

Food Analytical Methods

Rapid Food Product Analysis by Surface Acoustic Wave Nebulization Coupled Mass Spectrometry --Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	<p>Rapid food product analysis is of great interest for quality control and assurance during the production process. Conventional quality control protocols require time and labor intensive sample preparation for analysis by state-of-the-art analytical methods. To reduce overall cost and facilitate rapid qualitative assessments, food products need to be tested with minimal sample preparation. We present a novel and simple method for assessing food product compositions by mass spectrometry using a novel surface acoustic wave nebulization method. This method provides significant advantages over conventional methods requiring no pumps, capillaries, or additional chemicals to enhance ionization for mass spectrometric analysis. In addition, the surface acoustic wave nebulization - mass spectrometry method is ideal for rapid analysis and to investigate certain compounds by using the mass spectra as a type of species-specific fingerprint analysis. We present for the first time surface acoustic wave nebulization generated mass spectra of a variety of fermented food products from a small selection</p>	

of vinegars, wines, and beers.



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Prof. David Rodríguez-Lázaro
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Re: Schneider T., et al., "Rapid Food Product Analysis by Surface Acoustic Wave Nebulization Coupled Mass Spectrometry"

Dear Prof. Rodríguez-Lázaro,

We thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript according to the reviewer's comments and suggestions. We have addressed each reviewer's point-by-point below and believe that our revisions satisfy the reviewer's comments. Changes to the manuscript and supporting information are highlighted in red with the track changes tool. In addition, we are submitting a clean version of the revised manuscript and supporting information.

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Goodlett".

Below are the comments by the reviewers addressed point-by-point.

Reviewer 1:

The article describes a relatively novel (SAWN) technology that is still being developed, and being investigated for its use in new fields of application. As such SAWN deserves wider understanding and scrutiny by our scientific community. The authors point out the potential large market interest (food products) for such a simple sampling system, that rapidly develops gas-phase ions to be measure by MS. if successful this would fit in to existing analytical workflows employed world-wide. Thus as a first time article for Food Analytical Methods I find it a valuable contribution in its current form.

Comments to be addressed that would make the article better for the reader.

Response:

We thank the reviewer for his/her helpful comments and critiques and hope that our responses successfully address the reviewers' concerns.

Comment 1-1:

****Abstract:****

"We present for the first time surface acoustic wave nebulization generated mass spectra of a variety of fermented food products."

The authors could be more specific than merely stating "...a variety of food products."? It would help those who are looking to find specific information about a food type or product, if this was mentioned somewhere in the abstract or introduction (also not mentioned here). I suggest to state something like "... a small selection of different vinegars, wines, and beers."

Response 1-1:

We amended the last sentence of the abstract to include a more focused statement of the types of fermented food products used in our study. The revised sentence reads: "We present for the first time surface acoustic wave nebulization generated mass spectra of a variety of fermented food products from a small selection of vinegars, wines, and beers."

Comment 1-2:

P 6

As above, we are still clueless as to what is measured here and, besides the news about SAWN technology, what is reported here?

Same here: please mention at least what is measured, such as a small selection of vinegars, wines, and beers.

Response 1-2:

In addition to the abstract changes, we modified the first sentence in the last paragraph of the introduction to highlight the type of samples that were used in our study. The revised sentence reads: "Here we present for the first time the rapid analysis of food products by SAWN-MS that include a selection of fermented food products such as vinegars, wines, and beers".

Comment 1-3:

P 8

Why was assignment and verification of selected compounds conducted on both a Finnigan LTQ and on a Waters Synapt G2-S? As no reason is given at all, it might be best to just state that choice of instrument was based on instrument availability, or otherwise some (compelling?) technical ability of a particular instrument? One is left guessing now...

Response 1-3:

We thank the reviewer for pointing this out and we have included an instrument availability statement in the first sentence of the third paragraph under section 2.2 of the materials and methods. The revised sentence reads: "Assignment and verification of selected compounds was conducted with ESI by collision-induced dissociation (CID) on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel (Canterbury et al. 2014) and on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-*oa*TOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation), chosen based on instrument availability at the time of analysis."

Comment 1-4:

****Figures****

It was not always clear to me when a SAWN spectra was discussed, or ESI. Could this clearly be stated in ALL figure legends and throughout the text? Sometimes it was chosen to mention the vendor of the instrument. For example: "Figure S5. Fragmentation of oligosaccharides in samples from Bud Light acquired by ESI (LTO)". Is this 'LTO' important? Pls omit or fill in for all figure legends.

Response 1-4:

We revised the legends of the main text figures 2 and 3 to include the word SAWN in front of "mass spectra" to clarify the source of sample transfer where the clear distinction was missing. In addition, we revised the figure captions of the supplemental information to include further information of the type of mass spectrometer used (shown in the tracked changes portion of the revised texts and the cleaned version of the finalized revision of the manuscript and supplemental text):

- In figures S1, S4 – S6: the data was acquired on a Finnigan LTO (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel
- In figure S2: the data was acquired on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation)
- In figures S3 and S8: the data was acquired by SAWN MS.

Comment 1-5:

****Figure S1. ****

The figure shows a panel marked A) and B), with the following text: "Fragmentation of sodium adducts of disaccharides found at m/z 365 (a) and glucose/fructose at m/z 203 (b) in samples from rice vinegar acquired by ESI (LTO). Shown are the precursor ions (MS2 at CE 0, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS2 at CE 30, red spectra)."

There seems to be some information missing here, as A) shows two mass spectra and B) does as well. However, A) lists a CE of 20eV, whereas B) lists 30eV. What's wrong here? Note that nowhere is CE defined. This also difference in nomenclature to Fig S2 where (e.g.) CID 25eV is used.

Response 1-5:

We understand the source of confusion for the reader in this figure caption and have revised the text of the figure caption accordingly. The terms normalized collision energy (NCE) and collision-induced dissociation (CID) were defined at the end of the materials and methods section of the manuscript. The nomenclature for tunable parameters in CID is instrument vendor-specific. The NCE and CID collision energy values are not directly comparable between the two manufacturers and are hence given as reference to compare to fragmentation patterns for the interested reader. The revised caption to figure S1 reads: "Figure S1. Fragmentation of sodium adducts of disaccharides found at m/z 365 (a) and glucose/fructose at m/z 203 (b) in samples from rice vinegar acquired by ESI on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel. Shown are the precursor ions (MS_2 at NCE of 0 %, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS_2 at NCE of 20 % in (a) and 30 % in (b), red spectra). Note that the differences in the collision energy used in this experiment are due to differences in energy required to fragment mono- and disaccharides."

Comment 1-6:

Figure S2.

Again this needs some clean up. There are A, B, C, and D (with three spectra) panels shown, but the legend only gives information on two, namely A and C. Please provide missing information.

Response 1-6:

We thank the reviewer to point out the incomplete caption and have revised the figure caption to clarify the different spectra. The revised caption reads: "Figure S2. MS spectra from direct infusion in (+) ion mode of rice vinegar acquired by ESI on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-0aTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation). Shown are the MS_1 spectrum (a) and the fragmentation spectra (MS_2) of sodium and potassium adducts of disaccharides found at m/z 365 (b) and m/z 381 (c), and glucose/fructose at m/z 203 (d). The fragmentation spectra were acquired with different collision-induced dissociation (CID) energies to show the fragment ions from the different precursor ions. The masses measured were: $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}Na$, measured: 365.1051, exact: 365.1060, error: 2.5 ppm; $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}K$, measured: 381.0741, exact: 381.0799, error: 15.2 ppm."

Comment 1-7:

****Figure S3. ****

Why an extra x-axis numerical marking in the middle of the figure? Is this somehow different from the one at the bottom?

Response 1-7:

We revised the figure to exclude the additional x-axis labels.

Reviewer 2:

The manuscript by T. Schneider et al. describes application of SAWN, a novel ambient ionization technique for mass spectrometry, to food product analysis. This is an interesting contribution that contains relevant data and will be interesting for the readers of the journal. The manuscript is well-written without any major improvements being necessary. It clearly shows the potential applicability of the SAWN ionization in food analysis. In the same time, it is fair to say that the work also demonstrates some of the general limitations of ambient ionization (compare to established techniques such as GCMS or LSMS).

I recommend publication of this manuscript in Food Analytical Methods as it is or after a minor revision. Here are my comments for consideration by the authors for the revised manuscript as well as for the future work:

Response:

We thank the reviewer for the kind remarks and comments on our work and a grateful for the helpful suggestions to improve our manuscript.

Comment 2-1:

-The figures that show the positive and negative mode spectra flipped upside down have questionable information value. Comparing flipped spectra makes sense if one seeks to either demonstrate differences between mostly identical spectra or to show that two spectra are completely the same. It is

not surprising that positive and negative mode spectra will have all the peaks different so I am not sure what is to be shown here. It would make more sense to use this graphical interpretation of the data to compare spectra of two different samples with the same source polarity.

Response 2-1:

We understand the argument for upright versus flipped (or upside down) spectra in direct comparison of spectra acquired in similar polarity. We used upside down and stacked graphs to show a comparison of spectra acquired by the same polarity throughout the supplemental materials section of our manuscript. Our intent was to show the direction of the polarity during acquisition as represented by the flipped spectra (i.e., upside down) in the main part of the manuscripts and we believe that this is a valuable means of presentation. Additionally, these flipped spectra show ions detected in both modes, which correspond to the same molecule, adding confidence to identifications. As such, we acknowledge the reviewers concerns and politely disagree on the type of representation of spectra.

Comment 2-2:

-Spectrum S2 has incorrect description in the caption (Panel A is apparently a full range MS spectrum, tandem MS spectra start with panel B)

Response 2-2:

We revised this figure caption. The revised caption reads: "Figure S2. MS spectra from direct infusion in positive ion mode of rice vinegar acquired by ESI on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation). Shown are the MS₁ spectrum (a) and the fragmentation spectra (MS₂) of sodium and potassium adducts of disaccharides found at *m/z* 365 (b) and *m/z* 381 (c), and glucose/fructose at *m/z* 203 (d). The fragmentation spectra were acquired with different collision-induced dissociation (CID) energies to show the fragment ions from the different precursor ions. The masses measured were: [C₁₂H₂₂O₁₁Na]⁺, measured: 365.1051, exact: 365.1060, error: 2.5 ppm; [C₁₂H₂₂O₁₁K]⁺, measured: 381.0741, exact: 381.0799, error: 15.2 ppm."

Comment 2-3:

-It is interesting that ions at *m/z* 365 and 381 in QTOF spectra in Figure S2 have a big difference in mass error. The two ions with very close *m/z* values arrived to the detector within a fraction of a microsecond.

In the absence of space charge issues one has to wonder why the difference in mass error. Were other options, non-potasiated species, also considered as candidates during identification?

Response 2-3:

We considered other obvious options for species that might be present during identification and did not come up with other possibilities. Additionally, the tandem mass spectra for each of these ions is characteristic for each assignment. These are not very large differences in error for a TOF analyzer, but one possibility other than space-charge effect is the presence of chemical noise or isobars at low abundance skewing the data a bit. Furthermore, despite calibration of the Q-TOF instrument, we have not used a lock mass ion during ESI and SAWN experiments to post-calibrate the results. The mass shift of 9 mmu for Na⁺ and 58mmu for K⁺ may be attributed to the experiment.

Comment 2-4:

-It is actually not uncommon to use [M-Cl]⁻ ions to detect and quantify sugars in ESI-MS analysis. The adducts are stable in ESI and using [M-Cl]⁻ ions dramatically increases sensitivity and LOD compare M⁺ ions. The limitation in LCMS is not the fragility during ESI ionization, but compatibility with basic pH mobile phase. [M-Cl]⁻. The problem in LCMS of sugars is with reducing sugars that undergo mutarotation. Separation of alpha and beta anomers then results in very bad peak broadening, often beyond detectability However, the anomers can be collapsed into one peak by using high pH mobile phase (e.g. 0.1 % NH₄OH). But higher pH suppresses the formation/stability of chloride adducts in ESI. Although I believe the authors that SAWN provides softer ionization in a sense that the internal energy of ions that originate from SAWN is lower then in ESI (as also claimed for many alternative techniques such as ESSI and some other ambient techniques), I am not sure that it causes better survival rates of the mentioned ion adducts. If there is really a significant difference between SAWN and ESI in abundance of ion adducts (the manuscript however does not provide sufficient evidence for this), it could be also caused by some other factor, for instance different local concentrations of the cationization/anionization species or different pH.

Response 2-4:

We thank the reviewer for his/her thoughtful remarks. The study of different pH during ionization or sample transfer during SAWN-MS is of interest to us. However, we have not explored this area deeply. We are aware of the differences in pH in the samples of vinegar and wine we studied but a much deeper analytical study into such variations and the impact on sample transfer and ionization was beyond the scope of our study.

Comment 2-5:

-From the terminological perspective, ESI is not usually called ambient ionization (as it is in pg 14 ln4,6), although it operates at ambient pressure. See relevant papers from Cooks group for the arguments and definition of ambient ionization.

Response 2-5:

We agree with the assessment of the reviewer regarding the terminology of the methods and have revised the first sentence in 5th paragraph of the introduction as follows:

"All of the novel ionizations methods listed here that operate at ambient pressures are widely used in research settings."

Comment 2-6:

-The advantage of QTOFs for ambient ionization is that they can quickly obtain accurate mass spectra, which allow determination of molecular formula and thus provide more confidence in identification. This is a feature that is not sufficiently explored in this work. One potential difficulty is the absence of predefined mass lock specie (such as leucine-encephaline) that could be utilized for accurate mass internal calibration.

Response 2-6:

We understand that the addition of lock mass compounds as described by the reviewer would increase the mass measurement accuracy for our identifications. However, we have not included lock mass species in our initial studies shown here out of an abundance of caution to retain clean spectra from the different samples we tested. Additionally, the identifications we made using tandem MS at accurate

mass, along with MS₁ TOF mass spectra provide sufficient information without lock mass to identify these relatively small ions. The QTOF instrument used in these experiments is not sufficiently accurate, even with lock mass, to define empirical formulae based on precursor mass alone for very many ions in any of our spectra. We agree with the reviewer that the QTOF's speed is a major advantage to its use in acquiring ambient ionization MS data.

Comment 2-7:

-The comparison between IPA and Bud Light, that shows almost no difference between identified species, in my opinion demonstrates the limitation of ambient ionization. A properly performed untargeted LCMS study with high resolution mass spec would likely identified hundreds of compounds in both beers as well as differences between them. Thus, the SAWN data show how preferential ionization and ion suppression, which are common in all ambient techniques, make it relatively difficult to find practical applications of ambient ionizations. (Unless the authors actually wanted to conclude that good IPA is the same as Bud Light...)

Response 2-7:

We refrained from making an assessment to conclude that the IPA used in our study is the same as Bud Light. The main focus here was that we could observe the fragmentation of oligosaccharides to a greater extent in our study when compared to the referenced study conducted by ESI. The conclusion for us was simply that spontaneous fragmentation was observed to a lesser degree in SAWN-MS compared to ESI-MS. This was in support of earlier studies with SAWN-MS that were able to show "softer" ionization compared to alternative methods, which can be of benefit in the analysis of labile compounds. While we agree that online separation often provides an advantage with respect to the number of confident compound identifications, we would note that we did not attempt to identify all monoisotopic ions in the mass spectra; there are hundreds. So, while the spectra are qualitatively similar between Bud Light and Goose IPA (they are both beer, after all), it is possible that there are features, or relative abundances of features, in the mass spectra which could reliably differentiate between the two types of beer. Figure S8 shows a few *m/z* regions wherein some of these differences can be observed. Development of computational tools for differentiation of mass spectra would be necessary to determine the feasibility of this platform for the aforementioned use.

