

# Analytical Methods

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4 **Simultaneous detection of four nitrofuran metabolites in honey using**  
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6 **high-throughput suspension array technology**  
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**Abstract:** In this study, a new suspension array technology is proposed for the simultaneous quantitative detection of four major metabolites [3-amino-5-methylmorpholino-2-oxazolidinone (AMOZ), 3-amino-2-oxazolidinone (AOZ), semicarbazide (SEM), and 1-aminohydantoin (AHD)] of nitrofurans in honey samples. The analytes were coupled to bovine serum albumin before coupling to the microspheres. After coupling, a mixture of biotinylated antibodies specific for the four analytes, along with the analyte standard solutions or samples, were added to the microtiter tubes. Then, the microtiter tubes were incubated at 37°C for 45 min before streptavidin-R-phycoerythrin was added. Analyte residues were quantitatively analyzed by detecting the mean fluorescence intensity. The detection ranges for the four analytes were 0.02 - 40 µg/kg and the detection limit of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD in honey samples were 0.087, 0.031, 0.055, and 0.131µg/kg, respectively. The recovery rates ranged from 76.6% to 106.1% for fortified samples at levels of 0.25, 1.0, 5.0, and 20µg/kg with coefficient of variation values <15%. Finally, this method was compared to commercially available kits using fortified and ‘blind’ honey samples and the measurements obtained using these two methods correlated well. These results indicate that the suspension array method is suitable for detecting AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD, as well as other potential drug residues in animal tissues.

**Keywords:** Suspension array; drug residue; beads; median fluorescent intensity (MFI); nitrofurans metabolites

## 1. Introduction

Nitrofurans containing furaltadone (FTD), furazolidone (FZD), nitrofurazone (NZF), and nitrofurantoin (NFT) are a class of broad-spectrum antibiotics that were widely used commercially as veterinary therapeutics or feed additives to treat bacterial diseases in bees, cattle, swine, and poultry. Because of concerns about their potency as carcinogens and mutagens in human consumers<sup>1</sup>, nitrofurans have been banned from use in animal husbandry in the European Union (EU) since 1995<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, the use of nitrofurans in animal husbandry is also strictly prohibited in the United States<sup>3</sup> and China<sup>4</sup>. In accordance with European Directive 96/23/EC<sup>5</sup> and Decision 657/2002/EC<sup>6</sup>, a definitive minimum required performance limit (MRPL) was finally set for these drugs (markers = metabolites of nitrofurans) at 1 µg/kg in March 2003<sup>7</sup>.

Nitrofurans detection and quantification is typically performed using LC-MS/MS methods<sup>8-11</sup>, which provides unambiguous confirmatory data in accordance with EU requirements<sup>6</sup>. LC-MS/MS methods can be used for multiple-residue screening, but the need for extensive sample pretreatment, specialized equipment, and highly trained personnel make most chromatographic methods poorly suited for screening purposes. Therefore, LC-MS/MS methods require expensive equipment and considerable amounts of time, and less practical for screening purposes. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) based methods, which are widely used in screening approaches for nitrofuran metabolites, can detect only one component at a time<sup>11-15</sup>. Therefore, the development of new technologies is needed to allow analyses that are miniaturized, integrated, highly sensitive, and high-throughput. Additionally, screening methods should be easy to use and handle, have low costs, a short running time, the possibility of automation, good specificity, and a detection capability with an error probability <5%.

MultiAnalyte Profiling (xMAP) technology from Luminex (Austin, TX, USA) is a new platform for robust multiplexed immunochemical detection. It is an emerging technology that uses small carboxylated polystyrene microspheres that are internally dyed with red and infrared fluorophores<sup>16</sup>. By varying the ratio of the two fluorophores, up to 100 different color-coded microsphere sets can be distinguished, and each microsphere set can be coupled to a different biological probe. The microspheres are detected and

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3 characterized by a dedicated flow cytometer<sup>17</sup>, using a red laser (635 nm) for excitation  
4 and emission wavelengths that are measured between 645 and 669 nm and >712 nm.  
5 After the microspheres are classified, the reporter signal is measured. The general  
6 reporter molecule used is streptavidin-R-phycoerythrin (SA-PE) which is excited by a  
7 green laser (532 nm) and has an emission that can be measured at 580 nm<sup>18</sup>. Each  
8 microsphere can be coupled to a different biological probe which, in principle, makes it  
9 possible to simultaneously measure 100 different biomolecular interactions in a single  
10 sample.

