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# **Matrix Solid‑Phase Dispersion Combined with GC–MS/MS for the Determination of Organochlorine Pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Marketed Seafood**

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**Abstract** An analysis method based on matrix solid-phase dispersion (MSPD) and gas chromatography tandem mass spectrometry was developed and applied for the analysis for organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the marketed seafood such as fish, shrimp and shellfsh. The parameters of the method including the type and amount of the absorbent, as well as the type and volume of the elution solution were optimized. The recoveries were between 70 and 120% with RSDs less than 20%, and the LODs and LOQs were 0.011–0.046 and 0.037–0.153 ng  $g^{-1}$  under optimized conditions. The results showed that most of the OCPs and PCBs were detectable in the marketed samples with the average concentration range of 0.722–14.206 and 0.034–1.184 ng  $g^{-1}$ , respectively. Among the 21 OCPs detected, DDTs had a relatively higher concentration level. And in the PCBs, the concentration of PCB28 was over 45% of the total PCBs determined in all the samples. The developed method was simple, fast and effective, and could successfully be applied for trace amount of OCPs and PCBs determination in seafood matrixes.

**Keywords** Organochlorine pesticides · Polychlorinated biphenyls · Matrix solid-phase dispersion · Seafood

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# **Introduction**

Organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) are a class of synthetic insecticides which were used worldwide for agriculture and public health since 1940s with characteristics of broad spectrum, high efficiency and low cost  $[1]$  $[1]$ . Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of chlorinated organic compounds derived from biphenyl and widely applied in industry since 1930s as dielectric fuid, lubricating oils and additives in capacitors, transformers, plastics, paints, fame retardants, etc. [[2–](#page-10-1)[4\]](#page-10-2). Some of OCPs and PCBs are persistent pollutants which are still widespread in the environment and cause a global threat though banned and restricted for many years [\[5](#page-10-3), [6](#page-10-4)]. OCPs and PCBs are hydrophobic and chemically stable, making them easily accumulated in the adipose tissues of animals and human causing variety of adverse health effects such as neurological, immunological, reproductive disorders and carcinogenicity [\[7](#page-11-0)[–9](#page-11-1)].

Seafood is a term of aquatic products for human consumption including aquatic animals and plants from marine or freshwater origin [[10\]](#page-11-2). A variety of contaminants can enter aquatic environment via various ways, resulting in seafood contamination. Most of the animal seafood such as fish, shrimp, and shellfish contain high level of oil matters which makes the pretreatment procedure very difficult for the residue analysis of hydrophobic pollutants such as OCPs and PCBs.

Matrix solid-phase dispersion (MSPD) is a simple and efficient pretreatment method which was introduced by Barker in 1989 [\[11](#page-11-3)], and since then it has been widely used for isolation and extraction of environmental contaminants from various complex semi-solid or solid samples such as fruits [\[12](#page-11-4)], vegetables [\[13](#page-11-5)] and animal tissues [\[14](#page-11-6)] because of the superiority that makes tissue homogenization,

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precipitation, centrifugation, fltration and the sample transfer in one step. In MSPD, the sample was gently grinded with the solid adsorbent  $(C_{18}$ , silica gel, etc.), making samples disrupt into tiny fragments scattered on the surface of the solid adsorbent to get better surface area. After the mixture was transferred into an empty SPE column or needle tube, the target compounds were eluted with appropriate solvent. Some traditional methods such as Soxhlet extraction need numerous steps, high volume of solvent and long analytical time [[15\]](#page-11-7). MSPD has many superiorities such as the mild extraction conditions, less operation steps, simple operate procedure, relatively less organic solvent, no need for expensive instrumentation, low cost and suitable for viscous samples [[16\]](#page-11-8).

There are some studies on the application of MSPD in the analysis of OCPs and PCBs in seafood, Lott HM developed MSPD method for the determination of 14 OCPs in oysters with recoveries of 66–84% [[17\]](#page-11-9). Lott HM also used MSPD method to detect the concentration of 14 OCPs in crayfsh, the recoveries were in the range of 55–118% [\[18](#page-11-10)]. Long AR applied MSPD method in the analysis of 9 OCPs in catfish muscle tissue, the recoveries ranged from 82 to 97% [\[19](#page-11-11)]. Shen ZL combined MSPD with accelerated solvent extraction (ASE) for the detection of OCPs in fish muscles, with the recoveries ranging from 91 to 104% [\[20](#page-11-12)]. Martínez A developed MSPD method for 7 PCBs analysis in turbot fsh muscle and dogfsh liver with recoveries above 75% [[21\]](#page-11-13). Ling YC applied MSPD method to ana-lyze 4 PCBs in fish with recoveries above 95% [\[22](#page-11-14)].

