

1 **Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction of quinolones in porcine**  
2 **blood: validation of a CE method using univariate calibration or**  
3 **multivariate curve resolution-alternating least squares for**  
4 **overlapped peaks**

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20 **Abbreviations:** **MCR-ALS**, multivariate curve resolution-alternating least squares;  
21 **PDADMAC**, poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride); **FQs**, fluoroquinolones; **DLLME**,

Received: MONTH DD, YYY; Revised: MONTH DD, YYY; Accepted: MONTH DD, YYY

This article has been accepted for publication and undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as [doi: 10.1002/elps.201600475](#).

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22 dispersive liquid–liquid microextraction; **IS**, internal standard; **AS**, salicylic acid; **FLU**,  
23 flumenique; **DIF**, difloxacin; **ENO**, enoxacin; **OFL**, ofloxacin; **GTF**, gatifloxacin; **ENF**,  
24 enrofloxacin; **CPF**, ciprofloxacin; **DNF**, danofloxacin; **MRF**, marbofloxacin; **DCM**,  
25 dichloromethane.

26

27 **Keywords:** Multivariate curve resolution, Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction,  
28 Experimental design, Chemometrics, Porcine blood.

29

30 **Total number of words: 4994 (abstract: 241 words)**

Accepted Article

**Abstract**

In the previously published part of this study, we detailed a novel strategy based on dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction to extract and preconcentrate nine fluoroquinolones in porcine blood. Moreover, we presented the optimized experimental conditions to obtain complete CE separation between target analytes. Consequently, this second part reports the validation of the developed method to determine flumenique, difloxacin, enrofloxacin, marbofloxacin, ofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, through univariate calibration, and enoxacin, danofloxacin, and gatifloxacin through multivariate curve resolution analysis.

The validation was performed according to FDA guidelines for bioanalytical assay procedures and the European Directive 2002/657 to demonstrate that the results are reliable. The method was applied to the determination of FQs in real samples. Results indicated a high selectivity and excellent precision characteristics, with RSD less than 11.9% in the concentrations, in intra and inter-assay precision studies. Linearity was proved for a range from 4.00–30.00 mg L<sup>-1</sup> and the recovery, has been investigating did at four different fortification levels, varied from 89% to 113%. Several approaches found in the literature were used to determinate the LODs and LOQs. Though all strategies used were appropriate, we obtained different values when using different methods. Estimating the S/N ratio with the mean noise level in the migration time of each FQs, turned out as the best studied method for evaluating the LODs and LOQs, and the values were in a range of 1.55 to 4.55 mg L<sup>-1</sup> and 5.17 to 9.62 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

## 51 1. Introduction

52 Blood is one of the major products of the meat industry and an alternative source of  
53 nutritional and functional proteins [1] that has been used as an ingredient in many types of  
54 sausages, soups, bread, and cookies [2-4]. The quality of these processed foods is related  
55 to the presence of compounds that are orally administered to livestock [5] of various animal  
56 species that produce meat, eggs or milk, and whose residues are accumulated in animal  
57 tissue. Fluoroquinolones (FQs) belongs to a group of antibacterial agents which are widely  
58 employed in veterinary medicine [6,7].

59 Therefore, the measurement of drug concentrations in a biological matrix such as blood  
60 is a fundamental aspect to ensure the quality of the food consumed, and reliable analytical  
61 methods are required for compliance with national and international regulations.

62 In the first part of this work [8] we showed that there are numerous studies and reviews  
63 about the determination of FQs in animal tissues, eggs, and bovine milk, however, the  
64 number of studies specifically addressing FQs in porcine plasma or serum remains quite  
65 small. Hence, we developed an analytical method by CE to determine: flumequine (FLU),  
66 difloxacin (DIF), enrofloxacin (ENF), marbofloxacin (MRF), ofloxacin (OFL), ciprofloxacin  
67 (CPF), enoxacin (ENO), danofloxacin (DNF), and gatifloxacin (GTF) in samples of porcine  
68 blood.

69 When working with CE, the complete analyte separation is frequently expected, i.e.,  
70 each peak belongs to a single compound. Consequently, a full-factorial (FFD) and a central  
71 composite design (CCD) were performed in order to increase the extraction and also to  
72 obtain total separation between the nine FQs and the IS in the CE separation. When real  
73 complex samples are analyzed, it is possible to find several unknown substances that  
74 overlap with target analytes.

