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## Kinetics of the reactions of the Criegee intermediate CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water vapour: experimental measurements as a function of temperature and global atmospheric modelling†

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The kinetics of reactions between the simplest Criegee intermediate, CH<sub>2</sub>OO, and water vapour have been investigated at temperatures between 262 and 353 K at a total pressure of 760 Torr using laser flash photolysis of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O mixtures coupled with broadband time-resolved UV absorption spectroscopy. Results indicate that the reaction with water monomers represents a minor contribution to the total loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO under the conditions employed in this work, with an estimated rate coefficient for CH<sub>2</sub>OO + H<sub>2</sub>O (R1) of  $(9.8 \pm 5.9) \times 10^{-17} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K and a temperature dependence described by  $k_1 = (3.2 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-13} \exp(-2410 \pm 270/T) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers, CH<sub>2</sub>OO + (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> (R2), dominates under the conditions employed in this work. The rate coefficient for R2 has been measured to be  $k_2 = (9.5 \pm 2.5) \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K, with a negative temperature dependence described by  $k_2 = (2.85 \pm 0.40) \times 10^{-15} \exp((2420 \pm 340)/T) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , where  $\text{rate}_{\text{R2}} = k_2[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}][(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ . For use in atmospheric models, we recommend description of the kinetics for R2 in terms of the product of the rate coefficient  $k_2$  and the equilibrium constant  $K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$  ( $k_{2,\text{eff}} = k_2 K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$ ) for water dimer formation to allow the rate of reaction to be expressed in terms of water monomer concentration as  $\text{rate}_{\text{R2}} = k_{2,\text{eff}}[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2$  to avoid explicit calculation of dimer concentrations and impacts of differences in values of  $K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$  reported in the literature. Results from this work give  $k_{2,\text{eff}} = (1.96 \pm 0.51) \times 10^{-32} \text{ cm}^6 \text{ molecule}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K with a temperature dependence described by  $k_{2,\text{eff}} = (2.78 \pm 0.28) \times 10^{-38} \exp((4010 \pm 400)/T) \text{ cm}^6 \text{ molecule}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . No significant impacts of a reaction between CH<sub>2</sub>OO and three water molecules were observed in this work, potentially as a result of the relative humidities used in this work (up to 57% at 298 K). Atmospheric implications of the results have been investigated using the global chemistry transport model GEOS-Chem. Model simulations indicate that the reaction with water dimers dominates the loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the atmosphere and limits the impacts of other reactions of CH<sub>2</sub>OO, with the reaction with water dimers representing >98% of the total loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the troposphere.

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### Environmental significance

Criegee intermediates are key species in atmospheric chemistry, produced following the ozonolysis of unsaturated volatile organic compounds. The chemistry of Criegee intermediates influences atmospheric composition, and as a consequence, air quality and climate. The reactions of the simplest Criegee intermediate CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water monomers and dimers are expected to dominate its atmospheric chemistry, but there have been few experimental studies over a range of conditions relevant to the atmosphere. In our work we have performed a detailed experimental study of the kinetics of CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions with water monomers and dimers over a wide range of temperatures relevant to the atmosphere, with atmospheric impacts of the reactions determined using the global chemistry transport model GEOS-Chem.

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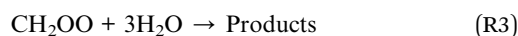
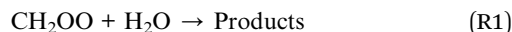
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† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Hygrometer calibration and measurements of water vapour; description of the instrument response function; mixed-order analysis; concentration–time profiles for CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> and IO; description of the analysis in terms of  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  and use of literature values for  $K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$ ; investigation of the potential reaction between CH<sub>2</sub>OO and three water molecules; experimental uncertainties; comparison of global and local fit results for  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$ ; comparison of observations with previous work; values for  $k_1$  and  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  used in GEOS-Chem simulations; summary of experimental data. See DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1039/d4ea00097h>



## Introduction

Criegee intermediates (CIs) are reactive zwitterionic species with the general formula  $R_1R_2COO$  produced in the atmosphere following the ozonolysis of unsaturated volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Ozonolysis reactions are typically exothermic by  $\sim 250\text{--}300\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , producing CIs with high internal energies.<sup>1</sup> The nascent CI may undergo unimolecular decomposition to form important trace species such as OH, HO<sub>2</sub> and CO,<sup>2</sup> or stabilisation through collisional energy transfer with surrounding gas molecules to form stabilised Criegee intermediates (SCIs). SCIs have longer atmospheric lifetimes than the nascent excited CIs, allowing them to participate in a wide range of chemical reactions. Bimolecular reactions of SCIs with water vapour<sup>3,4</sup> and SO<sub>2</sub><sup>5,6</sup> are of particular interest as they have the potential to impact atmospheric budgets of secondary organic aerosols (SOA), gas phase sulfuric acid, and sulfate aerosol, thereby influencing air quality and climate. Reaction with water vapour is expected to dominate the atmospheric chemistry of the simplest SCI, CH<sub>2</sub>OO, but there is uncertainty over the role of reactions involving water monomers (H<sub>2</sub>O, R1), water dimers ((H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>, R2), or potentially three water molecules (likely *via* CH<sub>2</sub>OO·H<sub>2</sub>O + (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>OO·(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O, represented as CH<sub>2</sub>OO + 3H<sub>2</sub>O in R3) with a wide range of values reported for the kinetics of R1 and R2<sup>7–10</sup> and significant uncertainties regarding the products and product yields.<sup>11–15</sup>



The development of photolytic precursors for the production of Criegee intermediates,<sup>16,17</sup> including CH<sub>2</sub>OO,<sup>18,19</sup> has led to the development of direct detection techniques for Criegee intermediates and improvements in our understanding of the reaction kinetics of a number of Criegee intermediate reactions relevant to the atmosphere.<sup>5,20,21</sup> Welz *et al.*<sup>18</sup> produced CH<sub>2</sub>OO following the 248 nm laser flash photolysis of diiodomethane, CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>, and investigated its potential reaction with water vapour, using tuneable VUV synchrotron photoionisation mass spectrometry (PIMS), at a total pressure of 4 Torr. Welz *et al.* observed no significant change in the decay of CH<sub>2</sub>OO on addition of water vapour at concentrations up to  $3.1 \times 10^{16}$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, leading to the conclusion of an upper limit for  $k_1$  of  $4 \times 10^{-15}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K. A subsequent study by Ouyang *et al.*<sup>22</sup> examined the impact of water vapour on the production of NO<sub>3</sub> following the 248 nm photolysis of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-NO<sub>2</sub> mixtures, based on the assumption that NO<sub>3</sub> was produced *via* CH<sub>2</sub>OO + NO<sub>2</sub>, which suggested a reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water vapour. However, a number of studies have since indicated that NO<sub>3</sub> is produced *via* secondary chemistry in the system,<sup>4,23</sup> leading to uncertainty in the result.

Photolytic production of CH<sub>2</sub>OO was also used by Stone *et al.*<sup>5</sup> in a series of experiments monitoring the production of formaldehyde, HCHO, from CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions *via* laser-induced

fluorescence (LIF) spectroscopy. No significant change in the rate of HCHO production was observed on addition of water vapour at concentrations up to  $1.7 \times 10^{17}$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup> at a total pressure of 200 Torr, with a small change in HCHO yield attributed to fluorescence quenching by water and results indicating an upper limit of  $9 \times 10^{-17}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for  $k_1$  at 295 K.

The effects of water vapour on CH<sub>2</sub>OO chemistry have also been investigated in studies of ozonolysis reactions through the competition with the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with SO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>7,8</sup> Berndt *et al.*<sup>3</sup> monitored the production of sulfuric acid, which is produced rapidly following the production of SO<sub>3</sub> *via* CH<sub>2</sub>OO + SO<sub>2</sub>,<sup>24–26</sup> during ethene ozonolysis experiments conducted in a flow tube at 293 K over a range of water vapour concentrations. A quadratic relationship was observed between the rate coefficient describing the loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO and the water monomer concentration, with a linear relationship demonstrated with the concentration of water dimers, (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>, indicating that the dominant reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO was with water dimers (R2) rather than water monomers (R1). Berndt *et al.* reported a value of  $k_2 = (1.07 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. Later work by Berndt *et al.*<sup>27</sup> investigated the kinetics of CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions in the presence of water vapour using a free-jet flow system at 297 K by detecting H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> formed following the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with SO<sub>2</sub>, and reported  $k_1 = (3.2 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-16}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. Newland *et al.*<sup>10</sup> also investigated the impact of water vapour on CH<sub>2</sub>OO + SO<sub>2</sub> by monitoring the consumption of SO<sub>2</sub> in ethene ozonolysis experiments at the EUPHORE atmospheric simulation chamber, with results also indicating a more rapid reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers than water monomers and giving  $k_1 = (1.2 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-15}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and  $k_2 = (5.2 \pm 6.7) \times 10^{-13}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K using the current IUPAC recommendation of  $3.7 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for the rate coefficient for the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with SO<sub>2</sub>.

