A Passive Sampling Study of Small-Scale Variations in Ambient Acetaldehyde and Formaldehyde Concentrations

Amanda M. Evans
*US Environmental Protection Agency*

Amy L. Stuart
*University of South Florida, als@usf.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/eoh_facpub](https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/eoh_facpub)

Scholar Commons Citation
Evans, Amanda M. and Stuart, Amy L., "A Passive Sampling Study of Small-Scale Variations in Ambient Acetaldehyde and Formaldehyde Concentrations" (2011). *Environmental and Occupational Health Faculty Publications*. 28.
[https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/eoh_facpub/28](https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/eoh_facpub/28)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Environmental and Occupational Health at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Environmental and Occupational Health Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).
A Passive Sampling Study of Small-Scale Variations in Ambient Acetaldehyde and Formaldehyde Concentrations

Amanda M. Evans¹,³ and Amy L. Stuart¹,²

¹Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, ²Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA. ³Currently an Association of Schools of Public Health Fellow at the National Center for Environmental Assessment, US Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. Corresponding author email: astuart@hsc.usf.edu

Abstract: Radiello passive diffusive aldehyde samplers were used to measure ambient formaldehyde and acetaldehyde levels, approximately every 0.7 km in a 10 km² sampling area in Hillsborough County, Florida from January 21 to 28, 2010. Samples were analyzed for aldehyde-DNPH derivatives via high performance liquid chromatography with ultraviolet detection. Concentrations were compared with values at a regulatory fixed-site monitor. Distribution statistics, concentration ratios, and spatial contours were calculated to investigate spatial variability. Mean aldehyde concentrations were 2.4 and 1.1 µg/m³ for formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, respectively. Observed spatial concentration patterns were similar for both aldehydes and suggest the influence of nearby roadway emissions. Overall, the spatial variation was small, with coefficients of variation of 13% and 22%, respectively. Results here provide methods and data for understanding exposures to aldehydes at high spatial resolution.

Keywords: passive aldehyde sampling, intra-urban spatial variation, Restek Allure AK column, exposure misclassification
Introduction
Aldehyde emissions have been noted to increase by as much as two hundred percent with the use of oxygenated fuels. However, limited monitoring data exist to evaluate exposures and health impacts associated with such increases. Formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, specifically, are ubiquitous in the environment and have known health effects. Formaldehyde has been classified as a human carcinogen associated with increased risk of nasopharyngeal cancers. Acetaldehyde is also suspected to be a human carcinogen. In addition, formaldehyde exacerbates asthma and may be associated with incident asthma. Both are known irritants (eyes, nose, throat, and skin). Both also contribute to ozone formation and, hence, photochemical smog.

Understanding spatial variations of air toxics, including aldehydes, within urban areas has been identified as a research priority. Results from modeling indicate variability of these and other urban air toxics at neighborhood and community scales. However, low-resolution measurement data available from sparsely-located fixed-site regulatory monitors cannot adequately characterize spatial variations over small scales. This has been cited as a significant uncertainty in health effects studies, whose results can be biased due to exposure misclassification. Furthermore, the magnitude and direction of bias cannot be known without more-resolved data.

Models can be informative at small scales, but monitoring data is still necessary to evaluate modeling results. Only a few studies have attempted to quantify concentrations of air toxics at high resolution within cities where local sources (e.g., major roadways) can impact personal exposures. High-resolution monitoring is often impractical due to the high costs of active sampling instruments. Mobile measurements have been used to gather high-resolution data, but this also requires expensive equipment. Spatial characterization is further limited by resulting data that is not coincident in time. Conversely, passive sampling does not require electricity or costly equipment. Therefore, it can be a cost-effective strategy for obtaining high-resolution data and has been successfully used for assessing spatial variations of air toxics within urban areas.

Here, a pilot passive sampling study was conducted to measure ambient formaldehyde and acetaldehyde in a small sampling area on the approximate scale of a neighborhood. The aims were to assess spatial variations in concentrations at this scale and to evaluate the approach for application in a full campaign.

Methods
Field sampling
This pilot study is part of a larger investigation to understand spatial variations of traffic-related pollutants within Hillsborough County, FL for environmental equity and health effects analyses. The county is located on the west coast of Florida in a growing metropolitan area (Tampa—St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metro Area). It has an estimated 2009 population of over 1 million. A diverse mix of air pollution sources in areas of high population density make this county an interesting case study. Hillsborough county has also been consistently monitoring air toxics for approximately 10 years. Figure 1 shows the location of emission sources and the one active regulatory monitoring site for formaldehyde and acetaldehyde.

