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Insights into coacervative and dispersive liquid-phase microextraction strategies with hydrophilic media – A review

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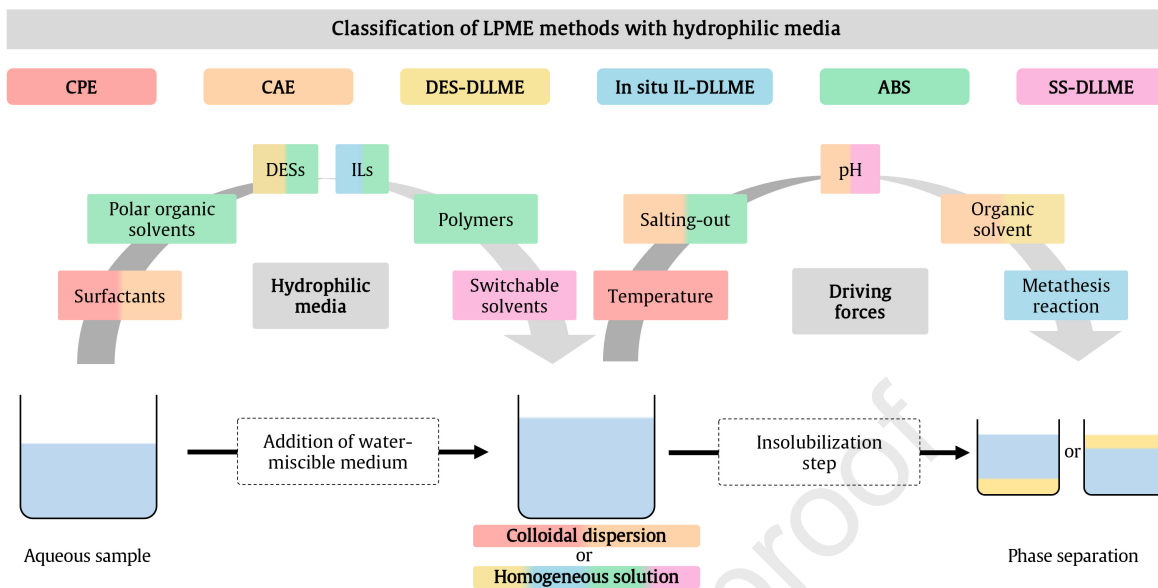
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1 **Insights into coacervative and dispersive liquid-phase microextraction** 2 **strategies with hydrophilic media – A review**

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12 **Abstract**

14 Since the development of liquid-phase microextraction (LPME), different LPME modes
15 depending on the experimental set-up to carry out the extraction have been described.
16 Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction (DLLME), in which a small amount of the
17 water-insoluble extraction solvent is dispersed in the sample, is the most successful
18 mode in terms of number of applications reported. Advances within DLLME have been
19 mainly shifted to the incorporation of green, smart and tunable materials as extraction
20 solvents to improve the sustainability and efficiency of the method. In this sense,
21 hydrophilic media represent a promising alternative since the water-miscibility of these
22 substances increases the mass transfer of the analytes to the extraction media, leading to
23 higher extraction efficiencies. Considering the variety of hydrophilic media that have
24 been incorporated in LPME approaches resembling DLLME, this review aims to
25 classify these methods in order to clarify the confusing terminology used for some of
26 the strategies. Hydrophilic media covered in this review comprise surfactants, polar
27 organic solvents, deep eutectic solvents, ionic liquids, water-miscible polymers, and
28 switchable solvents. Different physicochemical mechanisms of phase separation are
29 discussed for each LPME method, including the coacervation phenomena and other
30 driving forces, such as pH, temperature, salting-out effect, metathesis reaction and
31 organic solvents. LPME modes are classified (in cloud-point extraction, coacervative
32 extraction, aqueous biphasic systems, and different DLLME modes depending on the
33 extraction medium) according to both the nature of the water-miscible extraction phase
34 and the driving force of the separation. In addition, the main advances and analytical
35 applications of these methods in the last three years are described.

36
37 **Keywords:** liquid-phase microextraction, aqueous biphasic system, surfactant, deep
38 eutectic solvent, ionic liquid, switchable solvent

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69

70 1. Introduction

71 Liquid-phase microextraction (LPME) undoubtedly constitutes one of the most
72 exploited strategies within modern analytical microextraction methods [1]. It emerged
73 as a miniaturized version of the conventional liquid-liquid extraction, based on the
74 isolation of analytes from the sample matrix to an extracting micro-liquid phase. In this
75 sense, LPME entails a non-exhaustive extraction process [2] if considering the low
76 volume of extraction solvent involved in the procedure (few microliters, < 100 μ L), but
77 quantitative recoveries can be achieved under certain conditions. The use of such low
78 volumes of extraction solvent together with large sample volumes leads to high
79 preconcentration factors, which allow the determination of trace amounts of analytes,
80 being this one of the key aspects justifying its success. Other interesting features of
81 LPME include low consumption of extraction solvent (and thus low generation of
82 laboratory wastes), simplicity, low cost, low energy consumption, and negligible carry-
83 over, while making possible (in most cases) the direct injection of the solvent
84 containing the extracted and preconcentrated target compounds in the analytical system
85 [1].

