

42

43 1. INTRODUCTION

44

45 Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) compose a large group of organic compounds that
46 consist of fused aromatic rings. They are emitted mainly from the incomplete combustion or
47 pyrolysis of organic materials such as coal, oil, gas, waste, and biomass (Ravindra et al., 2008;
48 Zhang and Tao, 2009). PAHs are the subject of considerable concern because of their potential risk to
49 the environment and human health (Bhargava et al., 2004; Lai et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2017; Saha et
50 al., 2017; Yang et al., 2017). As persistent semivolatile chemicals, PAHs can be transported over long
51 distances to remote areas such as polar regions (Halsall et al., 2001; Huang et al., 2005) and high
52 altitude regions such as the Tibetan Plateau (TP) (Chen et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2014).

53 The TP is one of the world's least scientifically studied regions in terms of PAH concentration,
54 composition, transportation, source apportionment, and health risk assessment. Anthropogenic
55 emissions within the TP are not of major concern compared with those in densely populated and
56 industrialized parts of South and East Asia. Traditional agriculture and animal husbandry are the
57 main economic pillars of the TP, whereas industry accounts for only 8% of the gross domestic
58 product of this region (<http://www.tibet.stats.gov.cn/>). Therefore, the TP is considered a background
59 site on a global scale. Numerous recent studies have reported atmospheric pollutants in this remote
60 region (Cong et al., 2015; Li et al., 2016a; Lüthi et al., 2015); however, such studies have primarily
61 been concerned with the role of the long-range transportation of pollutants emitted from South Asia.
62 Notably, local anthropogenic activity in the TP contributes significantly to the atmospheric
63 environment (Chen et al., 2015a; Gong et al., 2011; Li et al., 2012; Li et al., 2016a).

64 Lhasa, the provincial capital of Tibet, is currently undergoing rapid urbanization and

65 industrialization (Li and Wang, 2014; Li et al., 2016b; Ran et al., 2014). Previous studies have
66 reported that the atmosphere in this high altitude city has been heavily influenced by local emissions
67 (Cong et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2010; Li et al., 2016b). In addition, as the largest city in the TP,
68 emissions from Lhasa are potential pollution sources to the surrounding areas (Li et al., 2008; Tao et
69 al., 2010); for example, higher elemental and organochlorine pesticide concentrations were reported
70 in aerosol samples from Lhasa than in those from more remote sites in the TP (Cong et al., 2011; Li
71 et al., 2008). Current use and local emissions of organochlorine pesticides may contribute to
72 environmental contamination in the populated agricultural Lhasa River Basin (Li et al., 2008).
73 Radiocarbon isotope measurements of total carbon emissions revealed biomass burning and the
74 incineration of agricultural waste, which contributed more to carbonaceous aerosols in winter than
75 summer (Huang et al., 2010). Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in Lhasa is characterized by its low
76 organic carbon to elemental carbon ratio, which reflects the heavy influence of vehicle emissions (Li
77 et al., 2016b). Regarding PAHs, two studies have reported atmospheric PAH concentrations and
78 compositions in Lhasa (Gong et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2013). Diagnostic ratios and principal
79 component analysis revealed that atmospheric PAHs in Lhasa were primarily derived from local
80 human activities such as vehicle emissions and incense burning. However, current knowledge of
81 PAH source apportionment and its effects on the health of locals in Lhasa remains limited.

82 This paper presents the results of particulate-phase PAH observations in Lhasa during 2013 to
83 2014. The main objectives were as follows: (1) to investigate the atmospheric PAH concentrations
84 and compositions in Lhasa; (2) to identify the seasonal variations of PAH concentrations and
85 apportion the PAH sources by using a positive matrix factorization (PMF) model; and (3) to assess
86 the health risks experienced due to PAHs in Lhasa.

87

88 2. METHODS

89

90 2.1 Sample collection

91 A total suspended particle (TSP) filter sampler (flow rate: 100 L min⁻¹; KC-120H, Qingdao
92 Laoshan Applied Technology Institute, Qingdao, China) was placed on the rooftop (20 m above
93 ground) of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Lhasa (E29.65°, N91.03°, 3642 m). A total of 62
94 samples were collected on prebaked quartz fiber filters (diameter: 90 mm; Whatman plc, Maidstone,
95 United Kingdom) from April 2013 to March 2014 with duration of each sample as 24 h. TSP filter
96 samples were collected continuously every week. For example, we collected 3 samples each week in
97 spring but 1 sample in other seasons. However, several samples could not be collected due to lack of
98 power or equipment breakdown in some periods. Finally, 19, 17, 11, and 15 samples were collected
99 in spring, summer, autumn, and winter, respectively. All filters were prebaked at 550 °C for 6 h
100 before sampling. They were equilibrated at constant temperature and humidity (25 ± 3 °C, 30 ± 5%)
101 for 72 h and weighed using a microbalance with a sensitivity of ±0.01 mg before and after sampling.
102 The volume of air passing through each filter was converted into standard atmospheric conditions
103 (25 °C, 101.3 kPa). Ten field blank filters were collected once each month by placing in the sampler,
104 which had no air drawn through it. And 3, 3, 2, and 2 blank filters were collected in spring, summer,
105 autumn, and winter, respectively. Lhasa is a famous historic tourist city where considerable seasonal
106 variations in traffic and religious activities occur. It exhibits the typical characteristics of four seasons,
107 namely spring (March–May), summer (June–September), autumn (October–November), and winter
108 (December–February). Meteorological parameters of studying period were recorded with automatic
109 observation instruments at Lhasa Station. According to the observation, the air temperature ranged

