

Analytical strategy for the determination of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in plasma and improved analytical strategy for the determination of authorised and non-authorised non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in milk by liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry

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#### **Food Additives and Contaminants**



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Analytical strategy for the determination of non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs in plasma and improved analytical strategy for the determination of authorised and non-authorised non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in milk by LC-MS/MS

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#### 12 Abstract

A sensitive and selective method for the determination of 6 non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in bovine plasma was developed. An improved method for the determination of authorised and non-authorised residues of 10 non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in milk was developed. Analytes were separated and acquired by HPLC coupled with an electrospray ionisation tandem mass spectrometer (LC-ESI-MS/MS). Target compounds were acidified in plasma, and plasma and milk samples were extracted with acetonitrile and both extracts were purified on an improved SPE procedure utilising Evolute <sup>TM</sup> ABN SPE cartridges. The recovery of the methods for milk and plasma was between 73 and 109 %. The precision of the method for authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs in milk and plasma expressed as % RSD, for the within -laboratory repeatability was less than 16 % and for authorised NSAIDs of meloxicam, flunixin and tolfenamic acid at their associated MRLs in milk was less than 10 % however for hydroxy flunixin was less than 25%. The methods were validated according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. 

Keywords: Non-steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs; Plasma; Milk; Liquid Chromatography
 Tandem Mass Spectrometry; Method Validation

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# 34 Introduction

Carprofen (CPF), diclofenac (DCF), ibuprofen (IBP), ketoprofen (KPF), mefenamic acid (MFN), phenylbutazone (PBZ), flunixin (FLU), hydroxy-flunixin (FLU-OH), tolfenamic acid (TLF) and meloxicam (MLX) are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and their structures are shown in Fig.1. Over the past number of years, residues of NSAIDs in food are a cause for concern. Studies have illustrated that the second most prescribed class of drugs after microbials is NSAIDs [Sundlof et al. 1995]. Dairy farmers and veterinarians are using NSAIDs in dairy animals more frequently [US Code, 1988] and studies have shown that their increased use [Kopcha et al. 1992] poses a threat to human health as permitted residue levels are being violated [Smith et al. 2008]. In 2007 the EC Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed reported alert notifications in relation to horse meat for these substances. The European Council recommend rigorous control of NSAIDs in food producing animals [SANCO 2000] because of the health effects in humans such as aplastic anaemia, gastrointestinal disorders, agranulocytosis [Insel 1990] and changes in renal function [Goodman et al. 1992]. Long term exposure to PBZ has caused kidney tumors in mice and liver tumors in rats [Kari et al. 1995]. In recent years the COX-II inhibitor class of NSAIDs has been implicated in cardiovascular harm in humans [Staa et al. 2008; Debabrata et al. 2008]. According to EU law, all drugs for veterinary use need to be included in Annexes 1-3 of Regulation 2377/90 

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54	[Commission Decision 1990]. This regulation establishes lists of compounds that
55	have a fixed maximum residue limit, MRL (Annex I), that need no MRL (Annex II)
56	or that have a provisional MRL (III). There are no MRL's set in plasma as is not an
57	edible matrix. The recommended minimum concentration for NSAIDs in plasma is set
58	at 5 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> [SANCO 2007]. In milk FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX are included in
59	Annex I. CPF has been included in Annex II of the regulation only for bovine milk
60	[European Commission 2005]. DCF was not authorised for use in animals that
61	produce milk for human consumption [European Commission 2004] until recently
62	[EMEA]. KPF is listed in Annex II of the regulation. PBZ, MFN and IBP are
63	considered as prohibited substances and are not included in Annexes 1-3 and have no
64	maximum residue limit (MRL) established however the minimum recommended
65	concentration for analysis of NSAIDs with no MRL set in milk is 5 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> . The
66	widespread use of NSAIDs presents a risk to the consumer if food containing residues
67	enter the food chain. In Ireland plasma and milk are some of the target matrices
68	chosen to identify the misuse of NSAIDs in animal production. The advantages of
69	using plasma in regulatory control are that it is an easy matrix to handle for analysis
70	and PBZ residues can be found in this matrix for a long time (personal
71	communication with the CRL). Therefore the analytical method developed in this
72	study in plasma concentrated on the analysis of 6 NSAIDs in bovine species. Methods
73	have been reported for the analysis of NSAIDs in plasma by LC-UV [De Veau, 1999;
74	Kvaternick et al. 2007; Luo et al. 2004; Hardee et al. 1982; Neto et al. 1996; Grippa et
75	al. 2000; Jedziniak et al. 2007; Singh et al. 1996; Gowik et al. 1998; Quintana et al.
76	2004; Fiori et al. 2004], GC-MS [Neto et al. 1996; Singh et al. 1991; Hines et al.
77	2004;Gonzalez et al. 1996; Jaussaud et al. 1992], LC-MS [Luo et al. 2004; Miksa et
78	al. 2005; Vinci et al. 2006; Quintana et al. 2004; You et al. 2008] and capillary

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79	electrophoresis [Gu et al. 1997]. The majority of methods that have been cited to date
80	have been developed in equine plasma alone or in combination with other matrices
81	with limits of detection ranging from 0.1 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> to 5 ug mL <sup>-1</sup> [Miksa et al. 2005;
82	Luo et al. 2004; Hardee et al. 1982; Neto et al. 1996; Grippa et al. 2000; Singh et al.
83	1991; Hines et al. 2004; Gonzalez et al. 1996; Gowik et al. 1998; Vinci et al. 2006;
84	Gu et al. 1997; You et al. 2008]. Other methods exist for the determination of
85	NSAIDs in bovine plasma are available but the limits of detection range from 20 ng to
86	3.4 ug mL <sup>-1</sup> [De Veau et al. 1999; Miksa et al. 2005; Jedziniak et al. 2007; Gowik et
87	al. 1998; Vinci et al. 2006; Quintana et al. 2004; Fiori et al. 2004]. Only two methods
88	are available in equine plasma to date capable of meeting the 5 ng mL <sup><math>-1</math></sup> requirement.
89	A method by Luo et al [Luo et al. 2004] for a single residue had a limit of detection of
90	0.1 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> for FLU. A multi-residue method by Gonzalez et al [Gonzalez et al.
91	1996] had a limit of detection of 5 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> for IBP, FLU, DCF, TLF but limits of
92	detection of only 10-25 ng mL <sup><math>-1</math></sup> could only be achieved for KPF, MFN and PBZ.
93	Therefore no methods are available to date for KPF, MFN and PBZ in plasma that can
94	meet the target level of 5 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> . A disadvantage of the method developed by
95	Gonzalez et al [Gonzalez et al. 1996] is that the method monitors 3 ions and this is not
96	a confirmatory method according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC [European
97	Commission Decision. 2002] and a second analytical technique is required. Overall
98	there is a paucity of methods in the literature that are available for the analysis of
99	NSAIDs in bovine plasma and of those available, the methods are not sensitive
100	enough to meet the minimum required concentration of analysis set at 5 ng mL <sup><math>-1</math></sup> .
101	Milk is the second target matrix analysed in this study and is important in food safety
102	because sampling can often be restricted to sampling of meat, milk, eggs and honey as
103	in the case of retail import/exports. Milk also allows the detection of drugs in live

