SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

Received: 25 July 2018 Accepted: 28 June 2019 Published online: 11 July 2019

OPEN Simultaneous determination of 25 pesticides in Zizania latifolia by dispersive solid-phase extraction and liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

Feng Xu¹, Jia-yong Yu², Quan-sheng Wang¹, Yan Fu¹, Hao Zhang¹ & Yin-liang Wu¹

An improved quick, easy, cheap, effective, rugged, and safe (QuEChERS) method combined with ultrapressure liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometric method (UPLC-MS/MS) was developed to simultaneously determine 25 pesticides in Zizania latifolia. The samples were extracted with methanol(MeOH) and 0.1% formic acid (80:20, v/v) and cleaned with C₁₈ absorbent and primarysecondary amine (PSA). LC separation was performed on a BEH C₁₈ UPLC column under the condition of gradient elution with the mobile phase consisted of 0.5% formic acid (10 mM ammonium acetate)/ MeOH. External standard calibration method with matrix-matched was used for quantification, and good linearity was obtained over a concentration range of 0.5–100 µq/l, with correlation coefficients greater than 0.9901. The limit of detection (LOD) and the limit of quantitation (LOQ) of the 25 pesticides were in the range of 0.2–1.0 µg/kg and 0.5–3.3 µg/kg, respectively. The recoveries ranged from 72% to 118%, and the relative standard deviations (RSDs) were less than 20%. Thus, the proposed method is suitable for the simultaneous determination of 25 pesticides in Z. latifolia.

Zizania latifolia, which is known as Manchurian wild rice, is the only member of the genus Zizania native to Asia¹. The stems and grains of this plant used for food are edible. Z. latifolia is usually planted near rivers or the ocean because water is required over the entire period of growth. Z. latifolia is vulnerable to diseases and insects^{2,3}. Helminthosprium zizamae Nishik and Uromyces coronatus Miyabeet Nishida frequently infest this plant and cause serious problems⁴⁻⁶. Five registered pesticides (Table 1) currently in use cannot control the diseases and pests of Z. latifolia in China due to pesticide resistance⁷. Thus, farmers frequently use unregistered pesticides on Z. latifolia to increase profits¹⁻³. These unregistered pesticides mainly include triadimefon, prochloraz, carbendazim, isoprothiolane, tricyclazole, abamectin and nearly 14 other pesticides (Table 1)¹⁻³. Consumer protection and the abuse of pesticides in agricultural production are of concern in China, and developing a rapid, effective and sensitive method to detect residues of pesticides in Z. latifolia is essential.

To analyse residual pesticides in biological samples, many methods such as immunoassay⁸⁻¹², gas chromatography (GC)¹³⁻¹⁵, liquid chromatography (LC)¹⁶⁻¹⁸, gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS)¹⁹⁻²¹, and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS and LC-MS/MS)^{22,23}, have been developed. Nevertheless, studies on Z. latifolia have mainly focused on its physiological and biochemical properties, and few reports have described methods for pesticide residue determination in this plant. Recently, Yang et al. established an LC-MS/ MS method to determine emamectin benzoate and abamectin in Z. latifolia²⁴, but so far, there are no available published data concerning analytical methods for more than 3 pesticide residues in Z. latifolia.

The quick, easy, cheap, effective, rugged, and safe (QuEChERS) method has been accepted worldwidely because of its adaptable, selective, simple and high-throughput analysis that does not require a mass of toxic organic solvents²⁵. This method allows processing a significantly larger number of samples in a short amount of

¹The Ningbo Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Ningbo, 315040, PR China. ²SGS-CSTC Standards Technical Services (Ningbo) Co., Ltd., Ningbo, 315040, PR, China. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Y.-I.W. (email: wupaddyfield@tom.com)

Analyte	Parent ion (m/z)	Product ion(m/z)	Dwell time(s)	Cone voltage(V)	Collision energy(eV)		
Abamectin ^a	895.84	751.65, 183.20*	0.025	78	42,48		
Acetamiprid	223.17	90.02, 125.91*	0.025	26	32,20		
Buprofezin ^a	305.99	201.00, 105.96*	0.025	12	18,36		
Carbendazim	191.97	132.10, 159.93*	132.10, 159.93* 0.025 24		28,18		
Chlorantraniliprole	483.97	452.97, 285.98*	0.041	22	20,12		
Difenoconazole	406.04	337.04, 250.96*	0.025	42	16,28		
Diniconazole	326.14	172.97, 158.98*	0.025	34	34,34		
Emamectin Benzoate ^a	886.84	126.08, 158.20*	0.025	48	38,34		
Fenaminosulf	251.90	148.10, 172.11*	0.025	28	6,6		
Flubendiamide	683.16	273.81, 407.86*	0.025	14	31,12		
Hexaconazole	314.07	125.07, 159.06*	0.025	28	34,26		
Imidacloprid	256.07	209.13, 175.06*	0.025	22	14,20		
Iprodione	331.95	163.76, 246.88*	0.025	36	24,16		
Isoprothiolane	291.10	189.01, 231.03*	0.025	16	20,10		
Nitenpyram	271.07	196.04, 99.15*	0.025	20	18,16		
Prochloraz ^a	376.22	265.94, 308.04*	0.025	20	16,10		
Procymidone	284.07	255.98, 94.86*	0.025	60	16,22		
Propiconazole ^a	341.64	123.21, 158.98*	0.025	34	50,28		
Pymetrozine	218.03	78.65, 104.94*	0.025	30	30,18		
Tebuconazole	308.19	165.04, 151.05*	0.025	28	30,36		
Thiamethoxam	291.98	180.95, 210.99*	0.025	18	36,18		
Thiophanate Methyl	343.03	310.94, 150.97*	0.041	20	12,20		
Triadimefon	294.16	197.10, 69.06*	0.025	26	16,20		
Triazophos	314.00	119.06, 162.00*	0.025	24	48,28		
Tricyclazole	190.03	136.06, 163.07*	0.041	40	26,22		

