

1 Article

2 Ship Based Measurements of Seasonal Atmospheric 3 Mercury Concentrations over the Baltic Sea

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7 **Abstract:** Mercury is a toxic pollutant emitted from both natural sources and through human
8 activities. A global interest in atmospheric mercury has risen ever since the discovery of the
9 Minamata disease in 1956. Properties of gaseous elemental mercury enable long range transport
10 which can cause pollution even in pristine environments. Total gaseous mercury (TGM) was
11 measured from winter 2016 to spring 2017 over the Baltic Sea. A Tekran 2357A mercury analyser
12 was installed aboard the research and icebreaking vessel Oden for the purpose of continuous
13 measurements of gaseous mercury in ambient air. Measurements were performed during a
14 campaign along the Swedish east coast and in the Bothnian Bay near Lulea during the icebreaking
15 season. Data was evaluated from Gothenburg using a plotting software and back trajectories for air
16 masses were calculated. The TGM average of 1.365 ± 0.054 ng/m³ during winter and 1.288 ± 0.140
17 ng/m³ during spring was calculated as well as a total average of 1.362 ± 0.158 ng/m³. Back trajectories
18 showed a possible correlation of anthropogenic sources elevating the mercury background level in
19 some areas. There were also indications of depleted air, i.e., air with lower concentrations than
20 average, being transported from the Arctic to northern Sweden resulting in a drop in TGM levels.

21 **Keywords:** atmospheric mercury; Baltic Sea; mapping of TGM levels; long range transport

23 1. Introduction

24 Mercury is a toxic pollutant which is naturally abundant in the earth's crust. It can be released
25 to the atmosphere through volcanic and geothermal activities and the weathering of rocks. Emissions
26 of mercury from anthropogenic sources come from mining, coal combustion, cement production and
27 oil refining among other sources. Globally, the largest source of anthropogenic mercury emissions to
28 the atmosphere is artisanal small-scale gold mining and another major source is the combustion of
29 coal [1]. In Sweden the major mercury emission sources are combustion, chemical industry on the
30 west coast and metal and mining companies in northern Sweden [2]. In gaseous elemental form, also
31 known as GEM or Hg₀, mercury is very stable and can therefore be transported long distances from
32 its source of emission. For that reason GEM is the most abundant mercury species in the troposphere,
33 having a residence time between 6 – 24 months [3, 4]. An issue deriving from GEM's stable nature is
34 that the long range transports can cause even pristine environments to be polluted [1, 4].

35 While natural and anthropogenic sources make up 10% and 30% of total Hg-emissions
36 respectively, the remaining part come from re-emissions which is placed in a category of its own
37 because the original source may have been either natural or anthropogenic. Once in the atmosphere,
38 mercury circulates between air, earth and water. When mercury enters the ocean or fresh water it has
39 two possible paths other than being re-emitted. It can either be methylated by microorganisms and
40 bio-accumulate in the food chain. The other path, which is the only way for the circulation to stop, is
41 for it to get buried deep in bottom sediments or get trapped in stable mineral compounds [1].

42 In the environment mercury exists most commonly in oxidation states 0 or +II [5]. Oxidised
43 mercury species are more soluble and can therefore easily fall down with precipitation and be
44 deposited on vegetation and in oceans and fresh waters [4, 5, 6]. Oxidation from GEM to gaseous
45 oxidised mercury (GOM) is suggested to be caused by ozone or halogens such as bromine. The sum
46 of GEM and GOM is called total gaseous mercury (TGM). Since Hg₀ has low solubility in water most

47 aqueous mercury is therefore present in inorganic or organic form as Hg^{2+} or methylated mercury
48 (MeHg) [5].

49 There are several studies that have found occasions in the Polar regions where GEM is
50 extensively oxidised into GOM or particulate mercury (HgP) in reactions with halogen radicals. The
51 mechanism has yet to be confirmed but it is thought to involve halogen species that are released when
52 open water areas refreeze and absorb UV-radiation [7]. These events are called atmospheric mercury
53 depletion events (AMDE) and result in a sudden drop of GEM. They occur during springtime in
54 Arctic and Antarctic regions but there is evidence suggesting that mercury depleted air masses may
55 travel with the winds and be discoverable away from the polar areas [8].

