

“Olive Oil Polyphenols Contribute to the Protection of Blood Lipids from Oxidative Stress” AND THE FATE OF EC REG. 432/2012: ARE THE BASIC TERMS AND THE FIGURES ANY CLEARER NOW?



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Izola, Slovenia

PEDANIUS DIOSCORIDES (De Materia Medica) 40-90 AD



MOTTO 1

*There's been rumors of war and wars that have been
The meaning of life has been lost in the wind
And some people thinkin' that the end is close by
S'tead of learnin' to live they are learning to die.
Let me die in my footsteps
Before I go down under the ground.*

- Bob Dylan – Let Me Die in My Footsteps (1963)

MOTTO 2

The philosophers have only *interpreted* the world, in various ways; **the point, however, is to *change* it.**

- Karl Marx – Theses on Feuerbach, XI (tr. from 1888 ed.)

BIOPHENOLS (BP)

HC EU 432/2012 [EC, 2012]

**Relevant entry number: 1333,
1368, 1639, 1696, 2865**

**“Olive Oil Polyphenols
Contribute to the Protection of
Blood Lipids from Oxidative
Stress”**

Conditions of use of the Claim

The claim may be used only for olive oil which contains at least **5 mg of hydroxytyrosol and its derivatives (e.g. oleuropein complex and tyrosol) per 20 g of olive oil.**

In order to bear the claim information shall be given to the consumer that the beneficial effect is obtained with a daily intake of 20 g of olive oil".

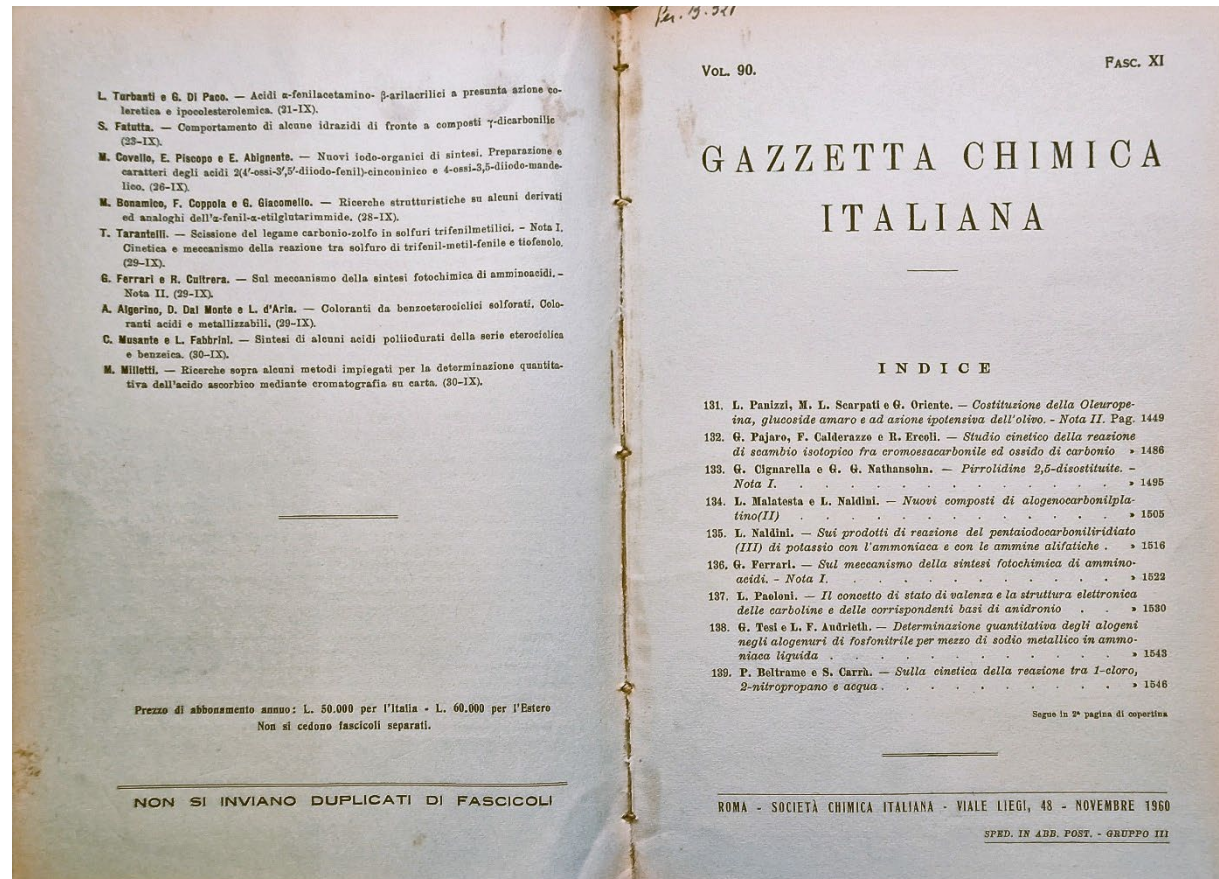
OPUS PRÆTERITUM

Why do we think we can comment on the BP riddle?

