Supplementary Materials:

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Table S1. Mean BC concentrations (μg/m^3) measured in this and other recent studies.

Site Type	Place	Instrument	Conc.	Period of study	Reference
Suburban	Serdang, Malaysia	Aethalometer (AE33)	2.34 ± 0.18 (1.90 ± 0.70 inc. CV19 lockdown)	Jan 2020- May 2020	This study
Suburban	Bareggio, Milan, Italy	Aethalometer (AE31)	2.76 ± 1.05	2017-2018	Mousavi et al. (2017) [1]
Suburban	Nanjing, China	Aethalometer (AE33)	2.2	Jan 2015– Dec 2016	Xiao et al.(2020) [2]
Rural	Gadanki, India	Aethalometer (AE31)	2.2	2008–2017	Kiran et.al (2018) [41] [3]
Suburban	Xianghe, China	Aethalometer (AE31)	5.39	April 2013– March 2015	Ran et al. (2016) [4]
Suburban	Londrina, Brazil	Aethalometer (AE31)	0.69 ± 1.38	Aug 2014- Jan 2015	Targino and Krecl (2016) [5]
Urban	Beijing, China	Aethalometer (AE33)	8.70 ± 8.25 4.58 ± 4.33 2.34 ± 2.54	Dec 2015 Jan 2016 Feb 2016	Y. Liu et al (2018) [6]

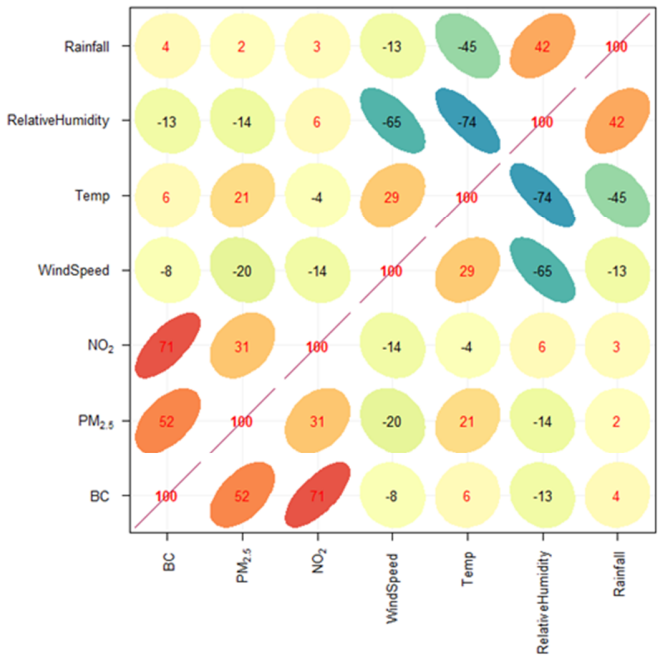

Figure S1. Correlation coefficient matrix between hourly BC, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2 concentrations and the meteorological variables temperature, wind speed, relative humidity and rainfall.

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