

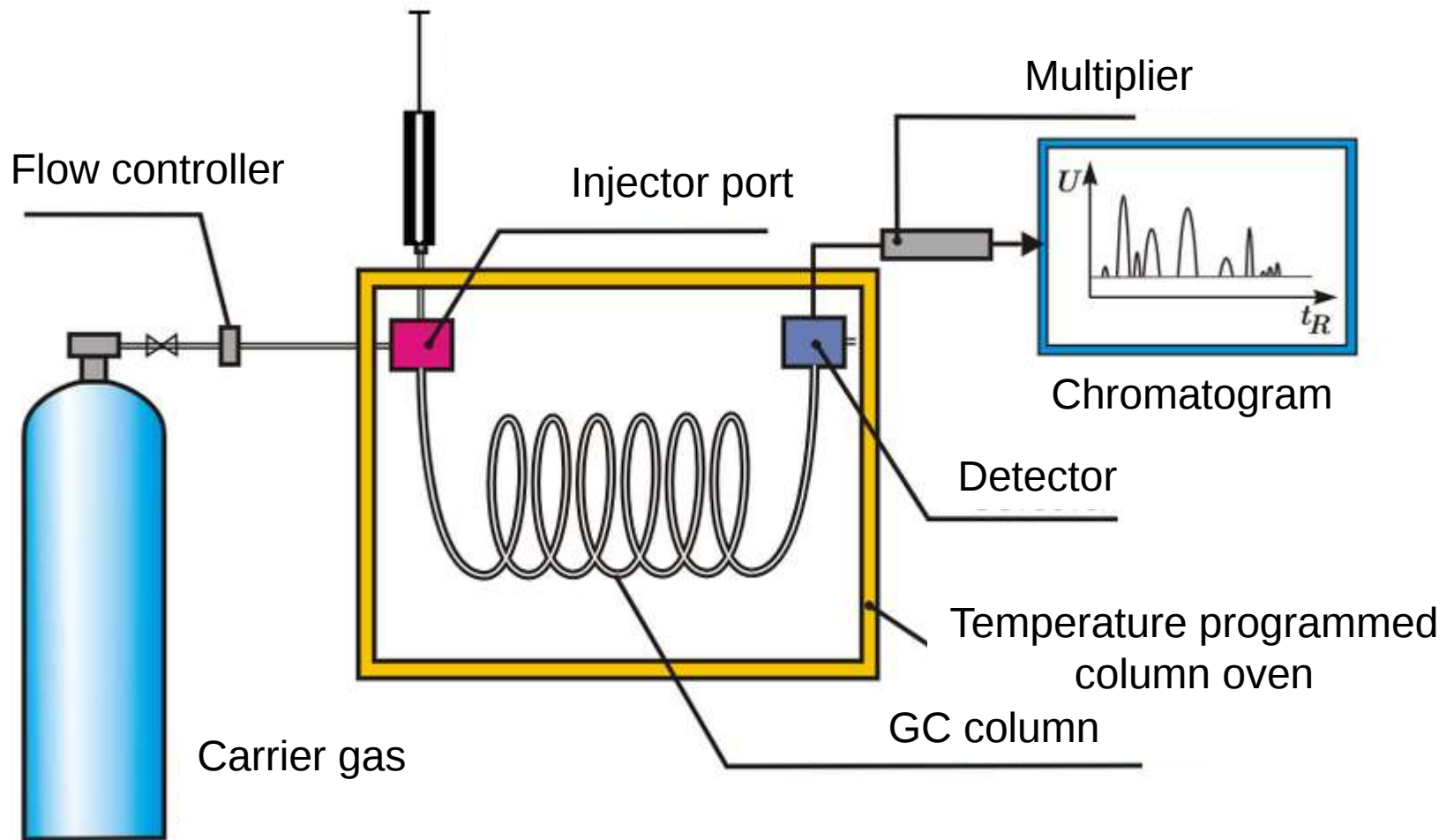
GC-MS and LC-MS methods for Flame Retardant (FR) analysis

Sicco Brandsma

Outlines

- Gas Chromatograph
- Different detectors ECD FID NPD and MS
- Focus on Mass spectrometry
- Different GC parameters
- BFRs PBDEs, BDE209, TBBP-A and HBCD
- “New” compounds PFRs, DBDPE, BTBPE, TBPH, TBB and, PBT

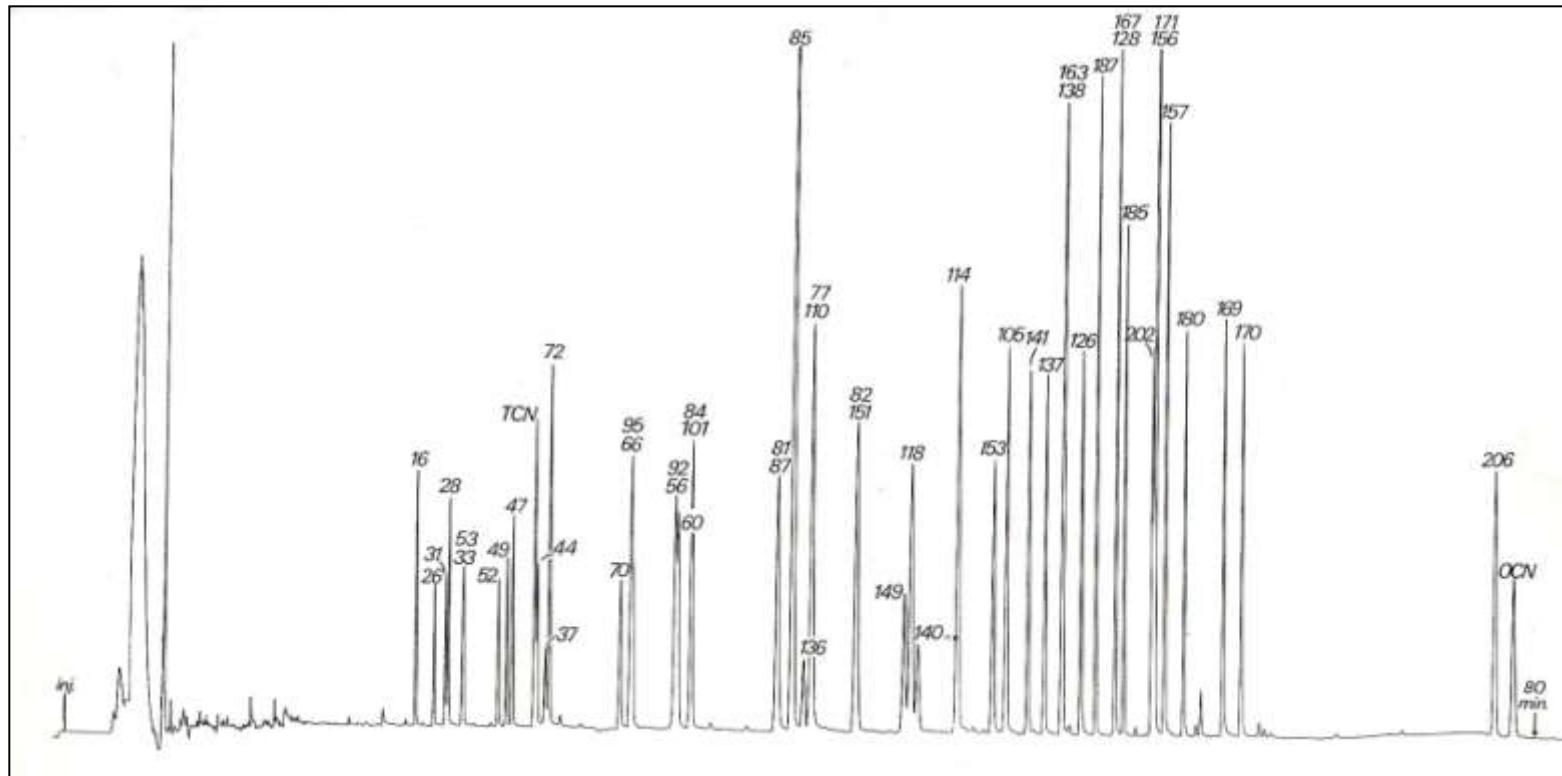
Gas chromatograph



GC-Detectors

- Flame Ionisation detector (FID)
 - Sensitive for detecting hydrocarbons
 - Not really selective measures all flammable compounds
- Electron Capture Detector (ECD)
 - Sensitive to halogens and nitro compounds
 - Low linear range compared to FID
- Nitrogen Phosphorous Detector (NPD)
 - Very sensitive but selective detector that responds almost exclusively to nitrogen and phosphorous compounds

ECD chromatogram



- Low selectivity: coeluting compounds can not be separated

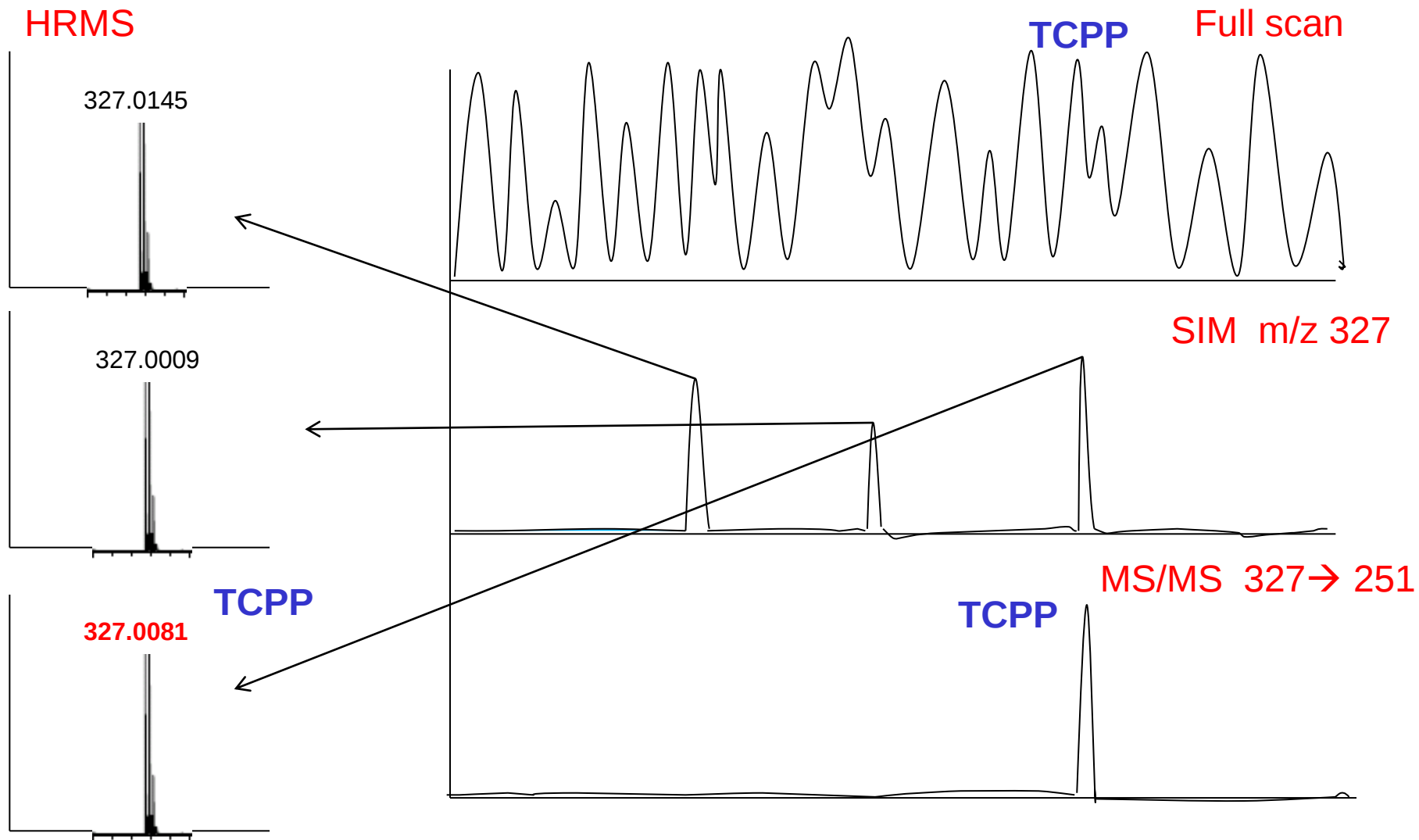
Mass Spectrometry (1)

- Electron Impact (EI)
 - Hard ionisation fragmentation of the molecular ion
 - Library search for EI spectra
- Chemical ionisation (CI)
 - Soft ionisation clear spectrum of the Molecular ion
 - Use of reagent gas (Methane)
 - Positive PCI or negative ECNI mode
 - ECNI very sensitive for PBDEs

Mass Spectrometry (2)

- MS
 - Quadrupole (SIM or SCAN)
 - Ion trap
 - Time Of Flight (TOF)
 - Sector instruments (magnet)
- Tandem Mass spectrometry (MS/MS)
 - Two analysers coupled by an collision cell

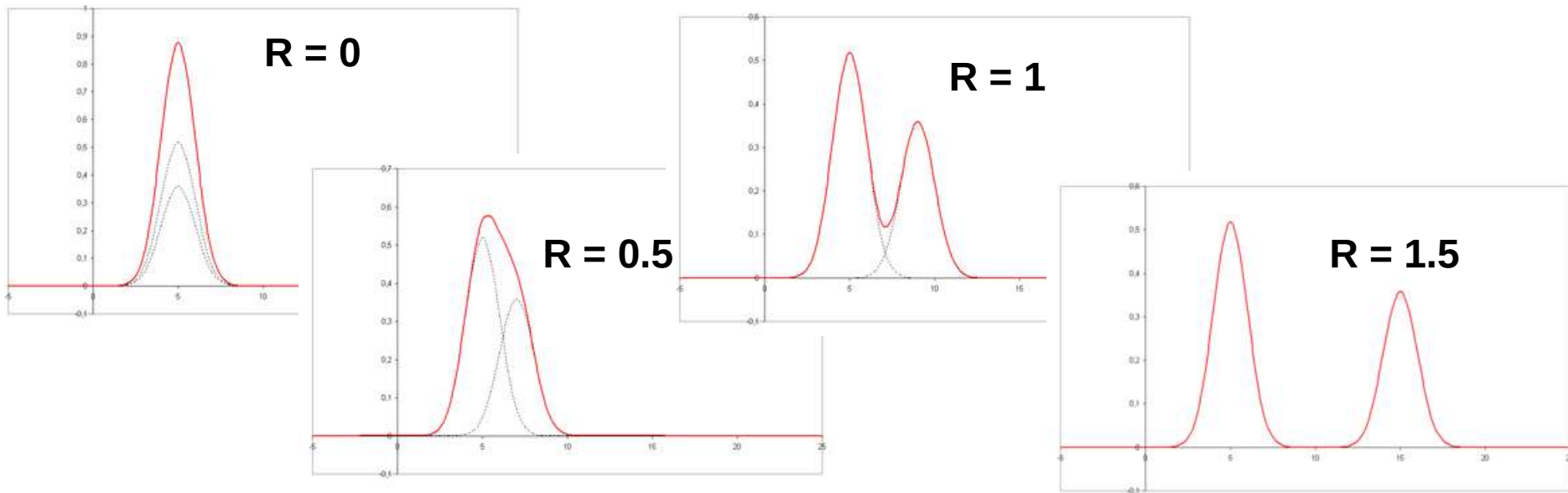
Mass Spectrometry (3)



GC parameters

- Selection of the Stationary Phase
- Column Dimension
- Temperature Program
- Linear Gas Velocity
- Type of Carrier Gas

Resolution



$$R = \Delta t_R \times 2 / (W_1 + W_2) \quad \text{or} \quad R = \sqrt{N} / 4$$

- Improving the resolution:
 - Changing mobile phase composition
 - Changing column temperature
 - Changing composition of stationary phase
 - Changing the column length

Selection stationary phase

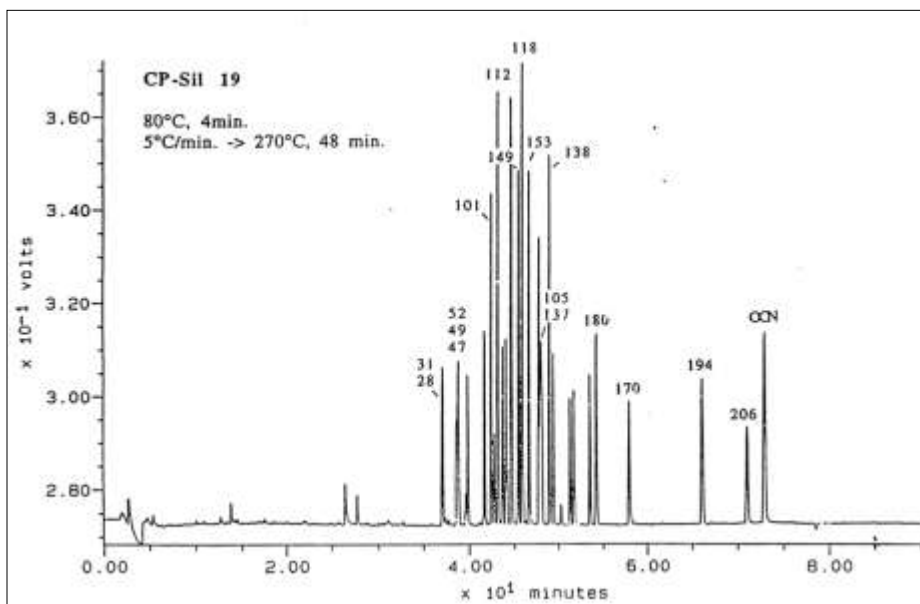
polarity scale	Stationary phase	brand and type names
5	100% Dimethyl polysiloxane	ZB-1 MS, CP-Sil 5 CB, DB-1, HP-1 MS, RTX-1
8	5% Phenyl-(arylene)- 95% methyl polysiloxane	ZB-5 MS, CP-Sil 8 CB, DB-5 MS, HP-5 MS, RTX-5 MS
17	50% Phenyl-50% methyl polysiloxane	ZB-50, DB-17 MS, HP-17, RTX-50
19	14% cyanopropyl-phenyl/86% dimethylpolysiloxane	CP-Sil 19 CB
24	75% Phenyl-25% methyl polysiloxane	ZB-50, CP-Sil 24 CB
52	polyethylene glycol	ZB-WAX, DB-WAX, CP-WAX 52 CB
88	100% 3-cyanopropylpolysiloxane	BPX70, CP-Sil 88 CB, RTX-2330

