

Collection and pre-selection of available data to be used for the risk assessment of malachite green residues by JECFA

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Residues from the use of malachite green, a compound illegally applied as veterinary drug in aquacultures intended for human consumption, are frequently reported to occur in fish and fish products. Legally, zero tolerance applies to all residues of malachite green including its main metabolite leucomalachite green which is the dominating residue in tissues of exposed fish. In the European Union (EU), a “minimum required performance limit” (MRPL) of 2 µg/kg has been set as action limit for internationally traded food consignments.

At the 16th session of Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) in Cancun, Mexico (May 8-12, 2006), several countries emphasized the need to conduct a risk assessment for the veterinary drug malachite green because of frequent detects in aqua-cultured fish resulting from illegal use. On behalf of Germany, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) proposed and agreed to collect all available data to be used for the preparation of a risk assessment report on malachite green residues by JECFA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives). A first summary report was presented at the 17th session of the CCRVDF in Breckenridge, CO, USA (September 3-7, 2007) and distributed as conference room document (CRD 9) to all delegations*. The preparation of the final report to be submitted to JECFA was requested by CCRVDF and agreed by BfR.

In the literature survey, all freely available scientific data (open literature) on malachite green and leucomalachite green has been collected, evaluated and data gaps have been identified. Based on the available data, it appears to be impossible to finally conclude if residues of malachite green or leucomalachite green pose a carcinogenic risk to humans. Current data suggest that malachite green and especially leucomalachite green may be carcinogenic and also provided some evidence that these compounds are *in vivo* mutagens. At this point, it appears to be unlikely for JECFA to succeed in establishing an ADI/TDI either for malachite green or leucomalachite green. Data may, however, be sufficient to conduct a “case-related” risk assessment on the basis of a “margin of exposure” (MOE) concept to evaluate consumer risks posed by contaminated foodstuffs (imported food). Alternative methods such as a “Threshold of Toxicological Concern” (TTC) concept may also be applicable to derive a risk-based MRL.

1 Introduction

Malachite green (MG) is a triphenylmethane dye used to color materials such as polyacrylonitrile fibres, silk, leather, and paper products (Srivastava et al., 2004). MG is also used as a veterinary drug applied as topical antiseptic or to treat parasites, fungal infections, and bacterial infections in fish and fish eggs (Campbel et al., 2001; Celada et al., 2004; King, 1992; Lanzing, 1963; Leteux, 1972; Morris et al., 2003; Olah and Farkas, 1978; Pickering and Pottinger, 1985; Pironer and Jones, 2000; Rahkonen et al., 2002; Schachte et al., 1974; Seng and Seng, 1992; Srivastava and Srivastava, 1978). Other applications are uses as biological stain, gain medium, to detect latent blood in forensic medicine or as pH indicator compound

* Codex Alimentarius Commission (2007), Risk Assessment of Malachite Green Residues - Literature Study (prepared by Germany), Conference Room Document (CRD 9), Agenda Item 9, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, Seventeenth Session, Breckenridge, Colorado, United States of America, 3 -7 September 2007.

(Akhavan et al., 2002; Atardi et al., 2000; Castella et al., 1997; Catap et al., 2003; Hornsby et al., 2000). Recently, Tripathi et al. (2007) also reported singular cases of illegal coloring of foodstuffs (sweets) with MG. The metabolite leucomalachite green (LMG) is formed by the reduction of MG and persists in the tissues of exposed fish (Plakas et al., 1996).

1.1 Legal situation concerning the use of MG as veterinary drug in the EU

MG is not listed in Annex I to III (registered substances) or Annex IV (prohibited substances) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90. Legally, zero tolerance applies to all residues of MG and LMG in foodstuffs (Heberer et al., 2007). To our knowledge, MG is currently not registered for use with food producing animals worldwide. Nevertheless, consumers are exposed to residues of MG as demonstrated by frequent detects of MG residues in fish and fish products most likely resulting from illegal use. Other contaminations by environmental sources (uses with ornamental fish, production sites or uses in consumer products) should also be additionally considered. In the European Union (EU), a “minimum required performance limit” (MRPL) of 2 µg/kg has been set as action limit for internationally traded food consignments which will not be rejected below this level. But technical feasibility alone and not potential health risks is the yardstick for the establishment of MRPLs which have never as a rule undergone a risk assessment. Furthermore, any other higher performance methods that are available and have been validated might also be used for the determination of MG or LMG residues. The MRPL is not a legally binding maximum level for the verification of a zero tolerance (Heberer et al., 2007).

2 Results of the literature survey

2.1 Application of MG as veterinary drug

MG was found to be highly active against mycoses caused by fungus *Saprolegnia* infecting fish and fish eggs in commercial aquaculture (Olah and Farkas, 1978; Srivastava and Srivastava, 1978). Additionally, it is also used for the treatment against ichthyophthirius (ciliate protozoa) in freshwater aquaria (Leteux and Meyer, 1972; Schachte, 1974). Dosage ranges from 100 ppm used for a few seconds as a dip application down to 0.15 ppm used in prolonged treatments of fish cultivated in ponds (Sudova et al., 2007). The advantages of the use of MG are low costs, high efficacy, missing alternatives and its availability which may be due to its multiple-use pattern (Sudova et al., 2007).

Data sheets for MG and LMG compiling some chemical information are attached as annex I to this document.

