| 1  | Metabolic profiling approach to determine phenolic compounds of  |
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| 2  | virgin olive oil by direct injection and liquid chromatography coupled   |
| 3  | to mass spectrometry   |
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| 17 | Running title (70 Characters): Determining phenolic compounds of olive oil by direct                                     |
| 18 | injection LC-MS  |

## 19 Abstract

20 A LC-MS method involving direct injection of extra-virgin olive oil (EVOO) -after a simple dilution- for determining its phenolic compounds has been developed. 21 22 Optimization of the most appropriate solvent for sample dilution, selection of the optimum oil/solvent ratio, and establishment of column cleaning strategy and maximum 23 number of injections were some of the most relevant steps. Then, the analytical 24 25 parameters of the method were evaluated, establishing LOD (from 3.3 to  $31.6 \,\mu g/L$ ) and LOQ, precision (RSD values for inter-day repeatability were found between 3.49 and 26 6.12%), and trueness (within the range 89.9-102.3% for 1.0 mg/L) and checking 27 28 possible matrix effect (which was no significant). Three kinds of calibration were used: external standard, standard addition and calibration in a phenols-free matrix, which was 29 subsequently applied to quantify the phenolic compounds in 16 EVOOs (from 6 30 31 cultivars). A total of 21 compounds were determined without the need of using any 32 extraction protocol.

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Keywords: phenolic compounds; extra-virgin olive oil; liquid chromatography-mass
spectrometry; direct injection; matrix effect.

## 36 **1 Introduction**

37 Even though people have been eating olive oil for thousands of years, it is now more popular than ever. The number of scientific studies showing that olive oil can help to 38 prevent and treat different kind of diseases (atherosclerosis, cancer, diabetes, obesity, 39 40 pulmonary diseases, cognition disorders, etc.) is constantly growing (Martín-Peláez, Covas, Fitó, Kušar, & Pravst, 2013; Visioli & Bernardini, 2011) and the benefits of a 41 42 diet rich in olive oil are, indeed, nowadays absolutely undeniable. These healthy properties can be explained considering olive oil's composition regarding its high level 43 44 of monounsaturated fatty acids and the fact that it also contains multiple minor 45 components (Carrasco-Pancorbo et al., 2005). Phenolic compounds are one of the most 46 appreciated classes of non-glyceridic constituents of this matrix (El Riachy, Priego-Capote, León, Rallo, & Luque de Castro, 2011; Frankel, 2010), what is an easily 47 48 comprehensible fact since, besides their anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial activities (Martín-Peláez et al., 2013) and very promising nutraceutical uses (El Riachy 49 et al., 2011), they contribute to the stability of virgin olive oil (VOO) against auto-50 oxidation and have an important role on its organoleptic properties (Bendini et al., 51 52 2007). These metabolites can also be considered as a very useful feature to characterize 53 the typicality, geographical origin, genuineness and authenticity of VOOs (Monasterio, Fernandez, & Silva, 2013; Oliveras-López et al., 2007; Sánchez de Medina, Priego-54 Capote, & de Castro, 2015). Additionally, in 2011, the European Food Safety Authority 55 56 stated the admissibility of specific health claim related to the levels of some VOO phenols (European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Panel on Dietetic Products Nutrition 57 58 and Allergies (NDA), 2011), fact which is going to have obvious commercial and labelling implications. One year later, it was published a Commission Regulation (No 59 432/2012 of 16 May 2012) establishing a list of permitted health claims made on foods, 60

claiming that olive oil polyphenols contribute to the protection of blood lipids from
oxidative stress and giving the conditions of use of the claim (Commission Regulation
(EU) No 432/2012 of 16 May 2012).

Due to the importance of this fraction, different analytical methods have been developed 64 65 to characterize its complex and heterogeneous pattern, composed by phenyl alcohols, phenolic acids, flavonoids, lignans, secoiridoids, etc. (Bajoub, Carrasco-Pancorbo, 66 67 Ouazzani, & Fernández-Gutiérrez, 2013; Bendini et al., 2007; Carrasco-Pancorbo et al., 68 2005; El Riachy et al., 2011). Since the occurrence of hydrophilic phenols in VOO was firstly observed more than about 55 years ago (Cantarelli, 1961), the analytical methods 69 70 have considerably evolved (Bendini et al., 2007; Carrasco-Pancorbo et al., 2005; El 71 Riachy et al., 2011). They significantly depend on the information that the analyst 72 would like to achieve; therefore, when the comprehensive characterization of the 73 phenolic fraction is pursued, it implies the appropriate sample preparation and the further instrumental analysis. As far as the first stage is concerned, two main techniques 74 75 have been traditionally used for extraction: liquid-liquid extraction (LLE) (Montedoro, Servili, Baldioli, & Miniati, 1992; Solinas, 1987) and solid-phase extraction (SPE) 76 77 (Alarcón Flores, Romero-González, Garrido Frenich, & Martínez Vidal, 2012; Hrncirik 78 & Fritsche, 2004; Mateos et al., 2001); more recently, some other types of extraction procedures have been also applied, such as, for instance, dispersive liquid-liquid 79 microextraction (Godoy-Caballero, Acedo-Valenzuela, & Galeano-Díaz, 2013), matrix 80 81 solid-phase dispersion (Monasterio, Fontana, & Silva, 2014) and ultrasound-assisted emulsification-microextraction (Reboredo-Rodríguez et al., 2014). 82

With regard to the analysis itself, it is important to highlight that, so far, there is no
internationally accepted regulation concerning the method for individual
characterization of phenolic compounds (Karkoula, Skantzari, Melliou, & Magiatis,

2014; Tsimidou & Boskou, 2015). Analytical protocols applying nonspecific 86 87 colorimetric assays (using Folin-Ciocalteu reagent) can be still found, but others which draw on more advanced chromatographic or electrophoretic techniques coupled to 88 diverse detection systems (Alarcón Flores et al., 2012; Bajoub, Pacchiarotta, et al., 89 2016; Gilbert-López et al., 2014; Godoy-Caballero et al., 2013; Sánchez de Medina et 90 al., 2015), electronic tongues (Apetrei & Apetrei, 2013), NMR (Christophoridou & 91 92 Dais, 2009; Pérez-Trujillo, Gómez-Caravaca, Segura-Carretero, Fernández-Gutiérrez, & Parella, 2010), Near-infrared spectroscopy (Bellincontro et al., 2012), etc. can offer to 93 94 the analyst a much more complete overview about the phenolic profile of an extra virgin 95 olive oil (EVOO). Among all mentioned possibilities, LC-MS is likely the coupling 96 most widely used both with low and high MS resolution-analyzers.

Within this context, very few papers have been published proposing the direct injection 97 98 (DI) of VOO instead of applying an extraction system to separate the hydrophilic phenols from the apolar matrix of olive oil. The first report in this regard was a very 99 100 interesting piece of work authored by Selvaggini et al. (2006) and the compounds under 101 study (7 compounds: 2 simple phenols, 2 lignans and 3 secoiridoids) were determined 102 by HPLC-DAD/fluorescence. Later on, three other papers showed the same strategy 103 (i.e. DI of the oil after an appropriate dilution) in part of the experimental work that they included (Godoy-Caballero, Acedo-Valenzuela, Durán-Merás, & Galeano-Díaz, 2012; 104 Godoy-Caballero, Galeano-Díaz, & Acedo-Valenzuela, 2012; Gómez-Caravaca, 105 106 Carrasco-Pancorbo, Segura-Carretero, & Fernández-Gutiérrez, 2009). In these latter examples, CE was the analytical technique selected and it was coupled to UV-visible 107 108 and fluorescence (Godoy-Caballero, Acedo-Valenzuela, et al., 2012; Godoy-Caballero, Galeano-Díaz, et al., 2012), and MS detection (Gómez-Caravaca et al., 2009), 109 respectively. Godoy-Caballero et al (Godoy-Caballero, Galeano-Díaz, et al., 2012) 110

determined some of the most abundant phenolic compounds (tyrosol (TY), 111 112 hydroxytyrosol (HYTY) and some aglycon secoiridoid derivatives (the dialdehydic form of decarboxymethyl elenoic acid linked to hydroxytyrosol (DOA), an isomer of 113 114 oleuropein aglycone (Ol Agl) and the dialdehydic form of decarboxymethyl elenoic acid linked to tyrosol (D-Lig Agl))) by DI of the olive oil dissolved in 1-propanol (1:1 v/v) 115 116 and a nonaqueous CE method. Gómez-Caravaca et al. (Gómez-Caravaca et al., 2009) 117 also developed a nonaqueous CE method coupled to TOF MS (trying the DI of the investigated matrix introducing a plug of olive oil directly into the capillary) and 118 compared their results with those achieved by CZE in aqueous buffers. 119

The aim of this work was to develop a LC-MS method for the determination of as many phenolic compounds as possible (belonging to different chemical classes) without the need of carrying out an extraction protocol, but only a simple sample dilution. A complete validation of the method was done, paying particular attention to possible matrix effect. Afterwards, the method was applied to the analysis of 16 EVOO samples coming from different cultivars.

