



Technology Transition Workshop | *José R. Almirall, Ph.D.*

# ***Introduction to Instrumental Detection Technology (Part 2): SPME and PSPME***

# ***Outline***

- **IMS detection of volatiles**
  - Identification of volatile target compounds
  - Sampling and preconcentration
  - Delivery of sample/analytes to detector
  - Optimization of IMS conditions for new target compounds
  - Determine LODs for optimized sampling/detection
  - Identify sources of false +, false – and potential interferences
- **Comparison between canine and IMS**
- **Novel geometry compatible with IMS**
- **Performance characteristics for PSPME**

# 1. Identify the Volatile Chemical Markers to Target for Detection.

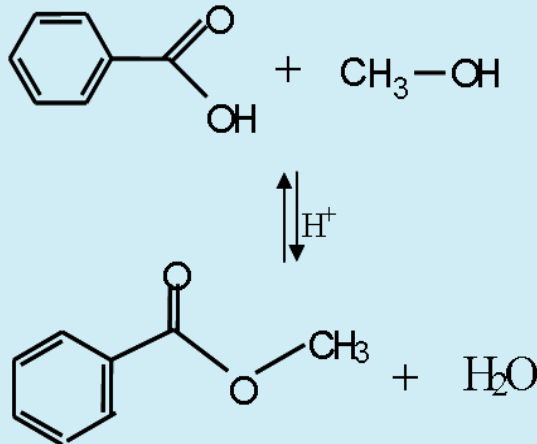
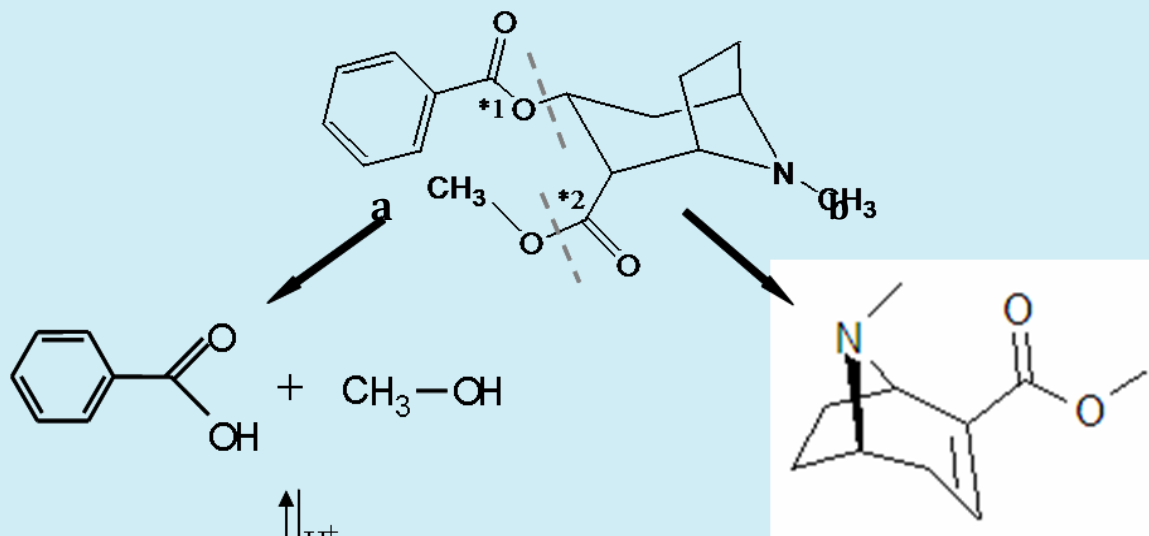
| <u>Category</u> | <u>Vapor Pressure @ STP</u>  | <u>Boiling Point</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Volatile        | >0.1 torr                    | <100° C              |
| Semi-Volatile   | 0.1 to 10 <sup>-7</sup> torr | 100-325° C           |
| Non-Volatile    | <10 <sup>-7</sup> torr       | >325° C              |

| <u>Illicit Drugs</u> | <u>P<sub>v</sub> (torr)</u> | <u>Chemical Markers</u>                    | <u>P<sub>v</sub> (torr)</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cocaine              | 1.2 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>      | methyl benzoate                            | 0.28 @ 20° C                |
| MDMA                 | (low)                       | Piperonal (3,4-methylenedioxybenzaldehyde) | 1.0 @ 87° C                 |
| Marijuana (THC)      | N/A (low)                   | α/β –pinene, limonene, β-caryophyllene     | 1 to 3 @ 20° C              |

Pawliszyn (2002)

# Cocaine Decomposes at \*1 and \*2

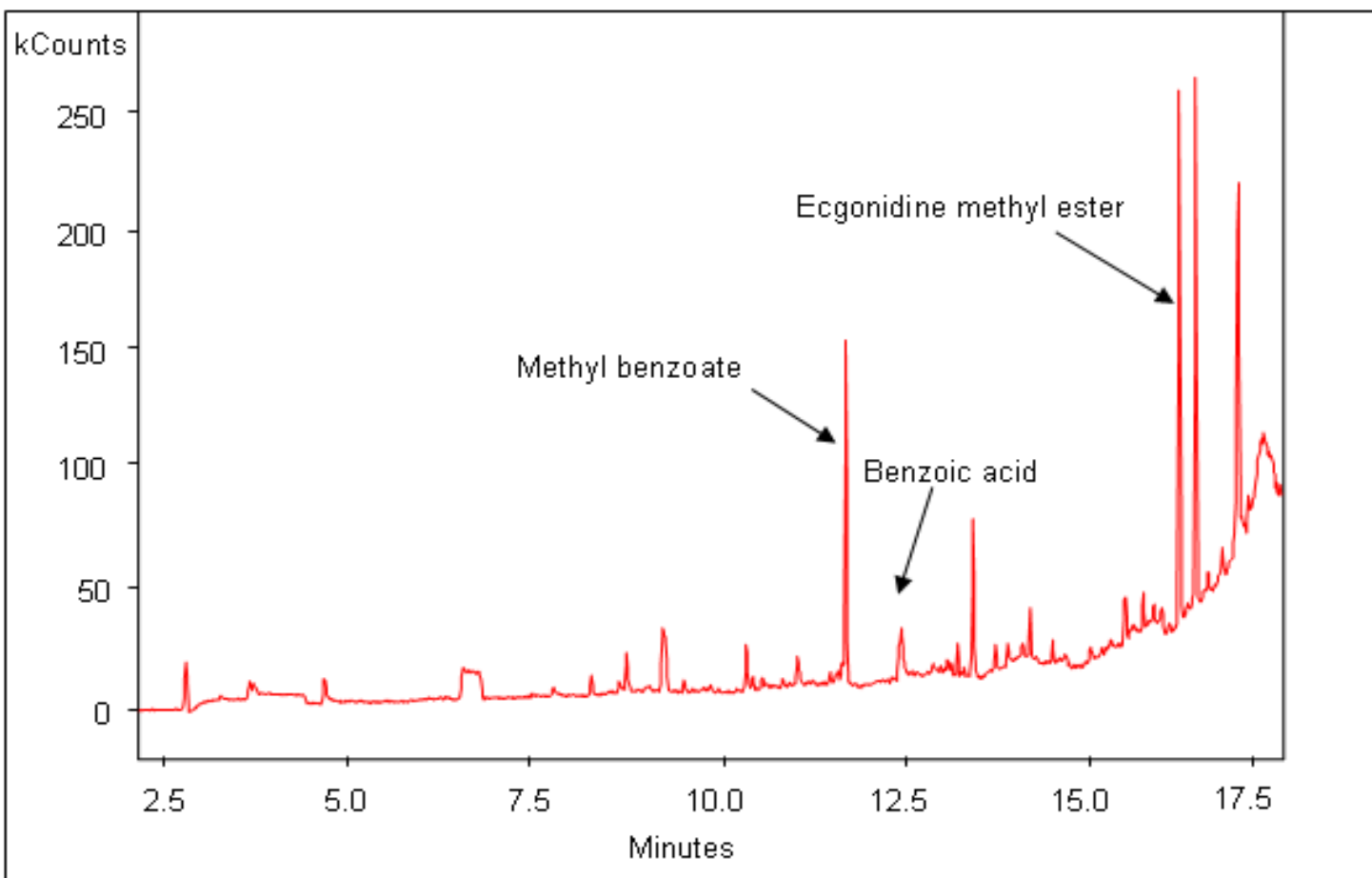
Cocaine  
(MW=303 amu)



Ecgonidine methyl ester (MW=181 amu)

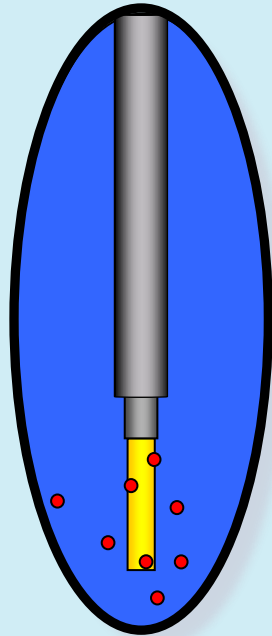
Methyl benzoate  
(MW=174 amu)

# Cocaine SPME-GC/MS



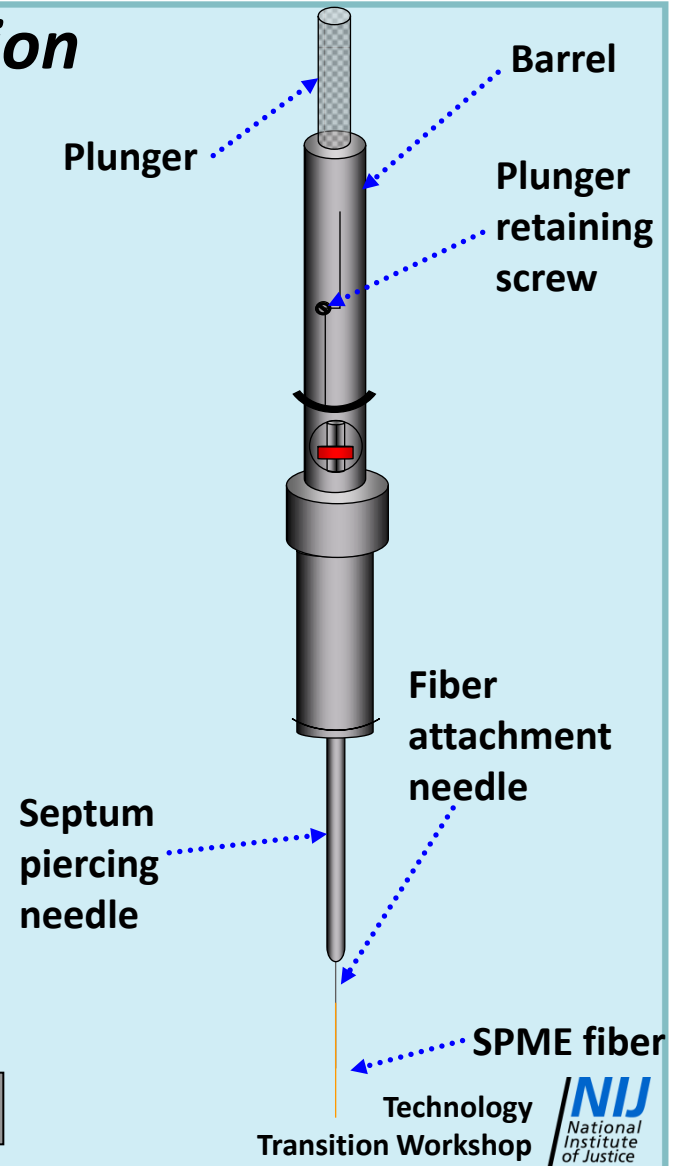
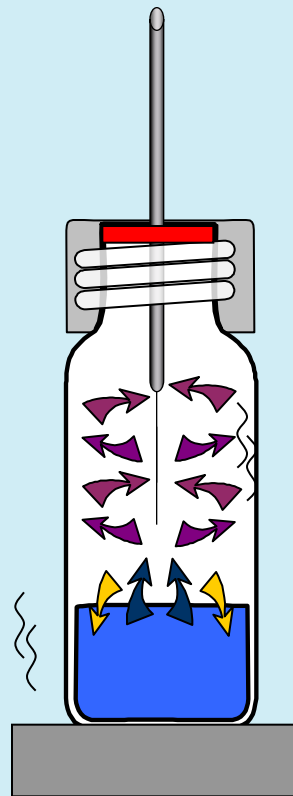
- 25 g (relatively “fresh” cocaine) in gallon-sized can
- 14hr SPME (Carboxen™-PDMS) extraction at room temperature

## 2. Sampling and Preconcentration Solid Phase Microextraction



### Advantages

- ❖ Analyte pre-concentration
- ❖ Selectivity
- ❖ Speed
- ❖ Sensitivity
- ❖ Ease of use
- ❖ Equilibrium-based



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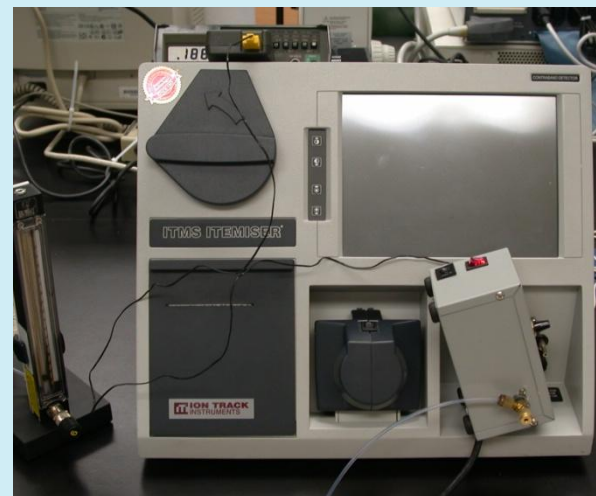
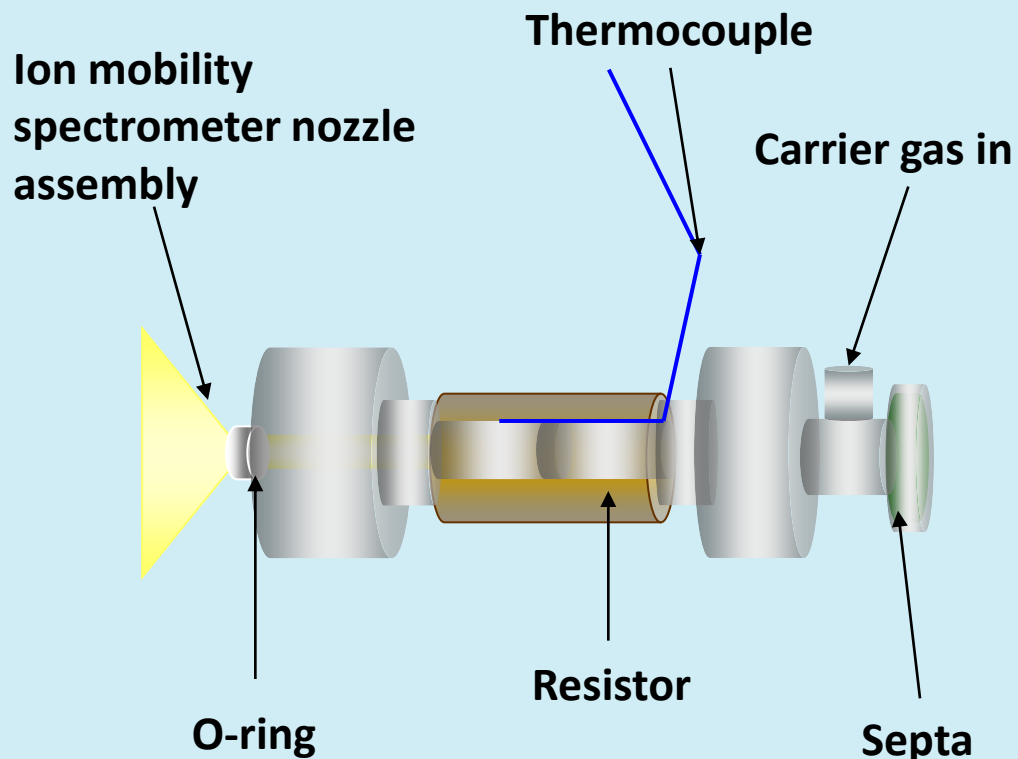
# ***Headspace or Air Sampling***

When the sample volume is very large ( $V_f \ll V_s$ ),  
the equation can be simplified to:

$$n = K_{fs} V_f C_0$$

- **The amount of extracted analyte is independent of the volume of the sample**
- **The amount extracted corresponds directly with the concentration in the matrix and is mediated by:**
  - **The distribution constant between the fiber and the sample (and between the sample and the headspace)**
  - **The amount of sorbent volume**

### 3. Delivery of Sampled Analytes to the Detector – SPME-IMS Interface



PATENT PENDING (Almirall, Florida International University)



- **Current IMS analyzers and other electronic noses are not optimized to detect volatile signature compounds**



