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# Optimization of the HS-SPME-GC/MS technique for determining volatile compounds in red wines made from Isabel grapes (*Vitis labrusca*)

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#### **Abstract**

Brazilian wine production is characterized by *Vitis labrusca* grape varieties, especially the economically important Isabel cultivar, with over 80% of its production destined for table wine production. The objective of this study was to optimize and validate the conditions for extracting volatile compounds from wine with the solid-phase microextraction technique, using the response surface method. Based on the response surface analysis, it can be concluded that the central point values maximize the process of extracting volatile compounds from wine, i.e., an equilibrium time of 15 minutes, an extraction time of 35 minutes, and an extraction temperature of 30 °C. Esters were the most numerous compounds found under these extraction conditions, indicating that wines made from Isabel cultivar grapes are characterized by compounds that confer a fruity aroma; this finding corroborates the scientific literature.

Keywods: method; factorial design; grape; validation.

Practical Application: Application of factorial design to optimize the extraction conditions of volatile compounds.

#### 1 Introduction

In Brazil, wine production from American grapes, especially the species *Vitis labrusca*, exceeds wine production from *Vitis vinifera* grapes. Wines made from *Vitis labrusca*, according to Brazilian legislation, are known as "table wines" and represent more than 80% of Brazil's total production volume (Biasoto et al., 2014; Brasil, 2014; Castilhos et al., 2013).

The Isabel cultivar is one of the main *Vitis labrusca* cultivars used as a basic raw material for making table wines in Brazil. Its cultivation and expansion is a result of its easy adaptation, disease resistance, and high productivity. Wine made from this cultivar has aroma, and sweet, fruity taste also is consumed in large quantities by diverse population segments because of its low cost (Nixdorf & Hermosín-Gutiérrez, 2010; Rombaldi et al., 2004).

The volatile composition of wines directly affects their characteristics, especially the aroma, which is the product of a biochemical and technological sequence that links wine quality and origin (Jiang et al., 2013; Noguerol-Pato et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011). Wine aroma composition analysis is complex because of the different classes, levels, reactivities and heat sensitivities of its constituents (Bonino et al., 2003; Welke et al., 2012).

Volatile compounds can be extracted from wines using various techniques to profile and quantify these compounds. Solid-phase microextraction (SPME) is currently one of the most commonly used techniques; it is fast and inexpensive, does not require the use of solvents, is able to detect low concentrations, and requires little sample manipulation (Antalick et al., 2010; Canuti et al., 2009; Jelén et al., 2012; Oliveira & Mamede, 2012; Sagratini et al., 2012; Slaghenaufi et al., 2014).

The SPME is technique allows the acquisition of interesting results when gas chromatography is combined with mass spectrometric detection, making the simultaneous analysis of tens or hundreds of volatile compounds possible, but this a technique that must be optimized (Dórea et al., 2008; Jelén et al., 2012).

The SPME technique is currently used to analyse volatiles compounds from food and beverages. For the volatile profile of wines different fibres should be used, since the aroma of wine is very complex and presenting a great diversity of compounds. According to the scientific literature two polymer films are the most efficient for extracting volatile compounds from wines; i.e. PDMS/CAR/DVB-polydimethylsiloxane-carboxen-divinylbenzene and CAR/PDMS-carboxen-polydimethylsiloxane (Barros et al., 2012; Noguerol-Pato et al., 2009; Petrozziello et al., 2012; Sagratini et al., 2012; Tao et al., 2008; Weldegergis et al., 2011; Welke et al., 2012, 2014; Zhang et al., 2011).

Factorial design associated with the response surface analysis has been used as an important and simple statistical method in studies that examine many variables. It makes organized design and performance of the minimum experiments necessary possible, allowing interpretation of the effect of the variables on an analytical response, saving time and financial resources (Silva et al., 2008; Pereira-Filho et al., 2002). This methodology is also used to adjust and to analyze problems concerning the influence of some independent variables on some response variables, thus aiming to optimize those response variables (Gomes & Costa, 2004).

This study aimed to optimize and validate the conditions for extracting volatile compounds from wine using SPME and

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the response surface method. The results may contribute to the identification of the aroma profile of wines made with Isabel grapes for future studies, as studies on the volatile compositions of these wines are still scarce.

