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High-resolution mass spectrometry-based untargeted approach

A cutting-edge analytical technique for the detection and identification of organophosphorus synthesis sources

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Sourcing and impurity profile

Byproducts Additives Impurities

Secondary reaction products

Residual solvent **Hydrolysis products**

> **Decomposition Degradation**

Persistent contaminants PURITY

Information

Precursors and unreacted raw materials

Chemometrics

Distinctive signatures



Results



Analysis



Sample





Chemical

Attribution

Signature

Distinctive signatures can reveal well-founded findings

about a chemical's production history, to strengthen

forensic investigations.



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Metabolomics-based CAS discovery strategies

Approaches

Goals

Known **Known Unknowns**



Unambiguous identification and quantification

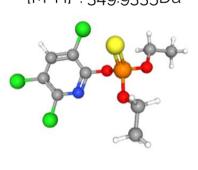
Suspect Screening

Qualitative detection rate and half-quantitative values

RT, accurate mass, isotopic



Chlorpyrifos $C_9H_{11}C\overline{l_3NO_3PS}$ [M+H]+: 349.9335Da



Unknowns Unknowns

Non-targeted



New markers detection

pattern, ion mobility **Features detection**

Chemical Attribution Signature















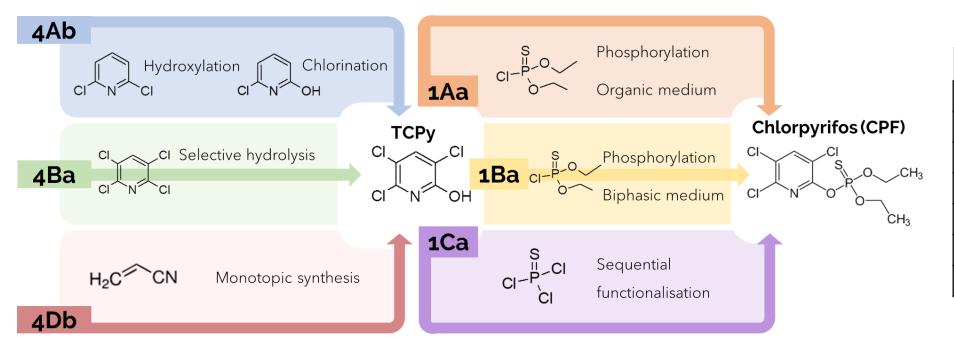
INRAe

ACS FALL 2024 **UHPLC-HRMS**

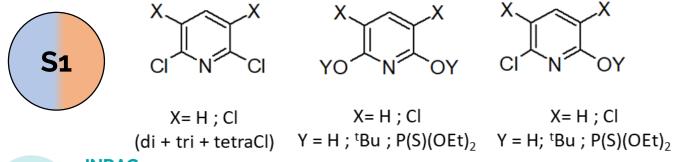
Chemometrics Multivariate analysis

Setting up the Untargeted approach





Synthesis	Precursor	Reactant
S1	4Ab	1 Aa
S2	4Ab	1B a
S3	4Ba	1 Aa
S4	4Ba	1Ba
S5	4Ba	1Ca
S6	4Db	1 Aa
S7	4Db	1B a



Wide range of compounds and possible impurities combinations

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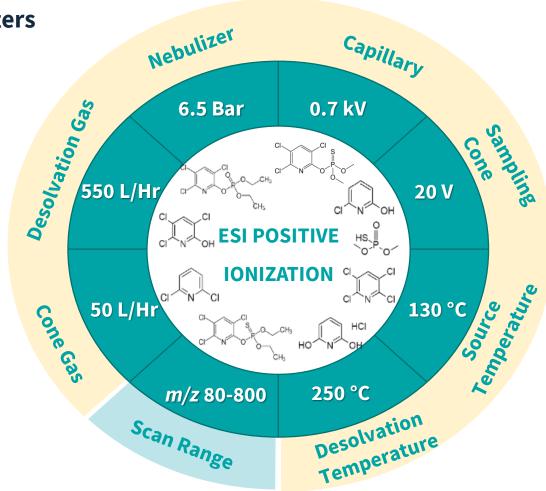
Analytical LC-HRMS conditions





Column	Hypersil Gold C18 (100 x 2.1mm, 1.9μm)
Mobile phase	A) H ₂ O/CH ₃ OH/AcOH (95/5/0.1) B) CH ₃ OH/AcOH (100/0.1)
Flow rate and Oven temperature	0.3mL/min at 40°C
Injection volume	10μL





