

**Detection and Quantitation of Frauds in the Authentication of Cranberry-Based Extracts by UHPLC-HRMS (Orbitrap) Polyphenolic Profiling and Multivariate Calibration Methods**

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1 **Abstract**

2 UHPLC-HRMS (Orbitrap) polyphenolic profiling was applied to the  
3 characterization, classification and authentication of cranberry-based natural and  
4 pharmaceutical products. 53 polyphenolic standards were characterized to build a user  
5 accurate mass database which was then proposed to obtain UHPLC-HRMS  
6 polyphenolic profiles by means of ExactFinder<sup>TM</sup> software. Principal component  
7 analysis results showed a good sample discrimination according to the fruit employed.  
8 Regarding cranberry-based pharmaceuticals, discrimination according to the  
9 presentation format (syrup, sachets, capsules, etc.) was also observed due to the  
10 enhancement of some polyphenols by purification and preconcentration procedures.  
11 Procyanidin A2 and homogentisic, sinapic, veratric, cryptochlorogenic and caffeic acids  
12 showed to be important polyphenols to achieve cranberry-based products discrimination  
13 against the other studied fruits. Partial least square regression allowed the  
14 determination of adulterant percentages in cranberry-fruit samples. Very satisfactory  
15 results, with adulteration quantification errors lower than 6.0% were obtained even at  
16 low adulteration levels.

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19 **Keywords:** Polyphenols; Cranberry; Food characterization; Food Authentication;  
20 UHPLC; High resolution mass spectrometry; Orbitrap

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## 25 INTRODUCTION

26 Food manufacturers and society are concerned about food product quality.  
27 Foodstuffs are complex products including, mainly, naturally occurring substances, but  
28 other compounds such as those migrating from packaging materials or those coming  
29 from technological and agrochemical processes can also be present. Typically,  
30 organoleptic and socioeconomic factors influence foodstuff consumer preferences.  
31 However, nowadays the presence of bioactive substances with healthy effects is gaining  
32 interest in the society. Unfortunately, fraudulent practices derived from food product  
33 adulterations by substitution, for instance, of the most valued components for others of  
34 lower commercial value and lower health beneficial properties are being employed to  
35 reduce food production costs.<sup>1</sup> For example, the addition of a co-fruit (a more economic  
36 and accessible fruit) to the final fruit-based processed foodstuffs such as juices is among  
37 the most common fraudulent practices that can be found in the fruit industry.<sup>2</sup> Fruit-  
38 based pharmaceutical preparations are also susceptible of fraudulent practices.

39 Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) and its derivatives have shown several  
40 health beneficial effects based on their ability to prevent urinary tract infections by  
41 hindering the adhesion of pathogenic bacteria to the urinary tract uroepithelial cells.  
42 This bioactivity is attributed to the presence of some specific flavan-3-ol polyphenols  
43 such as proanthocyanidins (PACs). These substances are classified into A-type and B-  
44 type PACs depending on the interflavan linkage between their monomeric units. When  
45 they are linked between the C6 or C8 positions of the lower monomeric unit and the C4  
46 position of the upper monomeric unit they are considered B-type PACs. When an  
47 additional interflavan linkage through an ether-type bond between the C7 or C5  
48 positions of the lower monomeric unit and the C2 position of the upper monomeric unit  
49 is present, the compounds are classified as A-type PACs.<sup>3</sup> However, only A-type PACs,

50 which accounts for more than 65% of the PAC content in cranberries, exhibit the  
51 bioactive activity to prevent urinary tract infections.<sup>4-7</sup> In contrast, B-type PACs, which  
52 are found in other fruits such as blueberry, raspberry and grapes, do not show this  
53 activity. Recently, some commercial pharmaceutical preparations supposedly produced  
54 only from cranberry extracts (and commercialized to prevent urinary tract infections)  
55 are adulterated with other less expensive fruit-based extracts (obtained from grapes or  
56 blueberries) poor in the desired bioactive polyphenols. This is because the overall  
57 contents of PACs are roughly assessed in pharmaceutical laboratories by a simple  
58 colorimetric analysis based on the reaction of PACs with 4-  
59 dimethylaminocinnamaldehyde (DMAC)<sup>8,9</sup> unable to differentiate among A- and B-type  
60 PACs. Thus, quality control of raw fruit extract materials (cranberry, blueberry,  
61 raspberry and grapes) as well as food-processed products require reliable, selective and  
62 effective methods for food authentication and for the prevention of frauds.

63         Nowadays, society is increasingly interested in polyphenols (aromatic secondary  
64 metabolites widely distributed into the plant kingdom) because of their great abundance  
65 in our diet, but mainly due to their role in the prevention of some diseases based on their  
66 antioxidant properties.<sup>10-12</sup> Furthermore, apart from their contribution to sensorial  
67 attributes such as the flavor and color properties of food products,<sup>13,14</sup> polyphenols have  
68 been recognized as relevant food descriptors. Polyphenolic content can be influenced by  
69 multiple parameters: environment climatic conditions, water availability sources,  
70 growing and cultivation techniques, the soil management practices, the degree of fruit  
71 maturation, etc. Thus, polyphenolic distribution and content can be used as analytical  
72 data to establish food authentication for correct product designations of origin (PDO)  
73 assignments and for the prevention of frauds. For instance, some fruit characteristic  
74 polyphenolic compounds have been successfully employed to detect frauds in nectars,

75 fruit juices and jams adulterated with cheaper fruits.<sup>2,15,16</sup> Thus, polyphenolic profiling  
76 and fingerprinting are very promising tools for the determination of food authenticity  
77 due to their taxonomic specificity in fruits.<sup>16,17</sup> For example, phlorizin and phloretin in  
78 the case of apples, arbutin in pears, naringenin derivatives in the case of citric fruits, and  
79 punicalagins (ellagic acid derivatives) for pomegranate, are specific polyphenols  
80 characteristic of the commented fruits.<sup>2,15,18,20</sup> Among polyphenols, anthocyanins are  
81 abundant in berries and grapes, and they have an strong influence in both flavor and  
82 color attributes. They have also been exploited by some authors as potential markers of  
83 grape varieties,<sup>21-23</sup> cherries,<sup>24,25</sup> blueberries<sup>26</sup> and other berries.<sup>27</sup> However, in some  
84 cases, the reported anthocyanin content on some berry fruits is inconsistent, fact that is  
85 unlikely ascribed only to geographical location and environment differences. Other  
86 factors such as the sample extraction methods employed and post-harvest actions  
87 including the storage conditions are more likely to explain these differences.<sup>28,29</sup>

88         The determination of polyphenolic compounds in foodstuff is complex not only  
89 because of the food matrix but also due to the diversity of polyphenols, with a great  
90 variability of chemical structures, that may be present. In addition, polyphenols have a  
91 wide range of polarities and sizes (simple phenolic acids, tannins, etc.), and they can be  
92 found in a wide range of concentration levels.<sup>30</sup> Thus, polyphenolic separation,  
93 determination and identification, as well as their sample extraction, are hindered by the  
94 chemical diversity within this family of compounds. The determination of polyphenols  
95 in fruit-based products is mainly addressed by liquid chromatography coupled to mass  
96 spectrometry or tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS(/MS)) techniques. Electrospray as  
97 ionization source and triple quadrupole, ion-trap and linear ion-trap as MS analyzers are  
98 typically employed.<sup>15,30-33</sup> Recently, atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI)  
99 and atmospheric pressure photoionization (APPI) have also been described for the mass

100 spectrometric ionization and determination of polyphenols.<sup>34-36</sup> Today, high resolution  
101 mass spectrometry (HRMS) techniques and the accurate mass measurements achieved  
102 with time-of-flight (TOF) and Orbitrap analyzers have also gained popularity in the  
103 characterization, identification and determination of polyphenols in foodstuffs.<sup>30,37,38</sup>

