

Phthalates in Beverages and Plastic Bottles: Sample Preparation and Determination

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Abstract Several compounds of the phthalate family are widely applied as additives for polymers as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET). These compounds are not part of the polymer chains, and therefore, they can be released easily from products and migrate into beverages that come into direct contact causing environmental and human health impacts. Because of this, certain phthalates (PAEs) have been identified as priority pollutants by the European Union (EU), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other international organizations. Due to that the concentration of these compounds in beverages is found at very low level, a pretreatment step prior to their analysis is necessary; thus, several sample preparation methods have been described, such as liquid–liquid extraction (LLE), solid-phase extraction (SPE), solid-phase microextraction (SPME), and liquid-phase microextraction (LPME). Chromatographic techniques such as gas chromatography (GC) coupled to mass spectrometry (MS) or liquid chromatography (LC) with UV detector, diode array detector (DAD), and MS have been used to analyze PAEs. Additionally, non-chromatographic techniques such as electrochemical sensors and immunoassay-based techniques have been described for PAE analysis in beverages. This review provides an overview of the different analytical techniques for PAE quantification in beverages and their plastic containers, focused in the last 10 years published works, covering the sample preparation and determination, as well as the legislation and the evaluation of main factors that could

promote the migration of these plasticizers from polymers into beverages.

Keywords Phthalates · Beverage and plastic bottle concentration · Migration · Exposure · Determination

Introduction

Studies related to the environmental destination of some contaminants, principally the so-called emerging contaminants (ECs), have drawn more and more attention. These pollutants are gaining social conscience due to their potential environmental and human health impacts. Nevertheless, these groups of compounds do not have normative status (Magdouli et al. 2013; Álvarez et al. 2015). Among the ECs, the phthalic acid esters or phthalates (PAEs) are considered to be one of their main representatives, due to their large production volume and their multiple applications. PAEs are extensively used as additives for polymers in plastic, particularly in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET); but they are also applied in rubber and cellulose and in the production of styrene. PAEs help to improve the flexibility, transparency, and durability of articles manufactured with polymeric matrixes (Khosravi and Price 2015; Silva et al. 2004; Peijnenburg and Struijs 2006; Yang et al. 2015). Different plasticizers exhibit different plasticization effects, depending on the strength of the plasticizer–polymer and plasticizer–plasticizer interactions (Wilkes et al. 2005).

The effect of the PAE levels on the polymer structure properties is related to the decrease of Young's modulus, tensile strength, hardness, density, melt viscosity, glass transition temperature, electrostatic chargeability, and volume resistivity of polymers (Graham 1973; Rahman and Brazel 2004). PAEs

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are widely used in many consumable and household products, such as industrial plastics and personal care products.

PAEs of low molecular mass (esters with side chains of 1 to 4 carbons), including the dimethyl phthalate (DMP), diethyl phthalate (DEP), and di-*n*-butyl phthalate (DBP), are primarily used in personal care products, certain dietary supplements, medications, printing inks, lacquers, and adhesives. High molecular mass PAEs (esters with side chains of 5 or more carbons) including butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP), di(*n*-octyl)phthalate (DNOP), and di(2-*n*-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) are mainly found in flexible PVC used in consumer products like food packaging, floorings, home furnishings, building materials, and medical equipments (Serodio and Nogueira 2006; Sailas et al. 2015; Li et al. 2013; Sakhi et al. 2014). PAEs were first introduced in the 1920s and have been widely applied for more than 90 years in industry (Chang et al. 2015; Otero et al. 2015). Currently, approximately 80% of annual world production of PAEs is used as plasticizers (Yang et al. 2015).

PAEs are a class of organic xenobiotic compounds (Sailas et al. 2015) produced by the esterification of phthalic acid with different alcohols, and consist mainly of one benzene ring and two aliphatic ester groups attached to the benzene ring in an ortho configuration (Fig. 1) (Yang et al. 2015; Farajzadeh et al. 2015). The physicochemical properties of PAEs vary considerably depending on their molecular mass (MM) (Jianlong et al. 2004). Table 1 summarizes the properties of some of these PAEs, which are most commonly found in beverages.

Potential pathways of exposure to PAEs are by ingestion, inhalation, and absorption through the skin (Guo et al. 2011). Human exposure can take place during the production, distribution, and end use of products produced with PET, PVC, and other polymers such as polyurethane, polystyrene, polybutadiene, among others (Fromme et al. 2007).

The mechanical properties of plastics are influenced by plasticizer level (parts per hundred of resin (phr)) as well as the chemical class of plasticizer. The consumption of plasticizers DEHP and BBP stands at 100 phr in flexible PVC, polystyrene commercial products typically range from 25 to 100 phr of DMP, DBP, and DNOP, and low-density

polyethylene plastics contain 30 phr of DNOP. The consumption of PAEs (DMP, DEP, DBP, DNOP, BBP, DEHP) ranges from 1 to 5 wt% in PET (Wilkes et al. 2005; Wypych 2012; Graham 1973).

PAEs are lipophilic compounds and can bioaccumulate in fats. Different studies have revealed high toxicity to the human health and to the ecosystem functioning (Gao et al. 2015). The larger molecular weight PAEs (DEHP and DBP) are suspected carcinogens, as well as toxic to the liver, kidneys, and reproductive organs (S. Keresztes et al. 2013). The main concerns related to the exposure to PAEs in humans and wildlife are the effects on reproduction (Net et al. 2015; Zhao et al. 2015), endocrine damage, and their carcinogenic effects (Otero et al. 2015; Heudorf et al. 2007; Fierens et al. 2012; Liu et al. 2015). Beverages might be contaminated during production and bottle process. Nevertheless, migration of plasticizers from plastics into food is the major source of PAE contamination. An overview of the studies related to the PAEs most commonly found in beverages and polymers (Table 1) including sample preparation and detection methods is presented in Tables 2, 3, and 4. This review focuses on the literature available in the last 10 years regarding the screening of PAEs in carbonated and non-carbonated beverages and plastic beverage containers, emphasizing on analytical methods and legislation. Additionally, sample preparation including extraction and preconcentration steps and quantification techniques described for PAEs in beverages and plastic matrices is covered.

