

Nuts about Authentication: Using a Handful of Isotopic Tools to Crack the Hazelnut Origin Mystery

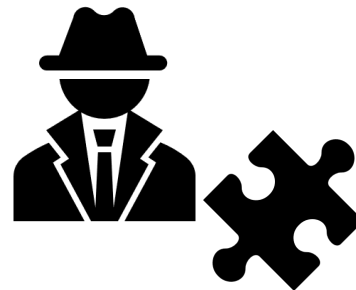
Berta Torres Cobos^{1,2*}, Mònica Rosell³, Albert Soler³, Mercè Rovira⁴, Agustí Romero⁴, Francesc Guardiola^{1,2}, Alba Tres^{1,2}, Stefania Vichi^{1,2}

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² Institut de Recerca en Nutrició i Seguretat Alimentària (INSA-UB), Universitat de Barcelona, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Spain.

³ Grup MAiMA, Mineralogia Aplicada, Geoquímica i Hidrogeologia, Departament de Mineralogia, Petrologia i Geologia Aplicada, Institut de Recerca de l'Aigua (IdRA), Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

⁴ Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA), Constantí, Spain.



HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



<https://www.compraonline.bonpreuesclat.cat> (Accessed on 16th April 2023)

HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



14€/kg

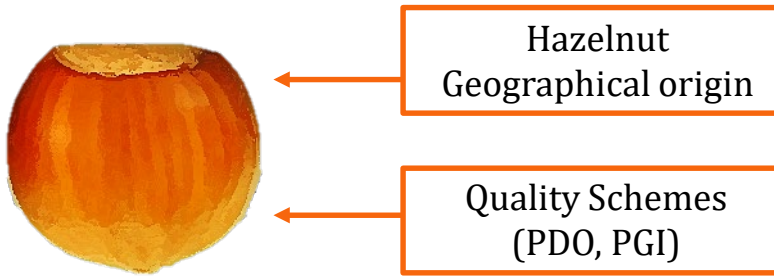


25€/kg

SPECIFIC ORIGIN (REUS) & PDO QUALITY SCHEME

<https://www.compraonline.bonpreuesclat.cat> (Accessed on 16th April 2023)

HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



Hazelnut
Geographical origin

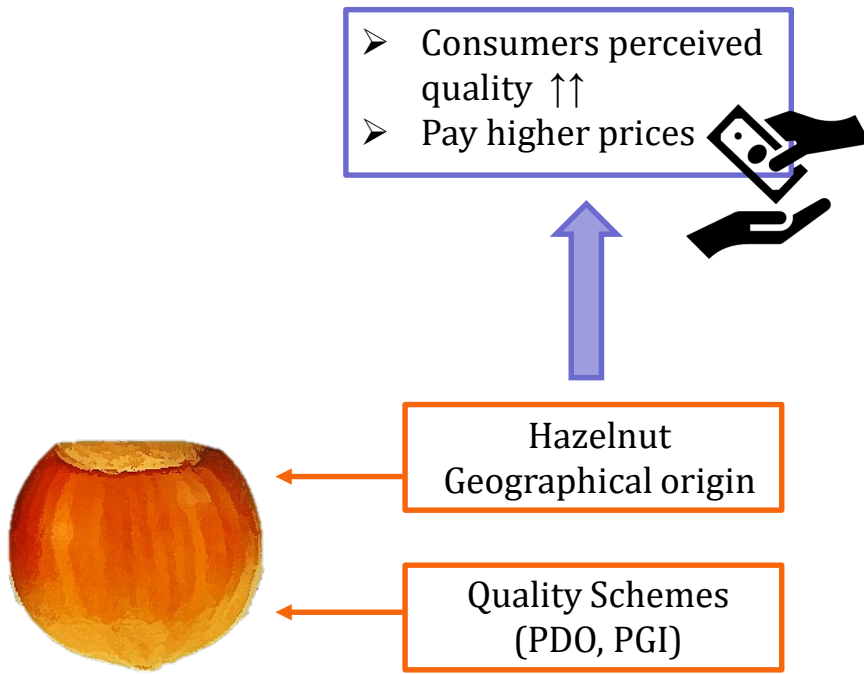
Quality Schemes
(PDO, PGI)

- **Italy** (4174.1 USD/t)
 - **Spain** (2689.7 USD/t)
 - Turkey
 - United States
 - **Georgia** (1448.6 USD/t)
- 36%↓
- 65%↓

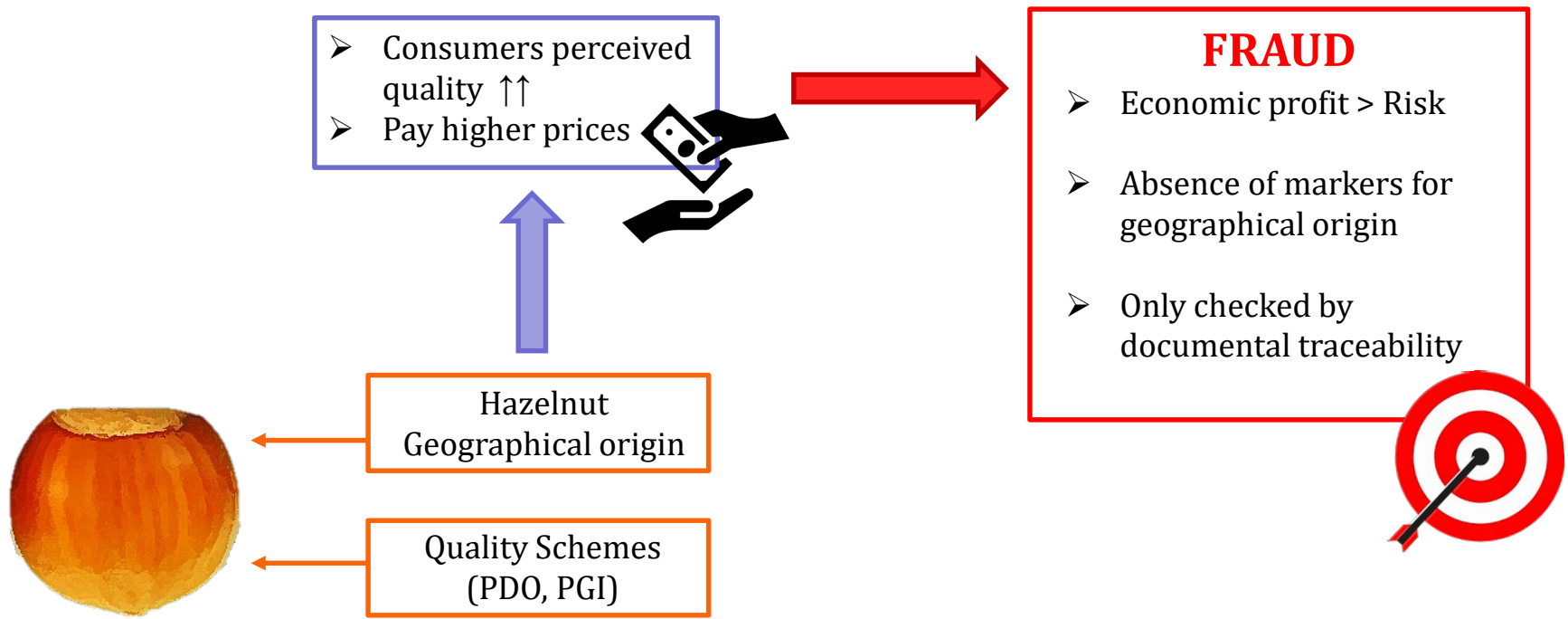
Annual Producer Price 2021. United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization. FAOSTAT Database

- PDO: Avellana de Reus (SPA) and Nocciola Romana (ITA).
- PGI: Nocciola di Giffoni (ITA), Nocciola Piemonte (ITA), Noisette de Cervione (FRA).

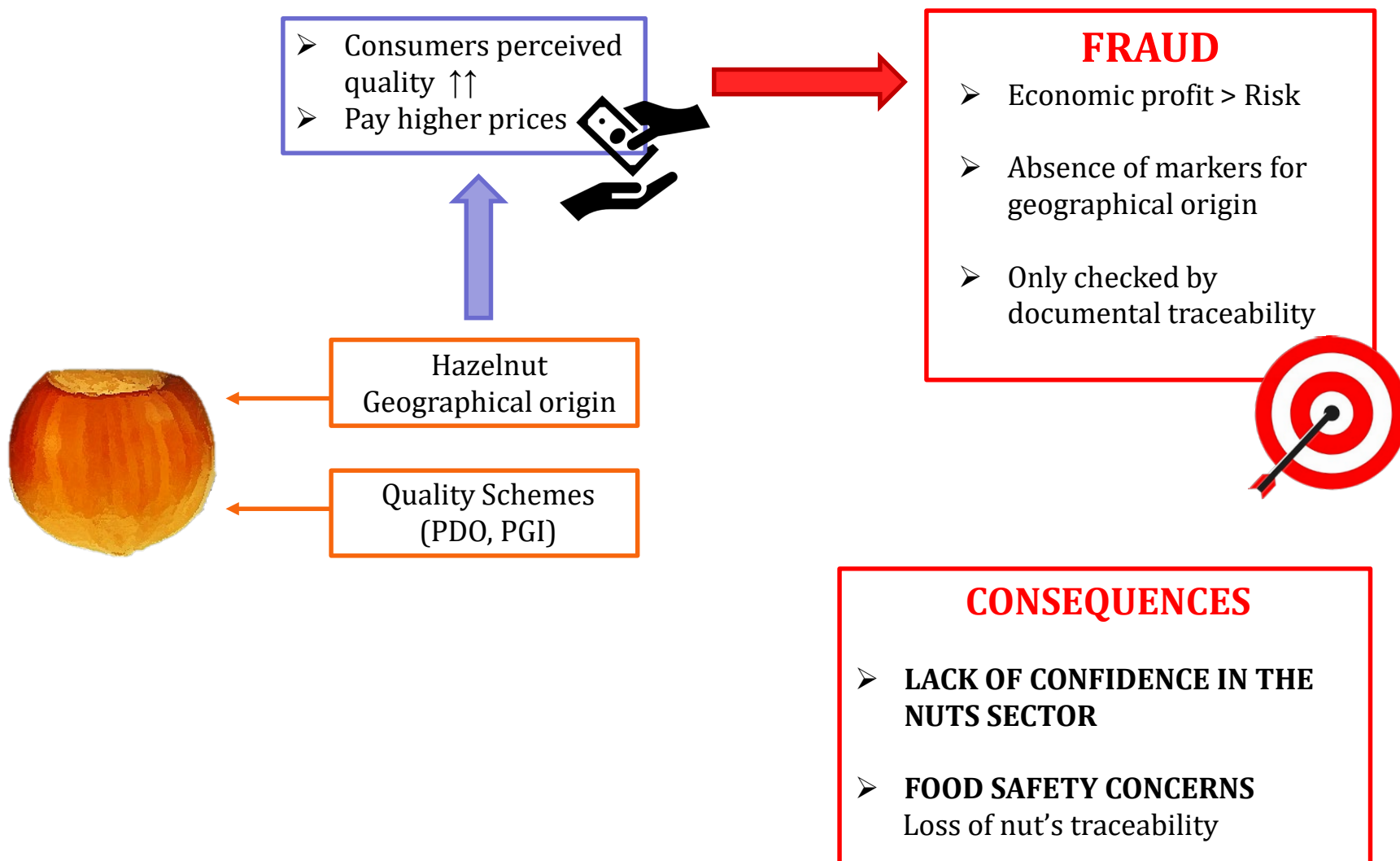
HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



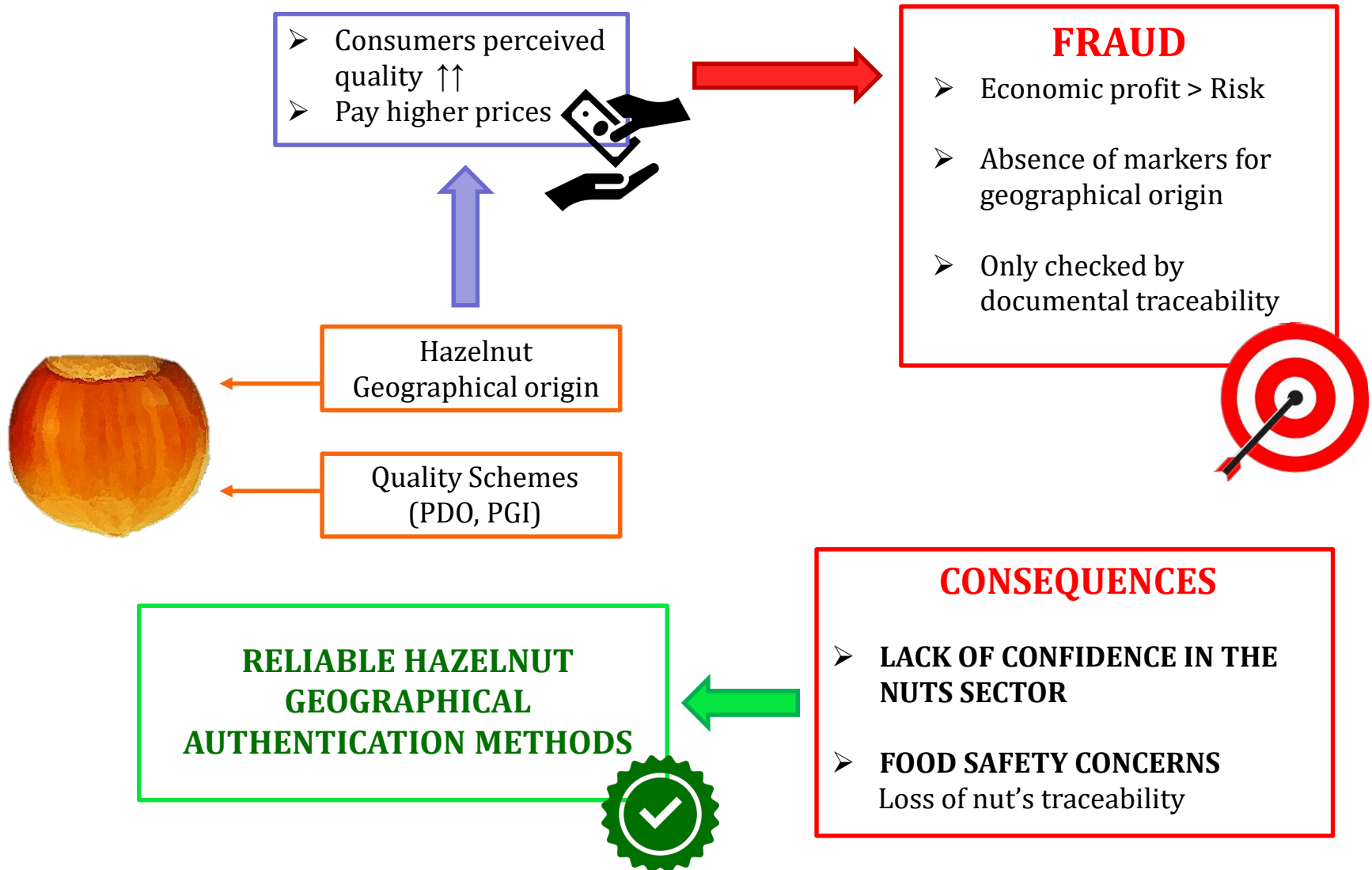
HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



HAZELNUT ORIGIN AUTHENTICATION



HAZELNUT AUTHENTICATION METHODS

CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ Geographical markers minimally influenced by other factors.
- ✓ Simple, easy to apply and automatable
- ✓ Combination of multiple variables to have more information.

