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# Measurements of sulfur dioxide, ozone and ammonia concentrations in Asia, Africa, and South America using passive samplers

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## Abstract

Measurements of gaseous SO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> using IVL passive sampler technology were obtained during a pilot measurement program initiated as a key component of the newly established WMO/GAW Urban Research Meteorology and Environment project. Monthly measurements were obtained at 50 stations in Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe. The median SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations vary from a high of 13 ppb at Linan, China, to <0.03 ppb at four stations. At 30 of 36 regional stations, the observed median concentrations are <1 ppb. Median ammonia concentrations range from 20 ppb at Dhangadi, India, to <1 ppb at nine stations. At 27 of regional stations, the ambient ammonia levels exceed 1 ppb. The median ozone concentrations vary from a maximum of 45 ppb at Waliguan Mountain, China, to 8 ppb in Petit Saut, French Guiana. In general, the highest ozone values are found in the mid-latitudes, with the Northern hemisphere mid-latitude values exceeding the Southern hemisphere mid-latitude levels, and the lowest values are typically found in the tropical regions.

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*Keywords:* Diffusive samplers; Sulfur dioxide; Ammonia; Ozone; Asia; Africa; South America

## 1. Introduction

Measurement programs play a critical role in air pollution and atmospheric chemistry studies. Pressures of costs and changing priorities often make it difficult to maintain and expand long-term measurement programs. In some cases, environmental planning activities are severely hampered by the lack of information on the ambient levels of pollutants. Such issues are presently being faced by the World Meteorological Organization's Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) program. GAW is a coordinated network of observing stations and related facilities whose purpose and long-term goals are to provide data, scientific assessments, and other information on changes of the chemical composition and related physical characteristics of the background atmosphere from all parts of the world. This information is needed to improve our understanding of the behavior of the atmosphere and its interactions with oceans and the biosphere and to better anticipate the future states of the earth-atmosphere system. One challenge facing the GAW program is the need to expand its activities to include measurements in each principal climatic zone and each biome, and to continue to add important species to the list of observed parameters.

Passive samplers present a means of addressing many measurement issues in air pollution and atmospheric chemistry, in that they provide a cost-effective way to monitor specific species at urban, regional, and global scales, and offer broad-capacity building opportunities. There are a variety of uses for passive samplers in atmospheric chemistry studies. They can be used: (a) to

increase the spatial resolution of measurements; (b) to add species coverage to existing measurement sites; (c) to add gas-phase measurement to precipitation measurement sites; (d) in screening studies to evaluate monitoring site locations; and (e) to aid measurement programs by providing a means to increase data completion (e.g., to help keep time series complete during active instrument downtimes).

To demonstrate the expanded use of passive samplers in air quality studies, a pilot measurement program was initiated as a key component of the newly established WMO/GAW Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME) project. This passive sampler project was done in collaboration and as a component of the IGAC-DEBITS program. This pilot activity combined components of three separate studies:

- (1) a pilot study funded by NOAA-US Weather Service, to use passive samplers at selected WMO/GAW stations;
- (2) a continuation of the use of passive samplers as part of the RAINS-Asia Phase-II funded by the Japan Trust Fund at The World Bank; and
- (3) a pilot study demonstrating the use of passive sampler at both regional and urban scales, funded by the Swedish Consultancy Fund at the World Bank.

The pilot network consisted of stations from previous studies in Asia and from existing GAW stations, along with newly established sites; in total, 50 stations in 12 Asian countries (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand,

1 Laos, and Vietnam), seven African countries (Algeria,  
 3 Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Niger, Morocco, Kenya, and  
 5 South Africa), five South American countries (Argenti-  
 7 na, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and French Guyana) and a  
 9 European country (Turkey). At these sites, sulfur  
 11 dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) were  
 13 monitored monthly at the rural sites and with short  
 15 sampling periods at the urban sites. At the urban sites,  
 17 weekly samples of NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, HCOOH, CH<sub>3</sub>COOH,  
 19 benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, and xylenes were also  
 21 obtained.

The project aims were: (1) to repeat a previous  
 23 network for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in Asia; and (2) to  
 25 extend the capacity to monitor more pollutants in rural  
 27 as well as urban air. The network provides a valuable  
 29 data set that can be used for a variety of purposes  
 31 including model evaluation and inter-comparison with  
 33 other methods. In this paper, details and results from the  
 35 regional network are presented and discussed. The  
 37 urban results will be the subject of a separate paper.

## 23 2. Passive samplers

25 The samplers used here are passive; but since there are  
 27 several types of passive samplers, the word diffusive  
 29 sampler is more specific for these samplers and is more  
 31 commonly used today. This project has, however, been  
 33 titled “The Passive Sampler Project”. A diffusive  
 35 sampler has been defined by the European Committee  
 37 for Standardization as: “A device that is capable of  
 39 taking samples of gases or vapors from the atmosphere  
 41 at a rate controlled by a physical process such as gaseous  
 43 diffusion through a static air layer or a porous material  
 45 and/or permeation through a membrane, but which does  
 47 not involve active movement of air through the device”.  
 49 The gas molecules are transported by molecular diffu-  
 51 sion, which is a function of air temperature and  
 53 pressure. A net flux into the sampler is accomplished  
 55 by placing an efficient sorbent for the target gas behind  
 the barrier. The driving force is the difference between  
 the ambient concentration and the concentration at the  
 sorbent, which should be negligible, compared to the  
 ambient concentration. The average net flux of pollutant  
 through the sampler is obtained from analysis of the  
 sorbent. The resistance of the barrier, as well as the time-  
 weighted average ambient concentration, can be calcu-  
 lated using Fick’s first law of diffusion. The solution to  
 this equation has been published in almost all articles  
 dealing with diffusive sampling. In order to solve it,  
 several prerequisites must be fulfilled. These have not  
 earlier been discussed in connection with the solution of  
 Fick’s first law. This is likely the main reason behind the  
 poor quality of some diffusive samplers.

The following prerequisites have to be fulfilled to  
 solve Fick’s equation. At steady state, the flux (which is

57 obtained from analysis of the sorbent) shall be constant  
 59 through the sampler implying that the gas is not  
 61 interacting with the wall or being transformed to  
 63 another pollutant on its way to the sorbent. This is  
 65 achieved by choosing an inert wall material and  
 67 minimizing the residence time by using a short transport  
 69 distance. The sorption must be quantitative and without  
 71 interferences. The formed product must be stable. The  
 73 sorption reaction must not be too slow. The sampler  
 75 gives a correct average concentration even when the  
 77 ambient concentration fluctuates and the flux and  
 79 concentration gradient inside the sampler are not  
 81 constant. This can be shown from Fick’s second law of  
 83 diffusion and has earlier been treated incorrectly in the  
 literature. Other transport mechanisms than molecular  
 diffusion or permeation must be negligible. Turbulent  
 diffusion, convection, and rotation of the sampler can  
 cause an active movement of air inside the sampler. This  
 can be avoided by using a membrane at the inlet,  
 shadowing the sampler and during personal monitoring,  
 facing the inlet downwards. Several articles have been  
 written on different parts of the theory behind diffusive  
 sampling, but some parts have been missing. A summary  
 of the published parts and an addition of some missing  
 parts for diffusive samplers using irreversible sorption  
 and a constant cross-sectional area (tube or badge type)  
 has recently been published (Ferm, 2001a).

