

Environmental

Automated liquid-liquid extraction workflow for direct ultra-trace analysis of pesticides and PAHs in water matrices using GC-MS/MS

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Keywords

Surface water, drinking water, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, PAH, pesticides, large volume injection, matrix facilitated degradation, TriPlus RSH SMART autosampler, liquid-liquid extraction (LLE), Sampling Workflow Editor software

Goal

The goal of this application note is to demonstrate the capabilities of the Thermo Scientific™ TriPlus™ RSH SMART autosampler to perform automated sample preparation on-line with the analysis of semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) in water at ultra-trace levels using large volume injection gas chromatography – triple quadrupole mass spectrometry.

Introduction

Ensuring high standards of water quality is a fundamental priority within the European Union. This is highlighted through stringent EU regulations, such as the Water Framework Directive and the Drinking Water Directive,¹ where protection of the environment and safeguarding public health are of utmost importance. As such, regular monitoring of both surface and drinking water for hazardous semi-volatile organic compounds, such as polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and pesticides, is needed.^{1,2}

To meet regulatory compliance, laboratories are required to reach ultra-trace levels (i.e., parts per-trillion (ng/L)), while maintaining analytical method performance criteria outlined under EU Directive 2020/2184.³ To reach required concentration limits, laboratories typically need to extract large sample volumes using solvent (i.e., liquid-liquid) or sorbent-based (i.e., solid-phase) extraction techniques with additional preconcentration.

Such techniques involve manual operations, which are costly in terms of consumables and time. However, automated sample preparation and extraction can reduce such costs while helping to eliminate systematic errors to improve data quality and lab efficiency.

The aim of this work was to evaluate the sensitivity, precision, and robustness of the TriPlus RSH SMART autosampler in performing automated liquid-liquid extraction and on-line analysis of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and pesticides in drinking and surface water using triple quadrupole GC-MS/MS. This study will demonstrate that the developed automated workflow is compliant with EU regulation criteria and greatly increases laboratory productivity by reducing laboratory costs and time.

Experimental

Standard and sample preparation

A native mixture of 18 individual PAH components—EPA Method 8270 standard (P/N 31995), labeled PAH internal standard (P/N 312206), and GC Multiresidue Pesticide Standard kit (P/N 32562)—were purchased from Restek. Labeled internal standards of (D₆)-alpha-HCH, (D₁₀)-diazinon, and (D₆)-o, p'-DDT together with triphenyl phosphate as a syringe standard were purchased from LGC standards. A stock solution of native PAH compounds and solution 2 (P/N 32564), solution 3 (P/N 32565), solution 6 (P/N 32568), and solution 7 (P/N 32569) from the GC Multiresidue Pesticide Standard kit was prepared at a concentration of 2 µg/mL in methanol. A full overview of targeted analytes can be found in the appendix (Table A1). From this primary stock solution, individual stock solutions of 4, 10, 20, 100, 200, and 300 ng/mL were prepared in methanol for calibration curve construction. Using a 10 µL gas tight syringe, a 5 µL aliquot from the respective individual stock solution was added into 10 mL of ultrapure water (18.2 MΩ) to produce the desired concentration. A 7-point calibration curve ranging from 2 to 150 ng/L was evaluated together with check standards (10 ng/L) to assess calibration validity over the analysis period. Drinking and surface water samples were spiked at 10 ng/L and 5 ng/L, respectively, to assess extraction efficiency and precision of the automated workflow.

A labeled PAH/Pesticide internal standard mixture and syringe standard were prepared in methanol at concentrations of 100 ng/mL and 20 ng/mL, respectively. Drinking water and surface water were collected from the city of Bremen, Germany, for method validation. A 10 mL aliquot was pipetted into a 20 mL screw top headspace vial (P/N 6ASV20-1) prior to automated sample preparation and extraction.

Instrument and method setup

A Thermo Scientific™ TRACE™ 1610 GC equipped with a Thermo Scientific™ TraceGOLD™ TG5-SiIMS (30 m × 0.25 mm I.D. × 0.25 µm film) capillary column with a 5 m integrated SafeGuard retention gap (P/N 26096-1425) was used to perform the chromatographic separation. The TriPlus RSH SMART autosampler was configured to perform automated sample preparation, liquid-liquid extraction, and on-line injection for GC-MS/MS analysis. The automated workflow was designed using the Thermo Scientific™ TriPlus™ RSH Sampling Workflow Editor Software (P/N 1R77010-1200) and imported into the Thermo Scientific™ Chromeleon™ 7.3.2 Chromatography Data System (CDS) software. This integration allows sample preparation, acquisition, and data processing to be carried out within a single software. The automated workflow involved the following steps: internal standard addition, extraction solvent addition (pentane) and vortexing for extraction, addition of solvent for emulsion removal (isopropyl alcohol), addition of syringe standard prior to analysis, and large volume injection into the GC-MS. Parameter settings for the automated workflow are outlined in Table 1 with a visual overview provided in Figure 1. A list of accessories needed to configure the TriPlus RSH SMART autosampler is provided in the appendix (Table A2).

After sample extraction was completed, a 30 µL aliquot of the pentane layer was directly injected into a programmable temperature vaporization (PTV) inlet. Injection and oven program conditions can be found described in Tables 1 and 2. Data acquisition was carried out using selected reaction monitoring (SRM) with a Thermo Scientific™ TSQ™ 9610 triple quadrupole GC-MS equipped with an Advanced Electron Ionization (AEI) source. Method parameters for data acquisition are summarized in Table 2 with optimized SRM transitions outlined in the appendix (Table A3).

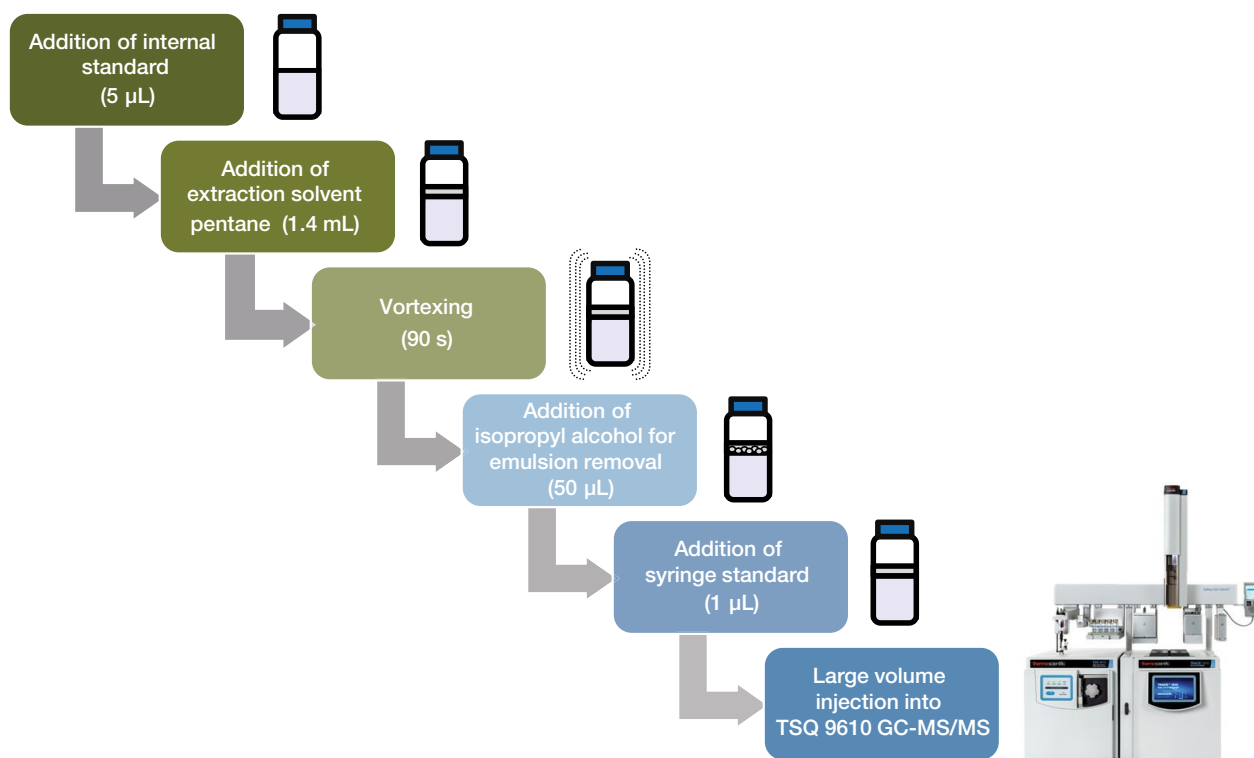


Figure 1. Visual overview of automated workflow for sample preparation and liquid-liquid extraction of water samples by the TriPlus RSH SMART robotic autosampler

