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# Seasonal variation of levoglucosan in aerosols over the western North Pacific and its assessment as a biomass-burning tracer

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## Abstract

Levoglucosan is considered as a useful molecular tracer of biomass-burning aerosols in the atmosphere. To characterize the seasonal variation of its concentrations over the Pacific Ocean and to assess its usefulness as a tracer after long-range transport, we investigated long-term variations of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima in the western North Pacific, from 2001 to 2004. Organic carbon (OC), elemental carbon (EC) and D-glucose were analyzed for comparison. The seasonal variation of levoglucosan concentrations shows a maximum in the winter, which is consistent with the enhanced Asian outflow to the Pacific indicated by backward air-mass trajectories. The concentration levels of levoglucosan estimated from global aerosol model outputs in the winter are, on average, comparable to the observed levels, suggesting that a considerable fraction of levoglucosan did not decompose during long-range transport from the Asian continent by westerly/northwesterly winds. This result is supported by comparable ratios of levoglucosan to EC in Chichi-jima and the East Asian coastal region. Conversely, the measured concentrations of levoglucosan in the summer are significantly lower than the modeled one. This implies a degradation of levoglucosan in the air masses that stagnated over the Pacific, although uncertainties in the model estimate may also be partly responsible for this discrepancy. One possible degradation pathway is oxidation by OH radicals; the contribution of acid-catalyzed reactions needs further investigation.

**Keywords:** Levoglucosan, Biomass-burning aerosol, Long-range transport, Organic carbon, Molecular marker

## **1. Introduction**

Biomass burning, associated with both open and domestic fires, is one of the main sources of atmospheric aerosols on the global scale. Levoglucosan (1,6-Anhydro- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose) is a major pyrolysis product of cellulose and hemicellulose, and has recently been highlighted as a useful molecular marker of biomass-burning aerosols (Simoneit, 2002). The advantage of levoglucosan over the conventional biomass-burning tracer, potassium, is that it is specific to biomass burning: no other sources are known to exist to date. In a number of source emission studies, levoglucosan has been reported to be most abundant in lists of individual detected particulate organic compounds (e.g., Schauer et al., 2001). Furthermore, levoglucosan has also been detected in a number of ambient studies (e.g., Graham et al., 2002; Puxbaum et al., 2006; Feng et al., 2007). The existence of levoglucosan in aerosols in remote marine (e.g., Mochida et al., 2003a) and polar regions (e.g., Stohl et al., 2007) indicates its long-range transport capability. Because levoglucosan is also detected in sediments (Elias et al., 2001) and Antarctic ice (Gambaro et al., 2008), its application to paleo-environmental studies is potentially important, as well.

In previous studies, levoglucosan was used to qualitatively and quantitatively assess the contribution of biomass-burning smoke to the aerosol mass (e.g., Puxbaum et al., 2006). While a number of studies reported short-term variations of levoglucosan, studies on long-term variations (e.g., Puxbaum et al., 2006) are not sufficient to understand the spatial and temporal distributions on a global scale. In particular, little is known about the abundance of levoglucosan in areas distant from biomass-burning sources or its usefulness as a tracer after long-range transport (Hofmann et al., 2010). In this study, we observed levoglucosan for three years over the Island of Chichi-jima in the western North Pacific, which is located ~2000 km from the Asian continent and is under the influence of Asian outflow (e.g., Kato et al., 2001). We discuss the concentration levels, temporal variation, and abundance relative to carbonaceous components in view of the long-range transport from the source regions. Furthermore, these characteristics are compared to values reported in previous studies and estimates obtained from a global aerosol model to assess the usefulness of levoglucosan as a biomass-burning tracer at a remote marine site.

## **2. Methods**

### **2.1. Aerosol sampling and chemical analysis**

Total suspended particles (TSP) in the air were collected at a flow rate of ca. 700 standard L min<sup>-1</sup> (0 °C, 1013 hPa) using a high-volume air sampler (AS-810A, Kimoto Electric Co. Ltd.) and quartz fiber filters (QFFs, 20 × 25 cm, Pallflex 2500QAT-UP) at the Ogasarawa Downrange Station (ODRS; 27°04' N, 142°13' E, ~200 m asl) of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on the island of Chichi-jima (Fig. 1). Because the area and population of the island are small (population: ~2000; area: 24 km<sup>2</sup>) and because the ODRS site has been demonstrated to be suitable for observing long-range-transported aerosols (e.g., *Mochida et al.* 2003b), we regard the perturbation caused by local biomass-burning emissions as insignificant. QFFs were precombusted at 450 °C for ≥3 h prior to sample collection. Among collected samples, the 148 samples collected on a quasi-weekly basis from January 2001 to January 2004 were subjected to data analysis. Air was drawn through a QFF for 1–10 d (mean: 4 d) per sample. Air volumes measured by a mass flow meter were converted to those at 20 °C and 1013 hPa. The QFFs were placed in glass bottles and stored in freezers.

Levoglucosan and D-glucose on the QFFs were quantified by analyzing trimethylsilyl (TMS) derivatives using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), according to the method outlined in Wang and Kawamura (2005). More details are presented in the supplemental material. We found that the GC-MS responses of the sugar derivatives decrease nonlinearly when the amounts injected into the GC/MS were less than a few ng (see the supplemental material and Fig. S1). The resulting bias of atmospheric concentrations is estimated and presented as bars on the markers in the figures in this paper. Because only large variations in the levoglucosan concentration (e.g., order(s) of magnitude) are discussed, the bias is not critical and values without the correction are presented in the text and tables. Organic carbon (OC) and elemental carbon (EC) on QFFs were quantified by the thermal optical transmittance method with the IMPROVE temperature protocol (e.g., Chow et al., 2001) using an OC/EC analyzer (Sunset Laboratory Inc.). Screening of the data for the QFF samples is explained in the supplemental material. In this paper, concentrations of levoglucosan, OC and EC in TSP are compared to those of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> at other sites and in biomass burning source emissions reported in the literature. Since these components are in general predominantly present in the fine mode (e.g., *Mochida et al.*, 2007; *Wang et al.*, 2009), the comparison is reasonable and helpful in understanding large differences or similarities in concentration levels. The OC and EC values quantified by different methods are also compared, although some biases could originate from the differences in the methods.

