

1 Supplemental Information for

2 **Gravimetrically Measured Water Content of Filter Sampled Fine Particulate Matter at Low**
3 **Relative Humidity: Insight from the Surface Particulate Matter Network (SPARTAN)**

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73 Table S1. Site and host institutes of the SPARTAN sites used in this study.

Site City	Host Institute	Latitude	Longitude
Abu Dhabi	Masdar Institute	24.44	54.62
Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa University	9.01	38.82
Bandung	Bandung Institute of Technology	-6.89	107.61
Beijing	Tsinghua University	40.00	116.33
Bujumbura	University of Burundi	-3.38	29.38
Delhi	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	28.54	77.19
Dhaka	Dhaka University	23.73	90.40
Fajardo	Cabezas de San Juan Nature Reserve	18.38	-65.62
Haifa	Technion Israel Institute of Technology	32.78	35.02
Halifax	Dalhousie University	44.64	-63.59
Ilorin	Ilorin University	8.48	4.67
Johannesburg	University of Johannesburg	-26.18	28
Kanpur	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	26.51	80.23
Kaohsiung	Kaohsiung Medical University	22.65	120.31
Melbourne	The University of Melbourne	-37.8	144.97
Mexico City	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	19.33	-99.18
Norman	University of Oklahoma	35.18	-97.44
Pasadena	Jet Propulsion Laboratory	34.20	-118.17
Pretoria	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	-25.76	28.28
Rehovot	Weizmann Institute	31.91	34.81
Seoul	Yonsei University	37.56	126.93
Sherbrooke	Sherbrooke University	45.38	-71.93
Taipei	National Taiwan University	25.04	121.50
Ulsan	Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology	35.58	129.19

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75 Supplemental Text S1: Acceptance of new polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) filters

76 Acceptance testing is performed on every box of PTFE filters by measuring the

77 contamination level on a select group of five new filters from the box of 100. The 5 filters

78 are pre-weighed by the Measurement Technology Laboratories AH500 system to

79 confirm the barcodes are legible and the filters have nominal weights between 90 and

80 100 mg. After weighing, we measure each filter using XRF. To be accepted all XRF

81 measurements must be less than the mean plus three times the standard deviation

82 determined from 100 laboratory blank filters selected from multiple boxes for all

83 measured species. After passing XRF, two of the five filters are extracted using

84 procedures defined in section 2.2. We then measure the extract using Ion

85 Chromatography. All species in the extract must be below mean plus 3 times standard

86 deviation determined from 100 laboratory blank filters from multiple boxes. The

87 remaining three unextracted filters are used as lab blanks for measurements at

88 University of California Davis.

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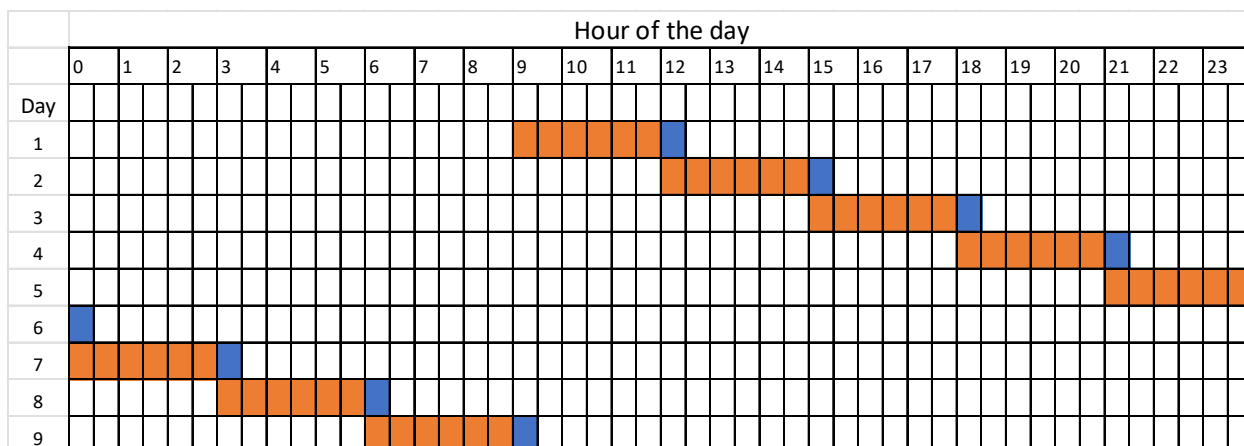
Table S2. The beginning and latest samples along with the protocol used during the sample period. Hours is the number of sampling hours per sample filter.

