

NH₃ Converts Criegee Intermediates to Nitrogenous Organics

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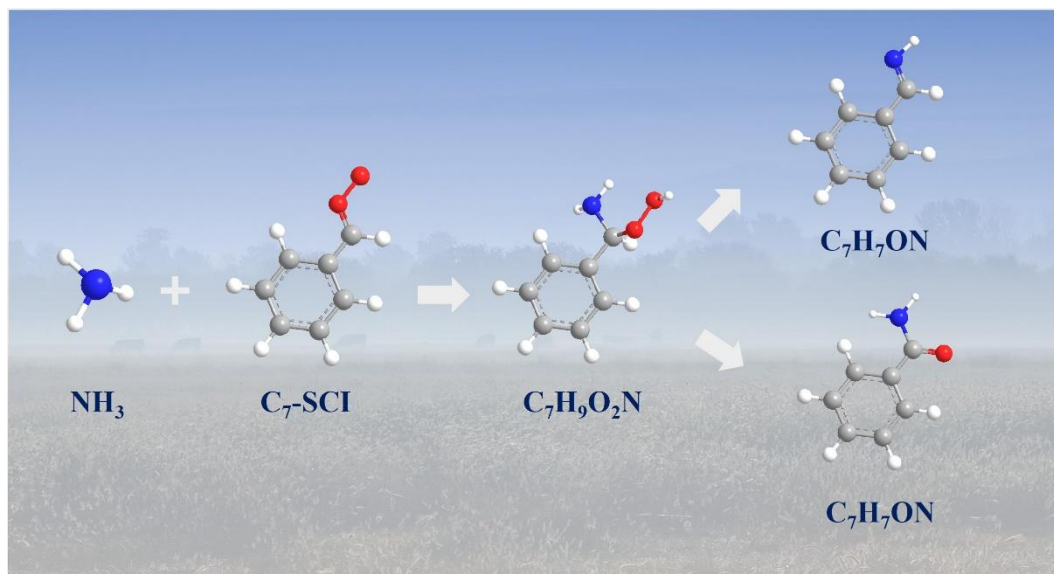
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Abstract graphic



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Abstract. Ammonia (NH₃), the dominant alkaline gas in the atmosphere, plays a critical role in urban air quality, but its molecular-level interactions with organics remain poorly understood. Here, we uncover a hidden chemical pathway: NH₃ efficiently scavenges stable Criegee intermediates (SCI) - critical **zwitterions** in organic aerosol formation. Using high-resolution Orbitrap mass spectrometry, we capture the first real-time evidence of NH₃ reacting with styrene-derived C₇-SCI to form a hazardous peroxide amine (C₇H₉O₂N) while suppressing traditional SCI-driven aerosol components like benzoic acid and oligomers. Due to unstable bond of peroxide in the molecule, C₇H₉O₂N can further decompose into more stable compounds (imine C₇H₇N and amide C₇H₇ON). This study discovered a critical reaction pathway for the formation of organic amines through the reaction of NH₃ and SCI, which not only bridges a critical gap in understanding NH₃'s role in aerosol chemistry
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20 but also exposes a previously overlooked health risk from nitrogen-enriched particulate matter.

1 Introduction

Secondary organic aerosols (SOA) are critical components of atmospheric fine particles, typically formed by the oxidation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Ehn et al., 2014; Hallquist et al., 2009). SOA can significantly impact air quality and climate by scattering and absorbing sunlight, and affect human health due to their ability to reach deep into lungs (Calvin et al., 2023; Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008). Among SOA components, nitrogen-containing organic compounds (NOCs) are of particular importance due to their potential toxicity and role in light absorption (Laskin et al., 2025; Li et al., 2025; Yu et al., 2024c).

