

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Fluorescent biological aerosol particles: Concentrations, emissions, and exposures in a northern California residence

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Abstract

Residences represent an important site for bioaerosol exposure. We studied bioaerosol concentrations, emissions, and exposures in a single-family residence in northern California with 2 occupants using real-time instrumentation during 2 monitoring campaigns (8 weeks during August–October 2016 and 5 weeks during January–March 2017). Time- and size-resolved fluorescent biological aerosol particles (FBAP) and total airborne particles were measured in real time in the kitchen using an ultraviolet aerodynamic particle sizer (UVAPS). Time-resolved occupancy status, household activity data, air-change rates, and spatial distribution of size-resolved particles were also determined throughout the house. Occupant activities strongly influenced indoor FBAP levels. Indoor FBAP concentrations were an order of magnitude higher when the house was occupied than when the house was vacant. Applying an integral material-balance approach, geometric mean of total FBAP emissions from human activities observed to perturb indoor levels were in the range of 10–50 million particles per event. During the summer and winter campaigns, occupants spent an average of 10 and 8.5 hours per day, respectively, awake and at home. During these hours, the geometric mean daily-averaged FBAP exposure concentration (1–10 μm diameter) was similar for each subject at 40 particles/L for summer and 29 particles/L for winter.

KEYWORDS

bioaerosols, built environment, fluorescent biological aerosol particles, human activity, occupancy, sources

1 | INTRODUCTION

Bioaerosols are airborne biological particles and can include viruses, bacteria, fungi, pollen, and their fragments, among other materials. Bioaerosols are omnipresent in outdoor and indoor air. They can occur as independent entities or in the form of aggregated cells or spores, as fragmented biological materials, and as materials of biological origin attached to abiotic particulate matter.¹ Some indoor bioaerosol particles are in the respirable size range. For instance, Yang et al² reported that airborne influenza viruses measured indoors were mainly associated with fine particles (<2.5 μm). In an occupied classroom, human-associated bacteria were primarily

detected on particles in the diameter range 3–5 μm .³ Several studies have reported that unicellular fungal spores found indoors are in the range 2–5 μm in aerodynamic diameter.^{4–7}

Non-occupational exposure to indoor bioaerosols has been associated with several detrimental health outcomes, such as infectious disease transmission (ie, influenza, tuberculosis, Legionnaires' disease), and allergic asthma and rhinitis.^{8,9} Bioaerosol concentrations and composition vary among built environments, such as public facilities, offices, and dwellings, with the differences attributable, at least in part, to different occupancy levels and building characteristics.^{10–12}

Residential environments are of particular interest as a site of bioaerosol exposure because of the large proportion of time that people spend in their homes. For example, the NHAPS study showed that people in the United States on average spent 70% of their time indoors at home.¹³ Good knowledge of the sources and dynamic behavior of bioaerosols in residential environments is therefore essential for characterizing overall exposures to bioaerosols.

Indoor bioaerosol levels are governed by a balance among several factors, the primary ones being emissions from indoor sources, intrusion from outdoor air, and removal from indoor air by a combination of filtration, deposition, and ventilation. Previous studies demonstrated that human occupancy can be an important source of indoor bioaerosols.¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Human occupants can influence airborne biological particle levels in residences via respiratory emissions (ie, sneezing), shedding of bacteria-laden skin flakes, movement-induced resuspension from clothing, upholstery materials, mattress, and flooring, and other ordinary household activities, such as showering, handling fabrics, sweeping floors, and vacuuming.^{14,16,18-23} Activities such as these result in strong enhancements of bioaerosol concentrations, often over short periods. Considering the potential for rapidly changing indoor bioaerosol concentrations, sampling methods with high time resolution can make important contributions to the state of knowledge regarding bioaerosol exposures in residential environments. Real-time measurements also can be used for estimating source-specific emission rates. Previous studies assessing bioaerosol concentrations in dwellings have mostly relied on time-integrated sampling (several hours or longer) or snapshots samples (no longer than several minutes).^{6,10,12,16,17,24} To our knowledge, there are no reported studies of residential bioaerosol concentrations that incorporate continuous, high time-resolution monitoring over extended periods. Moreover, bioaerosol emissions caused by household activities have not been well-characterized.

To contribute toward filling these important knowledge gaps, the primary goal of this work was to investigate time- and size-resolved levels of bioaerosol concentrations in a residential environment. In particular, the effect of human occupancy and activities on indoor bioaerosol concentrations was evaluated. Bioaerosol concentrations were monitored in a single-family home throughout 2 multiweek observational campaigns using an ultraviolet aerodynamic particle sizer (UVAPS). Following previous practice,²⁵ we will refer to the fluorescent particles measured by the UVAPS (particle size: 1-10 μm) as fluorescent biological aerosol particles (FBAPs), which are considered to be a lower bound estimate of primary biological aerosol particles. Occupancy status and household activity data were acquired using occupant-maintained logs plus supplementary electronic sensors. Additional monitoring information was obtained to provide air-change rate data and also the spatial distribution of size-resolved particles (without regard to fluorescence) throughout the house. A second objective was to report on human activity-induced FBAP emissions as a function of particle size and activity type. For this purpose, an integral material balance was applied

Practical Implications

- Developing knowledge about bioaerosol sources and dynamic behavior in residences can contribute to a better understanding of human exposures.
- Human occupancy played an essential role influencing FBAP levels in a single-family residence.
- Measured emission factors for common FBAP source activities can be used in indoor air quality models.

to the measured FBAP concentrations to quantify emissions per event. Emissions were characterized based on observational data for various cooking activities and for vacuuming. Emissions were also characterized for a few controlled experiments conducted in the same residence by researchers. A third goal of the study was to characterize exposures of the household occupants. To our knowledge, this study is the first to report FBAP concentrations, emissions, and exposures in a residence under normally occupied conditions.

2 | METHODS

2.1 | Site description

Bioaerosol concentrations were monitored in a single-family split-level home with a total floor area of 170 m^2 and 2 adult residents (female designated F1 and male M1) in Oakland, California. The selected house was built in 1938. The volume of the house's normally occupied space is about 350 m^3 , considering ordinarily occupied rooms, including bathrooms, and subtracting the estimated volume of cabinetry, furniture, and closets. There is hard flooring throughout. A floorplan of the house is presented in Figure S1. The lower level consists of a kitchen, family room, and living room. The kitchen, which is equipped with an electric stove, range hood, and appliances, also has a small dining area. The family room, which is also the TV room, is connected through an open doorway to the kitchen/dining area. The living room, which is infrequently used, faces the family room on the opposite side of the entrance hallway/foyer. The upper level, reached via 6 stairs, contains the master bedroom, 2 guest bedrooms, and 2 bathrooms, with a small landing space connecting the top of the stairs to all of the bedrooms. The doors between the rooms on the lower level and the bedroom doors to the landing were consistently left open during monitoring. Area rugs cover most of the hardwood floors in the family room, living room, and guest bedrooms. The master bedroom, landing, and hallway have hardwood flooring, and the kitchen/dining area has vinyl-type flooring. There is no visible water damage in the living spaces, no household pets, and no indoor plants other than several orchids in the family room. The backyard of the property contains a fruit and vegetable garden plus a detached garage.

