

Reactions of Criegee Intermediates with Alcohols at Air–Aqueous Interfaces

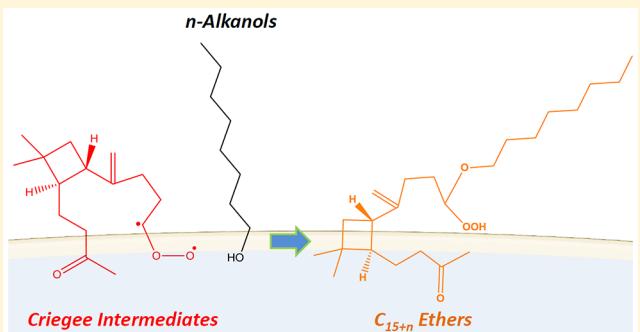
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The fate of Criegee intermediates (CIs) from the gas-phase ozonolysis of unsaturated organic compounds in the troposphere is largely controlled by their reactions with water vapor. We recently found that against all expectations carboxylic acids compete at millimolar concentrations with water for CIs at the air–liquid interface of aqueous organic media. This outcome is consistent with both the low water concentration in the outermost interfacial layers and the enrichment of the competing acids therein. Here we show, via online electrospray mass spectrometric detection, that CIs generated in situ in the fast ozonolysis of sesquiterpenes ($C_{15}H_{24}$) on the surface of water:acetonitrile microjets react with $n \geq 4$ linear alcohols $C_nH_{2n+1}OH$ to produce high molecular weight C_{15+n} ethers in one step. The OH group of 1-octanol proved to be ~25 times less reactive than that of *n*-octanoic toward CIs at the same bulk molar concentration, revealing that the reactivity of hydroxylic species depends on both acidities and interfacial affinities. CI interfacial reactions with surface-active hydroxylic species, by bypassing water, represent shortcuts to molecular complexity in atmospheric aerosols.



INTRODUCTION

Ozonolysis of unsaturated hydrocarbons (such as those from massive biogenic terpene emissions) is the leading source of Criegee intermediates (CIs)¹ in the atmosphere. CIs have a major role in atmospheric HO_x cycling and in particle formation, particularly over forests.^{2–11} Unsaturated hydrocarbons are also deemed to be reactively uptaken on the surface of acidic aerosols and leaf films,^{12–14} where they would react with $O_3(g)$ to generate CIs in situ.^{15,16} The fate of the CIs generated on the surface of aqueous organic aerosols, however, is not known. Theoretical calculations predicted that the reaction of the smallest CI (CH_2OO) with water molecules at the air–water interface would proceed $\sim 10^2$ to 10^3 faster than in the gas phase.¹⁷ In this regard, we recently found that in the outermost interfacial layers of water:acetonitrile mixtures, as surrogates of aqueous organic aerosol media, long-chain carboxylic acids at millimolar concentrations compete with $(H_2O)_n$ for CIs.¹⁸ We ascribed this finding to the low water concentrations prevalent in the outermost interfacial layers of such mixtures, and to the surface enrichment of the more hydrophobic carboxylic acids. We also found that surface-active *cis*-pinonic acid (CPA), a major product of the ozonolysis of biogenic monoterpenes, is a particularly reactive scavenger of CIs on aqueous surfaces, due to its peculiar molecular geometry that places the reactive hydroxylic $–C(O)–OH$ group close to the interface.¹⁹ Our findings are the more remarkable because in the gas-phase CH_2OO reacts with $(H_2O)_2$ and $C_1–C_2$

carboxylic acids at large rate constants, $\sim 10^{-11}$ and $\sim 10^{-10}$ cm^3 molecule $^{-1}$ s^{-1} , respectively.^{20–22} The fact that CIs react with organic hydroxylic species in competition with water at air–aqueous interfaces bears directly on the mechanism of organic aerosol accretion and growth, because it amounts to a one-step polymerization process involving large molecules which has not been hitherto considered in chemical models of secondary organic aerosol formation.²³

Here we report the first direct detection of intermediates and products from atmospherically relevant alcohol $C_nH_{2n+1}OH$ ($n = 1–8$) reactions with CIs generated on fresh surfaces of β -caryophyllene (β -C) and α -humulene (α -H) solutions in acetonitrile (AN):water (W) exposed to $O_3(g)$ for $\sim 10 \mu s$. Long-chain alcohols are ubiquitous surfactants found in a variety of atmospheric aerosol and sea-surface microlayers,^{24–28} and therefore, their reactions with CIs could significantly contribute to the formation and augmentation of the chemical complexity of atmospheric particles and organic microfilms.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