## **2.2. Backward air-mass trajectories and global aerosol model**

The NOAA/ARL HYSPLIT model (<http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready/hysplit4.html>; Draxler and Hess, 1997, 1998) was used to calculate ten-day backward trajectories for air masses that arrived over Chichi-Jima. The start height of the trajectories presented in the main paper is 500 m amsl. Trajectories at 1000 m and 2000 m amsl were also calculated (see the supplemental material); the horizontal patterns are in general similar to those at 500 m. Considering changes in air mass origins during the sampling time (mean: 4 d), we calculated the trajectories that arrived every 24 h at 2100 LT (1200 UT) between the initial placement and the final collection of each QFF. Temporary outage of electricity for the sampler was not taken into account for the selection of the start time.

The concentrations of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima were estimated based on the concentrations of OC and BC calculated using the Spectral Radiation-Transport Model for Aerosol Species (SPRINTARS; Takemura et al., 2000; Takemura et al., 2009; see the supplemental material for details). Here, the BC in SPRINTARS are assumed to be equal to EC. The OC and EC at the surface of Chichi-jima were calculated with and without the emissions from biomass-burning sources. The differences were approximated to be OC and EC from biomass-burning sources, which are referred to as  $OC_{BB,model}$  and  $EC_{BB,model}$ , respectively. Negative values of  $OC_{BB,model}$  and  $EC_{BB,model}$  were not used for the analysis. The total OC (or total EC), including those from biomass-burning sources, are referred to as the  $OC_{model}$  (or  $EC_{model}$ ). The concentrations of levoglucosan was estimated by multiplying the  $OC_{BB,model}$  (or  $EC_{BB,model}$ ) by the ratios of levoglucosan to OC (or EC) in the literature. Among the reported source profiles, we selected the profile of Chinese cereal straw burning (Zhang et al., 2007) because biomass burning in China should strongly affect the concentrations of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima, as discussed below. The degradation of levoglucosan was not considered in the model.

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1. Seasonal variations of levoglucosan, OC and EC**

Fig. 2a presents the three-year temporal variation in the concentrations of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima. The concentrations ranged from 0.017 to 15 ng m<sup>-3</sup>. Although the concentrations varied significantly from sample to sample, a seasonal variation was observed with a maximum in the winter. The means and ranges of the concentrations of levoglucosan in four seasons are summarized in Table 1. The seasonal mean was highest in December–February (winter, 2.2 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) and lowest in June–August (summer, 0.32 ng m<sup>-3</sup>). The seasonal variation of levoglucosan was similar to those of low-molecular-weight dicarboxylic acids (Mochida et al., 2003b) and terrestrial lipid class compounds (Kawamura et al., 2003) observed at ODRS, Chichi-jima in

different years. As discussed previously, the variation can be explained by the transport of organics under the influence of the Asian monsoon system. In the summer, maritime air masses reached Chichi-jima under the influence of the Pacific anticyclone. In the winter, westerly or monsoon northwesterly winds caused by the Siberian anticyclone dominate, transporting air masses from East Asia to Chichi-jima.

This explanation is supported by the relation between air mass trajectories and the concentrations of levoglucosan. Figures 3a–d present ten-day backward trajectories for the measurement periods, which are classified into four seasons. The concentrations of levoglucosan, which are quantitatively shown by the colors of the trajectories, were high mostly when air parcels were transported from northeast China, east Siberia, Korea and Japan, from autumn to spring. Lower concentrations were observed more frequently when air masses were over the Pacific for more than ten days from spring to autumn. The mean transport time of air masses from the East Asian coastal region (for the area of 35–40° N, 120–122.5° E) to Chichi-jima was calculated to be about 4–5 d based on the backward trajectories starting at 500, 1000, and 2000 m amsl.

The concentrations of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima were in general significantly lower than those observed at European low-level sites ( $PM_{2.5}$ , biannual averages: 309–517  $ng\ m^{-3}$ ; Puxbaum et al., 2006) and in Chinese cities such as Beijing ( $PM_{10}$ , monthly averages: 120–1010  $ng\ m^{-3}$ ; Zhang et al., 2008). Furthermore, the concentrations of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima in the high-levoglucosan season (mean: 2.2  $ng\ m^{-3}$  in winter) were even lower than those observed at European sites where the influence of biomass burning is expected to be low, e.g., at mountain sites ( $PM_{2.5}$ , biannual average: 7.8–24.4  $ng\ m^{-3}$ ) and at a remote ocean sites ( $PM_{2.5}$ , biannual average: 5.2  $ng\ m^{-3}$  in the Azores, in the Atlantic; Puxbaum et al., 2006). The seasonal average over Chichi-jima in the winter was comparable to those at a remote Indian Ocean site Hammimaadhoo (fine particulate matter, range: 1.97–8.62  $ng\ m^{-3}$ ; Stone et al., 2007) and in the polar region (Zeppelin ( $PM_{2.5}$ ):  $\leq 3\ ng\ m^{-3}$  (Stohl et al., 2007); Alert (TSP):  $\leq 1\ ng\ m^{-3}$  (Fu et al., 2009)). The concentrations of levoglucosan in Chichi-jima were among the lowest recorded over surface sites.

