

1 **Control of the extractable content of bioactive compounds in coffee beans by near infrared**
2 **hyperspectral imaging.**

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23 **Abstract**

24 Control of coffee quality has a great importance for being one of the most important raw
25 materials within the international trade. The extractable composition of coffee has been studied
26 in recent decades and the use of non-destructive methodologies is being continuously promoted.

27 In this study, near infrared hyperspectral imaging has been applied to develop non-destructive
28 methods for the control of extractable contents of caffeine, chlorogenic acid, total phenolics and
29 melanoidins in coffee beans.

30 Extractable contents and trends obtained among the different coffee types analysed are similar
31 to those obtained previously in other studies. Moreover, modified partial least square (MPLS)
32 regressions produced prediction models with standard errors of prediction in external validation
33 of 12.01%, 15.61% and 17.61% for caffeine, chlorogenic acid and total phenolics, respectively.
34 Therefore, results obtained for these three parameters indicate that NIR spectroscopy has a great
35 potential for their control in coffee beans.

36 **Keywords:** coffee; near infrared hyperspectral imaging; caffeine; chlorogenic acid; total
37 phenolics.

38 1. Introduction

39 Coffee is one of the most popular beverages being consumed in whole world. The coffee beans
40 found on the market belong to two different species of the genus *Coffea*: *Coffea arabica* L.
41 (*arabica* coffee) and *Coffea canephora* (Pierre) ex Frohner (*robusta* coffee). In the economic
42 and public health areas, the control of coffee quality has a great importance as it is one of the
43 most important raw materials within the international trade (Barbin, Felicio, Sun, Nixdorf, &
44 Hirooka, 2014). Coffee beans composition and, more importantly, their extractable composition,
45 i.e., the compounds that can pass into water in the infusion process, has been continuously
46 monitored in recent decades (Borrelli, Visconti, Mennella, Anese, & Fogliano, 2002; Delgado-
47 Andrade & Morales, 2005; Hečimović, Belščak-Cvitanović, Horžić, & Komes, 2011; Huck,
48 Guggenbichler, & Bonn, 2005; Illy & Viani, 1995; Karpinska, Świsłocka, & Lewandowski,
49 2017).

50 Among these compounds, caffeine is perhaps the most popular. Differences in caffeine content
51 among coffee samples of different varieties, seasons, roasting or grinding processes, etc. have
52 been reported (Bell, Wetzell, & Grand, 1996). This alkaloid has well-known pharmacological
53 effects on several body systems (central nervous system, heart, gastrointestinal system, renal
54 system, respiratory system, peripheral and central vasculature) (Bessada, Alves, & Oliveira,
55 2018; Jahrami et al., 2020; Leonard, Watson, & Mohs, 1987). However, other properties of
56 caffeine, such as stimulant effects, decreased sleepiness and increased attention, make coffee
57 positively valued by consumers (Clarke & Macrae, 1988). In addition, other families present in
58 coffee (e.g., phenolics, chlorogenic acids, or melanoidins) have been reported as compounds
59 with recognized health benefits. Phenolic compounds and their main representatives in coffee,
60 chlorogenic acids, have been widely reported for their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and
61 anticancer activities (Meng, Cao, Feng, Peng, & Hu, 2013; Sato et al., 2011; Upadhyay &
62 Mohan Rao, 2013). In the same way, coffee melanoidins have demonstrated antioxidant and
63 antimicrobial activities (Borrelli et al., 2002; Rufian-Henares & de la Cueva, 2009; Steinhart,
64 Luger, & Piost, 2001).

65 Therefore, it is well-known the importance of the extractable composition of roasted coffee. The
66 need to continuously improve existing methods and develop new ones to control this
67 composition is clearly demonstrated. Apart from traditional methods based on chromatography,
68 spectrophotometry, mass spectrometry, etc., several spectroscopic methods have been proposed
69 for the control of caffeine in coffee beans (Huck et al., 2005; Pizarro, Esteban-Díez, González-
70 Sáiz, & Forina, 2007; X. Zhang et al., 2013), even by the application of hyperspectral imaging
71 (C. Zhang, Jiang, Liu, & He, 2017). However, only one study has been found in which
72 chlorogenic acid is determined in coffee beans by spectroscopic methods (Liang, Lu, Hu, &
73 Kitts, 2016) and none for phenolic compounds or melanoidins.

