectories for the upper altitude levels of profile 13A, flight 13 (trajectories end at 1200 UT, September 12, 1989).

with the flight segments during which the air mass trajectories originate in West Africa, suggesting that the input of smoke into this air mass occurred in northern Africa, possibly West Africa, at least 6–7 days prior to sampling.

Flight 13 provides the clearest case for the impact of biomass burning in South America on the study region. High-level (320–330 K) trajectories (Figure 3) show a counterclockwise recirculation from the southern Brazil/Paraguay region, where fires in the grasslands and savannas are known to occur at this time of year [Andreae, 1993b]. Deforestation fires at the southern rim of the Amazon forest also reach their maximum at this time of year [Kirchhoff et al., 1989] and may have contributed to the pyrogenic pollu-

![Figure 4](https://example.com/figure4.png)

Figure 4. Vertical profile of ozone, CO, and potential temperature \(\Theta\) for profile 13A (flight 13, 1549–1602 UT). The discontinuity at 2000 m altitude is due to a level flight segment between the upper and the lower parts of the profile.

![Figure 5](https://example.com/figure5.png)

Figure 5. Ten-day air mass back trajectories for plumes sampled on flights 18, showing recirculation of air masses from South America around the subtropical anticyclone.
Figure 6. Ten-day air mass back trajectories for plumes sampled on flights 14 and 15, showing air mass origins in West Africa. The dotted curves represent the trajectories for flight 14 at 306 K; the solid curves are for flight 15 at 310 K.

the Congo south through Zaire into Angola (Figure 7, flights 16, 17, and 18). It must be emphasized that this is at best an indication of where these air masses have left the African continent; the input of smoke could have happened considerably earlier and in a different region. Recent investigations of air mass transport in southern Africa show that smoke from fires in the savanna belt reaching from Angola through Zambia and Zaire to Tanzania often is recirculated for some time over the African continent, before being ejected over the Atlantic Ocean along the coast of Angola and Zaire.

Finally, many of the 10-day trajectories originate over the South Atlantic, usually the region west of the coast of South Africa, Namibia, and Angola (Figure 8, flights 13, 14, 15, and 16). This is typically the case for plumes which were encountered below the trade wind inversion, at potential temperatures of 302–308 K. A good example is flight 16, where the entire boundary layer appeared polluted, with numerous plumes observed at potential temperatures of 302–306 K, corresponding to altitudes below 2 km (Figure 8). Streamline analysis [Shipham et al., 1993] suggests that these air masses may have originated in southern Africa.

Visual Observations

Visible haze layers were present on all flights in the study region, with the obvious exception of flights 15 and 17, which were conducted at night. The color of these layers ranged from almost pure white to brown (Figure 9). They could be seen throughout a wide range of altitudes, from about 1 km to above 5.2 km, the highest level reached by the aircraft. They were most frequent just above the tops of the trade wind cumulus, in the altitude range from 1.5 to 3 km. Seen from the side, the layers appeared quite thin, frequently with sharp edges above and below, and seemed to extend to the horizon. Individual layers could often be traced over some tens of kilometers during horizontal flight legs. The chemical fine structure of the layers, which is evident in the CO, O₃, and aerosol soundings discussed below as a series of multiple peaks, is seen as multiple layers when viewed from the side.

Ozone and Carbon Monoxide

From the chemical measurements the presence of the biomass-burning-derived plumes was most clearly evident in the closely correlated peaks of O₃ and CO concentrations observed during soundings obtained during climbs or descents of the aircraft. In the course of the study period we identified 34 cases where haze layers were penetrated during soundings, sometimes with several sublayers present within one major layer. Figure 10 shows a number of representative examples of this type of data. In agreement with the visual
observations discussed above, we find \( \text{O}_3 \) and \( \text{CO} \) enriched in discrete layers with a thickness of about 300–1000 m. The maximum concentrations in these layers are in the case of \( \text{CO} \) some 50–120 ppb, and in the case of \( \text{O}_3 \) some 20–40 ppb higher than the background concentrations measured at the same altitudes outside of the plumes. The enhancement of \( \text{O}_3 \) and \( \text{CO} \) in the lower marine troposphere observed during CITE 3 is even more dramatic, when the measurements are compared with data obtained in the same region outside of the burning season, e.g., the \( \text{CO} \) and \( \text{O}_3 \) profiles obtained over the Atlantic at about 1\(^\circ\)S during ABLE 2A [Sachse et al., 1988; Gregory et al., 1988] and the \( \text{O}_3 \) profiles from the December to May period at Natal [Kirchhoff and Nobre, 1986; Kirchhoff et al., 1991]. These studies show that \( \text{CO} \) background levels in this region are about 65–80 ppb and \( \text{O}_3 \) background levels about 15–20 ppb at the surface, increasing to about 40 ppb at 5 km. The resulting enhancements are then 65–145 ppb \( \text{CO} \) and 35–65 ppb \( \text{O}_3 \). Even outside of the plumes, \( \text{CO} \) levels are some 20–40 ppb above the background level from the surface to about 3 km altitude, suggesting that convective activity has distributed combustion-derived material throughout the planetary boundary layer.