Here, a 10 km² area was chosen as the study area to assess small-scale spatial variations of the target aldehydes. Information on variation at this scale is needed to inform sampler placement for the larger study. The area corresponds to three census block groups. The block group is the smallest spatial scale at which detailed demographic information is routinely available and is often used as a proxy for a neighborhood.

Models can be informative at small scales, but monitoring data is still necessary to evaluate modeling results. Only a few studies have attempted to quantify concentrations of air toxics at high resolution within cities where local sources (e.g., major roadways) can impact personal exposures. High-resolution monitoring is often impractical due to the high costs of active sampling instruments. Mobile measurements have been used to gather high-resolution data, but this also requires expensive equipment. Spatial characterization is further limited by resulting data that is not coincident in time. Conversely, passive sampling does not require electricity or costly equipment. Therefore, it can be a cost-effective strategy for obtaining high-resolution data and has been successfully used for assessing spatial variations of air toxics within urban areas.

Here, a pilot passive sampling study was conducted to measure ambient formaldehyde and acetaldehyde in a small sampling area on the approximate scale of a neighborhood. The aims were to assess spatial variations in concentrations at this scale and to evaluate the approach for application in a full campaign.
representing exposures, the maximum recommended sampling interval of seven days was chosen for this pilot study.\textsuperscript{26} Fifteen samplers (including one duplicate) were deployed from January 21 to 28, 2010. Samplers were placed at a height of 2.5 m and shelters were used for protection from inclement weather and direct sunlight.\textsuperscript{22,26,27} All samplers were successfully deployed and retrieved; one sampler (located at site 6) was found on the ground and was subsequently excluded from analyses.

Laboratory analysis

Analytical protocols for analysis with high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) were adapted from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Method TO-11A and California Air Resources Board’s (CARB) standard operating procedure No. 104,\textsuperscript{28,29} with modifications for specific equipment and materials. An Allure AK column ($200 \times 4.6$ mm, Restek) was employed to achieve separation of the aldehyde-DNPH derivatives using only two solvents. The mobile phase was a mixture of acetonitrile and water (both HPLC-grade) with gradient elution as follows: 60:40 (acetonitrile: water) for 0–8 min, 70:30 for 8–10 min, and reaching 100% acetonitrile by 10 min. A constant flow rate of 1.0 ml/min was used. Following Radiello protocols,\textsuperscript{26} cartridges were eluted with 2 ml of acetonitrile. 10 µl aliquots of filtered eluate were then analyzed. Absorbance was measured at 360 nm. Calibration was performed over the range of 0.06–6.0 µg/ml using 100 µg/ml aldehyde-DNPH stock (Restek). Calibration curves for each aldehyde had coefficients of determination ($R^2$) greater than 0.999. After subtraction of the mass measured on a cartridge blank (0.3 µg for formaldehyde and 0.2 µg for acetaldehyde), ambient concentrations were calculated using the recorded sampling time at each sampling site and the sampling rate for each aldehyde. Tabulated default sampling rates were corrected for the local environmental conditions measured at the regulatory reference site,\textsuperscript{26} to 101 and 86 ml/min for formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, respectively. Only the local average temperature over the sampling interval (317 K) required a correction, as the measured relative humidity and wind speed were within the range for an invariant sampling rate. Measured ozone levels (22 ppbv on average) were also substantially below values requiring ozonolysis correction.\textsuperscript{26}

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics, ratios of acetaldehyde to formaldehyde, and correlations were calculated to summarize...
the data and compare results to those from other locations. Concentrations were compared between the duplicate field samples and between the reference method monitor and a collocated passive sampler. To investigate spatial variation in the study area, concentrations were interpolated by kriging to produce contour maps, using ArcGIS (Desktop 9.3, Redlands, CA). Coefficients of variation and concentration differences between sites were also determined.