Table 1. TriPlus RSH SMART autosampler parameters

Workflow settings			
Internal standard addition – 10 µL syringe		Emulsion removal – 100 µL syringe	
Aliquot volume (µL)	5	Solvent aliquot volume (isopropyl alcohol) (µL)	50
Fill speed (µL/s)	1	Wash cycles	2
Dispense speed (µL/s)	20	Wash syringe volume (%)	70
Syringe rinsing cycles	1	Fill speed (µL/s)	10
Sample rinsing volume (µL)	5	Dispense speed (µL/s)	250
Vial penetration depth (mm)	31	Sample vial penetration depth (mm)	40
Syringe post-solvent volume (acetone)	70%	Syringe standard addition – 10 µL syringe	
Syringe post-solvent cycles (acetone)	2	Aliquot volume (µL)	1
Extraction solvent addition – 1,000 µL syringe		Wash cycles	3
Solvent aliquot volume (pentane) (µL)	1,400 (2 × 700 µL)	Wash syringe volume (%)	70
Fill speed (µL/s)	20	Fill speed (µL/s)	1
Dispense speed (µL/s)	300	Dispense speed (µL/s)	20
Vortexer speed (rpm)	1,990	Sample vial penetration depth (mm)	31
Vortexer time (s)	90	Sample injection – 100 µL syringe	
		Sample volume	30
		Wash steps (pentane)	3
		Wash syringe volume (%)	50
		Fill speed (µL/s)	2
		Sample vial penetration (mm)	42.5
		Injection speed (µL/s)	3
		Injector penetration depth (mm)	40

Table 2. GC-MS/MS operation conditions

Injector conditions					
Injector	Thermo Scientific™ iConnect™ PTV				
Liner	Thermo Scientific™ sintered PTV liner with concentric baffle (P/N 45352060)				
Injection volume (μL)	30				
Inlet temperature (°C)	40				
Carrier gas flow (mL·min ⁻¹)	1.2				
Injection type	Large volume				
Splitless time (min)	2.0				
Split flow (mL·min ⁻¹)	50				
Injection vial depth (mm)	42.5				
PTV ramp settings		Rate (°C·s ⁻¹)	Temp (°C)	Time (min)	Flow (mL·min ⁻¹)
Injection phase		-	-	0.1	20
Transfer phase		14.5	320	2.0	-
Cleaning phase		14.5	330	5.0	75
Oven temperature program					
Initial temperature (°C)		50			
Hold time (min)		2			
Rate 1 (°C·min ⁻¹)		25			
Temperature 1 (°C)		150			
Rate 2 (°C·min ⁻¹)		8.93			
Temperature 2 (°C)		175			
Rate 3 (°C·min ⁻¹)		5.18			
Temperature 3 (°C)		320			
Final temperature hold time (min)		5			
Total analysis time (min)		41.8			
TSQ 9610 mass spectrometer conditions					
Transfer line (°C)		300			
AEI Ion source temperature (°C)		320			
Electron energy (eV)		50			
Acquisition mode		Timed-SRM			
Emission current (μA)		10			
Collision gas and pressure (psi)		Argon, 70			

Results and discussion

Calibration and sensitivity performance

A total of 78 compounds were targeted in this analysis (Appendix Table A1). All compounds showed linear correlation with coefficient of determination (r^2) > 0.99 over the entire calibration range (2–150 ng/L). Representative examples for different substance classes under investigation are displayed in Figure 2. A complete overview of calibration responses for all analytes is provided in appendix (Table A1).

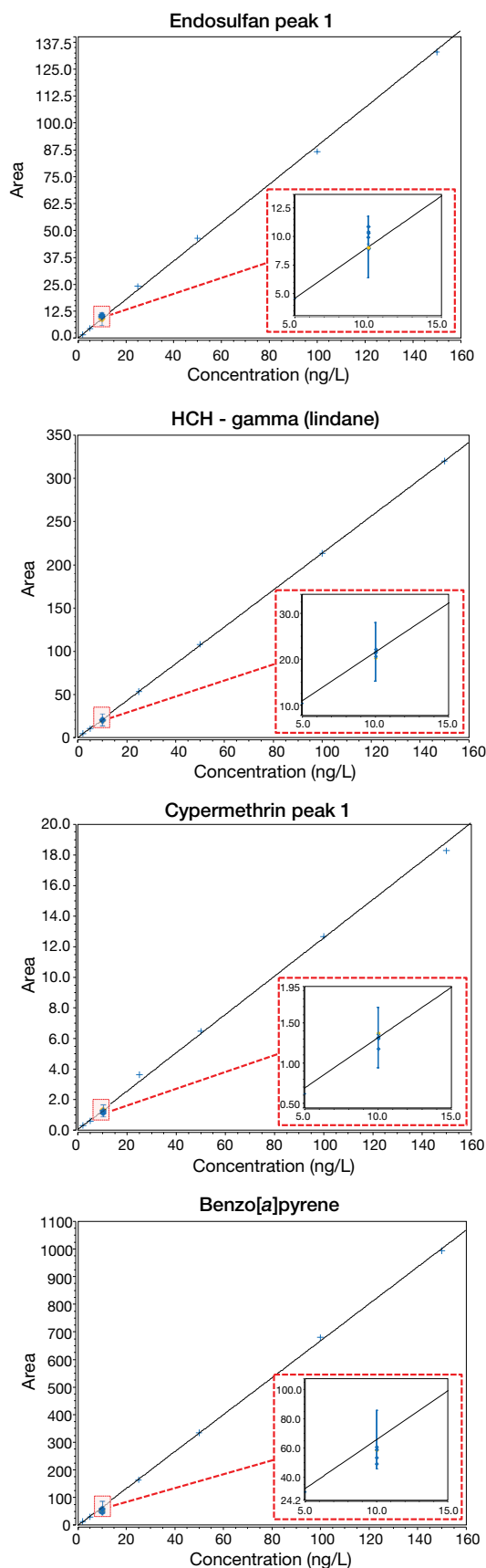


Figure 2. Calibration curves (2–150 ng/L) for endosulfan peak 1, hexachlorocyclohexane – gamma (lindane), cypermethrin peak 1, and benzo[a]pyrene. The highlighted region shows the results of the individual quality check (QC) standards (10 ng/L) and the 30% precision threshold to the calibration response.