Direct measurements of CH<sub>2</sub>OO have also been made in the presence of excess water vapour using laser flash photolysis of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O mixtures coupled with time-resolved broadband UV absorption spectroscopy.<sup>15,28</sup> Results from several studies have now demonstrated a quadratic dependence of the pseudo-first-order rate coefficient describing the loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO on the water vapour concentration<sup>4,15,28,29</sup> thus also indicating that the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers dominates over reaction with water monomers. Lewis *et al.*<sup>4</sup> reported a rate coefficient for reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers of  $(4.0 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 294 K, with no significant dependence on pressure in the range 50 to 400 Torr. Chao *et al.*<sup>28</sup> reported a value for  $k_2$  of  $(6.5 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K that also showed no significant dependence on pressure between 100 and 500 Torr.

The temperature dependence of  $k_2$  was subsequently investigated by Smith *et al.*<sup>29</sup> using UV absorption spectroscopy between 283 and 324 K, with results giving  $k_2 = (7.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K, in agreement with the work of Chao *et al.*,<sup>28</sup> and a negative temperature dependence.<sup>30</sup> Further experiments have been performed using UV absorption spectroscopy by Wu *et al.*<sup>31</sup> at temperatures between 290 and 346 K, which showed high precision in measurements of water



vapour concentrations and CH<sub>2</sub>OO signal and led to the conclusion that observed kinetics of CH<sub>2</sub>OO removal in the presence of water vapour result from a combination of reactions involving one, two, or three water molecules. Experiments by Wu *et al.* were carried out at higher relative humidities than those employed in other studies, reaching close to 100% at each temperature investigated, and Wu *et al.* reported that the measurements at the highest relative humidities correspond to reaction with three water molecules, most likely involving CH<sub>2</sub>OO·H<sub>2</sub>O + (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>OO·(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O rather than a direct reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water trimers ((H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>), while experiments at low relative humidity provided information relating to the reaction with the water monomer. Wu *et al.* reported a positive temperature dependence for the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with the water monomer, and a negative temperature dependence for the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers that is in broad agreement with the behaviour observed by Smith *et al.*<sup>29</sup> The reaction involving three water molecules also displayed a negative temperature dependence, with results indicating that this reaction could play an important role at high relative humidities at temperatures of 298 K and below.

There is a growing consensus that chemistry of CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the presence of water vapour is rapid, with a significant role for a reaction with water dimers, which, despite low water dimer concentrations ( $3.0 \times 10^{14}$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup> for a relative humidity of 50% at 298 K) compared to water monomers in the atmosphere, is likely to dominate atmospheric losses of CH<sub>2</sub>OO. Although the study by Welz *et al.*<sup>18</sup> did not observe any evidence for the reaction between CH<sub>2</sub>OO and water dimers, the water dimer concentrations at the low pressure (4 Torr) used by Welz *et al.* would have limited the impact of the reaction. The HCHO LIF experiments performed by Stone *et al.*<sup>5</sup> did enable the use of higher water vapour concentrations, and thus significant water dimer concentrations. However, the impact of water vapour on production of HCHO may have been limited if HCHO is not a direct product of CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions with water, and the reduction in HCHO signal which was attributed to quenching may have resulted from the production of other products. Product studies in ozonolysis reactions have reported the formation of HCHO, among other potential products,<sup>13,32</sup> but more recent time-resolved product measurements, using laser flash photolysis of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> in the presence of water vapour, have observed the production of hydroxymethyl hydroperoxide (HOCH<sub>2</sub>OOH, HMHP) by rotational spectroscopy<sup>33</sup> and PIMS,<sup>15</sup> with the PIMS study indicating HMHP as the dominant product of R1 and R2.<sup>15</sup> Theory<sup>34-44</sup> has also indicated that HMHP is a major product of R1 and R2, and supports the experimental results which suggest the dominant reaction is with water dimers. Subsequent chemistry of HMHP can lead to the production of formic acid (HCOOH), H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and HCHO, which has been investigated by Nguyen *et al.*<sup>13</sup> using measurements made in an atmospheric simulation chamber at 295 K and 1 atm at relative humidities between 4 and 76%. Measurements of HCHO, OH and HO<sub>2</sub> were made in the chamber using LIF spectroscopy,<sup>45</sup> while hydroperoxides (such as HMHP) and acids (such as HCOOH) were measured by chemical ionisation mass spectrometry (CIMS). At relative

humidities below ~40%, HMHP was observed to be the dominant product, followed by HCOOH and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. However, at relative humidities above ~40%, Nguyen *et al.* observed a significant decrease in the yield of HMHP, accompanied by an increase in the yield of HCOOH. Modelling of the observed yields for HMHP and HCOOH led to the conclusion that R1 leads to production of 73% HMHP, 21% HCOOH + H<sub>2</sub>O, and 6% HCHO + H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, while R2 leads to production of 54% HCOOH + H<sub>2</sub>O, 40% HMHP, and 6% HCHO + H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The product distribution reported by Nguyen *et al.* forms the basis of the current mechanism adopted in the global atmospheric chemistry transport model (CTM) GEOS-Chem.

There is general agreement regarding the atmospheric significance of CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions involving water, but there are discrepancies in product distributions and measured kinetics at room temperature, and the temperature dependence of the kinetics has only been investigated over a relatively narrow temperature range. In this work we report the results of experiments performed using laser flash photolysis of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O mixtures coupled with time-resolved broadband UV absorption spectroscopy at temperatures in the range 262 to 353 K at 760 Torr. We also report atmospheric implications of the experimental results based on GEOS-Chem model simulations of CH<sub>2</sub>OO chemistry.

## Experimental

The kinetics of CH<sub>2</sub>OO loss in the presence of water vapour have been studied as a function of temperature between 262 and 353 K at 760 Torr, using laser flash photolysis of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O gas mixtures coupled with time-resolved broadband UV absorption spectroscopy. The experimental apparatus has been described in detail previously<sup>21,46</sup> and so only a brief overview is given here.

Gases (N<sub>2</sub> (BOC, 99.998%) and O<sub>2</sub> (BOC, 99.5%)) were mixed in a gas manifold at known concentrations using calibrated mass flow controllers (MFCs). Water vapour was added to the system by passing a known flow of N<sub>2</sub> gas through a bubbler containing deionised water held in a water bath at 70 °C. The concentration of water vapour was measured at the exit of the reaction cell by a relative humidity (RH) probe (Michell Instruments PCMini52) that was calibrated against a dew point hygrometer (Buck Research Instruments, CR-4 chilled mirror hygrometer) (see ESI† for further details). The precursor CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> (Alfa Aesar, 99%) was introduced into the gas mixture by flowing a fraction of the N<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O flow over liquid CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> contained in a bubbler before combining with the remaining N<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O flow and passing the gas mixture into the reaction cell. The concentration of CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> in the gas mixture could be controlled by a needle valve placed before the bubbler and was determined experimentally by measuring the UV intensity transmitted through the cell in experiments with and without CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> present in the gas mixture flowing through the cell. Experiments were performed under pseudo-first-order conditions. Initial concentrations were: [H<sub>2</sub>O] = (0–5.5) × 10<sup>17</sup> molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, [CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>] = (3.8–6.4) × 10<sup>13</sup> molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, and [O<sub>2</sub>] = (1.2–2.7) × 10<sup>18</sup> molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>.



The reaction cell was a 100 cm long jacketed glass tube with an inner diameter of 3 cm and fused silica windows at both ends. Experiments were carried out at temperatures between 262 and 353 K, with the temperature of the system controlled by circulating a thermofluid (HUBE6479 DW-THERM) from a thermoregulator (Huber Unistat 360) through the outer jacket of the cell. The temperature of the system was calibrated by flowing  $N_2$  through the reaction cell, under conditions identical to those used in kinetic experiments, and measuring the temperature using a K-type thermocouple at 5 cm increments along the length of the reaction cell.<sup>20</sup> The total flow rate in the cell was 3700 sccm (standard  $cm^3 min^{-1}$ ), giving a residence time in the cell of 13.1 s, with relatively slow flows required in order to maximise saturation of the gas flow as it passed through the water bubbler. Experiments were performed at a total pressure of 760 Torr, which was controlled by throttling the exit of the cell to the pump and measured by a capacitance manometer (MKS instruments).