 Table 1. LC -MS/MS parameters for 25 pesticides. *Ion for quantification. *Registered pesticide.

time. In the present study, an optimized QuEChERS method coupled with a excellent UPLC-MS/MS method was developed to simultaneously determine 25 pesticide residues in *Z. latifolia*.

Materials and Methods

Materials and reagents. Analytical standards of flubendiamide (97%), triadimefon (99%), tebuconazole (99%), difenoconazole (98%), carbendazim (98%), fenaminosulf (99%), and thiophanate-methyl (99%) were purchased from Dr. Ehrenstorfer GmbH (Augsburg, Germany), and analytical standards of triazophos, isoprothiolane, hexaconazole, propiconazole, prochloraz, tricyclazole, abamectin, buprofezin, emamectin benzoate, chlorantraniliprole, pymetrozine, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, thiamethoxam, acetamiprid, iprodione, procymidone, and diniconazole (all at $100 \mu g/ml$) were bought from the Agro-Environmental Protection Institute (Tianjin, China). Methanol (MeOH; LC grade) and acetonitrile (ACN; LC grade) were obtained from Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. (Fairfawn, USA). Ammonium acetate (HPLC grade) and formic acid (HPLC grade) were provided by Tedia Company, Inc. (Fairfield, USA). Primary-secondary amine (PSA, 40–63 μ m) and octadecyl silane (C₁₈, 50 μ m) sorbents were purchased from Shanghai Anpel Scientific Instrument Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Purified water was prepared by a Milli-Q reagent water system (Millipore, Milford, MA, USA).

Standard solutions. Individual stock standard solutions of the 25 compounds (Fig. 1) at 100 µg/ml were prepared in MeOH. A mixed standard solution (4µg/ml each) was prepared in MeOH by combining the 25 stock standard solutions and diluting with MeOH. Then, a 1.0µg/ml mixed standard solution was made by diluting the 4µg/ml mixed standard solution with MeOH and stored at -18 °C in the dark. Individual working solutions (1.0µg/ml for each of the 25 compounds) for MS–MS optimization were prepared by diluting each stock solution with MeOH. Six mixed working standard solutions (2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 25.0, 50.0, and 100µg/l) were established by diluting the 1.0µg/ml mixed standard solution with 0.1% formic acid/MeOH (80:20, v/v).

Chromatographic conditions. A Waters Acquity UPLC instrument (Milford, MA, USA) was used for analysis, and an Acquity BEH C_{18} column (2.1 mm × 100 mm, 1.7 µm) was utilized for separation while maintained at 35 °C. The mobile phase consisted of solvent A (0.5% formic acid containing 10 mM ammonium acetate) and solvent B (MeOH). The initial gradient conditions were set at 20% B and held for 1.1 min. Then, the gradient was increased linearly to 90% B at 3.5 min and maintained for 4.5 min. then the gradient was programmed to return to the initial conditions at 8.1 min to re-equilibrate the column for 1.9 min. The flow rate was 0.30 ml/min. Total run time of one injected sample was 10 minutes with the injection volume of10 µl in full-loop injection mode.