Ammonia (NH_3) is the most abundant alkaline gas in the atmosphere and plays a significant role in aerosol chemistry (Behera et al., 2013; Krupa, 2003). Global NH_3 emissions have been increasing in recent years, largely due to agricultural and industrial activities, yet models have not accounted for its potential to influence SOA (Fu et al., 2017; Meng et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2023). NH_3 is known to enhance SOA yields by acid-base reactions (Du et al., 2023; Li et al., 2018; Lv et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2023), and previous studies have focused on NOCs formation via reactions between NH_3 and carbonyl compounds (Laskin et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2021, 2023). **Quantum calculations suggest that NH_3 may influence the SOA formation from styrene through reactions with stable Criegee intermediates (SCIs) (Ma et al., 2018; Banu et al., 2018), and NH_3 and H_2O have a synergic effect on the reaction of C_1 -Criegee intermediate (Chao et al., 2019a,b). The reaction rate between NH_3 and C_1 -Criegee intermediate (CH_2OO) has been determined by theoretical calculations (Jørgensen and Gross, 2009; Misiewicz et al., 2018) and experiments (Liu et al., 2018; Chao et al., 2019; Chhantyal-Pun et al., 2019). Our recent study has shown new laboratory evidence that NH_3 can also react with isoprene-derived SCIs to form NOCs, thereby changing the chemical characteristics of SOA (Li et al., 2024).**

Styrene is an important anthropogenic VOC emitted from industrial processes and vehicle exhaust (Cui et al., 2022; Okada et al., 2012), and is a key precursor to urban SOA (Sun et al., 2016; Wu and Xie, 2018). **The typical atmospheric concentration of styrene varies between urban and industrial areas from 0.06 to 45 ppb (Okada et al., 2012; Cho et al., 2014; Sun et al., 2016; Sheng et al., 2018). Under typical atmospheric conditions, about 30% of styrene may be consumed by O_3 , thus ozone oxidation is an important sink for styrene, especially in areas with high O_3 pollution.** Styrene ozonolysis can generate two types of SCI, namely C_1 -SCI (CH_2OO) and C_7 -SCI ($\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{OO}$) (Tuazon et al., 1993). Our studies have shown that C_1 and C_7 -SCIs play a key role in SOA formation through oligomerization (Tajuelo et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2022). Styrene is a unique aromatic with both aromatics and alkenes properties due to the containing of an aromatic ring and a highly reactive double bond in the molecule. Our recent study revealed that NH_3 can greatly suppress biogenic SOA formation from isoprene by the reaction with SCIs, which can change pathways from oligomerization to the formation of small molecular nitrogenous products (Li et al., 2024). However, it is still unknown whether this mechanism is applicable to all alkenes, especially anthropogenic sources of aromatic hydrocarbons such as styrene.

In this study, we investigate the reactions between NH_3 and styrene-derived products and their role in SOA formation. Combining chamber experiments, molecular-level measurements through Orbitrap-MS, and iodometry kinetic control experiments, we confirm that NH_3 can react with Criegee intermediates to form a peroxide amine ($\text{C}_7\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{N}$) and identify its

55 decomposition products (C_7H_7N and C_7H_7ON). Our results reveal a common pathway in both biogenic and anthropogenic alkene VOCs, where NH_3 can change Criegee intermediates chemistry toward nitrogen-containing products with reactive peroxide, which may enhance aerosol toxicity. This study bridges a critical gap in understanding the role of NH_3 in urban aerosol chemistry and highlights the need to refine SOA predictions in NH_3 -polluted regions.

2 Materials and methods

60 **Experiments and Measurements:** The chamber experiments were conducted in Fluorinated Ethylene Propylene (FEP, 200A, DuPont) reactors under dark conditions, with background air supplied by purified zero air. Styrene was injected into the reactor with zero air using a glass microsyringe, O_3 was produced by an ozone generator with pure O_2 , and NH_3 was directly injected into the reactor. The reactants and their concentration ranges used in the experiment are styrene (0.3~3 ppm), O_3 (1~10 ppm), and NH_3 (0~10 ppm), respectively. Because ozonolysis of styrene can form OH radicals, n-Hexane was used as an OH radical scavenger (>100ppm with a removal efficiency >90%). Detailed experimental conditions are provided in Table S1.