**ISOTOPIC ANALYSIS**

- Light bio-elements ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$)
- Heavy geo-elements ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)
- Compound specific isotope analysis
Fatty acid $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic)
 $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic)



AIM

Few studies of isotopic analysis for
nuts geographical authentication ^(1,2)

¹S. Krauß, A. Vieweg, W. Vetter (2020) J Sci Food Agric, 100, 1625–1634.

²K. A. Anderson, B. W. Smith (2016) J. Agric. Food Chem., 54, 1747–1752.

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Few studies of isotopic analysis for
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No data are available on the application
of isotopic markers for hazelnut
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No data are available on the application of isotopic markers for hazelnut geographical authentication



NEED: Test different isotopic analysis as hazelnut geographical origin authentication tools.
Determine which isotopic markers are the most promising ones

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AIM

PRELIMINARY STUDY

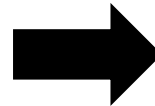
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No data are available on the application of isotopic markers for hazelnut geographical authentication



NEED: Test different isotopic analysis as hazelnut geographical origin authentication tools.
Determine which isotopic markers are the most promising ones



1) Evaluate the efficacy of the main isotopic analysis applied to food geographical authentication

- Light bio-elements ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$), compound specific fatty acid $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic)
- Heavy geo-elements ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)

as hazelnut geographical origin markers.

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AIM

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- Heavy geo-elements ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)

as hazelnut geographical origin markers.

COULD BE AFFECTED BY THE FERTILIZERS



STUDY HOW THEY ARE RELATED WITH THE SAMPLES AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE FERTILITZATION

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AIM

PRELIMINARY STUDY

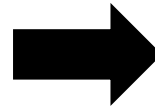
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Determine which isotopic markers are the most promising ones



I) Evaluate the efficacy of the main isotopic analysis applied to food geographical authentication

- Light bio-elements ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$), compound specific fatty acid $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic)
- Heavy geo-elements ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)

as hazelnut geographical origin markers.

II) Identify the **most promising** ones for hazelnut authentication.

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SAMPLE SET

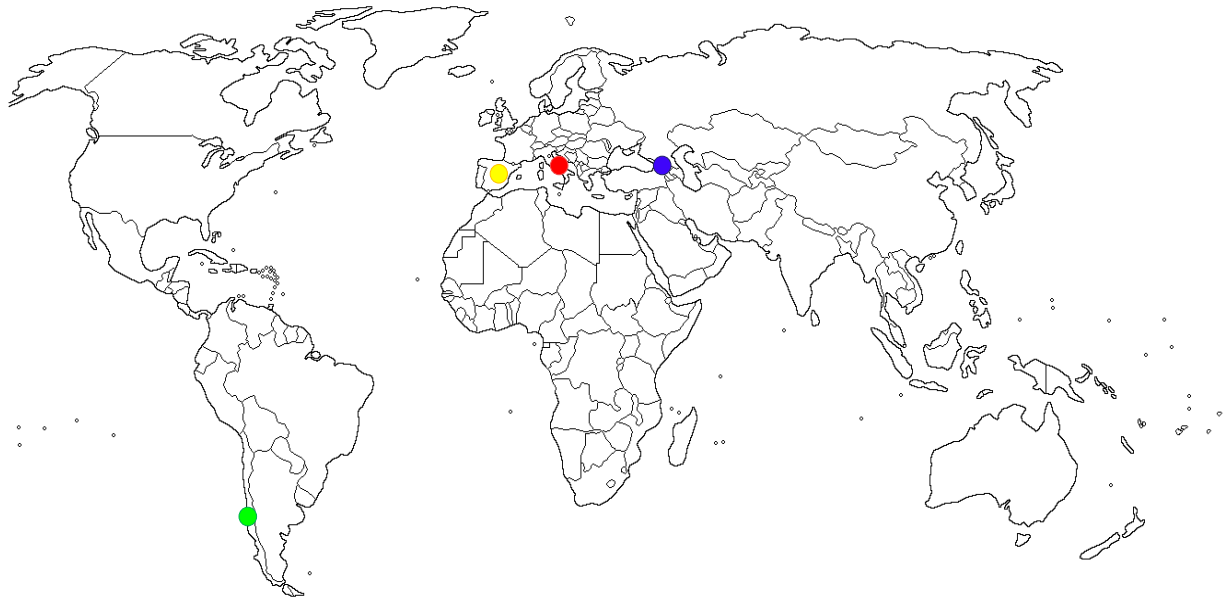
40 Hazelnuts from 2019,
2020 and 2021

Chile
(n= 10)

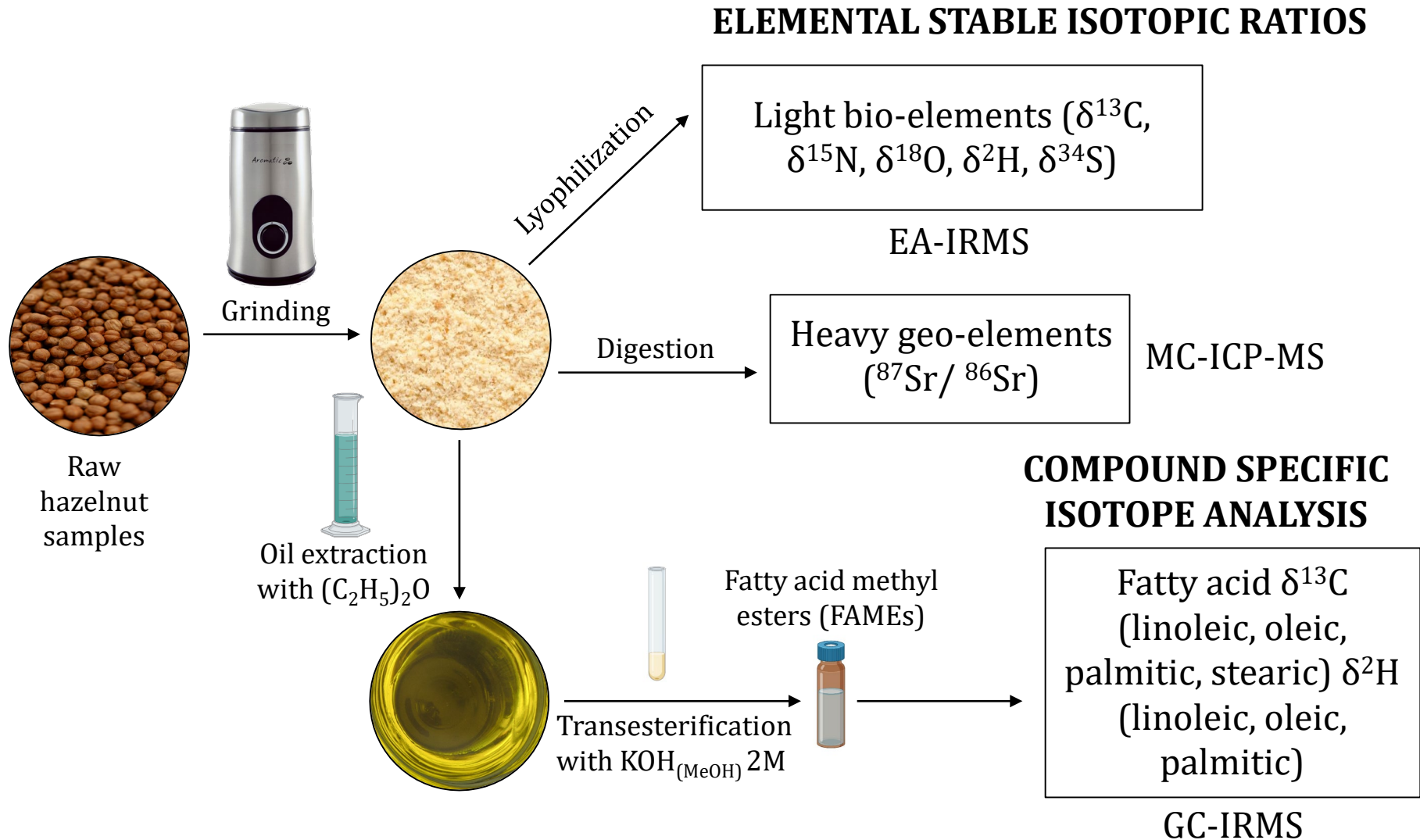
Italy
(n= 10)

Georgia
(n=10)

Spain
(n= 10)



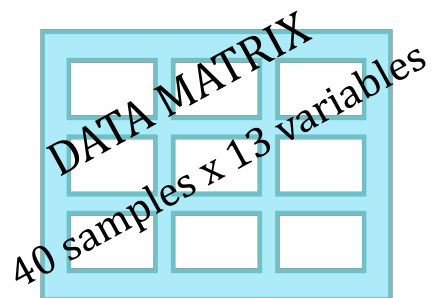
SAMPLE PREPARATION & ANALYTICAL METHOD



CHEMOMETRICS

1) Study the relation between the variables and the samples.

1) PCA Exploration



Variables: $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$,
 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic,
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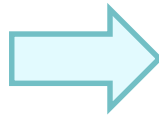
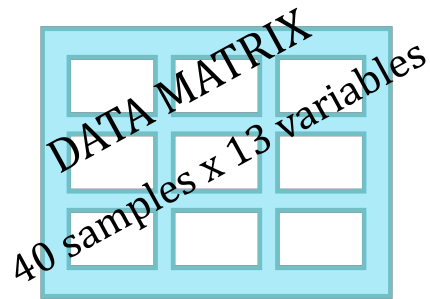
Outlier's detection:

(Hotelling's T^2 , Q residuals).

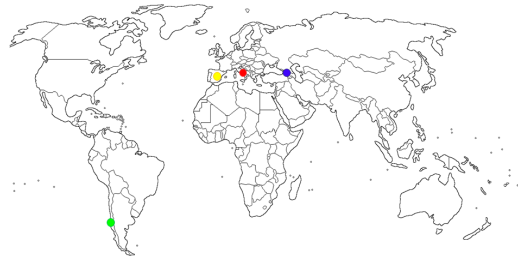
CHEMOMETRICS

- 1) Study the relation between the variables and the samples.
- 2) Evaluate the efficacy of the variables as hazelnut geographical authentication markers.

1) PCA Exploration



2) PLS-DA global origin model



Variables: $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic)
Outlier's detection: (Hotelling's T^2 , Q residuals).

