

# Analytical Methods

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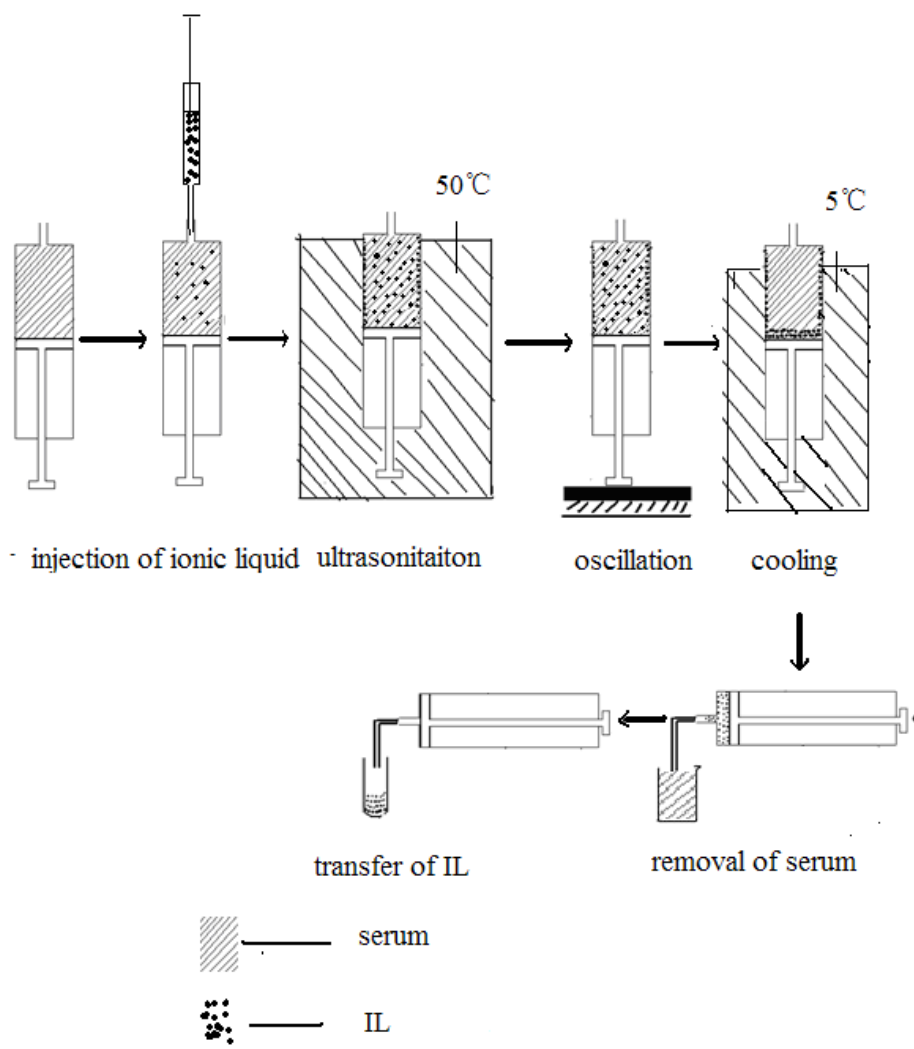


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1 **In - syringe ionic liquid dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction**  
2 **for the determination of sulfonamides in blood using**  
3 **high-performance liquid chromatography**  
4

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29 **Abstract**

30

31 In - syringe ionic liquid dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction was developed and  
32 applied for the extraction of sulfonamides in blood. High-performance liquid  
33 chromatography was applied to the determination of the analytes. The parameters  
34 affecting the extraction efficiency, including volume of ionic liquid, salt concentration,  
35 pH value of system, extraction time and temperature, and cooling time were  
36 investigated. The limits of detection for sulfadiazine, sulfamethyldiazine,  
37 sulfamethizole, sulfachlorpyridazine, sulfamethoxazole and sulfisoxazole were 12.30,  
38 2.22, 3.19, 1.67, 2.93 and 1.58 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. When the present method was  
39 applied to the analysis of blood samples, the recoveries of the analytes ranged from  
40 87.0 to 115.3 % and relative standard deviations were lower than 7.2 %.

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42 *Key words:* In - syringe ionic liquid dispersive liquid-liquid system; Blood;  
43 Sulfonamides; High-performance liquid chromatography.

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## 58 1. Introduction

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60 Sulfonamides (SAs) are synthetic antimicrobial medicines and frequently used for  
61 prevention or treatment diseases of animals in all the countries of the world [1]. The  
62 SAs are used in animal husbandry, aquaculture and also used as medicines to treat  
63 many kinds of infection [2]. The overuse of the medicines may lead to the  
64 contamination in livestock products, which can give rise to an increase in the  
65 antibiotic resistance of pathogenic bacteria [3]. Long-term use of SAs can result in  
66 serious side effects, such as emiction and hemopoiesis turbulence. To protect public  
67 health, many government authorities restrict the dose of SAs strictly. So it is of great  
68 importance to develop an effective method for determinating trace level SAs.

69 Therefore, there is a need for the development of simple rapid inexpensive method  
70 for determining SAs. At present, a number of analytical methods such as capillary  
71 electrophoresis (CE) [4,5], gas chromatography (GC) [6,7], and high performance  
72 liquid chromatography (HPLC) [8,9,10] have been applied for determination of SAs.  
73 The methods using HPLC coupled with various detection methods such as ultraviolet  
74 (UV) [11,12], photodiode array (PDA) [13], fluorescence [14] or mass spectroscopy  
75 (MS) [15] have received a lot of attention. Compared with other detection methods,  
76 when UV was applied, lower cost will be paid. Therefore, HPLC coupled with UV  
77 detection is most widely applied [11]. Solid-phase extraction (SPE) [16,17],  
78 solid-phase microextraction (SPME) [18,19], matrix solid-phase dispersion [20],  
79 liquid-liquid extraction (LLE) [21], liquid phase microextraction (LPME) [22,23]  
80 were commonly used as sample pretreatment techniques for the determination of SAs.  
81 However, LLE can lead to the consumption of a large amount of organic solvent. The  
82 precision obtained by LPME was relatively poor due to the manually handling of a  
83 small amount of extraction solvent.