[Click here to view linked References](#)

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4 Food Analytical Methods
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11 *Rapid Food Product Analysis by Surface Acoustic Wave*
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15 *Nebulization Coupled Mass Spectrometry*
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4 **Abstract**
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7 Rapid food product analysis is of great interest for quality control and assurance during the
8 production process. Conventional quality control protocols require time and labor intensive
9 sample preparation for analysis by state-of-the-art analytical methods. To reduce overall cost and
10 facilitate rapid qualitative assessments, food products need to be tested with minimal sample
11 preparation. We present a novel and simple method for assessing food product compositions by
12 mass spectrometry using a novel surface acoustic wave nebulization method. This method
13 provides significant advantages over conventional methods requiring no pumps, capillaries, or
14 additional chemicals to enhance ionization for mass spectrometric analysis. In addition, the
15 surface acoustic wave nebulization – mass spectrometry method is ideal for rapid analysis and to
16 investigate certain compounds by using the mass spectra as a type of species-specific fingerprint
17 analysis. We present for the first time surface acoustic wave nebulization generated mass spectra
18 of a variety of fermented food products from a small selection of vinegars, wines, and beers.
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44 **Keywords**
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47 Mass Spectrometry; Surface Acoustic Wave Nebulization; Vinegar, Wine, Beer - Analysis
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4 **1. Introduction**
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8 Food production and manufacturing has the largest share in gross manufacturing output in the
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10 U.S., reaching 957 billion US\$ in 2015 (Nicholson 2017). Consumers expect quality and
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12 consistency from food products and manufacturers use quality and consistency as competitive
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14 tools to gain and maintain market share. This is especially true in the beverage and condiment
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16 industries, where quality control is a significant production cost. In addition, product
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18 authentication is important to both producers and customers (Tesfaye et al. 2002).
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23 Traditional methods for analysis and quality control in the spirit and beverage industry
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25 include liquid and gas chromatography (LC and GC), photometry, and enzymatic analysis
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27 (Phillips et al. 2006). To reduce quality control costs, new methods have been proposed that
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29 require less sample preparation and time to obtain qualitative and quantitative results. These
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31 methods include the use of principle component analysis combined with high-resolution nuclear
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33 magnetic resonance (NMR) or Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy (Duarte et al.
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35 2004; Lachenmeier 2007).
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41 Another technique that can reduce analysis cost and time while increasing accuracy,
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43 sensitivity, and the number of analytes per measurement is mass spectrometry (MS).
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45 Conventional atmospheric pressure ionization MS relies mostly on two methods to introduce a
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47 sample into the mass spectrometer for analysis, namely electrospray ionization (ESI) and matrix
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49 assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI) (Nordhoff et al. 1996). While ESI and MALDI are
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51 extremely useful techniques for gas-phase ion generation, the use of these specific sample
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53 transfer methods can limit the type of sample that can be analyzed and impose challenges such as
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55 capillary clogging and matrix interference of the target analyte's signal (Cohen and Chait 1996),
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4 sometimes requiring dedication of considerable time and effort to troubleshooting and method
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6 development. MS has been applied together with high resolution chromatography in the study of
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8 beer flavors in the 1980's (Peppard 1985), while beer phenols have recently been reported for the
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10 first time in a detailed study by high resolution MS (Quifer-Rada et al. 2015).
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15 The advancements in novel ambient ionization methods over the past ten years, including
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17 desorption electrospray ionization (DESI) (Takats et al. 2004), direct analysis in real time
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19 (DART) (Cody et al. 2005), laser ablation electrospray ionization (LAESI) (Nemes and Vertes
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21 2007), rapid evaporative ionization mass spectrometry (REIMS) (Schäfer et al. 2009), paper
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23 spray ionization (Wang et al. 2010), and others have greatly expanded MS to new applications at
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25 ambient conditions, including the analysis of varying surfaces and living tissues under real life
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27 conditions (Dill et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2017). Several variations of these methods have been
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29 developed since then, but few of these techniques have found applications in the food and
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31 beverage industry. Notably, DESI has been applied to fruit peels and food stuff extracts to trace
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33 agrochemicals (Garcia-Reyes et al. 2009). DART has been used for metabolomic profiling of
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35 different beer samples in a study aimed at the development of cost-effective methods to help
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37 authenticate food products based on the origin of their ingredients (Cajka et al. 2011).
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45 All of the novel ionizations methods listed here that operate at ambient pressures are
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47 widely used in research settings. However, these methods generally require some type of support
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49 medium (*e.g.*, carrier gas, ESI) or thermal heating / ionization through a hot electrode, a corona
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51 needle, or a laser optical setup in order to achieve sample transfer to the MS (Van Berkel et al.
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53 2008). Therefore, further simplifying and improving the sample transfer into the mass
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55 spectrometer will greatly enhance the capability of MS as a low cost and powerful analytical
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57 method for the food and beverage industry. In order to address challenges in the sample transfer
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4 methods, Goodlett and colleagues recently introduced a novel ambient sample transfer method
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6 called surface acoustic wave nebulization (SAWN) (Heron et al. 2010). SAWN is expected to
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8 help addressing the challenges complex samples face in MS analyses.
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11 Evolved from the telecommunication and semiconductor industry (Campbell 1989),
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13 surface acoustic waves (SAWs) have been applied to a variety of applications including surface
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15 patterning, fluidic mixing, sample transport and focusing, and jetting and nebulization (Länge et
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17 al. 2008; Yeo and Friend 2014). SAWN takes advantage of the SAW effect that is induced in
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19 piezoelectric materials by metallic electrodes (interdigital transducers, IDTs; **Fig. 1**) at high
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21 frequencies to create a fine plume of droplets (Heron et al. 2010; Ho et al. 2011; Huang et al.
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23 2012; Yen et al. 2016). These droplets are readily introduced into the vacuum interface region of
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25 a mass spectrometer, further desolvated, and subsequently analyzed. Recently, we showed its
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27 application as a versatile tool for the fast analysis of hydrophobic lipid A (Yoon et al. 2012,
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29 2016; Liang et al. 2017), a major component of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria,
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31 which is recognized by the host immune system as an endotoxin (Coats et al. 2009). We have
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33 further developed the SAWN technology using a standing wave configuration to achieve higher
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35 nebulization efficiency (Huang et al. 2016; Liang et al. 2017).
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45 Here we present for the first time the rapid analysis of food products by SAWN-MS that
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47 include a selection of fermented food products such as vinegars, wines, and beers. While
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49 standard methods for quality control and targeted analysis exist based on GC-MS and LC-MS
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51 (Flamini and Traldi 2010), such methods require significantly more time than SAWN-MS for
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53 rapid spot-checking analysis of sample quality during the beverage and condiment
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55 manufacturing process. SAWN-MS holds the unique advantage of being an ambient nebulization
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57 method, which can be conducted with complex samples. Conventional sample transfer methods
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4 such as ESI and nanospray ionization (NSI) require careful consideration of the solvent/sample
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6 composition to avoid potential interactions that can lead to clogging of capillary tips, which
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8 increases the time required for analysis. SAWN-MS relies on a planar chip surface that is used to
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10 nebulize the sample and is therefore not as restricted in its use as ESI, and unlike ESI no voltage
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12 is applied directly to the sample making SAWN inherently less likely to break labile bonds
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14 during ionization (Huang et al. 2012). This is especially useful when analyzing complexes held
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16 together by electrostatic forces (e.g. ion clusters) and/or compounds with very labile functional
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18 groups (e.g., nucleotides or phospholipids) (Yoon et al. 2012).
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26 27 **2. Materials and Methods**

28 29 **2.1 Food Samples**

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32 Different fermented food products were used as received and diluted up to 100-fold in ultra-
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34 purified water (18.2 MΩ; MilliQ, Millipore, Milford, MA, USA) immediately before SAWN-MS
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36 analysis. The food products included vinegars, wines, and beer. Vinegars were purchased in local
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38 grocery stores: Heinz Distilled White Vinegar (H.J. Heinz Company, L.P, King of Prussia, PA,
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40 USA), Rice Vinegar (Kikkoman Sales USA, Inc., San Francisco, CA, USA), and Aged Balsamic
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42 Vinegar (Pepper Palace, Sevierville, TN, USA). Wines and beer were sourced from local
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44 restaurants: Tapena Red Wine (Freixenet USA, Sonoma, CA, USA), Le Rime Pinot Grigio
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46 (Banfi srl, Siena, IT), Goose IPA (Goose Island Beer Company, Chicago, IL, USA), and Bud
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48 Light (Anheuser-Busch, St. Louis, MO, USA).
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58 59 **2.2 Surface Acoustic Wave Nebulization – Mass Spectrometry**

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4 The Standing Wave (SW) SAWN chips used in our current study were manufactured at the
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6 Washington Nanofabrication Facility (University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA) following
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8 an established procedure (Huang et al. 2016; Liang et al. 2017). A detailed summary of the chip
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10 fabrication is provided in the **Supplemental Material**. The SW-SAWN chips were placed in a
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12 custom chip holder designed and built using 3D Computer Aided Design Software (123D
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14 Design, Autodesk, San Rafael, CA, USA) and a Simple Metal 3D printer (Printrobot, Lincoln,
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16 CA, USA). A custom designed PCB board was used to connect the chip through RF cables to the
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18 SAWN Controller v1.0 (Deurion LLC, Seattle, WA, USA), which provided control over power
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20 and duration of the SAWN (**Fig. 1**). All experiments in the present study were conducted at a
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22 SAW frequency of 9.56 MHz and a power output of 11 W.
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30 The food samples were analyzed on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass
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32 spectrometer (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA; **Fig. 1a**) in sensitivity mode, with
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34 positive and negative ion mode acquisition. The source block temperature was set to 150°C.
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36 Sample aliquots of 1 µL were pipetted directly into the delay region of the SAWN chip (i.e., in
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38 between the IDT's, see **Fig. 1b**) in a discontinuous fashion and the data from five aliquots were
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40 averaged to enhance signal-to-noise ratio. Typical SAWN experiments last 2-3 s.
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45 Assignment and verification of selected compounds was conducted with ESI by collision-
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47 induced dissociation (CID) on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA)
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49 retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel (Canterbury et al. 2014) and on a Waters Synapt G2-S
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51 HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation), chosen based on instrument
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53 availability at the time of analysis. The same samples used for SAWN-MS were used for
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55 compound assignment. The spectral data were acquired over 1 min at different normalized
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57 collision energies (NCE = 0 – 30 %).
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3. Results and Discussion

The advantages of the SAWN-MS analysis are its flexibility and speed. This technique requires minimal sample pre-processing (*e.g.*, dilution in water or organic solvent prior spotting) and is not limited by the challenges of conventional sample transfer methods for ESI/NSI and MALDI-MS (*e.g.*, clogging of capillaries, the requirement for syringe pumps, laser-optical setups, the use of chemical additives for sample ionization, and matrix interferences at low m/z). In the present work, we focused our investigation on the potential of the SAWN-MS method for rapid analysis of complex food products from the beverage and condiment industry. Some of the fermented food products we have investigated here have been studied in detail before by conventional LC-MS and tandem MS methods. The focus of these studies was often on the identification of specific individual compounds found in vinegars, wines, or beer based on their ion fragments in tandem MS experiments (Araújo et al. 2005; Chinnici et al. 2009). We confirmed key compounds found in our spectra by ESI-CID experiments (see **Supplemental Material Fig. S1, S2, S4-S6**), while the assignment of other compounds relied on prior assignments published in the literature.

Vinegars are produced through bacterial fermentation of ethanol and contain mainly acetic acid and water. Vinegars are important ingredients for cooking and as preservatives of food through pickling processes. While acetic acid produces ions below 100 m/z that are a general indicator of the presence of vinegar in a sample, it was not of interest for our investigation. Instead, we focused our study on a larger m/z range to investigate the difference between low cost distilled white vinegar (made from corn) and more aromatic rice vinegar (made

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4 from rice) and balsamic vinegars (made from concentrated grape juice and must or wine vinegar
5 with the addition of caramel and other additives, respectively). The full mass spectra for these
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7 three different vinegar styles are shown in **Fig. 2**.
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12 In the positive ion mode mass spectrum of distilled white vinegar we found repeating
13 ions, spaced equally apart by $\Delta m/z$ 216, indicating the presence of oligomers with sodium
14 adducts $[M+Na]^+$ (*i.e.*, m/z 455, 671, and 887) and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ (*i.e.*, m/z 471, 687,
15 and 903; **Fig. 2a**). Similarly spaced ions are present in the mass spectra of rice and balsamic
16 vinegar (**Fig. 2a-c**). All vinegars showed ions at m/z 203 and 219 which are sodium adducts
17 $[M+Na]^+$ and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ of glucose or fructose (Konda et al. 2012; Lee et al.
18 2012). Other ions that were visible in all vinegars and wines were identified as sodium adducts
19 $[M+Na]^+$ and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ of disaccharides through tandem MS (*i.e.*, ions at m/z
20 365 and 381, compare **Fig. 2** and **3**, see **Supplemental Material Fig. S1 & S2**).
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35 The negative ion mode mass spectra of vinegars showed a variety of sample-specific
36 ions, especially at low m/z , which can be associated with organic acids. A prominent ion at m/z
37 195 $[M-H]^-$ was found in all vinegars (**Fig. 2**) as well as in red wine (**Fig. 3a**), and has been
38 previously associated with gluconic acid, which occurs naturally in fruits, honey, and wine
39 (Felipe et al. 2014). The differences in intensity of gluconic acid can be used as a strong
40 indicator of the type of sample that is being analyzed as it varies strongly between vinegars and
41 wines (see **Supplemental Material Fig. S3**). Several organic acids known to be present in
42 grape-based food products may be associated with the ions shown in the negative ion mode mass
43 spectra of vinegars and wines. For example, an ion found at m/z 115 could be associated with
44 fumaric acid $[M-H]^-$ and is present in balsamic vinegar (**Fig. 2c**). Fumaric acid, a common food
45 additive, is used as an acidity regulator and is often used to replace tartaric acid, another food
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4 additive used as acidity regulator, antioxidant, and a primary component of wine grapes and
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6 fermented wines (Bravdo et al. 1985). Tartrate can be associated with m/z 149 (Amorisco et al.
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8 2012) and is dominant in balsamic vinegar as well as both wines tested, and has low abundance
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10 in white vinegar (**Fig. 2** and **3**). A hydroxycinnamic acid, caffeic acid, is known to be present in
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12 red wines and to produce an $[M-H]^-$ ion at m/z 179 (Perez-Magarino et al. 1999). We found these
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14 ions in the mass spectra of balsamic vinegar, as well as in the mass spectra of the other two
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16 vinegars tested, albeit at lower relative abundances.
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22 The mass spectra of balsamic vinegar showed a complex number of potential compounds
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24 dominant at low m/z , particularly in negative ion mode acquisition (**Fig. 2c**). The mass spectra of
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26 the wines were less complex in comparison to balsamic vinegar. The dominant species found in
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28 the positive ion mode mass spectra of wines are sodium and potassium adducts of glucose or
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30 fructose at m/z 203 and 219. The main difference in the mono- and disaccharide mass spectral
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32 peaks between vinegars and wines are their relative intensities and intensity ratios (**Fig. 2** and **3**).
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34 This difference in relative intensity is ideal for mass spectral fingerprint analyses to help
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36 distinguish different samples.
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42 At low m/z in the positive ion mode mass spectra, an ion at m/z 116 was present
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44 dominantly in both wines, as well as the balsamic vinegar, but absent in rice vinegar and distilled
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46 vinegar (**Fig. 3**). The compound was assigned to the amino acid proline (based on CID, see
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48 **Supplemental Material Fig. S4**), which is abundant in grape berries and commonly found in
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50 wines even after fermentation (Ough 1968; Costin et al. 2004).
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55 In contrast to the mass spectra acquired from vinegars and wines are those from the two
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57 beers tested in our study. The beer mass spectra showed several ions in both positive and
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4 negative ion acquisition mode that are equally spaced by $\Delta m/z$ 162, indicating the presence of di-
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6 and oligosaccharides. The ions in the positive acquisition mode mass spectrum of Bud Light and
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8 Goose IPA indicate the presence of O-linked saccharides (**Fig. 4**). These di- and oligosaccharides
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10 are the sodium adducts $[M+Na]^+$ and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ of maltose, maltotriose, and
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12 maltotetraose at m/z of 365 and 381, m/z of 527 and 543, and m/z of 689 and 705, respectively
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14 (**Fig. 4**) (Araújo et al. 2005; Belitz et al. 2009). Larger oligosaccharides are present in our
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16 SAWN-mass spectra that were confirmed by tandem MS (see **Supplemental Material Fig. S5**
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18 **and S6**). Similarly spaced peaks ($\Delta m/z$ 162) were found in mass spectra for both beers acquired
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20 in negative ion mode, indicating the presence of chloride adducts $[M+Cl]^-$ for the same
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22 saccharides at m/z 377, 539, and 701, respectively. These ions showed the natural isotope
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24 distribution pattern of chlorine (^{35}Cl and ^{37}Cl ; see **Supplemental Material Fig. S7**). Sodium and
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26 potassium adducts of glucose (m/z 203 and 219) were present in relative low abundance in both
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28 beers. Compared to recent fingerprinting studies of beer with ESI (Araújo et al. 2005), our
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30 SAWN-MS method was able to show sodium and potassium adducts in the positive ion
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32 acquisition mode of additional oligosaccharides in both beers tested, including maltopentaose
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34 (m/z 851 and 867), maltohexaose (m/z 1013 and 1029), and maltoheptaose (m/z 1175 and 1191).
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36 Similarly, chloride adducts of the oligosaccharides were found in the negative ion mode acquired
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38 mass spectra (**Fig. 4**). The main differences between the two beers investigated here was in the
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40 intensity ratios of the sodium and potassium adducts, which are ideal for distinguishing different
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42 types of beer.
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54 In negative ion mode we also found several compounds that can be tentatively associated
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56 with phenolic acids (Quifer-Rada et al. 2015). Among the compounds found in both beer
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58 samples are humulones, a resin component of mature hops, and a key ingredient in the brewing
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4 process which gives beer a bitter taste and has known bioactivity (Tagashira et al. 1995).
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6 Different humulones were tentatively identified, including Cohumulone I and II and Iso- α -
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8 cohumulone (m/z 347), as well as Ad-humulone and n-humulone (m/z 341) (Hofte and Hoeven
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10 1998; García-Villalba et al. 2006; Quifer-Rada et al. 2015). Other compounds found in both
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12 mass spectra of beer at low signal/noise can be associated to phenolic acids such as caffeic acids
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14 (m/z 179 and 341) and caffeoylquinic acids (m/z 353), as well as apigenins (m/z 431 and 593)
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16 which are commonly found in barley, a key ingredient in the beer brewing process (see
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18 **Supplemental Material Fig. S8**) (Frangne et al. 2002; Quinde-Axtell and Baik 2006; Quifer-
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20 Rada et al. 2015).
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30 **4. Conclusions**

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33 We have presented the first mass spectra acquired by SAWN-MS for different vinegars,
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35 wines, and beers. The mass spectra were acquired within minutes directly after a simple dilution
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37 in water, without the need for sample preparation steps such as centrifugation, extraction, or
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39 purification. The SAWN-MS method presented is ideal for spot-checking of samples during
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41 production, and can significantly reduce process analysis costs, as it requires no pumps,
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43 capillaries, lasers, or chemical enhancers. Compared to other ambient ionization methods such as
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45 ESI, SAWN-MS is energetically softer (Huang et al. 2012), leading to less fragmentation during
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47 ionization, and allowing more direct composition analysis. SAWN is also compatible with CID
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49 to allow structure analysis where needed for identification of target compounds (Yoon et al.
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51 2012). The advantage of softer ionization is exemplified in the SAWN-MS spectra of beer in our
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53 study that provided more information than prior ESI reports on beer analysis. Specifically,
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4 distinct oligomeric ions series and ratios of sample specific adducts (*e.g.*, sodium, potassium,
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6 chloride) can be used from SAWN spectra as direct indicators in targeted fingerprint analysis of
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8 food samples. Thus, we believe we have shown here that SAWN-MS can be a powerful tool to
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10 reduce quality control costs while helping to increase product quality, consistency, and
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12 authenticity.
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15 16 17 18 19 20 **5. Acknowledgements**

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22
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25 microfabrication of the SAWN chips.
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33 **6. Appendix A. Supplementary data**

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35 Supplemental data associated with this article can be found in the online version (ESI-CID
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37 compound assignments).
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44 **7. Compliance with Ethical Standards**

45
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55 **Conflict of Interest:** D.R.G. has financial interests in Deurion LLC.

