



# Supplement of

## Morphological transformation of soot: investigation of microphysical processes during the condensation of sulfuric acid and limonene ozonolysis product vapors

Xiangyu Pei et al.

Correspondence to: Ravi Kant Pathak (ravikant@chem.gu.se)

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### **Reproducibility of soot**

For high quality data, reproducibility of the flame in all experiments was ensured. The mass and number concentrations were measured four times during the entire measurement to guarantee that the same soot particles were generated. Figure S1 and Figure S2 show the particle mass and number concentration, respectively, associated with four sizes of fresh soot.



Figure S1. Particle mass of fresh soot with mobility size of 75, 100, 150, and 200 nm during the measurement.



Figure S2. Number concentration of fresh soot with mobility size of 75, 100, 150, and 200 nm during the measurement.

#### **Correction of multiply charged particles**

The DMA-APM-CPC scans were fitted by normal distributions. The DMA-APM-CPC system can distinguish between singly and multiply charged (mainly doubly) spherical particles. However, for soot aggregates with effective densities that decrease with increasing mobility diameter, this distinction is possible in only some cases. The doubly charged particles may result in the overestimation of the particle mass and the effective density. The fraction of doubly charged particles may influence the mobility diameter of the soot aggregates if this diameter is smaller than the geometric mean diameter (GMD; in this study: 90 nm) of the particle number size distribution. Therefore, a sensitivity test was conducted for the 75-nm soot, assuming a Boltzmann charge distribution. The overestimation of the mass of the 75-nm soot was <5%, whereas the overestimation of the masses of the 100-nm, 150-nm, and 200-nm soot was negligible, which is consistent with the literature (Rissler et al., 2013).

#### **Experimental conditions**

Table S1 shows the experiments performed and results obtained under different coating conditions.

Exp.	Mobility	Sulfuric	VOC	Soot	Sulfuric	SOA	Limonene	Coating	Diameter	Effective	Dynamic	Void
	diameter	acid bath	bath	core	acid mass	mass	concentration	thickness,	growth	density,	shape	space
	of fresh	T (°C)	Т	mass	(fg)	(fg)	$(\mu g \cdot m^{-3})$	$\Delta r_{me}$ (nm)	factor,	$ ho_{e\!f\!f}$	factor, $\chi$	fraction,
	soot		(°C)	(fg)					Gfd	$(g \cdot cm^{-3})$		$F_{vs}$
	(nm)											
1	75	bypass	UV	0.17	0.00	0.00	0	0	1.00	0.80	1.62	0.58
			off									
2	75	bypass	1	0.17	0.00	0.08	56	5.7	1.11	0.88	1.39	0.45
3	75	bypass	5	0.17	0.00	0.11	73	7.4	1.12	0.99	1.27	0.37
4	75	1	UV	0.17	0.02	0.00	0	1.3	1.00	0.86	1.55	0.52
			off									
5	75	1	1	0.17	0.02	0.13	56	8.9	1.14	1.02	1.26	0.35
6	75	1	5	0.17	0.02	0.12	73	8.5	1.16	0.96	1.31	0.40
7	75	1	15	0.17	0.02	0.63	138	24.8	1.58	0.96	1.19	0.29
8	75	5	UV	0.17	0.03	0.00	0	1.4	0.98	0.86	1.55	0.53
			off									
9	75	5	1	0.17	0.03	0.15	56	9.8	1.13	0.98	1.27	0.33
10	75	5	5	0.17	0.03	0.26	73	14.3	1.22	1.03	1.20	0.26
11	75	5	15	0.17	0.03	0.91	138	30.6	1.59	1.05	1.11	0.13

Table S1. Experiments performed and results obtained under different coating conditions.