126 2 Materials and methods

## 127 2.1 Olive oil samples

A total of 16 monovarietal EVOO samples, from 6 different varieties were selected: VS
3 (2 samples), VS 5 (2 samples), Picholine Marocaine (3 samples), Dahbia (3 samples),
Haouzia (3 samples), and Menara (3 samples). VS 3 and VS 5 are local genotypes
obtained by clonal selection from Picholine Marocaine variety within the frame of a
research project (RESERGEN, Olive Genetic Resources) funded by International Olive
Council.

To obtain the EVOO samples, olive fruits sampling was performed over the season (2013/2014) on randomly selected trees, representing the above-mentioned 6 olive

cultivars, all grown in the experimental olive grove of the Agro-pôle Olivier National 136 137 School of Agriculture of Meknès, Morocco. Pest control, pruning, irrigation and 138 fertilization practices were done following current olive orchards management practices. To avoid possible influence of the fruits ripening stage on the phenolic profiles of the 139 studied oils, only samples picked at a ripening index within the range 3.0-3.5 were 140 141 considered; range which is commonly advised for the production of high quality olive 142 oils in Meknès region. Afterwards, oil was extracted using an Oliomio laboratory mill (Oliomio, Italy) simulating two-phase commercial oil-extraction system. The operating 143 144 mode of this instrument has been described in detail by Bajoub et al. (2015).

145 To evaluate the physico-chemical quality of the obtained oils, regulated criteria (free 146 fatty acids content (given as percentage of oleic acid), peroxide value (expressed as milliequivalents of active oxygen per kilogram of olive oil (meq O<sub>2</sub>/kg)) and K<sub>232</sub> and 147 148 K<sub>270</sub> extinction coefficients, calculated from absorption at 232 and 270 nm, respectively) were determined, in triplicate, for each studied oil sample by using the 149 analytical methodologies described in the European Union Standard Methods 150 151 Regulations 2568/91 and the subsequent amendments (European Commission 152 Regulation (EEC), 1991). Obtained results allowed classifying all the studied oils within 153 the "extra virgin" category.

## 154 2.2 Chemicals and reagents

All solvents were of analytical (for extraction) or LC-MS (for chromatographic analysis) grade purity. Methanol and *n*-hexane were used when the extraction procedure of the phenolic compounds of the olive oil samples was applied and they were provided by Panreac (Barcelona, Spain). Acetonitrile and acetic acid (supplied by Lab-Scan (Dublin, Ireland) and Panreac (Barcelona, Spain), respectively) were used for preparing the LC mobile phases. Doubly deionised water was produced in the laboratory using a Milli-Q-system (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA). Tetrahydrofuran (THF), acetone (Acet), and 1-propanol (1-prop) were used to dissolve the EVOO samples before the injection into the LC system; THF and Acet were provided by Panreac (Barcelona, Spain), and 1-prop by Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

165 Commercial standards of simple phenols (HYTY and TY), flavonoids (luteolin (Lut) 166 and apigenin (Apig)) and phenolic acids (*p*-coumaric acid (*p*-Cou) and ferulic acid 167 (Fer)) were bought from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). The lignan (+)-168 pinoresinol (Pin) was acquired from Arbo Nova (Turku, Finland), and the secoiridoid-169 glucoside Oleuropein (Ol) was purchased from Extrasynthese (Lyon, France).

170 In a first stage, a stock solution (500 mg/L of each standard) was prepared by dissolving 171 the appropriate amount of the compounds in methanol. Afterwards, a series of working 172 solutions of these analytes were freshly made by diluting the mixed standard solution 173 with methanol (at appropriate ratios) to yield concentrations within the range 0.1-250 mg/L. 3.4-dihydroxyphenylacetic acid (DOPAC) was used as internal standard (IS) and 174 was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). All solutions were properly 175 stored in dark flasks at  $-20^{\circ}$ C. After deciding that the EVOO dilution would be made in 176 177 Acet, both the stock solutions and further serial dilutions were also prepared in this 178 solvent in order to carry out a fair comparison of the response factor of the analytes in matrix and solvent. 179

# 180 2.3 Dilution of EVOO samples for direct injection into LC-MS

A portion of 1 g (±0.001) of olive oil weighed in a test tube with a screw cap was mixed with 5 mL of Acet (THF or 1-prop -in the preliminary studies). In the prefatory experiments, before choosing 1 g as optimum amount of oil, different proportions olive oil/solvent were also assayed: 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3 g were mixed with 5 mL of solvent. All the samples (and stock solutions) were filtered through a Clarinert<sup>TM</sup> 0.22 186 µm nylon syringe filter from Agela Technologies (Wilmington, DE, USA) before187 injection into the instrument.

#### 188 2.4 Phenolic compounds extraction

A LLE was also used (Bajoub, Hurtado-Fernández, et al., 2015). In short, 25 µL of the 189 IS solution was added (although, in the end, correction with the IS area was not 190 191 necessary) to 2 g ( $\pm 0.001$ ) of olive oil weighed in a test tube with a screw cap. A 192 volume of 1 mL of *n*-hexane was added to the oil and the phenolic compounds were 193 extracted by using 2 mL of a mixture of methanol and water (60:40, v/v); the mixture was vortexed for 2 min and centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 6 min (this step of 194 195 methanol/water addition, vortex and centrifugation was repeated three times in total). The combined extracts were evaporated in a rotary evaporator (Büchi R-210) at 30°C, 196 197 and the obtained residue was dissolved in 1 mL of methanol of LC-MS grade. Before 198 the injection into the LC-MS system, the extracts were filtered through 0.20 µm membrane (nylon) filter. 199

The extracts prepared in the described way were used to enrich or spike olive oil or sunflower oil, respectively, for the validation studies. The extracts were also used to compare the quantitative results achieved by analyzing some of them and the DI preparations.

204 2.5 LC-MS analysis

## 205 2.5.1 Apparatus and software

The analyses were carried out by reversed-phase LC coupled to MS. The LC system was an Agilent 1260 LC system (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany) equipped with a diode-array detector (DAD), which was coupled to a Bruker Daltonic Esquire 2000<sup>™</sup> ion trap mass spectometer (Bruker Daltonik, Bremen, Germany) by an electrospray ionization (ESI) interface. Chromatographic data acquisition and

examination of DAD signals was performed by using ChemStation B.04.03 software
(Agilent Technologies). Bruker mass spectrometer was controlled using the software
Esquire Control and the resulting files were treated with the software Data Analysis 4.0
(Bruker).

Additionally, for carrying out a proper characterization (qualitative) of the selected
samples, another LC-ESI-Q TOF MS platform was used; therefore, an Acquity UPLC<sup>TM</sup>
H–Class system coupled to a micrOTOF-Q IITM mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonik)
by means of an ESI source was also employed. The accurate mass data of the molecular
ions were processed through the previously mentioned software DataAnalysis 4.0.

An exploratory analysis of the data was carried out through PCA, which was used to display a natural grouping tendency or outliers among EVOO samples. Data were analyzed by using The Unscrambler® v9.7 software (CAMO Software AS, Oslo, Norway).

