



Light absorption and morphological properties of soot-containing aerosols

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Light absorption and morphological properties of soot-containing aerosols observed at an East Asian outflow site, Noto Peninsula, Japan

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Abstract

The coating of black carbon (BC) with inorganic salts and organic compounds can enhance the magnitude of light absorption by BC. To elucidate the enhancement of light absorption of aged BC particles and its relation to the mixing state and morphology of individual particles, we conducted observations of particles at an Asian outflow site in Noto Peninsula, Japan, in the spring of 2013. Absorption and scattering coefficients at 405, 532, and 781 nm and mass concentrations/mixing states of refractory-BC in $PM_{2.5}$ were measured using a three-wavelength photoacoustic soot spectrometer and a single-particle soot photometer (SP2), respectively, after passage through a heater maintained at 300 or 400 °C or a bypass line maintained at room temperature (25 °C). The average enhancement of BC light absorption due to coating was estimated by comparing absorption coefficients at 781 nm for particles that with and without passing through the heater and was found to be 22–23%. The largest enhancements (> 30 %) were observed under high absorption coefficient conditions when the air mass was long-range transported from urban areas in China. Aerosol samples were also analyzed using a transmission electron microscope (TEM) equipped with an energy dispersive X-ray analyzer. The morphological features and mixing states of soot-containing particles of four samples collected during the high absorption coefficient events were analyzed by comparing microphotographs before and after the evaporation of beam-sensitive materials by irradiation with a high density electron beam. The majority of the soot in all samples was found as mixed particles with spherical sulfate or as clusters of sulfate spherules. For samples showing high enhancement (> 30 %) of BC light absorption, TEM showed that the internally mixed soot-containing particles tended to have a more spherical shape and to be embedded into the sulfate. The SP2 measurements also suggested that the proportion of thickly-coated soot was greater. Thus, the observed enhancement of BC light absorption was found to differ according to the mixing states and morphology of soot-containing particles. The enhancement of BC light absorption in our in situ measurements and its relation with individual features of

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soot-containing particles will be useful to evaluate direct radiative forcing in the leeward areas of large emission sources of BC.

1 Introduction

Black carbon (BC) is contained in particles emitted from fossil fuel combustion and biomass/biofuel burning. It is known as a strong absorber of visible spectrum solar radiation in the atmosphere (e.g., Ramanathan and Carmichael, 2008; Bond et al., 2013). Similar to greenhouse gases, this absorption by BC is thought to lead to large positive radiative forcing; however, this assumption remains uncertain (IPCC, 2013). In the estimation of direct radiative forcing by BC particles, understanding how to treat the mixing state and optical properties of the BC and other materials are particularly important factors for reducing this uncertainty (Ma et al., 2012).

BC is defined operationally as a carbonaceous material with a deep black appearance caused by a significant imaginary portion of the refractive index. It roughly corresponds with elemental carbon (EC), which refers to the nonvolatile carbon present below a certain temperature (typically 550 °C) (Andreae and Gelencsér 2006, Bond and Bergstrom, 2006). Carbonaceous particles originating from fossil fuel combustion are observed as soot by electron microscope (e.g., Murr and Soto, 2005). Soot has an aggregation morphology of globules with a diameter of tens of nanometres that consist of concentrically wrapped graphitic layers (Pósfai et al., 2004; Murr and Soto, 2005). Although the definitions of soot and BC are different, they were considered equivalent for the purposes of this work. Soot particles that are freshly emitted by fossil fuel combustion are attached/coated with secondary aerosol materials, such as sulfate, nitrate, and organics, through atmospheric aging processes (Weingartner et al., 1997; Zuberi et al., 2005). Atmospheric aging processes of aerosol particles include adsorption and condensation of semi-volatile materials, coagulation of particles with other pre-existing aerosol particles, heterogeneous reactions at the particle surface with gaseous species, and cloud processing in the atmosphere (Fuchs, 1964; Husar

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and Whitby, 1973; Mamane and Gottlieb, 1989; Meng and Seinfeld, 1994; Ueda et al., 2014). Several studies using electron microscopy have reported that soot particles tend to be coated with large amounts of secondary materials in an aged air mass, whereas air masses in urban areas contain some non-coated soot particles (Pósfai et al., 1999; Hasegawa et al., 2002; Vester et al., 2007; Ueda et al., 2011; Adachi et al., 2014).

The presence of coatings on BC particles is known to enhance the magnitude of light absorption by the BC particles, referred to as the “lensing effect”. The enhancement of light absorption by BC particles by coating (E_{abs}) is expressed as the ratio of light absorption of coated BC particles to noncoated BC particles. Models often estimate E_{abs} assuming a core-shell (the BC core and coating materials) shaped spherical particle (Bond et al., 2006; Ma et al., 2012). However, several studies have indicated that estimation assuming a core-shell structure with a clear shell tends to overestimate the E_{abs} values (Lack and Cappa, 2010; Adachi et al., 2010). Lack and Cappa (2010) estimated E_{abs} of BC particles coated by brown carbon based on calculations using core-shell Mie theory. They showed that the lensing effect can be reduced from the non-absorbing coating case by up to 25–30% when averaged across the visible radiation spectrum. For Mexico City, Adachi et al. (2010) obtained three-dimensional shapes of soot-containing particles embedded in organic matter and sulfate using electron tomography with TEM, and calculated the optical properties using a discrete dipole approximation. They reported that the core-shell model overestimated light absorption by ~ 30% compared to the model for irregularly shaped soot-containing particles.

Recently, the lensing effect of atmospheric aerosols has been estimated by several studies based on in situ measurement of optical properties (using photoacoustic spectrometers (PAS) with a thermo-denuder), in Toronto (Knox et al., 2009, Chan et al., 2011), Boulder (Lack et al., 2012), California (Cappa et al., 2012), and Nagoya (Nakayama et al., 2014). In these studies, E_{abs} was estimated as the ratio between absorption of ambient particles and particles heated in a thermo-denuder to remove non-BC materials. However, these studies were conducted in or around urban areas; therefore, the contribution of the lensing effect in a well-aged air mass remains unclear.

In addition, to our knowledge, no direct comparison of the observed lensing effect with the particle morphology of individual BC-containing particles has been reported.

In relation to the global effect of BC, marked anthropogenic emissions of pollutants by recent economic development in eastern Asia is an important consideration (Streets et al., 2003; Ohara et al., 2007; Kurokawa et al., 2013). In addition to BC, precursor gases of secondary aerosol materials have been heavily emitted in eastern Asia (Bond et al., 2004; Kurokawa et al., 2013). Based on TEM analysis, Ueda et al. (2011) reported that in leeward areas, soot-containing particles were internally mixed with the largely soluble materials in polluted air masses transported from eastern Asia. Moreover, a fraction of the soot-containing particles had an irregular shape due to mixing with clusters of spherical sulfate, that is, considered to be generated by coagulation processes under dry and high aerosol concentration conditions.

To elucidate the enhancement of light absorption of aged BC particles and their relation with the amount, morphology, and composition of coating materials, we conducted atmospheric observations of continental outflow at Noto Peninsula, Japan, in spring 2013. This atmospheric observation site has been previously used to study continental outflow (Maki et al., 2010; Iseki et al., 2010; Ishiyama et al., 2015). In the present study, the absorbing and scattering coefficients of aerosol particles suspended in air were directly measured using a 3λ -photoacoustic spectrometer (Droplet Measurement Technologies, PASS-3) with and without passage through a heater, and the contribution of the lensing effect was estimated. Specific attention was given to the relations between the enhancement of light absorption and the coating condition of individual soot-containing particles based on the TEM analysis.

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5 timated by the lag-time of the LII peak with respect to the peak of the scattering signal. Use of the SMPS in our measurement system was ended on 13 May, while use of the PASS-3 and SP2 was ended on 14 May.

