

# ANALYSIS OF AMINES FROM ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Steven Trabue, and Kenwood Scoggin,  
USDA-Agriculture Research Service  
National Laboratory of Agriculture and the Environment  
Ames, IA

National Environmental Monitoring Conference 2016  
Orange County, California  
August 8-12, 2016

# Acknowledgements

## **Funding:**

USDA-Agricultural Research Service

National Program 212: Soil and Air (animal  
production systems)

# Amines in Agricultural Production

## 1. Odorants (animal production)

- a. **Swine** (Hansen et al. Atmos. Environ. 2016)
- b. **Poultry** (Burnett ES&T 1968)
- c. **Beef Cattle** (Wright et al. JFAC 2005)

## 2. Particulate Formation

## 3. Food Spoilage

# Analytical Challenges

1. Volatile in Nature
  - Limits sampling apparatus
2. Sorptive (sticky)
  - Limit surface contact
3. Reactive
4. High Ammonia Environments

# Target Volatile Amines

Compound	Molecular Weight	Boiling Point	Odor Threshold
	g mol <sup>-1</sup>	°C	ppbv
Methylamine	31	-6	35
Dimethylamine	45	7	33
Trimethylamine	59	3	0.032
Ethylamine	45	16-20	46
Diethylamine	73	55	48
Triethylamine	101	85	5.4
Propylamine	59	47-50	25
Butylamine	73	77-79	1.5

# Ammonia Concentrations

Poultry (Broilers & Layers)  
10-25 ppmv



Swine (Sow & Grow-Finisher) 2-15 ppm



Open Feedlots (Beef & Dairy) 0.25-2 ppm



# Current Reported Air Methods (Amines)

## 1. Discontinuous Monitoring

- a) Acid Traps (active and passive)
  - 1) GC Analysis: 80.0 ppbv (OSHA, 1992)
  - 2) IC Method: 3.49 ppbv (Cowen et al. EPA ETV 2004)
  - 3) SPME: 660 ppbv (Chien et al. Anal. Chim. Acta 2000)
- b) Ion Exchange Resins 4.3 ppbv (Dawson et al. Atmos. Meas. Tech. 2014)
- c) Field SPME 2.38 ppbv (Kim et al. Anal. Chem. 2002)

## 2. Real Time Monitoring

- a) Ambient pressure Proton transfer Mass Spectrometer (Hansen et al. ES&T 2011)
- b) SIFT-MS 0.16 ppbv (Feilberg et al. Sensor 2015)

# EPA Compendium Method 10-4.2

## ChemComb Model 3500 Speciation Sampling Cartridge

- Partisol Model 2300 speciation samplers
- Leland Legacy Pumps

Sampling Rate:  $10 \text{ L min}^{-1}$

Extracted Denuders with 10 mL DI Water

Breakthrough of ammonia

- Feedlot 2 hr (less than 10%)
- Swine 10 min (less than 5%)





# Problem with IC Analysis

- ⦿ Ammonia Peak interfered with most other peaks.
- ⦿ Ammonia Concentration
  - Feedlot: 167  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  ( 9.8 mM)
  - Dairy: 42  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  ( 2.5 mM)
  - Swine: 69  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  ( 4.1 mM)
  - Poultry: 174  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  (10.2 mM)

# Purpose of Method

1. Develop a robust high through-put analysis technique with minimal preparation time.
2. Independent of ammonia interferences.

