



- 1 Biogenic volatile organic compound ambient mixing ratios and emission rates
- 2 in the Alaskan Arctic tundra
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10 Abstract

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11 Rapid Arctic warming, a lengthening growing season, and increasing abundance of biogenic volatile 12 organic compounds (BVOC)-emitting shrubs are all anticipated to increase atmospheric BVOCs in the 13 Arctic atmosphere, with implications for atmospheric oxidation processes and climate feedbacks. 14 Quantifying these changes requires an accurate understanding of the underlying processes driving BVOC 15 emissions in the Arctic. While boreal ecosystems have been widely studied, little attention has been paid to 16 Arctic tundra environments. Here, we report terpenoid (isoprene, monoterpenes, and sesquiterpenes) 17 ambient mixing ratios and emission rates from key dominant vegetation species at Toolik Field Station 18 (TFS; 68°38'N, 149°36'W) in northern Alaska during two back-to-back field campaigns (summers 2018 19 and 2019) covering the entire growing season. Isoprene ambient mixing ratios observed at TFS fell within 20 the range of values reported in the Eurasian taiga (0-500 pptv), while monoterpene and sesquiterpene 21 ambient mixing ratios were respectively close to and below the instrumental quantification limit (~2 pptv). 22 We further quantified the temperature dependence of isoprene emissions from local vegetation including 23 Salix spp. (a known isoprene emitter), and compared the results to predictions from the Model of Emissions 24 of Gases and Aerosols from Nature version 2.1 (MEGAN2.1). Our observations suggest a 180-215% 25 emission increase in response to a 3-4°C warming. The MEGAN2.1 temperature algorithm exhibits a close 26 fit with observations for enclosure temperatures below 30°C. Above 30°C, MEGAN2.1 predicts an isoprene 27 emission plateau that is not observed in the enclosure flux measurements at TFS. More studies are needed 28 to better constrain the warming response of isoprene and other BVOCs for a wide range of Arctic species.





1. Introduction

30 As a major source of reactive carbon to the atmosphere, biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) emitted from vegetation play a significant role in global carbon and oxidation cycles 31 (Fehsenfeld et al., 1992). Global emission estimates of BVOCs are in the range of 700-1100 TgC 32 33 per year, ~70-80% of which corresponds to terpenoid species: isoprene, monoterpenes (MT), and sesquiterpenes (SQT) (Guenther et al., 1995, 2006; Sindelarova et al., 2014). Despite their 34 35 relatively short atmospheric lifetimes (1 hour to 1 day for terpenoids), BVOCs affect climate 36 through their effects on the hydroxyl radical (OH, which dictates the lifetime of atmospheric 37 methane), tropospheric ozone (O₃, a key greenhouse gas), and aerosols (which influence radiative scattering) (Arneth et al., 2010; Fuentes et al., 2000; Peñuelas and Staudt, 2010). The oxidation of 38 39 those BVOCs also drives the formation of secondary organic aerosols (SOA) through both gas-40 and aqueous-phase mechanisms (Carlton et al., 2009; Lim et al., 2005). The potential for increased 41 SOA formation, expected to result in climate cooling (Kulmala et al., 2004), complicates the climate feedbacks of BVOC emissions (Tsigaridis and Kanakidou, 2007; Unger, 2014). 42 43 Global models of BVOC emissions assume minimal emissions from the Arctic due to low leaf 44 area index and relatively cold temperatures (Guenther et al., 2006; Sindelarova et al., 2014). 45 However, this assumption relies on few observations and has been increasingly challenged by field 46 data (Tang et al., 2016). Recent measurements have revealed significant BVOC emissions from 47 Arctic tundra and vegetation, including Sphagnum mosses, wetland sedges, and dwarf shrubs (Ekberg et al., 2009, 2011; Faubert et al., 2010; Holst et al., 2010; Lindfors et al., 2000; Potosnak 48 49 et al., 2013; Rinnan et al., 2011; Schollert et al., 2014; Tiiva et al., 2008). These results are of importance because BVOC emissions are expected to increase in the Arctic due to climate 50 51 warming and associated vegetation and land cover change (Faubert et al., 2010; Potosnak et al., 52 2013; Rinnan et al., 2011; Tiiva et al., 2008). Long-term field warming studies have shown strong increases in BVOC emissions from shrub heath (Michelsen et al., 2012; Tiiva et al., 2008). 53 54 Furthermore, the temperature dependence of Arctic BVOC fluxes appears to be significantly 55 greater than for tropical and subtropical ecosystems (Holst et al., 2010; Rinnan et al., 2014), with 56 up to 2-fold increases in MT emissions and 5-fold increases in SQT emissions by subarctic heath for a 2°C warming (Valolahti et al., 2015). Similarly, Kramshøj et al. (2016) and Lindwall et al. 57 58 (2016) examined the response of BVOC emissions to an experimental 3-4°C warming and reported





- a 260-280% increase in total emissions. Together, the above results emphasize the strong temperature sensitivity of BVOC emissions from Arctic ecosystems.
- Changing BVOC emissions in the Arctic due to climate and land cover shifts can thus be expected 61 62 to perturb to the overall oxidative chemistry of the region, and to further affect climate through 63 various feedback mechanisms. Quantifying these changes requires an accurate understanding of the underlying processes driving BVOC emissions in the Arctic. While BVOC ambient mixing 64 65 ratios and emission rates have been studied in boreal ecosystems, less attention has been paid to Arctic tundra environments (Lindwall et al., 2015). Here, we report BVOC ambient mixing ratios 66 67 and emission rates at Toolik Field Station (TFS) in the Alaskan Arctic. This study builds on the previous isoprene study at TFS by Potosnak et al. (2013), while also providing a major step forward 68 69 from that work. In particular, we present the first continuous summertime record of ambient 70 BVOCs (including isoprene and MT) and their first-generation oxidation products in the Arctic 71 tundra environment. We further compare the observed temperature dependence of isoprene 72 emissions with predictions from the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature 73 version 2.1 (MEGAN2.1), a widely used modeling framework for estimating ecosystem-74 atmosphere BVOC fluxes (Guenther et al., 2012). Due to increasing shrub prevalence across northern Alaska (Berner et al., 2018; Tape et al., 2006), as well as the Eurasian (Macias-Fauria et 75 76 al., 2012) and Russian Arctic (Forbes et al., 2010), the results of this study have significance to 77 tundra ecosystems across a vast region of the Arctic.