Detection and quantification limits were determined based on the analytical variation observed in replicate analyses of the lowest calibration standard (i.e., 2 ng/L). After 8 replicate injections, the standard deviation was multiplied by a factor of 3 and 10 to determine the limits of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ), respectively (Appendix Table A4). Criteria under EU Directive 2020/2184 specify LOQ values must be at least 30% of the environmental quality standard specified for benzo[a]pyrene (10 ng/L; $LOQ \leq 3$ ng/L), sum PAH (defined as sum of benzo[b]-fluoranthene, benzo[k]fluoranthene, benzo[g,h,i]perylene, indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene) (100 ng/L; $LOQ \leq 30$ ng/L), and pesticides (100 ng/L; $LOQ \leq 30$ ng/L). Limits of quantification obtained using the automated extraction workflow for benzo[a]pyrene (2.9 ng/L),

sum PAHs (1.46–2.42 ng/L), and targeted pesticides (0.38–9.35 ng/L) were within the specified criteria. In addition, 72% of the 78 targeted compounds had LOQs less than 2 ng/L, demonstrating method compliance towards sensitivity requirements.

Extraction recovery performance

Method performance towards extraction recovery was assessed through the spike and recovery experiments. Surface and drinking water samples were spiked at 5 and 10 ng/L, respectively, followed by analysis using the automated workflow. Three separate replicates of spiked samples were prepared, with results of these experiments shown in Figures 3 and 4.

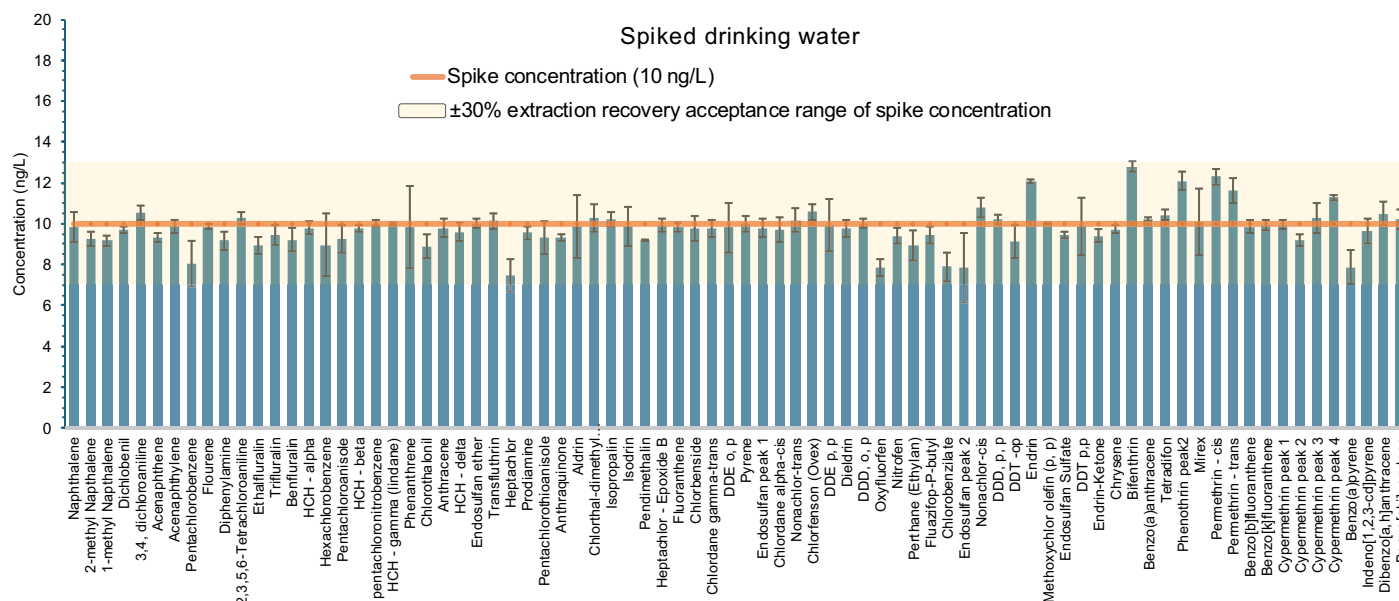


Figure 3. Results of the extraction recovery experiment for spiked drinking water at 10 ng/L. The shaded region represents the ±30% extraction recovery acceptance range (i.e., 70–130%) of the spiked concentration.

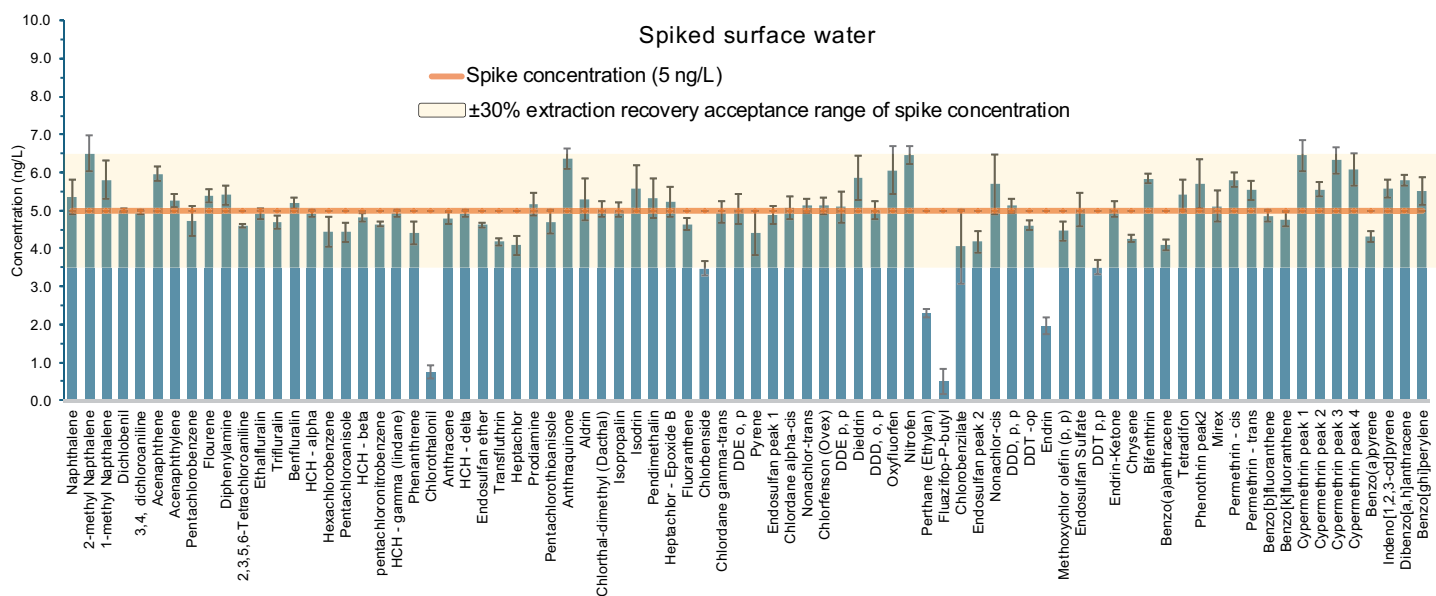


Figure 4. Results of extraction recovery experiment for spiked surface water at 5 ng/L. The shaded region represents the ±30% extraction recovery acceptance range (i.e., 70–130%) of the spiked concentration.

Most validated methods require extraction recoveries to be within 70–130%. In spiked drinking water, this criterion is achieved with extraction recoveries for all analytes being within $\pm 30\%$ of the spiked concentration (Figure 3). Similar results were observed in spiked surface water experiments at the lower spike concentration of 5 ng/L. However, several compounds showed extraction recoveries outside the $\pm 30\%$ recovery range (i.e., chlorothalonil, chlorobenside, perthane (Ethylan™), fluazifop-p-butyl, endrin, and p,p'-DDT) (Figure 4). Although surface water experiments employed a lower spike concentration (5 ng/L) compared to drinking water experiments (10 ng/L), these results may indicate possible matrix associated degradation within surface water. To test this hypothesis, surface water was spiked at 10 ng/L and processed again using the automated workflow. At 10 ng/L spike concentration, recovery of chlorothalonil, chlorobenside, fluazifop-p-butyl, and endrin still fell below the acceptable extraction recovery range (Figure 5).

