

Volatile organic compounds analysis in drinking water with Headspace GC/MSD using hydrogen carrier gas and hydrolnert source

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Recent concerns with the price and availability of helium have led laboratories to look for alternative carrier gases for their gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC/MS) methods. For GC/MS, hydrogen is the best alternative to helium, and offers potential advantages in terms of chromatographic speed and resolution. However, hydrogen is not an inert gas, and may cause chemical reactions in the mass spectrometer electron ionisation (EI) source. This can lead to disturbed ion ratios in the mass spectrum, spectral infidelity, peak tailing, and nonlinear calibration for some analytes. Therefore, a new EI source for GC/MS and GC/MS/MS was developed and optimised for use with hydrogen carrier gas. The new source, named Hydrolnert, was used in the system evaluated here to test volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in drinking water. In addition to the new source, the chromatographic conditions were optimised to provide separation of 80 volatile compounds in 7 minutes. Standards and samples were analysed in both scan and SIM data acquisition modes. For the scan data, spectra were deconvoluted with MassHunter Unknowns Analysis software and searched against NIST 20 to assess the spectral fidelity. In both modes, quantitative calibration was performed for the 80 compounds over the range of 0.05 to 25 μ g/L. As demonstrated in this note, the system gives excellent results for the analysis of VOCs in drinking water.

Introduction

One of the analyses commonly used to ensure that the quality of drinking water is the measurement of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These compounds can appear in drinking water by contamination from numerous sources, including industrial and commercial operations. Another common source is when VOCs are formed by the addition of chlorine (used to disinfect the water) and react with natural organic matter in the source water.

Regulations governing the allowable concentration of VOCs in drinking water vary by country and region but are typically in the low μ g/L (ppb) range. Due to the large number of potential contaminants, and the need to measure them at such low levels, GC/MS systems are commonly used. GC/MS offers both the sensitivity and selectivity required to identify and quantify VOCs. Purge and trap [1] and static headspace [2, 3] are two commonly used automated sampling techniques that extract the VOC analytes from water samples and inject them into the GC/MS. This method uses a system configured to perform static headspace/GC/MS analysis of VOCs in drinking water, optimised for using hydrogen as the carrier gas.

Both scan and SIM modes of data acquisition were evaluated. Scan is useful for confirming the identity of found targets, and for identifying nontarget compounds. It can also be used retrospectively to search for compounds that may become of interest in the future. SIM has a substantial advantage in the signal-to-noise ratio and is preferred where quantitation to low levels is required.

Experimental

The Agilent 5977C Inert Plus MSD was coupled to the Agilent 8890 GC equipped with a multimode inlet (MMI) and an Agilent 8697 headspace sampler. A HydroInert source (G7078-60930 for the fully assembled source with 9 mm lens) was used in the MSD, and autotuned using the etune tuning algorithm. The analytical method used an Agilent Ultra Inert straight-through 1.0 mm GC inlet liner and a DB 624 UI column, 20 m \times 0.18 mm, 1 μm . The Headspace Sampler was connected to the GC carrier gas inlet line between the GC control pneumatics and the GC injection port. A pulsed split injection was used with the split ratio set to 21:1.

Eight calibration levels ranging from 0.05 to 25 μ g/L were prepared in water by spiking 5 µL of a corresponding stock solution (which also included the ISTD) into 10.0 mL of water in a 20 mL headspace vial. Five grams of anhydrous sodium sulphate were weighed into each vial before the addition of water and spiking solution. After capping, each vial was vortexed vigorously for 20 seconds, before placement in the headspace sampler. The spiking stock solutions were prepared in methanol using an Agilent 73-compound standard (DWM-525-1), an Agilent six-compound gas standard (DWM-544-1), and an Agilent three-compound ISTD mix (STM-320N-1), containing fluorobenzene (internal standard), 1,2-dichlorobenzene-d4 (surrogate), and BFB (surrogate). The ISTD/surrogate mix was added to each calibration stock solution at a level to give 5 µg/mL of each compound in the water. Agilent MassHunter Workstation software was used for data acquisition and processing.

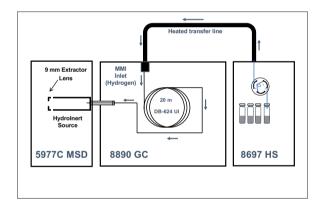


Figure 1. System configuration.

Figure 1 shows the system configuration used here. The operating parameters are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Gas chromatograph, mass spectrometer, and headspace sampler parameters for VOCs analysis.

