

Distribution of volatile organic compounds around a polluted river

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ABSTRACT: The objectives of this study were to investigate the species and the concentration distribution of volatile organic compounds around a heavily polluted river. Air samples were collected seasonally at different locations near the polluted river. Samples were then analyzed by gas chromatography (electron capture detector for chlorinated organic compounds and flame ionization detector for ordinary hydrocarbons). The data was then analyzed by the statistical product and service solutions software. The results showed that total of 26 species of volatile organic compounds were identified. Each individual had its own concentration distribution pattern at different seasons and aliphatic volatile organic compounds displayed much higher concentrations than most benzenic volatile organic compounds. In aliphatic volatile organic compounds, 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, hexachlorobutadiene and 1,2-dibromoethane had much higher concentrations at the nearby environment of the river and they have been claimed to be carcinogenic to some experimental animals and possibly to human. Therefore, It is in doubt that for a long term, the volatile organic compounds evaporating out of the stream may threaten the health of the residents living very close to the river. The concentrations of tetrachloroethene, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, hexachlorobutadiene, dibromoethane, dichlorobenzene and sec-butylbenzene appeared at the nearby environment of the river had significant correlations ($P < 0.05$) with those of each other or many other volatile organic compounds.

Key words: Carcinogen, chlorinated hydrocarbons, morbidity rate, river water

INTRODUCTION

Fong Shan stream, a heavily polluted river, is located in the south of Taiwan with the total length of about 17 km. This river has received domestic and agricultural wastewaters for many years. Many industries such as leather, steel, chemical, lumber, electrical, pulp and plastic industries were located mostly along the upstream riversides of Fong Shan stream. They might have discharged the wastewater into the river and caused water pollution. Since the wastewater discharged by those industries could contain some hazardous volatile organic compounds (VOCs), it is also possible that for a long term VOCs around the river might affect the health of the residents living along the riverside (Sacks and Akard, 1994). When VOCs are oxidized in the presence of oxides of nitrogen, they lead to the formation of photochemical smog, harmful to humans, animals and

vegetation (Lewis and Davies, 1998). For example, the major effects of 1,2-dibromoethane (1,2-DBE) on human included respiratory tract, nervous system, kidney, etc. Ott *et al.* (1980) studied the mortality rates on 161 persons who had exposed to 1,2-DBE for a long term and only found 2–5 persons died from cancer. Ter Haar (1980) studied 4 groups of workers and did not find any increase in mortality rates for those who were exposed to 1,2-DBE as well. The exposure of human to 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane (1,1,2,2-TCCE) might affect the functions of liver and kidney. The inhalation of 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (1,2,4-TCB) may cause negative effects on liver, kidney, lung, central nervous system and blood system (Danse *et al.*, 1984). Many researchers reported that the growth of fish, shell, bacteria, etc. in river could be affected while the concentration of 1,1,2,2-TCCE in river water was higher than 1 mg/L (Smith *et al.*, 1991; Nichols *et al.*, 1993). Sec-butylbenzene and tert-butylbenzene may

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cause negative effects on eyes, mucous membrane and lung. Meanwhile, the long term exposure of p-isopropyltoluene may also cause negative effects on liver and kidney of human (USEPA, 1997). Bromobenzene may cause liver and nervous system damage and isopropylbenzene may cause negative effects on lung and central nervous system as well. IARC (1999) has claimed 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) to be possibly carcinogenic to humans such as lung cancer, liver cancer, bladder cancer, cervix cancer, etc. Long term exposure of 1,2-dichlorobenzene (1,2-DCB) may also cause negative effects on kidney or blood system (IPCS, 2003), although the carcinogenicity of 1,2-DCB to human is still not classifiable. Therefore, as far as the public health is concerned, possible volatile organic compounds (VOCs) existing around a heavily polluted river were identified first and their concentration distribution characteristics were also discussed in the article.

Most researchers investigated the volatile organic compounds in surface water and it was difficult to find research references regarding the study of VOCs evaporating out of the water surface of river. Yamamoto *et al.* (1997) investigated the levels and the distribution of 55 VOCs on water samples from 30 sites within the urban rivers and estuaries of Osaka, Japan. They reported that 40 VOCs were detected and the levels of dichloromethane (DCM) were higher at all the sampling sites. DCM, toluene, 1,2,3-trichloropropane (PCP) and 1,4-dichlorobenzene (1,4-DCB) were detected in many sites sometimes at levels above 100 µg/L. 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCE), benzene, trichloroethene (TCE), 1,2-dichloropropane (1,2-DCP), tetrachloroethene (PERC), chlorobenzene (CB), ethylbenzene (EB), 1,3-xylene, 1,4-xylene, 1,2-DCB and 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene (1,2,4-TMB) were found at the level of 10 µg/L or more.

Kostopoulou *et al.* (2000) investigated the most commonly encountered VOCs in the surface waters of northern Greece. They found chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, bromodichloromethane (BDCM), chlorodibromomethane (CDBM), TCE and PERC. Rathbun (2000) discussed the processes affecting the transport behavior and fate of VOCs in streams and concluded that water velocity, flow depth and water temperature of the streams would be the major factors affecting the volatilization of VOCs. Since vinyl

chloride (VC) has been reported to be carcinogenic to human, Yamamoto *et al.* (2001) also studied its contamination in shallow urban rivers in Osaka, Japan. They concluded that VC concentrations ranged from below detection limit to 55.60 µg/L with the mean of 3.35 µg/L and the standard deviation of 5.96 µg/L. They also found that the concentrations of cis-1,2-dichloroethene (c-DCE), PERC and TCE were significantly correlated with VC concentrations in the rivers with the relative ratios of about 1:2.7:1.5:0.31 (VC:c-DCE:PERC:TCE). The concentrations of the four VOCs decreased with distance down the river. Nikolaou *et al.* (2002) detected 15 kinds of VOCs in surface water and 31 types of VOCs in wastewater. However, they concluded that the concentrations of these observed VOCs did not exceed the guideline values of European Community. The concentrations of VOCs in the rivers were mostly in the range between ND (not detectable concentration) and 6.7 µg/L. The concentrations of VOCs were mostly in the range between ND and 2.0 µg/L in the lakes and in the range between ND and 664 µg/L in wastewater.