# Analysis of Extracts

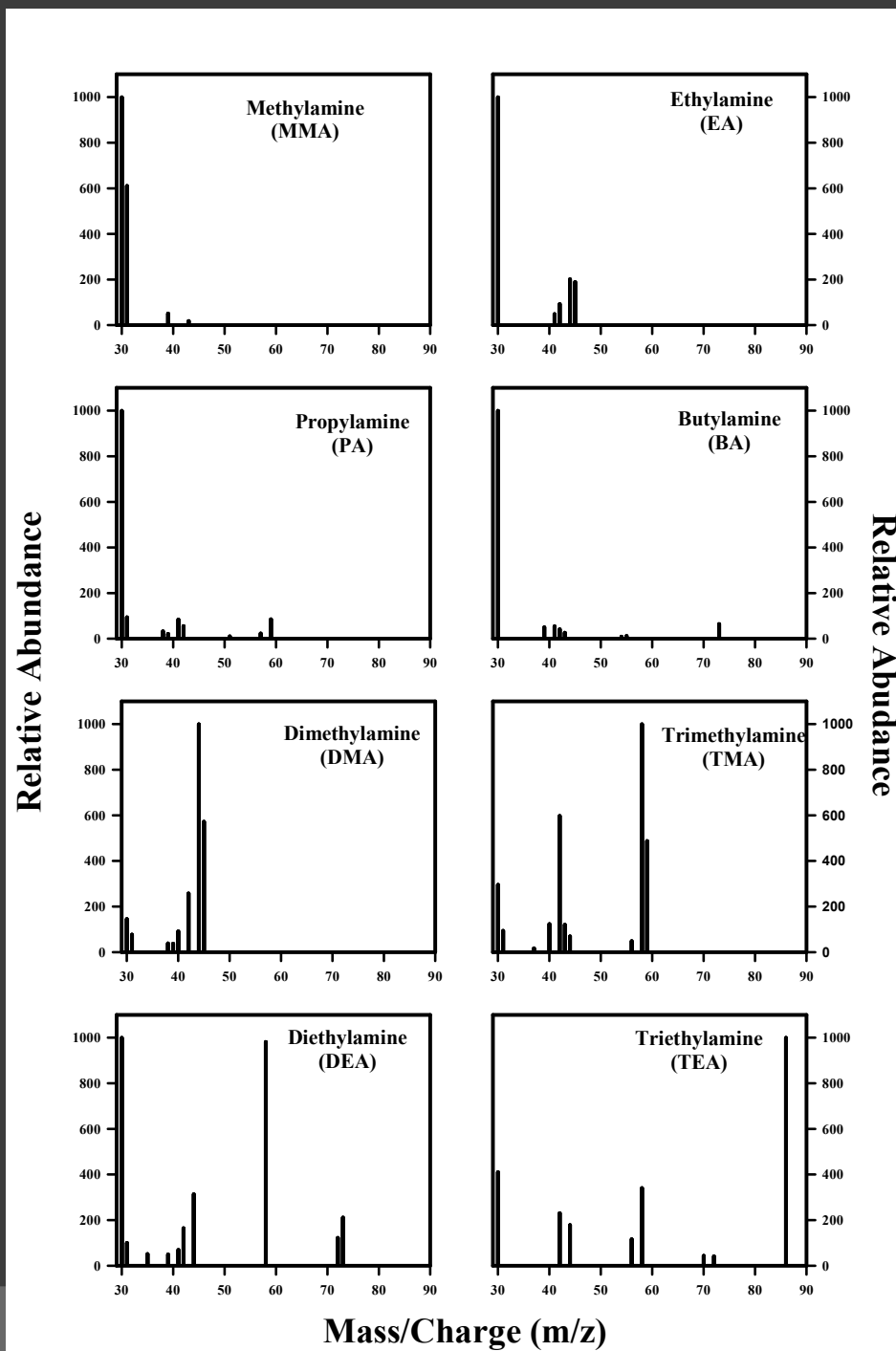
## Headspace SPME GC/MS

### Optimizing Parameters

1. Fiber Choice
2. pH
  - A) 9; B) 12; C) 13 and D) 14
3. Extraction Temperature
  - A) 30; B) 50; C) 70; and D) 100°C
4. Extraction Time
  - A) 1 min; B) 2 min; C) 5 min; D) 10 min; and E) 20 min