Site city	Start Date	Latest Date	Protocol	Hours per sample	Notes:
Abu Dhabi	7/27/2020	7/21/2024	SPARTAN	24	
	7/31/2024	9/22/2024	SPARTAN	12	
Addis Ababa	12/7/2022	5/13/2024	MAIA	24	
Bandung	12/31/2019	7/11/2021	SPARTAN	24	
Beijing	3/24/2020	8/27/2022	SPARTAN	24	
	8/30/2022	6/16/2024	MAIA	24	
	6/26/2024	8/18/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Bujumbura	12/9/2022	8/9/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Delhi	3/5/2024	5/13/2024	MAIA	12	
Dhaka	8/11/2020	7/17/2023	SPARTAN	24	Contains period of special protocol ^a
	8/15/2023	6/2/2024	SPARTAN	12	
Fajardo	3/18/2021	2/7/2024	SPARTAN	24	
	2/16/2022	4/11/2023	MAIA	24	
Haifa	2/16/2022	4/11/2023	MAIA	24	
Halifax	1/14/2020	2/12/2024	SPARTAN	48	
Ilorin	6/22/2020	12/1/2021	SPARTAN	24	
Johannesburg	4/10/2022	1/12/2024	MAIA	24	
	1/23/2024	7/26/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Kanpur	7/14/2021	5/24/2022	SPARTAN	24	
Kaohsiung	8/20/2022	1/25/2024	MAIA	24	
	2/21/2024	7/26/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Melbourne	8/9/2022	5/20/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Mexico City	2/26/2021	6/9/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Norman	6/28/2023	3/18/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Pasadena	11/9/2021	8/23/2024	MAIA	24	Contains period of special protocol ^b
	10/22/2020	4/5/2021	SPARTAN	24	
Pretoria	4/15/2021	1/24/2024	MAIA	24	
	5/17/2024	7/1/2024	SPARTAN	24	
	7/2/2020	4/13/2021	SPARTAN	24	
Rehovot	11/5/2021	6/7/2023	MAIA	24	
	9/11/2020	1/8/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Sherbrooke	3/10/2020	8/22/2024	SPARTAN	48	
Taipei	1/27/2022	2/9/2024	MAIA	24	
	2/18/2024	8/4/2024	SPARTAN	24	
Ulsan	10/28/2021	8/22/2024	SPARTAN	24	

91 ^a – this sampling period contains co-located (2 sampling stations), continuous samples from June and
 92 July 2023. ^b – this sampling period contains pseudo co-located (1 sampling station) samples from March
 93 to August 2024.

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97 Figure S1. Example SPARTAN 9-day sampling protocol. A 24-hour diurnal cycle is collected over the course of 9
98 days. Orange represents PM_{2.5} sampling; blue represents PM₁₀ sampling. In this example, a single PM_{2.5} filter is
99 sampled for 24 hours. The PM₁₀ filter is sampled for 4 hours during each of 6 PM_{2.5} filters in a cartridge.

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101 Supplemental Text S2: Fourier Transfer Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy

102 All filter samples were scanned 512 times by an FTIR instrument from 4000 to
103 420 cm⁻¹ in transmission mode. This process began with purging the measurement
104 chamber with dry air without carbon dioxide. The resulting scan was converted to
105 absorbance using the zero-reference signal. The subsequent spectra was then baseline
106 corrected using multiple lab blank filters from the same lot. A calibration model of
107 elemental carbon (EC) and organic carbon (OC) created using 22 IMPROVE sites with
108 parallel measurements of EC and OC using Thermal-Optical-Reflectance (TOR) (Dillner
109 and Takahama, 2015a, b; Reggente et al., 2016) was used to quantify the mass of the
110 EC and OC species.