Reported Concentrations in Beverages and Plastics

Due to their risk to human health and the environment, certain PAEs have been identified as priority hazardous substances. These compounds have been classified in category 1 (clear evidence for endocrine-disrupting effects in an intact organism) by the European Union (EU) controlling their use as plasticizers in products that may come into contact with food (Dominguez-Morueco et al. 2014). The EU has also set a specific migration limit (SML) values of 1.5 and 0.3 g/kg for DBP and DEHP, respectively. In addition, tolerable daily intakes (TDI) set by the European Food Safety Authority are 0.2, 0.5, 0.5, 0.01, and 0.05 mg/kg body weight/day for DEP, BBP, DBP, and DEHP, respectively (Fan et al. 2014; Mihucz and Zárny 2015; Ustun et al. 2014). The EPA included the DMP, DEP, DBP, and DEHP in its list of priority pollutants published in 2014, setting a maximum limit for DEHP in drinking water of 6 µg/L. In China, some PAEs (DMP, DBP, and DEHP) have also been identified as priority toxic pollutants (Gao et al. 2014a; Pérez-Feás et al. 2011; Gao et al. 2014b).

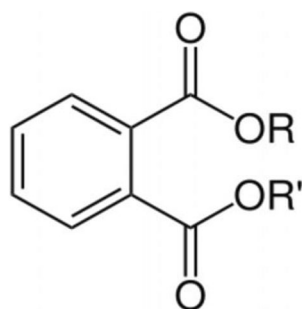


Fig. 1 The basic chemical structure of PAEs (where R and R' = C_nH_{2n+1}; n = 4–15)

Table 1 Physicochemical properties of common PAEs present in beverages

Phthalate compound	MM (g/mol)	Number of carbon atoms	Solubility in water (mg/L)	Vapor pressure (Pa)	Log K_{ow}
Dimethyl phthalate	194.2	2	5220	0.263	1.61
Diethyl phthalate	222.2	4	591	6.48×10^{-2}	2.54
Di-n-butyl phthalate	278.4	8	9.9	4.73×10^{-3}	4.27
Butyl benzyl phthalate	312.4	11	3.8	2.49×10^{-3}	4.70
Di(n-octyl)phthalate	390.6	16	2.49×10^{-3}	2.52×10^{-5}	7.73
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	390.6	16	2.49×10^{-3}	2.52×10^{-5}	7.73

K_{ow} octanol–water partition coefficient

Because PAE plasticizer molecules are not attached to polymer chains by primary bonds (Rahman and Brazel 2004), these compounds can easily migrate from the plastic packaging toward the food, beverages, and water (Hammad Khan and Jung 2008; Fierens et al. 2012; S. Keresztes et al. 2013; Liu et al. 2015). Their potential migration (leaching) is a function of several physicochemical factors such as temperature, radiation, solubility, diffusion coefficients, pressure, and presence of solvents and additives (Zaater et al. 2014). PAEs are ubiquitous in nature; consequently, they can be found in groundwater, river water, drinking water, and oceans (Jianlong et al. 2004; Rahman and Brazel 2004; Ustun et al. 2014). Information regarding PAE concentration found in beverages and polymers described in the literature is summarized in Tables 2, 3, and 4. Jia et al. (2014) made an analysis of PAEs in milk and yogurt reporting concentrations in milk of 13 and 57 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DEP and DEHP and 13 and 43 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DEP and DEHP, in yogurt. Otero et al. (2015) determined PAE content in three commercial brands of water and plastic bottles, reporting concentrations of 0.061 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DBP and 1.19 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in water and 0.076 $\mu\text{g/g}$ for DBP and 1.499 $\mu\text{g/g}$ for DEHP in plastic bottles. Liou et al. (2014) found concentrations of 0.006 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DMP, 0.009 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DEP, 0.104 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DBP, and 0.3 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DEHP in bottled water. Therefore, it is very important to analyze the concentration of these compounds, not only in the products consumed by the human, but also in the materials used to pack these products (Bonini et al. 2008). PAEs can be also found in water supplies. Wu et al. (2013) determined PAE levels in river and seawater samples from seven districts of China. The results showed that concentrations varied from 11 to 61 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DBP and from 19 to 25 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for DEHP.

The use of PAEs in food packaging materials has now been banned by the European Commission regulation No. 10/2011, but there are still food and drink packages that contain PAEs (S. Keresztes et al. 2013; Jeddi et al. 2015). Ingestion is an important pathway of

human exposure to PAEs; thus, it is important to monitor the level of PAEs in beverages and provide data for human exposure assessment.

Sample Preparation for PAE Determination in Beverages

Due to that PAEs are present at very low concentrations in beverages, the development of highly sensitive analytical methods for their quantification is needed. Sample pretreatment is required to extract, preconcentrate, and improve analytical sensitivity during analytical determination of PAEs. This stage should be as fast and inexpensive as possible. A wide variety of sample preparation approaches have been reported in literature for PAEs, such as liquid–liquid extraction (LLE) (Otero et al. 2015; Zaater et al. 2014; S. Keresztes et al. 2013), solid-phase extraction (SPE) (G. Zhiyong et al. 2010; Dominguez-Morueco et al. 2014; Bach et al. 2013), solid-phase microextraction (SPME) (Psillakis and Kalogerakis 2003; Banitaba et al. 2013), and liquid-phase microextraction (LPME) (Xu et al. 2007). However, some of these methods still have some limitations.

