

# Centri Applications

Exploring new areas and improving analytical quality of  
volatiles and semi-volatiles analysis



# Advantages of using a focusing trap for preconcentration



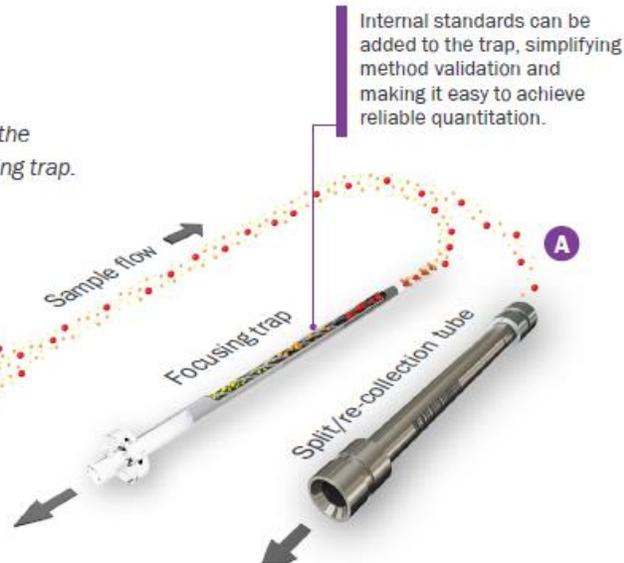
# Enhanced performance with cold trap refocussing

## HS-trap, SPME-trap, HiSorb probe-trap, TD-trap..

### 1 Sample focusing

Analytes are swept onto the electrically-cooled focusing trap.

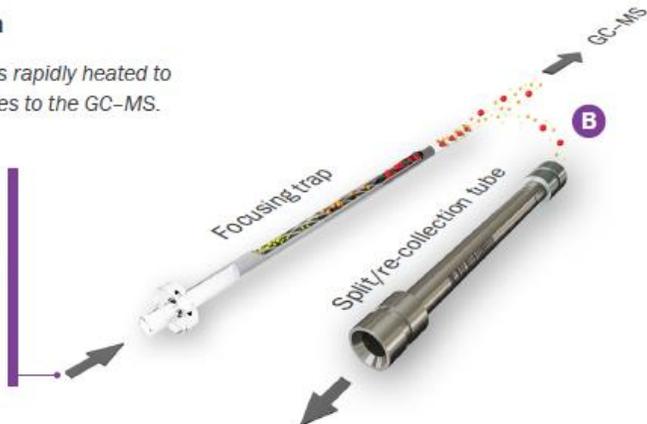
- 1 High-capacity sorptive extraction
- 2 HS
- 3 SPME
- 4 Thermal desorption



### 2 Trap desorption

The focusing trap is rapidly heated to transfer the analytes to the GC-MS.

Backflush trap desorption allows multiple sorbents with different strengths to be used. This means that a wide analyte range can be monitored in a single run.

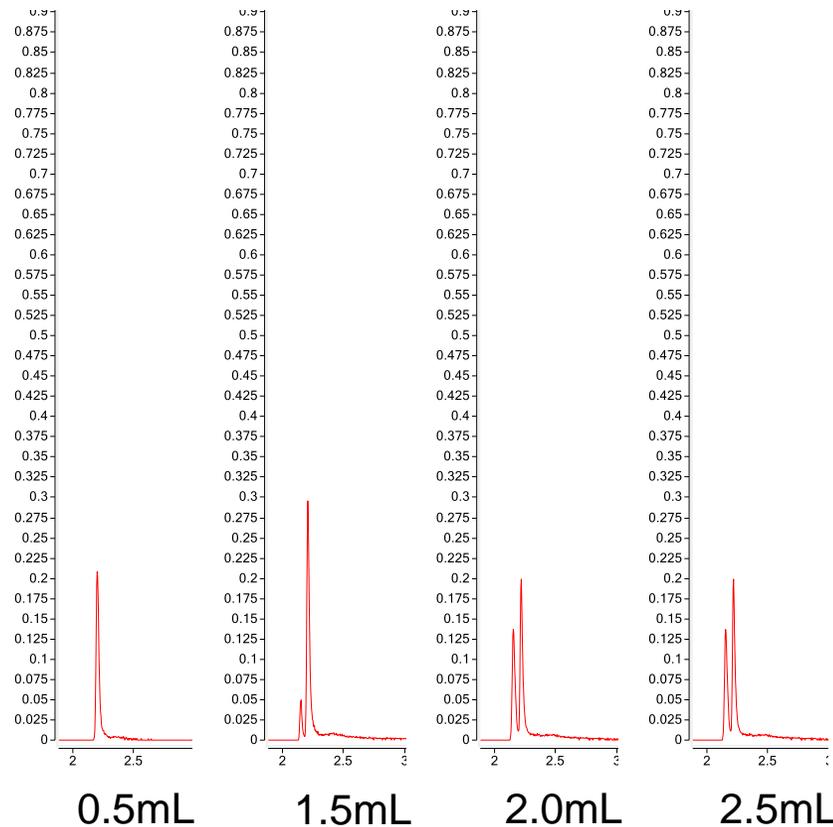


- Preconcentration = Improved peak shape = enhanced S/N = Gain in sensitivity
- Hydrophobic sorbents and trap purge parameters for water and solvent management
- Multi bed sorbents for selective refocussing across extended volatility range
- Peltier cooled sub-ambient trap control providing maximum trapping efficiency
- Automated re-collection (TD-50) in all sampling modes- HiLo analysis, unique SPME, Probe, HS operation

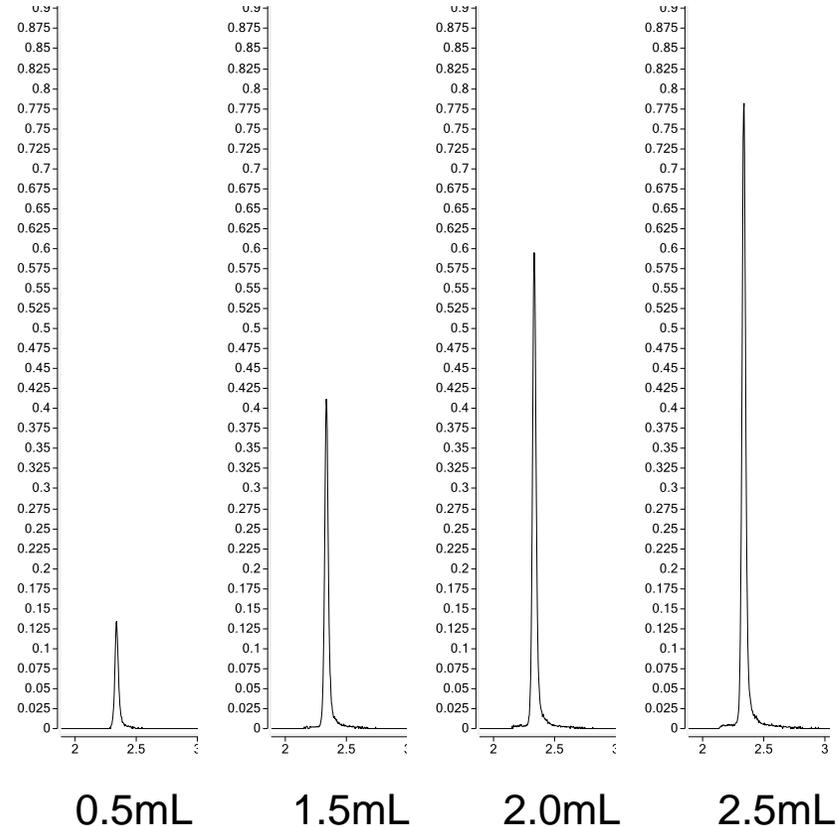
# HS-Trap vs. Direct HS

Effect of injection volume on peak shape

Direct HS



HS-Trap



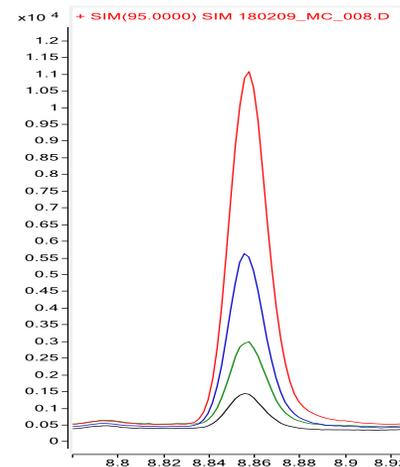
# Centri: Headspace-trap

Effect of injection volume on peak shape

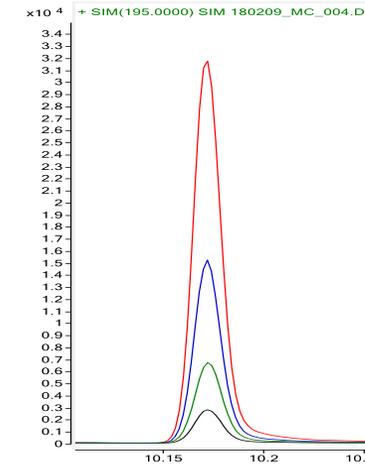


- Headspace Analysis- Sample: 10mL @500ppt odourants in water
- Increasing the HS sample volume by a factor of 10
- No loss in peak shape/symmetry across this range
- No peak splitting observed at higher volume
- Incremental gain in sensitivity
- Splitless analysis

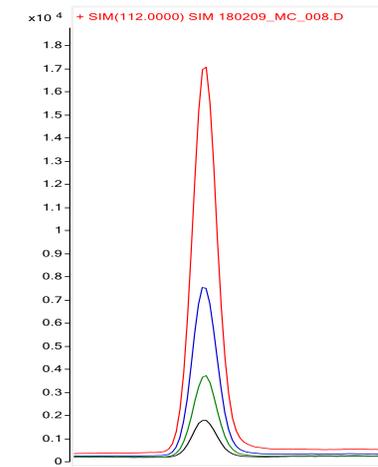
Inj. Vol.  
0.5mL  
1mL  
2mL  
5mL



2-MIB



2,4,6-TCA



Geosmin

# Volatile organic compounds in drinking water



# Water

A fundamental resource for life

- Water is one of the most precious resources we have, and it needs protecting and safeguarding
- More than one-quarter of all bottled water comes from a municipal water supply – the same place that tap water comes from
- The access to safe drinking-water is essential to health, a basic human right and a component of effective policy for health protection (WHO Guidelines 2008)
- A two-person household (UK) uses ~100,000 L per year (92.5% goes to waste)



Drinking water



Environmental water



Waste water



Ground water

**Water  
comes in  
multiple  
types**

# VOCs in drinking water

Maximum/reporting levels for example contaminants

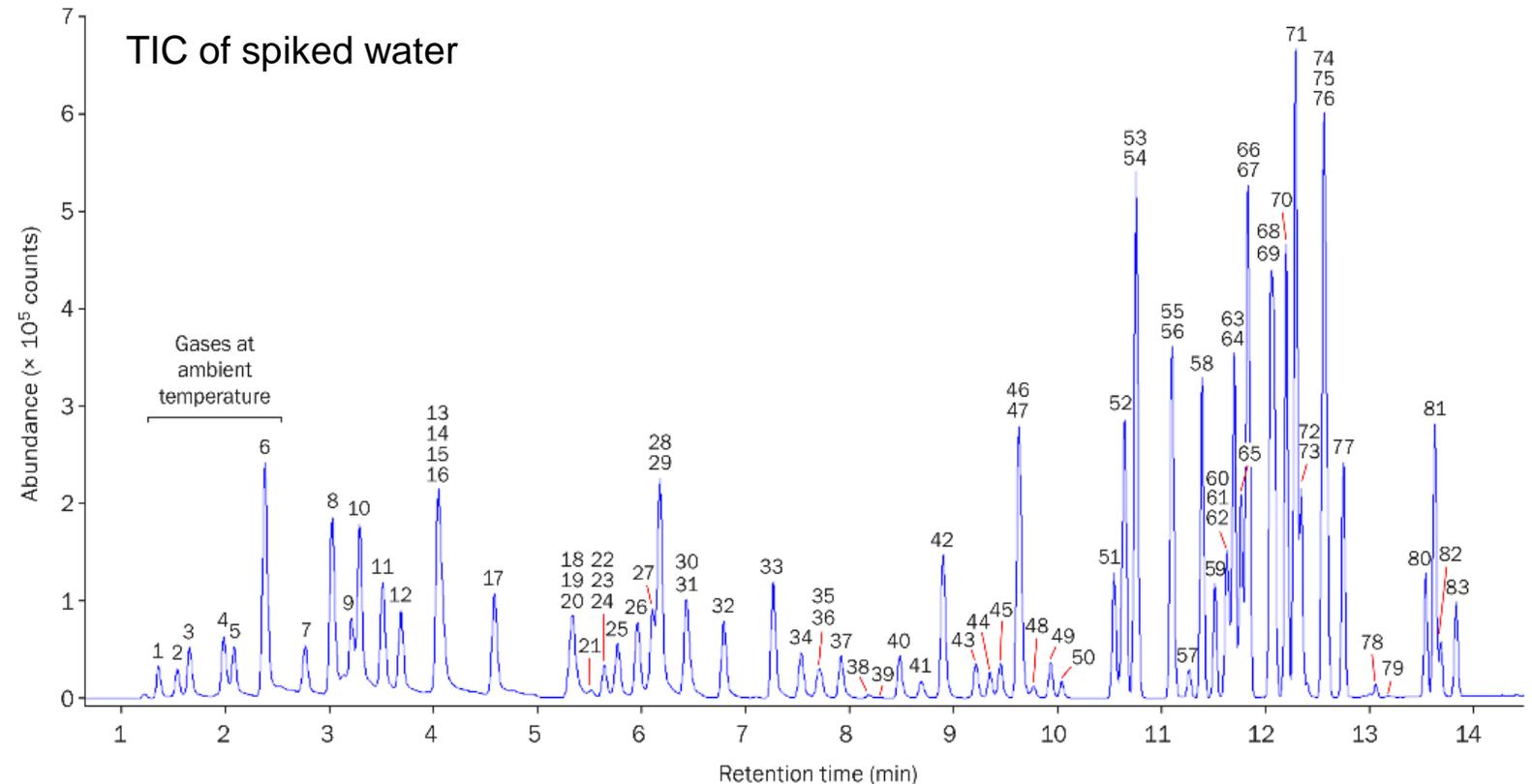
| Compound       | US EPA  | China EPA                  | European EEA               | Canadian CDWQG          | WHO guidelines       |
|----------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Benzene        | 5 ppb   | 10 ppb<br>(0.01 mg/L)      | 1 ppb<br>(0.001 mg/L)      | 5 ppb<br>(5 µg/L)       | 10 ppb               |
| Ethylbenzene   | 700 ppb | 300 ppb<br>(0.3mg/L)       | —                          | 140 ppb<br>(140 µg/L)   | 300 ppb              |
| Benzo[a]pyrene | 0.2 ppb | 0.01 ppb<br>(0.00001 mg/L) | 0.01 ppb<br>(0.00001 mg/L) | 0.04 ppb<br>(0.04 µg/L) | All PAHs:<br>0.7 ppb |
| Xylenes        | 10 ppm  | 500 ppb<br>(0.5 mg/L)      | —                          | 90 ppb<br>(90 µg/L)     | 500 ppb              |
| Vinyl chloride | 2 ppb   | 5 ppb<br>(0.005 mg/L)      | 0.5 ppb<br>(0.0005 mg/L)   | 2 ppb<br>(2 µg/L)       | —                    |

# VOCs in drinking water

## Headspace–trap analysis



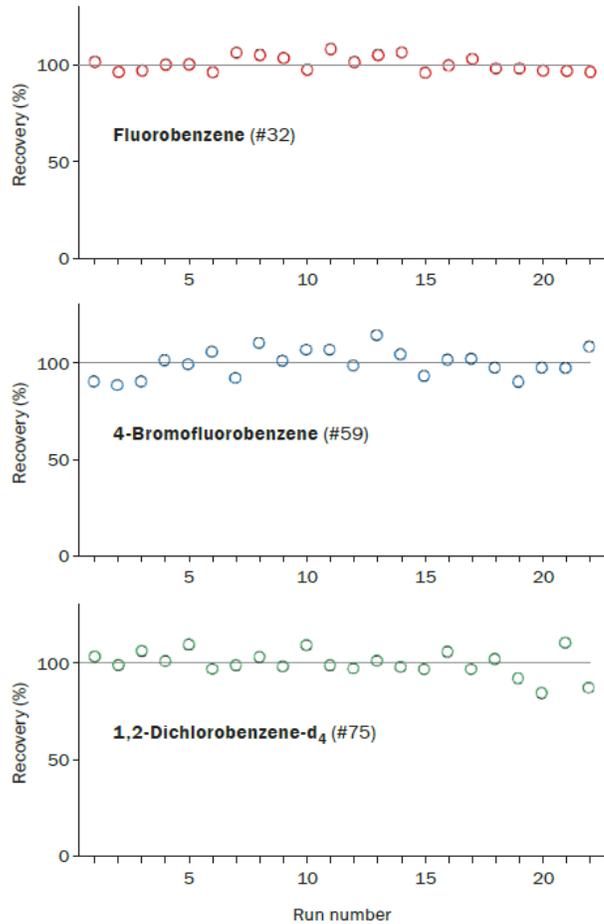
- With BFB tuning
- Minimum detection limits (0.002–0.27 ppb)
- Much lower than reporting limits for:
  - US (0.5 ppb)
  - EU (0.1–100 ppb)
  - China (2–60 ppb)



Application Note 253

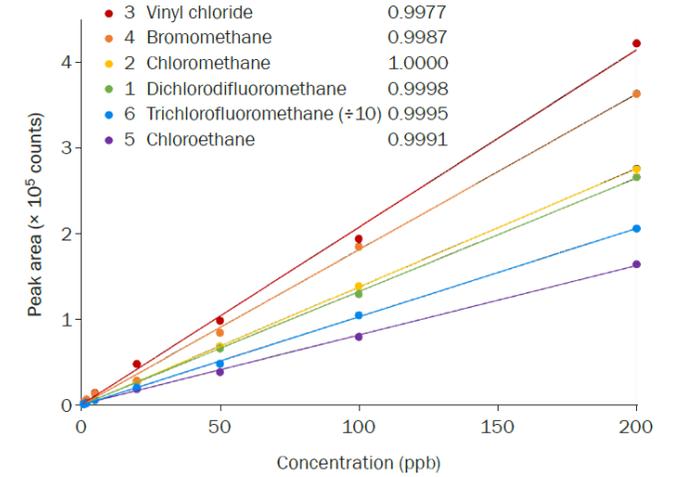
# VOCs in drinking water

## Reproducibility and linearity

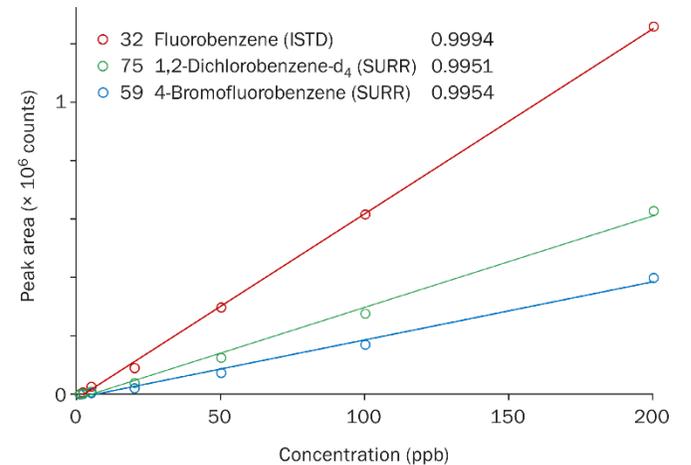


The recoveries for the internal standard and the two surrogates (from 22 consecutive analyses of the 25 ppb standard) fall within the 80–120% range, with RSDs below 10%.