110 from -5.7 to 21.2 °C with an average of 9.0 °C, and the relative humidity ranged from 7 to 75% with
111 an average of 38.7% (Wan et al., 2016). The annual mean precipitation amount is around 400 mm
112 with the majority of precipitation occurred frequently between June and September because of the
113 summer monsoon activities, but it was relatively dry during spring and winter. The largest coal-fired
114 power plant of Tibet (Dongga power plant) and the Dongga cement factory were located about 10 km
115 west of our sampling site. In addition, our sampling site is close to Jinzhu road which is one of the
116 busiest roads in Lhasa city with large numbers of trucks and other vehicles running. These are
117 potential sources of particles in the atmosphere (Huang et al., 2013).

118 **2.2 Extraction and analysis**

119 Sonication extraction was used as detailed in Chen et al. (2015b). Here, the method is described
120 briefly. A quarter of each filter was cut into pieces, placed into a glass tube, and immersed in 20 mL
121 of dichloromethane (DCM) and *n*-hexane (1:1). The extraction was performed by sonication twice at
122 27 °C for 30 min. Every single sample was spiked with deuterated PAHs (naphthalene-d₈,
123 acenaphthene-d₁₀, phenanthrene-d₁₀, chrysene-d₁₂, and perylene-d₁₂) as recovery surrogates. The
124 extracts were evaporated to about 0.5 mL with a rotary evaporator, and transferred to a multilayer
125 column filled with 2 g of activated silica gel, 4 g of neutral alumina, and 1 cm of anhydrous Na₂SO₄
126 (pre-soaked in *n*-hexane). Then, the column was eluted by a mixture of 10 mL of *n*-hexane and 20
127 mL of DCM/*n*-hexane (1:1). The eluent solvent was blown down to a final volume of 1 mL under a
128 gentle stream of nitrogen. Finally, the solution was transferred to a 1.5-mL vial and stored at -20 °C
129 for rejection.

130 Sixteen PAHs (naphthalene (Nap), acenaphthene (Ace), acenaphthylene (Aecl), anthracene (Ant),
131 fluorene (Flu), phenanthrene (Phe), benzo(a)anthracene (BaA), chrysene (Chr), fluoranthene (Fla),

132 pyrene (Pyr), benzo(a)pyrene (BaP), benzo(b)fluoranthene (BbF), benzo(k)fluoranthene (BkF),
133 dibenzo(a,h)anthracene (DahA), benzo(g,h,i)perylene (BghiP) and indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene (IndP))
134 prioritized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) were analyzed at the
135 State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences Northwest Institute of
136 Eco-Environment and Resources, China, by using gas chromatography–mass spectrometry with a 30
137 × 250-µm ID HP-5MS. High-purity helium was used as a carrier gas at a constant flow rate of 1.0
138 mL min⁻¹. The mass spectrometer was operated in 70-Ev electron impact mode. The oven
139 temperature was 100 °C, which was held stable for 2 min. Then it was ramped to the final
140 temperature of 260 °C with different rate of increase; to 170 °C at 25 °C min⁻¹, to 225 °C at 8 °C
141 min⁻¹, to 235 °C at 0.7 °C min⁻¹, to 260 °C at 25 °C min⁻¹, and finally held at 260 °C for 2 min. The
142 temperature of the injector was 250 °C and that of the transfer line was 280 °C (Chen et al., 2017).
143 Nap was not analyzed as it was detected with high concentration in the laboratory and field blanks.

144 **2.3 Quality control**

145 All analytic procedures were carried out using same method with strict quality assurance and
146 control measures with Chen et al. (2017). Laboratory and field blanks were extracted and analyzed in
147 the same way as the samples. The recoveries in field samples were 74-93%, 80-97%, 83-105%, and
148 89-109% for acenaphthene-d10, phenanthrene-d10, chrysene-d12, and perylene-d12 as inferred
149 standards, respectively. The PAH concentrations were not corrected for the recoveries.