Multiweek contiguous observational monitoring campaigns were conducted during summer 2016 (8 weeks of bioaerosol monitoring, beginning in mid-August) and winter 2017 (5 weeks, beginning in late January), with supplementary experiments carried out at the end of the summer campaign. The summer campaign coincided with the dry season of northern California. The average \pm standard deviation of the indoor temperature during summer was $22.4 \pm 1.6^\circ\text{C}$, and the corresponding relative humidity was $65 \pm 6\%$. During the winter campaign, it rained frequently. The indoor temperature was $17.6 \pm 1.3^\circ\text{C}$, and the relative humidity was $71 \pm 4\%$. The house has no mechanical ventilation other than exhaust fans above the stove and in the bathrooms; otherwise, the house is ventilated through a combination of infiltration and natural ventilation through operable windows. There is no air conditioning. There was sporadic use of central heating during the winter campaign. Determined using continuous controlled tracer releases (inert, isotopically labeled tracers were used: propene-d6, propene-d3, and butene-d3), the geometric mean air-change rate (geometric standard deviation) was 0.47/h (1.6) for the summer campaign and 0.33/h (1.3) for the winter campaign.²⁶ The higher value in the summer is attributed to window opening being more common during that season.

2.2 | Sampling protocols

During the observational campaigns, the 2 occupants were encouraged to follow their normal daily routines. They maintained daily logs of the times of their presence (separately recording awake and asleep times) and absence from the home. They also maintained a daily log of basic household activities, such as cooking and cleaning. The occupants gave informed consent for this study, which was approved by the Committee for Protection of Human Subjects at the University of California, Berkeley (Protocol #: 2016-04-8656). Fluorescent biological aerosol particle concentrations were only monitored locally in the kitchen/dining area of the house, because of the challenge in effectively transmitting particles as large as $10\ \mu\text{m}$ through long sampling lines. The kitchen is the most frequently used room on the lower level. Besides cooking and eating, normal desk work (ie, working with a laptop) often occurs at the dining table. Owing to the instrument location, we focused on assessing emissions and exposures during the times that the occupants were awake and at home. The data collected during the observational campaigns were judged unsuitable to assess FBAP exposures during sleep.

Using optical particle counters, size- and time-resolved particle levels were monitored without regard to fluorescence in 3 locations (lower level: family room and kitchen; upper level: landing) to evaluate spatial variability of particle concentrations inside the house; outdoor levels were sampled simultaneously. Also, the total particle number concentration (mainly ultrafine particles, UFP) was measured in the living room, providing supplementary evidence about the timing of source activities such as cooking and vacuuming. Wireless sensors were installed in each room to monitor environmental conditions, occupancy, appliance usage, and window/door state (open

vs closed). In addition, volatile organic compounds, ozone, carbon dioxide, and inert tracer gas concentrations were monitored in real time, as reported in detail in Liu et al.²⁶ The field campaign team visited the house on a weekly basis for instrument maintenance and data collection. At the end of each campaign, outdoor FBAP levels were monitored on-site for about 2 days.

2.3 | Manipulation experiments

Supplementary manipulation experiments were conducted at the end of the summer campaign to probe FBAP emissions associated with common activities that occurred on the upper level. A researcher (female) conducted scripted activities, including showering, making the bed and folding clothes, and vacuuming in the master bedroom and bathroom. Details about these experiments are reported in the Supporting Information.

During the manipulation experiments, dark-colored clothing, blanket, and bedding were used to minimize any interference of non-biological fluorescent material, such as optical brightening agents used on white fabrics. The master bedroom door and windows were closed so that the space could be considered as an enclosed single compartment. The master bathroom door, which is connected to the master bedroom, remained open during the manipulation experiments. FBAP levels were measured directly in the master bedroom. Air-change rates for the isolated bedroom/bathroom zone were determined using decay periods of metabolically generated carbon dioxide. The house occupants were away from home during these experiments.

2.4 | Instrumentation

An ultraviolet aerodynamic particle sizer (UVAPS; model 3314; TSI Inc, Shoreview, MN, USA), which provides time-resolved single particle detection of size-resolved viable biological particles using laser-induced fluorescence (LIF), was used in the study. The UVAPS uses a fixed excitation wavelength of 355 nm, which is produced by a diode-pumped, solid-state laser, and an emission region of 420–575 nm. Autofluorescence under this condition is associated with biochemical fluorophores, such as metabolic function riboflavin and reduced pyridine nucleotides coenzymes (eg, NAD(P)H), which are active cellular metabolism fingerprints.^{27–29} In prior studies, the UVAPS has been utilized to measure outdoor^{25,30–33} and indoor bioaerosols, such as bacterial and fungal spores.^{14,15,34} Studies have shown that potential abiotic fluorescent interferents, such as humiclike substances, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), certain secondary organic aerosols (SOA), soot, and mineral dust, can contribute to false-positive counts.^{35–37} For outdoor conditions, the interference of abiotic materials was found to be weak for particles larger than $1\ \mu\text{m}$.^{25,37} We adopt the practice of focusing attention on particles larger than $1\ \mu\text{m}$ to exclude potentially strong contributions from known interferents. For residential environments, some extra concerns arise because of the potential for sources such as cooking emissions, optical brightening agents, and fabric fibers shed or

resuspended from clothing, carpet, and upholstery to contribute to the fluorescence signal.³⁸

The UVAPS reports aerodynamic diameter, concentration, and the fluorescence intensity of particles for diameters in the range 0.5–15 μm ; there are 52 size channels and 64 fluorescent intensity channels. Particles measured by the UVAPS were sorted into 3 groups based on their fluorescent intensity (FI, reported without units): total particles, N_T ($\text{FI} \geq 0$); fluorescent biological aerosol particle (FBAP), N_F ($\text{FI} \geq 2$); and highly fluorescent particles, N_{F20} ($\text{FI} \geq 20$). In assessing the fluorescent particles, we excluded fluorescence intensity channel 2 ($\text{FI} = 1$) to avoid interference from non-fluorescent particles.^{25,39} In a study in an occupied classroom, Bhangar et al¹⁴ found that indoor FBAP exhibited a characteristically bimodal FI distribution; that study included a report of the highly fluorescent portion of FBAP. This study adopted that same concept and used the same threshold as in Bhangar et al.¹⁴ In addition to clustering by fluorescence intensity, for some of the data analysis, the particle sizes were clustered. In particular, for FBAP, the UVAPS particle size channels in the 1–10 micron aerodynamic diameter range were combined into 3 bins: 1–2.5 micron, 2.5–5 micron, and 5–10 micron. In this study, fluorescent biological aerosol particles that are smaller than 1 μm or larger than 10 μm were excluded due to known interference and big spatial variability caused by rapid deposition, respectively. The UVAPS sampled air at a flow rate of 1 L/min (plus 4 L/min for sheath air) and recorded data with 1-minute time resolution. With the sample flow rate and chosen resolution, the minimum detection limit was 1.2 particles/L. The UVAPS was placed in a soundproof box, equipped with cooling fans, and situated next to the dining table in the kitchen. A 0.3 m length of electrically conductive tubing was employed to sample air at 1.2 m in height, which corresponds to the breathing zone of a seated person. At the end of each campaign, separate from the manipulation experiments, the UVAPS was moved to the upper level to sample outdoor air through a window panel with a 0.6 m length of conductive tubing. The UVAPS sampling efficiency was evaluated for both conditions, as reported in Figure S2. The UVAPS response was adjusted to correct for sampling losses for the outdoor measurements. Particle loss in the tubing for indoor measurements was judged small enough to neglect.

