1 Inorganic arsenic determination in food: A review on analytical proposals and

2 quality assessment over the last six years

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5 Toni Llorente-Mirandes, Roser Rubio and José Fermín López-Sánchez*

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- 7 Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Barcelona, Martí I Franquès 1-11,
- 8 Barcelona E-08028, Spain

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- *Corresponding author: Tel.: +34 934034873.
- 11 E-mail address: fermin.lopez@ub.edu (José Fermín López-Sánchez).

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13 ABSTRACT

- 14 Here we review recent developments in analytical proposals for the assessment of the
- inorganic arsenic (iAs) content in food products. Interest in the determination of iAs in
- products for human consumption such as food commodities, wine and seaweed among
- others is fueled by the wide recognition of its toxic effects on humans, even at low
- 18 concentrations. Currently, the need for robust and reliable analytical methods is
- 19 recognized by various international safety and health agencies, and by organizations in
- 20 charge of establishing acceptable tolerance levels of iAs in food. This review
- summarizes the state of the art of analytical methods while highlighting tools for the
- 22 assessment of quality assessment of the results, such as the production and evaluation of
- 23 certified reference materials (CRMs) and the availability of specific proficiency testing
- 24 (PT) programs.
- 25 Since the number of studies dedicated to the subject of this review has increased
- 26 considerably over recent years, the sources consulted and cited here are limited to those
- 27 from 2010 up to the end of 2015.

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- 29 Index headings: Inorganic arsenic; Food analysis; Analytical techniques; Quality
- 30 assessment; Proficiency testing; Certified Reference Materials.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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The determination of inorganic arsenic (iAs) in food is considered a subject of paramount importance. Of the great number of known arsenic species that have been identified in different types of food, arsenic health concerns are derived primarily from the inorganic forms of this element. Moreover, food is the main contributor to human arsenic intake (excluding occupational exposure and drinking contaminated water). This interest is supported by a huge number of publications in the literature over many years ¹. The causal effect of arsenic with regards to cancer has been well studied more twenty years ago. The most recent reviews highlight new research concerning both the toxic and carcinogenic character of iAs ^{2–5}, and many proposals have been made on the possible arsenic-induced carcinogenic molecular mechanisms ^{6–9}. Two reviews use the meta-analysis of toxicity data^{10,11} to obtain information concerning the assessment of iAs exposure risk or the possible dose–response relationship, among other approaches. Mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of arsenic-induced toxicity have been reviewed¹². Among the studies of the toxicity of iAs, vulnerable groups are especially considered, such as children^{13–15} and pregnant women¹⁶.

The toxic effects of inorganic arsenic forms led the Joint Commission FAO/WHO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/ World Health Organization) in 1989 to set a provisional tolerable weekly intake (PTWI) for inorganic arsenic of 15 μg kg⁻¹ of body weight (equivalent to 2.1 μg kg⁻¹ bw per day)¹⁷. Recently, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)¹⁸ and the JECFA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives) ¹⁹ evaluated dietary exposure to iAs. Both concluded that the PTWI parameter is no longer appropriate and should no longer be used and it is thus withdrawn. The EFSA and JECFA evaluations provided estimates of toxic intake limits for iAs as a benchmark dose level (BMDL): 0.3–8 µgkg⁻¹ b.w. per day for cancers of lung, skin and bladder as well as for skin lesions (EFSA BMDL₀₁¹⁸); and 3.0 µg kg⁻¹ b.w. per day (2-7 µg kg⁻¹ b.w. per day based on the estimated range of total dietary exposure) for lung cancer (JECFA BMDL_{0.5} ¹⁹). Also, both reports emphasized the need to produce speciation data, particularly iAs data, for different food products to estimate the health risk associated with dietary As exposure. EFSA and JECFA highlighted the need for a robust, validated analytical method for the determination of iAs in a range of food items; and the need for certified reference materials (CRMs) for iAs. In 2014, EFSA evaluated dietary exposure to iAs in the European population ²⁰. It concluded that for all ages except infants and toddlers, the main contributor to dietary exposure to iAs is the food group: "grain-based processed products (non-rice-based)". Other food groups that were important contributors to iAs exposure were rice, milk and dairy products (the main contributor in infants and toddlers), and drinking water. Furthermore, in order to reduce the uncertainty in the assessment of exposure to iAs, more analytical data on iAs are needed. This mainly refers to speciation data in fish and seafood, and for food groups that contribute substantially to dietary exposure to iAs (e.g., rice and wheat-based products). Many of the statements in the present paragraph are summarized recently in ²¹. Rice and rice-based products are the type of food in which iAs toxicity is of most concern in many countries ^{22–28} especially in countries, such as those in Southeast Asia, where irrigation practices increasingly include flooding with water containing arsenic ²⁹. This can lead to an increase of the arsenic contents of rice and so control of such practices is frequently called for ³⁰. The other type of food product that merits special interest regarding iAs toxicity is those with a marine origin ^{31–34} and in lesser extent other food commodities such as apple juice³⁵ or mushrooms³⁶. Furthermore, the assessment of iAs concentrations in food products aimed particularly at children deserves special interest ^{37–40}. Other studies also reveal that knowledge of iAs content is important in the control of processes of biotransformation in marine organisms that constitute a food source, after exposure to iAs compounds 41. Lynch et al. 42 considered four food groups, in accordance with their iAs contents, reporting estimated mean values as: seaweed/algae/seafood, 11,000 µg kg⁻¹ for seaweed/algae and 130 µg kg⁻¹ for seafood; rice, 130 µg kg⁻¹; apple juice, 5.8 µg kg⁻¹; and infant food, rice, other cereals and related products, 92 µg kg⁻¹ and vegetables, 20 µg kg⁻¹.

The establishment of maximum levels (MLs) regulating iAs are emphasized in Directives and Regulations^{43–51}. Meharg and Raab⁵² discusses several proposals and relates them with detection capacities and the availability of measurement techniques, highlighting the assessment of iAs contents. Among the regulations proposing MLs of arsenic tolerated in food, few establish specific levels for iAs. Table I summarizes the ML for inorganic arsenic or total arsenic in food established by several countries. The maximum tolerable level of total arsenic (tAs) in drinking water defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) is 10 µg L⁻¹ ⁶⁰. Very recently, the European Union published Regulation (EU) 2015/1006 ⁵⁸amending Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 ⁶¹regarding the maximum levels of iAs in foodstuffs, especially rice and rice-based products. The new MLs of iAs range from 0.10 to 0.3 mg As kg⁻¹ depending of the rice product. Furthermore, the EU established a maximum levels for iAs in

animal feeds, contents of below 2 mg kg⁻¹ are recommended, especially those based on the seaweed species *Hizikiafusiforme*⁶². The Ministry of Health of China established a maximum level of iAs in food products depending on type of food⁵⁶. The CODEX Alimentarius Commission in a draft report on contaminants in food accepts a ML of 0.2 mg kg⁻¹ of iAs for polished rice and analysis of tAs as a screening method⁶³; the same document states that no agreement was reached for a ML of iAs in husked rice, but a value of 0.4 mg kg⁻¹ is ongoing discussed^{63,64} and may be adopted at the next session of the Committee. The Australia New Zealand Food Standard Code(FSANZ) ⁵⁴ established a limit of 1 mg kg⁻¹ for seaweed and mollusks; while for crustacean and fish, iAs is not allowed to exceed 2 mg kg⁻¹. Meanwhile, the authorities in the UK have advised consumers to avoid consumption of hijiki seaweed 65while the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) advises consumers to avoid that seaweed ⁶⁶. Specific regulations for iAs in edible seaweed have been established in some countries: 3 mg kg⁻¹ ¹ (dw) as the maximum permitted level in the USA ⁶⁷ and France ⁵⁷. The content of iAs in apple juices is considered a matter of concern by the U.S Food Drug and Administration (FDA) ⁶⁸ and by the FSANZ ⁵⁴. The FDA recommends 10 ppb (as in drinking water) as a ML for iAs adequate to protect public health. The Canadian government, thorough Health Canada, established 0.1 ppm as the maximum tolerated limit for arsenic in fruit juices, fruit nectar and ready-to-serve beverages⁶⁹; furthermore, this organization is currently considering establishing a specific lower tolerance of 0.01 ppm for apple juice. Several national initiatives and authorities have advised against consumption of rice drinks for infants and toddlers because it can increase the intake of iAs. The UK Food Standards Agency ⁷⁰does not recommend substitution of breast milk, infant formula, or cows' milk by rice drinks for toddlers and young children up to 4.5 vears, whereas the Swedish National Food Agency⁷¹recommends no rice-based drinks for children younger than 6 years and, in Denmark⁷², children are advised against consuming rice drinks and biscuits.

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The analytical technology to be applied for the assessment of arsenic species, highlighting iAs, is continuously updated and reviewed^{43,73–84}. Nearing et al. ⁸⁵ reviewed additional analytical methods suitable for obtaining data to complement the information on arsenic speciation obtained when applying the methods commonly used. Among such complementary methods, electrospray mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) is most useful for identifying or complementing information on several arsenic compounds with more

complex molecular structures than those corresponding to iAs species. Some articles report the use of some supplementary methods for iAs, among them Nearing et al. ⁸⁶ report X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) for As speciation in solid samples to obtain information on which As species cannot extracted, provided that enough mass remain after extraction, as a complementary information of HPLC-ICPMS technique, and Whaley-Martin ⁸⁷ in a study on arsenic species distribution in marine periwinkle tissues samples by HPLC-ICPMS, uses X-ray Spectroscopy (XAS) for the estimation of inorganic arsenic species and to reveal their high concentrations in contaminated samples. Some other general reviews of element speciation provide broad information on arsenic speciation, including analytical methodology and types of food ^{77,88–92}. Moreover the importance of maintaining the integrity of arsenic species during the overall analytical process, with final measurement by HPLC-ICPMS and HPLC-HG-AFS, is emphasized widely in a recent Review ⁹³.

Efforts have also been made in the last decades by Research scientists, government agencies (FDA and EPA), and commercial laboratories to establish methodologies for the specific determination of iAs in food products. The validation of such methods is mandatory to demonstrate their suitability for routine analysis in control laboratories. Reliable analytical methods are currently available and it can be expected that they will be considered in future Regulations from Government Agencies. For this, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) (CEN TC 327/WG 4) standardized a method (EN 16278:2012) for the determination of iAs in animal feeding stuffs by HG-AAS after microwave extraction and off-line separation of iAs by solid phase extraction (SPE) 94. Other two standards are published, such as: Chinese Standard Method GB/T 5009.11-2003 95; and EN 15517:2008 96. Currently, there is an ongoing proposal for CEN method to determine iAs in foodstuffs by HPLC coupled to inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (HPLC-ICPMS) (CEN TC275/WG10). The AOAC, through the AOAC International, invited method authors and developers to submit methods for quantitation of arsenic species in selected foods and beverages, that propose to meet the AOAC Standard Method Performance Requirements SMPR's. 2015.006 for quantitation of arsenic species in selected foods and beverages, and the preferred analytical technique for quantitation is HPLC-ICPMS, this proposal is currently in its fourth draft version 97. Furthermore, for future implementation of analytical methods for iAs determination in food control laboratories, the availability of validated methods as well as participation in proficiency testing (PT) and the analysis of CRMs is mandatory, according to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard ⁹⁸. Obviously, this is applicable to speciation of iAs in food; considering its toxicity and the need to develop methods that can be applied in routine analysis.

The present review summarizes recent analytical proposals, including the use of CRMs and the availability of specific PT for the determination of iAs in the most widely consumed food products, covering the period 2010-end of 2015. Increasing interest in the iAs contents of food products has led to a large number of studies being published on subjects such as: the evaluation of toxicity, bioaccessibility and bioavailability studies; the estimation of dietary intake; and estimations of iAs consumed by populations in different geographical areas. Such studies and the data they generate are beyond the scope of the present review; thus they are not included in it.

1.1. Overview of the literature

Due to the vast number of scientific publications on the subject of the present Manuscript, the authors have been selected the Web of Science database, widely accepted by the scientific community, as a basis to reflect the information. This database includes 50.2 million journal articles. A preliminary search provided us with more than 18,000 papers and reviews whose titles contain the term "arsen*" between 1985 and 2014. Refining the search and including the search terms "speci*" or "compo*" or "inorg*" in the titles, led to 3301 publications (Figure 1). The distinction between "species" and "compounds" is not entirely clear and several authors use the terms as though they were synonyms; so both terms could be found interchangeably in the titles, meaning the same. From the search reported above and the data obtained, Figure 1, representing the rate of publication related to As speciation, clearly shows a significant increase, making evident the interest in arsenic speciation within the scientific community over the last fifteen years. The blue plot in Figure 1 reveals a peak in interest in arsenic species over 2011-2014, which could be related to the increased focus on iAs in food by authorities and institutions ^{18,19}.It seems that this call could have encouraged researchers to produce more data on arsenic species in different food products and hence the number of publications has increased from 2010 to the present.

Refining the initial search and including "arsenite" or "arsenate" or "food", or food synonyms as well as types of food (rice, seaweeds, fish, etc.), in the title led to approximately 500 which are represented by the red plot in Figure 1. A tendency can be

observed in the literature related to arsenic and dealing with several subjects such as speciation, compounds, inorganic or food; this is an increase of the publication rate over recent years (2009-2014).

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Finally, the terms "speci*" and "compo*" were excluded from the last search and a more specific search was performed. Hence, we searched for papers and reviews including "arsen*" and either "inorg*", "arsenite" or "arsenate" in the title as well as including several terms in the title such as "food" or "nutrit*" and several types of food. This provided us with 250 approximately (Figure 1). The green plot in Figure 1 shows the same tendency: a rise in the numbers of publications dealing with iAs in food, surely due to the increasing emphasis on iAs in food by the authorities and institutions mentioned above.

Focusing on the period 2010-2015, 115 publications were found in the Web of Science database that deal with iAs in foodstuffs. These papers were sorted according to the research area of the publication and the Web of Science classification criteria (Figure 2a). A wide variety of fields was obtained and as can be seen, areas such as "chemistry", "environmental sciences ecology", "food science technology", and "toxicology" are the most cited in these publications related to iAs in food. From the data consulted, a detailed distribution of these publications, according to type of food analyzed, was elaborated and is represented in Figure 2b.It can be seen that more than 50% are related to "cereal-based food" and specifically "rice and rice products", which accounted to 43%. This means that research on iAs in the last five years focused on rice and its products; which is not surprisingly since rice is the main food of over half the world's population, owing to its nutritive properties and its relatively low cost. It is estimated that in many countries, rice may contribute as much as 50% of the daily intake of protein, and in Asian countries it is a staple food. Furthermore, it is estimated that the As content of rice is over 10 times greater than that found in other cereals ^{99,100}. As stated above, cereal-based food and especially rice and its products are among the foods that contribute most to iAs exposure in the European population. It seems quite clear that speciation research focused on cereals and rice, motivated by the recommendations of the EFSA 18 and JECFA 19 reports. The second and the third groups are "fish and shellfish" and "seaweed and algae" which represent 17% and 10%, respectively (Figure 2b). Marine foods usually have higher tAs (in the range of mg As kg⁻¹) than rice or cereals (in the range of μg As kg⁻¹); however, the proportion of iAs in such food is very low compared to that in terrestrial foodstuffs. The non-toxic

arsenobetaine is the major compound in fish and shellfish; while it is the so-called "potentially toxic" arsenosugars in "seaweed and algae" ¹⁰¹. Other minor groups (3%) are "vegetables and tubers", "mushrooms" and "dietary supplements".

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2. ANALYTICAL METHODS AND MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES

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In analytical element speciation the best way to ensure there are no alterations of the species across the overall analytical process, including sampling, in general consists of the use of techniques capable of performing the measurements in situ. Nevertheless, very few techniques are selective and sensitive enough to determine individual elemental species at trace levels. In practice, analytical speciation involves two main steps: extraction and measurement. Figure 3 summarizes an overall scheme including the most important steps in element speciation, and highlights specific information for iAs determination in food products. The steps need proper optimization to guarantee minimal changes to the original species, especially in complex matrices, such as different foodstuffs. The challenge is greater when a single group of species has to be determined, as in the case of iAs, from among other arsenic species that are present in the samples. Some reviews focus on specific analytical aspects, such as sampling and sample pre-treatment^{82,102–106}. From the large number of proposals for arsenic speciation within the field of food analysis, we summarize here those developed with the aim of determining iAs contents. Two groups of methods are reported here, based on either direct measurement techniques (2.1) or on the use of coupling systems between separation and detection (2.2). In both cases, preliminary steps of extraction or selective separation are also reported.