Agilent 8890 GC Parameters Parameters Setpoints						
Inlet Temperature	200 °C					
Liner	Agilent Ultra Inert inlet liner, splitless, straight, 1 mm id (p/n 5190-4047)					
Carrier Gas	Hydrogen					
Column Flow	0.95 mL/min constant flow					
Injection Mode	Pulsed split					
Split Ratio	21:1					
Pulse Pressure	26 psig until 0.3 min					
Septum Purge Flow	3 mL/min					
Column	Agilent DB-624 Ultra Inert, 20 m × 0.18 mm, 1 µm (p/n 121-1324-UI)					
Oven Program	35 °C (0.25 min), ramp 25 °C/min to 240 °C (0.2 min) Run time 8.65 min					
Ag	ilent 5977C MSD					
MS Source	Hydrolnert Extractor with 9 mm Extractor Lens					
MS Tune	Etune					
MSD Transfer Line Temperature	250 °C					
MS Source Temperature	250 °C					
MS Quad Temperature	200 °C					
Scan Range	35 to 260 Da					
Scan Speed	A/D samples 4, TID on					
EM Gain Factor (Scan mode)	5					
SIM Method Dwell Time	10 to 60 ms, varied by time segment to maintain minimum cycle time of 6.7 Hz					
EM Gain Factor (SIM Mode)	2					

Agilent 8697 Headspace Sampler						
8697 Loop Size	1 mL					
Vial Pressurization Gas	Nitrogen					
HS Loop Temperature	75 °C					
HS Oven Temperature	75 °C					
HS Transfer Line Temperature	115 °C					
Vial Equilibration	12.00 min					
Injection Duration	0.30 min					
GC Cycle Time	15.00 min					
Vial Size	20 mL					
Vial Shaking	Level 9, 250 shakes/min with acceleration of 980 cm/s²					
Fill Mode	Default					
Fill Flow	50					
Fill Pressure	10 psi					
Pressure Equilibration Time	0.1 min					
Postinjection Purge	100 mL/min for 2 min					

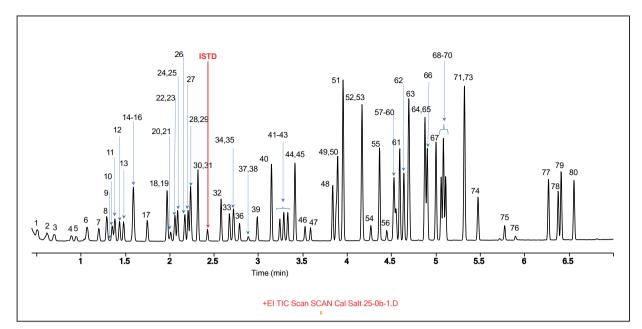


Figure 2. Total ion chromatogram (TIC) from the scan analysis of the 25 μ g/L standard. The numbers identifying the peaks correspond to the first column in Table 2.

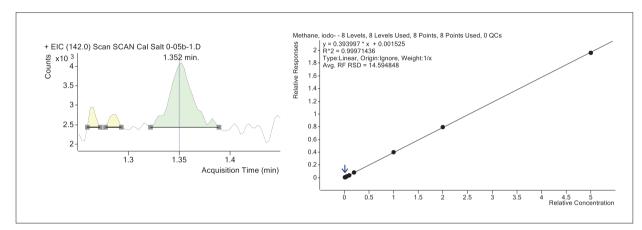


Figure 3. (A) quantifier EIC for iodomethane $0.05\,\mu\text{g/L}$ calibration standard. (B) calibration curve for iodomethane from $0.05\,\mu\text{g/L}$ to $25\,\mu\text{g/L}$.

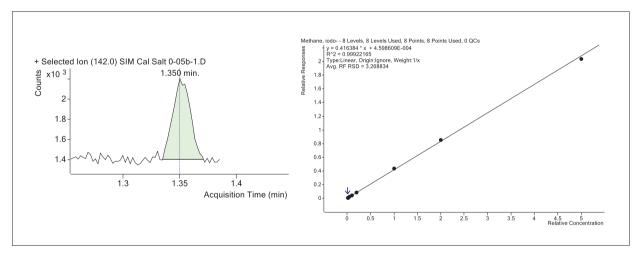


Figure 4. SIM results for iodomethane. (A) quantifier EIC for iodomethane 0.05 μ g/L calibration standard. (B) calibration curve for iodomethane from 0.05 μ g/L to 25 μ g/L.