Seven-point calibration curves and R<sup>2</sup> values for the six most volatile compounds



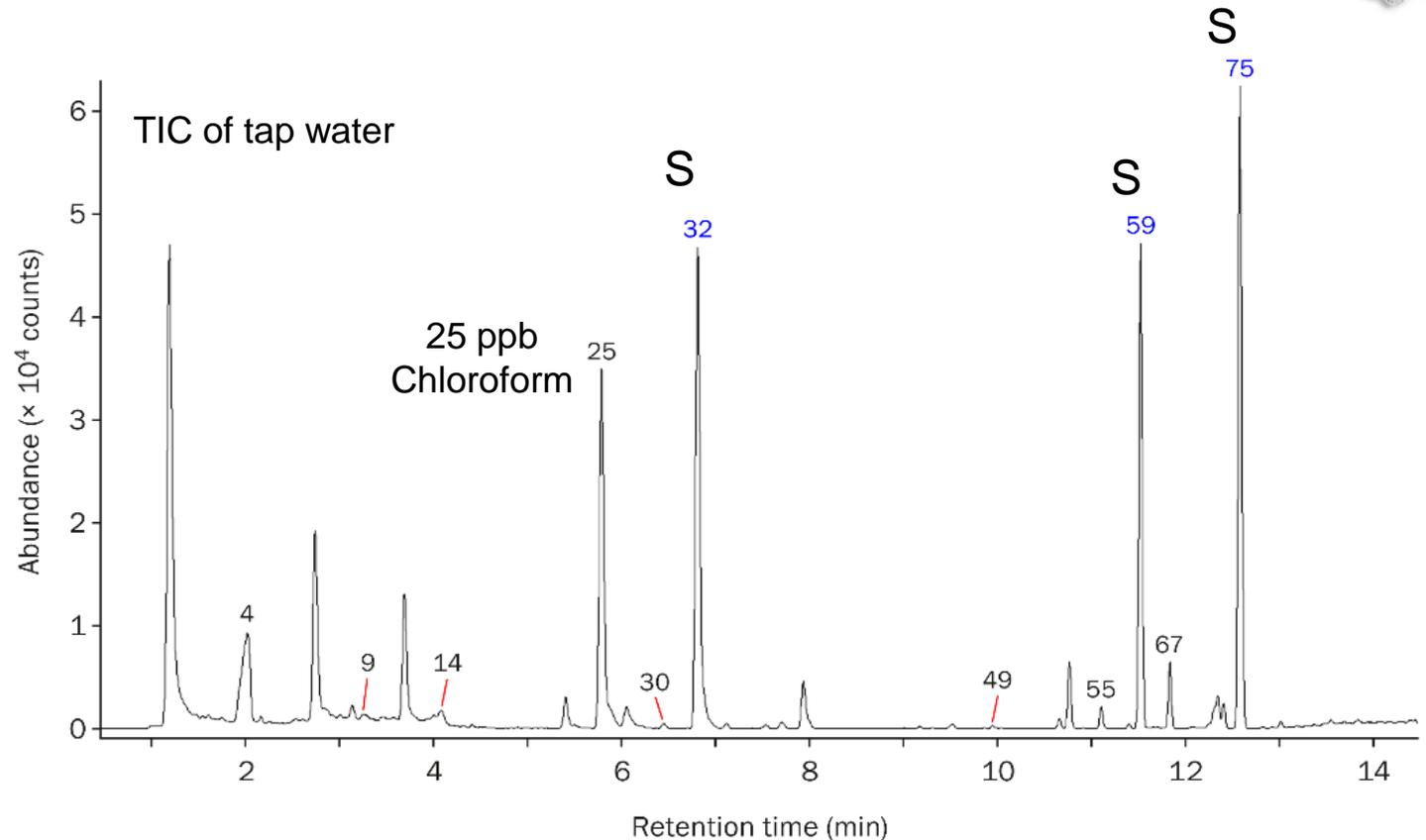
Seven-point calibration curves and R<sup>2</sup> values for the internal standard and the two surrogates



# VOCs in drinking water

## Welsh drinking water

- Real-world sample of tap water
- Surrogates added at 25 ppb
- 82 compounds <2 ppb
- Exception of chloroform (25 ppb)

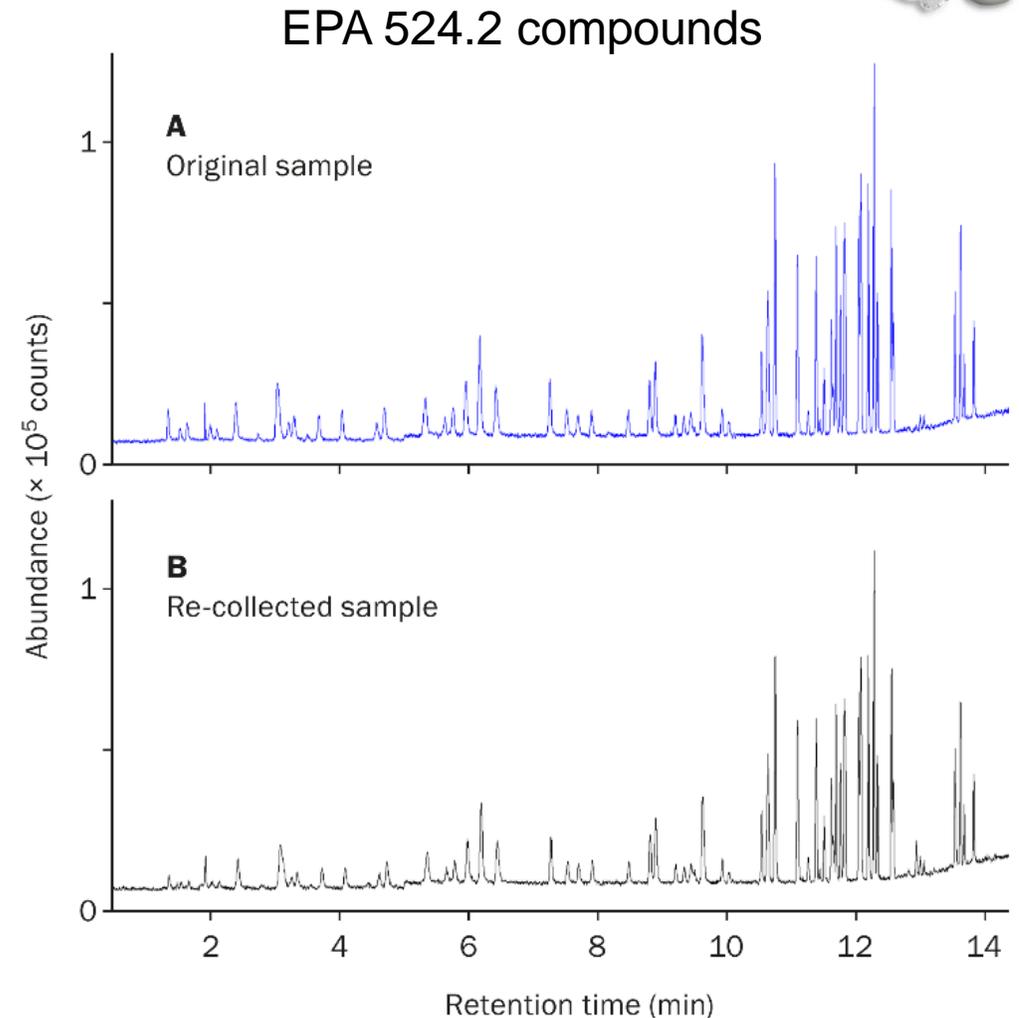


Application Note 253

# VOCs in drinking water

## Reproducibility – Re-collection

- Repeat analysis without lengthy sample preparation
- Different split conditions possible ('High–Low' analysis)
- Protecting the GC column and MS
- Sample security
- Storing samples for later analysis or re-analysis

