

Interactive comment on “MS/MS studies on the selective on-line detection of sesquiterpenes using a flowing afterglow-tandem mass spectrometer” by J. Rimetz-Planchon et al.

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General comments

This is very important paper pioneering the use of MS-MS approach in the flow tube ion chemistry. I know that several groups have tried this before, but this is in my knowledge the first time positive and useful data have been produced using such combination. The only previous study using SIFT and tandem MS has been carried out by Roithova et al JPC 110, 2970, 2006. Thus the paper not only presents important original data but also may be an indication of a beginning of a new era in the flow tube ion chemistry.

Specific comments

The term parent ion is not used correctly, a better term would be precursor ion or even better reagent ion.

Of some relevance might be the very recent paper by Gao et al. Environmental Science & Technology 44, 7897-7902 Oct 15 2010 where tandem MS has been used to look at the oxidised monoterpenes.

It would be useful if the differences in fragmentation could be rationalised with respect to the structure of the individual molecules (maybe even using a scheme for illustration).

Technical corrections

The figures would benefit from some improvement. Certainly the Figures 1 and 3 should be shown on-line in colour. Labeling in Figure 2 should be larger and also some key labels indicating what each pattern means would help the readers (at least giving the Ecm values within the figure) The vertical lines between the bars are not needed and should be removed. Also there is no need for the gridlines in Figure 4.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss., 3, 4285, 2010.

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