

Aroma determination in alcoholic beverages: green MS-based sample preparation approaches

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25 **Keywords:** sample preparation; volatile odor-active compounds; alcoholic beverages; green
26 extraction; mass spectrometry.

27

28 **ABBREVIATION**

29 GAC, green analytical chemistry; CW, carbowax; CAR, carboxen; DI, direct immersion; DI-
30 SPME, direct immersion solid phase micro extraction; DLLME, dispersive liquid-liquid micro
31 extraction; DVB, divinylbenzene; ESI, electrospray ionization; FEDHS, full evaporation dynamic
32 head space; GC, gas chromatography; HF-LPME, hollow fiber liquid phase micro extraction; HS,
33 head space; HS-SPME, head-space solid phase micro extraction; HPLC, high performance liquid
34 chromatography; LC; Liquid Chromatography; LLE, Liquid-Liquid Extraction; LPME, liquid
35 phase micro extraction; MS, mass spectrometry; OFD, on fiber derivatization (OFD); PA,
36 polyacrylate; PFBHA, *o*-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzyl) hydroxylamine; PDMS,
37 polydimethylsiloxane; SA-SBSE, solvent assisted stir bar sorptive extraction; SBSE, stir bar
38 sorptive extraction; SDME, single drop micro extraction; SPE, solid phase extraction; SPME,
39 solid phase micro extraction; Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE); VOA, volatile odor active
40 compounds (VOAs).

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71 **Abstract**

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73 Aroma determination in alcoholic beverages has become a hot research topic due to the ongoing
74 effort to obtain quality products, especially in a globalized market. Consumer satisfaction is
75 mainly achieved by balancing several aroma compounds, which are mixtures of numerous volatile
76 molecules enclosed in challenging matrices. Thus, sample preparation strategies for quality
77 control and product development are required. They involve several steps including copious
78 amounts of hazardous solvents or time-consuming procedures. This is bucking the trend of the
79 ever-increasing pressure to reduce the environmental impact of analytical chemistry processes.
80 Hence, the evolution of sample preparation procedures has directed towards miniaturized
81 techniques to decrease or avoid the use of hazardous solvents and integrating sampling, extraction,
82 and enrichment of the targeted analytes in fewer steps. Mass spectrometry coupled to gas or liquid
83 chromatography is particularly well suited to address the complexity of these matrices. This
84 review surveys advancements of green miniaturized techniques coupled to mass spectrometry
85 applied on all categories of odor-active molecules in the most consumed alcoholic beverages:
86 beer, wine, and spirits. The targeted literature consider progresses over the past 20 years.

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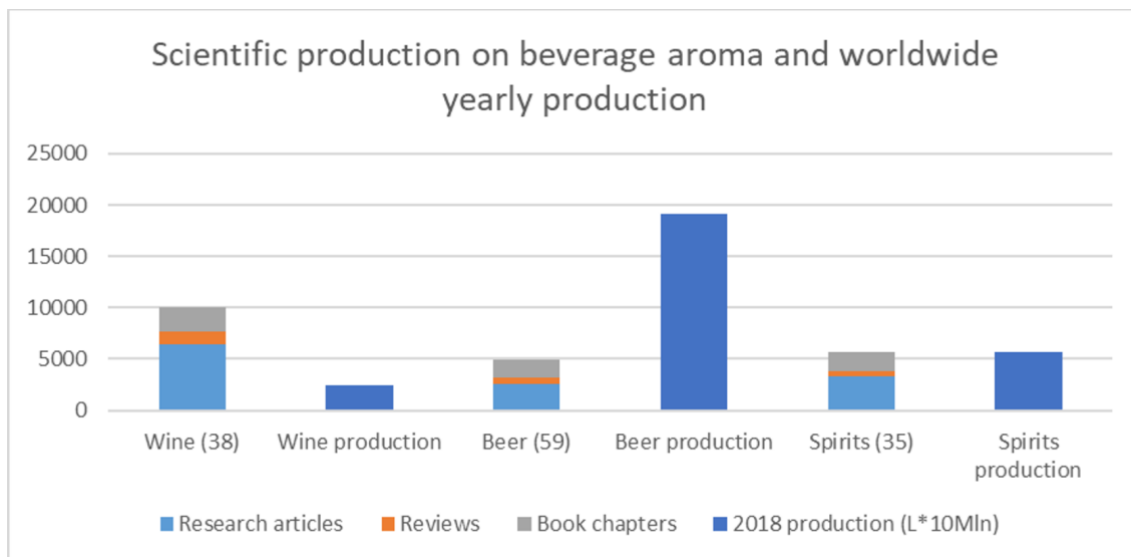
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94 I. Introduction

95 Since the year 2000, when the “green chemistry” was introduced (Namiesnik, 2000), one
96 of the main efforts of analytical chemists has been implementing analytical methods to enhance
97 the eco-sustainability of the entire analytical process. One of the most effective ways to obtain
98 greener methodologies is to miniaturize each step of the analytical procedure (Agrawal et al.,
99 2021; Armenta et al., 2019). This miniaturization fulfills one of the fundamentals of Green
100 Analytical Chemistry (GAC), and include: (i) reducing the use of hazardous solvents from
101 hundreds of mL to a few μL to generate a tiny amount of toxic waste; (ii) using environmentally
102 friendly solvents (Sanchez-Prado et al., 2015; Vazquez-Roig & Picó, 2015); (iii) reducing the
103 amount of needed sample; (iv) using of miniaturized and automatized sample preparation
104 techniques to strongly decrease the energy consumption with comparable performance. From the
105 sample preparation point of view, the microextraction techniques offer a high-potential strategy.
106 These methodologies ensure adequate quality features, such as pre-concentration, accuracy, and
107 precision, with reduced or null solvent consumption coupled to lower risks for the operator and
108 the environment (Valcarcel, 1980).

109 Thus, green micro-extraction techniques are rapidly evolving in several fields such as
110 bioanalytical, forensic (Borden et al., 2020), and food applications (Agrawal et al., 2021; Hansen
111 & Pedersen-Bjergaard, 2020; He & Concheiro-Guisan, 2019; Soares da Silva Burato et al., 2020;
112 V. Soares Maciel et al., 2018). In agro-food analysis, the determination of flavor and fragrances
113 in food and beverages has become a hot research topic, mainly because of their massive
114 consumption worldwide (Martins et al., 2021; V. Soares Maciel et al., 2018). The accurate
115 identification and quantification of the characteristic odor-active compounds in wine, beer, and
116 spirits are crucial for obtaining a well-balanced product appreciated by consumers (Van Opstaele,
117 De Causmaecker, et al., 2012). Because of that, research activities focused on beverage aroma are
118 out of the most dynamic topics in food chemistry (Lyu et al., 2021). Just by browsing the literature
119 produced up to the time this review was written and searching for the name of the beverage (wine,
120 beer, or brandy, rum, spirit, vodka, gin, and distillate for spirits) associated with the word

121 “aroma”, the number of outputted documents by the ScienceDirect database is remarkable (Figure
122 1).



123

124 **FIGURE 1.** Scientific production (ScienceDirect, 2021) on beverages aroma (in brackets the number of
125 patents currently deposited) and the 2018 yearly worldwide production (Conway, 2020).

126

127 However, analysis of such complex matrices is still challenging, requiring at least one sample
128 preparation step to balance matrix effects, and overcome false quantitative results. Generally,
129 sample preparation procedures for alcoholic beverages combine several processes such as
130 extraction, preconcentration, fractionation, and isolation of targeted compounds, including
131 copious amounts of organic solvents (Marín-San Román et al., 2020a). Nowadays, micro-
132 extraction techniques are helpful to eliminate or minimize the amounts of solvents and reagents
133 used, matching GAC requirements as well as the needed sample treatments. Moreover, these
134 techniques consider the recovery of the extractant solvents, their reuse (Namiesnik, 2000), and in
135 some instances, the use of less toxic solvents. Non-chlorinated organic compounds, novel solvents
136 such as ionic liquids (ILs)(Hallett & Welton, 2011; Pacheco-Fernández & Pino, 2019; Trujillo-
137 Rodríguez et al., 2013), eutectic point solvents ultra-low (DESs) (Cunha & Fernandes, 2018;
138 Smith et al., 2014), supramolecular solvent (amphiphilic solvents) (Ballesteros-Gómez et al.,
139 2010; Melnyk et al., 2014), or supercritical fluids (Jose A. Mendiola, Miguel Herrero, Maria
140 Castro-Puyana, 2013) are the new trend in the micro extraction applications. The following

141 sections illustrate the current scenario of the mostly used green microextraction techniques to
142 determine specific aroma compounds, the volatile odor active molecules (VOAs) in popular
143 alcoholic beverages.

