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### Key Points:

- We show evidence for nocturnal production of organic nitrates similar in magnitude to daytime photochemical production
- Significant nocturnal production of organic nitrates observed from three aircraft campaigns in distinct environments
- Nighttime production of organic nitrates impacts our understanding of the nighttime lifetime and fate of  $\text{NO}_x$

### Supporting Information:

- Supporting Information S1

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## Evidence of Nighttime Production of Organic Nitrates During SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS, FRAPPÉ, and KORUS-AQ

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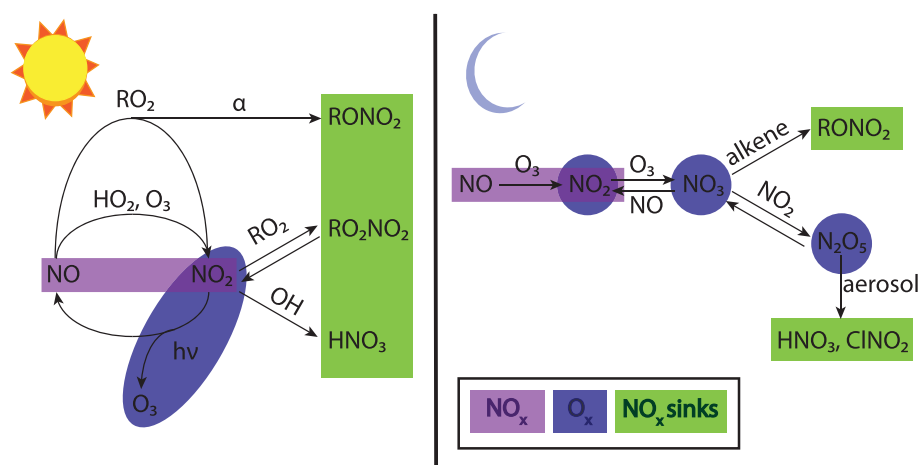
**Abstract** Organic nitrates ( $\text{RONO}_2$ ) are an important  $\text{NO}_x$  sink. In warm, rural environments dominated by biogenic emissions, nocturnal  $\text{NO}_3$ -initiated production of  $\text{RONO}_2$  is competitive with daytime OH-initiated  $\text{RONO}_2$  production. However, in urban areas, OH-initiated production of  $\text{RONO}_2$  has been assumed dominant and  $\text{NO}_3$ -initiated production considered negligible. We show evidence for nighttime  $\text{RONO}_2$  production similar in magnitude to daytime production during three aircraft campaigns in chemically distinct summertime environments: Studies of Emissions and Atmospheric Composition, Clouds, and Climate Coupling by Regional Surveys (SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS) in the rural Southeastern United States, Front Range Air Pollution and Photochemistry Experiment (FRAPPÉ) in the Colorado Front Range, and Korea-United States Air Quality Study (KORUS-AQ) around the megacity of Seoul. During each campaign, morning observations show  $\text{RONO}_2$  enhancements at constant, near-background  $\text{O}_x$  ( $\equiv \text{O}_3 + \text{NO}_2$ ) concentrations, indicating that the  $\text{RONO}_2$  are from a non-photochemical source, whereas afternoon observations show a strong correlation between  $\text{RONO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_x$  resulting from photochemical production. We show that there are sufficient precursors for nighttime  $\text{RONO}_2$  formation during all three campaigns. This evidence impacts our understanding of nighttime  $\text{NO}_x$  chemistry.

**Plain Language Summary** Nitrogen oxides are pollutants emitted during combustion which are involved in ozone and secondary aerosol production. One way in which nitrogen oxides are removed from the atmosphere is via chemistry that converts them to organic nitrates. This conversion of nitrogen oxides to organic nitrates has been thought to occur primarily during the day when the chemistry is driven by sunlight. Here we show evidence that nighttime processes generate similar quantities of organic nitrates to those produced by sunlight-driven processes.

