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Green Assessment of Analytical Procedures for the Determination of Pharmaceuticals in Sewage Sludge and Soil

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ABSTRACT

The main difficulties when analyzing pharmaceutically active compounds (PhACs) in solid environmental samples is the complexity of the samples and the low concentration levels of such pollutants. Most efforts are focused in achieving good analytical performance parameters such as high recoveries or low detection limits without considering if the methods are environmentally friendly. In this work, the main tools proposed for assessing the greenness of analytical methodologies (Analytical Eco-scale, Green Analytical Procedure Index (GAPI), and Analytical GREEnness metric (AGREE)) have been applied to nine analytical procedures that include recent important analytical tendencies. The three metrics identified the paper spray ionization method as the greenest procedure since it used untreated samples for direct mass spectrometry analysis. Using Analytical Eco-scale, most of the evaluated procedures were rated as "acceptable green". However, the use of internal standards resulted key in the environmental impact of the method which provided contradictory results versus other metrics. GAPI found greenness similarities between most of selected methods, hindering a greenness classification. AGREE allowed the weighting of each evaluation criterion providing a greenness ranking. The application of each metric detecting their weaknesses and strengths was discussed. The incorporation of validation analytical features in greenness metrics was a gap revealed.

KEYWORDS

Analytical method; greenness assessment; GAPI tool; AGREE metric; analytical eco-scale

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



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Introduction

The presence of pharmaceutically active compounds (PhACs) in the environment has caused a high concern due to their ubiquitous and inherent biological activity. PhACs have pernicious effects on all kinds of life forms because of their toxicological effects. For example, propranolol has been detected in effluent wastewater at 1900 ng/L.^[1] At a concentration of 1000 ng/L, this PhAC can cause changes in the reproduction of the crustacean *Hyalella azteca*.^[2] In the same way, 17β -estradiol, which can induce female characteristics in male fish at a concentration of 41.2 ng/L,^[3] was detected in surface water and effluent wastewater at concentrations up to 7901 ng/L^[4] and 506.4 ng/ L,^[5] respectively. A suitable analytical method is the first prerequisite for further research to prioritize the substances and risk assessment.^[6,7] Mejías et al.^[8] reported that, a total of 180 PhACs and 45 metabolites have been found in sewage sludge samples at concentrations from ng/g to μ g/g dry matter. Some of the main difficulties to overcome when developing analytical methods for the determination of PhACs in solid environmental samples are the complexity of the matrix, the low concentration levels of PhACs and the presence of organic, inorganic, and biological materials that can cause interferences.^[8,9]

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Methods reported for the determination of PhACs in solid environmental samples commonly involves time-consuming and laborious protocols comprising extraction of PhACs from the matrix, removal of interferences and procedures to enhance sensitivity and selectivity. Soxhlet extraction,^[10] ultrasound-assisted extraction (UAE),^[11,12] microwave-assisted extraction (MAE),^[13,14] pressurizedliquid extraction (PLE),^[15,16] matrix solid-phase dispersion (MSPD)^[17,18] and Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged and Safe method (QuEChERS)^[19,20] are the most commonly technique proposed for PhACs. After extraction, extract clean-up is usually applied to remove interfering compounds which could affect the analytical determination. The most used clean-up techniques are solid-phase extrac- $(SPE)^{[21-23]}$ dispersive-SPE (d-SPE).^[24,25] tion and Analytical determination is carried out by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)^[26,27] and, to a lesser extent, by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).^[21,28]

The development of analytical methods to determine PhACs in solid environmental sample has notably increased over the last 10 years.^[6,7] In many of these papers, the authors claim that their proposed analytical methods are green^[29] however, this feature needs proper corroboration by the application of greenness metrics tools. Since the introduction of the concept of green analytical chemistry (GAC) in 2000, different metrics have been proposed for greenness assessment.^[30] Some of the widest scope metrics to assess the greenness of analytical methods are Analytical Eco-Scale,^[31] Green Analytical Procedure Index (GAPI)^[32] and Analytical GREEnness (AGREE) metric.^[33] Other metrics, such as Analytical Method Volume Intensity (AMVI) and High-Pressure Liquid Chromatography-Environmental

Assessment Tool (HPLC-EAT), have been designed to be applied to LC determinations.^[34] These metrics consider a broad variety of GAC principles (Figure 1) such as the use of minimal sample sizes, low consumption of chemicals and energy, use of reusable and renewable materials and low waste generation.

Learning how to use these greenness analytical metrics to assess and limit the generation of hazardous environmental waste during analytical procedures becomes crucial. The aim of this work is to provide an overview of metrics available for a greenness assessment of analytical methods and to comparatively show their differences by their application to different procedures reported in recent literature for the determination of PhACs in solid environmental samples. Metrics selected for greenness assessment were Analytical Eco-Scale, GAPI, and AGREE. This work attempts to be useful and helpful for users working on analytical method development where GAC principles can be implemented to minimize environmental impact and it can inspire new strategies to reduce the weakest points in given analytical procedures.