75 To solve this issue and to achieve short analysis time, second order data has been  
76 generated and modeled with proper chemometric algorithms. In this procedure the  
77 information provided by second-order data can be uniquely ascribed to the analyte of

78 interest, even in the presence of unexpected components not considered during the  
79 calibration stage (a property that has been called “the second-order advantage”). Several  
80 works have been published concerning the chemometric modeling of CE–DAD data [9-13].  
81 In the majority of them, Multivariate curve resolution–alternating least square (MCR-ALS)  
82 has been the algorithm chosen to solve the analytical problems [14]. MCR-ALS is well-  
83 known second-order algorithm able to handle third-order data arrays deviating from  
84 trilinearity. The analysis by CE method with DAD, coupled to the chemometric algorithms,  
85 guarantees selectivity by mathematical means, allowing for resolution and quantitation of  
86 overlapped analytes while keeping the analysis time to a minimum.

87 In this second part of the work, we conclude with the validation of the developed method,  
88 to demonstrate that it is suitable for the intended use and it can offer reliable results. In the  
89 last years, several manuscripts have already been published about method validation  
90 strategies, including quality assurance, focused on bioanalytical methods, and regulatory  
91 purposes in pharmaceutical and control of residues. It should be taking into account that  
92 validation requirements are continually changing and vary widely [15].

93 Nowadays, there are several renowned international organizations offering guidelines on  
94 method validation and related topics. Primary references are the Association of Official  
95 Analytical Chemists (AOAC), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United  
96 States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the International Conference on Harmonization  
97 (ICH), the analytical chemistry group EURACHEM, etc. [15].

98 In this sense, the proposed method was validated according to FDA guidelines for  
99 bioanalytical assay procedures (FDA 2001) and the European Directive 2002/657 [16].  
100 Bioanalytical method validation is crucial for the quantitative determination of various types  
101 of analytes in biological matrices. The bioanalysis procedure includes sampling, sample  
102 preparation, analysis, calibration and data evaluation.

## 103 104 **2. Materials and methods**

## 105 2.1 Chemicals and Reagents

106 Ultra-pure water was obtained from Millipore (Bedford, MA, USA). Sodium  
107 tetraborate, sodium hydrogen phosphate, hydrochloric acid (HCl), sodium hydroxide  
108 (NaOH), DMF, and dichloromethane (DCM) were purchased from Cicarelli (San Lorenzo,  
109 Argentina). The polymer poly (diallyldimethylammonium chloride) (PDADMAC) was  
110 purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Inc.(St. Louis, USA). LC grade methanol (MeOH) and ACN  
111 were obtained from J.T. Baker (Deventer, Netherlands).

112 All standards were of analytical grade. Salicylic acid (AS), flumenique (FLU),  
113 difloxacin (DIF), enoxacin (ENO), ofloxacin (OFL), and gatifloxacin (GTF) were provided by  
114 Sigma-Aldrich (Munich, Germany). Enrofloxacin (ENF), ciprofloxacin (CPF), and  
115 danofloxacin (DNF) were purchased from Fluka (St. Gallen, Switzerland), and marbofloxacin  
116 (MRF) was obtained from Molekula (Gillingham,UK). AS was used as an internal standard at  
117 a concentration of 70 mg L<sup>-1</sup> dissolved in water-ACN (70:30, v/v).

## 118 119 2.2 Buffer and standard solutions preparation

120 Stock standard solutions of 2000 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of each FQs were prepared by precisely  
121 weighing and dissolving the appropriate amount of standard in MeOH. The solutions were  
122 maintained under refrigeration at 4 °C at dark. Working standard solutions were daily  
123 prepared by appropriate dilution of the stock standard solutions in a mixture of water-ACN  
124 (70:30, v/v). BGE solutions were prepared from a mixture solution containing equal amounts  
125 of sodium borate and sodium hydrogen phosphate with a concentration of 23 mmol L<sup>-1</sup>  
126 containing 0.2% of PDADMAC and adjusted to pH 7.80. NaOH solution was prepared at a  
127 concentration of 0.1 mmol L<sup>-1</sup>; HCl was prepared at concentrations of 0.1 and 2.0 mmol L<sup>-1</sup>.  
128 Both solutions were used to adjust the BGE and porcine blood pH.

## 129 130 2.3 Instrumentation and experimental conditions

131 All the CE experiments were carried out on an Agilent CE capillary electrophoresis  
132 system (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany) equipped with an on-column diode  
133 array detector. Separation was performed by applying a reverse polarity of 25 kV, employing  
134 a coated fused-silica capillary (MicroSolv Technology Corporation, Eatontown, USA) with an  
135 inner diameter of 75  $\mu\text{m}$  and a total length of 40 cm (31.5 cm effective length). The cartridge  
136 was maintained at 25.0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The electropherograms were recorded at 275 nm during 4 min,  
137 and the second-order data were obtained by recording UV spectra between 200 and 400 nm  
138 each 2 nm at 0.4 s steps. The hydrodynamic injection was performed in the cathode by  
139 applying a pressure of 50 mbar for 10 s.