### 1. Introduction

Nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x \equiv \text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$ ) are important tropospheric oxidants that contribute to ozone ( $\text{O}_3$ ) formation, secondary aerosol production, and nitrogen deposition to ecosystems. Alkyl and multifunctional organic nitrates ( $\text{RONO}_2$ ) are an oxidative sink of  $\text{NO}_x$ . Previous studies have shown that  $\text{RONO}_2$  production is a significant  $\text{NO}_x$  loss pathway (Day et al., 2003), especially as urban  $\text{NO}_x$  concentrations decrease (Perring et al., 2013; Romer Present et al., 2020). Organic nitrates can be generated through both daytime photochemical oxidation pathways initiated by OH and nighttime oxidation pathways initiated by  $\text{NO}_3$ .

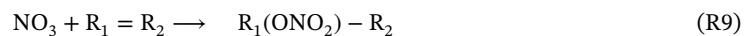
During the day,  $\text{RONO}_2$  is produced photochemically as a radical termination step in a series of reactions between oxidized volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and  $\text{NO}_x$  (shown in Figure 1). VOCs are oxidized by OH to form organic peroxy radicals,  $\text{RO}_2$  (R1). Reaction between NO and organic peroxy radicals can result in formation of an organic nitrate (R2, minor pathway, branching ratio  $\alpha$ ). The major pathway for the reaction between  $\text{RO}_2$  and NO (R3), however, continues radical propagation to form two ozone molecules (R4, R5, R6). Consequently, this daytime chemistry produces both  $\text{O}_x$  ( $\equiv \text{O}_3 + \text{NO}_2$ ) and  $\text{RONO}_2$  so, if photochemistry is dominant, we expect a correlation between  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$ . Typically, chain lengths are such that we expect 6–20  $\text{O}_x$  for each  $\text{RONO}_2$  (Perring et al., 2013).



**Figure 1.** Schematic of daytime (left) and nighttime (right)  $\text{NO}_x$  chemistry.



At night,  $\text{RONO}_2$  is produced from alkenes via addition of  $\text{NO}_3$  to a double bond (R9), as shown in Figure 1.  $\text{NO}_3$  is formed from reaction between  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_3$  (R8). During the day,  $\text{NO}_3$  is lost quickly via reaction with  $\text{NO}$  or via photolysis. In the nocturnal residual layer removed from fresh  $\text{NO}$  emissions,  $\text{NO}_3$  concentrations can build up and react with alkenes. Two  $\text{O}_3$  molecules are consumed in the production of  $\text{NO}_3$  (R7 followed by R8), meaning that nighttime  $\text{RONO}_2$  formation is a net sink of  $\text{O}_x$ . Consequently, we do not expect a positive correlation between  $\text{RONO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_x$  if  $\text{NO}_3$  is the dominant oxidant, and we might even expect a weak negative correlation.



The fate of  $\text{NO}_x$  at night is controlled by the balance of two  $\text{NO}_3$  reaction pathways. First,  $\text{NO}_x$  can be lost via  $\text{NO}_3$  reaction with alkenes, as described above. Second,  $\text{NO}_3$  can be lost at night via reaction with  $\text{NO}_2$  to form  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  in thermal equilibrium, followed by aerosol uptake and heterogeneous hydrolysis to produce  $\text{HNO}_3$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$ . In certain environments,  $\text{NO}_3$  may also react with species such as dimethyl sulfide, aldehydes, and peroxy radicals. The competition between these reaction pathways is controlled by both the relative availability of alkenes and by the fate of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ . Nighttime  $\text{RONO}_2$  production increases in environments with high biogenic alkene emissions (isoprene, monoterpenes) and in environments with high anthropogenic alkene emissions, particularly where either of these two emission sources is sustained overnight. The  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  loss pathway becomes less competitive with  $\text{RONO}_2$  formation in environments with

low aerosol surface area and small heterogeneous uptake coefficients for  $N_2O_5$  ( $\gamma(N_2O_5)$ ), as these decrease the rate of heterogeneous hydrolysis of  $N_2O_5$ . Additionally, higher temperatures shift the  $N_2O_5$  equilibrium towards dissociation, making  $N_2O_5$  formation less favorable, while also increasing the rate of bimolecular  $NO_3$  reactions with alkenes. Thus, nighttime  $RONO_2$  formation is most favorable in environments with high alkene emissions, low aerosol surface area, small  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$ , and high temperature.

