

Measurement-based modeling of bromine chemistry in the boundary layer: 1. Bromine chemistry at the Dead Sea

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Abstract. The Dead Sea is an excellent natural laboratory for the investigation of Reactive Bromine Species (RBS) chemistry, due to the high RBS levels observed in this area, combined with anthropogenic air pollutants up to several ppb. The present study investigated the basic chemical mechanism of RBS at the Dead Sea using a numerical one-dimensional chemical model. Simulations were based on data obtained from comprehensive measurements performed at sites along the Dead Sea. The simulations showed that the high BrO levels measured frequently at the Dead Sea could only partially be attributed to the highly concentrated Br⁻ present in the Dead Sea water. Furthermore, the RBS activity at the Dead Sea cannot solely be explained by a pure gas phase mechanism. This paper presents a chemical mechanism which can account for the observed chemical activity at the Dead Sea, with the addition of only two heterogeneous processes: the “Bromine Explosion” mechanism and the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂. Ozone frequently dropped below a threshold value of ~1 to 2 ppbv at the Dead Sea evaporation ponds, and in such cases, O₃ became a limiting factor for the production of BrO_x (BrO+Br). The entrainment of O₃ fluxes into the evaporation ponds was found to be essential for the continuation of RBS activity, and to be the main reason for the jagged diurnal pattern of BrO observed in the Dead Sea area, and for the positive correlation observed between BrO and O₃ at low O₃ concentrations. The present study has shown that the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ has a great potential to affect the RBS activity in areas influenced by anthropogenic emissions, mainly due to the positive correlation between the rate of this process and the levels of NO₂. Further investigation of the influence of the decomposition of BrONO₂ may be especially important in understanding the RBS activity at mid-latitudes.

1 Introduction

It has become increasingly clear that Reactive Halogen Species (RHS) have a significant potential to affect tropospheric chemistry (Von Glasow et al., 2004). This is mainly because RHS can destroy ozone in the boundary layer via catalytic chemical cycles. Several observations have detected a sharp depletion in boundary layer ozone concentrations, from normal values between 30 and 40 ppb to below detection limits (≤ 2 ppb) in the polar regions during springtime (Tuckermann et al., 1997; Hausmann and Platt, 1994; Barrie et al., 1988; Kreher et al., 1997; Murayama et al., 1992). It has been shown that elevated BrO levels of up to 30 ppt, are concurrent with episodes of boundary layer ozone destruction (Platt and Honinger, 2003).

It has been recognized that RHS may also lead to boundary layer O₃ destruction at mid latitudes. This was first observed at the Dead Sea valley in Israel (Matveev et al., 2001; Hebestreit et al., 1999), based on an obvious anticorrelation between ozone and BrO during ozone depletion events. In these measurements, very high BrO levels above 150 ppt were detected together with daytime depletion of O₃, from levels greater than 120 ppb to below the detection limit of the instrument (≤ 2 ppb). All subsequent measurement campaigns performed at the Dead Sea (Tas et al., 2005; Matveev et al., 2001; Hebestreit et al., 1999; Stutz et al., 1999) have shown the presence of elevated BrO levels (Tas et al., 2005, 2003; Matveev et al., 2001; Hebestreit et al., 1999). Evidence for RBS activity was also found at other mid-latitude locations, e.g., at the Great Salt Lake, Utah (Stutz et al., 2002), north of the Canary Islands (Leser et al., 2003) and at Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia (Honninger et al., 2004).

Previous research on Reactive Bromine species (RBS) has been conducted either at the polar regions, which have very low anthropogenic pollution levels or even pristine conditions (Ridley and Orlando, 2003; Tuckermann et al., 1997; Hausmann and Platt, 1994; Beine et al., 1997), or at

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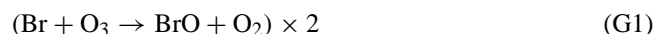
mid-latitude locations with low concentrations of RBS (Stutz et al., 2002; Leser et al., 2003; Honninger et al., 2004). At the Dead Sea area, very elevated concentrations of BrO (up to more than 150 pptv) are frequently observed (Tas et al., 2005), while in general, photochemical air pollution in this area can be characterized by average levels of NO₂ and SO₂ around several ppb. Therefore, the Dead Sea basin provides a unique natural laboratory for investigating the interaction between RBS and photochemical pollutants.

The present study focuses on RBS activity in the Dead Sea area of Israel. The Dead Sea Valley has unique geophysical conditions, being the deepest land area on the face of earth, situated about 400 m below sea level, between 31°00' N and 31°50' N–035°30' E. The Dead Sea is one of the most saline lakes in the world with 5.6 g bromide/l and 225 g chloride/l (Niemi et al., 1997). The bromine content at the Dead Sea is higher than in normal ocean water (Sverdrup et al., 1942), higher than at the Great Salt Lake, Utah (Stutz et al., 2002) and Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia (Honninger et al., 2004) by factors of 86, 134, and 19 to 400, respectively. The Br/Cl ratio at the Dead Sea is higher than in normal ocean water and the Great Salt Lake, by factors of about 7.5 and 36, respectively.

A number of studies (Hebestreit et al., 1999; Matveev et al., 2001) performed at the Dead Sea have clearly shown the role of BrO_x (BrO+Br) in causing ozone depletion. Two main chemical mechanisms have been proposed as being responsible for the catalytic destruction of ozone at the boundary layer via the recycling of BrO_x (Wayne et al., 1995).

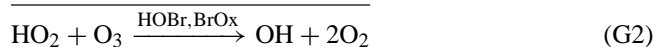
The first mechanism is driven by the self reaction of BrO and the photolysis of Br₂:

Cycle 1 (BrO-cycle)

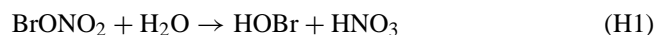


The second mechanism is initiated by the hydroperoxyl radical as shown below:

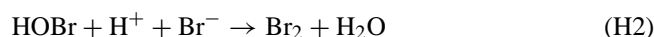
Cycle 2 (HOBr-cycle)



Even so, the main chemical mechanisms that take place in this area are still unknown. One of the widely recognized mechanisms that participate in the RBS chemistry is the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ (Hanson and Ravishankara, 1995; Hanson et al., 1996; Sander et al., 1999). Since NO₂ concentrations at the Dead Sea are on the order of several ppb, higher than at the other sites where BrO was identified, the formation and subsequent heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ (Reaction H1) was suggested as an important process for recycling RBS (Tas et al., 2005) in this area



Previous research has identified the “Bromine Explosion” mechanism (Reaction H2) as an important process releasing Br into the gas phase (Fan and Jacob, 1992; Vogt et al., 1996; Mozurkewich et al., 1995; Tang and McConnell, 1996; Platt and Moortgat, 1999). The “Bromine Explosion” has been suggested as the most likely process of Br release into the gas phase at the Dead Sea (Tas et al., 2005, 2003; Matveev et al., 2001)



The reasons for this were the high [Br⁻] content, the high ratio of [Br⁻]/[Cl⁻] and the high levels of BrO frequently measured at the Dead Sea (Tas et al., 2005, 2003; Matveev et al., 2001)

This paper is the first to present a basic chemical mechanism that can explain the fundamental chemical activity of RBS observed at the Dead Sea. This objective was achieved with a one dimensional model, which uses an explicit chemical mechanism, in combination with data obtained from comprehensive measurement campaigns. The present study focuses on the main factors and processes which lead to the extraordinarily high BrO levels, the unique BrO diurnal profile obtained at the Dead Sea, and the efficient ozone destruction via BrO_x production.

2 Experimental

2.1 Model description

2.1.1 Basic model

The core of the research analysis was done by a one-dimensional Chemical Transport Model, UAHCTM_1D (Biazar, 1995). This model includes an explicit gas phase chemical mechanism and takes into account the vertical motion of the different species based on diffusion and advection calculations and on deposition velocity values.

The model calculates the changes in the mixing ratio, C_i , of species i in the gas phase with time (t) according to Eq. (1):

$$\frac{\partial C_i}{\partial t} = -w \frac{\partial C_i}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[K_{(z)} \frac{\partial C_i}{\partial z} \right] + q_i + p_i - C_i l_i \quad (1)$$

Table 1. Reactions in the gas phase.

