RATE OF INCREASING CONCENTRATIONS OF ATMOSPHERIC CARBON DIOXIDE CONTROLLED BY NATURAL TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Studies of the temperature anomalies during the last 27 years show a close relationship with the varying increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere. Volcanic eruptions and La Niñas reduce CO_2 values and El Niños increase them. This close relationship strongly indicates that ocean temperatures and the solubility of CO_2 in seawater control the amount of CO_2 being absorbed or released by the oceans. It is therefore likely that the increased CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere is due to a natural global warming and that CO_2 produced through fossil fuel combustion by humans can not disrupt this balance. An advanced statistical multiregression analysis confirms this conclusion. Therefore it is likely that there is no anthropogenic climate change on a global scale. The natural exchange of CO_2 between ocean, biomass on land and the atmosphere is very large. In only four to five years all the CO_2 in the atmosphere has been recycled through the oceans and the biomass system. The annual anthropogenic human production of CO_2 is neutralized by nature in as little as 12 days. Recent studies of the solar forcing, changes in cosmic radiation and its role in cloud formations explain the global warming that has taken place since 1910.

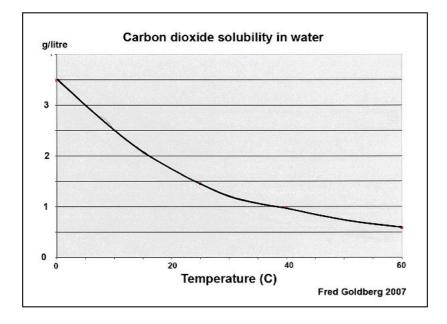
Key words: CO_2 emissions, atmosphere, natural versus anthropogenic global warming, climate change and oceans.

1. INTRODUCTION

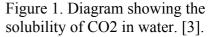
 CO_2 is an essential gas for all life on Earth. It is a non-toxic, colourless and odourless gas which is needed by all plants for their photosynthesis. The plant absorbs CO_2 through its stomata cells on the underside of its leaves or needles and together with sunlight (=energy) and water carbohydrate (sugar) products are formed. A by-product is oxygen, a gas of vital importance for all life-forms on land. Most living life forms on Earth are hence dependent of CO_2 . The first life forms on Earth were algae or phytoplankton in the oceans consuming large volumes of CO_2 for their photosynthesis and building of shells [1].

It has been proposed that, when Earth was formed 4,5 billion years ago the atmosphere consisted of 80% CO₂, 10% water and 10% nitrogen. Over the billions of years acidic rains containing carbonic acid have dissolved the silicates on the surface of Earth resulting in carbonate products being collected on the bottom of the seas. Here some of these carbonate products have transformed into limestone. Today the concentration of CO₂ is 380 ppmv or 0,038% of the atmosphere. All the coal found around the world originates from the CO₂ in the atmosphere. During the Carboniferous period 300 Mya it is believed that the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere was 350 ppmv. It subsequently increased to several thousand ppmv due to a higher global temperature of approx. 22° resulting in warmer oceans which releases CO₂ into the atmosphere. Today's average global temperature is estimated to be 14,5° [2].

 CO_2 is easily dissolved in seawater and the solubility is temperature dependant. Colder water can dissolve more CO_2 and increasing water temperatures reduce the solubility, figure 1. CO_2 is dissolved in water and establishes an equilibrium with the atmosphere according to Henry's Law. When e.g. sparkling mineral water is produced, the water is cooled to 5° C and CO_2 gas



is freely bubbled through the flowing water. In less than a minute the cold water has absorbed 3 litres of CO_2 gas needed for a 1 litre bottle of mineral or soda water.



Open ocean water in equilibrium with the atmosphere at 0° C contains about 2200 micromoles/liter CO₂, which is about 75 times as much as that in pure water. The seawater has a pH of about 8.0 (similar to our blood), and about 1% of the dissolved CO₂ in seawater is in the form of (CO₂)aq or H₂CO₃, and 97% is in the form of HCO₃-. Since the degree of ionic dissociation changes with pH, the solubility of CO₂ in seawater is a function of not only temperature but also pH, [4].