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12 This technology has been used in many fields, for instance, in the detection of cytokines  
13 <sup>19,20</sup>, mycotoxins<sup>21</sup>, nucleotides<sup>22-24</sup>, antibodies<sup>25</sup> and food substances<sup>26</sup>. Because of the  
14 prominent characteristics of the Luminex system, it can potentially be used for the  
15 simultaneous detection of small molecules. In this study, we established a novel  
16 suspension array method for the simultaneous detection of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD.  
17 Firstly, AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD were conjugated to a carrier protein and then the  
18 conjugates were covalently bound to small carboxylated polystyrene microspheres by the  
19 carrier protein. Next, a mixture of the biotinylated antibodies specific for the four  
20 analytes along with the analyte standard solutions or samples were added to the microtiter  
21 tubes. Then, the microtiter tubes were incubated at 37°C for 45 min before SA-PE was  
22 added. Analyte residues were quantitatively analyzed by detecting the mean fluorescence  
23 intensity. Finally, this suspension array method that we have developed was compared to  
24 ELISA methods, and no significant difference was observed between the two methods.  
25 The suspension array method can be developed for the simultaneous detection of other  
26 antibiotics and potentially in other animal samples.

## 27 28 **2. Materials and methods**

### 29 30 *2.1 Reagents and instruments*

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32 Carboxylated beads, numbers 19, 37, 57, and 26, and a Bio-Plex<sup>TM</sup> amine coupling kit  
33 were supplied by Bio-Rad, USA. Monoclonal antibodies (mAb) that recognize AOZ,  
34 SEM, AMOZ, or AHD were prepared in our lab. N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) and  
35 N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical  
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3 Reagent Co. (Shanghai, China). Biotinyl-N-hydroxy-succinimideester (BNHS),  
4 1-ethyl-3-[3-dimethylaminopropyl] carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC), and  
5 N-hydroxy-sulfosuccinimide (Sulfo-NHS) were supplied by Pierce (USA). Commercial  
6 kits for AMOZ, SEM, AOZ, or AHD were purchased from Huaan Magnech Bio-Tech Co.  
7 (Beijing, China). All standard antibiotic substances and BSA were obtained from Troody  
8 Technology Co. (Shanghai, China). The honey samples used for detection were purchased  
9 from a local supermarket. A Luminex 200 suspension array system (Luminex, USA) was  
10 used for analysis and data processing.

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### 2.2 Preparation of immunogens and coating antigen

The compounds 4-{{[5-(morpholinomethyl)-2-oxooxazolidin-3-ylimino]methyl}benzoic acid (CPAMOZ), 3-{{[(3-carboxyphenyl)methylene]-amino}-2-oxazolidinone (CPAMOZ), 3[(3-Carboxyphenyl)methylene]-hydrazinecarboxamide (CPSEM), and 1-[(4-carbo-benzylidene)-amino]-imidazolidin-2,4-dione (CPAHD) were derivatized from AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD with 4-CBA, respectively, according to a previously published method<sup>27</sup>. Then, CPAMOZ, CPAMOZ, CPSEM, and CPAHD were conjugated to the carrier protein BSA via an active ester method<sup>28</sup>. The carboxylic acid on CPAMOZ, CPAOZ, CPSEM, or CPAHD was activated with DCC and NHS to produce an active ester, which then reacts with the amine groups on BSA to form an amide bond.