Initial calibration (ICAL) with scan data

The chromatographic parameters used in the method resulted in good separation of the 80 VOC compounds in less than 7 minutes, as shown in Figure 2. While there are overlapping peaks, their response was measured selectively with the quantifier ions chosen. Most compounds had sufficient response to be measured at or below 0.1 μ g/L, and exhibit very good linearity. The average calibration range was 0.16 to 25 µg/L with an average R2 of 0.9978. If necessary, the relative standard error (RSE) value was used to guide removal of the lowest, and in one case highest, calibration points, to achieve an RSE value of <20% (except for acetone). The average Response Factor RSD was <20 for 76 analytes. As expected, polar compounds with higher solubility in water were the worst performers. Acetone is an example, where it also had a contamination issue as observed in the blank, resulting in poor calibration results. A typical example is shown in Figure 3, with the lowest calibrator and calibration curve for iodomethane.

Spectral fidelity

The 25 μ g/L VOC standard was analysed with the software, where spectra of the compounds were deconvoluted and searched against the NIST20 library. As seen in Table 2, the library match scores (LMS) are excellent, with an average of 94. There were only six compounds with LMS scores below 90, and these were due to low response and/or interference from overlapping peaks not completely removed by deconvolution. Nitrobenzene (compound 76 in Table 2) gave a very good LMS value of 94. Nitrobenzene reacts readily with hydrogen in a conventional MS source to produce aniline [4], resulting in low LMS values typically in the 60s. The Hydrolnert source greatly reduces in-source reactions with hydrogen, resulting in the high LMS value for nitrobenzene.

Initial calibration with SIM data

The results of the SIM mode calibration are listed in Table 3. As expected, for most compounds, SIM provided excellent calibration linearity and measurement at or below 0.05 $\mu g/L$.

The average calibration range was 0.07 to 24 μ g/L, with an average R2 of 0.9990. If necessary, the relative standard error (RSE) value was used to guide removal of the lowest and highest calibration points, to achieve an RSE value of <20% and for choosing between a linear or quadratic fit. For some compounds, a linear fit would meet the <20% RSE criteria, but come close to the limit. However, use of a quadratic fit would significantly improve the RSE. For example, tert-butylbenzene had an RSE of 18.3 with a linear fit, but changing to quadratic lowered the RSE to 8.1. Similar improvements were seen with some of the other substituted benzenes as well. As observed with the scan data calibration, the average response factor RSD was <20 for 76 analytes.

Figure 4 shows a typical example with the lowest calibrator and calibration curve for iodomethane. The improved signal-to-noise ratio provided by SIM, relative to that shown in Figure 3, is clear.

Method detection limits

An MDL study was performed after completion of the initial calibration. Eight trials were performed at the lowest level of calibration, $0.05~\mu g/L$. The calculated MDLs were obtained by applying the formula shown in Equation 1. For compounds with higher reporting limits, eight trials were performed at the concentration of $0.1~\mu g/L$. Table 3 lists the calculated MDLs for 80 VOCs. Six compounds had insufficient response, even at the $0.1~\mu g/L$ level, so the lowest calibration level used is listed instead in bold and square brackets. As noted in the scan results, acetone also had a contamination issue as observed in the blank, resulting in poor calibration results. The average MDL for the 80 compounds was $0.026~\mu g/L$.

Equation 1: Formula for MDL calculations.

 $MDL = s \cdot t(n - 1, 1 - alpha = 99) = s \cdot 2.998$

Where: t(n-1, 1-alpha) = t value for the 99% confidence level with n-1 degrees of freedom

n = number of trials (8)

s = standard deviation of the eight trials

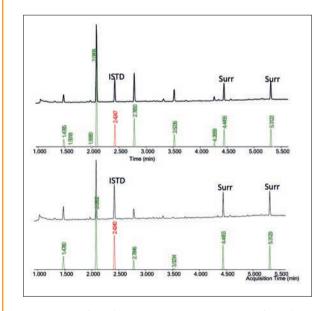


Figure 5. TIC (black) and deconvolution component (green) chromatograms of tap water samples. ISTD is shown in red. Top: Sample from Eastern Pennsylvania. Bottom: Sample from Southeastern Pennsylvania.

VOCs found in drinking water

Samples of municipal tap water from sources in the state of Pennsylvania were analysed using both the scan and SIM methods. Several VOCs were identified by searching their deconvoluted spectra against the NIST20 library. The chromatograms from two of the samples are shown in *Figure 5*. The concentration of VOCs was determined using quantitative analysis, with both the scan and SIM calibrations. The results are presented in *Table 4*.

Trichloromethane, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and tribromomethane (collectively known as the trihalomethanes) are very common in municipal water treated with chlorine for disinfection purposes.

