

# RADIATIVE IMPACTS OF ORGANIC AND ELEMENTAL CARBON AEROSOLS OVER TWO URBAN LOCATIONS IN INDIA.

Aditi Rathod, Abhilash S. Panicker  
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology,  
Pune 411008, India

Gufran Beig  
National Institute of Advanced Studies,  
Bangalore

Kaushar Ali  
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology,  
Pune 411008, India

**Abstract:** This study concentrates on the estimates of radiative forcing impacted by two important carbonaceous climate forcing aerosols viz. Elemental Carbon (Black Carbon) and Organic Carbon (OC) aerosols over two urban environments in India. The elemental carbon concentrations were up to  $11.18 \pm 4.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  over Hyderabad (HYD) and was as high as  $11.8 \pm 3.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  over Pune (PUN), whereas the corresponding OC concentrations were much higher in different months (as high as  $24.09 \pm 6.38 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  over HYD and  $29 \pm 9.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  over PUN). During monsoon season the OC forcing over HYD was estimated to be  $-1.35 \pm 1$  at the surface (SRF) and  $-0.62 \pm 0.48$  at the Top of the Atmosphere (TOA); and  $-0.81 \pm 0.5$  over PUN. EC forcing during monsoon season was observed to be  $-14.51 \pm 8.12$  at SRF and  $6.8 \pm 3.74$  at TOA. As the concentration of EC and OC were high during the Winter period and the corresponding forcing for EC were  $-26.81 \pm 13.74$  at SRF and  $12.46 \pm 6.39$  at TOA over HYD and  $-36.11 \pm 15.23$  at SRF and  $16.68 \pm 7.05$  at TOA over PUN; OC SRF and TOA over HYD were  $-2.5 \pm 1.34$  and  $-1.04 \pm 0.55$  respectively and SRF of  $-4.05 \pm 1.9$  and TOA of  $-2.03 \pm 0.92$  was observed over Pune.

**keywords:** Elemental carbon (EC); Organic carbon (OC); Radiative forcing.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Elemental and organic carbon are two most important carbonaceous aerosol species. Although both OC and EC are emitted from the same combustion source they are different in terms of physical and chemical properties

[1]. OC is associated with organic compounds, categorized as either primary OC (POC) when directly emitted into the atmosphere or secondary OC (SOC) when formed through the condensation of compounds resulting from atmospheric photochemical reactions involving anthropogenic and biogenic volatile organic precursors. The compositional diversity of SOC includes various different organic compounds, each exhibiting unique atmospheric behaviour [2,3]. OC is a scattering aerosol species and it also acts as a potential cloud condensation nuclei [4-6]. OC contains Water Soluble (WSOC) and Water Insoluble (WIOC) components. The WSOC/OC ratios are a unique tracer to understand secondary organic aerosols (SOA) formation mechanism [7-9]. Elemental carbon (EC) has absorption characteristics that are similar to those of black carbon (BC) [10] the names are different due to the methodologies used for its extraction. Therefore, the terms EC and BC has been used interchangeably. EC or BC is mainly emitted into the atmosphere by anthropogenic means like automobile exhaust, industries, coal burning, biofuel, agricultural activities [11-14] and naturally by volcanic activities and forest fires [15-17]. Black carbon (BC), also known as elemental carbon (EC) or light-absorbing carbon (LAC), plays a significant role among atmospheric aerosols, contributing to positive radiative forcing (warming) at the top of the atmosphere (TOA) and negative radiative forcing (cooling) at the surface level [18]. EC is a mixture of graphite-like particles and is primarily absorbing particulate species in the atmosphere [19]. Optical properties of EC in atmosphere gets altered due to atmospheric processes like ageing, coating and mixing [20-22]. When BC is coated with non-BC species the surface of BC cores can enhance BC



light absorption via the lensing effect [23–26]. Uncoated BC effectively acts as ice nuclei [27] The warming potential of EC can impact the atmospheric circulation pattern and the efficiency of cloud precipitation in the regions of South and Southeast Asia[28–31]. Despite the fact that BC aerosols make up a relatively small portion of atmospheric aerosols in terms of mass and number density, their influence on altering aerosol radiative properties is substantial [32,33]In this study we are estimating radiative forcing caused by OC along with EC over Pune (PUN) and Hyderabad (HYD).