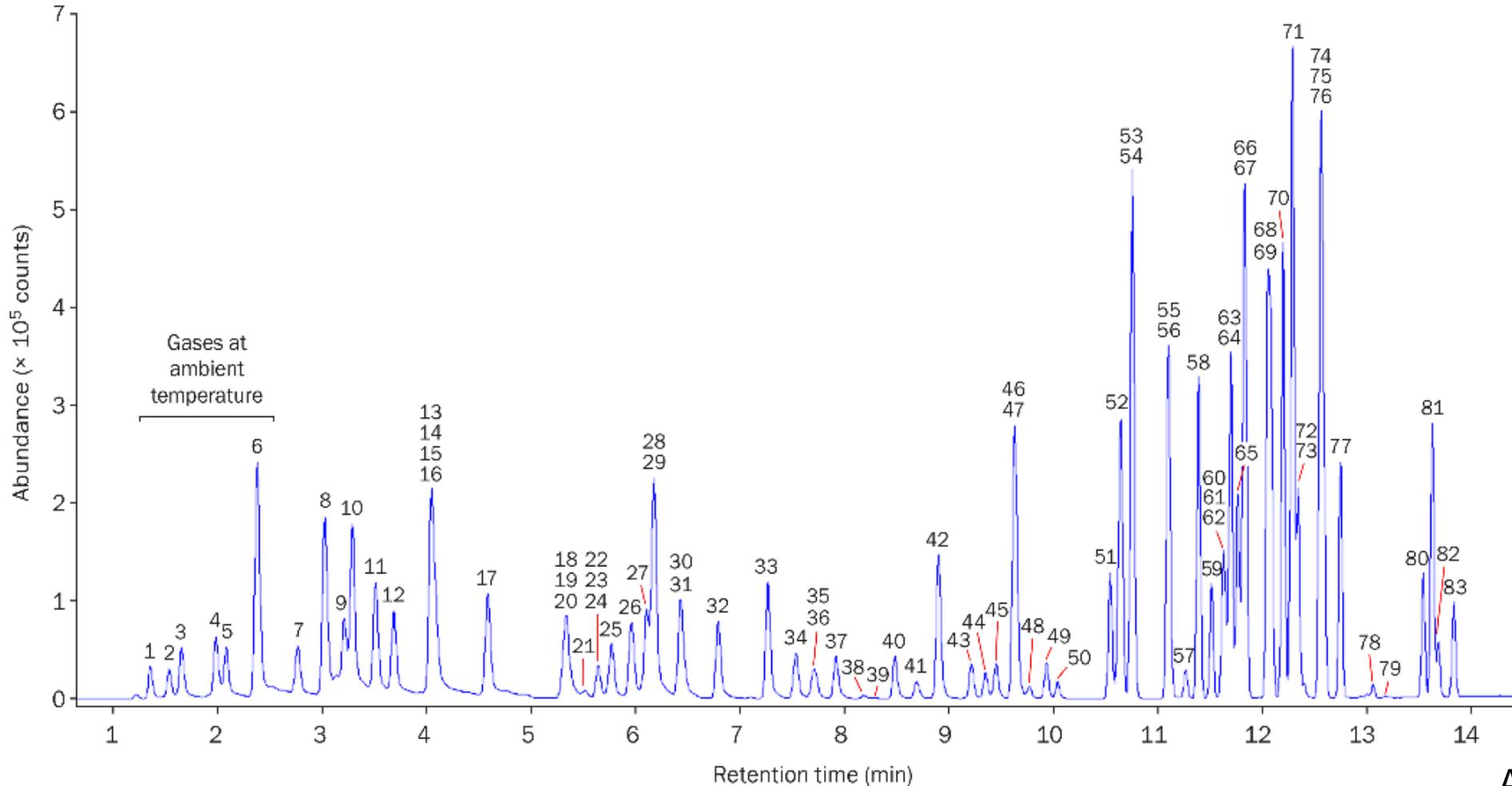


# Lowering detection limits of volatiles in water



# VOCs in drinking water

## Headspace-trap analysis

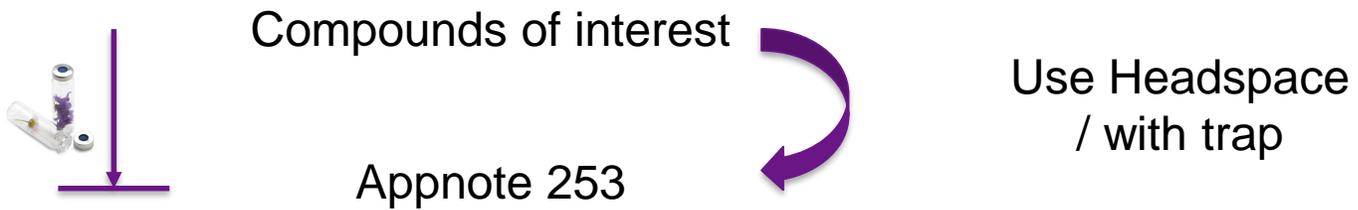


TIC of spiked water

Application Note 253

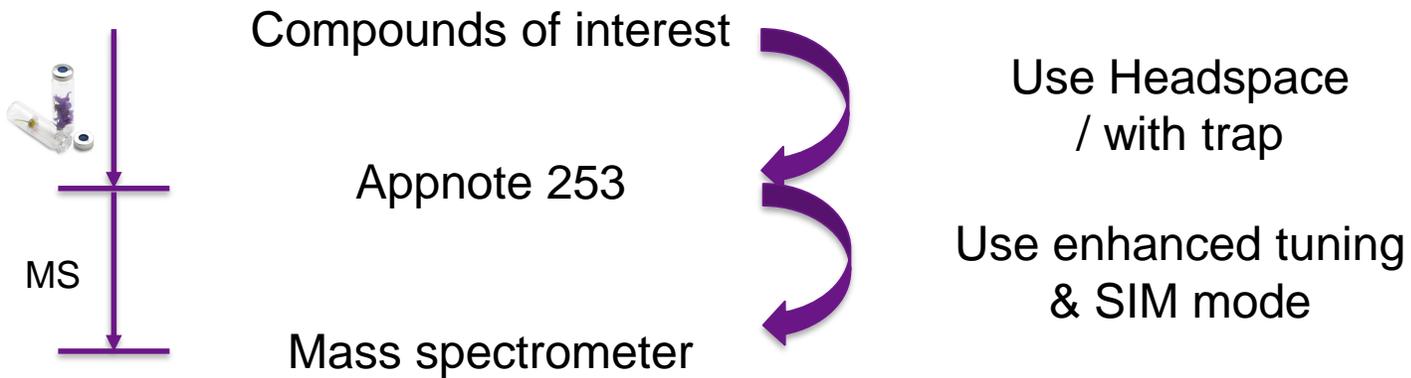
# Lowering detection limits

..stepping down the ladder



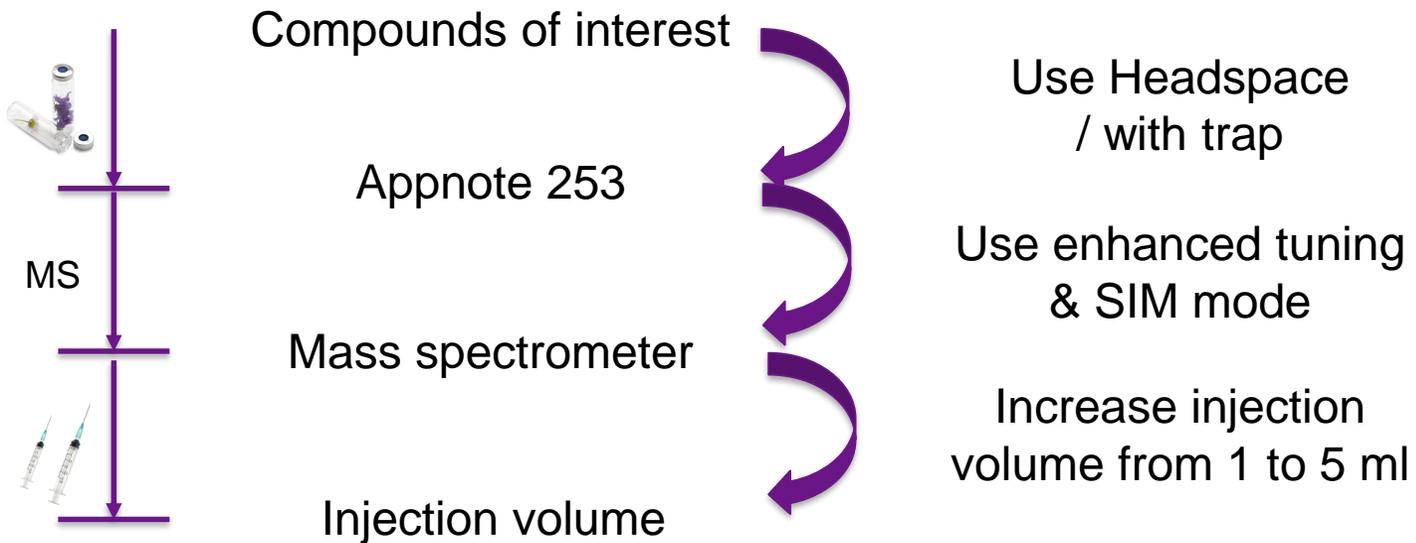
# Lowering detection limits

..stepping down the ladder



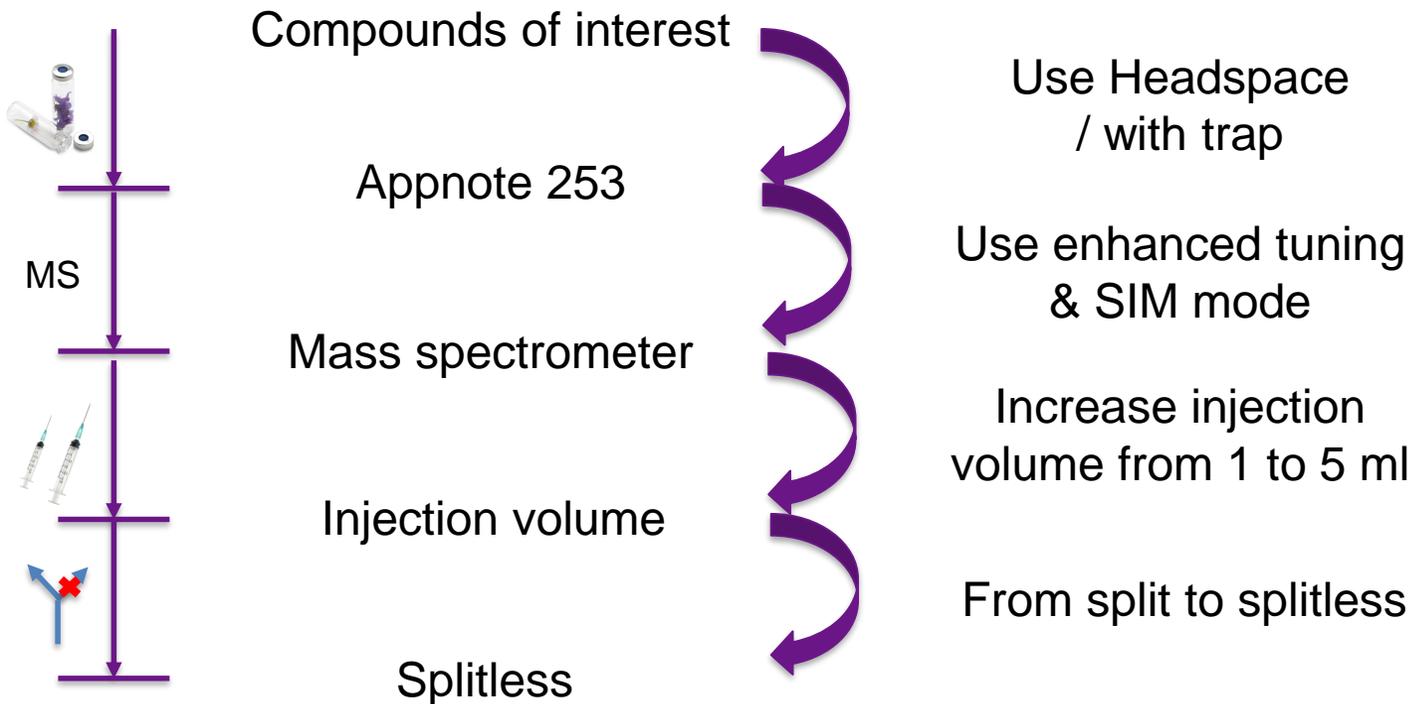
# Lowering detection limits

..stepping down the ladder



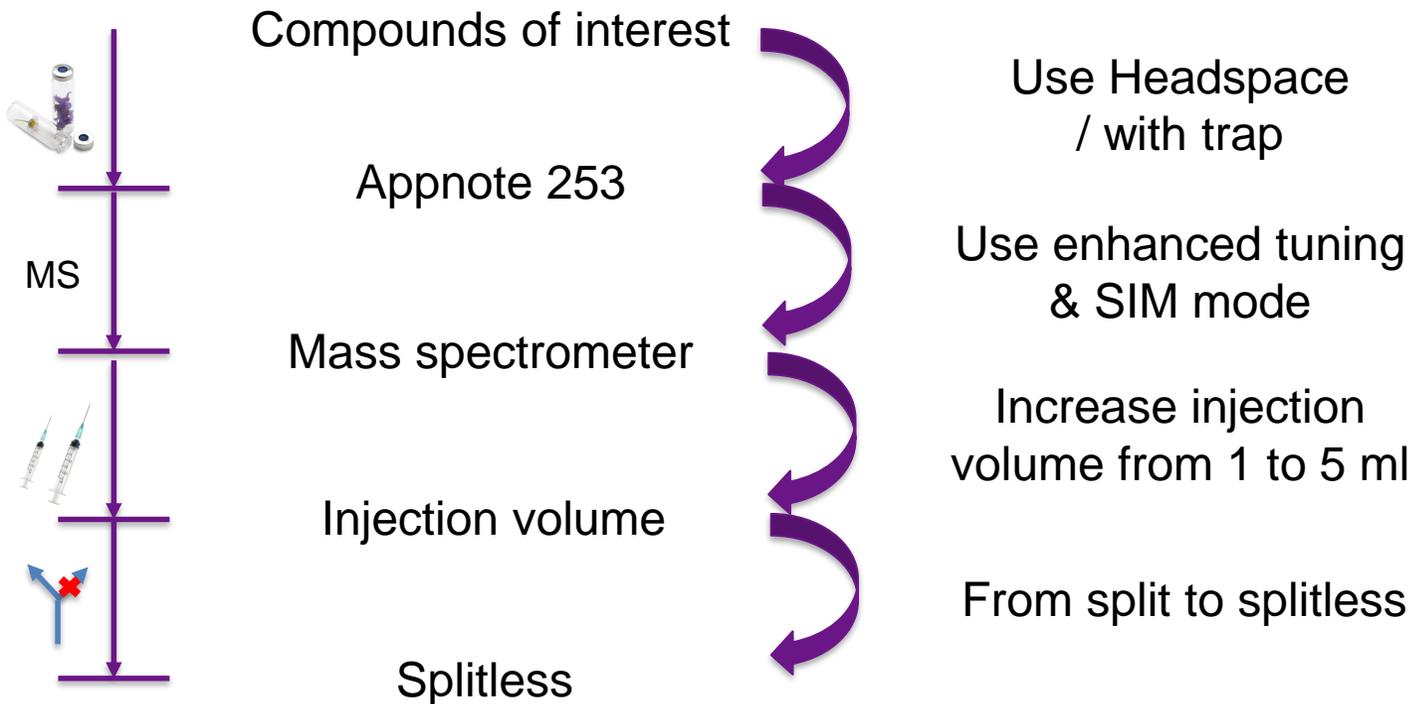
# Lowering detection limits

..stepping down the ladder



# Lowering detection limits

..stepping down the ladder

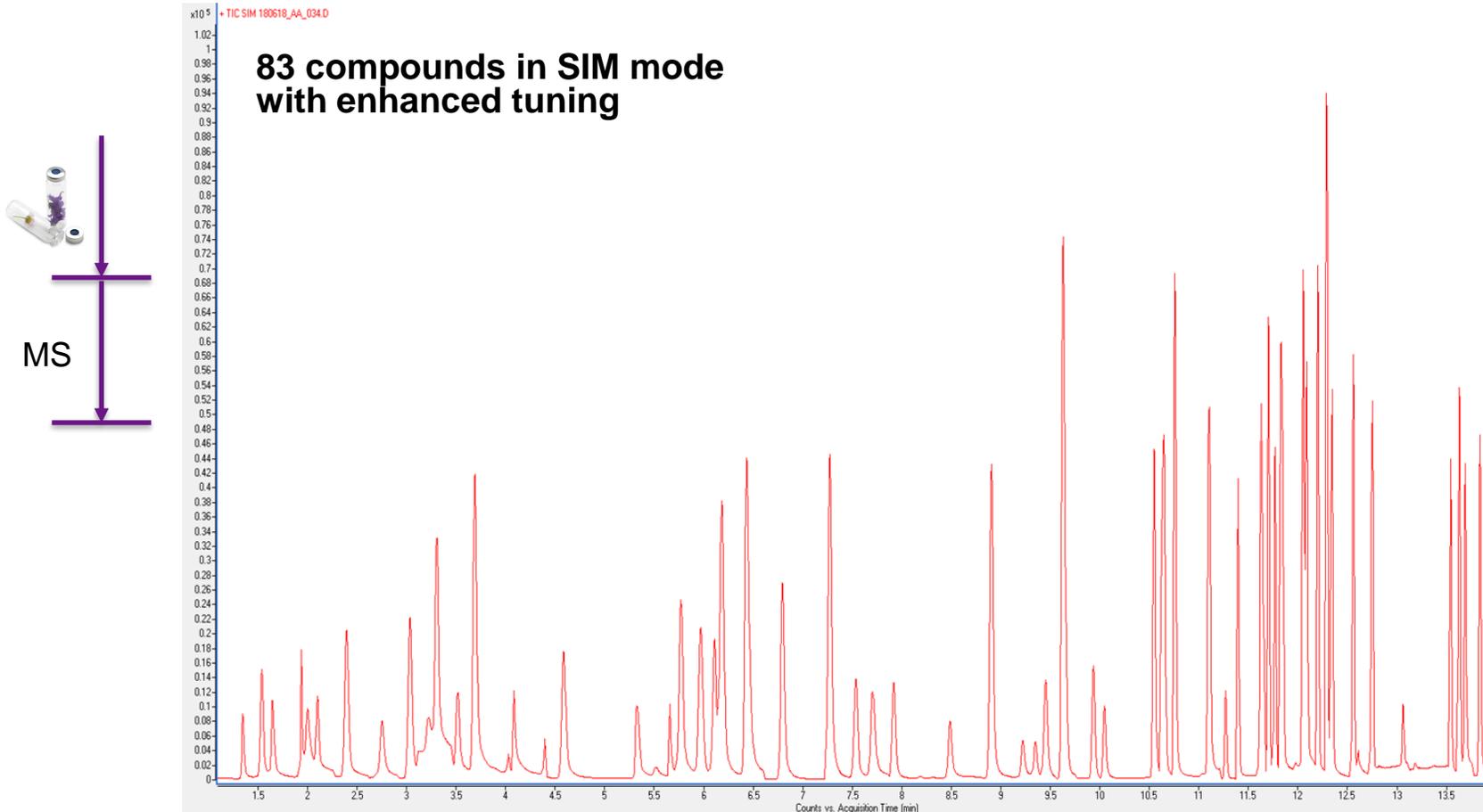


Why increase sensitivity?

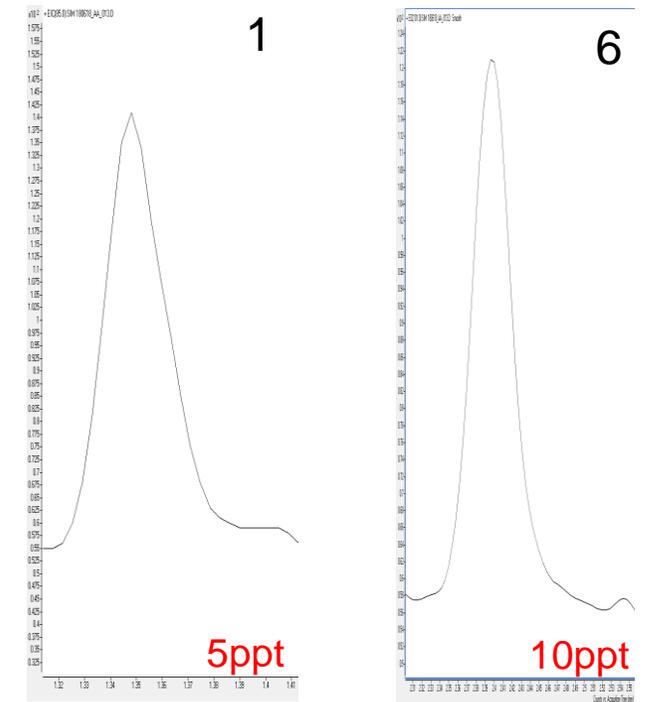
- New insights from health risks
- Futureproofing
- Being better than the competition
- Meets detection limit across the world.

# VOCs in drinking water

SIM mode and enhanced tuning



Extracted ion chromatograms for peaks:  
#1 (Dichlorodifluoromethane) and  
#6 (Trichlorofluoromethane)

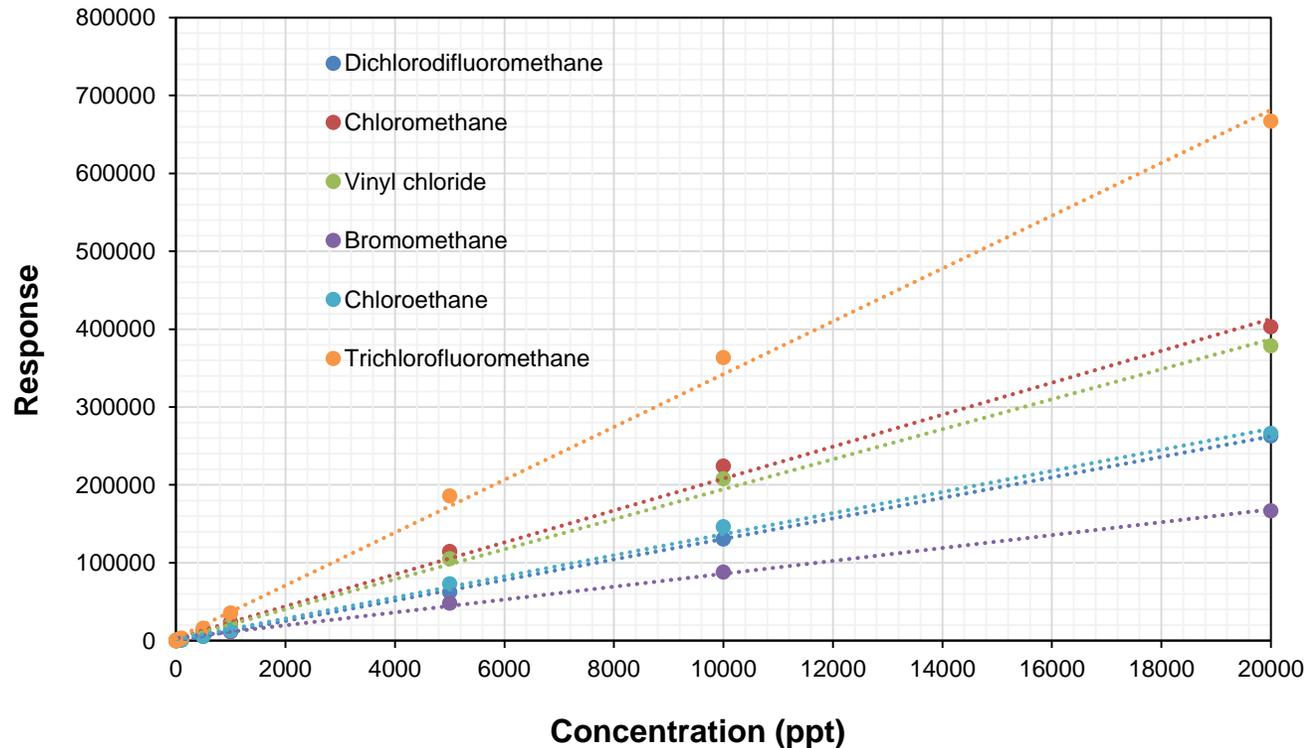


Average MDL: ~3 ppt

# VOCs in drinking water

## Reproducibility and linearity

- Centri headspace showed excellent linearity and %RSD
- Excellent  $R^2$  all compounds: 0.9980
- Meet the performance required by US EPA 524.2, 8260, HJ810, and 98/83/EC

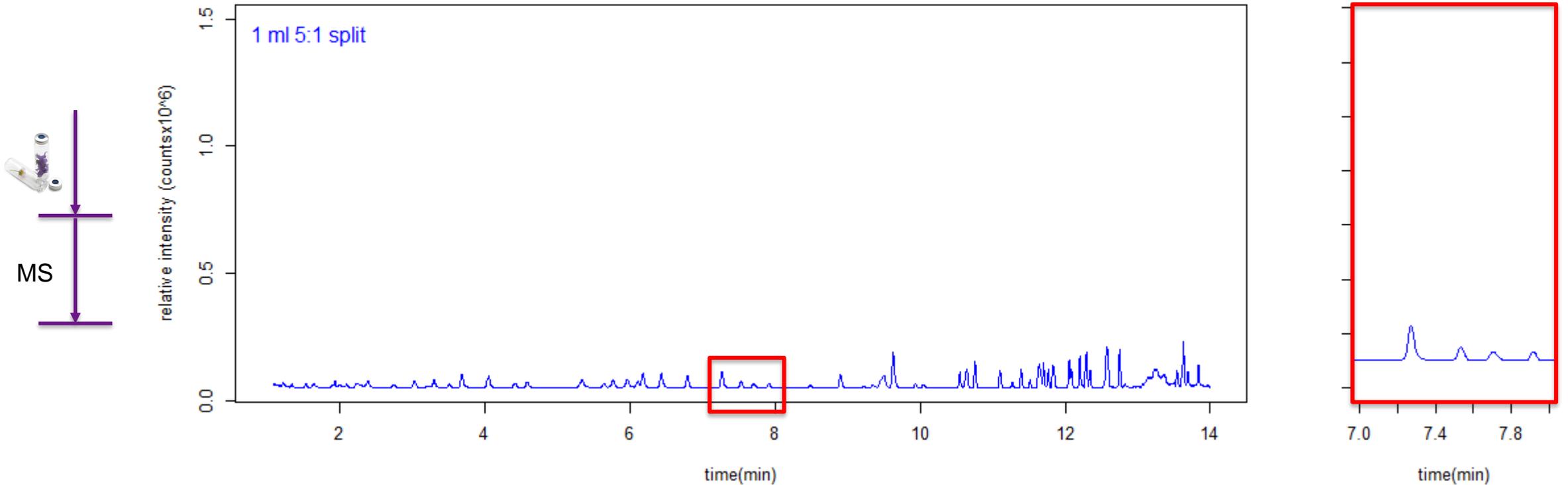


### Headspace-trap 1 mL

|   | Enhanced tuning (SIM mode)    |
|---|-------------------------------|
| BFB injected                              | Passed                        |
| Calibration & linearity (1 ppt to 20 ppb) | $R^2 \sim 0.9980$<br>RRF <14% |
| Method detection limits                   | 3.32 ppt                      |
| Accuracy (5 ppb & 0.5 ppb)                | RSD <8%                       |
| Precision (5 ppb & 0.5 ppb)               | 90.10%                        |