- **Biophenols** research 1995 –
- In the validation ring for IOC method *Determination of biophenols* (2007)
- **Accredited** according to ISO 17025
- GREX IOC from 2001 – sensorics & chemistry
- GREX EU from 2006
- Horizont 2020 OLEUM Project: Sensorics & BP & TAG composition
- Work with prof. dr. **Maria Tsimidou** & dr. **Nikolaos Nenadis**(AUTH, BP Oleum)

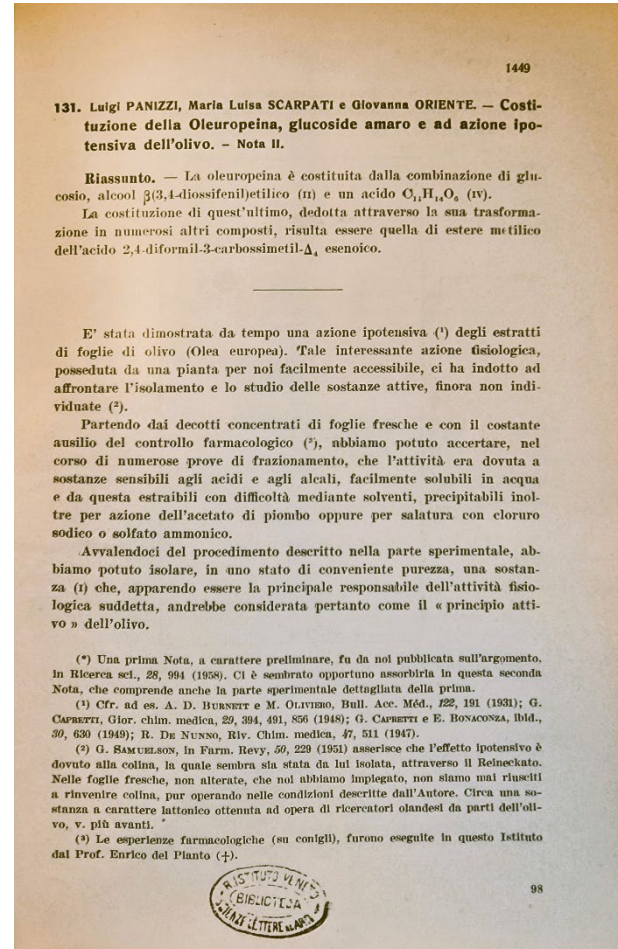
WHO IS GUILTY?

- Hommage to Luigi Panizzi [PANIZZI et al., 1960]



WHO IS GUILTY?

Costituzione della Oleuropeina, glucoside amaro e ad azione ipotensiva dell'olivo



WHAT ARE BP IN (E)VOO?

- They are ***aromatic compounds*** with one or more hydroxyl groups. Phenol substances in wine area and their research caused the term polyphenols to spread to olives and (unfortunately) remained there. Just like *Indians* or *Russian tea* ...
- In olive tree and in the family *Oleaceae*, BPs are ***secoiridoids*** of monoterpenoid origin, linked to a glucose unit (OLE, LIG).
- They are mainly represented in the olive *mesocarp* and the *leaves*...

Why are they there? Above all, their function is defensive. *Oleuropein* releases phytoalexins and thus protects the olive.