Chemistry was initiated using an excimer laser (KrF, Lambda-Physik CompEx 210) operating at a wavelength of 248 nm with a typical laser fluence of  $15\text{--}25\text{ mJ cm}^{-2}$ , giving initial  $CH_2OO$  concentrations in the range  $(2.0\text{--}8.3) \times 10^{11}$  molecule  $cm^{-3}$ . The pulse repetition rate was set at 0.075 Hz to ensure there was enough time for a fresh gas mixture to be introduced to the reaction cell before the laser fired again.

UV light for the absorption measurements was provided by a laser-driven light source (LDLS, Energetiq EQ-99X) that provided  $\sim 10\text{ mW cm}^{-2}$  of light at wavelengths between 200 and 800 nm. The light was collimated using an off-axis parabolic mirror (ThorLabs MPD129-F01 UV enhanced aluminium) and multi-passed nine times through the reaction cell by ten Al mirrors (Knight optical MCQ1200-C concave mirror UV enhanced, reflectivity  $>85\%$  in the UV), each of 12 mm diameter, which were positioned outside the windows of the cell on a custom mirror mount.<sup>46</sup> Each mirror in the multipass arrangement could be adjusted to align the probe beam such that there is maximum overlap with the 248 nm excimer beam, giving a total effective path length of  $l = (595 \pm 53)$  cm (details regarding the determination of the effective path length are described in our previous work<sup>20</sup>).

In order to reduce the detection of scattered light from the photolysis laser, the probe beam exiting the cell was passed through a sharp cut-on filter (RazorEdge ultrasteep long-pass edge filter 248 nm), which effectively blocks light at wavelengths below 250 nm, and focussed onto a fibre optic. The fibre optic directed light through a  $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  slit onto a spectrograph with a diffraction grating of  $600\text{ grooves mm}^{-1}$  (Princeton Instruments, FER-GRT-060-500) which imaged the light onto a charge-coupled device (CCD) (Princeton Instruments, FER-SCI-1024BRX) detector with a spectral resolution (full width half maximum (FWHM)) of 1.1 nm. The CCD was cooled to  $-45\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  by a Peltier device to reduce the effects of dark current, and, prior to the start of experiments, a background spectrum was also measured to account for any remaining dark current on the device.

Light was imaged onto ten of rows on the CCD and transferred at specified time intervals either directly to the PC for

analysis for measurements of stable gas mixtures, or onto a storage region on the CCD for time resolved measurements before transfer to the PC for analysis. The typical time resolution of kinetic experiments ranged between  $70\text{ }\mu\text{s}$  and  $165\text{ }\mu\text{s}$  (typically much shorter than the ms timescale of the kinetic decays), with the measurement and transfer to the storage region on the CCD leading to a Gaussian instrument response function (IRF) that has been described in previous work<sup>21</sup> and was accounted for during data analysis. The intensity data for time-resolved experiments were typically averaged over 125 photolysis shots, with the time delay between the operation of the camera and the firing of the excimer laser controlled by a delay generator (SRS model DG 535).

The absorbance,  $A_{\lambda,t}$ , was determined for each wavelength  $\lambda$  and time point  $t$  from the measured intensities using the Beer-Lambert Law (eqn (1)):

$$A_{\lambda,t} = \ln\left(\frac{I_{\lambda,0}}{I_{\lambda,t}}\right) = \sum_i \sigma_{i,\lambda}[i]_t l \quad (1)$$

where  $I_{\lambda,0}$  is the average intensity at wavelength  $\lambda$  before photolysis ( $t = 0$ ),  $I_{\lambda,t}$  is the intensity at wavelength  $\lambda$  at time  $t$ ,  $\sigma_{i,\lambda}$  is the absorption cross-section of species  $i$  at wavelength  $\lambda$ ,  $[i]_t$  is the concentration of species  $i$  at time  $t$ , and  $l$  is the effective path length of light ( $(595 \pm 53)$  cm in this work).

Fig. 1 shows a typical absorbance spectrum observed following photolysis, which contains contributions from the Criegee intermediate,  $CH_2OO$ , the  $CH_2I_2$  precursor (which exhibits a negative absorbance owing to depletion on photolysis), and iodine monoxide (IO) radicals which are produced in the system as a result of secondary chemistry.<sup>21,49</sup> Reference spectra for  $CH_2OO$ ,<sup>21</sup>  $CH_2I_2$ <sup>47</sup> and  $IO$ <sup>48</sup> were interpolated onto the experimental wavelength grid and least squares fit to the total observed absorbance using eqn (1) to determine the concentration of each species at each time point. Fig. 1 also

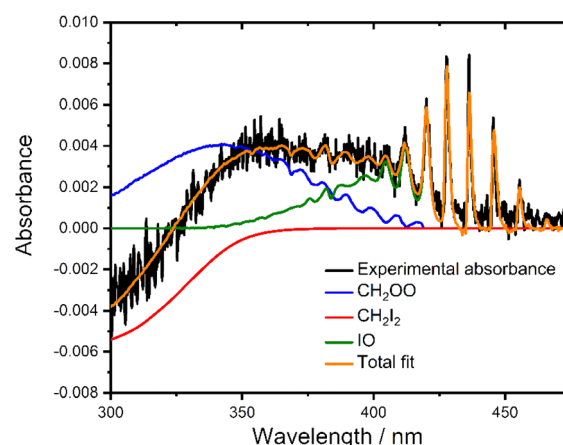


Fig. 1 Observed absorbance (black), total fit (orange) and individual contributions of  $CH_2OO$ <sup>21</sup> (blue),  $CH_2I_2$ <sup>47</sup> (red) and  $IO$ <sup>48</sup> (green) obtained by performing a least squares fit of reference cross-sections to the observed absorbance at  $t = 1$  ms after photolysis at  $p = 760$  Torr and  $T = 298$  K with  $[CH_2I_2]_0 = 4.1 \times 10^{13}$  molecule  $cm^{-3}$ .  $[CH_2OO]_t = 6.4 \times 10^{11}$  molecule  $cm^{-3}$ ,  $\Delta[CH_2I_2]_t = -3.8 \times 10^{12}$  molecule  $cm^{-3}$  and  $[IO]_t = 7.3 \times 10^{11}$  molecule  $cm^{-3}$ .



shows a typical fit to the observed absorbance following photolysis.

## Results

Fig. 2 shows typical concentration–time profiles for CH<sub>2</sub>OO for a range of water vapour concentrations, demonstrating a more rapid loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO as the water vapour concentration is increased. Experiments were performed under pseudo-first-order conditions, with water vapour concentrations in excess over CH<sub>2</sub>OO, and the temporal behaviour of CH<sub>2</sub>OO thus described by eqn (2).

$$[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}]_t = [\text{CH}_2\text{OO}]_0 \exp(-k't) \quad (2)$$

where  $k'$  represents the sum of the first-order, or pseudo-first-order, rate coefficients describing the loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO. Eqn (2), convoluted with the instrument response function (see ESI† for further details), was fit to concentration–time profiles to determine  $k'$ . Losses in the absence of water, which are dominated by the CH<sub>2</sub>OO self-reaction,<sup>21</sup> and reactions with IO<sup>21</sup> or iodine atoms,<sup>21</sup> are approximated as being first-order in this work.<sup>20,28,29</sup> Results are shown in Fig. 2, with the fit quality indicating that the data are well-described by pseudo-first-order kinetics. In addition, data were also analysed with a mixed first- and second-order model (see ESI† for further details). No significant differences between the first-order component obtained from the mixed-order model and those obtained from the pseudo-first-order model (eqn (2)) in the presence of water vapour were found, suggesting that the approximation of losses in the absence of water vapour as being first-order is valid for the conditions employed in this work.