74 Although coffee bean size is not adequate for chemical imaging, hyperspectral imaging can
75 provide some other advantages such as collecting spectral information of a high amount of
76 coffee beans in a short period of time or implementation of on-line application in an easy way.
77 Moreover, hyperspectral imaging is being successfully applied for the control of other quality
78 parameters in coffee beans such as roast degree, variety or coffee brand (Bona et al., 2017; Chu,
79 Yu, Zhao, & He, 2018; Nansen, Singh, Mian, Allison, & Simmons, 2016; C. Zhang, Liu, & He,
80 2018). Consequently, the main aim of this study is to apply near infrared hyperspectral imaging
81 to the development of methods for the control of extractable contents of caffeine, chlorogenic
82 acid, total phenolics and melanoidins in coffee beans. To the best of our knowledge, this is the
83 first time that the aforementioned aim has been carried out.

84 **2. Material and methods**

85 *2.1. Samples*

86 A number of coffee brands present in the Spanish market were selected (Carrefour®, Marcilla®,
87 Bonka®, Catunambú®, Eroski®, Supersol®, Hacendado®, Camelo Barco®, Día®). They were
88 purchased twice, in November 2013 and April 2015. In order to correctly represent the Spanish
89 coffee market, packages with differences in roasting type (natural, torrefacto or blend) and
90 caffeine content (normal and decaffeinated) were purchased. Torrefacto is obtained by adding
91 sugar to the coffee beans during the last step of the roasting process. A total of 144 samples

92 were collected from 36 different packages. Each sample contained approximately 7 g of coffee
93 beans. Then, they were stored in sealed plastic bags in a dry place at room temperature until
94 spectroscopic analysis.

95 2.2. Near infrared hyperspectral imaging

96 Spectroscopic analysis was carried out in a hyperspectral system. Samples were extracted from
97 the plastic bags and individually placed on a polyethylene plastic tray. Coffee beans were
98 evenly distributed over the tray to maximize their exposed surface. Then, the tray was placed
99 under the hyperspectral device to image acquisition. Three images were acquired for each
100 sample. Coffee beans were randomly repositioned before each image acquisition.

101 Hyperspectral images were acquired following the procedure described in detail in Hernández-
102 Hierro, Nogales-Bueno, Rodríguez-Pulido, and Heredia (2013). Briefly, hyperspectral device
103 (Infaimon S.L., Barcelona, Spain) comprised a Xenics® XEVA-USB InGaAs camera (Xenics
104 Infrared Solutions, Inc., Leuven, Belgium) with a spatial resolution of 320×256 pixels. It
105 covers the spectral range between 900 and 1700 nm with a spectral resolution of 3.25 nm thanks
106 to the spectrograph Specim ImSpector N17E Enhanced (Spectral Imaging Ltd., Oulu, Finland).
107 Images were calibrated by means of a two-point calibration. Then, regions of interest (ROIs)
108 were identified by lineal discriminant model, prior developed, using the reflectance values from
109 three wavelengths (1207, 1386 and 1501 nm). In that way, pixels into the images were classified
110 as plastic tray pixels or coffee pixels and only the spectra of coffee pixels were saved. Due to
111 reduced efficiency of the sensor in the extremes of its spectral range, only the effective
112 wavelength 950–1650 nm regions were used in data analysis.

