



ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

Addressing Critical Analytical Challenges in Pesticide Residues Analysis with High Resolution Accurate Mass (HRAM) Mass Spectrometry

Richard J .Fussell

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Outline

- Should laboratories consider migrating to full scan technologies such as Time-of Flight MS or Orbitrap MS technologies to provide a more comprehensive analysis of both the ‘expected’ and ‘unexpected’ residues?
- Features of Orbitrap MS technologies
- Can workflows based on non-targeted acquisition address the analytical challenges faced by pesticide residues laboratories?

Workflow- Analysis of Extracts

[Thermo Scientific™ Endura™ Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer](#)



QuEChERS
NL
SweEt



[TSQ™ 8000 Evo Triple Quadrupole GC-MS/MS](#)



IC-(Dionex™ ICS-5000+ Reagent-Free™ HPIC™ systems) MS/MS



QuPPe
methanol/water
(polar pesticides)



**Targeted analysis-
triple quadrupole MS/MS**



[Q Exactive™ Focus hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap MS](#)

**Simultaneous Targeted & Non-
Targeted Analysis: Orbitrap-MS**
(detection, quantification, identification, screening)

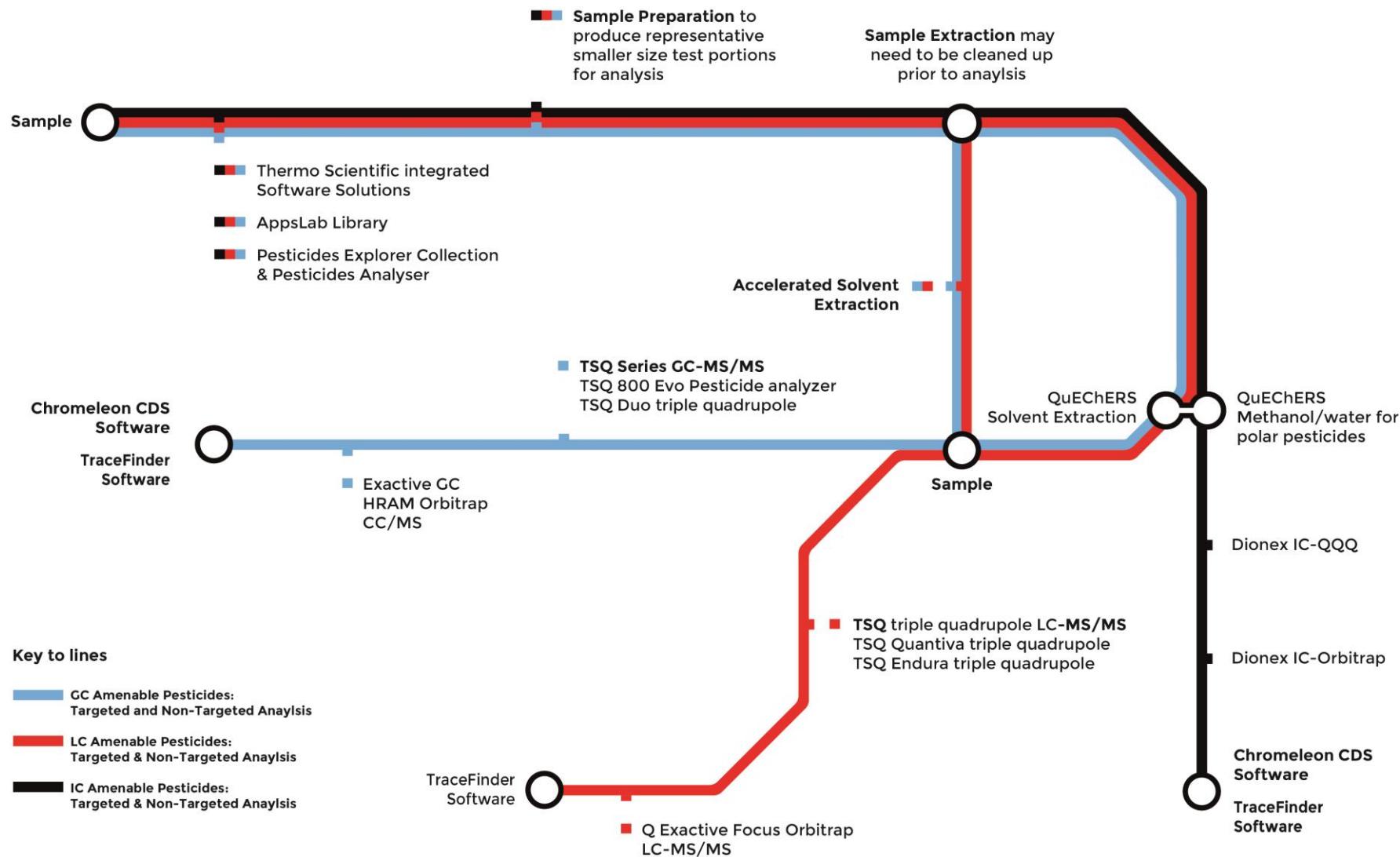


[Exactive™ GC Orbitrap™ GC-MS](#)

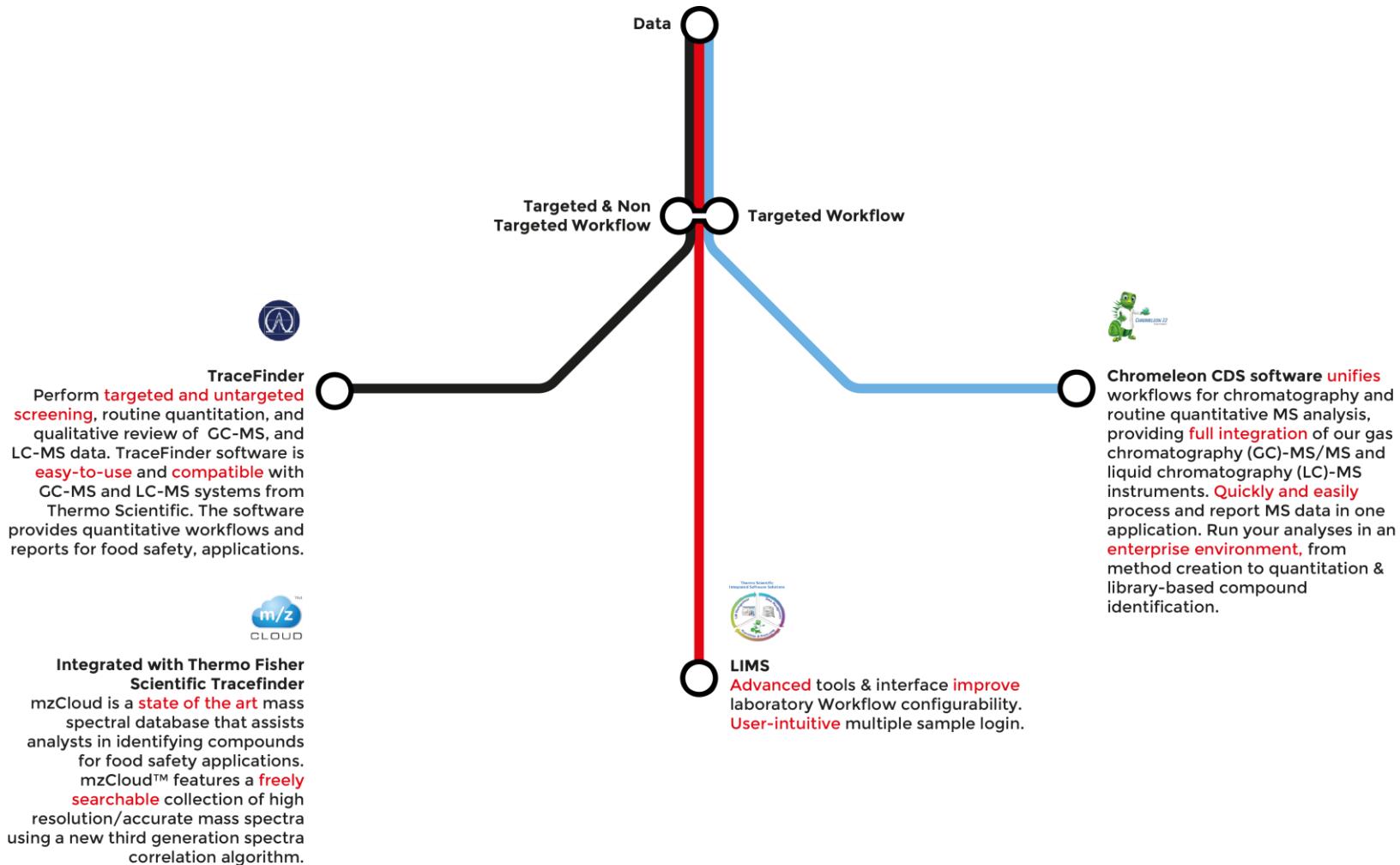


Dionex™ Integrion™
HPIC™ System- can be
coupled to coupled to
Orbitrap MS

The Analysis Journey



Data Processing, Storage and Management



Analytical Scientist LC-MS/MS Testimonial 2016

**the
Analytical Scientist**



Exploring Pesticides Without Bugbears

Then and Now, with Mohamed Hamad,
Director, Food Chemistry & Nutrition,
Microbac Laboratories

“Made a decision to purchase the Thermo Scientific™ Pesticide Explorer Collection-standard method using the Thermo Scientific TSQ Endura™ Triple Quadrupole MS and the Thermo Scientific Vanquish™ UHPLC ”

“First of all, you get a lot of value for money”

“You walk away with a complete workflow.... For quantification of nearly 300 pesticides”

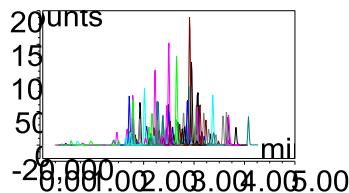
“We've been able to halve our turnaround time”

“Another key point is the absence of carry-over”

“We've experienced no problems operating 24/7”

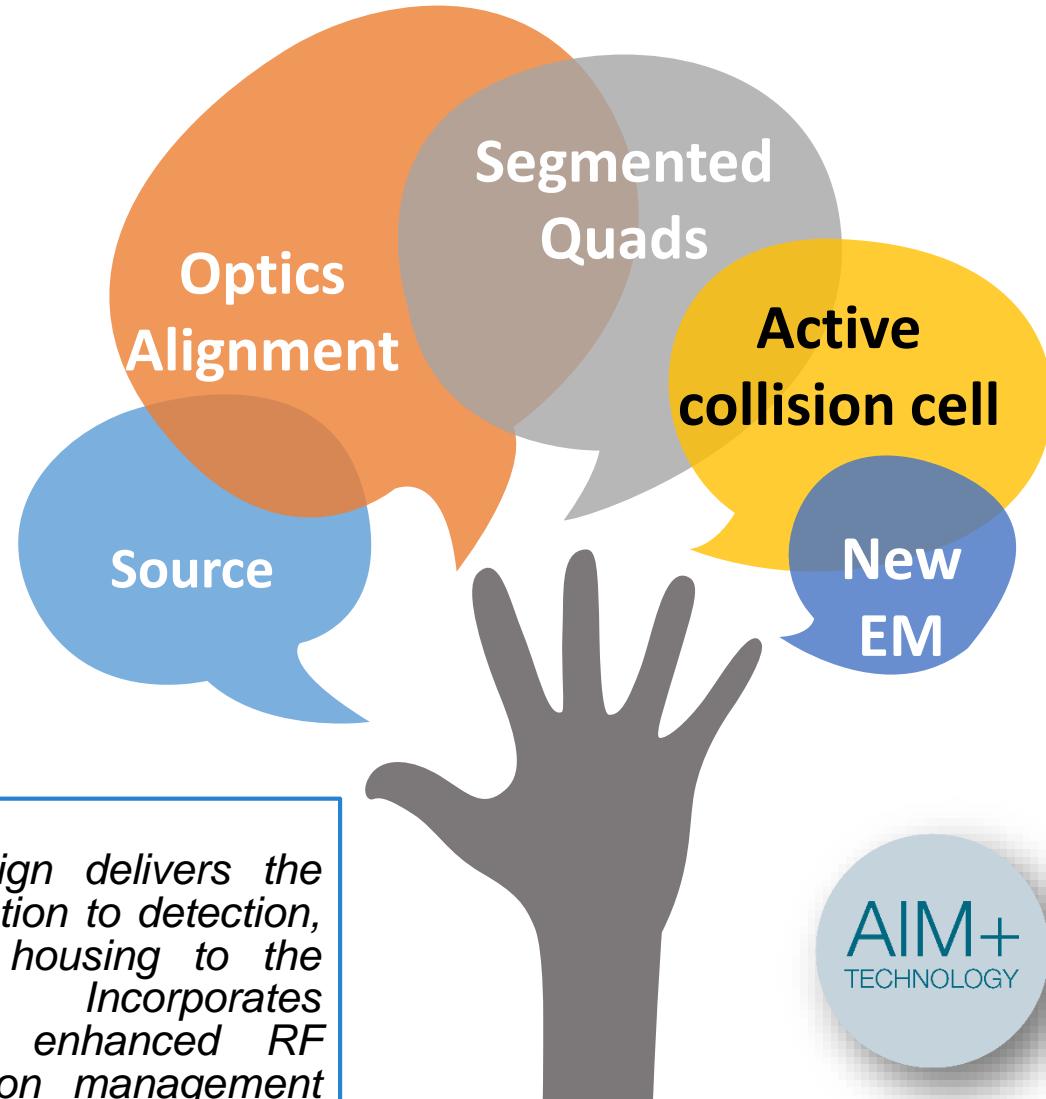
Ongoing Developments in LC-QqQ MS

- Robust LC-MS Analysis of Pesticides with 1.0 mm ID column using the Vanquish Horizon UHPLC System



