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Role of Organic Coatings in Regulating N

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Reactive Uptake to Sea Spray Aerosol

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# 1 **On the Role of Organic Coatings in Regulating N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> Reactive Uptake to Sea Spray Aerosol**

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10

## 11 **1. Abstract**

12

13 Previous laboratory measurements and field observations have suggested that the reactive uptake of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
14 to sea spray aerosol particles is a complex function of particle chemical composition and phase, where  
15 surface active organics can suppress the reactive uptake by up to a factor of 60. To date, there are no  
16 direct studies of the reactive uptake of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to nascent sea spray aerosol that permit assessment of the  
17 role that organic molecules present in sea spray aerosol (SSA) may play in suppressing or enhancing  
18 N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> uptake kinetics. In this study, SSA was generated from ambient seawater and artificial seawater  
19 matrices using a Marine Aerosol Reference Tank (MART), capable of producing nascent SSA  
20 representative of ambient conditions. The reactive uptake coefficient of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ( $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ ) on nascent SSA  
21 was determined using an entrained aerosol flow reactor coupled to a chemical ionization mass  
22 spectrometer for measurement of surface area dependent heterogeneous loss rates. Population averaged  
23 measurements of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  for SSA generated from salt water sequentially doped with representative  
24 organic molecular mimics, or from ambient seawater, do not deviate statistically from that observed for  
25 sodium chloride ( $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)_{\text{NaCl}} = 0.01\text{-}0.03$ ) for relative humidity (RH) ranging between 50-65%. The  
26 results are consistent with measurements made under clean marine conditions at the Scripps Institution of  
27 Oceanography Pier and those conducted on nascent SSA generated in the marine aerosol reference tank.  
28 The results presented here suggest that organic films present on nascent SSA (at RH greater than 50%)  
29 likely do not significantly limit N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> reactive uptake.

30

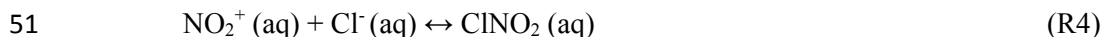
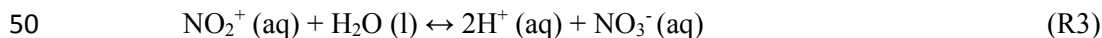
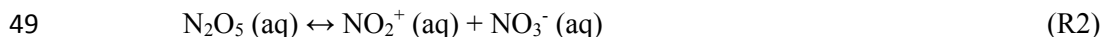
## 31 **2. Introduction**

32 Heterogeneous reactions play a controlling role in both setting the atmospheric lifetime of aerosol  
33 particles and catalyzing the production and loss of trace gases in the atmosphere.<sup>1,2</sup> Few heterogeneous  
34 reactions have garnered as much interest as the reaction of dinitrogen pentoxide (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) at aqueous

35 interfaces, as this reaction has been shown to be highly sensitive to surface chemical composition,<sup>3-5</sup>  
36 phase,<sup>5,6</sup> and the presence of surfactants.<sup>7-13</sup> In the atmosphere, accurate representation of the lifetime of  
37 N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is of importance; N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> serves as both a nocturnal reservoir for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub> ≡ NO+ NO<sub>2</sub>)  
38 and a pathway for the production of photolabile halogen species such as nitryl chloride (ClNO<sub>2</sub>).<sup>14-16</sup>

39  
40 The efficiency of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> reactive uptake at an aqueous interface is commonly reported as the reactive  
41 uptake coefficient, γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), or the reaction probability per N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> collision with an aerosol particle. The  
42 concerted reaction mechanism that controls γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), as described in the reaction sequence below, begins  
43 with mass accommodation of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to the particle surface. Following accommodation, autoionization of  
44 N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> results in the formation of a highly reactive nitronium ion (NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>) intermediate (R2), which can react  
45 with water to form NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (R3), Cl<sup>-</sup> to form ClNO<sub>2</sub> (R4), or a host of other nucleophiles (e.g. aromatic  
46 compounds).<sup>17-20</sup>

47



53

54 Recent studies have focused on the role the organic fraction plays in altering γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), through either a  
55 reduction in the entry probability of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> due to the presence of a surfactant film,<sup>7,11</sup> or a diffusive  
56 limitation in N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> transport from the interface to the aqueous core of the particle.<sup>8,9,21</sup> Ambient studies  
57 such as Bertram et al. 2009 report a strong anti-correlation between γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and the particulate organic to  
58 sulfate ratio, consistent with the picture of a phase separated organic film.<sup>21,22</sup> Using aircraft observations,  
59 Brown et al. observed up to a factor of ten decrease in γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) correlated with an increase in particulate  
60 organic content during ambient measurements in the northeastern United States.<sup>23</sup> Laboratory studies  
61 using both smog chambers and molecular mimics have demonstrated that organic films exhibiting  
62 monolayer coverage can serve to reduce γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) by more than a factor of 60.<sup>8</sup> Escorcia et al. observed up  
63 to nearly a factor of 50 reduction in γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), dependent on the mass fraction of α-pinene oxidation  
64 products in mixed secondary organic aerosol containing ammonium bisulfate.<sup>3</sup> The authors attribute the  
65 suppression in γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) to either an organic-induced reduction in the mass accommodation coefficient, or  
66 decrease in the rate of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> dissolution and diffusion in the particle bulk post-accommodation. Parallel  
67 studies have focused on the role of surfactant monolayers in suppressing γ(N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), where straight chain

68 surfactants have been shown to suppress  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  by as much as a factor of 60 when compared to the sub-  
69 phase alone.<sup>8</sup> In contrast, no suppression in  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  was observed for branched organic surfactants such  
70 as phytanic acid, suggesting that the degree of organic packing on the reactive surface governs the ability  
71 of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  to reach the reactive sub-phase. A 3.5 wt% solution, equal to a monolayer coverage of sodium  
72 dodecyl sulfate on aqueous NaCl particles, was found to suppress the reactive uptake of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  by a factor  
73 of ten,<sup>7</sup> while a monolayer coverage of a shorter chain organic, hexanoic acid, on artificial seawater  
74 aerosol reduced  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  by as much as a factor of four.<sup>11</sup>

75  
76 Here, we focus on the role that organics present in nascent sea spray aerosol (SSA) particles play in  
77 altering  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ . It has been shown that sub-micrometer sized SSA particles can contain large organic  
78 mass fractions (0.17-0.83).<sup>24-26</sup> The observed range in organic mass fraction is inconsistent with the early  
79 conceptual representation of SSA as salty particulates with well-ordered surfactant films at the  
80 surface,<sup>27,28</sup> and more consistent with either a thick organic film or an internally mixed inorganic/organic  
81 particle.

82  
83 The abundance and composition of the organic mass fraction of SSA is critically linked to the biological,  
84 chemical, and physical processes occurring in the surface ocean.<sup>24-26</sup> Specifically, the inter-related life  
85 cycle of phytoplankton, bacteria, and viruses, referred to as the microbial loop,<sup>29-32</sup> serves to enhance and  
86 transform organic material in surface waters. The primary stages of the microbial loop include an increase  
87 in phytoplankton abundance, followed by a subsequent increase in bacterial concentrations commensurate  
88 with phytoplankton decay. Bacteria number concentrations eventually decay due to virus grazing,  
89 resulting in a spike in virus count. As a result of species cycling, the concentration and speciation of  
90 biologically-derived organic material also varies based on the stage of the phytoplankton bloom. It has  
91 been suggested<sup>26,33</sup> that the composition and mass fraction of organics in SSA particles will track the  
92 biological and chemical evolution of a phytoplankton bloom. In this paper, we utilize molecular mimics  
93 for organic species, representative of those found in the ocean during a phytoplankton bloom, to assess  
94 the impact of SSA chemical composition on the reactive uptake of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ . These results are compared to  
95  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake values obtained from SSA generated from natural ambient seawater and particles sampled  
96 during clean marine conditions at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Pier.<sup>20,34</sup>

### 98 **3. Materials and Methods**

99 **3.1  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  generation and detection**  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  was generated *in situ* as described previously.<sup>35</sup> Briefly, ozone,  
100 generated by flowing UHP zero air over an exposed UV mercury Penray lamp (Jelight, Irvine, CA), is  
101 mixed with  $\text{NO}_2$ . The combined flows are allowed to mix in a glass mixing cell for approximately two

102 minutes, after which the total flow is 100 sccm and is delivered *via* 1/8" PFA tubing to the entrained  
103 aerosol flow reactor. Guided by the initial work of Bertram et al. 2009, the mixing ratios at the flow  
104 reactor entrance were approximately:  $[\text{NO}_2] = 290$  ppb,  $[\text{O}_3] = 30$  ppb,  $[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5] = 1$  ppb. The reaction was  
105 run at room temperature (ca. 295K), resulting in a  $[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]:[\text{NO}_3]$  ratio greater than 50. The mixing ratio of  
106  $\text{HNO}_3$  at the flow reactor exit was estimated to be 10% that of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , based on known ion-molecule  
107 reaction rates for  $\text{I}^-$  ion chemistry.<sup>36</sup>