10 The PASS-3 instrument was used to measure the absorption [$b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$] and scattering [$b_{\text{sca}}(\lambda)$] coefficients at 405, 532, and 781 nm. Details of the performance and calibration procedures of the PASS-3 have been described elsewhere (Nakayama et al., 2015). Note that the absolute values of the calibration factors do not influence to the E_{abs} values, which are used for discussion in the present study. The b_{sca} (532 nm) data were not used in this study because of a strong particle size dependence of the calibration factor at 532 nm (Nakayama et al., 2015). For background interpolation, measurements of filtered air were conducted using a particulate filter (Balston) for 3 min every 10 min. The 3 h averaged values for each sampling line were estimated from six sets of 10 min data. By taking two standard deviations (2σ) of each signal during the filtered air measurements, the typical detection limits for the 3 h averaged data of b_{abs} (405 nm), b_{abs} (532 nm), b_{abs} (781 nm), b_{sca} (405 nm), and b_{sca} (781 nm) were estimated to be 1.0, 1.9, 1.1, 0.7, and 0.3 M m^{-1} , respectively. Note that these detection limits varied depending on the magnitude of the drift in each signal.

15 In our system, particle loss and charring can occur in the heater lines. Using thermal/optical methods, some analytical studies of elemental and organic carbon in atmospheric particles reported that the degree of increase in light absorption of particles by charring differed among different organic material compositions (Yang and Yu, 2002; Yu et al., 2002). Based on the measurement of absorption at 680 nm wavelength under He induced conditions, Yang and Yu (2002) showed that charring of a sample including a large amount of water soluble organic carbon can increase from around 400°C . The charring effect can vary depending on the aerosol composition and, therefore, with time. In this observation, the ratios of the mass concentration of rBC measured by the SP2 without heating to that after heating varied depending on time with averages ($\pm 1\sigma$) of 1.1 ± 0.3 and 1.0 ± 0.3 at 300°C and 400°C , respectively. Also, this ratio included the contributions of particle loss in the heater. Using $b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ values after the above ratios,

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the enhancement of absorption at wavelength λ [$E_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$] was estimated as the ratio between the absorption coefficients of ambient particles and particles after heating (300 or 400 °C).

2.3 Samples of individual particles and TEM analyses

Aerosol particles were collected for morphological analysis using a TEM (JEM-1400; JEOL). To analyze particles under the same conditions as PASS-3 and SP2, dried aerosols (after passage through diffusion dryers) were collected using a two-stage cascade impactor (50% cutoff aerodynamic diameters of the two stages were 1.5 and 0.3 μm at a flow rate of 0.7 L min⁻¹) on carbon-coated nitrocellulose (collodion) films. In this study, samples from the second stage (50% cut off diameter of 0.3 μm) were analyzed. Aerosol samples were collected for 10–20 min. Typically, 1–2 samples were taken per day during the campaign. A fraction of the samples was collected after passing the particles through the same type of heaters used for the in situ measurements (Sect. 2.2) maintained at 300 or 400 °C. The TEM samples were stored under dry conditions at room temperature until analyses. According to the b_{abs} values, the four samples obtained without passing the particles through the heater and one sample obtained after passing the particles through the heater maintained at 400 °C were selected and analyzed.

To measure the heights of individual particles on the collection surface, particles were coated with a Pt/Pd alloy at a shadowing angle of 26.6° (arctan 0.5), according to the method of Okada (1983). The Pt/Pd coating thickness was about 7 Å. The scanned image was processed using image analysis software (Win Roof; Mitani Corp.) to estimate the projected area of the particles. Elemental compositions of individual particles were analyzed using an energy-dispersive X-ray spectrometer (EDS) along with the TEM. The EDS was operated at an accelerating voltage of 120 kV. Elemental analyses were performed for C, Na, Mg, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, K, Ca, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Zn, Sn, and Pb. The X-ray spectrum was obtained using a detector with a counting time of 20 s per particle. The peak intensities of the elemental compositions in individual

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particles were quantified from the spectrum after deduction of the background spectrum near the particles. Based on the peak intensity, compositional particle types were classified as sulfate-rich, carbon-rich, sea salt-rich, aged sea salt-rich, crustal-rich, or others. Carbon-rich particles have the largest C peak. Sulfate-rich particles have the largest S peak and are absent of Na. Sea salt-rich particles have the largest Na peak or are Na-containing particles having the largest Cl peak. Aged sea salt-rich particles are Na-containing particles having the largest S peak. Crustal-rich particles have the largest peaks of Al, Si, or Fe. Particles having peaks other than those above, or not having a detectable peak, were classified as others. In this classification, a spectrum larger than two times the standard deviation of the background spectra measured in a prior test was used as the detectable spectrum of the particles to eliminate background noise effects. However, it should be noted that the standard deviation of the background C spectra is high because of the use of C-coated collodion film; therefore, there is a possibility that the number of C-rich particles is actually higher than that counted. To overcome this, the ratio of C to another element before elimination of the noise was utilized as an index of carbon content (Sect. 3.3.2).

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Temporal variation of optical properties

Figure 2 shows the temporal variations in absorption [$b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$] and scattering [$b_{\text{sca}}(\lambda)$] coefficients and enhancement of light absorptions [$E_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$] observed during 17 April–14 May 2013. Averages of $b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ and $b_{\text{sca}}(\lambda)$ during the entire observation period are listed in Table 1. The $b_{\text{abs}}(405\text{ nm})$ and $b_{\text{abs}}(781\text{ nm})$ at 25°C varied from close to 0 to 10 Mm^{-1} and 0 to 5 Mm^{-1} , respectively. High $b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ events (higher than 5 Mm^{-1} at 405 nm) were observed on 19, 22, and 27–29 April and on 6, 10, and 13–14 May. The b_{sca} at 25°C was almost synchronous with b_{abs} , but the values were about ten times larger (Table 1). For sample air that passed through the heater at 300 and 400°C ,

averaged b_{sca} values were, respectively, one-seventh and one-eighth of those at 25 °C at 405 nm, and one-fourth of those at 25 °C at 781 nm (Fig. 2b and d). In contrast, the values of b_{abs} (405 nm) and b_{abs} (781 nm) at high temperature (300 and 400 °C) were only slightly different from those at 25 °C (Fig. 2a and c).

5 If the coating materials on BC were removed and no light-absorbing materials were formed during the heating, the $E_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ values at all wavelengths are expected to be greater than 1.0. In this regard, the $E_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ values on 13–14 May were greater than 1.0 at all wavelengths. However, most of the E_{abs} (405 nm) values on 19 April, 22–23, 26–29, and 5–6 May were less than 1.0 and also less than the E_{abs} (532 nm) and
10 E_{abs} (781 nm) values. Averaged $E_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ for the data above the detection limit during the entire observation period are also listed in Table 1. Similar averaged $E_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ values between 300 and 400 °C were obtained at each wavelength. Because brown carbon is considered to absorb light only at shorter visible and UV wavelengths (Andreae and Gelencsér, 2006; Moosmüller et al., 2009), E_{abs} (405 nm) was expected to be larger
15 than E_{abs} (781 nm) if light absorption by organic materials evaporated at temperatures below 300 or 400 °C contributed to the total light absorption at 405 nm. However, this study produced the opposite result. This can be explained by the increase of absorbing materials by heating. In this study, as explained in the previous section, $b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$ was corrected for the effect of loss and formation of rBC inside the heaters using the mass concentration of rBC measured by SP2. However, the absorption by brownish particles that was potentially formed by charring in the heaters might not be corrected accurately using this method because of the difference in wavelength dependence of light absorption between BC and brownish particles. According to the above explanation, E_{abs} (405 nm) and E_{abs} (532 nm) might have been particularly underestimated due to the absorption by brownish particles formed in the heaters. Because the influence of the
20 formation of brownish particles on E_{abs} (781 nm) should be minimal, E_{abs} (781 nm) is considered to represent the lensing effect in later discussions.

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3.2 Relations between backward air mass trajectories and optical properties

Figure 3 presents (a) the location of NOTOGRO, and (b–f) the 3 day backward air trajectories for air masses reaching the observation site. The backward trajectory data were computed using the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPPLIT 4) model developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) (Draxler and Rolph, 2003; Rolph, 2003). The trajectories are colored according to the ratio of NO_x to NO_y , b_{abs} (405 nm), and b_{abs} (781 nm), and to E_{abs} (405 nm) and E_{abs} (781 nm) calculated from b_{abs} values at 25 and 300 °C. The trajectories for E_{abs} calculated from b_{abs} data below the detection limit are presented as thin lines in Fig. 3c and d.