The concentrations of OC and EC over Chichi-jima are presented in Fig. 2b and summarized in Table 1. The concentrations of OC and EC ranged 160–1700  $ng\ m^{-3}$  and  $\leq 10$ –550  $ng\ m^{-3}$ , respectively. The range of EC concentration was comparable to the average concentrations of BC over Chichi-jima from 2000 to 2002 (157–474  $ng\ m^{-3}$  depending on the source region (after data screening); Koga et al., 2007). The mean concentration of OC in the winter was 3.2 times higher than that of EC (Table 1). The ratio is similar to those of submicron particles in the outflow of East Asian air masses (2.5–3.7) reported by shipboard measurements

(Lim et al., 2003). Although EC showed seasonal variations similar to levoglucosan, a clear seasonal variation of OC was not observed. This implies substantial input of OC from marine (e.g., Fang et al., 2002) and local-terrestrial (e.g., primary biological) sources as well as secondary photochemical formation in the summer.

### **3.2. Comparison with biomass-burning source emissions**

We compared the ratios of levoglucosan to OC and EC over Chichi-jima to those of biomass-burning source emissions to assess the influence of biomass burning on the concentration of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima. Fig. 4 plots the ratios of levoglucosan/EC versus levoglucosan/OC for aerosols over Chichi-jima and those from various emission sources. While the ratios for the source emissions range across an order of magnitude, both ratios of levoglucosan/OC and levoglucosan/EC in Chichi-jima aerosols were in most cases orders of magnitude lower than the ratios for biomass-burning source emissions.

If we assume that biomass-burning aerosols that reached Chichi-jima initially had the profile of Chinese cereal straw burning (Zhang et al., 2007), the observed ratios are reasonably explained by mixing biomass-burning aerosols with non-biomass-burning aerosols (dashed red lines in Fig. 4) and/or the possible degradation of levoglucosan during transport (solid blue line in Fig. 4). As shown in ten-day backward trajectories in Figs. 5a and b, the levoglucosan/OC ratios were generally high when air masses arrived directly from Asia and low when air masses stayed over the Pacific for more than 10 d. Although the tendency is weaker for levoglucosan/EC ratios, significantly lower values for levoglucosan/EC ratios were mostly observed for the air mass trajectories that stagnated over the Pacific. Because the local emissions/formation of OC and EC, if they exist, may affect the ratios differently in time, the similar patterns in Figs. 5a and 5b were probably controlled by long-range transported aerosols, rather than by locally-formed/released aerosols. These variations result in the apparent contributions of biomass burning to OC (or EC) in Chichi-jima aerosols being 0.035–24 % (or  $\leq 0.044$ –18 %), as estimated from the ratios of levoglucosan/OC (or levoglucosan/EC) in Figure 4, based on the assumptions that levoglucosan is chemically stable during transport and that the ratios over Chichi-jima were simply the result of mixing Chinese straw burning aerosols with non-biomass burning aerosols. The estimated contributions were, however, probably biased by the decomposition of levoglucosan as well as by the variations of actual source profiles. The possibility of degradation is further discussed below.

### **3.3. Comparison between measured and modeled concentrations of levoglucosan**

To assess the stability of levoglucosan during transport, the measured concentration was compared to that estimated using SPRINTARS. Fig. 6 presents  $OC_{BB,model}$ ,  $OC_{model}$ ,  $EC_{BB,model}$ , and  $EC_{model}$ , as well as the concentration of levoglucosan estimated using the model output. The measured concentrations of OC, EC, and levoglucosan are also presented. The model output suggests that the contribution of biomass burning to OC and EC sporadically increases, and the contribution was generally more significant for OC than EC (Figs. 6a and b). The underestimation of the sum of biomass-burning and non-biomass-burning OC may be partly due to the fact that inputs of marine and local terrestrial sources are not considered in the model. Uncertainties in the emission inventories of primary OC and secondary organic aerosol formation could also be responsible for part of the underestimation. For EC, the model output agrees reasonably well with the measured concentration.

As seen in Fig. 6c, the concentrations of levoglucosan estimated from  $OC_{BB,model}$  and  $EC_{BB,model}$  in the spring, summer and autumn are significantly higher than the measured concentrations, whereas those estimated and measured for the winter are comparable. The ratios of modeled to measured concentrations of levoglucosan are summarized in Table 2. The overestimation of the levoglucosan concentrations in the spring, summer, and autumn implies significant chemical decomposition during long-range transport, although uncertainties in the model estimate may also be responsible for the discrepancy. Conversely, the ratios of measured to predicted levoglucosan concentrations in the winter show a better agreement. The similar concentration level in the winter suggests that the variation of the concentrations of levoglucosan over Chichi-jima represents the contribution of biomass-burning aerosols as a result of the shorter residence time. We note, however, that a bias caused by the decomposition of levoglucosan on QFFs during the sampling time in addition to that during atmospheric transport is not fully ruled out, although no significant change over 8 h was reported for levoglucosan spiked on filters (Locker, 1988). We also note that levoglucosan concentrations cannot be estimated for some data points with negative  $OC_{BB,model}$  or  $EC_{BB,model}$ . This results in the relatively small number of the winter concentration of levoglucosan estimated from  $EC_{BB,model}$ , which is however compensated with that estimated from  $OC_{BB,model}$  (Fig. 6c).

### **3.4. Comparison to the ratios of levoglucosan to OC and EC over the coastal region of East Asia**

The comparison of levoglucosan/OC and levoglucosan/EC ratios over Chichi-jima to those over coastal China provides further information on the stability of levoglucosan. Fig. 7 presents the seasonal variations of levoglucosan/OC and levoglucosan/EC over Chichi-jima, together with the ratios estimated from reported OC, EC and levoglucosan in  $PM_{2.5}$  over Changdao Island ( $38^{\circ}N$  and  $121^{\circ}E$ ; Feng et al., 2007), which is located

near the source region and close to the trajectories of air masses with high concentrations of levoglucosan (Fig. 3). The seasonal values for Chichi-jima aerosols are summarized in Table 2.

