# Carbonaceous Aerosol Characteristics over a *Pinus taeda* plantation

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#### 1 Abstract

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Carbonaceous particles smaller than 2.5 µm aerodynamic diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) were collected 3 4 in July, 2003 over a Loblolly Pine plantation at Duke Forest, NC during the Chemical 5 Emission, Loss, Transformation and Interactions within Canopies (CELTIC) field study. 6 Organic (OC) and elemental (EC) carbon in PM<sub>2.5</sub> ranged from 1.4-6.3 and 0.08-0.41 µg C m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively, and concentrations measured above and below the pine canopy were 7 in good agreement. Ambient OC was lower (< 3  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup>) during cooler periods 8 9 (daytime maximum temperatures  $< 28^{\circ}$ C) and for periods following precipitation events, and was higher (> 3  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup>) during warm humid periods. Radiocarbon analysis 10 indicates that on average 83% (range 78-91%) of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> carbon was derived from 11 contemporary (biogenic VOC and biomass burning) sources. This is higher than previous 12 13 estimates from urban and suburban sites, and in good agreement with recently published 14 data from other rural sites throughout the U.S. The estimates of contemporary  $PM_{2.5}$ 15 carbon may represent a lower limit for this site since the sampler was located above the center of a 30 meter diameter plot fumigated with 200 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> derived from fossil 16 17 carbon sources. However, this effect is likely to be negligible. The regression relationship 18 between OC/EC ratios and percent biogenic carbon in aerosol is very similar to those 19 observed in recent summertime data from Tennessee and Florida. However, our values 20 for both OC/EC and percent biogenic carbon are higher than those observed in the latter 21 studies, likely due to the more rural character of the site. Simple box model estimates 22 indicate that biogenic VOC (BVOC) emissions measured at the site provide sufficient 23 reactive carbon sources to account for the observed levels of aerosol biogenic carbon. 24 The magnitude and temporal pattern in the box model secondary organic aerosol 25 estimates correlate well with the ambient aerosol carbon measurements. The model 26 estimates of the relative contribution of isoprene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene 27 oxidation to  $PM_{2.5}$  carbon are in reasonable agreement with a study recently conducted at 28 a nearby site where aerosol tracers of these compounds were quantitatively analyzed in 29 ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Pinic acid concentrations in the below-canopy PM<sub>2.5</sub> during CELTIC 30 (from another recently published study) similarly suggest a significant contribution of  $\alpha$ -31 pinene oxidation to PM<sub>2.5</sub> carbon. The biomass burning tracers potassium and 32 levoglucosan yielded fire contribution estimates to PM<sub>2.5</sub> consistent with their respective 33 published emission factors. These estimates indicate that biomass burning accounted for 1 to 5% (0.015 to 0.30  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup>) of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> carbon during CELTIC. 34

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Keywords: CELTIC Elemental Carbon, Organic Carbon, Radiocarbon, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Ozone,
 Biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds.

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**Index Terms**: 0315, 0365, 0414, 3307, 0345

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# 41 **1. Introduction**

42 Coniferous forests in the eastern United States emit a wide range of Biogenic Volatile

- 43 Organic Compounds (BVOC), many of which are thought to be precursors to secondary
- 44 organic aerosol (SOA). SOA is a major component (10-70%, Turpin et al. 2000) of fine

particles with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), which is regulated
as a criteria pollutant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). PM<sub>2.5</sub> has
been found to affect visibility, climate (Malm et al., 2004), ecology, and human health
(Samet et al., 2000) and is a persistent air quality problem in many global regions.

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50 Current air quality models appear to over-predict organic carbon in western U.S. aerosol, 51 but substantially underpredict organic aerosol carbon mass in the southeastern U.S. 52 during the summer (Mebust et al., 2003), (Yu et al., 2007). Recent isotopic analyses of 53 ambient aerosols in urban, suburban, and rural/remote environments indicate that 54 biogenic carbon does indeed compose a substantial fraction of the summertime ambient 55 aerosol carbon (Lemire et al. 2002, Lewis et al. 2004, 2006, Bench et al. 2007, Gelencsér 56 et al. 2007, Schichtel et al. 2008, Geron 2009, Szidat et al. 2004, 2009, Takahashi et al. 57 2007). It is important to characterize the sources of this biogenically derived aerosol 58 since it may contribute significantly to ambient particle concentrations and may represent 59 sources that are not amenable to controls in air quality improvement programs (Lewis et 60 al. 2006). Here we present some quantitative characteristics of ambient aerosol carbon 61 over a *Pinus taeda* plantation in North Carolina. Relationships between meteorological 62 conditions, emissions of organic precursors, and organic aerosol concentrations are presented for the CELTIC (Chemical Emission, Loss, Transformation and Interactions 63 within Canopies) experiment during July of 2003. Related CELTIC studies are discussed 64 65 in Bhat et al. (2008), Helmig et al. (2006), Sparks et al. (2008), Stroud et al. (2007) and 66 Turnipseed et al. (2006).