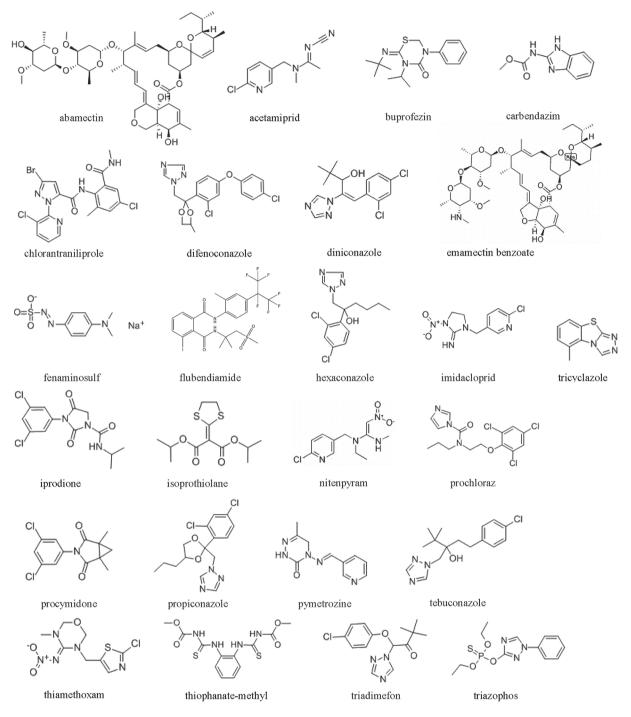
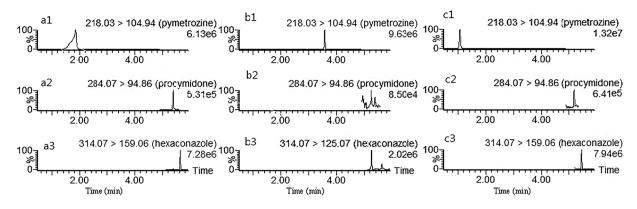
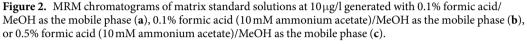


Figure 1. Chemical structures of the 25 pesticides.

Mass spectrometry conditions. MS/MS detection was performed on a Waters Xevo TQ triple-quadrupole MS system equipped with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source operated in positive mode. The ion source and desolvation temperatures were optimized at 150 °C and 500 °C, respectively. The capillary voltage and the flow rate of the desolvation gas (N₂) were set at 2.2 kV and 1000 L/h, respectively. The collision cell pressure was 3.0 mbar sustained by the collision gas argon. Detection was carried out in a multiple-reaction monitoring (MRM) mode. Other parameters are shown in Table 1.

Sample preparation. A homogeneous sample (5 g) was weighed, placed in a 50 ml polypropylene centrifuge tube, and 10 ml of 0.1% formic acid/MeOH (20:80, v/v) was added to sample. The mixture was homogenized for 1 min using a high-speed dispersing device (Ultra-Turrax T 25; IKA, Germany) and vortexed for 1 min. The tube was subsequently centrifuged at 9500 rpm for 5 min, and a 1 ml aliquot was transferred to a tube containing PSA solid-phase extraction (SPE) sorbent (75 mg) and ODS C_{18} sorbent (75 mg). Next, the tube was vortexed for 30 s





and centrifuged at 9500 rpm for 1 min. An aliquot of the supernatant (0.2 ml) was transferred to a new glass tube, reconstituted in 0.8 ml of 0.1% formic acid/MeOH (95:5, v/v), and vortexed for 15 s. The sample supernatant was subsequently passed through a $0.22 \,\mu$ m filter (Jinteng, Tianjin, China).

Matrix effects. To evaluate the matrix effects, six concentrations (2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 25.0, 50.0, and $100 \mu g/l$) of the 25 pesticides in pure solvent and a blank sample were analysed. The slope ratio of 25 pesticides was obtained by calculating the quotient of the matrix-matched calibration slope and the solvent calibration slope.

Method validation. Analytical performance was examined in terms of the selectivity, linearity, mean recovery, repeatability, LOD and LOQ of the method in accordance with the SANCO document²⁶.

To confirm the absence of interfering substances around the retention times of the 25 pesticides, 20 blank samples were analysed.

Linearity was evaluated using matrix-matched standard solutions prepared as described in section 2.5 at six concentrations between 0.5 and $100 \mu g/l$ (2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 25.0, 50.0, and $100 \mu g/l$ for fenaminosulf, procymidone and hexaconazole; 0.5, 1.0, 5.0, 10.0, 50.0, and $100 \mu g/l$ for the other compounds). Excellent linearity was based on a high coefficient of determination (r^2).

The recoveries and repeatability (intra-day and inter-day) of the method were determined with spiked blank samples at three concentrations (0.05, 0.1 and 0.25 mg/kg for fenaminosulf, procymidone, and hexaconazole; 0.01, 0.05 and 0.1 mg/kg for the other compounds). The intra-day repeatability was determined with five replicates at each calibration level on the same day, and the inter-day repeatability was calculated from five replicates at 0.05 mg/kg per day over 3 consecutive days. The intra-day and inter-day repeatability values were expressed as the relative standard deviation (RSD).

The LOD and LOQ were calculated from the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of a chromatographic peak, where LOD = 3 S/N and LOQ = 10 S/N.

Results and Discussion

LC-MS/MS optimization. In this study, positive mode produced higher precursor ion signal intensities than the negative mode for all pesticides. Therefore, the analysis of target compounds is carried out in the $[M+H]^+$ ion mode as the precursor ion. One parent ion and two transitions were chosen. The most intense transition was used for quantitation²⁷, while the other transition was employed for qualitative. The optimal parameters for each compound are shown in Table 1.