While the concentrations of levoglucosan over Changdao (the seasonal mean in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ : 4.23–147.97  $\text{ng m}^{-3}$ ) was significantly higher than that over Chichi-jima, the levoglucosan/OC and levoglucosan/EC ratios at the two sites show some similarities. Since inputs of EC and levoglucosan are not expected over the Pacific, the difference of levoglucosan/EC over Chichi-jima and Changdao in the winter roughly provides an upper limit for the degradation of levoglucosan during transport by westerly/northwesterly winds; the small difference is qualitatively consistent with the results in Section 3.4. Note that the actual difference could be smaller if the EC over Changdao, which was quantified by the NIOSH protocol, is converted to one based on the IMPROVE protocol. Although levoglucosan/OC is less suited for the comparison because (1) organics may evaporate or condense during transport, (2) some OC may exist in a coarse mode, and (3) local biogenic OC sources may exist, the fact that the ratios of levoglucosan/OC at the two locations were closer in the winter than in the summer further suggests a limited degree of decomposition of levoglucosan during transport by westerly/northwesterly winds. The lower levoglucosan/OC and levoglucosan/EC ratios at the two locations in the summer agrees with the assignment of summer aerosols over Changdao as maritime (Feng et al., 2007), in contrast to the absence of a clear decrease in levoglucosan/OC over an inland site, Beijing (Zhang et al., 2008). A low concentration of levoglucosan relative to OC and EC may be a general characteristic of aerosols over the western Pacific in the summer.

### **3.5. Implications for the chemical stability of levoglucosan**

The disagreement between measured and modeled concentrations of levoglucosan, particularly in the summer (Fig. 5), suggests limited chemical stability in the atmosphere, although these results are possibly affected by uncertainties in the model outputs and further processing of levoglucosan on QFFs during the sampling. Based on a laboratory kinetics study and a model simulation, Hoffmann et al. (2010) estimated that levoglucosan decreases to half of its initial value in the atmosphere in 12.7–83.2 h at 90 % relative humidity, mainly by a reaction with OH. A long residence time over the Pacific in the summer, in many cases more than 10 d, could be sufficient for the loss of levoglucosan by OH. Conversely, the limited degradation in the winter may be roughly explained by a shorter transport time (4–5 d) and the upper end of the oxidation timescale in Hoffmann et al. (2010), with a consideration of uncertainties in the present study. The concentration of another key oxidant,  $\text{O}_3$ , is high over Chichi-jima in the winter (monthly average: >40 ppbv, Kato et al., 2001).

However, at least the direct ozonolysis of levoglucosan, a compound without a double bond, must be insignificant, although O<sub>3</sub> may interact with saturated organics in complex pathways (Bailey, 1978).

Fraser and Lakshmanan (2000) reported the stability of levoglucosan against acid-catalyzed hydrolysis for 10 d. Similarly, the timescale of the hydrolysis of levoglucosan in an acidified pyrolysis oil extract (sulfuric acid: 500 mM) at 298 K, which can be calculated using the Arrhenius model, is very long (~100 d; Helle et al., 2007). In contrast, Holmes and Petrucchi (2006) reported acid-catalyzed reactions in 0.5–7 d, although the magnitude of the decrease in levoglucosan is not presented. Although the estimate of the stability of levoglucosan in the present study depends on several assumptions explained earlier, the results imply that the timescale for the acid-catalyzed reactions is not significantly shorter than 4–5 d. Conversely, the contribution for aerosols transported over 10 d is not clear. We also note a large abundance of D-glucose, an acid-catalyzed hydrolysis product of levoglucosan (Fig. S2 in the supplemental material). If D-glucose is also counted as levoglucosan with a correction for molecular weights, the seasonal averages of this hypothetical concentration reached 0.84–5.2 times the concentration of levoglucosan predicted by OC<sub>BB,model</sub>. Although D-glucose may also be from primary biological particulate emissions, the large abundance leaves room for the possibility of acid-catalyzed hydrolysis.

#### 4. Summary

We obtained three-year seasonal variations of levoglucosan, OC and EC over Chichi-jima in the western North Pacific. Levoglucosan showed a seasonal variation with a maximum in autumn and winter. Backward trajectory analysis showed that concentrations of levoglucosan were strongly influenced by Asian outflow, which was in general higher when the air masses were directly transported from Asia with westerly/northwesterly winds in about 4–5 d. A comparison of measured levoglucosan concentrations with those estimated from global aerosol model outputs and of levoglucosan/OC and levoglucosan/EC ratios over Chichi-jima to those at an Asian coastal site suggest that levoglucosan is relatively stable during transport from the Asian continent by westerly/northwesterly winds. From spring to autumn, the model estimate disagrees with the measurements, which may be due to the degradation of levoglucosan during transport for 10 d or more. The oxidative degradation by OH reasonably explains the discrepancy between the observations and the model outputs, whereas the contributions of the acid-catalyzed reactions need further studies, including the possible formation of D-glucose. This study suggests that the concentrations of levoglucosan at remote locations should be treated with caution in source apportionment studies.

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### Figure Captions

- Fig. 1.** The sampling site (star), Chichi-jima, and the geodesic distance from the site.
- Fig. 2.** Three-year temporal variations in the concentrations of (a) levoglucosan and (b) OC and EC. The four different seasons are shown by the shaded areas. The bars show possible biases (Section 2.1).
- Fig. 3.** Ten-day backward trajectories of air masses that arrived over Chichi-jima in (a) December–February, (b) March–May, (c) June–August, and (d) September–November, colored according to the concentrations of levoglucosan.
- Fig. 4.** Plots of levoglucosan/EC versus levoglucosan/OC for Chichi-jima aerosols (circles color-coded according to concentrations of levoglucosan) and aerosols emitted from various biomass-burning sources (values from the literature are shown with other markers). The solid blue line shows the direction of changes caused by the degradation of levoglucosan. Expected changes of the ratios by mixing aerosols from Chinese straw burning (solid red diamond; Zhang et al., 2007) with non-biomass burning aerosols containing only OC, and OC and EC at ratios of 100:1, 10:1, and 1:1

are represented by dashed red lines. References of other biomass-burning sources are Shauer et al. (2001), Oros and Simoneit (2001a), Oros and Simoneit (2001b and correction as personal communication from Simoneit), Fine et al. (2001, 2002, 2004a, 2004b), Hays et al. (2002, 2005), Sheesley et al. (2003), Lee et al. (2005), Oros et al. (2006), Inuma et al. (2007), Mazzoleni et al. (2007), Schmidl et al. (2008a, 2008b), Sullivan et al. (2008), Engling et al. (2009), and Frey et al. (2009). Multiple values of the reference data for a single type of biomass are averaged, and the bars are the ranges among species/experiments. If the means of OC, EC and levoglucosan are available, the mean of levoglucosan is divided by that of OC (or EC) to approximate the levoglucosan/OC (or EC) ratios. Blue crosses represent upper limits of levoglucosan/EC for samples with ECs below the blank level. Further explanation is given in the supplemental material.