In addition to the vertical profiles discussed above, measurements on the plumes were also made during horizontal flight legs. A total of 15 horizontal flight segments were conducted within the haze layers. Figure 11 shows some examples of the type of data obtained. Again, we find \( \text{CO} \) and \( \text{O}_3 \) to be highly correlated. To quantify the observed correlation between \( \text{O}_3 \) and \( \text{CO} \), we have performed regression analyses on our data. Here, we have used the same procedure as we have applied previously in our study on haze layers over the Amazon basin [Andreae et al., 1988]. In this analysis, it is assumed that the air in the plume mixes with the air above and below. The chemical composition of the plume can then be characterized by the regression slope of \( \text{O}_3 \) versus \( \text{CO} \), the "ozone production ratio" (\( \Delta \text{O}_3/\Delta \text{CO} \)), which represents the number of \( \text{O}_3 \) molecules formed in the plume per molecule of \( \text{CO} \) emitted in the combustion process (assuming that only a negligible amount of \( \text{CO} \) has been photooxidized during transport). To correct for the gradual increase of \( \text{O}_3 \) concentration with height in the background atmosphere, a line is fitted to the background, and the background values are subtracted from the ambient concentrations. Where appropriate, an analogous correction is performed on the \( \text{CO} \) profile. No such correction is necessary for the data from level flight legs.

The results of this analysis are summarized in Table 1. The degree of correlation is quite high (\( r^2 > 0.7 \)) in most cases. The mean value of \( \Delta \text{O}_3/\Delta \text{CO} \) for all cases is 0.46 ± 0.23 (\( n = 40 \)). This value is similar to the ratio observed during the first part of CITE 3 in the North American plume (0.4, with a range of 0.17–0.42 [Anderson et al., 1993a]) but much higher than previously observed in biomass burning plumes. In the haze layers over Amazonia we found a \( \Delta \text{O}_3/\Delta \text{CO} \) ratio of 0.044 ± 0.030 [Andreae et al., 1988], over the Brazilian savanna Greenberg et al. [1984] measured 0.056, and in the plumes over the northern Congo the ratio was 0.14 [Andreae
et al., 1992]. In measurements of plumes from wildfires in the Arctic tundra, Wofsy et al. [1992] also observed low \( \Delta O_3/\Delta CO \) ratios (0.095 ± 0.060). The difference between the relative amounts in \( O_3 \) production in these plumes may be attributable to two main factors, plume age and the NO\(_x\)/CO ratio in the fire emissions. The model study of Chatfield and Delany [1990] shows that \( O_3 \) concentrations in diluted smoke from biomass burning in the midtroposphere keeps increasing over 14 days, while the CO concentration remains almost constant. The plumes investigated here have been in the atmosphere for at least 7 days in the case of the plumes recycled from South America, but in most cases they have been exposed to photochemical processing for over 10 days. In contrast, the transport times of the plumes we sampled in Amazonia was of the order of 1 day, and those sampled in the northern Congo were about 4 days old. An equally important factor, however, may be the NO\(_x\)/CO ratio in the emissions. In fact, Jacob et al. [1992] have suggested that the NO\(_x\)/NMHC ratio in the emissions is likely to be the controlling factor in the photochemical production of \( O_3 \) in the plumes and that for typical NMHC/CO ratios, \( \Delta NO_2/\Delta CO \) emission ratios of the order of 0.1 or greater are required to lead to the levels of \( O_3 \) production observed here. This issue will be discussed in more detail in the section on nitrogen oxides.