Overview of widely use metrics for greenness assessment of analytical procedures

Analytical Eco-Scale, GAPI, and AGREE are relatively most widely used metrics because of their suitability to be applied to most of the analytical procedures.^[34] Table 1 contains a summary with the protocol followed in each case as well as their advantages and disadvantages. The criteria followed in analytical Eco-Scale metric to assign penalty points (PPs), the pictogram color codes in GAPI or the AGREE scores are explained in Tables S1–S3, respectively.

1. Direct analytical techniques should be applied to avoid sample treatment 1. Prevention 2. Minimal sample size and minimal number of samples are goals 2. Atom economy 3. In situ measurements should be performed 3. Less hazardous chemical syntheses 4. Integration of analytical processes and operations saves energy and reduces the use of reagents 4. Designing safer chemicals 5. Automated and miniaturized methods should be selected 5. Safer solvent and auxiliaries 6. Derivatization should be avoided 6. Design for energy efficiency 7. Generation of a large volume of analytical waste should be avoided and 7. Use of renewable feedstocks proper management of analytical waste should be provided 8. Reduce derivatives 8. Multi-analyte or multi-parameter methods are preferred versus methods using one analyte at a time 9. Catalysis 9. The use of energy should be minimized 10. Design for degradation 10. Reagents obtained from renewable source should be preferred 11. Real-time analysis for pollution prevention 11. Toxic reagents should be eliminated or replaced 12. Inherently safer chemistry for accident prevention 12. The safety of the operator should be increased

12 PRINCIPLES OF GREEN CHEMISTRY

Figure 1. Twelves principles of green chemistry and green analytical chemistry.

12 PRINCIPLES OF GREEN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

1. A(dvantages and dis	sadvantages of greenness metrics.			
	Developer and year	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	defs.
و ا	Gałuszka et al., in 2012	Penalty points (PPs) are assigned to parameters of the analytical process that do not comply with the GAC principles. Analytical Eco-Scale = 100 - total PPs The ideal green analysis is 100. From 50 to 75 represents acceptable green analysis, whereas scores < 50 represents inadequate green analysis.	 Simple to apply Easy interpretation It allows to calculate the amounts of chemicals and waste semi-quantitatively Useful for comparison purposes Considers internal standards 	 Only three-level classification of penalty points The result provide is not informative Lack of information about the stages of the analytical procedures responsible of the highest PPs Does not contemplate some steps of the analytical methodology such as sample collection, transport, 	Ē
	Plotka-Wasylka in 2018	GAPI results are shown in a pictogram composed by five pentagrams, each one representing the environmental impact of a particular aspect of the analytical process. The components of the pentagram are colored in green, yellow, or red depending on their low, medium, or high environmental effect,	 Simple to apply Easy interpretation using pictograms It allows at a glance the weakest greenness points of the analytical procedure It covers the entire analytical process 	storage, extraction steps, sample amount, among others • Qualitative tool • Limited for comparative purposes • Only three-level classification (red, yellow and green) • Does not consider internal standards	[32]
	Pena-Pereira et al., in 2020	respectively (Figure 5.1). AGREE assigns values in the range from 0 (low greenness) to 1 (high greenness) to each GAC principle using a calculator. Input criteria refers to each of the 12 GAC principles. Outputs from each variable are reflected in a clockwise pictogram as segments colored in different intensity of red-yellow- green colors and with different intensity of red-yellow- green colors and with different weight depending on the significance of the variable. The overall score, in the range from 0 to 1, is represented in the center of the clock-like pictogram.	 Simple to apply Open-source software available: https://mostwiedzy.pl/AGREE It allows quantitative and qualitative analysis It covers 12 principles of GAC and the entire analytical process Easily interpretable using pictograms and informative results Useful for comparing purposes 	 The weight assigned to each of the 12 sections is unclear although flexible depending on their significance Does not consider internal standards 	[g

Method	Sample type	Analytes	Sample treatment	Analytical determination	Reference
• 1		• 6 PhACe	• Soxblet	. GC-MS	• [10]
• 2	 Sludge and soil 	• 19 PhACs + PCPs	• UAE + d-SPE	· LC-MS/MS	• [35]
• 3	 Sludge and soil 	• 19 PhACs + PCPs	• SPLE	· LC-MS/MS	• [35]
• 4	Sludge and soil	• 19 PhACs + PCPs	QuEChERS	• LC-MS/MS	• [35]
• 5	Sludge	• 45 PhACs + PCPs	• MSPD	• LC-MS/MS	• [36]
• 6	Sludge	• 15 PhACs	• MAE	• LC-MS/MS	• [37]
• 7	Sludge	• 14 PhACs + PCPs	• UAE + DI-SPME	• GC-MS	• [38]
• 8	Sludge	• 23 PhACs	• PHWE	• UPLC-MS/MS	• [39]
• 9	• Soil	 11 Illicit drugs 	No treatment	• PS-MS/MS	• [40]

Figure 2. Selected analytical procedures involving the determination of PhACs in sludge and soil samples.