Four optical particle counters (OPC; model MET ONE HHPC 6+; Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA, USA) were used to measure particle concentrations indoors and outdoors in the diameter range 0.3–10 μm in 6 size channels at a sample flow rate of 2.83 L/min. After manufacturer calibration, the 4 OPCs were initially deployed in the middle of the summer campaign. For the winter campaign, the OPCs were deployed together with UVAPS throughout. A water-based condensation particle counter (WCPC, model 1120; MSP Corp., Shoreview, MN, USA) was utilized to measure total number concentration of particles down to 8 nm at a sample flow rate of 1 L/min. All particle instruments were set to record measurement results with 1-minute resolution.

Wireless indoor climate monitors (Netatmo, Boulogne-Billancourt, France) were deployed to measure temperature, relative humidity, and carbon dioxide concentration. Additional wireless

sensors (SmartThings, Inc., Mountain View, CA, USA) were used to monitor room occupancy (motion sensors), window and door open/closed status (multipurpose sensors), appliance usage (smart outlets and multipurpose sensors), and basic environmental conditions (temperature and relative humidity sensors). Appliances monitored for operational status were the dishwasher, electric convection oven, microwave oven, coffeemaker, toaster, washer, and dryer. During the winter campaign, a temperature sensor was placed above one of the heater supply registers as an indicator of when the furnace operated.

2.5 | Quality assurance

Instrument maintenance and zero count checks were carried out throughout the observational campaigns. Instrument flow rates were confirmed by use of a primary standard flow meter (model: Defender 510; Mesa Laboratories, Butler, NJ, USA). Before and after each campaign, UVAPS sizing and fluorescence response were checked using monodispersed polystyrene latex (PSL) particles and fluorescent particles spanning the size range 0.6–4.8 μm (Duke Scientific Corp., Fremont, CA, USA; Thermo Scientific, Fremont, CA, USA). The UVAPS performance was found to agree well with the manufacturer's set values, as shown in Figure S3. The manufacturer calibrated the OPCs prior to the summer campaign. The OPC readings were adjusted using the ratio of measured actual flow rate to target flow rate (2.83 L/min). Collocation tests were completed pre- and post-campaign in the laboratory; the resulting adjustment factors (AF) are presented in Table S8. One OPC was designated to be the reference unit. For each campaign, the average AFs of pre- and post-campaign tests were used to adjust the readings of the other OPCs to the reference unit. After adjustment, differences between OPC responses were <10%.

2.6 | Data analysis

In assessing indoor concentrations and exposures, certain periods were excluded because of missing data or because of non-representative conditions. Specific exclusion periods, detailed in the SI, were times when the research team was in the house (eg, for calibration and instrument servicing), periods of instrument malfunctioning, and periods when occupants deliberately left the home vacant for research purposes. We did not evaluate directly the contributions of outdoor air to indoor FBAP levels owing to the lack of simultaneous indoor and outdoor FBAP measurement. However, available evidence, detailed subsequently, suggests that outdoor contributions represented a small proportion of the total indoor FBAP levels, especially when the occupants were awake and at home.

2.6.1 | Effect of occupancy

Activity patterns of the 2 occupants, F1 and M1, were obtained from occupant-maintained presence-absence logs. Specifically, occupants recorded each day the times that they were (i) at home

asleep (including evening and morning hours in bed); (ii) at home, indoors, and awake; (iii) at home but outdoors; and (iv) away from home. These times were recorded with an approximate resolution of 5 minutes. Household occupancy, defined as the proportion of time that the house was occupied (by either one or both occupants), was estimated based on occupant activity pattern logs.

To study the effect of occupancy on indoor FBAP concentration, UVAPS data were sorted into 3 groups based on occupancy level: home vacant, one occupant at home awake, and 2 occupants at home awake. Home vacant condition included the periods when both occupants were away from home during normal days and the periods when the house was left vacant deliberately for research purposes. Hourly average FBAP concentrations for each occupancy condition were estimated using the following criteria. For a given hour, if occupancy level remained the same for more than 45 minutes, then the arithmetic mean of the UVAPS data collected under this occupancy level was used as the average concentration for that hour. If no single occupancy condition was maintained for at least 45 minutes, then the UVAPS data collected during that hour were excluded from this assessment. Additional time filters were applied to discern appropriate home-vacant conditions. For each home-vacant interval, data collected from the first 3 vacant hours were excluded to avoid interference from the persistence of a signal that originated from emissions occurring when the house was last occupied. In addition, data collected overnight (11 PM to 6 AM) were systematically excluded in this analysis because the purpose was to examine the influence of occupancy during awake hours.

2.6.2 | Emission estimation

Some occupant activities (notably cooking) produced discernible increases in FBAP concentrations. We used a material-balance model to estimate FBAP emissions from the concentration increases caused by such activities as recorded during the observational campaigns. Activities were selected based on the following criteria: (i) activity start time could be clearly identified, and (ii) activity is expected to have the potential to emit FBAP. Four types of activities met these conditions: breakfast preparation (daily; both campaigns), other cooking (eg, dinner preparation; almost daily; both campaigns), making applesauce (about 3 times per week; summer campaign only), and vacuuming (biweekly; both campaigns). For each activity, the start time and the activity duration, t_s , were obtained from occupant-maintained activity logs. When the t_s value was not available from the activity logs, event duration, T , was specified to be a time that was believed to be longer than t_s . In selecting values of T for each activity, we considered input information from measured FBAP concentration time series, co-pollutant data (ie, ultrafine particle concentration), and wireless sensor information. A detailed description can be found in the SI. The geometric mean (geometric standard deviation) event durations were 51 (1.4) minutes, 31 (1.5) minutes, 90 (1.2) minutes, and 25 (1.3) minutes for breakfast preparation, other cooking, making applesauce, and vacuuming, respectively.

We quantified emissions to determine the total number of FBAP particles released during an event, F . As compared to assessing average emission rates (eg, number of FBAP particles emitted per hour), this approach has the benefit of being insensitive to the accurate determination of event duration. Total FBAP particle emissions per event was estimated by solving a single-compartment material-balance model, as shown in Equation 1. This equation states that for the j^{th} particle size interval, the change rate of indoor FBAP concentration $N_{F,\text{in},j}$ (particles/m³) can be obtained by summing contributions from indoor sources ($E(t)$, particles per hour) plus infiltrated outdoor particles minus the removal of indoor particles by means of ventilation and deposition. In Equation 1, V is the mixing volume of the interior space in which the emissions occurred (m³), a is air-change rate (per hour), p is the particle penetration efficiency (-), $N_{F,\text{out},j}$ (particles/m³) is outdoor FBAP concentration, and k is particle deposition rate coefficient (per hour).

$$\frac{dN_{F,\text{in},j}(t)}{dt} = \frac{E(t)}{V} + apN_{F,\text{out},j} - (a+k)N_{F,\text{in},j}(t) \quad (1)$$

Equation 2 is obtained by multiplying each side of Equation 1 by V and then integrating over the period from source start time ($t = 0$) to the end of event duration ($t = T$).