65 To collect particles and determine the SOA yields, experiments 1-5 were conducted in a 1.2 m³ chamber. During these experiments, styrene was measured online using a proton transfer reaction-mass spectrometer (PTR-MS P1000-L-AI, Anhui Province Key Laboratory of Medical Physics and Technology) with a time resolution of 20 s in the gas phase. O_3 was measured every 0.5 hours lasting for 5 minutes with an O_3 analyzer (Model 49C, Thermo Scientific) with a time resolution of 10 s in the gas phase. The particle concentrations and size distributions were determined by a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS, Model 3936, DMA-3080, CPC-3776, TSI) with a time resolution of 5 minutes. The online measurements covered the entire experimental process (4~5h). Particles were collected on a 25 mm polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane with a pore size of 0.45 μm at the 4th hour, and the sample flow rate was 6 L/min and lasted for 40 min. The collected particles were extracted with methanol for composition analysis in the particle phase, which were injected by a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC, Thermo Scientific), ionized by a heated electrospray ionization source (ESI), and then the molecular composition was measured by a high-resolution Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Orbitrap MS, Q-Exactive, Thermo Scientific) with a resolution R= 70,000 at m/z 200. To determine the kinetics and mechanism of the reaction between C_7 -SCI and NH_3 , experiments 6-10 were performed with higher concentrations in a 150 L chamber. During these experiments, the products were online ionized by a gas aerosol in-situ ionization source (GAIS), and then measured by Orbitrap MS in the gas phase. The time resolution of GAIS-Orbitrap MS measurement is about 0.5 s, and all the experiments lasted about 1 h.

70 To detect peroxides in the sample, experiment 11 was conducted in the 1.2 m³ chamber. The collected sample was immediately extracted by 400 μL acetonitrile (ACN) before being injected into HPLC-HRMS. Using ACN as extraction solvent to minimize other unwanted decomposition processes such as hydrolysis. Half of the liquid (180 μL) from the combined extract mixed with 10 μL acetic acid (600 mM in ACN) in a vial, followed by the addition of 10 μL KI (99.5%, Sigma-Aldrich) (400 mM in H₂O) to trigger the iodometry reaction; another 180 μL aliquot was treated in a same way by adding 10 μL acetic acid

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(600 mM in ACN) and 10 μ L H₂O, instead of KI. These two SOA samples are designated as KI-treated and non-treated respectively, which were injected into HPLC-HRMS (Li et al., 2025).

Data Analysis and Toxicity calculation: Raw spectra were processed using Xcalibur (v4.1.31.9, Thermo Scientific). Tandem MS (MS²) was used to determine molecular structures, and Mass Frontier (v7.0.5.9, Thermo Scientific) can simulate potential product ions for molecule with known structure, which were then compared to the MS² spectra of molecular ion species to confirm the final structures of the molecules. Gas-phase reactions were simulated using the Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM v3.3.1, website: <https://mcm.york.ac.uk/MCM>). To evaluate the influence of NH₃-SCI reactions, we added four reactions to the MCM mechanism, including those between NH₃ and C₁-/C₇-SCIs (CH₂OO/PHCHOO) and the subsequent decomposition of C₇H₉O₂N into C₇H₇N and C₇H₇ON. (Bloss et al., 2005; Jenkin et al., 2003; Jia et al., 2023; Jia and Xu, 2021).

The OECD QSAR Toolbox (Version 4.7, <http://qsartoolbox.org>) is used for the calculation of molecular toxicity, and additional details are presented in the supplementary material.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 NH₃ suppresses SOA formation from styrene

As NH₃ concentrations increased, SOA mass yields decreased significantly from (4.9 \pm 0.3) % (0 ppm NH₃) to (1.0 \pm 0.1) % (0.8 ppm NH₃), showing an obvious inhibitory effect (Fig.1a). The observed yields with 0 ppm NH₃ are within the range of those previously reported for styrene ozonolysis under no NH₃ conditions (2.7%~6.5%) (Bracco et al., 2019; Díaz-de-Mera et al., 2017; Yu et al., 2022, 2024b), which demonstrates the rationality of our experiments. A strong negative correlation was observed between NH₃ levels and SOA yields (R²=0.98), confirming significant suppression of SOA by the presence of NH₃. In the styrene-O₃ reaction system, SOA is primarily derived from SCI-related products. As the concentration of NH₃ increases, the SOA concentration decreases linearly. This indicates that the observed reduction of SOA is attributed to the competitive consumption of SCI by NH₃.

