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# Observations of the chemistry and concentrations of reactive Hg at locations with different ambient air chemistry

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#### Abstract:

The Hg research community needs methods to more accurately measure atmospheric Hg concentrations and chemistry. The Reactive Mercury Active System (RMAS) uses cation exchange, nylon, and PTFE membranes to determine reactive mercury (RM), gaseous oxidized mercury, and particulate-bound mercury (PBM) concentrations and chemistry, respectively. New data for Atlanta, Georgia (NRGT) demonstrated that particulate-bound Hg was dominant and the chemistry was primarily N and S HgII At Great Salt Lake, Utah (GSL), RM was predominately PBM, NS > organics > halogen > O HgII compounds. At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas (GUMO), halogenated compound concentrations were lowest when air interacting with the site was primarily derived from the Midwest, and highest when the air was sourced from Mexico. At Amsterdam Island, Southern Indian Ocean, compounds were primarily halogenated with some N, S, and organic HgII compounds potentially associated with biological activity. The GEOS-Chem model was applied to see if it predicted measurements at five field sites. Model values were higher than observations at GSL, slightly lower at NRGT, and observations were an order of magnitude higher than modeled values for GUMO and Reno. Nevada. In general, data collected from 13 locations indicated that N, S, and organic RM compounds were associated with city and forest locations, halogenated compounds were sourced from the marine boundary layer, and O compounds were associated with long-range transport. Data being developed currently, and in the past, suggest there are multiple forms of RM that modelers must consider, and PBM is an important component of RM.

#### **Graphical abstract**

# RMAS Deployment Locations



#### **Highlights**

► [RM] have been underestimated in the past and the chemistry is uncertain. ► [RM] and chemistry were determined for 13 locations using the RMAS. ► Data analyses revealed Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds are locally produced and associated with LRT. ► The GEOS-Chem model underestimated [RM] and did not predict the chemistry. ► RM chemistry varied by location and was influenced by many sources.

 $\textbf{Keywords}: gaseous \ oxidized \ mercury, \ GEOS-Chem, \ HYSPLIT, \ mercury, \ particulate-bound \ mercury$ 

#### Introduction

Mercury (Hg) in the air consists of three forms: gaseous elemental Hg (GEM); gaseous oxidized Hg (GOM); and particulate-bound Hg (PBM). Reactive Hg (RM) consists of PBM and GOM. GEM is readily deposited and re-emitted, and can be circulated between terrestrial and aquatic surfaces for >1000 years before being buried in a geologic repository (Amos et al., 2013). GEM is ubiquitous in the atmosphere, with terrestrial background concentrations in Northern and Southern Hemisphere ranging from 1.5 to 1.7, and 1.0 to 1.3 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively (Sprovieri et al., 2016). Remote Southern Hemisphere ocean locations exhibited concentrations for Amsterdam Island and Cape Point of ~1.0 ng m<sup>-3</sup> (Jiskra et al., 2018; Angot et al., 2014; Li et al., 2023; Slemr et al., 2015 and 2020), while in the Northern Hemisphere observations at Svalbard, Norway were 1.4 ng m<sup>-3</sup> (Osterwalder et al., 2021).

Oxidized Hg compounds have higher deposit on velocities than GEM and are more readily methylated making them the form of major concern. Oxidation of GEM by atmospheric compounds occurs through complex chemical pathways primarily based on theoretical calculations that are thought to involve or and OH radicals and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), resulting in the formation of a variety of oxidized Holl conspounds. Based on theoretical work, the current thinking is that Br and OH radicals in that the oxidation of GEM. Then the produced radical, Hgl, primarily reacts with NO<sub>2</sub> or O<sub>3</sub> to produce a number of Hgll compounds, such as BrHgOH, BrHgONO<sub>2</sub>, HOHgONO<sub>2</sub>, and Hg(CH)<sub>2</sub> (Shah et al., 2021). Castro et al. (2022) suggested that OH and O<sub>3</sub> can together account for oxidation of GEM. In addition to GOM production by atmospheric oxidation, GOM can be directly emitted from point sources, such as cement production, coal combustion, and non-ferrous metal production (cf., Pacyna et al., 2010).

The standard automated instrument for measurement of GOM and PBM, the Tekran 1130/1135 modules, respectively, have been demonstrated to make inaccurate measurements (Gustin et al., 2013; Dunham-Cheatham et al., 2022). New methods have been developed to more accurately quantify GOM and PBM. One is a membrane-based system that uses cation exchange membranes (CEM) to quantify RM concentrations, and nylon membranes to qualitatively identify compound chemistry (Luippold et al., 2020). To determine GOM and PBM concentrations and chemistry separately, a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane is placed upstream of nylon membranes and CEM (Gustin et al., 2019). Another method is the dual-

channel system (DCS), that uses one channel for GEM measurement by a Tekran 2537, and another with a thermolyzer that measures total gaseous Hg, with GOM determined by difference between the two channels (Lyman et al., 2020; Tang et al., 2022). Limitations of the membrane system are: a sampling time of 1- to 2-weeks; the fact that nylon membranes do not collect all compounds with equal efficiency; and concentrations of RM collected using this system were 50% less than a calibrated DCS (Dunham-Cheatham et al., 2022). In addition, recent work has demonstrated that HgBr<sub>2</sub> binds with aerosol previously loaded on a PTFE membrane to form PBM (Allen et al., submitted).

There are also things to consider when interpreting the chemistry obtained from nylon membrane thermal desorption analyses. Pure compounds were used for developing temperatures of release from the nylon membrane. These compounds likely do not reflect the Hg<sup>II</sup> chemistry in ambient air. Because of this, released compounds are identified as classes of compounds associated with the pure compound temperature of release. A method for actual identification, such as a GC-MS, is needed. The latter is difficult because Hg<sup>II</sup> readily adheres to surfaces and has the potential to be reduced. Despite these limitations, these two methods are currently the most useful for measuring RM concentrations and the only means currently for understanding the potential chemistry of ambient RM

This work focused on collecting and analyzing RM, GOM, and PBM concentrations and chemistry collected on membrales at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas, and adjacent to Great Salt Lake, Utah, where it was hypothesized that halogenated compounds would dominate. In addition dital vere collected next to a 14-lane highway in Atlanta, Georgia for comparison with data collected in Reno, Nevada, to see if humidity impacted the measurements, and also to better characterize an environment heavily impacted by automotive emissions. RM concentrations and chemistry samples were collected at Amsterdam Island, in the middle of the Southern Indian Ocean, to be compared with that collected at Mauna Loa, Hawaii. Back trajectory analyses were used to identify air mass source areas during the period of sampling; and meteorology and criteria air pollutants were assessed when available. The GEOS-Chem model was applied to see if the model predicted the chemistry and measured RM concentrations. In addition, data were compiled from other locations where the RMAS has been deployed in previous sampling campaigns in order to see if there was some commonality between similar locations. Our research hypothesis was that N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds are produced

locally, while long-range transport is the source of O compounds, and halogenated compounds are derived from the marine boundary layer (MBL) and free troposphere.