A large number of different diffusive samplers for use  
 85 in outdoor air have been developed since Palmes and  
 87 Gunnison published a description of the first sampler  
 89 (Palmes and Gunnison, 1973). Several of them are today  
 91 commercially available. The quality of the results from  
 93 these samplers has varied widely and the technology has  
 95 therefore occasionally suffered from a bad reputation.  
 97 This study utilized diffusive samplers developed at the  
 IVL. At IVL, diffusive samplers for several gases have  
 been developed and described in the literature (Ferm  
 and Rodhe, 1997). They are fully based on these theories  
 implying that the ambient concentration is calculated  
 from the theoretical uptake rate and not from an  
 empirical one. This is to ensure that there are no biases  
 that we are not aware of.

The quality does, however, not only depend on the  
 99 sampler, but also on the analysis, the choice of sampling  
 101 points, design of network and the evaluation of results.  
 103 Stevenson et al. (2001) investigated in a laboratory  
 105 intercomparison the variation between different labora-  
 107 tories for analyses of doped Palmes tubes. They found  
 that the coefficient of variation (a statistical measure of  
 precision based on the difference between duplicate  
 samples) was for most laboratories within  $\pm 25\%$ , which  
 is acceptable for indicative monitoring.

In order to use diffusive measurements instead of  
 109 volumetric or instrumental analyses, an analytical  
 111 precision around  $\pm 5\%$  is needed. At IVL, the analytical  
 procedures for the diffusive samplers therefore have

1 been accredited. This implies that certified standards are  
 2 used and statistical analyses of accuracy and precision of  
 3 duplicates and reference samples are maintained by the  
 4 use of control charts every time a batch of samples is

57 analyzed. An analysis of a diffusive sampler has to be  
 58 performed by personnel accredited for the analyses in  
 59 question. The laboratory at IVL has to participate in  
 60 intercomparisons to keep the accreditation. Further-  
 61 more, the IVL is participating in the standardization  
 62 work for testing diffusive samplers within the CEN  
 63 (European Committee for Standardization).

64 The IVL samplers are of badge type, 10 mm long and  
 65 20 mm internal diameter. A membrane is mounted at the  
 66 inlet to prevent them from wind-induced turbulent  
 67 diffusion. The membrane is protected from mechanical  
 68 damage by a stainless steel mesh. The SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>  
 69 samplers have been compared to active sampling within  
 70 a routine network (Ferm and Svanberg, 1998). Addi-

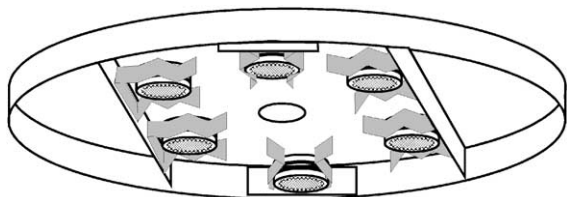


Fig. 1. Six diffusive samplers mounted under a metal disc.



Fig. 2. Location of the measurement sites used in this study (squares and triangles represent regional and urban sites, respectively).

Table 1 Station information						
	Country	Station	Location			Level
			Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)	
7	China	Waliguan mountain	36°17'N	100°54'E	3810.0	I
		Linan	30°18'N	119°44'E	132.0	I
		Shang dian Zhi	40°39'N	117°07'E	260.0	I
9		Cape D'Aequier	22°12'N	114°15'E	~1	I
		Beijing	~40°2'N	~116°25'E	~137	II
11		Wenjiang	30°42'N	103°50'E	~488	II
13	Taiwan	Taipei	25°2.55'N	120°30.82'E	~0	II
		Shui-Li	23°49.1'N	120°50.86'E	330.0	I
15	Japan	Oki	36°17'N	133°11'E	90.0	I
17	Malaysia	Tanah Rata	04°28'N	101°22'E	1471.6	I
		Petaling Jaya	03°06'N	101°39'E	45.7	II
19		Mersing	02°27'N	103°50'E	44.0	II
		Lawa Mandau	06°02'N	116°12'E	830.0	I
21	Indonesia	Bukit Kototabang	0°12'S	100°19'E	865.0	I
23		Jakarta	6°10'S	106°48'E	~61	II
		Kalimantan	2°16'S	113°56'E	~0	I
25	Vietnam	Hanoi	21°01'N	105°51'E	~122	II
27	Thailand	Bangkok	13°45'N	100°32'E	1.0	II
		Chiang Mai	20°5'N	99° 23'E	~807	I
29		Nakhon Sri Thammarat	~8°15'N	~100°E	~10	I
31	Laos	Luang Prabang	19°36'N	101°54'E	640.0	I
		Vientiane	18°N	102°36'55''E	200.0	II
33		Savannaketh	16°30'N	106°E	200.0	I
35	Philippines	Mt. Sto. Tomas	16°N	120°E	2200.0	I
		Manila	14°35'N	121°E	~15	II
37	Singapore	Singapore	1°16'N	103°51'E	~0	II
39	Nepal	Kathmandu	27°42'N	85°22'E	~1524	II
		Dhangadi	28°41'N	80°36'E	~166	I
41		Nagarkot	27°45'N	85°34'E	~948	I
		Langtang	28°43'N	85°37'E	~4676	I
43	India	Delhi	28°40'N	77°13'E	~213	II
		Berhampur	20°36'N	84°48'E	~316	I
45		Cochin	9°35'N	76°44'E	~91	I
		Agra	27°11'N	78°01'E	~175	I
47		Bhubeneswar	20°15'N	85°52'E	~24	I
49	Kenya	Mt. Kenya	0°S	37°E	3780.0	I
51	South Africa	Elandsfontein	26°15'S	29°25'E	1500.0	I
		Cape point	34°21'S	18°29'E	230.0	I
53	Algeria	Tamanrasset	22°47'N	5°31'E	1377.0	I
55	Niger	Banizoumbou	13°32'N	2°04'E	220.0	I

Table 1 (continued)

