Measurement on the ¹⁷O-excess of tropospheric nitrogen oxides

*Fumiko Nakagawa¹, Dong Ding¹, Urumu Tsunogai¹, Takashi Yamaguchi², Izumi Noguchi²

1. Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University, 2. Institute of Environment Sciences, Hokkaido Research Organization

Nitrogen oxides are important trace gases that influence the concentrations of atmospheric oxidants that drive tropospheric and stratospheric chemistry. Triple oxygen isotopes (Δ^{17} O values; deviation of 17 O from the mass dependent fractionation line) have been used to understand complex chemical systems such as the cycling and oxidation of NOx. For example, Δ^{17} O values of atmospheric nitrate (HNO₃, NO₃, and p-NO₃), indicates the proportion of NOx that reacts with ozone (O₃) during its oxidation (Michalski *et al.*, 2003; Tsunogai *et al.*, 2010; Nelson et al., 2018). Δ^{17} O values of atmospheric nitrous acid (HONO; recognized as a potentially important source of OH radicals) have also been used recently to decipher their production pathways. In these studies, however, predicted Δ^{17} O values were used for NO₂. Here, we tried to establish a method to determine Δ^{17} O values of atmospheric NO₂.

 Δ^{17} O value of NO_2 was determined, together with Δ^{17} O value of HONO, by combining sensitive determination method on isotope compositions of NO_2 (Komatsu *et al.*, 2008; Tsunogai *et al.*, 2010) with a slightly modified filter-pack method (Noguchi *et al.*, 2007), in which both NO_2 and HONO were collected simultaneously as NO_2 on triethanolamine (TEA)-coated filter and alkaline (K_2CO_3) impregnated filter, respectively. Periodical sampling of atmospheric NO_2 and HONO was carried out at Hokkaido Institute of Environmental Sciences, Sapporo and at Nagoya University, which is located in a suburban area of Nagoya City. The sample collection period was fixed to one week with a flow rate of 10 L/min. In order to determine diurnal variation in Δ^{17} O value of NO_2 and HONO, an automated system for time-interval air sampling equipped with 6 four-stage-filter-packs were made and used it to collect atmospheric samples every 4 hours. The Δ^{17} O values of NO_2 and HONO showed similar diurnal variations; higher value on the day time than the night time. The result suggests that the atmospheric HONO is formed mainly by chemical reaction of NOx in the urban atmosphere.

Keywords: nitrogen oxides, troposphere, triple oxygen isotope