- 67
- 68 **2. Methodology**

## 69 2.1 Site Description

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71 CELTIC was conducted at the Blackwood Division of Duke Forest C-H<sub>2</sub>O Free 72 Atmosphere Carbon Transfer Scheme (FACTS1) Research Site in Orange County, North 73 Carolina (35.98°N, 79.09°W) during July of 2003. FACTS1 (shown in Plate 1) is located 74 between the towns of Chapel Hill (7 km to the south-southeast), Durham (17 km to the 75 northeast), Raleigh (40 km to the southeast) and Burlington (30 km to the northwest). The 76 closest major highway is I-40 (2.4 km to the northeast). FACTS1 is in a Loblolly Pine 77 (*Pinus taeda*) plantation with approximate tree heights of 18 m and tree spacing of 2.0 m 78 x 2.4 m. The forest understory features sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red maple 79 (Acer rubrum), yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), and oak (Quercus) species. The 80 FACTS1 experimental design (Hendrev al 1999. http://cet 81 h2oecology.env.duke.edu/Duke-Face) consists of six free-air CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment (FACE) 82 rings, three of which provide elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and three 83 represent ambient control rings. PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements were performed at control ring 5 at 84 the base of the central 26 m tower, and at  $CO_2$  enriched ring 4 at the top of the tower. The 85 plantation is approximately 330 m x 800 m in dimension with ring 4 having a fetch of 86  $\sim$ 500 m for predominant wind directions from the southwest and ring 5 having a fetch of 87  $\sim 300$  m in the same direction. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> carbon data collected at ring 5 are discussed by 88 (Bhat and Fraser, 2007) and are included here for comparison as well.

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## 90 2.2 Measurement Intensive Period

92  $PM_{25}$  samples were collected from July 10 to August 1, 2003. Midday conditions during 93 the measurement intensive (10:00-14:00 EST) were typically sunny with scattered 94 cumulus clouds. Light to moderate rainfall events occurred on four days as shown in 95 Figure 1. Daytime temperature and relative humidity ranges were 22.4-32°C and 53-73%, 96 respectively. The daytime 30-minute averaged canopy-top photosynthetic photon flux 97 density (PPFD) ranged from 1.321-2.104 mE m<sup>-2</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup>. Nighttime temperatures reached 98 as low as 17°C, and full relative humidity recharge (to 100% RH) was typically achieved 99 for several hours nightly. Winds were predominantly from the south, southwest, and 100 northwest, although during overcast and rainy periods winds were occasionally from the 101 east to northeast. Measurements made with prevailing winds from the northeast to 102 southeast can be influenced I-40 or the Orange County landfill. On the other hand, 103 easterly winds often bring cleaner marine air mass to this region. Three of the 19 samples 104 collected at ring 4 were at least partially influenced by winds from the northeast to 105 southeast. 106

#### 107 2.3 Measurement Description

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Particle sampling at rings 4 and 5 began on July 10, 2003. The ring 4 sampler operated 109 110 over two consecutive 24 hr intervals and then over a 40 hour period during intermittent 111 light rain from July 12 until the morning of July 14. In the meantime the Ring 5 sampler 112 collected PM<sub>2.5</sub> for 14 hours each day from approximately 5:30 AM until 7:30 PM 113 (Eastern Daylight Time). From July 15 until July 24 the samplers at both rings sampled 114 from approximately 5:30 AM until 7:30 PM. PM<sub>2.5</sub> was also sampled during the 115 nighttime periods from approximately 7:30 PM until 5:30 AM at Ring 4. These 116 measurements are summarized in Table 1.

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118 Sample collection at Ring 4 was performed with a Model 310 Universal Air Sampler (MSP, Inc., Minneapolis, MN), which sampled at 285 1 min<sup>-1</sup> using a virtual impactor 119 120 (270/15 flow ratio) to separate the sampled aerosol into a PM<sub>2.5</sub> fraction  $(270 \text{ l min}^{-1})$  and a "coarse" particle fraction (15 l min<sup>-1</sup>) composed mostly of particles larger than 2.5 µm 121 122 aerodynamic diameter. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles deposited within an 81.0-mm diameter area 123 on each 90-mm dia. quartz-fiber filter through use of a special filter holder adapter (MSP 124 part no. HVI-SFH). The PM<sub>2.5</sub> samples were subsequently analyzed in this study. A 125 single integrated coarse PM sample was also analyzed.

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127 Sample collection at Ring 5 was performed using a MSP Hi volume virtual impactor and 128 an Anderson high volume sampler drawing 1100 l min<sup>-1</sup> through an 8" x 10" quartz-fiber 129 filter. Further details on the  $PM_{2.5}$  sample collection and analysis at Ring 5 are given in 130 Bhat and Fraser, (2007).

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All filter handling details (preparation, transport to and from the field, and storage) were described previously (Lewis et al., 2004). Samples of 2003 growth Pinus taeda needles were collected from the central walkup towers in rings 4 and 5. These samples were intended to provide a consistency check of the <sup>14</sup>C content of living material from the local sampling environment in comparison to the Northern Hemisphere atmospheric <sup>14</sup>C level for 2003. Details of the handling and storage of these samples were the same asdescribed previously (Lewis et al., 2004).