56
57 **Ethical approval:** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals
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59 performed by any of the authors.
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4 **Informed consent:** Not applicable.
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4 **9. Figure Captions**
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11 Figure 1. a) SAWN Chip setup coupled to the inlet of a Waters Synapt G2-S. b) Sketch of
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13 SAWN principle. Counter-propagating SAW's generated by interdigital
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15 transducers (IDTs) on a piezoelectric material induce strong acoustic streaming
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17 and recirculation in the sample droplet which leads to its vertical nebulization.
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21 Figure 2. Comparison of three different vinegars based on their mass spectra. Shown are the
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23 SAWN mass spectra acquired in positive (top graphs, dark colors) and negative
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25 (bottom graphs, light colors) acquisition mode of Heinz White Vinegar (a), Rice
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27 Vinegar (b), and Balsamic Vinegar (c).
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32 Figure 3. Comparison of red and white wine based on their mass spectra. Shown are the
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34 SAWN mass spectra acquired in positive (top graphs, dark colors) and negative
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36 (bottom graphs, light colors) acquisition mode of Tapena Red Wine (a) and Le
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38 Rime White Wine (b).
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42 Figure 4. Comparison of beer SAWN mass spectra. Shown are the mass spectra acquired in
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44 positive (top graphs, dark colors) and negative (bottom graphs, light colors)
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46 acquisition mode of Goose IPA (a) and Bud Light (b).
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4 **Supplemental Information:**
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8 *Rapid Food Product Analysis by Surface Acoustic Wave*
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11 *Nebulization Coupled Mass Spectrometry*
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4 1. Materials and Methods
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7 SAWN Chip Fabrication
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10 The Interdigital transducer (ITD) design was created by computer aided design software
11 (AutoCAD) and subsequently converted to a chrome mask (Heidelberg μ PG 101 Laser Pattern
12 Generator; Heidelberg Instruments Mikrotechnik GmbH, Heidelberg, Germany) at the
13 University of Washington Nanotech User Facility. Lithium Niobate wafers (LiNbO_3 128 Y-cut,
14 X-propagating, 3-inch; Crystal Technology, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA) were coated $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$
15 positive photoresist (AZ 1512; AZ Electronic Materials, Somerville, NJ, USA), followed by
16 exposure (Oriel mask aligner; Newport Corporation, Irvine, CA, USA) to create a sacrificial
17 layer containing the SAW transducer. The SAW chip design used in this study consisted of two
18 IDT pairs of electrodes to create counter-propagating SAW's. Each IDT pair consisted of 20
19 electrode pairs $100 \mu\text{m}$ wide, spaced $100 \mu\text{m}$ apart, and with a 5 mm aperture. The delay region
20 between the two IDT pairs was 8.1 mm . The operating frequency of the transducer used in this
21 study was 9.56 MHz . The IDT microelectrodes were created through heated vapor deposition of a
22 20 nm chrome adhesion layer followed by a 60 nm layer of gold. Subsequently, the photoresist
23 was removed through acetone rinse leaving behind the patterned electrodes on the LiNbO_3 wafer.
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2. Supplemental Figures

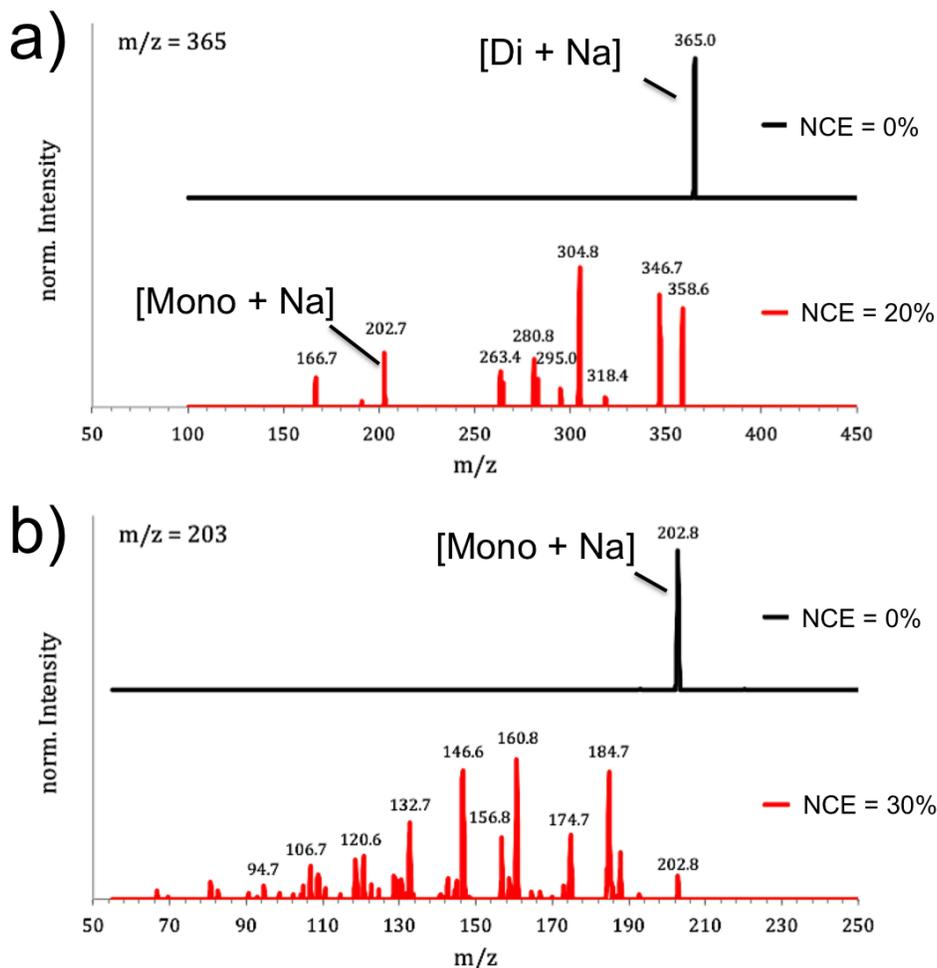


Figure S1. Fragmentation of sodium adducts of disaccharides found at m/z 365 (a) and glucose/fructose at m/z 203 (b) in samples from rice vinegar acquired by ESI on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel. Shown are the precursor ions (MS^2 at NCE of 0 %, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS^2 at NCE of 20 % in (a) and 30 % in (b), red spectra). Note that the differences in the collision energy used in this experiment are due to differences in energy required to fragment mono- and disaccharides.

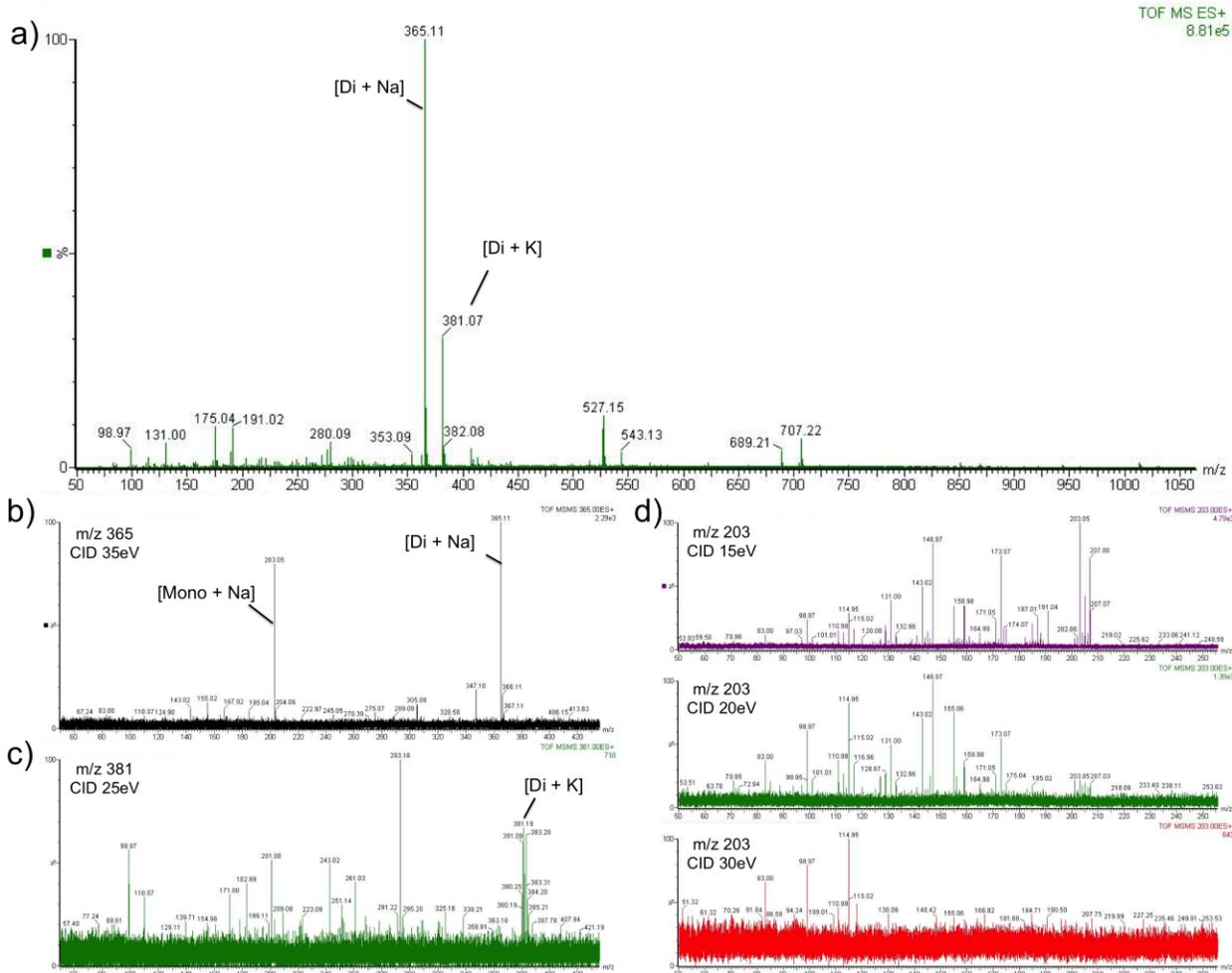


Figure S2. MS spectra from direct infusion in positive ion mode of rice vinegar acquired by ESI on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation). Shown are the MS1 spectrum (a) and the fragmentation spectra (MS2) of sodium and potassium adducts of disaccharides found at m/z 365 (b) and m/z 381 (c), and glucose/fructose at m/z 203 (d). The fragmentation spectra were acquired with different collision-induced dissociation (CID) energies to show the fragment ions from the different precursor ions. The masses measured were: $[C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}Na]^+$, measured: 365.1051, exact: 365.1060, error: 2.5 ppm; $[C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}K]^+$, measured: 381.0741, exact: 381.0799, error: 15.2 ppm.

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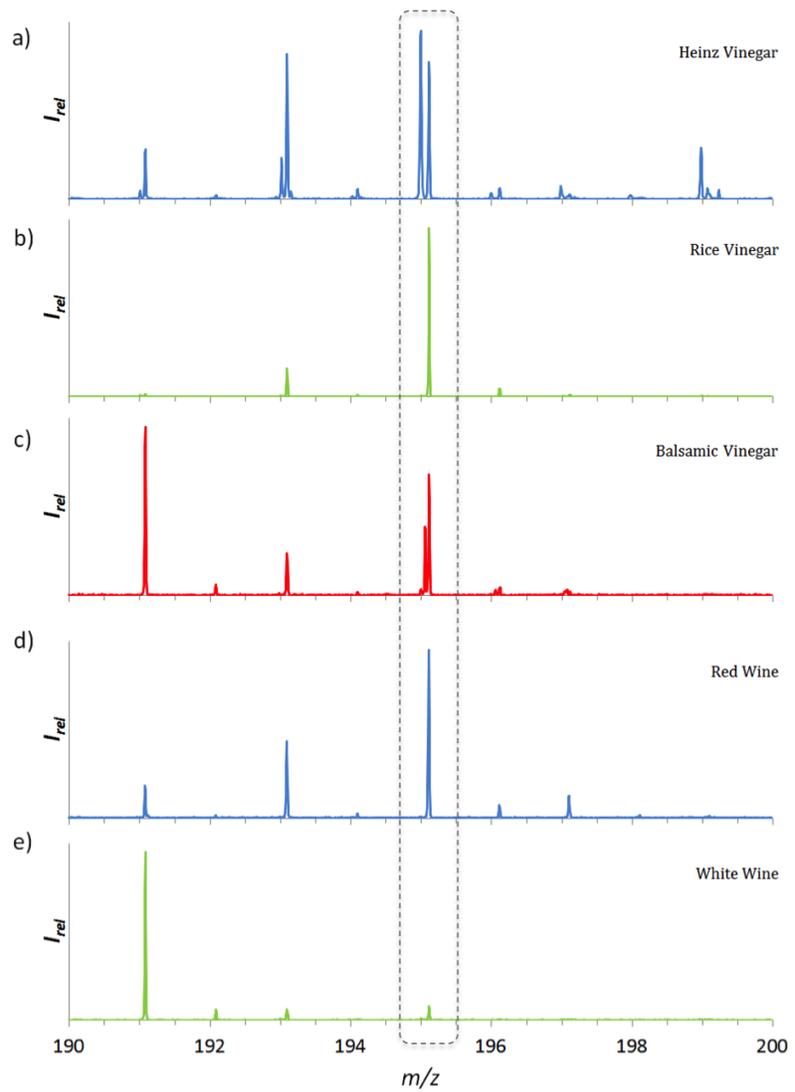
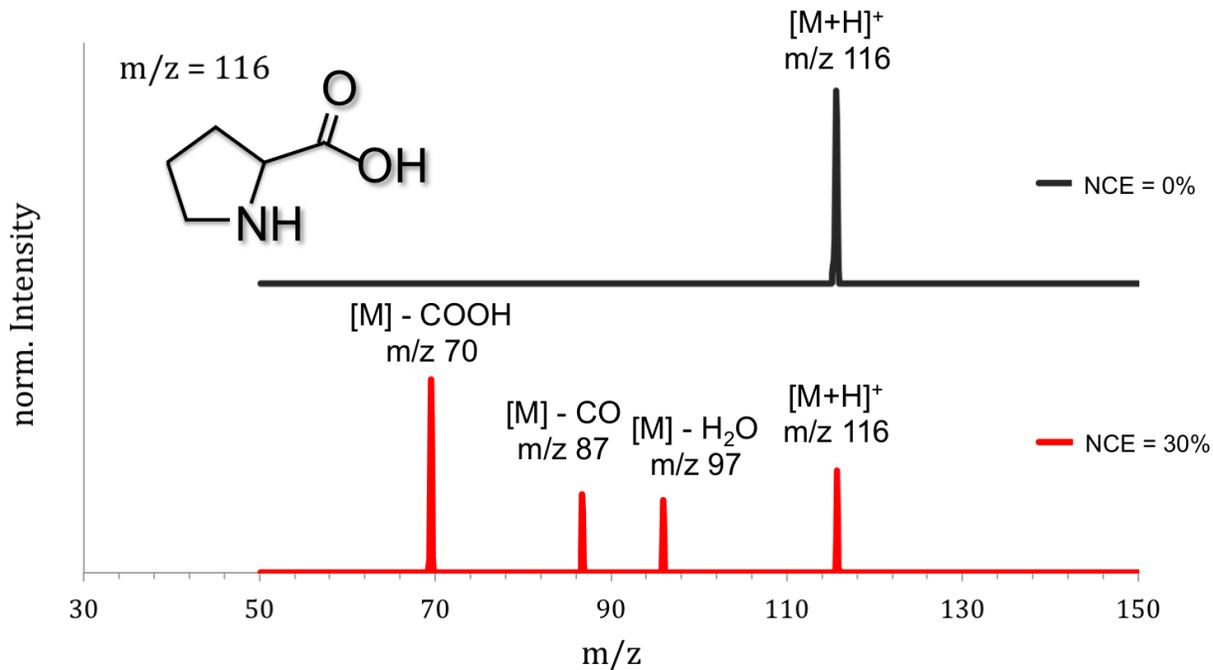


Figure S3. Comparison of changes in gluconate (m/z 195) in the negative ion mass spectra of different vinegars and wines acquired by SAWN MS.