56 Mercury is a neurotoxin and can damage a human's central and peripheral nervous system. It is
57 toxic both in inorganic and organic form. Different species of mercury have different harmful effects
58 on the human body with MeHg being most toxic and harmful to human health and wildlife [9, 10].
59 MeHg-poisoning or the Minamata disease was officially discovered in 1956 in Minamata, Japan.
60 Some symptoms of the disease include brain damage and paralysis [11]. Pregnant women showing
61 minor symptoms gave birth to infants with congenital Minamata disease with symptoms such as
62 great neurological problems and deformed limbs [9, 11]. MeHg has a far greater impact on the foetal
63 brain than on an adult's brain. Children's brains are therefore more sensitive to lower exposures of
64 MeHg, especially during brain development for foetuses still in the womb [9, 10, 11]. As MeHg
65 bioaccumulates in the aquatic food chain, humans consuming large amounts of fish and shellfish are
66 thought to be at the highest risk for MeHg-poisoning [10, 12].

67 1.1 Current State of Research

68 There has been extensive research on the subject of atmospheric mercury distribution ever since
69 the discovery of the Minamata disease [13, 14, 15 and references therein]. As of 2013, the Minamata
70 convention works toward protecting humans and the environment from mercury. It is a global treaty
71 with as many as 128 countries having signed and 42 countries have ratified the treaty [16]. To
72 understand the nature of mercury, how it travels and how it is transformed, it is important to map
73 the concentrations at different locations around the world. A global observation network was created
74 by the European Union called Global Mercury Observation System (GMOS) to support the Minamata
75 convention and to facilitate the cooperation between countries. The GMOS programme collected data
76 on mercury concentrations at different monitoring sites as well as during cruise campaigns. These
77 data are used for research such as the Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research run by United
78 Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [17]. UNEP has also released several Global Mercury
79 Assessments which present the latest research discoveries related to global emissions and
80 distribution of mercury [1].

81 A previous study of mercury concentrations in and over the Baltic Sea was performed during
82 the summer of 1997 and winter of 1998. Measurements were taken at various locations during two
83 expeditions with results reflecting the normal background concentrations in winter but slightly
84 higher during the summer expedition [18]. Seasonal variations were observed by Kentisbeer et. al. in
85 a monitoring study in the United Kingdom in 2005-2008. The results showed a higher average
86 concentration of mercury during the summer and could be explained by contaminated air masses
87 coming with the southerly winds from continental Europe [19]. More commonly, winter and spring
88 maxima have been found and are probably due to the increased burning of fossil fuels during the
89 cold months [20, 21, 22]. In 1995 sudden drops in mercury levels were discovered during the spring
90 at an Arctic monitoring site. Several other monitoring studies were able to confirm this phenomenon
91 at other Polar regions. AMDE's occur when GEM is oxidised into GOM or HgP resulting in a drop in
92 TGM levels – these species are more reactive and therefore more likely to be transferred to the
93 surroundings through reactions or deposition [7].

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97 1.2 Aim and Conclusion

98 The aim of this study was to evaluate concentrations of TGM in ambient air in different parts of
99 the Baltic Sea and to look for seasonal variations while comparing the results to other studies in the
100 same and other areas. Reasons for varying TGM concentrations in different locations and the
101 occurrence of AMDE's during spring in Lulea was investigated. The collected data was compared
102 and evaluated for seasonal variations of mercury levels in the air. It was found that during the winter
103 cruise, the average value was higher than the measured average value for the cruise south in late
104 spring. Indications of depleted air coming from the Arctic were also discovered. The calculated
105 average TGM levels were 1.365 ± 0.054 ng/m³ during winter and 1.288 ± 0.140 ng/m³ during spring with
106 a total average of 1.362 ± 0.158 ng/m³.

107 2. Method

108 The Tekran 2537A used for taking measurements was installed aboard IB Oden on the fourth
109 deck, approximately 20 meters above sea level. IB Oden, owned by the Swedish Maritime
110 Administration, is not only an icebreaking vessel but also works as a platform for polar research and
111 has thus far made seven research expeditions to the North Pole and worked six seasons in Antarctica.
112 IB Oden being a research vessel was made possible by a contract between the Swedish Maritime
113 Administration and the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, which is another government ruled
114 organisation focusing on promoting polar research [23].