After optimizing the MS cinditions, the mobile phase composition was explored by the chromatographic column. It is well known that the $[M + H]^+$ ion forms easily under acidic conditions. Therefore, 0.1% formic acid/ACN and 0.1% formic acid/MeOH solutions were first investigated. Satisfactory separation was difficult to achieve for the 9 triazole pesticides when 0.1% formic acid/ACN solution was used, while the peak shape of pymetrozine was poor when 0.1% formic acid/MeOH was used (Fig. 2a). To achieve both these goals simultaneously, the 0.1% formic acid solution was replaced with 0.1% formic acid containing 10 mM ammonium acetate. With this solvent system, the separation of the 9 triazole pesticides did not improve significantly, but the peak shape of pymetrozine improved (Fig. 2b). Thus, 0.1% formic acid (10 mM ammonium acetate)/MeOH was chosen initially. However, the ionization of procymidone and hexaconazole was suppressed in this mobile phase (Fig. 2b). The responses of procymidone and hexaconazole obviously increased when the concentration of formic acid was changed from 0.1% to 0.5% (Fig. 2c). Thus, 0.5% formic acid (10 mM ammonium acetate)/MeOH was finally chosen as the mobile phase in the current study. Moreover, in order to improve the sensitivity of all compounds, the chromatogram was divided into five regions.

Optimization of sample preparation. Salting-out assisted water-acetonitrile extraction is an convenient sample preparation technique when pesticide residue analytical method development. Compared with traditional liquid-liquid extraction and SPE, this method is more environmentally friendly, more cost-efficient and faster.

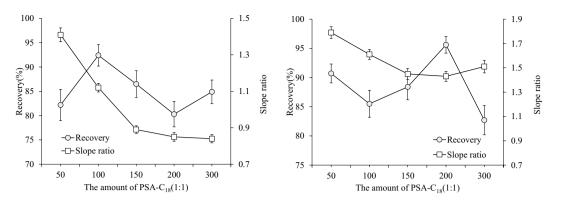


Figure 3. Effect of different amounts of PSA-C₁₈ (1:1) on the recovery of fenaminosulf (**a**) and iprodione (**b**) and ratios of the external calibration slopes for the matrix-matched standards to the external calibration slopes for the standards in solvent. (Mean \pm SD).

Analyte	Zizania latifolia ^a						Matrix		
	0.01 mg/kgb	0.05 mg/kg	0.10 mg/kg	Inter-day RSDs	Linear equation	r ²	effects	LOD	LOQ
Abamectin	89 (7)	87 (5)	83 (6)	9	$y = 1.1 \times 10^2 x - 1.5 \times 10^2$	0.9999	1.5	0.2	0.5
Acetamiprid	117 (12)	115 (10)	109 (14)	15	$y = 1.2 \times 10^4 x + 1.0 \times 10^5$	0.9966	1.1	0.2	0.6
Buprofezin	91 (15)	95 (16)	87 (6)	18	$y = 3.9 \times 10^4 x + 5.4 \times 10^5$	0.9903	1.1	0.3	1.0
Carbendazim	81 (5)	82 (2)	87 (4)	6	$y = 1.8 \times 10^4 x + 4.3 \times 10^5$	0.9980	0.7	0.3	1.0
Chlorantraniliprole	118 (3)	90 (2)	110 (6)	7	$y = 3.3 \times 10^3 x + 1.1 \times 10^4$	0.9993	1.1	0.4	1.1
Difenoconazole	72 (8)	107 (11)	90 (13)	14	$y = 7.4 \times 10^3 x + 2.2 \times 10^3$	1.0000	1.1	0.2	0.7
Diniconazole	90 (3)	107 (7)	95 (8)	10	$y = 1.4 \times 10^3 x + 8.7 \times 10^3$	0.9975	1.1	0.3	0.6
Emamectin Benzoate	76 (8)	75 (5)	80 (8)	10	$y = 4.3 \times 10^4 x + 2.3 \times 10^5$	0.9981	1.1	0.2	0.7
Fenaminosulf	72 (11)	75 (12)	74 (8)	14	$y = 1.2 \times 10^2 x + 1.3 \times 10^3$	0.9970	0.6	1.0	3.3
Flubendiamide	88 (7)	80 (4)	72 (9)	12	$y = 2.3 \times 10^2 x + 3.0 \times 10^2$	0.9954	1.3	0.2	0.7
Hexaconazole	89 (14)	88 (8)	77 (6)	18	$y = 2.9 \times 10^3 x + 1.9 \times 10^4$	0.9978	1.0	0.8	2.5
Imidacloprid	91 (9)	96 (8)	91 (10)	16	$y = 2.7 \times 10^3 x + 1.4 \times 10^4$	0.9990	1.1	0.5	1.5
Iprodione	88 (4)	87 (7)	80 (4)	12	$y = 1.4 \times 10^3 x + 1.7 \times 10^4$	0.9910	0.9	0.3	0.8
Isoprothiolane	117 (4)	93 (6)	91 (10)	19	$y = 2.3 \times 10^4 x + 3.5 \times 10^5$	0.9938	1.0	0.3	0.9
Nitenpyram	85 (15)	87 (8)	89 (10)	16	$y = 1.1 \times 10^4 x + 1.2 \times 10^5$	0.9937	0.8	0.3	1.1
Prochloraz	105 (8)	100(5)	107 (6)	9	$y = 4.2 \times 10^4 x + 1.2 \times 10^5$	0.9994	1.1	0.2	0.6
Procymidone	82 (2)	81 (6)	90 (5)	8	$y = 3.5 \times 10^2 x - 22$	0.9984	1.1	0.8	2.5
Propiconazole	81 (2)	73 (5)	95 (9)	11	$y = 1.1 \times 10^4 x + 7.0 \times 10^4$	0.9974	1.0	0.2	0.7
Pymetrozine	87(2)	85 (2)	90 (7)	8	$y = 2.6 \times 10^4 x - 2.3 \times 10^5$	0.9955	0.9	0.4	1.2
Tebuconazole	95 (7)	96 (6)	85 (5)	13	$y = 7.5 \times 10^2 x + 1.6 \times 10^3$	0.9997	1.1	0.2	0.7
Thiamethoxam	80 (4)	80 (2)	91 (6)	8	$y = 2.5 \times 10^3 x + 2.1 \times 10^4$	0.9966	1.0	0.3	1.0
Thiophanate methyl	99 (2)	91 (8)	93 (8)	10	$y = 1.6 \times 10^4 x + 9.9 \times 10^4$	0.9969	1.2	0.3	1.0
Triadimefon	115 (11)	79 (12)	75 (10)	17	$y = 3.5 \times 10^4 x + 2.7 \times 10^4$	1.0000	1.1	0.2	0.6
Triazophos	110 (3)	75 (8)	72 (8)	11	$y = 2.9 \times 10^4 x + 3.5 \times 10^5$	0.9942	1.1	0.2	0.7
Tricyclazole	114 (5)	77 (4)	97 (7)	13	$y = 1.2 \times 10^4 x + 1.3 \times 10^5$	0.9958	1.0	0.4	1.3

