

Analysis of N-nitroso-fenfluramine using LC-MS

A provisional method for analyzing N-nitroso-fenfluramine has been indicated by the Japanese National Institute of Health Sciences, where LC-MS or LC-PDA, or alternatively GC-MS is utilized. The data shown here was generated by obtaining 50 mg from a capsule of a diet food product, adding 5 mL of methanol, and analyzing the extract with a LCMS-2010A system (extraction ratio and recovery rate were not studied). Figure 1 shows the TIC (total ion

chromatogram) and mass chromatograms for the sample and Figure 2 shows the mass spectra. Fenfluramine was eluted with a retention time of six minutes and a MH^+ m/z 232 peak was detected. In addition, after an N-nitroso-fenfluramine retention time of 16.5 - 17.5 min, two peaks indicating isomers were eluted, where MH^+ m/z 261 and $[M+H+CH_3CN]^+$ m/z 302 peaks were detected.

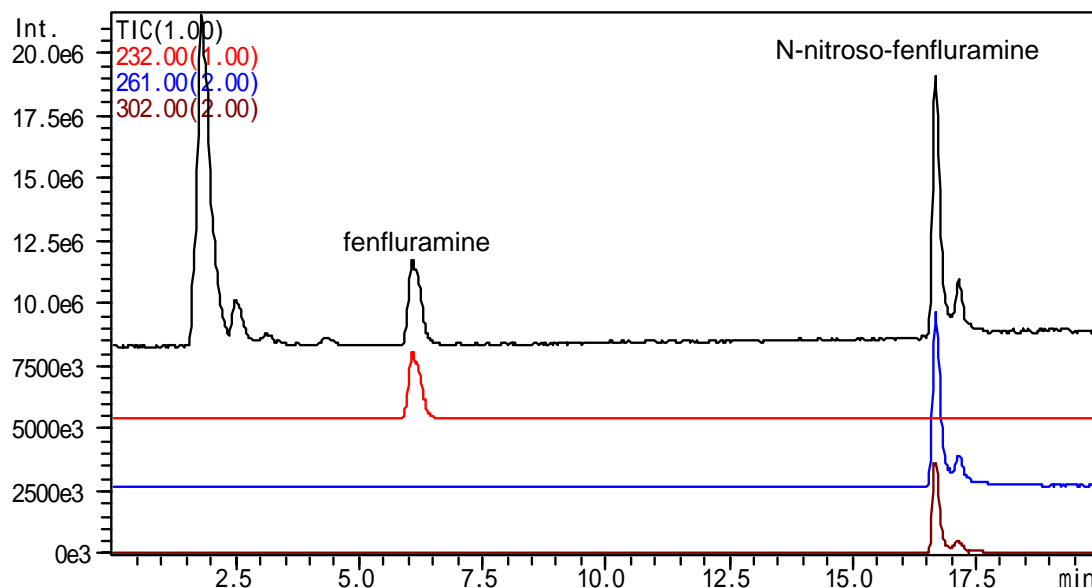


Fig. 1 Total ion chromatogram and mass chromatograms

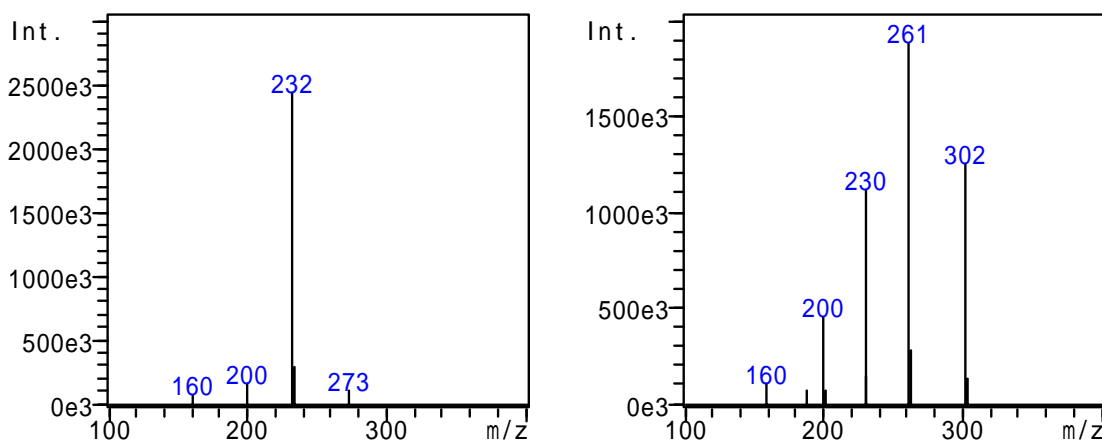


Fig. 2 Mass spectra of fenfluramine (left) and N-nitroso-fenfluramine (right)

Since a standard fenfluramine product is available in market, SIM (selected ion monitoring) was used for measurement and generating calibration curves. Detection at 1 ng/mL (2 pg) was possible and the correlation coefficient at 1 - 100 ng/mL (n=2) was over 0.999