Assessing the green profile of analytical procedures: Case studies

Green assessment of 9 analytical procedures for the determination of PhACs in sludge and soils

A total of nine analytical methods (Figure 2) using different techniques and different extraction approaches in complex sludge and soil samples have been selected for evaluation of their greenness. More information of each method can be found in Table 2. The analytical Eco-scale, GAPI and AGREE metrics have been applied to the selected procedures and the comparative results are shown in Table 3. The three metrics identified the PS-MS/MS method as the greenest procedure since it used untreated samples for direct mass spectrometry analysis.

The analytical Eco-Scale classified the greenness of selected methods as follows: PS-MS/MS (73) > MSPD; LC-MS/MS (71) = UAE + d-SPE; LC-MS/MS (71) > selective pressurized-liquid extraction (SPLE); LC-MS/MS (70) = QuEChERS; LC-MS/MS (70) > MAE; LC-MS/MS (69) > UAE + online direct inmersion-solid-phase microextraction (DI-SPME) on-fiber-derivatization; GC-MS (58) > Soxhlet; GC-MS (56) > pressurized hot water extraction (PHWE); SPE + ultra-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (UPLC-MS/MS) (39). All the procedures, except PHWE + SPE; UPLC-MS/MS, obtained scores in the range from 50-75 which are consider by analytical Eco-scale metric as "acceptable green analysis". Detailed information of how analytical Eco-scale scores for each analytical procedure were obtained can be seen in Table S4. The main green drawback of PS-MS/MS procedure is the large number of internal standards (n=7) used and their toxicity. Nevertheless, as internal standards are used at low volumes $(10 \,\mu\text{L})$, if analytical Eco-scale score is recalculated without considering the use of internal standards the score of PS-MS/MS procedure increases from 73 to 93, which is very close to the "ideal green analysis" (score: 100). The poor score obtained for PHWE + SPE; UPLC-MS/MS procedure (score: 39), despite the use of water as extraction solvent, is due to the use of hazardous reagents such as methanol (MeOH), silicon carbide and formic acid for extraction and clean-up steps and acetonitrile (ACN) as mobile phase solvent. Other procedures with a low score in analytical Eco-scale are those based on Soxhlet extraction; GC-MS (score: 56) and UAE-DI-SPME; GC-MS (score: 58). The main PPs in Soxhlet; GC-MS procedure are due to the high solvent volume. In UAE-DI-SPME; GC-MS the main PPs are due to the use of several internal standards and derivatization reagents. The strong influence on the final score of the use of internal standards, in turn conditioned by the number of analytes and therapeutic groups to analyze, makes difficult the comparison between the selected procedures using this metric. For instance, multi-residue methods are strongly penalized by the higher number of required internal standards.

The application of GAPI tool revealed PS-MS/MS procedure as the greenest one (8 categories in green, 5 categories in yellow and 2 categories in red) while the rest of the methodologies obtained the same profile: one category was colored in green, 5 categories in yellow and 9 categories in red, hindering a green classification of them. Detailed information of how GAPI green profiles were obtained can be seen in Table S5.

The AGREE approach classified the greenness of selected methods as follows: PS-MS/MS (0.62) > PHWE + SPE; UPLC-MS/MS (0.4) > MSPD; LC-MS/MS (0.34) > UAE-DI-SPME; GC-MS (0.33) = MAE; LC-MS/MS (0.33) > SPLE; LC-MS/MS (0.29) > Soxhlet; GC-MS (0.28) > UAE + d-SPE; LC-MS/MS (0.27) = QuEChERS; LC-MS/MS (0.27). Detailed information of how AGREE scores were obtained can be seen in Table S6. The greenest score was obtained for PS-MS/MS what it is in concordance with results from the other greenness metrics. Except PS-MS/MS and PHWE + SPE; UPLC-MS/MS methods, 7 out of 9 methodologies scored similar punctuation. The characteristics that significantly influenced in the lowest punctuations were due to the fact that the procedure was performed ex situ and consumed high volumes of hazardous solvents. For example, UAE + d-SPE; LC-MS/MS and QuEChERS; LC-MS/MS procedures, both with a score of 0.27, involved a high consumption of MeOH (up to 46.7 mL), an amount relatively higher than those regularly use with these techniques.

Green assessment of critical steps of analytical procedures for the determination of PhACs in sludge and soils

In this section, the green profile of the main parameters of the above-mentioned analytical procedures is comparatively

Table 2.	Description	of selected	methodologies	for the	determination	of F	hACs i	n environmental	solid	samples.