Results and Discussion
Measured levels of acetaldehyde and formaldehyde in the study area
Table 1 presents the concentrations measured at each sampling site along with descriptive summary statistics. Measured values are similar to the 2009 annual average concentrations from the reference fixed-site monitor for formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, of 2.6 and 1.2 µg/m³, respectively. Dasgupta et al. also reported a comparable mean value for formaldehyde, 3.2 µg/m³, during May 2002 at a nearby intensive measurement site that was part of the Bay Region Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment. Mean values found at other urban ambient sites in the US range from about 1 to 7 µg/m³, with values at rural background sites near the lower end of that range and values at roadside sites near the higher end. Ambient mean levels at sites in some cities outside the US (e.g., Mexico City and Rio de Janeiro), have been found to be about an order of magnitude higher.

In an effort to evaluate the risks associated with chronic exposures to ambient concentrations of pollutants, the US EPA has established comparison concentration levels. Population exposures (including sensitive populations) that occur at or below inhalation reference concentrations (RfC) are not expected to result in adverse non-carcinogenic effects over a lifetime. For carcinogenic effects, measured concentrations can be compared to air concentrations that correspond to a specific risk level for lifetime exposures. For acetaldehyde, the maximum study value (1.4 µg/m³) is several times lower than the RfC (9 µg/m³), and between the 1 in 1 million and 1 in 100,000 carcinogenic risk level concentrations (5 × 10⁻⁴ and 5 µg/m³, respectively). Hence, health risks associated with lifetime exposure to the levels measured here are expected to be low. For formaldehyde, no RfC has been established, but the established minimum risk level (MRL) for chronic non-carcinogenic inhalation exposures is equivalent to 9.8 µg/m³. The maximum study value for formaldehyde (2.8 µg/m³) is a few times lower than this value, but is between the current 1 in 100,000 and 1 in 10,000 carcinogenic risk level concentrations (8 × 10⁻⁴ and 8 µg/m³, respectively). It should be noted that the health risks associated with inhalation exposures to formaldehyde are currently being re-evaluated. Additionally, the levels measured here only represent the time period studied.

Ratios of acetaldehyde to formaldehyde level (by mass) are also presented in Table 1. The acetaldehyde concentration was lower than formaldehyde (by about a factor of 2) at every site in this study, with an

| Site | Formaldehyde (µg/m³) | Acetaldehyde (µg/m³) | Ratio (A/F) |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1    | 2.4                  | 1.1                  | 0.47        |
| 2    | 2.2                  | 1.1                  | 0.48        |
| 2c   | 2.3                  | 1.0                  | 0.44        |
| 3d   | 2.2                  | 0.8                  | 0.37        |
| 4    | 2.2                  | 0.9                  | 0.41        |
| 5    | 2.5                  | 1.1                  | 0.43        |
| 6c   | –                    | –                    | –           |
| 7    | 1.9                  | 0.8                  | 0.40        |
| 8    | 1.7                  | 0.6                  | 0.33        |
| 9    | 2.7                  | 1.0                  | 0.38        |
| 10   | 2.5                  | 1.2                  | 0.49        |
| 11   | 2.4                  | 1.3                  | 0.53        |
| 12   | 2.4                  | 1.3                  | 0.52        |
| 13   | 2.5                  | 1.4                  | 0.55        |
| 14   | 2.5                  | 1.3                  | 0.52        |
| 15   | 2.8                  | 1.3                  | 0.45        |

Minimum 1.7 0.6 0.33
Maximum 2.8 1.4 0.55
Mean/median 2.4 1.1 0.45
Standard deviation 0.3 0.2 0.06
Coefficient of variation 13% 22% 14%

Notes: Concentrations are blank corrected. All values exceeded three times the standard deviation of the blanks (0.2 µg/m³ for both aldehydes). Ratio of acetaldehyde to formaldehyde concentration. Duplicate collocated sampler. The duplicate precisions (as relative percent differences) were 3.3% and 5.9% for formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, respectively. Reference method comparison site. Data from site 6 were discarded due to possible contamination, as the sampler was found on the ground upon retrieval. The mean and median were equal to the precision shown. Summary statistics and other derived values shown here and in the text were calculated using full numerical precision (in Excel). Hence, the derived values cannot be exactly reproduced using the concentration precision shown here.
average acetaldehyde to formaldehyde ratio of 0.45 (or 0.31 on a molar basis). Grosjean et al. summarized acetaldehyde to formaldehyde ratio results from multiple studies in urban areas of the US, which ranged from 0.07 to 0.8 (on a molar basis). Similar ratios have also been found in more recent work. Data from Brazil provide an interesting exception. Historically, Brazil has had very high ethanol fuel content, with resulting high acetaldehyde to formaldehyde ratios. The data here are consistent with urban ratios and ethanol fuel content in the US.