$$V \int_0^T d(N_{F,\text{in},j}) = \int_0^T E(t)dt + apV \int_0^T N_{F,\text{out},j}(t)dt - (a+k)V \int_0^T N_{F,\text{in},j}(t)dt \quad (2)$$

To proceed, we assume that the identified activity is the only emission source of FBAP within the time of the event, $0 \leq t \leq T$. The total number of FBAP emitted, F , is obtained as the integral of E over time, as shown in Equation 3.

$$F_j = \int_0^T E(t)dt \quad (3)$$

The evaluation of FBAP emissions is thus obtained by substituting Equation 3 into Equation 2, and rearranging to yield Equation 4:

$$F_j = V \left[N_{F,\text{in},j}(T) - N_{F,\text{in},j}(0) + (a+k)TN_{F,\text{in},j}(T) - apTN_{F,\text{out},j} \right] \quad (4)$$

In application, $N_{F,\text{in},j}(0)$ is assessed as the 5-minutes average indoor FBAP concentration immediately before time $t = 0$, and $N_{F,\text{in},j}(T)$ is the 5-minutes average centered at time T . For the observational campaigns, the volume of the house living space, 350 m³, was used as the mixing volume V . Using this volume raises a risk of bias in the analysis attributable to non-uniform concentrations in the household. In particular, the approach may overestimate the emissions for source activities in the kitchen to the extent that the measured FBAP concentrations in the kitchen exceed the household indoor average. To minimize any error associated with non-uniform concentrations,

we applied a scaling factor, s (-) to estimate house-average FBAP concentrations based on those measured in the kitchen, as shown in Equation 5.

$$F_j = V \left[s_j(T) N_{F,inj}(T) - s_j(0) N_{F,inj}(0) + s_j(T) (a+k) \overline{TN_{F,inj}(T)} - ap \overline{TN_{F,out,j}} \right] \quad (5)$$

Total particle data obtained from the 3 OPCs (placed, respectively, in the kitchen, family room, and landing) were used to estimate s , which is defined as the ratio of house-volume-weighted average particle concentration to kitchen particle concentration. For this purpose, the living spaces were grouped into 3 sections corresponding to the OPC locations: kitchen plus adjacent hallway, the rest of lower level area, and the upper level. According to the volume of each section, the weighting factors assigned to the kitchen, family room, and landing OPCs were 0.2, 0.4, and 0.4, respectively. Corresponding to the OPC size channels, the UVAPS data were grouped in 3 size bins: 1-2 μm , 2-5 μm , and 5-10 μm . Note that the first size cut is different from that used in exposure assessment. In this analysis, the spatial variability of the N_F to N_T ratio, and differences in aerodynamic diameter (as measured by the UVAPS) and optical diameter (as measured by the OPCs) attributable to particle shape and density were assumed to be negligible. Scaling factors, s , used for the 4 types of source activities are summarized in Table S9. The OPC data reveal that air was relatively well-mixed throughout the house for the food-related emission events (breakfast, cooking, and applesauce making). The scaling factor adjustments required mostly <20% correction to determine household average concentrations based on measured values in the kitchen.

Real-time air-change rates with 2-hours resolution were determined, as reported in Liu et al.,²⁶ using constantly released and continuously monitored tracer gas concentrations. Data collected in this study were not sufficient to determine a size-resolved particle penetration factor, p . Hence, p was assumed to be 1 (-) for all particle size bins of interest, resulting in an upper bound estimate of the contribution to indoor levels from outdoor air, $ap \overline{TN_{F,out}}$. As presented in Table S7, the mean outdoor FBAP concentration measured at the end of each campaign was used as $\overline{N_{F,out}}$ for estimating emission factors for events taking place in the corresponding campaign. Size-resolved particle decay rate coefficients, k , were determined using data from Thatcher et al.⁴⁰ For the particle size bins 1-2 μm , 2-5 μm , and 5-10 μm , k values used in this study were 0.37/h, 2.3/h, and 7.2/h, respectively.

Fluorescent biological aerosol particles concentrations measured during the hour prior to each episodic source event were examined to ascertain whether previous source events were still evident, as indicated by concentrations persistently and substantially elevated above baseline and decaying from the previous event. When applicable, the contribution of a previous source was modeled by performing a curve fit to the decay trend. The value of $N_{F,in}$ used in Equation 5 was the measured indoor FBAP

concentration minus the modeled contribution from any previous source event.

For the manipulation experiments, the same approach applied in the observational campaign was used to determine values for $\overline{N_{F,out}}$, p and k . The mixing volume for the manipulation experiments, V , was 47 m^3 , determined as the volume of the master bedroom plus master bathroom. In these manipulation experiments, scaling factors are not needed, so Equation 4 was used to calculate total emissions, F . The source duration, t_s , for each type of scripted activity is reported in Table S1. Air-change rates for the master bedroom were determined during the manipulation experiments using the decay period of metabolically generated carbon dioxide, measured with the room vacant after completing the simulated activity.

2.6.3 | Exposure assessment

The quantification of FBAP exposure at home was assessed on a daily-integrated basis for each of the household occupants. For each calendar day monitored and for each occupant considered separately, this measure reflects the time integral of the FBAP concentration during the periods that the occupant was awake and at home. It is expressed in units of number of fluorescent particles per cubic meter multiplied by awake hours per day ($\text{particles}/\text{m}^3 \times \text{h}/\text{d}$). This measure can also be expressed as the average daily FBAP exposure concentration during the period of awake occupancy multiplied by the hours per day spent awake at home, as illustrated in Figure S4. The FBAP concentration measured in the kitchen was deemed suitable to be used as the measure of FBAP exposure concentration during awake times because the kitchen was the most commonly used room during the day. We specifically excluded any contribution to FBAP exposure during sleep because data collected in the kitchen does not adequately represent the concentration in the master bedroom, especially in the breathing zone, and especially for coarse particles (2.5-10 μm).

2.6.4 | Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted using Minitab[®] 16 Statistical Software (Minitab Inc., State College, PA, USA). For each set of data, Anderson-Darling normality test was performed first to evaluate whether the data fit a normal distribution. Parametric statistics, such as Student's t test, were used for data sets which passed the normality test with confidence level of 95% ($\alpha = .05$). For those failed the normality test, nonparametric statistics were used, such as Mann-Whitney U test ($\alpha = .05$).