104 Lately, the use of polyphenolic compositional fingerprints and profiles as a  
105 source of information to achieve the classification of samples and their authentication in  
106 the prevention of frauds by means of chemometric methods is emerging.<sup>17,30,39,40</sup> The  
107 profiling approach employs the concentrations of targeted polyphenols as data, while in  
108 the fingerprinting approach data consists on instrumental signals such as intensity  
109 counts registered as a function of retention time and  $m/z$  values. The extraction of  
110 relevant information on descriptive and functional foodstuff characteristics to address  
111 the characterization and classification of products, and for authentication purposes, is  
112 achieved by further chemometric analysis of these data.<sup>30</sup>

113 This work aims at developing a UHPLC-HRMS (Orbitrap) method for the  
114 detection and quantitation of frauds in the authentication of fruit-based extracts by  
115 means of a targeted polyphenolic profiling and multivariate calibration. For that  
116 purpose, the 53-targeted polyphenols belonging to different families were fully  
117 characterized in terms of HRMS and product ion scan spectra with stepped normalized  
118 collision energies with accurate mass measurements, as well as retention time under  
119 reversed-phase separation conditions. An accurate mass database was built from such  
120 spectral and chromatographic data. Then, different classes of fruit-based (cranberry,  
121 blueberry, raspberry and grape) products including the raw fruit extracts, fruit juices and  
122 raisins, as well as commercially available cranberry-based pharmaceuticals including  
123 raw extracts, powder capsules, syrup, and sachets were analyzed after a simple sample  
124 extraction with acetone/water/hydrochloric acid (70:29.9:0.1 v/v/v). Data corresponding

125 to the 53-targeted polyphenolic compounds was employed as chemical descriptors to  
126 achieve the classification of the analyzed samples by principal components analysis  
127 (PCA). Partial least squared (PLS) regression was then applied to quantify fruit  
128 adulteration levels (grape, blueberry and raspberry) in cranberry samples.

129

## 130 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 131 **Reagents and solutions**

132 Unless otherwise indicated, all the standards and chemicals used in this work  
133 were of analytical grade. Fifty-three polyphenolic standards belonging to different  
134 families (phenolic acids, benzoic acids, cinnamic acids, phenolic aldehydes, phenolic  
135 terpenes, flavones, flavanols, proanthocyanidins and stilbenes) were employed, and  
136 their chemical formula, CAS number and structure are given in Table 1. All the studied  
137 polyphenols were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany).

138 LC-MS grade water, methanol, acetonitrile, formic acid (98-100%) and acetone  
139 were also purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, and hydrochloric acid (98%) was from Merck  
140 (Seelze, Germany).

141 Stock standard solutions of all polyphenols (~1000 mg/L) were prepared in LC-  
142 MS grade methanol in amber-glass vials. Intermediate working solutions were prepared  
143 weekly from these stock standard solutions by appropriate dilution with LC-MS grade  
144 water. All stock solutions were stored at 4 °C for not more than 1 month.

145

### 146 **Instrumentation**

147 Chromatographic separation was carried out on an Accela UHPLC system  
148 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San José, CA, USA), equipped with a quaternary pump, an  
149 autosampler and a column oven. A porous-shell Ascentis® Express C18 reversed-phase

150 column (150 × 2.1 mm, 2.7 μm partially porous particle size) provided by Supelco  
151 (Bellefonte, PA, USA) was used for the proposed method. Separation under gradient  
152 elution based on 0.1% formic acid aqueous solution (solvent A) and acetonitrile also  
153 containing 0.1% formic acid (solvent B) was as follows: 0-1 min, isocratic conditions at  
154 10% B; 1-20 min, linear gradient from 10 to 95% B; 20-23 min, isocratic step at 95% B;  
155 23-24 min back to initial conditions at 10% B; and from 24 to 30 min, isocratic  
156 conditions at 10%B to re-equilibrate the column. The mobile phase flow-rate was 300  
157 μL/min, and the injection volume employed (in full loop mode) was 10 μL.

158         The UHPLC system was coupled to a Q-Exactive Orbitrap HRMS system  
159 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a heated electrospray ionization source  
160 (HESI-II) operated in negative ionization mode. Nitrogen was used as a sheath gas,  
161 sweep gas, and auxiliary gas at flow-rates of 60, 0 and 10 a.u. (arbitrary units),  
162 respectively. HESI-II heater temperature at 350 °C and capillary voltage at -2.5 kV were  
163 applied. Instrument capillary temperature was set at 320 °C, and an S-Lens RF level of  
164 50 V was used. Q-Exactive Orbitrap HRMS system was tuned and calibrated using  
165 commercially available Thermo Fisher calibration solution every three days. The  
166 HRMS instrument was operated in full MS scan mode with a  $m/z$  range from 100 to  
167 1,500 at a mass resolution of 70,000 full width at half-maximum (FWHM) at  $m/z$  200,  
168 with an automatic gain control (AGC) target (the number of ions to fill the C-Trap) of  
169 1.0E6 with a maximum injection time (IT) of 200 ms. Full MS scan mode was followed  
170 by a data-dependent scan operated product ion scan mode and applying for the  
171 fragmentation stepped normalized collision energies (NCE) of 17.5, 35 and 52.5 eV.  
172 Product ion spectra with an isolation window of 0.5  $m/z$  and a fixed first mass of  $m/z$  50  
173 were registered. At this stage, a mass resolution of 17,500 FWHM at  $m/z$  200, with an

174 AGC target at  $2.0 \times 10^5$  and a maximum IT of 200 ms were employed. Data dependent scan  
175 was triggered with an intensity threshold of  $1.0 \times 10^5$ .

176

### 177 **Samples and sample treatment**

178 106 samples including cranberry-based natural products (21 juices, 4 fruits and 8  
179 raisins), grape-based natural products (17 juices, 4 fruits and 8 raisins), blueberry-based  
180 natural products (6 juices and 6 fruits), raspberry-based natural products (10 fruits), and  
181 cranberry-based pharmaceutical preparations presented in different formats (5 raw  
182 extracts, 11 capsules, 4 sachets and 2 syrups) were analyzed in this work. Natural fruit  
183 products were purchased from Barcelona markets. Juice products from different  
184 trademarks (Granini, El Corte Inglés, OceanSpray, Int-Salim and Lambda) were  
185 employed. Raisin samples were obtained from Barcelona markets and from several  
186 commercially available trademarks (Eroski and Hacendado). Cranberry-based  
187 pharmaceutical raw-extracts (Cysticran 40, several lots) were obtained from Deiters  
188 S.L. (Barcelona, Spain). Other cranberry-based pharmaceutical products (several lots) in  
189 different formats were obtained from the next sources: raw extracts Cysticran 40 from  
190 Naturex-DBS (Sagamore, MA, USA); sachets Cysticlean from Vita Green (Hong Kong,  
191 China) and sachets Urell from Pharmatoka (Rueil-Malmaison, France); capsules Cystop  
192 from Deiters, capsules Urell from Pharmatoka, capsules Cranberola Cis-control from  
193 Arkopharma (Madrid, Spain), capsules Urosens from Salvat (Barcelona, Spain) and  
194 capsules Monorelle from Zambon (Bresso, Italy); and syrup Urell from Pharmatoka.

195 An Ultra-Turrax machine from Ika (Staufen, Germany) was used to grind fruit  
196 and raisin samples. Raisin samples were mixed with water to help the crushing.  
197 Cranberry-based pharmaceutical syrups, fruits and raisins were freeze-dried to obtain  
198 completely lyophilized products (Telstar LyoQuest lyophilizer, Terrasa, Spain)

199 following the method described by Pardo-Mates *et al.*<sup>3</sup> Briefly, a 24 h gradient  
200 temperature ramp from -80 °C to room temperature, followed by 6.5 h at 40 °C, was  
201 employed for lyophilization.