2.2 Reported residues of MG in fish and other aqua cultured products

Frequent detects of MG residues in fish and fish products have been reported. Results from routine monitoring investigations at the Institute of Ichthyology in Cuxhaven carried out in 2005 yielded 14 positive detects out of 166 investigated fish tissue samples. The highest residues were measured in caviar of trouts from Sweden (619 µg/kg) (LAVES, 2005a) and in an eel sample from China (3911 µg/kg) (LAVES, 2005b). In 2005, investigations by the Hong Kong Health Department revealed that freshwater fish, crabs and other aquaculture products from China contained MG (Xiaomin, 2005). Hong Kong's Food & Environmental Hygiene Department confirmed that 11 of 14 eel-based products tested from local supermarkets contained high levels of MG up to 4,500 µg/kg (up to 900 µg/kg for freshwater fish). The Hong Kong Health Department also released further test results showing that eight types of freshwater fish from China also contain malachite green, including grass carp, mandarin carp, milk fish, snakehead fish and California perch (Xiaomin, 2005). Further information about the reported residues of MG and LMG can be found in the annex II.

3 Environmental background concentrations

In a pilot study conducted by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) residues of MG and LMG have been detected in eels living downstream from municipal sewage effluents (Schuetze et al., submitted): “Residues of malachite green (MG), a veterinary drug illegally used for the treatment of aqua-cultured fish, have been found in wildlife fish caught from surface waters under the influence of effluents discharged by municipal sewage treatment plants (STPs). MG and its metabolite leucomalachite green (LMG) were detected with total concentrations up to 0.765 µg/kg fresh weight in tissues of eels caught from lakes, rivers and a canal in Berlin, Germany. The occurrence of the residues found in 25 out of 45 samples could directly be linked to the presence of discharges by municipal STPs into the receiving surface waters. MG is a multiple-use compound that is also used to color materials. Thus, it seems very likely that the residues of MG found in the eel samples originate from such uses, e.g. by wash off from clothes or paper towels colored with MG. Additional loads from legal uses of MG as veterinary drug for the treatment of ornamental fish (private aquaria) are possible. The results obtained from this study are the first proof of background contaminations of a veterinary drug found in samples of fish not intentionally treated with such agents.”

However, Schuetze et al. (submitted) also stated that “none of the samples exceeded the MRPL value of 2 µg/kg (for the sum of MG and LMG) set as action limit for internationally traded food consignments by the EU. Thus, an exceedance of this MRPL value in (imported) fish intended for human consumption may not be explained by background contaminations originating from purified municipal sewage effluents.”

4 Analytical methods

A number of different methods for the analysis of MG and LMG residues in fish and fish products have been described. This section compiles some general information. More detailed information is given in annex III.

The most commonly analyzed matrices were:

- Filets of various types of fish such as carp, channel catfish, eel, finfish, pangasius, rainbow trout, salmon, tiger shrimps, tilapia, tropical prawn, turbot or victoria perch
- Fish eggs and fry
- Fish plasma
- Drinking and river water

Most of the methods currently used to analyze MG and LMG residues are based on solvent extraction of fish tissues using acetonitrile or methanol in aqueous buffer solutions (pH 3-4.5). Purification of samples is often carried out by applying a combination of liquid/liquid partitioning and solid phase extraction (SPE) using RP-C₁₈ or cyano cartridges.

Often, liquid chromatography with UV/VIS detection (LC-UV/VIS) is used as analytical method for the detection and determination of MG and LMG. For such methods, limits of quantitation (LOQs) range from 0.75 µg/kg (Rushing and Thompson, 1997) to 7.6 µg/kg (Fink and Auch, 1993) when analyzing fish tissue samples. When using LC-VIS, the simultaneous determination of MG and its colorless metabolite LMG is possible by precolumn or postcolumn oxidation of LMG to MG using an in-liner oxidation reactor containing an appropriate oxidant. Many methods are using pre- or postcolumns filled with lead (IV) oxide (PbO₂) and a mixture of lead (IV) oxide and celite as oxidant, respectively. Other alternatives for the oxidation of leucometabolites incorporate an in situ oxidation using 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ).

The most recent and sensitive analytical methods for detection and determination of MG and LMG apply liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC/MS), liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS-MS) or liquid chromatography with detection by time-of-flight mass spectrometry (LC/TOF-MS). The LOQs for LC-MS methods range from 0.15 µg/kg (Turnipseed et al., 2005) to 0.25 µg/kg (Andersen et al., 2005). For methods applying LC-MS/MS the LOQs are between 0.18 µg/kg (Scherpenisse and Bergwerff, 2005) and 1.7 µg/kg (Effkemann, 2005). For the detection by LC-TOF-MS LOQs between 13 and 65 µg/kg have been reported (Herando, 2006). Generally, methods applying LC-MS/MS detection are preferable to other methods as they provide both high sensitivity and high selectivity for the unequivocal identification and undisturbed quantitation of such trace-level residues in often complex matrices.

Other methods for detection and determination of MG and LMG reported are using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC-MS) (Turnipseed et al., 1995), thin layer chromatography (TLC) (Klein and Edelhäuser, 1988), cavity ring-down absorption measurement with integrated flowing liquid-sheet jet (Alexander, 2006), electrochemical methods (Ngamukot et al., 2006; Sagar and Smyth, 1994) and analysis using a surface-enhanced Raman microfluidic sensor (Lee et al., 2007).

5 Toxicological Data

5.1 Toxicokinetics (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion)

Several studies reported that MG applied to water is rapidly taken up by fish and distributed into all organs. Bauer et al. (1988) demonstrated that about 90 % of the MG absorbed by treated rainbow trouts is stored in muscle tissue in its leucobase form as LMG. They also stated that a lower excretion of LMG is closely related to fish tissue lipid content. Thus, fatty fish also retained more LMG in their tissues. A rapid and extensive metabolism of MG into its reduced form LMG as well as a slow elimination of LMG from the tissues of channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and from juvenile eels (*Anguilla Anguilla*), respectively, was also reported by Plakas et al. (1996) and Bergwerff et al. (2004). Bauer et al. (1988) and Plakas et al. (1996) reported half-lives for MG and LMG in muscles of fish (rainbow trouts and channel catfish) of only less than 3 and 10-40 days, respectively. In a study by Henderson et al. (1997) several bacterial strains as well as human and other mammalian intestinal microflora were able to metabolize the MG to LMG. Therefore, it was concluded that intestinal microflora could also play an important role in the metabolic activation of MG to a potential carcinogen.