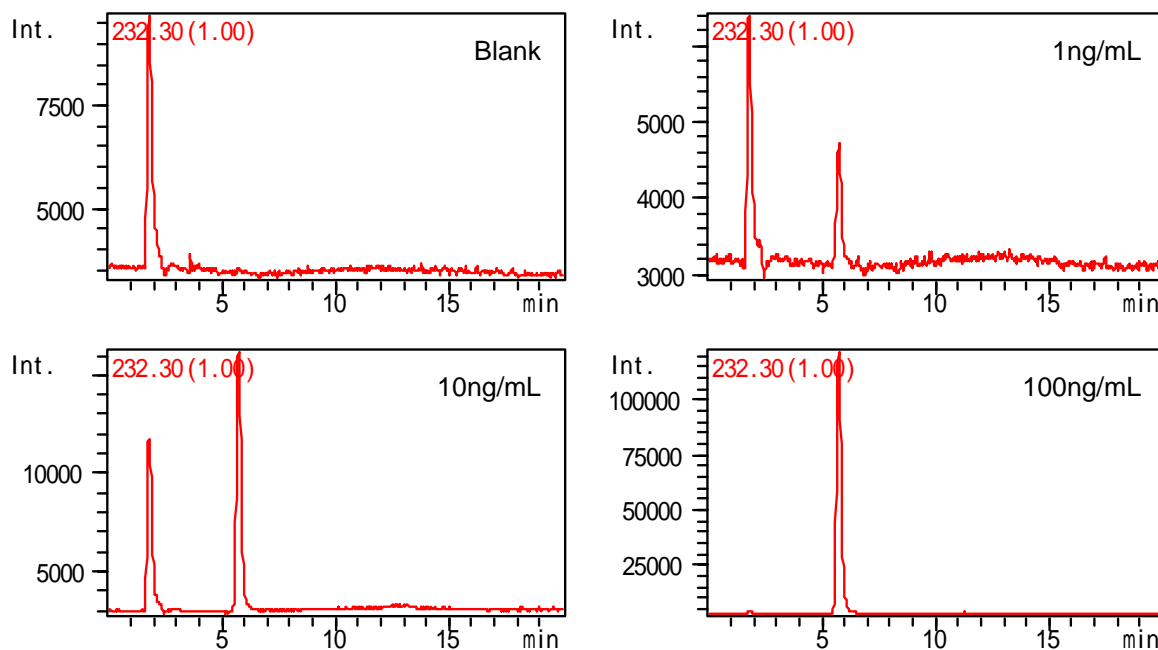


Fig.3 SIM chromatograms of fenfluramine

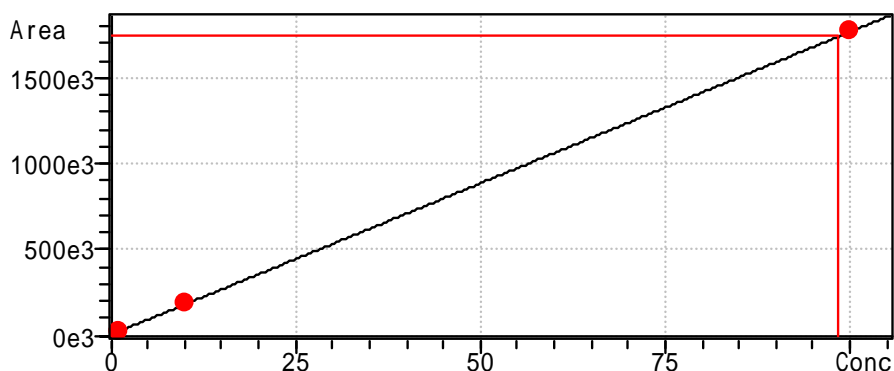


Fig.4 Calibration curve of fenfluramine

Table 1 Analytical conditions for LC-MS

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Column | : Phenomenex LUNA 5u C18(2) (2.0 mmI.D. x 150 mmL) | | |
| Mobile phase A | : 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in water | | |
| Mobile phase B | : 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in acetonitrile | | |
| Time program | : 30%B (0 min) - 80%B (15 min) - 80%B (20 min) | | |
| Flow rate | : 0.2 mL/min | | |
| Injection volume | : 2 μ L | Column temperature | : 30 $^{\circ}$ C |
| Probe voltage | : +4.5 kV (ESI-Positive mode) | Block heater temperature | : 200 $^{\circ}$ C |
| CDL temperature | : 250 $^{\circ}$ C | | |
| Nebulizing gas flow | : 1.5 L/min | | |
| Drying gas flow | : 0.2 MPa | | |
| CDL voltage | : Scan-mode | Q-array RF voltage | : Scan-mode |
| Q-array DC voltage | : Scan-mode | | |
| Scan range | : m/z 100 - 400 (1.0 sec/scan) | | |
| SIM | : 232.3 (1.0 sec/ch, fenfluramine) | | |

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