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Orbitrap Workflows for Non-targeted Analysis Using Dispersive Liquid-liquid Microextraction (DiLLME) Sample Preparation

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The world leader in serving science

History of PFAS and where we are today



PFAS transport through the environment

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Source of PFAS in the United States



PFAS contamination of drinking water in the United States



Workflows for Targeted and Non-targeted Analysis





Workflows for Targeted and Non-targeted Analysis





Key method conditions for NTA LC-Orbitrap Workflow



Automate DLLME with the Thermo Scientific™ TriPlus RSH SMART

- Samples were obtained from multiple drinking water sources, including tap water and drinking water from the area of Villebon, France.
- Prior to DLLME samples were spiked with 56 PFAS compounds at two different levels: 1 and 75 ng/L



Thermo Scientific™ Vanquish Flex UHPLC

- Delay Column: Thermo Scientific™ Hypersil Gold C18
- Analytical column: Thermo Scientific[™] Acclaim[™] 120 C18 column
- Flow rate: 0.4 mL/min



Thermo Scientific™ Orbitrap Exploris™ 240

- Heated electrospray ionization (HESI)
- Negative mode
- Combination of Full Scan (MS1) and data-dependent MS2 (ddMS2)
- Mass resolution:
 - Full Scan = 240,000
 - ddMS2 Scan = 30,000
- Stepped HCD fragmentation at 10, 25, 55% (normalized collision energy)

Dispersive Liquid-Liquid Microextraction (DLLME) for PFAS



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Targeted quantification results

Figure of merit for 56 target PFAS compounds

- The mean accuracy and precision of the workflow was evaluated for both spike levels (1 and 75 ng/L) in both bottled and tap water from 6 injections over 3 days.
- Majority of target PFAS compounds exhibited spike recoveries within 70–130% and precision (coefficient of variation, CV) within 20%.



Spike Recoveries



Spike Precision

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Targeted quantification results

Figure of merit for 56 target PFAS compounds

- Limit of quantification (LOQ) values were obtained based on the concentration level for which both reproducibility (<30%) and accuracy (70-130%) criteria were met on 6 injections over 3 days in neat solution.
- Majority of target PFAS compounds (~80%) exhibited LOQs of ≤0.5 ng/L, with the remaining ~20% exhibiting LOQs within the range of 1–5 ng/L.



LOQs for Target PFAS Compounds

Non-targeted analysis (NTA) of PFAS: The Wild West

Lots of great ideas and ambitions.....but no rules to follow



Goal of PFAS NTA workflows

Detect unknown PFAS compounds and annotate them as confidently as possible using multiple layers of mass spectrometry evidence

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Increasing confidence in identifying PFAS compounds

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Harnessing the Power of High Resolution Accurate Mass and MSⁿ Analysis



See additional details on confidence levels in identifying small molecules in Schymanski et al. Environ. Sci. Technol. 2014, 48, 2097–2098.

Workflow for non-targeted PFAS analysis

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Compound Discoverer[™] version 3.3 SP3



See additional details on the in-silico generated PFAS spectral library in Getzinger et al. Anal. Chem. 2021, 93, 2820–2827.

Initial results – All annotated compounds

Starting out with ~4,000 detected and annotated compounds, but how many PFAS?