Table 2. Peak identifications, calibration results, and deconvoluted library match scores against NIST20 for the scan analysis.

Q1 RSD CF Limit CF Limit
Q1 RSD Low (µg/L) High (µg/L) Compound Low (μg/L) High (μg/L) CF R² CF Weight Error LMS NIST20 Fluorobenzene [ISTD] 2.425 96 Dichlorodifluoromethane 0.615 50 0.9977 Chloromethane 52 14.4 1/x 16.2 0.05 Chloroethene 0.698 62 64 18.4 25 0.9995 1/x 91 Bromomethane 0.891 94 96 21.7 25 0.9995 Linear 1/x 4.2 96 64 66 13.6 Ethyl Chloride 0.9995 1/x 6.5 101 103 9.6 0.05 0.9994 1/x 1/x Ethyl ether 1.198 74 59 12.8 0.25 25 0.9992 Linear 11.4 97 1,1-Dichloroethen 1.288 61 96 6.7 0.05 25 0.9993 Linear 1/x 7.3 98 Acetone 112.5 0.9770 Linear 1/x 142 127 14.6 0.9997 11 Carbon disulfide 1.379 76 16.4 0.05 25 0.9997 1/x 95 Linear 76 41 13.9 12 Allyl chloride 1.432 0.1 25 0.9982 Linear 1/x 17.2 97 Methylene chloride 1.478 84 49 5.0 0.9996 1/x Linear 16.1 0.9940 15 trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene Linear 1.586 61 96 15.9 0.05 25 0.9991 1/x 17.5 99 57 Methyl tert-butyl ether 1.592 73 8.3 0.05 25 0.9991 Linear 1/x 9.6 98 1.745 9.4 1,1-Dichloroethane 0.05 0.9998 Linear 1/x 61 18 cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene 7.9 19 2,2-Dichloropropane 1.969 77 79 3.1 0.5 25 0.9994 1/x 3.7 80 Linear Propanenitrile 1.993 54 52 14.5 0.5 25 0.9943 Linear 1/x 16.4 67 55 85 12.2 67 52 4.6 2.008 0.9991 1/x 8.5 2-Propenoic acid, methyl ester 0.1 25 Linear Methylacrylonitrile 2.052 0.5 0.9994 1/x Bromochloromethane 2.059 130 128 15.4 0.1 0.9946 Linear 1/x 14.2 97 83 85 7.0 1/x 11.5 Tetrahydrofuran 72 19.1 0.25 0.9959 1/x Linear 1/x 1,1,1-Trichloroethane 2.168 97 99 14.9 0.05 25 0.9995 9.6 98 1-Chlorobutane 2.205 56 41 5.1 25 0.9997 Linear 1/x 6.6 97 1,1-Dichloropropene 75 110 18.5 0.9980 0.05 Linear 1/x 13.8 2.235 117 119 8.7 0.9983 30 2.315 78 77 10.4 0.05 25 0.9991 Linear 1/x 11.4 94 31 1,2-Dichloroethane 2.316 62 64 15.5 0.05 25 0.9989 Linear 1/x 9.8 98 2.577 130 132 18.7 1/x 12.4 1,2-Dichloropropane 63 62 10.8 0.9997 1/x Linear 34 Methyl methacrylate 2.713 100 69 8.4 0.1 25 0.9991 10.5 98 2.722 174 172 13.6 0.1 25 0.9989 Linear 1/x 98 Bromodichloromethane 0.9997 14.5 0.1 Linear 1/x 2.883 43 41 19.4 2-Nitropropane 0.9973 Chloromethyl cyanide 38 2.887 75 77 51.4 25 0.9947 1/x 9.7 63 cis-1,3-Dichloropropene 2.985 75 110 12.9 0.1 25 0.9956 Linear 1/x 12.4 