Country	Station	Location			Level
		Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)	
Ivory Coast	Lamto	6°13'N	5°01'W	136.0	I
Cameroon	Zoetele	3°15'N	11°53'E	720.0	I
French Guiana	Petit Saut	5°03'N	53°03'W	50.0	I
Argentina	Isla Redonda	54°51'S	68° 29'W	3459.0	I
	Ushuaia	54°49'S	68°19'W	10.0	I
Chile	El Tololo	30°10'S	70°48'W	~2172	I
Brazil	Arembepe	12°46'S	38°10'W	0.0	I
Peru	Marcapomacocha	11°33.7'S	76°27.3'W	4467.0	I
Turkey	Camkoru	32°29'N	40°28'E	1350.0	I
Morocco	Casablanca	~33°39'N	~7°35'W	~137	II

Level I means "Regional Station" and Level II means "Urban/suburban Station".

tional information of the use of IVL-type samplers and their comparison with active sampling results can be found in Ayers et al. (1998, 2000, 2002) and Gillett et al. (2000). The NH<sub>3</sub> sampler was tested in an intercomparison (Kirchner et al., 1999). The O<sub>3</sub> sampler was compared with UV-instrument (Sjöberg et al., 2001). The ozone sampler has also been validated for use in workplace atmospheres (Ferm, 2001b). All the samplers are also undergoing intercomparisons within CEN.

### 2.1. Sampling

The samplers were prepared at IVL and mailed together with instructions to the contact persons in each country. The samplers were mounted under a metal disc ca 3 m above the ground in order to protect them for rain and direct sunshine, see Fig. 1. After 1-month exposure, the samplers were returned to IVL for analysis. Some were not exposed and returned as field blanks. Duplicates were always used.

The detection limit was estimated from a sampled amount corresponding to three times the standard deviation of the average field blanks using the actual exposure time. For exactly 1-month sampling, this corresponded to 0.03 (SO<sub>2</sub>), 1 (NH<sub>3</sub>) and 0.6 (O<sub>3</sub>) ppb. For the SO<sub>2</sub> measurements, 13% were below the detection limit and for NH<sub>3</sub> 32% were below the detection limit. The upper limit was exceeded for 5% of the NH<sub>3</sub> measurements (only in India and Nepal). The upper limit, based on a sampled amount corresponding to half the stoichiometric amount of sorbent and exactly 1-month sampling, was 32 ppb. In several of

these samples, the ammonium amount found was equal to the stoichiometric amount of sorbent. In these cases, the upper limit was estimated from the sampled amount and the actual exposure time.

The coefficients of variation (COV, a measure of the precision, here it is defined as the median relative standard deviation, assuming a normal distribution of the deviation between parallel samples) for all duplicates within the detection limits were: 12%, 20%, and 3.6% for SO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub>, respectively. The detection limits divided by the median concentrations were 13%, 23%, and 3%, respectively. The COV (calculated in the same way for SO<sub>2</sub> in an earlier test was 10% (Ferm and Rodhe, 1997). The COV for NH<sub>3</sub> was in the earlier test 25% when the membrane was not exchanged with a solid lid after exposure. When the membrane was exchanged, the COV was improved to 21%. In this study, membranes were changed incorrectly on several occasions. The measured NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations can therefore be somewhat over-estimated due to evaporation of NH<sub>3</sub> from deposited particulate matter. The COV for O<sub>3</sub> is similar to that earlier observed in Sweden. The accuracy could not be estimated since we did not receive data from parallel measurements using other techniques.

Diffusive sampling is a very foolproof technique. There are very few things that can affect the results if the sampling protocol is not followed. The samplers are color marked. Sometimes they were sent back in the wrong storage container. This was noted during the unpacking. At one station, blanks and samples were mixed, which was easily discovered. The mounting of the

Table 2  
Median concentrations in ppb, and number of valid samplers at the sampling sites

Station	Median SO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	Median NH <sub>3</sub> (ppb)	Median O <sub>3</sub> (ppb)	Number of months with returned samplers <sup>a</sup>	Number of SO <sub>2</sub> samples within detection limit <sup>b</sup>	Number of NH <sub>3</sub> samples within detection limit <sup>b</sup>
Waliguan mountain	0.26	4	44.9	6	6	6
Linan	13.06	5	38.3	9	9	9
Shang dian Zhi	3.85	3	38.0	9	9	7
Cape D'Aequier	0.64	1	34.9	11	11	5
Shui-Li	0.78	7	25.0	12	12	12
Okí	0.32	<1	40.4	12	12	0
Tanah Rata	0.06	<1	16.0	12	11	3
Lawa Mandau	0.16	<1	17.0	11	11	3
Bukit Kototabang	0.05	3	10.7	7	6	6
Kalimantan	0.11	6	10.2	7	7	7
Chiang Mai	0.07	2	13.7	11	11	11
Nakhon Sri Thammarat	0.14	1	9.2	12	12	8
Luang Prabang	0.03	3	11.2	11	5	11
Savannaketh	0.12	1	15.3	9	7	7
Mt. Sto. Tomas	0.11	2	26.2	9	9	5
Dhangadi	0.21	22	15.2	13	13	11
Nagarkot	0.18	2	33.1	12	11	10
Langtang	<0.03	1	32.4	11	2	6
Berhampur	0.40	8	23.7	11	11	11
Cochin	4.77	19	11.8	11	11	8
Agra	1.79	>40	30.8	12	12	0
Bhubaneswar	0.79	7	31.4	22	22	22
Mt. Kenya	0.03	1	30.0	8	4	6
Elandsfontein	6.99	2	35.1	10	10	10
Cape point	0.30	1	24.2	12	12	7
Tamanrasset	0.08	4	33.2	12	12	12
Banizoumbou	0.07	4	25.7	12	8	10
Lamto	0.08	3	14.9	12	8	9
Zoetele	<0.03	2	7.2	7	2	6
Petit Saut	0.14	<1	8.4	12	12	0
Isla Redonda	<0.03	<1	15.9	4	1	0
Ushuaia	<0.03	<1	16.7	7	3	1
El Tololo	0.22	<1	30.6	14	14	1
Arembepe	0.07	<1	19.2	5	4	2
Marcapomacocha	3.09	3	25.1	6	6	5
Camkoru	0.58	<1	35.4	12	12	0

<sup>a</sup> This is the number of months that samplers were returned for analysis. All O<sub>3</sub> samplers were within detection limits. Numbers <12 indicate problems with getting samplers into and out of the country, and local problem at the sites.

<sup>b</sup> The difference in the number of samplers exposed and the number of valid samplers represents the number of samplers that have mixing ratios that are either above or below the detection limit.

rain shield is simple and photos of the mounted equipment have been received from most stations. We therefore believe that the accuracy is similar to that estimated within the accreditation. The average of the duplicates was used here except from a very few cases (5 for SO<sub>2</sub>, 3 for NH<sub>3</sub>, and 2 for O<sub>3</sub>) when contamination was suspected.