10	75	25	1117	0.17	0.26	0.00	0	0.0	1.10	1.20	1.07	0.27
12	15	25	0V	0.17	0.26	0.00	0	9.9	1.19	1.20	1.27	0.37
13	75	25	1	0.17	0.26	0.61	56	27.6	1.64	1.09	1 15	0.25
14	75	25	5	0.17	0.20	0.70	73	29.4	1.04	1.09	1.15	0.25
15	75	25	15	0.17	0.26	2.37	138	52.1	2.11	1.00	1.07	0.05
16	100	bypass	UV	0.33	0.00	0.00	0	0	1.00	0.64	1.83	0.63
10	100	05 puss	off	0.55	0.00	0.00	0	0	1.00	0.01	1.00	0.05
17	100	bypass	1	0.33	0.00	0.15	56	4.9	1.07	0.85	1.55	0.56
18	100	bypass	5	0.33	0.00	0.18	73	6.4	1.10	0.82	1.54	0.54
19	100	bypass	15	0.33	0.00	0.35	138	12.1	1.18	0.90	1.37	0.45
20	100	1	UV	0.33	0.01	0.00	0	0.1	1.01	0.69	1.74	0.63
			off									
21	100	1	1	0.33	0.01	0.19	56	8.2	1.10	0.86	1.39	0.47
22	100	1	5	0.33	0.01	0.20	73	8.5	1.13	0.81	1.44	0.50
23	100	1	15	0.33	0.01	0.39	138	14.2	1.19	0.97	1.24	0.39
24	100	5	UV	0.33	0.04	0.00	0	2.0	1.01	0.67	1.78	0.60
			off									
25	100	5	1	0.33	0.04	0.20	56	10.0	1.10	0.85	1.40	0.45
26	100	5	5	0.33	0.04	0.24	73	11.1	1.13	0.90	1.35	0.46
27	100	5	15	0.33	0.04	0.52	138	18.7	1.23	0.94	1.25	0.32
28	100	25	UV	0.33	0.34	0.00	0	8.8	1.07	1.08	1.35	0.43
			off									
29	100	25	1	0.33	0.34	0.27	56	16.2	1.23	1.12	1.22	0.39
30	100	25	5	0.33	0.34	0.45	73	20.3	1.34	1.07	1.21	0.41
31	100	25	15	0.33	0.34	1.50	138	36.8	1.59	1.07	1.13	0.24
32	150	bypass	UV	0.75	0.00	0.00	0	0.0	1.00	0.46	2.13	0.73
			off									
33	150	bypass	1	0.77	0.00	0.28	56	5.0	1.02	0.63	1.79	0.65
34	150	bypass	5	0.77	0.00	0.29	73	5.9	1.04	0.59	1.84	0.66
35	150	1	UV	0.77	0.01	0.00	0	0.1	1.01	0.43	2.20	0.74
			off									
36	150	1	1	0.77	0.01	0.28	56	7.2	1.04	0.59	1.73	0.63
37	150	1	5	0.77	0.01	0.34	73	8.5	1.06	0.62	1.66	0.62
38	150	1	15	0.77	0.01	0.59	138	13.5	1.09	0.68	1.53	0.56
39	150	5	UV	0.77	0.12	0.00	0	2.7	1.02	0.50	2.05	0.71
			off									
40	150	5	1	0.77	0.12	0.35	56	10.7	1.07	0.61	1.68	0.60
41	150	5	5	0.77	0.12	0.49	73	13.4	1.09	0.68	1.55	0.57
42	150	5	15	0.77	0.12	0.88	138	19.8	1.13	0.78	1.39	0.48
43	150	25	UV	0.77	0.69	0.00	0	10.4	1.02	0.81	1.55	0.55
			off									
44	150	25	1	0.77	0.69	0.74	56	22.1	1.11	0.97	1.28	0.38
45	150	25	5	0.77	0.69	0.94	73	24.7	1.16	0.95	1.28	0.40