## 4. Optimize the IMS Instrumental Conditions to Detect Target Compounds

| <u>Compounds</u>                                               | <u><math>K_o</math></u><br>( $\text{cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{s}$ ) | <u>Temperature</u><br>( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) | <u>Drift Flow</u><br>( $\text{ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ ) | <u>Sample Flow</u><br>( $\text{ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ ) | <u>Dopant</u> | <u>Mode</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Piperonal                                                      | 1.51                                                               | 80                                           | 350                                                      | 500                                                       | Nicotinamide  | Positive    |
| Methyl Benzoate                                                | 1.55                                                               | 190                                          | 250                                                      | 1000                                                      | Air           | Positive    |
| $\alpha/\beta$ -Pinene,<br>limonene,<br>$\beta$ -caryophyllene | 1.28                                                               | 110                                          | 50                                                       | 1000                                                      | Nicotinamide  | Positive    |

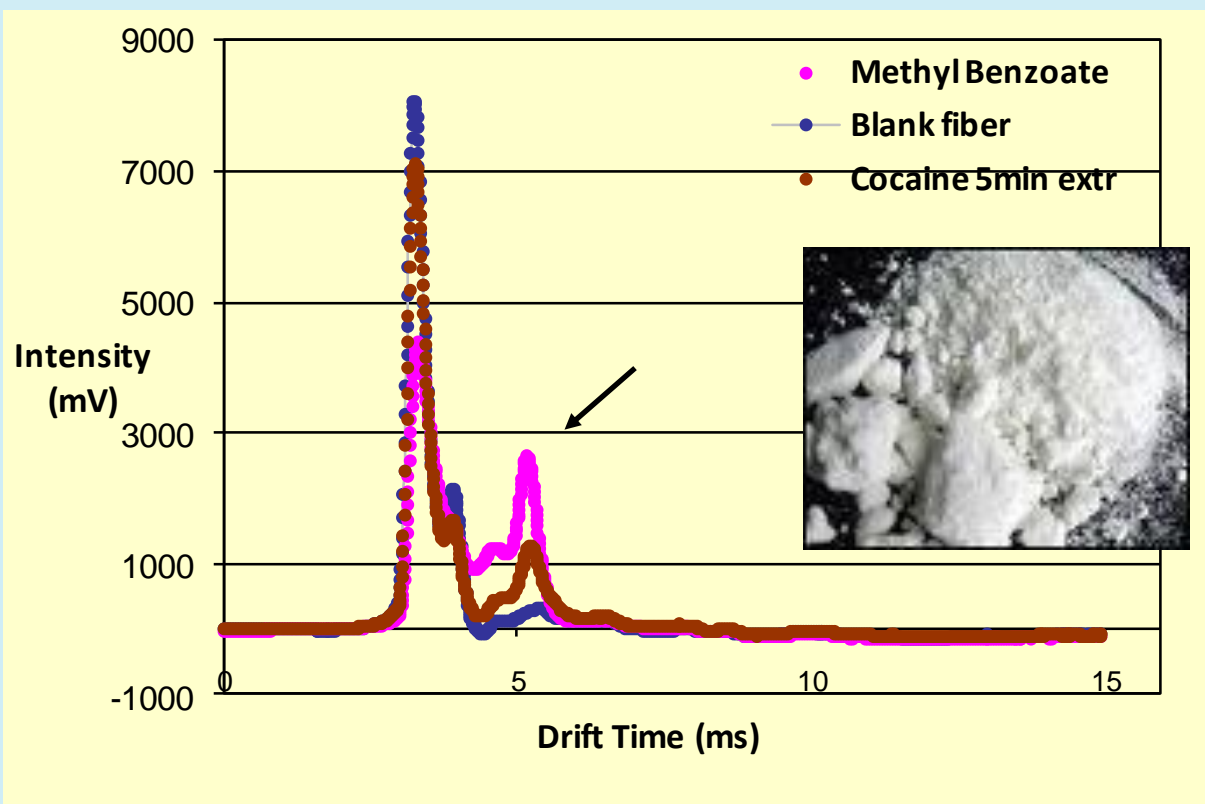
### SPME Parameters

Fiber type: Polydimethyl Siloxane (PDMS), 100 $\mu\text{m}$

Interface temperature: 260 $^{\circ}\text{C}$

Interface warm up: 15 minutes

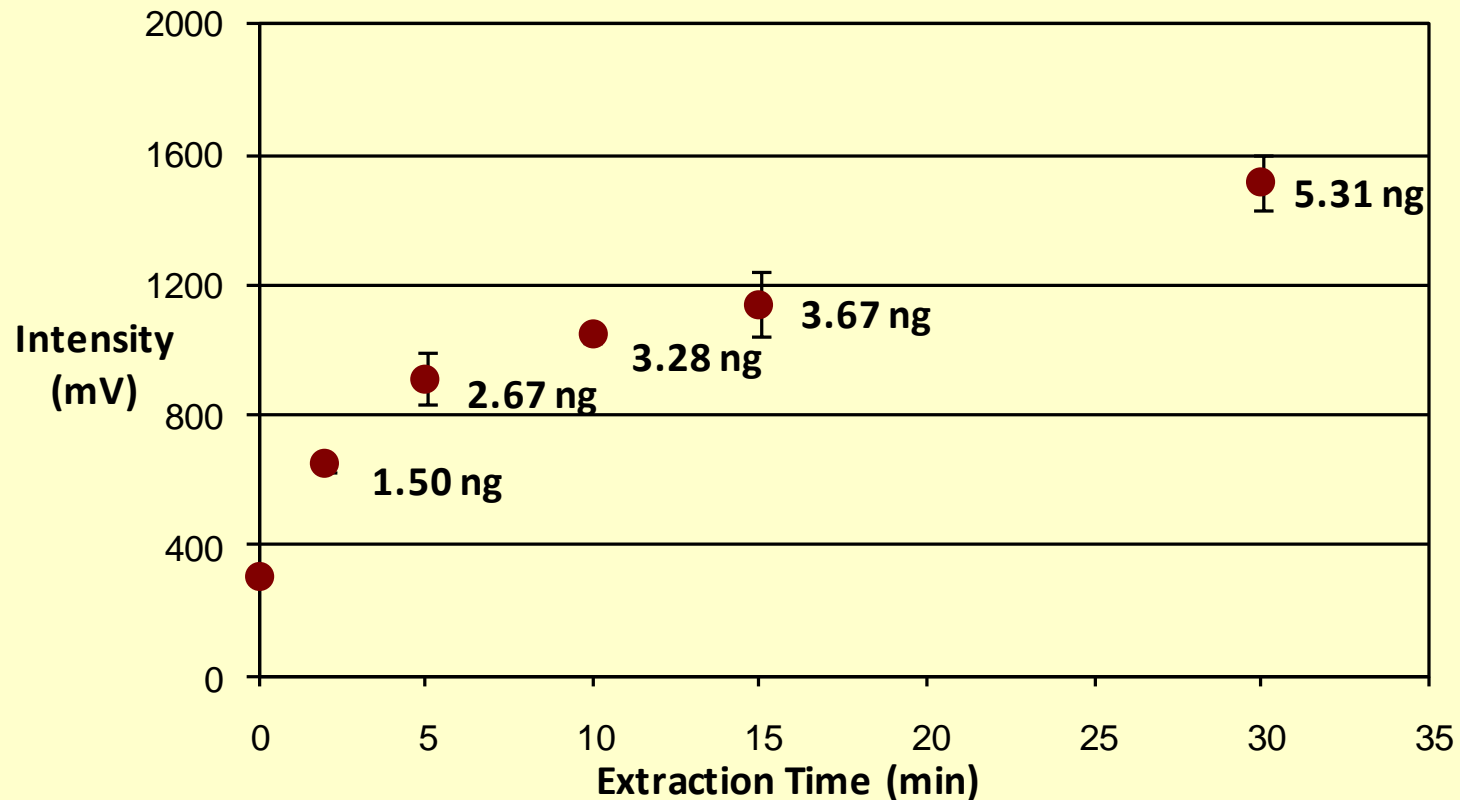
# Headspace Air Sampling & Detection of Cocaine By SPME-IMS (5 Minute Extraction, Room Temp.)



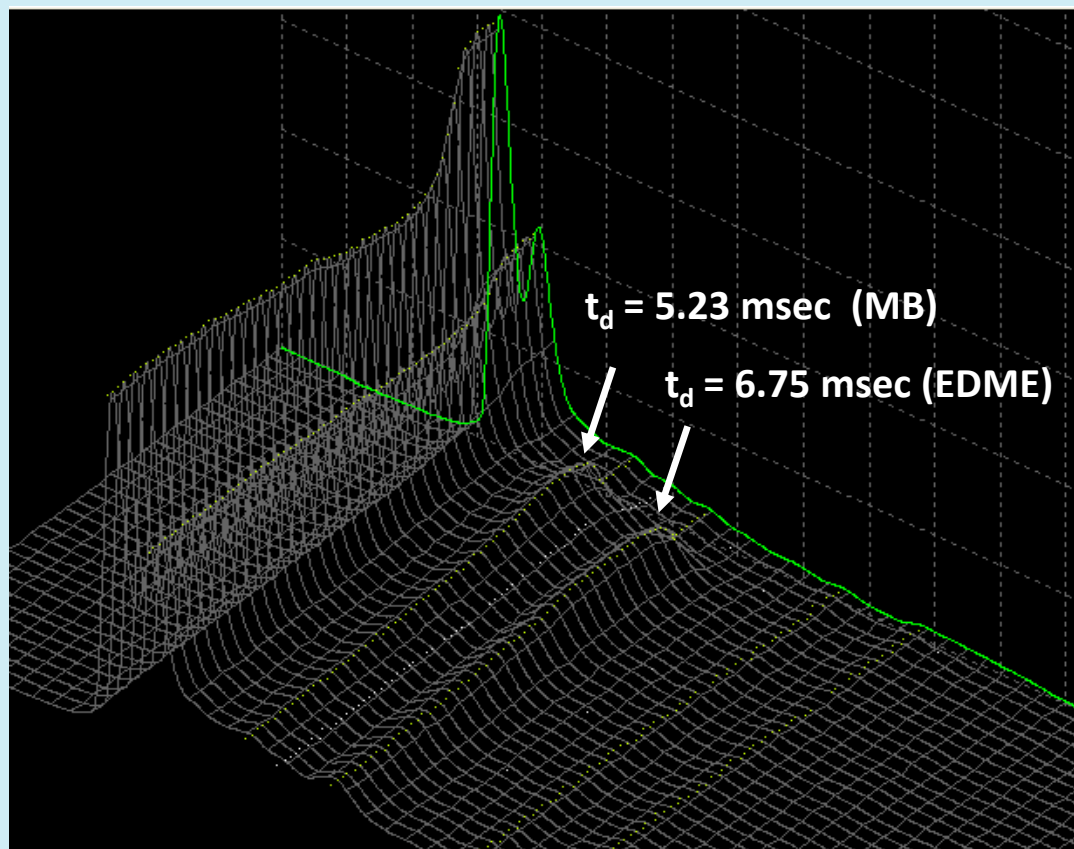
0.5g of cocaine HCl in a Ziploc bag, sealed in quart can  
Extracted compound was confirmed by GC/MS

# SPME Extraction Profile (Exposure Time)

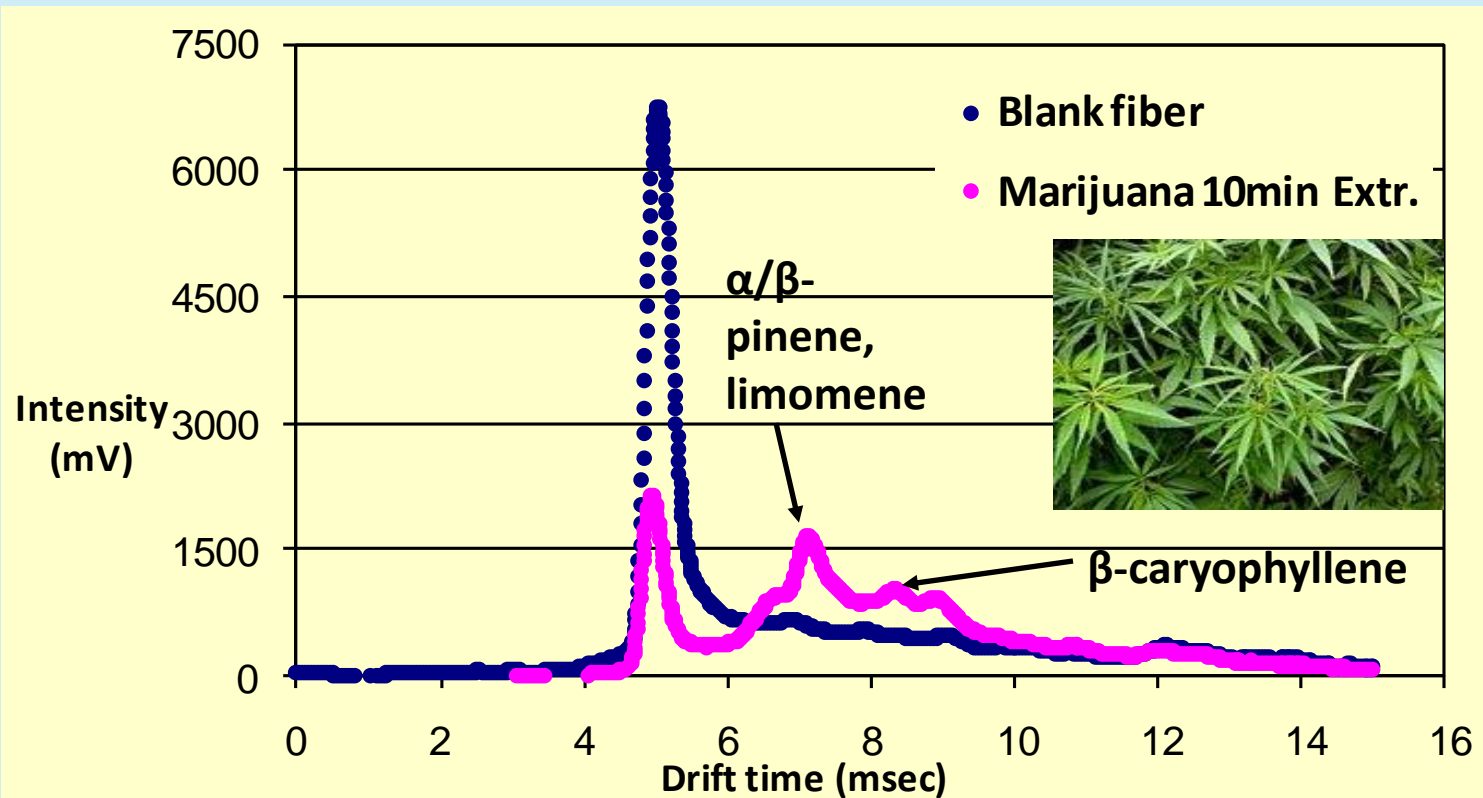
## Cocaine (Methyl Benzoate Detected)



# Headspace Air Sampling & Detection of Cocaine By SPME-IMS (30 Minute Extraction)



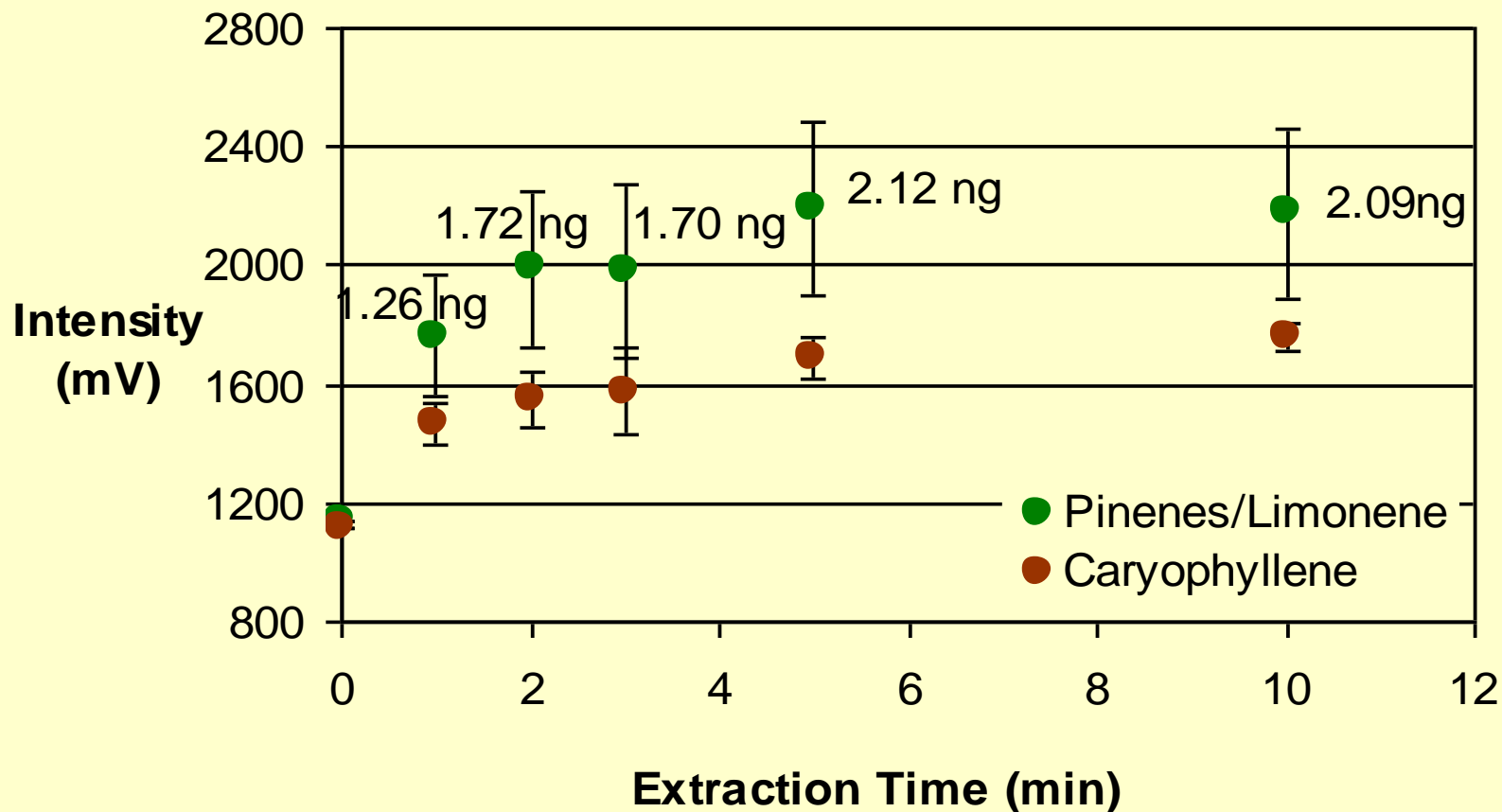
# Headspace Air Sampling & Detection of Marijuana By SPME-IMS (10 Min. Extraction, Room Temp.)