28 Figure S4. Fragmentation of proline found in samples from balsamic vinegar acquired by ESI on
29 a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel. Shown are the
30 precursor ions (MS² at NCE = 0 %, black spectrum) and fragment ions (MS² at NCE = 30 %, red
31 spectrum).
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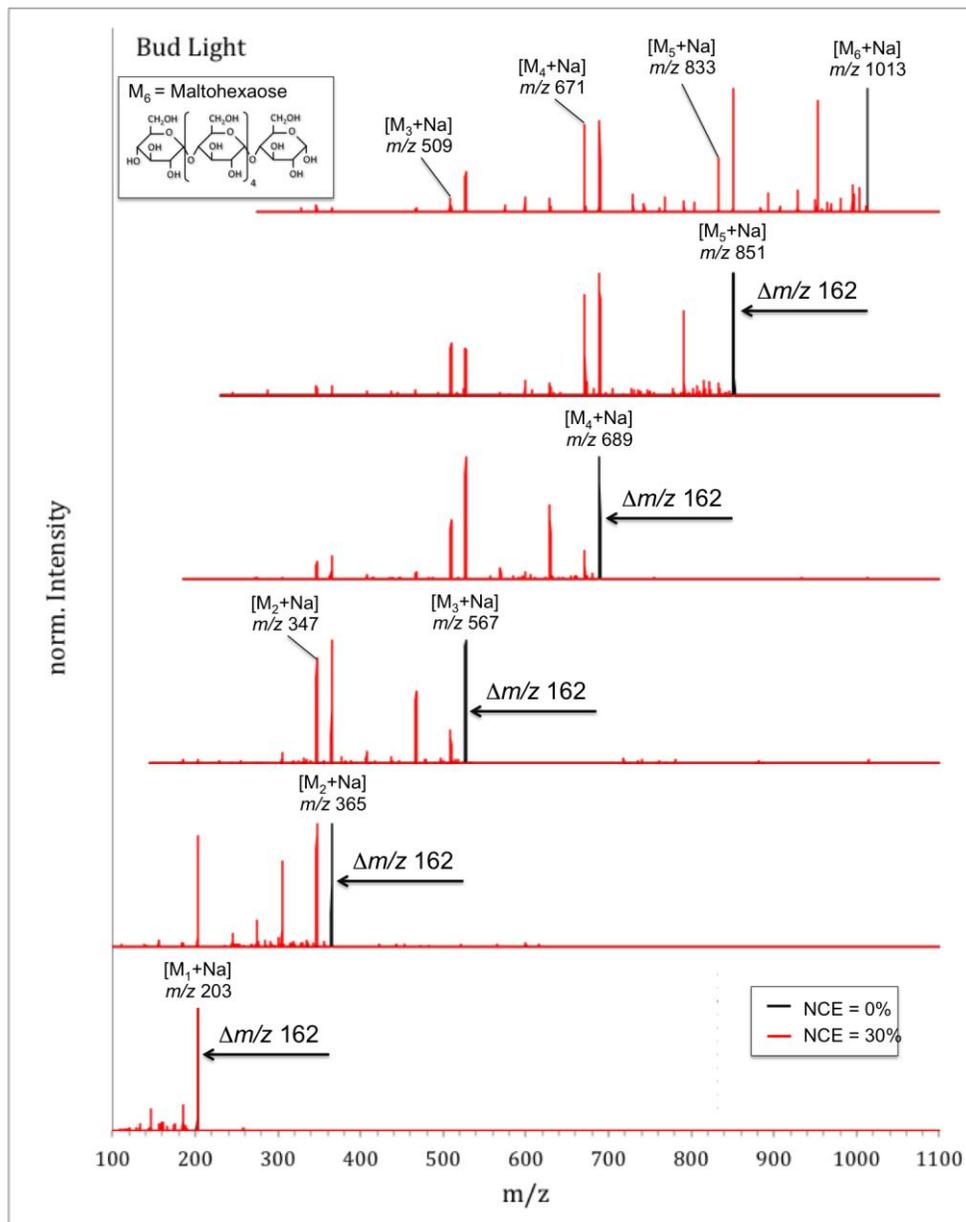


Figure S5. Fragmentation of oligosaccharides in samples from Bud Light acquired by ESI on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel. Shown are the precursor ions (MS² at NCE = 0 %, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS² at NCE = 30 %, red spectra).

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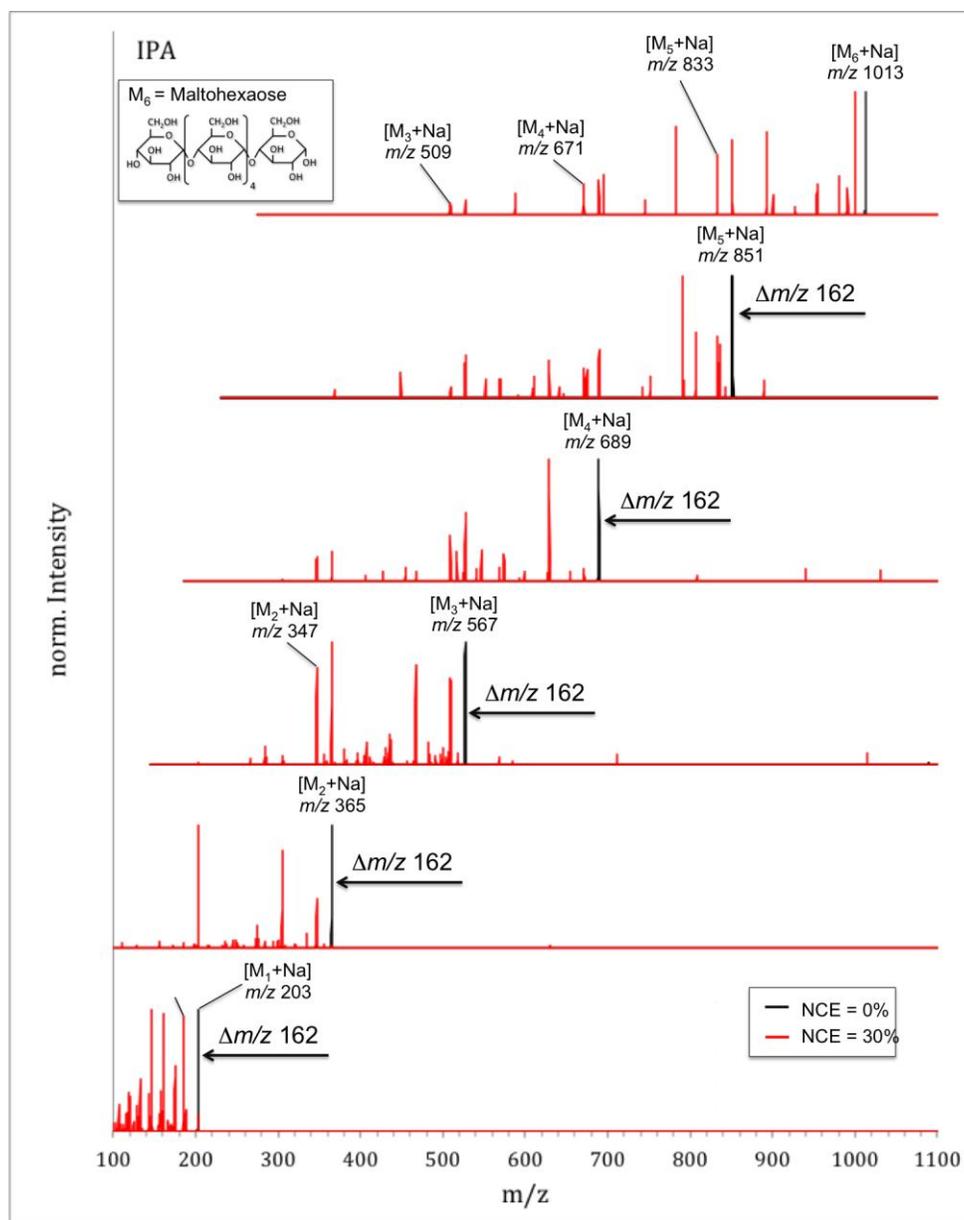


Figure S6. Fragmentation of oligosaccharides in samples from IPA acquired by ESI on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel. Shown are the precursor ions (MS^2 at CE 0, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS^2 at CE 30, red spectra).

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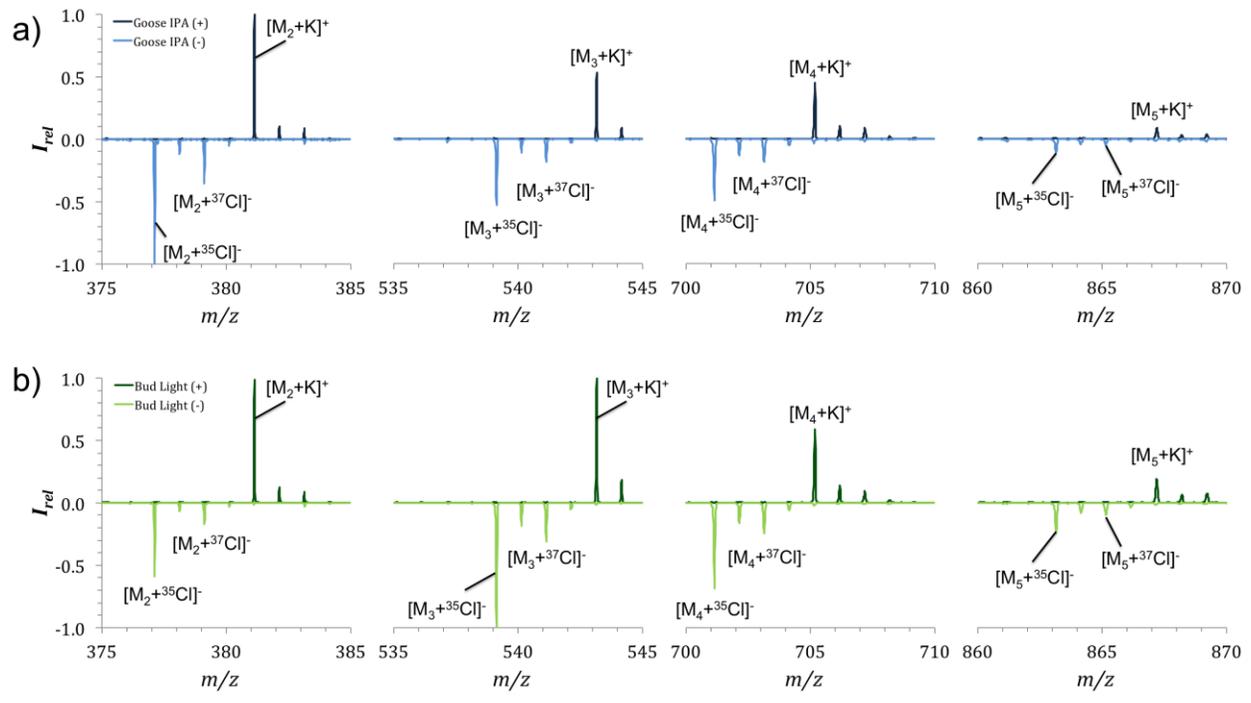


Figure S7. Natural isotope distribution pattern of chlorine in the oligosaccharide adducts of beer samples (Goose IPA (a) and Bud Light (b)) analyzed by SAWN-MS in negative ion mode (bottom graphs, light colors). M₂ = maltose, M₃ = maltotriose, M₄ = maltotetraose, and M₅ = maltopentaose.

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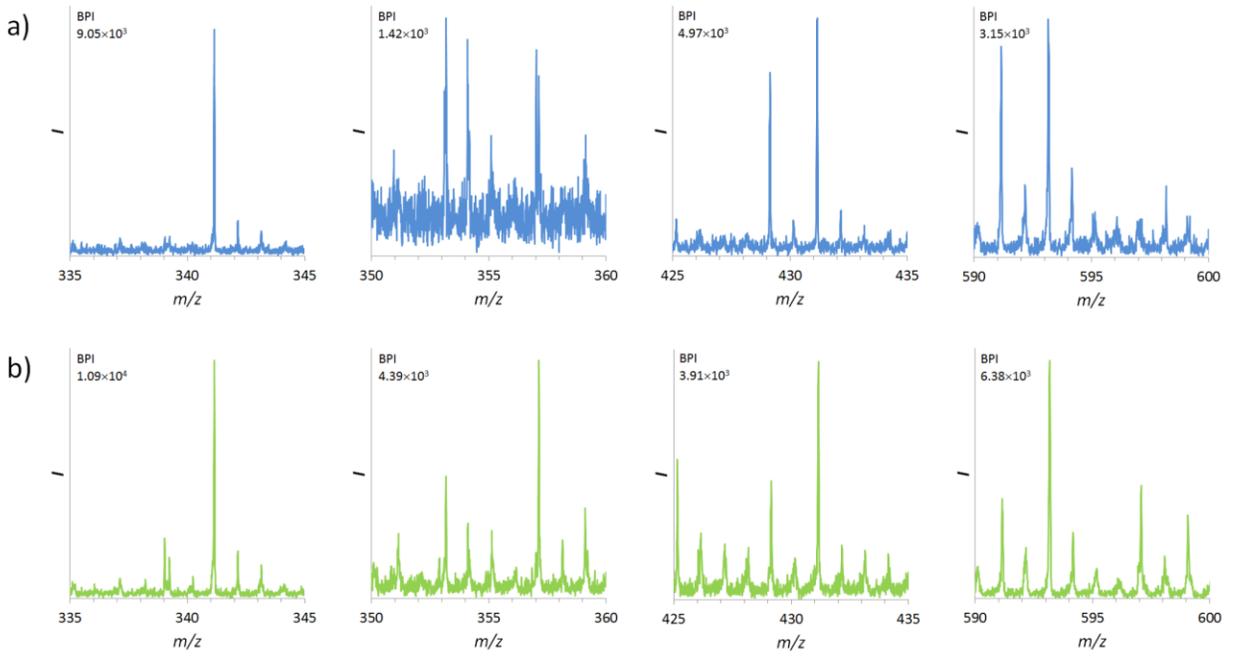


Figure S8. Expanded negative ion mass spectra for low S/N species in samples of Goose IPA (a) and Bud Light (b) acquired by SAWN MS.

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Food Analytical Methods

*Rapid Food Product Analysis by Surface Acoustic Wave
Nebulization Coupled Mass Spectrometry*

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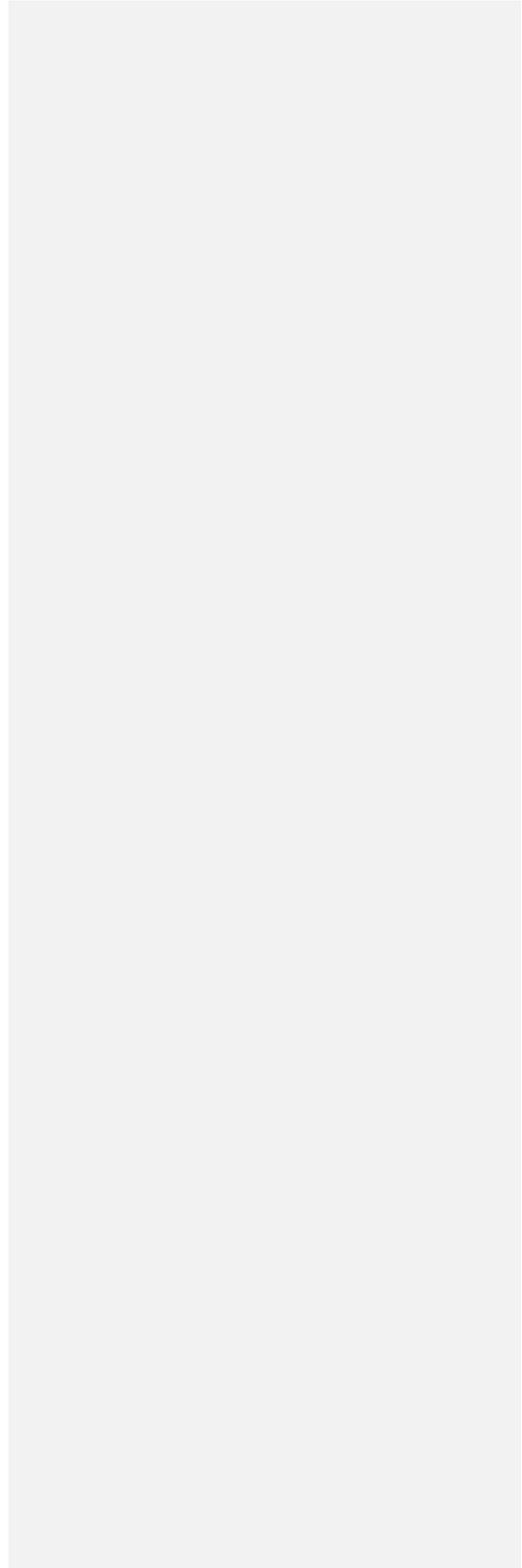
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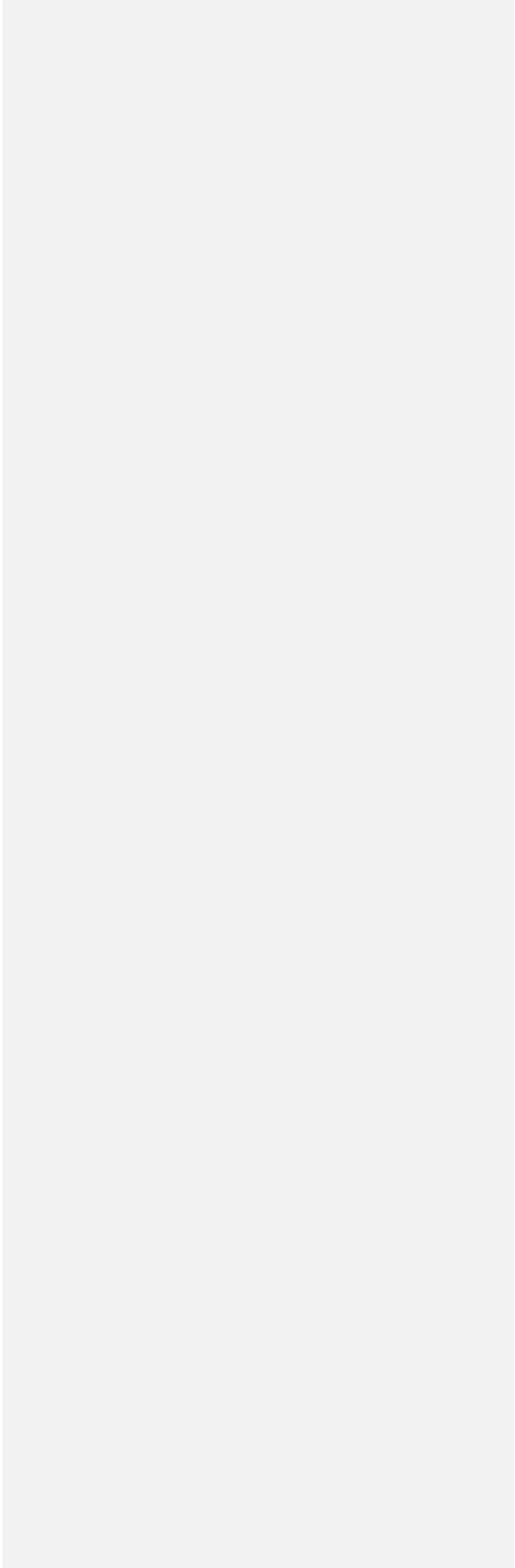
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Abstract

Rapid food product analysis is of great interest for quality control and assurance during the production process. Conventional quality control protocols require time and labor intensive sample preparation for analysis by state-of-the-art analytical methods. To reduce overall cost and facilitate rapid qualitative assessments, food products need to be tested with minimal sample preparation. We present a novel and simple method for assessing food product compositions by mass spectrometry using a novel surface acoustic wave nebulization method. This method provides significant advantages over conventional methods requiring no pumps, capillaries, or additional chemicals to enhance ionization for mass spectrometric analysis. In addition, the surface acoustic wave nebulization – mass spectrometry method is ideal for rapid analysis and to investigate certain compounds by using the mass spectra as a type of species-specific fingerprint analysis. We present for the first time surface acoustic wave nebulization generated mass spectra of a variety of fermented food products [from a small selection of vinegars, wines, and beers](#).