LLE is the most frequently used method for extraction of PAEs from beverages (Sun et al. 2012; Otero et al. 2015; Zaater et al. 2014; S. Keresztes et al. 2013; Leitz et al. 2009; Amiridou and Voutsas 2011; Sakhi et al. 2014; Ustun et al. 2014). It has been proven to be a reliable and efficient method. Parameters such as selection of the extraction solvent, the ratio of extraction solvent volume/sample volume, or the number of extraction repetitions had to be optimized during its implementation (Leitz et al. 2009). An organic solvent (50–500 mL) is added into the aqueous sample (500–1000 mL), the content is shaken, and PAEs are collected in organic phase after decantation. In the literature, many different extraction solvents, such as dichloromethane, *n*-hexane, acetone, and 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane, have been suggested for the extraction of PAEs from beverages, allowing recovery values ranging between 60 and 114% and preconcentration factors from 20 to 1666 (Amiridou and Voutsas 2011; Otero et al. 2015; Zaater et al. 2014; S. Keresztes et al. 2013). For

Table 2 Extraction procedures used for PAE analysis in beverages

Analyte	Matrix	Extraction technique	Extraction conditions	Analytical technique	LOD ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	Recovery (%)	Reference
DMP, DEP, DBP, DBEP, DHP, BBP, DBP, DEHP, DNOP, DINP	Bottled water	LLE	Sample (200 mL) extracted twice with 30 mL of dichloromethane. The combined extracts were evaporated to dryness, and the residue was dissolved in 500 μL of cyclohexane allowing a preconcentration factor of 400.	GC-MS	16–114	84–91	Otero et al. (2015)
DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	Bottled water	LLE	Sample (500 mL) extracted twice with 40 mL of methylene-chloride-petroleum ether (20:80, v/v). The combined dried extracts were reconstituted in 300 μL of methanol, obtaining a preconcentration factor of 1666.	GC-MS	20–80	84–96	Zaater et al. (2014)
DIBP, DBP, BBP, DEHP	Mineral water	LLE	20 mL of dichloromethane was added to a water aliquot sample of 480 mL at pH 4, and extracted twice; the combined extracts were filtrated by passing through a layer of 6.42 g of anhydrous sodium sulfate. The extracts were evaporated until a volume of 2 mL; a preconcentration factor of 240 was obtained.	GC-MS	0.001–0.052		S. Keresztes et al. (2013)
DEP	Alcoholic beverages	LLE	0.1 mL of the sample was extracted twice with 1 mL of 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane, shook on a vortex mixer for 1 min. After centrifugation for 5 min (3000 rpm), the two extracts were then combined.	GC-MS	700	103	Leitz et al. (2009)
DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	Bottled water	LLE	Water sample (1 L) was extracted with dichloromethane (3×50 mL). The combined extracts were poured through anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in an evaporator.	GC-ITMS ^a	0.002–0.03	70–94	Amiridou and Voutsa (2011)
DMP, DBP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	Juice	LLE	500 mL of sample was dried with sodium sulfate, extracted with acetone/ <i>n</i> -hexane (1:1, v/v), and centrifuged. The supernatant was evaporated and reconstituted in 1 mL of dichloromethane obtaining a preconcentration factor of 500.	LC-MS/MS			Sakhi et al. (2014)
DMP, DEP, BBP, DBP, DEHP, DNOP	Cola	LLE	Sample was degassed in an ultrasonic bath for 5 min and extracted twice with 10 mL of dichloromethane. The extract was passed through a sodium sulfate packed column (1 g) and evaporated to a volume of 1–2 mL. A preconcentration factor of 20 was achieved.	GC-MS	2–7		Ustun et al. (2014)
DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP	Tap water	SPE	Water sample (450 mL) was extracted using poly(divinylbenzene-co- <i>N</i> -vinylpyrrolidone) cartridges with a mixture of dichloromethane/hexane (1:1, v/v, 10 mL) and acetone/dichloromethane (1:1, v/v, 10 mL) as eluents. The extracts were evaporated to dryness and then reconstituted in ethyl acetate and evaporated to dryness. Finally, samples were reconstituted in ethyl acetate allowing a preconcentration factor of 1800.	GC-MS	0.010–0.46	77–94	Dominguez-Moruco et al. (2014)
DMP, DEP, DBP, DEHP	Carbonated water	SPE	Carbonated water (1 L) was degassed by ultrasonication, extracted using poly(divinylbenzene-co- <i>N</i> -vinylpyrrolidone) cartridges, and eluted with 2 mL of ethyl acetate. A preconcentration factor of 500 was obtained.	GC-MS		60–114	Bach et al. (2013)
DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	Orange juice	SPE	1 mL of samples was filtered through a 0.45- μm filter, then, the filter was washed with 2 mL 5% acetonitrile aqueous solution. All volumes of resulting solutions were gathered and extracted using anionic exchange cartridges. The analytes were eluted with 1 mL 100% acetonitrile. The eluent was evaporated to dryness and the residue reconstituted in 1 mL 100% acetonitrile.	LC-UV	2–14	76–112	G. Zhiyong et al. (2010)

Table 2 (continued)

Analyte	Matrix	Extraction technique	Extraction conditions	Analytical technique	LOD ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	Recovery (%)	Reference
DEP, DBP, DEHP	Mineral water	SPME	SPME was performed using a polydimethylsiloxane/divinylbenzene fiber; this fiber was clamped to a glass vial containing 5 mL of sample stirred at 1000 rpm and exposed during 20 min.	GC-MS	0.01		Psillakis and Kalogerakis (2003)
DBP, BBP, DEHP	Mineral water	SPME	9 mL of sample and 200 g/L of NaCl were put in a 10-mL glass vial magnetically stirred at 1000-rpm rate during 20 min to reach equilibrium. The extraction was carried out by exposing at 1.0-cm length of the poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)-TiO ₂ fiber into the sample solution.	GC-FID	0.05–12	86–107	Banitaba et al. (2013)
DMP, DEP, DBP	Bottled water	SPE	Bottled water (18 mL) was extracted using online SPE with a C18 membrane disk activated with 5 mL of acetonitrile. The analytes were eluted with 1 mL of acetonitrile at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The extraction time was 48 min.	LC-UV	0.7–2.4	80–115	Salazar-Beltran et al. (2017)
DMP, DEP, DBP	Mineral water	LPME	Dynamic LPME was performed with a microsyringe, using 2.0 μL of <i>n</i> -hexane and 8.0 μL of sample. The process was repeated 30 times.	GC-MS	0.43–4.30	95–97	Xu et al. (2007)
DMP, DEP, DBP	Energy drink	LPME	A sample of an energy drink (21 mL) was extracted applying online magnetically stirred SPME using a polypropylene hollow fiber, <i>n</i> -dodecane as extraction solvent, and 20 μL of acetonitrile as acceptor solvent. The extraction time was 40 min.	LC-UV	0.3–0.5	90–92	Yamini et al. (2015)