#### 224 2.5.2 Chromatographic and detection conditions

225 The phenolic compounds were analyzed, in triplicate, following previously reported 226 LC-MS conditions (Bajoub, Carrasco-Pancorbo, Ajal, Ouazzani, & Fernández-227 Gutiérrez, 2015). For the analysis of the stock solutions, phenolic extracts and EVOO or 228 sunflower oil diluted samples a Zorbax  $C_{18}$  analytical column (4.6  $\times$  150 mm, 1.8  $\mu$ m 229 particle size) protected by a guard cartridge of the same packing was used, operating at 230 room temperature. Water with 0.5% acetic acid (Phase A) and Acetonitrile (B) were the 231 mobile phases. The flow rate was 0.8 mL/min and 10 µL (of the extracts, standard mix or diluted oils) was the injection volume. The chromatographic separation was carried 232 233 out applying the following gradient: 0-10 min, 5% B; 10-12 min, 30% B; 12-17 min, 38% B; 17-20 min, 50% B; 20-23 min, 95% B. Later on, the B content was diminished 234 to the initial conditions (5%) in 2 min and the column was re-equilibrated over 2.5 min. 235

The ion trap mass analyzer worked in negative ion mode (even though several analyses were also carried out in positive mode). The MS detector was programmed to perform scans at 50–800 *m/z* range and the capillary voltage was set at +3200 V. Drying gas temperature was set at 300°C, drying gas flow at 9 L/min, and nebulizing gas pressure at 30 psi.

A standard mixture solution with a concentration of 1 mg/L and one EVOO sample (from VS 5 *cv*.) were used as quality control (QC) samples in order to check the stability of the system over the different sequences carried out. The described QC samples were injected (after a blank) every ten analyses in each sequence.

245 The described MS parameters were transferred to the ESI-Q TOF MS spectrometer. In the high resolution MS system, sodium formate clusters were used for the internal 246 247 calibration. A solution containing 5 mM sodium hydroxide and 0.2% formic acid in 248 water/isopropanol (1:1, v/v) was injected at the beginning of the run (using a 74900-00-05 Cole Palmer syringe pump (Vernon Hills, Illinois, USA) directly connected to the 249 250 interface, equipped with a Hamilton syringe (Reno, Nevada, USA)) and all the spectra 251 were calibrated before carrying out the compound identification. For both mass 252 spectrometer detectors, a flow divisor 1:4 was used; the flow reaching the MS systems 253 was of about 0.2 mL/min. To achieve the identification of the phenolic compounds found in the analyzed samples, we used pure standards (when available), took into 254 account retention time data, and compared the ESI-TOF MS and ESI-IT MS spectra 255 256 (and MS/MS spectra) with previously published results (Bajoub, Carrasco-Pancorbo, et al., 2015; Bajoub, Hurtado-Fernández, et al., 2015). 257

258 2.5.3 Method validation

Three different kinds of calibration were used with the aim of evaluating possible matrix effects: external calibration, standard addition calibration and calibration in blank matrix.

262 Solutions containing pure standards of the phenolic analytes under study at 10 different concentration levels (in Acet) over the range of 0.1-50 mg/L were used in order to 263 evaluate linearity and establish the calibration curves which could allow their 264 265 quantification in the samples. After the preliminary studies, the concentration range was 266 constrained till 10 mg/L as maximum level, covering the range in which the different metabolites under study were actually found in the selected EVOO samples. External 267 268 calibration curves were established for each compound by performing a linear regression by the least-squares method. Each point of the calibration graph 269 270 corresponded to the mean value of three independent injections.

Besides, standard addition calibration was also applied to, at least, one EVOO sample of
each variety. Eight concentration levels were tested (0.1-10 mg/L, which is equivalent
to approximately 0.61-60.9 mg/kg).

The same concentration levels as those evaluated in standard addition calibration were appraised when the calibration was done in a phenols-free oily sample (sunflower oil, which was considered as a blank sample in terms of phenolic compounds).

A matrix effect coefficient was calculated for each compound relating the slope in sunflower matrix (BlankCal) and in solvent (ExtCal), and the slope in sunflower oil matrix and in olive oil (StdAd), respectively, adapting the following the equation (Kmellár et al., 2008):

281 *Matrix effect coefficient (%) = (1-(slope matrix/slope solvent))\*100* 

282 Detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) limits for each phenolic compound were 283 calculated using the signal to noise ratio (S/N) of pure standards at the lowest

concentration level injected (for every analyte) and were measured by using both the external calibration and the calibration in blank matrix. LOD and LOQ were estimated by calculating the concentration that produced a S/N equal to 3 and 10, respectively (ICH Harmonised Tripartite Guideline, 2005). The theoretical values so achieved, were corroborated injecting the pure standards (in Acet or sunflower diluted oil) at those concentrations.

The precision of the method was evaluated as well. *Intra-day* repeatability was expressed as the relative standard deviation (RSD) obtained for 5 injections of the QC, carried out within the same sequence. *Inter-day* repeatability was calculated as RSD of 12 injections (belonging to 3 different sequences carried out over 3 consecutive days) of the same olive oil sample (QC).

Trueness was estimated by analyzing spiked sunflower oil at different known concentrations (0.25, 1.0 and 5.0 mg/L) and calculating the effective/true concentration values.

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### 299 **3 Results and Discussion**

300 3.1 LC-MS analyses

301 3.1.1 Selection of the solvent used to dissolve the oil samples and optimum oil/solvent
302 ratio

One of the most pivotal steps in the optimization of the methodology was the selection of the most appropriate solvent to dissolve the olive oil samples before the injection into the LC-MS system. Keeping in mind the previously published reports including information about miscibility of olive oil with different organic solvents, their viscosity and polarity index (Godoy-Caballero, Acedo-Valenzuela, et al., 2012; Godoy-Caballero, Galeano-Díaz, et al., 2012; Gómez-Caravaca et al., 2009; Mendonça, Bica, Piatnicki,

Simó-Alfonso, & Ramis-Ramos, 2005; Selvaggini et al., 2006), THF, Acet and 1-prop 309 310 were selected. After the preliminary studies, we decided to prepare the samples as 311 follows: 1 g of olive oil was dissolved adding 5 mL of the selected solvent (in the coming paragraphs the justification to this will be presented). Fig. 1 shows the peak 312 intensity (in terms of area) of several phenolic compounds after dilution of the olive oil 313 (VS 5-1) in Acet, THF, and 1-prop. THF and Acet gave very similar results for Pin, Lut 314 315 and Ol Agl (isomer of 22.1 min); 1-prop and THF, however, produced similar peak areas for HYTY, desoxy elenolic acid (DesoxyEA), and Ol Agl (isomer of 21.5 min). 316 317 No significant differences were observed for ligstroside aglycone (Lig Agl) (isomer of 318 23.6 min) regardless of the solvent used to dissolve the oil. In general, the dilution of 319 the olive oil in Acet produced peaks with higher area values in almost all the cases. That 320 was particularly evident for elenolic acid (EA), DOA and Ol Agl (isomer of 21.5 min). 321 Therefore, Acet was chosen as the most appropriate solvent. MS signal intensity was 322 one of variables considered to make the solvent selection, but we also took into account 323 some other factors, such as: easiness to filter (by using a syringe filter) the dissolved 324 sample, peak shape, and stability of the area values over consecutive injections.

325 As stated before, different sample concentrations were injected in order to select the 326 most advisable olive oil dilution. After the preliminary studies the following combinations were thoroughly evaluated: 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 g, respectively, 327 plus 5 mL of Acet. The second option was picked as optimal considering the number of 328 329 compounds which could be properly detected and trying to avoid more concentrated preparations which could produce the rapid soiling of the column. Fig. 2 endeavours to 330 331 illustrate the potential of our methodology and shows an example of the Base Peak Chromatogram (BPC) of an EVOO VS 5 (1 g + 5 mL Acet) (Fig. 2A) and the Extracted 332 333 Ion Chromatograms (EICs) of the phenolic compounds determined by using the DI

approach (Fig. 2C). Moreover, the BPC of the same oil after carrying out a LLE -as 334 335 described in section 2.4.- is shown as well (Fig. 2B). The profiles shown in Fig. 2A and 2B are obviously very similar, just differing in terms of signal intensity (extracts should 336 be about 12-fold more concentrated than the DI assay). However, using less 337 concentrated injections was no detriment to the potential of the new method (see Fig. 338 2C); indeed, compounds belonging to different chemical classes were detected: simple 339 340 phenols (HYTY, TY), flavonoids (Lut and Apig), lignans (Pin and acetoxy pinoresinol (Ac Pin)) and secoiridoids or related compounds (DesoxyEA, EA, DOA, and different 341 342 isomers of Ol Agl and Lig Agl). In the sample chosen as exemplification in Fig. 2C 343 very little amounts of quinic acid, dialdehydic form of decarboxymethylated form of EA 344 (DEA), p-Cou, Fer, syringaresinol, methyl DOA, D-Lig Agl, and methyl Ol Agl were 345 found, that is the reason for not including the EICs of these analytes. This is the first 346 time in which such number of phenolic compounds can be properly determined within a single injection of diluted olive oil samples, what represents a substantial improvement 347 348 of the previously published reports in which similar DI strategies were applied. Anyway 349 the most relevant aim of this work was to propose an alternative methodology for 350 carrying out a reliable quantification of the most relevant phenolic compounds present 351 in EVOO without the need of previous extraction.