The Sewer Department of Kaohsiung Municipal Government (2003) investigated the VOCs in the water of Chuen-Tsen river which is actually the downstream section of Fong Shan stream while entering the Kaohsiung City of Taiwan and concluded that the VOCs primarily found in the upstream river water were volatile aromatic compounds such as methyl benzene (toluene) (1.10-3.55 µg/L in average), ethylbenzene (2.92-16.10 µg/L in average), m,p-xylene (4.50-13.60 µg/L in average), o-xylene (2.48-9.60 µg/L in average) etc. Meanwhile, the chlorinated VOCs such as 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA) (up to 42.7 µg/L), chloroethylene (up to 9.60 µg/L), cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, tetrachloroethene (PERC), bromodichloromethane (BDCM), 1,1,2-trichloroethane (1,1,2-TCE), chloroform, chloroethane, methyl t-butyl ether, etc. were primarily found in the downstream river water.

Some researchers also studied the VOCs in groundwater. Watson *et al.* (2003) investigated the sources of earthy/musty VOCs, including geosmin, 2-methylisoborneol (MIB), 2,4,6-trichloroanisole (2,4,6-TCA), 2-isopropyl-3-methoxypyrazine and 2-isobutyl-3-methoxypyrazine from the pulp and paper mill in Canada. They found very high concentrations (between 1,600 and 128,000 ng/L)

of geosmin in water samples taken from activated bioreactor. The concentrations of MIB in the sludge samples of bioreactor were between 25 and 24,000 ng/L. Rivett *et al.* (2005) reported that TCE, PERC, 1,1,1-TCA, TCM (trichloromethane) and c-DCE were the most frequently found chlorinated VOCs in the groundwater aquifer in Birmingham, UK. Recently, Ellis and Rivett (2007) assessed the impact of urban VOC contaminated groundwater on the water quality of river Tame in UK. They concluded that the overall surface water quality deterioration in river Tame was not very significant, although Tame valley had a long

industrial history and significant VOC aquifer contamination. However, they found that groundwater aquifer contained significant chlorinated VOC contamination. Many kinds of chlorinated VOCs were found, including TCE, TCA, PERC, DCE, 1,1-DCA, TCM, etc. Their maximum concentrations were about in the range of 0.1 to 100 µg/L.

Liu *et al.* (2007) measured the levels of ambient VOCs in the Pearl river delta region, China and found that alkanes constituted the largest percentage (> 40 %) in mixing ratios of the quantified VOCs at six sites

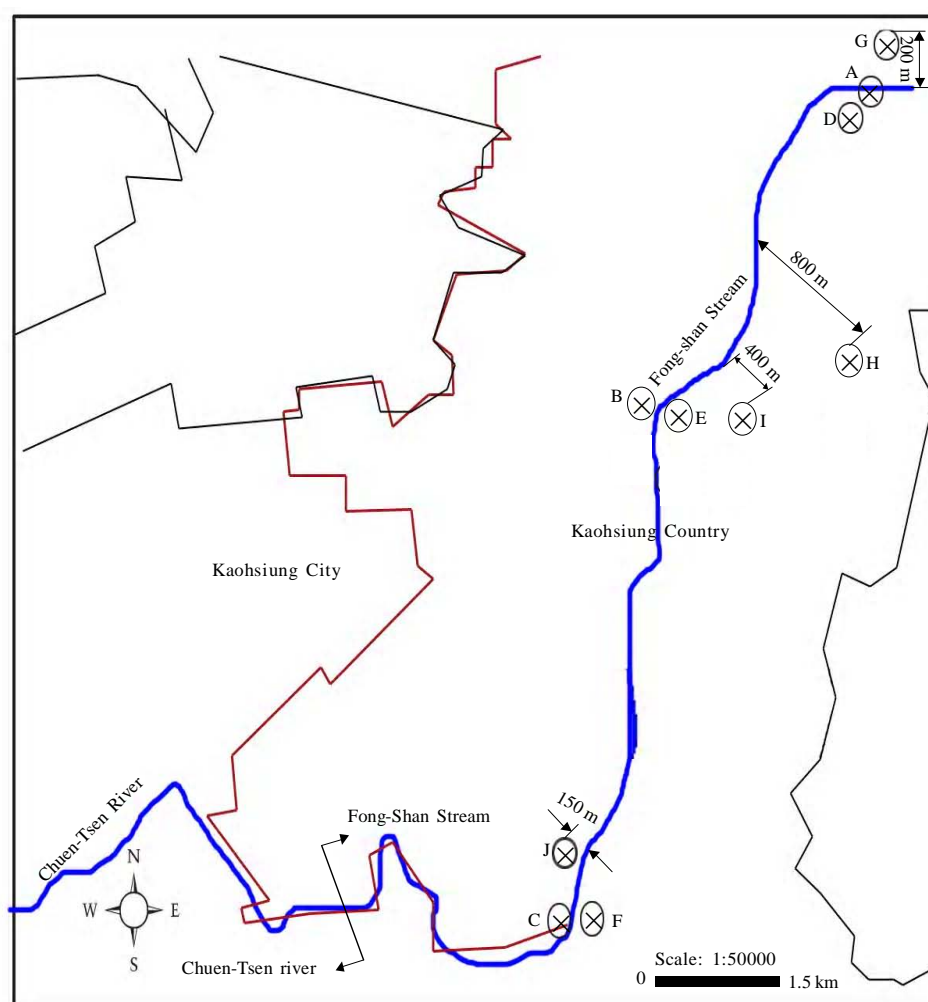


Fig. 1: Sampling locations of VOCs in the studied area

Table 1: Sampling locations of VOCs

Sampling locations	Description
A	At the upstream river water surfaces
B	At the midstream river water surfaces
C	At the downstream river water surfaces
D	At the places just beside the river and next to location A
E	At the places just beside the river and next to location B
F	At the places just beside the river and next to location C
G	About 200 m away from the upstream reach of river
H	About 800 m away from the midstream reach of river
I	About 400 m away from the midstream reach of river
J	About 200 m away from the downstream reach of river

and only one major industrial site dominated by aromatics (about 52 %).

In this study, the species and the concentration distribution of VOC evaporating out of a heavily polluted river were investigated and it is hoped that the results could be helpful in the future studies of health risk assessment on the residents living very close to the river. This study was conducted from August 2004 to July 2005 and air samples were collected around the heavily polluted Fong Shan Stream located in the south of Taiwan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

VOCs sampling plan

The sampling locations of VOCs in this study were shown in Fig. 1 and described in Table 1. Sampling was performed seasonally and always taken during noon. The selected locations and the sampling time had less interference in air pollutants from vehicles. Since this river has received various types of industrial wastewater, it is expected that a variety of VOCs could evaporate out of the river water surface and diffuse into the nearby environment.