115 Continuous TGM measurements in ambient air above the surface of the Baltic Sea were
116 conducted during a campaign aboard the Swedish icebreaker IB Oden. The Baltic Sea is a young sea
117 with brackish water which makes it a challenging environment for organisms to inhabit. The
118 environmental conditions become increasingly harmful due to heavy pollution and eutrophication
119 from the many residential areas on the coastlines [24]. The geographical location of the Baltic Sea
120 in the northern latitudes results in great variations in temperature and hours of daylight during
121 different seasons. The proximity to the Arctic also makes it possible for AMDEs to travel south with
122 the winds and be discoverable in this area [8].

123 2.1 Mercury Analyser

124 A Tekran model 2537A, stationed at the bow of the icebreaker vessel Oden (IB Oden), was used
125 for all the measurements of TGM. Continuous measurements were taken every ten minutes. Tekran
126 utilises CV-AFS for determining mercury concentrations in the air. The air inlet was placed at the
127 same level as Tekran at 20 meters in a direction opposite of the ship's funnel as to avoid getting
128 exhaust gas in the inlet. As Tekran 2357A operated almost completely unattended during this study,
129 the input method was set to auto-calibration at a 24 hour interval via the internal permeation source
130 to control the data quality.

131 The detection compartment of the instrument consists of a hollow-cathode lamp, emitting light
132 at 253.7 lambda which is mercury's absorbance line, as well as a photomultiplier tube. According to
133 the Tekran manufacturers the detection limit of Tekran 2537A is 0.1 ng/m³ [25, 26].

134 As air enters the inlet and is carried towards the instrument it passes a soda-lime trap which
135 scrubs the incoming air from unwanted substances such as hydrocarbons, dirt and moist. Thereafter
136 it also passes a PTFE-filter which in turn filters out HgP from entering the system [26]. By using two
137 gold traps continuous measurements are enabled. As one trap samples air the other is heated and
138 desorbed to the detector and then they switch tasks. Inside the cartridges the mercury is trapped by
139 the amalgamation technique where mercury is adsorbed onto the gold and then desorbed as GEM.
140 Argon gas carries the gaseous elemental mercury to the detector [26]. Obs två 26

141 2.2 Softwares

142 The ocean data view (ODV) program, version 4.7.10, was used for plotting and analysing data.
143 In this study the ship coordinates were combined with the Tekran data to visualise the concentrations
144 along the ship's track [27]. Other parameters such as wind speed and wind direction were plotted to

145 indicate whether they influenced the fluctuating concentrations. The National Oceanic and
 146 Atmospheric Administration's Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (NOAA
 147 HYSPLIT) online trajectory model was used to produce back trajectories of air masses. In this study
 148 HYSPLIT was used to calculate back trajectories to see where air masses originated from before they
 149 reached the coordinate of interest. These calculations were used as an aid to find possible
 150 explanations as to why an area had lower or higher concentrations than the average background
 151 mercury levels. Four day backward trajectories of air masses were produced at three different vertical
 152 levels (0, 20 and 100 m), for the coordinate interest. HYSPLIT was also used to look at solar flux,
 153 precipitation, temperature and humidity [28].

154 3. Results and Discussion

155 Continuous measurements of TGM were carried out during the ship's cruise north from
 156 Helsingborg to Luleå, during icebreaking season in the Bothnian Bay (BB) and during the ship's cruise
 157 south from Luleå to Landskrona. The average concentrations are presented in Table 1 divided into
 158 five intervals according to location and time. The icebreaking season in Bothnian Bay was split into
 159 three sections to facilitate the reading of the plots. The measured average values were comparable to
 160 normal background concentrations of TGM in the northern hemisphere which is approximately 1.5-
 161 1.7 ng/m³ [19]. Most of the data however show lower values, particularly the measurements from
 162 BB1. The fluctuations between different intervals may be due to calibration issues as the instrument
 163 seemed to get slightly varying concentration spans after the calibrations were performed.

164 **Table 1.** Results from the measurements performed in the Baltic Sea. Average values are presented.

Site	Season	TGM (ng/m ³)	Range (low-high, ng/m ³)
Cruise North	Winter (Dec 2-6)	1.365±0.054	1.161-1.508
Bothnian Bay (1)	Spring (Mar 13-22)	1.164±0.105	0.821-1.595
Bothnian Bay (2)	Spring (Mar 23-Apr 5)	1.509±0.115	1.100-2.675
Bothnian Bay (3)	Spring (Apr 6-27)	1.364±0.110	0.817-1.703
Cruise South	Spring (Apr 28-May 5)	1.288±0.140	0.797-1.839
All cruises	Dec 2016 – May 2017	1.362±0.158	0.817-2.675

165 During this study calibrations were performed manually using the Tekran internal calibration
 166 source on the following occasions namely 2nd of December which was the first day of this study's
 167 measurements and on the 10th of March. The last calibration was performed on the 23rd of March. Few
 168 calibrations and relatively long intervals between calibrations may cause uncertainties in the
 169 measurements. However, the calibrations looked satisfactory in terms of showing similar areas.
 170 Furthermore, the data and the standard deviation were not unusual in comparison to the background
 171 level of TGM in the northern hemisphere.