84 The dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction (DLLME) was developed by Assadi  
85 and co-workers [24,25], and has attracted much attention in recent years for its  
86 superior advantages of high enrichment factor, perfect recovery, low cost, rapid and

87 easy operation [26]. The conventional IL-DLLME [27] is simple and no extra energy  
88 is required. The method is based on the simple mixture of the aqueous sample with  
89 the hydrophobic IL used as extraction solvent and the dispersive solvent. The mixture  
90 can be manually stirred. Temperature-controlled IL-DLLME [28] requires heating of  
91 the sample and the hydrophobic ILs is used as extraction solvent. The cooling of the  
92 extraction system is required before the phase separation. In the ultrasound-assisted  
93 [29] or microwave-assisted IL-DLLME [30], ultrasound and microwave are required,  
94 respectively, to facilitate dispersion of the hydrophobic IL into the sample solution  
95 and to ensure the complete extraction of the analytes. In in-situ IL-DLLME [31], the  
96 hydrophilic IL is used as extraction solvent. The anion exchange reagent is then added  
97 in the aqueous sample containing hydrophilic IL and the hydrophobic IL is formed. In  
98 Ionic liquid/ionic liquid dispersive liquid–liquid microextraction (IL/IL-DLLME) two  
99 kinds of nonvolatile ILs, hydrophobic IL and hydrophilic IL, were used as extraction  
100 solvent and dispersion solvent, respectively [32]. The method is based on the  
101 emulsification of hydrophobic IL in an aqueous sample. In the IL-DLLME methods  
102 mentioned above the separation between aqueous phase and IL phase is carried out by  
103 the centrifugation. IL-DLLME has been applied for extraction of polycyclic aromatic  
104 hydrocarbon [33], organophosphate esters [34], phthalate esters [35], anilines [36] and  
105 SAs [37].

106 In this work, in - syringe IL-DLLME was applied to the extraction of SAs in blood  
107 samples. Several factors affecting the extraction were evaluated. Some real samples  
108 were analyzed and the application of the present method in pharmacokinetic  
109 investigation was developed. Compared with IL-DLLME, The centrifugation for  
110 separating the ionic liquid from sample solution was not required and the operation  
111 was simpler.

112

## 113 **2. Experimental**

114

### 115 *2.1. Reagents and chemicals*

116

117 Sulfadiazine (SDZ), sulfamethyldiazine (SMZ), sulfamethizole (STZ),  
118 sulfachlorpyridazine (SCP), sulfamethoxazole (SMX) and sulfisoxazole (SSZ) were  
119 obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company (St. Louis, MO, USA). The purity  
120 of all the compounds was higher than 98%. The structures of these SAs are shown in  
121 Fig.1. Standard stock solutions for the SAs at the concentration level of  $500 \mu\text{g. mL}^{-1}$   
122 were prepared in acetonitrile containing  $5.24 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$  acetic acid. The working  
123 solutions were obtained by diluting the stock solutions with pure water.  
124 1-Hexyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate ( $[\text{C}_6\text{MIM}][\text{PF}_6]$ ) was purchased  
125 from Shanghai Chengjie Chemical Reagent Co. Ltd. Formic acid was of  
126 analytical-reagent grade and purchased from Beijing Chemical Factory (Beijing,  
127 China). Sodium chloride of analytical grade was purchased from Beijing Chemical  
128 Factory (Beijing, China). Anhydrous sodium sulfate of analytical grade was purchased  
129 from Tianjin Fengchuan Chemical Factory (Tianjin, China). Chromatographic grade  
130 acetonitrile was purchased from Fisher Scientific Company (UK) and pure water was  
131 obtained with a Milli-Q water purification system (Millipore Co., USA). Heparin  
132 saline (12500u Heparin: 1000ml 0.9% saline; Hebei Changshan Biochemical  
133 Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Shijiazhuang, China), gavage needle, and sulfamethoxazole  
134 Tables(Shanghai New Asia Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Shanghai, China) were used.

135

## 136 2.2. Instruments

137

138 The 1100 series liquid chromatograph (Agilent Technologies Inc., USA) equipped  
139 with UV detector and quaternary gradient pump was used. Zorbax Eclipse Plus- $\text{C}_{18}$   
140 column (150mm $\times$ 4.6mm,  $3.5 \mu\text{m}$ , 162 Agilent, USA) and a  $\text{C}_{18}$  guard column (7.5  
141 mm $\times$  2.1 mm I.D.,  $5 \mu\text{m}$ ) were used. The KQ-100DE ultrasonic cleaner was  
142 purchased from Kunshan Ultrasonic Instrument Co., Ltd. (Kunshan, China). The  
143 frequency and output power of the ultrasonic cleaner are 40 kHz and 100 W,  
144 respectively. The SH-39 oscillator was purchased from Shanghai Zhenghui Instrument

145 Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China).

146

### 147 *2.3. Samples*

148

149 In the study, five kinds of samples were used. The fresh human blood sample  
150 (Sample 1) was obtained from local hospital. Rabbit blood sample (Sample 2) was  
151 obtained from local animal experiment center. Pig (Sample 3), cow (Sample 4) and  
152 chicken (Sample 5) blood samples were obtained from local market. Except for the  
153 experiments mentioned in Section 3.3, which were performed with all five samples,  
154 all other results were obtained with sample 1. The spiked samples containing SAs  
155 were prepared by adding the working solutions into blood samples and stored at 4 °C  
156 for one week.

157 Five male Japan big-eared white rabbits (2.5-3.2 Kg, 5 months old) were provided  
158 by laboratory animal centre of Jilin University (License NO. SCXK (Ji) 2009-0003)  
159 for the pharmacokinetic investigation. All animals were kept from birth under housing  
160 conditions (temperature:  $22 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ; relative humidity,  $60 \pm 3\%$ ; 12-hour  
161 light/darkness cycle; low noise disturbances), allowing free access to a standard diet  
162 in pellets with water. All experimental protocols were in accordance with the guidance  
163 suggestions for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, formulated by the Ministry  
164 of Science and Technology of China (The Ministry of Science and Technology of the  
165 Peoples Republic of China. Guidance Suggestions for the Care and Use of Laboratory  
166 Animals. 2006-09-30) .

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### 168 *2.4. HPLC-UV conditions*

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170 The mobile phase consists of acetonitrile containing  $2.67 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$  formic acid (A)  
171 and  $2.67 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$  formic acid aqueous solution (B). The gradient program is as  
172 follows: 0–10 min, 10–30 % A; 10–20 min, 30–34 % A; 20–21 min, 34–35 %A;



173 21–24 min, 35 % A and 24–30 min, 35–10 % A. The flow rate of mobile phase was  
174 kept at 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup> and column temperature was kept at 40 °C. The injection  
175 volume of analytical solution was 10 µL. The monitoring wavelength was 270 nm.

