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Multiresidue determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in edible oils by liquidliquid extraction–solid-phase extraction–gas chromatography–mass spectrometry

Andrés J. Rascón, Abdelmonaim Azzouz, Evaristo Ballesteros

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- 5 Andrés J. Rascón, Abdelmonaim Azzouz, Evaristo Ballesteros*
- 6 Department of Physical and Analytical Chemistry, E.P.S of Linares, University of Jaén,
- 7 23700 Linares, Jaén, Spain

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ABSTRACT

- 10 The presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in edible oils is usually due to
- environmental contamination, manufacturing processes or the nature of the oil. Because oils
- constitute a very large family of foodstuffs that are ubiquitous in human diet, the presence of
- 13 PAHs in them may have a considerable impact. In this work, we developed a method for
- determining EPA's 16 PAH priority pollutants using liquid–liquid and solid-phase extraction
- 15 for their extraction and isolation, and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry for their
- quantification. The proposed method is highly sensitive, with limits of detection from 4 to 110
- 17 ng kg⁻¹, accurate (PAH recoveries of 87–104 %) and precise (relative standard deviation <
- 18 7.5 %). Application to various types of oil (olive, sunflower, coconut, soybean and sesame)
- 19 testified to its flexibility. Most of the samples studied contained more than three PAHs, albeit
- at concentrations below the legally allowed levels. Only two samples of refined sunflower oil
- 21 contained no PAH at levels within the sensitivity range of the method.

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- 23 **Keywords:** polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; edible oils; continuous solid-phase extraction;
- 24 gas chromatography–mass spectrometry.

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- **27** * Corresponding author. Tel./Fax: +34 953648560.
- E-mail address: eballes@ujaen.es

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