



Molecular characterization of organic aerosols in urban and forested areas of Paris using high resolution mass spectrometry

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Abstract. In order to study aerosols in environment influenced by anthropogenic and biogenic emissions to variable extents, PM₁ samples were collected during the summer 2022 in the greater Paris area (ACROSS campaign, Atmospheric Chemistry Of the Suburban Forest, June 14 to July 25) at two locations that represent the urban Paris and the suburban forested area. They were analyzed using high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) together with total carbon (TC) by a thermo-optical method. Both sites are compared here to explore differences in aerosol composition from urban and forested environments. The TC analysis shows similar organic carbon (OC) concentrations at both sites ($3.2 \pm 1.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for Paris and $2.9 \pm 1.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for Rambouillet), and higher elemental carbon (EC) values in the urban area. Both OC and EC concentrations did not show significant variations for daytime and nighttime conditions. This work highlights the influence of anthropogenic inputs into the chemical composition of urban and forested areas, derived into the presence of CHO and CHON compounds but also the detection of two sulfur-containing compounds (C₅H₁₂SO₇ and C₁₀H₁₇NSO₇), which could be tentatively assigned as organosulfates. A smaller number of aromatic compounds were observed for clean periods, that better represent the local biogenic and anthropogenic contributions in Rambouillet and Paris, respectively.



1 Introduction

Organic aerosols (OA) represent an important fraction of the fine aerosol mass (up to 90%) (Chen et al., 2022; Kanakidou et al., 2005) that can impact the Earth's climate through their interactions with clouds (Andreae and Rosenfeld, 2008; IPCC, 2023; Rosenfeld et al., 2014), solar radiation (Haywood, 2016), and air quality (Chen and Kan, 2008). Despite the importance of these particles, their composition and formation processes are not fully understood and gaps remain in their chemical characterization and description (Akinyoola et al., 2024; Kalberer, 2015). Different environments provide different aerosol sources with varied chemical composition and influence on the atmosphere. Megacities such as Paris, Mexico City, Beijing, and New York are known for their high populations and local anthropogenic emissions that contribute to the atmospheric particulate matter (PM) levels (Karagulian et al., 2015; Cheng et al., 2016), while remote environments such as forested areas and oceans, contribute mostly with biogenic emissions (Shen et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2016). At their interfaces, urban and remote environments can be affected by mixtures of both biogenic and anthropogenic emissions which influence OA formation and composition (Rattanavaraha et al., 2016; McFiggans et al., 2019; Shrivastava et al., 2019). The enhancement of biogenic aerosol formation under the influence of anthropogenic pollutants has already been reported (Bryant et al., 2023; Rattanavaraha et al., 2016; Shrivastava et al., 2019; Yee et al., 2020); however, the opposite effect for specific mixtures such as isoprene, CO or CH₄ with α -pinene was also observed (McFiggans et al., 2019), highlighting the complexity of OA formation in mixed environments.

Complex and simultaneous physicochemical processes influence aerosol formation and growth (Hallquist et al., 2009) in the atmosphere. Therefore, intensive and long-term field observations using combinations of online and offline techniques have been performed to gain insights into OA chemical composition, source apportionment, properties and possible implications on the atmospheric processes (Molina et al., 2010; Bressi et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2013; Artaxo et al., 2017; Cantrell and Michoud, 2022). These techniques include online aerosol mass spectrometers (Zhang et al., 2007), total carbon content with semi-continuous carbon analyzers (Karanasiou et al., 2020) or offline thermo-optical techniques (Cao et al., 2005; Ma et al., 2016), and chemical composition of samples collected on filters (Yan et al., 2009; Ding et al., 2012; Michoud et al., 2021) particularly using chromatographic techniques coupled to mass spectrometers (Kourtchev et al., 2013). High resolution mass spectrometers (e.g., Orbitrap) have been shown to provide interesting insights for OA in urban, sub-urban and/or remote areas (Kourtchev et al., 2014; Daellenbach et al., 2019; Giorio et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2022; Amarandei et al., 2023). For example, a strong biogenic influence at a urban background and two remote locations in the Alpine Valleys in Switzerland was observed during summertime (Daellenbach et al., 2019). High contribution of saturated oxidized compounds together with the presence of organosulfates suggested that Secondary Organic Aerosol (SOA) formation from biogenic VOC precursors plays an important role during the summer even in urban areas (Giorio et al., 2019; Amarandei et al., 2023). The importance of anthropogenic oxidized compounds has also been highlighted, with a strong contribution from traffic emissions in urban areas (Kourtchev et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2022).

The Paris area (comprising Paris city and its suburbs) is a relatively compact urban zone of ca. 40 km by 40 km surrounded by
70 low urbanized areas mostly composed of intensive agriculture fields and forest. In consequence, mixing between anthropogenic
and biogenic emissions can occur especially when the plume of Paris travels away from the city at low velocity and altitude
which is often the case under anticyclonic conditions (Lagmiri and Dahech, 2023). Previous studies in this area involving
offline analysis of the aerosol chemical composition have been focused on total carbon (TC) determination (Favez et al., 2009),
combined with ion chromatography analysis (Hodzic et al., 2006; Gros et al., 2007; Sciare et al., 2010; Bressi et al., 2013) and
75 only a few reported analysis at the molecular scale (Lanzafame et al., 2021; Srivastava et al., 2018, 2019). Gros et al. (2007)
reported the traffic pollution as an important aerosol source in the Paris urban area as seen from the measurement site located
at the Paris City Hall during the spring period. Analyses performed during the summer at the suburban area of Saclay (25 km
southwest from Paris) showed the predominance of primary aerosols and highlighted the contribution of both anthropogenic
and biogenic sources (Hodzic et al., 2006). Previous measurements in central Paris showed the influence of residential wood
80 burning emissions in the winter (Favez et al., 2009) and highlighted the local contributions for the primary fraction of the
aerosol and continental photochemical-aged air masses during the spring (Sciare et al., 2010).

All of these studies were mostly based on a single sampling point, with the exception of Bressi et al., (2013) who compared
the chemical composition of a set of samples collected at five sites of the AIRPARIF air quality stations during one-year
measurements (September, 2009 to September, 2010). Those sites included one urban location at the Paris center (4th district),
85 one suburban station (10 km northeast from Paris center station), and three rural sites located at 65 km northeast, 50 km
northwest and 60 km south from the urban station. Based on ions analysis and TC measurements only, a spatial homogeneity
of the aerosol chemical composition was observed during that period for the sites, with higher levels of local anthropogenic
contributions as the sites get closer to the Paris center. Those studies provided a base for the typology of aerosol sources with
a limited ion spectrum (NO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} , Na^+ , NH_4^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , and Ca^{2+}) analyzed. This together with similarities between sites
90 observed for long measurement periods and the lack of seasonal tendencies, arises the concern that description of the inorganic
aerosol fraction and OC measurements cannot properly capture the full chemical process occurring. Recent studies focus on
measurements of the OA at the suburban SIRTAs (Site Instrumental de Recherche par Télédétection Atmosphérique, Haeffelin
et al., 2005) site (Lanzafame et al., 2021; Srivastava et al., 2018, 2019), located at the southwest of the Paris center (25 km).
Influence of secondary processes in the aerosol composition from the early spring was observed by Srivastava et al. (2018,
95 2019). The temporal variability of pinene, isoprene, β -caryophyllene, anthropogenic SOA acids and nitroaromatic markers
was investigated, showing a seasonal dependence of the processes enlighten by nitroaromatic and isoprene markers
(Lanzafame et al., 2021).

The aforementioned studies showed the contribution of different local urban sources mainly associated to traffic emissions,
especially during the summer, together with contributions of mid- and long-range transported biogenic and anthropogenic
100 species, from primary or secondary origin. They additionally highlighted the effect of the seasonal variability for different
specific species associated with emission factors and seasonal meteorological conditions. The studies performed to understand
the atmospheric chemical composition of rural, suburban, and urban areas in Paris provide important information on the major



chemical fractions, carbon content, and some molecular tracers, however information on the OA chemical composition and its temporal and spatial variability is still missing. Building upon the existing knowledge, our work aims at providing new description of the molecular composition and day/night variability of the OA fraction from simultaneous measurements in two urban and forested environments in the Paris region in summer 2022 from measurements performed in the framework of the ACROSS (Atmospheric Chemistry Of the Suburban Forest) intensive campaign.

