

# Analytical Methods

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4 1 **Triple-channel comparative analysis of volatile flavour composition in raw whole and**  
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6 2 **skim milk via Electronic Nose, GC-MS and GC-O**  
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5 **Abstract**  
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7 A novel triple-channel comparative analysis of volatile composition in raw whole and skim  
8 milk (RWM, RSM) were developed via electronic nose (E-Nose), headspace solid-phase  
9 micro-extraction (HS-SPME) coupled with gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS),  
10 and gas chromatography-olfactometry (GC-O). Volatile flavour compounds from RWM and  
11 RSM caused the differences in mouthfeel characteristics by the human sensors, and also  
12 affected consumer preference. Solid state sensor technology, E-Nose, was applied to  
13 distinguish the differences in volatiles between RWM and RSM. Headspace volatiles  
14 adsorbed by HS-SPME fiber (CAR/PDMS) was detected by GC-MS. Aroma compounds were  
15 identified by GC-O. Nine and three compounds were found to be aroma-active compounds  
16 from RWM and RSM, respectively. Octanoic acid, butanoic acid, and 3-hydroxy-2-butanone  
17 were found to be the most important aroma-active compounds in RWM, while the most  
18 important aroma-active compound of RSM was octanoic acid.  
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38 **Keywords:** Raw whole milk; Raw skim milk; Flavours; Electronic nose; Gas  
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## 1. Introduction

The growing demand for milk with improved nutritional qualities has prompted the food processing industry to cut down on ingredients such as fat. Milk with lower fat content such as skim milk ( $< 0.5\%$  fat) is often preferred by consumers compared to normal fat content of whole milk (3-5% fat). Skim milk while lacking the desirable flavour derived from milk fat has consumer perceived healthful properties such as reducing weight gain, decreasing the risk of cardiovascular disease and related disorders<sup>1,2</sup>. Some studies suggest that the intake of low-fat dairy products is considered to be beneficial<sup>3</sup>. However, fat composition is one of the most important factors for the flavour of milk products. Many consumers prefer the flavour of whole milk to skim milk or low-fat dairy products<sup>4</sup>, due to abundant milk fat in whole milk. Therefore, flavour is an important attribute of consumer acceptance and preference for milk products. It is also important to develop a rapid method to determine flavour quality differences for the dairy industry.

It is a challenge for the flavour analysis due to the low concentration of aroma compounds which are the main compositions of milk fat. The flavour properties of milk and dairy products have been previously reported<sup>5</sup>, which can be subsequently modified by heat treatment, packaging material, and storage time<sup>6-8</sup>. Volatile flavour compounds from dairy products have been extracted by head space solid-phase micro-extraction (HS-SPME)<sup>9</sup>, simultaneous distillation extraction (SDE)<sup>10</sup>, solvent assisted flavour evaporation (SAFE)<sup>11</sup>, and supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> fluid extraction<sup>12</sup>.

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5 60 HS-SPME is a solvent free, simple, economical and efficient technique compared with  
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7 61 conventional extraction <sup>13</sup>. The adsorption of headspace volatiles depends on its chemistry  
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10 62 and affinity for the volatile by the polymer coating the HS-SPME. Recently, many  
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12 63 researchers have used HS-SPME coupled with gas chromatography-mass spectrometry  
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14 64 (GC-MS) for detection. Reasons for the greater popularity of HS-SPME-GC-MS include low  
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16 65 detection limits, high efficiency, accuracy and good reproducibility. However, expensive  
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18 66 instrumentation, slow turnaround times for multitudinous screening and the need for skilled  
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20 67 operators are often cited as problems.  
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25 68 Gas chromatography-olfactometry (GC-O) is essential to identify compounds with odor  
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27 69 because they are usually a minor set of eluting compounds, which depends on the human nose  
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30 70 and shows high sensitivity and reproducibility. GC-O has been used to characterize the aroma  
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32 71 profile of dairy products <sup>14</sup> and identify the milk flavour from cows fed different diets <sup>15</sup>. In  
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34 72 recent years, statistical analysis of responses of solid state sensors sensitive to specific  
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36 73 functional groups have been applied to flavour analysis. It has the advantages of rapid results,  
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38 74 low cost, and simplicity compared with traditional chromatographic methods. Electronic nose  
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40 75 (E-Nose) has been used for the analysis and classification of various food products such as  
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42 76 beer <sup>16</sup>, meat <sup>17</sup>, and tea <sup>18</sup>. The new sensor technology of E-Nose may be able to replace  
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44 77 human sensory evaluation of some food products.  
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50 78 In this study, we proposed a novel triple-channel comparative analysis of volatile flavour  
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52 79 composition in RWM and RSM via GC-MS, GC-O and E-Nose. Here, GC-O and E-Nose  
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54 80 have been applied to flavour analysis with rapid and simple processing compared with  
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5 81 GC-MS. GC-MS has high efficiency and accuracy but a number of shortcomings still restrict  
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7 82 the practicability. We analyzed the difference of volatile constituents from RWM and RSM by  
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10 83 the three technologies for the first time. On the one hand, we analyzed the difference of  
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12 84 volatile constituents from RWM and RSM by SPME fiber (carboxen/polydimethylsiloxane  
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14 (CAR/PDMS) combined with GC-MS and GC-O. On the other hand, E-Nose with solid state  
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16 85 sensors was used to assist in quality assessment of RWM and RSM. Each approach has many  
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18 86 advantages, which are described and discussed in detail below.  
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## 22 88 **2. Experimental**