### 2.3 Monoclonal antibody preparation

Monoclonal antibodies were prepared according the method developed by Kohler<sup>29</sup> with minor modifications. Briefly, 60 µg of each immune antigen (CPAMOZ-BSA, CPAOZ-BSA, CPSEM-BSA, or CPAHD-BSA) emulsified with Freund's complete adjuvant was subcutaneously injected into four 6- to 8-week-old female BALB/c mice. Three weeks later, these mice were immunized with a subcutaneous injection of 80 µg of each antigen emulsified in Freund's incomplete adjuvant. The final injection into the peritoneal cavity of a selected mouse with higher antibody titers was performed with each immune antigen without adjuvant. Three days later, these mice were sacrificed and the

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3 spleens were collected for hybridoma production. Briefly, spleen cells were fused with  
4 SP2/0 cells at a 5:1 ratio with 50% PEG6000. After fusion, the cells were selected using  
5 selection medium containing 20% FCS and hypoxanthin-azaserin solution in microtiter  
6 polystyrene plates. The growing hybridoma cells were screened for antibody production  
7 using an indirect competitive ELISA method, and the positive hybridomas were  
8 subcloned by a limiting dilution method. Stable antibody-producing clones were then  
9 expanded until monoclonal antibodies were obtained. Then, monoclonal antibodies were produced  
10 in mouse ascites and purified with saturated ammonium precipitation.

#### 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 *2.4 Biotinylation for the four mAbs*

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21 Biotinylation of the four mAbs was performed according to the manufacturer's  
22 instructions. Briefly, BNHS was diluted to 10 mM by DMF and the four mAbs were  
23 diluted to 2 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> using 0.2 mol L<sup>-1</sup> NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, pH 8.5. The two solutions were mixed  
24 at a 1:30 ratio (by volume) and stirred for 30 min for biotinylation of the four mAbs at  
25 room temperature. After labeling, excess non-reacted and hydrolyzed biotin reagent in  
26 aqueous solution were dialyzed with 10 mM phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.2.  
27 Next, mAbs were aliquotted and stored at -20°C until subsequent use.

#### 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 *2.5 Bead preparation*

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38 Covalent coupling of the capture antibodies to the microspheres was performed  
39 following the procedures recommended by Luminex. In brief, the stock solutions for the  
40 microspheres were dispersed in a sonification bath (Sonicor Instrument Corporation,  
41 Copiaque, NY, USA) for 1 min. An aliquot of 1.25×10<sup>6</sup> microspheres was resuspended in  
42 microtiter tubes (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) containing 0.1 M sodium phosphate  
43 buffer, pH 6.1 (phosphate buffer), to a final volume of 100 μL. This suspension was  
44 sonicated until a homogeneous distribution of the microspheres was observed. Solutions  
45 of Sulfo-NHS and EDC, both at 50 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>, were prepared in phosphate buffer, and 10  
46 μL of each solution was sequentially added to stabilize the reaction and activate the  
47 microspheres. This suspension was incubated for 20 min at room temperature and then  
48 resuspended in 500 μL PBS (pH 7.4) containing 7 μg of CPAM0Z-BSA, CPA0Z-BSA,  
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3 CPSEM-BSA, or CPAHD-BSA. The mixture was incubated for 2 h in the dark at room  
4 temperature with continuous shaking. Microspheres were then incubated with 250  $\mu$ L  
5 PBS with 0.05% Tween 20 for 4 h. After aspiration, the beads were blocked with 1 mL  
6 PBS with 1% BSA and 0.1% sodium azide. Microspheres were counted with a  
7 hemacytometer and stored at a final concentration of  $10^6$  microspheres per mL in the dark  
8 at 4°C. To confirm the coupling of the protein, 2000 beads of each set were taken and  
9 mixed with a saturating concentration of specific biotinylated mAbs. After a 1-h reaction  
10 in a vortexer at 37°C and filtration of the excess mAbs, sufficient SA-PE was added to  
11 each vial for a nonreversible coupling reaction for 30 min with biotinylated mAbs that  
12 can capture cognate antigens on beads. Then, 100 microspheres were read out and median  
13 fluorescent intensity (MFI) values were determined using a Luminex suspension array  
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## 26 *2.6 Sample preparation*