46	150	25	15	0.77	0.69	1.90	138	35.2	1.30	1.08	1.15	0.36
47	200	bypass	UV	1.46	0.00	0.00	0	0	1.00	0.38	2.31	0.78
			off									
48	200	bypass	1	1.46	0.00	0.39	56	6.5	0.98	0.53	1.92	0.68
49	200	bypass	5	1.46	0.00	0.43	73	7.1	0.98	0.54	1.89	0.68
50	200	bypass	15	1.46	0.00	0.92	138	14.4	1.05	0.61	1.67	0.64
51	200	1	UV	1.46	0.04	0.00	0	0.4	1.01	0.44	2.11	0.75
			off									
52	200	1	1	1.46	0.04	0.44	56	7.3	1.01	0.56	1.77	0.66
53	200	1	5	1.46	0.04	0.58	73	9.2	1.01	0.59	1.69	0.63
54	200	1	15	1.46	0.04	0.82	138	12.3	1.05	0.59	1.66	0.63
55	200	5	UV	1.46	0.10	0.00	0	1.7	1.00	0.40	2.23	0.78
			off									
56	200	5	1	1.46	0.10	0.53	56	10.4	1.01	0.48	1.87	0.67
57	200	5	5	1.46	0.10	0.58	73	11.0	1.02	0.50	1.85	0.67
58	200	5	15	1.46	0.10	1.27	138	19.6	1.07	0.59	1.60	0.59
59	200	25	UV	1.46	0.68	0.00	0	8.5	0.96	0.61	1.78	0.66
			off									
60	200	25	1	1.46	0.68	0.34	56	13.2	1.01	0.64	1.67	0.63
61	200	25	5	1.46	0.68	0.80	73	18.8	1.01	0.76	1.47	0.54
62	200	25	15	1.46	0.68	2.00	138	30.5	1.10	0.86	1.30	0.46