144

145 A. Role of VOAs in alcoholic beverages

146 From the chemical point of view, wine, beer, and spirit aromas are complex mixtures of volatile
147 molecules derived from raw materials, transformation steps, ageing phenomena, and, sometimes,
148 undesired side reactions. These compounds are often part of articulated equilibrium involving
149 phase transitions (physical equilibrium), bond cleavage or redox reactions (chemical equilibrium),
150 and many bio catalyzed steps that make them just the tip of an iceberg (Gabrielli et al., 2021; Luo
151 et al., 2020; Polášková et al., 2008; Schieberle, 1995; Vanderhaegen et al., 2006). Among the
152 multitude of intrinsic components of alcoholic beverages, VOAs are the first compounds reaching
153 the consumers, even before drinking (odor); together with the ones received through the retro
154 nasal way (aroma), they compose the flavor (Ibáñez & Cifuentes, 2015; Özay et al., 2019). Odor,
155 and especially aroma are also the quality aspects that are most directly related to taste, satisfaction
156 and healthiness (Morrin & Tepper, 2021). Several groups of compounds are related to
157 characteristics scents such as esters for fruity (Niu et al., 2019), terpenes for floral (Yang et al.,
158 2019), six carbon chain alcohols and aldehydes for herbaceous (Sun et al., 2020),
159 four/six/eight/ten carbon chain linear saturated fatty acids for cheesy (Katarína et al., 2014; Selli
160 et al., 2006). Contrarily, strong identity molecules can be directly associated with specific good
161 like 1,1,6-trimethyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene for kerosene (Dobrydnev et al., 2020), furaneol for
162 strawberries (Ferreira et al., 2003), diacetyl for butter (Anderson et al., 2019) and so on. This
163 composition is characteristic for fermented beverages such as wine, beer, spirits, and all those
164 beverages that are produced using microbiological transformations (Anjos et al., 2021; Garde-
165 Cerdán & Ancín-Azpilicueta, 2006; Pissarra et al., 2005). In addition, beverages whose
166 production occurs a barrel refining, are involved in a sorption equilibrium between the liquid
167 phase and the wood, from which many compounds can be extracted or adsorbed (Martínez-Gil et

168 al., 2018). Hence, VOAs are an heterogeneous class of compounds whose concentrations varies
169 from a few $\text{ng}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ to hundreds of $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ who are enclosed in complex and compositionally
170 variable matrices in which interfering macro-components such as polyphenols, ethanol,
171 polysaccharides, and fermentative compounds can modulate their volatility (Andujar-Ortiz et al.,
172 2009; Castro-Vázquez et al., 2011; Davis & Qian, 2019).

173 These characteristics highlighted the complexity of VOAs analysis that requires dedicated sample
174 preparation procedures to allow an accurate quantitative determination. The most critical step lies
175 in selecting an extraction method capable of isolating the desired analytes without resulting in the
176 formation of artifacts (Thompson-Witrick et al., 2015). Moreover, each alcoholic beverage matrix
177 remarkably varies one from the other, making many methods suitable only for a specific class of
178 products. Therefore, the need for specific methods for each matrix, often associated with laborious
179 pretreatments or further operations is mandatory. In fact, because of the diversity of VOAs, an
180 ideal method that can concentrate and recover all targeted compounds is not available (Zhang et
181 al., 2020). Accordingly, this review article covers the widely used microextraction techniques in
182 the determination of VOAs in alcoholic beverages, with particular emphasis on the greenest
183 methodologies.

184

185 B. Sample preparation for determining VOAs

186 Classical sample preparation techniques for the determination of VOAs in wine, beer, and spirits
187 include Static (S-HS) or Dynamic Head-Space extraction (D-HS) (Rosillo et al., 1999), Liquid–
188 Liquid Extraction (LLE) (Costa Freitas et al., 2012; Mamede & Pastore, 2006; Mayr et al., 2014),
189 and Solid-Phase Extraction (SPE) (Cabrita et al., 2007; Remedios Castro et al., 2008; López et
190 al., 2002). Extraction techniques based on S-HS and D-HS are efficient for analyzing compounds
191 with very high vapor pressure values. One of the most significant advantages of S-HS is the
192 absence of required sample pretreatment, but it is characterized by a minimal sample capacity,
193 leading to poor sensitivity. D-HS technique allows the concentration of the head space volatile
194 compounds in a cold trap (or sorbent) under the action of a gas flow. Then, the trap is rapidly

195 heated, allowing the transfer of trapped compounds into the chromatographic system, generally
196 by quickly heating the trap. However, these two techniques are being replaced by modern
197 headspace sampling techniques with a greater enrichment factor.

198 Strategies based on LLE are effective, allowing the determination of a broad range of compounds
199 with very different polarities (Andujar-Ortiz et al., 2009; R. Castro et al., 2004). However, they
200 are quite tedious, time-consuming and with a significant consumption of hazardous solvents
201 (Silvestre et al., 2009); these drawbacks resulted in changing this technique in favor of others.
202 SPE widely replaced LLE methods, mainly because it allows a significant improvement in
203 enrichment and selectivity reducing in the meanwhile the use of solvents. The optimization of
204 several parameters such as selected sorbents, the solvent used for conditioning, sample flow rate,
205 and the eluting solvent is crucial to obtain a reliable extraction leading to more complicated
206 procedures instead of LLE (Fornells et al., 2019; Ochiai et al., 2008). In addition, these techniques
207 involve the use of a large amount of sample, which means that these methods are neither
208 environmentally sustainable nor cheaper (Marín-San Román et al., 2020a).

209 Microextraction techniques with reduced or no solvent consumption are well-established green
210 alternatives to exhaustive solvent-based or sorbent-based methods (Spiegelun et al., 2013). They
211 can integrate several activities such as sampling, extraction, and enrichment of the targeted
212 analytes in fewer steps than the traditional ones. Like conventional techniques, these green
213 alternatives are classified as solvent-free, such as Solid Phase Micro-Extraction (SPME), Stir Bar
214 Sorptive Extraction (SBSE) that are based on sorbents as SPE derivatives, and the solvent-based
215 techniques where a solvent is used as extraction media as the LLE principle (Soares da Silva
216 Burato et al., 2020). Because of the null consumption of organic solvent and the applicability of
217 several compounds, the determination of VOAs in alcoholic beverages is largely performed by
218 solvent-free techniques. Less volatile compounds can be extracted with Liquid Phase Micro
219 Extraction (LPME) techniques, that describes the LLE with a downscaled solvent volume
220 (microliters). The theory of “like dissolves like” is on the basis on the success of these micro
221 extraction procedures, that can be optimized varying solvent system composition, and/or pH
222 value. These modifications can be performed accordingly to the distribution coefficient of the

223 analyte/matrix allowing best and fastest extraction. LPME is usually divided into three main
224 groups: (a) Dispersive Liquid-Liquid Micro-Extraction (DLLME), (b) Hollow-Fiber LPME (HF-
225 LPME), (c) Single Drop-Micro-Extraction (SDME) (Pena-Pereira et al., 2009; Soares da Silva
226 Burato et al., 2020). However, this review limits the discussion on the DLLME coupled to mass
227 spectrometry (MS) which is the technique currently available in the literature comprising the
228 specific determination of VOAs in alcoholic beverages.

229

230 C. Separation and detection techniques for VOAs determination

231 The achievement of the GAC goals is made possible as a result of the evolution of extraction
232 techniques described in this review as well as the technological progress of the analytical
233 instrumentation. The increased sensitivity provided by the last developed mass spectrometers is
234 the key to reliably detect and quantitate trace analytes using reduced amount of sample. Non-
235 bonded VOAs compounds are molecules whose physical characteristics perfectly fit for gas
236 chromatography (GC). In GC the separation takes place in gas form so the best MS source for the
237 analysis of vapor-phase molecules is Electron Ionization (EI). This hard ionization is a physical
238 process that involves a significant amount of energy (mostly 70 eV) generating a widespread
239 fragmentation that provides many structural information (Famiglioni et al., 2021). In addition, EI
240 has no polarity limitation so it can be used for every class of volatile compound and, since it's not
241 based on a chemical reaction, matrix effects due to ionization interferences are limited (Famiglioni
242 et al., 2018). Currently, most EI mass spectrometers are coupled to low resolution analyzers such
243 as quadrupole (Q) or triple quadrupoles (QqQ); however, ion traps (IT) and especially time-of-
244 flight (TOF) analyzers are used in particular for untargeted applications where the knowledge of
245 the exact mass is a precious information (Eichhorn et al., 2012; Saito-Shida et al., 2018). Finally,
246 GC-EI-MS perfectly fits the HS-SPME working-flow.

247 Simplifying the preparation step, either minimizing volumes or replacing solvents with safer ones,
248 it is often paid by a reduction of the sample purity; this lack can be balanced using high
249 performance chromatography and robust MS detectors such as EI based ones (Armenta et al.,

250 2020). Based on what was stated above, EI is a powerful tool for compound discovery, especially
251 when coupled to bi-dimensional chromatography like GCxGC, and a reliable source for
252 quantitative experiments in complex matrices (Herrero et al., 2009).

253 Unfortunately, EI-MS has some limitation: it requires high vacuum conditions into the source so
254 it is mostly hyphenated with GC, and it is based on a a low efficiency ionization process with
255 negative repercussions in sensitivity. Sources with increased efficiency are Atmospheric Pressure
256 Ionization (API), mostly Electrospray (ESI); in this ionization molecules are transformed into
257 ions through a chemical acid/base reaction or the formation of adducts (Bruins & Niessen, 2019).
258 The energy involved is minimal so the fragmentation provides poor structural information but, on
259 the other hand, the molecule-to-ion efficiency is considerably higher, with a significative gain in
260 sensitivity. In the ESI, pH and elution conditions are crucial for the ionization so this source is
261 only coupled to Liquid Chromatography (LC). The lack of in-source fragmentation is offset by
262 the use of collision cell in tandem MS which use allows the access to structural libraries like.
263 Finally, LC-MS is the only technique for the analysis of bonded-VOAs.