### 23 89 **2.1 Materials and sample collection**

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27 90 Authentic standard chemicals, 3-hydroxy-2-butanone, nonanal, acetic acid, decanal,  
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29 91 1-octanol, butanoic acid, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, and decanoic acid and the internal  
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31 92 standard, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, were all HPLC grade and purchased from Beijing Chemical  
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33 93 Reagents Company (Beijing, China). Authentic standard chemicals were dissolved in HPLC  
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35 94 grade methanol with the final concentration of  $2\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , respectively. Authentic standard  
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37 95 chemicals were used to carry out qualitative analysis and identify peaks by retention times.  
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42 96 The mixed RWM sample was from Holstein cows of thirty farm factories of Sanyuan  
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44 97 Milk Products Co., LTD of Beijing, which was transferred into caramel glass bottles and then  
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46 98 placed in a portable refrigerator (T2-DC-40Y, TunTo Green Power Technology Co., LTD of  
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48 99 Guangzhou). RWM sample was transported from the factory to our laboratory within two  
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52 100 hours. After that, RWM sample was kept at  $4 \pm 1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min until further preprocessing.  
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55 101 RWM sample was centrifuged at  $8,000\times\text{g}$  for 10 min at  $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and then the upper layer  
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5 102 of fat was skimmed. The obtained sample was RSM. The compositions of RWM and RSM  
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7 103 were 3.02% (w/w) and 2.99% (w/w) protein, 3.78% (w/w) and 3.78% (w/w) lactose, and  
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10 104 3.53% (w/w) and 0.16% (w/w) fat. The compositions of samples were analyzed by  
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12 105 MilkoScan<sup>TM</sup> Minor (Fossomatic, Foss electric, Hillerød, Denmark).

## 106 **2.2 Preference evaluation of RWM and RSM**

107 Preference evaluation of RWM and RSM was performed under normal light in clear  
108 glasses (approximately 50 mL) in the sensory laboratory at Beijing Technology and Business  
109 University. A panel consisting of twenty panellists was used for the evaluation. RWM and  
110 RSM were tasted by each panelists and the preference evaluation was evaluated and recorded  
111 by accepting RWM or RSM.

## 112 **2.3 E-Nose analysis**

113 An electronic nose device PEN 2 E-Nose, provided by (Win Muster Airsense Analytic  
114 Inc.) Schwerin, Germany, was used. The sensor array system was composed of 10 metal oxide  
115 semiconductors (MOS) of different chemical compositions and thicknesses to provide  
116 selectivity towards volatile compound classes as indicated by the instrument supplier: W1C  
117 (aromatic compounds), W5S (broad-range compounds), W3C (ammonia, aromatic  
118 compounds), W6S (hydrogen), W5C (aromatic-aliphatic), W1S (methane, broad-range  
119 compounds), W1W (sulphur compounds), W2S (broad-alcohol compounds), W2W  
120 (sulphur-chlorine), and W3S (methane-aliphatic). The instrumentation also included software  
121 for data storage and multivariate statistical processing (pattern recognition system).

122 Three different samples were collected for RWM and RSM. Each analysis was

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5 123 performed in triplicate for each sampling. Ten milliliter of RWM and RSM were sampled in  
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7 124 an airtight vials with a volume of 20 mL (concentration chamber), the sample was stirred  
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10 125 magnetically for 5 min at  $40\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ , and then one luer-lock needle (20 g) connected to a  
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12 126 Teflon-tubing (3 mm) was used to perforate the seal (plastic) of the vial and to absorb the air  
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15 127 accumulated inside it. Clean air to replace sampled air was furnished through a second needle  
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17 128 connected to a charcoal filter. Adsorption and desorption of volatiles on the sensors are not  
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20 129 instantaneous. Adsorption was measured for 60 s and a standby for 300 s was used for  
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22 130 desorption. Software controlled electronic valves were used to move the sample or clean air to  
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25 131 the different sensors. Irrespective of the phase, airflow in the measurement chamber was kept  
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27 132 constant. During the measurement phase, the sampling unit “inhaled” the volatile gases  
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30 133 present in the headspace at a constant rate ( $6.67\text{ mL s}^{-1}$ ) causing changes in the sensor’s  
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32 134 conductance. This phase lasted 60 s, which was long enough for the sensor signals to reach a  
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35 135 stable value. When a measurement was completed, a standby phase of 300 s was initiated.  
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37 136 During the standby phase the circuit and the measurement chamber were cleaned and the  
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40 137 sensor signals returned to baseline. During this phase, clean air entered the circuit, crossing  
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42 138 the measurement chamber first and pushing the remaining volatiles out of the circuit itself.

#### 139 **2.4 Isolation of volatile components from RWM and RSM by HS-SPME**

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47 140 SPME fiber: CAR/PDMS (75  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness, black color) was purchased from Supelco  
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50 141 (Supelco, Inc., Bellefonte, PA, USA). The SPME fiber was preconditioned in the injection  
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52 142 port of  $280^\circ\text{C}$  of an Agilent 6890N gas chromatograph (Agilent Technologies, Inc., Palo Alto,  
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55 143 CA, USA) equipped with a HP-5MS capillary column ( $30\text{ m} \times 0.25\text{ mm} \times 0.25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ). Helium



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5 144 was used as the carrier gas with a constant flow of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The oven temperature was  
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7 145 programmed from 40 °C (0 min hold), ramped at 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> to 280 °C, held for 60 min.  
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10 146 Samples (10 mL), 13 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> 1, 2-dichlorobenzene methanol solution (20 µL) as the internal  
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12 147 standard, and 2 g of NaCl were added to a 15 mL vial. The vial was tightly capped with a  
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14 148 polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) septum. The sample was stirred magnetically for 30 min at 40  
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17 149 ± 2 °C. The needle of the SPME was then inserted through the septum and the SPME fiber  
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20 150 exposed to the headspace 5 mm above the sample surface. After 30 min incubation the fiber  
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22 151 was retracted into the needle and ejected from the sample vial. The needle was inserted into  
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24 152 the GC-MS injector port with for desorption for 3 min.

### 27 153 **2.5 GC-MS analysis**

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30 154 Volatiles were identified on an Agilent Technologies 5973i mass spectrometer coupled to  
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32 155 an Agilent 6890N gas chromatograph (Agilent Technologies, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA).  
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34 156 Helium was used as the carrier gas with a constant flow of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Diameter of the inlet  
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37 157 liner was 0.75 mm. For the SPME analysis, desorption was at 250 °C for 5 min in splitless  
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40 158 mode. Samples went through a DB-Wax (30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25 µm) capillary column  
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42 159 (Agilent Technologies, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA). The oven temperature was programmed  
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44 160 from 40 °C (0 min hold), ramped at 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup> to 230 °C, held for 10 min, solvent delay for 3  
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47 161 min. The transfer line temperature was 250 °C. The mass detector was operated at 150 °C in  
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50 162 electron impact mode at 70 eV, and the ion source temperature was 230 °C. The  
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52 163 chromatograms were recorded by monitoring the total ion current (TIC) in the mass range of  
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55 164 30-300 m z<sup>-1</sup>, with 5 scan s<sup>-1</sup>.