- 255 pesticides -Vanquish Horizon UHPLC system coupled to TSQ Endura™ Triple Quadrupole mass spectrometer
- The maximum system pressure was 1030 bar.
- Flow rate = 100 μ L/min

ASMS 2017: TSQ Quantis and Altis



Active Ion Management Plus (AIM+)

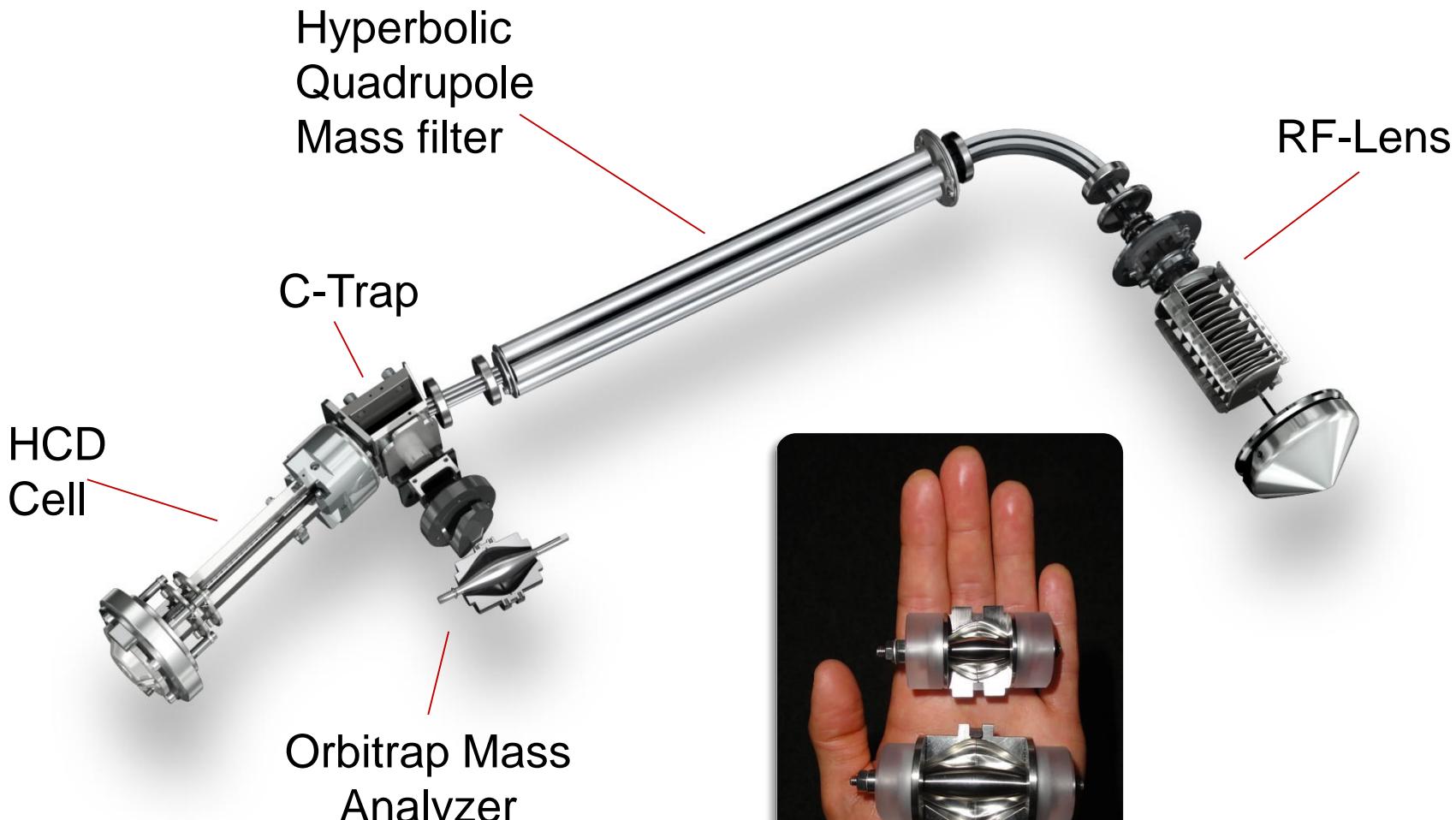
The next step in precision design delivers the ultimate in ion management, inception to detection, from the OptaMax NG source housing to the enhanced electron multiplier. Incorporates segmented quadrupoles and enhanced RF Electronics to further optimize ion management precision, reliability, speed, and reproducibility.



Enhanced Capabilities & Productivity with Orbitrap MS Technology

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Orbitrap MS Geometry



Redefining Routine LC-MS Analysis of Pesticides

Q Exactive Focus Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap MS



vDIA is not available in the U.S.

Mass Range	50 < m/z < 2,000
Resolution @ m/z 200	17,500 at 12Hz 35,000 at 6 Hz 70,000 at 3 Hz
Top N	2
Mass Accuracy	< 1ppm RMS, Internal Calibration < 3ppm RMS, External Calibration
Polarity Switching	one full cycle –ve/+ve @ 35.000 RP in <1sec
Flexible Acquisition	Full scan dd-MS2 AIF vDIA PRM (SIM)

Mass Accuracy Does Matter!

Accurate mass improves the ability to confidently identify unknown compounds

$$\text{ppm error} = (\text{mass error} / \text{MW}) \times 10^6$$

EXAMPLE:

- Reserpine ($\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9$) has a protonated ion at 609.28066

Mass Error (ppm)	# of Possible Chemical Formulae (using only C, H, N & O)
165 (0.1 daltons)	209
10	13
5	7
3	4
2	2
1	2
0.5 (0.0003 daltons)	1

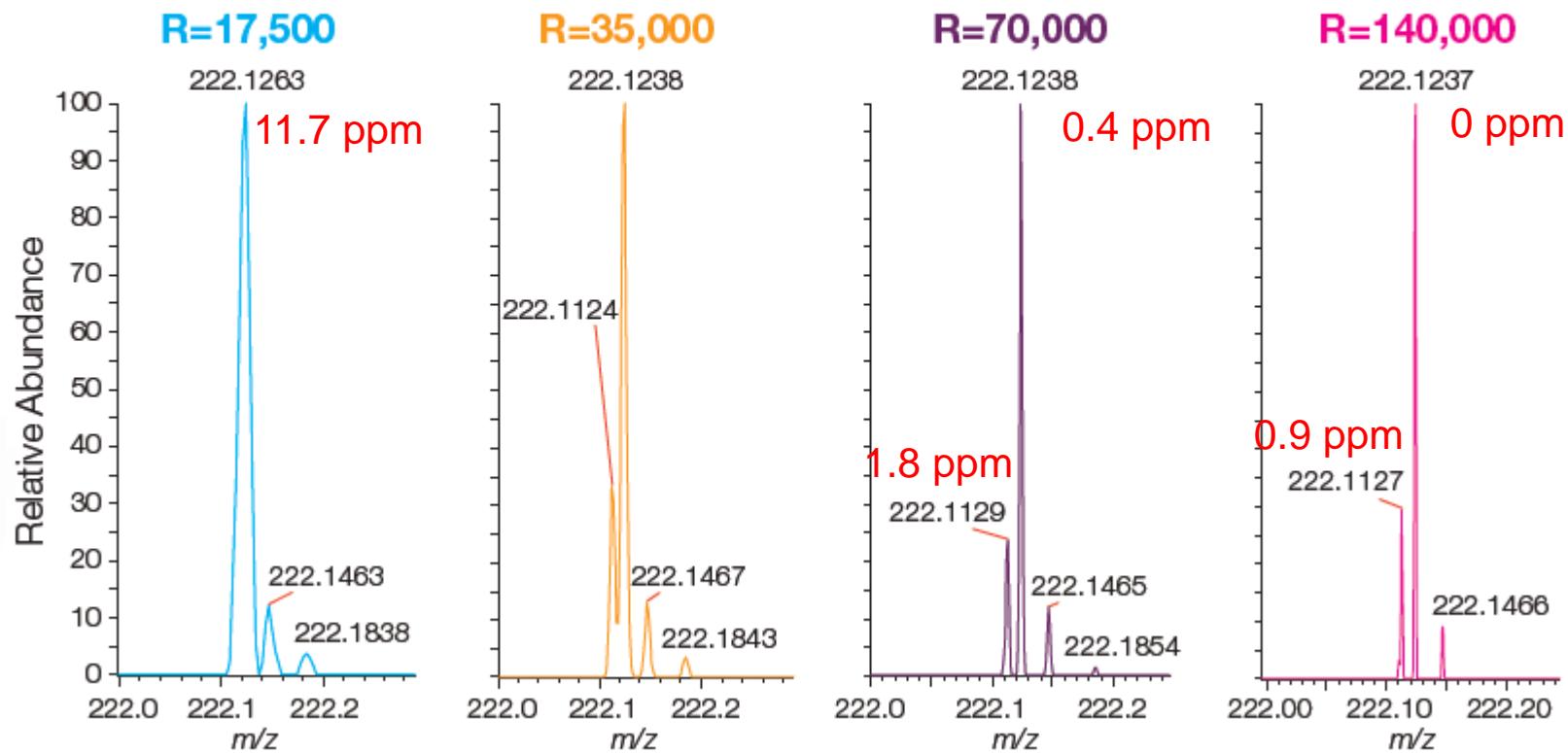
HR/AM (High Resolution/Accurate Mass)