## 2.2. Site information

These passive samplers were sent to 50 stations throughout Asia, South America, Africa, and Turkey. At the 36 stations representing the regional sites, SO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> were sampled on a monthly basis. Most sites began measurement in September 1999 and conducted measurements for 12 months. Measurement at some sites started later and/or ran for longer periods.

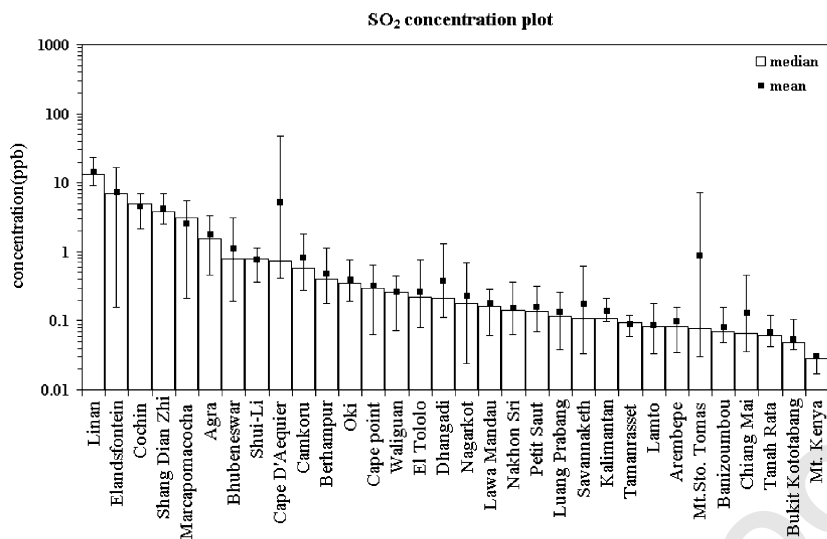


Fig. 3. Measured SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. The bars indicate maximum, minimum and mean values, and the solid box designates the median values.

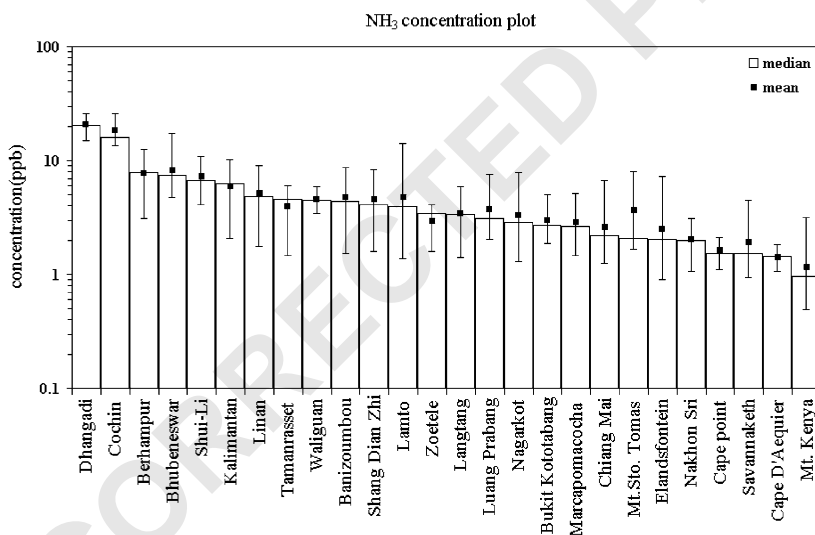


Fig. 4. Measured NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations. The bars indicate maximum, minimum and mean values, and the solid box designates the median values.

The longest measurement period extended from September 1999 to June 2001. Maps of these sampling sites and station details are presented in Fig. 2 and Table 1, respectively. The regional sites were chosen to be representative of rural conditions. Sites were chosen when possible to be away from local sources, including roads. Detailed site information including photographs are available on the project web site (<http://www.cgrer-uiowa.edu/people/nthongbo/Passive/passmain.html>).

### 3. Result and discussion

A summary of the observed values is presented in Table 2. The number of samples returned, along with the number of samples within the detection limit, is presented. The observed median concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> obtained at the regional sites are shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 6, respectively. The mean, median, and maximum and minimum monthly values



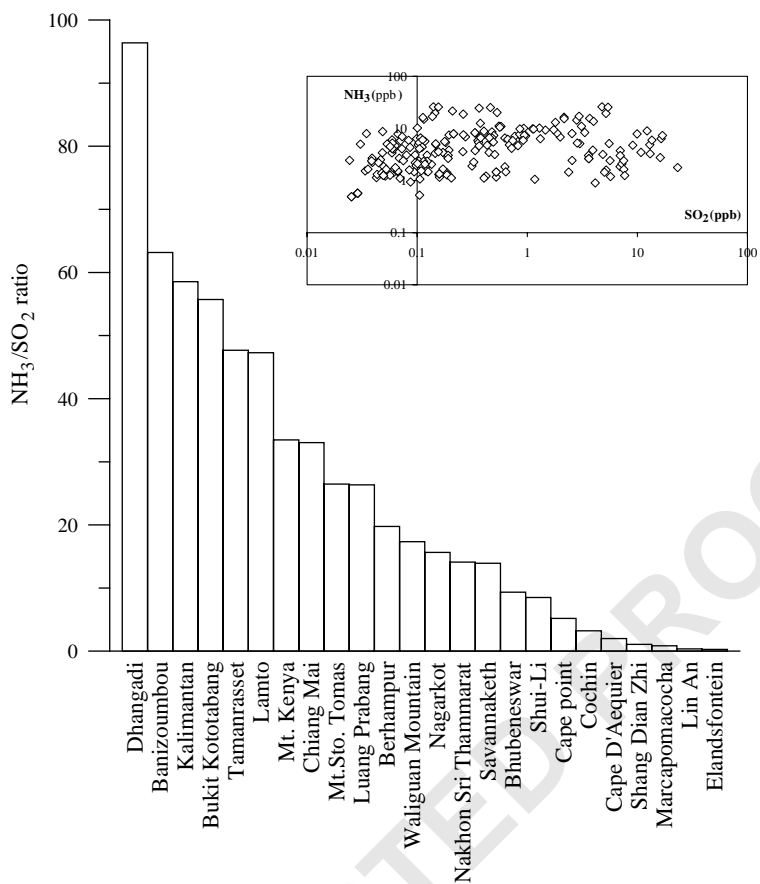


Fig. 5. Ratios of median NH<sub>3</sub> to SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. Insert shows the monthly NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