Chemical Separation

# METHOD DEVELOPMENT

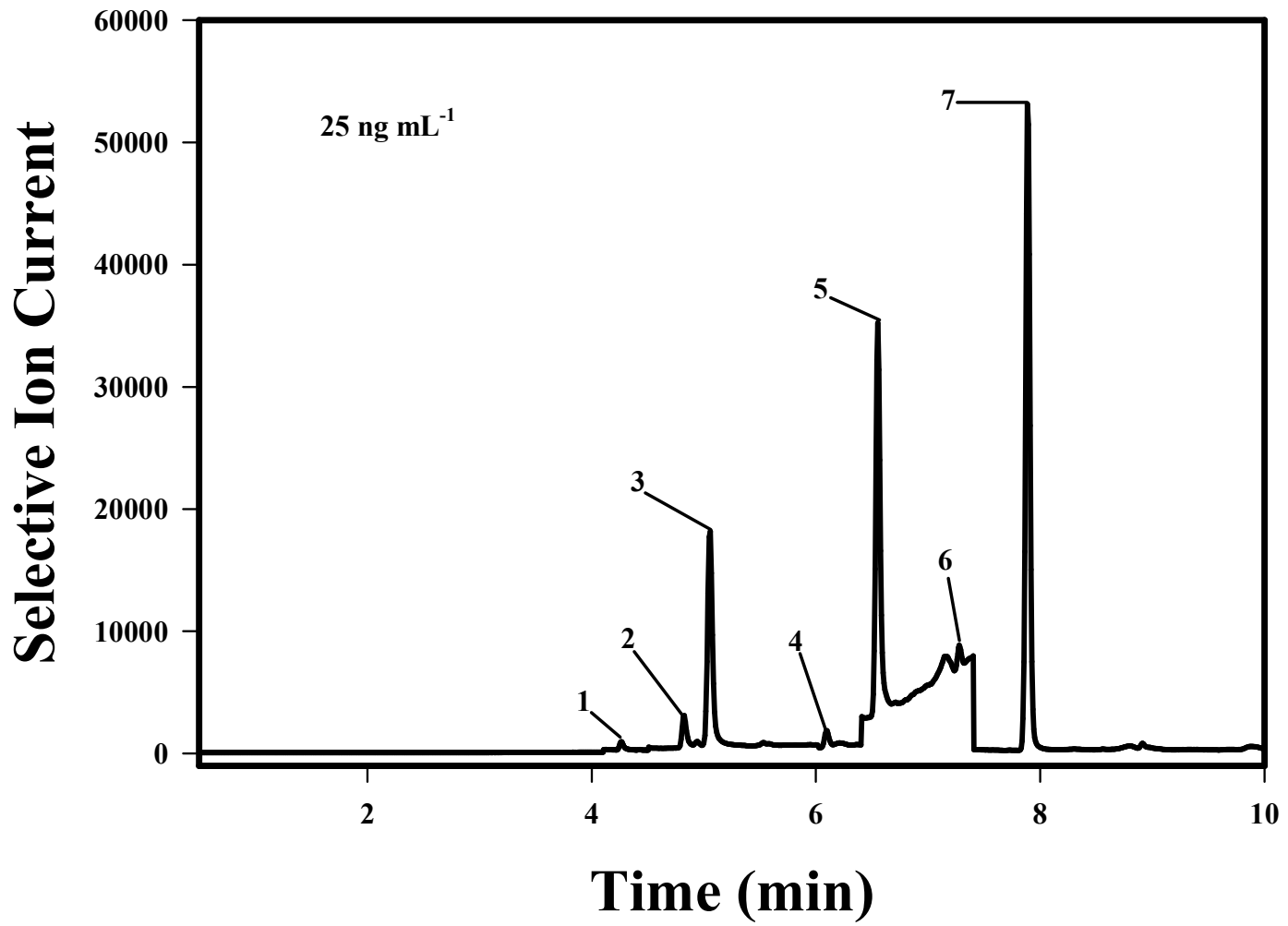


# Separation Technique

## Agilent 6890 GC/MS

1. Gerstel, Inc MPS2 w/  
SPME attachment
2. CP-Volamine 60 m, 0.32  
 $\mu\text{m}$ , 5.0  $\mu\text{m}$
3. Oven  
Initial 70°C, 2 min hold  
70 – 260°C @ 30° C/min  
Hold at 260°C, 2 min  
Cycle Time: 14 min