#### Methods

#### **Field sites**

#### **Great Salt Lake**

Great Salt Lake (GSL), Utah, is the largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere (Johnson et al., 2020). Three species of duck that utilize the lake and surrounding wetlands have tissue Hg consumption advisories (Scholl and Ball, 2006). At GCL, two RMASs were used, allowing for measurement of GOM, PBM, and RM concer. rations and chemistry. Sampling was done at two locations at this sampling site. The first location was adjacent to the Antelope Island State Park marina (AISP; 41.060451 N, 112.238430 W, 1283 meters above sea level (masl) (Figure SI 1)), and sampled from 10/12/2021 to 3/4 2022 (MM/DD/YYYY). Due to electrical issues, the two RMASs were moved to No th J avis Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located 11 km east of first location (-1.084985 N, 112.111791 W, 1288 masl) and adjacent to a waste water treatment plant Air was sampled at this location from 9/23/2022 to 1/13/2023. The AISP location had sumplers facing west and was somewhat protected by western winds coming off the main body of CSL. The WWTP location was less protected from western winds coming off GSL and Farn, agton Bay playa, and the RMAS faced east. There is a natural gas electricity generating fact ity south of the sampling location, and based on prevailing wind directions of west to east his would not have impacted the sampling site. For a list of ancillary data for this site, see the SI.

#### Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO), Texas (31.891128 N, 104.805378 W, 1680 masl), is downwind of the Permian Basin, where oil and natural gas recovery occurs, with fracking being a common process. GUMO is made up of a Permian carbonate reef with no geologic-based Hg enrichment. There is a fish consumption advisory for trout that live in a small stream in the Park. At this location, one RMAS was used, thus only RM concentration and

chemistry were measured. Data were collected at this location from 7/6/2021 to 3/29/2022. For a list of ancillary data available, see the SI.

#### Near-road Georgia Tech

The Atlanta, Georgia site (NRGT; 33.778463 N, 84.391425 W, 286 masl) was a near-road site located on the Georgia Tech campus and adjacent to a 14-lane highway that includes US Interstate highways 85 and 75. Here, two RMASs were used, allowing for collection of RM, GOM, and PBM. Samples were collected from 10/26/2021 to 6/21/2022. There is a natural gas electricity generating facility northwest of the sampling location and based on prevailing wind directions that were from the southwest would not have impacted the sampling location. For ancillary data available, see the SI.

#### Amsterdam Island

Amsterdam Island (AMS; 37.79 S, 77.58 E. 70 masl) is an isolated volcanic island located in the Southern Indian Ocean, halfway to ween South Africa and Australia (3200 km from Australia, 2880 km from Reunion Island 4200 km from South Africa, and 3300 km from the Antarctic coast). It is a monitoring su ion in the Global Mercury Observation System. Exclusively dedicated to research activities, this island is located at the northern margin of the south westerly winds, characterized by prevailing westerly and northwesterly winds with an average speed up of 7 m s<sup>-1</sup> (Paboukas et al., 2004). Airflow from continental regions (principally Africa and possibly South America) is favored in austral winter, concomitant with the intense biomass fire pair a of the African continent, and in early spring (Moody et al., 1991; Angot et al., 2014; Slen. et al., 2015, 2020). This island is largely free of human disturbance; the only possible local source of pollution is from the 20 to 40 science research and technical crew in Martin-de-Viviès life base, located at 29 masl elevation on the north side of the Island. This location, managed by the Terres Australes et Antartiques Francaises, is typically visited only 4 times every year by the Research Vessel Marion Dufresne and physically accessed by helicopter. Atmospheric measurements used in this study were performed at Pointe Bénédicte research station, a dedicated atmospheric observatory site on AMS. Currently labeled as a GAM/WMO Global site, the AMS Pointe Bénédicte site hosts instruments reporting to international monitoring networks (ICOS [https://www.icos-cp.eu/], GEO-GOS4M [http://www.gos4m.org/]) (Angot et al., 2014; Slemr et al., 2015, 2020; Yazidi et al., 2018; Tassone et al., 2023). The site is

located 2 km west and upwind from Martin-de-Vivès life base. The remote location, far from any permanent human settlement, makes AMS an ideal site to monitor background levels of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, as highlighted by numerous studies since the 1980s (Ascencio-Parvy et al., 1984; Baboukas et al., 2002 and 2004; Gros et al., 1998 and 1999; Polian et al., 1986; Sciare et al., 2000 and 2008). A single RMAS was deployed at this site from 12/18/2020 to 1/14/2022. For a discussion of ancillary data available, see the SI.

#### Field operational systems sampling

The RMAS consists of a 25.4 mm-thick bent, anodized aluminum weather shield housing six dual- or triple-stage perfluoroalkoxy alkane (PFA) filter packs. An bient air flow (checked at the beginning and end of each deployment) was controlled by critical flow orifices (Teledyne API) at nominal 2 liters per minute (Lpm) connected to vacuum pumps (KNF Neuberger Inc., or Welch 2534B). All flow measurements were normalized to represent air flow at standard temperature and pressure (STP) conditions (0 °C, 1 p.m). For more details, see Luippold et al. (2020).

Membranes used to collect GOM and BM were cation exchange membranes (CEM; 0.8 μm pore size, Mustang S, Pall Corporation) and PTFE membranes (0.2 μm pore size, Sartorius Stedium Biotech), respectively. Nylan membranes (polyamide; 0.2 μm pore size, Sartorius Stedium Biotech) were used to accomine RM and GOM chemistry. The CEM and nylon membranes deployed with no abstream PTFE membrane measured RM; the RMAS with an upstream PTFE measured GOM, while the PTFE membrane allowed for quantification of PBM. Filter holders were alternated by membrane type on the RMAS, so if a pump failed data for each membrane type were still being collected. Two CEM or nylon membranes were in each filter pack, allowing for the calculation of breakthrough. Membranes were collected and deployed using clean handling methods.

#### **Analytical methods**

The mass of total Hg on each CEM, PTFE, and the downstream nylon membrane was quantified after digestion (EPA Method 1631) by a cold vapor atomic fluorescence spectrometer (Tekran 2600-IVS; for details, see Luippold et al., 2020). Upstream nylon membranes were used for thermal desorption analyses, since heating them does not passivate the gold traps in the Tekran 2537 like CEMs do.

Thermal desorption, used to determine the chemistry of RM and GOM compounds, was done using a Lindberg tube furnace to desorb  $Hg^{II}$  compounds from nylon membranes. Air was pulled through an activated charcoal filter into the furnace, then through a thermolyzer and PTFE membrane into a Tekran 2537 (for details, see Luippold et al. 2020). The temperature ranges used in this study were: 82.5-92.5 °C for [O], 95-115 °C for [Br/CI], 117.5-127.5 °C for [N], 130-147.5 °C for [S], and 150-190 °C for organic-bound compounds (Dunham-Cheatham et al., 2022). The average coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) for the model used to interpolate the thermal desorption profiles (cf. Dunham-Cheatham et al., 2022) to determine the chemistry of the compounds was  $0.993 \pm 0.011$ , with the lowest  $R^2$  values occurring when the Hg concentrations were lowest. A gaussian distribution was used, b can se it best reflects the profile of desorption of Hg compounds. Breakthrough and limit of detection for the membranes are presented in Table SI 1.

#### Data analysis

Back trajectory simulations were performed using the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory GDAS1° data archive and Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) (http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT.php, last access: 08/2022) for the exact time of sample deployment. For details, see the SI. Which source boxes were defined for each location after looking at the trajectory patterns for each location (Table SI 2). When the sum of the trajectories in the SI tables did not add up to 160%, this was due to trajectories being outside of the source boxes.