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animals prior to slaughter. There are few analytical methods for the determination of authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs in milk and usually analyse for only a few residues. Those that have been described use LC-UV [Martin et al. 1983; Gallo et al. 2008; Feely et al. 2002; Rubb et al. 1995; De Veau et al. 1996], LC-MS [Gallo et al. 2008; Boner et al. 2003; Daeseleire et al. 2003; Malone et al. 2009; Dowling et al. 2009] and GC-MS [Dowling et al. 2008; Rubb et al. 1995]. A method by Gallo et al [Gallo et al. 2008] is capable of analysing 16 NSAIDs in milk using two separate analytical techniques and involves using a screening LC-DAD method with limits of detection (LOD) of between 2- 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> and a runtime of 35 min with an equilibration time of 15 min per injection. Confirmation is achieved using an LC ESI-Iontrap -MS/MS method with an LOD of 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> except for flurbiprofen with a runtime of 40 min per injection. The LC-MS method does not meet the requirements for a confirmatory method according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC and a third analytical technique is required. A method by Stolker et al [Stolker et al. 2008] is capable of analysing 20 NSAIDs in milk using a quantitative screening method (UPLC-TOF-MS) with LOD's for specific NSAIDs such as NAP, PBZ and DCF at 12.5, 25 and 6.3 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> and a runtime of 8.5 min per injection. The method cannot meet the 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for NAP and PBZ or 0.1 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> recently set for DCF and additionally the analysis by TOF-MS, medium to high resolution of approximately 10,000 FWHM is not included in Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. Other methods for the determination of NSAIDs in milk have limits of detection of 20 

ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for PBZ [Martin et al. 1983], 0.2 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for FLU and FLU-OH [Boner et al. 2003], 0.5 ug kg<sup>-1</sup> for FLU, FLU-OH and 1 ug kg<sup>-1</sup> for KPF [Daeseleire et al. 2003], 53.05, 15.82, 61.39, 45.04 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for TLF, MLX, 4-MAA and FLU-OH [Malone et al. 2009], 0.46-2.86 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for CPF, DCF, MFN, niflumic acid (NIFLU), naproxen

(NAP), oxyphenylbutazone (OXYPHEN), PBZ and suxibuzone (SUXI) [Dowling et al. 2009] 0.59, 2.09, 0.90 and 0.70 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for IBP, KPF, DCF and PBZ [Dowling et al. 2008], 1 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for FLU [Feely et al. 2002], 1.7 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for FLU [Rubb et al. 1995] and lowest fortification in matrix was 25 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for PBZ [De Veau et al. 1996]. The objective of this study was to develop an analytical strategy for the determination of NSAIDs in bovine plasma and for the determination of authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs simultaneously in milk that meet the EU target levels set and validate according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. 

In this study an improved purification procedure was developed using Evolute ABN<sup>TM</sup> solid phase extraction cartridges for the analysis of a wider range of NSAIDs including authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs in bovine milk. The developed procedure was suitable for the purification of 6 NSAIDs in bovine plasma. An improved liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry detection technique was developed to analyse 10 NSAIDs simultaneously with a run-time of 15 min. The methods in each matrix were comprehensively validated according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. The methods were implemented into the National Monitoring Programme in Ireland for veterinary drug residues and accreditated according to the ISO17025 Standard. The proposed method in milk does not cover the glucuronides. This is the first time that suitably sensitive methods for the analysis of NSAIDs in plasma and for the analysis of the selected range of authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs using Evolute ABN<sup>TM</sup> solid phase extraction cartridges simultaneously in bovine milk available. are

152	Materials and Methods
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*Materials and reagents* 

Water, ethanol, ethyl acetate, methanol, acetonitrile, acetic acid, hydrochloric acid (37 %), n-hexane and iso-octane (HiPerSolv grade) were obtained from BDH (Merck, UK). CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, FLU, KPF, MLX, TLF and PBZ were purchased from Sigma (Sigma Aldrich, Ireland). FLU-OH was obtained as a gift from The Community Reference Laboratory for NSAIDs in the EU in Germany. d<sub>10</sub>-PBZ was obtained from Cambridge Isotope Labs (Cambridge Isotope Labs, USA). d<sub>3</sub>-MLX, d<sub>3</sub>-IBP and d<sub>4</sub>-DCF were obtained from CDN Isotopes (CDN Isotopes, Canada). d<sub>3</sub>-FLU was obtained from Witega (Witega, Germany). d<sub>4</sub>-TLF was obtained as a gift from Stormont, (Stormont, UK). Primary stock standard solutions (stable for 12 months) were prepared in ethanol at a concentration of 1 mg  $mL^{-1}$ . Intermediate single standard solutions (stable for 6 months) were prepared in methanol at a concentration of 10 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>. CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, FLU, FLU-OH, KPF, TLF, MLX and PBZ standard fortification solution for plasma (stable for 6 months) was prepared in methanol at a concentration of 500 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> from the 10  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> intermediate stock solution. Internal standard fortification solution for milk or plasma containing  $d_3$ -MLX, d<sub>4</sub>-DCF, d<sub>3</sub>-IBP d<sub>3</sub>-FLU d<sub>4</sub>-TLF and d<sub>10</sub>-PBZ was prepared at a concentration of 1.25 ug mL<sup>-1</sup>. CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, KPF and PBZ standard fortification solution for milk (NMRL) was prepared in methanol at a concentration of 500 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> from the 10 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> intermediate stock solution. MLX, FLU, FLU-OH and TLF standard fortification solution for milk (MRL) was prepared in methanol at a concentration of 1.5, 4, 4 and 5 ug mL<sup>-1</sup> All standards were stored at 4  $^{\circ}$ C in the dark. Isolute <sup>TM</sup> Evolute ABN 50 µm solid phase extraction cartridges (10 mL, 100 mg) were obtained 

from Biotage (Biotage, UK). Methanol:water (10:90, v/v) and 10 mM ascorbic acid were used as solid phase extraction wash solvents. N-hexane:diethyl ether:acetonitrile: methanol (45:45:7:3,v/v) was used as the solid phase extraction elution solvent. Injection solvent was water:acetonitrile (90:10, v/v).