Reference	Pretreatment and treatment	Type and amount of sample	Solvents and reagents	Determination
[10]	-Homogenization -Conservation -Weight -Soxhlet (8 h)	Sludge (200 g)	DCM/Hexane (1:1, v/v) (300 mL)	GC-MS
	-Filtration			
[35]	-Evaporation -Lyophilization	Sludge and soil (2g)	-MeOH (0.5%, v/v, formic acid) (5 cycles x 3 mL)	LC-MS/MS
	-Conservation		-PSA (0.4 g)	
	-weight -Mix		-C18 (0.8g) -Water (0.1%, v/v, formic acid)	
	-UAE (3x15 min)		-MeOH	
	-Centrifugation			
[38]	-Lyophilization	Sludge (0.8 g)	-Internal standards	GC-MS
	-Weight	5 (5,	-Sample (0.8 g)	
	-Mix		-Acetone (200 mL)	
	-UAE (30 min, 50 W and 60 Hz)		-Water (12 mL)	
	-Online DI-SPME on-fiber derivatization		-NaCl (30%)	
[37]	-Centrifugation	Sludge (0.5 g)	-Derivatizing agent MTBSTFA (1 mL) -MeOH:McIlvaine's buffer,	LC-MS/MS
	Heat (60 °C)		(50:50, V/V, pH 3) (10 mL) -Water	
	-Conservation		-Internal standards	
	-Weight		-MeOH	
	-Mix		-Formic acid	
	-MAE (22 min, 87 °C and 1000 W)		-Formaldehyde	
[35]	-Lyophilization	Sludge and soil (2g)	-MeOH (0.5%, v/v, formic acid)	LC-MS/MS
	-Conservation	g (= g,	-PSA (0.4 g)	
	-Weight		-C18 (0.8 g)	
	-SPLE (2 cycles, 5 min) -Evaporation		-Water (0.1%, v/v, formic acid)	
			-Diatomaceous earth (1.6 g)	
[39]	-Lyophilization	Sludge (0.2 g)	-Water (28 mL)	UPLC-MS/MS
	-Weight		-MeOH (11 mL)	
	-Centrifugation		-Acetonitrile -Silicon carbido (8 g)	
	-Mix		-Internal standards (30 mL)	
	-SPE (Oasis HLB 200 mg)		-Formic acid (10%) (50 μL)	
[36]	-Evaporation		-Saturated EDTA solution (50 μ L)	
[50]	-Lyophilization	Sludge (0.1 g)	-C18 sorbent (0.4 g)	LC-MS/MS
	-Weight			
	-Heat		-5 mM ammonium acetate in water	
[40]	-Evaporation		-Acetonitrile/water (1:1, v/v) (1 mL)	
[40]	-Weight	Soil (0.025 g)	-Internal standards	Ambient ionization-
	-Paper spray ionization -Spray voltage (4.5 kW)		-Acetonitrile (0.1%, V/V, formic acia) (130 µL)	M2/M2
[35]	-Lyophilization	Sludge and soil (2g)	-MeOH (0.5%, v/v, formic acid) (20 mL)	LC-MS/MS
	-Conservation		$-MgSO_4$ (4 g)	
	-weight -Mix		-NaCI (1g) -PSA (0.4 a)	
	-Centrifugation		-C18 (0.8 g)	
	-Evaporation		-Water (0.1%, v/v, formic acid) -MeOH	

DCM: dichloromethane; DI-SPME: direct immersion solid-phase microextraction; GC-MS: gas chromatography-mass spectrometry; HLB: hydrophilic lipophilic balance; LC-MS/MS: liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry; MeOH: methanol; MS/MS: tandem mass spectrometry; MTBSTFA: N-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-N-methyltrifluoroacetamide; PHWE: pressurized-hot-water extraction; PSA: primary secondary amine; SPE: solid-phase extraction; SPLE: selective pressurized liquid extraction; UAE: ultrasound-assisted extraction; UPLC-MS/MS: ultra-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry.

evaluated by means of analytical Eco-scale, GAPI and AGREE metrics.

Sampling and pretreatment

Main problems of sampling of solid environmental samples are related with the lack of uniformity in its composition and the low representativeness of grab sampling. At-line system is not an option in this type of analysis. All the selected methodologies involved off-line sampling protocols and obtained the same punctuation in this step with AGREE and GAPI metrics. The analytical Eco-Scale metric does not consider the sampling step. Problems related to transportation and storage are also concerned and incompatible with GAC due to energy use. The use of passive sampling has been recently installed for water matrices to avoid periodic

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Table 3. Application of analytical eco-scale, GAPI and A	GREE metrics to selected met	hodologies for the determination	of PhACs in sludge or soil.	
Sample treatment and analytical determination	Analytical Eco-scale	GAPI	AGREE	Reference
PS-MS/MS	73		0.62	[40]
PHWE + SPE; UPLC-MS/MS	39		0.4	[39]
MSPD; LC-MS/MS	71		0.34	[36]
MAE; LC-MS/MS	69			[37]
$UAE + online\text{-}DI\text{-}SPME\text{-}on\text{-}fiber\text{-}derivatization; \ GC\text{-}MS$	58		11 12 1 2 0.33 8 7 6 5	[38]
SPLE; LC-MS/MS	70			[35]
Soxhlet; GC-MS	56		0.28	[10]
UAE + d-SPE; LC-MS/MS	71		0.27	[35]
QuEChERS; LC-MS/MS	70		0.27	[35]

DI-SPME: direct immersion solid-phase microextraction; d-SPE: dispersive solid-phase extraction; GC-MS: gas chromatography-mass spectrometry; MAE: microwave-assisted extraction; MS/MS: tandem mass spectrometry; MSPD: matrix solid-phase dispersion; LC-MS/MS: liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry; PHWE: pressurized hot-water extraction; PS: paper spray ionization; SPE: solid-phase extraction; SPLE: selective pressurized-liquid extraction; QuEChERS: quick, easy, cheap, effective, rugged and safe method; UAE: ultrasound-assisted extraction; UPLC-MS/MS: ultra-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry.

transportation to sampling site. However, it is a practice uncommon in sludge and soil samples. To our knowledge, some passive samplers have been developed to be placed in sediments, but they monitor contaminants in the sediment porewater, not in the sediment itself.