Keywords

Mass Spectrometry; Surface Acoustic Wave Nebulization; Vinegar, Wine, Beer - Analysis



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1. Introduction

Food production and manufacturing has the largest share in gross manufacturing output in the U.S., reaching 957 billion US\$ in 2015 (Nicholson 2017). Consumers expect quality and consistency from food products and manufacturers use quality and consistency as competitive tools to gain and maintain market share. This is especially true in the beverage and condiment industries, where quality control is a significant production cost. In addition, product authentication is important to both producers and customers (Tesfaye et al. 2002).

Traditional methods for analysis and quality control in the spirit and beverage industry include liquid and gas chromatography (LC and GC), photometry, and enzymatic analysis (Phillips et al. 2006). To reduce quality control costs, new methods have been proposed that require less sample preparation and time to obtain qualitative and quantitative results. These methods include the use of principle component analysis combined with high-resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) or Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy (Duarte et al. 2004; Lachenmeier 2007).

Another technique that can reduce analysis cost and time while increasing accuracy, sensitivity, and the number of analytes per measurement is mass spectrometry (MS). Conventional atmospheric pressure ionization MS relies mostly on two methods to introduce a sample into the mass spectrometer for analysis, namely electrospray ionization (ESI) and matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI) (Nordhoff et al. 1996). While ESI and MALDI are extremely useful techniques for gas-phase ion generation, the use of these specific sample transfer methods can limit the type of sample that can be analyzed and impose challenges such as capillary clogging and matrix interference of the target analyte’s signal (Cohen and Chait 1996),

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sometimes requiring dedication of considerable time and effort to troubleshooting and method development. MS has been applied together with high resolution chromatography in the study of beer flavors in the 1980's (Peppard 1985), while beer phenols have recently been reported for the first time in a detailed study by high resolution MS (Quifer-Rada et al. 2015).

The advancements in novel ambient ionization methods over the past ten years, including desorption electrospray ionization (DESI) (Takats et al. 2004), direct analysis in real time (DART) (Cody et al. 2005), laser ablation electrospray ionization (LAESI) (Nemes and Vertes 2007), rapid evaporative ionization mass spectrometry (REIMS) (Schäfer et al. 2009), paper spray ionization (Wang et al. 2010), and others have greatly expanded MS to new applications at ambient conditions, including the analysis of varying surfaces and living tissues under real life conditions (Dill et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2017). Several variations of these methods have been developed since then, but few of these techniques have found applications in the food and beverage industry. Notably, DESI has been applied to fruit peels and food stuff extracts to trace agrochemicals (Garcia-Reyes et al. 2009). DART has been used for metabolomic profiling of different beer samples in a study aimed at the development of cost-effective methods to help authenticate food products based on the origin of their ingredients (Cajka et al. 2011).

All of the novel ~~ambient~~ ionizations methods listed here [that operate at ambient pressures](#) are widely used in research settings. However, these methods generally require some type of support medium (*e.g.*, carrier gas, ESI) or thermal heating / ionization through a hot electrode, a corona needle, or a laser optical setup in order to achieve sample transfer to the MS (Van Berkel et al. 2008). Therefore, further simplifying and improving the sample transfer into the mass spectrometer will greatly enhance the capability of MS as a low cost and powerful analytical method for the food and beverage industry. In order to address challenges in the sample transfer

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methods, Goodlett and colleagues recently introduced a novel ambient sample transfer method called surface acoustic wave nebulization (SAWN) (Heron et al. 2010). SAWN is expected to help addressing the challenges complex samples face in MS analyses.

Evolved from the telecommunication and semiconductor industry (Campbell 1989), surface acoustic waves (SAWs) have been applied to a variety of applications including surface patterning, fluidic mixing, sample transport and focusing, and jetting and nebulization (Länge et al. 2008; Yeo and Friend 2014). SAWN takes advantage of the SAW effect that is induced in piezoelectric materials by metallic electrodes (interdigital transducers, IDTs; **Fig. 1**) at high frequencies to create a fine plume of droplets (Heron et al. 2010; Ho et al. 2011; Huang et al. 2012; Yen et al. 2016). These droplets are readily introduced into the vacuum interface region of a mass spectrometer, further desolvated, and subsequently analyzed. Recently, we showed its application as a versatile tool for the fast analysis of hydrophobic lipid A (Yoon et al. 2012, 2016; Liang et al. 2017), a major component of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria, which is recognized by the host immune system as an endotoxin (Coats et al. 2009). We have further developed the SAWN technology using a standing wave configuration to achieve higher nebulization efficiency (Huang et al. 2016; Liang et al. 2017).

Here we present for the first time the rapid analysis of food products by SAWN-MS [that include a selection of fermented food products such as vinegars, wines, and beers](#). While standard methods for quality control and targeted analysis exist based on GC-MS and LC-MS (Flamini and Traldi 2010), such methods require significantly more time than SAWN-MS for rapid spot-checking analysis of sample quality during the beverage and condiment manufacturing process. SAWN-MS holds the unique advantage of being an ambient nebulization method, which can be conducted with complex samples. Conventional sample transfer methods

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such as ESI and nanospray ionization (NSI) require careful consideration of the solvent/sample composition to avoid potential interactions that can lead to clogging of capillary tips, which increases the time required for analysis. SAWN-MS relies on a planar chip surface that is used to nebulize the sample and is therefore not as restricted in its use as ESI, and unlike ESI no voltage is applied directly to the sample making SAWN inherently less likely to break labile bonds during ionization (Huang et al. 2012). This is especially useful when analyzing complexes held together by electrostatic forces (e.g. ion clusters) and/or compounds with very labile functional groups (e.g., nucleotides or phospholipids) (Yoon et al. 2012).

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Food Samples

Different fermented food products were used as received and diluted up to 100-fold in ultra-purified water (18.2 MΩ; MilliQ, Millipore, Milford, MA, USA) immediately before SAWN-MS analysis. The food products included vinegars, wines, and beer. Vinegars were purchased in local grocery stores: Heinz Distilled White Vinegar (H.J. Heinz Company, L.P, King of Prussia, PA, USA), Rice Vinegar (Kikkoman Sales USA, Inc., San Francisco, CA, USA), and Aged Balsamic Vinegar (Pepper Palace, Sevierville, TN, USA). Wines and beer were sourced from local restaurants: Tapena Red Wine (Freixenet USA, Sonoma, CA, USA), Le Rime Pinot Grigio (Banfi srl, Siena, IT), Goose IPA (Goose Island Beer Company, Chicago, IL, USA), and Bud Light (Anheuser-Busch, St. Louis, MO, USA).

2.2 Surface Acoustic Wave Nebulization – Mass Spectrometry

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The Standing Wave (SW) SAWN chips used in our current study were manufactured at the Washington Nanofabrication Facility (University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA) following an established procedure (Huang et al. 2016; Liang et al. 2017). A detailed summary of the chip fabrication is provided in the **Supplemental Material**. The SW-SAWN chips were placed in a custom chip holder designed and built using 3D Computer Aided Design Software (123D Design, Autodesk, San Rafael, CA, USA) and a Simple Metal 3D printer (Printrbot, Lincoln, CA, USA). A custom designed PCB board was used to connect the chip through RF cables to the SAWN Controller v1.0 (Deurion LLC, Seattle, WA, USA), which provided control over power and duration of the SAWN (**Fig. 1**). All experiments in the present study were conducted at a SAW frequency of 9.56 MHz and a power output of 11 W.

The food samples were analyzed on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA; **Fig. 1a**) in sensitivity mode, with positive and negative ion mode acquisition. The source block temperature was set to 150°C. Sample aliquots of 1 µL were pipetted directly into the delay region of the SAWN chip (i.e., in between the IDT's, see **Fig. 1b**) in a discontinuous fashion and the data from five aliquots were averaged to enhance signal-to-noise ratio. Typical SAWN experiments last 2-3 s.

Assignment and verification of selected compounds was conducted with ESI by collision-induced dissociation (CID) on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel (Canterbury et al. 2014) and on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation). ~~due to~~ [chosen based on instrument availability at the time of analysis](#). The same samples used for SAWN-MS were used for compound assignment. The spectral data were acquired over 1 min at different normalized collision energies (NCE = 0 – 30 %).

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3. Results and Discussion

The advantages of the SAWN-MS analysis are its flexibility and speed. This technique requires minimal sample pre-processing (*e.g.*, dilution in water or organic solvent prior spotting) and is not limited by the challenges of conventional sample transfer methods for ESI/NSI and MALDI-MS (*e.g.*, clogging of capillaries, the requirement for syringe pumps, laser-optical setups, the use of chemical additives for sample ionization, and matrix interferences at low m/z). In the present work, we focused our investigation on the potential of the SAWN-MS method for rapid analysis of complex food products from the beverage and condiment industry. Some of the fermented food products we have investigated here have been studied in detail before by conventional LC-MS and tandem MS methods. The focus of these studies was often on the identification of specific individual compounds found in vinegars, wines, or beer based on their ion fragments in tandem MS experiments (Araújo et al. 2005; Chinnici et al. 2009). We confirmed key compounds found in our spectra by ESI-CID experiments (see **Supplemental Material Fig-Fig. ~~xxx~~S1, S2, S4-S6**), while the assignment of other compounds relied on prior assignments published in the literature.

Vinegars are produced through bacterial fermentation of ethanol and contain mainly acetic acid and water. Vinegars are important ingredients for cooking and as preservatives of food through pickling processes. While acetic acid produces ions below 100 m/z that are a general indicator of the presence of vinegar in a sample, it was not of interest for our investigation. Instead, we focused our study on a larger m/z range to investigate the difference between low cost distilled white vinegar (made from corn) and more aromatic rice vinegar (made

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11 from rice) and balsamic vinegars (made from concentrated grape juice and must or wine vinegar
12 with the addition of caramel and other additives, respectively). The full mass spectra for these
13 three different vinegar styles are shown in **Fig. 2**.

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17 In the positive ion mode mass spectrum of distilled white vinegar we found repeating
18 ions, spaced equally apart by $\Delta m/z$ 216, indicating the presence of oligomers with sodium
19 adducts $[M+Na]^+$ (*i.e.*, m/z 455, 671, and 887) and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ (*i.e.*, m/z 471, 687,
20 and 903; **Fig. 2a**). Similarly spaced ions are present in the mass spectra of rice and balsamic
21 vinegar (**Fig. 2a-c**). All vinegars showed ions at m/z 203 and 219 which are sodium adducts
22 $[M+Na]^+$ and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ of glucose or fructose (Konda et al. 2012; Lee et al.
23 2012). Other ions that were visible in all vinegars and wines were identified as sodium adducts
24 $[M+Na]^+$ and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ of disaccharides through tandem MS (*i.e.*, ions at m/z
25 365 and 381, compare **Fig. 2** and **3**, see **Supplemental Material Fig. S1 & S2**).

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35 The negative ion mode mass spectra of vinegars showed a variety of sample-specific
36 ions, especially at low m/z , which can be associated with organic acids. A prominent ion at m/z
37 195 $[M-H]^-$ was found in all vinegars (**Fig. 2**) as well as in red wine (**Fig. 3a**), and has been
38 previously associated with gluconic acid, which occurs naturally in fruits, honey, and wine
39 (Felipe et al. 2014). The differences in intensity of gluconic acid can be used as a strong
40 indicator of the type of sample that is being analyzed as it varies strongly between vinegars and
41 wines (see **Supplemental Material Fig. S3**). Several organic acids known to be present in
42 grape-based food products may be associated with the ions shown in the negative ion mode mass
43 spectra of vinegars and wines. For example, an ion found at m/z 115 could be associated with
44 fumaric acid $[M-H]^-$ and is present in balsamic vinegar (**Fig. 2c**). Fumaric acid, a common food
45 additive, is used as an acidity regulator and is often used to replace tartaric acid, another food
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additive used as acidity regulator, antioxidant, and a primary component of wine grapes and fermented wines (Bravdo et al. 1985). Tartrate can be associated with m/z 149 (Amorisco et al. 2012) and is dominant in balsamic vinegar as well as both wines tested, and has low abundance in white vinegar (**Fig. 2, Fig. and 3**). A hydroxycinnamic acid, caffeic acid, is known to be present in red wines and to produce an $[M-H]^-$ ion at m/z 179 (Perez-Magarino et al. 1999). We found these ions in the mass spectra of balsamic vinegar, as well as in the mass spectra of the other two vinegars tested, albeit at lower relative abundances.

The mass spectra of balsamic vinegar showed a complex number of potential compounds dominant at low m/z , particularly in negative ion mode acquisition (**Fig. 2c**). The mass spectra of the wines were less complex in comparison to balsamic vinegar. The dominant species found in the positive ion mode mass spectra of wines are sodium and potassium adducts of glucose or fructose at m/z 203 and 219. The main difference in the mono- and disaccharide mass spectral peaks between vinegars and wines are their relative intensities and intensity ratios (**Fig. 2 and 3**). This difference in relative intensity is ideal for mass spectral fingerprint analyses to help distinguish different samples.

At low m/z in the positive ion mode mass spectra, an ion at m/z 116 was present dominantly in both wines, as well as the balsamic vinegar, but absent in rice vinegar and distilled vinegar (**Fig. 3**). The compound was assigned to the amino acid proline (based on CID, see **Supplemental Material Fig. S4**), which is abundant in grape berries and commonly found in wines even after fermentation (Ough 1968; Costin et al. 2004).

In contrast to the mass spectra acquired from vinegars and wines are those from the two beers tested in our study. The beer mass spectra showed several ions in both positive and

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11 negative ion acquisition mode that are equally spaced by $\Delta m/z$ 162, indicating the presence of di-
12 and oligosaccharides. The ions in the positive acquisition mode mass spectrum of Bud Light and
13 Goose IPA indicate the presence of O-linked saccharides (**Fig. 4**). These di- and oligosaccharides
14 are the sodium adducts $[M+Na]^+$ and potassium adducts $[M+K]^+$ of maltose, maltotriose, and
15 maltotetraose at m/z of 365 and 381, m/z of 527 and 543, and m/z of 689 and 705, respectively
16 (**Fig. 4**) (Araújo et al. 2005; Belitz et al. 2009). Larger oligosaccharides are present in our
17 SAWN-mass spectra that were confirmed by tandem MS (see **Supplemental Material Fig. S5**
18 **and S6**). Similarly spaced peaks ($\Delta m/z$ 162) were found in mass spectra for both beers acquired
19 in negative ion mode, indicating the presence of chloride adducts $[M+Cl]^-$ for the same
20 saccharides at m/z 377, 539, and 701, respectively. These ions showed the natural isotope
21 distribution pattern of chlorine (^{35}Cl and ^{37}Cl ; see **Supplemental Material Fig. S7**). Sodium and
22 potassium adducts of glucose (m/z 203 and 219) were present in relative low abundance in both
23 beers. Compared to recent fingerprinting studies of beer with ESI (Araújo et al. 2005), our
24 SAWN-MS method was able to show sodium and potassium adducts in the positive ion
25 acquisition mode of additional oligosaccharides in both beers tested, including maltopentaose
26 (m/z 851 and 867), maltohexaose (m/z 1013 and 1029), and maltoheptaose (m/z 1175 and 1191).
27 Similarly, chloride adducts of the oligosaccharides were found in the negative ion mode acquired
28 mass spectra (**Fig. 4**). The main differences between the two beers investigated here was in the
29 intensity ratios of the sodium and potassium adducts, which are ideal for distinguishing different
30 types of beer.
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49 In negative ion mode we also found several compounds that can be tentatively associated
50 with phenolic acids (Quifer-Rada et al. 2015). Among the compounds found in both beer
51 samples are humulones, a resin component of mature hops, and a key ingredient in the brewing
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process which gives beer a bitter taste and has known bioactivity (Tagashira et al. 1995). Different humulones were tentatively identified, including Cohumulone I and II and Iso- α -cohumulone (m/z 347), as well as Ad-humulone and n-humulone (m/z 341) (Hofte and Hoenen 1998; García-Villalba et al. 2006; Quifer-Rada et al. 2015). Other compounds found in both mass spectra of beer at low signal/noise can be associated to phenolic acids such as caffeic acids (m/z 179 and 341) and caffeoylquinic acids (m/z 353), as well as apigenins (m/z 431 and 593) which are commonly found in barley, a key ingredient in the beer brewing process (see **Supplemental Material Fig. S8**) (Frangne et al. 2002; Quinde-Axtell and Baik 2006; Quifer-Rada et al. 2015).