# 181 LC-MS/MS conditions

The LC consisted of an Agilent 1200 Rapid Resolution LC equipped with a G1312B Binary pump, G1316B-HiPALS SL autosampler and a G1316B-TCCSL column oven (Agilent Ireland). The NSAIDs were chromatographed on a 1.8 µm Agilent Eclipse Plus  $C_{18}$  column (3.0 × 50 mm) (Agilent, Ireland) and the column temperature was maintained at 55 ° C. A gradient was applied with water containing 0.001 M acetic acid and acetonitrile (90:10, v/v + 0.001 M acetic acid) (A) and acetonitrile (B) (Table 1). The total run time was 15 minutes. The injection volume was 15  $\mu$ L. The mass spectrometer used was a QTRAP 4000 with a TurboIonSpray source from Applied Biosystems (Applied Biosystems/MDS-Sciex, Canada). The MS was controlled by version 1.5 of Analyst software. The described LC-MS/MS system was shown to be suitable for the analysis of NSAIDs in plasma (Figure 2-7) and milk (Figure 2-11). 

#### 194 MS/MS parameters

The analysis was performed using negative ion electrospray MS/MS in multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode. The collision voltages were optimised as shown (Table 2). Each transition was performed with a 13 msec dwell time and a pause time of 3 msec. The MS/MS detector conditions were as follows: Ion mode electrospray negative; curtain gas 45 psi; ion spray voltage 4400 V; temperature 650 °C; ion source

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gas one 70 psi; ions source gas two 70 psi; Interface heater on; entrance potential 10
V; Resolution Q1 unit; Resolution Q2 unit; CAD gas =high

#### 203 Plasma/milk samples

Plasma/milk obtained for use as negative controls was separated into 50 mL aliquots and stored at -20 °C. The plasma/milk was analysed in previous batches and plasma/milk found to contain no detectable residues of NSAIDs were used as negative controls.

209 Sample extraction and clean-up

210 Plasma Extraction

Plasma samples (5 mL) were aliquoted into 50 mL polypropylene tubes. The plasma aliquots (5 mL) were fortified with internal standard at levels corresponding to 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> by adding a 60  $\mu$ L portion of a 1.25 ug mL<sup>-1</sup> mix solution of d<sub>3</sub>-MLX, d<sub>4</sub>-DCF, d<sub>3</sub>-IBP, d<sub>3</sub>-FLU, d<sub>4</sub>-TLF and d<sub>10</sub>-PBZ. Samples were fortified at levels corresponding to 5, 7.5 and 10 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> by adding 50, 75 and 100  $\mu$ L portions of a 500 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> solution of CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, KPF and PBZ. After fortification, samples were held for 15 min prior to extraction. Hydrochloric acid (500 µL, 1 M) was added to the plasma samples and they were left to stand at room temperature (10 min). Acetonitrile (5 mL) was added and the samples were vortexed (30 sec), centrifuged (3568  $\times$  g, 10 min, 4 °C) and the supernatant was transferred to a clean polypropylene tube. 10 mM ascorbic acid (15 mL) was added and the samples were vortexed (30 sec) and the pH of the samples were checked to ensure they were at pH 3 before proceeding to the solid phase extraction (SPE) stage. 

#### 224 Milk Extraction

Milk samples (5 mL) were aliquoted into 50 mL polypropylene tubes. The milk aliquots (5 mL) were fortified with internal standard at levels corresponding to 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> by adding a 60  $\mu$ L portion of a 1.25 ug mL<sup>-1</sup> mix solution of d<sub>3</sub>-MLX, d<sub>4</sub>-DCF, d<sub>3</sub>-IBP, d<sub>3</sub>-FLU, d<sub>4</sub>-TLF and d<sub>10</sub>-PBZ. Samples were fortified at levels corresponding to 5, 7.5 and 10 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> by adding 50, 75 and 100  $\mu$ L portions of a 500 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> solution of CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, KPF and PBZ (NMRL solution) and at 7.5, 15 and 22.5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with MLX, at 20, 40 and 60 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with FLU and FLU-OH and at 25, 50 and 75 ng mL  $^{-1}$  with TLF by fortifying with 25, 50 and 75  $\mu$ L portions of a 1.5, 4, 4 and 5 ug mL<sup>-1</sup> of MLX, FLU, FLU-OH and TLF (MRL solution). After fortification, samples were held for 15 min prior to extraction. Acetonitrile (5 mL) was added and the samples were vortexed (30 sec), centrifuged ( $3568 \times g$ , 10 min, 4 <sup>o</sup>C) and the supernatant was transferred to a clean polypropylene tube. The sample pellet is re-extracted with 5 mL of acetonitrile and the supernatants are combined. 10 mM ascorbic acid (20 mL) and 1 M hydrochloric acid (0.2 mL) were added to the extracts and the pH of the samples were checked to ensure they were at pH 3 before proceeding to the solid phase extraction (SPE) stage. 

#### 241 Solid phase extraction

The sample extracts were purified by SPE using Evolute ABN <sup>TM</sup> SPE cartridges. Sample extracts were loaded onto the cartridges (preconditioned with 3 mL of nhexane:diethyl ether (50:50, v/v) 3 mL of methanol and 5 mL of ascorbic acid. The samples were loaded onto cartridges under gravity. The cartridges were washed with 3 mL of methanol:water (10:90, v/v). The cartridges were dried under vacuum (15 min). The cartridges were eluted with 2 × 1.5 mL of n-hexane:diethyl ether: acetonitrile:

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methanol (45:45:7:3, v/v). The eluates were reduced to dryness under nitrogen without heat before re-dissolving in 150  $\mu$ L of water:acetonitrile (90:10, v/v) and vortexed (1 min). An aliquot (15  $\mu$ L) was injected on the LC column.