Name	Formula	FI	RT [min]	m/z	Area (Max 👻	Annot. Source 🛨	mzVault Library Matches 됌	Mass List Matches 🛨	mzCloud Best Match	mzVault Best Match	Class Cov	erage 🛨	Mass D	lefect		ŧ	MS2	Reference Ion
Embelin	C17 H26 O4	0	11.202	293.17564	6206955746			00000			0.00	0.00	0.183	622	0.202	0.202		[M-H]-1
2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7-Dodecafluoroheptanoic acid	C7 H2 F12 O2	12	8.571	344.97796	2723233336			0000		98.1	0.37	6.25	-0.015	-43	0.007	0.007		[M-H]-1
Sebacic acid	C10 H18 O4	0	8.231	201.11318	2557665245			00000		74.2	0.00	0.00	0.12	596	0.133	0.133		[M-H]-1
Sebacic acid	C10 H18 O4	0	8.610	201.11317	2532548468			00000		76.7	0.00	0.00	0.12	596	0.133	0.133		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-nonanesulfonate	C9 H F19 O3 S	19	12.750	548.92631	2528470664				93.4		0.99	31.25	-0.066	-121	-0.031	-0.031		[M-H]-1
1-(2-NITROPHENOXY)OCTANE	C14 H21 N O3	0	13.848	250.14459	2443776168		888	00000			0.00	0.00	0.152	605	0.168	0.168		[M-H]-1
([[3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl](ethyl)amino}methylen	C14 H9 F6 N3	6	14.600	332.06237	2441071481			80888			0.50	6.25	0.07	209	0.091	0.091		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-hexanesulfonamide	C6 H2 F13 N O2 S	13	11.828	397.95152	2395022278				99.5	95.4	0.75	31.25	-0.041	-103	-0.016	-0.016		[M-H]-1
2,2,3-Trifluoro-3-(1,1,2,2,3,3-hexafluoro-3-trifluorometh	C7 H2 F12 O4	12	10.374	376.96779	2389386699				89.7	96.0	0.25	6.25	-0.025	-66	-0.001	-0.001		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-heptanesulfonate	C7 H F15 O3 S	15	11.301	448.93240	2349891893		000		97.8		0.87	31.25	-0.06	-134	-0.032	-0.032		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-decanesulfonic acid (PFDS)	C10 H F21 O3 S	21	13.337	598.92313	2345931354		000		94.7		1.37	25.00	-0.07	-116	-0.031	-0.031		[M-H]-1
Perfluorohexanoic acid	C6 H F11 O2	11	9.290	312.97248	2338026334					95.3	1.24	18.75	-0.02	-64	0	0		[M-H]-1
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	C7 H F13 O2	13	10.284	362.96852	2204485204					91.9	0.87	18.75	-0.024	-66	-0.001	-0.001		[M-H]-1
Dibutyl phthalate	C16 H22 O4	0	12.774	277.14443	2204379622			00000	87.6	53.0	0.00	0.00	0.152	545	0.169	0.169		[M-H]-1
Ricinoleic acid	C18 H34 O3	0	14.379	297.24321	2165582651			00000		86.1	0.00	0.00	0.251	840	0.27	0.27		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-octanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	C8 H F17 O3 S	17	12.080	498.92939	2092317947				91.1	56.2	1.86	56.25	-0.063	-127	-0.031	-0.031		[M-H]-1
9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonate	C8 H CI F16 O4 S	16	12.455	530.89499	2086059464				99.2	94.5	0.50	18.75	-0.098	-184	-0.064	-0.064		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-butanesulfonamide	C4 H2 F9 N O2 S	9	9.716	297.95864	2062831199				99.1	25.6	0.87	31.25	-0.034	-114	-0.015	-0.015		[M-H]-1
Difluoro[1,1,2,2-tetrafluoro-2-(trifluoromethoxy)ethoxy	C5 H F9 O4	9	9.094	200.97920	1954326070					99.8	0.37	6.25	-0.014	-67	-0.001	-0.001		[M-H]-1
Perfluorooctanoic acid	C8 H F15 O2	15	11.301	412.96555	1932879256					96.4	0.87	31.25	-0.027	-66	-0.001	-0.001		[M-H]-1
11-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonate	C10 H CI F20 O4 S	20	13.607	630.88856	1908371270				94.5	88.4	0.62	18.75	-0.104	-165	-0.064	-0.064		[M-H]-1
