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Phenolic compounds profiling of virgin olive oils from different varieties cultivated in Mendoza, Argentina, by using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry

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2 **Mendoza, Argentina, by using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry**


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11

12 **Abstract**

13 The aim of this work was to achieve a preliminary characterization of the profile of the
14 phenolic fraction of virgin olive oils (VOOs) from Maipú (Mendoza, Argentina). Thus, 25
15 commercial VOO samples from *Arauco*, *Arbequina*, *Picual*, *Frantoio*, *Changlot*, *Empeltre*,
16 *Nevadillo*, *Manzanilla* and *Coratina* (both monovarietals and blends) were analyzed using
17 LC-ESI-QTOF MS and LC-ESI-IT MS for identification and quantification purposes,
18 respectively. A rapid LC method (15 min) accomplished quantitative information about a
19 total of 40 phenolic compounds, including secoiridoid derivatives, which have not been
20 evaluated before in samples coming from the sub-region so-called Maipú (Mendoza
21 province, Argentina). The results make evident that olive oils coming from Mendoza can be
22 considered as important sources of phenolic bioactive compounds, exhibiting similar
23 phenolic compounds levels to those shown by oils from other typical world production
24 regions. Moreover, some distinctive features of Arauco variety (Argentinean autochthonous
25 variety) were pointed out; indeed, a correlation between flavonoids content and botanical
26 variety was established herewith.

27

28 Keywords: food metabolomics; phenolic compounds; Argentinean olive oil; Arauco olive
29 variety

30

31 Introduction

32 Virgin olive oil (VOO) is a valuable vegetable oil which contains minor biomolecules of
33 outstanding importance, such as vitamins, carotenoids, tocopherols, phenolic compounds,
34 and other natural antioxidants.¹ Among these minor constituents, the relevance of phenolic
35 compounds is irrefutable, since they contribute to the stability of VOO against auto-
36 oxidation, are intimately associated to VOO taste, exhibit anti-inflammatory and
37 antimicrobial activities (among others), and could prevent certain diseases linked with the
38 oxidative damage.^{2,3} The just mentioned phenolic fraction is composed by a heterogeneous
39 mixture of analytes (phenolic acids, simple phenolic alcohols, flavonoids, secoiridoids, and
40 lignans),^{3,4} what explains the difficulties to achieve their accurate determination. This task
41 has been tackled developing different methodologies.^{3,5-7} Separative techniques coupled to
42 different detectors have been used when the individual determination of these compounds is
43 aimed, being liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) one of the most popular
44 and extensively used couplings nowadays;⁸⁻¹¹ this platform is indeed very appreciated in the
45 field of food metabolomics.

46 Studies about phenolic compounds present in VOO have been performed pursuing diverse
47 objectives, as for instance, to observe their link with agronomical factors and technological
48 conditions of production¹²⁻¹⁵ assessing the influence of climate and soil, olive cultivar,
49 extraction system, processing conditions, etc.^{6,16-20} The samples selected in most of this
50 kind of investigations are olive oils coming from the main producing areas of the world
51 (Spain, Italy, Greece, Morocco, among others),^{13,17,21,22} however, oils originating from
52 other production regions, such as Argentina, lack this valuable information.

53 Argentina, located in the South of the American continent, has greatly extended the country
54 olive oil production zones over the last years. Its domestic production has several

55 remarkable advantages: the strategic location of the country (being able to market fresh oils
56 when Mediterranean producers cannot supply them); the ability to produce increasing
57 volumes of high quality VOOs²³ and the possibility of producing olive oil with remarkable
58 differences on their characteristics (due to the diverse cultivars grown in Argentina and the
59 very heterogeneous soils and microclimate conditions of the producing areas). Within the
60 country, there is a typical production area, central-west located, so-called Mendoza
61 province, which has a long tradition of olive growing characterized for planted trees of
62 about 100 years old. Inside of Mendoza, the sub-region called Maipú is extensively planted
63 with a botanical variety identify as *Arauco*, typically cultivated for producing table olives,
64 mainly due to its good size and high flesh-to-pit ratio.^{15,24} However, over the last years, it
65 has been demonstrated that this cultivar has profitable characteristics for commercial
66 production of VOO, since it has relatively high oil content, a well-balanced fatty acid
67 composition and a distinctive profile of minor antioxidants.¹⁵ It is the only cultivar
68 recognized from Argentina in the World Catalogue of Olive Varieties since 1995.²⁵ Some
69 other varieties grown in Argentina are *Arbequina*, *Manzanilla*, *Picual* and *Frantoio*, among
70 others.^{15,26}

71 As previously stated, very few reports have been published including information about the
72 phenolic composition of Argentinean olive oils.^{7,27,28} For example, one of these studies
73 carried out a characterization of monovarietal Argentinean olive oils from 4 provinces,
74 accomplishing the determination of the phenolic compounds by using a spectrophotometric
75 method (total content) based on Folin-Ciocalteu reactive.²⁸ Another contribution described
76 the characterization of the phenolic composition of commercial extra-VOOs from different
77 countries (including just few samples from Argentina).⁷ Later on, the phenolic compounds
78 and antioxidant capacity of monovarietal olive oils produced in Argentina were evaluated

79 by capillary zone electrophoresis, but the analytes under study did not include secoiridoids
80 and its derivatives (main group of phenolic compounds from VOO, which represents a high
81 percentage of the total phenolic fraction and is exclusive of plants belonging to the family
82 *Oleaceae*).²⁷ Finally, another stimulating work focused on physiological aspects and minor
83 antioxidant compounds from *Arauco* cv. during fruit ontogeny should be mentioned, since
84 included very interesting results about the optimum maturity index of this cultivar.¹⁵
85 The aim of our work was to undertake a comprehensive characterization of the phenolic
86 fraction of commercial VOOs from different varieties cultivated in the confines of the
87 geographical zone of Mendoza province (Argentina) by LC-MS. A liquid chromatography-
88 electrospray ionization-quadrupole-time of flight mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-QTOF MS)
89 was used to characterize the phenolic profiles and, afterwards, liquid chromatography-
90 electrospray ionization-ion trap mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-IT MS) was used to carry out
91 the quantification. This is the first time that VOOs from this territory have been studied by
92 using this technology, making possible to describe in depth the composition of the phenolic
93 fraction.

94 **Materials and methods**

95 **Reagents and materials**

96 All reagents were of analytical grade and were used as received. Methanol and *n*-hexane of
97 HPLC grade were supplied from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain); they were used for the
98 extraction of the phenolic compounds from the olive oil samples. Mobile phases were
99 prepared by using Acetonitrile (ACN) from Lab-Scan (Dublin, Ireland) and acetic acid
100 from Panreac. Doubly deionised water with a conductivity of 18.2 MΩ cm was obtained by
101 using a Milli-Q-system (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA). Standards of caffeic, *p*-coumaric,

102 quinic and ferulic acids, as well as hydroxytyrosol (HTY), tyrosol, luteolin, apigenin, and
103 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetic acid (DOPAC) (internal standard (IS)) were purchased from
104 Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). (+)-Pinoresinol (Pin) was acquired from Arbo Nova
105 (Turku, Finland) and oleuropein (Ole) was purchased from Extrasynthese (Lyon, France).
106 Stock solutions were prepared by dissolving the appropriate amount of the compound in
107 methanol at a concentration of $500 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for each phenolic compound. Afterwards, they
108 were serially diluted to working concentrations (within the range $0.5 - 250 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$). Both
109 the samples and stock solutions were stored in dark flasks at $-20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and, before being
110 injected into the instrument, they were filtered through a ClarinertTM $0.22 \mu\text{m}$ nylon syringe
111 filter from Agela Technologies (Wilmington, DE, USA).

112 **Samples**

113 The VOOs studied in this work were commercial samples, acquired from Argentinean
114 companies. The selection included monovarietal olive oils from the following varieties:
115 *Arbequina* (1 sample), *Manzanilla* (3 samples), *Frantoio* (2), *Empeltre* (1), *Nevadillo* (1),
116 *Arauco* (6), *Picual* (1), *Coratina* (2) and *Changlot* (named as Genovesa by some authors in
117 Spain) (1); and different blends (7). Composition of Blends was the following: Blend 2 and
118 3: 60 % *Arbequina*, 30 % *Frantoio*, 3-4 % *Arauco*, 7-6 % Unknown; Blend 4: 70 % *Arauco*,
119 30 %, *Arbequina*; Blend 5: 70 % *Arbequina*, 30 % *Arauco*; and Blends 1, 6 and 7:
120 unknown. The oils were extracted on season 2014 (just one sample was from the end of
121 season 2013 (*Arauco* number 1)) by two phases continuous centrifuge and were obtained
122 from olives with a maturity index of around 3 (ripening index facilitated by the technical
123 department of the factories). All samples were kept refrigerated in appropriate containers
124 until their analysis. Stability tests were applied to different aliquots of the samples as well
125 as to the achieved extracts in order to assure their proper storage until the analysis. These

126 tests were based on the comparison of the peak areas obtained from the LC-MS analysis of
127 fresh extracts prepared from the properly stored samples with those peak area values of the
128 extracts which had been stored for a certain period of time (max. storage time tested was 4
129 months), not detecting statistically significant differences.

130 An important characteristic of this sample-set is that all the different steps of the
131 elaboration process were performed in Maipú (a sub-region of Mendoza province of 617
132 km²); the coordinates of the studied zone are 32° 58' 0" S, 68° 46' 0" W, and their altitudes
133 above the sea level are 804 m (arid temperate and precipitations about 200 mm annual).

134 **Extraction of phenolic compounds**

135 The phenolic compounds were isolated by using a liquid-liquid extraction according to a
136 previously reported procedure,³ which can be briefly described as follows: 2.0±0.1 g of
137 olive oil were weighed in a test tube with a screw cap. A volume of 0.025 mL of a solution
138 of the compound selected as IS (at a concentration of 500 mg L⁻¹) was added (to have an
139 internal reference within the samples which could give us the chance to assure that the
140 extraction protocol was carried out properly and the system was operating correctly). The
141 solvent of the IS solution (MeOH) was evaporated (using N₂), 1 mL of n-hexane was added
142 and the tube was shaken in a vortex during 30 s. The phenolic compounds under study were
143 extracted three times, by adding 2 mL of methanol/water (60:40, v/v), shaking over 2
144 minutes and centrifuging at 3500 rpm for 6 minutes (each time). The supernatants were
145 combined and evaporated to dryness using a rotary evaporator. The residue was redissolved
146 in 1 mL of methanol and filtered through a 0.22 µm membrane filter.

147 **LC-MS analysis: chromatographic and MS detection conditions**

148 Two LC-MS platforms were used within this study. One of them was a Waters Acquity
149 UPLC™ H-Class system (Waters, Manchester, UK) coupled to a micrOTOF-Q II™ mass

150 spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics) by means of an ESI source. The second one was an
151 Agilent 1260-LC system (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany), which was coupled
152 to a Bruker Daltonic Esquire 2000™ IT MS (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) with an
153 ESI interface. The first platform was used with qualitative purposes and the second one was
154 employed to carry out the quantification experiments.