172 A comparison, between calibration data from this study and from a previous measurement
 173 campaign during summer 2016 using the same instrument and the same internal hollow-cathode
 174 lamp, was performed to determine how much the lamp possibly could have aged between
 175 calibrations. By comparing the area responses from different calibrations an indication of the lamp's
 176 degradation is obtained. Calibration data from the summer campaign indicated that there was no
 177 major change in response [5]. However, on the 10th of March 2017 a new hollow-cathode lamp was
 178 installed inside the instrument and between the calibrations on the 10th of March and on the 23rd of
 179 March a 23% decline in area response was calculated and corrected for.

180 3.1 Anthropogenic Sources

181 When evaluating the data and looking at back trajectories for low or elevated concentrations,
 182 possible anthropogenic emission sources for elevated levels were searched for. Air masses that had
 183 passed through Norrbotten in northern Sweden often resulted in elevated levels. In 2016, Norrbotten
 184 was the largest contributor of mercury emissions to the air, followed by Östergötland and then Västra

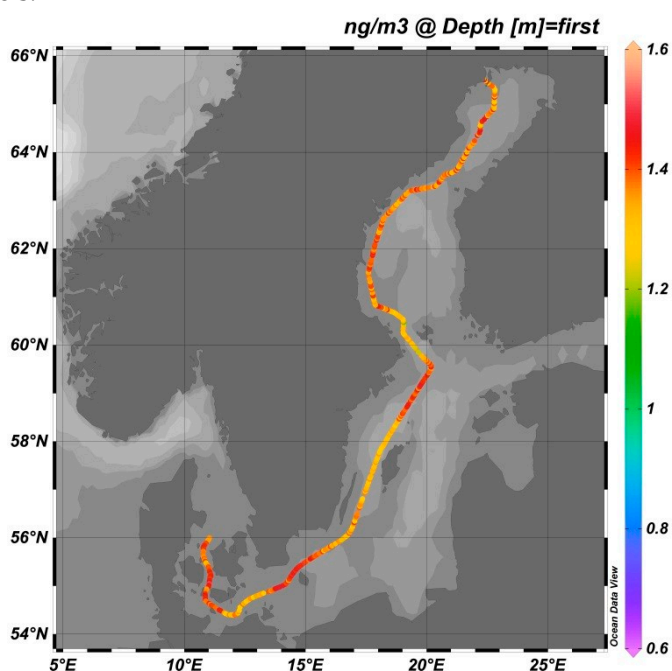
185 Götaland. In northern Sweden mining and metal industry are the predominant atmospheric mercury
 186 emission sources and in mid and southern Sweden combustion and chemical industry are the main
 187 sources of atmospheric mercury. However, there seems to be a declining trend in the overall
 188 anthropogenic mercury emissions to the atmosphere in Sweden when comparing emission data
 189 sheets from the last ten years [2]. On a few occasions back trajectories showed winds that had passed
 190 through areas in Finland where there are gold mines and also a chlor-alkali industry [29, 30]. These
 191 are also mercury emission sources that have possibly impacted the elevated levels observed in this
 192 study.

193 3.2 Observations from the Plots

194 Each cruise was plotted on a map using ODV software. Coordinates of significantly high or low
 195 concentrations were investigated by calculating back trajectories. The most important events are
 196 presented in chapter 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 and possible anthropogenic sources are discussed.

197 3.2.1 Cruise North

198 On the cruise north from Helsingborg to Luleå the measured average concentration reflected
 199 normal background levels. There were areas with higher TGM levels near the Danish islands, south
 200 of Sweden and Stockholm (see figure 1). For these events it was expected that the winds would
 201 originate in more populated areas such as the nearby urban areas or continental Europe. However,
 202 back trajectories showed consistent northerly winds for most of the cruise. There was no
 203 exceptionally high value measured and even the slightly higher values did not deviate far from
 204 normal background levels.