Table 2. Mean recoveries, RSDs, the linearity, regression coefficients of standard curves (r^2), matrix effects, LOD and LOQ (μ g/kg) of 25 pesticides in *Zizania latifolia* by LC-MS/MS. ^aRepeatability values, expressed as RSD, are given in brackets (n = 5). ^b0.05, 0.1 and 0.25 mg/kg for fenaminosulf, procymidone and hexaconazole.

Hence over the past decade, it has obtained growing interest in QuEChERS sample preparation^{28–30}. However, salting out was not used in the present study because fenaminosulf and pymetrozine are highly soluble in water. To achieve satisfactory recoveries for all target compounds from the *Z. latifolia* samples, three extraction solvents (0.1% formic acid/ACN (20:80, v/v), 0.1% formic acid/MeOH (20:80, v/v) and ACN) were evaluated at a fortification level of $50 \mu g/kg$. The best recoveries for most of the compounds were obtained with 0.1% formic acid/MeOH (20:80, v/v), which was selected as the optimal extraction solvent.

Z. latifolia mainly contains carbohydrates, proteins and fats. Pesticides with high polarity are highly susceptible to interferences from impurities. To reduce the level of the co-extracted matrix, and obtain good purification efficiency, a simple and effective clean-up procedure with dispersive SPE (dSPE) is often used. The original QuEChERS method involves cleaning up with PSA sorbent³¹. PSA can effectively adsorb organic acids, fatty acids, sugar, and other interferences in the matrix. However, compounds with carboxyl groups are easily retained

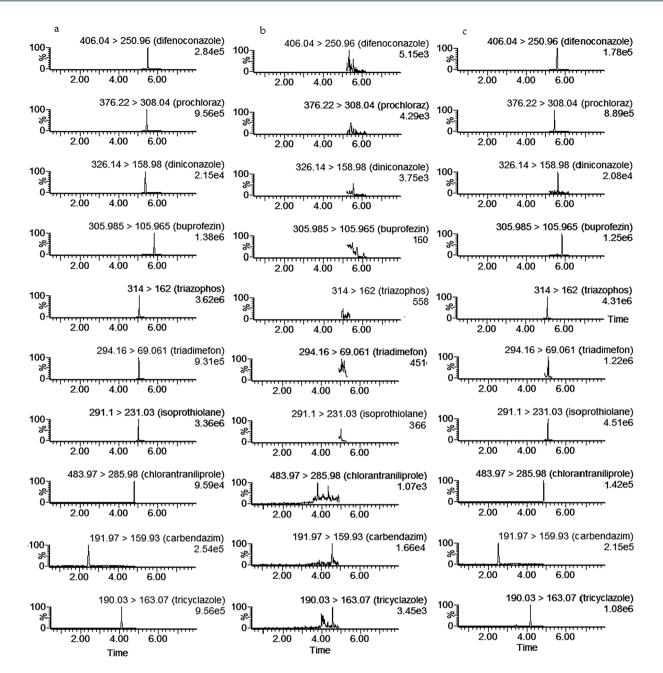


Figure 4. Representative MRM chromatograms of a working standard solution $(1.0 \,\mu\text{g/l} \text{ for the 25 pesticides except fenaminosulf, procymidone and hexaconazole) ($ **a**), a blank sample (**b**) and a spiked blank sample (0.01 mg/kg for the 25 pesticides except fenaminosulf, procymidone and hexaconazole) (**c**).