**Spatial trends and variability**

Spatial trends by site for both aldehydes are shown in Figure 2, with interpolated spatial distributions provided in Figure 3. Similar spatial patterns can be observed for both aldehydes, with a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.84 between them. Correlations reported elsewhere range from 0.83–0.97. However, little data exist on observed variation of aldehydes at this spatial scale. Based on mobile measurements of formaldehyde for a 16 km² area in Wilmington Delaware, Isakov et al. suggested the importance of both local emissions sources and regional photochemical production. High correlations and similar concentration ratios generally suggest similar emissions sources nearby. Here, the highest concentrations of both aldehydes were generally found on the more densely populated western side of the sampling area near a busy road on the boundary. For acetaldehyde, the interpolated high area includes an intersection in the southwest corner with high observed traffic volumes relative to the study area. Specific sites with measured levels of both aldehydes in the upper half of each respective distribution are 15, 14, and 13, all of which were located near the roadway (see Fig. 1b). A local high in the interpolated plots is also seen near the southeast corner, adjacent to another relatively high volume roadway intersection. However, similar highs are not seen near all the roadways bounding the study area, including the highest volume roadway to the south (though samplers 7 and 11 were located more than 200 m further from the roadway than the samplers near the western boundary). Local concentration lows were observed in a highly vegetated residential area in the southeast quadrant of the study area in addition to near the reference method monitor to the northeast. However, sites 9, 10 and 5, which were located more centrally in the study area and further from major roadways, also had formaldehyde levels greater than the median formaldehyde level. Conversely, acetaldehyde levels at these sites were

![Figure 2](image-url)
near median acetaldehyde levels. Differences in the spatial patterns of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde may indicate differences in source influences.

Although there is no universally accepted method for quantifying spatial variation, the coefficient of variation (CV) has been used.\textsuperscript{17,18,20} CVs calculated here indicate that the spatial variation is small in magnitude overall. However, acetaldehyde (CV of 22%) displayed slightly higher variation than formaldehyde (CV of 13%). Isakov et al. reported similar values for formaldehyde (daily morning and afternoon CVs ranged from about 5% to less than 30%) and suggested the importance of photochemical production.\textsuperscript{19} Logue et al., in a study in Pittsburg PA, also saw less spatial variation (differences of less than 25%) for formaldehyde and more variation (differences greater than 25%) for acetaldehyde.\textsuperscript{20} Higher variations for acetaldehyde versus formaldehyde could indicate larger impacts from local sources on acetaldehyde levels versus impacts of background photochemical production. This is also consistent with the comparative location of the high concentrations for each aldehyde discussed above.

Here, we were particularly interested in assessing overall variability at this small spatial scale, in order to inform a larger scale campaign. A threshold variation of 20% has been used to indicate a homogenous spatial distribution for particulate matter.\textsuperscript{17,25} CVs found here are close to or less than this threshold. This degree of variability suggests that one sampler may be somewhat representative of the study area in a larger-scale campaign. For example, using data from the site at the center of the sampling area (site 9) alone would result in formaldehyde and acetaldehyde concentrations within 15% and 5%, respectively, of the geographic mean. However, the applicability of this threshold to aldehydes requires further study. Additional research is also needed using different sampling areas within the county and multiple times of the year, in order to determine variability for areas with similar spatial scales.

**Sampler evaluation**

Table 2 provides data comparing concentrations from the reference method monitor with that from a collocated passive sampler (site 3). Note that the averaging times are different (the reference monitor takes 24 hour samples every 6 days, while concentrations from this study are 7 day samples), so the comparison is not direct. Nonetheless, it does provide some confidence in passively measured levels for use in exposure estimation over the longer averaging time of interest here. The measured values from both

---

**Figure 3.** Spatial contours of (A) formaldehyde and (B) acetaldehyde concentrations in the sampling area. The area shown corresponds to the white dashed box in Figure 1b. Contours are based on kriging interpolation of the measured values at the sites shown in Figure 1b. The white lines provide the basic roadway network. **Sources:** The map was created using ArcGIS software by Esri. The roadways locations are from 2000 US Census Bureau data.
methods were similar, though the passively-sampled acetaldehyde value is somewhat low compared with the reference monitor. Percent differences (referenced to the fixed-site monitor weekly average value) were 3% for formaldehyde and −52% for acetaldehyde. Similar comparative values were observed in a study by Mason. Additionally, low passive acetaldehyde values are consistent with results by Herrington et al., who found low acetaldehyde collection efficiencies on DNPH-coated solid sorbents for sampling intervals of 24 hr.