Reaction No.	Gas phase reactions	Rate constant (cm ³ molecules ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	Reference
(G1)	Br+O ₃ →BrO+O ₂	1.2×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G2)	BrO+BrO→Br+Br+O ₂	2.7×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G3)	BrO+BrO→Br ₂ +O ₂	4.8×10 ⁻¹³	1
(G4)	Br+HO ₂ →HBr+O ₂	2.0×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G5)	BrO+HO ₂ →HBr+O ₃	2.3×10 ⁻¹³	1, 2
(G6)	BrO+HO ₂ →HOBr+O ₂	2.3×10 ⁻¹¹	1, 2
(G7)	BrO+OH→Br+HO ₂	4.1×10 ⁻¹¹	3, 4, 5
(G8)	BrO+OH→HBr+O ₂	4.1×10 ⁻¹³	3
(G9)	Br ₂ +OH→HOBr+Br	4.5×10 ⁻¹¹	1
(G10)	HBr+OH→H ₂ O+Br	1.1×10 ⁻¹¹	1
(G11)	Br+NO ₃ →BrO+NO ₂	1.6×10 ⁻¹¹	1
(G12)	BrO+NO ₃ →BrOO+NO ₂	1.0×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G13)	OBrO+NO→BrO+NO ₂	1.8×10 ⁻¹²	6
(G14)	BrO+NO ₂ \xrightarrow{M} BrONO ₂ ^a	5.7×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G15)	Br+NO ₂ \xrightarrow{M} BrNO ₂ ^a	6.5×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G16)	BrO+NO→Br+NO ₂	2.1×10 ⁻¹¹	1
(G17)	Br+CH ₂ O→HBr+HCO	1.1×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G18)	Br+C ₂ H ₂ →CH ₂ Br	2.6×10 ⁻¹⁴	1
(G19)	Br+C ₂ H ₄ →BrC ₂ H ₄	1.3×10 ⁻¹³	1
(G20)	Br+CH ₃ CHO→HBr+CH ₃ CO	3.9×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G21)	Br+CH ₃ O ₂ →BrO+CH ₃ O	2.5×10 ⁻¹⁴	7
(G22)	Br+C ₃ H ₆ →HBr+C ₃ H ₅ ^b	1.2×10 ⁻¹⁴	1
(G23)	Br+C ₃ H ₆ \xrightarrow{M} BrC ₃ H ₆ ^b	3.6×10 ⁻¹²	1
(G24)	BrO+CH ₃ O ₂ →Br+CH ₃ O+O ₂	0.9×10 ⁻¹²	8
(G25)	BrO+CH ₃ O ₂ →OBrO+CH ₃ O	0.9×10 ⁻¹²	8
(G26)	BrO+CH ₃ O ₂ →HOBr+CH ₂ O ₂	4.6×10 ⁻¹²	8

¹Atkinson et al. (2003); ²Bloss et al. (2002); ³Bedjanian et al. (2001); ⁴Gilles et al. (2001); ⁵Atkinson et al. (2004); ⁶Li and Tao (1999); ⁷Stutz et al. (1999); ⁸Aranda et al. (1997); ^a Pressure dependent reactions; Calculated for 800 mm Hg and 305°K. ^bInsignificant

where w is the vertical wind speed component, z indicates the vertical height, and $K_{(z)}$ is the exchange coefficient at height z . The two first right hand side terms are the advection and diffusion terms, respectively. q_i is the sum of emissions fluxes or advection fluxes for species i . p_i and $C_i l_i$ are the gas phase chemical production and loss, respectively. The fluxes through the top of the model, the surface emissions and the surface deposition flux are included in the model as boundary conditions of the second order partial differential equation term.

For the present study the model used 27 levels from the surface to a height of 10 km with variable spacing in order to represent the boundary layer with greater vertical resolution. Four grid points were included between heights of 1 and 10 m and 7 grid points were included between heights of 10 m and 100 m and between 100 m and 1000 m. The model results are presented only for a height of 2 m, approximately the height at which the chemical parameters were measured (Sect. 2.3).

The basic photochemical processes described by 166 gas-phase reactions were based on the Trainer mechanism (Trainer et al., 1987), which was updated according to Atkinson et al. (2003). Thirty one reactions were added to describe the bromine gas phase mechanism (Tables 1 and 2). The deposition velocities of the bromine species that had a significant influence on the results of the present simulations are listed in Table 3. The velocities for NO, NO₂, C₄H₆O (methacrolein), C₄H₆O (methyl vinyl ketone) and PAN (peroxyacetyl nitrate) were calculated according to Trainer et al. (1987). Deposition velocities for H₂O₂, CH₃OOH, CH₃O₂ and CH₂O were calculated in the same way based on values from Sander and Crutzen (1996).

The rate constant for each photochemical reaction was calculated at a time resolution of 15 min by integrating over the relevant wavelengths, using Eq. (2):

$$k_p = \int_{\lambda} F(\lambda)\sigma(\lambda)\phi(\lambda)d\lambda \quad (2)$$

Table 2. Photolysis reactions of Bromine species and their average daytime rate constants in the gas phase calculated for 15° zenith angle and clear sky at the Dead Sea (31.0° latitude).

Reaction No.	Gas phase reactions	Gas phase reactions	Reference
(GP1)	$\text{Br}_2 \xrightarrow{h\nu} \text{Br} + \text{Br}$	3.1×10^{-02}	1
(GP2)	$\text{BrO} \xrightarrow{h\nu} \text{Br} + \text{O}_3$	3.8×10^{-02}	1
(GP3)	$\text{HOBr} \xrightarrow{h\nu} \text{Br} + \text{OH}$	2.5×10^{-03}	1
(GP4)	$\text{BrONO}_2 \xrightarrow{h\nu} \text{Br} + \text{NO}_3$	1.6×10^{-03}	2
(GP5)	$\text{BrNO}_2 \xrightarrow{h\nu} \text{Br} + \text{NO}_2^{\text{a}}$	2.2×10^{-03}	3
(GP5)	$\text{OBrO} \xrightarrow{h\nu} \text{BrO} + \text{O}_3$	1.3×10^{-00}	1

¹Atkinson et al. (2003); ²Atkinson et al. (2002); ϕ was taken from Harwood et al. (1998); ³Stutz et al. (1999); ^aEstimated from red-shifted ClONO absorption cross-section by 50 nm.

where λ is the wavelength, ϕ is the quantum yield, σ is the absorption coefficient and F is the actinic flux. The actinic flux was calculated by running the Tropospheric Ultraviolet & Visible Radiation model (Madronich et al., 1998). All simulations were restricted to clear sky cases, based on global and ultraviolet radiation measurement data. The maximal error in actinic flux calculations is estimated to be 16% for the short UV range (<310 nm) and less for longer wave lengths (Schwander et al., 1997; Erlick and Frederick, 1998; Ruggaber et al., 1994).

Since the model used in the present study is one-dimensional, it cannot account for external advection of chemical pollutants, and it was therefore necessary to add horizontal fluxes. The fluxes were determined based on simulations performed for those days on which no significant activity of RBS was detected at the Dead Sea evaporation ponds (Sect. 2.3). In these preliminary simulations the RBS mechanism was not included, and the results provided a reasonable agreement between the measured and simulated time series of ground level NO_x and hydrocarbons for these days. Once these fluxes were determined for those days in which no RBS activity was observed, the same fluxes were included in all simulations with the addition of the RBS mechanism. The magnitude of the fluxes at each height was estimated based on the vertical profiles that were obtained during the preliminary simulations. This procedure was used in order to include fluxes for NO, NO_2 and 13 different hydrocarbons species, at heights between ground level and the base of the planetary boundary layer. A very small flux of Br_2 of 10 molecules $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ was added for initiation of the bromine species activity, from ground level upwards.

Necessary meteorological parameters, including the planetary boundary height, representative of real conditions were obtained by running the 1.d Meteorological model (McNider

Table 3. Deposition velocities for some bromine species.

Species	$v_d \text{ cms}^{-1}$
HOBr	0.2 ^a
HBr	0.65 ^a
BrONO ₂	0.18 ^b
BrNO ₂	0.18 ^b

^a Values were determined based on Sander and Crutzen (1996).

^b Values similar to those of NO_2 were used.

and Pielke, 1981). The meteorological conditions, fluxes, solar data and heterogeneous parameterizations were updated every 15 min in all simulations.

All features described in the basic model sections were an integral part of all the model simulations. However, the basic model was unable to account for the observed RBS activity without the inclusion of heterogeneous processes and ozone fluxes.

2.1.2 Heterogeneous processes

As described later, the model simulations could not duplicate the observed chemical effects of the bromine species by including only a gas phase mechanism in the model. Two heterogeneous processes, the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 (H1) and the “Bromine Explosion” Mechanism (H2), were the only additions to the mechanism, significantly improving the agreement between measurements and simulations (Sect. 3.1.2).

These two reactions were added to the basic model using parameterization for their first order rate constant, according to Eq. (3):

$$R = (\gamma <c> A) / 4 \quad (3)$$

where R is the rate coefficient, γ is the uptake coefficient, $<c>$ is the mean thermal velocity and A is particle surface area per unit volume.