140 The capillary was coated using 1% (v/v) PDADMAC solution, which was prepared in  
141 the BGE solution. The coating was performed at the beginning of every working day by  
142 following the methodology presented by Fritz and Steiner, with minor modifications [17]. Four  
143 different solutions were pulled through the capillary using a 930 mbar pressure for 2 minutes  
144 in the following order: a 0.1 M NaOH solution; ultrapure water; a 1 % (v/v) aqueous solution  
145 of PDADMAC, and the BGE solution. After each of the first three solutions, a 15-20 s air  
146 purge was applied to the capillary to removed most of the previous solutions. After the last  
147 solution, a reverse polarity of 15 kV was used to obtain a stable baseline for the first  
148 electropherogram.

149 Between runs, the capillary was successively flushed with 0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> sodium  
150 hydroxide, ultra-pure water, and BGE for 3 min. At the end of the day the capillary was  
151 washed with 0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> sodium hydroxide, and ultra-pure water for 5 min, and finally, it was  
152 air-dried for 3 min.

153 pH values of the solutions were adjusted by an Orion 410A pH-meter equipped with  
154 Ag/AgCl reference electrode (Hanna Instruments, Inc., Woonsocket, USA). All solutions  
155 were filtered through 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  Nylon membranes (Sartorius AG, Göttingen, Germany) before  
156 use.

157

## 158 2.4 Software

159 The CE ChemStation software (Agilent Technologies) was employed for the CE  
160 instrument control and data acquisition. All the algorithms were implemented in MATLAB  
161 7.10 [18]. Those for applying MCR–ALS is available on the internet at  
162 <http://www.mcrals.info/>. Homemade routines based on the Eilers algorithm were used to  
163 perform second-order data baseline correction [19]. Homemade routines, based on  
164 SIMPLISMA (simple interactive self–modeling mixture analysis) [20], were used to initialize  
165 the ALS algorithm. Savitzky–Golay smoothing and differentiation filter were applied to  
166 preprocess the data [21].

## 168 2.5 Sample preparation (DLLME procedure)

169 Sample preparation was carried out following the method proposed in our previous work  
170 [8]. Figure 1A shows the sequence of sample clean-up and extraction of FQs from porcine  
171 blood samples.

## 173 2.6 Method validation: selectivity, apparent recovery, precision, linearity and linear range, 174 LOD, LOQ, matrix effect.

175 Univariate calibration methodology, based on analyte/IS peak area ratio (area  
176 FQs/area IS) at a fixed wavelength (275 nm) was used to determine FLU, DIF, OFL, ENF,  
177 CPF, and MRF.

178 For ENO, DNF, and GTF multivariate method (MCR–ALS) was used with the second-  
179 order data obtained by recording UV spectra between 200 and 400 nm.

180 The selectivity was evaluated with six blood samples from local slaughterhouses,  
181 processed according to the described extraction methodology and injected in the CE  
182 instrument. The obtained electropherograms were compared with the corresponding to a  
183 standard solution of the target analytes to evaluate the presence of peaks at the same  
184 migration times of the FQs. Peak purity was also tested.



185 The matrix effect was evaluated by comparison of the slopes of the calibration curves  
186 prepared with standard solutions of the analytes studied, with solutions of analytes in the  
187 porcine blood which were subjected to the extraction procedure. These calibrations curves  
188 were prepared with concentrations between 1.00 and 100.00 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. The comparison was  
189 performed using a Student's *t*-test with a confidence level of 95%.

190 The repeatability was determined by measurements (n=6) of samples solutions at  
191 four different concentrations: LOQ obtained for each analyte, 7.5, 22.50 and 30.00 mg L<sup>-1</sup>,  
192 prepared by spiking basal blood with a volume of standard solution. The intermediate  
193 precision was evaluated by performing repeated measurements of the same samples during  
194 four weeks. Then, the RSD was calculated in both precision studies, for each concentration  
195 value, and for each analyte. Regulation 401/2006/EC [22] issued that the permitted  
196 experimental RSD for each concentration level must be below twice-fold the value derived  
197 by Horwitz equation:

$$198 \quad RSD_R = 2^{(1-0.5 \log C)} \quad (1)$$

199 where C is the mass fraction expressed as mg mL<sup>-1</sup>.

200 The apparent recovery was evaluated using samples solutions at four different  
201 concentrations, prepared by spiking basal blood with a volume of standard solution. These  
202 samples were analyzed with the analytical procedure, and the quantity of each FQ recovered  
203 about the added amount was calculated.