At this point, it seems necessary to make a comment about the fact of detecting multiple isomers of Ol Agl and Lig Agl (as we will explain in the coming paragraphs, these isomers showed up in a very little proportion in comparison with the results after applying LLE with methanol-water mixtures). Karkoula and collaborators (Karkoula, Skantzari, Melliou, & Magiatis, 2012; Karkoula et al., 2014) published two interesting manuscripts about the artificial formation of some secoiridoid derivatives (mainly due to their reactivity with methanol (and water)), and since then, this topic is awakening a

lot of interest. Our group has already discussed it in another publication (Bajoub, Ajal, 359 360 Fernández-Gutiérrez, & Carrasco-Pancorbo, 2016), where we have corroborated 361 Karkoula's findings, saying that as long as methanol (and probably water and/or their mixtures) is involved in the sample preparation (or has any interaction at any point of 362 the analytical procedure with these compounds), the "artificial isomers" will show up. 363 We have also studied that the generation of artificial peaks (related to DOA and D-Lig 364 365 Agl) in the chromatograms is not as serious as for Ol Agl and Lig Agl and could be even ignored (from a quantitative point of view) in the samples that we have worked 366 with. Moreover, from our point of view (in good agreement with Karkoula's and some 367 368 other research groups), ignoring the "artificial isomers" would mean underestimating their initial "native amount", since they are formed from the native secoiridoids present 369 370 in the VOO sample. That is why we quantified several isomers of Ol Agl and Lig Agl. 371 Fig. 1 (supplementary material) shows that, in any case, the formation of "artificial isomers" was drastically minimized with our DI method (since extraction step is 372 373 avoided), what could represent another advantage of this new approach.

### 374 3.1.2 Optimizing the column cleaning and maximum number of injections

375 Injection of olive oil dissolved in different solvent has been previously tried for 376 determining, for instance, tocopherols and triacylglycerols; however, as far as phenolic compounds are concerned, there is just one report where Selvaggini et al. (Selvaggini et 377 378 al., 2006) proposed a HPLC-fluorescence method with direct injection of the olive oil (2 379 g dissolved in 10 mL Acet) into the column (two C18 columns with similar dimensions (250 mm x 4.6 mm, particle size 5 µm) were used, ChromSep Inertsil ODS-3 and 380 381 Spherisorb ODS-1) and compared the results with those achieved after applying LLE and HPLC-DAD/Fluorescence. Performance of both methods was satisfactory in terms 382 of repeatability (intra-day and inter-day repeatability (variation coefficient)) after 383

injecting 6 times the same oil and repeating the same operations 2 days in a row. The outcome of this study was very promising, but some discrepancies were observed when DI data were compared with those obtained after the extraction. The authors attributed this to the fact that the extraction procedures produce a partial and selective recovery of VOO phenols (because of the different polarities, structures and molecular weights). In other reports using similar DI approaches, CE was chosen as analytical technique.

390 Herewith, the evolution of the column in a sequence after 1, 5, 15, 25, 50 and 75 consecutive injections (considering the area of the selected peaks, theoretical plates (N), 391 392 S/N and retention time) was checked. To illustrate the gradual change in the column 393 performance, Fig. 3 includes data for 5 different compounds (HYTY, DesoxyEA, Pin, 394 Apig and the main isomer of Ol Agl (21.5 min)), which were selected to have, at least, 395 one representative metabolite from the different chemical classes determined. The 396 values shown in the different graphics for injections number 15, 25, 50 and 75, respectively, are the mean of the different parameters calculated from those injections, 397 398 but averaged together with the results from the previous and subsequent 399 chromatographic runs. In every case, a decrease in the value of all the evaluated 400 parameters can be observed. So the retention times tended to shorten as more injections 401 were made, even though the column pressure did not experience any increase over the sequences. All the compounds exhibited a diminution of area value over the time; the 402 trend was very similar for HYTY, DesoxyEA, and Pin, being their areas after 15 403 404 injections about 96% (95.8-97.9%) of the initial value, and after 50 injections, about 93% (91.4-94.5%) of the starting value. After carrying out 75 analyses, HYTY, for 405 406 instance, showed an area value of about 87% of the original one. The decrease was slightly more drastic for Apig and Ol Agl isomer, whose areas after 50 runs did not 407 achieve the 86% approx. of the starting point (although values kept more stable than for 408

the other analytes between 50 and 75 runs). The N value for the picked compounds was 409 calculated as follows:  $N = 5.54 (t_r/w_{1/2})^2$ , where both  $t_r$  and  $w_{1/2}$  were expressed in 410 minutes. The N tendency was compound-dependent; for instance, N values for Pin, 411 412 Apig and Ol Agl remained very stable after 25 runs, and after 75 analyses, N were still 69.0, 77.8 and 56.0%, respectively, of the first value, showing very satisfactory values 413 414 (40973.8, 52664.6 and 30450.2, respectively). N values for HYTY and DesoxyEA went 415 down after 25 analyses (showing values representing 65% of the initial ones (4159.2 416 and 9312.7, respectively)), but after this, they stayed very stable. As far as S/N is 417 concerned, for HYTY, after 25 analyses, the value represented 90% of the starting one, 418 and after 75, it was 78.2%. Very similar behavior was observed for Pin and Apig. For Ol Agl the same was noted until injection number 50; after 75 runs, S/N decreased till 419 420 354.6 (which can be estimated as 60% of the first value). The derivative of EA 421 (DesoxyEA) was the compound with a steadier S/N, after 75 runs, S/N value still accounted for 91.2% of the first registered S/N data. 422

423 The evolution of the column performance was very clear; however, the values of the 424 tested parameters after 75 consecutive injections, from our point of view, were still 425 reasonably adequate and satisfactory. We tried, anyway, to develop a cleaning method, 426 which should be carried out after a certain number of analyses and would guarantee a very similar analytical performance to the one exhibited at the beginning of any 427 sequence. After trying different sequential cleaning steps using different kind of 428 429 solvents over diverse time periods, we decided to go for: acetonitrile (5 min at 0.8 mL/min), THF (5 min at 0.8 mL/min), acetonitrile (5 min at 0.8 mL/min), isopropanol 430 431 (5 min at 0.4 mL/min) and acetonitrile (5 min at 0.8 mL/min). Afterwards, initial chromatographic conditions were selected and analysis of the olive oil dissolved in Acet 432 433 resumed achieving comparable results to those obtained before trying any DI.

For routine analysis, we decided to include an injection of the standard mix of 1 mg/L in 434 435 Acet and the QC every ten analyses (after a blank). The cleaning procedure was applied every day, after about 48 injections (even knowing that some more runs could be made 436 without cleaning), in order to assure very satisfactory analytical overall performance. 437 This decision was, in part, made considering the logistics of the global procedure; 438 stopping after 48 injections meant cleaning once every day (both column and ESI 439 440 interface) and, to a certain extent, increase the probability of avoiding any drastic contamination problem. Implementing the described column regeneration-procedure 441 442 enabled to use the column for DI approaches or any other strategy, assuring the proper 443 performance of the column and maximizing column lifetime (which resulted to be very similar to an identical column's lifetime just used to analyze extracts and not for the 444 analysis of diluted olive oil samples). The application of the DI approach did not 445 446 produce any contamination issue in the ESI-IT MS system, which was clean by using 447 one of the standard MS cleaning protocols (it was not necessary a more exhaustive 448 maintenance of the MS detector, since the DI samples were, indeed, 12-fold more 449 diluted than the extracts).