86 There is not a single mode of LPME; indeed, many different modes have been
87 developed [1,3]. Existing LPME methods can be classified in three main categories
88 depending on the experimental set-up to carry out the extraction: single-drop
89 microextraction (SDME) – which requires a droplet (microliters) of extraction solvent
90 suspended in the sample –, membrane-based LPME (including hollow fiber LPME –
91 HF-LPME –, and electro-driven separations) – which requires an inert membrane to
92 stabilize relatively higher amounts of extraction solvent (still in the microliters range) –,
93 and dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction (DLLME) – which requires proper

94 dispersion of the extraction solvent (microliters) into the sample. Other classifications
95 are also possible, but this simple division simplifies the overview on LPME.

96 DLLME, which was introduced by Rezaee *et al.* in 2006 [4], has become the
97 most widely utilized LPME approach among all these strategies due to its simplicity,
98 efficiency, and fastness. The conventional mode of DLLME bases on the dispersion of
99 the extraction solvent in the sample with the aid of a dispersive solvent. The operational
100 mode of this method involves the use of a mixture of the extraction solvent, immiscible
101 with the sample, and the dispersion solvent, miscible with both the extraction solvent
102 and the sample. The latter allows the formation of small microdroplets of extraction
103 solvent through the sample, which increases the mass transfer of the analytes and
104 therefore improves the extraction efficiency [5]. This mode of operation overcomes the
105 drawbacks of SDME associated to the stability of the microdroplet, and those of HF-
106 LPME related to the slow diffusion of the analytes to the extraction phase located in the
107 pores or in the lumen of the hollow fiber. Figure 1 shows a general scheme of the
108 conventional DLLME procedure, together with a summary of the main variations to
109 improve the operational of this LPME method.

110 Since the incorporation of the Green Analytical Chemistry (GAC) guidelines in
111 the sample preparation stage, the search of new solvents with the aim of improving the
112 environmentally friendliness of DLLME (and other LPME methods) is one of the most
113 important research lines in the field [6]. Therefore, efforts focus on the design of green,
114 smart, and tunable solvents as an alternative to the conventional, toxic and expensive
115 organic solvents commonly used in DLLME [7] while seeking not only the
116 development of sustainable procedures but also selective and more efficient approaches.
117 Within this trend, the use of hydrophilic media has been one of the explored strategies.
118 The resulting methods take advantage of the hydrophilicity of the solvent/material to

119 increase the mass transfer and extraction efficiency of the target compounds, thanks to
120 the enhanced dispersion of the extraction medium. Despite the water-miscibility of
121 these extraction media, all the LPME methods resemble DLLME but including an
122 additional insolubilization step to separate the final phase with the
123 extracted/preconcentrated analytes from the remaining sample and non-extracted
124 components.

125 Considering the variety of emerged hydrophilic media and their incorporation in
126 different LPME approaches resembling DLLME, with *a priori* important similarities
127 among all methods, and with confusing terminology in several cases, this review aims
128 to classify all reported LPME methods using water-miscible media. This classification
129 takes into account both the nature of the medium and the driving force responsible for
130 the phase separation, as summarized in Figure 2. Special attention is paid to the
131 mechanisms that take place during the insolubilization process. The advances within
132 these strategies reported in the last three years (from 2017 to 2019) are also described,
133 together with a summary of the most relevant analytical applications.

134

135 **2. Coacervation phenomena-based liquid-phase microextraction methods**

136 LPME methods with hydrophilic media driven by the coacervation phenomena
137 deserve special mention due to the impressive number of applications. Clearly, it is
138 essential to define several concepts related to colloidal chemistry with the aim of
139 establishing the physicochemical mechanisms involved in the phase separation
140 phenomena of the different coacervation-based LPME methods.

141 Coacervation-based LPME methods require the formation of colloids. A colloidal
142 dispersion is a homogeneous mixture in which one solute composed of microscopic
143 particles (1 nm – 1 μ m) is dispersed into a continuous phase, generally a liquid (the

144 liquid dispersion) [8]. The coacervation phenomenon is observed when a specific
145 environmental condition of the colloidal dispersion is modified. Thus, coacervation is
146 the self-assembly or association between colloids, which generates a new insoluble
147 phase rich in colloids that can be separated from the liquid dispersion [9]. The final
148 insoluble phase after coacervation is a nano-structured liquid, also termed
149 supramolecular solvent since it is made up of supramolecular aggregates.

150 In general, the first step of coacervation-based LPME methods occurs when a
151 homogeneous solution becomes a colloidal dispersion above the critical aggregation
152 concentration (CAC) of the extraction medium [10]. The second step is the
153 coacervation, which leads to the formation of an insoluble supramolecular aggregate
154 containing the extracted analytes, which can be then easily separated from the initial
155 aqueous phase.

156 Among all extraction media useful for coacervation-based LPME methods,
157 surfactants are the most known substances able to form supramolecular aggregates after
158 coacervation. Surfactants are amphiphilic compounds formed by a hydrophobic tail
159 (usually a hydrocarbon chain) and a hydrophilic head (a polar or an ionic group). The
160 use of surfactants in extraction schemes has been extensively reported in Analytical
161 Chemistry due to their ability to form micelles above the critical micelle concentration
162 (CMC) [11,12]. More recently, other types of compounds have also been found to form
163 supramolecular aggregates, such as long chain alcohols [13], long chain carboxylic
164 acids [14], and primary amines [15]

165 This section will cover only coacervation-based LPME techniques that use
166 hydrophilic media to form a colloid dispersion prior to coacervation. The different
167 techniques are classified according to the type of hydrophilic medium involved and the
168 driving force responsible of the coacervation. In this sense, two techniques will be

169 reviewed: cloud point extraction (CPE), using non-ionic or zwitterionic surfactants; and
170 conventional coacervative extraction (CAE), with ionic surfactants. The use of long
171 chain alcohols and long chain carboxylic acids in non-conventional coacervation
172 phenomena-based LPME [16] are out of the scope of this review since these substances
173 are hydrophobic, but they will be briefly discussed.