#### 2 Materials and methods

#### 2.1 Optimizing the SPME method

Table red wine from the 2012 harvest acquired from the João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil market was used. The conditions for extracting the volatile compounds were defined using an RCCD, and the results were evaluated using the response surface method. The following steps were used to optimize the volatile compound extraction process.

#### Selecting the SPME fiber and defining the variables

The films polydimethylsiloxane-carboxen-divinylbenzene (PDMS/CAR/DVB) and carboxen-polydimethylsiloxane (CAR/PDMS) were obtained from Supelco (Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, USA). For the extraction, 30 mL of wine was added to a 100-mL glass flask fitted with a septum screw cap. The extraction was performed in a water bath with internal magnetic stirring at 40 °C, allowing the reaction to reach equilibrium for 15 minutes and then exposing the film for 30 minutes.

The levels of the input variables equilibrium time  $(t_{eq})$ , extraction time  $(t_{w})$ , and extraction temperature (T) (Table 1).

An RCCD was used to test the effect of the three input variables – T,  $t_{\rm eq}$  and  $t_{\rm ex}$  - to define the optimal ranges of the process operation. The experiment followed a  $2^3$  factorial design with eight trials, plus six axial points and three central points (CPs), totaling seventeen experiments (RCCD). The empirical model of the non-linear regression of the experimental data comprises a second-order polynomial, presented in Equation 1, where Y is the response function,  $t_{\rm eq}$ ,  $t_{\rm ex}$ , and  $T_{\rm ex}$  are the variables studied,  $\beta$  represents the coefficients of the model, and  $\epsilon$  is the experimental error.

$$Y = β0 + β1teq + β2tex + β3Tex + β4teq2 + 
β5tex2 + β6T2 + β7teq.tex + β8teq.T + β9tex.T + ε$$
(1)

#### 2.2 Statistical analysis

The responses (dependent variables) of the experiment performed were the TN (Total number of peaks), TA (Total area of the chromatogram) and area of the IA (Isoamyl acetate) compound. Residual analysis was performed at the 95% confidence level (p < 0.05), which comprised the significance test of the fitted model based on analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the statistical program Statistica 5.0 (Statsoft, 2001). After

defining the optimal volatile compound extraction conditions, the method was validated; then, the sample was extracted and injected in triplicate.

### 2.3 Chromatographic analyses for identifying the volatile compounds in red wine

GC separation of volatiles collected by SPME technique was carried out on a VF-5 ms low bleed/MS fused-silica capillary column (5% phenyl/95% PDMS, 60 m 0.25 mm I.D., 0.25 lm film thickness, Varian). The temperature program employed was 5 min at 35 C, a ramp of 3 C/min to 240 C, and held for 5 min. Helium was used as the carrier gas. The Varian Saturn 2000R mass spectrometer was operated in electron impact mode with a source temperature of 200 C, an ionising voltage of 70 eV, and a scan range from m/z 29 to m/z 350 at 3.33 scans/ s. The SPME data were acquired and analysed using the GC/SW spectra database. Identification of the compounds was based on the comparison of their mass spectra with spectra from authentic compounds previously analysed, spectra from the NIST/EPA/NIH Mass Spectral Database (Version 1.7), or spectra published elsewhere. To confirm the identification, the linear retention index (LRI) was calculated for each volatile compound using the retention times of a homologous series of C7-C30 n-alkanes, and by comparing the LRI with those of authentic compounds analysed under similar conditions.

#### 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 SPME fiber choice

A total of 42 volatile compounds were identified in commercial red wine as follows: 19 esters, 8 terpenes, 6 alcohols, and 9 compounds of other classes, including aldehydes, ketones, acids, and amines. The PDMS/CAR/DVB (41 compounds identified) fiber exhibited higher performance than the CAR/PDMS (19 compounds identified) fiber and was selected for use in the other analysis steps of volatiles in wine made from Isabel grapes. The PDMS/CAR/DVB fiber is considered to have intermediate polarity, and previous reports have demonstrated its efficacy in various food matrices, with a higher performance compared to that of other types of polymer films (Welke et al., 2012). This is due to the fiber having three distinct layers, each with a different composition, thus increasing the sorptive capacity of the compounds (Zhang et al., 2011).

## 3.2 Optimization of the conditions for extracting volatile compounds from wine

The RCCD indicated an effect of the independent variables on the response variable values of the process: the total number of peaks (TN), total area of the chromatogram (TA), and area of the

Table 1. Variables and actual and coded levels employed in the rotatable central composite design (RCCD) to optimize the extraction conditions.