MS Resolution : ~ 15000

Untargeted data processing

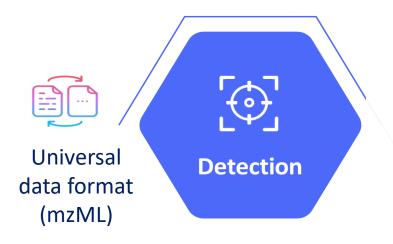


Workflow4metabolomics

≱ifb ®M≅IABO

Analytical and blank noise RSD pool features

Univariate and multivariate

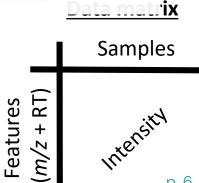


Peak detection and grouping Retention time alignment Integrating missing data



Batch and analytical drift
Standardization





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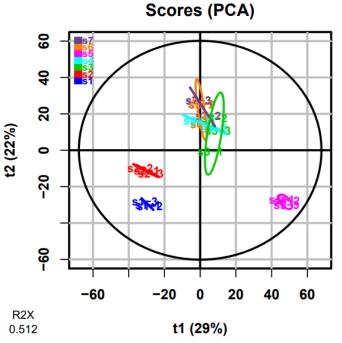
Chemometrics

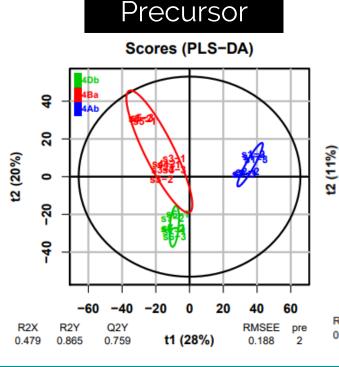


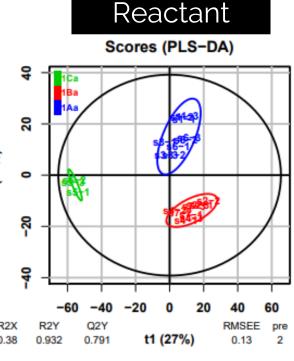
Multivariate methods suitable to provide a more complete description of studied phenomena

- Major sources of variability → PCA (unsupervised)
- Specific sources of variability → PLS (supervised)

Synthesis	Precursor	Reactant
S1	4Ab	1 Aa
S2	4Ab	1Ba
S3	4Ba	1 Aa
S4	4B a	1 Ba
S5	4Ba	1 Ca
S6	4Db	1 Aa
S7	4Db	1Ba







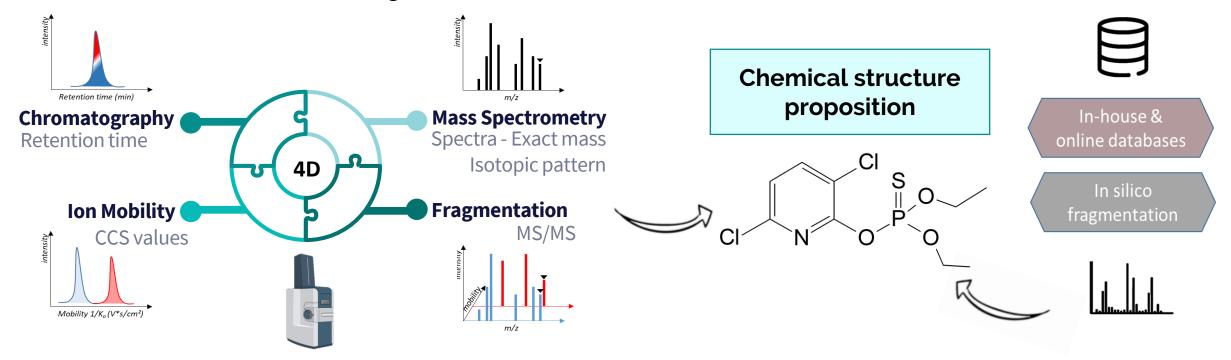
PCA: First overview of variability between samples and correlation between features

PLS-DA: Discrimination of various used synthetic sources Quality of the model assessed with Q²Y >0.4 and permutation test



HRMS: sensitive and selective detection of discriminating impurities

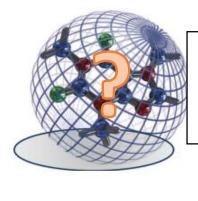
- o Features (PLS-DA; VIP>1) annotated using LC (RT), HRMS, MS/MS and IMS data to propose a putative structure
- MS/MS → characteristic fragments for structural elucidation



[1] Confirmed Structure	[2] Probable Structure	[3] Tentative Candidate	[4] Unknown
5	72	36	9

> Ion mobility spectrometry: a valuable aid for annotation

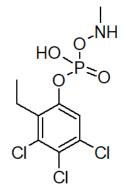


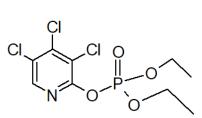


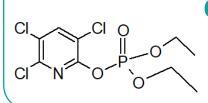
m/z 333.9468 Rt: 20 min $C_9H_{11}Cl_3NO_4P$