3 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 | Indoor FBAP levels and the influence of occupancy

Figure 1 illustrates the diurnal trends of indoor FBAP number concentrations measured in the kitchen for the summer (Figure 1A)

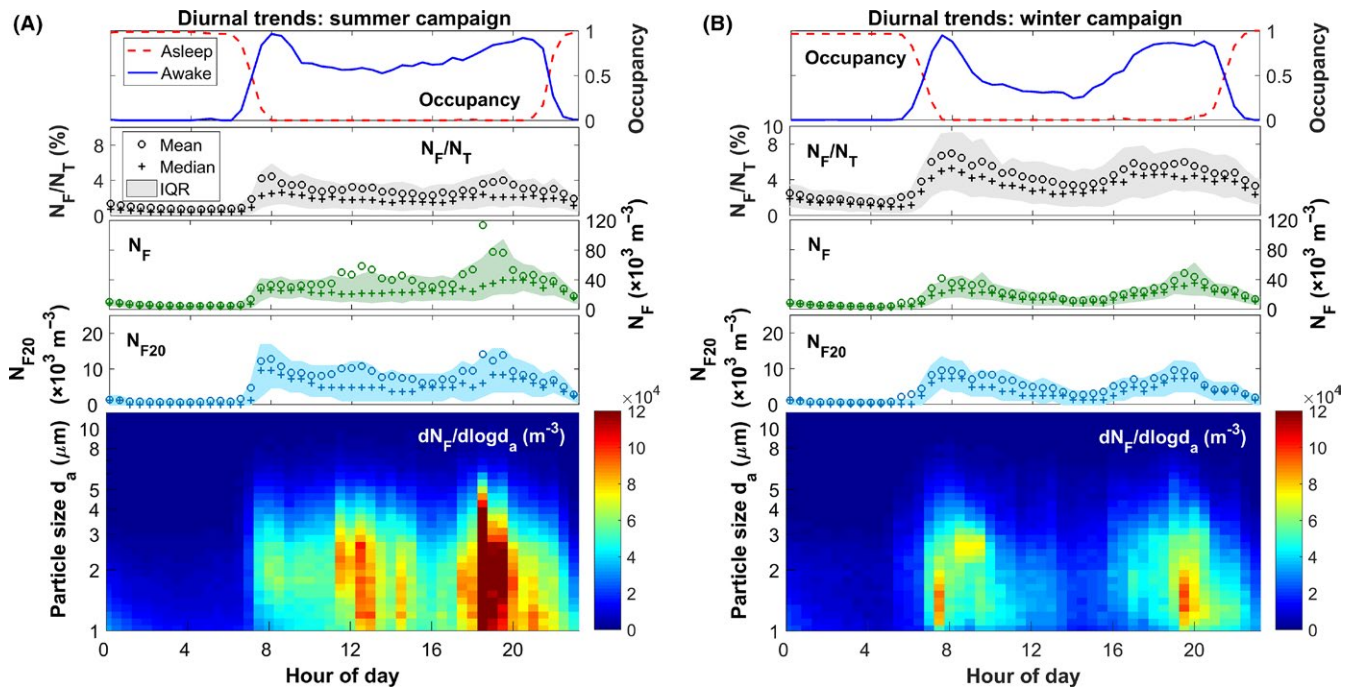


FIGURE 1 Diurnal trends of occupancy and indoor FBAP number concentrations measured in the kitchen for (A) summer and (B) winter campaigns. The top panel presents the proportion of time the house was occupied associated with occupant activity patterns (awake or asleep). The middle 3 panels show the ratio of fluorescent to total particles (N_F/N_T), the size-integrated (1–10 μm) FBAP concentrations (N_F), and the highly fluorescent particle concentrations (N_{F20}), respectively. The bottom panel displays the mean FBAP size distributions

and winter campaigns (Figure 1B), together with house occupancy patterns. Analysis for the summer campaign spanned 34 days, from August 20, 2016, to September 24, 2016, and for the winter campaign 23 days from January 31, 2017, to February 28, 2017. In total, occupants spent about 45% ($F1 = 45\%$, $M1 = 44\%$) and 38% ($F1 = 37\%$, $M1 = 39\%$) of their total time awake and at home during the summer and winter campaign periods, respectively. More detailed information about the occupancy patterns is reported in the SI (Figures S5 and S6).

As is clearly evident in Figure 1, indoor FBAP concentrations correlated strongly with household occupancy. Concentrations were low and remained steady when occupants were asleep; elevated concentrations were observed in all 3 indicators— N_F/N_T , N_F , and N_{F20} —when the occupants were awake and at home. Chen and Hildemann have reported an analogous observation of enhanced residential bioaerosol concentrations during daytime hours.¹⁶

For both summer and winter campaigns, the diurnal patterns of N_F/N_T , N_F , and N_{F20} exhibited peaks during the morning (7:30–9 AM) and evening (5–8:30 PM) hours that correspond with breakfast and dinner meal preparation periods. During these intervals, not only was the average occupancy level higher (as exhibited in the top frames of Figure 1) but also the occupants would also have tended to be more frequently in the kitchen and more active than the average during other intervals.

In the diurnal patterns displayed in Figure 1, the morning and evening peaks are remarkably similar. For example, the median N_F , N_{F20} , and N_F/N_T values of the morning and evening peaks agree to

within 10%, except for N_F during the summer campaign, for which a 30% higher value was observed during evening hours.

The diurnal patterns exhibited many qualitative similarities between seasons, but also some differences. Mean and median values are seen to be similar for the winter campaign, but exhibited some differences during the summer campaign. For example, additional peaks in mean N_F concentrations, which exceeded the interquartile range, are observed during summer at around noon, even though the occupancy pattern remained steady. Higher mean to median ratios were also observed during evening hours, 6–7 PM. These elements reflect higher variability across sampling days and particularly reflect positive skewness in the distributions of concentrations measured during these hours. The effects trace back to cooking-related activities, which were more frequent at lunchtime during the summer than during the winter and also included more frequent and more intensive episodes in the summer overall. The emissions associated with cooking particularly influenced the mean concentrations of particles in the diameter range 1–5 μm . Similar effects, although less pronounced, are observed for N_{F20} . This evidence supports an inference that episodic sources had a greater influence on indoor FBAP levels during summer than during winter at this site.

To further explore the influence of human occupancy on indoor FBAP levels, the time series of size-segregated N_F and N_{F20} concentrations were grouped into 3 categories based on occupancy level; Figure 2 displays the corresponding geometric mean (GM) values of hourly averaged concentrations in relation to occupancy state.

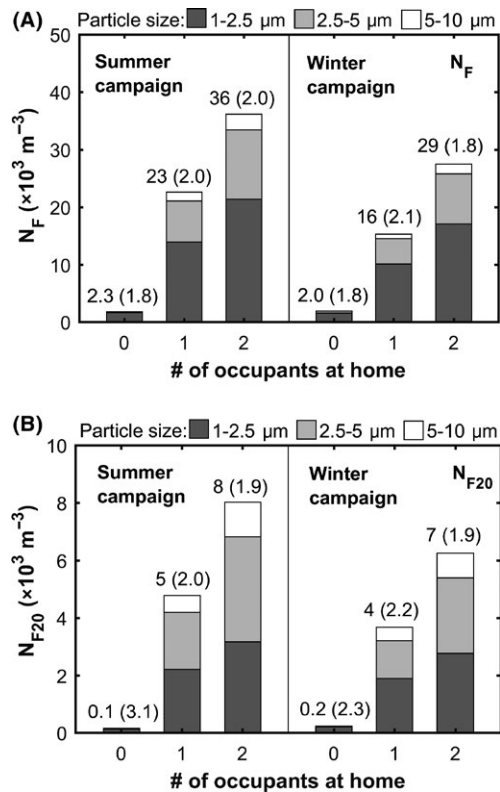


FIGURE 2 Geometric mean of hourly averaged indoor (A) fluorescent (N_F) and (B) highly fluorescent (N_{F20}) particle concentrations associated with occupied conditions (vacant vs one or 2 occupants awake and at home), respectively. For the summer campaign, 39 hours was included for house-vacant condition; 85 and 219 hours were included for house occupied with 1 and 2 occupants, respectively. For the winter campaign, 21 hours was included for house-vacant condition; 90 and 137 hours were included for house occupied with 1 and 2 occupants, respectively. The GM (geometric standard deviation) values for size-integrated concentrations of N_F and N_{F20} (1-10 μm) are reported on top of the stacked bars. Periods when the occupants were asleep are excluded

Compared with house-vacant condition, occupancy was associated with an order of magnitude increase in N_F and N_{F20} concentrations. Furthermore, having 2 occupants in the house was associated with systematically higher FBAP levels than having a single occupant. Significantly higher N_F and N_{F20} concentrations were observed when 2 occupants were at home for both monitoring campaigns ($P < .001$, Mann-Whitney test).