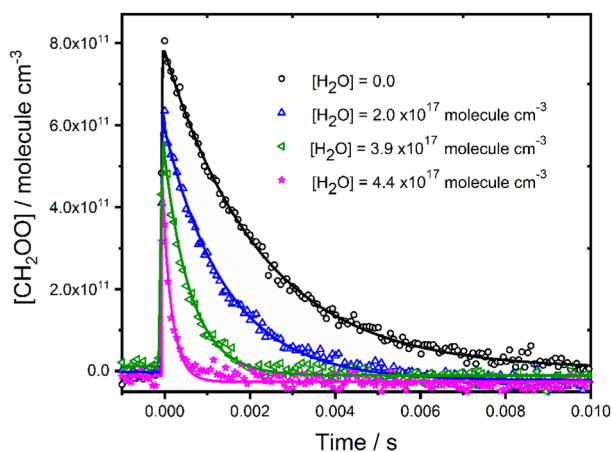


Fig. 2 Concentration–time profiles for CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the presence and absence of water vapour at  $p = 760$  Torr and  $T = 298$  K. Solid lines represent unweighted fits to eqn (2) convoluted with the instrument response function. For  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}] = 0$ , the fit gave  $[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}]_0 = 8.3 \times 10^{11}$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  and  $k' = (313 \pm 7) \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; for  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}] = 2.0 \times 10^{17}$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ , the fit gave  $[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}]_0 = 6.6 \times 10^{11}$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  and  $k' = (1247 \pm 37) \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; for  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}] = 3.9 \times 10^{17}$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ , the fit gave  $[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}]_0 = 5.8 \times 10^{11}$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  and  $k' = (2669 \pm 120) \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; for  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}] = 4.4 \times 10^{17}$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ , the fit gave  $[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}]_0 = 5.7 \times 10^{11}$  molecule  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  and  $k' = (3722 \pm 245) \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Fig. 3 shows that there is a non-linear dependence of the observed pseudo-first-order rate coefficients ( $k'$ ), obtained by fitting with eqn (2), on the water vapour concentration. Similar behaviour has been observed in previous work, with the non-linear dependence attributed to reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers (R2)<sup>3,4,10,15,28,31,50</sup> or a reaction involving three water molecules (R3)<sup>31</sup> dominating over the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water monomers (R1). For a system involving reactions R1, R2, and R3, the observed pseudo-first-order rate coefficients  $k'$  are given by eqn (3):

$$k' = k_0 + k'_1 + k'_2 + k'_3 \quad (3)$$

where the rate coefficient  $k_0$  refers to the loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the absence of water (which is approximated here as being pseudo-first-order, see ESI†) and  $k'_1$ ,  $k'_2$ , and  $k'_3$  are the pseudo-first-order rate coefficients for R1, R2, and R3, respectively. We define  $k_2$  as the bimolecular rate coefficient for R2, which involves explicit calculation of the dimer concentration in  $\text{rate}_{\text{R2}} = k_2[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}][(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , and  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  as an effective rate coefficient given by the product of  $k_2$  and the equilibrium constant for dimer formation ( $K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$ ), such that  $\text{rate}_{\text{R2}} = k_2 K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2 = k_{2,\text{eff}}[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2$ . This removes the need for explicit calculation of the water dimer concentration and allows for simpler parameterisation of the kinetics for use in atmospheric models which relies only on the monomer concentration. For R3, we define  $k_{3,\text{eff}}$  such that  $\text{rate}_{\text{R3}} = k_{3,\text{eff}}[\text{CH}_2\text{OO}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^3$  which removes need for knowledge of the exact reaction mechanism, *i.e.* whether the reaction proceeds *via*  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O} + (\text{H}_2\text{O})_2$  or  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO} \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The quadratic and cubic relationships with water monomer concentrations for R2 and R3, respectively, lead to the potential for the observed non-linear dependence of  $k'$  on the water monomer concentration.

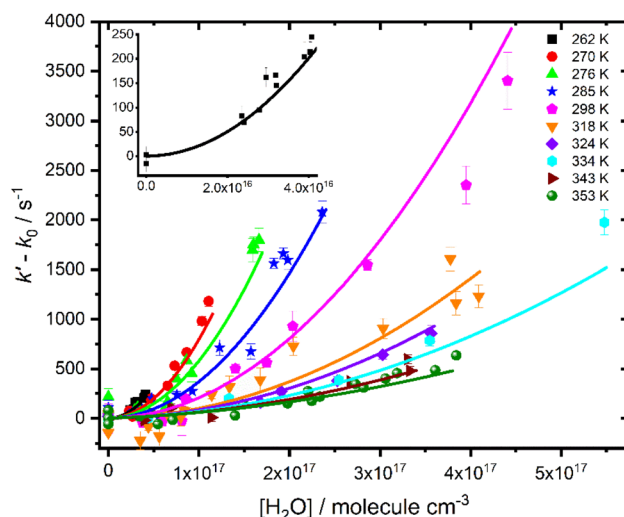
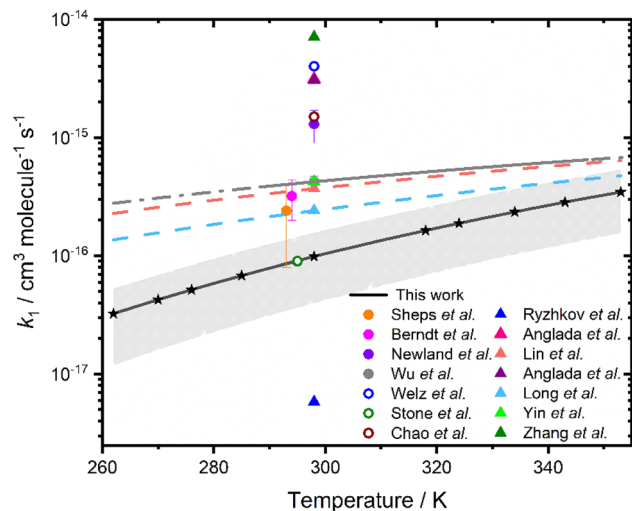


Fig. 3 Pseudo-first-order rate coefficients as a function of water monomer concentration for experiments carried out at 760 Torr and temperatures between 262 and 353 K. The solid lines represent an unweighted global fit to eqn (3). The error bars represent the error in the fits to eqn (2). The inset shows data from experiments carried out at 262 K for clarity. Data for each temperature are shown separately in the ESI.†





**Fig. 4** Rate coefficients  $k_1$  as a function of temperature. The global fit to results obtained in this work is shown by the solid black line, with uncertainties determined from a combination of the statistical error and the systematic errors resulting from uncertainties in gas flow rates and in the concentration of  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  shown by the shaded region. Stars represent the temperatures at which measurements were made. Results from previous studies are also included, where filled circles represent experimentally measured rate coefficients,<sup>10,15,27,31</sup> hollow circles represent experimentally determined upper limits,<sup>5,18,28</sup> and triangles represent rate coefficients calculated from theory.<sup>34–38,41,44</sup> The solid grey line shows the data reported by Wu *et al.*,<sup>31</sup> with the dashed grey line showing the extrapolation of the data reported by Wu *et al.* over the temperature range investigated in this work. The coral and light blue dashed lines are the parameterisations calculated by Lin *et al.*<sup>38</sup> and Long *et al.*,<sup>41</sup> respectively.

Fits to results for  $k'$  were performed over all relative humidities and temperatures studied in this work, with  $k_1$ ,  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  and  $k_{3,\text{eff}}$  described by Arrhenius expressions in which  $A$  and  $E_a$  were treated as global parameters for each reaction. However, the fits were insensitive to  $k_{3,\text{eff}}$ , indicating that losses of  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  owing to reaction with three water molecules were not significant under the conditions employed in this work. Subsequent fits to the data were performed to determine  $k_0$ ,  $k_1$ , and  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$ , with  $k_{3,\text{eff}}$  set to zero. Further details regarding analysis of the

possible reaction involving three water molecules are given in the ESI.†

Fig. 3 shows the fit results for  $k'$ , which gave  $k_1 = (3.2 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-13} \exp(-2410 \pm 270/T) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $k_{2,\text{eff}} = (2.78 \pm 0.28) \times 10^{-38} \exp((4010 \pm 400)/T) \text{ cm}^6 \text{ molecule}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , where uncertainties represent a combination of the statistical error and the systematic errors resulting from uncertainties in relative humidity measurements and gas flow rates (see ESI†). Results for  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  correspond to  $k_2 = (2.85 \pm 0.40) \times 10^{-15} \exp((2417 \pm 338)/T) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  using the temperature-dependent equilibrium constant for water dimer formation ( $K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$ ), and associated uncertainties, reported by Ruscic *et al.*<sup>51</sup> The results are consistent with suggestions made in previous work<sup>3,4,10,15,28,29</sup> that the dominant loss of  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  in the presence of water vapour occurs *via* reaction with water dimers (R2). No significant differences were obtained in results for kinetics of R2 between global fits over all conditions and local fits to kinetics at each temperature (see ESI†). The reaction of  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  with water monomers (R1) was a minor contribution to the total loss of  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  for all conditions employed in this work, with results for  $k_1$  primarily defined by experiments performed at temperatures of 324 K and above. The kinetics of R1 were thus less well defined than those for R2, which represented the major contribution to the total  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  loss at high relative humidities at all temperatures, and results for  $k_1$  should be considered as estimates owing to the challenges associated with separating the impacts of  $k_0$  and  $k_1$ .