# 252 Matrix-Matched Calibration

Matrix matched calibration curves were prepared and used for quantification. Control plasma/milk previously tested and shown to contain no residues was prepared as above (2.4). One control plasma sample and one control milk was used for each calibration standard level. Plasma samples (5 mL) or milk samples (5 mL) were aliquoted into 50 mL polypropylene tubes. Individual plasma or milk samples were fortified with internal standard at levels corresponding to 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> by adding a 60  $\mu$ L portion of a 1.25 ug mL<sup>-1</sup> mix solution of d<sub>3</sub>-MLX, d<sub>4</sub>-DCF, d<sub>3</sub>-IBP, d<sub>3</sub>-FLU, d<sub>4</sub>-TLF and  $d_{10}$ -PBZ. Plasma samples were fortified at levels corresponding to 0, 5, 7.5, 10 and 20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> by adding 0, 50, 75, 100 and 200  $\mu$ L portions of a 500 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> standard solution of CPF, DCF, IB, KPF, MFN and PBZ. After fortification, plasma samples were held for 15 min prior to the extraction procedure as described above (2.5). Milk samples were fortified at levels corresponding to 0, 5, 7.5, 10 and 20 ng  $mL^{-1}$  by adding 0, 50, 75, 100 and 200 µL portions of a 500 ng  $mL^{-1}$  standard solution CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, KPF and PBZ (NMRL solution) and at levels of corresponding to 0, 7.5, 15, 22.5, 30, 60 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> of MLX, 0, 20, 40, 60, 80 and 160 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> FLU and FLU-OH and 0. 25, 50, 75, 100 and 200 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> of TLF. 

by adding 0, 25, 50, 75, 100 and 200  $\mu$ L portions of a 1.5, 4, 4, 5 ug mL<sup>-1</sup> standard solution of MLX, FLU, FLU-OH and TLF (MRL solution). After fortification, milk samples were held for 15 min prior to the extraction procedure as described above

272 (2.5). Calibration curves of plasma or milk were prepared by plotting the response

- factor as a function of analyte concentration (0 to 20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>) to quantify samples.

# *Method validation*

For estimation of accuracy, blank plasma samples were fortified with CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, KPF and PBZ at 5, 7.5 and 10 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>. For estimation of accuracy, blank milk samples were fortified with CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN, KPF and PBZ at 5, 7.5 and 10 ng  $mL^{-1}$  and at 7.5, 15 and 22.5 ng  $mL^{-1}$  with MLX, at 20, 40 and 60 ng  $mL^{-1}$  with FLU and FLU-OH and at 25, 50 and 75 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with TLF. Six replicate test portions, at each of the three fortification levels, were analysed. Analysis of the 18 test portions was carried out on three separate occasions for each matrix. For the estimation of the precision of the method, repeatability and within-laboratory reproducibility was calculated. For unauthorised substances the decision limit ( $CC\alpha$ ) of the method was calculated according to the calibration curve procedure using the intercept (value of the signal, y, where the concentration, x is equal to zero) and 2.33 times the standard error of the intercept for a set of data with 6 replicates at 3 levels. The detection capability (CC $\beta$ ) was calculated by adding 1.64 times the standard error to the CC $\alpha$ . For authorised substances the decision limit ( $CC\alpha$ ) of the method was calculated according to the ISO 11843 calibration curve procedure by plotting the corresponding concentration at the permitted limit plus 1.64 times the standard deviation of the within laboratory reproducibility for a set of data with 6 replicates at 3 levels. The detection capability (CCB) was calculated by adding 1.64 times the standard deviation of the within laboratory reproducibility to the  $CC\alpha$ .

#### 296 Results and Discussion

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297	Devel	/opment	optimisation	experiments
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The ionisation of all NSAIDs was studied in negative and positive mode. Most NSAIDs can be detected by ESI-MS both in the negative mode and the positive mode, showing different ionisation efficiencies. The optimum parameters (polarity mode, declustering potential, collision energy, collision cell exit potential) were determined for each drug and the best diagnostic ions for MS/MS analysis are shown in Table 2. Negative ion mode was chosen as the required sensitivity was obtained for all compounds and less baseline noise was obtained. The MS/MS method was developed to monitor one precursor ion (parent mass) and two daughters (corresponding to strong and weak ion) which is a suitable confirmatory method yielding 4 identification points in accordance with 2002/657/EC. Only one daughter ion could be obtained for KPF and IBP but two daughter ions could be obtained for all other compounds investigated in the study. A previous method developed at the author's laboratory utilising GC-MS/MS was capable of obtaining 2 daughter ions for these substances after derivatisation [Dowling et al. 2008]. The LC method developed in this study was based on a method developed at the author's laboratory for the determination of 8 banned non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs but was not suitable for incorporation of the new range of analytes in this study [Dowling et al. 2009]. Chromatographic tests were carried out to evaluate the suitability of the 1.8 µm Agilent Eclipse Plus  $C_{18}$  column (3.0× 50 mm) and the LC mobile phase utilised in this study when additional NSAIDs were added. The tests showed that the internal standards of DCF and FLU overlapped in each internal standard transition when the analytes were eluted with a flow rate of 750  $\mu$ L min<sup>-1</sup> and a run time of 6.5 min per injection. A study was performed using the same composition of mobile phase A and B. The times in the gradient were adjusted, the flow rate was reduced and the