4. Conclusions

We have presented the first mass spectra acquired by SAWN-MS for different vinegars, wines, and beers. The mass spectra were acquired within minutes directly after a simple dilution in water, without the need for sample preparation steps such as centrifugation, extraction, or purification. The SAWN-MS method presented is ideal for spot-checking of samples during production, and can significantly reduce process analysis costs, as it requires no pumps, capillaries, lasers, or chemical enhancers. Compared to other ambient ionization methods such as ESI, SAWN-MS is energetically softer (Huang et al. 2012), leading to less fragmentation during ionization, and allowing more direct composition analysis. SAWN is also compatible with CID to allow structure analysis where needed for identification of target compounds (Yoon et al. 2012). The advantage of softer ionization is exemplified in the SAWN-MS spectra of beer in our study that provided more information than prior ESI reports on beer analysis. Specifically,

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distinct oligomeric ions series and ratios of sample specific adducts (*e.g.*, sodium, potassium, chloride) can be used from SAWN spectra as direct indicators in targeted fingerprint analysis of food samples. Thus, we believe we have shown here that SAWN-MS can be a powerful tool to reduce quality control costs while helping to increase product quality, consistency, and authenticity.

5. Acknowledgements

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6. Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplemental data associated with this article can be found in the online version (ESI-CID compound assignments).

7. Compliance with Ethical Standards

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Conflict of Interest: D.R.G. has financial interests in Deurion LLC.

Ethical approval: This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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Informed consent: Not applicable.

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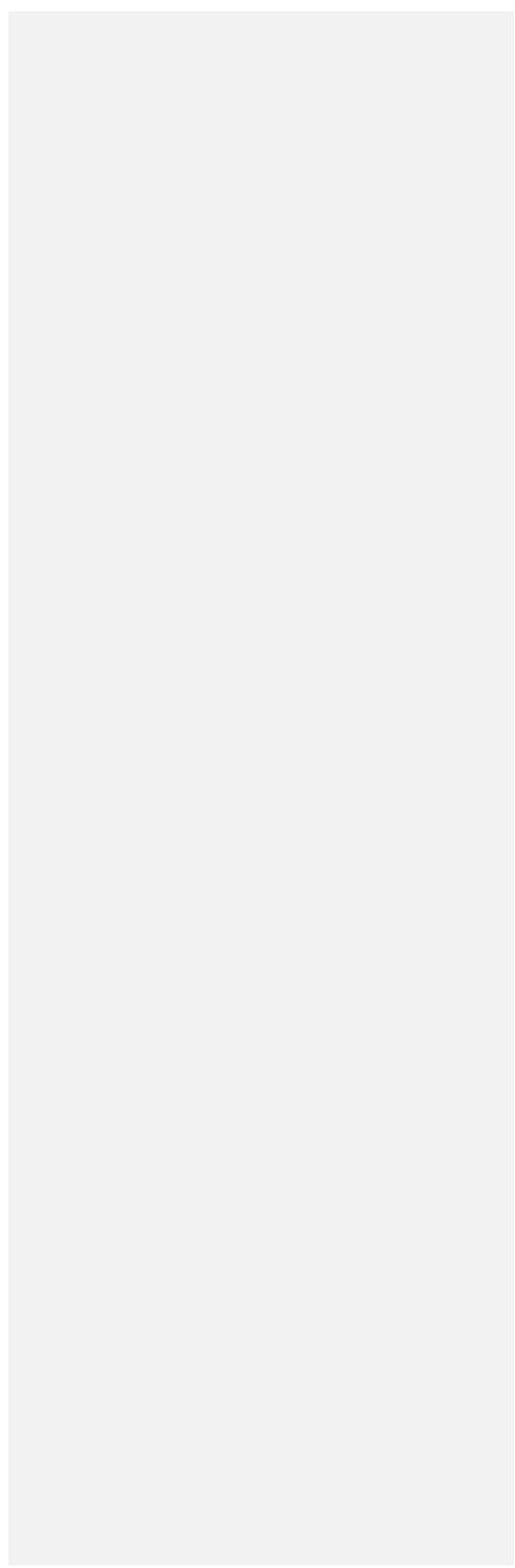
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9. Figure Captions

- Figure 1. a) SAWN Chip setup coupled to the inlet of a Waters Synapt G2-S. b) Sketch of SAWN principle. Counter-propagating SAW's generated by interdigital transducers (IDTs) on a piezoelectric material induce strong acoustic streaming and recirculation in the sample droplet which leads to its vertical nebulization.
- Figure 2. Comparison of three different vinegars based on their mass spectra. Shown are the [SAWN](#) mass spectra acquired in positive (top graphs, dark colors) and negative (bottom graphs, light colors) acquisition mode of Heinz White Vinegar (a), Rice Vinegar (b), and Balsamic Vinegar (c).
- Figure 3. Comparison of red and white wine based on their mass spectra. Shown are the [SAWN](#) mass spectra acquired in positive (top graphs, dark colors) and negative (bottom graphs, light colors) acquisition mode of Tapena Red Wine (a) and Le Rime White Wine (b).
- Figure 4. Comparison of beer SAWN mass spectra. Shown are the mass spectra acquired in positive (top graphs, dark colors) and negative (bottom graphs, light colors) acquisition mode of Goose IPA (a) and Bud Light (b).

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Supplemental Information:

*Rapid Food Product Analysis by Surface Acoustic Wave
Nebulization Coupled Mass Spectrometry*

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Contact Information:

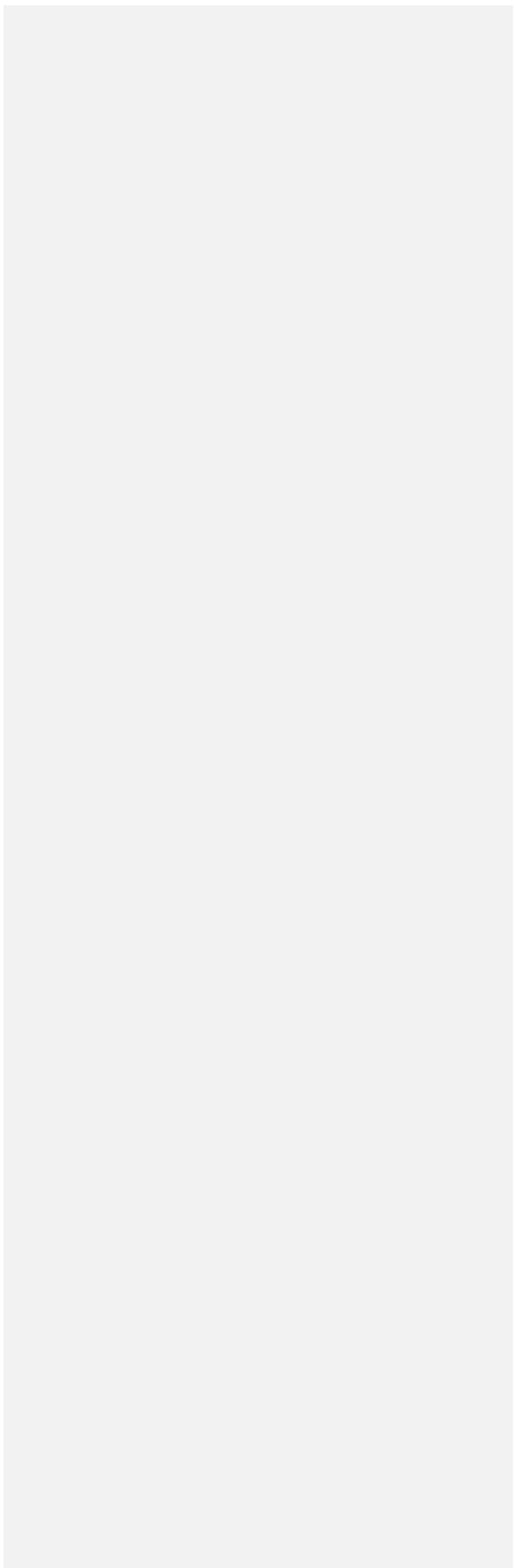
*Corresponding Author: T. Schneider (tschneid@uw.edu)

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1. Materials and Methods

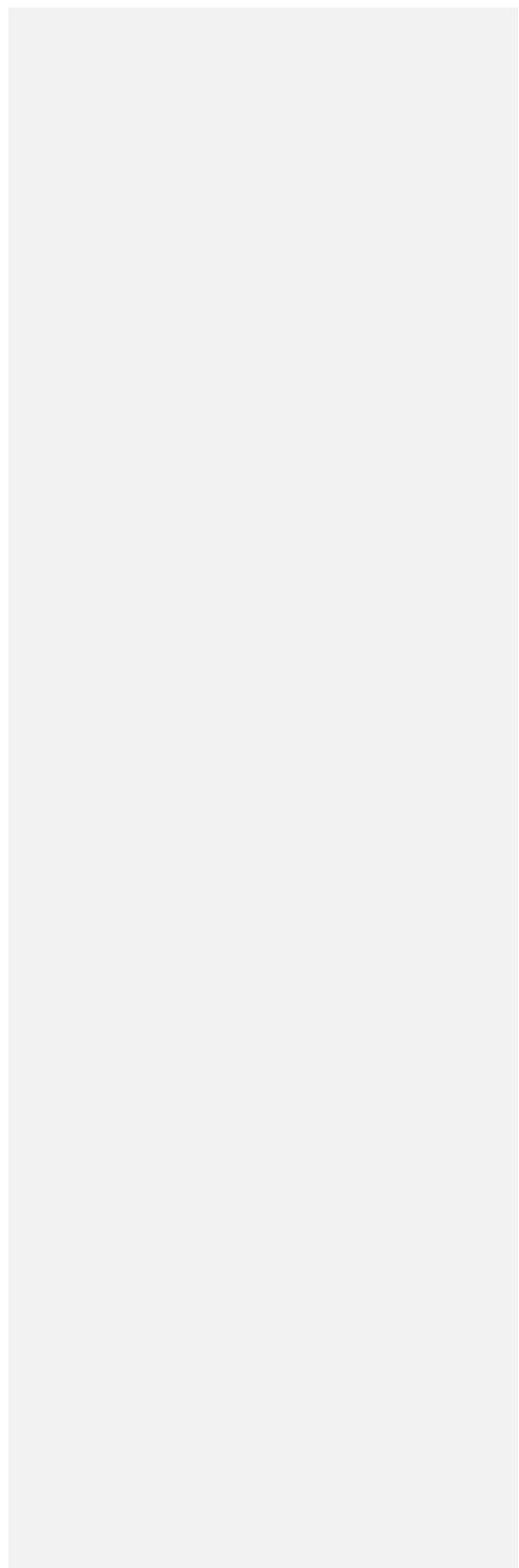
SAWN Chip Fabrication

The Interdigital transducer (ITD) design was created by computer aided design software (AutoCAD) and subsequently converted to a chrome mask (Heidelberg μ PG 101 Laser Pattern Generator; Heidelberg Instruments Mikrotechnik GmbH, Heidelberg, Germany) at the University of Washington Nanotech User Facility. Lithium Niobate wafers (LiNbO_3 128 Y-cut, X-propagating, 3-inch; Crystal Technology, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA) were coated $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$ positive photoresist (AZ 1512; AZ Electronic Materials, Somerville, NJ, USA), followed by exposure (Oriel mask aligner; Newport Corporation, Irvine, CA, USA) to create a sacrificial layer containing the SAW transducer. The SAW chip design used in this study consisted of two IDT pairs of electrodes to create counter-propagating SAW's. Each IDT pair consisted of 20 electrode pairs $100 \mu\text{m}$ wide, spaced $100 \mu\text{m}$ apart, and with a 5 mm aperture. The delay region between the two IDT pairs was 8.1 mm. The operating frequency of the transducer used in this study was 9.56MHz. The IDT microelectrodes were created through heated vapor deposition of a 20 nm chrome adhesion layer followed by a 60 nm layer of gold. Subsequently, the photoresist was removed through acetone rinse leaving behind the patterned electrodes on the LiNbO_3 wafer.

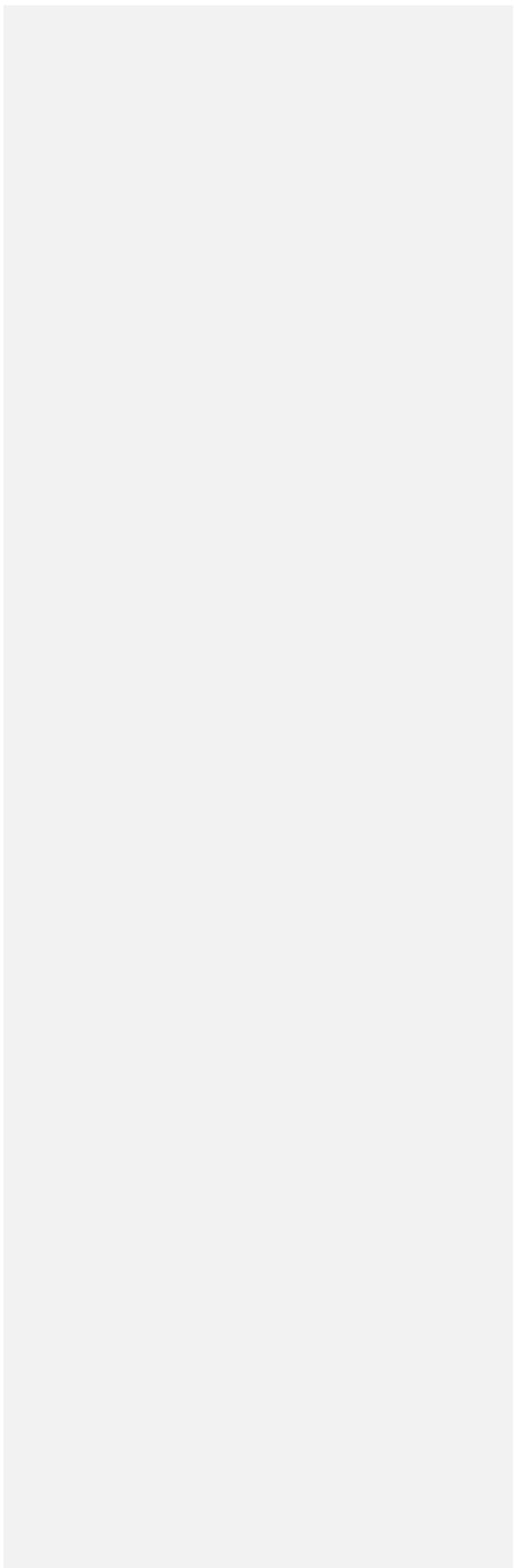
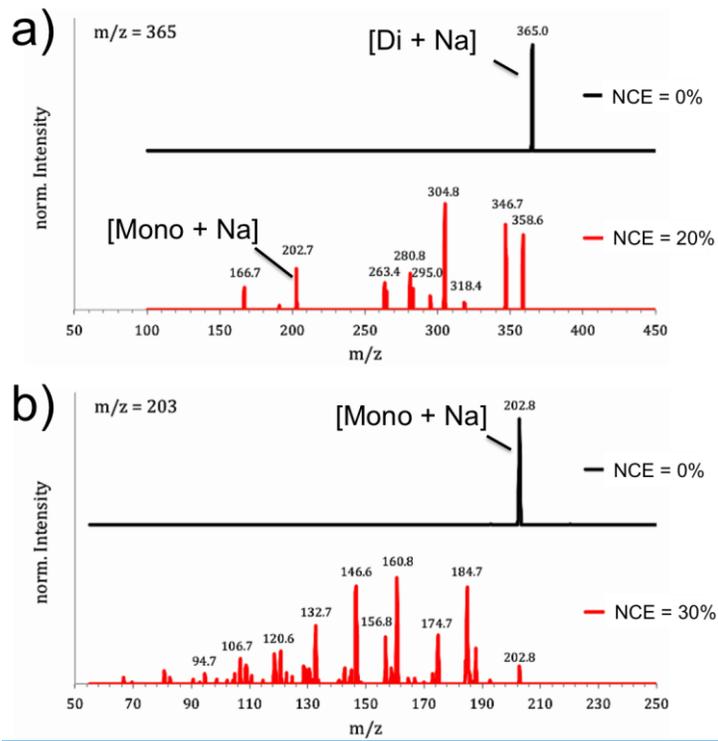


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2. Supplemental Figures



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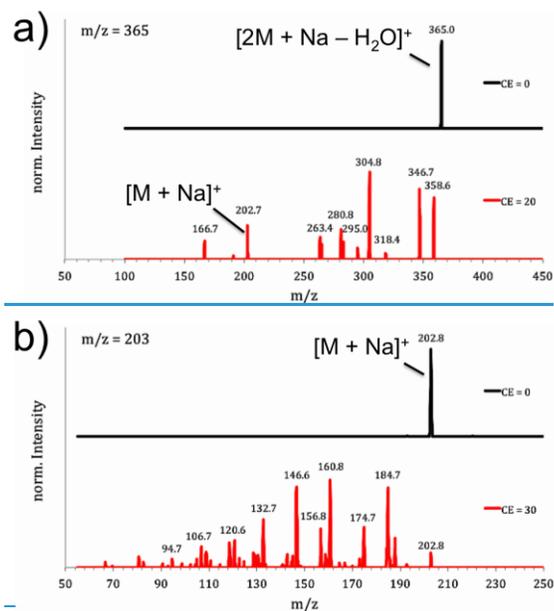
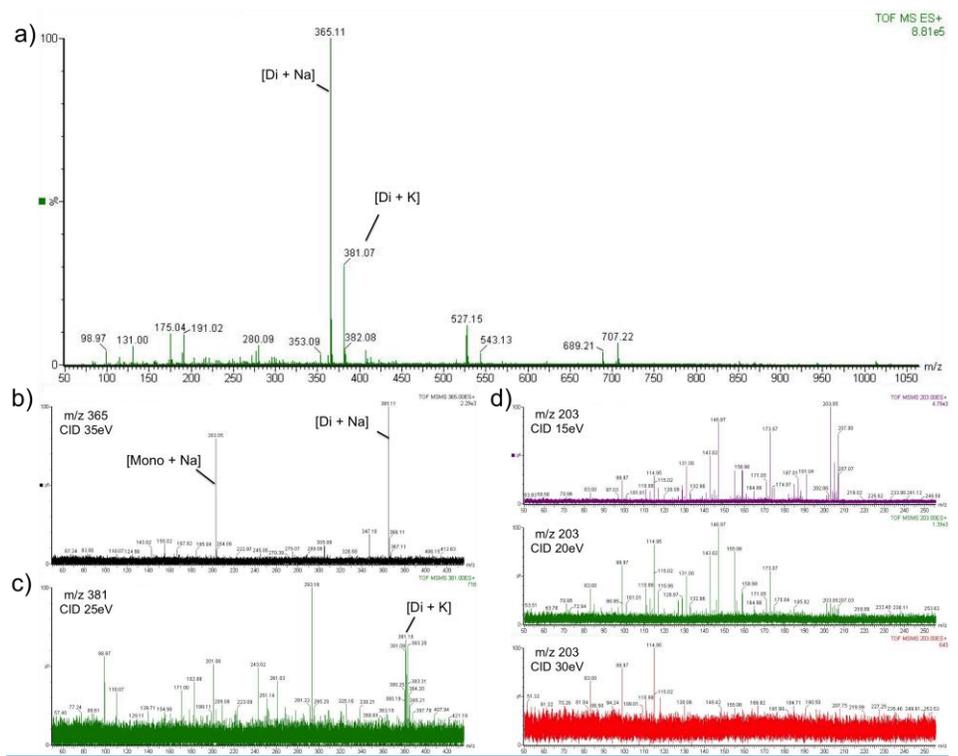


Figure S1. Fragmentation of sodium adducts of disaccharides found at m/z 365 (a) and glucose/fructose at m/z 203 (b) in samples from rice vinegar acquired by ESI on a Finnigan LTO (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel (LTO). Shown are the precursor ions (MS² at collision energy, NCE, of 0 %, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS² at NCE of 20 % in (a) and 30 % in (b), red spectra). Note that the differences in the collision energy used in this experiment are due to differences in energy required to fragment mono- and disaccharides.