In this observation period, most air masses were from the north and west of the site. The ratio of NO_x to NO_y was used as an indicator of photochemical time by assuming that the conversion of NO_x ($= \text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$) to NO_z ($= \text{NO}_y - \text{NO}_x$) occurs at a rate equal to the $\text{NO}_2 + \text{OH}$ reaction rate (e.g., Cappa et al., 2012). Because NO_x is mainly emitted as a combustion byproduct gas, the source of NO_x can be assumed to be close to the source of BC. The ratio of NO_x to NO_y was less (~ 0.2) in the air masses from the north and west, suggesting that the air mass was relatively aged. In contrast, the ratios were relatively high in air masses from Okhotsk and around Japan. Because the emission sources of NO_x over the sea are considered to be minimal, NO_x in such air masses should have been emitted from the main island of Japan, close to the endpoint of the trajectories.

The b_{abs} tended to be greater in air masses from the East Asian continent and lower in air masses from the north, such as from the Okhotsk Sea. When the greatest b_{abs} value was observed on the morning of 14 May, the air mass originated from around Shanghai and was transported over the East China Sea. Large amounts of BC and precursors of secondary aerosols are considered to be emitted from the industrial areas facing the Yellow Sea and East China Sea in eastern China (Streets et al., 2003; Bond et al., 2004). Pollution events involving large amount of aerosols have been re-

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by Takegawa et al. (2004), the values of the ratios of NO_x to NO_y for samples A–D in this study correspond to plume ages of ~ 2 , ~ 1 , ~ 2.5 , and ~ 3 days, respectively.

Figure 4 portrays the 72 h horizontal backward trajectories of air parcels for samples A, B, C, and D, starting at 500 m a.s.l. at the NOTOGRO site. The trajectories for samples A and B showed that the air masses were transported slowly and reached the observation site over the north coast of the main island of Japan. The air masses for sample C were from northern China and were transported over the Korean Peninsula and the Sea of Japan, while those for sample D were from the Shanghai area and were transported over the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan within ~ 3 days. Combining these trajectories with the results of the ratios of NO_x to NO_y , indicates that samples A and B were likely affected by emissions from the main island of Japan, while samples C and D could be considered to be mainly affected by continental outflow.

For samples A, B, and D, 96, 88, and 97%, respectively, of the mass concentration of non-refractory materials measured by the ACSM consisted of SO_4^{2-} , NH_4^+ , and organics (Table 2). The organic mass ratio for samples A, B, and D were 62, 62, and 24%, respectively. The BC mass concentrations measured by SP2 were 4, 3, and 2% of the total submicron particle mass (sum of the mass concentrations of BC and non-refractory materials) for samples A, B, and D, respectively. The inlet line of the ACSM system was connected to a different line from 12:00 12 May to 17:30 13 May 2013, and the data for this period are not used in this study.

Figure 5 presents number-based size distributions at 25, 300, and 400 °C, and the cross sectional area- and volume-based size distributions at 25 °C of aerosol particles during samplings A–D, as measured by SMPS. Because use of the SMPS (TSI, model 3696L72) placed downstream of the heating system (shown in Fig. 1) was ended on 13 May, the 8–346 nm size distribution measured by another SMPS (TSI, model 3936L76) placed downstream of the PM_{10} inlet is used on 14 May. Number-size distribution at 25 °C shows that number concentrations were higher in the < 100 nm fraction for samples A and B, but for samples C and D were higher in the > 100 nm fraction. The inlet line of the ACSM system was connected to a different line from 12:00 12 May to

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17:30 13 May 2013, and the data for this period are not used in this study. By passing the particle through the heater maintained at 300 or 400 °C, the total particle number concentration decreased by one-fourth to one-half and the distribution had peaks in the < 100 nm fraction for samples A–C. In contrast, particles with diameters between 100 to 400 nm mainly contributed to the total cross-sectional area and volume of particles for all samples, and this is considered to contribute mainly to their optical properties.

Figure 6a presents the mass equivalent size distributions of rBC measured by SP2 for samples A–D together with their log-normal best-fitting curves. The peak diameters were around 200 nm for all samples and were slightly larger for samples C and D compared to those for samples A and B. Figure 6b presents the normalized-count distribution of lag-time for rBC with a mass equivalent diameter of 200 ± 10 nm. Unfortunately, the coating thickness of rBC could not be obtained directly by SP2 in this study because of a mechanical issue. Instead, the lag-time is treated as an index of the mixing states of rBC-containing particles because the scattering signal of the thicker-coated rBC core is detected before the incandescence signal from the rBC (Moteki and Kondo, 2007). The bimodal distribution of lag-time could be reasonably fitted by combination of two Gaussian functions. The lag-time value of the uncoated fullerene soot particle employed in the calibration was $0.8 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{s}$, indicating that uncoated BC particles also should be within this range. Therefore, lag-time peaks for rBC with a diameter of 200 ± 10 nm in the range $0.6\text{--}1.0 \mu\text{s}$ and $2.3\text{--}2.6 \mu\text{s}$ in Fig. 6b should be non/less-coated and thickly-coated, respectively. The fractions of thickly-coated rBC were 73, 65, 81, and 88% for samples A, B, C, and D, respectively, while the peak lag-times of non/less-coated rBC and thickly-coated rBC were similar for all samples. The greater count fraction of thickly-coated BC for samples C and D compared to those for samples A and B was consistent with the expectation based on the trajectories of the air masses: samples C and D were considered to be influenced mainly by continental outflow and samples A and B were likely influenced by emissions from the main island of Japan.

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particles have been reported by several studies on aerosols in urban regions and an Asian outflow (Li and Shao, 2010; Ueda et al., 2011), as well as aerosols emitted from biomass burning (Li et al., 2003). These workers identified such particles as ammonium sulfate particles based on selected-area electron diffraction analysis. Type 4 particles have a spherical cap and show weak contrast to the collection film and a short Pt/Pd shadow. The short shadow length suggests a dome shape, implying that the particles were not solid when sampled. Most type 4 particles are rich in sulfur, and several of them were rich in carbon or sea-salt. Type 5 particles are clustered, connected to form numerous spherical or coccoid units resembling type 2 or 3 particles in shape and size (0.2–0.5 μm diameter). Most type 5 particles in this study were also sulfate-rich. For type 2–5 particles, EDS analysis indicates that most were composed mainly of sulfate. However, some of them also contained carbon and sulfur, and the mixed ratio of carbon in the particle differed between particle types. The averaged peak intensity C to S ratio for sulfate-rich particles was 0.45, 0.13, 0.88, and 0.33 for types 2–5, respectively. This result suggests that coccoid sulfate (type 3) was less mixed with organic matter, while dome-like sulfate (type 4) was mixed with a larger amount of carbon. Type 6 particles are crystalline coarse particles having some straight lines for the particle perimeter, but an otherwise coccoid shape. These particles have larger diameters (around 1 μm) than type 3. Most of the type 6 particles were sea salt-rich or aged sea salt-rich particles. Type 7 particles are recrystallized droplet particles. They show a short Pt/Pd shadow, similar to type 4 particles, but partially show a strong contrast with the collection film. These results imply that they dried on the film after their collection as liquid particles. Most type 7 particles were also sea salt-rich or aged sea salt-rich.

The mixing states of particles were classified by comparing morphological types as well as the particle shape before and after irradiation by the high, densely-intense electron beam of the EDS analysis. Some materials, such as ammonium sulfate and sulfuric acid, evaporate or sublime due to irradiation by the high, densely-intense electron beam, whereas non-volatile materials, including soot, sea salt, and crustal particles, remain on the film after irradiation (e.g., Li et al., 2003, 2010; Pósfai et al., 2003; Adachi

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et al., 2014). The types of mixing states are shown in Fig. 9. The pie charts in Fig. 9 indicate the number fraction of particles for each type based on EDS analysis. Type *a* is non-volatile soot particles, which have the characteristic shape of soot (i.e., morphological type 1) and show no change in morphological appearance after irradiation by electron beam. Type *b* is non-volatile particles without the characteristic shape of soot. Type *c* is mixed particles of beam-sensitive material and non-volatile soot aggregate. Type *d* is mixed particles of beam-sensitive material and a non-volatile core, without the characteristic shape of soot. Type *e* is semi-volatile particles. Although contrasts of the type *e* particles decrease overall after irradiation by a high electron beam, the area does not change. In contrast to types *b* and *c*, type *e* particles do not have a non-volatile core. Type *f* is volatile particles. Based on the EDS analysis, type *a* particles are composed mainly of carbon and silicate. Type *b* particles were mostly classified as sulfate-rich, sea salt-rich, or aged sea salt-rich. For the sulfate-rich type *b* particles, the C to S ratios in the peak intensities were relatively high (0.99 on average), suggesting that they also contained a large amount of carbonaceous material. The majority of the type *c*, *d*, *e*, and *f* particles were classified as sulfate-rich particles. The averaged C to S ratios in the peak intensities for sulfate-rich particles were 0.40, 0.45, 0.71, and 0.10 for types *c*–*f*, respectively; type *e* particles contained relatively large amounts of carbon, whereas type *f* particles were composed mostly of sulfate. Similar particles to those of type *e* were also found, and regarded as organics, during observation of the Chinese continental outflow (Li et al., 2013).