2. Material and Methods

2.1 Study site

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This study was carried out at TFS, a Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site located in the tundra on the north flanks of the Brooks Range in northern Alaska (68°38'N, 149°36'W; see Fig.1). Vegetation speciation and dynamics, and their changes over time, have been well documented at the site. *Betula* (birch) and *Salix* (willow) are the most common deciduous shrubs (Kade et al., 2012). Common plant species include *Betula nana* (dwarf birch), a major player in ongoing Arctic greening (Hollesen et al., 2015; Sistla et al., 2013), *Rhododendron tomentosum* (formerly *Ledum palustre*; Labrador tea); Vaccinium vitis-idaea (lowbush cranberry), *Eriophorum vaginatum* (cotton grass), *Sphagnum angustifolium* (peat moss), *Alectoria ochroleuca* (witches hair lichen), and many other perennial species of Carex, mosses, and lichens. Vegetation cover at





- 89 this site is classified as tussock tundra (see Fig.1), which is the most common vegetation type in
- 90 the northern foothills of the Brooks Range (Elmendorf et al., 2012; Kade et al., 2012; Shaver and
- 91 Chapin, 1991; Survey, 2012; Walker et al., 1994).
- 92 Emission measurements and atmospheric sampling were conducted from a weatherproof
- 93 instrument shelter located ~350 m to the west of TFS (see Fig.S.I.1). Winds at TFS are
- 94 predominantly from the southerly and northerly sectors (Toolik Field Station Environmental Data
- 95 Center, 2019), minimizing any influence from camp emissions at the site. Two field campaigns
- 96 were carried out: the first from mid-July to mid-August 2018, and the second from mid-May to
- 97 the end of June 2019. These two back-to-back campaigns cover the entire growing season (Sullivan
- 98 et al., 2007).

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2.2 Ambient online measurements of BVOCs and their oxidation products

2.2.1 Gas chromatography and mass spectrometry with flame ionization detector (GC-MS/FID)

An automated GC-MS/FID system was deployed for continuous measurements of atmospheric BVOCs at ~2-hour time resolution during the 2018 and 2019 field campaigns. In addition, the system was operated remotely following the 2018 campaign (through September 15th) to collect background values at the beginning of autumn. Air was pulled continuously from an inlet on a 4 m meteorological tower located approximately 30 m from the instrument shelter (Van Dam et al., 2013). Air passed through a sodium thiosulfate-coated O₃ scrubber for selective O₃ removal – to prevent sampling losses and artifacts for reactive BVOCs (Helmig, 1997; Pollmann et al., 2005) – and through a moisture trap to dry the air to a dew point of -30°C. Analytes were concentrated on a Peltier-cooled (-40°C) multistage adsorbent trap. Analysis was accomplished by thermal desorption and injection for cryogen free GC using a DB-1 column ($60 \text{ m} \times 320 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \times 5 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$) and helium as carrier gas. The oven temperature was set to 40°C for 6 minutes, then increased to 260°C at 20°C/min, and held isothermally at 260°C for 13 minutes. The column flow was split between an FID and a MS for simultaneous quantification and identification. Blanks and calibration standards were regularly injected from a manifold. Isoprene (m/z 67 and 68), methacrolein (MACR) and methylvinylketone (MVK) (m/241, 55, and 70), MT (m/268, 93, 121, and 136), and SQT (m/z 204, 91, 93, 119, and 69) were identified and quantified using the MS in selected ionmonitoring mode (SIM). The response to isoprene was calibrated using a primary gas standard



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supplied by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), certified as containing 4.01±0.09 ppb of isoprene in a nitrogen matrix. The analytical uncertainty for isoprene was estimated at 16 % based on the certified uncertainty of the standard and on the repeatability of standard analysis throughout the campaigns, Instrument responses for MACR, MVK, α-pinene, and acetonitrile were calibrated with multi-component standards containing 1007 ppb MACR, 971 ppb MVK, 967 ppb α-pinene, and 1016 ppb acetonitrile (Apel-Riemer Environmental Inc., Miami, FL, USA) dynamically diluted into a stream of ultra-zero grade air to ~3 ppb. Quantification of other terpenoid compounds was based on GC peak area (FID response) plus relative response factors using the effective carbon number concept (Faiola et al., 2012; Scanlon and Willis, 1985). The limit of quantification (LOQ) was ~2 pptv (pmol/mol by volume). In order to monitor and correct for long-term trends in the detection system, including detector drift and decreasing performance of the adsorbent trap, we used peak areas for long-lived chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that were monitored in the air samples together with the BVOCs as an internal reference standard. The atmospheric trace gases CCl₃F (CFC-11) and CCl₂FCCl₂F₂ (CFC-113) are ideal in this regard because they are ubiquitous in the atmosphere and exhibit little spatial and temporal variability (Karbiwnyk et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2000).

2.2.2 Proton-Transfer-Reaction Time-of-Flight Mass-Spectrometry (PTR-ToF-MS)

During the summer 2019 campaign, isoprene mixing ratios in ambient air were also measured by PTR-ToF-MS (model 4000, Ionicon Analytik GmbH, Innsbruck, Austria). The sample inlet was located on the 4 m meteorological tower, right next to the GC-MS/FID inlet. In brief, ambient air was continuously pulled through the PTR-ToF-MS drift-tube, where VOCs with proton affinities higher than that of water (>165.2 kcal/mol) were ionized via proton-transfer reaction with primary H₃O⁺ ions, then subsequently separated and detected by a time-of-flight mass spectrometer (with a mass resolving power up to 4000). At TFS, the PTR-ToF-MS measured ions from 17–400 *m/z* every 2 minutes. Ambient air was drawn to the instrument at 10–15 L/min via ~30 m of 1/4" O.D. PFA tubing maintained at ~55°C, and then subsampled by the instrument through ~100 cm of 1/16" O.D. PEEK tubing maintained at 60°C. The residence time from the inlet on the 4 m meteorological tower to the drift-tube was less than 5 seconds. Instrument backgrounds were quantified approximately every 5 hours for 20 minutes during the campaign by measuring VOC-free air generated by passing ambient air through a heated catalytic converter (375 °C, platinum





bead, 1 % wt. Pt, Sigma Aldrich). Calibrations were typically performed every 4 days via dynamic dilution of certified gas standard mixtures containing 25 distinct VOCs including isoprene (Apel-Riemer Environmental Inc., Miami, FL, USA). Here, we report isoprene mixing ratios to intercompare with GC-MS measurements; other species will be reported in future work. The measurement uncertainty for isoprene is ~25%, which includes uncertainties in the gas standards, calibration method, and data processing.

2.2.3 Instrument inter-comparison

Figure S.I.2 shows a comparison of the GC-MS and PTR-ToF-MS isoprene mixing ratios in ambient air. With a correlation coefficient of 0.93 and a linear regression slope of 0.7-1.0, the two measurements agreed within their combined measurement uncertainties, in line with earlier intercomparison studies (e.g., Dunne et al., 2018; de Gouw et al., 2003). Similarly, we found a correlation coefficient of 0.96 between GC-MS and PTR-ToF-MS MVK+MACR mixing ratios (not shown). The good agreement between these two independent techniques gives us confidence that the ambient air results presented here are robust.