# 450 3.1.3 Establishing the analytical parameters of the method

Table 1 shows the analytical parameters of the proposed method, including calibration curves and regression coefficients, LOD, LOQ, trueness, *intra/inter*-day repeatability, and matrix effect coefficients. As stated in section 2.5.3., three different kinds of calibration were used with the aim of evaluating possible matrix effects: ExtCal, StdAd and BlankCal.

456 All the resulting calibration curves showed good linearity within the indicated 457 concentration ranges, with  $r^2$  higher than 0.9868. LOD and LOQ (µg/L) were estimated 458 with the data from external calibration and the calibration in sunflower matrix. The

values achieved by both estimations were similar, being found between 3.3 and 31.6 459 460  $\mu$ g/L for Apig and Ol, respectively (data from blank matrix calibration). The linearity was first evaluated in a wider range (till 50 mg/L), but after the preliminary studies, we 461 462 decided to limit the range, since fixing it at 10 mg/L the range in which the different analytes were actually found in the selected EVOO samples was covered. RSD values 463 for *intra-day* repeatability (calculated from 5 injections of the QC (VS 5-1 olive oil) 464 465 carried out within the same sequence) were found between 2.78 and 4.19 % for Apig and Lut, respectively. The peak areas of the evaluated compounds measured from the 466 467 injections of 12 independent dilutions of the same olive oil sample (an example of an 468 VS 5 oil) analyzed in 3 different sequences (carried out over 3 days) were used to calculate RSD values for inter-day repeatability, finding results within the range 469 470 between 3.49 and 6.12% for TY and Fer, respectively. With regard to trueness, the 471 Table 1 shows the similarity between the effective concentration values calculated after analyzing spiked sunflower oil (at different known concentrations (0.25, 1.0 and 5.0 472 473 mg/L)). A trueness value of 100% means a perfect matching between the determined 474 concentration level (using the calibration curves built in blank matrix) and the 475 theoretical one. For every compound, trueness was between 94.8 and 105.3% for 0.25 476 mg/L; within the range 89.9-102.3% for 1.0 mg/L; and fluctuating between 92.3 and 99.8% for 5 mg/L. In order to complete the results and give an estimation about trueness 477 regarding other phenolic compounds (not available as commercial pure standards), 478 479 sunflower oil was spiked with extracts obtained after LLE at different concentration (1:5, 1:10 and 1:25, v/v diluted with Acet). The averaged areas of three independent 480 481 injections of the diluted extracts in Acet and spiked sunflower oil (at equivalent concentrations) were compared for DOA, Ol Alg isomer (21.5 min), and Lig Alg isomer 482 with a t<sub>r</sub> of 23.6 min. In every case, trueness was found between 87.1 and 104.3% for 483

dilution 1:5, fluctuated from 95.1-99.7% for dilution 1:10, and varied between 96.0 to
99.5% for the most diluted samples.

To corroborate that the response factor of each compound was equivalent in a neat solution (Acet), in sunflower oil and in EVOO matrices, different types of calibrations were carried out. Afterwards, the slopes of the obtained equations were compared by using the previously described approach in section 2.5.3.

490 According to Kmellár et al. (Kmellár et al., 2008) values from -20 to +20% mean no significant suppression or enhancement effect. Taking this criterion into account, we 491 492 can claim that the matrix effect's significance was very low in this case and, therefore, 493 the three different calibration approaches could be equally used. The matrix effect coefficients (comparing sunflower oil calibration's slope and the one of the external 494 495 standard method) were found within the range from -4.83 and 4.11%. When the 496 calculations were made relating the slope of the calibration curves in sunflower and in olive oils, the results were very satisfactory as well and the matrix effect coefficients 497 498 fluctuated between -2.93 and 3.61%, for Pin and Lut, respectively. The standard addition calibration was carried out using, at least, one EVOO sample from each variety 499 500 (corroborating the quantitative results which will be presented in the following section), 501 however, to simplify Table 1 to the extent possible, we only show the results achieved from one VS 5 olive oil sample. 502

After confirming that the three tested calibration approaches were valid, the possibility of using standard addition calibration was dismissed for practical reasons, since it implies the need of carrying out a different calibration for each sample. The quantification was finally made using the calibration curves built in the phenols-free sunflower matrix.

# 508 3.2 Application of the method to analyze different EVOO samples

After evaluating the analytical parameters of the new method, we proceed to apply it for 509 510 the analysis of EVOO samples coming from different varieties: 16 monovarietal EVOO samples from 6 different varieties were selected: VS 3 (2), VS 5 (2), Picholine 511 512 Marocaine (3), Dahbia (3), Haouzia (3), and Menara (3 samples). Table 2 includes the quantitative results (mg analyte/kg olive oil sample) achieved; every result is the 513 514 average of three independent (sample dilution and injection) determinations (n = 3) and 515 they are given by the mean value  $\pm$  SD. 21 compounds were determined: two simple phenols (HYTY and TY), two phenolic acids (p-Cou and Fer), two flavonoids (Lut and 516 517 Apig), two lignans (Pin and Ac Pin), and 13 secoiridoids or related compounds (DEA, 518 DesoxyEA, EA, DOA, D-Lig Agl, 4 isomers of Ol Agl and other 4 isomers of Lig Agl). 519 We just include in the table those compounds which could be properly quantified in all 520 the evaluated samples.

521 Before discussing the quantitative results in depth, it seems appropriate including Table 1 (supplementary material), which shows a comparison between the quantitative results 522 523 obtained for two samples after analyzing their extracts and the DI preparations. Sample 524 VS 5-1 and a mixture (of equivalent volumes) of the 16 samples evaluated within this 525 work could represent two nice examples. VS 5-1 has been chosen, since this oil was the 526 one used as quality control in our work and was also taken as example in different figures of this contribution (and in Table 1 (to show the results of some analytical 527 parameters calculated during the validation study)). The mixture of all the selected 528 529 samples was considered as a pertinent example too. By using this olive oil "global" mix, we could demonstrate if the results from DI and extracts injection are equivalent, and to 530 531 a certain extent, guarantee the usefulness of our method to any kind of olive oil (of those analyzed in the current research). Bearing in mind what we explained in section 532 533 3.1.1 we consider unsuitable trying to compare the quantitative results of Ol Agl, Lig

Agl and their isomers; that is why they are not shown in Table 1 (supplem.). For the 534 535 rest, very similar results were achieved, confirming the reliability of the DI approach. 536 Even though quantitative results of Ol Agl, Lig Agl and their isomers have not been included in Table 1 (supplem.) making a further comment about them could be worthy. 537 When focused on Ol Agl- (21.5 min) and Lig Agl-principal isomers (23.6 min), the 538 results for the "global olive oil mix" (DI) were of 29.01 and 67.25 mg/kg, respectively. 539 540 When the results achieved from the extracts were processed, the final quantitative values were of 22.02 and 55.21 mg/kg, respectively, for the same isomers, which from 541 542 our point of view make sense, since some other artificial isomers have been formed 543 from the native ones in those extracts. A fair comparison cannot be made (and a deeper discussion regarding this point is beyond the scope of this manuscript) since it would 544 545 require to cope with some issues. Two options can be listed (although both are not 546 completely satisfactory): 1) one possibility could be quantifying every isomer, making the proper calculations and expressing the result as a total amount of Ol Agl- or Lig 547 548 Agl-related compounds (assuming equivalent response factor for each isomer, what is 549 quite unlikely); and 2) another possibility could be working with the total area of all the 550 Ol Agl- or Lig Agl-isomers and trying to give an overall estimation, which is no 551 possible, considering the total areas size and the fact that there is no single MS calibration curve covering such a wide linear range). The alternative of comparing the 552 553 amount of every isomer with its corresponding one (in DI and the extracts) is not 554 doable, as the number of isomers, relative proportions and contribution to the total 555 concentration levels are not the same in DI preparations and in the extracts (and, in 556 addition, they could probably differ from one EVOO to another).