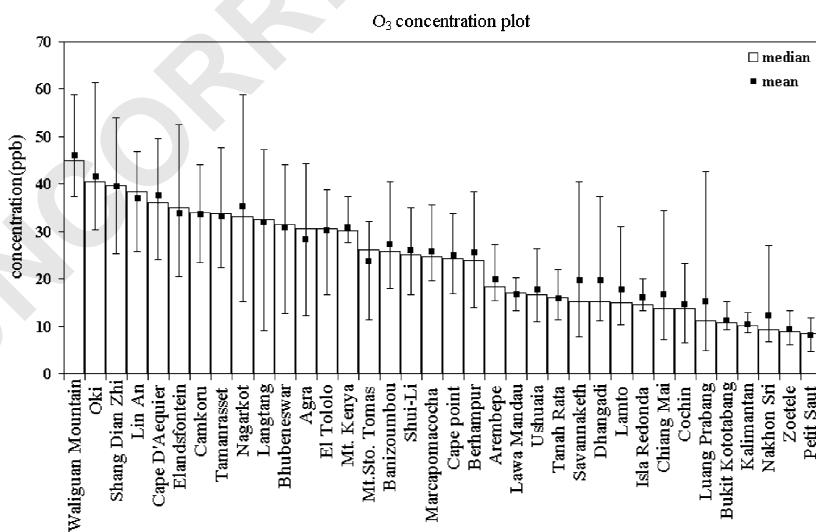


Fig. 6. Measured O<sub>3</sub> concentrations. The bars indicate maximum, minimum and mean values, and the solid box designates the median values.

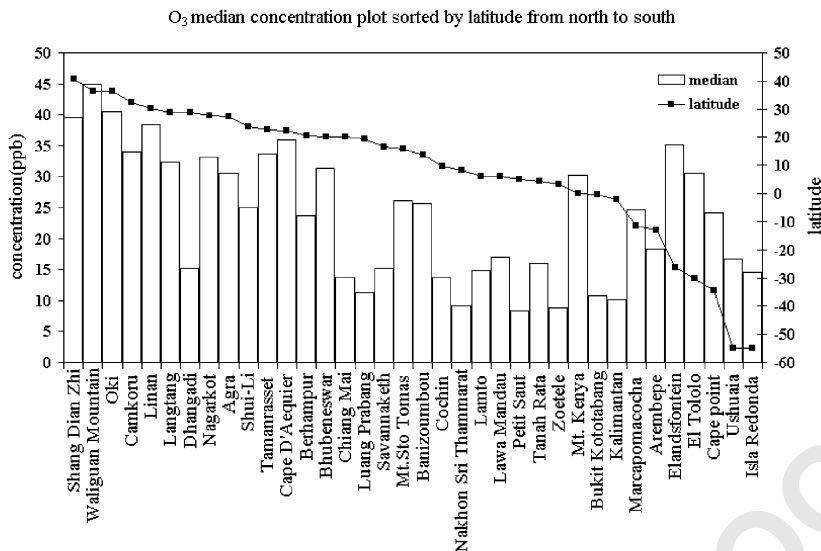


Fig. 7. Latitudinal variation in observed O<sub>3</sub>.

are shown. The range reflects the strength of the seasonal cycle and will be discussed later. The observed SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (Fig. 3) vary from a high of 13 ppb at Linan, China, to <0.03 ppb at four stations. At 30 of 36 regional stations, the observed mean annual concentrations were <1.0 ppb. The high concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> at Linan, China, Elandsfontein, S. Africa, Cochin, India, Shang Dian Zhi China, Marcapomacocha, Peru, and Agra, India, reflect major contributions from anthropogenic SO<sub>2</sub> emissions (i.e., power plant, industrial boilers, heating, and cooking). Most stations show a consistency between the median and mean concentrations. The largest disagreements occurred at Cape D' Aequier, Hong Kong, and Mt. Sto. Tomas, Philippines. At the Hong Kong site, this was due to a rusted sampler mesh. Mt. Sto. Tomas levels of SO<sub>2</sub> were impacted by the eruption of the Mayon volcano at the end of February 2000 (see Fig. 10).

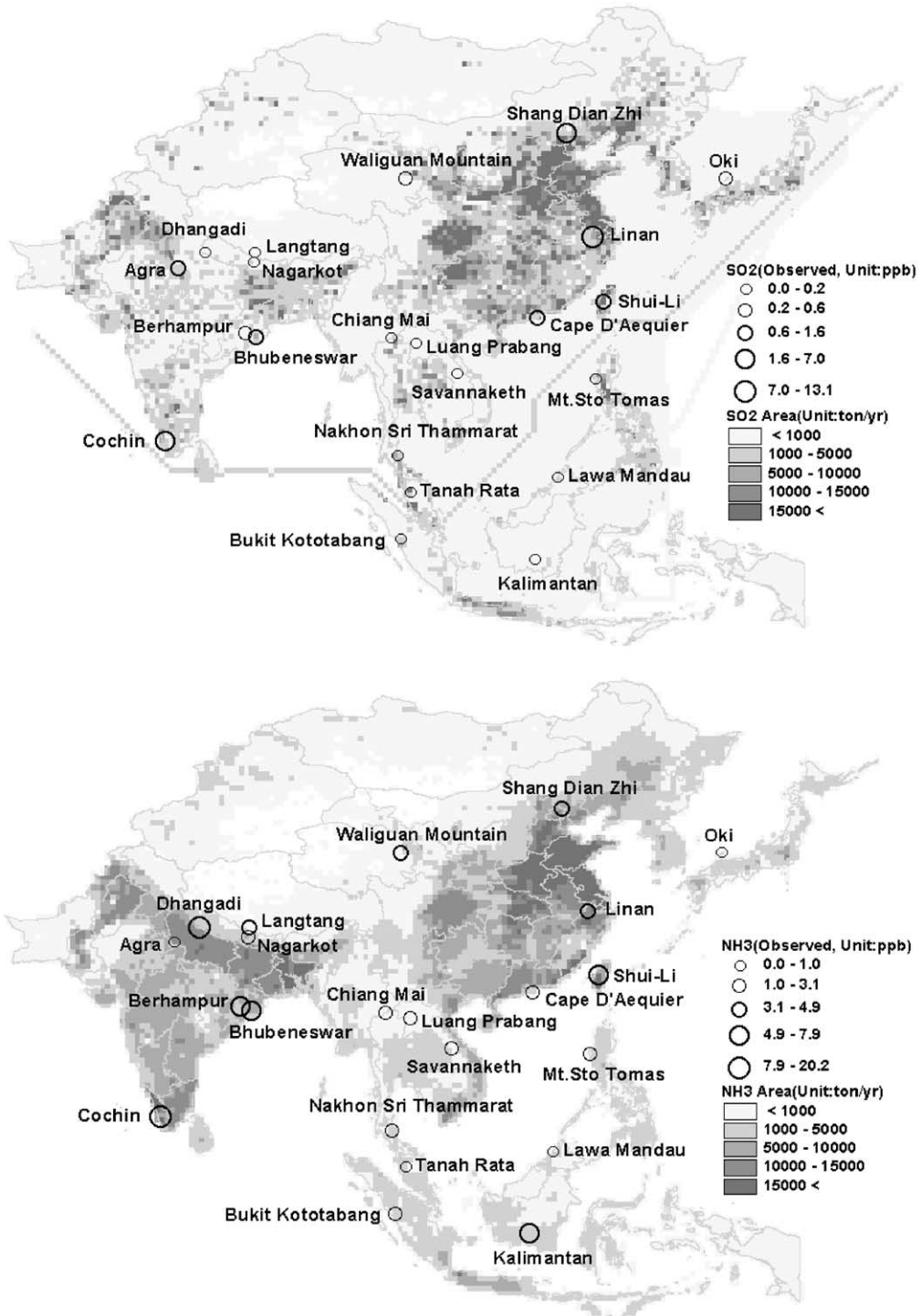
Median ammonia concentrations shown in Fig. 4 range from 20 ppb at Dhangadi, India, to <1 ppb at nine stations. At 27 sites, the ambient ammonia levels exceeded 1 ppb. The high median NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in the Indian sub-continent, Southeast and South Asia, and Africa reflect high NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from agricultural activities (including fertilizer use), livestock, and the use of biofuels (such as animal dung) as domestic fuel.