by PSA. The QuEChERS method has been modified to enable the use of C_{18} for clean-up, and strong adsorption of low-polarity matrix interferences such as fatty acids, olefins, and large molecules, such as sterols and pigments has been achieved^{32,33}. In the present study, a mixed PSA- C_{18} (1:1) sorbent was used for clean-up. The effects of the amount of PSA- C_{18} (1:1) sorbent (50–300 mg) on the matrix effect and recoveries were examined in detail (Fig. 3). The matrix effect was counted by the following formula: matrix effect = (external calibration slope for matrix-matched standards/external calibration slope standard in solvent)^{34,35}. For most compounds, the recoveries were above 90%, and the matrix effect did not obviously change when the amount of PSA- C_{18} (1:1) was varied from 50 to 300 mg. However, there were significant differences in the recoveries and matrix effects of fenaminosulf and iprodione when the amount of PSA- C_{18} (1:1) was increased from 50 to 300 mg (Fig. 3). According to the data in Fig. 3, 150 mg of PSA- C_{18} was selected as the optimal sorbent amount.

Matrix effect. The detector response of pesticides may be influenced by co-extracted materials from the sample. To evaluate the matrix effect, the ratio of the external calibration slope for the matrix-matched standard and the external calibration slope for the standard in solvent was compared for each target compound (Table 2). According to the study of Frenich *et al.*, when the value is between 0.8 and 1.2, signal suppression or enhancement

by matrix components can be tolerated³⁶. The values of four compounds fell outside this range and indicated signal enhancement by the matrix effect. Therefore, matrix-matched standard solutions were used for quantification in this study.

Method validation. *Selectivity.* To evaluate the selectivity, 20 blank samples of *Z. latifolia* were analysed. At the retention times of the 25 compounds, there were no interfering peaks were observed (Fig. 4b). Therefore, the selectivity of the analysis was sufficient.

Linearity. A matrix-matched calibration curve was established by determining the peak area of each pesticide standard over a concentration range of $0.5-100 \mu g/l$ (Table 2). The calibration curves of all of the pesticides had excellent linearity, with correlation coefficients (r^2) between 0.9901 and 1.000.

Recovery and precision. Recoveries were determined by spiking three different concentrations of the pesticides into the blank samples. Next, all of the samples were extracted and analysed following the procedure described previously. The results are shown in Table 2. Single-point calibration with the matrix-matched standard solutions $(1.0, 5.0, 10.0, and 25 \mu g/l$ for a 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, and 0.25 mg/kg fortified level, respectively) was conducted in the recovery test. The MRM chromatogram of a matrix-matched standard solution $(1.0 \mu g/l)$ is shown in Fig. 4a. The mean recoveries varied from 72% to 118%, intra-day RSDs varied from 2% to 16%, and inter-day RSDs varied from 6% to 19%, respectively (Table 2). The good recoveries (70%–120%) and RSDs ($\leq 20\%$) were in compliance with the requirements of the SANCO document²⁶. These results demonstrated that the proposed method could achieve satisfactory recovery and precision for residue analysis in *Z. latifolia*. Representative chromatograms of the 25 pesticides in the blank and spiked samples are shown in Fig. 4b,c.

LOD and LOQ. As listed in Table 2, the ranges of the LODs and LOQs, calculated at S/N ratio = 3 and S/N ratio = 10, were $0.2-1.0 \mu g/kg$ and $0.5-3.3 \mu g/kg$, respectively, for all of the compounds in the *Z. latifolia* matrix.

Real sample analysis. Z. latifolia is a vegetable consumed daily and is associated with severe pesticide abuse. In the final phase of this work, the validated QuEChERS method was utilized to measure the pesticide levels in 20 samples purchased from various markets in Ningbo (Zhejiang Province, China). Procymidone was detected at concentrations ranging from 0.005 mg/kg to 0.008 mg/kg in 3 samples, which are below the MRLs established by the EU, that is, 0.01 mg/kg for root and tuber vegetables. No other pesticides were detected in these samples.

Conclusion

A rapid method was developed to analyse multiclass pesticide residues in *Z. latifolia* samples through UPLC-MS/ MS with a QuEChERS method. Good recovries obtained via spiking blank samples infered that this method was enough reliable to analyze. The LODs and LOQs were sufficiently low to monitor the residues of 25 pesticides in the samples. This fast and convenient method was used for 20 actual real samples analysis, procymidone was detected in 3 samples.