155 The separation of the target compounds was performed using a Zorbax Eclipse Plus C₁₈
156 analytical column (4.6 x 150 mm, 1.8 μm particle size) protected by a guard cartridge of the
157 same packing. The temperature of the column oven was set at 35 °C and a flow rate of 1.2
158 mL min⁻¹ was selected. A volume of 10 μL of the olive oil extracts, pure standards and
159 standard mixtures was injected in each case. The mobile phases used were water with acetic
160 acid (0.5 % v/v) (Phase A) and ACN (Phase B), and the solvent changed as follows: 0 to 10
161 min, 10-50 % B; 10 to 12 min, 50-100 % B; 12 to 13 min, 100-10 % B. Finally, the column
162 was re-equilibrated for 1.5 min.

163 With the aim of avoiding the introduction of humidity into the system and achieving stable
164 electrospray ionization and reproducible results, the flow delivered into the MS detectors
165 from LC was reduced to approx. 0.3 mL min⁻¹ using a proper split.

166 The QTOF MS system was operating in negative and positive mode (to increase the
167 information achieved about the VOO samples) within the range of 50-1200 m/z, at a scan
168 speed of 240 ms. A drying gas (N₂) temperature of 300 °C and a flow of 9.0 L min⁻¹ were
169 selected as optimum. The capillary voltage was set at 4500 V and the end plate offset at -
170 500 V. Internal calibration was performed using sodium formate clusters and using similar
171 strategies to those described in previous works.^{3,16}

172 The IT MS was operated in negative ion mode and the capillary voltage was set at +3200
173 V. Acquisition was made in full scan mode within the range of 50-1000 m/z . The nebulizer
174 gas was set at 30 psi, dry gas at 9 L min^{-1} , and drying gas (N_2) temperature at $300 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.
175 The data resulting from both MS systems were processed through Data Analysis 4.0
176 software (Bruker Daltonics). In the case of accurate mass data of the molecular ions, the
177 software provided a list of possible elemental formulas, giving a parameter (Sigma value)
178 which shows the prediction confidence. MS/MS experiments were conducted with the use
179 of AutoMS data acquisition mode, which is based on the fragmentation of the most
180 abundant precursor ions per scan. For certain masses of interest, if the intensity of the m/z
181 was low, a second analysis -including the list of the selected precursor ions- was performed
182 in multiple reaction monitoring mode.

183 **Statistical data analysis**

184 The Unscrambler® v9.7 (CAMO software, Inc., Aspen, New Jersey, USA) was the
185 software employed for data treatment. First, we carried out one-way analysis of variance
186 (ANOVA) to determine the significance of the differences among the phenolic compounds
187 concentration levels of the diverse cultivars. Afterwards, principal component analysis
188 (PCA) was performed using the LC-MS data. The PCA matrix was composed by 40
189 variables (the number of phenolic compounds that were quantified in the VOO samples)
190 and 25 samples (average value of the 4 analyzed replicates). Apart from it, we built a series
191 of 2D plots where the samples were modelled considering the total values of the determined
192 chemical classes (one-to-one).

193 **Results and discussion**

194 **Optimization of the chromatographic conditions**

195 One of the objectives of this study was to obtain a rapid and efficient chromatographic
196 method (if possible, shorter than those previously reported), which could allow the
197 separation of the phenolic compounds under study. To achieve the formulated purpose, the
198 work started with the search of the most convenient chromatographic conditions and the
199 optimization was carried out taking into account separation, selectivity, sensitivity, peak
200 shape and analysis time. Different gradients were tested, together with other variables, such
201 as flow rate and column temperature. Figure S1 shows the base peak chromatogram (BPC)
202 obtained by using the optimum conditions; the gradient employed is also illustrated in the
203 figure. It can be observed that good resolution and peak shape were achieved by using a
204 flow rate of 1.2 mL min⁻¹ at 35 °C, in particular within the analytical window comprised
205 from 10 to 15 min, where achieving a proper resolution between Pin and Ace Pin, apigenin
206 and diosmetin, as well as some secoiridoids was not trivial (the separation between the
207 mentioned compounds can be properly observed in Figure 1, which is presented in the next
208 section).

209 **Phenolic compounds determination**

210 Peak identification was done bearing in mind the previously reported information,³⁻⁵
211 retention time (R_t) and ESI-IT MS and ESI QTOF MS and MS/MS information obtained
212 from pure standards and olive oil samples. Figure 1 includes the extracted ion
213 chromatograms (EICs) of the 40 analytes determined. The compounds have been separated
214 into 4 groups to make easier to the reader its visual inspection. As can be seen, phenolic
215 acids are eluted in the time window from 1 to 7 min approximately, needing relatively low
216 percentages of ACN and sharing the analytical window with simple phenolic alcohols.
217 Flavonoids and lignans are at close proximity in the chromatogram; they have been

218 depicted together with simple phenols. Some of the compounds belonging to secoiridoid
219 class, exhibit lower polarities and, therefore, need higher percentages of ACN. Elenolic and
220 ligstroside derivatives have been represented together, including in the last chromatogram
221 of the figure, the oleuropein derivatives. As mentioned above, 40 compounds could be
222 determined with this method in less than 15 min, demonstrating its great potential for VOO
223 phenolic compounds analysis.

224 After characterizing the profiles, the analytical parameters of the method were evaluated.
225 The linearity of the detector response was verified with standard solutions at 11 different
226 concentration levels over the range defined from the quantification limit to 250 mg L⁻¹ (0.5;
227 1; 5; 12.5; 25; 35; 50; 100; 150; 200 and 250 mg L⁻¹). Each point of the external calibration
228 curve (no significant matrix effect was observed) was evaluated in triplicate. Calibration
229 curves were built for each standard by plotting the standard concentration as a function of
230 the peak area obtained from LC-ESI-IT MS analyses (using the *m/z* signal considered to
231 quantify). The following equations were obtained: quinic acid ([M-H]⁻=191; $y = 43784x -$
232 2158 ; $r^2 = 0.995$); HTY ([M-H]⁻=153; $y = 33174x + 21145$; $r^2 = 0.98$); tyrosol ([M-H]⁻=137;
233 $y = 13415x - 4269$; $r^2 = 0.98$); caffeic acid ([M-H]⁻=179; $y = 43411x - 19251$; $r^2 = 0.98$); *p*-
234 coumaric acid ([M-H]⁻=163; $y = 21198x - 969$; $r^2 = 0.994$); ferulic acid ([M-H]⁻=193;
235 $y = 24317x + 714$; $r^2 = 0.996$); Ole ([M-H]⁻=539; $y = 3459x + 8238$; $r^2 = 0.94$); luteolin ([M-H]⁻
236 $= 285$; $y = 92191x + 30091$; $r^2 = 0.98$); Pin ([M-H]⁻=357; $y = 35311x + 147$; $r^2 = 0.98$); and
237 apigenin ([M-H]⁻=269; $y = 87233x + 157257$; $r^2 = 0.98$). The compounds which were not
238 available as commercial standards were quantified on the basis of other analytes with
239 similar chemical structures. In particular, lignans hydroxypinoresinol (HPin) and
240 acetoxypinoresinol (AcPin) were quantified in terms of Pin, diosmetin was quantified using
241 the calibration curve of luteolin, and secoiridoids and HTY derivatives were quantified by

242 comparison with HTY or tyrosol. Specifically, elenolic acid (EA), decarboxymethyl
243 elenolic acid (DEA), hydroxyelenolic acid (HEA), desoxy elenolic acid (DesoxyEA),
244 ligstroside aglycone (Lig Agly) and decarboxymethyl ligstroside aglycone (DLA) were
245 quantified in terms of tyrosol; whilst, oxidized hydroxytyrosol (OxHTY), hydroxytyrosol
246 acetate (AcHTY), decarboxymethyl oleuropein aglycone (DOA), 10-hydroxy oleuropein
247 aglycone (10-H Ole Agly) and oleuropein aglycone (Ole Agly) were quantified by
248 comparison with HTY pure standard. Limits of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ)
249 (considering S/N equal to 3 and 10, respectively), as well as repeatability (*intra-day* and
250 *inter-day* in terms of relative standard deviation - %RSD - of peak area and retention time)
251 were calculated; these results are included in Table S1. LODs were found between 6.2 and
252 $72.5 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$; %RSD for *inter-day* repeatability was between 1.92 and 7.52% for peak area,
253 not exceeding 1.24% for retention time. Once that the analytical parameters of the method
254 were established, the next step was the determination of the phenolic compounds in the
255 entire sample set. As already stated, the whole idea behind collecting this sample set
256 (including both monovarietal oils and blends) was to get an overall view of the composition
257 (in terms of phenolic compounds) of the VOOs available in the local market at that time.
258 The main requirement that the samples had to fulfill was that they were cultivated and
259 produced in the sub-region of Maipú, being, logically, suitable for consumption. At this
260 point is possible to say that our contribution had a multiple intention: to explore the
261 potential of several varieties grown in Maipú to obtain high-quality olive oils (information
262 missing so far); to expand the knowledge about the phenolic profile of Argentinean
263 commercial oils; and, to a certain extent, to allow the long-term improvement of their
264 international market positioning.

265 Table 1 shows the results for the individual phenols, which has been divided in Table 1a
266 and 1b in order to include all the samples and facilitate the visual inspection. Results of
267 ANOVA test revealed that statistically significant differences (95%; $p < 0.05$) were
268 observed for the quantified phenolic compounds according to the cultivar (data not shown
269 to contain the size of Tables 1a and 1b and facilitate its visualization). Figure 2 shows the
270 total phenolic content of each sample, value which has been obtained through the sum of
271 the concentrations of the 40 quantified analytes. In the figure, each bar includes information
272 about the concentration levels of phenolic acids, simple phenolic alcohols, lignans,
273 secoiridoids and flavonoids.

274 The phenolic profile of all the samples was dominated by the presence of secoiridoid
275 derivatives, being the sample with the highest levels of total phenolic compounds *Arauco 5*
276 with 404.09 mg kg⁻¹; Blend 7 was, on the contrary, the sample with the lowest
277 concentrations (91.55 mg kg⁻¹). The found levels are comparable with previously published
278 results obtained from commercial samples coming Argentina^{7,15,28} and other production
279 areas, such as Spain²⁹⁻³¹, Italy⁷ and Morocco³. However, remarkable differences can be
280 observed when the comparison is made with other works where the samples were prepared
281 specifically for the study, using pilot scale; in those cases, the found levels are usually
282 higher.^{32,33}

283 Evaluating the quantitative results accordingly to each family, *Arauco 4* was the richest
284 sample in terms of phenolic acids (4.24 mg kg⁻¹), being quinic acid the acid found at
285 highest concentration levels (3.37 mg kg⁻¹).