108  
109 The aerosol flow reactor closely resembles that described in Bertram et al., 2009.<sup>35</sup> The reactor is a 15 cm  
110 I.D., 90 cm long stainless steel tube. Prior to entering the flow reactor, aerosols are conditioned to a  
111 relative humidity between 39-65% by varying the exposure time of the aerosol-laden air within a  
112 desiccator and measuring the RH at the exit of the desiccator. Similar to Bertram et al. 2009, the particle  
113 stream was sent either directly to the flow tube or first through a filter assembly equipped with a  
114 Whatman supported PTFE membrane filter (Whatman, 5.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , TE 38) to remove particles from the air  
115 stream. The valve assembly was controlled autonomously *via* computer controlled pneumatically actuated  
116 valves. The particle inlet to the reactor is located orthogonal to the flow tube and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  reagent gas  
117 delivery to maximize mixing between the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  gas and the particle-laden air flow in the entry region. The  
118 top of the reactor was equipped with a RH and temperature meter (Vaisala, HMP60 Humidity and  
119 Temperature Probe). The bottom cap of the flow tube was equipped with a similar port that allowed for  
120 exit of gases and reacted particles through a 1/4" Teflon tube to the inlet of the chemical ionization  
121 quadrupole mass spectrometer (CI-QMS). The flow rate of the reactor was 1800 sccm, which was set by a  
122 critical orifice in the front end of the CI-QMS, establishing an average reaction time of 615 s.

123  
124  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  concentrations were monitored continuously with a CI-QMS utilizing  $\text{I}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  reagent  
125 ion chemistry.<sup>37</sup>  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  was measured directly as the  $\text{I}^-(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  adduct at 235 m/z, and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  as the  $\text{I}^-$   
126 ( $\text{ClNO}_2$ ) adduct at 208 and 210 m/z. Routine measurements of  $\text{HNO}_3$  were also made by measuring the  
127 signal intensity at 189 m/z, which corresponds to  $\text{I}^-(\text{HNO}_3)$ . Data were collected at 1 Hz.

128  
129 **3.2 Sea spray aerosol generation and duty cycle** Sea spray aerosol was generated using a Marine  
130 Aerosol Reference Tank (MART) described in detail in Stokes et al. 2013.<sup>38</sup> Briefly, a 210 L acrylic tank  
131 is filled with 120 L of either artificial seawater, or natural seawater obtained directly from the ocean. The  
132 MART is equipped with a recirculating water pump that generates an in tank plunging water sheet. The  
133 plunging water sheet, permitting the formation of subsurface bubble plumes and surface foam patches that  
134 accurately mimic those observed in the open ocean from breaking waves.<sup>26,38</sup> To allow for representative  
135 surface foam lifetime and dissipation rates, the plunging sheet was modulated in a 10s on, 6s off duty

136 cycle, referred to here as the "SSA production mode". During SSA production mode, the MART system  
137 produces aerosol continuously with consistent surface area distributions, as shown in Figure 1. Typical  
138 particle number, surface area, and mass concentrations from the MART can be found in Stokes et al., and  
139 correspond to total particle number and surface area concentrations of 6000-8000  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  and 4500 - 6000  
140  $\mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ , depending on the flow rate through the MART.<sup>38</sup> Given the large headspace volume (90 L) and  
141 slow flow rates (3 slpm), the SSA production mode plunging modulation is not resolvable, and thus does  
142 not impact the resulting aerosol measurements.

143  
144 For the experiments described here, the SSA production mode duty cycle was computer controlled,  
145 permitting autonomous operation. Following each organic addition, the headspace of the MART was  
146 purged with wet UHP nitrogen, created by flowing  $\text{N}_2$  through a water bubbler. The system was run with  
147 the plunging sheet off for at minimum 60 minutes to ensure full purging of any ambient particles in the  
148 MART system. Following this, the SSA production mode was initialized and continued as described  
149 above for one hour. During this time, flow from the MART passed through the particle filter prior to  
150 reaching the flow reactor to allow the walls to equilibrate with the relative humidity.  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  was  
151 continuously generated and added to the flow reactor, regardless of the filter state. Fifteen minutes prior  
152 to the end of the SSA production mode, the filter is turned off, and the aerosol laden air flow is directed  
153 into the flow reactor to equilibrate the reactor walls with particles. At the conclusion of the SSA  
154 production mode, plunging is arrested in the MART (Fig. 2A), after which total particle number  
155 concentrations decay to zero as the headspace of the MART is depleted in SSA.<sup>38</sup> This part of the cycle is  
156 referred to as "SSA decay mode". SSA decay mode persists for 60 minutes, after which time the SSA  
157 production mode resumes, and the flow tube flow is returned to the filter state. This complete, 2 hour  
158 cycle was repeated three times for each water matrix studied. The complete cycle is shown in Figure 2  
159 alongside corresponding changes in total particle surface area (red), and sub-micrometer particle surface  
160 area (green). As shown in Figure 2, the decay in particle concentration within the MART is size  
161 dependent, with larger particles exhibiting a shorter lifetime than smaller particles within the headspace.<sup>38</sup>  
162 The size dependent loss rate can be used to isolate sub-micrometer particles from super-micrometer  
163 particles for study of the loss of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  to sub-micrometer aerosol as size dependent differences in particle  
164 chemical composition are expected.

165  
166 **3.3 Molecular mimics of seawater organics** Two separate experiments were conducted in the MART as  
167 part of this study: 1) a synthetic microbial loop, designed to chemically replicate the microbial loop, was  
168 carried out in the MART, and 2) the MART was filled with ambient ocean water collected from Scripps  
169 Institution of Oceanography Pier. The first experiment involved filling the tank with an artificial seawater,

170 created by mixing MilliQ water and a sea salt mixture (Sea Salts, Sigma Aldrich, S9883) to create a  
171 matrix with ocean-relevant ion concentrations. Following the theoretical modeling studies of Burrows et  
172 al., we represent different stages of a phytoplankton bloom with five different classes of biologically-  
173 derived organic species.<sup>39</sup> Ocean concentrations of total organic carbon are on average 60-70  $\mu\text{M C}$ .<sup>40</sup>  
174 However, concentrations are expected to be enhanced at the air-sea interface, producing much higher  
175 organic concentrations than in the average ocean state. The artificial seawater matrix was sequentially  
176 doped with 70  $\mu\text{M C}$  of each of the following organic constituents: cholesterol (3 $\beta$ -Hydroxy-5-cholestene,  
177 Sigma Aldrich, C8667), galactose (D (+) galactose, Sigma Aldrich, G0750), lipopolysaccharides  
178 (lipopolysaccharides from *Escherichia coli* 0111:B4, Sigma Aldrich, L4130), albumin protein (Bovine  
179 Serum Albumin, Sigma Aldrich, A2153), and 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphate monosodium salt  
180 (DPPA, Avanti Polar Lipids Inc., #830855P).  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake coefficient measurements were made  
181 following the addition of each organic compound.

182  
183 The organic mimics are listed in order of addition to the water matrix in Table 1, along with their  
184 molecular weight, carbon to oxygen ratio, and solubility. The first 70  $\mu\text{M}$  organic addition was  
185 cholesterol, a species that has been previously detected in both the sea-surface microlayer (SSML)  
186 (enriched by up to 15 times) and SSA, and originates primarily from phytoplankton, as noted by Hardy,  
187 1982 and references therein.<sup>41</sup> Following this, galactose was added to mimic sugars that have been  
188 detected during the growth of bacteria.<sup>42</sup> The third addition was lipopolysaccharides, which are found in  
189 the cell membranes of gram negative bacteria<sup>43</sup> and are often used as a measure of bacterial  
190 concentrations in ocean waters. <sup>E.g.</sup><sup>44,45</sup> To represent protein and lipids also found in seawater, albumin  
191 protein and DPPA were added in 70  $\mu\text{M}$  concentrations to the water matrix sequentially.

192  
193 In the second experiment, the MART system was purged and filled with Pacific Ocean water obtained  
194 from the end of Scripps Institution of Oceanography Pier (La Jolla, CA, September 9th 2013). The water  
195 was not doped with any additional constituents, and was run as obtained from the ocean without filtering.

196  
197 **3.4 Seawater and sea spray aerosol characterization**  
198 **3.4.1 Aerosol particle characterization** Dry aerosol particle number and surface area distributions were  
199 measured in real time, during all experiments, using an Aerosol Particle Sizer (APS, TSI model 3321),  
200 measuring particles from 0.4 to 14  $\mu\text{m}$ , and an Ultra High Sensitivity Aerosol Spectrometer (UHSAS,  
201 Droplet Measurement Technologies) sizing particles between 0.06 and 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . Particle growth factors were  
202 determined *via* an optical closure procedure as previously described<sup>26,46,47</sup> and applied to the sizing data

203 for use in the calculation of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  as the particle stream flowing to the sizing instruments was dried to <  
204 10% RH.