2 Methods

2.1 Ground level sampling

Atmospheric sampling was performed in summer 2022 (June 14 – July 25) during the ACROSS campaign (Cantrell and Michoud, 2022) at the 7th floor terrace of the Lamarck B building at the Université Paris Cité, located at 20 m above ground level (48.8277 °N and 2.3806 °E, named as Paris herein) and at ground level in the Rambouillet forest (48.6866 °N and 1.7045 °E, named as Rambouillet herein).

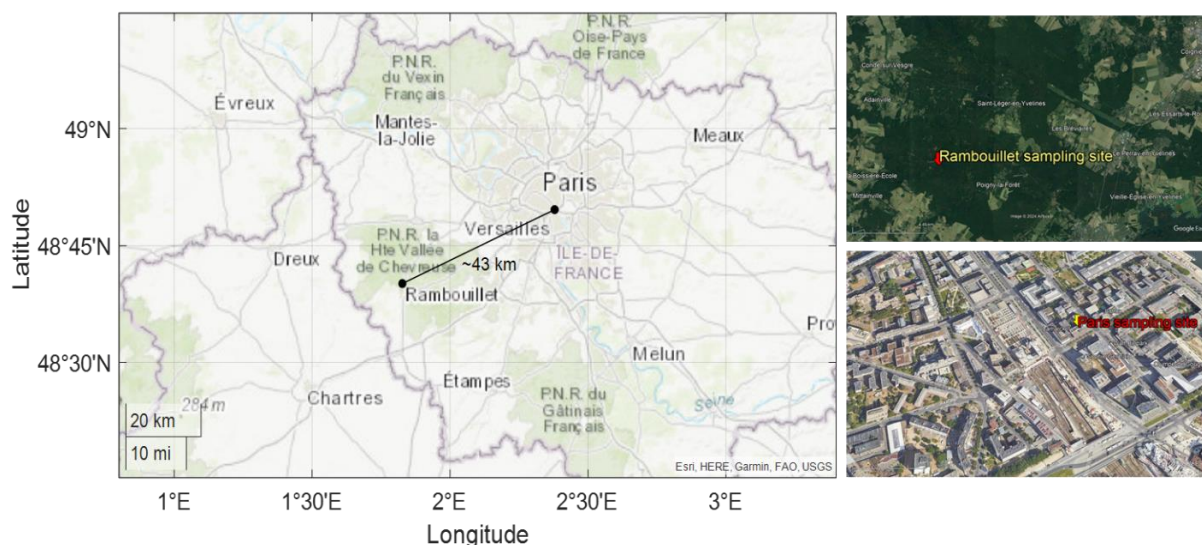


Figure 1: Sampling sites in the Paris region for aerosol sampling in the ACROSS campaign during summer 2022. Map in the left shows the spatial disposition between sites (MathWorks Inc, 2022). The urban area sampling site is located at the Université Paris Cité and the forested one is at the Rambouillet forest, displayed on the right side (©Google Earth).

Paris city with a population of ~2 million inhabitants (Bilan démographique, 2024) and about 12 million in whole Paris greater area, is characterized by urban local emissions from traffic and aerosol contributions from mid- and long-range transport (Beekmann et al., 2015; Bressi et al., 2013, 2014). On the contrary as observed in Figure 1, Rambouillet Site is a dense forest area located 43 km from the centre south-west bound of Paris, far from local anthropogenic contributions and susceptible to the influence to urban plumes arrival from the north east. Rambouillet forest is mainly consisting of oaks and pine trees (Office National des Forêts, 2023) and has an extension of 14 000 ha.



2.1.1 Filter sampling

125 Aerosol filter sampling of the PM₁ fraction was performed during day (6:00 – 22:00, local time) and night (22:00 – 6:00, local
time) on 150 mm diameter quartz fiber filters (Pallflex Tissuquartz), using an automatic continuous high-volume aerosol
sampler (30 m³ h⁻¹) DHA-80 (DIGITEL Enviro-Sense). Prior sampling, the quartz fiber filters were conditioned at 550 °C for
8 hours and conserved in pre-baked aluminum foil, sealed in plastic bags. After exposure, samples were conserved in pre-
baked and sealed aluminum foils at -20 °C, then transported to the laboratory, where they were punched to smaller fractions
130 (Ø = 30 mm and 46 mm) for chemical analysis. The smaller fractions were also conserved following the same protocol.

2.1.2 Additional data

Meteorological parameters such as relative humidity (RH), temperature, and wind speed and direction for the Rambouillet site
were provided by the Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques (CNRM) through the MeteoFrance mobile facility
(Denjean, 2023). Additional data of NO_x, O₃ and SO₂ concentrations for Rambouillet were collected by monitors from the
135 Portable Gas and Aerosol Sampling UnitS (PEGASUS) mobile facility (Giorio et al., 2022). A NO_x Monitor APNA370
(Horiba) based on O₃ chemiluminescence, an O₃ Monitor APOA370 (Horiba) based on UV absorption and a SO₂ Monitor
Horiba APSA370 based on UV fluorescence. At the Paris site, we used a meteorological station Lufft WS600 (Di Antonio et
al., 2023), a NO_x monitor AC32M (Environment SA) based on O₃ chemiluminescence, an O₃ monitor 41M (Environment SA)
based on UV absorption and a SO₂ Monitor AF22 (Environment SA) based on UV fluorescence.

140 2.2 Chemical analysis

Organic carbon (OC) and elemental carbon (EC) were measured using a thermo-optical analyzer (Sunset Laboratory Inc.) on
a 1.5 cm² filter surface following the EUSAAR2 protocol (Cavalli et al., 2010). The Sunset analyzer was calibrated using a
sucrose (purity > 99.5 %) solution on a 1.5 cm² filter surface at concentrations between 0.42 µgC cm⁻² and 40 µgC cm⁻², with
a limit of detection of 0.25 µgC cm⁻² and a limit of quantification of 0.42 µgC cm⁻². Prior to each analysis, an instrumental
145 blank and a point at 10 µgC cm⁻² were measured as a quality control. OC and EC values were automatically calculated with
the software OCBC835 (Sunset Laboratory) and the split point was manually verified to ensure proper assignment.
Uncertainties on the measurements were obtained by considering the 5% of the carbon concentration plus 0.1 µgC cm⁻² as
minimum instrumental error as suggested by the manufacturer (Sunset Laboratory).

The chemical compositions of OA extracts were studied using high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS). Filters of 46 mm
150 diameter were extracted three times by 30 min sonication in slurry ice with 3 mL of methanol (LC-MS grade, Fisher Scientific)
in pre-cleaned glass vials. Extracts were combined for each sample and filtered with 0.45 µm and 0.2 µm syringe filters (Iso-
Disc™ Filters PTFE, Ø 4 mm) consecutively. The solvent was partially evaporated using a gentle stream of nitrogen to 400
µl. The final solutions were stored at -18°C prior to analysis. Additional details of the extraction protocol can be found in
Kourtchev et al. (2014).



155 Non-target mass spectrometric analysis was performed using LTQ Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) equipped with a chip-based nanoESI source (TriVersa NanoMate, Advion) operating in negative ionization mode. The source parameters were: gas pressure of 0.30 psi, spray voltage -1.4 kV, and an injection volume of 7 μ L. NanoESI source was used to achieve higher ionization efficiency for a variety of analytes (Kourtchev et al., 2014). All spectra were recorded in triplicates with one-minute data acquisition time, with a nominal resolution of 100,000, and in two scan ranges (50-500 m/z and 150-1000 m/z).

160 2.3 HRMS data processing

HRMS data treatment was conducted following Zielinski et al. (2018). Peaks were extracted and assigned using Xcalibur 2.1 (Thermo Scientific) with a mass tolerance of 4 ppm. Atomic constraints for formulae assignment were: ^{14}N (0-5), ^{16}O (0-50), ^{12}C (1-100), ^1H (1-200), ^{32}S (0-2), ^{34}S (0-1), and ^{13}C (0-1). Formula lists and peak intensities were further processed including internal calibration, noise removal, blank subtraction, and additional atomic constraints: elemental ratios were set as $0.3 \leq \text{H/C} \leq 2.5$, $\text{O/C} \leq 2$, $\text{N/C} \leq 1.3$, $\text{S/C} \leq 0.2$, $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C} \leq 0.011$ and $^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S} \leq 0.045$, double bond equivalent (DBE) values, nitrogen rule, and isotopic filtering (Zielinski et al., 2018). Formulae with smallest absolute mass errors were used for multiple assignments after mass shift correction, and only formulae found in all triplicates were considered. Five families of compounds were defined based on their molecular composition: CHO, CHON, CHOS, CHONS, and CHNS. CHN and CHS families were not considered here as they cannot ionize in the negative mode.