264 Summarizing, most methods described in the next pages are based on GC-EI-MS as a
265 consequence to its suitability to the analysis of volatile compounds like VOAs (Pena-Pereira et
266 al., 2009; Savchuk et al., 2020); many GC systems, injectors, analyzers, and accessories are fitted
267 for tailoring its characteristics to the sample preparation method of choice. However, LC-ESI-MS
268 has a significative spread in many applications, especially when coupled to solvent-based
269 extraction techniques and derivatization processes. In the following sections the main extraction
270 techniques used in the analysis of VOAs in alcoholic beverages will be illustrated. Their main
271 features will be shown, as well as their advantages and disadvantages (Campillo et al., 2018).

272

273 II. Solvent-free techniques for the analysis of VOAs

274 The best way to minimize the environmental impact of solvents is to avoid their use. Solvent-free
275 techniques have strongly spread their use in many analytical routes because represent an efficient
276 answer to the green issue (Sciarrone et al., 2015). In these techniques the molecules of interest

277 are sampled directly in the gas phase (D-HS, S-HS) or the extraction takes place using
278 heterogeneous phase like in the SBSE and SPME.

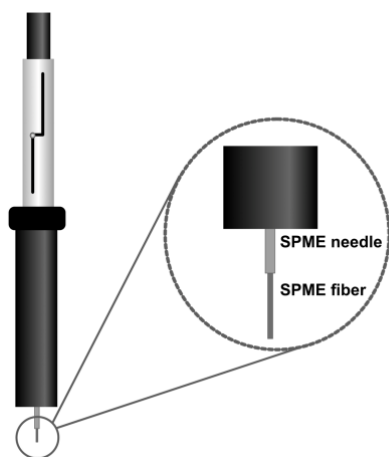
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280 A. Head-space based techniques

281 HS techniques perfectly couple with aroma analysis since all VOAs molecules are available in
282 the gaseous phase in equilibrium with the matrix (Soria et al., 2015). The direct sampling and
283 injection of vapors produced by beverages is a good compromise to achieve a green method
284 without the requirement of further instrumentation. However, as a consequence of the variations
285 which affects the concentration of VOAs (from $\text{ng}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ to $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$), and the strong interaction
286 between water matrix and functional groups, direct approaches are unsuitable for most analytes.
287 As a result of this evidence, to provide a strong and reliable enrichment, quantitative analyses are
288 used to be performed by head-space sampling using SPME (HS-SPME).

289 1. Head Space Solid Phase Micro Extraction (HS-SPME)

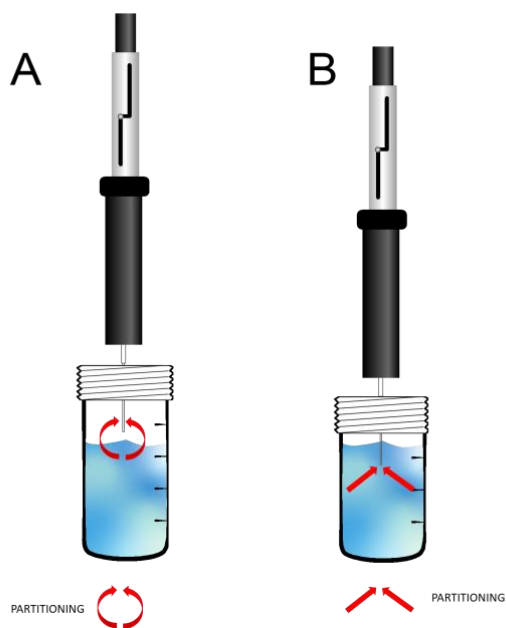
290 This extraction and pre-concentration technique was developed by Pawliszyn in 1989 (Arthur &
291 Pawliszyn, 1990). It is one of the most popular microextraction techniques. Its simplicity, ease of
292 automation, robustness, and the great sensitivity it achieves in most applications, make it a
293 powerful tool in analytical chemistry. The main configuration involves a sorbent phase coating a
294 metal tube support (Figure 2).



295

296 **FIGURE 2.** Schematic of SPME holder and fiber.

297 The fiber is usually 1 cm in length, and the sorbent (or stationary) phase thickness ranges between
298 7 and 100 μm . Several SPME devices are commercially available (*Restek*,; *Supelco*,) which
299 differentiate by coating thickness, material and composition. The SPME presents two operation
300 modes depending on the nature of analytes and matrix; these are Head-Space SPME (HS-SPME)
301 and Direct Immersion SPME (DI-SPME) that are illustrated in Figure 3(a) and 3(b), respectively.



302

303 **FIGURE 3.** Extraction modes in solid phase micro extraction (SPME). (A) Head-Space (HS) SPME. (B)
304 Direct immersion (DI) SPME.

305

306 The first attempt of SPME analysis was presented in 1996 as a promising application for this
307 sample preparation strategy. Lay-Keow et. al. extracted several commercial vodkas with DI-
308 SPME using a 100 μm PDMS fiber coupled to GC-MS for the quantitation of as many analytes
309 as possible (comprising odor-active fatty acids, esters, furans, and others) (Ng et al., 1996).
310 Thanks to the amenable content of macromolecules, particles, and solids, it was possible to
311 directly soak the fiber into the sample.

312 HS-SPME is mostly used for determining volatile and semi-volatile compounds; in this
313 configuration, the fiber is exposed into the head-space between the sample and the cap of the vial
314 allowing gas-phase analytes to migrate from the sample to the sorbent. Once the compounds are
315 retained by adsorption/absorption mechanisms, they are desorbed for the instrumental analysis.
316 In solvent-free applications desorption is thermally performed directly into the GC injector with

317 high efficiency and avoiding the use of solvents; SPME fibers can be also subjected to elution
318 with a small amount of organic solvent (<500 μ L) (Płotka-Wasyłka et al., 2015; SAS Wercinski,
319 1999) to make it suitable for LC methods.

320 Performing HS-SPME analysis in alcoholic beverages presents several limitations due to the
321 matrix composition and different concentration of the odor-active molecules (López et al., 2002).
322 Beverage vapor, especially for alcoholic ones, is mostly made of ethanol, water, and many other
323 compounds like ethyl esters, phenols, higher alcohols, fatty acids, which are present at more than
324 0.1 mg/L (Ferreira et al., 2015). The matrix molecules and analytes are in a competition for
325 interacting with the fiber affecting extraction efficiency, especially for trace compounds (Mestres
326 et al., 1999). This behavior is more evident for DI-SPME because the fiber is also in contact with
327 non-volatile analytes (Frago Ramos, 2016); this disadvantage balances the higher efficiency in the
328 extraction of semi-volatile compounds that sometimes contribute to the beverage aroma. In this
329 sense, HS-SPME gives better efficiency and quantitate the real amount present in the beverage.
330 HS-SPME provides a significantly longer fiber life, increased performance stability, better
331 representativeness of beverage odor, and longer instrumental maintenance intervals. In complex
332 matrices like fermented beverages, HS-SPME showed also a better extraction efficiency for
333 aroma compounds so it is preferred in most quantitative methods (Demyttenaere et al., 2003).
334 Several parameters determine HS-SPME performance such as stirring, extraction time,
335 temperature, coating thickness and phase-type. Since odor-active molecules have high volatility
336 and most of them have a low molecular mass and reduced polarity, the extraction time and
337 temperature are reduced if compared to methods developed for other analytes (Hiroyuki Kataoka,
338 Heather L. Lord, 2000). Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) is a non-polar phase that has a high
339 affinity for a-polar compounds and moderate for polar ones, if the extraction properties are
340 optimized. Enhanced performance towards alcohols, esters and carbonyls can be achieved by
341 using a more polar phase like polyacrylate (PA) with a consequent decrease of non-polar recovery
342 (Remedios Castro et al., 2008). Mixed coatings, which have intermediate and complementary
343 properties according to their polarity and retention capacity, are more suitable for aroma
344 compound quantitation (Marín-San Román et al., 2020b). In addition, some of these phases are

345 more polar than PA, and better extract compounds with greater polarity such as esters, carbonyls
346 and alcohols.

347 Perestrelo et. al. developed an HS-SPME method for the determination of volatile compounds in
348 grapes. Using this procedure, it was possible to determine a broad class of compounds like 27
349 monoterpenes, 27 sesquiterpenes, 21 carbonyl compounds, 17 alcohols (of which 2 aromatics),
350 10 C13-norisoprenoids, and 5 acids. In this article, 6 different fiber coatings were evaluated
351 (polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS, 100 μ m), polydimethylsiloxane/divinylbenzene (PDMS/DVB, 65
352 μ m), divinylbenzene/carboxen/polydimethylsiloxane (DVB/CAR/PDMS, 50/30 μ m),
353 carboxen/polydimethylsiloxane (CAR/PDMS, 75 μ m), polyacrylate (PA, 85 μ m), and
354 carbowax/divinylbenzene (CW/DVB, 70 μ m) demonstrating that DVB/CAR/PDMS was the best
355 compromise to achieve suitable performance for all class of analytes(Perestrelo et al., 2011). Four
356 mL of sample were extracted in HS-SPME for 40 minutes at 40 °C under stirring (1100 rpm)
357 using sodium chloride (1.4 g) to enhance ionic strength. This procedure, which demonstrated to
358 be very versatile and efficient since it was able to quantitate 107 compounds coming from 6
359 different classes in just one run, was then extended to wine by Lukic et. al. for the evaluation of
360 the effects of six maceration treatments on volatile aroma profile of Teran red wine, and the study
361 of late and ice-harvest on Gewürztraminer odor composition (Lukić et al., 2016, 2017).