The air samples were taken by using Gilian air sampling pumps (model LFS-113DC) and the stainless sampling tubes were filled with Carbosieve and Tenax-TA absorbents. Air sampling pumps were calibrated by a BUCK M-5 flow calibrator (flow in the range from 1 – 6000 mL/min) before and after use. Sampling tubes made by Supelco company were also cleaned

up using nitrogen gas for 2–5 h at the flow rate of 50 mL/min before use. At the sampling time air samples were pumped at a low flow rate of 100 mL/min directly into the sampling tubes without passing through the pump body. The sampling time required for each tube was normally about 2–3 h.

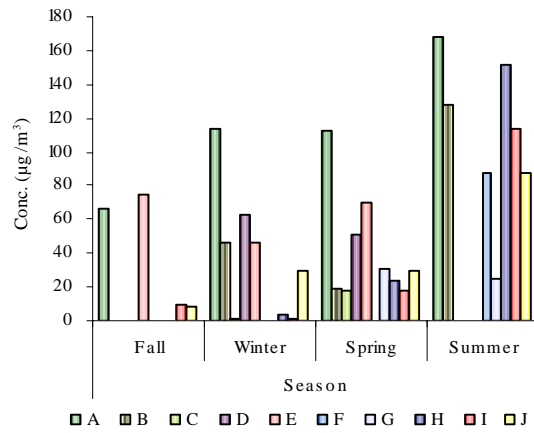
All the sampling tubes were stored in a refrigerator at a temperature lower than 4 °C. After the completion of sampling, all tubes were brought back to the laboratory immediately. The absorbed VOCs were purged and trapped into the carrier with highly pure nitrogen gas after thermal desorption (TD) by Tekmar aero trap desorber (Tekmar 6000) and the purged VOCs were then injected into gas chromatography for subsequent analysis (USEPA, 1994). A special floating cover placed at about 10 cm above the surface of river water was applied for the sampling of VOCs evaporating out of the river. Field blanks and system blanks were taken for each sampling and at least one duplicate was done for each sample as well. While VOCs samples were taken, the data regarding weather conditions such as wind speed, wind direction, temperature and humidity was also measured and collected simultaneously.

VOCs analytical methods

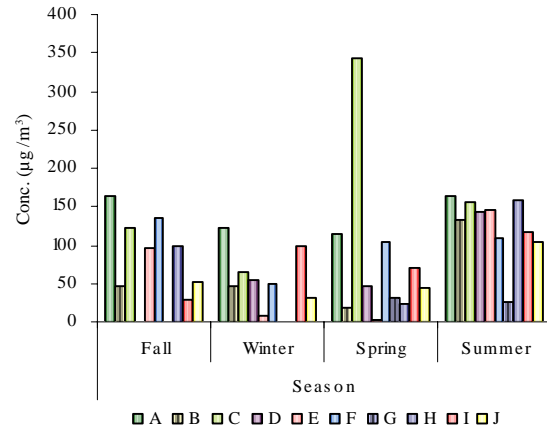
After the air samples were taken at all the locations shown in Fig. 1, they were then analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. The chlorinated hydrocarbons were analyzed by *HP 5890 series A* (HP 5890 SERIES-II) gas chromatography and electron capture detector (GC/ECD) and the ordinary hydrocarbons were then analyzed by *HP 5890 series A* (HP 5890 SERIES-II) gas chromatography and flame ionization detector (GC/FID) with the application of fused silica capillary column, 70 m (length) \times 0.53 mm (inside diameter) \times 3.0 μ m (film thickness) (USEPA, 1994; Nikolaou *et al.*, 2002). During the first phase of thermal desorption, temperature was set at -50 °C and desorption continued for 20 min. In the second phase, the desorbed samples were automatically transferred to frozen capillary traps for 4 min with the temperature down to -170 °C. Then, the samples were injected into GC for 1 min. Finally, the VOCs samples were separated and analyzed by FID and ECD qualitatively and quantitatively.

Statistical analysis

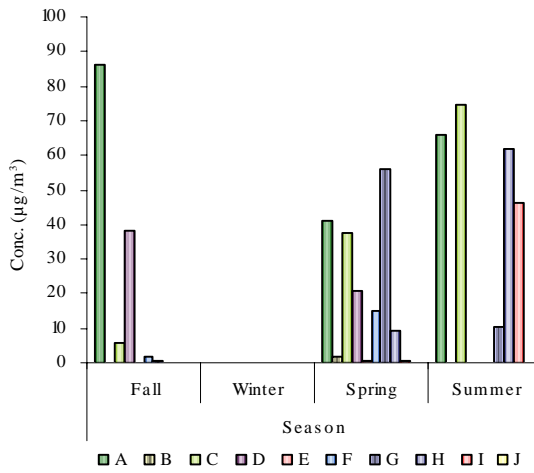
All statistical analyses of the data were completed