Factors	-α	-1	0	+1	+α
Equilibrium time (t <sub>eq</sub> )	7 min	10 min	15 min	20 min	23 min
Extraction time (t <sub>ex</sub> )	10 min	20 min	35 min	50 min	60 min
Temperature (T)	13 °C	20 °C	30 °C	40 °C	47 °C

Applying the design method to optimize the volatile compound extraction conditions.

isoamyl acetate (IA) compound. TN and TA are important variables for determining the optimized parameters for chromatographic analysis; the higher the number of peaks that are detected, the higher the number of compounds captured by the fiber is, and the greater the total area of the chromatogram, the higher the concentration of the compounds and the number of peaks will likely be. Esters comprised the largest class of compounds identified in the chromatograms, and among these, IA exhibited expressive area values. Studies have found that IA confers a fruity aroma to wines (Antalick et al., 2010; Jiang et al., 2013). Table 2 presents a design matrix with the responses obtained in the assays performed with combinations of the levels studied.

According to the analysis of variance (ANOVA), there was variation due to the regression parameters, and it was only possible to construct a significant (p < 0.05) model for the IA response, where the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) in the experimental model was 0.9785, and the  $F_{\rm calculated}/F_{\rm tabulated}$  ratio was higher than 1. In contrast, the estimated effects for the TN and TA responses obtained  $R^2$  values < 0.6, indicating that only < 60% of the variability in response can be explained by the non-linear regression of the experimental data. The  $F_{\rm calculated}/F_{\rm tabulated}$  ratio values were lower than 1, which is considered unsatisfactory for obtaining a valid predictive model (Rodrigues & Iemma, 2009).

According to Araújo et al. (2013), the Pareto diagram (Figure 1) rapidly and clearly reveals the significant effects (Araújo et al., 2013). The negative and quadratic equilibrium time, extraction time, and extraction temperature contributed the most in detecting the highest TN, TA, and area of the IA compound. Thus, the mathematical model with significant (p < 0.05) coefficients can be described by Equation 2.

Isoamylacetate = 
$$1578380 + 84061 \text{ T} - 518309 \text{teq}^2 - 513006 \text{tex}^2 - 367518 \text{ T}^2$$
 (2)

To plot the response surface (Figure 2), the extraction temperature was fixed at the 0 level (30  $^{\circ}$ C), as it was the variable with the highest significant effect on the response studied. The region with the best response values (IA) was located between the equilibrium time of 15 minutes and the extraction time of 35 minutes.

### 3.3 Validating the method optimization of the extraction conditions

Because the variables at the central point generate the highest IA compound area value, the volatile compounds were extracted from the wine in triplicate, using the following equilibrium time, extraction time, and extraction temperature values at the central points to validate the method: 15 minutes, 35 minutes, and 30 °C, respectively.

The experimental data and model for the IA compound area values are presented in Table 2. The values at the central point for the independent variables were used in the model equation (Equation 2) to obtain the modeled value of the response under study.

Table 3 shows that the difference between the mean value of three replicates when conducting the analysis with the independent variable values at the central point and the non-linear regression model value of the experimental data from the experimental design (Equation 2) is 5%; this finding is considered a low difference, as it is below 10% (Rodrigues & Iemma, 2009).

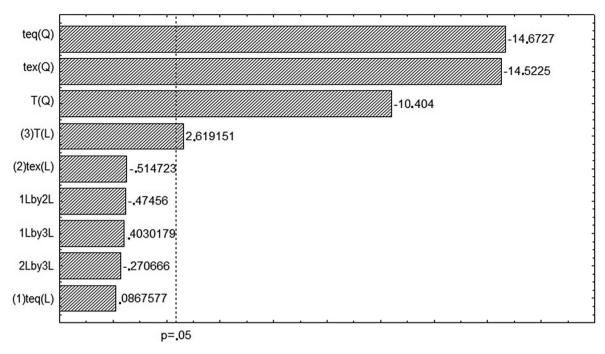
## 3.4 Characterizing the volatile compounds identified in red wine made from the Isabel cultivar

A total of 33 compounds were identified in the red wine analyzed after SPME extraction using the optimized parameters, i.e., operating with the variables set at a 30 °C extraction

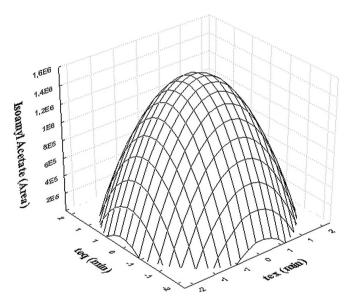
Table 2. Design matrix – rotatable central composite design (RCCD), with actual and coded levels, including the response variables.

