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Analytical study on ethephon residue determination in water by ion-pairing liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry

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retention. The acquisition of several specific MS/MS transitions together with the

evaluation of their relative intensity ratios allowed the reliable confirmation of the analyte in samples. The optimised approach was tested in low-salinity water spiked at $0.1 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ level with satisfactory recovery, and a limit of detection of $0.02 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$. To this purpose, the water sample was partially de-ionised in an initial stage, in order to remove major ions that would have interfered in analyses. The application of this methodology to more saline/complex water samples, as surface or wastewater, was problematic and a thorough optimisation of the de-ionisation conditions would be required.

Keywords: ethephon ion-pairing liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry tetrabutylammonium, water analysis

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