113 2.3. Chemicals

114 Methanol was supplied by J.T. Baker® (Phillipsburg, NJ, USA) and di-sodium hydrogen
115 phosphate by Scharlab (Barcelona, Spain). Caffeine and chlorogenic acid reference standards
116 were provided by Sigma-Aldrich® (Saint Louis, MO, USA), while gallic acid reference standard

117 was provided by Analytical Carlo Elba[®]. Folin–Ciocalteu reagent was supplied by Merk[®]
118 (Darmstadt, Germany) and sodium carbonate by Panreac[®] (Barcelona, Spain).

119 2.4. Reference parameters

120 After hyperspectral image acquisition, each 7-gram coffee sample was ground in a IKA[®] A11
121 basic mill. Then coffee beverage was prepared in a domestic coffee maker with 70 mL of
122 distilled water. The resulting drink was made up to 100 mL and an aliquot was kept for further
123 analysis.

124 2.4.1. *Caffeine and chlorogenic acid*

125 Caffeine and chlorogenic acid contents in coffee beverages were determined by means of a
126 chromatographic method. One millilitre of sample was made up to 50 mL. An aliquot of this
127 solution was filtered (0.45 µm) into chromatographic vials and 20 µL were injected in
128 duplicated. Chromatographic analyses were performed on a Hewlett-Packard 1200 series HPLC
129 equipped with an autosampler, a quaternary HPLC pump, a column heater, a diode array
130 detector (DAD), and a data treatment station. A Kromasil C18 column (4.6 mm × 150 mm, 5
131 µm particle size) thermostated at 25 °C was used. An isocratic flow of 1 mL/min was used with
132 a unique solvent (0.025 mol/L di-sodium hydrogen phosphate, pH 3.0, buffer in 45% methanol).
133 The preferred detection wavelengths were 270 nm for caffeine and 325 nm for chlorogenic acid.
134 They both were identified and quantified according to their spectroscopic and chromatographic
135 features by comparing with reference standards. Elution times were respectively for chlorogenic
136 acid and caffeine 1.80 and 2.49 min. Results were expressed as mg of analyte per g of coffee
137 beans. The standard error was generally around 10%, so the error and degree of accuracy of the
138 reference method was considered appropriate to use these data as reference values.

139 2.4.2. *Total phenolics*

140 Total phenolics were determined following the Folin–Ciocalteu method (Singleton & Rossi,
141 1965). One millilitre of sample was made up to 50 mL. Then, 100 µL of this extract was mixed

142 with 1.0 mL of sodium carbonate (20 g/100 mL), 520 μ L of Folin–Ciocalteu reagent and made
143 up to 10 mL with ultrapure water. After 2 hours at room temperature, Folin–Ciocalteu analysis
144 was performed on an Agilent 8453 UV–Vis spectrophotometer (Palo Alto, USA), equipped with
145 diode array detection (DAD), measuring absorbance at 765 nm. The extract volumes were
146 modified appropriately for the samples that needed it. For quantification, results were expressed
147 as mg of gallic acid equivalents per g of coffee beans.

148 *2.4.3. Melanoidins*

149 Melanoidins were determined following the method described in Pérez-Hernández, Chávez-
150 Quiroz, Medina-Juárez, and Gámez Meza (2012). A standard calibration curve was performed
151 at 420 nm, which is the wavelength absorbed by melanoidins. Melanoidins structure is
152 indeterminate yet and, therefore, there is not available a reference standard in the market. The
153 lack of this standard was supplied using an extract of roasted coffee as the source of
154 melanoidins. A torrefacto coffee was chosen because it was expected to be very rich in these
155 compounds. This coffee extract was considered as stock solution and it was diluted afterwards
156 10 times. After reading the absorbance of every dilution, the calibration curve was constructed
157 by plotting absorbance values as a function of the melanoidins concentrations. For that, a
158 specific extinction coefficient of $1.1289 \text{ Lg}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ was applied (Tagliazucchi, Verzelloni, &
159 Conte, 2010). Then, samples were diluted (1:50 for torrefacto and 1:25 for the remaining
160 samples) and melanoidins were spectrophotometrically determined at 420 nm. Results were
161 expressed as mg of melanoidins per g of coffee beans.

