



Did methyl halides play a role in the Permian-Triassic extinctions?

K. Kourtidis(1)

(1)Department of Environmental Engineering, Demokritos University of Thrace, GR-67100 Xanthi, Greece

Several events at or near the Permian-Triassic Boundary (PTB) have been identified that might have played a role in the series of extinctions recorded at the PTB. Here, it is commented on the previously unaccounted emission to the atmosphere of methyl bromide (CH_3Br) and methyl chloride (CH_3Cl) from the Deccan traps eruptions, frequent continental flooding with seawater, and extensive fungal action. All of these processes have the potential to contribute with substantial CH_3Cl and CH_3Br amounts to the atmosphere, which could subsequently enter the stratosphere and cause ozone depletion. An attempt is made to quantify these emissions based on available data.