Fig. 4 compares the results for  $k_1$  obtained in this study with measurements, upper limits based on experimental observations, and theoretical calculations reported in previous work, with experimental results at  $\sim 298$  K summarised in Table 1. Results for  $k_1$  obtained in this work are systematically lower than those measured previously, but are consistent with the prediction of a positive barrier to reaction,<sup>34–42</sup> and are in agreement with calculated values of  $k_1$  reported by Long *et al.*<sup>43</sup> at temperatures above 324 K, where results obtained in this work are more reliable. Previous direct experimental measurements of  $k_1$ <sup>15,27,31</sup> at  $\sim 298$  K, range between  $(2.4 \pm 1.6) \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ <sup>15</sup> and  $(4.2 \pm 1.6) \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,<sup>31</sup> compared to the value of  $(9.8 \pm 5.9) \times 10^{-17} \text{ cm}^3$

**Table 1** Comparison between  $k_1$  values obtained at room temperature in this work and in previous literature.<sup>5,10,15,18,27,28,31</sup> LFP = laser flash photolysis, PIMS = photoionisation mass spectrometry, CI-API-TOF-MS = chemical ionisation-atmospheric pressure interface-time-of-flight mass spectrometry, UV abs = ultraviolet absorption, RR = relative rate study. The  $k_1$  value in the base model described in the Atmospheric implications section was  $1.7 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K<sup>15</sup> and the  $k_1$  value in the first set of model updates was  $2.8 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K<sup>30</sup>

$T/\text{K}$	$p/\text{Torr}$	Experimental technique	$k_1/10^{-17} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	Reference
298	4	LFP/PIMS	$\leq 400$	Welz <i>et al.</i> <sup>18</sup>
295	200	LFP/LIF	$\leq 9$	Stone <i>et al.</i> <sup>5</sup>
297	760	Ozonolysis/CI-API-TOF-MS	$32 \pm 12$	Berndt <i>et al.</i> <sup>27</sup>
298	50–400	LFP/UV abs	$\leq 150$	Chao <i>et al.</i> <sup>28</sup>
298	760	RR. Ethene ozonolysis	$130 \pm 40$	Newland <i>et al.</i> <sup>10</sup>
293	30–100	LFP/UV abs	$24 \pm 16$	Sheps <i>et al.</i> <sup>15</sup>
298	300	LFP/UV abs	$42 \pm 5$	Wu <i>et al.</i> <sup>31</sup>
298	760	LFP/UV abs	$9.8 \pm 5.9$	This work



molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> indicated in this work. Theory predicts values between  $5.8 \times 10^{-18}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup><sup>34</sup> and  $7.08 \times 10^{-15}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>44</sup> with the most recent theoretical study giving  $k_1 = 7.08 \times 10^{-15}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>43</sup> The temperature dependence for  $k_1$  indicated in this work is more significant than the temperature dependence reported by Wu *et al.*<sup>31</sup>

Whilst there are significant uncertainties in  $k_1$ , the kinetics of R2 are well-defined from the fits shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 shows the temperature dependence of  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$ , which is in good agreement with previous measurements<sup>3,28,50</sup> over the temperature ranges in common, with this work extending the temperature

range over which the kinetics have been investigated. At 298 K, this work indicates  $k_{2,\text{eff}} = (1.96 \pm 0.51) \times 10^{-32}$  cm<sup>6</sup> molecule<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, which corresponds to  $k_2 = (9.5 \pm 2.5) \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> using the temperature-dependent equilibrium constant for water dimer formation reported by Ruscic *et al.*<sup>51</sup> Table 2 compares results for  $k_2$  and  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  obtained at 298 K in this work with those reported previously, with good agreement between the results reported here and the results of Berndt *et al.*,<sup>3</sup> Smith *et al.*,<sup>29</sup> Chao *et al.*<sup>28</sup> and Sheps *et al.*<sup>15</sup> The value for  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  reported by Wu *et al.*<sup>31</sup> at 298 K is a factor of  $\sim 1.8$  lower than that reported here, but there is good agreement in the total pseudo-first-order rate coefficients as a function of water monomer concentration observed in this work and reported by Wu *et al.* (see ESI† for further details). Although Wu *et al.*<sup>31</sup> reported an impact of a reaction between CH<sub>2</sub>O and three water molecules, it was noted that there was little impact of the reaction involving three water molecules for water monomer concentrations below  $4.8 \times 10^{17}$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup> at 298 K, which is higher than the highest water concentrations used in this work at 298 K. The differences in kinetics for R2 between the results of Wu *et al.* and other studies, including this work, are impacted by differences in kinetics for R1 as well as contributions from R3, making direct comparison of rate coefficients for individual reactions difficult. Rate coefficients reported by Newland *et al.*<sup>10</sup> for R2 at 298 K are notably lower than those reported elsewhere, but these experiments were carried out over a relatively narrow range of relative humidities (1.5 to 20%), leading to low water dimer concentrations and relatively limited impact of the dimer reaction. Lewis *et al.*<sup>4</sup> also reported lower values than those obtained in this work and in other studies using flash photolysis with UV absorption,<sup>15,28,29</sup> potentially resulting from overestimation of the water vapour, and thus water dimer, concentrations, which were based on flow rates and vapour pressure and assumed 100% saturation of the gas flow with water vapour. Results reported here, and in other studies using flash photolysis with UV absorption,<sup>28,29,31</sup> measured the relative humidity of the gas flow, providing greater certainty in the water vapour and dimer concentrations.

The temperature-dependent behaviour observed for  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  is in agreement with previous experimental<sup>29,31</sup> and theoretical<sup>34,35</sup>

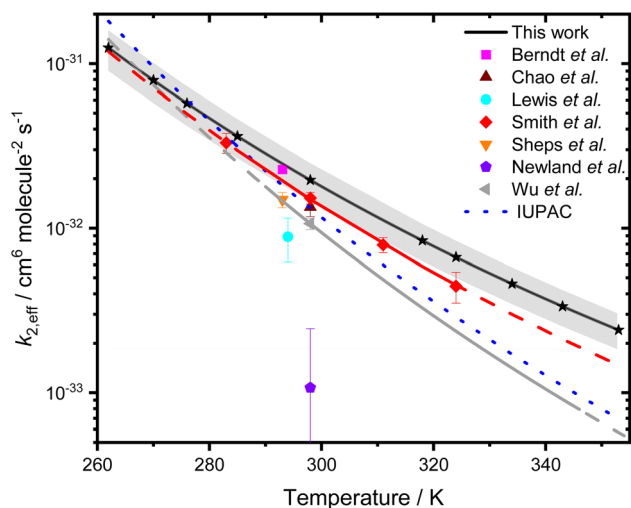


Fig. 5  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  as a function of temperature. The global fit to results obtained in this work is shown by the solid black line, with uncertainties determined from a combination of the statistical error and the systematic errors resulting from uncertainties in gas flow rates and in the concentration of [H<sub>2</sub>O] shown by the shaded region. Stars represent the temperatures at which measurements were made. The solid grey line shows the data reported by Wu *et al.*,<sup>31</sup> with the dashed grey line showing the extrapolation of the data reported by Wu *et al.* over the temperature range investigated in this work. The red solid line represents a fit to the data reported by Smith *et al.*,<sup>50</sup> with the dashed red line showing the extrapolation of the data reported by Smith *et al.* over the temperature range investigated in this work. The blue dotted line represents the current IUPAC recommendation,<sup>50</sup> which is based on the data reported by Smith *et al.*

Table 2 Comparison between the  $k_2$  values obtained at room temperature in this work and in previous literature.<sup>3,4,10,15,28,29,31</sup> LFP = laser flash photolysis, UV abs = ultraviolet absorption, IFT-LFT = Institute for Tropospheric Research – Laminar Flow Tube, RR = relative rate study.  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  values have been calculated using the  $K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$  values reported by Ruscic *et al.*<sup>51</sup> The  $k_2$  value in the base model described in the Atmospheric implications section was  $1.5 \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K<sup>13</sup> and the  $k_2$  value in the first set of model updates was  $6.4 \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K<sup>30</sup>