5.2 Acute toxicity

LC₅₀ values reported for fish were 30.5 µg/L for bluegills and 383 µg/L for Coho salmon (Bills et al. 1977). LD₅₀ values of 275 and 50 mg/kg body weight (oral) were reported for Wistar rats and NMRI mice, respectively (Clemmensen et al. 1984).

Hernando et al. (2007) demonstrated that MG "is very toxic to aquatic organisms". Evaluated EC_{50, 30 min} value reported for *V. fishery* was 0.031 mg/L.

Furthermore, some of transformation products generated during photolytic degradation of MG were reported to be more toxic to the marine bacteria *V. fishery* than the parent compound (Pérez-Estrada et al., 2007).

5.3 Genotoxicity

MG and LMG were tested for their potentials of mutagenicity in several *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies (*in vitro* Ames tests (Schneider et al., 2004), *in vitro* Comet assay (Fessard et al. 1999), *in vitro* and *in vivo* forward mutation assays (Mahudawala et al., 1999; Panandiker et al., 1992; Panandiker et al., 1993, 1994; Rao et al. 1998, 2000), *in vivo* micronucleus assay (Mittelstaedt et al., 2004), *in vivo* ³²P-post labeling studies for the investigation of DNA adduct formation (Culp et al., 1999, 2002; Sundarajan et al., 2000; Gupta et al., 2003), *in vivo* studies to investigate the induction of lac I mutation or cII mutation in the liver of Big Blue rats and Big Blue mice, respectively (Manjanatha, 2004; Mittelstaedt et al., 2004)). A study by Culp et al. (1999) indicated that feeding rodents MG or LMG resulted in a dose-related increase in liver DNA adducts. In a later study using a ³²P-postlabeling assay, Culp et al. (2002) observed a dose-related DNA adduct in the livers of rats fed 91, 272, and 543 ppm LMG. Culp et al. (2002) concluded that the results from their investigations suggest that the DNA adduct formed in the livers of rats fed LMG has little mutagenic or carcinogenic consequence.

Although the results from all these studies are ambiguous, there are some indications for a genotoxic potential of MG and LMG. Nevertheless, it is unclear whether or not the positive results in some of the *in vivo* studies were caused by direct DNA damage.

5.4 Teratogenicity

Teratogenic effects of MG in New Zealand white rabbits were reported (Jorgenson, 1977). However, a dose response could not clearly be established.

5.5 Chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity

Based on the results from a preceding 28 days toxicity study (Culp et al., 1999), the National Toxicology Program (NTP, 2005) conducted several two-year feeding studies for MG and LMG, respectively (Culp et al., 2006). Female F344 rats and female B6C3F1 mice were exposed to MG chloride in feed for 2 years. Additionally, male and female F344 rats and female B6C3F1 mice were exposed to LMG in feed for 2 years. There was equivocal evidence of carcinogenic activity of MG chloride in female F344/N rats but no evidence of carcinogenic activity of MG chloride in female B6C3F1 mice exposed to 100, 225, or 450 ppm. Equivocal evidence was also derived for the carcinogenic activity of LMG in male and female F344/N rats. Some evidence was concluded regarding the carcinogenic activity of LMG in female B6C3F1 mice.

Stammati et al. (2005) also pointed out that the potential toxicity of both MG and LMG remains an unsolved problem because observations concerning the LMG toxic action contain a number of contradictions. Thus, in certain instances the strongest tumour response was noticed in animals fed with LMG rather than MG, whereas in other studies the former was demonstrated as not being genotoxic or carcinogenic (Mittelstaedt et al., 2004). It is also not yet clear if the tumorigenicity responses to MG are dissimilar to those elicited by LMG as the two chemicals are known to be readily inter-convertible.

5.6 Other studies

De Angelis et al. (2003) and Stammati et al. (2005) conducted studies to ascertain the *in vitro* toxicity of MG and LMG in two human tumour cell lines (Caco-2 and HEP-2). In contrast to LMG, MG was found to be cytotoxic in tests with two cell lines of human origin. The HEP-2 cells were more sensitive than Caco-2 cells regarding toxic effects caused by MG. It was concluded that MG reduces proliferation capability and impairs mitochondrial activity.

Bose et al. (2005) founded out that MG is able to cause DNA damage, to induct the apoptosis and G2/M cell cycle arrest and causes elevated phosphorylation of ERK1 (Extracellular Regulated Kinase) and JNK1 (Jun-N-terminal Kinase) in exposed SHE cells.

6 Residue studies

Currently, the BfR conducts a study on the uptake of triphenylmethane dyes by fish. In this study, several supervised trials are conducted according to Good Veterinary Practice (GVP) as used for the treatment of ornamental fish. First results were obtained from supervised trials carried out in co-operation with the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL). In these trials MG, brilliant green (BG) and crystal violet (CV) were individually administered to carps raised in small ponds. Mean residues of triphenylmethane dyes in filets were 235 µg/kg for BG and 486 µg/kg for LMG, respectively. It was observed that these dyes accumulate better in livers than in filets. Despite of equal levels of treatment, MG was better absorbed than CV. MG residues were accumulated up to 75 % as LMG. CV was converted to 96% into leuco CV. Up to 112 days after the last treatment LMG can still be detected in the samples. Additional data is now also available from a recent article by Sudova et al. (2007) reporting results for MG residues (sum of MG and LMG) in the muscle tissue of various fish species after bath. These results were cited by Sudova et al. (2007) from an article by Mitrowska and Posyniak (2005) that is only available in Polish.