DHP: dihexyl phthalate

DINP: dimonyl phthalate

*DBEP: bis(2-*n*-butoxyethyl) phthalate*

DiBP: di-isobutyl phthalate

Table 3 Extraction procedures for determination of PAEs in polymers

Analyte	Matrix	Extraction conditions	Analytical technique	Recovery (%)	Reference
DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP	Milk bag	5 cm ² of plastic was extracted with 40 mL of <i>n</i> -hexane in an ultrasonic bath for 60 min. Solvent exchange was performed by adding 20 mL dichloromethane to the concentrate and repeating the extraction process, and the extract was then evaporated to a volume of approximately 1 mL.	GC-MS	82–99	Fierens et al. (2012)
DME, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	Milk bags	2.0 g of plastic was extracted three times in 50 mL <i>n</i> -hexane by sonication for 20 min. Then, the extract solution was collected, and the residues were extracted repeatedly 2 more times. The combined extracts were dried using a rotary evaporator. Finally, they were dissolved with 5 mL methanol.	EKC-UV	87–118	Ni et al. (2016)
DEHP	Granulated PVC	1-g sample was extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus in 100 mL of dichloromethane for 16 h.	GC-MS	89–99	Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak (2013)
DEHP	Granulated PVC	0.1-g sample was extracted with 10 mL of methanol in an ultrasonic bath for 15 min.	GC-MS	21	Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak (2013)
DEHP	PET mineral water bottle	1.5 g of plastic and 4 mL of methanol were placed in a 16-mL vial and shaken for 30 min by ultrasonic agitation at room temperature. A 50 µL volume of the methanolic extract was then diluted to 8 mL with deionized water for further analyses.	GC-FID	99	Li et al. (2004)
DME, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	Bags for food freezing	1 g of plastic was extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus using ethyl acetate for 3 h and 20 min.	GC-FID	95 ± 10	Bonini et al. (2008)
DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	PVC	Polymer samples (500 ± 10 mg) were extracted under reflux for at least 6 h with 6–8 cycles/h with <i>n</i> -hexane (120 mL). The extracts were concentrated to 10 mL using a vacuum rotary evaporator and then diluted with <i>n</i> -hexane to 50 mL.	GC-MS	78–117	Kim et al. (2016)
DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	Plastic cup	1 g of grated sample was extracted twice by sonication in 10 mL hexane for 30 min. The two solvent fraction were combined and reduced to dryness with N ₂ stream.	GC-MS	86–95	Shen (2005)
DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	PET bottles	200 mg of sample was extracted by sonication at 60 °C for 10 min with 10 mL of dichloromethane; the extract was collected and evaporated to dryness. Finally, the residue was dissolved in 500 µL of cyclohexane and passed through a 0.45-µm filter.	GC-MS	84–90	Otero et al. (2015)
DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP	PVC films	0.1 g of sample was shaken during 15 min using 10 mL hexane, and then, hexane was used to clean the homogenizer 4 times with 10 mL each time. Merging all the solvent and setting constant volume to 50 mL, ultrasonic extraction was applied for 30 min. The extracts were filtered, diluted 2 times, and then analyzed.	GC-MS	47–74	Dong et al. (2013)
DEHP	PVC	The extraction experiments were performed in a Soxhlet apparatus; 0.1-g sample was placed in a glass thimble, and the extraction was then performed over 24 h with ethyl acetate (4 cycles h ⁻¹).	GC-FID	96	Bernard et al. (2015)

EKC: electrokinetic chromatography

example, Amiridou and Voutsas (2011) extracted PAEs (DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, and di-*n*-octyl phthalate (DNOP)) from 1 L of bottled water using 150 mL of dichloromethane as extractant and then concentrated in an evaporator under a stream of nitrogen, obtaining recovery percentages from 70 to 94% (Amiridou and Voutsas 2011). A similar LLE method using dichloromethane was developed by Otero et al. (2015) with a higher ratio of solvent: sample (60:200 mL). They

reached recovery percentages between 84 and 91% of PAEs (DBEP, DEHP, BBP, DBP, DEP, DHP, DMP, DNOP, and DINP) from bottled water (Otero et al. 2015), which were better than those previously reported by Amiridou and Voutsas (2011).

The LLE method is relatively easy to implement, but has some disadvantages, such as the use of large volumes of toxic organic solvents and formation of emulsions (Net et al. 2015).