176

### 177 *2.5. Extraction procedure*

178

179 The extraction procedure is shown in Fig. 2. 10 mL of blood sample was  
180 centrifuged at 5 °C for 10 min at 15,000 rpm. The upper serum was withdrawn into  
181 10 mL syringe and then 200 µ L [C<sub>6</sub>MIM][PF<sub>6</sub>] was withdrawn into the syringe. The  
182 syringe was immersed into the ultrasound bath for 2 min at 50°C, and then shaken for  
183 6 min on oscillator. The resulting extract was cooled at 5 °C for 40 min. When the  
184 extract was cooled the hydrophobic ionic liquid was deposited in the inner surface of  
185 the syringe and upper surface of the plunger. When the plunger of the syringe was  
186 depressed, the serum phase was first pushed out and then the ionic liquid phase was  
187 pushed into 0.5 mL centrifuge tube. The anhydrous sodium sulfate was added in the  
188 centrifuge tube to remove the water. The resulting [C<sub>6</sub>MIM][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase was filtered  
189 with 0.22 µ m PTFE filter membrane before analysis.

190

## 191 3 Results and discussion

192

### 193 *3.1. Optimization of extraction conditions*

194 In order to obtain high extraction efficiency, the effects of experimental parameters,  
195 including the volume of ionic liquid, salt concentration, pH value of system,  
196 extraction time, temperature and cooling time were investigated.

197

#### 198 *3.1.1. Salt concentration*

199

200 Generally, the addition of salt in DLLME can cause a decrease in solubility of the  
201 analytes in water, and extraction efficiency can be improved. In order to investigate  
202 the effect of salt concentration on the performance of IL-DLLME a series of  
203 experiments were performed by adding NaCl (0–5%, w/v). As shown in Fig. 3, when  
204 the concentration of NaCl increases from 0 to 2%, the recoveries for analytes increase  
205 except for SDZ and the recovery of SDZ decreases slightly. However, when salt  
206 concentration is higher than 2%, the recoveries of the analytes decrease. Too high  
207 concentration of salt can cause the increase in viscosity of solution and the solubility  
208 of IL in water, which can result in the decrease of extraction efficiency. Finally,  
209 concentration of NaCl was selected as 2%.

210

### 211 *3.1.2 Effect of pH of system*

212

213 The solubility of **SAs** in water is related to the pH value, so the pH value has a  
214 significant effect on the extraction recoveries of the analytes. The effect of pH value  
215 of the sample solution in the range of 2.0-10.0 on the extraction recoveries was  
216 studied. The detailed information can be found in Fig. 4. The highest extraction  
217 recoveries are obtained when pH is 4.0. When the pH value of solution is higher than  
218 7.0, the recoveries of SAs decrease significantly and the peak shape change. At low  
219 pH, SAs would be protonated, and are easily soluble in the aqueous phase. The log  
220 Pow (Pow, octanol-water partition coefficient) values of SAs are lower than 1.0,  
221 which means that SAs are easily soluble in water and not easily miscible with proteins  
222 and lipids. Therefore, when pH is low, SAs would easily distribute into the IL phase  
223 which is beneficial to the extraction of SAs. However, when pH is high, SAs are  
224 insoluble in water and easily miscible with proteins and liquids, which is not  
225 beneficial to the extraction of SAs. Therefore, the pH value of 4.0 was optimal.

226

### 227 *3.1.3. Effect of extraction time*

228

229 The extraction time includes ultrasonic time and oscillation time. Both ultrasonic  
230 and oscillation can effectively stimulate the transfer of the analytes from sample to the  
231 IL phase. The ultrasonic should be more effective than oscillation. However, long  
232 ultrasonic time can made the temperature of the system increase. So, both ultrasonic  
233 and oscillation were applied to the extraction of the analytes.

234 As shown in Fig. 5, the recoveries of the target analytes increase gradually with the  
235 increase of the ultrasonic time ranging from 1 to 2 min. The extraction time longer  
236 than 2 min would not affect the extraction efficiency. The extraction equilibrium can  
237 be achieved in short time and the phase-transfer of the target analytes is fast.  
238 Therefore, ultrasonic time of 2 min was selected.

239 The effect of oscillation time on the recoveries was evaluated. The detailed  
240 information can be found in Fig. 6. The recoveries of the target analytes increase  
241 gradually with the increase of the oscillation time ranging from 0 to 6 min. When  
242 oscillation time is longer than 6 min, the recoveries of the target analytes decrease. It  
243 may because long oscillation time can cause the loss of ionic liquid. Therefore,  
244 oscillation time of 6 min was selected.

245

#### 246 *3.1.4. Effect of extraction temperature*

247

248 Temperature has a significant effect on solubility and mass transfer of the analytes.  
249 The increase of the temperature should be beneficial to the increase of the transfer rate  
250 of the analytes from the sample to the extraction solvent, which is beneficial to the  
251 increase of the recoveries of the analytes. However, excessively high temperature  
252 could result in the decomposition of the analytes and the increase of the solubility of  
253 IL, which is not beneficial to the increase of the recoveries of the analytes. The effect  
254 of extraction temperature on the recoveries was evaluated from 20 °C to 60 °C. The  
255 recoveries of the analytes increase with the increase of temperature from 20 to 50 °C,

256 and then remain unchanged up to 60 °C. As shown in Fig. 7. The extraction  
257 temperature of 50 °C was chosen in this study.

258

### 259 *3.1.5. Effect of cooling time*

260

261 After the extraction was completed the syringe was cooled in ice water. The effect  
262 of the cooling time ranging from 0 to 60 min was examined. The detailed information  
263 can be found in Fig. 8. The recoveries of the target analytes decrease gradually with  
264 the increase of the cooling time from 0 to 20 min. When cooling time is longer than  
265 20 min, the recoveries of the target analytes increase gradually with the increase of the  
266 cooling time. When the cooling time is longer than 40 min, the recoveries of the  
267 analytes slightly decrease. The temperature decreases with the increase of the cooling  
268 time. Both the temperature and time can affect the solubility of ionic liquid and the  
269 partition ratio of the analytes in the system. So the effect of cooling time is slightly  
270 complicated. Therefore, cooling time of 40 min was selected.

271

### 272 *3.2. Analytical performances*

273

274 SAs were determined under the above optimized conditions. Fig. 9 shows  
275 chromatograms of the standard solution and blood sample.

276 The working curves were constructed by plotting the peak areas measured versus  
277 the concentrations of analytes in the spiked samples. The linear regression equations  
278 and the correlation coefficients are listed in Table 1. The limit of detection (LOD) and  
279 quantification (LOQ) indicated in Table 1 are determined as the lowest concentrations  
280 yielding a signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio of 3 and 10, respectively.