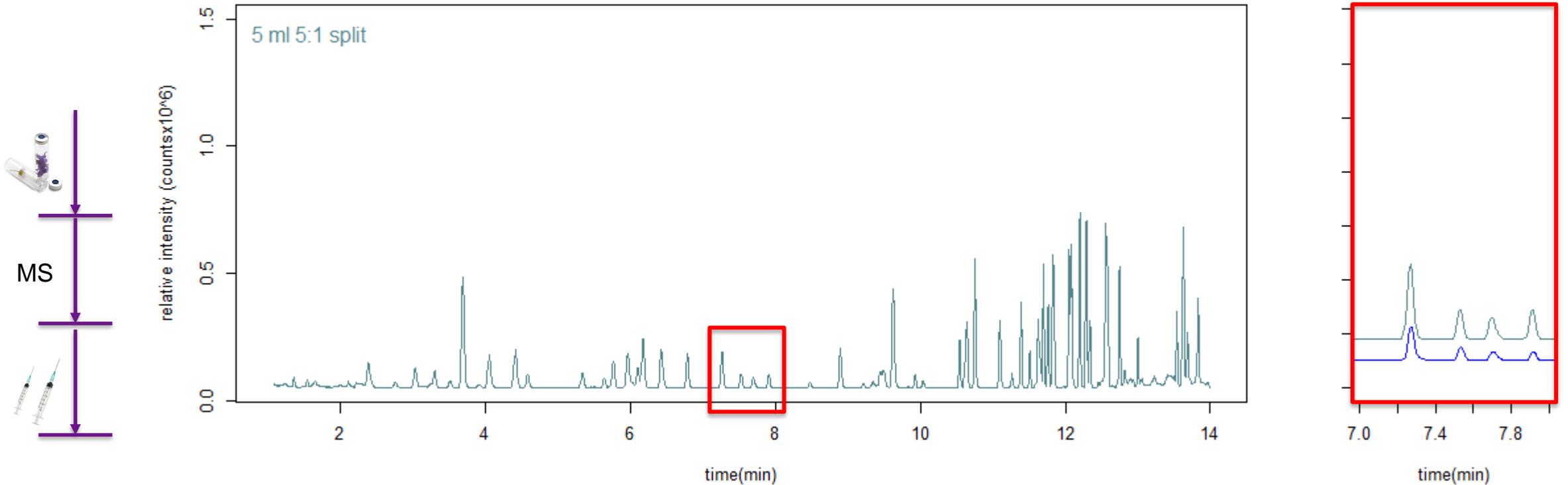
# VOCs in drinking water

Benefits of adding a cold trap: injection volume



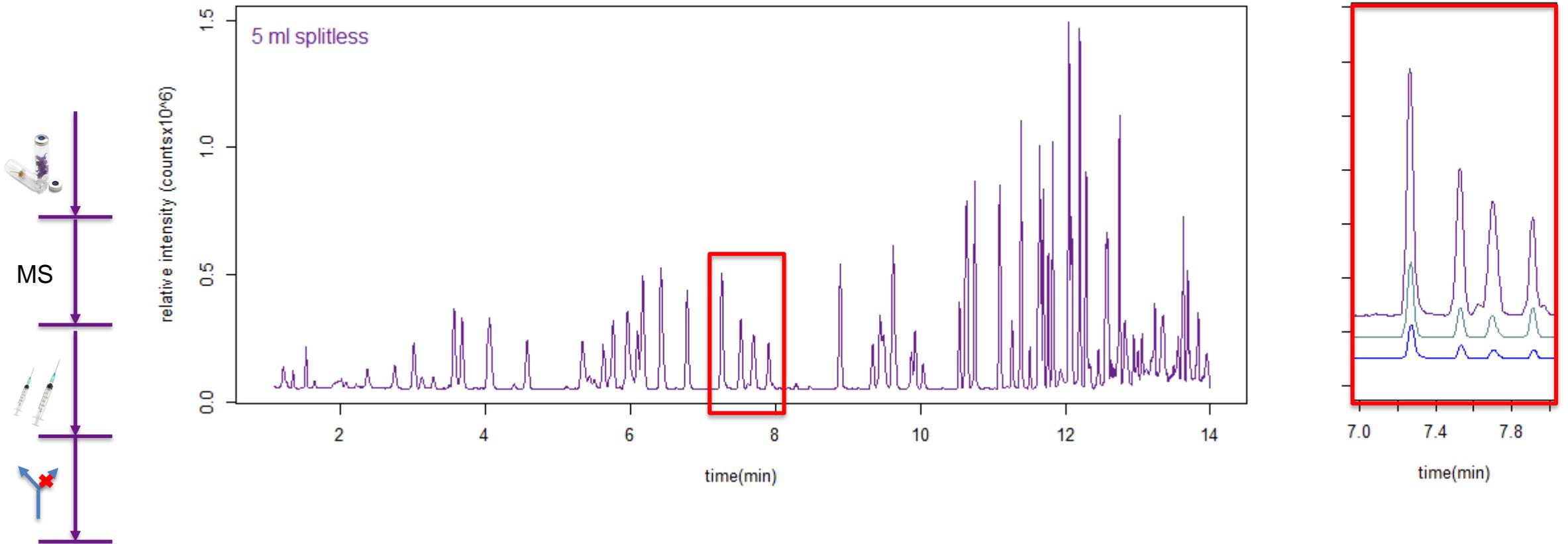
# VOCs in drinking water

Benefits of adding a cold trap: injection volume



# VOCs in drinking water

Benefits of adding a cold trap: splitless injection



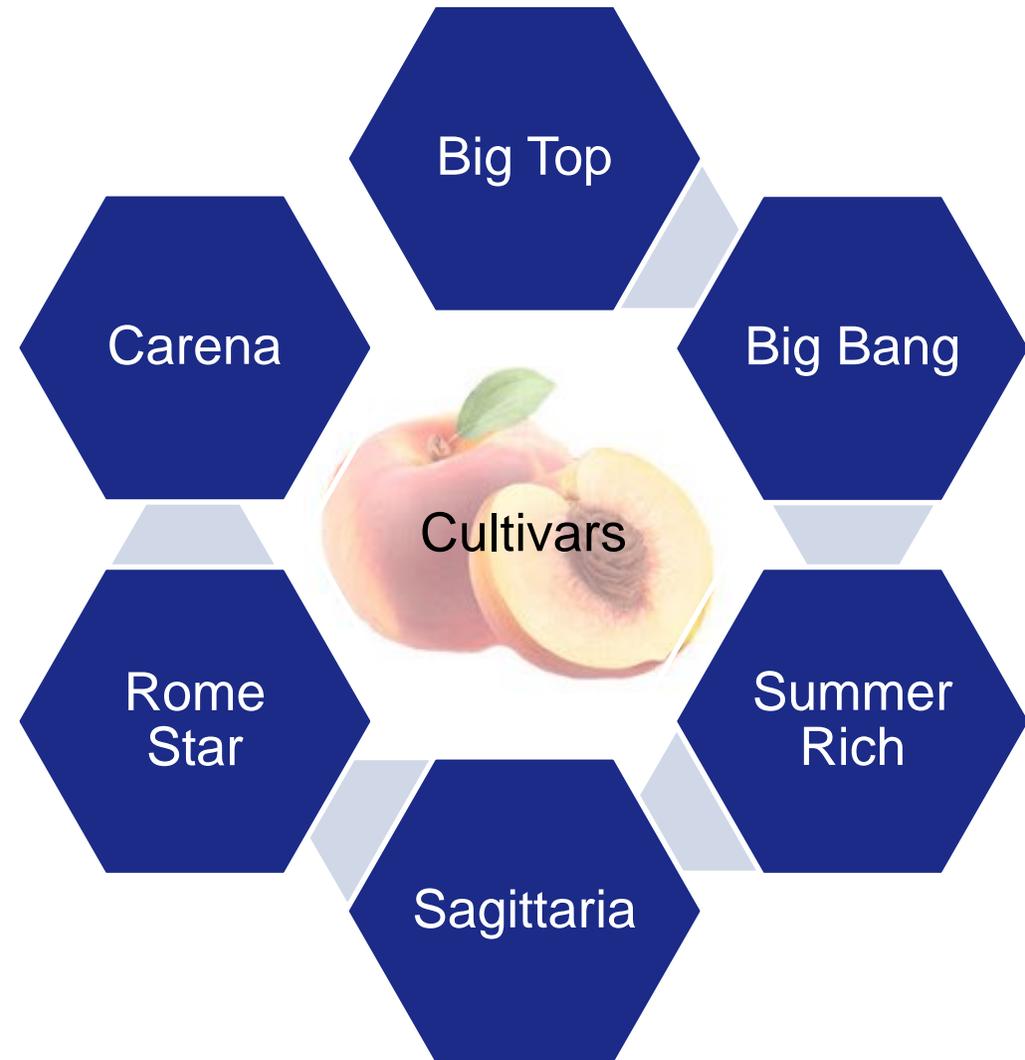
# Monitoring fruit quality



# Monitoring fruit quality

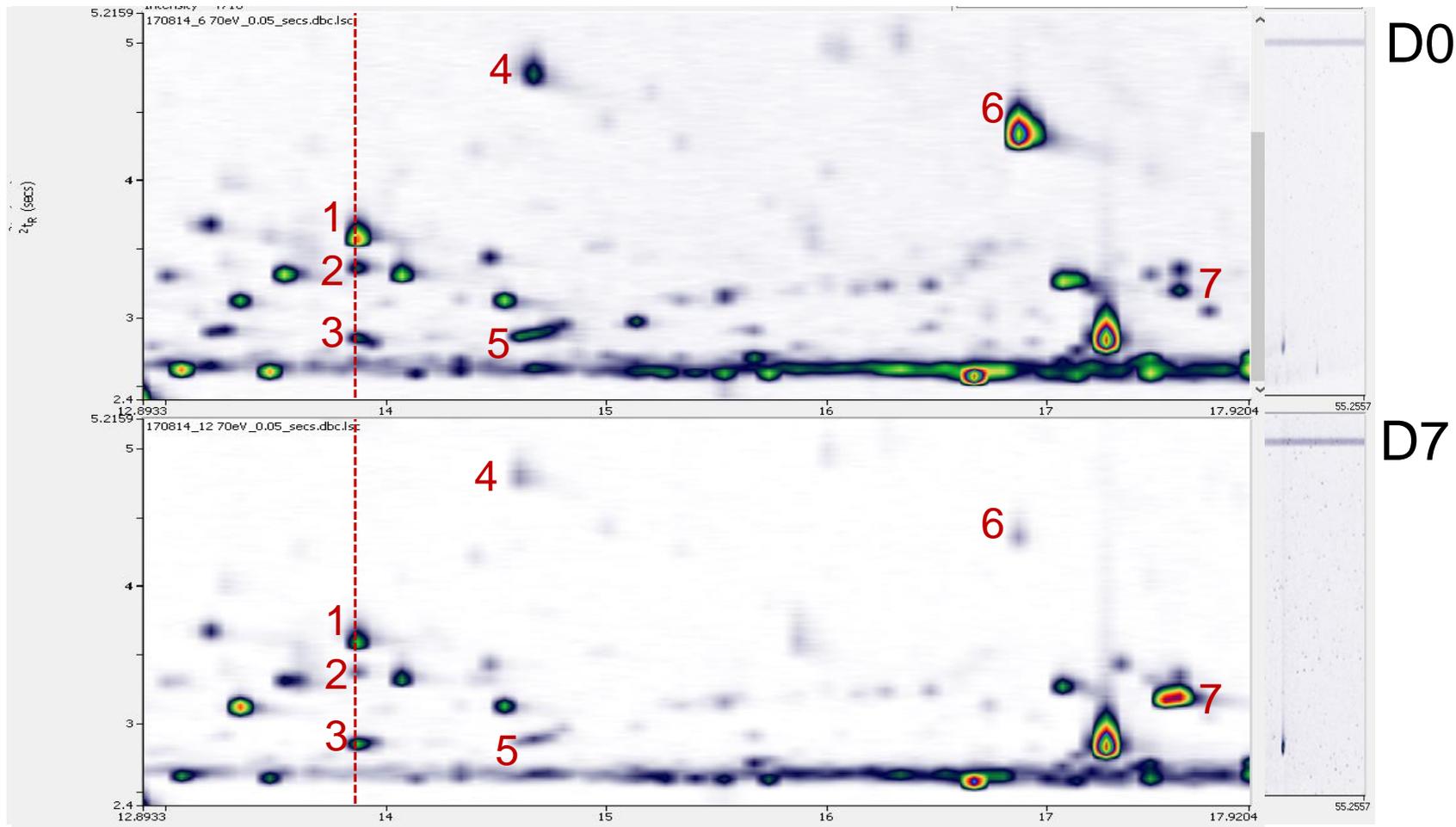
## Experiment

- Whole peaches were placed in a roasting bag and left to equilibrate at 20°C for 90 minutes.
- 600 mL of air within the roasting bag drawn directly on to an 'Odour/Sulfur' sorbent tube using an Easy-VOC™ manual pump.
- Sampling at day 0 (D0) and day 7 (D7)
- Empty roasting bags used as control blanks.



# Monitoring fruit quality

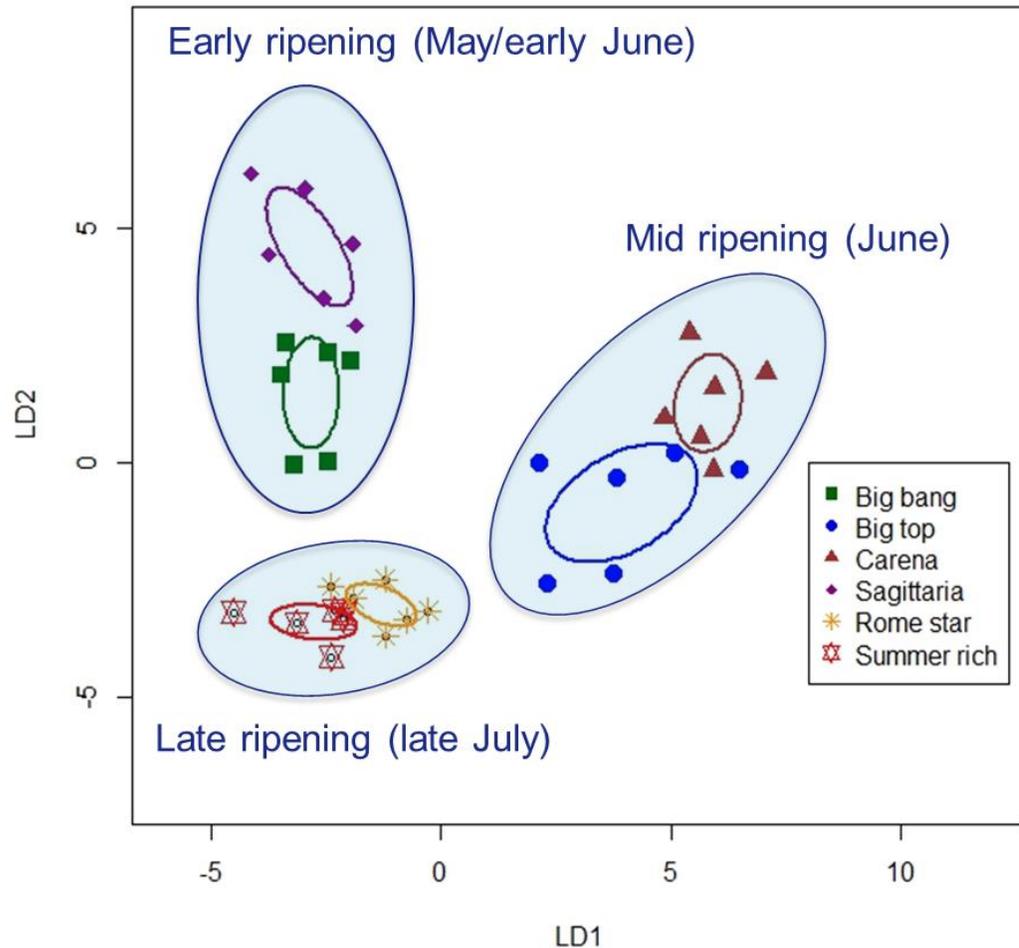
Analysis by Centri-GC×GC-TOF MS



- 1 *cis*-3-Hexenyl acetate
- 2 Octanal
- 3  $\alpha$ -Phellandrene
- 4 Ethyl hexanol
- 5 Limonene
- 6 Linalool
- 7 Methyl octanoate

# Monitoring fruit quality

Comparison of aroma profiles

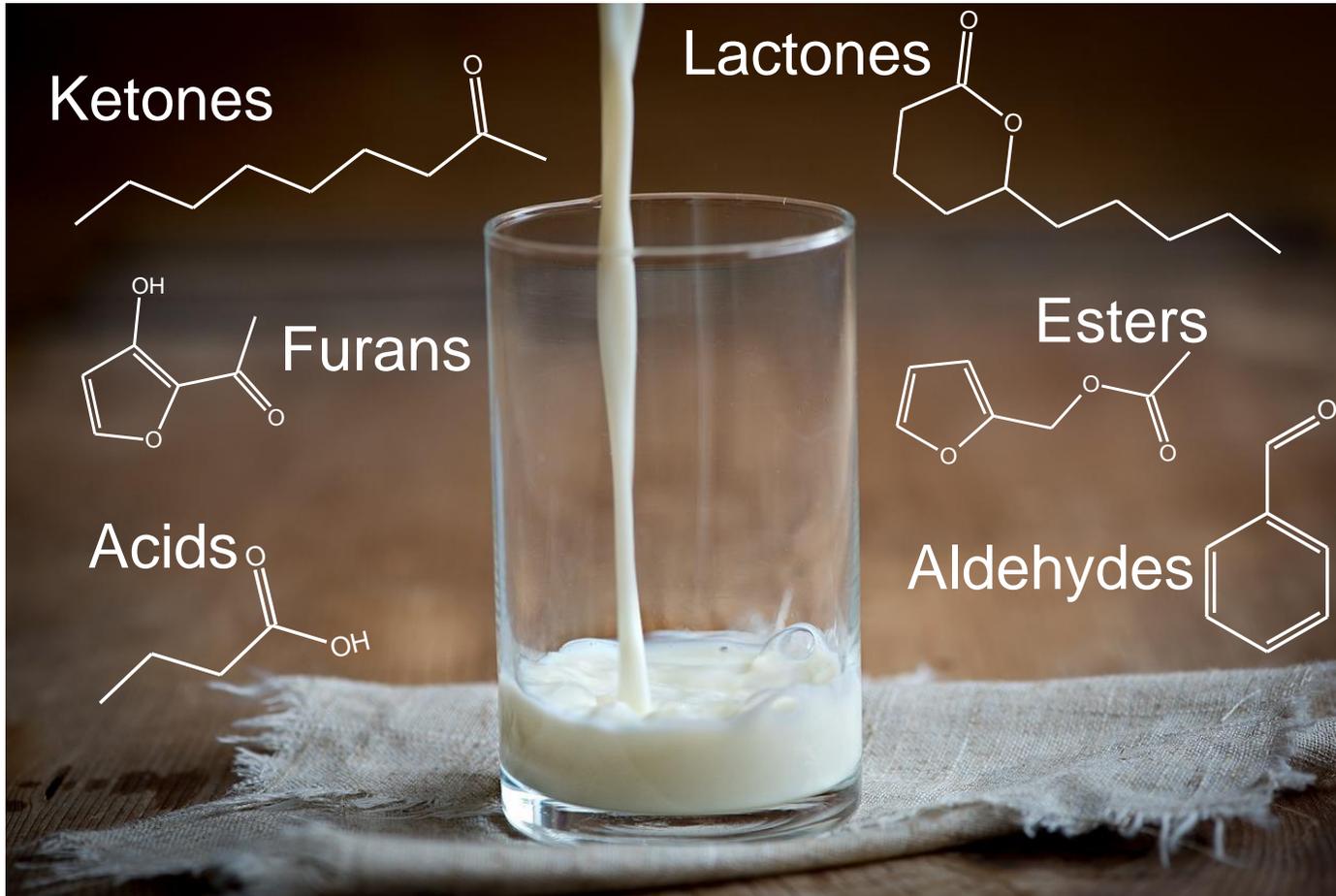


- Statistical analysis of the aroma profiles
- The six cultivars are grouped according to ripening time
- Ethyl octanoate and linalool are major differentiators between the cultivars

# Flavour profiling of milk



# Milk analysis



# Flavour profiling of milk

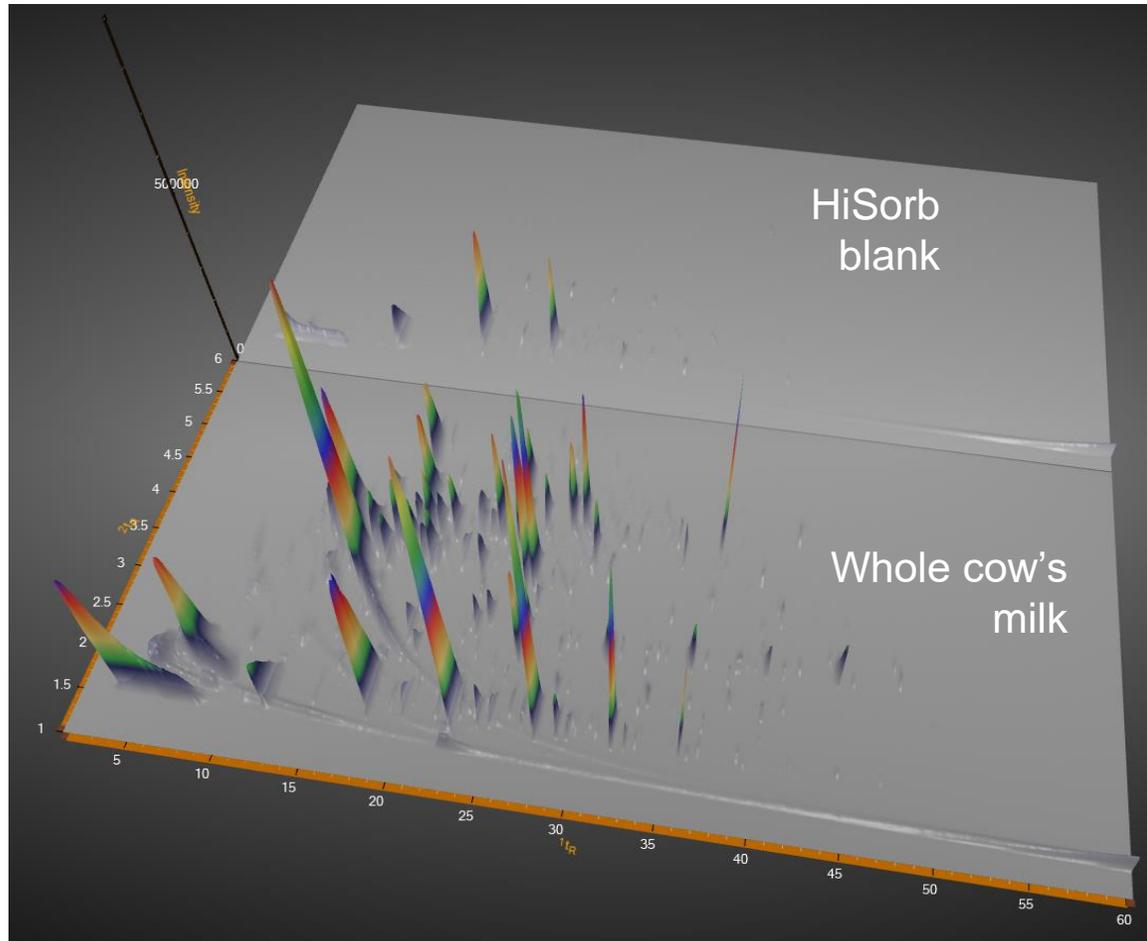
High-capacity sorptive extraction...with HiSorb

- Same principles as SPME but on a larger, more robust scale
  - ~100+ fold higher sensitivity
  - Robust & re-useable (>50 uses)
- Direct introduction of a sorptive material to the sample matrix simplifies and expedites the sampling process
  - Simple
  - Minimise sample prep stages
  - Selective
  - Immersive or headspace sampling



# Flavour profiling of milk

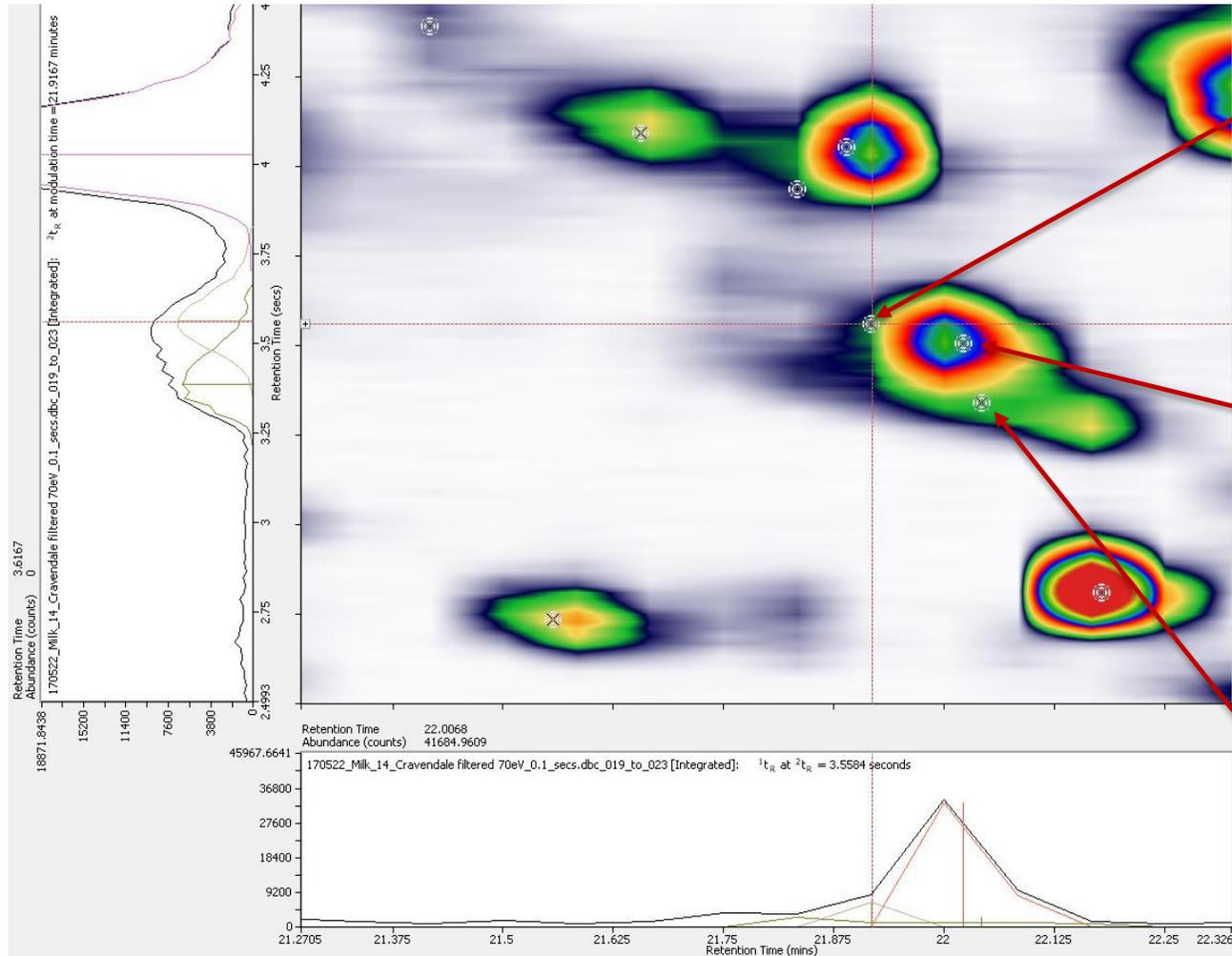
Centri – GCxGC - TOF



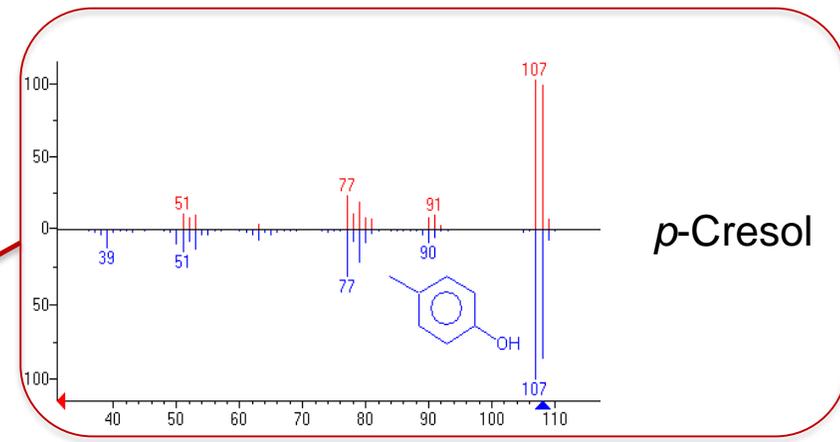
- Robust HiSorb probes for confident immersive sampling
- Enhanced separation by GCxGC
  - Siloxanes separated from compounds of interest