174

175 **2.1. Cloud point extraction**

176 CPE was introduced for the first time by Watanabe *et al.* in 1976 [17] as a
177 promising green extraction technique. CPE is based on the coacervation that occurs
178 when the aqueous solution of a non-ionic or zwitterionic surfactant (used at a
179 concentration higher than its CMC) is heated above the cloud point temperature (CPT)
180 of the surfactant. The CPT depends on the surfactant structure and concentration, and it
181 is affected by the presence of additives [18]. Therefore, the coacervation is induced by
182 temperature in CPE, which leads to a reversible micellar aggregation of the surfactant.
183 Under the appropriate conditions, the polar moieties of the surfactant are dehydrated,
184 leading to a decrease of inter-micelle repulsions and the formation of a water-insoluble
185 surfactant-rich phase [19]. Furthermore, there is a competition between different
186 physicochemical parameters that affect the CPE mechanism: enthalpy, entropy, and
187 miscibility of the micelles in the aqueous medium [12].

188 The conventional procedure of CPE involves firstly the formation of micelles by
189 adding the surfactant to the aqueous medium (ensuring a final concentration of the
190 surfactant above its CMC). Then, the mixture is incubated at a temperature above the
191 CPT during a certain time until a cloudy solution is formed. Centrifugation is then
192 usually applied to promote the separation, leading to the formation of two coexisting
193 phases: a water-rich phase and a water-insoluble surfactant rich-phase containing the

194 extracted analytes, as shown schematically in Figure 3 (A). The water-rich phase is
195 discarded, whereas the surfactant-rich phase is subjected to the analytical determination
196 [19].

197 One of the main disadvantages of CPE may be the high consumption of energy to
198 reach the desirable temperature for the phase separation (against GAC requirements).
199 Thus, recent trends focus on developing modifications of the conventional CPE method
200 to decrease the CPT [18]. Moreover, the high viscosity of the resulting surfactant-rich
201 phase has also hampered the application of this method, since the sensitivity is reduced
202 due to the required dilution of the final extract to ensure compatibility with the
203 analytical determination technique.

204 At this point, it is important to mention that conventional CPE was not initially
205 considered a microextraction method. However, most recent CPE applications are
206 indeed micro-CPE methods, if considering for example that a high number of studies
207 report the use of low volumes of surfactant solutions ($\sim\mu\text{L}$). In all these works, a high-
208 concentrated surfactant solution is added to the sample, so that the CMC is reached
209 despite the use of low volumes of surfactant solution [20–43]. Furthermore, a high value
210 of the aqueous sample to final extract volume ratio is obtained in many cases, thus
211 leading to the development of preconcentration methods based on CPE [28,30–
212 32,35,40,42,44–57].

213 In any case, non-ionic or zwitterionic surfactants used in CPE approaches must be
214 carefully selected to ensure the separation with the minimum energy consumption
215 possible. Therefore, surfactants with a CPT around room temperature and with low
216 CMC values are preferred [11,12]. Triton X-114 has been the most used non-ionic
217 surfactant in CPE approaches given its low CPT in a relatively wide range of
218 concentrations [21–24,27,29–32,35–40,42,45,50–52,55,58–74]. In fact, the cloud point-

219 concentration curve of this surfactant in water shows CPT values ranging from 27 to 30
220 °C for concentrations between 0% (w/v) and 9% (w/v) [75]. This explains why most of
221 the recent CPE methods report concentrations of Triton X-114 below 5% (w/v)
222 [27,30,31,35–38,41,50,55,58,61,62,67,68,70,72]. This surfactant belongs to
223 polyethylene oxide-derived family of surfactants, which are commercially available,
224 stable, cheap, and non-volatile, thus favoring their use in environmental-friendly
225 extraction strategies. Given these interesting features, Triton X-100
226 [28,33,34,41,44,46,76–82] and Triton X-45 [43,83], have also been used in recent CPE
227 applications. Other surfactants have been commonly reported, like nonylphenol
228 ethoxylate-based surfactants (Tergitol) [48,49,53,84–86], which provide versatile
229 solubility characteristics, and other less common surfactants are PEG 6000 [56,87,88],
230 Brij-35 [47,54], Tween 80 [89], and PONPE-20 [90].

231 Mixed-micellar media have been also successfully used in CPE methods since the
232 combination of ionic and non-ionic surfactants leads to a synergistic effect that
233 improves the extraction efficiency of the entire procedure. The use of non-ionic
234 polyethylene oxide-derived surfactants (mainly Triton X-114 and Triton X-100) is
235 frequently reported in combination with different ionic surfactants, being
236 cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) [26,57,91,92], sodium dodecyl sulfate
237 (SDS) [20,91], and cetylpyridinium bromide (CPB) [93] the most commonly used in the
238 recent years.

239 With respect to the effect of the ionic strength, the addition of inorganic
240 electrolytes is quite important in CPE since the phase separation is improved due to the
241 preferential hydration of the salt ions *versus* the surfactant (salting-out effect), leading
242 to a decrease in the CPT [18]. Therefore, the addition of salts has been a common
243 strategy in CPE applications [21,26,27,29,32,34,35,37,38,44–46,49,50,52–57,59,61–

244 64,67,68,70,71,76,78,80,84,86–89,91–93], with NaCl
245 [26,27,37,44,46,53,54,59,68,70,80] and Na₂SO₄ [45,50,52,57,84,86–88] as the most
246 common salts reported.