322	chromatographic runtime was extended to separate the internal standard of DCF and
323	FLU. This resulted in the NSAIDs being eluted with good peak shape when using a
324	mobile phase of water containing 0.001 M acetic acid and acetonitrile (90:10, v/v) (A)
325	and acetonitrile (B) with a flow rate of 0.5 $\mu L.min^{\text{-1}}$ and a runtime of 15 min. The
326	internal standards $d_4$ -DCF and $d_3$ -FLU were completely separated under these
327	conditions. As a result a batch of 30 samples can be analysed using the developed
328	LC-MS/MS method for 10 NSAID residues in 7.5 hours allowing the running of up to
329	3 batches of extracted samples within a 24 hour period. The extraction of the
330	NSAIDs from plasma was based on methods developed by Gowik et al. (Gowik et al.
331	1998) and by Vinci et al (Vinci et al. 2006) but modified with the addition of
332	acetonitrile. The extraction of NSAIDs in milk was based on a method previously
333	developed at the author's laboratory [Dowling et al. 2009]. The extraction procedures
334	were found to be satisfactory in the extraction of the NSAIDs from milk and plasma
335	in this study. The purification of NSAIDs from the plasma and milk extracts was
336	investigated initially using a solid phase extraction procedure previously developed at
337	the authors laboratory using Evolute ABN $^{TM}$ cartridges but the original procedure
338	was not suitable for the additional range of new analytes in this study. The NSAID
339	FLU-OH was poorly recovered when the method previously developed at our
340	laboratory was utilised. Elution studies were performed to ascertain where losses were
341	occurring. The cartridges were eluted with different compositions and volumes of
342	solvents including, 3 mL diethyl ether:hexane:acetonitrile (45:45:10, v/v/v), 3 mL
343	diethyl ether:hexane, acetonitrile:methanol (45:45:5:5, v/v/v/v), 1.5 mL diethyl ether:
344	hexane (80:20, v/v-elution 1) and 1.5 mL acetonitrile:methanol (90:10, v/v- elution
345	2), 1.5 mL acetonitrile:methanol 90:10, v/v-elution 1) and 1.5 mL diethyl ether:
346	hexane 50:50, v/v-elution 2), 3 mL methanol and 3 mL diethyl

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347	ether:hexane:acetonitrile:methanol ( $37.5:37.5:20:5 \text{ v/v/v/v}$ ). The results showed that
348	elution of the cartridge with a solvent composition containing n-hexane:diethyl ether:
349	acetonitrile: methanol (45:45:7:3, v/v-2 × 1.5 mL) gave the best results for all the
350	analytes tested in this study. This is the first time to the best of our knowledge that
351	CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ residues have been purified from bovine
352	plasma using Evolute ABN $^{TM}$ solid phase extraction cartridges. The methodology is
353	capable of meeting the minimum concentration of 5 ng mL <sup><math>-1</math></sup> set for NSAIDs in
354	plasma. Moreover the values determined for the decision capability (CC $\alpha$ ) in this
355	study were lower than those recorded for these substances in the literature in plasma
356	by LC-MS/MS to date. This is the first time to the best of our knowledge that FLU,
357	TLF, FLU-OH, IBP, KPF and MLX have been purified from milk using Evolute
358	ABN <sup>TM</sup> solid phase extraction cartridges. The method meets the target level of 5 ng
359	$mL^{-1}$ for IBP and KPF in milk for the first time. There are no analytical methods that
360	monitor for authorised and non authorised NSAIDs in milk aswell as FLU and FLU-
361	OH simultaneously in milk that meet the stringent validation requirements according
362	to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC. The primary advantage of the developed
363	analytical strategy in this study is that the quantitation and confirmation can be carried
364	out using a single analytical technique according to Commission Decision
365	2002/657/EC [Commission Decision 2002] except for IBP and KPF. Confirmation of
366	these residues using a second analytical technique is described elsewhere [Dowling et
367	al. 2008]. After validation of this method the EU changed the legislation for DCF and
368	a MRL of 0.1 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> was set in milk. Preliminary spiking studies at the new MRL
369	for DCF were carried out using the developed analytical strategy in this study. Results
370	showed that this analytical strategy was sensitive enough to detect DCF at this level.
371	The same sample extract was also analysed on an Applied Biosystem 5500 triple

quadrupole mass spectrometer and the response using this system gave a better signalto-noise ratio compared to the 4000 QTRAP. This analytical strategy with detection
using 4000 QTRAP or 5500 Applied Biosystems LC-MS technology shows for the
first time during initial studies that the new MRL set for DCF in milk at 0.1 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>
can be achieved. A chromatogram of the response for milk fortified at 0.1 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>
using Applied Biosystems 5500 is shown in Figure 12.

379 Validation study

Validation of the method in plasma and milk was according to procedures described in Commission Decision 2002/657/EC [Commission Decision 2002] covering specificity, calibration curve linearity, recovery (accuracy), precision, decision limit (CC $\alpha$ ) and detection capability (CC $\beta$ ).

385 <u>Specificity</u>

The technique of LC-MS/MS itself offers a high degree of selectivity and specificity. To establish the selectivity/specificity of the method, a variety of plasma and milk samples were fortified with analytes and internal standards and non-fortified samples were also analysed. No interfering peaks were observed at the retention time of the analytes. To further test specificity in plasma and milk, samples were also fortified with 5.0 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> of naproxen (NAP), niflumic acid (NIFLU), oxyphenylbutazone (OXYPHEN) and suxibuzone (SUXI). No interfering peaks were observed at the retention window of the analytes. 

# *Linearity of the response*

The linearity of the chromatographic response in plasma was tested with matrix matched curves using 5 calibration points in the concentration range of 0 to 20 ng mL<sup>-</sup> <sup>1</sup> when fortified with CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ. The linearity of the chromatographic response in milk was tested with matrix matched curves using 5 calibration points in the concentration range of 0 to 20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> when fortified with CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ (NMRL substances). For MRL substances the linearity of the chromatographic response in milk was tested with matrix matched curves using 5 calibration points in the concentration range of 0 to 30 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for MLX, 0 to 160 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for FLU and FLU-OH and 0 to 100 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for TLF. Overall the regression coefficients  $(r^2)$  were  $\geq 0.98$  except for FLU-OH. The regression 

406 <u>Accuracy</u>

The accuracy was determined using bovine plasma fortified at 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 ng  $mL^{-1}$  with CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ. Mean corrected recoveries (n = 18) determined in three separate assays in plasma (Table 3) were between 99 and 109 %. The accuracy was determined using bovine milk fortified at 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ and the mean corrected recoveries (n = 18)determined in three separate assays in milk (Table 4) were between 74 and 109 %. The accuracy was determined using bovine milk fortified at MRL levels of 7.5, 15 and 22.5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for MLX, at 20, 40 and 60 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with FLU and FLU-OH and fortified at 25, 50 and 75 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with TLF and the mean corrected recovery (n = 18) of the analytes, determined in three separate assays in milk (Table 4) were between 73 and 102 %. 