SO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia play important roles in aerosol processes, and in influencing the acidity of precipitation. While SO<sub>2</sub> has been relatively widely studied, little information is available on ambient NH<sub>3</sub> levels for large regions of the World. The ratio of gaseous ammonia to

sulfur dioxide provides insight into the relative importance of these species. The ratios of observed ammonia to sulfur dioxide are presented in Fig. 5. At 24 sites the ammonia-mixing ratios exceed those of SO<sub>2</sub>, and at 15 sites the ratio exceeds 10.

The median ozone concentrations (Fig. 6) vary from a maximum of 45 ppb at Waliguan Mountain, China, to 8 ppb in Petit Saut, French Guiana. The sorted plot of ozone concentration with latitude (Fig. 7) shows that the four stations with the highest ozone levels (Oki, Japan; Waliguan Mountain, Shang Dian Zhi, and Linan, China) are in the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes. In general, the highest values are found in the mid-latitudes of the Northern and Southern hemisphere, with the Northern hemisphere mid-latitude values exceeding the Southern hemisphere mid-latitude levels, and with the lowest values typically found in the tropical regions.

The observed SO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> values in Asia are plotted along with the emissions distributions in Fig. 8. In general, the observations reflect the spatial distributions of the emissions. SO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia are primary pollutants, and both have high emissions around the major urban and industrial centers. However, ammonia emissions are more widespread, reflecting the large contribution due to agricultural activity. Ozone is a secondary pollutant formed by photochemical processes involving NO<sub>x</sub> and reactive hydrocarbons. High ozone levels are found in regions of high NO<sub>x</sub> and reactive hydrocarbon emissions as seen at Linan and Cape D' Aequier. But high levels are also found at Waliguan



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Fig. 8. (a) Observed median SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> in Asia plotted along with the emissions distributions of SO<sub>2</sub> (top) and NH<sub>3</sub> (bottom). (b) Observed median O<sub>3</sub> values in Asia plotted along with the emissions distribution of NO<sub>x</sub> (top) and the ratio of non-methane volatile organic carbon (NMVOC) to NO<sub>x</sub> ratios (bottom).

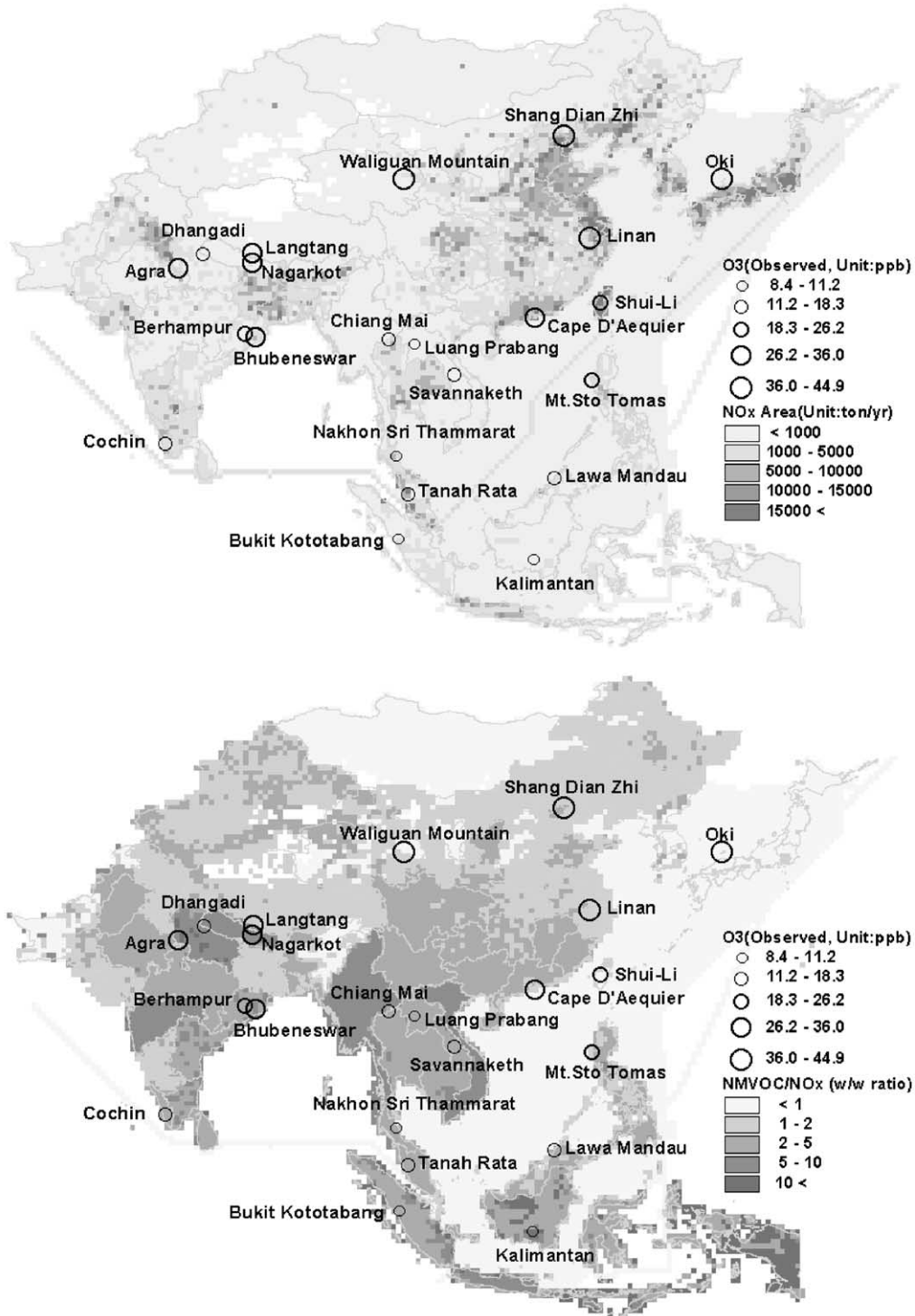


Fig. 8 (continued).