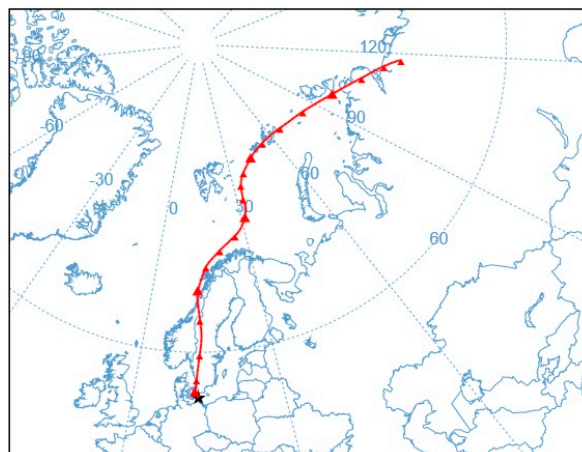


205
 206 Figure 1. Plot showing the measured concentrations during the transit north from Helsingborg
 207 to Luleå.

208 As can be seen in figure 1 Oden's transit north appears to start between the Danish Islands. One
 209 reason for this is that the measurements in Helsingborg and a few hours after Oden left port were
 210 unreasonably low and thus excluded from the results. The other reason was the blackout. It was
 211 decided to calibrate Tekran and after the calibration was performed the data appeared normal.

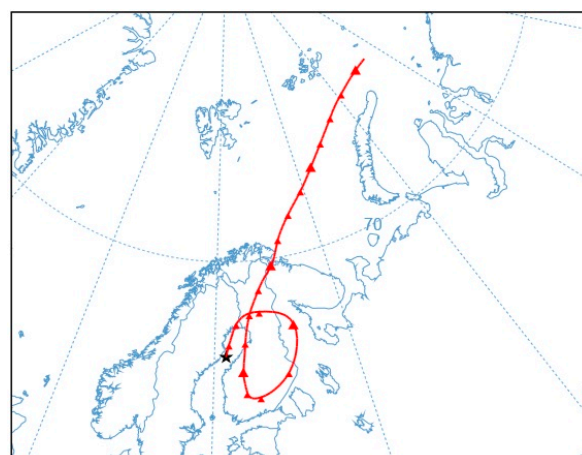
212 The somewhat elevated TGM levels near the Danish islands were investigated. Back trajectories
 213 showed northern winds passing through Denmark, Norway and in some cases all the way from
 214 Iceland, before reaching Oden. A low point was also investigated (see figure 2) and showed similar
 215 trajectory patterns with winds coming from the north. However, for some elevated levels the winds

216 had passed over the North Sea and were potentially carrying re-emitted gaseous mercury from the
217 water.



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Figure 2. Back trajectory for low level found on the 2nd of December. Vertical level 20 m.



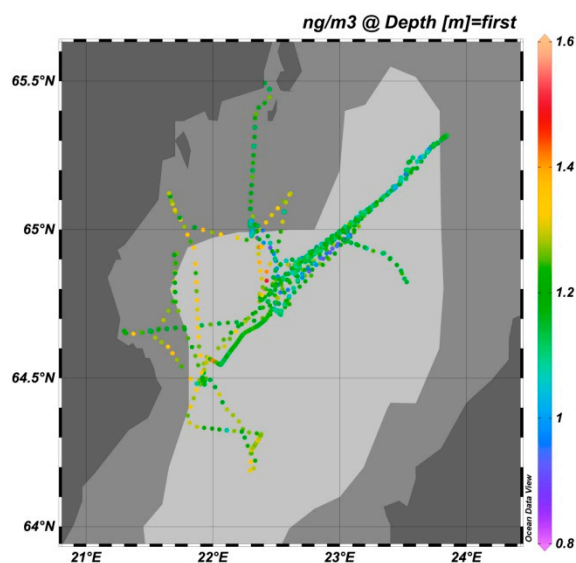
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Figure 3. Back trajectory for elevated level found on the 5th of December. Vertical level 20 m.