170 After formula assignment, van Krevelen (VK) diagrams (Kim et al., 2003) were used to visualize the differences between the samples from Paris and Rambouillet. Following Kourtchev et al. (2013), three compound domains such as aliphatic, low oxygenated aromatic and more oxidized aerosol were used herein. The aliphatic group was attributed at low O/C ratios (< 0.5) and high H/C (> 1.5), low oxygenated aromatic domain was present at $\text{O/C} < 0.5$ and $\text{H/C} > 0.5$, and more oxidized compounds could be found at higher O/C (> 0.5). More details are presented in the Supplementary material.

175 The aromaticity equivalent (X_c) of the aerosol samples of Rambouillet and Paris were calculated following Yassine et al. (2014) through Eq. 1:

$$X_c = \frac{3[\text{DBE} - (m\text{O} + n\text{S})] - 2}{\text{DBE} - (m\text{O} + n\text{S})} \quad (1)$$

180 The constants $m, n = 0.5$ are the fractions of heteroatoms involved in the π -bond structure for oxygen and sulfur, assuming that the signals identified here belong to carboxylic acids (R-COOH), as measurements are performed in the negative ionization mode (Kourtchev et al., 2016). DBE represents the degree of unsaturation of a compound (Wozniak et al., 2008) and it is computed considering the number of C, H, and N atoms as follows:

$$\text{DBE} = 1 + \frac{1}{2}(2\text{C} - \text{H} + \text{N}) \quad (2)$$



185 Yassine et al. (2014) proposed threshold values of X_c , where $X_c \geq 2.5$ account for aromatics and $X_c \geq 2.71$ for condensed aromatics. Following this classification, the X_c are calculated and grouped here as unsaturated ($X_c < 2.5$), aromatic ($2.5 \leq X_c < 2.71$) and condensed aromatic ($X_c \geq 2.71$) compounds.

2.4 Statistical analysis

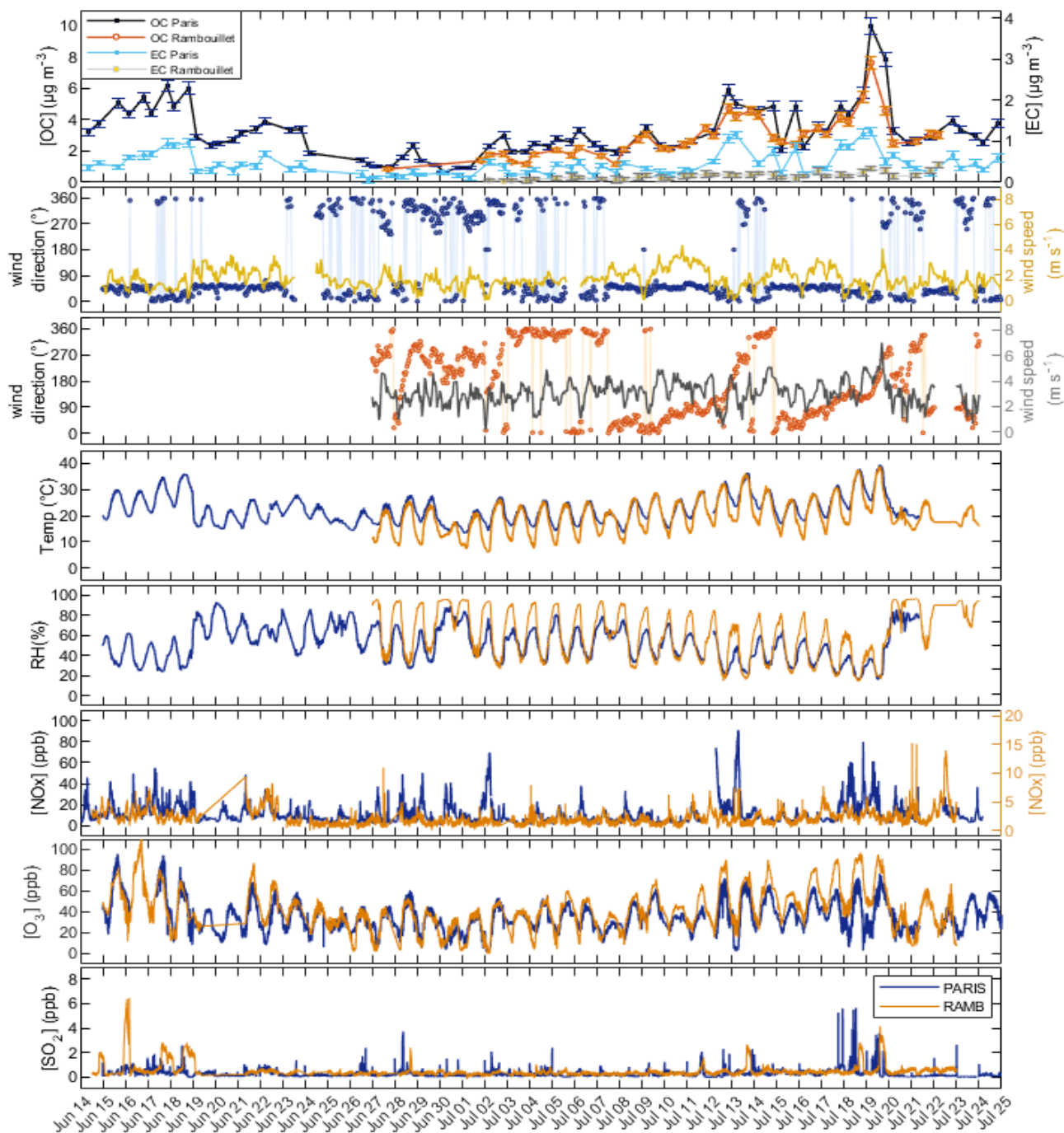
190 Pearson correlation and pairwise cosine distances were calculated to analyze the existing relationships between chemical composition (OC and EC concentrations, number of formulae), meteorological conditions and anthropogenic contaminants observed during the campaign. Atmospheric conditions used for correlation analysis are reported in Table S1 and they represent average data observed during the sampling period.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Variability of OC and EC concentrations

195 The OC and EC concentrations observed during the summer 2022 at Paris and Rambouillet are summarized in Figure 2. In Paris, OC concentrations ranging from 0.7 to 10.0 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and maximum EC concentrations of 1.3 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ were observed between June 14 and July 25. A shorter dataset is available for Rambouillet, between June 27 to July 22, with OC concentrations varying between 0.8 and 7.7 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The OC time series of Paris showed higher concentrations at the beginning of the campaign (June 14 and June 24) and after July 12, while for Rambouillet there was an increasing trend over time which coincides temporally with the increased OC concentration observed from the end of June to July for Paris. Wind direction showed a north to east (0° to 75°) predominant contribution at the beginning of the period (before June 24) and additional contributions from west (230° to 355°) air masses for Paris. In Rambouillet, a similar behavior was observed at the beginning of July while a transition from north-east to west was observed for the rest of the period. Higher wind speed values were observed over the forest site (up to 7.1 m s^{-2}) than for downtown Paris (up to 4.3 m s^{-2}).

205 The temporal variability of RH, temperature and concentrations of NO_x , O_3 and SO_2 at both sites is also shown in Figure 2. Mean values of RH of 51.7 % (min 16.0 % and max 93.0 %) and temperature of 22.5 °C (min 13.3 °C and max 39.5°C) were observed for the Paris site. In Rambouillet, mean values of 60.6 % (min 14.4 % and max 96.7 %) and 19.8 °C (min 6.0 °C and max 38.9 °C) were reported for RH and temperature, respectively. Higher values of NO_x were observed in Paris (mean values of 10.7 ppb and 2.2 ppb with maximum concentrations of 90.9 ppb and 15.2 ppb for Paris and Rambouillet respectively) while O_3 concentrations followed a similar profile at both sites with higher concentrations in Rambouillet of 6.0 ppb on average. Low SO_2 concentrations were observed for both sites with values being generally below 1ppb but some peaks were also detected with maximum values of 8.5 and 6.5 ppb for Paris and Rambouillet, respectively. Averages over the filter sampling times for the parameters described are presented in Table S1.



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Figure 2: Temporal series of the OC, EC, NO_x, O₃ and SO₂ concentrations and wind conditions observed during the summer 2022 between June 14 and July 25. Data for OC and EC for Paris (blue) and Rambouillet (orange and gray) are reported with their standard deviations represented by the error bars, accounting for sample density variations and instrumental errors. Wind conditions are presented by wind speed (yellow and gray) and wind direction (blue and orange), and reported here for hourly average of daily measurements. Measurements for NO_x, O₃ and SO₂ for Paris (blue) and Rambouillet (orange) were performed at 30 m a.g.l. in Paris and at ground level in Rambouillet.

