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 Polar Aromatic Compounds (PAC) in Soot from Premixed Flames of Kerosene, Paraffinic Synthetic Kerosene, and Kerosene-Synthetic Biofuels

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ABSTRACT

 Polar Aromatic Compounds (PAC) adsorbed on soot produced in laboratory premixed flames of fossil kerosene (Jet A-1), Synthetic Paraffinic Kerosene (SPK), and Jet A-1 - synthetic biofuels (2,5-dimethylfuran, methyloctanoate, diethylcarbonate and 1-butanol) were characterized for the first time in the aim of shedding light on the combustion mechanisms and evaluating the environmental impact of these synthetic biofuels.

The following families of compounds were fractioned from the soot extracts and further their

relative abundances estimated: (a) oxa-AHs (xanthenes, benzoxanthene, alcoxy-AHs, furan…);

(b) aldehydes-AHs, (c) ketones-AHs; (d) quinones-AHs; (e) aromatic monocarboxylic acids; (f)

aromatic hydroxy-acids; (g) aromatic dicarboxylic acids; (h) nitrated-AHs (including amines,

acridines, cinnoline derivatives, carbazoles…); (i) nitro-AHs.

22 The results obtained point out that overall, soot from Jet A-1 - biofuels premixed flames are richer in PAC than soot from pure Jet A-1 and SPK. Out of the fuels studied, Jet A-1 - 1-butanol produces the highest concentrations of nitro-AHs (namely nitro-benzaldehydes), of aldehydes- AH and hydroxy-AHs (including two isomers of hydroxy-benzaldehyde); whereas Jet A-1 - diethylcarbonate produces the highest concentrations of quinone-AHs (especially phenanthrene-quinones) and large concentrations of nitrated-AHs. On the other hand, soot from Jet A-1 - methyloctanoate is the richest one in mono aromatic and dicarboxylic acids, aromatic hydroxyacids, nitrated-AHs, and esters. Combustion of the Jet A-1 - 2,5-dimethylfuran mixture emits the highest concentrations of ketone-AHs, and oxa-AHs (namely, furan derivatives).

 We should remark that although the soot samples were obtained from pre-mixed flames, the lab conditions being far from the industrial conditions, particularly in terms of pressure; the chemistry going on should not be so different that our findings could not be extrapolated to industrial conditions.

1. INTRODUCTION

 Kerosene is an oil distillate commonly used as solvent and aviation fuel for commercial and 38 military air transportation. Jet fuel are produced by distillation of crude oil (205 °C to 260 °C)¹. 39 They are mainly composed of hydrocarbons $(C_8 \text{ to } C_{16})$. The chemical components of jet fuel 40 are: alkanes, iso-alkanes, naphthenes, and aromatics². Jet A-1 is the most frequently used jet fuel in aviation industry.

 The IATA as reported that in 2016, over 3.8 billion passengers and 54.9 Mt of goods were transported, which corresponds to ca. 35% of world trade by value. Also, it is forecasted a

44 $\,\mathrm{d}$ doubling of the number of air passenger over the next 20 years³.

 In this context, for ensuring a sustainable development of aviation industry, it is not enough relying only on increasing fuels efficiency, but one needs to develop alternative renewable fuels to meet the increasing fuel demand and reduce dependency on oil-derived fuel, and cut 48 off CO₂ emissions as demanded by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In fact, this organization, adopted in 2016 a global carbon offsetting scheme for international aviation which starts with a voluntary period (2021–2026) after which it will be mandatory, and it will

51 cover about 80% of carbon dioxide increase in 2021–2035⁴.

 Whereas renewable energy sources contribute reducing the share of fossil fuels in the energy 53 sector, including ground transportation⁵, this is not currently applicable for aviation⁶.

- Bio-fuels could be a desirable alternative to fossil fuels in aviation industry. These fuels exhibit several important advantages:
- 1. Decreasing dependence on fossil fuel,
- $2.$ Reducing emissions over life cycles using carbon neutral biomass⁷.
- 3. Bio-derived jet fuels have low sulfur content and potentially lower emissions, better 59 cold flow properties and higher thermal stability, compared to oil-derived fuels $8-10$.
- 4. Using bio-derived jet fuels do not require modifications of engines and fuel quality is n or an issue¹¹.
- As regards the production of biofuels, there are three generations of bio-fuels:
- 1. First-generation biofuels. This generation is not popular because of competition 64 between human diet and fuel production from edible.¹²
- 2. Second-generation biofuels are synthesized using non-edible sources, e.g., lignocellulose from agricultural and forestry residues, municipal waste, halophytes, short rotation woody crops. These kind of bio-fuels can also be produced from camelina, jatropha, used cooking oils, wastes from industry, e.g. tall oil from paper 69 making, oil sediments or acid oils from edible oil refineries. $6, 13-16$
- 3. Third-generation biofuels derive from algae feedstock which contains relatively high oil concentrations. This route to biofuels is considered promising and a potential solution 72 for carbon dioxide sequestration.⁶

73 It is forecasted that the total consumption of jet fuels will grow to 22.88 EJ in 2040.¹⁷ Meanwhile, the total available residue biomass energy (lignocellulosic biomass and sugar 75 feedstock) was 42.54 EJ/yr and 6.17 EJ/ yr for 2005, respectively.¹⁸ It is estimated that total production of bio-jet fuels could represent 21.46 EJ, i.e., nearly 94% total jet fuel use in 2040, 77 reducing by ca. 1.5 billion tons GHC emissions.

 On the other hand, although a lot of current research efforts in the combustion field focus on 79 the development of new biofuels $19-21$; reports on their combustion mechanisms, their combustion byproducts and their environmental impact are still scarce.

 By-products of fuels and biofuels combustion, such as aromatic compounds [AHs (Aromatic Hydrocarbons) and PAC (made up of AHs containing oxygen and/or nitrogen heteroatoms)] are 83 known to be soot precursors²²⁻²³ and account for most of toxic potential and atmospheric 84 reactivity of soot.²⁴⁻²⁵ In spite of the importance of these compounds, data on their analytical profile and concentration in fossil fuels and bio-fuels soot are scarce in literature. Moreover, it lacks efficient, reliable and simple analytical methodologies for determining these highly toxic 87 compounds in soot samples.^{26,27}

 All these reasons make mandatory developing reliable analytical methodology allowing the precise and accurate determination of AHs and PAC in the mentioned matrices, in the aim of obtaining an as complete as possible inventory of these compounds in soot from different origins (fuels and fossil fuels-biofuels blends) as possible.