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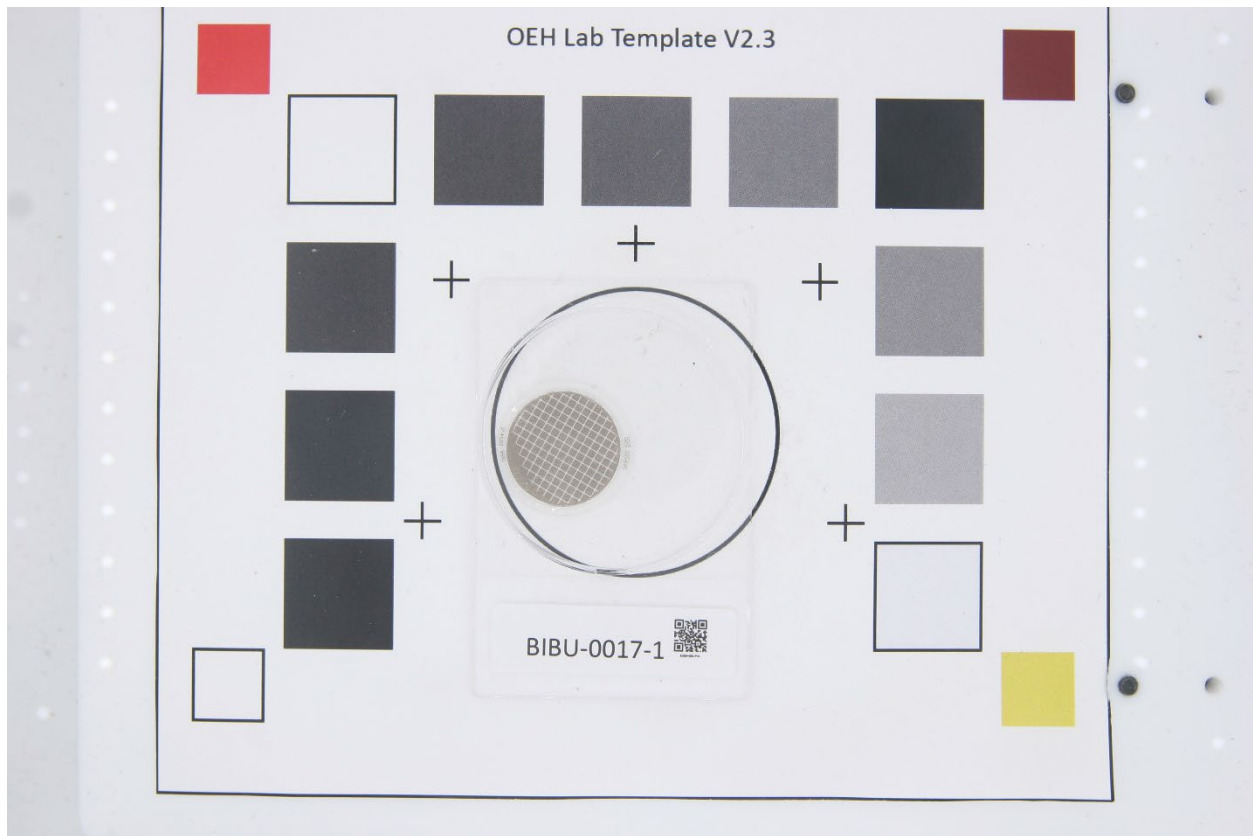
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123 Figure S2. An example individual photograph on the calibrated background as mentioned in Section 2.2. This filter is
124 a member of the 12 filters in the Bujumbura proxy sample.

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126 Supplemental Text S3: UV-Vis spectroscopy

127 All filter samples were scanned with a PerkinElmer LAMBDA 35 UV-Vis
128 spectrophotometer with an integrating sphere installed between two sample holders as
129 described by Zhong and Jang (2011). The transmittance and reflectance were both
130 measured with the sample facing towards the light source. The transmittance was
131 measured by placing the sample in between the light source and the sphere with the
132 downstream sample holder containing a white standard. The reflectance was measured
133 by placing the sample in the downstream sample holder with an empty upstream
134 sample holder. The two measurement values were then placed into an empirical
135 relationship to determine Mass Absorption Cross section (MAC) (Pandey et al., 2019).
136 The empirical relationship was based upon 90 measurements of various aerosols with a
137 Single Scattering Albedos ranging from 0.25 to 0.99.

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139 Supplemental Text S4: Labware cleaning procedures

140 The cleaning process for the scintillation vials began with 24 hours in a bath of
141 1% nitric acid. After 24 hours in the acid bath, the vials were rinsed with deionized water
142 3 times and 1 time with ACS grade methanol. The vials were then lightly tamped on a
143 surface until all standing liquid was removed from the vial. The vial then dried inverted
144 overnight. After drying, the vials were wrapped in aluminum foil and baked in an oven at
145 500 °C for 5 hours. After cooling, the vials were stored for future use. All syringes were
146 cleaned by submersion in ACS grade methanol once, and then by submersion in
147 deionized water 3 times. The syringes were then lightly tamped until all visible water
148 was removed and then left inverted to dry. The syringes were then reassembled and
149 wrapped with aluminum foil until future use. The opaque Nalgene vials were also
150 submerged in methanol once and submerged in deionized water 3 times. They were
151 tamped until all water was removed and placed inverted to dry. The syringe filters are
152 rinsed before use with 8 to 10 ml of deionized water immediately prior to use.

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154 Supplemental Text S5: Choice of linear model for evaporation.