Perfluoropentanoic acid	C5 H F9 O2	9	7.902	262.97576	1894512695					92.7	1.24	31.25	-0.017	-64	0	0		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-3-ethoxypropanoic acid	C5 H F9 O3	9	8.224	278.97074	1782839110					28.6	0.37	12.50	-0.022	-79	-0.004	-0.004		IM-H1-1
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	C10 H F19 O2	19	12,788	512,95949	1780720217				82.7	87.5	1.49	31.25	-0.033	-65	0	0		[M-H]-1
Perfluorononanoic acid (PENA)	C9 H F17 O2	17	12,107	462.96246	1703398034				75.6	84.6	1.12	31.25	-0.03	-65	-0.001	-0.001		[M-H]-1
Cyclohexanesulfonic acid, nonafluorobis(trifluoromethy	C8 H F15 O3 S	15	11.154	460.93250	1692089139					52.3	0.50	12.50	-0.06	-130	-0.031	-0.031		[M-H]-1
	C10 H2 F19 N4 O3 P S	19	13.851	648.91973	1684846727		000				1.49	37.50	-0.073	-112	-0.031	-0.031		[M-H]-1
10-Hydroxy-2-decenoic acid	C10 H18 O3	0	9,197	185,11810	1582476257			nnnnn		32.9	0.00	0.00	0.125	674	0.137	0.137		(M-H]-1
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	C12 H F23 O2	23	13,903	612,95295	1555517238				83.6	91.6	1.61	31.25	-0.04	-65	-0.001	-0.001		[M-H]-1
Laurylsulfuric acid	C12 H26 O4 S	0	13.311	265.14770	1518837203			nonna		97.2	0.25	6.25	0.155	582	0.172	0.172		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-dodecanesulfonate	C12 H F25 O3 S	25	14.302	698.91628	1443433368				98.4		1.49	31.25	-0.076	-109	-0.032	-0.032		IM-H1-1
	C12 H2 F23 N4 O3 P S	23	14.696	748.91278	1340652602		100				1.00	43.75	-0.08	-107	-0.032	-0.032		IM-H1-1
Perfluoroctvlsulfonamide (PFOSA)	C8 H2 F17 N O2 S	17	13.301	497.94546	1336086426		000		98.7		1.37	62.50	-0.047	-95	-0.015	-0.015		[M-H]-1
7-Hydroxy-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methyl-2H-chromen-2	C12 H12 O4	0	9.030	201.05574	1228450551			0000		66.5	0.12	0.00	0.063	312	0.076	0.076		IM-H1-1
LauryIsulfuric acid	C12 H26 O4 S	0	12,835	265.14771	1148524771			nanan		95.8	0.75	18.75	0.155	582	0.172	0.172		[M-H]-1
Saccharin	C7 H5 N O3 S	0	4.672	181.99154	1132965009		000	00000	99.9		0.12	0.00	-0.001	-6	0.011	0.011	-	[M-H]-1
Saccharin	C7 H5 N O3 S	0	4.541	181.99154	1101742601				99.9		0.12	0.00	-0.001	-6	0.011	0.011		[M-H]-1
Rickinic acid A	C15 H22 O3	0	13,702	249,14934	1093438074					94.5	0.00	0.00	0.157	626	0.173	0.173		[M-H]-1
2-I(4-AminobenzovI)aminolbenzoic acid	C14 H12 N2 O3	0	9.324	211.08749	1089698762			nonn		67.8	0.00	0.00	0.095	447	0.108	0.108		IM-H1-1
2-(2-Trifluoromethyl-benzoimidazol-1-vl)-ethanol	C10 H9 F3 N2 O	3	11.539	229.05917	1087219280		000	nnnn			0.12	6.25	0.066	289	0.081	0.081		IM-H1-1
6-Isopropyl-3-methyl-24-dinitrophenol	C10 H12 N2 O5	0	12.115	239.06715	1083937520					40.2	0.00	0.00	0.074	310	0.09	0.09		[M-H]-1
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PELIdA)	C11 H F21 O2	21	13,382	562.95644	104530			_	5	84.7		25.00	.0.036	.64	0	0		[M-H]-1
Perfluoro-1-hexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	C6 H F13 O3 S	13	10.342	398,93566	103499	The	nicano	e mo	ro	U-4.7	0.75		.0.057	-143	-0.032	.0.032		[M-H]-1
Perfluorotridecanoic acid (PETrDA)	C13 H F25 O2	25	14.358	662.94974	101491		Jusariu	<u>ם חו כו</u>		00.7	1 37	25.00	-0.042	.65	-0.001	0.001		IM-H1-1
Perfluoro-3-methovoropanoic acid	C4 H F7 03	7	7.179	228.97380	000322709				5				-0.010		-0.004	0.004		
	C26 H38 O8												0.245		0.268	0.268		