The basic physical assumptions are that Reaction (H1) takes place mainly on sulfate aerosols, while Reaction (H2) takes place mainly in the sea salt aerosols present over the water. The first assumption is based on the relatively high efficiency of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 on sulfate aerosols (Von Glasow et al., 2002; Hanson et al., 1996; Hanson and Ravishankara, 1995) together with the high levels of sulfate aerosols measured at the Dead Sea, averaging $\sim 8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. This value is very similar to other values that were reported for this area (Andreae et al., 2002; Wanger et al., 2000; Formenti et al., 2001).

Studies have shown that the dependence of the rate of Reaction (H1) on atmospheric conditions is essentially very weak (Hanson et al., 1996). The uptake coefficient for this reaction is only slightly dependent on particle size, composition of sulfuric acid, and temperature (Hanson et al., 1996;

Hanson and Ravishankara, 1995). Further, the heterogeneous decomposition rate of BrONO_2 is very efficient under dry conditions (Hanson and Ravishankara, 1995), such as exist at the Dead Sea. Based on this information it was concluded that it was justified to include Reaction (H1) in the model by a parameterization.

The total surface area of sulfate aerosols was determined based on direct measurements of sulfate aerosols at the Dead Sea (Matveev et al., 2001) and the average value for the density and radius of sulfate aerosols. Values between $50\text{--}65\ \mu\text{g}^2/\text{cm}^3$ were used for the total surface area of sulfate aerosols. A value of 0.75 was assumed for the uptake coefficient γ (Reaction H1) based on literature data (Atkinson et al., 2004; Hanson et al., 1996) and a comparison of model simulations with relevant measurements.

Reaction (H2), the “Bromine Explosion”, is the most likely chemical mechanism for the release of bromine into the gas phase at the Dead Sea (Matveev et al., 2001; Tas et al., 2005). In the present simulation study, it was assumed that Br_2 was released solely from the sea salt aerosols. This is not necessarily true, since it is also possible that part of the Br_2 is released directly from the water or salt surfaces (Sect. 3.1.2), or from sulfate aerosols (Von Glasow et al., 2002; Fan and Jacob, 1992). As supported by the model results, the release from sea salt aerosols is assumed to be the major contributor because there were very limited solid salt depositions in the investigation region.

The rate constant for Reaction (H2) was determined based on comparison of model simulations and measurements. The rate of Reaction (H2) was obtained as the only degree of freedom in the structure of the model. A range of values for Reaction (H2) was tested, and the best agreement between simulations and measurements was obtained for a daily average value of $\sim 1.35 \times 10^{-6}$ ppb/s. This final value was in good agreement with values calculated from the literature (e.g., Michalowski et al., 2000), and was used for the model simulations. The model simulations suggest that the results are relatively insensitive to the timing of changes of the rate of Reaction (H2) (Sect. 3.1.2).

Sea salt aerosol concentrations are a strong function of surface wind speed. This relationship was thus included for each 15 min update interval in the parameterization of the rate of Reaction (H2), according to Eq. (4) (Gong et al., 1997; Gras and Ayers, 1983):

$$\ln \chi = \ln(b) + aU_{10} \quad (4)$$

where χ – ambient sea salt aerosol concentration; U_{10} – wind speed measured at 10 m height over the evaporation ponds; a , b – empirical parameters determined based on Gong et al. (1997). This parameterization was included mainly in order to examine its importance in the area under investigation. The effect of this parameterization on the results was found to be negligible (Sect. 3.1.2).

The bromide concentrations in the sea water at the study site increases from north to south, and it is, therefore, pos-

sible that different wind directions may have led to different BrO concentrations. The relation between wind direction and BrO concentrations was therefore analyzed based on measurements from the entire campaign using the magnitude $\overline{\text{BrO}} \cdot \frac{n_t(i)}{n(i)}$, where $n_t(i)$ = time percentage in which positive BrO concentrations were measured for a wind direction (i); $n(i)$ = time percentage for which wind direction (i) was measured during daytime; $\overline{\text{BrO}}$ = average daytime BrO concentrations obtained for wind direction (i). This relation was parameterized into the rate of Reaction (H2) for each update time of the model. The basic assumption was that there was a positive correlation between the magnitude of $\overline{\text{BrO}} \cdot \frac{n_t(i)}{n(i)}$ and the rate of Reaction (H2). For all simulations included in the present paper a linear relation between this expression and the rate of Reaction (H2) was used. Other relations were also checked and found to be irrelevant.

The two parameterizations of wind speed and wind direction were included in the rate constant of Reaction (H2) in such a way that its daily average magnitude was left unchanged due to these parameterizations.

2.1.3 Ozone fluxes

Ozone fluxes were added to the basic model in addition to the two heterogeneous reactions in order to account for the entrainment of ozone fluxes at the evaporation ponds in a time resolution of 15 min based on O_3 measurements (Sect. 3.1.1).

2.2 Model simulations

Simulations were performed for 3 different days in August 2001 (4, 5 and 9, Julian days-216, 217, 221) for which measurement data was available at the evaporation ponds. The measured BrO time series during these days were representative of the entire campaign. The days chosen for simulations were those for which no significant signs for iodine species activity were detected. Since iodine oxide species formation has been detected at the Dead Sea (Zingler and Platt, 2005) it is important to perform the simulations only on those days without expected IO presence. The various conditions used in the simulations are summarized in Table 4.

The model simulations did not include the chemistry of Reactive Chlorine Species. However, the influence of chlorine species at the Dead Sea is expected to be low relative to the contribution of bromine species due to the low Cl/Br ratio (about 40) at the Dead Sea. This is because the production of Br_2 is expected to be more efficient than the production of BrCl for $T < 295^\circ\text{K}$ by a factor greater than 10 (Fickert et al., 1999) and because the production of Cl is dominant only for a $[\text{Cl}^-]/[\text{Br}^-]$ ratio of greater than 2000 (Behnke et al., 1999).

During the simulations, the contribution of each reaction to the formation of its products was investigated by including a chemically inert species as an additional product in the reaction. For example, Reaction (G1) appeared in the model as

Table 4. Key of different simulation runs.

Simulation	Individual conditions for calculations ^a
“FULL”	Full bromine species mechanism as described in Sect. 2.1.
“NOB”	No bromine mechanisms included.
“NOOZ”	No O ₃ fluxes advected during RBS activity. O ₃ fluxes advected only for a short time during evening when RBS activity was insignificant.
“NOHET”	No heterogeneous reactions included ^b .
“NOH1”	Reaction (H1) was excluded ^c .
“NOH2”	Reaction (H2) was excluded ^c .
“NWS”	Wind speed parameterization not included for Reaction (H2). The rate of Reaction (H2) was normalized in order to obtain the same daily average value that was used in the “FULL” simulation.
“NWD”	Wind direction parameterization for Reaction (H2) was not included. The rate of Reaction (H2) was normalized in order to obtain the same daily average value that was used in the “FULL” simulation.

^a All simulations except for NOHET, NOH1 and NOH2 were run with a maximal Br₂ flux of 10 molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹ normalized to the actinic flux at the area at the appropriate time. ^b Simulation with maximal Br₂ flux of 5 × 10¹⁰ molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹ normalized to the actinic flux at the appropriate time. ^c Simulation with maximal Br₂ flux of 10¹⁰ molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹ normalized to the actinic flux at the appropriate time.

Br+O₃→BrO+O₂+X, where X is an inert gas product specific to Reaction (G1). The first derivative with time of the concentration of this inert species correlates with the rate of the reaction that produces this product, and appears in this paper as $\frac{\Delta[X]}{\Delta t}$, where X indicates the reaction number.

In practice, this approach was mainly used in order to compare between the time series of the reaction rate, represented by the magnitude $\frac{\Delta[X]}{\Delta t}$, and the time series of the modeled concentrations of a product formed by this reaction. Once the inert species X is formed in the model, its concentrations can only be changed due to physical processes incorporated into the model. The same physical properties were defined for the inert species and for the product of the same reaction, to which it was compared. Therefore, the physical effect is neutralized in the comparison of the magnitude $\frac{\Delta[X]}{\Delta t}$ and the specific product to which it is being compared. This allowed for the isolation of the chemical effect from the physical effects. Another advantage of this method is that the magnitude $\frac{\Delta[X]}{\Delta t}$ is calculated with the same time resolution as the model time step.