ALL VARIABLES

Internal validation Cross-validation (leave-10%-out)

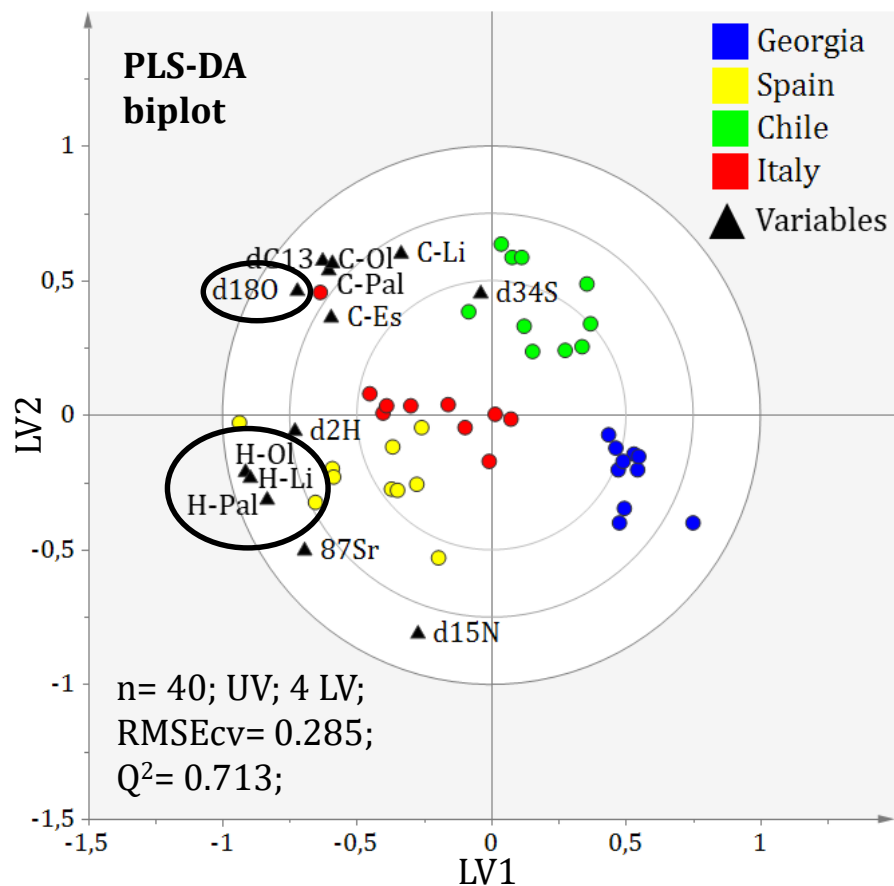
Overfitting assess

- Permutation test (n=20)
- RMSE_{cv}
- p-value (ANOVA Cross-Validation)

Relevant variables

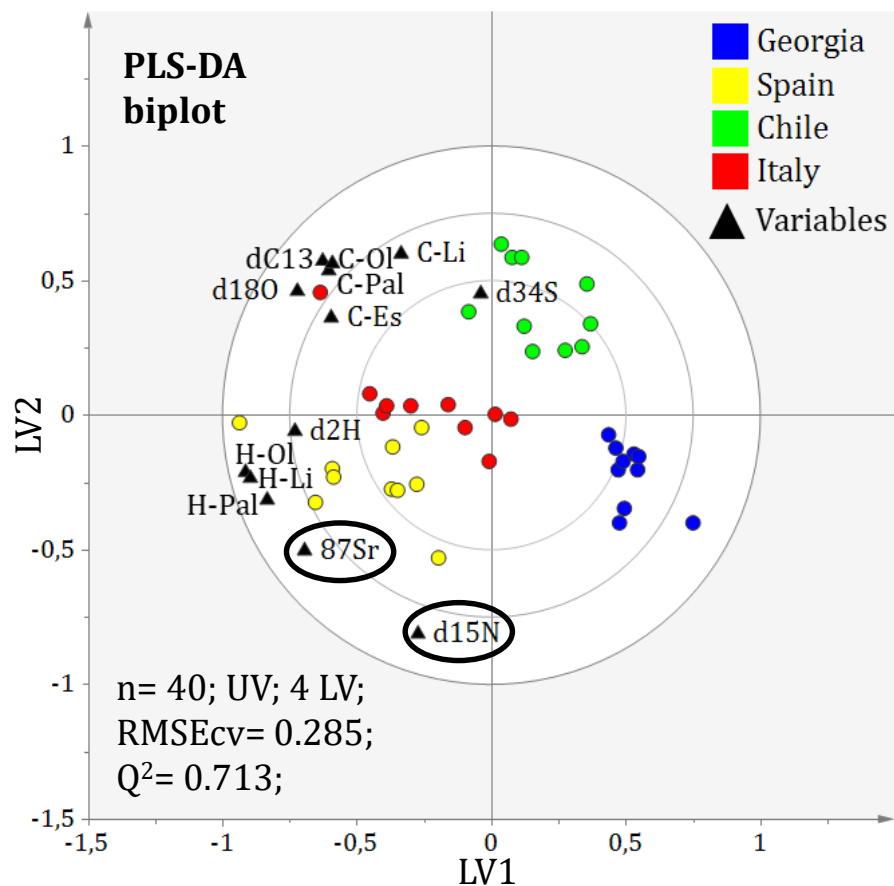
Regression coefficients study

GLOBAL RESULTS: PLS-DA GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN MODEL



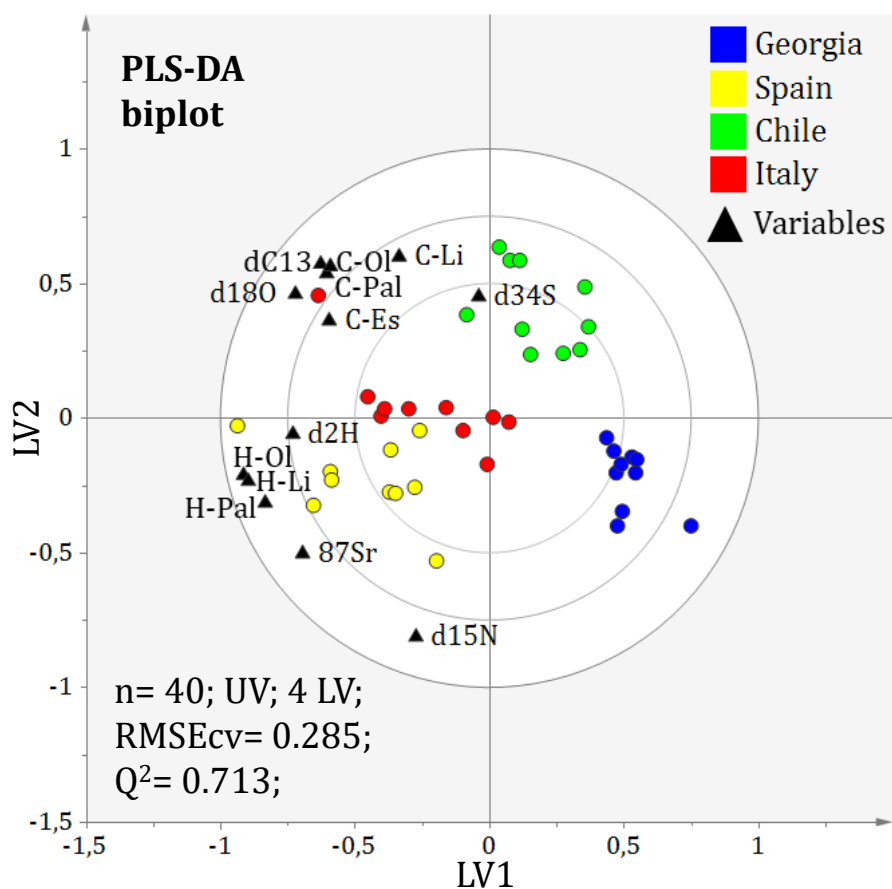
Global correct classification = **97.5%**

GLOBAL RESULTS: PLS-DA GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN MODEL



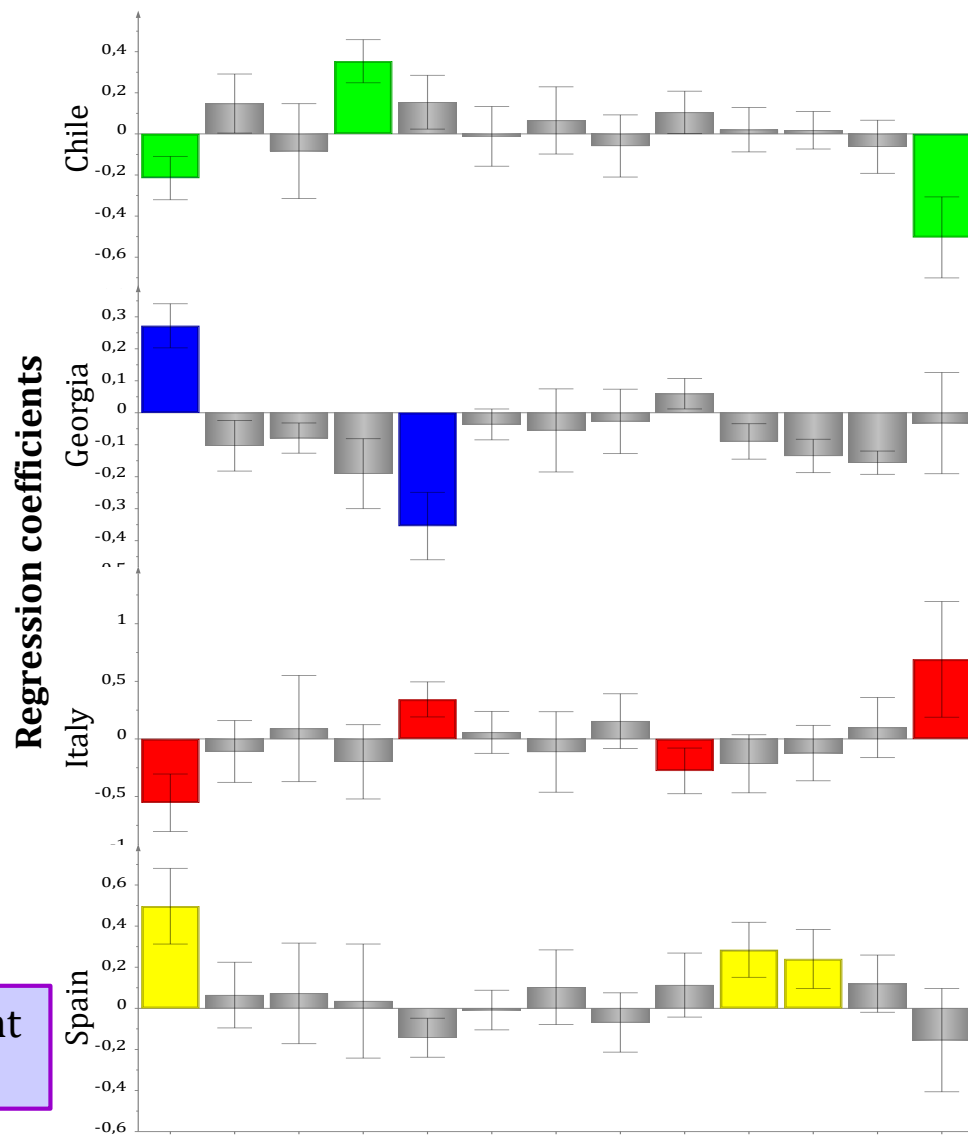
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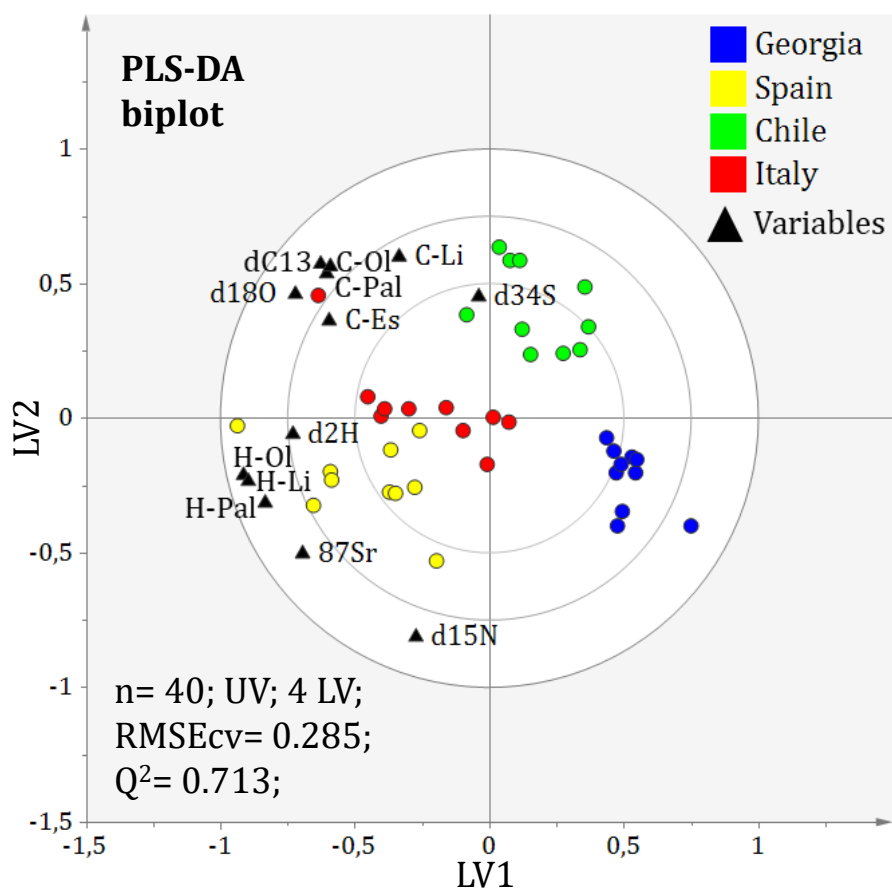


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Relevant variables criteria: $\text{coefcvSE} < \text{Coefficient}$
 $\text{Coefficient} > 0.2$