7 Identification of Further Data Gaps

Information on practical importance of MG especially in view of its multiple uses (veterinary applications, uses as dye in consumer products or illegal uses in foodstuffs) is missing. Residue data from supervised trials conducted according to Good Practice in the Use of the Veterinary Drugs (GPVD) is missing. Thus, more information is needed on the uptake, distribution, and bioaccumulation of MG residues and on possible interspecies variations. There is also insufficient information on possible background contaminations (analytical background/noise or environmental background concentrations). Some toxicological data is missing. Mechanistic studies, studies on reproductive toxicity and additional teratogenicity studies are needed.

8 Preliminary conclusions

- MG has proven to be highly efficient for the treatment of mycosis in fish eggs and fish from aquaculture.
- Consumers are exposed to residues of MG although MG is not registered for use with animals intended for human consumption.
- The legal situation is clear but not finally satisfactory both regarding global trade and risk assessment of illegal but occurring residues.
- Based on the available data, it appears to be impossible to finally conclude if residues of MG or LMG pose a carcinogenic risk to humans.
- However, there is some evidence of carcinogenic activity of LMG in female mice and a non-threshold mechanism cannot be excluded. Based on the available data an ADI/TDI cannot be established either for LMG or MG which is easily reduced to LMG.
- This is in line with the summary of the toxicological evaluation report for MG and LMG by the Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSCJ, 2007) and with the conclusions of the assessment report entitled "Risk assessment of MG in food" of the National Food Institute of Denmark (Olesen et al., 2007).
- Additional toxicological data will be required for a comprehensive risk assessment. Such toxicological data should be derived from mechanistic studies, studies on reproductive toxicity and additional (new) teratogenicity studies.

- The literature survey has shown that essential data will usually not be available in the open literature. Such data will only be found in reports from sponsor trials which were not available in this case.
- Nevertheless, current data appear to be sufficient to conduct a “case-related” risk assessment on the basis of a “margin of exposure” (MOE) concept to evaluate potential consumer risks by contaminated foodstuffs. Such an approach has already previously been applied for the evaluation of MG residues in fish and caviar samples by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR).
- MG is a multiple-use compound. It may be used legally (ornamental fish) or illegally (fish for human consumption) as veterinary drug in aquacultures or as dye in consumer products. Even illegal uses as coloring agent in foodstuffs have been reported. Different sources must be considered to calculate the total exposure to MG residues. Thus, a holistic risk assessment approach is needed for the evaluation of MG residues.
- Additionally, an alternative risk assessment concept such as a “Threshold of Toxicological Concern” (TTC) may be applicable to derive a risk-based MRL.
- As long as such concepts are not accepted, action should be taken to find alternatives to MG for the treatment of mycosis in fish eggs or in fish from aquaculture and to ban the use of MG for the treatment of food producing animals.

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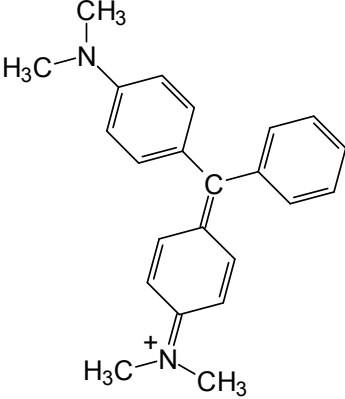
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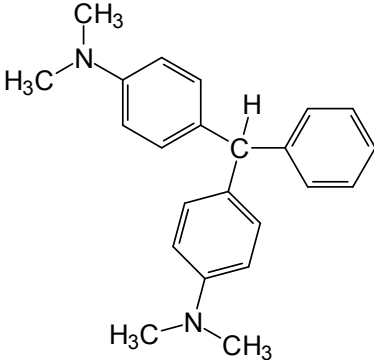
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Annex I

Compilation of information for Malachite Green and Leucomalachite Green

Common Name	Malachite Green
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Name	4-[(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-phenyl-methyl]-N,N-dimethyl-aniline
CAS number	10309-95-2 (Malachite Green) 2437-29-8 (oxalate) 569-64-2 (chloride)
Classification	
Therapeutic	None (used as aquatic fungicide, parasiticide, bactericide)
Pharmacological	None
Synonyms and abbreviations	Aniline green, Basic green 4, Diamond green B, Victoria green B, Benzaldehyde green, Acryl Brilliant green, China green, Fast green and others.
Structural formula	
Molecular formula	$C_{23}H_{25}N_2^+$
Molecular weight	329.45 g/mol
Description of physical properties:	
Melting point:	~ 159 °C (oxalate form)
Boiling point:	Not available
Vapour pressure:	Not available
Solubility in water and organic solvents, expressed in g/l, with indication of temperature	110 g/l H ₂ O (24 °C, oxalate form) Soluble in methanol and ethanol: No figures given.
Density	Not available
Refractive index, Optical rotation	Not available
pKa	6.9
Appearance	Deep Green Crystalline solid
Uses	
Non-prohibited (legal) uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – veterinary drug in aquacultures (ornamental fish) – dye in consumer products (silk, leather, paper) – biological stain – gain medium, to detect latent blood in forensic medicine – pH indicator compound
Illegal uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – veterinary drug in aquacultures (fish for human consumption) – coloring agent in food stuffs (sweets)

Common Name	Leucomalachite Green
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) name	4,4'-Benzylidenebis(N,N-dimethylaniline)
CAS no	129-73-7
Classification	
Therapeutic	None (Metabolite of Malachite Green)
Pharmacological	None (Metabolite of Malachite Green)
Synonyms and abbreviations	4,4'-Benzylidenebis(N,N-dimethylaniline)
Structural formula	
Molecular formula	C ₂₃ H ₂₆ N ₂
Molecular weight	330.47
Degree of impurity	Variable. Generally higher purity than malachite green.
Qualitative and quantitative composition of impurities	Malachite green and degradation products.
Description of physical properties:	
Melting point:	~ 100-102 °C
Boiling point:	Not available
Vapour pressure:	Not available
Solubility in water and organic solvents, expressed in g/l, with indication of temperature	Slightly soluble in water.
Density	Not available
Refractive index, Optical rotation	Not available
Appearance	White to light coloured powder.
Uses	None - Metabolite of Malachite Green