# Flavour profiling of milk

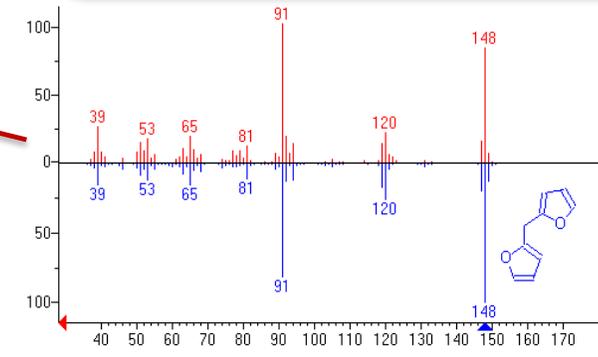
## Identifying taints



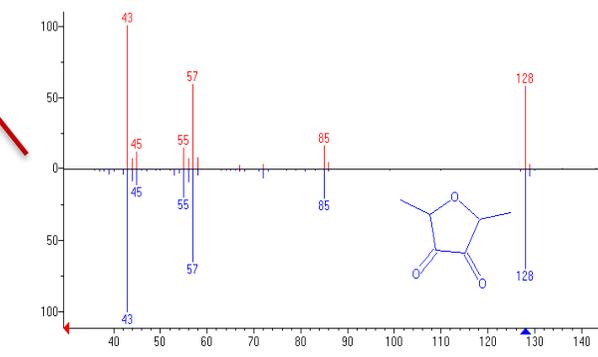
*"cowy, barnyard"*



p-Cresol



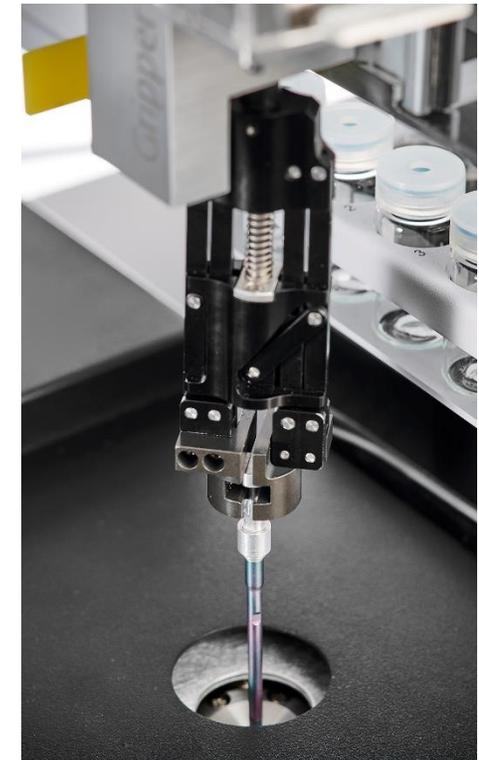
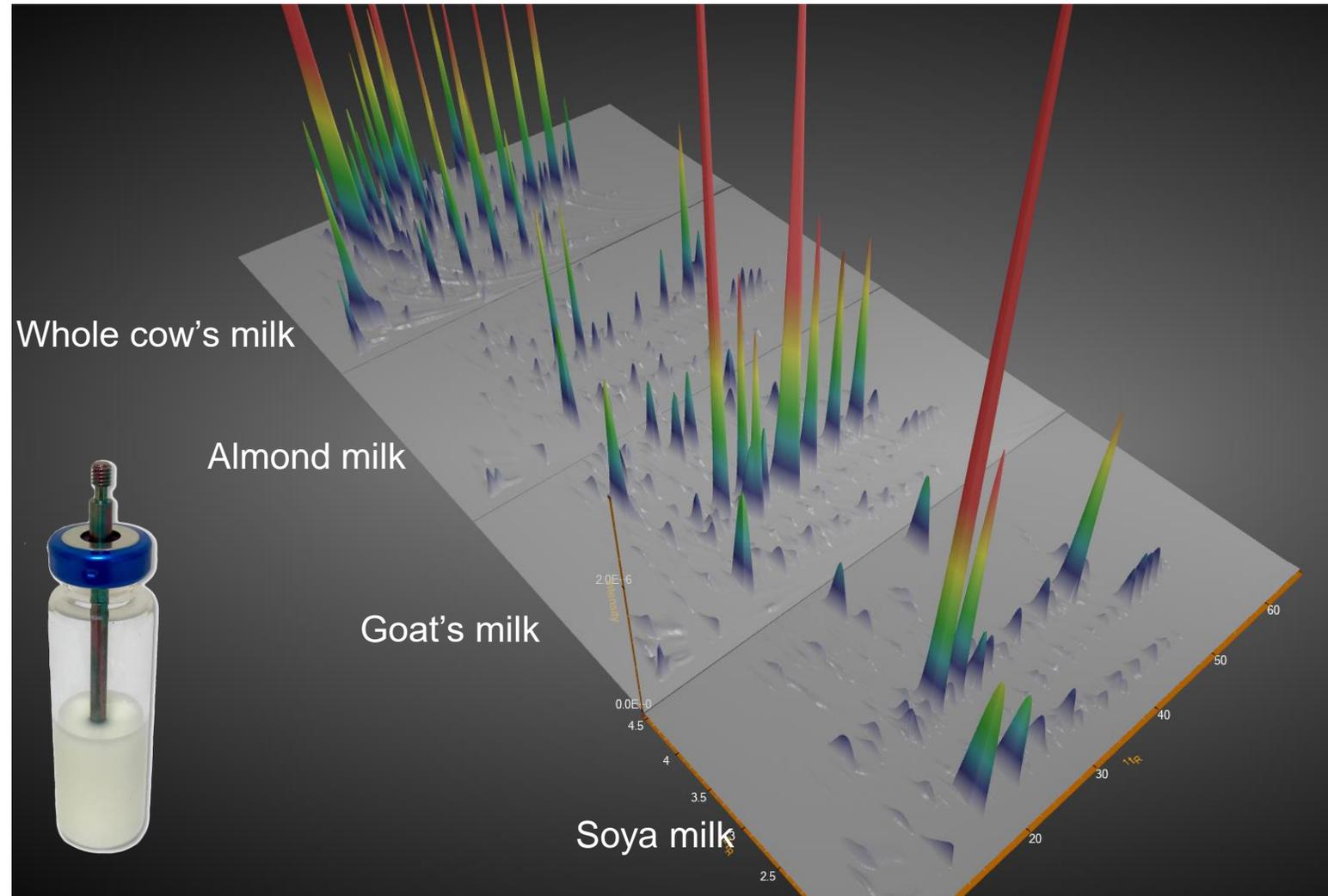
2-Furfurylfuran



Furaneol

# Flavour profiling of milk

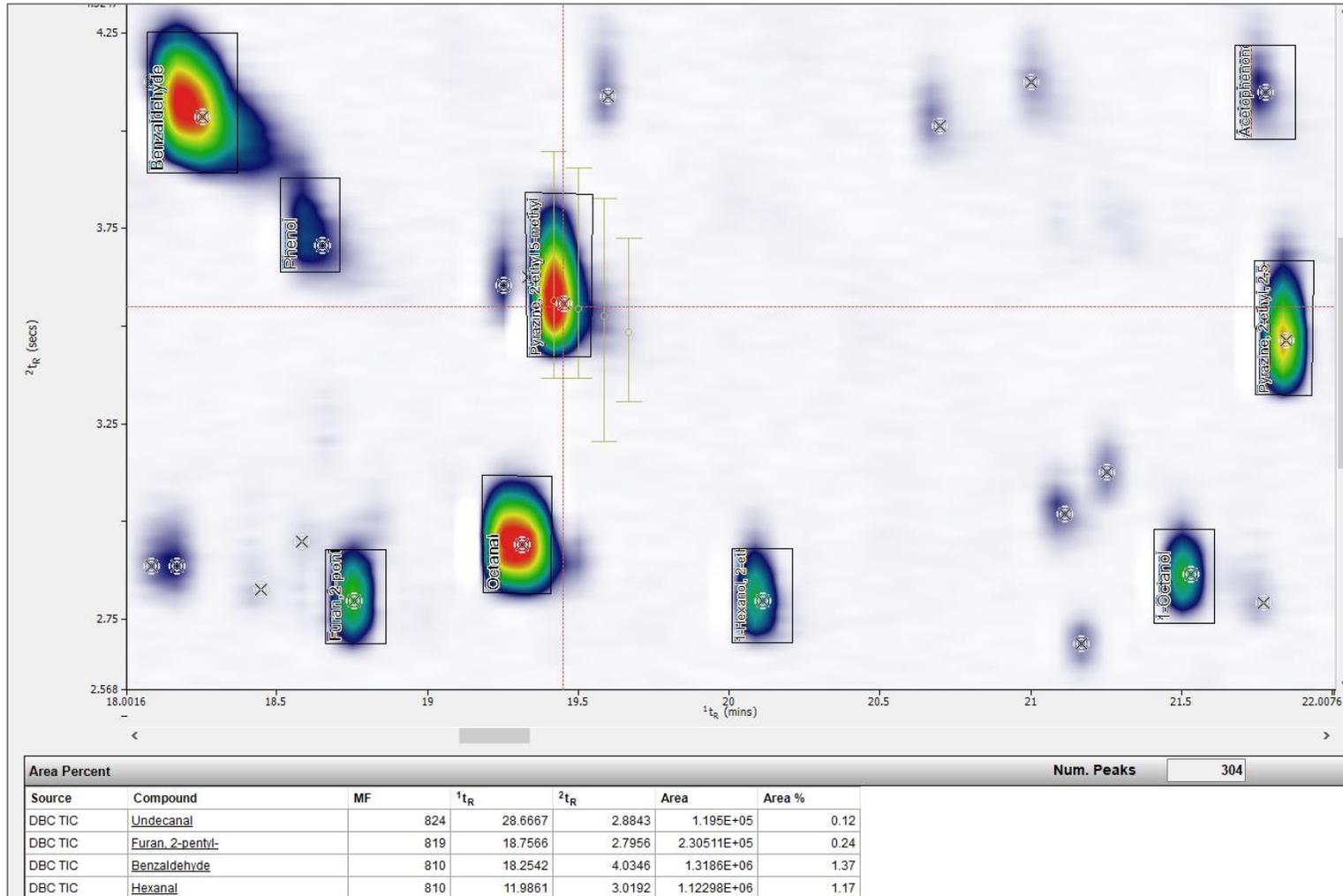
Automated sample preparation



HiSorb probe in the automated wash station

# Flavour profiling of milk

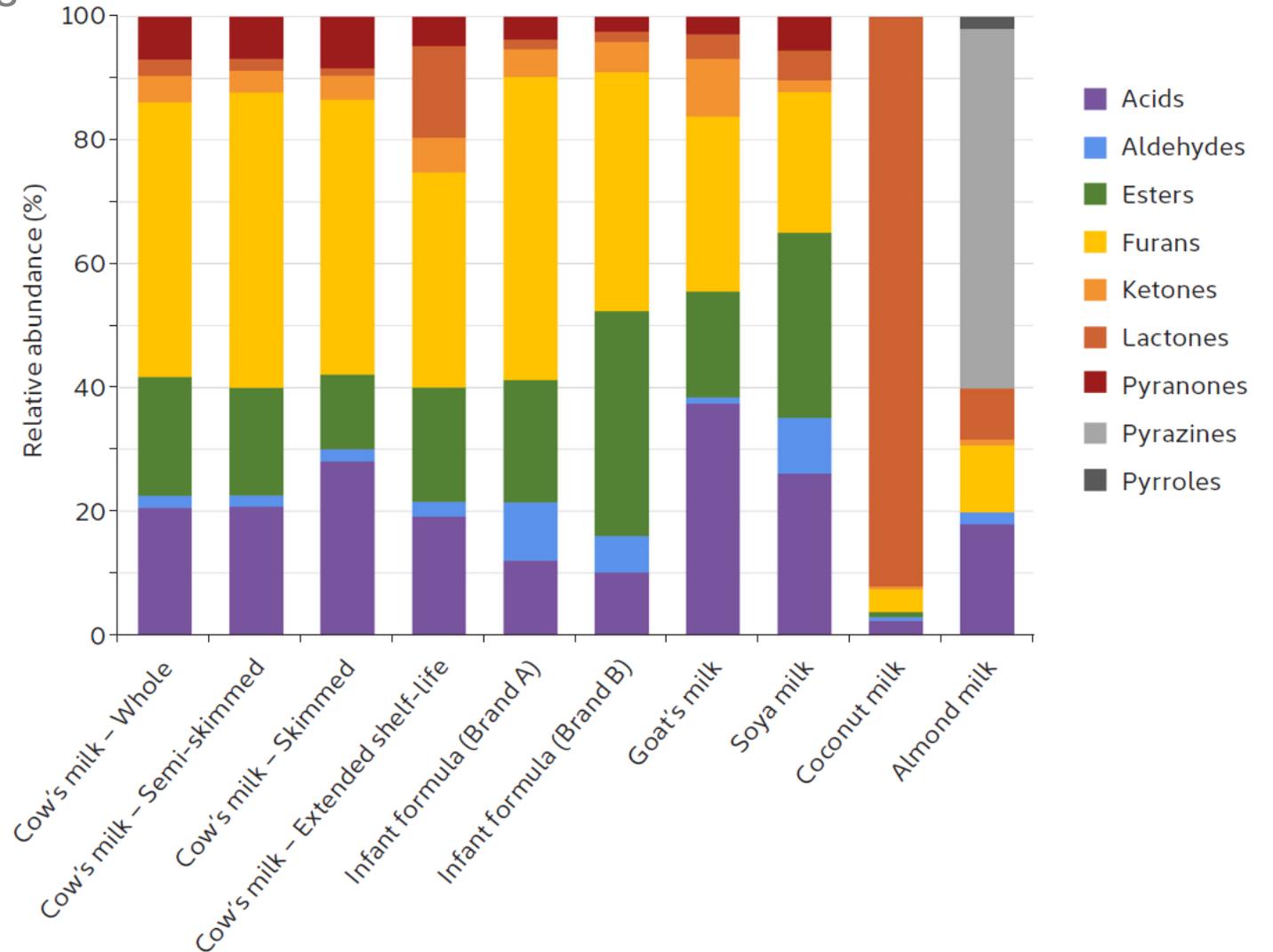
...using ChromSpace stencils



# Flavour profiling of milk

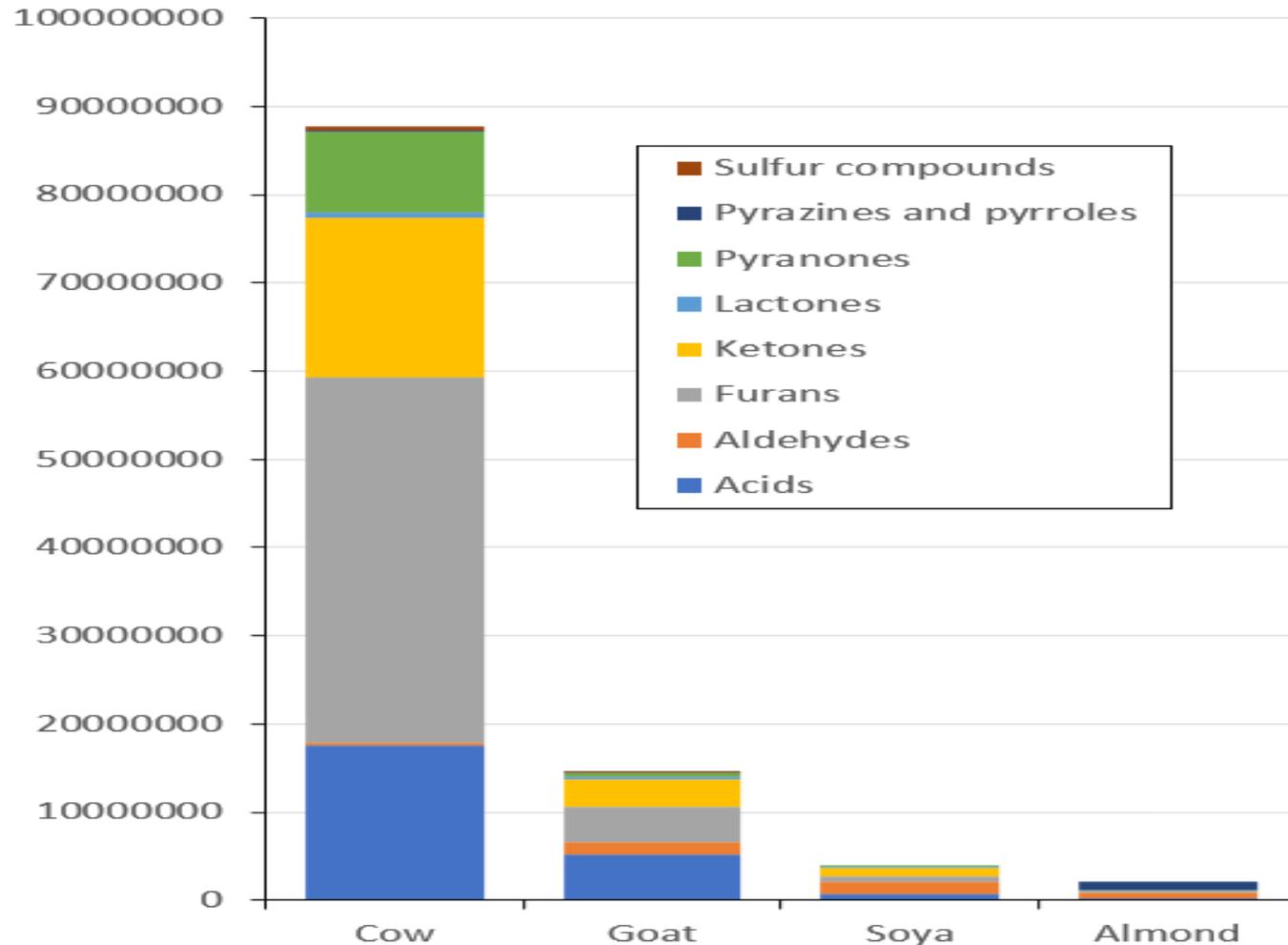
% composition of key chemical classes

- Coconut milk contains the highest composition of lactones and only sample to contain vanillin
- Almond milk was the only sample to contain numerous pyrazines



# Flavour profiling of milk

Total peak area for target classes



- Soya and almond milk contained lowest VOC content when compared to cow's milk and goat's milk