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In this study, mean OC concentrations of $3.2 \pm 1.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $2.9 \pm 1.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ were observed for Paris and Rambouillet, respectively. Such values are around the annual local/regional averages previously found in PM_{2.5} by Bressi et al., (2013), who reported $3.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in the urban center of Paris, $3.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at a suburban site (10 km from Paris center), and between 2.1 and 2.9 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in the rural areas at the north and south of Paris, located >50 km from the center. Concentrations in the present analysis, are also in line with the average summertime OC concentration of $2.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at the suburban (southwest of Paris center) SIRTA site reported by Lanzafame et al., (2021).

Mean OC concentrations for Rambouillet observed in this study fall in a similar range than mean values of $3.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ reported in the rural area of Hyytiälä (Finland) for the PM₁ fraction (Daellenbach et al., 2019) and $4.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $0.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the PM_{2.5} in the forest on the Great Hungarian Plain (Hungary) (Ion et al., 2005; Kourtchev et al., 2009). Our average OC concentrations in Paris are of the same order of magnitude than those measured in the urban area of Seoul (Korea), where OC and EC concentrations of $3.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $1.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for PM_{2.5} were reported (Yoo et al., 2022). While our mean OC concentration at Paris is of the same magnitude, the EC concentration in Seoul is 4 times higher (Yoo et al., 2022) than the observed in this study ($0.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$).

3.1.1 Diurnal variations of OC and EC concentrations

For the periods of data overlap for the two sampling sites (June 27 to July 22), Figure 2 shows a similar trend for the OC concentrations for most of the days with close mean concentrations values for OC of $3.2 \pm 1.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in Paris and OC of $2.9 \pm 1.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in Rambouillet (Table 1) and good OC concentrations correlations between both sites ($r > 0.70$, $p\text{-value} < 0.05$) as shown in Fig. S1.

Table 1. Summary of OC and EC concentrations observed at Paris and Rambouillet during the summer 2022. Maximum, minimum and mean concentrations are reported for the total data collected from June 14 to July 25. Day and night values of the concentrations are reported for the period of data overlap for the two sites (June 27 to July 22). The mean concentrations are reported with their standard deviation along the time series.

	Paris		Rambouillet	
	OC ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	EC ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	OC ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	EC ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)
All data – mean	3.2 ± 1.8	0.4 ± 0.3	2.9 ± 1.5	0.2 ± 0.1
(min – max)	(0.7– 10.0)	(0.1 - 1.3)	(0.8 - 7.7)	(0.0 - 0.4)
Daytime – mean	3.1 ± 1.8	0.5 ± 0.3	2.8 ± 1.5	0.2 ± 0.1
(min – max)	(1.0 – 10.0)	(0.1 - 1.3)	(0.8 - 7.7)	(0.1 – 0.4)
Nighttime – mean	3.7 ± 1.7	0.5 ± 0.4	3.1 ± 1.6	0.2 ± 0.1
(min – max)	(0.9 - 7.8)	(0.2 - 1.2)	(1.2 – 5.5)	(0.0 – 0.3)

Measured OC and EC concentrations were compared for both sites in Table 1 for day and night periods. Higher EC concentrations were observed for Paris than for Rambouillet with maximum daytime values of $1.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and high values of $1.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Higher EC concentrations for Paris highlights the urban nature of the site, while EC detection was not expected at Rambouillet, given its forested nature. In Paris, mean OC concentrations of 3.1 and $3.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ were observed during day and



250 night, while in Rambouillet mean values of 2.8 and 3.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Non-significant variability was observed between day and night for OC and EC concentrations. The proximity of the values for day and night concentrations observed at both sites (Table 1) and the similar trends (Figure 2), together with the good correlations observed for OC concentrations (Fig. S1) may suggest common sources and/or air masses affecting the OA composition of both sites.

255 Temperature variations between day and night periods associated with the solar irradiance together with higher ozone concentrations observed at day for both sites (Fig. 2) highlights the influence of different oxidation processes influencing the OC concentrations during the day. At night, lower temperatures may favor the transition to the particle phase (Cahill et al., 2006; Giorio et al., 2019) and nitrate radical chemistry can affect SOA formation (He et al., 2021), increasing the OC concentrations.

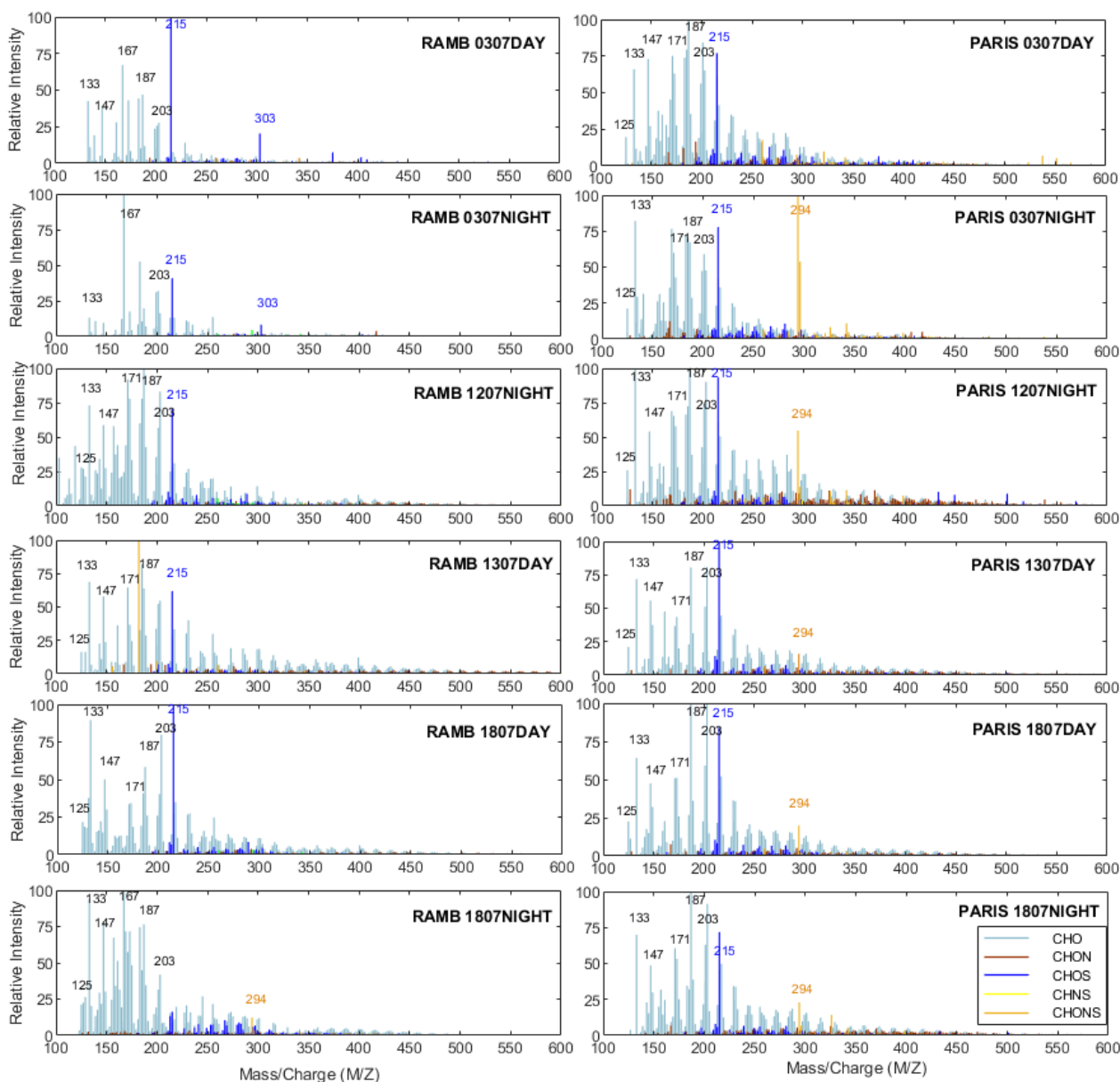
260 Specific samples were selected to further understand differences in the aerosol chemical composition using the OC concentration and pollutants concentrations as indicators of chemistry. Samples from July 3 and 4 showed OC concentrations below the average (i.e., 3.2 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for Paris and 2.9 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for Rambouillet), further considered as background, while samples from July 11 to 13 and July 17 to 19 (Figure 2) were representative of polluted conditions as their concentrations were higher than the mean value. Such OC variations were consistent with higher concentrations of O_3 , NO_x and SO_2 for the pollution periods compared to the background one (Fig. 2). The different periods of pollution were also characterized by the contribution of different air masses (Figure 2) arriving from north-west for Paris and varied contributions to Rambouillet. During the second 265 period of pollution (July 17 to 19), higher temperatures, OC concentrations and an atypical event of long-range transport of biomass burning emissions from the south-west of France on July 19 were also reported (Menut et al., 2023), showing that inside the second period, the aerosols may be influence by different chemical processes and sources.