Annex II

Overview of reported residues of Malachite Green (MG) and Leucomalachite Green (LMG) in fish and other aqua-cultured products

References	Fish types	Year	Residue concentration [$\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$]		Sample origin	Detection
			MG	LMG		
Rasmussen (2007)	Farmed fish	2005		5.6 and 6.1 ¹	Imported to Denmark	-
		2005		2.7 ²	Denmark	
		2003	2 ³	28 ³		
		1991	4 and 5 ^{1, 4}			
		1989	5-17 ⁵	not analyzed		
		1988	15-214 ⁶	not analyzed		
	Eel	2002	1-300	> 100	China	
	Eel, Trouts, Seatrouts	2000		< 4 ⁷	Denmark	
Tittlemier et al. (2007)	Fresh water trout (caviar)	2002		0.95	Canada	LC-MS/MS
		2003		0.73		
	Shrimp	2002	1.2			
LAVES (2005a)	Trout (Sweden)		619		-	HPLC
LAVES (2005b)	Eel (China)		3911		-	-
Xiaomin (2005)	Eel-based products		4500		Local supermarket (Hong Kong)	-
	Fresh water fish		900			

¹ 2 positive samples of 5 samples

² 1 positive sample of 117 samples

³ 1 positive sample of 23 samples

⁴ 2 positive samples of 49 samples

⁵ 6 positive samples of 20 samples

⁶ 13 positive samples of 49 samples

⁷ 4 positive samples of 20 samples

References	Fish types	Year	Residue concentration [$\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$]		Sample origin	Detection
			MG	LMG		
Scherpenisse and Bergwerff (2005)	Trout		24	0.15	Local retailer Utrecht	LC-MS/MS
	Pangasius		7			
Valle et al. (2005)	Salmon (muscle)		< 0.15-7.0 ⁸		Chile Pacific Ocean	LC-UV/VIS
Food Standards (2005)	Trout	2005 ⁹	3	30 and 12	Australia	LC-MS/MS or GC-MS
	Silver Perch		28	110		
	Basa			21; 4; 23; 88; 8; 5; 29		Vietnam
Food Standards (1999)	Trout	1995	2-35 ¹⁰		-	-
		1996	3-31 ¹¹			
		1997	2-12 ¹²			
		1998	8 ¹³	4-150 ¹⁴		
Bergwerff and Scherpenisse (2003)	Eel			1.7-7.0	Utrecht (NL) local retailer & vendors	HPLC-UV/VIS Or LC-MS/MS
	Rainbow trout			1.3-14.9		
	Fresh Salmon			0.2-2.9		
	Smoked Salmon			0.2		
Rushing and Thompson (1997)	Trout		0.2	0.2	Local supermarket (stored at -20 °C)	HPLC-UV/VIS
	Catfish		0.2	0.1		
Klein and Edelhäuser (1988)	Fresh trout		1-440		Stuttgart, Sigmaringen	HPLC
	Deep-frozen trout		5-20			

⁸ Sum of MG and LMG residues, individual compounds not specified

⁹ 10 positive samples of 60 samples

¹⁰ 35 positive samples of 210 samples

¹¹ 15 positive samples of 208 samples

¹² 2 positive samples of 137 samples

¹³ 1 positive sample of 27 samples

¹⁴ 6 positive samples of 27 samples

Annex III

Overview of existing analytical methods for the determination of Malachite Green (MG) and Leucomalachite Green (LMG)

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Alexander (2006)	MG standard	---	---	---	flowing liquid-sheet jet in CRDS ¹⁵	MG: LOD: 71nM	---
Allen and Meinertz (1992)	MG oxalate standard	---	---	Postcolumn: PbO ₂ + Celite	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	CMG ¹⁶ and LMG: LOD: 0.12-0.28 ng	---
Allen et al. (1992)	Water	---	SPE: Diol column + filtrated	Postcolumn: PbO ₂ + Celite	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG: LOD 10 µg/L	CMG: 95.4 % LMG: 57.3 %
Allen et al. (1994)	rainbow trout: Eggs, fry, adult muscle	1 % (v/v) acetic acid in ACN ¹⁷ or in MeOH ¹⁸	Partitioned with chloroform	Postcolumn: PbO ₂ + Celite	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	---	Eggs: MG: 85-98 % Fry: MG: 68 % Muscle: MG: 66 %
Andersen et al. (2005)	Salmon	ammonium acetate buffer + ACN	Partitioned with chloroform, SPE: alumina + propylsulfonic acid	DDQ ¹⁹	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG: LOQ: 1 µg/kg	MG: (95.4 ± 11.1)%; (88.9 ± 2.6)%
Andersen et al. (2006)	Channel catfish, rainbow trout, tilapia, basa, atlantic salmon, tiger shrimps	ammonium acetate buffer + ACN	Partitioned with chloroform, SPE: alumina + propylsulfonic acid	DDQ	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG: LOQ: 1 µg/kg	MG: (88.7 ± 4.5)% Trout: (87.9 ± 3.4)% Tilapia: (95.0 ± 4.1)% Shrimps: (91.4 ± 4.2)%
					LC-MS	MG: LOQ: 0.25 µg/kg	
Applied Biosystems (2006)	MG- and LMG-standards	---	---	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: LOD: 0.005 µg/kg LMG: LOD: 0.005 µg/kg	---