# Odorants in drinking water

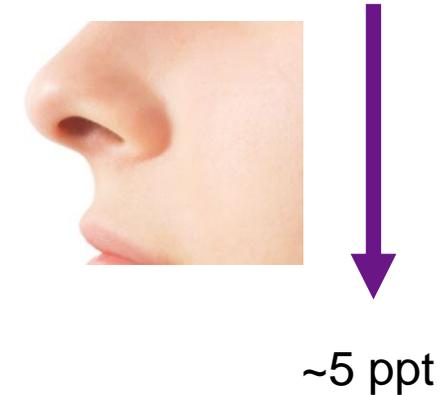


# Odorants in drinking water

## Smelly water

- The most common complaint to water distribution companies relates to smelly water
- Odorants in water are monitored by SM 6040D method
- Some odorous compounds:
  - IPMP (Isopropyl methoxypyrazine)  
Asian ladybug smell
  - IBMP (3-Isobutyl-2-methoxypyrazine)  
Green bell-pepper smell
  - 2-MIB (2-Methylisoborneol)  
Unpleasant earthy, musty and mouldy aromas
  - 2,4,6 TCA (2,4,6-Trichloroanisole)  
Cork taint in wine can be smelt down to very low ppt levels
  - Geosmin (a hydroxylated decalin derivative)  
Its name is derived from the Greek for 'earth smell'

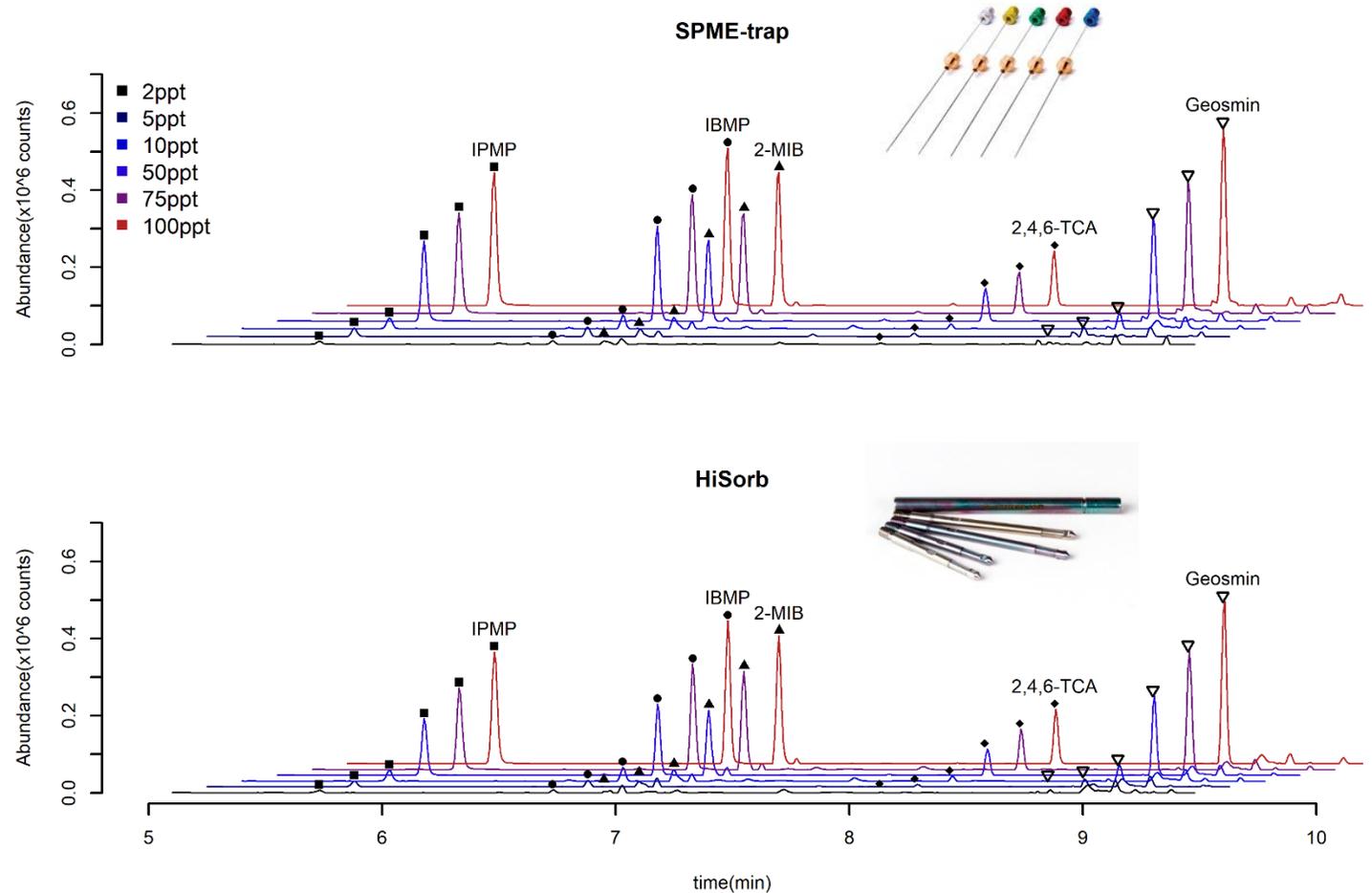
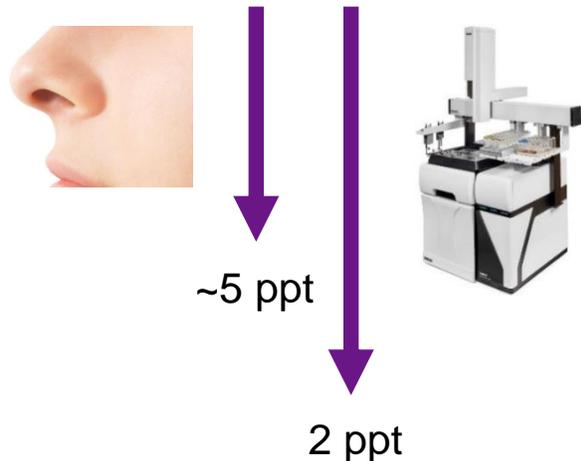
The human nose is able to detect compounds to very low levels



# Odorants in drinking water

## Comparing sorptive extraction methods

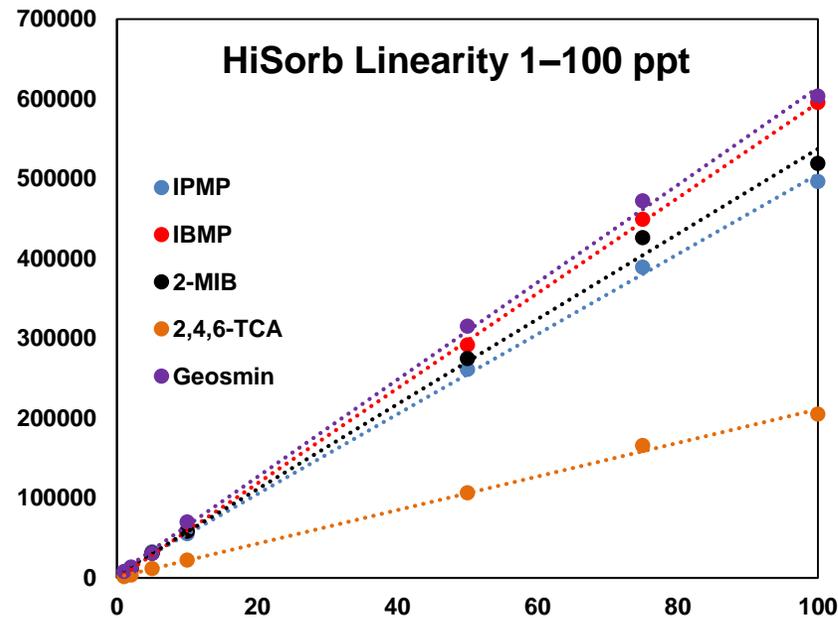
- Reaching lower limits with pre-concentration on stationary phase
- Comparison of SPME-trap with HiSorb
- Pre-concentration of odorants down to single-digit ppt



# Odorants in water

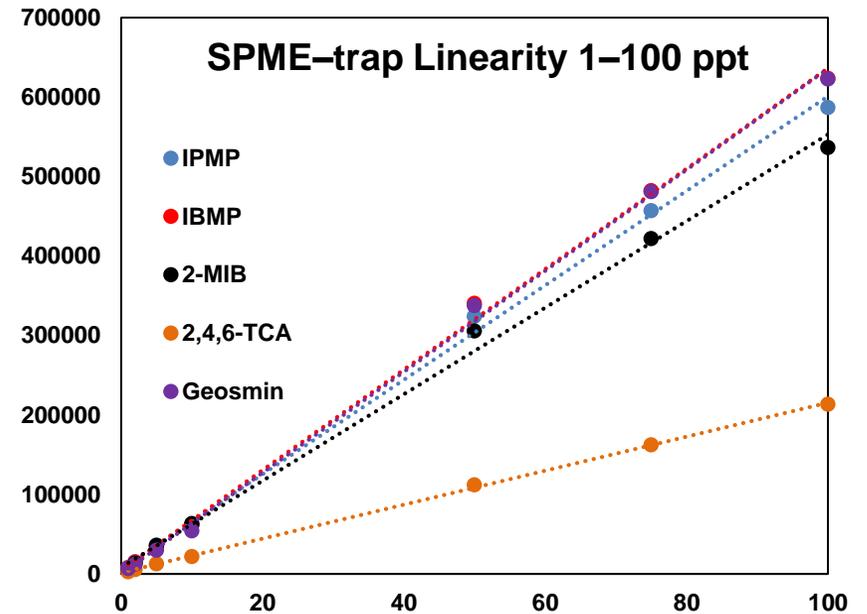
## Reproducibility and linearity

- Centri showed excellent linearity  $R^2$  and RSD for 9 consecutive runs
- Average recovery of 93% for SPME-trap and 110% for HiSorb
- Centri meets the performance required by SM 6040D



$R^2$  0.9990

RSD <8%



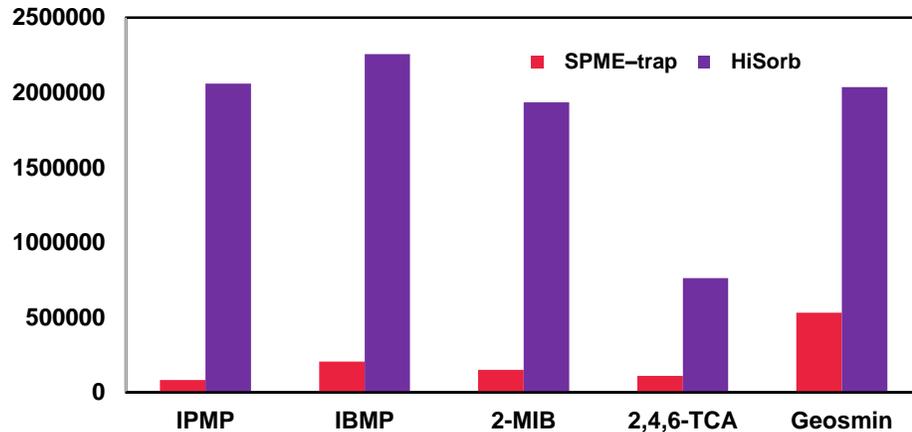
$R^2$  0.9981

RSD <5%

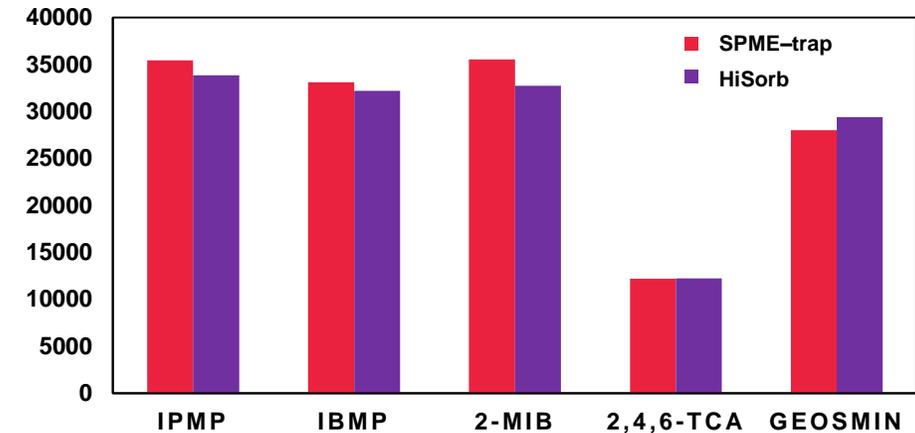
SPME-trap fibers: DVB/CAR/PDMS  
HiSorb: Only PDMS

# Odorants in drinking water

## SPME-trap vs. HiSorb



SPME-trap fibers: Only PDMS  
HiSorb: Only PDMS



SPME-trap fibers: DVB/CAR/PDMS  
HiSorb: Only PDMS

### Increased sensitivity

- Detection limits are lower than for SPME-trap because of the larger capacity of the PDMS sorbent.
- HiSorb can be used for immersive or headspace sampling of liquids and solid samples

### Time and cost savings

- Robust, easy-to-use probes allow unattended sample preparation and maximum productivity.
- HiSorb is easier and quicker to use than solvent extraction.
- Re-usable probes and tubes minimise the cost per sample.
- The cost of solvent consumption and disposal is eliminated.

# Odorants in drinking water

## Prep-ahead functionality



Probe storage keeps probes clean and ensures conditioned probes are ready to be used.



The robot inserts the probe into the vial and the assembly is incubated/agitated to ensure analyte equilibration.



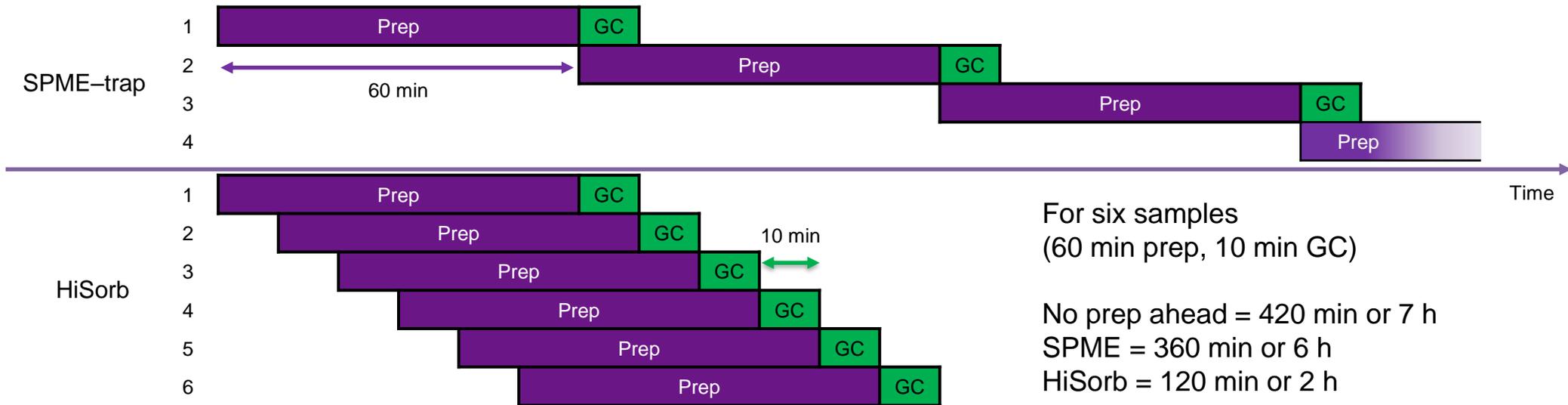
The probe is removed from the vial and a wash/dry station removes the residual sample matrix.



The probe is thermally desorbed and the vapours transferred to the focusing trap.



The trap is thermally desorbed at up to 100°C/s in inject the sample into the GC-MS system.



# Semi-volatile compounds in air and in water



# PAHs in the environment

SVOCs with Centri



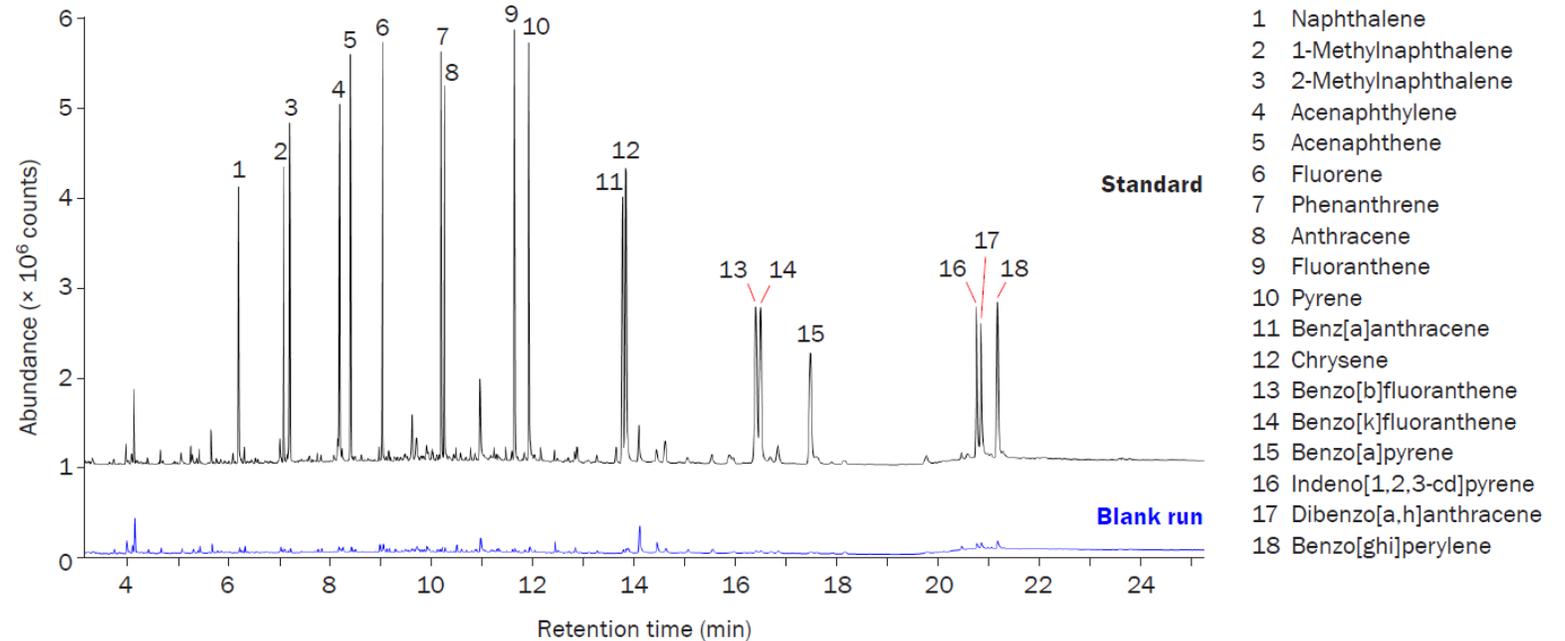
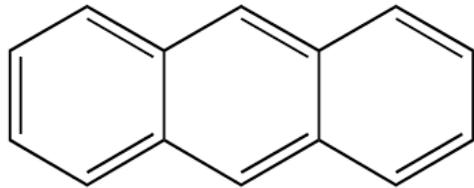
- PAHs are carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic properties
- They need to be monitored both in air and in water
- Traditionally:
  - Solvent extracted
  - Preconcentrated via rotary evaporation
- Centri offers
  - TD-50 module
  - HiSorb immersive for versatile PAHs analysis



# PAHs in air

## SVOCs with Centri

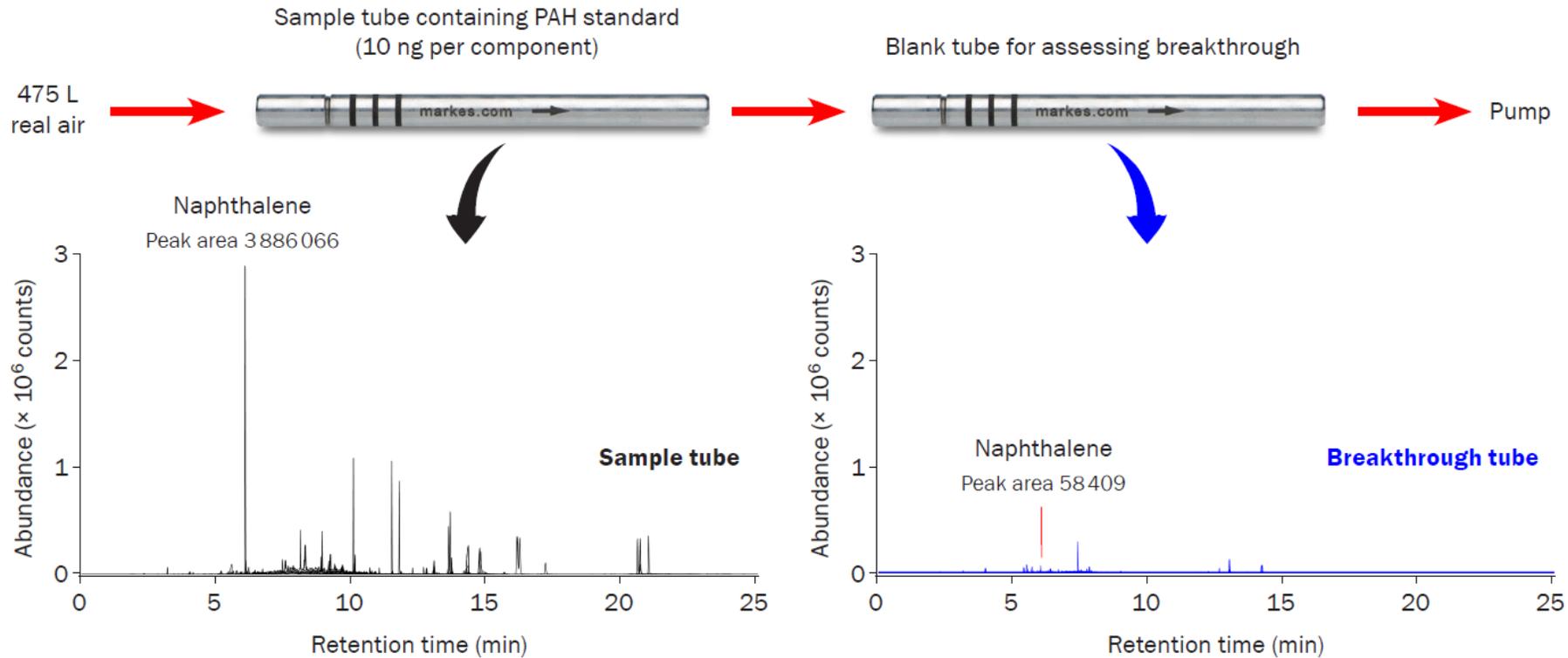
- Sample-path temperature uniformity allows analysis of VOCs and SVOCs on the same platform, without modifications.