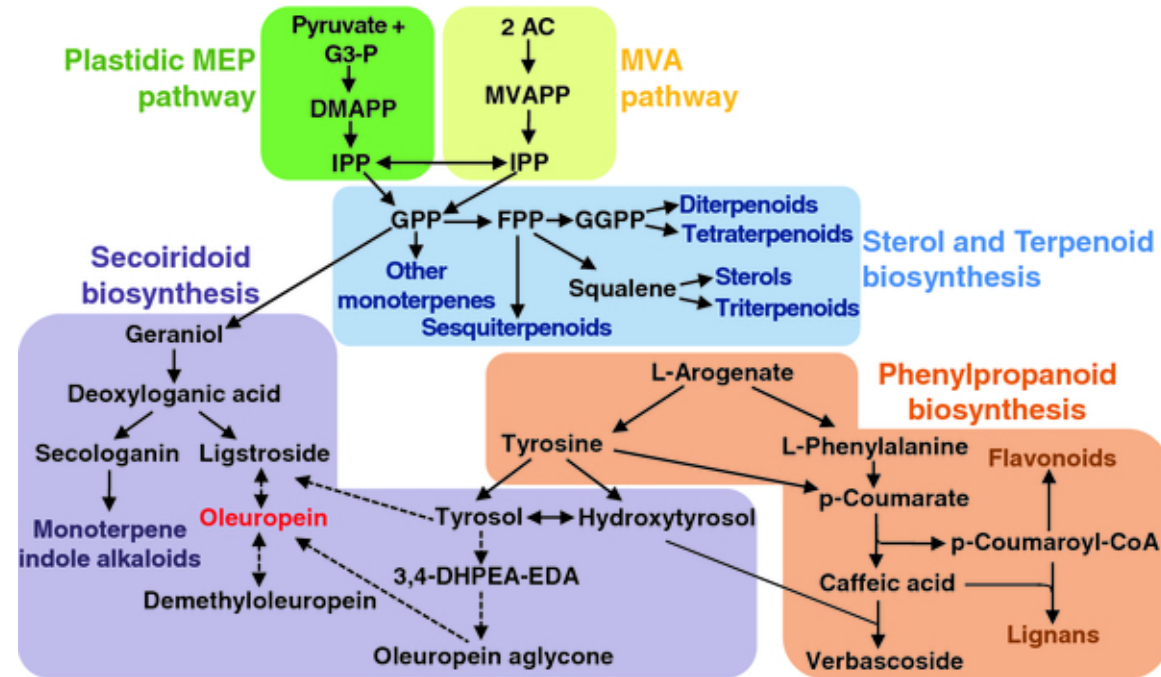
[Alagna et al., 2012]

BIOPHENOLS

Biogenesis of BP?

- From mevalonic acid pathway (MVAP) thru geranyl diphosphate (GPP)
- Intra conversions – **Lig – OLE and their derivatives!**

[Alagna et al., 2012]



BP ARE MORE THAN ONE!

27 HPLC separable molecules: 1P-1M Red ones are secoiridoids

Hydroxytyrosol

Tyrosol

Vanillic acid

Caffeic acid

Vanillin

Para-coumaric acid

Hydroxytyrosyl acetate

Ferulic acid

Ortho-coumaric acid

Decarboxymethyl oleuropein aglycone, oxidised dialdehyde form

Decarboxymethyl oleuropein aglycone, dialdehyde form

Oleuropein

Oleuropein aglycone, dialdehyde form

Tyrosyl acetate

Decarboxymethyl ligstroside aglycone, oxidised dialdehyde form

Decarboxymethyl ligstroside aglycone, dialdehyde form

Pinoresinol

1-acetoxy-pinoresinol

Cinnamic acid

Ligstroside aglycone, dialdehyde form

Oleuropein aglycone, oxidised aldehyde and hydroxylic form

Luteolin

Oleuropein aglycone, aldehyde and hydroxylic form

Ligstroside aglycone, oxidised aldehyde and hydroxylic form

Apigenin

Methyl-luteolin

Ligstroside aglycone, aldehyde and hydroxylic form

[CONTE, 2022]