Aerosols

Aerosol particles were also found to be enriched in the plumes, consistent with the presence of visible haze. The enrichment is most clearly seen in the data from the ASASP probe, which determines particles in the 0.12- to 3.1-\( \mu \)m diameter range. The sum of the particles present in this size range, \( N_p \), is plotted together with the \( O_3 \) and CO data in Figures 10 and 11. These figures clearly show the high degree of coherence between aerosol count and \( O_3 \) and CO concentrations in the plumes. This is further borne out by the results of the regression analyses (Table 1; the data have been corrected for sampling altitude by converting the aerosol concentrations to standard temperature and pressure). A very consistent ratio of \( \Delta N_p/\Delta CO \) is observed, with an average value of 5.2 ± 1.7 cm\(^{-3}\) (STP) ppb\(^{-1}\) (based on 37 observed cases).

Number/size and mass/size spectra from the haze layers show that the number concentrations peak near the lower end of the size range detected by the ASASP probe, while the peak in the mass/size distribution lies near 0.3 \( \mu \)m, well within the range of the ASASP probe (Figure 12). For comparison, a size spectrum obtained with a similar instrument directly above a savanna fire in South Africa is also shown in Figure 12. A close agreement is seen between the fresh smoke and the aged haze aerosols sampled during CITE 3. Mass median diameters in fresh fire plumes are typically in the range of 0.1-0.3 \( \mu \)m and evolve toward values in the range of 0.2-0.4 \( \mu \)m during the first few hours after emission [Radke et al., 1978, 1988, 1991; Sith et al., 1981; Holben et al., 1991]. It appears therefore that continued aging of the aerosols over 4 days to 2 weeks, as must be assumed for the CITE 3 plumes, did not have a major additional effect on aerosol size distributions. A second mass peak was frequently seen in the plumes at diameters of
several micrometers. The presence of a mode in a similar size range is also evident in the measurements over the fresh savanna fires and may be related to entrainment of soil and ash particles due to the turbulence created by the flames. Entrainment of sea-salt aerosols during convective events over the ocean may also have contributed to this mode.

Since particles smaller than 0.12 μm, which are not detected by the ASASP, are also expected to be present, we compared the results from the ASASP probe with the available data on total particle (condensation nucleus (CN)) concentrations as determined with a TSI 3020 Aitken nuclei counter (R. J. Ferek, personal communication, 1989). The ratio between ASASP counts and CN counts, $N_p/N_{CN}$, ranges from 0.024 to 1.23 and depends strongly on relative humidity (Figure 13). At the lowest humidities observed in the haze layers (below ~10%), the ASASP probe sees only a small fraction of the particles present (~2–20%), and consequently there is no significant correlation between ASASP count and CO concentration (Table 1) in these dry air masses. However, most of the plumes showed humidities above 25%, and here the correlation between ASASP particle count and CO are very high. It must also be emphasized, that the particles in the size range observed by the ASASP probe dominate the light scattering and cloud nucleation effects as well as the aerosol mass and are therefore the most important size class from the point of view of climate and atmospheric chemistry.

Unfortunately, there is little published data that the ob-
served ratio $\Delta N_p/\Delta CO$ can be compared with. A direct comparison can only be made with the data from the first part of CITE 3, where Anderson et al. [1993a] found a mean $\Delta N_p/\Delta CO$ ratio of 7.7 cm$^{-3}$ ppb$^{-1}$ (range 2.6–12.5 cm$^{-3}$ ppb$^{-1}$) in the North American plume. This agreement must be considered rather coincidental, however, since most of the particles in the North American plume are expected to be sulfate aerosol formed from the oxidation of SO$_2$ from fossil fuel burning. For the biomass burning plumes investigated during the DECAFE 88 expedition in the northern Congo [Andreae et al., 1992], a $\Delta(CN)/\Delta CO$ of about 8–18 cm$^{-3}$ ppb$^{-1}$ can be calculated, significantly higher than the mean ratio from the CITE 3 ASASP data (5.2 ± 1.7). However, when the $\Delta N_p/\Delta CO$ ratios are corrected for the effect of relative humidity using the relationship between $N_p/N_{CN}$
Table 1. Regressions of Ozone, Aerosol Mass, and Aerosol Number Concentrations on CO Concentration for the Plumes Encountered During CITE 3