 The aforementioned points were the reasons why our research group undertook the investigation on AHs and PAC in soot samples from Jet A-1, SPK and Jet A-1 - biofuels. This paper continues the research initiated several years ago with the characterization of AHs in 95 soot samples²⁸ and focuses on the identification and estimation of PAC relative abundances in soot from Jet A-1, SPK, and Jet A-1 - biofuels. As PAC, especially oxy-PAHs, are hazardous for 97 human and environment, the main goal of this work is evaluating the abundance of these compounds in biofuels soot samples. Moreover, in the aim of evaluation the impact of biofuels from the health and environment point of view as well as the convenience of replacing fossil fuels by biofuels, the PAC concentration in biofuel soot samples were compared with the PAC concentration in soot samples from fossil fuels.

102 The analytical methodology was introduced in previous papers²⁷⁻²⁸ and will be described in the experimental section.

 More than 130 compounds belonging to the following chemical classes were identified and their relative abundances estimated: a) oxa-AHs (xanthenes, benzoxanthene, alcoxy-AHs, furan…); b) hydroxy-AHs; c) aldehydes-AHs; d) ketones-AHs; e) quinones-AHs; f) aromatic monocarboxylic acids, aromatic hydroxy-acids, aromatic dicarboxylic acids; g) nitrated-AHs (including amines, acridines, cinnoline derivatives, carbazoles…); h) nitro-AHs. To our best acknowledge, this is the first attempt to accomplish so detailed characterization of PAC adsorbed on soot from fossil fuels and from fossil fuels-biofuels blends.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Material and reagents

 n-Hexane, water, 2-propanol, and acetonitrile of HPLC grade (Sigma-Aldrich) and glacial acetic acid (Carlo Erba) were used for the analyses. Previous to fractionation, soot samples were filtered through hydrophobic PTFE membranes (0.2 µm, fromAlltech) by using 5 mL glass syringes from Poulten & Graf. A 25 cm x 2.1 mm ID, 5 µm silica column (Supelco) was chosen for fractioning the soot extracts. On the other hand, soot samples were weighing by using an analytical balance Sartorius CP1245.

 The Jet A-1 - synthetic biofuel mixtures were obtained by blending Jet A-1 with each synthetic biofuel (80 / 20% v / v). The synthetic biofuels used in this work were: (a) 2,5 dimethylfuran 121 (CH₃)₂C₄H₂O noted 2,5-DMF; (b) methyloctanoate (CH₃(CH₂)₆COOCH₃); (c) anhydrous diethyl 122 carbonate $(C_2H_5O)_2CO$ noted DEC, and (d) 1-butanol (CH₃(CH₂)₃OH), with stated purity ≥99%.

123 In the experiments, we used a SPK (from Sasol) which has a density of 760.6 g/L at 15 °C, and a derived cetane number (DCN, ASTM D7668) of 23. The Jet A-1 fuel used here has a density of 805 g/L at 15 °C and a DCN of 44.7. The chemical composition of the SPK was ≈79.9% iso- alkanes, 19.6% n-alkanes, and 0.5% aromatics in mass. The chemical composition of the Jet A-1 was 26.3% iso-alkanes, 12.2% n-alkanes, 24.3% of naphthenics, and 33.2% aromatics in mass.

2.2.Soot samples production

We used an in-house flat-flame burner for producing soot samples from the combustion of Jet

A-1, SPK, and Jet A-1 - biofuels mixtures under well-characterized and controlled conditions.

131 The apparatus is described in a previous paper. 30 Experiments were performed following a

132 procedure documented earlier.³¹⁻³² Soot samples were produced under fuel-rich conditions,

equivalence ratio ≈ 2.3. Soot was collected on the outer surface of a glass tube at 40 mm

above the burner surface. Flames were isolated using a cross-shape cylindrical glass tube

135 which prevents flame perturbations from external air streams.³³ The collection tube was

- introduced perpendicular to the vertical axis of the flame, rotated and moved through the
- flame. The sampling glass rod was maintained at 318 K by water circulation which limits
- temperature gradients and allows homogeneous distribution of aromatic products along the
- 139 sample tube.^{34,35} Soot deposits were weighed after mechanical removal from the glass tube.
- After dilution in 2 mL of n-hexane, they were stored for future analyses. The thickness of soot
- 141 deposits was measured using an optical microscope (Reichert meF2)^{32,35} which was
- alternatively focused on the outer glass surface and soot surface. Homogeneous soot coverage
- (within 10%) was observed. Soot thickness ranged from 50 to 300 μm, depending on the
- duration of soot collection.

2.3.Extraction procedure

 Although some authors stated that aromatic compounds are strongly attached to soot 147 particles³⁶⁻³⁹ which would require efficient extraction procedures,⁴⁰ other authors claim that these compounds are quite easily extracted because most of them are adsorbed or close to 149 the soot surface.⁴¹ In addition, we found out procedures such as ultrasound-assisted extraction destroy up to 25% of some AHs and PAC even though cold water bath and very short sonication cycles were applied. Consequently, the extraction procedure was abridged; two filtrations through PTFE filters wre enough for removing the soot particles and to extract 153 aromatics.^{27,28}

2.4.Cleaning-up and fractioning procedure

 Special attention should be paid to the fact that there is no selective extractive methodology in analytical chemistry. That is, under the proper conditions even the most non-polar solvents 157 such as n-hexane can extract polar-AHs. Thus, Viana et al. $(2003)^{42}$ demonstrated that 158 extraction by supercritical $CO₂$ and Soxhlet extraction with n-hexane or dichloromethane (CH_2Cl_2) were comparably effective in the case of lapachol (a very polar aromatic compound: a hydroxy-quinone) from Tabebuia avellanedae wood. Therefore, fractioning procedures are mandatory after extraction in order to isolate the target fractions.