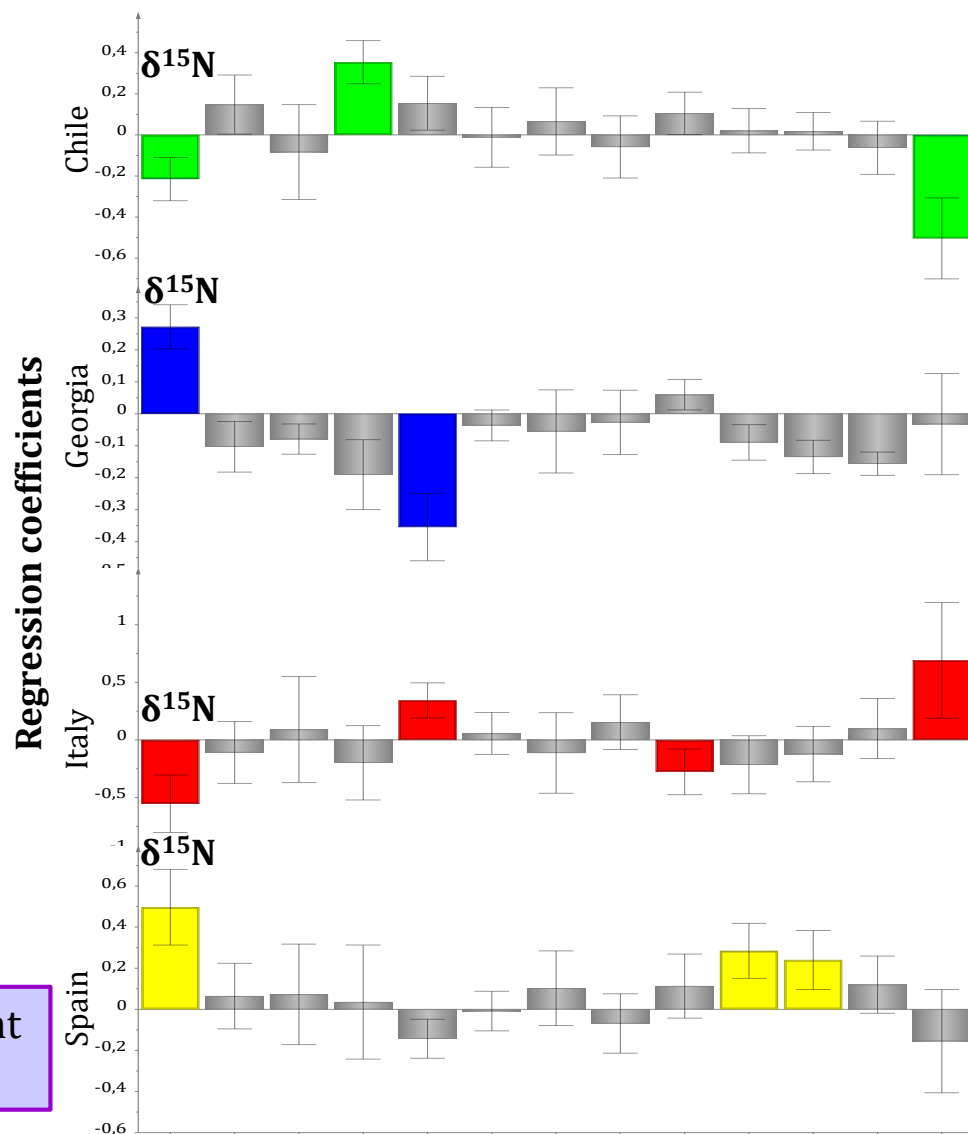


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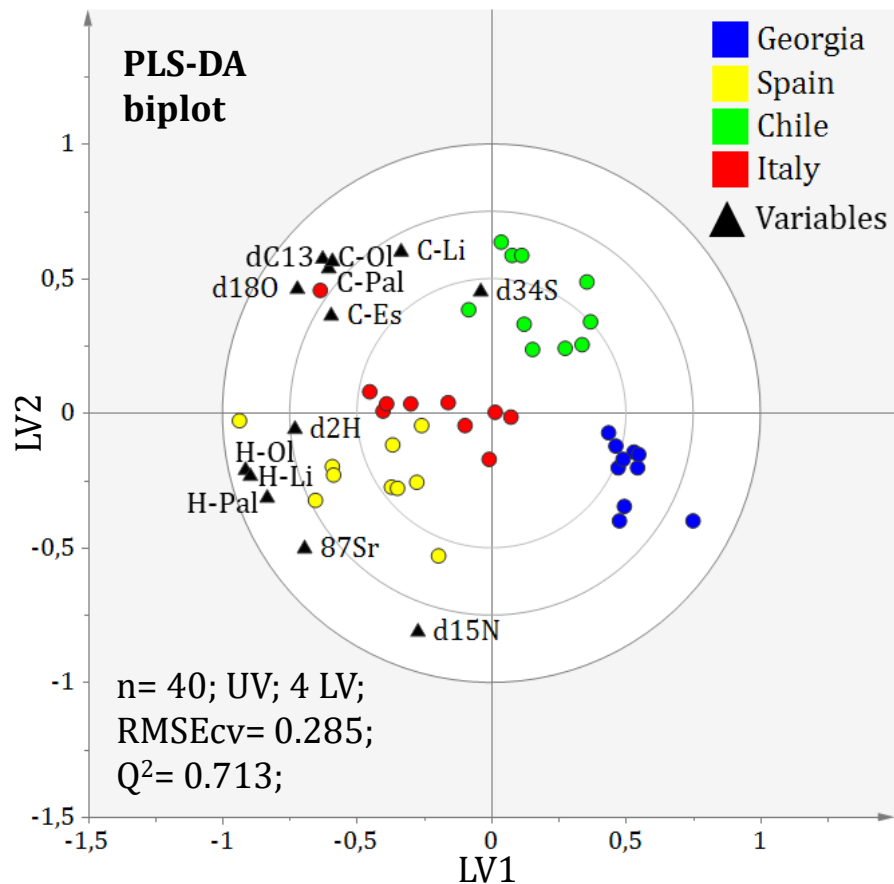


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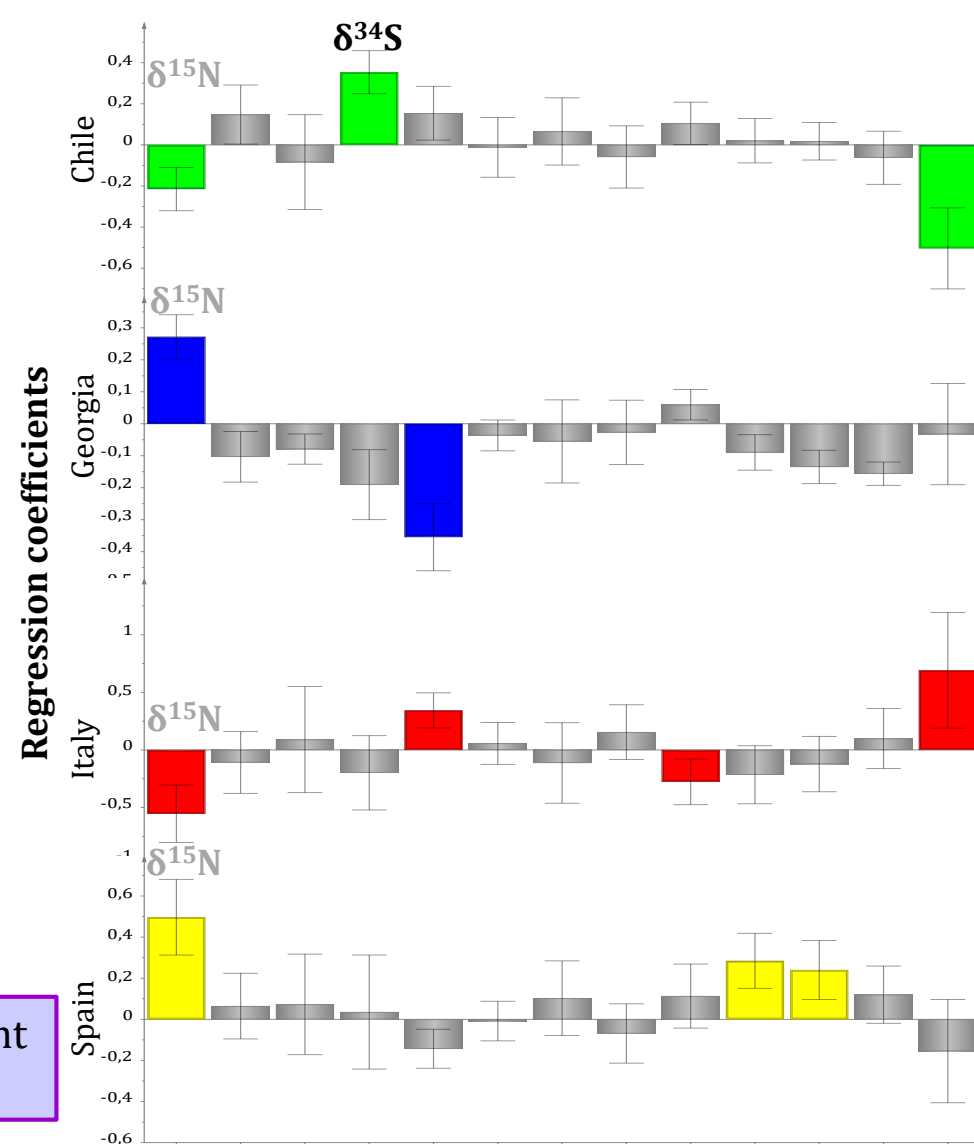


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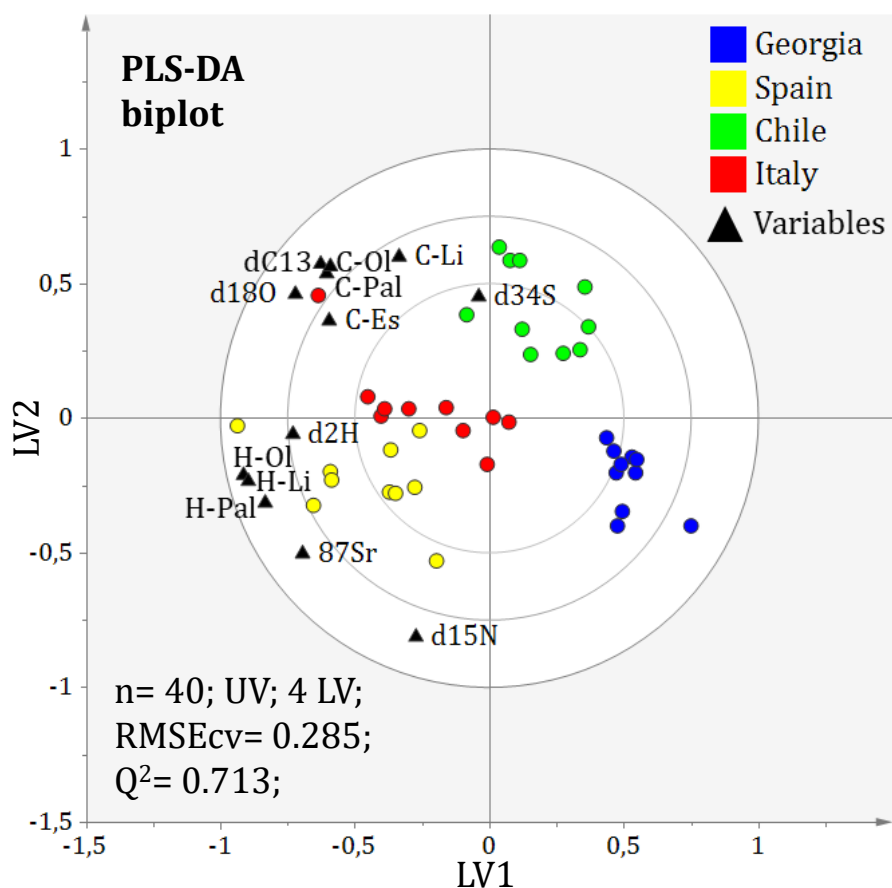


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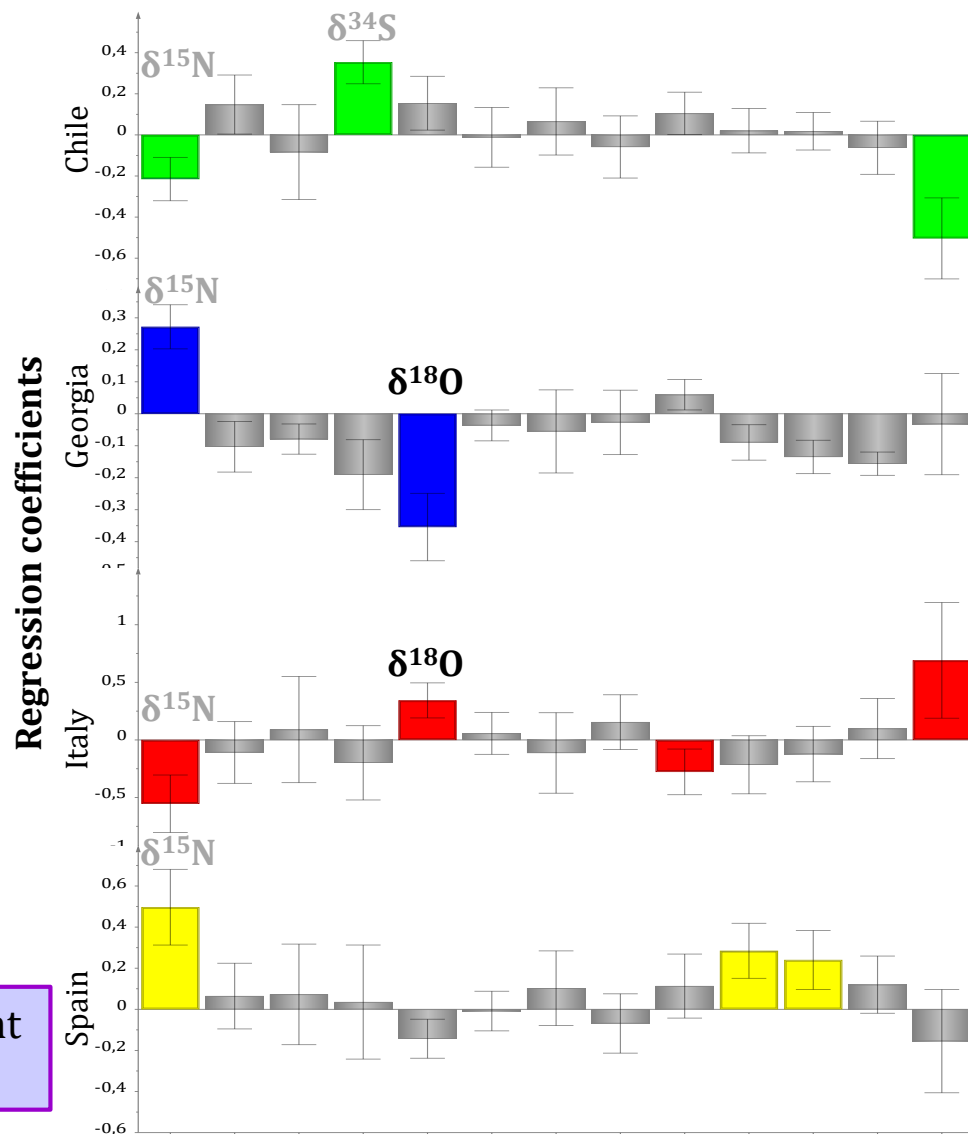