T/K	p/Torr	Experimental technique	$k_2/10^{-12}$ cm <sup>3</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	$k_{2,\text{eff}}/10^{-32}$ cm <sup>6</sup> molecule <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	Reference
293	760	IFT-LFT (H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ) measurements	10.7 ± 0.40	2.28 ± 0.09	Berndt <i>et al.</i> <sup>3</sup>
298	100–500	LFP/UV abs	6.5 ± 0.8	1.34 ± 0.17	Chao <i>et al.</i> <sup>28</sup>
294	50–400	LFP/UV abs	4.0 ± 1.2	0.89 ± 0.27	Lewis <i>et al.</i> <sup>4</sup>
298	200–600	LFP/UV abs	7.4 ± 0.6	1.53 ± 0.12	Smith <i>et al.</i> <sup>29</sup>
293	30–100	LFP/UV abs	6.6 ± 0.7	1.49 ± 0.16	Sheps <i>et al.</i> <sup>15</sup>
298	760	RR. Ethene ozonolysis	0.52 ± 0.67	0.11 ± 0.14	Newland <i>et al.</i> <sup>10</sup>
298	300	LFP/UV abs	5.17 ± 0.40	1.07 ± 0.08	Wu <i>et al.</i> <sup>31</sup>
298	760	LFP/UV abs	9.52 ± 2.49	1.96 ± 0.51	This work





**Table 3** Previous theoretical calculations of the potential energy surface for R1 and R2 and, where available, calculations of the reaction kinetics. Where multiple reaction pathways for R1 and R2 were given, the lowest energy pathway was chosen. PRC = pre-reaction complex, TS = transition state, CTST = conventional transition state theory, VTST = variational transition state theory, VPT2 = vibrational second-order perturbation theory, MP-CVT/SCT = multipath variational transition state theory with small-curvature tunneling, CUS = canonical unified statistical theory

Method	PRC R1/kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	TS R1/kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	PRC R2/kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	TS R2/kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	$k_1/\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	$k_2/\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	Ref.
CCSD(T)/6-311G(d,p)	-30.1	9.6	—	—	—	—	39
CCSD(T)/6-311+G(2d,2p)	-32.6	7.9	—	—	—	—	40
CCSD(T)/6-311+G(2d,2p)	-30.9	14.2	-65.7	-36.8	$5.8 \times 10^{-18}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-12}$	34
CTST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-26.0	8.5	—	—	$3.12 \times 10^{-15}$	—	36
C/VTST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W3X-L//CCSD(T)-F12a/TZ-F12	-26.2	14.7	—	—	$2.41 \times 10^{-16}$	—	41
MP-CVT/SCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-25.7	6.3	-44.8	-35.5	$3.05 \times 10^{-15}$	$1.67 \times 10^{-10}$	35
VTST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CCSD(T)/M06-2X/6-311+G(2d,2p)	-28.5	11.2	-63.7	-45.3	—	$6.71 \times 10^{-12}$	42
CTST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
QCISD(T)/CBS//6-311+G(2d,2p)	-27.3	11.8	-46.2	-27.3	$3.7 \times 10^{-16}$	$5.4 \times 10^{-12}$	38
VPT2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B3LYP/6-311+G(2d,2p)	-26.4	12.8	-42.4	-24.6	$4.26 \times 10^{-16}$	$2.91 \times 10^{-12}$	37
VPT2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CCSD(T)/6-311+G(3df,2dp)	-25.9	14.2	-32.0	-8.4	$7.08 \times 10^{-15}$	$1.15 \times 10^{-12}$	44
CTST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W3X-L//CCSD(T)-F12a/cc-pVDZ-F12 <sup>a</sup>	—	—	-45.5	-22.9	—	$6.73 \times 10^{-12}$	43
W3X-L//CCSD(T)-F12a/cc-pVTZ-F12 <sup>b</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CUS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

<sup>a</sup> Level of theory used to optimise geometries and energies for reactant, PRCs, and products. <sup>b</sup> Level of theory used to optimise geometries and energies for the transition states.

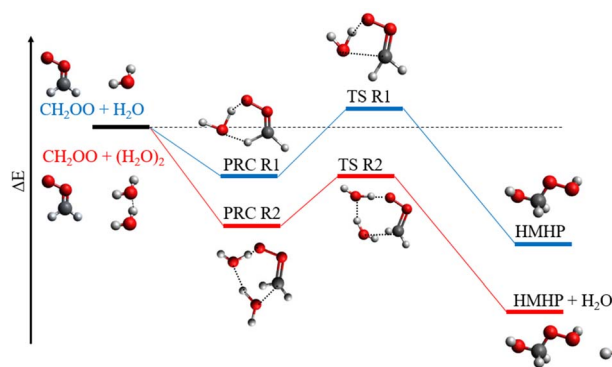


Fig. 6 Schematic potential energy surface for the reactions of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with H<sub>2</sub>O (blue) and (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> (red). PRC = pre-reaction complex, TS = transition state, HMHP = hydroxymethyl hydroperoxide.

work. Rate coefficients obtained in this work are in agreement with those reported by Smith *et al.* and Wu *et al.* over the common temperature ranges, but there are some discrepancies between the measurements made at the highest temperature employed in this work, and extrapolation of the results reported by Smith *et al.* and Wu *et al.*,<sup>31</sup> as shown in Fig. 5. Observations of a negative temperature dependence for the kinetics of R2, and of the dominance of R2 over R1, are consistent with theoretical studies of R1 and R2.<sup>34,35,37,38</sup> Calculations of the potential energy surfaces for R1 and R2, summarised in Table 3 and Fig. 6,<sup>34–43</sup> indicate that both reactions proceed *via* the formation of pre-reaction complexes which then undergo rearrangement to form HMHP as the dominant product of both reactions, although experimental work has indicated that there may be other reaction channels or rapid subsequent chemistry of the HMHP product leading to the production of species including HCOOH, HCHO and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. For R1, rearrangement of the pre-reaction complex to HMHP involves a transition state which is higher in energy than the initial reactants (*i.e.* there is an overall positive barrier to reaction). In contrast, the pre-reaction complex for R2 is more stable than that for R1 by a factor of ~2 (Table 3 and Fig. 6), and the subsequent transition state to product formation is lower in energy than the initial reactants. The difference in barrier heights leads to the dominance of R2 over R1, and the submerged barrier for R2 leads to the observed negative temperature dependence.

## Atmospheric implications

The reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers is expected to dominate the atmospheric chemistry of CH<sub>2</sub>OO.<sup>3,15,28,29</sup> Model simulations were performed with the global 3D atmospheric chemistry transport model (CTM) GEOS-Chem (version 14.2.2<sup>52</sup>) to assess the impact of this work on our understanding of CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the atmosphere. The model was run for 2 years (2018–2019) driven by MERRA-2 meteorology<sup>53</sup> with a 4.0° × 4.5° spatial resolution and 72 vertical levels. The first year was considered as model spin up and discarded. The model contains detailed VOC oxidation chemistry<sup>54</sup> including Criegee intermediate reactions.<sup>14</sup> Biogenic emissions of VOCs were

Table 4 Summary of reactions, products, rate coefficients and percentage losses for CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions used in the three model simulations described in the atmospheric implications section of this work

Reaction	Products	Base model		First set of updates		Second set of updates	
		Rate coefficient/ cm <sup>3</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (second-order reactions) or cm <sup>6</sup> molecule <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (third-order reactions)	Loss/%	Rate coefficient/ cm <sup>3</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (second-order reactions) or cm <sup>6</sup> molecule <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (third-order reactions)	Loss/%	Rate coefficient/ cm <sup>3</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (second-order reactions) or cm <sup>6</sup> molecule <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (third-order reactions)	Loss/%
CH <sub>2</sub> OO + H <sub>2</sub> O	0.73 HMHP + 0.21 HCOOH + 0.21 H <sub>2</sub> O + 0.06 HCHO + 0.06 H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	1.7 × 10 <sup>-15.13</sup>	64.74	2.8 × 10 <sup>-16.30</sup>	3.77	3.2 × 10 <sup>-13</sup> exp(-2410/T)	0.82
CH <sub>2</sub> OO + H <sub>2</sub> O + H <sub>2</sub> O	0.40 HMHP + 0.54 HCOOH + 0.54 H <sub>2</sub> O + 0.06 HCHO + 0.06 H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	2.88 × 10 <sup>-35</sup> × exp(1319/T) <sup>13</sup>	32.45	7.35 × 10 <sup>-18</sup> × exp(4076/T) <sup>30</sup>	96.03	2.78 × 10 <sup>-38</sup> exp(4010/T)	98.32
CH <sub>2</sub> OO + O <sub>3</sub>	HCHO + 2O <sub>2</sub>	1.4 × 10 <sup>-12.59</sup>	0.03	3.60 × 10 <sup>-13.60</sup>	0.01	3.60 × 10 <sup>-13.21</sup>	0.03
CH <sub>2</sub> OO + SO <sub>2</sub>	HCHO + SO <sub>3</sub>	3.70 × 10 <sup>-11.59</sup>	2.79	3.72 × 10 <sup>-11</sup> × (T/298) <sup>-2.05.20</sup>	0.19	3.72 × 10 <sup>-11</sup> × (T/298) <sup>-2.05.20</sup>	0.83
CH <sub>2</sub> OO + NO <sub>2</sub>	HCHO + NO <sub>3</sub>	1.00 × 10 <sup>-15.14</sup>	<0.01	3.00 × 10 <sup>-12.30</sup>	<0.01	3.00 × 10 <sup>-12.30</sup>	<0.01
CH <sub>2</sub> OO + NO	HCHO + NO <sub>2</sub>	1.00 × 10 <sup>-14.14</sup>	<0.01	—	—	—	—
CH <sub>2</sub> OO + CO	HCHO + CO <sub>2</sub>	1.20 × 10 <sup>-15.14</sup>	0.01	—	—	—	—