 The highly complex extracts from Jet A-1, SPK and Jet A-1 - biofuels soot samples were 163 fractionated following a methodology previously published.²⁷ Briefly, the fractionation of the 164 soot extract was achieved by injection of small volumes (about 30 μ L) of each soot extract into the column and passing n-hexane as mobile phase against gravity at a flow rate of 0.05 ml/min 166 through a 25 cm length, 2.1 mm ID and 5 µm size particle silica column by using an HPLC pump. Finally, a fraction collector (Shimadzu FRC-10A) was used to collect the content od 168 chromatographic peaks. Unlike conventional methodologies $40,43$ our extraction procedure allowed the efficient fractionation of all the PAC families by using reduced volumes of nontoxic solvents (3.5 ml of n-hexane for elution of the target analytes and about 5 mL of 2-propanol for cleaning the column) and a isocratic programming scheme much simpler than traditional $-$ programs using gradient flows of up to 3 solvents at flow rates as high as 4.5 ml/min. 40

2.5. Pretreatment of the collected fractions

 Pretreatment of the collected fractions were optimized for each fuel mixture. Indeed, the combustion of Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate yielded esters-rich soot (see the Results section). As esters co-elute with some other polar aromatic fractions from the silica column during the solid phase extraction, the collected fractions must be pretreated by addition of some µL of glacial acetic acid before HPLC analyses. Under acidic conditions, esters are hydrolyzed and 179 converted into acids and alcohols, which easily elute from the C_{18} column.

 For Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF soot samples, the collected fractions were pretreated with sodium hydroxide before being injected into the HPLC column. In this case, large amounts of aromatic hydroxy-acids are present in the soot samples and they co-elute with other PAC fractions from

 the silica column. Consequently, adding a base (e.g., NaOH) is mandatory to ionize these 184 compounds and elute them in an efficient way from the C_{18} column. A similar procedure was applied to the SPK samples. Some fractions of soot from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF were pretreated with glacial acetic acid due to the presence of some esters also in this sample (see results section). Solid phase extraction fractions from Jet A-1, Jet A-1 - DEC, and Jet A-1 - 1-butanol fractioning did not need pretreatment.

2.6.Chromatography analyses and UV-Visible Identification

 A HPLC system consisting of: a binary, high pressure gradient, solvent delivery unit LC-20AB Prominence, a system controller CBM-20A/20 Alite Prominence, a column oven CTO-20A/20AC Prominence, a UV/Visible photodiode array detector SPD-M20A Prominence, and an autosampler SIL-20A/20AC Prominence, (all from Shimadzu) was used. A 201TPC18, 5 µm, 250 mm length x 4.6 mm ID Vydac column (Grace Davison Discovery Sciences) was used for the analysis. Acetonitrile and water were used as mobile phase; the flow rate was set up at 0.5 or 1 196 mL min⁻¹ (0.5 mL min⁻¹ for the fractions of nonpolar compounds and 1.0 ml min⁻¹ for the fraction containing polar compounds). The development of the analytical method was 198 described in details in a previous paper. 27

 Fractions eluted from the solid-phase extraction column were injected into the HPLC system in the aim of achieving the unambiguous characterization of the PAHs derivatives. Fractions were re-solved into 2-propanol before injected into the HPLC column. Because of the UV absorbance spectrum of a given PAC is unique to a particular aromatic structure, the target analytes can be identified definitively by matching the compound´s UV absorbance spectrum with that of the appropriate UV-VIS spectrum available in standard reference databases. Positive identification of compounds included in this article was confirmed when the UV-visible spectra of standards and unknowns were identical. Tentative identification was done when UV-Visible spectra of standards and unknowns were similar. Retention times and the fraction where the target analyte is collected, also help to identify the compound. For instance, compounds correlating closely with the retention times of very polar AHs are discarded as oxa-PAHs and compounds collected in the same fraction as aromatic carboxylic acid fraction, are discarded as aldehydes-AHs or ketones-AHs. Enhanced resolution was often achieved by using 1ml/min flow rates.

212 Identification was made by using the spectra from the following books:⁴⁴⁻⁵⁹. Some UV spectra 213 of the identified compounds are included in this paper. Figures are included in the Results section.

Figure 1 outlines the analytical procedure detailed in previous paragraphs.

2.7 Liquid State NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) Spectroscopy

Characterization of fuels samples was carried out in the aim of relating the fuels composition

 with the byproducts of combustion. NMR analysis of Jet A-1 and SPK were thoroughly detailed 219 in a previous paper.^{27-28,31}

2.8 Validation of the methodology

 Because suitable reference material is not available, recovery essays have been accomplished by spiking real soot samples from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF mixture with standard mixtures of 19 PAHs (16 EPA PAHs, 1- and 2-methylnaphthalene, and coronene) at concentrations comparable to 224 those found in these soot samples in a previous study.²⁸ Recoveries of most of PAHs studied were within the range 95-102% for almost all the compounds except for naphthalene whose recovery was only 75%, and 1- and 2-methylnaphthalene whose recoveries were about 83%. High recoveries along with small standard deviations (within the range 3-7%, n=3) make the methodology presented here appropriate for quantifying AHs and PAC in soot samples. Standard deviations of PAC are a bit higher than those of AHs, within the range 4-15%.

3. RESULTS

3.1.Identification and estimation of relative abundances of PAC on soot

232 PAC accounts for most of the toxic potential and atmospheric reactivity of soot.^{25,26} A detailed list of the polar compounds identified is given in Tables 1-8. The PAC families determined were: a) oxa-AHs (xanthenes, benzoxanthene, methoxy-AHs, furan, ethers…), b) hydroxy-AHs; c) aldehydes-AHs; d) ketones-AH; e) quinones-AHs; f) aromatic monocarboxylic acids/ aromatic hydroxy-acids/ aromatic dicarboxylic diacids; g) nitrated-AHs (including amines, acridines, cinnoline derivatives, carbazoles…); h) nitro-AHs. In this paper no quantitative data are presented (except for the nitro-AHs group) due to the high cost and/or the unavailability of most of standards. Instead, relative abundances of PAC (i.e., normalized concentrations) were estimated for each compound identified in the analyzed soot samples.

241 • Analytical profile of soot from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate previously published²⁷ was completed here with the identification of new compounds. The goal of our former study was only to 243 develop the analytical methodology and validate it with complex real samples.

3.1.1. Oxa-AHs (**Ethers/xanthenes/benzoxanthenes…)**

245 The present measurements show that oxa-AHs richest soot samples are those from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF and Jet A-1 - DEC closely followed by those from Jet A-1, Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate and Jet A-1 - 1-butanol which contain similar relative abundances of oxa-AHs; whereas soot samples from SPK contain the lowest concentration of Oxa-AHs (Figure 2, Table 1).