Mass accuracy correlated with Resolution

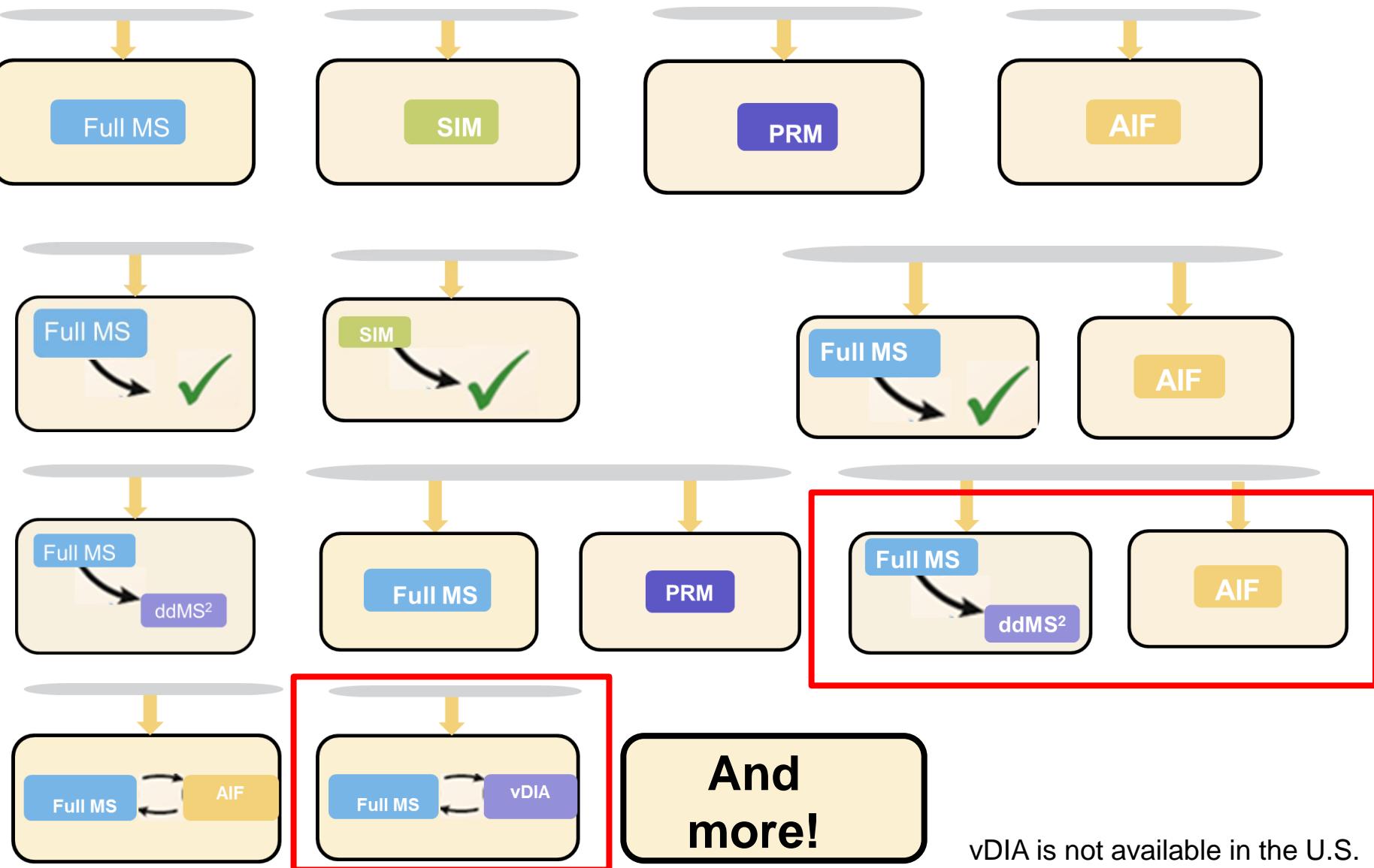
Carbofuran
Formetanate

C₁₂H₁₅NO₃
C₁₁H₁₅N₃O₂

M+H⁺ = 222.1125
M+H⁺ = 222.1237

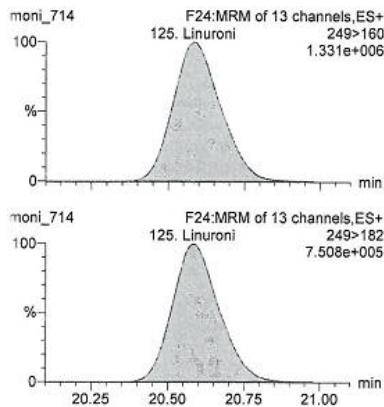


Acquisition: Q Exactive Focus MS System

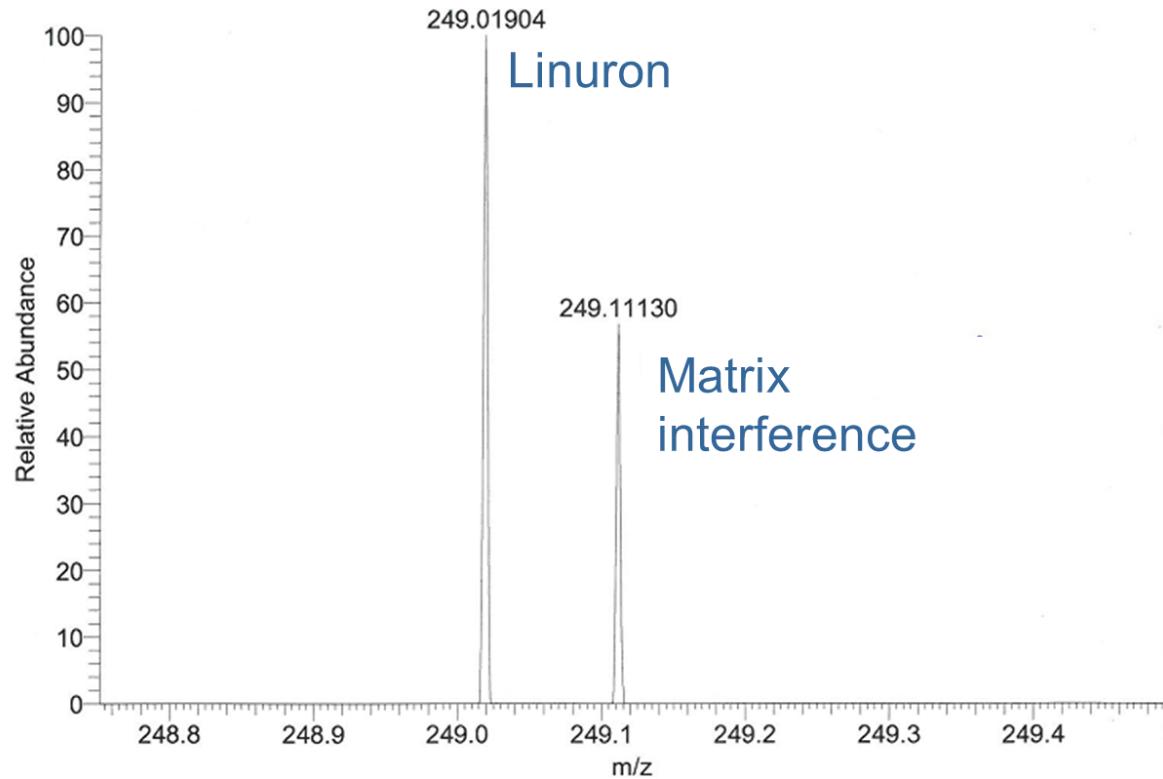
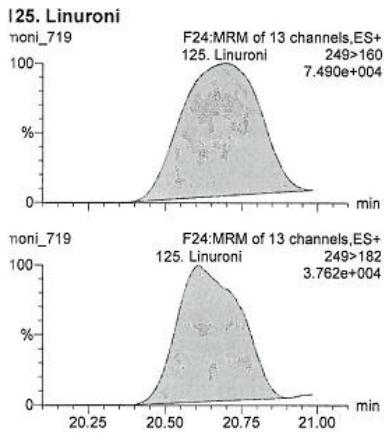


LTQ Orbitrap MS System: Selectivity vs LC-QqQ

Standard in solvent (Ion ratio: 1.8)



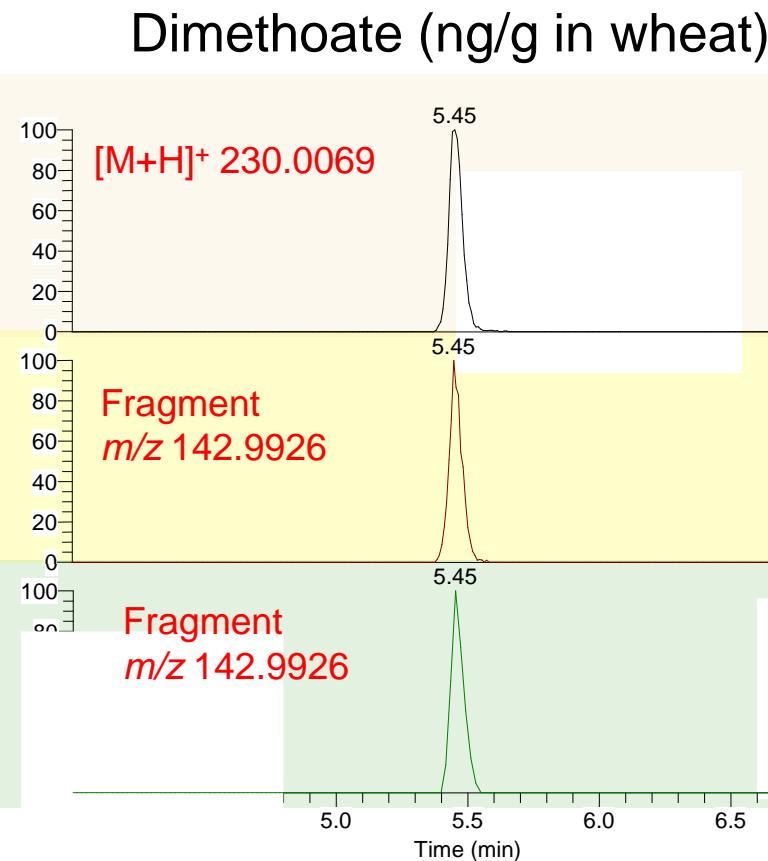
Linuron (0.125 mg/kg in sample of coriander (Ion ratio: 2.4)



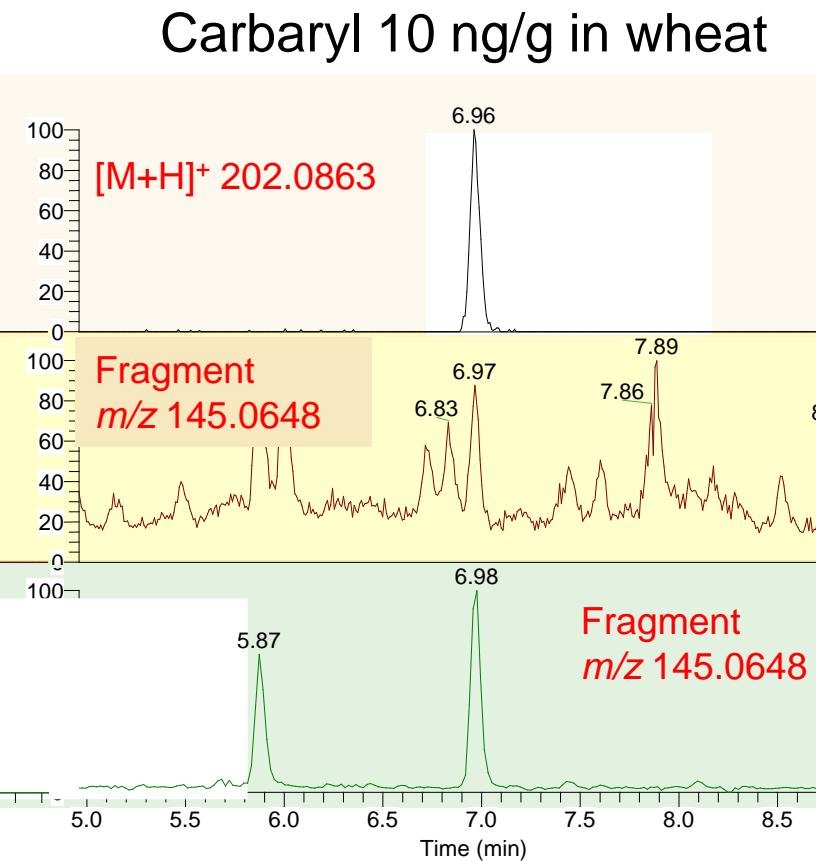
With permission of Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almeria, Spain ,

Q Exactive Focus MS System Selectivity: AIF vs. vDIA

FS
m/z 135-1000
RP = 70,000



AIF
m/z 67-1000
RP = 70,000



vDIA
m/z 195-305
RP = 35,000

- vDIA provides improved selectivity & sensitivity

vDIA is not available in the U.S.