Henry's Law says that CO_2 is in equilibrium between the air and water at 25°C when approximately 1/50 of the gas is in the air and the remaining gas is dissolved in the water. If 50 units of gas are added to the air 49 units will be dissolved into the water.

This process is also well illustrated by the ice core from Vostok Station in Antarctica. This ice core spans over 450 000 years and yields the temperature and CO_2 concentration, Figure 2. The temperature curve spans over four ice ages indicating a rapid warming, a short interglacial period and a long cooling period, together covering a 100 000 year period. The CO_2 measurements show a very similar pattern but with a slight time delay. The actual low values of the CO_2 concentrations must be questioned due to the physical and chemical processes in the ice changing the original concentration of CO_2 in the trapped air [5]. When the temperature rises at the end of an ice age the concentration of CO_2 increases rapidly with approx. 50% or more in the atmosphere. This CO_2 can only come from the oceans and during the glacial periods, when the concentration of CO_2 is low the CO_2 has gone back into the oceans, as the solubility for CO_2 increases with colder water. It is the heating and cooling of the oceans that controls the amount of CO_2 in the atmosphere. It is interesting to note in figure 2 that during the previous interglacial period **it was warmer than today** despite the atmospheric CO_2 concentration according to ice cores being lower than today.

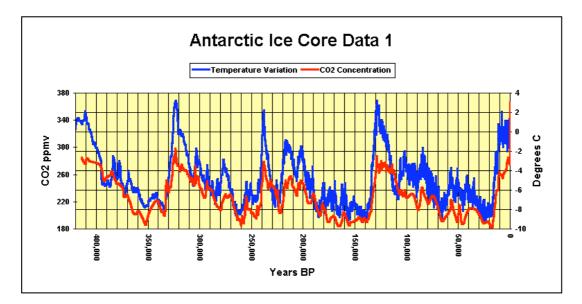


Figure 2. Historical Isotopic Temperature record from the Vostok Ice Core.(J.R. Petit et al 1999)

Today the cold waters surrounding the Antarctic continent and in and near the Arctic Ocean are absorbing CO_2 . Being dissolved in the colder heavier water, the CO_2 rich water will eventually sink to the ocean floor and be transported around the world. The flow of cold water from the Arctic Ocean goes southward along the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, often called "Broecker's conveyor belt". When the cold waters are mixed with warmer water and eventually surface near the Equator, the water will be warmed up, and release some of its CO_2 .

When CO_2 is dissolved in the oceans it goes through several complicated processes forming carbonic acid, bicarbonate ions, carbonate ions and limestone. These processes are very complex due to currents of water of different temperatures, salinity and depths. Another complication is that seawater is supersaturated with calcium and other minerals which makes chemical standard equilibrium modelling extremely difficult and uncertain [6].

The oceans have a very large capacity for absorbing CO_2 . If all the CO_2 in the atmosphere were to be dissolved in the oceans, a rough calculation indicates that only the upper 14 cm of water would be saturated. In addition all plants and phytoplankton in the oceans are large consumers of CO_2 . The movement of CO_2 is a complex issue where large amounts are carried both horizontally and vertically by colder or warmer currents and by organisms moving up or down on a daily rhythm. The water surface exchanging CO_2 with the atmosphere is strongly affected by rain, winds, wave action and air temperatures. The top 200 m of the world's ocean water store 30 times more heat than the atmosphere [7]. Between 1969 and 2000 the oceans have been warmed an average of 0,31° C [8].

2. THE CARBON CYCLE

According to measurements by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U S DOE, the total reservoir of CO_2 in the atmosphere (expressed in carbon equivalents) is 775 Gtons, figure 3. The diagram shows that in the oceanic reservoir there is 38 100 Gtons C of dissolved CO_2 , which (according to Henry's Law) fifty times more than in the atmosphere. According to the diagram the annual flux of CO_2 from the oceans to the atmosphere is 90 Gton C and 92 Gton C in the opposite direction.