## Contribution of restructuring and condensational growth to *Gfd*

## Table S2. Contribution of restructuring and condensational growth to Gfd.

Mobility	Sulfuric	VOC bath T	Void space	Coating	$\Delta r_{me}$	$\Delta r_{me}$ for	Void	% of	% of
diameter of	acid bath T	(°C)	fraction,	thickness,	for	growth (nm)	space	material	material
fresh soot	(°C)		$F_{vs}$	$\Delta r_{me}$ (nm)	filling		filled (%)	consumed	consumed
(nm)					(nm)			during	during
								filling	growth
75	bypass	UV off	0.58	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
75	bypass	1	0.45	5.7	1.5	4.2	12	23	77
75	bypass	5	0.37	7.4	3.0	4.4	26	35	65
75	1	UV off	0.52	1.3	1.3	0.1	10	93	7
75	1	1	0.35	8.9	3.6	5.3	31	34	66
75	1	5	0.40	8.5	2.5	6.0	21	24	76
75	1	15	0.29	24.8	3.3	21.5	28	7	93
75	5	UV off	0.52	1.4	1.4	0	10	100	0
75	5	1	0.33	9.8	5.0	4.8	46	44	56
75	5	5	0.26	14.3	6.2	8.1	59	34	66
75	5	15	0.13	30.6	8.4	22.2	86	15	85
	Mobility diameter of fresh soot (nm) 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75	MobilitySulfuricdiameter ofacid bath Tfresh soot(°C)(nm)'''75bypass75bypass75bypass751751751755755755755755755755755755755755755755755	MobilitySulfuricVOC bath Tdiameter ofacid bath T(°C)fresh soot(°C)(°C)(nm)	Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,           fresh soot         (°C) $F_{vs}$ (nm)           75         bypass         UV off         0.58           75         bypass         1         0.45           75         bypass         5         0.37           75         bypass         1         0.52           75         1         UV off         0.52           75         1         0.40         0.52           75         1         0.40         0.52           75         1         0.52         0.40           75         1         1         0.35           75         1         15         0.40           75         5         UV off         0.52           75         5         UV off         0.52           75         5         0.40         0.52           75         5         0.26         0.52           75         5         1         0.33           75         5         5         0.26           75	Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,           fresh soot         (°C) $F_{vs}$ $\Delta r_{me}$ (nm)           (nm)         .         .         .           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3           75         1         1         0.35         8.9           75         1         1         0.35         8.9           75         1         1         0.45         1.4           75         1         1         0.35         8.9           75         1         1         0.40         8.5           75         1         15         0.40         8.5           75         5         UV off         0.52         1.4           75         5         1         0.33         9.8           75 <td< td=""><td>Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating         <math>Ar_{me}</math>           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for           fresh soot         (°C)         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> (nm)         filling           (nm)         .         .         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> (nm)         filling           (nm)         .         .         .         .         .         .           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3           75         1         1         0.35         8.9         3.6           75         1         15         0.40         8.5         2.5           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3           75         5         UV off         0.52         1.4         1.4           75         5         1</td><td>Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating         <math>Ar_{me}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> for           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for         growth (nm)           fresh soot         (°C)         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> (nm)         filling         (nm)           (nm)         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> (nm)         filling         (nm)         (nm)           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5         4.2           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3         0.1           75         1         1         0.35         8.9         3.6         5.3           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3         21.5           75         5         UV off         0.52         1.4         1.4         0           75         5         1         0.33         9.8         5.0&lt;</td><td>Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating         <math>Ar_{me}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> for         Void           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for         growth (nm)         space           fresh soot         (°C)         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> (nm)         filling         filled (%)           (nm)         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>Ar_{me}</math> (nm)         filling         filled (%)           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5         4.2         12           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4         26           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3         0.1         10           75         1         1         0.35         8.9         3.6         5.3         31           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3         21.5         28           75         5         UV off         0.52         1.4         1.4         0</td><td>Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating         <math>\Delta r_{me}</math> <math>\Delta r_{me}</math> for         Void         % of           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for         growth (nm)         space         material           fresh soot         (°C)         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>\Delta r_{me}</math> (nm)         filling         filled (%)         consumed           (nm)         <math>F_{vs}</math> <math>\Delta r_{me}</math> (nm)         filling         filling         filling           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0         0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5         4.2         12         23           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4         2.6         35           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4         2.6         35           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3         0.1         10         93           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3</td></td<>	Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating $Ar_{me}$ diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for           fresh soot         (°C) $F_{vs}$ $Ar_{me}$ (nm)         filling           (nm)         .         . $F_{vs}$ $Ar_{me}$ (nm)         filling           (nm)         .         .         .         .         .         .           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3           75         1         1         0.35         8.9         3.6           75         1         15         0.40         8.5         2.5           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3           75         5         UV off         0.52         1.4         1.4           75         5         1	Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating $Ar_{me}$ $Ar_{me}$ for           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for         growth (nm)           fresh soot         (°C) $F_{vs}$ $Ar_{me}$ (nm)         filling         (nm)           (nm) $F_{vs}$ $Ar_{me}$ (nm)         filling         (nm)         (nm)           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5         4.2           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3         0.1           75         1         1         0.35         8.9         3.6         5.3           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3         21.5           75         5         UV off         0.52         1.4         1.4         0           75         5         1         0.33         9.8         5.0<	Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating $Ar_{me}$ $Ar_{me}$ for         Void           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for         growth (nm)         space           fresh soot         (°C) $F_{vs}$ $Ar_{me}$ (nm)         filling         filled (%)           (nm) $F_{vs}$ $Ar_{me}$ (nm)         filling         filled (%)           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5         4.2         12           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4         26           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3         0.1         10           75         1         1         0.35         8.9         3.6         5.3         31           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3         21.5         28           75         5         UV off         0.52         1.4         1.4         0	Mobility         Sulfuric         VOC bath T         Void space         Coating $\Delta r_{me}$ $\Delta r_{me}$ for         Void         % of           diameter of         acid bath T         (°C)         fraction,         thickness,         for         growth (nm)         space         material           fresh soot         (°C) $F_{vs}$ $\Delta r_{me}$ (nm)         filling         filled (%)         consumed           (nm) $F_{vs}$ $\Delta r_{me}$ (nm)         filling         filling         filling           75         bypass         UV off         0.58         0.0         0         0         0           75         bypass         1         0.45         5.7         1.5         4.2         12         23           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4         2.6         35           75         bypass         5         0.37         7.4         3.0         4.4         2.6         35           75         1         UV off         0.52         1.3         1.3         0.1         10         93           75         1         15         0.29         24.8         3.3