419 <u>Precision</u>

The precision of the method, expressed as RSD values for the within-lab reproducibility of CPF, DCF, IBP, MFN and PBZ in plasma was less than 16 % (Table 3). No deuterated analogue was available for CPF, MFN, KPF and FLU-OH in our laboratory at the time of carrying out this work. d<sub>3</sub>-IBP was used as I.S for CPF and KPF, d<sub>3</sub>-TLF was used as I.S for MFN and d<sub>3</sub>-FLU was used as I.S for FLU-OH. The precision of the method, expressed as RSD values for the within-lab reproducibility of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ when fortified into milk was less than 16 % (Table 4). The precision of the method, expressed as RSD values for the within-lab reproducibility of MLX, FLU and TLF when fortified into milk was less than 10 % except for FLU-OH which was less 25 % (Table 4). A one way analysis of variance was carried out at each of the fortification levels to separate out estimates for within run, between run and total variance of the method and the results are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Commission Decision 2002/ 657/EC states that the precision for quantitative methods for mass fractions lower than 100 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, the application of the Horwitz Equation gives unacceptable high values. Therefore, the RSD values for concentrations lower than 100 ng  $mL^{-1}$  shall be as low as possible. 

#### 437 <u>CC $\alpha$ and CC $\beta$ </u>

The decision limit (CC $\alpha$ ) is defined as the limit above which it can be concluded with an error probability of  $\alpha$ , that a sample contains the analyte. In general, for non-MRL substances an  $\alpha$  equal to 1 % is applied. The detection capability (CC $\beta$ ) is the smallest content of the substance that may be detected, identified and quantified in a sample, with a statistical certainty of 1- $\beta$ , were  $\beta = 5$  %. In the case of non MRL substances CC $\alpha$  is the concentration corresponding to the intercept + 2.33 times the standard error of the intercept. CC $\beta$  is the concentration corresponding to the signal at CC $\alpha$  + Page 19 of 52

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445	1.64 times the standard error of the intercept (i.e the intercept + 3.97 times the
446	standard error of the intercept). Blank plasma was fortified at 1, 1.5 and 2 times the
447	minimum required performance level of 5 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> set for CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF,
448	MFN, PBZ, FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX. $CC\alpha$ and $CC\beta$ were calculated in
449	plasma using the intercept (value of the signal, y, were the concentration, x is equal to
450	zero) and the standard error of the intercept for a set of data with 6 replicates at 3
451	levels (5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> ). CC $\alpha$ values of 1.80, 0.58, 0.71, 0.87, 0.70 and 1.19
452	ng mL <sup>-1</sup> were determined for CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN, PBZ respectively. $CC\beta$
453	values of 3.1, 0.99, 1.22 1.49, 1.20, 2.02 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> were determined for CPF, DCF,
454	IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ respectively. Non authorised substances in milk were
455	fortified at 1, 1.5 and 2 times the minimum required performance level of 5 ng mL <sup>-1</sup>
456	set for CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ. CCa values of 2.11, 0.83, 0.47, 1.63,
457	0.92 and 0.55 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> were determined for CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ.
458	CC $\beta$ values of 3.59, 1.41, 0.80, 2.77, 1.56 and 0.94 ng mL <sup>-1</sup> were determined for CPF,
459	DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ. In the case of substances which have MRLs (MLX,
460	FLU, FLU-OH and TLF) fortification was at 0.5, 1 and 1.5 times the corresponding
461	MRL. The decision limit (CC $\alpha$ ) is calculated by analysing the 18 milk samples
462	fortified at the MRL over three days, and using the concentration at the permitted limit
463	plus 1.64 times the standard deviation obtained to yield CC $\alpha$ . The detection capability
464	(CC $\beta$ ) of the proposed method was calculated from the CC $\alpha$ value plus 1.64 times the
465	corresponding standard deviation. CC $\alpha$ values of 17.6, 42.89, 55.76 and 54.45 ng mL <sup>-</sup>
466	$^1$ were determined and CC\beta values of 20.13, 45.78, 71.50 and 58.9 ng mL $^1$ were
467	determined for MLX, FLU, FLU-OH and TLF in milk when fortified at their
468	associated maximum residue limits.

470 Measurement Uncertainty

According to SANCO/2004/2726 rev 1 the within laboratory reproducibility can be regarded as a good estimate of the combined measurement uncertainty of individual methods [SANCO 2004]. For the calculation of the extended uncertainty a safety factor is required. The within laboratory reproducibility should be multiplied by a value of 2.33 and this should be used when determining the CC $\alpha$ , corresponding to a confidence level of 99 %. As the only source of variation during the validation was the different days and different plasma or milk sourced from different animals it was decided to use a safety factor of 3.0 instead of 2.33. The measurement uncertainty of the method in plasma was estimated at 47, 12, 15, 23, 19 and 26 % for CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ. The measurement uncertainty of the method in

481 milk was estimated at 50, 34, 36, 48, 20, 24, 16, 75, 24 and 30 % for CPF, DCF, IBP,

482 KPF, MFN, PBZ, FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX.

This was determined by calculating the within laboratory reproducibility of the method, followed by multiplication of the within laboratory reproducibility by the safety factor of 3.0.

*Evaluation* 

The method developed in this study has been used to evaluate the presence of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN, PBZ, FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX in bovine milk and CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ in plasma. In monitoring for these substances in either matrix at our laboratory it was possible to detect the precursor ion and two daughter ions (at 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>) in multiple reaction monitoring mode except for IBP and KPF. Furthermore the product ion ratio requirement was also met. The method has been carried out by different analysts under varying environmental conditions and the

#### **Food Additives and Contaminants**

method was shown to be robust. To demonstrate the applicability of the method milk samples taken from animals treated with MLX and FLU-OH obtained from the Community Reference Laboratory in Berlin were tested. These samples had assigned values ranging from 5- 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>. The samples were analysed by the method developed in this study and all samples were found to contain 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> of FLU-OH and 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> of MLX.