**Fig. 5.** (a) Ten-day backward trajectories of air masses arrived over Chichi-jima, colored by the levoglucosan/OC ratios. (b) Same as Fig. 5a, but colored according to the levoglucosan/EC ratios.

**Fig. 6.** Temporal variations of (a)  $OC_{\text{model}}$  (lightly shaded),  $OC_{\text{BBmodel}}$  (darkly shaded), and measured OC (open triangles); (b)  $EC_{\text{model}}$  (lightly shaded),  $EC_{\text{BB,model}}$  (darkly shaded), and measured EC (open squares); and (c) levoglucosan estimated from  $OC_{\text{BB,model}}$  (solid green lines) with hypothetical errors in levoglucosan/OC of sources (-50 % to +100 %: shaded with darker green, -80 % to +400 %: shaded with lighter green), levoglucosan estimated from  $EC_{\text{BB,model}}$  (crosses), and measured levoglucosan (open circles).

**Fig. 7.** Temporal variations in (a) levoglucosan/OC and (b) levoglucosan/EC of individual samples (solid gray squares) and the monthly average (solid red circles with ranges shown by bars). The gray bars show possible biases (Section 2.1). The levoglucosan/OC (or EC) ratios in Changdao (horizontal solid bars) are estimated based on levoglucosan and OC (or EC) in  $PM_{2.5}$  samples reported by Feng et al. (2007). Blue crosses present upper limits of levoglucosan/EC for samples with EC below the blank level.

**Table 1. Seasonal Means and Ranges (ng m<sup>-3</sup>) of the Concentrations of Levoglucosan, OC, and EC over Chichi-jima<sup>a</sup>**

	December–February (winter, <i>n</i> = 37)		March–May (spring, <i>n</i> = 37)		June–August (summer, <i>n</i> = 36)		September–November (autumn, <i>n</i> = 38)	
	Mean	(Range)	Mean	(Range)	Mean	(Range)	Mean	(Range)
Levoglucosan	2.2	(0.43–15)	1.0	(0.038–9.0)	0.32	(0.017–1.6)	0.59	(0.014–2.5)
OC	590	(150–1200)	670	(180–1600)	520	(150–1100)	550	(260–1200)
EC	180	(20–400)	190 <sup>b</sup> [160–170] <sup>c</sup>	(≤10 <sup>d</sup> –510)	87 <sup>b</sup> [41–54] <sup>c</sup>	(≤20 <sup>d</sup> –160)	140 <sup>b</sup> [76–89] <sup>c</sup>	(≤22 <sup>d</sup> –320)

<sup>a</sup>The samples are assigned to the seasons based on the middle time of the sampling period. <sup>b</sup>Samples within the blank level were omitted. <sup>c</sup>Possible ranges of mean values, including the samples below the blank level. <sup>d</sup>Calculated from the blank level.

**Table 2. Concentration Ratios for Studied Chemical Components**

	December–February (winter)		March–May (spring)		June–August (summer)		September–November (autumn)	
	Mean	(Range)	Mean	(Range)	Mean	(Range)	Mean	(Range)
	(Measured levoglucosan) /(modeled levoglucosan)	2.2 [0.96] <sup>a</sup>	–	0.08 [0.09] <sup>a</sup>	–	0.04 [0.03] <sup>a</sup>	–	0.18 [0.18] <sup>a</sup>
Levoglucosan/OC	$3.8 \times 10^{-3}$	( $8.4 \times 10^{-4}$ $-2.0 \times 10^{-2}$ )	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	( $4.6 \times 10^{-5}$ $-5.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$6.2 \times 10^{-4}$	( $2.9 \times 10^{-5}$ $-4.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$	( $2.9 \times 10^{-5}$ $-5.2 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Levoglucosan/EC <sup>b</sup>	$1.6 \times 10^{-2}$	( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ $-9.0 \times 10^{-2}$ )	$8.4 \times 10^{-3}$	( $3.8 \times 10^{-4}$ $-1.1 \times 10^{-1}$ )	$6.5 \times 10^{-3}$	( $2.8 \times 10^{-4}$ $-4.8 \times 10^{-2}$ )	$1.1 \times 10^{-2}$	( $1.2 \times 10^{-3}$ $-8.9 \times 10^{-2}$ )

<sup>a</sup> Values without brackets are calculated from OC<sub>BB,model</sub>, whereas those with square brackets are from EC<sub>BB,model</sub>. They are approximated by dividing the seasonal average of measured concentration (for samples whose OC<sub>BB,model</sub> (or EC<sub>BB,model</sub>) are available) by that estimated from OC<sub>BB,model</sub> (or EC<sub>BB,model</sub>). <sup>b</sup> Samples below the blank level were omitted.

Figure 1. Mochida et al.