286 Other important group of phenolic compounds in olive oil is composed by simple phenolic
287 alcohols; group which is principally form by HTY and tyrosol. In this case, the sample with
288 major levels was *Arauco 1* (71.85 mg kg⁻¹), which had 40.70 mg kg⁻¹ of HTY, 1.90 mg kg⁻¹

289 of a HTY isomer, and 27.91 mg kg⁻¹ of tyrosol, apart from other simple phenol-derivatives
290 (OxHTY and AcHTY). This behaviour is in good agreement with the data previously
291 reported by Brenes et al.,³⁴ who observed that the main changes in the phenolic compounds
292 were associated with the hydrolysis of the secoiridoid aglycons, increasing the
293 concentration of HTY and tyrosol; *Arauco* 1 is indeed the only sample coming from season
294 2013.

295 With respect to lignans, *Arbequina* and *Picual* were the monovarietal oils with the highest
296 concentrations (6.77 and 7.00 mg kg⁻¹, respectively); however, the most remarkable levels
297 of the whole sample-set were found for Blend 3 and Blend 2. This fact could be understood
298 considering that these blends were prepared containing 60 % of olive oil from *Arbequina*
299 variety. The high concentration of lignans in *Arbequina* oils (or in oils with strong presence
300 of *Arbequina* variety) has been previously observed by other authors.^{35,36}

301 The flavonoids quantified in this work were diosmetin, apigenin and luteolin (all flavones)
302 and their highest levels were found in *Arauco* variety samples (samples *Arauco* 4, 5 and 1
303 with 14.76, 13.48 and 13.03 mg kg⁻¹, respectively). A remarkable feature of these samples
304 analyzed here is their very high content of flavonoids, if compared to previously reported
305 studies.^{3,7,30,33} In some of the samples, the total flavonoid concentration resulted to be three
306 times higher than previously reported values; an hypothesis explaining this fact is the
307 extensive culture and sunny climatic conditions in Maipú department, since these
308 compounds are related to greater exposures to solar radiation.³⁷

309 As described above, to facilitate the evaluation of the results, secoiridoid derivatives have
310 been divided in ligstroside-related compounds (aldehydic derivatives of EA with tyrosol)
311 and oleuropein-related compounds (aldehydic derivatives of EA with HTY). We also
312 include in this chemical class, EA and related compounds. As far as oleuropein-derivatives

313 are concerned, the most important detected compounds were DOA (or oleacein) and Ole
314 Agly. The highest concentration of DOA was observed in *Manzanilla* 3 sample with 46.44
315 mg kg⁻¹ (considering the two DOA isomers), whereas the lowest level was detected in
316 *Changlot* sample, with 4.0 mg kg⁻¹. Regarding Ole Agly, Blend 7 showed the lowest value
317 (5.38 mg kg⁻¹ (total value combining the amount determined by –the 6 isomers)) and
318 *Arauco* 5 exhibited the highest one (42.96 mg kg⁻¹). When we pay attention to ligstroside-
319 derivatives, it is necessary to say that, in the present work, 5 isomers of Lig Agly and two
320 of DLA (or oleocanthal) were quantified, finding total Lig Agly's maximum and minimum
321 values in *Arauco* 5 (251.47 mg kg⁻¹) and *Arbequina* (19.73 mg kg⁻¹), respectively. *Arauco* 4
322 (0.80 mg kg⁻¹) and *Frantoio* 2 (38.94 mg kg⁻¹), respectively, defined the extreme values of
323 the found amounts range of DLA isomers. Apart from these analytes, other secoiridoids
324 were identified: 3 isomers of EA, DEA (two isomers), HEA and DesoxyEA; the maximum
325 EA's concentration was found in *Changlot* sample, with 149.16 mg kg⁻¹ (taking into
326 account all the isomers).

327 **Principal Components Analysis and 2D plots**

328 To evaluate the structure of the data, a principal component analysis (PCA) was applied. In
329 Figure 3a, the score and loading plots of PC1 vs. PC2 are shown for the matrix composed
330 by 40 variables and 25 samples. The first two PCs explained 96 % of total variance in raw
331 data; PC1 and PC2 accounted for 92 % and 4 %, respectively. In the figure, it can be
332 observed that the samples *Arauco* 5 and *Changlot* are quite separated from the rest (in
333 particular *Arauco* 5), fact which can be justified having a look at the loading plots and
334 bearing in mind their high concentrations of Lig Agly (isomer designated as principal one
335 in the current study (12.3 min)) and EA (main isomer at 7.7 min). Figure 3a (score plot)

336 also shows a grouping of *Coratina* 1 and 2, *Arauco* 1 and *Frantoio* 2 samples; this
337 arrangement could be explained because of their levels of HTY isomer, together with their
338 concentrations regarding the principal isomers of Lig Agly and EA.

339 With the aim of evaluating further a possible discrimination among the samples based on
340 the cultivar, we built a series of 2D plots; the samples were modelled taking into account
341 the total values of the determined chemical classes (one-to-one), trying to establish existing
342 correlations. Figure 3b illustrates the 2D graphic of lignans vs flavonoids. Interestingly, the
343 *Arauco* samples are clearly separated from the rest of the olive oils, indicating their very
344 high flavonoids content and the relatively low lignans levels. Two blends (blends 4 and 5)
345 appeared quite close in the graphic to *Arauco* samples; this circumstance can be certainly
346 explained observing that those blends contained 70 and 30 %, respectively, of *Arauco cv.*,
347 while the rest of the blends only had 3-4 % of this variety. A greater number of samples are
348 undoubtedly needed to get a more comprehensive insight into the complete phenolic pattern
349 of these varieties and highlight the main differences among them.

350 **Typical Arauco variety's features**

351 In the introductory section, we made an allusion to the point that *Arauco* variety is the only
352 Argentinean autochthonous cultivar recognized by International Olive Council, for this
353 reason, a brief paragraph trying to delineate its most relevant features seems required. The
354 six *Arauco* samples evaluated in this study possessed important levels of total phenolic
355 compounds, being two of them the richest of the whole sample-set. It is also appealing to
356 note that in the case of Blend 4, which has a 70 % of *Arauco* variety, the levels of total
357 phenolic compounds are markedly higher than in the other blends. In previously reported
358 works, where other methodologies for determining the phenolic compounds were utilized,
359 the high phenolic contents of *Arauco* oils (when compared with other varieties) were

360 already observed; several authors have attributed this point to a matter of inappropriate
361 adaptation of diverse varieties to the climatic conditions.^{28,38} Indeed, Ceci et al.²⁸ suggested
362 that the national productive sector should recommend the selection of the cultivars which
363 show a best adaptation to the agronomical media, being the analysis and the
364 implementation of the most advisable cultural and processing conditions absolutely
365 necessary.

366 **Identification of phenolic compounds scarcely reported in VOO**

367 As comment above, the identification of phenolic compounds barely reported in this matrix
368 was also intended using high resolution MS (QTOF MS). Besides the accurate MS
369 information, we obviously took into account the previously reported knowledge about the
370 composition of olive oil-related samples (fruits, leaves and by-products of the olive oil
371 industry). A peak with experimental m/z 199.0620 and R_t of 3.6 min was found in 21
372 samples (it was not detected in *Manzanilla 3*, *Picual*, *Coratina* and *Arauco 5*). Its predicted
373 molecular formula ($[M-H]^-$) was $C_9H_{11}O_3$ and their in-source fragments were 155 and 111
374 m/z . These fragments were corroborated by MS/MS experiments. The structure of the
375 compound is included in Figure 4a and it was tentatively assigned to one analyte related to
376 EA, more precisely, the hydroxylated product of the dialdehydic form of DEA. This
377 compound has been already reported in wastes generated during storage of VOO,³⁹ as well
378 as in drupes and paste.⁴⁰ As can be seen in the figure, the fragments of m/z 155 and 111
379 correspond to the molecular formulae $C_8H_{11}O_3$ and $C_7H_{11}O$, respectively, being the first
380 one the loss of a carboxylic group from the original structure. The m/z 111 seems a typical
381 feature of some EA derivatives, as stated by Kanakis et al.⁴⁰

382 Figure 4b shows the MS spectrum of the compound with m/z 213.0771 (with a R_t of 6.4
383 min). This substance was found in 14 samples: *Arauco* 1, 2, 3 and 6, *Nevadillo*, *Frantoio* 1,
384 *Arbequina* and all Blends) and its predicted molecular formula was $C_{10}H_{13}O_5$ ($[M-H]^{-1}$).
385 According to previously reported information, this peak could be identified as another EA
386 derivate, more specifically, the decarboxylated form of hydroxyelenolic acid; compound
387 which has been reported in the wastes generated during the storage of VOO,³⁹ drupes and
388 paste.⁴⁰ In-source fragments were 181, 169 and 111 being 169 and 111 consistently
389 observed when MS/MS analyses were done. The fragment with m/z 181 could be attributed
390 to the loss of CH_4O . The fragment of m/z 169 corresponded with the loss of a carboxylic
391 group; and the m/z 111 could be explained as the consecutive loss of a carboxylic group and
392 the group $COOCH_2$. The possible fragmentation patterns of this compound have been
393 indicated within Figure 4b (supplementary material). These two EA-related compounds
394 have been hardly described in VOO; it could be very interesting including them in future
395 studies and establishing what their usual concentration ranges are.

396 Summing up, this is the first time in which a deep characterization of the phenolic
397 composition of Maipú VOOs is carried out, getting quantitative information about 40
398 phenolic compounds of samples of different botanical varieties. The use of LC-ESI-QTOF
399 MS and LC-ESI-IT MS allowed the accurate and reliable determination of a great number
400 of analytes, including the secoiridoid derivatives (not evaluated before in samples coming
401 from this geographical area). The results make evident that olive oils coming from
402 Mendoza can be considered as important sources of phenolic bioactive compounds,
403 exhibiting similar phenolic compounds levels to those shown by oils from other typical
404 world production regions. Moreover, this study has evinced some peculiarities in the

405 composition of *Arauco* olive oils; indeed, a correlation between flavonoids and botanical
406 variety was established herewith. Even though this contribution could have some
407 limitations related to the relatively low number of samples and the variety of influencing
408 variables, the results could represent a milestone for the producers, enlarging their
409 knowledge about the composition of their oils and making them aware about its
410 commercial value.

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415 Fundación Carolina of Spain and CONICET.

416 **Abbreviations**

417 ACN, acetonitrile; AcPin, acetoxypinoresinol; BPC, base peak chromatogram; DesoxyEA,
418 desoxy elenolic acid; DLA, decarboxymethyl ligstroside aglycone DOA, decarboxymethyl
419 oleuropein aglycon; HPin, hydroxypinoresinol; DOPAC, 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetic acid;
420 EA, elenolic acid; DEA, decarboxymethyl elenolic acid; EIC, extracted ion chromatogram;
421 10-H Ole Agly, 10-hydroxy oleuropein aglycone; HTY, hydroxytyrosol; AcHTY,
422 hydroxytyrosol acetate; OxHTY, oxidized hydroxytyrosol; IS, internal standard; LC, liquid
423 chromatography; LC-ESI-IT MS, liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization-ion trap
424 mass spectrometry; LC-ESI-QTOF MS, liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization
425 quadrupole-time of flight mass spectrometry; LC-MS, liquid chromatography-mass
426 spectrometry; Lig Agly, ligstroside aglycone; HEA, hydroxyelenolic acid; Ole, oleuropein;

427 Ole Agly, oleuropein aglycone; PCA, principal component analysis; Pin, pinoresinol; R_t,
428 retention time; VOO, virgin olive oil.