Figure 10a and b show size-segregated number proportions of the mixing states and morphological types of the particles in samples A–D on the basis of the classification in Figs. 9 and 8, respectively. The volume-equivalent diameters of each particle were calculated from measurements of the projected particle area *S*. For type 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 particles, which were considered to be solid at the time of their collection, the particle diameter *d* was defined as $2(S/\pi)^{1/2}$. For types 4 and 7, which were considered as liquid droplets at the time of their collection, *d* was defined as $2^{2/3}(S/\pi)^{1/2}$ by assuming half-sphere. The mixing states had two patterns: (1) a combination of type

Fig. 10b. This indicates that the morphology of a large portion of soot-containing particles reflected the shape of the coating materials, while a portion of the soot-containing particles has a soot-aggregated shape (type 1) in samples A and B. The presence of the non/less-coated soot particles in samples A and B is consistent with the results obtained by the SP2 (Fig. 6).

3.3.3 Internal mixing states and shape factors for soot-containing particles

The controlling factors of the lensing effect of a soot-containing particle include coating thickness, morphology and position of the soot, and composition of the coating materials. In this study, the shape factors for soot-containing particles (i.e., types *a* and *c*) were estimated by electron micrograph before and after irradiation with a high, densely-intense electron beam. Figure 11 shows examples of electron microphotographs of a soot-containing particle before and such irradiation together with their shape factors determined in this study. The projected area (A_p), perimeter (L_p), length of longest axis (a), right-angled length to longest axis (b), and coordinates of folding center (x_p , y_p) of soot-containing particles before EDS analysis, and the projected area (A_s) and coordinates of folding center (x_s , y_s) of soot in the particle after EDS analysis were measured using image analysis software. Using these, six parameters for soot-containing particles (particle and soot diameters, d_p and d_s , volume fraction and relative position of soot, VF_s and RP , circularity factor, CF , and aspect ratio, AR) were estimated based on the equation shown in Table 3.

Table 4 lists average and 25 and 75 % ile values of these parameters for each sample. The soot diameters d_s were 0.2–0.3 and 0.2–0.4 μm for particles with d_p of ≤ 0.6 and > 0.6 μm , respectively. The d_s values are roughly consistent with the diameter of rBC determined using SP2 (Fig. 6a). The VF_s were 21–50% and $\sim 10\%$ for particles with d_p of < 0.6 and > 0.6 μm , respectively. The VF_s values indicate that a large portion of the soot-containing particles were mixed with other materials. Although no significant differences in VF_s values among the samples were observed for particles with d_p of > 0.6 μm , the VF_s values for samples A and B were higher than those for samples C

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and D for particles with d_p of $< 0.6 \mu\text{m}$, likely due to the presence of the non/less-coated soot particles in samples A and B (as discussed in Sect. 3.3.2). Low values of VF_s were also reported by observational studies at background and remote sites: for example, the average values (8–28%) of the soot volume fraction for $0.15\text{--}0.8 \mu\text{m}$ particles at an urban background site in Mainz, Germany (Vester et al., 2007) and median value (15%) of the soot volume fraction for $0.05\text{--}0.3 \mu\text{m}$ particles in Mexico City (Adachi and Buseck, 2008) and median values ($< 20\%$ for $0.2\text{--}0.4 \mu\text{m}$ and $< 10\%$ for $0.4\text{--}0.7 \mu\text{m}$) of the insoluble soot volume fraction in Cape Hedo (Ueda et al., 2011).

The CF and AR represent shape factors; their values for a circle are 1, while for irregular shapes are less than 1 and higher than 1, respectively. The averaged CF and AR values of samples C and D were near 1 ($\text{CF} > 0.80$ and $\text{AR} < 1.3$) for all size ranges, suggesting that a large fraction of the particles were near-spherical. Small CF values (< 0.4) were observed for particles with d_p of $> 0.6 \mu\text{m}$ in samples A and B, likely due to the clustered morphology of the larger soot-containing particles (type 5, in Fig. 10c).

The RP is an indicator of soot position in the particle. Values of 0, 1, and > 1 mean that the soot is in the center of the soot-containing particle, in a position equal to the sphere-equivalent diameter from the particle center, or outside of the sphere-equivalent diameter from the particle center, respectively. The averaged RP values were $0.4\text{--}0.6$ and $0.6\text{--}0.9$ for < 0.6 and $> 0.6 \mu\text{m}$ particles, respectively. These values indicate that most of the soot was inside the sphere-equivalent diameter but not at the center of the particle. Our averaged RP values were almost equal to the average values (0.54) of soot particle position for $0.05\text{--}0.3 \mu\text{m}$ particles in Mexico City (Adachi et al., 2010). It should be noted that the RP value was estimated with reference to the sphere-equivalent diameter in our method. Therefore, the RP values for particles with an irregular shape can be less than 1 even if soot is attached/partly-embedded on/in other materials.

Internal mixing states of the soot-containing particles were also classified, directly from the microphotograph, into three types: type *a* (non/less coated soot), an attached/partly-embedded type, and a coated type (Table 5). Particles were classified

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TEM, and indicated that these particles have strong light absorption, with mean refractive indices of $1.67-0.27i$ at 550 nm. Although these carbon-rich, spherical, non-volatile particles were rare in our samples collected without passing the particles through the heater, a large number of particles in samples A and B had non-volatile residues after EDS analysis (type *e*, in Fig. 10a). Therefore, the spherical, carbon-rich particles might be formed by heating, probably due to the condensation of non-volatile organic compounds within the particles, and could be brown in colour.

In contrast, the formation of brownish particles was not observed in our previous study at an urban area in Nagoya, although the same procedure was used to determine the wavelength dependent E_{abs} values (Nakayama et al., 2014). During the observations at Nagoya in August, most of the heated particles were found to be non-spherical (based on the effective density distribution measurements, Nakayama et al., 2014). Differences in the source and degree of aging of carbonaceous particles may contribute to the observed difference in the wavelength dependence of E_{abs} . Our results suggest that attention needs to be paid when a thermo-denuder is used to estimate the contributions of the lensing effect and brown carbon, especially for particles in aged air masses.

In this study, to avoid the possible contributions of the formation of brownish particles in the heater, E_{abs} (781 nm) is used for discussion of the lensing effect. The average E_{abs} (781 nm) value observed in this study (1.22–1.23) was larger than the values reported by Cappa et al. (2012) around large cities in California during early summer (on average 1.06 at 532 nm) and by Nakayama et al. (2014) in an urban area at Nagoya, Japan during August (on average 1.10 at 781 nm), likely because relatively well aged particles were observed in this study.

Most of the soot-containing particles in all the samples under high absorption coefficient conditions were internally-mixed with a large amount (> 50% of particle volume) of other materials, which were mainly composed of sulfate. Previous models based on Mie theory and assuming a core-shell (the BC core and coating materials) shape suggested E_{abs} values larger than 1.5 when particles had a heavy coating (Bond et al.,

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2006). The average E_{abs} value observed in this study was still smaller than the estimation assuming core-shell morphology. Adachi et al. (2010) estimated the lensing effect of irregularly shaped particles and those with an assumed core-shell shape, and reported that the difference in the calculated absorption was related to the position of soot in the particle and the fractal dimension. Based on their results, absorption of soot-containing particles with our averaged RP values (0.4–0.9) could be about 10–25% smaller than the value estimated assuming core-shell morphology. The position of soot in the particle may contribute to the difference between observation and estimation, as previously suggested by Cappa et al. (2012).