150 **2.4 Gas/particle partitioning estimation**

151 Octanol–air partition coefficient (K_{OA})-based model has been proved applicable to estimate the
152 gas-particle partitioning of PAHs (Cheruiyot et al., 2015; Cheruiyot et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2018).
153 The temperature–dependent K_{OA} values can be measured directly using the GC retention time
154 method with an equation as Eq (1) (Harner and Bidleman, 1996):

$$155 \quad \text{Log } K_{OA} = A + B/(T, K) \quad (1)$$

156 The regression parameters (A and B) were given by Harner and Bidleman (1998) and Odabasi et al.
157 (2006). The difference of K_{OA} values of PAHs among four seasons were calculated by adjusting the
158 equations to the average ambient temperature (Pre-monsoon: 5 °C, Monsoon: 16 °C, Post-monsoon:
159 14 °C, and Winter: 1.5 °C) (Table 1). Then the gas-particle partition coefficient (K_P) can be predicted
160 by equation (2) if the organic matter fraction f_{om} of the aerosols are known and assuming that all of
161 the particle organic matter is available to absorb gas-phase compounds.

$$162 \quad \log K_P = \log K_{OA} + \log f_{om} - 11.91 \quad (2)$$

163 In this study, the average organic carbon concentrations were 13.2, 10.2, 30.6, and 35.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
164 for these four seasons in aerosols of sampling site. And organic compounds contributed 18.3%,
165 16.9%, 25.7%, and 23.9% to total suspended particles in four seasons. Finally, we can estimate the
166 gas phase PAHs using equation (3):

$$167 \quad K_P = (C_p/C_{TSP})/C_g \quad (3)$$

168 where C_p and C_g are the PAH concentrations in the particulate and gas phases, respectively, and C_{TSP}
169 is the concentration of TSP in the air.

170 **2.5 PMF receptor model**

171 PMF is a powerful factorization method used to calculate the source profiles and contributions of
172 pollutants in the environment. It has been used extensively for atmospheric source identification
173 (Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Callén et al., 2014; Dvorská et al., 2012). PMF analysis is described in
174 detail in Chen et al. (2016). A 62×15 (62 samples each containing 15 PAHs) dataset was input into
175 the PMF 5.0 model to conduct source apportionment of atmospheric PAHs in Lhasa. A random seed
176 mode and random starting point were selected. After testing three to six factors, a four-factor solution
177 was adopted. Correlation indices between the estimated and measured concentrations ranged from
178 0.75 (Ace) to 0.92 (IcdP and BghiP), which suggested that the measured concentrations were fully
179 explained by the four selected factors.

180 **2.6 Cancer risk assessment**

181 The carcinogenic potency of PAH exposure can be estimated as the sum of each individual BaP
182 equivalent (BaP_{eq}) based on the toxic equivalency factor (TEF) of each individual PAH including
183 both particle and gas phase PAHs (Nisbet and LaGoy, 1992; Petry et al., 1996; US EPA 2010). The
184 TEF data in Nisbet and LaGoy (1999) were used in this study; BaP_{eq} was calculated as follows:

$$185 \quad \text{Total BaP}_{\text{eq}} = \sum_i (C_i \times \text{TEF}_i) \quad (1)$$

186 where C_i is the concentration of an individual PAH and TEF_i is its TEF. Inhalation was determined to
187 be the main exposure pathway for PAHs in the air. We applied the following inhalation exposure
188 assessment model recommended by the US EPA to calculate the daily exposure dose (DED) of
189 BaP_{eq}:

$$190 \quad \text{DED} = \frac{C \times \text{IR} \times \text{EF} \times \text{ED}}{\text{BW} \times \text{AT}} \times cf \quad (2)$$

191 where DED is the DED of BaP_{eq} through the inhalation pathway ($\text{mg} (\text{kg} \text{ day})^{-1}$), C is the airborne
192 BaP_{eq} concentration (ng m^{-3}), IR is the air inhalation rate ($\text{m}^3 \text{ day}^{-1}$), EF is the exposure frequency
193 (day year^{-1}), ED is the exposure duration (year), BW is the body weight (kg), AT is the averaging
194 time (day), and cf is the conversion factor (in this study, $cf = 10^{-6}$).

195 The carcinogenic risk (CR) associated with inhalation exposure was calculated using Eq. (2),
196 adapted from the US EPA (1989) and expressed as follows:

$$197 \quad \text{CR} = \text{DED} \times \text{CSF} \times \left(\frac{\text{BW}}{70}\right)^{1/3} \quad (3)$$

198 where CR is the probability of developing cancer over a lifetime because of exposure to atmospheric
199 PAHs and CSF is the cancer slope factor, which quantitatively defines the relationship between
200 carcinogen exposure dose and degree of CR. The CSFs used were derived assuming a body weight of
201 70 kg, which deviates from the actual conditions of the exposure populations of various age groups.
202 Thus, the CSF values were extrapolated to actual body weights in various age groups by multiplying

203 the conversion factor $(BW/70)^{1/3}$, recommended by the US EPA (2004).