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563 **Caption to figures**

564 **Figure 1.** EICs of the 40 analytes quantified in this work. (1) quinic acid; (2) DOPAC; (3)
565 caffeic acid; (4) p-coumaric acid; (5) ferulic acid; (6) OxHTY and isomer; (7) HTY; (8)
566 tyrosol (9) HTY isomer; (10) AcHTY; (11) HPin; (12) luteolin; (13) Pin; (14) AcPin; (15)
567 apigenin; (16) diosmetin; (17) EA and isomers; (18) DEA and isomer; (19) DesoxyEA;
568 (20) HEA; (21) Lig Agly and isomers; (22) DLA; (23) Ole Agly and isomers; (24) DOA
569 and isomers; and (25) 10-H Ole Agly and isomers. The isomers are identified by adding a
570 letter (a, b, c, d, e, f) to the number assigned for the main isomer.

571 **Figure 2.** Total concentration of phenolic compounds found in each sample under study;
572 each bar is indicating the overall concentration (expressed in mg kg^{-1}) of the five main
573 classes determined (phenolic acids, simple phenols, secoiridoids, flavonoids and lignans).

574 **Figure 3.** a) Score and loading plots of PCA considering the concentration of each
575 quantified phenolic compound (average of 4 replicates). b) 2D scatter plot of lignans versus
576 flavonoids. Arb: Arbequina; Arc: Arauco; Ble: blend; Cha: Changlot; Cor: Coratina; Emp:
577 Empeltre; Fra: Frantoio; Man: Manzanilla; Pic: Picual; Nev: Nevadillo.

578 **Figure 4.** Fragmentation patterns of two phenolic compounds scarcely explored in VOO. a)
579 MS spectrum of m/z 199.0620 (Rt of 3.6 min). b) MS spectrum of the peak with m/z
580 213.0771 (with a Rt of 6.4 min).

581 **Figure S1 (supplementary material):** BPC of some of the phenolic profiles obtained
582 injecting 10 μL of the pool VOO sample using the optimal chromatographic conditions and
583 optimal gradient based on the use of acidic water (acetic acid 0.5 % v/v) as Phase A and
584 ACN as Phase B (see Materials & Methods section).

Table 1 a) Quantitative results expressed in mg kg⁻¹, achieved by using the LC-ESI-IT MS developed method applied of total sample set. The results are given by the mean value (n=4; four independent determinations, including extraction and subsequent injection) ± standard deviation.

Compounds	R _t (min)	m/z	Arauco 1	Arauco 2	Arauco 3	Arauco 4	Arauco 5	Arauco 6	Manzanilla 1	Manzanilla 2	Manzanilla 3	Frantoio 1	Frantoio 2	Coratina 1	Coratina 2
Phenolic acids															
Quinic acid	1.3	191	0.19±0.02	0.07±0.03	n.d. ^a	3.37±0.17	0.05±0.01	0.11±0.02	1.03±0.08	0.03±(<0.01)	0.49±0.05	0.48±0.05	0.11±0.03	0.07±0.03	1.92±0.36
Caffeic acid	4.9	179	0.21±0.08	0.19±0.05	0.08±0.03	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	0.09±0.04	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	0.17±0.07
<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid	6.2	163	1.20±0.13	0.77±0.06	0.52±0.01	0.75±0.10	0.49±0.01	0.76±0.05	0.27±0.02	0.32±0.02	0.22±0.02	0.26±0.04	0.13±0.03	0.22±0.05	0.20±0.04
Ferulic acid	6.6	193	0.16±0.02	0.12±0.02	0.13±0.01	0.12±0.02	0.07±0.04	0.18±0.03	0.12±0.02	0.10±0.04	0.09±0.03	0.09±0.02	n.d. ^a	0.06±0.02	0.03±0.01
Simple phenolic alcohols															
OxHTY	1.4	151	0.23±0.05	0.16±0.04	0.25±0.02	0.34±0.03	0.04±0.01	0.17±0.01	0.12±0.03	0.04±0.01	0.04±0.02	0.27±0.01	0.21±0.04	0.17±0.02	0.28±0.02
OxHTY	1.8	151	0.28±0.07	0.17±0.04	0.32±0.05	0.33±0.04	0.05±0.01	0.21±0.02	0.13±0.02	0.02±(<0.01)	0.06±0.02	0.31±0.05	0.25±0.02	0.20±0.03	0.26±0.01
HTY	3.3	153	40.7±8.9	18.4±1.3	7.05±0.85	4.80±0.21	2.50±0.42	21.0±4.8	22.8±2.0	3.92±0.24	4.29±0.28	29.71±0.65	6.83±0.39	5.65±0.21	29.4±3.0
HTY Isomer	5.2	153	1.90±0.63	1.48±0.33	0.74±0.11	n.d. ^a	4.5±1.5	0.41±0.02	1.49±0.06	1.00±0.10	0.98±0.05	0.32±0.09	0.53±0.09	1.36±0.20	0.73±0.04
Tyrosol	4.4	137	27.9±2.4	10.86±0.54	7.50±0.31	11.40±0.40	8.47±0.98	23.9±2.4	8.85±0.50	7.21±0.27	5.28±0.57	18.1±1.7	5.80±0.28	6.80±0.46	19.62±0.59
AcHTY	7.2	195	0.83±0.05	2.80±0.10	1.32±0.20	0.78±0.09	0.27±0.02	1.18±0.14	0.56±0.05	n.d. ^a	0.62±0.06	3.25±0.31	5.67±0.25	0.51±0.05	0.19±0.02
Secoiridoids															
EA I 1	4.7	241	4.42±0.78	0.84±0.22	1.09±0.21	0.78±0.06	1.35±0.31	0.81±0.17	0.74±0.10	1.49±0.33	1.04±0.17	1.68±0.05	2.60±0.27	1.80±0.17	1.84±0.14
EA I 2	7.3	241	8.33±0.18	10.36±0.35	12.6±3.0	16.3±1.4	14.36±0.58	9.21±0.08	14.14±0.99	4.43±0.54	10.7±1.4	22.18±0.41	40.2±1.6	19.35±0.26	21.0±1.2
EA Ppal	7.7	241	78.6±8.6	22.49±0.60	27.5±2.6	55.0±2.4	33.38±0.41	32.0±2.9	27.6±1.1	17.81±0.68	15.04±0.87	48.0±3.6	57.6±2.3	56.9±2.6	64.7±3.1
DEA	4.9	183	0.36±0.07	0.18±0.02	0.14±0.03	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	0.11±0.01	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a
DEA Ppal	5.6	183	3.58±0.01	2.95±0.26	0.87±0.05	0.40±0.05	n.d. ^a	6.39±0.55	5.97±0.53	1.52±0.24	n.d. ^a	14.11±0.10	n.d. ^a	0.44±0.05	4.42±0.35
HEA	6.8	257	4.26±0.50	3.54±0.29	1.99±0.25	1.97±0.10	0.37±0.04	1.01±0.10	0.56±0.11	0.51±0.08	0.43±0.04	3.66±0.07	1.56±0.15	0.75±0.11	0.84±0.06
DesoxyEA	6.6	225	5.62±0.61	6.10±0.24	4.28±0.26	8.2±1.0	6.6±1.5	5.48±0.17	7.35±0.74	0.42±0.13	21.3±1.8	3.00±0.20	1.60±0.21	15.56±0.72	19.16±0.94
DOA Ppal	8.8	319	15.21±0.71	24.9±3.2	17.21±0.36	3.67±0.08	11.92±0.55	10.94±0.69	14.7±1.2	4.18±0.27	38.54±0.58	18.3±1.5	26.2±4.7	21.1±5.3	19.8±2.3
DOA	9.2	319	4.57±0.29	8.24±0.66	6.5±1.3	1.34±0.04	0.63±0.04	3.36±0.36	0.87±0.12	3.00±0.01	7.9±8.0	5.68±0.38	3.81±0.35	1.84±0.66	1.25±0.15
Ole Agly I 1	8.1	377	7.70±0.48	1.70±0.17	1.28±0.08	1.87±0.13	2.10±0.27	2.35±0.52	2.43±0.24	0.15±0.03	0.63±0.10	0.44±0.04	0.93±0.06	5.6±1.3	4.76±0.03
Ole Agly I 2	8.5	377	6.35±0.45	3.44±0.46	2.93±0.45	6.51±0.50	4.89±0.19	3.75±0.07	5.55±0.68	0.40±0.05	1.45±0.24	2.89±0.34	3.08±0.30	7.53±0.06	8.9±1.1
Ole Agly I 3	9.3	377	1.44±0.37	1.02±0.18	0.84±0.21	1.93±0.01	1.76±0.52	1.58±0.12	1.16±0.17	0.15±0.04	2.97±0.13	0.46±(<0.01)	1.39±0.20	2.34±0.28	2.34±0.08
Ole Agly I 4	10.0	377	1.90±0.34	1.64±0.72	1.20±0.29	2.20±0.29	2.84±0.14	1.20±0.15	1.34±0.17	0.51±0.07	3.39±0.20	0.38±0.04	3.03±0.02	2.39±0.14	2.37±0.08
Ole Agly I 5	10.4	377	3.59±0.65	3.35±0.25	3.50±0.38	2.22±0.57	4.6±1.2	2.46±0.46	4.22±0.13	1.42±0.31	8.3±3.3	1.15±0.15	6.48±0.29	3.34±0.29	3.23±0.40
Ole Agly Ppal	11.1	377	14.00±0.42	10.99±0.72	9.05±0.51	12.5±4.0	26.77±0.98	14.89±0.96	16.08±0.88	7.3±1.0	21.39±0.91	6.41±0.41	16.37±0.08	9.8±1.0	8.80±0.26
Total Ole Agly			35.0±1.1	22.1±1.2	18.80±0.86	27.2±4.1	43.0±1.7	26.2±1.2	30.8±1.2	10.0±1.1	38.1±3.5	11.73±0.56	31.28±0.47	31.0±1.7	30.4±1.2
10-H Ole Agly I 2	9.5	393	0.61±0.08	0.60±0.15	0.24±0.01	0.18±0.02	0.09±0.02	0.19±0.03	0.12±0.03	0.15±0.06	0.09±0.01	0.33±0.02	0.14±0.01	1.26±0.08	n.d. ^a
10-H Ole Agly I 3	9.7	393	7.02±0.12	4.80±0.50	2.69±0.36	2.69±0.44	1.43±0.16	2.42±0.14	1.13±0.08	0.08±0.06	0.45±0.05	1.97±0.14	2.56±0.07	0.23±0.05	2.16±0.14
10-H Ole Agly Ppal	9.9	393	1.28±0.25	1.40±0.29	0.63±0.08	0.80±0.05	0.19±0.02	0.38±0.04	0.27±0.04	0.17±0.03	0.19±0.07	0.70±0.06	0.44±0.03	0.26±0.02	0.27±0.03
Lig Agly I 1	9.4	361	16.0±1.0	10.7±1.7	8.3±1.8	23.11±0.74	30.5±1.2	7.4±1.9	3.20±0.36	0.74±0.11	3.23±0.85	3.61±0.05	11.9±3.6	24.04±0.29	21.11±0.15
Lig Agly I 2	9.9	361	23.0±1.9	25.0±2.8	25.0±1.6	21.8±0.5	35.1±3.2	11.54±0.04	8.15±0.54	2.19±0.09	10.76±0.77	7.70±0.09	18.05±0.60	30.7±1.5	25.2±0.7
Lig Agly I 3	11.2	361	4.08±0.27	2.09±0.05	2.69±0.18	1.72±0.09	9.03±0.44	1.75±0.17	0.92±0.05	0.62±0.12	1.57±0.26	1.33±0.08	4.41±0.30	2.47±0.88	3.51±0.20
Lig Agly I 4	11.6	361	4.55±0.13	2.18±0.60	5.02±0.78	1.49±0.59	27.5±2.7	3.77±0.61	2.61±0.02	1.78±0.29	4.53±0.75	1.21±0.26	10.2±2.7	5.40±0.44	6.0±3.5
Lig Agly Ppal	12.3	361	67.6±1.5	53.6±13.7	49.6±4.5	28.2±1.9	149.5±5.3	47.3±5.0	32.9±1.2	24.4±1.5	42.3±7.2	24.4±2.2	78.6±9.2	81.8±1.3	86.1±3.2
Total Lig Agly			115.3±2.6	94±14	90.6±5.2	76.4±2.2	251.5±6.9	71.8±5.4	47.8±1.4	29.8±1.6	62.3±7.4	38.3±2.2	123.1±10.3	144.4±18.0	141.9±4.8
DLA	10.3	303	7.13±0.14	28.0±1.5	18.07±0.93	0.80±0.06	8.68±0.72	10.3±1.5	20.5±1.7	11.96±0.48	33.7±1.8	11.35±0.75	38.9±2.7	18.53±0.07	9.56±0.55
Lignans															
HPin	7.7	373	0.03±0.01	0.03±0.01	0.04±0.02	0.03±0.01	0.03±0.02	0.02±0.01	0.07±0.01	0.28±0.05	0.15±0.02	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a
Pin	9.5	357	0.19±0.04	0.53±0.04	0.91±0.10	0.47±0.04	0.26±0.05	0.44±0.02	1.63±0.23	2.53±0.18	1.49±0.16	1.08±0.10	0.56±(<0.01)	0.44±0.01	0.47±0.04
AcPin	9.8	415	0.10±0.07	0.71±0.12	1.51±0.03	0.20±0.01	n.d. ^a	0.15±0.03	1.23±0.11	1.60±0.14	1.12±0.03	3.99±0.27	2.67±0.28	0.78±0.16	0.63±0.05
Flavonoids															
Luteolin	9.0	285	8.42±0.74	6.94±0.57	6.45±0.21	9.52±0.44	7.20±0.22	6.92±0.23	4.11±0.46	3.12±0.04	4.64±0.15	5.27±0.35	5.84±0.20	4.44±0.15	5.11±0.10
Apigenin	10.2	269	3.99±0.19	2.85±0.08	2.07±0.12	4.25±0.05	4.44±0.36	3.57±0.23	0.89±0.17	1.48±0.22	1.07±0.07	1.48±0.04	0.66±0.07	0.96±0.02	1.04±0.13
Diosmetin	10.5	299	0.61±0.02	0.98±0.10	1.13±0.15	0.98±0.07	1.41±0.06	0.74±0.05	0.39±0.02	0.73±0.09	1.02±0.12	0.72±0.05	0.91±0.14	0.32±0.02	0.27±0.04