202 Sample treatment was carried out following a previously described method with some  
203 modifications.<sup>30,32,36,41,42</sup> Briefly, 0.1 g of sample were extracted by sonication using 10  
204 mL of an acetone:water:hydrochloric acid (70:29.9:0.1 v/v/v) solution, and the  
205 supernatant extracts obtained after centrifugation (3500 rpm, 15 min) were filtered (0.45  
206 µm nylon filters, Whatman, Clifton, NJ, USA) and kept at -4 °C until their analysis.

207 Besides, a quality control (QC) sample was prepared by mixing 50 µL of each  
208 sample extract. The QC was employed to evaluate the repeatability of the proposed  
209 method and the robustness of the chemometric results. All samples were analyzed  
210 randomly and QCs were introduced every ten samples.

211 Cranberry extracts (pure samples) were adulterated with different quantities of  
212 other fruits to perform authentication studies by PLS regression. Standard and unknown  
213 samples used in the PLS calibration and prediction sets were prepared using fruit  
214 extracts obtained as previously indicated. Pure extracts and cranberry-fruit adulterated  
215 extracts (from 2 to 50% adulteration levels) were employed.

216

## 217 **Data analysis**

218 HRMS raw data was processed by ExactFinder<sup>TM</sup> v2.0 software (Thermo Fisher  
219 Scientific) by applying a user target accurate mass database list comprising the 53  
220 studied and characterized polyphenols. Parameters including chromatographic retention  
221 time, accurate mass errors, isotopic patterns and product ion spectra with steeped  
222 normalized collision energies were used for identification and confirmation purposes.

223 Stand Alone Chemometrics Software (SOLO) obtained from Eigenvector  
224 Research was employed for the calculations using PCA and PLS regression.<sup>43</sup> A  
225 theoretical background description of these chemometric procedures is described  
226 elsewhere.<sup>44</sup>

227 Data matrices to be treated by PCA consisted of the peak area values of the 53  
228 studied polyphenolic compounds found in the analyzed samples. The dimension of the  
229 matrix was 106 samples x 53 analytes. Normalization pretreatment with respect to the  
230 overall polyphenolic concentration was applied to provide similar weights to all the  
231 samples. The structure of the maps of samples and variables was investigated using the  
232 principal components (PCs) scatter plots of scores and loadings, respectively. The  
233 distribution of samples on the PCs (plot of scores) showed patterns that may be  
234 correlated to sample properties such as the type of fruit. In contrast, the distribution of  
235 variables on the PCs (plot of loadings) showed information regarding correlations and  
236 dependences of the studied polyphenols with the fruit products.

237 The percentage of fruit-extract adulterants (grape, blueberry or raspberry  
238 extracts) in the cranberry-based extracts was quantified by PLS. Samples available were  
239 distributed among training (calibration) and test (validation and prediction) sets (Table  
240 1S in the supporting information). For both training and test steps, X-data matrices  
241 consisted of the polyphenol peak area signals of the corresponding samples and the Y-  
242 data matrices contained the adulteration fruit-extract percentages.

243

## 244 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### 245 **HRMS characterization of targeted polyphenolic compounds**

246 In the present work, a total of fifty-three polyphenolic standards belonging to  
247 different families (phenolic acids, benzoic acids, cinnamic acids, phenolic aldehydes,

248 phenolic terpenes, flavones, flavanols, proanthocyanidins and stilbenes) were analyzed  
249 by reversed-phase chromatography using a C18 fused-core UHPLC column under  
250 universal gradient elution conditions with water and acetonitrile (both 0.1% formic  
251 acid) as mobile phase components. Before sample analysis, HRMS characterization of  
252 targeted polyphenolic compounds was performed. For that purpose, targeted  
253 polyphenols were grouped in six standard solutions (preventing isobaric compounds)  
254 and analyzed with the proposed UHPLC-HRMS method (see experimental section) in  
255 negative ESI mode. Several parameters such as chromatographic retention times,  
256 HRMS spectra (at a resolution of 70,000 FWHM) and MS/HRMS product ion scan  
257 spectra (at a resolution of 17,500 FWHM) were established, and the data is summarized  
258 in Table 2. Although several coelutions were obtained within the analyzed polyphenols,  
259 these were clearly resolved by the high-resolution power of the Q-Exactive Orbitrap  
260 HRMS instrument. Regarding HRMS spectra, in general, all studied polyphenols  
261 provided as base peak the deprotonated molecule,  $[M-H]^-$ , which was then selected as  
262 the precursor ion for the MS/HRMS spectra (see as an example the HRMS spectrum of  
263 rutin in Figure 1a). As can be seen in Table 2, accurate mass measurements with errors  
264 below 1 ppm were obtained for almost all the analyzed compounds (49 of 53), and only  
265 4 polyphenols (sinapic acid, epigallocatechin gallate, procyanidin C1, and  
266 protocatechuic aldehyde) showed slightly higher mass errors, although always below 5  
267 ppm. It should be pointed out that generally no in-source fragmentation was observed  
268 during the HRMS experiments and for those cases where a slight in-source  
269 fragmentation was present the resulted signals were lower than 20% (relative  
270 abundance), hence they were not considered relevant for the intended study (see as an  
271 example the MS/HRMS spectrum of rutin in Figure 1b).

272 Because of the great variety of chemical structures among the studied  
273 polyphenols (see Table 1), MS/HRMS spectra were obtained by a data dependent  
274 acquisition mode based on product ion scan applying for the fragmentation stepped  
275 normalized collision energies (NCE) of 17.5, 35 and 52.5 eV. Thus, the product ion  
276 scan spectra were obtained as the average spectrum of the three collision energies. The  
277 observed fragment ions, assignments and accurate mass errors obtained are also  
278 summarized in Table 2. It should be mentioned that as the main objective of this work is  
279 to establish a fast targeted screening method to obtain discriminant polyphenolic  
280 profiles among the analyzed samples, optimal MS/HRMS conditions were not  
281 established for each compound, and data dependent scan mode was triggered only if the  
282 obtained signal for the targeted polyphenols was higher than 1.0E5. This would explain  
283 the fact that for some compounds no fragmentation was observed under the established  
284 acquisition conditions. As an example, Figure 1c shows the fragmentation pathway of  
285 rutin, one of the studied polyphenols, among others, that showed higher fragmentation  
286 under the applied conditions. Accurate mass measurements for all observed fragment  
287 ions with errors below 3.732 ppm were obtained.

288 Spectral data was employed to build a user accurate mass database of  
289 polyphenolic compounds for screening purposes with the ExactFinder<sup>TM</sup> software.

290

### 291 **UHPLC-HRMS polyphenolic profiling**

292 UHPLC-HRMS polyphenolic profiles of fruit-based products and cranberry-  
293 based pharmaceuticals were studied in order to see if polyphenolic profiles resulted in  
294 proper chemical data to achieve sample classification and authentication. For that  
295 purpose, a total of 106 samples were processed with a simple sample extraction method  
296 and the obtained extracts were analyzed with a C18 reversed-phase UHPLC-HRMS

297 method using a fused-core column and a universal gradient elution profile (see  
298 experimental section). Data was registered in HRMS full scan mode ( $m/z$  100-1500) and  
299 a data dependent scan mode based on product ion scan with stepped normalized  
300 collision energies. As an example, Figure 2 shows the total ion chromatogram (TIC)  
301 obtained for the cranberry pharmaceutical raw extract sample E3. Extracted ion  
302 chromatogram and HRMS spectrum are also depicted in the figure.