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5 165 Identification of volatile compounds was based on the comparison of their mass spectra  
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7 166 with spectra from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 2011 database. A  
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10 167 series of n-alkanes (C6-C30) was run under the same chromatographic conditions in order to  
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12 168 calculate the retention index (RI) of detected compounds for comparison with the RI in the  
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15 169 NIST 2011 database using the same capillary column. Authentic standard chemicals were  
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17 170 used to confirm the identifications of volatile compounds.

## 171 **2.6 GC-O analysis**

172 GC-O analysis was performed on an Agilent 6890N gas chromatograph (Agilent  
173 Technologies, Inc. Santa Clara, U. S. A.) with a capillary column DB-Wax (30 m × 0.25 mm  
174 × 0.25 μm, Agilent Technologies, Inc. , Palo Alto, CA, USA) equipped with a sniff port  
175 (Sniffer 9000, Brechbühler Scientific Analytical Solutions Inc., Switzerland). Nitrogen was  
176 used as the carrier gas with a constant flow of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Chromatographic conditions  
177 utilized were identical to those of GC/MS analysis. The column effluent was divided (ratio  
178 1:1) between the FID detector and the sniff port by a “Y” shaped glass splitter. The effluent to  
179 the odor port was enclosed with a stream of humidified air flowing at 16 mL min<sup>-1</sup> and  
180 transferred to a glass detection cone by a length of capillary column kept at 200 °C.

181 Samples (10 mL) and 2 g of NaCl were added to a 15 mL vial. The vial was tightly  
182 capped with a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) septum. The sample was stirred magnetically  
183 for 30 min at 40 ± 2 °C. The needle of the SPME was then inserted through the septum and  
184 the SPME fiber exposed to the headspace 5 mm above the sample surface. After 30 min  
185 incubation the fiber was retracted into the needle and ejected from the sample vial. The needle

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5 186 was inserted into the GC-O injector port with for desorption for 3 min.  
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7 187 By smelling and recording the odour descriptions, eight well trained panellists performed  
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10 188 the GC-O analysis. The perceived aroma intensity was evaluated and recorded by using the  
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12 189 degree of “light” (L), “middle” (M), and “strong” (S). Each sample was sniffed three times by  
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15 190 each panelist<sup>11</sup>. The RI of the aroma-active compounds was calculated against the retention  
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17 191 time of a series of n-alkanes (C6-C30) obtained under the same GC-O conditions and was  
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19 192 compared with the RI by GC/MS. The aroma-active compounds were confirmed if the  
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22 193 relative error between the sniffed RI and the GC/MS RI was less than 0.1%.  
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## 24 194 **2.7 Statistical analysis**

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27 195 The experimental results of categories for the major volatile flavour compounds were  
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30 196 performed using t-tests and all data were analyzed using the SPSS software package (version  
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32 197 17, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Statistical significance was determined at  $P < 0.05$ . Data  
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35 198 were standardize before pre-treated prior to principle component analysis (PCA) using the  
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37 199 SPSS software package. In our case, all initial data were expressed as the means and standard  
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40 200 deviation of triplicate determinations.  
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## 42 201 **3. Results and discussion**

### 43 202 **3.1 E-Nose responds to milk volatiles**

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47 203 Typical response signals of ten sensors to RWM and RSM are shown in Figure 1A and B.  
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50 204 For RWM and RSM, the conductivity of ten sensors changed quickly at the first 10 s, then  
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52 205 changed gradually, and finally reached a stable equilibrium. In Figure 1A and B, we also  
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55 206 observed that the ratio of conductance ( $G/G_0$ ) of each sensor was close to 1.0 in the initial  
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5 207 period, and changed continuously. Finally, the trend was tending towards stabilization after  
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7 208 approximately 50 s. The response signals of each sensor at 50-53 s were used in the  
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10 209 subsequent analyses. For RWM, the  $G/G_0$  value of the broad range and aromatic sensors W1S,  
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12 210 W2S, W5S, W1C, W3C, and W3S reached maximum while the  $G/G_0$  value of hydrogen  
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14 211 sensor W6S reached a minimum during the first 10 s. However, the  $G/G_0$  value of sulfur and  
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17 212 aromatic sensors W1W, W2W, and W5C changed very little (0.057-0.186). For RSM, the  
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20 213  $G/G_0$  value of sensors W1C, W2S, W3C, W1S, W5S, W5C, W1W, and W2W reached a  
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22 214 maximum while the  $G/G_0$  value of sensors W6S merely changed and the  $G/G_0$  value of  
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24 215 sensors W3S reached minimum during the first 10 s (Figure 1B). The broad range and  
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27 216 aromatic sensors W1S, W2S, W3C, W5S, and W1C had more significant change in their  $G/G_0$   
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30 217 values, indicating that these four sensors were more sensitive to the volatile flavour  
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33 218 compounds of RWM and RSM.

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35 219 Principle component analysis (PCA) was performed with the SPSS software and the  
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37 220 cross validation was used to compare multiple independent groups. The PCA results reduced  
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40 221 the dimensionality of the original data set by explaining the correlation among a large number  
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42 222 of variables in terms of a smaller set of underlying factors without losing much information<sup>19</sup>.  
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45 223 Factor score plots were used to indicate similar, dissimilar, or typical data.