## II. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Study Region:

The data used for this work is based on the sampling of PM<sub>2.5</sub> at the urban location of Hyderabad (17.53°N,78.40°E) and Pune (18.5°N,73.80°E). Over Hyderabad (HYD), the sampling is done at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), this is a semi-urban location surrounded by dense vegetation there is residential complex to its northwest. Traffic sustains to its southwest and southeast. Over Pune (PUN), sampling has been carried out at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). Sampling location is 3Km away from the urban site and IITM is surrounded by vegetative cover. At all the locations the sample collecting instrument (APM 550 MFC) was placed over the terrace of the Institute building. The location maps of the sampling sites are depicted in Fig 1. PM<sub>2.5</sub> samples were collected over Hyderabad from December 2010 to July 2011 and Pune between October 2010 to February 2012.

### 2.2. Data Sampling and Extraction

OC and EC sampling over PUN and HYD was performed using an APM 550 MFC fine-particulate-matter sampler (Envirotech Instrument Pvt. Ltd.) with a flow rate of 16.7 L min<sup>-1</sup> and quartz filter paper (Palls, 2500 QAO-UP, 47 mm diameter). Palls quartz filter papers was subjected to a 4-hour pre-treatment at 900°C in muffle furnace to eliminate any contamination through human error. Sampling occurred

at six-hour intervals. DRI Thermal/Optical Carbon Analyzer (Model 2001, Atmoslytic Inc., USA) was used to analyze filter papers for OC and EC concentrations following the IMPROVE\_A protocol. A detailed description of data extraction using a DRI analyzer is available elsewhere [15,34,35].

### 2.3. Methodology

The aerosol optical model OPAC (Optical Properties of Aerosols and Clouds) [36]along with SBDART (Santa Barbara Discrete ordinate Atmospheric Radiative Transfer) [37]model were used for obtaining the radiative forcing of OC and EC.The Aerosol optical properties of EC (Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD), Single Scattering Albedo (SSA) and Angstrom exponent (ANG) obtained from OPAC model were further used in SBDART to get the EC radiative forcing. OPAC model does not contain default OC component. Hence to include OC, we divided the OC mass concentration in to water-soluble OC (WSOC) and water-insoluble OC (WIOC) [38]. Further the default refractive index of water-soluble and insoluble components of the OPAC model were replaced with the refractive index of WSOC and WIOC[39] at 450 and 650 nm.Subsequently the AOD,SSA and ANG for OC was obtained and used in SBDART model to obtain the OC forcing at the surface and Top of the Atmosphere (TOA) and hence in the atmosphere. A detailed methodology for extraction of OC and EC forcing is explained elsewhere[15].

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS :

The monthly variations in EC and OC mass are presented in in Table1. The OC mass varied between  $4.8 \pm 2.2$  to  $29 \pm 9.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  over Pune and  $5 \pm 2.4$  to  $24 \pm 0.97 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  over Hyderabad .The EC mass varied between  $2 \pm 0.7$  to  $11.8 \pm 3.6$  over Pune and  $3.24 \pm 1$  to  $11.18 \pm 4.4$  over Hyderabad. A detailed discussion of measurement methods, variations and basic characteristics for OC and EC over HYD and PUN is provided in [35]. The variations of OC, EC and their source characteristics over HYD and PUN are discussed elsewhere in [35]

