

# Methods for analysis of procyanidins (condensed tannins) and their oxidation products in foods.



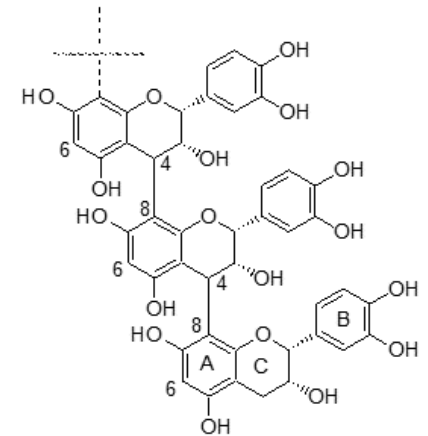
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PRP Group (Polyphenols, Reactivity & Process), 35653 Le Rheu

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# Our research group

PRP Group  
(Polyphenols, Reactivity & Process)



Rennes INRA Center



Near the city of  
RENNES in  
Brittany, in France

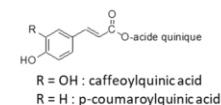


Food sciences and Analytical Chemistry  
related to fruit processing...in particular  
**apple** and **ciders** making

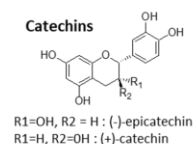
...the contribution of **polyphenols**  
regarding their (bio)**reactivity** during  
processing

...with a specific focus on **the oxidation**  
**reactions** involving polyphenols

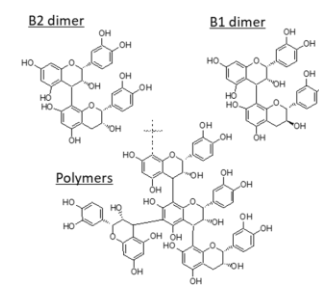
Hydroxycinnamic acids



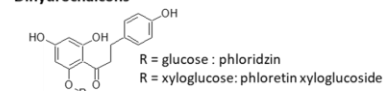
Catechins



Procyanidins and condensed tannins



Dihydrochalcones



Apple polyphenols

# *Procyanidins and condensed tannins are very widespread in edible plant*

## Fruits, berries and derived products

Grapes, juices  
& wine



Apples, juices  
& ciders



Dates, berries,



chocolate

## In nuts, beans, peas & lentils



## In rapeseed



## In roots and tubers (ex: Yam)



They largely contribute to polyphenol intake

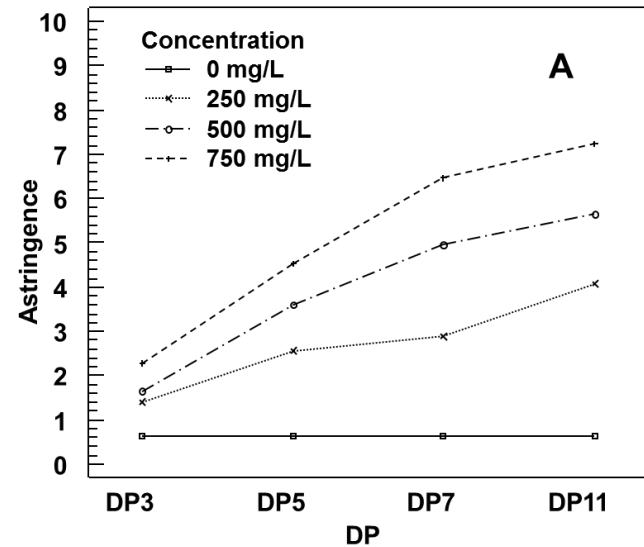


# Procyanidin and their contribution to the taste

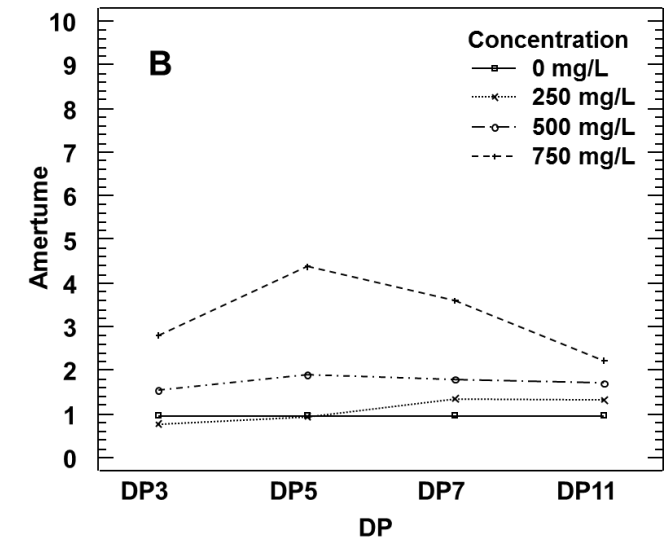
Example : in French ciders model solutions



**Astringency**



**Bitterness**



DP = Degree of polymerisation of tannins  
(related to the size of the molecules)



From Symoneaux et al., 2014

*Their structures and concentrations influence the balance  
between bitterness & astringency*

# Procyanidins and condensed tannins are contributors to “polyphenols health effects” in foods

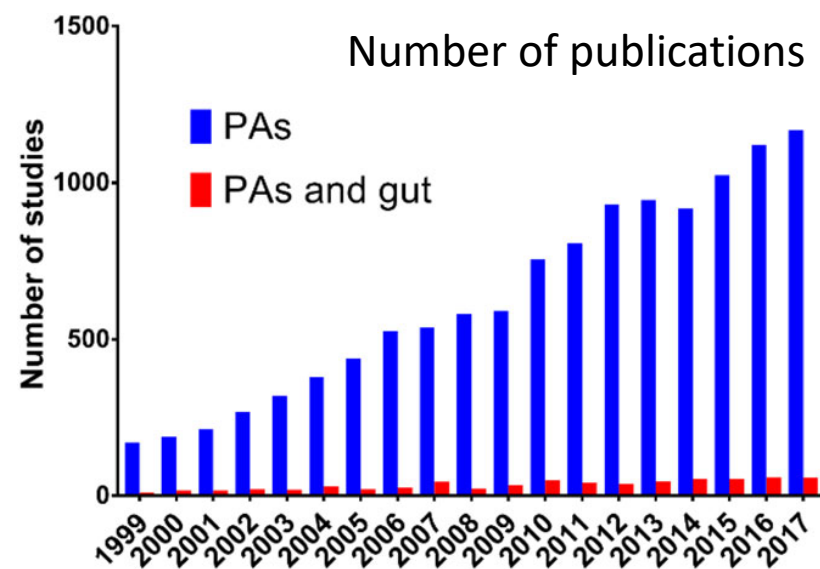
- **Antioxidant** in food and in the tractus (protection against lipid & protein oxidation)
- **Antimicrobial** (ex antibacterial activity of cranberry procyanidins)
- **Cardioprotective, antiinflammatory and neuroprotective** effects

## Rethinking the Mechanism of the Health Benefits of Proanthocyanidins: Absorption, Metabolism, and Interaction with Gut Microbiota

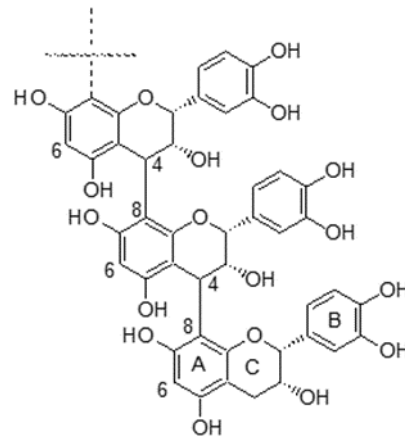
Wenyang Tao , Yu Zhang, Xuemin Shen, Yanping Cao, John Shi, Xingqian Ye, and Shiguo Chen 

Vol.18,2019, doi: 10.1111/1541-

ComprehensiveReviewsinFoodScienceandFoodSafety



The understanding of their specific role (as bioactive compounds) in food is still limited .....