557 Coming back to the DI results included in Table 2, it is possible to say that some 558 evident differences were detected; we can mention, for instance, that Menara oils were

the richest in terms of HYTY, DEA and EA (VS 5 oils also showed high levels of EA). 559 560 VS 5 exhibited, in general, the highest levels of TY, Ac Pin, Apig and one of the isomers of Lig Agl (23.6 min). Picholine Marocaine presented high concentrations of 561 562 DesoxyEA, Fer, the second and fourth isomers of Ol Agl (18.5 and 22.5 min, respectively), and one of the isomers of Lig Agl (21.6). In EVOO coming from VS 3 563 564 variety, levels of DOA, Lut, D-Lig Agl and the main isomer of Lig Agl were greater 565 than in the oils from other cultivars. Haouzia oils had considerable concentrations of two Ol Agl-isomers (16.9 y 21.5 min (which can be considered as the main isomer of 566 567 this metabolite), respectively). What can be highlighted from Dahbia oils is that the 568 levels of *p*-Cou were remarkably higher that in the other samples (oscillating between 1.39-1.47 mg/kg, meanwhile the levels in the other oils did not exceed 0.51 mg/kg in 569 570 any case). This variety was also peculiar regarding its lignans' pattern, since it was the 571 only one presenting higher amounts of Pin (8.96-9.55 mg/kg) than Ac Pin (4.39-4.96 mg/kg). 572

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was applied to evaluate the whole structure of the 573 574 data set and highlight general trends in the phenolic profiles of the samples under 575 evaluation. Fig. 4 shows the score and loading plots of PC1 vs. PC2 for the matrix 576 composed by 21 variables (the number of phenolic compounds that were quantified in the EVOO samples) and 48 samples (16 EVOO analyzed in triplicate). The first two 577 PCs explained 75.40 % of total variance in raw data, whereas PC3 and PC4 accounted 578 for 16.55 % and 3.39 %, respectively. All the possible combinations of PCs were 579 studied; however, the figure only shows PC2 vs. PC1, since they were those which 580 581 provided the best separation. Picholine Marocaine samples were properly separated from the rest, although were laying quite close within the graph to Haouzia oils, fact 582 which can be partially explained considering their concentration in terms of Lig Agl 583

(isomers at 21.6 and 24.0 min) and Ol Agl isomers (at 18.5, 21.5 and 22.5 min). The two samples from VS 5 cultivar were substantially separated from each other, and the same was observed for VS 3. Indeed, the replicates of one of the VS 5 sample (VS 5-1) were very close to Menara oils (since they showed similar levels of EA, simple phenols and Lig Agl isomer at 23.6 min); the replicates of VS 5-2 were in between VS 3 samples and relatively close to Dahbia oils. The latter can be related to its high level of D-Lig Agl.

Further experiments are needed to get a more comprehensive insight into the complete phenolic patter of these varieties and their main differences; that was logically not the aim of the current study. Our purpose was developing an accurate and reliable (but simple) LC-MS methodology which could be subsequently applied to analyze a higher number of samples. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first method which allows the determination of such a high number of compounds within a single run by using the direct injection approach.

598

### 599 4 Conclusions

600 The analysis of the phenolic fraction of EVOO (dissolved in acetone) without the need 601 of carrying out any previous extraction step has been done for the first time using LC 602 coupled to ESI-MS. The possibility of implementing direct injection of olive oil into the 603 LC (after a simple dilution) could be one of the greatest advantages of this method, 604 since it could prevent partial and selective recovery of some phenolic compounds after 605 the extraction, and their possible partial oxidation or the creation of artificial isomers 606 during the sample preparation. The reliability of the quantification was demonstrated, as 607 possible matrix effects were thoroughly evaluated and the method was fully validated; afterwards, it was applied for the analysis of 16 samples coming from 6 differentvarieties and the most remarkable differences were underlined.

610

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619

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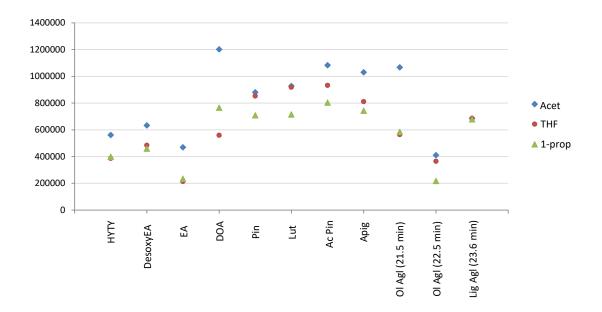
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- 773



## 774

Fig. 1. Peak intensity of several phenolic compounds after dilution of the olive oil (VS5-1) in Acet, THF, 1-propanol.

777Peaks nomenclature: HYTY (hydroxytyrosol), DesoxyEA (desoxy elenolic acid), EA (elenolic778acid), DOA (decarboxylated oleuropein aglycone), Pin (pinoresinol), Lut (luteolin), Ac Pin779(acetoxy pinoresinol), Apig (apigenin), Ol Agl (21.4 min) (oleuropein aglycone isomer with a  $t_r$ 780of 21.5 min), Ol Agl (22.1 min) (oleuropein aglycone isomer with a  $t_r$  of 22.5 min), Lig Agl781(23.6 min) (ligstroside aglycone isomer with a  $t_r$  of 23.6 min).

Area values represented for each compound (and solvent) are the average of five independent
determinations (RSD < 6.1% in every case). Area values of HYTY, Pin, Lut, Ac Pin, Apig have</li>
been multiplied by a factor (\*5, \*10 or \*20) in order to facilitate their representation within the

same Y axis scale.

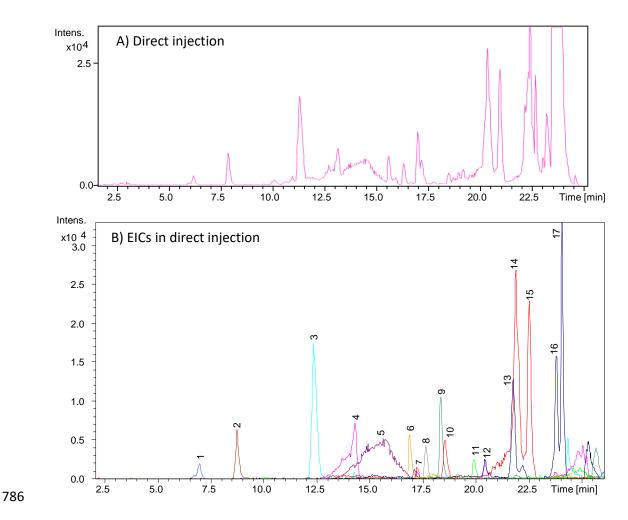
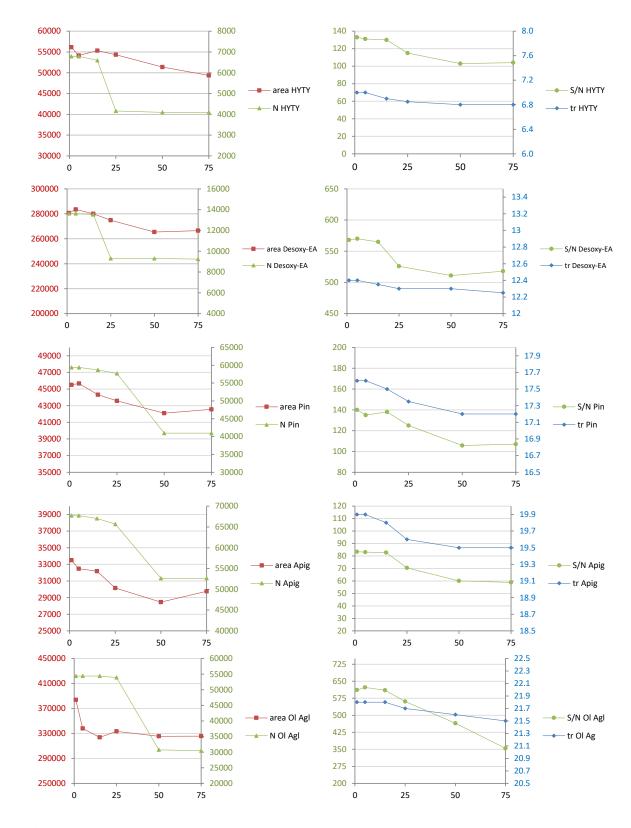


Fig. 2. (A) Base Peak Chromatogram (BPC) of an EVOO sample from VS 5 variety (1
g + 5 mL Acet) using the direct injection (DI) procedure, (B), BPC of the extract of the
same sample, and (C) Extracted Ion Chromatograms (EICs) of the phenolic compounds
determined by the described method using the DI approach.