98 91 92 2.9 1/x trans-1,3-Dichloropropene 75 3.239 7.1 0.05 0.9963 1/x 0.05 Ethyl methacrylate Linear 42 3.283 69 41 9.6 25 0.9989 1/x 10.5 98 97 1,1,2-Trichloroethane 3.328 11.0 0.1 25 0.9994 Linear 1/x 7.8 98 Tetrachloroethylene 164 166 10.0 0.9991 3.410 Linear 1/x 11.3 45 1,3-Dichloropropane 76 78 17.9 0.9978 129 127 3.524 6.0 0.1 25 0.9998 Linear 1/x 5.2 98 1,2-Dibromoethane 3.585 109 107 6.9 0.25 25 0.9989 Linear 1/x 9.1 99 112 114 8.7 0.05 1/x 12.8 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane 133 131 1/x 14.4 3.875 10.4 0.9968 91 50 Ethylbenzene 3.892 106 5.6 0.05 25 0.9992 Linear 1/x 4.3 98 m-Xylene 3.953 91 106 7.7 0.05 25 0.9991 Linear 1/x 4.6 99 91 106 4.164 6.7 0.05 0.9995 Linear 10.8 89 o-Xylene 1/x 4.169 104 103 13.0 0.05 0.9972 Tribromomethane 4.266 173 171 14.1 0.1 25 0.9993 Linear 1/x 11.2 99 55 Isopropylbenzene 4.364 105 120 15.9 0.05 25 0.9978 Linear 1/x 6.9 98 174 176 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane 9.4 4.521 83 1/x 58 4.530 158 156 11.4 0.1 25 0.9963 15.9 97 Linear 59 1,2,3-Trichloropropane 4.548 110 112 8.5 0.25 25 0.9960 Linear 1/x 84 trans-1,4-Dichloro-2-butene 89 88 9.9 0.25 0.9985 1/x 10.7 65 91 120 8.6 25 0.9989 4.592 0.05 1/x 62 2-Chlorotoluene Linear 4.638 91 126 7.9 0.05 25 0.9993 1/x 7.3 98 63 Mesitylene 4.692 105 120 11.6 0.05 25 0.9972 Linear 1/x 91 4.876 134 91 17.4 0.25 Linear 1/x 15.5 4.881 167 13.3 0.9967 1/x 66 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene 4.903 105 120 11.8 0.05 25 0.9975 Linear 8.4 98 67 1-Methylpropyl benzene 5.001 105 134 19.0 0.05 25 0.9955 Linear 1/x 11.9 98 146 148 10.8 Linear 1/x 13.3 0.9979 5.086 Linear 1/x 119 134 9.9 0.05 25 0.9994 6.9 97 70 1,4-Dichlorobenzene 5.110 146 148 9.7 0.05 25 0.9979 Linear 1/x 17.2 99 71 1,2-Dichlorobenzene-D4 [SURR] 5.313 152 150 146 1,2-Dichlorobenze 0.9993 5.325 148 12.0 0.05 25 1/x 74 Hexachloroethane 5.476 166 164 13.7 0.1 25 0.9979 Linear 1/x 14.4 97 75 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane 5.775 155 75 5.1 0.25 25 0.9982 Linear 1/x 8.2 76 Nitrobenzene 1/x Linear 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene 6.270 180 182 13.5 0.05 10 0.9990 1/x 15.1 1,1,2,3,4,4-Hexachlorobuta-1,3-diene 6.380 225 223 8.6 78 0.05 25 0.9997 Linear 1/x 9.6 91 128 127 7.1 6.413 0.05 25 0.9986 Linear 1/x 11.4 6.558 180 182 13.4 0.05 25 0.9942 Linear 1/x 12.5