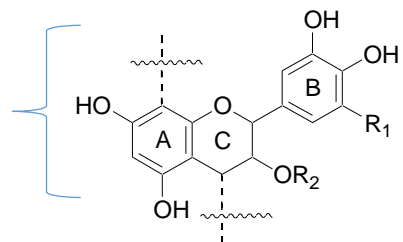


.....because of the difficulty for their extraction, structural analysis and quantification.

# Diversity of molecular structures of proanthocyanidins

Flavanol oligomers, from dimers.....to very large polymers

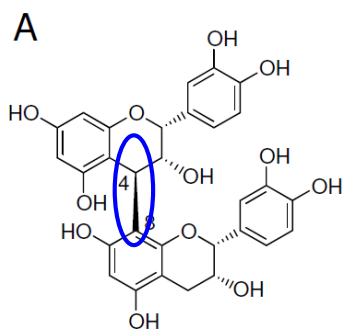
The flavanol unit  
(catechin unit)



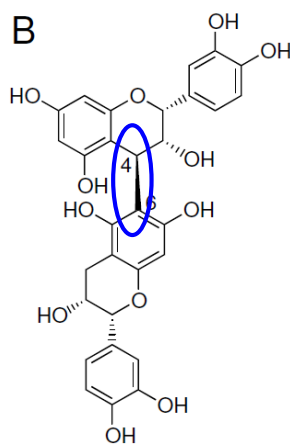
Colourless and  
highly water  
soluble

**B-type** (one  
Interflavan  
Linkage)

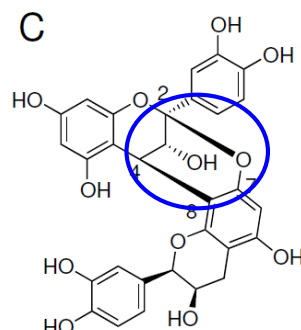
**A-type** (two  
Interflavan  
Linkage)



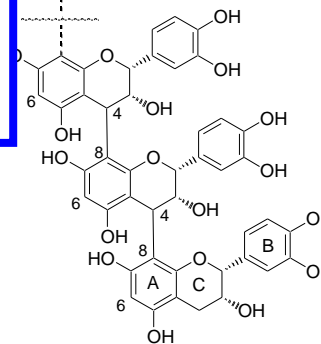
Procyanidin B2



Procyanidin B5



Procyanidin A2



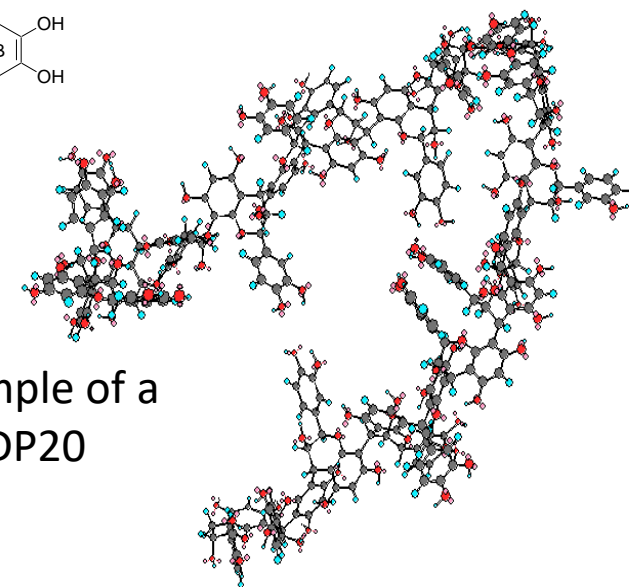
DP : degree of polymerisation

**oligomers**

**Polymers**

Example of a  
DP20

DPn > 40-60 kDa



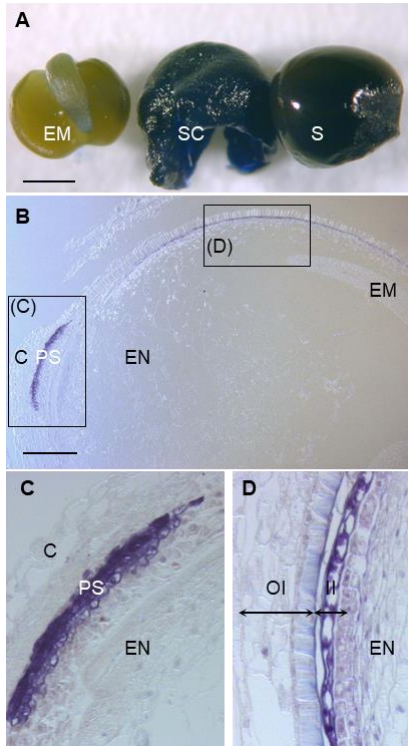
# Their direct observation in plant tissues

Photonic microscopy....

....coupled to **DMCA staining : specific reaction of Flavanols with aldehydes**



In Rapeseed during the growth of the seeds

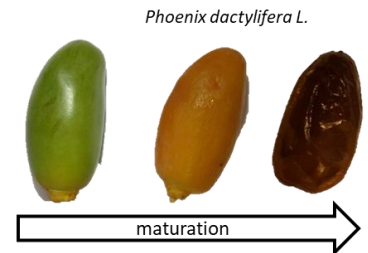
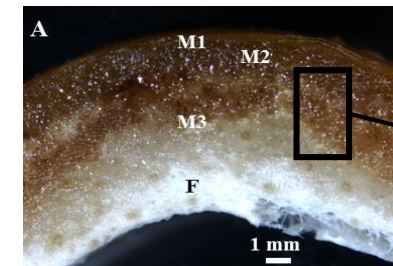


Evidence of  
condensed tannins in  
rapeseed tegument

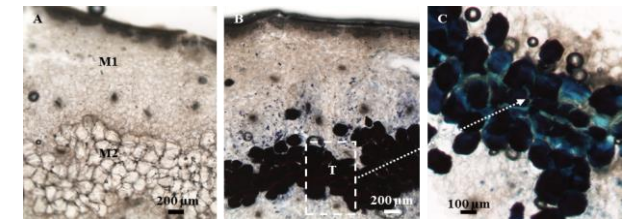
Auger et al., J. Agric. Food Chem., 2010

(Dimethylcinnamaldehyde)

In dates (Phoenix dactylifera)



DMACA staining

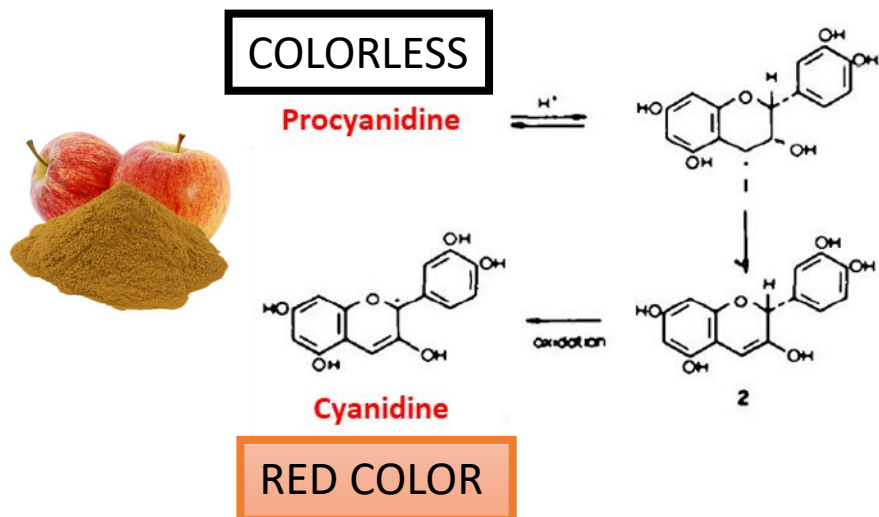


Hammouda et al., J. Agric. Food Chem., 2014



# Their direct detection in (food) samples

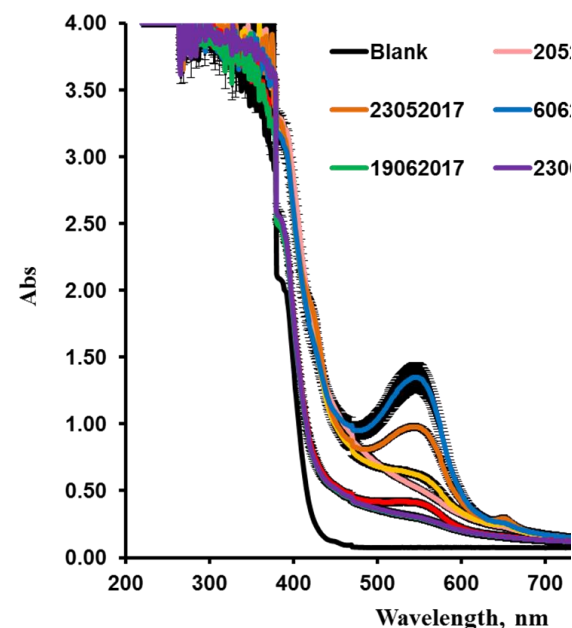
Strong acid treatment in organic solvent at elevated temperature