**Table 1.** Monthly concentration of OC and EC over PUN and HYD [35]

PUNE (PUN)					HYDERABAD (HYD)			
Month	EC	EC SD	OC	OC SD	OC	OC SD	HYD EC	EC_SD
Oct-10	4.8	1.4	19.0	7.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nov-10	4.5	1.5	15.9	2.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dec-10	10.4	3.4	29.0	9.3	24.1	6.4	11.2	4.4
Jan-11	11.8	3.6	26.4	7.2	19.7	4.1	9.6	4.0
Feb-11	8.9	2.7	21.9	8.3	15.2	4.1	8.9	3.1
Mar-11	8.0	2.3	17.2	4.3	15.2	4.3	7.9	3.3
Apr-11	5.2	1.3	15.4	4.4	16.3	6.0	6.9	2.8
May-11	3.4	1.4	11.0	4.2	14.0	4.9	6.1	2.1
Jun-11	2.2	1.1	7.8	4.2	7.1	2.8	4.1	1.4
Jul-11	2.0	0.7	5.6	3.1	5.1	2.4	3.2	1.0
Aug-11	2.6	0.6	4.8	2.2	NA	NA	NA	NA



Sep-11	3.2	1.4	7.0	3.6	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct-11	7.0	2.9	9.9	3.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nov-11	9.6	3.0	13.9	2.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dec-11	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan-12	10.3	3.8	17.1	7.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Feb-12	9.1	2.6	15.9	4.2	NA	NA	NA	NA

### 3.1 Radiative Forcing of EC and OC over HYD:

The Variation of EC and OC forcing is shown in Fig 1 (a and b) respectively. Over HYD the EC forcings were proportional to EC concentrations. The highest EC forcing at the surface was estimated in the month of December-2010 ( $-28.58 \pm 14.55 \text{ W/m}^2$ ). The corresponding TOA forcing was  $+13.02 \pm 6.62 \text{ W/m}^2$ . As EC concentration were lower in the

month of July-11, the EC Forcings was also less ( $-13.37 \pm 7.57 \text{ W/m}^2$  at the surface and  $6.25 \pm 3.5$  at TOA). OC forcing was less as compared to EC forcing. The highest OC forcing was  $-2.92 \pm 1.48 \text{ W/m}^2$  at the surface and the corresponding TOA was  $-1.2 \pm 0.97 \text{ W/m}^2$  in Dec -2010. The OC forcing varied between  $-2.92 \pm 1.4$  to  $-1.23 \pm 0.97$  over HYD in different months Fig 1b.