Extraction recoveries of these analytes were significantly lower compared to results obtained in drinking water, indicating matrix facilitated degradation. The range of degradation is also not consistent across all compounds, indicating differences in compound specific degradation rates. Addition of isotopic-labeled standards for these compounds can correct for compound specific degradation, improving data accuracy for the analysis of these compounds in surface waters.

Method precision and robustness

To evaluate the robustness of the automated workflow, a sequence of 80 drinking water samples (65-hour total analysis time) was carried out with periodic analysis of 10 ng/L quality control standards ($n = 6$) (Figure 6).

Method precision requirements specified under EU Directive 2020/2184 require the method precision of PAHs and pesticides when measured at the specified environmental quality standard level (i.e., 100 ng/L) be within $\pm 40\%$ and $\pm 30\%$, respectively. Although our QC standard concentrations were a factor of 10 lower than the environmental quality standard level, all PAHs were within the specified method precision criteria across all QC samples. Similar results were observed for pesticides, with exception to QC2 where heptachlor and mirex fell outside the specified range. However, under EU Directive 2020/2184, a higher uncertainty “may be allowed for a number of pesticides” considering the wide range in chemistry this class of chemicals possesses. All remaining QC standards were within the $\pm 30\%$ of the spiked concentration, demonstrating the robust performance in method precision for the automated liquid-liquid extraction workflow.

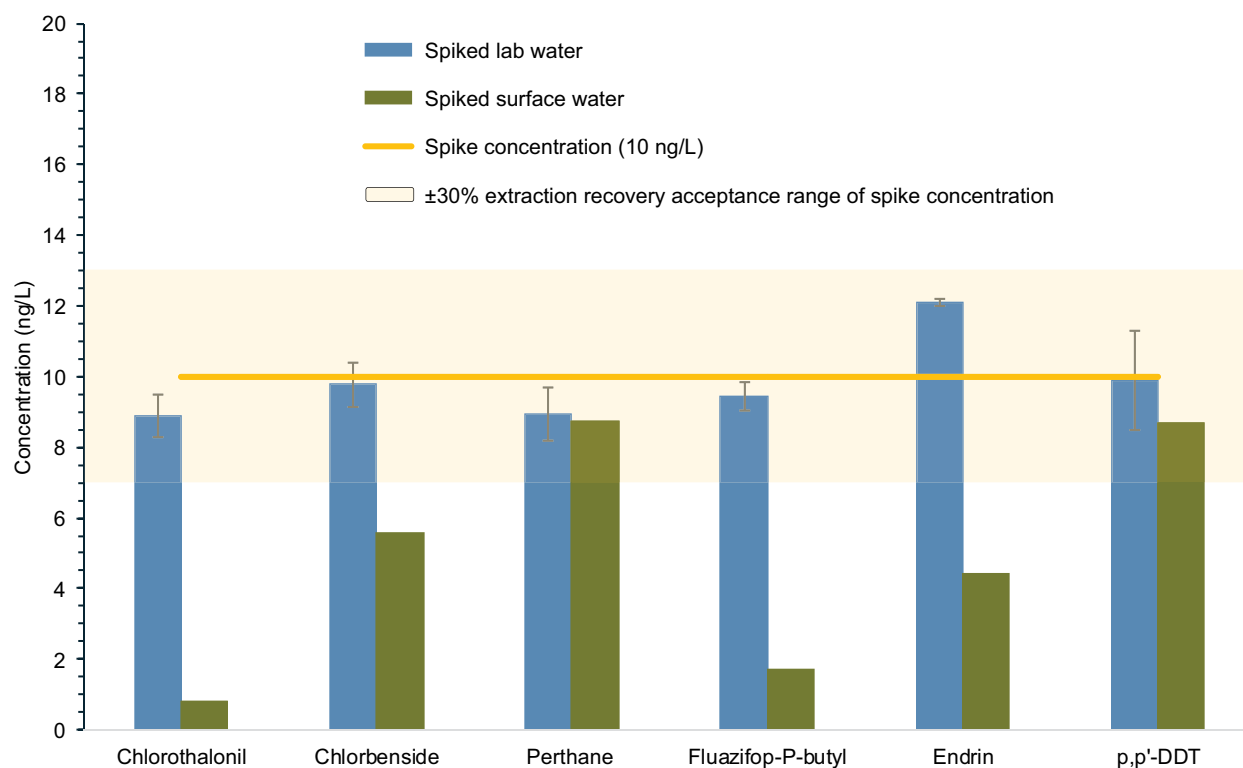


Figure 5. Extraction recovery comparison between drinking water and surface water spiked at 10 ng/L. The shaded region represents $\pm 30\%$ extraction recovery acceptance range (i.e., 70–130%) of spiked concentration.

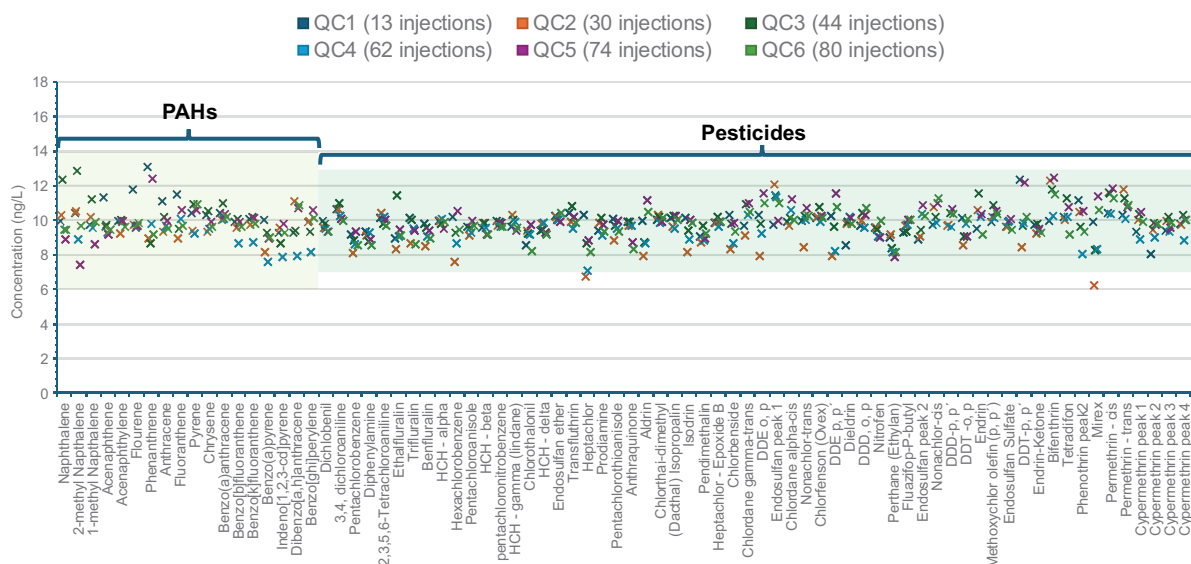


Figure 6. Method precision of quality control (QC) standard (10 ng/L) after 80 sample injections. Results of each QC standard result are displayed for each analyte. The shaded region represents the method precision criteria for PAHs ($\pm 40\%$) and pesticides ($\pm 30\%$) specified under EU Directive 2020/2184.

Benefits of automated LLE extraction workflow

Solvent extraction is a long-standing “gold standard” for isolating organic pollutants like PAHs and pesticides from water. However, traditional separatory-funnel liquid-liquid extraction is laborious, time-consuming, error-prone, and requires large amounts of sample and solvent. Using manual preparation, 200 mL of solvent is required for a single water sample. For the robustness experiment carried out above, 16 L of solvent would be required to extract 80 samples. With the automated workflow, we can achieve the same throughput with only 120 mL of solvent.