BIOPHENOLS

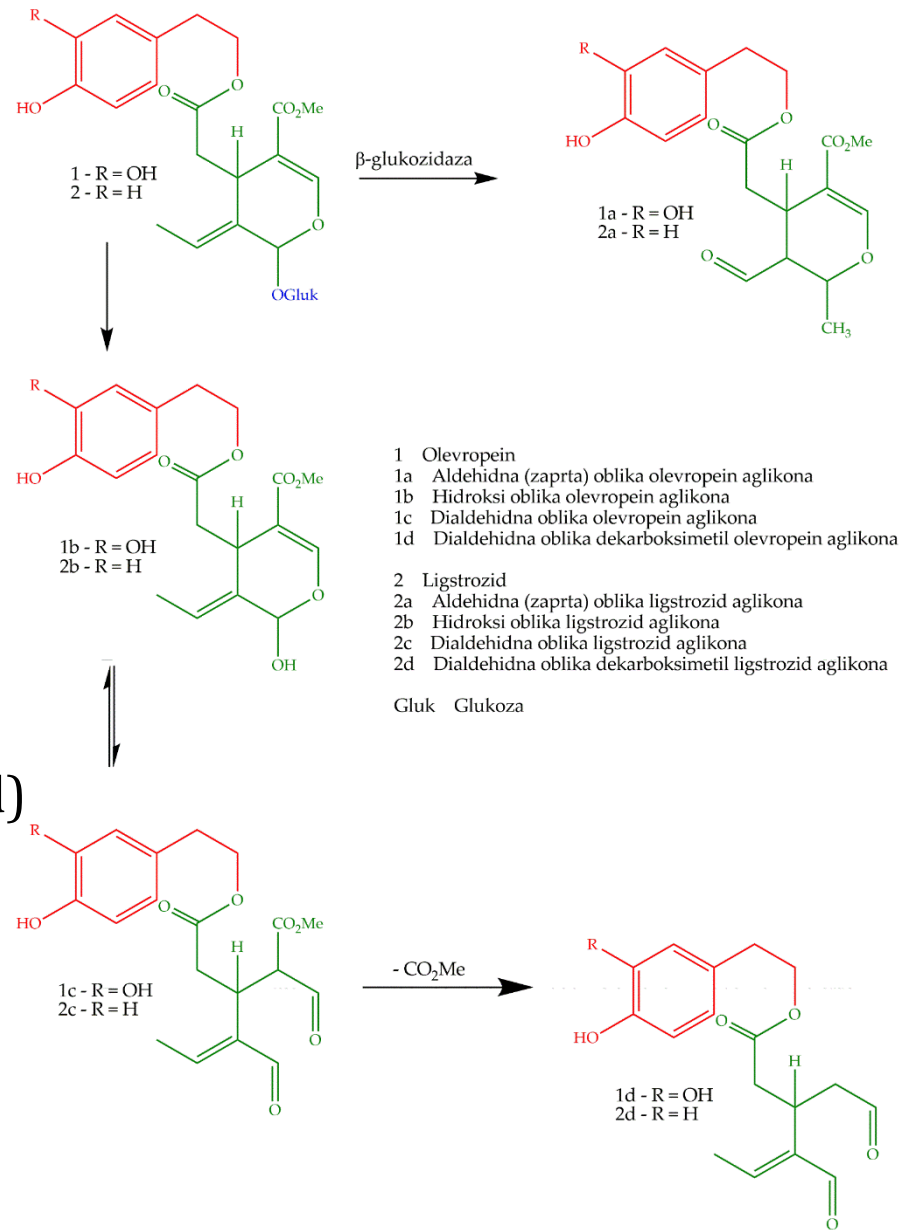
2 Main: LIG & OLE

- Derivatives
- Or (Conversion products)

ARE SHOWN

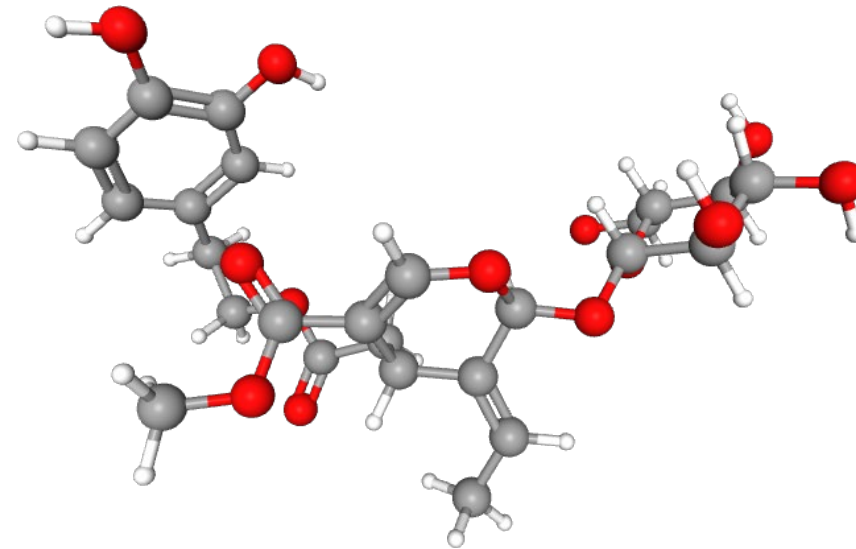
The final ones (not shown, in red)
are TyrOH and Tyr.

[PODGORNIK at al., 2021]