MS analysis reveals that NH₃ suppresses SOA formation by affecting oligomerization pathways of styrene-derived SCIs. As shown in Fig.1b, the most significant peaks C₆H₁₄O₉Na⁺ (m/z=253.052), C₅H₁₂O₇Na⁺ (m/z=207.047) and C₁₃H₂₀O₁₁Na⁺ (m/z=375.089) exhibit regular mass differences corresponding to C₁-SCI (CH₂OO, Δ m/z = 46.005) and C₇-SCI (C₇H₆OO, Δ m/z=122.036), consistent with our previous works that the oligomerization of SCIs is the main mechanism for SOA formation from styrene (Yu et al., 2022). These oligomers are significantly reduced by 51% with increasing NH₃ concentrations, which strongly supports the result that NH₃ can inhibit the formation of oligomers from SCIs.

Meanwhile, benzoic acid (C₇H₅O₂⁻, m/z=121.028), as the dominant compound in styrene-ozonolysis system, is significantly suppressed by 51% with increasing NH₃ concentration (Fig.1c), which is consistent with the trend of SOA yield inhibition (50%). Since benzoic acid is mainly formed from the reaction of C₇-SCI with H₂O (Na et al., 2006; Banu et al., 2018), the presence of NH₃ apparently competes with H₂O for SCIs and inhibits the formation of benzoic acid (Fig.1d). In

addition, to maximize the potential of NH_3 and H_2O to compete for $\text{C}_7\text{-SCI}$ under extreme conditions, we further conducted two experiments with low NH_3 /normal humidity vs. high NH_3 /extremely low humidity. The strong suppression on the formation of benzoic acid can be most clearly demonstrated when the concentration of NH_3 is much higher than that of H_2O .

120 Experimental observation show that benzoic acid was suppressed by over 90% under high NH_3 concentration (10 ppm) and low relative humidity (2%) conditions (Fig.1d). The simulation results from MCM show that high concentration NH_3 (10 ppm) can suppress benzoic acid formation over 70% at 2%RH, and 50% inhibition at 17%RH. This inhibition intensifies to 80% when comparing high- NH_3 /2%RH to low- NH_3 /17%RH conditions. The consistency between the results from ESI, GAIS and MCM simulation confirms the role of NH_3 in competitively reacting with $\text{C}_7\text{-SCI}$.

125 Since $\text{C}_7\text{-SCI}$ -derived products (oligomers and benzoic acid) were greatly suppressed with the presence of NH_3 , where did $\text{C}_7\text{-SCIs}$ go? Our previous study on the isoprene-ozonolysis system found that NH_3 can react with SCIs to produce amines, thereby inhibiting the original oligomerization pathway of SCIs and reducing SOA yields(Li et al., 2024). This is consistent with the phenomenon observed in this study and may be due to the same mechanisms, indicating that the reaction between NH_3 and SCIs may be common in alkenes.

