# Supplementary Material

**Exposure to mycotoxin-mixtures via breast milk:
An ultra-sensitive LC-MS/MS biomonitoring approach**

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## Supporting Materials and Methods

### MS and MS/MS parameters

Analytes on the QTrap®6500+ instrument were optimized using the ‘compound optimization’ tool included in the Analyst software. Hence, preferential parameters for declustering potential (DP), collision energy (CE) and cell exit potential (CXP) were determined for all analytes.

Operation parameters of the Turbo-V ion source were as follows: source temperature 450°C, curtain gas 30 psi, collision gas high, ion source gases (sheath and drying gas) 80 psi and the ion spray voltage was set to 4500 V in positive and -4500 V in negative mode.

## Supplementary Figures and Tables

### Z:\06.Paper\02.Short communication\Figures\Figure A1\190905_SPE Reservoir_1.emfSupplementary Figure

Supplementary Figure S1. Solid phase extraction using a water preloaded reservoir to dilute the QuEChERS extract directly to 5% ACN



**Supplementary Figure S2.** MRM-chromatogram of a calibration standard in breast milk including all measured analytes



**Supplementary Figure S3.** Extracted MRM-chromatogram of an artificially spiked breast milk sample of selected aflatoxins

### Supplementary Tables

**Supplementary Table S1.** Analyte specific MS and MS/MS parameters as optimized on the TSQ Vantage instrument

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Analyte | tRa | Precursor ion | Ion species | Product ionb | CEc | S-Lens | Dwell timed |
|  | (min) | (*m/z*) |  | (*m/z*) | (V) | (eV) | (ms) |
| Aflatoxicol | 6.8 | 297.1 | [M-H2O+H]+ | 269.1/141.1 | 19/49 | 108 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin B1 | 6.1 | 313.1 | [M+H]+ | 285.1/128.1 | 22/69 | 122 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin B2 | 5.9 | 315.1 | [M+H]+ | 287.1/259.1 | 26/29 | 128 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin G1 | 5.6 | 329.1 | [M+H]+ | 243.1/200.0 | 26/40 | 105 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin G2 | 5.4 | 331.1 | [M+H]+ | 189.1/245.1 | 39/30 | 120 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin M1 | 5.4 | 329.1 | [M+H]+ | 273.0/229.0 | 24/41 | 126 | 15/5 |
| 13C-Aflatoxin M1 | 5.4 | 346.1 | [M+H]+ | 288.2 | 24 | 126 | 15 |
| Aflatoxin M2 | 5.2 | 331.1 | [M+H]+ | 273.0/285.0 | 24/23 | 121 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin P1 | 5.7 | 299.0 | [M+H]+ | 271.0/215.0 | 24/28 | 136 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin Q1 | 5.3 | 329.1 | [M+H]+ | 206.0/177.0 | 24/34 | 126 | 15/5 |
| Aflatoxin B1-N7-guanine | 4.8 | 480.2 | [M+H]+ | 152.0/135.0 | 20/50 | 85 | 15/5 |
| Alternariol | 7.2 | 257.1 | [M-H]- | 215.1/147.1 | 27/33 | 70 | 15/5 |
| 2H-Alternariol | 7.2 | 261.0 | [M-H]- | 150.0 | 27 | 70 | 15 |
| Alternariol monomethyl ether | 9.0 | 271.1 | [M-H]- | 256.1/227.1 | 23/38 | 73 | 15/5 |
| Beauvericin | 11.9 | 801.4 | [M+NH4]+ | 243.9/133.9 | 29/51 | 138 | 15/5 |
| Citrinin | 6.1 | 281.1 | [M+MeOH-H]- | 205.0/175.0 | 24/39 | 85 | 15/5 |
| 13C-Citrinin | 6.1 | 294.1 | [M+MeOH-H]- | 262.0 | 24 | 85 | 15 |
| Deoxynivalenol | 4.0 | 355.1 | [M+OAc]- | 265.2/247.2/59.0 | 17/19/19 | 75 | 15/5/5 |
| 13C-Deoxynivalenol | 4.0 | 370.1 | [M+OAc]- | 278.8 | 17 | 75 | 15 |
| Dihydrocitrinone | 5.4 | 265.1 | [M-H]- | 221.1/247.1 | 20/19 | 71 | 15/5 |
| Enniatin A | 12.6 | 699.5 | [M+NH4]+ | 210.0/228.0 | 29/29 | 127 | 15/5 |
| Enniatin A1 | 12.3 | 685.5 | [M+NH4]+ | 210.1/228.2 | 29/28 | 113 | 15/5 |
| Enniatin B | 11.8 | 657.4 | [M+NH4]+ | 196.3/214.0 | 28/31 | 114 | 15/5 |
| Enniatin B1 | 12.0 | 671.4 | [M+NH4]+ | 196.0/210.0 | 29/29 | 114 | 15/5 |
| HT-2 toxin | 7.1 | 442.2 | [M+NH4]+ | 263.1/215.0 | 12/12 | 68 | 15/5 |
| Nivalenol | 3.5 | 371.1 | [M+OAc]- | 281.1/311.2/59.1 | 22/11/19 | 66 | 15/5/5 |
| 13C-Nivalenol | 3.5 | 386.1 | [M+OAc]- | 295.2 | 22 | 66 | 15 |
| Ochratoxin A | 7.4 | 404.1 | [M+H]+ | 239.0/102.0 | 25/62 | 99 | 15/5 |
| 13C-Ochratoxin A | 7.4 | 424.1 | [M+H]+ | 250.0 | 25 | 99 | 15 |
| Ochratoxin B | 6.5 | 370.1 | [M+H]+ | 205.0/103.0 | 21/49 | 84 | 15/5 |
| Ochratoxin α | 5.2 | 254.9 | [M-H]- | 166.9/210.9 | 25/17 | 74 | 15/5 |
| Sterigmatocystin | 8.9 | 325.1 | [M+H]+ | 281.1/310.1 | 37/24 | 118 | 15/5 |
| T-2 toxin | 7.9 | 484.3 | [M+NH4]+ | 215.1/185.1 | 14/20 | 83 | 15/5 |
| Tentoxin | 7.4 | 413.2 | [M-H]- | 271.2/141.1 | 19/22 | 100 | 15/5 |
| Zearalanone | 8.3 | 319.2 | [M-H]- | 275.2/205.2 | 23/23 | 115 | 15/5 |
| α-Zearalanol | 8.0 | 321.2 | [M-H]- | 277.2 | 23/24 | 110 | 15/5 |
| β-Zearalanol | 7.3 | 321.2 | [M-H]- | 277.2/303.3 | 23/24 | 110 | 15/5 |
| Zearalenone | 8.5 | 317.1 | [M-H]- | 175.1/131.1 | 25/30 | 123 | 15/5 |
| 13C-Zearalenone | 8.5 | 335.1 | [M-H]- | 185.1 | 25 | 123 | 15 |
| α-Zearalenol | 8.2 | 319.1 | [M-H]- | 275.3/160.1 | 22/29 | 82 | 15/5 |
| β-Zearalenol | 7.6 | 319.0 | [M-H]- | 275.3/160.0 | 22/33 | 82 | 15/5 |