362 An in-depth study of SPME extraction for the determination of several odor-active molecules in
363 wine was presented by Metafa et. al. (Metafa & Economou, 2013). The authors explored 5
364 different fiber coatings (PDMS, PDMS/DVB, CAR/PDMS, and DVB/CAR/PDMS) both in DI
365 and HS operating mode. In this case, since further pre-treatments were scheduled, DI-SPME was
366 selected using a PDMS/DVB fiber to enhance the enrichment of analytes, necessary for the
367 detection with a single-quadrupole GC-MS. Twenty analytes including terpenes, terpenoids, and
368 norisoprenoids were determined using 10 mL of sample extracted for 10 minutes at room
369 temperature at 1000 rpm of magnetic stirring.

370 SPME based sampling procedures were used also in beer for a similar purpose as wine. Cajka et.
371 al. developed an HS-SPME method coupled to GC-TOF-MS for the acquisition of aroma profile
372 in 265 beer samples (Cajka et al., 2010). Several SPME fibers were tested (100 μ m PDMS, 65

373 μm PDMS/DVB, 65 μm CW/DVB, 50/30 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS, and 85 μm PA) and other
374 parameters such as extraction time, extraction temperature, salt addition were optimized. Four
375 mL of beer were extracted with 1.7 g of NaCl at 30 °C for 5 minutes, after 10 minutes of
376 incubation at 60°C using a 50/30 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS fiber.

377 Based on a similar procedure, Dennenlöhner et. al. developed and validated an HS-SPME-GC-
378 MS/MS methodology for quantification of selected hop aroma compounds in beer (Dennenlöhner,
379 Thörner, Manowski, et al., 2020). Hop aroma is the odor contribution of a particular mixture of
380 terpenes, terpenoids and esters, compounds that represent a key quality characteristic of many
381 popular beer styles such as “lager” and “IPA”(Anderson et al., 2019). The authors presented a
382 method that aimed to cover a wide concentration range (1–1000 mg/L) for 19 key odor-active
383 molecules and is applicable to the most significant beer styles, from light lagers to highly dry-
384 hopped beers. The method needed 1 mL of decarbonized beer sample, 0.4 g NaCl, and 7.5 minutes
385 of extraction time at 60 °C with a 50/30 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS fiber.

386 Another interesting procedure was presented by Riu-Aumatell et. al. focused on the determination
387 of key-odorant in low alcoholic beers (Riu-Aumatell et al., 2014). In this method, 5 mL of sample
388 were extracted at 45 °C for 40 minutes with a 50/30 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS fiber after the addition
389 of 1.75 g of NaCl. Fifty-nine analytes between fermentative compounds like esters, fatty acids,
390 and alcohols, varietal molecules such as terpenes and terpenoids, and many others related to the
391 ageing process (carbonyls and furans) were quantified. Thanks to the lower extraction temperature
392 and to a longer extraction time it was possible to efficiently extract 14 oxygen-containing
393 compounds coming from different categories (carbonyls, carboxyl acids, esters, and furans)
394 without derivatization, as usually did (Buiatti, 2008).

395 Yu Ping Zhao et. al. characterized the six most well-known distilled spirits using HS-SPME and
396 GC-MS (Y. P. Zhao et al., n.d.). Fourteen carbonyls, 2 lactones, 59 esters, 5 acetals, 26 between
397 terpenes and norisoprenoids, 22 alcohols, 6 furans, 2 carboxy acids, and 19 additional compounds,
398 for a sum of 155 analytes were quantitated or semi-quantitated in SIM mode. The extraction was
399 performed for 15 minutes at 50 °C consuming 5 mL of diluted sample (deionized water was added

400 to each liquor until 10% v/v ethanol), saturated with 1.5 g of NaCl and extracted using a 50/30
401 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS fiber.

402 A robust HS-SPME method for the determination of nitrogen-heterocyclic volatile aroma
403 compounds (i.e. pyrazines, quinones, and pirroles) in spirits was validated and presented by Picard
404 et. al.; this class of odor-active molecules are known to provide a complex aromatic bouquet
405 related to ageing in oak barrels that remove the immature character of raw distillate (Picard et al.,
406 2019). All parameters were explored and optimized obtaining the following procedure: 10 mL of
407 1:10 diluted spirit sample which pH was adjusted to 7, the addition of NaCl 3 g, 30 minutes of
408 extraction at 60 °C with an 85 μm CAR/PDMS coated fiber. The method demonstrated adequate
409 linearity since it provided $R^2 > 0.99$ in whisky through 10 calibration levels (0.5–1000 $\mu\text{g/L}$).
410 Intraday precision (RSD <10%) was evaluated acquiring 10 replicates of the same spirit spiked
411 at 50 $\mu\text{g/L}$ whereas the interday precision (RSD <20%) was assessed by analyzing 12 replicates
412 at 50 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in 1 month. Accuracy was calculated as a recovery percentage in spiked samples at 3
413 levels and ranged from 78.4% to 121.6%.

414 Niu et. al. extended the HS-SPME aroma determination to cocktails whose composition was based
415 on vodka (Niu et al., 2019). Eight mL cocktail with the addition of 2 g NaCl were extracted at
416 50°C for 45 minutes using a triphasic 50/30 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS fiber; 36 between esters,
417 terpens, terpenoids, norisprenoids, and alcohols were quantitated. The method showed good
418 linearity ($R^2 > 0.99$) for a broad concentration range (approximately from few $\mu\text{g/L}$ to mg/L).

419 Cognac is one of the spirits that better represents French tradition all over the world; its sensorial
420 impact is a fingerprint that strongly depends on the contribution of some age-related molecules
421 such as 3-methyl-2,4-nonanedione (3-MND). It is a well-known compound reminiscent of anise
422 or “dried fruit”, according to its concentration, and gives a significative contribution to the
423 characteristic aroma of distilled wines where oxygen plays a key role, both in the production and
424 in the ageing process such as grappa, brandy, rum, vodka, and many others. (Luo et al., 2020; N.
425 Moreira et al., 2018; Plutowska & Wardencki, 2008; Vanderhaegen et al., 2006) Thibaud et. al.
426 developed a method based on HS-SPME that provided adequate performance for its quantitation
427 since the average concentration in the literature ranges from trace to 11.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Melnik et al.,

428 2015; Thibaud et al., 2021). Ten mL of diluted sample (0.250 mL spirit + 9.750 deionized water)
429 were added to 5 g of ammonium sulphate and extracted at 50 °C for 25 minutes using a 65 µm
430 PDMS/DVB fiber. Quantitation was performed with GC-MS in chemical ionization mode using
431 methanol as a reagent gas.

432 MND is a diketone that belongs to the volatile carbonyl compounds family (VCCs). These
433 molecules, depending on their concentration, are related to pleasant nuances since the
434 winemaking of some oxidized wines like Vin Santo (Tofalo et al., 2009), Port (Prata-Sena et al.,
435 2018), Sherry (R. Castro et al., 2004), and Madeira (Pereira et al., 2011) or many distilled wine
436 spirits (Melnyk et al., 2015)) are tailored to emphasize their production (Manzocco et al., 2000).
437 However, in most cases, the presence of VCCs is a marker of long-standing undesired oxidation
438 related to aroma defects (Alañón et al., 2015; Gabrielli et al., 2021; Li et al., 2008). Carbonyls
439 quantification is sometimes used as a tool for the evaluation of complete fermentation and storage
440 monitoring (Tian et al., 2009). However, due to the significative polarity of carbonyls and the
441 establishing of strong hydrogen bonds with water and ethanol, VCCs (especially with higher
442 molecular weight) are often derivatized before the extraction via HS-SPME (Marín-San Román
443 et al., 2020a).

444 Many HS-SPME methods have been purposed with O-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzyl)
445 hydroxylamine (PFBHA) on-fiber derivatization (Schmarr et al., 2008) and in solution
446 derivatization (Bueno et al., 2014; Nathalie Moreira et al., 2019), both with satisfactory results
447 but different simplicity of execution. On-Fiber Derivatization (OFD) strategy was used for the
448 determination of staling aldehydes in wort and beer samples (Dennenlöhner, Thörner, Maxminer, et
449 al., 2020). PFBHA was used as a derivatizing agent and GC-EI-MS/MS was the instrumentation
450 of choice due to its improved sensitivity and reduced matrix effects resulting from overlapping
451 PFBHA-oximes (PFBOS). Fifteen selected aldehydes were determined in wort and beer across a
452 wide concentration range (0.01-1000 µg/L). The presented method was extensively validated
453 through linearity assessment ($R^2 > 0.99$), LOD/LOQ, precision (RSD < 9.2%), and recovery (80-
454 118%). Extraction needed 3 mL of decarbonized beer, 1 g NaCl, and 10 minutes at 50 °C of fiber
455 exposure previously loaded with the PFBHA. A similar method was purposed by Schmarr et. al.