205  
206 Following the third and final SSA decay mode for each water matrix, size segregated SSA were generated  
207 and collected onto silicon nitride ( $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ) window substrates housed in a micro-orifice uniform-deposit  
208 impactor (MOUDI). Particles were not dried prior to collection, and based on the rates of the sample and  
209 dilution flow, the RH at impaction is estimated to be ca. 60%. Two MOUDI stages (stage 5 and 7) were  
210 analyzed in detail. Particles collected on stage 5 correspond to wet particle diameters between 1-1.8  $\mu\text{m}$   
211 and particles collected on stage 7 correspond to wet particle diameters between 0.33-0.56  $\mu\text{m}$ . Work  
212 presented here focuses on the stage 7 substrates as they most closely map the surface area maximum for  
213 sub-micrometer aerosol analyzed in the flow reactor.

214  
215 The stage 7 substrates were imaged using Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) to estimate the organic  
216 volume fraction of approximately 50 particles for each water matrix sample. AFM imaging was  
217 performed with a Molecular Force Probe 3D AFM (Asylum Research, Santa Barbara, CA). Alternating  
218 current (AC) mode images were collected at room RH (20-21%) with silicon probes (MikroMasch, Model  
219 CSC37) with a nominal spring constant of 0.35 N/m and a typical tip radius of curvature of 8-10 nm.  
220 Height, amplitude, and phase images were used to create particle masks over both the core and whole  
221 particle and a particle analyzer was used to determine the volume of the masked areas. Organic volume  
222 fraction was calculated as the volume of the whole particle minus the core volume, divided by the total  
223 particle volume, as described further in Section 4. Particle diameters post-impaction were measured using  
224 AFM analysis and the average measured diameters under 20% RH are reported here.

225  
226 The total volume of the particle ( $V_{tot}$ ) and the volume of the particle core ( $V_{core}$ ) were directly quantified  
227 via AFM imaging. The organic coating volume ( $V_{coat}$ ) is calculated by taking the difference of the total  
228 particle and core volume ( $V_{coat} = V_{tot} - V_{core}$ ), assuming total phase separation. Additionally, the volume  
229 equivalent diameter of the particle core can be determined from the volume of the particle core ( $d_{core} = 2$   
230  $\times ((0.75\pi \times V_{core})^{1/3})$ ). Finally, calculated volume equivalent  $d_{core}$  and  $d_{AFM}$  can be used to estimate the  
231 thickness of the organic coating on the particle ( $th_{coat} = (d_{AFM} - d_{core})/2$ ). This calculation was performed  
232 for each particle type, and the average diameter determined by AFM and calculated film thicknesses are  
233 shown in Table 2. Within the assumptions made for this calculation, including extrapolation of the  
234 measured AFM diameter to a spherical particle, ignoring any spreading of the particle that may have  
235 resulted from impaction onto the surface, and the assumption of phase separation of the organics and core,



236 the film thickness determined is remarkably consistent across all samples and is around 8 nm (at 20%  
237 RH).

238  
239 Additionally, the organic mass fraction of the particles was estimated from the organic volume fraction  
240 determination. For this calculation, it was assumed the particle core had the same density as NaCl  
241 ( $2.2 \times 10^{-12} \text{ g } \mu\text{m}^{-3}$ ), and due to the unknown phase of the organic fraction, a density between that of  
242 graphite and oil ( $1.6 \times 10^{-12} \text{ g } \mu\text{m}^{-3}$ ) was used.<sup>48,49</sup>

243  
244 **3.4.2 Water Characterization** Water samples were taken by skimming the top of the water surface with  
245 a clean media bottle following each organic addition. Surface tension was measured by agitating the water  
246 sample bottles and then transferring collected water into a clean glass dish provided with the Kruss  
247 Tensiometer K11 instrument. Here the Wilhelmy plate method was utilized for the surface tension  
248 measurements. Water pH was measured from the collected water samples using a pH meter (IQ Scientific  
249 Instruments pH/mV/thermometer #1506471).

250  
251 **3.5 Determination of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$**  Traditional measurements of heterogeneous reaction rates using entrained  
252 aerosol flow reactors have focused on measuring the decay in reactant concentration at a fixed surface  
253 area concentration by varying the interaction time of the gas with the particles. The reactive uptake  
254 coefficient is often then calculated from the slope of the linear regression analysis for the dependence of  
255 the heterogeneous loss rate on particle surface area ( $S_a$ ).<sup>2,5,8,50,51</sup> Here, we utilize a fixed gas-particle  
256 interaction time and calculate  $k_{obs}$  as a function of the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  concentration in the presence and absence of  
257 aerosol particles (E1) as was done in Bertram et al., 2009, effectively yielding an instantaneous measure  
258 of  $k_{obs}$ . As discussed above, we induce a slow decay in particle surface area entering the flow reactor by  
259 arresting particle production in the MART.

260  
261 The MART experiment was designed to include the particle decay mode for two purposes: 1) the decay in  
262  $S_a$  provides a method for calculating the dependence of the heterogeneous loss rate on  $S_a$ , autonomously,  
263 and 2) the removal rate of SSA within the MART is strongly size dependent, as shown in Stokes et al.  
264 2013, where super-micrometer particles are removed more quickly than sub-micrometer particles. This  
265 permits us to time gate our analysis to focus on sub-micrometer aerosol. Figure 4 shows a typical duty  
266 cycle during this experiment, including the corresponding change in the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  signal (Fig. 4A). Total  
267 surface area is constant to within 12% during SSA production mode (Fig 4B). As shown in Figure 4B,  
268 when plunging is arrested (time = 0 s), super-micrometer particle surface area decays promptly, and by  
269 500s the super-micrometer contribution to the total surface area concentration is less than 1%. For the

270 analysis described below, we constrain our sampling window to the period where the time rate of change  
 271 in surface area is slower than the residence time of the flow reactor. In this analysis we only consider  
 272 periods where the surface area does not vary by more than 20% over the residence time of the flow  
 273 reactor.

274  
 275 During the SSA decay mode, the N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> signal increases due to the decreasing surface area available for  
 276 reaction as RH is held constant during the decay. Due to the delay in signal response resulting from the  
 277 residence time in the flow tube, the particle surface area data and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> signal were temporally adjusted to  
 278 match the beginning of the particle decay mode. We first average the N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> signal intensities to 20  
 279 seconds to match the averaging time of the particles surface area measurements. Each N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> average point  
 280 during the particle decay period was then divided by the maximum N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> signal in the decay period  
 281 (corresponding to the point of  $S_a = 0 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ ). Lastly, the instantaneous observed loss rate ( $k_{obs}$ ) was  
 282 calculated using Equation 1 for each 20 s averaging period as:

$$k_{obs} = -\frac{1}{\tau} \times \ln \left( \frac{(N_2O_5)_{time=t}}{(N_2O_5)_{max}} \right) \quad \text{E1}$$

283  
 284 where  $\tau$  is the residence time in the flow reactor (615 s),  $(N_2O_5)_t$  are the individual N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> time averaged  
 285 points during particle decay in the reactor, and  $(N_2O_5)_{max}$  is the highest N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> value during the period. A  
 286 key point here is that  $S_a$  is not changing during each determination of  $k_{obs}$ .

287  
 288 The reactive uptake coefficient,  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$ , was calculated as the slope of a plot of instantaneous  $k_{obs}$   
 289 (Equation 2) as a function of total surface area ( $S_a$ ).

$$k_{obs} = \left( \frac{\gamma \times \omega}{4} \right) \times S_a + k_{wall} \quad \text{E2}$$

290  
 291 where  $\omega$  is the mean speed of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (241.7 m/s), and  $k_{wall}$  is the loss rate of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to the flow reactor wall.  
 292 This method of  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$  determination is illustrated in Figure 5, where the black line is a one-sided linear  
 293 fit to the data providing the slope, which is indicated as  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$  in the legend. The y-axis intercept is  $k_{wall}$ .  
 294 Additionally, grey lines indicating specific gamma values are shown for reference. At present, it is not  
 295 clear what is causing the steeping in the slope, corresponding to a particle surface area of  $150 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ ,  
 296 however at this low surface area the differences between N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentrations between the particle on and  
 297  
 298  
 299  
 300

301 off states in E1 are less than 5%, and minor fluctuations in  $k_{wall}$  and the  $N_2O_5$  source have a large impact  
302 on the retrieved  $k_{obs}$ .

303

## 304 **4. Results and Discussion**

305 **4.1 Aerosol organic volume fraction** SSA particles were analyzed with AFM to determine the organic  
306 volume fraction for particle populations collected from each water matrix. Distributions of organic  
307 volume fraction measured per water matrix are shown in Figure 6. The halo of material surrounding the  
308 cubic particle core is assigned as organic content here, however, this fraction may also contain inorganic  
309 constituents such as  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ , and  $K^+$ .<sup>52</sup> As such, the organic volume fractions reported here represent  
310 an upper limit.