2.3 Field measurements

All simulations presented here were based on a comprehensive set of atmospheric trace gas measurements and relevant meteorological parameters collected at the Dead Sea. Continuous measurements of O₃, NO, NO_x, SO₂, particulate sulfates and nitrates, wind speed and direction, temperature, relative humidity, pressure and solar radiation, were conducted at the evaporation ponds using the techniques described by Matveev et al. (2001) during 2–12 August 2001 (see Fig. 1 for site locations). The differential optical absorption spectroscopy (DOAS) technique was employed to quantify BrO (detection limit ≤7 pptv) and NO₂ (detection limit

≤0.5 ppbv) (Matveev et al., 2001). The continuous measurements were performed at the western edge of the ponds, while the DOAS measurements represent the average concentrations along a 5.8 km light path with the light source situated due east over the evaporation ponds.

O₃ was measured at the western end of the DOAS light path (Fig. 1) on the edge of the evaporation ponds. The O₃ monitor was located downwind of the DOAS reflectors, with wind vector and light path directions differing by less than 20°. The changes in O₃ concentrations were detected with a time delay of 10 to 30 min relative to the comparable changes in BrO levels, due to the transport of the air masses along the DOAS light path to the O₃ monitor. Thus, the measurements of BrO and O₃ represent concentrations in the same air mass at two different locations. In order to synchronize the measurements of ozone and BrO to the same time scale, the wind speed and direction were used to calculate the travel time along the DOAS light path, and the ozone measurements were adjusted back in time (Fig. 2a). All ozone concentrations presented in this paper have been adjusted in this way.

Supporting parameters that were not measured at the evaporation ponds site were obtained from other research campaigns performed at the Dead Sea. In Metzokei Dragot, a site some 400 m above the Dead Sea (see Fig. 1), NO_y species (NO_y=NO_x+HNO₃+2N₂O₅+NO₃+ organic nitrates + particulate nitrate +...) were detected by the use of an appropriate converter located before the inlet of the NO_x monitor. This, together with NO₂ data from the DOAS, was used to calculate the NO_z (NO_z=NO_y-NO_x) concentrations. During another campaign at the Ein Bokek site canister samples were collected and analyzed for hydrocarbons using GCMS.

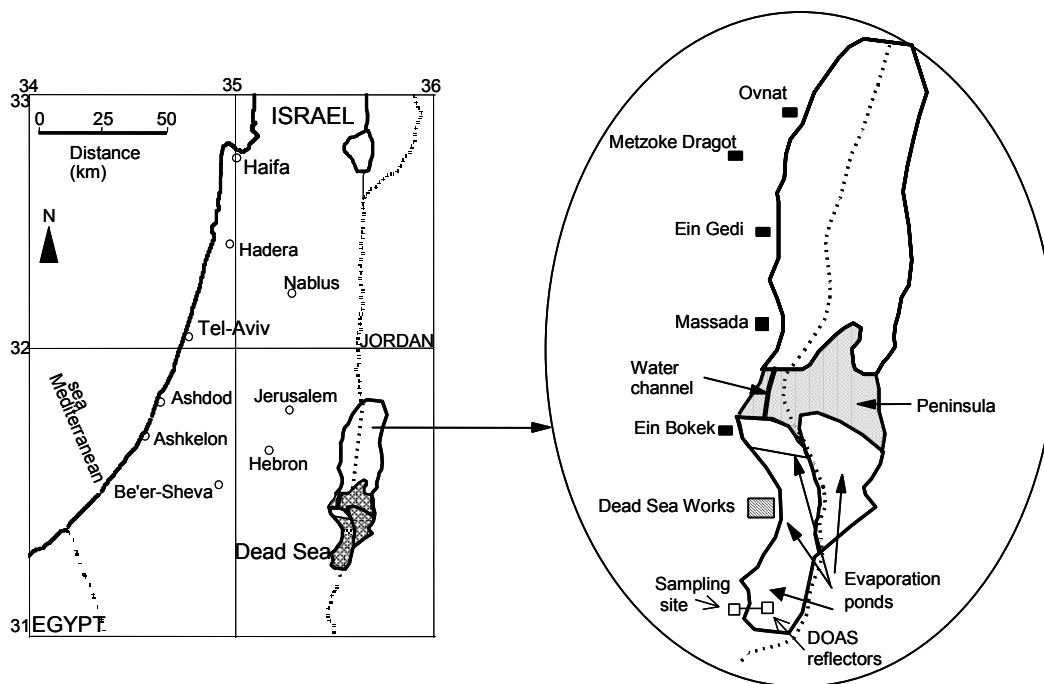


Fig. 1. Map of Israel, inset showing Dead Sea region.

3 Results and discussion

The measured BrO profiles at the Dead Sea are unique in their high concentrations, jagged shape, and relation to the measured ozone profile (Fig. 2a). While the basic relation between BrO and O₃ is one of anti correlation, under certain circumstances, a positive correlation of O₃ to BrO can be observed (Fig. 2a). The basic homogeneous model mechanism could not correctly simulate the measured O₃ and BrO concentrations (Figs. 2a, b and 4). As described below, the present research has demonstrated that a basic description of the special RBS activity at the Dead Sea can be achieved only by the addition of two heterogeneous processes and ozone fluxes to the basic gas phase mechanism.

3.1 Model verification

3.1.1 Validation of ozone profiles

The general pattern of ozone levels measured at the evaporation ponds increased sharply at sunrise, and then began a steady decrease, reaching a minimum of nearly zero at around 11:00 a.m. This was followed by sharp increases in ozone, alternating with sharp decreases, thus forming a jagged pattern (Fig. 2a). These mid-day increases must be the result either of photochemical production or of advection from outside the area. Model simulations, without external O₃ fluxes, showed that the observed increases in O₃ concentrations, were not due to photochemical production, even at lower O₃ destruction rates (Fig. 2b). Thus, these in-

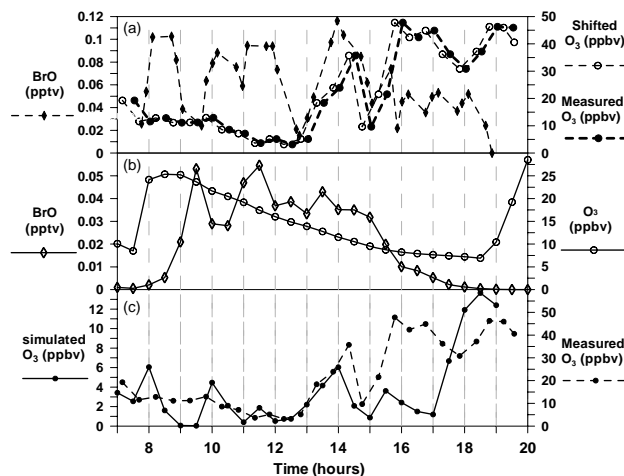


Fig. 2. Movement of ozone fluxes into the spatial region of bromine activity. (a) Measured BrO concentrations vs. time-shifted and not shifted O₃ concentrations measured during Julian day 221. (b) BrO and O₃ concentrations for “NOOZ” simulation. Simulated BrO and O₃ concentrations did not match the measured levels when O₃ fluxes were not added. (c) Simulated O₃ concentrations vs. time-shifted measurements. It is evident that the jagged events in the BrO time series are associated with times when simulated O₃ crosses the threshold value of ~1 to 2 ppb (panel c).

creases must be the result of the entrainment of external air masses, containing higher O₃ concentrations, into the area during periods of RBS activity. Due to the relatively small

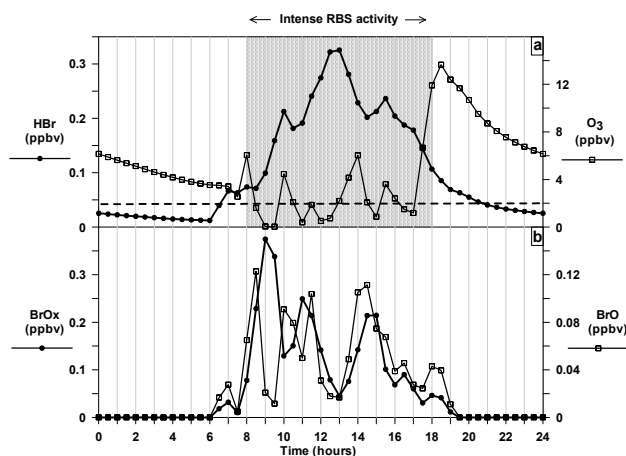


Fig. 3. The influence of O_3 depletion below ~ 1 – 2 ppbv on Br and BrO diurnal profiles. (a) When O_3 levels were dropped below ~ 1 – 2 ppbv (dashed line at 2 ppbv), concentrations of HBr increased, indicating an increase in the rate that Br undergoes termination reactions. (b) This in turn caused the decrease in Br and BrO concentrations, and hence led to lower BrO $_x$ levels.

width of the evaporation ponds at the Dead Sea (4 km East–West), and the eastern wind flows, this entrainment is possible, occurring on a time scale of tens of minutes. Since the model used in this work is one dimensional, it cannot account for this external advection of chemical species, and it was, therefore, necessary to add horizontal O_3 fluxes during the simulations (Sects. 2.1.3 and 3.2.2). The chemical process by which ozone fluxes are entrained into the evaporation ponds, their influence on the RBS activity, and their relation to Br concentrations are discussed in detail in Sect. 3.2.2.