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2.1 Methods involving non-coupled techniques

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The vast majority of these methods are based on selective separation of arsenic species and spectroscopic detection; they are designed to determine only iAs species, the most toxic, and many of them are presented as alternatives to the use of ICPMS, which is more costly than other element detection techniques. Methods and applications based on such techniques are reported here by separately summarizing those that use direct measurement (A) and those that useHG, as a previous derivatization technique (B).

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2.1.A Techniques involving direct measurement

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Electrothermal atomic absorption spectrometry (ETAAS)

Electrothermal atomic absorption spectrometry (ETAAS), including its different atomization systems, is considered one of the most sensitive Atomic Absorption Spectrometric techniques, and several proposals have been made for As speciation in different matrices of interest, among them food samples. The determination of arsenic species can be considered a challenge when using ETAAS, since accurate optimization of the operational parameters, as well as the type of chemical modifiers, is required.

Lopez-Garcia et al. proposes arsenic speciation in fish-based baby foods using ETAAS¹⁰⁷. According to those authors, iAs, MA (monomethylarsonate), DMA (dimethylarsinate) and AB (arsenobetaine) can be determined using sample suspensions in TMAH (tetramethyl ammonium hydroxide) and by means of several injections using three different chemically modified ETAAS atomizers: cerium (IV), palladium salts and a zirconium-coated tube. This approach is qualified by those authors as semiquantitative due to the incomplete discrimination among arsenic species; but they claim it is suitable for food products where AB is the predominant compound, compared to methylated arsenic species. The same authors 108 applied dispersive liquid-liquid micro extraction for extracting the water-soluble arsenic species from organic phases (oils of animal or plant origin), achieving a pre-concentration and using ETAAS for final measurement; according to the authors although a reliable arsenic speciation is not achieved, the toxicity of water-soluble arsenic species: As(III), As(V) and MA present in edible oils can be assessed. Arsenic species and total iAs in rice is determined by using microwave-assisted dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction and measurement by ETAAS ¹⁰⁹. Dos Santos Costa et al. ¹¹⁰ determine arsenic species in rice by CPE (cloud point extraction) and ETAAS, using graphite tubes with different modifiers. Shah et al. ¹¹¹determines total As and iAs in samples of edible fish from the arsenic-contaminated Manchar Lake, Pakistan, and evaluated the estimated daily intake (EDI) of iAs. The method adopted allows the measurement of total As, after prior acidic digestion; whereas As(III) and As(V) are separated by two sequential steps with chloroform as the extracting agent and reducing As(V) to As(III). The corresponding extracts, as well as total As, are measured by ETAAS, using Mg (NO₃)₂ + Pd as a modifier. Pasias et al. ¹¹² develops and fully validates a method to determine total As and iAs in rice. The method is then applied to determine total As and its inorganic forms in several varieties of rice and rice flour samples from local markets in Lamia (Greece). The authors applies two selective extraction procedures: total iAs is extracted with EDTA in acidic media (1M HNO₃) whereas the determination of As(III) is performed by extraction with 1M HNO₃ and further addition of EDTA (as masking agent to prevent interferences of divalent cations) at pH 4.8, followed by addition of APDC at this pH, to form the complex with As(III), extracting it with MIBK and back extracting in HNO₃; Pd is chosen, among other chemical modifiers, for the ETAAS measurement of As in all extracts. Accuracy is assessed against the certified Reference Material IRMM 804 through the IMEP-107 PT (Proficiency Test).

In a study of As speciation in mono-varietal wines purchased in Mendoza (Argentina) Escudero et al.¹¹³ determines total As and iAs in samples of Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc varieties using ionic liquid (IL) dispersive micro extraction as a preconcentration technique, coupled with ETAAS. This system is applied to each separate fraction previously obtained of As(III), total iAs and total As. Zmozinski et al. ¹¹⁴ proposes direct solid sample analysis with a graphite furnace (SS-ETAAS) as a screening method for iAs determination in fish and seafood. A method for the determination of arsenate and total iAs in rice samples is proposed by Dos Santos Costa et al. ¹¹⁰; after whole extraction with HNO₃, arsenate is determined by cloud point extraction (CPE) of the complex formed with molybdate and As(V) in a sulfuric acid medium; while total iAs is extracted by the same CPE method, after previous oxidation of As(III) to As(V). In both cases, the final measurement is performed by ETAAS using Ir as the modifier.

Interest in the use of nano materials as sorbents to separate and preconcentrate trace elements is currently increasing, among them and a recent review ¹¹⁵ summarizes some applications of these materials as sorbents for arsenic complexes, applied to arsenic species determination with final measurement by spectroscopic techniques, among them ETAAS. Hassanpoor et al. ¹¹⁶ describes a new sorbent based on aluminium oxide nanoparticles functionalized by a ligand, applied as preconcentration system for inorganic arsenic speciation in spiked food samples, with final measurement by GFAAS

Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICPMS)

ICPMS has been widely used as a system for arsenic determination at very low levels and fundamental studies are frequently published.

D'Ilioet al. ¹¹⁷ reports and discusses the most common interferences found in As measurements, and proposals for correction. Rajakovic et al. ¹¹⁸ reports a study focused on estimating the limits of detection (LOD) for arsenic at trace levels, when using ICPMS. Those authors review current approaches and discuss them, supporting the conclusions with their experimental work. Bolea-Fernandez et al. ¹¹⁹reports information concerning performance mechanisms, interferences and new proposals dealing with the use of such detection systems applied to arsenic determination.

Among the applications of ICPMS as a technique for iAs determination in food, differences arise in the pre-treatment of the sample and the extraction system applied. Kucuksezgin et al. ¹²⁰, in a study on risk assessment based on the consumption of some edible marine organisms from Izmir Bay (eastern Aegean Sea),uses acidic digestion to determine total As; whereas separation of iAs is carried out in an alkaline medium with further oxidation of the arsenate. In both cases, final measurement of As is performed by ICPMS. Lewis et al. ¹²¹develops a study of the stability of fish (megrim) samples over time, under different conditions, to ascertain whether some variability of arsenic species can occur. Within the study, iAs, obtained by applying the method using extraction with chloroform after acidification and further reduction, and final back-extraction, is measured by an HR-ICPMS detector with Ga as the internal standard.

2.1.B Techniques involving hydride generation (HG) as a derivatization step

The use of HG as a tool may improve selectivity and sensitivity in elemental analysis and different proposals are frequently reviewed 122-125. Such system can easily be combined with spectroscopic and ICPMS detectors. Regarding arsenic, volatile arsines generated by reduction can be transported to the detector, avoiding chemical interference, thus achieving a very low LOD. The boiling points of the volatile arsines generated by reduction of inorganic and methylated forms of arsenic are sufficiently different to allow their separation. Nevertheless, HG is not suitable for arsenic compounds which cannot generate volatile hydrides by reduction; among such compounds arsenobetaine and arsenocholine, both usually present in fish-based food products, require transformation into iAs, capable of generating arsines by reduction. Moreover, efficiency in the formation of volatile arsines strongly depends not only on the type of original arsenic compounds in the sample, but on the matrix composition. The mechanisms of arsine generation, the gas transport systems leading to the detector

and detection conditions are frequently discussed. Sodium tetrahydroborate, NaBH₄, in acidic media, which is probably the most commonly used reducing agent for the generation of volatile arsines, is required in substantial amounts; and some alternatives have been proposed. Several specific conditions have been proposed and reviewed.

Thus, Wu et al. ¹²² reviews applications of several reducing systems other than tetrahydroborate; while D'Ulivo et al. 126 discusses the mechanisms of hydrides forming from iAs and from methylated arsenic species, by using NaBH4 and the formation of intermediate byproducts. Anawar¹²⁷discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the combined HG-ETAAS system, in a review focused on this combined technique applied to arsenic speciation. Lehmann et al. 128 proposes the determination of iAs by controlling the medium of reduction and detection by FI-HG-MF-AAS (flow injection-HG-metal furnace-atomic absorption spectrometry) as the final measurement technique. Leal et al.¹²⁹ and Chaparro et al.¹³⁰ in studies using flow systems as on-line pre-concentration systems, propose a multi-commutation flow system coupled to HG atomic fluorescence spectrometry (AFS) for the analysis of As. The method is applied to arsenic speciation and the determination of DMA and iAs using multi-syringe flow injection analysis (MSFIA) coupled to an HG-AFS system. Yang et al.¹³¹ uses a lowtemperature plasma-assisted chemical vapor generation method to avoid the use of large amounts of sodium tetrahydroborate for the generation of volatile arsines, with detection by HG-AFS. Chen et al. 132 proposes a method for selective separation of As(III) from As(V) based on adsorption on multi-wall carbon nanotubes functionalized with branched cationic polyethyleneimine (BPEI-MWNTs) and measurement by HG-AFS. Matousek et al. ¹³³ develops a method for arsenic speciation based on selective HG-cryotrapping-ICPMS, based on cryotrapping of arsines and desorption at their boiling points. Dados et al. 134 proposes a system to trap *insitu* arsenic hydrides previously generated using a nano-sized ceria-coated silica-iron oxide and final measurement of the slurry by ICPOES.

The recent applications of HG-spectroscopic detection, focused on the determination of iAs in food samples, are briefly summarized in the next few paragraphs, grouped by techniques.

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Hydride generation—atomic absorption spectrometry (HG-AAS)

Several studies propose previous sample extraction and concentration before measurement of iAs. Among them Uluzolu et al.¹³⁵ develops a method based on solid-

phase extraction (SPE) using Streptococcus pyogenes loaded on Sepabeads SP70 resin, for the speciation of As(III) and As(V). The method is applied to food samples of animal and plant origin. A method involving selective separation of As(III) and As(V) is proposed by Tuzen et al. 136. That method is based on the selective adsorption of As(III) onto Diaion HP-2MG resin coated with Alternaria solani. The method is applied to CRMs of plant origin. Rasmussen et al ¹³⁷ develops a method to determine iAs in food and feed samples of marine origin. The method involves off-line aqueous extraction and separation by SPE followed by HG-AAS (silica cell) detection. Optimized conditions during the extraction permit the selective separation of iAs from organic arsenic species such as AB, MA and DMA; the method is validated in-house. The same author ¹³⁸ also develops and validates another method based on the same extraction-pre-concentration system, optimized to obtain lower LOD and a higher throughput of sample extraction, to determine iAs in rice and rice products. Cerveira et al. 139 applies HG-AAS to measure iAs in several types of rice samples, after selective extraction with HNO3.Sun and Liu 140 develops a method for analysis of As(III) and total iAs in dietary supplements by using a slurry in the presence of 8-hydroxiquinoline. After generation of hydride, As(III) is determine with HG-AAS using a gas-liquid separator and an electrothermal quartz atomizer. Total iAs is measured after reduction of As(V) to As(III). The authors check the recovery in the determination of total iAs by comparing it with the Chinese Standard Method ⁹⁵ using HG-AFS for As measurement. The same method was applied for speciation of iAs in wheat and rice flours ¹⁴¹.

Among the applications of methods that already exist, several studies report iAs determination in food across different fields of interest. A method based on the determination of total As via dry ashing mineralization and quantification by FI-HG-AAS together with acidic digestion and chloroform extraction determines iAs from the back extraction¹⁴². This method is applied in Diaz et al. ¹⁴³ to determine total As and iAs in several algae species, for both human consumption and production of phytocolloids, harvested from different regions of the Chilean coast. Several research groups in Thailand apply a similar analytical method in several studies with different objectives, but all based on the assessment of total As and iAs in samples collected from different regions of Thailand. Those studies include: marine fish, mollusks and crustaceans ¹⁴⁴; freshwater fish and prawns ¹⁴⁵; and a comparative study of total As in fresh water fish sampled from natural water sources and aquaculture systems ¹⁴⁶. Three types of rice and rice bran produced from them are also analyzed and the results compared ¹⁴⁷. Ubonnuch

et al.¹⁴⁸analyzesrhizomes of Zingiberaceae, a family of plants collected in Thailand, as a preliminary assessment of therisk of consuming natural products. Ruangwises et al. (2010) ¹⁴⁹ and Ruangwises et al. (2011) ¹⁵⁰ evaluate the intake of total As and iAs within populations from two contaminated areas of Thailand. Also, a study is developed to assess the risk of cancer due to exposure to iAs in Ronphibun, Thailand ¹⁵¹, by applying the guidelines in USEPA 2001. Mania ¹⁵² reports a method for the determination of tAs and iAs in fish products, seafood and seaweeds; iAs is determined by reduction with hydrobromic acid and hydrazine sulphate, followed by extraction with chloroform, back-extraction and ashing. Measurement of iAs in the dissolved ash is performed by HGAAS. A recent Review on recent progress on vapor-generation-atomic as pre concentration in spectrometric techniques from Gil ¹⁵³ include arsenic speciation, among other elements.

Hydride generation-atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HG-AFS)

Several studies report using HG-AFS to measure total As and iAs in different food samples. In a study of the arsenic content of several commercial Spanish garlic samples, Sousa Ferreira et al. ¹⁵⁴proposes a method for screening of As(III) and As(V) based on extraction with H₂SO₄.In that study As is further measured in two aliquots in which the differences in the efficiency of HG with and without previous reduction is evaluated by means of two equations relating to the two oxidation states of As. G. Chen and T. Chen 155 proposes the quantification of iAs in rice via initial extraction with HNO₃ and H₂O₂ after which the resulting As(V) is selectively retained in a SPE cartridge (silica-based SAX) and iAs determined after elution and generation of arsine. The experimental conditions for acid-oxidizing extraction, absorption in an SPE cartridge and the generation of arsine are carefully optimized and discussed in depth. B.Chen et al. ¹⁵⁶ describes a fast screening method for total As and iAs in a wide variety of rice grains of different geographic origins, with the different matrices having no significant influence on the final measurements. For total As, UV-HG-AFS is used since the oxidative photolysis ensures quantitative oxidation of all the As species to As(V).

Hydride generation-inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (HG-ICPMS)

Several methods are proposed to suitable screening of iAs in food samples using an oxidative acidic extraction. Musil et al. 157 reports a method based on the extraction of

iAs with HNO₃ and H₂O₂, and then on the use a selective HG coupled to ICPMS. To achieve this, HCl and NaBH₄ concentrations are optimized to volatilize almost exclusively arsines from the iAs, while minimizing possible volatile compounds generated from other organoarsenic compounds present in the samples. The method is applied to rice and seafood samples. The same method is further applied by Pétursdóttiret al. ¹⁵⁸ for the analysis of a wide number of rice samples. Moreover, both methods are compared with the more widely used one involving HPLC-ICPMS for measurement and the results are shown to be comparable.

2.2 Methods using coupled techniques

Many proposals have been made for arsenic speciation by combining techniques that provide efficient separation of the species with suitable detection and quantification. These coupled techniques provide a high degree of automation, good reproducibility and offer application in different fields. Among them, here we mention some reviews that are specifically dedicated to arsenic speciation with coupled techniques ^{73,78,79,83,105,159}. In addition, some more general reviews of analytical techniques include arsenic speciation. Some of them describe food samples or summarize such aspects as pre-treatment, extraction and preservation of the arsenic species, pre-concentration, how to overcome matrix interference and specific instrumental conditions (such as types of nebulizers, the use of a dynamic reaction cell and internal standards) ^{76,77,82,88,90,91,160–162}. Some studies treat and discuss a specific subject in depth, as in the work of Pétursdóttiret al. ¹⁶³ concerning the influence of the extraction step on the analysis of iAs in seafood, with measurement by coupled techniques. Next we summarize studies of applications of coupled techniques for iAs determination in several types of food, according to the separation technique.

2.2.A Coupled techniques that use HPLC as the separation technique

Most information corresponds to coupling techniques that use HPLC to separate As species. We consider applications based on HPLC-AAS, HPLC-HG-AFS and HPLC-ICPMS. No applications have been found of HPLC-ICPAES. Based on these coupling options, most studies use HPLC-ICPMS. Nevertheless, we also include studies using HPLC and detection systems other than ICPMS and that report iAs contents,

along with some other species, to highlight interest in its toxicity. The vast majority of studies based on HPLC use strong anion exchange columns (SAX) and NH₄H₂PO₄, NH₄NO₃ or NaHCO₃ as the mobile phase. Thus, in the following information, the type of chromatographic system is only reported in studies that use a system other than these.

The coupled technique HPLC-MS or HPLC-MS/MS, proposed for arsenic speciation in samples containing more complex compounds than those considered as iAs, has been applied to obtain molecular structure information on arsenic compounds of interest, although in general with no proved toxic effects, and has been shown not to be suitable for small molecules such as arsenate, arsenite and their methylated compounds.