247 Incubation temperature and time are closely interconnected parameters, which
248 directly depend on the CPT of the surfactant. Considering that several analytes can
249 undergo thermal degradation, incubation temperature must be carefully optimized. In
250 general, temperatures 15–20 °C above the CPT are used in most cases to ensure the
251 formation of the cloudy solution after a certain time [19]. Room temperature is the most
252 desirable temperature for incubation, allowing the performance of the CPE method
253 without any additional energy consumption. Thus, several studies have focused on the
254 addition of different substances to decrease the incubation temperature to 25 °C, mainly
255 organic acids and alcohols. These substances have been selected due to their ability to
256 establish hydrogen-bond interactions with water, thus favoring the dehydration of the
257 surfactant and speeding up the phase separation without any heating process. The
258 addition of salicylic acid [78] and ascorbic acid [65] has been reported to perform the
259 extraction at room temperature using surfactants belonging to the Triton family (Triton
260 X-100 and Triton X-114). More recently, acetonitrile has been incorporated in a CPE
261 method to decrease the CPT of PEG 6000 [88]. Furthermore, it has also been described
262 the use of a surfactant combined with an alcohol. Lei *et al.* reported the use of Triton X-
263 114 combined with octanol [66], while Xu *et al.* [79] and Chen *et al.* [47] proposed the
264 incorporation of hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) as additive to decrease de CPT.

265 With respect to the incubation time, 10 min is usually enough to reach the cloud
266 point. In fact, times between 5 and 15 min are the most common reported
267 [21,23,25,28,30,32,34,36,38,40,41,43,45,49,54–56,61,64–67,71–
268 73,80,82,83,85,86,88,89,92–94].

269 The incubation process has been commonly performed in a water bath. Recently,
270 the use of ultrasounds to reach the desired temperature has been reported, leading to the
271 development of ultrasound-assisted CPE (US-CPE) [20,38,50,53,54,56,60,61,64–
272 67,71,80,83,89,94]. US-CPE applications intend to decrease the incubation time
273 required to form the cloudy solution, thus favoring the fastness and effectiveness of the
274 method.

275 In CPE, complete phase separation is usually achieved by centrifugation, but
276 most of the recent studies have reported an additional step of cooling. This increases the
277 viscosity of the surfactant-rich phase and allows discarding the water-rich phase by
278 simple decantation. In general, cooling is performed in an ice water bath for few
279 minutes [20,21,23,30,31,33,37,41,42,51,54,55,57,58,67,69,71–74,76,77,90,92].

280 It is interesting to mention dual-cloud point extraction (d-CPE), an alternative
281 mode of CPE, reported for the first time by Wei *et al.* in 2008 [95]. d-CPE involves two
282 consecutive CPE steps: a conventional CPE followed by the back-extraction of the
283 analytes from the surfactant-rich phase by another CPE procedure using a new aqueous
284 solution. In the last three years, different d-CPE methods have been reported, using as
285 back-extracting reagents acidic solutions (HNO_3 or HCl) [36,58,64,72], or alkaline
286 solutions (NaOH) [39].

287

288 **2.2. Conventional coacervative extraction**

289 CAE is based on a procedure similar to CPE but using anionic or cationic
290 surfactants as extractants. While in CPE the separation is induced by the temperature, in
291 CAE the coacervation occurs due to the salting-out effect or in response to other
292 parameters, such as the addition of an organic solvent or changes in the pH, as shown

293 schematically in Figure 3 (B) [96]. Surfactants must be added to the aqueous solution in
294 a concentration above their respective CMC, as it occurs in CPE.

295 It is important to highlight that micelles of ionic surfactants suffer electrostatic
296 repulsions between them that can negatively affect their aggregation [96]. For this
297 reason, CAE method must be carefully optimized in order to guarantee proper inter-
298 micelle interactions, thus ensuring the formation of the supramolecular aggregate. The
299 surfactant structure, mainly its hydrophobic chain, plays an important role in the
300 extraction process. Moreover, the nature of the surfactant (anionic or cationic) is often
301 related with the experimental parameter that induces the coacervation [12]. Thus,
302 cationic surfactants with a long hydrophobic chain are preferred due to the presence of
303 stronger hydrophobic interactions between their micelles, which minimizes the
304 electrostatic repulsion effect. Furthermore, cationic surfactants can experience
305 coacervation in the presence of a salt [12]. In this sense, CAE methods using cationic
306 surfactants reported in the recent literature use the salting-out effect as the driving force
307 to induce the separation. Gissawong *et al.* reported the use of a mixture of two long-
308 tailed cationic surfactants [97], while Salamat *et al.* used a mixture of a cationic and an
309 anionic surfactant [98], both with NaCl, to induce the coacervation. Dodecyltrimethyl
310 ammonium bromide [97] and dodecylmethyl imidazolium bromide [98] are the most
311 representative cationic surfactants used in CAE approaches.

312 In anionic micellar media, the phase separation is mainly induced by
313 modifications of the pH [12]. Recent CAE applications report the use of SDS as a single
314 anionic surfactant [99], or include a mixed micellar medium together with a cationic
315 surfactant to take advantage of the characteristics of both surfactants [100–102].
316 Nevertheless, in these studies the coacervation is not induced by pH, since other driving

317 forces prevail: the addition of an organic solvent or a coacervation-inducing agent,
318 depending on the case.