12	75	25	UV off	0.37	9.9	2.9	7.0	25	23	77
13	75	25	1	0.25	27.6	3.7	23.9	32	7	93
14	75	25	5	0.27	29.4	2.8	26.6	24	4	96
15	75	25	15	0.05	52.1	9.3	42.8	97	6	94
16	100	bypass	UV off	0.63	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
17	100	bypass	1	0.56	4.9	1.2	3.7	6	22	78
18	100	bypass	5	0.54	6.4	1.7	4.7	9	23	77
19	100	bypass	15	0.45	12.1	3.1	9.0	17	20	80
20	100	1	UV off	0.63	0.1	0.1	0	0	100	0
21	100	1	1	0.47	8.2	3.1	5.1	17	33	67
22	100	1	5	0.50	8.5	2.0	6.5	10	20	80
23	100	1	15	0.39	14.2	4.6	9.6	26	25	75
24	100	5	UV off	0.60	2.0	1.7	0.3	9	84	16
25	100	5	1	0.45	10.0	4.9	5.1	28	43	57
26	100	5	5	0.46	11.1	4.4	6.7	24	33	67
27	100	5	15	0.32	18.7	7.3	11.4	44	29	71
28	100	25	UV off	0.43	8.8	5.2	3.6	30	54	46
29	100	25	1	0.39	16.2	4.6	11.6	26	21	79
30	100	25	5	0.41	20.3	3.4	16.9	18	11	89
31	100	25	15	0.24	36.8	7.3	29.5	44	10	90
32	150	bypass	UV off	0.73	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
33	150	bypass	1	0.65	5.0	3.6	1.4	9	70	30
34	150	bypass	5	0.66	5.9	3.0	2.9	8	48	52
35	150	1	UV off	0.74	0.1	0.1	0	0	100	0
36	150	1	1	0.63	7.2	4.2	3.0	11	55	45
37	150	1	5	0.62	8.5	4.3	4.2	11	47	53
38	150	1	15	0.56	13.5	6.4	7.1	18	41	59
39	150	5	UV off	0.71	2.7	1.1	1.6	3	39	61
40	150	5	1	0.60	10.7	5.8	4.9	16	49	51
41	150	5	5	0.57	13.4	6.9	6.5	19	45	55
42	150	5	15	0.48	19.8	9.8	10.0	29	41	59
43	150	25	UV off	0.55	10.4	8.7	1.7	25	81	19
44	150	25	1	0.38	22.1	14.0	8.1	45	55	45
45	150	25	5	0.40	24.7	12.6	12.1	39	41	59
46	150	25	15	0.36	35.2	12.4	22.8	39	24	76
47	200	bypass	UV off	0.78	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
48	200	bypass	1	0.68	6.5	6.5	0	10	100	0
49	200	bypass	5	0.68	7.1	7.1	0	12	100	0
50	200	bypass	15	0.64	14.4	9.2	5.2	15	59	41
51	200	1	UV off	0.75	0.4	0.4	0	1	100	0
52	200	1	1	0.66	7.3	7.3	0	12	100	0
53	200	1	5	0.63	9.2	8.4	0.8	14	90	10
54	200	1	15	0.63	12.3	8.2	4.1	14	62	38

55	200	5	UV off	0.78	1.7	1.4	0.3	2	82	18
56	200	5	1	0.67	10.4	9.7	0.7	16	92	8
57	200	5	5	0.67	11.0	9.4	1.6	16	83	17
58	200	5	15	0.59	19.6	12.8	6.8	23	59	41
59	200	25	UV off	0.66	8.5	8.5	0	14	100	0
60	200	25	1	0.63	13.2	13.2	0	24	100	0
61	200	25	5	0.54	18.8	18.1	0.7	35	95	5
62	200	25	15	0.46	30.5	20.5	10.0	41	58	42

#### Particle growth in mass

The particle mass was determined via DMA-APM. The particle mass growth factor, Gfm, is determined from:

$$Gfm = \frac{m_p}{m_0} \tag{2}$$

where  $m_0$  and  $m_p$  represent the masses of particles before and after coating, respectively.



Figure S3. Mass growth factor associated with different mobility sizes (75, 100, 150, and 200 nm) of initial fresh soot.

Figure S3 shows the growth of the particle mass (*Gfm*) for four sizes of fresh soot subjected to different coating conditions as a function of the mass equivalent coating thickness ( $\Delta r_{me}$ ). *Gfm* increases significantly when the initial fresh soot size is small compared with the maximum size. *Gfm* increases to 16.00, 6.26, 4.15, and 2.94 for initial fresh-soot sizes of 75 nm, 100 nm, 150 nm, and 200 nm, respectively. This indicates that the core size of the initial soot can determine the evolution of *Gfm*.