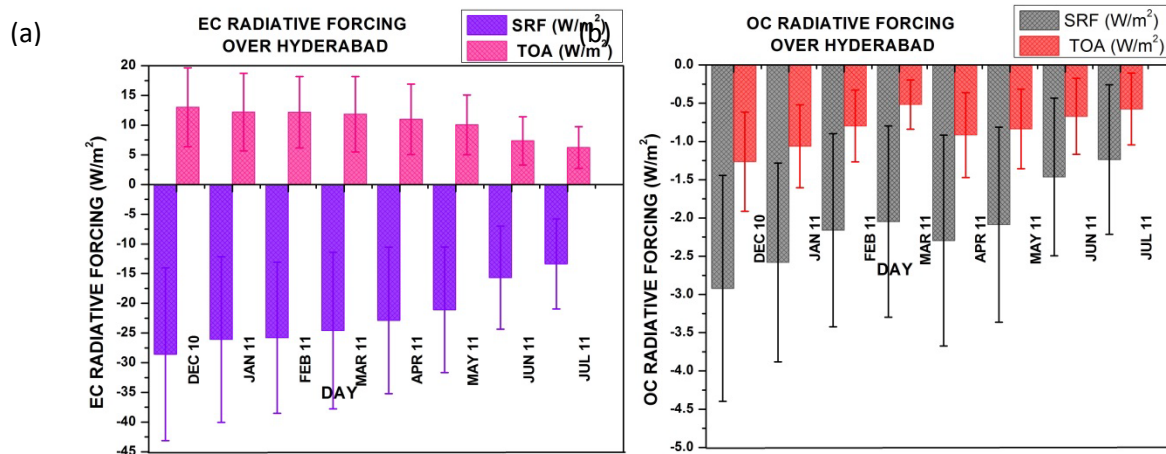


Fig 1 : Radiative Forcing due to EC and OC over HYD

Seasonal variation of radiative forcing due to EC and OC is shown in Fig 2 (a and b) respectively. EC and OC forcings were high in the winter months. The EC forcing in winter season was  $-26.82 \pm 13.74 \text{ W/m}^2$ , and corresponding season

OC forcing was  $-2.5 \pm 1.34 \text{ W/m}^2$  at the surface. The TOA was  $12.5 \pm 6.4 \text{ W/m}^2$  and  $-1.04 \pm 0.55 \text{ W/m}^2$  for EC and OC respectively during the season.

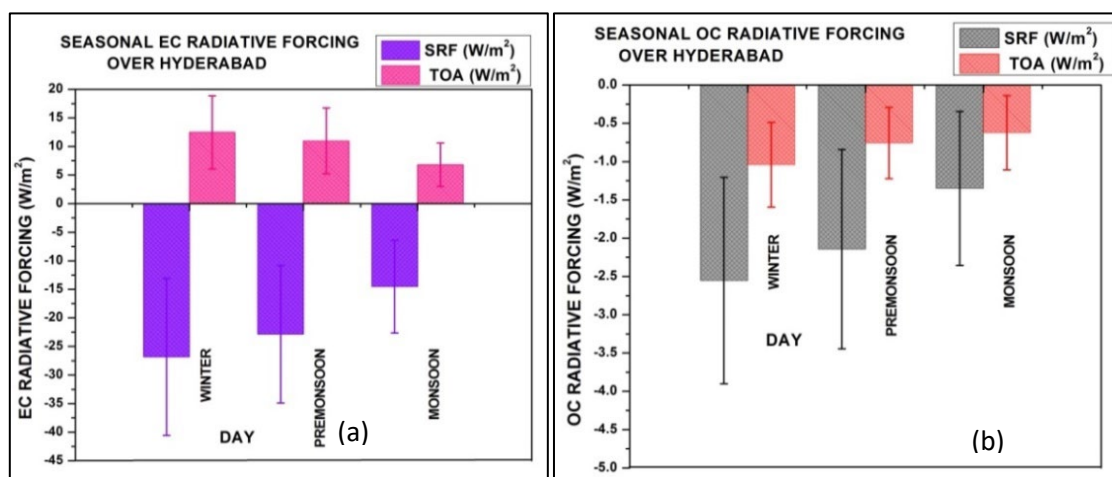


Fig 2 : Seasonal variation of Radiative Forcing due to EC and OC over HYD.

The heating rate was upto  $1.32 \pm 0.7$  K/day due to EC and was  $0.055 \pm 0.027$  K/day due to OC over HYD as shown in Fig 3 (a and b). The net atmospheric forcing was up to

$41.6 \pm 21.2$  W/m<sup>2</sup> and  $1.66 \pm 0.61$  W/m<sup>2</sup> due to EC and OC respectively as depicted in Fig 4 (a and b).