The timing of the input of ozone fluxes was based on actual measured ozone in order to obtain good agreement between the trends of the simulated and measured ozone time series. The magnitude of the simulated ozone, however, was lower than the ozone concentrations measured at the edge of the ponds for two reasons: (1) the difference in ozone levels between the center and the edges of the evaporation ponds and more fundamentally, (2) adjustment limitations in the model, as described later in this section. First, the ozone concentrations measured at the edge were higher than the simulated levels representing the middle of the ponds. This is consistent with limited DOAS measurements of ozone over the evaporation ponds, showing that they were lower than those measured by the monitor at the edge of the ponds. It is likely that the edge of the evaporation ponds was influenced by air masses containing higher levels of ozone.

The more fundamental reason for the lower simulated ozone concentrations was that the changes in O_3 concentrations were so frequent and severe at the Dead Sea, that they could not be captured by the model due to adjustment limitations. As described in the next paragraph, it turned out that a correct description of O_3 concentrations at low levels, cross-

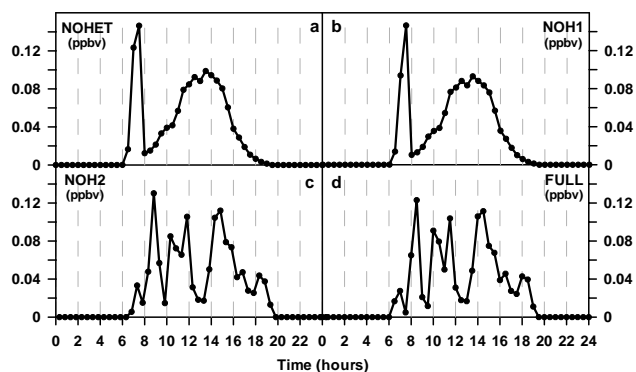


Fig. 4. Diurnal profiles of BrO obtained in different simulations (See Table 4 for the conditions of each simulation).

- (a) NOHET – Heterogeneous reactions (H1 and H2) are not included
- (b) NOH1 – Reaction (H1) is not included
- (c) NOH2 – Reaction (H2) is not included
- (d) FULL – All reactions are included

The full treatment of the bromine chemistry suggested in this paper is incorporated only in the FULL simulation. In the plots for NOHET, NOH1, and NOH2, the Br_2 flux was multiplied by $\sim 10^9$ (Table 4), an unrealistic value. Reaction (H1) is necessary for the structure, Reaction (H2) is necessary for the correct magnitude of BrO concentrations.

ing a threshold value of ~ 1 to 2 ppb, was the crucial factor for determining the correct BrO time series. It was not necessary to obtain a strict agreement for higher levels of O_3 , and the choice was made to obtain the best possible match for the lower ozone concentrations around the threshold value (Fig. 2c). The inclusion of these ozone fluxes in this manner, focusing on the timing of the ozone changes at low levels, gave a good match between the modeled and simulated BrO time series.

Figure 3 demonstrates that the frequent and severe transitions between increases and decreases in BrO were controlled by ozone concentrations crossing the threshold value of ~ 1 – 2 ppb, as described in detail in Sect. 3.2.2. This occurred in a way that, close to the threshold level, $d[BrO]/dt$ was positive for $[O_3]$ above ~ 1 to 2 ppb, and $d[BrO]/dt$ was negative for $[O_3]$ below ~ 1 to 2 ppb. On the other hand, if the simulations were adjusted to the higher ozone levels, even large changes in ozone, $d[O_3]/dt$, caused much smaller changes in $d[BrO]/dt$, did not lead to the jagged shape of the BrO concentrations, and, furthermore, the simulated BrO time series were inconsistent with BrO measurements. These observations were also confirmed by the model results for the two other simulations describing RBS activity in two other days. The focus was thus placed on the trends of measured ozone concentrations, making sure that the simulated ozone concentrations were allowed to drop below the threshold level (Fig. 2c). This, together with the addition of two heterogeneous processes, led to a good agreement between simulated and measured BrO (Sect. 3.1.2).

3.1.2 Validation of BrO profiles

As stated previously, even after including ozone advection into the region, the simulations could not emulate the unique BrO profile using only a gas phase mechanism. The present study shows that the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 (Reaction H1) and the “Bromine Explosion” (Reaction H2) are not only necessary, but also sufficient to reconstruct the BrO time-series measured at the Dead Sea. This can be seen in Fig. 4, which shows simulations without Reaction (H2) (NOH2), without Reaction (H1) (NOH1), and without the two reactions (NOHET). It should be noted that the simulations, except for FULL, were initiated with a Br_2 flux about 10^9 times higher than normal simulation fluxes (Table 4). This Br_2 flux was unrealistically high, and was necessary in order to get reasonable results in the absence of Reaction (H1) or (H2). Even though the addition of Reaction (H1) produces the correct jagged diurnal pattern of BrO, it is only when both of the heterogeneous reactions are added together (FULL simulation) that the simulations agree with both the BrO pattern and its magnitude (Fig. 4).

The present study provides more evidence for the significant role of Reaction (H1) in the RBS activity at the Dead Sea. With the inclusion of this reaction, the mechanism was able to account for the conversion of NO_2 to NO_z that was frequently observed at the Dead Sea (Sect. 3.2.3). The exclusion of this reaction led to several incompatibilities between the simulations and the measurements. The formation of BrONO_2 reached levels that were unrealistically high compared with those measured at the Dead Sea (Peleg et al., unpublished data, 2006), the BrO diurnal time series, in the absence of Reaction (H1), was also totally inconsistent with the measurements and included a significant morning peak (Fig. 4b). This peak was formed due to the increase in BrONO_2 concentrations during nighttime, in the absence of Reaction (H1), followed by fast photochemical decomposition of BrONO_2 during the morning (Figs. 4a and b). In addition to that, it is evident that Reaction (H1) has a dominant role in forming the jagged BrO time series (Fig. 4). This is because Reaction (H1) leads to a very sharp increase in the rate of BrO_x formation via Cycle 3, as long as enough Br_2 is produced by Reaction (H2) or by another source, as explained in Sect. 3.2.2 for Cycle 3b. This is consistent with other evidence that shows that the RBS chemistry is relatively insensitive to the timing of changes of the rate of Reaction (H2).

The simulated results were relatively insensitive to the parametrization of wind speed, suggesting that the rate of Reaction (H2) depends only weakly on concentrations of sea salt aerosols. This implies that the sea salt aerosols are not the only source of airborne Br, and that Br may be released directly from the seawater or from salt pans by Reaction (H2). Similarly, the model simulations were also insensitive to the parameterization of wind direction.

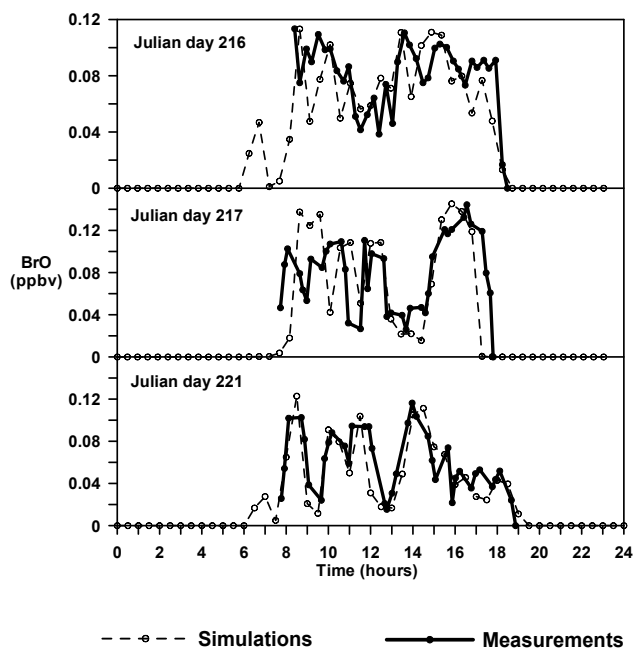


Fig. 5. Comparison between measured and simulated BrO. This graph presents only measurements of BrO concentrations above 20 pptv.