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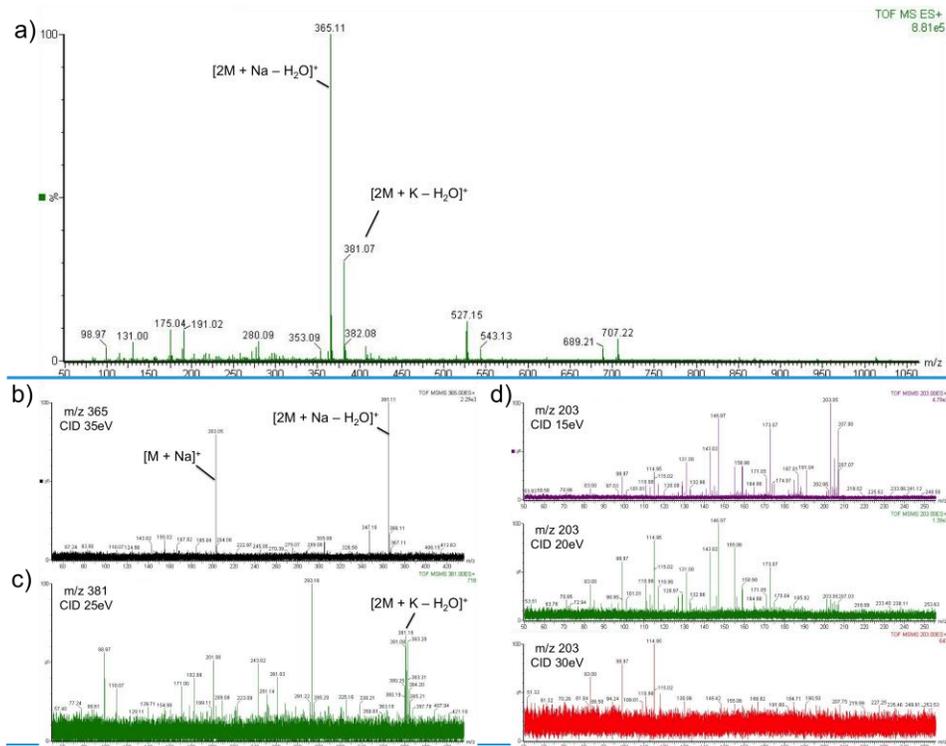
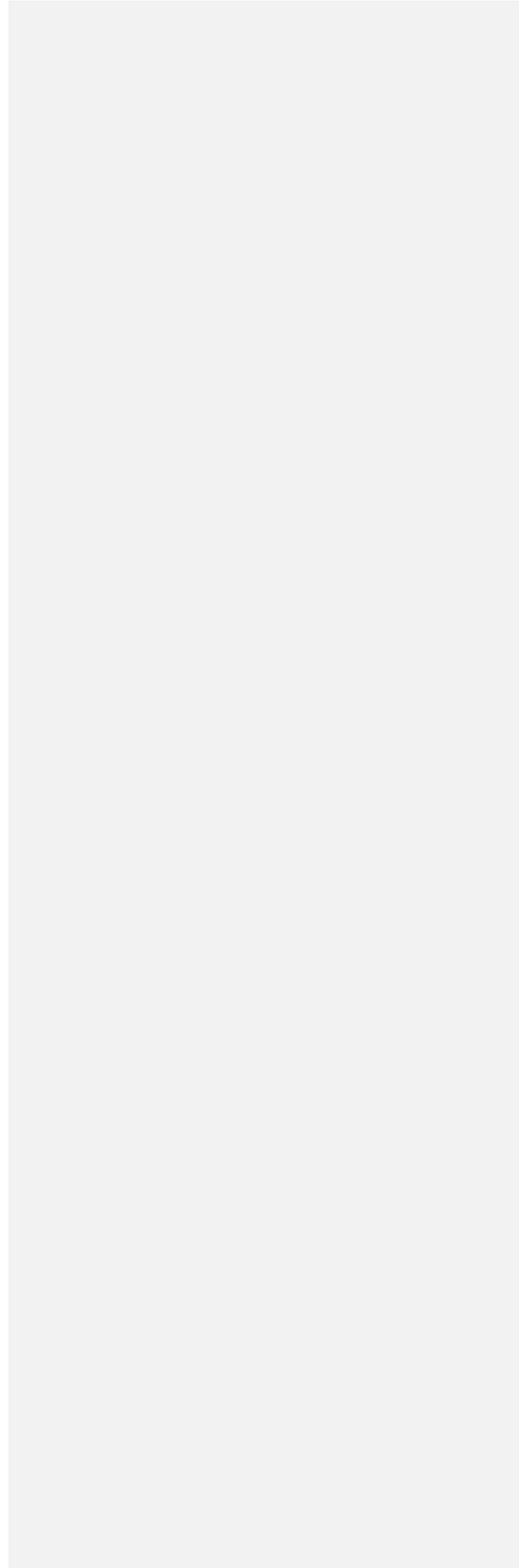


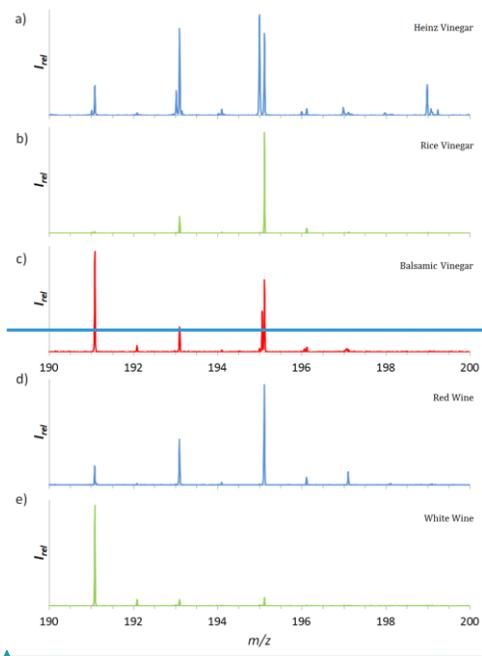
Figure S2. MS spectra from direct infusion in (+)positive ion mode of rice vinegar acquired by ESI on a Waters Synapt G2-S HDMS Q-IMS-oaTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Corporation). Shown are the MS1 spectrum (a) and the fragmentation spectra (MS2) of sodium and potassium adducts of disaccharides found at m/z 365 (ab) and m/z 381 (c), and glucose/fructose at m/z 203 (ed). The fragmentation spectra were acquired with different collision-induced dissociation (CID) energies to show the fragment ions from the different precursor ions, in samples from rice vinegar acquired by ESI (Synapt). The masses measured were: $[C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}Na]^+$, measured: 365.1051, exact: 365.1060, error: -2.5 ppm; $[C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}K]^+$, measured: 381.0741, exact: 381.0799, error: -15.2 ppm.

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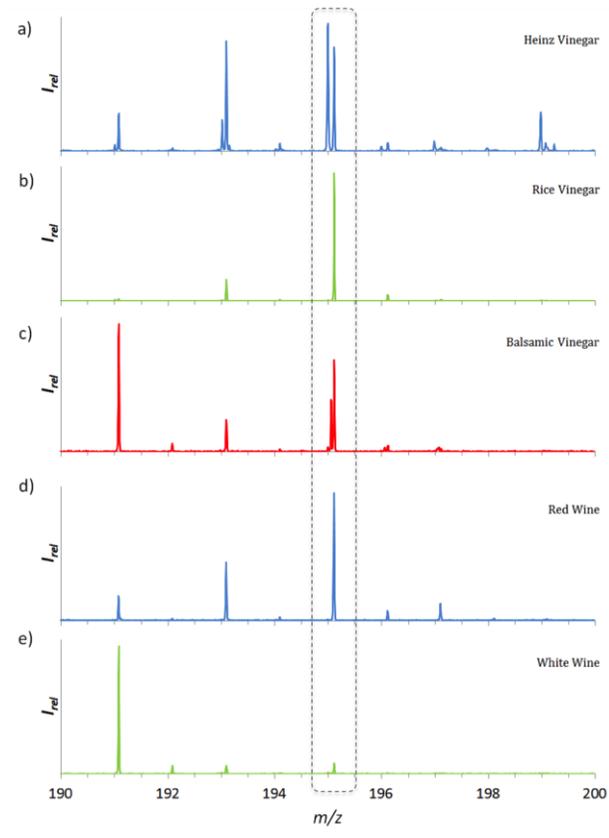
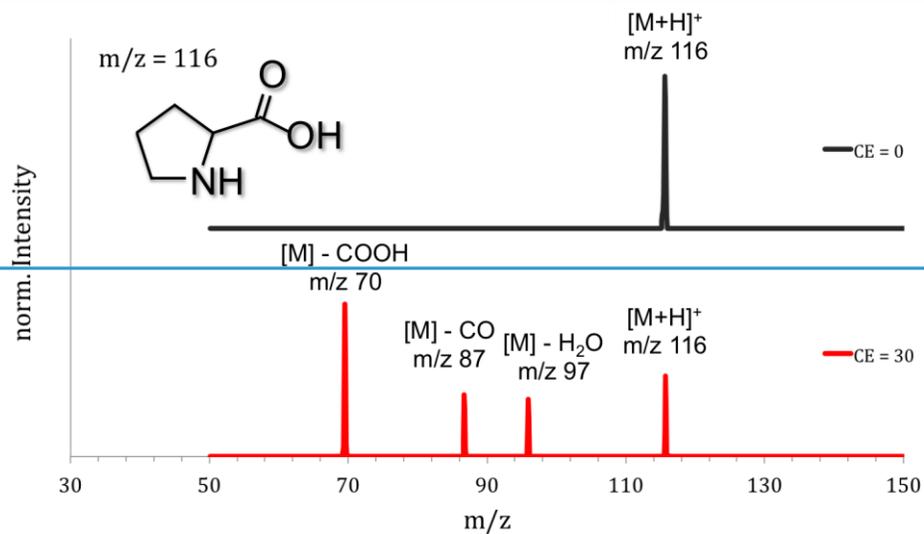
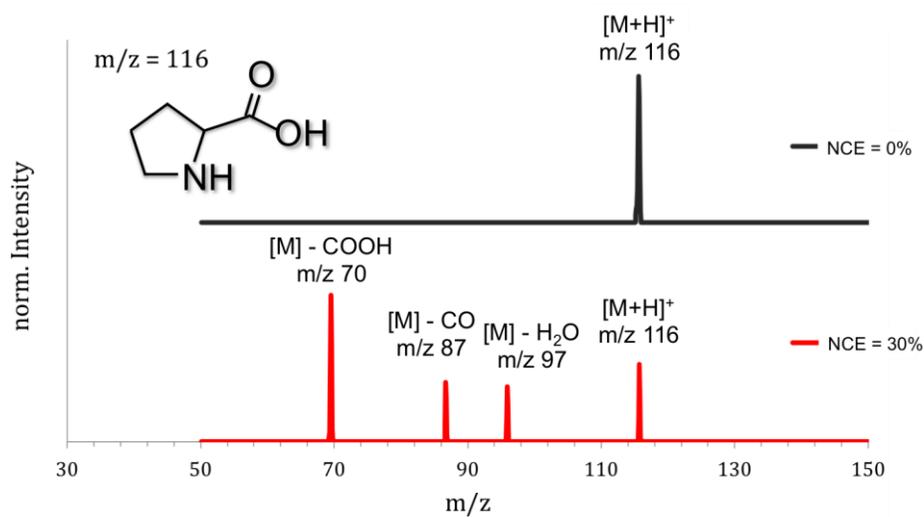


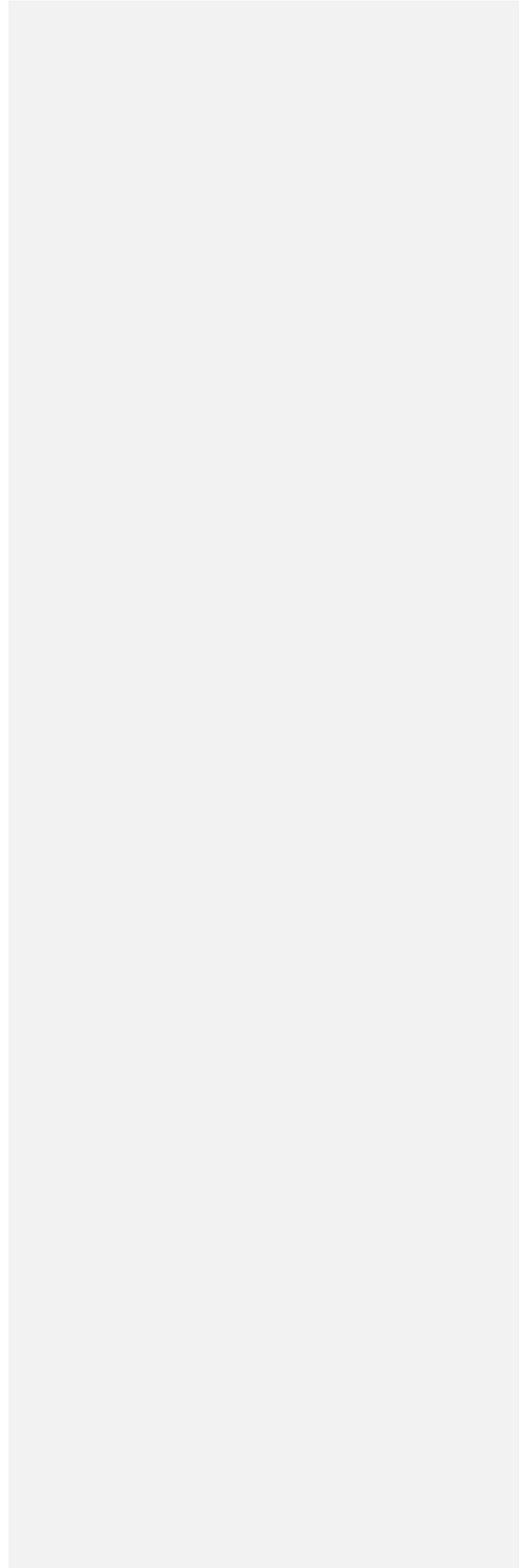
Figure S3. Comparison of changes in [gluconic acid/gluconate](#) (m/z 195) in the negative ion mass spectra of different vinegars and wines [acquired by SAWN MS](#).