Comparing among pollution events in this study, the E_{abs} (781 nm) values for the long range transported continental outflow (13 May and 14) were larger (> 1.3) than those for the air masses likely affected by emissions from the main island of Japan (6 May and 10), as listed in Table 2. These results are consistent with the results of the SP2 and TEM analyses. Greater count fractions of thickly-coated BC were observed in the SP2 measurements (Fig. 6), and a greater number fraction of coated soot particles (Table 3) and lower volume fraction of soot in smaller particles ($< 0.6 \mu\text{m}$) (Table 4) were observed in samples C and D compared to samples A and B. In addition, number fractions of coated soot particles were greater during the high E_{abs} events (samples C and D) compared to samples A and B (Table 5). The greater circularity of the soot-containing particles in samples C and D (Table 4, Fig. 10c) may also contribute to the greater E_{abs} values, as discussed by Adachi et al. (2010). Although most soot-containing particles in all samples in this study were internally mixed with sulfate, the number fraction of thickly-coated soot was higher in more aged air masses from China. Our results indicate that, according to the transport pathway and aging levels of the air mass, the magnitude of the lensing effect could change with changes in the mixing states and morphology of soot-containing particles.

4 Summary and conclusions

To elucidate the lensing effect of aged BC particles and their relation with the mixing state and morphology of individual particles, in situ measurements of the optical and chemical properties and size distributions of aerosols and the mixing state of rBC, as well as sampling for TEM analysis, were conducted at an Asian outflow site in Noto Peninsula, Japan, in spring 2013.

The enhancement factor, $E_{\text{abs}}(\lambda)$, at 405, 532, and 781 nm was determined by comparing the light absorption of aerosol particles with and without passing through a heater maintained at 300 or 400 °C. The E_{abs} values tended to be lower at shorter wavelengths. In samples exhibiting a relatively small enhancement of light absorption at 405 nm after passage of the particles through the heater (samples A and B), spherical, carbon-rich particles were found, implying that the brownish particles may be formed during the heating processes.

The E_{abs} (781 nm) values, which was assumed to represent the magnitude of the lensing effect, were 1.22–1.23 on average. Large E_{abs} (781 nm) values (> 1.3) were observed on 13–14 May when the air mass was transported over 2–3 days from urban areas in China. In the samples collected on 13–14 May (samples C and D), most soot-containing particles were internally mixed with a large amount of coating materials which were mainly composed of sulfate ($> 50\%$ of particle volume on average). Results of SP2 measurement and TEM analyses indicated that the number proportion of thickly-coated soot particles tended to be greater in these air masses. In addition, most soot-containing particles in samples C and D were close to a spherical shape, whereas larger number fractions of soot-containing particles were mixed with cluster-shaped sulfate in samples A and B. These results suggest that the mixing state and morphological features of soot-containing particles would be factors controlling the lensing effect of BC in this study. The relation between the magnitude of the lensing effect and the mixing state and morphology of individual soot-containing particles for

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well-aged air masses will be useful to evaluate the direct radiative forcing of aerosols, particularly in leeward areas of large emission sources of BC.

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Table 1. Average values of absorption and scattering coefficients and enhancement of absorption during the observation period^a.

	b_{abs}	b_{sca}	$E_{\text{abs}}^{\text{b}}, 300\text{ °C}$	$E_{\text{abs}}^{\text{b}}, 400\text{ °C}$
405 nm	3.1 [1.3–4.6]	51.9 [23.5–70.1]	0.98 [0.85–1.09]	0.99 [0.87–1.06]
532 nm	2.7 [1.2–3.8]	–	1.06 [0.90–1.20]	1.06 [0.93–1.20]
781 nm	1.7 [0.8–2.4]	16.1 [7.3–17.4]	1.23 [1.07–1.38]	1.22 [1.10–1.35]

^aValues in square brackets show the 25th–75th percentile range. ^b Only the data above the detection limit were used in the calculation.

Table 2. TEM samples used in this study, and BC, NO_x, and NO_y concentrations and optical parameters (average values ± standard deviation) during the sampling periods.

TEM sample ID		A	B	C	D
Date		6 May	10 May	13 May	14 May
Starting local time		9:10	10:09	16:00	8:29
Collection time		7 min	7 min	10 min	6 min
Analyzed particle number		586	296	226	412
SP2					
BC Mass	[ng m ⁻³]	424 ± 11	403 ± 30	520 ± 28	597 ± 21
ACSM					
Org	[μg m ⁻³]	6.20	8.81	–	7.64
NH ₄ ⁺	[μg m ⁻³]	1.45	1.52	–	5.87
SO ₄ ²⁻	[μg m ⁻³]	2.02	2.10	–	17.46
NO ₃ ⁻	[μg m ⁻³]	0.34	1.72	–	1.05
Cl ⁻	[μg m ⁻³]	0.03	nd	–	nd
Total mass	[μg m ⁻³]	10.05	14.15	–	32.01
NO _x , NO _y					
NO _x	[ppbv]	1.6 ± 0.9	3.7 ± 1.7	1.3 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.1
NO _y	[ppbv]	3.4 ± 0.9	5.3 ± 1.5	3.5 ± 0.2	4.0 ± 0.2
[NO _x]/[NO _y]		0.43 ± 0.12	0.67 ± 0.11	0.38 ± 0.03	0.24 ± 0.03
PASS-3					
<i>b</i> _{abs} [Mm ⁻¹]	405 nm	6.3 ± 0.6	5.6 ± 1.2	7.9 ± 0.8	9.4 ± 0.2
	532 nm	4.6 ± 2.1	4.4 ± 0.6	6.0 ± 0.6	8.2 ± 0.4
	781 nm	2.8 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.6	3.5 ± 0.6	4.7 ± 0.2
<i>b</i> _{sca} [Mm ⁻¹]	405 nm	99.8 ± 7.4	79.0 ± 4.1	155.8 ± 5.0	215.1 ± 1.9
	781 nm	27.3 ± 4.7	35.6 ± 17.3	69.2 ± 2.9	120.7 ± 2.5
<i>E</i> _{abs} (300 °C)	405 nm	0.88 ± 0.12	0.97 ± 0.26	1.33 ± 0.21	1.35 ± 0.06
	532 nm	1.31 ± 0.60	1.09 ± 0.40	1.42 ± 0.24	1.18 ± 0.20
	781 nm	1.25 ± 0.37	1.13 ± 0.49	1.44 ± 0.23	1.42 ± 0.18
<i>E</i> _{abs} (400 °C)	405 nm	0.88 ± 0.12	1.03 ± 0.25	1.22 ± 0.13	1.31 ± 0.06
	532 nm	1.05 ± 0.15	1.13 ± 0.36	1.10 ± 0.12	1.43 ± 0.38
	781 nm	1.26 ± 0.29	1.24 ± 0.60	1.58 ± 0.20	1.52 ± 0.19

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Table 3. Parameter descriptions of soot-containing particles by image analysis.

Parameter	Symbol	Equation
Particle diameter	d_p	$d_p = 2(A_p/\pi)^{1/2}$ for type 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 particles $d_p = 2^{2/3}(A_p/\pi)^{1/2}$ for type 4 and 7 particles
Soot diameter	d_s	$d_s = 2(A_s/\pi)^{1/2}$
Volume fraction of soot	VF_s	$VF_s = (d_s/d_p)^3$
Relative position of soot	RP	$RP = 2[(x_p - x_s)^2 + (y_p - y_s)^2]^{1/2}/d_p$
Circularity factor	CF	$CF = 4\pi A_p/L_p^2$
Aspect ratio	AR	$AR = a/b$

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Table 5. Number fraction of mixing type of soot for soot-containing particles [%].