2.3 Ambient air vertical profiles

Vertical isoprene mixing ratio profiles were obtained using a 12-foot diameter SkyDoc tethered balloon. A total of eight vertical profiles were performed at ~3-hour intervals between 12:30 pm Alaska Standard Time (AST) on June 15, 2019 and 11:00 am AST on June 16, 2019. Sampling packages were connected to the tether line such that resulting sampling heights were ~30, ~100, ~170, and ~240 m above ground level. One identical sampling package was deployed at the surface. Each sampling package contained an adsorbent cartridge for sample collection (see below) connected to a downstream battery-powered SKC pocket pump controlled using a mechanical relay, a programmable Arduino, and a real-time Clock. Once the balloon reached its apex (~250-300 m a.g.l.), the five pumps were activated simultaneously and samples collected for 30 minutes. At the end of the 30-min sampling period, the balloon was brought back down. The adsorbent cartridges were prepared in house using glass tubing (89 mm long × 6.4 mm outer diameter, 4.8 mm inner diameter), and loaded with Tenax-GR and Carboxen 1016 adsorbents (270 mg of each), following established practice (Ortega and Helmig, 2008 and references therein). An inlet ozone scrubber was installed on each cartridge to prevent BVOC sampling losses. Field blanks were collected by opening a cartridge (with no pumped airflow) during each balloon flight. Following



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collection, samples were stored in the dark at ~4°C until chemical analysis. Samples were analyzed at the University of Colorado Boulder following the method described in S.I. Section 1. Our previous inter-comparison of this cartridge-GC-MS/FID method with independent and concurrent PTR-MS observations showed that the two measurements agree to within their combined uncertainties at ~25% (Hu et al., 2015). Meteorological conditions were monitored and recorded during each balloon flight with a radiosonde (Met1, Grant Pass, OR, USA) attached to the tethered line just below the balloon.

2.4 BVOC emission rates

2.4.1 Dynamic enclosure measurements

We used dynamic enclosure systems operated at low residence time to quantify vegetative BVOC emissions following the procedure described by Ortega et al. (2008) and Ortega and Helmig (2008). Two types of enclosures were used: branch and surface chambers. For branch enclosures, a Tedlar® bag (Jensen Inert Products, Coral Springs, FL) was sealed around the trunk side of a branch. For surface enclosures, the bag was placed around a circular Teflon® base (25 cm wide × 16 cm height; see Fig. 2). For both branch and surface enclosures, the bag was connected to a purge-air line and a sampling line, and positioned around the vegetation minimizing contact with foliage. While purging the enclosure (see Section 2.4.3), the vegetation was allowed to acclimate for 24 hours before BVOC sampling began. Samples were collected from the enclosure air, concentrated onto solid-adsorbent cartridges (see Section 2.3) with an automated sampler, and analyzed in-laboratory at the University of Colorado Boulder following the campaign (see S.I. Section 1). Temperature and relative humidity were recorded inside and outside the enclosure (see Fig. 2; S-THB-M002 sensors, Onset HOBO, Bourne, MA, USA) with a data logger (H21-USB, Onset HOBO, Bourne, MA, USA). Additionally, photosynthetically active radiation (400-700 nm; S-LIA-M003, Onset HOBO, Bourne, MA, USA) was measured inside the enclosure. Once installed, enclosures were operated for 2-10 days. The tundra vegetation around TFS is heterogeneous but most dominant species were sampled. Table 1 presents the median relative percent cover of plant species in LTER experimental control plots at TFS (Gough, 2019) and indicates whether plant species were present in surface or bag enclosures. The complete list of species sampled and pictures of the enclosures are available in Figures S.I.3-S.I.15; the two sampling sectors are highlighted in Fig.S.I.1. Surface enclosures were divided into three vegetation





- 209 types: Salix spp. (high isoprene emitter), Betula spp. (e.g., Betula nana dominance), and
- 210 miscellaneous (mix of different species, including lichens and mosses).
- 211 2.4.2 Emission rates
- The emission rate (ER in µgC/m²/h) for surface enclosures was calculated as follows:

$$ER_{surface} = \frac{(c_{out} - c_{in})Q}{S}, \tag{1}$$

- where C_{in} and C_{out} are the inlet and outlet analyte concentrations (in $\mu gC/L$), Q is the purge air
- flow rate (in L/h), and S the surface area of the enclosure (in m^2).
- The ER for branch enclosures (in μ gC/g/h) was calculated as follows:

$$217 ER_{branch} = \frac{(c_{out} - c_{in})Q}{m_{dry}}, (2)$$

- where m_{dry} is the dried mass (in g) of leaves enclosed, determined by drying the leaves harvested
- after the experiment at 60-70°C until a consistent weight was achieved (Ortega and Helmig,
- 220 2008).
- 221 2.4.3 Enclosure purge air
- 222 Purge air was provided by an upstream high-capacity oil-free pump providing positive pressure to
- the enclosure, and equipped with an in-line O₃ scrubber to avoid loss of reactive BVOCs from
- reaction with O₃ in the enclosure air and during sampling (Helmig, 1997; Pollmann et al., 2005).
- 225 The purge flow was set to 25 L/min and regularly checked using a volumetric flow meter (Mesa
- Labs Bios DryCal Defender, Butler, NJ, USA). Excess air escaped from the open end (tied around
- the Teflon® base) while the sample air flow was pulled into the sampling line (see below).
- 228 2.4.4 Sample collection
- 229 A continuous airflow of 400-500 mL/min was drawn from the enclosure through the sampling line.
- 230 A fraction of this flow was periodically collected at 265-275 mL/min on adsorbent cartridges (see
- Section 2.3) using a 10-cartridge autosampler (Helmig et al., 2004). During sampling, cartridges
- were kept at 40°C, *i.e.*, above ambient temperature, to prevent water accumulation on the adsorbent
- bed (Karbiwnyk et al., 2002). Samples were periodically collected in series to verify lack of analyte
- 234 breakthrough. Time-integrated samples were collected for 120 min every 2 hours to establish





diurnal cycles of BVOC emission. Upon collection, samples were stored in the dark at ~4°C until chemical analysis back at the University of Colorado Boulder.

2.4.5 Internal standards

In order to identify potential BVOC losses during transport, storage, and chemical analysis, 255 of the employed cartridges were pre-loaded with a four-compound standard mixture prior to the field campaigns. These internal standard compounds (toluene, 1, 2, 3-trimethylbenzene, 1, 2, 3, 4-tetrahydronaphtalene, and 1, 3, 5-triisopropylbenzene) were carefully chosen to span a wide range of volatility (C_7 - C_{15}) and to not interfere (*i.e.*, coelute) with targeted BVOCs. The recovery of these four compounds was assessed at the end of the campaign, following the analytical procedure described in S.I. Section 1. Recovery rates were 101.8 ± 13.5 % (toluene), 95.2 ± 20.1 % (1,2,3-trimethylbenzene), 95.6 ± 26.6 % (1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtalene), and 100.9 ± 18.7 % (1,3,5-triisopropylbenzene). These results indicate that, overall, BVOC losses during transport, storage, and chemical analysis were negligible. Ortega et al. (2008) previously evaluated systematic losses of analytes to enclosure systems similar to those used here. The same four-component standard was introduced into the purge air flow of the enclosures to quantify losses as a function of volatility. That work found median losses of MT and SQT on the order of 20-30%. The emission rates presented here are therefore possibly biased low by a similar amount.