Achieving ultra-trace limits as required by the EU Directive 2020/2184 while processing many samples demands robust, high-throughput workflows that can be achieved only by automating manual steps. Automated sample preparation workflows executed by the TriPlus RSH SMART robotic autosampler address this need by streamlining routine extraction protocols and enforcing strict, repeatable procedures. Automation turns an LLE procedure into a hands-off, unattended process—dramatically improving precision, speed, safety, and data integrity compared to manual extraction, freeing skilled analysts from tedious hands-on work.⁴

Key benefits can be summarized as follows:

- Operational efficiency and throughput, thanks to unattended 24/7 operation
- Waste reduction since a limited volume of solvent is required
- Confidence in quantitative results due to higher precision and accuracy of error-free robotic operation
- Method compliance and traceability in Chromeleon CDS

Conclusions

Maintaining water quality is of both human and environmental health importance. However, due to the physical chemical properties of various organic substances, analytical methods require ultra-trace sensitivity and accuracy to quantify hazardous risks within both drinking and environmental surface waters. The results presented demonstrate that the developed automated workflow for online liquid-liquid extraction and analysis of water samples can meet these requirements:

- Ultra-trace sensitivity combining large volume injection with highly sensitive triple quadrupole GC-MS/MS, with over 70% of targeted analytes having limits of quantification below 2 ng/L
- Compliant extraction recovery at part per trillion concentrations
- Robust method precision over extended analysis time
- Improved laboratory efficiency and productivity while reducing environmental impact with limited solvent consumption
- Workflow customization capability through the Sampling Workflow Editor software

References

- Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000: Establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj>
- European Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998: On the quality of water intended for human consumption. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/1998/83/oj/>
- Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020: On the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2020/2184/oj/>
- Thermo Fisher Scientific Case Study 001327 - VERITAS meets increasing sample analysis demands, saves time, and minimizes costs with the TriPlus Robotic Sample Handling (RSH) autosampler
- Thermo Fisher Scientific - Automated Workflow Solutions for GC and GC-MS

Appendix

Table A1. Targeted analytes list with chromatographic retention time, relative standard deviation of calibration response, and coefficient of determination for linear response

Peak name	Ret. time (min)	Rel. std. dev. (%)	Coeff. of determination
Naphthalene	6.76	1.19	0.9996
2-methyl Naphthalene	7.62	1.96	0.9973
1-methyl Naphthalene	7.75	1.97	0.9991
Dichlobenil	7.91	4.79	0.9997
3,4, Dichloroaniline	8.68	5.47	0.9996
Acenaphthylene	8.99	4.46	0.9997
Acenaphthene	9.3	2.33	0.9999
Pentachlorobenzene	9.58	9.25	0.9989
Fluorene	10.37	4.46	0.9996
Diphenylamine	10.67	4.94	0.9991
2,3,5,6-Tetrachloroaniline	10.72	2.87	0.9999
Ethalfuralin	10.85	10.0	0.9988
Trifluralin	11.04	5.98	0.9996
Benfluralin	11.11	12.1	0.9982
HCH - alpha	11.62	3.33	0.9998
Hexachlorobenzene	11.76	8.06	0.9991
Pentachloroanisole	11.88	2.51	0.9999
HCH - beta	12.21	2.71	0.9999
HCH - gamma (lindane)	12.47	0.62	1.0000
Pentachloronitrobenzene	12.47	3.60	0.9998
Phenanthrene	12.89	9.37	0.9969
Chlorothalonil	12.91	9.62	0.9988
Anthracene	13.05	6.16	0.9994
HCH - delta	13.16	4.32	0.9997
Endosulfan ether	13.73	5.79	0.9995
Transfluthrin	14.35	7.06	0.9992
Heptachlor	14.52	7.89	0.9990
Prodiamine	14.98	4.86	0.9997
Pentachlorothioanisole	15.14	4.01	0.9998
Aldrin	15.59	9.80	0.9987
Anthraquinone	15.59	6.92	0.9992
Chlorthal-dimethyl (Dacthal™)	15.64	2.87	0.9999
Isopropalin	16.31	11.0	0.9983
Isodrin	16.48	6.80	0.9994
Pendimethalin	16.5	6.04	0.9995
Heptachlor - Epoxide B	16.79	6.56	0.9994
Fluoranthene	17.02	9.41	0.9982
Chlorbenside	17.48	7.75	0.9992
Chlordane gamma- <i>trans</i>	17.53	6.41	0.9994
DDE o, p	17.62	5.83	0.9995
Pyrene	17.86	4.76	0.9990
Endosulfan peak 1	17.95	9.12	0.9988
Chlordane alpha- <i>cis</i>	17.95	14.2	0.9968
Nonachlor- <i>trans</i>	18.07	6.76	0.9993
Chlorfenson (Ovex™)	18.27	2.27	0.9999
DDE p, p	18.68	8.20	0.9990
Dieldrin	18.82	8.02	0.9988
DDD, o, p	18.89	10.9	0.9980
Nitrofen	19.44	10.0	0.9989
Perthane (Ethylan)	19.52	15.6	0.9956
Fluazifop-p-butyl	19.53	14.4	0.9966
Endosulfan peak 2	19.83	12.6	0.9972
DDD, p, p	20.04	9.06	0.9987
Nonachlor- <i>cis</i>	20.05	12.9	0.9974
DDT -op	20.14	9.35	0.9988
Endrin	20.32	12.3	0.9972
Methoxychlor olefin (p, p)	20.95	7.54	0.9991
Endosulfan sulfate	21.11	9.40	0.9985
DDT p,p	21.31	14.8	0.9955
Endrin-ketone	22.65	8.94	0.9987
Chrysene	22.91	6.54	0.9994
Bifenthrin	23.02	16.8	0.9952
Benz[a]anthracene	23.05	4.77	0.9997
Tetradifon	23.87	8.87	0.9987
Phenothrin peak 2	24.03	14.3	0.9937
Mirex	24.78	14.6	0.9968
Permethrin - <i>cis</i>	26.27	13.8	0.9969
Permethrin - <i>trans</i>	26.52	10.5	0.9976
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	27.32	3.49	0.9998
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	27.43	6.04	0.9995
Cypermethrin peak 1	27.9	13.5	0.9971
Cypermethrin peak 2	28.1	12.8	0.9971
Cypermethrin peak 3	28.2	10.5	0.9982
Cypermethrin peak 4	28.28	9.91	0.9984
Benzo[a]pyrene	28.51	6.06	0.9995
Indeno[1,2,3- <i>cd</i>]pyrene	32.43	9.98	0.9980
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene	32.59	9.76	0.9981
Benzo[ghi]perylene	33.23	10.2	0.9979

Table A2. TriPlus RSH SMART configuration and consumables

TriPlus RSH SMART configuration	Part number
TriPlus RSH SMART Advanced Autosampler for liquid injection, regular rail length	1R77010-2003
Automatic Tool Change Station	1R77010-1019
Liquid Syringe Tool for 57 mm syringe needle (0.5–100 µL syringe volume)	1R77010-1007
Liquid Syringe Tool for 57 mm syringe needle (250–1,000 µL syringe volume)	1R77010-1009
Solvent Station with 3 × 100 mL bottles	1R77010-1031
Vortexer	1R77010-1033
Consumables	
10 µL Fixed Needle Gas-Tight SMART Syringe 23s Gauge 57 mm length	365D0311SM
100 µL Fixed Needle Gas-Tight SMART Syringe 26s Gauge 57 mm length with side hole	365H2181-SM
1,000 µL Fixed Needle Gas-Tight Syringe 22 Gauge 57 mm length	365K2811-SM
Headspace Vial Cap, silver magnetic screw (18 mm) with silicone (blue)/PTFE seal	6PMSC18-ST2
Vial, 2 mL Amber Screw Glass (9 mm short thread), 100/pack	6ASV9-2P
Headspace Vial, 20 mL clear screw glass, 100/pack	6ASV20-1
Software	
Sampling Workflow Editor software	1R77010-1200