TOTAL LEVELS	378.2±13.1	278±15	233.2±6.9	233.1±5.5	404.1±7.7	240.4±8.5	216.22±4.0	108.0±2.5	251.4±34.2	246.3±5.1	360.2±12.1	335.5±19.2	377.6±7.3	
n.d.: non-detectable														
Table 1 b) Quantitative results expressed in mg kg ⁻¹ , achieved by using the LC-ESI-IT MS developed method applied of total sample set. The results are given by the mean value (n=4) ±standard deviation.														
Compounds	R _t (min)	m/z	Arbequina	Pical	Empeltre	Changlot	Nevadillo	Blend 1	Blend 2	Blend 3	Blend 4	Blend 5	Blend 6	Blend 7
Phenolic acids														
Quinic acid	1.3	191	0.75±0.10	0.43±0.08	0.17±0.01	0.11±0.02	0.21±0.03	0.04±(<0.01)	0.17±0.04	0.16±0.02	n.d. ^a	0.08±0.03	0.15±0.02	0.07±0.03
Caffeic acid	4.9	179	0.10±0.01	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	0.15±0.06	0.09±	n.d. ^a	0.10±0.01	0.12±(<0.01)	0.15±0.04	0.21±(<0.01)	n.d. ^a
p-Coumaric acid	6.2	163	0.25±0.03	0.27±0.05	0.11±0.03	0.32±0.01	0.14±0.03	0.22±0.05	0.27±0.05	0.30±0.05	0.56±0.02	0.57±0.09	0.30±0.05	0.25±0.01
Ferulic acid	6.6	193	0.08±0.03	0.08±0.03	0.03±0.03	0.13±0.02	0.04±0.03	0.09±0.02	0.11±0.04	0.13±0.02	0.12±0.02	0.18±0.01	0.05±0.02	0.10±0.02
Simple phenolic alcohols														
OxHTY	1.4	151	0.35±0.08	0.05±0.02	0.07±0.02	0.08±0.01	0.28±0.07	0.08±0.02	0.21±0.05	0.18±0.05	0.34±0.08	0.25±0.05	0.18±0.01	0.11±0.02
OxHTY	1.8	151	0.37±0.03	0.05±0.02	0.08±0.01	0.09±0.01	0.32±0.07	0.11±0.03	0.22±0.03	0.23±0.03	0.35±0.08	0.31±0.08	0.22±0.02	0.16±0.03
HTY	3.3	153	10.89±0.04	2.61±0.50	0.51±0.03	4.44±0.29	18.5±7.5	6.5±1.1	9.6±1.2	8.94±0.34	15.0±1.0	8.91±0.61	16.9±1.5	7.0±1.9
HTY isomer	5.2	153	0.44±0.01	4.20±0.33	0.31±0.03	1.42±0.11	0.62±0.38	0.84±0.74	0.81±0.26	0.47±0.01	0.81±0.03	0.45±0.10	0.87±0.64	0.32±0.01
Tyrosol	4.4	137	4.30±0.50	5.85±0.66	1.93±0.04	5.73±0.21	12.56±0.74	5.59±0.31	7.48±0.79	7.79±0.68	8.70±0.70	6.72±0.47	12.95±0.34	4.52±0.26
AcHTY	7.2	195	3.54±0.11	1.76±0.03	0.44±0.03	n.d. ^a	0.21±0.01	0.67±0.05	2.41±0.31	2.26±0.18	0.71±0.09	0.89±0.07	0.31±0.04	1.27±0.04
Secoiridoids														
EA I 1	4.7	241	0.74±0.04	0.26±0.02	0.67±0.01	3.34±0.22	0.20±0.08	0.44±0.31	0.13±(<0.01)	1.12±0.16	2.59±0.21	1.99±0.11	0.84±0.17	0.14±0.04
EA I 2	7.3	241	2.36±0.29	5.74±0.14	10.19±0.09	46.7±4.1	3.0±1.2	2.42±0.40	3.75±0.02	4.14±0.66	11.3±1.0	8.43±0.86	8.34±0.95	3.45±0.65
EA Ppal	7.7	241	10.2±1.7	14.51±0.28	26.3±1.2	96.3±6.5	10.40±0.47	6.88±0.91	12.42±0.47	14.67±0.47	29.06±0.34	21.7±1.1	23.89±0.77	9.70±0.11
DEA	4.9	183	0.13±0.03	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	0.13±0.02	0.17±0.02	0.15±0.03	n.d. ^a	0.15±0.01	0.17±0.02	0.12±0.02	0.13±0.02
DEA Ppal	5.6	183	3.56±0.10	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	10.9±1.1	0.79±0.18	9.59±0.10	16.38±0.32	1.05±0.08	3.29±0.19	9.33±0.33	0.59±0.04
HEA	6.8	257	2.54±0.19	0.57±0.04	2.37±0.06	1.59±0.32	1.33±0.24	2.14±0.36	2.53±0.22	1.53±0.32	3.39±0.29	3.38±0.32	1.43±0.10	1.17±0.12
DesoxyEA	6.6	225	1.25±0.01	2.45±0.28	1.23±0.02	1.30±0.27	0.73±0.09	0.77±0.16	1.38±0.07	1.09±0.18	4.49±0.42	4.19±0.38	1.52±0.12	0.65±0.01
DOA Ppal	8.8	319	9.00±0.06	4.81±0.33	6.37±0.09	3.66±0.21	11.3±1.2	8.64±0.98	10.11±0.14	9.64±0.46	19.38±0.65	11.8±1.0	8.62±0.26	9.50±0.03
DOA	9.2	319	5.44±0.07	0.25±0.02	2.75±0.20	0.34±0.02	6.15±0.40	8.28±0.34	4.77±0.25	3.35±0.24	5.94±0.51	6.81±0.93	4.25±0.59	5.27±0.24
Ole Agly I 1	8.1	377	n.d. ^a	2.17±0.19	n.d. ^a	1.50±0.20	0.13±0.04	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	0.73±0.06	0.23±0.03	1.44±0.07	n.d. ^a
Ole Agly I 2	8.5	377	0.26±0.04	4.67±0.58	0.18±0.04	4.36±0.89	0.41±0.11	0.17±0.04	0.22±0.04	0.23±0.04	2.35±0.08	0.73±0.11	3.54±0.18	0.29±0.06
Ole Agly I 3	9.3	377	0.14±0.02	1.39±0.14	0.22±0.08	1.12±0.09	0.26±0.05	0.12±0.02	0.25±0.02	0.19±0.03	0.54±0.09	0.28±0.02	0.42±0.09	n.d. ^a
Ole Agly I 4	10.0	377	0.18±0.05	1.84±0.20	0.14±0.05	2.14±0.15	0.43±0.04	0.45±0.02	0.15±(<0.01)	0.30±0.08	1.37±0.20	0.47±0.02	0.74±0.10	0.31±0.06
Ole Agly I 5	10.4	377	0.72±0.16	3.06±0.26	0.69±0.03	3.13±0.11	1.08±0.21	0.70±0.22	1.56±0.02	1.05±0.19	2.71±0.39	1.88±0.39	2.26±0.24	0.45±0.02
Ole Agly Ppal	11.1	377	5.37±0.84	20.7±1.9	5.16±0.21	16.81±0.57	4.80±0.40	6.03±0.92	6.49±0.77	5.76±0.28	20.0±4.9	9.42±0.60	10.65±0.51	4.34±0.37
Total Ole Agly			6.67±0.86	33.8±2.0	6.40±0.31	29.1±1.1	7.11±0.47	7.61±0.95	8.67±0.78	7.53±0.72	27.7±4.9	12.99±0.72	19.03±0.61	5.38±0.38
10-H Ole Agly I 2	9.5	393	0.23±0.04	0.25±0.16	0.06±0.02	0.14±0.09	0.25±0.05	0.26±0.07	0.27±0.06	0.24±0.04	0.31±0.03	0.27±0.01	0.16±0.04	0.24±0.05
10-H Ole Agly I 3	9.7	393	0.56±0.03	0.72±0.06	0.16±0.01	1.36±0.21	0.57±0.05	0.84±0.16	0.64±0.04	0.62±0.22	3.91±0.57	1.73±0.29	1.66±0.23	0.65±0.14
10-H Ole Agly Ppal	9.9	393	0.38±0.03	0.91±0.41	0.05±0.04	1.06±0.04	0.30±0.08	0.39±0.04	0.29±0.01	0.36±0.08	0.67±0.09	0.66±0.10	0.31±(<0.01)	0.18±0.01
Lig Agly I 1	9.4	361	1.20±0.06	7.35±0.22	3.95±0.14	6.38±0.43	1.22±0.22	0.59±0.12	1.08±0.06	1.38±0.28	7.16±0.33	4.65±0.76	7.27±0.03	0.73±0.15
Lig Agly I 2	9.9	361	3.57±0.13	10.0±1.2	1.78±0.81	25.6±3.4	3.27±0.02	2.58±0.27	2.36±0.34	3.44±0.29	22.91±0.78	12.3±2.5	9.79±0.86	2.54±0.37
Lig Agly I 3	11.2	361	0.82±0.24	2.54±0.88	0.88±0.20	3.37±0.60	0.57±0.06	1.22±0.12	1.85±0.30	0.91±0.21	4.30±0.35	1.57±0.17	1.31±(<0.01)	0.83±0.03
Lig Agly I 4	11.6	361	0.81±0.20	7.6±1.2	2.4±1.2	8.17±0.44	0.67±0.06	1.38±0.31	1.51±0.62	1.62±0.46	5.87±0.21	3.38±0.29	1.47±0.41	1.96±0.09
Lig Agly Ppal	12.3	361	13.3±2.4	56.8±9.5	23.2±2.1	60.08±0.62	18.57±0.17	22.75±0.86	17.4±2.2	21.1±3.4	78.0±6.8	33.0±1.7	46.84±0.30	14.88±0.19
Total Lig Agly			19.7±2.4	84.2±9.7	32.2±5.1	103.6±3.6	24.30±0.29	28.52±0.97	24.2±2.4	28.4±5.4	118.2±6.9	54.9±3.1	66.7±1.0	20.94±0.45
DLA	10.3	303	9.36±0.70	3.17±0.94	21.44±0.70	2.03±0.78	20.16±0.16	23.6±4.2	15.7±1.1	18.6±1.6	17.0±2.5	16.15±0.53	9.16±0.80	11.3±1.9
Lignans														
HPin	7.7	373	0.14±0.01	0.09±0.02	n.d. ^a	n.d. ^a	0.18±0.02	0.15±0.02	0.19±0.04	0.17±0.02	0.03±0.01	0.07±0.02	0.09±0.03	0.09±0.02
Pin	9.5	357	2.35±0.13	6.67±0.46	1.86±0.01	1.61±0.26	2.51±0.24	1.77±0.15	1.59±0.18	1.74±0.18	0.69±0.03	1.25±0.09	1.54±0.21	1.54±0.20
AcPin	9.8	415	4.28±0.32	0.24±0.04	2.52±0.17	2.74±0.12	0.55±0.07	2.78±0.11	4.57±0.21	5.65±0.76	1.65±0.26	2.95±0.19	0.29±0.07	2.64±0.02