- The most widely used stationary phases for halogenated pollutants are: DB-1, DB-5, BPX-5, HT-8, CP-Sil8 CB or CP-Sil 19 CB

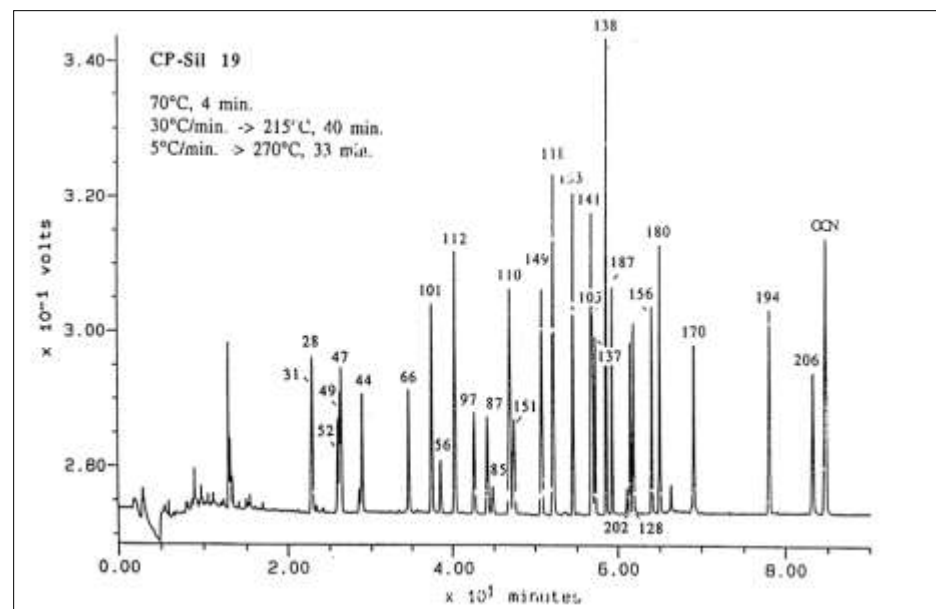
Column Dimensions

- Effect of Diameter (ID): Stronger than that of Length
 - **Length:**
 - > 100m: too much pressure required, too long retention times,
 - < 25: serious loss of separation
 - **ID:**
 - <0.10 mm: hardly possible (columns >20m)
 - >0.25 mm: serious loss of separation
 - **Film Thickness:**
 - < 0.1 μm : risk for degradation due to poor coating
 - > 0.3 μm : long retention times, risk for tailing peaks

Temperature Program



**Temperature program: 4 min, 80°C;
5°C/min to 270; 48 min 270°C.**



**Temperature program: 4 min, 70°C;
30°C/min to 215°C; 40 min 215°C; 5°C
/min to 270°C; 33 min 270°C**

The Optimum mobile phase velocity

The H-u curve is very useful to determine the **optimum mobile phase velocity** u_{opt} at which the highest column efficiency will be attained

$$H = \frac{L}{N}$$

Van deemster equation

$$H = A + \frac{B}{u} + C \cdot u$$

H = HETP (plate height)

A = Eddy diffusion term

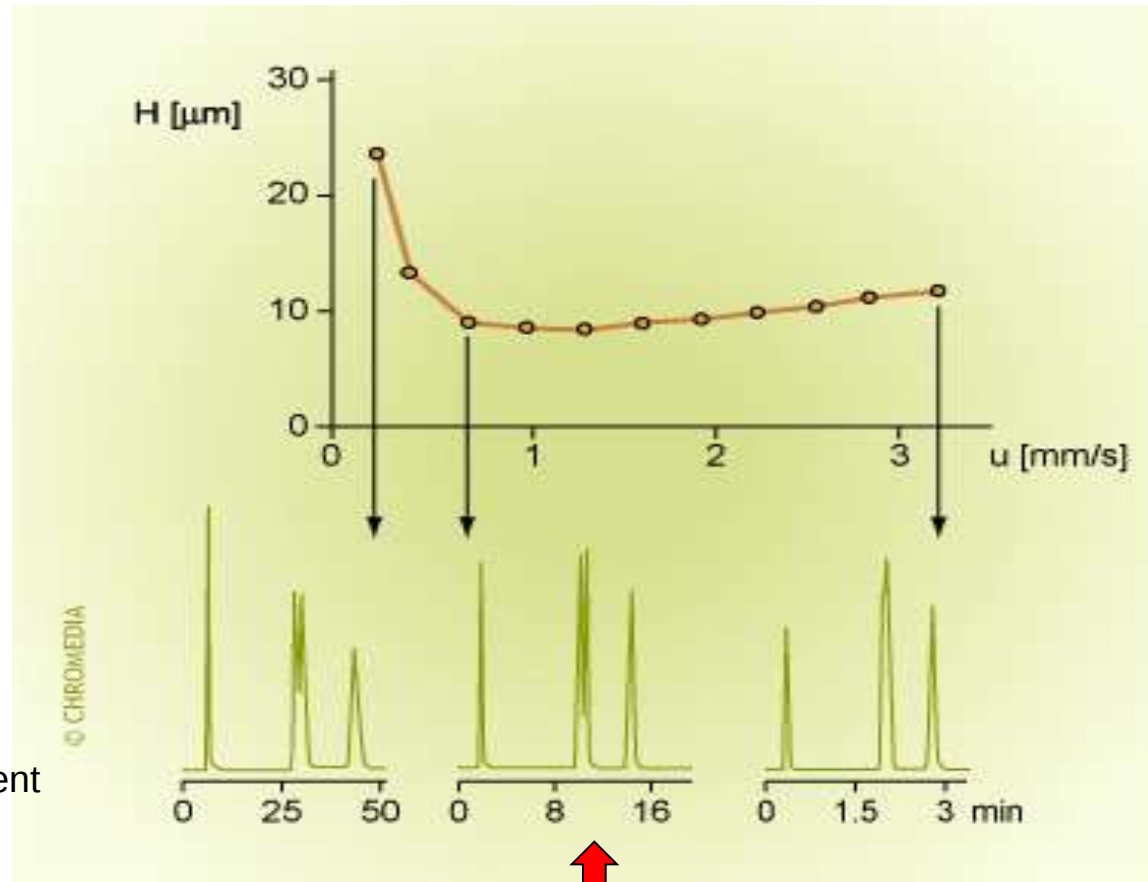
B = Longitudinal diffusion term

u = Linear velocity

C = Resistance to mass transfer coefficient

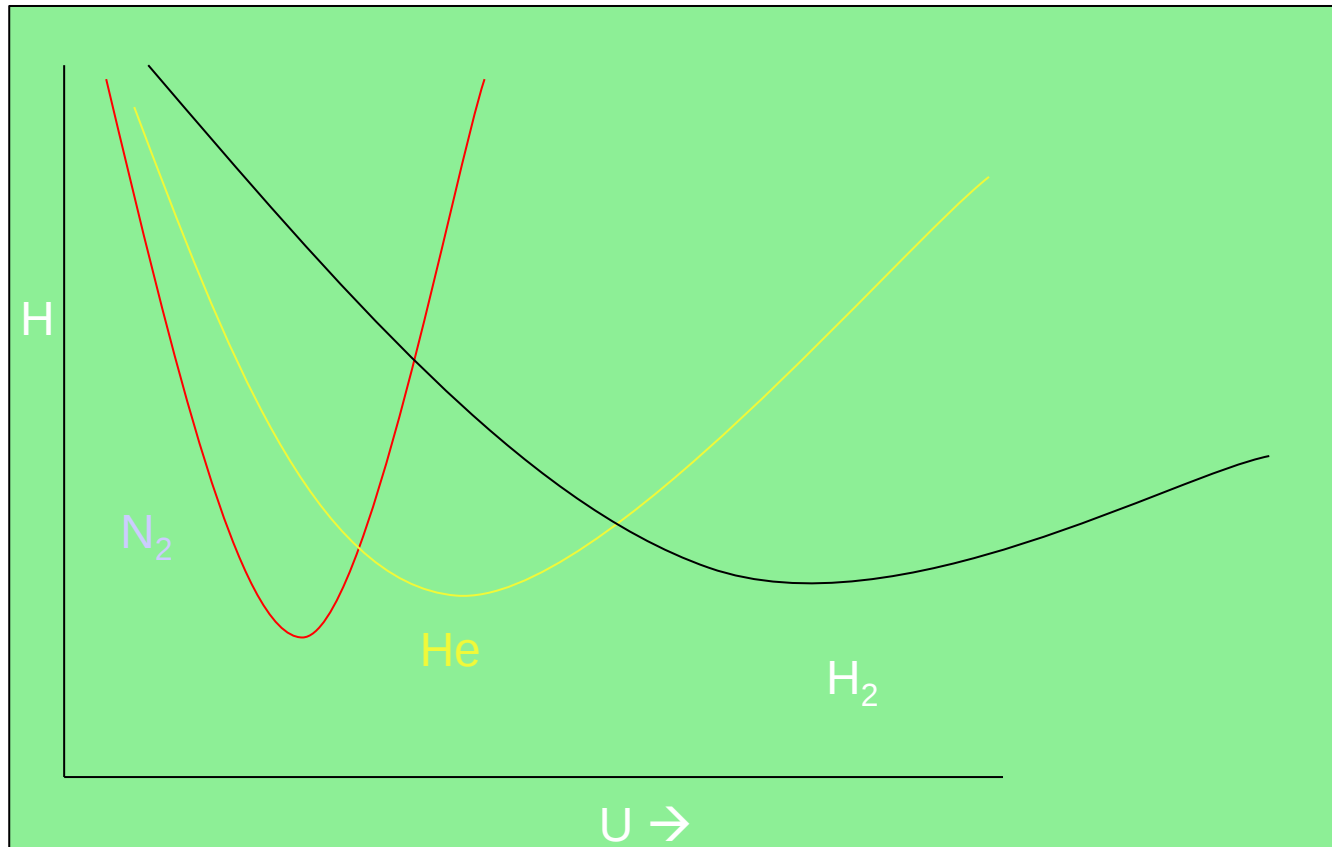
N = Plate number

L = Column length



Optimum resolution

Selection of carrier gas



- Hydrogen provide optimum resolution at the highest carrier gas velocity; **optimum separation within an the sorter time**

PBDEs

- PBDEs

- GC-EI-MS, GC-ECNI-MS, GC/HRMS or LC-MS/MS
 - Advantage and Disadvantage
- EI versus ECNI
- Elution of interfering compounds
- Different GC-columns
- Internal standards

Advantages and Disadvantages

	GC/LR-ECNI-MS	GC/LR-EI-MS	GC/HRMS	LC-MS/MS
LOD	30 fg - 1.7 pg*	0.5 - 32 pg*	0.1 - 4.8 pg*	12 - 30 pg*
Sensitivity	++	—	+	— —
Selectivity	No	yes	yes	yes
Labeled standards	No (only for BDE209)	yes	yes	yes
Thermal degradation	yes	yes	yes	no
Expensive	+ —	—	++	+
Expert training	—	—	++	+
Library search	No	yes	yes	No
	*Eljarrat et al, (2002) J Mass Spectrom 37: 76-84	*Eljarrat et al, (2002) J Mass Spectrom 37: 76-84	*Alaee et al, (2001) Chemosphere 44: 1489-1495	*Abdallah et al, (2009) Anal. Chem., 81, 7460–7467

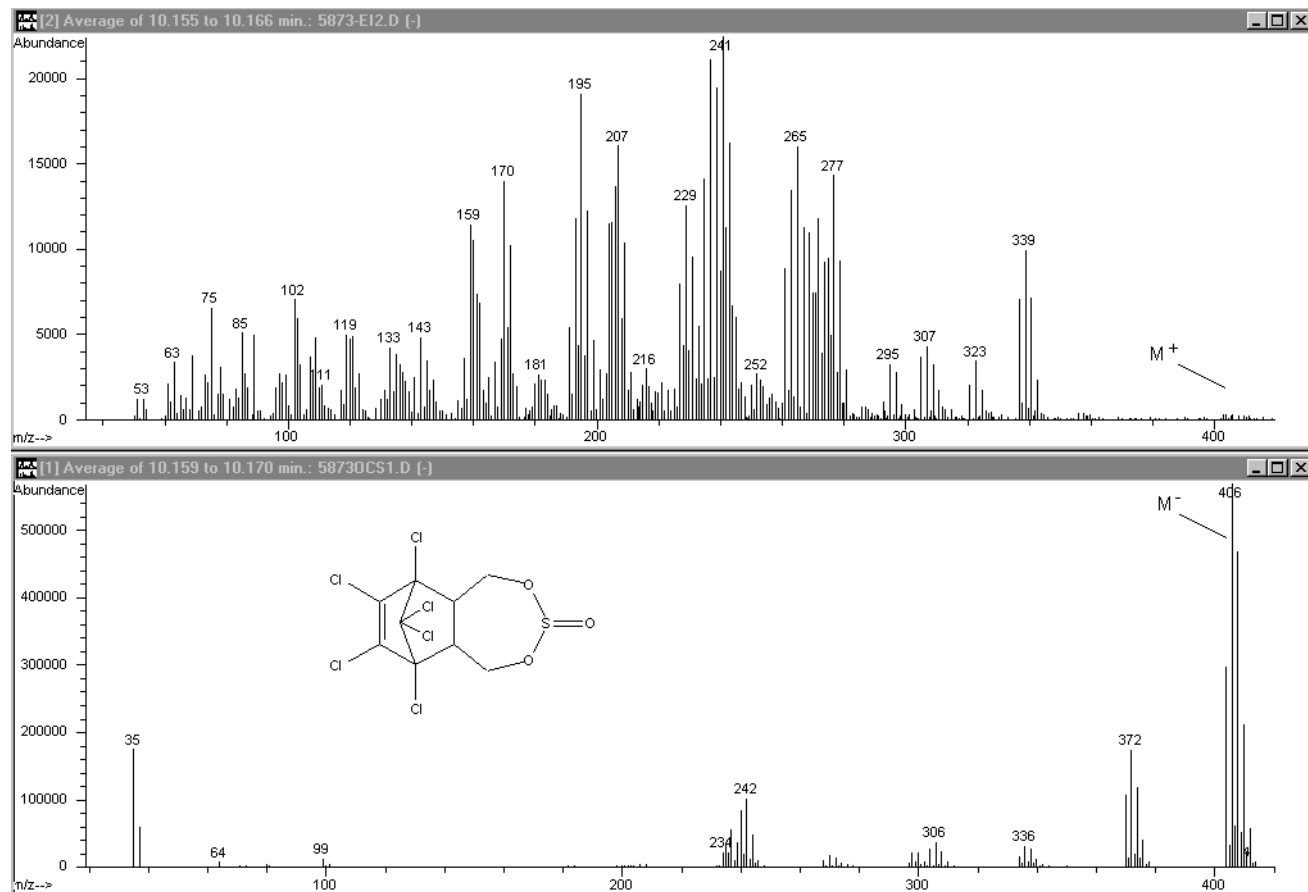
Anal Bioanal Chem (2006) 386: 807–817
DOI 10.1007/s00216-006-0400-y

REVIEW

Heather M. Stapleton

Instrumental methods and challenges in quantifying polybrominated diphenyl ethers in environmental extracts: a review

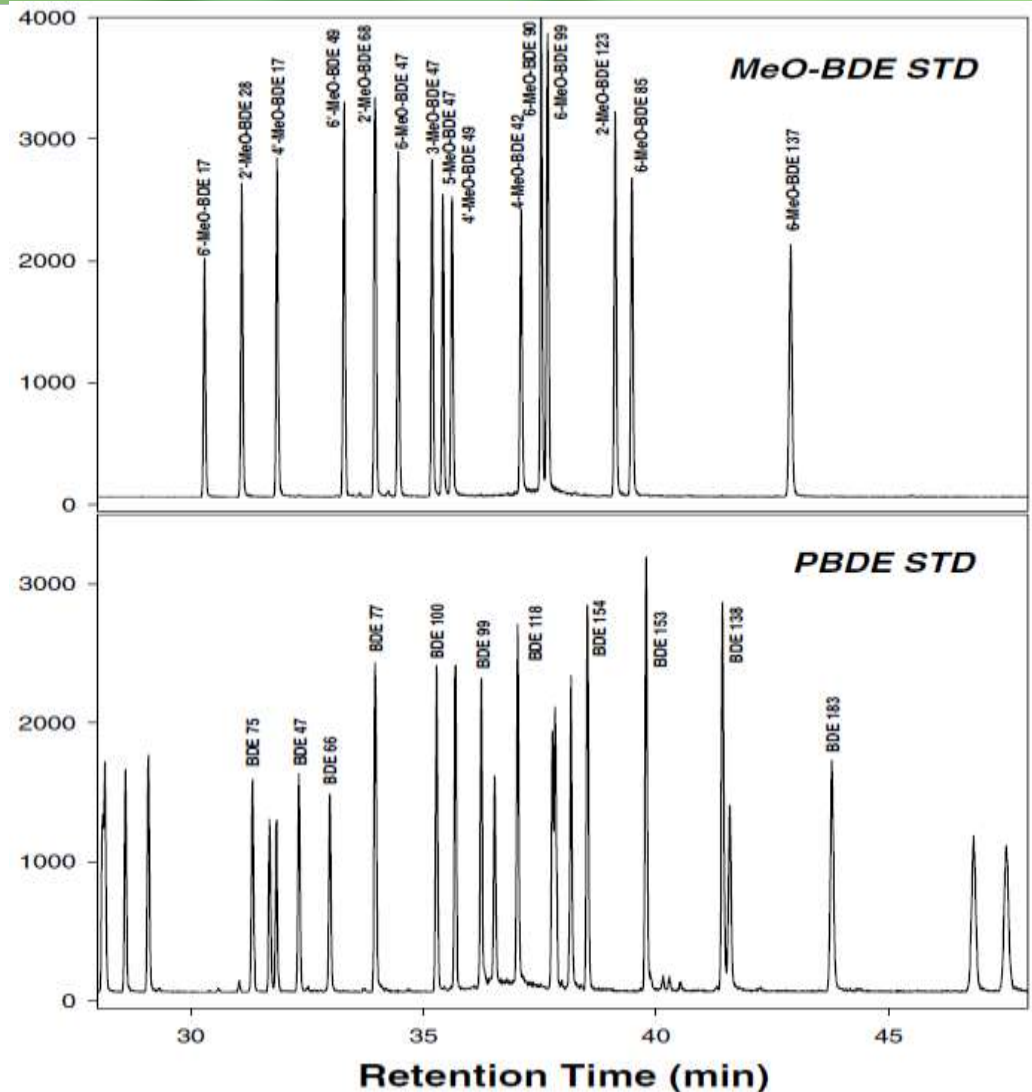
GC-EI MS versus GC-ECNI MS



Mass spectrum of endosulfan (C₉H₆Cl₆O₃S, m. wt. 406 g/mole, CAS number 115-29-7) in EI (upper panel) and ECNI (lower panel). EI produces extensive fragmentation with very little molecular ion formed (M⁺), but the molecular anion (M⁻) is the most abundant peak in ECNI. The fragment at 372 *m/z* is formed by loss of chlorine which also appears at 35 and 37 *m/z*.