References

- 1. Yang, D. Y. Study on residual detection and degradation rule of avermectin and emamectin benzoate in water bamboo, Zhejiang A&F University (2015).
- 2. Chen, J. M. et al. Four kinds of fungicides for water bamboo rust prevention effect. J. Zhejiang Agr Sci. 11, 1463-1465 (2013).
- Ma, Y. M., Wang, L. L., Deng, C. R. & Li, H. Y. Control efficiency of fungicides against brown spot on zizania latifolia. J Changjiang Vegetables 22, 175–177 (2015).
- 4. Yu, X. P. & Xu, H. X. Differentiation of striped stem borer (SSB), chilo suppressalis walker from rice and *zizania* caduciflora habitats. *Acta Ecologica Sinica* 22, 341–345 (2002).
- Chen, J. M., Yu, X. P., Zhen, X. S., Xu, H. X. & Lu, Z. X. Biological characteristics of golden apple snail, Pomacea canaliculata (Lamarck) in Jiaobai field and its integrated managements strategies. J Zhejiang Agr Sci 15, 154–160 (2003).
- 6. Lan, Z. Celebrating the alpine cold prevention and control of plant diseases and insect pests of rice field water bamboo green technology. *J Zhejiang Agr Sci* **12**, 1847–1848 (2014).
- 7. China Information Network. Pesticide, www.chinapesticide.gov.cn/hysj/index.jhtml (2018).
- Boulanouar, S., Mezzache, S., Combès, A. & Pichon, V. Molecularly imprinted polymers for the determination of organophosphorus pesticides in complex samples. *Talanta* 176, 465–478, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.talanta.2017.08.067 (2018).
- Verdian, A. Apta-nanosensors for detection and quantitative determination of acetamiprid A pesticide residue in food and environment. *Talanta* 176, 456–464, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.talanta.2017.08.070 (2018).
- Li, S. H. *et al.* Selective detection of fenaminosulf via a molecularly imprinted fluorescence switch and silver nano-film amplification. *Biosens Bioelectron.* 71, 342–347, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bios.2015.04.066 (2015).
- Xu, Z. L., Deng, H., Deng, X. F., Yang, J. Y. & Jiang, Y. M. Monitoring of organophosphorus pesticides in vegetables using monoclonal antibody-based direct competitive ELISA followed by HPLC–MS/MS. *Food Chem.* 131, 1569–1576, https://doi.org/10.1016/j. foodchem.2011.10.020 (2012).
- Malarkodi, C., Rajeshkumar, S. & Annadurai, G. Detection of environmentally hazardous pesticide in fruit and vegetable samples using gold nanoparticles. *Food Control* 80, 11–18, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2017.04.023 (2017).
- Wang, Y., Chen, S., Lai, W. Y., Zhang, J. Q. & Li, Z. Y. Determination of 8 kinds of organochlorine pesticide residues in the leaves of clausena lansium by gas chromatography. *Medicinal Plant* 7, 19–21 (2016).
- 14. Likas, D. T., Tsiropoulos, N. G. & Miliadis, G. E. Rapid gas chromatographic method for the determination of famoxadone, trifloxystrobin and fenhexamid residues in tomato, grape and wine samples. J. Chromatogr. A 1150, 208–214, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2006.08.041 (2007).
- Amvrazi, E. G., Papadi-Psylloe, A. T. & Tsiropoulos, N. G. Pesticide enrichment factors and matrix effects on the determination of multiclass pesticides in tomato samples by single-drop microextraction (SDME) coupled with gas chromatography and comparison study between SDME and acetone-partition extraction procedure. Intern. J. Environ. Anal. Chem. 90, 245–259, https://doi. org/10.1080/03067310903166699 (2010).