Application note 139

# PAHs in air

## Breakthrough analysis

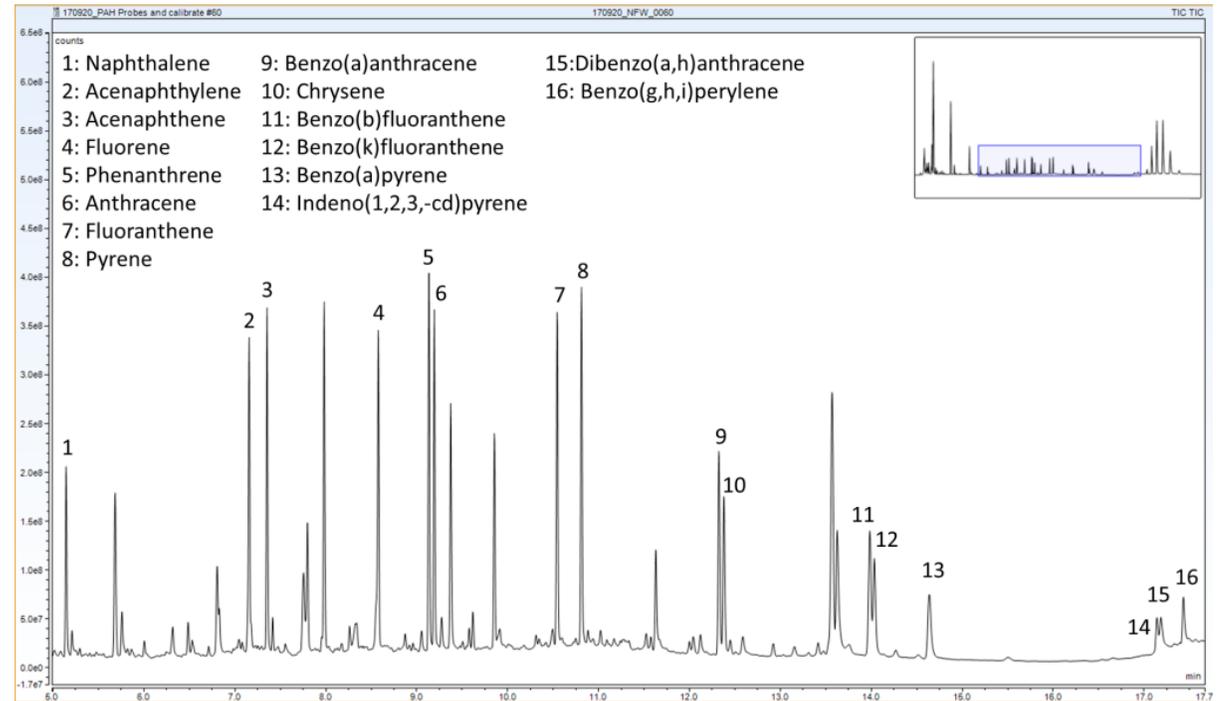


Only 1.5% of Naphthalene broke through

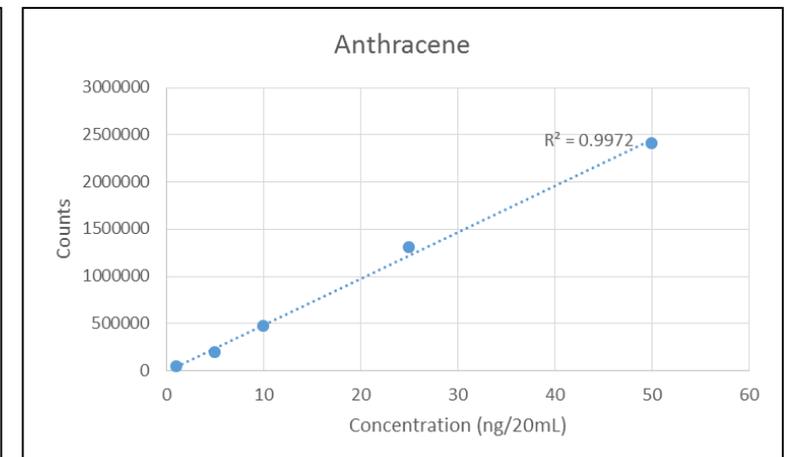
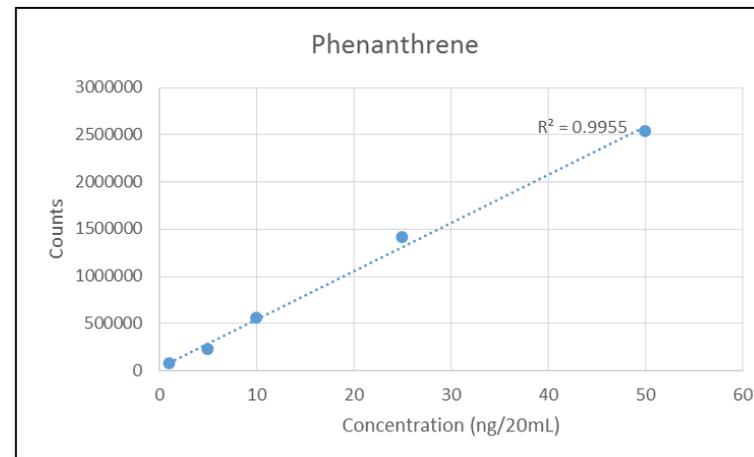
# PAHs in water

## SVOCs with Centri

- US EPA Method 610 requires the monitoring of PAHs
- Boiling points: 218–500°C
- 2.5 ppb in water
- Immersive extraction
- PDMS sorptive phase



### Examples of extraction linearity



# Low-level odorants in wine by automated HiSorb



# Odorants in wine

Produced by yeast

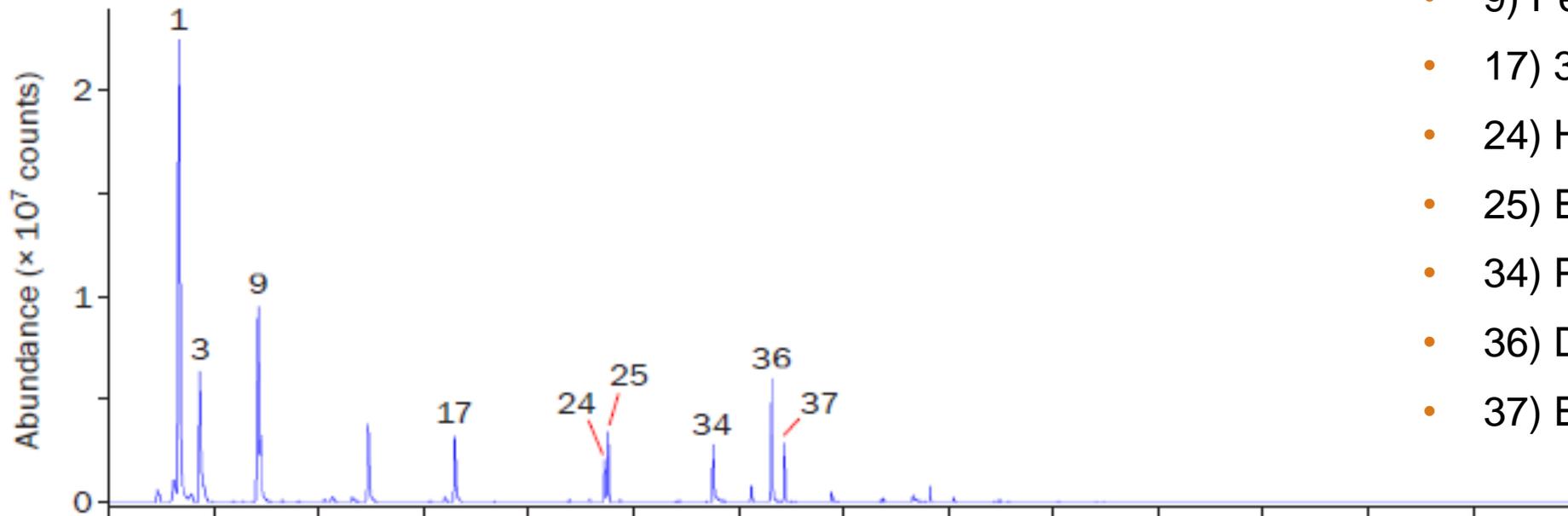
- The yeast *Brettanomyces (Dekkera) bruxellensis* ('Brett')
- Its growth results in the production of:
  - 4-ethylphenol (4-EP)
  - 4-ethylguaiacol (4-EG)
- These have unpleasant odours:
  - 'medicinal', 'phenolic' or 'horse sweat'
  - masking fruity aromas
- Goal is to identify a range of VOCs in red wine, including 4-EP and 4-EG



# Odorants in wine

## HiSorb analysis of wine

- High split: 50 mL/min
- TargetView for deconvolution and background subtraction



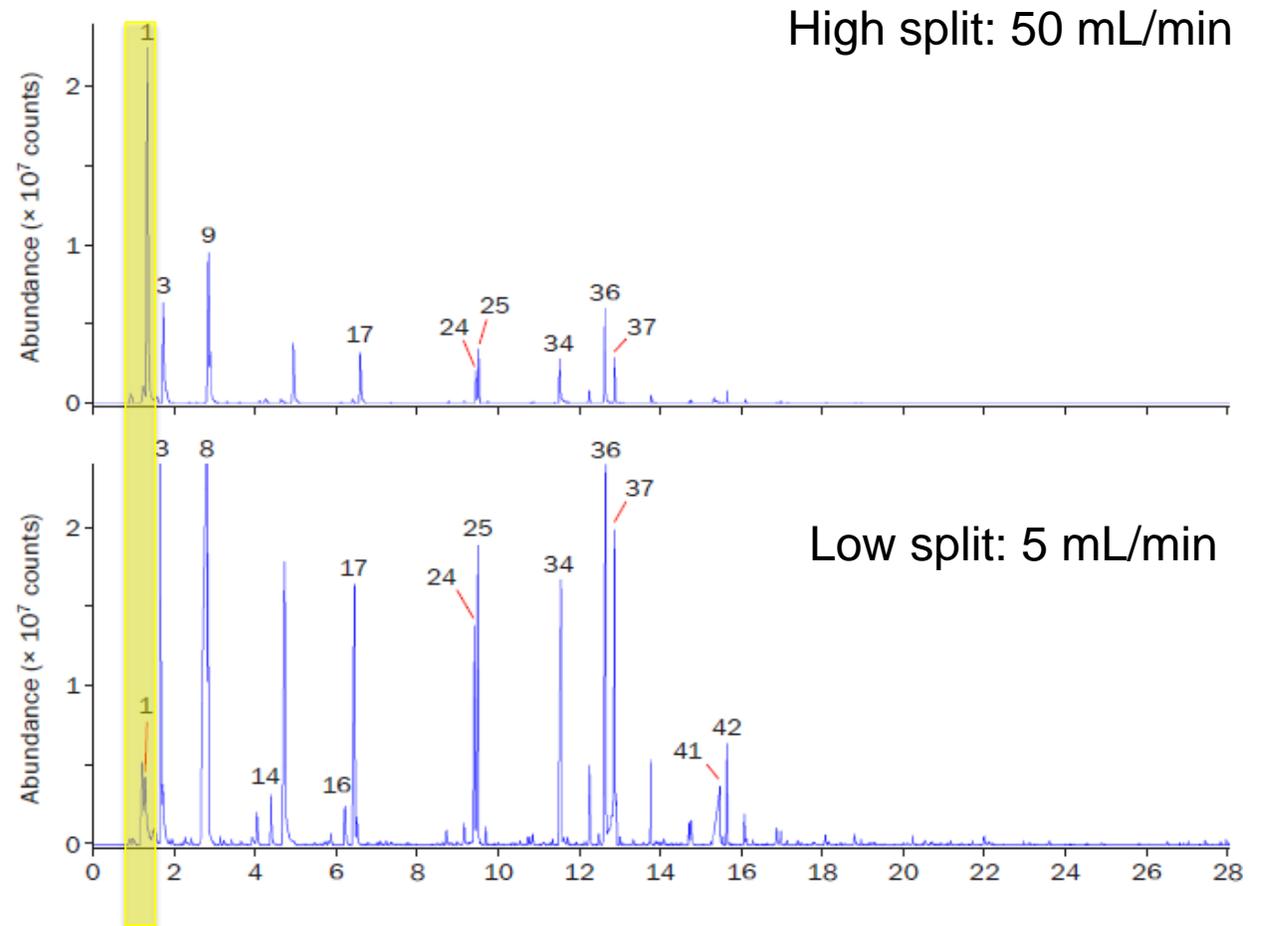
- 1) Ethanol
- 3) Ethyl acetate
- 9) Pentan-1-ol
- 17) 3-Methylbutyl acetate
- 24) Hexanoic acid
- 25) Ethyl n-hexanoate
- 34) Phenylethyl alcohol
- 36) Diethyl butanedioate
- 37) Ethyl n-octanoate

# Odorants in wine

HiLow analysis

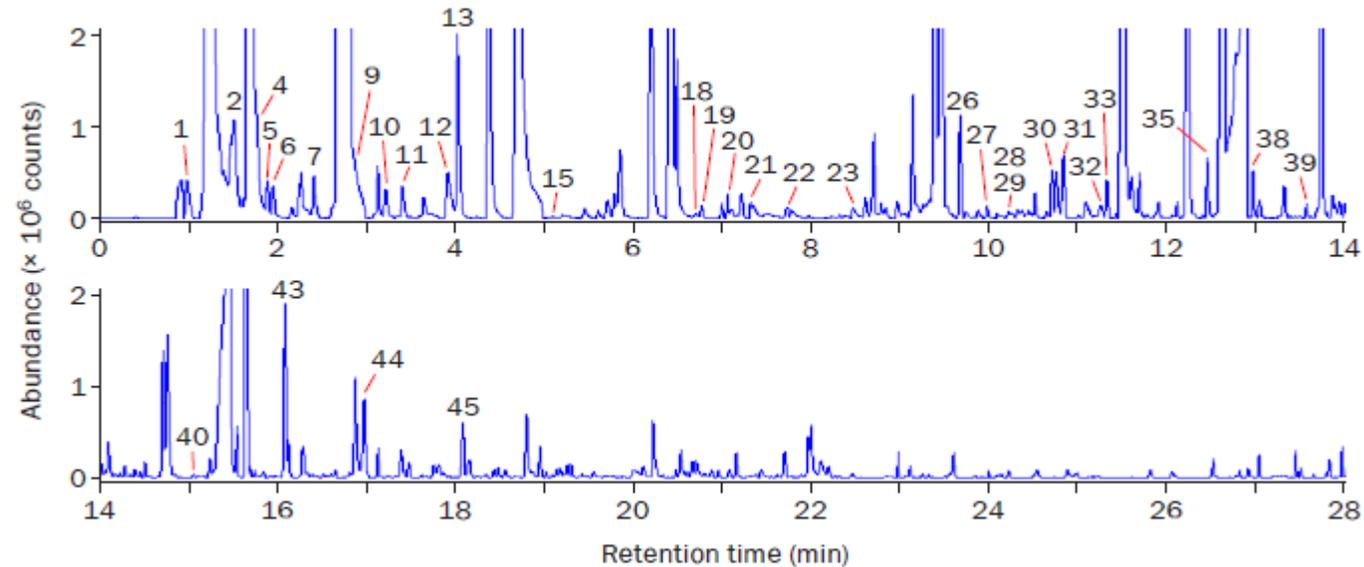
## Reduction of Ethanol

- hydrophobic sorbents in the focusing trap
- Purging the focusing trap
- Use of a low split ratio



# Odorants in wine

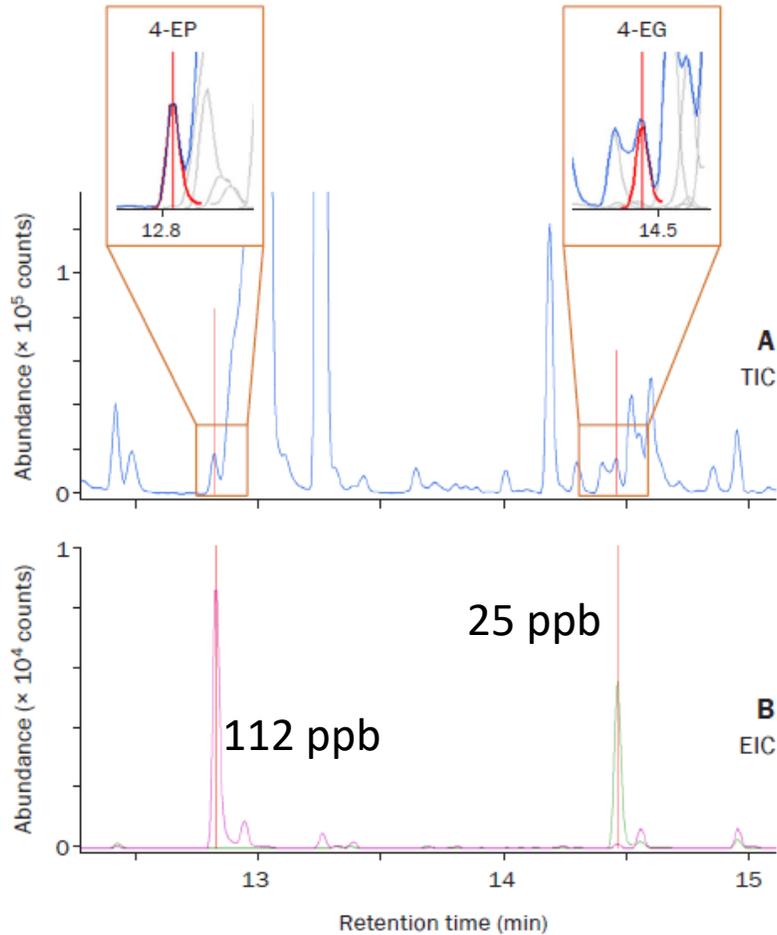
## Expanded HiLow analysis



|                              |                            |                                     |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Ethanol                    | acetate                    | 34 Phenylethyl alcohol              |
| 2 3-Methylfuran              | 18 Styrene                 | 35 2-Ethylphenol                    |
| 3 Ethyl acetate              | 19 Non-1-ene               | 36 Diethyl butanedioate             |
| 4 2-Methylpropan-1-ol        | 20 Heptanal                | 37 Ethyl n-octanoate                |
| 5 3-Methylbutanal            | 21 $\gamma$ -Butyrolactone | 38 Decanal                          |
| 6 Benzene                    | 22 3-Methylbutan-1-ol      | 39 Ethyl phenylacetate              |
| 7 n-Propyl acetate           | 23 Benzaldehyde            | 40 Ethyl phenylpropanoate           |
| 8 1,1-Diethoxyethane         | 24 Hexanoic acid           | 41 n-Decanoic acid                  |
| 9 Pentan-1-ol                | 25 Ethyl n-hexanoate       | 42 Ethyl n-decanoate                |
| 10 Toluene                   | 26 n-Hexyl acetate         | 43 Ethyl 3-methylbutyl butanedioate |
| 11 2-Methylpropyl acetate    | 27 2-Ethylhexan-1-ol       | 44 n-Dodecane                       |
| 12 Hexanal                   | 28 1-Phenylpropyne         | 45 Ethyl n-dodecanoate              |
| 13 Ethyl butanoate           | 29 Benzeneacetaldehyde     |                                     |
| 14 Ethyl 2-hydroxypropanoate | 30 Acetophenone            |                                     |
| 15 Furfural                  | 31 Octan-1-ol              |                                     |
| 16 Hexan-1-ol                | 32 Linalool                |                                     |
| 17 3-Methylbutyl             | 33 Nonanal                 |                                     |