Table 4 Chromatographic methods for PAE quantification of in beverages

Sample	Compounds	Analytical technique	Chromatographic conditions	LOD* ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	Ref
Mineral water	DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	LC-UV	Reversed LC with a C8 non-polar column was used. The separation was performed in a gradient elution of aqueous acetonitrile containing 1% methanol (starting ratio of 36:64, v/v) at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Detection was set at 235 nm.	0.12–0.5	Zaater et al. (2014)
Bottled water	DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	GC-MS	PAEs were analyzed by GC-MS using He as carrier gas at a flow rate of 1 mL/min in a splitless injection mode. An initial temperature program was set at 180 °C for 0.5 min, increased to 280 °C at 20 °C/min rate, and kept at 280 °C for 7 min (run time = 12.5 min).	16–52	Otero et al. (2015)
Lemonade	DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	GC-MS	GC-MS analysis was performed on a fused silica capillary column. He was used as carrier gas at 1.2 mL/min flow rate. A sample volume of 1 μL was injected in the splitless mode. The GC temperature program was as follows: initial temperature of 50 °C, hold for 5 min, and increased to 90 °C at 2 °C/min, hold for 3 min, and then to 200 °C at 10 °C/min, hold for 10 min.	2–7	Ustun et al. (2014)
Red wine	DBP, BBP, DEHP	LC-DAD	Separation was carried out on a C18 column with methanol/water as mobile phase at 1.0 mL/min flow rate. The injection volume was 20 μL , and UV detection was set at 240 nm. The gradient elution program used from 64 to 88% methanol within 23 min.	2–2.2	Fan et al. (2014)
Mineral water	DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP	GC-MS	The injection temperature was set at 350 °C and operated in split mode (1:10) using He as carrier gas at a flow rate of 0.8 mL/min. Analytes were separated on a non-polar column with the following oven temperature program: initial 60 °C, from 60 °C (held 3 min) to 180 °C at 20 °C/min, increased at 10 °C/min to 285 °C, and held for 5 min. The ion source, quadrupole mass analyzer, and the interface temperature were maintained at 230, 150, and 280 °C, respectively.	0.02–0.05	Farahani et al. (2008)
Carbonated cola	DEHP	LC-MS/MS	Separation was performed at 50 °C using reversed-phase XDB-C8 column. The mobile phase was 10 mg/L sodium acetate in 0.05% acetic acid aqueous solution and 10 mg/L sodium acetate in 0.05% acetic acid in methanol/water (90:10, v/v) solution using gradient elution mode and analysis time of 14 min. The injection volume was 20 μL . A triple quad mass spectrometer was used as a detector.	0.013	Khedr (2013)
Orange juice	DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, DNOP	LC-UV	The separation was performed on a reversed-phase C18 column. The mobile phase was a mixture of acetonitrile and water with gradient elution program. The flow rate was set at 1.0 mL/min with UV detection (226 nm).	2–13	G. Zhiyong et al. (2010)
Mineral water, juice, and milk	DNOP	LC-UV	Chromatographic separation was performed on a C18 column at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. The sample injection volume was 15.0 μL . Methanol–water was used as the mobile phase with gradient elution mode. The UV monitoring wavelength was 225 nm.	0.2–2.5	Sun et al. (2013)
Non-carbonated mineral water	DBP, BBP, DEHP	GC-MS	Phthalates were determined by GC-MS without derivatization using He as carrier gas with on-column injection at 100 °C. Separation was performed using a gradient temperature program: 100 °C for 1 min, then heated up to 300 °C with a heating ramp of 20 °C/min, and 5.5-min hold at 300 °C.	0.002–0.05	S. Keresztes et al. (2013)

In addition, large volumes of solvents involve great contamination problems, that is, neither practical nor environmentally friendly (Fan et al. 2014; Sha et al. 2011; Farahani et al. 2008). The LLE method is a time-consuming procedure integrated by multiple stages, rising high levels of PAE concentration in blanks; finally, it is not easy to automate and is very sensitive to operating conditions (Komjarova and Blust 2006; Farajzadeh et al. 2015).

On the other hand, SPE has received the greatest attention due to its simplicity. In SPE, PAEs are transferred from the water sample (200–1000 mL) to a sorbent and are recovered by elution with organic solvent.

Polymeric reversed-phase sorbents like C18 (Salazar-Beltran et al. 2017), poly(divinylbenzene-co-*N*-vinylpyrrolidone) (Dominguez-Moruco et al. 2014; Bach et al. 2013), or anionic exchange cartridges (G. Zhiyong et al. 2010) have been proved to be efficient for PAEs. DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, and DNOP were extracted from orange juice by SPE using two kinds of anionic exchange cartridges and acetonitrile as eluent, obtaining recovery percentages from 76 to 112%. The authors concluded that the method was particularly effective for the analysis of low-polarity organic compounds such as DEHP and DNOP due to the characteristics of the selected cartridge (G. Zhiyong et al. 2010). Dominguez-Moruco et al. (2014) applied a poly(divinylbenzene-co-*N*-vinylpyrrolidone) sorbent as the one used by Zhiyong to extract some PAEs (DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, and DEHP) from water. However, they described the use of non-polar solvents (dichloromethane, hexane, and acetone) as eluents reaching lower recoveries ranging between 77 and 94% (Dominguez-Moruco et al. 2014).

This extraction method has presented several advantages compared with LLE such as better extraction recoveries, less extraction time, less volume of solvents (2–30 mL), more reproducible results can be expected, and capability to more efficiently remove interfering compounds, and use of polar solvents such as acetonitrile or methanol which are less harmful to the environment (G. Zhiyong et al. 2010). Although some authors have reported the use of non-polar solvents such as dichloromethane, hexane, acetone, and ethyl acetate in smaller amounts (2–10 mL) in comparison to volumes used in LLE (Dominguez-Moruco et al. 2014; Bach et al. 2013). Preconcentration factors between 500 and 1800 have been described (Bach et al. 2013; Dominguez-Moruco et al. 2014; G. Zhiyong et al. 2010), which are higher than in LLE procedures.

SPE can also be used online, directly connected to liquid chromatography (LC) allowing its full automation (Salazar-Beltran et al. 2017; Valsecchi et al. 2015). For example, Salazar-Beltran et al. (2017) extracted PAEs (DMP, DEP, and DBP) from drinking bottled water by online SPE using C18 membranes and acetonitrile as eluent, reaching recovery percentages between 80 and 115% (Salazar-Beltran et al. 2017).

LLE and SPE are widely applied in PAE analysis in different environmental matrices. The EPA published the analytical procedure for the determination of certain PAEs in municipal and industrial wastewater, sediments, and soils using LLE and detection by gas chromatography with electron capture detection (GC/ECD) (US-EPA 1996, 2001).

Recently, new microextraction methods have been developed for the extraction of PAEs, based on SPME and LPME. Some of their advantages are not only the use of small sample volumes (microliter range or smaller), but also a simple sample preparation avoiding the secondary contamination risk that may occur during the pretreatment step and also minimal exposure to toxic organic solvents by the operator, and all the extracted analytes are transferred to the analytical instrument. Nevertheless, these are non-exhaustive procedures. They also provide lack of robustness and poor reproducibility, obtaining relative standard deviation (RSD) values between 0.1 and 28% and preconcentration factors from 5 to 1500 (Farajzadeh et al. 2015).