There is reason to suspect that  $RONO_2$  production from nighttime  $NO_3$  oxidation of VOCs could be competitive with  $RONO_2$  production from photochemical OH oxidation. Because it is removed from fresh overnight NO emissions, a chemically active residual layer characteristic of many nighttime environments can contain elevated  $NO_3$  concentrations as well as VOC emissions from late in the day. Moreover,  $RONO_2$  yields from  $NO_3$ -initiated oxidation (20–80%) are far larger than  $RONO_2$  yields from OH-initiated oxidation of VOCs (0.1–35%) (Perring et al., 2013 and references within). Even if  $NO_3$  oxidation represents a smaller fraction of total VOC oxidation than OH oxidation, the larger  $RONO_2$  yields could make  $RONO_2$  production from  $NO_3$  oxidation competitive with  $RONO_2$  production from OH oxidation.

A number of recent studies have shown that  $NO_3$  oxidation can be a significant source of  $RONO_2$  in regions dominated by biogenic VOC emissions. In forested regions of Colorado, Finland, and Germany, nighttime concentrations of  $RONO_2$  were found to be comparable with daytime  $RONO_2$  concentrations (Fry et al., 2013; Liebmann et al., 2019; Sobanski et al., 2017). Other studies have found  $NO_3$ -initiated formation of isoprene nitrates to be competitive with OH-initiated formation of isoprene nitrates in the Southeastern United States (Starn et al., 1998; Xiong et al., 2015), in an observationally constrained model of the eastern United States (Horowitz et al., 2007), and in a global model (von Kuhlmann et al., 2004).

Moreover,  $NO_3$  oxidation has been shown to be a significant source of organic aerosol in the Central Valley of California (Rollins et al., 2012), the Southeastern United States (Ayres et al., 2015; Fisher et al., 2016; Lee et al., 2016; Pye et al., 2015; Xu, Guo et al. 2015; Xu, Suresh et al. 2015), in a forested region of Colorado (Fry et al., 2013), in rural Southwestern Germany (Huang et al., 2019), throughout Europe (Kiendler-Scharr et al., 2016), and in the Alberta oil sands (Lee et al., 2019).

Though  $NO_3$  chemistry has been shown to be an important source of  $RONO_2$  and secondary organic aerosol in rural regions dominated by biogenic emissions, nocturnal  $NO_3$ -initiated  $RONO_2$  formation has often been considered negligible in comparison with daytime OH-initiated production of  $RONO_2$  in urban environments. In this study, we present evidence for significant nighttime  $RONO_2$  production using measurements of  $O_x$  and  $RONO_2$  from three aircraft-based field campaigns in distinct summertime environments. First, we show evidence for significant nighttime  $RONO_2$  production in the rural southeastern United States during Studies of Emissions and Atmospheric Composition, Clouds, and Climate Coupling by Regional Surveys (SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS), an area with high biogenic emissions. Second, we show similarly high nighttime  $RONO_2$  production in two urban areas: in the Colorado Front Range during Front Range Air Pollution and Photochemistry Experiment (FRAPPÉ), which is affected by both high urban and oil/gas emissions, as well as in and around the megacity of Seoul during Korea-United States Air Quality Study (KORUS-AQ). In each location, we show that the expected linear relationship between  $O_x$  and  $RONO_2$  is observed during the afternoon. However, during the morning hours, the relationship between  $O_x$  and  $RONO_2$  shows evidence of nighttime  $RONO_2$  production. We support this conclusion further by assessing precursor availability for nighttime  $RONO_2$  production.

## 2. Measurements

### 2.1. SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS, FRAPPÉ, and KORUS-AQ Aircraft Campaigns

The SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS campaign took place during August and September 2013 in the Southeastern and Western United States (Toon et al., 2016). This analysis uses observations from the NASA DC-8 aircraft which flew 19 primarily daytime research flights out of Ellington Field, near Houston, TX.

The FRAPPÉ campaign took place during July and August 2014 in the Northern Front Range Metropolitan Area (NFRMA) of Colorado (Flocke et al., 2020). This analysis uses observations from the NSF/NCAR C-130 aircraft which flew 15 daytime research flights out of the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Jefferson County, CO.