204

205 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

206

207 ***3.1 PAH concentrations and compositions***

208 During the study period, the particle phase PAH concentrations varied between 9.18 and 211 ng
209 m^{-3} with an average of 45.0 ± 60.4 ng m^{-3} (Table 2). Although the annual average PAH concentration
210 was considerably lower than those reported in numerous areas of northern China such as Shanxi,
211 Shandong, and Beijing (Zhang et al., 2016) and South Asia such as Kathmandu (Chen et al., 2015)
212 and Delhi (Sarkar and Khillare, 2013), it was higher than those observed at background sites in the
213 TP. For example, PAHs in Lulang on the southeastern TP ranged from 0.06 to 2.53, with a mean
214 value of 0.59 ng m^{-3} (Chen et al., 2014). In Zhongba and Nyalam, the mean PAH concentrations were
215 8.78 and 5.60 ng m^{-3} , respectively (Chen et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2014). This indicated that although
216 the atmosphere in Lhasa is relatively clean compared to other Asian cities, it is affected by local
217 anthropogenic activities. In addition, the PAH concentration had evidently increased since the two
218 studies conducted in Lhasa in 2006 and 2007 (Table 2), implying that emissions might have
219 increased as a result of urbanization (Gong et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2013).

220 Evident seasonal variations in the total PAH concentrations were observed, with the maximum
221 and minimum concentrations occurring in winter and summer, respectively (Fig. 2). Based the
222 Octanol–air partition coefficient (K_{OA}) model, the gas phase PAH concentrations were calculated,
223 which also demonstrated clear seasonal variation with the highest concentrations occurred in summer,
224 decreasing to minimum concentrations in winter (Table 3). Previous studies have reported that

225 seasonal variations of some atmospheric pollutants in Lhasa were mainly influenced by vehicle
226 emissions in summer and biomass burning, power plants, and religious activities during the other
227 seasons (Huang et al., 2010; Gong et al., 2011). During the cold season, biomass or coal combustion
228 for heating increased as the temperature drops (Huang et al., 2010). And the incense burning in the
229 temples for religious activities might be another important emission source of PAHs (Liu et al., 2013).
230 Furthermore, low temperature (-7~9 °C) strengthens the condensation of gas phase PAHs onto
231 atmospheric particles, leading to higher concentrations of particle phase PAHs in winter (Gong et al.,
232 2011). A greater abundance of PAHs from late autumn to winter implied that PAH contributions from
233 anthropogenic activities increase in the cold season, whereas in summer, although vehicle use and the
234 frequency of tourist activities increase, high rainfall (approximately 70% of the total annual
235 precipitation) washes most suspended particles and particle-bound pollutants out of the atmosphere
236 (Cong et al., 2011; Wan et al., 2016). In addition, the high summer temperature (9~22 °C) enhances
237 the evaporation of particle-phase to gas-phase PAHs, which leads to lower PAH concentrations in
238 summer (Liu et al., 2017; Tham et al., 2008); for example, the contribution of PAHs with low
239 molecular weights (e.g., Ace, Acel, Ant, Flu, and Phe) was twice as high in winter than in summer,
240 indicating that temperature is a crucial factor possibly resulting in seasonal variations between PAH
241 concentrations.

242 According to the number of aromatic rings, the aforementioned 15 PAHs were classified into
243 four groups: three-ring (Acel, Ace, Flu, Phe, and Ant), four-ring (Fla, Pry, BaA, and Chr), five-ring
244 (BbF, BkF, BaP, and DahA), and six-ring (IndP and BghiP) PAHs (Kaur et al., 2013). The seasonal
245 composition patterns of the particle phase 15 PAHs over four seasons are shown in Fig. 3; four- and
246 five-ring PAHs contributed the most, followed by six- and three-ring PAHs. Correspondingly, gas

247 phase PAHs showed different composition patterns with three-ring compounds especially Aec, Acel,
248 and Flu contributed most to the total particles (Table 3). However, the profiles of particle phase PAHs
249 in Lhasa varied across all four seasons; for example, the contributions of four-ring PAHs were
250 highest in winter at 56.5%, which decreased to 31.5% in summer. By contrast, the contributions of
251 five- and six-ring PAHs exhibited the opposing trend. Previous studies have reported that coal
252 combustion and biomass burning release an abundance of four-ring PAHs, whereas five- and six-ring
253 PAHs mainly originate from high-temperature combustion processes such as vehicle exhausts (Dachs
254 et al., 2000; Moon et al., 2008). The variations in PAH compositions evidently reflect the
255 aforementioned changes in source contributions during the sampling period (Huang et al., 2010;
256 Gong et al., 2011). Meanwhile, the partitioning of PAH between particle- and gas-phase is
257 temperature sensitive and consequently four-ring compounds making an apparently greater
258 contribution in winter as opposed to summer.