¹⁵ CRDS: cavity ring-down spectroscopy

¹⁶ CMG: chromatic malachite green

¹⁷ ACN: Acetonitril

¹⁸ MeOH: Methanol

¹⁹ DDQ: 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Bajc et al. (2007)	Rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, carp	Hydroxylamine + p-toluensulfonic acid + ammonium acetate buffer + ACN+ dichloromethane	J.T. Baker neutral alumina + Varian Bond Elut PRS-SPE columns	none	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm) LC-FLD ²⁰ (265 nm, 370 nm)	MG: CC _α = 0.6 µg/kg CC _β = 1.0 µg/kg LMG: CC _α = 0.5 µg/kg CC _β = 0.9 µg/kg	MG ²¹ : 62 % (trout) 47 % (carp) LMG ²² : 72 % (trout) 77 % (carp)
Barek et al. (1976)	MG-standard	---	---	Cerium(IV) sulfate	Visual titration with 0.01N ascorbic acid	---	MG: 99.98 %
					Spectrophotometric (462 nm)	---	MG: 99.99 %
Bauer et al. (1988)]	Rainbow trout + their organs	ACN	Defatted with hexane	PbO ₂	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG: LOQ: 1 µg/kg	75 %
Bergwerff and Scherpenisse (2003)	Catfish, eel, rainbow trout, salmon, tropical prawns, turbot	Mc Ilvaine buffer : sodium hydrogen phosphate buffer + ACN	Dehydrated with dichloromethane SPE: aromatic sulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO ₂	LC-UV/VIS (620 nm)	MG: LOQ: 1 µg/kg LMG: LOQ: 1 µg/kg	LMG: (86 ± 15) % (prawn) (105 ± 14) % (eel)
					LC-MS/MS	MG: LOQ: 0.2 µg/kg LMG: LOQ: 0.2 µg/kg	
Bergwerff et al. (2004)	Glas eel	Mc Ilvaine buffer + ACN	Dehydrated with dichloromethane SPE: aromatic sulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO ₂	LC-MS/MS	MG: LOD: 0.2 µg/kg LMG: LOD: 0.2 µg/kg	MG: (61 ± 6) % LMG: (88 ± 10) %

²⁰ FLD: Fluorescence detector

²¹ Recovery at a fortification level of 2 µg/kg

²² Recovery at a fortification level of 2 µg/kg

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Ding et al. (2007)	Roasted eel meat	Hydroxylamine hydrochloride + <i>p</i> -toluensulfonic acid + ammoniumacetate buffer + CAN + dichlormethane	SPE: Oasis MCX cartridge	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: LOD: 0.004 µg/kg LMG: LOD: 0.02 µg/kg	MG ²³ : (101 ± 3.7) % LMG ²⁴ : (94 ± 11) %
Doerge et al. (1998b)	Catfish, trout	ammonium acetate containing hydroxylamine HCl + <i>p</i> -toluenesulfonic acid + ACN	Liquid-liquid partitioning + SPE	---	LC-MS	MG: LOD: 0.02 µg/kg LMG: LOD: 0.5 µg/kg	MG: 49.5 % LMG: 76.7 %
Dowling et al. (2007)	Salmon	Mc Ilvaine buffer + ACN	SPE: aromatic sulfonic acid	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: CC _α = 0.17 µg/kg CC _β = 0.30 µg/kg LMG: CC _α = 0.15 µg/kg CC _β = 0.35 µg/kg	MG: (103.7 ± 6.6) % LMG: (95.7 ± 4.7) %
Edelhäuser and Klein (1986)	Edible fish	ACN	Defatted with hexane	---	thin layer chromatography	No quantification	
					LC-UV/VIS (600 nm)	MG: LOD : 1 µg/kg	
Effkemann (2007)	Carp, trout	ACN	Dehydrated with dichlormethane	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: CC _α = 1.2 µg/kg CC _β = 1.4 µg/kg LMG: CC _α = 1.4 µg/kg CC _β = 1.7 µg/kg	---
Fink and Auch (1993)	Trout	ACN + dichlormethane	Defatted with hexane	PbO ₂	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG : LOD = 3.6 µg/kg LOQ = 7.6 µg/kg LMG : LOD = 3.9 µg/kg LOQ = 7.3 µg/kg	MG: 74 % LMG : 71%
Fornier de Violet et al. (1995)	Rainbow trout	---	---	---	Reflectance spectrofluorimetry (640 nm)	MG: LOD: 5 µg/kg	MG: 40 %

²³ Recovery at a fortification level of 2 µg/kg

²⁴ Recovery at a fortification level of 2 µg/kg

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Hajee and Haagsma (1995)	Eel plasma	Buffered methanolic solution	SPE: aromatic sulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO ₂ + Celite	LC-UV/VIS (610 nm)	MG : 5.0 µg/L LMG: 0.9 µg/L	MG: (82 ± 1) % LMG: (83 ± 1) %
Halme et al. (2003)	Rainbow trout	ACN - acetate buffer + partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO ₂ + Celite	LC-UV/VIS (600 nm)	MG: LOD = 0.8 µg/kg LOQ = 1.6 µg/kg LMG: LOD = 0.6 µg/kg LOQ = 1.2 µg/kg	MG: 65-74 % LMG : 65-74 %
					LC-MS/MS	MG: LOD = 2.5 µg/kg LMG: LOD = 1.0 µg/kg	
Halme et al. (2007)	Edible fish	ACN - acetate buffer + partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: CC _α = 0.13 µg/kg CC _β = 0.22 µg/kg LMG: CC _α = 0.16 µg/kg CC _β = 0.27 µg/kg	MG: (58-65 ± 7.8-11.2)% LMG: (59-68 ± 9.7-16.9) % LMG: recovery based on the internal standard (103-110 ± 4.8-9.3) %
Herando et al. (2006)	Salmon	ACN	SPE: Bondesil-NH ₂	---	LC-TOF ²⁵ -MS	MG: CC _α = 8 µg/kg CC _β = 13 µg/kg LMG: CC _α = 38 µg/kg CC _β = 65 µg/kg	MG: (100 ± 7) % LMG: (100 ± 9) %
Hormazabal et al. (1992)	Muscle and liver of rainbow trout	Acetic acid + CH ₃ CN-CHCl ₃	Defatted with hexane and diethylether	---	LC-UV/VIS (615 nm)	MG: muscle: 1 µg/kg MG: liver: 10 µg/kg	MG: (101-116 ± 2.5-8.0) %
Klein and Edelhäuser (1988)	Edible fish	ACN	Dehydrate with dichloromethane SPE: silica gel	---	LC-UV/VIS (600 nm)	MG: LOQ: 1 µg/kg	MG: 70-80 %
					Thin layer chromatography	MG: LOD: 0.1-0.2 µg/ 2ml sample solvent	
Lee et al. (2006)	Edible goldfish	Solution of perchloric acid + ACN	Partitioning with dichloromethane; Strata-x polymeric SPE	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: LOD: 0.13 µg/kg LMG: LOD: 0.06 µg/kg	MG: 71 % LMG: 89 %