Table A3 (Part 1). Selected reaction monitoring (SRM) transitions for data acquisition by GC-MS/MS

Name	RT	Window	Mass	Product mass	Collision energy
Naphthalene D8	6.75	0.5	136	134.1	25
Naphthalene D8	6.75	0.5	136	108	25
Naphthalene	6.77	0.5	128	78	25
Naphthalene	6.77	0.5	128	102	20
Naphthalene	6.77	0.5	128	126.9	16
2-methyl Naphthalene	7.61	0.5	141.1	115.1	16
2-methyl Naphthalene	7.61	0.5	142.1	115.1	26
2-methyl Naphthalene	7.61	0.5	142.1	141.1	14
1-methyl Naphthalene	7.74	0.5	141.1	115.1	16
1-methyl Naphthalene	7.74	0.5	142.1	115.1	26
1-methyl Naphthalene	7.74	0.5	142.1	141.1	14
Dichlobenil	7.91	0.5	170.9	99.9	24
Dichlobenil	7.91	0.5	170.9	136	12
Dichlobenil	7.91	0.5	172.8	99.8	24
3,4, Dichloroaniline	8.69	0.5	160.9	99	20
3,4, Dichloroaniline	8.69	0.5	160.9	90	18
3,4, Dichloroaniline	8.69	0.5	160.9	126	10
Acenaphthylene	8.98	0.5	152	101.9	26
Acenaphthylene	8.98	0.5	152	150	28
Acenaphthylene	8.98	0.5	152	125.9	24
Acenaphthene D10	9.24	0.5	162	160	20
Acenaphthene D10	9.24	0.5	164	162	15
Acenaphthene	9.3	0.5	153	152	18
Acenaphthene	9.3	0.5	154	153	16
Acenaphthene	9.3	0.5	154	152	24
Pentachlorobenzene	9.58	0.5	249.8	214.8	16
Pentachlorobenzene	9.58	0.5	249.8	143.6	38
Pentachlorobenzene	9.58	0.5	249.8	178.5	24

Table A3 (Part 2). Selected reaction monitoring (SRM) transitions for data acquisition by GC-MS/MS

Name	RT	Window	Mass	Product mass	Collision energy
Fluorene	10.36	0.5	165	164	16
Fluorene	10.36	0.5	166	115	38
Fluorene	10.36	0.5	165	163	30
Diphenylamine	10.67	0.5	168.1	167.1	14
Diphenylamine	10.67	0.5	169.2	167.1	22
Diphenylamine	10.67	0.5	168.1	139	38
2,3,5,6-Tetrachloroaniline	10.73	0.5	230.8	157.9	18
2,3,5,6-Tetrachloroaniline	10.73	0.5	230.8	159.8	18
2,3,5,6-Tetrachloroaniline	10.73	0.5	230.8	194.8	10
Ethalfuralin	10.86	0.5	276	248.1	8
Ethalfuralin	10.86	0.5	315.9	276.1	8
Ethalfuralin	10.86	0.5	276	202	14
Trifluralin	11.05	0.5	306.1	264.1	8
Trifluralin	11.05	0.5	306.1	206	10
Trifluralin	11.05	0.5	306.1	159.7	20
Benfluralin	11.12	0.5	292	264	8
Benfluralin	11.12	0.5	292	159.7	20
Benfluralin	11.12	0.5	292	206.1	10
aHCH-D6	11.52	0.5	221.9	185	8
aHCH-D6	11.52	0.5	223.9	186.9	8
HCH - alpha	11.62	0.5	218.8	183	8
HCH - alpha	11.62	0.5	182.8	146.7	12
Hexachlorobenzene	11.76	0.5	283.8	248.8	18
Hexachlorobenzene	11.76	0.5	283.8	213.8	30
Pentachloroanisole	11.88	0.5	264.8	236.9	10
Pentachloroanisole	11.88	0.5	266.8	238.9	10
Pentachloroanisole	11.88	0.5	279.9	236.8	22
HCH - beta	12.21	0.5	180.9	145	14
HCH - beta	12.21	0.5	218.7	183	8
HCH - gamma (lindane)	12.46	0.5	180.9	145	14
HCH - gamma (lindane)	12.46	0.5	180.9	109	26
Pentachloronitrobenzene	12.47	0.5	274.8	239.9	18
Pentachloronitrobenzene	12.47	0.5	272.9	237.9	16
Pentachloronitrobenzene	12.47	0.5	274.8	204.9	28
Diazinon D10	12.61	0.5	138.1	85.1	12
Diazinon D10	12.61	0.5	200	135.1	8
Fluchloralin	12.78	0.5	306	264	8
Fluchloralin	12.78	0.5	264	159.5	14
Fluchloralin	12.78	0.5	264	206.1	8
Phenanthrene D10	12.82	0.5	188	160	20
Phenanthrene D10	12.82	0.5	188	184.1	28
Phenanthrene	12.9	0.5	178	152	20
Phenanthrene	12.9	0.5	178	151	32
Phenanthrene	12.9	0.5	178	176	35
Chlorothalonil	12.92	0.5	265.8	133	36
Chlorothalonil	12.92	0.5	228.8	168	8
Chlorothalonil	12.92	0.5	265.8	170	24

Table A3 (Part 3). Selected reaction monitoring (SRM) transitions for data acquisition by GC-MS/MS

Name	RT	Window	Mass	Product mass	Collision energy
Anthracene	13.05	0.5	178	152	25
Anthracene	13.05	0.5	178	176	35
Anthracene	13.05	0.5	178	152	20
Anthracene	13.05	0.5	178	151	32
HCH - delta	13.16	0.5	218.8	182.9	8
HCH - delta	13.16	0.5	218.8	146.5	20
Endosulfan ether	13.72	0.5	69	41.1	12
Endosulfan ether	13.72	0.5	238.9	204	12
Endosulfan ether	13.72	0.5	240.9	206	14
Chlozolate	14.02	0.5	259	187.9	12
Chlozolate	14.02	0.5	259	152.9	26
Chlozolate	14.02	0.5	331	259	8
Transfluthrin	14.35	0.5	163	143	14
Transfluthrin	14.35	0.5	127	91.1	8
Transfluthrin	14.35	0.5	163	91.1	12
Metalaxyl	14.47	0.5	131.9	117	12
Metalaxyl	14.47	0.5	160.1	130	18
Metalaxyl	14.47	0.5	160.1	144.8	10
Heptachlor	14.53	0.5	271.8	236.9	12
Heptachlor	14.53	0.5	99.8	65	12
Heptachlor	14.53	0.5	269.9	234.9	15
Heptachlor	14.53	0.5	271.9	236.9	15
Prodiamine	14.97	0.5	321.1	279.1	6
Prodiamine	14.97	0.5	275.1	255.1	8
Prodiamine	14.97	0.5	279	203.1	6
Pentachlorothioanisole	15.15	0.5	295.7	262.9	12
Pentachlorothioanisole	15.15	0.5	262.7	192.9	28
Pentachlorothioanisole	15.15	0.5	295.7	245.9	30
Aldrin	15.6	0.5	262.7	192.9	32
Aldrin	15.6	0.5	254.9	219.9	20
Aldrin	15.6	0.5	262.7	191	30
Aldrin	15.6	0.5	292.9	185.9	30
Chlorthal-dimethyl (Dacthal)	15.63	0.5	300.7	222.9	22
Chlorthal-dimethyl (Dacthal)	15.63	0.5	222.7	166.9	20
Chlorthal-dimethyl (Dacthal)	15.63	0.5	300.7	272.9	12
Anthraquinone	15.64	0.5	180	152	12
Anthraquinone	15.64	0.5	208	151.7	22
Anthraquinone	15.64	0.5	208	180	10
Pyrene D10	15.8	0.5	212.2	204.1	60
Pyrene D10	15.8	0.5	212.2	208.1	34
Isopropalin	16.31	0.5	280.1	238.2	8
Isopropalin	16.31	0.5	280.1	117.8	26
Isopropalin	16.31	0.5	280.1	180.2	10
Isodrin	16.49	0.5	192.9	123	28
Isodrin	16.49	0.5	146.8	111.1	10
Isodrin	16.49	0.5	192.9	157.2	20