The experimental setup is essentially the same as that reported elsewhere.^{18,29} A brief description follows. We inject [sesquiterpene (β -C or α -H) + alcohol + NaCl] solutions in

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acetonitrile:water (AN:W = 4:1 = vol:vol) as microjets into the spraying chamber of an electrospray mass spectrometer (ES-MS, Agilent 6130 Quadrupole LC/MS Electrospray System at NIES, Japan) flushed with $N_2(g)$ at 1 atm, 298 K. We chose sesquiterpenes as *in situ* sources of CIs due to their high reactivity toward $O_3(g)$,³⁰ which makes them compatible with the short $\tau_R \sim 10 \mu s$ contact times of our experiments.^{31–33} We use a AN:W solvent mixture as surrogate of atmospheric aqueous organic aerosols because the composition of its interfacial layers is well characterized by both theory and experiments.^{34,35} Microjets are exposed to an orthogonal $O_3(g)$ beam (Figure 1).

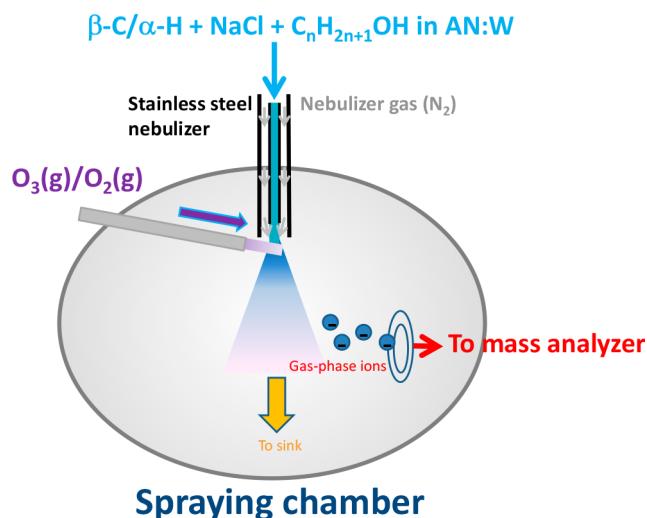


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the experimental setup. β -C, α -H, AN, and W stand for β -caryophyllene, α -humulene, acetonitrile, and water, respectively.

AN:W solutions are pumped (at $100 \mu L \text{ min}^{-1}$) into the spraying chamber through a grounded stainless steel needle (100 μm bore) coaxial with a sheath issuing nebulizer $N_2(g)$ at high velocity v_g ($\sim 160 \text{ m s}^{-1}$).³⁶ The species detected by ES mass spectrometry are produced in $O_3(g)$ reactive collisions with the surface of the microjets as they emerge from the grounded nozzle.³¹ Previous experiments in our laboratory have demonstrated that mass spectral signal intensities are proportional to interfacial ion populations.^{31,32,36} We have shown that mass spectra (1) are not affected by the weak local electric fields at the tip of the grounded nozzle^{37,38} and (2) correspond to species generated by reactions taking place in the outermost interfacial layers of the microjets.³¹ The limited exposures of microjets to $O_3(g)$ during the short contact times of our experiments, $E = [O_3(g)] \times \tau_R \leq 2.4 \times 10^{11} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3} \text{ s}$, enables us to monitor the earliest reactive events undergone by the CIs generated right at the liquid surface. Note that in our experiments the addition of NaCl lets us detect neutral species as negatively charged chloride adducts, which are unambiguously identified by the characteristic $M/M + 2 = 3/1$ signal ratios arising from natural abundance $^{35}\text{Cl} : ^{37}\text{Cl} : 0.75 : 0.25$ isotopes. We verified that chloride is inert toward $O_3(g)$ under the present conditions.^{41,42} Further experimental details can be found in previous publications.^{18,29,32,33,36,40,43}

Ozone was generated by flowing ultrapure $O_2(g)$ (>99.999%) through a silent discharge ozonizer (KSQ-050, Kotohira, Japan) and quantified by online absorption