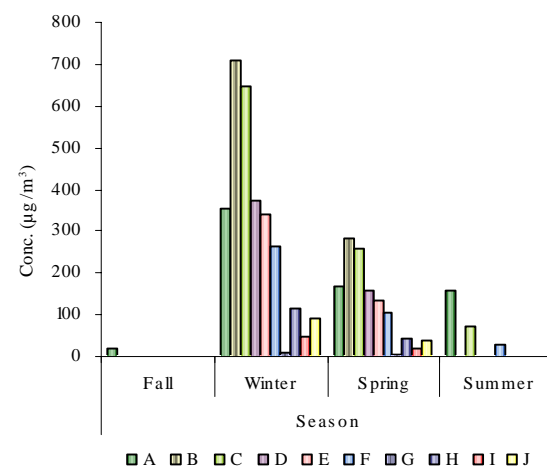
(a) Bromodichloromethane



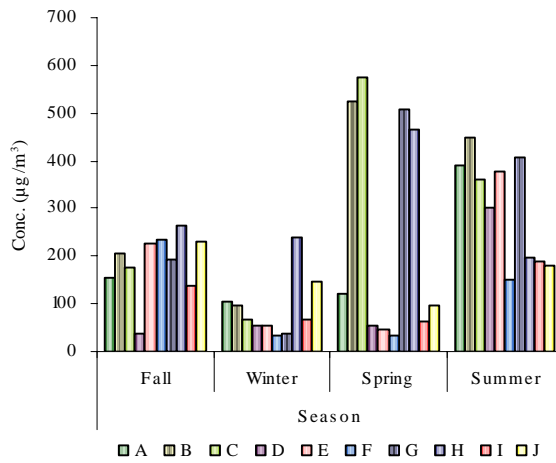
(b) Chlorodibromomethane



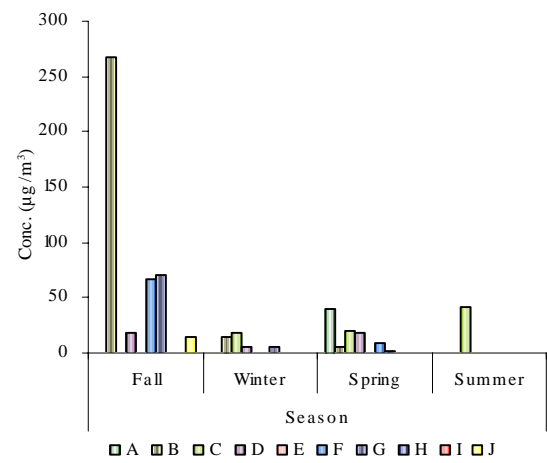
(c) Dibromomethane



(d) 1,2-dibromoethane



(e) 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane



(f) 1,3-dichloropropane

Fig. 2: Concentration distribution of aliphatic VOCs at different seasons (Note: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J are the sampling locations shown in Fig. 1)

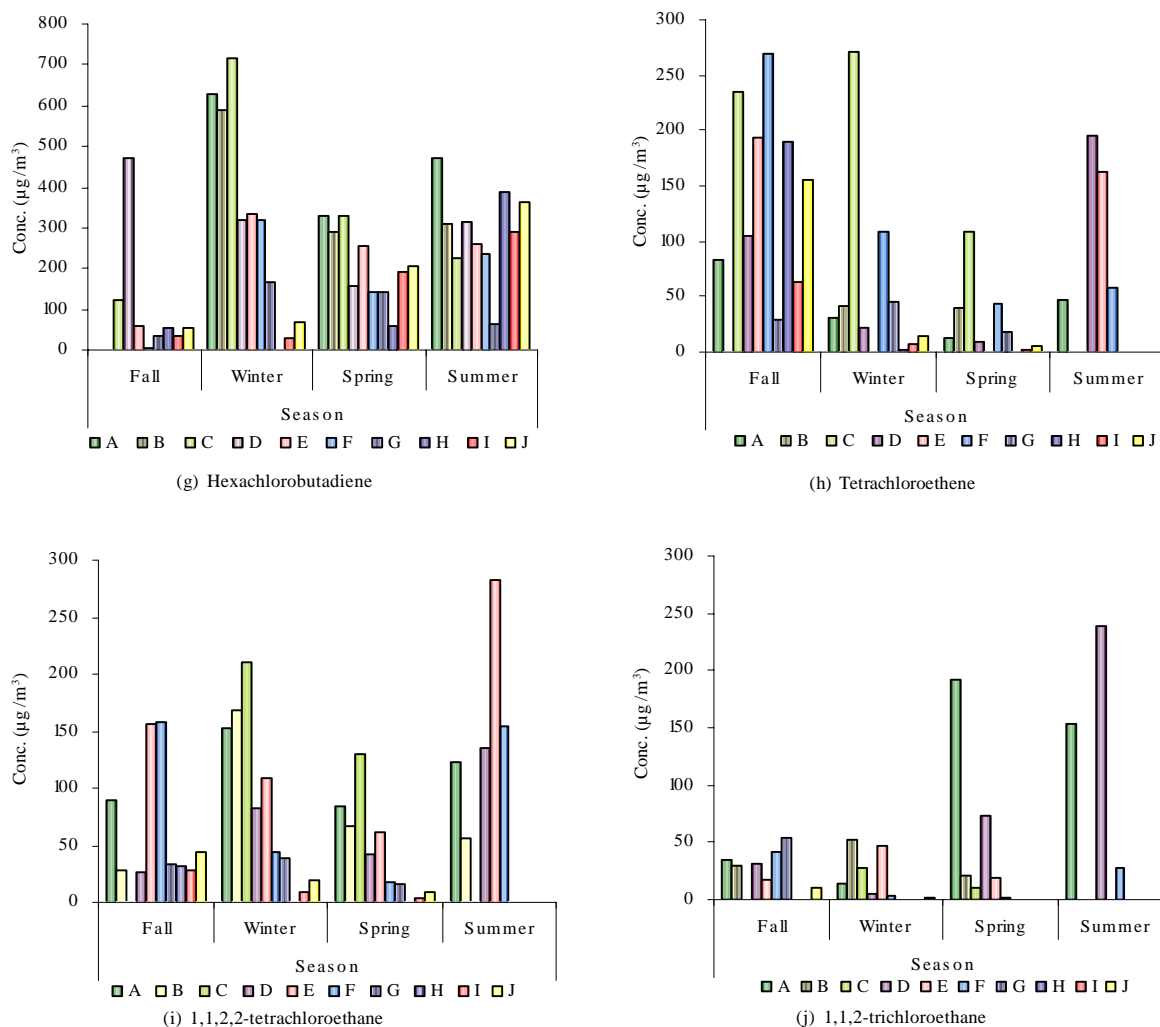


Fig. 2 (continued): Concentration distribution of aliphatic VOCs at different seasons (Note: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J are the sampling locations shown in Fig. 1)

using statistical product and service solutions (SPSS) software and the significance level of 0.05 was used. Except descriptive analysis, Chi-squared analysis was used to test the correlations between VOCs found in this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Totally, 26 species of VOCs were identified including 10 species of aliphatic VOCs and 16 species of benzenic VOCs and many of them were reported to be carcinogenic or probably carcinogenic to human. The statistical data of identified VOCs was shown in

Tables 2 and 3.