In the evening of one of the summer campaign days, about 20 people were at the house for a dinner party. The hourly average N_F and N_{F20} observed during the party hour were $320 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ and $73 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$, respectively, close to the 90th percentile of N_F and N_{F20} concentrations associated with 2 occupants being awake and at home during the summer campaign. This finding is consistent with results of Bhangar et al¹⁵ and Heo et al⁴¹, who, respectively, reported enhanced FBAP emissions and bacterial bioaerosols associated with increased number of human occupants. Clearly, human occupancy is a prominent source of FBAPs in the monitored residence; the low overnight levels presented in Figure 1 indicate that

the human-associated source is more associated with activity than with simple presence.

Besides occupancy level, Figure 2 shows a perceptible influence of season on indoor FBAP levels. Statistically significant differences between the summer and winter campaigns were detected for N_F and N_{F20} levels associated with occupied conditions (1 and 2 occupants). Levels were higher in summer than in winter ($P < .001$, one-sided Mann-Whitney test). It is noteworthy that the higher levels occurred in summer despite higher air-change rates during that season. The enhanced N_F and N_{F20} concentrations in the summer are probably attributable to the higher activity levels that season under the same occupancy condition. For instance, besides breakfast preparation and other cooking events, which happened on a daily basis for both seasons, 20 applesauce-making events occurred during the summer campaign. Applesauce-making events are clear indicators that the occupants were more active indoors in summer than in winter.

Compared with the effect of occupancy (including occupant activities), other factors only had modest impact on indoor FBAP levels. For example, the variable influence of outdoor FBAP during occupied conditions was only moderate. The contributions from outdoors were roughly estimated using geometric mean air-change rates across the campaign days, outdoor FBAP levels measured at the end of each campaign, and accounting for deposition. The contributions from outdoors were about $7 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ and $4 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ for the summer and winter campaigns, respectively, considerably smaller than geometric mean values during awake and occupied conditions, which were in the range $(16\text{-}36) \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$.

Particle size distributions of N_F and N_{F20} associated with occupancy levels and in outdoor air are presented in Figures S7 and S8, together with geometric means and geometric standard deviations of the best-fit lognormal distributions. As shown in Figure S7, when the house was vacant, about 90% of the FBAPs and highly fluorescent particles were in the 1-2.5 μm size range, with a modeled mode at around 1.3 μm . The main source of indoor FBAP and highly fluorescent particles during vacant periods was infiltration of outdoor materials. For occupied conditions, the modes of N_F and N_{F20} shifted to the larger diameters of 2.1 and 3 μm , respectively. The shifts were attributable to the presence of indoor emissions caused by human activities. FBAP and highly fluorescent particle concentrations peaked in the 1-3 μm range and 2-4 μm range for occupied conditions, respectively. As displayed in Figure S8, the modeled modes of outdoor FBAPs were at about 3 μm , in good agreement with previous studies.^{25,30}

3.2 | FBAP emissions for human activities

For the observational campaigns, 104 events were analyzed for the selected 4 activities including breakfast preparation, other cooking, making applesauce, and vacuuming. The number of FBAP particles emitted (F) ranged from 10^6 to 10^8 particles per event. Figure 3 displays geometric mean emissions of fluorescent biological aerosol particles (FBAP, F) and of highly fluorescent particles (F_{20}) from

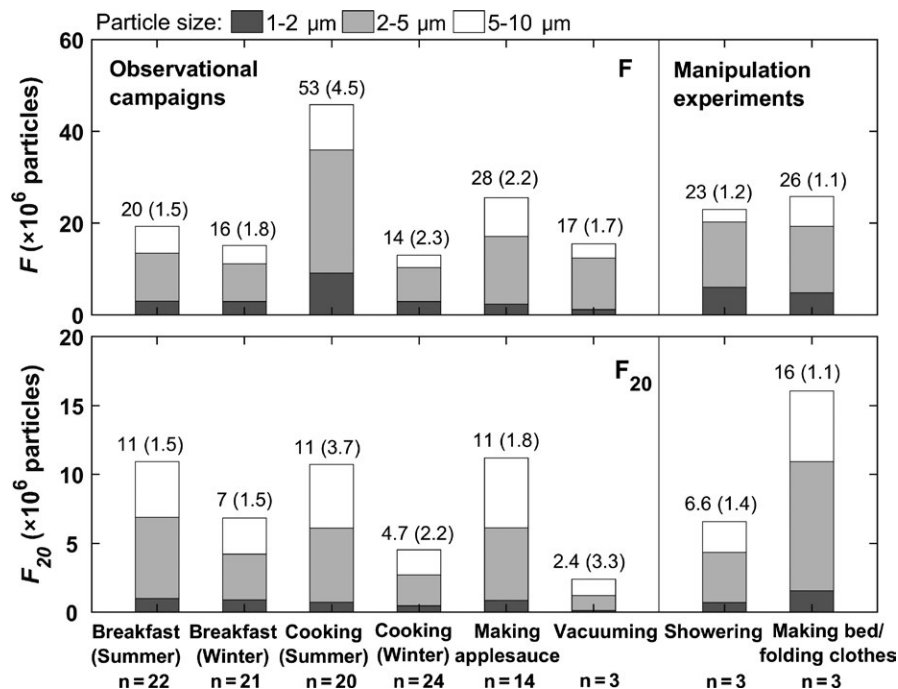


FIGURE 3 Geometric mean size-segregated emissions of FBAP particles (F) (top panel) and highly fluorescent particles (F_{20}) (bottom panel) associated with selected human activities. The number of events analyzed is marked below each stacked bar. The GM (GSD) of size-integrated emissions (1-10 μm) is displayed on top of the stacked bars

various human activities. In central tendency, the selected human activities emitted about 14×10^6 to 53×10^6 FBAP particles including 2×10^6 to 16×10^6 highly fluorescent particles per event. As can be seen in Figure 3, considerable portions of FBAP and highly fluorescent particles emitted were in the coarse size range (2-10 μm diameter). (Numbers discussed in Section 3.2 and Section 3.3 are geometric mean (GSD) values unless otherwise specified.)

For food-related activities, such as breakfast preparation, other cooking, and applesauce making, potential sources of biological particles include direct shedding from the occupants, resuspension from clothing and flooring, biological particles aerosolized from tap water and boiling water (via bubble-bursting), and emissions from processing food.^{15,21,22,42,43}

Breakfast preparation followed a relatively consistent pattern each day, as described in the SI, and resulted in similar FBAP emissions for the 2 campaigns. Although emissions during summer were slightly higher, the seasonal differences were not statistically significant for FBAP particles. For highly fluorescent particles, emissions during summer were significantly higher than during winter ($P < .05$, one-sided Mann-Whitney test). We speculate that the higher F_{20} might be attributable to enhanced shedding of bacteria-laden skin flakes as a result of reduced clothing coverage in summer.