spectrophotometry at 250 or 300 nm (Agilent 8453) prior to entering the reaction chamber. The reported $[O_3(g)]$ correspond to the concentrations sensed by the microjets, which are ~ 12 times smaller than the $[O_3(g)]$ determined by spectrophotometry due to dilution by the drying N_2 gas flow. Conditions in the present experiments: drying N_2 gas-flow rate, 12 L min^{-1} ; drying N_2 gas temperature, 340 °C; inlet electric potential, +3.5 kV relative to ground; fragmentor polarization, 60 V. All solutions were prepared in Milli-Q water (resistivity $\geq 18.2 \text{ M}\Omega \text{ cm}$) and used within 48 h. β -Caryophyllene ($\geq 98.5\%$, Sigma-Aldrich), α -humulene ($\geq 96.0\%$, Sigma-Aldrich), methanol ($\geq 99.9\%$, Sigma-Aldrich), ethanol ($\geq 99.5\%$, Wako), 1-propanol ($\geq 99.7\%$, Wako), 1-butanol ($\geq 99.9\%$, Sigma-Aldrich), 1-pentanol ($\geq 99\%$, Sigma-Aldrich), 1-hexanol ($\geq 97\%$, Wako), 1-heptanol ($\geq 98\%$, Wako), 1-octanol ($\geq 99\%$, Sigma-Aldrich), *n*-octanoic acid ($\geq 97\%$, Wako), acetonitrile ($\geq 99.8\%$, Wako), $D_2\text{O}$ (99.9 atom % D, Sigma-Aldrich), $H_2^{18}\text{O}$ (97%, Santa Cruz Isotope), and NaCl ($\geq 99.999\%$, Sigma-Aldrich) were used as received.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 2 shows negative ion electrospray mass spectrum of [1 mM β -C + 0.2 mM NaCl + 100 mM 1-octanol] in AN:W (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets in the absence and presence of $O_3(g)$.

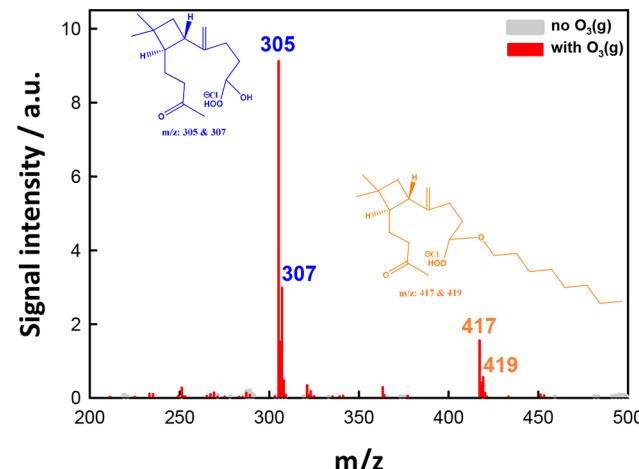
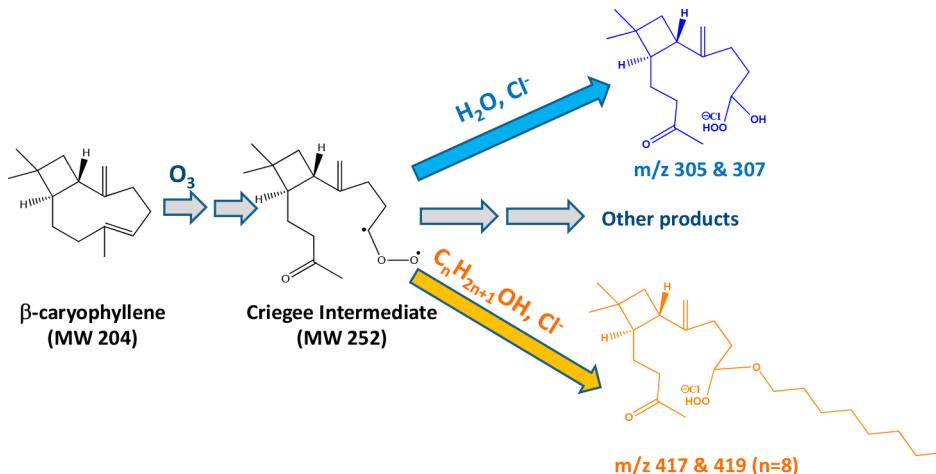


Figure 2. Negative ion electrospray mass spectra of [1 mM β -C + 0.2 mM NaCl + 100 mM 1-octanol] in AN:W (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets before (gray) and after (red) being exposed to $O_3(g)$ ($E = 4.1 \times 10^{10} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3} \text{ s}$) in 1 atm $N_2(g)$ at 298 K. The m/z 305;307 and 417;419 signals correspond to chloride adducts of C_{15} α -hydroxy-hydroperoxides and C_{23} α -alkoxy-hydroperoxides, respectively. We show representative structures of possible isomers.