456 for the determination of many VCCs, such as alkanals, (E)-2-alkenals, (E,E)-2,4-alkadienals, and
457 others including S-containing ketones (Schmarr et al., 2008). In this case, the extraction needed
458 20 minutes at 40 °C using 10 mL of sample and no further preparation step.

459 On Solution Derivatization (OSD) was implemented into a new analytical method for the
460 determination of 18 carbonyl compounds in wines based on HS/SPME and GC-IT-MS (Pérez
461 Olivero & Pérez Trujillo, 2010). After exploring five fiber coatings, time and extraction
462 temperature, desorption time and temperature, pH, and ionic strength, content in tannins and
463 anthocyanins, sucrose, SO₂, and alcoholic degree, the best extracting conditions were: 2 mL of wine
464 saturated with NaCl extracted with a 50/30 µm DVB/CAR/PDMS fiber for 45 minutes at 40 °C.
465 The method was validated over a wide range of concentrations showing good linearity ($R^2 >$
466 0.998), remarkable repeatability and reproducibility (RSD <5.5%), and LOD ranging from 0.62
467 µg/L to 129.2 µg/L.

468 Moreira et. al. optimized an HS-SPME method coupled to GC-MS/MS with a prior in-solution
469 derivatization step with PFBHA to quantify 38 VCCs in different categories of Port wines
470 (Nathalie Moreira et al., 2019). Due to its winemaking and ageing process, Port is rich in
471 carbonyls so many issues such as carryover and fiber saturation must be considered. Optimal
472 extraction conditions were achieved with 2 mL of wine extracted using a 65 µm PDMS/DVB
473 fiber under stirring for 20 minutes at 32 °C. The method was also validated in terms of linearity,
474 repeatability, inter and intra-day precision and accuracy.

475 Similar methods have also been used to perform carbonyl quantitation in other beverages like
476 beer; Moreira et. al. presented a fully automated HS-ISD-SPME method using PFBHA as the
477 derivatizing agent like in most procedures for the determination of 45 different VCCs (Nathalie
478 Moreira et al., 2013a). Sixty-five µm PDMS/DVB fiber was used to extract 5 mL of beer at 45°C
479 for 20 minutes without salt addition. The proposed method showed to be linear, precise, accurate
480 and sensitive. LODs ranged from 0.003 to 0.510 µg/L, except for furans which were higher (1.54–
481 3.44 µg/L) whereas LOQs varied from 0.010 to 1.55 µg/L, except for furans (4.68 – 10.4 µg/L).
482 Good repeatability was achieved (RSD <17%) for all analytes. Accuracy was measured by
483 evaluating recovery in spiked samples which ranged from 88% to 114%.

484 HS-SPME with GC-MS was used for the determination of acrolein in alcoholic beverages. M.
485 Kächele et.al. developed a method using a fiber of 85 μm CAR/PDMS coating (Kächele et al.,
486 2014). Samples were prepared by weighing and mixing in an HS vial 2 g of NaCl, 5 mL of distilled
487 water and 0.125 g of beverage. The extraction was performed at 50 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 10 minutes. Since
488 acrolein is both an odor-active compound and a cytotoxic hazard for human health, its
489 determination is a very important task from more than one point of view. A very similar method
490 was developed for the quantification of carbonyl and furan derivatives whose exposure could be a
491 risk for human health (Hernandes et al., 2019). A 50/30 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS fiber was used for
492 the extraction of 1 mL of sample with 30% NaCl (m/v) at 55 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 1 hour. The fiber was
493 overcoated with PDMS to allow a simultaneous quantification of brewing compounds.
494 Performances were significant, especially for a SIM-mode quantification system (LOD ranging
495 from 0.03 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for acrolein, to 1 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for furfural).

496

497 2. Poly Ionic Liquids (PILs) in HS-SPME

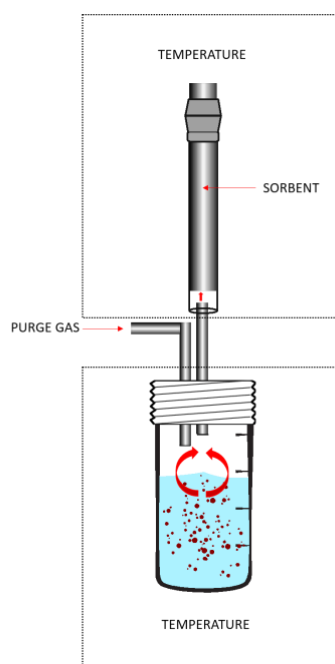
498 Ionic liquids (ILs) are a particular class of non-molecular solvents also known as liquid, organic,
499 molten, or fused salts, which couple negligible vapor pressure and low melting point (usually
500 lower than 100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$) (F. Zhao et al., 2008). Most ILs are composed of nitrogen-based cations
501 (pyridine, pyrrolidine, imidazole and others) and a widespread variety of anions, spanning from
502 halides to more complex organic conjugated bases (Hallett & Welton, 2011). The main features
503 of ILs are their adjustable viscosity, significant thermal stability and the possibility to design
504 their formulation to enhance or reduce water miscibility (Mehrdad et al., 2019). Poly Ionic Liquids
505 (PILs) are organic polymers mainly obtained by the polymerization of unsaturated ionic liquid
506 monomers. The main advantage provided is the mechanical stability of polymers coupled to the
507 features of ILs that make PILs a promising coating for SPME fibers (Singha et al., 2018).
508 González-Álvarez et. al. used an imidazolium based PILs as a coating for SPME fiber used to
509 analyze beer aroma (González-Álvarez et al., 2013). Two different fiber materials were
510 synthesized by a free radical polymerization and assessed to provide high thermal and structural

511 stability. The IL-1 butenyl fiber was compared to the conventional PDMS-DVB 65 μm and CAR-
512 PDMS 75 μm fibers, showing a significant performance boost. Efficiency was evaluated in the
513 analysis of lemon beer aroma by spiking real samples at 3 levels (100, 200, and 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$)
514 obtaining satisfactory recoveries (78.4 – 123.6%) for all 8 compounds.

515 Crucello et. al. evaluated some PILs coatings for the aroma characterization of novel Brazilian
516 wines (Crucello et al., 2018). The best PILs-coated fiber was evaluated to be made a cross-linked
517 imidazolium-based polymer which exhibited superior performance compared to
518 DVB/CAR/PDMS. No quantitative data was provided but the comprehensive wine aroma profile
519 obtained (up to 372 compounds identified) allowed a powerful evaluation of VOAs compounds
520 available in the samples and could be a powerful tool for comparisons between different
521 winemaking styles or vintages.

522 3. Full Evaporation Dynamic Headspace (FEDHS)

523 Full Evaporation Dynamic Head Space (FEDHS) is a solvent-free technique that can be coupled
524 to GC-MS for the determination of volatile compounds at sub- $\text{ng}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ level. In FEDHS a
525 reduced amount of sample is fully vaporized without any liquid-to-gas equilibrium that
526 maximizes sensitivity for semi-volatile compounds and ultra-trace ones (Figure 4).



527

528 **FIGURE 4.** Schematic of fully evaporation dynamic head space FEDHS extraction system.

529 Compared to conventional D-HS and HS-SPME, FEDHS provides more uniform enrichment over
 530 the entire polarity range for odor compounds in aqueous samples. Ochiai et. al. developed a
 531 method for the analyses of key odor compounds (including hydrophilic and less volatile)
 532 characteristics in whiskey (Ochiai et al., 2012). FEDHS was performed at 80°C using 3 L of purge
 533 gas to allow the complete vaporization of 100 µL of whiskey. The developed method showed
 534 high recoveries (85–103%) of the 18 odor-active compounds, separating them from most of the
 535 low volatile matrix. Good linearity ($R^2 > 0.9909$) and high sensitivity (limit of detection: 0.21–
 536 5.2 ng*mL⁻¹) were achieved. Phenolic compounds including vanillin were determined in the range
 537 of 0.92–5.1 µg*mL⁻¹ (RSD < 7.4%) in 6 single malt whiskey samples. Eight compounds including
 538 12 potent odorants (e.g. coumarin, furaneol, indole, maltol, and pyrazine congeners) were
 539 determined in the range of 0.21–110 ng* mL⁻¹ (RSD < 10%).
 540 All relevant applications based on solvent-free analysis of aroma-active compounds in alcoholic
 541 beverages are reported in Table 1.

542 **TABLE 1.** List of solvent-free methods for the analysis of odor active compounds in alcoholic beverages
 543 and related highlights.