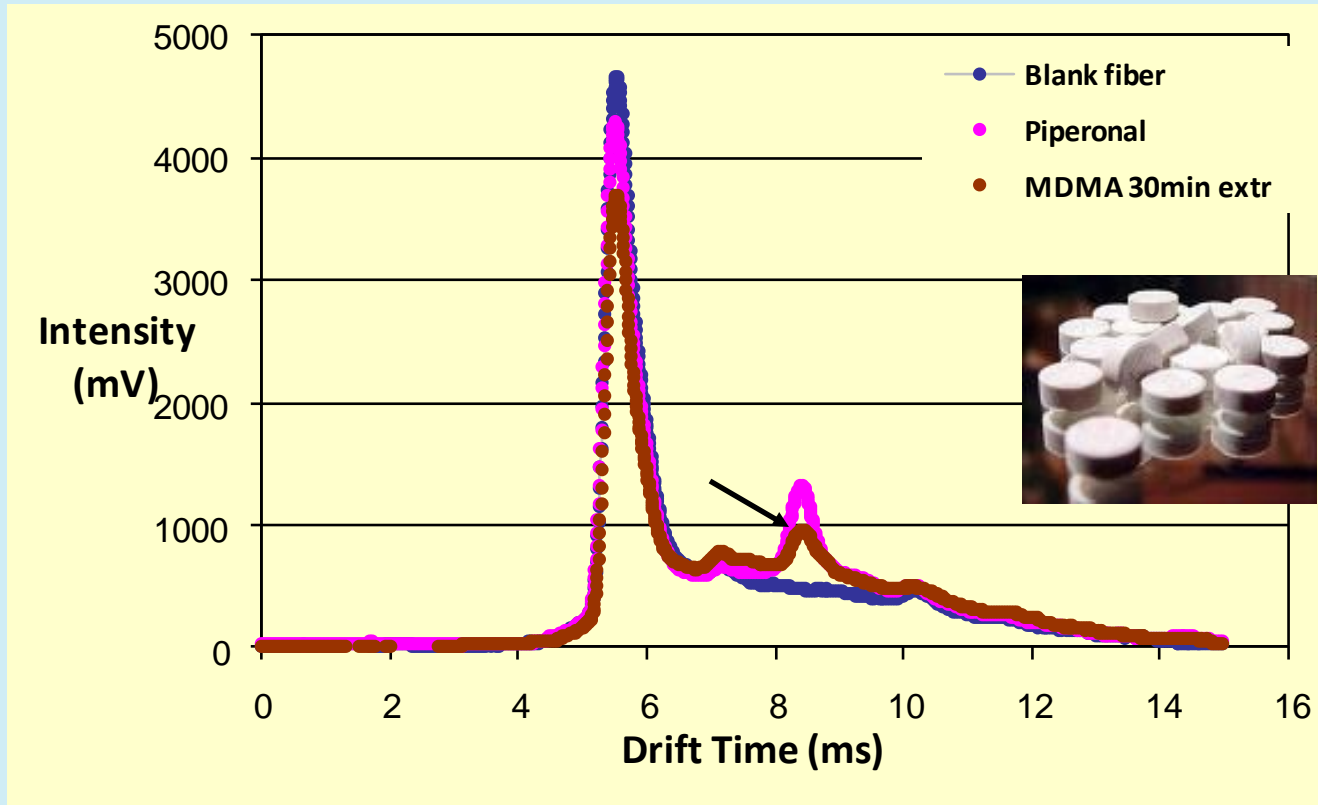
1.4 g of marijuana sealed in a quart can