In this paper, a fast, simple, effective analysis method based on MSPD and GC–MS/MS for the detection of OCPs and PCBs in seafood was established. The infuencing parameters including the type and amount of absorbent, the type and volume of elution solution were optimized. The developed method was applied to determine the OCPs and PCBs in seafood such as fsh, shrimp and shellfsh purchased from local markets in Beijing, and the concentration and distribution of OCPs and PCBs were discussed.

## **Experimental**

## **Reagents and Standards**

Twenty-one OCPs (α-HCH, β-HCH, γ-HCH, δ-HCH, o,p′- DDE, p,p′-DDE, o,p′-DDD, p,p′-DDD, o,p′-DDT, p,p′- DDT, heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide, c, *trans*-chlordane, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, endosulfan I, endosulfan II, endosulfan sulfate, methoxychlor) mixed standard stock solution (each OCP at 100  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> in isooctane) and seven PCBs (IUPAC NO. 28, 52, 101, 118, 138, 153, 180) mixed standard stock solution (each PCB at 10  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> in isooctane) were purchased from AccuStandard (USA). Standard

working solution (each analyte at 1  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>) was prepared daily by appropriate dilution of aliquots of the standard stock solutions in acetone.

Mirex (100  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> in hexane), 2,4,5,6-tetrachlorom-xylene (TCMX, 100  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> in acetone) and PCB209 (100  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> in isooctane) standard solutions were purchased from AccuStandard (USA). TCMX and PCB209 were prepared in acetone as surrogate for all analytes at the concentration of 50 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, and mirex was prepared in isooctane as internal standard for all analytes at the concentration of 50 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>.

Dichloromethane, *n*-hexane, isooctane, acetone (HPLC grade) were purchased from Merck (Germany). Anhydrous sodium sulfate (analytical grade) was purchased from Beijing chemical works (China), heated at 150 °C for 5 h before use. Florisil (100–200 mesh) and neutral alumina (100–200 mesh) were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd (China), heated at 150 °C for 5 h before use. Silica gel (100–200 mesh) was purchased from Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co., Ltd (China), heated at 120 °C for 2 h before use.

## **Apparatus**

All sample extracts were analyzed by a TRACE GC Ultra gas chromatograph spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientifc, USA). Capillary column HP-5 MS (30 m  $\times$  0.25 mm  $\times$  0.25 µm, Agilent Technologies) was used for separation. 10-mL Empty solid-phase extraction columns and polypropylene frits (Agilent Technologies) were used for the MSPD procedure. MTN-2008 Termovap Sample Concentrator (Tianjin Automatic Science Instrument) and IKA T10 high speed homogenate machine (IKA) were used as well.

#### **Sample Preparation**

For the fsh, shrimp and shellfsh samples, 1 g of thawed muscle tissue was placed into a mortar and allowed to stand at room temperature for 10 min after adding 100 μL of surrogate solution (50 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>). Then, 6 g of neutral alumina was transferred into the mortar, and the mixture was gently blended with glass pestle until homogeneous powder was obtained. The mixture was introduced into a 10-mL empty solid-phase extraction column pre-placed with a polypropylene frit and 1 g of neutral alumina as a co-column adsorbent. Two pieces of round flter paper were placed on the top and plugged with a glass pestle gently. The column was eluted with *n*-hexane/dichloromethane (50/50, v/v), and 10 mL of the eluate was collected by gravitational force and evaporated to dryness by a gentle nitrogen stream. The residue was dissolved in the mixture solution consisting of 900  $\mu$ L of isooctane and 100  $\mu$ L of internal

standard solution, and then transferred to a sample vial for gas chromatographic analysis.

#### **Chromatographic analysis**

Helium (99.999%) was used as carrier gas and the fow rate was 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The oven temperature was programmed from 90 °C (2 min) to 200 °C at a rate of 15 °C min<sup>-1</sup>, held for 10 min, then raised to 270 °C at 15 °C min<sup>-1</sup>, held for 10 min. The temperature of the injector operated in the splitless mode was 270 °C and the injection volume was 1 μL. The temperature of the transfer line was 290 °C.