ASSAYS	Independent variables			Responses		
	t <sub>eq</sub> (min)	t <sub>ex</sub> (min)	T (°C)	$TN^a$	$TA^b$	IAc
1	-(10)	-(20)	-(20)	30	5.66E+07	1.37E+05
2	+(20)	-(20)	-(20)	29	4.56E+07	1.49E+05
3	-(10)	+(50)	-(20)	32	5.63E+07	1.48E+05
4	+(20)	+(50)	-(20)	28	3.42E+07	7.48E+04
5	-(10)	-(20)	+(40)	25	2.97E+07	1.71E+05
6	+(20)	-(20)	+(40)	21	7.07E+07	2.45E+05
7	-(10)	+(50)	+(40)	23	8.72E+07	1.31E+05
8	+(20)	+(50)	+(40)	24	7.56E+07	1.31E+05
9	$-\alpha(7)$	0(35)	0(30)	22	5.39E+07	1.49E+05
10	+a(23)	0(35)	0(30)	23	8.90E+07	1.64E+05
11	0(15)	$-\alpha(10)$	0(30)	24	4.88E+07	1.74E+05
12	0(15)	$+\alpha(60)$	0(30)	22	6.36E+07	1.69E+05
13	0(15)	0(35)	$-\alpha(13)$	23	4.86E+07	2.92E+05
14	0(15)	0(35)	$+\alpha(47)$	25	6.89E+07	8.74E+05
15	0(15)	0(35)	0(30)	33	6.37E+07	1.56E+06
16	0(15)	0(35)	0(30)	33	5.71E+07	1.58E+06
17	0(15)	0(35)	0(30)	34	5.71E+07	1.58E+06

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm a}\textsc{Total}$  number of peaks.  $^{\rm b}\textsc{Total}$  area of peaks.  $^{\rm c}\textsc{Area}$  of the isoamyl acetate compound.



**Figure 1**. Estimation of the linear and quadratic effects of the independent variables equilibrium time  $(t_{eq})$ , extraction time  $(t_{ex})$ , and extraction temperature (T) on the response variables total number of peaks (TN), total area of the peaks (TA), and area of the isoamyl acetate (IA) compound.



**Figure 2**. Effect of the response variable (isoamyl acetate) with the temperature (30 °C) fixed at the central point.

**Table 3**. Experimental values and those of the model for the isoamyl acetate response variable.

Experimental value <sup>a</sup>	Model value <sup>b</sup>
1.50E+06 ± 5.10E+04	1.58E+06

 $<sup>^{</sup>a}$ Mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three replicates of the volatile compound extraction analysis using the equilibrium time, extraction time, and extraction temperature values at the central points.  $^{b}$ Value of the response model with the input (independent) variables fixed at the central point.

temperature, a 15-minute equilibrium time, and a 35-minute extraction time: 18 esters, 6 alcohols, 4 terpenes, 3 ketones, 1 amine, and 1 acid (Table 4).

In the present study, esters were the most numerous compounds in the wines and included ethyl propanoate, ethyl hexanoate, ethyl octanoate and ethyl decanoate, diethyl succinate, and IA. Esters are wine volatiles that contribute to its fruity aroma (Welke et al., 2012) and are mainly derived from the fermentation process.

The alcohols identified in the wine may have been produced from the synthesis of secondary products of yeast metabolism (Fariña et al., 2014). This compound class most likely positively contributed to the alcoholic aroma (1-propanol and 1-butanol) and floral aroma (phenethyl alcohol) of the red wines made from Isabel grapes (Jiang et al., 2013).

Terpenes that belong to secondary plant constituents are biologically synthesized through the cytosolic mevalonic-acid pathway from three acetyl-CoA molecules or through the pyruvate and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate pathway (Robinson et al., 2014). In the wine analyzed, the terpenes identified confer a citrus and floral aroma (Jiang et al., 2013).