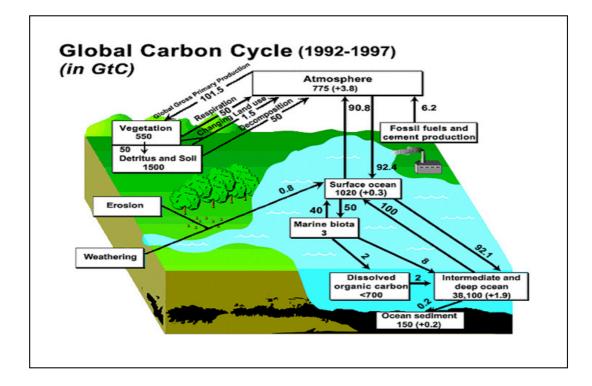


Figure 3. Global Carbon cycle diagram presented by the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center at US DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL).

The biomass is absorbing 101 Gton C per year but is also releasing the same amount due to decay processes. This shows that all the CO₂ in the atmosphere 775/(101+92)=4 is circulated through the oceans and the biomass in approx. four years. The human contribution of CO₂ to the atmosphere is estimated to 7-8 Gton C per year, which is one percent of the existing CO₂ in the atmosphere. If we add the absorption of CO₂ into the oceans and biomass of 92+101 = 193 Gton C, we can calculate that the annual human contribution corresponds to only12 days of natural turnover. This shows that human emissions of CO₂ are a very small part of the total natural circulation of CO₂.

4. IS THE INCREASED CO₂ IN THE ATMOSPHERE NATURAL OR NOT?

It is a fact that there has been an increase of the global temperature during a large part of the 20th century and there has been an increase of the CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere during the second half of the past century. Has the concentration of CO_2 in the atmosphere increased as a result of fossil fuel burning? Has the increased concentration of CO_2 in the atmosphere caused a global warming due to the greenhouse effect? The answer to both these questions are **no.** The reasons for these answers are as follows.

At the NOAA internet site <u>http://www.emdl.noaa.gov./cds/index.php#global</u> the mean annual global increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere can be found . At internet address <u>http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/public/msu/t2lt/tltglhmam_5.2</u> satellite tropospheric temperature data (MSU) from University of Alabama in Huntsville is found. These satellite temperature measurements are the most accurate as they do not contain any urban effects which most stations on land surface do. The mean annual global increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere can be found from a series of different stations from 1979 to 2005. In table 1. the annual increase of CO_2 , temperature anomalies and the man-made emissions of CO_2 are listed. When looking at these numbers, the smallest increase between 1979 and 2006 was found during years 1991-1992. During this time interval the huge volcanic eruption of Pinatubo took place. At the same time these two years 1991-1992 had the smallest increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere. How is this possible? The explanation is found in the fact that the volcanic eruption of Pinatubo had a strong cooling effect around the world for more than a year, because volcanic

eruptions in addition to large quantities of CO_2 also contribute large quantities of ashes, sulphuric acids and other aerosol particles into the atmosphere. This cooling effect reduces the oceans' ability in the tropics to release CO_2 into the atmosphere and this explains why the two years 1991-1992 had the smallest increase of CO2 during the whole 25 year period.