Following the good agreement obtained for 9 August (Julian day 221), the entire FULL simulation was performed for two other representative days, 4 and 5 August (Julian days 216 and 217). Good agreement between simulations and measurements was obtained for the three days, indicating that with the inclusion of advected O_3 fluxes and two heterogeneous processes, the model is capable of sufficient accuracy and reproducibility in predicting BrO formation (Fig. 5). Although other heterogeneous reactions certainly take place at the Dead Sea, the present research showed that the role of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 and the “Bromine Explosion” in the RBS chemistry are expected to be most significant, based on the successful comparison of the measured and simulated BrO time series.

3.2 The RBS activity at the Dead Sea

The RBS mechanism suggested for the Dead Sea evaporation ponds area is schematically displayed in Fig. 6. The time series of some important gas phase bromine-containing species obtained during “FULL” simulation are shown in Fig. 7. Based on the simulations, the daily (06:00–20:00) average concentrations of HO_2 and OH during RBS activity are about 2 ppt and 1 ppt, respectively. The sharp increase in the sum of bromine species begins on 06:00 a.m., at sunrise, with a small peak of BrO reaching about 20 ppt due mainly to the photochemical decomposition of Br_2 (Fig. 5). The increase in total Br lasts until 09:30 a.m. with a short decay between 07:00 a.m. and 07:30 a.m. (Fig. 7). After approximately

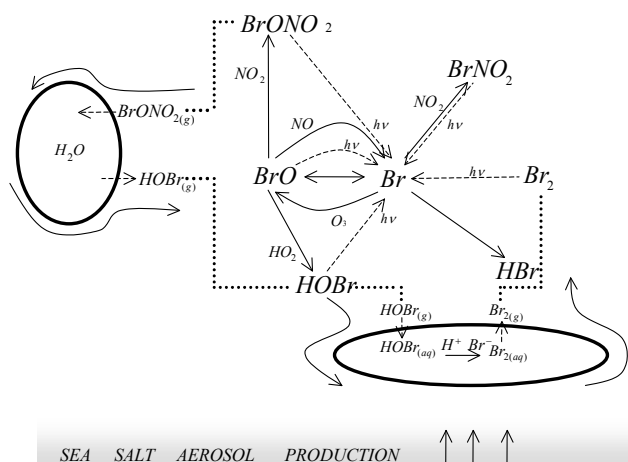


Fig. 6. Schematic description of the overall RBS mechanism that was used in the model.

09:00 a.m. until sunrise occurs again, the sum of Br tends to decrease continuously. It can be seen that, during RBS activity, BrO is not the only species that shows a jagged diurnal profile and other bromine species also exhibit a similar jagged diurnal profile.

3.2.1 Main factors of BrOX formation at the Dead Sea

Sea salt concentrations: The basic contributor to high RBS levels is the abundant Br^- present in the Dead Sea waters. According to a laboratory study (Fickert et al., 1999) the efficiency of Br_2 release by activation of HOBr, is not expected to increase once Br^- exceeds a value of $\sim 0.8 \text{ mol/m}^3$ (for $\text{pH}=5.5$ and $T=274^\circ\text{K}$). The Br^- at the Dead Sea exceeds this value by about two orders of magnitudes, while the Br^- of normal ocean water is about equal to this value. However, a previous study (Tas et al., 2005) showed an increase in both frequency and concentrations of BrO events towards the more concentrated salt ponds, and may indicate that the high Br^- concentrations at the Dead Sea contribute to the BrO formation. Even so, the very high Br^- content may not be solely responsible for the high BrO levels observed at the Dead Sea.

Photochemical reactions: Model simulations showed that the formation of BrO_x is also highly dependent on photochemical reactions. This is emphasized by the similarity between the diurnal pattern of BrO_x and the photochemical decomposition rates (J values) of bromine species that are essential for the progress of RBS activity. The sharp increase in BrO_x between 06:00 and 07:00 (Fig. 3) is mainly due to the fast increase in the rate of the photochemical decomposition of Br_2 , leading to a sharp decrease in Br_2 concentrations (Fig. 7). As photochemical decomposition rates of the key bromine species reach near-zero values, the BrO_x levels decrease sharply by about 4 orders of magnitude in only 1 h,

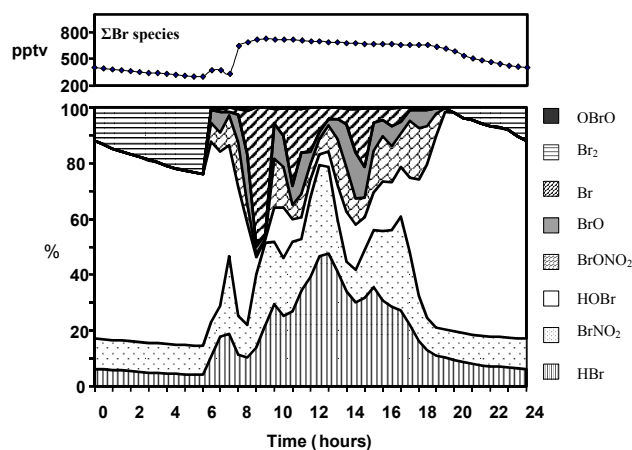
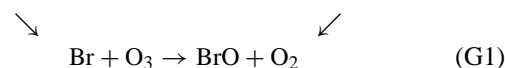
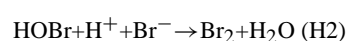


Fig. 7. Cumulative diurnal profile of significant bromine species in the gas phase. ΣBr species refers to the sum of the 8 bromine species shown in the lower panel.

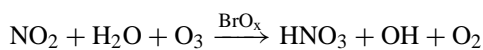
between 19:00–20:00. Although they are essential to the process, these photochemical reactions are only a necessary trigger for efficient production and recycling of RBS.

Heterogeneous reactions: If the model is run without including heterogeneous Reactions (H1) and/or (H2), maximal BrO concentrations do not exceed 1 pptv, while the measured BrO levels were greater by about two orders of magnitude. As described previously, the heterogeneous processes (H1) and (H2) are required in order to simulate the high measured level of BrO (Sect. 3.1.2). Cycle 3, especially Cycle 3b which includes these two processes, is suggested as being the chemical mechanism which promotes the extensive BrO_x formation at the Dead Sea:

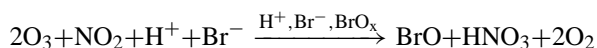
Cycle 3



net: Cycle 3a



Cycle 3b



Cycle 3 includes the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 (Reaction H1) followed either by the photodissociation of HOBr to Br (Reaction GP3) (Cycle 3a) or by the

release of Br_2 by the “Bromine Explosion” mechanism (Reaction H2) followed by the photolysis of Br_2 to yield 2Br (Reaction GP1) (Cycle 3b). Cycle 3 is then completed by the reformation of BrO from the reaction of Br with O_3 (Reaction G1). In both Cycles 3a and 3b the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 utilizes the Br located in the BrONO_2 reservoir to form HOBr . In Cycle 3b this formation of HOBr leads to the exponential production of BrO_x while in Cycle 3a it leads to the recycling of BrO_x .

Another indication that Cycle 3b drives RBS activity is the relation between BrO_x concentrations and the rate of Reactions (H2) and (H1). First, enhanced rates of Reaction (H2) leads to increases in BrO_x concentrations, which reflect an exponential growth in BrO_x production. Secondly, the rate of Reaction (H2), which is the rate determining step in Cycle 3b, is enhanced by Reaction (H1), leading to fast production of HOBr (Reaction H1 is more efficient by a factor of ~ 4 than Reaction G6). Enhanced rates of Reaction (H1) are, therefore, also associated with increases in BrO_x concentrations. In addition, BrO_x production is delayed relative to the rates of Reactions (H2) and (H1) (Fig. 8). This delay emphasizes the fact that the production of BrO_x depends more on Reactions (H2) and (H1) than the reaction rates depend on BrO_x levels.

HOBr reservoir: HOBr is an extremely important reservoir of RBS species at the Dead Sea, because it exists in high concentrations in this area and can lead to the formation of BrO_x via Reaction (H2) (e.g., Cycle 3b) or via photochemical decomposition (e.g., Cycle 3a). The main source of HOBr at the Dead Sea is the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 (Reaction H1). An additional significant source of HOBr is the reaction of HO_2 with BrO (Reaction G6): during daytime, the HOBr time series follow the concentrations of HO_2 , with correlation factors of about $R=0.45$ between 06:00 a.m. and 20:00 p.m. and $R=0.85$ between 08:00 a.m. and 18:00 p.m. However, this mechanism produces 80% less HOBr than that formed by Reaction (H1), and is therefore much less important at the Dead Sea.