Data from Hans Mol , Rikilt Wageningen, UR

Redefining Routine Pesticides Analysis

Exactive GC system



Redefining Routine GC-MS

EI/CI; Full-scan; Timed-SIM



EI Spectra searchable against the NIST Library

Resolving Power

Up to
60,000 at
 m/z 200

Mass Accuracy

< 1 ppm

Sensitivity

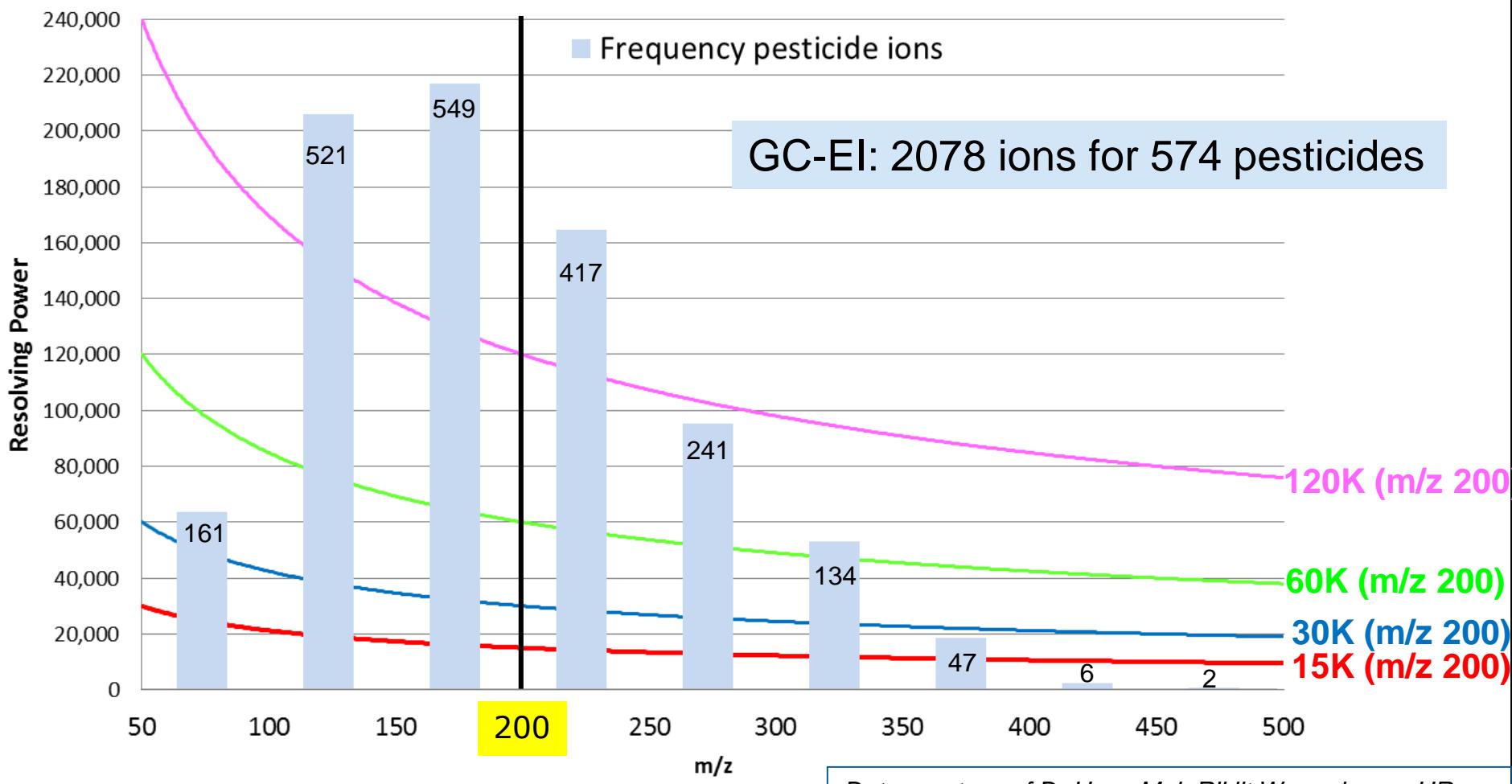
ppt

Dynamic Range

>6 orders

Orbitrap GC-MS Systems: Resolving Power

Resolving power $\sim 1/\sqrt{m/z}$



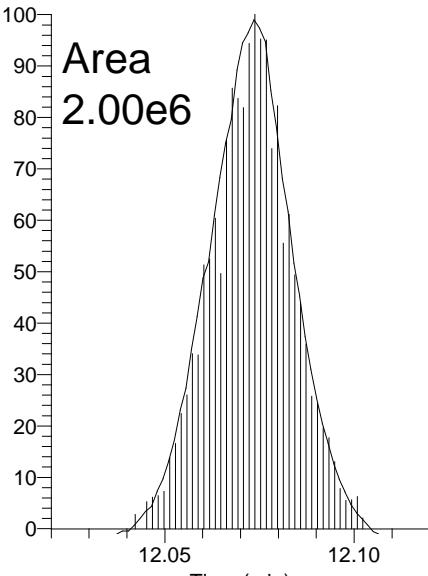
Challenges

- Selectivity (false detect and false negative rates)
- Sensitivity (dilution of matrix effects)
- Speed (acquisition, data processing or overall analysis)
- SANTE compliance
 - Linearity
 - Quantification
 - Recovery
 - Identification – retention time, ion ratios, mass accuracy
 - Compliance with MRLs
- Scope (the expected, suspected & unexpected = <false negatives)

Q-Exactive GC-MS System- Speed of Acquisition

Scan speed ↔ Resolving power

RT: 12.02 - 12.12

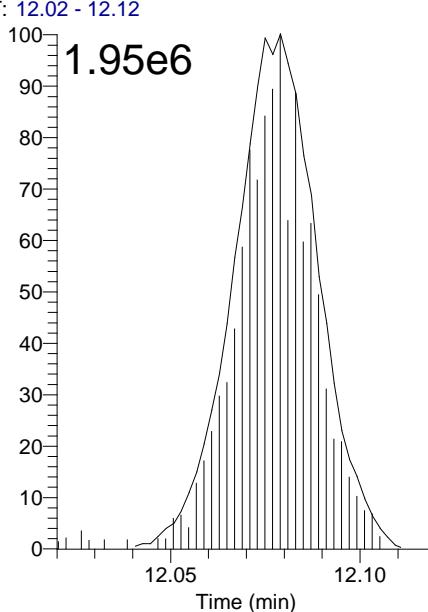


peak width 3-4 sec



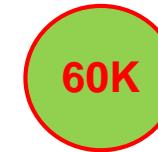
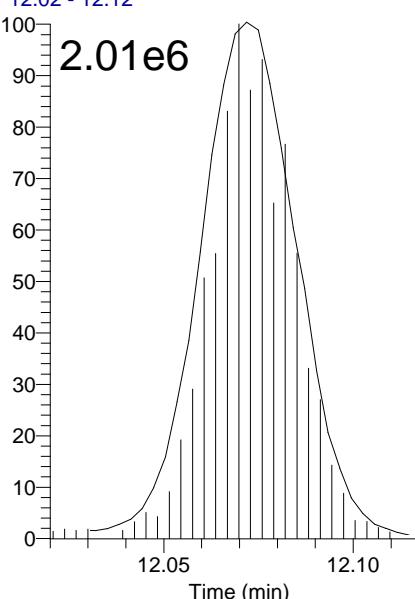
\approx 11-18 Hz

RT: 12.02 - 12.12



\approx 8-14 Hz

RT: 12.02 - 12.12



\approx 5-7 Hz

- Resolving power is trade-off with scan speed
- Scan speeds all compatible with GC as routinely applied in triple quad methods

Data courtesy of Dr Hans Mol, Rikilt Wageningen, UR



Thermo Scientific Exactive GC-MS System

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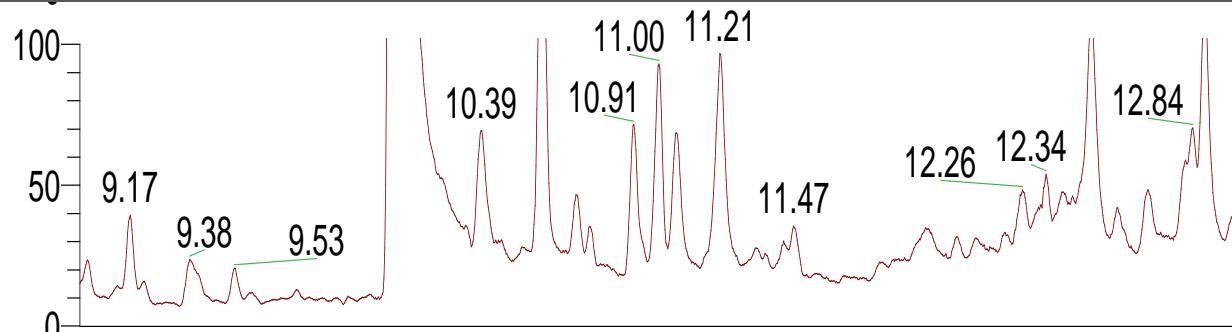
Exactive GC System: Selectivity (chlorpropham in leek, 10 ppb)