The KORUS-AQ campaign took place during May and June 2016 over South Korea and the Yellow Sea (Nault et al., 2018). This analysis uses observations from the NASA DC-8 aircraft which flew 20 daytime research flights out of Pyeongtaek, South Korea ( $\approx 60$  km south of Seoul).

## 2.2. Instrumentation

During all three campaigns, measurements of  $\text{NO}_2$  and total  $\text{RONO}_2$  (including both gas-phase and particle-phase  $\text{RONO}_2$ ) were made by the UC Berkeley thermal dissociation laser-induced fluorescence (TD-LIF) instrument (Day et al., 2002; Wooldridge et al., 2010). Briefly, one channel of the instrument measures  $\text{NO}_2$  by laser-induced fluorescence. Two other channels first flow air through a heated quartz oven. One channel is set at  $180^\circ\text{C}$ , the temperature at which peroxy nitrates ( $\text{RO}_2\text{NO}_2$ ) dissociate into  $\text{RO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_2$ . The second is set at  $360^\circ\text{C}$ , the temperature at which  $\text{RONO}_2$  dissociate into  $\text{RO} + \text{NO}_2$ . The difference in  $\text{NO}_2$  detected in adjacent channels gives the mixing ratio for each class of compounds: the  $\text{RO}_2\text{NO}_2$  mixing ratio is the difference between the  $180^\circ\text{C}$  channel and the unheated channel, and the  $\text{RONO}_2$  mixing ratio is the difference between the  $360^\circ\text{C}$  channel and the  $180^\circ\text{C}$  channel.

$\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}$  were measured by chemiluminescence. During SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS,  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}$  were measured by the NOAA  $\text{NO}_y\text{O}_3$  instrument (Ryerson et al., 1999, 2000). During FRAPPÉ and KORUS-AQ,  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}$  were measured by the NCAR chemiluminescence instrument (Ridley et al., 1994; Weinheimer et al., 1994).

Alkenes were measured by whole air sampling (WAS) (Colman et al., 2001; Simpson et al., 2011) and trace organic gas analyzer (TOGA) (Apel et al., 2015). For SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS and KORUS-AQ, we use WAS measurements of propene, butenes, isoprene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, and  $\beta$ -pinene. During FRAPPÉ, we use WAS measurements of propene, isoprene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, and  $\beta$ -pinene and TOGA measurements of butenes and limonene.

Instrument details, including accuracy and sampling interval, can be found in Table S1 of the Supporting Information. We use 1-min averaged data, and we consider only boundary layer data (below 1 km during SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS and KORUS-AQ and below 2 km during FRAPPÉ).