2.5 Peak fitting algorithm

The analysis of ambient air and enclosure chromatograms was performed using the TERN (Thermal desorption aerosol GC ExploreR and iNtegration package) peak fitting tool implemented in Igor Pro and available online at https://sites.google.com/site/terninigor/ (Isaacman-VanWertz et al., 2017).

2.6 Ancillary parameters

Meteorological parameters. A suite of meteorological instruments was deployed on the 4 m tower. Wind speed and direction were measured at ~4 m above ground level with a Met One 034B-L sensor. As described by Van Dam et al. (2013), temperature was measured at three different heights using RTD temperature probes (model 41342, R.M. Young Company, Traverse City, MI) housed in aspirated radiation shields (model 43502, R.M. Young Company, Traverse City, MI). Regular same-height inter-comparisons were conducted to test for instrumental offsets. Incoming and





- 264 reflected solar radiation were recorded with LI200X pyranometers (Campbell Scientific
- 265 Instruments).
- 266 In addition, historical (1988-2019) meteorological data recorded by TFS Environmental Data
- 267 Center are available at: https://toolik.alaska.edu/edc/abiotic monitoring/data query.php
- 268 Particle measurements. A Met One Instruments Model 212-2 8-channel (0.3 to 10 µm) particle
- 269 profiler was operated continuously on the roof of the weatherproof instrument shelter. This
- 270 instrument uses a laser-diode based optical sensor and light scatter technology to detect, size, and
- count particles (http://mail.metone.com/particulate-Aero212.htm).
- 272 Nitrogen oxides. Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) were measured with a custom-built, high sensitivity (~5
- 273 pptv detection limit) single-channel chemiluminescence analyzer (Fontijn et al., 1970). The
- instrument monitors nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in ambient air using a photolytic
- 275 converter. Automated switching valves alternated between NO and NO₂ mode every 30 minutes.
- 276 Calibration was accomplished by dynamic dilution of a 1.5 ppm compressed NO gas standard
- 277 (Scott-Marrin, Riverside, CA, USA).

2.7 Theoretical response of isoprene emissions to temperature in MEGAN2.1

- We applied our isoprene emission measurements to evaluate the temperature response algorithms
- embedded in MEGAN2.1 (Guenther et al., 2012). Theoretical isoprene emission rates (F_T) were
- 281 calculated for TFS as:

$$282 F_T = C_{CE} \gamma_T \sum_i \varkappa_i \varepsilon_i (3)$$

- where C_{CE} is the canopy environment coefficient (assigned a value that results in $\gamma_T = 1$ under
- standard conditions), and ε_i is the emission factor under standard conditions for vegetation type j
- with fractional grid box areal coverage κ_i . We used $\sum_i \kappa_i \varepsilon_i = 2766 \,\mu\text{g/m}^2/\text{h}$ at TFS based on the
- 286 high resolution (1 km) global emission factor input file available at
- https://bai.ess.uci.edu/megan/data-and-code/megan21. The temperature activity factor (γ_T) was
- 288 calculated as:

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$$\gamma_T = E_{opt} \times \frac{200 e^{95 x}}{200 - 95 \times (1 - e^{200 x})}$$
 (4)

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$$291 x = \frac{\frac{1}{T_{opt}} - \frac{1}{T}}{0.00831} (5)$$

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$$E_{opt} = 2 \times e^{0.08(T_{10} - 297)}$$
 (6)

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$$T_{opt} = 313 + 0.6(T_{10} - 297),$$
 (7)

where T is the enclosure ambient air temperature and T_{10} the average enclosure air temperature over the past 10 days.

Figure 3 (top panels) shows the time-series of isoprene mixing ratios in ambient air recorded over

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Ambient air mixing ratios

3.1.1 Isoprene and oxidation products

300 the course of this study at TFS with the GC system. Mixing ratios were highly variable and ranged 301 from below the quantification limit to 505 ppty (mean of 36.1 ppty). The PTR-ToF-MS gave 302 similar results (see Fig.S.I.16a). These mixing ratios fall within the range of values reported in the 303 Eurasian taiga (e.g., Hakola et al., 2000, 2003; Lappalainen et al., 2009). For example, Hakola et 304 al. (2003) reported a maximum monthly mean mixing ratio of 98 pptv (in July) in Central Finland 305 while Hakola et al. (2000) observed mixing ratios ranging from a few ppty to ~600 ppty in Eastern 306 Finland. In general, however, BVOC emissions in the Eurasian taiga are relatively low compared 307 to forest ecosystems in warmer climates and are dominated by monoterpenes (Rinne et al., 2009). 308 Isoprene mixing ratios peaked on August 1, 2018 around 4 pm and on June 20, 2019 around 10 309 pm, respectively. These two peaks occurred 3-5 hours after the daily maximum ambient 310 temperature was reached (17.8°C in 2019 and 21.8°C in 2019 – see Fig. 3). The isoprene peak on 311 June 20, 2019 was concomittant with enhanced acetonitrile mixing ratios and particle counts (see 312 Fig. 4), reflecting unusually hazy conditions that day at TFS. We attribute the particle and 313 acetonitrile enhancements to intense wildfires occurring across the Arctic Circle at that time - most 314 of them in southern Alaska and Siberia (Earth Observatory, 2019). Acetonitrile increased by a 315 factor of 4 during this event, compared to a factor of 21 increase for isoprene. The higher emission 316 factor for acetonitrile vs. isoprene from biomass burning in boreal forests (Akagi et al., 2011) and 317 the relatively short lifetime of isoprene (Atkinson, 2000) indicate that the observed isoprene 318 enhancement was due to fresh local biogenic emissions rather than transported wildfire emissions.