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Measurements of OC and EC on 1.4 cm<sup>2</sup> aliquots from the quartz filters were performed using the NIOSH 5040 method of thermo-optical analysis (Birch and Cary, 1996). No samples showed any presence of carbonate, so total carbon (TC) was equivalent to the sum of OC and EC.

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145 A portion of several filter samples and the leaf samples were submitted to the Woods 146 Hole Oceanographic Institute Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (ACMS) facility for <sup>14</sup>C 147 analysis. Prior to sample submission the following sample preparation steps were 148 performed. Upon their receipt from the field the leaf samples were baked at 190°C for 5 149 min to stabilize them with respect to biological decomposition. For the ambient air 150 samples, to decrease the filter blank a 75.7- mm diameter circle was punched from within the aerosol deposit area, and the outer ring was discarded. The ACMS results are reported 151 152 in terms of "percent modern carbon" (pMC) as defined by

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156 157 pMC sample =  $\frac{(14C / 13C) \text{ sample}}{0.95 \text{ x} (14C / 13C) \text{ smm 4990b}} x 100, \qquad [1]$ 

where SRM 4990b is the oxalic acid standard reference material for radiocarbon dating.
The denominator represents the carbon isotopic ratio for wood grown in 1890, defined as
"modern carbon" (Stuiver, 1983).

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162 Aerosol Mass spectrometer (AMS) data was collected at Ring 6 and is described by 163 (Stroud et al., 2007). The AMS measures particles below 1 µm, so direct comparisons 164 with PM<sub>2.5</sub> data are not accurate. Continuous PM<sub>2.5</sub> using denuder-based methods was 165 also collected at Ring 5 (Sparks et al., 2008). Ozone (30 min average) was measured by UV absorption (Thermo-Fisher Model 49C, Franklin, MA) and chemiluminescence at the 166 top of ring 6 (Turnipseed et al. 2006). These data are used in this study to provide 167 168 additional chemical and source information and to determine the impact of airmass origin 169 on the carbonaceous content of  $PM_{2.5}$  collected at Ring 4.

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# 171 **3. Results and Discussion**

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## 173 **3.1 OC and EC measurements**

174 The field blank total carbon filter-load values from Ring 4 were very clean at  $0.06 \pm 0.10$  $\mu$ g cm<sup>-2</sup>, or < 1% of ambient filter sample values. Field blank total carbon values from 175 Ring 5 were  $0.17 + 0.31 \ \mu g \ cm^{-2}$ , or 1-2% of sample values (Bhat and Fraser, 2007). The 176 temporal pattern of observed OC and EC measurements at the two rings for the study 177 178 period are shown in Figure 1. In general, cooler periods (daytime peaks <28°C) following 179 rain showers and lower  $O_3$  levels exhibited OC concentrations below 3  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup>, while OC levels exceeding 3  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup> were associated with warmer, humid periods with no 180 precipitation. The highest observed value of 6.3  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup> was recorded at Ring 4 during a 181

182 nighttime (DOY 198-199 or July 17 PM and July 18 AM) period immediately following 183 the afternoon with the highest observed  $O_3$  (>70 ppb, Figure 1). Organic carbon levels  $(>5 \text{ ug C m}^{-3})$  and sulfate (~3 ug m<sup>-3</sup>) determined by aerosol mass spectrometry (AMS). 184 185 Stroud et al., 2007) were also the highest observed during CELTIC for this nighttime 186 period. A similar nighttime episode occurred on the PM of DOY 201, and AM of DOY 202, although sulfate (2-3  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>) and OC (~4  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup>) levels were somewhat lower. 187 (Surratt et al., 2007) found that  $SO_4^{2-}$  esterification appeared to enhance SOA formation, 188 189 primarily in the presence of acidic seed-aerosol conditions. They report that 190 organosulfates can account for up to 30% of organic aerosol in smog chamber 191 experiments and that the same organosulfate compounds are also found in ambient 192 aerosol in the southeastern U.S. Perhaps sulfate played a role in the SOA formation here 193 as well. Low levels of OC were associated with rainfall events and cleaner air masses, 194 which were lower in  $O_3$  and sulfate. OC levels doubled during a two day stagnation 195 period from DOY 195 to 197 as peak daytime and minimum nighttime temperatures 196 increased. Measurements during similar daytime time periods (>95% overlap) showed 197 good agreement between Ring 4 and Ring 5 for seven daytime periods between DOY 196 and 205. Mean OC and EC concentrations were 3.49 and 0.240 µg C m<sup>-3</sup> and 3.30 and 198  $0.266 \mu \text{g C m}^{-3}$  at Rings 4 and 5 respectively for the seven similar sampling periods at the 199 200 two rings.

