

Biosphere: The portion of the earth in which living systems are encountered.

Biota: The living animals, plants, and microorganisms of the environment.

Brownian diffusion: The diffusion of the dispersed particles in a colloidal system (aerosol), resulting from random collisions between the molecules of the dispersing medium (air) and the particles of the dispersed phase.

Budget: A complete balance of amounts and flows of a substance (e.g. sulfur) or property (e.g. heat flux) within a set of specified boundaries.

Bulk Deposition: The term applied to atmospheric deposition collected in a collector which is open at all times. Bulk deposition consists of wet deposition, plus an unknown fraction of the dry particulate deposition, plus an unknown and probably very small fraction of the dry gaseous deposition.

Carcinogenic: A producer of cancer.

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Cation: A positively charged ion.

Cloud: A system of particles, such as water droplets, having a definite form.

Cloud condensation nucleus: (see condensation nucleus).

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C(O): Elemental carbon in the form of soot (see Chapter 4).