Xu et al. (2007) applied LPME to extract PAEs (DMP, DEP, and DBP) contained in mineral water. They use *n*-hexane as solvent, obtaining recovery percentages from 95 to 97% (Xu et al. 2007).

DMP and DEP were extracted from energy drinks using hollow-fiber membrane liquid-phase microextraction (HF-LPME) by Yamini et al. (2015). The target analytes were extracted online and eluted inside the lumen of the HF membrane using *n*-dodecane as extraction solvent and acetonitrile as acceptor solvent. The recovery percentages reached were between 90 and 92%.

Psillakis and Kalogerakis (2003) applied dynamic SPME to extract some PAEs (DEP, DBP, and DEHP) from mineral water reaching RSD values from 4 to 11%. They use a polydimethylsiloxane/divinylbenzene fiber during 20 min (Psillakis and Kalogerakis 2003). In the same way Banitaba et al. (2013) applied dynamic SPME during 20 min. Nevertheless, they use a poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)-TiO₂ fiber, obtaining recoveries from 86 to 107% and similar RSD values, from 6 to 11% (Banitaba et al. 2013).

Information of PAE analysis in beverages is very limited. The available results are shown in Table 2. It can be due to the challenges in detections or high blank levels caused as the result of laboratory contamination.

The ubiquitous presence of PAEs as a contaminant in laboratory plastic wares, reagents, and sample preparation devices is a potential problem for their quantitative determination. Thus, these major drawbacks during sample preparation cause high blank levels increasing its limits of detection. To avoid PAE contamination, all glassware used should be washed with organic solvents and ultrapure water prior to use. Additionally, the contact of reagents and solutions with plastic ware must be minimized (Ustun et al. 2014; S. Keresztes et al. 2013; Shen 2005; Zia et al. 2013).

Extraction of PAEs from Polymer Materials

The extraction is the crucial step to analyze plasticizers in polymers before their analysis (Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak 2013). During this stage, PAEs must be separated from the polymer and isolated from other plasticizers to minimize interferences. Several approaches for extracting these organic compounds from plastics have been developed, including Soxhlet extraction (Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak 2013; Bonini et al. 2008; Bernard et al. 2015) and ultrasound-assisted extraction (UAE) (Fierens et al. 2012; Ni et al. 2016; Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak 2013; Li et al. 2004; Shen 2005; Otero et al. 2015), which are the most commonly used methods (Cano et al. 2002). Some applications of PAE extraction from plastics are reviewed and summarized in Table 3.

Soxhlet extraction is a traditional method to extract PAEs from solid samples. It is simple in operation and requires minimal training. This procedure can extract more sample mass than most of the other extraction procedures. However, the major disadvantages compared to other procedures are that it requires long extraction times (4–16 h) and large amount of solvents is wasted (100–500 mL), which is not only expensive, but also unfriendly to the environment. Soxhlet extraction is limited by the extractant, because it does not have any type of agitation, so the contact between the matrix and solvent is deficient. Due to the non-polar nature of PAEs, solvents such as dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, and *n*-hexane have been commonly described for the extraction of these compounds (Luque de Castro and Priego-Capote 2010; Punin Crespo and Lage Yusty 2005; Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak 2013; Bonini et al. 2008; Kim et al. 2016). Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak (2013) reported the extraction of DEHP from 1 g of PVC using a Soxhlet apparatus with 100 mL of dichloromethane as solvent. The extraction time was 16 h reaching a recovery percentage of 94% (Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak 2013). Bernard et al. (2015) also applied Soxhlet to extract DEHP in a smaller amount of PVC (0.1 g), during a greater extraction time (24 h) using 250 mL of ethyl acetate. The recovery percentage obtained was 96% (Bernard et al. 2015).

Nonetheless, other extraction methods have been developed, not only to reduce the use of solvents and extraction times, but also to improve recovery percentages (Marin et al. 1998; Sporning et al. 2005; Punin Crespo and Lage Yusty 2005). UAE is a quick (10–60 min) and efficient sample preparation procedure for plastic materials with recoveries ranging between 47 and 118%. This method uses high frequency to produce vapor bubbles in the liquid and undergo implosive collapse after reaching a specific pressure. It results in a quick increasing in temperature and pressure and causing better penetration of the solvent into the solid matrix. Ultrasounds produce a reactive medium, which attack the sample by passing the analytes from the solid phase to the solvent (Luque-Garcia and de Luque 2003). UAE is a fast and profitable method, due

to that it provides an efficient contact between the sample and the solvent. Additionally, it is economic, requires low solvent consumption (4–50 mL), and has low instrumental requirements. The UAE has been applied to a great variety of plastics such as PVC (Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak 2013; Dong et al. 2013), PET (Li et al. 2004; Otero et al. 2015) and polystyrene (Shen 2005). However, this procedure has two main drawbacks: low reproducibility and repeatability, due to the lack of uniformity of ultrasound energy, and lots of the energy supplied to the bath is wasted (Li et al. 2004; Luque-Garcia and de Luque 2003). Large diversity of organic solvents such as *n*-hexane, dichloromethane, and methanol has been reported as efficient for PAE extraction from plastics by UAE (Net et al. 2015). For example, Fierens et al. (2012) extracted some PAEs (DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, and DEHP) from milk bags by UAE. They use 40 mL of *n*-hexane during 60 min, obtaining recovery percentages from 82 to 99% (Fierens et al. 2012). Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak (2013) applied UAE to extract DEHP from granulated PVC. The use of smaller solvent volumes (10 mL of methanol) during 15 min was reported in this study allowing a poor recovery percentage (21%) (Gawlik-Jędrzyśiak 2013).