# SPME Extraction Profile (Exposure Time)

## Marijuana (Pinenes/Caryophyllene Detected)



# Headspace Air Sampling & Detection of MDMA By SPME-IMS (30 Minute Extraction, Room Temp.)

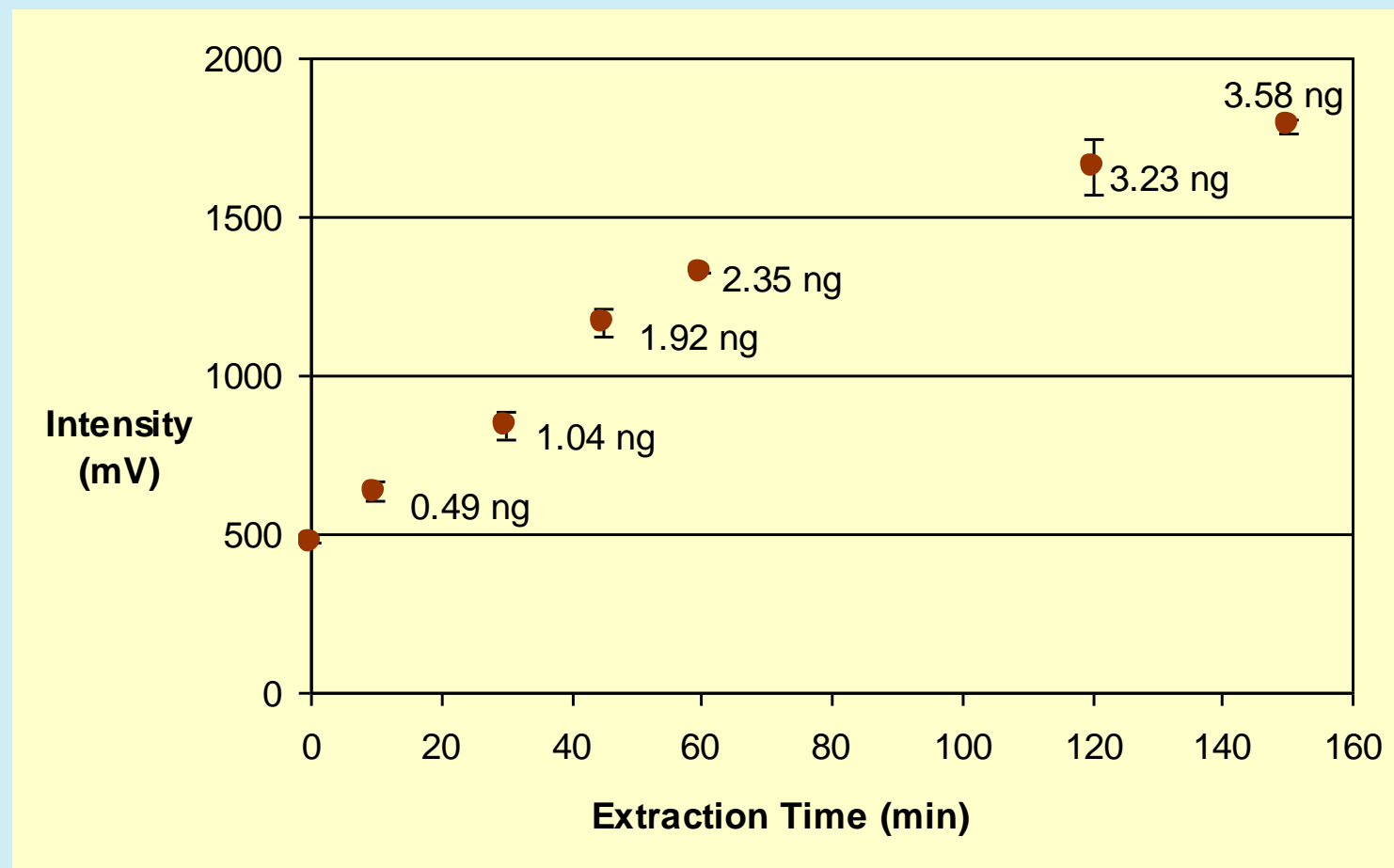


2.3 g of MDMA sealed in quart can

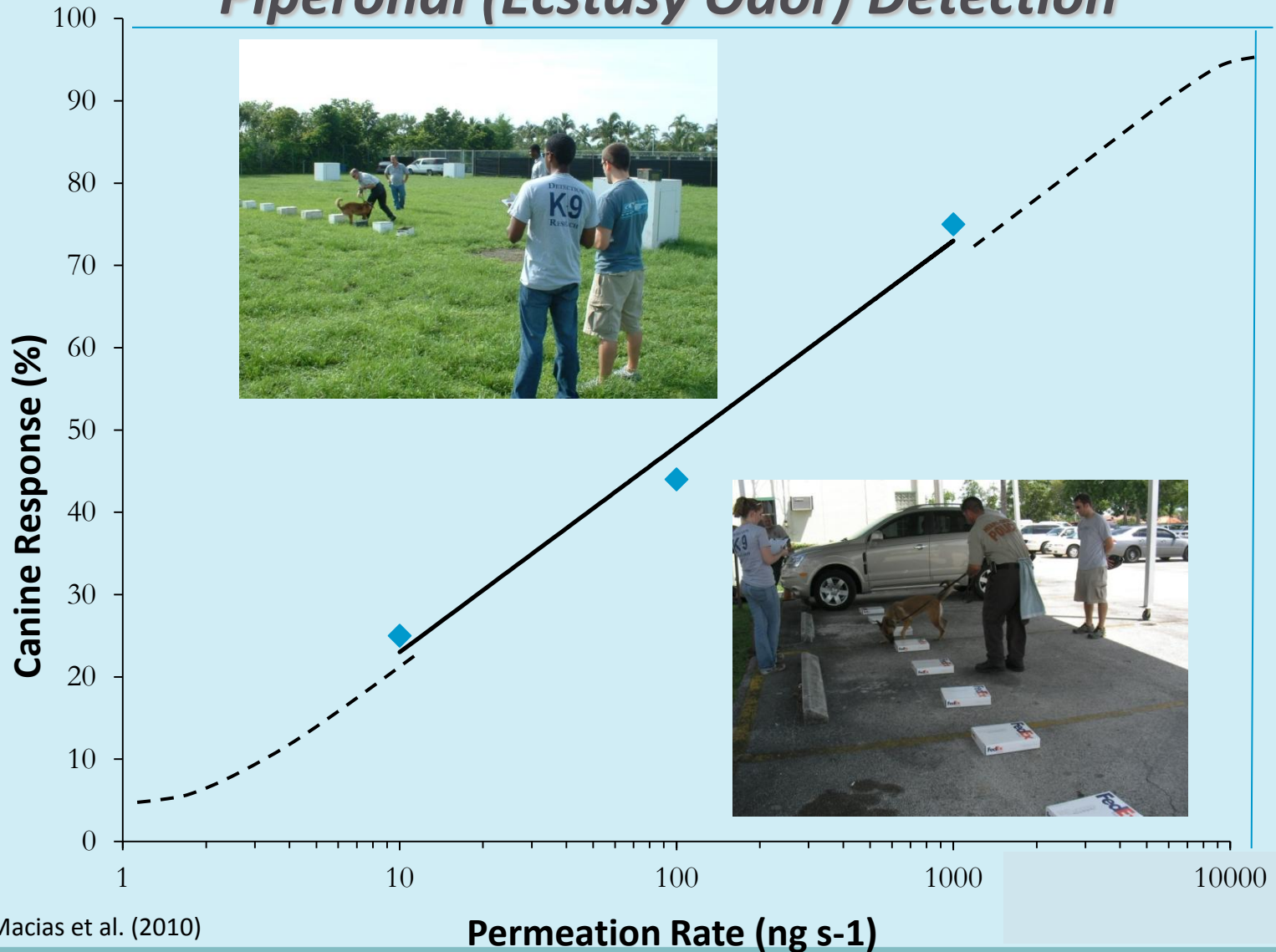


# SPME Extraction Profile (Exposure time)

## MDMA (Piperonal Detected)

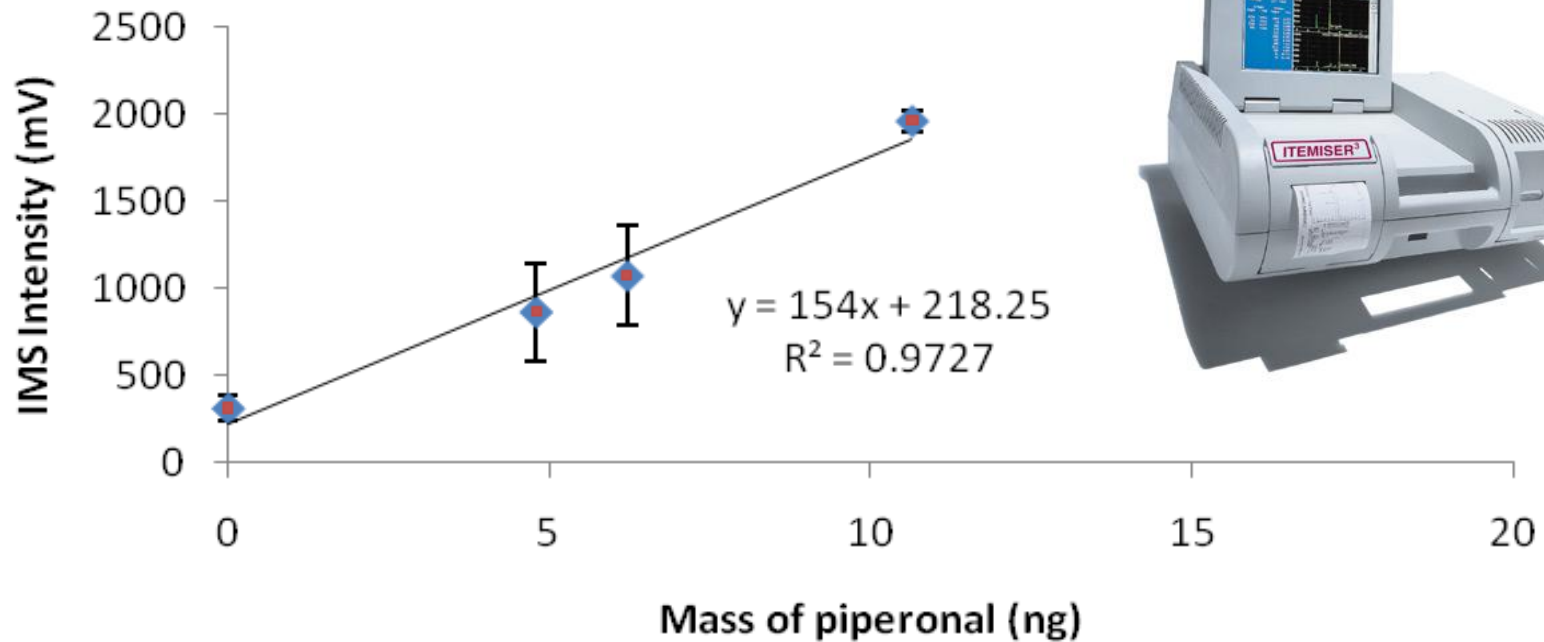


# Piperonal (Ecstasy Odor) Detection



# Piperonal (Ecstasy Odor) Detection (Continued)

## Response curve for piperonal by SPME-IMS



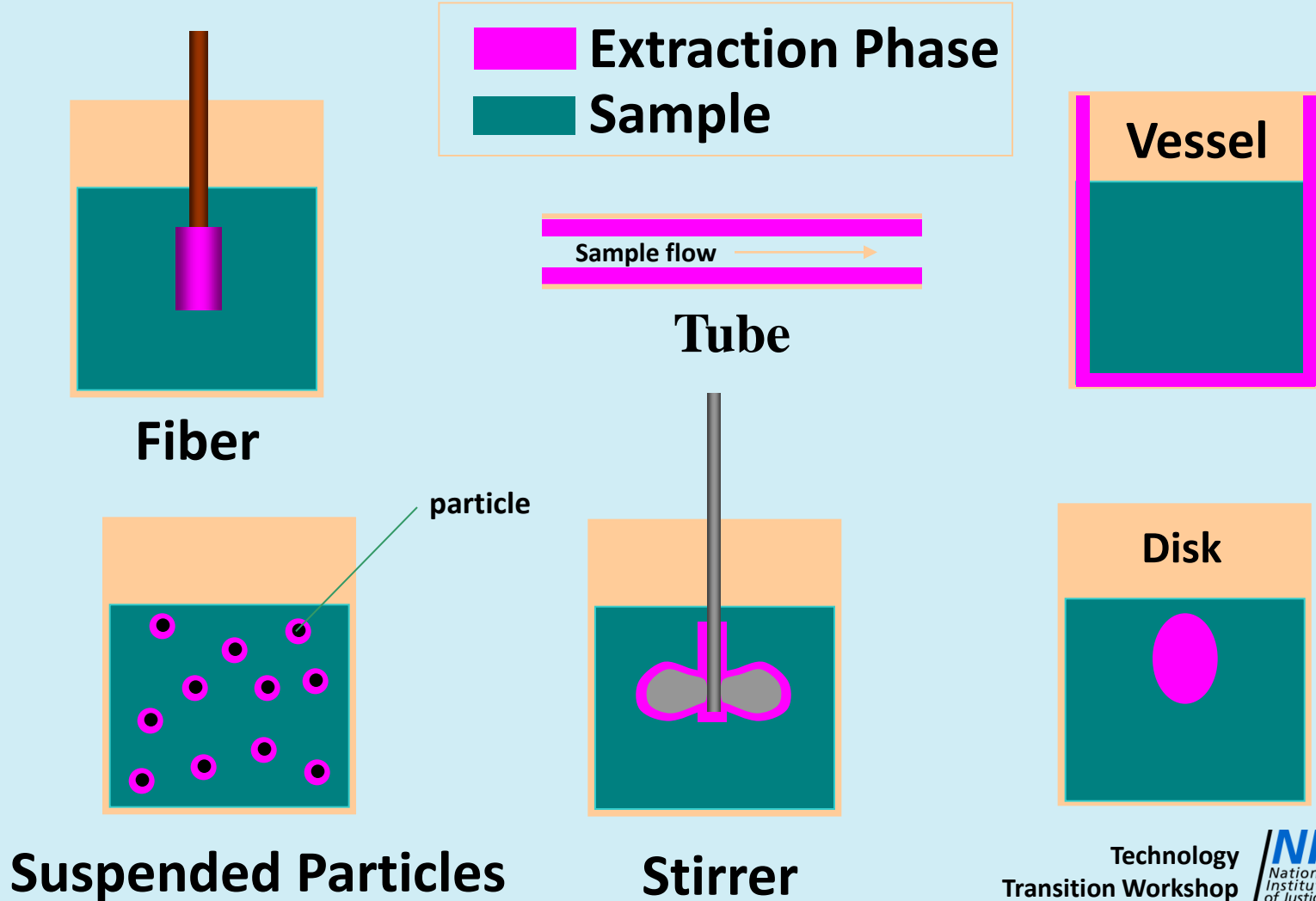
Macias et al. (2010)

## ***5. Identify Potential Sources of False Positives and False Negatives***

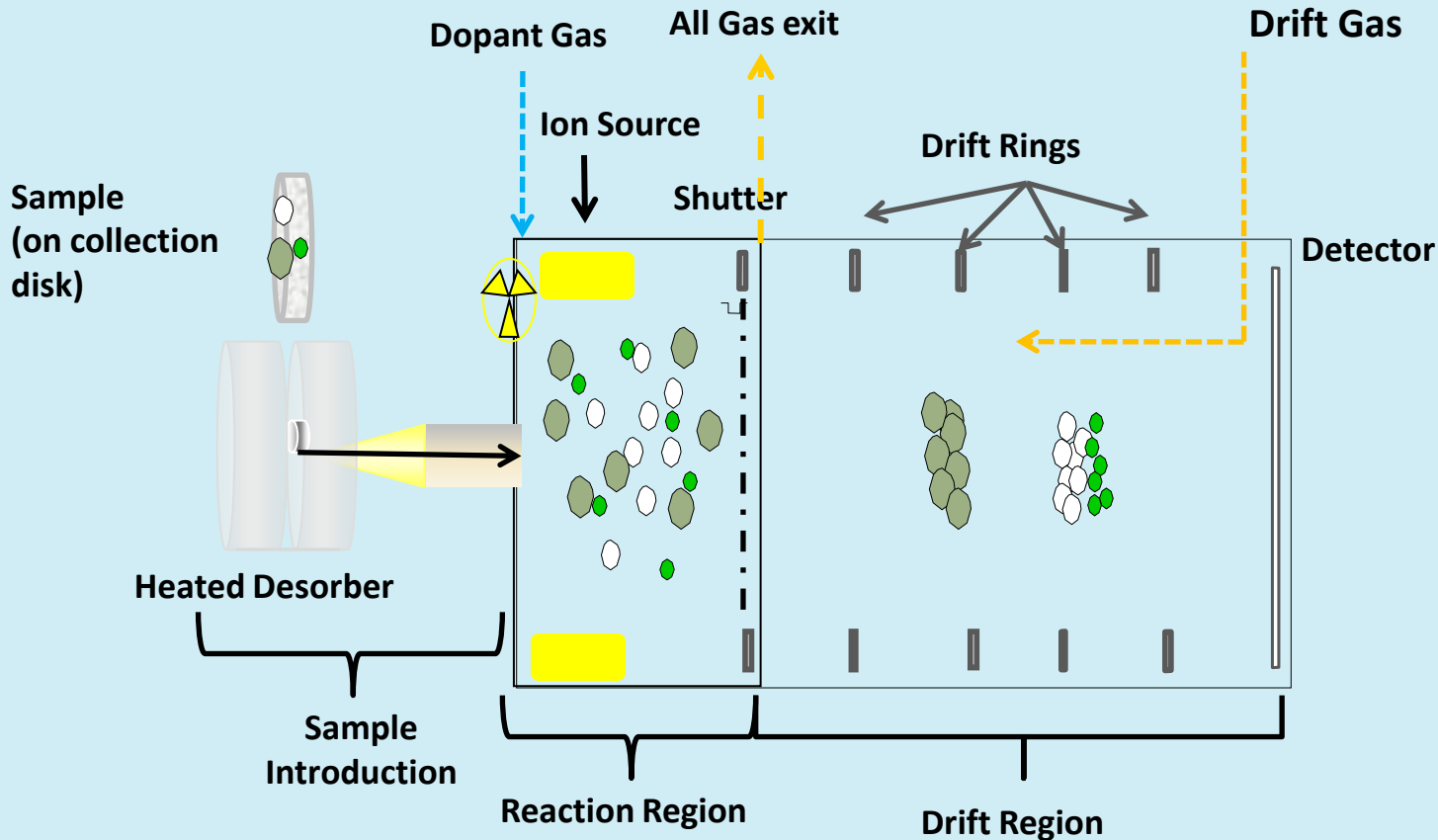
- ❖ **SPME fiber/disk absorption/adsorption competition**
- ❖ **Breakthrough (for dynamic sampling)**
- ❖ **Ionization competition**
- ❖ **Peak location interference**

Lai, Corbin and Almirall (2008)

# SPME Configurations



# ***Ion Mobility Spectrometry – IMS***



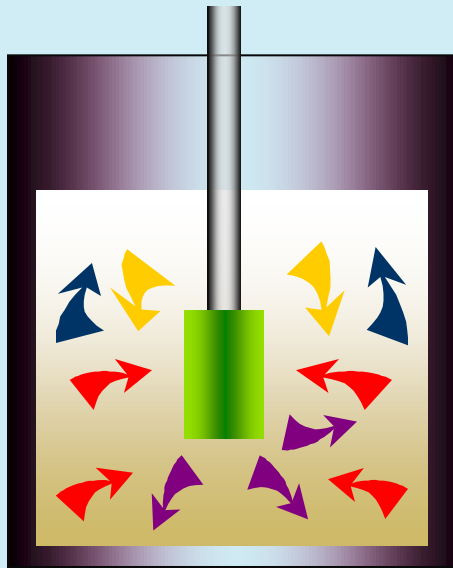
**Separation of product ions by mass, charge and shape**

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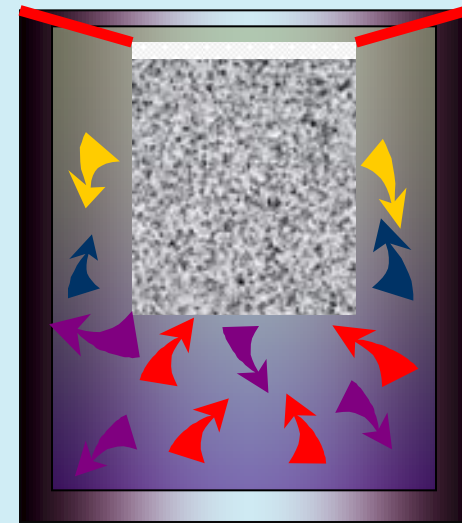


# *Planar SPME Geometry*

- PSPME increases surface area and capacity
- Reduces sampling time
- Geometry is amenable for IMS introduction

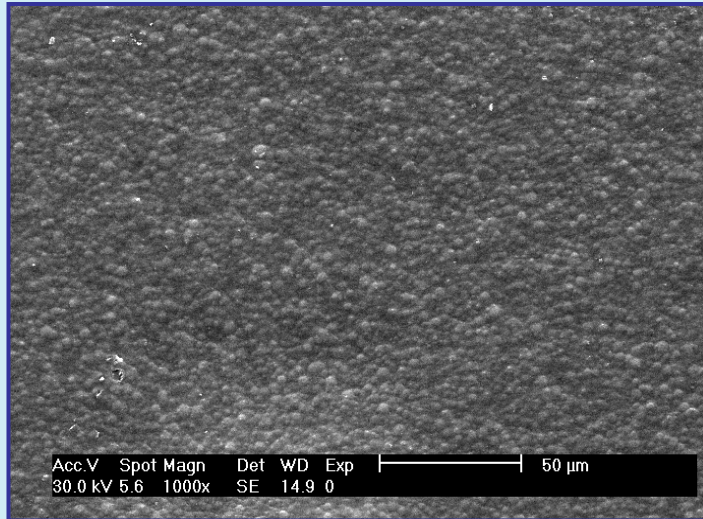


**Modified-syringe SPME**

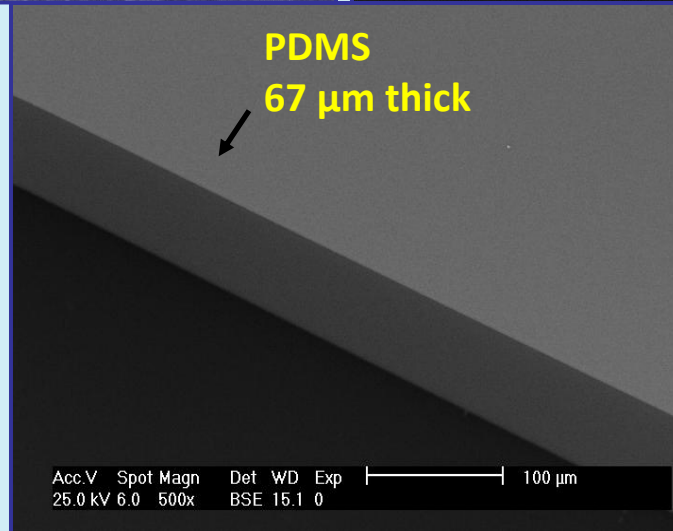
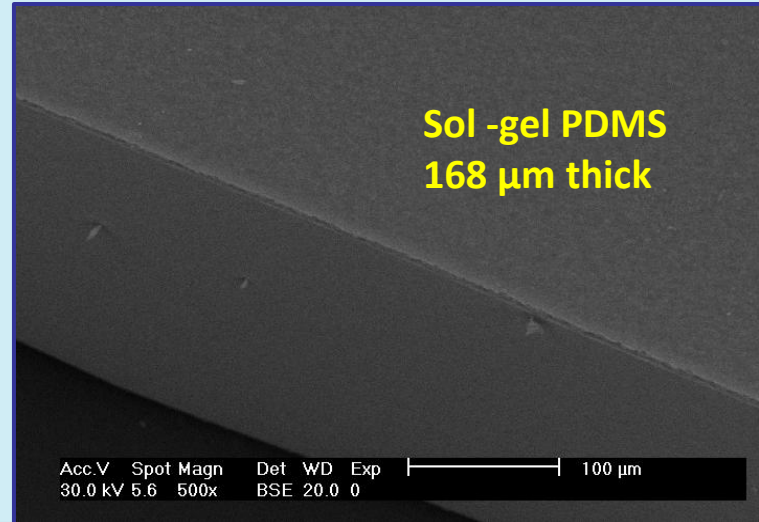


**Planar SPME**

# SEM of Planar SPME



**Dip Coating**



**Spin Coating**



# Sampling Approach

Suspected MDMA tablets



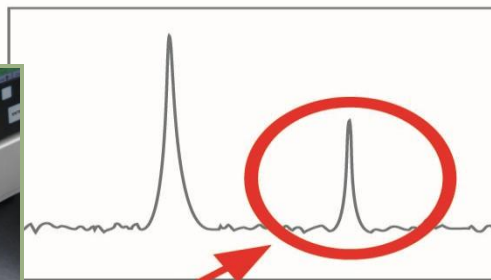
MDMA alert



PSPME sampling



IMS detection

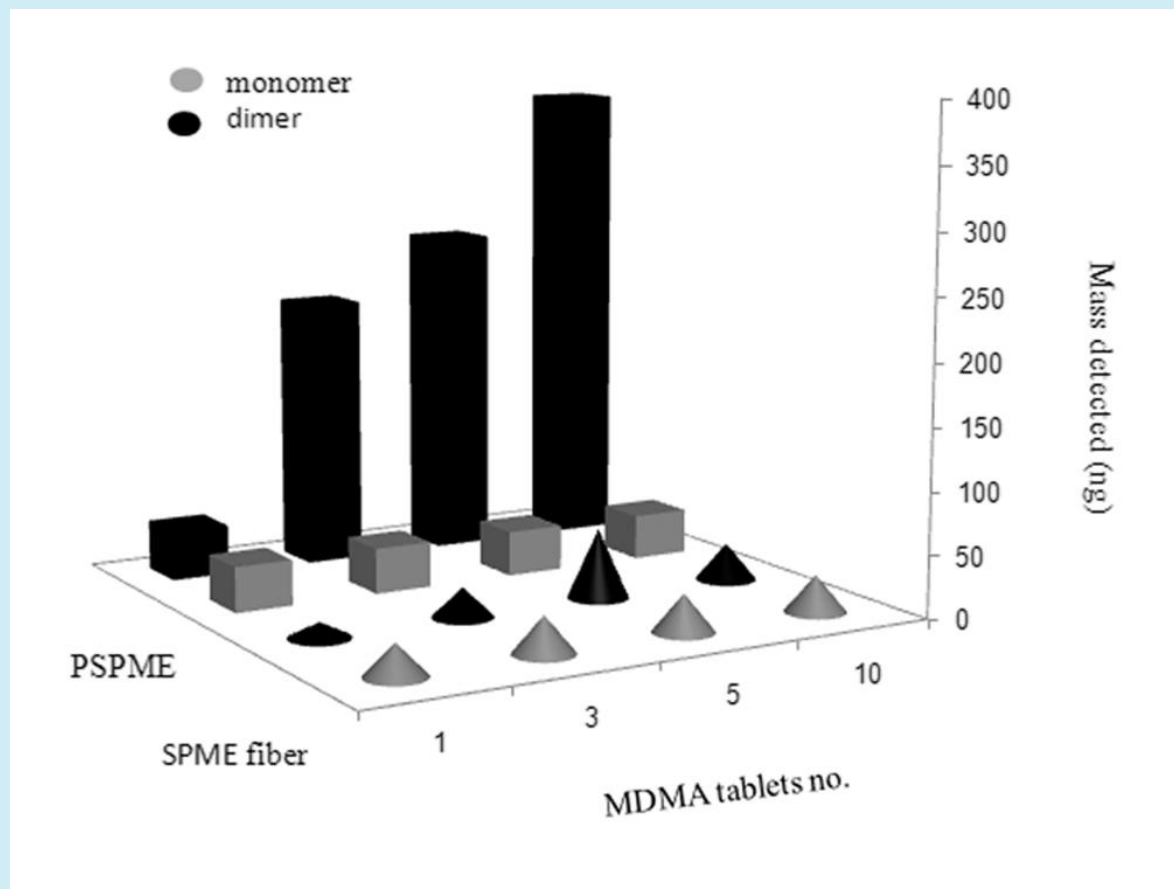


Piperonal



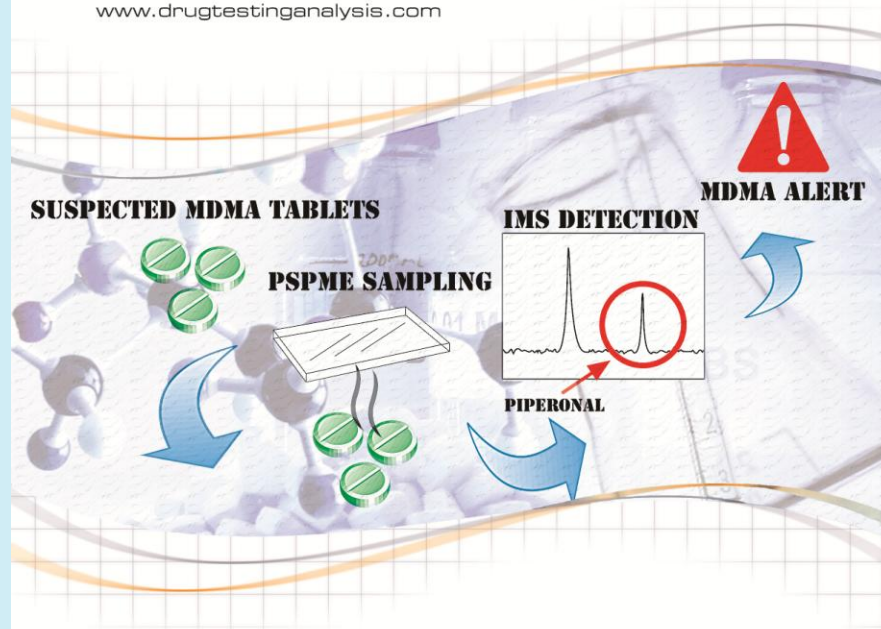
Gura et al. (2009)