Figure S4 and Table S3 show the fitted curves of *Gfm* for soot core sizes.



Figure S4. Fitted curves of *Gfm* as a function of  $\Delta r_{me}$  for four soot core sizes.

Using Eq. (3), *Gfm* was fitted as a function of  $\Delta r_{me}$ .

$$Gfm = a \cdot \exp(b \cdot \Delta r_{me}) \tag{3}$$

Ideal growth curve of effective density



Figure S5. Schematic of calculating ideal growth curve of effective density.

The method of calculating the ideal growth curve of effective density is as follows:

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$$m_{p} = \frac{\pi}{6} \left\{ \rho_{eff,BC} \cdot D_{p,BC}^{3} + \rho_{m,c} \left[ \left( D_{p,BC} + 2\Delta r_{1} \right)^{3} - D_{p,BC}^{3} \right] \right\}$$
(4)

$$\bar{\rho}_m = \frac{m_p}{\frac{\pi}{6} \frac{\rho_{eff,BC}}{\rho_{m,BC}} \cdot D_{p,BC}^3 + \frac{\pi}{6} \left[ \left( D_{p,BC} + 2\Delta r_1 \right)^3 - D_{p,BC}^3 \right]}$$
(5)

$$\Delta r_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt[3]{\frac{6m_p}{\pi\bar{\rho}_m}} - \sqrt[3]{\frac{\rho_{eff,BC} \cdot D_{p,BC}}{\rho_{m,BC}}} \right)$$
(6)

$$\rho_{eff} = \frac{6m_p}{\pi \left( D_{p,BC} + 2\Delta r_2 \right)^3} \tag{7}$$

where  $\rho_{eff,BC}$  and  $D_{p,BC}$  are effective density and mobility diameter of BC core, respectively.  $\rho_{m,BC}$  and  $\rho_{m,c}$  are material densities of pure BC (1.77 g cm<sup>-3</sup>) and coating material (organic: 1.20 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, sulfuric acid: 1.84 g cm<sup>-3</sup>), respectively.  $m_p$ ,  $\bar{\rho}_m$  and  $\rho_{eff}$  are mass, average material density and effective density of coated particle, respectively.  $\Delta r_1$  and  $\Delta r_2$  are coating thickness based on mobility diameter and mass equivalent coating thickness, respectively (shown in Figure S5). The ideal growth curve is plotted as  $\rho_{eff}$  against  $\Delta r_2$ .

Literature	Coating compound(s)	$D_{p,0}(\mathrm{nm})$	D <sub>me,0</sub>	Dfm	$d_{pp}$
			(nm)		(nm)
Pagels et al. (2009)	Sulfuric acid	75	30.2	2.15	15
Xue et al. (2009)	Glutaric acid (GA), succinic acid (SA)	80	32.9	2.20	16
Qiu et al. (2012)	Toluene-OH oxidation products	100	61.9	2.17	21
Khalizov et al. (2013)	Isoprene-OH oxidation products	100	61.9	2.20	19
Peng et al. (2016)	SOA from ambient precursors	100	63.4	2.25	16
Guo et al. (2016)	m-Xylene-OH oxidation products	100	61.4	2.17	45
Ghazi and Olfert (2013)	Dioctyl sebacate	100	51.9	2.14	45
This study	Sulfuric acid, acidity- mediated limonene SOA	100	70.8	2.28	28

## Table S4. Morphology of fresh soot coated with various compounds, as illustrated in Fig. 5.

 Table S5. Data of mass associated with different levels of sulfuric acid and limonene SOA coatings for the 200 nm soot

 core, as illustrated in Fig. 3.

	Pure SOA (fg)	Low H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (fg)	Medium H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (fg)	High H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (fg)
$H_2SO_4$	0	0.04	0.10	0.68

Low SOA	0.39	0.44	0.53	0.34
Medium SOA	0.43	0.58	0.58	0.80
High SOA	0.92	0.82	1.27	2.00

## References

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