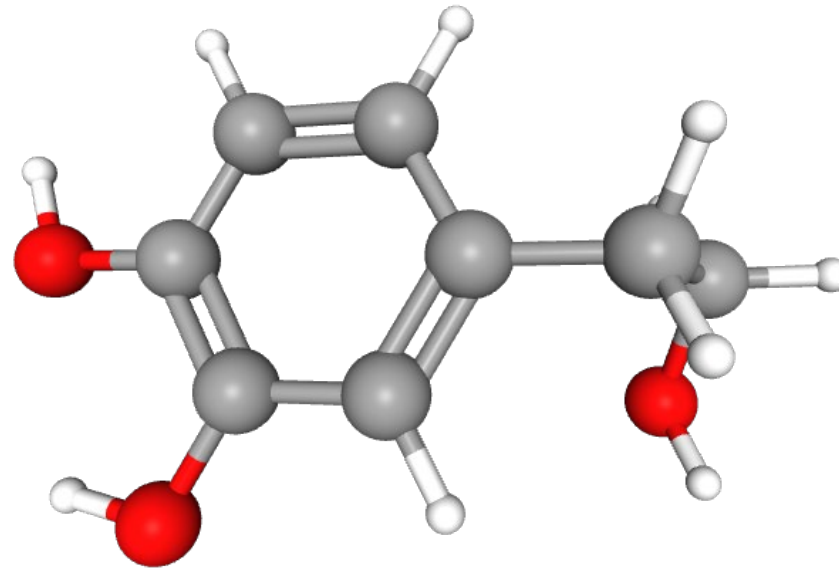
BP – formulas

- A. **OLE** and **LIG**
- B. TyrOH + Tyr
- C. Oleacein + Oleocanthal
- D. OLE-Agly + **LIG-Agly**
- E. Oleomissional + Oleocoronal
- F. Oleuropeindial + Ligstrodiol



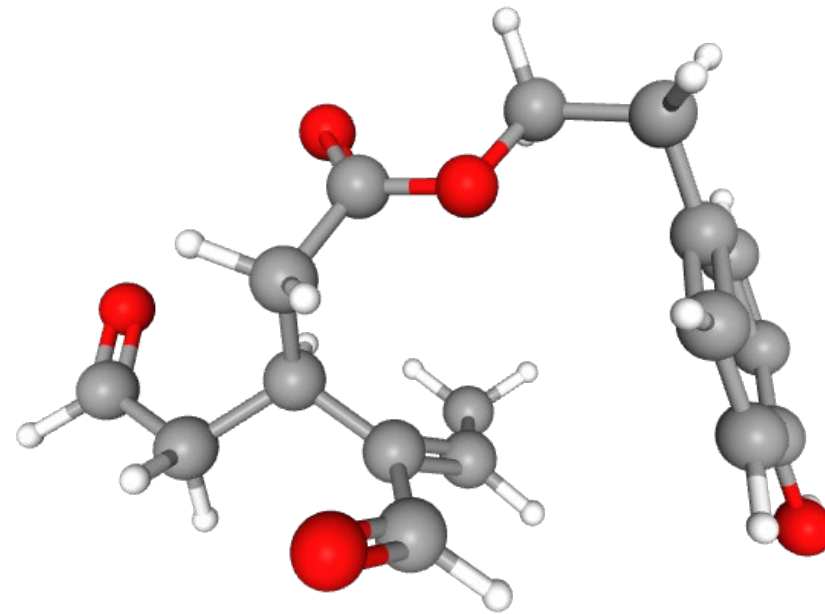
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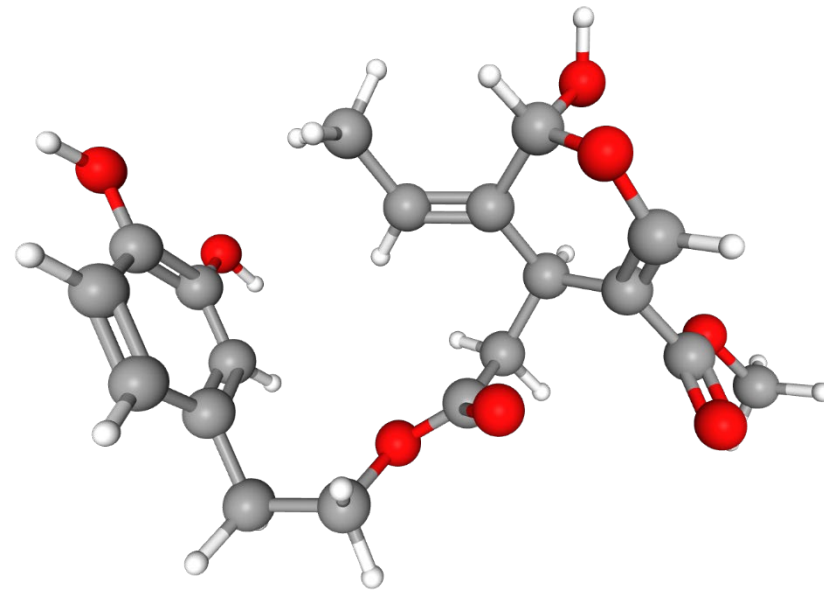
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its derivatives**

**(e.g. oleuropein complex
and tyrosol)**

per 20 g of olive oil.