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HPLC-atomic absorption spectrometry (HPLC-AAS)

Since very few applications of this technique were found, each is mentioned here. Tian et al. 164 develops a gas-liquid separator for gradient arsenic HG, interfaced between HPLC coupled to the AAS detector, using a reversed-phase column and using sodium 1-butanesulfonate, malonic acid, tetramethylammonium hydroxide, MeOH and ammonium tartrate as the mobile phase. After optimizing the transport of the hydrides to the detector, the method is applied to the determination of arsenic species in hijiki algae. Niedzielski et al. 165 aims to determine iAs and DMA in species of mushrooms collected from forests in Poland with different degrees of contamination, as well as some that are commercially available. The extraction of arsenic species is performed with phosphoric acid with Triton X100 and the species are measured by HPLC-HG-AAS with a quartz atomizer and Ar as the carrier gas. HPLC-HG-AAS is used by Mleczek et al. 166 for inorganic arsenic determination in edible mushrooms and cultivation substrates. Bergés-Tiznado et al. 167 analyzes cultured oyster samples from the SE Gulf of California in Mexico; although a non-coupled technique is used, since the corresponding fractions are collected from two HPLC columns (anionic and cationic) are finally measured by ETAAS. Only two samples are reported to have very low contents of iAs.

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HPLC-Hydride generation-atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HPLC-HG-AFS)

A review by Y-W Chen et al.¹⁶⁸ describes relevant chemical and instrumental aspects, as well as applications, of this coupled technique for the speciation of some elements; among them arsenic. For this element, the literature on speciation in some

food materials is included, among a wide number of matrices. Extraction systems as well as the stability of the chemical species throughout the overall chemical process are also included. Jesus et al. 169 proposes a method for arsenic speciation by adding sequential injection analysis: SIA-HPLC-AFS. In such a system, while the chromatographic detection operates in the usual way, the SIA module is programmed to inject sequentially the standard additions of the arsenic species. The method is applied to the analysis of seafood extracts to quantify the most toxic species: As(III),As(V), MA and DMA. Garcia-Salgado et al. 170 applies HPLC-HG-AFS using both anionic and cationic columns, which includes a photo oxidation step, resulting in HPLC-(UV)-HG-AFS, to carry out arsenic speciation in edible algae extracts. The same authors in Garcia-Salgado et al. ¹⁷¹use the same technique in a study of the stability of toxic arsenic species and arsenosugars in hijiki alga samples under several storage conditions. They highlight the predominance of As(V)in such food. Cano-Lamadrid et al. 172 applies HPLC-HG-AFS to determine iAs, together with MA and DMA, in rice samples collected from different provinces of Iran. Extraction of the arsenic species is carried out using TFA and the iAs levels are found to be below the maximum FAO residue limit of 200 µgkg⁻¹ for rice ⁶³.

HPLC-inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (HPLC-ICPAES)

In a study of interference to the determination of iAs in seaweed by ion chromatography (IC)-ICPAES, Cui et al. ¹⁷³ assays two extractants: HNO₃ and MeOH. That study concludes that suitable performance was not obtained with either system and the authors propose an alternative method for the determination of total iAs from seaweed. They add concentrated HCl and after separation, HBr and hydrazine sulfate are added to reduce As(V) to As(III); extraction of iAs with chloroform is finally carried out and measured by ICPAES.

HPLC-inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (HPLC-ICPMS)

As mentioned above, this technique has been the most commonly used over the last decade to determine arsenic species in several matrices. Here we summarize studies whose aim is the specific determination of iAs in food products. Furthermore, some studies to determine other arsenic species but that highlight the importance of obtaining information on iAs contents are also considered, reporting the suitability of this technique for arsenic speciation.

Thus, Prinkler et al. 174 compares different methods of signal treatment to improve the LOD of the different species, as an attempt to decrease the noise signal. The study obtained different signal-to-noise ratios according to the convolution of the signal treatment systems with Gaussian distribution curves, for the noise reduction via Fourier transform or wavelet transform. The study concludes that the last method was the most appropriate. Ammann¹⁷⁵used a narrow-bore chromatographic system with low flow rates to optimize the efficiency of the nebulizers when using high resolving sectorfield ICPMS as the detection system. Chromatographic performance for arsenic species separation and interference with the detection are discussed. Amaral et al ¹⁷⁶ uses ICP-QMS in the coupled system and proposes the use of ⁸³Kr⁺ instead of Ar for the interference standard method (ISM) to overcome the most common sources of interference that occur in Ar plasma. The system improved both the accuracy and sensitivity of arsenic species determination. Some reviews and studies report sample preparation and extraction methods for arsenic speciation in food as a preliminary step before measurement ¹⁰³. Grotti et al. ¹⁷⁷ discusse the influences of the arsenic species on the ICPMS signal when working at a low liquid flow rate (µHPLC-ICPMS). In general, different ICPMS responses are originated by differences in the volatility of the elemental species, as discussed by several authors. After assaying and comparing different nebulizers/spray chamber systems, this study supports this assumption and recommends species-specific calibration for the quantification of arsenic species. Jackson et al. ¹⁷⁸ proposes a general approach for arsenic speciation by modifying the existing method and using carbonate eluents for a small particle size, short Hamilton PRP-X100 column which is interfaced with an ICPMS triple quadrupole, Agilent 8800 ICP-QQQ, using oxygen as the reaction gas and detection of AsO at m/z 91.

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Among the types of food to which HPLC-ICPMS is applied for the determination of toxic iAs compounds, rice and rice-based products, and to a lesser extent other cereals, are the focus of increasing interest; as reported in studies this decade. Among the applications, the optimization of extraction systems to obtain selective extraction of iAs is one of the main objectives, but when applying a separation–detection coupled system, information on methylated arsenic species in those types of samples is also obtained and reported. Thus, the studies using this technique report results for iAs as well as DMA and MA, and they differ mainly in the extraction systems for arsenic species. The variety of extraction systems and measurement conditions are summarized next, according to the target food type.

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Rice and rice products

Huang et al. ¹⁷⁹ studies several extraction systems that ensure suitable extraction 612 613 of iAs compounds while preserving any possible transformation between As(III) and As(V) during the process, and finally proposes extraction with 0.28 mol L⁻¹ HNO₃ at 614 95°C for 90 min. The method was applied to several types of rice samples. Narukawa 615 and Chiba ¹⁸⁰ develops heat-assisted extraction with water for arsenic speciation in rice 616 flour at 90°C for 3h. The authors discuss optimization of the extraction parameters in 617 618 depth, as well as the influence of sample particle size on the extraction conditions, by 619 considering information obtained from SEM (scanning electron microscopy) analysis of 620 the surface of samples. For separation of arsenic species, a C18ODS L-column was used 621 with sodium 1-butanesulfonate/malonic acid/tetramethylammonium hydroxide/MeOH as the mobile phase. Nishimura et al. ¹⁸¹develops a partial digestion method using 0.15 622 mol L-1 HNO₃. After assaying 80°C and 100°C, the latter temperature was adopted for 623 624 extraction, for 2 h, of iAs, MA and DMA from several varieties of rice from Japan. Paik et al. 182 proposes and validates a method based on ultrasonic extraction with 625 626 MeOH:water (1:1) containing 1% HNO₃ in a study of arsenic speciation in eleven 627 polished rice samples cultivated near areas of South Korea polluted by mining and for iAs finds a mean value of 25.5 µg kg⁻¹. Huang et al. 183 validates the method established 628 before for iAs determination ¹⁷⁹ by applying it to rice CRMs and through participation 629 in the PT IMEP-107 46,184, dedicated to the determination of iAs in rice. The validated 630 method is applied to twelve types of rice samples of different origins. The 631 concentrations of As(III) and As(V) increased with increasing total grain As 632 concentration, and As(III) was predominant in almost all the samples analyzed, 633 independent of the rice origin. Narukawa et al. 185 proposes specific monitoring test for 634 iAs in rice, based on a previously developed and validated method, using water as the 635 iAs extractant¹⁸⁰. The method is applied to 20 white rice flour samples. For separation, a 636 637 C18 column with sodium 1-butanesulfonate/malonic acid/tetramethylammonium hydroxide/MeOH as the mobile phase was used and arsenobetaine was used as the 638 639 internal standard. Different percentages of iAs, with respect to total As, were found, depending on the geographical origin of the samples. In a further publication ¹⁸⁶ the 640 641 same research group develop a similar method after the study of several eluents and elution conditions and adopting for separation a C18 column with sodium 1-642 643 butanesulfonate/malonic acid/tetramethylammonium hydroxide/MeOH as the mobile

phase with the addition of an additional buffer containing NH₄H₂PO₄ and 0.05% acetonitrile, with final pH 2.7. Under such conditions an improvement of the sensitivity for As(III) and As(V), with respect to the previous method, is achieved. The method is applied to the determination of As(III), As(V), MA, DMA and AB in three rice-based CRMs. Llorente-Mirandes et al. 40 optimizes and validates a method for the determination of arsenic species in rice. The arsenic species were extracted with a mixture of 0.2% HNO₃ and 1% H₂O₂ in a microwave (MW) system, to completely oxidize As(III) to As(V). Full validation is performed and the relative expanded uncertainty is estimated, based on the top-down method. The validated method is applied to the determination of arsenic species in 20 samples of rice and rice products. Sommella et al. ¹⁸⁷determines total As and iAs in several Italian rice samples. Extraction is performed with 1% HNO₃ and further addition of H₂O₂, while separation is by anion exchange column and quadrople ICPMS is used for detection. The iAs contents varied with the region of Italy the samples came from. Maher et al. 188 extracts arsenic species using 2% HNO₃ before measurement by the coupled technique. Both cation and anion exchange columns are used for separation. The analysis is also carried out by XANES (X-ray absorption near edge structure) and the results of both measurement techniques compared, showing general agreement.. The method is applied to rice samples from different countries. Kim et al. 189 uses 1% HNO3 at 80°C for 30 min for the extraction of arsenic species from 30 samples of rice grain collected from regions in South Korea known to contain arsenic, as well as 34 polished rice samples from the USA. The As(III) concentration in the American rice samples was slightly lower than that in the samples collected in Korea. Baba et al. 190 performs iAs, MA and DMA analysis by extracting them with 0.15 mol L⁻¹ HNO₃ for 120 min at 100°C. The authors summarize the chromatographic separation modes used for arsenic speciation; among them anion exchange columns are the most widely used although several other chromatographic systems are mentioned and discussed. They adopt the use of PFP (pentafluorophenyl) columns, after assaying and comparing some systems. The best results were obtained with a Discovery HS F5 column in isocratic mode and, after optimization of the elution conditions, 0.1% HCOOH and 1% MeOH, the latter as an organic modifier to enhance the signal. AB is used as the internal standard. The method is applied to several samples of rice purchased from markets in Japan. Narukawa et al. 191 assays various extraction systems for arsenic speciation in rice flour and the efficiencies are discussed in depth. Moreover, prevention of possible changes in the arsenic species during the processes, as

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well as the effects of the most common sources of interference on the separation and on the detection are also reported and discussed. A proposal for both As(III) and As(V) extraction from rice flour is based on $0.15 \text{ mol } L^{-1} \text{ HNO}_3 \text{ containing Ag in a heat block,}$ and if only iAs is required, the proposal is based on extraction with $0.5 \text{ mol } L^{-1} \text{ HNO}_3$ and H_2O_2 in a heat block. For separation, a C_{18} column with sodium 1-butanesulfonate/malonic acid/tetramethylammonium hydroxide/MeOH as the mobile phase is used. Sinha 29 uses LC-ICPMS, after extraction of arsenic species with 2 mol L^{-1} TFA (trifluoroacetic acid) in a study to evaluate and compare contents of iAs in rice samples grown in a contaminated area and the relationship with the arsenic content in the irrigation waters.

Cereal-based food

As a part of a study of the distribution and speciation of arsenic in wheat grain from field-grown crops from European countries, Zhao et al. 192 determine iAs species in whole meal and white wheat flour samples. The extraction of the species is performed with HNO₃ and H₂O₂ under MW. Tsai and Jiang ¹⁹³ proposes an extraction system based on that established by Mar et al. 194 (which uses MW-assisted enzymatic digestion with Protease XIV and amylase) optimizing the conditions by extending the digestion time with respect to the proposed by Mar et al. ¹⁹⁴, and applies it to the analysis of cereals. The final measurement is performed by IC-DRC-ICPMS (IC-dynamic reaction cell-ICPMS). D'Amato et al. 195 focuses on the sample treatment to obtain a good yield of arsenic species without degradation. After assaying different methods, MW extraction with HNO3 was the most effective. The conditions are detailed in depth, including lyophilization and elimination of the residual humidity, and the method is applied to wheat and wheat products. Llorente-Mirandes et al.³⁹ performs a fully validated method, based on ⁴⁰, for the determination of arsenic species in a large number and variety of samples of cereal-based food products and infant cereals. The method is used by the Laboratory of the Public Health Agency of Barcelona under accreditation by ENAC/Spanish National Accreditation Entity, according the ISO/IEC 17025 standard, for its application in cereal-based food products.

Infant food

The method of Llorente-Mirandes et al. ³⁹ mentioned above was applied to the determination of arsenic species in 9 samples of infant cereal products. Brockman and

Brown IV ¹⁹⁶ proposes an initial extraction with water at 98°C for 3 h and later addition of hydrogen peroxide to the aqueous filtrate obtained. The resulting arsenate, MA and DMA from infant rice cereals are analyzed by this coupled technique. The authors conclude that iAs was found in all of the infant rice products in a large range between 33% and 77% of total As. Jackson et al. ³⁷, in a broad study of iAs content in infant formulas and first foods, used an extraction with 1% HNO₃ following a progressive heating program with MW from 55°C to 95°C. For measurement, two chromatographic systems were used: both based on two anionic exchange columns, and with either phosphate at pH 6 as the mobile phase or with tetramethyl ammonium hydroxide. The samples, purchased from supermarkets, included 15 infant formulas, 41 fruit purees, and 18 second- and third-stage foods. As concentrations < 23 ng/g were found. Juskelis et al. ¹⁹⁷, in a study for a survey of arsenic in rice cereals for infants, applied an extraction method for iAs, MA and DMA based on the use of 0.28 M HNO3 at 95°C for 90 min in a block digestion system. A total of 31 different samples of organic wholegrain rice, mixed-grain flour, organic rice and rice flour were analyzed and the results showed that the iAs levels varied among all the samples studied: values in the range of µg iAs per serving, for all the samples are reported (considering 15 g per serving, according to the reference amount customarily consumed (RACC) per 21 CFR 101.12). Recently Signes-Pastor ³⁸ in a study on rice-base products for children, uses IC-Q-ICPMS after extraction with HNO₃ 1% under MW, for the determination of iAs in a large number of samples from the UK shops and supermarkets.

Other types of food

The coupled technique HPLC-ICPMS has also been applied for arsenic speciation in types of food other than rice and cereals. In many cases, as for example in several types of food of marine origin, the number of arsenic species could be high. However, as mentioned above, in such samples there are drawbacks caused by the presence of polyatomic sources of interference arising from chloride .Several correction systems have been proposed such as high-resolution MS and quadrupole-based instruments with a reaction cell or collision cell ¹⁶⁰; or the use of the interference standard method (IFS)¹⁷⁶. In complex food matrices, the selective extraction of iAs is more difficult than it is from rice and cereal samples. When analyzing complex matrices, a shift in the retention time of the iAs species (As(III) and As(V)) may be observed, and consequently co-elution with organic arsenic species (arsenobetaine,

arsenosugars and others) may occur. Moreover, not all extractant reagents (MeOH/water, dilute HCl, HNO₃, TFA, NaOH, etc.) quantitatively extract iAs from the matrix. As a consequence, the analytical proposals reported in the literature are scarcer and here we summarize those applications in which the main goal is the selective determination of iAs.