Concentration distribution of aliphatic VOCs

Fig. 2 showed that the concentration distribution of each aliphatic VOC at different sampling locations varied every season. This is possible that the industries located at the upstream of river discharged the wastewater containing different types and concentrations of VOCs into the river every season. Table 2 expressed that some aliphatic VOCs such as DBCP, hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd) and 1,2-DBE had much higher concentrations (maximum level over 550

Table 2: Statistical data of aliphatic VOCs found in the study

Aliphatic VOCs	Sample size	Concentration means	**SD	Min. concentration	Max. concentration
Chlorodibromomethane (CDBM)	40	81.823	67.707	*ND	342.867
Bromodichloromethane (BDCM)	40	39.919	47.700	ND	168.061
1,3-dichloropropane (1,3-DCP)	40	15.408	44.306	ND	267.272
1,1,2-trichloroethane (1,1,2-TCE or TCE)	40	27.749	52.484	ND	238.400
1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP)	40	206.378	153.626	34.593	574.708
Tetrachloroethene (PERC)	40	64.083	81.753	ND	270.919
1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane (1,1,2,2-TTCE or TTCE)	40	65.225	69.196	ND	282.667
Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd)	40	225.844	181.956	ND	716.517
Dibromomethane (DBM)	40	14.337	24.591	ND	85.960
1,2-dibromoethane (1,2-DBE or DBE)	40	111.195	172.771	ND	708.195

Concentration unit: $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; *ND: Not detected (less than $0.001\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$); **SD: Standard deviation

Table 3: Statistical data of benzenoid VOCs found in the study

Benzenoid VOCs	Sample size	Concentration means	**SD	Min. concentration	Max. concentration
Benzene	40	6.176	23.975	*ND	152.333
Toluene	40	8.682	14.668	ND	54.377
m-xylene (MXYL)	40	6.411	6.394	ND	24.032
o-xylene (OXYL)	40	13.469	22.697	ND	116.028
Bromobenzene (BB)	40	63.494	59.551	ND	266.888
1,2-dichlorobenzene (1,2-DCB or DCB)	40	63.144	70.285	ND	343.450
1,2,3-trichlorobenzene (1,2,3-TCB or TCB1)	40	21.281	38.555	ND	199.778
1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (1,2,4-TCB or TCB2)	40	38.518	53.044	ND	230.602
Ethylbenzene (EB)	40	7.012	14.731	ND	88.000
Isopropylbenzene (IPB)	40	41.591	45.673	ND	236.273
1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (1,3,5-TMB or TMB)	40	10.611	20.651	ND	107.496
tert-butylbenzene (tert-BB)	40	63.963	56.852	ND	305.860
sec-butylbenzene (sec-BB)	40	90.930	94.392	ND	360.297
p-isopropyltoluene (p-IPT)	40	26.341	24.086	ND	89.778
n-propylbenzene (n-PB)	40	6.827	13.546	ND	76.559
Naphthalene (NAPH)	40	30.621	48.200	ND	225.132

Concentration unit: $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; *ND: Not detected (less than $0.001\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$); **SD: Standard deviation

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream than others and their concentration means were $206.378 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, $225.844 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $111.195 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, respectively. Meanwhile, DBCP, HCB and 1,2-DBE were seen to have much higher concentrations in spring and summer, in winter and summer and in winter, respectively. It is noted that these three VOCs have been claimed to be carcinogenic to some experimental animals and possibly carcinogenic to human (ATSDR, 2005).

Although the concentration of DBCP in the air is normally very low (ATSDR and USPHS, 1992), OSHA (1989) has defined that the exposure level of this VOC should be less than 1 ppb (about $9.55 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in 8 h per day and over 40 weeks. However, for the people living in the areas close to a site with the air pollution of DBCP, it is very possible to inhale this VOC easily. IARC (1999) has claimed it to be possibly carcinogenic to humans such as lung cancer, liver cancer, bladder cancer, cervix cancer, etc. It needs to pay attention that the concentration of DBCP at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream was so high (Table 2) and it could be identified at almost every sampling locations every season (Fig. 2).

According to the regulations of occupational safety and hygiene, the limiting level of HCB in the air of working places in Taiwan is $210 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Since the concentrations of HCB identified at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream were higher than this limit, future studies on the health risk assessment for the residents living very close to this stream may be interesting.

Singh *et al.* (1982) measured the concentrations of 1,2-DBE in the air of seven cities in USA and obtained the average levels between 0.015 and $0.46 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, with the maximum level of $2.83 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Apparently, the concentration of 1,2-DBE found in this study was much higher than that maximum level. However, the occupational exposure level defined by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of USA is $1.0 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$ which is still higher than those observed at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream.

CDBM was popularly found in surface waters usually present in outside air at a level less than $0.05 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The levels of BDCM in air and surface waters were usually quite low (always less than $0.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) with the averages of 4 and $200 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$,

respectively (ATSDR, 2005). However, the concentrations of both CDBM and BDCM found in this study (Fig. 2) were much higher than those reported values, especially in summer. It should be noted that both VOCs have also been claimed to be carcinogenic to some experimental animals and possibly carcinogenic to human (ATSDR, 2005). USEPA reported that the middle half levels (25th to 75th percentile) of PERC in indoor and outdoor air were ranged between 1 and $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (NYSDH, 2003).

Apparently, the PERC at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream was found to have much higher concentrations than those reported values (Fig. 2), especially in fall. Again, PERC has been claimed to be possibly carcinogenic to human (Beck *et al.*, 2000).

1,1,2,2-TTCE was highly volatile and it could enter the river through the discharge of industrial wastewater and evaporate out of the river easily (Kaiser and Comba, 1983).

The major exposure ways of VOC for human were indoor and outdoor inhalation. In the air of residential area in USA and Canada, the concentration of 1,1,2,2-TTCE was normally detected to be lower than $0.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (IPCS, 1994). In this study, the levels of 1,1,2,2-TTCE were between ND and $210 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, especially in summer and fall with the concentration over $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream. Although the concentration of 1,1,2,2-TTCE was up to about $283 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, further studies should be required to confirm whether its concentration in river water will affect the growth of fish, shell, bacteria, etc. However, according to the regulations of Occupational Safety and Hygiene in Taiwan, the limiting level of 1,1,2,2-TTCE in the air of working places is $6,900 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ which is much higher than the level found in this study.

Concentration distribution of benzenic VOCs

Although 16 species of benzenic VOCs were identified, most of them appeared to be much lower at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream than aliphatic VOCs. The concentration distribution of benzenic VOCs was illustrated in Fig. 3. Most of benzenic VOCs showed higher concentration at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream in fall or winter such as 1,2-DCB, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (1,2,4-TCB), toluene, m-xylene, o-xylene, isopropylbenzene (IPB), bromobenzene (BB), 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene

Table 4: Correlations between VOCs found in the study

VOCs	CDBM	BDCM	1,3-DCP	TCE	DBCP	PERC	TTCE	HCB	DBM	DBE	BENZENE	TOLUENE	MXYL	OXYL	BB	DCB	TCB1	TCB2	EB	IPB	TMB	tert-BB	sec-BB	p-IPT	n-PB	NAPH
CDBM	1.000	0.282	-0.051	0.165	0.377*	0.268	0.324*	0.177	0.433	-0.047	0.223	-0.076	-0.003	0.073	0.010	0.227	0.209	0.146	0.263	-0.068	0.206	0.621	0.008	0.284	-0.041	0.407
BDCM		1.000	-0.213	0.219	0.043	-0.363*	0.092	0.403	0.374*	0.057	-0.110	-0.051	-0.320*	0.180	0.091	-0.280	0.301	-0.036	-0.086	-0.169	-0.291	0.130	0.119	0.032	-0.227	0.160
1,3-DCP			1.000	0.098	0.002	-0.041	-0.038	-0.215	-0.046	-0.078	0.090	-0.009	0.153	-0.022	-0.094	-0.094	-0.084	0.204	-0.027	0.022	0.219	0.033	-0.047	0.243	0.172	0.145
TCE				1.000	0.010	0.142	0.319*	0.240	0.163	0.105	0.014	0.027	0.249	0.101	0.023	0.079	-0.007	-0.074	-0.015	0.028	0.003	0.047	0.086	0.124	-0.014	0.394*
DBCP					1.000	0.030	0.062	-0.131	0.254	-0.207	0.162	-0.144	-0.127	-0.145	-0.172	0.001	0.020	-0.042	0.181	-0.040	-0.026	0.506	-0.166	-0.031	-0.092	0.287
PERC						1.000	0.520	0.039	-0.182	0.050	-0.092	0.050	0.465	0.083	0.283	0.766	0.113	0.473	0.186	0.076	0.624	-0.022	0.144	0.204	0.093	0.447
TTCE							1.000	0.441	-0.150	0.453	-0.060	-0.123	0.342*	0.245	0.375*	0.656	0.157	0.231	0.556	-0.123	0.367*	0.081	0.500	0.336*	0.048	0.356*
HCB								1.000	0.090	0.682	0.068	-0.073	0.195	0.235	0.411	0.351*	0.077	0.174	0.172	-0.068	0.114	0.123	0.638	0.359*	-0.067	0.005
DBM									1.000	-0.141	0.402	0.365*	-0.084	-0.074	-0.127	-0.182	-0.140	-0.158	-0.092	-0.104	-0.111	0.462	-0.219	0.074	-0.058	0.159
DBE										1.000	0.019	-0.126	0.236	0.163	0.490	0.384*	-0.084	0.227	-0.040	0.180	0.307	0.062	0.872	0.139	-0.146	-0.224
BENZENE											1.000	0.001	-0.041	-0.050	-0.161	-0.063	-0.109	-0.066	0.098	-0.084	0.098	0.013	-0.106	0.409	0.283	0.224
TOLUENE												1.000	0.377*	0.145	-0.022	-0.191	-0.054	-0.137	-0.147	-0.134	-0.143	0.104	-0.008	-0.135	0.507	-0.076
MXYL													1.000	0.360*	0.135	0.412	-0.119	0.116	0.192	0.032	0.163	0.092	0.282	0.175	0.264	0.076
OXYL														1.000	-0.138	-0.029	-0.032	-0.127	0.009	0.103	-0.087	0.029	0.364*	-0.027	0.122	-0.103
BB															1.000	0.611	0.477	0.376*	-0.037	-0.033	0.291	0.097	0.572	0.134	-0.191	0.169
DCB																1.000	0.183	0.496	0.385*	0.069	0.548	0.044	0.365*	0.380*	-0.144	0.269
TCB1																	1.000	0.196	0.133	-0.038	0.024	0.050	0.084	0.280	-0.096	0.263
TCB2																		1.000	0.029	0.203	0.245	0.017	0.170	0.323*	-0.161	0.081
EB																			1.000	-0.140	-0.031	0.022	-0.126	0.461	0.037	0.249
IPB																				1.000	0.103	-0.044	0.138	-0.109	-0.222	-0.183
TMB																					1.000	-0.031	0.359*	0.308	0.084	0.338*
tert-BB																						1.000	0.106	-0.055	-0.178	0.096
sec-BB																							1.000	0.010	0.032	-0.150
p-IPT																								1.000	0.034	0.279
n-PB																									1.000	0.123
NAPH																										1.000

* Means a significant correlation occurred with the significance level of 0.05 and the number shown in the table was Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient

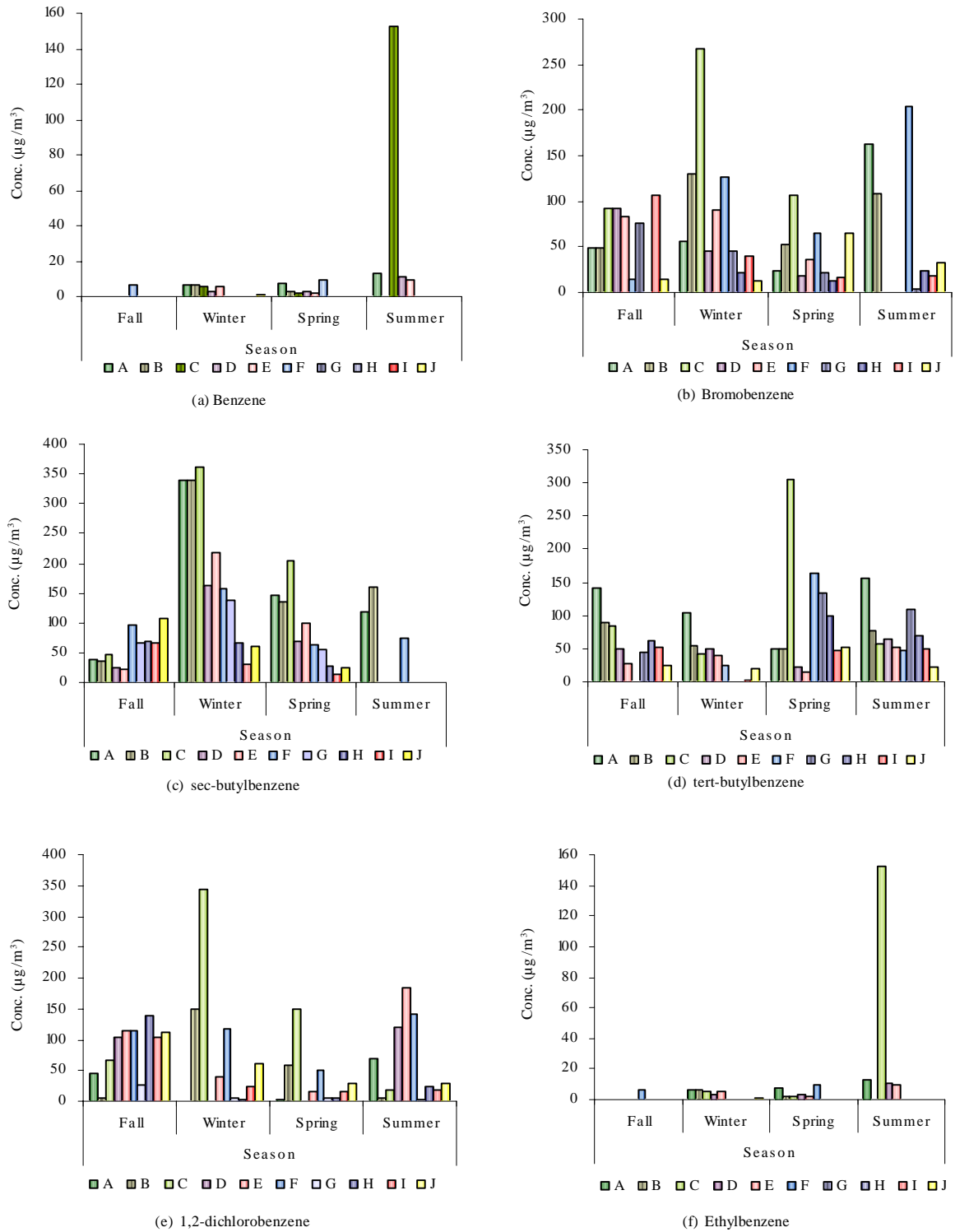
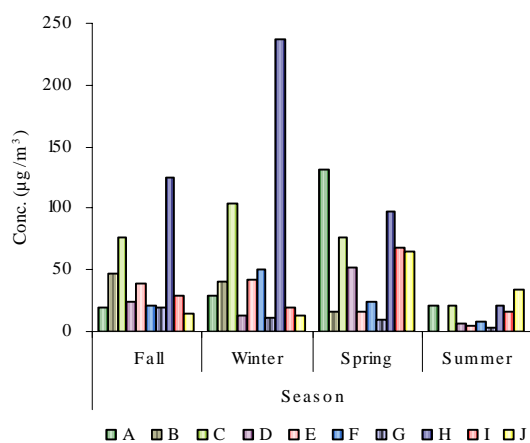
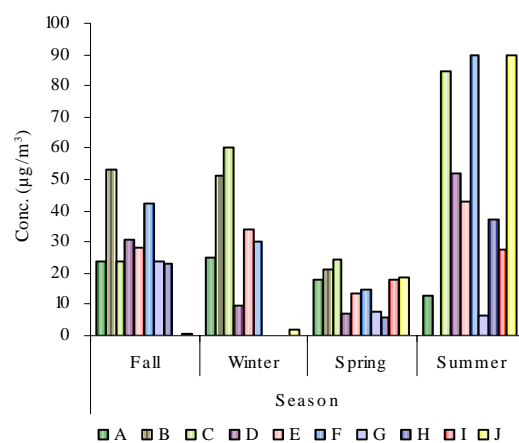


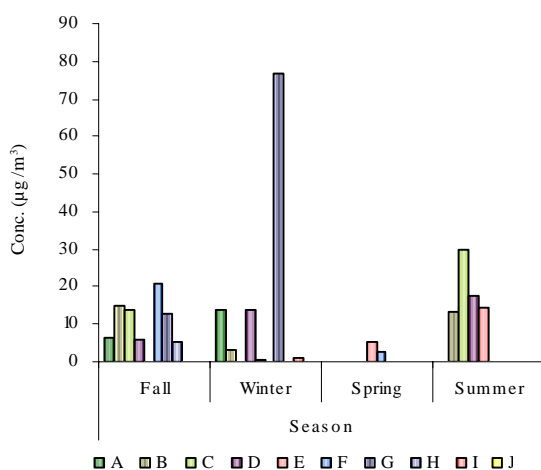
Fig. 3: Concentration distribution of benzenic VOCs at different seasons (Note: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J are the sampling locations shown in Fig. 1)



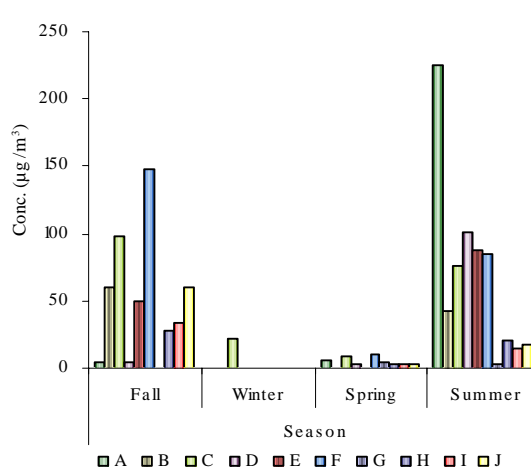
(g) Isopropylbenzene



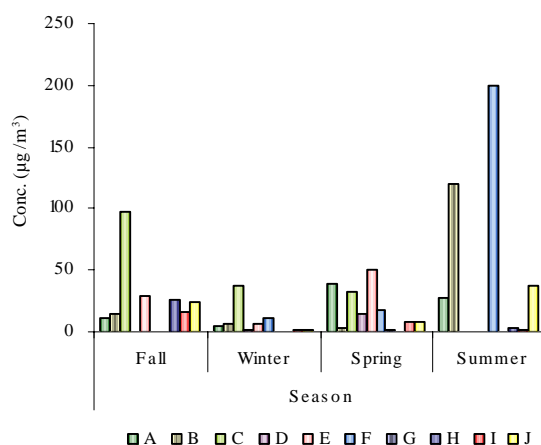
(h) p-isopropyltoluene



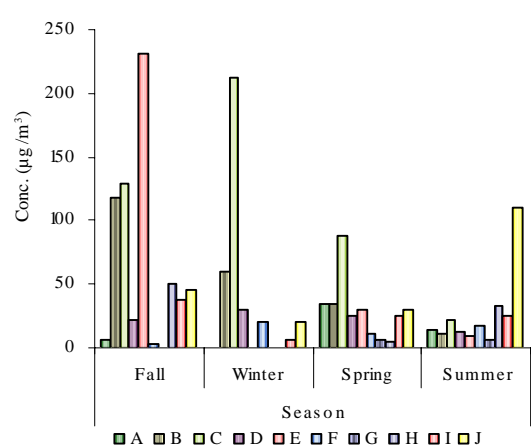
(i) n-propylbenzene



(j) Naphthalene



(k) 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene



(l) 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene

Fig. 3 (continued): Concentration distribution of benzenic VOCs at different seasons (Note: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J are the sampling locations shown in Fig. 1)