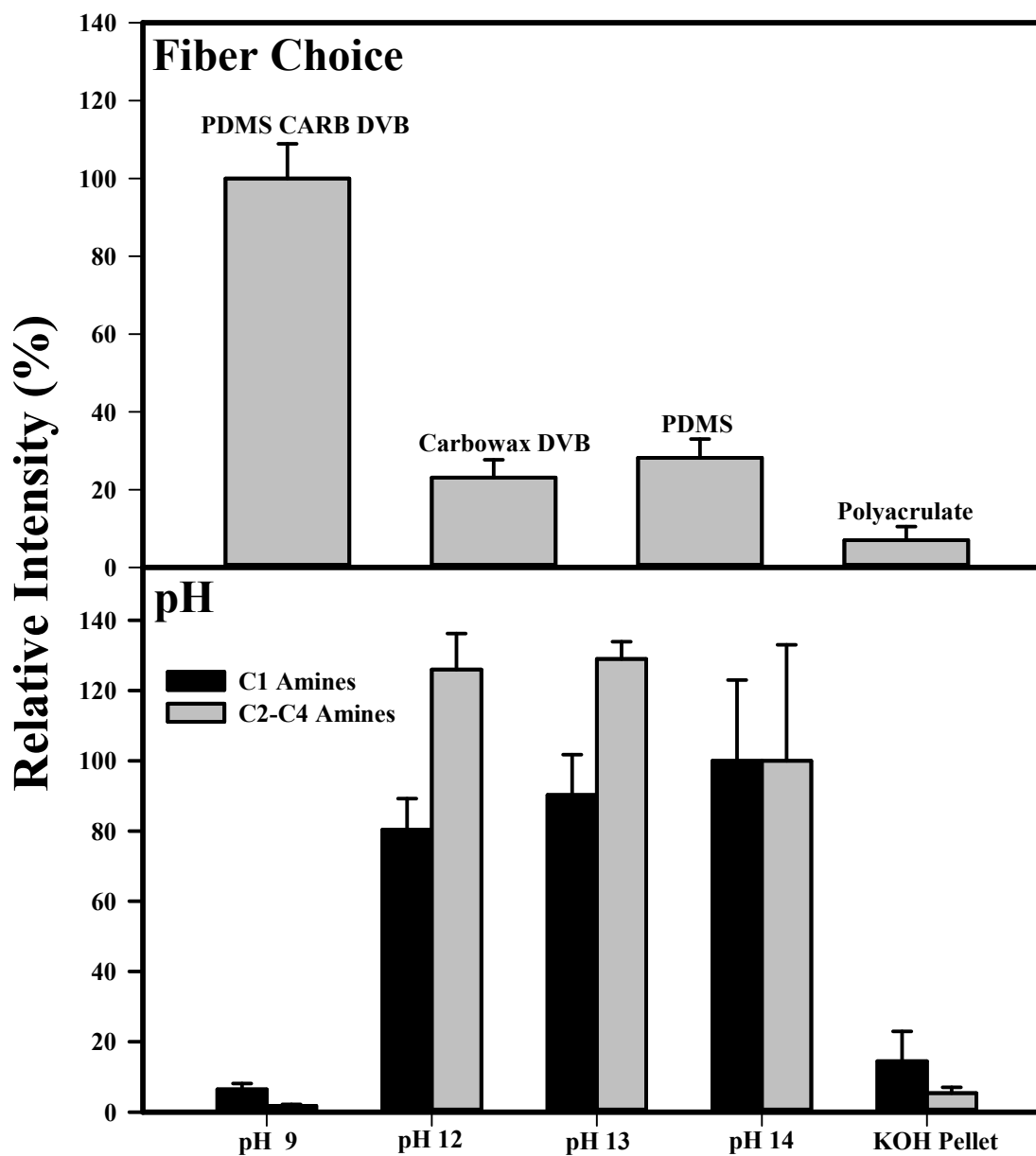
	Retention Time	Quant Ion
	min	m/z
Methylamine	4.2	30
Dimethylamine	4.8	45
Trimethylamine	5.1	58
Ethylamine	4.9	30
Diethylamine	6.6	58
Triethylamine	7.9	85
Propylamine	6.1	30
Butylamine	7.3	30