GEOS-Chem (12.80, DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3784796)modeling was done for time periods overlapping with data collection for GSL, NRGT, GUMO, AMS, and Reno, Nevada (data presented in Gustin et al., 2023) using 2° x 2.5° resolution. Natural and anthropogenic emissions were those used by Shah et al. (2021). Emissions from biomass burning events were updated for 2021 using beta files produced by the Global Fire Emissions Database. For further details, see the SI. It is noteworthy that the Hg emissions inventory in the GEO-Chem model has not been updated since 2015. Most emissions are as GEM, and since these are supposedly decreasing, an update to the emissions would likely not impact Hg<sup>II</sup>. At the time of this work, the

transition into the latest version (version 14) was occurring, and the model work presented here had already been performed. The chemical mechanism used was the most recent and up to date mechanisms implemented by Shah et al., 2021. Previous adjustments to, and the development of the model were made to match the low biased RM Tekran measurements.

Statistical analyses were performed in Microsoft Excel using the Data Analysis Tool. Thermal desorption data were deconvoluted in Matlab (2022b) using the peakfit program; gaussian distributions were assumed for each model compound (D. nham-Cheatham et al., 2022).

#### **Results and Discussion**

#### Great Salt Lake

There are some historical atmospheric Hg data for the GSL location. Atmospheric Hg concentrations were measured at this location using two co-located Tekran 2537/1130 systems for two weeks across seasons (Peterson and Guitin, 2008). Median GEM concentrations ranged from 1.0 to 1.6 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, and were consistent peross seasons and within sampling periods. GOM concentrations ranged between 4 and 11 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. GOM measurements were made every 2 hours, and a diel pattern was observed across all seasons, with concentrations of 0 at night and increasing to 20 to 40 pg m<sup>-3</sup> from 1 1000 to 1800 h, except for November, when concentrations were < 10 pg m<sup>-3</sup> across all sanding times. GEM concentrations decreased in the afternoon by up to 0.5 ng m<sup>-3</sup>. The authors proposed that reactions with OH and O<sub>3</sub> were promoting the formation of RM, based on a positive correlation between O<sub>3</sub>, temperature, and light, as well as a negative correlation between GEM and relative humidity. In addition, they assessed mixing heights and found that concentrations were similar when mixing heights were high and low, and suggested local production of RM.

Stutz et al. (2002) applied differential optical absorption spectroscopy (DOAS) to measure the ClO and BrO mixing ratios at the Great Salt Lake in October 2000 at a site directly south of Antelope Island on the main land. ClO and BrO mixing ratios of up to  $15 \pm 2$  and  $6 \pm 0.4$  ppt, respectively, were measured during the afternoon and decreased to near analytical detection limit overnight. Their 24-hour average was ~3 ppt for ClO and ~0.7 ppt for BrO. Based

on these concentrations, they concluded that Hg depletion events associated with high atmospheric halogen concentrations were not important for GSL.

In this study, RM concentrations measured at AISP with CEM and nylon membranes were the same from late October to late December (5 to 25 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) (Figure 1). This is due to most of the RM being PBM (typically 60 to 100% of the total RM). From 11/4/2022 to 12/30/2022 at WWTP, RM concentrations were < 10 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. It is noteworthy that there were sampling periods when percent PBM was slightly higher than 100% of RM due to analytical uncertainty when concentrations were low.

Back trajectories for GSL had similar patterns. All 'rajectories involved long-range transport, and most had interactions with the MBL (15 to 46%) and Western United States (14 to 56%) at < 2 km before reaching the site (Table SI3; Foure SI 2). RM compounds existed primarily as aerosol (Figures 1, 2). From October 2021 o February 2022 at the AISP location, N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> forms were dominant. Lake water levels were low and sediment was exposed in the marina area near the sampling location. From September to early October 2022, halogenated compounds were more preveient, and O compounds accounted for a significantly higher fraction of GOM relative to PFM. In all cases, N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were present primarily as PBM. Given the short residence time of aerosol in the boundary layer (minutes to days), we hypothesize N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were being produced locally.

Johnson et al. (2026) described the chemistry of Great Salt Lake. It has elevated concentrations of Ca<sup>2</sup>, M<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, and Na<sup>+</sup> due to evaporation. Also present are nitrate and ammonia due to decaying excrement and dead phytoplankton. Release of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, and N compounds to the air could have promoted RM formation. At WWTP, halogenated compounds were dominant and O Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were present (Figure 2).

The fact that Stulz et al. (2002) measured higher concentrations of halogens during the afternoon suggests that local production of halogenated Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds could have occurred. In addition, data generated by Peterson and Gustin (2008) suggested that Hg depletion events were occurring, when ozone concentrations increased in the afternoon. Moore et al. (2013) indicated that Hg depletion events occurred without depletion of O<sub>3</sub> at the Dead Sea, Israel. At GSL, there were always (1 exception) some O-based compounds, and these could have been associated with

long-range transport inputs. For a discussion of the meteorology and criteria air pollutants, see the SI.

#### Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO)

Atmospheric Hg data collected in the southwestern United States is limited. Caldwell et al. (2006) measured atmospheric Hg at a location in New Mexico that is 255 km northwest of the GUMO site. Air Hg concentrations were measured using a sampling train that consisted of a KCl-coated annular denuder and quartz fiber filter to quantify GOM and PBM, respectively, and through a gold trap to measure GEM. Mean 24 h concentration for RM was 7 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. A diel pattern in RM was observed, with concentrations being lowest at night (4 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) and higher in the afternoon and early evening (8 pg m<sup>-3</sup>).

At GUMO, RM concentrations were highest when air was primarily derived from Mexico (80 to 120 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) (Figure 3), and of intermedian concentrations (20 to 40 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) when associated with long-range transport. The greate it discrepancies between the CEM and nylon membrane concentrations were observed when the air was primarily derived from Mexico.

For 9 weeks during this project, C. was measured at GUMO by the National Park Service. These data were compared with that measured at Carlsbad National Park (Carlsbad), that is 48 km northeast at the end of the rountain range hosting GUMO. Ozone at Carlsbad was higher for the two-week sampling intervals (GUMO O<sub>3</sub> = 0.82 \* Carlsbad O<sub>3</sub> + 0.09, r<sup>2</sup> = 0.91, p < 0.001) than that measured at Carlsbad, using calculated using daily averages. Thus, O<sub>3</sub> concentrations from Carl in the were adjusted down to represent what was observed at GUMO. There was no relationable between local O<sub>3</sub> concentrations and the presence of O Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds (bi-weekly average concentrations ranged from 45 to 55 ppb, data not shown). For one time period, O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were especially high (66 ppb) and O Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were not present, indicating that these compounds originated outside of the Permian Basin. Air was primarily derived from the east in the morning and the west in the afternoon (data not shown).

For the sampling period ending 8/3/2021, air was primarily derived from the Midwest (74%, with 2% < 2 km; Table SI4, Figure SI 3) and halogenated compound concentrations were 9%, while N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were 27, 47, and 17%, respectively (Figure 3). For the sampling period that ended 8/31/2021, when air was primarily sourced from the Gulf of Mexico (76% < 2 km), halogenated compounds were dominant. During these first two sampling

periods, ~7% of the air was associated with the Permian Basin, and organic and S compounds were highest during this time, suggesting that local oxidants could be important in forming RM. For the next two sampling periods (9/28/2021 and 10/12/2021), air spent 2 to 10% of the time at < 2 km, and > 10% of the time at > 2 km over the Pacific Ocean, explaining the halogenated compounds. These sampling periods were also influenced by Mexico, especially on 9/28/2021, when air spent 48% at < 2 km. When long-range transport was the primary air pathway from 12/21/2021 to 3/29/2022, O compounds were dominant, as has been reported for Reno, Nevada (Gustin et al., 2023).

#### Atlanta, Georgia (NRGT)

Little atmospheric Hg data is available for Georgia. Na r et al. (2012) reported Tekran 2537/1130/1135 data for 2005 to 2008 at Yorkville, a rural site west-northwest of Atlanta. GEM concentrations were 1.4 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, while GOM and PBL avaraged 9 and 4 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively, with higher concentrations in the afternoon.