281 Repeatability was evaluated by determining target analytes in spiked blood samples.  
282 The intra-day precision was obtained by analyzing the samples five times in one day.  
283 The inter-day precision was achieved by analyzing the samples once a day in five

284 consecutive days. The results are presented in Table 1 and indicate that the present  
285 method has good repeatability. Long-term stability of analytes in blood sample during  
286 sample storage was evaluated. The spiked samples were prepared according to the  
287 method mentioned in Section 2.3, kept in centrifuge tube and then stored for 1, 2, 3, 4,  
288 6 and 8 weeks at 4 °C, respectively. All experiments were performed in five replicates.  
289 The results are listed in Table 2. The recoveries and RSD values range from 87.0 to  
290 115.3 % and from 0.7 to 7.2 %, respectively. It can be concluded that the SAs in the  
291 blood samples were stable for at least one month.

292

### 293 *3.3. Analysis of samples*

294

295 In order to evaluate the applicability of the present method, this method was  
296 applied to the determination of the residues of the SAs in blood samples. The results  
297 are listed in Table 3. It can be seen that the present method provides good recoveries  
298 (88.4-115.6%) and acceptable precision ( $\leq 7.3$  %).

299

### 300 *3.4. Pharmacokinetic investigation*

301

302 Before the experiment, five male rabbits were starved for at least 12h, but water  
303 was given ad libitum. Oral doses (nominal 13 mg/kg body weight) of SMO was  
304 administered by syringe as a solution in distilled water (25–35ml). After dosing,  
305 rabbits were housed singly in stainless-steel cages, and 3mL blood samples were  
306 collected from ear vein in 2ml centrifuge tube after oral administration for 0, 0.25, 0.5,  
307 0.75, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 24, 48h, respectively. All the blood samples were stored at  
308 -20°C until analyzed. The curve of SMO concentration in blood - time is shown in  
309 Fig. 10. The  $C_{\max}$  of SMO is  $8.2 \mu \text{g.mL}^{-1}$  appearing about at 1h.

310

### 311 *4. Conclusion*

312

313 The in - syringe IL - DLLME was successfully applied to the extraction of the SAs  
314 from blood samples. The IL was used as extraction solvent. The extraction was carried  
315 out in a syringe. The separation of IL phase and serum phase was carried out by  
316 moving the plunger of the syringe. No centrifugation was required and the operation  
317 was simplified. The LODs and recoveries of the SAs were 1.58-12.30 ng. ml<sup>-1</sup> and  
318 88.4-115.6 %, respectively. The pharmacokinetic investigation was carried out and  
319 the curve of SMO concentration in blood – time was obtained. So it seems possible to  
320 extend this method to the extraction of SAs in other similar samples by varying the  
321 extraction conditions.

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401 **Figure captions**

402

403 **Fig. 1.** Chemical structures of SAs.

404 **Fig. 2.** Extraction procedure

405 **Fig. 3.** Effect of NaCl concentration on the recoveries of the analytes.

406 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200µl; Ultrasonication time 2 min; Oscillation time,

407 6 min; Cooling time, 40 min;

408 **Fig. 4.** Effect of pH concentration on the recoveries of the analytes.

409 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200µl; NaCl amount, 0.2 g; Ultrasonication time, 2

410 min; Oscillation time, 6 min; Cooling time, 40 min.

411 **Fig. 5.** Effect of ultrasonication time concentration on the recoveries of the analytes.

412 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200µl; NaCl amount, 0.2 g; Oscillation time, 6 min;

413 Cooling time, 40 min.

414 **Fig. 6.** Effect of oscillation time concentration on the recoveries of the analytes.

415 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200µl; NaCl amount, 0.2 g; Ultrasonication time, 2

416 min; Cooling time, 40 min.

417 **Fig. 7.** Effect of temperature concentration on the recoveries of the analytes.

418 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200µl; NaCl amount, 0.2 g; Ultrasonication time, 2

419 min; Oscillation time, 6 min; Cooling time, 40 min.

420 **Fig. 8.** Effect of cooling time concentration on the recoveries of the analytes.

421 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200 µ l; NaCl amount, 0.2 g; Ultrasonication time,

422 2 min; Oscillation time, 6 min.

423 **Fig. 9.** Chromatograms of standard solution (A) blood sample (B) and spiked blood sample (C)

424 1. SDZ; 2. SMZ; 3. STZ; 4. SCP; 5. SMX; 6. SSZ.

425 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200µl; NaCl amount, 0.2 g; Ultrasonication time, 2

426 min; Oscillation time, 6 min; Cooling time, 40 min. The concentration of analytes in standard

427 solution: SDZ, 532 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SMZ, 535 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; STZ, 589 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SCP, 543 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SMX,

428 532 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SSZ, 570 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>. The concentration of the analytes in spiked sample: SDZ, 23.1

429 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SMZ, 23.3 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; STZ, 25.6 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SCP, 23.6 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SMX, 23.1 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>; SSZ,

430 24.8 ng. mL<sup>-1</sup>.

431 **Fig.10.** Curve of SMO concentration in plasma - time

432 Sample amount, 10 mL; C<sub>6</sub>[MIM]PF<sub>6</sub> volume, 200μl; NaCl amount, 0.2 g; Ultrasonication time, 2

433 min; Oscillation time, 6 min; Cooling time, 40 min.