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29 Samples were prepared according to a method previously described by Pimpitak<sup>15</sup> with  
30 minor modifications. Briefly, 1 g honey sample was homogenized and fortified with 10  
31  $\mu$ L of the four compounds-AMAZ, SEM, AOZ, and AHD-at different concentrations in 4  
32 mL deionized water. Then 0.5 mL 1 M HCl and 100  $\mu$ L 40 mM 4-nitrobenzaldehyde in  
33 DMSO were added to the homogenized tissue solutions. Each sample was thoroughly  
34 mixed and incubated for 3 h in a water bath at 55°C. Subsequently, samples were cooled  
35 to room temperature and the pH was adjusted by adding 5 mL 0.1 M dipotassium  
36 hydrogen phosphate and 0.4 mL 1 M sodium hydroxide. The samples were extracted with  
37 6 mL ethyl acetate and centrifuged (3500 $\times$ g for 10 min) before removing the ethyl  
38 acetate supernatant, which was removed by evaporation under a stream of nitrogen using  
39 a heating block at 45°C. The resulting residues were dissolved in 2 mL 1:1 (v/v) mixture  
40 of hexane and 0.1 M PBS at pH 7.4. The buffer phase, containing the derivative, was  
41 separated by centrifugation at 3000 $\times$ g for 10 min and collected for Luminex 200 analysis.  
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43 Four separate extractions were performed and each sample was measured in triplicate.  
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45 The concentrations of analyte were calculated based on the standard curve run on the  
46 same plate. The precision and recovery of the Luminex 200 analysis were also  
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3 determined from the fortification experiments that used un-spiked samples as blanks  
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### 5 6 *2.7 Suspension array detection procedure* 7

8 Analyte standard stock solutions were prepared in DMF at concentrations of 50 µg/mL.  
9 For the calibration curves, the necessary standard solutions were prepared from these  
10 stock solutions by serial dilutions in PBS with 0.05% Tween, 1% BSA, and 0.1% sodium  
11 azide (PBS-TBN).  
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15 For this assay, 25 µL standard solution and sample extracts or blank solution (negative  
16 control) were added to each microtiter tube. During the initial testing, each biotinylated  
17 antibody was tested separately to check for cross-reactivity. Next, 15 µL biotinylated  
18 antibody cocktail was added to each microtiter tube. Subsequently, 10 µL mixture of  
19 4000 beads coupled to different analytes was added and the microtiter tubes were  
20 incubated for 45 min and shaken at a medium speed at 37°C for the competitive  
21 antigen-antibody reaction. Microtiter tubes were then centrifuged at 12,000×g for 10  
22 min). Beads in the microtiter tubes were washed with PBS-TBN, pH 7.4, to remove the  
23 sample and unbound antibodies. SA-PE was then added to the microtiter tubes and  
24 incubated for 30 min while shaking at a medium speed at 37°C. The microtiter tubes were  
25 then washed using PBS with 1% BSA and 0.5% Tween 20, pH 7.4, and HPE-buffer was  
26 added at a final volume of 100 µL. Then, the mixture in the tubes was transferred to a  
27 96-well plate. The fluorescence intensity of the beads was measured using a Luminex  
28 analyzer to determine the MFIs.  
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### 43 *2.8 Optimization of the amounts of mAbs* 44

45 To optimize the amounts of the four biotinylated mAbs that were added, serial dilutions  
46 of four biotinylated mAbs were added for 1000 beads in triplicate. The optimal amounts  
47 of added antibodies were determined based on the MFI obtained.  
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### 51 *2.9 Assay validation* 52

53 The limit of detection (LOD) was defined as the lowest amount of analyte in a sample  
54 that could be detected, but not necessarily exactly quantified, which was based on the  
55 mean value of 20 blank samples plus the mean standard deviation × 3 according to the  
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3 guidelines of Decision 657/2002/EC <sup>6</sup>. The accuracy and precision of this method were  
4 indicated by the recovery and coefficient of variation (CV), respectively. Recovery % =  
5 (concentration measured/concentration fortified) × 100%. Blank samples were  
6 simultaneously fortified with 0, 0.25, 1, 5, or 20 µg/kg AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, or AHD, and  
7 the recovery was calculated after measurement of these samples. To assess the CV, the  
8 assay was repeated three times. The mean recovery and CV values were calculated for  
9 honey samples. The precision of the suspension array method was analyzed by repeated  
10 analyses of the fortified samples and comparisons of the intra- and inter-assay CVs.  
11 Intra-assay CVs were measured based on three replicates of each fortified concentration,  
12 and the inter-assay CV was based on results on five different days.  
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22 To determine the specificity of the suspension array, it was exposed to different types of  
23 chemicals: tetracycline, oxytetracycline, chlortetracycline, chloramphenicol, and  
24 methylsulfadiazine at a concentration of 200 µg/mL were used to test for cross-reactivity.  
25 Blank controls (without competitor) were also prepared.  
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### 30 *2.10 A comparison of the suspension array method with commercially available kits for* 31 *detecting AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD spiked into honey samples*