Flavonoids														
Luteolin	9.0	285	4.99±0.34	3.37±0.56	3.17±0.15	3.17±0.06	2.30±0.12	2.24±0.27	2.61±0.31	3.86±0.05	6.34±0.75	7.25±0.19	3.11±0.21	2.23±0.06
Apigenin	10.2	269	1.47±0.09	0.64±0.13	0.98±0.02	0.95±0.03	0.99±0.17	1.24±0.13	1.11±0.45	1.32±0.11	2.53±0.24	2.41±0.37	1.53±0.05	0.91±0.11
Diosmetin	10.5	299	1.52±0.11	0.46±0.09	0.82±0.10	0.37±0.02	0.55±0.09	1.26±0.12	1.11±0.19	1.10±0.11	1.16±0.10	1.77±0.20	0.55±0.07	1.01±0.10
TOTAL LEVELS			108.0±3.3	178.4±10.0	123.2±9.2	311.7±8.6	136.9±8.1	115.4±5.1	127.1±3.3	142.1±4.2	284.2±9.1	182.6±4.4	194.6±2.7	91.6±2.8

^an.d.: non-detectable

Table 1S. Analytical parameters related to detection and quantification limits of the described method and *intra-day* and *inter-day* repeatability.

Compound	LOD ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	LOQ ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	Intra-day Repeatability (% RSD) ^a		Inter-day Repeatability (% RSD) ^b	
			Area	R_t	Area	R_t
Quinic acid	13.6	45.2	2.17	<0.01	2.70	<0.01
Hydroxytyrosol	6.2	20.6	3.12	0.04	5.71	1.24
Tyrosol	41.1	137.0	3.66	0.04	5.79	0.93
Caffeic acid	11.3	37.8	4.35	<0.01	2.83	<0.01
Homovanillic acid	11.5	38.3	1.44	<0.01	3.64	<0.01
p-Coumaric acid	72.5	241.5	1.03	0.05	7.01	0.84
Ferulic acid	6.3	21.1	1.62	<0.01	4.73	<0.01
Oleuropein	17.3	57.7	3.13	0.05	7.52	0.68
Luteolin	51.4	171.2	3.17	0.04	2.97	0.45
Pinoselinol	9.2	30.6	1.20	<0.01	1.92	<0.01
Apigenin	10.0	33.3	3.13	0.04	4.79	0.40

^a RSD values (%) for peak areas and retention times (expressed in min) of the analytes under study measured from 5 injections carried out within the same day.

^b RSD values (%) for peak areas and retention times (expressed in min) of the analytes under study measured from 5 injections carried out in five different days.