In the presence of $O_3(g)$, intense peaks appear at m/z 305;307 and 417;419 in $M/M + 2 = 3/1 = ^{35}\text{Cl} / ^{37}\text{Cl}$ ratios (Figure 2). We found that the ozonolysis of β -C on AN:W surfaces proceeds ~ 20 times faster than in the bulk liquid saturated with ozone,³⁰ and orders of magnitude faster than in the gas phase.^{10,44} We confirmed that 1-octanol is inert toward $O_3(g)$ under the present conditions (Figure S1), in accordance with the negligibly small rate constant: $k_{O_3+1\text{-octanol}} \leq 0.8 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in bulk water.⁴⁵ The m/z 305;307 signals correspond to species resulting from the addition of O_3 (+48) to a β -C (MW = 204) endo $C=C$ bond,^{10,30} followed by the addition of H_2O (+18) and detected as chloride adducts: 305 (307) = $204 + 48 + 18 + 35$ (37).¹⁸ Our observation that (neutral) hydro-

Scheme 1. Reaction Mechanism of β -Caryophyllene's Criegee Intermediate + *n*-Alkanols at Air–Aqueous Interfaces^a

^aHere we show representative structures among possible isomers.

peroxides form detectable chloride adducts is in line with the reported strong affinity of chloride for such species.^{7,46,47} The m/z 417;419 signals correspond to the products of 1-octanol (MW = 130) addition to CIs: 417 (419) = $204 + 48 + 130 + 35$ (37) (Scheme 1).

Thus, the m/z 417;419 signals are assigned to the α -alkoxy-hydroperoxides (C_{23} ethers) produced from CIs reactions with 1-octanol (Scheme 1). As mentioned above, we recently found that carboxylic acids R_nCOOH ($n \geq 4$) and a surface-active C_{10} keto-carboxylic acid at mM concentrations are able to compete with interfacial water molecules for the CIs derived from the ozonolysis of β -C or α -H on the surface of AN:W.^{18,19} Here we find that 1-octanol also competes with interfacial water for CIs to generate a higher mass product (MW 382, detected as m/z 417 and 419) than the $m/z = 305$ α -hydroxy-hydroperoxides resulting from CIs reactions with $(H_2O)_n$. Similarly, in experiments involving shorter-chain alcohols at the same molar concentrations (Figures S2 and S3), we detect smaller signals at $m/z = 204 + 48 + MW(C_nH_{2n+1}OH, 4 \leq n \leq 7) + 35(37)$ where signal intensity decreases as n decreases (see below). The formation of α -alkoxy-hydroperoxides from CIs reactions with alcohols is consistent with reports on ozonolyses in the gas and bulk liquid phases.^{5,48–53} To our knowledge, this is the first-time report that α -alkoxy-hydroperoxides are produced from CIs reactions with alcohols in the presence of excess water at air–aqueous interfaces. Our results suggest the involvement of *interfacial* CIs chemistry in the prompt generation of molecular complexity on aqueous organic surfaces. Note that α -hydroxy-hydroperoxides and α -alkoxy-hydroperoxides are much less volatile than their precursors and can further extend this process into even less volatile species via free radical polymerizations upon thermal or photochemical O–OH bond dissociation,^{54,55} or by addition to CIs.^{3,23} Peaks at m/z 305;307 and 417;419 appear in the ozonolysis of both β -C and α -H in the presence of 1-octanol (Figure S4), thereby implying that CIs generated *in situ* will generally react with long-chain alcohols on aqueous organic surfaces.^{56–59}

Additional evidence on the identity and mechanisms of formation of the observed products was obtained from negative ion electrospray mass spectrometry of [β -C + NaCl + 1-octanol] in AN:D₂O (Figure 3A) and AN:H₂¹⁸O (Figure 3B) microjets in the absence and presence of $O_3(g)$.