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33 60 fortified honey samples at different concentrations of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD  
34 and fifty honey samples with unknown concentrations of these compounds were assayed  
35 by suspension array and commercial kits simultaneously. Each of the fortified  
36 concentrations were prepared in three replicates. Based on the MFIs and standard curves  
37 that we obtained, the concentrations detected in the fortified samples could be calculated.  
38 Values of measured and real concentrations of fortified samples were compared.  
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## 47 **3. Results and discussion**

### 48 *3.1 The optimal concentration of biotinylated monoclonal antibody used in the* 49 *simultaneous detection assays*

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51 The concentrations of antigen and antibody have great effects on their reaction  
52 efficiencies. The macromolecule-immune complexes are unable to form if the amount of  
53 antigen or antibody is excessive. There is an equivalence zone in which the dose of  
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antigen and antibody are present in optimal proportions and huge grid-like aggregates of immune complexes can be formed. In this study, serial dilutions of biotinylated mAbs were prepared and a 'checker board' titration was employed to optimize the concentrations of biotinylated mAbs. Using a constant amount of beads, the MFI values first increased and then reached a plateau when the concentration of biotinylated mAbs increased. The concentration of biotinylated mAbs at the slope of the curve was chosen as an optimal concentration. The working concentrations of biotinylated mAbs for AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD were 0.23, 0.42, 2.13, and 1.84  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively. As shown in Figure 1, we also found that different biotinylated mAbs were associated with different MFI values at which the value reached a plateau. Based on the beads coupling kit instructions, 7  $\mu\text{g}$  CPAMOZ-BSA, CPAOZ-BSA, CPSEM-BSA, or CPAHD-BSA were used for the coupling reaction along with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  carboxylated microspheres ( $1.25 \times 10^7 \text{ mL}^{-1}$ ). We analyzed the coupling rates of CPAMOZ-BSA, CPAOZ-BSA, CPSEM-BSA, and CPAHD-BSA, and the inter-molecular repulsion effects and the incomplete recognition between the specific mAbs and cognate Ags immobilized on beads resulted in different maximum MFIs values for different conjugates.

### 3.2 Standard curve generation and the detection of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD in honey

In this study, a high-throughput suspension array method was established for the simultaneous detection of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD residues in honey. The AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD residues were derivatized into NPAMOZ, NPAOZ, NPSEM, and NPAHD, respectively, for detection using the high-throughput suspension array method that we developed. Standard solutions of the four analytes were diluted in PBS-TBN at concentrations of 0, 0.02, 0.078, 0.313, 1.25, 5, 20, and 40  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Finally, the concentration of NP-analyte was determined and converted into analyte concentration

using the following formula:  $C_{analyte} = \frac{M_{analyte}}{M_{NPanalyte}} \times C_{NPanalyte}$ ; where  $C_{NPanalyte}$  is

the concentration of NPAMOZ, NPAOZ, NPSEM, or NPAHD detected in the sample;

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3  $M_{analyte}$  is the molecular weight of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, or AHD;  $M_{NPanalyte}$  is the  
4 molecular weight of NPAMOZ, NPAOZ, NPSEM, or NPAHD; and  $C_{analyte}$  is the  
5 concentration of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, or AHD calculated from the formula used to detect  
6 samples. The standard curve for the high-throughput suspension array is shown in Figure  
7 2. The 50% inhibitory concentration ( $IC_{50}$ ) of NPAMOZ, NPAOZ, NPSEM, and NPAHD  
8 calculated from the standard curve was 0.76, 0.244, 0.65, or 1.29  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively.  
9 The  $IC_{50}$  value is an important index of the sensitivity of the suspension array method.  
10 The sensitivity indicates the minimum detectable concentrations for the suspension  
11 array-based detection, and the lowest detection limits (LDLs) for NPAMOZ, NPAOZ,  
12 NPSEM, and NPAHD in dilution buffer were 0.02  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .