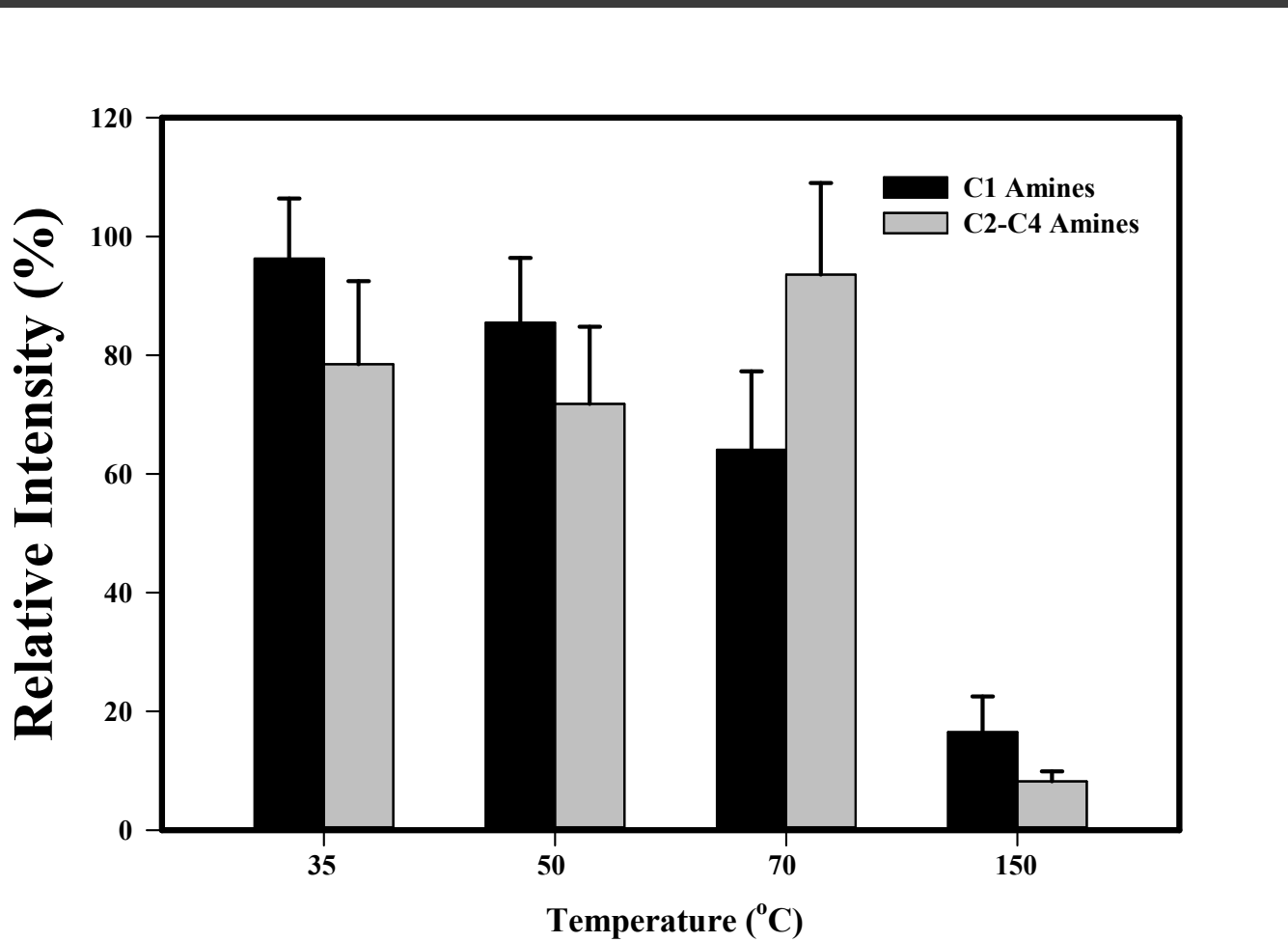
SPME Headspace

# METHOD DEVELOPMENT

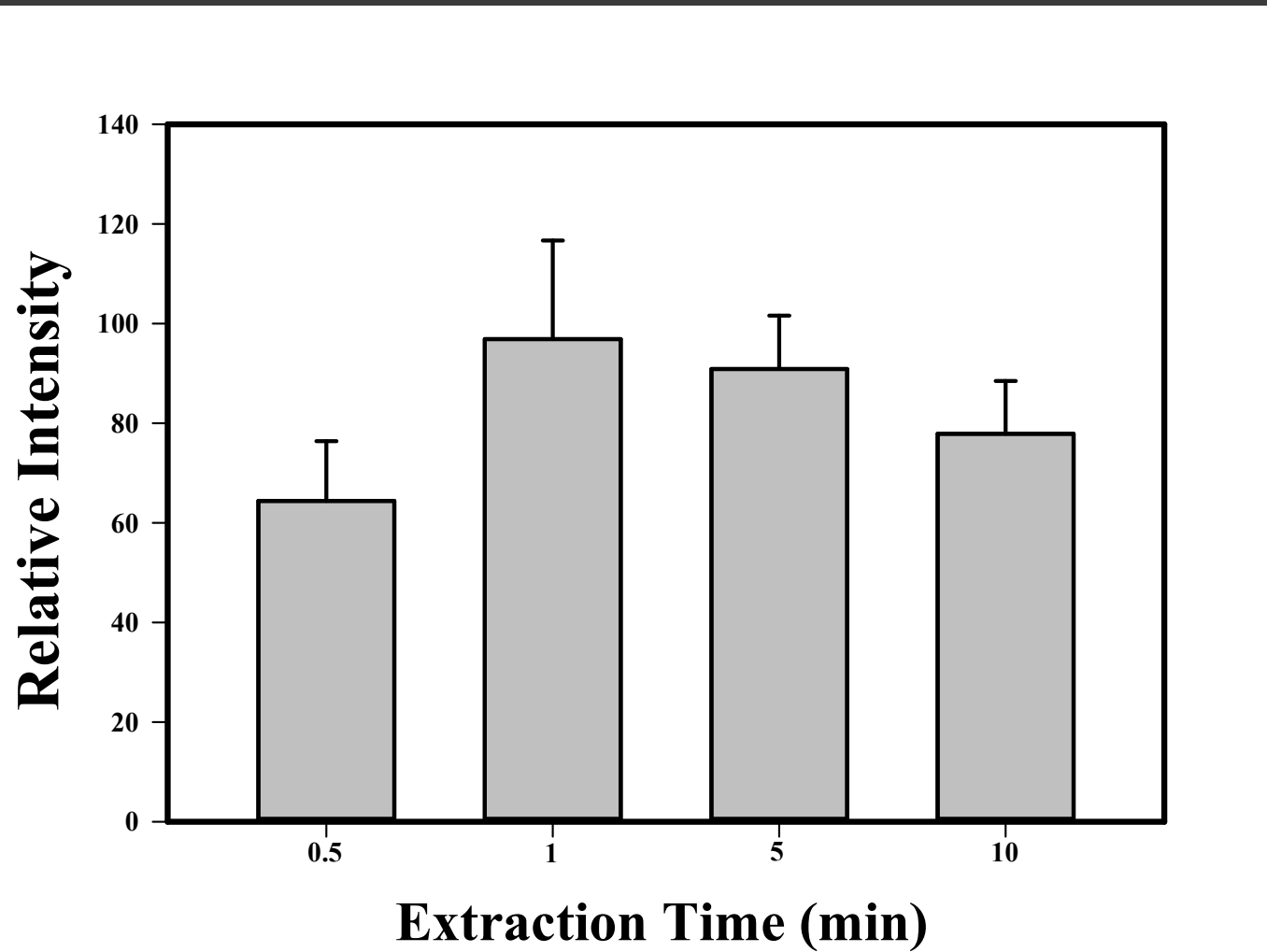




# Extraction Temperature



# Extraction Time



# Sample Processing

Extraction of Denuder (10 mL HPLC Water)

Headspace Vial Preparation

1. Place two scoops of NaCl into 20 mL headspace vial (approx. 0.5 g).
2. Add 2 mL sample extract and seal.
3. Syringe in 100  $\mu$ L 5 M KOH
4. Mix and add to autosampler.