3.2.2 O_3 depletion, BrO profiles and O_3 fluxes

One important finding of the present study is that at the Dead Sea, O_3 can occasionally function as a limiting factor in the formation and recycling of BrO_x and the consequent O_3 destruction. This is because the catalytic destruction of tropospheric O_3 by RBS occurs by Cycles 1, 2, 3a, and 3b. In these cycles, the rate of O_3 destruction does not depend on the rate of Reaction (G1) unless O_3 levels drop below ~ 1 to 2 ppb. Thus, the rate of ozone destruction via BrO_x production and recycling through these cycles is not normally dependent on the ozone concentrations, unless ozone levels drop below a threshold level of ~ 1 to 2 ppbv, as occasionally observed in the Dead Sea area. Both kinetic calculations and model simu-

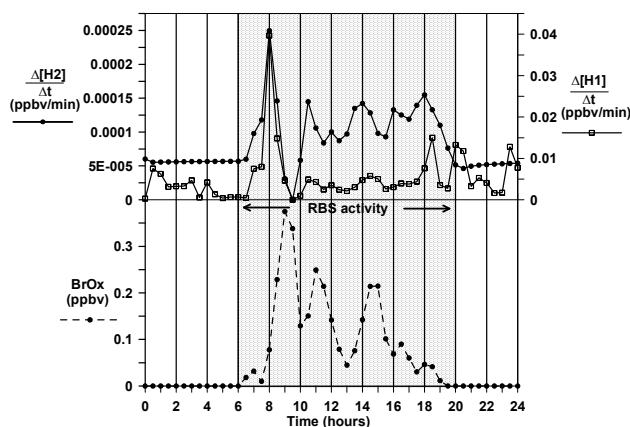


Fig. 8. The dependence of BrO_x production on the heterogeneous processes. During RBS activity (shaded area) there was a correlation ($r=0.73$) between the trends in the rates of Reactions (H2) and (H1). Enhanced rates of these reactions led to increases in BrO_x concentrations (which reflect BrO_x production). This is because Reaction (H2) is the rate determining step in Cycle 3b and is enhanced by Reaction (H1). The BrO_x concentrations exhibited a correlation with these reaction rates, subject to a delay on the order of $\sim 1/2$ h, which is the model time resolution of the output.

lations show that below this threshold level, the rate at which Br reacts with ozone (Reaction G1) approaches the rates at which Br reacts with some of its terminators (CH_2O , C_2H_2 and HO_2), and the bromine chemistry is driven to termination (Fig. 3).

The interaction between O_3 and BrO_x at the Dead Sea can be described by a periodic two stage cyclic process. The first stage of the process is an increase in O_3 levels, which leads to increased BrO production via Reaction (G1). This in turn leads to greater BrO_x production mainly through Cycle 3b, which then leads to the depletion of O_3 during the second stage of this periodic process. During the second stage, BrO production via Reaction (G1) also decreases, due to a decrease in O_3 concentrations. This leads in turn to lower Br production due mainly to an overall slower rate of Cycle 3b. Further decreases in Br occur due to the increase in the ratio $[\text{Br}]/[\text{BrO}]$ for lower levels of ozone (Wayne et al., 1995), which lead to a higher rate of BrO_x termination mainly via Reactions (G4), (G17) and (G18). The resulting drop in Br concentrations weakens the O_3 depletion, and eventually O_3 starts to increase due to advection, initiating the periodic cycle once again.

If the O_3 levels drop drastically to levels below ~ 1 to 2 ppbv during the second stage, further decreases in Br and BrO occur via termination reactions which lead mainly to the formation of HBr (Fig. 3). Please notice that the minimum in Br concentrations occurs around midday, simultaneously with a minimum in O_3 and a maximum in HBr concentrations (Fig. 3a). Thus, at very low O_3 levels, Br can be efficiently removed from the O_3 depletion mechanism. This

strengthens the motive force of transition to the first stage, and ozone can now be transported into the area resulting in higher O₃ concentrations.

The change of Br concentrations with time, $\frac{dBr}{dt}$, appears to play an important role in controlling the O₃ concentrations in the air masses which were advected into the evaporation ponds. This factor changes cyclically as a part of the periodic process described previously. The second stage in this periodic process is featured by a decrease in O₃ concentrations, and a consequent decrease in BrO and Br concentrations. Thus, during the second stage of the process, $\frac{dBr}{dt} < 0$ due to the O₃ depletion. The depletion of Br concentrations resulted in an increase of advected O₃ due to a lower rate of reaction with Br. This increase in O₃ due to advection is even more significant after O₃ reaches levels of below ~1 to 2 ppbv, which lead to a more intense Br depletion, as explained above. During the first stage of this periodic process, O₃ can increase by up to a few ppb. During this stage, $\frac{dBr}{dt} > 0$ mainly due to the increase in the rate of reactions via Cycle 3b as a result of the increase in O₃ concentrations. The increase in Br concentrations leads, during the second stage, to a renewed decrease in O₃ concentrations.

In this periodic process the decrease in O₃ concentrations beneath the threshold value of 1–2 ppbv, acts as a motive force for fresh O₃ fluxes to move into the evaporation ponds, initiating the production of BrO, mainly via Cycle 3b. This process can explain the observed increases in O₃ levels after dropping to levels of only a few ppbv, as repeatedly observed at the Dead Sea (Fig. 2a). This can also explain the repeatedly observed correlation of BrO with O₃, obtained after the first depletion of O₃ during morning hours, and is the basic cause for the jagged shape of the BrO profiles at the Dead Sea evaporation ponds (Figs. 2a and 5). The model simulations also indicate that the addition of O₃ fluxes increases the production of BrO_x, O₃ depletion rates, and paradoxically, the intensity of O₃ depletions. It is possible that incoming O₃ fluxes may cause similar features in the diurnal profile of BrO at the margins of other locations that are larger than the area under investigation in the present study, such as the polar regions.

3.2.3 The role of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ and its interaction with NO₂

The NO levels measured during the field campaigns were usually very low, and frequently dropped to below detection limit (0.1 ppbv) during BrO formation periods. Additionally, the simulations showed that at these levels, the influence of NO on RBS activity was insignificant. Therefore, the role of NO is not discussed in this section. In contrast, the NO₂ concentrations at the Dead Sea reach levels of several ppb and appear to enhance the importance of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ (Reaction H1), which occurs about 34% faster than its photochemical decomposition. At the

Dead Sea, Reaction (H1) has a significant influence on the nitrogen oxides balance.

A conversion of NO₂ to NO_z during RBS activity was frequently observed at the Dead Sea, expressed by a sharp drop in NO₂ levels coinciding with an equivalent increase of ~1 to 2 ppb in NO_z (Fig. 9a). Measurements performed at Metzokei Dragot (Tas et al., 2005) showed that on the average for the entire campaign, NO₂ concentrations dropped to levels of below ~0.1 ppb concentrations for BrO levels of ~30 pptv or greater, while a corresponding increase of NO_z was detected (Fig. 9a). Similarly, simulations showed that during RBS activity, NO₂ was depleted to levels of ~0.1 ppbv together with an increase of HNO₃ (Fig. 9b). The depletion of NO₂ during RBS activity related to the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂, has been reported in other field and model studies (e.g. Sander et al., 1999; Evans et al., 2003; Pszenny et al., 2004).

The formation of BrONO₂ and BrNO₂ on their own can account for only ~0.35 ppbv (Fig. 7) of the NO_z increase, and thus cannot explain the total observed conversion of NO₂ to NO_z. The increase in HNO₃ was shown to be anticorrelated with NO₂, according to the simulations, and can account for a growth of ~1 ppbv of NO_z (Fig. 9b). Thus, the formation of HNO₃ at the expense of NO₂ can account for the observed conversion of NO₂ into NO_z during bromine activity time. In the absence of Reaction (H1) (NOH1) (Fig. 9c), the levels of both NO₂ and HNO₃ decrease, showing that Reaction (H1) contributes significantly to the conversion of NO₂ to the more stable HNO₃. The effect of other gas phase reactions on the concentrations of HNO₃ and NO₂ (e.g., the reaction between NO₂ and OH) were cancelled out since they were included in all of the simulations used for this analysis. The preceding analysis provides further evidence that Reaction (H1) has a significant contribution to RBS chemistry at the Dead Sea.

3.3 Implications for other mid-latitude areas

This study has shown that under conditions typical of the Dead Sea, Cycle 3b has a significant contribution to ozone destruction. The contribution of this cycle is proportional mainly to the concentrations of BrO and NO₂ and to the total surface area of substrate available for the heterogeneous Reaction (H1). Thus, the absolute contribution of Cycle 3b to ozone destruction is predicted to be smaller in areas with less anthropogenic activity, which are characterized by lower levels of NO₂, or sulfate aerosols.

