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Perspective

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Abstract

Tropospheric ozone (O_3) is among the most damaging air pollutant to plants. Plants alter the atmospheric O_3 concentration in two distinct ways: (i) by the emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are precursors of O_3; and (ii) by dry deposition, which includes di usion of O_3 into vegetation through stomata and destruction by nonstomatal pathways. Isoprene, monoterpenes, and higher terpenoids are emitted by plants in quantities that alter tropospheric O_3. Deposition of O_3 into vegetation is related to stomatal conductance, leaf structural traits, and the detoxiýcation capacity of the apoplast. The biochemical fate of O_3 once it enters leaves and reacts with aqueous surfaces is largely unknown, but new techniques for the tracking and identiýcation of initial products have the potential to open the black box.

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O_3