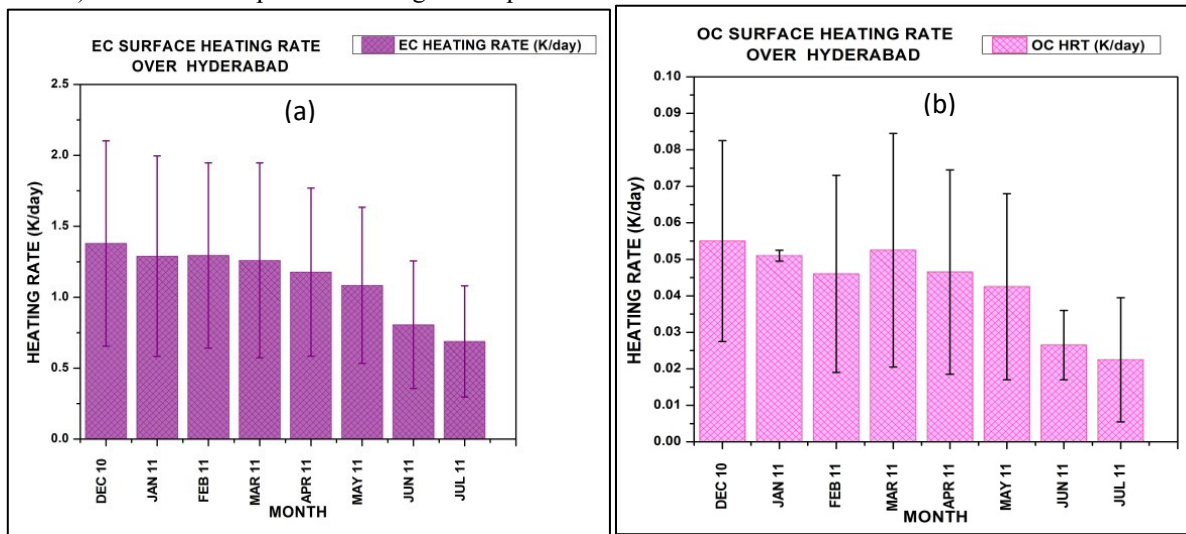


Fig 3 : Monthly variation of Heating rate due to EC and OC over HYD

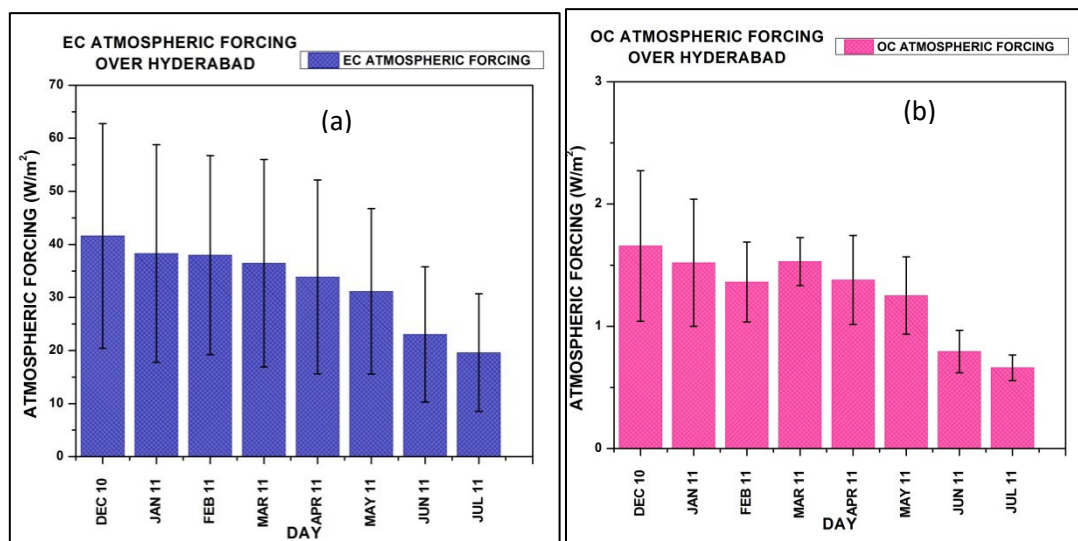


Fig 4 : Atmospheric forcing due to EC and OC over HYD

### 3.2 Radiative Forcing of EC and OC over PUN:

Variation of EC and OC forcing over PUN is shown in Fig 5 (a and b) respectively. Over PUN the EC forcings were high in the months where the EC concentrations were high. The highest EC forcing was estimated in the month of Jan-11 and was  $-39.84 \pm 13.33$  W/m<sup>2</sup> at the surface. The

corresponding TOA was  $18.54 \pm 7.63$  W/m<sup>2</sup>. As the EC concentrations were lower in the month of May-11 the corresponding EC forcings was also less i.e.  $-6.08 \pm 3.46$  W/m<sup>2</sup>. The highest OC forcing was in the same month which was  $-4.4 \pm 2.1$  W/m<sup>2</sup> at the surface and  $-2.24 \pm 0.98$  W/m<sup>2</sup> in TOA.