²⁵ TOF: time-of-flight

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Lee et al. (2007)	Water	---	Silver colloids in a PDMS ²⁶ microfluid channel + filtrated	---	LC-SERS ²⁷	MG: 1-2 µg/kg	---
Matysik (1998a)	MG standard	---	---	---	CE ²⁸ -ED ²⁹	---	---
Matysik (1998b)	MG standard	---	---	---	CE-ED	---	---
Meinertz et al. (1995)	Eggs and fry of rainbow trout	1 % (v/v) acetic acid in ACN or in MetOH	Partitioned with chloroform	Postcolumn: PbO ₂ + Celite	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	---	¹⁴ C-MG: 76 %
	Water	---	---	---	LC-UV/VIS (615 nm)		
Milanova and Sitholé (1997)	MG-standard	---	Different SPEs are compared	---	LC-UV/VIS (650 nm)	MG: LOD: 20 µg/L	SCX ³⁰ : MG: 87 %
Mitrowska and Posyniak (2004)	Rainbow trout	ACN	Partitioned with water, dichloromethane and diethylene glycol + SPE: alumina + propylsulfonic acid	---	LC-UV/VIS (621 nm) LC-FLD ³¹ (265 nm, 360 nm)	MG : LOD: 5 µg/kg	MG: 80 %
Mitrowska et al. (2005)	Carp	ACN	Partitioned with water, dichloromethane and diethylene glycol + SPE: alumina + propylsulfonic acid	---	LC-UV/VIS (621 nm) LC-FLD ³² (265 nm, 360 nm)	MG: CC _α = 0.15 µg/kg CC _β = 0.37 µg/kg LMG: CC _α = 0.13 µg/kg CC _β = 0.32 µg/kg	MG: (62 ± 11) % LMG: (90 ± 9) %

²⁶ PDMS: Polydimethylsiloxane

²⁷ SERS: surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy

²⁸ CE: Capillary electrophoresis

²⁹ ED: Electrochemical detection

³⁰ SCX: Strong cation exchanger

³¹ FLD: Fluorescence detector

³² FLD: Fluorescence detector

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Möller (2007)	Carp, rainbow trout	Mc Ilvaine buffer + ACN	Defatted with hexane, SPE: aromatic sulfonic acid	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: $CC_{\alpha} = 0.65 \mu\text{g/kg}$ $CC_{\beta} = 0.89 \mu\text{g/kg}$ LMG: $CC_{\alpha} = 0.65 \mu\text{g/kg}$ $CC_{\beta} = 0.93 \mu\text{g/kg}$	---
Ngamukot et al. (2006)	MG and LMG standards	---	---	BDD ³³ electrodes (electrochem. oxidation)	FIA ³⁴ with amphoteric detection	MG and LMG: LOD: 50 nM	---
Pourreza and Elhami (2007)	Fish farming and river water	Micelles of non-ionic surfactant Triton-X-100	---	---	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG: LOD: 1.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$	MG: 99.4 %
Plakas et al. (1995)	Fish plasma	ACN	---	Postcolumn: PbO_2	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG: LOD: 10 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LMG: LOD: 10 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	MG: (93 \pm 6)% LMG: (87 \pm 5) %
	Muscle of channel catfish	ACN-acetate buffer, reextracted with ACN, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: alumina + propylsulfonic acid			MG: LOD: 2 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LMG: LOD: 2 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	MG: (85 \pm 4)% LMG: (95 \pm 3)%
Roybal et al. (1995)	Catfish	ACN buffer, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO_2	LC-UV/VIS (618 nm)	MG: LOD = 0.1 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LOQ = 1.2 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LMG: LOD = 0.1 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LOQ = 1.5 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	MG: (72.7 \pm 5.2)% LMG: (86.0 \pm 6.8)%
Rushing and Thompson (1997a)	Catfish, trout	ACN buffer, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO_2	LC-UV/VIS (588 nm)	Catfish: MG and LMG LOD = 0.45 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LOQ = 0.75 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ Trout : MG and LMG LOD = 0.83 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LOQ = 1.4 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	Catfish: MG and LMG (74.3 \pm 3.3)% Trout: MG and LMG: (71.8 \pm 2.7)%
Rushing and Hansen (1997b)	Catfish	ACN buffer, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO_2	LC-EC LC-UV/VIS LC-FD	---	---