204 Method linearity was assessed with calibrations curves constructed in triplicate with  
205 mixed standard solutions at five concentration levels, from the LOQ obtained for each FQs to  
206 30.00 mg L<sup>-1</sup> approximately, and salicylic acid as an internal standard at a concentration of  
207 70 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. The linear graph was constructed using the ratio of area FQs/area IS (AS 70 mg  
208 L<sup>-1</sup>) versus nominal concentration of analytes (expressed in mg L<sup>-1</sup>). Mixed standard  
209 solutions for FLU, DIF, ENF, MRF, CPF, OFN, DNF, and GTF were prepared at five  
210 concentration levels in water-ACN (70:30, v/v) and were introduced into the instrument in a  
211 randomized way. The results were analyzed with statistical method of linear regression by

212 least-squares. The homoscedasticity of the data was evaluated through an  $F$  test of the  
213 variances at the lower and upper limit of analyzed range [23]. The linearity of the calibration  
214 graphs was assessed with a lack-of-fit-test [24]. LODs and LOQs were determined using  
215 standard solutions prepared in porcine blood, for FLU, DIF, ENF, MRF, OFN, CPF, ENO,  
216 DNF, and GTF, applying different criteria.

217 Firstly, the LODs were computed from the calibration curve using the SD of the  
218 regression ( $s_y$ ) and the slope ( $b$ ) through the expression:

$$219 \quad \text{LOD} = \frac{3.3 s_y}{b} \quad (2)$$

220 Secondly, this parameter was estimated by the IUPAC criterion [24] using the  
221 expression:

$$222 \quad Y_{\text{LOD}} = Y_{\text{blank}} + 3.3 s_{\text{blank}} \quad (3)$$

223 where  $Y_{\text{LOD}}$  is the response by the LOD,  $Y_{\text{blank}}$  is the average of the blank signal and  $s_{\text{blank}}$   
224 is its corresponding SD. The  $Y_{\text{LOD}}$  values were converted to concentration through the  
225 calibration function using the slope  $b$ .

226 Otherwise, the LODs were calculated as the concentration of analyte giving a signal  
227 three times the noise level (S/N=3). In this sense, two different noise levels were estimated:  
228 the noise level near the peak of the IS and the mean values of noise level given in the  
229 migration time of each FQs, obtained by the repetition of ten injections of a basal blood on  
230 different days and weeks.

231 The LOQs were computed from the linear regression analysis using the SD of the  
232 regression ( $s_y$ ) and the slope ( $b$ ) as was done for the LODs but using a factor equal to 10.  
233 Otherwise, these parameters were estimated by the IUPAC criterion [24] using the  
234 expression  $Y_{\text{LOD}} = Y_{\text{blank}} + 10 s_{\text{blank}}$  (4).

235 Additionally, they were calculated as the concentration of analyte giving a signal ten  
236 times the noise level (S/N=10), using the noise levels calculated before.

237

### 238 **3. Results and discussion**

### 239 3.1 Separation selectivity

240 In our previous work [8] we optimized the separation of nine FQs and the IS using the  
241 response surface methodology by applying experimental designs. The results of this study  
242 were optimized conditions that assure the complete analyte separation in the shortest  
243 analysis time when a standard solution of target analytes was analyzed.

244 The total separation of a mixture of standard FQs was possible due to the different  
245 percentage of positive, negative, and neutral species of FQs that exist when working at the  
246 optimized separation pH of 7.80. Under reverse polarity, FLU migrates in the first place;  
247 whose predominant species has negative charge. The following peaks correspond to DIFLO,  
248 ENF, MRF, OFN, CPF, ENO, DNF, and GTF, with decreasing percentages of negative  
249 species.

250 However, in the analysis of real blood samples, unknown substances of the complex  
251 biological matrix were extracted, originating the peak overlapping of Figure 1C. Specifically,  
252 interference substances appeared in the migration times of ENO, DNF, and GTF, given that  
253 these unknown species have the same electrophoretic behavior as the last three peaks of  
254 FQs of Figure 1B. Moreover, no interference substances were found in the migration time of  
255 IS and the others FQs.

256 The Figure 1B and 1C show the electropherogram of a sample prepared for studying  
257 of apparent recovery, and a real sample of porcine blood, respectively. In Figure 1B, the  
258 overlap between endogenous components of porcine blood with the last three FQs peaks is  
259 noticeable.

### 261 3.2 MCR-ALS analysis

262 As mentioned before, substantial overlapping of the three analytes (ENO, DNF, and  
263 GTF) and blood compounds is evident in the region 3.30–3.65 min. In this sense, these  
264 compounds cannot be determinate for univariate calibration. Consequently, MCR-ALS was  
265 chosen for data processing in this section, because this algorithm achieves the second-order

266 advantage without requiring the data to fulfill the trilinearity property. With this purpose, the  
267 strategy of augmenting matrices along the mode which is suspected of breaking the trilinear  
268 structure is implemented. Bilinear decomposition of the augmented matrix  $\mathbf{D}_{\text{aug}}$  is performed  
269 by of the expression:

$$270 \quad \mathbf{D}_{\text{aug}} = \mathbf{C}_{\text{aug}} \times \mathbf{S}^T + \mathbf{E}_{\text{aug}} \quad (5)$$

271 in which the rows of  $\mathbf{D}_{\text{aug}}$  contain the UV-visible spectra ( $K$  wavelengths) as a function of the  
272 time ( $J$  times), the columns of  $\mathbf{C}_{\text{aug}}$  contain the time profiles of the  $N$  compounds involved in  
273 the process, the columns of  $\mathbf{S}$  their related spectra, and  $\mathbf{E}_{\text{aug}}$  is a matrix of residuals not fitted  
274 by the model.