Interfering compounds

- PBBs: BB-153 may interfere with BDE-154 when ECNI-MS is applied.
- TBBPA may interfere with BDE-153 when ECNI-MS is applied.
- MeO-PBDEs: 5-Cl-6-MeO-BDE47 and 6'-Cl-2'-MeO-BDE68 may interfere with BDE-99 when ECNI-MS is applied.
- DiMeO-PBDE: 2',6-DiMeO-BDE68 may interfere with BDE-99 when ECNI-MS is applied.



Resolving power of seven different GC- columns

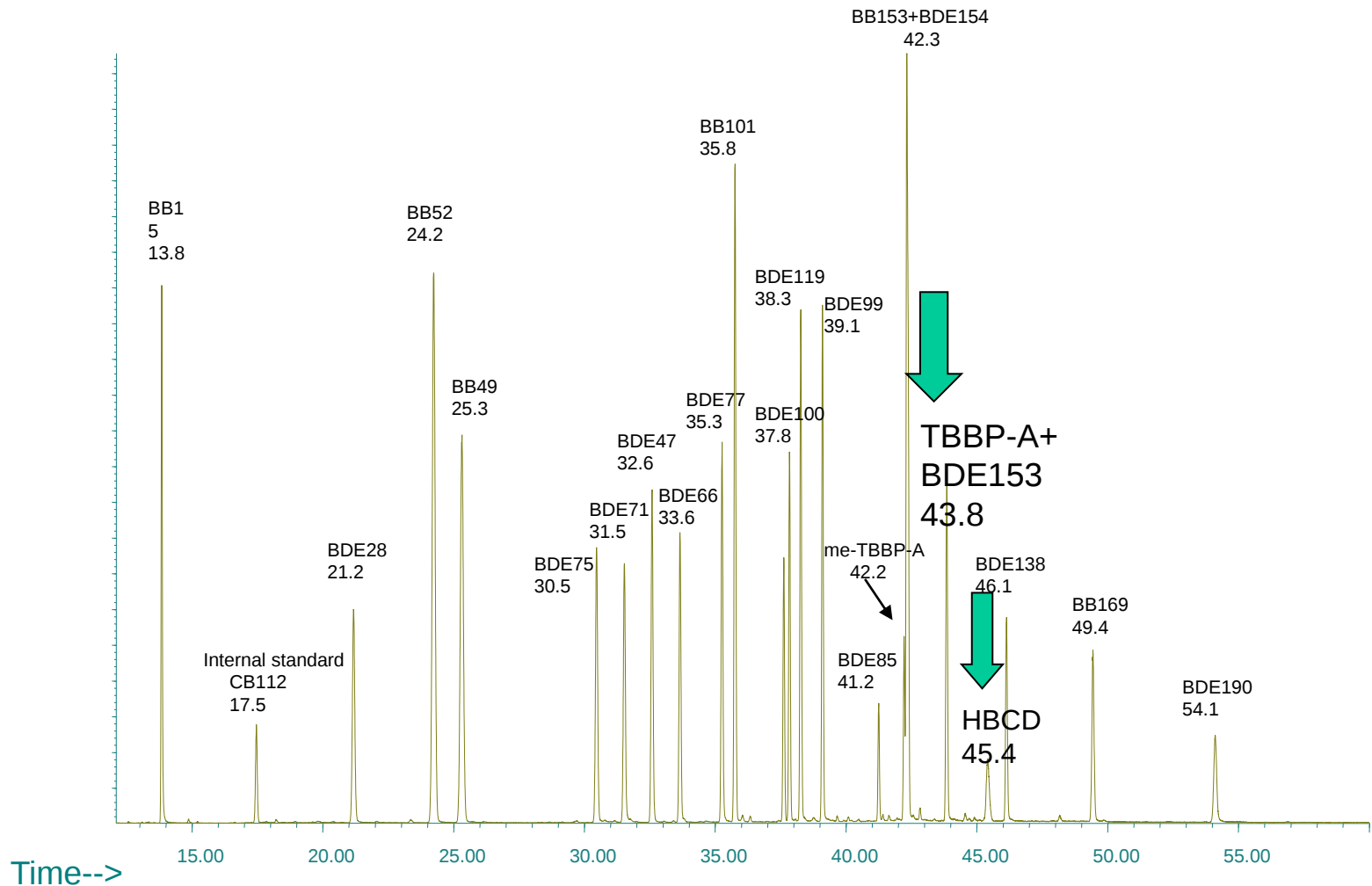
This database is useful for determining the most suitable column for quantitative, congener-specific PBDE analysis.

Column	DB-1	DB-5	HT-5	DB-17	DB-XLB	HT-8	CP-Sil 19
Dimension (m × mm × μm)	30 × 0.25 × 0.25	30 × 0.25 × 0.25	30 × 0.25 × 0.10	30 × 0.25 × 0.25	30 × 0.25 × 0.25	25 × 0.22 × 0.25	17 × 0.15 × 0.30
Number of coeluting BDEs	62	63	66	67	56	62	72
Number of coelutions with flame retardants	24	26	27	30	22	26	29
Co-elution with major BDE congeners							
Major BDE							
28	16, 33	16, 33	16, 33, 38			16, 33, 38	16, 33
47							
49	68, 80	68	68	62	42, 48, 68, 71	68	51, 75
85				155			114
99			116	127			
100			109	101		109, 120	
138			166		HBCD		166
153			HBCD	168			
154	MTBBP-A, BB-153	MTBBP-A, BB 153		105		126	BB 153
183	BB 169	BB 169					

MTBBP-A dimethylated tetrabromobisphenol-A, *HBCD* hexabromocyclododecane

GC-ECNI MS chromatogram

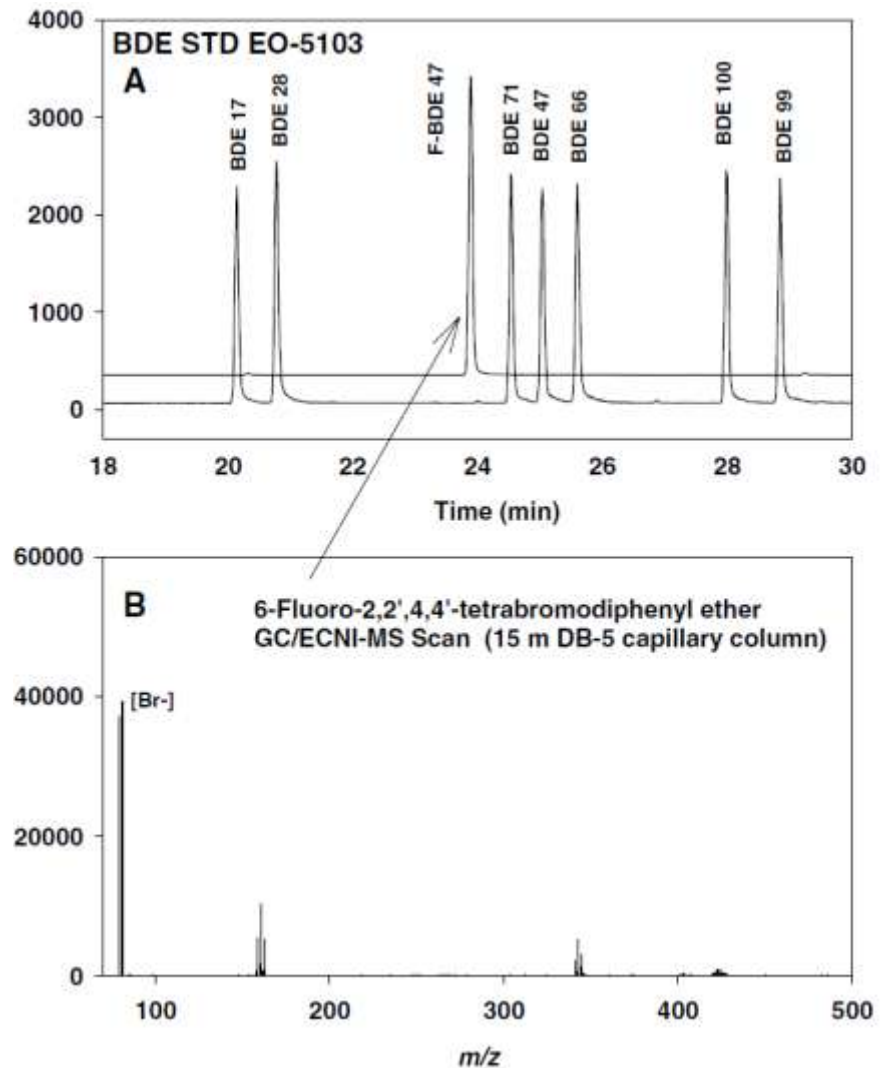
CP-Sil8 CB MS 50 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 μ m



Internal standards

- Internal std for GC-ECNI-MS

- BDE58
- BDE77
- BDE128
- ¹³C₁₂ BDE209
- F-PBDEs



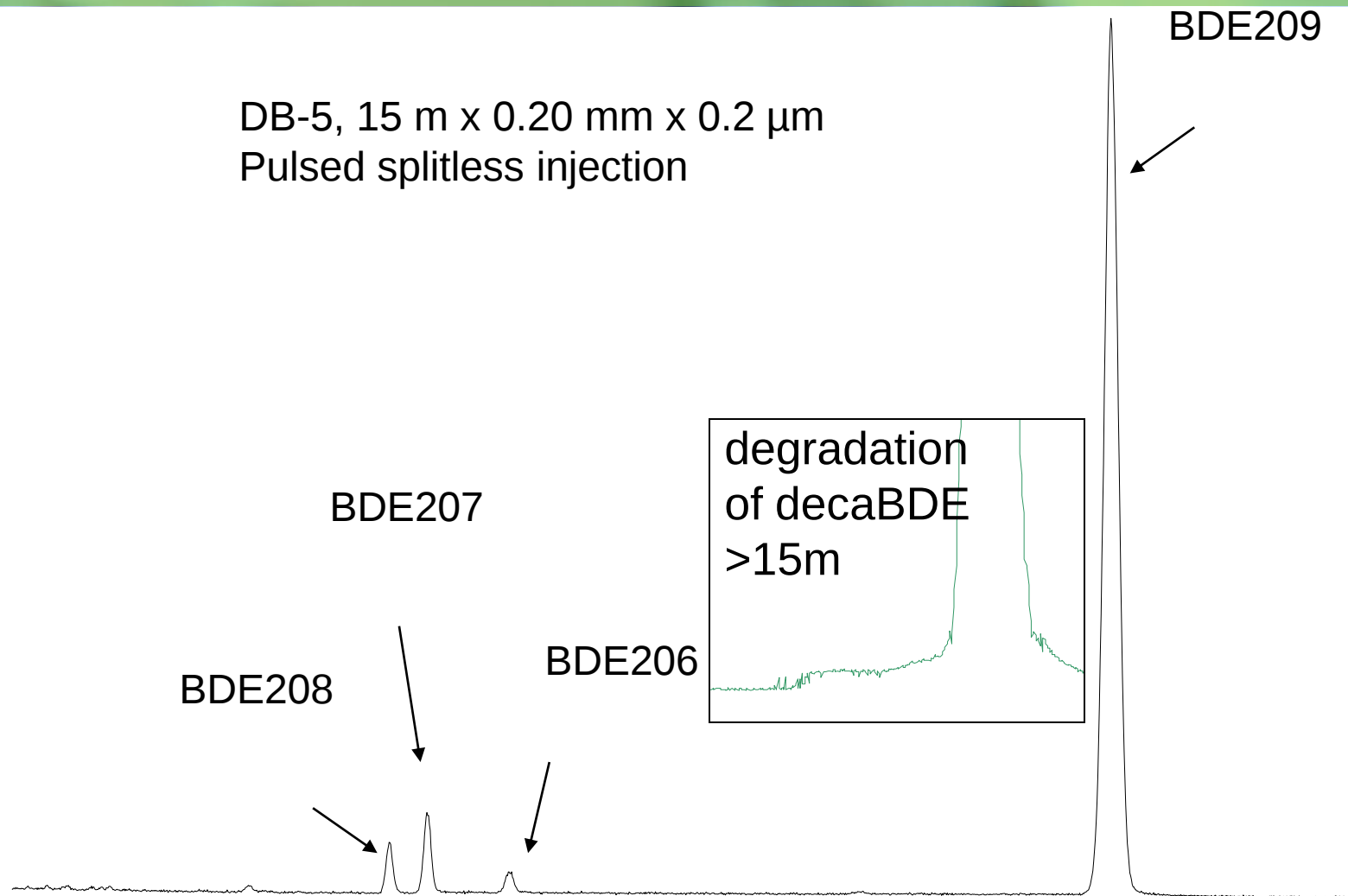
Conclusions

- GC-ECNI-MS is the best all-round method to analyze PBDEs
- Be aware of coeluting of “new” brominated compounds (only measuring m/z 79 and 81 in ECNI mode)
- However when higher detection limits are not a problem GC-EI-MS or LC-MS/MS are good alternatives
- Advantage of EI over ECNI mode is the use of labelled internal standards

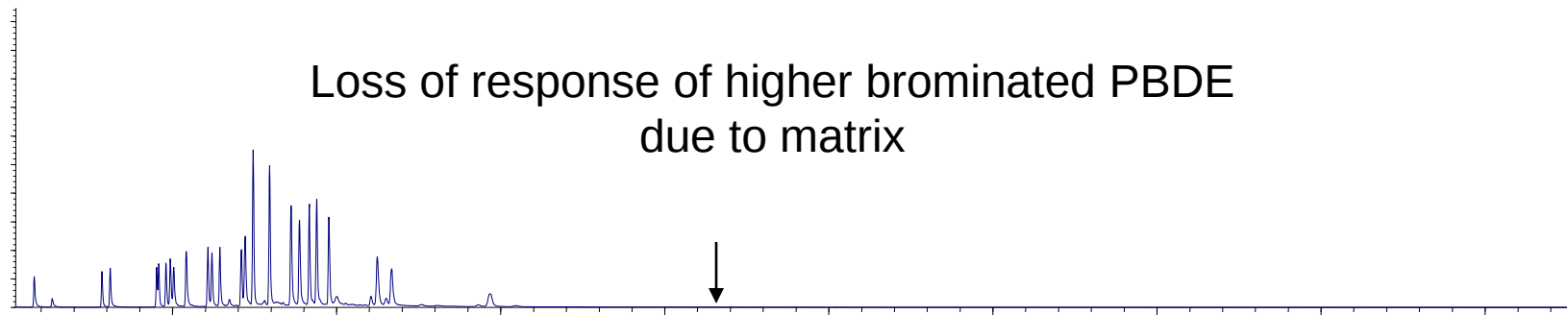
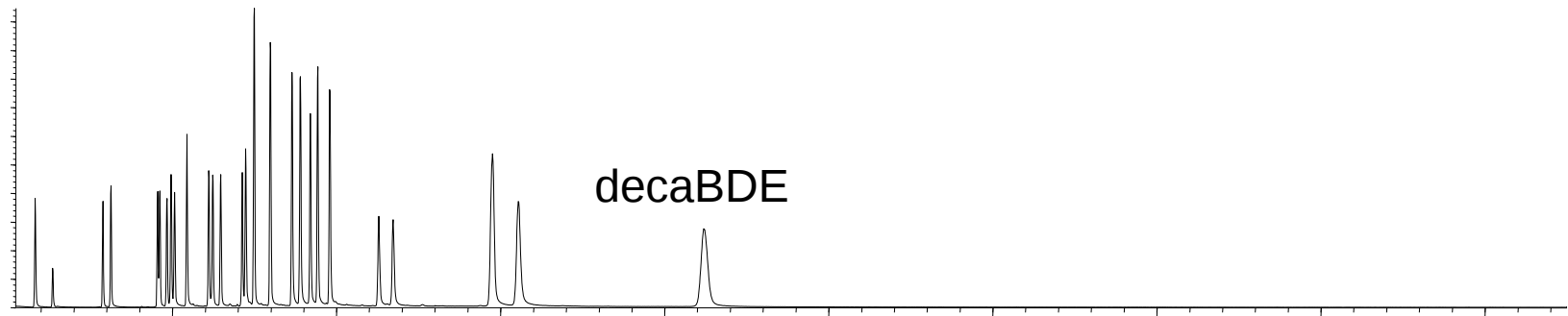
BDE209