Chromatographic Techniques for PAE Determination

Several chromatographic methods have been reported for the determination of various PAE esters in beverages and polymers using LC coupled to different detectors such as mass spectrometer (MS), diode array detector (DAD), and UV detector. Also, gas chromatography (GC) with MS and flame ionization detector (FID) has been reported. The chromatographic conditions are summarized in Table 4. Although GC-MS has been the detection technique proposed by the EPA for PAE determination in municipal and industrial wastewater, sediments, and soils (Method 606) (US-EPA 2001), an alternative technique to GC for PAE determination is LC due to its inherent ability to separate these compounds (Cano et al. 2002; Chang et al. 2015; Li et al. 2004; Ranjbari and Hadjmohammadi 2012; Xu et al. 2007; Farahani et al. 2008; Zaater et al. 2014).

The GC has been commonly carried out using non-polar gas chromatographic columns and He as mobile phase. The most common detector used has been MS. It measures the mass-to-charge ratio of the ions produced by the sample. GC-MS has many advantages such as short analysis times, providing high resolution, and sensitivity (Otero et al. 2015; S. Keresztes et al. 2013; Ustun et al. 2014; Farahani et al. 2008). However, this technique has also disadvantages with respect to sample characteristics: the analysis cost is relatively high and this is a destructive technique (Ni et al. 2016).

Keresztes et al. (2013) determined some PAEs (DBP, BBP, and DEHP) in non-carbonated mineral water by GC-MS. They reached limits of quantification (LOQs) between 0.1 and 1.7 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (S. Keresztes et al. 2013). A similar method was proposed by Ustun et al. (2014). They analyzed some PAEs (DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, and DNOP) in bottled lemonade by GC-MS using a fused silica capillary column. The LOQs reached were greater to those published by Keresztes (6 and 21 $\mu\text{g/L}$) (Ustun et al. 2014).

Reversed-phase LC has been described as an alternative technique to GC for PAE determination (Gao et al. 2014b). Hydrophobic stationary phase bound to a silica support (C18, C8) and mixture of polar solvents (methanol, acetonitrile, or water) as mobile phase have been described in the analysis of different types of beverages. The advantages of LC are that dissolved analytes can be easily recovered and can be fully automated as well as being easy to operate. However, disadvantages of LC are that typically, it has a lower efficiency than GC, can occur a co-elution when compounds being separated are nearly identical in chemical form and functionality, and suffers from high solvent consumption (Jia et al. 2014; Liu et al. 2012). The LCs using UV or DAD detectors are more affordable techniques that ensure good performance. LC also can be coupled to mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS); this is an advantageous alternative compared to the GC-MS, due to that the sample preparation is easier and no derivatization step is required (Khedr 2013).

Zaater et al. (2014) determined PAEs (DMP, DEP, DBP, BBP, DEHP, and DNOP) in mineral water by LC-UV. They use a C8 column and a mixture of aqueous acetonitrile containing 1% methanol as mobile phase with gradient elution. The limits of detection (LODs) reached were between 0.12 and 0.50 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Zaater et al. 2014). Fan et al. (2014) applied also LC with DAD to determine some PAEs (DBP, BBP, DEHP) in red wine. They used a C18 column and a mixture of methanol/water as mobile phase with gradient elution allowing LODs from 2.0 to 2.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Fan et al. 2014). Additionally, an analysis of DEHP was done in carbonated cola by LC-MS/MS, using a XDB-C8 column and a mixture of water/acetic acid (99.5:0.5, v/v)/methanol/water (90:10, v/v) as mobile phase with gradient elution. The LOD allowed was 0.013 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Khedr 2013).

As can be seen in Table 4, the LC-MS methods showed comparable LODs than those performed by GC-MS reaching values between 0.12 and 13 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for LC and between 0.02 and 52 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for GC.

Non-chromatographic Techniques for PAE Determination

Analytical methods that use LC and GC have been commonly reported for PAE determination in beverages (Li et al. 2015;

Qiu et al. 2013). However, these methods have the disadvantages of high blank values and high cost of instrumentation (Zhang et al. 2013; Sun and Zhuang 2015). Therefore, it is very important to develop simple and rapid methods to detect PAEs (Zhang et al. 2006; Chen et al. 2014).

Molecular imprinting technology is a newly developed technology, which has become a powerful tool for the preparation of polymeric materials showing highly specific recognition performance toward the template molecule (Zhang et al. 2013; Yongfeng et al. 2012; Li et al. 2015). For example, Zhang et al. (2013) developed a magnetic molecularly imprinted polymer (MMIP) sensor combined with magnetic molecularly imprinted solid-phase extraction (MMISPE) for the determination of DBP in soybean milk and milk samples. Although DBP was not detected in milk samples, the recovery results were between 98 and 102%. MMISPE coupled with MMIP sensing system showed good reproducibility (2.2–2.5% RSD) and satisfactory stability. The LOD of the MMIP sensor coupled with the MMIP was 0.052 ng/L (Zhang et al. 2013). In the same way, Li et al. (2015) synthesized molecular imprinted polymers (MIP) using magnetic graphene oxide and gold nanoparticles and applied as a molecular recognition element to construct DBP electrochemical sensor. The DBP electrochemical sensor showed a LOD of 222.6 ng/L, which is greater than that published by Zhang et al. (2006), exhibiting excellent repeatability (RSD, 2.5%). The applicability of the sensor was demonstrated by the analysis of DBP in wine drinks reaching recovery percentages between 97 and 104% (Li et al. 2015).