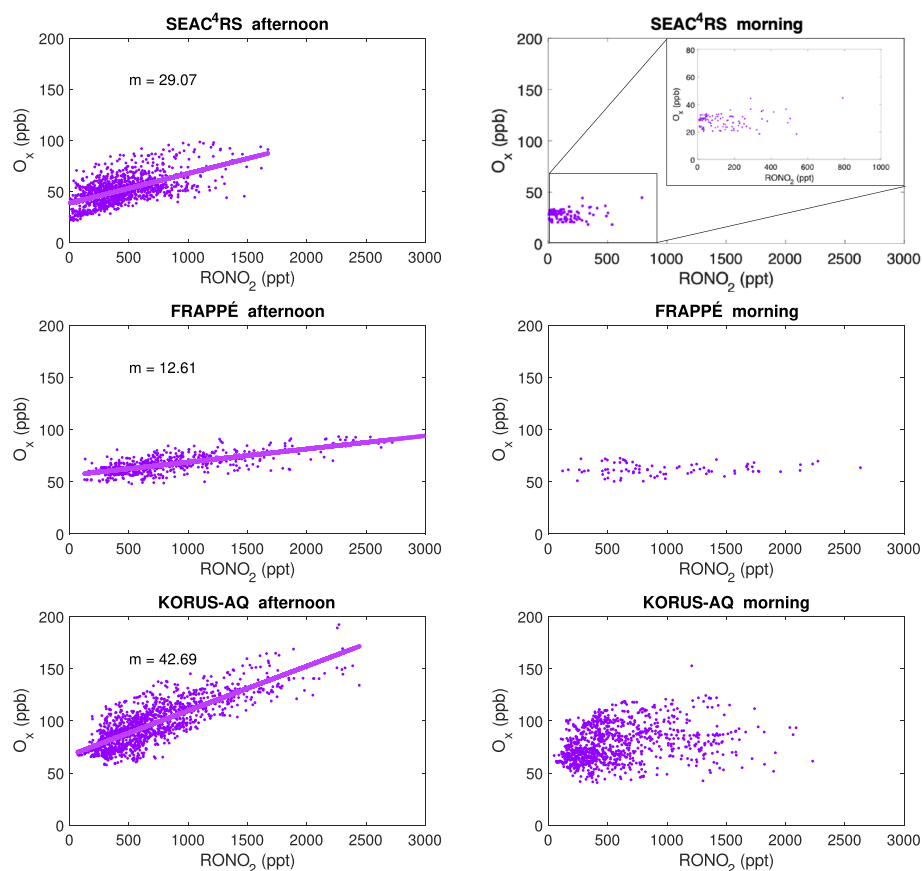
## 3. Observations/Results

### 3.1. $\text{O}_x$ versus $\text{RONO}_2$

The relationship between  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$  during each campaign is shown in Figure 2 (plots of the relationship between  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$  during each flight within each campaign are shown in Figures S1–S6). During all three campaigns, during the afternoon hours (13:00–19:00 local time) when photochemistry is most active, there is a positive, linear relationship between  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$ , indicating that photochemical production of both  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$  is occurring. The slope of the relationship between  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$  mixing ratios is indicative of the branching ratio between  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$  production. From Figure 2, during SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS, 29  $\text{O}_x$  are produced for each  $\text{RONO}_2$ . Chain lengths are shorter during FRAPPÉ, where 13  $\text{O}_x$  are produced for each  $\text{RONO}_2$ , and longer during KORUS-AQ, where 43  $\text{O}_x$  are produced for each  $\text{RONO}_2$ .

During the morning hours (before 11:00 local time) before peak photochemistry occurs, however, the relationship between  $\text{O}_x$  mixing ratios and  $\text{RONO}_2$  mixing ratios has a flat (zero) slope. At a relatively constant observed  $\text{O}_x$  mixing ratio, a wide range of  $\text{RONO}_2$  mixing ratios was observed. This indicates that  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$  are not produced from the same pathway. Instead, the high levels of  $\text{RONO}_2$  at relatively low levels of  $\text{O}_x$  suggest that much of the observed  $\text{RONO}_2$  was produced via a non-photochemical pathway that produces  $\text{RONO}_2$  without generating  $\text{O}_x$ . Since this trend is only observed in the morning, and not in the afternoon, it is indicative of a large source of  $\text{RONO}_2$  produced from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation overnight.

We also explored the effects of  $\text{O}_3$  deposition and nighttime dynamics, but neither could sufficiently explain the observed trend. Estimating an approximate  $\text{O}_3$  deposition velocity of  $0.5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  (e.g., Colbeck & Harrison, 1985; Lenschow et al., 1981) and boundary layer height of 1 km, the lifetime of  $\text{O}_3$  to deposition is 56 h, far longer than the chemical timescales relevant to this analysis. Entrainment of air from aloft could also affect observed morning mixing ratios, but would have the same relative effect on both  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$ . Consequently, neither  $\text{O}_3$  deposition nor entrainment can explain the lack of correlation between  $\text{O}_x$  and  $\text{RONO}_2$  in the morning; the observed effect can only be explained by significant nocturnal production of  $\text{RONO}_2$ .



**Figure 2.** Plots of  $O_x$  vs.  $RONO_2$  during SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS, FRAPPÉ, and KORUS-AQ during afternoon (left, 13:00–19:00 local time) and morning (right, before 11:00 local time). Only data in the boundary layer (<1 km for SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS and KORUS-AQ, <2 km for FRAPPÉ) are included. York linear fits (with slopes labeled as  $m$ ) to the afternoon data are shown.

