

Clean-up in pesticide residue analysis



Planar solid phase extraction – a new clean-up concept in multi-residue analysis of pesticides

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Current problems in pesticide residue analysis of food

- a plenty of matrix compounds in fruits and vegetables, co-extracted with pesticides
- matrix effects: co-elution, retention time shifting, MS signal enhancement / suppression
- matrix-matched standards must be used (less-than-ideal solution)



efficient clean-up methods are essential





Current clean-up methods in pesticide residue analysis

- dispersive SPE (PSA, GCB, C18)
- cartridge SPE (same materials)
- GPC (gel permeation chromatography)
 - time and solvent consuming
 - clean-up insufficient
 - loss of pesticides







current clean-up methods are not really satisfactory





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New approach

Planar chromatography for the separation of target pesticides from matrix compounds (HTpSPE)





- Iayer type:
- layer modification:
- area application:
- 2-fold development:

TLC silica gel 60 $NH_2 F_{254}s$ aluminum sheets dipping (2 cm) into 2% formic acid in acetonitrile 3 x 4 mm (50 µL)

acetonitrile (75 mm)
acetone (45 mm, back direction)





HTpSPE-LC/MS – Procedure









Extraction of target zones (acetonitrile/10 mM ammonium formate

- on-line coupling to LC column (Chromolith RP-18)
- elution into autosampler vials (LC/MS or GC/MS)





- different pesticide groups
- various chemical classes
- different in polarity/acid constants
- internal standard: TDCPP (tris(1,3-dichloropropan-2-yl)-phosphate)

Sudan II



NH



Fenarimol



Mepanipyrim



Cl

Penconazole

CI

TDCPP



Pirimicarb

7





HTpSPE – Clean-up effect

total ion chromatograms (TICs) of tomato extracts



→ HTpSPE extracts are very clean as compared to current clean-up methods





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HTpSPE – Clean-up effect

TICs of spiked cucumber extracts and a pesticide standard mix



Nearly identical profiles of the pesticide standard mix and spiked extracts after HTpSPE (calibration with solvent standards possible)





Recovery experiments by LC/MS : 0.5 mg/kg and 0.1 mg/kg

mean recoveries of seven pesticides in raw extracts and after clean-up (n=5)



➔ no matrix effects, higher recoveries after HTpSPE, lower SD





HTpSPE clean-up benefits

- very clean extracts -> equipment-friendly
- no loss of pesticides, no matrix effects, excellent recoveries
- 80 % automated (instrumental HPTLC)
- 20 extracts simultaneously
- time-saving, only 5 min/sample
- low solvent consumption, 1 mL/sample







Many thanks for your attention !

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HTpSPE-LC/MS – Concept









HTpSPE Clean-up – cleaning effect



Matrix load of extracts: tomato (T) and cucumber (C) raw extracts, after dSPE with PSA (*) and after HTpSPE (**) on TLC silica gel 60 $NH_2 F_{254}$ s aluminum sheets; oleic acid (OA) and soy oil (SO); after development with acetonitrile to a migration distance of 75 mm, UV 254 (A), UV 366 (B), white light (C), and UV 366 after dipping in primuline solution (D))





Recoveries after HTpSPE clean-up: LC–MS vs. LC–MS/MS; 0.2 mg/kg

average recovery over seven pesticides (n=1)



LC/MS and LC/MS-MS show identical results (higher recoveries for HTpSPE extracts)





HTpSPE – Modification for black tea

- Very difficult matrix
- High matrix amount many interfering compounds
- Hugh amount of co-extractive substances (additional step before HTpSPE to reduce the high matrix amount to use analytic plates, otherwise prep. Layers!
- Pre-clean up with dSPE (PSA + C18 material), caffeine is not separated
- High amount of caffeine (caffeine not separated from pesticides on amino modified layers! -> change separation strategy)
- layer material and solvent change (silica layer, solvent for 2. development: acetone/water 9/1)





- TICs of spiked matrix and a pesticide standard
- dSPE + HTpSPE extracts, dSPE (PSA + c18) extracts and raw extracts



- ➔ dSPE + HTpSPE extracts show lowest baseline
- ➔ TICs of spiked dSPE + HTpSPE extracts show nearly similar profile as a pesticide standard
- ➔ identical result for different teas (green and black tea)