

Analysis of Mono- and Di-valent Metal Cations Using the Hitachi Chromaster HPLC System with ELSD

etal cations such as lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and zinc play crucial roles in biological systems. They function as active sites in metalloenzymes, aid in electron transfer through redox reactions, and establish voltage differences across membranes that drive essential biological functions. Since these metal cations must be acquired through the diet, it is important to accurately measure the concentration of these metal ions in various food sources. Presented here is a method for analysis of six metal ions (Li⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, and Zn²⁺) in food using the highly flexible Hitachi Chromaster HPLC system with evaporative light scattering detection.

Experimental Conditions

Module	Conditions	
Pump (5110)	Mobile Phase: 70% CH ₃ CN, 30% H ₂ O, 0.2% trifluoroacetic acid Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min	
Autosampler (5210)	Injection Volume: 10 μL	
Oven (5310)	Temperature: 30 °C	
Detector (Softa 1300)	ELSD, DT = 60 °C, SC = 25 °C	
Column	Primesep 100, 4.6 x 250 mm	

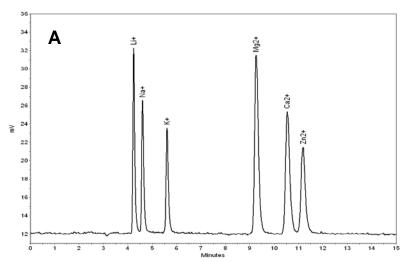
Results - Peak Area Linearity and Reproducibility

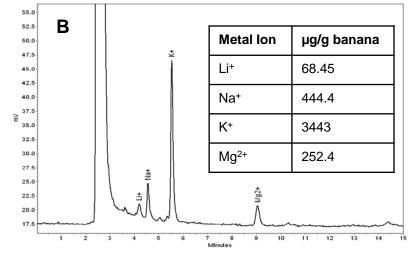
	Linearity (100 – 500 μM)	Reproducibility (300 µM, N = 4)
Li+	$R^2 = 0.9970$	RSD = 1.57%
Na+	$R^2 = 0.9920$	RSD = 2.48%
K+	$R^2 = 0.9899$	RSD = 2.02%
Mg ²⁺	$R^2 = 0.9905$	RSD = 1.77%
Ca ²⁺	$R^2 = 0.9969$	RSD = 1.70%
Zn ²⁺	$R^2 = 0.9797$	RSD = 3.54%

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Results - Chromatographs

- A. 6-component mixture: Li+, Na+, K+, Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, and Zn²⁺
- B. Banana (0.1 g in 20 mL H_2O)





Discussion

Hitachi's Chromaster liquid chromatography system with evaporative light scattering detection is effective at analysis of multiple mono- and di-valent cations in under 15 minutes.

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