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202 Biomass burning in the area during the CELTIC study period was likely low since no 203 wildfires were known to be active in the region. This was verified by monitoring MODIS 204 Fire Products. NC Division of Forestry Statistics. and 205 http://www.arl.noaa.gov/smoke.php. Residential wood combustion and prescribed fire 206 activity are also minimal in the southeastern U.S. during the mid-summer. Levoglucosan, 207 the primary organic marker for biomass burning, was present in all of the Ring 5 aerosol samples at concentrations ranging from 2.66 to 50.11 ng m<sup>-3</sup> (Bhat and Fraser, 2007). The 208 mean levoglucosan concentration was 20.11 ng m<sup>-3</sup>. On five separate days during July-209 August of 2003, (Kleindienst et al., 2007) reported a similar range in levoglucosan 210 concentrations of 16-49 ng m<sup>-3</sup> (mean=35 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) in nearby Research Triangle Park, NC. 211 Kleindienst et al. (2007) used a levoglucosan/biomass burning OC fraction of 0.0795 to 212 213 estimate mean biomass burning contributions to ambient aerosol of 0.2 to 0.3  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup> during July/August, 2003. Using this same ratio we estimate that biomass burning 214 accounted for 0.020-0.450  $\mu$ g C m<sup>-3</sup> during CELTIC, and on average accounts for less 215 216 than 10% of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> during the CELTIC study period. Potassium emission factors from 217 biomass burning sources are similar to levoglucosan factors (Andreae and Merlet, 2001). 218 Potassium concentrations from the Ring 5 aerosol denuder samples were also low (< 0.05219  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>) and vield a range in biomass burning contribution to PM<sub>2.5</sub> similar to that noted 220 above. In the absence of a large biomass burning contribution, the EC sources are likely 221 anthropogenic emissions from mobile sources including diesel exhaust. A negative 222 correlation coefficient (r=-0.66, probability of > r, <0.08) between EC concentration and 223 pMC is consistent with contributions from anthropogenic EC sources.

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- 225 **3.2 Radiocarbon analysis**
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227 The radiocarbon analysis of needles collected at Ring 4 and Ring 5 showed pMC levels 228 of 71.7 and 106.4 respectively. The value exceeding 100% estimated at Ring 5 is due to residual (and declining) atmospheric <sup>14</sup>C from nuclear bomb testing in the 1950s. It is in 229 230 good agreement with similar measurements made on other plant tissues from southern U.S. sites such as Houston, Texas ((Lemire et al., 2002), Nashville, Tennessee (Lewis et 231 232 al. 2004), and Tampa, Florida (Lewis and Stiles, 2006), and with the <sup>14</sup>C content of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in the Northern Hemisphere (Levin and Kromer, 2004). The lower 233 value observed at Ring 4 is due to fumigation of the vegetation in that ring with CO<sub>2</sub> 234 derived from fossil (<sup>14</sup>C depleted) carbon sources. The target CO<sub>2</sub> exposure for the 235 236 fumigated rings is ambient  $CO_2 + 200$  ppm. Assuming a summertime mean background 237 concentration of 370 ppm, the target estimate of pMC derived from Ring 5 of 238 106.4\*(370/570)=69.1 is similar to the measured value of 71.7. A similar comparison of 239 foliage from various species collected over 0.8 km from the site and near the center of 240 Ring 4 in April, 1998 yielded pMC values of 109.65 +0.27(sd) and 74.32 +0.275, respectively (Charles W. Lewis, USEPA, unpublished data). The estimate of pMC 241 242 derived from the remote foliage of 109.65\*(370/570)=71.1 is likewise similar to the 243 measured value of 74.32 in Ring 4. These comparisons indicate that the FACTS1 244 exposure system does appear to be distributing the target CO<sub>2</sub> dose for the center of Ring 245 4

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Nineteen aerosol samples from Ring 4 were analyzed for <sup>14</sup>C content. Blank values 247 248 showed no signs of radiocarbon contamination. pMC values ranged from 82 to 95%. 249 These were adjusted to estimates of fraction of "biogenic carbon" (pBC) as discussed by 250 Lewis et al. (2006) for summertime samples. This accounts for pMC of leaves collected 251 from Ring 5, which exceeded 100% due to atmospheric nuclear weapons testing in the 252 mid-twentieth century. If the aerosol collected at Ring 4 was derived from BVOC 253 precursors emitted from within that ring, one would expect pMC values of approximately 254 70% or less (since some fossil-based anthropogenic contribution is likely based on the 255 presence of EC) as discussed above. The aerosol formed by gas phase BVOC precursors 256 emitted from within Ring 4 (which is fumigated with 200 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> derived from fossil carbon sources depleted in <sup>14</sup>C) likely contributed minimally to aerosol collected 5 meters 257 258 above the canopy there. This is supported by experimental evidence which suggests that 259 aerosol formed from gas phase precursors occurs at time steps on the order of hours 260 (Loescher et al., 2004). In addition, Guenther at al. (2006) estimate that the lifetimes of 261 isoprene and the pinenes due to OH• and O<sub>3</sub> reactions in the summertime southeastern 262 U.S. are on the order of an hour. These reactions initiate the oxidation process which 263 result in SOA formation from these compounds. The sesquiterpene  $\beta$ -caryophyllene 264 reacts more rapidly with  $O_3$  (lifetime of a few minutes), however, sesquiterpene emission 265 rates from *Pinus taeda* are lower than pinene emission rates (Helmig et al. 2006). Given the short transport distances (maximum of 15 m, the radius of the FACTS1 rings), it is 266 unlikely that BVOC (with  $\sim 70\%$  of ambient <sup>14</sup>C content) emitted from the trees within 267 268 ring 4 would have sufficient time to react and form aerosol which would be captured 5 m 269 above the center of ring 4. Finally, pBC in PM<sub>2.5</sub> samples collected by Geron (2009) 5 m 270 above the center of ring 6 from mid-June to mid-August, 2006, (a control or non- $CO_2$ ) 271 fumigated ring) also showed a range (78-91%, mean of 84%), which is nearly identical to

the CELTIC samples. This evidence suggests that BVOC emitted from within Ring 4contributed minimally to aerosol mass and pMC measured above its center.