BDE209 GC/ECNI-MS

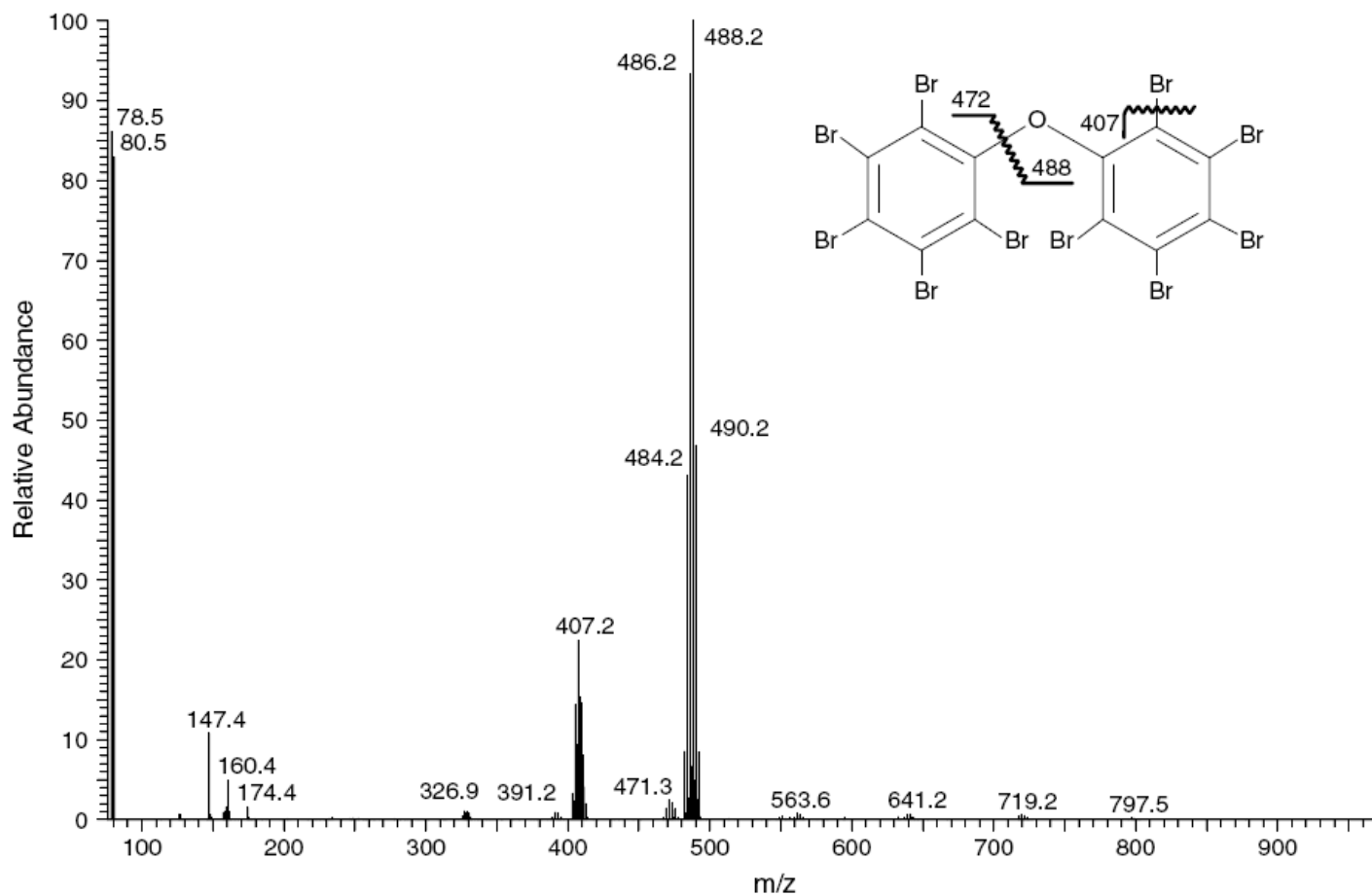
DB-5, 15 m x 0.20 mm x 0.2 μ m
Pulsed splitless injection



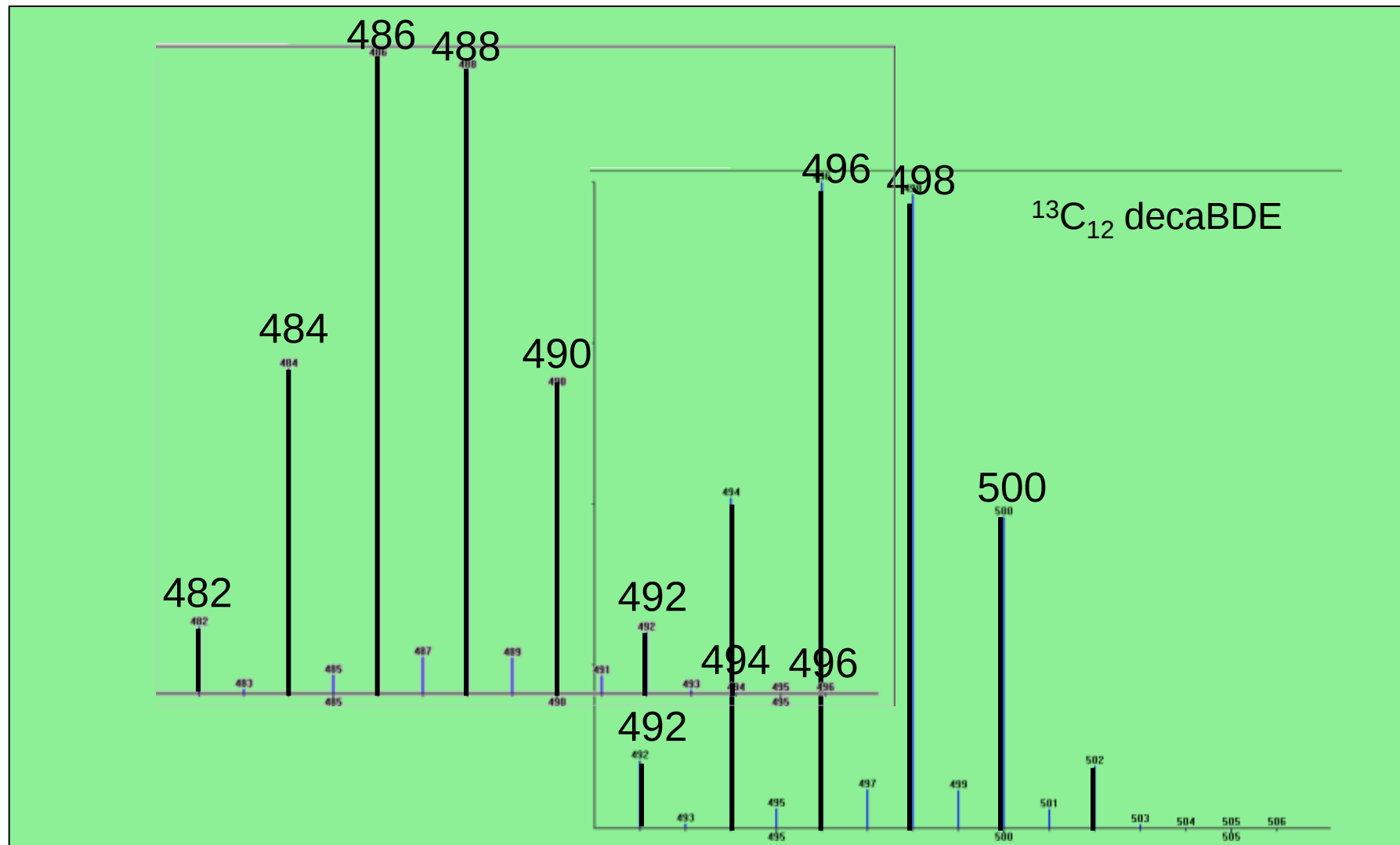
Matrix effects



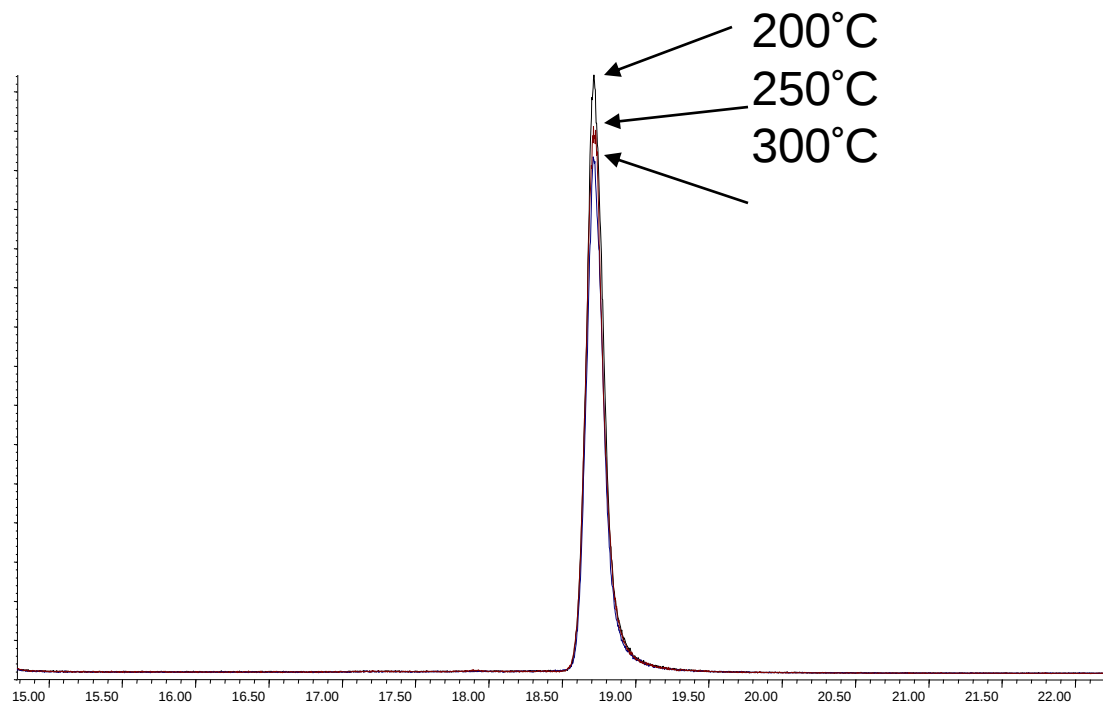
MS spectra (ECNI) of BDE209



MS spectra (ECNI) of $^{13}\text{C}_{12}$ BDE209



Ion source (ECNI) temperature



Summary for BDE209

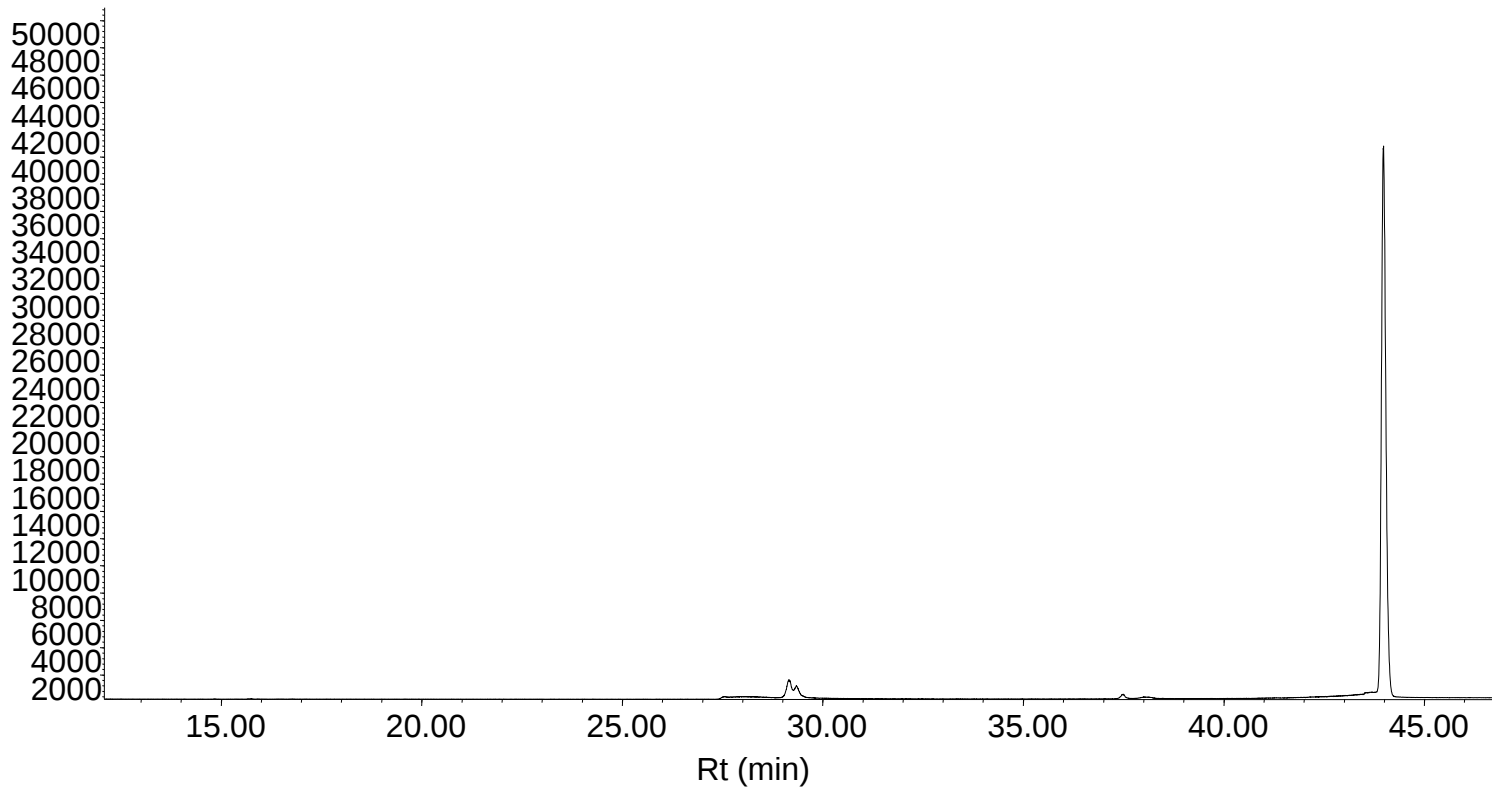
- Use ^{13}C decaBDE as internal standard
- Use <15 m GC column
- Use short injector residence times (pulsed splitless) or on-column injection
- Reduce sample exposure to glassware and reduce if possible number of pieces of glassware used
- If possible physically segregate sample by type and analysis in separate areas
- Reduce UV-light exposure (UV-filters or amber glassware)
- Reduce and avoid dust

HBCD

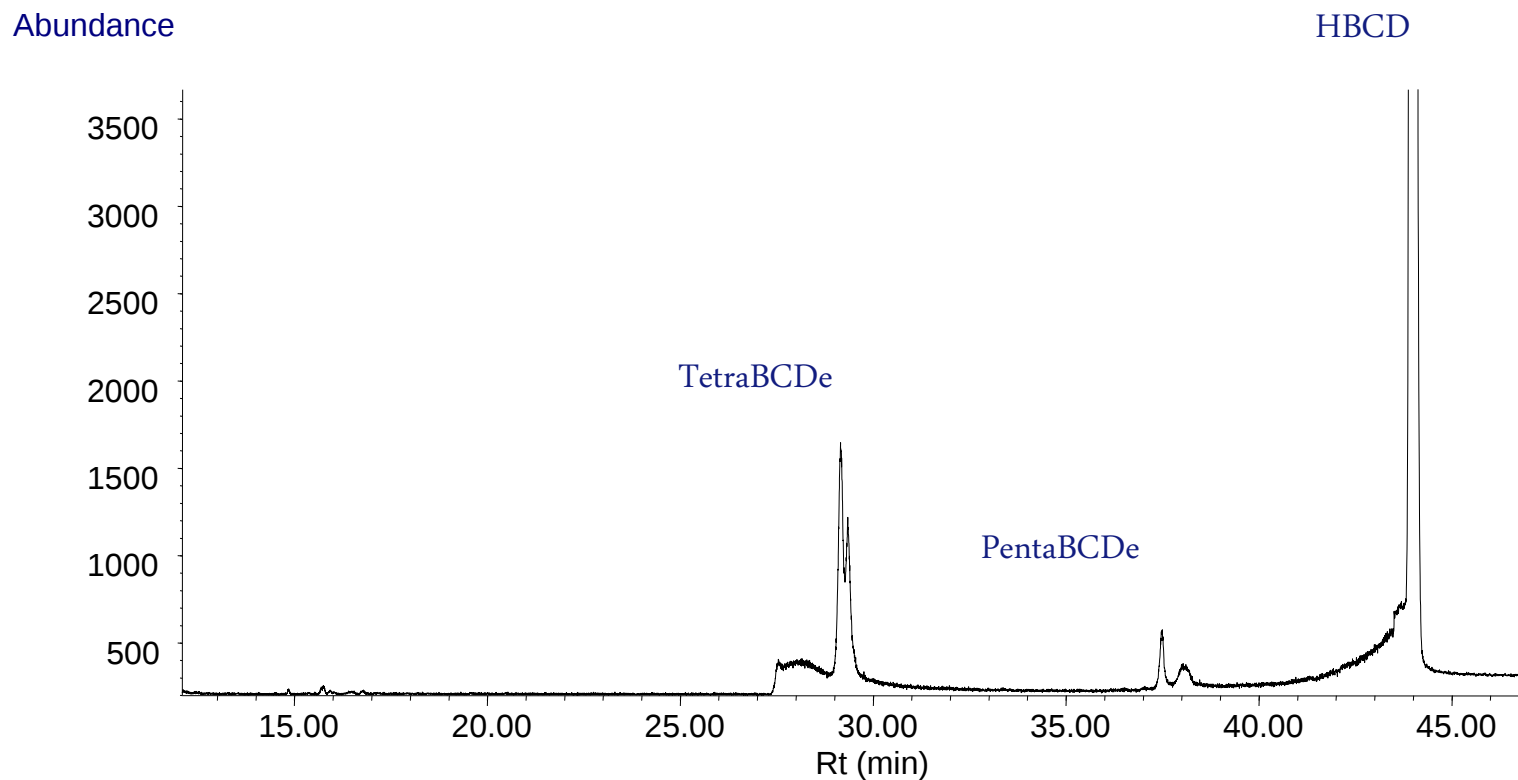
GC or LC ?