222 In the northern parts of Sweden there were generally higher TGM levels compared to southern
223 part (see figure 1). Using HYSPLIT to investigate some high level coordinates, winds were observed
224 to have passed through Finland before reaching Sweden. In figure 3 back trajectory winds pass over
225 areas in Finland where there are both gold mines and chemical industry emitting mercury to the air
226 [29, 30]. Contaminated air from these anthropogenic sources is a possible reason as to why there were
227 areas of elevated TGM levels seen in the plot. Winds reaching the areas of lower concentrations can
228 be assumed to have bypassed these sources but it is difficult to see the exact trajectory path in the
229 HYSPLIT diagrams.

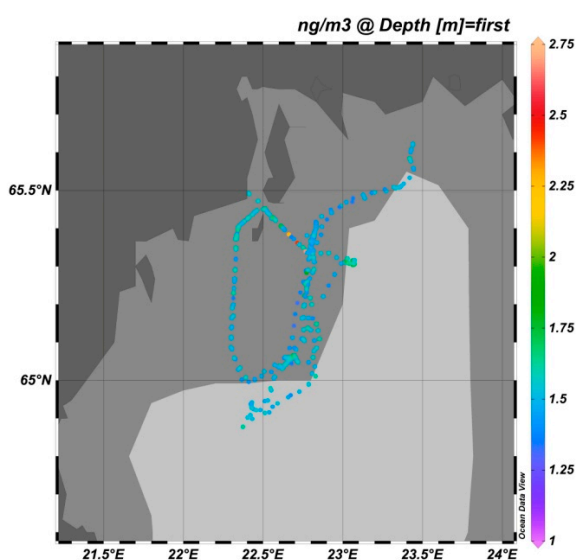
230 3.2.2 Bothnian Bay

231 Data was also collected during icebreaking season in the Bothnian Bay and were divided into
232 three separate groups: BB1, BB2 and BB3. Plots are presented for BB1 (figure 4) and BB2 (figure 5) but
233 not for BB3 as the vessel was stationed at port in Lulea for this time period. The lowest average TGM
234 was calculated for the BB1 icebreaking cruise. This might be due to the calibration made on the 10th
235 of March causing these values to be lower overall. Back trajectories of air masses did not correlate
236 with the levels of TGM measured. In some cases there were low concentrations with winds passing
237 by known anthropogenic sources of atmospheric mercury. In other cases this was reversed.



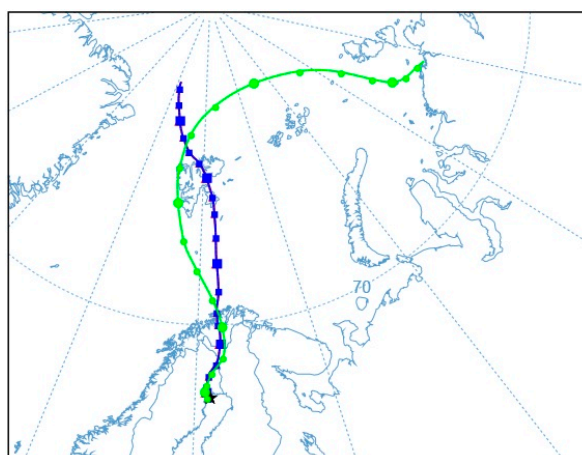
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Figure 4. Plot showing the measured concentrations during the first part of the icebreaking season, BB1.



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Figure 5. Plot showing the measured concentrations during the second part of the icebreaking season, BB2.

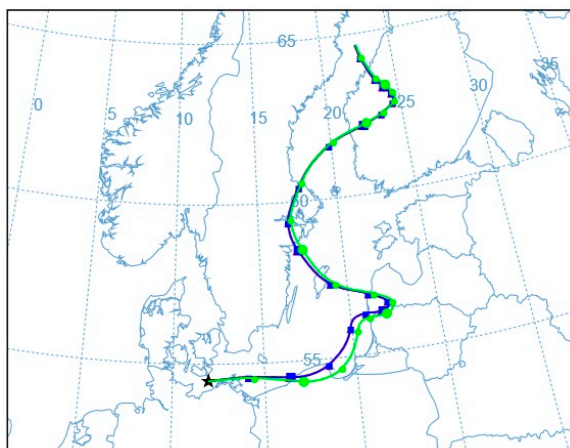


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Figure 6. Back trajectory for possible AMDE found on the 28th of March. Blue line represents vertical level 20 m, green represents 100m.