| Plume ID | Type | Altitude, m | Θ K | Mass Origin | RH, % | Number of Data | Ozone | Aerosol Mass | Aerosol Number |
|----------|------|-------------|-----|-------------|-------|----------------|--------|--------------|----------------|
| Flight 12 |
| 12C1    | L    | 4000        | 320 | W Afr       | 6.6   | 350            | 0.57   | 0.02         | 0.72           |
| 12C2    | L    | 4600        | 320 | W Afr       | 6.4   | 137            | 0.68   | 0.03         | 0.76           |
| 12D1    | S    | 4200        | 318 | W Afr       | 4.3   | 12             | 0.61   | 0.15         | 0.65           |
| 12D2    | S    | 2400        | 308 | S Am        | 28    | 13             | 0.19   | 0.03         | 0.74           |
| Flight 13 |
| 13A     | S    | 2100        | 310 | S Atl       | 24    | 9              | 0.88   | 0.25         | 0.63           |
| 13B     | L    | 2000        | 305 | S Atl       | 45    | 188            | 0.68   | 0.04         | 0.64           |
| 13A     | S    | >1000       | 310-| S Am        | 6.6   | 73             | 0.89   | 0.03         | 0.92           |
| 13C1    | S    | 3900        | 320 | S Am        | 6.6   | 10             | 0.46   | 0.07         | 0.84           |
| 13C2    | S/L  | 2200        | 304 | S Atl       | 45    | 69             | 0.42   | 0.03         | 0.71           |
| Flight 14 |
| 14A1    | S    | 2000        | 307 | S Atl       | 37    | 26             | 0.15   | 0.02         | 0.77           |
| 14A2    | S    | 1500        | 303 | S Atl       | 50    | 17             | 0.48   | 0.08         | 0.71           |
| 14B/C   | S/L  | 1600        | 305 | S Atl       | 50    | 113            | 0.13   | 0.01         | 0.55           |
| 14D     | S/L  | 1700        | 306 | W Afr       | 35    | ...            | 0.20   | ...          | ...            |
| Flight 15 |
| 15AA    | S    | 1400        | 306 | S Atl       | 28    | 33             | 0.71   | 0.07         | 0.70           |
| 15A     | S    | 1600-       | 2500| W Afr       | 40    | 47             | 23.2   | 0.3          | 0.97           |
| 15A1    | S    | 1700        | 306 | W Afr       | 49    | 11             | 0.12   | 0.02         | 0.91           |
| 15A2    | S    | 2200        | 309 | W Afr       | 24    | 7              | 0.40   | 0.05         | 0.89           |
| 15A3    | L    | 1500        | 306 | W Afr       | 35    | 113            | NC     |              |                |
| 15B     | S    | 1400        | 309 | W Afr       | 48    | 17             | 0.24   | 0.04         | 0.88           |
| Flight 16 |
| 16A     | L    | 1500        | 303 | S Atl       | 82    | 104            | 0.11   | 0.01         | 0.50           |
| 16B1    | S    | 2500        | 310 | S Afr       | 33    | 27             | 0.29   | 0.03         | 0.81           |
| 16B2    | S    | 1900        | 306 | S Atl       | 39    | 18             | 0.28   | 0.04         | 0.78           |
| 16B3    | S    | 900         | 302 | S Afr       | 64    | 17             | NC     |              |                |
| 16C     | S    | 2500        | 311 | S Afr       | 52    | 36             | 0.78   | 0.06         | 0.82           |
| 16D1    | S    | 2500        | 312 | S Afr       | 41    | 45             | 0.76   | 0.06         | 0.77           |
| 16D2    | S    | 900         | 302 | S Atl       | 75    | 23             | 0.37   | 0.06         | 0.66           |
| 16     | L    | 1500        | 303 | S Atl       | 84    | 141            | 0.59   | 0.02         | 0.89           |
| Flight 17 |
| 17A1    | S    | 3100        | 311 | S Afr       | 54    | 17             | 0.88   | 0.32         | 0.60           |
| 17A2    | S    | 1600-       | 2800| S Afr       | 32    | 45             | 0.45   | 0.03         | 0.86           |
| 17B     | S    | 2500-       | 3100| S Afr       | 32    | 26             | 0.20   | 0.01         | 0.91           |
| 17D     | S    | 1900-       | 3100| S Afr       | 31    | 32             | 0.21   | 0.02         | 0.85           |
| Flight 18 |
| 18A1    | S    | 1700        | 303 | S Am        | 58    | 13             | 0.62   | 0.12         | 0.71           |
| 18A2    | S    | 1900        | 304 | S Am        | 86    | 8              | NC     |              |                |
| 18AB    | L    | 3100        | 312 | S Am/       | 12    | 84             | 0.20   | 0.03         | 0.33           |
| 18B1    | S    | 1900        | 305 | S Atl       | 32    | 19             | 0.36   | 0.02         | 0.94           |
| 18B2    | S    | 1200        | 302 | S Am        | 74    | 8              | 0.62   | 0.08         | 0.91           |
| 18C1    | S    | 1900        | 305 | S Atl       | 73    | 17             | 0.50   | 0.09         | 0.66           |
| 18C2    | S    | 2500        | 310 | S Afr       | 20    | 17             | 0.78   | 0.10         | 0.82           |
| 18C3    | S    | 3700        | 317 | S Afr       | 7.3   | 12             | 2.43   | 0.35         | 0.83           |
| 18D     | L    | 1600        | 305 | S Am        | 70    | 169            | 0.42   | 0.02         | 0.81           |
| 18      | L    | 2800        | 311 | S Am/       | 10    | 137            | NC     |              |                |
| 18F     | S    | 1900        | 308 | S Atl       | 37    | 13             | 0.63   | 0.08         | 0.86           |