319 Several studies describe the use of alcohols as organic solvents to induce
320 coacervation. Specifically, HFIP [100,101] and propanol [103] have been used to
321 coacervate solutions of tetraalkylammonium-type surfactants. Alcohols establish
322 hydrogen-bond interactions with water, thus dehydrating ionic surfactants and
323 promoting the coacervation.

324 Recent studies have reported a CAE method that incorporates a coprecipitation
325 agent as a coacervation-inducing agent rather than using the salting-out effect,
326 modifying pH or adding organic solvents as it is frequently reported. Furthermore,
327 Mammana *et al.* reported a coprecipitation-assisted CAE using $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ as precursor
328 of the coprecipitation agent for SDS [99], while AlCl_3 has also been used to promote the
329 coacervation in a mixed-micellar medium composed of SDS and tetrabutylammonium
330 bromide (TBAB) [102].

331 As it happens with CPE, it is important to mention that recent applications of
332 CAE were developed with preconcentration purposes, given the low volume obtained of
333 the coacervative phase ($\sim\mu\text{L}$) [99,104] compared with the volume of the initial aqueous
334 sample ($\square 10\text{ mL}$) [99–101].

335

336 **2.3. Non-conventional coacervative extraction**

337 Apart from surfactants, in 2007, Rubio *et al.* demonstrated that other amphiphilic
338 compounds were able to form supramolecular aggregates: alkanols and alkanolic acids
339 with long chains [13,14]. These compounds form a colloid dispersion of reverse
340 micelles in protic and aprotic solvents (e.g., tetrahydrofuran (THF) or acetonitrile) at
341 concentrations higher than their respective CAC. The coacervation and subsequent

342 formation of the hydrophobic supramolecular solvent is induced with the addition of
343 water, as shown schematically in Figure 3 (C). This phenomenon has been exploited for
344 the development of a LPME method, termed supramolecular solvent-based
345 microextraction (SUPRAS). The alcohols and carboxylic acids used in this LPME
346 method are water-insoluble and, indeed, they have been used as solvents in
347 conventional DLLME applications [105]. However, the addition of the protic or aprotic
348 solvent favors the formation of self-assembled aggregates, which exhibit higher
349 solvation characteristics and consequently, better extraction performance [14]. Given
350 the hydrophobicity of alkanols and alkanolic acids used as extraction solvents in
351 SUPRAS, this review will not cover this highly interesting mode of microextraction
352 [106–108].

353 More recently, in 2020, Bogdanova *et al.* [15] also demonstrated the formation of
354 supramolecular aggregates of primary amines with long hydrocarbon chains when using
355 monoterpenoids as coacervation-inducing agent. The amines form positively charged
356 amphiphiles when dissolved in water due to their hydration and dissociation.
357 Terpenoids, negatively charged once added to these amine aqueous solutions, interact
358 with the amphiphiles and induce the coacervation phenomenon. Thus, authors used the
359 spontaneous formation of a coacervate of 1-decylamine when adding thymol for the
360 development of a SUPRAS method for the extraction of sulfonamides from biological
361 fluids.

362

363 **3. Additional hydrophilic media-based liquid-phase microextraction methods**

364 In the recent years there has been an increasing incorporation of new solvents
365 in LPME methods to substitute halogenated organic solvents [6,7]. With respect to new
366 hydrophilic media, deep eutectic solvents (DESs), ionic liquids (ILs), and switchable

367 solvents (SSs) have been explored. Moreover, water-miscible organic solvents have also
368 been used in these LPME methods in which the extraction medium is directly added to
369 the aqueous sample. Traditionally, these methods have been included within
370 homogeneous liquid-liquid microextraction [109]. However, this classification is very
371 general and the comprehension on the phenomena responsible of phase separation has
372 been neglected. Therefore, it is essential to provide an insight into the unique set of
373 physicochemical characteristics of these media to gain a better understanding on the
374 variables affecting the phase separation process, which further helps in finding a
375 rationale on their classification. In this section, the LPME methods using these
376 hydrophilic media that do not experiment coacervation will be described. They are
377 classified considering both the separation mechanism and the nature of the hydrophilic
378 medium used as extraction solvent since the phase separation for the same medium can
379 be accomplished by different strategies, leading to different LPME methods. Thus,
380 DLLME using hydrophilic DESs, ILs and SSs, and ABSs using different media (i.e. ILs
381 and DESs) will be reviewed.

382

383 **3.1. Hydrophilic deep eutectic solvent-based dispersive liquid-liquid** 384 **microextraction**

385 Deep eutectic solvents (DESs) are a group of relatively new solvents formed by
386 the combination of a hydrogen bond donor (HBD) and a hydrogen bond acceptor
387 (HBA) at different ratios [110]. These mixtures do not follow an ideal solid-liquid phase
388 behavior and present melting points significantly lower than the melting temperature of
389 the individual initial components. The resulting DES from such mixtures does not
390 require any additional purification step. Main features of these solvents, if properly
391 designed, may include low toxicity and high biodegradability, and they are cheap and

392 easy to prepare. These solvents are also versatile, because their physicochemical
393 properties can be tuned by selecting the adequate combination of HBD and HBA
394 species [7,110,111].