 22 oxa-AHs in total were identified in the analyzed soot samples. However, the profiles of relative abundances are quite different from each other. As we can see from Table 1, soot from Jet A-1 is rich in 9H-xanthene, alkyl-xanthene, benzo[]xanthene and 2´-methoxy-1- phenylnaphthalene. Conversely, soot from SPK is rich in methoxy-biphenyl isomers and 2´- methoxy-1-phenylnaphthalene, soot from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate is rich in methylchromone and 9H-xanthene, and soot from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF in derivatives of furan. Finally, soot from Jet A-1 - DEC is rich in coumarins and chromones as well as soot from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol, although their profiles are different from each other. On the other hand, whereas soot from Jet A-1 - DEC contains one isomer of benzo[]xanthene, this compound is absent from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol soot (Table 1).

3.1.2. Hydroxy-AHs

 14 different hydroxy-AHs (including two hydroxy-benzaldehydes) were identified and their relative abundances estimated in all the soot samples analyzed (Figure 2, Table 2). The hydroxy-AHs richest soot samples are those from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol, followed far by those from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate and those from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF. On the other hand, soot samples from Jet A-1, SPK and from the Jet A-1 - DEC mixture contain the lowest concentrations in hydroxy-AHs (Figure 3). Soot samples from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol contain the highest concentrations in hydroxyphenanthrenes and they are the only ones containing dihydroxy-naphthalene isomers. Concerning hydroxy-benzaldehydes, they are very abundant in soot from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol and they were also found at very low concentration in soot from Jet A-1 - DEC.

 As we can see from Figure 3 and Table 2, 1- and 2-naphthol are present in almost all the soot samples analyzed and they are especially abundant in soot from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF and in soot from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol. Conversely, soot samples from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate contain very low concentrations of 1-naphthol and 2-naphthol.

- On the other hand, soot from Jet A-1 Me-octanoate contains another hazardous substance:
- 1-hydroxypyrene (also called 3-hydroxypyrene); whereas 2-hydroxypyrene was only found in
- soot from SPK. Ketones of fluorene are abundant in soot samples from Jet A-1 Me-octanoate.

3.1.3. Aldehydes-AHs

278 9 carboxaldehydes-AHs in total, including those from Table 3 and another one identified at low concentrations in soot from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate, were the most abundant and the most common: 1-naphthalene-carboxaldehyde, 2-naphthalene-carboxaldeyde and acenaphthene-5- carboxaldehyde are found in almost all the soot samples analyzed. From Table 3, we can say that whereas Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF and SPK mainly produces very low concentrations of carboxaldehydes-AHs; Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate, Jet A-1 - DEC and Jet A-1 - 1-butanol produce larger amounts of light and heavy carboxaldehydes-AHs such as pyrene-carboxaldehyde and fluoranthene-carboxaldehyde. In the next sections we will see that Jet A-1 - 1-butanol also produces significant amounts of nitro-benzaldehydes.

- 287 On the other hand, Jet A-1 DEC produces aliphatic aldehydes such as hexadienal isomers. Although aliphatic aldehydes are out of the scope of this paper, we also report on their presence in soot extracts analyzed in the present work.
- As can be seen from Table 3, the relative abundance of carboxaldehydes-AHs in soot from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol are almost twice those found in soot from Jet A-1. On the contrary, soot from SPK and Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF blends are poor in carboxaldehydes-PAH (Figure 4). In conclusion, we can say that blending Jet A-1 with biofuels gives rise to a significant increasing of carboxaldehydes concentrations except in the case of 2,5-DMF.
- 295 Although it was not included in Table 3, small concentrations of p-terphenyl-2,2',5',2"-tetracarboxaldehyde were found in soot samples from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate.

3.1.4. Ketones

 The number of keto-AHs detected in the analyzed samples is the highest; it is constituted of 27 compounds (Table 4, Figure 5). This group of compounds can be divided into two subgroups:

a) Keto-AHs with the carbonyl group outside a ring structure (like acetophenone), and

- b) Keto-AHs with the carbonyl group inside the aromatic structure (like fluoren-1-one). As we can see from Table 4, the largest relative abundances of keto-AHs were found in soot samples from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF followed by far by those from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol, whereas the other soot samples are much poorer in keto-AHs. Soot from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF contains larger concentrations of heavy keto-AHs, such as benzanthrone and 6H-benzo[cd]pyren-6-one, than the other soot samples, whereas benzo[b]fluorenone isomers are abundant in soot samples from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF and from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate. Finally, although it is beyond the scope of this paper, one must report that SPK produces large amounts of aliphatic ketones like methyl-vinyl ketone, cyclohexenones and ketones from isoprene. Soot from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol also contains aliphatic ketones such as 2,3,4,4a,5,6,7,8-octahydro-1-methyl-2oxanaphthalene.
- 311 As reported in a previous work,²⁷ isomers of phenyl-naphthalene were found in all the samples analyzed but on those from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF, their concentrations were extremely low. However, one polar derivative of the aforementioned AH (phenyl-2-naphthylketone) was found at high concentration in soot samples from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF. It seems that isomers of phenyl-naphthalene are transformed into its main polar derivative (phenyl-2-naphtylketone) in the soot samples from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF.

3.1.5. Identification and relative abundances of quinones

 Quinones-AHs might be referred in the keto-AHs subsection due to their functionality (-C=O). However, we decided to present them separately due to the different trend observed. Particularly, the widest distribution and the highest relative abundance of quinones-AHs were observed in soot samples from Jet A-1 - DEC and in soot samples from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate followed by far by those from SPK but they are scarce in soot from Jet A-1, Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF and Jet A-1 - 1-butanol as we can see from Figure 6.

