

ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION IN THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC

by

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The high Arctic pollen sites, studied by the Polar Continental Shelf Project (Bourgeois and others 1985), lie in the region dominated by the cold-core westerly circumpolar vortex which is a unique feature of high Arctic atmospheric circulation. The characteristic slow-moving, or quasi-stationary, cold lows of a non-frontal nature, which extend from the surface to the upper atmosphere, produce moisture and aerosol transport conditions which differ considerably from those to the south over southern Baffin Island and the mainland. The geographical position of the

transition zone separating these two distinct circulation regimes is now under investigation but it appears to pass between Penny Ice Cap and Bylot Island under present-day summer conditions.

REFERENCE

Bourgeois J C, Koerner R M, Alt B T 1985 Airborne pollen: a unique air mass tracer, its influx to the Canadian high Arctic. *Annals of Glaciology* 7: 109-116

SNOW CHEMISTRY ON MOUNT LOGAN, YUKON TERRITORY, CANADA

by

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A firn core was recovered in 1980 from an altitude of 5340 m on Mount Logan (60°36'N, 140°30'W) and dated (± 0.5 a) for the last 30 a by oxygen isotope and artificial radioactivity measurements. We present in this note the results of the chemical analysis of a continuous sequence of this core, 11 m long, cut in 110 individual samples. The time period studied is from 1953 to 1966.

In order to overcome problems of contamination considerable precautions were taken in sample handling and laboratory work. Only the central part of the firn core was melted for chemical analysis. SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , Cl^- , Na^+ and NH_4^+ were determined by ion chromatography and strong acidity by a titrimetric method.

Sea-salt contribution (as indicated by Na^+ concentrations, average value 1.4 ppb) was found to be extremely low. All samples were acidic in the range 1-6

$\mu\text{eq l}^{-1}\text{H}^+$. The mineral acids H_2SO_4 and HNO_3 are the major trace compounds in Mount Logan snow, and occur with about the same concentration (0.9 $\mu\text{eq l}^{-1}$ as an average). Neutralization by NH_3 is generally unimportant (~11% of the total acidity).

Depth profiles of SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , NH_4^+ and H^+ exhibit seasonal patterns with maxima occurring generally in summer. Explosive volcanic eruptions of global concern (such as Mount Agung in 1963 and Bezymianny in 1956) are not recorded. The background acidity of snow at this altitude is assumed to be mainly derived from gaseous S and N tropospheric compounds, possibly of biogenic origin. In particular our data indicate no clear trend related to the increasing atmospheric acid pollution of the northern hemisphere.