395 Given these characteristics, it is not surprising the impressive increase in the use
396 of hydrophobic DESs in LPME, particularly in DLLME methods, in the recent years
397 [111–113]. More recently, in 2015, Khezeli *et al.* developed for the first time a
398 microextraction strategy based on the use of a water-miscible DES (formed by
399 cholinium chloride and phenol) as initial extraction medium [114], which resembled a
400 combination of DLLME and CAE. The method, termed as DES-DLLME in the current
401 review, requires the addition of the hydrophilic DES as extraction solvent to the
402 aqueous sample, obtaining a homogeneous solution. In this case, the formation of the
403 final insoluble phase is induced by the addition of aprotic solvents. After centrifugation,
404 the water-immiscible phase is obtained containing the target analytes as shown
405 schematically in Figure 3 (D).

406 It has been suggested that π - π , hydrogen bonding and charge transfer interactions
407 among DES components are the main responsible for their self-assembly and
408 consequent insolubilization. Despite the common utilization of terms such as
409 supramolecular aggregates and emulsification when referring to hydrophilic DESs in
410 these methods, it is the opinion of the authors of the current review that more studies are
411 required to ensure the presence of the coacervation phenomena when using these
412 solvents. Indeed, a recent study has reported that the DES formed by cholinium chloride
413 and phenol suffers decomposition once it is dissolved in aqueous media due to the
414 destruction of the hydrogen bonds between its components (i.e. the starting components
415 will be preferentially hydrated by water) [115]. The addition of the aprotic solvent (THF
416 in this case) to the aqueous sample containing the hydrophilic DES leads to the

417 insolubilization of an organic phase mainly composed of phenol, THF and water.
418 Therefore, this study demonstrates that the DES formed by cholinium chloride and
419 phenol has been wrongly termed as extraction solvent in these DES-DLLME methods.
420 It also highlights the need for evaluating the stability of DESs in water to elucidate the
421 mechanism in these methods when using other hydrophilic or “quasy-hydrophobic”
422 DESs [113]

423 Despite this recent breakthrough, this review will cover all hydrophilic DESs-
424 based DLLME methods, even those with the DES composed by cholinium chloride and
425 phenol. After all, the extraction phase used in these methods is added to the aqueous
426 sample as a DES, and the decomposition only takes place when it interacts with water.
427 In fact, after reporting this study, same authors took advantage of the decomposition of
428 DESs to improve the dispersion of the extraction solvent into the aqueous medium and
429 simplify the extraction procedure [116]. The method consists in an effervescence-
430 assisted DLLME using the DES formed by menthol (water-insoluble) and formic acid
431 (hydrophilic) as initial extraction solvent. When it is added to the aqueous sample
432 containing sodium carbonate, the DES decomposes in its individual components. The
433 reaction between the carbonate and formic acid generates carbon dioxide, which leads
434 to the effervescence that enhances the dispersion of the water-insoluble menthol. In this
435 case, the menthol acts as extraction phase, but it is important to point out that it is added
436 to the sample in the form of a DES combined with formic acid. Even though the
437 decomposition of the DESs occurs, the use of hydrophilic or DESs increases the mass
438 transfer of the analytes to the extraction medium due to its enhanced dispersion in the
439 aqueous sample in comparison with hydrophobic DESs. However, it is important to
440 point out that in both cases the addition of a water-miscible organic solvent is required
441 for the separation and dispersion of the extraction phase, respectively.

442 Many applications of hydrophilic DESs in this DES-DLLME method have been
443 reported since the first published work in 2015 [114]. DESs composed of cholinium
444 chloride as HBA and phenol as HBD have been the most comm[on [117–131]. Other
445 alcohols and carboxylic acids have been used as HBDs in combination with cholinium
446 chloride, such as 2-chlorophenol [132], oxalic acid [133], *p*-cresol [134], glycerol [135],
447 and 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethylnaphthalen-2-ol [136]. The use of the
448 hydrophilic DESs obtained after the mixture of tetrabutylammonium chloride as HBA
449 and decanoic acid as HBD has also been reported [137–139]. Depending on the
450 composition of the DES, the water-insoluble phase is obtained as the upper or the
451 bottom phase after the separation.

452 Following current trends within the preparation of materials with higher
453 biodegradability [140], natural DESs (NADESs) synthesized by using natural products
454 have also been used in this LPME method [141–143], for example NADESs prepared
455 with sucrose as HBA and citric acid as HBD [141], among others.

456 As abovementioned, the synthesis of DESs is quite simple, implying a mixture of
457 both components, followed by stirring at temperatures up to the mixture melting. It is
458 interesting to mention that, in general, the optimum DESs to perform the
459 microextraction procedure were those obtained with a higher content of HBD, with
460 common HBA:HBD molar ratios of 1:2 and 1:4. This may be related to the higher
461 hydrophobicity of the HBDs and the viscosity of the resulting DESs with higher
462 concentrations of HBD. The amount of hydrophilic DESs used in these studies ranged
463 between 50 [134] and 1000 μL [128], while the volumes of aqueous sample analyzed
464 were high enough to ensure preconcentration.

465 In the vast majority of the studies, THF was employed as agent to induce the
466 phase separation [117–133,136–139,141,143,144]. However, the use of acetonitrile

467 [135,142], and acetone [134], has also been reported. It is also quite common the
468 application of ultrasounds immediately after the addition of the organic solvent, with the
469 aim of facilitating the insolubilization while enhancing the dispersion of the
470 hydrophobic phase formed [117,118,124,126–131,134,137–139,141–143].