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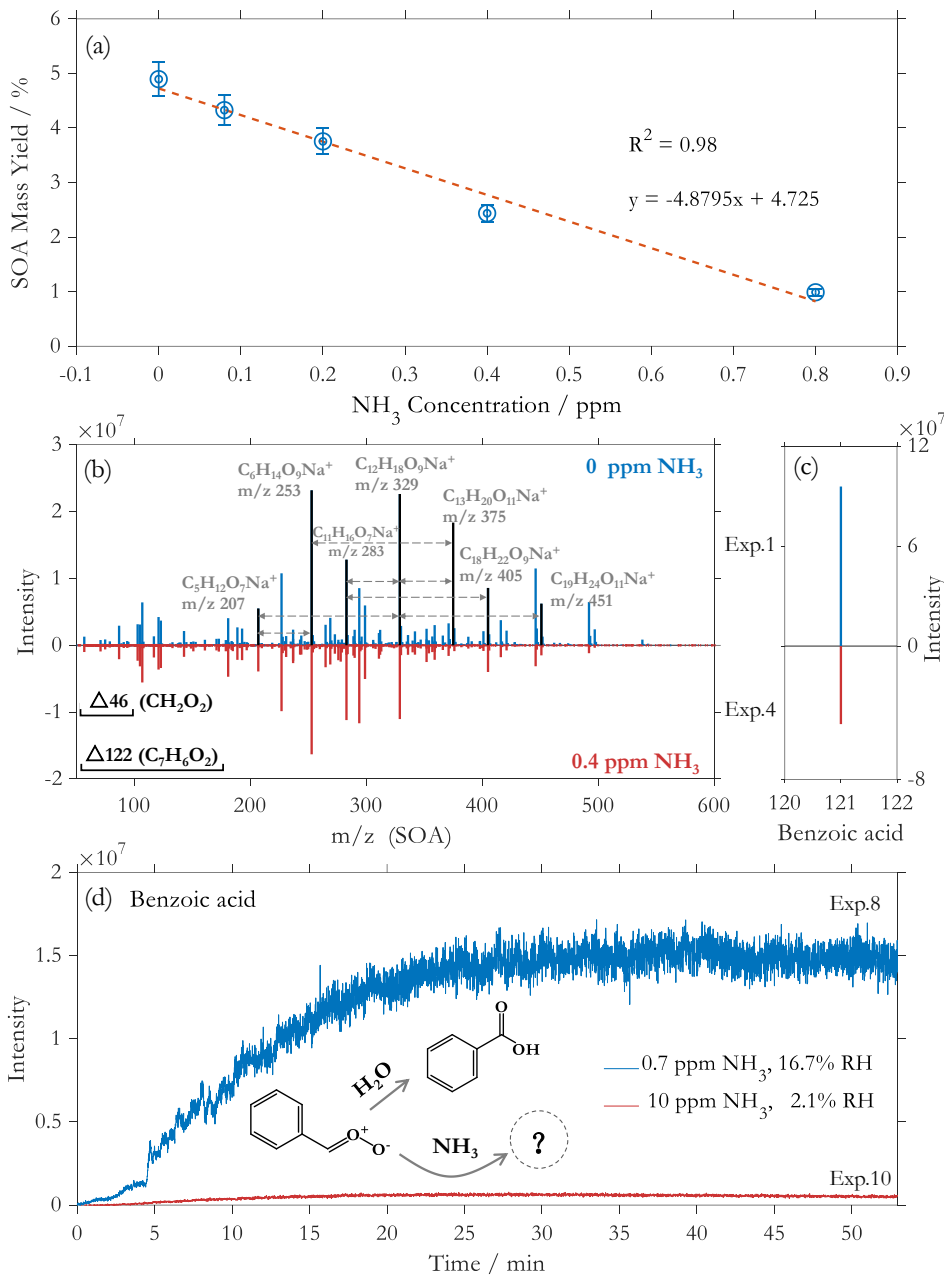


