

Producing Safe and Compliant Extracts and Isolates of Cannabinoids using Eco-Sustainable Separation Technologies

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Natural Products As Medicines

1355 medicines approved (1981-2010), 50% contribution from natural products



Pacific Yew
Tree
TAXOI



CYCLOSPORIN



Willow Bark ASPIRIN



Opium Poppy MORPHINE



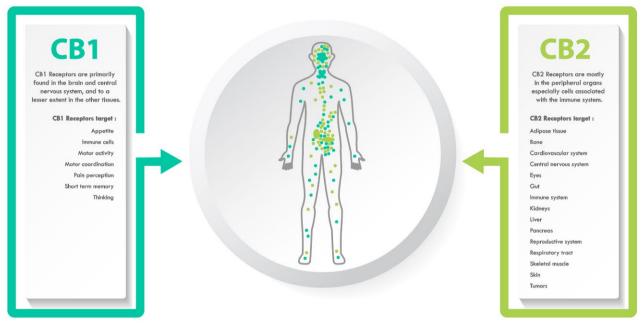
Bugula Neritina BRYOSTATIN



Cannabis Sativa EPIDIOLEX

Newman, D.J.; Cragg, G.M. J. Nat. Prod. 2012, 75, 311

Human Endocannabinoid System



Pertwee, R.G.; Br. J. Pharmacol., 2008, 153, 199

Human Endocannabinoid System

Endocannabinoids (generated inside the body):

- Anandamine (CB1)
- 2-Arachidonoylglycerol (CB2)

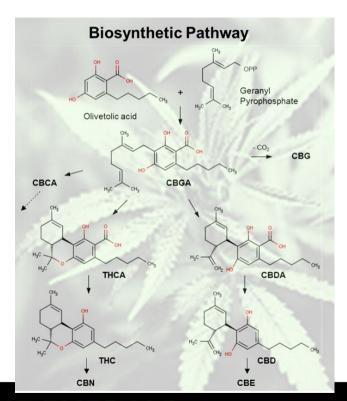
Phytocannabinoids (generated in plant):

• Δ^9 -THC, CBD, CBG, CBN and many more

Pertwee, R.G.; Br. J. Pharmacol., 2008, 153, 199



Hemp Products – SFE/SFC



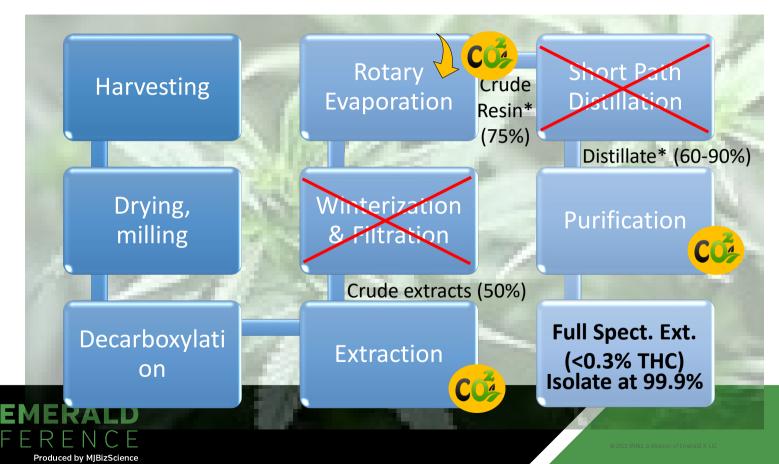
Hemp/Cannabis Plants

- Rich source of medicinal compounds
- >150 cannabinoid, 500 compounds
- Full spectrum extracts most desirable
- Compliance: < 0.3% THC (USA)

SFE yields natural, intact extracts with no toxic solvent

SFC excels in separating cannabinoids to produce safe and compliant ingredients

Hemp Processing



CO₂ Extraction (SFE)

SFE is a safe, non-flammable and efficient process using carbon dioxide as a solvent

Benefits of SFE

- Intact natural extracts
- Fractional separation
- No use of most toxic organic solvents
- FDA approved Green solvent
- Lower operation costs High ROI