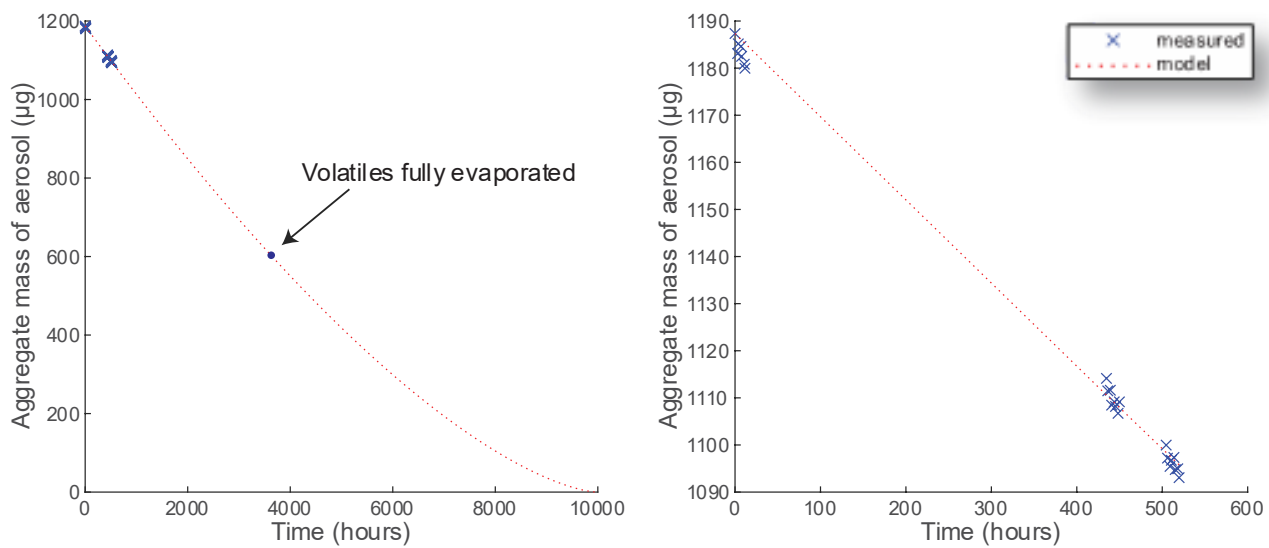
155 Equation S1 describes the evaporation of a single particle.

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$$MFR = \left(1 - \frac{2D}{\rho_p r_p^2} C^* t\right)^{(3/2)} \quad (S1)$$

157 where *MFR* is the mass fraction remaining, *D* is diffusivity of the evaporating species in
158 the gas phase (assumed 10⁻⁵ cm²/s), ρ_p is the particle density (assumed 1.2 g/cm³), *r_p* is
159 the initial radius of the particle (assumed 400 nm), *C** is the mass concentration of the
160 gas phase in equilibrium at the particle surface, and *t* is time.

161 Figure S3 shows the results when Equation S1 is fit to Beijing data, which is the
162 fastest evaporating sample in the study. In the fitting process, *C** was used as the fitted
163 parameter. The resulting *C** value is 2.67 µg/m³, which is similar to other atmospheric
164 aerosols (Donahue et al., 2006). The left panel shows that the evaporation curve is not
165 linear over timescales of thousands of hours. However, the right panel shows that over
166 the time range of the experiment, the evaporation model is approximately linear.

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Figure S3. Equation S1 fit to the Beijing evaporation data. The left panel displays evaporation of the entire particle. However, the volatiles should be fully evaporated by 3629 hours using this model. The right panel highlights the first 600 hours of that evaporation.