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Dufailly et al. 198 validates a method using IC-ICPMS for measurement, after ultrasound-assisted enzymatic extraction (UAEE) with protease XIV and α -amilase. The method is validated for a variety of food samples including rice, infant food and fish. Mao et al. 199 develops highly polar stir bar sorptive extraction (SBSE) for arsenic species, coated with TiO₂-PPHF (polypropylene hollow fiber), coupled to HPLC-ICPMS. A C₁₈chromatographic column with MeOH/water, and sodium butane sulfonate/malonic acid is used as the mobile phase. The method is applied to determine arsenic species, including iAs, in chicken samples. Raber et al. 200 proposes an extraction method based on 0.02 mol L⁻¹ trifluoroacetic acid with 30% H₂O₂ under sonication. In a second step, 95°C of heat is applied for 60 min in an Ultraclave MW system. The method is applied to rice, wheat and tuna fish samples. Julshamn et al.²⁰¹ applies an extraction method for iAs based on 0.07 mol L⁻¹ HCl and 3% H₂O₂ at 90°C for 20 min. The method is applied to determine iAs in 25 fish samples from Norwegian seas. Pétursdóttiret al. 202, in a study to establish a method to determine iAs in seafood, assayed three extraction methods based on 0.07 mol L-1 HCl in 3% H₂O₂; 2% HNO₃ or NaOH in 50% EtOH. The results are discussed; pointing out that some of them could influence the performance of the separation. HG was introduced for measurement in the coupled technique, resulting in HPLC-HG-ICPMS. This additional step, which uses NaBH₄ in an HCl medium as a reducing agent, enhances the sensitivity, since the volatile hydrides generated enter quantitatively into the plasma in a measurable fashion, and in this study LOD improved 10- to 100-fold, with respect to conventional nebulization systems. Narukawa et al. 203 studies extraction methods for As(III) and As(V) from several edible algae, including 15 samples of *Hizikia fusiforme*. They assay MeOH, HNO₃, THAH, pepsin and α-amylase, under three extraction conditions: ultrasonic, heat-assisted and MW-assisted, and conclude that extraction with water under ultrasonic conditions is the most useful for monitoring iAs in hijiki and the other algae studied. For separation, a C₁₈ chromatographic column is used, with sodium 1butanesulfonate/malonic acid/tetramethylammonium hydroxide/MeOH as the mobile phase. Contreras-Acuña ²⁰⁴ from a study of ultrasonic and microwave-based extraction

methods, the authors chose the last option for the extraction of arsenic species, among the inorganic forms, from anemones samples by final measurement by both HPLC-ICPMS and HPLC-MS techniques. Khan 205 validate a method for the determination of As(III), As(V), AB, AC, DMA and MA in a wide number of samples from five seaweed species after extraction with MeOH in 1% HNO3 under sonication and measurement by LC-ICPMS. In a study about the contents of arsenic and arsenic species in Belgian food ²⁰⁶ species of marine and freshwaters fish are analyzed; water under MW assisted extraction followed by HPLC-ICPMS is used for arsenic speciation analysis; in the discussion about the extraction of arsenic species the authors stated that the method used is sufficiently suitable for the purpose of their study. Numerous studies have been reported on arsenic speciation in marine fish if compared with those on freshwater fish. To take some example Ciardullo et al. 207, in a study on several fish species collected from the Tiber river reports extraction of arsenic species with methanol:water (1:1) and measurement with HPLC-ICPMS. The study emphasizes on the optimization of the conditions to achieve the best recovery in the extraction efficiency.

In a study of the iAs content of dietary supplements, considering that no maximum levels for As are included in the recent EU regulations, Hedegaard ²⁰⁸ studies 16 different dietary supplements based on herbs, other botanicals and algae collected from stores in Denmark, with origins in China (9), Taiwan (1), Denmark (5) and the USA(1). Extraction with 0.006 mol L⁻¹ and 3% H₂O₂ at 90°C for 20 min is applied. For measurement, a polymer strong anion exchange column with 3% ammonium carbonate adjusted to pH 10.3 is used. To estimate the exposure, the corresponding daily dose is considered for each supplement. In work on the shiitake species *Lentinula edodes* ³⁶, several types of edible shiitake mushrooms are extracted with 0.02% HNO₃ and 1% H₂O₂ in a MW system; the results show that iAs is the predominant As species. Piras et al. ²⁰⁹ determines tAs and iAs in samples of several marine organisms collected from the Boi Cerbus Lagoon in Sardinia (Italy): an important fishing area. The iAs is determined using HPLC-ICPMS after extraction with HCl0.07mol L⁻¹and 3% H₂O₂.

Some studies determine iAs in fruit juices, following the recommendations of the FDA³⁵. Wang et al.²¹⁰ proposes iron-pairing chromatography with a ODS column and malonic acid/TBA/MeOH as the mobile phase, to determine iAs, MA and DMA in fruit juice samples, and fruit-based beverages: iAs is the major arsenic compound found.

Liu et al. ²¹¹ in a contribution on the arsenic species determination in chicken meat treated and not treated with roxarsone, establishes and validates method based in enzyme-assisted extraction of the arsenic species: As(III), As(V), AB, DMA, MA, 3-nitro-4hydroxyphenylarsinic acid (Roxarsone) and N-acetyl-4-hydroxy-m-arsanilic acid (NAHAA). After assaying some proteolytic enzymes and extraction systems, the method using papain with ultrasonication is adopted due to the highest extraction efficiency. For final measurement two techniques: LC-ICPMS and LC-ESIMS are used, by splitting the eluent of the chromatographic column to the ICPMS and ESIMS detectors simultaneously.

As a summary of results for iAs by HPLC-ICPMS in various types of food, several chromatograms are shown in Figure 4 (a-f): a) rice, b) infant multicereals, c) hijiki seaweed (*Sargassum fusiforme*), d) mushroom supplement (*Grifola frondosa*, commercially known as Maitake) e) tuna fish, and f) mussel. The chromatograms are unpublished results of research by our working group.

2.2.B Coupled techniques that use capillary electrophoresis (EC) as the separation technique

Capillary electrophoresis (CE) has been proposed as a coupled technique for element speciation, but fewer contributions are reported than for than HPLC. Previous problems associated with the interface with the different detection systems have recently been overcome²¹². Very few contributions have been found that deal with arsenic speciation in general over the last five years ^{213,214}. We now summarize those reports with applications to arsenic speciation in food samples; some of them include iAs results, although with no specific determination of iAs species.

Hsieh et al. ²¹⁵ couples CE with dynamic reaction cell ICPMS as the detector for arsenic speciation, with application to the CRM NRCC DOLT-3, in which the iAs value found was lower than the LOD, and to dietary supplements. Niegel et al. ²¹⁶ develops a method based on CE-ESI-TOF-MS (CE coupled to electrospray ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry) for arsenic speciation, with application to the analysis of some algae extracts; although no results for iAs compounds are obtained. Liu et al. ²¹⁷ proposes a novel interface (the commercial CE-ESI-MS sprayer kit) for CE-ICPMS and applies it to arsenic speciation in the CRMs TORT-2 and DORM-3, as well as to herbal plants and chicken meat, the results from which include iAs compounds. More recently, Qu et al. ²¹⁸ develops a method for arsenic speciation in rice and cereals. It is based on

the extraction of arsenic compounds by means of direct enzyme-assisted MW digestion, to reduce matrix effects in the final measurement by CE-ICPMS. The method is validated by applying it to the rice CRMs: NIST SRM 1568b and NMIJ CRM 7503-a.

2.3 Other analytical techniques

Some analytical techniques, other than those reported before have been reported for inorganic arsenic speciation, although few of them report applications to food samples. Here we summarize briefly few of them based on several analytical principles.

Among spectrophotometric analytical techniques Gürkan et al. ²¹⁹ describes a method to determine iAs by means of a CPE (cloud point extraction) procedure based on the formation of a complex with neutral red as the ion-pair reagent and using UV-vis detection (CPE-UV-Vis). The method allows the determination of As(III), total As and As(V), and is applied to alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage samples. The same authors ²²⁰ propose Acridine Orange, AOH ⁺ using Triton X-114 with tartaric acid pH 5.0 as a new ion pairing complex formation of As(V), for applying it to the method above described, which is applied to determine iAs in beverage and rice samples.

Some electrochemical techniques have been developed for the measurement of iAs. Liu and Huang ²²¹ reviews recent contributions of voltammetric methods for the determination of iAs. That review considers types of electrode systems, including electrodes based on nanomaterials, and highlights the increased demand by researchers for sensors to measure *in situ*. The vast majority of applications of such systems have been applied to the analysis of iAs in water and waste water, or in some plant samples ²²² and no applications to the measurement of iAs in food samples have been found. A new arsenate selective electrode have been recently developed by Somer et al. ²²³, prepared from solid salts: Ag₃AsO₄, Ag₂S, Cu₂S; the responses of some interfering anions are studied, and it is applied to the determination of arsenate in beer.

Several biosensors for the detection iAs have been developed. They involve the coupling of a biologically engineered system with a sensitive analytical technique; they can be based on fluorescence ²²⁴, luminescence, electrochemical ²²⁵ or other analytical response ²²⁶. Different developments in this field are reviewed by ^{227,228}. A novel technique using Total-Reflection X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (TXRF) have been proposed for the measurement of arsenic species, by combining a pre-concentration system based on dispersive microsolid phase extraction (DMSPE), by using a new synthesized novel adsorbent ²²⁹. The literature warns that the application of these

techniques to complex matrices, such as environmental or food samples, is still a challenge.

In the preceding paragraphs the proposals for the determination of iAs in food were described, all of them based on instrumental analytical techniques, and therefore laboratory based. Anyway some proposal, as that recently reported by Bralatei et al. ²³⁰, based on the well-known Gutzeit method, is proposed as screening method for iAs in rice assuring quantification limits of about 50 µg kg ⁻¹.

3. ASSESSMENTOF QUALITY CONTROL

Noticeable efforts have been made in recent years to develop strategies to support the quality of results in speciation analysis. The preparation of suitable CRMs of different types of food and the organization of PT form the basis of these efforts; the use and application of both are mandatory in food control laboratories, as regulated by ISO/IEC Standard 17025 ⁹⁸. A comprehensive scheme of QA in analytical chemistry laboratories would include the following elements: validation of analytical methods; use of CRMs; routine application of internal QC; and participation in PT²³¹.Method validation is an essential component of the measures that a laboratory should implement to allow it to produce reliable analytical data and demonstrate whether the method is fit for a particular analytical purpose. Typical performance characteristics of analytical methods are: applicability, selectivity, calibration, trueness, accuracy, precision, recovery, operating range, LOD and limits of quantification (LOQ), sensitivity, uncertainty, ruggedness and fitness-for-purpose ²³².

The following subsections specifically focus on the evaluation of the accuracy of the method by means of use of certified reference materials (CRMs) (3.1), and on participation in PT (3.2) as external QC of method validation. Besides, section 3.1 is subdivided and the text focuses on: CRMs available foriAs (3.1.1);other CRMs available with a certified total arsenic value (3.1.2); other strategies to evaluate accuracy (3.1.3).

3.1. Use of certified reference materials (CRMs)

CRMs are useful to evaluate the accuracy of the analytical method; both for validation and QC purposes. In any case the differences of matrix composition between the sample and the CRM have to be carefully evaluated, since such differences may prevent reach satisfactory results. Sample treatment (digestion, extraction, etc.), separation and measurement processes are all subject to errors such as contamination, degradation, matrix effects, instability and interconversion of arsenic species, and calibration errors. Recovery, mass balance and QA/QC of the analytical method should be determined in all the steps of the procedure (Figure 3). CRMs are traceable to international standards with a known uncertainty and therefore can be used to address all aspects of bias, assuming that there is no matrix mismatch. CRMs should be of similar composition of real samples and have concentration levels similar to those of the samples analyzed²³². CRMs are provided by various organizations, such as: the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM), the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Metrology Institute of Japan (NMIJ), the National Research Council of Canada (NRC-CNRC), the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS), the China National Analysis Center for Iron and Steel (CNCIS), the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS) and the Antarctic Environmental Specimen Bank (BCAA) all produce CRMs for different matrices.

The first food CRMs were certified for tAs content and were produced several decades ago. Later, since the toxicological effects of arsenic species differ markedly between them, some analytical methods were developed to quantify the mass fraction of the species in various matrices. The start was made with environmentally and food matrices of relevant species. Feasibility studies of some arsenic species (e.g. AB and DMA) were performed in the 1990s and 2000s. In the last years, efforts on the production of CRMs with inorganic arsenic value in food, especially rice, are performed. Although considerable progress has been made regarding the establishment of specific and sensitive analytical methodology for arsenic species, few CRMs are available with certified values for arsenic species in food samples.

As far as the authors know, few CRMs are available with certified values for some arsenic species (AB and/or DMA). Among them the CRM BCR-627 Tuna Fish was one of the first materials certified for As species and it was produced by IRMM in 1999²³³. The material was certified for tAs, DMA and AB values. Years after

certification, the material is still available from the IRMM website²³⁴, which means that AB and DMA species are stable over time and no transformation or degradation is produced²³⁵. More recently, three other marine food materials have been produced, extending the availability of suitable fish and shellfish CRMs with certified AB value: TORT-3 Lobster Hepatopancreas (NRC-CNRC), CRM 7402-a Cod Fish Tissue and CRM 7403-a Swordfish Tissue(both from NMIJ).

3.1.1 CRMs available for inorganic arsenic

The commercially available food matrix CRMs with a certified iAsvalue are summarized in this section. Although some advances have been made in specific analytical methods for iAs determination in recent years, very few CRMs have been developed. Only rice and seaweed CRMs are available with a certified value for the iAs content. Five CRMs for iAs have been produced since 2009 by different institutions including NMIJ, NIST and IRMM. Four of them are rice matrices: NIST SRM 1568b, ERM-BC211, NMIJ CRM 7503a and NMIJ CRM 7532a, which are also certified for tAs and DMA. The other is hijiki seaweed (NMIJ CRM 7405a) which is also certified for tAs, and other arsenic species have been reported²³⁶. Inorganic arsenic results available from the literature for these CRMs in the period 2010-2015 are shown in Table II. The type of food, supplier, certified values, tAs reported, method and measurement technique for iAs determination are also shown. Based on the information provided in Table II, the need to produce more CRMs with a certified iAs value in different food matrices can be appreciated. Some aspects should be considered to select and analyze a representative CRM: the origin and type of the matrix, the type of As species and the level of concentration.

Some thermal process is generally applied before the pre-treatment of the CRMs. For example, SRM 1568b was dried for 24 h at 101° C while NMIJ 7532a was dried at 60° C for 8 h; in contrast, BC-211 was stored at -20°C before being processed. All the rice CRMs were milled and sieved or pulverized and mixed to ensure homogeneity. The hijiki CRM was washed, freeze-dried, freeze-pulverized, sieved and mixed for homogenization. For all of the CRMs, a sterilization step was applied by γ -irradiating the material at a range of doses in order to eliminate active bacteria as a potential source of instability for arsenic species. The producers of CRMs usually

recommend storing the materials shielded from sunlight or UV-radiation, in a clean place at room temperature or below. Only in the case of BC211 is it specified that the material should be stored at -20° C \pm 5°C, in the dark.

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Different approaches have been adopted by the producers to express the iAs mass fraction or concentration in the CRMs: three of the rice CRM (NIST 1568b, ERM-BC211 and NMIJ 7532a) are certified with iAs values (the sum of As(III) + As(V)); the other one is certified for As(III) and As(V) separately (NMIJ 7503a); and the seaweed (NMIJ 7405a) as arsenate. The inorganic species present in these CRMs are of natural origin, according to the certification reports, no spiking experiments were performed. The iAs level in the four rice CRMs ranged from 0.084 to 0.298 mg As kg⁻¹; the typical range for rice samples²⁴⁴. Typically, the iAs content in the brown rice CRM is higher than in the white rice CRMs, as commonly reported^{245–247}.

The first CRM released with a certified iAs value was CRM 7503-a rice and it was produced by NMIJ. The certificate is dated August 2009 and it is the most analyzed authors use it to assess the accuracy of iAs methods CRM. Several ^{39,40,180,183,190,191,218,237-242}. The mean value for iAs content of the values reported in Table II is 0.0823 ± 0.0037 mg As kg⁻¹ (mean value \pm standard deviation, n=16reported results) which is in perfect agreement with the certified value of iAs: 0.0841 ± 0.0030mg As kg⁻¹ (the sum of the certified As(III) and As(V) values \pm the square root of the sum of their squared uncertainties). Nine of the published values use different extraction methods, such as MW-assisted extraction (MAE) or heating in a block with several extractants such as HNO₃, HNO₃/H₂O₂, HClO₄, H₂O or enzymes; and with final measurement via the coupled HPLC-ICPMS technique, which allows iAs to be separated from methylated species and the iAs species to be determined satisfactorily^{39,40,180,183,190,191,237,239,241}. A study of bioaccessible extracts (0.07 mol L⁻ ¹HCl and 0.01 % pepsin) was performed using (HPLC-ICPMS) with a high-efficiency photooxidation (HEPO) and HG system²⁴². A bioaccessible iAs value close to the certified one was obtained: 0.0821 ± 0.0024 mg As kg⁻¹. Two authors selectively extract the iAs with HCl and subsequent extraction with chloroform of the iAs present in the acid medium^{238,240}, based on the method of Muñoz et al.¹⁴². The final determination is performed by ICPMS and results comparable to the certified value were obtained. Although CE-ICPMS is not usual in iAs determination, Qu et al. 218

extract iAs with an enzyme-assisted water-phase MAE and quantify by CE-ICPMS, reporting a satisfactory iAs value for the NMIJ 7503-a rice material.