Distribution of volatile organic compounds

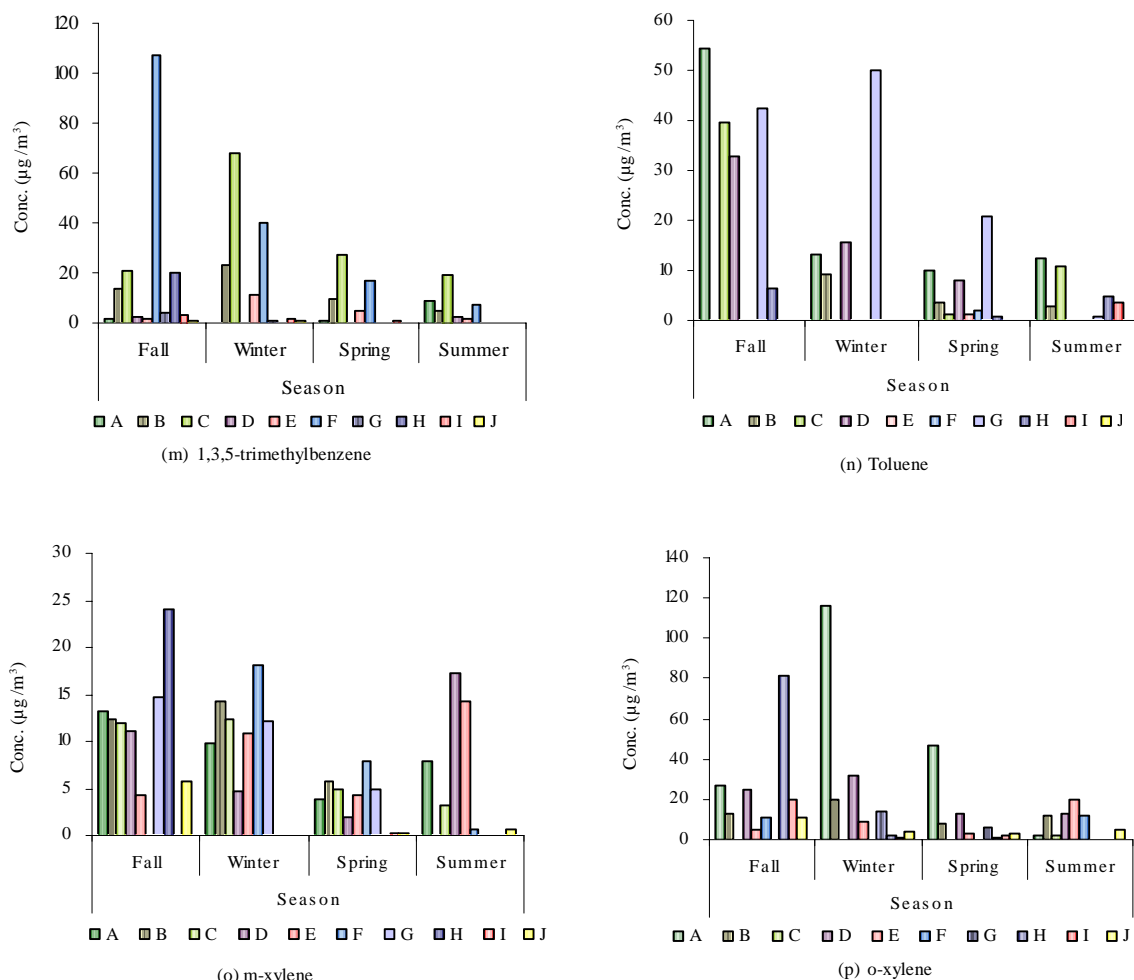


Fig. 3 (continued): Concentration distribution of benzenic VOCs at different seasons (Note: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J are the sampling locations shown in Fig. 1)

(TMB), sec-butylbenzene (sec-BB) and n-propylbenzene. P-isopropyltoluene (p-IPT), 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene (1,2,3-TCB) and naphthalene (NAPH) showed higher concentrations in summer while bromobenzene indicated higher concentration in summer and winter. Tert-butylbenzene was found to have higher concentration, especially in spring.

The concentrations of sec-butylbenzene and tert-butylbenzene at the nearby environment were much lower than at the water surface of Fong Shan stream, however, the concentration of p-IPT was somewhat higher at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream in summer. The concentrations of bromobenzene and isopropylbenzene were much higher in winter at the

riverside of Fong Shan stream, however, the level of bromobenzene was also found to be high at the riverside in summer.

The levels of 1,2-DCB were found to be sometimes higher than $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in different seasons. It has been reported that long term exposure of 1,2-DCB may cause negative effects on kidney or blood system (IPCS, 2003), although the carcinogenicity of 1,2-DCB to human is still not classifiable. NIOSH (2003) mentioned that the average level of 1,2,4-TCB in the air of urban area was about $0.76\sim 1.28 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in USA. 1,2,4-TCB and 1,2,3-TCB were identified with the concentrations over $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream, especially in

summer for 1,2,3-TCB and in summer, fall and winter for 1,2,4-TCB.

Table 4 showed the correlations between the VOCs identified at the water surface and the nearby environment of Fong Shan stream (significance level = 0.05). Apparently, the concentrations of NAPH, TMB, p-IPT, DCB, BB, MXYL, CDBM and TCE were significantly correlated with those of TTCE with the relative ratios (concentration means) of about 1: 0.47: 0.16: 0.40: 0.97: 0.97: 0.10: 1.25: 0.43 (TTCE: NAPH: TMB: p-IPT: DCB: BB: MXYL: CDBM: TCE).

The concentrations of TTCE, toluene, BDCM and OXYL were very significantly correlated with MXYL concentrations with the relative ratios of about 1: 10.17: 1.35: 6.23: 2.10 (MXYL: TTCE: Toluene: BDCM: OXYL). The concentrations of HCB, DCB, TCB2 and TTCE were significantly correlated with p-IPT concentrations with the relative ratios of about 1: 8.57: 2.40: 1.46: 2.48 (p-IPT: HCB: DCB: TCB2: TTCE). The concentrations of HCB, EB, DBE, p-IPT and sec-BB were significantly correlated with DCB concentrations with the relative ratios of about 1: 3.58: 0.11: 1.76: 0.42: 1.44 (DCB: HCB: EB: DBE: p-IPT: sec-BB). It is also noted that DCP and IPB were the only two species without a correlation with any other VOCs.

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