311

312 Organic volume fractions were determined for each stage of the experiment. For the salt water tank, the  
313 average organic volume fraction was  $0.05 \pm 0.05$ , not purely 0, due to the fact that Sigma Aldrich sea salts  
314 are obtained via natural sea water evaporation, rather than from ACS reagent grade salt mixture, and thus  
315 contain some degree of organic components. Following the addition of cholesterol ( $70 \mu M$  C), the mean  
316 organic volume fraction was  $0.10 \pm 0.05$ . Upon the addition of  $70 \mu M$  C galactose, the mean organic  
317 volume fraction increased to  $0.18 \pm 0.06$ . For all subsequent organic additions, the mean particle organic  
318 volume fraction stayed in a narrow range of 0.19-0.21.

319

320 Figure 6F indicates that particles generated from natural seawater show a narrower organic volume  
321 fraction distribution, with a standard deviation of 0.03, yet with a very similar average value (0.18) to  
322 samples post-galactose addition, which ranged from 0.18-0.21. These values are listed in Table 2. Within  
323 error, the organic volume fraction values for the synthetic bloom water matrix (post-cholesterol addition)  
324 and the real ocean sample are consistent with values stated previously in the literature for hydrophobic  
325 organic volume fractions for similar sized aerosol derived from real ocean water samples (0.20-0.29  
326 organic volume fraction for particles up to 246 nm, wet diameter).<sup>53</sup>

327

328 **4.2 Effect of marine organic mimics on  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$**  For both the synthetic bloom and ambient seawater  
329 systems, a minimum of three to a maximum of eight determinations of  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$  were made for each water  
330 matrix. These values were averaged and the resulting  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$  is reported in Table 2, along with the range  
331 of values measured during each water matrix, the relative humidity range measured in the flow reactor,  
332 and the measured pH and surface tension of water samples collected from each water matrix. The  
333 propagated error with any individual  $\gamma(N_2O_5)$  value (not shown) is significantly less than the range in

334  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  observed. The uncertainty in any individual determination of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  is primarily limited by  
335 variability in the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  source concentration as was the case in Bertram et al., 2009.

336  
337 To assess the dependence of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  on the composition of the water matrix from which SSA was  
338 generated,  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  is shown as a function of the concentration of carbon in the water (Fig. 7A). The error  
339 bars indicate the range in  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  for a given condition. As shown in Fig. 7A, there is a slight increase in  
340 the mean  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  following the addition of LPS ( $[\text{C}] = 210 \mu\text{M}$ ). However, the variability in  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ , as  
341 indicated by the error bars in Fig. 7A, overlaps with the adjacent  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  determinations. It should also be  
342 noted that the  $70 \mu\text{M}$  addition of cholesterol results in an average  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  similar to that of the real ocean  
343 water sample.

344  
345 Beyond variability in carbon concentrations, water samples collected from the MART exhibited a wide  
346 range in surface tension ( $52.6 - 69 \text{ mN m}^{-1}$ ), consistent with the addition of the organic molecules. The  
347 surface tension, as measured following the addition of Sigma Aldrich sea salts at ocean concentrations  
348 was  $68.7 \text{ mN m}^{-1}$ , significantly less than that expected for a  $0.5 \text{ M NaCl}$  solution ( $73 \text{ mN m}^{-1}$ ).<sup>54</sup> This is a  
349 result of trace organic compounds present in the sea salts mixture that is produced from the evaporation of  
350 natural seawater. The addition of albumin to the MART resulted in both the largest suppression in surface  
351 tension ( $52.6 \text{ mN m}^{-1}$ ) as well as the generation of significant standing foam. Prior to the addition of  
352 DPPA, the standing foam dissipated, suggesting that albumin had been scavenged from the MART either  
353 by direct uptake to the interior surfaces of the MART (walls and recirculating pump) and/or release to the  
354 atmosphere as particulates. While not measured, it is expected that the surface tension would have  
355 increased during this period. The albumin trial lasted an extended period of time (6 days as compared to 1  
356 day for the other additions) due to an instrumental issue. Despite the large percent changes in surface  
357 tension, no statistically relevant change in  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  was detected. Bulk water pH was measured throughout  
358 the experiments and  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  is shown as a function of water pH in Fig. 7C. The water side pH for the  
359 synthetic experiment ranged from 7.74 for sea salts in MilliQ water to 8.15 after the addition of all  
360 organics. The pH of the collected ocean water was 7.87, similar to the pH values after the addition of  
361 cholesterol, galactose, and LPS (see Table 2). Despite the range of pH values,  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  was found to be  
362 invariable with water pH.

363  
364 As shown in Figure 8, there was also no clear dependence of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  on particle organic volume fraction  
365 or film thickness. This suggests that under the sampling conditions of this study ( $\text{RH} > 50\%$ ), organic  
366 material was likely well mixed within the particle, thus permitting prompt diffusion of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  throughout

367 the particle. Further, we see no evidence for a surfactant monolayer that serves to block  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  entry into  
368 the particle. It is important to note that the calculation of the volume fraction and film thickness were  
369 done at 20% RH, while determinations of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  were conducted between 50-65% RH. As a result the  
370 presence of an organic film may or may not be present under the conditions that the reactive uptake  
371 coefficient were measured. Future work in this area will focus on determining  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  and film thickness  
372 as a function of RH, as we may expect to see deviations from the relationships shown in Figure 8 at lower  
373 RH.

374  
375 **4.3 Determinations of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  for nascent SSA** Determinations of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  for SSA particles generated  
376 in the MART from coastal seawater also show no indication that organics present in nascent SSA  
377 significantly suppress  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  reactivity ( $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5) = 0.0065 - 0.0147$ ), relative to that for sea salts ( $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)_{\text{sea}}$   
378  $\text{salts} = 0.0077 - 0.0372$ ), at relative humidity above 50% (Fig. 8). This suggests that organics present in SSA  
379 particles do not impede  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  entry or diffusion following accommodation under the conditions sampled  
380 here. These results are consistent with those observed by Cosman et al., who showed that coating particles  
381 with branched chain organics showed no significant impact on  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ , likely related to the surface  
382 packing density of branched organics on the particle surface.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, the organic molecules used in the  
383 synthetic bloom experiments in this study (e.g., LPS) are unlikely to pack tightly on the surface of  
384 particles due to their complex structures. Given the large organic volume fractions measured for MART  
385 generated particles ( $> 0.15$ ), it is plausible that a larger effect of organics on  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  may exist at lower  
386 relative humidity, as has been suggested by laboratory studies of secondary organic aerosol.<sup>6,11</sup>

387  
388 The collection of measurements described in this paper are shown in Figure 9 alongside previous ambient  
389 determinations of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  made from the SIO pier.<sup>20,34</sup> Determinations of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  observed in this study  
390 agree with those measured for ambient particles with similar organic mass fractions. As illustrated in  
391 Figure 9, significant suppression in  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  for ambient particulates is not achieved until much higher  
392 organics mass fractions. As was discussed in Riedel et al., the air masses associated with these particles  
393 were of continental origin and contained high nitrate content, which served to reduce  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ .<sup>34</sup>

## 394 395 **5. Conclusions**

396 The results presented here indicate that organic material present in nascent sea spray aerosol sampled here  
397 does not serve to impede the reactive uptake of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  at RH greater than 50%. Further, we observe no  
398 evidence for the suppression in the reactive uptake of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  to SSA generated from a host of marine  
399 organic mimics at ocean relevant concentrations for RH greater than 50%. For waterside carbon

400 concentrations ranging between 70-350  $\mu\text{M}$ , the organic volume fraction as measured using AFM  
401 remained between 0.10-0.21 and  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  remained between 0.013-0.031. The results presented here  
402 suggest that either: 1) surface active material at the air-particle interface does not pack as tightly as  
403 monolayers of single component straight chain carboxylic acids, thus allowing for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  access to the  
404 aqueous core for reaction and/or 2) organic material in nascent SSA is either well mixed within the  
405 particle under the RH conditions sampled here, thus permitting prompt diffusion of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  throughout the  
406 particle, or organic material is present at the interface but at insufficient amount to impact the reactivity.  
407 Future work in this area will focus on coincident determinations of organic film thickness and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$   
408 reaction probability as a function of relative humidity.

409

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416

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574 **Table 1:** Synthetic seawater components and their respective properties.

|                     | Molecular<br>Weight (g mol <sup>-1</sup> ) | C:O   | H:C   | Water Solubility<br>(mg mL <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|---------------------|--|-------|-------|--|
| Cholesterol         | 386.66                                     | 27:1  | 46:27 | 0.002 <sup>55</sup>                        |
| Galactose           | 180.16                                     | 1:1   | 2:1   | 684 <sup>56</sup>                          |
| Lipopolysaccharides | >3880.02                                   | N/A   | N/A   | 5 <sup>57</sup>                            |
| Albumin             | 66kDa                                      | N/A   | N/A   | 40 <sup>58</sup>                           |
| DPPA                | 670.87                                     | 4.4:1 | 1.9:1 | insoluble <sup>59</sup>                    |

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580 **Table 2:** Average values of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  obtained during each stage of the synthetic bloom, alongside the  
581 range of relative humidity, pH, and surface tension of the water matrix. The average particle organic  
582 volume fraction is determined *via* AFM measurements, and the organic film thickness is derived from the  
583 organic volume fraction estimates.