As for the mass spectra, compounds were fragmented with electron ionization (EI) with the temperature of ion source at 250 °C. Argon (99.999%) was used as collision gas and the pressure was set at 1.0 mTorr. Cycle time was set as 0.2 s. SRM mode was used for the quantitation and other parameters are given in Table [1](#page-2-0); the chromatograms of target compounds are shown in Figure S1. The acquisition and processing of data were carried out with Xcalibur™ software.

The internal standard method was used for quantifcation, TCMX and PCB209 were used as surrogate for all analytes, and mirex was used as internal standard for all analytes.

#### **Market Sample Collection**

To determine the concentration of the OCPs and PCBs in marketed seafood, grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idellus*), spotted silver carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*), crucian carp (*Carassius auratus*), little yellow croaker (*Larimichthys polyactis*), white shrimp (*Penaeus chinensis*), scallop (*Chlamys farreri*) and clam (*Ruditapes philippinarum*) were sampled from local markets or supermarkets in Beijing, and the information of the samples was listed in Table [2](#page-3-0). All the samples were moved back to laboratory within 3 h, and the muscle tissues were removed and

<span id="page-2-0"></span>**Table 1** SRM parameters for the OCPs and PCBs

Target compounds	Qualitation ion pair $(m/z)$	Collision energy (eV)	Quantitation ion pair $(m/z)$	Collision energy (eV)
$\alpha$ -HCH	$218.89 \rightarrow 182.91$	8	$216.89 \rightarrow 180.91$	8
$\beta$ -HCH	$218.89 \rightarrow 182.91$	8	$216.89 \rightarrow 180.91$	8
$\gamma$ -HCH	$218.89 \rightarrow 182.91$	8	$216.89 \rightarrow 180.91$	8
$\delta$ -HCH	$218.89 \rightarrow 182.91$	8	$216.89 \rightarrow 180.91$	8
Heptachlor	$336.84 \rightarrow 301.85$	12	$338.84 \rightarrow 265.87$	15
Heptachlor epoxide	$352.83 \rightarrow 252.88$	15	$288.86 \rightarrow 252.88$	15
Aldrin	$292.90 \rightarrow 257.91$	25	$292.90 \rightarrow 185.93$	25
Dieldrin	$278.91 \rightarrow 242.92$	10	$276.91 \rightarrow 240.92$	10
Endrin	$278.91 \rightarrow 242.92$	8	$280.91 \rightarrow 244.92$	8
Endosulfan sulfate	$271.88 \rightarrow 234.89$	15	$273.88 \rightarrow 238.89$	15
cis-Chlordane	$374.81 \rightarrow 267.87$	15	$372.81 \rightarrow 265.87$	18
trans-Chlordane	$374.81 \rightarrow 267.87$	15	$372.81 \rightarrow 265.87$	18
Endosulfan I	$271.88 \rightarrow 236.89$	15	$240.89 \rightarrow 205.91$	15
Endosulfan II	$271.88 \rightarrow 236.89$	15	$240.89 \rightarrow 205.91$	15
o,p'-DDE	$317.94 \rightarrow 245.95$	20	$245.95 \rightarrow 175.97$	25
$p, p'$ -DDE	$317.94 \rightarrow 245.95$	20	$245.95 \rightarrow 175.97$	25
o,p'-DDD	$236.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20	$234.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20
$p, p'$ -DDD	$236.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20	$234.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20
$o,p'$ -DDT	$236.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20	$234.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20
$p, p'$ -DDT	$236.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20	$234.97 \rightarrow 164.98$	20
Methoxychlor	$227.01 \rightarrow 184.08$	20	$227.01 \rightarrow 169.01$	20
PCB <sub>28</sub>	$257.96 \rightarrow 185.97$	20	$255.96 \rightarrow 185.97$	20
<b>PCB 52</b>	$291.92 \rightarrow 219.94$	20	$289.92 \rightarrow 219.94$	20
<b>PCB 101</b>	$323.88 \rightarrow 253.91$	20	$325.88 \rightarrow 255.91$	20
<b>PCB 118</b>	$325.88 \rightarrow 255.91$	20	$323.88 \rightarrow 253.91$	20
<b>PCB 138</b>	$357.84 \rightarrow 287.88$	25	$359.84 \rightarrow 289.87$	25
<b>PCB 153</b>	$357.84 \rightarrow 287.88$	25	$359.84 \rightarrow 289.87$	25
<b>PCB 180</b>	$391.81 \rightarrow 321.84$	25	$393.81 \rightarrow 323.84$	25