Ext. technique	Matrix	Ext. volume	Instrumentation	Pro & Cons	Article
HS-SPME	Wine	4 mL	GC-MS	+ Wide range of analytes, high-optimization - Ion extraction chromatogram used for quantification	(Lukić et al., 2016, 2017; Perestrelo et al., 2011)
HS-SPME + DI-SPME	Wine	10 mL	GC-MS	+ Strong validation, good performance - Only varietal compounds	(Metafa & Economou, 2013)
HS-SPME	Beer	4 mL	GC-TOF-MS	+ Fast, many analytes, reduced RSD, efficient - Only high concentrated analytes	(Cajka et al., 2010)
HS-SPME	Beer	1 mL	GC-MS/MS	+ Accurate quantitation (3 I.S.+MRM), reduced sample volume - High LOQ, non-commercial I.S.	(Dennenlöhr, Thörner, Manowski, et al., 2020)
HS-SPME	Beer	5 mL	GC-MS	+ 59 analytes, polar compounds without derivatization - Long extraction time	(Riu-Aumatell et al., 2014)
HS-SPME	Spirits	5 mL	GC-MS	+ 155 analytes from all categories	(Y. P. Zhao et al., n.d.)

				- Poor validation data provided	
HS-SPME	Spirits	1 mL	GC-MS	+ Robust quantitation of N-heterocycles, LOQ, sample volume	(Picard et al., 2019)
HS-SPME	Vodka cocktail	8 mL	GC-MS	- pH adjustment, only 1 class of analytes + Broad calibration range, complex matrix	(Niu et al., 2019)
HS-SPME	Cognac	0.25 mL	GC-CI-MS	- Large sample volume, only fermentative analytes + Reduced sample volume, performance	(Thibaud et al., 2021)
HS-OFD-SPME	Beer	3 mL	GC-MS/MS	- Only MND, require CI + Reduced LOD, extensive validation	(Dennenlöh, Thörner, Maxminer, et al., 2020)
HS-OFD-SPME	Wine	10 mL	GC-IT-MS	- Complexity, only some aldehydes + Broad range of carbonyls, no salt addition	(Schmarr et al., 2008)
HS-ISD-SPME	Wine	2 mL	GC-IT-MS	- Large sample volume, no real application presented + Performance, robust validation, automatable	(Pérez Olivero & Pérez Trujillo, 2010)
HS-ISD-SPME	Wine	2 mL	GC-MS/MS	- Limited range of carbonyls + Wide range of VCCs, robust validation, efficient, reliable	(Nathalie Moreira et al., 2019)
HS-ISD-SPME	Beer	2 mL	GC-IT-MS	- No diketone was quantified, used in analyte-rich matrix + Strong validation, efficient, reliable	(Nathalie Moreira et al., 2013b)
HS-SPME	Beer, wine, many spirits	0.125 mL	GC-MS	- Proof of application with a reduced number of samples + Performance, robustness, almost all beverages, minimized amount of sample	(Kächele et al., 2014)
HS-SPME	Beer	1 mL	GC-MS	- Only 1 analyte + Wide range of polar analytes	(Hernandes et al., 2019)
HS-SPME	Beer	8 mL	GC-MS	- Long extraction time, reduced productivity + Significant efficiency boost, good validation.	(González-Álvarez et al., 2013)
HS-SPME	Wine	10 mL	GC-MS	- Only 8 compounds, only one matrix, validation in water + Full automatable, strong optimization and validation, good performance	(Tang & Duan, 2017)

				- Long extraction time (40 min)	
HS-SPME	Wine	4.5 mL	GCxGC-MS	+ Performance, informations provided - No quantitative results provided, long extraction time (60 min)	(Crucello et al., 2018)
SBSE	Wine	20 mL	GC-MS	+ Flexibility, simplicity - Affected from ethanol, laborious	(Caven- quantrill & Buglass, 2011)
SBSE	Wine	20 mL	GC-MS	+ Simplicity, strong enrichment - Requires a previous SPE	(Magali Picard, Celine Franc, Gilles De Revel, 2018)
SA-SBSE	Beer	5 mL	GC-MS/MS	+ Strong enrichment, modularity - Effect of ethanol, heat-induced artifacts	(Ochiai et al., 2016)
FEDHS	Whiskey	0.1 mL	GC-MS	+ Minimized sample volume, sensitivity - Require instrumentation, unsuitable for reacting molecules, only few analytes	(Ochiai et al., 2012)

544

545 B. Immersion-based techniques

546 1. Direct Immersion Solid Phase Micro Extraction (DI-SPME)

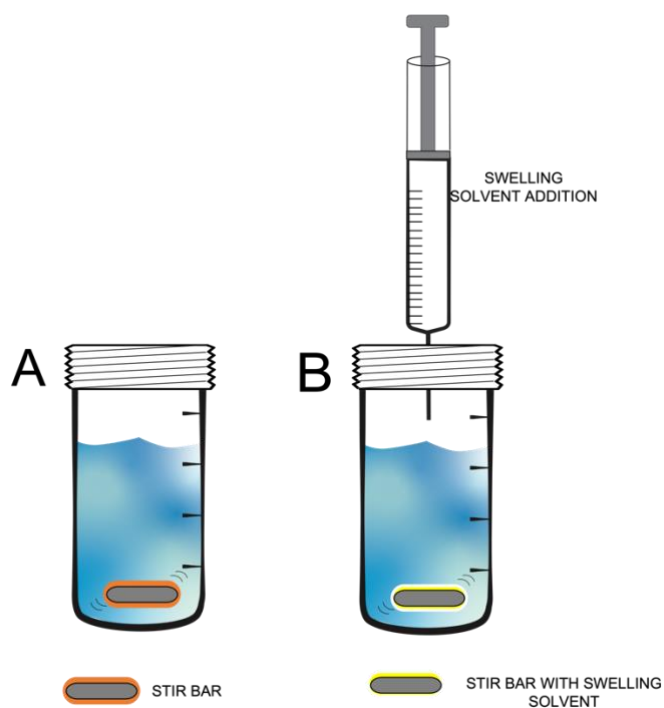
547 In DI-SPME, the sorbent is directly exposed/immersed into the sample determining a higher
548 interaction between analytes and fiber, and better recoveries for semi-volatile or non-volatile
549 compounds (Figure 3 (b)). On the other hand, for the same reason, this configuration is affected
550 by an increased matrix effect from complex samples that is also related to reduced fiber lifetime.
551 Significant steps have been done through the development of new, more specific sorbent
552 materials to overcome these restrictions (P. Rocío-Bautista, 2018) but currently DI-SPME is not
553 the gold-standard in VOAs solvent-free analysis. Despite that, Tang et al. proposed a porous PILs
554 to be used as a fiber coating for the analysis of organic acids in wine (Tang & Duan, 2017). An
555 imidazolium-based coating was used and assessed to provide a significant performance increase.
556 Samples were extracted with an on-fiber derivatization strategy using N-tert-butyldimethylsilyl-
557 N-methyltrifluoroacetamide (MTBSTFA). All parameters including salt addition, pH, extraction
558 temperature and time, derivatization temperature and time were explored in addition to the PILs

559 synthesis optimization, to achieve the best performances. An extensive validation demonstrated
560 good linearity ($R^2 > 0.99$) in the range 0.01 – 1 mg/L, satisfactory LOD (up to 0.07 $\mu\text{g/L}$), proper
561 repeatability ($\text{RSD} < 16\%$) and fiber-to-fiber reproducibility ($\text{RSD} < 20\%$). Recoveries in spiked
562 wine samples ranged from 78.19 to 98.11% and lifetime fiber durability was satisfactory.

563

564 2. Stir-Bar Sorptive Extraction (SBSE)

565 An alternative to SPME which combines the absence on solvents and provides a simultaneous
566 enrichment and isolation of analytes, is represented by SBSE. These devices are bases in the
567 coating of a stir bar of PDMS with a potential extraction sorbent (Figure 5).



569 **FIGURE 5.** Extraction modes in stir bar sorptive microextraction (SBSE). (A) Classical SBSE extraction.
570 (B) Solvent assisted (SA) SBSE extraction

571

572 Contrary to HS-SPME or DI-SPME, in which the sorbent remains static throughout the overall
573 extraction process, the SBSE is a dynamic extraction. In this process, the sorbent is moving
574 through the solution, in this case, by a magnetic force (David & Sandra, 2007). This favors
575 analyte-sorbent interactions, and therefore requires much shorter extraction times than SPME.

576 Caven-Quantrill et. al. presented a study where SBSE was used in a comparison of volatile
577 composition between grape juice and model wine (Caven-quantrill & Buglass, 2011). Twenty-
578 four μL PDMS coated stir bar (length: 10 mm, film thickness: 0.5 mm) was used to extract 20 mL
579 of sample at room conditions for 2 hours at 1100 rpm; the stir bar was then washed with pure
580 water, dried and placed into the thermal desorption tube.

581 SBSE was also used as an enrichment step following a previous sample preparation technique to
582 make detectable trace analytes. Picard et. al. developed a method for the determination of 8
583 limonene derived monoterpenes related to the mint aroma in red wines (Magali Picard, Celine
584 Franc, Gilles De Revel, 2018). These molecules are not detectable without a complex sample
585 preparation so, in this application, SPE was followed by SBSE to make identifiable. A PDMS
586 coated stir bar (126 μL ; length: 20 mm; film thickness: 1 mm) was dropped into 20 mL of SPE
587 extract (diluted in Milli-Q water to a final ethanol concentration of 15% v/v) for 1 h at 20°C
588 stirring at 600 rpm. After a comprehensive optimization, the method was validated and
589 successfully applied to 15 Bordeaux red wines coming from different producers and vintages.