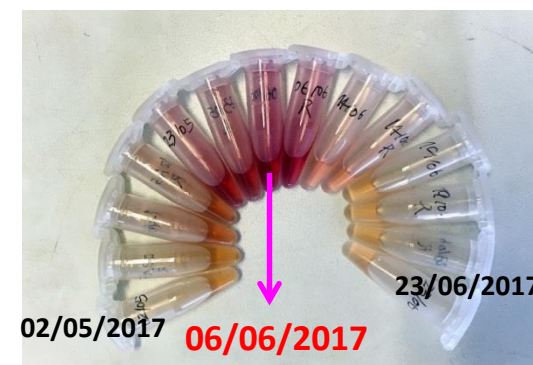
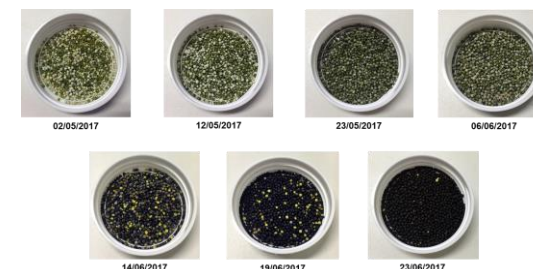
Example of  
Rapeseed meals



UV visible  
spectrum



Maturation of the seeds



The **butanol-HCL Assay** (Bate-Smith  
reaction, Porter's reagent,  
PRO-cyanidin

*Bate-Smith, Biochem. J., 1954*

*Porter et al., Phytochemistry, 1986*

*Yu et al., publication ongoing*

Biologically Active Compounds in Foods,  
Lodz, September 19-20<sup>th</sup> 2019



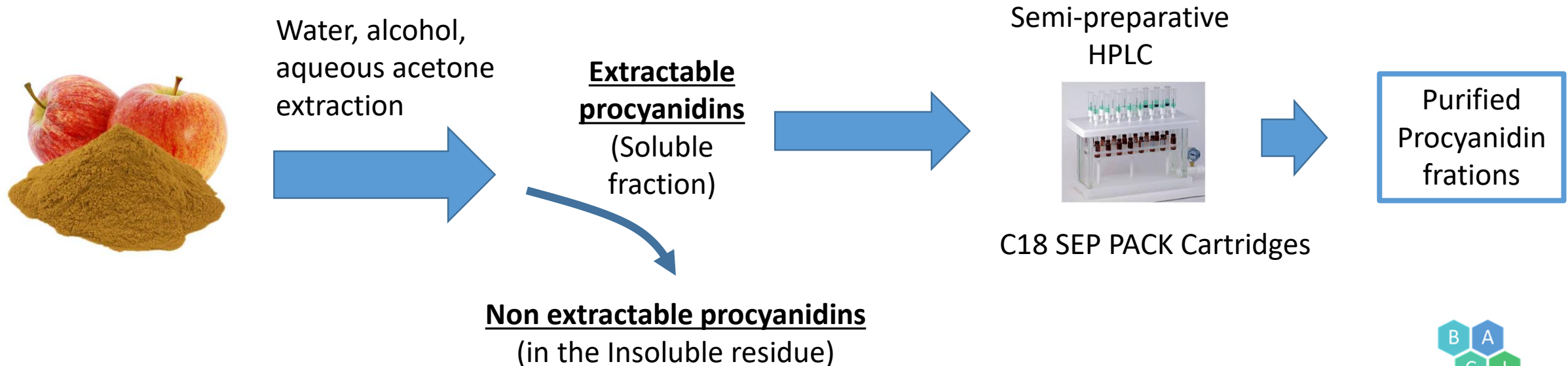
## ....a few words about their *EXTRACTION* ...

Difficulty regarding their **adsorption on cell-wall materials (tannin properties)**