275 The MCR-ALS method was cubic spline interpolation, and smoothing was applied to  
276 all matrices given the high level of noise in the data.

277 The first modeling step consisted of building an augmented data matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  in the  
278 temporal mode by stacking data matrices corresponding to each calibration solution.

279 Given that between the IS and the *tm* of ENO, DNF and GTF appear other FQs that  
280 have the same spectra, the MCR-ALS method was applied in two different regions, one  
281 region between 1.70 and 2.00 min for IS (AS) and the other region between 3.20 and 3.65  
282 for ENO, DNF, and GTF. The final dimension of the matrix was of (176 x 81).

283 To build the initial estimation, the analysis of the purest spectra based on the  
284 SIMPLISMA methodology was applied to obtain each FQs and IS spectra [25]. Interestingly,  
285 the number of contributing species in the system when using singular value decomposition  
286 was equal to the real number of analytes (AS, ENO, DNF, and GTF), and hence two more  
287 unknown components should be considered. After MCR-ALS decomposition of  $\mathbf{D}$ ,  
288 concentration information of standard samples contained in  $\mathbf{C}$  (the areas under the temporal  
289 profiles of each component) was used to construct the univariate regression of peak–area  
290 ratios for each analyte and the IS.

291 Figures 2A and 2B show the time and spectral profiles corresponding to the six  
292 components found by MCR-ALS analysis, for a spiked porcine blood sample. As depicted in

293 Figure 2A, there is a severe overlapping of time, however, MCR-ALS is able to correctly  
294 decompose the data into the relevant contributions; first to the IS, and then in subsequent  
295 order, ENO, interference 1, DNF, interference 2, and GTF.

296 Figure 2B also shows the spectral profiles retrieved by MCR-ALS analysis. A  
297 reasonably good agreement is found between the spectra corresponding to the analyte  
298 obtained with MCR-ALS and the pure spectra (determination coefficients greater than  
299 0.998).

300

### 301 3.3 Validation

#### 302 *LOD and LOQ*

303 The values of LODs and LOQs obtained are listed in Table 1. In the first analysis, we  
304 observed that the values achieved with the noise level in each migration time were higher  
305 than the values obtained with the noise level taken near of the IS. These phenomena can be  
306 explained by the change of the noise level between days and weeks generated by the  
307 natural variation of the electrophoretic technique. These values are considered to be the  
308 most realistic, and were used to define the quality parameters of the method. The same  
309 conclusion is obtained for LOQs and for LODs.

310 In the case of ENO, DNF, and GTF, the LODs and LOQs were obtained from  
311 multivariate calibration because endogenous compounds interfere with the determination of  
312 the analytes. These values of LODs and LOQs correspond to the lowest concentration of  
313 FQs detectable and quantifiable in porcine blood sample under the experimental conditions.

314 Even though all of the applied methodologies for the calculations of the limits are  
315 appropriate for this work, it is observed that the results obtained differ. Considering the  
316 importance on the calculation of these parameters, and the need not to underestimate them,  
317 we choose the methodological approach based on the measure of the background noise in  
318 the migration time of each FQs.

319 Nevertheless, it is necessary to note that if we consider the preconcentration factor  
320 (10) that affects the extraction procedure, these limits will become ten times less.

321

### 322 *Matrix effect*

323 The matrix effect study showed that the difference between the slopes of the  
324 calibration curves constructed was not statistically significant, proving that the blood matrix  
325 does not affect the extraction procedure.

326

### 327 *Linearity*

328 The homoscedasticity test showed that the difference between the observed and the  
329 critical value of  $F$  was not significant ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). The  $p$ -values obtained in the lack-of-fit-test  
330 were greater than 0.10, so the model was adequate for the observed data, and there was an  
331 excellent linearity within stated ranges. Also, the squared determination coefficient ( $r^2$ )  
332 obtained for all the calibration graphs were above 0.99. The results are summarized in Table  
333 2.

334

### 335 *Precision*

336 The RSD was calculated in both precision studies, and the results are shown in Table  
337 2. The RSDs computed, for each concentration value, and for each analyte are lower than  
338 the calculated values by Horwitz equation. These results indicate that the method satisfies  
339 the minimum performance criteria established by the above -mentioned regulation.