Note: ΔO₃/ΔCO, ΔM/ΔCO, and ΔN/ΔCO represent the regression coefficients for ozone, aerosol mass, and aerosol number, respectively.
Table 1. (continued)

| Plume ID | Type a | Altitude, m | Θ K | Air Mass Origin | RH, % | Number of Data | ΔO3/ΔCO ± r2 | ΔM/ΔCO ± r2 | ΔN/ΔCO ± r2 | Humidity Adjusted |
|----------|--------|-------------|-----|----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 19A d    | S      | 1700        | 306 | S Am           | 31    | 0.52           | 6.8         | 19.7        |             |                  |
| 19B      | S      | 1600        | 306 | S Am           | 28    | 0.27           | 55.5        | 1.9         | 0.98        | 7.0              |
| 19D      | L      | 1600        | 306 | S Am           | 26    | 0.54           | 35.8        | 1.1         | 0.85        | 5.8              |
| 190      | L      | 2800        | 312 | S Am           | 9.6   | 0.34           | 62.3        | 4.1         | 0.92        | 8.2              |
| 19F      | S      | 1200–2500   | 306 | S Am           | 39    | 0.33           | 0.34        | 0.05        | 0.78        | 0.2              |

Average c

|           | ΔO3/ΔCO ± r2 | ΔM/ΔCO ± r2 | ΔN/ΔCO ± r2 | Humidity Adjusted |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Flight 19 | 0.46         | 39.8        | 5.2         | 12.2             |
| s.d.      | 0.23         | 13.3        | 1.7         | 5.0              |

CITE, Chemical Instrumentation Test and Evaluation; W Afr, West Africa; S Atl, South Atlantic; S Am, South America; S Afr, South Africa; NC, no correlation.

aL, level flight legs; S, spiral soundings.
bPotential temperature.
cRelative humidity.
dSlope derived from evaluation of analog data.
*Calculated without 18C3, aerosol mass slope also without 18A2.

Figure 12. Aerosol size distributions from the haze layers (stars, flight 12 at 2000 m; circles, flight 15 at 1800 m; diamonds, flight 16 at 3000 m; triangles, flight 18 at 2600 m). For comparison a sample from the unpolluted marine boundary layer (closed squares, flight 11 at 150 m) and from the free troposphere away from the haze layers (open squares, flight 12 at 2100 m) are shown. Figure 12a shows the number distribution, 12b the volume distribution versus particle diameter. The number distribution from the fresh smoke of a savanna fire is indicated in Figure 12 (top) as a line without symbols.