### 3.2. Precursors for Nighttime $RONO_2$ Production

As additional evidence for nighttime  $RONO_2$  production, we assess the availability of precursors to  $RONO_2$  production, namely  $NO_3$  and alkenes. We report average morning (before 11:00 local time) mixing ratios of  $RONO_2$ , alkenes, and  $NO_x$  in Table 1. The abundance of  $NO_x$  and alkenes observed in the morning indicates that these precursors are not depleted by overnight chemistry; rather, the non-zero concentrations of precursors in the morning suggests that  $NO_3$ -initiated  $RONO_2$  production chemistry is sustained overnight and occurs until daybreak.

During SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS, there were insufficient morning alkene measurements to report meaningful averages. However, Edwards et al. (2017) report airborne measurements which show that the nocturnal residual layer in the Southeastern United States is rich in isoprene, evidence that there is an abundance of alkenes available overnight to form alkyl nitrates.

Moreover, we use the observed morning mixing ratios of  $NO_x$ ,  $O_3$ , and alkenes to calculate lower bounds on the integrated overnight production of  $NO_3$  (Equation 1), the instantaneous production rate of  $RONO_2$  (Equation 2), and the instantaneous production rate of alkenes +  $O_3$  (Equation 3).

$$\int P(NO_3) = NO_{x,initial} (1 - \exp(-t \times k_{NO_2+O_3} \times [O_3])) \quad (1)$$

$$P(RONO_2) = \sum_i \alpha_i \times k_{NO_3+alkene_i} \times [alkene_i] \times [NO_3] \quad (2)$$

$$Rate(O_3 + alkene) = \sum_i k_{O_3+alkene_i} \times [alkene_i] \times [O_3] \quad (3)$$

**Table 1**

Table of the Average RONO<sub>2</sub>, Alkene, and NO<sub>x</sub> Concentrations in the Morning (Before 11:00 Local Time), Integrated Overnight Production of NO<sub>3</sub>, Instantaneous Production Rate of RONO<sub>2</sub>, and Instantaneous Reaction Rate of Alkenes with O<sub>3</sub>

	SEAC <sup>4</sup> RS	FRAPPÉ	KORUS-AQ
RONO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	0.12	0.98	0.56
propene (ppt)	N/A	98	129
butene (ppt)	N/A	39	60
isoprene (ppt)	N/A	109	54
α-pinene (ppt)	N/A	11	15
β-pinene (ppt)	N/A	9.0	11
limonene (ppt)	N/A	4.8	N/A
NO <sub>x</sub> (ppb)	0.43	8.1	4.4
∫ P(NO <sub>3</sub> ) (ppb) <sup>a</sup>	0.23	5.2	2.9
P(RONO <sub>2</sub> ) (ppb/h) <sup>a,b,c</sup>	N/A	2.3	1.3
alkene + O <sub>3</sub> rate (ppb/h) <sup>a,b</sup>	N/A	0.021	0.108

Note. There are insufficient morning SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS measurements due to data sparsity to report meaningful morning average alkene mixing ratios. <sup>a</sup>Calculated from morning (before 11:00 local time) precursor observations and can therefore be considered a lower bound. <sup>b</sup>Rate constants from MCM v3.3.1 are used. <sup>c</sup>Nitrate yields used are from Perring et al. (2013) and references therein.

As shown in Table 1, the integrated production of NO<sub>3</sub> exceeds the observed morning mixing ratios of RONO<sub>2</sub>, and the production rates of RONO<sub>2</sub> calculated from morning observations are more than sufficiently fast to account for the morning observations of RONO<sub>2</sub>. Lastly, the rate of VOC (ethyne, ethene, propene, MACR, MVK, isoprene, butene, α-pinene, β-pinene, and limonene) oxidation by O<sub>3</sub> is at least an order of magnitude smaller than the production rate of RONO<sub>2</sub>, indicating that NO<sub>3</sub> is the dominant nocturnal alkene oxidant in these environments.