340

### 341 *Apparent recovery*

342 Apparent recoveries were ranged between 89% and 113% (Table 3A), and this can  
343 be considered as excellent given the complexity of the samples.

344

### 345 *3.4 Analysis of real samples*

346 Six blood samples from local slaughterhouses were processed according to the  
347 described extraction methodology (Section 2.5) and injected into the CE system.

348 In two of the analyzed samples, the presence of FLU was detected: 1.64 mg L<sup>-1</sup> S1  
349 and 3.06 mg L<sup>-1</sup> S3 (Table 3B). Also, to demonstrate that the method developed is valid in  
350 real samples, the results were compared between spiked and non-spiked samples. These  
351 samples were spiked with three different standard solutions of 0.50, 1.00 and 2.00 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of  
352 FLU. Recovery % was calculated in each case. These high recoveries (95-102 %) indicate  
353 that the method can be applied to real samples.

354 Finally, a comparison with other published methods was conducted with the aim to  
355 show the advantages of the method reported in this paper. In the literature, the numbers of  
356 FQs which can be determined simultaneously in a less complex matrix than porcine blood  
357 are less than eight [26-30]. Consequently, it is apparent that one important achievement is  
358 the possibility to quantitate the nine analytes together. Another significant achievement is the  
359 substantial reduction of the analysis time, between twice and ten-fold lesser than the  
360 published methodologies [25, 29-31]. Furthermore, it is important to remark the decrease in  
361 the use of solvents during the extraction phase (300-800% less) in agreement with green  
362 chemistry [32-34]. Although the LODs obtained in other publications are smaller than the one  
363 achieved in this paper (between 0.001 and 0.2 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) it should be remarked that the LOQs  
364 obtained by use of this method are enough for monitoring the drugs in blood because there  
365 is no limit determined by regulation.

366

#### 367 4. Concluding remarks

368 A validated CE method for the determination of the FQs FLU, DIF, ENF, MRF, OFN,  
369 and CPF in porcine blood has been developed by using univariate calibration. The  
370 determination of ENO, DNF, and GTF in the presence of unexpected compounds can be  
371 performed by using second-order data generated by use of CE coupled with DAD. It has

372 been demonstrated once again that modeling data (as it happens with CE-DAD data) using  
373 MCR-ALS is the strategy of choice, owing to its flexibility.

374 The electrophoretic runs had a short analysis time (ca. 4 min). Hence, the proposed  
375 method becomes an alternative for routine laboratories

376 By performing the DLLME strategy presented in this work, no contaminant solvents  
377 should be used in the analyte extraction, which is highly recommended to follow the green  
378 analytical chemistry principles.

379 The whole method is simple, accurate, selective, inexpensive and fast. Furthermore,  
380 it is sensitive enough for the analysis of FQs in porcine blood, because there are no  
381 maximum residue limits (MRLs) of FQs in porcine blood in Argentina.

382

### 383 **Acknowledgements**

384 *The authors thank Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Consejo Nacional de*  
385 *Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) and Agencia Nacional de Promoción*  
386 *Científica y Tecnológica (ANPCyT) for the financial aid received. C.M.T. thanks to CONICET*  
387 *for her fellowships. The authors are very grateful to P. H. C. Eilers and J. W. Braga for the*  
388 *MATLAB codes.*

389

390 *The authors have declared no conflict of interest.*

391

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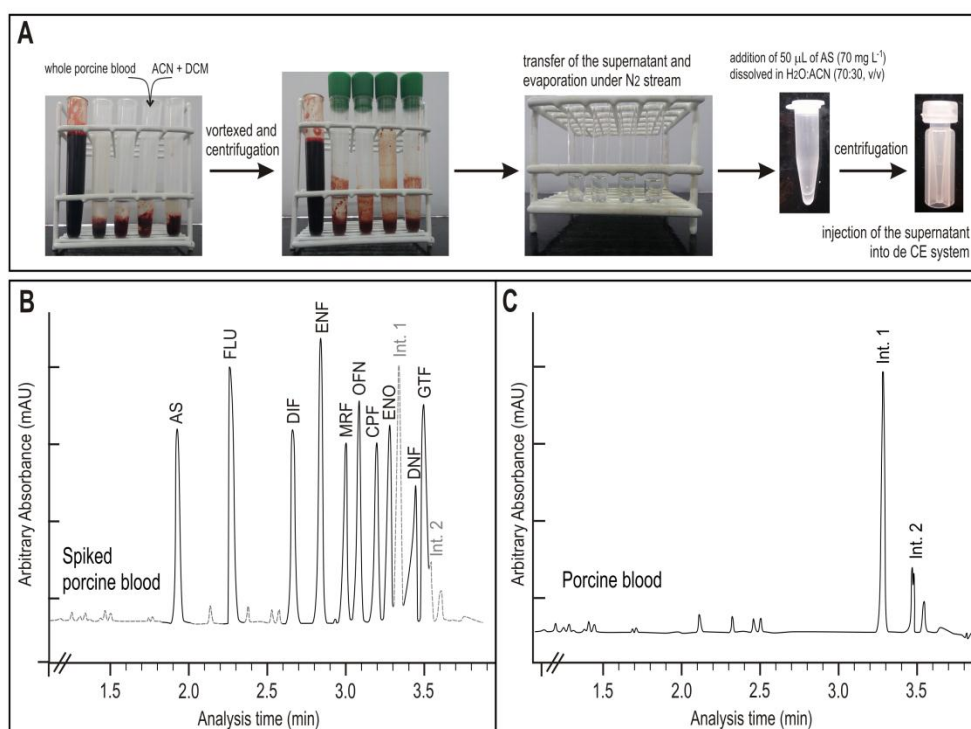