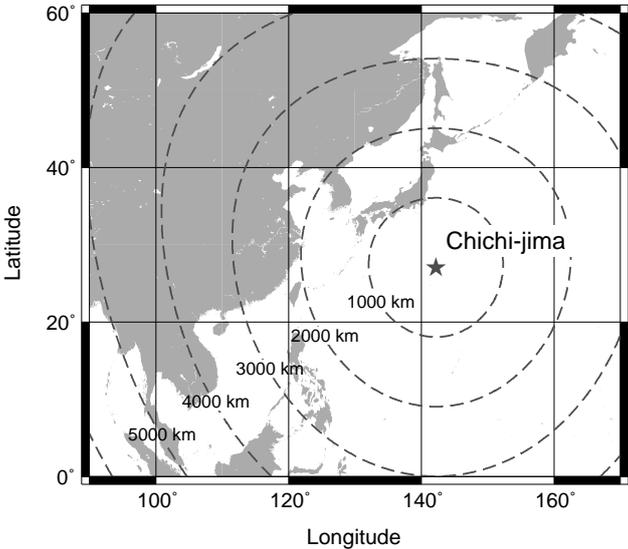


Figure 2. Mochida et al.

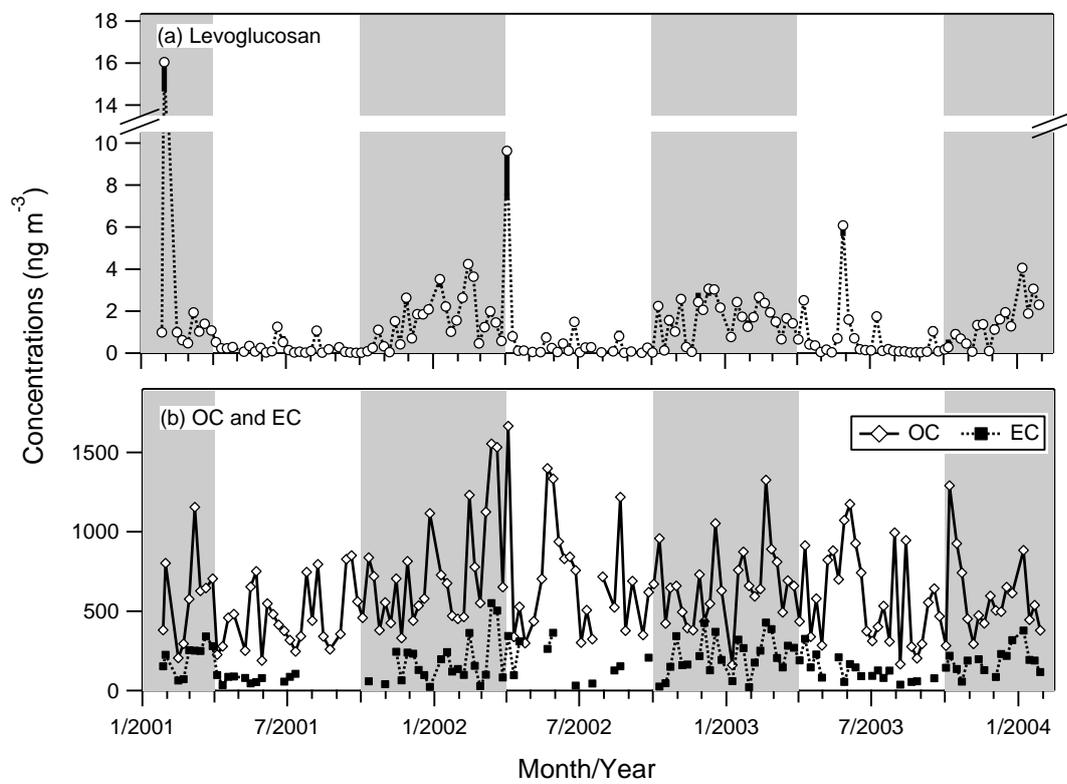


Figure 3. Mochida et al.