471 Another common strategy to favor the insolubilization and increase the extraction
472 efficiency is the incorporation of agitation cycles. This has been carried out by the
473 aspiration and ejection of the mixture using a syringe [120,123–125,135,136]. As a step
474 forward, the research group of Bulatov described the development of automated flow
475 air-assisted DES-DLLME methods by using an eight-port valve connected to: a
476 peristaltic pump, a mixing chamber where the extraction is accomplished, a syringe
477 pump for the air-assistance, the analytical instrument to perform the on-line analytical
478 determination, and the containers of the solvents and sample [120,135]. In order to
479 avoid the tedious centrifugation steps, Li *et al.* incorporated ferrite magnetic
480 nanoparticles (MNPs) to the mixture after the addition of THF to insolubilize the
481 extraction medium [123]. The formed microdroplets were adsorbed on the surface of the
482 MNPs due to hydrophobic interactions, which allowed the separation of the water-
483 immiscible-phase containing the analytes by using of an external magnet. The only
484 drawback of this approach is the necessity of an additional back-extraction step in the
485 procedure to desorb the analytes from the composite.

486

487 **3.2. *In situ* ionic liquid-based dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction**

488 Ionic liquids (ILs) undoubtedly merit highlighting among the new solvents
489 explored as extraction solvents in DLLME applications [145]. Indeed, it is the
490 microextraction strategy (IL-DLLME) in which ILs have been most successfully used in
491 recent years [146]. ILs are a group of salts with melting points below 100 °C, mainly

492 formed by the combination of a bulky asymmetric organic cation and an organic or
493 inorganic anion. They present negligible vapor pressure at room temperature, high
494 conductivity, and high thermal and electrochemical stabilities. The most attractive
495 feature of ILs is their impressive synthetic versatility and tuneability, which leads to
496 drastic changes in their physicochemical properties by small modifications in their
497 structure and composition. Thus, viscosity, solubility, and solvation properties of ILs
498 can be easily tuned by properly selecting the nature of the cation and the anion [147].

499 Depending on the characteristics of the ILs and the assistance during the DLLME
500 procedure by using materials with specific properties or specific instrumentation,
501 different IL-DLLME modes can be distinguished [148,149]. This classification includes
502 temperature-controlled IL-DLLME, vortex or ultrasounds-assisted IL-DLLME,
503 magnetic IL-DLLME, among others. In 2009, Baghdadi and Shemirani [150] took
504 advantage of the tuneability of ILs to describe a DLLME mode exclusively applicable
505 when ILs are used as extraction solvent, termed mostly *in situ* IL-DLLME. In this
506 approach, a hydrophilic IL is used. Then, an anion-exchange reagent is added to the
507 aqueous sample containing the water-soluble IL. This reagent promotes a metathesis
508 reaction in which the anion moiety of the IL is exchanged to obtain a hydrophobic IL, as
509 it is schematically shown in Figure 3 (E). Due to the miscibility of the initial IL with
510 water, the generated water-insoluble IL is dispersed all over the sample, leading to the
511 formation of an emulsion (turbid solution). Finally, as in the conventional DLLME
512 strategy, the mixture is centrifuged to obtain a microdroplet of the hydrophobic IL
513 containing the analytes. In the study reported by Yao and Anderson also in 2009 [151],
514 authors demonstrated the superiority of the *in situ* IL-DLLME approach compared to
515 conventional IL-DLLME and IL-SDME. By using this strategy, the method is

516 simplified, the extraction time is shortened, and the extraction efficiencies are increased
517 due to the enhanced dispersion of IL in aqueous sample in the initial stage.

518 The most common ILs used as extraction solvents in *in situ* IL-DLLME contain
519 dialkylimidazolium cations, paired with chloride, bromide or tetrafluoroborate anions
520 [152–170]. Hydrophilic ILs with other cations have been reported, such as
521 alkylguanidinium of low cytotoxicity [157,171,172], tetraalkylammonium [173,174],
522 and tetraalkylphosphonium [175]. Structurally tuned ILs, incorporating functional
523 groups in the cation, have also been assessed in this microextraction approach for the
524 extraction of specific analytes. In this sense, ILs with imidazolium cations containing
525 hydroxyl and/or benzyl groups demonstrated good analytical performance for the
526 determination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and acrylamide in food samples
527 [167]. Sadeghi and Sarrafi [160] reported the use of the 1-chloroethyl-
528 methylimidazolium chloride IL functionalized with 8-hydroxyquinoline, which serves
529 simultaneously as extraction solvent and as chelation reagent for the selective extraction
530 of Cd(II) in complex samples. It is also interesting to mention the use of a hydrophilic
531 acidic IL composed of an imidazolium cation and hydrogen sulfate anion, which acts as
532 both extraction solvent and reagent to generate carbon dioxide during the extraction to
533 assist the dispersion [153]. In all cases, the amount of IL used in the method was of a
534 few μL or mg, which compared with the relatively high volume of initial sample,
535 complies with typical high preconcentration factors achieved within DLLME
536 applications.

537 With respect to the anion-exchange reagent, salts with
538 bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imide ($[\text{NTf}_2^-]$) [152,155,157,159,161,167,169,171,176]
539 and hexafluorophosphate anions [153,154,156,159,160,162–166,170,174] are the most
540 common. With the aim of avoiding the use of these highly toxic salts, fluorine-free

541 alternatives have emerged to promote the anion-exchange reaction, such as dicyanamide
542 [175] and perchlorate salts [172,173].