Nominal mass

Full scan MS

XIC $m/z \pm 0.5$ Da

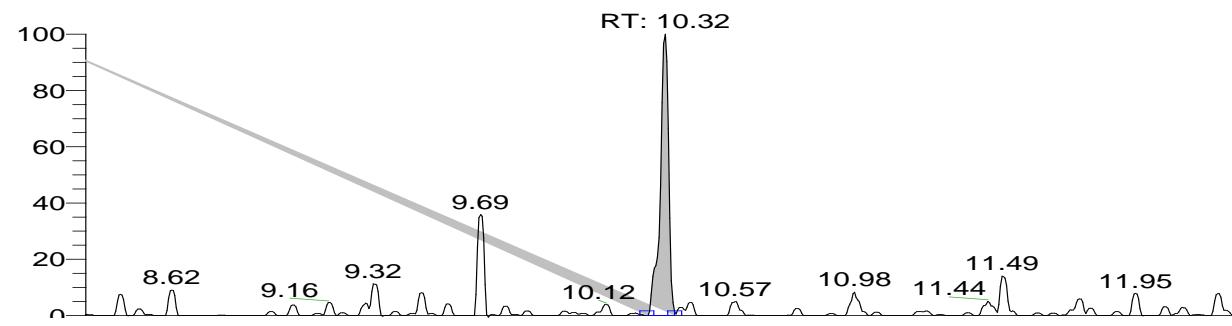
127 \pm 0.5 Da



Nominal Mass

MS/MS

213 → 127

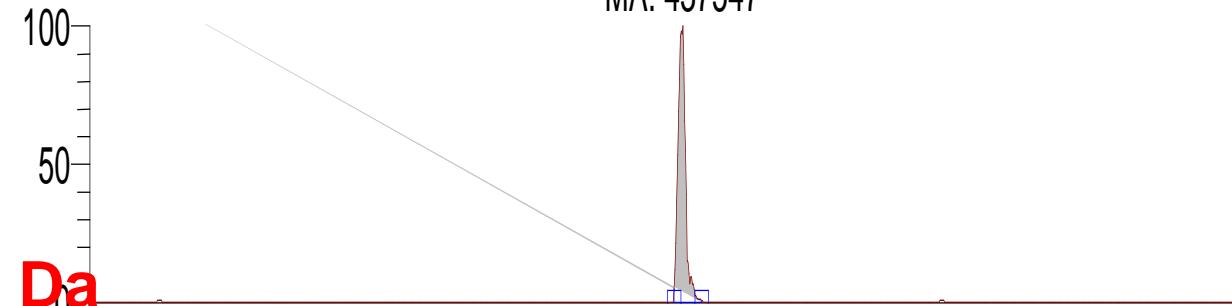


HRAM

Full scan MS

XIC $m/z \pm 5$ ppm

127.01833 \pm 0.0006 Da



Data from Hans Mol , Rikilt Wageningen, UR

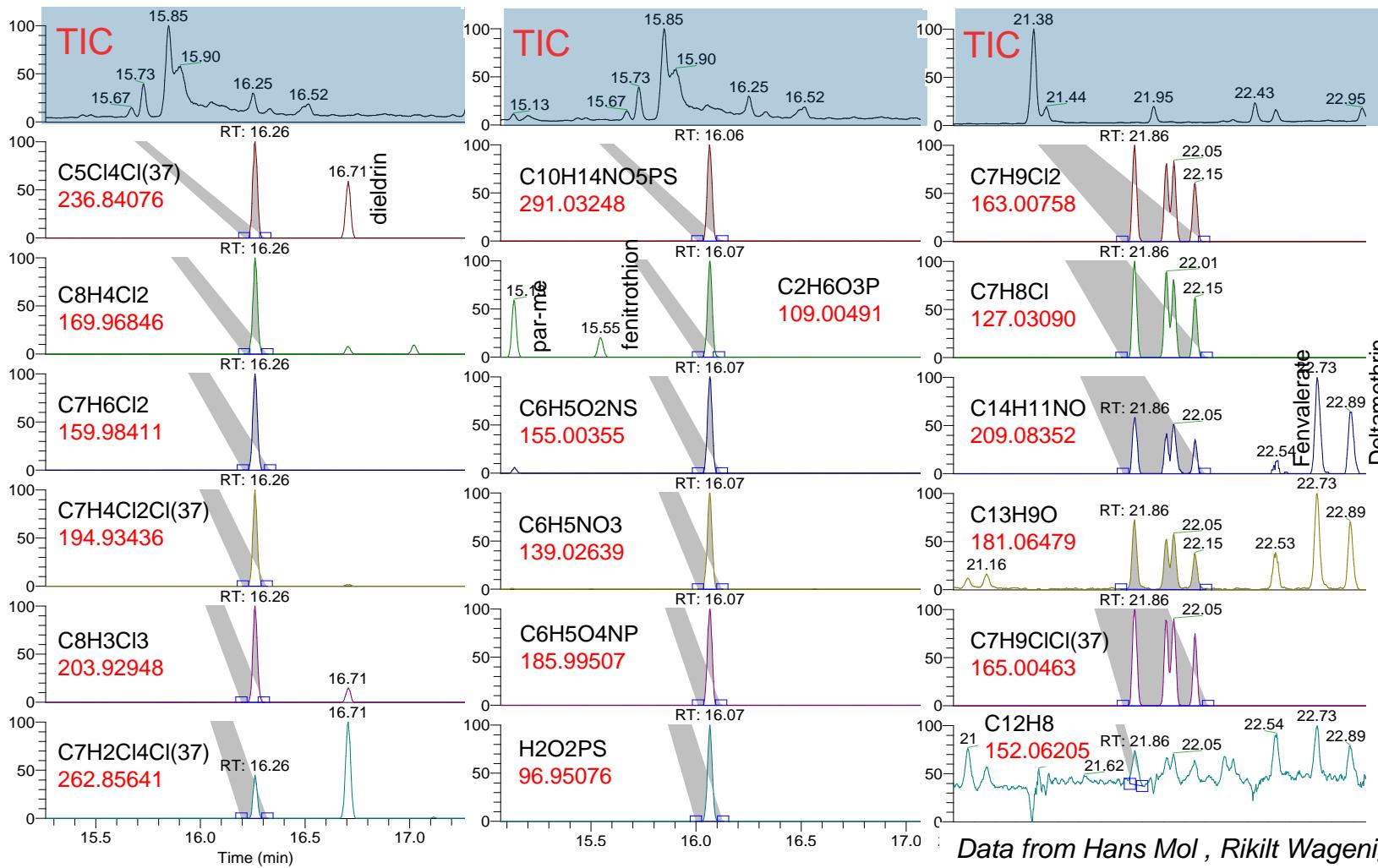
Exactive GC system: Selectivity

10 µg/kg in orange (10 pg on-column): 60.000 RP, MEW ±5 ppm

endosulfan-alpha

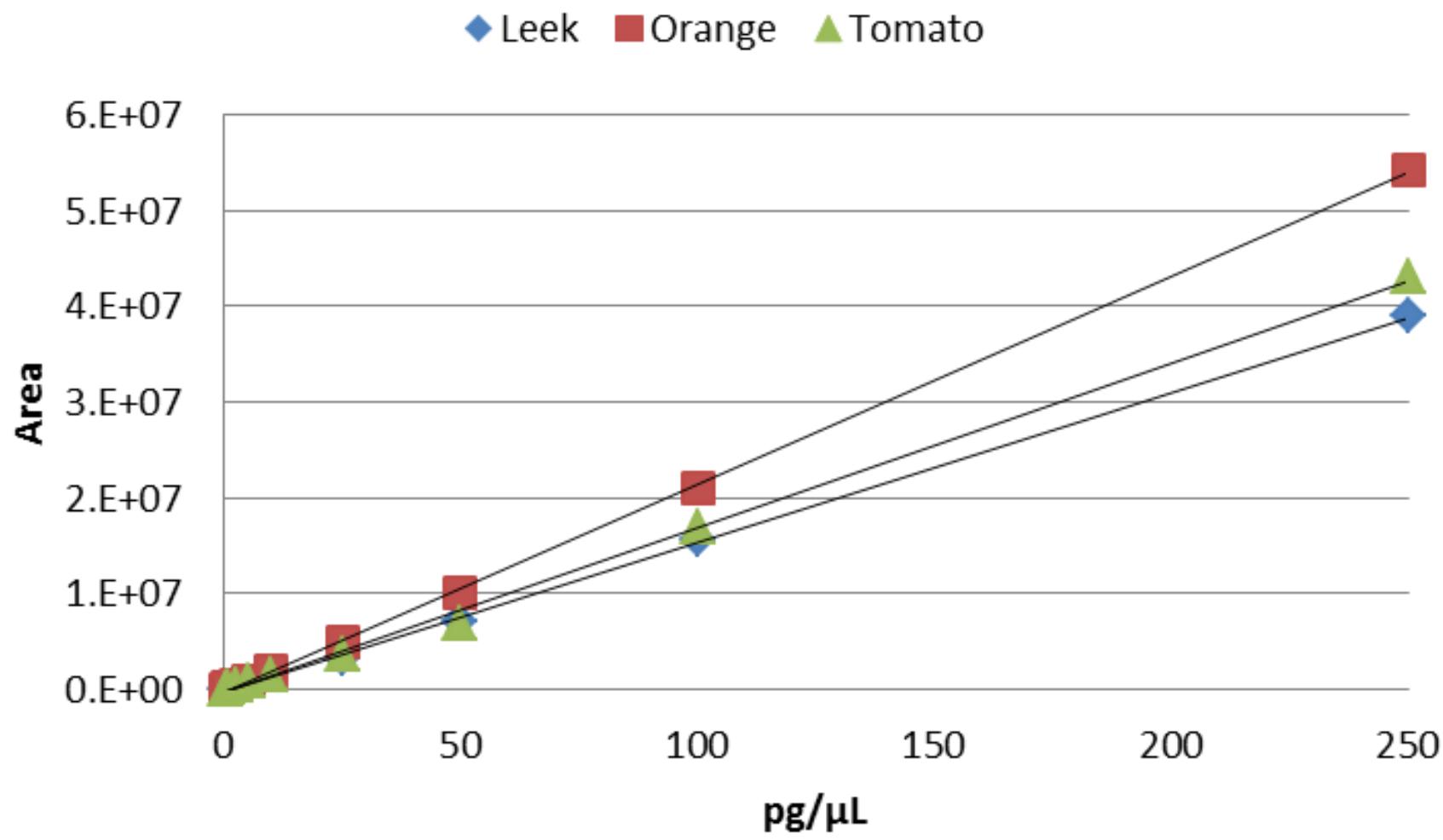
parathion

cypermethrin



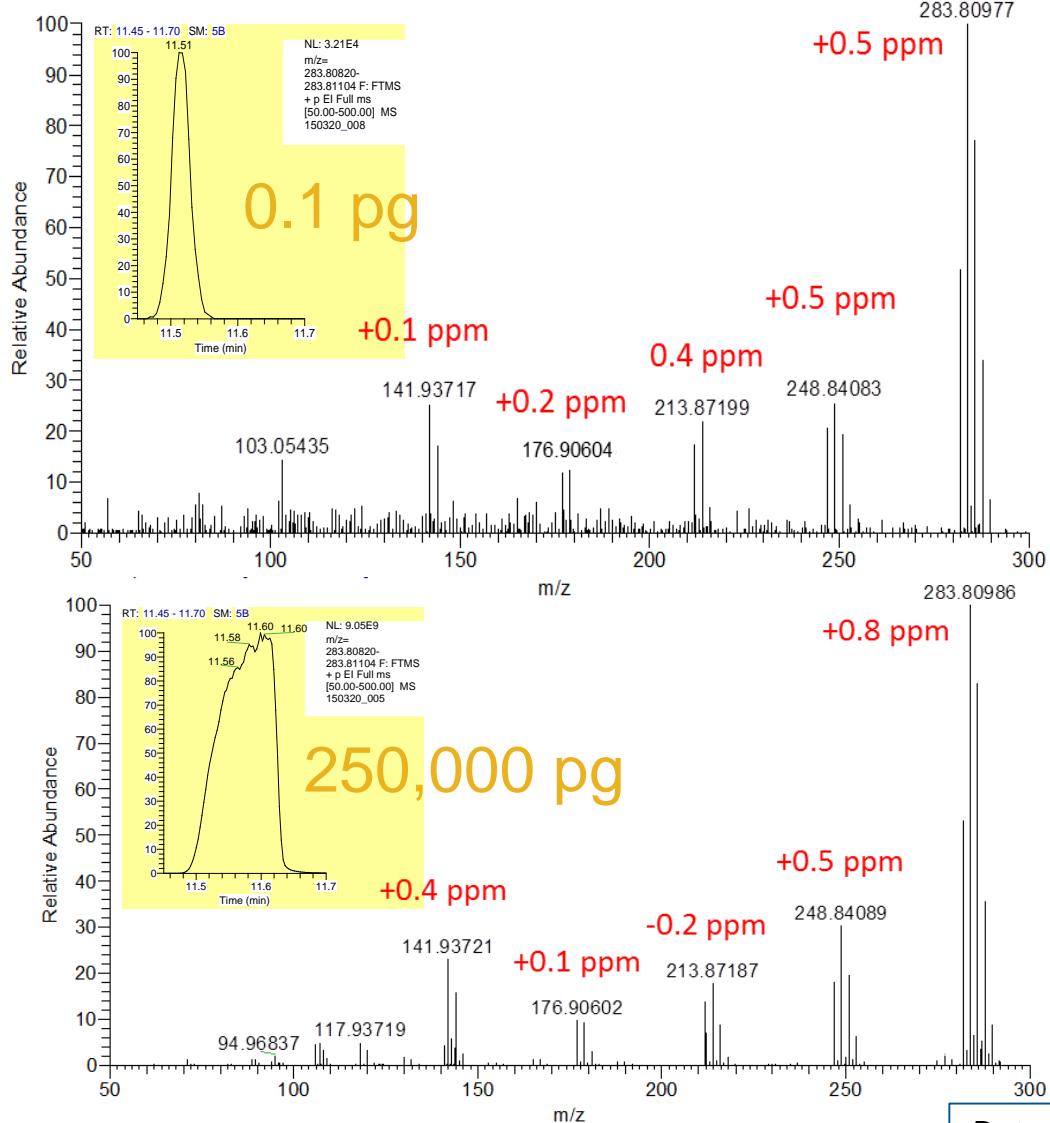
Data from Hans Mol , Rikilt Wageningen, UR

Q Exactive GC-MS: Linearity for Lindane



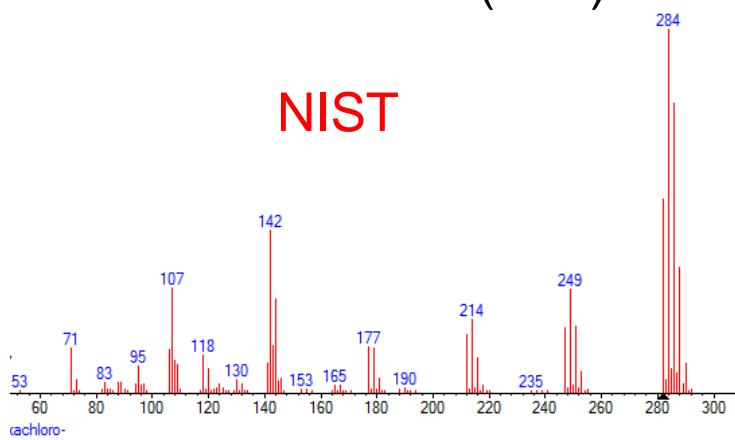
Data from Hans Mol , Rikilt Wageningen, UR