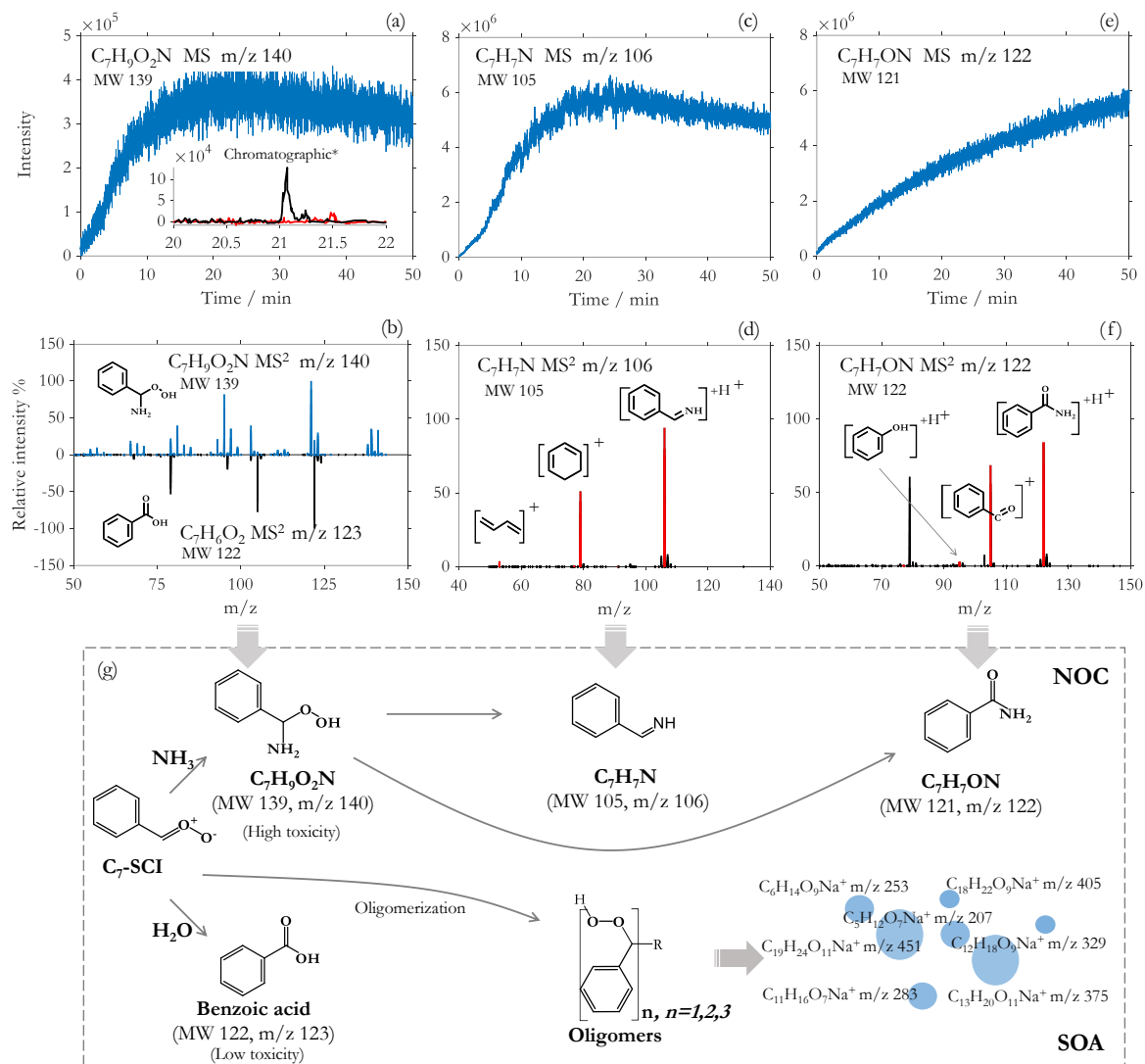
Figure 1: SOA mass yields from styrene ozonolysis under different NH_3 concentrations (a); Positive mode mass spectra of SOA from styrene ozonolysis systems with 0 ppm (blue) and 0.4 ppm NH_3 (red) (b), several top ion peaks assigned to SCI-derived oligomer are marked in black; The mass spectra of benzoic acid from styrene ozonolysis systems with 0 ppm (blue) and 0.4 ppm NH_3 (red) (c); Online observation of benzoic acid in the experiments with low concentration NH_3 with normal humidity (Ex.8, blue) and high concentration NH_3 with low humidity (Ex.10, red) (d).

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3.2 Validation of the reaction pathway between NH₃ and SCI

Referring to the reaction mechanism between C₁-SCI and NH₃ (Jørgensen and Gross, 2009; Misiewicz et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2018; Chao et al., 2019a, b; Chhantyal-Pun et al., 2019), and the reaction mechanism between C₄-SCI and NH₃ from isoprene (Li et al., 2024), C₇-SCI should react with NH₃ to produce a molecule C₇H₉O₂N. Online GAIS-Orbitrap MS measurements identified a nitrogen-containing product at m/z 140.071 with the molecular formula C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺ (Fig.2a), which is in good agreement with the predicted product C₇H₉O₂N. However, it should be noted that the ammonium adduct ion of benzoic acid is also 140, and its molecular formula is the same as C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺ (C₇H₆O₂+NH₄⁺, m/z 140.071). We worried that this might affect the determination of C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺. Therefore, to rule out the potential interference introduced by benzoic acid-ammonium adducts, we first compared the MS² spectra of m/z 140.071 (C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺) and benzoic acid. Since ammonium ions are easily separated, the MS² of the ammonium adduct ion of benzoic acid may be mainly from m/z 123.044 (C₇H₇O₂⁺). Results show that the MS² C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺ (m/z 140.071) is different to the MS² C₇H₇O₂⁺ (m/z 123.044) (Fig.2b). Different MS² spectra confirm that the molecule C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺ is a unique new amine species, rather than an ammonium adduct derived from benzoic acid. We also conducted online observations by introducing NH₃ into pure benzoic acid vapor and found that no signal at m/z 140.071 was detected, thus excluding the possibility of adducts. These prove that (C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺) is not an adduct ion of benzoic acid and NH₄⁺, but a newly generated species.