3.2 Molecular composition

270 HRMS analysis for day and night samples from the urban and forested area of Paris were compared to investigate differences and similarities in the particle chemical composition at both sites. The mass spectra of specific samples representing the background (July 3 and 4) and polluted periods (July 11 to 13 and July 17 to 19) are summarized in Figure 3. Between 1644 and 5133 elemental formulae were identified with molecular weights mostly distributed below 600 m/z . It is important to highlight the lower number of molecular formulae assigned in the background samples of July 3 for Rambouillet site, with 275 1644 and 2099 formulae for day and night samples (Table S1).

Considering analysis performed on different urban and rural environments, we suggest possible compounds that can be associated to the molecular formulae identified in this study, however they could also be associated to other isomers. A predominant signal observed at 215.023 m/z in all samples for $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}\text{SO}_7$ is compatible with an isoprene oxidation product as suggested by Zhrebker et al. (2024). $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{17}\text{NSO}_7$ formula at 294.065 m/z is compatible with an α -pinene oxidation product 280 formed under the presence of NO_x and SO_2 (Surratt et al., 2007, 2008), showing a higher relative intensity during the night period at Paris. This organosulfate has been previously detected in the field (Kourtchev et al., 2014; Kourtchev et al., 2016; Giorio et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2022), and may highlight the influence of anthropogenic pollutants on SOA formation when

285 mixed with biogenic compounds as it is formed in the presence of the anthropogenic pollutants NO_x and SO_2 . It is important to consider that in Rambouillet, NO_x and SO_2 levels and sulfur compounds affecting this chemistry can be also influenced by microbial activity (Andersen et al., 2024). Although we cannot attribute the molecular formula $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_{11}\text{S}$ at 303.003 m/z , the fact that it appears only Rambouillet samples may suggest a biogenic origin.



290 **Figure 3: Reconstructed mass spectra for specific consecutive samples of Rambouillet (RAMB) and Paris. Different colors show the compound classes CHO (clear blue), CHON (brown), CHOS (dark blue), CHNS (yellow), CHONS (orange). Samples here represent examples of the background period (July 3) and pollution periods (July 12, 13, and 18) from day and night measurements performed during the summer 2022.**



Peaks 133.014 m/z ($C_4H_6O_5$), 147.030 m/z ($C_5H_8O_5$), 167.071 m/z ($C_9H_{12}O_3$), 171.066 m/z ($C_8H_{12}O_4$), 187.061 m/z ($C_8H_{12}O_5$) and 203.057 m/z ($C_8H_{12}O_6$) appeared at high relative intensities in all samples. These CHO compounds may have anthropogenic or biogenic origins (Kourtchev et al., 2014). For example, $C_8H_{12}O_4$, and $C_8H_{12}O_6$ are compatible with terpenylic acid, and 3-methyl-1,2,3-butanetricarboxylic acid (MBTCA) as oxidation products of α -pinene ozonolysis (Kristensen et al., 2013, 2014; Yasmeeen et al., 2010). Oxidized low-molecular weight compounds such as $C_4H_6O_5$ and $C_5H_8O_5$ may be associated with carboxylic acids such as malic acid and hydroxyglutaric acid (Daellenbach et al., 2019). While malonic acid has been observed in the photo-oxidation scheme of toluene (Sato et al., 2007), hydroxyglutaric acid may be formed from monoterpene oxidation under the presence of NO_x (Claeys et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2018). The presence of $C_8H_{12}O_5$ was observed by Kourtchev et al. (2016) in the Amazon forest with samples influenced by biogenic emissions and biomass burning. $C_9H_{12}O_3$ it can be related to pinene oxidation product.

Additionally, an increase in the relative intensity of $C_6H_5NO_4$ at 154.015 m/z is observed on July 19 (Fig. S2) in the day-time samples at high relative intensities of 21.8% and 19.2% for Paris and Rambouillet, while its relative intensity is lower than 4% and 1.8%, respectively, in the remaining samples. $C_6H_5NO_4$ has been previously assigned as nitrocatecols (Kourtchev et al., 2016), and attributed to biomass burning (Iinuma et al., 2010). This relative intensity variability between samples together with higher OC and NO_x concentrations for that particular day supports this attribution, and confirm in agreement with Menut et al. (2023) that different chemical processes occurred during this fire event.

In order to provide additional information of the chemical diversity of the aerosol samples, the percentage of formulae number per compound families CHO, CHON, CHOS, CHNS and CHONS are reported in Table 2. The number of formulae associated to each group are detailed in Table S1. Samples under study were characterized by higher number of formulae from CHO and CHON compounds (>26%) and lesser of CHOS and CHONS compounds. CHO and CHON showed percentage of number formulae between 29.5% to 44.4% and 26.3% to 48.2% in Rambouillet, while in Paris varied between 26.8% to 43.6% and 35.8 to 53.0%, respectively. Although molecular classes may show a seasonal variation due to the contribution of different sources (Daellenbach et al., 2019), a high abundance of CHO and, especially, CHON fractions at areas influenced by urban emissions observed here is consistent with some previous studies (Wang et al., 2018; Giorio et al., 2019; Daellenbach et al., 2019) that reported HRMS analysis of samples collected in urban environments.

Samples collected on July 3 and 4 in the forest area presented a higher percentage of number formulae of CHOS compounds (>17%) than those collected in urban Paris (>12%). For those days, Paris samples have CHON presence higher than 40%, which was larger than CHO (<33.3%) while Rambouillet showed an opposite tendency. Besides those samples, CHON assignments either dominate or remain close to CHO assignments, except for July 19. The presence of sulfur containing compounds (CHOS) has shown the role of oxidizing biogenic SOA in different remote areas which can be influenced by anthropogenic emissions such as Manaus in the Amazon forest (Kourtchev et al., 2016) or Hyttälä in the Boreal forest (Daellenbach et al., 2019).



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Table 2. Compound classes and aromaticity equivalent X_c -based classes contribution for PM_{10} samples collected during the summer 2022 at Paris and Rambouillet (RAMB) derived by HRMS. The percentage of number of formulas per compound class and per aromaticity equivalent are calculated in function of the total number of formulae. The OC and EC concentrations were obtained by thermal-optical analysis.