162 *2.5. Data analysis*

163 *2.5.1. Analysis of variance*

164 Significant differences between different types of coffee (natural, torrefacto, blend and
165 decaffeinated) and between the different sets of samples (calibration and validation) were
166 evaluated by one-way analysis of the variance (ANOVA). A Tukey *post hoc* test was run to
167 confirm where the differences occurred between groups. Extractable contents of caffeine,

168 chlorogenic acid, total phenolics and melanoidins were used as independent variables.
169 ANOVAs were developed with Statistica v.8.0 software (StatSoft Inc., OK, USA, 2007).

170 *2.5.2. Principal component analysis*

171 Coffee spectra from each different package were randomly divided into calibration and
172 validation sets. Calibration set was analysed by means of a principal component analysis (PCA).
173 This analysis was applied in order to provide information about the latent structure of spectral
174 matrix (spectral outliers, sample distribution and possible differences between sample classes).
175 Moreover, this method is also an important source of knowledge with which to create cross-
176 validation groups used in the calibration process (Brereton, 2003; Shenk & Westerhaus, 1995).
177 PCA was developed with Win ISI[®] (v1.50) (Infrasoft International, LLC, Port. Matilda,
178 PA, USA).

179 *2.5.3. Modified partial least square regressions*

180 After spectral outliers were identified and removed from the spectral matrix, reference
181 parameters (extractable contents of caffeine, chlorogenic acid, total phenolics and melanoidins
182 in coffee samples) were assigned to their respective spectrum. Modified partial least square
183 (MPLS) regression were applied to the calibration set in order to obtain prediction models for
184 controlling the reference parameters following the procedure described in detail in (Nogales-
185 Bueno, Hernández-Hierro, Rodríguez-Pulido, & Heredia, 2014). Different spectral pre-
186 treatments were tested in order to remove or reduce scattering effects produced for the different
187 textures and sample sizes (Dhanoa, Lister, & Barnes, 1995; Geladi, MacDougall, & Martens,
188 1985). The best model for each reference parameter was saved. Pre-treatments were
189 multiplicative scattering correction (MSC), detrend, standard normal variate (SNV), different
190 derivatives and none pre-treatments. Chemical outliers were identified and removed by
191 the evaluation of the T-statistic and setting the threshold in 2.5 units. To do so, residual
192 error was obtained by comparison between the predicted values and the chemical

193 values. Finally, the standard error of cross-validation (SECV) was evaluated and
194 expressed as percentage.

195 Then, the goodness of each MPLS model was tested. To this end, models were applied
196 to the samples allocated into the validation set and the results were compared to the
197 chemical values previously determined. In this way, a standard error of prediction (SEP)
198 in external validation was obtained for each reference parameter. MPLS models were
199 developed and tested with Win ISI[®] (v1.50) (Infrasoft International, LLC, Port. Matilda,
200 PA, USA).

201 **3. Results and discussion**

202 *3.1. Extractable contents of caffeine, chlorogenic acid, total phenolics and melanoidins in* 203 *coffee samples*

204 Table 1 shows mean and standard error of the mean for the reference parameters measured. Data
205 for all samples, different types of samples (natural, torrefacto, blend and decaffeinated) and
206 different sets of samples (calibration and validation) are shown. The results obtained for the
207 whole group of samples are similar to those described in previous studies (Belguidoum, Amira-
208 Guebailia, Boulmokh, & Houache, 2014; Lopes et al., 2016; Lopez-Galilea, de Pena, & Cid,
209 2008; Ludwig, Bravo, De Peña, & Cid, 2013).

210 Furthermore, when different types of coffee are taken into account, the ANOVA result
211 obviously shows that decaffeinated coffee has significantly lower caffeine values than other
212 types. However, it also shows other interesting results: torrefacto coffee has a significantly
213 lower amount of chlorogenic acid and significantly higher amounts of total phenolics and
214 melanoidins than natural coffee. These results were also reported (López-Galilea, Andueza,
215 Leonardo, Paz de Peña, & Cid, 2006; Lopez-Galilea et al., 2008; Ludwig et al., 2013). Although
216 torrefacto coffee is often considered a poor quality coffee, these results indicate that, overall, it
217 has better health qualities, such as increased its potential antioxidant activity.