**Aqueous methanol for oligomers**

**Aqueous-acetone for polymers**

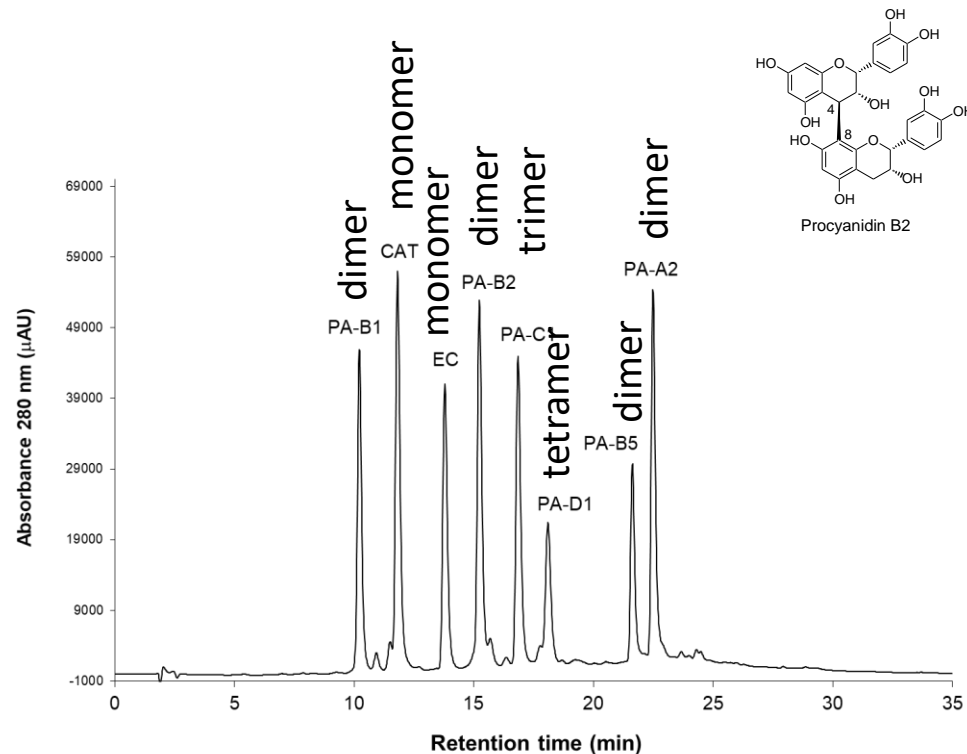
..in slightly acidic conditions



# Direct HPLC is not adapted to PA polymers analysis

## C18-HPLC of a series of procyanidin **OLIGOMERS**

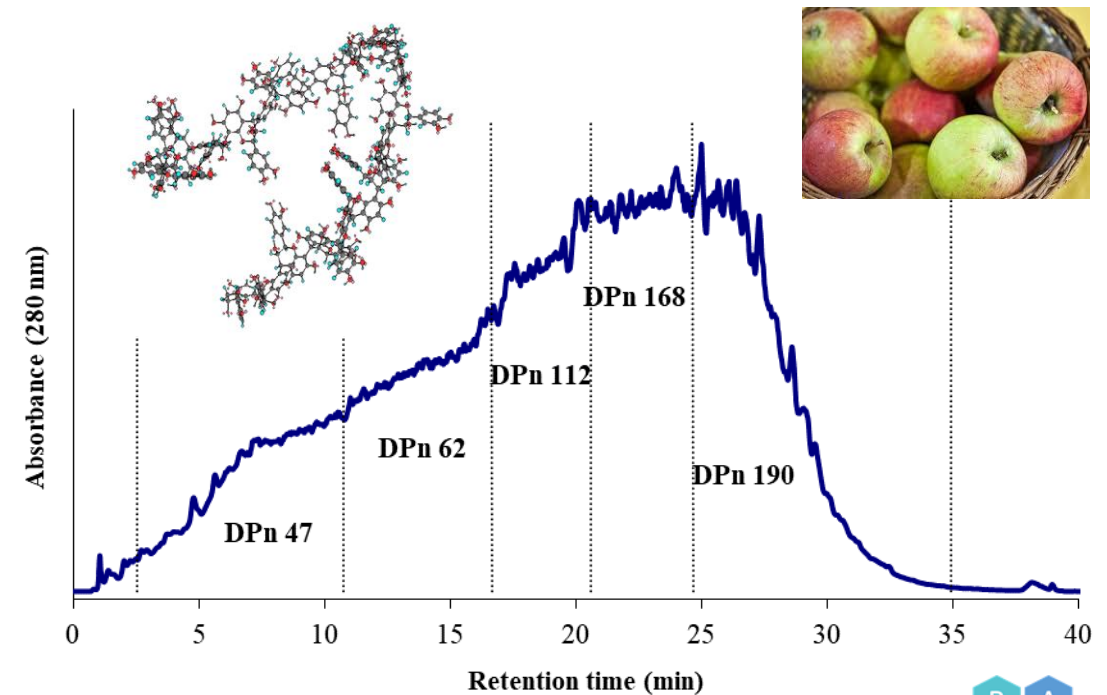
A mixture of purified or commercial standards



From Guyot S., Handbook of analysis of active compounds in functional foods, CRC Press, 2012

## Direct Reversed phase HPLC of procyanidin **POLYMERS**

An aqueous-acetone fraction from *Avrolles* cider apple



*DPn = Average degree of polymerisation*

From Guyot et al., J. Agric. Food Chem., 2001

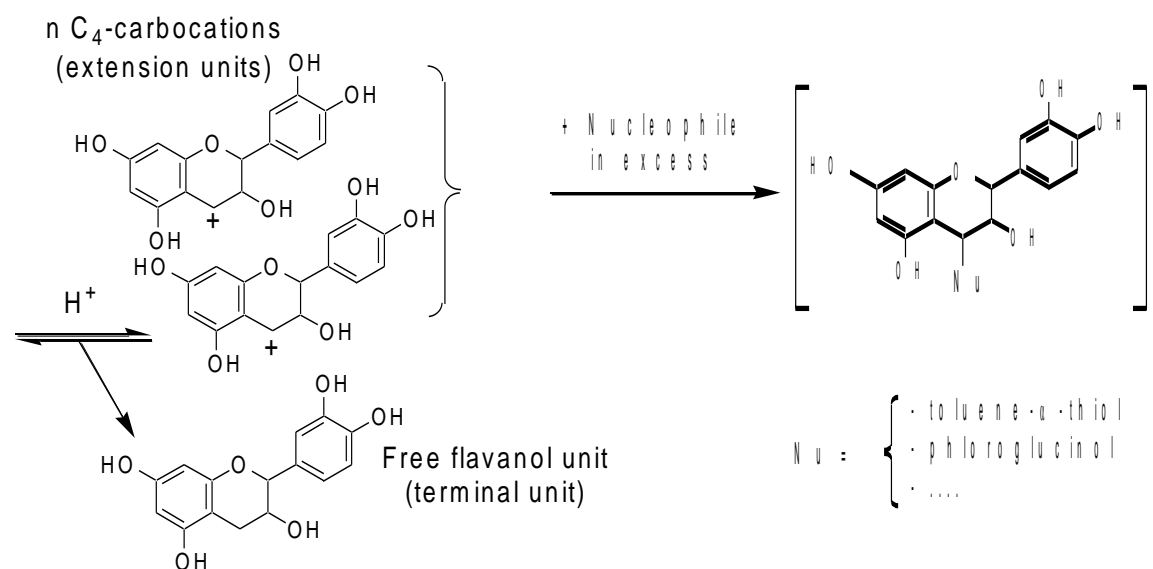
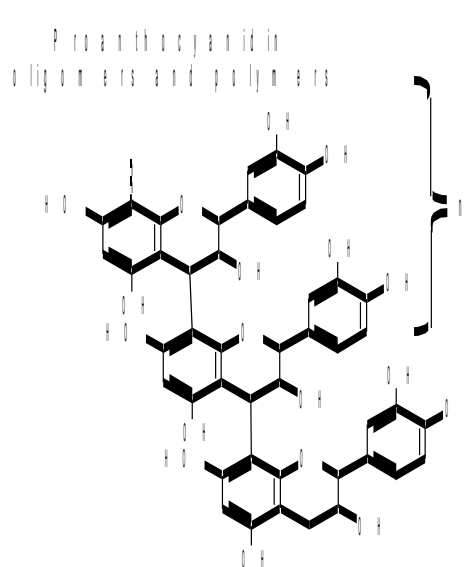
Biologically Active Compounds in Foods,  
Lodz, September 19-20<sup>th</sup> 2019



# The acidic lability of the interflavan linkage: a chance for analysis of proanthocyanidin polymers

In methanol,  
nucleophile in excess  
(<20 mM),  
40°C, HCl 0.2N, 30 min

Thiolysis & Phloroglucinolysis reactions



Polymers are converted into monomer derivatives

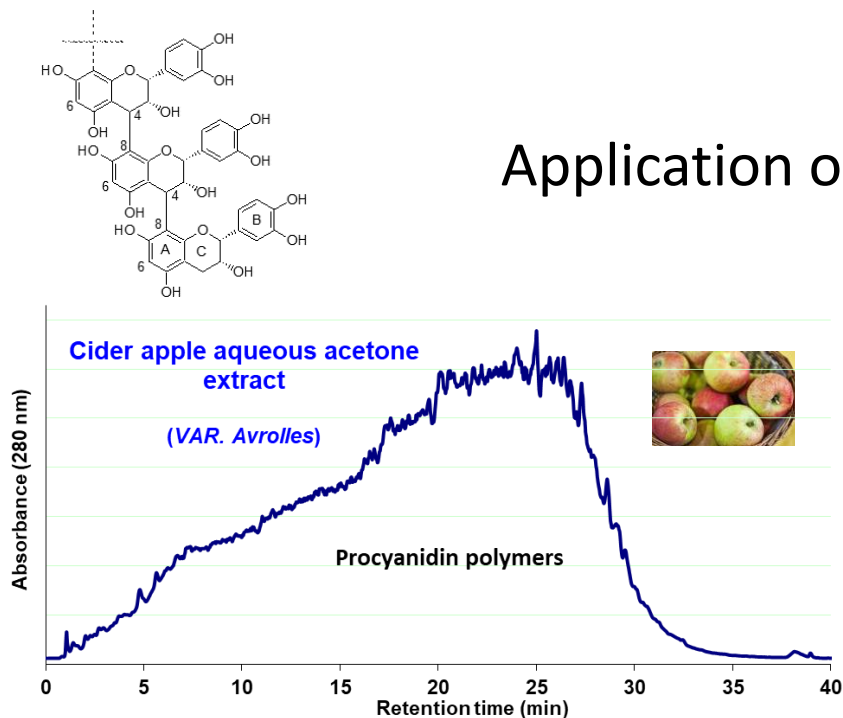
The products in the reaction medium can be efficiently analysed by Reversed phase  
HPLC/UPLC with UV detection