### 23 3.3 Assay validation

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26 The LODs of the suspension array method for AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD in honey  
27 samples were 0.087, 0.031, 0.055, and 0.131  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ , respectively. The LODs for the four  
28 analytes in honey samples were below 0.2  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ , which is lower than the MRPL for the  
29 metabolites of nitrofurans residues established by the European Commission. The honey  
30 samples were fortified with AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD at concentrations of 0.25, 1.0,  
31 5.0, and 20  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  and the mean recovery and CV values for the analytes in honey  
32 samples are shown in Table 1. Compared to the previously reported ELISA methods, the  
33 LOD values for the four analytes were comparable. For example, in previous reports the  
34 LODs values of AMOZ were 0.1 and 0.16  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ <sup>15, 30</sup>. O'Mahony et al. developed a  
35 biochip screening assay for the detection of four nitrofurans metabolites in honey in which  
36 the detection capabilities ranged between 0.15 and 0.24  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ <sup>31</sup>. These findings indicated  
37 that the suspension array technique was suitable for the rapid and simultaneous screening  
38 of the four main nitrofurans metabolites in honey.

### 49 3.4 Specificity of the suspension array detection

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52 All of the individual analyte-specific mAbs were tested with a complete mixture of the  
53 four analyte-specific microsphere sets to test whether cross-interactions between the  
54 assays could be observed. Table 2 shows that the final selection of reagents did not show  
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3 any remarkable cross-reactivity between the assays. Otherwise, NPAMOZ, NPAOZ,  
4 NPSEM, NPAHD, Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline, Chlortetracycline, Chloramphenicol,  
5 and Methylsulfadiazine at the concentration of 200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , were chosen to estimate the  
6 specificity of the suspension array. Based on Table 3, we found that there was no  
7 cross-reactivity with the other chemicals. The average MFI of the selected chemicals was  
8 not significantly different from the corresponding average MFI of the blank control. This  
9 finding indicated that the method developed herein could be used to simultaneously  
10 detect the four analytes in honey and potentially in other animal-derived foods.

### 11 12 13 *3.5 A comparison of the suspension array and commercially available kits for detecting* 14 *AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD spiked into honey samples*

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24 A spiking experiment is a useful method for demonstrating the veracity of a detection  
25 method. To demonstrate the applicability of a suspension array method to the evaluation  
26 of levels of residual AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD in honey samples, fortified samples  
27 were simultaneously analyzed using the suspension array and ELISA methods. We  
28 obtained 60 fortified honey samples at different concentrations (0, 0.25, 1.0, 5.0, or 20  $\mu\text{g}$   
29  $\text{kg}^{-1}$ ) and purchased 50 ‘blind’ honey samples from a supermarket and analyzed both  
30 using the suspension array and commercially available kits (Table 4). Generally, there  
31 was a good correlation between positive samples, in the range of 0.25-20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ , obtained  
32 using these techniques. However, the detection ranges of suspension array are much  
33 broader than that of the traditional ELISA. In our analysis of 50 ‘blinded’ honey samples  
34 using the suspension microarray and commercial kits simultaneously, no positive samples  
35 were detected by either method. Such concordant results indicated that the data obtained  
36 using these two methods were well correlated. Therefore, this comparison demonstrated  
37 the veracity of the suspension microarray method for detecting veterinary drug residues  
38 in foodstuffs.