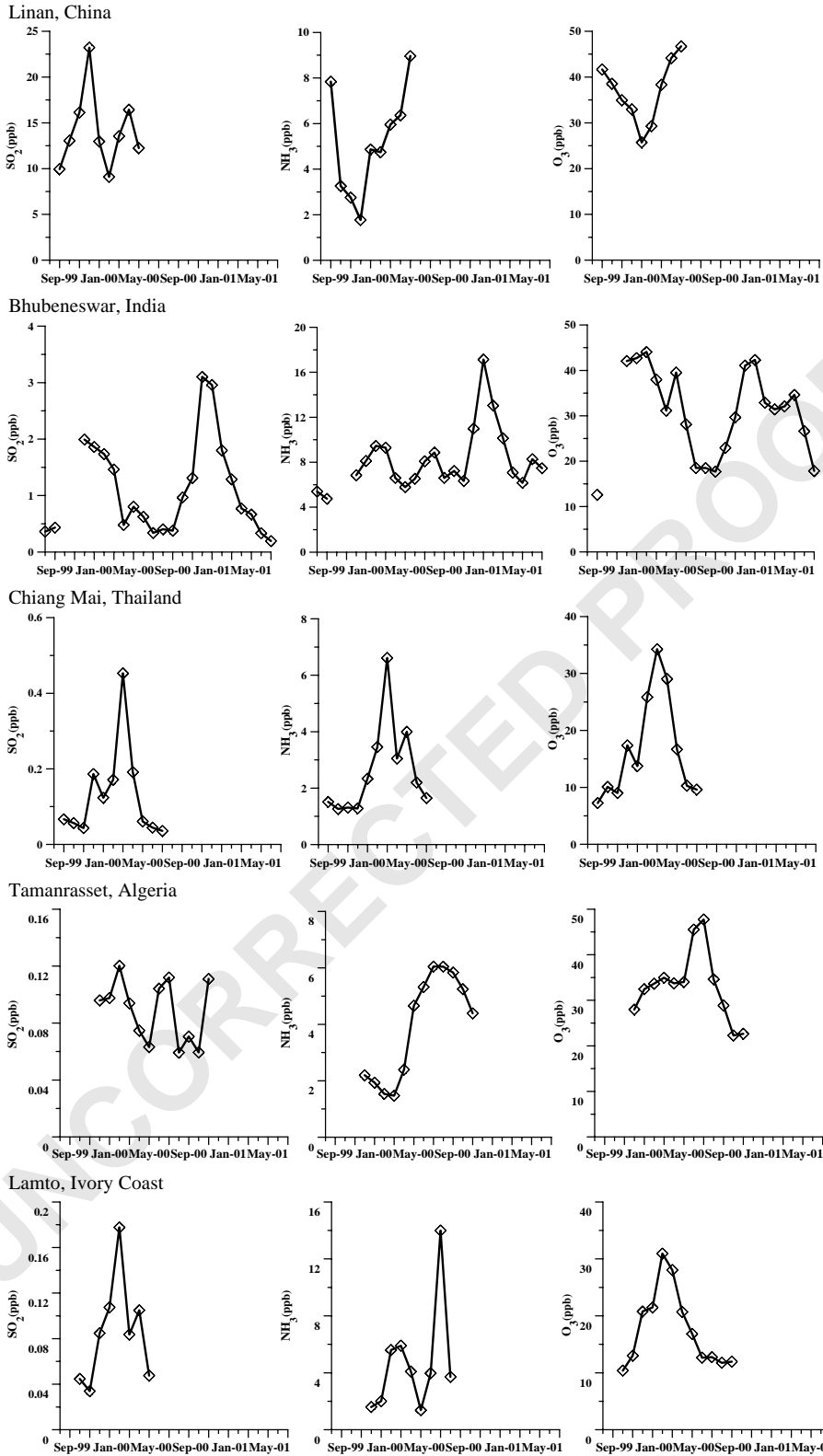


Fig. 9. Seasonal variation in monthly values of SO<sub>2</sub> (left), NH<sub>3</sub> (middle) and O<sub>3</sub> (right) at selected sites.