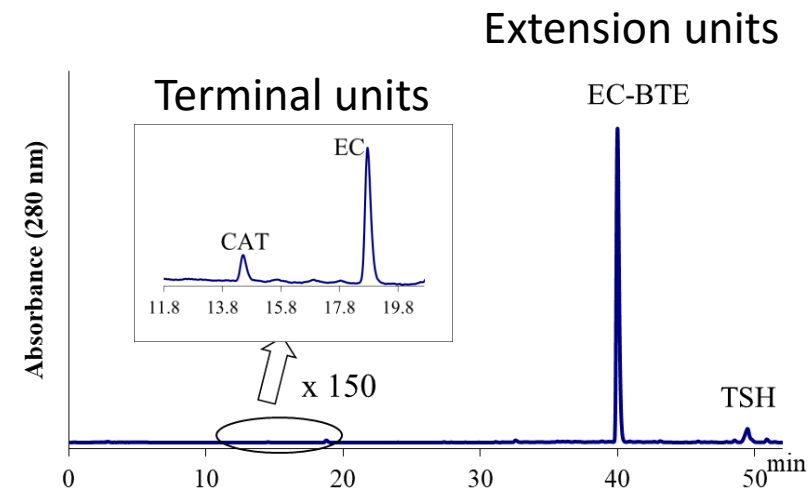


# HPLC analysis of the Thiolytic or Phloroglucinolysis reaction media

Application on **purified apple procyanidin fractions**



Thiolytic reaction



From Guyot et al., J. Agric. Food Chem., 2001

- Nature of the constitutive units
- Average degree of polymerisation ( $DP_n = \text{all units} / \text{term. units ratio}$ )
- Concentration (sum of the concentrations of all units)

For instance,  
 $DP_n = 70$  for this  
aqueous-acetone  
extract from Avrolles

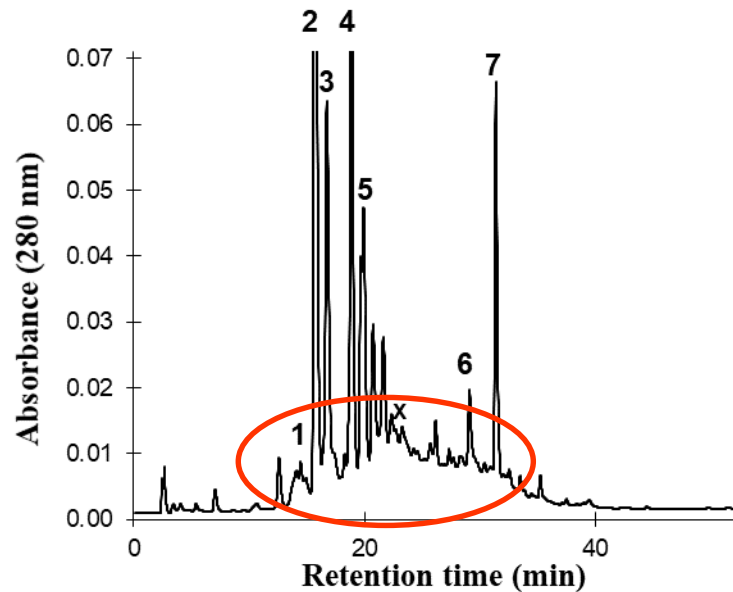
# HPLC analysis of the Thiolytic or Phloroglucinolysis reaction media

Direct application on **crude apple samples (powders, freeze-dried juices or ciders)**

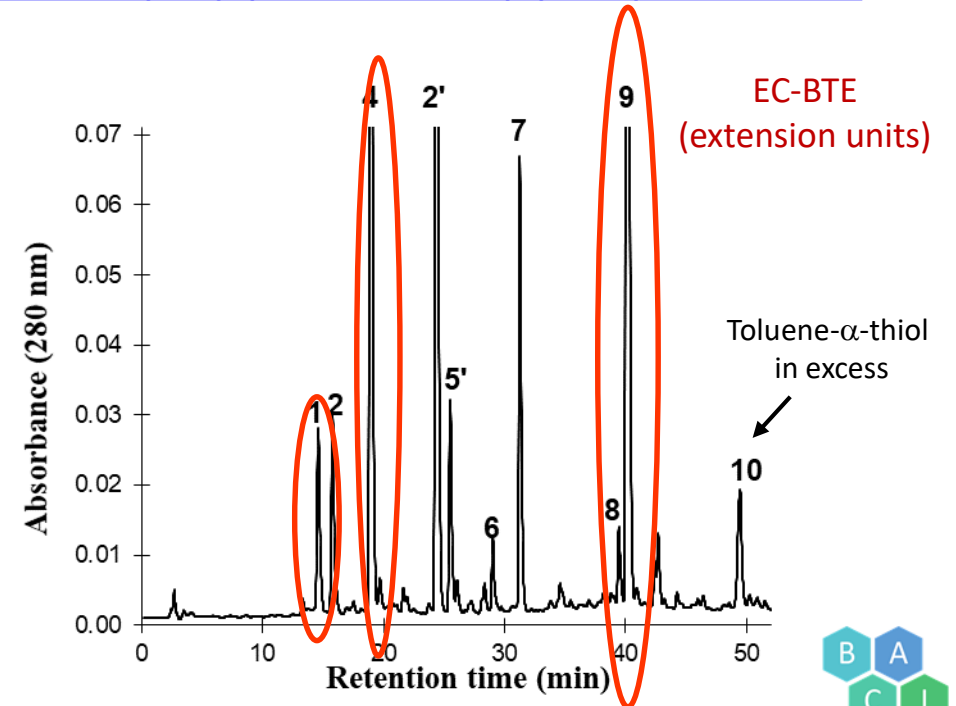
Cider apple (*Var. Kermerrien*)



Direct analysis (crude methanol extract)

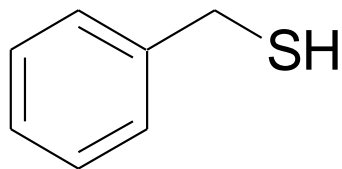


After thiolytic  
(directly applied on apple powder)