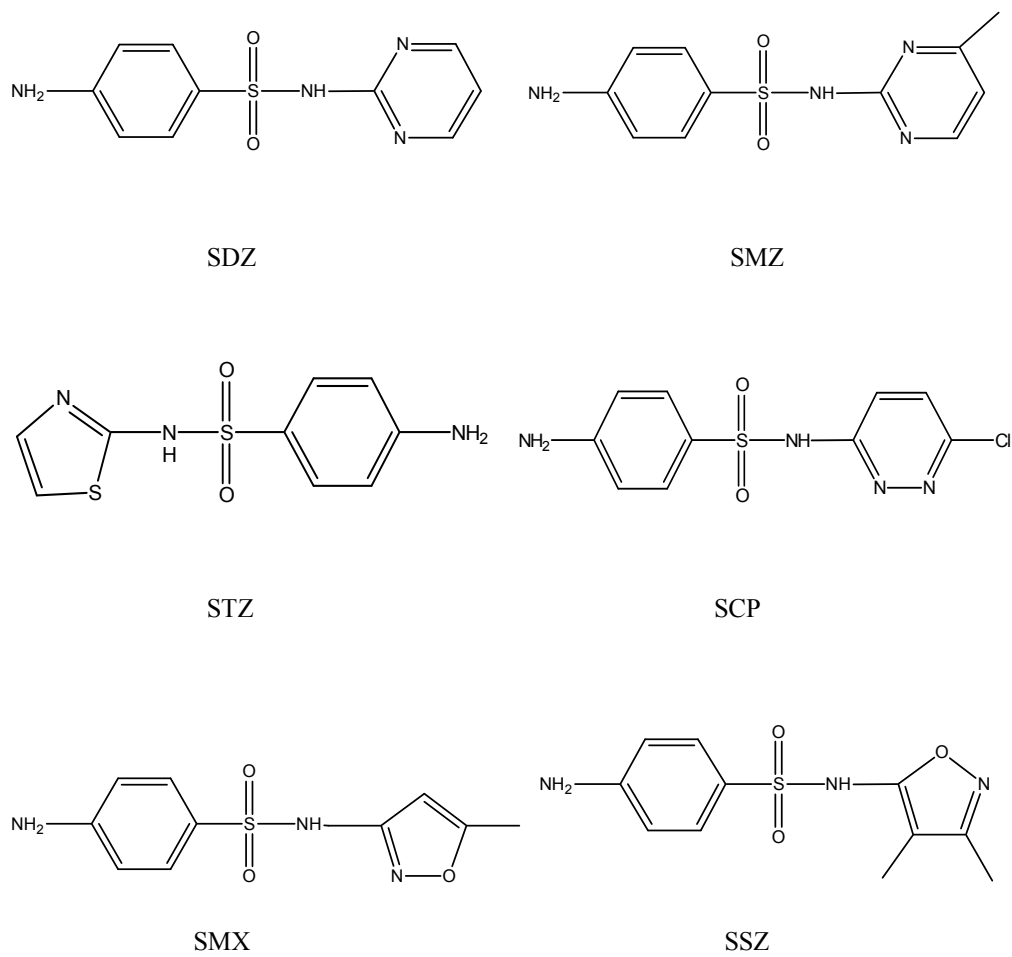


Fig. 1.