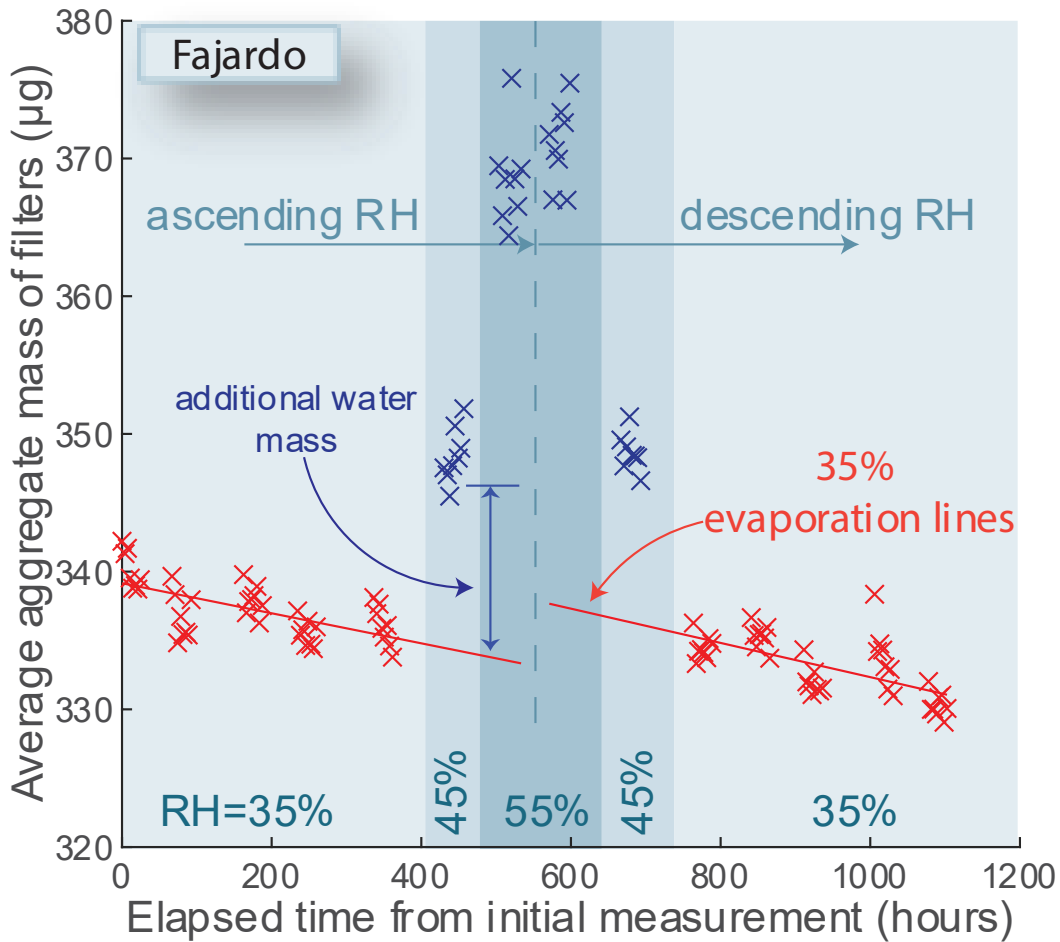
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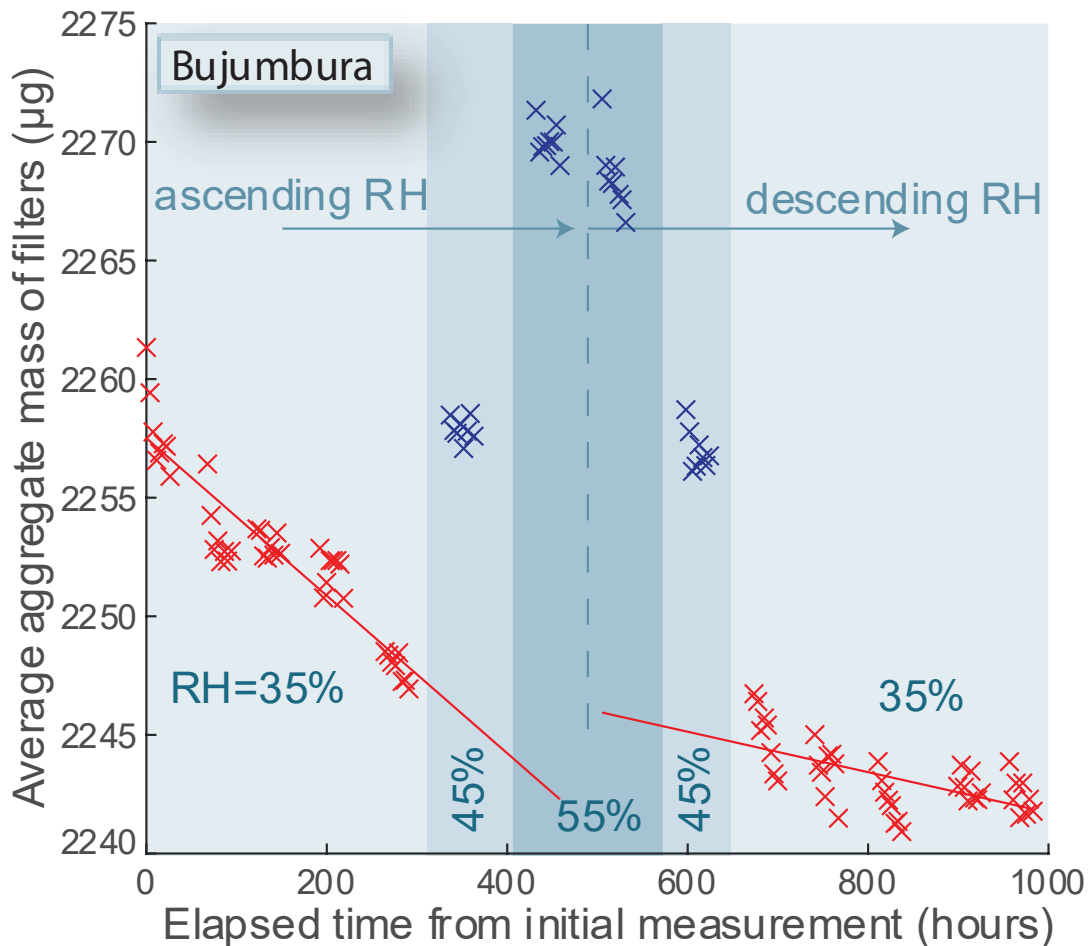
176 Supplemental Figures displaying the raw measurements from the remaining sites
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180 Figure S4. The RH-gravimetric response of filters from Fajardo, Puerto Rico. The red evaporation lines connect the
181 measurements at 35% relative humidity (red X's). The change in water mass is the difference between the mass
182 measurements at elevated relative humidity (blue X's) and the red evaporation line. Shading in the plot represents the
183 different relative humidities in the experiment.