- 16 aromatic quinones in total were identified in our soot samples (Table 5 and Figure 6). Two aliphatic quinones (5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione and camphorquinone), were also tentatively identified in soot samples from Jet A-1 - DEC.
- Small quinone-AHs like 1,4-naphthoquinone are abundant in soot from Jet A-1, SPK, and Jet A-
- 1 1-butanol, whereas heavier quinone-AHs are much more abundant in Jet A-1 DEC and Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate blends. Conversely, soot from SPK is the only one containing one isomer of methyl-1,4-naphthoquine. As we observed previously, SPK tends to produce methyl branched
- 331 compounds.²⁸ **3.1.6. Aromatic monocarboxylic Acids/Aromatic Hydroxy-Acids /Aromatic dicarboxylic acids**
- 17 aromatic monocarboxylic acids, hydroxy-acids, and aromatic dicarboxylic acids were identified in the analyzed soot samples (Table 6). The presence of aromatic monocarboxylic acids and aromatic dicarboxylic acids was verified in all soot samples except in those from Jet A-1 - DEC. They are much more abundant in soot from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate than in the other soot samples (Figure 7). Regarding aromatic hydroxy-acids were found in all the soot samples except in those from Jet A-1 - DEC and those from SPK. They are very abundant in soot samples from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF.
- The widest distribution of compounds was detected in soot samples from Jet A-1 Me-octanoate (9 compounds from this group were found in these soot samples).
- All in all, aromatic monocarboxylic acids/aromatic dicarboxylic acids/aromatic hydroxy-acid compounds richest soot samples are those from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate as depicted in Figure 6.

3.1.7. N-Aromatics

- N- aromatic compounds (N-AHs) are generated from e.g., coal gasification, shale oil 347 extraction^{48,60}. 26 compounds belonging to this group were identified in the analyzed soot samples. They are very abundant in soot from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate blends (Table 7, Figure 8).
- N-AHs represent ~18% of the total number of PAC determined in soot. Derivatives of quinolines, acridines and cinnolines were the most abundant N-AHs identified in the analyzed soot samples. A wide distribution of these compounds was observed in all samples except in those from SPK and Jet A-1 - 1-butanol where they appeared at low concentrations.
- The distribution of this group of compounds is largely dependent on the sample analyzed. In soot samples from Jet A-1, acridines are the predominant compounds, whereas in soot samples from Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate the predominant groups of N-AHs are carbazol and their derivatives and cinnoline derivatives. In soot samples from Jet A-1 - DEC the predominant group is quinoxaline and their derivatives (Table 7 and Figure 8). Although the origin of quinoxaline is usually synthetic and it is very rare in nature, some authors claimed that this compound might be produced through the condensation of o-phenylenediamine (found in 361 soot samples from Jet A-1 and from Jet A-1 - DEC) with α -dicarbonyl compounds.⁶¹ The empty cells mean "Not Detected".
- Especially interesting is the fact that Jet A-1 Me-octanoate and Jet A-1 DEC emit PAC with several functional groups. As can be seen from Table 7, Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate produces several isomers of methoxy-cinnoline and Jet A-1 - DEC emits 3-pyridyl-methylketone (with an amine group and a carbonyl group) and di-amino anthraquinone (with two carbonyl groups and two amino groups). Something similar was observed in soot from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol, which contains large amounts of nitro-benzaldehydes as presented in the next section.

3.1.8. Nitro-PAHs

 The formation of nitro-PAHs is much concerning because of their potential mutagenicity and 371 atmospheric reactivity.⁶³ These compounds may be emitted from incomplete combustion 372 processes such as fossil fuel and biomass burning $63-65$ or produced by heterogeneous or

 homogeneous reactions of AHs with atmospheric oxidants such as the hydroxyl radical, the 374 nitrate radical, or ozone.^{25,26} On the other hand, some oxy-PAHs have been reported to 375 transform into nitro-PAHs via atmospheric reaction. 67,68

 Due to heating occurring in most of the extraction methodologies in the literature (Soxhlet, microwave-assisted extraction or supercritical fluid extraction) and/or dichloromethane for 378 extracting nitro-PAHs⁶⁹⁻⁷¹, most nitro-PAHs in soot samples can be lost. On the other hand, important contradictions have been found in literature about concentrations of nitro-PAHs on 380 soot samples. Indeed, whereas Barreto et al., 2007 70 published concentrations about 0.50 ng 381 of 1-nitro-pyrene/mg in diesel soot samples, Paschke et al. $(1992)^{72}$ had reported concentrations of 1-nitropyrene in bus soot (a very similar matrix) about 540 ng/mg.

- Unlike other papers already quoted, in this paper neither heat nor dichloromethane has been used for extracting or fractioning nitro-PAHs and higher recoveries are expected.
- As we can see from Table 8 and Figure 9 the nitro-AHs richest soot samples are those from Jet A-1 - DEC and from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol.
- 387 Extinction coefficients of nitro-AHs are within the range $[(0.5-1)x10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}]$, were used for calculating the absolute concentrations of this group of compounds in soot samples. Thus, extinction coefficients of o-nitrotoluene, m-nitrotoluene and p-nitrotoluene are 5890, 8190, 390 and 10100 M⁻¹cm⁻¹ respectively⁷³ whereas extinction coefficients of o-nitrobenzaldehyde (in hexane or methanol), m-nitrobenzaldehyde and p-nitrobenzaldehyde at 250-252 nm are 5000 392 M⁻¹cm⁻¹, 8000 M⁻¹cm⁻¹, and 10000 M⁻¹cm⁻¹ respectively.²¹ On the other hand, the extinction 393 coefficient of 2-nitronaphthalene is $3x10^4$ M⁻¹cm⁻¹, and for 6-nitrochrysene is 5.37x10⁴ M⁻¹cm⁻¹ .
- As we can see from Figure 9, the total concentrations of nitro-AHs in soot samples reaches almost 6000 ng/(mg soot) in Jet A-1 - 1-butanol soot samples and about 1800 ng/mg soot in samples from Jet A-1. These values are much higher than those found in literature for similar 398 samples.⁶⁹ found concentrations near 7.5 ng of 1-nitropyrene/(mg of total suspended particulate matter) at workplaces associated with the use of Diesel engines. On the other 400 hand, Oukebdane et al. $(2010)^{71}$ found concentrations near 3 ng of Nitro-PAHs/mg on Diesel soot samples. In the former study the sum of 1-nitronaphthalene, 2-nitrofluorene, 9- nitroanthracene, 3-nitrofluoranthene, and 1-nitropyrene concentrations was used.
- According to a number of authors, blending conventional fuels with biofuels, diminishes the emissions of nitro-PAHs but our measurements indicate that nitro-PAHs concentrations increase in Jet A-1 - biofuels compared to the Jet A-1 reference case.

