Unknown Identification Using KnowItAll™ Adaptive MS and IR Search "Real World Example" August 15, 2022

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White Powder





KnowItAll™ Attributes

Vendor-neutral *integrated* solution to identify unknowns

Techniques: IR, Raman, MS, NMR, and UV
 Supported File Formats: >170
 Structure Drawing Program: ChemWindows
 Large Number of Reference Spectra:

264K IR 25K Raman 1.25M EI Mass Spec 894K NMR 30K UV ~2.5 M total!

Ability to Create User Libraries!

Standard Identity MS Search Fails

- Standard identify MS search
- Yields no useful results by visual comparison
- Hit Quality Index (HQI) very low
- Usually >70 to be useful

	Table Pl	ot Relate	d Comp	ounds	s View			
	HQI 🔻	R.HQI 🗦	Tag⇒	DE⇒	ID 🗦	Name 🗦	Spectrum <auto> (MS (GC))></auto>	
1	53.89	60.06		MSX	<u>133153</u>	4-(Adamantan-1-yl)-3- nitro-1,2-oxazole	u li di u li di si di si	
2	53.44	54.19		MSX	<u>133806</u>	1,5- Diphenylbicyclo[3.2.0]h eptane		
3	53.34	55.52		MSX	<u>133423</u>	Acetic acid, 1- cyclohexenyl-1-(1- cyclopenten-3-one-1-		

KnowItAll Adaptive Search (Patented)

Finds similar compounds where a molecular fragment is *absent* or *present* in the reference spectrum compared to the unknown

•Presence or absence designated by its Δ mass, difference of nominal molecular weight of known vs. reference

Peaks in the unknown spectrum compared to the reference spectrum *shifted* by ∆mass
The "hybrid" hit quality index value reflects *both* the shifted and unshifted peaks

Results: Adaptive search *routinely* yields *useful results* not found with the more traditional identity search if the component is *not present* in the reference libraries

Thus: Greatly extends the *dynamic range* of *all* reference and *even* user libraries

KnowItAll Adaptive Search Yields Very Useful Results

- Top 3 hits very useful
- Hit Quality Index (HQI) now >70
- • Δm [µ] field shows delta mass associated with result
- Replacement field gives suggestion for fragment added or lost
- "Left clicking" on "i" icon, ①, shows how reference library spectrum shifted to calculate HQI versus unknown spectrum

	Table P	lot Relate	ed Compo	ounds	View						
	HQI 🕴	R.HQI 🗦	Tag⇒	DE⇒	ID ⇒	Name 🗦	Spectrum <auto> (MS (GC))></auto>	Δ m [u]⇒	∆m Info	Replacement	^
1	81.13	83.03	Γ	MSX	114140	1-propionyl-4- anilinopiperidine		16	0	In unknown, Methoxy group replaces Methyl group in refere In unknown, Phenol replaces	n
2	73.96	82.69	٦	MSX	<u>51415</u>	N-Phenyl-4- piperidinamine		72	٦	In unknown, Methoxycarbonylmethyl group replaces Hydrogen in reference.	
3	73.50	75.14	٢	MSX	<u>127948</u>	1-Ethoxycarbonyl-4- piperidinamine, N-		4	١	In unknown, Fluorine replaces Methyl in reference.	~
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Shifted Reference Versus Unknown for Hit Quality Index Calculations

Adaptive Corrections

Adaptive Corrections

The following correction was applied to the reference spectrum to get optimal results:

Some peaks in the reference spectrum were offset horizontally by 16 u

The top spectrum is the unknown spectrum, the bottom spectrum is the unshifted reference spectrum, and the middle one is the shifted spectrum. In the shifted spectrum, the darker red peaks are additions of unshifted peaks and shifted peaks. Dotted lines between shifted and reference spectrum link shifted peaks to their original positions.



Top 3 Hits in Adaptive El Mass Spec Search Unknown White Powder



IR Analysis of Solder Using KnowltAll

■IR of Unknown white powder

- Broad band from 2300-2900 was somewhat unusual
- Possibly a mixture
- Used mixture capabilities of KnowItAll IR search



Results of IR Search Using "Mixture 2" Option

IR search results with "Mixture 2" option

Number of components:	Search Method:		
2 (Mixture) ~	Correlation		
0.3 – ir_unknown			

•Top hit indicates mixture of a carbamate and a hydrochloride salt



Comparing IR Spectra of Unknown to Components 1 and 2 in Mixture Result



Conclusions

- •Unknown white powder tentatively identified as a fentanyl-related species
- •Likely Present as hydrochloride in solid, and free base on GC column
- Confirmed at later date by reference spectra
- Adaptive search critical in the identification process for components not found in reference EI libraries

Demonstrates *power* of *multi-spectral* capabilities of KnowItAll in unknown characterization



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*"Combining Fragment-Ion and Neutral-Loss Matching during Mass Spectral Library Searching: A New General Purpose Algorithm Applicable to Illicit Drug Identification," A. Moorthy, W. Wallace, A. J. Kearsley, D. Tchekhovskoi, and S. Stein, *Analytical Chemistry* **2017** *89* (24), 13261-13268.