Unlike breakfast preparation, other cooking events exhibited considerable day-to-day variability, likely attributable to more variable cooking styles for lunch and dinner preparation than for breakfast. Cooking during the summer campaign resulted in the highest FBAP emissions, which was approximately 4 times higher than cooking emissions during the winter campaign ($P < .001$, Student's t test). Similar trends were observed for highly fluorescent particles, although the difference was smaller than for FBAP. Summer cooking events resulted in approximately 2.3 times higher F_{20} than from winter cooking events ($P = .01$, one-sided Mann-Whitney test).

The seasonal difference in cooking emissions was further investigated by sorting cooking events into 2 major groups based on cooking style: fry/sauté (summer $n = 10$; winter $n = 10$); and boiling/steaming (summer $n = 5$; winter $n = 7$). For both groups, summer events showed significantly higher emissions than winter events ($P < .05$, one-sided Mann-Whitney test). The difference in fry/sauté events was mainly caused by one particular cooking activity, namely the making of ratatouille ($n = 3$), which exhibited an average emission of 630×10^6 FBAP particles, the highest among all events evaluated. (This cooking activity entailed pan-grilling vegetables on an electric range top at high heat, close to the smoking point of olive oil.) With ratatouille-making excluded, summer fry/sauté events still showed a higher median emission of 28×10^6 FBAP particles compared to 17×10^6 FBAP particles emitted from winter fry/sauté events; however, that difference is not statistically significant. For boiling/steaming events, the summer median emissions were 37×10^6 FBAP particles, about 3 times higher than the winter median emissions of 13×10^6 particles. Event durations were comparable between the 2 campaigns, with some differences in ingredients used. Nevertheless, it is unclear whether the seasonal difference in emissions is caused by differences in ingredients without additional information such as the amount of food prepared per event.

Applesauce making, which involved both occupants peeling and chopping apples harvested from the garden followed by stove-top cooking, caused the second highest FBAP emissions. Compared with breakfast preparation (summer), which was also undertaken by both occupants, applesauce making was associated with approximately 40% higher F but very similar F_{20} . We surmise that the sources of highly fluorescent particles are mainly human related rather than food related.

Some seasonal difference was observed at this house for surface microbial biomass. As reported by Adams et al,⁴⁴ who sampled

periodically wet surfaces (including the kitchen sink) in the studied house, greater biomass was detected in the summer campaign than during the winter campaign.

As shown in Figure 3, the FBAP emissions from vacuuming and wet mopping of the hard-surface flooring mostly ranged in size from 2 to 10 μm with weak emission observed for the 1 to 2 μm fraction. This pattern is different from previously reported total particle emissions, which were dominated by fine particles.^{23,45} Potential sources of FBAP include biological particles emitted from the occupants (direct shedding and resuspension from clothing), emissions from vacuum bags and resuspended floor dust.

Manipulation experiments included showering and applying personal care products such as sunscreen and deodorant ($t_s = 20$ minutes) and making a queen-size bed and folding previously worn clothes ($t_s = 10$ minutes). As shown in Figure S9, size-resolved emissions from the showering events had a mode at 2.6 μm for FBAPs and a mode at 4.4 μm for highly fluorescent particles. Figure S10 displays the particle size distributions of aerosolized shower water without anyone in the shower stall. Aerosolized shower water caused the N_F level to be elevated to approximately 3 times the background value, mainly in the diameter range 1–3 μm , but no difference was observed for N_{F20} levels. This result suggests that shower water also contributed to FBAP emissions during the showering event, whereas highly fluorescent particle emissions were probably mainly attributable to emissions from the showering human subject. The size distribution of shower generated FBAPs compares well with findings from Bollin et al¹⁸, who reported that about 90% of the *Legionella pneumophila*-laden particles emitted from shower heads were 1–5 μm in diameter. Other than cooking during the summer campaign, showering caused the highest FBAP emissions in the 1–2 μm range, likely attributable to FBAPs from aerosolized shower water. Regarding making the bed and folding clothes, size distributions of FBAP and highly fluorescent particle emissions had similar profiles, peaking in the 3–5 μm diameter range, as shown in Figure S11. Potential sources of biological particles for bed making and clothes folding include direct shedding from the human subject plus the resuspension of bacteria-laden skin flakes and fungal spores from bedding and clothes.^{46,47} Bed making and folding clothes together led to the highest FBAP and highly fluorescent particle emission in the 2–5 μm and 5–10 μm ranges, probably owing to resuspension from textiles. Humans shed 200–1000 million cells per day.⁴⁸ Bedding and clothing can act as a reservoir of skin flakes shed from humans and also of deposited airborne biological particles.

One source of uncertainty associated with estimating F is the lack of simultaneously measured outdoor FBAP concentrations. The contributions of outdoor FBAP were estimated using a single average outdoor level measured at the end of each campaign. Compared with indoor emissions, the estimated outdoor particle contributions represented a small fraction (GM <15%) of the total N_F levels during emission events. Hence, the contribution to uncertainty because of a lack of detailed knowledge about outdoor levels is believed to be small. Another potential source of error is abiotic interference that could produce false-positive FBAP counts. In particular, it is feasible

that the fry/sauté style of cooking could emit primary PAHs (eg, from heated cooking oils) and cooking emissions might also contribute to secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation.^{49,50} Available evidence would suggest that these interferents are mainly found in submicron particles, with only a small probability of coagulating onto supermicron particles.^{31,51} Evidence in this study regarding potential interferent contributions of PAH and SOA formation in relation to FBAP signals is not definitive, but does suggest that any interference was not a major contributor to the results. For instance, Figure S12 shows particle size distributions of ratatouille-making events, which, because of the high cooking temperature, were most likely to emit primary PAH. The size distribution of mean FBAP concentrations observed peaked at around 2–4 μm instead of at the lower bound of the size spectrum, 1 μm . In addition, the FBAP size distributions did not match total particle distributions, which peaked in the submicron size range. Similar trends were observed for other high-emitting cooking events. To our knowledge, the impact of cooking emissions on coarse FBAP counts has not been directly tested in any prior study.

3.3 | Exposure assessment

Occupancy patterns for the 2 adults living in this house were sufficiently similar to justify grouping them for the purposes of statistical assessment of exposure. During the summer and winter campaigns, the occupants spent 10 hours per day (1.3) and 8.5 hours per day (1.5), respectively, awake and at home. Considering these awake and at home periods, the daily-averaged FBAP exposure concentration (1–10 μm) was $40 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ (1.7) for summer and $29 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ (1.3) for winter. Regarding highly fluorescent particles, the daily-averaged exposure concentration was $9 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ (1.5) for summer and $7 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ (1.3) for winter. Figure 4 displays the cumulative distribution of daily-integrated FBAP and highly fluorescent particle exposures determined during the summer and winter campaigns, respectively. In general, at-home occupant exposures were higher for the summer campaign, owing to the combined effects of higher occupancy level and enhanced exposure concentrations.