Table A3 (Part 4). Selected reaction monitoring (SRM) transitions for data acquisition by GC-MS/MS

Name	RT	Window	Mass	Product mass	Collision energy
Pendimethalin	16.5	0.5	252.1	161	14
Pendimethalin	16.5	0.5	252.1	162	8
Pendimethalin	16.5	0.5	252.1	191.3	8
Heptachlor - Epoxide B	16.78	0.5	262.9	192.9	16
Heptachlor - Epoxide B	16.78	0.5	352.8	252.9	15
Heptachlor - Epoxide B	16.78	0.5	352.8	262.9	15
Fluoranthene	17.04	0.5	202	200	32
Fluoranthene	17.04	0.5	202	201	32
Fluoranthene	17.04	0.5	202	152.1	30
Chlorbenside	17.48	0.5	125	89	16
Chlorbenside	17.48	0.5	125	62.8	28
Chlorbenside	17.48	0.5	125	99	16
Chlordane gamma- <i>trans</i>	17.53	0.5	271.7	236.8	12
Chlordane gamma- <i>trans</i>	17.53	0.5	372.7	263.7	20
Chlordane gamma- <i>trans</i>	17.53	0.5	374.7	265.9	22
DDE o, p	17.63	0.5	248.1	176	30
DDE o, p	17.63	0.5	317.8	248	18
DDE o, p	17.63	0.5	246	176.1	28
Pyrene	17.87	0.5	202	200	32
Pyrene	17.87	0.5	202	201	20
Pyrene	17.87	0.5	203	201	32
Endosulfan peak 1	17.95	0.5	240.6	205.9	14
Endosulfan peak 1	17.95	0.5	194.7	125	22
Endosulfan peak 1	17.95	0.5	194.7	159.4	8
Endosulfan peak 1	17.95	0.5	221.9	148	18
Chlordane alpha- <i>cis</i>	17.97	0.5	374.7	265.8	20
Chlordane alpha- <i>cis</i>	17.97	0.5	372.8	265.8	20
Chlordane alpha- <i>cis</i>	17.97	0.5	376.6	268	20
Nonachlor- <i>trans</i>	18.08	0.5	408.6	300	18
Nonachlor- <i>trans</i>	18.08	0.5	236.7	142.9	24
Nonachlor- <i>trans</i>	18.08	0.5	262.8	192.8	28
Chlorfenson (Ovex)	18.27	0.5	111	75	14
Chlorfenson (Ovex)	18.27	0.5	174.9	75	28
Chlorfenson (Ovex)	18.27	0.5	175	111	10
DDE p, p	18.68	0.5	317.8	246	20
DDE p, p	18.68	0.5	316	246	14
DDE p, p	18.68	0.5	246	176.1	28
Dieldrin	18.82	0.5	262.8	227.8	16
Dieldrin	18.82	0.5	276.9	240.9	12
Dieldrin	18.82	0.5	278.9	242.9	12
DDD, o, p	18.89	0.5	235	165.1	20
DDD, o, p	18.89	0.5	235	199	14
DDD, o, p	18.89	0.5	236.8	165	20
Oxyfluorfen	18.9	0.5	252	146	30
Oxyfluorfen	18.9	0.5	252	169.8	28
Oxyfluorfen	18.9	0.5	252	224	10

Table A3 (Part 5). Selected reaction monitoring (SRM) transitions for data acquisition by GC-MS/MS

Name	RT	Window	Mass	Product mass	Collision energy
Nitrofen	19.44	0.5	202	139	24
Nitrofen	19.44	0.5	283	202	10
Nitrofen	19.44	0.5	283	253	10
Perthane (Ethylan)	19.53	0.5	223.1	167	12
Perthane (Ethylan)	19.53	0.5	223.1	179	20
Perthane (Ethylan)	19.53	0.5	223.1	193	28
Fluazifop-p-butyl	19.54	0.5	282	91.1	18
Fluazifop-p-butyl	19.54	0.5	282	238.1	16
Fluazifop-p-butyl	19.54	0.5	383.1	282.1	14
Chlorobenzilate	19.77	0.5	139	111	12
Chlorobenzilate	19.77	0.5	111	75.1	14
Chlorobenzilate	19.77	0.5	139	74.9	26
Endosulfan peak 2	19.83	0.5	158.9	123	12
Endosulfan peak 2	19.83	0.5	194.7	159	8
Endosulfan peak 2	19.83	0.5	240.6	205.8	12
DDT (o, p) D8	20.04	0.5	243.1	173.1	22
DDT (o, p) D8	20.04	0.5	245	173.1	22
Nonachlor- <i>cis</i>	20.04	0.5	236.8	142.9	24
Nonachlor- <i>cis</i>	20.04	0.5	262.8	192.9	28
Nonachlor- <i>cis</i>	20.04	0.5	408.7	300	18
DDD, p, p	20.05	0.5	235	165.1	20
DDD, p, p	20.05	0.5	235	199	14
DDD, p, p	20.05	0.5	236.8	165	20
DDT -op	20.14	0.5	235	165.1	20
DDT -op	20.14	0.5	235	199.1	10
DDT -op	20.14	0.5	237	165.1	22
Endrin	20.32	0.5	280.8	245.3	8
Endrin	20.32	0.5	249.8	214.9	24
Endrin aldehyde	20.86	0.5	173	138.1	16
Endrin aldehyde	20.86	0.5	278.9	242.9	10
Endrin aldehyde	20.86	0.5	344.9	281	8
Methoxychlor olefin (p, p)	20.96	0.5	238.1	223.1	10
Methoxychlor olefin (p, p)	20.96	0.5	238.1	152.1	34
Methoxychlor olefin (p, p)	20.96	0.5	308	238.2	12
Endosulfan sulfate	21.11	0.5	238.7	203.9	12
Endosulfan sulfate	21.11	0.5	271.7	234.9	12
Endosulfan sulfate	21.11	0.5	271.7	236.8	12
DDT p,p	21.31	0.5	235	199.5	10
DDT p,p	21.31	0.5	237.1	165.1	22
DDT p,p	21.31	0.5	235.1	165.1	22
Carfentrazon-ethyl	21.76	0.5	340.1	312.1	10
Carfentrazon-ethyl	21.76	0.5	311.9	150.7	18
Triphenylphosphate	21.97	0.5	326	325	5
Triphenylphosphate	21.97	0.5	77	51	10
Endrin-ketone	22.66	0.5	209.2	138.4	30
Endrin-ketone	22.66	0.5	316.8	208.9	28
Endrin-ketone	22.66	0.5	316.8	281	10

Table A3 (Part 6). Selected reaction monitoring (SRM) transitions for data acquisition by GC-MS/MS