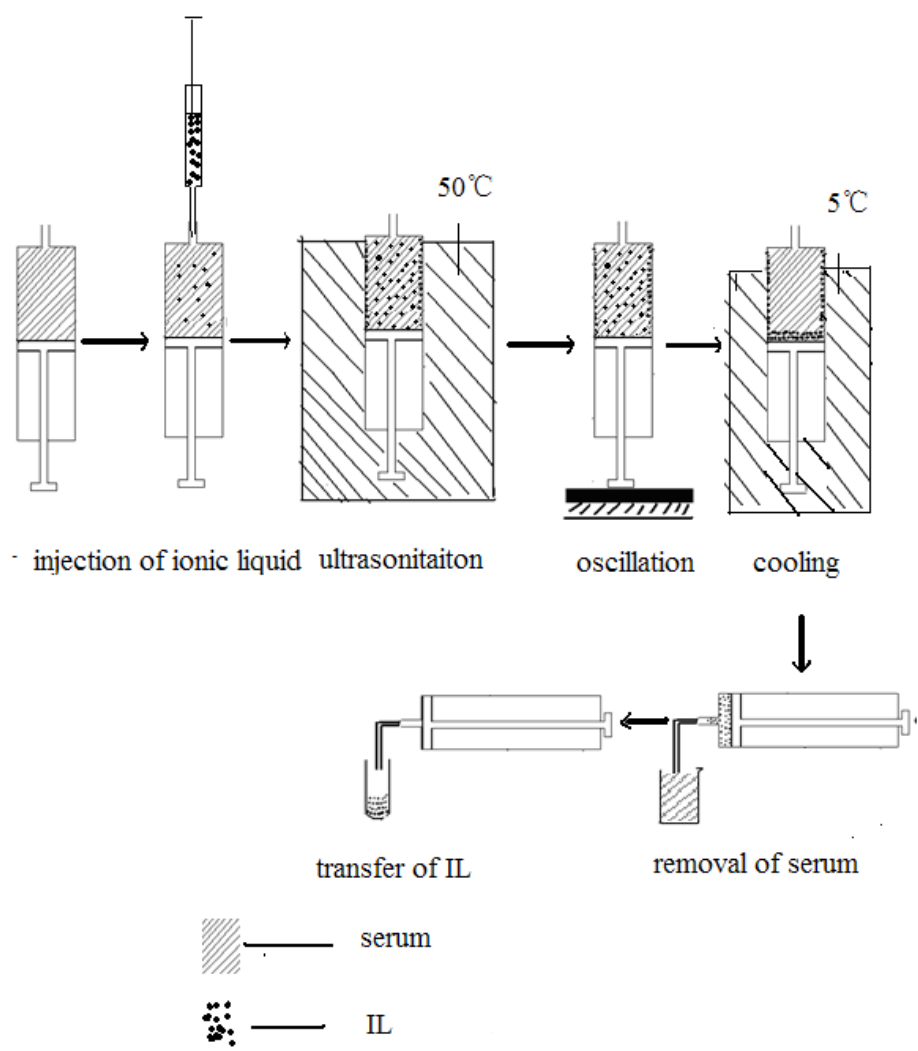


Fig. 2

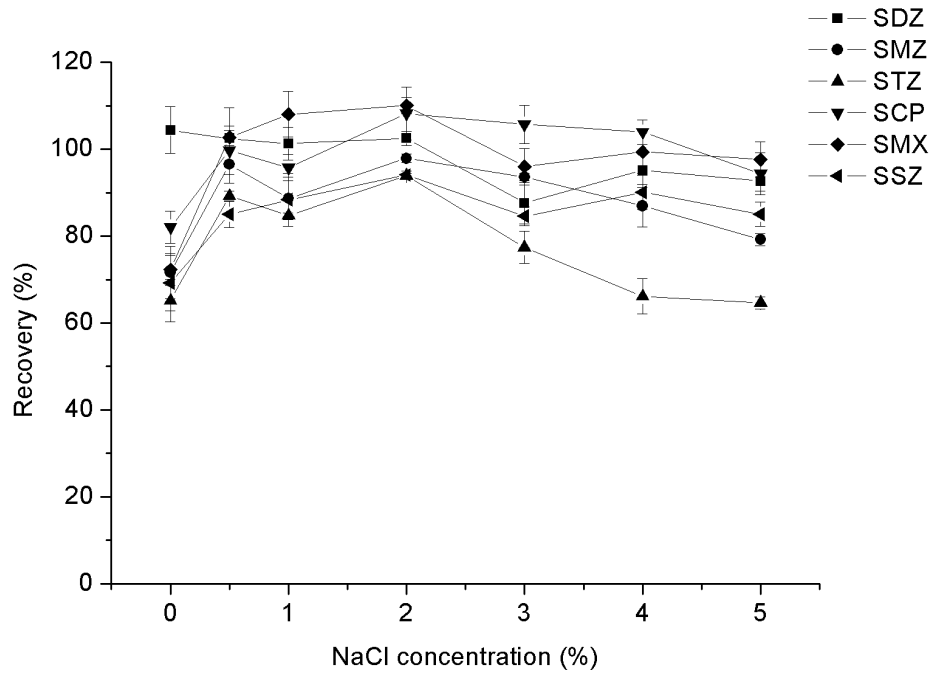


Fig. 3

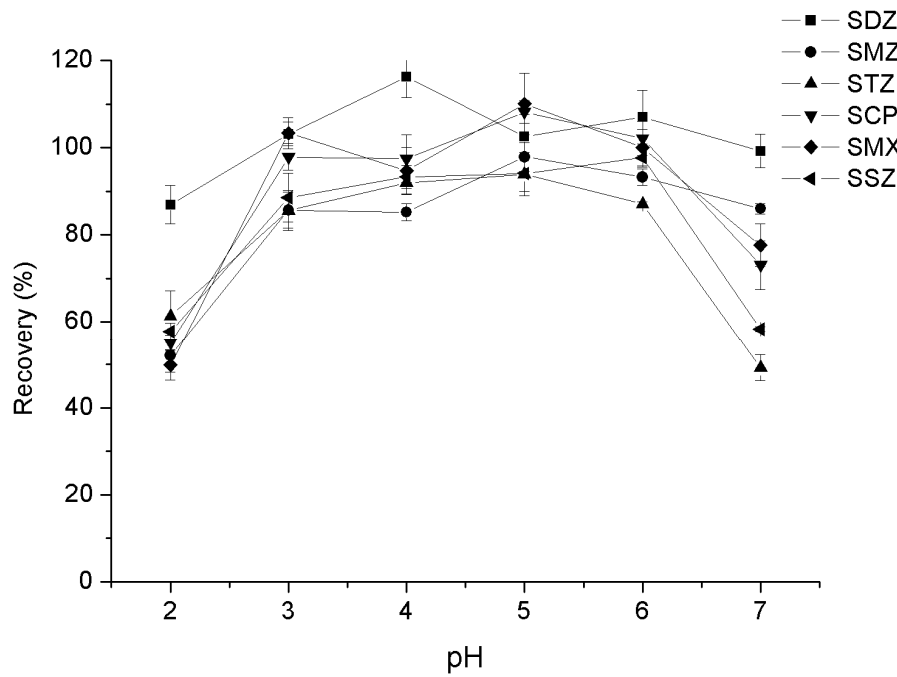


Fig. 4

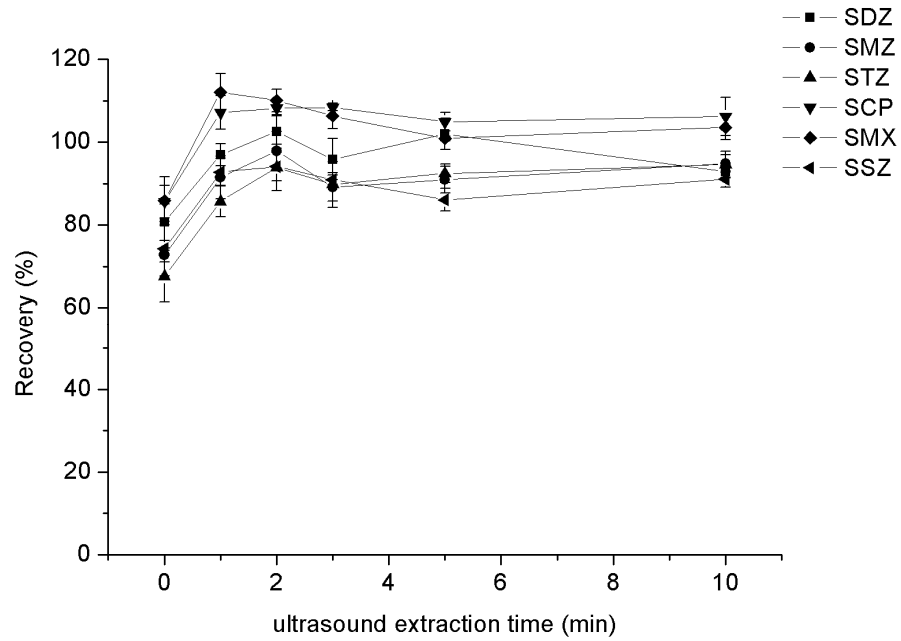


Fig. 5