CO2 average increase per year		Temp anomaly	Emissions Gton C
1979	1.64	-0.074	5.403
1980	1.67	0.088	5.348
1981	1.08	0.052	5.186
1982	0.99	-0.154	5.144
1983	1.83	0.036	5.126
1984	1.32	-0.257	5.308
1985	1.60	-0.213	5.464
1986	1.02	0.148	5.629
1987	2.71	0.109	5.762
1988	2.24	0.109	5.992
1989	1.36	-0.110	6.106
1990	1.27	0.074	6.196
1991	0.82	0.116	6.312
1992	0.64	-0.192	6.187
1993	1.13	0.149	6.203
1994	1.62	-0.012	6.344
1995	2.03	0.124	6.487
1996	1.10	0.020	6.649
1997	1.96	0.047	6.840
1998	2.91	0.512	6.788
1999	1.37	0.039	6.804
2000	1.24	0.034	6.981
2001	1.86	0.200	7.116
2002	2.36	0.313	7.167
2003	2.23	0.272	7.504
2004	1.65	0.192	7.910
2005	2.42	0.328	8.098
2006	1.72	0.275	8.329

Table 1. The first column shows the total (natural and man-made) annual increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere, the second column shows the temperature deviations from its mean value between 1951 to 1980 and the third column shows the world's total annual anthropogenic emissions according to the Energy and Environment Data Reference Bank. http://www.iaea.org/inisnkm/nkm/aws/eedrb/

Data for human emissions 2005 and 2006 estimated by extrapolation of the trend 2000-2004.

The slow natural increase of CO_2 during the last 27 years has low points in 1982 and 1991-1992. These points coincide with the eruptions of the Mexican volcano El Chichon and the Philippine volcano Pinatubo. The annual increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere bears no relation with the amount of man-made CO_2 released, figure 4. This fact is also evident when we look at the year 1998. Here we find that the highest increase of CO_2 coincides with the super El Niño, which warmed the Earth atmosphere approx 0,5-0,6 C above normal and also the oceans. figure 5.

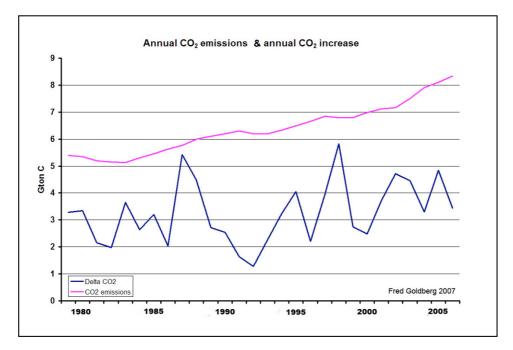


Figure 4. Annual total emissions of anthropogenic carbon dioxide in Gton C (red line) compared with the annual increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere between 1979 and 2006 (blue line). The area between the two lines show how much CO_2 that was absorbed primarily by the oceans.

When combining the temperature anomalies during the last 27 years with the annual increases of atmospheric CO_2 during the same period, figure 6,

(<u>http://www.emdl.noaa.gov./cds/index.php#global</u>) we see a striking similarity in the variations over time. This shows that the warming and cooling of the ocean waters control how much CO₂ is exchanged with atmosphere and thereby controlling the concentration of atmospheric CO₂. It is obvious that when the oceans are cooled, in this case due to volcanic eruptions or La Niña events, they release less CO₂ and when it was an extremely warm year, due to an El Niño, the oceans release more CO₂.

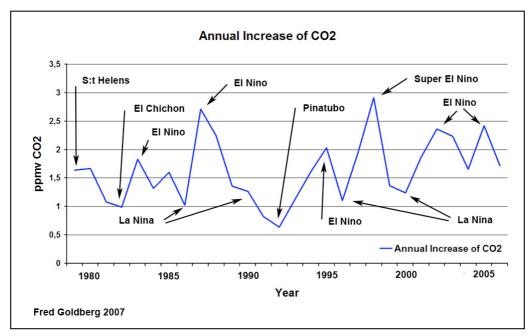


Figure 5. The increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration year by year from 1979 to 2006. The CO_2 increase varies by cooling caused by volcanic eruptions or La Niñas or by warming due to El Niños.

