Seasonal changes in atmospheric deposition of halogen species in the Greenland EastGRIP snow pit

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The snow pit study from the East Greenland Ice Core Project (EastGRIP) site revealed the seasonal and/or inter-annual changes in atmospheric deposition of halogen species (Br and I) to the northeastern Greenland ice sheet. The 38 snow samples were recovered from the 1.9 m hand-dug snow pit near to EastGRIP deep ice core drilling camp (75.6268°N, 35.9915°W) in July, 2017. The depth profiles of water stable isotopes (δ^{18} O and δD) and soluble ion species (Ca²⁺, Na⁺, MSA) indicate the 1.9 m snow pit samples covered 3.5 years from 2013 to summer 2017. The Br in the EastGRIP snow pit samples showed clear seasonality. The high Br concentration peaks were observed during summer 2013 (3.52 ng g⁻¹), summer 2014 (2.52 ng g⁻¹) and spring 2015 (2.37 ng g⁻¹), while no clear increase of Br was found in 2016. In polar regions, atmospheric Br is known to be enhanced during springtime by autocatalytic release called Br explosions which is favorably occurs above first-year sea ice. However, Br deposition on the polar ice sheet is possibly influenced by transport and thus summer maxima are observed in the polar snow and ice [1]. This well meets the depth profiles of Br in the EastGRIP snow pit. In addition, inter-annual changes in the seasonal sea ice extent of Barents Sea during 2013~2017 was exactly same to the summer maxima values of Br enrichment in the EastGRIP snow pit. On the other hand, the I concentration in the EastGRIP snow pit generally increased coincide with Br concentration, but the seasonality is much less clear. This is probably due to iodine release via brine and/or non-linear biological responses to the sea ice conditions.

[1] Spolaor et al. (2014) Atmos. Chem. Phys. 14, 9613-9622.