303         Once all the fruit-based and pharmaceutical sample extracts were analyzed,  
304 polyphenolic profiles were obtained by submitting the HRMS raw data to  
305 ExactFinder<sup>TM</sup> screening software and employing the user target accurate mass database  
306 list of the 53 characterized polyphenols previously commented. To simplify the  
307 obtained data, a threshold signal of 1.0E5 was set in the screening software to consider  
308 that a compound could be present in the sample. Moreover, several confirmation  
309 parameters such as accurate mass measurements (mass errors lower than 5 ppm),  
310 isotopic pattern matches (higher than 85%), product ion scan spectra, and  
311 chromatographic retention times were established. After raw data processing with  
312 ExactFinder<sup>TM</sup> software a report is provided for each sample depicting the peak areas of  
313 all the targeted polyphenols found in agreement with the established confirmation  
314 criteria (Table 2S in the supporting information shows the ExactFinder<sup>TM</sup> report  
315 obtained for the cranberry pharmaceutical raw extract sample E3).

316         UHPLC-HRMS polyphenolic profiles consisting of peak areas extracted by  
317 ExactFinder<sup>TM</sup> software in the fruit-based, pharmaceutical samples and QCs were then  
318 obtained.

319

320 **Exploratory principal component analysis**

321 A data matrix containing the peak area information of the UHPLC-HRMS  
322 polyphenols of all analyzed samples was built to PCA exploration. The dimension of  
323 this polyphenolic matrix was 106 samples  $\times$  53 variables. Data was autoscaled with  
324 respect to the overall polyphenolic signal to provide similar weights to all the samples.  
325 Figure 3 shows the score plot of PC1 vs PC2. It should be commented that QCs (not  
326 shown in the figure) appeared grouped showing a good repeatability and robustness of  
327 the proposed method. As can be seen, PC1 and PC2 roughly explained 65% of the data  
328 variance and a very acceptable discrimination among sample groups depending on the  
329 fruit of origin was achieved. For example, grape-based samples are grouped at the  
330 bottom of the score plot clearly separated from the other types of samples by PC2.  
331 Among the other samples, classification seem to be more related with PC1. In general,  
332 clear groups can be distinguished among them with the exception of some blueberry-  
333 based samples that are clustered together with some of the cranberry-based samples.  
334 Anyway, cranberry fruit samples are clearly discriminated from the raspberry ones. An  
335 interesting behavior was observed with the analyzed cranberry pharmaceutical samples.  
336 Those manufactured as sachets and syrups were grouped together with cranberry-fruit  
337 samples, while raw cranberry pharmaceutical extracts and capsules were completely  
338 discriminated and perfectly separated.

339 To better study this behavior and taking into consideration the raspberry,  
340 blueberry and grape extracts are expected to be used as adulterants of cranberry extracts,  
341 as previously commented in the introduction section, independent PCA models between  
342 cranberry-based samples and the other three fruit families studied were evaluated.  
343 Figure 4 shows the score and loading plots of (a) PC1 vs PC2 for cranberry- and  
344 raspberry-based samples, (b) PC2 vs PC3 for cranberry- and blueberry-based samples,  
345 and (c) PC1 vs PC2 for cranberry- and grape-based samples. As can be seen, cranberry-

346 based samples can be clearly differentiated, in general, from the other types of fruits,  
347 showing that the UHPLC-HRMS profiling approach can be proposed as a useful  
348 method to achieve the characterization and classification of the analyzed samples, as  
349 well as for the authentication of fruit extracts regarding the type of fruit employed. By  
350 analyzing the fruit extracts in pairs, the three PCA models showed that cranberry-based  
351 pharmaceuticals can be clearly distinguished in three groups: capsules and extracts,  
352 syrups and sachets, being the latest the ones that are in the three cases grouped close to  
353 the cranberry-based fruit samples. It should be mentioned that when the study was  
354 performed against blueberry-based samples (Figure 4b), capsules and extracts were  
355 differentiated into three groups although none of them can be attributed only to either  
356 capsule nor sachet presentation formats. The great differences between the cranberry-  
357 based fruit samples with some of the cranberry-based pharmaceuticals (mainly syrups,  
358 capsules and extracts) are clearly attributed to compositional differences associated to  
359 the technological treatment to produce such products. It has been found that  
360 concentration levels of the studied polyphenols are much higher in the pharmaceuticals  
361 since raw materials are subjected to purification and preconcentration processes. Hence,  
362 quantitative differences are partly compensated by data autoscaling although qualitative  
363 differences due to the enrichment in active components occurring in the  
364 pharmaceuticals are displayed in the PCA model. This finding was attributed to the fact  
365 that the purification and preconcentration procedures followed by pharmaceutical  
366 companies in the preparation of raw extracts from cranberry-fruits enhanced the  
367 presence of some polyphenols in comparison to non-treated cranberry-fruit samples.

368 Loading plots revealed those polyphenols contributing more to the  
369 discrimination of the samples. In general terms, it can be said that polyphenols such as  
370 procyanidin A2, with A-type bonds, are clearly enhanced in some cranberry

371 pharmaceuticals such as capsules, extracts and syrups, fact which was reasonably  
372 expected as the extract purification and enrichment was focused on increasing the  
373 proportion of oligomeric PACs with respect to more simple compounds (for the same  
374 reason, procyanidin C1 and B2 were also in this part of the loading plot). Caffeic and  
375 coumaric acids were other components displaying higher proportions in the  
376 nutraceuticals. On the contrary, in the untreated cranberry-based samples comprising  
377 fresh fruits and raisins, homogentisic, sinapic and vanillic acids seemed to be abundant.  
378 Differences in the composition among raspberry and cranberry, and among blueberry  
379 and cranberry fruits were not so noticeable. More remarkable seemed to be the  
380 differences in the polyphenolics of cranberry with respect to grape, being the last class  
381 richer in gallic acid and quercetin.

382

### 383 **Adulteration prediction by partial least square regression**

384 The applicability of UHPLC-HRMS polyphenolic profiles for the authentication  
385 and quantitation of fraud levels of adulterant fruit extracts by PLS was also evaluated.  
386 For that purpose, cranberry-fruit extracts were adulterated with extracts of the other  
387 three fruits (blueberry, raspberry and grapes) at different concentration levels (2, 2.5, 5,  
388 6, 7, 12, 20 and 50%). Triplicates of all the adulterations as well as of 100% pure fruit  
389 extracts were prepared. 50% adulteration was prepared in quintuplicate to evaluate data  
390 reproducibility. All sample extracts were then processed with the proposed sample  
391 treatment procedure and extract solutions analyzed with the UHPLC-HRMS method to  
392 obtain the polyphenolic profiles as previously explained. The calibration set (Table 1S  
393 in supporting information) was first employed to establish the PLS model as indicated  
394 in the experimental section. Venetian blinds cross validation method, considering 3 data  
395 splits, was used to estimate the number of latent variables (LV) used for the method

396 assessment. The performance of both calibration and prediction steps to predict  
397 adulterant percentages was studied under the selected model conditions. Figure 5 shows,  
398 as an example, the results obtained after applying the established PLS model for the  
399 prediction of grape adulterant levels in a cranberry fruit extract. Calibration and  
400 prediction errors obtained in all the adulteration cases studied are given in Table 3. As  
401 can be seen, very good quantitation of adulterant contents was obtained, with calibration  
402 errors in all cases below 0.01%, and prediction errors in the range of 2.71-5.96%. It  
403 should be considered that the proposed PLS models were evaluated for predicting  
404 values of low adulteration levels (2.5, 6 and 12%), demonstrating the appropriate  
405 performance of the developed method.