One-Machine – Many Application

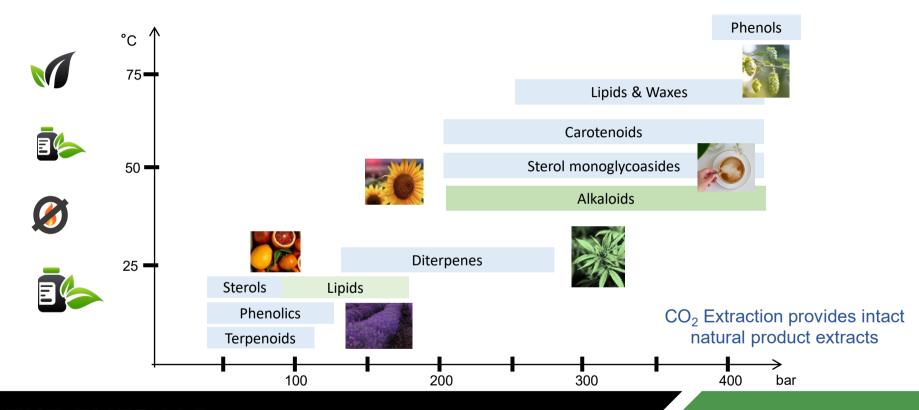








Tunable Properties of CO₂



CO₂ Purification (SFC)

SFC is another form of liquid chromatography that happens to use CO₂ as the mobile phase

Benefits of SFC

- High Resolution
- Faster than HPLC (3-10 times)
- No use of most toxic organic solvents
- FDA approved Green solvent
- Lower operation costs High ROI



One-Machine – Many Applications

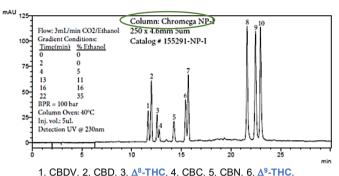


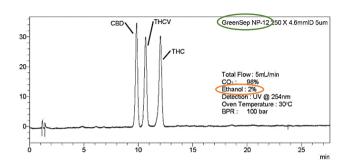




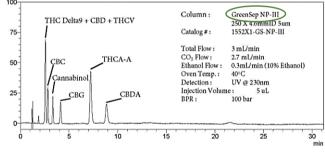


Cannabinoids Separation



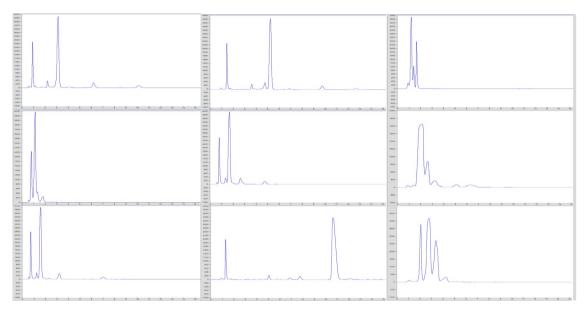


- 7. CBG. 8. Δ⁹-THCA. 9. CBDA. 10. CBGA.
- **Challenges with stationary phase:**
- Good separation, robustness
- High loading, low usage of co-solvent
- Not expensive



Data provided by ES Industries

CO₂ Separation Case Studies: CBD Sample

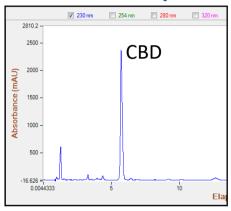


Fast and intelligent method development to find good separation conditions; optimal T, P, flow, solvent and stationary phases

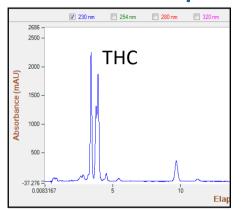


CO₂ Separation Case Studies: CBD Sample

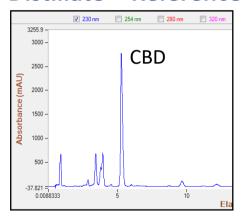
Distillate Sample



Reference Sample

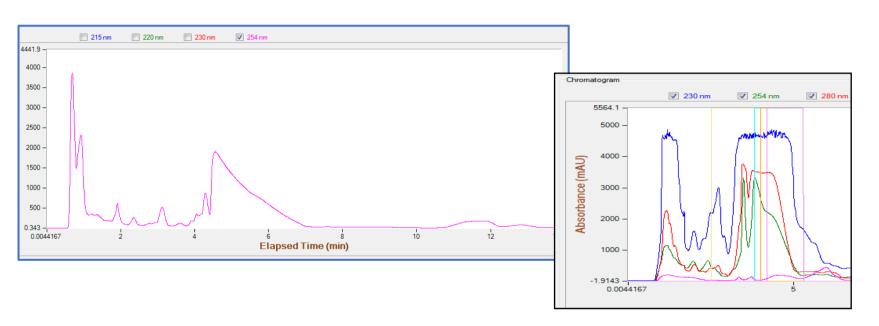


Distillate + Reference



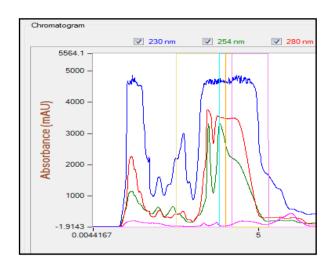
- Many unknown peaks (compounds) in distillate sample
- Reference sample contains many other peaks
- Acid form of cannabinoid(s) still present; inefficient decarboxylation