We need to narrow this list down to only PFAS, and then determine the confidence levels of each annotation

Data reduction approach

Moving towards a finalized list of compounds annotated with Level 1 confidence



Annotation of PFAS in DLLME extracts of spiked water samples

Evaluating the detection and annotation efficiency of 56 spiked PFAS compounds



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17

Finalized list of annotated PFAS compounds

Easy-to-evaluate source contributions to each final compound annotation Tagging feature to mark each identified compound with their annotation confidence level									mzVault Library Duke NIST_2023 MSNG-HR1 NIST_2023 MSNG-HR2 NIST_2023 MSNG-HR2		Percentage of fragments within the FluoroMatch database that match to fragments within the measures MS2 spectrum				
Com	pounds 💎	Compounds per File Features per File mzCloud	Results mzVault Results	Chem	Spider Re	sults Inpu	t Files Study	/ Information	Statistical Methods	1					
F	Tags E	Name	Formula	F	RT [min]	m/z	Area (Max.)	Annot. Sou	▼ + mzVault Library Matches +	Mass List Matches 🛨	mzCloud Best Match	mzVault Best Match	Class Cove	erade 🛨	
1 👳	000	10:2 Fluorinated telomer sulfonate	C12 H5 F21 O3 S	21	13.949	626.95429	515738822				96.0	39.5	0.75	12.50	
2 👳	000	Perfluoropentanoic acid	C5 H F9 O2	9	8.682	262.97596	51082095					79.1	1.12	25.00	
3 🕀	000	Perfluoro-1-octanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	C8 H F17 O3 S	17	11.545	498.92966	14782802				89.8	61.1	1.86	37.50	
4 ⊹⊐	000	N-Methylperfluoro-1-octanesulfonamidoacetic acid (N-	C11 H6 F17 N O4 S	17	13.163	569.96704	29234176				70.5	71.7	1.49	37.50	
5 👳	000	Heptafluoropropan-2-ol	C3 H F7 O	7	12.144	184.98428	31191121					36.1	0.37	12.50	
6 👳	000	N-Ethylperfluoro-1-octanesulfonamidoacetic acid (N-Et	C12 H8 F17 N O4 S	17	13.619	583.98270	45973262				76.7	62.8	1.12	50.00	
7 🕀	000	Potassium perfluoro-1-(perfluoroethyl)cyclohexanesulfo	C8 H F15 O3 S	15	11.006	460.93285	17252539					64.5	1.12	25.00	
8 👳	$\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$	Perfluorohexadecanoic acid	C16 H F31 O2	31	15.391	812.93968	532195883					43.6	1.49	25.00	
9 🕀	000	Perfluoro-1-dodecanesulfonate	C12 H F25 O3 S	25	14.302	698.91628	1443433368				98.4		1.49	31.25	
10 🕀	•00	Glycine, N-[(1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-heptadecaflu	C11 H6 F17 N O4 S	17	13.905	569.96686	10117450					39.4	1.24	37.50	
11 👎	000	11-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonate	C10 H CI F20 O4 S	20	13.607	630.88856	1908371270				94.5	88.4	0.62	18.75	
12 👳	000	Perfluoropentanoic acid	C5 H F9 O2	9	7.902	262.97576	1894512695					92.7	1.24	31.25	
13 🕀	000	Heptadecafluoro-N-methylisooctanesulphonamide	C9 H4 F17 N O2 S	17	14.132	511.96128	202111808					31.4	1.99	43.75	
14 👳	000	N-Methylperfluoro-1-octanesulfonamidoacetic acid (N-	C11 H6 F17 N O4 S	17	13.437	569.96704	214202729				93.7	79.1	1.37	31.25	
15 😑	000	N-Methylperfluoro-1-octanesulfonamidoacetic acid (N-	C11 H6 F17 N O4 S	17	13.248	569.96694	140100161				82.2	69.5	1.12	31.25	
16 🗇	000	Methyl Perfluorononanoate	C10 H3 F17 O2	17	12.898	476.97834	170603032						0.87	12.50	
17 👎	000	Perfluoro-1-octanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	C8 H F17 O3 S	17	11.789	498.92954	173684522				99.4	20.3	0.99	18.75	
18 🕂	000	1-Butanesulfonamide, 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,4-nonafluoro-N-m	C5 H4 F9 N O2 S	9	10.864	311.97443	319551437						0.99	31.25	
19 🕀	000	Ammonium bis[2-(perfluorohexyl)ethyl] phosphate	C16 H9 F26 O4 P	26	14.562	788.97397	129368813					26.8	0.37	0.00	
20 🕀	000	Sulfluramide	C10 H6 F17 N O2 S	17	14.486	525.97702	112749995				98.5	78.5	0.99		
21 👎	000	3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-Heptadecafluoro-2-m	C11 H5 F17 O2	17	14.095	490.99402	109642967						1.99		
	\bigcirc	5:2/8:2 Fluorotelomer phosphate diester													
	000	Perfluoro-1-hexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)													
	000	Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium bis((perfluorooctyl)ethyl													
									·						