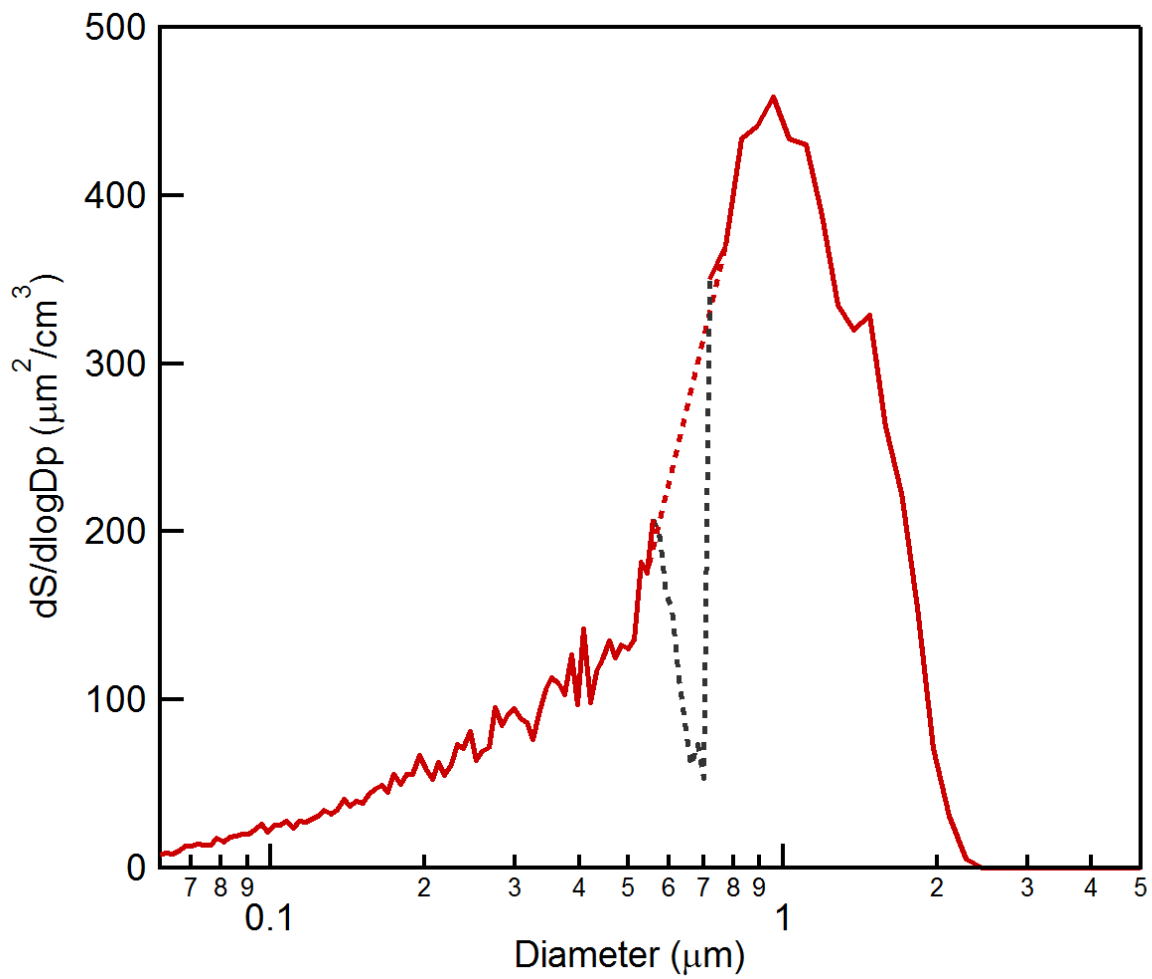
584 \*AFM-derived at 20% RH

| Stage           | $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ | $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ range | RH range (%) | Water pH | Surface tension (mN/m) | Avg. vol. equivalent particle diameter (nm) * | Avg. organic volume fraction | Calculated avg. organic coating thickness (nm) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| 0 (Salt)        | 0.0165                         | 0.0077 - 0.0372                      | 39 - 73      | 7.74     | 68.7                   | 150 ± 110                                     | 0.05 ± 0.05                  | 2.0 ± 0.4                                      |
| 1 (+ Sterol)    | 0.0129                         | 0.0079 - 0.0215                      | 54 - 60      | 7.90     | 68.7                   | 210 ± 110                                     | 0.10 ± 0.06                  | 4.1 ± 0.5                                      |
| 2 (+ Galactose) | 0.0177                         | 0.0134 - 0.0228                      | 49 - 53      | 7.85     | 68.1                   | 210 ± 110                                     | 0.18 ± 0.09                  | 7.7 ± 0.4                                      |
| 3 (+ LPS)       | 0.0314                         | 0.0108 - 0.0573                      | 51 - 61      | 7.89     | 69.0                   | 220 ± 70                                      | 0.21 ± 0.08                  | 7.9 ± 0.4                                      |
| 4 (+ Albumin)   | 0.0140                         | 0.0085 - 0.0179                      | 56 - 65      | 8.16     | 52.6                   | 230 ± 80                                      | 0.20 ± 0.05                  | 8.5 ± 0.3                                      |
| 5 (+ DPPA)      | 0.0138                         | 0.0097 - 0.0213                      | 53 - 59      | 8.15     | 58.7                   | 210 ± 100                                     | 0.19 ± 0.05                  | 9.0 ± 0.2                                      |
| Seawater        | 0.0116                         | 0.0065 - 0.0147                      | 53 - 59      | 7.87     | 63.5                   | 210 ± 110                                     | 0.18 ± 0.04                  | 8.1 ± 0.3                                      |

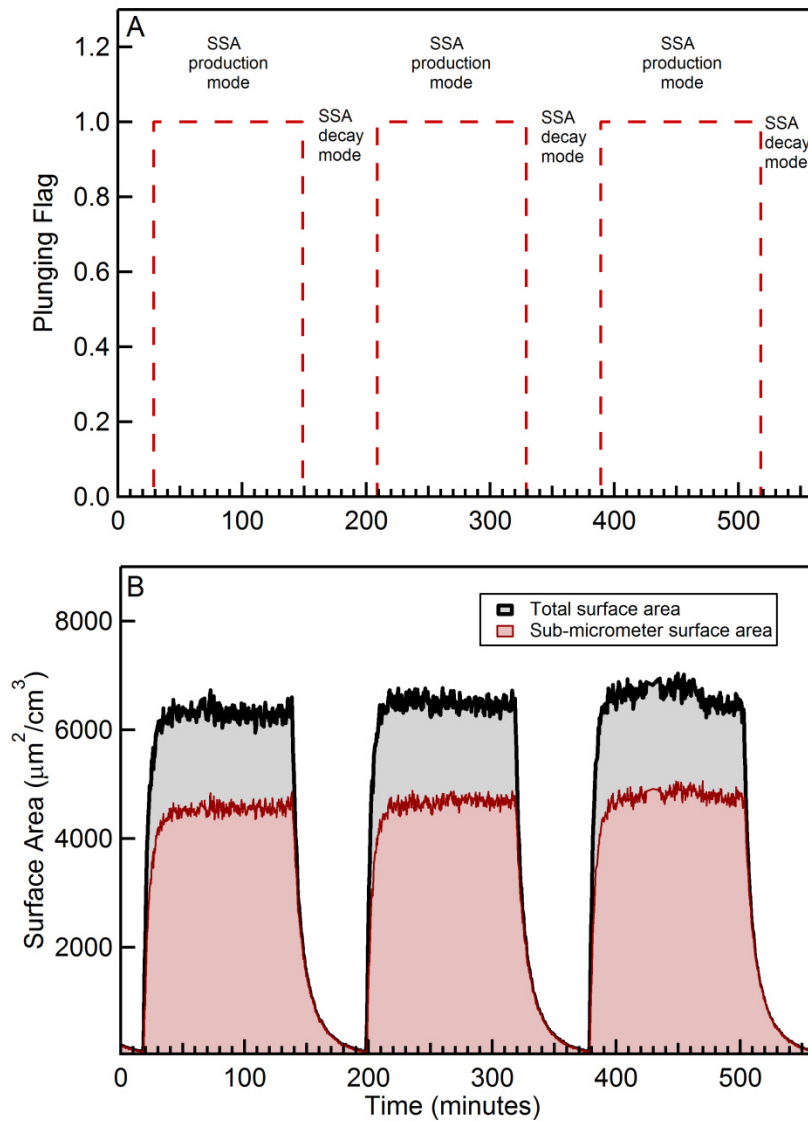
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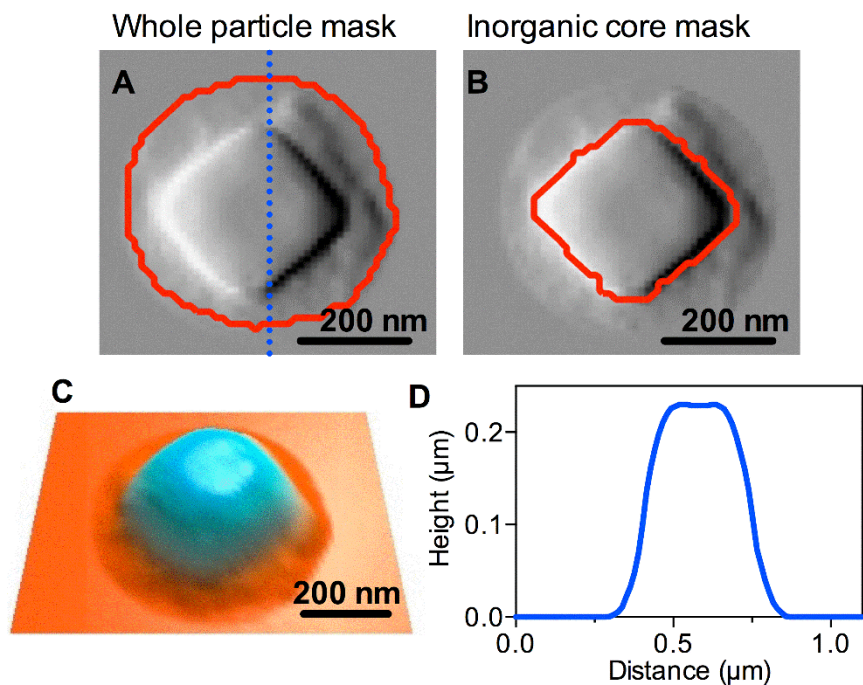
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 589 **Figure 1:** Representative surface area distribution for SSA produced in the MART system after applying  
 590 a growth factor value of 2.3, and adjusting for dilution of the SSA concentration to the sizing  
 591 instrumentation so as not to saturate the detectors. The black dotted line results from combining UHSAS  
 592 and APS surface area distributions, and the red dotted line is the data interpolation used over this region.