In the other hand, immunoassay-based techniques have been developed for the determination of these kinds of plasticizers. The advantages of immunochemical techniques include their low cost, speed of analysis, ease of use, and portability. For example, Zhang et al. (2006) developed a fluorescence immunoassay for the quantitative determination of DBP in water samples. They used an antibody-coated plate format. Each plate was read using an automatic detection microplate reader at $\lambda_{\text{excitation}} = 485 \text{ nm}$ and $\lambda_{\text{emission}} = 528 \text{ nm}$. The assay had a LOD of 20 ng/L. Other similar PAE compounds do not interfere significantly in the analysis using this technique (<10%). The method was applied to analyze tap water, river water, and leachate from plastic drinking water bottles reaching recovery percentages between 91 and 109% (Zhang et al. 2006). Sun and Zhuang (2015) established a biotin-streptavidin enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (BA-ELISA) using a rabbit polyclonal anti-DBP antibody (pAb-DBP) for the determination of DBP in beverages and drinking water. The LOD was 5 ng/L and the BA-ELISA was highly selective showing lower cross-reactivity values with DBP analogues (<4%). Satisfactory recoveries were obtained in the analysis of real samples (89.5 to 109.5%) with variation coefficient values (6.0 to 8.7%). The concentrations of DBP in beverages and

drinking water by this method ranged from 0.45 to 7.06 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Sun and Zhuang 2015).

The inherent advantages of MIP compared to immunoassay-based techniques include robustness and storage endurance. However, MIP exhibits certain drawbacks, such as complicated preparation process that takes long time, low binding capacity, and poor site accessibility (Zhang et al. 2013; Yongfeng et al. 2012; Li et al. 2015; Zhang et al. 2006; Sun and Zhuang 2015).

Non-chromatographic techniques have shown potential application in the determination of PAEs in beverages; however, these techniques are in development. Therefore, chromatographic techniques show greater advantages such as selectivity and sensibility. Additionally, multiple compounds can be analyzed.

Migration of PAEs from Polymers into Beverages

Since PAEs are physically rather than chemically incorporated into polymeric matrix, these compounds can easily migrate from plastic packaging to beverages and subsequently ingested by humans (S. Keresztes et al. 2013; Ustun et al. 2014; G. Zhiyong et al. 2010). Physicochemical factors such as temperature, pressure, presence of solvents, and radiation could affect the migration rate of PAEs (Serodio and Nogueira 2006; Ni et al. 2016), whereby several methods have been proposed for determining the migration degree of these plasticizers (Jeddi et al. 2015; S. Keresztes et al. 2013; Fasano et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2010; Ustun et al. 2014). Migration studies are commonly conducted with food simulants, providing uniform contact of the packaging with the food.

Additionally, the EU 82/711/EEC and 85/572/EEC directives describe the basic rules necessary for testing migration of the constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, specifying the use of simulants, the contact time, and temperature of exposure. These regulations also establish that allowable leaching of all plasticizers of plastic material entering in contact with food cannot exceed 10 mg per dm^2 surface area of the packaging material (Union E 1985, 1982).

Fasano et al. (2012) determined the potential migration of PAEs and adipates from wide range of food packaging materials including plastic wine tops. For this study, samples (31 cm^2) were introduced in 100 mL of 15% (v/v) ethanol and incubated at 40 °C for 10 days. The plastic wine tops showed the highest level of migration of PAEs (DMP, DBP, BBP, DEHP) in concentrations ranging from 0.2 to 14.1 $\mu\text{g/L}$. The authors concluded that the main factor affecting the migration rate of these plasticizers was the use of specific simulants depending on the food product (Fasano et al. 2012).

Keresztes et al. (2013) reported the migration of PAEs (DBP, BBP, and DEHP) from PET bottles at concentrations

between 0.1 and 1.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$. They evaluate the migration rate from PET containers into water when they were stored at 22 °C during 1283 days. The authors concluded that factors such as pH and temperature affect the migration rate (S. Keresztes et al. 2013). In another study, a migration test from plastic containers to mineral water was performed under different storage temperatures, contact times, and storage states (static and dynamic state). The authors concluded that the migration rate of PAEs into beverages depended on not only to the lipophilic characteristic of the beverages, but also to the molecular structure of the PAEs, and it was more significant at higher temperature, longer contact time, and higher dynamic frequency. The concentrations of migrated PAEs (DMP, DEP, DBP, DEHP, BBP, DNOP) from containers to water samples stored for 2 months at 20 °C were between 7.5 and 28 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Xu et al. 2010). Jeddi et al. (2015) performed a migration test on 500-mL PET bottles, stored at 40 °C during 50 days, finding concentrations from 0.125 to 1.25 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for the analyzed PAEs (DBP, DEHP, and BBP). They concluded that the migration rate was mainly affected by the temperature (Jeddi et al. 2015).

Conclusions and Remarks

In the last decade, several analytical methods for PAE quantification in beverages and plastics have been proposed; in this review, the main stages required to quantify these species, emphasizing the treatment procedures for the extraction of PAEs from beverages and polymers and their determination, are summarized. Studies concerning the determination of PAEs in these matrices addressed several problems during their analysis associated to high blank levels because of the ubiquitous nature of these compounds.

In general, PAEs can be determined in beverages by common analytical techniques such as GC-MS, LC-UV, LC-DAD, and LC-MS prior to their extraction (LLE, SPE, SPME, USE, Soxhlet, SFE). Some of these chromatographic methods can be easily developed and implemented. However, more environmentally friendly analytical methods reducing not only the consumption of solvents and reagents, but also analysis times and costs are preferred. Recently, non-chromatographic techniques based on MIP and immunoassay-based techniques have also been described for PAE analysis in beverages. However, these methods present multiple weaknesses such as poor selectivity, long time, and complicated preparation process.

Many methods for extraction and analysis can be applied to the quantification of PAEs, but the selected procedure depends on the capabilities of each laboratory. Thus, (a) the development of automated sample preparation procedures that reduce not only contamination blank level during analysis but also the analysis time and consumption of sample and reagents, as

well as minimize the interaction of the analyst with the samples, and (b) the application of microwave extraction procedures for PAEs in polymeric materials that could reduce not only the extraction time but also the volume used of harmless solvent constitute challenging tasks for the analysis of PAEs in beverages and plastic polymers, respectively.

Since it has been proved that PAEs could easily migrate from polymers as PET and PVC into beverages, it is necessary to apply standardized method for determining their migration degree as described by EU. As a consequence, it is also necessary to establish regulations regarding concentrations of PAEs in drinks and in the polymers used for the production of containers and allowable migration level in order to evaluate the potential risk to human health and environment.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

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Ethical Approval This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects.

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