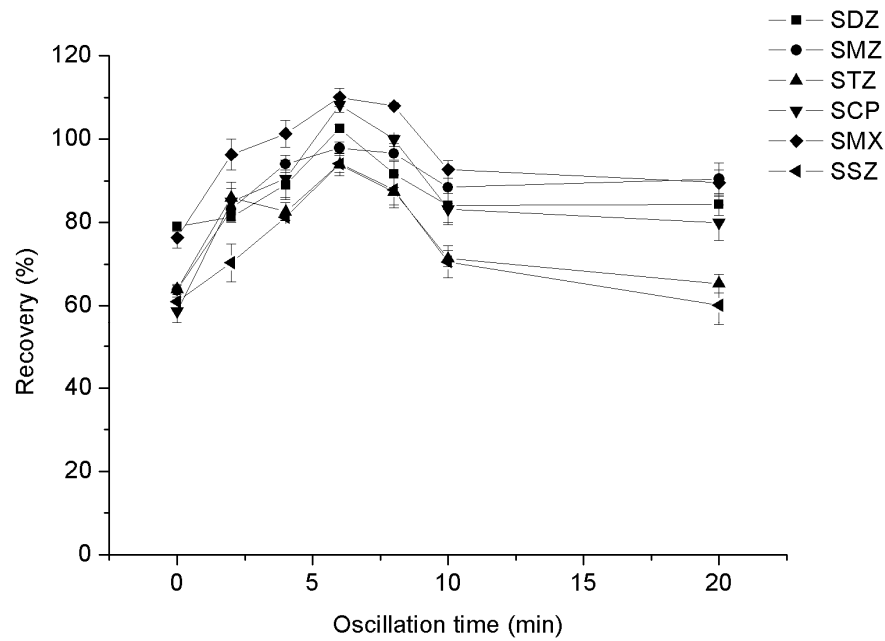


Fig. 6

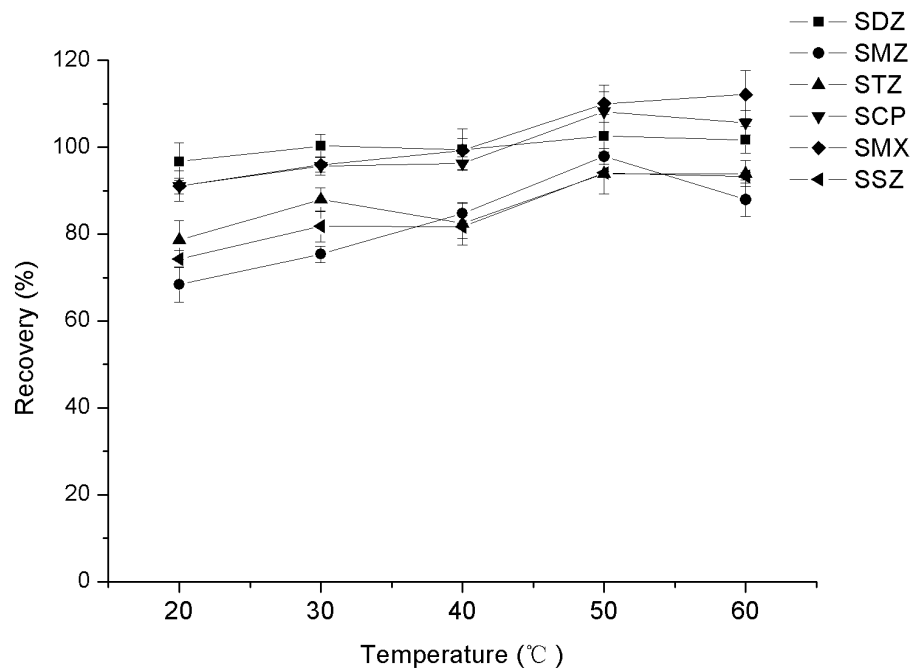


Fig. 7

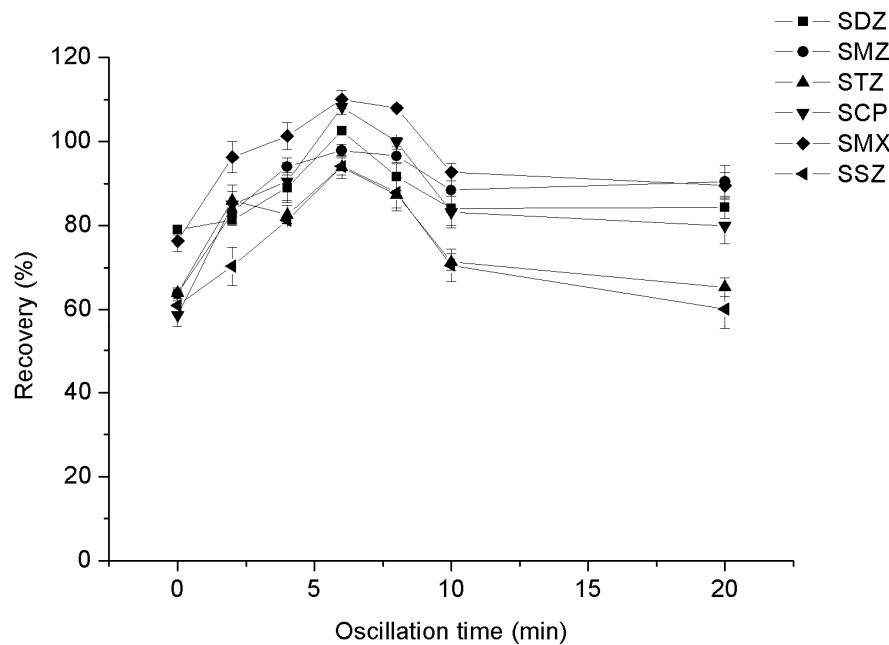
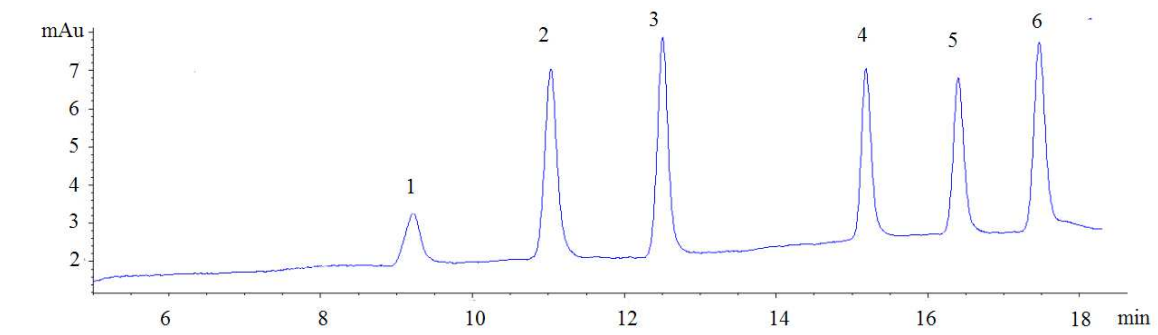
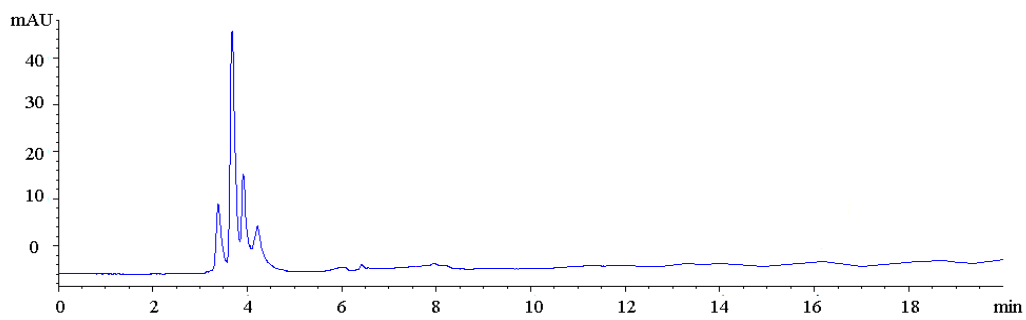