Figure 13. The ratio of particles >0.12 μm diameter over total particles, Np/NcN, as a function of relative humidity, RH.
Table 2. Nonmethane Hydrocarbons From Fire Plumes and From the Unpolluted Boundary Layer and Free Troposphere

| Plume     | Altitude, m | Ethane, ppb C | Ethylene, ppb C | Acetylene, ppb C | Propane, ppb C | Propylene, ppb C | Butane, ppb C | Isobutane, ppb C | Sum, ppb C |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 14B/C     | 1510        | 1.99          | 1.63            | 1.04             | 1.79           | 0.06            | 1.31         | 0.08            | 7.91       |
| 16E       | 1520        | 2.32          | 2.13            | 2.06             | 1.60           | 0.96            | 2.52         | 1.45            | 13.04      |
| 18D       | 1510        | 2.07          | 1.41            | 1.17             | 1.01           | 0.14            | 1.67         | 0.18            | 7.65       |
| 18E       | 2750        | 2.88          | 0.85            | 1.75             | 3.18           | 0.35            | 2.10         | 0.40            | 9.76       |
| 19D       | 1470        | 2.25          | 2.54            | 1.28             | 0.72           | 0.20            | 2.08         | 0.20            | 9.27       |
| 19E1      | 2750        | 2.99          | 3.58            | 1.31             | 0.81           | 0.51            | 2.11         | 0.47            | 11.78      |

Mean <300 1.87 ± 0.38 1.32 ± 0.78 0.76 ± 0.23 1.19 ± 0.23 0.26 ± 0.13 1.38 ± 0.57 0.42 ± 0.15 6.38 ± 0.97

Mean >3000 1.72 ± 0.06 0.74 ± 0.32 0.63 ± 0.06 0.77 ± 0.03 ND 1.04 ± 0.08 0.45 ± 0.01 5.19 ± 0.53

Notes:
- Peak also contains a fluorocarbon.
- Sum of all separated NMHC peaks.
- Not detectable.

The concentrations of NO, NO₂, and NO₃ in the plumes are given in Table 3. Given the elevated concentrations of other pyrogenic pollutants in these plume layers, the concentrations of NO and NO₂ are quite low, 8 ± 6 and 37 ± 17 ppt, respectively. Clear correlations between pyrogenic tracer species and NOₓ enrichments were not apparent. The low NOₓ levels and the absence of correlations between NOₓ and CO is probably due to the age of the plumes, in which most NOₓ would have already reacted away within 1-2 days. The low ratio of NO to O₃ measured in most of the plumes suggests that ozone production has ceased, or that ozone may even be consumed in some cases.

Nitrogen Oxides and Ozone Formation

In contrast, NO₃ concentrations were high in most of the plume layers, and in spite of the limitations imposed by the time resolution of the NOₓ data, correlations with other pyrogenic species could in several cases be obtained. Table 3 contains ΔNOₓ/ΔCO enhancement factors for these cases (average 0.053 ± 0.027). Since most of the NOₓ in the plumes presumably originates from the conversion of NOₓ emitted by the fires, this ratio provides an indication for the original emission ratio ANOr/ACO. However, given the age of the CITE 3 plumes, the original ratio is difficult to deduce with certainty from the observed ANOr/ACO ratios. Assuming that some loss of NOₓ has occurred due to aerosol formation and precipitation removal, these ANOr/ΔCO ratios would be consistent with initial ANOr/ΔCO of up to 0.1. Such high NOₓ enrichments would explain the efficient ozone formation observed [Jacob et al., 1992].

In general, our ΔNOₓ/ΔCO values are substantially larger than most of the values previously reported from forest burning [Andreae, 1993a, and references therein], e.g., those found for smoldering tundra fires in the subarctic (0.006 ± 0.006 [Wofsy et al., 1992]) and deforestation fires in Amazonia (0.016 [Andreae et al., 1988]). They are also at the high end of the range of values found in boreal/taiga fire plumes during ABLE 3A and ABLE 3B: ΔNOₓ/ΔCO = 0.02-0.04.
Table 3. Nitrogen Oxide Concentration and NO₂ and O₃ Enrichment Ratio in the Plumes