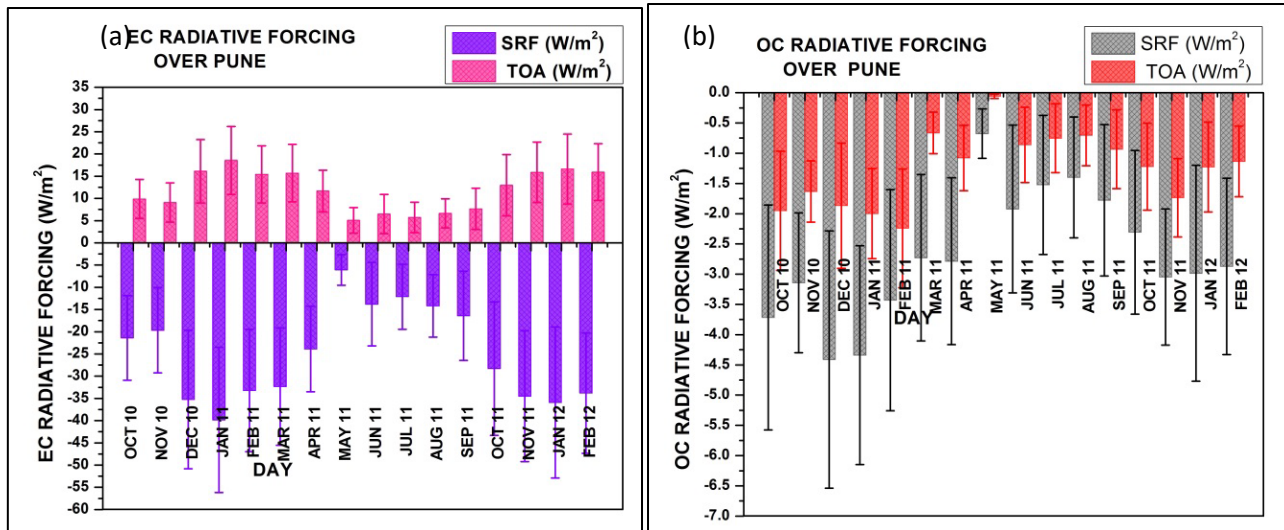


Fig 5 : Radiative Forcing due to EC and OC over PUN

Seasonal variation of radiative forcing due to EC and OC is shown in Fig 6 (a and b) respectively. EC and OC forcings were high in the winter months of 2011 corresponding to the high concentration of EC and OC. The EC forcing in winter-

11 season was  $-36.11 \pm 15.23 \text{ W/m}^2$ , and OC forcing was  $-4.06 \pm 1.52 \text{ W/m}^2$  at the surface. TOA was  $16.69 \pm 7.06 \text{ W/m}^2$  and  $-2.03 \pm 0.92 \text{ W/m}^2$  for EC and OC respectively during the season Fig 6 (a and b).