**Peaks numbers:** (1) HYTY, (2) TY, (3) DesoxyEA, (4) EA, (5) DOA, (6) Lut, (7) Ol Algisomer with a  $t_r$  of 16.9 min, (8) Pin, (9) Ac Pin, (10) Ol Alg isomer with a  $t_r$  of 18.5 min, (11)**Apig**, (12) Lig Agl isomer with a  $t_r$  of 20.0 min, (13) Lig Agl isomer with a  $t_r$  of 21.6 min, (14)Ol Alg isomer with a  $t_r$  of 21.5 min, (15) Ol Alg isomer with a  $t_r$  of 22.5 min, (16) Lig Algresponse with a  $t_r$  of 23.6 min, and (17) Lig Agl isomer with a  $t_r$  of 24.0 min. Peaks 14 and 16 canbe considered as the most extensively determined isomers of Ol Agl and Lig Agl.



**Fig. 3**. Evolution of the column in a sequence after 1, 5, 15, 25, 50 and 75 consecutive injections considering the area of the selected peaks (HYTY, DesoxyEA, Pin, Apig and Classical and Classical

Ol Agl (main isomer with tr 21.5 min)), theoretical plates (N), S/N and retention time.
Traces are coloured according to their scale in the Y axis.

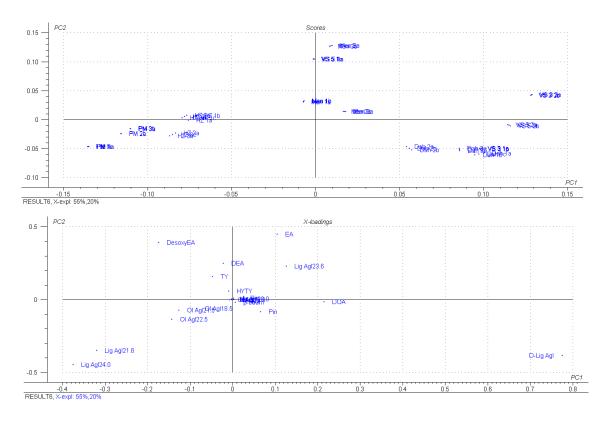




Fig. 4. Score and loading plots of PCA modelling of LC-MS data considering theindividual concentration of each quantified phenolic compound.

806

807 Identification legends of varieties: Dah: Dahbia; Hz: Haouzia; Men: Menara; PM: Picholine
808 Marocaine. VS 3 and VS 5 are identified with the complete name of the variety.

809 **Identification legends of compounds**: The abbreviations regarding the identity of the different

810 compounds have been explained in other parts of the manuscript. In the case of secoiridoid

811 isomers, the different analytes' names include the retention time.

| ġ             | Type of calibration | Calibration curve    | r <sup>2</sup> | LOD<br>(µg/L) | LOQ<br>(µg/L) | Evaluated range <sup>a</sup> |  | Accuracy                                       | Matrix Effect Coefficient                               |                         |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| Comp.         |                     |                      |                |               |               |                              | <i>Intra-day</i><br>Repeatability <sup>b</sup> | <i>Inter-day</i><br>Repeatability <sup>c</sup> | Trueness <sup>d</sup>                                   | (%) <sup>e</sup>        |
|               | ExtCal              | y = 104657x + 6895.3 | 0.9984         | 7.1           | 23.7          |                              |  | 4.65   |   |                         |
| АТҮН          | BlankCal            | y = 104950x - 7974.2 | 0.9965         | 12.5          | 41.7          | 10                           | 4.12   |  | 98.6 (0.25 mg/L)<br>97.7 (1.0 mg/L)<br>94.4 (5.0 mg/L)  | -0.28 (BlankCal/ExtCal) |
|               | StdAd               | y = 102410x + 26500  | 0.9938         |               |               |                              |  |  |   | -2.48 (BlankCal/StdAd)  |
|               | ExtCal              | y = 34205x + 1452.5  | 0.9984         | 13.3          | 44.3          | 10                           | 3.21   | 3.49   |   |                         |
| TY            | BlankCal            | y = 32926x + 8077.6  | 0.9989         | 19.3          | 64.3          |                              |  |  | 99.6 (0.25 mg/L)<br>98.7 (1.0 mg/L)<br>98.5 (5.0 mg/L)  | 3.74 (BlankCal/ExtCal)  |
|               | StdAd               | y = 32549x + 86236   | 0.9921         |               |               | -                            |  |  |   | -1.16 (BlankCal/StdAd)  |
|               | ExtCal              | y = 72960x + 9020.2  | 0.9964         | 9.9           | 33.0          | 10                           | 3.65   | 5.34   |   |                         |
| <i>p</i> -Cou | BlankCal            | y = 69959x + 1927.1  | 0.9919         | 10.2          | 34.0          |                              |  |  | 100.3 (0.25 mg/L)<br>91.3 (1.0 mg/L)<br>95.8 (5.0 mg/L) | 4.11 (BlankCal/ExtCal)  |
|               | StdAd               | y = 68811x - 2128.4  | 0.9977         |               |               |                              |  |  |   | -1.67 (BlankCal/StdAd)  |
|               | ExtCal              | y = 58333x + 18496   | 0.9899         | 9.65          | 32.2          | 10                           | 3.99   | 6.12   |   |                         |
| Fer           | BlankCal            | y = 60080x + 19903   | 0.9954         | 10.0          | 33.3          |                              |  |  | 103.3 (0.25 mg/L)<br>97.3 (1.0 mg/L)<br>97.7 (5.0 mg/L) | -2.99 (BlankCal/ExtCal) |
|               | StdAd               | y = 59291x - 24545   | 0.9987         |               |               |                              |  |  |   | -1.33 (BlankCal/StdAd)  |
| 10            | ExtCal              | y = 10841x + 9294.6  | 0.9955         | 25.6          | 85.3          | 10                           | 4.11   | 6.01   |   |                         |

**Table 1.** Analytical parameters of the developed method.

|      | BlankCal            | y = 11127x + 169.34  | 0.9977         | 31.6          | 105.3         |                                 |  |  | 105.3 (0.25 mg/L)<br>102.3 (1.0 mg/L)<br>99.8 (5.0 mg/L) | -2.64 (BlankCal/ExtCal)                       |
|------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
|      | StdAd               | y = 11472x - 773.97  | 0.9913         |               |               |                                 |  |  |  | 3.01 (BlankCal/StdAd)                         |
|      | Type of calibration | Calibration curve    | r <sup>2</sup> | LOD<br>(µg/L) | LOQ<br>(µg/L) | Evaluated<br>range <sup>a</sup> | <i>Intra-day</i><br>Repeatability <sup>b</sup> | <i>Inter-day</i><br>Repeatability <sup>c</sup> | Trueness <sup>d</sup>                                    | Matrix Effect Coefficient<br>(%) <sup>e</sup> |
|      | ExtCal              | y = 171882x + 39155  | 0.9912         | 3.2           | 10.7          |                                 | 4.19   | 5.44   |  |   |
| Lut  | BlankCal            | y = 171715x - 8259.1 | 0.9966         | 5.1           | 17.0          | 10                              |  |  | 96.6 (0.25 mg/L)<br>89.9 (1.0 mg/L)<br>92.3 (5.0 mg/L)   | 0.10 (BlankCal/ExtCal)                        |
|      | StdAd               | y = 178151x + 25709  | 0.9976         |               |               |                                 |  |  |  | 3.61 (BlankCal/StdAd)                         |
| Pin  | ExtCal              | y = 84404x + 8274    | 0.9987         | 8.2           | 27.3          |                                 | 3.55   | 5.83   |  |   |
|      | BlankCal            | y = 82023x + 13010   | 0.9933         | 8.8           | 29.3          | 10                              |  |  | 93.6 (0.25 mg/L)<br>95.5 (1.0 mg/L)<br>99.5 (5.0 mg/L)   | 2.82 (BlankCal/ExtCal)                        |
|      | StdAd               | y = 79688x + 41340   | 0.9868         |               |               |                                 |  |  |  | -2.93 (BlankCal/StdAd)                        |
|      | ExtCal              | y = 243781x + 98095  | 0.9909         | 2.9           | 9.7           | 10                              |  | 4.89   |  |   |
| Apig | BlankCal            | y = 255554x + 54055  | 0.9899         | 3.3           | 11.0          |                                 | 2.78   |  | 94.8 (0.25 mg/L)<br>93.7 (1.0 mg/L)<br>93.3 (5.0 mg/L)   | -4.83 (BlankCal/ExtCal)                       |
|      | StdAd               | y = 252160x - 27170  | 0.9898         |               |               |                                 |  |  |  | -1.34 (BlankCal/StdAd)                        |

Standard addition calibration was carried out using, at least, for one EVOO sample from each variety. Results for an example of VS 5 olive oil sample are shown within this table.