3.2. Other polar compounds on soot Aromatic S-compounds

 Dibenzothiophene was detected in soot samples from SPK and also in those from Jet A-1 - Me- octanoate but it is absent from the other soot samples analyzed. Thioanisole and benzenethiol were found exclusively in SPK.

3.3. Esters

- Soot from Jet A-1 Me-octanoate is the only one showing high concentrations of esters. Fluorenone-1-carboxylate, methyl-fluoranthene-1-carboxylate, ethylfuoranthene-1- carboxylate were detected whereas methyl-β-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthol)acrylate was
- detected in soot samples from Jet A-1 2,5-DMF.

4. DISCUSSION

- In order to interpret the present results, we considered the physico-chemical properties of the
- fuels together with the flames conditions, the fuels tendency to produce soot and PAHs, the ranking of PACs for the different fuels, chemical mechanisms which could explain the
- formation of PACs, when available.
- 420 Table 9 presents the sooting tendency of each fuel determined previously²⁸ together with O/C
- ratios in the neat biofuel and in fuel mixtures, and C/H ratios for the neat biofuels. Fuel sooting

422 tendency is based on our measurements of soot mass.²⁸ Fuel tendencies were: 1 for Jet A-1 (reference fuel), 0.33 for SPK, 1.77 for Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF, 1.17 for Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate, 0.5 for Jet A-1 - DEC, and 0.37 for Jet A-1 - 1-butanol. However, we reported that sooting tendencies were not proportional to the mass fraction of PAHs adsorbed on soot. We also 426 reported that whereas Lemaire et al. $(2013)^{73}$ proposed that fuels with high oxygen content tend to produce less soot, that trend was not observed in our experiments, and no clear relationship between C/O in the fuels and sooting tendency could be delineated.

 From Table 9, one can see that the addition of 2,5-DMF increases the most the production of soot, likely because of its aromatic character. Methyloctanoate has no significant effect 431 whereas diethyl carbonate and 1-butanol addition both reduce sooting, as reported earlier.²⁸

 In Table 10, we compare the total concentration of PAHs per mass unit of soot, and the impact of fuel composition on adiabatic flames temperature. From this Table, one can note that the total fresh gas flowrate varies by -0.39 to +1.3% only from the Jet A-1 reference flame. Therefore, this parameter should not significantly impact the results. However, the variation of the adiabatic flame temperature by -4.8 to +11.5% from the reference flame can affect the formation of PACs.

For oxa-AHs, we observed a relatively small variation of the total amount of oxa-AHs formation

with fuel composition while the fuel containing 2,5-DMF produces the highest concentration of

oxa-AHs, among them, furanic compounds are the most abundant chemicals. The observed

trend for oxa-AHs production was: Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF > Jet A-1 - DEC ≥ Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate ≥

 Jet A-1 - 1-butanol Jet A-1 > SPK. However, it is difficult to directly link the biofuel structure to the identified oxa-AHs whereas in the literature, oxa-AHs formation is only described for

simple furans, e.g., the formation of benzofuran is proposed to proceed via the oxidation of

dibenzyl by radicals (O, OH) yielding 2-phenyl phenol which further oxidizes to form

446 benzofuran.⁷⁴

 For hydroxy-AHs, it is interesting to note that there is a large variation of the yield with fuels composition, the Jet A-1 -1-butanol fuel producing the highest concentration of hydroxy-AHs. The observed trend for hydroxy-AHs production was: Jet A-1 - 1-butanol >> Jet A-1 - Me- octanoate > Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF > Jet A-1 ≥ SPK ≥ Jet A-1 - DEC. The formation of these products is expected to follow the mechanism of formation of phenol which involves an initial H-atom 452 abstraction by radicals (H, O, OH, HO₂ ...) to form a phenyl radical which yields phenoxy by 453 oxidation with oxygen. The recombination of phenoxy and H yields phenol.⁷⁵ Again, it is difficult to link the higher concentration of hydroxy-AHs in Jet A-1 - 1-butanol flames to a particular alcohol chemistry. What was observed could result from the higher flame temperature which favors H-atom abstractions but still, the Jet A-1 - 1-butanol flame produces the lowest amounts of PAHs.

 The production of aromatic aldehydes is enhanced by methyl octanoate, diethyl carbonate, and 1-butanol blending. The observed trend for aromatic aldehydes production was: Jet A-1 - 1-butanol > Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate > Jet A-1 - DEC > Jet A-1 >> SPK >> Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF. That could indicate that the presence of these oxygenates favor the oxidation of aromatics rather than their growth, as observed earlier during the oxidation of indane and dimethoxymethane-463 dopped indane oxidation.⁷⁵

 The effect of fuel blending on keto-AHs production is mostly observed with 2,5-DMF which is forming the highest concentrations of keto-AHs. The observed trend for keto-AHs production was: Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF >> Jet A-1 - 1-butanol > SPK > Jet A-1 > Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate > Jet A-1 $-$ DEC. The formation of aromatic ketones has been described in the literature.⁷⁶ The highest concentrations of PAHs observed for the Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF soot samples could explain the important formation of keto-AHs with that fuel.

The blending effect on quinones production is mainly observed for the fuels containing diethyl

471 carbonate and methyl octanoate. The observed trend for quinones production was: Jet A-1 -

 DEC > Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate >> SPK > Jet A-1 - 1-butanol ≥ Jet A-1 ≥ Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF. In the 473 Iiterature,⁷⁶ the formation of quinone was reported to proceed via the oxidation of an aromatic radical, e.g., ortho-benzoquinone was observed as an initial production of oxidation 475 of the phenyl radical by O_2 . A synergistic effect between jet fuel and diethyl carbonate is thus suspected to be responsible for the higher production of quinones.

 Aromatic acids production was increased by biofuels blending, except in the case of diethyl 478 carbonate. The observed trend for aromatic acids production was: Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate >> SPK > Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF > Jet A-1 - 1-butanol > Jet A-1 >> Jet A-1 - DEC. These acids could derive from the oxidation of aromatic aldehydes. This could well be the case for 1-naphtalene carboxylic acid. For the other acids, no link to the corresponding aldehydes was observed, which could indicate that other routes of formation are involved.