a Retention time.

b Quantifier/qualifier.

c Collision energy.

d Reported as quantifier/qualifier dwell time.

**Supplementary Table S2**. Performance characteristics of the method as obtained during in-house validation on the TSQ Vantage instrument including concentration range of matrix matched standard calibration, regression coefficient (R2), spiking levels, recoveries of the extraction step (RE), intermediate precision (RSDR), repeatability (RSDr), signal suppression/enhancement (SSE), limits of detection (LOD) and limits of quantification (LOQ).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Analyte | Regression coefficients | Spiking levela | RE ± RSDR intermediate level | RE ± RSDR high level | RSDrb | SSEc | LOD | LOQ |
|  | R² | [ng L-1] | [%] | [%] | [%] | [%] | [ng L-1] | [ng L-1] |
| Aflatoxicol | 0.9940 | 240/1200 | 83 ± 4 | 87 ± 2 | 4/2 | 56 | 75 | 150 |
| Aflatoxin B1 | 0.9841 | 48/240 | 85 ± 10 | 86 ± 2 | 11/3 | 69 | 10 | 20 |
| Aflatoxin B2 | 0.9889 | 48/240 | 87 ± 12 | 86 ± 9 | 18/7 | 72 | 8.0 | 16 |
| Aflatoxin G1 | 0.9894 | 48/240 | 79 ± 12 | 90 ± 8 | 8/5 | 71 | 7.0 | 14 |
| Aflatoxin G2 | 0.9826 | 48/240 | 76 ± 26 | 81 ± 8 | 24/9 | 80 | 18 | 36 |
| Aflatoxin M1 | 0.9929 | 48/240 | 71 ± 15 | 85 ± 7 | 11/5 | 94 | 5.0 | 10 |
| Aflatoxin M2 | 0.9697 | 48/240 | 74 ± 14 | 76 ± 11 | 9/14 | 90 | 8.0 | 16 |
| Aflatoxin P1 | 0.9808 | 48/240 | 79 ± 15 | 79 ± 10 | 7/10 | 65 | 22 | 44 |
| Aflatoxin Q1 | 0.9817 | 48/240 | 71 ± 17 | 83 ± 6 | 17/4 | 82 | 20 | 40 |
| Aflatoxin B1-N7-guanine | 0.9719 | 240/1200 | 26 ± 42 | 29 ± 31 | 18/41 | 94 | 40 | 80 |
| Alternariold | 0.9800 | 96/480 | 4 ± 44 | 3 ± 33 | 53/31 | 38 | 10 | 20 |
| Alternariol monomethyl ethere | 0.9948 | 96/480 | 71 ± 6 | 73 ± 3 | 7/5 | 43 | 5.0 | 10 |
| Beauvericine | 0.9901 | 10/48 | 91 ± 9 | 86 ± 6 | 7/9 | 62 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| Citrinin | 0.9965 | 48/240 | 117 ± 22 | 95 ± 21 | 14/26 | 85 | 3.0 | 6.0 |
| Deoxynivalenold | 0.9625 | 720/3600 | - | - | - | 83 | 225 | 450 |
| Dihydrocitrinone | 0.9866 | 96/480 | 36 ± 28 | 34 ± 32 | 26/35 | 83 | 20 | 40 |
| Enniatin A | 0.9913 | 9.6/48 | 67 ± 15 | 79 ± 5 | 9/7 | 65 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| Enniatin A1 | 0.9741 | 9.6/48 | 54 ± 24 | 95 ± 26 | 25/17 | 71 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| Enniatin Be | 0.9766 | 9.6/48 | 73 ± 36 | 83 ± 12 | 23/8 | 51 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Enniatin B1e | 0.9612 | 9.6/48 | 55 ± 34 | 78 ± 9 | 15/8 | 63 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| HT-2 toxin | 0.9877 | 720/3600 | 64 ± 43 | 102 ± 10 | 31/7 | 90 | 455 | 910 |
| Nivalenold | 0.9979 | 1280/6400 | - | - | - | 97 | 400 | 800 |
| Ochratoxin Ae | 0.9890 | 96/480 | 77 ± 5 | 88 ± 5 | 5/5 | 86 | 5.0 | 10 |
| Ochratoxin B | 0.9941 | 96/480 | 89 ± 5 | 93 ± 4 | 5/4 | 87 | 6.0 | 12 |
| Ochratoxin α | 0.9865 | 160/800 | 62 ± 24 | 60 ± 9 | 14/10 | 83 | 34 | 68 |