# MDMA Tablets – Static Sampling (15 Min., Room Temp.)



# Drug Testing and Analysis

www.drugtestinganalysis.com



Gura et al. (2009)

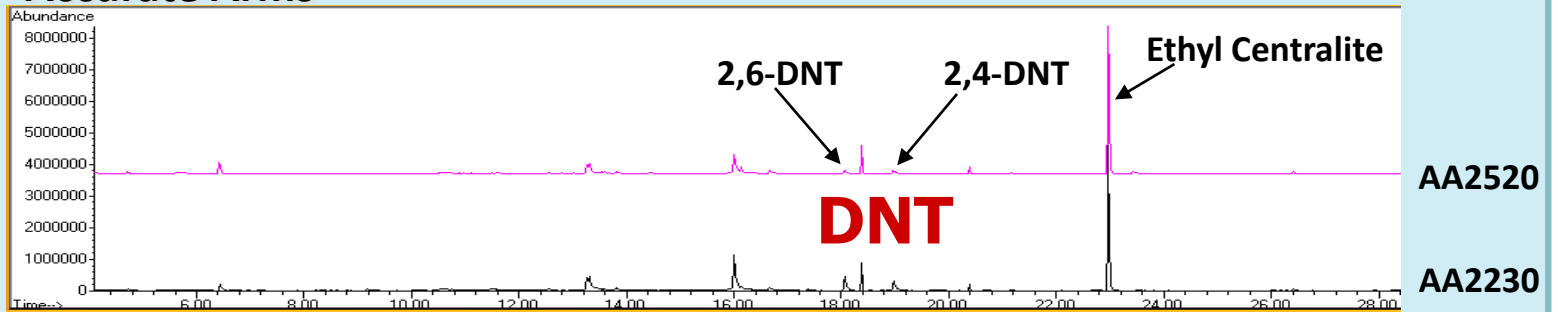
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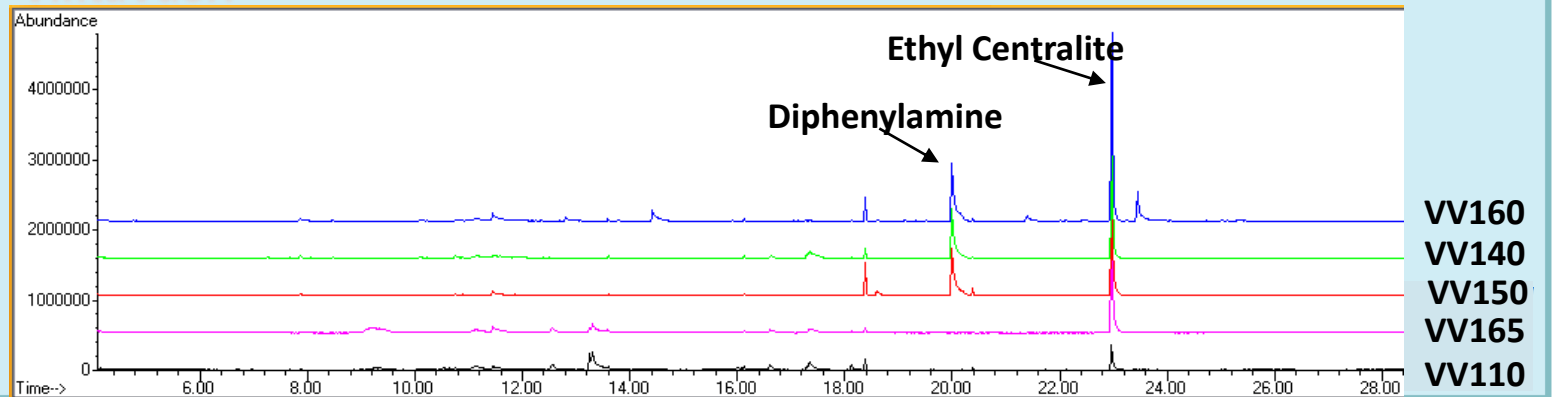
# Single Based SP



## Accurate Arms

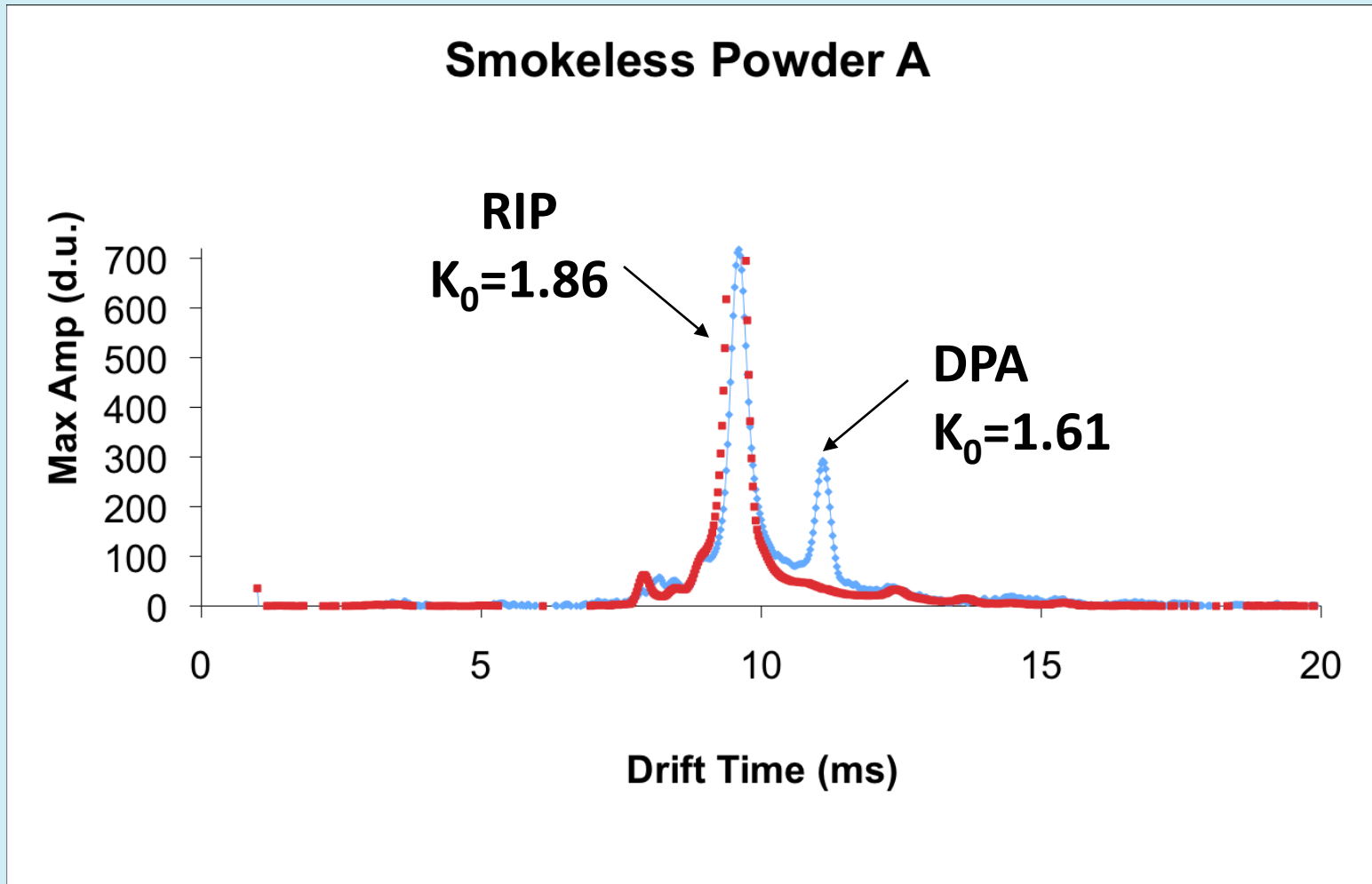


## VihtaVuori



# ***Smiths 400B – Positive Mode, Default Settings***

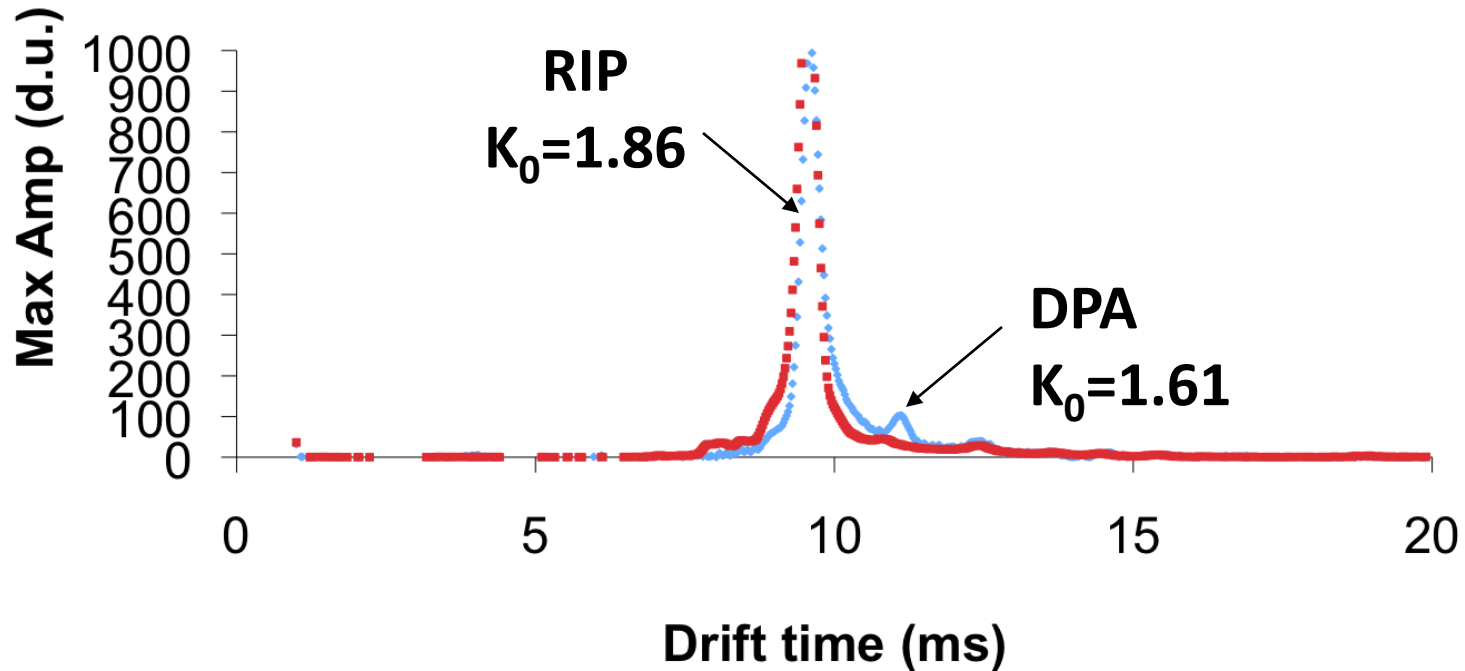
## ***Reactant Gas is Nicotinamide: DPA Alarm***



# ***Smiths 400B – Positive Mode, Default Settings***

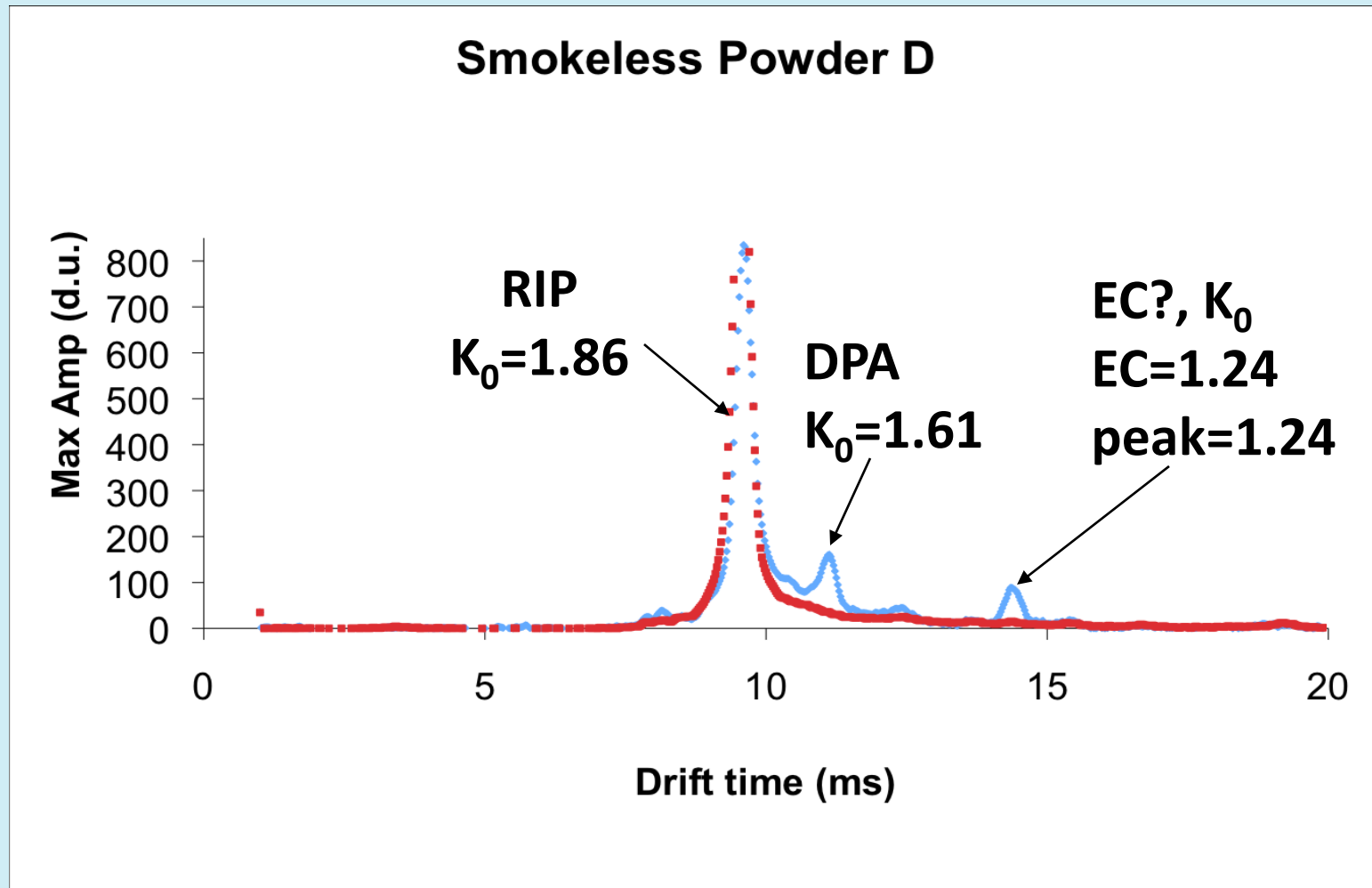
## ***Reactant Gas is Nicotinamide: DPA Alarm***