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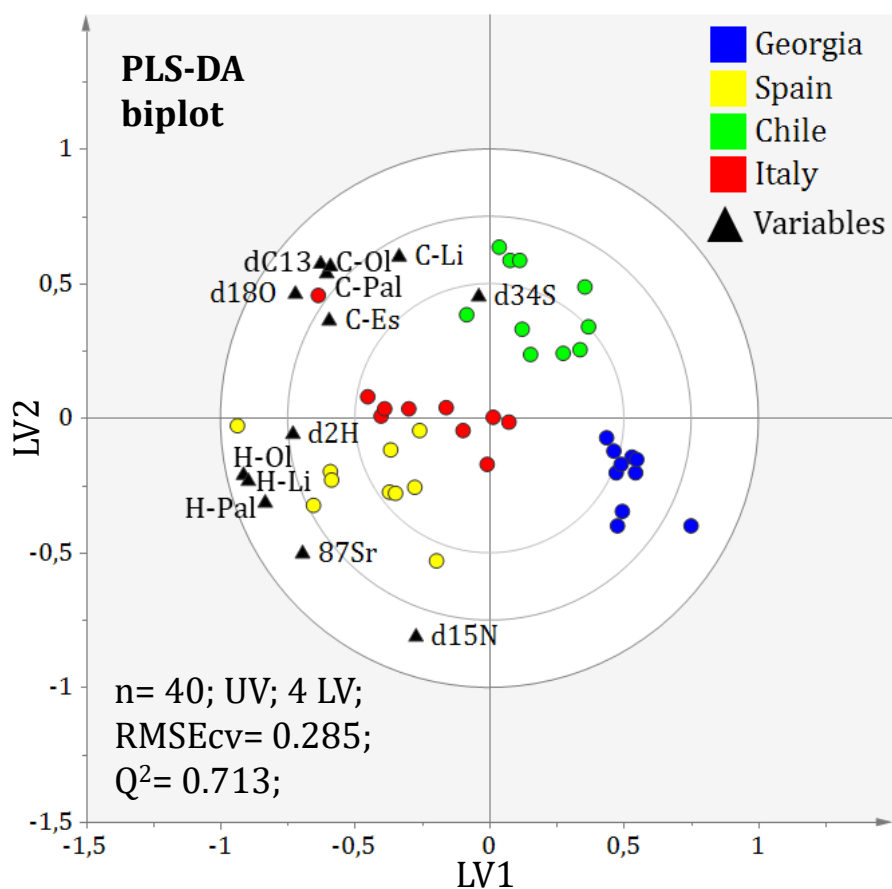


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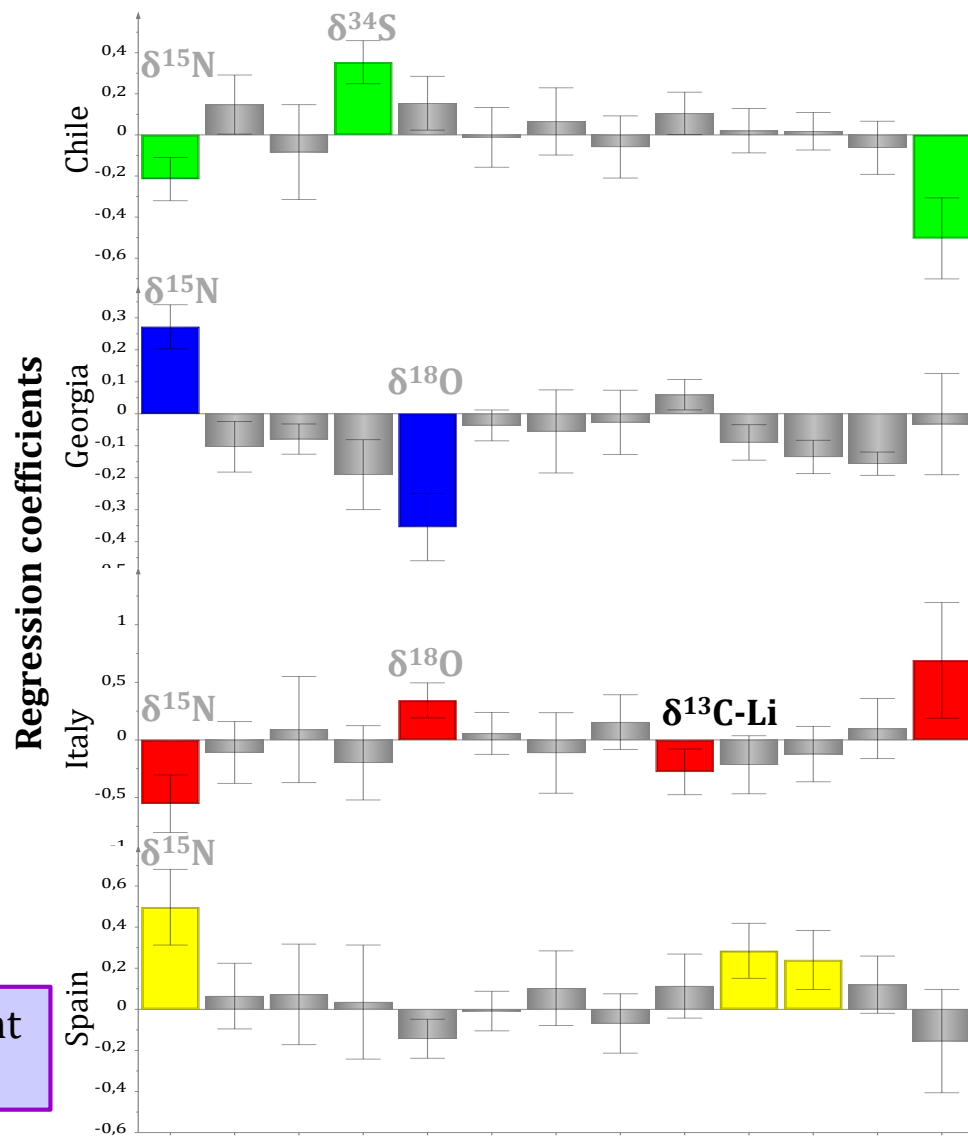


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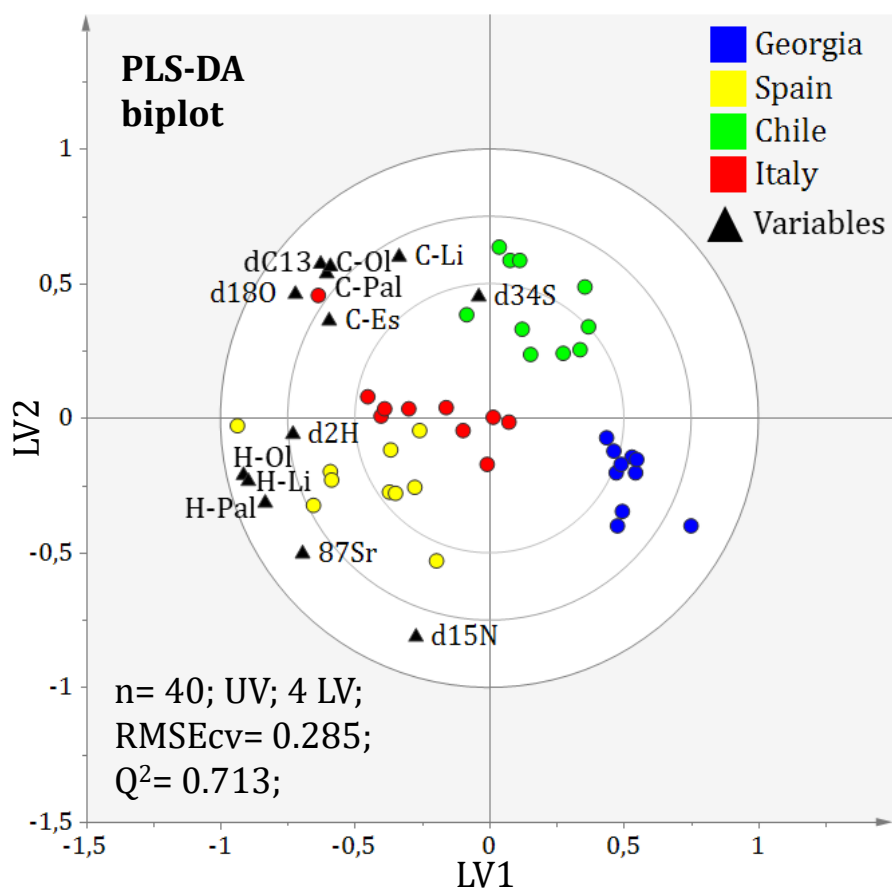


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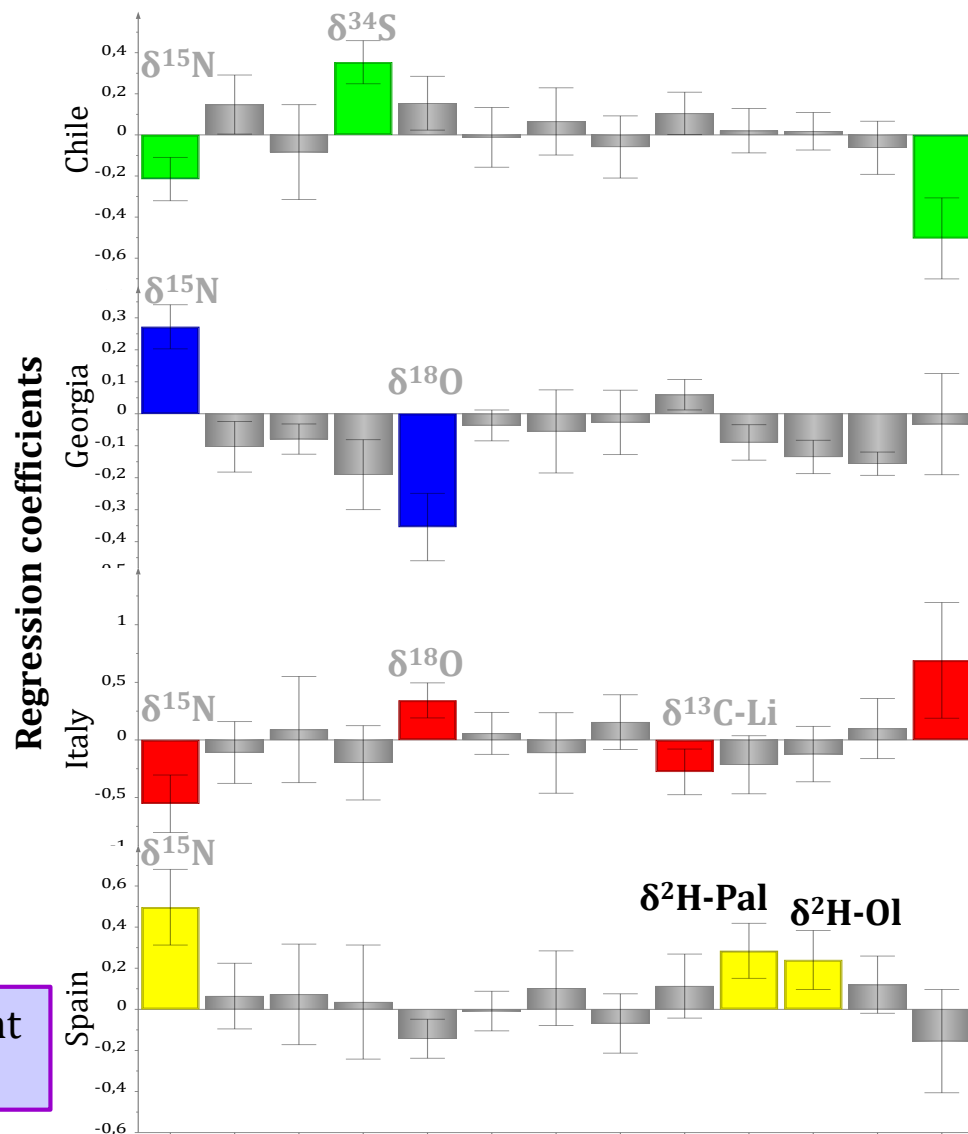


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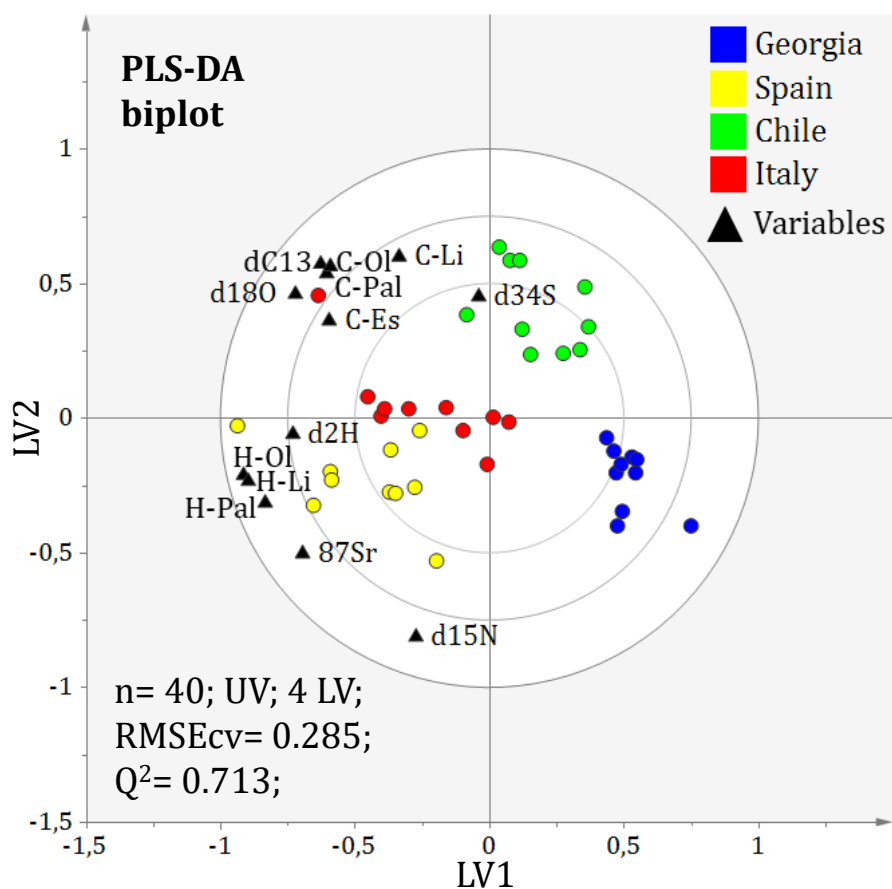