| Plume ID | NO  | NO₂ | NOₓ | ANOₓ/ACO | ANO₃/ACO |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|
|          | Mean | s.d. | Mean | s.d. | Mean | s.d. | ΔNOₓ/ΔCO | ΔO₃/ΔCO |
| 12C1     | 21   | 5   | 44   | 12   | 1150 | 300 |
| 12C2     | 13   | 6   | 44   | 12   | 9240 | 170 | 0.020 | 0.19 |
| 13B      | 5    | 3   | 25   | 5    | 1360 | 160 |
| 13A      | 23   | 5   | 37   | 9    | 420  | 30  |
| 13D      | 5    | 2   | 24   | 5    | 2860 | 60  |
| 14B/C    | 7    | 2   | ND   | ND   | 7860 | 1290 |
| 14D/E    | 11   | 5   | ND   | ND   | 2810 | 1160 |
| 15A      | 3    | 0   | 46   | 10   | 2810 | 1160 |
| 15A3     | 3    | 0   | 46   | 10   | 2810 | 1160 |
| 15B      | 3    | 1   | 42   | 10   | 3270 | 80  | 0.022 | 0.24 |
| 16A      | 3    | 1   | 47   | 10   | 11580| 3270 |
| 16B1     | 13   | 3   | 70   | 11   | 7920 | 100 | 0.052 | 0.29 |
| 16B2     | 11   | 3   | 56   | 10   | 9850 | 100 | 0.063 | 0.28 |
| 16B3     | 6    | 0   | 34   | 19   | 11450| 650 |
| 16C      | 14   | 3   | 79   | 11   | 3990 | 60  |
| 16D1     | 9    | 5   | 52   | 24   | 4360 | 560 |
| 16D2     | 3    | 1   | 23   | 10   | 5250 | 90  |
| 16E      | 3    | 1   | 24   | 6    | 4290 | 460 |
| 17A1     | 4    | 2   | 48   | 8    | 4610 | 70  | 0.064 | 0.87 |
| 17A2     | 4    | 0   | 40   | 2    | 5900 | 870 | 0.067 | 0.45 |
| 17B      | 4    | 1   | 38   | 10   | 2130 | 610 |
| 18B      | 5    | 0   | 26   | 3    | 5250 | 1380| 0.035 | 0.36 |
| 18C1     | 3    | 2   | 24   | 8    | 2280 | 70  | 0.077 | 0.50 |
| 18C2     | 11   | 3   | 51   | 10   | 960  | 40  |
| 18C3     | 17   | 4   | 51   | 11   | 1590 | 50  |
| 18D1     | 6    | 2   | 21   | 7    | 2460 | 190 |
| 18E1     | 14   | 2   | 46   | 9    | 1110 | 100 |
| 18F      | 5    | 2   | 25   | 11   | 8340 | 160 | 0.107 | 0.63 |
| 19B      | 8    | 3   | 12   | 6    | 6990 | 90  | 0.018 | 0.27 |
| 19D      | 15   | 5   | 36   | 8    | 1810 | 360 |
| 19E1     | 15   | 2   | 46   | 9    | 1060 | 80  |
| 19F      | 9    | 3   | 32   | 12   | 6770 | 100 |
| Mean     | 8    | 3   | 36   | 12   | 4390 | 116 | 0.053 | 0.41 |
| s.d.     | 6    | 17  | 3146 | 0.027| 0.20 |

Concentrations in ppt.

[Sandholm et al., 1992, 1994]. On the other hand, the ΔNOₓ/ΔCO enhancement factors in Table 3 are close to fresh plume emission factors for chaparral fires in southern California: 0.04–0.24 [Laursen et al., 1992]. Unfortunately, there are few NOₓ emission factors for savanna fires available in the literature. Over savanna fires in the Ivory Coast, Lacaux et al. [1993] measured a ΔNOₓ/ΔCO ratio of 0.022 and a ΔNO₃/ΔCO ratio of 0.031. However, it can be expected that savanna fires will generally produce relatively high ΔNOₓ/ΔCO ratio, since this ratio depends strongly on the prevailing type of combustion. Only in flaming combustion is a significant amount of the fuel nitrogen converted to NOₓ, whereas the production of CO, CH₄, and NMHC occurs predominantly in smoldering combustion [Kuhlbusch et al., 1991; Lobert et al., 1990, 1991]. The emission ratio ΔNOₓ/ΔCO₂ has been shown to be almost universally constant at about 2 ± 1 × 10⁻³ in a wide variety of fires worldwide [Crutzen et al., 1985; Andreae et al., 1988; Lobert et al., 1991; Laursen et al., 1992; Lacaux et al., 1993; Helas et al., 1994]. On the other hand, the emission ratios ΔCO/ΔCO₂ and ΔNMHC/ΔCO₂ are about 2–4 times higher in forest fires, which have a substantial smoldering component, than in savanna fires, which are dominated by flaming combustion [Ward et al., 1991; Helas et al., 1994]. As a result, emissions from savanna fires, which are the most likely source of the plumes investigated during CITE 3, have higher ΔNOₓ/ΔCO and NOₓ/NMHC ratios than emissions from cooler fires, such as the deforestation fires which produced the smoke plumes observed over Amazonia by Andreae et al. [1988] and over the Arctic tundra by Wofsy et al. [1992]. For example, in smoke plumes from savanna fires in Brazil, Ward et al. [1991] found a ΔCO/ΔCO₂ ratio of only 0.022, which when combined with an average NOₓ emission ratio of 0.0021 yields a ΔNOₓ/ΔCO emission ratio of about 0.1. Similar emission ratios for CO and NOₓ were recently observed over savanna fires in southern Africa (G. Helas, personal communication, 1993). It appears that savanna fires have ΔNOₓ/ΔCO ratios similar to urban values, which lie around 0.03–0.05, for example, in the case of New York City [Wofsy et al., 1992]. This would be consistent with the high ozone production efficiency observed in the CITE 3 plumes. Indeed, the ozone production efficiency, expressed by the ratio ΔO₃/ΔCO, increases with increasing ΔNOₓ/ΔCO in the plumes (Figure 14).