## 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 **4. Conclusion**

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60 Currently, ELISA-based screening tests for nitrofurans metabolites (AMOZ, AOZ,  
SEM, or AHD) are broadly used as an effective tool in regulatory, residual, and industrial  
laboratories. Development of the suspension array method enables simultaneous and

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3 rapid screening for AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD residues in food samples. The  
4 detection capability of the assay for honey samples was sufficiently lower than the MRPL  
5 of  $1 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ , demonstrating that the suspension array assay developed herein is suitable  
6 for use in screening analyses. Collectively, this evaluation of the suspension array method  
7 for simultaneous AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD detection in blind and fortified samples  
8 demonstrated the applicability of this technique to monitoring for AMOZ, AOZ, SEM,  
9 and AHD contamination in honey and potentially other types of food.  
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Table 1 Mean recoveries of AMOZ, AOZ, SEM and AHD from honey samples using an optimized suspension array method (n = 4).

	Concentration fortified ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	Recoverys (100%)	CV%	
			Intra-assay	Inter-assay
AMOZ	0.25	93.2	8.2	13.2
	1.0	86.5	6.3	12.7
	5.0	94.9	3.8	9.3
	20	80.4	2.6	8.1
AOZ	0.25	91.4	7.2	12.1
	1.0	106.1	6.8	11.7
	5.0	90.1	6.6	9.6
	20	95.8	4.1	7.1
SEM	0.25	98.3	9.2	14.1
	1.0	103.2	7.8	10.7
	5.0	77.6	4.2	8.6
	20	77.9	3.1	8.1
AHD	0.25	90.4	5.2	10.1
	1.0	89.6	3.7	8.7
	5.0	82.2	2.2	5.6
	20	76.6	3.4	4.8

Table 2 Average (n=3) responses (MFI) obtained with the suspension array method in buffer using the individual and the mixed biotinylated antibodies.

antibodies	beas	Beads-AMAZ	Beads-SEM	Beads-AOZ	Beads-AHD
	MFI				
Mixed antibodies		11083.67±397.32	3835.45±187.38	10953.67±345.62	5226.56±232.56
Anti-AMAZ		10051.50±275.56	16	13	15
Anti-SEM		13	3736.54±205.87	25	12.5
Anti-AOZ		11.5	32	9129.25±302.36	13
Anti-AHD		18	12	17	4968.86±294.23

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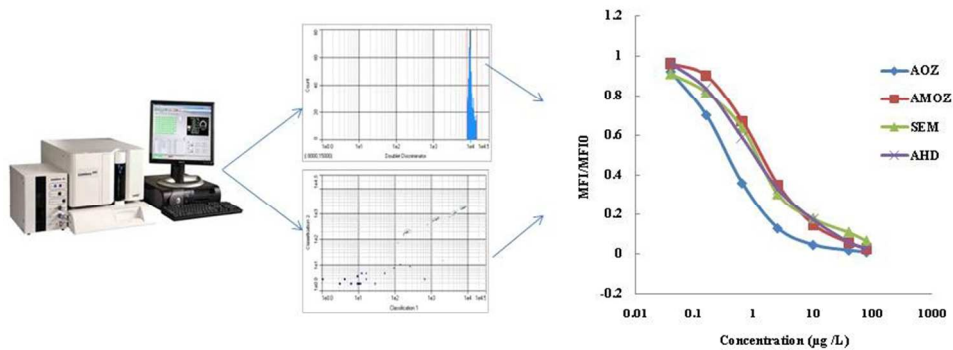
Table 3 Average responses (MFI) obtained with the suspension array method for cross-reaction experiment

Chemicals (200 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )	MFI ( $\bar{X} \pm S$ , n=3)			
	Beads-AMTZ	Beads-AOZ	Beads-SEM	Beads-AHD
	Anti-AMTZ	Anti-AOZ	Anti-SEM	Anti-AHD
Blank control	10051.56 $\pm$ 532.32	9072.43 $\pm$ 303.43	3836.35 $\pm$ 138.49	4982.50 $\pm$ 289.34
NPAMTZ	15	8984.35 $\pm$ 289.12	3689.00 $\pm$ 201.24	4756.78 $\pm$ 264.72
NPAOZ	10354.67 $\pm$ 478.65	27	3607.59 $\pm$ 132.67	5105.35 $\pm$ 312.30
NPSEM	9284.50 $\pm$ 408.56	8903.59 $\pm$ 356.64	13	4965.15 $\pm$ 272.83
NPAHD	10284.45 $\pm$ 389.40	9006.45 $\pm$ 376.34	3998.43 $\pm$ 142.87	21
Tetracycline	10084.83 $\pm$ 500.67	9124.56 $\pm$ 337.78	3748.65 $\pm$ 98.96	5001.89 $\pm$ 322.19
Oxytetracycline	9684.75 $\pm$ 423.16	9087.83 $\pm$ 343.38	4024.15 $\pm$ 231.90	4932.32 $\pm$ 279.54
Chloramphenicol	9883.58 $\pm$ 453.45	8906.72 $\pm$ 325.78	3824.43 $\pm$ 211.32	4983.48 $\pm$ 232.93
Chlortetracycline	9984.39 $\pm$ 401.67	9012.15 $\pm$ 317.38	4004.32 $\pm$ 198.54	5005.36 $\pm$ 268.48
Methylsulfadiazine	10004.59 $\pm$ 486.16	8972.17 $\pm$ 342.65	3904.67 $\pm$ 241.33	4897.82 $\pm$ 252.83