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47 224 The PCA analysis by E-Nose is shown in Figure 2. There was a distinct separation  
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50 225 between RWM and RSM. The separation between the two groups occurred in the first  
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52 226 principal component where more than 72% of the total data variance was plotted. Moreover,  
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55 227 the result of PCA also showed that RWM was located on the negative of PC2 and kept  
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5 228 separate from the sample cluster of RSM. Through visual observation of the PCA results, the  
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7 229 flavour profiles of RWM and RSM could be distinguished. In order to evaluate the ability of  
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10 230 E-Nose to discriminate among different milk samples, the sensor sensitivities were elaborated  
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12 231 (Table 1). Meanwhile, the PCA results of the sensitivity of the ten sensors to the volatile  
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14 232 flavour gas of RWM and RSM are listed in Figure 3. Sensors W1S and W6S were more  
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17 233 sensitive to RWM on the PC1 component. In contrast, W1C and W3C sensors were more  
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19 234 sensitive towards RSM on the PC2 component. It would be seen that the different sensors in  
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22 235 the array were sensitive to the different volatile compounds released from RWM and RSM.  
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25 236 From the PCA analysis of E-Nose, RWM and RSM could be distinguished by a relatively few  
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27 237 volatile components.

### 238 **3.2 Difference on the amount of volatile profiles between RWM and RSM**

239 The results from ANOVA showed significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) differences among RWM and  
240 RSM about the preference (Figure 4). To determine the differences of volatile compounds in  
241 RWM and RSM, HS-SPME adsorption of the headspace was combined with GC-MS. A  
242 significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) difference in the headspace concentration of volatile profiles between  
243 RWM and RSM was observed (Table 1). Fifteen (13) compounds were extracted from RWM,  
244 while 11 compounds were extracted from RSM by CAR/PDMS, a polar coating fiber.  
245 CAR/PDMS has the property of extracting more small analytes and can adsorb the trace level  
246 of volatile components. CAR/PDMS-coated fiber has been used previously by Karatapanis *et*  
247 *al.*<sup>7</sup> and Marsili<sup>20</sup> to analyze milk volatile flavours.

### 248 **3.3 Identification of volatile flavour compounds from RWM and RSM by GC-MS**

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5 249 The detailed volatile components found in RWM and RSM samples were summarised by  
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7 250 chemical groups: fatty acids (FAs, from C2:0 to C16:0), alcohols, aldehydes, and ketones  
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10 251 (Figure 5). The results indicated that FAs were the major volatile compounds in RWM and  
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12 252 RSM (Figure 6), which agreed with a previous report <sup>21</sup>. The FA content of RWM was  
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14 253 significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) higher (4.66%) than that of RSM (Figure 7). The FA composition of  
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17 254 RWM included C2:0 to C16:0 while the range of FA composition of RSM was C2:0 to C14:0.  
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20 255 Meanwhile, the FAs contents of C2:0 to C14:0 in RWM were significantly ( $P < 0.05$ )  
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22 256 higher (2.22-6.24%) than those in RSM (Figure 7). As for the flavour compounds of alcohols,  
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25 257 ketones, and aldehydes, the concentrations of these compounds were significantly ( $P < 0.05$ )  
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28 258 lower in RSM than that in RWM, which might contribute to the reduced consumer  
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30 259 acceptability of RSM.

### 3.4 Identification of aroma-active compounds from RWM and RSM by GC-O

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35 261 Aroma-active compounds of RWM and RSM were analyzed by the SPME extracts  
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37 262 coupled with GC-O. A total of 9 aroma-active compounds were detected by GC-O in RWM  
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40 263 and 3 in RSM, including 7 acids, 1 aldehyde, and 1 ketone (Table 1). Accounting for 69% of  
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42 264 all the volatile compounds identified by GC-MS were aroma-active compounds, which have  
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45 265 fatty, vinegar, sweet, fruity, green, sour, rancid, and tallow odor. Odor descriptions of all  
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48 266 flavour compounds identified in the volatile compounds of RWM and RSM were basically  
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50 267 similar to a previous report <sup>15</sup>.

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52 268 As can be seen from Table 1, octanoic acid, butanoic acid, and 3-hydroxy-2-butanone  
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55 269 showed “strong” aroma-active flavour intensity, which were the most important aroma-active  
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5 270 compounds among the 9 compounds in RWM. However, among the volatile compounds of  
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7 271 RSM, only octanoic acid showed “strong” aroma-active flavour intensity.  
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#### 10 272 **4. Conclusions**

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12 273 In conclusion, we developed a novel triple-channel comparative analysis of volatile  
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14 274 composition in RWM and RSM via GC-MS, GC-O and E-Nose. This is the first time on the  
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17 275 application of non-destructive analytical method to compare the analysis of volatile flavour  
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20 276 composition in RWM and RSM via E-Nose, GC-MS, and GC-O. The E-Nose analysis can  
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22 277 represent a valid supplement with the chance of becoming an alternative to the traditional  
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24 278 analytical methods used in the fight against counterfeiting of foods. Further studies will be  
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27 279 conducted to improve the flavour of RSM to understand the contribution of individual  
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30 280 components to increase consumer acceptance of RSM.  
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#### 32 281 **Acknowledgements**

33  
34 282 This work was supported by a grant from the National High Technology Research and  
35  
36 283 Development Program of China (863 Program) (No. 2011AA100903), and the Importation  
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38 284 and Development of High-Caliber Talents Project of Beijing Municipal Institutions  
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41 285 (CIT&TCD20130309 and IDHT20130506).  
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4 321 **Figure legends**