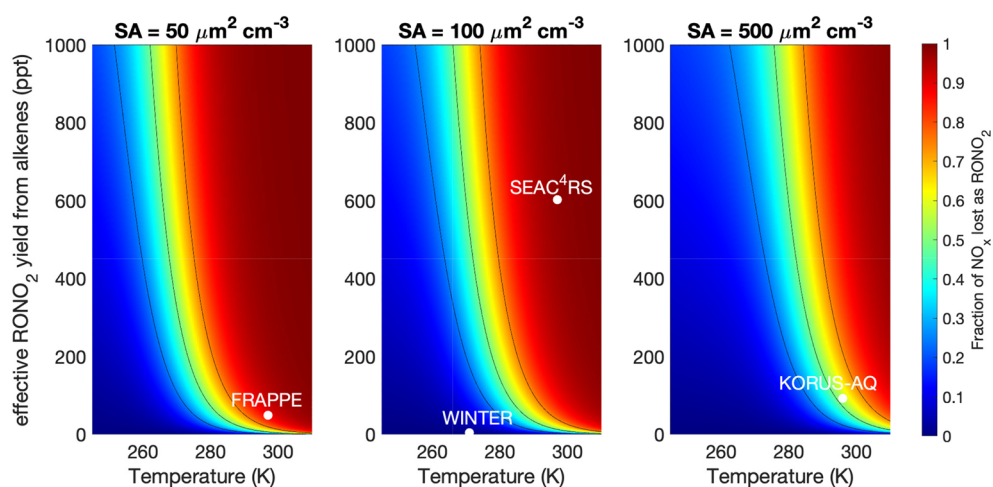
#### 4. Discussion and Conclusion

We show evidence of significant nighttime RONO<sub>2</sub> production during three aircraft campaigns in three distinct locations: the rural southeastern United States dominated by biogenic emissions (SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS), the Colorado Front Range dominated by a combination of urban and oil/gas emissions (FRAPPÉ), and the megacity of Seoul dominated by urban emissions (KORUS-AQ). Though, in urban areas, nighttime production of RONO<sub>2</sub> has often been considered negligible in comparison with daytime production, we show evidence for nighttime RONO<sub>2</sub> production that results in morning RONO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios of similar magnitude to afternoon observations of RONO<sub>2</sub> in all three of these distinct environments.

Rapid nighttime RONO<sub>2</sub> production impacts our understanding of the lifetime and fate of NO<sub>x</sub> at night. Evidence for nighttime RONO<sub>2</sub> production indicates that HNO<sub>3</sub> and ClNO<sub>2</sub> produced via heterogeneous hydrolysis of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> are not necessarily the dominant nighttime sinks of NO<sub>x</sub>, consistent with other aircraft-based nighttime urban NO<sub>3</sub> budgets (Brown et al., 2011). In environments with low aerosol loading, high temperatures, and an abundance of alkenes, RONO<sub>2</sub> production can be the dominant nighttime NO<sub>x</sub> sink. Significant nocturnal NO<sub>3</sub>-initiated RONO<sub>2</sub> production in urban areas also has implications for substantial overnight secondary organic aerosol production in and around cities.

We explore the effects of temperature, alkenes, and aerosol surface area on the fraction of NO<sub>x</sub> lost as RONO<sub>2</sub> (defined as  $\frac{P(\text{RONO}_2)}{P(\text{RONO}_2) + P(\text{HNO}_3)}$ ) at night in Figure 3, assuming an initial NO<sub>2</sub> concentration, constant O<sub>3</sub>, pressure, and  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ , and NO<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in steady state (see Appendix A). Under these model conditions, the temperature, pressure, alkenes, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and aerosol surface area measured in the evening (after 16:30 local time) during FRAPPÉ and SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS indicate that RONO<sub>2</sub> is the dominant sink of NO<sub>x</sub> at night and during KORUS-AQ indicate that overnight NO<sub>x</sub> loss is evenly split between N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> loss and RONO<sub>2</sub> production. This is consistent with a tower-based measurement in Seoul in 2015 which showed rapid NO<sub>3</sub>-BVOC chemistry (Brown et al., 2017). For contrast, during the WINTER campaign (aircraft campaign over NE US, February to March 2015), low temperatures and low alkene concentrations lead to NO<sub>x</sub> loss at night dominated by