Very recently, EC-JRC-IRMM has produced a rice CRM (ERM-BC211)which is certified for DMA and iAs as well as for tAs. Six studies analyze thismaterial 36,139,155,156,172,243 and the mean value for the reported iAs results is 0.122 ± 0.004 (mean \pm standard deviation, n=6 results) which is in agreement with the certified value: 0.124 ± 0.011 mg As kg⁻¹. Five studies use MAE with HNO₃ or HNO₃/H₂O₂ as the extractant solvent; two of them with determination of iAs by HPLC-ICPMS 36,243 and two by HG-AFS 155,156 and the other by HG-AAS 139 . Another study extracts iAs with TFA and determination is by HPLC-HG-AFS 172 .

SRM 1568bwhite rice was recently released by NIST and it is certified for arsenic speciation (DMA, MA and iAs). To date, two studies analyzes it to evaluate the accuracy of their methods; one is based on As species in rice by CE-ICPMS²¹⁸ and the other is focused on rice-based products for infants and young children by HPLC-ICPMS²⁴⁸. Finally, only one study was found that analyzes the NMIJ 7405a hijiki and the reported iAs value is in agreement with the certified one²⁴². The high content of iAs $(10.1 \pm 0.5 \text{ mg As kg}^{-1})$ in this seaweed is usually found in studies of hijiki (*Hizikia fusiforme*), which is known to bioaccumulate arsenic as iAs^{33,249}.

3.1.2 Other CRMs available with certified total arsenic value

Due to the lack of CRMs with a certified iAs value, many authors perform arsenic speciation analysis on CRMs in which the tAs content or other arsenic species are certified. For validation purposes, the data obtained is compared with data reported in the literature by different researchers. This is one of the most commonly used practices within the scientific community to evaluate accuracy without a certified iAs value. Furthermore, the sum of As species is usually compared with the certified total As content (a so-called mass-balance study) or with tAs determined in the sample extract (column recovery). Mass balances or column recoveries of 80%–110% of total As are considered acceptable. Values close to 100% indicate full quantification of the As species present in the sample and guarantee the correctness of the chromatographic separation.

Therefore, the following paragraphs focuses only on reported iAs values in food matrix CRMs; so studies reporting tAs or arsenic species in a CRM but not iAs results are not included in this section. The reported values are summarized in Table III, which includes type of food, supplier, certified values, total arsenic reported, iAs method, measurement technique and iAs value.

The authors wish to summarize the ability of the analytical community to perform iAs analysis in different food matrices CRMs. For this, we focus on reported iAs results in the most commonly CRMs analyzed: SRM 1568a rice, TORT-2 lobster and DOLT-4 fish. The reported results in these CRMs are shown in Figure 5and Figure 6for SRM 1568a and TORT-2, respectively; and in Table III for DOLT-4. Furthermore, specific highlights of iAs analysis in these CRMs are summarized in the following paragraphs.

In the case of SRM 1568a (Figure 5) and TORT-2 (Figure 6), reported results are tabulated according to the iAs value, from low to high, illustrating the capacity of the analytical community to measure the iAs content in these CRMs. There are different ways to express and publish iAs results for these CRMs in the original publications: total iAs; only arsenite or only arsenate; or both species separately. We express and summarize all the results as iAs, i.e.,the sum of arsenite plus arsenate, in order to facilitate comparison of the data. Therefore, in the Figures, the continuous lines represent the average concentration of iAs and the dashed lines delimit the target interval $X \pm SD$ in mg As kg⁻¹. The individual error bars represent the errors reported in the original publications. Where arsenite and arsenate were reported separately, the iAs value (the sum of arsenite and arsenate) and the error bar are calculated (the square root of the sum of their squared uncertainties or standard deviations). We note that researchers usually report results as mean value \pm error, which is predominantly SD for a number of replicates and in a few cases it is referred to the associated U value.

Highlights of inorganic arsenic analysis in SRM 1568a rice

For several years, NIST SRM 1568a rice has been analyzed as part of the method validation for the determination of As(III), As(V), MA, and DMA in rice. Although it is only certified for tAs content $(0.290 \pm 0.030 \text{ mg As kg}^{-1})$ and not for

arsenic species, it is routinely used to assess the accuracy of As species by comparing measured results with the literature. Almost no studies report results for more than 4 species and there seems to be agreement that the material only contains iAs and the two methylated species, as these are what are detectable by the majority of the methods employed in the literature reviewed.

Several authors analyze the rice material and dataset includes 46iAs results, as shown in Figure 5. Plotting the results chronologically does not lead to any further conclusion: there is no obvious change in the reported values as a function of time, although the time covered is short (2010-2015). The dataset includes one result outside the \pm 3 standard deviations range, 0.204 mg As kg⁻¹, so this is considered an outlier. If this value is excluded, the mean value for iAs is 0.098 \pm 0.009 mg As kg⁻¹ (X \pm SD, n=46 results, corresponding to 34% of the certified As), where the \pm term is the standard deviation (SD) of all the reported values. Although several methods and techniques are used by different researchers, it is worth noting that little dispersion of the iAs results was found. The iAs results range from 0.074 to 0.113 mg As kg⁻¹. Satisfactory agreement between the reported values and the calculated mean value is observed. If the reported values are expressed in terms of error, considering the mean value as a reference value, they would range from 76% to 116%.

Different measurement techniques are used to determine iAs content, with HPLC-ICPMS being the most common (with different HPLC columns, different authors 37,39,40,162,180found from several etc.): results were eluents, 183,187,190,193,195,197,198,200,239,241,251,266-274 whereas only one researcher used the HPLC-HG-AFS coupled system²⁷⁵. Several authors use non-coupled HG as a previous step to measuring iAs with different techniques. Five publications from the same group use FI-HG-AAS to determine iAs content^{147–151}; while two authors apply an HG-AFS system, one of them with a prior SPE step¹⁵⁵ and the other without SPE¹⁵⁶. Furthermore, a validated method using an SPE-HG-AAS system is applied¹³⁸; and also a speciation method using selective HG conditions and measuring by ICPMS is reported¹⁵⁷. In addition, a method for determination of inorganic arsenic by CPE-UV-Vis is used ²²⁰. Meanwhile, Lopez-Garcia et al. 107 reports a value for As(III) + As(V) + MA=0.099 mg As kg⁻¹ by ETAAS using suspensions prepared in 0.01 mol L⁻¹ TMAH, which is in close to the mean calculated value.

Different extraction solvents are used, supported by sonication, shaking, MAE or heating in a waterbath, etc. Some of these cause redox changes in the inorganic species producing a high dispersion in the values reported for arsenite or arsenate, and high uncertainty over the reported concentrations. In spite of high interconversion between arsenite and arsenate, the total iAs content remains constant and unaltered with no loss of analytes observed. This can be seen in Figure 5, in which the results are tabulated as iAs, and the majority of the data are inside the target interval $X \pm SD$. The most commonly used extraction solvent is dilute $HNO_3^{37,181,183,190,195,197,200,239,266-268,271-273}$. Other studies combine the use of HNO_3 with the addition of H_2O_2 to oxidize As(III) to As(V) and quantify the total iAs as $As(V)^{39,40,138,155-157,162,187,251}$. Also, a specific extraction method such as selective extraction of iAs with HCl and subsequent extraction with CHCl₃ of the iAs present in the acid medium is applied by several authors $^{147-151}$. Meanwhile, other extraction methods are also used to extract iAs from the rice material, including: enzymatic extraction 193,198,241 ; $H_2O_3^{162,180}$; MeOH/H₂O 182,269 ; TFA 200,274,275 ; and suspensions of TFA in $H_2O_2^{200}$, NH_3^{200} orTMAH 107 .

Despite the use of different extraction methods and measurement techniques, the values reported show no clusters related to the analytical approach. The concentration of iAs determined in this CRM does not seem to depend on the analytical methodology. The NIST website indicates SRM 1568a is not available at present (last access: May 2015): this material is currently "out of stock" and was superseded by SRM 1568b, which was certificated in October 2013. As specified in the certificate of analysis, the existing material from production of SRM 1568a was used to produce the new SRM 1568b. The certified mass fraction value for iAs in the new SRM is 0.092 ± 0.010 mg As kg⁻¹, which is in perfect agreement with the data previously reported for the analysis of the former NIST 1568a (iAs= 0.097 ± 0.009 mg As kg⁻¹). The expanded uncertainty for SRM 1568b (0.010mg As kg⁻¹) does include the mean of the values reported for SRM 1568a, and thus it is likely that the means are not significantly different. Therefore, we seem to be able to claim that the international analytical chemistry community is capable of measuring iAs content in rice.

Highlights of inorganic arsenic analysis in TORT-2 Lobster Hepatopancreas

Among the marine food CRMs, TORT-2 Lobster Hepatopancreas is one that is commonly analyzed in the literature. The material was produced by NRC-CNRC and the certificate is dated December 1994.It is certified for tAs content (21.6 \pm 1.8 mg As kg⁻¹, mean value \pm uncertainty) but not for arsenic species. Several As species have been reported in this material, with AB being the major species and DMA, MA and TMAO minor components 243,256 .

Thirty-four published iAs contents 137,163,202,217,243,256,259,276,277 are tabulated and shown in Figure 6. The dataset includes an outlier: 4.46 mg As kg⁻¹, which is excluded from our further calculations. Reported values range from 0.230 to 1.233 mg As kg⁻¹ for iAs; and the calculated mean value is 0.606 ± 0.215 mg As kg⁻¹ (X \pm SD, n=33 reported data), where the \pm term is the standard deviation of all the reported values. High variability of results is found, the RSD of the reported values is 36%. As expected, iAs corresponds to a low proportion (2.8%) of the certified tAs content. Classifying the results chronologically does not lead to any further conclusion about the high dispersion of the published results. If we assume that the calculated mean value is the "true value", values ranges from 38% to 204% which not desirable from the analytical point of view.

Several techniques are employed to determine iAs content, with HPLC-HG-ICPMS being the most commonly used with different HPLC columns, mobile phases, extraction solvents, etc. Sixteen values for iAs have been found, resulting in an iAs value of 0.551 ± 0.142 mg As kg⁻¹ (mean \pm SD, n=16)^{163,202,242,259}. Fourteen results are obtained using a coupled HPLC-ICPMS system, resulting in an iAs value of 0.652 ± 0.275 mg As kg⁻¹ (mean \pm SD, n=14)^{137,163,202,243,256,259,276,277}. Differences were observed when comparing the mean HPLC-HG-ICPMS values with those obtained by HPLC-ICPMS; however, in both cases the standard deviation is quite high and the intervals (i.e., mean \pm SD) overlap, which leads us to consider that no differences are observed between the means for the two techniques. Only one author used another coupled technique: HPLC-HG-AFS, with an iAs value of 0.369 ± 0.018 mg As kg⁻¹ ²⁵⁹.A study analyzing iAs content by CE-ICPMS obtained the highest value for iAs: 4.46 ± 0.03 mg As kg^{-1 217}. Few data using non-coupled techniques are reported: two results obtained by SPE-HG-AAS, iAs= 0.90 ± 0.07 mg As kg⁻¹ and iAs= 0.544 ± 0.07 mg As kg⁻¹ and iAs= 0.044 ± 0.07 m 0.162 mg As kg⁻¹, as a value obtained from an inter-laboratory comparison (IMEP-32) ²⁷⁷. Furthermore, one researcher found an iAs value of 0.669 ± 0.034 mg As kg⁻¹ by high resolution (HR)-ICPMS¹⁶³.

A wide range of solvents supported by sonication, shaking, MAE or heating in a waterbath are used to extract iAs from the CRM matrix. The most commonly used extraction solvents are: HCl with or without H₂O₂^{137,163,202,277}; HNO₃ with or without $H_2O_2^{163,202,243}$; NaOH in 50% EtOH 163,202,259,276 ; and $H_2O^{-163,256}$. According to the reported values, mean values for iAs are: 0.674 ± 0.126 (n=8), 0.682 ± 0.097 (n=7) and 0.670 ± 0.264 (n=6) mg As kg⁻¹ (mean \pm SD) for HCl, HNO₃ and H₂O extractions, respectively. No differences in iAs content are observed between the three extraction solvents. However, mean data for NaOH in 50% EtOH extractions result in a lower value: 0.390 ± 0.085 mg As kg⁻¹ (mean \pm SD, n=7). To a lesser extent, other solvents are used, such as 50% MeOH or TFA extractions. In some cases, there are large differences between data obtained using the same extractant, with the measurement technique possibly being responsible for such dispersion. For example, using 50% MeOH, the differences between reported values are notable: the iAs value is 0.676 by HPLC-HG-ICPMS¹⁶³ and 1.233 mg As kg⁻¹ by IC-ICPMS²⁵⁶. Similarly with TFA extractions the iAs values are 0.315 (with the addition of H₂O₂) and 0.514 mg As kg⁻¹ (without H_2O_2)¹⁶³; with there being differences in the use of H_2O_2 and also in the measurement technique: the former using HPLC-HG-ICPMS and the latter HPLC-ICPMS. In another example, applying selective solubilization of iAs with HCl, subsequent extraction with CHCl₃ and further back-extraction with HCl, differences were also observed in the iAs content: 0.669 vs 0.331 mg As kg⁻¹ 163. The higher value is obtained by HR-ICPMS while the lower value corresponds to using HPLC-HG-ICPMS.

As an overview of iAs content in TORT-2, and in accordance with the values in Figure 6, we can say that highly variable iAs data have been published, which illustrates that it is difficult to obtain a consistent value for iAs in this seafood CRM. Comparing values in the literature according to the extraction method used leads us to state that NaOH extractions show lower concentrations than other solvents (i.e., HCl, H₂O or HNO₃). The large differences in the literature between concentrations of iAs in this seafood material reinforce the need to develop more and more reliable methods for its determination.

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Highlights of inorganic arsenic analysis in DOLT-4 dogfish

The dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) liver DOLT-4 is one of most analyzed of seafood CRMs. The material was produced by NRC-CNRC and the certificate is dated May 2008. It is certified for tAs content (9.66 \pm 0.62 mg As kg⁻¹, mean value \pm uncertainty) but not for iAs. AB is the major As compound followed by DMA, iAs, MA, TMAO, etc., as minor compounds ²⁴³.

Studies analyzing this dogfish liver material produce 17 published values for iAs in the literature (Table III). Some of the data correspond to values reported from PT, IMEP-109/30⁴⁷. From the results reported, the values range from 0.010 to 0.387 mg As kg⁻¹ for iAs; and two of them could be considered as outliers (0.387 and 0.152 mg As kg⁻¹). Excluding those two values, the calculated mean is 0.024 ± 0.019 mg As kg⁻¹ (X \pm SD, n=15, ranging from 0.010 to 0.075), where the \pm term is the standard deviation of all the reported values. Very high dispersion of results is reported and the RSD of the reported values is 76%. As usual in fish, the iAs content corresponds to a low proportion (0.3%) of the tAs content. There are few data in the literature, and a classification chronologically does not lead any conclusion about the high variability of the published iAs results. Range of values, considering the mean value as true value, ranged from 41% to 308%; again highlighting the considerable variability of the iAs results in the literature.

Tabulating the results by measurement techniques shows that the iAs mean values are: 0.014 ± 0.008 (n=9) and 0.031 ± 0.010 (n=6) mg As kg⁻¹ (mean \pm SD) for the coupled techniques HPLC-HG-ICPMS 163,202 and HPLC-ICPMS 47,202,243,253 , respectively. Only two results obtained using non-coupled techniques have been published: iAs= 0.075 ± 0.005 mg As kg⁻¹ by FI-HG-AAS⁴⁷; and iAs= 0.152 ± 0.010 mg As kg⁻¹ by HR-ICPMS 47 .

Sorting the results by extraction method shows that several different solvents supported by sonication, shaking, MAE or heating in a waterbath, are used to extract iAs from the fish matrix. For example, the following extractants were used: H_2O (n=3) 163,253 ; NaOH in 50% EtOH (n=2) 202 ; MeOH (n=1) 163 ; HCl with H_2O_2 (n=2) 202 ; and TFA (n=2) 47,163 . Extractions based on HNO₃ provide a mean value of 0.019 \pm 0.007 mg As kg⁻¹ (mean \pm SD, n=4). There is high variability between selective extractions of iAs based on the method of Muñoz et al. 142 , depending on the measurement technique

employed; the iAs values are 0.036, 0.075 and 0.152 mg As kg⁻¹ using HPLC-HG-ICPMS ¹⁶³, FI-HG-AAS and HR-ICPMS ⁴⁷, respectively.