218 When looking for significant differences between the calibration and validation sets, these two
219 groups were found to be homogeneous. This is good evidence that the random selection
220 procedure performed generates two new sets of samples that correctly represent all data
221 variability.

222 3.2. Spectral information

223 The spectra of coffee samples in absorbance units were extracted from the hyperspectral images.
224 The mean spectra of each type of coffee are shown in Figure 1a. It can be seen that the shape of
225 the spectrum is very similar for the four types of coffee. The most remarkable feature is that the
226 entire torrefacto coffee spectrum shows a higher absorbance. This characteristic may be due to
227 the roasted sugar coating this coffee, which may alter the way these beans scatter light.
228 Calibration and validation sets were randomly created by selecting, respectively, 75% and 25%
229 of the acquired spectra. Initially, the structure of the calibration set was evaluated by a PCA.
230 Prior to the development of this unsupervised pattern recognition method, a SNV (2,5,5,1) pre-
231 treatment was applied to the calibration spectra. The numbers in parentheses indicate the
232 number of the derivative, the gap over which the derivative is calculated and two different
233 smooths, respectively. The spectral variability explained was 97% using 12 principal
234 components. Mahalanobis distances (H) from the mean spectrum of the entire sample set were
235 calculated in this hyperspace. Samples were ranked in order of their H values and the $H > 3$
236 criterion was applied. Two decaffeinated samples were identified as H-outliers and they were
237 removed from the calibration set. Figure 1b shows the projection of the samples on the plane
238 defined by the first and second principal component. It is possible to observe a partial separation
239 between samples, particularly between torrefacto samples and the rest when the samples are
240 represented according to the type of coffee.

241 3.3. MPLS regression methods

242 Raw spectra allocated into the calibration set were used to develop MPLS regression methods
243 for the prediction of the reference parameters. Different pre-treatments were applied and the

244 model that obtained the best result for each parameter was saved. Table 2 shows most important
245 data related to these models: The pre-treatment applied, the number of terms or factors created
246 by the MPLS algorithm, the number of samples retained and their mean and standard deviation
247 and, finally, a number of statistical descriptors. Among these descriptors, the coefficient of
248 determination (RSQ) and the ratio of performance to deviation (RPD) indicate how good the fit
249 between chemical and spectral data is. The RSQ values obtained were good for caffeine and
250 chlorogenic acid and acceptable for total phenolics. However, the RSQ value obtained for
251 melanoidins indicated that the fit between this parameter and the NIR spectrum of the samples
252 was not correct. This lack of fit can be due to the high difference between the melanoidins
253 extracted in torrefacto and the remaining samples (Table 1). These melanoidins values were not
254 homogeneous enough for the correct development of PLS regressions. These results are
255 confirmed by the RPD values. Only for caffeine and chlorogenic acid, the obtained RPD
256 suggest, respectively, a good and an acceptable fit of the model.

257 Furthermore, the goodness of the MPLS models were also assessed according to the SECV
258 values. These calibration errors confirmed the problems for predicting melanoidins. However,
259 the errors for caffeine, chlorogenic acid and total phenolics were quite good. This fact was
260 reinforced when models were validated using the validation set of samples. SEP errors in
261 external validation were obtained. When expressed as percentages with respect to the mean,
262 SEP ranged from 12.01 to 17.61%. Taking into account the Bias and Slope of the models, the
263 more promising values are those obtained for caffeine and chlorogenic acid. Therefore, results
264 obtained for these parameters indicate that NIR spectroscopy has a great potential for
265 controlling caffeine and chlorogenic acid in coffee beans. The errors obtained for total phenolics
266 are also interesting, although its low values of RPD and Slope in external validation indicate
267 that more samples might be needed for obtaining a better fit. Similar errors were found for
268 caffeine in (Huck et al., 2005; Pizarro et al., 2007; C. Zhang et al., 2017; X. Zhang et al., 2013)
269 and for chlorogenic acid in (Liang et al., 2016). No similar studies have been found in coffee for
270 the control of total phenolics, although they have been found in other matrices with errors of the
271 same order of magnitude (Baca-Bocanegra et al., 2019; Baca-Bocanegra, Nogales-Bueno,