In order to evaluate the relative contribution of Cycle 3b to ozone destruction in other locations, Cycle 3b needs to be compared to the contributions of cycles 1 and 2. At a first approximation, the relative importance of each of these cycles should be evaluated based on the dependence of the rate of these cycles on BrO concentrations, which are lower in other areas. This dependence is dictated mainly by the influence of BrO concentrations on the rate of the slowest reaction in

the cycle. During daytime at the Dead Sea, Reaction (H2) is the rate limiting step in Cycle 3b, slower by about two orders of magnitude than Reaction (G14). Since the level of BrO influences the rate of Cycle 3b only via Reaction (G14), the contribution of Cycle 3b to O₃ destruction is, on average, less than linearly dependent on BrO concentrations. As mentioned, Cycle 1 has a quadratic dependence on BrO concentrations, while the dependence of Cycle 2 is linear. Thus, under the Dead Sea conditions, the dependence of BrO_x production and O₃ destruction on BrO concentrations via Cycle 3b is lower than those of cycles 1 and 2. Therefore, in the boundary layer at other mid-latitude areas under anthropogenic influence, characterized by similar levels of NO₂ and sulfate aerosols and by lower BrO levels, the relative contribution of Cycle 3b to O₃ destruction may be similar or even higher than the contribution at the Dead Sea. However, in areas that are influenced by lower anthropogenic activity, and are characterized by lower levels of sulfate aerosols and NO₂, the relative contribution of Cycle 3b is predicted to be smaller than at the Dead Sea.

The same absolute and relative dependence on anthropogenic activity should be attributed to the rate of BrO_x recycling via Cycle 3a, as previously attributed to the production of BrO_x via Cycle 3b. This is due to the less-than-linear dependence of this cycle on the rate of Reaction (G14), under the Dead Sea conditions, reflecting the fact that the rate of Reaction (H1) is slower by a factor of ~2.5 than the rate of Reaction (G14).

The analysis described in this paper shows that the production and recycling of BrO_x as described by cycles 3a and 3b, and the consequent destruction of ozone, should be proportional to ambient concentrations of NO₂ and sulfate aerosols. Thus, the contribution of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ to BrO_x production should be much more efficient in the boundary layer of mid-latitude areas than in the boundary layer at polar regions. Since the levels of NO₂ vary significantly with the distance from pollution sources, the influence of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ on BrO_x production via Cycle 3b and BrO_x recycling via Cycle 3a should be checked under different levels of NO₂.

4 Conclusions

This paper presents a chemical mechanism that can describe the basic RBS activity at the Dead Sea. It was shown that in addition to gas phase reactions, the model must include advected ozone fluxes and two heterogeneous processes in order to duplicate the measurements. The present study indicates that the extraordinarily high BrO levels that were measured at the Dead Sea can only partially be explained by the high Br⁻ content in the Dead Sea. These high levels are also caused by highly efficient heterogeneous processes of BrO_x recycling and production that occur in the area. The two heterogeneous processes that were included are (1) the

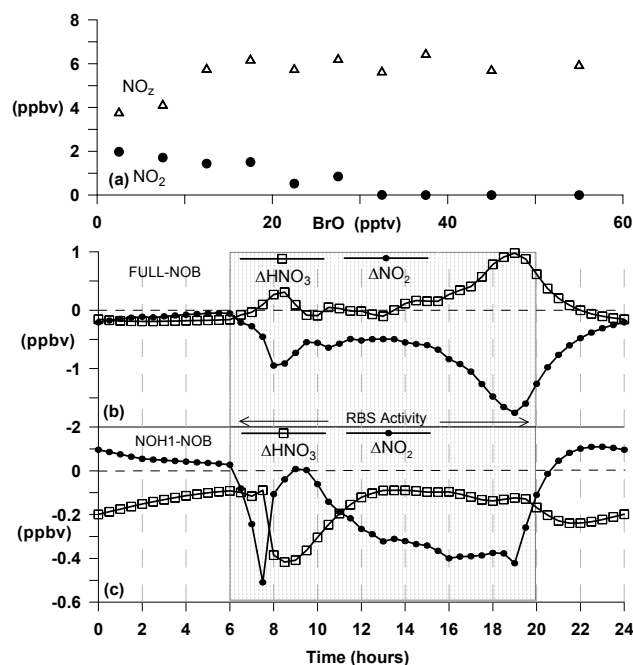


Fig. 9. Comparison of NO₂ and NO_z by measurements and simulations. The influence of BrO on NO₂ and NO_z at Metzokei Dragot is shown. Values were averaged over the entire campaign period and are presented in bins (a). ΔHNO₃: HNO₃ concentrations during a simulation that included bromine species (i.e., “FULL” in b and “NOH1” in c) minus HNO₃ concentrations during “NOB” simulation. ΔNO₂: NO₂ concentrations during a simulation that included bromine species (i.e., “FULL” in b and “NOH1” in c) minus NO₂ concentrations during “NOB” simulation.

release of Br into the gas phase via the “Bromine Explosion” mechanism which occurs in sea salt aerosols and (2) the decomposition of BrONO₂ that occurs on the surface area of sulfate aerosols. These processes, only if included together as illustrated in Cycle 3b, can account for the efficient BrO_x production and O₃ destruction at the Dead Sea. Future studies of RBS chemistry should certainly investigate additional heterogeneous processes, in order to describe the RBS activity at the Dead Sea area in greater detail.

The heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ at the Dead Sea is an essential link in the production of BrO_x since it leads to the production of HOBr ~4 times faster than its production in homogeneous gas phase (Reaction G6). The HOBr may then activate the release of Br into the gas phase by the “Bromine Explosion” mechanism, or else undergo a fast photolysis to yield Br. It should also be noted that model simulations indicate that the release of Br₂ by activation of HOBr may also occur directly from the sea water or salt pans and not only from the sea salt aerosols.

The present research focused on a chemical cycle which includes both the “Bromine Explosion” mechanism and the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO₂ (Cycle 3b). Under

the Dead Sea conditions, this cycle was found to dramatically enhance the ozone destruction rate via BrO_x production, and control the diurnal profiles of Br and BrO. The absolute contribution of this cycle to the destruction of ozone may be less in the boundary layer at other regions characterized by lower levels of BrO or lower anthropogenic activity, due to lower levels of NO_2 and lower sulfate aerosols levels. In these areas, both the absolute and relative contribution of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 to ozone destruction via Cycle 3b is predicted to be smaller. In contrast, the relative contribution of Cycle 3b may be higher in areas that are under anthropogenic influence but are characterized by lower BrO levels. Variations in anthropogenic activity affect Cycle 3b mainly through the levels of NO_2 and, to a lesser extent, by the levels of sulfate aerosols. This is because NO_2 levels are more sensitive to the distance from pollution sources. The influence of NO_2 levels on the rate of the heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 and the consequent rate of BrO_x production and ozone destruction will be presented in a later paper. This may be especially important in order to obtain a more accurate knowledge of the RBS activity at mid-latitudes.

The heterogeneous decomposition of BrONO_2 leads to an increase in the concentrations of HNO_3 and a decrease in the concentrations of NO_2 to levels below ~ 0.1 ppbv, thus leading to an anticorrelation between the two. This finding can account for the measured increase in NO_2 concentrations that occurs simultaneously with a decrease in NO_2 during RBS activity, an effect which cannot be explained solely by the formation of BrONO_2 and BrNO_2 .

Ozone is a limiting factor to BrO_x production and O_3 destruction at the Dead Sea evaporation ponds, since O_3 frequently reaches levels of below ~ 1 to 2 ppbv. The flow of O_3 fluxes into the Dead Sea evaporation ponds was found to be essential for the continuation of RBS activity and O_3 destruction, especially after O_3 dropped below threshold levels of ~ 1 to 2 ppb. This flow of O_3 fluxes leads to the enhancement of BrO_x production and a higher rate of O_3 destruction. There is a high probability that the changes in Br levels with time serve as a chemical regulator for the concentrations of ozone in the air masses that are advected into the ponds. This regulation is caused by the changing tendency of Br to react with the ozone that is transported in with the incoming air masses. It occurs in a way that promotes the entrainment of O_3 fluxes as O_3 levels drop below the threshold level of ~ 1 to 2 ppb, and inhibits the entry of ozone fluxes when ozone levels are above this threshold level. This chemical pattern accounts both for the jagged shape of the BrO profile and for the correlation between O_3 and BrO, as O_3 reaches low enough levels. Similar features in the diurnal profile of BrO and its relation to O_3 may also be detected at the margins of regions exhibiting RBS activity which are much larger in area than the Dead Sea.

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