It should be noted that a low iAs concentration is found in DOLT-4: 0.024 ± 0.018 mg As kg⁻¹ (excluding the two outliers), with high dispersion between the reported values (Table III). It is not possible to show whether the extraction method or the measurement technique are significant influential factors; however, most reported methods show a low concentration of iAs in the material (<0.080 mg As kg⁻¹). Further developments and improvements of the analytical methods to determine iAs in seafood are needed in order to provide reliable iAs results.

3.1.3 Other strategies to evaluate accuracy

Although some CRMs with a certified iAs value have been produced in recent years, this does not seem to cover the wide range of the foodstuffs usually consumed in common diets. Some alternative approaches to estimate accuracy without the appropriate and representative CRMs are reported in the literature consulted, as follows: performing spiking experiments; compare the method with a reference method and comparing different sample preparations with each other. In the following paragraphs we summarize some alternatives found in the literature to assess accuracy without a certified reference value.

Spiking experiments

An alternative, to assess accuracy in the absence of CRMs, is to perform spiking experiments and then calculate the recovery. Typically, a test material is analyzed by the method under validation both in its original state and after the addition (spiking) of a known mass of iAs to the test sample. Spiking (also known as fortification) procedures must be carefully planned in order to select the most suitable strategy to introduce a single iAs species or mixture of both (i.e., arsenite and arsenate) into the matrix. Some other variables that should be checked in order to prepare a spiked sample with a similar matrix to the original sample are: the maximum volume or weight to be added to the matrix; the contact time and conditions; and further pre-treatment steps (e.g. drying,

sieving, milling, etc.). Furthermore, the homogeneity of the distribution of the species within the matrix should be addressed. In the case of the incorporation of a spiking solution into a liquid homogeneity is relatively easy to achieve; whereas, the process can be much more difficult when working with a solid matrix. Spiked samples, or sometimes a blank sample, are subjected to the respective sampling procedures and the contents measured ^{36,39,40,112,137,138,155,157,179,183,187,189,198,200,238,241,243,259}. The recoveries obtained are usually compared to CODEX criteria: 60%–115% for 10 μg kg⁻¹ and 80%–110% for 0.1–10 mg kg⁻¹ ²⁷⁸. Recoveries in these ranges are considered acceptable and demonstrate the reliability of the sample preparation method. Sometimes spiking experiments are carried out by adding standards of As species to CRMs before analysis. Although the iAs content is not certified, the spiking of iAs has been performed on SRM 1568 rice ^{162,198} and also BCR-627 tuna fish ¹⁹⁸.

Methods comparison

Another approach to evaluating accuracy is to compare the results achieved with a fully validated method to test for bias in the proposed method. This is a useful option when checking an alternative to an established standard method already validated and in use in the laboratory. Some studies of iAs determination compare methods in rice samples: SPE HG-AAS with HPLC-ICPMS ¹³⁸; HG-ICPMS with HPLC-HG-ICPMS ¹⁵⁷; HG-AFS with HPLC-ICPMS ¹⁵⁶; a slurry sampling-HG-AAS method ¹⁴¹ with the Chinese standard HG-AFS method ⁹⁵. Few studies comparing iAs results in on seafood samples were found, but one example of such a study compares SPE HG-AAS with HPLC-ICPMS ¹³⁷. Another study used MAE extraction with NaOH (1.5 mg/mL) in 50% ethanol to extract iAs from seafood samples and CRMs; the results were compared using different techniques: HPLC-ICPMS vs HPLC-HG-ICPMS vs HPLC-HG-AFS ²⁵⁹.

Another strategy to check the reliability of results is to compare different sample preparation procedures followed by measurements using the same detection technique. For example, three extraction methods are compared in seafood samples and CRMs, and the results are discussed according to the use of HPLC-ICPMS with and without HG²⁰². The same authors extend the study to nine extraction methods for iAs determination in seafood (i.e., the most commonly used in the literature) followed by measurements using HPLC-HG-ICPMS and the results are extensively discussed ¹⁶³.

Different extraction methods are also applied, followed by measurements using HPLC-ICPMS, to compare the results in cereal-based food¹⁹⁵ and in rice^{162,250}.

3.2. Proficiency testing (PT)

As external QC, PT or inter-laboratory comparisons, is a valuable tool to test the reliability of a method by comparing results with an assigned reference value. Some institutions, organizations and laboratories regularly organize PT to evaluate the performance capabilities of analytical laboratories. In the following section we summarized PT focused on the determination of iAs in food matrices.

3.2.1 EC-JRC-IRMM proficiency testing (PT)

The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), a Directorate General of the European Commission, operates the International Measurement Evaluation Program (IMEP). It organizes inter-laboratory comparisons in support of European Union policies. The Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) of the European Commission (EC) has requested the European Union Reference Laboratory for Heavy Metals in Feed and Food (EU-RL-HM) to evaluate the performance of European laboratories with regards to total Asand iAs analysis in food, with a view to future discussions on the need for regulatory measures. With that brief, several PT protocols have been organized in recent years by the IMEP on behalf of the EU-RL-HM. In the following paragraph we focus on PT organized within the IMEP, as summarized in Table IV.

In general, the aim of the selected IMEPs is to: "judge the state of the art of analytical capability for the determination of total and inorganic arsenic in several foodstuffs with a view to future discussions on the need for possible regulatory measures and future discussions on risk management and the possibility of introducing maximum levels for iAs in the European Union". In general terms, the IMEP protocol consists of the distribution of the test material within the participating laboratories (national reference laboratories (NRLs), official control laboratories (OCLs) or open to all laboratories) which are requested to determine total As and iAs by their routine

procedures. The participants are asked to report individual results, the mean value and its associated uncertainty. Sometimes, the test material is certified for tAs (a CRM is used in some PT) but unfortunately not for iAs, so it is sent to some expert laboratories in the field to assign a reference iAs value. Expert laboratories are asked to analyze the material using methods of their choice and no further requirements are imposed regarding methodology. They are also asked to report their results together with the measurement uncertainty. The mean of the independent values provided by the expert laboratories for total As and iAs are used as the "assigned value" (X_{ref} , also calculated the "reference value") and the associated "standard uncertainty" is also calculated. All of this is in accordance with the International Standards Organization guide 35^{285} . Then, the organizers calculate the z and ζ parameters for each laboratory in accordance with ISO 13528^{286} . The ζ -score and z-score are interpreted as follows (according to ISO/IEC 17043^{287} : "satisfactory performance" (≤ 2), "questionable performance" (> 2 ζ /z ≤ 3), or "unsatisfactory performance" (> 3).

Further details, specific information for each IMEP, such as the PT code, type of food, objective, analyte, assigned values, results of participants (z-score) and comments, are shown in Table IV.

IMEP-107: Determination of total and inorganic As in rice

The first PT to include iAs as an analyte was organized in 2009 and focused on the determination of total As and iAs in rice (IMEP-107) ^{46,184}. Reference values for total As and iAs were satisfactory assigned by several expert laboratories. A wide range of sample pre-treatment methods, and instrumental set-ups were applied by participants and the expert laboratories. Despite the use of these different methods, the results were not observed to cluster in relation to the analytical approach. The organizers comment that no particular problem related to the determination of iAs in rice was detected in the PT, and the performance of the participating laboratories was satisfactory. Finally, they conclude that the concentration of iAs determined in rice does not depend on the analytical method applied and that introduction of a maximum level for iAs in rice should not be postponed due to analytical concerns ⁴⁶.In addition, the IMEP-107 rice test material has been used as RMs in several studies and was analyzed to assess the accuracy of iAs results obtained using the specific method ^{40,112,138,183}.

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IMEP-109/30: Analysis of total Cd, Pb, As and Hg, as well as MeHg and iAs in seafood

Encouraged by the satisfactory results for iAs in rice, two inter-laboratory comparisons, IMEP-109 and IMEP-30, were performed in 2010 of the measurement of some trace elements, in addition to iAs, in seafood ⁴⁷. Only the EU NRL took part in IMEP-109 ²⁸⁰, while IMEP-30 was open to all laboratories ²⁷⁹. The commercially available CRM DOLT-4 from NRC-CNRC was used as the test material for all this PT. Five expert laboratories, analyzed the test material to establish the reference value for iAs. The expert laboratories were not able to agree on a value for the iAs within a reasonable degree of uncertainty. For this reason, it was not possible to establish an assigned value for iAs and therefore the results from the laboratories for iAs could not be scored. The organizers concluded that the results were spread over a wide range, but 75% of the laboratories agreed that the iAs content of the test material did not exceed 0.25 mg kg⁻¹. Despite the spread, they stated that there seems to be no clear clustering of results according to the methods used. According to the results, the determination of iAs in seafood presented serious analytical problems and iAs is clearly more difficult to analyze in this seafood matrix than in rice (IMEP-107). Further information and possible causes for the dispersion of the results, attributed to the extraction and/or detection steps as the most likely cause, are widely discussed in the IRMM reports^{279,280} and summarized in Baer et al. ⁴⁷. Additionally, it was concluded that more research is needed in the future to find appropriate and effective extraction procedures, as well as chromatographic conditions for reliable separation and quantification of iAs.

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IMEP-112: Determination of total and inorganic in wheat, vegetable food and algae

IMEP-112 focused on the determination of total and inorganic arsenic in wheat, vegetable food and algae ^{48,281}. The assigned values (total As and iAs in wheat, and iAs in vegetable food and algae) were satisfactorily provided by a group of expert laboratories in the field. The organizers concluded that the concentration of iAs determined in any of the matrices does not depend on the analytical method applied, as proven by the results submitted by the seven expert laboratories and by the participants. A wide range of sample pre-treatment methods and instrumental setups were applied

and despite this, clustering of results related to the analytical approach was not observed. Furthermore, the participating laboratories performed, in general, satisfactorily for the determination of iAs in wheat and vegetable food; however, only a few laboratories obtained a satisfactory score for iAs in algae. Finally, it was also highlighted that, purely from the analytical point of view, there is no reason not to consider the option of introducing maximum levels for iAs in wheat, vegetable food and algae in further discussions of risk management ⁴⁸. Besides, the wheat test material used in IMEP-112 was also analyzed as external QC ³⁹.

IMEP-116/39: Total Cd, Pb, As, Hg and inorganic As in mushrooms

Since mushroom consumption has increased considerably in recent years due to promotion of their nutritional properties, two PT programs were organized using the same test item (shiitake mushroom) ⁴⁹: IMEP-116 (for NRLs) ²⁸² and IMEP-39 (for OCLs and other laboratories) ²⁸³. Reference values were satisfactory assigned by five expert laboratories which analyzed the test item. In general, the performance of the participating labs was satisfactory for iAs: in IMEP-116 (NRLs), a high percentage of satisfactory results was obtained (z=81%, n=13) which is considerably higher than in IMEP-107 (rice). The organizers also pointed out that in IMEP-39, five out of the seven laboratories which obtained a satisfactory z-score for iAs used AAS-based techniques, showing that sound determinations of iAs can be made without the need for expensive sophisticated instrumentation ⁴⁹. Furthermore, the IMEP-116/39 PT item, shiitake mushroom, has also been used as external QC for iAs analysis ³⁶.

IMEP-118: Determination of total As, Cd, Pb, Hg, Sn and iAs in canned food

In 2014, a PT program was produced focused on the determination of total As, Cd, Pb, Hg, Sn and iAs in canned food (peas in brine) (IMEP-118) ^{51,284}. Participation in the PT was mandatory for nominated NRLs, and open to other OCLs and interested laboratories. Unlike other IMEPs, the test material was spiked with arsenic during preparation. Expert and participant laboratories were asked to analyze total As and iAs in the canned vegetables, in both the drained product and the solid/liquid composite. Good agreement between the theoretical and the assigned value for total As in the

solid/liquid composite was obtained; but not in the case of iAs. The brine was spiked with arsenate and the iAs mass fraction in the solid/liquid composite was found to be lower than the respective total As mass fraction: 35% lower than the theoretical one. Some possible causes are discussed and summarized in the IRMM report⁵¹. In spite this, the results from the two expert laboratories were in agreement and a reference value for the iAs mass fraction was assigned. From the PT results, it was concluded that the performance of the participating laboratories at determining iAs was satisfactory for both sample preparation approaches. However, few laboratories carried out analysis for iAs determination (only 33% reported values). Furthermore, the outcome of the PT clearly indicated that guidelines are needed on the sample preparation protocol to be used when analyzing canned food drained products and solid/liquid composites.

IMEP-41: Determination of inorganic arsenic in food

An inter-laboratory comparison was performed on a method evaluation by means of a collaborative trial for the determination of iAs in seven food products (IMEP-41) ⁵⁰. The method under evaluation was previously developed and in-house validated and final measurement was performed by FI-HG-AAS ¹⁴². The organizers clearly stated that the standard operating procedure (SOP) was to be strictly followed and any deviation from the method should be reported. The seven test food items used in this exercise were RMs covering a broad range of matrices and concentrations (Table IV). Five experts analyzed the test items using a method of their choice, different from the one being assayed. From the results, the organizers concluded that the method evaluated is robust and does not require any adaptation according to the matrix to be analyzed. Furthermore, the proposed method is considered fit-for-purpose, i.e., determination of iAs in different food products⁵⁰.

4.2.2 Other inter-laboratory comparisons

Other inter-laboratory comparisons focused on the determination of iAs in food have been organized in recent years. Institutions, organizations and laboratories regularly organize PTs to evaluate competency in the analysis of iAs species in food matrices. The Food Analysis Performance Assessment Scheme (FAPAS) of the Food

and Environment Research Agency (FERA) has organized PTfor several years, focused on several analytes in foodstuffs, with a wide range of tests available throughout the year. PTs on the determination of total and iAs in several food matrices is regularly organized²⁸⁸. A rice test material from the FAPAS interlaboratory tests ²⁸⁹ was analyzed in several studies as QC for iAs ^{39,40,238}. Brooks Rand Labs organized an interlaboratory comparison study for arsenic speciation in white rice flour, brown rice flour, kelp powder, and apple juice in 2013. A large group of participating laboratories from around the world, forty-six laboratories from fifteen countries, registered to participate²⁹⁰.

Specific PTs focused on iAs in rice has recently been organized. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan organized a collaborative study of speciation and determination of iAs in rice using HPLC-ICPMS. For it, an SOP of the method was developed and the proposed method was validated through the collaborative study of eastern and southeastern Asian countries²⁹¹. Further PT based on the iAs content of rice was organized by the Inorganic Analysis Working Group (IAWG) of the Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance (CCQM). The CCQM-K108 key comparison was organized to test the capacities of the national metrology institutes or the designated institutes to measure the mass fractions of arsenic species and tAs in brown rice flour; while the National Metrology Institute of Japan (NMIJ) acted as the coordinating laboratory. The participants used different measurement methods to determine the iAs content of a rice sample ²⁹².

4. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE TRENDS

Food control laboratories, consumers, authorities, institutions, health agencies and legislators have recently become more interested in iAs contents in food. This has led to several initiatives that move towards the development of robust and reliable analytical methods for selective determination of iAs in a range of food products. Although several techniques have been used in iAs determination, spectroscopic methods are the most commonly applied. Several such methods and techniques have been developed, but mild chemical extraction of iAs species and further determination by HPLC-ICPMS is undoubtedly the most popular approach used in iAs analysis in food. However, some non-chromatographic approaches that determine iAs accurately

even in presence of other organoarsenic compounds have been reported as being less time-consuming and more cost-effective alternatives than those based on HPLC-ICPMS.

Although numerous CRMs have been analyzed to evaluate the accuracy of the methods for total arsenic, few of them are certified for iAs content. The differences found in the literature between the concentration of iAs in seafood CRMs illustrates that it is difficult to obtain a consistent value and reinforce the need to develop reliable methods for its determination, especially when matrices with a complex distribution of arsenic species are analyzed, as in the case of food of a marine origin. Further production of seafood CRMs would help in the validation of iAs methods and in providing reliable iAs data. Furthermore, more PTs for iAs determination in seafood are needed to assess the reliability of the proposed methods, since to date, they have shown unsatisfactory performance.

Concerning food safety, the distinction between iAs and total As content or other species in foodstuffs should be addressed in future maximum levels of arsenic in food. Moreover, more reliable data on iAs content in foodstuffs, especially less studied food products, are needed for reliable risk assessment and to estimate the health risk associated with dietary As exposure.

Finally, more efforts should be made to transfer the knowledge obtained by the analytical community concerning the development of selective methodologies for the determination of iAs to the future implementation of that knowledge as routine methods in food control laboratories. To this end, the validation of methods as well as participation in PT and the analysis of CRMs should be performed, as mandated by the ISO/IEC 17025 standard for laboratory accreditation purposes.