taken from MEGANv2.1,<sup>55</sup> biomass burning emissions from GFED4s,<sup>56</sup> while anthropogenic emissions use the Community Emissions Data System (CEDS).<sup>57</sup>

The Criegee intermediate chemistry in the base model was described in 2015<sup>58</sup> and subsequently updated by Bates *et al.*<sup>54</sup> in 2021 to the current CH<sub>2</sub>OO chemistry in the base model shown in Table 4. Model runs in this work have been performed with the base chemistry and then with two sets of updates. The first update represents the state of current understanding, and involves updates to the rate coefficients for the reactions of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with H<sub>2</sub>O, (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub> to the values currently recommended by IUPAC,<sup>30</sup> and to the rate coefficients of reactions with O<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> to the values reported in our previous work.<sup>20,21</sup> In the first update we have also removed the reactions of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with NO or CO as the kinetics of these reactions are highly uncertain, and the reactions are not expected to represent significant losses for CH<sub>2</sub>OO. The second update to the model changes the rate coefficient for reactions R1 and R2 from those currently recommended by IUPAC to those determined in the experiments described in this work. The complete set of CH<sub>2</sub>OO chemistry used in the model is described in Table 4. Comparisons between the temperature-dependent rate coefficients for CH<sub>2</sub>OO + H<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>2</sub>OO + (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> in the three model simulations are given in the ESI (Fig. S8†). Kinetics for the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water vapour in the base GEOS-Chem mechanism were estimated from the relative rates of CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions with SO<sub>2</sub> and water monomers, with a temperature dependence estimated from the temperature dependence of the equilibrium between water monomers and dimers, as described in previous work.<sup>13,54,61</sup> Rate coefficients for R2 measured in this work are

typically two orders of magnitude greater than those estimated in the simulations for the base case, leading to significant changes in the behaviour of CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the model.

Fig. 7 shows the impact of the changes made in the first update, compared to the base model run, on annual mean surface layer concentrations for CH<sub>2</sub>OO and several key atmospheric species. The model shows significant decreases in CH<sub>2</sub>OO in most locations, with mean surface layer concentrations decreased by 64.2% compared to the base model run owing to the faster kinetics for CH<sub>2</sub>OO + (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> used in the updated model. However, there are some regional differences to the global mean trend, with hot and dry regions over areas including Australia and parts of Africa and the Middle East displaying significant increases in the concentration of CH<sub>2</sub>OO. In these regions, the impacts of updates to  $k_{2,eff}$  are limited as a result of low water dimer concentrations owing to low water monomer concentrations and the temperature dependence of the equilibrium between H<sub>2</sub>O and (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>, with the observed impact dominated by the decreased values for  $k_1$  used in the updated model.

The first set of model updates also affect concentrations of products formed in CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions with H<sub>2</sub>O and (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>, which are based on the work of Nguyen *et al.*<sup>13</sup> and thus consider the yields of products on longer timescales than the initial production of HMHP from the elementary reactions R1 and R2. In the first set of model updates, the annual mean surface layer concentration for HCOOH is increased by 10.1%, while that for HMHP is decreased by 33.7% owing to an increase in importance of the dimer reaction, which favours production of HCOOH over HMHP. Concentrations of other key

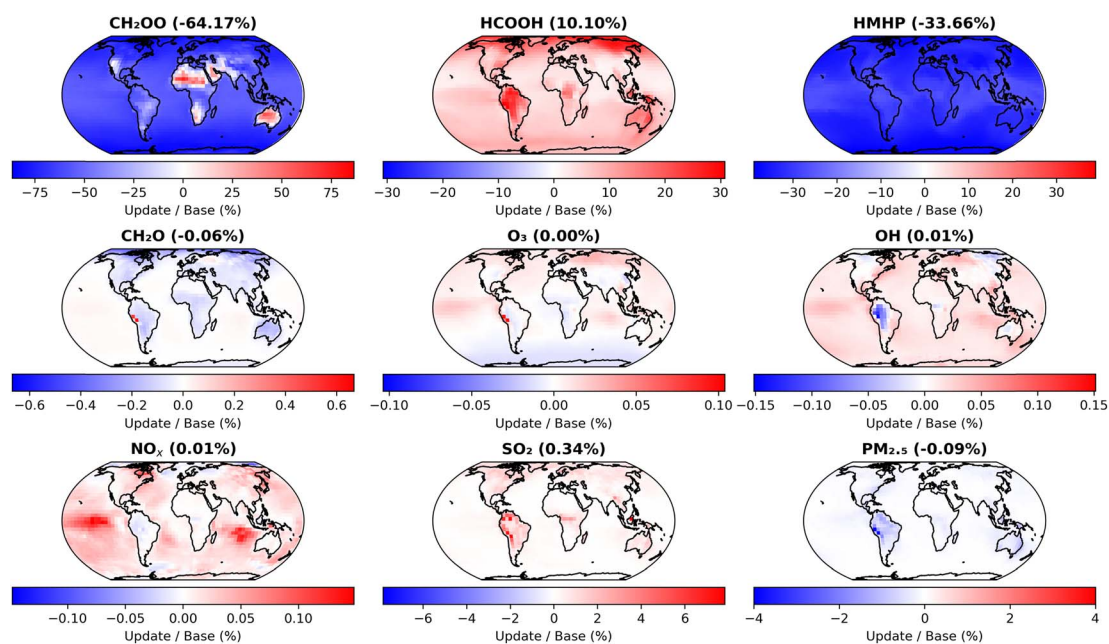
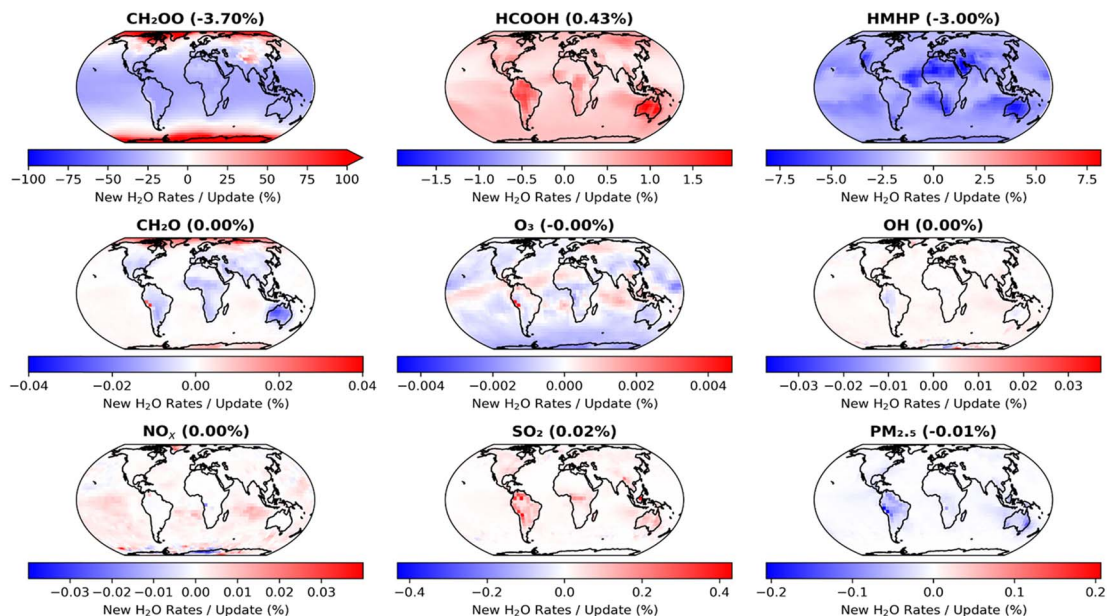


Fig. 7 Impacts of changes made in the first set of GEOS-Chem updates (Table 4, 'First set of updates'), compared to the base model run (Table 4, 'Base model'), on annual mean surface layer mixing ratios for CH<sub>2</sub>OO and several key atmospheric species. The first set of model updates incorporate current IUPAC recommendations for  $k_1$  and  $k_{2,eff}$ , as well as updates to rate coefficients for reactions of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with O<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>.