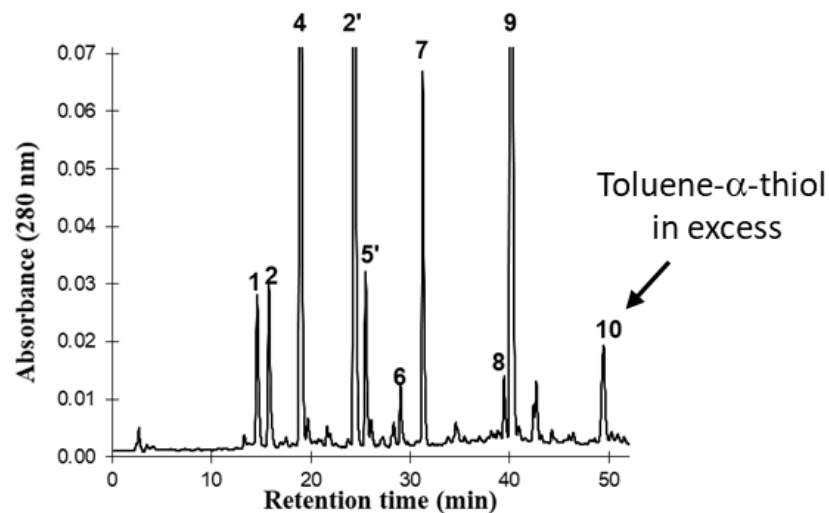


# From Thiolytic...to Phloroglucinolysis

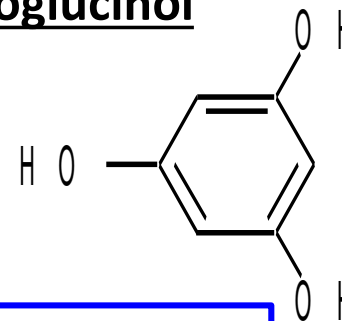
## Toluene- $\alpha$ -thiol



- Volatile
- Highly nauseous
- Toxic

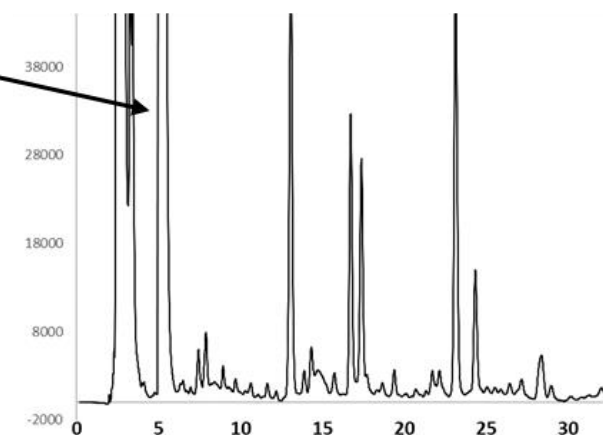


## Phloroglucinol

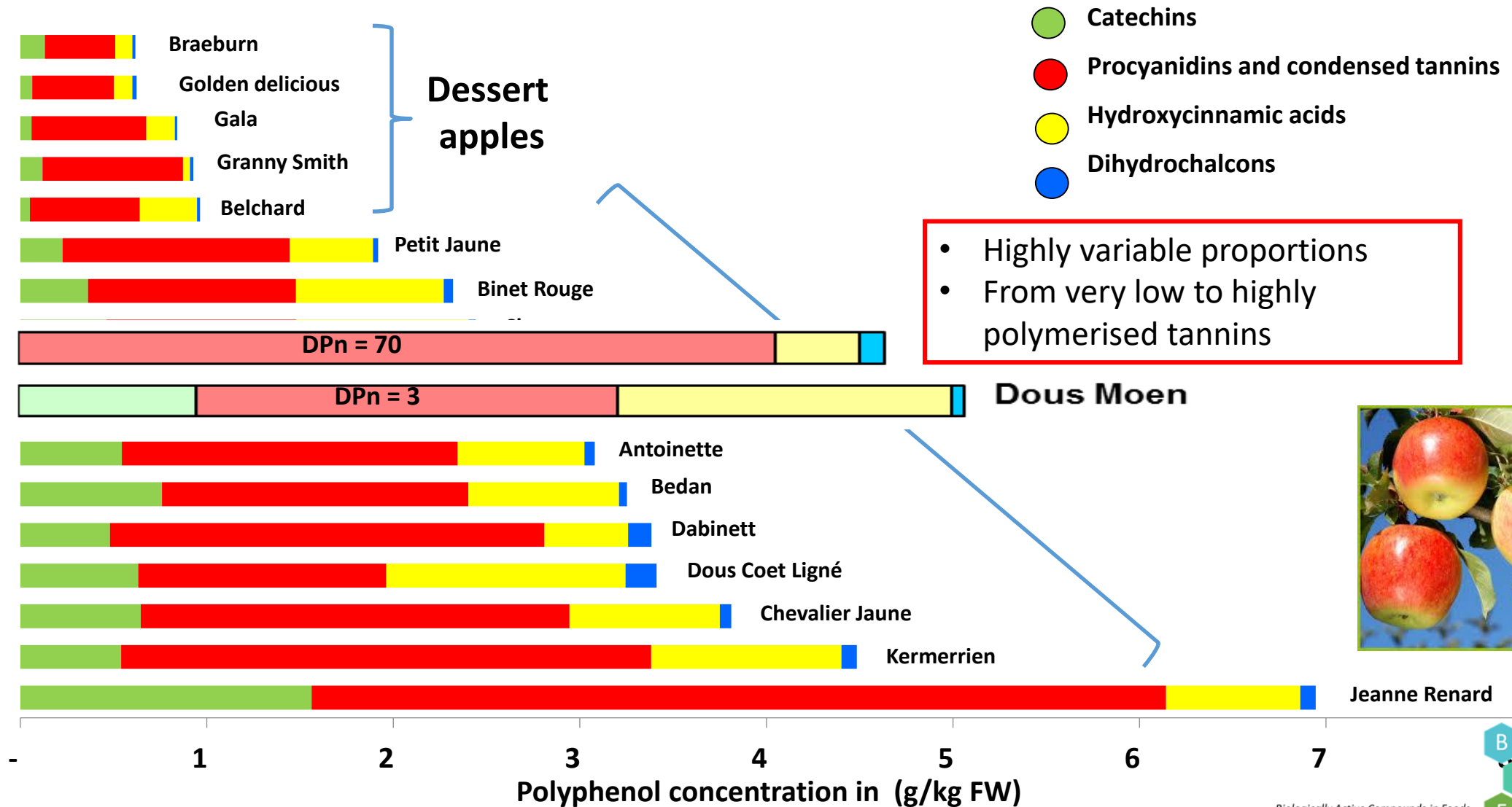


- Non volatile
- Odourless
- Safe

Phloroglucinol  
in excess



# Application to detailed procyanidin analysis in dessert and ciders varieties



Sanoner et al., J. Agric Food Chem., 1999

Biologically Active Compounds in Foods,  
Lodz, September 19-20<sup>th</sup> 2019



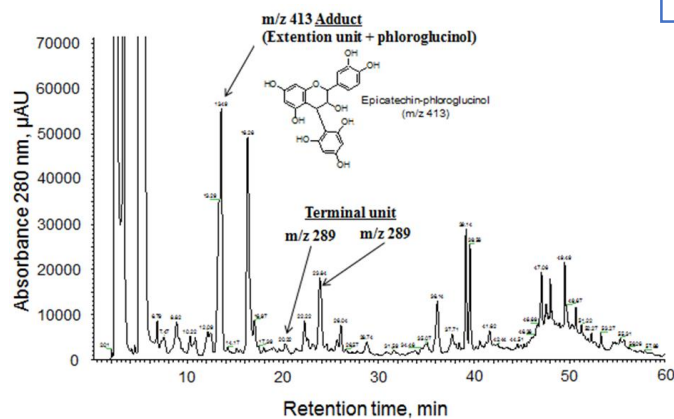


# Acidolysis conditions should be optimized according to sample type

Example of condensed tannins in **Rapeseed hulls**

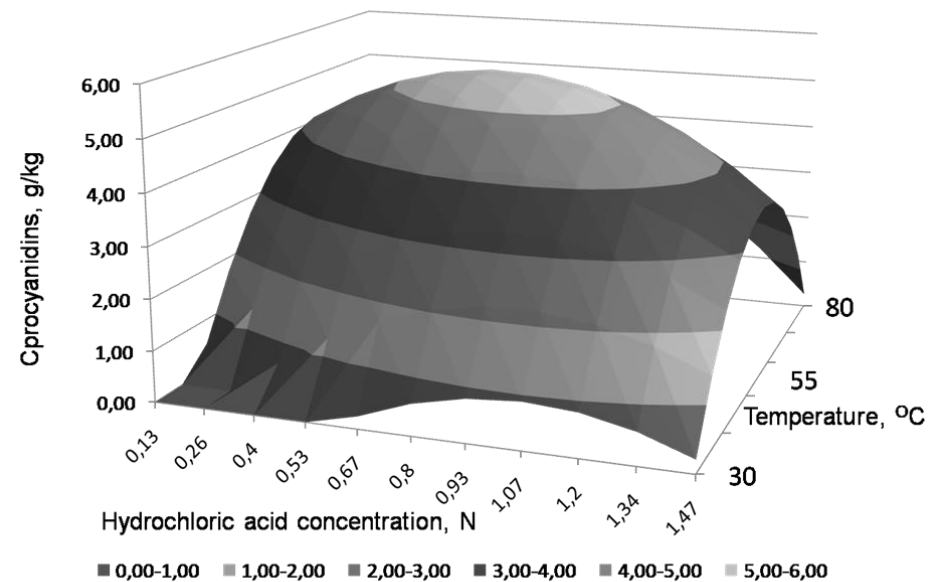


Phloroglucinolysis-HPLC



Experimental  
design

[Hydrochloric acid] & Temperature



Yield of acidolysis is strongly influenced by the reaction conditions

....Are analytical methods for “native tannins” also adapted to analysis of “oxidized tannins” ?

# Oxidation : widespread reactions that may deeply modify the structure of proanthocyanidins/condensed tannins

Fruit maturation  
and drying

*Phoenix dactylifera* L.