At NRGT, RM concentrations ranged from 9 to 23 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, and were consistent across the time of sampling (Figure 4). In general, kM concentrations declined in weeks with heavy rain, specifically the two-week period associated with the 1/4/2022 and 3/1/2022 samplings. RM concentrations increased gradually after these events. Nylon membrane RM concentrations ranged from 0 to 10 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. PBM mass up 40 to 95% of the RM sampled.

Compounds at NRG1 consisted of predominantly S and N Hg<sup>II</sup> forms, with lesser amounts of halogenated compounds, and traces of O compounds (Figure 5). O compounds were typically associated with an masses that spent time over Eurasia (Table SI 5, Figure SI 4). S Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were higher for the RM measurement (66 to 100%), indicating they were primarily associated with aerosol, as was also found at a highway site in Reno, Nevada (Gustin et al., 2023). N Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were also higher as RM when compared to GOM (aerosol N compounds ranged from 37 to 98% of total RM). Halogenated compounds at times were also higher as aerosol when compared with GOM, and for other times they were more prevalent as GOM. Based on these observations, it is suggested that heterogenous reactions were forming N Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds that were generated locally.

In general, criteria air pollutant data demonstrated the typical pattern for O<sub>3</sub>, with concentrations peaking in the afternoon. NO<sub>2</sub> was highest in the morning and late evening. CO,

as expected, peaked in the morning.  $PM_{10}$  peaked in the morning around 900 h and again in the middle of the night.  $SO_2$  concentrations were typically below the detection limit, and at times up to 2 ppb. This suggests that the S  $Hg^{II}$  compounds were not produced locally, but could be derived from the MBL. Bi-weekly averages were:  $0.6 \pm 0.2$  ppm for CO;  $0.0 \pm 0.2$  ppb for  $SO_2$ ;  $17.2 \pm 7.9$  ppb for  $NO_2$ ;  $20.9 \pm 15.5$  ppb for  $O_3$ ;  $12.8 \pm 7.1$  µg m<sup>-3</sup> for  $PM_{10}$ ; and  $8.5 \pm 5.9$  µg m<sup>-3</sup> for  $PM_{2.5}$ .

Back-trajectory analyses revealed that the air masses were fast-moving for most sampling intervals. Interactions with the MBL occurred in all cases, and there was always a long-range transport component (Table SI 5; Figure SI 4). All trajectories also interacted with the midwestern United States. Air temperatures varied between 15 to 35 °C, except for the last three sampling periods when temperatures were lower. Relative bemidity (RH) varied from 35% during the day to 90% at night.

Here, we hypothesize local environmental conditions are influencing concentrations and chemistry, with N and organic compounds being generated. The presence of O compounds is driven by inputs from long-range transport, and halogenated and S Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds are derived from the MBL.

#### **Amsterdam Island**

Angot et al. (2014) reported two years (2012 and 2013) of Tekran speciation unit data collected at AMS. GOM and PB  $^{1}$  concentrations were low and variable (mean: 0.3 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, range: < detection limit to  $^{1}$   $^{2}$   $^{2}$   $^{2}$   $^{3}$ ; and mean: 0.7 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, range < detection limit to 12 to 13 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively), and  $^{1}$   $^{2}$   $^{2}$   $^{2}$   $^{3}$   $^{3}$ ; and mean: 0.7 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, range < detection limit to 12 to 13 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively), and  $^{1}$   $^{2}$   $^{3}$ 

2021 mean annual concentration around  $1.0 \pm 0.01$  ng m<sup>-3</sup>. Moreover, GEM data did not exhibit highest concentrations in Austral winter versus the summer time period, a result observed since 2019 at the site; this is because during this time, based on trajectory analyses, little air interacted with Africa (Figure SI 5; Table SI 6). In general, this location historically has high RH (65 to 85 %), abundant precipitation, and winds typically 5 to 15 m s<sup>-1</sup>. Previous work cited above noted this area is biologically very productive in the summer, with dimethyl sulfide being produced and high levels of chlorophyll in the ocean.

RMAS RM concentrations ranged from 6 to 25 pg m<sup>-3</sup> (Figure 6), higher than that reported in Angot et al. (2014). Nylon membrane concentrations are all from 1 to 4 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. Data collected at this location with polyethersulfone membranes (0.15 µm, Merck Millipore®, starting in November 2015) ranged between < detection limit to 20 pg m<sup>-3</sup> (data not shown). The first set of samples received and analyzed from this location were collected from 12/7/2020 to 3/12/2021. The second set of samples analyzed included all membrane. from 3/13/2021 until the completion of the project. Based on these data, and the complete may not be a problem. These membranes have been shown to retain permeated Hg for 6 months (Dunham-Cheatham et al., 2020). An additional set of samples associated with the Punham-Cheatham et al. (2020) experiment was analyzed after 12 months of cold storage, and CEM concentrations and the nylon membranes chemistry did not change significantly from these analyzed at the beginning of the experiment.

Linear regression analyses demonstrated that CEM RM concentrations were not correlated with nylon membrane RM concentrations nor precipitation. Interactions with S. Africa were limited during this time (< 2% below 1000 m; Table SI 6, Figure SI 5). Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were primarily halogenated; however, N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were abundant in Austral summer 2021. At this time, air was centered over the east and west Indian Ocean, with the latter being dominant (Table SI 6). These compounds are rarely present or are in much lesser amounts in air masses that were fast-moving and not centered on the Indian ocean. When the trajectories did not add up to 100%, most of the unaccounted trajectory points were located in the Australia-Antarctic Atlantic-Indian Basins (data not shown). It is suspected that most of the RM is PBM with Hg bound to sea salt.

Although the Southern Ocean is high in nutrients, it is low in chlorophyll due to iron limitation, grazing control, or light limitation (cf. Mitchell et al., 1991; Frost, 1991; Baar et al., 1995). Phytoplanktonic blooms principally occur in the vicinity of Crozet and Kerguelen shallow/deep waters (French southern territories), where southern sub-Antarctic/Antarctic waters and subtropical waters may be mixed, with the former exporting essential nutrients for bloom production (Sanial et al., 2014). As Kerguelen and Crozet territories are located to the west and further south compared to Amsterdam Island, ocean currents and westerly winds (via oceanic emissions associated with the blooms) could have contributed compounds that would have been collected during the RMAS sampling campaign. In Kerguelen and Crozet territories, chlorophyll concentration timeseries showed bloom production during austral pring and summer time. In addition, Heerah et al. (2019) discuss the presence of albatross pokeries on Amsterdam Island. Albatross eat fish, cephalopods, jellyfish, and sometimes custaceans, suggesting there must be plankton present in the ocean surrounding the island.

Altieri et al. (2016) observed that water soluble organic nitrogen in marine aerosol was correlated with surface ocean primary productivity and wind speed. In addition, Quinn et al. (2023), in a review paper of aerosol freshly emitted from sea spray, indicated that sea spray particles can be approximately 40% (11/10), organic material. This is derived from plankton and contains phosphate, organic nitrogen, and magnesium. Sulfur is emitted from the ocean as dimethylsulfide. In addition, heating of atmospheric aerosols is used to infer aerosol chemical composition and heating to 25° C resulted in production of ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, and volatile organics. Thus, given the general high wind speeds (5 to 15 m s<sup>-1</sup>) at this location, these could have tacilitated production of RM compounds bound to aerosol.

#### **GEOS-Chem model**

Data for the below discussion are summarized in Table 1. The date range for the models was 10/12/2021 to 12/7/2021 for GSL, GUMO, NRGT, and AMS.