Exactive GC system: Spectral Quality vs Amount Injected



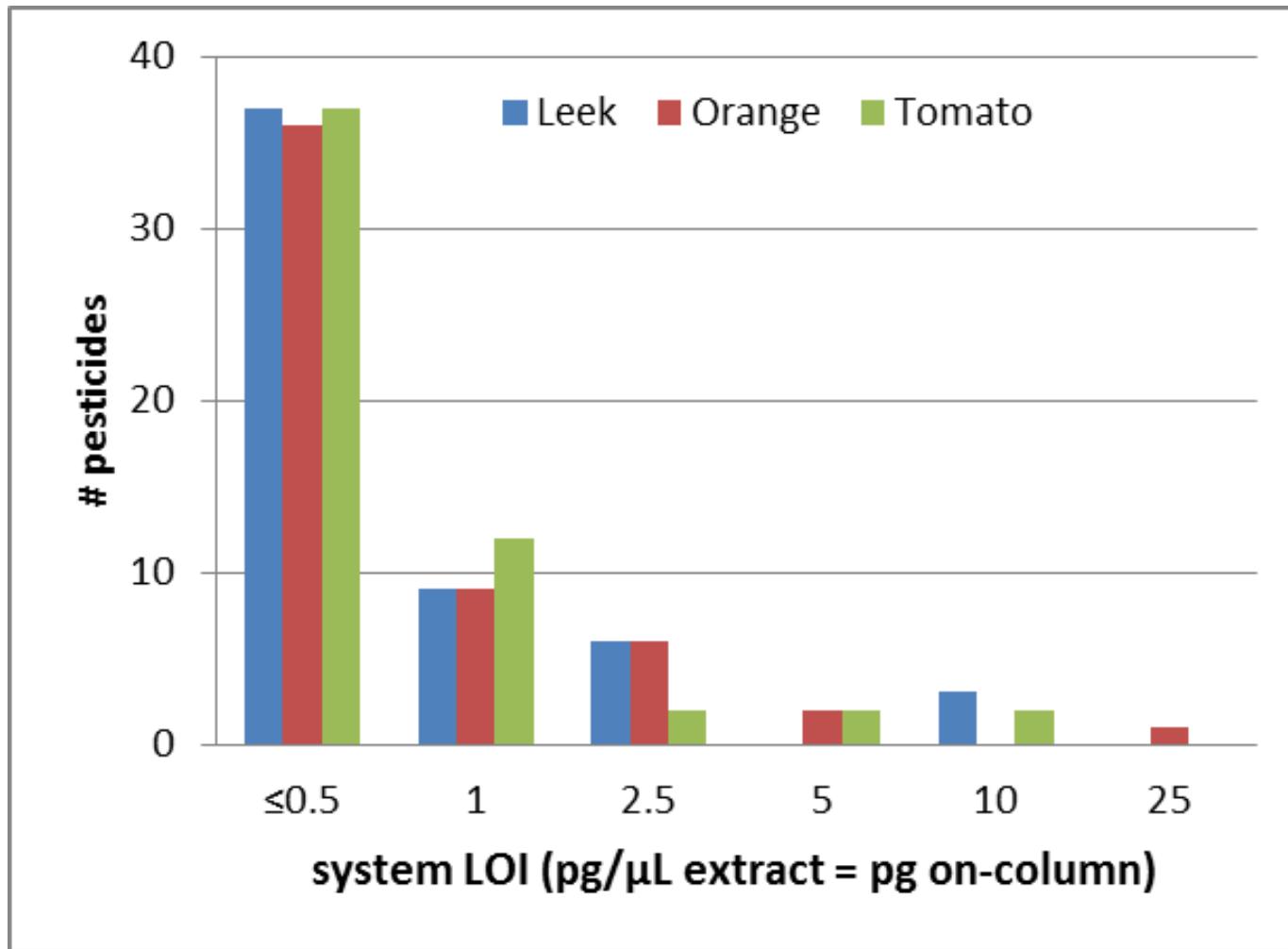
Solvent standard
hexachlorobenzene (60K)

NIST



Data courtesy of Dr Hans Mol, Rikilt Wageningen, UR

Exactive GC-MS System Sensitivity: Limit of Identification



QuEChERS - 1µL

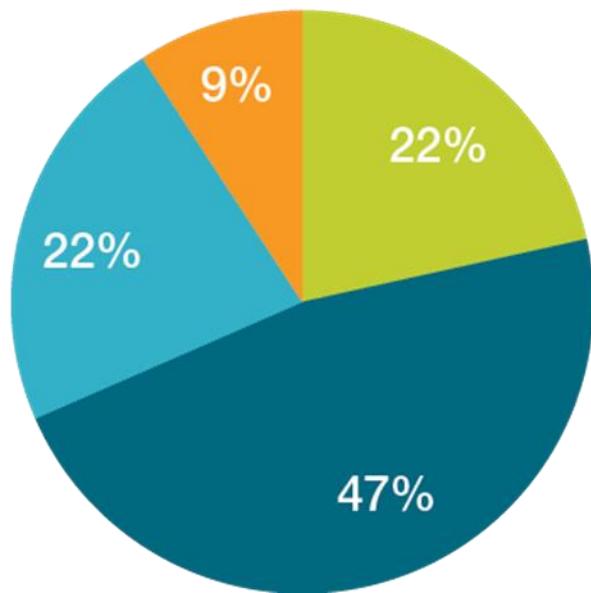
Data courtesy of Dr Hans Mol, Rikilt Wageningen, UR

High Sensitivity Full-Scan

150 compounds in mixed vegetable matrix

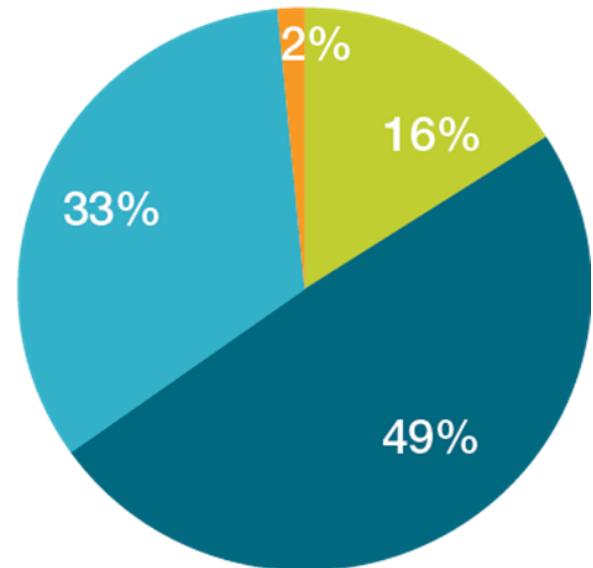
GC Orbitrap

IDL ppb



GC-MS/MS

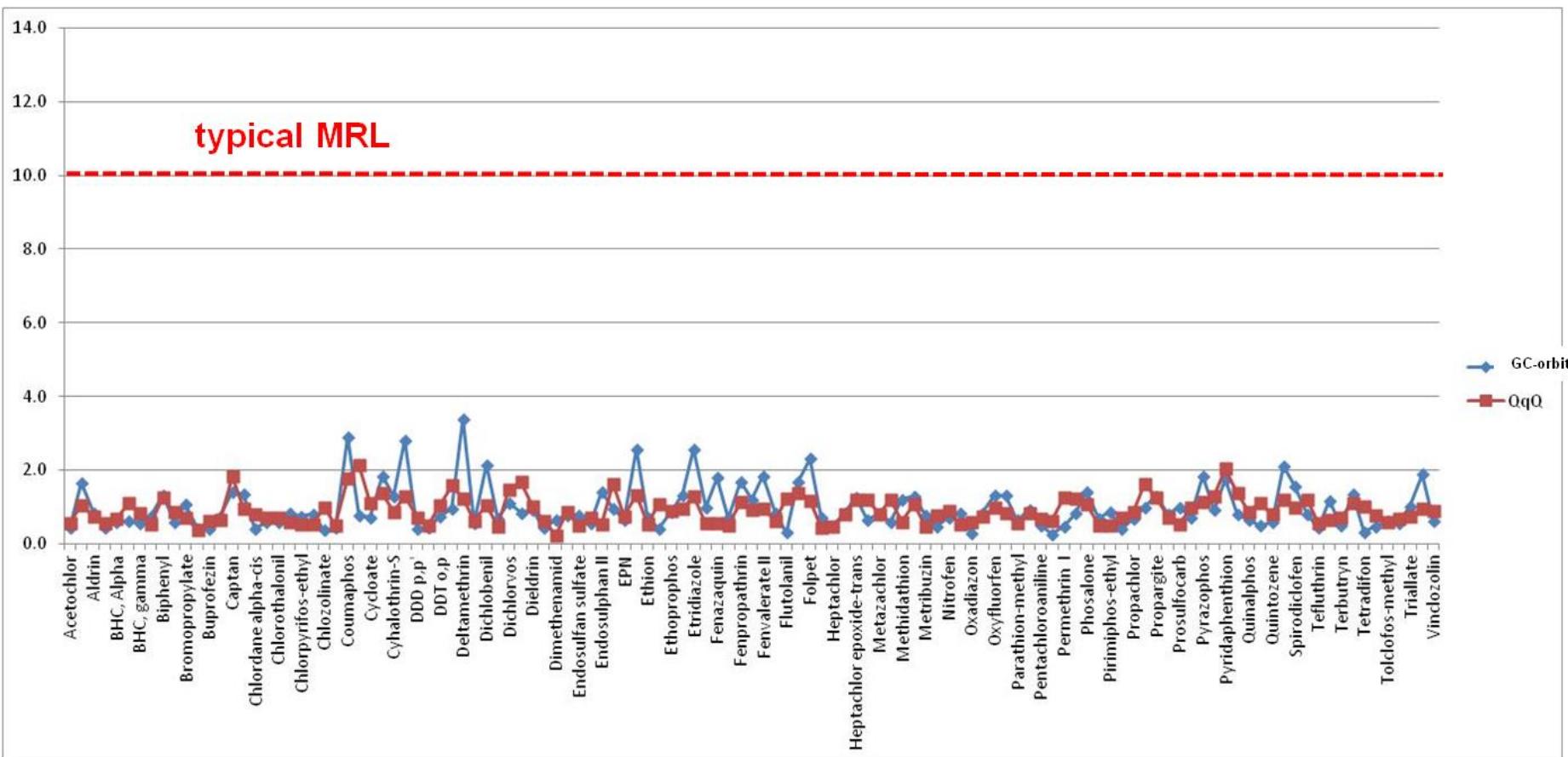
IDL ppb



Triple-quadrupole-level sensitivity possible with a non-target acquisition

*Acquired on the Q Exactive GC system – the Exactive GC system provides equivalent performance.

Sufficient Sensitivity? Q Exactive GC-MS System vs GC- QqQ



Thermo Scientific Application Note 10609

thermoscientific

APPLICATION NOTE

Routine Quantitative Method of Analysis for Pesticides using GC Orbitrap Mass Spectrometry in accordance with SANTE/11945/2015 Guidelines

Dominic Roberts¹, Samanta Uclés Duque², Amadeo Fernández-Alba² and Paul Silcock¹; ¹Thermo Fisher Scientific, Runcorn, United Kingdom; ²European Union Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in Fruits and Vegetables, University of Almería, Spain

Keywords: Pesticides, QuEChERS, Complex matrices, GC Orbitrap Mass Spectrometry, Quantitation, Accurate Mass, TraceFinder

Introduction

The international trade in food commodities has enabled a wide variety of fruits and vegetables to be made available year round. However, this also creates a challenge for food safety regulators who seek to ensure a safe food supply



quality control and validation procedures for pesticide residues in food and feed took effect.³ This document describes the method validation and analytical quality

Identification Point	Tolerance	Primary ID	Optional additional ID
Retention time	0.1 minutes	✓	
Quant ion	5 ppm	✓	
Identification ion	5 ppm	✓	
Ion ratio	< 30%	✓	
Additional ions	5 ppm		✓
Isotopic pattern match	> 70%		✓
NIST spectral match	> 600		✓

51 pesticides were prepared in tomato, leek and orange at concentrations equivalent to 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 µg/Kg.