406         The results obtained in this work demonstrate that UHPLC-HRMS polyphenolic  
407 profiles by a simple screening of a home-made accurate mass database can be employed  
408 to achieve the characterization, classification and authentication of cranberry-based  
409 products and pharmaceuticals adulterated with more economic fruit-based extracts.  
410 HRMS provided, moreover, high selectivity and confirmation power to identify  
411 polyphenolic bioactive compounds that can be proposed as future biomarkers to address  
412 authentication issues of natural food-based products.

413

#### 414 **Conflict of Interest**

415         There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

#### 416 **Acknowledgements**

417         Authors wished to thank Deiters S.L. Company for providing some cranberry-  
418 based raw material extracts and several commercial cranberry-based pharmaceutical  
419 preparations.

420

421 **Supporting Information description:** Table S1: Samples Employed in the Training  
422 (Calibration) and Test (Prediction and Validation) Sets for Partial Least Squares  
423 Regression; Table S2: ExactFinder™ Report for the Cranberry Pharmaceutical Raw  
424 Extract Sample E3.

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587

588 **Figure captions**

589

590 **Figure 1.** (a) HRMS spectrum, (b) MS/HRMS spectrum and (c) fragmentation pathway  
591 of rutin.

592 **Figure 2.** UHPLC-HRMS total ion chromatogram (TIC) for cranberry pharmaceutical  
593 raw extract sample E3, and extracted ion chromatogram and HRMS spectrum of  
594 procyanidin A2 in the same sample.

595 **Figure 3.** PCA score plot of PC1 *vs* PC2 obtained using UHPLC-HRMS polyphenolic  
596 profiles of all the analyzed samples.

597 **Figure 4.** PCA score and loading plots of (a) PC1 *vs* PC2 for cranberry- and raspberry-  
598 based samples, (b) PC2 *vs* PC3 for cranberry- and blueberry-based samples, and (c) PC1  
599 *vs* PC2 for cranberry- and grape-based samples.

600 **Figure 5.** PLS model applied to the quantitation of the grape percentage on cranberry-  
601 fruit extracts adulterated when using UHPLC-HRMS polyphenolic profiles.

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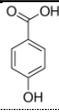
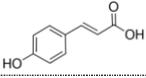
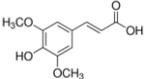
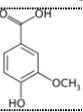
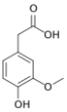
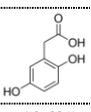
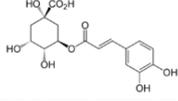
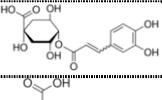
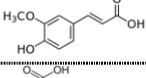
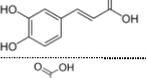
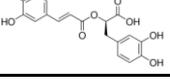
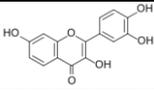
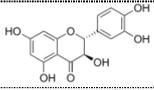
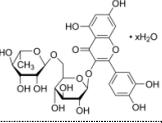
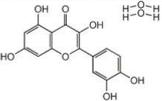
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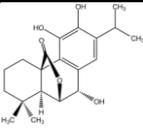
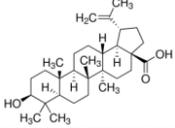
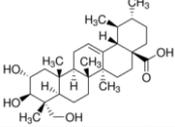
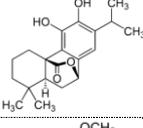
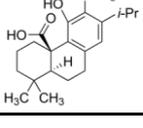
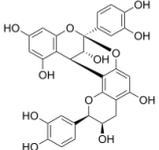
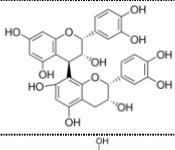
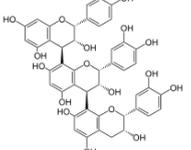
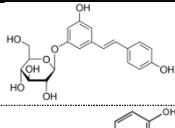
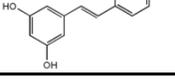
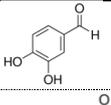
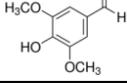
**Table 1. Chemical Structures and Classification of the Studied Polyphenols.**

Compounds	Formula	CAS number	Structure
<i>Phenolic acids</i>			
4-Hydroxybenzoic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	99-96-7	
<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	501-98-4	
Sinapic acid	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	530-59-6	
Vanillic acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	121-34-6	
Homovanillic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	306-08-1	
Homogentisic acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	451-13-8	
Chlorogenic acid	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	327-97-9	
Cryptochlorogenic acid	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	905-99-7	
Gallic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	149-91-7	
Ferulic acid	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	537-98-4	
Gentisic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	490-79-9	
Caffeic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	331-39-5	
Syringic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	530-57-4	
Rosmarinic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	20283-92-5	
<i>Flavones</i>			
Fisetin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	528-48-3	
Taxifolin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	480-18-2	
Rutin	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>16</sub>	207671-50-9	
Quercetin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	6151-25-3	

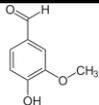
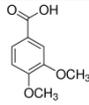
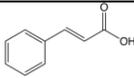
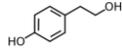
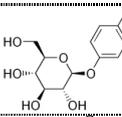
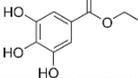
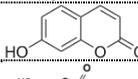
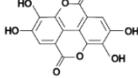
**Table 1. Chemical Structures and Classification of the Studied Polyphenols (continuation).**

Compounds	Formula	CAS number	Structure
Quercitrin	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	522-12-3	
Nepetin-7-glucoside	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	569-90-4	
Hesperidin	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>15</sub>	520-26-3	
Cirsimaritin	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	6601-62-3	
Myricetin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	529-44-2	
Luteolin-7-O-β-d-glucuronide	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	38934-20-2	
Genkwanin	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	437-64-9	
Morin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	654055-01-3	
Kaempferol	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	520-18-3	
Quercetin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	117-39-5	
Homoplantaginin	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	17680-84-1	
<b>Flavanols</b>			
(+)-Catechin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	7295-85-4	
(-)-Epicatechin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	490-46-0	
(-)-Epigallocatechin gallate	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	989-51-5	
<b>Phenolic terpenes</b>			
Carnosic acid	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>28</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	3650-09-07	
Anemosapogenin	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	85999-40-2	

**Table 1. Chemical Structures and Classification of the Studied Polyphenols (continuation).**

Compounds	Formula	CAS number	Structure
Rosmanol	$C_{20}H_{26}O_5$	80225-53-2	
Betulinic acid	$C_{30}H_{46}O_3$	472-15-1	
Asiatic acid	$C_{30}H_{48}O_5$	464-92-6	
Carnosol	$C_{20}H_{26}O_4$	5957-80-2	
12-methoxycarnosic acid	$C_{21}H_{30}O_4$	3650-09-07	
<b><i>Proanthocyanidins</i></b>			
Procyanidin A2	$C_{30}H_{24}O_{12}$	41743-41-3	
Procyanidin B2	$C_{30}H_{26}O_{12}$	29106-49-8	
Procyanidin C1	$C_{45}H_{38}O_{18}$	37064-30-5	
<b><i>Stilbenes</i></b>			
Polydatin	$C_{20}H_{22}O_8$	65914-17-2	
Resveratrol	$C_{14}H_{12}O_3$	501-36-0	
<b><i>Phenolic aldehydes</i></b>			
3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde	$C_7H_6O_3$	139-85-5	
Syringaldehyde	$C_9H_{10}O_4$	134-96-3	