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6 322 **Figure 1.** Response curves of ten sensors (W1C: aromatic compounds, W5S: broad-range  
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8 323 compounds, W3C: aromatic, W6S: hydrogen, W5C: aromatic-aliphatic, W1S: broad-methane,  
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10 324 W1W: sulphur-organic, W2S: broad-alcohol, W2W: sulphur-chlorine, and W3S:  
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12 325 methane-aliphatic) with to raw milk volatiles by electronic nose (E-Nose): (A) raw whole  
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14 326 milk (RWM) and raw skim milk (RSM). The x-axis represents time and the y-axis represents  
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16 327 sensor's ratio of conductance ( $G/G_0$ , where  $G$  and  $G_0$  are the conductivities of the sensors  
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18 328 when exposed to the sample gas and the zero gas, respectively). Each curve represented the  
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20 329 variation of conductivity of each sensor with time when the milk volatile flavour compounds  
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22 330 reached the measurement chamber.  
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27 331 **Figure 2.** Principle component analysis (PCA) results of raw whole milk (RWM) and raw  
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29 332 skim milk (RSM) by electronic nose (E-Nose).  
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31 333 **Figure 3.** Principle component analysis (PCA) results of the sensitivity of the ten sensors  
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33 334 (W1C: aromatic compounds, W5S: broad-range compounds, W3C: aromatic, W6S: hydrogen,  
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35 335 W5C: aromatic-aliphatic, W1S: broad-methane, W1W: sulphur-organic, W2S: broad-alcohol,  
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37 336 W2W: sulphur-chlorine, and W3S: methane-aliphatic) to the volatile flavour gas of raw whole  
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39 337 milk (RWM) and raw skim milk (RSM).  
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42 338 **Figure 4.** Percentage preference evaluation of raw whole milk (RWM) and raw skim milk  
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44 339 (RSM). Statistical significance of Percentage preference between RWM and RSM was  
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46 340 calculated using t-tests, \*  $P < 0.05$ , and \*\*  $P < 0.01$ .  
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49 341 **Figure 5.** Categories and contents of the major volatile compounds in raw whole milk (RWM)  
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51 342 and raw skim milk (RSM). Statistical significance of contents of the major volatile  
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53 343 compounds between RWM and RSM was calculated using t-tests, \*  $P < 0.05$ , and \*\*  $P <$   
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55 344 0.01.  
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5 345 **Figure 6.** Total ion chromatogram of milk volatile flavors. A: RWM, B: RSM  
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7 346 **Figure 7.** Contents of fatty acids (FAs) from raw whole milk (RWM) and raw skim milk  
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10 347 (RSM). Statistical significance of the FAs contents between RWM and RSM was calculated  
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12 348 using t-tests, \*  $P < 0.05$ , and \*\*  $P < 0.01$ .  
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349 Table 1 The volatile compounds in RWM and RSM identified by GC-MS, GC-O, and ~~E-Nose~~ E-Nose

NO <sup>c</sup>	RT <sup>d</sup>	RI <sup>e</sup>	Compound	Odor description <sup>f</sup>	CAS	Identified method <sup>g</sup>	HS-SPME <sup>h</sup> ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )		GC-O <sup>i</sup>		E-Nose <sup>j</sup>	
							RWM	RSM	RWM	RSM	RWM	RSM
1	9.88	1272	3-hydroxy-2-butanone	Fatty	000513-86-0	MS, RI, STD	0.24±0.06	0.10±0.04	S	—	***	##
2	12.66	1362	nonanal	Fatty	000124-19-6	MS, RI, STD	0.84±0.11	0.64±0.19	L	L	***	##
3	14.13	1421	acetic acid	Vinegar	000064-19-7	MS, RI, STD	1.23±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.23±0.01 <sup>b</sup>	M	—	***	##
4	15.25	1469	decanal	Sweet	000112-31-2	MS, RI, STD	0.42±0.03	—	—	—	***	##
5	16.82	1533	1-octanol	Fruity	000111-87-5	MS, RI, STD	0.97±0.04 <sup>a</sup>	0.12±0.01 <sup>b</sup>	—	—	**	**
6	18.38	1595	butanoic acid	Green	000107-92-6	MS, RI, STD	2.46±0.38 <sup>a</sup>	0.40±0.02 <sup>b</sup>	S	L	***	##
7	21.11	1714	2(5H)-furanone	—	000497-23-4	MS, RI	0.37±0.04	0.12±0.06	—	—	***	##
8	23.21	1811	hexanoic acid	Sour	000142-62-1	MS, RI, STD	3.97±0.05 <sup>a</sup>	0.54±0.03 <sup>b</sup>	L	—	***	##
9	27.53	2022	octanoic acid	Rancid	000124-07-2	MS, RI, STD	4.90±0.18 <sup>a</sup>	1.06±0.20 <sup>b</sup>	S	S	***	##
10	31.46	2235	decanoic acid	Tallow	000334-48-5	MS, RI, STD	3.77±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	1.18±0.33 <sup>b</sup>	L	—	***	##
11	35.07	2445	dodecanoic acid	Fatty	000143-07-7	MS, RI	2.26±0.28 <sup>a</sup>	0.39±0.05 <sup>b</sup>	M	—	***	##
12	38.39	2656	tetradecanoic acid	Fatty	000544-63-8	MS, RI	6.27±2.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.16±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	M	—	***	##
13	45.56	2682	hexadecanoic acid	—	000057-10-3	MS, RI	2.37±0.22	—	—	—	***	##
			Aromatic <sup>k</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**	###
			Total				30.05±2.70 <sup>a</sup>	6.13±0.34 <sup>b</sup>				

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351 RWM: raw whole milk, RSM: raw skim milk.

352 Data in the same row with different superscript letters are significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) (statistical analysis was performed using t-tests).

353 c. Volatile compounds were listed in order of the retention time.

354 d. The retention time of compounds.

355 e. The RI of unknown compounds on DB-Wax column calculated against the GC-MS retention time of n-alkanes (C6-C30).

356 f. The description of the odour from the references: George<sup>22</sup>, (<http://www.odour.org.uk/odour/index.html>)<sup>23</sup>, and Angelino<sup>24</sup>. “—” means not found.357 g. MS: compared with Nist 2011 Mass Spectral Database or the published mass spectra. RI: agrees with retention index of literatures. STD: agrees with RI and  
358 mass spectrum of standard chemical.