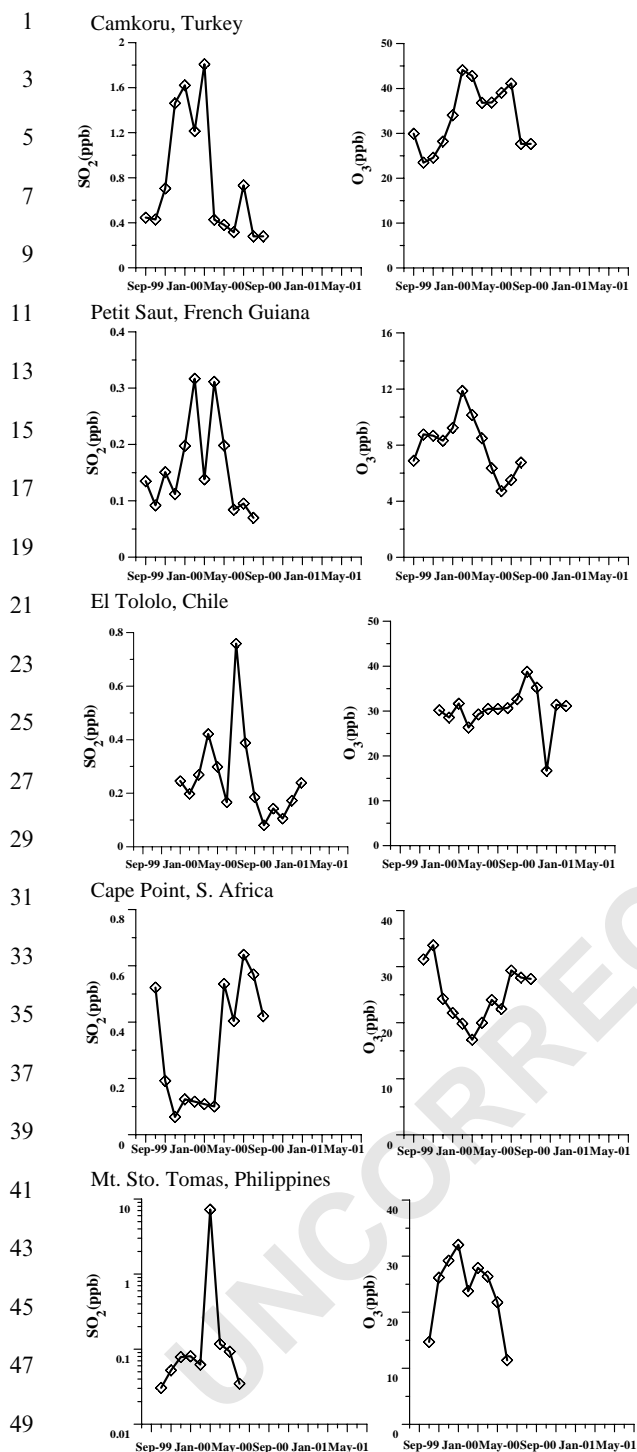


Fig. 10. Seasonal variation in monthly values of  $\text{SO}_2$  (left), and  $\text{O}_3$  (right) at selected sites.

Mountain, reflecting high background levels in the mid-troposphere.

Time-series of monthly values at selected sites are presented in Figs. 9 and 10. The seasonal variation in ambient levels varies from station to station and region-to-region. For example,  $\text{SO}_2$  in East Asia peaks during the winter season (as illustrated by the data at Linan, China), reflecting an increase in emissions associated with domestic heating in China and a decrease in the rate of the gas-phase loss of  $\text{SO}_2$  via chemical conversion to sulfate, and decrease in summer in association with increased precipitation and a shift to on-shore flows. The concentrations in Taiwan and Japan show a similar trend, which may be in part a result of long-range transport of  $\text{SO}_2$  from China. At Linan, the minimum value in  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{O}_3$  occurs in winter. In South Asia, the peak  $\text{SO}_2$  values occur in winter and spring, and decrease dramatically during the summer monsoon season, reflecting the important role that wet removal plays in influencing the seasonal cycle of ambient  $\text{SO}_2$  levels. A similar cycle occurs for ozone. However, ammonia does not show as distinct a decrease during the monsoon. The measurements at Chiang Mai, Thailand show a pronounced maximum in all the three gases in spring. This reflects the importance of regional scale biomass burning. Distinct seasonal cycles are found at the sites in Africa and South America. These also reflect the interplay between seasonal emissions such as those due to biomass burning, and seasonal meteorological conditions, including dry and wet seasons and major shifts in wind direction.

At a few of the measurement sites in Asia,  $\text{SO}_2$  was measured in 1994 using the same passive sampler technique (Carmichael et al., 1995). This allows for a comparison of  $\text{SO}_2$  levels in 1999/2000 with those in 1994. The results are presented in Fig. 11. As illustrated, values in Hong Kong and Thailand show a marked decrease, as do the values at Agra. At other Indian sites, the values are either constant or increased (i.e., at Cochin). These differences are consistent with changes in regional  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions in Asia. In Hong Kong, China, and parts of Thailand, sulfur emissions have been declining due in part to a decrease in the sulfur content of fuels. In Agra, local efforts to reduce the impact of pollution on the Taj Mahal have led to closure of many small industrial sources. Further details are discussed in Street et al. (2001) and Carmichael et al. (2002).

#### 4. Conclusions

Measurements of gaseous  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ , and  $\text{O}_3$  using IVL passive sampler technology were obtained during a pilot measurement program initiated by the WMO/GAW Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME) project. Monthly measurements were ob-

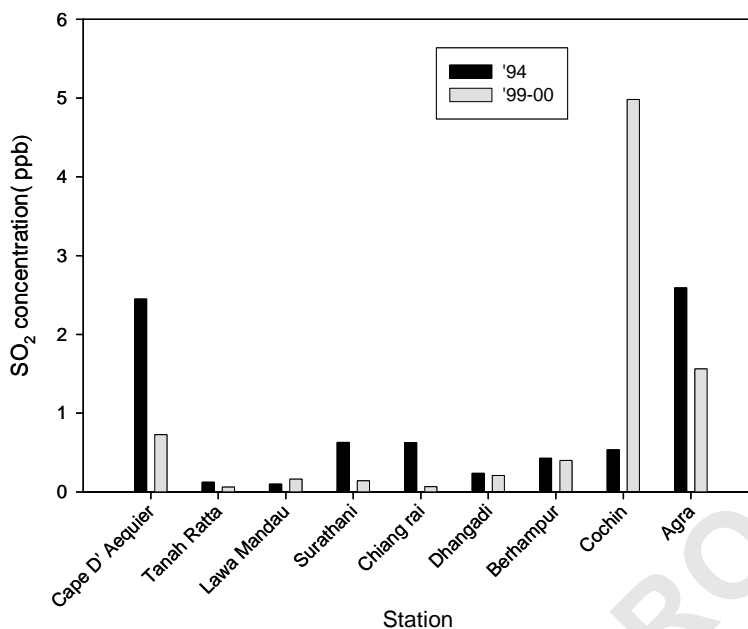


Fig. 11. Changes in annual median SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations between 1994 and 1999/2000.

tained for 1 yr at 50 stations in 12 Asian countries, five African countries, six South American countries, and Turkey. The observed SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations varied from a high of 13 ppb at Linan, China, to <0.03 ppb for four stations. At 30 of 36 regional stations, the observed mean annual concentrations were <1.0 ppb. Annual median ammonia concentrations range from 20 ppb at Dhangadi, India, to <1 ppb for nine stations. At 27 of regional stations, the samples' ambient ammonia levels exceeded 1 ppb. The median ozone concentrations varied from a maximum of 45 ppb at Waliguan Mountain to 8 ppb at Petit Saut, French Guiana. In general, the highest ozone values were found in the mid-latitudes, with the Northern hemisphere mid-latitude values exceeding the Southern hemisphere mid-latitude levels, and the lowest values were found in the tropical regions.

Results from this study help to demonstrate that diffusive samplers are ideal for measurements at remote sites, for checking transport models, screening studies, mapping concentrations in cities, siting of more advanced stations, personal monitoring, etc. The main advantages are: the samplers are small, silent, do not need electricity; the measurements are made in situ (without inlet tubing); the measurement range is very large; technical personnel are not needed at the sampling site; field calibration is not needed; 100% time coverage can be obtained, and they are simple to deploy and mail. The drawbacks are that only gases can be monitored,

that the results are not obtained immediately, and peak values of short duration are not resolved.

Finally, these results demonstrate that a passive sampler offers a low-cost means of obtaining high-quality measurement, covering large regions, while engaging many scientists around the world.

#### Acknowledgements

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