259 ***3.2 PAH sources assessed by diagnostic ratios***

260 Diagnostic ratios are used frequently to identify PAH origins (Rajput et al., 2014; Yunker et al.,
261 2002). In this study, IndP/(IndP + BghiP) and Fla/(Fla + Pyr) ratios were used simultaneously to
262 cross-check the results and reduce uncertainty. The IndP/(IndP + BghiP) ratios were below 0.5 in all
263 seasons, implying a strong contribution from petroleum combustion (Table 4). The mean Fla/(Fla +
264 Pyr) ratios were 0.54 ± 0.03 , 0.48 ± 0.02 , 0.49 ± 0.02 , and 0.52 ± 0.03 in spring, summer, autumn,
265 and winter, respectively, with lower values in summer and autumn, thereby reflecting the impact of
266 vehicles as PAH sources (Table 4). The tourist activities mainly happen from May to October
267 especially in summer. And vehicle emission is higher during this period than the cold season. Higher
268 values were observed in winter and spring, implying that the biomass contribution increased in these

269 seasons because of low temperatures. Biomass energy consumption was considered as the largest
270 parts (about 40%) of total energy consumption, compared to coal and liquid fossil fuel, 5% and 16%,
271 respectively (Hua, 2009). These results are consistent with those of the PMF model in Subsection
272 3.3.

273 **3.3 Source apportionment of all PAHs determined using PMF**

274 Fig. 4 shows the four source contributions of all samples and PMF factors of all profiles and
275 contributions. Each column corresponds to the concentration profile of one PAH. The first factor
276 accounted for 9.30% of all PAHs. The profile contains more volatile PAHs, which are similar to
277 those reported as air-ground and air-soil emissions (Cheng et al., 2012; Nelson et al., 1998).
278 Accordingly, the first factor was classified as air-surface exchange. The second factor accounted for
279 14.3% of all PAHs and showed high loadings of Fla and Pyr, which are typical markers of coal
280 combustion (Huang et al., 2010; Qin et al., 2014). Thus, this factor was classified as coal emission.
281 The third factor accounted for 48.4% of all PAHs and had high loadings of four-ring PAHs such as
282 Fla, Pyr, and Chr and moderate contributions from BaA, Bbf, Bkf, and Bap. This type of profile is
283 mainly the result of biomass burning (Lin et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2015). In Lhasa, biomass varieties
284 such as wood and yak dung are burned year-round for heating and cooking, especially in winter
285 (Huang et al., 2010). Thus, this factor was assigned as biomass burning. The fourth factor
286 contributed 27.9% of all PAHs. High loadings of five- and six-ring PAHs were observed. IndP and
287 BghiP are typical markers of traffic emissions (Simcik et al., 1999) and IndP is associated with diesel
288 emissions (Li and Kamens, 1993). A similar profile was observed in aerosols at a site downwind of
289 East Asia (Wang et al., 2014). As a famous tourist city, Lhasa has undergone a rapid increase in
290 vehicle use in recent years, especially in summer and autumn. Therefore, this factor was deemed to

291 be caused by vehicle emissions.

292 In summary, the main source of atmospheric PAHs in Lhasa is biomass combustion, followed by
293 vehicle emissions, coal combustion, and air–surface exchange. However, notably, determining
294 precise source contributions based on the PMF model and diagnostic ratios only is difficult because
295 of high uncertainty. In addition, the PAH source profiles for coal combustion and residential biomass
296 combustion are usually similar, thereby engendering difficulties in separating these two factors. Thus,
297 further research integrating other methods or evidence is required.

298 **3.4 Health risk values**

299 The BaP_{eq} values for particle phase PAHs during the sampling period varied from 1.48 to 24.5
300 ng m⁻³ with an average of 6.27 ± 8.55 ng m⁻³. For gas phase PAHs, the BaP_{eq} values were 4.28, 11.6,
301 6.23, and 3.64 ng m⁻³ for spring, summer, autumn, and winter, respectively with an similar average
302 value (6.43± 4.15 ng m⁻³) with particle phase PAHs. The most recent ambient air quality standard for
303 China (GB3095-2012) showed an improvement in the limited value of atmospheric BaP from 10 to 1
304 ng m⁻³. All BaP_{eq} concentrations calculated in Lhasa were higher than the limit value, which
305 indicates the potential for adverse health effects caused by atmospheric PAHs in this region.

306 People of three age groups (children, teenagers, and adults) were examined to effectively
307 estimate the exposure levels of BaP_{eq} in various age ranges. Table 5 shows the parameters of these
308 three age groups used in the exposure assessment. Based on the data, the DEDs and CR of BaP_{eq} in
309 Lhasa were characterized for all three age groups. The CRs of particle phase PAHs were estimated as
310 9.20×10^{-7} , 7.20×10^{-7} , and 2.84×10^{-6} for children, teens, and adults, respectively. While for gas
311 phase PAHs, the CRs were similar with particle phase PAHs for three groups, with values as $9.43 \times$
312 10^{-7} , 7.38×10^{-7} , and 2.91×10^{-6} . The CR values of total (gas and particle phase) PAHs were $1.86 \times$