Figure 1

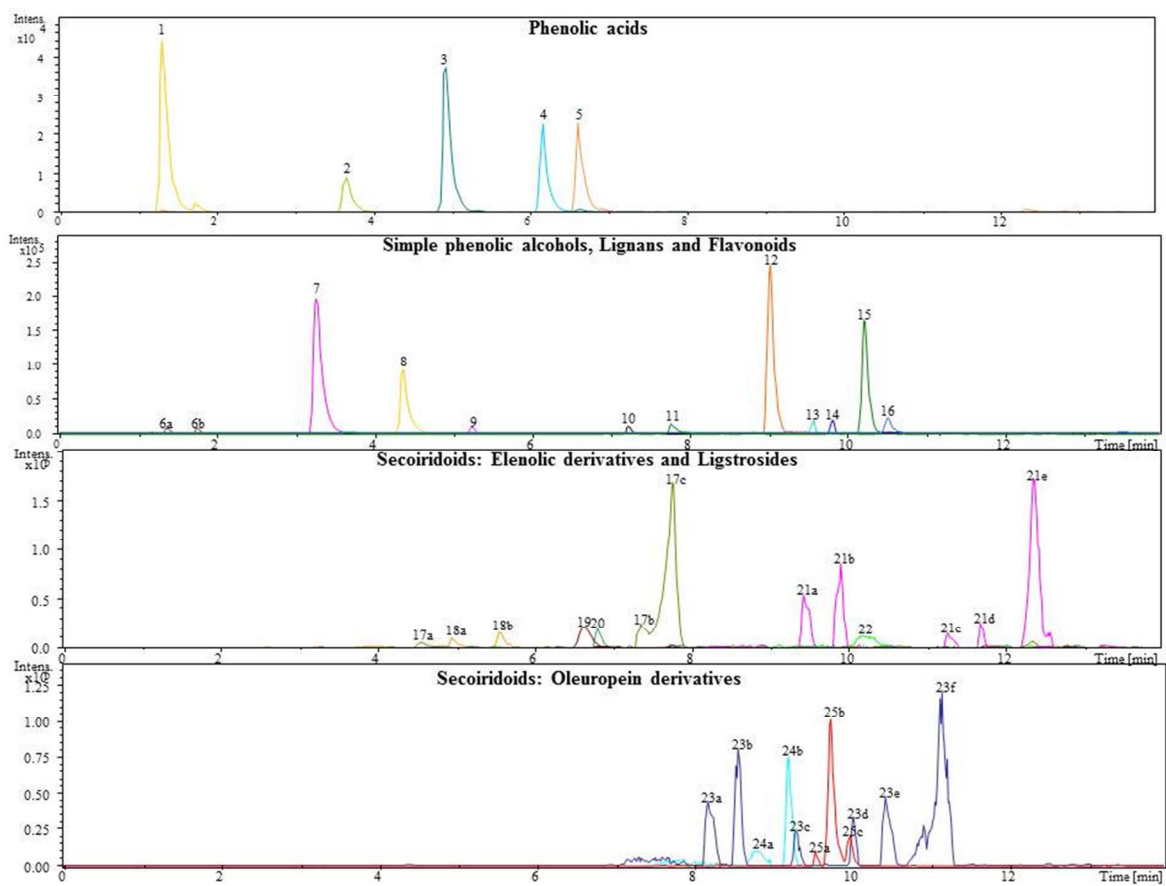


Figure 2

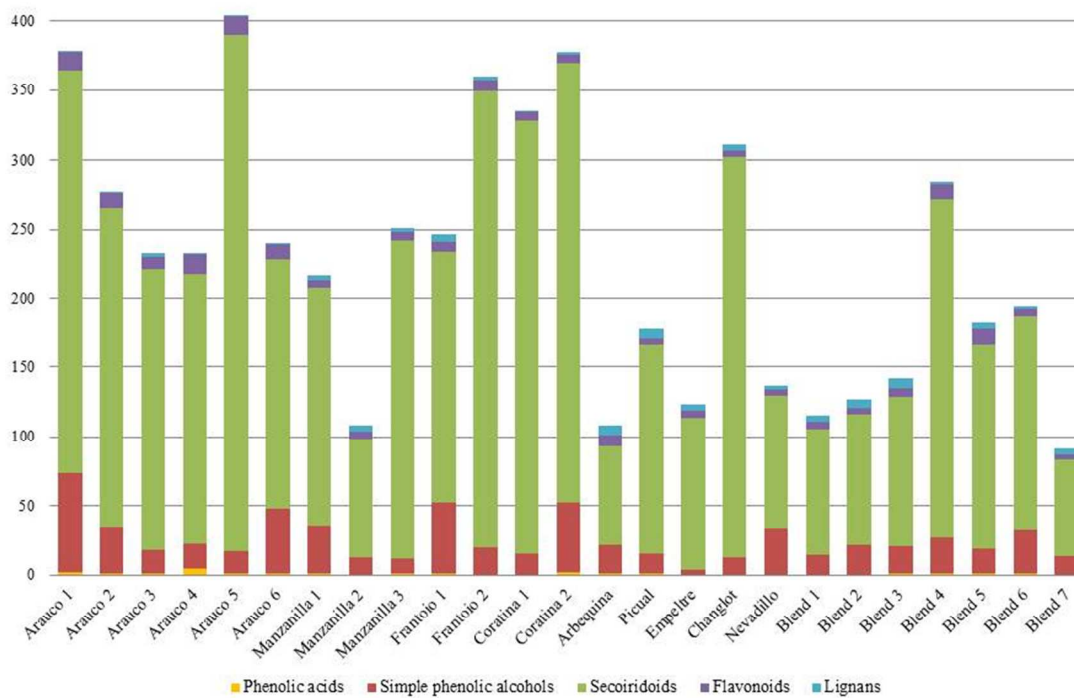


Figure 3

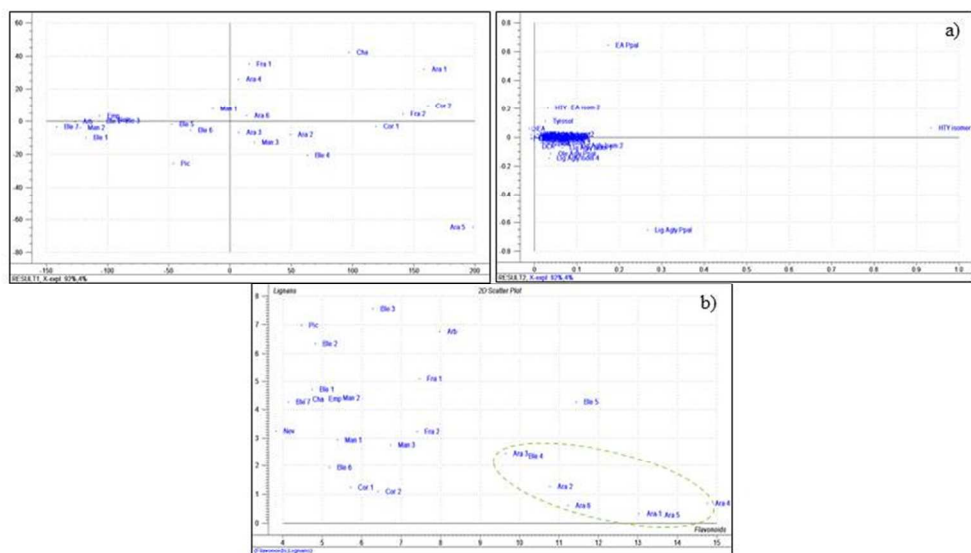


Figure 4

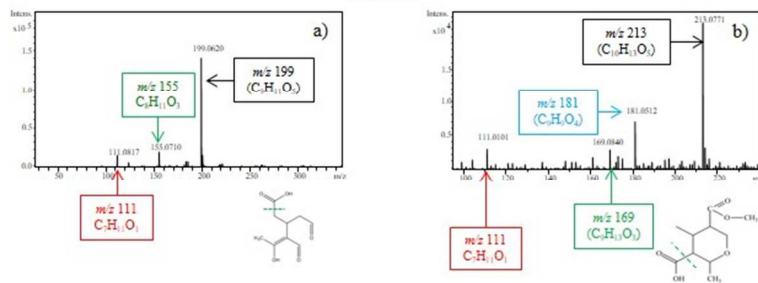
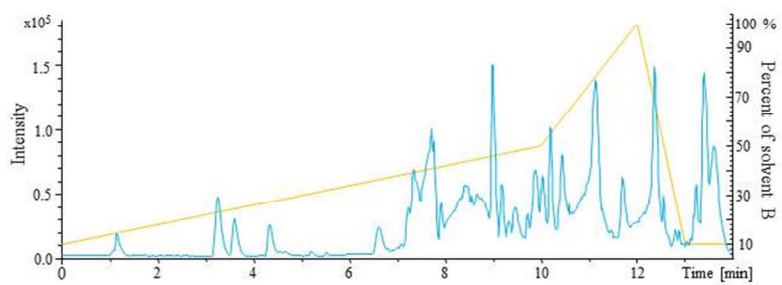
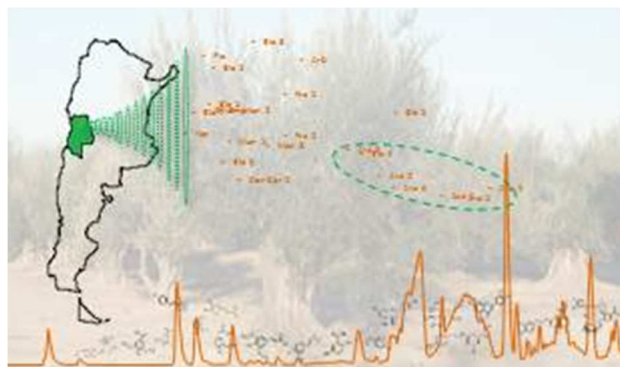


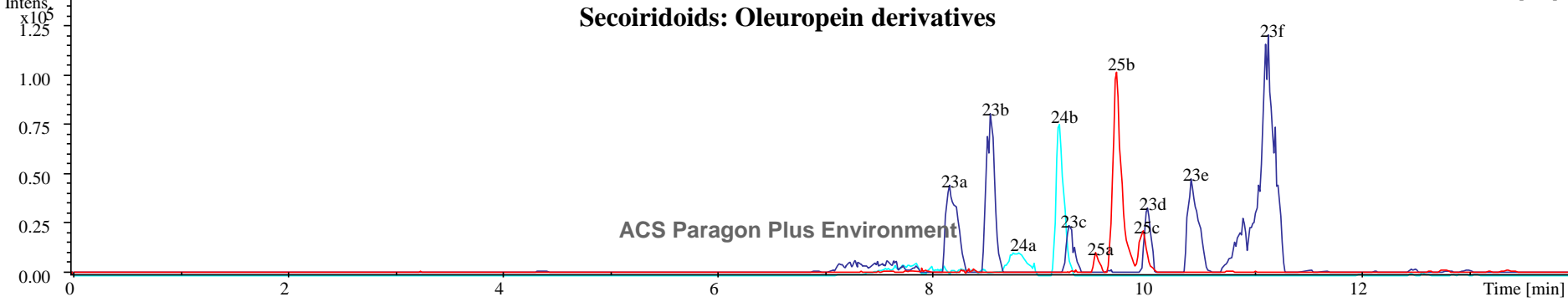
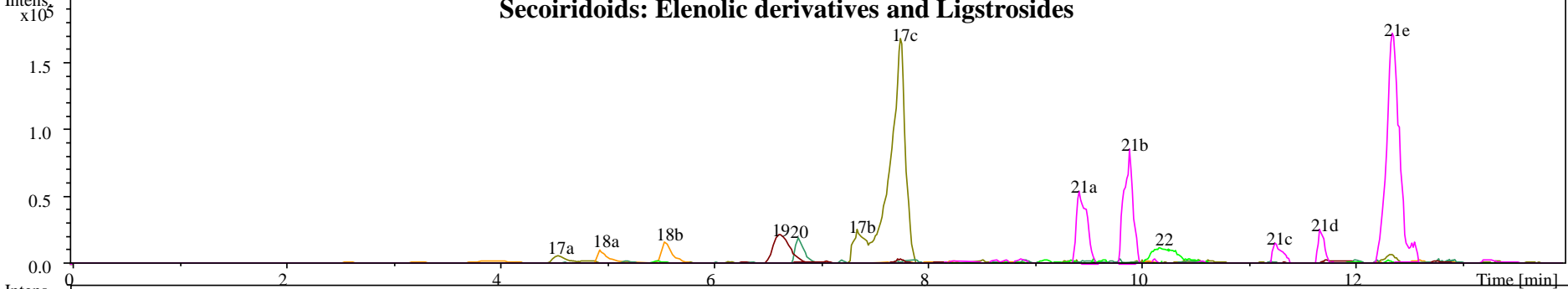
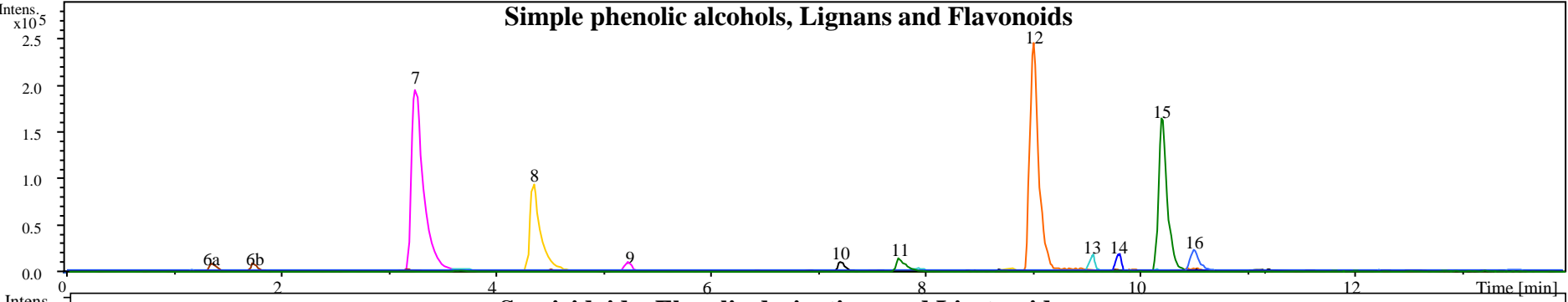
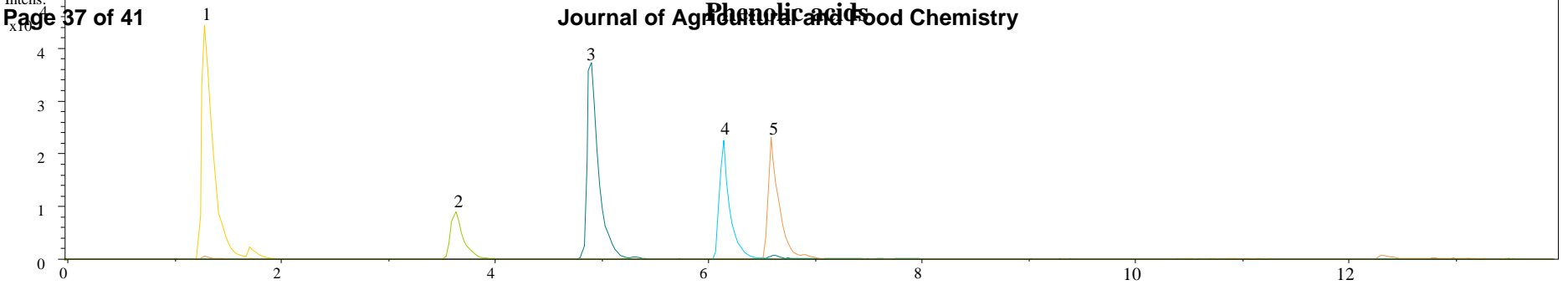
Figure S1. (Supplementary data)



