

2.1.8. NEW AIR SAMPLING SYSTEM

A new system was developed that will assure good measurements of the stable isotopic composition of oxygen in CO₂ (¹⁸O/¹⁷O) in flasks previously compromised by water condensation. The unit, dubbed the Airkit, houses a thermoelectric cooled water condenser with a micro-controlled air sampling system that eliminates most manual operations by the sample taker. Preliminary laboratory tests indicate good ¹⁸O/¹⁷O values from a very wet airstream. This system will be field tested in the coming year at SMO.