Duplicate passive samplers at site 2 had good precision, with relative percent differences of 3% and 6% for formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, respectively. These precision values are similar to those from the January 26 regulatory fixed-site duplicate samples, shown in Table 2. They are also similar to precisions reported in other passive sampling field studies.

### Summary and Implications

A one-week pilot study using passive samplers was conducted to evaluate the measurement approach and to investigate spatial variations of acetaldehyde and formaldehyde on the neighborhood scale. Measured concentrations of both aldehydes in the study area were found to be in the range of values found in other urban areas in the US. Additionally, values collocated with a reference monitor were similar, though the collection efficiency by the samplers for acetaldehyde for this sampling period (one week) may be low. This work provides an ambient field application of the use of Radiello aldehyde passive samplers for high spatial resolution measurement. Use of these samplers for ambient studies has been limited in the US. Additionally, the method here demonstrates the use of the Allure AK HPLC column, which simplifies the laboratory analysis. Results suggest that the passive sampling and analysis approach used here can effectively characterize concentrations at high spatial resolution, particularly for formaldehyde.

Spatial variations and concentration ratios found here suggest the potential influence of nearby mobile sources for both aldehydes. However, some differences in spatial patterns are seen between the two pollutants. Variations in concentration over the sampling area were small overall, potentially indicating relative homogeneity at this spatial scale (and temporal sampling interval). As few data are available on spatial variation of aldehydes at this scale, results here provide a case study. In addition, the data provide near baseline values regarding fuel ethanol content, as its use is increasing in the area.

However, in order for these results to be generalizable, further work is needed in different areas at similar scales. A sampling area close to the city center is suggested, to assess whether increased local mobile source emissions result in higher spatial variations. Sampling all census block groups within a tract could also lead to better understanding of the spatial scale needed for future sampling (block group versus tract) and lead to better placement of future regulatory fixed monitoring sites. High-resolution data on air toxics concentrations, such as that produced in this study, can help improve exposure assessment, inform city planners and policymakers, and ensure public health.

### Acknowledgements

Haofei Yu provided assistance during field collection and with mapping. We thank the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission for providing data and field assistance. We would also like to acknowledge helpful comments by Drs. Foday Jaward and Thomas Mason on the thesis that generated this manuscript. This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0846342.

### Disclosures

Author(s) have provided signed confirmations to the publisher of their compliance with all applicable legal
and ethical obligations in respect to declaration of conflicts of interest, funding, authorship and contributorship, and compliance with ethical requirements in respect to treatment of human and animal test subjects. If this article contains identifiable human subject(s) author(s) were required to supply signed patient consent prior to publication. Author(s) have confirmed that the published article is unique and not under consideration nor published by any other publication and that they have consent to reproduce any copyrighted material. The peer reviewers declared no conflicts of interest.