<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Table 2** The information of the seafood samples collected

Type		Number Characterization
Grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon <i>idellus</i> )	9	Herbivority, freshwater
Spotted silver carp (Aristichthys <i>nobilis</i> )	9	Predacity, freshwater
Crucian carp (Carassius auratus)	9	Omnivory, freshwater
Little yellow croaker ( <i>Larimich</i> - <i>thys polyactis</i> )	6	Predacity, marine
White shrimp (Penaeus chinensis)	8	Marine
Scallop (Chlamys farreri)	8	Marine
Clam (Ruditapes philippinarum)	6	Marine

grinded uniformly by high speed homogenate machine, then stored at  $-20$  °C.

# **Results and Discussion**

#### **Optimization of the MSPD Method**

All the optimizing experiments were performed with the muscle tissue sample of crucian carp, and the added concentration of the standard solution was 1.0 ng  $g^{-1}$ , three replicates were applied for each parameter, and the RSDs were in range of 0.3–16.9%.

#### *The Type of the Adsorbent*

Adsorbent plays an important role in MSPD procedure for supporting, adsorbing, and cleaning-up. The cellular structures of the samples can be disrupted by the adsorbent and the impurities such as water and lipophilic compounds can be solubilized in the adsorbent [\[23](#page-11-15)]. Therefore, the choice of an appropriate adsorbent is vital. In this research, forisil, silica gel, and neutral alumina were tested. The mass of adsorbent and sample were 6 and 1 g, the elution solvent was *n*-hexane/dichloromethane (50/50, v/v) and the volume of collected solution was 10 mL. Figure [1](#page-3-1) showed the recoveries using neutral alumina were better than using forisil and silica gel. Moreover, a more homogeneous and dry mixing powder was obtained when using neutral alumina during the blending procedure. Thus, neutral alumina was selected as adsorbent in this MSPD procedure.

## *The Amount of the Adsorbent*

The amount of the adsorbent could infuence the extracting and cleaning-up effects as well. When the adsorbent was insufficient, the sample could not be well dispersive with the adsorbent, getting low extracting efficiency and poor purifying effect as well. But if the adsorbent was excessive, the amount of the mixture increased, resulting in slow flow rate and more eluent solvent. In this work, 5, 6 and 7 g of neutral alumina were tested, *n*-hexane/ dichloromethane (50/50, v/v) was used and 10 mL of



<span id="page-3-1"></span>**Fig. 1** The optimization of the type of the adsorbents. The mass of adsorbent was 6 g; the mass of sample was 1 g; the elution solvent was *n*-hexane/dichloromethane (50/50, v/v) and the volume of collected solution was 10 mL



<span id="page-4-0"></span>**Fig.** 2 The optimization of the amount of neutral alumina as adsorbent. The mass of sample was 1 g; the elution solvent was *n*-hexane/dichloromethane (50/50, v/v) and the volume of collected solution was 10 mL

eluent solvent was collected. As shown in Fig. [2,](#page-4-0) 6 g was chosen as the amount of the adsorbent for best recovery results and appropriate fow rate.

## *The Type of the Elution Solvent*

For the types of elution solvent, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate, *n*-hexane/acetone and *n*-hexane/dichloromethane were tested with 6 g of neutral alumina as adsorbent. It was found that *n*-hexane/dichloromethane had the best clean-up effects for the interferences. Four volume ratios of *n*-hexane/dichloromethane, 70/30, 60/40, 50/50 and 40/60 were tested. From the results shown in Fig. [3,](#page-5-0) *n*-hexane/dichloromethane 40/60 and 50/50 got better recoveries for most target compounds, but *n*-hexane/ dichloromethane 40/60 had more interferences because of higher polarity. In this case, *n*-hexane/dichloromethane (50/50, v/v) was used as elution solvent.

#### *The Volume of the Elution Solvent*

For the volume of elution solution, 6, 8, 10 and 12 mL were tested. From the results shown in Fig. [4](#page-5-1), the recoveries were no longer improved when the volume reached 10 mL. Due to the principle of using less organic solvent as far as possible, 10 mL of collected solution was selected eventually.