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5 359 h. Content of compounds were calculated by internal standard quantitative identified by HS-SPME-GC-MS, and the data was the “mean standard deviation”.  
6 360 “—”: means not detected.  
7 361 i. The assessment was repeated three times with eight trained and experienced panelists. “L” represents light; “M”, middle;” S: strong. “—” represents not  
8 362 detected.  
9 363 j. Results of RWM and RSM analyzed by ten sensors of E-Nose (W1C: aromatic compounds, W5S: broad-range compounds, W3C: aromatic, W6S: hydrogen,  
10 364 W5C: aromatic-aliphatic, W1S: broad-methane, W1W: sulphur-organic, W2S: broad-alcohol, W2W: sulphur-chlorine, and W3S: methane-aliphatic). PC1:  
11 365 “Strong” \*\*\*, “Moderate” \*\*, PC2: “Strong” ###, “Moderate” ##.  
12 366 k. Aromatic gas analyzed by E-Nose.  
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Analytical Methods

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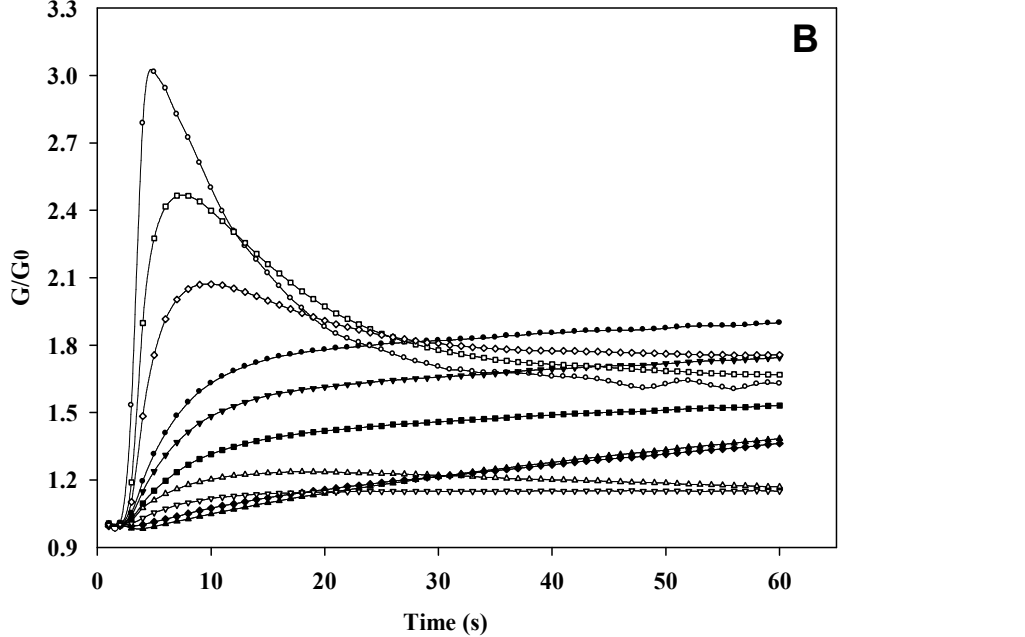
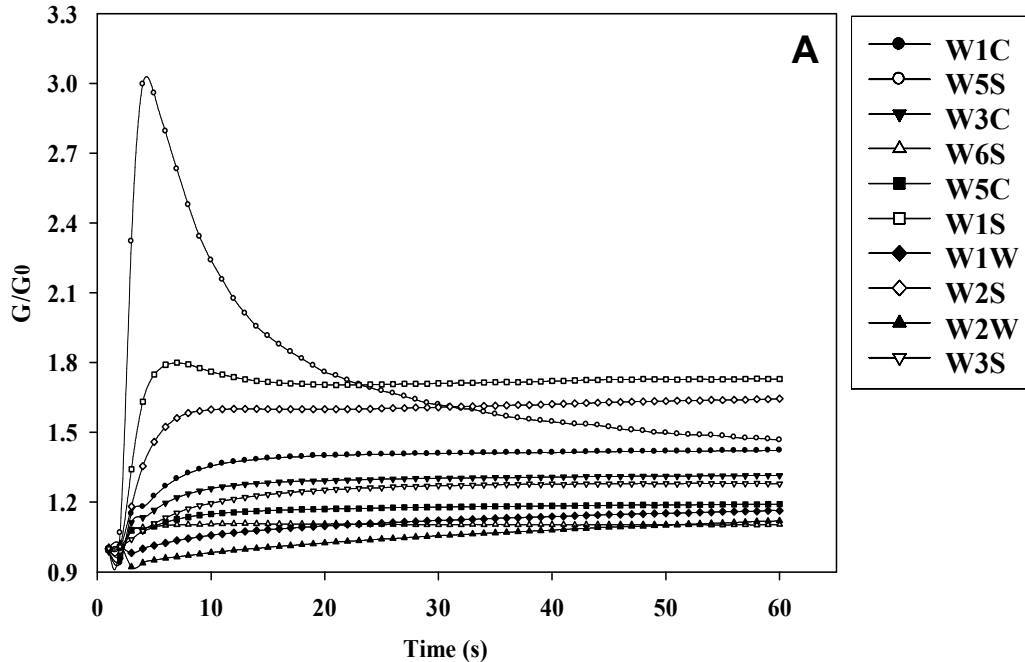
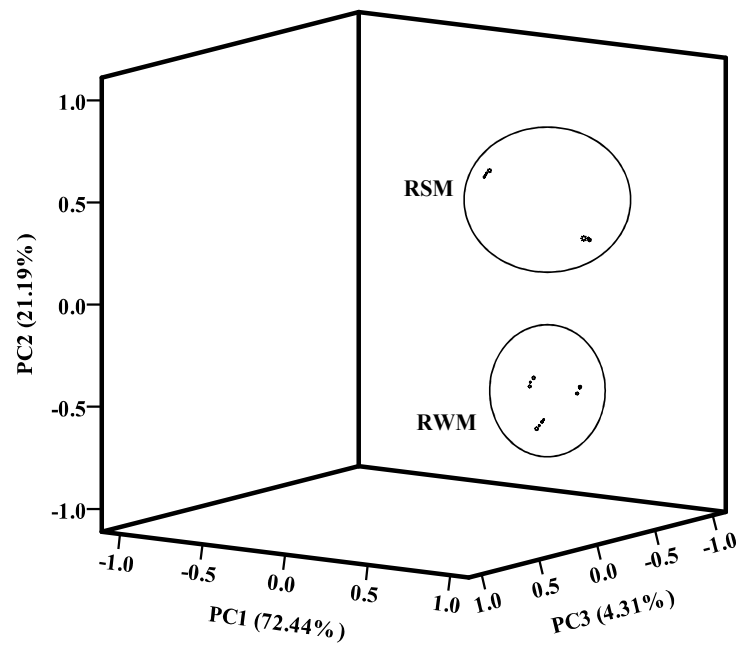