313 10^{-6} , 1.46×10^{-6} , and 5.76×10^{-6} , respectively, which were one time higher than those of particle
314 phase PAHs. PAHs are present in the atmosphere in both particle and gas phases. In this study, the
315 calculated gas phase PAH concentrations were much higher than those of particle phase. And CR
316 values doubled after adding gas phase PAHs. Therefore, additional detailed surveys of gas phase
317 PAHs should be considered in further study. Most regulatory programs employ a limiting CR value
318 of $1.00E-05$ (De Miguel et al., 2007). The lifetime CR (LCR) in Lhasa was determined by
319 calculating the CR values of two types of PAHs for all three age groups. The results showed that the
320 LCR (9.08×10^{-6}) was lower than the acceptable target risk value, indicating that atmospheric PAHs
321 in Lhasa pose no or little potential CR to locals.

322

323 4. CONCLUSION

324

325 PAH concentrations in Lhasa were higher than those in other remote sites in the TP, indicating
326 that the atmospheric environment in Lhasa has been influenced by local anthropogenic activities.
327 Clear seasonal variations of PAH concentrations were observed, with maximum and minimum
328 values occurred in winter and summer, respectively. Gas phase PAH concentrations were much
329 higher than particle phase PAHs and have opposite seasonal trends. Particle phase PAH profiles,
330 especially those of four-ring compounds, changed significantly between winter and summer, thereby
331 reflecting the variations in emission sources in different seasons. However, three-ring species
332 especially Ace, Acel, and Flu contributed most to gas phase PAHs. The particle phase PAH sources
333 were quantified using the PMF model and the results revealed that atmospheric PAHs in Lhasa
334 originated mainly from the combustion of biomass fuels (48.4%) and vehicle emissions (27.9%). The
335 diagnostic molecular ratios provided similar results. The average BaP_{eq} of the PAHs was higher than

336 the new limit value in China, thereby indicating the potential for adverse health effects on locals.
337 And a probabilistic health risk assessment showed that atmospheric PAHs in Lhasa posed no or little
338 CR for locals.

339

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341

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538 Table 1 Parameters of equation (1) and octanol-air partition coefficients (K_{OA}) for PAHs at 5 °C, 16
539 °C, 14 °C and 1.5 °C in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively.

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SN	PAH	A	B	Log K_{OA} (5 °C)	Log K_{OA} (16 °C)	Log K_{OA} (14 °C)	Log K_{OA} (1.5 °C)
1	Ace ^b	-2.20	2597	7.14	6.78	6.84	7.22
2	AceI ^b	-1.97	2476	6.93	6.59	6.65	7.01
3	Ant ^b	-3.41	3316	8.51	8.06	8.14	8.62
4	Flu ^a	-7.74	4332	7.58	7.19	7.26	7.67
5	Phe ^a	-5.62	3942	8.47	8.02	8.10	8.58
6	BaA ^b	-5.64	4746	11.4	10.7	10.8	11.5
7	Chr ^b	-5.65	4754	11.5	10.8	10.9	11.6
8	Fla ^a	-5.94	4417	9.70	9.16	9.26	9.83
9	Pyr ^a	-4.56	3985	9.77	9.22	9.32	9.90
10	BaP ^b	-6.50	5382	12.8	12.1	12.2	13.0
11	BbF ^b	-6.40	5285	12.6	11.8	12.0	12.7
12	BkF ^b	-6.42	5301	12.6	11.9	12.1	12.8
13	DahA ^b	-7.17	5887	14.0	13.2	13.3	14.2
14	BghiP ^b	-7.03	5834	13.9	13.1	13.2	14.1
15	IndP ^b	-7.00	5791	13.8	13.0	13.1	14.0

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a: Harner and Bidleman (1998); b: Odabasi et al. (2006)

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551 Table 2 Summary of particle-bound PAH concentrations (ng m^{-3}) in Lhasa and other regions

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PAH	Ring	Mean(SD)	Minimum	Maximum	% of Σ PAHs	Reference
Ace	3	0.392 (0.079)	0.297	0.678	0.892	This study
Acel	3	0.405 (0.048)	0.330	0.536	0.922	„
Ant	3	0.824 (0.298)	0.612	2.074	1.88	„
Flu	3	0.742 (0.123)	0.545	1.01	1.69	„
Phe	3	1.94 (2.17)	0.523	10.5	4.41	„
BaA	4	4.26 (7.71)	0.556	39.9	9.70	„
Chr	4	5.38 (8.10)	0.956	42.0	12.2	„
Fla	4	6.71 (10.4)	0.501	55.7	15.3	„
Pyr	4	6.51 (10.7)	0.865	57.2	14.8	„
BaP	5	3.93 (5.96)	0.654	28.1	8.94	„
BbF	5	5.59 (7.72)	0.887	21.6	9.48	„
BkF	5	2.01 (3.72)	0.529	18.9	7.81	„
DahA	5	0.849 (0.402)	0.582	2.29	1.93	„
BghiP	6	2.30 (2.52)	0.710	12.1	5.24	„
IndP	6	2.09 (2.64)	0.565	12.0	4.77	„
Total PAHs		43.9 (54.6)	9.18	211	100	„
Beijing ^a		148 (28)		-		Zhang et al., 2016
Delhi ^b		105	11.0	512		Sarkar and Khillare, 2013
Kathmandu ^c		155 (130)	18.1	453		Chen et al., 2015
Zhongba ^c		8.78 (4.50)	3.41	20.9		Chen et al., 2017
Nyalam ^c		5.57 (3.36)	3.62	16.9		Chen et al., 2017
Lulang ^d		0.59 (0.52)	0.06	2.53		Chen et al., 2014
Lhasa ^e		20 (15)	4.4	60		Liu et al., 2013
Lhasa ^f		35.7 (15.9)	11.4	72.5		Gong et al., 2011