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319 Over the course of this study, we recorded MACR and MVK mixing ratios respectively ranging from below the quantification limit to 95 ppty (12.4 ± 16.1 ppty; mean \pm standard deviation) and 320 321 from below the quantification limit to 450 pptv (43.1 \pm 66.7 pptv; see Fig. 3, top panels). The PTR-322 ToF-MS gave similar results (see Fig.S.I.16b). Median NO and NO₂ mixing ratios of 21 and 74 323 ppty, respectively, during the 2019 campaign (not shown) suggest a low-NO_x environment, in line 324 with previous studies at several Arctic locations (Bakwin et al., 1992; Honrath and Jaffe, 1992). 325 Under such conditions, MACR and MVK mixing ratios should be used as upper estimates as it has 326 been noted that some low-NO_x isoprene oxidation products (isoprene hydroxyhydroperoxides) can 327 undergo rearragement in GC and PTR-MS instruments and be misidentified as MACR and MVK 328 (Rivera-Rios et al., 2014). We found a high correlation between MACR and MVK ($R^2 = 0.95$, p < 0.01) and between these two compounds and isoprene ($R^2 \sim 0.80$, p < 0.01). Increases of MACR 329 330 and MVK mixing ratios above the background were mostly concomitant with isoprene increases, 331 suggesting that atmospheric or within-plant oxidation of isoprene was their main source 332 (Biesenthal et al., 1997; Hakola et al., 2003; Jardine et al., 2012). The mean ratio of MVK to 333 MACR was 2.7, within the range reported by earlier studies (e.g., Apel et al., 2002; Biesenthal and 334 Shepson, 1997; Hakola et al., 2003; Helmig et al., 1998), and no clear diurnal cycle in the ratio 335 was found.

3.1.2 Isoprene vertical profiles

Figure 5 shows vertical profiles (0 to ~250 m a.g.l.) of isoprene mixing ratios derived from the 30-min tethered balloon samples collected on June 15 and 16, 2019 (see Section 2.3). Temperature profiles (see Fig.S.I.17) indicate that most of the flights were performed in a convective boundary layer (Holton and Hakim, 2013). A nocturnal boundary layer was, however, observed in the first ~50 m from ~2 am to ~4:30 am (see Fig.S.I.17e-f) – with temperature increasing with elevation.

Except during the last flight, isoprene mixing ratios were in the range of background levels (~0-

50 pptv) reported with the GC-MS (see Section 3.1.1). Samples collected on June 16, 2019 from 4 to 4:30 am show decreasing isoprene mixing ratios with increasing elevation, suggesting higher levels (25-50 pptv) in the nocturnal boundary layer than above. Samples collected from 10-10:30 am on June 16 (*i.e.*, during the last flight) showed a pronounced gradient, with 200 pptv at ground level and decreasing mixing ratios with elevation. This maximum at ground-level is consistent with a surface source (Helmig et al., 1998) and can likely be attributed to a temperature-driven





increase of isoprene emissions by the surrounding vegetation. Indeed, the ambient temperature at ground-level was higher during that flight than during the previous ones (see Fig.S.I.17h). Interestingly, the GC-MS and the PTR-ToF-MS did not capture this 200 pptv maximum (see Fig. 3 and Fig.S.I.16), which may be because the balloon flights were performed at a different location (near sampling sector B, see Fig.S.I.1) surrounded by a higher fraction of isoprene-emitting shrubs (willow).

3.1.3 Monoterpenes and Sesquiterpenes

MT mixing ratios ranged from 3 to 537 pptv (14 ± 18 pptv; median \pm standard deviation) during the 2019 campaign according to the PTR-ToF-MS measurements. Using the GC-MS/FID, we were able to detect and quantify the following MT in ambient air: α -pinene, camphene, sabinene, p-cymene, and limonene. Mean mixing ratios are reported in Table 2 (for values lower than the LOQ, mixing ratios equal to half of the LOQ are used). These compounds have been previously identified as emissions of the widespread circumpolar dwarf birch *Betula nana* (Li et al., 2019; Vedel-Petersen et al., 2015) and other high Arctic vegetation (Schollert et al., 2014). The quantification frequency of camphene, sabinene, p-cymene, and limonene was low (see Table 2) and MT mixing ratios in ambient air were dominated by α -pinene. Several prior studies performed at boreal sites have similarly identified α -pinene as the most abundant monoterpene throughout the growing season (e.g., Hakola et al., 2000; Lindfors et al., 2000; Spirig et al., 2004; Tarvainen et al., 2007). We did not detect any sesquiterpene in ambient air above the 2 pptv instrumental LOQ.

Overall, isoprene and α -pinene dominated the ambient air BVOC profile at TFS, respectively constituting ~72% and ~24% of total BVOCs quantified in ambient air (on a mixing-ratio basis).

3.2 Emission rates

3.2.1 Branch enclosures

A branch enclosure experiment was performed from July 27 to August 2, 2018 on *Salix glauca* to investigate BVOC emission rates per dry weight plant biomass (see Fig.S.I.5). Isoprene emission rates ranged from <0.01 to 11 μ gC/g/h, in line with results reported for the same species at Kobbefjord, Greenland (0.8 to 12.1 μ gC/g/h) by Vedel-Petersen et al. (2015) and Kramshøj et al. (2016; Supplementary Table 5). The quantified MTs had emissions averaging two orders of magnitude lower than those of isoprene (0.01 vs 1 μ gC/g/h). Emission rates for the sum of α -





pinene, β -pinene, limonene, camphene, and 1,8-cineole ranged from <0.01 to 0.06 μ gC/g/h. These results are again in good agreement with those reported for the same species at Kobbefjord (~0.01 μ gC/g/h) by Kramshøj et al. (2016; Supplementary Table 5).

3.2.2 Surface emission rates

The isoprene surface emission rate, as inferred from surface enclosures, was highly variable and ranged from 0.2 to ~2250 μgC/m²/h (see Fig. 6). The 2250 μgC/m²/h maximum, reached on June 26, 2019, is higher than maximum values reported at TFS by Potosnak et al. (2013) (1200 μgC/m²/h) and in a high-latitude (58°N) *Salix* plantation by Olofsson et al. (2005) (730 μgC/m²/h). It should be noted that these experiments were likely performed at different ambient temperatures. We further investigate the temperature dependency of isoprene emissions in Section 3.3. Elevated surface emission rates (*i.e.*, > 500 μgC/m²/h) were all observed while sampling enclosures dominated by *Salix* spp.. At TFS, the overall mean isoprene emission rate amounted to 85 μgC/m²/h while the daytime (10 am-8 pm) and midday (11 am-2 pm) means were 140 and 213 μgC/m²/h, respectively. To put this in perspective, isoprene surface emission rates were much lower than for mid-latitude or tropical forests. For example, average midday fluxes of 3000 μgC/m²/h were reported in a northern hardwood forest in Michigan (Pressley et al., 2005), while several reports of isoprene emissions from tropical ecosystems give daily estimates of 2500-3000 μgC/m²/h (Helmig et al., 1998; Karl et al., 2004; Rinne et al., 2002).

Figure 7 shows the measured surface emission rates for α -pinene, β -pinene, limonene, and 1,8-cineole. While p-cymene, sabinene, 3-carene, and isocaryophyllene (SQT) were detected in some of the surface enclosure samples, we focus the discussion on the most frequently quantified compounds. Regardless of the species, emission rates remained on average below 1 μ gC/m²/h over the course of the study (see Table 3). These results are at the low end of emission rates reported for four vegetation types in high Arctic Greenland (Schollert et al., 2014), but in line with results reported at Kobbefjord, Greenland by Kramshøj et al. (2016; Supplementary Table 4).