### **MSPD Method Validation**

The accuracy and precision of the method were evaluated by blank samples (crucian carp, white shrimp and clam) spiked with the OCPs and PCBs at 0.1, 1 and 10  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> with three replicates for each level, and the results were shown in Table [3](#page-6-0). The recoveries for most target compounds were between 70 and 120%, with relative standard deviation less than 20%. Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) were tested with 0.1  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> spiked samples and calculated by three or ten times of the signal-to-noise ratio. As shown in Table [3,](#page-6-0) the LODs and LOQs of the OCPs and PCBs ranged from 0.011 to 0.046 and from 0.037 to 0.153  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in the seafood samples. The linearity was in the range of 0.1–100  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, and the results are summarized in Table S1.

# **The Concentration and Distribution of OCPs and PCBs in Real Samples**

From the results shown in Table [4,](#page-7-0) most of the OCPs and PCBs could be detected in the samples. The residual concentration of  $\Sigma$ OCPs was 1.216–4.248  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in grass carp, 1.403–15.918 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in spotted silver carp, 1.432– 8.9 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in crucian carp, 1.988-14.206 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in little yellow croaker, 0.986–4.021  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in white shrimp, 0.722–1.444 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in scallop and 2.583–8.853 μg L<sup>-1</sup> inclam, and the concentration of  $\Sigma$ PCBs was 0.166– 0.374 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in grass carp, 0.034–0.658 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in



<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 3** The optimization of the ratio of n-hexane and dichloromethane as elution solvent. The adsorbent was 6 g of neutral alumina; the mass of sample was 1 g; the elution solvent was *n*-hexane/dichloromethane and the volume of collected solution was 10 mL



<span id="page-5-1"></span>**Fig. 4** The optimization of the volume of the elution solution *n*-hexane/dichloromethane (50/50, v/v). The adsorbent was 6 g of neutral alumina and the mass of sample was 1 g

spotted silver carp, 0.24–0.529  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in crucian carp,  $0.27-1.184$   $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in little yellow croaker, 0.193– 0.353 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in white shrimp, 0.174–0.224 μg L<sup>-1</sup> in scallop and 0.306–0.543  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> inclam. Among the OCPs, DDTs (o,p′-DDE, p,p′-DDE, o,p′-DDD, p,p′-DDD, o,p′- DDT,  $p, p'$ -DDT) had apparently high concentration in

all the samples, and ∑DDTs in the samples followed the order: little yellow croaker (6.549 ng  $g^{-1}$ ) > spotted silver carp (4.408 ng g<sup>-1</sup>) > clam (4.263 ng g<sup>-1</sup>) > crucian carp  $(2.662 \text{ ng g}^{-1})$  > grass carp  $(1.418 \text{ ng g}^{-1})$  > white shrimp  $(1.117 \text{ ng g}^{-1})$  > scallop  $(0.600 \text{ ng g}^{-1})$ . In the fish samples, the concentration of ∑DDTs in marine fsh was apparently



<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Table 3** Summary of relative recoveries, LODs and LOQs for the OCPs and PCBs in seafood by the developed MSPD method

Table 3 Summary of relative recoveries, LODs and LOQs for the OCPs and PCBs in seafood by the developed MSPD method

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<span id="page-7-0"></span>**Table 4** The average concentration of the OCPs and PCBs in the marketed seafood (ng  $g^{-1}$ )