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a: 16 PAHs of TSP samples; b: 16 PAHs of PM_{10} samples; c: 15 PAHs of TSP samples; d: 17 PAHs of TSP samples; e: 15 PAHs of TSP samples; f: 22 PAHs of TSP samples.

581 Table 3 Calculated gas phase PAH concentrations in four seasons of Lhasa

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SN	PAH	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
1	Ace	506.2597	1528.076	448.5648	183.0286
2	Acel	893.5951	2440.036	732.5843	289.8921
3	Ant	80.33509	290.3747	82.25962	28.92283
4	Flu	497.3334	1239.61	681.354	562.8298
5	Phe	93.16859	335.6044	101.9659	37.49022
6	BaA	0.507878	0.912246	0.87494	0.523964
7	Chr	0.423029	0.867332	0.866197	0.493445
8	Fla	11.77585	22.81812	28.92497	19.83927
9	Pyr	17.74505	37.10413	31.53879	19.42907
10	BaP	0.013702	0.063772	0.064483	0.013267
11	BbF	0.013721	0.064625	0	0.010735
12	BkF	0.014141	0.047081	0.046888	0.017806
13	DahA	0.000416	0.002468	0.002228	0.000309
14	BghiP	0.000295	0.002407	0.000836	0.000104
15	IndP	0.000773	0.005072	0.00348	0.000478
	Total	2101.187	5895.588	2109.051	1142.492

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593 Table 4 Diagnostic ratios of PAHs in Lhasa aerosols and their source profiles. Numbers in brackets
594 represent standard deviations

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	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Source profiles	Reference
IndP/(IndP+BghiP)	0.44(0.03)	0.42(0.02)	0.47(0.03)	0.47(0.03)	<0.2 Petrogenic 0.2-0.5 Petroleum combustion >0.5 Coal and biomass	(Grimmer et al., 1983; Yunker et al., 2002)
Fla/(Fla+Pyr)	0.54(0.03)	0.48(0.02)	0.49(0.02)	0.52(0.03)	<0.4 Petrogenic 0.4-0.5 Petroleum combustion >0.5 Coal and biomass	(Bari et al., 2011; Sicre et al., 1987; Tang et al., 2005; Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2003)

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615 Table 5 Values and probability distributions of parameters used in the exposure assessment

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units	Children	Teens	Adults
Age (year)	0-10	11-20	21-70
IR ^a (m ³ day ⁻¹)	8.79	13.61	12.34
EF (day year ⁻¹)	365	365	365
ED (year)	0-10	0-10	0-50
BW ^b (kg)	16.66	46.35	57.04
AT ^a (day)	25550	25550	25550
CFS ^c (mg/(kg day)) ⁻¹	3.14	3.14	3.14

617 a: cited from the US EPA; b: cited from statistical data from China; c: cited from Chen and Liao (2006).

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636 **Figure captions (in color online):**

637 **Fig. 1.** Locations of sampling sites and the aerosol sampler (picture)

638 **Fig. 2.** Seasonal variations of PAH concentrations in Lhasa

639 **Fig. 3.** Seasonal variations of PAH compositions (three-, four-, five-, and six-ring PAHs) in Lhasa,
640 number in bracket are sample sizes.

641 **Fig. 4.** PMF 5.0-generated factor profiles and their contributions to the 15 examined PAHs

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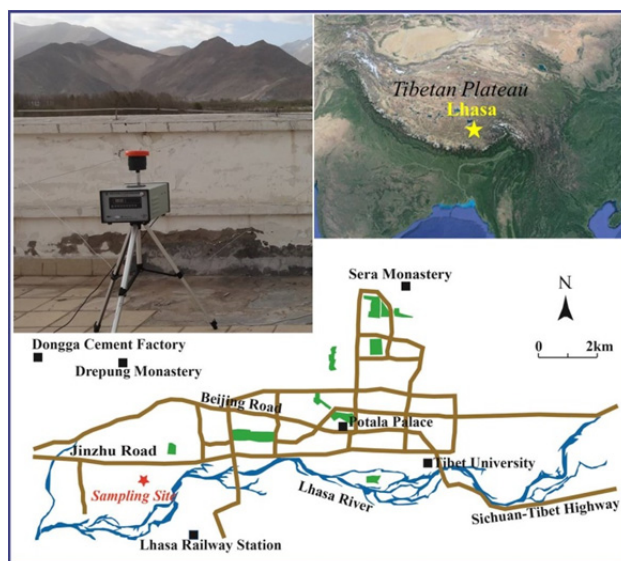
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661 Fig. 1