Exactive GC-MS System: Automated Qualitative Screening Workflows

- Quantitative method with all associated AQC for usual suspects (~100)
- Automated qualitative screening: lower AQC burden for unexpected pesticides
- Same raw data files, but 2 different data processing approaches

1. Library: match of EI-spectra

deconvolution of HR spectra

⇒ cleaned spectrum

Library search (NIST, PEST library)

Software: Report if match (SI) > user threshold.
(The analysts manually review hits)

2. Database: RT + 2 exact masses

RT \pm 0.5 min

XICs \pm 5 ppm

2 ions (w/o ratio criterion)

Software:

Report if signal is found for both ions
(The analysts manually review hits)

10 µg/kg	found out of 50
Tomato	47
Orange	44
Leek	43

Data courtesy of Dr Hans Mol, Rikilt Wageningen, UR

TRACE FINDER 4.0 SOFTWARE (Qual-Quant) PERFORMANCE

Stage	Time (aprox.)
Create batch	30 sec
Copy raw files	1 min 30 sec
Process files	2 min 30 sec
Manual revision	60 min
Data export	30 sec
Total time	65 min

- Time spent to evaluate:
 - 18 samples
 - 2 calibration curves by matrix matched standard (3 levels)
 - 2 recovery checks , 5 pure solvent

With permission of Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almeria, Spain ,

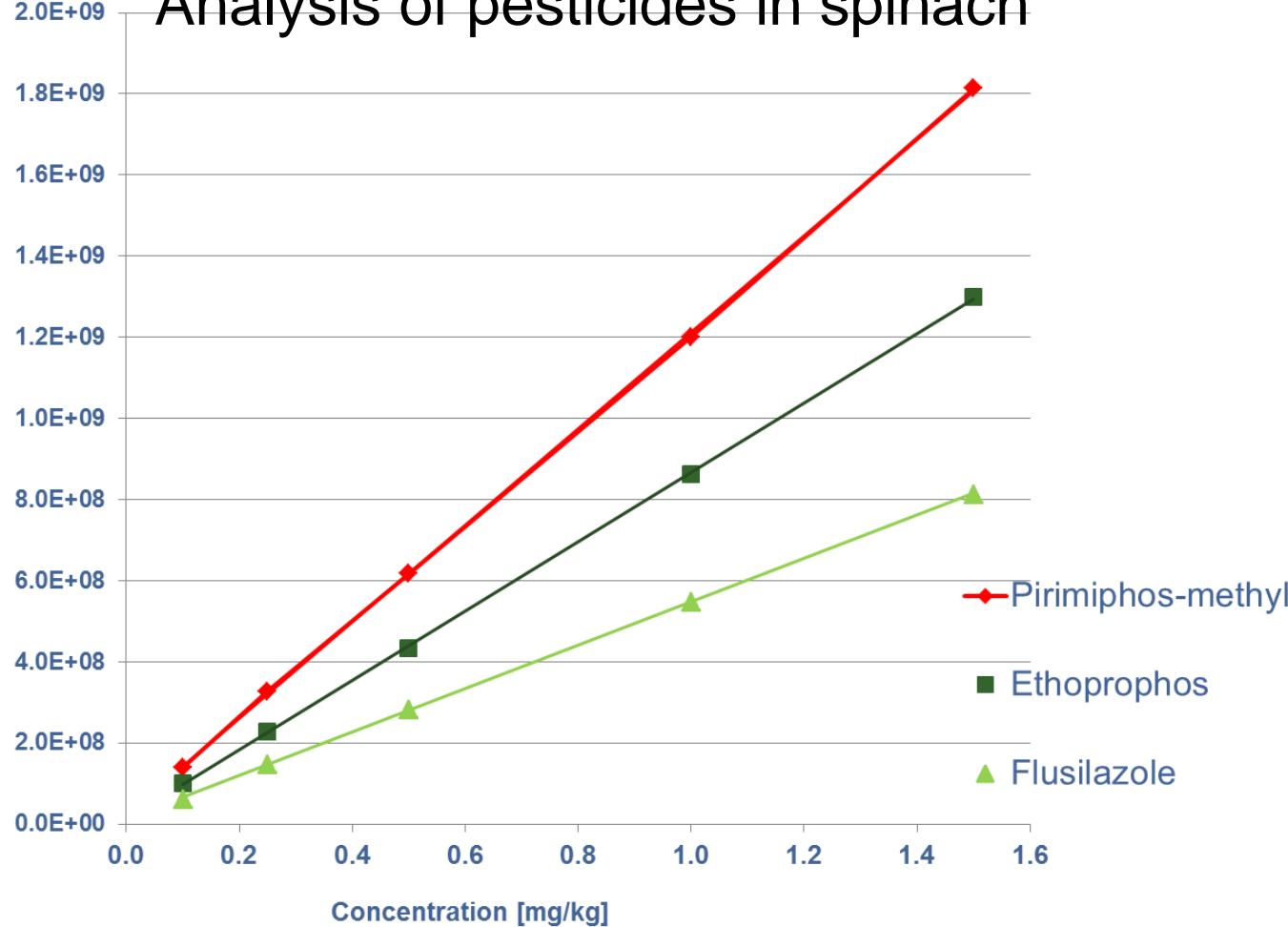


Thermo Scientific Q Exactive Focus MS System

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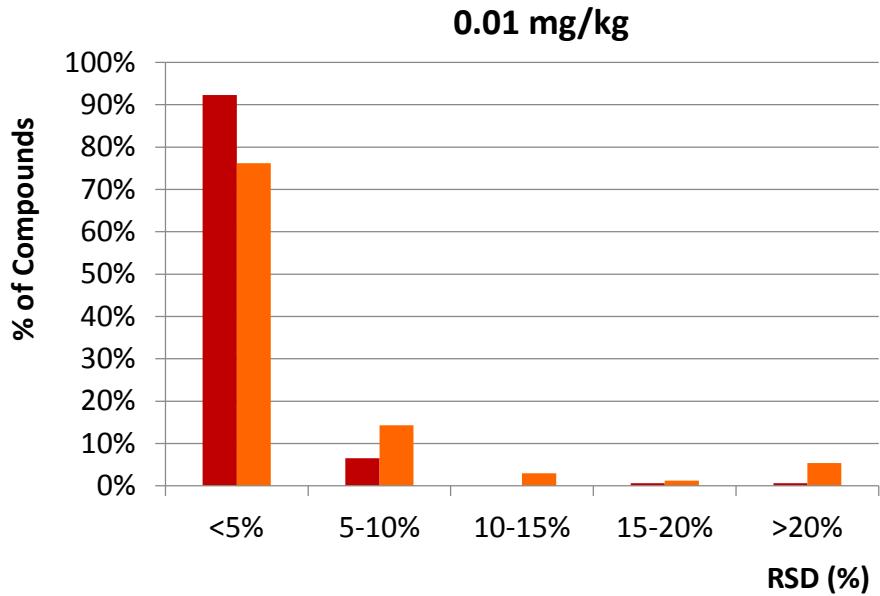
Linearity: Q Exactive Focus MS System

Analysis of pesticides in spinach



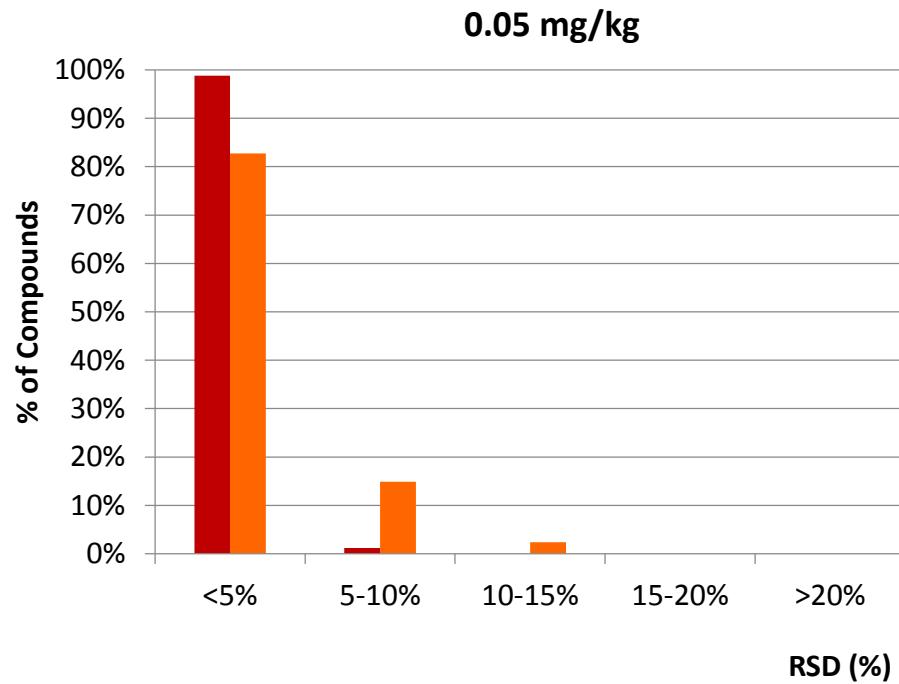
Data from Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba,
University of Almeria, Spain ,

Validation: Q Exactive Focus MS System



Repeatability of Residue Concentrations

■ Tomato
■ Orange



Courtesy Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almeria, Spain

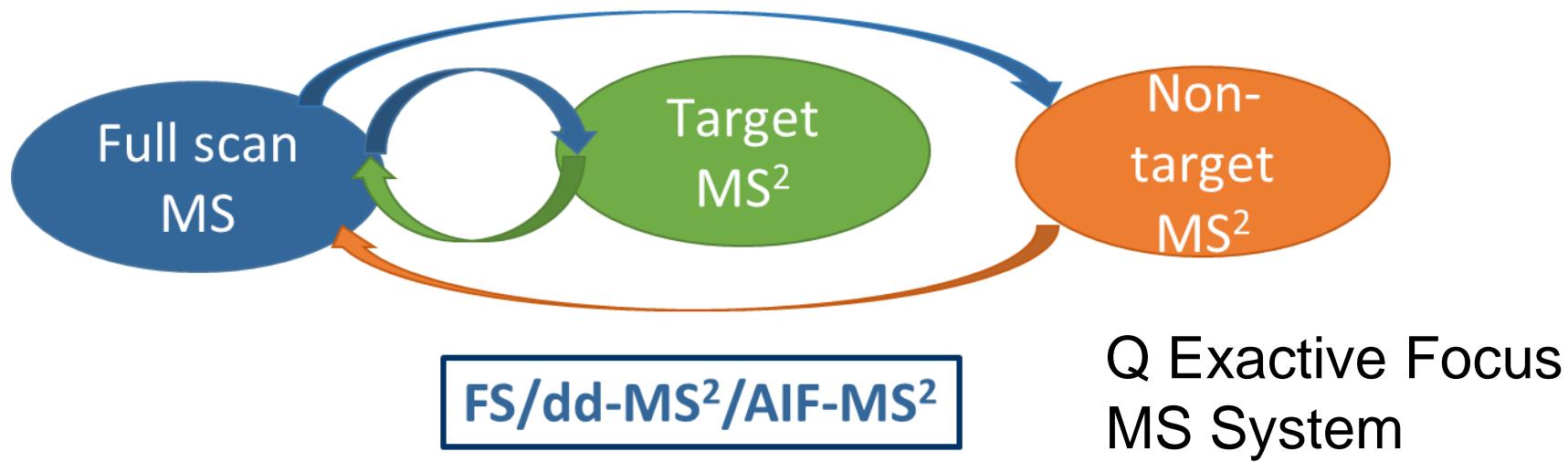
Quantification:LC - Q Exactive Focus MS vs LC - QqQ

Matrix	Compound	Concentration (mg/kg)		
		LC-QqQ-MS/MS	LC-Q-Orbitrap-MS/MS	Diff (%)
Conferencia Pear1	Boscalid	0.168	0.154	8
	Difenoconazole	0.027	0.029	-7
	Diflubenzuron	0.014	0.017	-21
	Imazalil	1.711	1.334	22
	Imidacloprid	0.047	0.052	-11
	Pyraclostrobin	0.114	0.096	16
	Tebuconazole	0.048	0.048	0
	Thiacloprid	0.037	0.036	3
	Trifloxystrobin	0.024	0.021	13
Conferencia Pear2	Boscalid	0.175	0.177	-1
	Difenoconazole	0.012	0.013	-8
	Fluopyram	0.027	0.026	4
	Imazalil	1.359	1.093	20
	Imidacloprid	0.053	0.061	-15
	Pyraclostrobin	0.067	0.063	6
	Tebuconazole	0.044	0.047	-7
Red Pepper	Flutriafol	0.019	0.013	32
Red Chili Pepper	Flutriafol	0.397	0.368	7
	Pirimicarb	0.034	0.034	0
Banana	Imazalil	0.915	0.788	14

Courtesy Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almeria, Spain ,

The AQC Burden-LC-MS/MS

- 464 pesticides / 516 matrices /33,500 samples
- 239 pesticides in 0 samples
- 84 pesticides in < 10 samples
- Monitor 166 pesticides only with rigorous AQC