Table 3. Calibration results, and method detection limits (MDL) using SIM acquisition.

No.	Compound Name	RT (min)	Tgt m/z	Q1	Avg. RF RSD	CF Limit Low (µg/L)	CF Limit High (µg/L)	CF R ²	CF	CF Weight	Rel. Std. Error	Conc. for MDL	MDL (µg/L
	Fluorobenzene [ISTD]	2.425	96	77									
1	Dichlorodifluoromethane	0.508	85	87	15.3	0.05	25	0.9994	Linear	1/x	11.6	0.10	0.01
2	Chloromethane	0.615	50	52	7.3	0.1	25	0.9997	Linear	1/x	8.4	0.10	0.022
3	Chloroethene	0.698	62	64	4.1	0.05	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	4.7	0.05	0.008
4	Bromomethane	0.891	94	96	4.1	0.05	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	4.4	0.10	0.029
5	Ethyl Chloride	0.945	64	66	4.5	0.05	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	4.7	0.05	0.010
6	Trichloromonofluoromethane	1.067	101	103	4.1	0.05	25	0.9997	Linear	1/x	4.3	0.05	0.00
7	Ethyl ether	1.198	74	59	6.4	0.05	25	0.9994	Linear	1/x	11	0.05	0.01
8	1,1-Dichloroethene	1.288	61	96	5.9	0.05	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	5.3	0.05	0.00
9	Acetone	1.317	58	43	102.2	1	10	0.9994	Linear	1/x	3.5	[cont]	
10	Iodomethane	1.350	142	127	3.3	0.05	25	0.9992	Linear	1/x	4.8	0.05	0.00
11	Carbon disulfide	1.379	76		12.6	0.1	25	0.9994	Linear	1/x	4.6	0.05	0.00
12	Allyl chloride	1.432	76	41	4.9	0.05	25	0.9997	Linear	1/x	6.4	0.05	0.01
13	Methylene chloride	1.478	84	49	12.2	0.1	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	5.2	0.05	0.00
14	Acrylonitrile	1.572	52	53	8.3	0.1	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	5.4	[0.25]	
15	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	1.586	61	96	7.1	0.05	25	0.9997	Linear	1/x	5	0.05	0.00
16	Methyl tert-butyl ether	1.592	73	57	4.2	0.05	25	0.9995	Linear	1/x	7.5	0.05	0.00
17	1,1-Dichloroethane	1.745	63	65	3.7	0.05	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	4.6	0.05	0.00
18	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	1.966	61	96	10.1	0.05	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	7.3	0.05	0.00
19	2,2-Dichloropropane	1.969	77	79	3.6	0.05	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	4.2	0.10	0.01
20	Propanenitrile	1.993	54	52	5.0	0.25	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	4.3	[0.25]	
21	2-Propenoic acid, methyl ester	2.008	55	85	11.0	0.05	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	14.8	0.10	0.02
22	Methylacrylonitrile	2.052	67	52	7.0	0.05	25	0.9988	Linear	1/x	11.4	0.10	0.03
23	Bromochloromethane	2.059	130	128	4.2	0.25	25	0.9991	Linear	1/x	3.5	0.10	0.0
24	Trichloromethane	2.086	83	85	12.2	0.25	10	0.9997	Linear	1/x	1.8	0.05	0.0
25	Tetrahydrofuran	2.090	72	71	3.3	0.05	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	4.2	0.05	0.0
26	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	2.168	97	99	4.9	0.05	25	0.9995	Linear	1/x	5.5	0.05	0.0
27	1-Chlorobutane	2.205	56	41	11.7	0.05	25	0.9997	Linear	1/x	7.3	0.05	0.0
28	1.1-Dichloropropene	2.205	75	110	7.3	0.05	25	0.9997	Linear	1/x	16.7	0.05	0.0
28	1,1-Dichloropropene Carbon Tetrachloride							0.9960		_			
_		2.235	117	119	7.5	0.05	25		Linear	1/x	13.1	0.05	0.0
30	Benzene	2.315	78	77	4.0	0.05	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	3.5	0.05	0.0
31	1,2-Dichloroethane	2.316	62	64	3.0	0.05	25	0.9993	Linear	1/x	3.3	0.05	0.0
32	Trichloroethylene	2.577	130	132	5.6	0.05	25	0.9993	Linear	1/x	6.9	0.05	0.0
33	1,2-Dichloropropane	2.671	63	62	4.9	0.05	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	4.6	0.05	0.0
34	Methyl methacrylate	2.713	100	69	9.4	0.05	25	0.9994	Linear	1/x	10.6	0.05	0.0
35	Dibromomethane	2.722	174	172	5.7	0.05	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	6.3	0.05	0.0
36	Bromodichloromethane	2.785	83	85	3.0	0.05	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	3.8	0.05	0.0
37	2-Nitropropane	2.883	43	41	8.9	0.1	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	8.6	0.10	0.0