**Figure 3.** Fraction of  $\text{NO}_x$  lost as  $\text{RONO}_2$  (defined as  $\frac{P(\text{RONO}_2)}{P(\text{RONO}_2) + P(\text{HNO}_3)}$ ) overnight, shown as a function of temperature and effective  $\text{RONO}_2$  yield from alkenes ( $\sum_i \alpha_i [\text{alkene}]_i$ ) for three different aerosol surface areas ( $\text{SA} = 50, 100, \text{ and } 500 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ ). We assume an initial  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration (1 ppb), constant  $\text{O}_3$  (40 ppb), constant pressure (1013 hPa), constant  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  (0.04), and  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  in steady state. Black contour lines correspond to 25%, 50%, and 75% of  $\text{NO}_x$  lost as  $\text{RONO}_2$ . Average evening (after 16:30 local time) conditions during SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS, FRAPPE, and KORUS-AQ are shown. Average conditions during WINTER (NSF aircraft campaign over Northeastern United States during February to Mar 2015) are also shown as an example of conditions during which  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  loss is the dominant nighttime sink of  $\text{NO}_x$  (Kenagy et al., 2018).

$\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  hydrolysis (Kenagy et al., 2018). Histograms of the distribution of the fraction of  $\text{NO}_x$  lost as  $\text{RONO}_2$  calculated from evening observations of  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ , alkenes, temperature, and pressure during each campaign can be found in Figures S7–S9.

Here we have presented evidence for a significant, and sometimes dominant, nighttime source of  $\text{RONO}_2$  using airborne, daytime measurements. Further measurements of the diel cycles of  $\text{RONO}_2$  and its precursors would be of use to further elucidate the relative importance of the different mechanisms for  $\text{RONO}_2$  formation. Additionally, measurements of the diel cycle of  $\text{RONO}_2$  could provide insights into the fate of daytime- and nighttime-produced  $\text{RONO}_2$  by showing whether they remain in the gas phase or partition into particles and whether hydrolysis, oxidation, or deposition dominates loss of  $\text{RONO}_2$ .

## Appendix A: Calculating Fraction of $\text{NO}_x$ Lost as $\text{RONO}_2$ Overnight

We calculate the nighttime production of  $\text{RONO}_2$  from reaction of  $\text{NO}_3$  and alkenes (R9) and the nighttime loss of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  from heterogeneous hydrolysis (approximated as production of  $\text{HNO}_3$ ) as

$$P(\text{RONO}_2) = \sum_i \alpha_i \times k_{\text{NO}_3 + \text{alkene}_i} \times [\text{alkene}_i] \times [\text{NO}_3] \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$P(\text{HNO}_3) = k_{\text{hyd}}[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5], \quad \text{where} \quad k_{\text{hyd}} = \frac{1}{4} \times \bar{c}_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5} \times \text{SA} \times \gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5). \quad (\text{A2})$$

Here  $\alpha$  is the  $\langle \text{INF} \rangle < I \rangle > i < / I \rangle < / \text{INF} \rangle$  branching ratio for  $\text{RONO}_2$  production from the reaction of  $\text{NO}_3$  with alkenes,  $\bar{c}_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$  represents the mean molecular speed of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  represents the heterogeneous uptake coefficient for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , and SA represents the aerosol surface area per volume of air.

We use the rate constant for the reaction of  $\text{NO}_3 + \text{isoprene}$  for  $k_{\text{NO}_3 + \text{alkene}}$ . Values for  $k_{\text{NO}_3 + \text{alkene}}$  and for  $k_b$  (defined below) are from the IUPAC chemical kinetics database (Atkinson et al., 2004, 2006). Values for  $k_{\text{NO}_2 + \text{O}_3}$  and for  $k_f$  are from JPL Data Evaluation #18 (Burkholder et al., 2015). We assume an initial mixing ratio of  $\text{NO}_2$  (1 ppb), and constant  $\text{O}_3$  (40 ppb), pressure (1013 hPa), and  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  (0.04). Additionally, we assume  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  in steady state:

$$[\text{NO}_3]_{\text{SS}} = \frac{k_{\text{NO}_2 + \text{O}_3} [\text{NO}_2] [\text{O}_3]}{k_{\text{NO}_3 + \text{alkene}} [\text{alkene}]} \quad (\text{A3})$$

$$[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]_{\text{SS}} = \frac{k_f[\text{NO}_3][\text{NO}_2]}{k_b + k_{\text{hyd}}}, \quad (\text{A4})$$

where  $k_f$  represents the formation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  from  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $k_b$  represents the decomposition of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  into  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_3$ .

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