272 Heredia, & Hernández-Hierro, 2018; Baca-Bocanegra, Nogales-Bueno, Hernández-Hierro, &
273 Heredia, 2018; Nogales-Bueno et al., 2014; Schulz, Engelhardt, Wegent, Drews, & Lapczynski,
274 1999).

275 PLS factors of the developed models were extracted and studied (Figure 2). It can be seen that
276 the region around 1400 nm has a great importance in the prediction of caffeine, chlorogenic acid
277 and total phenolics. Moreover, the region around 1200 nm also shows important contributions to
278 the model loadings, mainly for the control of chlorogenic acid and total phenolics. These
279 regions have been linked to combination bands of the –OH functional group, and also to C–H
280 aromatic second overtones and C–H third overtones (Barbin et al., 2014; Hernández-Hierro et
281 al., 2013; Siesler, Ozaky, Kawata, & Heise, 2002). These vibrational modes can be attributed to
282 the predicted components and also to components linked to their extraction from the coffee.

283 Therefore, results obtained are promising. Developed methods allow predicting caffeine,
284 chlorogenic acid and total phenolics in coffee beans in a non-polluting and non-destructive way
285 and with acceptable prediction errors. The standard errors for the reference methods applied are
286 generally around 5-10%. In consequence, the developed spectroscopic methods have to be
287 considered preliminary. They need to be implemented with more data coming from other coffee
288 brands, types, dates etc.

289 **4. Conclusion**

290 In this study, the extractable content of caffeine, chlorogenic acid, total phenolics and
291 melanoidins has been determined from a series of samples of natural, torrefacto, blend and
292 decaffeinated coffee beans. Trends obtained among the different coffee types analysed are
293 similar to those obtained previously in other studies: overall, torrefacto coffee shows
294 significantly higher amounts of compounds that are traditionally related to health profits. This
295 result increases the interest in having subjected to additional studies this type of coffee, typical
296 of the Spanish market.

297 The analysis of the spectral information extracted from the different types of coffee has shown
298 some trends among the different samples. Mainly, torrefacto samples have slightly different

299 spectral characteristics than other types of coffee. This is surely due to the differences produced
300 on the surface of the torrefacto coffee beans by their characteristic roasting procedure.

301 When spectral and chemical data are jointly employed for the development of prediction
302 methods in coffee beans, interesting results were obtained. These methods showed a good fit for
303 the prediction of caffeine and chlorogenic acid and moderate for total phenolics. The errors
304 obtained indicate that NIR hyperspectral imaging has a great potential for the prediction of these
305 parameters. However, additional studies involving more coffee brands, types, locations and
306 dates should be added to these models to develop more reliable and robust methods and to
307 improve the results.

308 **5. Abbreviations used**

309 ANOVA, analysis of variance; H, Mahalanobis distance; MPLS, modified partial least square;
310 MSC, multiplicative scattering correction; NIR, near infrared; PC, principal component; PCA,
311 principal component analysis; ROI, regions of interest; RSQ, coefficient of determination;
312 SECV, standard error of cross validation; SEP, standard error of prediction; SNV, standard
313 normal variate.

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465

466 **Figure captions**

467 **Figure 1:** a) Average NIR spectra of natural, torrefacto, decaffeinated and blend coffees. b)

468 Score plot of the first two principal components after PCA performed on NIR spectra recorded

469 from coffee beans. The individual data points have been colour coded according to coffee type.