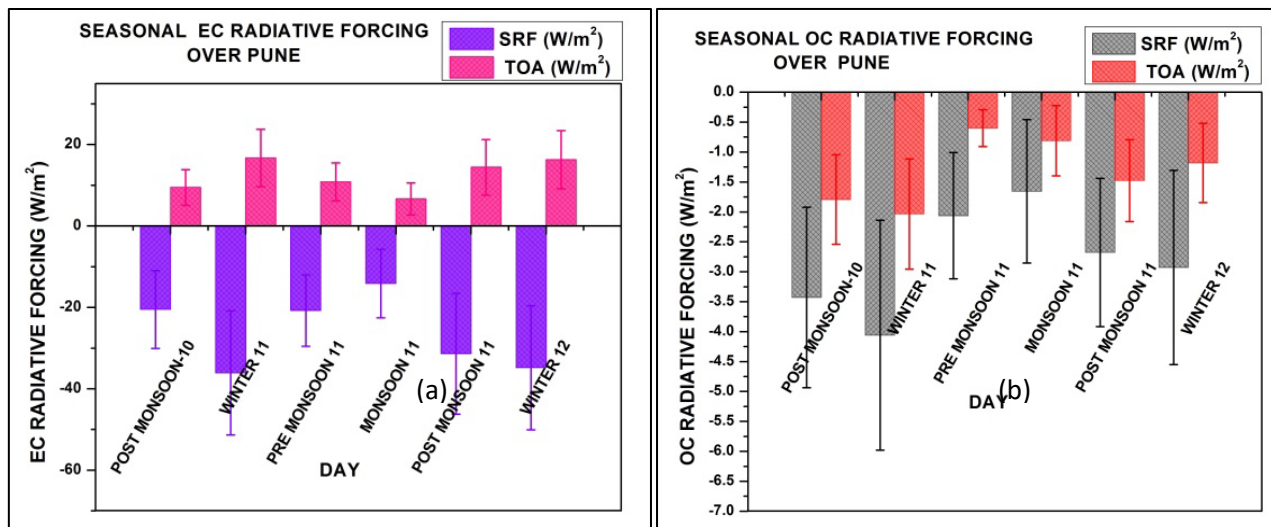


Fig 6 : Seasonal variation of Radiative Forcing due to EC and OC over PUN

The heating rate was upto  $1.91 \pm 0.83 \text{ K/day}$  due to EC and  $0.084 \pm 0.018 \text{ K/day}$  due to OC over PUN as shown in Fig 7 (a and b). The net atmospheric forcing was  $52.52 \pm 24.87$

$\text{W/m}^2$  due to EC and  $2.54 \pm 1.091 \text{ W/m}^2$  due to OC as depicted in Fig 8 (a and b).

