

Presentation or miniEditorial

Special issue of Scientia Chromatographica WARPA Colombia 2015

One of the most important steps in any analytical procedure is sample preparation. Most analyses are carried out on samples containing complex mixtures with very small amounts of the chemicals which need to be identified and/or quantified. At the same time, most sample matrices, such as foods or wastewater, are also very complex. Thus, a successful sample preparation method typically has three major objectives: (1) sample matrix simplification and/or replacement, (2) analyte enrichment, and (3) sample cleanup. In addition a continuous search for improved sample preparation procedures is required with the following goals: (1) reduction in the number of steps required for the procedure, (2) adaptability to field sampling, (3) automatization and (4) reduction or total elimination of solvents required for extraction in agreement with actual trends in analytical chemistry and taking into account the green chemistry ideology.

In this way, the solventless microextraction techniques have gain a lot of space because fully comply with the objectives and goals above established. Additionally meets in one step the main tasks of any sample preparation technique: extraction, clean up and enrichment.

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