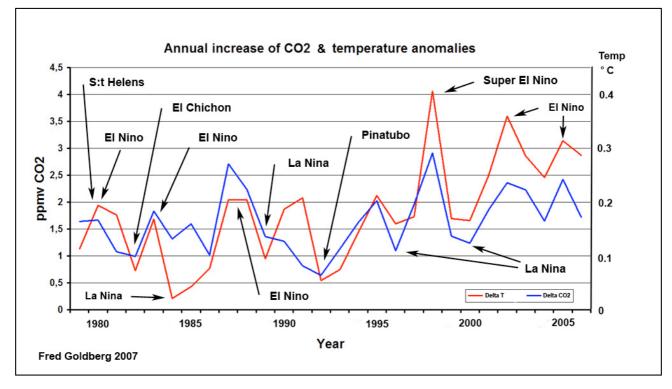


Figure 6. The annual CO₂ increases and the temperature anomalies 1979-2006

The discrepancy between CO_2 and temperature in 1980 is explained by an El Niño and a volcanic eruption of Mt S:t Helens taking place simultaneously.

We can see from these two figures 5 and 6 that during the measured time 1979 to 2006 there has been a continued natural increase in temperature causing a continued increase of CO_2 released into the atmosphere. This implies that temperature variations caused by El Niños, La Niñas, volcanic eruptions, varying cloud formations and ultimately the varying solar irradiation control the amount of CO_2 which is leaving or being absorbed by the oceans [9]. Between 1979 and 2006 there has been a continuously increasing concentration of CO_2 in the atmosphere and at the same time the temperature anomaly in diagram 6 shows an average global warming of $0,2^{\circ}C$.

5. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

A multiple regression analysis on the data in table 1, using Multiple Regression with Backward Elimination between year, MSU, Emissions and annual CO₂ increases, confirms a highly significant correlation between temperature anomalies and annual CO₂ increases (P<0.0001) and no significant correlation between CO₂ increases and human caused annual CO₂ emissions (P>0.10).

The method *Multiple Regression with Backward Elimination Procedure* is described in the book Applied Regression Analysis *by* N.R. Draper and H.Smith 1967.

It is a very surprising result, establishing the fact that the man-made emissions are insignificant and therefore have no influence on the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Is there other evidence for the increase of carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere being natural?

As just mentioned, the CO_2 concentration increased between 1979 and 2006 due to natural causes. This means that a.o. the global temperature was above a certain equilibrium level. At what temperature level would the CO_2 stop leaving the oceans? To answer this question is difficult as the global temperature measurements are very complex and difficult to define. When we look at IPCC (United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), figure 7, showing the global temperatures measured over the last 140 years, we find a period between 1940 and 1975 when the global temperature was slowly decreasing approx. 0,3 C. Between 1955 and 1959 there were 19 CO_2 measurement stations set up around Scandinavia by Walter Bischof [10]. His results showed that the mean monthly CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere could vary by 50-60 ppmv during one year. We also find that the annual mean values varied strongly, but there is no upward trend during this period, figure 8. This suggests that the global temperatures and the release of CO_2 from the oceans were in equilibrium during the period of 1955-1959.

Since 1975 there has been a natural climate improvement (warming) resulting in a larger annual release of CO_2 from the warm oceans than is being absorbed by the cold oceans. Therefore the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere has slowly been increasing. As shown in chapter 5 this increase has no connection with human emissions but is the result of a general warming of the oceans reducing their solubility of CO_2 .