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Table 4 Samples detection for AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD by suspension array and commercial kits

Analytes	Fortification ( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	Real detection concentration ( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	
		Suspension array ( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	Commercial kits( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )
AMOZ	0	0.01	0.02
	0.25	0.23	0.26
	1.0	0.87	1.02
	5.0	4.75	4.43
	20	16.08	18.32
AOZ	0	0	0
	0.25	0.23	0.23
	1.0	1.06	0.95
	5.0	4.51	4.20
	20	19.12	17.28
SEM	0	0	0.02
	0.25	0.25	0.27
	1.0	1.03	1.22
	5.0	3.88	4.05
	20	15.58	14.98
AHD	0	0.01	0
	0.25	0.23	0.22
	1.0	0.87	0.79
	5.0	4.11	4.03
	20	15.32	16.02



Graphical Abstract.

254x190mm (96 x 96 DPI)

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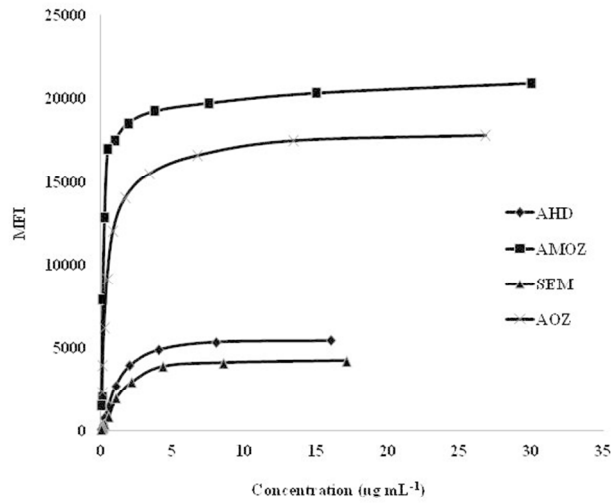


Fig. 1. The relationship between obtained MFIs and the concentrations of biotinylated mAbs for AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, and AHD.

254x190mm (96 x 96 DPI)



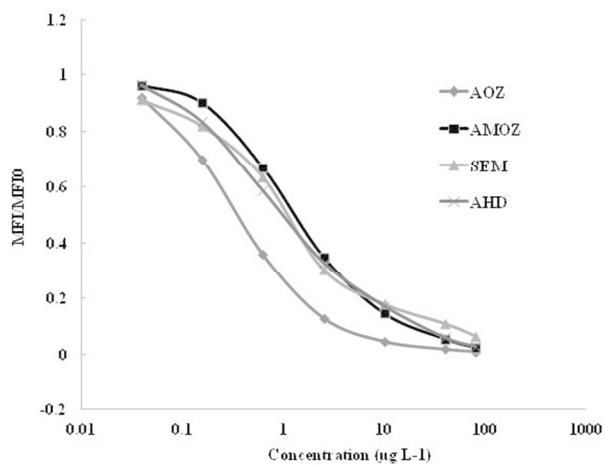


Fig. 2. The standard curves for NPAMOZ, NPAOZ, NPSEM, and NPAHD in the buffer PBS-TBN ( MFI<sub>0</sub>: average of MFIs obtained from blank wells).

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