Name	RT	Window	Mass	Product mass	Collision energy
Chrysene	22.95	0.5	228	226	28
Chrysene	22.95	0.5	229.1	227.1	30
Chrysene	22.95	0.5	225.9	223.9	32
Chrysene D12	22.97	0.5	240.1	212.1	28
Chrysene D12	22.97	0.5	236	232	28
Bifenthrin	23.03	0.5	181	165.9	10
Bifenthrin	23.03	0.5	165.1	163.6	24
Bifenthrin	23.03	0.5	181	179	12
Benz[a]anthracene	23.09	0.5	228	226	28
Benz[a]anthracene	23.09	0.5	225.9	223.9	32
Benz[a]anthracene	23.09	0.5	229.1	227.1	32
Tetradifon	23.87	0.5	159	131	10
Tetradifon	23.87	0.5	159	74.8	32
Tetradifon	23.87	0.5	159	111	20
Phenothrin peak 1/2	23.95	0.5	183.1	168	12
Phenothrin peak 1/2	23.95	0.5	183.1	153	12
Phenothrin peak 1/2	23.95	0.5	123.1	81.1	8
Mirex	24.79	0.5	272	236.8	14
Mirex	24.79	0.5	236.8	142.9	26
Mirex	24.79	0.5	273.8	238.8	14
Permethrin - <i>cis/ trans</i>	26.42	0.5	183	153	14
Permethrin - <i>cis/ trans</i>	26.42	0.5	183	165.1	10
Permethrin - <i>cis/ trans</i>	26.42	0.5	163	91.1	12
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	27.36	0.5	250	248	32
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	27.36	0.5	252	250	32
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	27.36	0.5	252	226.1	28
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	27.47	0.5	250	248	32
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	27.47	0.5	252	250	32
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	27.47	0.5	252	226.1	28
Cypermethrin peak 1	28	1	163	127.1	6
Cypermethrin peak 1	28	1	163	91.1	12
Cypermethrin peak 1	28	1	180.9	152.1	20
Benzo[a]pyrene	28.55	0.5	252.1	250	34
Benzo[a]pyrene	28.55	0.5	250	248	32
Benzo[a]pyrene	28.55	0.5	252	226.1	28
Perylene D12	28.78	0.5	264	260.1	36
Perylene D12	28.78	0.5	260.1	256.1	34
Indeno[1,2,3- <i>cd</i>]pyrene	32.49	0.5	274	272	32
Indeno[1,2,3- <i>cd</i>]pyrene	32.49	0.5	276	274	35
Indeno[1,2,3- <i>cd</i>]pyrene	32.49	0.5	138	124.9	15
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene	32.64	0.5	278	276	30
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene	32.64	0.5	276	274	38
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene	32.64	0.5	276	275.1	26
Benzo[ghi]perylene	33.28	0.5	276	274	38
Benzo[ghi]perylene	33.28	0.5	276	275.1	23
Benzo[ghi]perylene	33.28	0.5	137.9	136.8	16

Table A4. Average, standard deviation, limit of detection LOD and LOQ from replicate analysis of 2 ng/L calibration standard

Peak name	Average (ng/L)	Std. deviation (ng/L)	LOD (ng/L)	LOQ (ng/L)
Naphthalene	2.72	0.97	2.92	9.75
2-methyl Napthalene	2.72	0.81	2.42	8.05
1-methyl Napthalene	2.4	0.43	1.29	4.31
Dichlobenil	1.83	0.08	0.23	0.77
3,4, Dichloroaniline	2.03	0.08	0.25	0.82
Acenaphthylene	2.01	0.05	0.28	0.54
Acenaphthene	2.05	0.09	0.16	0.92
Pentachlorobenzene	1.97	0.07	0.21	0.71
Fluorene	1.88	0.14	0.43	1.42
Diphenylamine	2.09	0.14	0.41	1.37
2,3,5,6-Tetrachloroaniline	1.95	0.06	0.17	0.58
Ethalfuralin	2.33	0.15	0.45	1.49
Trifluralin	2.21	0.08	0.24	0.79
Benfluralin	2.26	0.10	0.3	0.99
HCH - alpha	1.96	0.04	0.11	0.38
Hexachlorobenzene	1.92	0.10	0.3	0.99
Pentachloroanisole	1.92	0.05	0.14	0.47
HCH - beta	1.93	0.09	0.27	0.9
HCH - gamma (lindane)	1.96	0.10	0.29	0.97
Pentachloronitrobenzene	2.25	0.08	0.23	0.77
Phenanthrene	1.68	1.18	3.54	11.8
Chlorothalonil	1.96	0.1	0.29	0.98
Anthracene	2.06	0.08	0.24	0.82
HCH - delta	2.04	0.09	0.26	0.87
Endosulfan ether	1.7	0.12	0.37	1.22
Transfluthrin	176	0.09	0.28	0.95
Heptachlor	1.41	0.17	0.51	1.71
Prodiamine	1.89	0.18	0.55	1.82
Pentachlorothioanisole	2.11	0.12	0.36	1.21
Aldrin	2.3	0.25	0.76	2.55
Anthraquinone	1.69	0.21	0.62	2.08
Chlorthal-dimethyl (Dacthal)	1.91	0.05	0.14	0.47
Isopropalin	2.07	0.12	0.37	1.24
Isodrin	2.24	0.19	0.58	1.94
Pendimethalin	2.21	0.14	0.42	1.40
Heptachlor - Epoxide B	1.93	0.16	0.47	1.57
Fluoranthene	1.92	0.44	1.31	4.36
Chlorbenside	2.09	0.08	0.25	0.84
Chlordane gamma-trans	1.78	0.1	0.3	1.02

Peak name	Average (ng/L)	Std. deviation (ng/L)	LOD (ng/L)	LOQ (ng/L)
DDE o, p	1.97	0.17	0.52	1.72
Pyrene	1.54	0.27	0.82	2.73
Endosulfan peak 1	2.01	0.09	0.28	0.94
Chlordane alpha-cis	1.73	0.21	0.63	2.11
Nonachlor-trans	2.09	0.32	0.96	3.18
Chlorfenson (Ovex)	2.04	0.07	0.22	0.75
DDE p, p	1.97	0.16	0.47	1.58
Dieldrin	1.05	0.28	0.85	2.85
DDD, o, p	1.64	0.07	0.2	0.67
Nitrofen	2.61	0.18	0.54	1.8
Perthane (Ethylan)	1.78	0.21	0.73	2.45
Fluazifop-p-butyl	1.58	0.18	0.53	1.76
Endosulfan peak 2	1.36	0.25	0.74	2.45
DDD, p, p	1.94	0.09	0.56	1.87
Nonachlor-cis	2.19	0.19	0.27	0.9
DDT -op	2.03	0.1	0.29	0.96
Endrin	1.62	0.24	0.71	2.35
Methoxychlor olefin (p, p)	1.69	0.04	0.13	0.43
Endosulfan sulfate	1.56	0.12	0.35	1.16
DDT p,p	1.42	0.94	2.81	9.35
Endrin-ketone	1.72	0.08	0.24	0.8
Chrysene	2.04	0.06	0.18	0.6
Bifenthrin	2.17	0.16	0.49	1.62
Benz[a]anthracene	2.17	0.13	0.38	1.26
Tetradifon	2.00	0.27	0.82	2.73
Phenothrin peak 2	1.87	0.4	1.21	4.05
Mirex	1.99	0.35	1.05	3.49
Permethrin - cis	2.2	0.08	0.24	0.8
Permethrin - trans	2.39	0.21	0.64	2.12
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	2.27	0.08	0.25	0.82
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	2.24	0.13	0.4	1.34
Cypermethrin peak 1	2.41	0.19	0.58	1.95
Cypermethrin peak 2	2.00	0.15	0.44	1.46
Cypermethrin peak 3	2.03	0.21	0.63	2.09
Cypermethrin peak 4	2.01	0.08	0.25	0.84
Benzo[a]pyrene	2.24	0.29	0.87	2.9
Indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene	2.17	0.19	0.56	1.9
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene	2.25	0.24	0.73	2.42
Benzo[ghi]perylene	2.16	0.16	0.49	1.64

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AN003943-EN 0725S