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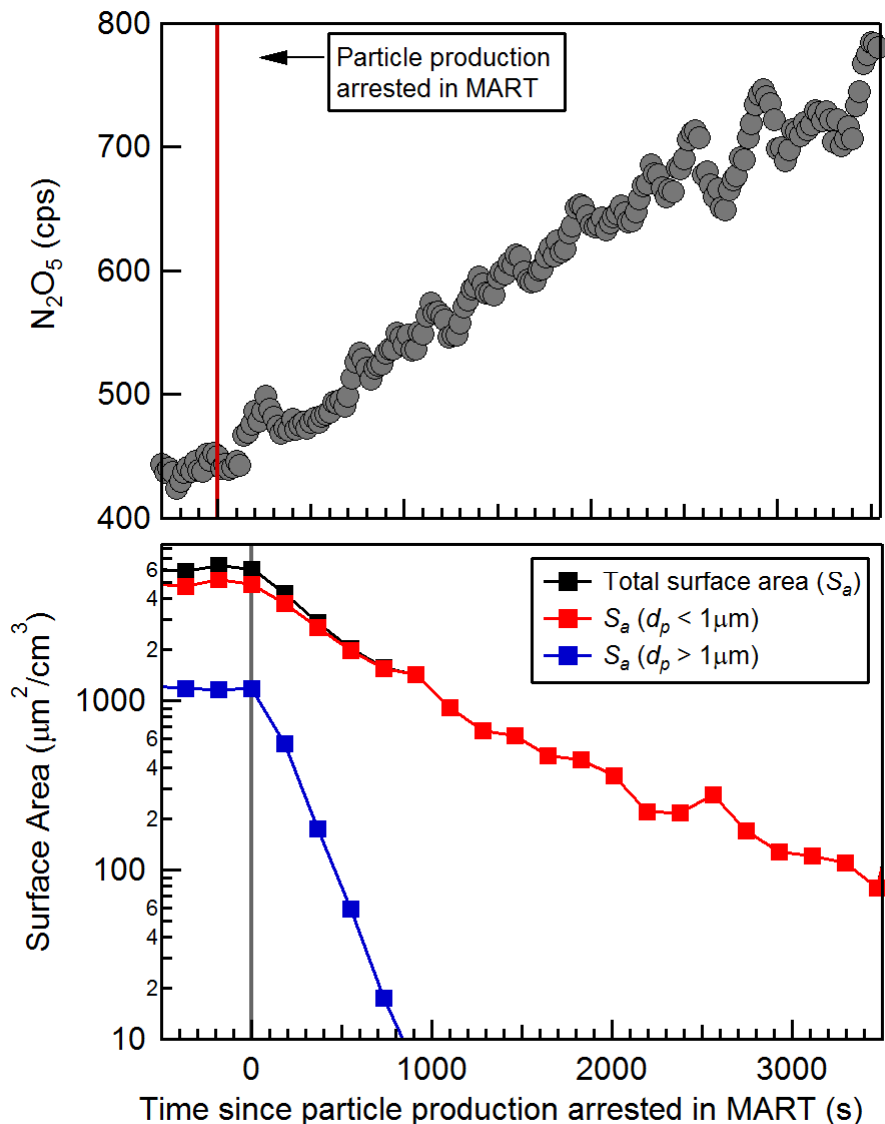
594 **Figure 2:** Plunging duty cycle flag as a function of time (Panel A) where a value of 1 indicates plunging  
 595 is turned on for SSA production mode, and a value of zero indicates plunging is turned off. Panel B shows  
 596 the response of the total (black) and sub-micrometer (red) surface area to changes in the plunging duty  
 597 cycle as a function of time.

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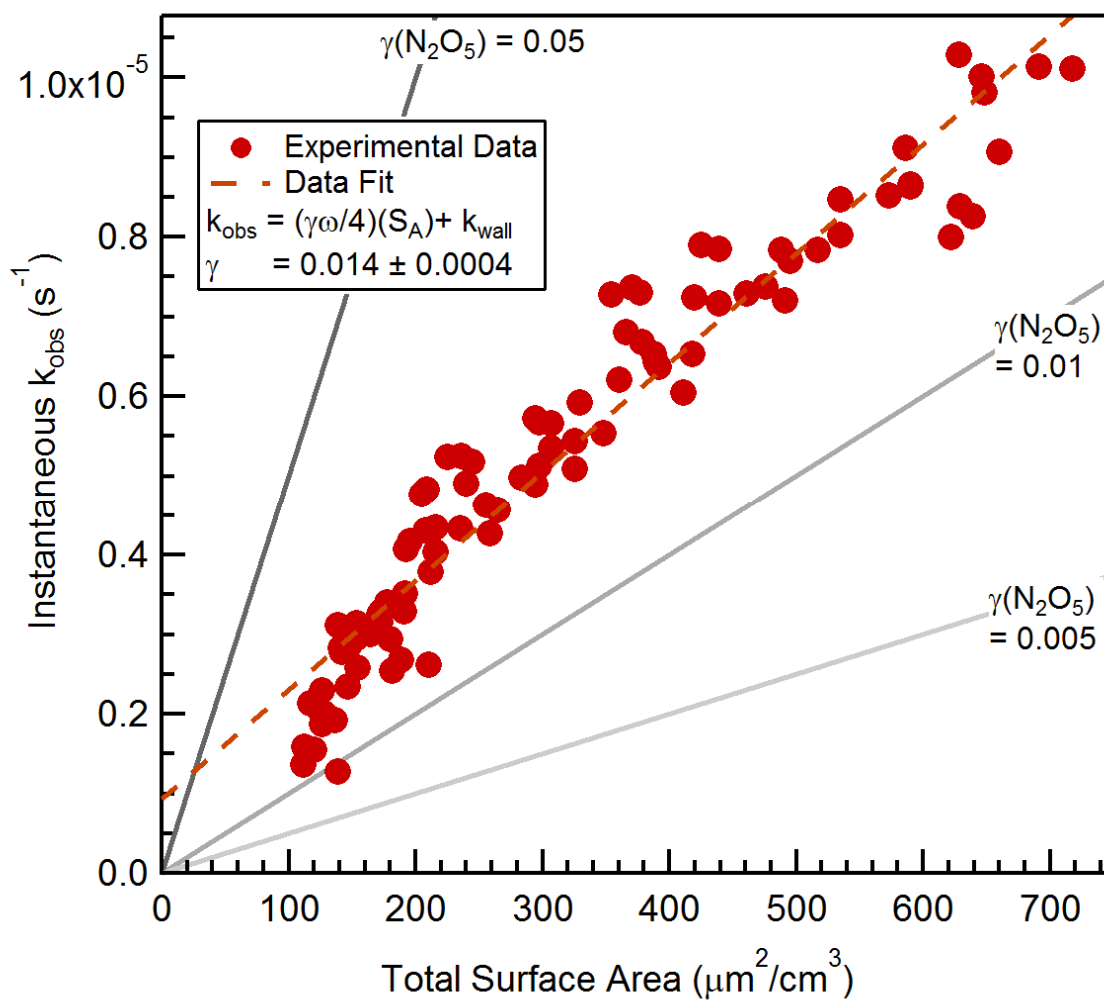
**Figure 3:** AFM amplitude (A, B) and 3-dimensional height (C) images taken at ~20-21 % RH, of a sea spray particle generated in the MART, post-galactose addition showing the whole particle mask (Panel A), and the inorganic core mask (Panel B) used to determine upper limit organic volume fractions of imaged particles. Panel D shows cross sectional profile, corresponding to the blue dashed line in A.