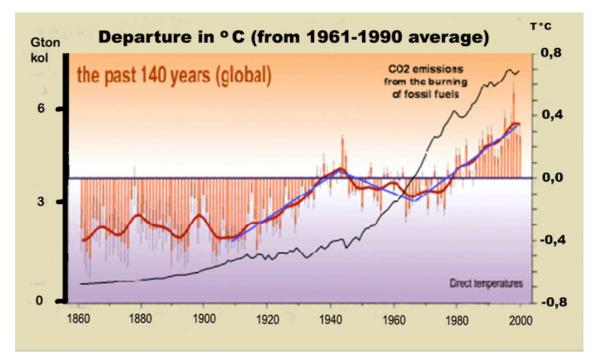
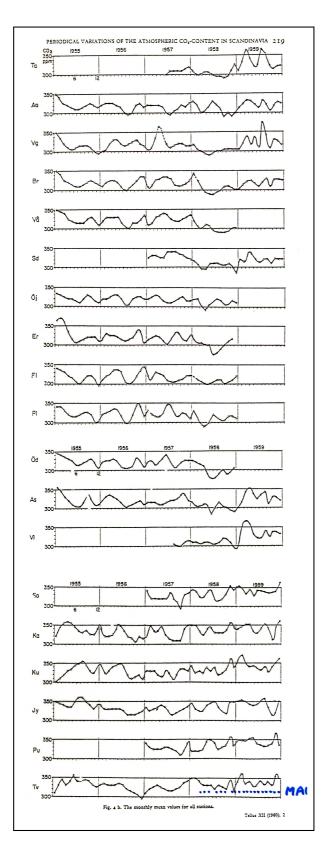


Figure 7. Global temperature anomalies from 1860 to 2000 show a cooling period from 1940 to 1975 despite large emissions of CO₂. [11].

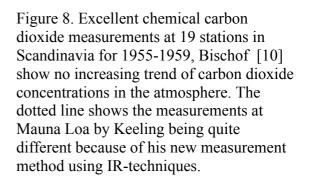
6.2 Is Carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning changing the atmospheric composition? According to figure 9 in the IPCC report 2001, chapter 3.3.1 *Geological History of Atmospheric CO*₂ the annual human emissions of CO₂ are constantly increasing. The same diagram also shows the atmospheric CO₂ growth rates annually and monthly. It seems very strange that the rate of increasing CO₂ in the atmosphere varies considerably from year to year despite the fact that the anthropogenic release of CO₂ shows a steady increase. This indicates that the anthropogenic CO₂ bears no relation to the variations of the CO₂ growth rates in the atmosphere as verified by the multiple regression analysis. The CO₂ anomalies in

the atmosphere, as illustrated in figures 4-6, are the result of the global temperature variations due to volcanic eruptions, El Niños and La Niñas.

During the two years 1991-1992 the CO_2 concentration increased 1,46 ppmv in the atmosphere which corresponds to 3 Gton C in the form of CO_2 . During the same time period the human fossil fuel burning sent 12,5 Gton C into the atmosphere. What happened to the remaining 9,5 Gton C that did not contribute to the increased concentration in the atmosphere?



The missing 9,5 Gton C are apparently all dissolved by the oceans as there is no evidence that the amount of biomass on land has changed over the same time period. The reactions that take place with CO_2 in the oceans are very complex between a series of mineral salts and with a diverse biomass in the oceans 5 times larger than on land according to Eric Olausson [12].



6.3 Is it a coincidence that the cause of annual increases of carbon dioxide and the annual temperature anomalies are matching each other in figure 6?

The answer is almost certainly no. The reason is that the values in both curves are based on a very large amount of data. The number of temperature measurements are in the range of 65 Mil. and the CO_2 measurements are in the range of 100 000.

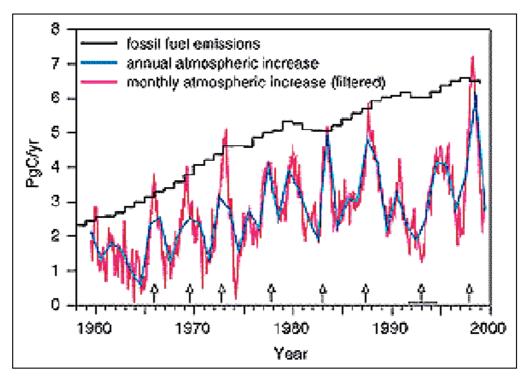


Figure 9. The increase of fossil fuel emitted CO_2 versus the increase of Carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. [13].