**Table 1. Chemical Structures and Classification of the Studied Polyphenols (continuation).**

Compounds	Formula	CAS number	Structure
Vanillin	$C_8H_8O_3$	121-33-5	
<i>Benzoic acids</i>			
Veratric acid	$C_9H_{10}O_4$	93-07-2	
<i>Cinnamic acids</i>			
trans-Cinnamic acid	$C_9H_8O_2$	140-10-3	
<i>Other Phenolics</i>			
Tyrosol	$C_8H_{10}O_2$	501-94-0	
Arbutin	$C_{12}H_{16}O_7$	497-76-7	
Ethyl gallate	$C_9H_{10}O_5$	831-61-8	
Umbelliferon	$C_9H_6O_3$	93-35-6	
Ellagic acid	$C_{14}H_6O_8$	746-66-4	

**Table 2. HRMS and MS/HRMS (Product Ion Spectra) of the Studied Polyphenolic Compounds.**

Compounds	RT (min)	Chemical formula	HRMS spectrum			MS/HRMS spectrum		
			[M-H] <sup>-</sup> m/z calculated value	[M-H] <sup>-</sup> m/z experimental value	Accurate mass error (ppm)	Fragment ions (m/z)	Assignment	Accurate mass error (ppm)
<i>Phenolic acids</i>								
4-Hydroxybenzoic acid	4.1	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	137.02442	137.02428	-1.022	93.03453	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	-0.626
<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid	5.8	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	163.04007	163.04005	-0.123	119.05017	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	-0.573
Sinapic acid	6.2	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	223.0612	223.06089	-1.390	208.03748	[M-H-CH <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.161
						193.01442	[M-H-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.898
Vanillic acid	4.6	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	167.03498	167.03487	-0.659	152.01118	[M-H-CH <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-2.150
						123.04528	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	1.034
						108.02161	[M-H-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.627
Homovanillic acid	4.9	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	181.05063	181.05076	0.718	--	--	--
Homogentisic acid	2.1	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	167.03498	167.03485	-0.778	123.04506	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	-0.754
Chlorogenic acid	3.8	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	353.08781	353.08782	0.028			
Cryptochlorogenic acid	4.2	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	353.08781	353.08795	0.397	191.05617	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.307
						179.03503	[M-H-C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.268
						173.04546	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.501
						135.04512	[M-H-C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.243
Gallic acid	1.5	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	169.01425	169.01428	0.177	125.02431	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	-0.858
Ferulic acid	6.3	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	193.05063	193.05073	0.518	134.03723	[M-H-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.730
Gentisic acid	4.3	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	153.01933	153.01919	-0.915	109.02942	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	-0.759
Caffeic acid	4.7	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	179.03498	179.03474	-1.341			
Syringic acid	4.8	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	197.04555	197.04568	0.660			
Rosmarinic acid	7.2	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	359.07724	359.07722	-0.058	197.04576	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	1.082
						179.03477	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.184
						161.02420	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.350
						135.04501	[M-H-C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.057
						123.04506	[M-H-C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.133
						72.99301	[M-H-C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.469
<i>Flavones</i>								
Fisetin	7.4	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	285.04046	285.0463	0.596	229.05011	[M-H-C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-2.279
						163.00324	[M-H-C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-2.711
Taxifolin	6.5	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	303.05103	303.05120	0.561			
Rutin	5.8	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>16</sub>	609.14611	609.14665	0.886	301.03543	[M-H-C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>9</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.180
						300.02759	[M-H-C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>21</sub> O <sub>9</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.131
						271.02469	[M-H-C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>10</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.447
						255.02975	[M-H-C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>11</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.575
						243.02921	[M-H-C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>11</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-2.825
Quercitrin	6.7	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	447.09328	447.09338	0.224	301.03551	[M-H-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.445
						300.02746	[M-H-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>11</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.303
						271.02432	[M-H-C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.812
						255.02910	[M-H-C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>10</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-3.124
						151.00333	[M-H-C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>7</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-2.330
Nepetin-7-glucoside	6.3	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	477.10385	477.10381	-0.084	327.05170	[M-H-C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	2.061
						299.01971	[M-H-C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.053
Hesperidin	6.8	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>15</sub>	609.18249	609.18272	0.378	301.07175	[M-H-C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>9</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	3.605
Cirsimaritin	11.2	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	313.07176	313.07191	0.479	283.02478	[M-H-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.110
Myricetin	4.7	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	317.03029	317.03037	0.252			
Luteolin-7-O-β-d-glucuronide	6.2	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	461.07255	461.07282	0.586	285.04047	[M-H-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.031
Genkwain	12.5	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	283.06120	283.06119	-0.035	268.03782	[M-H-CH <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.367
Morin	8.0	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	301.03528	301.03530	-0.266	151.00340	[M-H-C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.867
						148.01627	[M-H-C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-2.177
						125.02435	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.538
						107.01381	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.399
						83.01386	[M-H-C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.088
Kaempferol	9.9	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	285.04046	285.04047	0.035			
Quercetin	6.5	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	301.03538	301.03534	-0.133			

Homoplantaginin	6.9	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	461.10893	461.10912	0.402	283.02475	[M-H-C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.216
<b>Flavones</b>								
(+)-Catechin	4.0	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	289.07176	289.07181	0.173	245.08175	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	3.732
						203.07145	[M-H-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.406
						123.04513	[M-H-C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.185
						109.02938	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.125
(-)-Epicatechin	4.9	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	289.07176	289.07181	0.173	245.08160	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	-1.355
						203.07156	[M-H-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.948
						123.04504	[M-H-C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.917
						109.02942	[M-H-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.759
(-)-Epigallocatechin gallate	5.5	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	457.07763	457.07729	-0.744			
<b>Phenolic terpenes</b>								
Carnosic acid	17.1	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>28</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	331.19148	331.19145	-0.091	287.20172	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	0.232
Anemosapogenin	15.5	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	471.34798	471.34788	-0.212			
Rosmanol	11.8	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	345.17075	345.17062	-0.377			
Betulinic acid	20.0	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>46</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	455.35307	455.35318	0.245			
Asiatic acid	12.5	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	487.34290	487.34293	0.062			
Carnosol	15.2	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	329.17583	329.17599	0.486	285.18607	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	0.234
12-methoxycarnosic acid	18.2	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	345.20713	345.20695	-0.521	301.21722	[M-H-COO] <sup>-</sup>	-0.277
						286.19376	[M-H-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.239
<b>Proanthocyanidins</b>								
Procyanidin A2	6.5	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	575.11950	575.11996	0.800	285.04068	[M-H-C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	0.767
Procyanidin B2	2.7	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	577.13515	577.13525	0.173			
Procyanidin C1	5.1	C <sub>45</sub> H <sub>38</sub> O <sub>18</sub>	865.19854	865.19998	1.664			
<b>Stilbenes</b>								
Polydatin	7.0	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	389.12419	389.12450	0.797	227.07114	[M-H-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.002
Resveratrol	8.9	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	227.07137	227.07140	0.132			
<b>Phenolic aldehydes</b>								
3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde	3.9	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	137.02442	137.02413	-2.116			
Syringaldehyde	6.0	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	181.05063	181.05073	0.552			
Vanillin	5.8	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	151.04007	151.03984	-1.506			
<b>Benzoic acids</b>								
Veratric acid	7.6	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	181.05063	181.05065	0.110			
<b>Cinnamic acids</b>								
Trans-Cinnamic acid	9.2	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	147.04515	147.04525	0.680			
<b>Other Phenolics</b>								
Tyrosol	4.9	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	137.06080	137.06071	-0.657			
Arbutin	1.3	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	271.08233	271.08229	-0.148	108.02164	[M-H-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>11</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-0.349
Ethyl gallate	5.9	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	197.04555	197.04542	-0.660	169.01402	[M-H-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.341
						124.01646	[M-H-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	-1.067
Umbelliferon	6.3	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	161.02442	161.02438	-0.248			
Ellagic acid	6.0	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	300.99899	300.99901	0.066			