| Sterigmatocystin | 0.9797 | 24/120 | 78 ± 20 | 87 ± 4 | 15/6 | 57 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| T-2 toxin | 0.9845 | 96/480 | 81 ± 17 | 89 ± 10 | 29/13 | 70 | 33 | 66 |
| Tentoxin | 0.9936 | 96/480 | 78 ± 13 | 83 ± 6 | 11/6 | 74 | 20 | 40 |
| Zearalanone | 0.9592 | 96/480 | 71 ± 45 | 81 ± 16 | 72/11 | 40 | 76 | 152 |
| α-Zearalanol | 0.9768 | 128/640 | 77 ± 12 | 83 ± 3 | 12/5 | 32 | 66 | 132 |
| β-Zearalanol | 0.9931 | 128/640 | 78 ± 10 | 76 ± 5 | 7/4 | 55 | 50 | 100 |
| Zearalenone | 0.9861 | 96/480 | 87 ± 11 | 75 ± 8 | 7/5 | 45 | 28 | 56 |
| α-Zearalenol | 0.9265 | 128/640 | 46 ± 85 | 89 ± 10 | 30/17 | 38 | 58 | 116 |
| β-Zearalenol | 0.9833 | 128/640 | 75 ± 22 | 77 ± 5 | 19/5 | 51 | 64 | 128 |

a Spiking levels reported in the following order: intermediate level/ high level.

b RSDr values reported in the following order: intermediate level/ high level.

c SSE calculated as the slope of calibration in matrix divided by the slope of calibration in solution expressed in percent.

d AOH, DON and NIV could not be recovered following our extraction procedure with the exception of AOH at the highest spiked level. Therefore, none of these toxins were successfully validated.

e Non-spiked pooled matrix sample was contaminated. Therefore, validation results reported were evaluated by standard addition.

**Supplementary Table S3.** Concentration levels of mycotoxins found in the pooled Austrian sample and a small set of Nigerian samples (n=3) using the optimized protocol. Individual Nigerian sample concentration was compared with data obtained following our previous protocol.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AFM1** | **AME** | **BEA** | **EnnA** | **EnnA1** | **EnnB** | **EnnB1** | **OTA** | **OTB** | **ZEN** |
| **ng L-1** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LOD | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 16 |
| Austrian pooled sample | n.d | 1.9 | 5.4 | n.d | n.d | 3.7 | <LOQ | <LOQ | n.d | <LOQ |
| Nigerian sample #1 | n.d | 5.7 | 15 | n.d | n.d | 2.4 | <LOQ | 5.7 | n.d | n.d |
| Nigerian sample #2 | n.d | 3.8 | 1.6 | <LOQ | <LOQ | <LOQ | <LOQ | 65 | LOD | n.d |
| Nigerian sample #3 | 5.3 | 25 | 13 | n.d | n.d | <LOQ | <LOQ | 14 | LOD | n.d |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Previous protocol** **(Braun *et al*. 2018 )** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LOD | 43 | n.a | 6.0 | 5.0 | 12 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 48 | 63 | 93 |
| Austrian pooled sample | n.d | n.a | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d |
| Nigerian sample #1 | n.d | n.a | 19 | n.d | n.d | <LOQ | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d |
| Nigerian sample #2 | n.d | n.a | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | <LOQ | n.d | n.d |
| Nigerian sample #3 | n.d | n.a | 12 | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d | n.d |

LOD: limit of detection.

LOQ: limit of quantification.

n.d.: not detected.

n.a.: not assessed.

## References

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