Processing



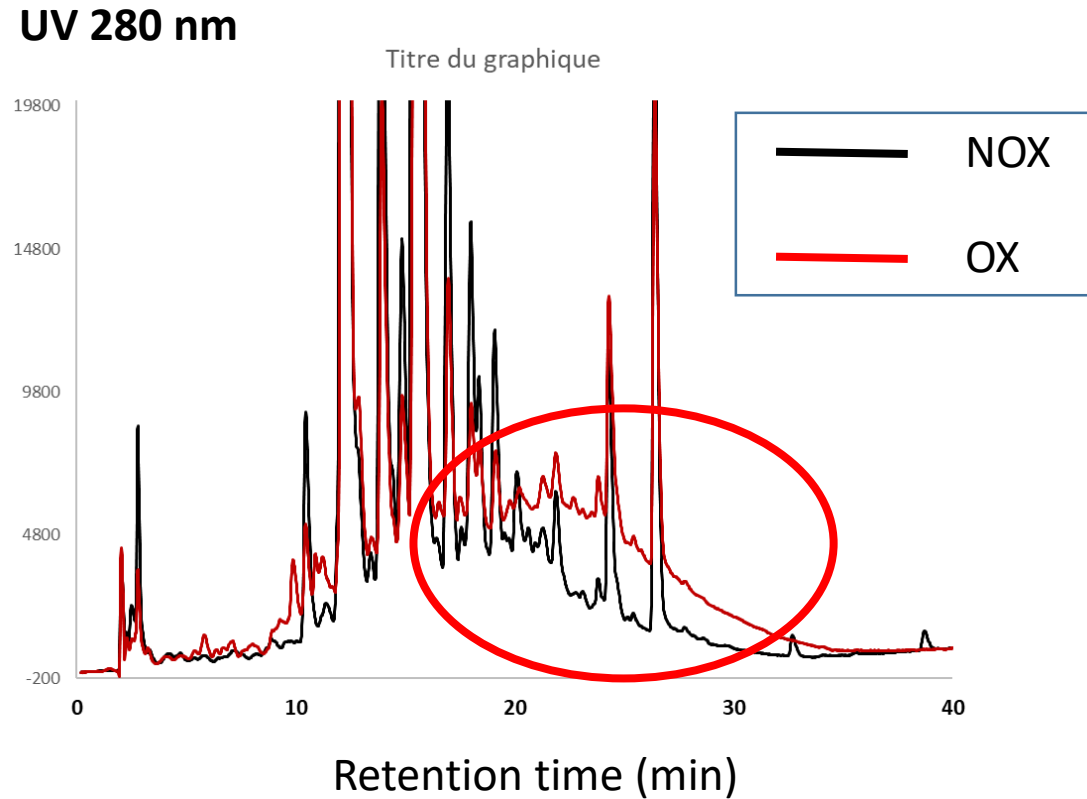
Storage and  
ageing



Most of the polyphenols are concerned by oxidation...in particular tannins  
(...many catechol groups)

# The limit of UV detection for LC analysis of oxidized polyphenols

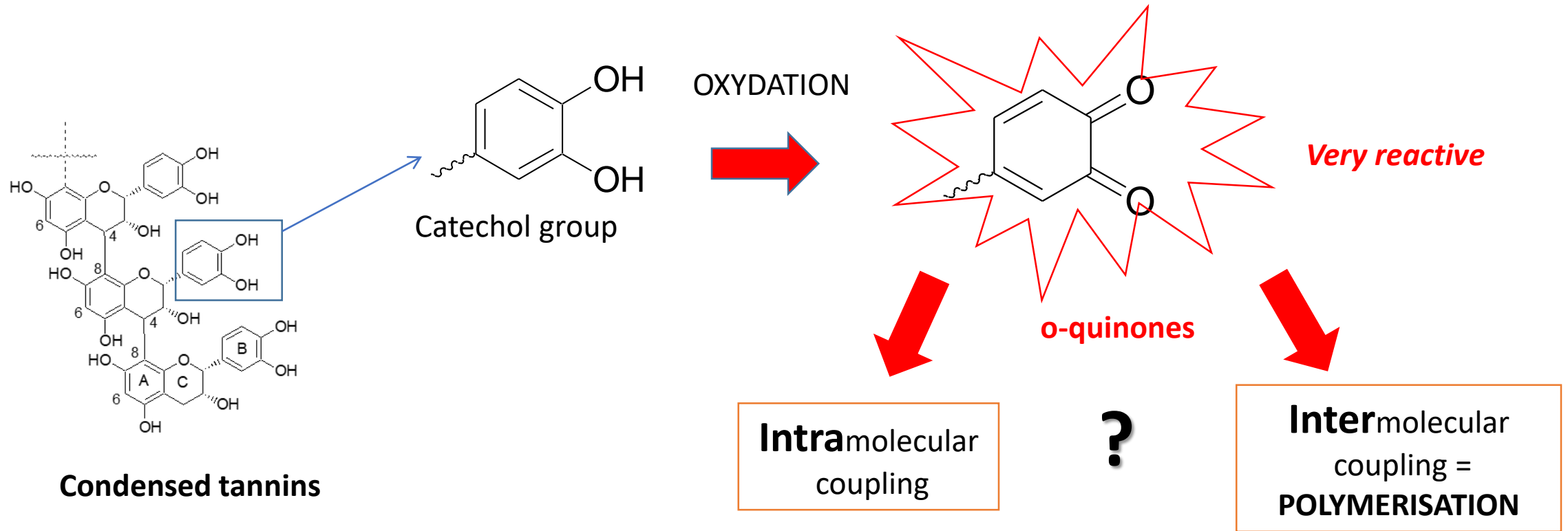
UV chromatogram of a **Oxidized versus Non Oxidized** cider apple juice



Oxidized polyphenols do not give well-resolved peaks on UV Chromatograms



Overall oxidative reactivity: phenol, catechol groups are first converted to highly reactive intermediates (quinones, semiquinones, phenoxy radicals..)



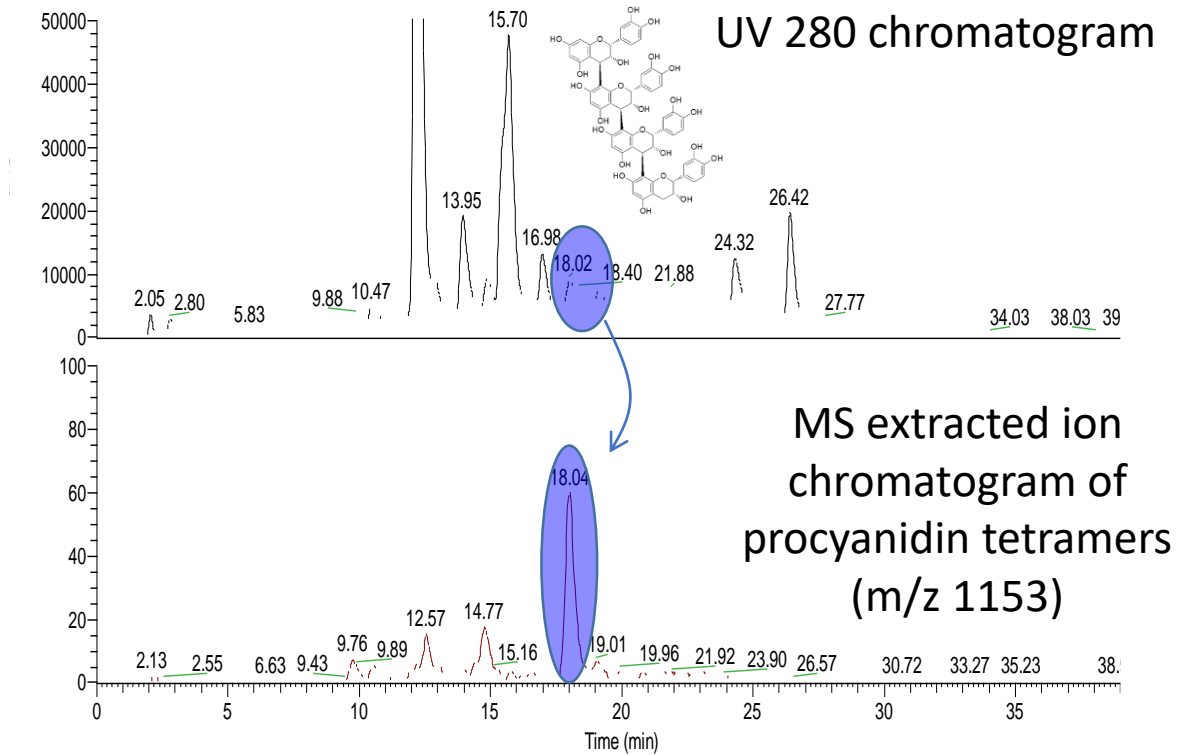
*...A great diversity of oxidation products...*