GC-MS (ECNI) HBCD (I)

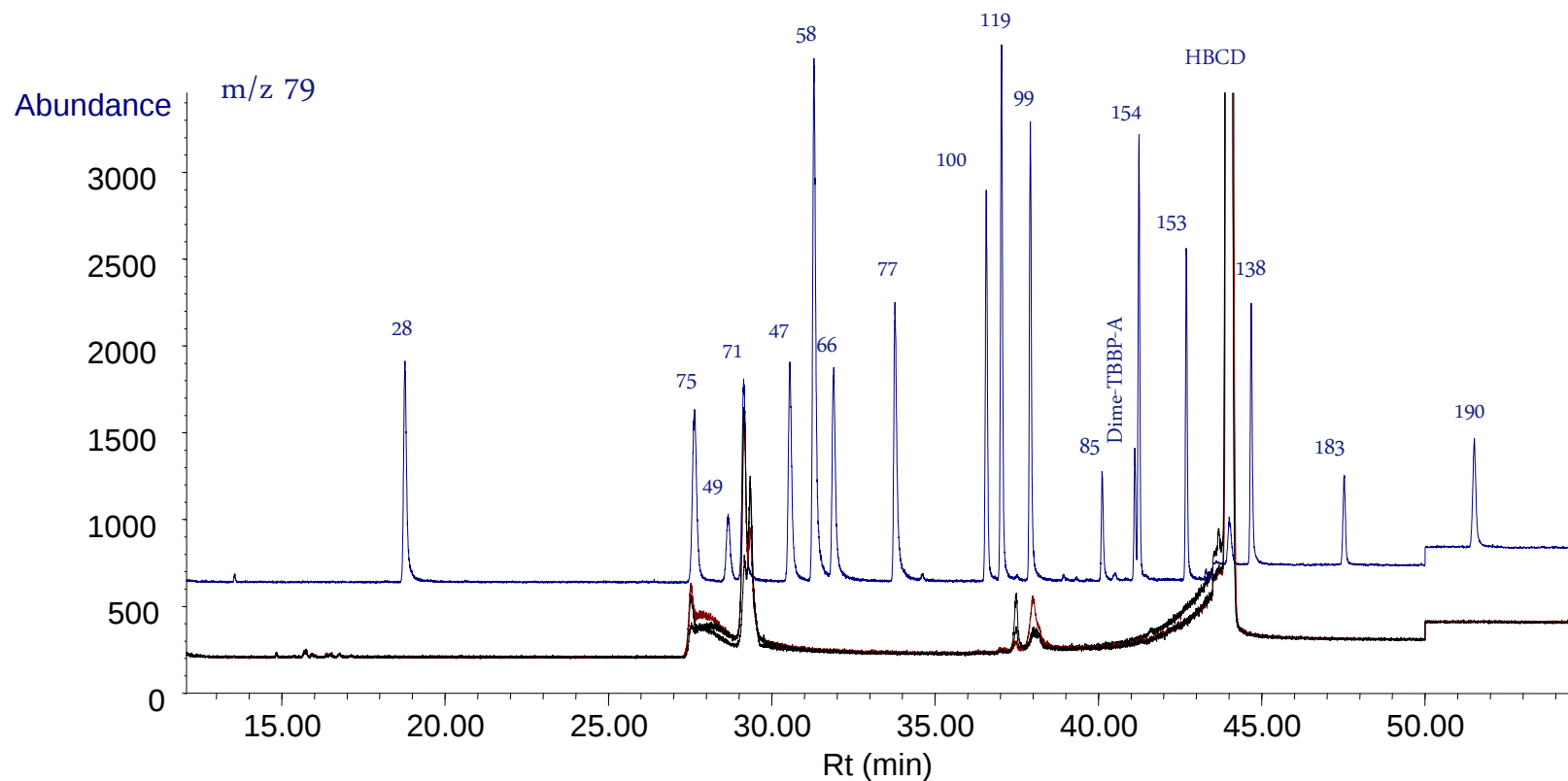
Abundance



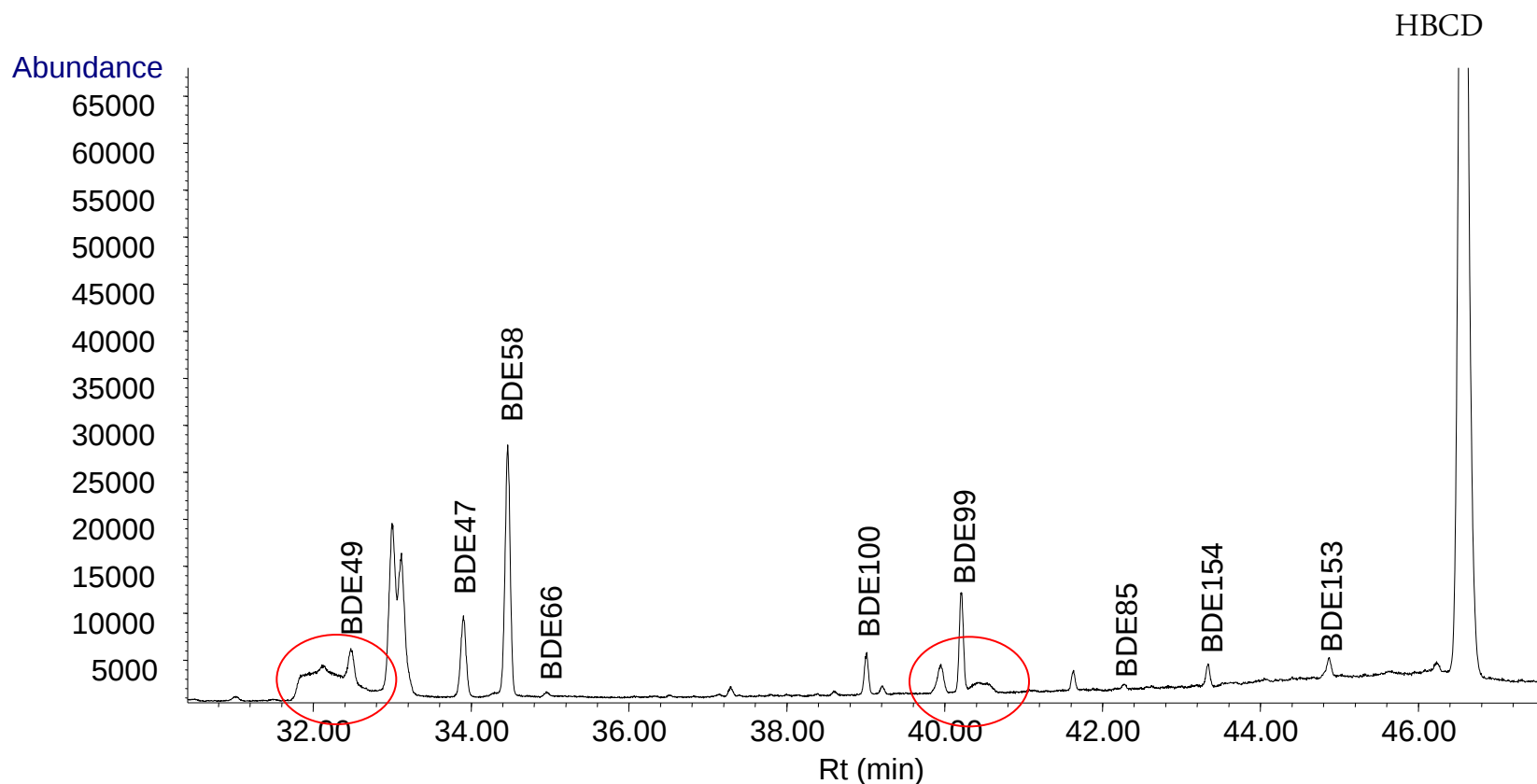
GC-MS (ECNI) HBCD (II)