CCS measurement: 162.7 Å²









Chlorpyrifos-oxon identified with standard MSMS

Predicted	CCS
I I CAICCA	

 $166.1 \, \text{Å}^2$

 $165.5 \, \text{Å}^2$

 $165.1 \, \text{Å}^2$

 $165.5 \, \text{Å}^2$

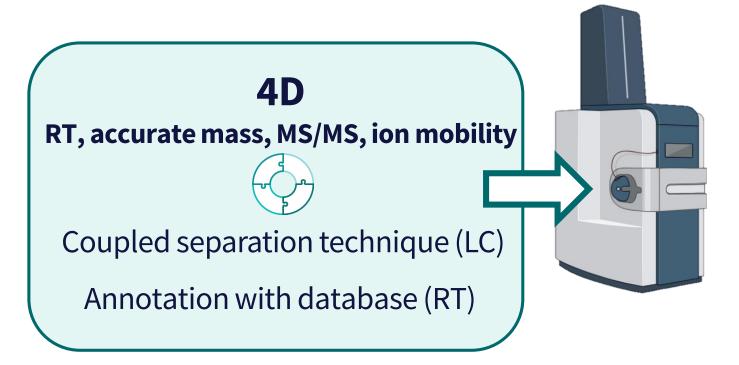
5% accuracy acceptance

CCS: close values between structure proposals

Support to annotation

remove hypothesis, putative information of structure

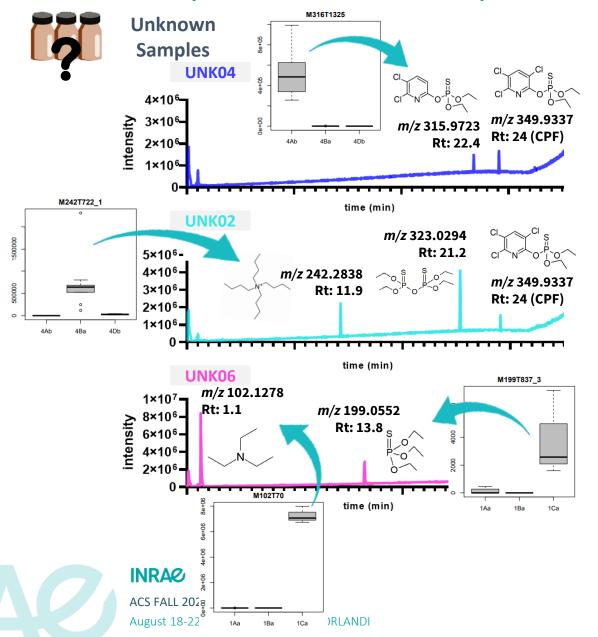




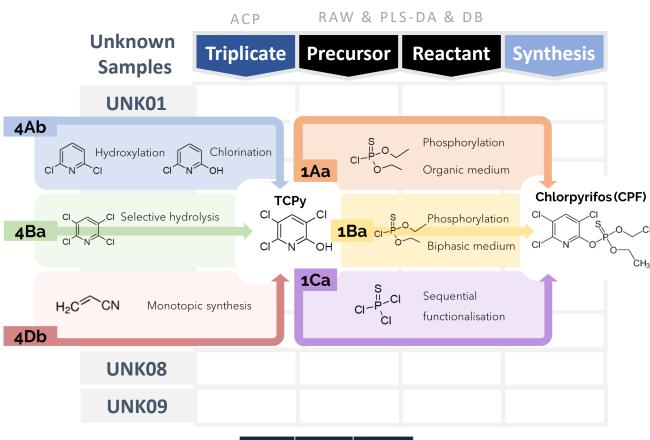


Blind analysis of new unknown samples to classify their synthesis route according to their discriminating impurities with the constructed model

Analysis of unknown samples

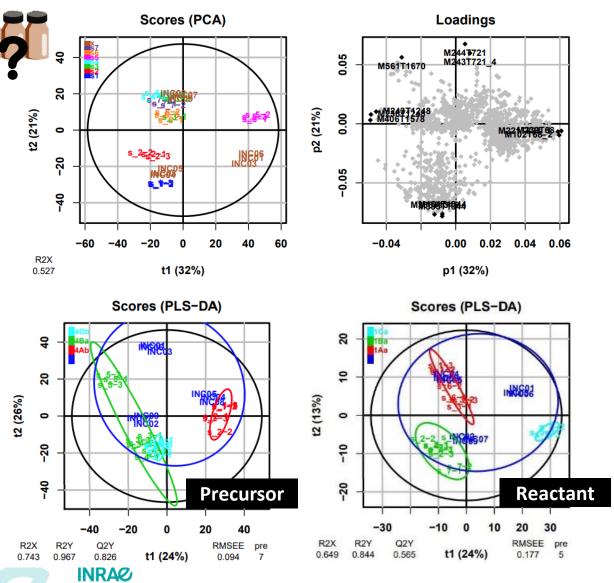


Methodology validation



Synthesis	Precursor	Reactant
S1	4Ab	1 Aa
S2	4Ab	1Ba
S3	4Ba	1 Aa
S4	4Ba	1Ba
S ₅	4Ba	1Ca
S6	4Db	1 Aa
S7	4Db	1Ba