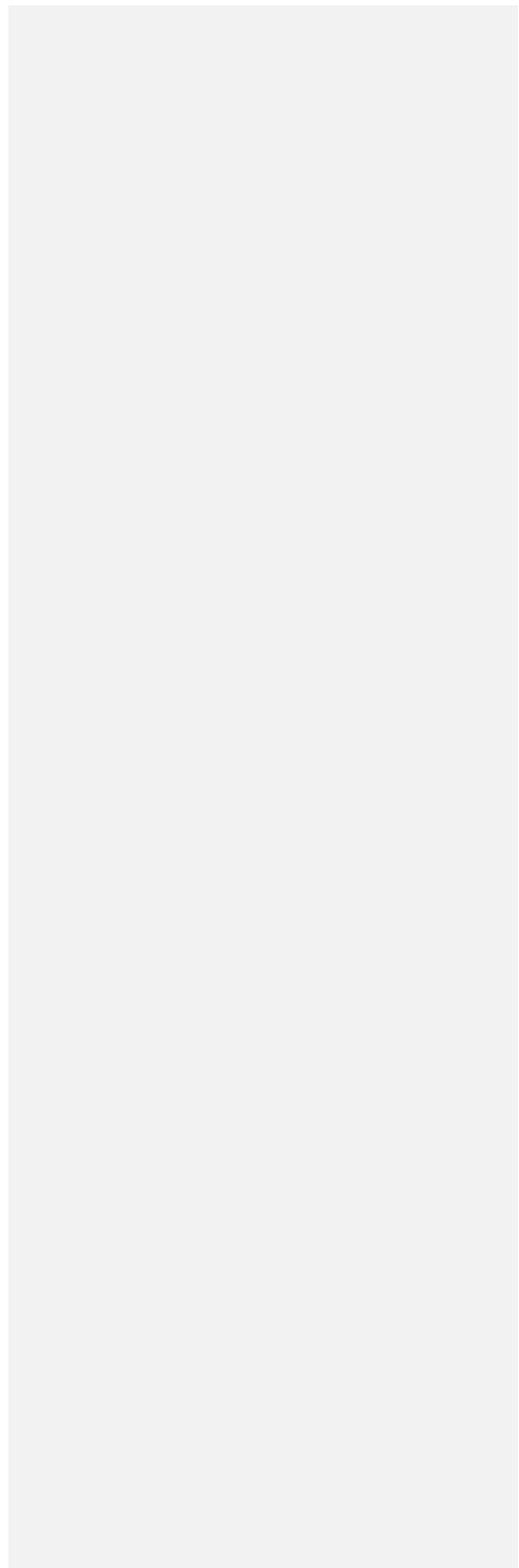
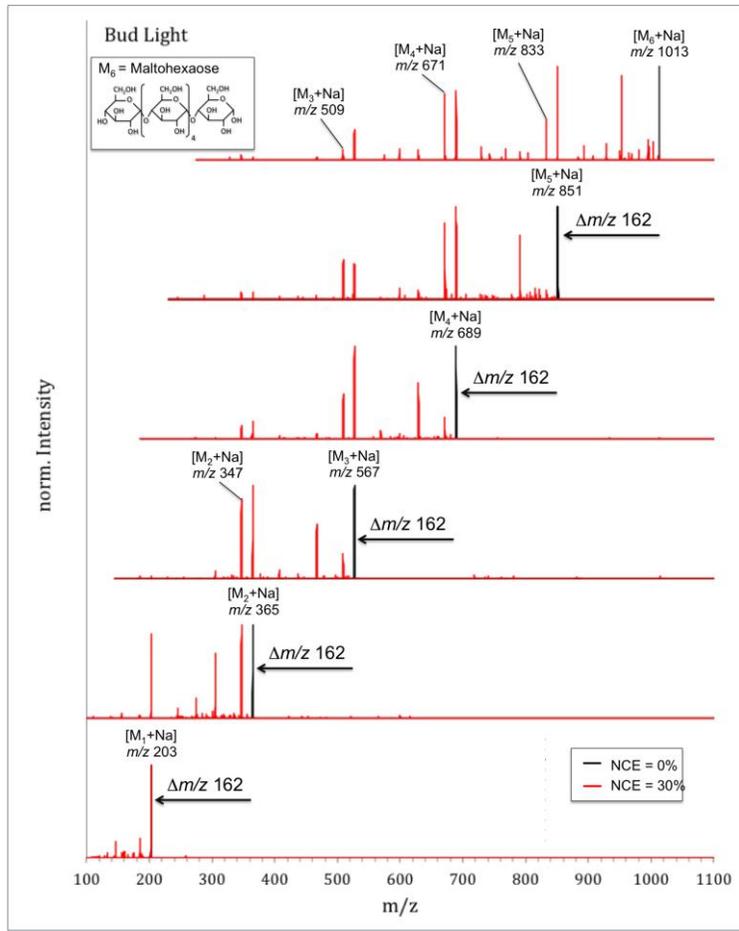
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Figure S4. Fragmentation of proline found in samples from balsamic vinegar acquired by ESI on a Finnigan LTQ (Thermo Scientific) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel (LTQ). Shown are the precursor ions (MS² at NCE = 0%, black spectrum) and fragment ions (MS² at NCE = 30%, red spectrum).

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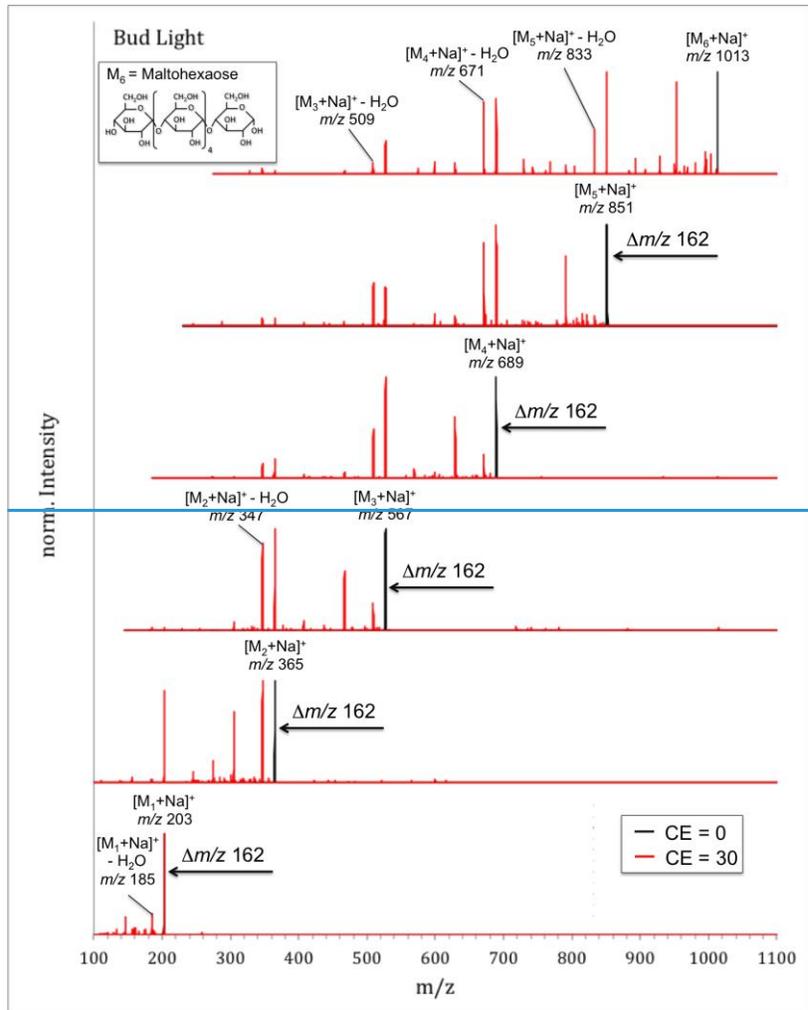
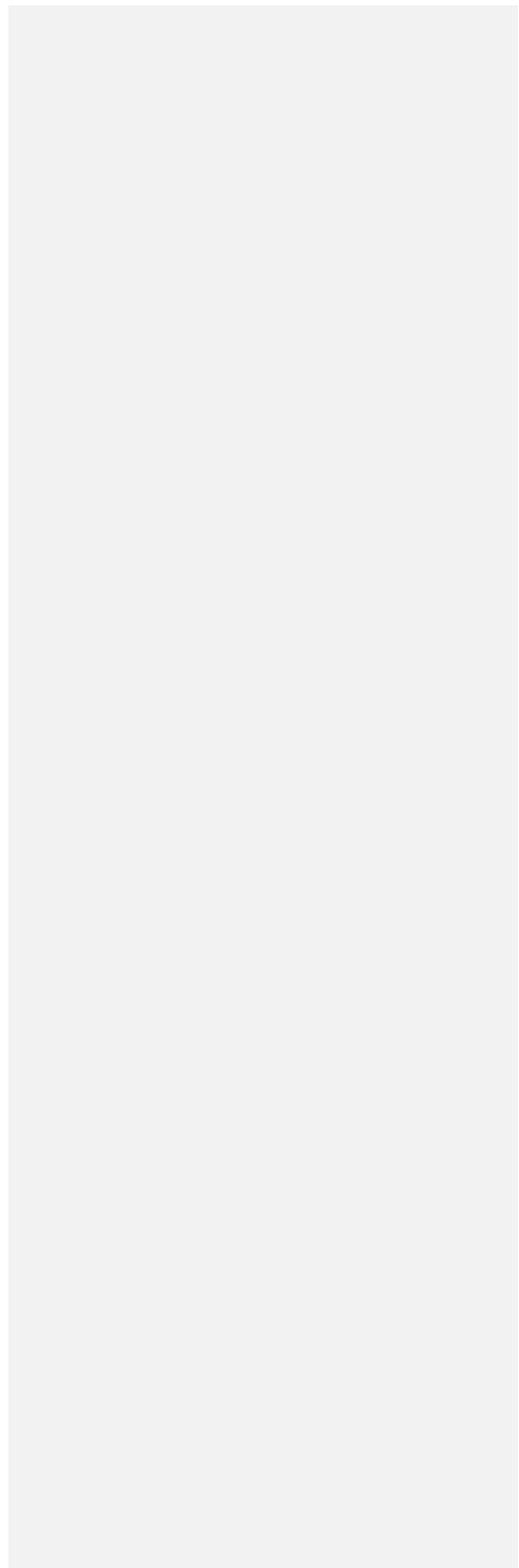
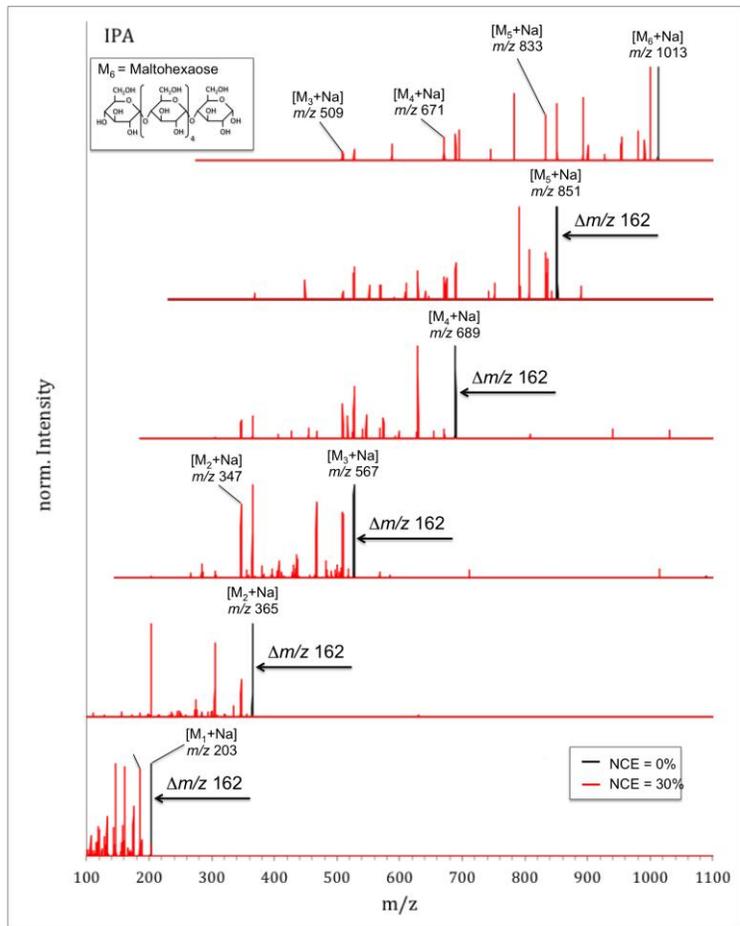


Figure S5. Fragmentation of oligosaccharides in samples from Bud Light acquired by ESI [on a Finnigan LTQ \(Thermo Scientific\) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel\(LTQ\)](#). Shown are the precursor ions (MS² at NCE = 0%, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS² at NCE = 30%, red spectra).

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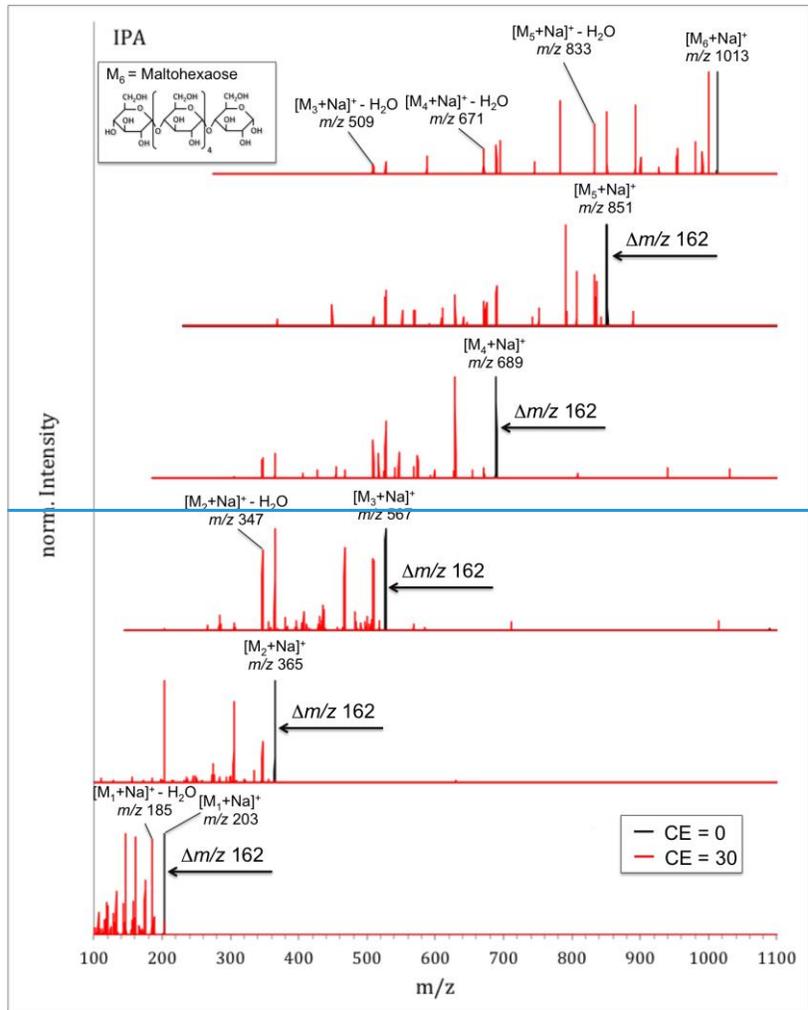


Figure S6. Fragmentation of oligosaccharides in samples from IPA acquired by ESI [on a Finnigan LTO \(Thermo Scientific\) retrofitted with a bespoke ion funnel\(LTO\)](#). Shown are the precursor ions (MS² at CE 0, black spectra) and fragment ions (MS² at CE 30, red spectra).

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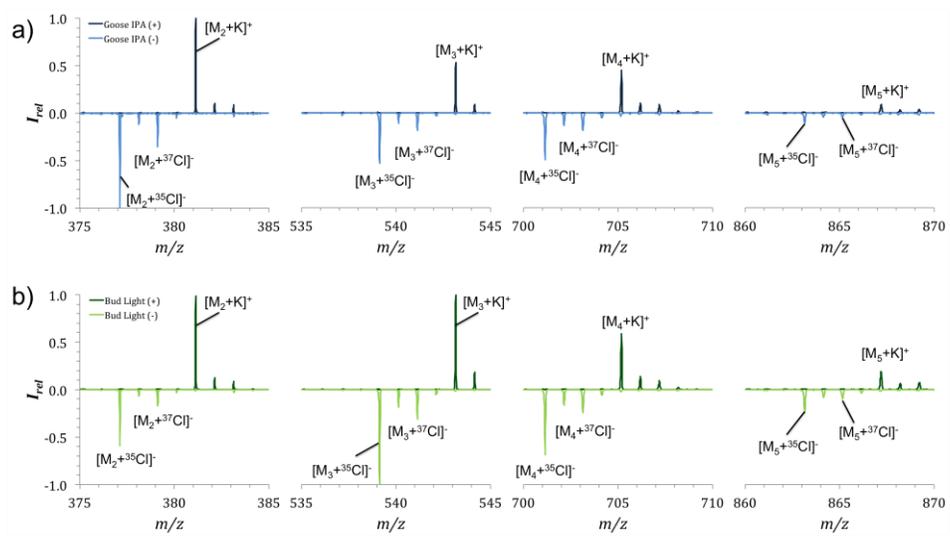


Figure S7. Natural isotope distribution pattern of chlorine in the oligosaccharide adducts of beer samples (Goose IPA (a) and Bud Light (b)) analyzed by SAWN-MS in negative ion mode (bottom graphs, light colors). M₂ = maltose, M₃ = maltotriose, M₄ = maltotetraose, and M₅ = maltopentaose.

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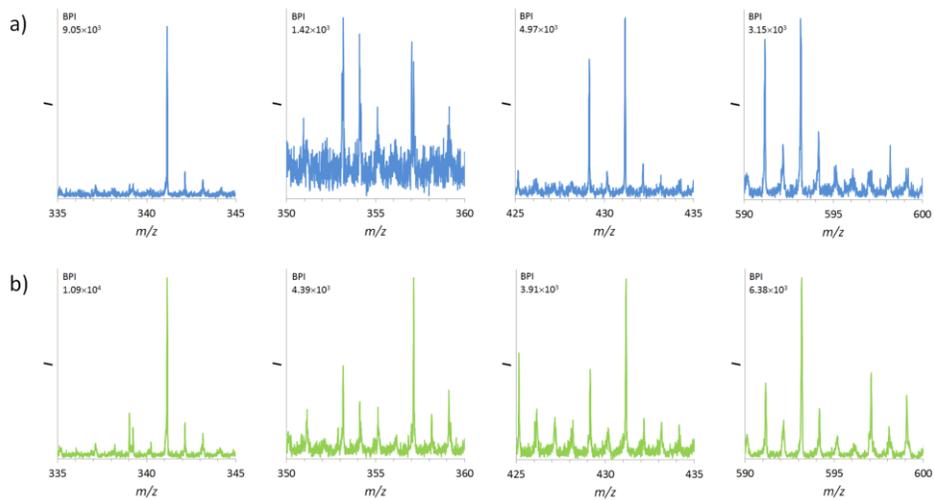


Figure S8. Expanded negative ion mass spectra for low S/N species in samples of Goose IPA (a) and Bud Light (b) [acquired by SAWN MS](#).