- Melo, A., Aguiar, A., Mansilha, C., Pinho, O. & Ferreira, L. V. O. Monitoring pesticide residues in greenhouse tomato by combining acetonitrile-based extraction with dispersive liquid–liquid microextraction followed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. *Food Chem.* 135, 1071–1077, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2012.05.112 (2012).
- Sousa, E. S., Pinto, L. & Araujo, M. C. U. A chemometric cleanup using multivariate curve resolution in liquid chromatography: Quantification of pesticide residues in vegetables. J. Microchem. 134, 131–139, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.microc.2017.05.017 (2017).
- Zhong, L. L. et al. Determination of 5 kinds of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables by high performance liquid chromatography. J. Food Safety & Q uality 8, 1778–1782 (2017).
- 19. Cao, X. Y. *et al.* Comparison of the performances of gas chromatography quadrupole time of flight mass spectrometry and gas chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry in rapid screening and confirmation of 208 pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables. *Chin. J. Chromatography* **33**, 389–396, https://doi.org/10.3724/SPJ.1123.2014.12026 (2015).
- Chin. J. Chromatography 33, 389-396, https://doi.org/10.3724/SPJ.1123.2014.12026 (2015).
 20. Machado, I., Gérez, N., Pistón, M., Heinzen, H. & Cesio, M. V. Determination of pesticide residues in globe artichoke leaves and fruits by GC-MS and LC-MS/MS using the same QuEChERS procedure. Food Chem. 227, 227-236, https://doi.org/10.1016/j. foodchem.2017.01.025 (2017).
- Khan, Z. et al. Analysis of pesticide residues in tuber crops using pressurised liquid extraction and gas chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. Food Chem. 241, 250–257, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2017.08.091 (2018).
- Yang, Q. H., Xu, W. S., Jang, Y. L. & Deng, Z. Y. Determination of 15 kinds pesticides residues in vegetables by HPLC and LC/MS/ MS. J. Anhui Agr. Sci. 25, 8593–8597 (2014).
- Coscollà, C., Yusà, V., Beser, M. J. & Pastor, A. Multi-residue analysis of 30 currently used pesticides in fine airborne particulate matter (PM 2.5) by microwave-assisted extraction and liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. J. Chromatogr. A 1216, 8817–8827, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2008.05.075 (2009).
- 24. Yang, D. Y. et al. Residue dynamics of emamectin benzoate in water bamboo. Agrochemicals 55, 198-200 (2016).
- Zhan, X. P., Ma, L., Huang, L. Q., Chen, J. B. & Zhao, L. The optimization and establishment of QuEChERS-UPLC-MS/MS method for simultaneously detecting various kinds of pesticides residues in fruits and vegetables. J. Chromatogr. B 1060, 281–290, https:// doi.org/10.1016/j.jchromb.2017.06.008 (2017).
- 26. European Commission. Document No. SANCO/12495/2011, www.instrument.com.cn/ (2012).
- Shakouri, A., Yazdanpanah, H., Shojaee, M. H. & Kobarfard, F. Method development for simultaneous determination of 41 pesticides in rice using LC-MS/MS technique and its application for the analysis of 60 rice samples collected from Tehran market. *Iran. J. Pharm. Res.* 13, 927–935 (2014).
- Valente, I. M., Gonçalves, L. M. & Rodrigues, J. A. Another glimpse over the salting-out assisted liquid–liquid extraction in acetonitrile/water mixtures. J. Chromatogr. A 1308, 58–62, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2013.08.014 (2013).
- Dong, F. et al. Simultaneous determination of five pyrazole fungicides in cereals, vegetables and fruits using liquid chromatography/ tandem mass spectrometry. J. Chromatogr. A 1262, 98–106, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2012.08.100 (2012).
- Samsidara, A., Siddiqueea, S. & Shaaranib, S. M. A review of extraction, analytical and advanced methods for determination of pesticides in environment and foodstuffs. Trends in Food Sci. & Tech. 71, 188–201, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2017.11.011 (2018).
- Anastassiades, M., Lehotay, S. J., Stajnbaher, D. & Schenck, F. J. Fast and easy multiresidue method employing acetonitrile extraction/ partitioning and "dispersive solid-phase extraction" for the determination of pesticide residues in produce. J. AOAC Int. 86, 412–431 (2003).
- 32. Wang, L. Z. *et al.* Determination of 51 carbamate pesticide residues in vegetables byliquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry based on optimization of QuEChERS sample preparation method. *Chin. J. Chromatogr.* 33, 1167–1175, https://doi. org/10.3724/SPJ.1123.2013.05051 (2013).
- Wu, Y. L., Chen, R. X., Zhu, Y., Zhao, J. & Yang, T. Simultaneous determination of sixteen amide fungicides in vegetables and fruits by dispersive solid phase extraction and liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. J. Chromatogr. B 989, 11–20, https:// doi.org/10.1016/j.jchromb.2015.02.038 (2015).
- Wong, J. W., Zhang, K., Tech, K. & Hayward, D. G. Multiresidue pesticide analysis in fresh produce by capillary gas chromatographymass spectrometry/selective ion monitoring (GC-MS/SIM) and -tandem mass spectrometry (GC-MS/MS). J. Agr. Food Chem. 58, 5868–5883, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2012.10.105 (2010).
- 35. Kmellár, B., Fodor, P. & Pareja, L. Validation and uncertainty study of a comprehensive list of 160 pesticide residues in multi-class vegetables by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometryr. J. Chromatogr. A 1215, 37–50, https://doi.org/10.1016/j. chroma.2008.10.121 (2008).
- 36. Frenich, A. G., Romero-González, R., Gómez-Pérez, M. L. & Vidal, J. L. M. Multi-mycotoxin analysis in eggs using a QuEChERSbased extraction procedure and ultra-high-pressure liquid chromatography coupled to triple quadrupole mass spectrometry. J. Chromatogr. A 1218, 4349–4356, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2011.05.005 (2011).

Acknowledgements

The key (grant) Project in Agriculture of Ningbo (No.2015C11004) provided financial support for this work.

Author Contributions

Feng Xu and Jia-yong Yu wrote the manuscript text, and Quan-sheng Wang, Yan Fu and Hao Zhang prepared figures and tables. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

Additional Information

Competing Interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

Publisher's note: Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

© The Author(s) 2019