ID	Type a	Type c		
		Attached/partly-embedded	coated	
A	< 0.6 μm	9	29	62
	> 0.6 μm	0	70	30
B	< 0.6 μm	12	33	55
	> 0.6 μm	0	61	39
C	< 0.6 μm	0	0	100
	> 0.6 μm	0	17	83
D	< 0.6 μm	0	5	95
	> 0.6 μm	0	10	90

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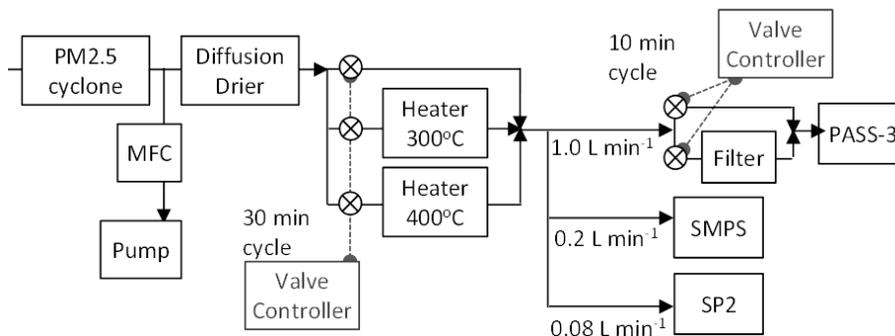


Figure 1. Flow diagram of a measurement system for dried particles that did and did not pass through heaters maintained at 300 and 400 °C using the PASS-3, SMPS, and SP2. Black arrow lines indicate the flow lines of sample air.

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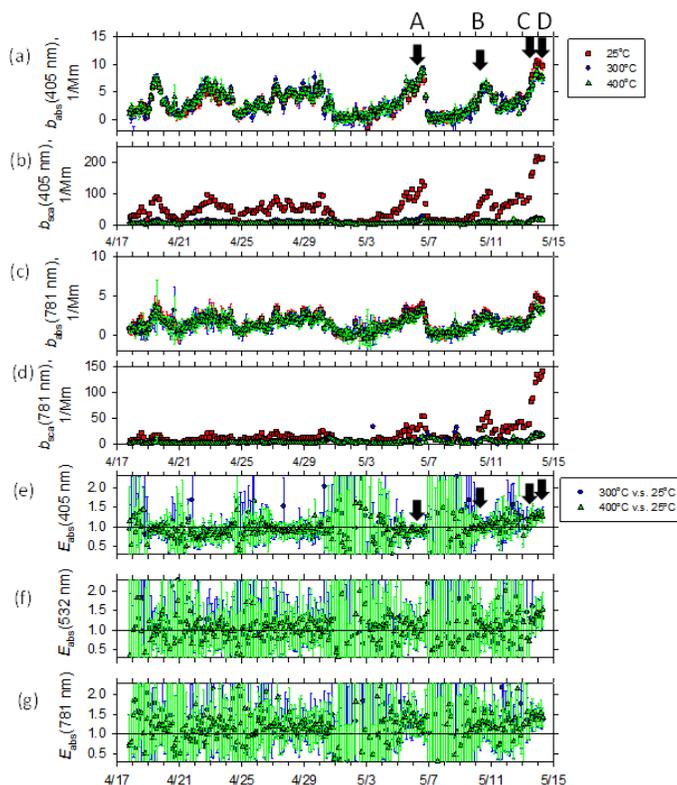


Figure 2. Temporal variations in **(a)** absorption coefficients at 405 nm and start times of TEM sampling (A–D with arrows), **(b)** scattering coefficients at 405 nm, **(c)** absorption coefficients at 781 nm, **(d)** scattering coefficients at 781 nm, and **(e, f and g)** enhancement of light absorption (E_{abs}) at 405, 532 and 781 nm, respectively. Red, blue, and green symbols in **(a–d)** represent conditions of 25, 300 and 400 °C, respectively. Blue and green symbols in **(e–g)** represent $E_{\text{abs}} [= b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda, 25^\circ\text{C})/b_{\text{abs}}(\lambda, T)]$ with $T = 300$ and 400°C , respectively.

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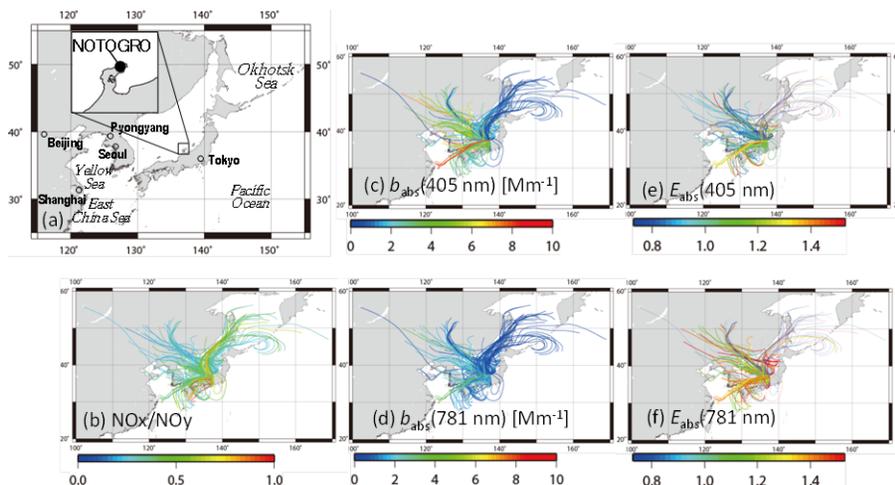


Figure 3. (a) Location of NOTOGRO in Ishikawa, Japan and (b–f) 72 h backward air trajectories for air masses reaching the observation site at 500 m a.s.l. These are colored with (b) the ratio of NO_x to NO_y concentration, (c) b_{abs} (405 nm), (d) b_{abs} (781 nm), (e) E_{abs} (405 nm) and (f) E_{abs} (781 nm). The trajectories for E_{abs} calculated from b_{abs} data below the detection limit are represented as thin lines in (c) and (d).

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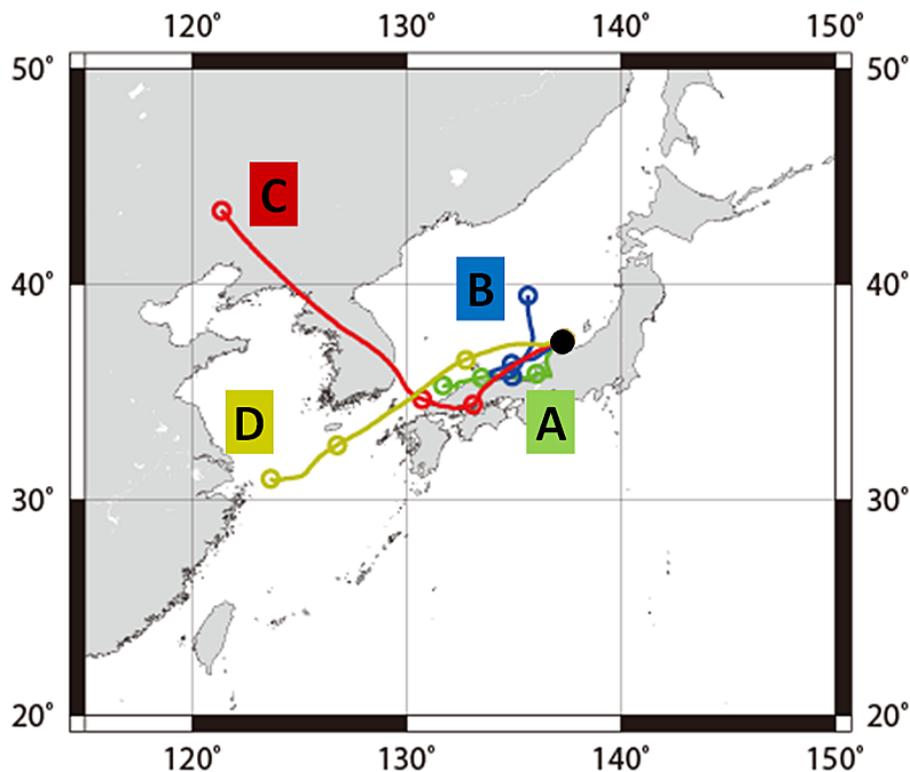


Figure 4. The 72 h horizontal backward trajectories for air masses reaching the observation site at 500 m a.s.l. during sampling periods A–D. Open dots along the trajectory represent the position of the air mass every 24 h backward from the arrival point.