GEOS-Chem data for GSL predicted GEM concentrations of 1.4 to 1.5 ng m<sup>-3</sup>. Previously collected GEM concentrations ranged from 1.0 to 1.6 ng m<sup>-3</sup> (Peterson and Gustin, 2008). Model predictions of RM concentrations ranged from 15 to 23 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, with chemistry being primarily HgCl<sub>2</sub> with lesser concentrations for organic Hg bound to particles and sea salt

aerosol with HgCl<sub>2</sub>. RMAS RM concentrations were similar (8 to 23 pg m<sup>-3</sup>); however, compounds were primarily N and S-based. RMAS % PBM during this time was 80 to 100%.

GUMO model-based GEM concentrations were 1.4 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, and RM ranged from 18 to 28 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. Measured RM concentrations were higher, being 68 to 129 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. Modeled chemistry was primarily  $HgCl_2$ , with sea salt aerosol  $HgCl_2$  and organic Hg particulates being a smaller percentage. RMAS chemistry was Br/Cl and  $O > N = S = organic Hg^{II}$  compounds.

At NRGT, predicted GEM concentrations were 1.4 to 1.5 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, and Hg<sup>II</sup> ranged from 7 to 13 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. The chemistry of compounds predicted by the moc of included HgCl<sub>2</sub>, with lesser amounts of HgCl<sub>2</sub> associated with sea salt aerosol and organic '1g 'yound to particles. Observed RM concentrations were slightly higher (16 to 19 pg m<sup>-3</sup>) Chemistry measured on the nylon membrane consisted of S, N, Br/Cl, and O Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds.

For AMS, GEM concentrations predicted by the model were 0.9 to 1 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, with those measured being similar (1.0 ± 0.1 ng m<sup>-3</sup>). RM predicted by the model ranged from 6 to 12 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, and those measured were higher 11 to 23 rg m<sup>-3</sup>. Chemistry measured using the RMAS consisted of primarily Br/Cl compounds, viril some two-week periods reporting N and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds. Model-predicted compounds consisted of HgCl<sub>2</sub> and HgCl<sub>2</sub> bound to sea salt aerosol, and minor amounts of organi 20 bound particulate Hg.

In addition to the field sites described in this paper, the GEOS-Chem model was run for a location in Reno, Nevada, USA (Gustin et al., 2023) for the sampling period that ended 6/2/2020 to 7/28/2020. Predicted CEM air concentrations were 1.3 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, and Hg<sup>II</sup> concentrations were 14 to 23 pg m<sup>-3</sup>. The a minant model-predicted compounds were primarily HgCl<sub>2</sub>, with small amounts of particulate organic material, HgCl bound to sea salt aerosol, HgOHOH, and HgBrOH. Observed mean bi-weekly GEM concentrations ranged from 1.6 to 2.1 ng m<sup>-3</sup>. The higher concentrations can be attributed to the fact that Reno is in a global Hg belt and is an urban area. Measured RM concentrations were significantly higher than model-predicted values (89 to 170 pg m<sup>-3</sup>). Measured Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were primarily halogenated, with O, N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds also present. PBM ranged from 11 to 17% of total RM.

The disparity between the RM concentrations determined with the GEOS-Chem model and the RMAS are due to the fact that the model is evaluated using Tekran RM concentrations, that are inaccurate and biased low. Previous adjustments to, and the development of the model

were made to match the low biased RM Tekran measurements (Marusczak et al., 2017). In addition, the chemical reactions forming RM are poorly understood, and GEOS-Chem did not predict the observed chemistry. In the model HgCl<sub>2</sub> is a parameterized species and all Hg volatilizing from aerosols is assumed to be HgCl<sub>2</sub> (Shah et al., 2021). This is the reason HgCl<sub>2</sub> makes up most of the modeled Hg results.

#### Comparison of RMAS data with that collected at other locations

The use of nylon membranes for identification of the chemistry of RM compounds was tested in Huang et al. (2013); they demonstrated the chemistry of Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds was different for three locations: a highway-impacted site (S, N, and organic), an agricultural area (Br/Cl, and S), and in the MBL (S and N Hg<sup>II</sup>). Work done using the R'AAS, in a study with four sampling locations in a transect from Hawaii to Maryland, USA, found that the highest RM concentrations measured were at Mauna Loa, Hawaii (133  $\pm$  5 pg m<sup>-3</sup>), fol owed by a location in Reno (60  $\pm$  40 pg m<sup>-3</sup>), then Utah (38  $\pm$  4 pg m<sup>-3</sup>), and lowest correstrations measured in Maryland (17  $\pm$  2 pg m<sup>-3</sup>; Table 2) (Luippold et al., 2020; Gustin et al., 2021). RM chemistry at Mauna Loa was dominated by halogen-based gaseous Hg<sup>T</sup> compounds due to interception of air from the free troposphere and MBL, with little PBM. The ocation in Nevada was next to a major interstate highway that is impacted by the free recosphere, and regional transport had Br/Cl, N, S, O, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds that were dependent on the air masses entering Reno (Gustin et al., 2023). The Utah site was situated in a basin where oil and gas recovery occurred, and exhibited two RM chemistry patterns. Br/Cl dominant; and O, N, and Br/Cl dominant. In a recent paper, Lyman et al. (2022) derions rated for this location there was not rapid oxidation of GEM in photochemical smog. In Naryland, compounds were N, S, and organic based, due to the location being downwind of a coal-fired power plant and in a forest.

Both Reno and GUMO are located in arid landscapes in the western United States. These sites exhibited very different patterns in RM concentrations, with the Reno location being highest in the spring/summer, when convective mixing is highest and drier conditions persist (Gustin et al., 2023). In contrast, GUMO concentrations were highest in the fall and winter, when inputs from Mexico were significant. O Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were dominant at Reno and GUMO when the area was impacted by long-range transport.

Marine and coastal sites included Amsterdam Island, Svalbard, Mauna Loa, and Pensacola. For the isolated island sites (AMS, Svalbard, and Mauna Loa), highest RM concentrations were measured at Mauna Loa (Table 2), where the dominant compounds were halogenated. At Svalbard, concentrations were half of that measured in the central Pacific Ocean. In the Southern Hemisphere, concentrations were an order of magnitude lower, with Amsterdam Island being  $11 \pm 4$  pg m<sup>-3</sup>. At these locations, N, organic, and S Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were important at times and likely due to biological activity. However, Osterwalder et al. (2020) suggested the observed nitrogen compounds were due to anthropogenic pollution. The difference between Mauna Loa and AMS is due to: Mauna Loa being impacted by the free troposphere due to its elevation, association with a dry climate, and location in the Northern Hemisphere were Hg emissions are higher; and AMS being situated primarily in the M3L, with lots of rain that would scrub RM out of the atmosphere. In addition, in the Northern Hemisphere, there is less anthropogenic Hg emissions, and there is very small have an population on AMS compared to Mauna Loa.