Figures 8a-c show the mean diurnal cycle (over the two campaigns) of isoprene surface emission rates for different vegetation types (see Fig.S.I.3-15 for nomenclature). Regardless of the vegetation type, isoprene emission rates exhibited a significant diurnal cycle with an early afternoon maximum, in line with the mean diurnal cycle of enclosure temperature and PAR. These



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407 results are in line with the well-established diurnal variation of BVOC emissions in environments 408 ranging from Mediterranean to boreal forests (e.g., Fares et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2004; Ruuskanen 409 et al., 2005; Zini et al., 2001). Despite the relatively low MT emission rates, a significant diurnal 410 cycle was also observed with peak total MT emissions of ~1 µgC/m²/h during early afternoon for 411 both Salix spp. and Betula spp. (Fig. 8e-f). A summary of emission rates per vegetation type and 412 time of day is given in Table 3. It should be noted that the two field campaigns were carried out 413 during the midnight sun period, which could possibly sustain BVOC emissions during nighttime. 414 As can be seen in Table 3 and Fig. 8, PAR and BVOC emissions significantly decreased at night 415 but were still detectable. These results confirm those obtained by Lindwall et al. (2015) during a 416 24-hour experiment with five different Arctic vegetation communities. 417 The ratio of total MT (given by the sum of α -pinene, β -pinene, limonene, and 1,8-cineole) 418 emissions to isoprene emissions was an order of magnitude higher for Betula spp. (0.22) than for 419 Salix spp. (0.03). This result, driven by the relatively lower isoprene emissions of Betula spp., is in line with earlier studies, suggesting similar emission characteristics for Arctic plants (e.g., 420 421 Kramshøj et al., 2016; Vedel-Petersen et al., 2015).

3.3 Response of isoprene emissions to temperature

The Arctic has warmed significantly during the last three decades and temperatures are projected to increase an additional 5-13°C by the end of the century (Overland et al., 2014). Heat wave frequency is also increasing in the terrestrial Arctic (Dobricic et al., 2020). For example, western Siberia experienced an unusually warm May in 2020, with temperatures of 20-25°C (Freedman and Cappucci, 2020). In that context, numerous studies have pointed out the likelihood of increased BVOC emissions due to Arctic warming and associated vegetation and land cover change (Faubert et al., 2010; Potosnak et al., 2013; Rinnan et al., 2011; Tiiva et al., 2008).

Over the course of the two field campaigns at TFS, BVOC surface emission rates were measured over a large span of enclosure temperatures (2-41°C). While MT emissions remained low and close to the detection limit thus preventing robust quantification of any emission-temperature relationship, isoprene emissions significantly increased with temperature (Fig.9). Figure 9 combines isoprene emission rates from different surface enclosures, with results normalized to account for differing leaf area and species distributions (with *Salix* spp. the dominant emitter). Specifically, we divided all fluxes by the enclosure-specific mean emission at 20 ± 1 °C. Emission





rates are often standardized to 30°C but we employ 20°C here owing to the colder growth 438 environment at TFS (Ekberg et al., 2009). The isoprene emission-temperature relationship 439 observed at TFS (in blue) is very similar to that reported by Tang et al. (2016) at Abisko (Sweden; 440 in pink) for tundra heath (dominated by evergreen and deciduous dwarf shrubs). Results at TFS 441 and Abisko both point to a high isoprene-temperature response for Arctic ecosystems (Tang et al., 442 2016). This is further supported by two warming experiments performed in mesic tundra heath 443 (dominated by Betula nana, Empetrum nigrum, Empetrum hermaphroditum, and Cassiope 444 tetragona) and dry dwarf-shrub tundra (co-dominated by Empetrum hermaphroditum and Salix 445 glauca) in Western Greenland (Kramshøj et al., 2016; Lindwall et al., 2016). Kramshøj et al. 446 (2016) observed a 240% isoprene emission increase with 3°C warming, while Lindwall et al. 447 (2016) reported a 280% increase with 4°C warming. The observationally-derived emission-448 temperature relationship derived here for TFS reveals a 180-215% emission increase with 3-4°C 449 warming, adding to a growing body of evidence indicating a high isoprene-temperature response 450 in Arctic ecosystems. 451 The MEGAN2.1 modeling framework is commonly used to estimate BVOC fluxes between 452 terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere (e.g., Millet et al., 2018). Here, we apply the TFS 453 observations to evaluate the MEGAN2.1 emission-temperature relationship for this Arctic 454 environment. Figure 9 shows that the model temperature algorithm provides a close fit with 455 observations below 30°C, with a 170-240% emission increase for a 3-4°C warming. However, the 456 model predicts a leveling-off of emissions at approximately 30-35°C, whereas our observations 457 reveal no such leveling-off within the 0-40°C enclosure temperature range (Fig. 9). Current models 458 can therefore be expected to strongly underpredict isoprene emissions in this region for 459 temperatures above 30°C. 460 To put the above finding in perspective, the highest air temperature on record at TFS (1988-2019) is 26.5°C, and the mean summertime (June-August) temperature over that period is 9°C. Only 1-461 462 23 and 0-4 days per year over that timespan recorded daily maximum temperatures above 20°C 463 and 25°C, respectively. If global greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase, temperatures are expected to rise 6-7°C in northern Alaska by the end of the century (annual average; Markon et 464 465 al., 2012) while the number of days with temperatures above 25°C could triple (Lader et al., 2017). 466 Based on current climate conditions and this rate of change, the MEGAN2.1 algorithm can still be





expected to adequately represent the temperature dependence response of Arctic ecosystems for the near and intermediate-term future.

4. Implications and conclusions

While BVOC ambient concentrations and emission rates have been frequently measured in boreal ecosystems, Arctic tundra environments are scarcely studied. We provide here summertime BVOC ambient air mixing ratios and emission rates at Toolik Field Station, on the north flanks of the Brooks Range in northern Alaska. These data provide a baseline to investigate future changes in the BVOC emission potential of the Arctic tundra environment. Elevated isoprene surface emission rates (> 500 µgC/m²/h) were observed for *Salix* spp., a known isoprene emitter. The reponse to temperature of isoprene emissions in enclosures dominated by *Salix* spp. increased exponentially in the 0-40°C range, likely conferring greater thermal protection for these plants. Our study indicates that the temperature algorithm in MEGAN2.1, a widely used modelling framework for BVOC emissions, provides a good fit with observations in the Arctic tundra for temperatures below 30°C. However, more studies are needed to better constrain the warming response of isoprene and other BVOCs for a wider range of Arctic species.