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275 The resulting pBC ranged from 78 to 91% for this study. These values are somewhat 276 higher than observed in recent studies in the southeastern U.S. Biogenic carbon 277 percentages in summertime samples collected at a forested site in Texas (Lemire et al. 278 2002) ranged from 44 to 77. Samples collected near Nashville, Tennessee ranged from 56 279 to 80 (Lewis et al, 2004), and Lewis et al. (2006) found a range of 52 to 89 near Tampa, 280 Florida during May of 2002. In the latter study, average nighttime biogenic percentages 281 were larger than daytime values by nearly 10%, although no explanation was given for 282 the difference. CELTIC nighttime samples were 3.7% higher than daytime samples for 283 six valid day/night pairs. Higher partitioning of BVOC oxidation products to the aerosol 284 phase during cooler nighttime conditions may be at least partly responsible for the 285 nighttime increase in aerosol mass and percentage of the biogenic component. The range 286 of pBC reported in the CELTIC PM<sub>2.5</sub> samples falls in the middle of the ranges of 287 contemporary C reported from near-urban and remote sites in the U.S. by (Schichtel et 288 al., 2008). Our results are also similar to those reported from National Parks and rural 289 areas (Bench et al., 2007), who concluded that reducing anthropogenic aerosol carbon 290 sources may have little impact on visibility in National Parks.

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## 3.3 Secondary Organic Aerosol Estimates

The OC/EC ratio of ambient  $PM_{2.5}$  samples has been used to estimate the fraction of SOA in PM (Lim and Turpin, 2002; Lewis et al, 2004; Lewis and Stiles, 2006). Assuming that primary emissions of  $PM_{2.5}$  have a characteristic OC/EC ratio for a given airshed (denoted as (OC/EC)<sub>P</sub> below) observed increases above this value are attributed to formation of SOA, which can be estimated as:

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if  $(OC/EC) > (OC/EC)_P$ ,

 $SOA/TC = [1-(OC/EC)_P/(OC/EC)]OC/TC$ 

= 0 if (OC/EC)  $\leq$  (OC/EC)<sub>P</sub>.

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306 Where TC is Total  $PM_{2.5}$  carbon, or OC + EC here. Lewis et al. (2004) consider 307  $(OC/EC)_P$  values of approximately 2 to 5. We calculate SOA/TC values ranging from 308 0.50-0.87 for an (OC/EC)<sub>P</sub> of 5, and a range of 0.80-0.95 for an (OC/EC)<sub>P</sub> value of 2. The 309 ranges were nearly identical for the above (Ring 4) and below (Ring 5) canopy PM<sub>2.5</sub> 310 samples. Recent observations using a semi-continuous OC/EC analyzer (Sunset Laboratories, Hillsborough, NC, 27278) at this site suggest that under cool (<5°C) 311 312 conditions not influenced by local biomass burning, OC/EC values often fall between 1 313 and 3 (Geron, 2009). This suggests that  $(OC/EC)_P$  values closer to 2 may be more 314 appropriate for the CELTIC site.

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Lewis et al. (2004) and Lewis and Stiles (2006) used the relationship between OC/EC ratios and "percent biogenic carbon" to derive additional information on the origin (fossil-fuel-derived vs contemporary carbon) of SOA. They derived a weightedregression function of the form

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321 OC/EC =  $-19.3 \pm 8.6 + (0.42 \pm 0.15)$ pBC near Nashville, TN, and

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323 OC/EC =  $-10.1 \pm 3.0 + (0.25 \pm 0.05)$ pBC near Tampa, FL 324

where pBC is percent biogenic carbon. The OC/EC ratios and pBC estimates in the current study are higher, but relationships are very similar:

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328 OC/EC =  $-20.4 \pm 16.9 + (0.44 \pm 0.19)$ pBC,

- 330 The regression is not weighted since heteroskedasticity in OC/EC regression residuals 331 was not apparent in scatter plots (Figure 2). This may be due to the narrow range of pBC 332 observed in this dataset. However, three samples were removed from the analysis which 333 experienced rainfall during collection. These samples had highly variable or low OC 334 which is expected, since the scavenging of OC by precipitation is more efficient than that 335 of EC (Jaffe et al., 2005). The similarity in regression parameter estimates suggests that 336 the relative biogenic contributions to EC/OC and SOA between the North Carolina, 337 Tennessee, and Florida sites are very similar (Figure 2). Combined with the <sup>14</sup>C results, 338 this suggests that SOA is predominantly of biogenic origin in these areas.
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#### 340 **3.4 Biogenic VOC contribution to SOA formation**