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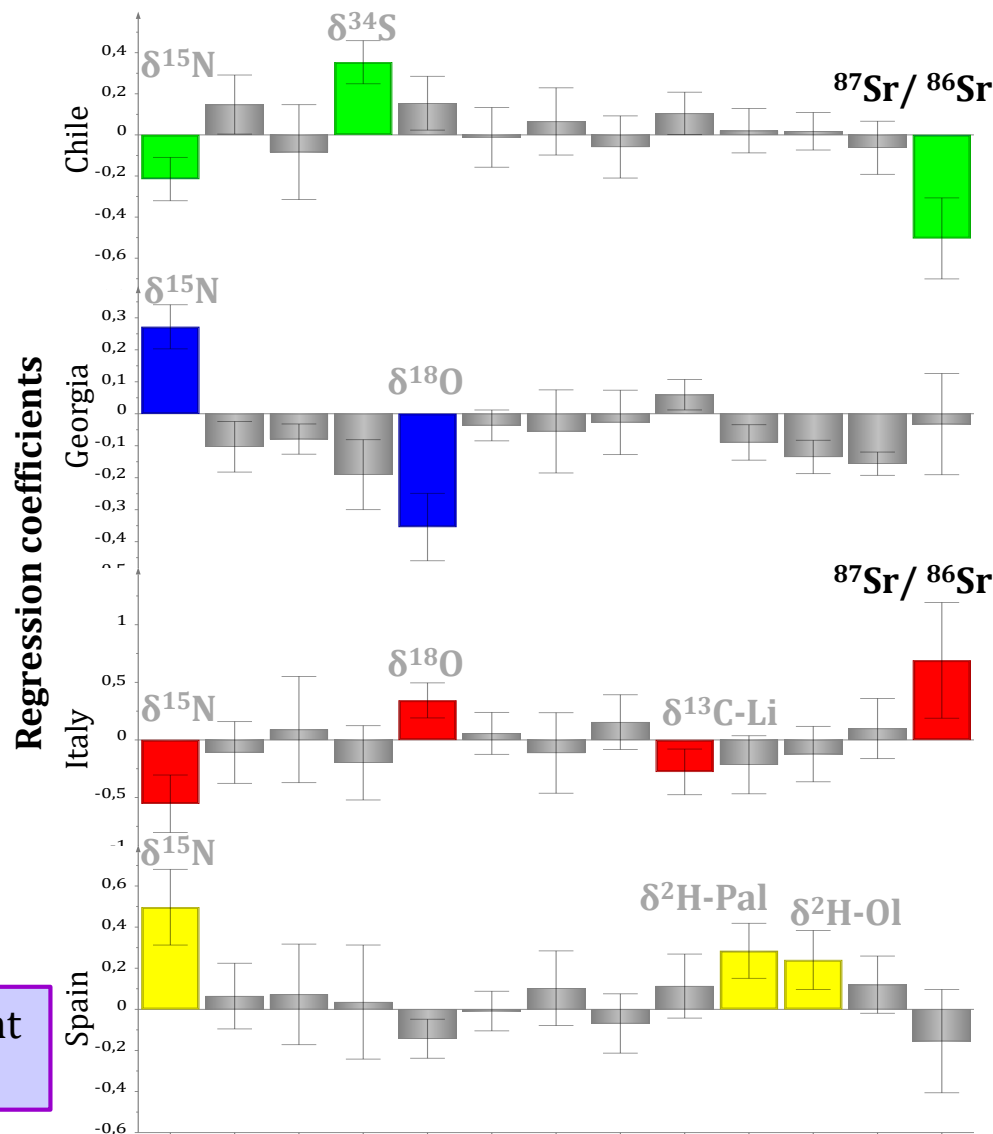


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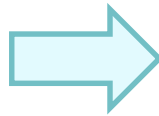
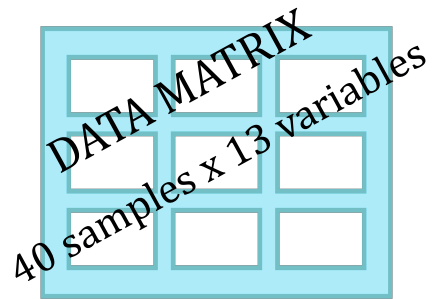
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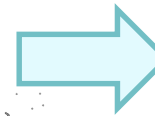
CHEMOMETRICS

- 1) Study the relation between the variables and the samples.
- 2) Evaluate the efficacy of the variables as hazelnut geographical authentication markers.

1) PCA Exploration



2) PLS-DA global origin model



OPTIMIZE THE METHOD

Minimal number of analysis, keeping the information and discriminant capacity

Variables: $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic)
Outlier's detection: (Hotelling's T^2 , Q residuals).

ALL VARIABLES

Internal validation Cross-validation (leave-10%-out)

Overfitting assess

- Permutation test (n=20)
- RMSE_{cv}
- p-value (ANOVA Cross-Validation)

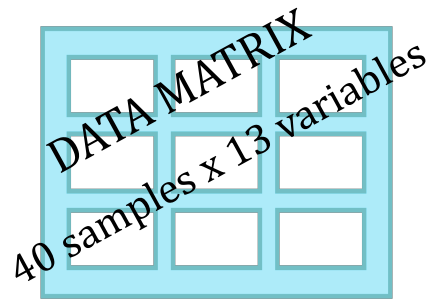
Relevant variables

Regression coefficients study

CHEMOMETRICS

- 1) Study the relation between the variables and the samples.
- 2) Evaluate the efficacy of the variables as hazelnut geographical authentication markers.
- 3) Select the most promising variables not influenced by other factors

1) PCA Exploration



Variables: $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic)
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2) PLS-DA global origin model

**ALL VARIABLES**

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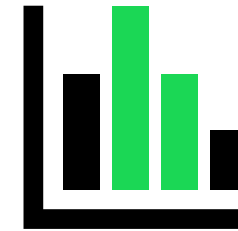
Overfitting assess

- Permutation test (n=20)
- RMSEcv
- p-value (ANOVA Cross-Validation)

Relevant variables

Regression coefficients study

3) Relevant variables PLS-DA origin model

**ONLY SELECTED VARIABLES**

(Significant and NOT influenced by other factors)

Analytical efficiency ↑

Internal validation Cross-validation (leave-10%-out)

Overfitting assess

Assess relevant variables

Regression coefficients study

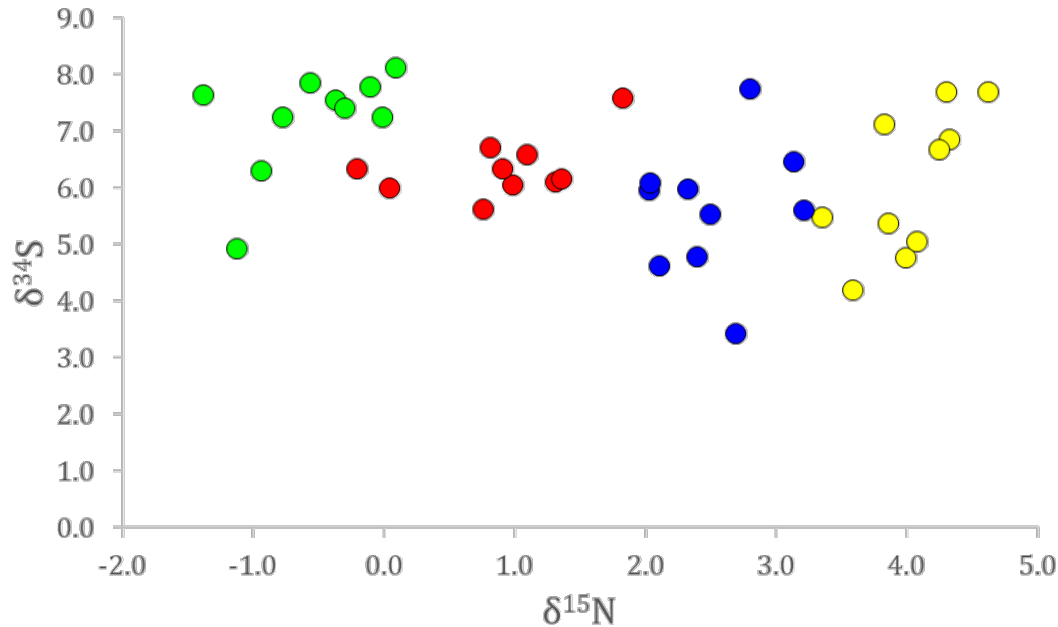
RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain



Italy



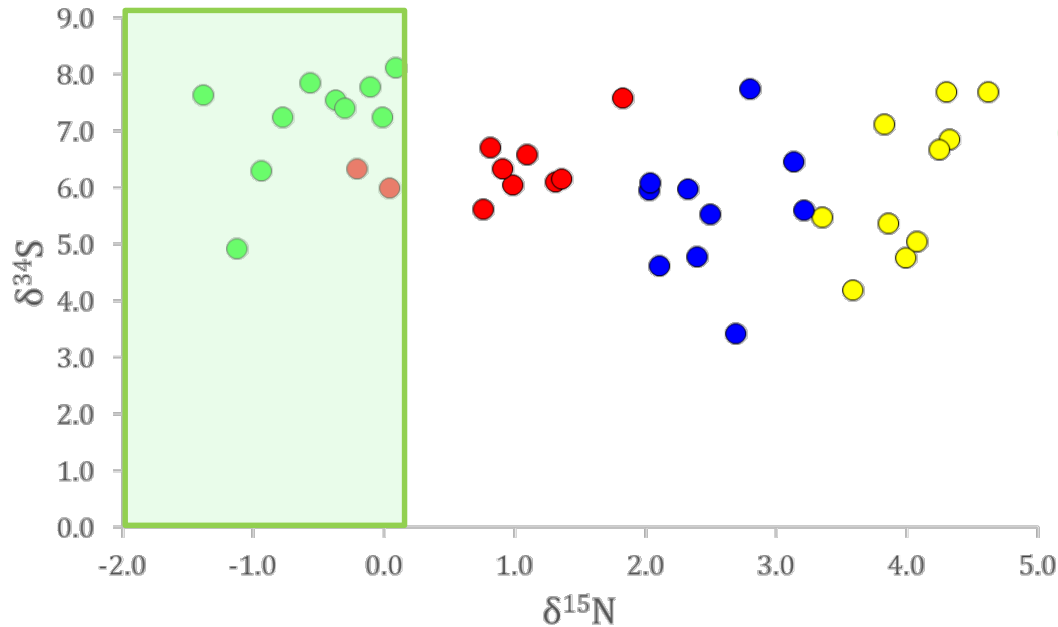
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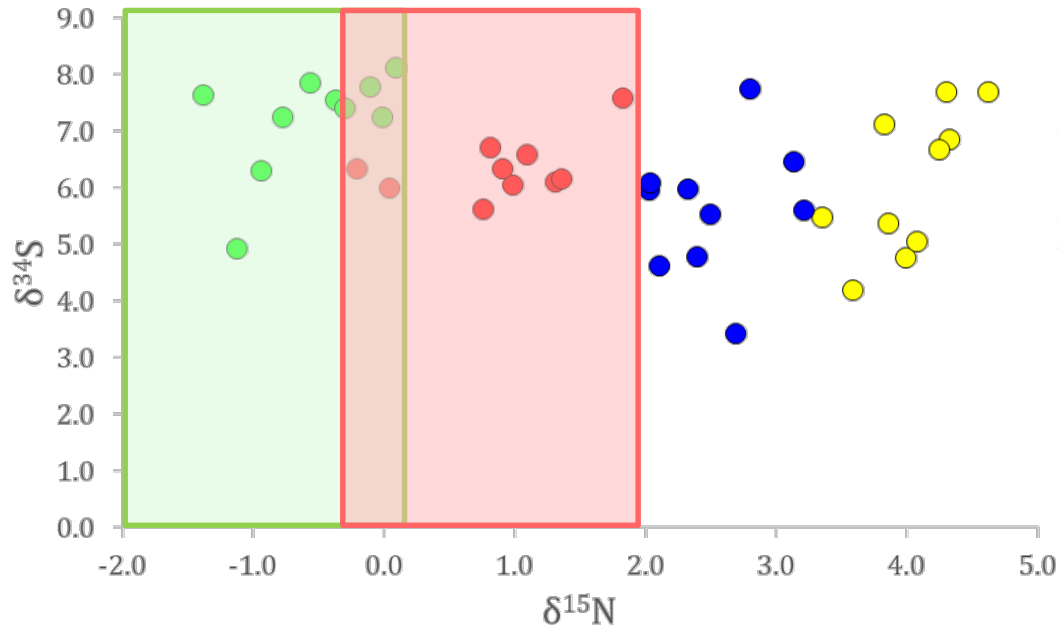
Chile: chemical fertilizer $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (-2 – 0)

RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

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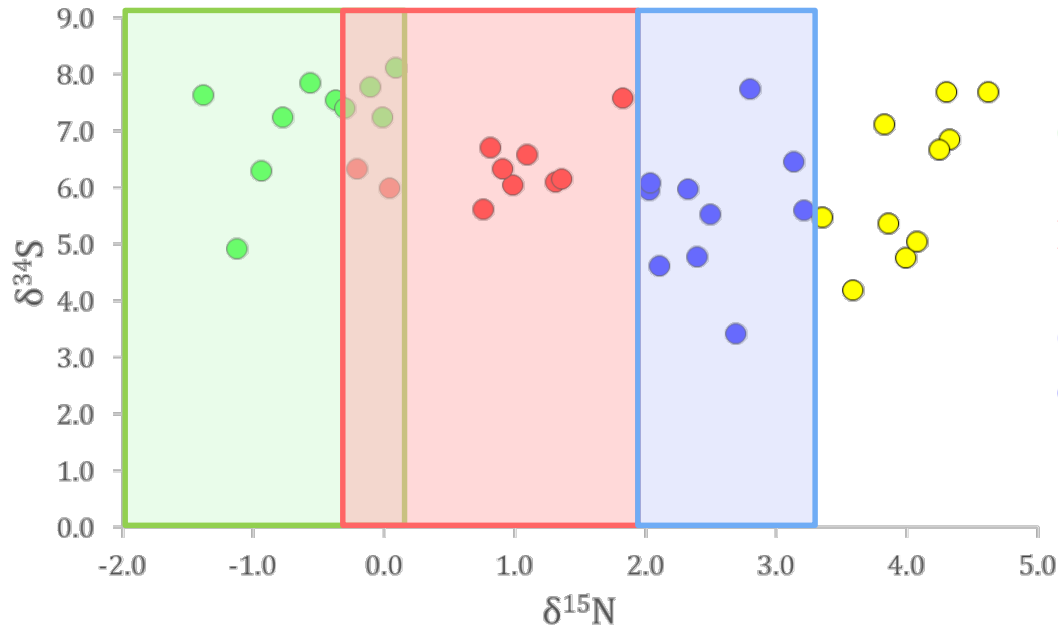
Italy: not fertilized $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (0 – 2)

RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain 

Italy 



Chile: chemical fertilizer $\delta^{15}\text{N} (-2 - 0)$

Italy: not fertilized $\delta^{15}\text{N} (0 - 2)$

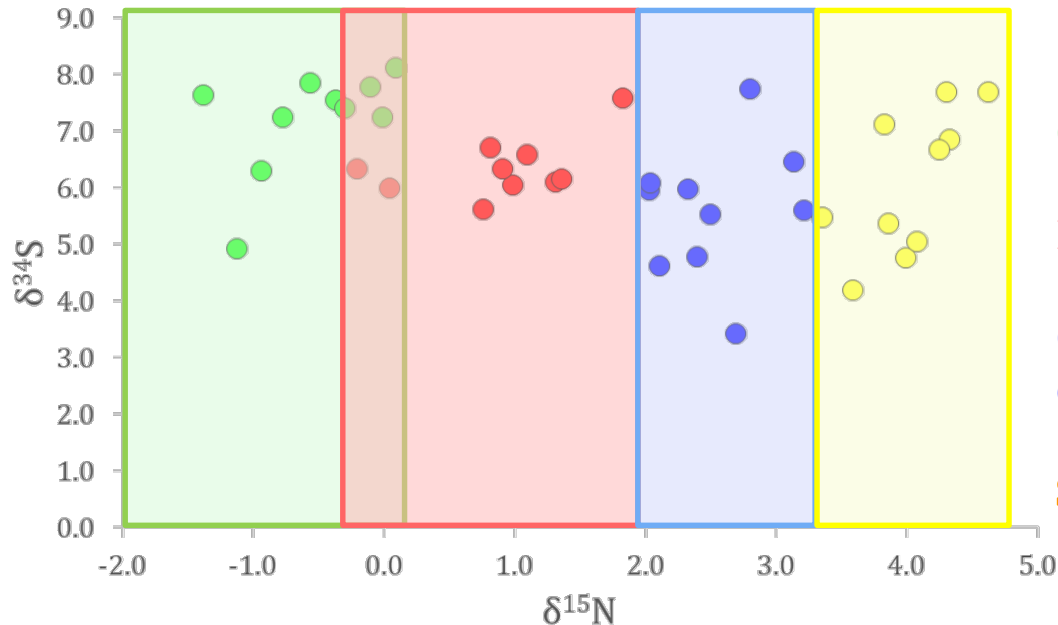
Georgia: mix fertilizer (organic and chemical) $\delta^{15}\text{N} (2 - 3)$

RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain 

Italy 



Chile: chemical fertilizer $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (-2 – 0)

Italy: not fertilized $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (0 – 2)

Georgia: mix fertilizer (organic and chemical) $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (2 – 3)

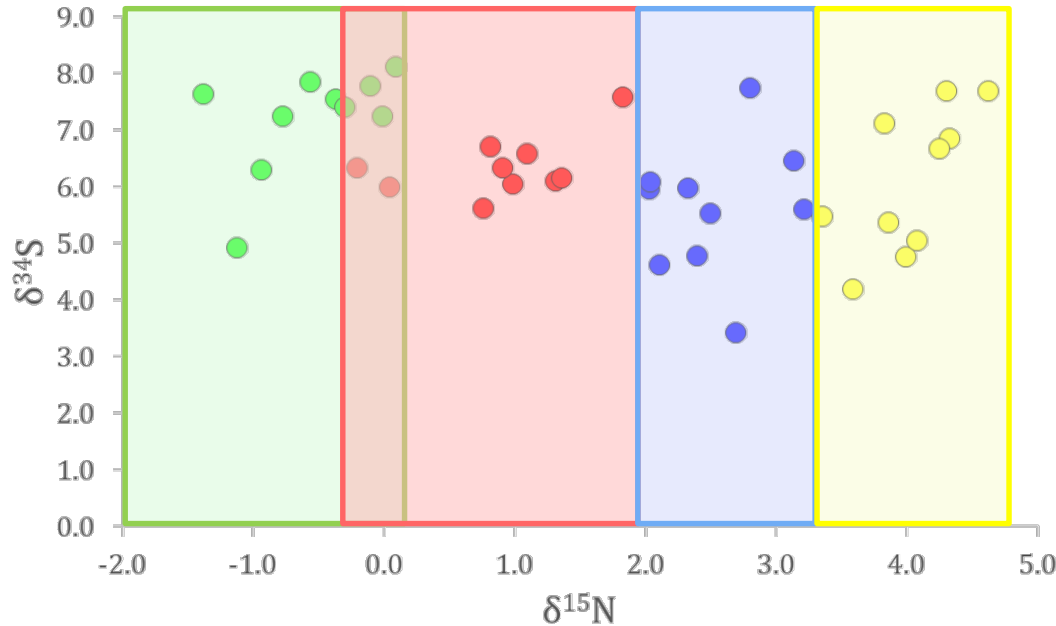
Spain: organic fertilizer $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (2 – 5)

RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain 

Italy 



Chile: chemical fertilizer $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (-2 – 0)

Italy: not fertilized $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (0 – 2)

Georgia: mix fertilizer (organic and chemical) $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (2 – 3)

Spain: organic fertilizer $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (2 – 5)

- $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values agree with those reported for each kind of fertilizer and its corresponding values in plant ^(3,4). $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ discriminates samples by origin but it is **AFFECTED** by the fertilizers.
- $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values does **not** seem to be **influenced** by the fertilizer but do **NOT** provide any **DISCRIMINATION** among samples.

³L. Vitòria, et al. (2004) J Environ. Sci. Technol., 38, 3254-3262. ⁴K. H. Laursen (2013) J. Food Chemistry, 141, 2812-2820.

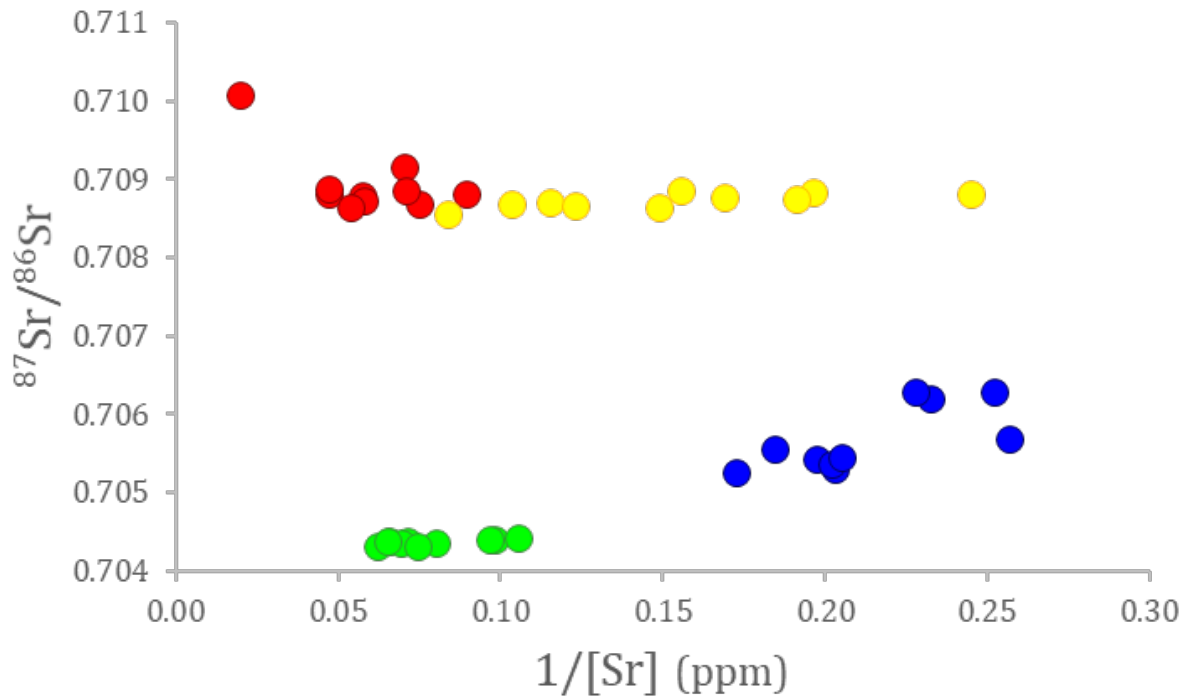
RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain



Italy



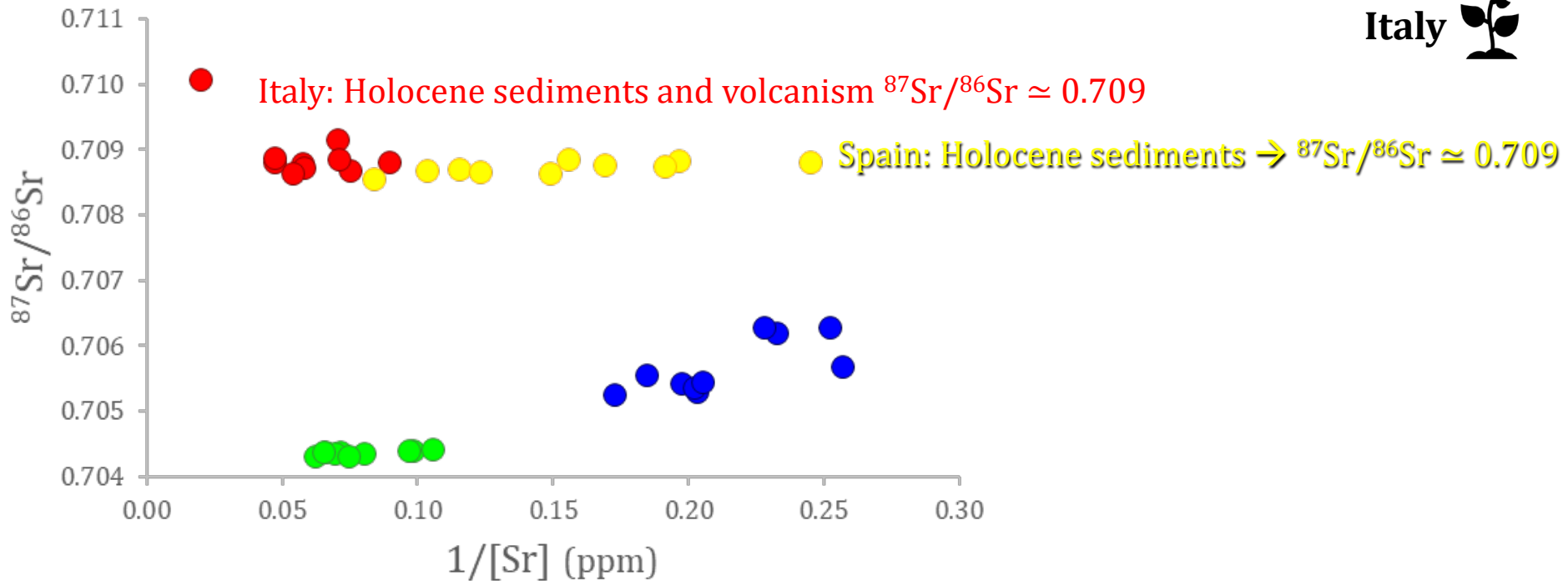
RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain