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**“Olive Oil Polyphenols
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**And Pandora’s Box
was opened!**

Conditions of use of the Claim

The claim may be used only for
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EFSA SCIENTIFIC OPINION BASIS

- EFSA's SO [SCIENTIFIC..., 2011] was based on 16 references
- Mostly medical substantiation...
- With analytical details only 4 (in red)
- Only 2 among them [DE LA TORRE-CARBOT et al., 2010] & [WEINBRENNER et al., 2004] with AMD
- Only ONE relevant (EVOO!) with cited references with correct and exact, and useful BP terminology

EFSA SCIENTIFIC OPINION LITERATURE BASIS

Bonanome A, Pagnan A, Caruso D, Toia A, Xamin A, Fedeli E, Berra B, Zamburlini A, Ursini F and Galli G, 2000. Evidence of postprandial absorption of olive oil phenols in humans. *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*, **10**, 111– 120.

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THE ONLY RELEVANT REFERENCE FOR (E)VOO ANALYSIS IS

[DE LA TORRE-CARBOT et al., 2005] and it says:

- Many studies have provided good information, and some of them have helped to **clarify** the **structures** of some **phenolic compounds** in oil.
- Nevertheless, because of the **complexity** of the wide group of **secoiridoids**, many of these phenolic compounds in OO remain **unidentified**.
- It is **difficult** to **compare data** within the literature, because of the lack of consistency: information is not only incomplete but sometimes contradictory as well.

THE ONLY RELEVANT REFERENCE FOR (E)VOO ANALYSIS

IT says as well:

- **Nine basic models** of **ligstroside** and **oleuropein** aglycons were found in the bibliography. Each model shares the same elenolic acid derivative ring structure.
- With **final** forms **TyrOH & Tyr** included
- Therefore: **OLE & LIG DERIVATIVES** are/were known at the time of SO! (So why ... &)

SOME SCIENTIFIC REACTIONS TO THE HEALTH CLAIM

- The term '**olive polyphenols**' is not the most accurate since only high-quality virgin olive oils (VOO) contain significant amounts of **oleuropein** and **ligstroside aglycones** and their conversion products.
- Also, the term '**olive oil**' is **generic** and does not correspond to any dietary category.
- The inappropriate term 'polyphenols', which does not correlate with any of the **secoiridoids** in VOO and which are the main reason for the health claim.

[MASTRALEXI et al., 2014; TSIMIDOU et al., 2018; TSIMIDOU et al., 2019]

MINUTES OF THE GREX 00 CHEM

(link AnW-PolW)

Meeting was held at EC, AGRI, G4, subgroup olive oil chemists on 12 and 13 September 2017

- Point 11.1: Information and exchange of views on the health claim related to olive oil EU Regulation No 432/2012
- with the participation of Ms. Sabine Pelsser and M. Athanasos Raikos (DG SANTE)



MINUTES OF THE GREX 00 CHEM

Lanfranco CONTE's intervention:

- The **inconsistency** of the claim itself for olive oil
- The uncertainty as regards the **phenolic compounds** to be determined
- The uncertainty as regards the **method** to be used for **determining** the **phenolic** compounds
- By then (2017), the IOC method was the **only official one** and was for the determination of the **total content** of polyphenols

Mrs. Pellser's reply:

- It is a Member states' issue – therefore, **MS must initiate** the **harmonization** process
- Future work – Oleum Project & IOC will take care of it.
 - (And they did, but ...)

THE ACTIVITIES AFTER

WERE **analytical** and not political

- They tried to interpret and „reinvent“ the initially erroneous HC wording
- They were based on two premises:
 - If we cannot separate all the BP forms
 - &
 - If we cannot calibrate all BP forms (even if separated)

THEN, it was thought

- Then we can hydrolyze the oil's BP, have only **Tyr** and **TyrOH as a analyte**, and quantify them, and the problem is solved (or almost ...)

THE HYDROLYTIC ACTIVITIES

- HydL of the oil → HPLC of TyrOH & Tyr (HCl)
- HydL of the BP extract → HPLC of TyrOH & Tyr (H_2SO_4)
- HydL of the BP extract → GC of silanized TyrOH & Tyr (AcCl)
- HydL of the BP extract → UHPLC of TyrOH & Tyr⁻ with Δ (H_2SO_4)
(OLEUM Project approach)

OUR Opinion: consolidate them!