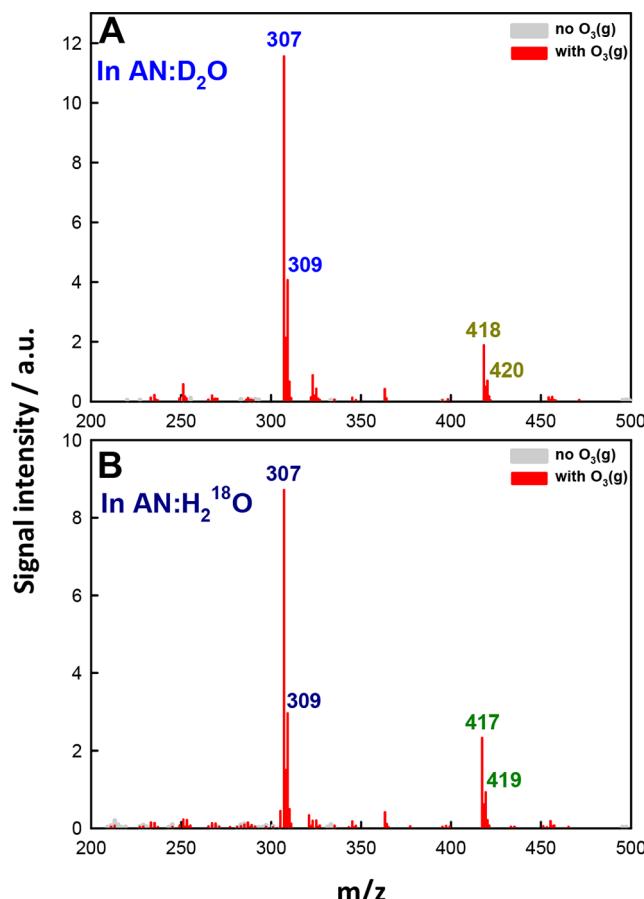


Figure 3. Negative ion electrospray mass spectra of (A) [1 mM β -C + 1 mM NaCl + 100 mM 1-octanol] in AN:D₂O (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets and (B) [1 mM β -C + 1.3 mM NaCl + 100 mM 1-octanol] in AN:H₂¹⁸O (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets before (gray) and after (red) being exposed to $O_3(g)$ ($E = 1.4 \times 10^{11}$ molecules $cm^{-3} s$).

It is apparent that the $m/z = 305,307$ product signals shift by +2 mass units into 307;309 signals in both AN:D₂O and AN:H₂¹⁸O (Figure 3), in accordance with the formation of α -hydroxy-hydroperoxides possessing two exchangeable hydroxyl H atoms via the incorporation of a single water molecule (Scheme 1).¹⁸ The observation that the $m/z = 417,419$ product

signals shift by +1 mass unit into 418/420 signals in AN:D₂O (Figure 3A) but do not shift in AN:H₂¹⁸O (Figure 3B) is consistent with the formation of α -alkoxy-hydroperoxides (ethers) having a single exchangeable (OO)–H atom (Scheme 1).

Because the hydrophobic C₂₃ ether products (MW 382, detected as *m/z* 417 and 419) still have one (in the case of β -C) and two (for α -H) C=C double bond(s), they would be further ozonized, leading to higher O/C ratio products. Ethers possessing hydroperoxide –OOH groups could propagate further polymerizations, as indicated above.^{3,7,51,60} Such processes are deemed to contribute to the formation of the extremely low-volatility organic compounds (ELVOCs) detected in recent field studies of tropospheric aerosols.^{23,53,61,62} Related high molecular weight species were also observed as major products in aerosols produced in the laboratory via α -pinene ozonolysis, and in aerosols collected over boreal forests.^{50,53}

Figure 4 shows electrospray mass spectral signals acquired from [1 mM β -C + 0.2 mM NaCl + 100 mM 1-octanol] in

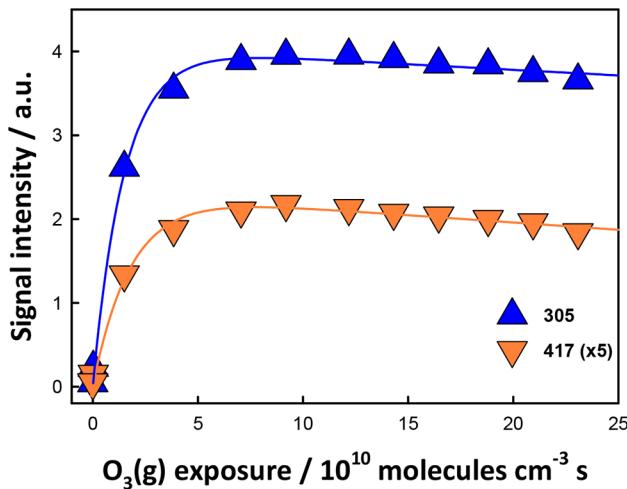


Figure 4. Mass spectral signal intensities from [1 mM β -C + 0.2 mM NaCl + 100 mM 1-octanol] in AN:W (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets exposed to O₃(g) as functions of O₃(g) exposure (in 10¹⁰ molecules cm⁻³ s). Plotted *m/z* 417 signal intensities are 5-fold larger than actual values. The lines correspond to double exponential growth function regressions.

AN:W (4:1) microjets exposed to gaseous O₃/O₂ mixtures as functions of O₃(g) exposure.

Both signals display nonzero initial slopes, as expected from early products generated within the first microseconds. The decline of *m/z* = 305 and 417 signals above $E \sim 1 \times 10^{11}$ molecules cm⁻³ s implies that at that point unsaturated products begin to compete for ozone with partially depleted reactant sesquiterpenes in interfacial layers.^{18,63,64} This in turn implies that interfacial ozonolysis is faster than sesquiterpene diffusion from the bulk solution into interfacial layers. The key finding is that CIs react competitively with 1-octanol and interfacial (H₂O)_n at significantly dissimilar bulk concentration ratios: [1-octanol]/[H₂O] = 100 mM/23 M $\sim 4 \times 10^{-3}$ (molar fraction of H₂O: m_f_W = 0.42, in 4:1:AN:W).