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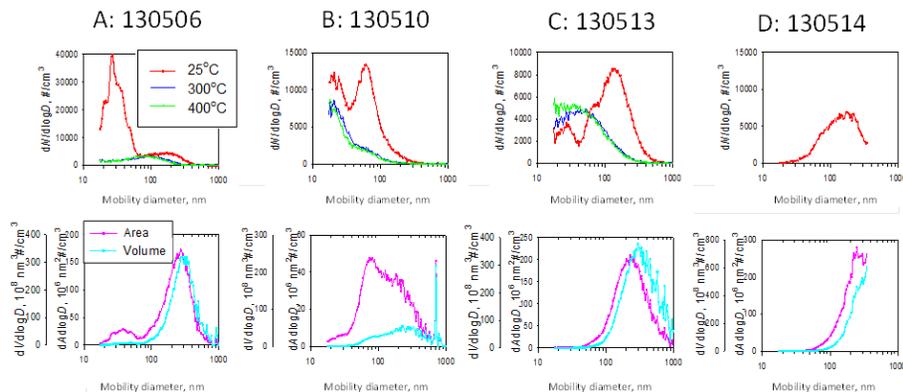


Figure 5. Number- (upper panels), cross-section area- and volume-based (lower panels) size distributions of aerosol particles during the sampling of samples A–D, as measured by SMPS. Red lines in the upper panels represent the number-based size distributions for particles measured without passage through the heater, while blue and green lines represent those for particles measured after passage through the heater maintained at 300 and 400 °C, respectively.

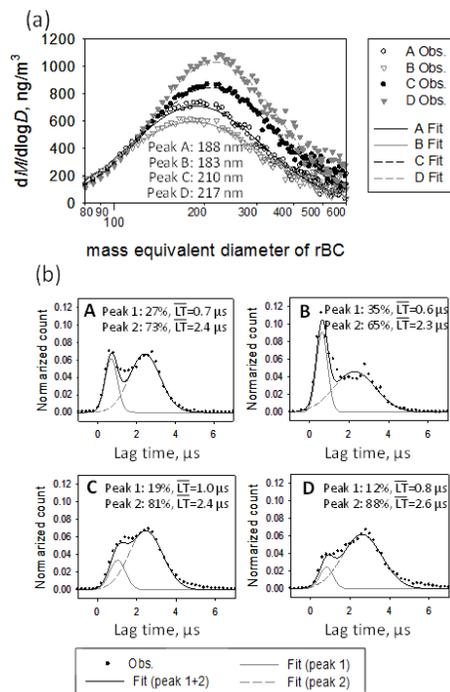


Figure 6. (a) Mass-based size distributions of rBC with log-normal best-fitting curves and (b) normalized-count distribution of lag time of the incandescent-light signal from the scattering signal for rBC with a mass equivalent diameter of 200 nm, obtained using the SP2 for samples A–D with best fit curves assuming the combination of two Gaussian functions. LT represents averaged lag-time.

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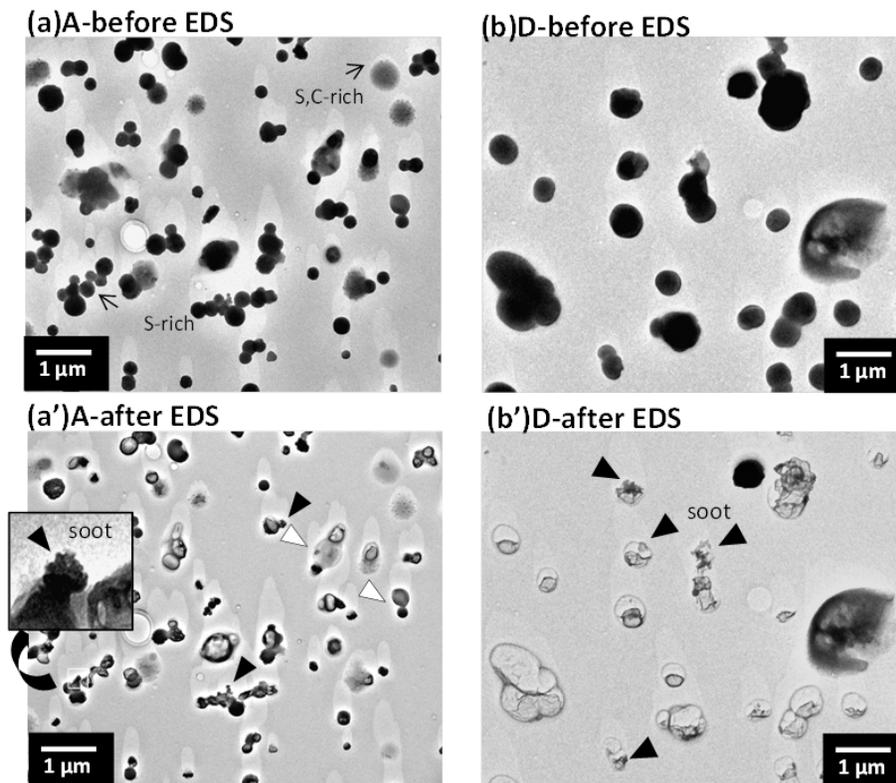


Figure 7. Electron microphotographs before and after EDS analysis of samples (a, a') A and (b, b') D. Soot is shown by black triangles in (a') and (b'). Non-soot residues are shown by white triangles.

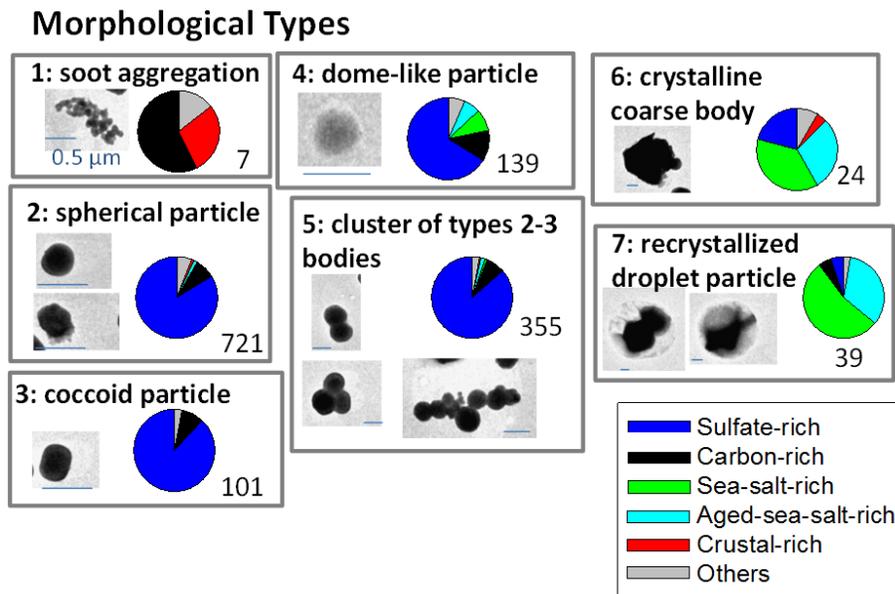


Figure 8. Morphological classification of particle types 1–7. Horizontal bars in the photographs represent a length of 0.5 μm . The pie chart in each morphological type represents the number fraction of compositional types classified based on the EDS analysis. The number below the pie chart represents the number of analyzed particles.

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Mixing state type

Before (left) & After (right) EDX

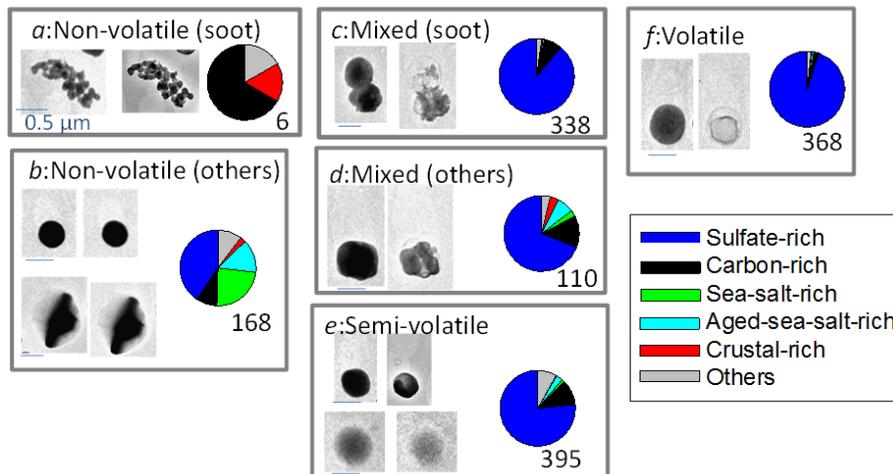


Figure 9. Classification of mixing states based on the comparison of electron micrographs for individual particles before (left) and after (right) irradiation by a high, densely electron beam: type *a*, non-volatile soot particles; type *b*, non-volatile particles except soot; type *c*, mixed particles of volatile material and non-volatile soot aggregate; type *d*, mixed particles of volatile material and non-volatile core without a soot-like shape; type *e*, semi-volatile particles; and type *f*, volatile particles. The pie chart in each mixing state type *a*–*f* represents the number fraction of compositional types determined by EDS analysis.