Based on our previous study on the reaction mechanism between NH₃ and SCI from isoprene, the molecule C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺ (m/z 140.071) should contain a peroxide bond. To determine the presence of peroxide bond in the molecule of C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺, we further conducted iodometry kinetic experiments based on the selective reaction of I⁻ ions with peroxide bonds. The chromatographic results of iodometry kinetic experiments showed that the peak of C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺ appeared at 21.07 min. While in the control sample with added KI, its peak intensity at 21.07 min was suppressed by almost 100% (Fig.2a). This verifies the presence of a peroxide bond in C₇H₁₀O₂N⁺, and meanwhile also confirms the molecular structure of the product from the reaction between C₇-SCI and NH₃.



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Figure 2: Time series of online observation (a) and the chromatograms of molecule $C_7H_9O_2N$ (MW 139, m/z 140.071) are shown as an inset with the initial non-KI-treated sample (black) and KI-treated sample (red). MS² spectra of $C_7H_9O_2N$ (MW 139, m/z 140.071, blue) and $C_7H_6O_2$ (MW 122, m/z 123.044, black) in positive modes (b). Time series of online observation of C_7H_7N and C_7H_7ON (c, e). The comparison of the ion peaks in the MS² spectra of $C_7H_8N^+$ and $C_7H_8ON^+$ (black bars) with the major simulated product ions of C_7H_7N and C_7H_7ON (red bars) (d, f). The mechanism of NH_3 effects on SOA from styrene ozonolysis in this study (g).

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3.3 Fate of the products of NH₃ and SCI

Due to the high reactivity of peroxide bonds, the peroxide amine C₇H₉O₂N is expected to be highly unstable and easily decomposed by removing one H₂O₂ or H₂O (Smith and March, 2020), and may further decompose into imines and amides based on theoretical calculation (Banu et al., 2018; Ma et al., 2018). Online MS measurements detected an imine C₇H₈N⁺ (m/z=106.066) and an amide C₇H₈ON⁺ (m/z=122.060) as the dominant products (Fig.2 c, e). We compared the MS² spectra of C₇H₈N⁺ and C₇H₈ON⁺ with the simulated fragments of C₇H₇N with imine structure and of C₇H₇ON with amide structure from Mass Frontier, respectively. Results show that the MS² spectra of C₇H₈N⁺ and C₇H₈ON⁺ matched well with the simulation results by Mass Frontier (Fig.2 d, f). These results demonstrate that the unstable C₇H₉O₂N further decomposes into C₇H₇N and C₇H₇ON. Previous theoretical study calculated that the reaction between NH₃ and C₇-SCI may produce the products C₇H₇N and C₇H₇ON (Banu et al., 2018; Ma et al., 2018), which further supports our findings.

Accurate quantification of C₇H₉O₂N and its degradation products typically requires the use of standard gases to establish a calibration coefficient between mass spectrometry signal abundance and actual concentration. However, due to the current unavailability of standard materials for C₇H₉O₂N and its products, direct quantification is challenging. Nevertheless, a previous study (Ma et al., 2018) estimated the rate constant for the reaction of C₇-SCI with NH₃ forming C₇H₉O₂N ($1.65 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) via quantum chemical calculations. Based on this rate constant, we added the corresponding reaction into the MCM mechanism. Under Exp.10 experimental conditions, the simulated maximum concentration of C₇H₉O₂N after 50 minutes of reaction was 28 ppb. Since the decomposition of C₇H₉O₂N was not considered in the simulation, this concentration actually represents the total concentration of C₇H₉O₂N and its two decomposition products. To further distinguish the specific concentrations of C₇H₉O₂N and its two decomposition products, it needs to determine their decomposition rate constants. Fortunately, using online GAIS-Orbitrap MS monitoring data on abundance-time evolution, we can obtain the relative proportions among the three species: C₇H₉O₂N (m/z 140): C₇H₇N (m/z 106): C₇H₇ON (m/z 122). Based on this ratio, we introduced two decomposition reactions into the MCM mechanism and adjusted their rate constants so that the simulated concentration ratios matched the experimentally observed values. The corresponding concentrations of C₇H₉O₂N (m/z 140), C₇H₇N (m/z 106) and C₇H₇ON (m/z 122) at the 50th minute were determined to be 23.8 ppb, 1.6 ppb and 2.7 ppb in Exp. 10, with a deviation of $\pm 17\%$. This allowed us to derive the two decomposition rate constants as $(3.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $(5.1 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$. To date, only Banu et al. (2018) have reported theoretical values for the two decomposition rate constants of C₇H₉O₂N, which are $7.02 \times 10^{-16} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $1.22 \times 10^{-13} \text{ s}^{-1}$, respectively. It shows that the experimentally derived decomposition rate constants are approximately eight orders of magnitude higher than the theoretical values, indicating that C₇H₉O₂N is a highly unstable compound. Then, the maximum yields of C₇H₉O₂N, C₇H₇N and C₇H₇ON can be determined to be 8.1%, 3.0%, and 5.1% in styrene-O₃ system under conditions of Exp.10, respectively.