470 **Figure 2:** Loading plots of the MPLS models for caffeine (a), chlorogenic acid (b) and total

471 phenolics (c).

Table 1. Extractable contents of caffeine, chlorogenic acid, total phenolics and melanoidins.

Reference parameter	All samples (N=144)	Coffee type (N ^a)				Set (N ^a)	
		Natural (64)	Torrefacto (36)	Blend (16)	Decaffeinated (28)	Calibration (108)	Validation (36)
Caffeine	14.71 ± 0.58	17.90 ± 0.22 ^a	18.29 ± 0.36 ^a	17.92 ± 0.65 ^a	0.96 ± 0.03 ^b	14.71 ± 0.68 ^A	14.70 ± 1.18 ^A
Chlorogenic acid	7.23 ± 0.14	7.37 ± 0.22 ^a	6.46 ± 0.31 ^b	8.42 ± 0.37 ^a	7.25 ± 0.19 ^{ab}	7.24 ± 0.17 ^A	7.20 ± 0.27 ^A
Total phenolics	35.93 ± 0.59	34.50 ± 0.77 ^a	38.63 ± 0.99 ^b	36.53 ± 2.65 ^{ab}	35.42 ± 1.39 ^{ab}	35.91 ± 0.70 ^A	36.02 ± 1.07 ^A
Melanoidins	83.58 ± 2.90	70.26 ± 2.08 ^a	115.54 ± 8.43 ^b	79.14 ± 4.70 ^a	75.49 ± 3.68 ^a	83.47 ± 3.20 ^A	83.94 ± 6.59 ^A

^aN: Number of sample of the correspondent group; Results are expressed as mg of analyte per g of coffee bean. Means ± standard errors of means are presented for different sample groups. For each reference parameter, different letters in the same row indicate statistical differences (Tukey test, $\alpha=0.05$). Lowercase and uppercase letters correspond to different ANOVAs.

Table 2. Main statistical descriptors for the MPLS models developed for coffee beans in the NIR zone close to 950-1650 nm for extractable caffeine, chlorogenic acid, total phenolics and melanoidins.

Reference Parameters	Spectral pretreatments	PLS factors	N ^a	Mean	SD ^b	SEC ^c	RSQ ^d	SECV ^e	RPD ^f	Bias _c ^g	Slope _c ^h	SEP ⁱ	SEP(%) ⁱ	Bias _v ^g	Slope _v ^h
Caffeine ^j	Detrend 1,5,5,1	9	103	14.95	6.91	1.10	0.97	1.29	5.36	-0.05	0.99	1.80	12.01	-0.30	0.99
Chlorogenic acid ^k	SNV 1,5,5,1	5	101	7.18	1.71	0.74	0.81	0.91	1.88	-0.04	0.95	1.12	15.61	-0.19	0.75
Total phenolics ^l	SNV + detrend 2,5,5,1	7	101	35.67	6.06	3.94	0.58	4.63	1.31	0.06	0.96	6.28	17.61	0.03	0.51
Melanoidins ^m	MSC 2,15,15,1	4	100	77.93	24.90	20.81	0.30	21.49	1.16	-0.47	0.92	25.20	32.33	-3.79	0.75

^aN: number of samples (calibration set); ^bSD: standard deviation; ^cSEC: standard error of calibration; ^dRSQ: coefficient of determination (calibration set);

^eSECV: standard error of cross-validation; ^fRPD: ratio of performance to deviation; ^gBias: bias of the regression in calibration (c) and external validation (v); ^hSlope: slope of the regression in calibration (c) and external validation (v); ⁱSEP: standard error of prediction in the external validation (also expressed as percentages with respect to the mean); ^jCaffeine: expressed in mg per g of coffee bean; ^kChlorogenic acid: expressed in mg per g of coffee bean; ^lTotal phenolics: expressed as mg of gallic acid equivalents per g of coffee beans; ^mMelanoidins: expressed as mg per g of coffee beans.