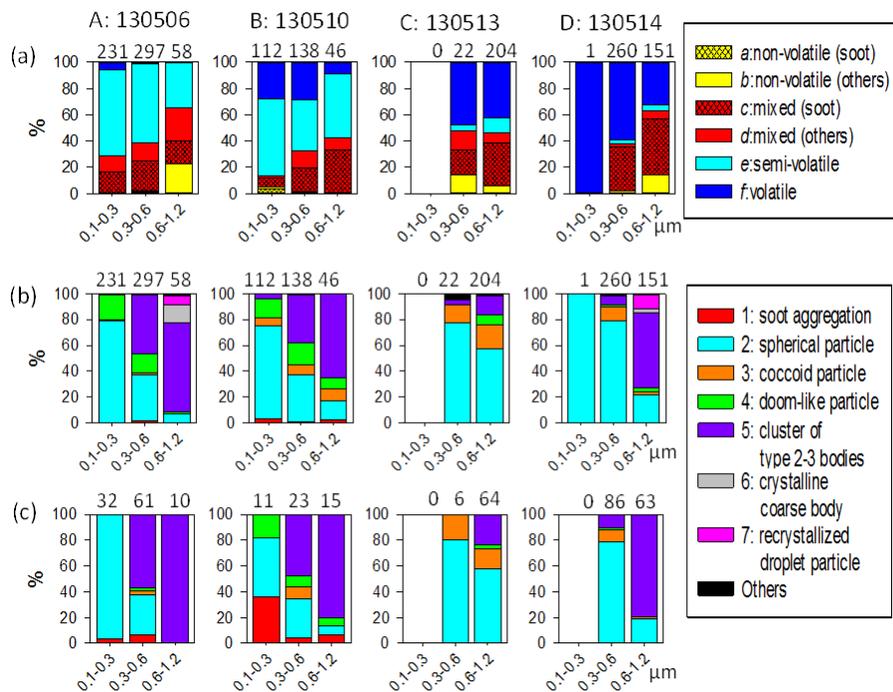


Figure 10. Size-segregated number proportions of **(a)** mixing state particle types on the basis of the classification in Fig. 9, **(b)** morphological particle types on the basis of the classification in Fig. 8 and **(c)** morphological particle types of soot-containing particles for samples A–D. The numbers above the columns show the number of particles observed.

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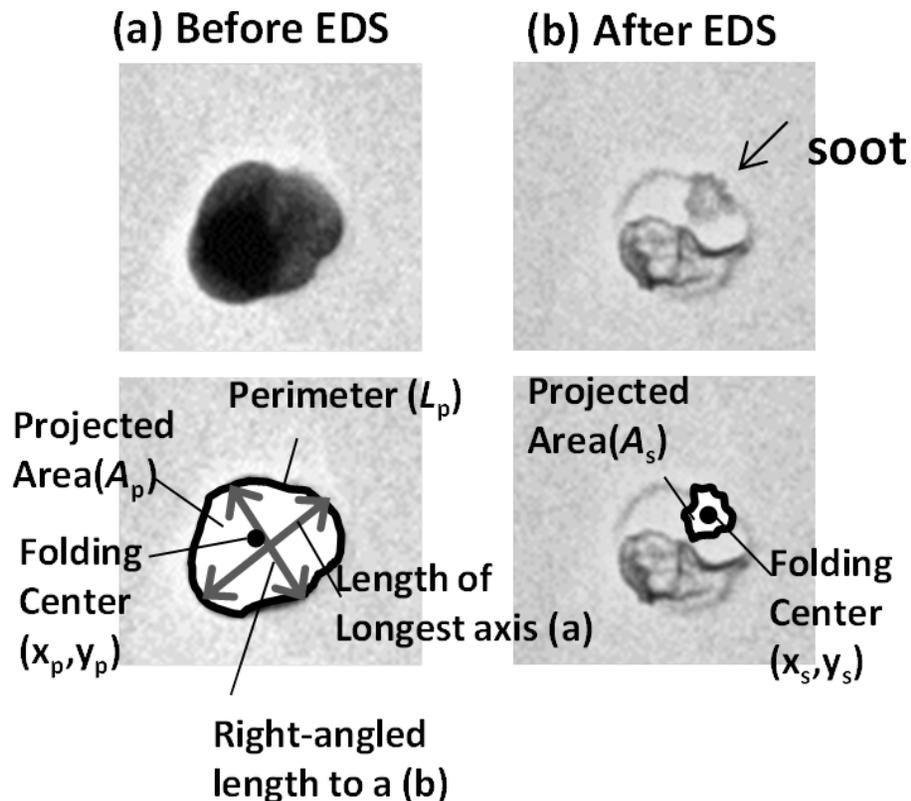


Figure 11. Photographs and shape parameters of projection area of soot-containing particles before (a) and after (b) irradiation by high density electron beam.

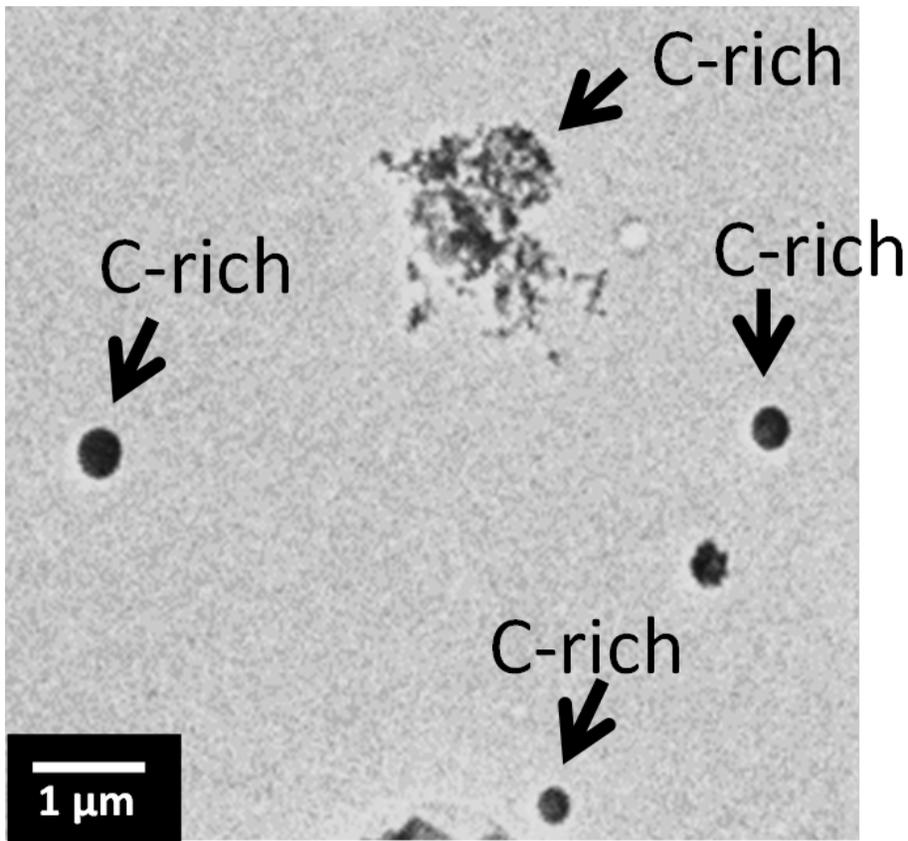


Figure 12. Photographs of an aerosol sample after passage through the heater at 400 °C sampled for 10 min from 09:38 6 May (LT).