Among the ketones,  $\beta$ -ionone had the highest area value and provides odor is associated with "pink", "violet" and "vinegar" aromas (Azevêdo et al., 2007). According to Azevêdo et al. (2007), they can also be responsible for the product's sensory quality, thus being negative or positive markers for wine, depending on the concentration of these compounds.

One amine and one acid were also found in the wine, and their presence may have been affected by the winemaking process.

Table 4. Volatile compounds identified in the analysis of red wine made from Isabel grapes.

Number	Compound	Areaª	LRI <sup>b</sup>	$\mathrm{ID}^{\mathrm{c}}$
Alcohols	-			
2	1-Butanol	5.09E+05	< 600	A
3	1-Propanol	6.62E+05	< 600	A
7	2-Methyl-1-butanol	7.53E+05	757	A/B
24	Phenethyl alcohol	4.22E+06	1140	A/B
25	1-Nonanol	4.79E+05	1186	A/B
Esters				
6	Propanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl propanoate)	1.46E+06	718	A/B
8	Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, ethyl ester (ethyl isobutyrate)	1.53E+05	764	A/B
9	Acetic acid, 2-methylpropyl ester (isobutyl acetate)	1.87E+05	780	A/B
11	Butanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl butyrate)	2.67E+05	807	A/B
12	2-Butenoic acid, ethyl ester, (E)- (trans-ethyl 2-butenoate)	8.15E+04	853	A/B
13	Butanoic acid, 2-methyl-, ethyl ester (ethyl 2- methylbutanoate)	7.90E+04	855	A/B
14	Butanoic acid, 3-methyl-, ethyl ester (ethyl 3- methylbutanoate)	1.18E+05	859	A/B
15	1-Butanol, 3-methyl-, acetate (isoamyl acetate)	1.50E+06	883	A/B
16	Ethyl 2-methylbutyl	6.05E+05	884	A/B
17	Hexanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl hexanoate)	2.67E+06	1006	A/B
18	2-methyl-1 pentanol acetate	3.85E+04	1019	A/B
20	Propanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-, 3-methylbutyl ester (Isoamyl lactate)	9.19E+04	1080	A/B
22	Heptanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl heptanoate)	1.79E+05	1104	A/B
26	Butanedioic acid, diethyl ester (diethyl succinate)	4.05E+06	1191	A/B
27	Octanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl octanoate)	1.41E+07	1199	A/B
31	Decanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl decanoate)	1.47E+06	1402	A/B
32	Dodecanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl dodecanoate)	1.38E+05	1601	A/B
33	Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester (ethyl hexadecanoate)	1.57E+05	2000	A/B
Terpenes				
8	α-Terpinyl acetate	2.99E+06	1214	A/B
19	Limonene	8.66E+04	1040	A/B
21	Terpinolene	1.13E+05	1097	A/B
23	Linalool	4.53E+06	1113	A/B
29	α-Terpineol	5.46E+05	1268	A/B
Ketones	•			
4	Acetal	5.06E+03	<600	A
10	3,2-Heptanone	8.99E+04	795	A/B
30	β-Ionone	2.17E+06	1303	A/B
Amine				
1	Ethylamine	3.74E+05	< 600	A
Acid	·			
5	Thioacetic acid	4.14E+06	702	A/B

\*Area values of each compound. bLinear retention indices. A, mass spectrum actaAO6815nd LRI according to those of a compound that occurred in the VF-5 MS column; B, mass spectrum according to the reference spectrum in the NIST/EPA/NIH mass spectrum database and LRI that corroborates the scientific literature (Jiang et al., 2013; Weldegergis et al., 2011).

#### 4 Conclusions

When extracting the most volatile compounds, the SPME fiber with a PDMS/CAR/DVB coating exhibited a higher compound sorption capacity compared to the CAR/PDMS fiber. The experimental planning associated with response surface methodology using three independent variables allowed us to optimize the extraction process of volatiles from Isabel red wine, and also demonstrated that the experimental model displayed a value which was very close to the model deduced from real conditions. Therefore, the optimal conditions for extracting volatile compounds from red wine were an equilibrium time of

15 minutes, an extraction time of 35 minutes, and an extraction temperature of 30 °C. Under these extraction conditions, esters were the most common compound found, indicating that wines produced from Isabel cultivar grapes are characterized by compounds conferring fruity flavor; this finding is corroborated in the scientific literature.

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