NoEX vs. EX: **EX** ✓

HCl HydL vs. H_2SO_4 HydL: **HCl HydL** ✓

HPLC vs. (U)HPLC: **HPLC** ✓

$\Delta \Sigma(\text{TyrOH}+\text{Tyr})$ vs. $\Sigma(\text{TyrOH}+\text{Tyr})$: **✓ $\Delta \Sigma(\text{TyrOH}+\text{Tyr})$**



THE ANALYTICAL CONSEQUENCES

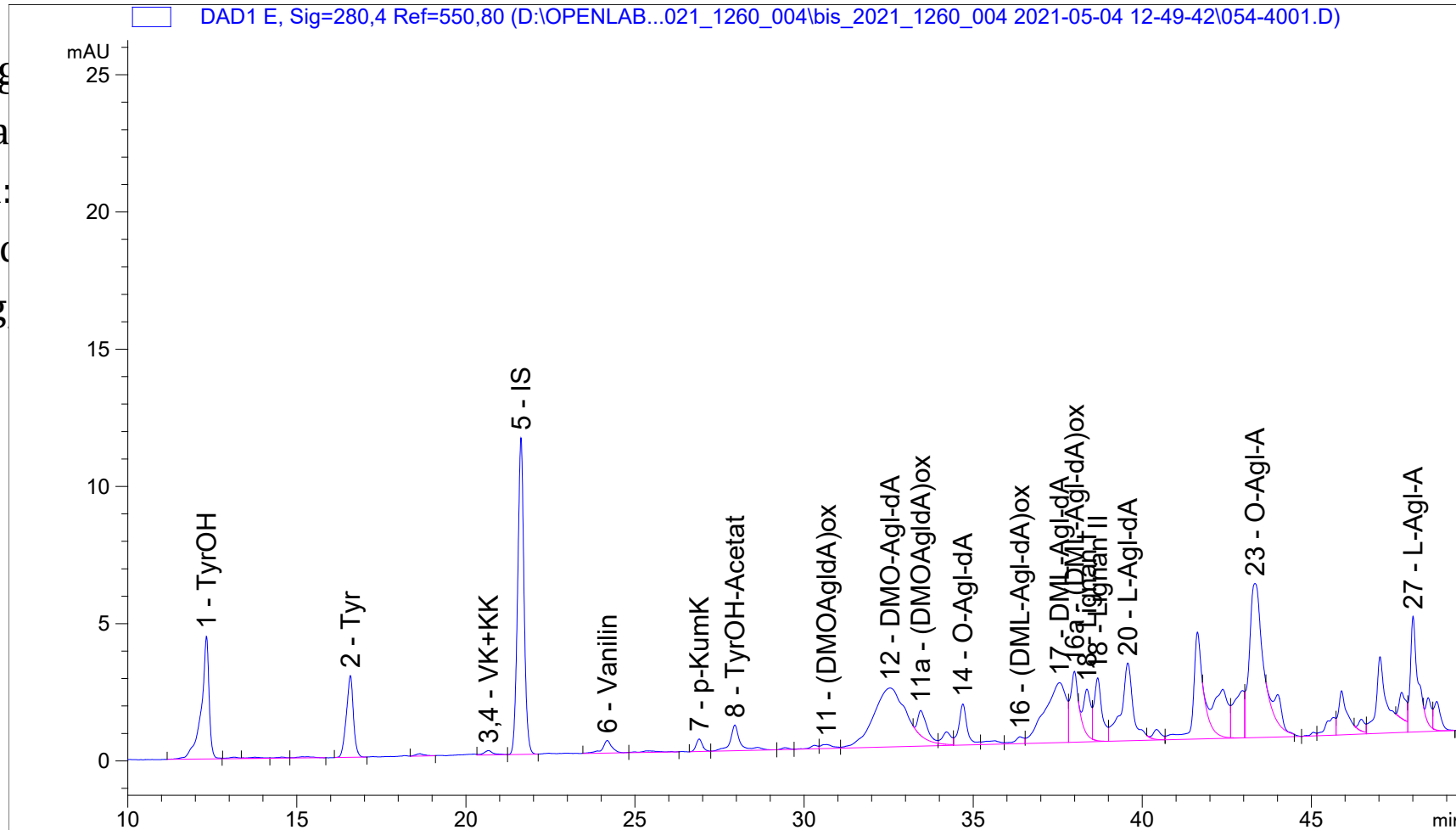
The research continued in trying to correlate the REAL BP content according to 432/2012 (which is ???) with the results of non-hydrolytic (U)HPLC, GC, and qNMR techniques:

- The IOC solution: trying to solve the problem with an alternative official method [TSIMIDOU, 2022; IOC, 2022]
- The Purcaro-Conte-Mariani solution: trying to find the correlation with the GC approach [PURCARO et al., 2014]
- The qNMR approach and reinterpretation of the IOC method [STAREC et al., 2021]

