Eastern Asian emissions of anthropogenic halocarbons deduced from aircraft concentration data

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Abstract

Halocarbons are a class of ozone-depleting gases whose production is banned in developed countries by the Montreal Protocol, and is subject to a series of restrictions in developing countries. Recent aircraft measurements of Asian outflow over the western Pacific (March-April, 2001) offer important constraints for estimating emissions from eastern Asia (China, Japan, and Korea), a region whose consumption of halocarbons is particularly uncertain. We report the first aircraft-deduced emission estimates of selected halocarbons from China, Japan, and Korea. We calculate an eastern Asian carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) source of 18.5 Gg yr⁻¹, considerably larger than previous estimates and a major contributor to the global budget for this gas. Our results for methyl chloroform (CH₃CCl₃) are in general agreement with inventories for 1999 derived from government records, and our emission estimates for CFC-11 and CFC-12 are consistent with those calculated from records of production and consumption. For Halon 1211 we find only a strong local source originating from the Shanghai area. Our emissions result in a 40% increase in ozone depletion potential (ODP) from previous estimates of eastern Asia for the gases studied, amounting to a ~10% global increase in ODP.

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