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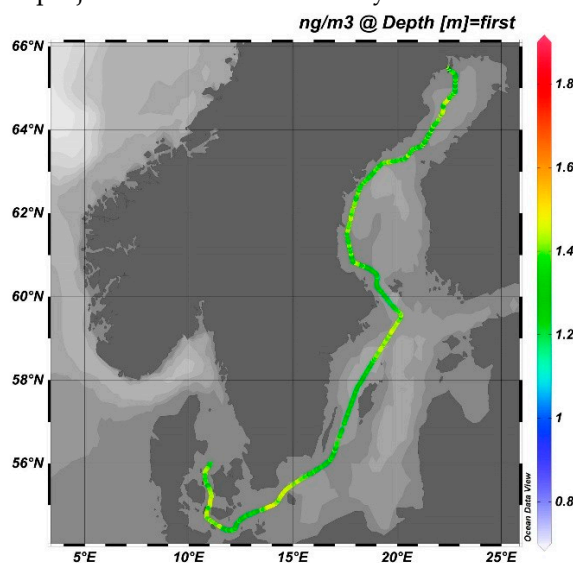
During the icebreaking season and BB2 the highest value of mercury 2,675 ng/m³ was measured. One explanation is possible contamination from the ship's exhaust since it greatly differs from the



281
 282 Fig. 8. Back trajectory for elevated level found on the 2nd of May. Blue line represents vertical
 283 level 20 m, green represents 100 m.
 284

285 3.3 Comparisons and other Observations

286 Comparing figures 9 and 10, depicting the cruise to northern Sweden during winter and the
 287 cruise to southern Sweden during spring, it can be seen that during winter the TGM concentrations
 288 are higher. The measured data peaks in March-April during BB2 and if the average value for BB1 is
 289 excluded a rising trend can be seen from December to March as well as a declining trend starting at
 290 the beginning of April. This corresponds to other studies in the northern hemisphere measuring TGM
 291 in the atmosphere where winter or spring maxima were found [20, 21, 22]. However, the amount of
 292 data and the timeframe of this project is insufficient to safely evaluate the seasonal trends.



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Figure 9. Plot showing the north cruise.

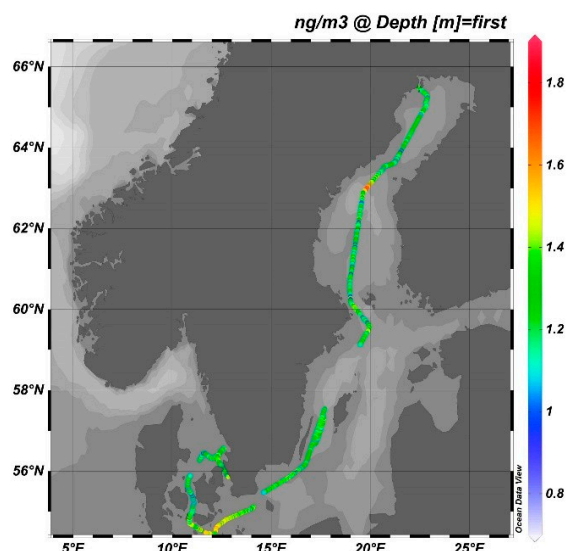


Figure 10. Plot showing the south cruise.

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297 The higher average measured during the cruise north might have been caused by the increased
298 burning of fossil fuels for domestic heating in the winter. Another possible explanation for this trend
299 is that a higher abundance of atmospheric oxidants in summer causes Hg to oxidise and deposit onto
300 surfaces, resulting in decreased TGM levels [20, 32]. The opposite trend – a summer maximum – has
301 also been observed in the United Kingdom and in the Baltic [18, 19]. This is probably due to a larger
302 influence of southerly winds carrying contaminated air from continental Europe [19].

303 On average the levels for both cruises are similar to what earlier studies of background levels
304 have found, with some exceptions of elevated levels in certain areas (see table 2). On both transits,
305 north and south, mercury concentrations were elevated near the Danish Islands. For the north cruise
306 no obvious anthropogenic sources were found to be the cause. On one occasion, air masses passed
307 through the Swedish west coast near known mercury emission sources. Conversely, during other
308 occasions, air masses passed through Denmark, Norway and Iceland where no specific sources were
309 found. On the cruise south during spring the elevated levels were most likely caused by atmospheric
310 mercury being transported from continental Europe and the Baltic, as previously mentioned.

311 Air mass trajectories originating in mercury rich areas mostly correlated with elevated
312 measurements. However, there were instances where back trajectories did not always give a clear
313 answer as to why a certain measurement was either elevated or not. In several cases of elevated levels
314 air masses passed through areas where no known source of emission could be found. The reverse
315 was also observed for some low measurements.