sample name	Number of formulas per compound class detected ^a (%)					Concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)		Number of formulas per aromaticity equivalent class ^b (%)		
	CHO	CHON	CHOS	CHNS	CHONS	OC	EC	unsaturated	aromatic	condensed
RAMB0307 DAY	39.5	26.3	23.1	0.3	10.8	1.3	0.0	50.4	34.3	15.4
RAMB0307 NIGHT	35.8	33.6	18.2	1.1	11.2	1.2	0.0	38.4	38.6	23.0
RAMB0407 DAY	38.0	32.9	17.1	0.5	11.6	1.8	0.1	48.1	34.6	17.3
RAMB0407 NIGHT	29.8	33.7	17.8	1.0	17.7	-	-	43.2	38.0	18.7
RAMB1107 NIGHT	34.6	42.5	12.6	1.0	9.3	3.5	0.2	41.5	38.4	20.1
RAMB1207 DAY	29.5	47.2	10.0	2.2	11.2	3.0	0.2	32.8	33.2	34.0
RAMB1207 NIGHT	35.5	40.2	14.0	1.6	8.6	4.7	0.2	31.0	33.5	35.5
RAMB1307 DAY	33.5	48.2	7.3	0.9	10.1	4.2	0.2	33.6	32.2	34.1
RAMB1707 DAY	30.0	45.2	11.5	1.1	12.2	3.1	0.2	37.5	35.6	26.9
RAMB1707 NIGHT	38.1	44.0	9.5	1.3	7.1	4.2	0.2	35.7	35.9	28.4
RAMB1807 DAY	37.3	45.2	9.4	0.5	7.7	3.9	0.2	35.2	34.9	29.8
RAMB1807 NIGHT	44.4	38.3	10.8	0.3	6.2	5.5	0.2	33.2	34.4	32.4
RAMB1907 DAY	43.0	39.5	9.8	0.5	7.2	7.7	0.3	33.7	34.0	32.3
RAMB1907 NIGHT	40.9	46.9	6.7	0.2	5.3	4.6	0.3	33.0	39.8	27.2
PARIS0307 DAY	28.9	41.7	10.9	2.2	16.3	2.0	0.2	41.3	28.9	29.8
PARIS0307 NIGHT	33.3	42.5	11.8	1.4	11.0	2.0	0.2	45.4	21.4	33.3
PARIS0407 DAY	26.8	46.6	9.5	2.2	14.9	2.5	0.3	40.9	30.4	28.8
PARIS0407 NIGHT	30.5	42.7	11.8	2.2	12.9	2.3	0.2	45.2	30.5	24.3
PARIS1107 NIGHT	27.7	48.5	9.5	1.3	13.0	-	-	41.7	33.4	24.9
PARIS1207 DAY	29.8	47.0	10.8	1.6	10.8	3.2	0.5	40.9	34.2	24.9
PARIS1207 NIGHT	31.3	52.8	8.2	0.9	6.8	5.9	1.1	39.8	35.9	24.3
PARIS1307 DAY	31.9	53.0	8.9	0.6	5.5	5.0	1.2	39.8	35.6	24.5
PARIS1707 DAY	31.1	40.2	14.4	1.7	12.7	3.2	0.3	45.1	32.8	22.1
PARIS1707 NIGHT	29.2	45.2	11.1	1.8	12.7	4.9	0.9	38.3	32.0	29.7
PARIS1807 DAY	38.7	46.0	8.8	1.0	5.5	4.3	0.9	40.4	35.5	24.1
PARIS1807 NIGHT	31.2	49.4	8.8	1.4	9.2	5.7	1.2	34.2	32.5	33.4
PARIS1907 DAY	43.6	39.6	11.8	0.3	4.8	10.0	1.2	36.0	34.8	29.3
PARIS1907 NIGHT	33.0	35.8	16.0	1.7	13.6	7.8	0.5	36.7	33.2	30.1

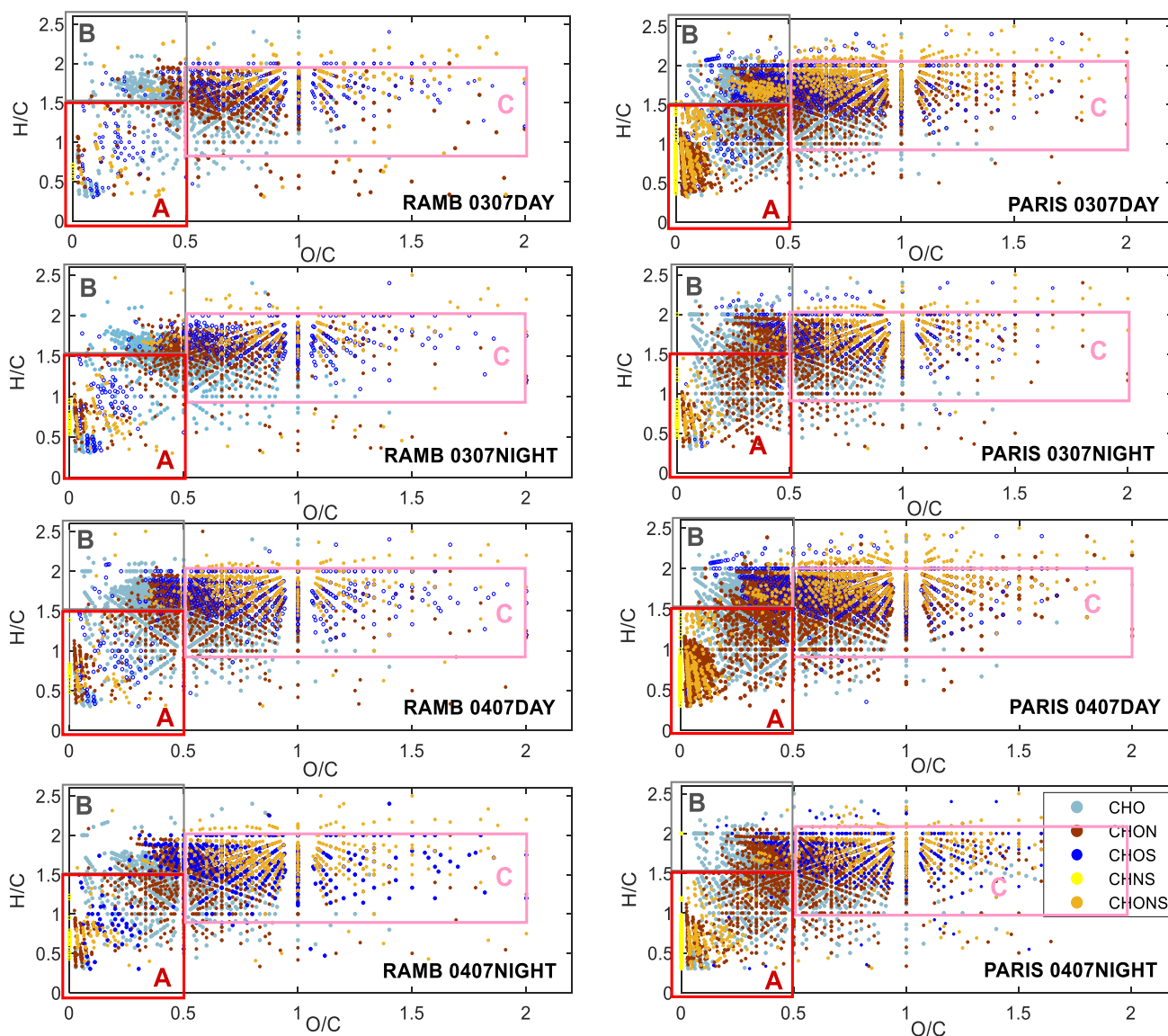
330 ^a Values represent the percentage of different subgroup among the total number of assigned formulae per each sample.
^b Values represent the percentage of different subgroups after classification based on aromaticity equivalent (X_c) following Yassine et al. (2014).



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The fact that similar percentage of molecular classes together with similar OC concentrations are observed in this work shows a similar chemical composition for most of the days for the periods of pollution. This is not observed for the background period in the Rambouillet forest as a lower number of molecular formulae of CHON compounds were observed, as a consequence of the lower influence of anthropogenic emissions.

3.2.1 Elemental ratios



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Figure 4: Van Krevelen diagrams for different compound classes of samples collected during day and the night periods on July 3 and 4 in Rambouillet and Paris during the summer 2022. Region A represents the low oxygenated aromatic hydrocarbon domain, region B the aliphatic domain and region C the more oxidized domain.



Figure S3 shows the visual resemblance of VK diagrams for samples collected for the same days in the urban and the forested areas, with high density of compounds with $O/C < 1$ and $H/C < 2$. Samples from Paris and Rambouillet were influenced by the presence of low oxidation aromatic compounds and higher oxidized molecules. Similarities in the VK for most of the samples and between the sites suggests a general consistency of aerosol sources between different days. Small differences on the density of peaks between samples were observed for July 3 and 4, therefore, their VK diagrams in function of the compound classes are better explored in Figure 4.

Paris samples showed a higher density of low oxygenated aromatic compounds (region A) with main contributions of CHO, CHON and CHONS families, while Rambouillet shows to be less influenced by N containing families in region A during these dates. Similarly, in region C, represented by more oxidized aerosol, the presence of CHONS compounds, especially for day samples, was abundant for the urban area. Besides those samples, both sites showed a similar influence of aromatic compounds, which is better investigated in the following section. Although the complexity of the organic mixtures of samples collected in the field with a wide contribution of different aerosols, some patterns previously observed in the literature may suggest the compatibility of some sources in Figure 4. For example, possible contributions of mono and dicarboxylic acids at the aliphatic domain and soot derived materials or oxidized polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons PAHs in the aromatic domain (Wozniak et al., 2008; Lin et al., 2012), the presence of lipids and fatty acids in aliphatic domain and condensed hydrocarbons observed in plants (Giorio et al., 2015), and influence of fresh and oxidized biogenic emissions (monoterpenes, limonene, isoprene, Δ_3 carene) for more oxidized aerosols (Kourtchev et al., 2015).