Fig. 1



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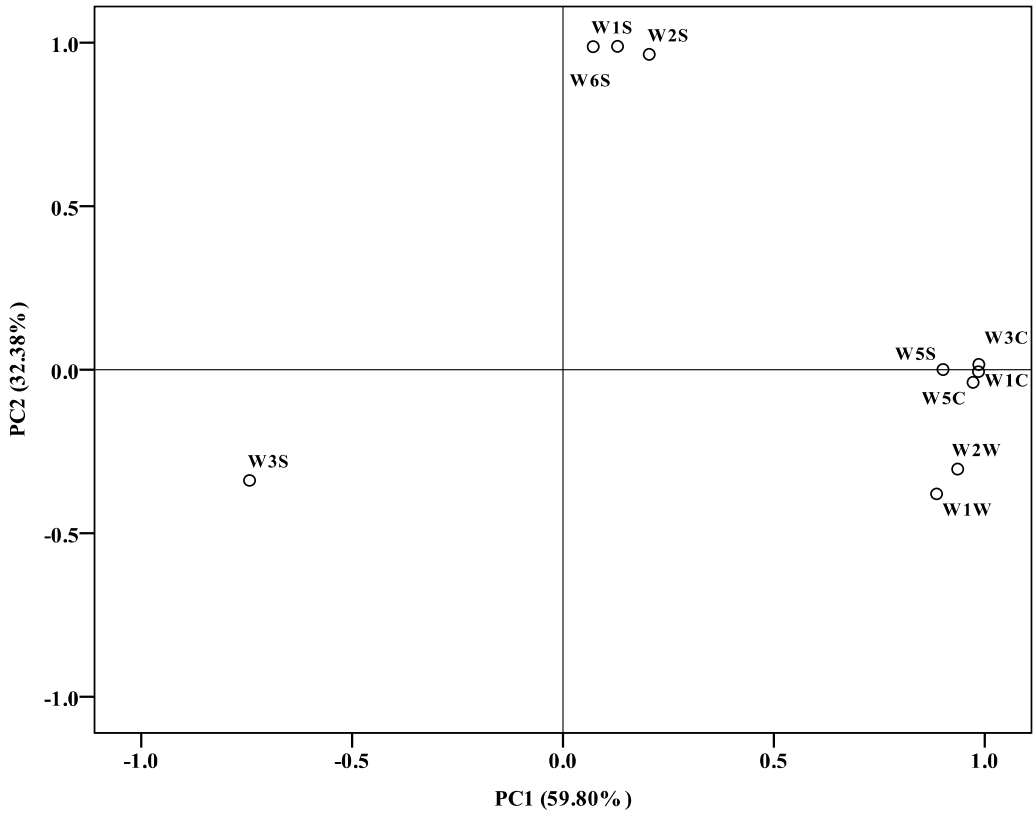


Fig. 3



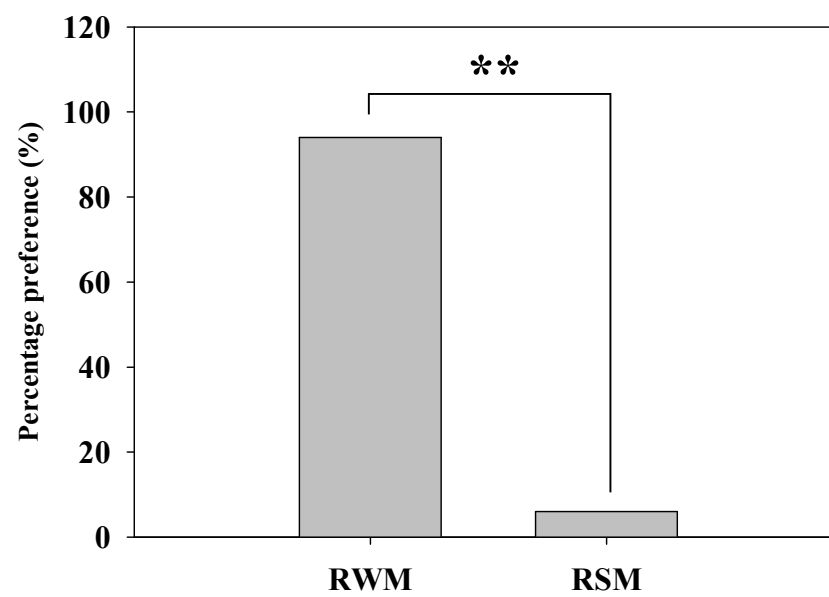


Fig. 4

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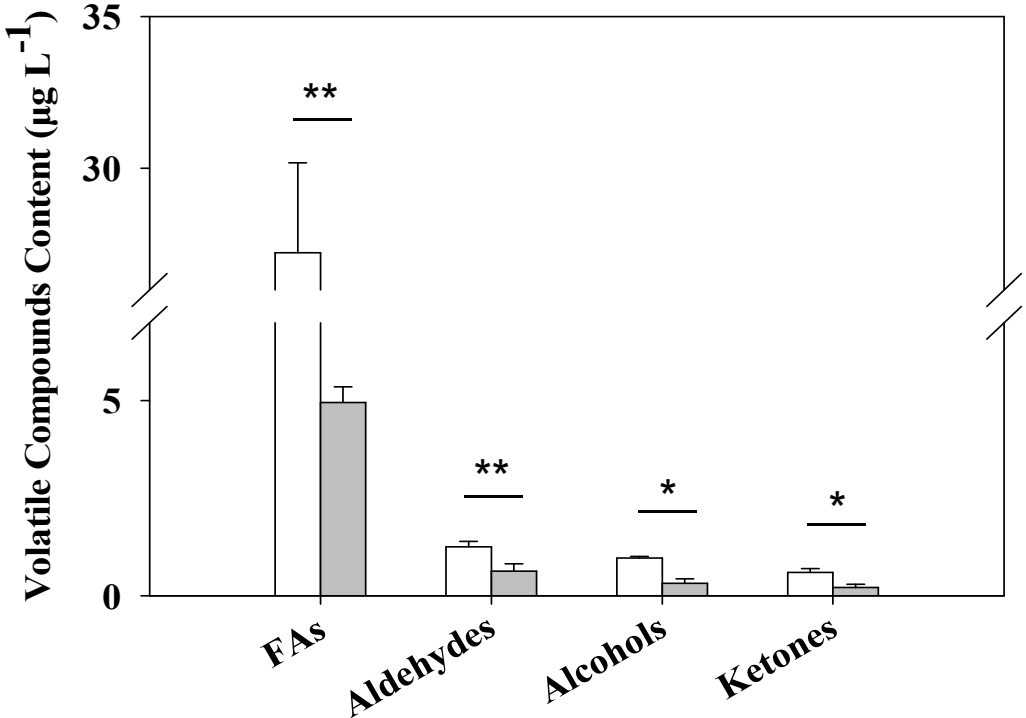