	Grass carp $(n = 9)$	Spotted silver carp $(n = 9)$	Crucian carp $(n = 9)$	Little yellow croaker $(n = 6)$	White shrimp $(n=8)$	Scallop $(n = 8)$ Clam $(n = 6)$	
$\alpha$ -HCH	0.054	0.099	0.131	0.033	0.028	0.014	0.091
$\beta$ -HCH	0.188	0.216	0.429	0.032	0.047	0.020	0.217
$\gamma$ -HCH	0.025	0.021	0.084	0.022	0.028	0.025	0.221
$\delta$ -HCH	0.142	0.094	0.076	0.045	0.020	0.027	0.060
Heptachlor	$\rm ND$	0.006	0.001	0.009	0.007	0.003	0.015
Heptachlor epoxide	0.002	$\rm ND$	0.002	0.014	ND	0.009	0.012
$cis$ -Chlordane	0.020	0.014	0.021	0.037	0.009	$\rm ND$	0.016
trans-Chlordane	0.048	0.080	0.055	0.068	0.065	0.063	0.072
Endosulfan I	0.057	0.376	0.073	0.008	0.015	0.005	0.054
Endosulfan II	0.170	0.293	0.037	0.189	0.398	0.215	0.112
Endosulfan sulfate	0.179	0.415	0.315	0.041	0.026	0.017	0.225
o,p'-DDE	0.455	0.539	0.469	0.549	0.595	0.450	0.676
p,p'-DDE	0.607	3.025	1.470	2.164	0.364	0.053	0.852
o,p'-DDD	0.028	0.067	0.016	0.053	0.014	0.012	0.127
p,p'-DDD	0.203	0.523	0.445	1.388	0.036	0.012	1.184
o,p'-DDT	0.043	0.174	0.172	0.364	$\rm ND$	0.002	0.839
p,p'-DDT	0.082	0.080	0.091	2.033	0.109	0.072	0.584
Methoxychlor	$\rm ND$	ND	ND	ND	<b>ND</b>	ND	$\rm ND$
PCB <sub>28</sub>	0.249	0.299	0.285	0.287	0.240	0.186	0.374
PCB <sub>52</sub>	0.016	0.024	0.013	0.044	0.007	0.010	0.012
<b>PCB 101</b>	0.002	0.005	0.004	0.035	ND	ND	0.004
<b>PCB 118</b>	$\rm ND$	0.006	0.004	0.036	0.004	0.002	$\rm ND$
<b>PCB 138</b>	0.003	0.012	0.011	0.093	0.006	0.004	0.012
<b>PCB 153</b>	$\rm ND$	0.002	0.004	0.093	0.002	$\rm ND$	0.005
<b>PCB 180</b>	0.001	0.004	0.006	0.014	<b>ND</b>	ND	0.004
<b>DDTs</b>	1.418	4.408	2.662	6.549	1.117	0.600	4.263
<b>HCHs</b>	0.408	0.431	0.720	0.132	0.122	0.087	0.589
$\Sigma$ Chlordan	0.070	0.100	0.080	0.128	0.081	0.075	0.115
$\Sigma$ Endosulfan	0.406	1.084	0.425	0.237	0.440	0.237	0.391
$\sum OCPs$	2.302	6.023	3.886	7.046	1.759	0.998	5.358
$\Sigma$ PCBs	0.272	0.353	0.327	0.600	0.259	0.202	0.410

higher than that in freshwater fsh, and the concentration in predacious fsh was far higher than that in omnivorous and herbivorous fsh. The DDTs concentration in little yellow croaker, spotted silver carp and clam samples was apparently higher than in other samples. The Other OCPs were in a relative low level in all the samples.

From Fig. [5,](#page-8-0) the relative abundances of DDT congeners (to ∑DDTs) were similar in fsh samples from freshwater (grass carp, spotted silver and crucian carp), and followed the sequence of  $p, p'$ -DDE >  $o, p'$ -DDE >  $p, p'$ -DDD >  $o, p'$ -DDT ~  $p, p'$ -DDT >  $o, p'$ -DDD.  $p, p'$ -DDE was the predominant DDT congener in grass carp, spotted silver, crucian carp and little yellow croaker, ranged from 33.0 to 68.6%.

While  $o, p'$ -DDE was the predominant in white shrimp and scallop samples.

The ratio of  $(p, p'$ -DDE +  $p, p'$ -DDD) to  $p, p'$ -DDT was used to evaluate the source of DDTs [\[24](#page-11-16)]. When the ratio was greater than 1, indicating that the metabolites of DDTs were mainly exist in seafood without fresh inputs, and when the ratio was less than 1, it means that the environment had new source of DDTs. In this study, the ratios were 9.9 for grass carp, 44.4 for spotted silver carp, 21.0 for crucian carp, 1.7 for little yellow croaker, 3.7 for white shrimp, 0.9 for scallop and 3.5 for clam, indicating that almost none freshness of exposure occurred recently except scallop, but historical inputs of dicofol.

<span id="page-8-0"></span>



As for the relative abundances of HCH congeners (to ∑HCHs) were not significantly different among seafood species with different habitats. As shown in Fig.  $6, β$  $6, β$ -HCH was predominant HCH congener in grass carp, spotted silver, crucian carp and white shrimp, ranged from 38.2 to 59.6%. While δ-HCH was predominant in little yellow croaker and scallop.