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192 Figure S5. The RH-gravimetric response of filters from Bujumbura, Burundi. The red evaporation lines connect the
 193 measurements at 35% relative humidity (red X's). The change in water mass is the difference between the mass
 194 measurements at elevated relative humidity (blue X's) and the red evaporation line. Shading in the plot represents the
 195 different relative humidities in the experiment.

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198 Supplemental Text S6: Calculation of uncertainty from the original datasets

199 We assumed that two different sources of uncertainty impact the measurements:
 200 subgroup uncertainty (short-term) and group uncertainty (long-term). We characterized
 201 both uncertainties and then used those two uncertainties to deviate the original dataset.
 202 This new faux dataset was used with the original scripts to calculate the variables of
 203 interest.

204 The subgroup uncertainty was calculated using all subgroups in the dataset. The
 205 group average was subtracted from the subgroup to calculate a subgroup deviation

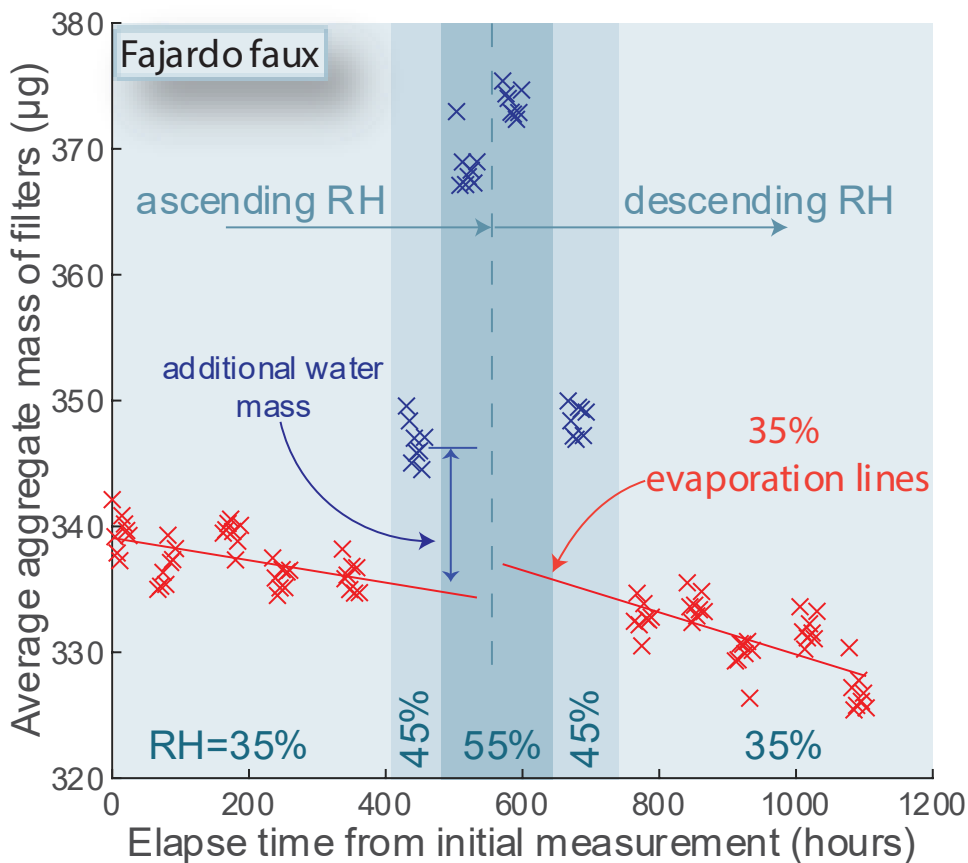
206 (deviation from the group mean). Then each subgroup deviation was placed in temporal
207 measurement order: all first subgroups deviations are grouped together, all second
208 subgroup deviations are grouped together, up to the eighth subgroup creating
209 distributions of all 8 subgroups. Assuming normality, we calculated the average and
210 standard deviation for each of the eight subgroups while excluding outliers.