3.2.2 Aromaticity Analysis

Due to the similar density of signals falling in the region of low oxygenated aromatic compounds showed in the VK diagrams in the forested area of Rambouillet and the urban area of Paris for samples after July 4 (Fig. S3), the aromaticity equivalent (X_c) of the aerosol samples were calculated following Yassine et al. (2014). They were grouped as unsaturated, aromatic, and condensed aromatic compounds and reported in percentages of the total number of formulae as shown in Table 2. Differences in the number contribution of unsaturated, aromatic, and condensed aromatic compounds were observed in samples from July 3 and 4, where the condensed aromatic compounds at Rambouillet contribute from 15.4% to 23.0% while higher contributions were observed in Paris, 24.3% to 33.2%. An opposite trend was observed between July 12 and 13, where condensed aromatics were more concentrated at Rambouillet than Paris, which had slightly higher contributions of unsaturated compounds. Besides the samples of the beginning of July, strong differences in the aromaticity were not observed in terms of X_c .

Aromatic compounds are mostly observed in areas strongly influenced by traffic emissions in the summer (Kourtchev et al., 2014). The lower number of aromatics observed at Rambouillet samples of July 3 and 4 may reflect in a better way the biogenic nature of emissions observed in a forested area under weak urban influence, also demonstrating the background signature of this period. The difference between these samples and the others is also verified by the cosine differences higher than 0.3, observed in Fig. S4, especially for samples collected during nighttime. These observations, together with the similarities on the OC concentrations and the contribution of CHON compounds observed above, may suggest air masses arrival from urban



areas to this forested environment during the sampling period. A confirmation of inputs of air masses with urban/ industrial contributions from Paris, Brussels and the Ruhr region to the forested area of Rambouillet was recently reported during the ACROSS campaign by Andersen et al. (2024).

3.3 Influence of chemical classes and meteorological parameters on OC concentrations

380 The mean values of meteorological parameters (T and RH), and of anthropogenic pollutants concentrations (O_3 , NO_x , SO_2 and EC) were considered over the sampling period (Table S1) to evaluate their influence on the chemical composition of the OA through correlation analysis. The correlation coefficients (r) observed for Paris and Rambouillet are summarized in Fig. 5. Only statistically significant correlations (i.e. p value < 0.05) with good and moderate linear positive/negative coefficient values are discussed ($-0.40 < r < 0.40$). Figure 5 showed good positive correlations between T and OC concentrations, especially for Rambouillet samples ($r = 0.59$, p -value = 0.03). The temperature may influence OC concentrations, affecting primary and secondary processes such primary OA emissions, precursor emissions (Sheehan and Bowman, 2001), boundary layer height, and circulation patterns (Zhang et al., 2023). These factors may affect daily variations of different compounds and in turn the OC concentration, which is observed here by the different temperature effect on the chemical families. RH was negatively correlated with NO_x ($r = -0.82$, p -value < 0.001) and EC ($r = -0.75$, p -value = 0.003) in Paris. This was not the case for Rambouillet, where NO_x and EC levels were lower and instead only negative correlations with SO_2 ($r = -0.71$, p -value = 0.006) were observed. In the presence of humidity NO_x and SO_2 gases can transition into acidic species, decreasing their concentration and therefore, being negative correlated with RH. The presence of those anthropogenic pollutants can influence the formation of certain compounds as observed for the percentage number of molecular formulae for CHON, which was positively correlated with NO_x concentrations ($r = 0.55$, p -value = 0.005) in Paris samples. NO_x and SO_2 are involved into the formation of CHOS and CHONS compounds. Although, non-statistically significant correlations were observed for those pollutants and the percentage number of molecular formulae for CHOS and CHONS, their influence have been reported (Surratt et al., 2008) and was observed here through the detection of compounds such as the $C_5H_{12}SO_7$ and $C_{10}H_{17}NSO_7$ (Section 3.2).

400 It is important to highlight the different role of RH into the chemical families as a negative correlation was observed with the percentage of number formulae for aromatic compounds in Paris ($r = -0.65$, p -value = 0.01), while the opposite was observed in Rambouillet ($r = 0.68$, p -value = 0.01). Differences were also observed for correlations between the percentage number of molecular formulae for different families for each site. For example, CHO were negative correlated with CHONS ($r = -0.71$, p -value = 0.006) and CHON with CHOS ($r = -0.92$, p -value < 0.001) in Rambouillet. In Paris, aromatics were positively correlated with CHON families ($r = 0.64$, p -value = 0.02) and EC concentrations ($r = 0.65$, p -value = 0.02), which was not the case of Rambouillet. The lack of correlation between EC and aromatics for Rambouillet may suggest the depleted of aromatic compounds. These differences between sites are an indicative of the different processes occurring in each environment. Negative correlations between the percentage number of molecular formulae for CHO and CHONS families highlighted further oxidation processes under the presence of anthropogenic oxidants such as SO_2 and NO_x . Negative correlation between the

percentage number of molecular formulae for CHOS and CHON can indicate competitive reactions for the oxidation of different VOC precursors.

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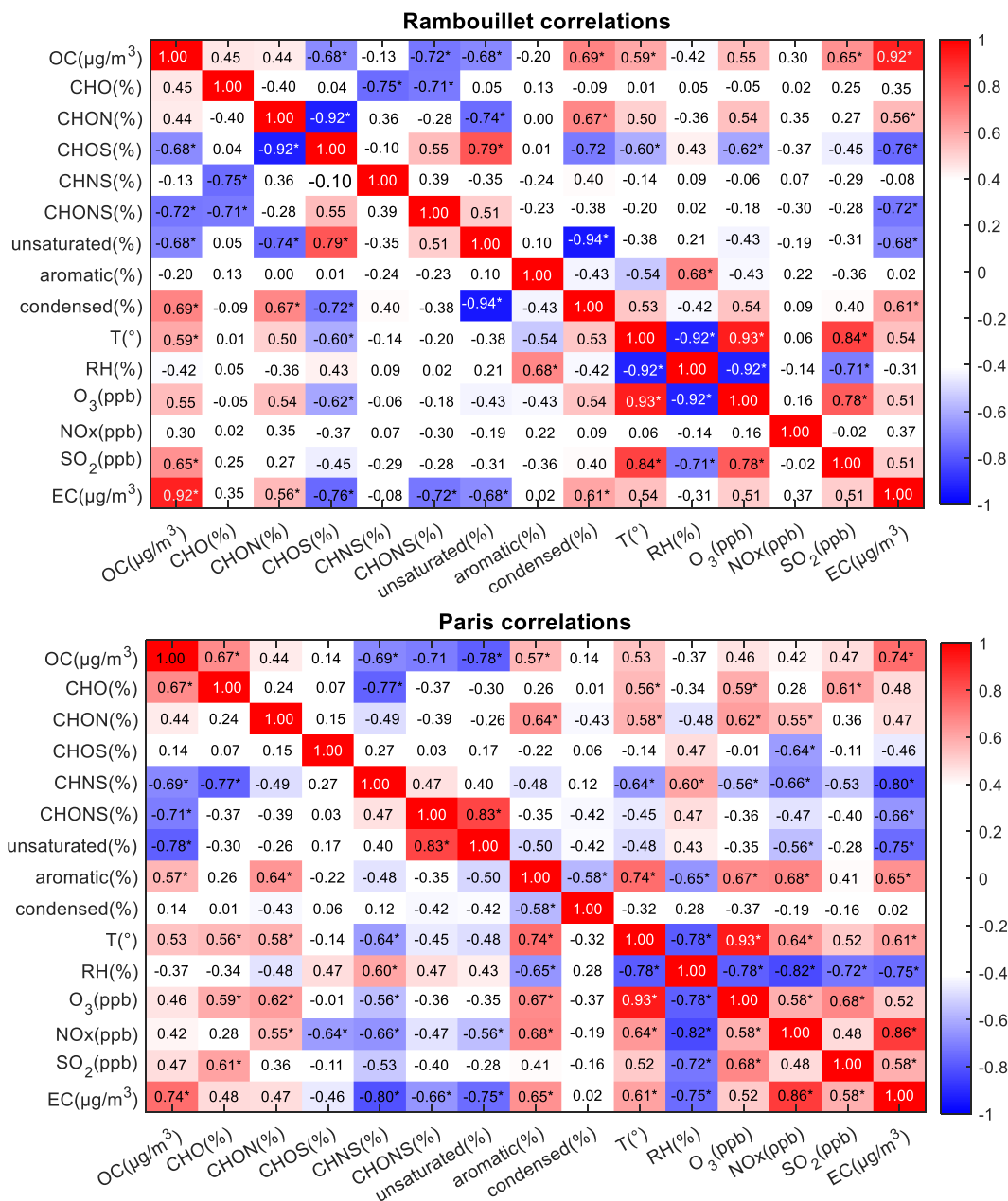


Figure 5: Correlation coefficient matrix for compounds classes (CHO, CHON, CHOS, CHONS and CHONS), meteorological conditions (T and RH), anthropogenic pollutants (O₃, NOx, SO₂ and EC) and OC concentrations observed for Rambouillet (up panel) and Paris (bottom panel). The Pearson correlation coefficients for negative correlation (blue) and positive correlations (red) are presented here. * shows statistically significant (p-value < 0.05) correlation values.