In the context of a widespread increase in shrub abundance (including *Salix* spp.) in the Arctic (Berner et al., 2018; Sturm et al., 2001) due to a longer growing season and enhanced nutrient availability, our results support earlier studies (e.g., Valolahti et al., 2015) suggesting that climate-induced changes in the Arctic vegetation composition will likely significantly affect the BVOC emission potential of the Arctic tundra. As discussed extensively by Peñuelas and Staudt (2010) and Loreto and Schnitlzer (2010), emissions of BVOCs might be largely beneficial for plants, conferring them higher protection from abiotic stressors (*e.g.*, heat, air pollution, high irradiance) which are predicted to be more severe in the future. Arctic warming may thus favor BVOC-emitting species even further.

Data availability

Data are available upon request to the corresponding author.

Author contribution



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DH, LH, and DBM designed the experiments and acquired funding. HA led the two field campaigns with significant on-site contribution from KM, JH, LH, DBM, KC, JM, CW, TM, and DH. JH designed and built most of the instruments used in this study. CW acquired the PTR-ToF-MS data during the second campaign and DK performed data analysis. MSBH identified the plant species and provided guidance during the field campaigns. KM and HA analyzed the samples in the lab. HA analyzed all the data and prepared the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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Table 1: Year 2017 median relative percent cover of plant species in moist acidic tundra long-term ecological research (LTER) experimental control plots at Toolik Field Station. The last column indicates whether plant species were present in surface or bag enclosure experiments in this study.

	Relative land surface		
Dlant name	cover in moist acidic	Present in surface or	
Plant name	tundra (%) (Gough,	bag enclosures	
	2019)		
Andromeda polifolia	0.6	yes	
Betula nana	14.4	yes	
Carex bigelowii	1.0	yes	
Cassiope tetragona	2.0	yes	
Empetrum nigrum	3.8	yes	
Eriophorum vaginatum	8.6	yes	
Ledum palustre	10.5	yes	
Mixed Lichens	2.1	yes	
Mixed moss	6.0	yes	
Pedicularis lapponica	0.6	no	
Polygonum bistorta	0.6	no	
Rubus chamaemorus	20.2	no	
Salix pulchra	4.9	yes	
Vaccinium uliginosum	1.9	yes	
Vaccinium vitis-idaea	6.6	yes	





Table 2: Average mixings ratios with standard deviation, along with minimum (min) and maximum (max) values and quantification frequency (QF) of the measured monoterpenes in ambient air. LOQ stands for limit of quantification. For values lower than the LOQ, mixing ratios equal to half of the LOQ were used to calculate the mean.

	mean ± standard deviation (pptv)	Min (pptv)	Max (pptv)	QF (%)
α-pinene	11.7 ± 8.1	< LOQ	61.6	88
camphene	< LOQ	< LOQ	21.9	11
sabinene	< LOQ	< LOQ	34.2	11
p-cymene	2.0 ± 1.9	< LOQ	12.3	32
limonene	< LOQ	< LOQ	2.9	< 1





Table 3: Isoprene and monoterpenes (sum of α -pinene, β -pinene, limonene, and 1,8-cineole) surface emission rates per vegetation type. Miscellaneous refers to a mix of different species, including lichens and moss tundra (see Fig.S.I.3-15). Daytime refers to 10 am-8 pm, midday to 11 am-2 pm, and nighttime to 11 pm-5 am (Alaska Standard Time).

	mean ± standard	daytime mean ±	midday mean ±	nighttime mean ±		
	deviation	standard deviation	standard deviation	standard deviation		
	$(\mu gC/m^2/h)$	$(\mu gC/m^2/h)$	$(\mu gC/m^2/h)$	$(\mu gC/m^2/h)$		
isoprene						
Salix spp.	149 ± 327	232 ± 400	334 ± 473	7 ± 10		
Betula spp.	12 ± 30	19 ± 38	28 ± 37	5 ± 14		
Miscellaneous	38 ± 81	57 ± 100	104 ± 135	21 ± 64		
monoterpenes						
Salix spp.	0.8 ± 1.3	1.1 ± 1.5	1.4 ± 1.7	0.4 ± 1.0		
Betula spp.	0.5 ± 0.6	0.7 ± 0.7	1.0 ± 0.8	0.2 ± 0.2		
Miscellaneous	1.1 ± 1.4	1.3 ± 1.6	1.7 ± 2.0	1.0 ± 1.4		





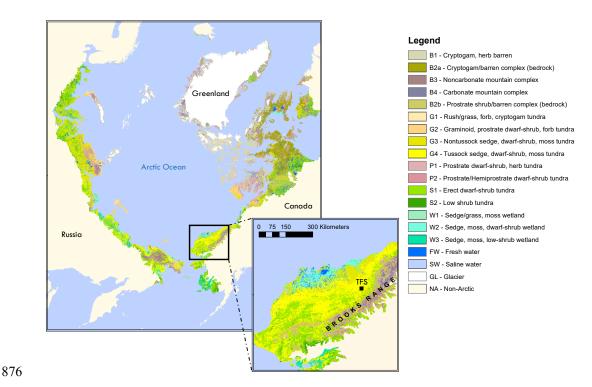


Figure 1: Location of Toolik Field Station (TFS) on the north flanks of the Brooks Range in northern Alaska along with arctic vegetation type. This Figure was made using the raster version of the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map prepared by Raynolds et al. (2019) and publicly available at www.geobotany.uaf.edu.





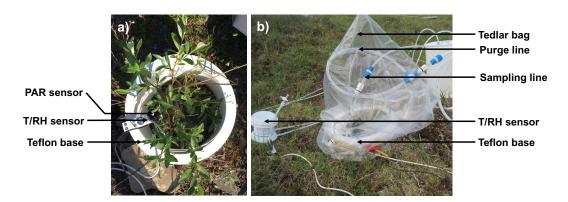


Figure 2: Photographs of a surface enclosure experiment setup at Toolik Field Station, Alaska. a) The first step of the installation consisted in positioning the Teflon® base around the vegetation of interest along with temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) sensors. b) The second step consisted in positioning the Tedlar® bag around the base. The bag was connected to a purge air and a sampling line. An additional T/RH sensor was also positioned outside the bag.