211 The group uncertainty is calculated using the 35% RH data only. We calculated
212 the deviations between each group average and the fitted 35% evaporation line. This
213 generated a set of group deviations which again is assumed normal. We then calculated
214 the group average and group standard deviation.

215 To generate a new dataset, the group average from the original dataset was
216 calculated (for all RH in the dataset). Then each group average was deviated using the
217 group deviation distribution. Lastly, each subgroup was calculated by deviating the faux
218 group average using the 8 subgroup distributions. This generated a faux dataset. An
219 example is shown in Figure S6.

220 We generated a faux dataset for each of the three proxy samples (Abu Dhabi,
221 Fajardo, and Bujumbura) and then fed them through all scripts to determine the water
222 content for each growth category. We created 10,000 groups of three faux datasets
223 which were used to calculate uncertainty in the water content of each growth category.

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Figure S6. A faux dataset generated from the original Fajardo dataset shown in Figure S5.

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Table S3. Predicted water content at 40% RH using the solved water categories compared to the measurements by McInnes et al. (1996) at the same RH.

Growth Category	This study prediction Mean (95% CI)	McInnes et al. (1996) measurements Mean (Range)
High Growth (NaCl)	20.3% (14.9-30.5%)	26.4% (19.9-32.6%) (lab sea salt)
Med Growth (A-N-S-K)	4.76% (3.72-5.03%)	3.76% (0-8.1%) (ammonium sulfate)

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234 Table S4. Average composition in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of the samples used in the study.

Site	PM _{2.5}	BC	TEO	Dust	Na ⁺	NO ₃ ⁻	NH ₄ ⁺	SO ₄ ²⁻	PBW	Cl ⁻	K ⁺	RM
Abu Dhabi	32.93	2.62	0.14	13.01	0.28	0.10	3.20	13.03	0.74	0.02	0.04	-0.22
Melbourne	4.79	0.52	0.01	0.56	0.13	0.00	0.02	0.64	0.10	0.09	0.00	2.71
Dhaka	37.52	4.61	6.61	6.53	0.10	0.17	0.74	6.08	0.55	0.58	0.41	11.15
Bujumbura	30.67	3.68	0.12	2.06	0.04	0.00	0.17	1.61	0.36	0.01	0.95	21.67
Halifax	3.11	0.23	0.01	0.25	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.50	0.05	0.03	0.01	1.99
Sherbrooke	4.64	0.37	0.01	0.41	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.59	0.06	0.00	0.00	3.09
Beijing	25.49	1.45	0.18	4.37	0.05	4.56	2.19	3.88	0.56	0.03	0.22	8.01
Addis Ababa	21.66	4.71	0.07	5.07	0.01	0.00	0.44	2.07	0.21	0.01	0.21	8.86
Bandung	27.30	3.40	0.19	1.34	0.00	0.00	1.64	5.24	0.46	0.00	0.27	14.75
Haifa	12.85	0.81	0.05	3.30	0.10	0.03	1.31	4.08	0.28	0.03	0.00	2.85
Rehovot	14.21	1.25	0.07	3.73	0.05	0.16	1.21	3.94	0.27	0.02	0.00	3.51
Delhi	55.40	5.98	1.00	9.95	0.38	0.47	2.43	7.95	1.25	2.40	1.86	21.74
Kanpur	43.88	4.24	0.56	10.83	0.14	0.43	1.93	7.84	0.68	0.04	1.09	16.08
Seoul	18.14	1.19	0.11	2.37	0.00	2.03	1.70	2.99	0.36	0.00	0.04	7.36
Ulsan	12.65	0.76	0.13	2.01	0.06	0.62	1.15	2.48	0.25	0.05	0.01	5.13
Mexico City	15.51	2.15	0.08	1.26	0.00	0.00	1.10	3.17	0.26	0.00	0.09	7.40
Ilorin	25.63	3.06	1.01	11.22	0.00	0.00	0.08	1.56	0.19	0.11	0.42	7.99
Fajardo	6.49	0.10	0.01	2.44	0.74	0.00	0.07	0.98	0.34	0.95	0.01	0.85
Kaohsiung	16.91	1.37	0.17	1.84	0.15	1.40	1.34	3.74	0.37	0.01	0.07	6.45
Taipei	8.90	0.84	0.06	1.10	0.05	0.07	0.70	2.47	0.18	0.02	0.02	3.39
Norman	6.20	0.37	0.00	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.73	0.08	0.00	0.00	3.64
Pasadena	6.97	0.42	0.02	0.77	0.04	0.31	0.26	1.04	0.12	0.01	0.02	3.97
Johannesburg	16.75	2.45	0.19	1.30	0.00	0.03	1.16	3.57	0.30	0.01	0.30	7.45
Pretoria	16.97	2.31	0.10	1.65	0.00	0.01	1.26	3.80	0.30	0.00	0.23	7.31
Average	19.40	2.04	0.45	3.69	0.10	0.43	1.02	3.50	0.35	0.18	0.26	7.38

PBW is the calculated water mass at 35% RH. RM indicates residual matter.