Around September, savanna burning in southern Africa, cerrado (savanna) fires in Brazil, and grassland fires in the pampas of South America reach their seasonal maxima [Kirchhoff and Rasmussen, 1990; Andreae, 1993b]. Given the observation that most of the air mass trajectories reach back into savanna areas on the continents on either side of...
the Atlantic, and the large areas burned every year in these regions, it is plausible that the high ratios of $\Delta NOy/\Delta CO$ and, consequently, of $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$ observed during CITE 3 result from the flaming-dominated mode of combustion in savannas.

Overview and Conclusion

The preceding discussion has shown that a number of atmospheric species which originate in biomass burning (carbon monoxide, nonmethane hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and smoke aerosol particles) were present over a large fraction of the area investigated during CITE 3. The analysis of air mass trajectories and streamline charts points to savanna and grassland fires, predominantly in Africa but also in South America, as the source of these pyrogenic species. As a result of photochemical reactions during the prolonged transport of these smoke-laden air masses, substantial amounts of ozone are formed, resulting in a considerable enrichment of ozone in the troposphere.

In the same region, satellite analyses have shown an enhancement of tropospheric ozone by about 15–20 Dobson units (DU) over the tropical background value during the September–October period [Fishman et al., 1991]. From a statistical analysis of the $O_3$ data collected during CITE 3, Anderson et al. [1993b] derive an average ozone column concentration of 13.5 DU in the lower troposphere (up to 3.3 km, the maximum altitude for most flights). Based on a comparison with wet season data, they deduce that during CITE 3, ozone in this layer was enhanced by about 8–9 DU over the average wet season value and that about 0% of this enhancement can be attributed to ozone formation from pyrogenic precursors. Clearly, this photochemical ozone source and the resulting plumes in the lower troposphere alone cannot explain the 15–20-DU ozone enrichment observed by remote sensing.

Ozone sondes launched during CITE 3 showed that elevated $O_3$ levels were present throughout the troposphere, resulting in a tropospheric ozone column of 39–51 DU, in good agreement with the satellite results of Fishman et al. [1991]. Since no pyrogenic tracers are available to establish the source of these ozone enriched layers (photochemical production or downward mixing from the stratosphere), the role of biomass burning in the formation of the ozone maximum over the South Atlantic cannot be determined on the basis of the results from CITE 3. Recent work during the 1992 STARE (Southern Tropical Atlantic Regional Experiment), consisting of the two components TRACE A (Transport and Atmospheric Chemistry near the Equator, Atlantic) and SAFARI (Southern Africa Fire/Atmosphere Research Initiative), showed that smoke plumes containing high amounts of ozone, aerosols, and carbon monoxide were indeed present throughout the troposphere in the South Atlantic region (J. Fishman et al., personal communication, 1993). These results suggest that photochemical ozone production in the smoke plumes emitted from the vast areas of savannas and tropical forest, which are subjected to burning every year, represents a major source of ozone to the tropical troposphere. Furthermore, the smoke aerosol particles contained in these plumes may make a significant contribution to the radiative properties of the atmosphere in the tropics and to the concentrations of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN). The perturbation of the radiation budget due to aerosol backscatter and due to the modification of cloud albedo by increased CCN concentrations may have a considerable effect on regional and global climate [Penner et al., 1991, 1992; Andreae, 1994].

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![Figure 14. The ozone production ratio, $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$, versus the $\Delta NOy/\Delta CO$ ratio measured in the plumes.](image)
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