Solid-phase Microextraction (SPME) GC-MS Method for the Identification of Volatiles in Polymeric Coatings for Metal Food and Beverage Cans

Patricia Vázquez Loureiro, Antía Lestido Cardama, Ana Rodriguez-Bernaldo de Quirós, Perfecto Paseiro Losada and Raquel Sendón

¹Department of Analytical Chemistry, Nutrition and Food Science, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Santiago de Compostela Spain

Abstract: Food contact materials can be made of a wide variety of materials such as plastic, metal, coatings, etc. Some examples of polymeric coatings used in food and beverages cans are epoxy resins, phenolic resins, acrylics, polyesters, etc. Used as a protective layer, they are essential to preserve the food maintaining its quality, as well as to protect it from corrosion and avoid a metallic taste [1].

Some chemicals present in these types of materials are susceptible to migrate to the food and constitute a risk for consumers' health.

In the present work, a method based on solid-phase microextraction in headspace mode and gas chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry (HSSPME-GC-MS) was developed for the identification of potential migrants in polymeric coatings. For that purpose, a SPME holder for manual sampling and a DVB/PDMS/CAR fibre with 50–30 μ m thickness was used.

Some parameters such as extraction time, equilibrium temperature or the type of fibre were optimized.

Analyses were performed on a Rxi-624Sil MS (30 m × 0.25 mm × 1.40 μ m) column and under the following operating conditions: the injector temperature was set at 200°C and the transfer line temperature was 250°C. The ramp temperature was set from 45 to 250°C. The mass spectrometer operated in full scan mode (20 and 500 m/z). Different compounds including, aldehydes, ethers, alkenes and alcohols among others were identified in preliminary assays. These results are in agreement with those obtained by other screening techniques.

Keywords: SPME, coatings, migrants, unknowns, GC-MS.

References:

[1] Cooper I. et al. Surface Coatings International Part B: Coatings Transactions 84(2001) 91.

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