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342 It is useful to compare estimates of biogenic SOA formation based on BVOC emission 343 algorithms and experimentally derived aerosol yields with the organic aerosol 344 measurements. To facilitate this comparison, we use a simple one dimensional box model 345 where mixing height is estimated for this site and study period (Juang et al., 2007). O<sub>3</sub> 346 reactions are assumed to control the fate of mono- and sesquiterpenes, while OH is the 347 predominant reactant with isoprene (Claeys et al. 2004 and references therein). Sesquiterpene emissions of 0.45  $\mu$ g C g(needle dry weight)<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> at 30°C are taken from 348 349 (Helmig et al., 2006) and are assumed to be composed of 66% β-caryophyllene with the 350 balance composed of  $\beta$ -farnescene, bergomotene, and  $\alpha$ -humulene. The  $\beta$  factor is 0.15 and represents a stronger temperature response that that for the monoterpenes. A 351 monoterpene emission factor of 0.90  $\mu$ g C g(needle dry weight)<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> at 30°C is used here. 352 353 This rate falls between the emission rates observed at this site by Helmig et al. (2006). 354 and previous emission rates observed for loblolly pine (Guenther et al., 1994). Typically, total monoterpene emission factors of 2 to 3  $\mu$ g C g (needle dry weight)<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> at 30°C are 355 356 used in current BVOC models for Pinus species (Geron et al., 1994). Humidity effects on 357 monoterpene emission rates are also estimated (Schade et al., 1999), and are assumed to 358 impact sesquiterpene emissions in a similar manner. Although aerosol yields from 359 isoprene oxidation by the OH radical are thought to be only about 2% (Claeys et al., 360 2004), isoprene dominates regional BVOC emissions and resulting aerosol products are 361 significant (Kleindienst et al., 2007). A county level isoprene emitting biomass density of 80 g m<sup>-2</sup> (Geron et al., 2006) is used in the emission model of (Guenther et al., 2006), and 362

a monoterpene/sesquiterpene (primarily pine) emitting biomass of 175 g m<sup>-2</sup> is used.
 This model includes PPFD and leaf temperature driving algorithms of isoprene and
 monoterpene emissions (Guenther et al., 1993).

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367 Aerosol yields from  $O_3$  reaction rates with mono- and sesquiterpenes are set to 8 and 40% 368 respectively (Griffin et al., 1999). We also examined the possible effects of acid catalysis 369 on aerosol yield enhancement as discussed by (Kleindienst et al., 2006). We allowed 370 aerosol vield of isoprene and monoterpene ( $\alpha$ -pinene) to increase with increasing SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> as shown in Figures 3 and 4 of that study. The impacts of relative humidity on aerosol 371 372 formation are also modeled as described by (Jonsson et al., 2006). A fine particle 373 deposition velocity (V<sub>D</sub>) to coniferous forest canopies was used (Gallagher et al., 1997). 374 These estimates vary as a function of particle size and friction velocity, with smaller 375 particles depositing at lower velocities. Gas phase deposition velocities were also set to 0.1 cm s<sup>-1</sup> and were allowed to increase up to ~ 0.4 cm s<sup>-1</sup>, with increasing PPFD to 376 account for the effects of stomatal aperture. Particle and organic gas washout was 377 378 proportional to the duration of precipitation events during each sampling period as 379 described by Loescher et al. (2004). Since the atmospheric lifetime of organic particles in 380 the 0.1-2.5 µm range have a lifetime on the order of days in the absence of precipitation, 381 we assume that the concentration is uniform throughout the mixed layer. This has been 382 observed by Loescher et al (2004).

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384 Figure 3 shows that the simple box model of biogenic SOA produces a temporal pattern 385 very similar to the biogenic SOA pattern observed there. Measurements and model 386 estimates increase during precipitation-free periods and decrease with precipitation 387 events and winds from the north to northeast. The highest OC concentration (and model 388 underprediction) was observed during nighttime hours between DOY 198 and 199. This 389 also coincides with the highest NO<sub>Y</sub> values ( $\sim 25$  ppb) observed during the study (Sparks 390 et al., 2008). Nighttime nitrate radical reactions with BVOC are not included in the box 391 model estimates, but may contribute to ambient aerosol during the study. However, 392 during most of the study,  $NO_Y$  concentrations were less than 5 ppb. The uncertainties 393 associated with the box model estimates (including BVOC emissions) are at least +/-394 50%. In addition, the ambient SOA measurements are also likely impacted by positive 395 and negative biases associated with semi-volatile gas adsorption onto the filters and re-396 volatilization of particulate matter under sampling pressure, respectively (Subramanian et 397 al., 2004). The positive bias is thought to be approximately 20% and negative bias on the 398 order of 10%, although samples collected during this study were collected under higher 399 vacuum than the studies for which these estimates were derived, suggesting that the 400 negative bias may be larger in this study (Subramanian et al. 2004). The MSP sampler 401 performance also changed slightly but systematically through each run, resulting in 2-5% 402 overestimates of sample volume. We did not attempt to correct aerosol concentrations for 403 this small source of negative bias. Considering these uncertainties, the level of agreement 404 between the box model and measurements of modern carbon are encouraging. Model 405 estimates explain nearly 70% of observed variation and exhibit low bias (Figure 4). 406