Autosampler

1. Incubate headspace vial 5 min at 35°C
2. Extract headspace with SPME fiber (5 min)

# METHOD PERFORMANCE

# Volatile Amines

Compound	Range	r <sup>2</sup>	Cal. LOD	Cal. LOQ	Accuracy	Repeatability
	ng mL <sup>-1</sup>		— ng mL <sup>-1</sup> —		%	%
Methylamine	10-333	0.960	10.2	42.9	11.7	12.1
Dimethylamine	10-333	0.974	2.4	6.3	9.4	11.1
Trimethylamine	10-333	0.905	1.6	3.7	18.7	11.2
Diethylamine	10-333	0.965	2.8	6.5	11.4	5.6
Triethylamine	10-333	0.980	0.5	1.5	7.2	7.6
Propylamine	10-333	0.968	6.8	13.7	10.3	9.2
Butylamine	10-333	0.981	3.9	7.9	8.4	5.7

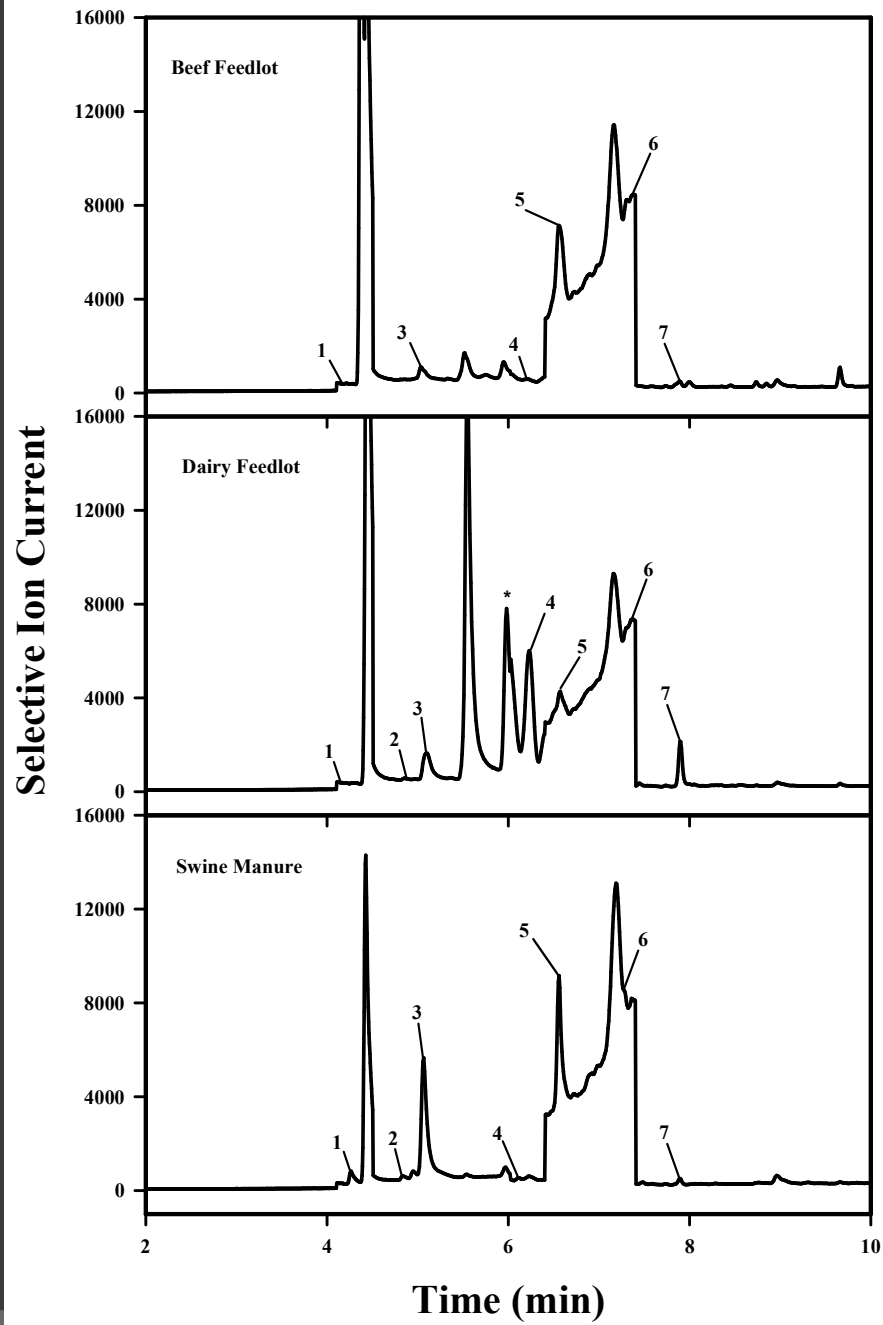
# Volatile Amines

Compound	Air LOD				Sample	
	Low Volume		High Volume		Concentration	CV
	ppbv	$\mu\text{g m}^3$	ppbv	$\mu\text{g m}^3$	$\mu\text{g m}^3$	%
Methylamine	0.800	1.02	0.085	0.085	2.78	33.1
Dimethylamine	0.130	0.24	0.011	0.020	0.47	61.4
Trimethylamine	0.066	0.16	0.005	0.013	3.86	22.5
Diethylamine	0.094	0.28	0.008	0.023	13.09	32.2
Triethylamine	0.012	0.05	0.001	0.004	0.06	33.9
Propylamine	0.280	0.68	0.023	0.057	BDL	NA
Butylamine	0.130	0.39	0.011	0.032	0.43	18.8

# Ammonia Challenge

Compounds	Citrate Buffer	Ammonia Concentration ( $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ )					
		42	84	330	670	850	2100
	Blk						
		————— % Recovery —————					
Methylamine	100	93.5	115.4	90.3	92.8	18.0	10.6
Dimethylamine	100	109.1	107.2	96.8	94.4	7.1	3.7
Trimethylamine	100	92.5	88.6	82.0	70.4	28.6	6.3
Diethylamine	100	114.5	119.8	91.3	89.7	8.1	4.6
Triethylamine	100	123.7	127.8	91.3	84.4	12.1	2.2