 The production of nitro-HAPs is enhanced by jet fuel blending with 1-butanol and diethyl carbonate. The observed trend for nitro-PAHs production was: Jet A-1 - 1-butanol > Jet A-1 - DEC > Jet A-1 > SPK > Jet A-1 - Me-octanoate >> Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF. These highly toxic pollutants 486 are known to be formed by reaction of NO₂ with polyaromatic radicals which are produced by 487 H-atom abstraction on PAHs by OH in particular.⁷⁷ One can expect a higher production of nitro- PAHs if the flame temperature increases since the thermal-NO mechanism should dominate in 489 the present flames. In the burnt gases, NO oxidizes forming $NO₂$ which can react with polyaromatic radicals, producing nitro-PAHs. With hotter Jet A-1 - 1-butanol and Jet A-1 - DEC flames (+11.5% and + 5.9%), one can expect higher nitro-PAHs production. However, that does not explain the low production of nitro-PAHs in Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF flames which produce the highest quantities of PAHs.

 In the aim of improving the methodology described here, PAC might be analyzed by using polar columns with smaller particle size, smaller inner diameter and larger length than that here used. These columns are expected to retain the PAC longer into the column, achieving a more efficient separation, especially if an appropriate gradient is applied

5. CONCLUSIONS

 The soot samples were obtained from pre-mixed flames, the lab conditions being far from the industrial conditions, particularly in terms of pressure; nevertheless, the chemistry going on should not be so different that our findings could not be extrapolated to industrial conditions.

 Soot from JetA-1 blended with synthetic biofuels is richer in PAC than soot from Jet A-1 and from SPK. Soot from Jet A-1 - 2,5-DMF has the highest keto-AHs concentrations and in general oxa-AHs. Soot from Jet A-1 - methyloctanoate presents the highest concentrations in aromatic monocarboxylic-aromatic, dicarboxylic acids-aromatic, aromatic hydroxy-acids, and aldehydes- AHs. Soot from Jet A-1 - diethylcarbonate has the highest concentrations in the quinones-AHs and nitrated-AHs. Soot from Jet A-1 - 1-butanol contains the largest concentrations of nitro- AHs and hydroxy-AHs. As observed previously (Andrade-Eiroa et al., 2015), in general blending a fossil fuel with synthetic biofuels diminishes the emission of AHs (except in the case of 2,5- DMF) but increases the production of PAC.

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Figure 1. Schema of the analytical procedure applied.

763

764 **Figure 2. Relative abundances of oxa-PAHs on every soot samples analyzed. Data are** 765 **normalized to the main oxa-AH formed for each fuel.**

769 **Table 1. Relative abundances of oxa-AHs in the analyzed soot samples. Data are normalized** 770 **to the main oxa-AH formed for each fuel.**

771 772

Figure 3. Relative abundances of hydroxy-AHs in the soot samples analyzed. Data are 778 **normalized to the main hydroxy-AH formed for each fuel.**

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782 **Table 2. Hydroxy-PAHs and hydroxy-acids PAHs found in the soot samples analyzed. Data are** 783 **normalized to the main hydroxy-AH formed for each fuel.**

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Figure 4. Relative abundances of the most representative aldehydes in the analyzed soot 792 **samples. Data are normalized to the main aromatic aldehyde formed for each fuel.**

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796 **Table 3. Relative abundances of carboxaldehydes-AHs in every soot sample analyzed. Data**

797 **are normalized to the main aromatic aldehyde formed for each fuel.**

798 799

804 **Figure 5. Relative abundances of ketones-AHs in the analyzed soot samples. Data are** 805 **normalized to the main aromatic ketone formed for each fuel.**

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808 **Table 4. Relative abundances of ketones-AHs found in the soot samples analyzed. Data are** 809 **normalized to the main aromatic ketone formed for each fuel.**

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816 **Figure 6. Relative abundances of quinones in soot from Jet A-1, SPK and Jet A-1 blended with**

817 **biofuels. Data are normalized to the main quinone formed for each fuel.**

818

821 **Table 5. Relative abundances of quinone-AHs in soot samples from the fuels analyzed. Data** 822 **are normalized to the main quinone formed for each fuel.**

823 824

827 **Table 6. Relative abundances of aromatic monocarboxylic acids, aromatic dicarboxylic acids**

829 **main aromatic acid formed for each fuel.**

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831 831 * Identified directly during the fractionation through silica column (hexane as mobile phase).

836 **Figure 7. Relative abundances of aromatic monocarboxylic acid/aromatic dicarboxylic**

- 837 **acid/aromatic hydroxy-acids compounds in the soot samples analyzed. Data are normalized**
- 838 **to the main aromatic acid formed for each fuel.**

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841 **Figure 8. Relative abundances of nitrated-AHs in every soot sample analyzed. Data are**

- 842 **normalized to the main N-AH formed for each fuel.**
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846 **Table 7. Relative abundances of nitrated-AHs in every soot sample analyzed. Data are**

847 **normalized to the main N-AH formed for each fuel.**

	SOOT SAMPLES					
COMPOUNDS	Jet A-1	SPK	Jet A-1/2,5-Dimethylfuran	Jet A-1/Methyloctanoate	Jet A-1/Diethylcarbonate	Jet A-1/Butanol
Light tetra-azo AH					1,00	
3-hydroxyacridine						1,00
Carbazole				1,00		
Ethyl-carbazole (tentative identification)				1,00		
9-Methylcarbazole				1.00		
Acridine				1,00		
Dibenzo[a,h]acridine	1,00					
Dibenzo[c,h]acridine	1,00					
Dibenzo[a,j]acridine	1,00					
Quinoxaline					1,00	
Methoxi-quinoxaline					1,00	
Amino-quinoxaline (tentative identification)			1,00			
Benzo[f]quinoline or benzo[h]quinoline				1,00		
3,4-benzoisoquinoline (phenanthridine, tentative identification)				1,00		
Derivative of phenanthridine (benzo[c]phenanthridine tentative iden.)				1,00		
Naphtho[2,1-c]cinnoline				1.00		
Naphtho[f]naphtho[2,1-c]cinnoline	1,00			0.0810		
4-Methoxy-cinnoline			1,00	0,470		
Methoxy-cinnoline (isomer 1)				1,00		
Benzo[c]cinnoline				1,00		
Phenyl-benzimidazole (tentative identification)		1,00				
Polar derivative of phenoxazine			1,00			
Alkyl-phenoxazine			1,00			
p-Phenyl-diamine	0,800				1,00	
Pyridyl-methylketone					1,00	
Diamino-antraquinone					1,00	

854 **Figure 9. Concentrations of nitro-PAHs and nitro-PAHs derivatives in soot from every fuel** 855 **included in this paper. Data are normalized to the main nitro-PAH formed for each fuel.** 856

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859 **Table 8. Concentrations of nitro-AHs in the soot samples analyzed. Data are normalized to** 860 **the main nitro-PAH formed for each fuel.**

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862 **LQ. Limit of Quantification.**

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866 866 **Table 9. Fuels properties and sooting tendencies**. The data are from Eiroa-Andrade et al.