6.4 Has the atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration during the last 1000 years been lower or higher than today?

During the second half of the 19th century the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere was accurately measured with wet chemistry methods. These measurement often recorded values up to 550 ppmv in the atmosphere. These measurements have been ignored by IPCC. It is, however, also possible to find proxy data for earlier atmospheric CO₂ concentrations depending on the number of stomata cells in plants. A Dutch team led by L. Kouwenberg [14] has studied samples of the plant Tsuga heterophylla up to 1200 years of age. Their diagram, figure 10, shows that the number of stomata cells have strongly varied over the years, demonstrating that the CO₂ in the atmosphere also has changed considerably over the years. In the diagram is also a temperature curve inserted showing the medieval warm period and the little ice age. These temperature variations match the variation of stomata cells with a time delay of approx. 80 years. We can also see from the diagram that the CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere fluctuated naturally by almost 100 ppm several times over the last 1000 years. The stomata cell data as well as direct measurements show that atmospheric CO2 concentration repeatedly varied prior to the recent large emission of CO₂ in the last century. The variation of the CO₂ concentration prior to the last century can only have been induced by natural causes. But the magnitude of the variation in atmospheric CO₂ concentration is not observed to have changed during the last century. This lack of change of the magnitude of variation in atmospheric CO₂ concentration is strong evidence indicating that the increased CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere during the last century is due to natural causes. At the very least, there is no reason to suppose that natural causes are not responsible for the increased atmospheric CO₂ concentration during the last century.

We also see varying CO_2 concentrations during the last 200 years, up to more than 550 ppmv, considerably higher than measured today, analysed by wet chemistry. [6,15]. If all CO_2 measurements are taken into account from the last 192 years the average value is found to be 335 ppmv, with three peaks of 5 year averages of 440 ppmv in 1820, 390 ppmv in 1855 and 440 ppmv about 1945, [16].

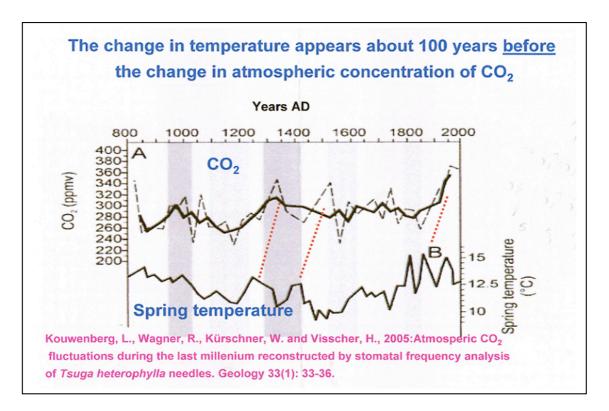


Figure 10. Reconstructed CO2 concentrations based on stomata frequency counts from the needles of the conifer Tsuga heterphylla for A.D. 800-2000. [14].

The stomata cell studies show that there have never been a preindustrial low level of CO_2 as frequently stated by IPCC and others. The real increase of CO_2 over the last hundred years has therefore been from a level of approx. 335 ppmv CO_2 and amounts to 45 ppmv, an increase of 12% and not 30%.

7. THE EIGHT EVIDENCES THAT MAN-MADE CO_2 EMISSIONS HAVE NOT AFFECTED THE CLIMATE

7.1 The first piece of evidence

A correlation (Chapter 5) between the annual increase of the CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere and the mean annual global temperature anomalies was demonstrated and human emissions were found to be insignificant. The level of CO_2 in the atmosphere reaches in a very short time an equilibrium with the CO_2 concentration in the oceans when ocean temperatures are changing or when CO_2 concentrations in the atmosphere change. This has also been verified by measuring the reduction of Carbon-14 isotopes in the atmosphere after the Soviet nuclear testing activities on Novaja Zemja in the 1960-ies [17].