Courtesy Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almería, Spain ,

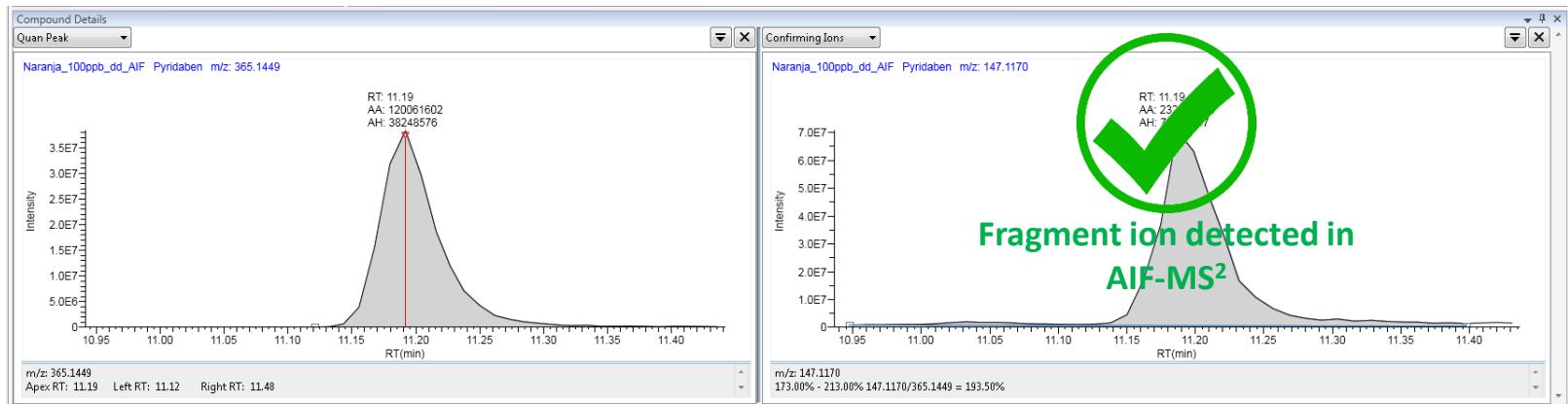
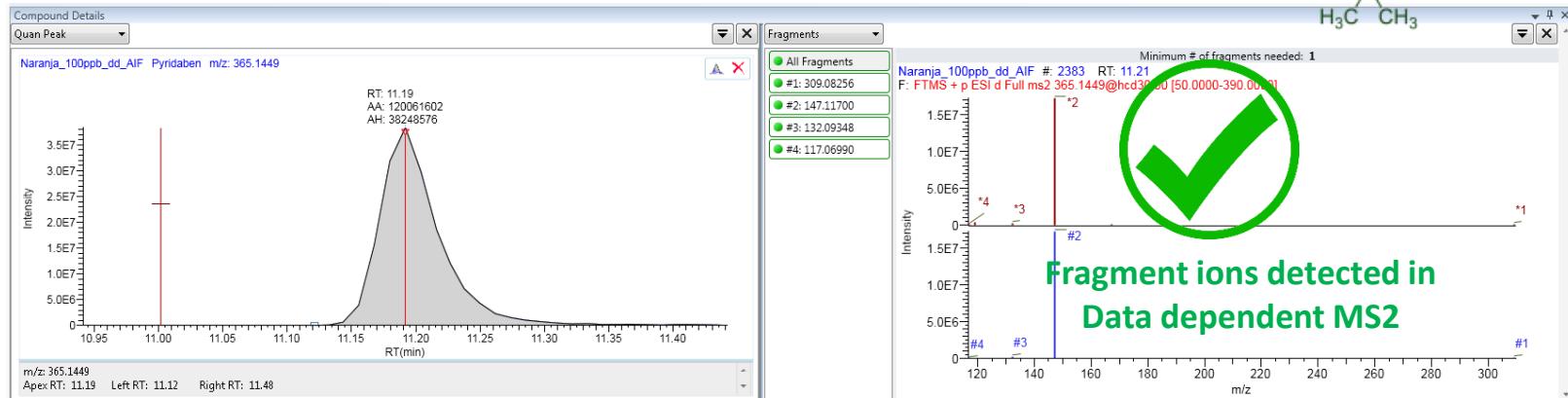
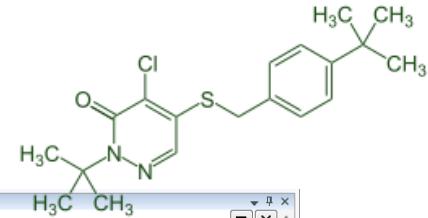
FS/dd-MS²/AIF-MS²

Pyridaben (target compound)

0.1 mg/kg in orange

MS

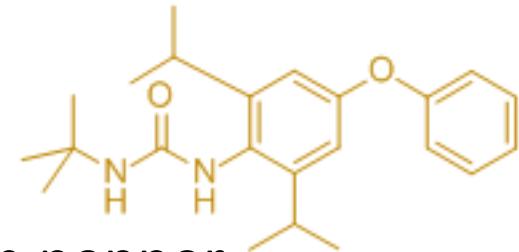
MS²



Courtesy Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almeria, Spain ,

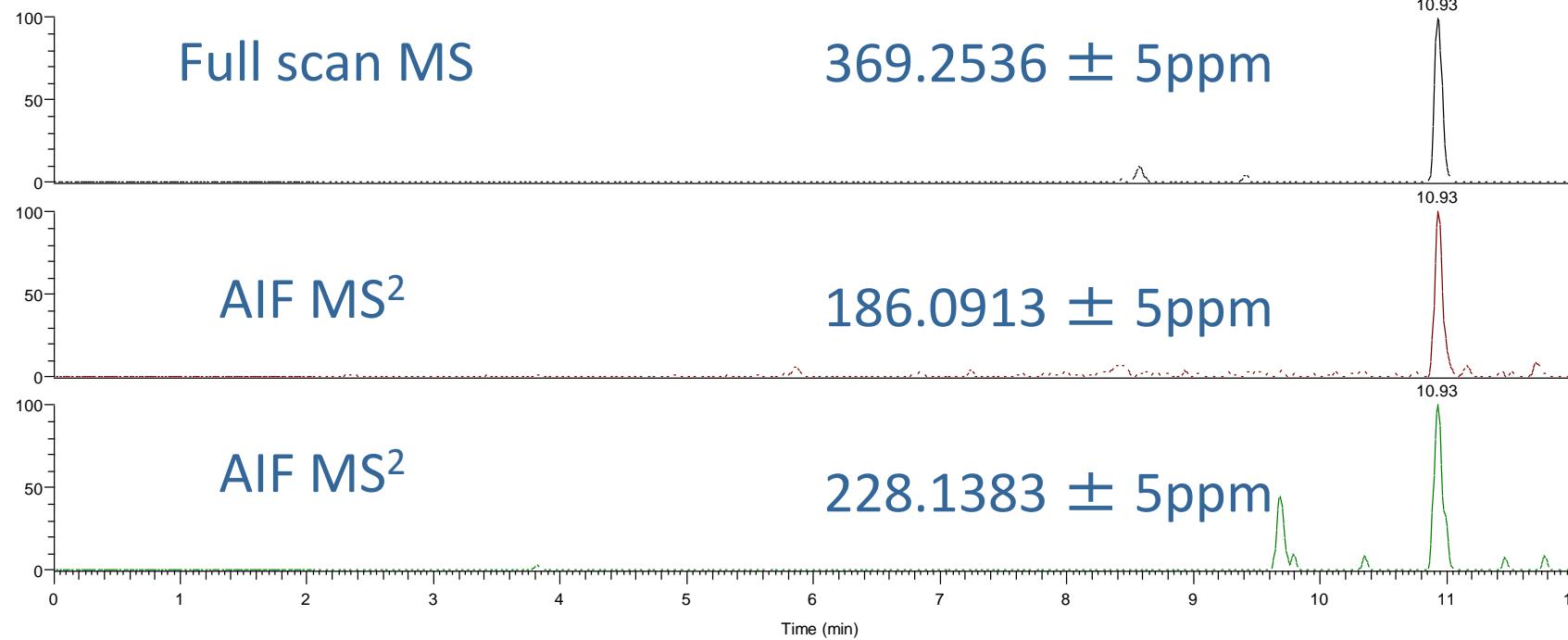
Analysis of Real Samples: Diafenthiuron Metabolite in Pepper

DETECTION OF NON-TARGET PESTICIDES



Diafenthiuron urea (metabolite of diafenthiuron) in pepper
mass of protonated molecule = m/z 369.2536

RT: 0.00 - 12.11 SM: 9G

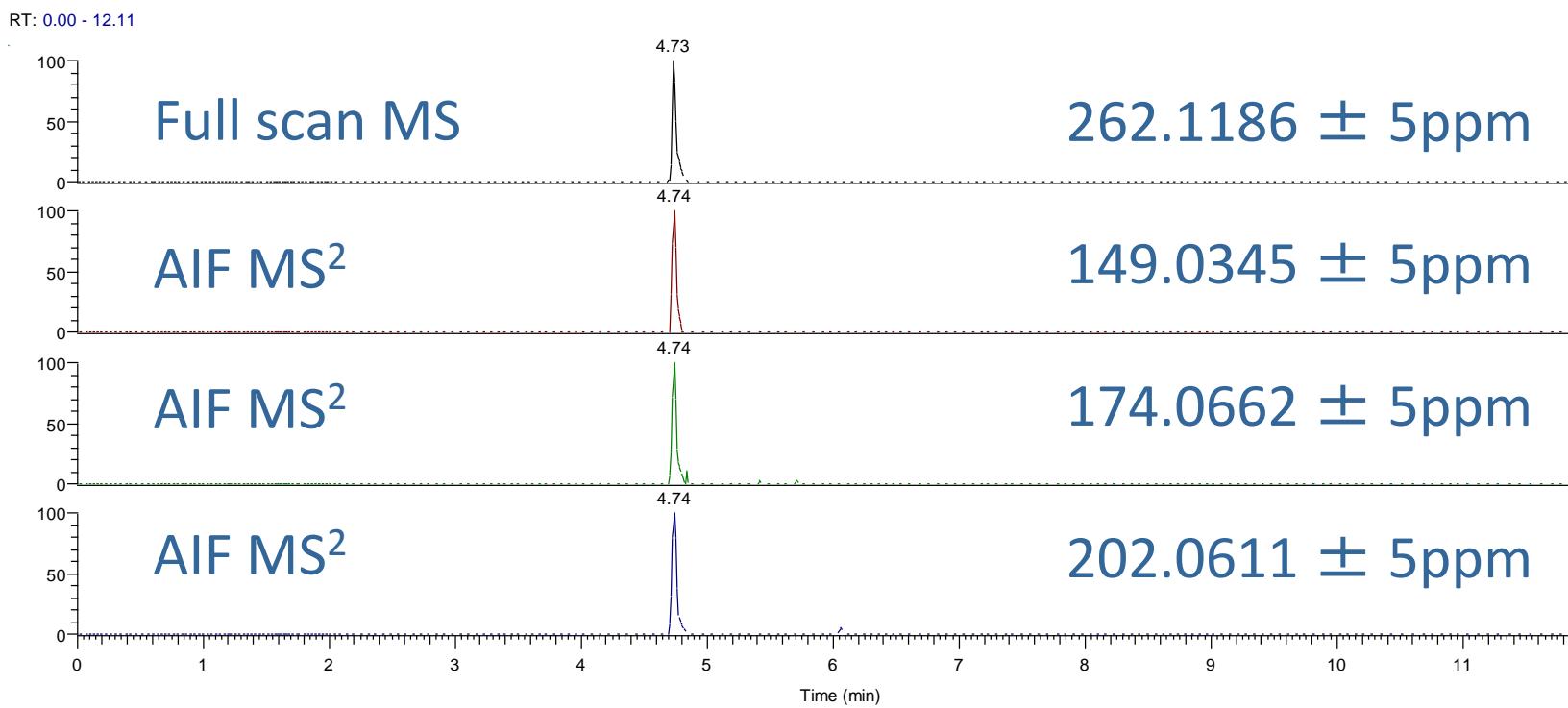
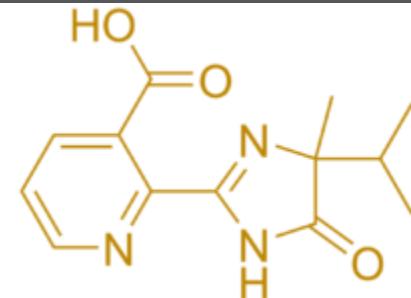


Courtesy Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almería, Spain ,

Analysis of Real Samples: Imazapyr in Pears

DETECTION OF NON-TARGET PESTICIDES

- not included in EU Monitoring Program
- protonated molecule = m/z 262.1186



Courtesy Prof. Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, University of Almeria, Spain ,

Summary (Orbitrap MS)

- 1. **Sensitivity / Selectivity** – ppt detection / > 60/70K Resolution
- 2. **Precision and Accuracy** (better than QQQ especially for difficult samples)
- 3. **Stability** – Mass accuracy for days without re-calibration
- 4. **>Scope** –targeted and non targeted workflows in one run
- 5. Analysis of **different classes of analytes**- subject to extraction
- 6. **User Friendly** – easier to learn than QqQ
- 7. **Results compliant with SANTE guidelines**
- 8. All of the above is assurance on **Productivity**

I hope that you are some of you are least better informed to be able to make the decision on which workflow is best for you



Please come to our stand if you have further comments and questions.



Analyte Guru Blog

<http://www.analyteguru.com>



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Solutions](http://www.facebook.com/ChromatographySolutions)



<http://www.youtube.com/ChromSolutions>



<http://pinterest.com/chromsolutions>

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<http://www.thermofisher.com/foodandbeverage>