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 608 **Figure 4:** Panel A illustrates the  $N_2O_5$  signal following plunging turning off. Panel B shows a  
 609 representative time trace of total particle surface area (black), super-micrometer surface area (blue), and  
 610 sub-micrometer surface area (red) during a typical experimental cycle, where time = 0 corresponds to  
 611 plunging turned off, thus switching from SSA production mode to SSA decay mode. The vertical red line  
 612 (Panel A) and grey line (Panel B) indicate the point at which plunging was turned off.

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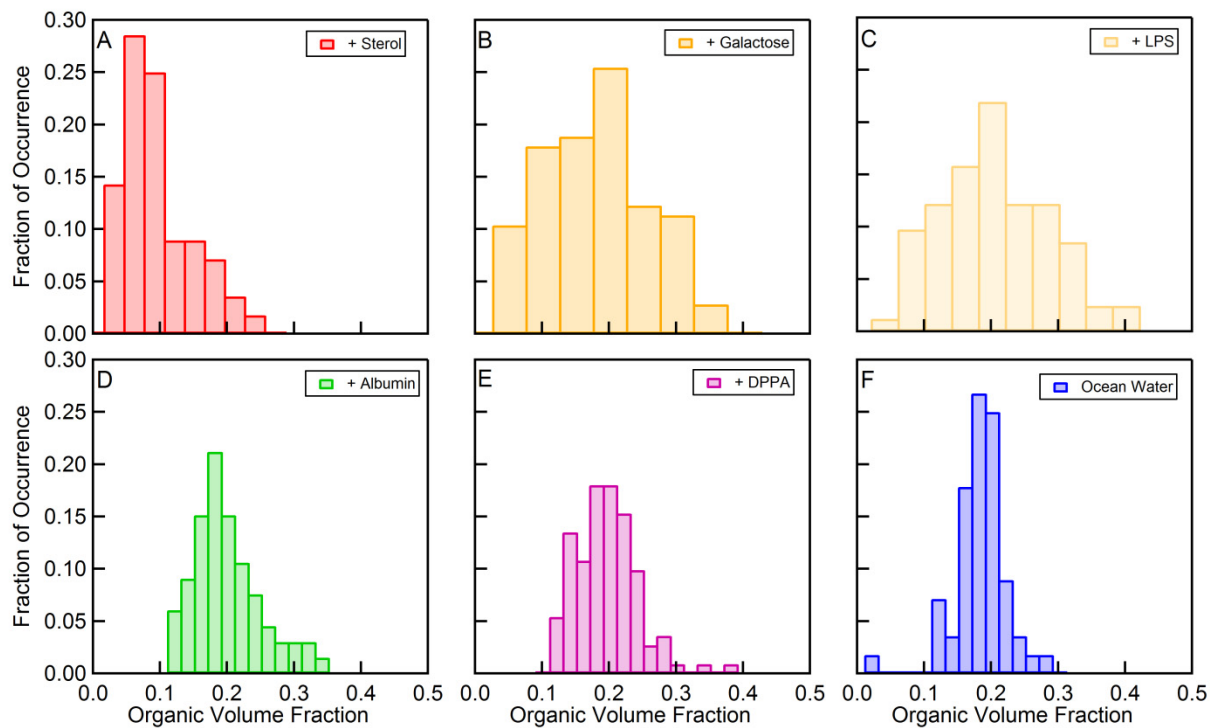
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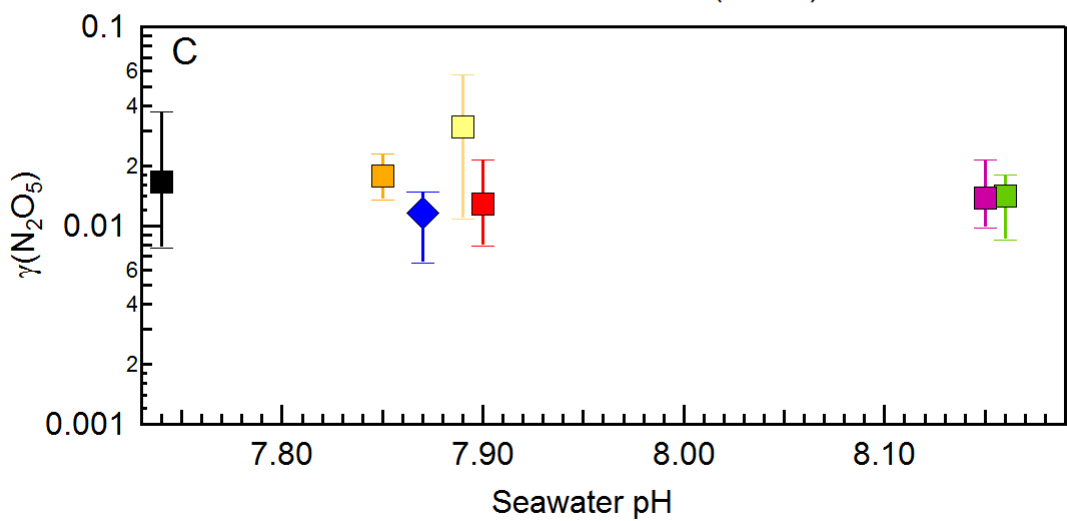
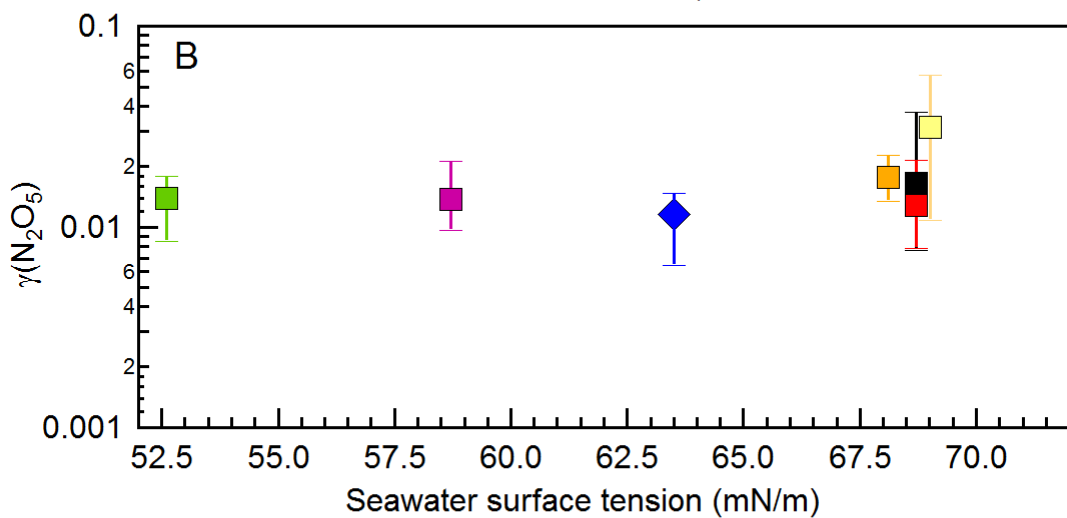
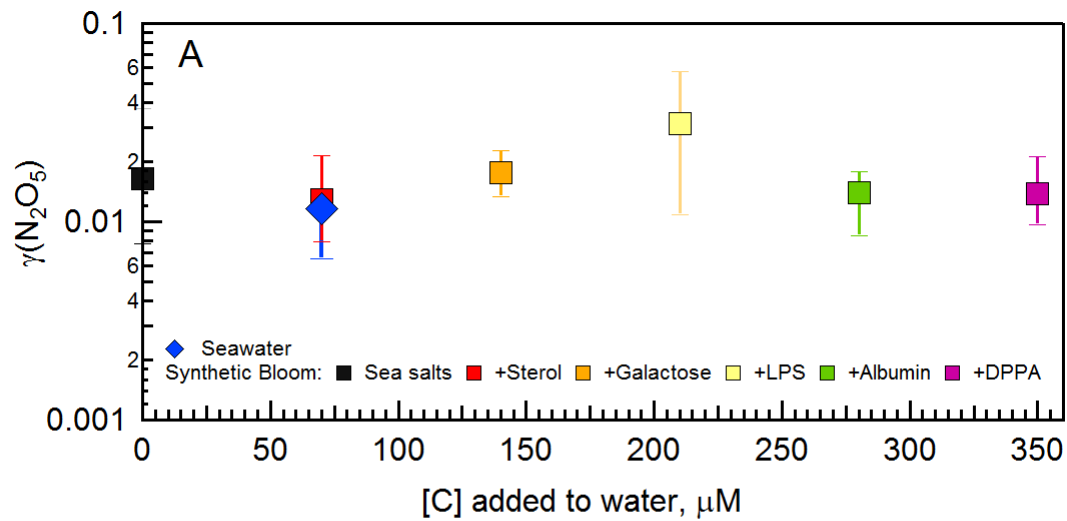
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 616 **Figure 5:** Representative plot of instantaneous  $k_{\text{obs}}$  versus the total surface area in the flow reactor. Data  
 617 was filtered such that over the length of one period of residence time in the flow reactor, the surface area  
 618 was not changing by more than 20 % (see text for details).