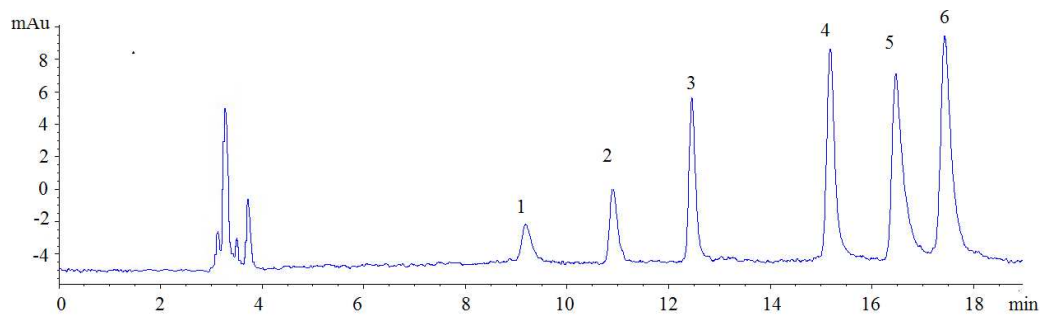
Fig. 8



A



B



C

Fig. 9



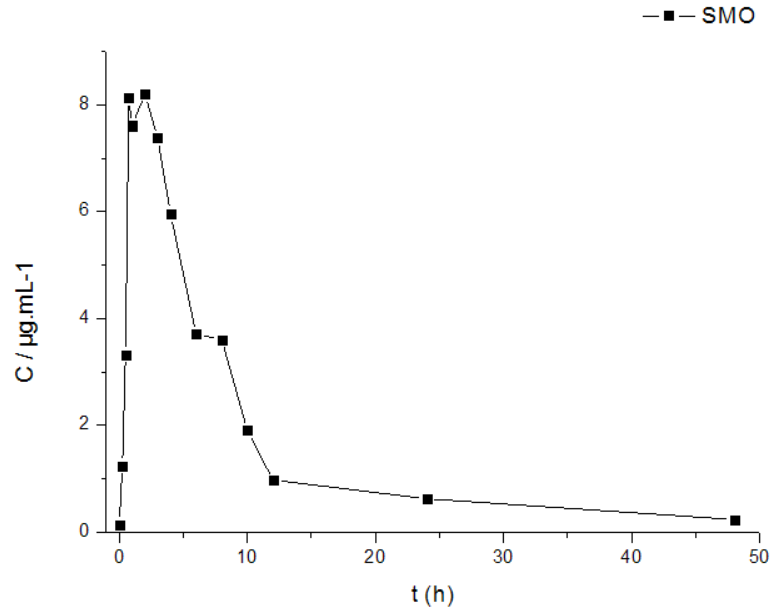


Fig. 10

Table 1

## Analytical performances

Compound	Correlation coefficient (r)	Regression equation (n=5)	Linear range(ng·mL <sup>-1</sup> )	LOD (ng·mL <sup>-1</sup> )	LOQ (ng·mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Intra day precision (RSD, %, n=5)	Inter day precision
SDZ	$A=(-2.89\pm 4.197^a)+(0.70\pm 0.025^b)c$	0.9980	43.8-442.6	12.30	41.0	2.7	2.9
SMZ	$A=(-0.23\pm 0.555^a)+(1.41\pm 0.007^b)c$	0.9999	8.4-385.8	2.22	7.4	2.2	3.8
STZ	$A=(3.11\pm 2.017^a)+(2.60\pm 0.024^b)c$	0.9998	13.9-458.2	3.19	10.6	2.4	4.7
SCP	$A=(1.14\pm 1.681^a)+(3.01\pm 0.020^b)c$	0.9999	8.1-377.3	1.67	5.6	1.8	5.4
SMX	$A=(-1.16\pm 1.804^a)+(3.02\pm 0.022^b)c$	0.9999	14.4-417.0	2.93	9.8	3.5	4
SSZ	$A=(-0.77\pm 6.619^a)+(4.97\pm 0.080^b)c$	0.9996	9.8-398.5	1.58	5.3	2.0	4.9

<sup>a,b</sup> Standard deviation of slope and intercept.

**Table 2**

The recoveries of the analytes in spiked sample 1

spiked ( $\mu\text{g. L}^{-1}$ )	Stored time (weeks)	STZ		SMZ		STZ		SCP		SMX		SSZ	
		Recovery (%)	RSD (% n=5)	Recovery (%)	RSD (% n=5)	Recovery (%)	RSD (% n=5)	Recovery (%)	RSD (% n=5)	Recovery (%)	RSD (% n=5)	Recovery (%)	RSD (% n=5)
50	1	100.2	3.3	101.5	4.1	92.1	2.5	109.9	5	112.7	6.1	93.6	4.2
	2	98.3	1.8	92.8	2.2	96.8	5.2	106.2	2.1	105	3	96.8	2.9
	3	106.2	5.6	99	6.5	93.9	3.7	107	3.9	103.7	2.7	90.4	2.8
	4	97.2	0.9	102.6	1.9	89.5	3.9	103.4	3.6	110.4	3.8	93.9	3.8
	6	102.1	5.2	95.4	5	94.2	4.6	101.2	1.7	115.3	3.3	92.1	5
	8	100.3	5.9	97.4	3.7	88	1.9	110.6	5.6	101.1	4.6	95	3.5
150	1	95.6	3.6	100	4.2	89.2	3.2	106.5	1.4	113.8	6.5	89.7	2.3
	2	100.9	3.8	98.2	2.5	90	4.5	112.1	4.5	101	4.5	98.3	1.6
	3	105	4.1	95.6	1.4	92.4	3.3	104.5	6	107.5	3.1	91.7	2.2
	4	97.5	1.6	93.7	3	91.7	0.7	108.6	1.4	106.3	4	94	4
	6	99.4	2.7	95.5	4.1	96.9	7.1	99.9	3.1	113.4	7.2	88.9	4.6
	8	98.7	4.2	104.6	6.2	87	2.9	104	2.8	111.1	5.3	93.5	1.3

Table 3

Analytical results of blood samples (n=5)

Add g, Kg-1)	(μ L-1)	Added (μ g L-1)	STZ			SMZ			STZ			SCP			SMX			SSZ		
			Recovery	RSD	(%	Recovery	RSD	(%	Recovery	RSD	(%	Recovery	RSD	(%	Recovery	RSD	(%	Recovery	RSD	(%
			(%)	n=5)		(%)	n=5)		(%)	n=5)		(%)	n=5)		(%)	n=5)		(%)	n=5)	
Sample 1	50	104.3	4.2	98.7	1.7	92.7	2.8	106.4	3.1	105.1	1.7	95.1	3.8							
	150	99.1	3.7	101.5	4.8	107.2	4.7	113.7	3.7	111.5	2.5	98	3.6							
Sample 2	50	110.6	4.9	95	3.2	94.6	5.2	105	5.8	103.2	2.6	93.7	2.9							
	150	107.3	7.1	95.4	5	102.1	5	98.9	1.6	100.9	3.9	97.5	1.7							
Sample 3	50	97.5	5.3	100.2	3	101.3	3.9	97.5	3.5	105.4	4.1	102.5	5.6							
	150	105.8	2.9	104.8	2.2	98	1.9	108.2	4.8	115.6	7.3	99.7	2.8							
Sample 4	50	96.9	1.6	96.3	4.1	94.4	3.8	99.6	4.4	100.2	4.4	91.9	4.5							
	150	93.8	5	97.9	3.7	96.8	3.9	103.5	2.8	95.5	2.4	88.4	5.3							
Sample 5	50	106.39	4.4	103.6	3.6	91.4	2.3	109	5.3	98.7	3.9	97.8	3							
	150	101	0.9	100.4	4.9	101.9	6.8	105.8	2.6	104.3	3.1	90.3	4.9							