# 407 3.5 Comparison of model estimates of BVOC SOA contributions with Marker 408 analysis.

409 410 The box model estimates suggest that 90%, 6% and 4% of the biogenic SOA results from 411 oxidation of isoprene, monoterpenes, and sesquiterpenes, respectively. Kleindienst et al. 412 (2007) used an organic tracer-based method to estimate the contributions of BVOC, 413 biomass burning, and toluene to PM<sub>2.5</sub> OC collected approximately 20 km east of the 414 CELTIC site. CELTIC was conducted between their June 23 and July 28 sample 415 collection dates. On these two days, their source apportionment estimates based on tracer 416 concentrations indicate that approximately 60%, 27% and 13% of the biogenic SOA 417 results from oxidation of isoprene, monoterpenes, and sesquiterpenes, respectively. Bhat 418 and Fraser (2007) report pinic acid concentrations  $(1.5 - 25.1 \text{ ng m}^{-3})$  similar to that reported (6.5 – 19.4 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) by Kleindienst et al. (2007), suggesting that  $\alpha$ -pinene 419 420 contributed similarly to SOA at each site. It is interesting to note that Bhat and Fraser 421 report pinonic acid concentrations that were 40% higher than CELTIC pinic acid concentrations, while Kleindienst et al. (2007) report wintertime concentrations of 422 423 pinonic acid lower than their pinic acid concentrations, and pinonic acid concentrations 424 below detection limits in the summer. This could be due to use of a carbon fiber denuder 425 upstream of quartz sample filters by Kleindienst et al. (2007). Pinic acid vapor pressure is 426 at least 2 orders of magnitude lower than that of pinonic acid (Bhat and Fraser, 2007), 427 and it is possible that latter is lost to the denuder in the gas phase.

428

429 Kleindienst et al. (2007) report that overall mean 2003 summertime (July-August) 430 estimates of BVOC derived SOA were somewhat more evenly distributed among isoprene, monoterpene, and sesquiterpene derivatives, although isoprene oxidation 431 432 accounted for most of the BVOC derived SOA. These authors cite uncertainties in their 433 tracer ratios of 25-50%, and also show that other OC from unidentified sources accounts 434 for 25-30% of the summertime  $PM_{2.5}$  OC. It should also be noted that the July-August 435 samples of Kleindienst et al. (2007) were collected on five highly polluted days, and that 436 there are no sampling dates common to CELTIC and the former study. It should be noted 437 that higher monoterpene (Guenther et al., 1994) and sesquiterpene (Duhl et al., 2008) 438 emission rates and aerosol yields (Czoschke and Jang, 2006) than those used in the box 439 model have been reported. Higher values for these variables would result in better 440 agreement with marker-derived estimates. Given these caveats and uncertainties in the 441 box model and tracer-based source allocation, the differences described here are not surprising. In fact, the agreement between the two methods in ranking the BVOC species 442 443 contribution to SOA carbon is encouraging.

444

# 445 **4. Conclusions**

446 Radiocarbon results and EC/OC relationships with SOA yield results similar to those 447 presented for other southeastern U.S. sites and suggest that regionally, the organic 448 fraction of PM<sub>2.5</sub> is dominated by SOA of biogenic origin. The modern SOA 449 concentration observed during CELTIC exceeds total SOA estimates from air quality 450 model simulations (Yu et al., 2007) by a factor of 2 to 5. The BVOC emissions from local 451 to regional sources are shown to provide sufficient reactive carbon precursors for this 452 SOA. Simple box model estimates of OC concentrations from BVOC oxidation are in 453 good agreement with the magnitude and temporal variation in the observations. Model 454 yields for SOA from isoprene, monoterpenes, and sesquiterpenes compare reasonably 455 well with local tracer analyses. When considering that the organic matter to organic 456 carbon ratio of these aerosols can range from 1.4-2.5 (Turpin and Lim, 2001) and 457 (Kleindienst et al., 2007) the SOA levels presented here and at similar sites likely account 458 for the bulk of the summertime SOA in the southeastern U.S. This should be taken into 459 consideration in PM<sub>2.5</sub> regulatory and research programs.

460

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- 606 607

**Table 1.** PM<sub>2.5</sub> total carbon concentration, organic to elemental carbon ratio, organic

610 carbon concentration, elemental carbon concentration, and biogenic percentage (pBC) for

611 total PM <sub>2.5</sub> carbon during July 2003 The yellow highlighted pairs denote samples taken

during same approximate time periods at Rings 4 and 5. The Ring 5 data are from Bhat

and Fraser (2007) and are collected below the pine canopy at ambient  $CO_2$ 

614 concentrations. The gray highlighted samples indicate nighttime and early morning

615 samples taken at Ring 4 above the pine canopy where  $CO_2$  concentrations are ambient + 616 200 ppm.