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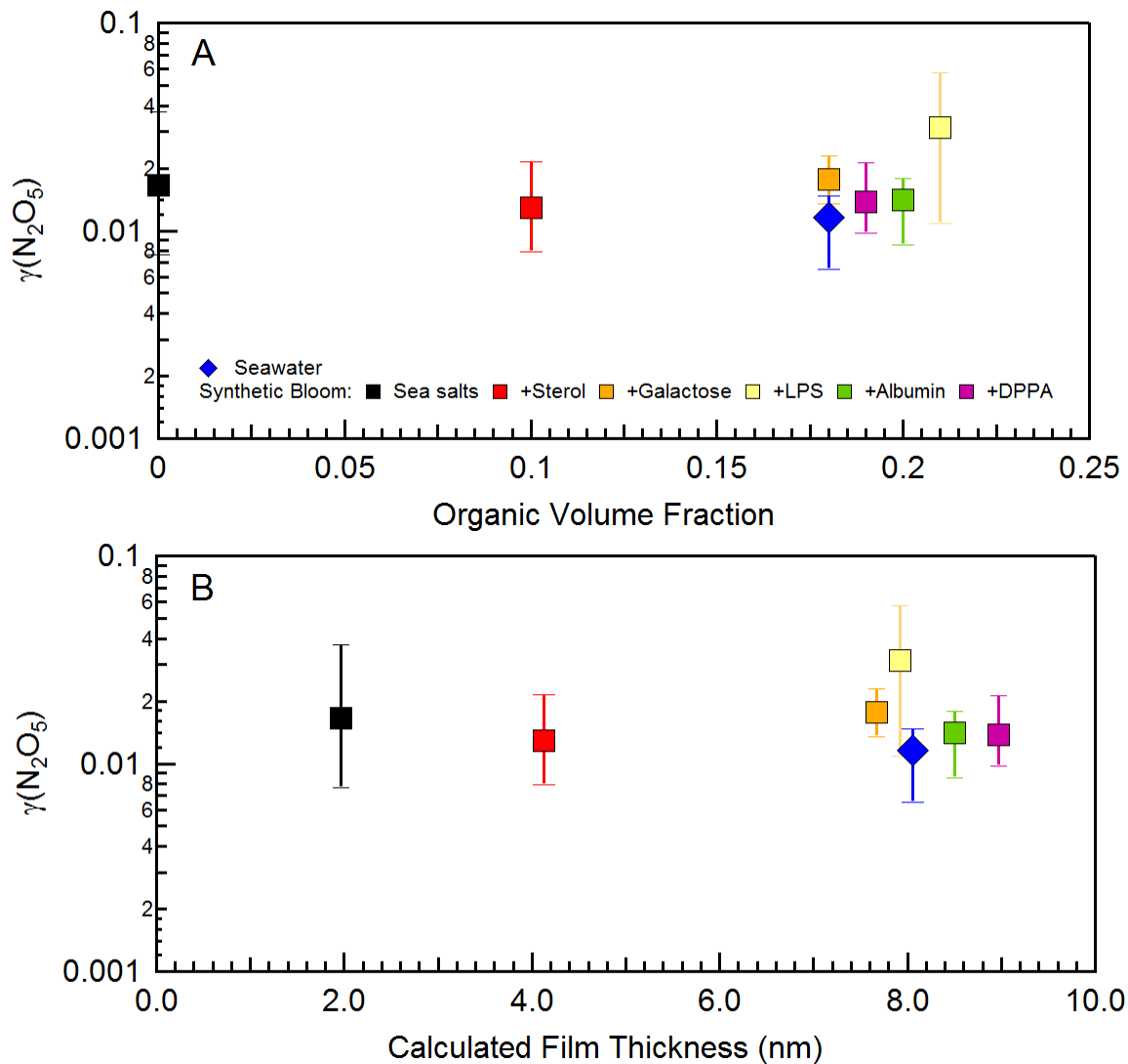




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 622 **Figure 6:** AFM derived organic volume fraction of 0.33-0.56  $\mu\text{m}$  particles (measured as diameter = 0.21  
 623  $\mu\text{m}$  at 20 % RH by AFM) collected using a MOUDI, imaged for each water matrix vs. the fraction of  
 624 occurrence.

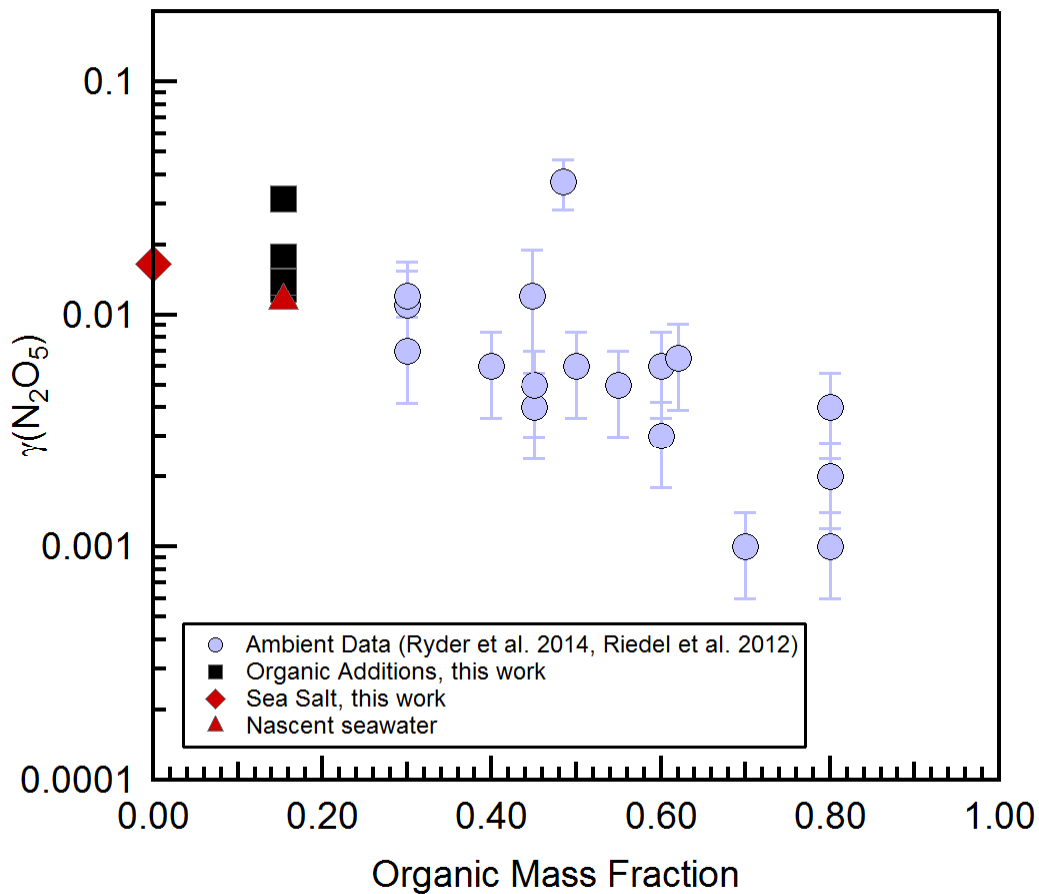


627 **Figure 7:** Observed dependence of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  on various seawater properties including carbon  
 628 concentration added to the water matrix (A), surface tension (B), water pH (C). Data from the synthetic  
 629 bloom experiment are shown with colored squares and data from the experiment using natural seawater  
 630 is shown in blue diamonds.  
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 635 **Figure 8:** Observed dependence of  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$ , measured between 50-65% RH, on the derived organic  
 636 aerosol volume fraction (A) and organic film thickness (B) determined using AFM at 20% RH. Data from  
 637 the synthetic bloom experiment are shown with colored squares and data from the experiment using  
 638 natural seawater is shown in blue diamonds.

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643 **Figure 9.**  $\gamma(\text{N}_2\text{O}_5)$  for salt water (red diamond) and following organic additions from this work (black  
644 squares) as compared to values obtained from nascent sea-water collected from the SIO pier ( red  
645 triangle), and ambient data taken from a coastal environment (blue).<sup>20,34</sup>

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