Once in the lab, sludge and soil samples require of a homogenization pretreatment. Although these operations are not polluting they require time and personal implication. Except the PS-MS/MS procedure, the selected methods required a homogenization pretreatment workflow consisting of drying, grinding, and sieving. Nevertheless, it must be point out that PS-MS/MS procedure was developed for soil samples whereas the others were developed for sewage sludge, which is a more heterogeneous matrix.

Extraction and clean-up steps

Procedures for the determination of PhACs in sludge and soil samples commonly require several extraction and/or clean-up steps to remove interferences and to enhance sensitivity and selectivity of the method. In AGREE metric, the number of steps to be performed is critical, with a relative penalization of 0.2 over 1 for each step. In GAPI metric, the number of steps of the methodology affects the score of two of the sixteen parameters evaluated: the type of method parameter (5th parameter) and additional treatments parameter (8th parameter). The analytical Eco-Scale metric does not consider the number of steps required by the methodologies.

Extraction procedure offers many options, and considerable efforts and progress is being made to make this step greener. A comparative table including advantages and disadvantages from a GAC perspective of main extraction techniques applied to determine PhACs in solid environmental samples is presented in Table 4.

The use of untreated samples for direct MS analysis began in earnest with the development of ambient desorption/ionization techniques.^[41] It requires minimal sample amount, minimal reagents and solvent consumption and minimal waste generation in addition to no sample preparation steps and a lower occupational risk. Despite being mainly used for liquid samples, PS-MS/MS has been proposed to the analysis of solid samples that can be easily placed or coated on a paper tip surface. However, matrix effects are unavoidable which results in selectivity and sensitivity problems, especially in complex samples such as sludge matrices. Previous studies have utilized this technique in clinical diagnostics, forensics, and in less proportion in environmental monitoring.^[42,43] To our knowledge, only an application based on PS-MS/MS has been found in the literature although it was focus on the analysis of PhACs in soil samples and compounds ionized in positive mode.^[40]

Clean-up as an additional step uses extra reagents and resources. SPE and d-SPE are the most successfully applied due to the possibility of automatization and the vast diversity of commercial sorbents available (such as OASIS HLB, Strata X, or Sep-Pak C18 plus) which are generally applicable to a wide spectrum of organic pollutants. However, it is possible to have a significant negative impact in some cases due to poor recovery after purification. Recently, a green option considered to improve the sustainability of analysis is the propose of more selective adsorbent reducing the possibility of coelution of similar analytes and consequently the need for high-quality and expensive equipment to separate PhACs from interferences. Gilant et al.^[44] synthesized two novel polymers with strong cation-exchange character to be applied as selective sorbents for the SPE of PhACs and illicit drugs from wastewater samples. On the other hand, the use of commercial cartridges in large environmental screenings significantly increases the cost of the analytical process. As consequence, the use of natural and regenerated adsorbents is another important area of research and may also provide a solution to enhance the greenness. Cellulose-based sorbent was used for the determination of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in environmental water samples.^[45]

While the use of miniaturized clean-up techniques to determine PhACs in water matrices is widely established, their used in solid environmental matrices is scarce and comparatively lower. Dowling et al.^[40] compared PS-MS/MS (without the need for off-line extraction) with salting-out assisted liquid-liquid extraction (SALLE) prior to PS-MS/ MS. The addition of the SALLE step allowed six-fold lower limits of detection and an improvement of the precision and linearity of the method. The implementation of online coupling of treatment techniques with analytical instruments is a hot topic in the GAC since it allows to process samples in short times, to improve health and safety of the analyst, or to reduce solvent consumption.^[46] The application of online SPE allows for the efficient and automated preparation of small sample volumes with improved reliability and performance. Ferhi et al.^[47] developed an analytical method for the determination of 14 PhACs in soil and sewage sludge using online-SPE as clean-up step after an extraction procedure based on QuEChERS method. Besides the reduction of solvent consumption this strategy allowed to reduce plastic waste generation and analysis cost as cartridges are reusable for various samples.

Reagents and solvent consumption and waste generation

The amounts of toxic reagents or solvents used is a critical issue in the three metrics. Regarding the solvent choice, not significant differences were found between techniques. Mixtures MeOH:H₂O are the most used for PhACs extraction. Mixtures of MeOH or ACN with other solvents, salts and acids have also been proposed. However, significant differences can be found in the amount of solvent and time consumed. It should be also underlined that despite using the same analytical technique differences exist in the literature reviewed in terms of the quantity of sample treated and the amount of solvent.^[7] For example, UAE technique was selected using from 1 g of digested sludge and 9 mL of MeOH:acetic acid (1:1; v/v),^[48] 2 g of secondary sludge and 30 mL MeOH:H₂O (1:1; v/v)^[49] or to 0.5 g of primary sludge and 60 mL of MeOH.