Propylamine	100	119.6	108.8	97.4	95.7	24.8	11.0
Butylamine	100	120.4	103.0	94.4	78.1	25.5	12.3





Compound	Swine		Dairy		Beef	
	Diet	Fan	Lagoon	Paddock	Central	10 m N
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> $\mu\text{g m}^3$ <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>					
Methylamine	0.88	0.27	0.05	0.04	0.08	0.56
Dimethylamine	0.21	0.57	0.04	0.04	0.15	0.48
Trimethylamine	3.86	1.20	0.42	0.19	1.79	3.05
Diethylamine	13.09	0.80	0.35	0.24	0.05	0.10
Triethylamine	0.02	0.11	0.01	0.01	0.20	BDL
Propylamine	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Butylamine	0.27	0.07	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.02

<b>Chemical Class</b>	<b>Swine</b>	<b>Beef</b>
	Odor Activity Value	Odor Activity Value
Reduced Sulfur	617	NA
Ammonia	55	1
Volatile Fatty Acids	122	25
Phenol Compounds	286	17
Indole Compounds	225	15
Amines	230	20

# Conclusion

1. Headspace analysis with SPME is fast quantitative method for the analysis of volatile amines and organic nitrogen compounds. However, extraction and coating honeycomb denuders is still labor intensive.
2. Ammonia interferences were reduced compared to previous IC method. However,  $\text{NH}_3$  levels above  $700 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  should be avoided.
3. Amine profiles for each livestock operations were unique and likely reflect dietary rations and animal type.
4. Trimethylamine was the key amine odorant and the most abundant amine. However, diet studies show that diethylamine is also significant amine compound in swine.