The ratio of  $\beta$ -/( $\alpha + \gamma$ )-HCH was used to identify the source of HCH  $[25]$  $[25]$ . If the ratio was less than 0.06, it means that new inputs of lindane or technical HCH occurred. If the ratio was greater than 0.06, indicating the historical inputs of lindane or technical HCH. In this study, the ratios were 2.4 for grass carp, 1.8 for spotted silver carp, 2.0 for crucian carp, 0.6 for little yellow croaker, 0.8 for white shrimp, 0.5 for scallop and 0.7 for clam. From the results, no fresh exposure existed recently.

As shown in Fig. [7](#page-9-0), the concentration of  $\Sigma$ PCBs was much lower than that of  $\Sigma$ OCPs. The composition of the PCBs in samples is shown in Fig. [8](#page-9-1). Among the seven PCBs, PCB28 was the predominant component.

Compared with the maximum residue limit (MRL, 0.5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> for ∑DDTs, 0.1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> for ∑HCHs, 0.5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> for  $\Sigma$ PCBs) of seafood legislated by China, the residue concentration of ∑DDTs, ∑HCHs and ∑PCBs determined in this study was far below the limits. The MRLs in muscles from other animal origin food fxed by European Union was 1.0, 0.2 and 0.1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> for ∑DDTs, α-HCH and β-HCH, respectively. All the limited concentration was signifcantly higher than that detected in the present study. Furthermore, many literatures reported the residue levels of OCPs and PCBs in seafood. For instance, 11 OCPs in edible fsh from Wuhan (China) were in the range of 2.04–189.04 ng  $g^{-1}$  [\[26](#page-11-18)] and the OCPs in four fsh species from Lake Ziway (Ethiopia) was between 1.41 and 63.8 ng  $g^{-1}$  [\[27](#page-11-19)]. The concentration of 15 PCBs in marketed shrimp in San Francisco ranged from 0.11



<span id="page-8-1"></span>



<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Fig. 7** The concentrations of the OCPs and PCBs in the marketed seafood samples



<span id="page-9-1"></span>**Fig. 8** The composition of the PCBs in the marketed seafood samples



### **Comparison with Other Published Methods**

The performance characteristics of the developed method in this work were compared with that in other published methods which obtained to extract OCPs and PCBs in seafood samples. The published methods including Soxhlet extraction, pressurized liquid extraction (PLE), selective pressurized liquid extraction (SPLE) and microwave-assisted extraction (MAE) were compared in aspects of recovery, adsorbent amount, solvent consumption and whether need to heat. As shown in Table [5,](#page-10-5) the developed method in this work got satisfactory results, simple operation, less solvent and energy consumption.

As given in Table [5](#page-10-5), compared to other published method using MSPD for determination of OCPs and PCBs in seafood, the method in this work has many advantages such as abundant target compounds, large



## <span id="page-10-5"></span>**Table 5** Comparison of the developed method with other methods

<sup>a</sup> Pressurized liquid extraction

<sup>b</sup> Selective pressurized liquid extraction

<sup>c</sup> Microwave-assisted extraction

<sup>d</sup> Matrix solid-phase dispersion-accelerated solvent extraction

number and wide range of matrix samples and acceptable results.

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**Informed consent** Not applicable.

# **Conclusion**

A simple, rapid and effective method based on MSPD and GC–MS/MS was established for the detection of 21 OCPs and 7 PCBs in marketed seafood. The infuencing parameters including the type and amount of the absorbent, the type and volume of the elution solution were optimized. Under the optimized conditions, satisfying recovery, LODs and LOQs were obtained. The developed method was successfully applied to detect the residue of OCPs and PCBs in the marketed seafood. The results showed the concentrations of the OCPs and PCBs were at relatively low levels.

#### **Compliance with Ethical Standards**

**Confict of interest** Weijia Li declares that she has no confict of interest. Donghui Liu declares that she has no confict of interest. Jindong Li declares that he has no confict of interest. Jing Gao declares that she has no confict of interest. Chuntao Zhang declares that she has no confict of interest. Peng Wang declares that he has no confict of interest. Zhiqiang Zhou declares that he has no confict of interest.

**Ethical approval** This article does not contain any studies with human participants performed by any of the authors. All animal experiments in the present study were carried out in accordance with institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals.

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