To quantify the expected atmospheric lifetime of C₇H₉O₂N, we have considered 3 primary removal pathways: (1) Reaction with OH radicals, the reaction rate constant between C₇H₉O₂N and OH was estimated to be $4.77 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ using a tool of AOPWIN (Atmospheric Oxidation Program for Microsoft Windows) in EPI (Estimation Program Interface).

200 Using an average OH radical concentration of 1.0×10^6 molecules cm^{-3} , the atmospheric lifetime of $\tau_{\text{OH}} = 5.8$ hours; (2)
Photolysis: Based on the general photolysis rates of peroxides $1.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Roehl et al., 2007), the photolytic lifetime $\tau_{\text{hv}} = 214$
hours; (3) Thermal decomposition: Based on our results, the decomposition rate of $\text{C}_7\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{N}$ is $8.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$, and its self-
decomposition lifetime $\tau_{\text{decomp}} = 3.4$ hours. The total atmospheric lifetime was calculated to be 2.1 hours based on
205 $1/\tau = 1/\tau_{\text{OH}} + 1/\tau_{\text{hv}} + 1/\tau_{\text{decomp}}$. This suggests that $\text{C}_7\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{N}$ predominantly exists in the atmosphere as its more stable transformation
products, namely the imine $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{N}$ and the amide $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{ON}$.

Combining multiple experimental evidence, we propose the following reaction mechanism between NH_3 and styrene-
derived products and their role in SOA formation (Fig.2g). Styrene reacts with O_3 to form $\text{C}_7\text{-SCI}$, which then generates
benzoic acid and forms SOA through oligomerization (Yu et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2025). However, the addition of NH_3 leads
to a competitive reaction between both NH_3 and H_2O with $\text{C}_7\text{-SCI}$, forming an unstable peroxide amine $\text{C}_7\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{N}$, which
210 rapidly further produces more stable imine $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{N}$ and amide $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{ON}$. Furthermore, due to the presence of peroxide bonds
and nitrogen, toxicity calculations show that the toxicity of $\text{C}_7\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{N}$, $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{N}$, and $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{ON}$ (High, class III) is significantly
higher than that of benzoic acid (Low, class I) based on Cramer classification (Cramer et al., 1976).

The reaction pathway between NH_3 and SCI identified in both isoprene and styrene systems indicates a general
mechanism by which NH_3 affects SOA molecular composition across in different olefin VOCs, highlighting the widespread
215 impact of NH_3 on aerosol chemistry, independent of the type of olefins. NH_3 entering aerosols through reaction results in the
generation of NOCs (e.g., amines, imines), which changes aerosol composition and potentially enhances light absorption and
toxicity. (Updyke et al., 2012) NH_3 reduces SOA yields but increases NOC diversity. In recent years, NH_3 emissions have
increased globally, driven by agricultural and industrial activities (Fu et al., 2017; Kuttippurath et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2018;
Meng et al., 2020). Our study suggests that increasing NH_3 levels may suppress SOA from isoprene and styrene, and affect
220 regional aerosol budgets. Further research is needed to determine whether it has an impact on other olefins. Current models
ignore the role of NH_3 in SOA chemistry, and may overestimate the formation of SOA in NH_3 -rich environments. Integrating
the novel NOC formation pathway from NH_3 and SCI into the current model framework is crucial for improving climate and
health predictions of aerosols.

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Code/Data availability

The data that support the results can be found in the appendix of the supplementary material.

230 **Author contribution**

XL conducted experiments, data analysis, and drew graphs. LJ designs research, analyses data, and writes. YX designs, provides ideas, and modifies papers. All the authors participated in writing the paper.

Competing interests

The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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