**Table 3. Prediction Errors by PLS Regression in the Quantification of Cranberry-fruit Extracts Adulterated with Raspberry-, Blueberry-, and Grape-fruit Extracts.**

<b>Adulterant</b>	<b>Number of latent variables</b>	<b>Calibration error</b>	<b>Prediction error</b>
Grape	3	<0.01%	2.86%
Blueberry	3	<0.01%	2.71%
Raspberry	3	<0.01%	5.96%

Figure 1

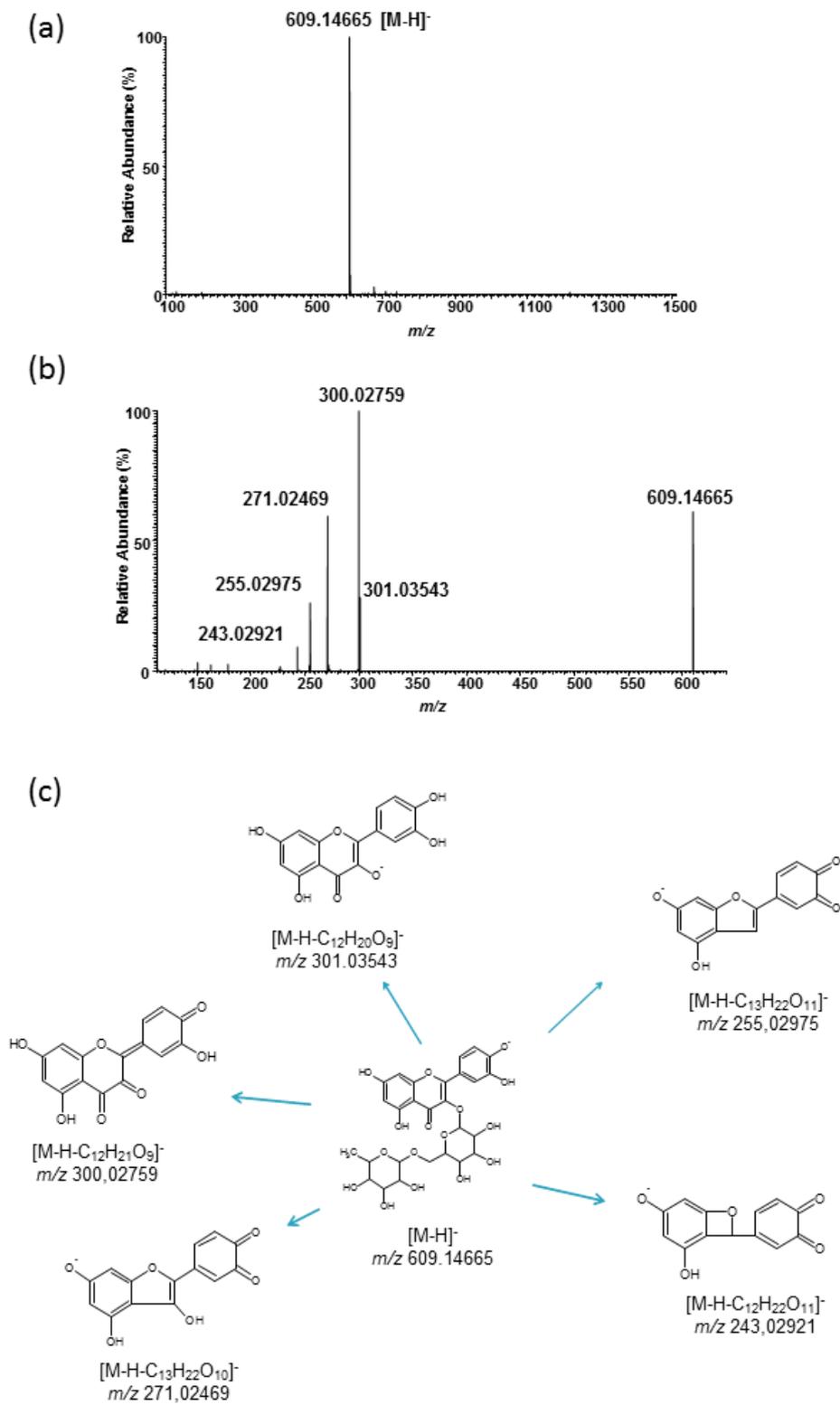


Figure 2

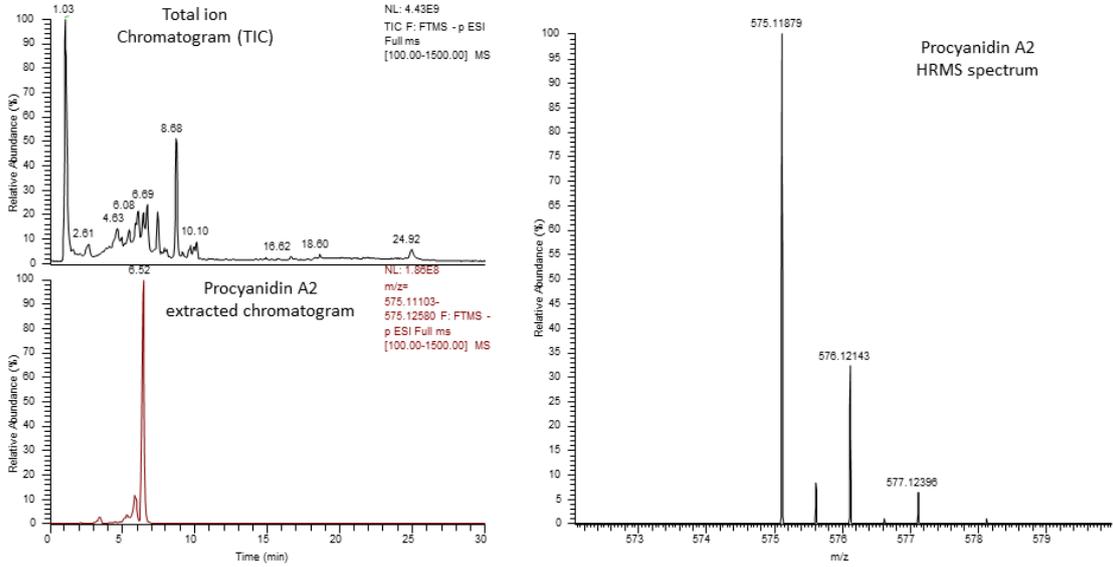


Figure 3