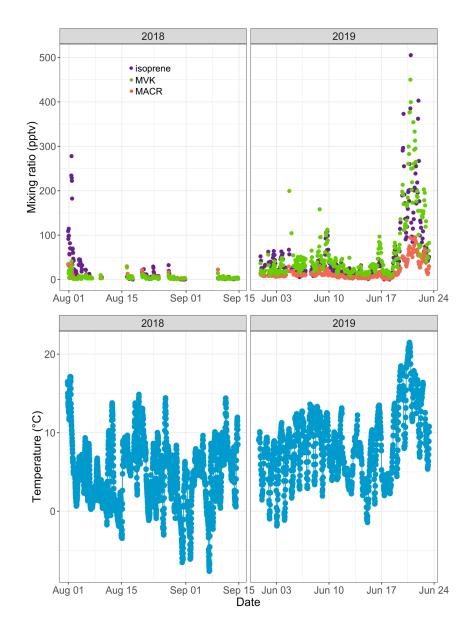


Figure 3: Time-series of isoprene (purple), methylvinylketone (MVK, green), and methacrolein (MACR, salmon) mixing ratios (in pptv) in ambient air at Toolik Field station (top panels) and of 30-min-averaged ambient temperature (in °C) at 4 meters above ground level (bottom panels).

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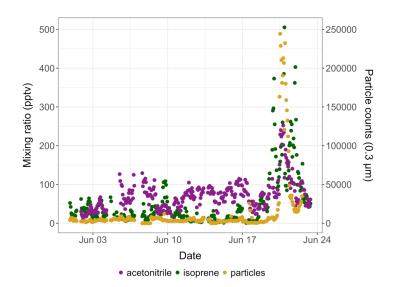


Figure 4: Time-series of isoprene (green) and acetonitrile (purple) mixing ratios (in pptv) and of $0.3 \mu m$ particle counts (yellow) in ambient air at Toolik Field station in June 2019.





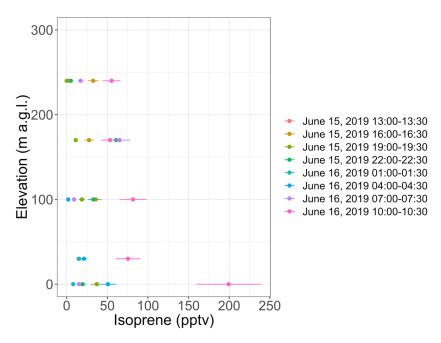


Figure 5: Vertical profile of isoprene mixing ratios as inferred from 30-min samples collected with a tethered balloon. The error bars show the analytical uncertainty for isoprene (20 %). Samples with an isoprene mixing ratio lower than blanks were discarded. Hours are in Alaska Standard Time (UTC-9).





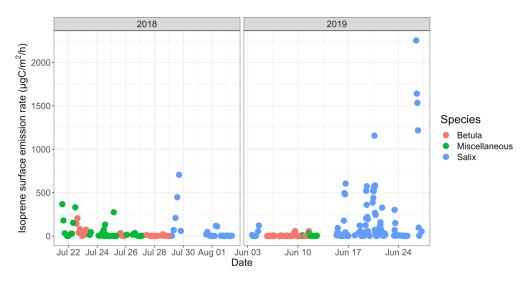


Figure 6: Time-series of isoprene surface emission rates (in $\mu gC/m^2/h$) for different vegetation types.



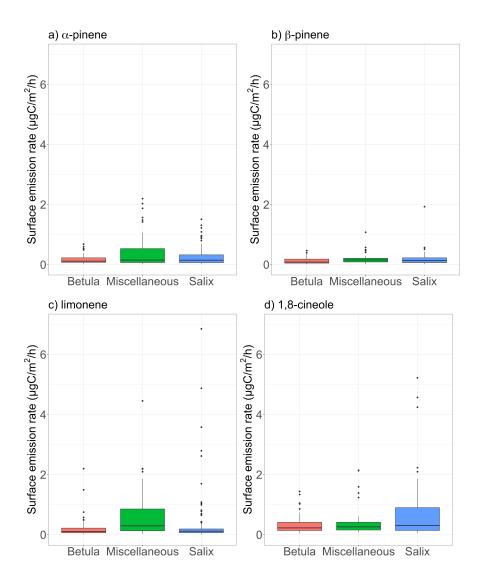


Figure 7: Surface emission rates of various monoterpenes (in $\mu gC/m^2/h$) for different vegetation types. The lower and upper hinges correspond to the first and third quartiles. The upper (lower) whisker extends from the hinge to the largest (smallest) value no further than $1.5 \times IQR$ from the hinge, where IQR is the interquartile range (i.e., the distance between the first and third quartiles). The notches extend $1.58 \times IQR/\sqrt{n}$ and give a ~95% confidence interval for medians.



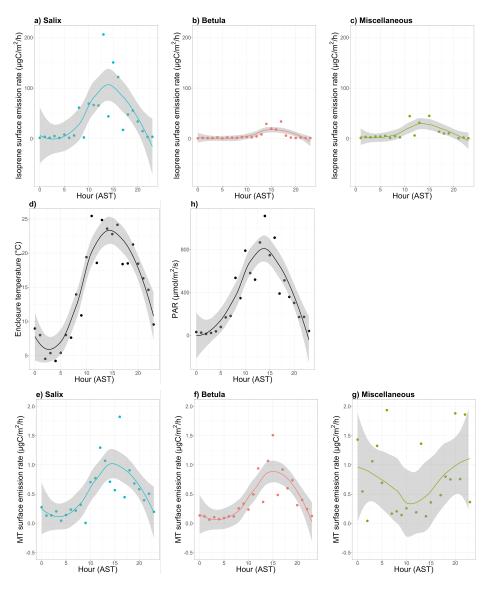


Figure 8: Mean diurnal cycle of isoprene (a-c) and monoterpenes (MT; e-g) surface emission rates (in $\mu gC/m^2/h$ – note the difference scale on the y-axis), d) enclosure temperature (in °C), and h) enclosure photosynthetically active radiation (PAR in $\mu mol/m^2/s$). The dots represent the hourly means. The line is the smoothed conditional mean while the grey shaded region indicates the 95% confidence interval. Hours are in Alaska Standard Time (UTC-9) and correspond to the end of the 2-hr sampling period for isoprene and MT emission rates. MT corresponds here to the sum of α -pinene, β -pinene, limonene, and 1,8-cineole.



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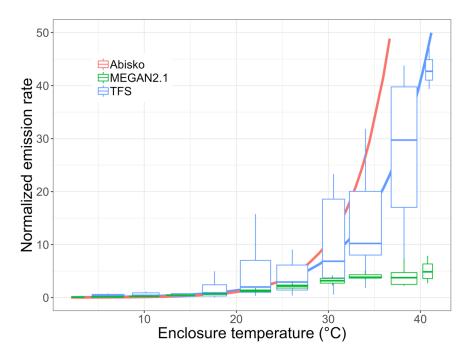


Figure 9: Normalized isoprene surface emission rate (emissions at 20°C set equal to 1.0) as a function of enclosure temperature (in °C). This figure shows the response to temperature as observed at Toolik Field Station (TFS, in blue) and Abisko, Sweden (in pink; Tang et al., 2016), and as parameterized in MEGAN2.1 (in green). The blue solid line is the exponential fit at TFS. It should be noted that the enclosure temperature was on average 5-6°C warmer than ambient air due to greenhouse heating.