<sup>a</sup> Linear ranges were established from LOQ to the indicated value (mg/L).

<sup>b</sup> RSD values (%) for peak areas of the analytes under study measured from 5 injections of the quality control (olive oil VS 5-1) carried out within the same sequence.

<sup>c</sup> RSD values (%) for peak areas of the evaluated compounds measured from 12 injections (belonging to 3 different sequences which were carried out over 3 days) of 12 independent dilutions prepared from the same olive oil sample (VS 5-1).

<sup>d</sup> Trueness was estimated by analyzing spiked sunflower oil at different known concentrations (0.25, 1.0 and 5.0 mg/L) and calculating the effective/true concentration values.

<sup>e</sup> Matrix effect coefficient (%) =  $(1-(slope matrix/slope solvent)) \times 100$  (or adapting the equation, as stated in section 2.5.3.).

|               |      | VS                | 3                | VS               | 5                  | Picholine Marocaine |                  |                  |  |
|---------------|------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Compound      | tr   | VS 3-1            | VS 3-2           | VS 5-1           | VS 5-2             | PM 1                | PM 2             | PM 3             |  |
| HYTY          | 6.8  | $3.80\pm0.19$     | $3.47\pm0.17$    | $2.23\pm0.11$    | $10.89\pm0.38$     | $4.41\pm0.15$       | $1.69\pm0.06$    | $1.73\pm0.06$    |  |
| TY            | 8.5  | $14.36\pm0.72$    | $16.77\pm0.84$   | $16.62\pm0.83$   | $21.97 \pm 1.09$   | $14.46\pm0.72$      | $11.90\pm0.59$   | $12.23\pm0.61$   |  |
| DEA           | 10.5 | $0.19\pm0.01$     | $0.31\pm0.02$    | $0.46\pm0.02$    | $3.90\pm0.19$      | $1.77\pm0.09$       | $2.68\pm0.13$    | $2.75\pm0.14$    |  |
| p-Cou         | 11.6 | $0.19\pm0.01$     | $0.20\pm0.01$    | $0.16\pm0.02$    | $0.15\pm0.02$      | $0.49\pm0.02$       | $0.48\pm0.03$    | $0.45\pm0.02$    |  |
| DesoxyEA      | 12.1 | $6.71\pm0.34$     | $70.52\pm2.53$   | $76.57 \pm 4.59$ | $5.97 \pm 0.36$    | $42.48 \pm 2.55$    | $35.86 \pm 2.15$ | $34.24\pm2.05$   |  |
| Fer           | 12.5 | $0.12 \pm 0.01$   | $0.15\pm0.01$    | $0.13\pm0.01$    | $0.05 \pm (<0.01)$ | $0.31\pm0.01$       | $0.35\pm0.02$    | $0.33 \pm 0.02$  |  |
| EA            | 14.0 | $44.58 \pm 1.23$  | $52.70\pm3.63$   | $57.51 \pm 2.88$ | 88.61 ± 3.81       | $20.45 \pm 1.08$    | $22.22 \pm 1.33$ | $24.31 \pm 1.22$ |  |
| DOA           | 14.9 | $88.29 \pm 5.11$  | $37.87 \pm 1.89$ | $38.25 \pm 1.91$ | $62.41 \pm 3.12$   | $7.95\pm0.39$       | $7.25\pm0.29$    | $6.87 \pm 0.27$  |  |
| Lut           | 16.5 | $5.86 \pm 0.29$   | $5.46\pm0.27$    | $2.62\pm0.13$    | $4.92\pm0.24$      | $1.55\pm0.08$       | $0.77\pm0.05$    | $0.69\pm0.05$    |  |
| Ol Agl isom   | 16.9 | $0.93\pm0.05$     | $1.20\pm0.06$    | $1.83\pm0.11$    | $1.23\pm0.07$      | $1.03\pm0.06$       | $1.51\pm0.09$    | $1.47\pm0.09$    |  |
| Pin           | 17.3 | $3.65\pm0.18$     | $4.82\pm0.24$    | $4.76\pm0.22$    | $4.26\pm0.21$      | $1.62\pm0.08$       | $1.28\pm0.05$    | $1.35\pm0.06$    |  |
| Ac Pin        | 18.0 | $8.42\pm0.42$     | $9.95\pm0.50$    | $10.49\pm0.42$   | $9.14\pm0.36$      | $6.13\pm0.27$       | $6.56\pm0.28$    | $6.25\pm0.27$    |  |
| Ol Agl isom   | 18.5 | $13.56\pm0.68$    | $4.97\pm0.25$    | $5.29\pm0.26$    | $10.07\pm0.50$     | $19.20\pm1.07$      | $8.83 \pm 0.53$  | $8.99 \pm 0.55$  |  |
| D-Lig Agl     | 19.0 | $122.22 \pm 6.11$ | $106.97\pm5.34$  | $21.90 \pm 1.09$ | $133.06 \pm 8.11$  | $3.01\pm0.12$       | $4.06\pm0.20$    | $4.01\pm0.20$    |  |
| Apig          | 19.5 | $0.96\pm0.05$     | $0.35\pm0.02$    | $0.60\pm0.03$    | $0.88 \pm 0.04$    | $0.31\pm0.01$       | $0.28\pm0.02$    | $0.25 \pm 0.01$  |  |
| Lig Agl isom  | 20.0 | $3.47\pm0.17$     | $3.77\pm0.19$    | $4.09\pm0.18$    | $3.51 \pm 0.15$    | $1.36\pm0.06$       | $3.69\pm0.14$    | $3.75 \pm 0.15$  |  |
| Lig Agl isom  | 21.6 | $82.16 \pm 4.12$  | $40.75\pm2.04$   | $36.60 \pm 1.43$ | $80.54 \pm 3.14$   | $85.60\pm3.34$      | $70.23\pm3.02$   | $70.33 \pm 3.02$ |  |
| <u>Ol Agl</u> | 21.5 | $36.22 \pm 1.81$  | $18.53\pm0.93$   | $32.11 \pm 1.60$ | $40.88 \pm 2.57$   | $31.23 \pm 1.34$    | $25.62\pm0.84$   | $28.32 \pm 0.93$ |  |
| Ol Agl isom   | 22.5 | $27.03 \pm 1.35$  | $14.43\pm0.92$   | $17.58 \pm 1.09$ | $19.30 \pm 1.19$   | $36.33 \pm 2.25$    | $22.47 \pm 1.05$ | $21.01 \pm 0.99$ |  |
| Lig Agl       | 23.6 | $119.51 \pm 5.98$ | $80.04 \pm 3.55$ | $72.01 \pm 4.10$ | $124.01 \pm 7.07$  | $42.79\pm2.01$      | $51.15\pm3.07$   | $49.49 \pm 2.97$ |  |
| Lig Agl isom  | 24.0 | $169.07\pm8.45$   | $91.34 \pm 5.48$ | $93.98 \pm 5.64$ | $153.62 \pm 9.22$  | $143.12\pm8.57$     | $119.34\pm7.16$  | $108.83\pm6.53$  |  |

**Table 2.** Quantitative results (mg analyte/kg olive oil) achieved by using the LC-ESI-IT MS developed method. Every result is the average of three independent (sample dilution and injection) determinations (n = 3). The results are given by the mean value  $\pm$  standard deviation.