590 2.1 Solvent Assisted (SA)-SBSE

591 SBSE was used for the determination of 28 aroma compounds in beer in an innovative method
592 presented by Ochiai et. al. (Ochiai et al., 2016). A commercial PDMS stir bar (63 μL ; length: 10
593 mm; film thickness: 1 mm) was swollen in several solvents with $\log K_{ow}$ ranging from 1.0 to 3.5
594 while stirring for 30 min before extraction; this procedure is named Solvent-Assisted SBSE (SA-
595 SBSE) and showed in Figure 5 (B). SA-SBSE demonstrated to provide better recoveries if
596 compared to conventional SBSE depending on the solvents used in the stir bar preparation step
597 and on the $\log K_{ow} < 2.5$ of the analytes. Working with low-temperature thermal desorption (80°C)
598 the formation of heat-induced artefacts was excluded and it was possible to optimize the method
599 for the determination of 21 aroma active compounds in beer samples. Repeatability (RSD <8%)
600 and linearity ($R^2 > 0.99$) were obtained for all compounds and that was a significant result. Similar
601 procedures for the analysis of beverage with higher alcoholic percentage like wine and spirits

602 have not been published yet; this is reasonably due to the reduced polarity of ethanol compared
603 to water those lower recoveries for low-polarity analytes.

604 III. Solvent based techniques

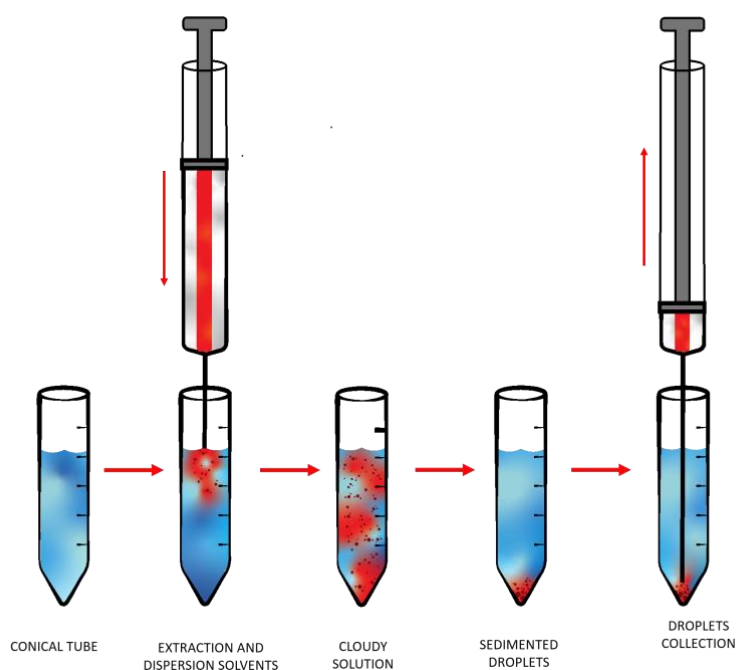
605 As mentioned before, SPME is the most utilized miniaturized sample preparation technique for
606 GC-MS determination of volatile and semi-volatile compounds in alcoholic beverage samples
607 (Fontana et al., 2018; López-Vázquez et al., 2012). However, less volatile and high water soluble
608 compounds, still amenable to GC analysis, are difficult to extract using this technique. Thus, there
609 is a demand for alternative sample preparation approaches capable of extracting a broad set of
610 volatile, semi-volatile, polar, and non-polar compounds in alcoholic beverages. As mentioned
611 before, LPME techniques fulfill these requirements allowing the high analyte pre-concentration
612 and the extraction with a volume lower than 100 μL simultaneously. It can be entirely injected
613 into the analytical instrumentation avoiding additional time-consuming procedures. Nowadays,
614 several LPME strategies are under investigation in beverages applications. However, these
615 researches are mainly focused on the determination and quantification of pesticides and
616 exogenous compounds rather than VOAs. To the best of our knowledge, only DLLME is
617 successfully applied to this specific application.

618

619 A. Dispersive Liquid-Liquid Micro Extraction (DLLME)

620 DLLME is an interesting microextraction technique used in broad application fields
621 (Abdolmohammad-Zadeh & Sadeghi, 2010; Mashayekhi et al., 2010), mainly because of its low
622 operational cost and simplicity of the required equipment (Oller-Ruiz et al., 2017). It can be
623 performed directly in standard conical tube obtaining an efficient preconcentration of the analytes
624 in a short time using few microliters of solvents (Viñas et al., 2014). For this reason, since it was
625 introduced in 2006 by Rezaee et al. (Rezaee et al., 2006), more than 2500 papers have been found
626 in the literature, making it a very active topic in sample preparation research studies (Hansen &
627 Pedersen-Bjergaard, 2020).

628 DLLME employs a ternary system consisting of an extraction solvent (10-500 μL) immiscible in
629 water and a dispersion solvent (0.2-1 mL) miscible both with water and the extractant solvent,
630 which are quickly injected into an aqueous sample (2-10 mL). The basis of the technique is the
631 partition of the analyte between the sample and the extractant solvent. The contact of the three
632 components creates a cloudy solution in which the extraction solvent is dispersed in the sample
633 solution forming multiple organic microdroplets (Figure 6).



634

635 **FIGURE 6.** Traditional dispersive liquid–liquid microextraction workflow.

636 Various strategies such as salt addition or ultrasound assistance can be used to boost recoveries.
637 A further centrifugation step ensures the phase separation which is followed by the droplet
638 collection and easy analysis by hyphenated or direct analytical methodologies. Several papers are
639 available in literature to demonstrate its applicability and performance level for VOAs analysis.
640 Zhou et al., used the conventional DLLME coupled with GC-MS to determine main higher
641 alcohols in fermented alcoholic beverages (Zhou et al., 2020). This method allowed to efficiently
642 quantify six alcohols in a characteristic chinese alcoholic beverage. The sample (3.5 mL) was
643 diluted 1:1 with water without any pH adjustment and using 2.1 mL of solvents (1.5 mL of
644 acetonitrile as dispersion and 0.6 mL of dichloromethane as extractant solvents, respectively).

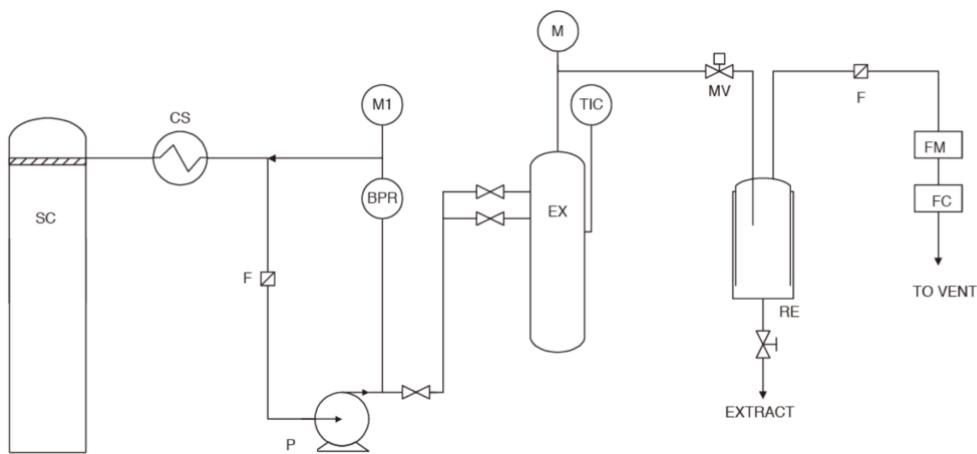
645 Once optimized extraction conditions, only seven minutes (Zhou et al., 2020) are needed to
646 perform the overall sampling process leading to a very rapid method with Enrichment Factors
647 (EFs) spanning from 8.1 % and 9.1 % for selected compounds. Moreover, they compared DLLME
648 with S-HS and HS-SPME, demonstrating the DLLME advantages in terms of recoveries, peak
649 shape in the chromatographic separation, and time saving. Fariña et al.(Fariña et al., 2007),
650 determined two volatile phenols, 4- ethyl guaiacol and 4-ethylphenol in wine using DLLME
651 coupled with GC-MS. They used 5 mL of wine samples, to which were added 1 mL of acetone
652 as a dispersion solvent and only 50 μ L of carbon tetrachloride as extractant solvent. Results
653 showed a very rapid procedure that takes less than six minutes for the extraction time with a
654 minimum solvent usage. The comparison with other techniques conventionally used to determine
655 volatile phenols in wine (LLE, SPE, HS-SPME, and SBSE) showed how this strategy reduced the
656 analysis time and the required amount of sample. Fontana et al. (Fontana et al., 2018)
657 characterized the profile of volatile and semi-volatile compounds in grape marc distillates
658 extracted by DLLME and analyzed with a GC coupled to a time-of-flight accurate MS (TOF-
659 MS). The extraction method was performed and optimized on a group of 17 compounds with
660 different chemical functionalities (ketones, aldehyde, esters, alkanes, and alcohols) and response
661 ranges in distillates. A selected volume of 2.5 mL of grape sample was diluted at 9 mL with water
662 before extraction to reduce the adverse effect of the high percentage of ethanol (~ 40%) in the
663 affinity of the compounds to extractant solvent. Acetonitrile (400 μ L) and chloroform (100 μ L)
664 were selected as dispersive and extractant solvents, respectively. The obtained EFs were up to 52
665 times. The extraction efficiency of DLLME was compared with three SPME conditions: Direct-
666 SPME at room temperature, HS-SPME at room temperature, and HS-SPME at 50 °C thermostated
667 sample. The results showed that 12 out of 17 compounds are better extracted with the DLLME
668 technique with low consumption of sample, solvent, and in a very faster sampling procedure (4
669 min). Oller-Ruiz et al., investigated for the first time the DLLME technique coupled to LC-
670 MS/MS to determine five monoterpenes in hazelnut liqueur, red wine, whiskey, brandy, rum, and
671 gin(Oller-Ruiz et al., 2017). No dilution in water was assessed because the ethanol content of each
672 beverage was used as a dispersive solvent in a sample volume of 8 mL. Chloroform was chosen