38	Chloromethyl cyanide	2.887	75	77	81.1	0.25	25	0.9997	Quadratic	1/x	7.6	[0.25]	
39	cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	2.985	75	110	3.8	0.05	10	0.9994	Linear	1/x	3.6	0.05	0.0
40	Toluene	3.145	91	92	5.2	0.05	25	0.9997	Linear	1/x	4	0.05	0.0
41	trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	3.239	75	110	6.3	0.05	25	0.9956	Linear	1/x	12	0.05	0.0
42	Ethyl methacrylate	3.283	69	41	4.6	0.05	25	0.9990	Linear	1/x	4.7	0.05	0.0
43	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	3.328	97	99	5.4	0.05	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	2.5	0.05	0.0
44	Tetrachloroethylene	3.410	164	166	5.9	0.05	25	0.9994	Linear	1/x	9.9	0.05	0.0
45	1,3-Dichloropropane	3.412	76	78	5.8	0.05	25	0.9988	Linear	1/x	5.7	0.05	0.0
46	Dibromochloromethane	3.524	129	127	4.2	0.05	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	4.6	0.05	0.0
47	1,2-Dibromoethane	3.585	109	107	8.1	0.05	25	0.9993	Linear	1/x	3.6	0.05	0.0
48	Chlorobenzene	3.835	112	114	6.6	0.05	25	0.9948	Linear	1/x	12.9	0.05	0.0
49		3.875	133		5.0		25	0.9991			9.1	0.05	_
	1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane			131		0.05			Linear	1/x			0.0
50	Ethylbenzene	3.892	91	106	5.0	0.05	25	0.9994	Linear	1/x	4.7	0.05	_
51	m-Xylene	3.953	91	106	4.6	0.05	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	4.2	0.05	0.0
52	o-Xylene	4.164	91	106	6.5	0.05	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	4.9	0.05	0.0
53	Styrene	4.169	104	103	7.1	0.05	25	0.9988	Linear	1/x	6	0.05	0.0
54	Tribromomethane	4.266	173	171	5.4	0.05	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	4.7	0.05	0.0
55	Isopropylbenzene	4.364	105	120	6.0	0.05	25	0.9981	Linear	1/x	6.2	0.05	0.0
56	p-Bromofluorobenzene [SURR]	4.446	174	176									
57	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	4.521	83	85	8.0	0.05	25	0.9999	Quadratic	1/x	4.8	0.05	0.0
58	Bromobenzene	4.530	158	156	7.1	0.05	25	0.9998	Linear	1/x	5.4	0.05	0.0
59	1,2,3-Trichloropropane	4.548	110	112	8.2	0.05	25	0.9970	Linear	1/x	12.2	0.05	0.0
60	trans-1,4-Dichloro-2-butene	4.555	89	88	13.0	0.25	25	0.9999	Linear	1/x	2.2	[0.25]	
61	Propylbenzene	4.592	91	120	5.4	0.05	25	0.9988	Linear	1/x	5.8	0.05	0.0
62	2-Chlorotoluene	4.638	91	126	4.1	0.05	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	4.7	0.05	0.0
63	Mesitylene	4.692	105	120	5.9	0.05	25	0.9969	Linear	1/x	8.6	0.05	0.0
64	tert-Butylbenzene	4.876	134	91	10.5	0.05	25	0.9997	Quadratic	1/x	8.1	0.05	0.0
65	pentachloroethane	4.881	167	165	6.6	0.05	25	0.9953	Linear	1/x	6.6	0.05	0.0
66	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	4.903	105	120	6.8	0.05	25	0.9985	Linear	1/x	5.3	0.05	0.0
67	1-Methylpropyl benzene	5.001	105	134	5.3	0.05	10	0.9995	Linear	1/x	5.1	0.05	0.0
68	1,3-Dichlorobenzene	5.060	146	148	5.0	0.05	25	0.9990	Linear	1/x	7.6	0.05	0.0
			119	134	5.0						8.2		_
69	p-Cymene (4-Isopropyltoluene)	5.086				0.05	25	0.9994	Linear	1/x		0.05	0.0
70	1,4-Dichlorobenzene	5.110	146	148	5.4	0.05	25	0.9985	Linear	1/x	8.5	0.05	0.0
71	1,2-Dichlorobenzene-D4 [SURR]	5.313	152	150									_
72	n-Butylbenzene	5.322	91	92	9.8	0.05	25	0.9997	Quadratic	1/x	6.3	0.05	0.0
	1,2-Dichlorobenzene	5.325	146	148	5.4	0.05	10	0.9995	Linear	1/x	6.3	0.05	0.0
73	Hexachloroethane	5.476	166	164	5.0	0.05	25	0.9996	Linear	1/x	8.2	0.05	0.0
		5.775	155	75	15.2	0.05	25	0.9991	Linear	1/x	7.9	0.05	0.0
74	1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane						25	0.9992	Linear	14.	9.3	fo on	
74 75	1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane Nitrobenzene	5.896	77	51	8.5	0.25	25	0.9992	Lilleai	1/x	9.3	[0.25]	
73 74 75 76			77 180	51 182	8.5 6.1	0.25	10	0.9996	Linear	1/x	5.5	0.05	0.0
74 75 76 77	Nitrobenzene 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	5.896 6.270	180	182	6.1	0.05	10	0.9996	Linear	1/x	5.5	0.05	
74 75 76	Nitrobenzene	5.896											0.0