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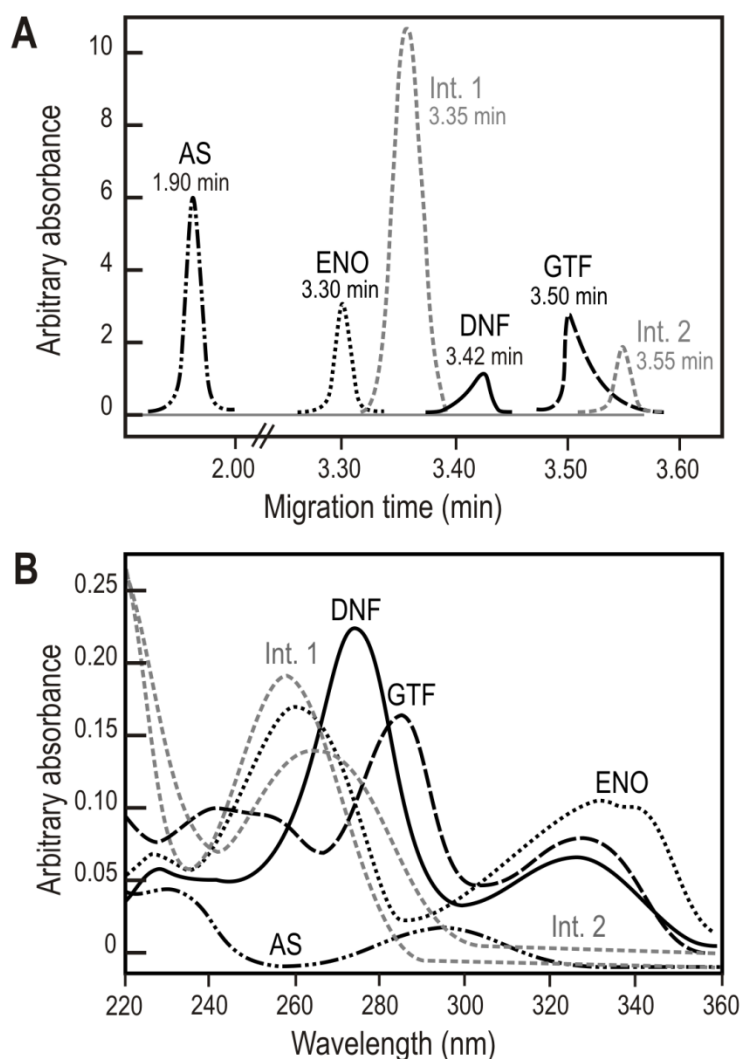
444 **Figure captions**

445 **Figure 1:** The sequence of sample clean-up and extraction of FQs from porcine blood  
 446 samples (A). Electropherograms obtained under optimum separation experimental  
 447 conditions corresponding to: (B) a sample prepared for studying apparent recovery and (C)  
 448 real sample of porcine blood.



449 **Figure 2:** **A)** Concentration profiles retrieved by MCR-ALS for a spikes porcine blood  
 450 sample. Salicylic acid (AS black dash-dotted line), enoxacin (ENO black dots), danofloxacin  
 451 (DNF black solid line), gatifloxacin (GTF black dashed line), interference 1 (Int. 1 grey  
 452 dashed line) and interference 2 (Int. 2 grey dashed line) **B)** Spectral profile retrieved by  
 453 MCR-ALS for the same sample as in **A**.