References
1. Niven RK. Ethanol in gasoline: Environmental impacts and sustainabil-
ity review article. Reversible and Sustainable Energy Reviews. 2005;9: 535–55.
2. Yacoubcci BD. Fuel Ethanol: Background and Public Policy Issues. CRS Report for Congress. Order Code RL 33290. Congressional Research Service; 2008.
3. Altshuller AP. Production of aldehydes as primary emissions and from secondary atmospheric reactions of alkenes and alkanes during the night and early morning hours. Atmospheric Environment Part A-General Topics. 1993;27(1):21–32.
4. Anderson LG, Lanning JA, Barrell R, Miyagishima J, Jones RH, Wolfe P. Sources and sinks of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde: An analysis of Denver’s ambient concentration data. Atmospheric Environment. 1996;30(12):2113–23.
5. US Department of Health and Human Services. Toxicological Profile for Formaldehyde. Atlanta: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; 1999.
6. US Environmental Protection Agency. Chemical Summary for Acetaldehyde. EPA 749-F-94-003a. Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics; 1994.
7. International Agency for Research on Cancer. IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, Formaldehyde, 2-Butoxyethanol, and 1-tert-Butoxypropan-2-ol. France: World Health Organization; 1999:71.
8. International Agency for Research on Cancer. IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk to Humans, Re-evaluation of Some Organic Chemicals, Hydrazine and Hydrogen Peroxide. France: World Health Organization; 1999;71.
9. US Environmental Protection Agency. Integrated Risk Information System
10. HEI Air Toxics Review Panel. Mobile-source Air Toxics: A Critical Review of the Literature on Exposure and Health Effects. HEI Special Report 16. Boston: Health Effects Institute; 2007.
11. McGinw G, Liener J, Kennedy JI. Formaldehyde exposure and asthma in children: A systematic review. Environmental Health Perspectives. 2010; 118(3):313–7.
12. Grosjean D, Miguel AH, Tavares TM. Urban air pollution in Brazil: acetaldehyde and other carbonyls. Atmospheric Environment. 1990;24B(1): 101–6.
13. McKone TE, Ryan BP, Ozkaynak H. Exposure information in environmental health research: Current opportunities and future directions for particulate matter, ozone, and toxic air pollutants. Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology. 2009;24B(1): 101–6.
14. Ozkaynak H, Glenn B, Qualters JR, Stroshner H, McGeorge MA, Zenick H. Summary and findings of the EPA and CDC symposium on air pollution exposure and health. Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology. 2009;19:19–29.
15. Ozkaynak H, Palma T, Tourja MS, Thurman J. Modeling population exposures to outdoor sources of hazardous air pollutants. Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology. 2008;18:45–58.
16. Jerrett M, Arain A, Kanaroglou P, et al. A review and evaluation of intraurban air pollution exposure models. Journal of Exposure Analysis and Environmental Epidemiology. 2005;15:185–204.
17. Wilson JG, Kingsham S, Pearce J, Sturman AP. A review of intraurban variations in particulate air pollution: Implications for epidemiological research. Atmospheric Environment. 2005;39:6444–62.
18. Zou B, Wilson JG, Zhan FB, Zeng YN. Air pollution exposure assessment methods utilized in epidemiological studies. Journal of Environmental Monitoring. 2009;11:475–90.
19. Isakov V, Tourja JS, Klyustov A. A method of assessing air toxics concentrations in urban areas using mobile platform measurements. Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association. 2007;57:1286–95.
20. Logue JM, Small MJ, Stern D, Maranche J, Robinson AL. Spatial variation in ambient air toxics concentrations and health risks between industrial-influenced, urban, and rural sites. Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association. 2010;60:271–86.
21. Zhu XL, Fan ZH, Wu XM, et al. Spatial variation of volatile organic compounds in a “hot spot” of air pollution. Atmospheric Environment. 2008;42:7329–38.
22. Ott DK, Kumar N, Peters TM. Passive sampling to capture spatial variability in PM 10-2.5. Atmospheric Environment. 2008;4:746–56.
23. State & County QuickFacts. US Census Bureau. Available at: http:// quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/12057.html. Accessed May 8, 2010.
24. Cartographic Boundary Files. US Census Bureau. Available at: http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/bx-metadata.html. Accessed April 5, 2010.
25. Blanchard CL, Carr EL, Collins JS, Smith TB, Lehrman DE, Michaels HM. Spatial representativeness and scales of transport during the 1995 integrated monitoring study in California’s San Joaquin Valley. Atmospheric Environment. 1999;33:4775–86.
26. Radiello [English version manual]. Padova: Fondazione, Salvatore, Maugeri; 2006. Available at: http://www.radiello.com/english/download_en.htm. Accessed 2011 Mar.
27. Olson DA, Hammond DM, Seila RL, Burke JM, Norris GA. Spatial gradients and source apportionment of volatile organic compounds near roadways. Atmospheric Environment. 2009;43:5647–53.
28. Compendium Method TO-11A Determination of Formaldehyde in Ambient Air Using Adsorbed Cartridge Followed by High Performance Liquid Chro-
matography. EPA-625/R-96/010b. Cincinnati: US Environmental Protection Agency, Center for Environmental Research Information; 1999.
29. Standard Operating Procedure for the Determination of Aldehyde and Ketone Compounds in Automotive Source Samples by High Performance Liquid Chromatography. SPO MLD 104. California Air Resources Board; 2006.
30. Air Quality System Data Mart [internet database]. US Environmental Protec-
tion Agency. Available at: http://www.epa.gov/tnn/airs/aqssdatamart. Accessed March 1, 2010.
31. Dasgupta PK, Li J, Zhang GF, et al. Summertime ambient formaldehyde in five US metropolitan areas: Nashville, Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, and Tampa. Environmental Science and Technology. 2005;39:4767–83.
32. Baez AP, Belmont R, Padilla H. Measurements of formaldehyde and acetal-
dehyde in the atmosphere of Mexico City. Environmental Pollution. 1995; 89(2):163–7.
33. Bakes EA, Argyris DJ, Siskos PA. Carbonyl compounds in the urban environment of Athens, Greece. Chemosphere. 2003;52:805–13.
34. Grosjean D. Ambient levels of formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and formic acid in southern California—Results of a one-year base-line study. Environmental Science and Technology. 1991;25:710–5.
35. US Environmental Protection Agency. Integrated Risk Information System Formaldehyde (CASRN 50-00-0). Retrieved from http://www.epa.gov/iris/ subst/0290.htm. Accessed June 30, 2011.
36. Grosjean E, Grosjean D, Fraser MP, Cass GR. Air quality model evaluation data for organics. 2. C1–C4 carboxyls in Los Angeles air. Environmental Science and Technology. 1996;30:6287–703.
Small-scale variations in ambient aldehydes