³³ BDD: Boron-doped diamond thin-film

³⁴ FIA: Flow injection analysis

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Safarik and Safarikova (2002)	Water	---	Magnetic SPE	---	LC-UV/VIS (620 nm)	MG: LOD: 0.5-1 µg/L	MG: 22 %
Sagar and Smyth (1994)	Water	---	Cyano SPE	---	LC-amperometric detection at a carbon fibre electrode	MG: LOD: 0.28 µg/L	CMG: 41-82 %
Scherpenisse and Bergwerff (2005)	Finfish, pangasius, salmon, tilapia, trout, victoria perch, catfish, eel, tropical prawns, turbot	Mc Ilvaine buffer + ACN	Dehydrate with dichloromethane SPE: aromatic sulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO ₂	LC-MS/MS	MG and LMG for salmon: CC _α = 0.11 µg/kg CC _β = 0.18 µg/kg	LMG: From (86 ± 15)%; prawn to (105 ± 14)%; eel
Stoev and Stoyanov (2007)	Edible fishes	Mc Ilvaine buffer + ACN, partitioned into methylene chloride	Defatted with hexane, SPE: SCX ³⁵	Postcolumn: PbO ₂	LC-DAD ³⁶ , LC-MS/MS	---	MG: (42.7-51.6 ± 5.6-21.9)% LMG: (23.7-37.5 ± 10.8-20.4)%
Swarbick et al. (1997)	Rainbow trout	Solvent of dichloromethane, ACN, perchloric acid	C ₁₈ SPE	Postcolumn: PbO ₂	LV-UV/VIS (610 nm)	MG : LOD: 6 µg/kg LMG: 3 µg/kg	MG: 73-87% LMG: 89-98%
Tarbin et al. (1998)	Trout	Citrate buffer + ACN	Dichloromethane, SPE: SCX	PbO ₂	LC-UV/VIS (screening, 618 nm)	No LOD was established!	MG: (69.1-71.3 ± 4.4-7.0)% LMG: (91.2-97.3 ± 2.3-14.3)%
					LC-MS (confirmation)	MG: LOD: 0.4 µg/kg LMG: LOD: 0.5 µg/kg	MG: (61.0-64.2 ± 9.3-11.7)% LMG: (74.4-75.3 ± 5.0-14.0)%

³⁵ SCX: Strong Cation Exchanging Agent

³⁶ DAD: Diode array detection

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Turnipseed et al. (1995a)	Catfish	ACN buffer, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	---	Partical beam-LC-MS	MG and LMG: LOD: 20 µg/kg	---
Turnipseed et al. (1995b)	Catfish	ACN buffer, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid, cyano SPE	---	GC-MS	LMG: LOQ: 5.0 µg/kg	LMG: (95.9 ± 11.1)%
Turnipseed et al. (2005)	Salmon	ACN buffer, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid, cyano SPE	DDQ	LC-MS	MG: LOQ: 0.15 µg/kg	MG and LMG: (86-109 ± 6.4-13)%
Turnipseed et al. (2006)	Salmon	ACN buffer, partitioned into methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid, cyano SPE	DDQ	Comparison of: LC-ND-APCI ³⁷ -MS LC-ESI ³⁸ -MS	LOD by: ND-APCI: 0.5 pg ESI: 5 pg APCI: 500 pg	MG and LMG: (86-109 ± 6.4-13)%
Valle et al. (2005)	Salmon	Mc Ilvaine buffer + ACN	Dichloromethane, SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	Precolumn: PbO ₂	LC-MS	LOD: 0.15 µg/kg	MG: (70 ± 3.1)% LMG: (85 ± 1.3)%
Van de Riet et al. (2005)	Salmon	Perchloric acid + ACN	SPE: octadecyl C ₁₈	---	LC-MS/MS	MG: LOD = 0.1 µg/kg LOQ = 0.3µpg/kg LMG: LOD = 0.1 µg/kg LOQ = 0.3 µg/kg	MG: 98 % LMG: 81 %

³⁷ ND-APCI: No-discharge atmospheric pressure chemical ionization

³⁸ ESI: Electrospray ionization

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Wu et al. (2007)	Grass carp, eel, salmon, shrimp, shellfish	Mc Ilvaine buffer + p-toluensulfonic acid + TMPD ³⁹ + ACN	SPE: OASIC MCX SPE columns	---	LC-MS/MS	<u>MG: [µg/kg] CC_α</u> <u>CC_β</u> Eel 0.06 0.09 Salmon 0.07 0.12 Shrimp 0.05 0.08 Shellfish 0.08 0.13 Grass carp 0.04 0.04 <u>LMG: [µg/kg] CC_α</u> <u>CC_β</u> Eel 0.04 0.06 Salmon 0.04 0.07 Shrimp 0.04 0.07 Shellfish. 0.02 0.04 Grass carp 0.05 0.09	<u>MG [%]⁴⁰</u> Eel 101.1 Salmon 85.9 Shrimp 97.9 Shellfish 100.2 Grass carp 102.0 <u>LMG [%]⁴¹</u> Eel 96.6 Salmon 105.2 Shrimp 99.6 Shellfish. 102.1 Grass carp 95.4
Xue and Yeung (1993)	MG standard	---	---	---	On-column double – beam laser absorption detection for CE	MG: LOD: 20 nM	---
Yang et al., (2007)	Edible fish	Mcllvaine buffer + ACN + dichlor-methane	Anion exchanger AG 1 resin	-	ELISA	MG and LMG: LOD: 0.05 µg/L	MG: 71-108 % LMG: 62-105 %

³⁹ TMPD: N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-1,4-phenylenedi-amine dihydrochloride

⁴⁰ Recovery of MG [%] at the spiking level of 2 µg/kg

⁴¹ Recovery of LMG [%] at the spiking level of 2 µg/kg

References	Matrix	Extraction	Clean-Up	Oxidation	Detection	Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery data
Zhu et al. (2007)	Edible fish	ACN + ammonium acetate buffer, partitioned against methylene chloride	SPE: Alumina and propylsulfonic acid	Postcolumn: PbO ₂	LC-MS/MS	MG and LMG: LOD: 0.5 µg/kg	MG and LMG: LOD: (77.6-98.1 ± 8.2)%