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Countr	Food	iAs (mg kg ⁻¹	tAs (mg kg ⁻¹)	Yea r	Reference
Australi a and New Zealand	Crustacea	2.0		201	ANZFA 2011 ⁵⁴
	Fish	2.0			
	Molluses	1.0			
	Seaweed (edible kelp)	1.0			
	Cereals		1		
Canada	Fish protein	3.5		200 6	CFIA (2014) 55
	Edible bone meal	1.0			
	Fruit juices, fruit nectar or other beverages (not mineral	0.1			
	water) Muscle of swine, chickens and turkeys; eggs	0.5			
	Liver of swine, chickens and turkeys	2.0			
China	Grains (excluding paddy rice)		0.5	201 2	MHC (2012)
	Processed milled grain products (excluding brown and white rice)		0.5	2	30
	Paddy rice, brown rice, white rice	0.2			
	Aquatic animals and products (excluding fish and fish products)	0.5			
	Fish and fish products	0.1			
	Fresh vegetables, edible fungi		0.5		
	Meat and meat products		0.5		
	Raw, pasteurised, sterilised, modified, or fermented milk		0.1		
	Milk powder		0.5		
	Fats and their products		0.1		
	Seasonings (excluding aquatic or algae seasonings and spices)		0.5		
	Aquatic seasonings	0.5			
	Fish seasonings	0.1			
	Sugars and sweeteners		0.5		
	Packed drinking water		0.01 (mg/ L)		
	Chocolate and cocoa and chocolate products		0.5		
	Supplementary food for infants and young children (with added algae)	0.2 (0.3			
	Canned supplementary foods for infants and children	0.1 (0.3)			

France	Algae condiments	3	201 0	CEVA (2010) ⁵⁷
Europe an Union	Non-parboiled milled rice (polished or white rice)	0.20	201 5	EU (2015) 58
	Parboiled rice and husked rice	0.25		
	Rice waffles, rice wafers, rice crackers and rice cakes	0.30		
	Rice destined for the production of food for infants and young children	0.10		
USA	Chicken/turkey (uncooked muscle tissue)	0.5	200 1	FDA 2001 ⁵⁹
	Chicken/turkey (uncooked by-products)	2		
	Chicken/turkey (eggs)	0.5		
	Swine (uncooked liver kidneys)	2		
	Swine (uncooked muscle tissue and by-products)	0.5		

^a ML for arsanilic acid

Table II. Available food CRMs with an inorganic arsenic certified value. Results obtained from literature (2010-2015) and expressed as mg As kg⁻¹.

CRMs Code	Typ e of food		Certified value	tAs report ed	iAs method	iAs techniq ue	iAs reported value	References
CRM 7503-a	Rice	NMI J	tAs= 0.098 ± 0.007 As(III)=	0.098 ± 0.005	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.0849 \pm 0.0007$	Llorente- Mirandes et al. ⁴⁰
			0.0711 ± 0.0029 DMA=	0.095 ± 0.005	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.0837 \pm 0.0016$	Llorente- Mirandes et al. ³⁹
			0.0133 ± 0.0009 As(V)= 0.013 ± 0.0009	0.095 ± 0.001	HEAT (block)/(HNO ₃)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.067 ± 0.001 As(V)= 0.015 ± 0.002	Huang et al.
				0.101 ± 0.005	HEAT (block)/(H ₂ O)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0740 ± 0.0023 As(V)= 0.0140 ± 0.0005	Narukawa et al. ¹⁸⁰
				0.096 ± 0.002	MAE/(H ₂ O)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0130 ± 0.0005 As(V)= 0.0711 ± 0.0008	Narukawa et al. ¹⁹¹
				0.096 ± 0.002	HEAT (block)/(HNO ₃)	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(III)= 0.0133 \pm 0.0005 As(V)= 0.0717 \pm$	
				0.096 ± 0.002	HEAT (block)/(HNO ₃ /A	HPLC- ICPMS	0.0007 As(III)= 0.0712	

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	g)			
			As(V)=	
			0.0135	
$0.096 \pm$	HEAT	HPLC-	As(III)=	
0.002	(block)/(HClO ₄)	ICPMS	0.0714	
			As(V)=	
			0.0138	
0.099 ±	HEAT	HPLC-	As(III)=	Narukawa et
0.001	(block)/(HNO ₃)	ICPMS	0.0714 ±	al. ²³⁷
0.001	(616611)/(111 (63)	1011110	0.0004	
			As(V)=	
			$0.0134 \pm$	
			0.0002	
No	Shaking/(HCl)	ICPMS	$iAs = 0.080 \pm $	Fontcuberta
reporte	/extraction	ICI MIS	0.008	et al. ²³⁸
d	(CHCl ₃ /back		0.000	ct ai.
u	extr. 1 M HCl)/			
0.096 ±	HEAT	HPLC-	As(III)= 0.057	Vuromoto at
0.090 ± 0.002		ICPMS	± 0.002	Kuramata et al. ²³⁹
0.002	(block)/(HNO ₃)	ICFNIS		aı.
			As(V) = 0.017	
	CI II (/IICI)	TCD) (C	± 0.003	Wu et al. 240
No	Shaking/(HCl)	ICPMS	$iAs = 0.0815 \pm 0.0825$	Wu et al. 240
reporte	/extraction		0.0085	
d	(CHCl ₃ /back			
	extr. 1 M HCl)/)			
No	Heat	HPLC-	As $(V) = 0.013$	Baba et al.
reporte	block/HNO ₃	ICPMS	± 0.001	190
d				
			As (III)=	
			0.068 ± 0.003	
No	Heat with	HPLC-	As(III)=	Nookabkae
		HPLC- ICPMS		
No reporte d	water/Enzymatic			Nookabkae w et al. ²⁴¹
reporte			0.0602 ± 0.0025	
reporte	water/Enzymatic		0.0602 ±	
reporte	water/Enzymatic		0.0602 ± 0.0025 As(V)= 0.0145 ±	
reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase)	ICPMS	0.0602 \pm 0.0025 $As(V)=$ 0.0145 \pm 0.0017	w et al. ²⁴¹
reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep	ICPMS HPLC-	0.0602 ± 0.0025 As(V)= 0.0145 ± 0.0017 As(III)=	
No reporte	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin	HPLC- HEPO-	0.0602 \pm 0.0025 $As(V)=$ 0.0145 \pm 0.0017 $As(III)=$ 0.0594 \pm	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al.
reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible	HPLC- HEPO- HG-	0.0602 ± 0.0025 As(V)= 0.0145 ± 0.0017 As(III)=	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al.
No reporte	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin	HPLC- HEPO-	0.0602 \pm 0.0025 $As(V)=$ 0.0145 \pm 0.0017 $As(III)=$ 0.0594 \pm 0.0028	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al.
No reporte	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible	HPLC- HEPO- HG-	0.0602 \pm 0.0025 $As(V)=$ 0.0145 \pm 0.0017 $As(III)=$ 0.0594 \pm 0.0028 $As(V)=$	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al.
No reporte	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible	HPLC- HEPO- HG-	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ \end{array}$	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al.
No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts)	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ \end{array}$	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al. ²⁴²
No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = & \\ \end{array}$	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al.
No reporte d No reporte	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts)	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ \end{array}$	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al. ²⁴²
No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	0.0602 ± 0.0025 As(V)= 0.0145 ± 0.0017 As(III)= 0.0594 ± 0.0028 As(V)= 0.00226 ± 0.0004 As(III)= 0.0621 ± 0.00173	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al. ²⁴²
No reporte d No reporte	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.00226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ \end{array}$	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al. ²⁴²
No reporte d No reporte	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ \end{array}$	w et al. ²⁴¹ Oguri et al. ²⁴²
No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase)	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Qu et al. ²⁴¹ Qu et al. ²¹⁸
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase)	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = & \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = & \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi-
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari and Fattahi
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid micro-	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ 1.2 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari and Fattahi
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction integrated with	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ 1.2 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari and Fattahi
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction integrated with the	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ 1.2 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari and Fattahi
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction integrated with the solidification of	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ 1.2 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari and Fattahi
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction integrated with the	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ 1.2 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari and Fattahi
No reporte d No reporte d No reporte d	water/Enzymatic ext.(amylase) Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts) MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase) MAE/ Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction integrated with the solidification of	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0602 & \pm \\ 0.0025 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0145 & \pm \\ 0.0017 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0594 & \pm \\ 0.0028 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.0226 & \pm \\ 0.0004 & \\ As(III) = \\ 0.0621 & \pm \\ 0.00173 & \\ As(V) = \\ 0.01927 & \pm \\ 0.0011 & \\ As(III) = 68.2 \pm \\ 5.3 & \\ As(V) = 13.5 \pm \\ 1.2 & \\ \end{array}$	Oguri et al. Oguri et al. 242 Qu et al. ²¹⁸ Ahmadi- Jouibari and Fattahi

ERM-BC211	Rice	IRM M	0.013 DMA=	0.009 0.263 ± 0.011 No reporte d No reporte d 0.256 ± 0.008	O ₂) MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂) MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂) MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂) HEAT/(TFA)	HPLC-ICPMS HPLC-ICPMS SPE-HG-AFS HG-AFS HPLC-HG-AFS	iAs= 0.122 ± 0.006 iAs= 0.119 ± 0.005 iAs= 0.124 ± 0.002 iAs= 0.1214 ± 0.0048 iAs= 0.129 ± 0.012	Mirandes et al. ³⁶ Zmozinski et al. ²⁴³ Chen. G et al. ¹⁵⁵ Chen. B et al. ¹⁵⁶ Cano-Lamadrid et al. ¹⁷²
				0.257 ± 0.015 No reporte d	MAE/(HNO ₃) HAE/(HNO ₃)	HG- AAS HPLC- ICPMS	iAs= 0.116 ± 0.003 iAs= 0.127 ± 0.001	al. ¹³⁹
SRM 1568b	Rice	NIS T	tAs= 0.285 ± 0.014 DMA= 0.180 ± 0.012 MA= 0.0116	No reporte d	MAE/ Enzymatic ext.(amylase)	CE- ICPMS	As (III)= 0.05542 ± 0.0019 As(V)= 0.04092 ± 0.00678	Qu et al. ²¹⁸
			± 0.0035 iAs = 0.092 ± 0.010	No reporte d	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC-ICPMS	iAs= 94.5 ± 2% * iAs= 0.092 ±	Signes- Pastor et al.
				reporte	HAE/(HNO ₃)	ICPMS	0.004	al 2015 ¹⁸⁶
CRM 7532-a	Rice	NMI J	tAs=0.320 ± 0.010 iAs=0.298 ± 0.008 DMA= 0.0186 ± 0.0008	No reporte	HAE/(HNO ₃)	HPLC- ICPMS	iAs= 0.298 ± 0.003	Narukawa et al 2015 ¹⁸⁶
CRM 7405-a	Hizi kia fusif orm e	NMI J	tAs= 35.8 ± 0.9 As(V)= 10.1 ± 0.5	reporte	Shaking/HCl/pep sin (bioaccessible extracts)	HPLC- HEPO- HG- ICPMS	$As(V)=10.2 \pm 0.1$	Oguri et al. 242
				34.6 ± 0.7	Sonication/ 50% methanol solvent in 1% HNO ₃ / Anion-exchange cartridge		As(V)= 9.8 ± 0.8	Khan et al 2015 ²⁰⁵

Notes. The ± terms are as provided by the original publications. They are predominantly standard deviations for some number of replicates or in some cases uncertainties. MAE: microwave assisted extraction. HAE: heat assisted extracted technique.

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Table III. Food CRMs with published results of an inorganic arsenic content. Results obtained from literature (2010-2015) and expressed as mg As/kg.

CRMs Code	Type of food	Sup plier	Cert ified tAs valu e	tAs reporte d	iAs method	iAs technique	iAs reported value	Referen
NCS ZC730 08	Rice	CN CIS	0.00	0.105 ± 0.006	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.080 \pm 0.003$	Llorente
			8	No reported	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.084 \pm 0.001$	Mirande s et al. ⁴⁰
GBW 10010	Rice	CA GS	0.10 2 ± 0.00	0.1099 ± 0.0072	Incubation 80°C/Ultra-pure water	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0461 ± 0.0024	
			8				$As(V) = 0.156 \pm 0.0016$	
					Incubation 80°C/(Acetic acid	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0477 ± 0.0009	
					(1%)		As(V)= 0.0152 ± 0.0004	
					Incubation 80°C/(Nitric acid	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0616 ± 0.0045	
					(1%)		As(V)= 0.0079 ± 0.0051	
					Incubation 80°C/(TFA (0.2	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0645 ± 0.0009	Liang e
					M)		$As(V) = 0.0110 \pm 0.0003$	aı.
					Incubation 80°C/(TFA (2 M)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0619 ± 0.004	
					Incubation		$As(V) = 0.017.4 \pm 0.003$	
					80°C/(Methanol (50%)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0536 ± 0.0077	
					Inauhatian		$As(V) = 0.0128 \pm 0.002$	
					Incubation 80°C/Methanol (50%)/TFA (0.2M)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0626 ± 0.0056	
					(0.2111)		As(V)= 0.0118 ± 0.0029	
SRM	Whea	NIS	0.00	0.0065	MAE/(enzymatic	HPLC-	As(III)= 0.0032 ±	Tsai e

1567a	t flour	T	6	± 0.0006	extraction)	ICPMS	0.00004	al. ¹⁹³
							$As(V) = 0.0027 \pm 0.00005$	
SRM 8436	Duru m Whea t Flour	NIS T		0.013 ± 0.001	SON/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0012 ± 0.0002 As(V)= 0.00723 ± 0.00723	
				0.013 ± 0.001	Ultrasonic probe/(H ₂ O)	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(V) = 0.00723 \pm 0.00008$ $As(III) = 0.00318 \pm 0.00009$ $As(V) = 0.0027 \pm 0.00025$	D'Amat o el al.
				0.013 ± 0.001 0.013 ± 0.001	MAE/(HNO ₃) MAE/(enzymatic extraction)	HPLC- ICPMS HPLC- ICPMS	As(V)= 0.0109 ± 0.0006 As(III)= 0.00216 ± 0.00044 As(V)= 0.00169 ± 0.0003	
SRM 1570a	Spina ch leave s	NIS T	0.06 8 ± 0.01 2	No reported	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/		$iAs = 0.038 \pm 0.005$	
					MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂) Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr.	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.075 \pm 0.004$ $iAs = 0.074 \pm 0.010$	de la Calle et
					1 M HCl)/ MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂) MAE/(HNO ₃ + H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.060 \pm 0.002$ $iAs = 0.055 \pm 0.003$	al. ⁴⁸
					MAE/(HCl/H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.034 \pm 0.005$	
					MAE/(TFA ₁ H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.045 \pm 0.003$	T.1
				0.069 ± 0.005	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.059 \pm 0.005$	Llorente - Mirande s et al. ³⁶
SRM 1573a	Toma to leave s	NIS T	0.11 2 ± 0.00 4	No reported	UAE/(H ₂ SO ₄ /EDT A)	HG-AFS	As(V)= 0.0879 ± 0.0021	Sousa- Ferreira et al. ¹⁵⁴
							As(III)= 0.0226 ± 0.0003	ct ai.
NCS ZC730 12	Cabb age	CN CIS	0.06 2 ± 0.01 4	0.0603 ± 0.0007	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	iAs= 0.0519 ± 0.0035	Norton et al. ²⁵¹
SRM 1577	Bovi ne	NIS T	0.05 5 ±	0.053 ± 0.002	SON/ HNO ₃ /MeOH	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(V) = 0.012 \pm 0.001$	Batista et al. 103