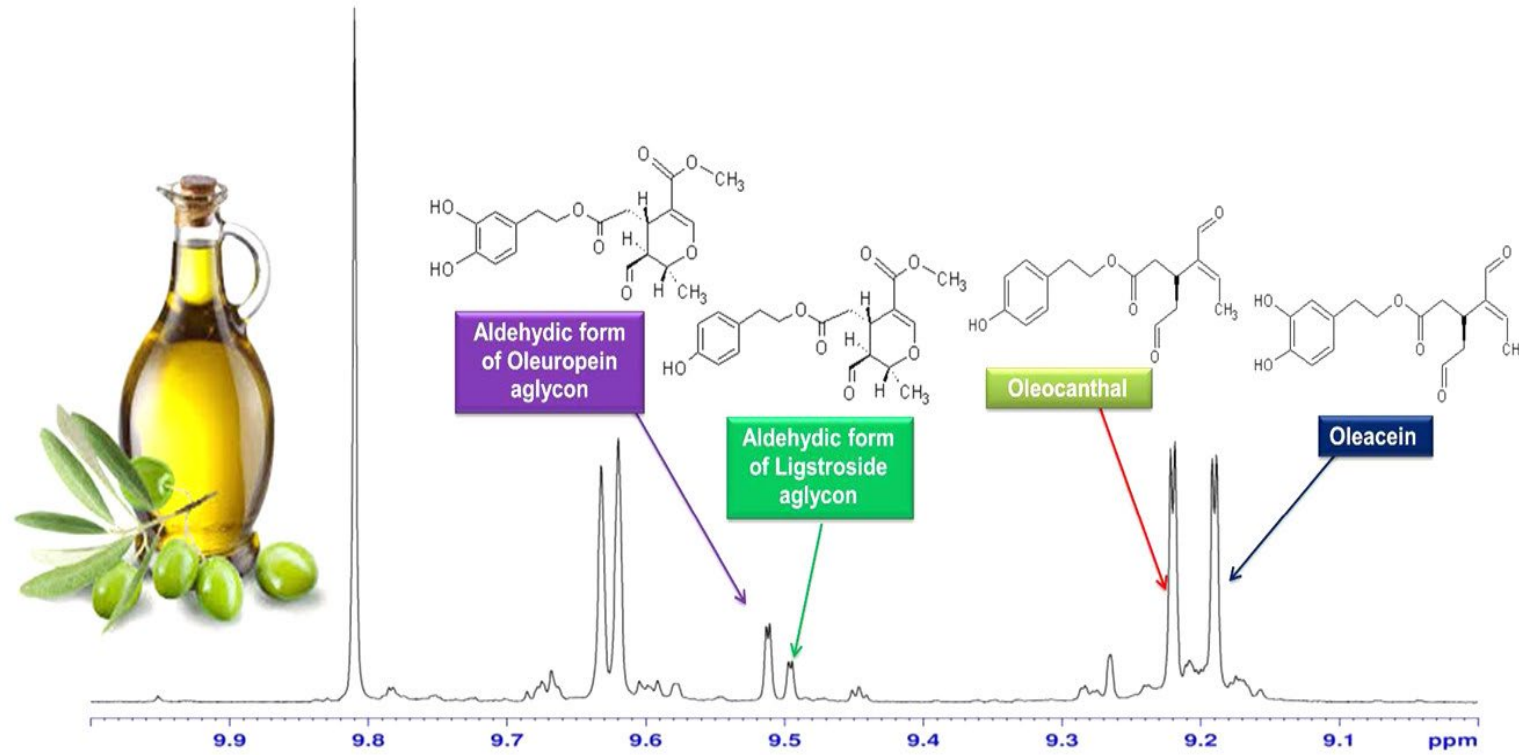
We need to rethink the original official IOC method

HPLC of BP by IOC method

- Kromatog
- Ekstra
- Ločba
- Detek
- 30 mg



[KARKOULA et al., 2014]



DOI: (10.1021/jf404421p)

FINAL REMARK – HOW TO SOLVE THE GAP – with a little help of MSR

- Instead of reinventing the possible analytical approach, let's **correct** the **BP wording** and include the exact **BP terminology** in the **EU regulation**.
- And then ... solidify the analitics



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THE ANSWER NOW IS

- The basic terms ARE STILL CLEAR ONLY TO THE FOOD CHEMISTS

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- The figures, unfortunately, follow the verse from the LC song:

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THE ANSWER NOW IS

- The basic terms ARE STILL CLEAR ONLY TO THE FOOD CHEMISTS
- The figures, unfortunately, follow the verse from the LC song:

*Whatever happened to my eyes
happened to your beauty!
Whatever happened to your beauty happened to me.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors and their LAB express deep gratitude to

Angelo Hlaj

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who have helped promote the Istrian PDO Extra virgin Olive Oil.

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