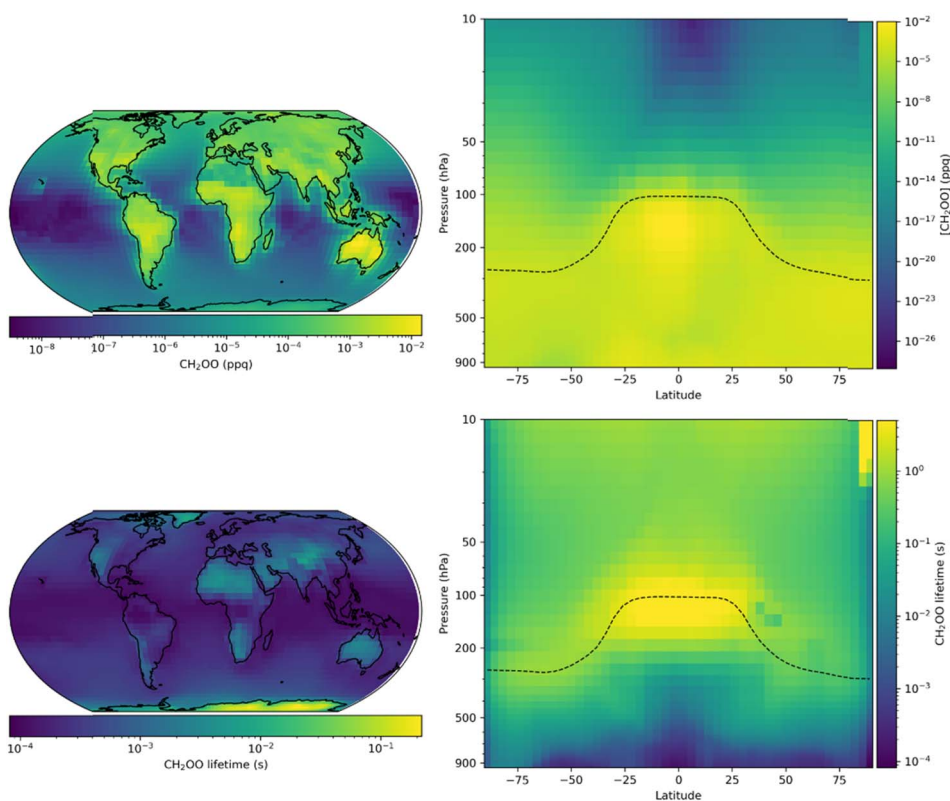




**Fig. 8** Impacts of changes made in the second set of GEOS-Chem updates (Table 4, 'Second set of updates'), compared to the results obtained with the first set of updates (Table 4, 'First set of updates'), on annual mean surface layer mixing ratios for  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  and several key atmospheric species. The second set of model updates make use of the results obtained in this work for  $k_1$  and  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$ .

atmospheric species display smaller changes, with  $\text{SO}_2$  showing regional surface layer increases of over 6% but an overall annual mean surface layer change of 0.3%, and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  (particulate

matter of less than  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$  diameter) showing decreases of up to 4% regionally but with a decrease in the overall annual mean surface layer of 0.1%.



**Fig. 9** Annual mean  $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$  surface layer mixing ratios and zonal distributions (top panel) and lifetime (bottom panel) for GEOS-Chem simulations using the second set of model updates, which make use of results obtained in this work for  $k_1$  and  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$  (Table 4, 'Second set of updates').



The impacts of the second set of model updates, which make use of the results obtained in this work, are shown in Fig. 8. Further decreases in CH<sub>2</sub>OO concentrations are observed, with a reduction in the annual mean surface layer concentration of 3.7% compared to that obtained in the model run using the first set of updates, with little regional variation, and 61.8% compared to the base model run. However, changes to other species are more limited, with an increase in HCOOH of only 0.4% and a decrease in HMHP of only 3.0% compared to the overall annual mean surface concentrations obtained in the model run using the first set of updates. Species such as SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> display little difference compared to the results obtained with the first set of model updates.

Fig. 9 shows annual mean surface layer mixing ratios of CH<sub>2</sub>OO obtained for the model run updated with results obtained in this work. The annual surface layer mixing ratio of CH<sub>2</sub>OO peaks at  $1.5 \times 10^{-2}$  ppq, which is equivalent to a number density of  $3.7 \times 10^2$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup> at 298 K and 760 Torr, with an annual mean of  $3.5 \times 10^{-4}$  ppq. Mixing ratios of CH<sub>2</sub>OO are highest over landmasses where the emissions of unsaturated VOCs into the atmosphere are highest, and lowest over remote oceanic regions. Vertically, the highest mixing ratios ( $1.9 \times 10^{-2}$  ppq) are seen in the tropical upper troposphere, where convective lifting brings unsaturated VOCs into contact with high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in a region with low concentrations of water vapour. The mean lifetime of CH<sub>2</sub>OO in the updated model is 0.45 s, reaching a minimum of  $9.8 \times 10^{-4}$  s in the marine surface layer and a maximum of >2 s in the upper troposphere owing to low water concentrations. In the updated model, the tropospheric annual mean global loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO is dominated by the reaction with water dimers, which represents 98.3% of the total CH<sub>2</sub>OO loss, with a further 0.8% of the total loss occurring through reaction with water monomers. Reactions of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with species other than water account for less than 1% of the total loss, other than in a few regions, primarily northern Eurasia, where this reaches up to 4%. The updated simulations restrict the importance of non-water reactions significantly, although there may be more localised impacts which are not realised in this work owing to the spatial resolution of the simulations.

## Conclusions

The kinetics of the reaction of the simplest Criegee intermediate, CH<sub>2</sub>OO, with water vapour have been investigated using laser flash photolysis coupled with time-resolved broadband UV absorption spectroscopy at temperatures between 262 and 353 K at a total pressure of 760 Torr. The reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water monomers (R1) represents a minor contribution to the total loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO under the conditions employed in this work, with an estimated value for  $k_1$  of  $(9.8 \pm 5.9) \times 10^{-17}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K and a temperature dependence described by  $k_1 = (3.2 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-13} \exp(-(2410 \pm 270)/T)$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. The results show that the reaction with water dimers (R2) dominates the loss of CH<sub>2</sub>OO, with  $k_2 = (9.5 \pm 2.5) \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K, with a temperature dependence described by  $k_2 = (2.85 \pm 0.40) \times 10^{-15} \exp((2420 \pm$

$340)/T)$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, where use of  $k_2$  requires calculation of the water dimer concentration to determine the rate of reaction. The kinetics of R2 can also be expressed in terms of an effective rate coefficient,  $k_{2,\text{eff}}$ , which is given by the product  $k_2 K_{\text{eq}}^{\text{D}}$ , allowing calculation of the rate of reaction in terms of the square of the water monomer concentration rather than the water dimer concentration, giving  $k_{2,\text{eff}} = (1.96 \pm 0.51) \times 10^{-32}$  cm<sup>6</sup> molecule<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K and a temperature dependence described by  $k_{2,\text{eff}} = (2.78 \pm 0.28) \times 10^{-38} \exp((4010 \pm 400)/T)$  cm<sup>6</sup> molecule<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. No significant impact of a reaction between CH<sub>2</sub>OO and three water molecules was observed in this work. The kinetic results are consistent with theoretical studies which predict the existence of a positive barrier to reaction for R1 and a submerged barrier for R2. Simulations performed using the global CTM GEOS-Chem updated with the experimental results obtained in this work indicate that the reaction of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with water dimers is expected to dominate the atmospheric chemistry of CH<sub>2</sub>OO, limiting the impacts of reactions of CH<sub>2</sub>OO with other species. Uncertainties in the product yields of CH<sub>2</sub>OO reactions with water monomers and dimers remain, which limit our understanding of the atmospheric impacts of CH<sub>2</sub>OO chemistry.

## Data availability

Relevant data supporting this article have been included as part of the ESI.†

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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