The highest the sample mass is, the highest the solvent volumes required are. The sample mass used varied from 25 mg in direct analysis (PS-MS/MS) (no solvent) to 200 g used in Soxhlet extraction (300 mL solvent). The analytical

	וואמומנועב טעבו אובאי טו אמווואוב נובמנווובווג אוטנטכטא ובן	אחורכת וחו נווב מברבוווווומנוחוו חו בווארא ווו אחות בוואווחוווו	احالاها عقابالماحي				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Proposed solvents	Solvent volumes	Cycles	Time (min)	References
Soxhlet	-Samples are repeatedly brought into contact with fresh nortions of extraction solvent	-Long extraction times	-DCM:hexane (1:1, v/v)	300	T	480	[10]
	-Filtration is not necessary -Low cost equipment	 Intensive labor Large volumes of organic solvents High temperature used could degrade target compounds Extract clean-up step is needed 					
UAE	-The cavitation of UAE reduces extraction time -Low cost equipment	 -A filtration step is required after extraction -Large volumes of organic solvents -Extract clean-up step is needed -Large number of cycles are required to obtain good recoveries 	-MeOH:HCOOH (95:5, v/v) -MeOH -ACN:EtOAc (1:1, v/v) and 10% CH ₃ COOH -Water	6-90	1-4	20-300	[66-24,88,78,68]
			-MeOH:McIlvaine buffer (50:50, v/v, pH 3) -MeOH:phosphate buffer (1:1, v/v) -MeOH:water (1:1, v/v) -MeOH:ACN:EtOAc (1:1:2, v/v/v)				
MAE	-High efficiency -Automatized -Low organic solvents volume -Small curantrities of samole	-Limited to solvents that absorb microwaves -A filtration step is required after extraction -Extract clean-up is needed -Hinh temperature could decrade target compounds	-MeOH -ACN:phosphoric acid 1% (7:3, v/v) -MeOH:McIlvaine buffer (50:50, v/v, pH 3) -MeOH-warer (nH 2)	6-25	I	17-82	[20-00/) 2(2)
	-Ability to extract many samples simultaneously -Short extraction times	-Cost of the equipment	-ACN:HCOOH (7:3, v/v, pH 3.5) -Triton X-114				
PLE	-High efficiency	-Expensive equipment	MeOH:HCOOH (5%), MeOH:0.2 M citric acid (1:1, v/v), water:ACN (1:1, v/v), sodium phosphate buffer-EDTA, ACN-phosphoric acid and MeOH/ water (9:1, v/v)	14-60	1-6	15-140	[15,35,64–66]
РНЖЕ	-Automatable -Clean-up could be performed simultaneously -Green and low-cost solvent -Short extraction times -Automatable -Clean-up can be simultaneously performed	 - A filtration step is required after extraction -High temperature can degrade target compounds -Expensive equipment -High temperature can degrade target compounds -A filtration step is required after extraction - Por recoveries when water is used as extraction solvent 	-Water	23-90	1-5	23-31	[39]
MSPD	-Short extraction times -Low solvent consumption -Clean-up can be simultaneously performed -Low cost equipment -Simple to use - Ow orcanic solvents volumes	-No automatable -A filtration step is required after extraction	-MeOH -MeOH:NH ₃ (2%) -Hexane:acetione (1:2, v/v) -ACN:5% oxalic acid (8:2, v/v) -MeOH:acetone (1:1, v/v)	5-40	-	1	[17,18,36,67,68]
QuEChERS	-Short reatment time -Low organic solvents volumes -High recoveries -Extraction and clean-up are carried out simultaneously -Low-cost equipment	-Limited to ACN as extraction solvent -A filtration step is required after extraction	-ACN	7.5-21.5	1-2	7-70	[20,35,69,70]

Table 4. Comparative overview of sample treatment protocols reported for the determination of PhACs in solid environmental samples.

ACN: acetonitrile; DCM: dichloromethane; EtOAc: ethyl acetate; MAE: microwave-assisted extraction; MeOH: methanol; MSPD: matrix solid-phase dispersion; PHWE: pressurized-hot-water extraction; PLE: pressurized-liquid extraction; QuEChERS: quick, easy, cheap, effective, rugged, and safe method; UAE: ultrasound-assisted extraction.

Eco-Scale and GAPI establish PPs or assign colors based on the amounts of solvent/reagent used. In both metrics, the same ranges are proposed: < 10 mL (g); 10-100 mL (g) and > 100 mL (g). PS-MS/MS method was the only one classified as a micro-extraction method due to the low solvent volume used (165 μ L). However, these ranges do not allow to positively differentiate microextraction procedures requiring micro- or nano- volumes. For example, a method employing 50 µL of an ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid solution^[39] would have the same PPs that a method using 6 mL of MeOH as extraction solvent.^[36] The same problem occurs when considering waste generation. In both analytical Eco-Scale and GAPI the same ranges are proposed for green evaluation of waste amount: < 1 mL (g) (green); 1-10 mL (g) (yellow) and $> 10 \,\text{mL}$ (g) (red). Therefore, the same penalization was assigned for both procedures Soxhlet; GC-MS and UAE + DI-SPME; GC-MS (8 PPs with Analytical Ecoscale and red label using GAPI) even though the waste amount was twenty times higher with the former (301 mL of Soxhlet; GC-MS versus 13 mL of UAE + DI-SPME; GC-MS procedure). AGREE metric allows to introduce the specific amount of toxic reagents or solvents used and waste generation as the score is calculated from an equation where the specific volume or mass of reagent or waste is introduced.