SFC Scale-up Studies: CBD Sample





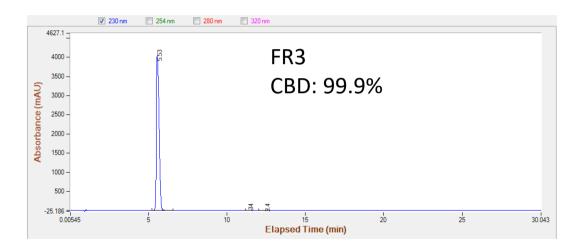
SFC Scale-up Studies: CBD Sample



5% Fthanol Productivity: 2.0 Kg/kg SP.Day

Four fractions collected (CBD purity)

- Fraction 1: 49%
- Fraction 3: 99.9%
- Fraction 2: 99.9% Fraction 4: 99.9%



SFC – Cost of Owning

Remediation of Hemp Oil at a Productivity of 3-4 kg per 24h

	SFC	HPLC
Total Flow Rate / Column	120 L/H ; 10 cm ID	60 L/H ; 15 cm ID
Solvents	CO ₂ :EtOH (95:5)	EtOH:H ₂ O (85:15)
Solvent Consumption per 24 hours	144 L *	1440 L
Cost of Solvents per 24 hours	\$1,030	\$10,200
Cost of Solvents per month (5 days)	\$25,750	\$204,000

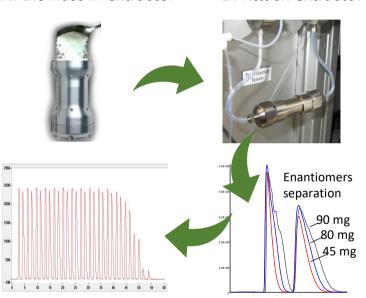


SFx CO₂ Technologies

In-line Extraction-Purification

A. Biomass in extractor

B. Attach extractor



Extraction or Purification

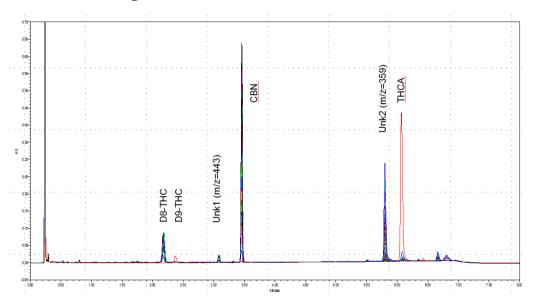


One instrument operating in 2 modes

Cannabinoids Isomers

 $\Delta 9$ -THC, $\Delta 8$ -THC, $\Delta 10$ -THC, $\Delta 7$ -THC

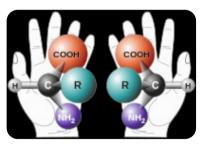
Monitoring conversion of THCA to D8-THC



Cannabinoids Chirality

What is Chirality?

- The configuration of an asymmetric, optically active chemical compound.
- Chiral compounds have the same number of atoms arranged differently in space



Chiral centers

OH

HO

CBD

For terpenes chirality see Micalizzi et. Al., *Molecules* **2021**, 26, 1588.

Benefits of CO₂ Technologies









Cost Effective

Fast Automated

Efficient and High Productivity

Non-toxic non-flammable







"One machine – Multiple Use"



Sustainable Minimize energy used

Summary and Future Directions

 Compliant and consistent extracts and individual cannabinoids formulation needed to ensure consumer safety



 CO2 Extraction (SFE) yield intact, natural extracts with no toxic solvent



• CO2 Separation (SFC) excels in analyzing and separating cannabinoids and other natural products. No toxic solvent left



• More detailed analysis of isomers ($\Delta 8$, $\Delta 9$, $\Delta 10$ -THC) including stereoisomers (chirality) possible by SFC





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