We found that the reactivity of alcohols C_nH_{2n+1}OH vs H₂O toward sesquiterpene CIs at the air–aqueous interface is a strongly increasing function of *n*. We quantified the competition between C_nH_{2n+1}OH vs H₂O by the ratio of the

mass spectral signal intensities: *m/z* = *X* = 204 + 48 + MW(C_nH_{2n+1}OH) + 35, of the C_{15+n} ether products of C_nH_{2n+1}OH reactions with CIs vs over the *m/z* 305 signal intensity of the product of CIs reaction with H₂O: *X*/305 and ln(*X*/305) as a function of *n* at constant O₃(g) exposure (Figure 5).

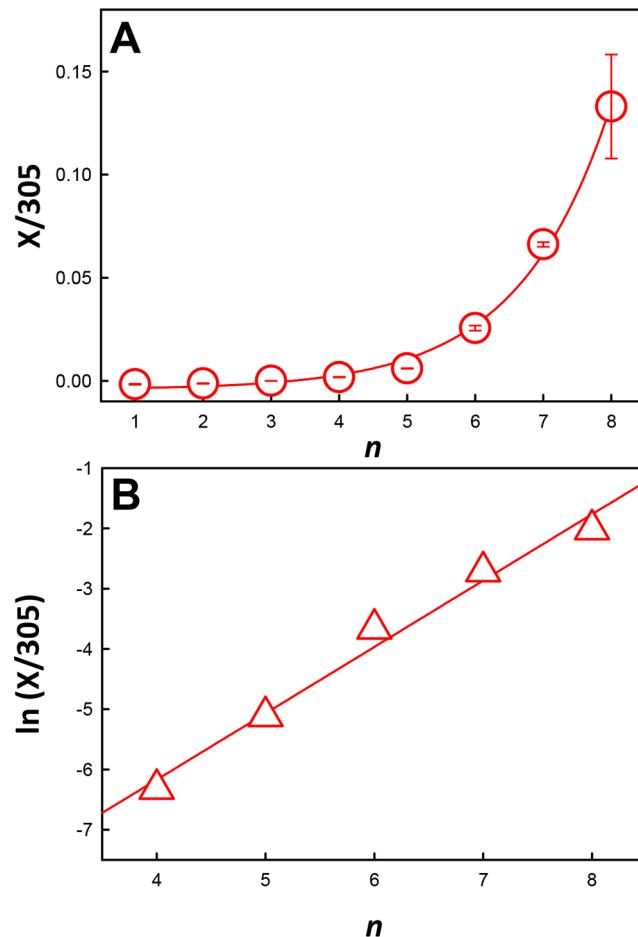


Figure 5. (A) X/305 ratio of signal intensities and (B) ln(X/305) from [1 mM β -C + 0.2 mM NaCl + 100 mM C_nH_{2n+1}OH] in AN:W (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets exposed to O₃(g) ($E \approx 1.4 \times 10^{11}$ molecules cm⁻³ s) as a function of *n*. *X* = 319, 333, 347, 361, 375, 389, 403, and 417 for *n* = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, respectively. Error bars are derived from duplicate measurements. The line corresponds to a single exponential growth function regression.

The fact that the X/305 ratio is a strongly increasing function of *n* is consistent with the larger propensity of the longer alkyl chain alcohols for interfacial layers^{65,66} and represents direct evidence that our experiments indeed probe interfacial events. The small *n* \leq 3 alcohols in fact did not generate detectable *X* signals (i.e., within background noise levels). Our results evoke a recent heterodyne-detected vibrational sum frequency generation (HD-VSFG) study, which revealed that whereas C_nH_{2n+1}OH (*n* < 4) do not affect the structure and orientation of water at the air–water interface, the longer chain C_nH_{2n+1}OH (*n* > 4) alcohols enhance H-bonding and force H₂O molecules to point their H atoms to the gas phase.⁶⁶ Recently, Walz et al. showed, by using X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), that C_nH_{2n+1}OH interfacial affinities exponentially increase as a function of *n*.⁶⁵ They reported free energies of C_nH_{2n+1}OH adsorption to the air–water

interface $\Delta G_{\text{Ads}}(n)$, which range from -15 to -19 kJ mol^{-1} for $n = 4-6$, respectively.⁶⁵ Similarly, we recently determined that the stabilization energy of $\text{R}_n\text{-COOH}$ (n -alkanoic acids, $2 \leq n \leq 7$) at the air–water interface increases by ≈ 0.8 kJ mol^{-1} per additional $-\text{CH}_2-$ group.³²