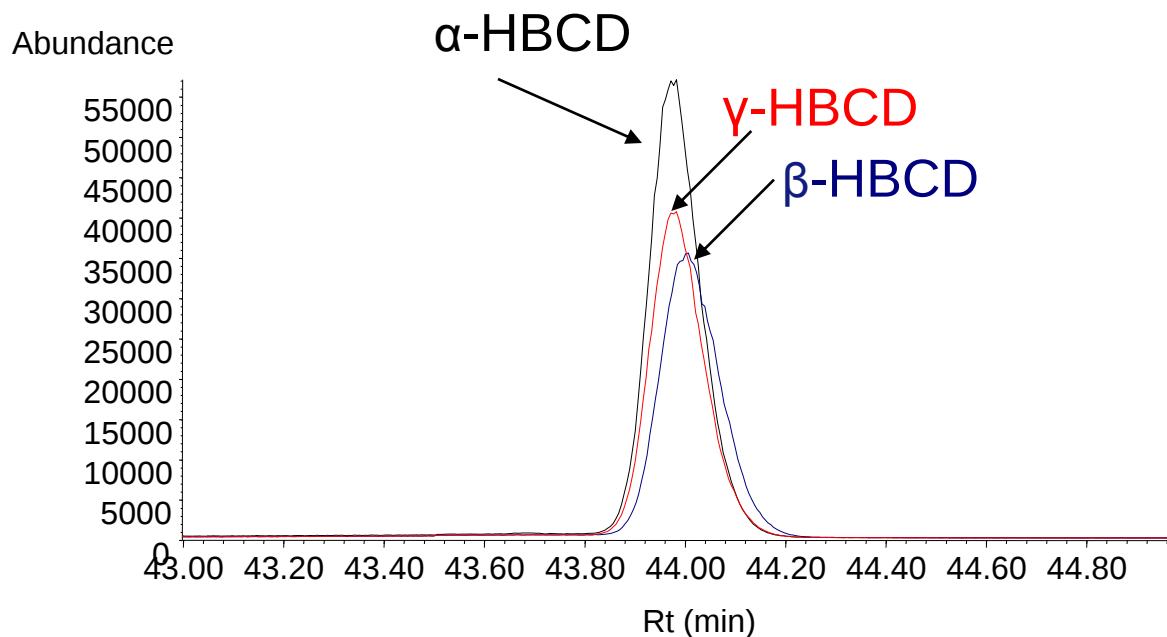
GC-MS (ECNI) HBCD and PBDEs



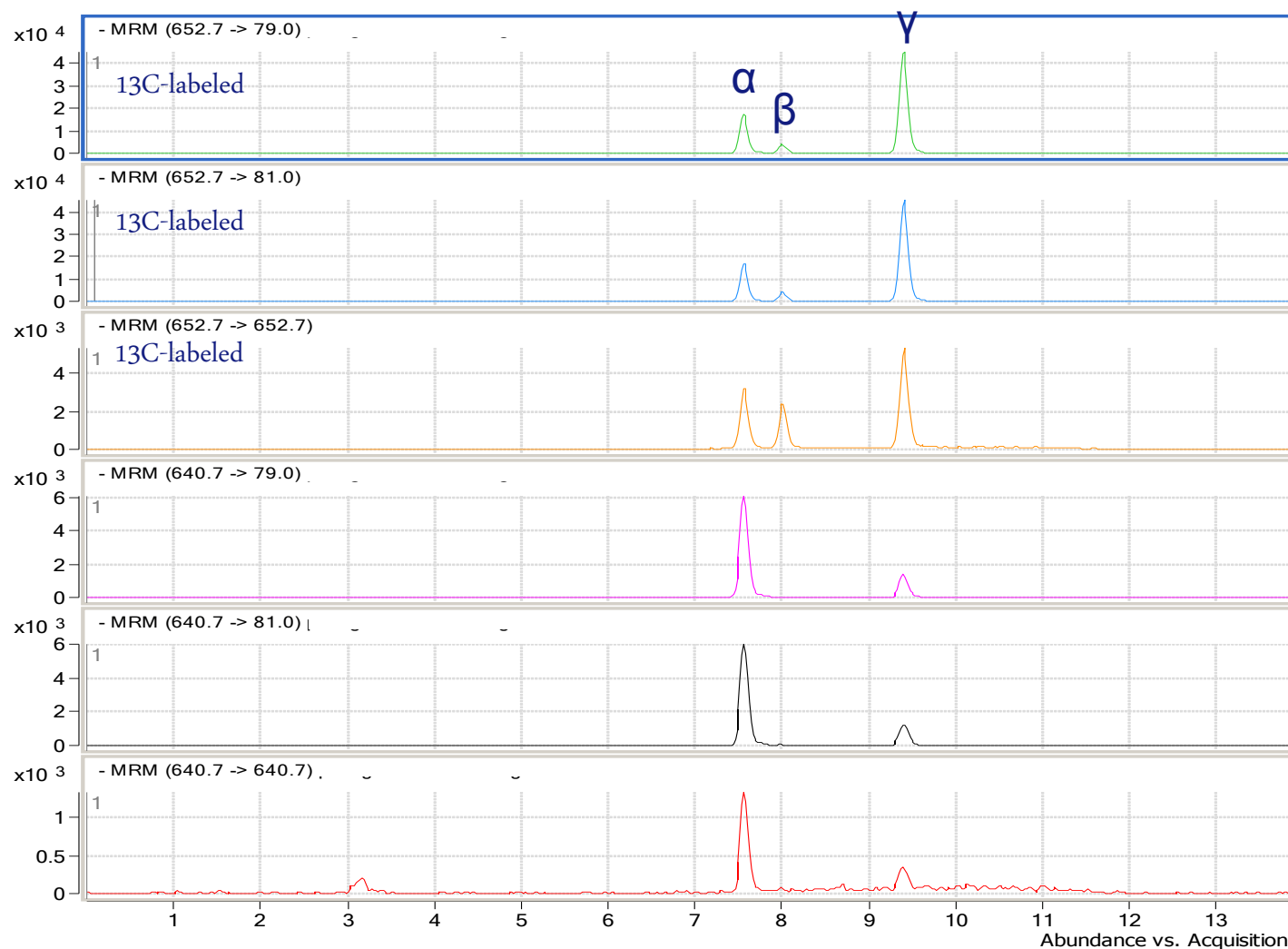
Sediment sample, Scheldt estuary



GC-MS ECNI response HBCD isomers

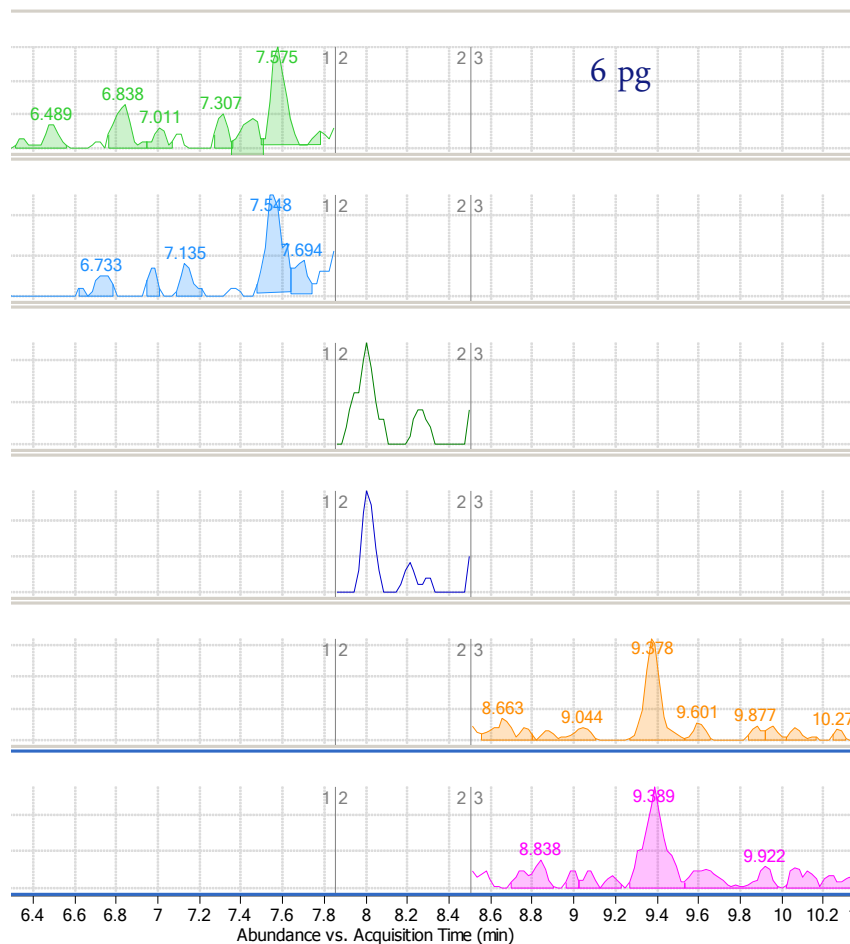


Eel, LC-MS/MS, HBCD

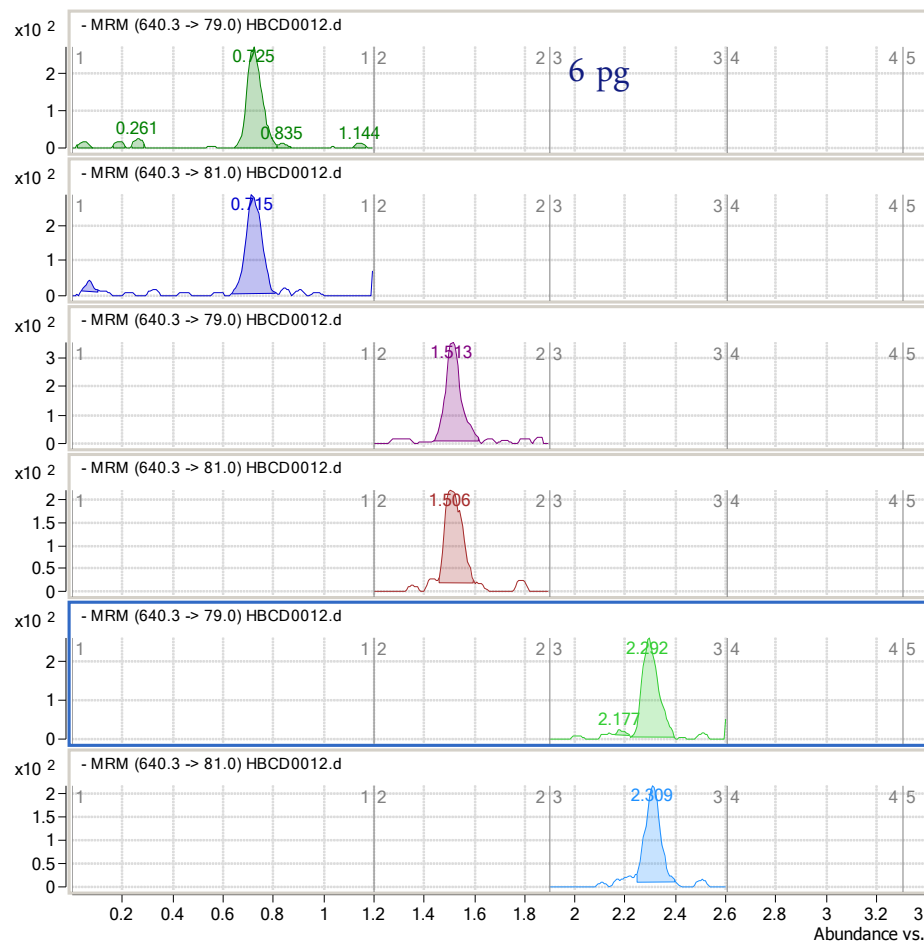


Normal LC vs. Rapid Resolution LC columns

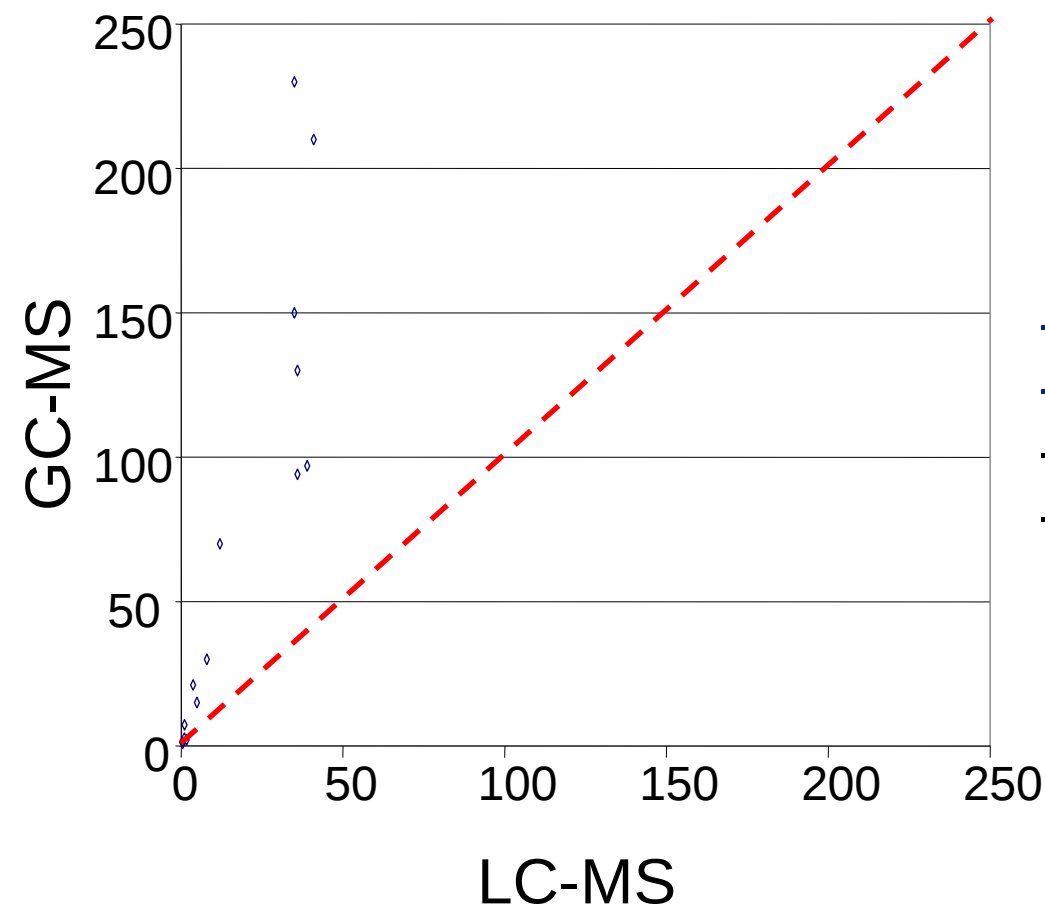
Zorbax Eclips, 2.1 x 150 mm x 3.5 μ m



Zorbax SB-C18, 2.1 x 30 mm x 3.5 μ m



Quantification of HBCD: LC vs. GC

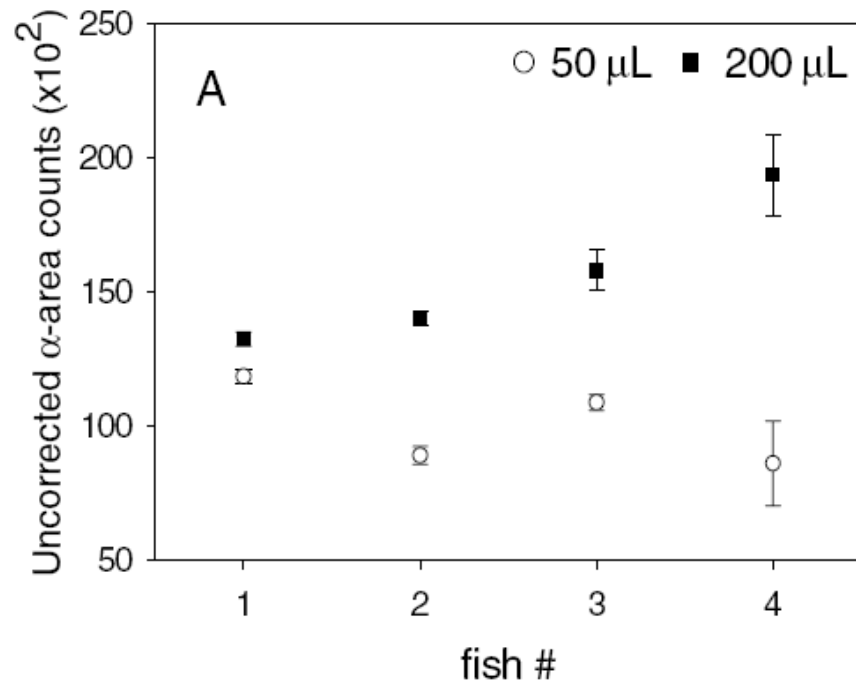


- GC: internal standard conc. (no ^{13}C)
- GC: response factors isomers differ
- isomers transferred into each other
- LC: Ion-suppression

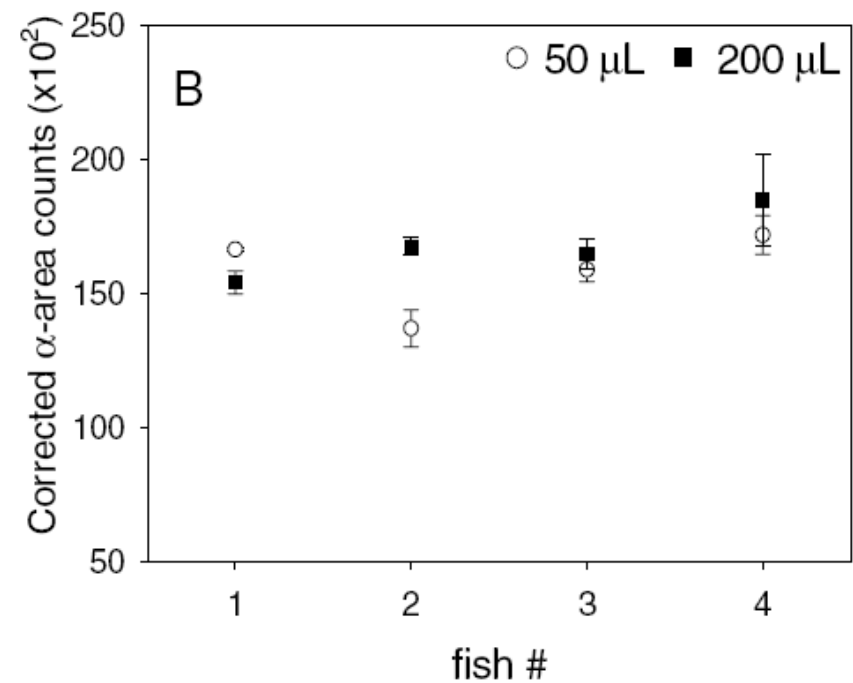
Ion suppression of HBCD signal by matrix compound

LC-MS/MS

Uncorrected



Corrected, ^{13}C -labelled



Tomy et al. 2005, Rapid Comm. Mass Spectr. 19, 2819-2826

Conclusions

HBCD

- GC: Thermal degradation on GC column
- Thermal degradation causes interfering peaks with PBDEs
- LC-MS preferred method
- Use of ^{13}C -labeled IS is preferred
- LC-MS/MS (1 pg) as sensitive as GC-MS (0.5 pg)

TBBP-A

GC

or

LC ?

GC-MS TBBP-A

- Without derivatization poor calibration curves
- Interference TBBP-A and BDE153
- With derivatization -> dime-TBBP-A

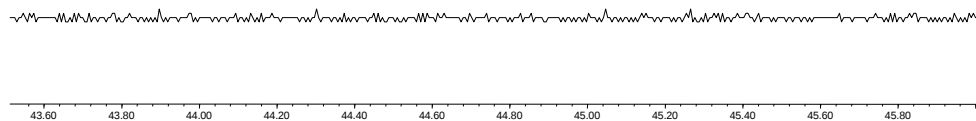
GC-MS TBBP-A

Sediment, Scheldt estuary

TBBP-A standard

10 ng/ml, 1 μ l injection

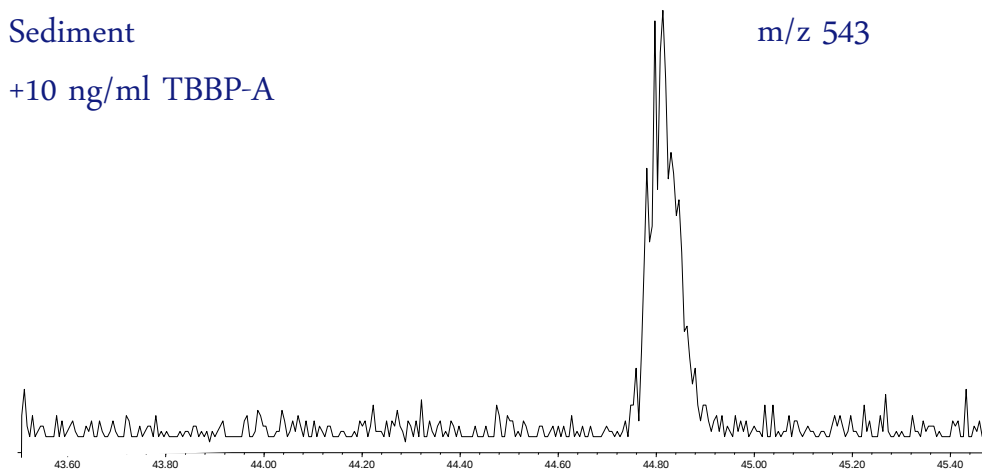
m/z 543



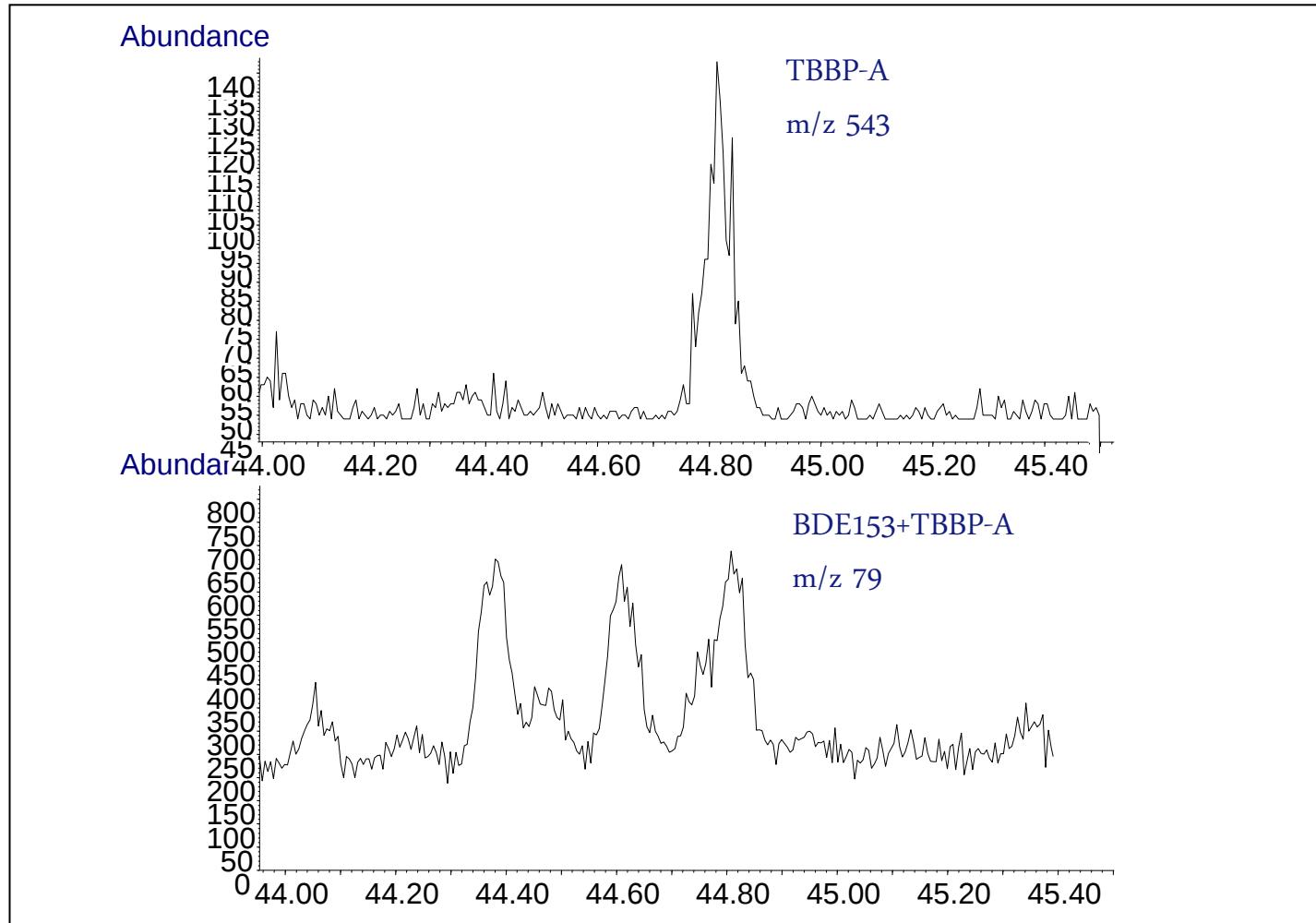
Sediment

+10 ng/ml TBBP-A

m/z 543

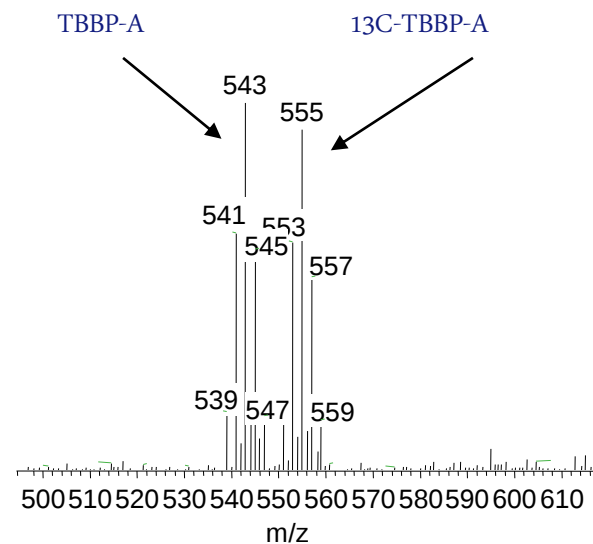
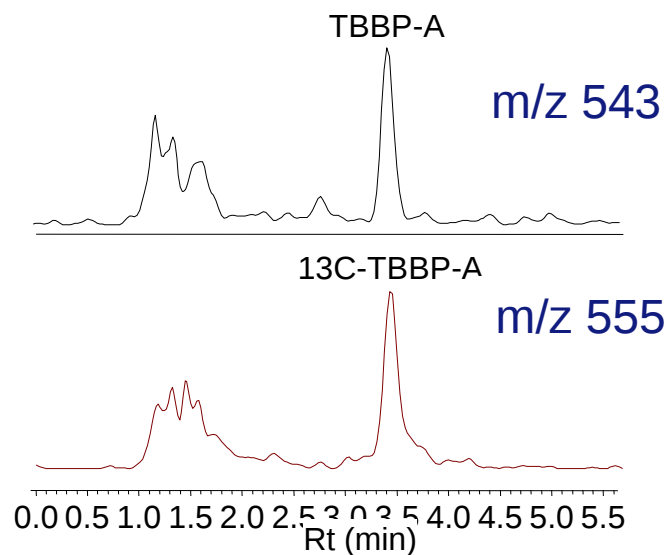