The Reno and Atlanta locations are acjacent to major interstate highways, with the key difference between the sites being the climate. Reno is arid with distinct seasons, while Atlanta is humid and the climate is mild. RM corren rations at Atlanta were much lower than in Reno (9 ± 5, versus  $60 \pm 40$  pg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively. This could be a function of the relative humidity, since RM is soluble in water. The Na io. 1 Atmospheric Deposition Network mercury wet deposition map for 2021 (https://nadp.sln.visc.edu/networks/mercury-deposition-network/) estimates wet deposition in the Atlanta are to be roughly 14 µg m<sup>-2</sup> annually, and this is at the high end of deposition for the USA. Percent PBM was higher at Atlanta. At the Atlanta location, N and S Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were consistently dominant, while at Reno halogenated compounds were typically the most abundant when RM concentrations were highest in the spring/summer, and N and S compounds were more prevalent in the winter. The higher concentrations and predominance of halogenated compounds in the spring and summer at Reno is due to the importance of long-range transport in the spring and high convective mixing with input from the free troposphere and the MBL. N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds were generated due to local pollution in the winter when inversions occur (Gustin et al., 2023). Data provided by Lei Zhang (personal communication, March 2023), who deployed the RMAS in Nanjing, China, showed a

very high mean RM concentration of  $173 \pm 128$  pg m<sup>-3</sup>, with  $62 \pm 19\%$  being PBM. Hg<sup>II</sup> chemistry was predominantly N, S, and organic-associated.

In general, Tekran RM concentrations go up during the day, while GEM values go down. This indicates local production and/or input from the free troposphere. For arid, sunny locations like Reno, input from the free troposphere is important, as demonstrated by Gustin et al. (2015), but local production and regional inputs are also important (Gustin et al., 2023). In situations where PBM is high, this suggests that RM is locally produced. O compounds were always associated with long-range transport, whereas N, S, and organic Hg<sup>II</sup> are associated local production. Halogenated compounds are associated with the MRL and inputs from the free troposphere. Sulfur compounds could be derived from the MRL and pollution, and/or regional transport (cf., Gustin et al., 2023).

#### **Implications**

Data collected with the RMAS has limit at ans associated with the collection surfaces used and long-time resolution. CEM had a lower RM collection efficiency when compared to DCS observations. Membranes being used and to be calibrated, and tests (e.g., whether PBM on the particulate filter collects GOM) are needed. Nylon membranes do not collect all compounds with equal efficiency, and concentrations are always lower than the CEM except when PBM is dominant. Despite these limitations, use of this method allowed for comparison of concentrations and chemistry across multiple locations and is a step forward in understanding RM.

The global datase' points to the presence of specific compounds associated with certain settings, and include: C based compounds are associated with long-range transport; N, S, and organic compound are produced locally, and in some cases are associated with biological activity; and halogenated compounds are derived from the MBL and the free troposphere. Because RM typically increased in the day when GEM declined suggests local RM production is occurring.

The GEOS-Chem model was not able to accurately simulate observed RM concentrations and chemistry for all sites. This is likely due to the chemistry generating RM compounds being uncertain, and uncertainty in emissions estimates. In addition, the model is evaluated using Tekran 2537/1130/1135 data. In addition, local production could occur via heterogenous reactions that are not captured in models. The association of oxide-based compounds when long

range transport occurred could be due to reactions associated with O<sub>3</sub>, OH<sup>-</sup> and halogenated compounds. The currently thinking is that Br, OH<sup>-</sup>, and O<sub>3</sub> are involved in producing compounds such as BrHgO, BrHgONO<sub>2</sub>, and Hg(OH)<sub>2</sub>. These are based on theoretical calculations and limited controlled laboratory experiments, and papers discussing these, i.e. Shah et al. (2021) and Castro et al. (2022), repeatedly indicate there is high uncertainty associated with the calculations. Sulfur and organic compounds are not accounted for. One suggestion for model development is to perform more kinetics studies with potential atmospherically relevant S containing Hg species. A revised mechanism that includes more N/S containing Hg species as end products would improve model performance with regards to species composition measured by the RMAS. Atmospheric chemistry is complex, and it is possible that reactions other than those currently used in models should be considered. Knowledge developed here regarding potential compounds provides theoretical chemists and modelers other pathways to consider for RM production.

Lastly, locations will have a unique suite of P.M. compounds that reflect conditions and air masses associated with the site. For example, highway locations will have N and S compounds, marine locations will be dominantly halogenated with some influence from biological activity and anthropogenic pollution, while Reno had higher concentrations due to inputs from the free troposphere and ania conditions. Northern hemisphere remote locations are higher than the Southern Hemisphere and to greater emissions. The consistency of the chemistry across similar locations and the tast that the compound chemistry can be explained gives us confidence that our measurements are a stepping stone for better understanding RM concentrations and chemistry

**Data availability:** Data reported in this paper are available upon request from the corresponding author. AMS L2 GEM data (<a href="https://doi.org/10.25326/168">https://doi.org/10.25326/168</a>) are freely available (Magand and Dommergue, 2021) at <a href="https://gmos.aeris-data.fr/">https://gmos.aeris-data.fr/</a> from national GMOS-FR website data portal coordinated by IGE (Institut des Géosciences de l'Environnement, Grenoble, France; technical PI: Olivier Magand), with the support of the French national AERIS-SEDOO partners, data and services center for the atmosphere (last access: 16 February 2023).

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#### FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. GSL time series for nylon RM, CEM RM, and CEM GOM concentrations, as well as %PBM (Antelope Island State Park on left, Wastewater Treatment Plant on right). Dates indicate date of sample collection.

Figure 2. Thermal desorption profile peak areas for GSL HgII compounds, with RM results on the left and GOM results on the right for each sampling period pair. Vertical black line separates when sampling was changed from Antelope Island State Park to the waste water treatment plant. ND indicates no data are available, and BLDL indicates that concentrations were below the detection limit. Dates indicate date of sample collection.

Figure 3. RM measurements for GUMO, including: percent of RM compounds measured on the nylon membranes (stacked bars) using thermal desorption; concentrations measured on the CEM (solid blue line) and nylon (orange dashed line) membranes; and percent time in three different source boxes, including the Permian Basin (red dashed line), Mexico (green dashed line), and the Pacific Ocean (blue dotted line). Text on graph indicates the dominant air source for the cumple collection period, with NW-MW for Northwest and Midwest, United States, GM for Gulf of Noxico, Pac Ocean for the Pacific Ocean, and Long-Range Transport indicating air from Eurasia. Dates indicate date of sample collection.

Figure 4. NRGT time series for nylon RM, CEM RM, and C.TM GOM concentrations, as well as %PBM. Dates indicate date of sample collection.

Figure 5. Thermal desorption profile peak are s fo NRGT Hg<sup>II</sup> compounds, with RM results on the left and GOM results on the right for each sampling period pair. Dates indicate date of sample collection.

Figure 6. RM measurements for AMS, including concentrations measured on the CEM (solid black line) and nylon (black dashed line) membranes, ar u peak area of RM compounds measured on the nylon membranes (stacked bars) using ther natidesorption. The vertical line indicates the delineation between the first and second batch of samples. Dates indicate date of sample collection.

