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***Interactive comment on* “Size distributions of dicarboxylic acids, ketocarboxylic acids,  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyls and fatty acids in atmospheric aerosols from Tanzania, East Africa during wet and dry seasons” by S. L. Mkoma and K. Kawamura**

**Anonymous Referee #3**

Received and published: 30 November 2012

This is a well-written manuscript with no obvious scientific flaws. The only negative issue I can pinpoint is the originality of the work: the second author has published several papers using an approach that is very similar to the one applied here. On the other hand, the obtained measurements represent an environment from which very few prior atmospheric observations have been reported. This, in my opinion, favors publishing this manuscript. I have a few minor issues to be considered before acceptance for publication.

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First, the term “size distribution” should be used in neither the title of the paper nor the title of section 3.1. Measuring aerosol concentrations in only two size fractions does not justify calling them size distributions.

Second, the conclusion section is mainly a summary of the main findings of the paper. The authors should work a bit toward pointing out the readers what is really new in the obtained results and what atmospheric implications this would have.

Third, there are a few places with minor grammatical problems: P 25649, line 15: ...and fossil fuel combustion.. P 25665, lines 24-25: ...wet and dry season,... P 25668, line 14: ...a significant.. P 25670, line 14: Those ratios to WSOC (this is a strange way of expressing this issue).

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 12, 25657, 2012.

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