TBBP-A and BDE153

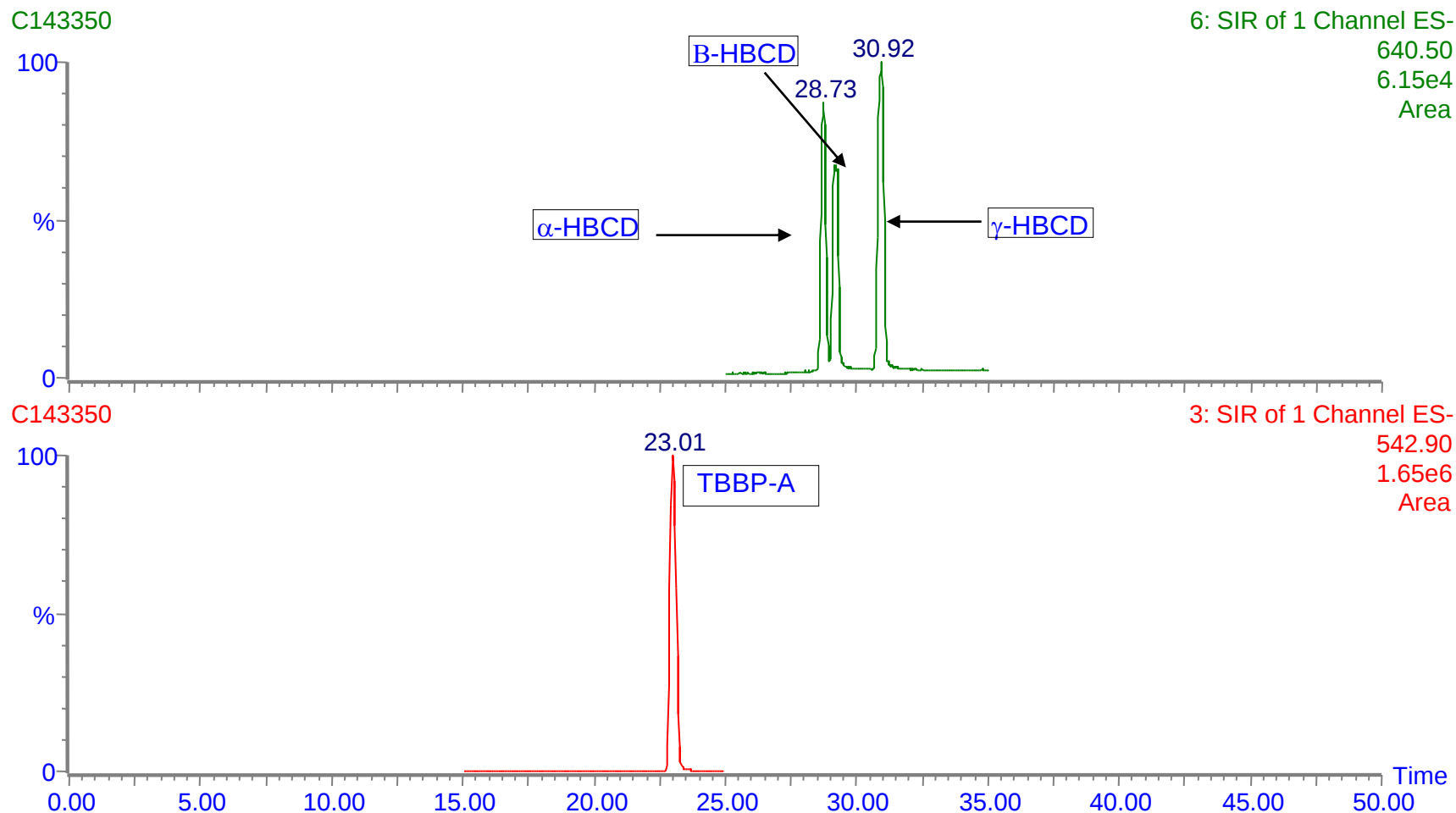


TBBP-A analysis

- LC-MS easy to perform



LC-MS/MS: HBCD and TBBP-A



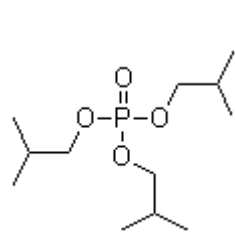
Conclusions

TBBP-A

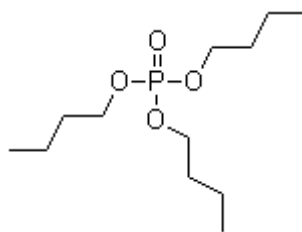
- LC-MS preferred method, use ^{13}C -labelled IS
- GC-MS (ECNI) BDE153 and TBBP-A interfere
- ^{13}C -TBBP-A can cause interference with BDE153
- Sample treatment most critical step

PFRs

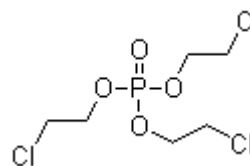
PFRs



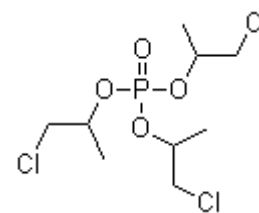
TiBP



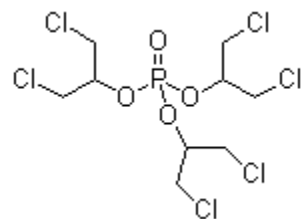
TBP



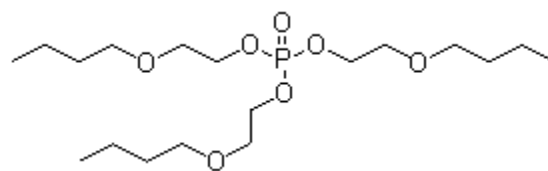
TCEP



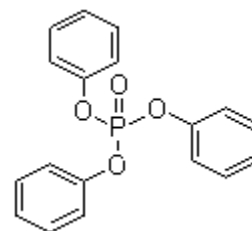
TCPP



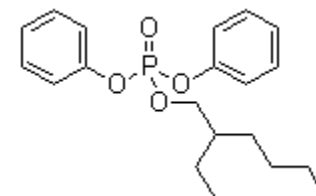
TDCPP



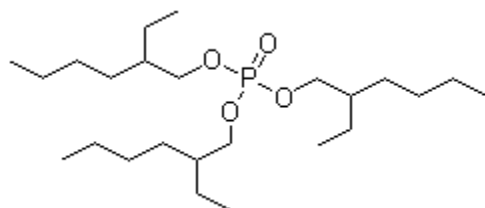
TBEP



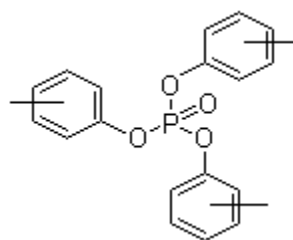
TPP



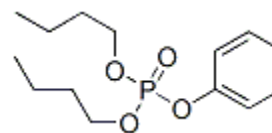
EHDP



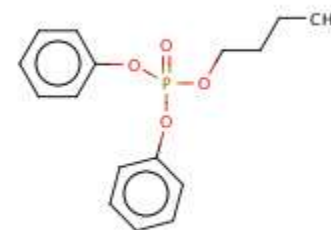
TEHP



TCP



DBPhP



DPhBP

Acronyms, Rt and MRM for twelve PFRs

Compound	Acronym	Retention time	Precursor Ion	Product Ion	Fragmentor	Collision Energy
tri-n-butyl phosphate D27 *	TBP D27	15,8	294.4	166.1	100	15
			294.4	102.1	100	15
tri-n-butyl phosphate	TBP	15,6	267.2	155.1	100	10
			267.2	99.1	100	10
tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate	TCEP	6,4	287	99.1	100	19
			285	63.1	110	18
tris-iso-butyl phosphate	TiBP	15,8	267.2	155.1	75	8
			267.2	99.1	75	8
tris(chloro 2-propyl) phosphate	TCPP	11,6	329	99	100	15
tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl)phosphate	TDCPP	14,4	433	99.4	125	30
tris(2-butoxyethyl) phosphate	TBEP	16,4	399.4	299.2	125	15
			399.4	199.1	125	15
tris(2-ethylhexyl) phosphate	TEHP	22,8	435.4	113.3	125	10
			435.4	99.1	125	10
triphenyl phosphate d15 *	TPP d15	16,4	342.2	160.2	175	40
			342.2	82.1	175	40
triphenyl phosphate	TPP	14,5	327.2	152.1	175	35
			327.2	77.1	175	35
tricresyl phosphate	TCP	17,1	369.2	165.2	175	35
			369.2	91.1	175	35
2-Ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate	EHDP	17,5	251.1	152.2	150	28
			251.1	77.2	150	28
Butyl diphenyl phosphate	BDphP	15	307.2	251.1	100	6
Dibutyl phenyl phosphate	DBphP	15,4	287.2	175.1	100	8

HPLC column 150 x 3 mm Luna C18 (2) 3 um column (Phenomenex)

GC/EI-MS

Compound	Abbreviation	Identification–quantification ions	Retention times ^a (min)		Internal standard used
			HT-8	AT-5	
Tri-ethyl-phosphate	TEP	155	5.20	4.37	IS 1
Tri- <i>n</i> -propyl-phosphate	TnPP	183	8.73	7.67	IS 1
Tri-iso-butyl-phosphate	TiBP	155, 211	10.27	9.34	IS 1
Tri- <i>n</i> -butyl-phosphate	TnBP	155, 211	11.98	10.88	IS 1
Tris-(2-chloroethyl)-phosphate	TCEP	251, 249	13.79	12.14	IS 1
Tris-(2-chloroisopropyl) phosphate (mixture of 3 isomers) ^b	TCPP 1	279, 277	14.04	12.57	IS 1
	TCPP 2	279, 277	14.20	12.71	IS 1
Tri-(2-butoxyethyl)-phosphate	TBEP	199, 299	18.70	18.17	IS 1
Tris-(2,3-dichloropropyl)-phosphate (mixture of 2 isomers)	TDCPP 1	379, 381	18.81	17.64	IS 2
	TDCPP 2	379, 381	19.08	17.98	IS 2
Tri-phenyl-phosphate	TPP	325, 326	19.11	18.14	IS 2
Tri-cresyl-phosphate (mixture of 4 isomers)	TCP 1	367, 368	20.30	20.09	IS 2
	TCP 2	367, 368	20.50	20.31	IS 2
	TCP 3	367, 368	20.71	20.53	IS 2
	TCP 4	367, 368	20.93	20.76	IS 2
Tri-amyl-phosphate (IS 1)	TAP	169, 239	14.97	13.82	n.a.
Tri-phenyl-phosphate-d15 (IS 2)	TPP-d15	339, 341	19.05	18.08	n.a.

n.a. – not applicable.

^a Retention times on two capillary columns: HT-8 (25 m × 0.22 mm × 0.25 μm) and AT-5 (20 m × 0.18 mm × 0.20 μm).

^b 3rd isomer not included in calculations.

Van den eede et al, (2011) Environment International 37 454–461

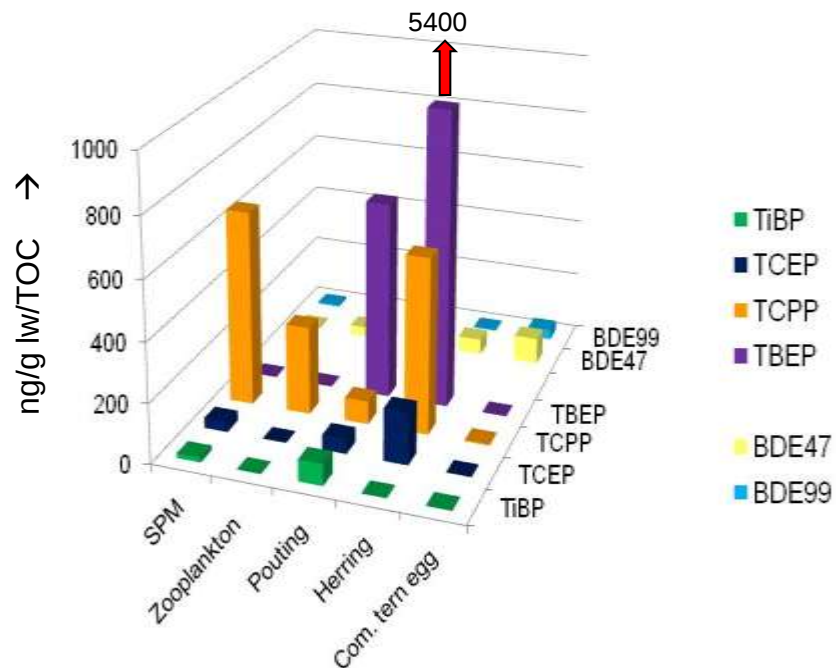
PFRs in Belgian home dust (n=33) µg/g

FRs	House dust samples (n=33)				
	DF (%) ^a	Mean	Median	P95 ^b	Range
<i>OPFRs</i>					
TEP	0	<0.05	<0.05		
TiBP	100	4.20	2.99	8.81	0.70–15.6
TnBP	100	0.25	0.13	0.63	0.03–2.70
TCEP	86	0.49	0.23	1.72	<0.08–2.65
T CPP	100	4.82	1.38	14.5	0.19–73.7
TBEP	100	6.58	2.03	23.1	0.36–67.6
TPP	100	2.02	0.50	7.28	0.04–29.8
TDCPP	97	0.57	0.36	0.99	<0.08–6.64
TCP	97	0.44	0.24	1.10	<0.04–5.07
∑ OPFRs		19.4	13.1	70.3	1.92–94.7
<i>BFRs^c</i>					
BDE-209	98	0.59	0.31	0.92	<0.001–5.30
∑ PBDEs		0.70	0.36	1.14	0.003–6.33
∑ HBCDs		1.74	0.13	2.46	0.010–42.70
TBBPA	85	0.04	0.01	0.09	0.002–0.42

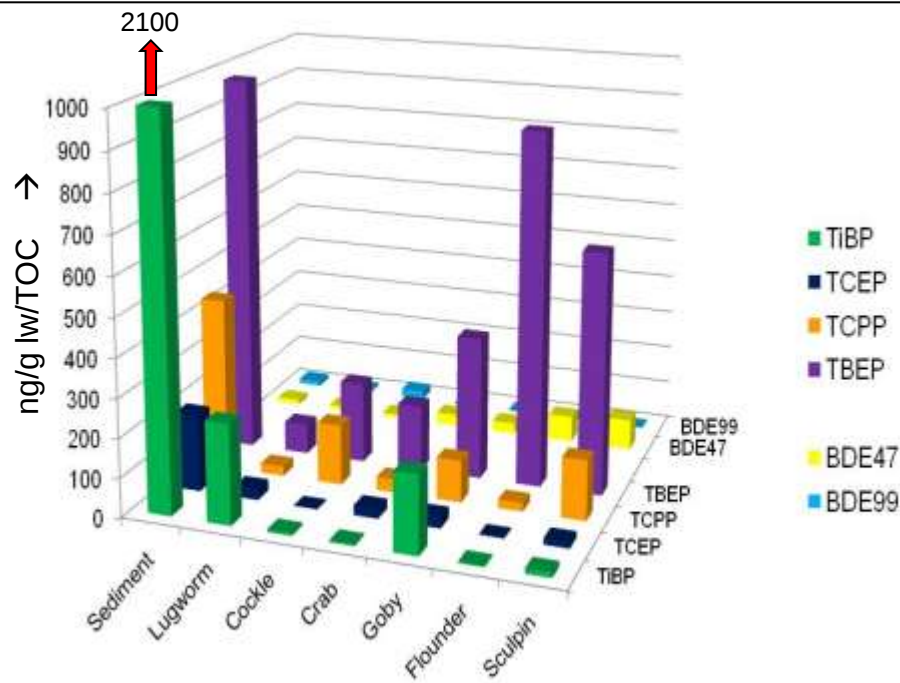
Van den eede et al, (2011) Environment International 37 454–461

Pelagic and Benthic food web

Pelagic food web



Benthic food web



Conclusion

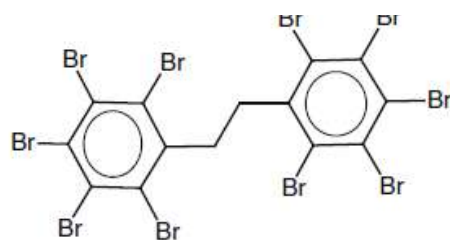
GC or LC

- LC-MS/MS is more selective
- Use of labelled Std
- Less interference of matrices (biota)

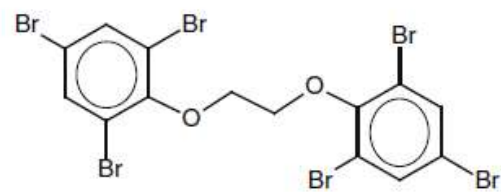
GC/EI-MS

- Good method for analyzing dust (less matrices)
- No ion suppression
- Separation of isomers (TCPP and TCP)