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Table S5. Distribution of samples through the seasons along with the average PM_{2.5} concentration.

Site	N	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	PM _{2.5} concentration
Abu Dhabi	93	23	18	32	20	32.93
Melbourne	47	16	16	5	10	4.79
Dhaka	53	0	6	42	5	37.52
Bujumbura	37	12	10	14	1	30.67
Halifax	91	18	14	22	37	3.11
Sherbrooke	61	16	22	16	7	4.64
Beijing	197	38	55	49	55	25.49
Addis Ababa	162	57	51	28	26	21.66
Bandung	14	2	4	8	0	27.30
Haifa	142	29	45	37	31	12.85
Rehovot	162	55	29	37	41	14.21
Delhi	20	0	20	0	0	55.40
Kanpur	15	3	6	5	1	43.88
Seoul	73	20	19	15	19	18.14
Ulsan	96	24	29	24	19	12.65
Mexico City	53	17	20	8	8	15.51
Ilorin	17	6	1	3	7	25.63
Fajardo	54	15	10	13	16	6.49
Kaohsiung	139	47	27	33	32	16.91
Taipei	241	61	50	66	64	8.90
Norman	12	4	2	3	3	6.20
Pasadena	246	70	38	75	63	6.97
Johannesburg	188	40	42	53	53	16.75
Pretoria	230	41	62	67	60	16.97

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DJF – number of samples with stop sampling dates occurring in the months of December, January, and February.
MAM – number of samples with stop sampling dates occurring in the months of March, April, and May. JJA – number of samples with stop sampling dates occurring in the months of June, July, and August. SON – number of samples with stop sampling dates occurring in the months of September, October, and November.

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Table S6. Number of samples (N) obtained from each site along with the date of the first and last sample obtained. The percentage water calculated from the composition for the period and the fraction of water attributable to each growth category are also included.

Site	First sample Date	Latest sample Date	N	High growth category	Middle growth category	Low growth category	Percent water
Abu Dhabi	7/27/2020	9/22/2024	93	0.108	0.882	0.010	2.274
Melbourne	8/9/2022	5/20/2024	47	0.558	0.313	0.129	3.108
Dhaka	8/11/2020	6/2/2024	53	0.267	0.549	0.184	1.535
Bujumbura	12/9/2022	8/9/2024	37	0.073	0.321	0.606	1.182
Halifax	1/14/2020	2/12/2024	91	0.420	0.375	0.205	2.551
Sherbrooke	3/10/2020	8/22/2024	61	0.119	0.509	0.371	1.639
Beijing	3/24/2020	8/18/2024	197	0.060	0.798	0.142	2.165
Addis Ababa	12/7/2022	5/13/2024	162	0.094	0.539	0.367	1.072
Bandung	12/31/2019	7/11/2021	14	0.073	0.615	0.313	1.729
Haifa	2/16/2022	6/17/2023	142	0.167	0.747	0.086	2.346
Rehovot	7/2/2020	6/7/2023	162	0.132	0.757	0.112	2.070
Delhi	3/5/2024	5/13/2024	20	0.395	0.424	0.181	2.189
Kanpur	7/14/2021	5/24/2022	15	0.088	0.672	0.240	1.537
Seoul	9/11/2020	1/8/2024	73	0.039	0.761	0.200	1.995
Ulsan	10/28/2021	8/22/2024	96	0.155	0.666	0.179	2.131
Mexico City	2/26/2021	6/9/2024	53	0.037	0.689	0.274	1.710
Ilorin	6/22/2020	12/1/2021	17	0.215	0.434	0.352	0.851
Fajardo	3/18/2021	2/7/2024	54	0.820	0.162	0.019	5.470
Kaohsiung	8/20/2022	7/26/2024	139	0.162	0.687	0.150	2.350
Taipei	1/27/2022	8/4/2024	241	0.206	0.658	0.136	2.408
Norman	6/28/2023	3/18/2024	12	0.061	0.541	0.398	1.419
Pasadena	11/9/2021	8/23/2024	246	0.234	0.524	0.241	2.110
Johannesburg	4/10/2022	7/26/2024	188	0.057	0.697	0.246	1.785
Pretoria	10/22/2020	7/1/2024	230	0.065	0.703	0.231	1.824
Average				0.192	0.584	0.224	2.060

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