 867 $(2015)^{85}.$

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872 **Table 10. Fuels and flames properties**. The data are from Eiroa-Andrade et al. (2015)⁸⁵.

873 *Computed using the Equil program of the Chemkin II library (Kee, R. J.; Rupley, F. M.; 874 Miller, J. A. CHEMKIN-II: A Fortran Chemical Kinetics Package for the Analysis of Gas-Phase 875 Chemical Kinetics; SAND89-8009; Sandia National Laboratories: Livermore, CA, 1989).

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Supporting information Polar Aromatic Compounds (PAC) in Soot From Premixed Flames of Kerosene, Paraffinic Synthetic Kerosene, and Kerosene-Synthetic Biofuels

Maria Auréa Andrade-Eiroa, Philippe Dagaut and Guillaume Dayma

Figure S1. Fractioning of the methyloctanoate-kerosene (20% v/v methyloctanoate) soot extract into hexane blends through the silica column described in the experimental part. Experimental conditions: Vinj=50µL of the pure extract of soot (15.8mg/2mL). Mobile phase: 100%hexane at speed flow of 0.05ml/min.

Figure S2. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 22.50 minute. In the Solid-Phase extraction eluted from the extraction column between 22.00-23.00 min we found some oxy-PAHs and 9-fluorenone.

Figure S3. Reinjection of the fraction eluted from the HPLC system between 22-23 min, also allowed to obtained the clear and precise identification of 9-fluorenone, as we can see from this figure. UV spectrum of 9-fluorenone at 8.01 min.

Figure S4. Fraction obtained between 23.01-24.00 min was re-injected into the HPLC system and, as can see from this figure, at 4.74 min we obtained the UV spectrum of tolylaldehyde.

Figure S5. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 24.34 minute. This profile corresponds to aldehydes (naphthalen-aldehydes isomers).

Reinjection of the fraction obtained from the Solid Phase Extraction system between 24.00-25.00 min, into the HPLC system, allowed to obtained the clear and precise identification of several naphthalene-aldehydes, such as the 2-naphthalen-aldehyde.

Figure S6. UV-Vis spectrum of 2-naphthalen-aldehyde. Reinjection of the fraction above mentioned allowed the unambigous identification of sereral aldehydes, among the, the 2-naphthalen-aldehyde, eluted from the HPLC column at 6.05 min.

Figure S7. UV-Vis spectrum of 1-naphthalen-aldehyde. Reinjection of the fraction eluted from the HPLC system between 24.00-25.00 min, allowed to obtained the clear and precise identification of several naphthalene-aldehydes, such as the 1-naphthalen-aldehyde, eluted at 7.00 min.

Figure S8. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 25.98 minute from the solid-phase extraction column. In this fraction (25-27 min) we find 9-vynylcarbazole and other nitrated-PAHs.

Figure S9. The fraction eluting at 25-27 minute from the solid-phase extraction column was reinjected into the HPLC system. Here we can see the UV spectrum of benzo[c]cinnoline eluted from the HPLC system at 28.96 min.

Figure S10. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 27.00 minute. In the fraction collected between 27-30 min, we find quinones (which absorb at wavelengths above 400 nm). The re-injection of the fraction collected from the Solid Phase Extraction column between 27-29 min, into the HPLC system allowed to identified several quinones, as we can see in the following figures. The highest quinones eluted after 41 min from the solid-phase extraction system.

Figure S11. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 27-29 minute was reinjected into the HPLC system. In this UV spectrum we can see the spectrum of 9,10-anthraquinone eluted at 9.06 min from the HPLC column.

Figure S12. UV-Vis spectrum of phenanthrene-9,10-quinone eluted at 11.28 min from the HPLC column after injection of the fraction eluted from the solid-phase extraction column between 27-29 min.

Figure S13. UV spectrum of benzo[a]pyrene-6,12-quinone eluted at 14.24 min. from the HPLC column after re-injection of the solid phase fraction eluted between 27-29 min.

Figure S14. The fraction eluted from the solid-phase extraction column between 27.00-29.00 min was re-injected into the HPLC system. In this figure we can see UV spectrum of pyrene-3-carboxaldehyde eluted from the HPLC column at 24.31 min.

Figure S15. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 29.25 minute. In the fraction eluting from the Solid-Phase Extraction column between 29-38 min, we found some medium-size PAH derivatives, such as 2-hydroxy-phenanthrene.

Figure S16. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 32.93 minute. In this fraction (29-38 min) we find several hydroxyl-PAHs, among them, 2-naphthol.

Figure S17. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 36.20 minute. It seems that 1-naphtol is present at high concentration. Reinjection of this fraction (29-38 min) into the HPLC system will allow us to identify unambiguously of several hydroxy-PAHs, among them, 1 and 2-naphthol and the 2-hydroxyphenanthrene as we can below.

Figure S18. The fraction eluting at 29-38 minute from the solid-phase extraction column was reinjected into the HPLC column. Here we can see the UV spectrum of 2-hydroxyphenanthrene eluted from the HPLC column at 8.72 min.

Figure S19. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 39.01 min. In the fraction eluting from the solidphase extraction system between 39-45 min, we found, among other compounds, some heavy ketones and quinones.

Re-injection of this fraction into the HPLC system allowed the identification of several ketones.

Figure S20. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 41.73 minute. In the Solid Phase Fraction collected between 41 and 45 min, we found carboxylic acids, some heavy quinones and anhydrides as we said above.

Figure S21. UV spectrum of the fraction eluting at 83.86 minute. This compound could not be identified but it is likely one ester.