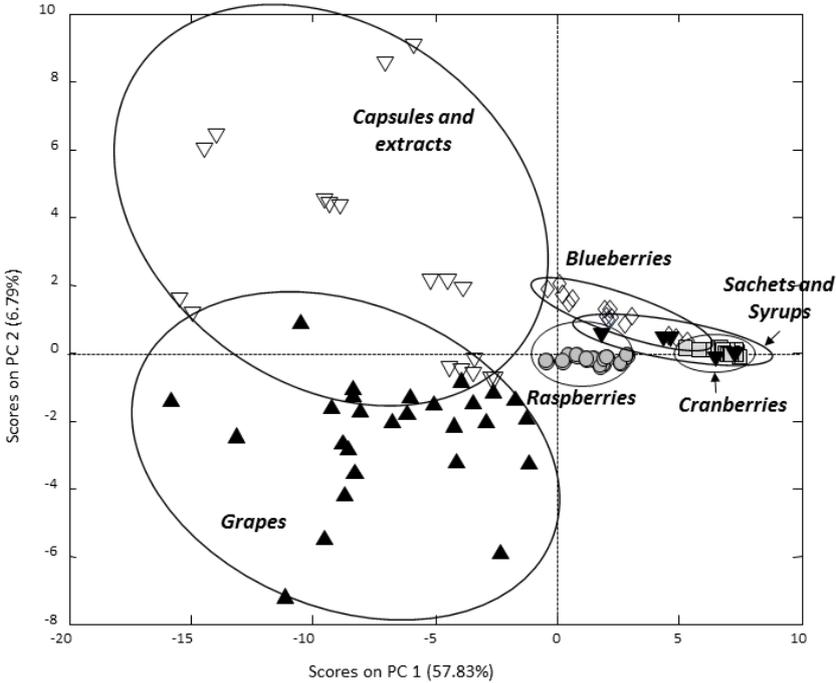


Figure 4

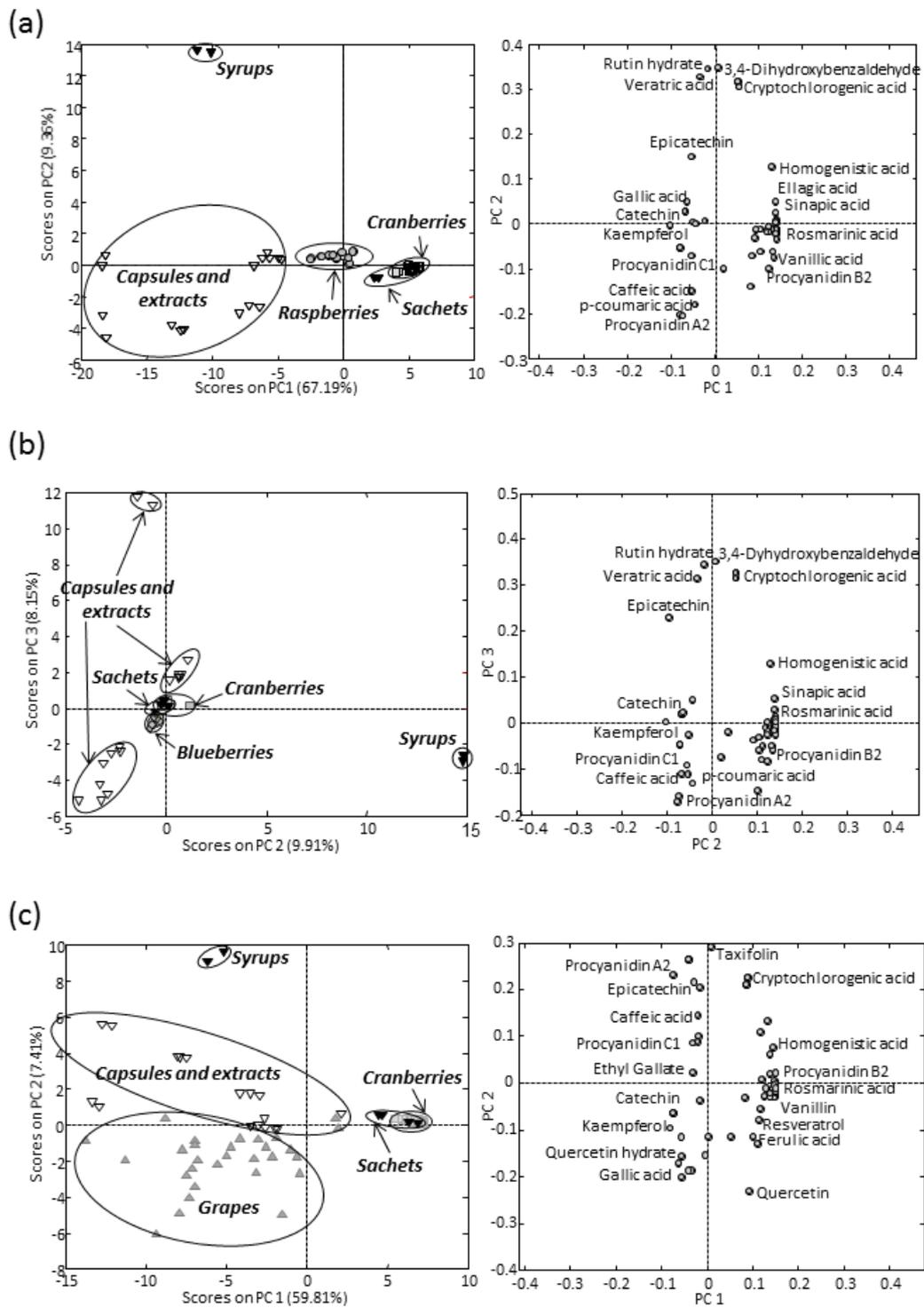
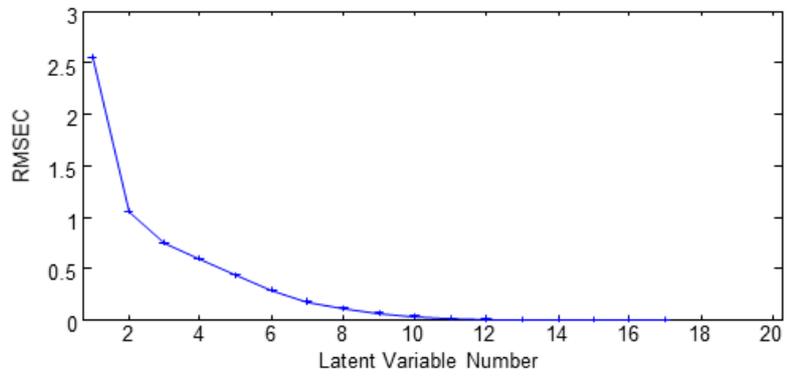
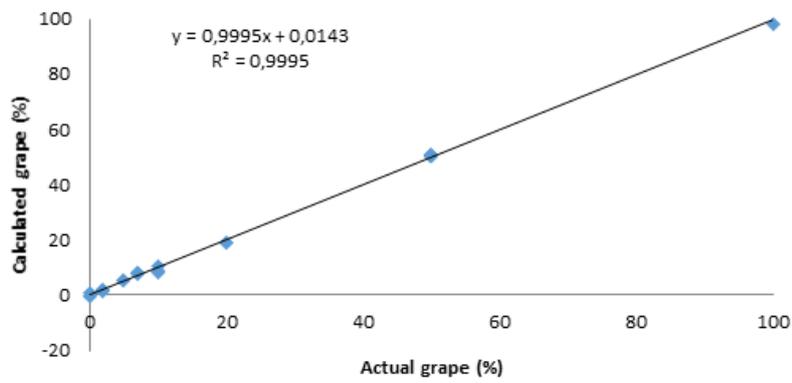


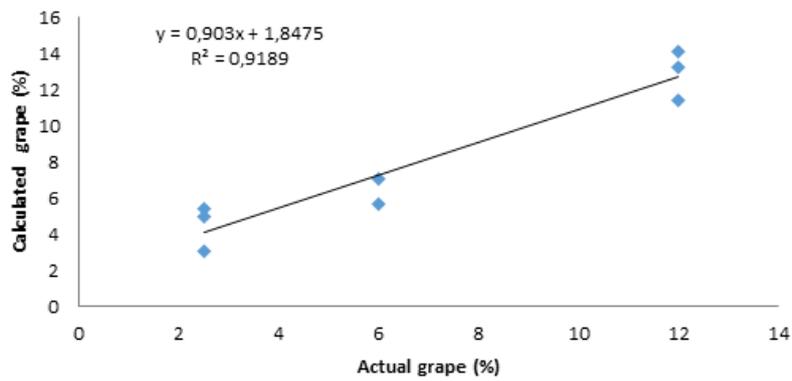
Figure 5



Scatter plot of actual vs calculated grape percentages in the validation of the calibration model



Scatter plot of actual vs calculated grape percentages in the validation of prediction



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