37. Lee SC, Ho KF, Chan LY, Zielinska B, Chow JC. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and carbonyl compounds in urban atmosphere of Hong Kong. *Atmospheric Environment*. 2001;35:5949–60.

38. Ho KF, Lee SC, Louie PKK, Zou SC. Seasonal variation of carbonyl compound concentrations in urban area of Hong Kong. *Atmospheric Environment*. 2002;36:1259–65.

39. Possanzini M, Di Palo V, Cecinato A. Sources and photodecomposition of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde in Rome ambient air. *Atmospheric Environment*. 2002;36:3195–201.

40. Correa SM, Martins EM, Arbilla G. Formaldehyde and acetaldehyde in a high traffic street of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *Atmospheric Environment*. 2003;37:23–9.

41. Grosjean D, Grosjean E, Moreira LFR. Speciated ambient carboxyls in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *Environmental Science and Technology*. 2002;36:1389–95.

42. Ho KF, Lee SC, Tsai WY. Carbonyl compounds in the roadside environment of Hong Kong. *Journal of Hazardous Materials*. 2006;T33:24–9.

43. Wheeler AJ, Smith-Doiron M, Xu X, Gilbert NL, Brook JR. Intra-urban variability of air pollution in Windsor, Ontario—Measurement and modeling for human exposure assessment. *Environmental Research*. 2008;106:7–16.

44. Mason, JB. Application and Evaluation of Passive Samplers for Assessment of Community Exposure to Toxic Air Contaminants and Related Pollutants (Master’s Thesis) University of Nevada, Reno, NV; 2008.

45. Herrington JS, Fan ZH, Lioy PJ, Zhang JF. Low acetaldehyde collection efficiencies for 24-hour sampling with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH)-coated solid sorbents. *Environmental Science and Technology*. 2007;41(2): 580–5.

46. Clarisse B, Laurent AM, Seta N, Le Moullec Y, El Hasnaoui A, Momas I. Indoor aldehydes: measurement of contamination levels and identification of their determinants in Paris dwellings. *Environmental Research*. 2003; 92:245–53.

Publish with Libertas Academica and every scientist working in your field can read your article

“I would like to say that this is the most author-friendly editing process I have experienced in over 150 publications. Thank you most sincerely.”

“The communication between your staff and me has been terrific. Whenever progress is made with the manuscript, I receive notice. Quite honestly, I’ve never had such complete communication with a journal.”

“LA is different, and hopefully represents a kind of scientific publication machinery that removes the hurdles from free flow of scientific thought.”

Your paper will be:

- Available to your entire community free of charge
- Fairly and quickly peer reviewed
- Yours! You retain copyright

http://www.la-press.com