502 Conclusions

A fast, simple, sensitive and selective LC-MS/MS method for the determination of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ in bovine plasma and CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN, PBZ, FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX in bovine milk has been developed. The LC-MS/MS method provided quantitative confirmatory data for the analysis of bovine milk for CPF, DCF, MFN, PBZ, FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX. The method allows the analysis of a wide variety of drugs from different NSAID sub-classes such as CPF. IBP and KPF (arylpropionic acid derivatives), PBZ (pyrazolidinedione derivatives) DCF, MFN and TLF (anthranilic derivatives) and FLU and FLU-OH (nicotinic acid derivatives) and MLX (oxicam derivative). There is no published method available to the best of our knowledge for the simultaneous determination of authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs such as CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN, PBZ, FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX in bovine milk that purifies sample extracts using Evolute <sup>TM</sup> ABN solid phase extraction cartridge procedure described in this study which is an improvement on previous work carried out utilising this cartridge chemistry. This is the first time that FLU, TLF, FLU-OH, IBP, KPF and MLX have been purified from milk using Evolute ABN<sup>TM</sup> solid phase extraction cartridges simultaneously with other NSAIDs. This is the first time that a method is available that meets the minimum requirements 

of 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> for IBP and KPF in milk. There is no published method available to the best of our knowledge for the simultaneous determination of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN and PBZ in bovine plasma that purifies sample extracts using Evolute <sup>TM</sup> ABN solid phase extraction cartridges. This study describes the first such sensitive and selective methodology. This is also the first time that a rapid multi-residue methodology for the above authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs has been validated according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC [Commission Decision 2002] and the measurement uncertainty of the method has been described. This methodology shows that suitable sensitivity was obtained and that the method performs very well in terms of accuracy and within-laboratory reproducibility. The developed method was evaluated by comparison of results when method was performed by different analysts under different environmental conditions, using different batches of reagents and solid phase extraction cartridges. The results (unpublished data) were highly acceptable providing evidence of the development of a rugged analytical method in this study. Recently it was proposed by Community Reference Laboratories (CRLs) in Europe that laboratories should be capable of monitoring for NSAIDS at a level of 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> in EU member states where no MRL exists in plasma or milk and this study shows that these limits can be reached using the developed analytical strategy [SANCO 20041. The objective of the work to anticipate the requirements of the future where risks could occur due to the administration of NSAIDs by developing a method to monitor for authorised and non-authorised NSAIDs simultaneously has been achieved. The objective of the work to validate an analytical strategy for these residues in bovine plasma and milk that meet EU target levels according to the requirements in Commission Decision 2002/657/EC therefore has also been achieved successfully. 

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Fig. 2A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (2A) and plasma (2C) fortified at 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with internal standard d<sub>3</sub>-IBP and fortified with 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> of CPF in milk (2B) and plasma (2D)



Fig. 3A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (3A) and plasma (3C) fortified at 15 ng  $mL^{-1}$  with internal standard d<sub>4</sub>-DCF and fortified at 5 ng  $mL^{-1}$  with DCF in milk (3B) and plasma (3D)



Fig. 4A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (4A) and plasma (4C) fortified at 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with internal standard d<sub>3</sub>-IBU and fortified at 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with IBP in milk (4B) and plasma (4D).



Fig. 5A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (5A) and plasma (5C) fortified at 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with internal standard d<sub>3</sub>-IBU and fortified at 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with KPF in milk (5B) and plasma (5D).



Fig. 6A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (6A) and plasma (6C) fortified at 15 ng  $mL^{-1}$  with internal standard d<sub>4</sub>-TLF and fortified at 5 ng  $mL^{-1}$  with MFN in milk (6B) and plasma (6D).



Fig. 7A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (7A) and plasma (7C) fortified at 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with internal standard  $d_{10}$ -PBZ and fortified at 5 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with PBZ in milk (7B) and plasma (7D)





Fig. 9A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (9A) fortified at 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with internal standard  $d_3$ -FLU and fortified at 20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with FLU (9B)

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Fig. 10A. Chromatogram of negative control milk (10 A) fortified at 15 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with internal standard  $d_3$ -FLU and fortified at 20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> with FLU-OH (10B)







Table 1: LC gradient profile for determination of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN, PBZ,

# FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX

Time	Component A	Component B
(min)	(%)	(%)
0.0	90	10
1.0	90	10
3.5	85	15
7.5	35	65
9.5	35	65
11.0	90	10
15.0	90	10

Component A:

Component A: water containing 0.001 M acetic acid + acetonitrile (90 + 10, v/v) Acetonitrile

Component B: Acetonitrile

# **Table 2**: MS/MS parameters for determination of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN, PBZ,FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX

				Collision
			Collision	Cell Exit
		Declustering Potential	Energy	Potential
Compound	Transition	[V]	[eV]	[V]
CPF	271.8>227.9(strong)	-60	-16	-13
	271.8>225.8(weak)	-60	-38	-13
DCF	294.0>250.0(strong)	-70	-19	-15
	294.0>214.0(weak)	-70	-28	-15
IBP	205.0>161.0(strong)	-45	-14	-9
PBZ	306.9>279.0(strong)	-70	-30	-16
	306.9>130.9 (weak)	-70	23	-12
FLU	294.9>250.8(strong)	-80	-18	-15
	294.9>191.0(strong)	-80	-25	-17
FLU-OH	310.9>266.9(strong)	-65	-48	-9
	310.9>226.9(weak)	-65	-50	-9
MFN	239.8>196 (strong)	-60	-34	-11
	239.8>179.9 (weak)	-60	-18	-17
MLX	349.8>285.9(strong)	-50.	-19	-18
	349.8>145.9(strong)	-50	-35	-12
KPF	252.8>209.0(strong)	-40.	-10	-9
TLF	259.8>215.9(strong)	-60.	-16	-5
	259.8>214.0(strong)	-60	-30	-5
d4-DCF	298.0>218.0(strong)	-70	-28	-15
d3-IBP	208.0>164.0(strong)	-45	-14	-9
d10-PBZ	316.9>289.0(strong)	-70	-25	-16
d3-FLU	298.0>254.0(strong)	-70	-14	-15
d3-MLX	353.0>289.0(strong)	-50	-15	-18
d4-TLF	264.0>220(strong)	-60	-16	-5

Note: Matrix matched curves were used for quantification of all compounds d<sub>3</sub>-IBP was used as internal standard (I.S) for CPF, IBP and KPF, d<sub>4</sub>-DCF was used as I.S for DCF, d<sub>10</sub>-PBZ was used as I.S for PBZ, d<sub>3</sub>- FLU was used as I.S for FLU and FLU-OH. d<sub>4</sub>- TLF was used as I.S for MFN and TLF. d<sub>3</sub>- MLX was used as I.S for MLX.