Overlaid Extracted Ion Chromatograms of annotated PFAS

Efficient detection and annotation from unspiked to 75 ppt



Confidently annotating unknown PFAS compounds

Bringing together multiple resources to annotate at Level 2 confidence



Confidently annotating unknown PFAS compounds

Bringing together multiple resources to annotate at Level 3 confidence



Diving deeper in the interpretation of MS2 spectra

Utilizing the SledgeHammer tool in Mass Frontier to better understand MS² fragmentation



Evaluating overall PFAS composition across samples

Built-in plotting tools to visually investigate difference in PFAS composition



*Orthogonal MS1 plots were developed by Kaufman et al. 2022, 105 (5), Journal of AOAC International

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Why PFAS by GCMS ?

- Added value to LCMS
- Complementary results, alternative for LC difficult compounds
- Cross confirmation of results
- Target quantitation, screening, and non-targeted (unexpected) analyses all available
- High throughput
- System always ready- EI, PCI modes and easy change between them
- Obtain Solvent Quality information in mobile phase or sample prep



Tools added for GC-Orbitrap NTA analysis- CD version 3.4

- Dedicated GC-Orbitrap PFAS workflow template
- Updated PFAS compound database
- Adding more chemicals to GC Orbitrap Contaminants library
- CSC and collaborator labs completing full methodology



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Some recent publications PFAS using GC-HRMS





Conclusions

- Automated dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction (DLLME) is a promising technique to extract and concentrate PFAS from drinking water samples. The resulting extract from a single sample preparation can then be measured by both quantitative targeted and non-targeted analysis in separate runs, as well as further exploration by GC-Orbitrap analysis.
- Quantitative targeted analysis showed good accuracies at low (1 ng/L) and high (75 ng/L) spiking level, as well as reproducibility (<30%, n=7) over several days. The use of internal standards for selected PFAS classes can additionally improve obtained results in terms of accuracy.
- The non-targeted analysis workflow in Compound Discoverer 3.3 SP3 provides a comprehensive package enabling confident annotation of unknown PFAS compounds through the use of multiple spectral libraries, fragmentation databases and as well as understanding differences in PFAS composition across samples.
- CD version 3.4 will greatly expand the workflow capabilities for NTA using GC-Orbitrap

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