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017										
618	Date	DOY	Ring	Start	Duration	TC	OC/EC	OC	EC	pBC
619				Time	(h)	$(\mu g m^{-3})$		$(\mu g m^{-3})$	$(\mu g m^{-3})$	
620	July 10	191.229	5	0530	14.94	3.56	16.8	3.36	0.20	
621		191.646	4	1530	24.00	2.18	14.4	2.04	0.14	
622	July 11	192.229	5	0530	14.38	2.65	15.6	2.49	0.16	
623		192.646	4	1530	24.17	2.44	17.2	2.31	0.13	
624	July 12	193.229	5	0530	15.28	3.14	16.4	2.96	0.18	
625		193.674	4	1610	40.25	2.18	18.2	2.07	0.11	86.7
626	July 13	194.229	5	0530	14.97	3.07	37.4	2.99	0.08	
627	July 14	195.372	4	0855	20.33	2.67	10.2	2.43	0.24	79.0
628	July 15	196.219	4	0515	15.12	3.20	12.7	2.97	0.23	<mark>82.9</mark>
629		196.229	5	0530	14.68	2.93	11.7	2.70	0.23	
630		196.849	4	2022	8.97	3.56	18.7	3.38	0.18	85.7
631	July 16	197.229	5	0530	14.29	3.96	13.7	3.69	0.27	
632		197.245	4	0552	14.07	4.52	15.8	4.25	0.27	81.9
633		197.813	4	1930	24.00	3.68	16.8	3.47	0.21	78.1
634	July 17	198.816	4	1935	9.78	6.66	18.3	6.32	0.34	79.1
635	July 18	199.229	5	0530	14.69	4.71	10.5	4.30	0.41	
636	5	199.245	4	0552	24.07	3.53	13.6	3.29	0.24	81.0
637	July 19	200.229	5	0530	13.95	3.33	12.9	3.09	0.24	
638		200.233	4	0535	14.42	3.41	11.9	3.15	0.26	83.8
639		200.840	4	2010	9.33	3.66	13.0	3.40	0.26	87.6
640	July 20	201.229	5	0530	14.60	4.32	12.5	4.00	0.32	
641		201.233	4	0535	14.08	4.61	20.7	4.40	0.21	84.8
642		201 823	4	1945	9.83	4 85	22.8	4 65	0.20	90.5
643	July 21	202 229	5	0530	14 70	4 65	12.3	4 30	0.35	,
644	<i>vy</i> = 1	202.236	4	0540	14 33	4 69	19.7	4 46	0.23	857
645		202.837	4	2005	9.45	4.42	17.8	4 18	0.23	89.6
646	July 22	203 229	5	0530	27.42	2.83	14.7	2.65	0.18	07.0
647	baly 22	203 233	4	0535	26.17	2.85	15.6	2.00	0.10	88.6
648	July 23	203.233	5	0530	10.85	2.33	13.3	2.12	0.16	00.0
649	<i>oury</i> 25	204 326	4	0750	12.17	1 71	44	1 39	0.32	84 7
650		201.520	4	2005	9.92	2.04	11.7	1.89	0.52	89.5
651	July 24	204.037	- -	0530	14.37	2.04	10.0	2 70	0.10	07.5
652	July 24	205.229	4	0605	13.42	2.97	14.7	2.70	0.19	78.1
653		205.255	4	1035	12.42	4.22	1/1.5	3.05	0.17	70.1
654	July 25	205.810	4	1955	12.25	7.22	10.8	2.63	0.27	77.1
655	July 23	200.701	4 1	1043	47.07 101 10	2.07	10.0	2.03	0.24	•
656	$\int u y 20$	209.338	4	1515	104.42	5.54 1.76	11./ 7.6	5.00 1.56	0.20	•
030	Aug I	213.033	4	1313	330.23	1./0	/.0	1.30	0.20	•
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# 666 Figure Captions

667

Plate 1. An aerial view of the FACTS1 site (http://face.env.duke.edu/description.cfm).
The FACE rings are marked with circles. Ring 4 is in the upper third of the image. The
squares indicate the location of the satellite fertilization study plots. Colors denote
treatment. Note that CELTIC was performed before nutrient treatments were added to the
plots.

673

Figure 1. Organic (OC) and Elemental (EC) carbon concentrations during the CELTIC
Study. Also shown are above canopy air temperature (°C), Photosynthetic photon flux

- density (PPFD, mE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>), precipitation (cm), relative humidity (RH/100), and  $O_3$
- 677 mixing ratio (ppb v/v).
- 678

679 Figure 2. OC/EC vs estimates of percent Biogenic Carbon (pBC). Black line is the fit to

680 the CELTIC data described in text, regression is significant at  $\alpha$ =0.05 level. Middle gray 681 line is relationship derived from the Nashville, TN data of Lewis et al. (2004). Bottom

682 gray line is relationship derived from the Tampa, FL data of Lewis and Stiles (2006).

683

Figure 3. Box model estimates of BVOC derived SOA compared with biogenic SOA
 measured at Ring 4. The length of the bars indicates the duration of ambient aerosol

686 sampling periods. Black bars indicate nighttime measurements. Green vertical bars687 indicate precipitation events.

688

689 Figure 4. Scatterplot of biogenic organic carbon in aerosol determined from filter samples

- 690 collected at Ring 4 vs box models estimates of biogenic SOA.  $R^2=0.69$ , slope =0.80
- 691 (P<0.0001), intercept =0.66 (P=0.133), Standard error of estimate = 0.58.