### **Smokeless powder C**

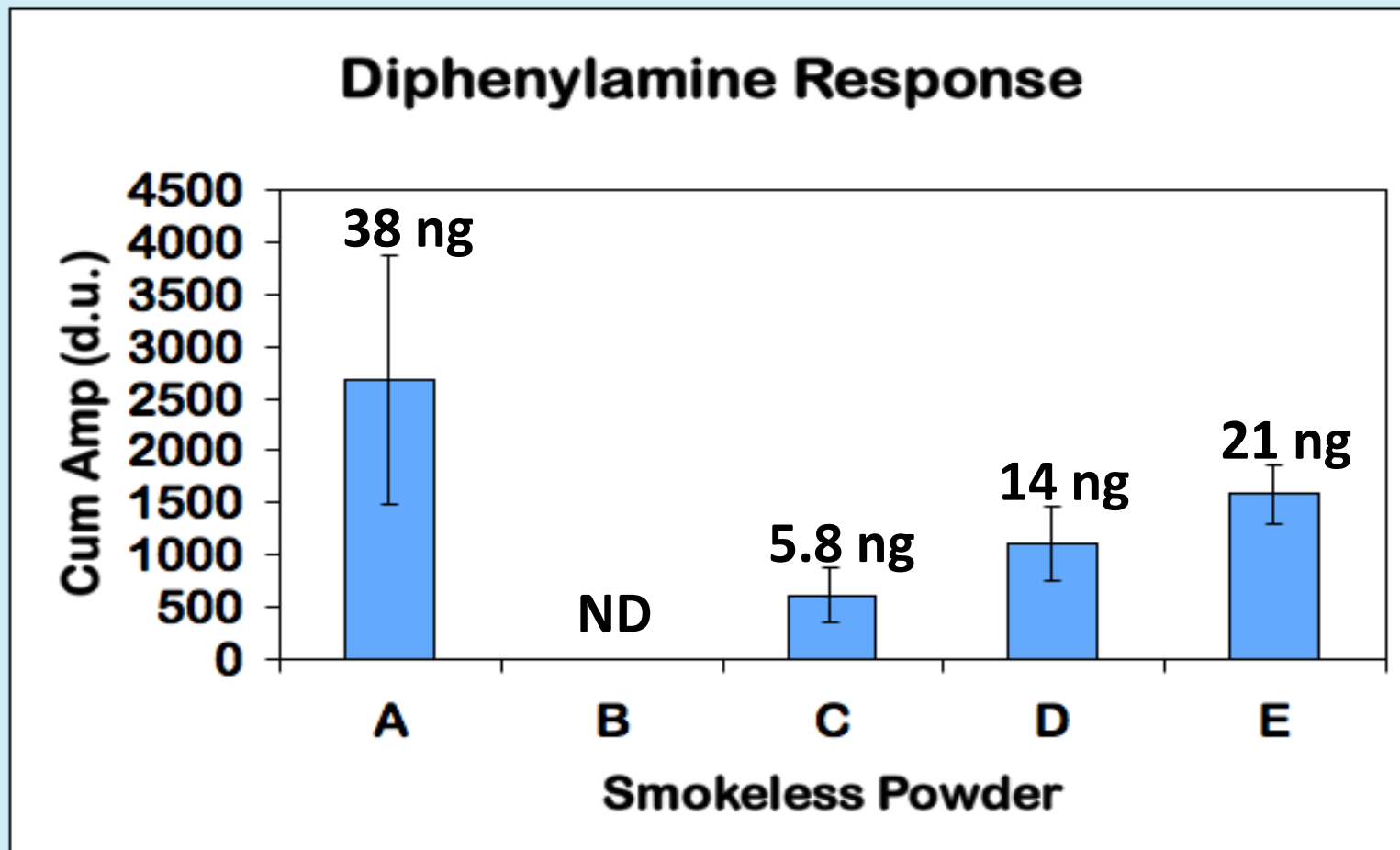


# Smiths 400B – Positive Mode, Default Settings

## Reactant Gas is Nicotinamide: DPA Alarm



# DPA: Planar Sol-Gel PDMS



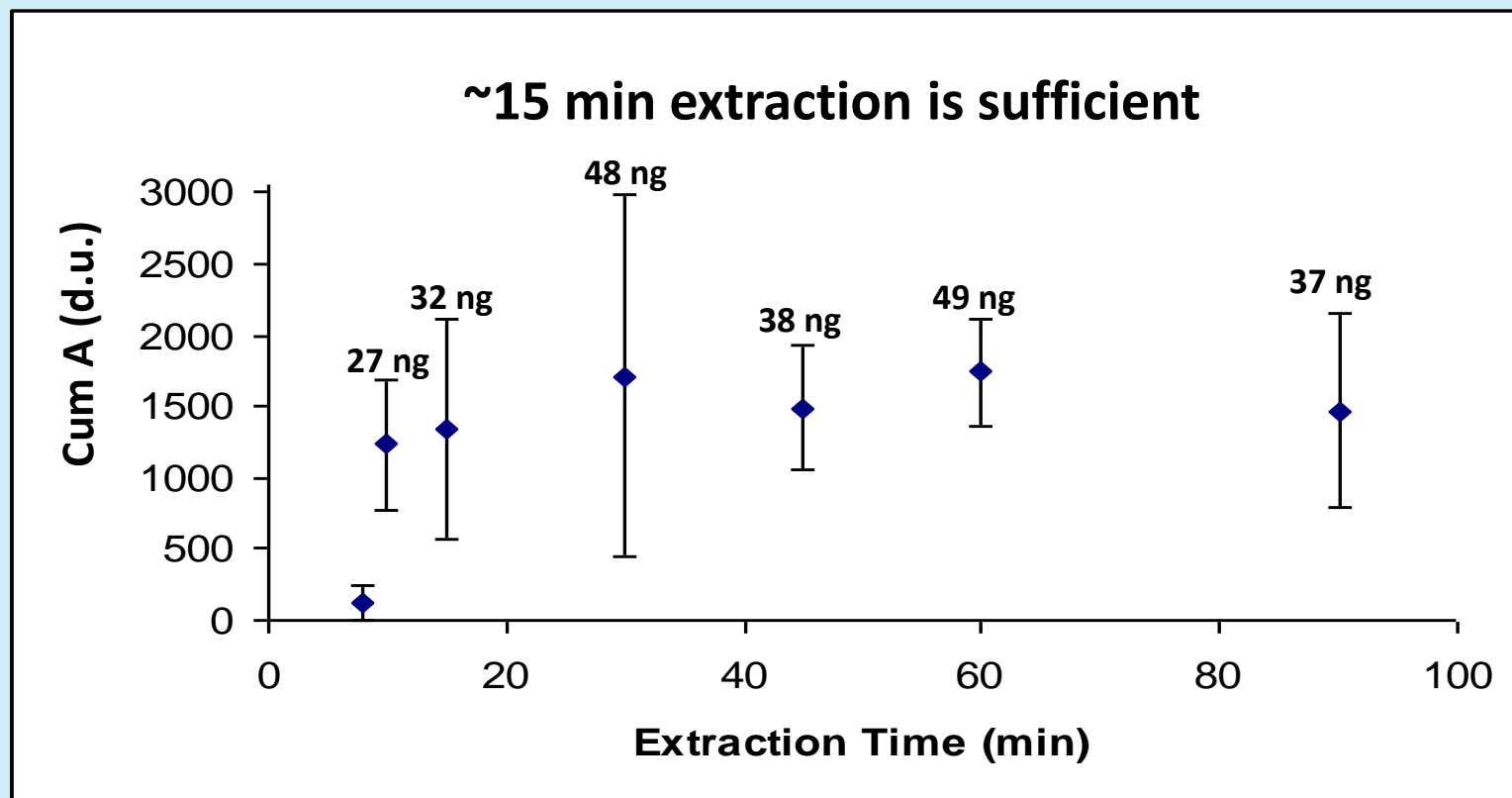
Smiths Ionscan<sup>®</sup> 400B

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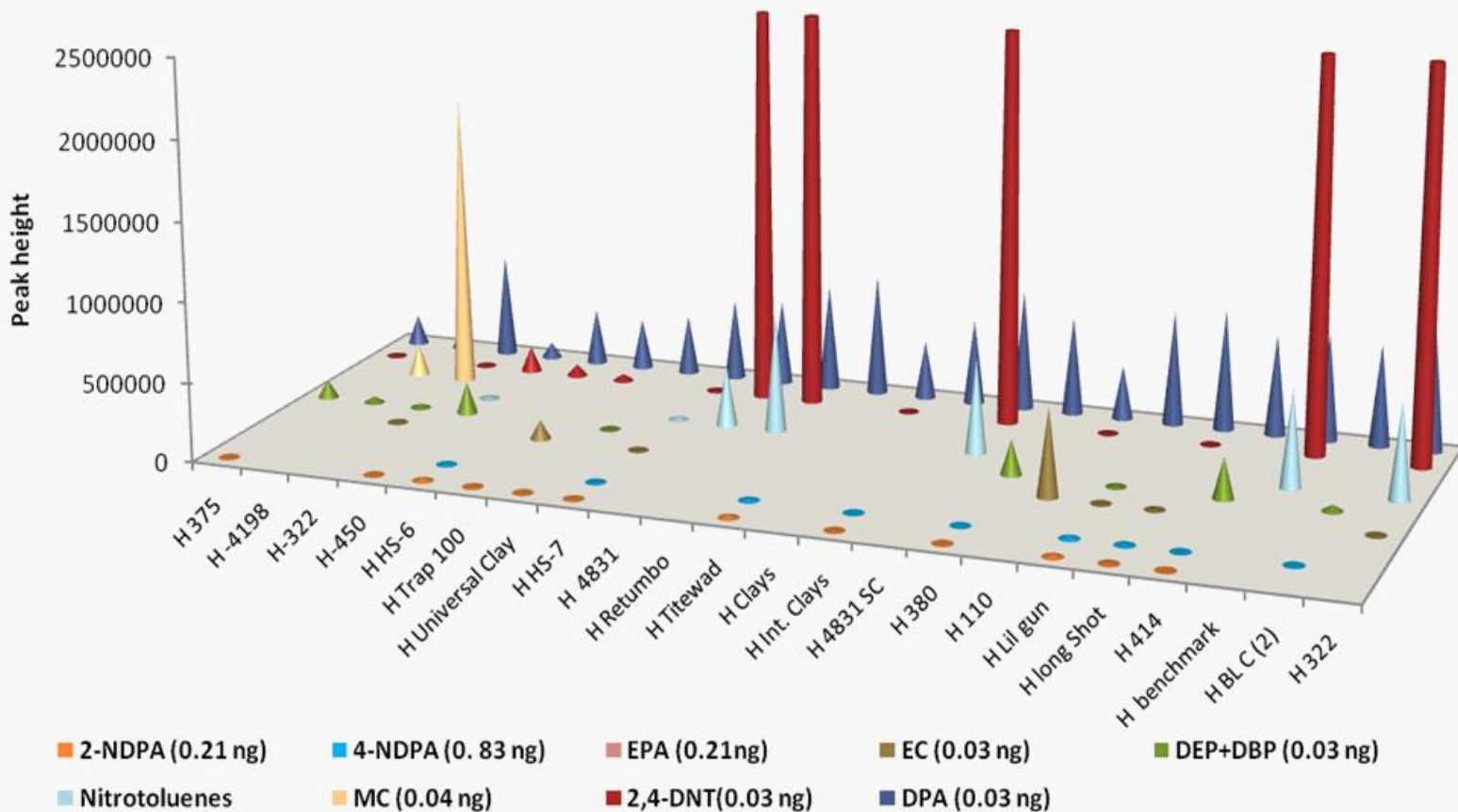


# DPA Extraction Curve

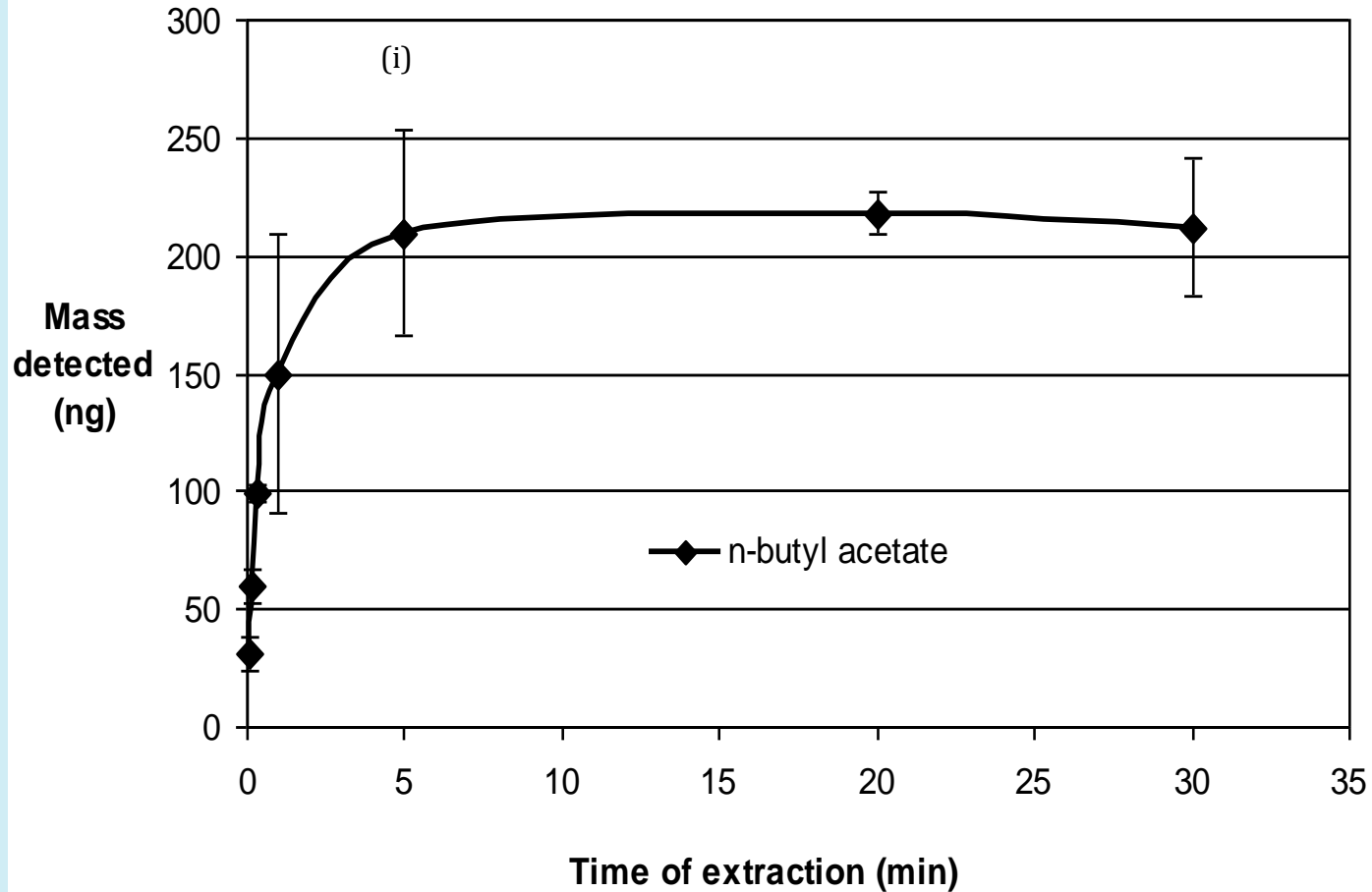
## Planar Sol-Gel PDMS: Smiths Ionscan<sup>®</sup> 400B