Analysis of unknown samples



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Methodology validation •

	ACP	RAW & PL	S-DA & DB	
Unknown Samples	Triplicate	Precursor	Reactant	Synthesis
UNK01	•		1Ca	
UNK02	♣	4Ba 4Ba	1Ba	S4
UNK03	•		1Ca	
UNK04	♦	4Ab	1Aa	S1
UNK05	•	4Ab	1Aa	S1
UNK06	•		1Ca 1Ca	
UNK07	.	4Ba	1Ba	S4
UNK08	•	4Ab	1Aa	S1
UNK09	♣	4Ba	1Ba	S4

Synthesis	Precursor	Reactant
S1	4Ab	1 Aa
S2	4Ab	1Ba
S3	4Ba	1 Aa
S4	4Ba	1Ba
S ₅	4Ba	1Ca
S6	4Db	1Aa
S7	4Db	1Ba

> What about UNK01,03,06 « Precursor »?

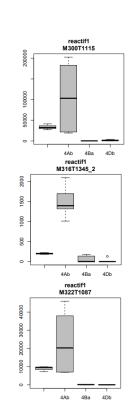
Methodology validation





Targeted Approach

Discrimin	Presence?	
Precursor 4Ab	<i>m/z</i> 299.9963 rt 18.5min	YES
	<i>m/z</i> 315.9736 rt 22.4min	YES
	<i>m/z</i> 321.9771 rt 17.6min	YES
	<i>m/z</i> 287.9421 rt 12.7min	YES
Precursor 4Ba	NO	
Precursor 4Db	<i>m/z</i> 554.7456 rt 27.5min	NO
	<i>m/z</i> 504.8106 rt 26.6min	NO
	<i>m/z</i> 532.8596 rt 26.2min	NO
	<i>m/z</i> 424.9442 rt 21.9min	NO



	ACP	Raw & DB	PLS-DA & DI	В
Unknown Samples	Triplicate	Precursor	Reactant	Synthesis
UNK01	•	4Ab	1Ca	S8
UNK02	♣	4Ba	1Ba	S4
UNK03	•	4Ab	1Ca	S8
UNK04	•	4Ab	1Aa	S1
UNK05	♦	4Ab	1Aa	S1
UNK06	•	4Ab	1Ca 1Ca	S8
UNK07	.	4Ba	1Ba	S4
UNK08	•	4Ab	1Aa	S1
UNK09	•	4Ba	1Ba	S4

New combination of synthesis pathways discovered

Synthesis	Precursor	Reactant	
S1	4Ab	1 Aa	
S2	4Ab	1Ba	
S3	4Ba	1Aa	
S4	4Ba	1B a	
S5	4Ba	1Ca	
S6	4Db	1 Aa	
S7	4Db	1Ba	
S8	4Ab	1Ca	

> Conclusions

Methodology to support attribution of the origin of a toxic threat agent according to the chemical signature of substances resulting from its production pathway

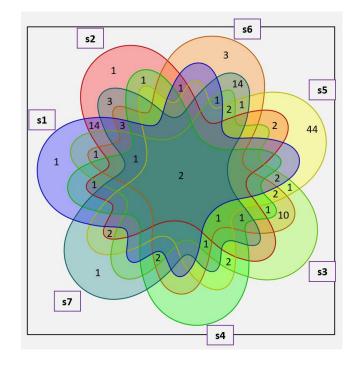
- Chemical footprints were linked to a manufacturing process from synthetic raw materials
- Methodology validated under blinded conditions with unknown new samples

Untargeted Approach

Targeted Approach

Discriminant impurities

Shotgun and specific analysis



Applicable to others scientific fields: biomarkers of chemical exposure on health and sourcing of toxic treat agents « Better understand how it is produced, better understand how it works! »

Perspectives

• **Ruggedness**: Apply the methodology to complex samples



• Structural Elucidation: Trap and isolate impurities (2D-LC-HRMS) to complete elucidation by NMR



Acknowledgements

<u>Supervisors</u>

Emilien **JAMIN**Laurent **DEBRAUWER**





Collaborators and funders

DGA NRBC

Grégoire **DELAPORTE**Anne **BOSSEE**Emmanuel **JOUBERT**Christine **ALBARET**



Grant DGA N° 22470120



Grant AID N° 2022 65 0036

Thank you for your attention