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O₃ may play different roles as photochemistry indicator as for example, good negative correlation with the percentage number of molecular formulae for CHOS ($r = -0.62$, p -value = 0.03) was observed for Rambouillet, while positive correlations were observed for the percentage number of molecular formulae for CHO ($r = 0.59$, p -value < 0.04) and CHON ($r = 0.62$, p -value < 0.02) in Paris. O₃ is an important oxidant for biogenic precursors, but it can also correlate to other day and night oxidants such as OH and NO₃, respectively. The influence of NO_x and O₃ to promote the aerosol formation was also observed at the molecular scale in Fig. S5, for common formulae (577) from different families of compounds at both Paris and Rambouillet. In Fig S5., NO_x concentration is positively correlated with percentage of number formulae for compounds in the low-oxygenated aromatic domain, while O₃ influence the more oxidized region, which seems also positively correlated with the OC concentrations, highlighting the importance of the secondary contribution to OA formation.

4 Comparison of the chemical composition

This work aimed to provide the description of chemical composition of the organic fraction of the aerosol to investigate the differences in PM₁ collected in the urban and forested areas of Paris from day and night measurements during the summer 2022. Lower values of OC together with lower NO_x concentrations observed during the background period highlighted an atmosphere less influenced by anthropogenic inputs in the forested area. For the defined polluted periods, similar aerosol chemical compositions were observed for both urban and forested areas with OC concentration values in agreement with previous studies carried out in the Paris region (Bressi et al., 2013; Lanzafame et al., 2021).

The presence of NO_x, CHON and CHONS species, aromatic and condensed aromatic compounds detected in Rambouillet samples together with the air mass back-trajectories previously reported highlight the impact of urban inputs in forested areas. Similarly, it should also be noted the important density of peaks probably associated to biogenic contributions identified in the Paris center samples (e.g., C₈H₁₂O₄, C₈H₁₂O₆, C₁₀H₁₇NSO₇). As wind directions from north-east and west were observed for Paris during the sampling period, the detection of biogenic compounds may be either influenced by biogenic VOC emissions from natural areas close to the sampling site (e.g., Vincennes and Boulogne forests or urban trees) or by direct biogenic aerosol inputs. This observation is consistent with previous studies showing that biogenic compounds can play an important role during the summer in urban areas (Amarandei et al., 2023; Giorio et al., 2019; Maison et al., 2024).

The five molecular classes (CHO, CHON, CHONS, CHOS, and CHNS) identified in this work may originate from both biogenic and anthropogenic sources, influencing both background and the pollution periods. The different compound classes show a predominance of CHO (>26.8%) and CHON (>26.3%) groups, consistent with reported contributions in the literature: 25.2% and 47.7% in Padua (Italy) (Giorio et al., 2019), 45.2% and 20.9% in Iasi (Romania) (Amarandei et al., 2023), 44% and 21% in Beijing (China) (Wang et al., 2018) while 32% and 35% in Mainz (Germany) (Wang et al., 2018). These similarities suggest the ubiquitous contribution of some aerosols component both from anthropogenic and biogenic origin in urban areas. Although no significant difference was observed for OC concentrations between daytime and nighttime, the higher relative intensity of isomeric compounds such as C₁₀H₁₇NSO₇ (more prominent in the Paris area) highlights the different processes and sources and potential variations of species concentrations during the day. The detection of compounds likely associated to



450 biogenic (e.g. $C_8H_{12}O_4$ and $C_8H_{12}O_6$) (Kristensen et al., 2013, 2014) and anthropogenic (e.g. $C_6H_5NO_4$) (Inuma et al., 2010) oxidation products highlights the importance of understanding urban and rural chemistries at the molecular level to accurately identify aerosol sources. Additionally, $C_3H_{12}SO_7$, $C_{10}H_{17}NSO_7$ and $C_8H_{12}O_5$ compounds, previously observed in environments influenced by urban emissions (Kourtchev et al., 2014; Kourtchev et al., 2016; Giorio et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2022) demonstrates the impact of mixed anthropogenic-biogenic air masses, which can lead for example to the formation of organosulfur compounds. Given that the interactions between different biogenic and anthropogenic components (Rattanavaraha et al., 2016; McFiggans et al., 2019; Shrivastava et al., 2019) have been shown to influence the OA composition and formation efficiency.

460 Similarities found in the particle chemical composition on the samples under study derived from HRMS analysis and the temporal series of OC and O_3 concentrations for the pollution periods highlights a homogeneity (source consistency) in the OA composition for both urban and forested areas of Paris when anthropogenic emissions increases, consistently with previous observations of aerosol composition for urban, suburban and rural Parisian areas (Bressi et al., 2013). These observations show that forested areas can be affected by anthropogenic inputs, influencing the atmospheric chemical composition and therefore their impact on the OA budget and related processes.

5 Conclusions

465 Aerosol filter sampling was performed during the ACROSS intensive campaign at two sites in greater Paris area during the summer 2022 to investigate the chemical composition of the organic fraction of PM_{10} at the molecular scale at two sites representative of urban (Paris) and forested (Rambouillet) environments. The OC concentrations derived in this work were similar for both sampling sites, and in agreement with values previously reported for Paris region, suggesting the influence of the urban inputs in the suburban forested area of Rambouillet. HRMS analysis showed similar patterns of the contributions of anthropogenic and biogenic emissions on both sites for periods of pollution. This was not the case for samples of the background period on July 3 and 4, more representing the local emissions at both sites, i.e. highlighting biogenic contributions at Rambouillet and anthropogenic sources at Paris. This observation was confirmed by statistical analysis, which showed the influence of different process occurring at both sites, together the aromaticity analysis, which shows a higher presence of condensed aromatic compounds in Paris than in Rambouillet with a higher density of peak assignments in the VK diagrams.

475 The high number contribution of CHO and CHON families in both verified the aerosol sources homogeneity for periods of pollution. Additionally, the detection of tracers such as $C_5H_{12}SO_7$ and $C_{10}H_{17}NSO_7$ and $C_6H_5NO_4$ observed at both sites completes this statement, showing the contribution of mixed biogenic emissions and biomass burning sources and highlights the importance of using molecular tracers in the description and quantification of the organic fraction of the aerosol.



Data availability

480 Data presented in this work for the two sampling sites are available at the AERIS (French national center for atmospheric data and services) facility (<https://across.aeris-data.fr/catalogue/>). Data set already available are: OC and EC concentrations for Paris (Pereira et al., 2024a) and Rambouillet (Pereira et al., 2024c), HRMS analysis for Paris (Pereira et al., 2024b) and Rambouillet (Pereira et al., 2024d), meteorological information for Paris (Di Antonio et al., 2023) and Rambouillet (Denjean, 2023).

Author contributions

485 DLP, AG, CG, and PF designed the research. PF, VM, CC, CD, AG, DLP, MC, GN, SC, SA, EA, AB, TB, MC, PC, LDA, SH, JH, CG, OG, BL, OL, CM, FM, BPV, RT, ST, PZ, LW, DP, SR, PMF, EP, PP, EV, AA, OF, RAP, JFD participated in sample collection and/or instruments deployment in the field. DLP, CG, GN, and AZ conducted the filter analysis. DLP, CG, AZ, AG, and PF analyzed the data. DLP drafted the initial manuscript. CG, AZ, AG, PF, PP, EP, JFD and EV reviewed and
490 corrected the manuscript. CG and AZ provided the expertise on the HRMS analysis. CC and VC are the principal investigators of the ACROSS project. All authors made contributions to this work and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Competing interests

C. Cantrell is co-organizer of the special issue “Atmospheric Chemistry of the Suburban Forest – multiplatform observational campaign of the chemistry and physics of mixed urban and biogenic emissions (ACP/AMT inter-journal SI)”. The remaining
495 authors declare no competing interests.

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Special issue statement.

500 This article is part of the special issue “Atmospheric Chemistry of the Suburban Forest – multiplatform observational campaign of the chemistry and physics of mixed urban and biogenic emissions”. It is not associated with a conference.



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