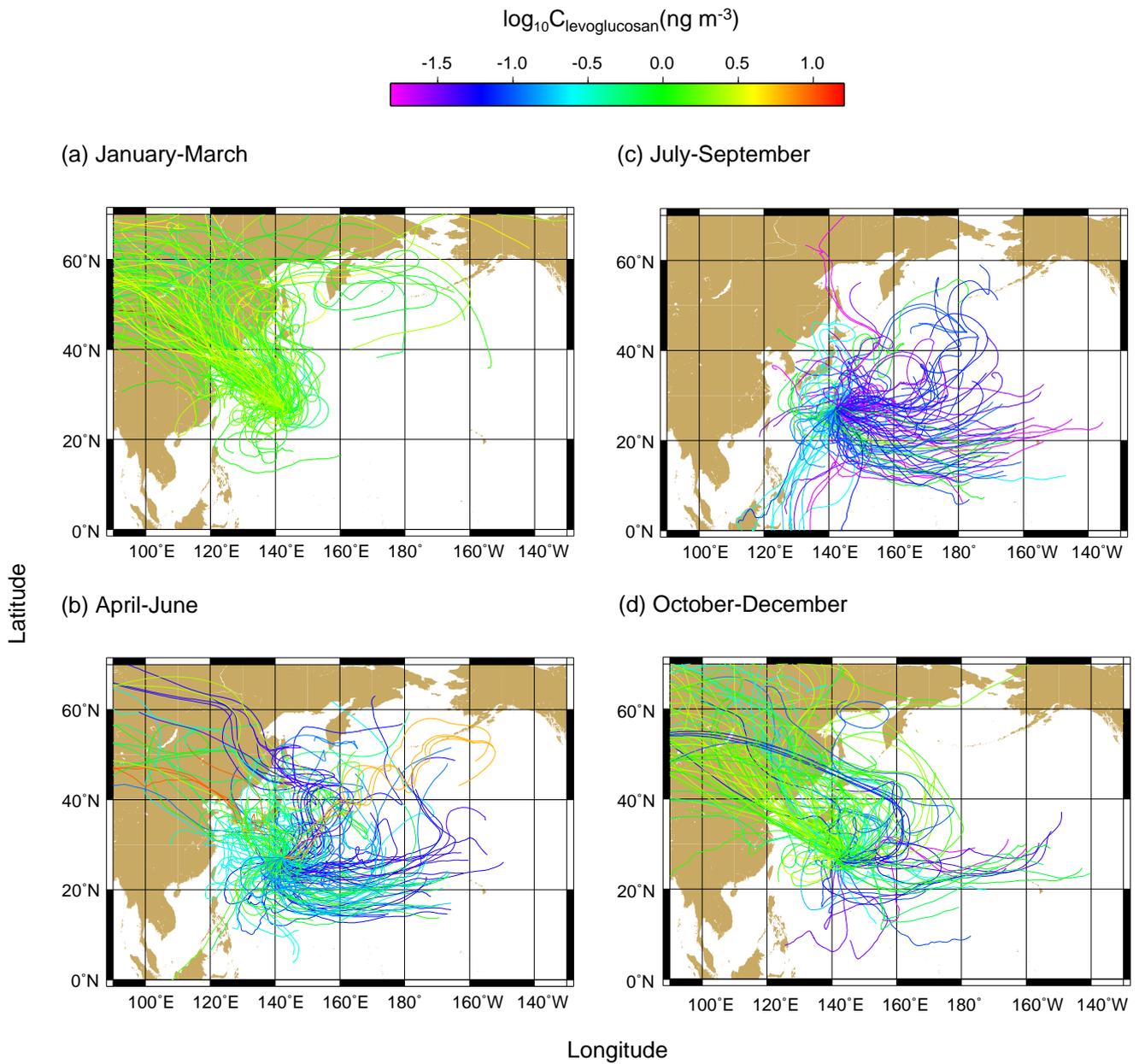


Figure 5. Mochida et al.