The additional greenhouse effect caused by man-made emissions (which amounts to 1% of the total CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere as earlier reported) amounts to 1% of 1% of

the total greenhouse effect in the atmosphere resulting in a total of 0,01%. This is too insignificant to be measured due to the large natural variations.

Of the total greenhouse effect on Earth 98% is caused by water vapour, 1% CO₂ and 1% by the remaining greenhouse gases. [18,19].

7.2 The second piece of evidence

During 1940 and 1975 there was a Northern hemisphere cooling and at the same time there was a rapid increase of CO_2 emitted into the atmosphere during World War II and the rapidly increasing industrial development thereafter. Despite this there was a cooling of $0,3^{\circ}$ C. This shows that increasing emissions of CO_2 have not increased the global temperature. Statements that the cooling was caused by aerosols from sulphuric acids and air pollution has not been verified. Instead the cooling is caused by less intense El Niňos during that period in combination with increased cloud cover correlated to changes in cosmic radiation according to H. Svensmark and N. Calder [9].

7.3 The third piece of evidence

From 1999 to 2006 there has not been any global warming in the Northern hemisphere but during this time period approximately 200 Gton of CO_2 has been added to the atmosphere. This indicates that large volumes of CO_2 released into the atmosphere have not increased the temperature.

7.4 The fourth piece of evidence

During 1991-1992, a global cooling due to the volcanic eruption of Pinatubo was recorded. The same period showed the smallest increase of CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere during the last 27 years. During 1991 and 1992 the total CO_2 increase was 1,46 ppmv which corresponds to 3 Gton C. During the same period the human emission of CO_2 was approx 12,5 Gton C. Where did the other 9,5 Gton C plus the emissions from Pinatubo go? They have gone into the oceans due to the cooling of the water surface corresponding to the natural forces securing an equilibrium between CO_2 in the atmosphere and in the oceans. (Chapter 1.)

7.5 The fifth piece of evidence

During the depression years 1929-1933 the emissions of CO_2 from industries dropped 30% but the global temperatures continued rapidly to increase. This fact disproves the idea that the greenhouse effect from CO_2 is the only or major cause of increasing temperatures. [20].

7.6 The sixth piece of evidence

During the Roman period the average temperature was 2° C warmer than today (according to O_{18} temperature measurements of ice cores from the Greenland GISP project.) despite the lack of coal fired power plants and automobiles. This is another indication that the current global warming is natural.

7.7 The seventh piece of evidence

Measurements of stable carbon isotopes of atmospheric CO_2 and mass balance calculations demonstrate that the lifetime of atmospheric CO_2 is about 5 years. The mass of man-made CO_2 in the atmosphere is <14 Gtons C which corresponds to about 2% of the total mass of CO_2 in the atmosphere, [17,21].

7.8 The eight piece of evidence

During the previous interglacial period the temperature was approx. 6 degrees C warmer than today on Greenland and 1-3 degrees C warmer in Antarctica according to temperature measurements in ice cores originating from Greenland and Antarctica. [22,23].

8. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has collected evidence to demonstrate that there is no connection between human emissions of CO_2 and the annual increasing rates of CO_2 in the atmosphere.

Furthermore it can be shown that emissions of large amounts of CO_2 has not increased global temperatures and is not correlated to temperature changes.

What is evident is that natural events such as volcanic eruptions and El Niño/La Niña events change global temperatures and thereby ocean temperatures. As cold oceans absorb CO_2 and warm oceans release CO_2 variations of ocean areas of warm and cold water are closely related to the changes in atmospheric CO_2 concentration.

If the change of CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere is due to natural causes, it follows that there is no related human effect on the climate.

On a local level, however, near urban areas, humans may have influenced the micro-climate. It is difficult to measure temperatures over land without being influenced by the urban effect. There are very few stations around the world with a long time span of measurements situated far away from growing urban centres. Today temperature data are corrected for the urban effect, but it is difficult to know if the corrections are correct or not, [24,25]. Therefore MSU temperature data from Polar orbiting satellites have been used in this report.

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