673 as extractant solvent and 300 μ L of it were rapidly added to unmodified beverages sample. The
674 enriched phase of chloroform was evaporated and reconstituted on 50 μ L of water, a suitable LC-
675 MS solvent. The optimized method allowed to achieve EFs ranging from 12 and 88 using low
676 amounts of organic solvents in a very short extraction time (3 min).

677

678 B. Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE)

679 Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE) is a sample preparation technique where a supercritical fluid
680 is used as extraction solvent (Figure 7).



681

682 **FIGURE 7.** Schematic representation of SFE extraction and the equipment used (Gracia et al., 2009).
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684 year [2022].

685

686 The supercritical state is a combination of high temperature and high pressure which both exceed
687 their critical values. As a consequence, the solvent properties gradually change showing a gas-
688 type viscosity coupled to a density similar to that of the liquid state (Sakai et al., 2019). In terms
689 of polarity, supercritical fluids are known to be non-polar and their use as extracting solvent gives
690 the best efficiency with nonpolar or low polar substances. However, the characteristics mentioned
691 above can be tuned by adjusting temperature and pressure making supercritical fluids a non-toxic,
692 flexible, and selective alternative to conventional organic solvents. In addition, it's important to
693 highlight that in SFE methods the supercritical fluid can be easily removed from the extract and
694 recirculated, making the extraction simple, clean, solvent efficient, and environmentally

695 sustainable (Lang & Wai, 2001). The aspects pointed above allow supercritical fluids to be
696 included in the group of green solvents and SFE to be labelled as a GAC procedure. Currently,
697 CO₂ is the most used supercritical fluid, sometimes coupled with co-solvents such as ethanol or
698 methanol to adjust its polarity (Macedo et al., 2008).

699 Even though SFE was, especially in the last 20 years, an emerging GAC technique, Namieśnik
700 et. al. (Wiśniewska et al., 2015) published a review in 2014 where only one study was presented
701 for the determination of ethanol, which is not an VOAs compound, in spirit based alcoholic
702 beverages (Señoríns et al., 2001). Up to now, SFE is used as a promising technology of aroma
703 compound extraction for industrial purposes (Van Opstaele, Goiris, et al., 2012), or as a treatment
704 for off-flavor removal (Gernat et al., 2020).

705 Carro et. al. developed an SFE based on supercritical CO₂ for the extraction of many free VOAs
706 in wine and must aroma (Carro et al., 1996). This paper can be considered a vanguard work since
707 it was presented in 1996 when the GAC principles were still not presented yet. However, despite
708 being over twenty years old, the authors developed an efficient SFE method that can be considered
709 “green” if compared to other used in those years. The sample (50 mL) was first extracted with
710 3.94 g of Amberlite XAD-2 in the extraction chamber, spiked with methanol (used as modifier),
711 extracted with supercritical CO₂, and finally eluted with 2 mL dichloromethane. Forty free volatile
712 compounds including terpenes, terpenoids and norisoprenoids were tentatively identified and
713 quantified after a brief validation (repeatability, correlation coefficient, and linearity range).

714 As concerns the spirits, Gracia et. al. presented an SFE method for the isolation of VOAs in sugar
715 cane spirits using supercritical CO₂. In this experiment, SFE was evaluated as a promising
716 technology for concentrating aroma compounds but since the extracts were analyzed, it can be
717 also considered for analytical purposes (Gracia et al., 2007). Twenty mL of extracts were diluted
718 1:1 with standard ammonium sulphate solution and extracted with 5 mL of diethyl ether/hexane
719 mixture (2:1). The organic layer was collected, concentrated under a nitrogen flow, filtered, and
720 used for GC-MS analysis. Up to 24 VOAs compounds were identified in crude and aged sugar
721 can spirits. The same research group extended the same procedure to fast aged rum with the same
722 purpose (Gracia et al., 2009).

723 All the discussed applications of VOAs analysis in alcoholic beverages using green miniaturized
 724 solvent-based techniques are reported in Table 2.

725

726 **TABLE 2.** List of solvent-based methods for the analysis of odor active compounds in alcoholic beverages
 727 and related highlights.

Ext. technique	Matrix	Sample volume	Ext. solvent volume	Ext. details	Instrumentation	Pro & Cons	Ref.
DLLME	Huangjiu (non-distilled alcoholic beverage)	2.5 mL	0.6 mL (dichloromethane)	Dispersive solvent Volume: 1.5 mL (acetonitrile)	GC-MS	+ rapid (1 min extraction time) -Dilution required to decrease ethanol percentage	(Zhou et al., 2020)
DLLME	Wine	5.0 mL	0.05 mL (carbon tetrachloride)	Dispersive solvent Volume: 1.0 mL (acetone)	GC-MS	+ rapid extraction -only two compounds detected	(Fariña et al., 2007; Gracia et al., 2007, 2009)
DLLME	Grape marc distillate	2.5 mL	0.1 mL (chloroform)	Dispersive solvent Volume: 0.4 mL (acetonitrile)	GC-HRMS	+ rapid extraction for a wide class of compounds -Dilution required to decrease ethanol content	(Fontana et al., 2018)
DLLME	Rum, Brandy, Mistela	8 mL	0.3 mL (chloroform)	----	LC-MS	+ Rapid extraction; disperser solvent not required -Evaporation to dryness required due to the LC-MS incompatibility of extraction solvent	(Oller-Ruiz et al., 2017)
SFE	Wine	50 mL	---	Ion resin adsorption prior to SFE	GC-MS	+ Efficient, linear - Use of ion resin and dichloroethane	(Carro et al., 1996)
SFE	Spirit, rum	20 mL	---	Micro-LLE on SFE extract	GC-MS	+ micro LLE - Need of LLE, only qualitative	(Gracia et al., 2007, 2009)

728

729 IV. Conclusions

730 Aroma is one of the most relevant aspects in beverage, so the analysis of VOAs is crucial, both
731 for product development and quality control. Since wine, beer and spirits are among the most
732 consumed beverages all over the world, the environmental impact of greening the analytical
733 process of their aroma is relevant. This result must be achieved with a simultaneous improvement
734 in terms of performance, because of the low concentration of many odor active compounds.

735 Miniaturized solvent-based techniques are a good answer for this issue since a strong reduction
736 of all volumes is the first goal to achieve for the GAC rule. LPME, such as DLLME allows to
737 combine a significative lowering of sample, solvents, and waste, without requiring specific
738 instrumentation; in addition, these techniques are the ones which better fits with LC-MS analysis.
739 However, since the extraction solvent must be immiscible with the matrix, finding a green one
740 with this characteristic is not an easy task. SFE is a promising extraction technique but currently
741 it has been used only for few MS based protocols.

742 On the other hand, nowadays solvent-free techniques could be addressed as the best solution for
743 coupling good recovery, high enrichment, and robustness without using energy and polluting
744 solvents. Currently, HS-SPME is the gold standard for GAC applied to VOAs analysis since it is
745 widely used for most aroma active compounds with excellent results, both with and without
746 derivatization; since it's used for sampling the head-space, HS-SPME is more representative of
747 the beverage aroma. SPME perfectly couple with GC-MS analysis and it's the most automatable
748 extraction technique. Many coatings have been developed, spanning from PDMS to PILs, which
749 allow to find a fiber suitable for most VOAs compound. SBSE could be assessed as a good
750 alternative instead of SPME, especially for mid-volatile compounds; since it works immersed in
751 the sample, extraction efficiency is not limited by molecules volatility. However, SBSE is limited
752 by a restricted choice of coatings if compared to SPME, lower life-time and is less automatable.
753 Currently, SBSE was employed only for low alcoholic grade beverages like beer.

754 The GAC principles are moving sample preparation towards solvent-free techniques, which
755 demonstrate to be the best choice for most analytes; however, a significative improvement should

756 be the optimization focused for coupling these sample preparation methods with LC-MS analysis.
757 Succeeding in this task means to reach the goal of extending the best GAC extraction techniques
758 to trace-compounds, to better determine mid-volatile analytes and to significantly improve limits
759 of detection and quantification of each other.

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