Fig. 5

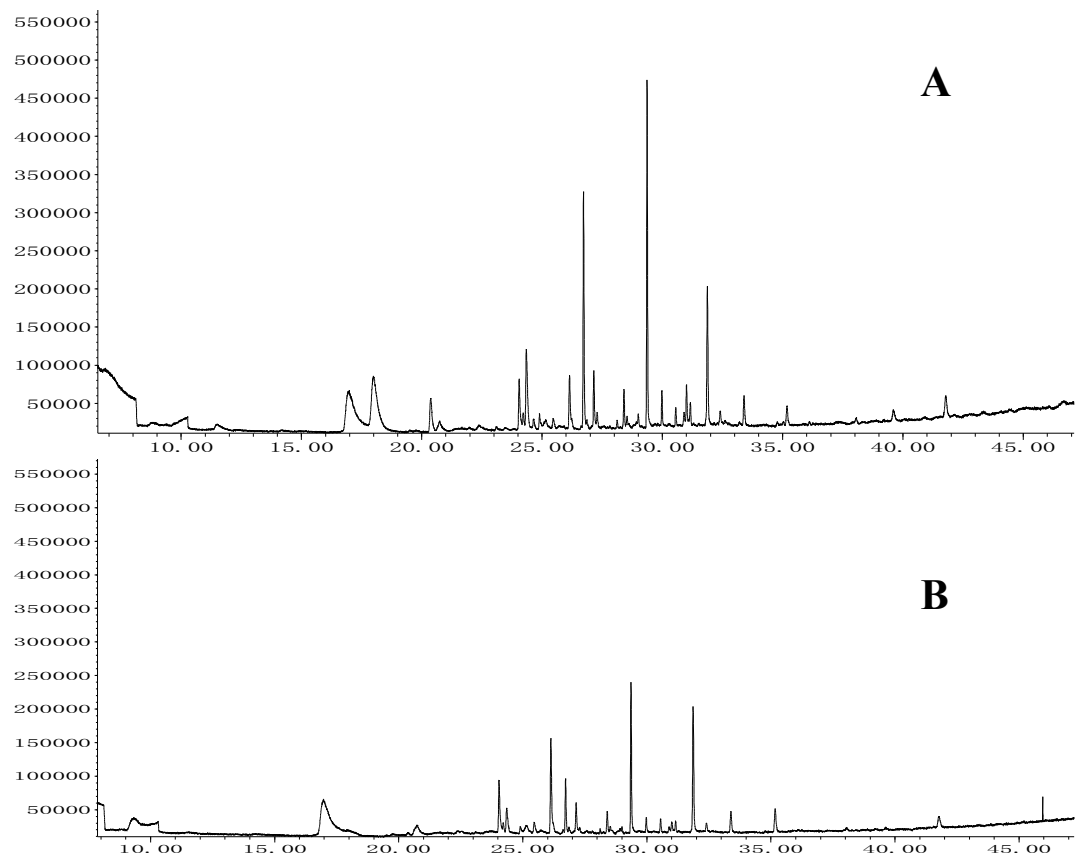


Fig. 6

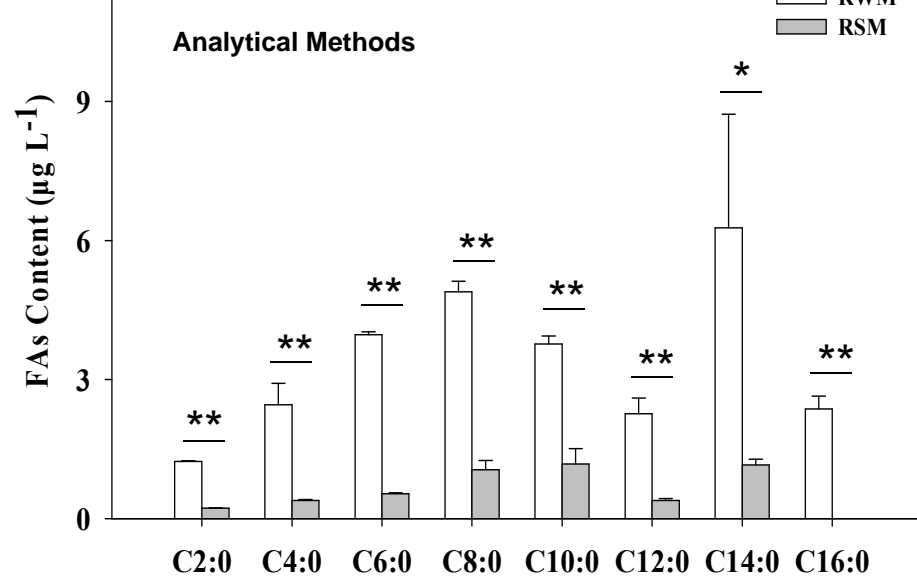
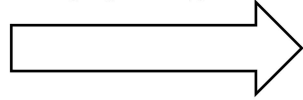
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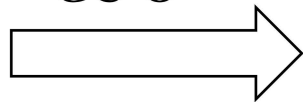
Fig. 7



GC-MS



GC-O



E-Nose

