

instantaneous (spot) sampling (in atmospheric chemistry)

Obtaining a sample of the atmosphere in a period which is short compared with the duration of the sampling exercise. Such samples are often called 'grab' samples, a term not recommended. These are useful for the analysis of hydrocarbons and other complicated mixtures of trace gases which are relatively stable in a stainless steel canister or tank and can be transported back to the laboratory for chromatographic or other analysis which cannot be done satisfactorily in the field.

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