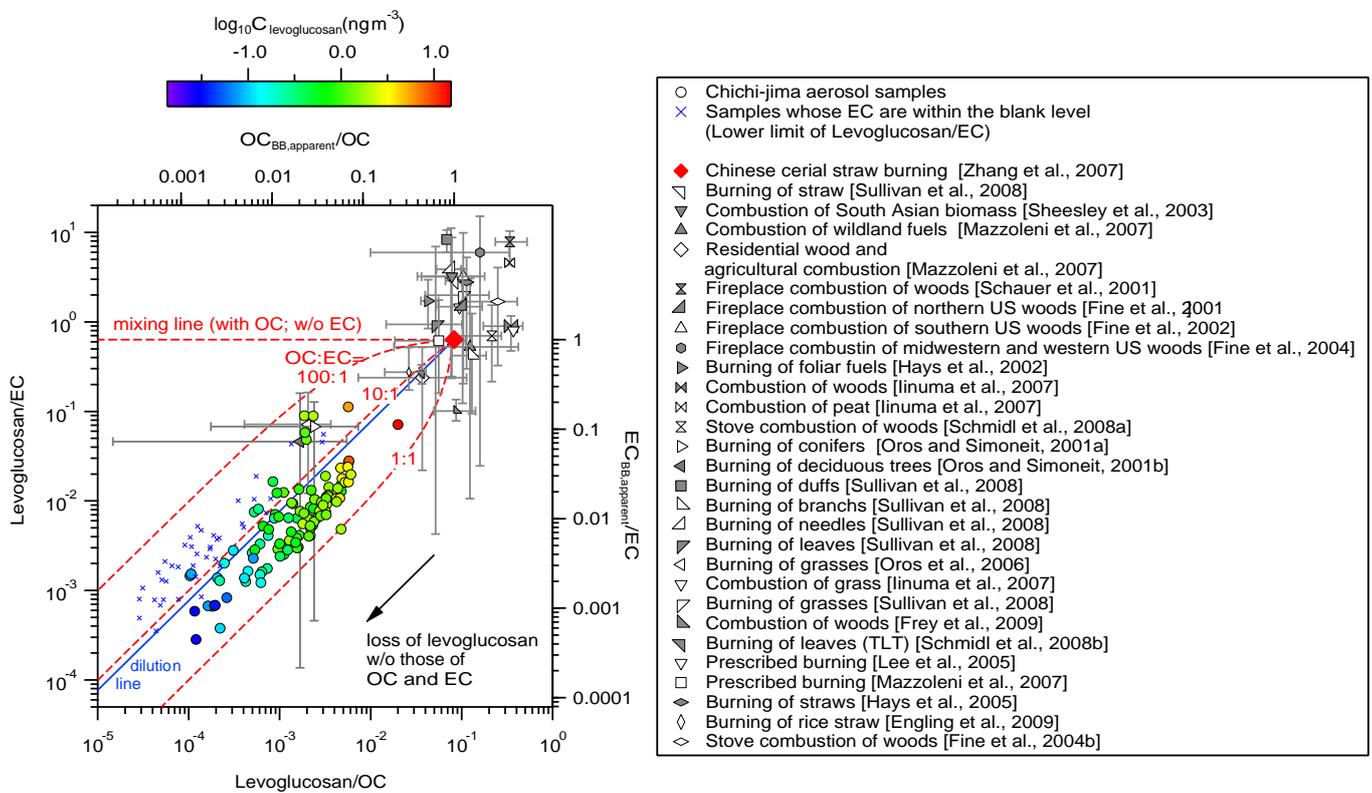


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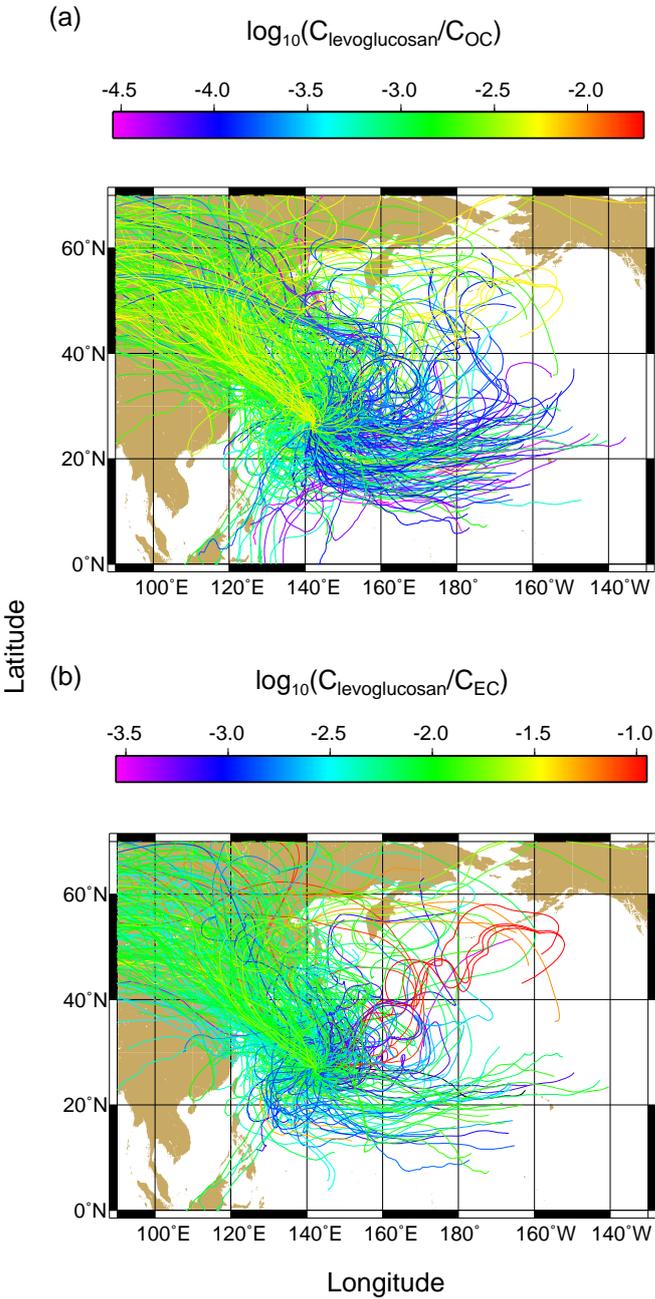


Figure 7. Mochida et al.

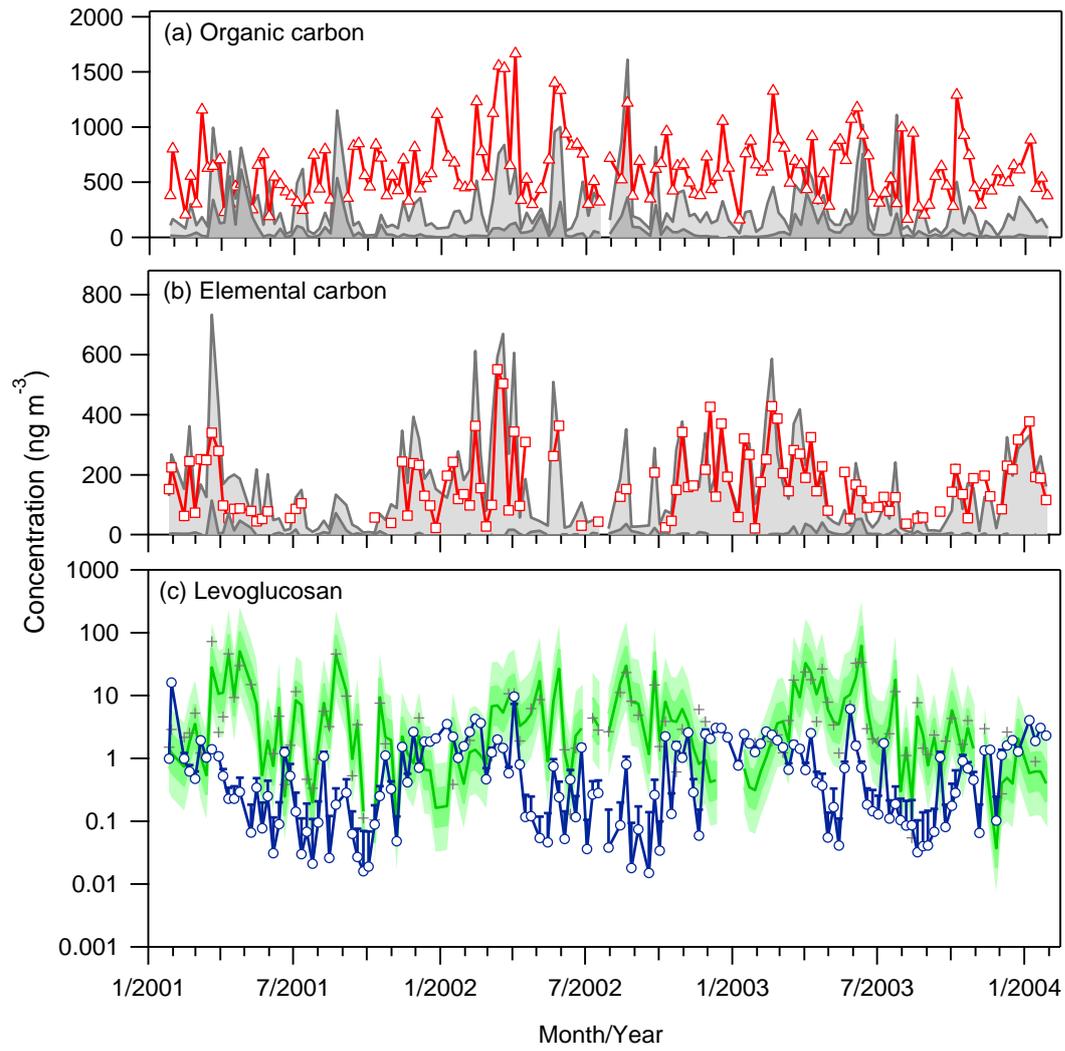


Figure 8. Mochida et al.