SRM 1566a	Oyste r tissue	NIS T	14.0 ± 1.2	No reported	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/	FI-HG- AAS	$iAs = 0.586 \pm 0.049$	Ruangw ises et al. 146
				No reported	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction	FI-HG- AAS	$iAs = 0.601 \pm 0.037$	Ruangw ises et al. 149
				No reported	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/	FI-HG- AAS	$iAs = 0.598 \pm 0.035$	Ruangw ises et al. 144
				No reported	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/	FI-HG- AAS	$iAs = 0.581 \pm 0.050$	Saipan et al. ¹⁴⁵
				No reported	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/	FI-HG- AAS	$iAs = 0.601 \pm 0.037$	Ruangw ises et al. 150
				No reported	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction	FI-HG- AAS	$iAs = 0.601 \pm 0.037$	Saipan et al. ¹⁵¹
SRM 1566b	Oyste r tissue	NIS T	7.65 ± 0.65		MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(V) = 1.16 \pm 0.01$	Santos et al. ²⁵²
				7.67 ± 0.13	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.05 \pm 0.001$	Zmozins ki et al.
				No reported	MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	$As(III)= 0.357 \pm 0.057$ $As(V)= 0.427 \pm 0.038$	Leufroy et al. ²⁵³
				8.06 ± 0.08	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	IC-ICPMS	$As(V) = 0.05 \pm 0.01$	Nam et al. ²⁵⁴
CRM 108- 04-001	Oyste r tissue	KRI SS	13.5 1 ± 0.30	14.19 ± 0.09	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O	IC-ICPMS	$As(V) = 0.03 \pm 0.01$	Nam et al. ²⁵⁴
MURS T-ISS- A2	Antar ctic Krill	BC AA	5.02 ± 0.44	5.29 ± 0.4	Shaking/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(V) = 0.03 \pm 0.01$	Grotti et al. ²⁵⁵
SRM 2976	Muss eltiss ue	NIS T	13.3 0 ± 1.8	13.7 ± 0.25	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.11 \pm 0.013$	Zmozins ki et al.
ERM- CE278	Muss el tissue	IRM M	6.07 ± 0.13	6.09 ± 0.21	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.07 \pm 0.003$	Zmozins ki et al.
				5 ± 0.6	SON/	HPLC-	As(III)= 0.2 ± 0.02	Batista

						(HNO ₃ /MeOH)	ICPMS		et al. ¹⁰³
						(III (O3/IVICOII)	ICI IVIS	$As(V) = 0.4 \pm 0.04$	ct ai.
BCR 627	Tuna fish tissue	IRM M	4.8 ± 0.3	5.2 0.5	±	MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC/ICP- MS	As(III)= 0.054 ± 0.014	Leufroy et al. ²⁵⁶
				4.8 0.3	±	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	IEC/ICP- MS	As(III)= 0.172 ± 0.071	et al.250
				4.68 0.03	±	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.29 ± 0.04	Santos et al. ²⁵²
						GOME		$As(V) = 0.035 \pm 0.001$	
				4.1		SON/(Enzymatic solution)	IC-ICPMS	iAs= 0.036	Dufailly et al. ¹⁹⁸
				4.84 0.13	±	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.02 \pm 0.002$	Zmozins ki et al.
				No report	ed	MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.068 ± 0.003	Leufroy
								$As(V) = 0.041 \pm 0.001$	et al. ²⁵³
				4.20 0.03	±	Shaking (two-step sequential extraction)/acetone and MeOH/water	HPLC- HR- ICPMS	As(III)= below LOD	Ruiz- Chanch o et al.
						una Westi, water		As(V)= below LOD	
				No report	ed	Cell clean-up – PAEH	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(III) = 0.075 \pm 0.0006$	Moreda- Piñeiro et al. ²⁵⁸
				4.82 0.41	±	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/	HR- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.82 \pm 0.049$	Lewis et al. 121
DOLT -3	Dogfi sh Musc le	NR C- CN RC	10.2 ± 0.5	10.0 0.4	±	MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.074 ± 0.011	Leufroy
	ic	RC						$As(V) = 0.073 \pm 0.007$	et al. ²⁵⁶
				9.6 1.1	±	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.136 ± 0.004	
				No report	ed	MAE/(Enzymatic extraction)	CE- ICPMS	iAs below LOD	Hsieh et al. ²¹⁵
				10 ± 0).4	SON/(HNO ₃ /MeO H)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.3 ± 0.1	Batista et al. ¹⁰³
								$As(V) = 0.4 \pm 0.2$	
DOLT -4	Dogfi sh Musc le	NR C- CN RC	9.66 ± 0.62	No report	ed	MAE/(HCl/H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.039 \pm 0.001$	
						MAE/(HCl/H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.011 \pm 0.002$	Pétursdó ttir et al. 202
						MAE/(HNO ₃)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.028 \pm 0.003$	
						MAE/(HNO ₃)	HPLC- HG-	$iAs = 0.011 \pm 0.002$	

DOR M-2	Dogfi sh Musc le	NR C- CN RC	18.0 ± 1.1	18.75 ± 0.66	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.61 ± 0.04	Santos et al. ²⁵²
				No reported	MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.253 ± 0.019 As(V)= 0.134 ± 0.006	Leufroy et al. ²⁵³
				9.64 ± 0.11	MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.02 \pm 0.003$	Zmozins ki et al.
					MAE/(NaOH/EtO H)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.010 \pm 0.003$	
					SON/(H ₂ O)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.010 \pm 0.001$	
					MAE/(H ₂ O)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.011 \pm 0.003$	
					MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	ICPMS HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.017 \pm 0.003$	
					1 M HCl)/ MAE/(HNO ₃)	HPLC- HG-	$iAs = 0.011 \pm 0.002$	Pétursdó ttir et al.
					Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr.	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.036 \pm 0.007$	
					SON and MAE/(TFA/H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.011 \pm 0.004$	
					$\begin{array}{l} MAE/(H_2O/MeOH \\) \end{array}$	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.012 \pm 0.003$	
				No reported	MAE/(HCl/H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.011 \pm 0.002$	
					1 M HCl)/ Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/	HR- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.152 \pm 0.010$	
					Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr.	FI-HG-	$iAs = 0.075 \pm 0.005$	Baer et al. ⁴⁷
) SON/(TFA/H ₂ O ₂)	ICPMS HPLC- ICPMS	$iAs = 0.047 \pm 0.006$	
				reported	MAE/(HCl/H ₂ O ₂) MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O	ICPMS HPLC-	iAs=<0.040 iAs=ND	
				No	MAE/(NaOH/EtO H)	HG- ICPMS HPLC-	$iAs = 0.010 \pm 0.003$	
					MAE/(NaOH/EtO H)	HPLC- ICPMS HPLC-	$iAs = 0.027 \pm 0.003$	
					MAE//NaOH/EtO	ICPMS		

				17.9 0.9	±	MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.014	0.031	±	
				19.7	_	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O	IFC	As(V)= 0.018 As(III)=	0.029	± +	Leufroy et al. ²⁵⁶
				0.4	Ξ)	ICPMS	As(III) = 0.011 $As(V) =$	0.004	±	et ai.
								0.002			
				17.0 0.7	±	Shaking (two-step sequential extraction)/acetone and MeOH/water	HPLC- HR-ICP- MS	As(III)= LOD	belo		Ruiz- Chanch o et al.
								As(V)=b	elow LO	D	
				17.9 0.98	±	Step 1: MAE/(HClO ₄ /Fe ₂ (SO ₄) ₃ /HCl	ETTAS	As(III)= 0.001	0.053	±	Shah et
						Step 2: (As(III)):SON/HCl /CHCl ₃ /HCl		As(V)= 0.002	0.051	±	al. ¹¹¹
				16.9 0.3 (as su		Cell clean-up – PAEH	HPLC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.0005	0.081	±	Moreda- Piñeiro
				`	As						et al. ²⁵⁸
				19.5 1.3	±	Shaking/(HCl) /extraction (CHCl ₃ /back extr. 1 M HCl)/	HR- ICPMS	iAs= 0.13	31 ± 0.01	0	Lewis et al., 2012
				No report	ed	Ultrasonic bath/H ₂ O	SIA- HPLC- AFS	As(III)= 0.02	0.037	±	Jesus et al. ¹⁶⁹
DOR M-3	Dogfi sh Musc le	NR C- CN RC	6.88 ± 0.30	5.8 0.4	±	MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	As(III)= 0.014	0.085	±	
				7.1 0.4	±	MAE/(MeOH/H ₂ O)	IEC- ICPMS	As(V)= 0.023 As(III)= 0.018 As(V)= 0.036	0.2430.1290.276	± ±	Leufroy et al. ²⁵⁶
				No report	ed	MAE/(EtOH/NaO H)	HPLC- ICPMS	iAs= 0.07	73 ± 0.00	8	Pétursdó ttir et al.
				No report	ed	MAE/(H ₂ O)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	iAs= 0.11	± 0.01		Pétursdó
						$MAE/(H_2O/H_2O_2)$	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	iAs = 0.12	2 ± 0.01		ttir et al.
						MAE/(HNO ₃ /H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- HG- ICPMS	iAs= 0.16	6 ± 0.01		
				No report	ed	MAE/(HCl/H ₂ O ₂)	HPLC- ICPMS	iAs= 0.19	9 ± 0.01		Rasmus sen et
						$MAE/(HCl/H_2O_2)$	SPE-HG- AAS	iAs = 0.18	3 ± 0.02		al. ¹³⁷
				No		MAE/(H ₂ O)	IEC-	As(III)=	0.134	±	Leufroy

				reported		ICPMS	0.008	et al. ²⁵³
						1011110	$As(V) = 0.263 \pm 0.009$	or an.
				7 ± 0.8	SON/(HNO ₃ /MeO H)	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(V) = 0.4 \pm 0.06$	Batista et al. ¹⁰³
				No reported	Shaking/SON/(H ₂ O)	CE- ICPMS	$As(V) = 1.40 \pm 0.04$	Liu et al. ²¹⁷
CRM n 9	Sarg assu mfulv ellum	NIE S	115 ±9	110.3 ± 0.7	Shaking/(Water)	HPLC- ICPMS	As $(V) = 69.9 \pm 1$	Llorente - Mirande s et al. 260,261
				117 ± 2	Shaking/(Water)	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(V) = 68.5 \pm 6.6$	Ruiz- Chanch o et al.
				109 ± 2	MAE/(Water)	HPLC- (UV)-HG- AFS	$As(V) = 70 \pm 1$	Garcia- Salgado et al. ¹⁷⁰
BCR- 279	Ulva lactu ca	IRM M	3.09 ± 0.21	2.9 ± 0.3	Shaking/(Water)	HPLC- ICPMS	$As(III) = 0.06 \pm 0.03$ $As(V) = 0.53 \pm 0.04$	Pell et al. ^{263,264}
				3.4 ± 0.1	SON/(Water)	HPLC- ICPMS	As(V) = 0.7	Caumett e et al. ²⁶⁵

Notes. The ± terms are as provided by the original publications. They are predominantly standard deviations for some number of replicates or in some cases uncertainties. MAE; Microwave Assisted Extraction; SON: Sonication; PAEH: Pressurized Assisted Enzymatic Hydrolysis Extraction; UAE: Ultrasound-Assisted Extraction.

Table IV. Proficiency tests and method validation focused on the determination of iAs
 in foodstuffs organized by EC-JRC-IRMM.

Proficiency test	Type of food	Objective	Analyte	Assigned values Results of participants (mg As kg ⁻¹) ^a	Con
IMEP-107 (2010)	Rice (produced IRMM)	Judge the state by the art analytical capability for determination total and iAs		tAs= 0.172 ± 0.018 tAs, z= 77% (n=71) and iAs= $0.107 \pm i$ As, z= 75% (n=21) 0.014	and · Sa iAs. · Th that · A unce
IMEP- 30/109 (2010)	8	RM analytical capabilities nominated N	Hg, iAs and of MeHg	t, tAs= 9.66 ± 0.62 · IMEP-30: tAs, z= 8 d and iAs= not (n=42) and no scored assigned iAs · IMEP-109: tAs, z= 8 (n=28) and no scored iAs	for resu · Un 5%

IMEP-112 (2011)	Wheat (produced by IRMM)	To judge the state of the art of the determination of total and iAs			tAs, z= 84% (n=51) and iAs, z= 58% (n=23)	· Sa
	Vegetable food (NIST SRM 1570a spinach leaves)	in food			tAs, z= 74% (n=35) and iAs, z= 77% (n=23)	· Sa
	Algae (produced by IRMM)			tAs= 58.3 ± 7.0 and iAs= 0.188 ± 0.025	tAs, z= 82% (n=41) and iAs, z= 16% (n=6)	· Lo scor · Tv bias · Ur dige
IMEP- 39/116 (2013)	Mushroom (produced by IRMM)	To test the analytical capabilities of laboratories to determine heavy metals and tAs and iAs in mushrooms.	Cd, Pb, As, Hg and iAs		· IMEP-116: tAs, z= 91% (n=29) and iAs, z= 81% (n=13) · IMEP-39: tAs, z= 65% (n=35) and iAs, z= 64% (n=7)	· In satis · In for i
IMEP-118 (2014)	(peas in brine)	l · To assess the analytical capabilities of participating laboratories · To evaluate the various sample preparation approaches when analyzing canned vegetables using the drained product or the the solid/liquid composite			tAs, z= 92% (n=47) and iAs, z=84% (n=16).	· iA agre ·
				Solid/liquid composite: tAs= 0.121 ± 0.014 and iAs= 0.082 ± 0.008	tAs, z= 82% (n=42) and iAs, z=74% (n=17).	· tA drait solid · A t · A unce · Si repo
IMEP-41 (2014)	Rice . To determine the performance characteristics of an analytical method for the			$iAs = 0.108 \pm 0.011$	· RSD _r = 7.8% · RSD _R = 15.6 · Overall mean= 0.096 ± 0.030 · Rec= 88.9 ± 29.4	
	Wheat (IMEP-112)	quantification of inorganic arsenic in food by FI- HG-AAS		$iAs = 0.165 \pm 0.021$	· RSD _r = 10.1% · RSD _R = 10.9% · Overall mean= 0.146 ± 0.032 · Rec= 88.7 ± 22.5	
	Mussels CE278k) (ERM-			iAs= 0.0863 ± 0.008	· RSD _r = 8.6% · RSD _R = 18.2% · Overall mean= 0.133 ± 0.048 ·Rec= 153.7 ± 57.6	

Cabbage (IAEA-359)	$iAs = 0.091 \pm 0.016$	RSD _r = 9.6% RSD _R = 22.1% Overall mean= 0.074 ± 0.033 Rec= 81.6 ± 38.7	· Th in the agree expenses by in organ spec
Mushroom (IMEP-116)	$iAs = 0.321 \pm 0.026$	· RSD _r = 4.1% · RSD _R = 6.1% · Overall mean= 0.275 ± 0.034 · Rec= 85.8 ± 12.6	
Seaweed (NMIJ-7405a)	$iAs = 10.10 \pm 0.50$	· RSD _r = 4.7% · RSD _R = 15.2% · Overall mean= 7.548 ± 2.301 · Rec= 74.7 ± 23.1	
Fish (DORM-4)	$iAs = 0.271 \pm 0.061$	· RSD _r = 10.3% · RSD _R = 22.8% · Overall mean= 0.295 ± 0.134 · Rec= 108.8 ± 55.4	Poin cont sepa
Rice (ERM-BC211)	$iAs = 0.124 \pm 0.011$	Pre-test item of participants laboratories	Labo the IME

^a Assigned value for expert laboratories as $X_{ref} \pm U_{ref}(k = 2)$;

^b In IMEP-107, IMEP-30/109, IMEP-112, IMEP-39/116 and IMEP-118: results of participants are referred to % of z-score to z ≤2 (n=number of laboratories).

RSD_r= repeatability relative standard deviation; RSD_R= reproducibility relative standard deviation; Rec=Recovery= X participants 100/X assigned value.

2469	Inorganic arsenic determination in food: A review on analytical proposals and
2470	quality assessment over the last six years
2471	
2472	Figure captions
2473	
2474	Figure 1. Blue plot is the number of papers published each year dealing with the As
2475	species either iAs as a function of time (1985-2014). Red plot refers to number of
2476	papers dealing with speciation of As species and iAs in the field of food and
2477	alimentation. Green plot shows the number of publications dealing only with iAs and
2478	relationship with food and alimentation.
2479	Figure 2. Distribution of publications (2010-2015) on the basis of research area of
2480	inorganic arsenic (a) and on the basis of types of analyzed foods of inorganic arsenic
2481	(b).
2482	Figure 3. Scheme of the different steps required to perform total and inorganic arsenic
2483	determination in foodstuffs.
2484	Figure 4. Anion exchange HPLC-ICPMS chromatograms of rice (a), infant multicereals
2485	(b), Hijiki seaweed (Sargassum fusiforme) (c), mushroom supplement (Grifola
2486	frondosa, commercially known as Maitake) (d), tuna fish (e), and mussel (f).
2487	Figure 5. Inorganic arsenic concentration in NIST SRM 1568a reported in the literature
2488	(blue rhombus, 2010-2015). The continuous black line represents the average
2489	concentration and the red dashed lines delimit the target interval (X \pm SD = 0.098 \pm
2490	0.009 mg As kg ⁻¹ of inorganic arsenic). X axis shows the measurement technique and
2491	reference.
2492	Figure 6. Inorganic arsenic concentration in NRC-CNRC TORT-2 reported in the
2493	literature (green rhombus, 2010-2015). The continuous black line represents the average
2494	concentration and the red dashed lines delimit the target interval (X \pm SD= 0.606 \pm
2495	0.215 mg As kg ⁻¹ of inorganic arsenic). X axis shows the measurement technique and
2496	reference.