TOC



Phenolic acids



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Figure 2

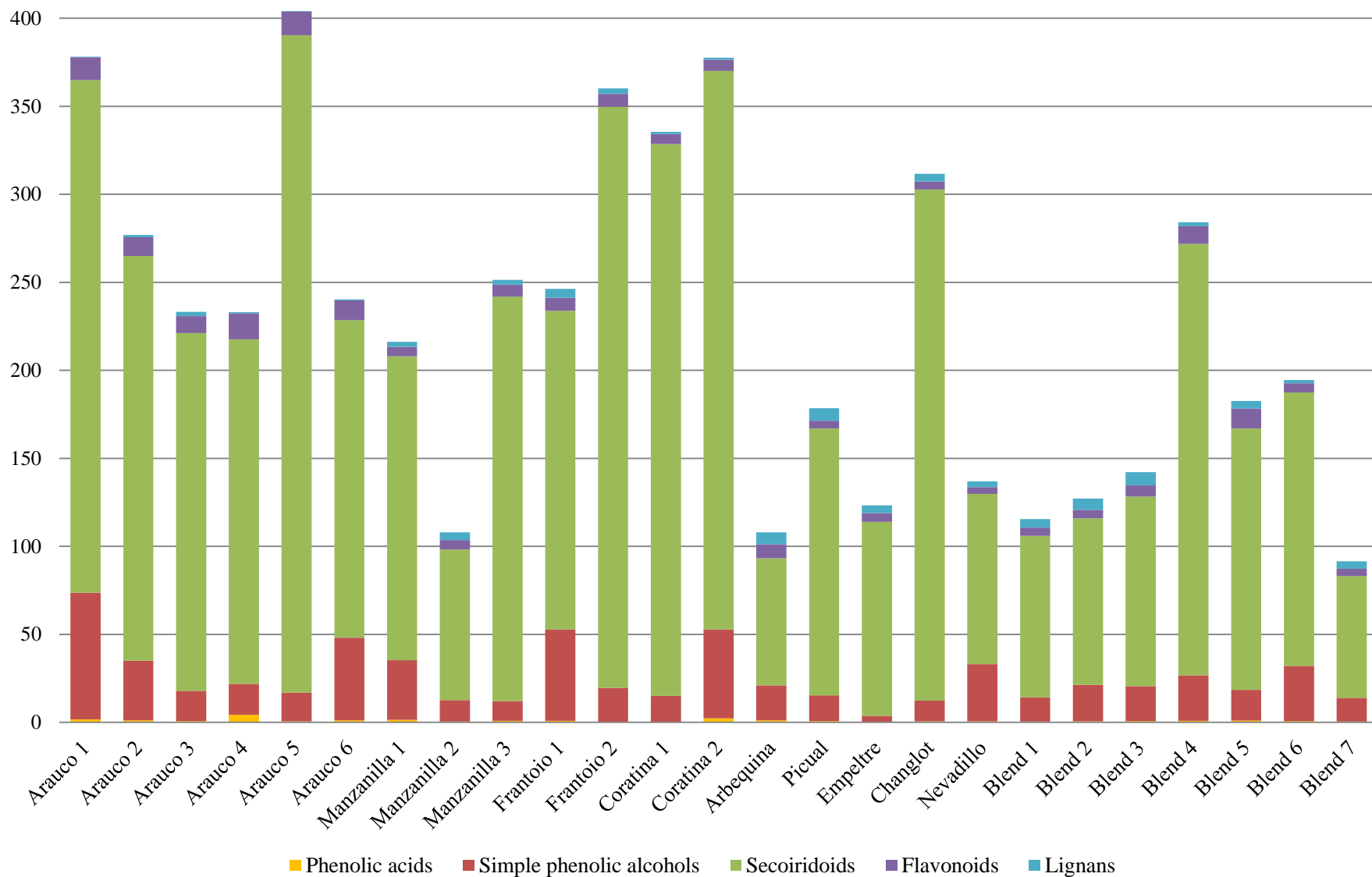


Figure 3

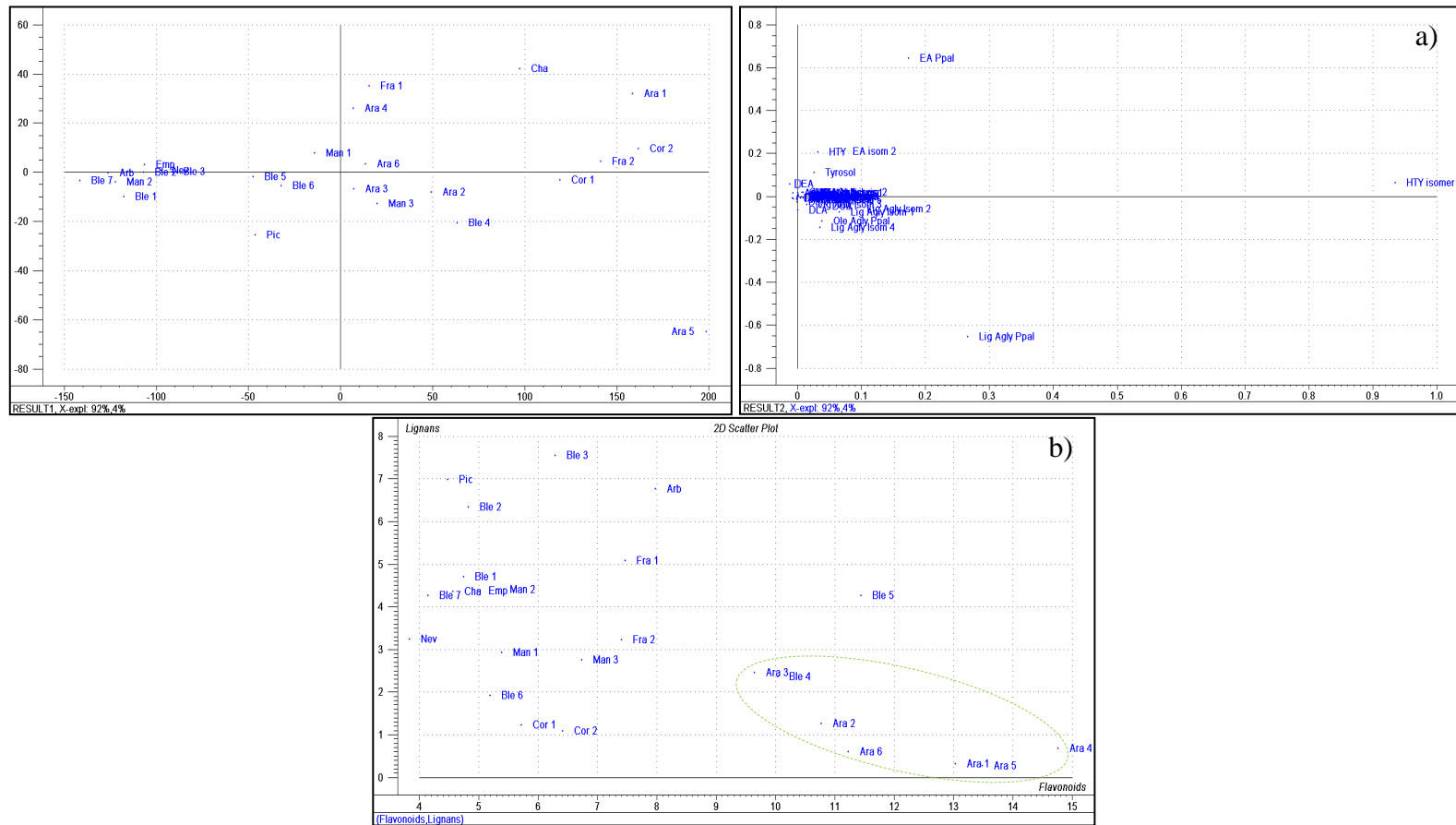
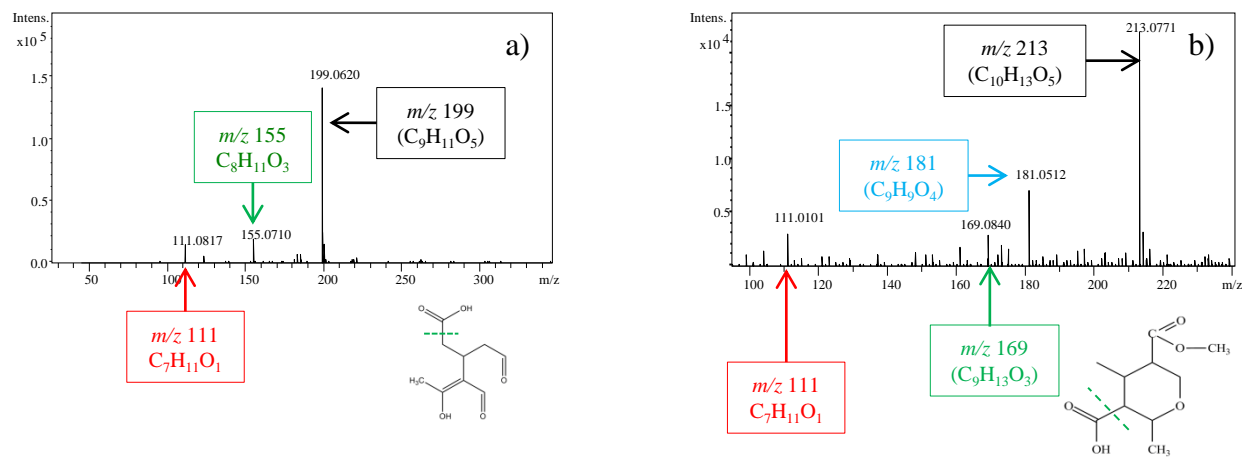
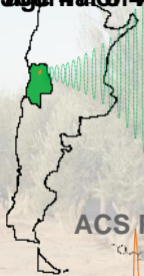


Figure 4



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