316 **Table 2.** TGM levels from other studies where TGM was measured, in the northern hemisphere and
317 around the world.

Location	Time Period	TGM (ng/m ³)	Reference
Baltic Sea	Summer 1997	1.70±0.20	Wängberg et. al. Ref: 18
Baltic Sea	Winter 1998	1.38±0.13	Wängberg et. al. Ref: 18
Råö, Sweden	2012 – 2015	1.42±0.20	Wängberg et. al. Ref: 34
Ny-Ålesund, Norway	2015	1.49±0.21	Angot et. al. Ref: 14
Arctic	2011 – 2014	1.46±0.33	Angot et. al. Ref: 14
Harwell, England	2013	1.45±0.24	Kentisbeer et. al. Ref: 35
South China	May 2008 – May 2009	2.80±1.51	X.W.Fu et. al. Ref: 4
Pallas, Finland	1996 – 1997	1.26± -	Berg et.al. Ref: 36
Ny-Ålesund, Norway	1996 – 1997	1.43± -	Berg et.al. Ref: 36
Hoburg, Sweden	1979 – 1980	3.91±1.15	Brosset C. Ref: 22
Mace Head, Ireland	Summer 1995 – 2001	1.6±	Ebinghaus et. al. Ref: 20
Mace Head, Ireland	Winter, 1995 – 2001	1.9±	Ebinghaus et. al. Ref: 20

318 A declining trend has been observed the last 10-30 years in sub-Arctic and mid-latitude sites [3,
319 21, 33]. This trend is corroborated by comparing the measured values in this study with
320 measurements from previous studies. Measurements were performed in Hoburg on the Swedish east
321 coast as early as in 1979-1980 resulting in an average of 3.91 ng/m³ which is nearly 300% higher than
322 the average from this study [22]. A later study was performed in 1997-1998 where measurements
323 were taken at various locations over the Baltic Sea. During summer in 1997 an average of 1.70 ng/m³
324 was found which is about 30% higher than the south cruise average of this study. During winter 1998
325 the calculated average was 1.38 ng/m³ which does not differ significantly from the winter average of
326 this study [18].

327 During the cruise north a diurnal variation pattern was observed with elevated levels during the
328 day and lower levels at night. This pattern was not consistent once IB Oden had passed Stockholm
329 and was neither observed again on the other cruises.

330 4. Conclusion

331 Data was evaluated with the aid of the programs ODV and HYSPLIT. Average concentrations,
332 for the transits north and south as well as during the icebreaking season, were 1.365 ng/m³ (north),
333 1.288 ng/m³ (south), 1.164 (BB1), 1.509 ng/m³ (BB2) and 1.364 ng/m³ (BB3). The total average was 1.362
334 ng/m³. When IB Oden was heading north during the winter, the average value was found to be higher
335 than the measured average value for the cruise south in late spring. These seasonal differences
336 coincided with other studies suggesting that average TGM levels in ambient air during winter were
337 elevated compared to spring. Over the past 10-30 years a declining trend in atmospheric mercury
338 concentrations has been observed [3, 21, 33]. When comparing the average values of this study with
339 measurements from previous studies made in the Baltic, this observation was supported.

340 Elevated levels were found near the Danish islands during both winter and spring. In winter
341 there were elevated levels near and above Stockholm and during the spring cruise an area of high
342 levels was found near Örnsköldsvik, Sweden. Using HYSPLIT to calculate air mass trajectories, some
343 winds were observed to have passed through places of known mercury sources such as continental
344 Europe or mining and metal companies in Sweden and Finland. However, during other occasions of
345 elevated levels back trajectories did not give sufficient indications of possible anthropogenic sources.
346 In many of these cases the winds had instead travelled over the North Sea indicating that the elevated
347 levels were possibly caused by re-emission of gaseous mercury from the water. Low or lower values
348 compared to normal background levels were also of interest when calculating back trajectories as
349 particularly low values could be indications of AMDE's. On two occasions during spring the levels
350 clearly dropped while oncoming winds came from the Arctic region. This result suggests that
351 depleted air masses had reached the site of measurement.

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363 [/C16839CD3AB54D7EPQ/1?accountid=10041](http://search.proquest.com/docview/1306701074/abstract/C16839CD3AB54D7EPQ/1?accountid=10041)

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