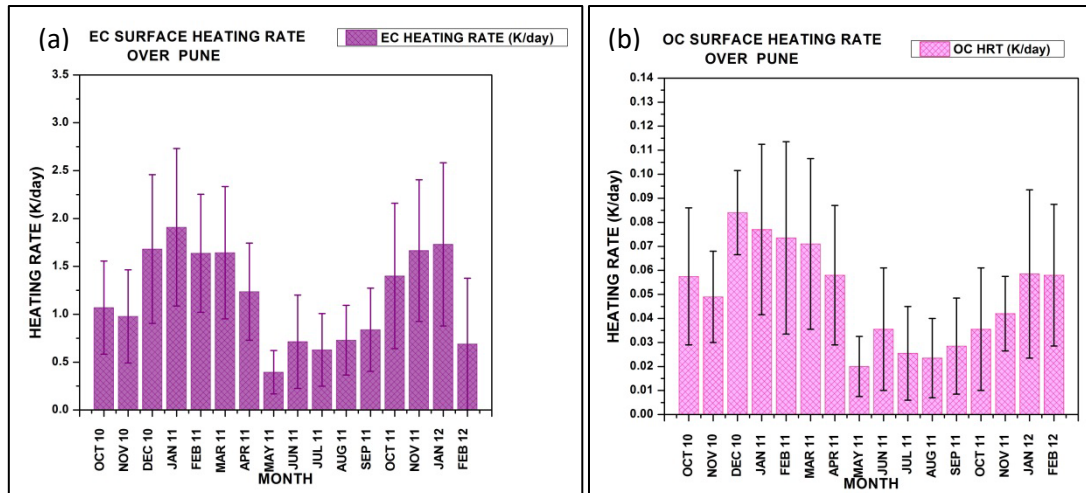


Fig 7 : Monthly variation of heating rate due to EC and OC over PUN

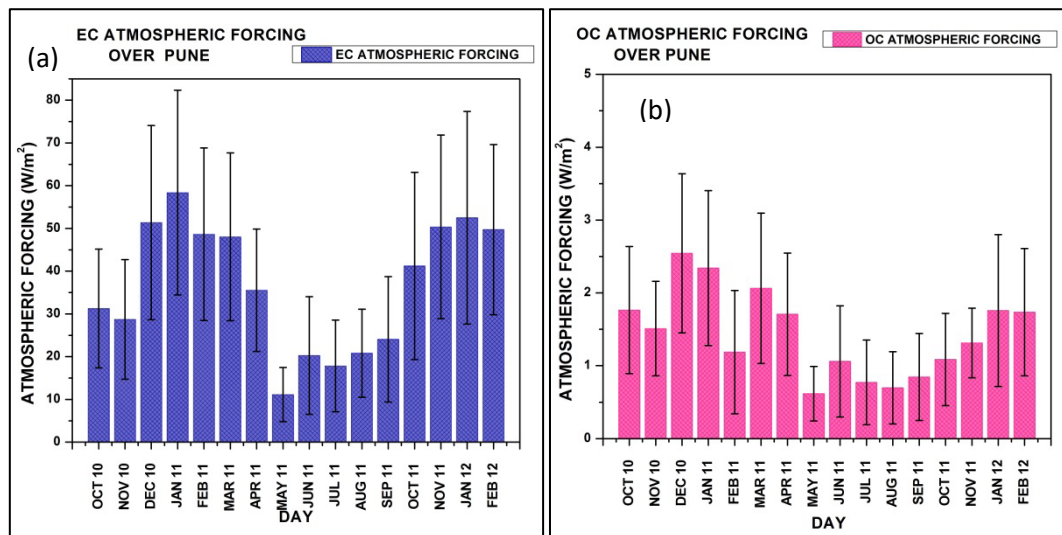


Fig 8 : Atmospheric forcing due to EC and OC over PUN

The study suggests that in spite of high concentration of OC, in the atmosphere, EC exerts high radiative forcing due to its strong absorptive nature[15].

#### IV. SUMMARY

The SRF for EC over HYD ranged from  $-13.36 \pm 7.57$  to  $-28.57 \pm 14.56$   $W/m^2$  and TOA ranged from  $6.25 \pm 3.5$  to  $13.02 \pm 6.62$ . The SRF for EC over PUN ranged from  $-6.08 \pm 3.4$  to  $-39.84 \pm 16.33$   $W/m^2$  TOA ranged from  $5.06 \pm 2.87$  to  $18.54 \pm 7.63$ . The SRF for OC over HYD ranged from  $-5.07 \pm 2.4$  to  $-24.09 \pm 6.38$   $W/m^2$  and TOA ranged from  $-0.575 \pm 0.47$  to  $-1.26 \pm 0.64$ . The SRF for OC over PUN ranged from  $-0.676 \pm 0.41$  to  $-4.41 \pm 2.12$   $W/m^2$  TOA ranged from  $-0.059 \pm 0.036$  to  $-2.24 \pm 0.98$ . The heating rate

over HYD due to EC was estimated to range from  $0.39 \pm 0.23$  to  $1.91 \pm 0.82$  and over PUN due to EC was estimated to range from  $0.68 \pm 0.39$  to  $1.38 \pm 0.72$ . The heating rate over HYD due to OC was estimated to range from  $0.023 \pm 0.017$  to  $0.055 \pm 0.0275$  and over PUN due to OC was estimated to range from  $0.02 \pm 0.013$  to  $0.084 \pm 0.017$ .

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