They are the products of reaction between chlorine and naturally occurring humic and fulvic acids, often present in source water. All trihalomethanes were confirmed in both samples with precisely matching retention times, qualifier ion ratios, and, except for tribromomethane, with good LMS search results. As expected, LMS values decrease with decreasing concentration of the analyte. The cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene are commonly found at trace levels in ground water from areas with a history of industrial activity. Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) was an additive to gasoline several years ago, used in response to federal mandates requiring specified levels of organic oxygen in gasoline. Its use was later banned when it began showing up in ground water as the result of leaking underground storage tanks at gasoline stations

Figure 6 shows the benefits of using both the scan and SIM methods on tap water samples. Spectral matching provides added confidence in the identification of compounds in the water samples.

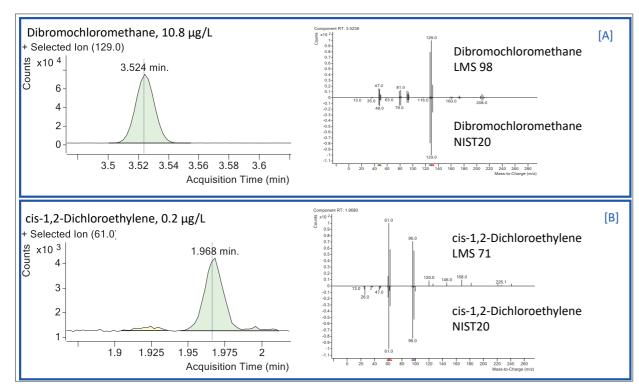
Figure 6 also shows the extracted SIM quantifier ions and deconvoluted spectra for four of the seven VOCs found in the Eastern PA water sample. Dibromochloromethane [A] is confidently identified with an RT that precisely matches that in the calibration table, an acceptable ratio of the qualifier to quantifier responses (not shown), and a very high library match score. As the concentration of an analyte decreases, the signal-to-noise ratio in the both the spectra and quantifier chromatograms also decrease. In Figure 6, the spectral information is useful down to about 0.1 µg/L. The SIM data, which identifies using precise RT matching and the ratio of the qualifier to quantifier response can be used to lower levels.

Conclusion

While helium remains the preferred carrier gas for GC/ MS, hydrogen has been shown here as a viable alternative if problems with the price and/or availability of helium arise. One of the key components contributing to system performance is the new HydroInert source, designed specifically for hydrogen use. In addition to the new source, chromatographic conditions were optimised to provide separation of 80 volatile compounds in 7 minutes. The results of the scan mode evaluation demonstrated excellent spectral matching against the NIST20 library, and excellent calibration linearity with an average range of 0.16 to 25 μ g/L.

The results of the SIM mode evaluation demonstrated excellent calibration linearity with an average range of 0.07 to 25 μ g/L, and an average MDL for the 80 compounds of 0.026 μ g/L.

^{*} Library match score lower due to low response of compound. ** Library match score lower due to overlapping spectra not completely removed by deconvolution



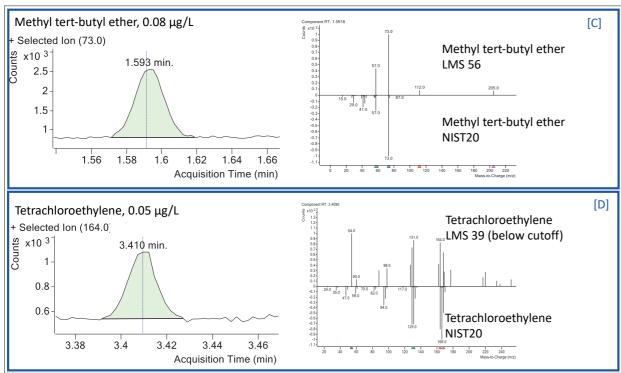


Figure 6. Quantifier ion extracted chromatograms from the SIM run and corresponding deconvoluted spectra from scan runs of the Eastern PA tap water sample

Table 4. Results from analysis of tap water samples.

		E	astern PA		Southeastern PA				
		Scan	Scan	SIM	Scan	Scan	SIM		
Name	RT (min)	LMS NIST20	Conc. (µg/L)	Conc. (µg/L)	LMS NIST20	Conc. (µg/L)	Conc. (µg/L)		
Methyl tert-butyl ether	1.592	56	0.08	0.08					
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	1.968	71	0.19	0.20					
Trichloromethane	2.087	98	43.47	44.08	97	21.03	20.90		
Bromodichloromethane	2.785	98	21.81	22.07	92	4.82	4.85		
Tetrachloroethylene	3.410			0.05					
Dibromochloromethane	3.524	98	11.34	10.80	68	0.69	0.69		
Tribromomethane	4.266	97	3.97	3.71			0.02		

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