Differences were estimated between exposure concentrations assessed using time-resolved concentrations during awake periods of occupancy and the more conventional approaches, either employing time-integrated concentrations (several hours or longer) or snapshot concentrations (several minutes or shorter). An averaging time of 24 hours was chosen to compute time-integrated FBAP concentrations using data collected in both campaigns. As shown in Figure S13, using 24-hours average, including non-occupied periods, FBAP daily exposure concentrations would be underestimated by approximately 34% in the studied residence. This finding is in good agreement with a previous study evaluating $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ exposure in indoor environments.⁵² Regarding snapshot concentrations, it is a challenge for such an approach to obtain representative samples for exposure assessment owing to the rapidly changing indoor FBAP levels associated with time-varying occupancy and occupant activities. As illustrated in Figure 2, samples taken during unoccupied periods may

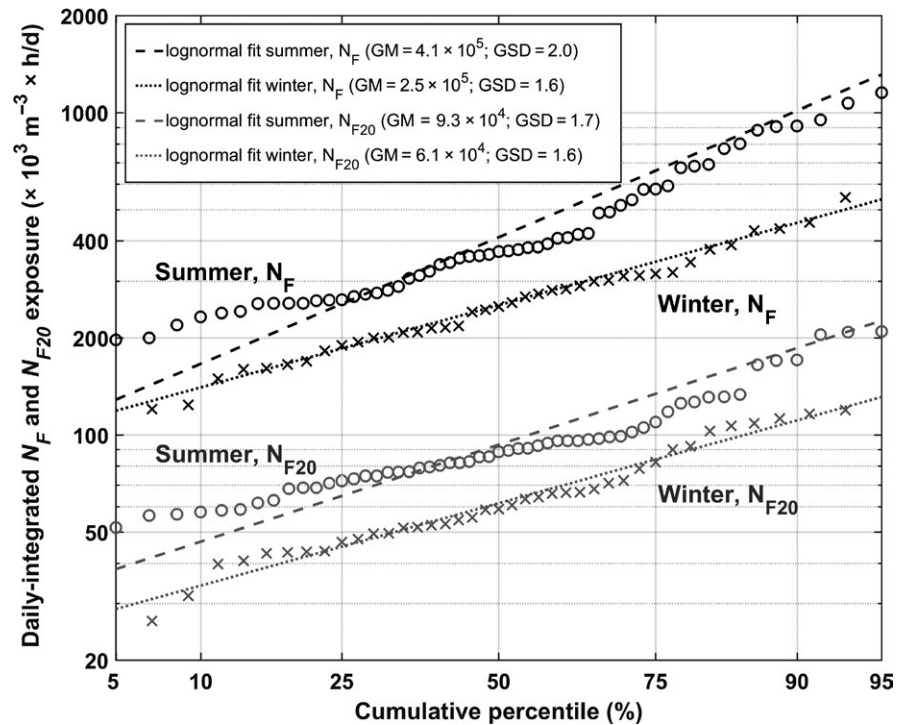


FIGURE 4 Daily-integrated occupant exposures ($\times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3} \times \text{h/d}$) to FBAPs, N_F , and highly fluorescent particles, N_{F20} during the summer (circles) and winter campaigns (crosses). Best-fit lognormal distributions are plotted, with modeled geometric means and geometric standard deviations reported in the legend. Exposures for the 2 subjects were not statistically different, so they are combined and presented without differentiation in this plot

underestimate exposure concentrations by an order of magnitude. In addition, when assessing exposure in a given microenvironment, only the concentrations measured when the receptor is present in the given microenvironment are relevant. During occupancy periods, indoor FBAP concentrations can vary as much as 2 orders of magnitude within a day. Figure S4 shows exposure time profiles for a typical day as an example. Moreover, a measurement team must take great care so that their biological particle emissions during setup and sampling periods do not confound sampling results; that risk is particularly large for the snapshot style of indoor bioaerosol measurement.

Because of source proximity and the personal cloud effect, FBAP concentrations as measured here with a stationary monitor might be lower than the actual exposure concentrations.⁵³ In addition, contributions to exposure that occurred during sleeping hours were not evaluated in this study. Consequently, the presented FBAP exposures represent lower bounds of daily residential bioaerosol exposure at site H1 for subjects M1 and F1.

As discussed in the previous section, abiotic interferences might have led to some overestimation of FBAP concentrations during cooking events. If cooking events were excluded from the analysis, geometric mean daily-integrated exposure would have been reduced by 13% and 11% for the summer and winter campaigns, respectively.

4 | CONCLUSION

Knowledge developed in this study can contribute to a better understanding of bioaerosol concentrations, emissions, and human exposure in residential environments. First, human occupancy and activities were seen to be important sources of FBAPs even in a

moderately large home with only 2 occupants. Human occupancy enhanced indoor FBAP and highly fluorescent particle concentrations by an order of magnitude above the levels observed during unoccupied periods. Elevated FBAP and highly fluorescent particle concentrations were associated with increased occupancy level. For occupied conditions, the modes of N_F and N_{F20} were found to be in the 1-3 μm and 2-4 μm particle size ranges, respectively. Second, common household activities, such as cooking, vacuuming, showering, and making a bed, can substantially emit indoor FBAPs. This finding suggests a possibility that mitigating emissions from these activities, for example, through laundering bedding material more frequently to minimize biological particle accumulation, might lead to a reduction in bioaerosol exposure and associated detrimental health outcomes, such as allergic asthma. In central tendency, selected human activities emitted 14×10^6 to 53×10^6 FBAP particles including 2×10^6 to 16×10^6 highly fluorescent particles per event. The results can be used in indoor air quality models to estimate the impact of human activities on indoor FBAP levels. Compared with indoor sources, estimated outdoor contributions to indoor FBAP levels were no more than moderate. Third, to assess FBAP exposure in residences, only concentrations measured during occupancy periods should be used, due to the strong influences of occupancy level and occupant activities. Including concentrations measured during unoccupied periods in exposure assessment would likely underestimate human exposure to FBAPs to a substantial extent. Considering only awake and at-home periods, the geometric mean daily-integrated FBAP exposures (1-10 μm) were estimated to be $410 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3} \times \text{h/d}$ for summer (2.0) and $250 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{-3} \times \text{h/d}$ (1.6) for winter.

In this work, only a single house was studied. Clearly, bioaerosol concentrations and emissions measured in one house cannot

represent general conditions. The seasonal difference observed in this study might not apply to other parts of the country. However, the type of deep probing undertaken here does elucidate important mechanisms and processes, contributing to a foundation of knowledge that supports the design and interpretation of studies that would sample more broadly. Future work could be undertaken using similar methods as employed here to study the influence of different household characteristics on indoor bioaerosol levels. Factors to consider include the role of central heating and air-conditioning systems (including filter characteristics), efficacy of portable air cleaning devices, and the effects of occupant density, flooring materials, and pet presence. Although the estimated influence of outdoor levels on indoor FBAP concentration was only moderate in this work, future studies would usefully include simultaneous measurement of indoor and outdoor concentrations if biological particles of outdoor origin are of interest. Also, more research is needed to better understand the possible contributions of indoor interferents to FBAP signals and, if significant, to assess how best to discriminate between fluorescent biological particles and abiotic interferents.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found online in the supporting information section at the end of the article.

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