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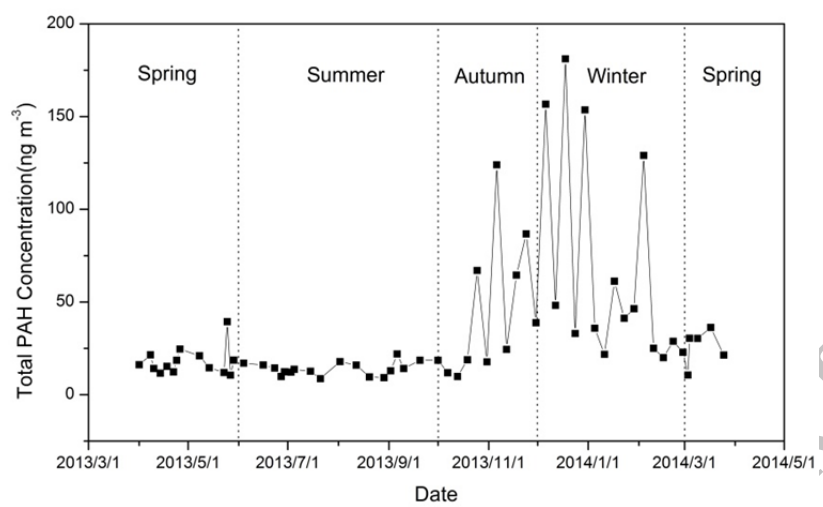
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Fig. 2



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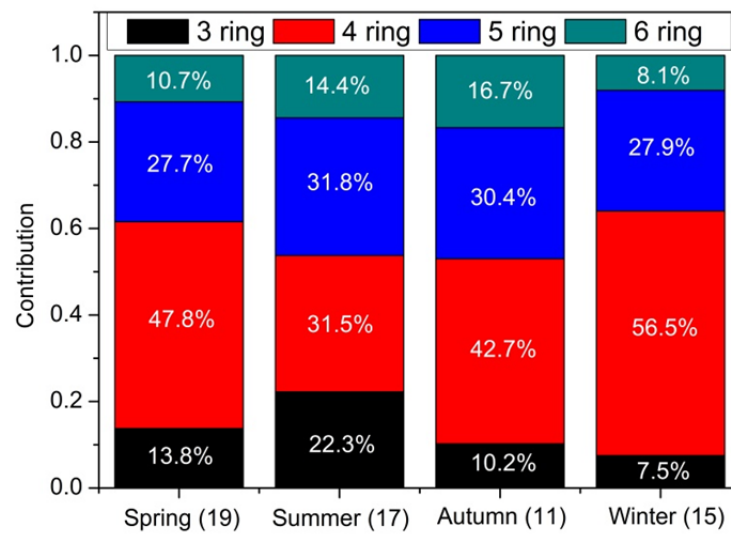
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705 Fig. 3



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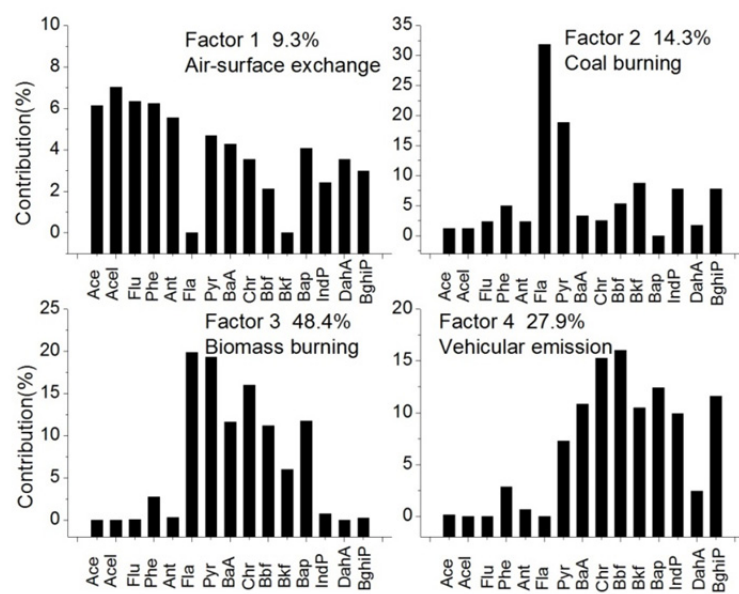
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Fig. 4



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