455



**Table 1.** LODs and LOQs values computed according to the criteria described in the section

2.6

Analyte	LOD( mg L <sup>-1</sup> )				LOQ(mg L <sup>-1</sup> )			
	S/N			Calibration curve	S/N			Calibration curve
	IUPAC	Noise level near the peak of	Mean noise level given in		IUPAC	Noise level near the peak of	Mean noise level given in	
FLU	6.71	1.62	4.55	2.38	8.13	5.39	9.62	6.28
DIF	6.85	1.55	3.35	2.45	8.32	5.16	6.64	6.47

ENR	4.23	1.04	1.81	2.46	10.84	3.46	4.53	6.48
MRF	8.62	2.69	2.25	2.38	14.78	8.97	6.38	6.28
OFL	4.50	1.36	1.76	3.40	11.79	4.52	5.86	9.0
CPF	4.92	1.20	1.55	2.20	12.36	4.00	5.17	5.81
ENO <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	1.22	-	-	-	3.43
DNF <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	1.44	-	-	-	4.06
GTF <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	1.34	-	-	-	3.78

460 <sup>a</sup>Values obtained using multivariate calibration

461

462

463 **Table 2.** Linearity ranges, analytical figures of merit, and precision results.

Analyte	Linearity range	Intercept <sup>a</sup>	Slopes <sup>a</sup>	$r^2$ adj.	Lack of fit ( $p$ -)	Repeatability				Intermediate precision			
						Fortification levels (mg)				Fortification levels (mg)			
						$L^{-1}$ <sup>d</sup>				$L^{-1}$ <sup>d</sup>			
LO	7.5	22.5	30.0	LO	7.5	22.5	30.0						
FLU	9.62–	0.26	0.089	0.99	0.170	9.4	3.7	3.15	2.2	8.6	3.1	2.5	1.6
DIF	6.64–	-0.02	0.097	0.99	0.100	11.	7.4	4.4	1.7	10.	4.3	3.4	1.2
ENF	4.53–	-0.13	0.168	0.99	0.209	11.	10.	5.3	2.8	9.6	5.8	4.9	0.9
MRF	6.38–	0.02	0.066	0.99	0.903	10.	7.7	5.4	0.6	9.4	6.2	2.1	0.5
OFN	5.86–	-0.15	0.125	0.99	0.279	11.	8	4	0.8	8.3	5.3	4.7	1.1
CPF	5.17–	-0.10	0.130	0.99	0.104	11.	8.6	3.1	2.6	8.9	4.1	2.8	2.3
ENO <sup>c</sup>	3.43–	0.12	0.076	0.99	0.423	10.	8.6	0.1	3.9	7.3	3.2	3	1.7
DNF <sup>c</sup>	4.06–	-0.09	0.197	0.99	0.204	11.	9.7	7.4	2.15	9.3	6.7	5.3	1.3
GTF <sup>c</sup>	3.78–	0.26	0.089	0.99	0.156	8.1	7.8	6.3	2.4	7.5	4.6	2.6	1.9

464 <sup>a</sup>Values between parenthesis correspond to the SD

465 <sup>b</sup>Since the  $p$ -value for the lack of adjustment is greater than or equal to 0.10, the model  
466 seems to be adequate for the observed data.

467 <sup>c</sup>Values obtained by multivariate curve resolution

468 <sup>d</sup>Values correspond to the  $RSD_R$  obtained by Horwitz equation. Acceptance criteria:  $RSD_R$   
 469 for 7.50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> less than 11.8, for 22.50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> less than 0.8, and for 30.00 mg L<sup>-1</sup> less than  
 470 9.6.

471

472

473 **Table 3.** A) Apparent recovery evaluated using samples solutions at four different  
 474 concentrations, prepared by spiking basal blood with a volume of standard  
 475 solution, **B)** Determination FLU in real blood samples spiked with drug standards solutions.

<b>3.A</b>		Apparent recovery (%) <sup>a</sup>		
		Fortification levels (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )		
Analyte	LOQ	7.50	22.50	30.00
FLU	101 (7)	98 (9)	98 (9)	97 (2)
DIF	106 (2)	101 (8)	103 (6)	103 (5)
ENF	113 (4)	96 (5)	101 (9)	104 (8)
MRF	110 (4)	101 (8)	105 (9)	94 (6)
OFN	110 (5)	89 (7)	96 (8)	102 (7)
CPF	100 (9)	94 (8)	96 (4)	91 (4)
ENO <sup>b</sup>	105 (5)	99 (4)	95 (3)	103 (3)
DNF <sup>b</sup>	109 (4)	101 (2)	99 (5)	99 (3)
GTF <sup>b</sup>	104 (2)	102 (2)	102 (2)	101 (3)

<b>3.B</b>		Sample recovery (%) <sup>a</sup>		
		Fortification levels (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )		
Sample	Basal concentration (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.50	1.00	2.00
S1	1.64 (0.09)	95 (4)	99 (3)	101 (1)

S3	3.06 (0.08)	98 (5)	102 (4)	99 (2)
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476 <sup>a</sup>Values between parenthesis correspond to the SD

477 <sup>b</sup>Values obtained by multivariate curve resolution

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