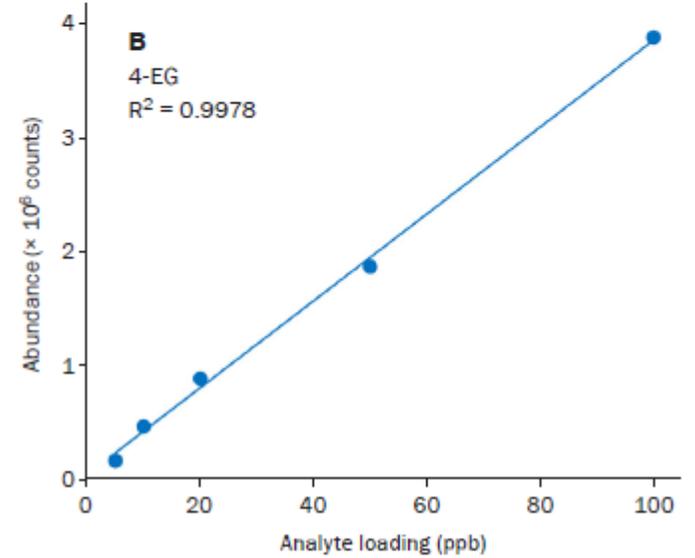
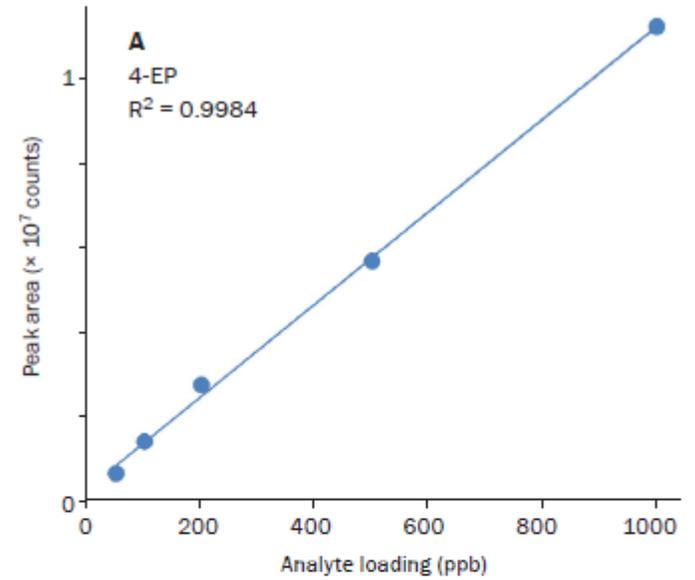
# Odorants in wine

## Malodours in wine



4-EP  
300–600 ppb low-ppb levels

4-EG  
50 ppb sub-ppb



# Identifying odour taints in pet food



# Odour taints in pet food

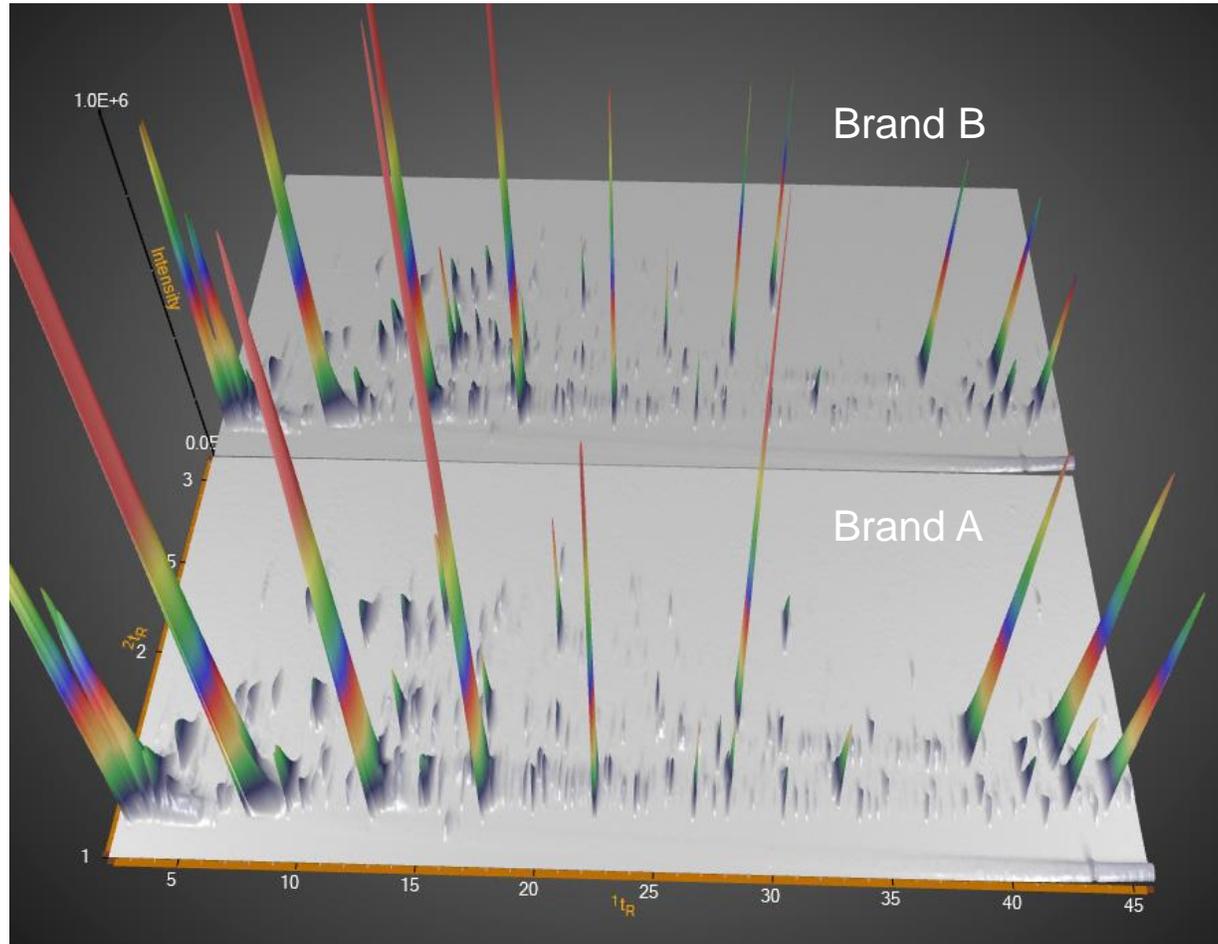
## Background



- Palatability
  - Why 'brand A' over 'brand B'?

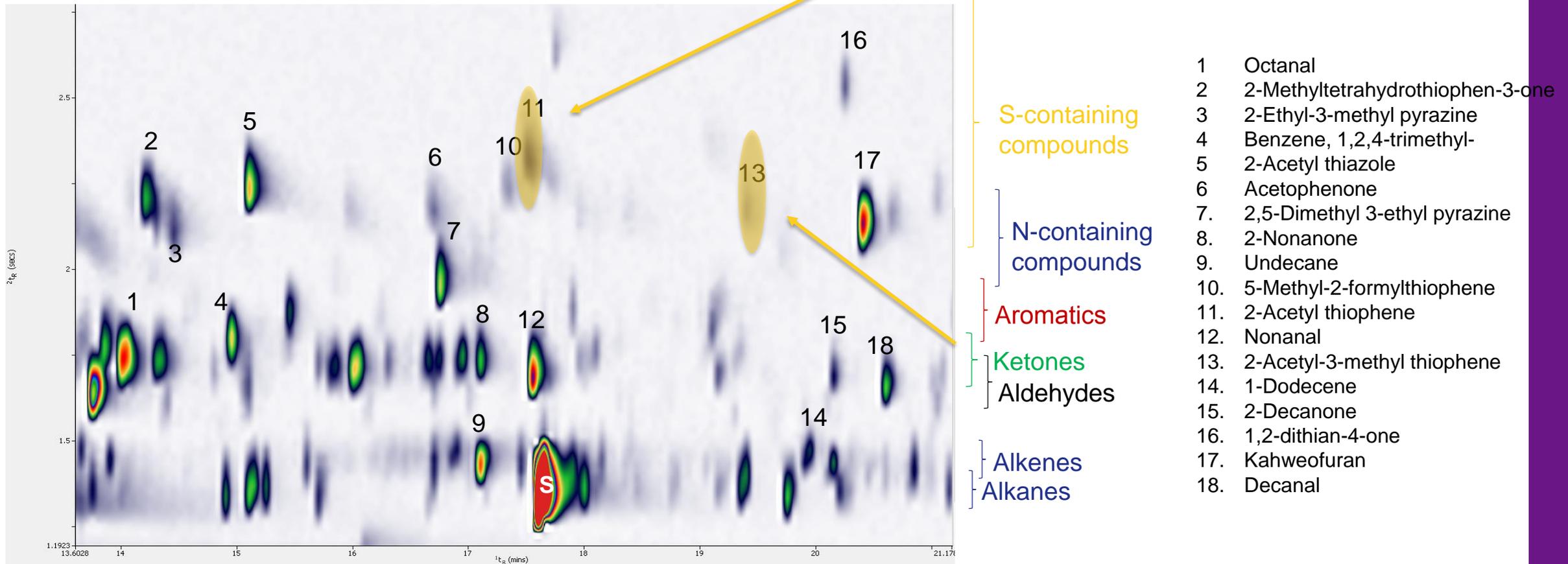
# Odour taints in pet food

Analysis by Centri-GC×GC-TOF MS



# Odour taints in pet food

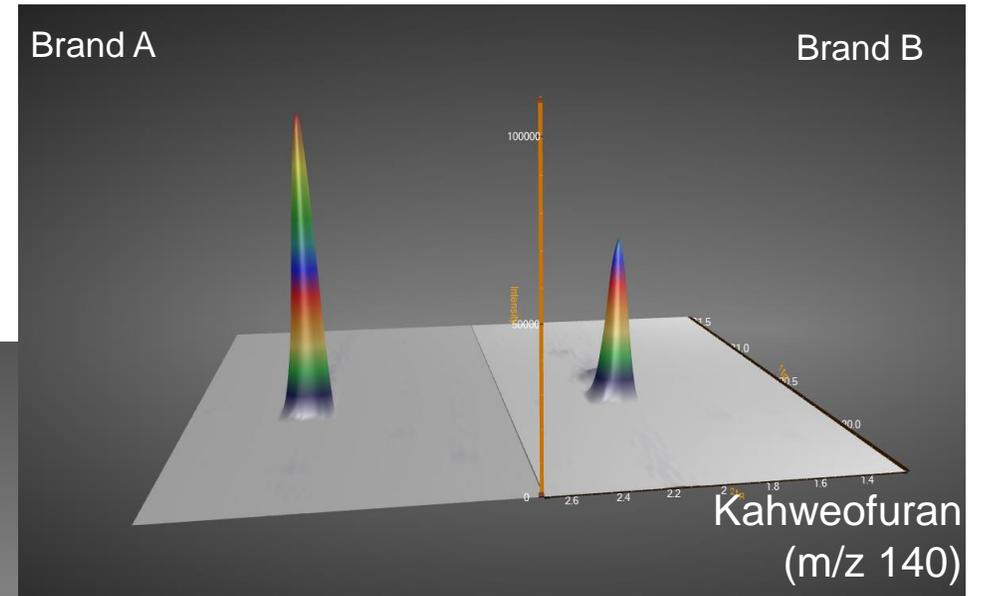
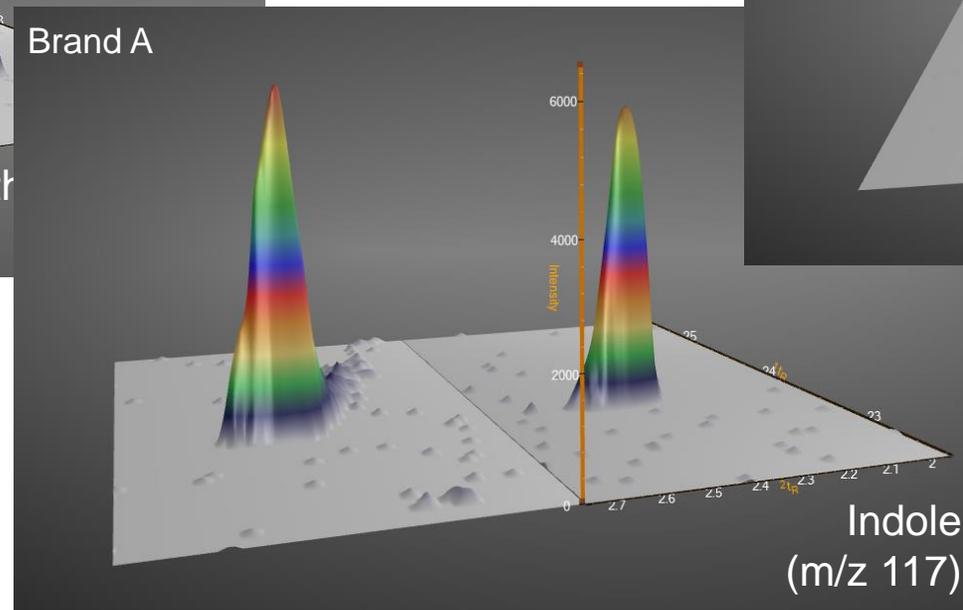
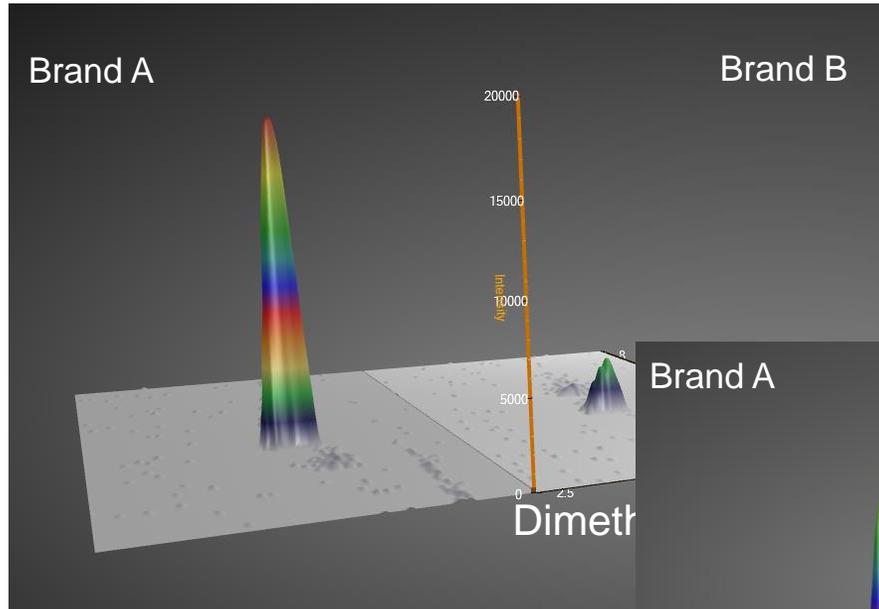
Enhanced separation of trace sulfurs



- These odorous compounds would have co-eluted with higher-loading species in 1D GC-MS

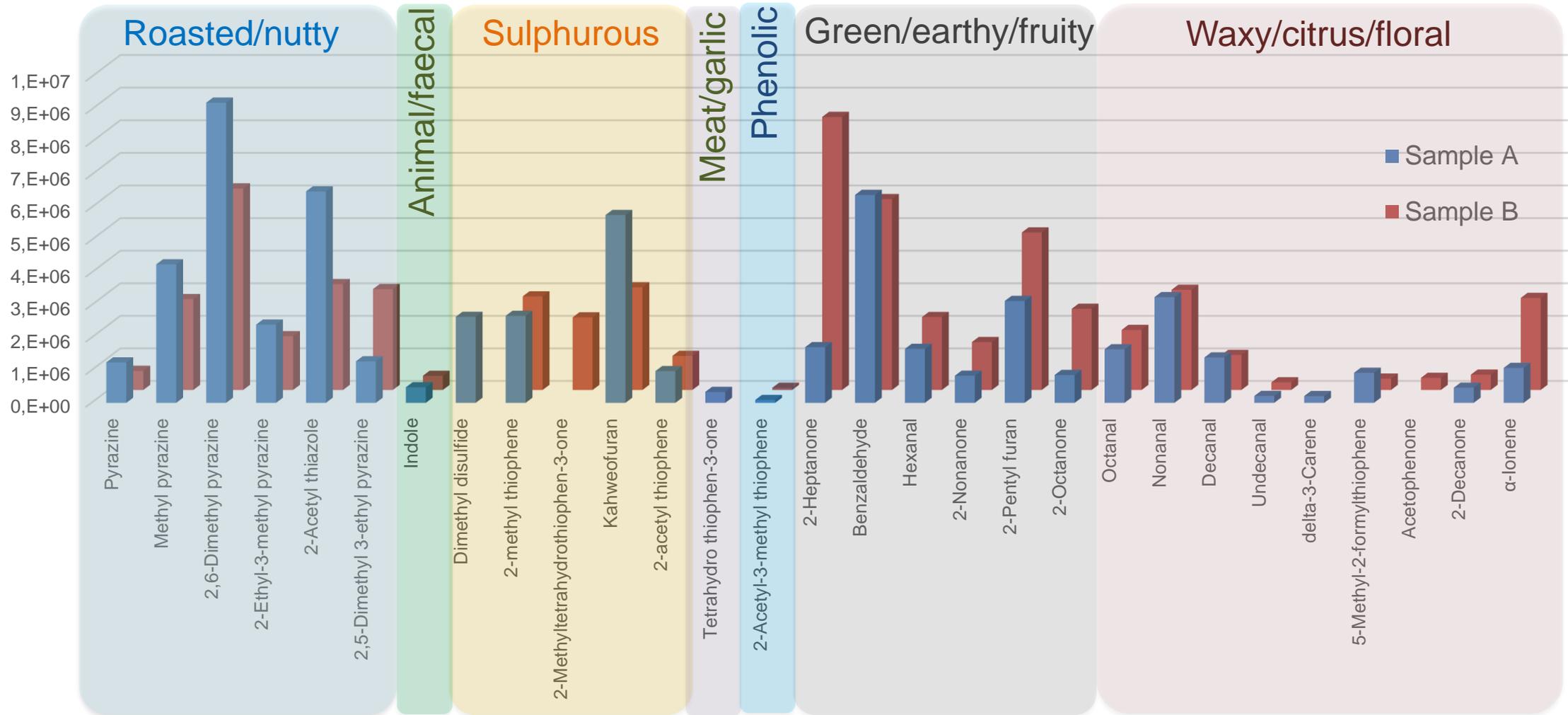
# Odour taints in pet food

Comparison of aroma volatiles



# Odour taints in pet food

Comparison of aroma volatiles



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# Questions?



# What can we offer

## Approaches to handling the analysis of water

| Challenges include:   | Solutions we can offer with Centri:   | Benefits                  |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| High sample number  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full automation</li> <li>• Re-collection</li> </ul>  | Saves time / money        |
| High contaminant levels (e.g. waste water)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classic headspace</li> <li>• Multi-bed sorbent</li> <li>• Large split range (1:125,000)</li> </ul>   | One instrument for all    |
| Low contaminant levels (e.g. drinking water)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-bed sorbents</li> <li>• SPME fibre preconcentration</li> <li>• Trapping capabilities</li> <li>• Multiple injection modes</li> <li>• Multiple enrichment steps</li> <li>• Splitless analysis</li> </ul> | Confidence in the results |
| Different sample types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drinking water</li> <li>• Waste water</li> <li>• Slurry water</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPME / HiSorb / Classic headspace / Matrix modification</li> <li>• Classic headspace / HiSorb</li> <li>• HiSorb</li> </ul>   | One instrument for all    |
| Wide analytical target list from VVOCs to SVOCs   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-bed trap</li> <li>• SPME fibre preconcentration</li> <li>• Multiple injection modes</li> </ul>   | Saves time                |
| Reproducibility   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trapping capabilities</li> <li>• Re-collection</li> </ul>  | Confidence in the results |
| Sample traceability   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TubeTAG (RIFD)</li> <li>• Barcode scanner</li> </ul>   | Confidence in the results |



Centri