However, the gas-phase acidity of alcohols also increases exponentially with n (see below).^{67,68} In this regard, we found that the $X/305$ values in Figure 5 are ~ 20 times smaller than those we previously reported for the corresponding products of $\text{CIs} + \text{R}_n\text{-COOH}$ reactions on a molecular basis.¹⁸ This effect is clearly apparent in Figure 6, which shows negative ion

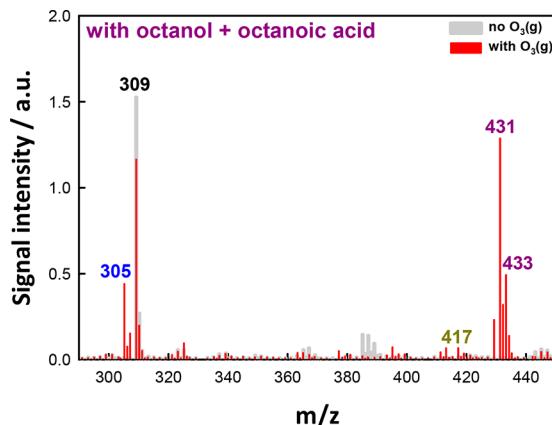


Figure 6. Negative ion electrospray mass spectra of $[1 \text{ mM } \beta\text{-C} + 0.2 \text{ mM NaCl} + 100 \text{ mM 1-octanol} + 100 \text{ mM } n\text{-octanoic acid}]$ in AN:W (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets before (gray) and after (red) being exposed to $\text{O}_3(\text{g})$ ($E = 2.3 \times 10^{11}$ molecules $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{ s}$) in 1 atm $\text{N}_2(\text{g})$ at 298 K. The m/z 309 and 431;433 signals correspond to $\text{Na}(\text{OA})_2^-$ and α -acyloxy-hydroperoxides (C_{23} esters) from the $\text{CIs} + \text{OA}$ reaction, respectively.

electrospray mass spectra of $[1 \text{ mM } \beta\text{-C} + 0.2 \text{ mM NaCl} + 100 \text{ mM 1-octanol} + 100 \text{ mM } n\text{-octanoic acid (OA, MW 144)}]$ in AN:W (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets in the absence and presence of $\text{O}_3(\text{g})$.

The peaks at m/z 431 and 433 correspond to C_{23} esters produced from OA addition to CIs: 431 (433) = $204 + 48 + 144 + 35$ (37).¹⁸ Note that OA is inert toward $\text{O}_3(\text{g})$ in the absence of CIs.⁴⁰ The observation that signal intensities at m/z 417 (and 419) from 1-octanol are ~ 25 times smaller than those at m/z 431 (and 433) from OA at $[\text{1-octanol}] = [\text{OA}] = 100 \text{ mM}$ reveals that 1-octanol is much less reactive than OA toward CIs, although both species are expected to have similar affinities for aqueous surfaces.^{25,32,43,69,70} The C_{23} ethers and esters produced in each case, by having similar masses and structures (Scheme 1), are also expected to have similar interfacial affinities. Thus, the dissimilar mass spectral signal intensities in Figure 6 are bona fide indicators of the relative reactivities of n -alkanols vs n -alkanoic acids homologues toward CIs, and highlight the role of acidity in these processes. This finding is in line with gas-phase reaction rate constants of CIs + $\text{HCOOH}/\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$, which approach collisionally controlled values: $k \geq 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$,²² vs the much smaller values for CIs + methanol/2-propanol.^{48,50,68} Tobias and Ziemann have reported that rate constants of gas-phase C_{13} CIs reactions with various species increase in the order: water < methanol < 2-propanol < formaldehyde < formic acid < heptanoic acid, over a 10^4 range.⁶⁸ Remarkably, the reactivity of CIs toward these hydroxylic compounds is not determined by

their O–H bond dissociation energies but correlates with their gas-phase acidities, thereby suggesting polar transition states involving zwitterionic CIs.⁶⁸ Our results are in excellent accordance with Tobias and Ziemann's findings and strongly suggests that CIs reactions with hydroxylic compounds at the gas–aqueous interfaces proceed by a similar mechanism. This is confirmed by Figure 7, where we plotted $\ln(X/305)$ vs gas-