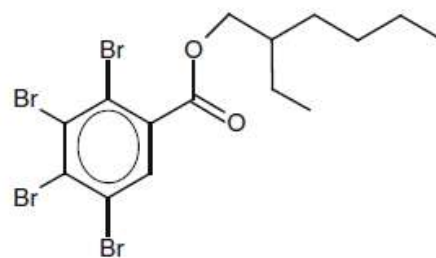
TBB and TBPH BTBPE and DBDPE



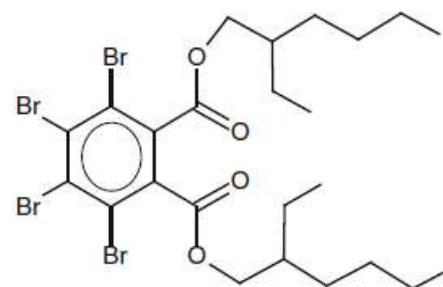
DBDPE



BTBPE



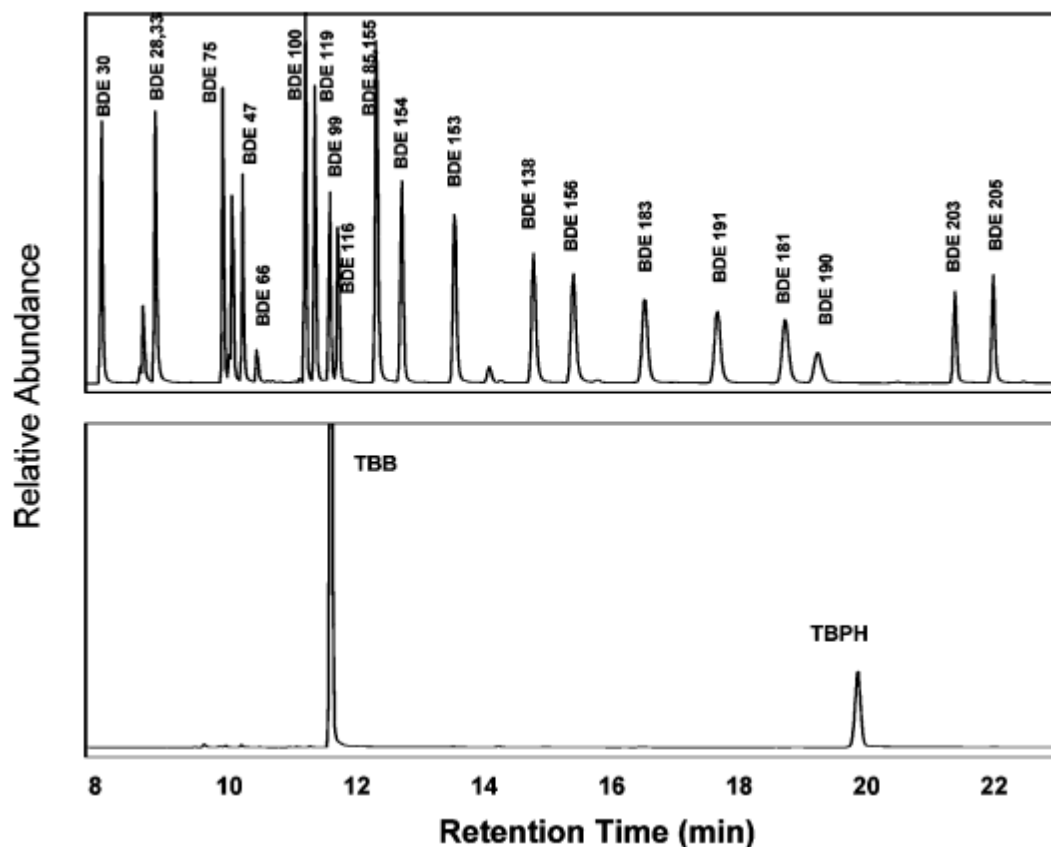
TBB



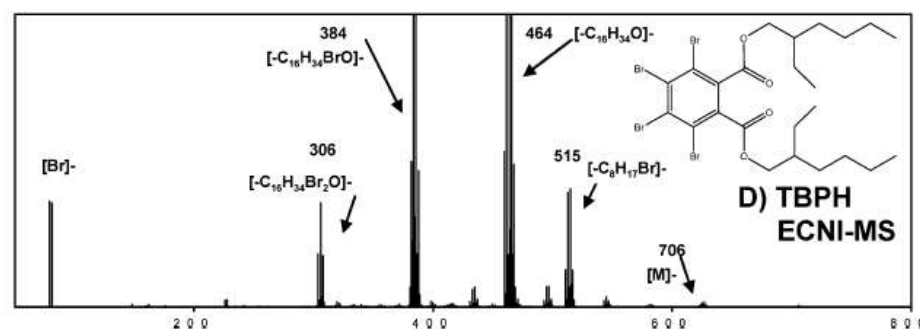
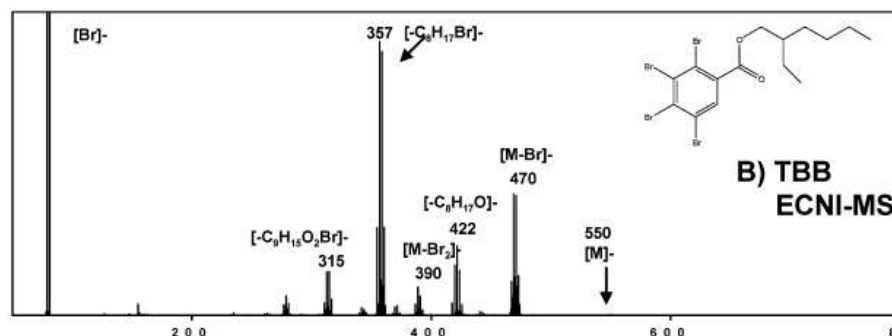
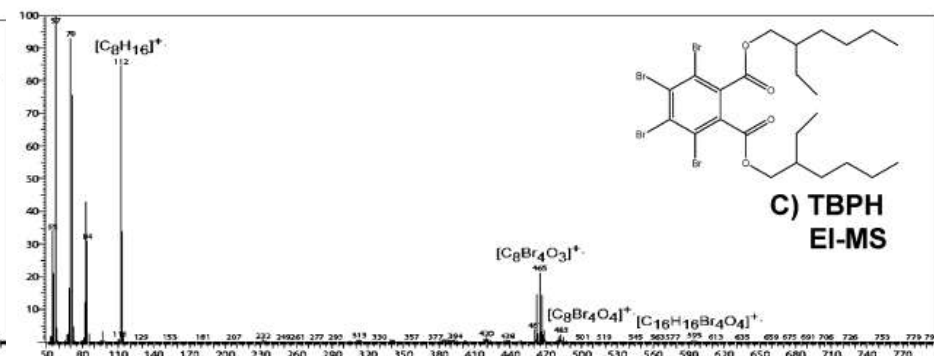
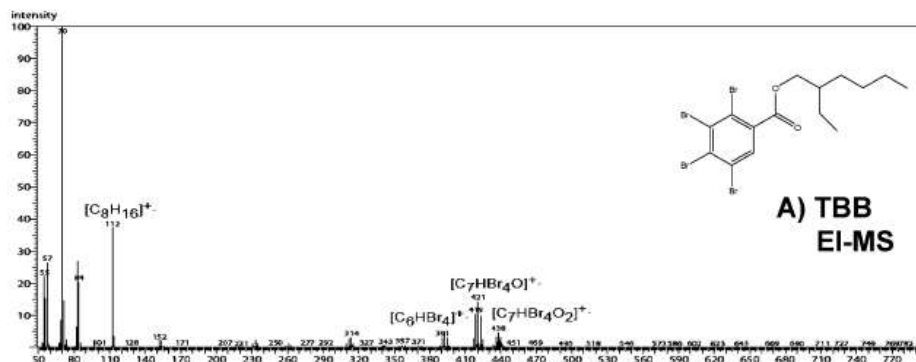
TBPH

GC/ECNI-MS chromatogram

GC/ECNI-MS chromatograms revealing the relative retention times of the primary BDE congeners, TBB and TBPH on a 15 m DB5-MS column



Full scan spectra of TBB and TBPH

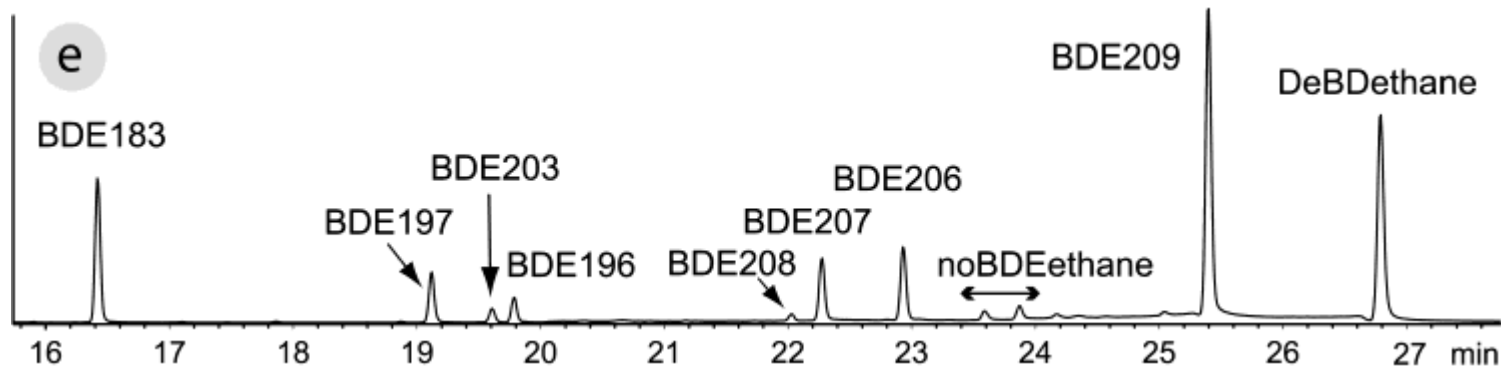


TBB was quantified using ion fragment (m/z) 357 (*Quant*) and 471 (*Qual*)

TBPH was quantified using ion fragments (m/z) 463 (*Quant*) and 515 (*Qual*)

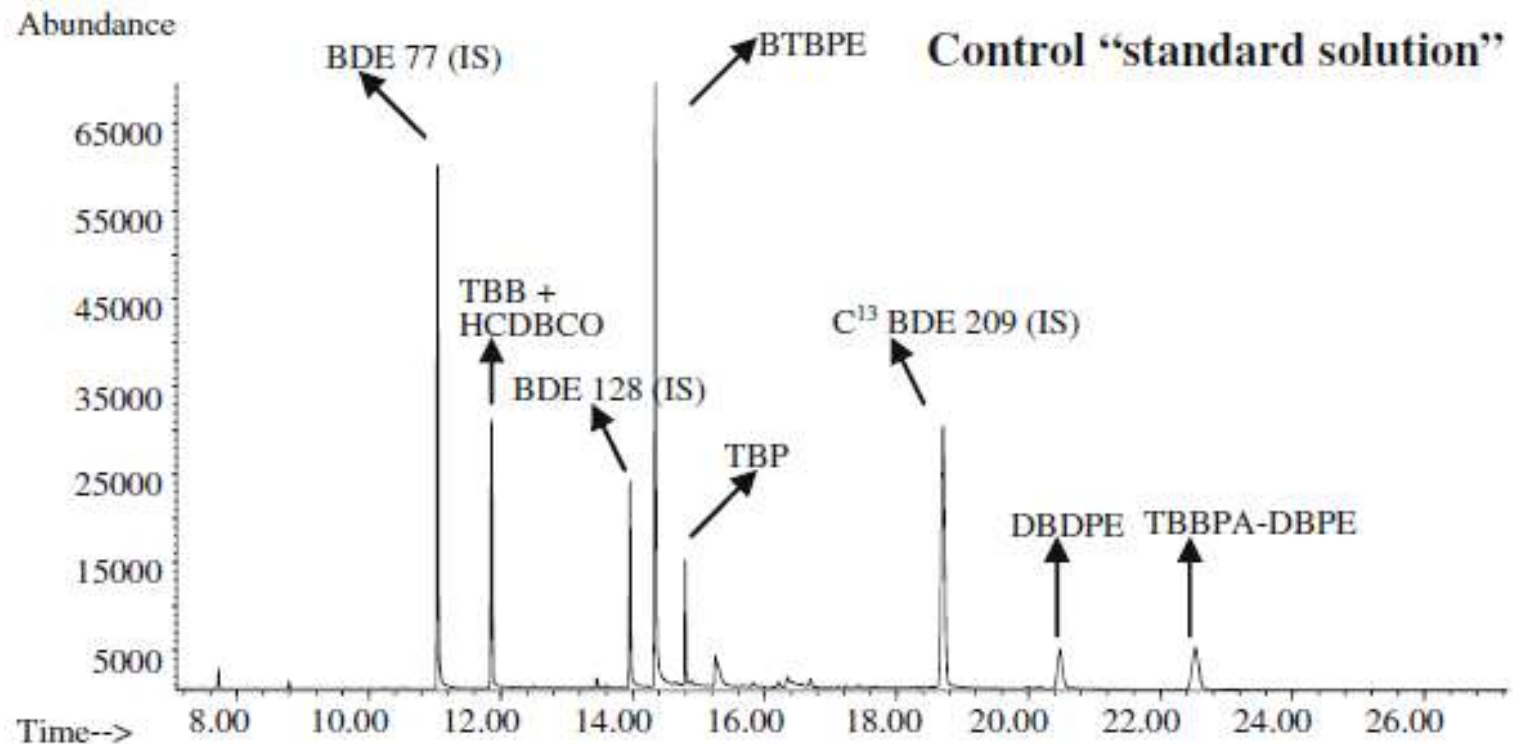
DBDPE first detected in the environment

GC/ECNI-MS chromatogram (m/z 79-+81-) of an standard solution



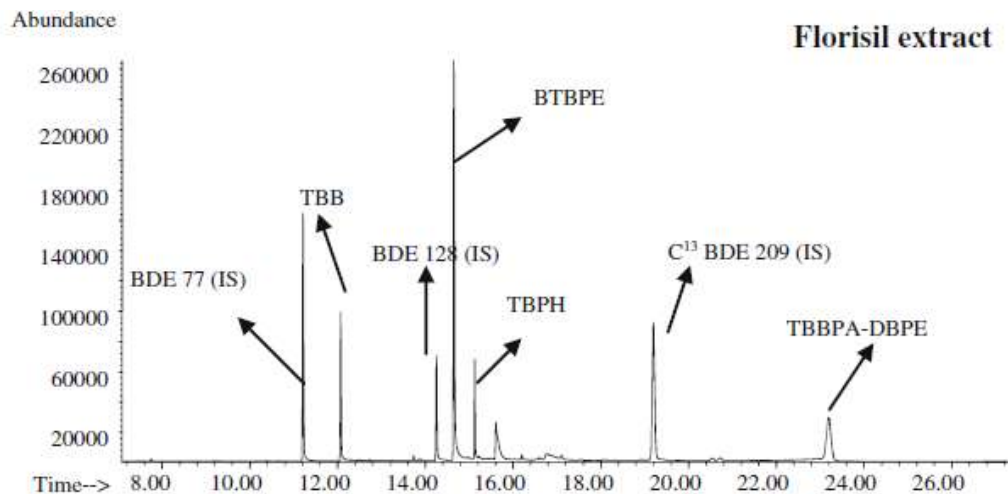
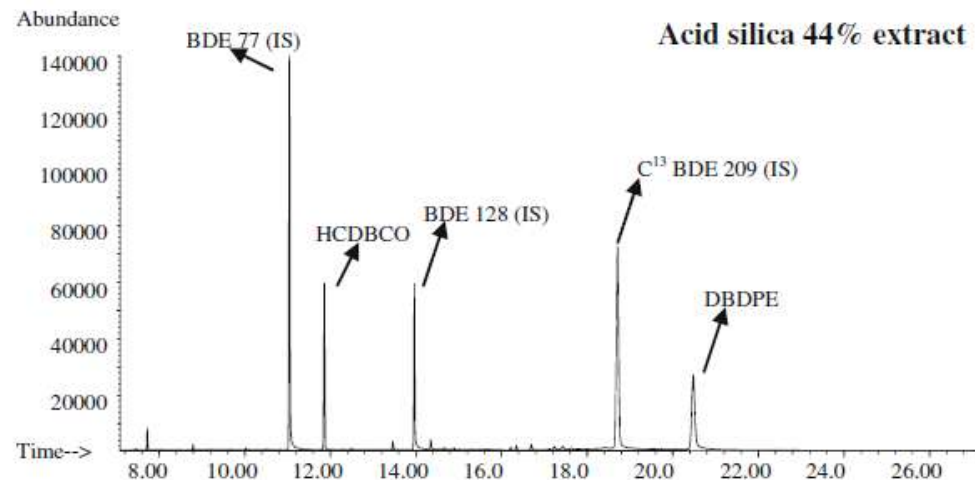
Kierkegaard et al, (2004) Environ. Sci. Technol., **38**, 3247-3253

DBDPE and BTBPE



Ali et al., (2011) Anal. Bioanal. Chem., **400**, 3073-3083

How to separate HCDBCO from TBB



Concentrations observed in Dust

TABLE 2. Summary Statistics for DBDPE, BTBPE, HBCD, TBB, and TBPH Concentrations (ng/g) in Dust by Sample Type

BFR	main living area				bedroom				home vacuum bag			
	% detect	n	GM (GSD)	range	% detect	n	GM (GSD)	range	% detect	n	GM (GSD)	range
DBDPE	81%	16	138(5.4)	<10–11,070	86%	14	153(4.2)	<10–3,420	71%	7	39.4(6.7)	<10–262
BTBPE	100%	19	48.1(4.6)	4.7–654	100%	19	47.8(5.1)	1.6–789	100%	10	17.7(3.6)	2.5–219
HBCD	94%	16	354(8.6)	<4.5–130,200	93%	14	144(5.1)	<4.5–9,710	100%	7	282(11.6)	21.0–35,100
TBB	94%	16	322(5.9)	<6.6–15,030	86%	14	90.4(2.8)	<10.6–378	100%	7	91.1(2.6)	35.7–669
TBPH	100%	16	234(5.3)	3.0–10,630	100%	14	105(4.3)	1.5–763	100%	7	65.8(1.7)	24.3–111

Optimization and development of analytical methods for the determination of new brominated flame retardants and polybrominated diphenyl ethers in sediments and suspended particulate matter

P. López · S. A. Brandsma · P. E. G. Leonards · J. de Boer

GC/ECNI-MS
m/z 79, 81

Molecular structure	Compound	Molecular structure	Compound
	Pentabromochlorocyclohexane PBCC (isomers A, B, C and D) CAS [87-84-3] MW = 513.09 S _{water} = 0.055 mg/L Log P _{octanol-water} = 4.72		2,3,4,5,6-Tetrabromo- <i>p</i> -xylene <i>p</i> TBX CAS [23488-38-2] MW = 421.75
	Tetrabromo- <i>o</i> -chlorotoluene TBoCT CAS[39569-21-6] MW = 422.19		2,3,4,5,6-Pentabromotoluene PBT CAS [87-83-2] MW = 486.62 S _{water} = 0.000935 mg/L Log P _{octanol-water} = 6.99
	Tetrabromophthalic anhydride TBPhA CAS [632-79-1] MW = 463.7 S _{water} = 0.016 mg/L Log P _{octanol-water} = 5.63		Tris(2,3-dibromopropyl)phosphate TDBPP CAS [126-72-7] MW = 697.64 S _{water} = 8 mg/L Log P _{octanol-water} = 4.29
	1,2-bis(2,4,6-tribromophenoxy)ethane BTBPE CAS [37853-59-1] MW = 687.64 S _{water} = 0.2 mg/L Log P _{octanol-water} = 9.15		Decabromodipheylethane DBDPE CAS [84852-53-9] MW = 971.2 S _{water} = 0.00072 mg/L Log P _{octanol-water} = 11

Review about Novel BFRs

Environment International 37 (2011) 532–556



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environment International

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envint



Review

Novel brominated flame retardants: A review of their analysis, environmental fate and behaviour

Adrian Covaci^{a,b,*}, Stuart Harrad^c, Mohamed A.-E. Abdallah^d, Nadeem Ali^a, Robin J. Law^e,
Dorte Herzke^f, Cynthia A. de Wit^g

^a Toxicological Centre, University of Antwerp, Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Antwerp, Belgium

^b Laboratory for Ecophysiology, Biochemistry and Toxicology, Department of Biology, University of Antwerp, Groenenborgerlaan 171, 2020 Antwerp, Belgium

^c Division of Environmental Health and Risk Management, School of Geography, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK

^d Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Assiut University, 71526 Assiut, Egypt

^e The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Cefas Lowestoft Laboratory, Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0HT, UK

^f Norwegian Institute for Air Research, The Polar Environmental Centre, N-9296 Tromsø, Norway

^g Department of Applied Environmental Science, Stockholm University, SE-10691 Stockholm, Sweden



Thanks for listening