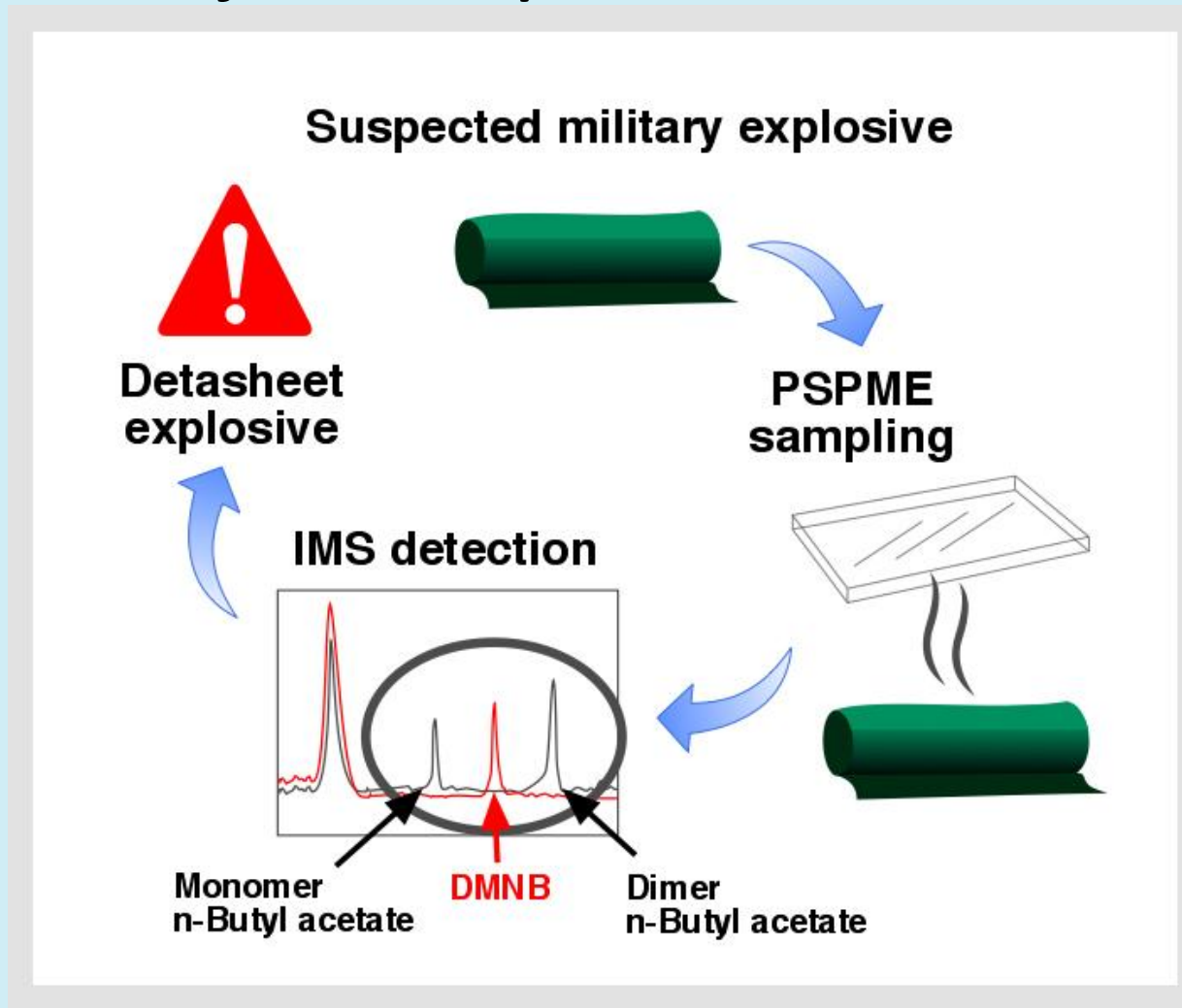
# Smokeless Powder Headspace Profiles



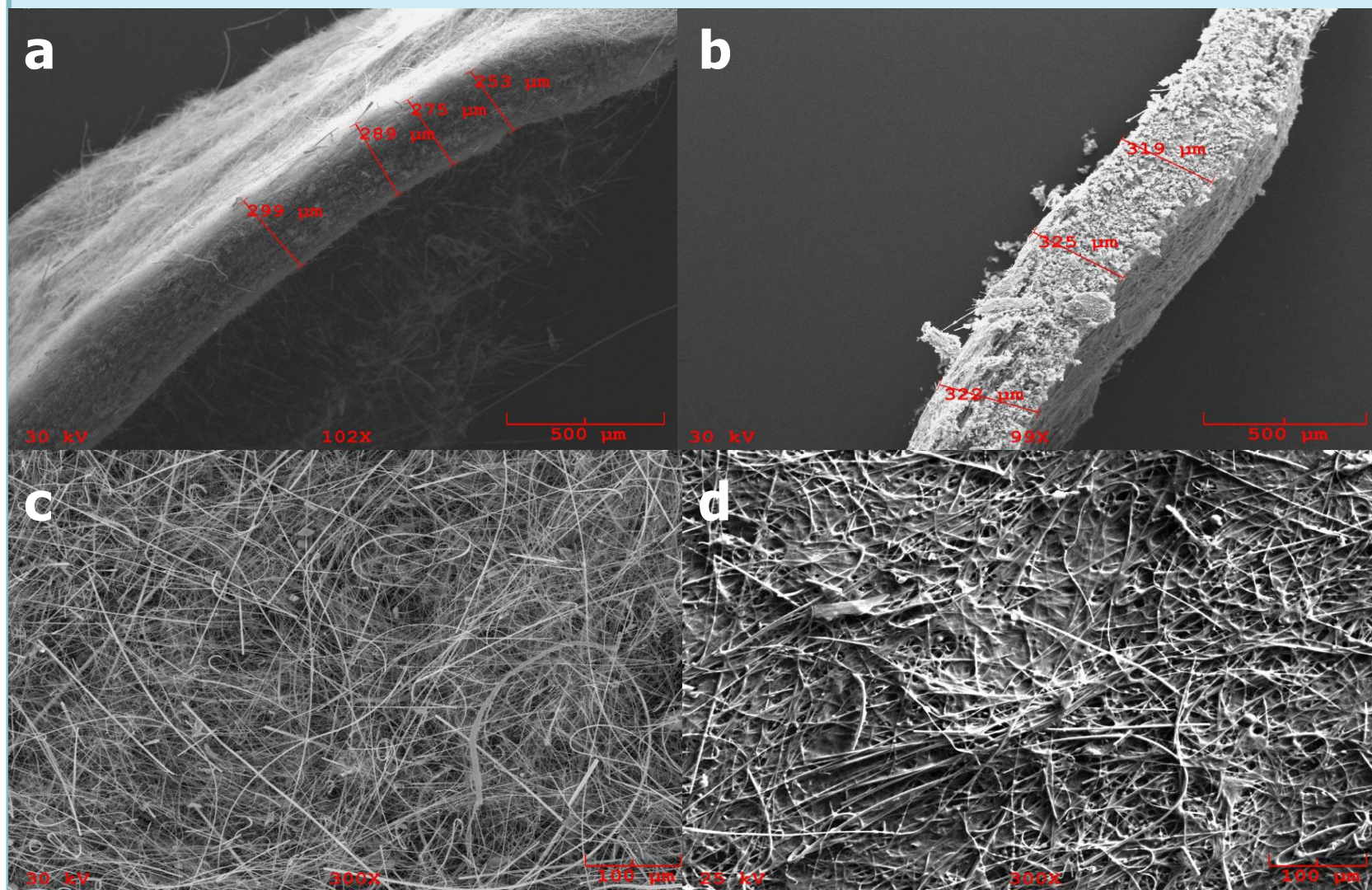
## SPME IMS extraction time curve for Flex X (untagged) explosive



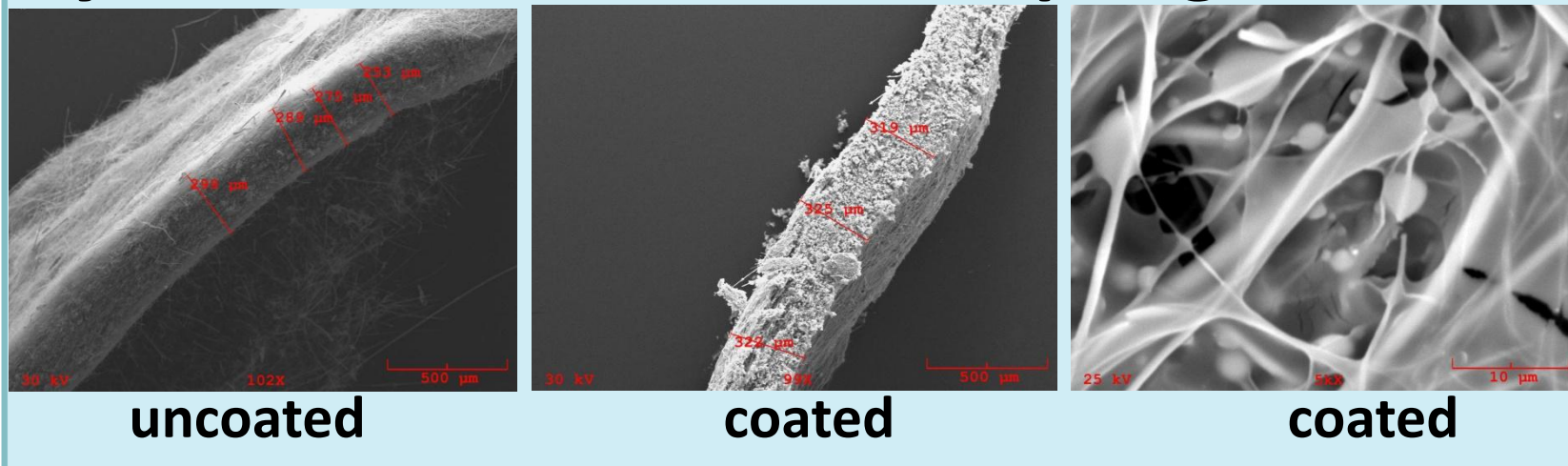
# Detection of Plastic Explosives With a Universal Setting



# Dynamic PSPME SEM Characterization

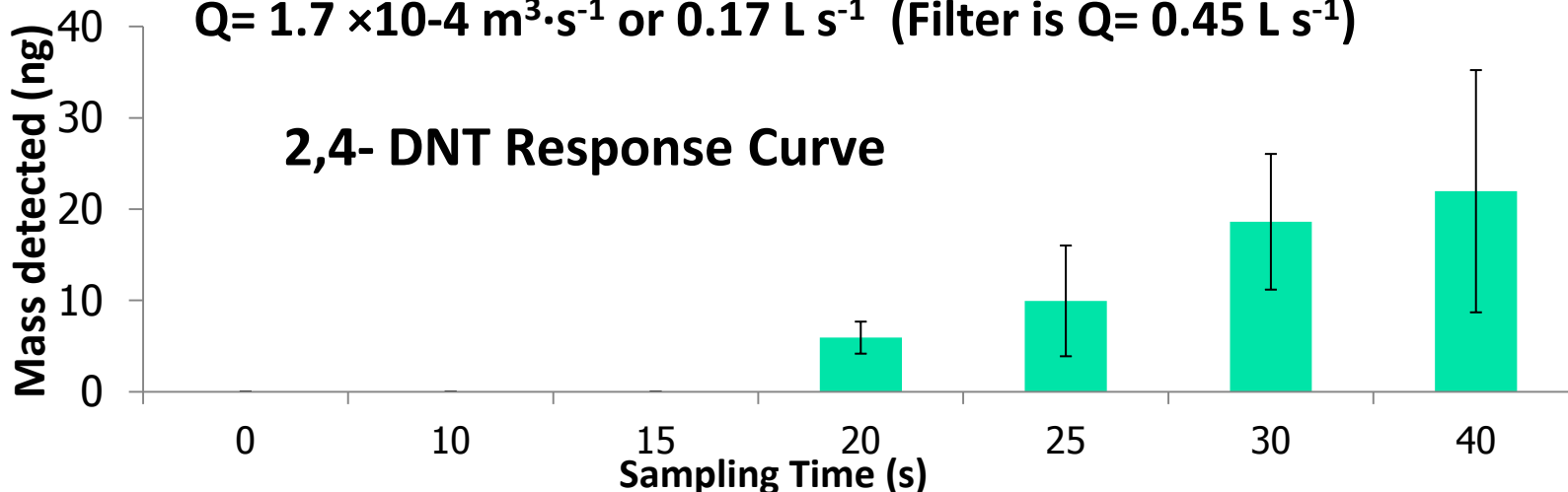


# Dynamic Planar SPME Sampling



Sampling Time using 2,4-DNT COMPS (~ 14 ng/s)

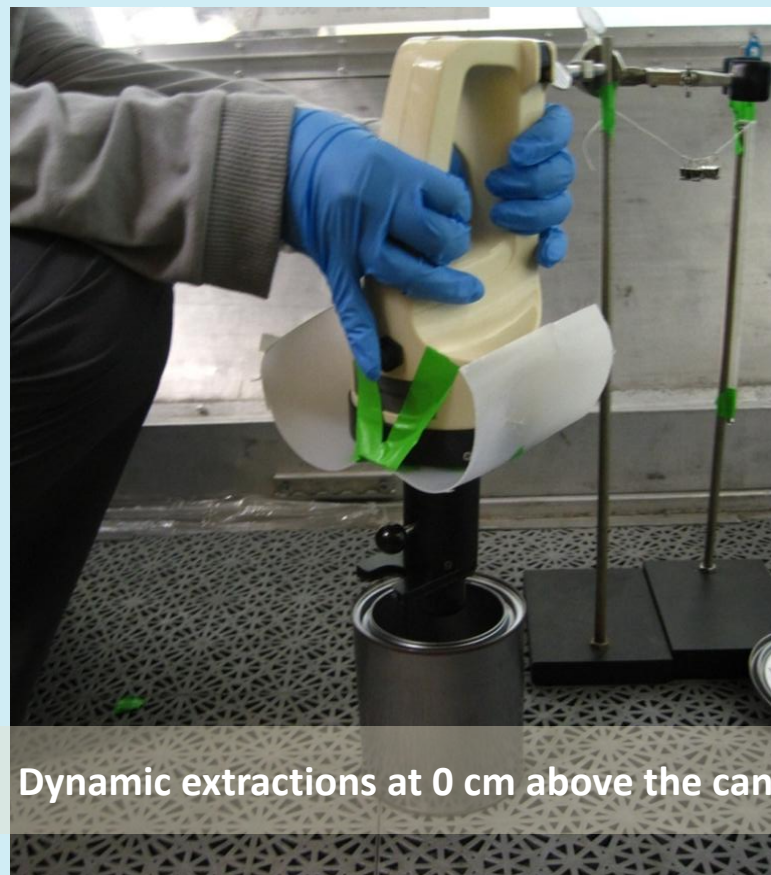
$Q = 1.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  or  $0.17 \text{ L s}^{-1}$  (Filter is  $Q = 0.45 \text{ L s}^{-1}$ )





# ***Dynamic Extractions ( $0.17 \text{ L s}^{-1}$ )***

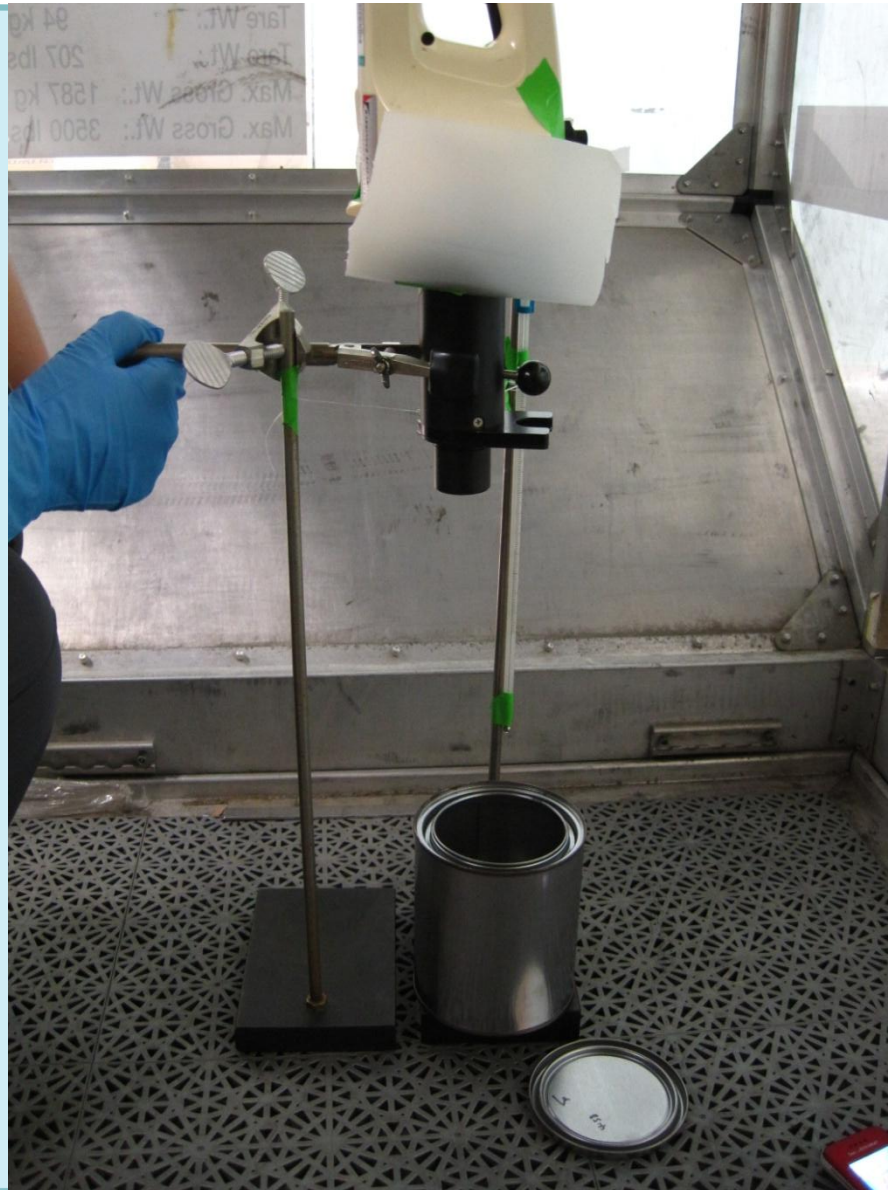
- **Smokeless powders**
  - 500 mg of All Unique
  - 500 mg of IMR<sup>®</sup> 4198
- **Instruments**
  - Smiths Detection
  - IONSCAN-LS<sup>®</sup>
- **Extraction device**
  - Planar SPME glass filters



