

## **Primary Biological and Biomass Burning Aerosols at the Northern Slope of Mt. Everest, Central Himalayas**

PINGQING FU<sup>1,2</sup>, HONG REN<sup>1</sup>, XIN WAN<sup>3</sup>, YELE SUN<sup>1</sup>,  
ZIFA WANG<sup>1</sup>, KIMITAKA KAWAMURA<sup>4</sup>, CONG-QIANG  
LIU<sup>2</sup>, AND ZHIYUAN CONG<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> State Key Laboratory of Atmospheric Boundary Layer  
Physics and Atmospheric Chemistry, Institute of  
Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences,  
Beijing 100029, China (fupingqing@mail.iap.ac.cn)

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Surface-Earth System Science, Tianjin  
University, Tianjin, 300072, China

<sup>3</sup> Key Laboratory of Tibetan Environment Changes and Land  
Surface Processes, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100085, China

<sup>4</sup> Chubu Institute for Advanced Studies, Chubu University,  
Kasugai, Japan

Organic aerosols from biomass burning and primary biological sources are ubiquitous in the Earth's atmosphere. They affect the absorption and scattering of solar radiation, act as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) and possibly influence ice and snow albedo in remote regions. Here we determined polar organic markers for biomass burning, plant debris and primary biological aerosols at a remote site (Qomolangma, 4276 m a.s.l.) of Mt. Everest, central Himalayas using a solvent extraction-BSTFA derivatization-GC/MS technique. Seasonal trends of biomass-burning aerosols are characterized by pronounced maxima in the pre-monsoon season and minima in the summer monsoon period, being consistent with aerosol organic carbon. However, concentrations of fungal spore tracers and plant debris peaked in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons, suggesting that primary bioaerosols and plant emission are important sources of organic aerosols over the Tibetan Plateau in the post-monsoon season when biomass burning emission is weak. With the consideration of primary bioaerosol particles as potential CCN and atmospheric ice nuclei and biomass burning as one of the significant sources of light-absorbing aerosols, our findings have potential implication for climate change in the Tibetan Plateau, a major concern in the Earth's "Third Pole".