Internal standards and derivatization agents

Methods using internal standards are strongly penalized by analytical Eco-Scale metric as this metric considers internal standards as any other type of reagents. Internal standards are used at very low volumes (just a few µL) but this fact does not allow to minimize their impact in the greenness assessment of the analytical procedure. For instance, the usage of 9 mL of an organic solvent for extraction would be assigned the same number of PPs as a few µL of internal standard. Only one of the selected methods, the one based on UAE + online-DI-SPME-on-fiber derivatization; GC-MS/ MS^[38] required a derivatization step prior GC-MS determination. AGREE metric allows to introduce the CAS number of the derivatization agent to evaluate its toxicity whereas GAPI metric considers derivatization in one point of the whole evaluation (point 8, preparation pentagram, Figure S1). The analytical Eco-Scale does not specifically consider the derivatization step.

Analytical determination: LC and GC comparison

LC exhibits so far, a superior applicability due to PhACs polar nature. Nevertheless, methodologies involving LC determination could result less green than GC. For instance, they do not require derivatization agents but produce a large amount of organic solvents and reagents used as components of the mobile phase. For example, using LC with a 50:50 ratio of organic phase and buffer at 1 mL/min flow rate generates 720 mL of organic waste and 720 mL of aqueous buffer waste containing toxic chemicals in a single working day. Organic solvents like MeOH and ACN have a highly adverse environmental impact.

The main goal in LC regarding GAC have been achieved by applying shorter and smaller diameter chromatographic columns, which implies high pressure system. The lower the diameter is, the lower flow-rate is required resulting in a lower mobile phase volumes required. From 4.6 mm to 2.1 mm internal diameter columns there is a 79% reduction in volume. Li et al.^[36] used a 4.6 mm of internal diameter column wasting a total mobile phase volume of 9 mL for sample (18 min of total run time and 0.5 mL/min of flowrate) while Dorival García et al.^[37] employed a 2.1 mm of internal diameter column using a total mobile phase volume for each sample of 5.2 mL (13 min of total run time and 0.4 mL/min of flow-rate). UPLC and nano-LC has progressed based on HPLC. The average run time of UPLC is at least 20% less, due to the improved separation efficiency. The usage of short columns and fused core particle columns (with smaller sizes) are some proposals to make the elution faster and reduce waste. In relation to the column length, Dorival-García et al.^[37] can separate 15 PhACs in a Kinetex C18 column (100 mm x 2.1 mm i.d., 2.6 µm particle size) using up to 5.2 mL of mobile phase in 13 min of total run time while Svahn & Björklund (2019)^[39] get separate up to 23 PhACs employing a shorter column Acquity UPLC BEH C18 (50 mm x 2.1 mm i.d., $1.8 \,\mu$ m particle size) using 3.2 mL of mobile phase in 8 min of total run time.

Furthermore, it is logical to consider greener multiresidue methodologies since they can determine many analytes in the shortest time. However only AGREE considers this fact. The methodology developed by Gupta & Thakur^[10] based on Soxhlet + GC-MS determined the higher number of analytes by sample (up to 85 analytes from which 6 were PhACs), however, the analysis needed up to 1 sample per hour. With the method proposed by Dowling et al.^[40] (PS-MS/MS) up to 11 analytes were determined but up to 60 samples can be analyzed in 1 h. The time and the number of analytes have not been considered with analytical Eco-Scale and GAPI.

Energy

The three selected metrics classify the energy consumption into three ranges (≤ 0.1 kWh per sample, ≤ 1.5 kWh per sample and > 1.5 kWh per sample).^[31-33] Using GAPI, all methodologies were classified as red. Energy consumption has quite low weight in the final analytical Eco-Scale score. Instruments that consume less than 0.1 kWh (i.e., vortex, centrifuge, or evaporator) are not penalized. If medium or high energy consumption instruments are used, the difference in penalty compared to not using any instrument is only one or two points respectively. AGREE considers a relative penalization of 0.5 over 1 for each range.

Selected methodologies involved MS determination, which implied in all cases an energy consumption of >1.5 kWh per sample. This fact makes irrelevant the energy consumption due to other equipment in the greenness evaluation of the complete procedure. It should be interesting to consider the energy consumption of sample treatment and analytical determination separately. Energy consumption is influenced by other variables such as the water content of

the matrix, the amount of sample used or if the samples are treated in series or in parallel, as the energy requirements of the device should be divided by the number of samples processed simultaneously. For example, for the determination of PhACs in sludge samples the water content is usually removed. The greener and cheaper option of air-drying uncommon due contamination is to problems. Lyophilization is the preferred option to such end since it is a simple, time-effective method and PhACs are not degraded. Nonetheless it is an expensive apparatus with high consumption of energy^[51] (>1.5 kWh per sample). Centrifugation and decantation are an alternative to separate suspended solids from wastewater although the material is not completely dry.^[37] Heating in an oven at low temperature imply a greater period, may cause analyte degradation and it also consumes high energy content (> 0.1 kWh per sample).^[52]