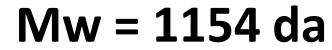
# Selectivity of Mass Spectrometry coupled to LC (HPLC/UPLC) is of great help for analysis oxidized tannins



Oxidized apple juice

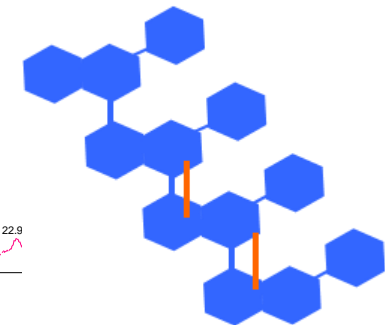
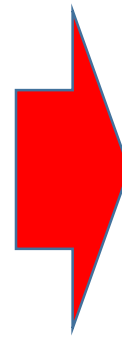
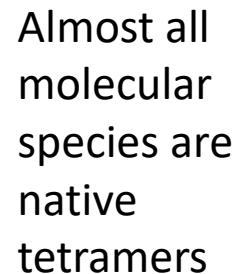
RT: 0.00 - 40.00 SM: 7B





## OXIDATION ( $\text{IO}_4^{2-}$ fixed on resin)

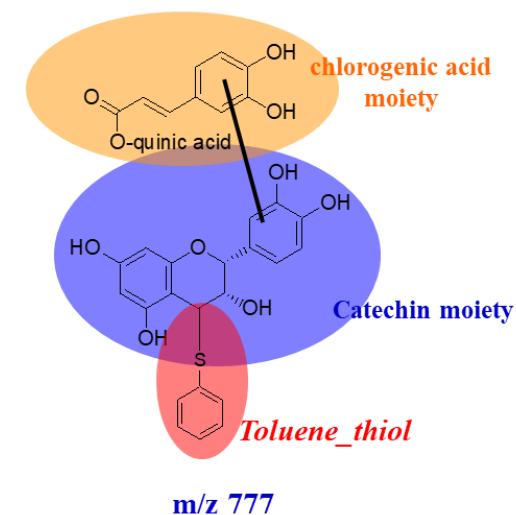
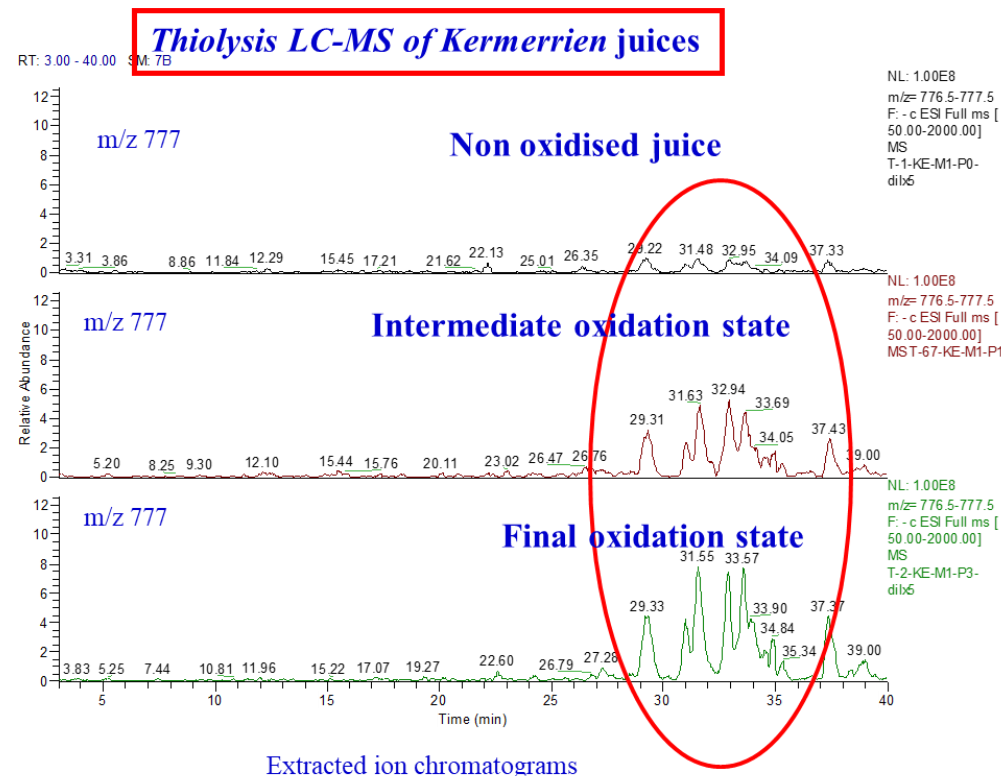
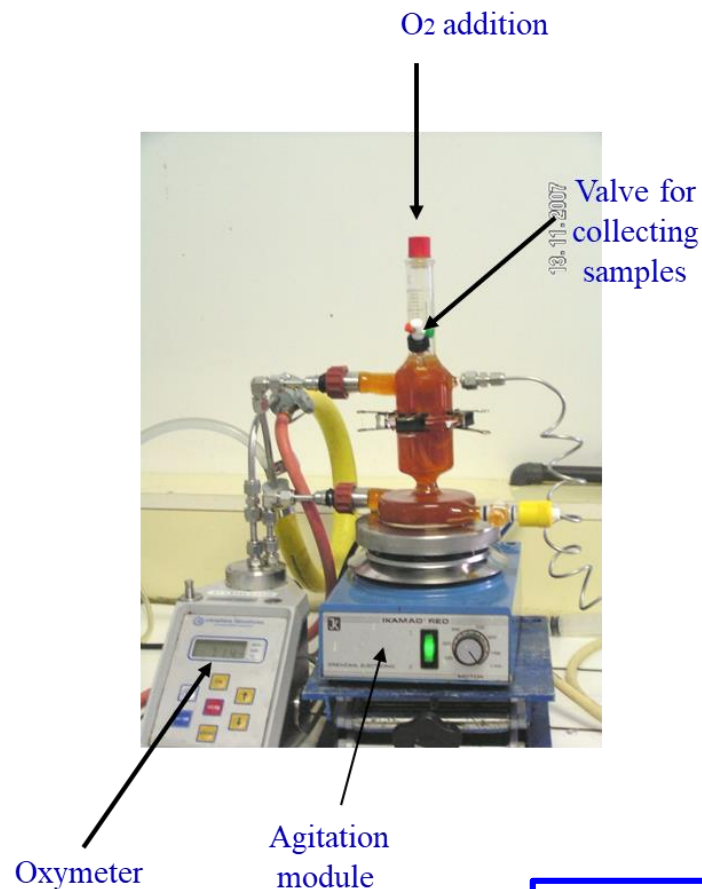
Many more peaks corresponding to oxidation products



23

# And what about acidolysis associated to LC-MS for the exploration of procyanidin oxidation products ?

## Oxidation kinetic of a cider apple juices



Specific markers of oxidative coupling products between tannins and other polyphenols



# Conclusion

- Procyanidins/condensed tannins ) show a great diversity of molecular structure, in particular the large size distribution, the nature of the constitutive units, the branching...
- Important consequences in terms of “functional properties” : solubility, interactions with macromolecules (proteins, polysaccharides..), bio-accessibility, etc...
- Analytical method still need to be developed in particular for the exploration of the oxidized compounds



Jean-Michel  
Le Quéré



Hélène Sotin



Mélanie Millet



Sophie Guilois



Pascal Poupard



Xiaoxi Xu



Mariana-Castillo Fraire



# Thank you for your attention !



Biologically Active Compounds in Foods,  
Lodz, November 9-10<sup>th</sup> 2017