Italy



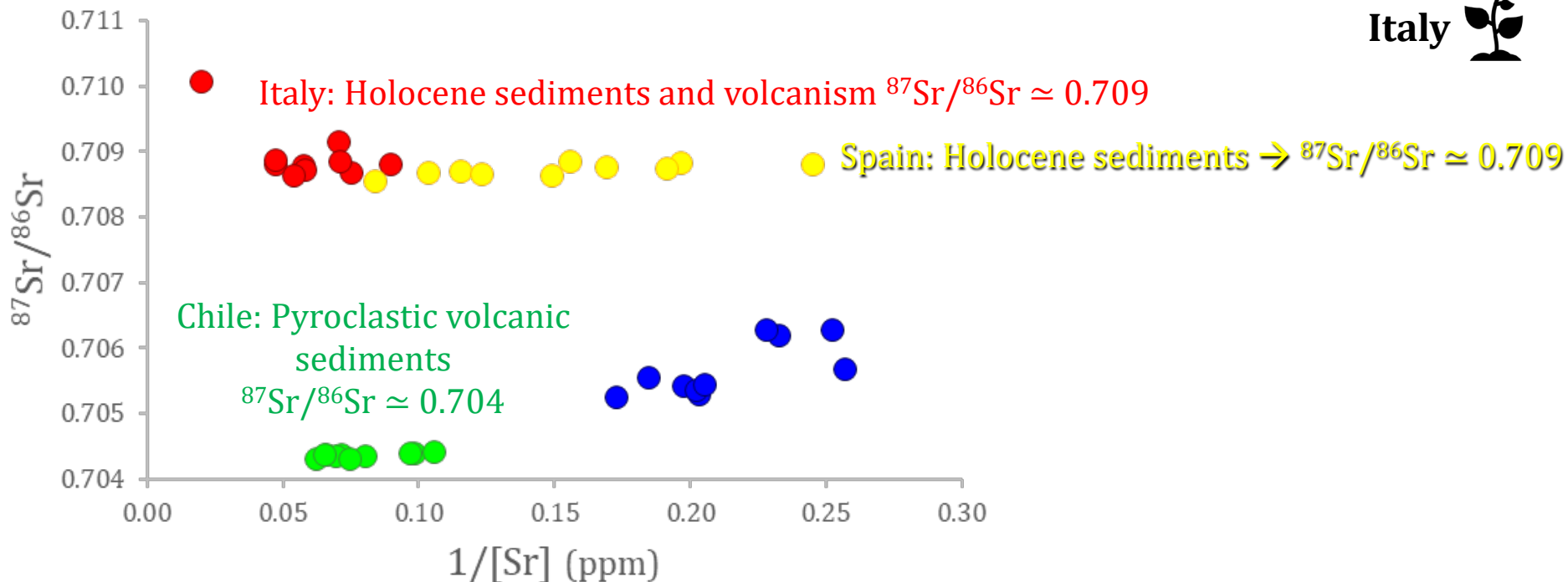
RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

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Georgia, Chile, Spain



Italy

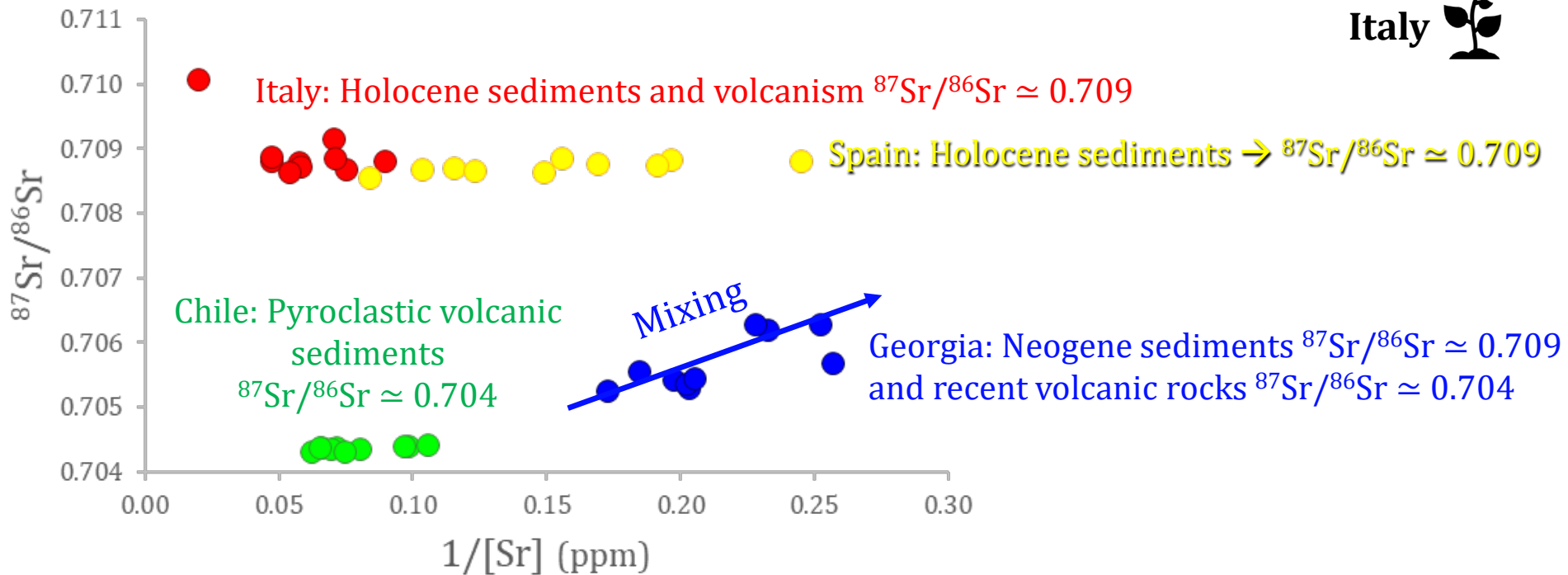


RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain 

Italy 



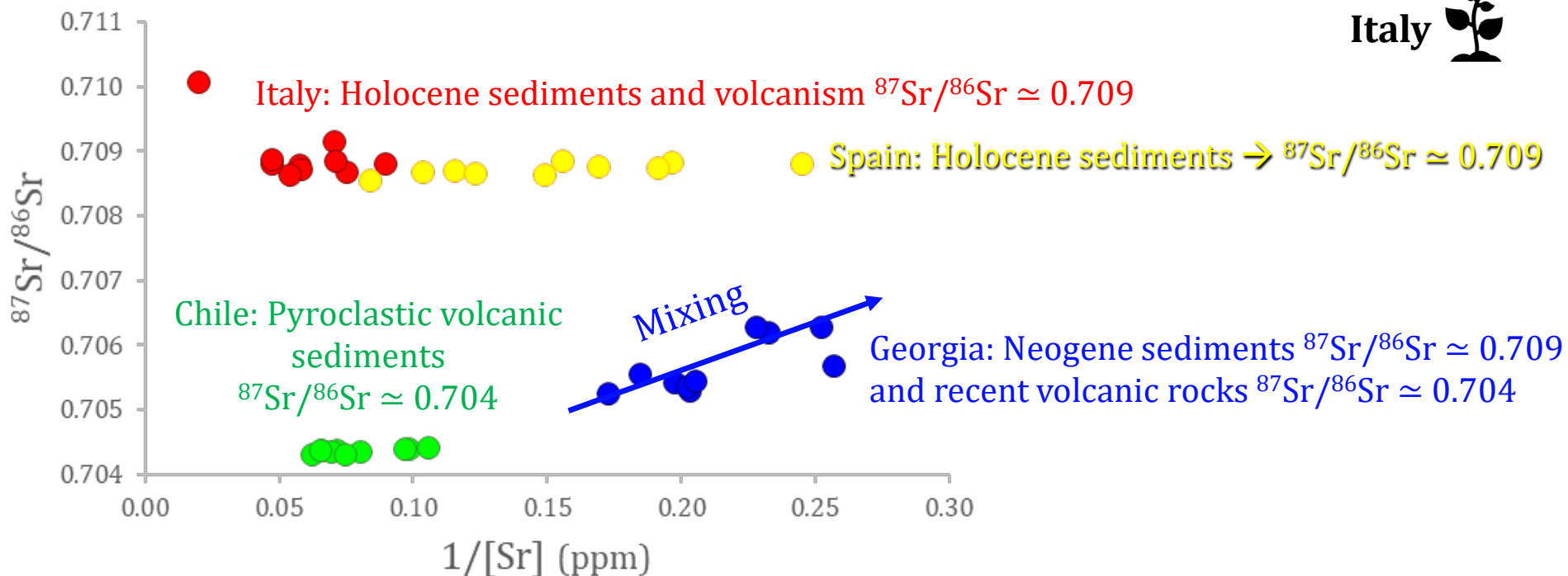
RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

ISSUE: FERTILIZERS can modify N, S and Sr isotope ratios

Georgia, Chile, Spain



Italy



- $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ values does not seem to be influenced by the fertilizers and agree with the Geogenic factors.
- $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ discriminates Chile and Georgia samples from Spain and Italy samples.

RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS

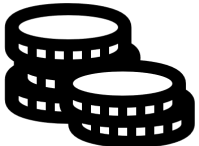
New PLS-DA model including ONLY relevant variables and variables NOT influenced by other factors such as fertilization and affordable for routine analysis.

✘ $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ excluded because it but it is **AFFECTED** by the fertilizers.

✘ $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ excluded because it does not discriminate among samples.

✘ $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excluded because it does not discriminate among samples.

✘ $\delta^2\text{H}$ excluded because it does not discriminate among samples.

$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ →  → Can't apply routinely or for screening

✓ **SELECTED VARIABLES: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic acid)
 $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic acid)**

VARIABLE SELECTION RESULTS: PLS-DA GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN MODEL

Selected variables: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic acid) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic acid)

PLS-DA

n= 40; 4 LV; RMSEcv= 0.376; $Q^2= 0,448$

	n	Chile	Georgia	Italy	Spain	No Class	% Correct
Chile	10	7	0	0	0	3	70
Georgia	10	0	10	0	0	0	100
Italy	10	0	0	9	0	1	90
Spain	10	0	0	1	8	1	80
Total	40	7	10	10	8	5	85

Relevant variables (**positive** and **negative**):

Chile: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ oleic, $\delta^2\text{H}$ linoleic

Georgia: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$

Italy: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ oleic, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ linoleic

Spain: $\delta^2\text{H}$ oleic and palmitic

VARIABLE SELECTION RESULTS: PLS-DA GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN MODEL

Selected variables: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic acid) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic acid)

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Spain	10	0	0	1	8	1	80
Total	40	7	10	10	8	5	85

1 misclassified sample
5 not classified
34 correctly classified



97.1% correctly classified from the classified samples

Relevant variables (**positive** and **negative**):

Chile: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ oleic, $\delta^2\text{H}$ linoleic

Georgia: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$

Italy: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ oleic, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ linoleic

Spain: $\delta^2\text{H}$ oleic and palmitic

VARIABLE SELECTION RESULTS: PLS-DA GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN MODEL

Selected variables: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic acid) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic acid)

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1 misclassified sample
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34 correctly classified



97.1% correctly classified from the classified samples

Relevant variables (**positive** and **negative**):

Chile: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ oleic, $\delta^2\text{H}$ linoleic

Georgia: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$

Italy: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ oleic, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ linoleic

Spain: $\delta^2\text{H}$ oleic and palmitic

13% samples not classified



PLS-DA with $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$

RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS: PLS-DA GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN MODEL

Selected variables: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic acid) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic acid), $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$

PLS-DA

n= 40; 4 LV; RMSEcv= 0.336; $Q^2= 0,617$

	n	Chile	Georgia	Italy	Spain	No Class	% Correct
Chile	10	10	0	0	0	0	100
Georgia	10	0	10	0	0	0	100
Italy	10	1	0	8	1	0	80
Spain	10	0	0	0	9	1	90
Total	40	11	10	8	10	1	92.5

Relevant variables (**positive** and **negative**):

Chile: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$

Georgia: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$

Italy: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ linoleic, $\delta^2\text{H}$ oleic and palmitic

Spain: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$ oleic and palmitic

RELEVANT VARIABLES RESULTS: PLS-DA GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN MODEL

Selected variables: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic acid) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic acid), $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$

PLS-DA

n= 40; 4 LV; RMSEcv= 0.336; $Q^2= 0,617$

	n	Chile	Georgia	Italy	Spain	No Class	% Correct
Chile	10	10	0	0	0	0	100
Georgia	10	0	10	0	0	0	100
Italy	10	1	0	8	1	0	80
Spain	10	0	0	0	9	1	90
Total	40	11	10	8	10	1	92.5

2 misclassified samples
1 not classified
37 correctly classified



94.9% correctly classified from the classified samples

Relevant variables (**positive** and **negative**):

Chile: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$

Georgia: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$

Italy: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ linoleic, $\delta^2\text{H}$ oleic and palmitic

Spain: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$ oleic and palmitic

$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ apply to few dubious samples, or as quality control checks

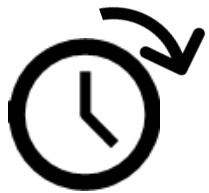
In this PRELIMINARY study, multiple isotopic analysis have been evaluated as hazelnut geographical origin tools:

$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ can discriminate samples according to their origin but is **influenced by fertilization**.

$\delta^{34}\text{S}$ does not seem to be influenced by the fertilizers but did **not** provide **discrimination** among samples.

$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ does not seem to be influenced by the fertilizers, can **discriminate** among **samples**, but is too **expensive** to be applied routinely.

Combining $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and fatty acids $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^2\text{H}$, promising results are obtained, achieving **85%** of correct classification in internal validation.



NEXT STEP : $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic, stearic) $\delta^2\text{H}$ (linoleic, oleic, palmitic) of a large sample set (> 200 hazelnuts) to prove its suitability as a hazelnut geographical origin authentication method.

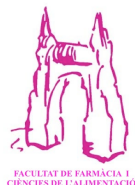


Acknowledgements

This work was developed in the context of the project **Project PID2020-117701RB TRACENUTS** funded by **MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033**.

Special thanks to **ISO-FOOD** for the **Young Scientist Support**.

This work was also supported by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities [grant number FPU20/01454]. Grant RYC-2017-23601 funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by “ESF Investing in your future”.



THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!



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