Occupational risk

The analytical Eco-Scale and GAPI tool consider the existence of occupational risk during the development of a methodology. However, no differences were observed in this regard between selected methodologies, with the exception of PS-MS/MS method.^[40] The penalty or color assigned to occupational risk lacks specificity, only discriminating between "yes" if the process is hermitized or "no" if there is gas/vapors emission. AGREE tool considers the operator's safety by selecting threats that are not avoided when persuch forming the procedure, as "bioacumulative", "corrosive", "persistent", "highly flammable" or "explosive", among others, with a relative penalization of 0.2 over 1 for each number of threats. However, other factors were missed in this section. For example, dried samples are routinely homogenized by grinding and sieving (<2 mm). These operations are not polluting but require time and personal implication.

Analytical features

The incorporation of analytical features (matrix effect, sensitivity, selectivity, etc.) in green metrics was a gap revealed in all cases. Although LC with diode array and fluorescence detectors may be a low-cost technology suited in some cases for PhACs in sewage sludge,^[11] the hyphenation with MS detection is increasingly the preferred technique for PhAC analysis because of its undeniably powerful qualitative and quantitative capabilities. Coupling LC with MS detection is key to increase sensitivity, selectivity, and structural confirmation in PhAC analysis. The main inconvenient is the powerful consumption and its elevated cost.

On the other hand, matrix effects negatively influence the quantification of PhACs in both LC-MS/MS and GC-MS analyses. To compensate matrix effects, besides the use of internal standard matrix-matched or isotope dilution are commonly employed. However, the use of these types of calibration entails the preparation of a different calibration curve per sample and contribute to enhanced reagent consumption, operator time and waste generation and require a

significant economic investment, which is usually in disagreement with GAC principles. This fact was not considered in the evaluation of the greenness of analytical methodologies, but its contribution should not be underestimated.

Conclusions

The main procedures used to determine PhACs in solid environmental samples were examined from a green perspective using Analytical Eco-scale, GAPI, and AGREE metrics. Analytical Eco-Scale resulted an easy tool although the obtained score does not provide information about the stages of the analytical procedures responsible of the highest PPs values. GAPI allows at a glance clearly highlight the weakest greenness points of an analytical procedure. However, it was limited in its ability to evaluate the greenness of the methods for comparing purposes. AGREE resulted the most useful tool for comparing purposes and satisfies both requirements, it allows qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Although sludge and soil samples are complex matrices and sample preparation is tedious and time-consuming, significant efforts have been made to improve the greenness of analytical procedures. Developed procedures to determine PhACs in these matrices can be classified as acceptable green although still far of an excellent green analysis. PS-MS/MS was classified as the greenest methodology by the three metrics considered. It requires minimal sample preparation steps and chemicals. However, matrix effects are unavoidable which results in selectivity and sensitivity problems, especially in complex samples such as sludge matrices. Results of AGREE and GAPI also showed the green superiority of MSPD and PHWE over other extraction techniques such as Soxhlet, while discrepancy results were obtained using analytical Eco-Scale that sited PHWE as inadequate green analysis due to the use of internal standards. The incorporation of validation analytical features (accuracy, precision, or sensitivity) in green metrics was a gap revealed in all cases although all of them resulted suitable for its use in the assessment of the environmental impact. The implementation of GAC principles can affect the validation parameters; therefore, the compromise between these factors and GAC requirements must be achieved.

The development of more environmentally friendly analytical methods by the on-line coupling of some treatment steps with analytical instruments, the use of eco-friendly solvents, the application of environmentally friendly SPE sorbents, and the miniaturization (i.e., lower diameter and shorter columns, microfluidic analysis) and greater automatization of the techniques are some future tasks in this research area.

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Abbreviations

ACN	acetonitrile
AGREE	Analytical GREEnness
AMVI	Analytical Method Volume Intensity
DI-SPME	direct inmersion-solid-phase microextraction
d-SPE	dispersive solid-phase extraction
GAC	Green Analytical Chemistry
GC-MS	gas chromatography-mass spectrometry
GAPI	Green Analytical Procedure Index
HPLC-EAT	High-Pressure Liquid Chromatography-
	Environmental Assessment Tool
QuEChERS	Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged and Safe
	method
LC-MS/MS	liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
MAE	microwave-assisted extraction
МеОН	methanol
MSPD	matrix solid-phase dispersion

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nano-LC	nano-liquid chromatography	PS-MS/MS	paper spray ionization-tandem mass spectrometry
PCPs	personal care products	SALLE	salting-out assisted liquid-liquid extraction
PhACs	pharmaceutically active compounds	SPE	solid-phase extraction
PHWE	pressurized-hot water extraction	SPLE	selective pressurized-liquid extraction
PLE	pressurized-liquid extraction	UAE	ultrasound-assisted extraction
PPs	penalty points	UPLC-MS/MS	ultra-performance liquid chromatography-tandem
PS	paper spray ionization		mass spectrometry.