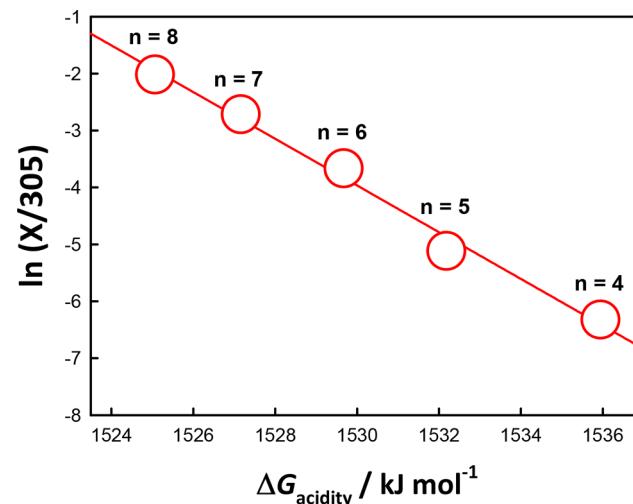


Figure 7. $\ln(X/305)$ plot from $[1 \text{ mM } \beta\text{-C} + 0.2 \text{ mM NaCl} + 100 \text{ mM } \text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{OH} (n \geq 4)]$ in AN:W (4:1 = vol:vol) microjets exposed to $\text{O}_3(\text{g})$ ($E \approx 1.4 \times 10^{11}$ molecules $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{ s}$) as a function of gas-phase $\Delta G_{\text{acidity}}$ values from ref 67.

phase $\Delta G_{\text{acidity}}$ values for $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{OH}$ ($n \geq 4$) alcohols. Recall that gas-phase acidity is the negative of the Gibbs free energy associated with deprotonation; i.e., the smaller absolute $\Delta G_{\text{acidity}}$ values correspond to the more acidic species. The exponential dependence of X with gas-phase $\Delta G_{\text{acidity}}$ values for $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{OH}$ ($n = 1-8$), which range from 1563 kJ mol^{-1} ($n = 1$) to 1525 kJ mol^{-1} ($n = 8$), is consistent with Tobias and Ziemann's findings and suggest similar reaction media in both cases, supporting our argument that the low water density at air–aqueous interfaces is a key factor underlying our observations.⁶⁸ From this perspective, the results of Figure 6 are consistent with the smaller gas-phase $\Delta G_{\text{acidity}}$ values for the n -alkanoic acids vs those for the n -alkanols: $\Delta G_{\text{acidity}} = 1429 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ($n = 1$) to 1418 kJ mol^{-1} ($n = 6$) for $\text{R}_n\text{-COOH}$.^{67,68,71}

Thus, the significant $\Delta G_{\text{acidity}}$ differences ($\geq 100 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$) between alcohols vs carboxylic acids is what determines their relative reactivities toward CIs. Therefore, both the increasing interfacial affinities and acidities of the larger $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{OH}$ contribute to the strong $X/305$ vs n dependence in Figure 5.

Our experiments simulate a rapid ozonolysis process in which $\text{O}_3(\text{g})$ initially sticks to the surface of aqueous organic aerosols in the presence of unsaturated hydrocarbons and ubiquitous alcohols. We found that the heterogeneous ozonolysis of a solution of sesquiterpenes plus n -alkanols in AN:W leads to higher mass products, such as α -hydroxy-hydroperoxides and α -alkoxy-hydroperoxides (C_{15+n} ethers). Because long-chain alcohols are ubiquitous amphiphilic species found in atmospheric aerosols and sea-surface microlayers,²⁴⁻²⁸ the interfacial chemistry on CIs involving alcohols would contribute to the growth/augmentation of atmospheric particles and to the formation of increasingly complex organic microfilms.

CONCLUSION

Our experiments show that Criegee intermediates produced in the ozonolysis of sesquiterpenes in the interfacial layers of aqueous organic media react with long-chain $C_nH_{2n+1}OH$ ($n \geq 4$) alkanols to produce high-mass species (C_{15+n} ethers). Our results suggest that the reduced water concentration in interfacial layers relative to the bulk liquid makes amphiphilic components of aqueous organic aerosol competitive substrates for Criegee intermediates generated therein. The CI chemistry we observe on aqueous organic surfaces provides direct pathways to extremely low-volatility organic compounds (ELVOCs). From this perspective, our findings provide new insights into how to narrow down the mismatch between field observations and atmospheric model calculations regarding the evolution of chemical complexity in organic aerosols. We found that among C_n hydroxylc molecules, alcohols are significantly less reactive than carboxylic acids toward CIs and show that their reactivities depend on both interfacial affinities and gas-phase acidities.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: [10.1021/acs.jpca.7b04272](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpca.7b04272).

Additional experimental data (PDF)

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S.E. designed and performed research. S.E. and A.J.C. analyzed data and wrote the paper.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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