Figure 1

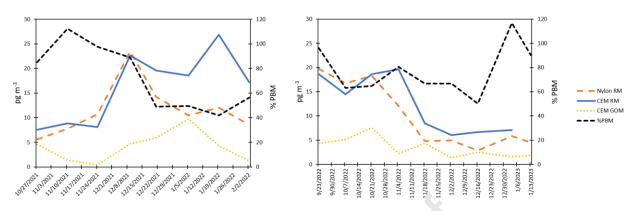


Figure 2

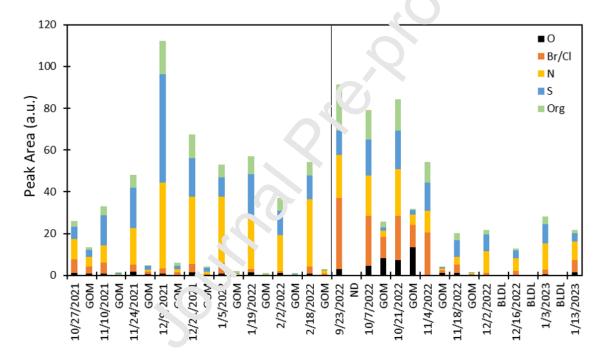


Figure 3

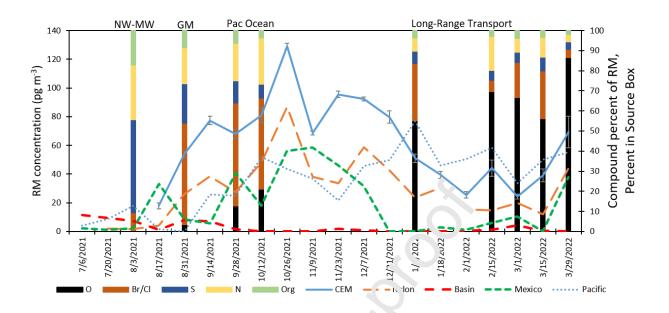


Figure 4

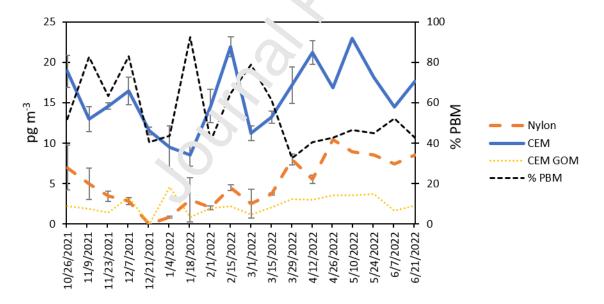


Figure 5

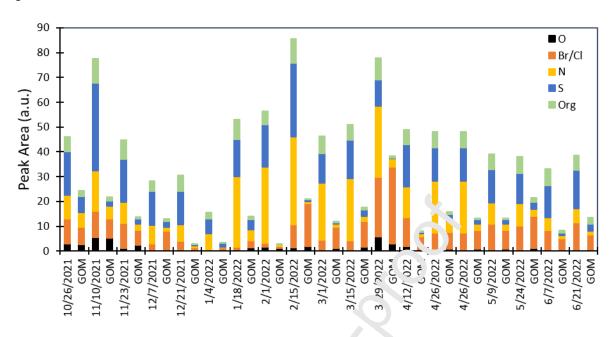


Figure 6

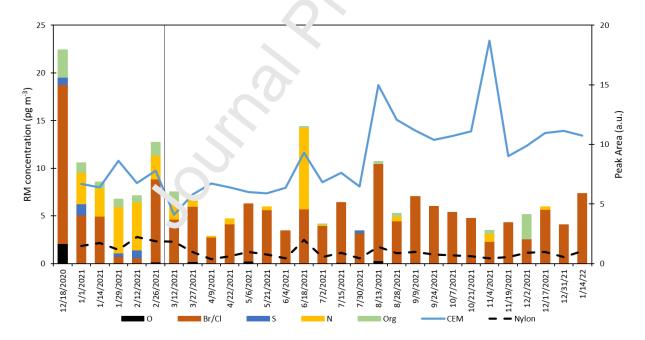


Table 1. Summary of GEOS-Chem results and comparison with observations collected with the RMAS. GEM was measured with a Tekran 2537, while RM was determined using CEM. RMAS chemistry was determined using thermal desorption of nylon membranes. Concentrations for GEOS-Chem results are in pg m<sup>-3</sup>. HgORGP indicates organic particulate Hg<sup>II</sup>, HgCLP is Hg<sup>II</sup> chloride particulate. There are no data for the chemistry at GUMO except for the first date.

		G	EOS-C	hem r	esults	;				0	bse	rvati	ions			
											R	R	MAS	mea	sur	ed
										GEM	M		che	mis	try	
											р					
	Н	Tota	HgS	Hg	Hg	Hg	HgO	Hg			g		Br/			Or
	g	I	TR	OR	CL	Cl	НО	BrO		ng	m	0	Cl	Ν	S	g
Date	0	HgII	Р	GP	Р	2	Н	Н	Date	<u></u>	-3	%	%	%	%	%
GSL																
10/1																
2/20	1.															
21	5	15		1	2	12	0	0								
10/2									15/2	1.0						
6/20	1.								7/20	to				2	4	
21	5	15		1	2	12	0	J	21	1.6 *	8	2	16	5	3	13
									11/1							
11/9/	1.								0/20					3	4	
2021	4	19		1	2	15	C	0	21		9	4	7	7	0	13
11/2									11/2							
3/20	1.								4/20					3	4	
21	4	23		2	2	13	0	0	21		8	1	2	7	6	14
12/7/	1.								12/9/		2			4	2	
2021	4	22		1	2	18	0	1	2021		3	2	6	8	7	17
GUM																
0																
10/1									10/1							
2/20	1.								2/20	No	8	2		2		
21	4	18		2	2	14	0	0	21	data	1	1	45	3	7	4
10/2									10/2		1					
6/20	1.								6/20		2					
21	4	27		2	3	22	0	0	21		9					
11/9/	1.								11/9/		6					
2021	4	22		1	2	18	0	0	2021		8					
11/2									11/2							
3/20	1.								3/20		9					
21	4	28		2	3	24	0	0	21		5					
12/7/	1.						-	-	12/7/		9					
2021	4	27		1	2	22	0	0	2021		2					

1															1
NRGT															
10/1															
2/20	1.														
21	4	7	1	1	5										
10/2	•	•	_	_	J			10/2							
6/20	1.							6/20	No	1			2	3	
21	4	8	1	1	6			21	data	9	6	22	1	8	13
								11/1							
11/9/	1.							0/20		1			2	4	
2021	5	9	2	2	5			21		3	7	13	1	6	13
11/2								11/2							
3/20	1.							3/20		1			1	3	
21	4	10	3	2	5			21		5	3	23	9	8	18
12/7/	1.							12 / , /		1			2	4	
2021	4	13	3	2	7			26.71		6	1	9	6	8	15
AMS															
10/1	0.						(7)	10/2							
2/20	9							1/20	1.0 ±	1			2		
21	9	6	0	1	4	0		21	0.1	4	0	67	4	0	9
10/2	0.														
6/20	9		_	_				11/4/		2		10	_	_	_
21	4	10	0	1	(1)	0		2021		3	0	0	0	0	0
11/0/	0.							11/1							
11/9/	9	12	0		0	0		9/20		1	0	г.	^	0	40
2021	7	12	0	2	9	0		21		1	0	51	0	0	49
11/2	1.							12/2/							
3/20 21	0 2	7	0	1	6	0		12/2/ 2021		1 2	Λ	96	4	Λ	0
21	0.	7	U	Т	O	U		12/1		2	0	90	4	0	0
12/7/	9							7/20		1		10			
2021	9	7	0	1	6	0		21		1 4	0	0	0	0	0
2021	,	,	O	_	U	O		21		7	U	U	U	U	
Reno															
-GH															
6/2/2	1.							6/2/2		9					
020	3	15	1	2	12	0	0	020	1.6	8					
	-	==	_	_	- <b>-</b>	-	-	<del>-</del>	•	1					
6/16/	1.							6/17/		4					
2020	3	18	2	1	15	1	0	2020	2.1	4					
6/30/	1.							6/30/		1					
2020	3	14	1	1	12	1	0	2020	1.7	7	5	76	9	6	4

										0					
										1					
7/14/	1.							7/15/		6					
2020	3	22	1	1	19	9 0	0	2020	2.0	4					
7/28/	1.							7/21/		8	1		2	1	
2020	3	21	1	1	18	3 1	. 0	2020	2.0	9	0	53	0	4	3
								7/28/		9	3			1	
								2020	1.8	2	1	55	1	2	2

<sup>\*</sup>Data from Peterson and Gusin, 2008

Table 2. Summary of RM concentrations, dominant RM chemistry, PB. 1 concentrations and %PBM for locations where the RMAS has been deployed. Graphical abstract spatially summarizes the locations.