**Table 3**: Intra- and inter-assay variation for accuracy of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN,PBZ, in plasma

Analyte	Fortification level $(ng mL^{-1})$	Accuracy	Within Run	Between Run	Total CV
	(ing line )	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
	0				
CPF	5	104	18.8	9.2	20.9
	7.5	99	7.1	9.6	12.0
	10	101	11.0	6.6	12.8
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				15.2
DCF	5	106	4.0	21	45
Der	75	102	3.0	2.1	11.9
	10	101	3.9	1.2	12.8
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				4.1
IBP	5	104	4.4	0.0	4.4
	7.5	103	4.3	4.2	6.0
	10	100	3.8	0.9	3.9
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				4.8
KDE	5	100	Q 4	2.0	0.2
КГГ	у 75	108	0.4 5 1	5.8 7.2	9.2
	10	104	3.2	0.0	3.2
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				7.1
MFN	5	103	7.0	43	82
1711 1 1	7.5	103	4.2	4.0	5.8
	10	99	2.3	3.0	3.8
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				5.9

Analyte	Fortification level (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Accuracy	Within Run CV	Between Run CV	Total CV
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
PBZ	5 7.5 10	109 102 101	6.8 10.3 4.5	5.2 4.9 0.8	8.6 11.4 4.6
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				8.2

**Table 4**: Intra- and inter-assay variation for accuracy of CPF, DCF, IBP, KPF, MFN, PBZ, FLU, FLU-OH, TLF and MLX in milk

	Fortification				
Analyte	level	Accuracy	Within Run	Between Run	Total
	$(ng mL^{-1})$		CV	CV	CV
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
CPF	5	103	5.2	7.1	8.8
	7.5	108	11.3	15.4	19.1
	10	101	12.6	15.0	19.6
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				15.8
DCF	5	92	4.5	13.9	14.6
	7.5	106	5.8	9.5	11.1
	10	103	5.3	4.1	6.7
Combined	5,7.5,10				10.8
Variance					
	-				1.5.0
IBP	5	81	2.7	15.0	15.2
	7.5	99	3.0	6.4	/.1
	10	104	3.4	12.0	12.5
Combined	5,7.5,10				11.6
Variance					
KDE	5	107	36	20.2	20.6
KI I	75	93	8.1	63	20.0
	10	106	13.9	0.5	15.7
	10	100	15.7	1.5	15.7
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				15.5
MEN	5	74	53	33	62
1411 14	75	103	59	60	59
	10	109	3.1	7.8	8.1
Combined	57510	-		-	67
Variance	5,7.5,10				0.7

	Fortification				
Analyte	level	Accuracy	Within Run	Between Run	Total
	$(ng mL^{-1})$		CV	CV	CV
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
DP7	5	70	15	75	87
F DZ	75	00	4.3	7.3 A 7	6.8
	10	104	4.9 5.8	4.7 5.4	0.8 7 9
	10	104	5.0	5.4	1.)
Combined Variance	5,7.5,10				7.8
FUI	20	03	3.0	1.0	3.6
TLU	20 40	102	3.0	2.1	5.0 4 4
	60	98	5.9 4 4	5.8	73
	00	10		5.0	1.5
Combined Variance	20,40,60				5.1
FLU-OH	20	73	9.1	28.3	29.7
	40	83	12.2	20.7	24.0
	60	87	9.6	18.2	20.5
	20.40.60				245
Variance	20,40,60				24.7
TLF	25	97	4.7	7.2	8.6
	50	101	3.3	4.3	5.4
	75	92	2.4	8.9	9.2
Combined Variance	25,50,75				7.7
MIY	75	88	28	6.6	7 7
IVILA	15	92	2.0 4 9	9.2	10.4
	22.5	87	1.9	11.6	11.7
		.,			
Combined Variance	7.5,15, 22.5				9.8

**Table 5**: Calculated CC $\alpha$  and CC $\beta$  values for plasma

	CCα (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )	CCβ (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )
CPF	1.80	3.07
DCF	0.58	0.99
ІВР	0.71	1.22
KPF	0.87	1.49
MFN	0.70	1.20
PBZ	1.19	2.02

CCCaCCCp(ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )(ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )CPF2.113.59DCF0.831.41IBP0.470.80KPF1.632.77MFN0.921.56PBZ0.550.94FLU42.8945.78FLU-OH55.7671.50TLF54.4558.90MLX17.5720.13			
CPF       2.11       3.59         DCF       0.83       1.41         IBP       0.47       0.80         KPF       1.63       2.77         MFN       0.92       1.56         PBZ       0.55       0.94         FLU       42.89       45.78         FLU-OH       55.76       71.50         TLF       54.45       58.90         MLX       17.57       20.13		$(ng mL^{-1})$	$(ng mL^{-1})$
CPF       2.11       3.59         DCF       0.83       1.41         IBP       0.47       0.80         KPF       1.63       2.77         MFN       0.92       1.56         PBZ       0.55       0.94         FLU       42.89       45.78         FLU-OH       55.76       71.50         TLF       54.45       58.90         MLX       17.57       20.13			
DCF0.831.41IBP0.470.80KPF1.632.77MFN0.921.56PBZ0.550.94FLU42.8945.78FLU-OH55.7671.50TLF54.4558.90MLX17.5720.13	CPF	2.11	3.59
IBP0.470.80KPF1.632.77MFN0.921.56PBZ0.550.94FLU42.8945.78FLU-OH55.7671.50TLF54.4558.90MLX17.5720.13	DCF	0.83	1.41
KPF     1.63     2.77       MFN     0.92     1.56       PBZ     0.55     0.94       FLU     42.89     45.78       FLU-OH     55.76     71.50       TLF     54.45     58.90       MLX     17.57     20.13	IBP	0.47	0.80
KPF1.632.77MFN0.921.56PBZ0.550.94FLU42.8945.78FLU-OH55.7671.50TLF54.4558.90MLX17.5720.13	101		0.00
MFN0.921.56PBZ0.550.94FLU42.8945.78FLU-OH55.7671.50TLF54.4558.90MLX17.5720.13	KPF	1.63	2.77
PBZ       0.55       0.94         FLU       42.89       45.78         FLU-OH       55.76       71.50         TLF       54.45       58.90         MLX       17.57       20.13	MFN	0.92	1.56
FLU     42.89     45.78       FLU-OH     55.76     71.50       TLF     54.45     58.90       MLX     17.57     20.13	PR7	0.55	0 94
FLU     42.89     45.78       FLU-OH     55.76     71.50       TLF     54.45     58.90       MLX     17.57     20.13		0.00	
FLU-OH55.7671.50TLF54.4558.90MLX17.5720.13	FLU	42.89	45.78
TLF54.4558.90MLX17.5720.13	FLU-OH	55.76	71.50
MLX 17.57 20.13	TLF	54.45	58.90
<u> </u>	MLX	17.57	20.13

**Table 6**: Calculated CC $\alpha$  and CC $\beta$  values for milk