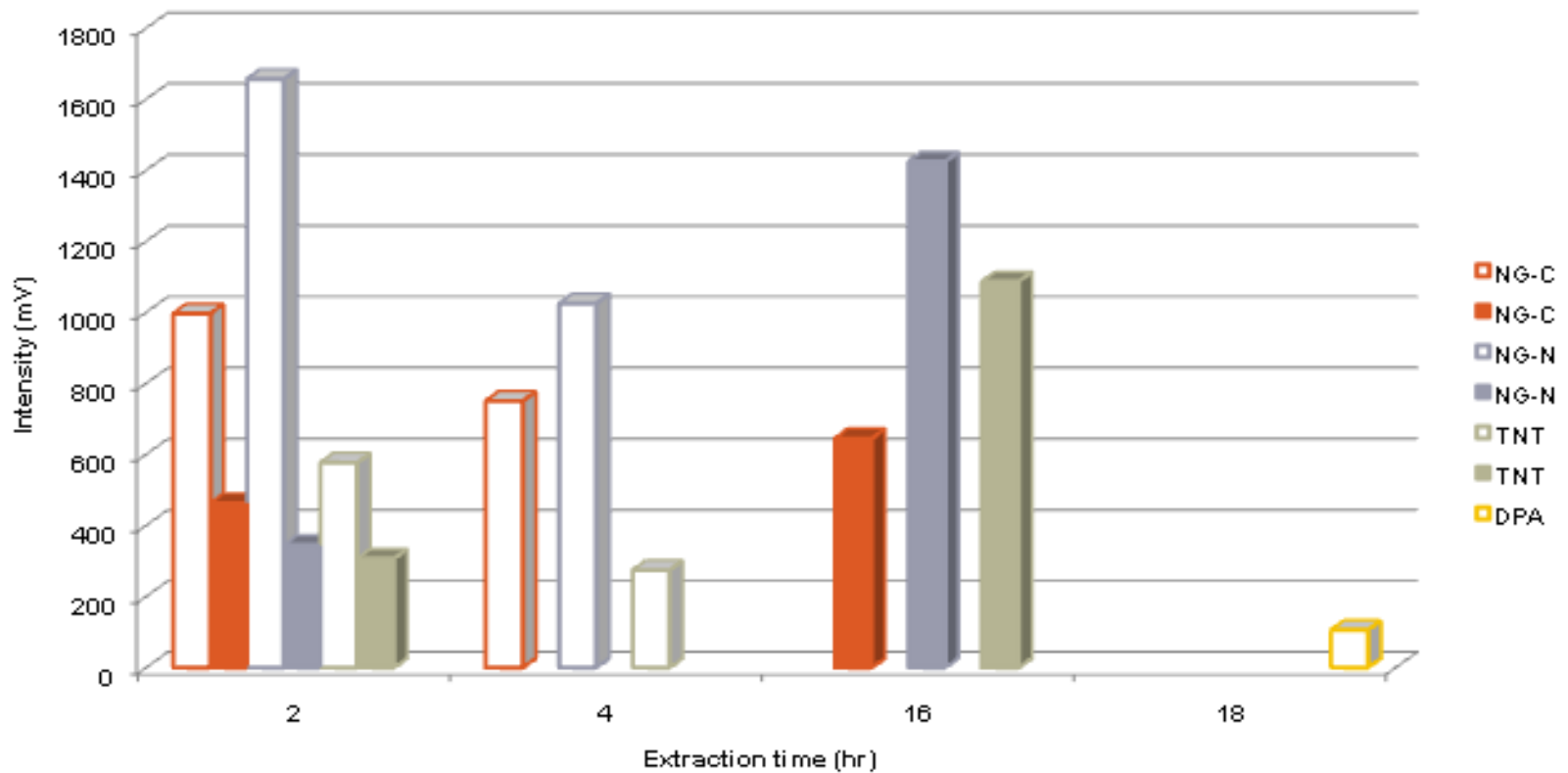








# SP and Pentolite Static Extractions (100 mg)

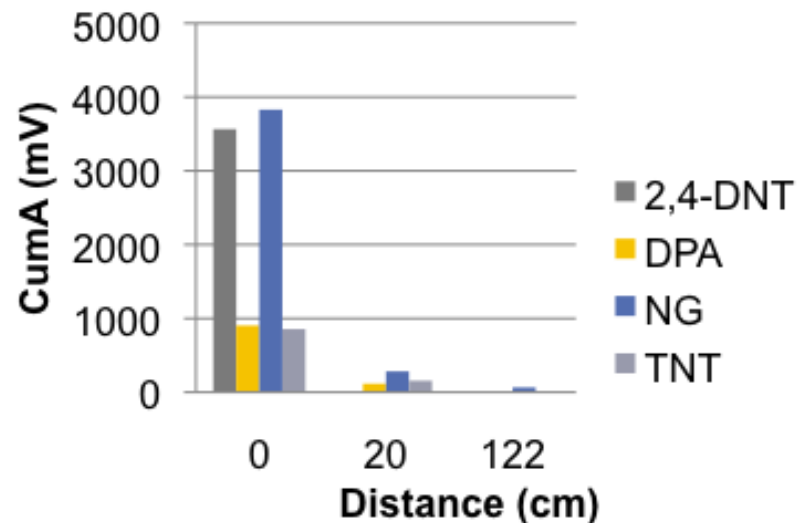


\*white bars = 20cm above can; shaded bars = ~150cm (~5ft)

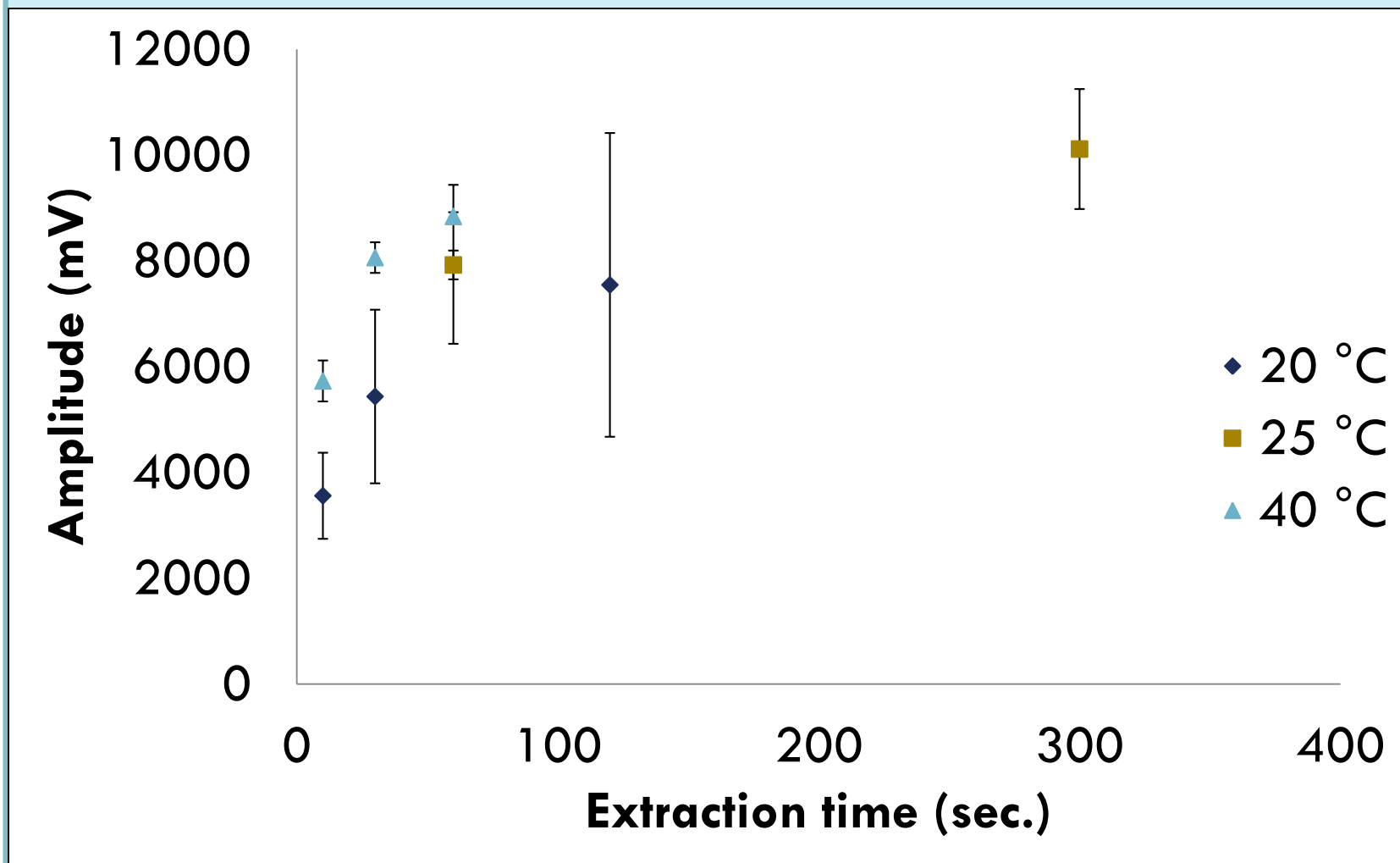
# SP/Pentolite Dynamic Mode Extractions

| Smokeless Powders | Compound | Distance (cm) | Extraction time (min) | Signal (CumA) |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| IMR 4198          | 2,4-DNT  | 0             | 2                     | 3565          |
|                   |          | 20            | 2                     | --            |
|                   | DPA      | 0             | 5                     | 270           |
|                   |          | On floor      | 2                     | 173           |
| All Unique        | DPA      | 0             | 5                     | 904           |
|                   |          | 20            | 5                     | 116           |
|                   |          | On floor      | 4                     | 515           |
|                   | NG-C     | 0             | 2                     | 772           |
|                   |          | 20            | 2                     | 286           |
|                   |          |               | 5                     | 291           |
|                   |          | 4 ft          | 5                     | --            |
|                   | On floor | 2             | --                    |               |
|                   | NG-N     | 0             | 2                     | 3829          |
|                   |          | 20            | 2                     | 365           |
|                   |          |               | 5                     | 283           |
|                   |          | 4 ft          | 5                     | 65            |
|                   | On floor | 2             | --                    |               |
|                   | TNT      | 0             | 2                     | 856           |
|                   |          | 20            | 2                     | 156           |
|                   |          |               | 5                     | --            |
| 4 ft              |          | 5             | --                    |               |
| On floor          | 2        | 60            |                       |               |

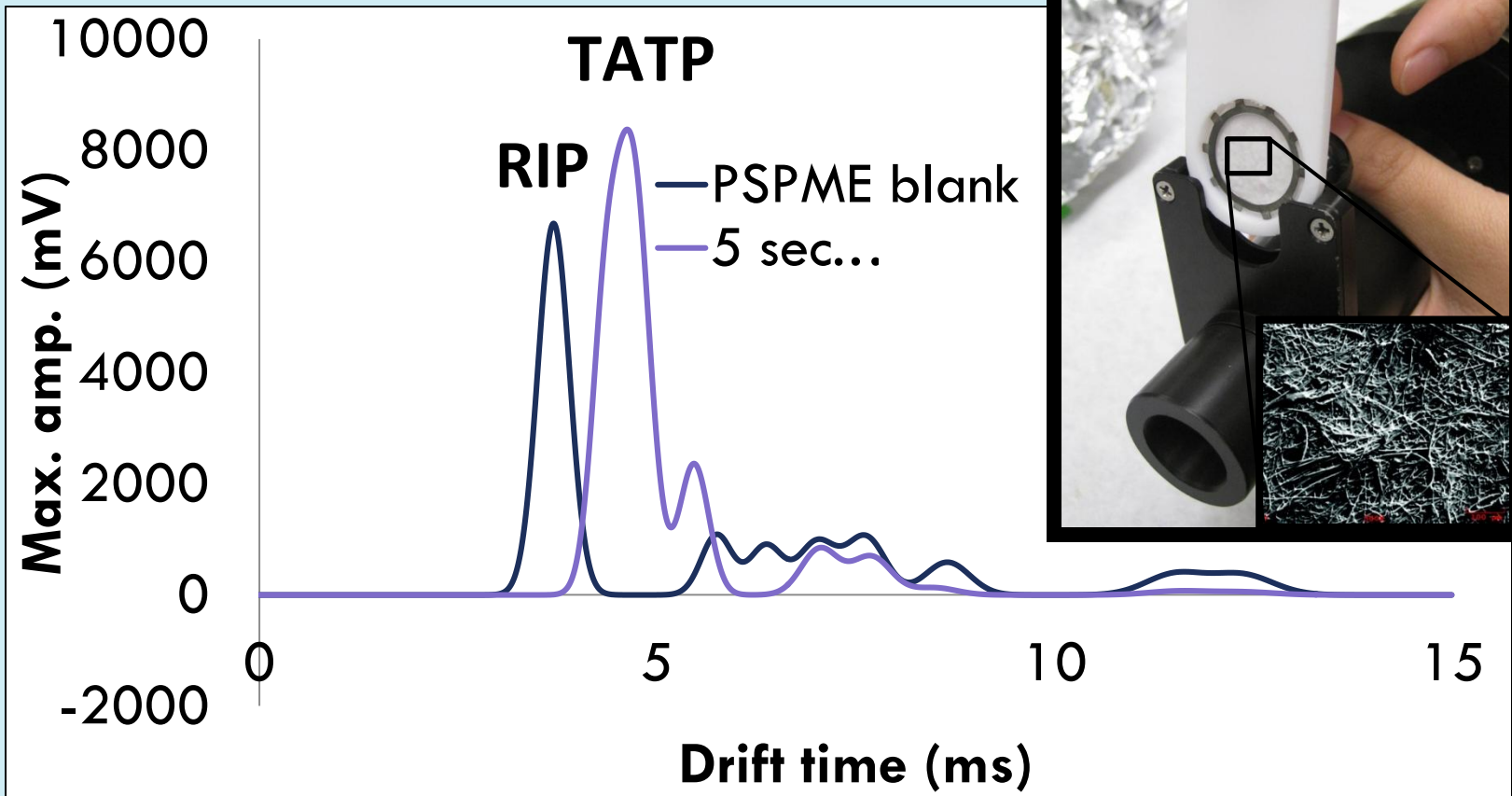
**Dynamic Extraction in LD3 Containers  
5 min. extr.**



# Static Extraction of 10 mg of TATP



# Dynamic Extraction – 10 mg TATP



# ***Conclusions***

- **IMS can be used for detection of volatiles**
  - Identification of volatile target compounds
  - Sampling and preconcentration
  - Delivery of sample/analytes to detector
  - Optimization of IMS conditions for new target compounds
  - Identify sources of false +, false – and potential interferences
- **IMS detectors can complement canines**
- **Novel PSPME geometry is compatible with IMS**
- **PSPME enhances performance (sensitivity)**



# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

## **Financial Support:**

National Institute of Justice (Grant # 2006-DN-BX-K027)

NIST (Delivery of SPME-IMS interface to Gillen group - 2006)

DHS Center of Excellence at URI (Peroxides volatiles - 2010)

NIJ Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (NIJ Grant # 2010-DN-BX-K210)

## **Collaborators:**

Idaho National Laboratory

Jill Scott , Timothy McJunkin, Carla Miller

DHS S&T Transportation Security Laboratory

Richard Lareau, Anna Whitehead, Matthew Magee, Alfred Leung

Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory

Ron Kelly (smokeless powders samples)

Miami Dade Police Department, Crime Laboratory Bureau

Inge Corbin and Oliver Spicer (controlled substance sampling)

University of Rhode Island DHS Center of Excellence

Jimmie Oxley, James Smith, Jon Canino

# ***Almirall Group – \*IMS research***



**\*Dr. Patty Diaz, Dr. Hanh Lai, Dr. Monica Joshi, Wen Fan,  
Dr. Sigalit Gura, Howard Holness and Mimy Young**

# *Cited Scientific References*

- Gura, S.; Guerra-Diaz, P.; Lai, H.; Almirall, J.R. Enhancement in Sample Collection for the Detection of MDMA Using a Novel Planar SPME (PSPME) Device Coupled to Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS). *Drug Testing and Analysis* 2009, 1, 355-362.  
<http://clusters.fiu.edu/Meet-FIU-Researchers/11-03-09/Almirall-novel-planar-SPME.pdf> (accessed August 30, 2011)
- Lai, H.; Corbin, I.; Almirall, J.R. Headspace Sampling and Detection of Cocaine, MDMA, and Marijuana Via Volatile Markers in the Presence of Potential Interferences by Solid Phase Microextraction-Ion Mobility Spectrometry (SPME-IMS). *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry* 2008, 392(1-2), 105-113.
- Macias, M.S.; Guerra-Diaz, P.; Almirall, J.R.; Furton, K.G. Detection of Piperonal Emitted from Polymer Controlled Odor Mimic Permeation Systems Utilizing *Canis familiaris* and Solid Phase Microextraction-Ion Mobility Spectrometry. *Forensic Science International* 2010, 195(1), 132-138.
- Pawliszyn, J. Solid Phase Microextraction. *In Sampling and Sample Preparation in Field and Laboratory: Fundamentals and New Directions in Sample Preparation*; Pawliszyn, J., Ed.; Comprehensive Analytical Chemistry Series; Elsevier: Oxford, 2002.

# ***Additional Scientific References***

- **Almirall, J.R.; Guerra-Diaz, P.; Holness, H.; Furton, K.G. Field Detection of Drugs and Explosives by SPME-IMS, Final Technical Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, submitted July 2011.**
- **Guerra, P.; Lai, H.; Almirall, J.R. Analysis of the Volatile Chemical Markers of Explosives Using Novel Solid Phase Microextraction Coupled to Ion Mobility Spectrometry. *Journal of Separation Science* 2008, 31(15), 2891-2898.**
- **Guerra-Diaz, P.; Gura, S.; Almirall, J.R. Dynamic Planar Solid Phase Microextraction-Ion Mobility Spectrometry for Rapid Field Air Sampling and Analysis of Illicit Drugs and Explosives. *Analytical Chemistry* 2010, 82(7), 2826-2835.**
- **Gura, S.; Joshi, M.; Almirall, J.R. Solid-Phase Microextraction (SPME) Calibration Using Inkjet Microdrop Printing for Direct Loading of Known Analyte Mass on to SPME Fibers. *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry* 2010, 398(2), 1049-1060.**
- **Joshi, M.; Delgado, Y.; Guerra, P.; Lai, H.; Almirall, J.R. Detection of Odor Signatures of Smokeless Powders Using Solid Phase Microextraction Coupled to an Ion Mobility Spectrometer. *Forensic Science International* 2009, 188, 112-118.**  
**<http://clusters.fiu.edu/meet-fiu-researchers/11-03-09/almirall-smokeless-powders.pdf> (accessed August 30, 2011)**

## ***Additional Scientific References (Continued)***

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# Questions?

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