				Dominant		2/	5.6
Location	Lat-Long masl	Dates	RM	RM chamictry	PBM	% PBM	Refere nce
Location	IIIasi	Dates	pg m	Ci siin ci y	FDIVI	L DIAI	TICE
			3		pg m <sup>-3</sup>		
Marine/Coast al							
Zeppelin	474 masl	03/26	63 ±				Osterwald
Observatory,	(78.90° N,	4/24	45, 4	HgCl/Br=Hg			er et al.,
Svalbard, NO	11.88° E)	201.9	to 182	N>HgS	n/a	n/a	2021
	19.5392,	11./2017					
Mauna Loa,	-155.5792;	-	133 ±				Luippold
HI, USA	3397 masl	しっ/2019	5	HgCl/Br	n/a	n/a	et al., 2021
		38/01/1					
		9 -			$3.0 \pm$	1.6 ±	
		01/02/2	158 ±		4.5 (0-	2.9 (0 -	Gustin et
		0	9	Br/Cl	14)	5.5)	al., 2021
			43 ±				
			110				
			Spg)				
			24 ±				
			57				
			(Sum)				
	015/20552		14 ±				
Damasar I. El	OLF (30.550		18				
Pensacola, FL,	N,	06/12	(Fall)	D/CL N. C			IIa.a.a.a.b
USA-Outlying	87.374W,	06/12 -	17 ±	-Br/Cl, -N, -S	n /-	n/-	Huang et
Landing Field	44masl	03/14	23(w)	and organic	n/a	n/a	al., 2015
Amsterdan	S 37° 79, E	12/2020	1111	Br/CL>N>org	/a	/a	This study:
Island, Indian	077°54, 70	-	11±4	anic>S	n/a	n/a	This study

0 50		40/0004					
Ocean, FR	masl	12/2021					
Cape Grim,	(-40.683 S	11/					
Tazmania,	144.690 E,	2015-					Miller et
Australia	94 m a.s.l.	05/2017	16 ± 7	n/a	n/a	n/a	al., 2020
	-33.765 S	04/2016					
Sydney,	151.117 E, 67	-					Miller et
Australia	masl.	05/2017	18 ± 7	n/a	n/a	n/a	al., 2020
South							
Australian and							
Australian-	From Sydney	01/13 -	24 ± 7				
Antarctic	Australia to	03/06	pg				Miller et
Basins	Antarctica	2017	m-3	n/a	n/a	n/a	al., 2020
				·		•	•
Continental							
Valley Road							
Greenhouse	39.5375,	11/2017	60 ±	-Br/Cl, -ı '			
Complex,	-119.8047;	-	40 pg	-S. and			Luippold
Reno NV	1371 masl	02/2019	m-3	c gan c	n/a	n/a	et al., 2021
Kello IVV	1371 111031	10/01/1	111 3	gane	11/ 4	11/ 4	ct al., 2021
		9 -		Br/Cl, N, S,	13.3 ±	40 ± 16	
		01/28/2		and minor	9.3 (0-	(10-	Gustin et
		01/20/2	22 + 4	organic	26.4)	63)	al., 2021
		- 0	- (2) -	Organic	20.7)	03)	ai., 2021
Piney	39.7053,	11/2017					
Reservoir,	-79.0122; 769	-		−N, −S, and			Luippold
Maryland	masl	02/2019	17 ± 2	organic-Hg	n/a	n/a	et al., 2021
iviai yiaitu	111031	02/271	1/ ± 2	Organic-rig	II/ a	II/ a	et al., 2021
		9-		−N, −S, and	4.3 ±		
		11/21/1		organic-Hg,	4.3 <u>+</u> 2.7 (0-	54 ± 24	Gustin et
		9	11 ± 2	lesser Br/Cl	8.9)	(15-77)	al., 2021
	40.143/	11/2017	11 ± 2	-Br/Cl or -O,	0.5)	(13-77)	ai., 2021
Horsopool	-10 <sup>9</sup> .4( 89;	11/201/					Luippold
Horsepool, Utah		02/2019	20 . 4	-N, and	n /n	n/2	• •
Utan	1567 i. ası	02/2019	38 ± 4	-Br/Cl	n/a	n/a	et al., 2021
		00/01/1		O and-Br/Cl			
		08/01/1		or Br/Cl, N,	20.	17 . 12	
		9-		S, and	3.9 ±	17 ± 12	Contin at
		01/06/2	40 . 4	minor	1.5 (1-	(6.8 -	Gustin et
		0	40 ± 4	organic	5.8)	41.5)	al., 2021
	22.770462	10/26/2			0.7.	50 . 46	
Atlant	33.778463, -	1 -		D., /Cl. 11 C	8.7 ±	58 ± 16	
Atlanta,	84.391425,	06/21/2	0	Br/Cl, N, S,	2.7 (4 -	(40-	This is
Georgia	286 masl	2	9 ± 5	and minor O	14)	92)	This study
				N and S			This
				dominant,		66	study.Pete
Geat Salt Lake,	41.060451, -			minor	10 ± 4	63 ± 23	rson and
Utah-Antelope	112.238430,			organics and	(6.4 -	(41 -	Gustin,
Island	1283 masl		16 ± 7	Br/Cl	20)	112)	2008

Guadalupe Mountains National Park	31.891128 - 104.805378, 1680 masl	06/22/2 1 to 03/15/2 2	29 ± 21	O, S, N, Br/Cl	n/a	n/a	This study
Nanjing University, Nanjing China	32.119 °N, 118.949 °E, 36 masl	12- 01/2020 / 04- 2021 07-	160 ±122	[-N], [-S], [- Org]	105 ± 75	64 ± 19	Lei Zhang, personal communic ation, May 2023
		2021/10	173 ±				
		-2021	128		<u> </u>	62 ± 19	

#### Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### AuthorContributions

Mae Sexauer Gustin- obtained funding, helped establish the sampling sites, assimilated the data and wrote the manuscript.

Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham- obtained funding, helped establish the sampling sites and analyze samples, and contributed to writing and edited the manuscript.

Natalie Allen- analyzed samples, organized the data into spreadsheets, compiled ancillary data, and contributed to writing of the manuscript.

Nicole Choma- did all the HYSPLIT analyses and contributed to wriling of the manuscript.

William Johnson- obtained funding, helped with establishment of the GSL field sites, supervised the graduate students helping with the sample collection and of ntributed to writing of the manuscript.

Sam Lopez- deployed and collected the samples at GSL and contributed to writing of the manuscript.

Armistead Russell- established funding, helped with sexup of the NRGT field site, and supervised the graduate student that collected and deployed can bles and contributed to writing of the manuscript.

Eric Mei- deployed and collected the samples at RGT, compiled the ancillary data for this location, and contributed to writing of the manuscript.

Olivier Magand-obtained funding, helped to ordinate the Amsterdam Island sampling and with getting the samples to Reno for analyses, previded ancillary data, helped with data interpretation and writing of the manuscript.

Aurélien Dommergue - obtained funding, helped coordinate the Amsterdam Island sampling and contributed to writing of the manuscript.

Tyler Elgiar- did the GEOS-C'em analyses, and contributed to interpretation of model data and writing of the manuscript.