543 The incorporation of magnetic ILs (MILs) in the *in situ* IL-DLLME procedure (*in*
544 *situ* MIL-DLLME) is the most recent improvement within this method [177–179].
545 Hydrophobic MILs have been previously used in IL-DLLME, in which the typical
546 centrifugation step is avoided since the paramagnetic properties of the extraction solvent
547 allow its separation from the sample with the aid of an external magnet [149,180]. The
548 MILs initially reported were not suitable for the *in situ* IL-DLLME approach since they
549 were prepared using paramagnetic anions, which would be exchanged during the
550 metathesis reaction thus losing the MIL. In 2019, Trujillo-Rodríguez *et al.* [177–179]
551 proposed a new generation of hydrophilic MILs containing paramagnetic cations, which
552 can undergo insolubilization by exchanging the anion moiety. The MILs were
553 composed of cations with Ni(II) or Co(II) centers coordinated with four ligands of *N*-
554 alkylimidazole and chloride anions, while Li-NTf₂ was used as anion-exchange reagent.
555 In this case, after the addition of the metathesis reagent in the *in situ* IL-DLLME
556 procedure, the solution was vortexed to accomplish the reaction and the hydrophobic
557 MIL was collected using a magnet. The water-insoluble MIL formed by this method
558 was also collected using a rod magnet previously inserted in the sample, which
559 resembled to stir bar sorptive dispersive microextraction [178]. In this case, the magnet
560 also served as stirring device to assist the metathesis reaction. Once the stirring was
561 stopped, the *in situ* formed MIL was settled in the rod magnet, which was then
562 transferred to another vial to perform the thermal desorption of the analytes.

563 In general, the *in situ* IL-DLLME mode does not require a dispersive solvent in
564 contrast to conventional IL-DLLME, due to the initial miscibility of the IL with the
565 aqueous sample. However, given the viscosity of the *in situ* generated hydrophobic IL,

566 the addition of organic solvents (methanol, acetone, acetonitrile, or THF) has been
567 reported to favor its dispersion [157,166]. This is particularly necessary when dealing
568 with the *in situ* MIL-DLLME [177–179]. This drawback has also been overcome using
569 a non-ionic surfactant as both anti-sticking agent and dispersive solvent, such as Triton
570 X-114 [160], or sodium bicarbonate as effervescent agent [153]. Another interesting
571 study was reported by Su *et al.* [170] with an imidazolium-based hydrophobic IL used
572 as extraction solvent in a microwave-assisted IL-DLLME method, and with a
573 hydrophilic IL added as dispersive agent. Authors also performed a metathesis reaction
574 to transform the IL used as dispersive solvent into a water-immiscible IL thus
575 improving the recovery of the IL phase, with both ILs participating in the extraction of
576 the analytes.

577 One of the main operational disadvantages of the *in situ* IL-DLLME approach is
578 the requirement of centrifugation steps, together with the sampling of the IL
579 microdroplet, which normally settles at the bottom of the sample container. In order to
580 simplify these steps, MNPs have been incorporated in the *in situ* IL-DLLME procedure
581 [154,155,169,173,175]. The MNPs can be added before or after the metathesis reaction.
582 Once the reaction is accomplished, the water-insoluble IL containing the analytes covers
583 the surface of the MNPs due to hydrophobic and electrostatic interactions. In 2018, Wu
584 *et al.* described the preparation of magnetic effervescent tablets, which contained the
585 MNPs, the effervescent agent and the hydrophilic IL [154]. Instead of MNPs, Wang *et al.*
586 proposed the use of magnetic hollow fibers to collect the hydrophobic IL prepared *in*
587 *situ* in the sample solution [163]. In this case, the hollow fiber pieces (containing a
588 stainless steel wire) were added to the sample after the metathesis reaction, and then the
589 water-immiscible IL impregnated the pores of the fibers after stirring. Despite the use of
590 an external magnet enormously facilitates the separation of the IL phase from the

591 sample, the main drawback of these magnetic-assisted *in situ* IL-DLLME methods is the
592 tedious back-extraction step. This step must be integrated into the procedure to desorb
593 the analytes from the magnetic composite, which again increases the total analysis time.
594 In this sense, the *in situ* MIL-DLLME method turns up to be the most promising
595 strategy.

596 Other strategies have been reported to simplify the *in situ* IL-DLLME method,
597 such as the solidification of the formed hydrophobic IL by the synergetic effect of
598 cooling the mixture and the addition of NaCl [174]. NaCl is a widely used salting-out
599 agent due to its high affinity towards water. Thus, NaCl induces the dehydration of the
600 IL, which improves its separation from the aqueous sample and its subsequent
601 solidification after placing the mixture in an ice bath. In this study, the whole extraction
602 procedure was also performed in a syringe. A nonwoven polypropylene sheet was
603 introduced in the syringe needle as a filter to collect the solidified IL-phase and discard
604 the aqueous sample. In a similar way, Molaei *et al.* [165] presented an on-line
605 separation of the IL-phase from the sample by passing the cloudy solution obtained after
606 the metathesis reaction through a PTFE filter, which was placed in a six-port valve
607 coupled to a peristaltic pump. The hydrophobic IL was isolated in the filter, and the
608 analyte was then desorbed by using an organic solvent, followed by its injection in the
609 analytical system.

610

611 **3.3. Aqueous biphasic systems**

612 Aqueous biphasic systems (ABSs) were first proposed by Albertsson in the 50's
613 as more biocompatible separation alternatives to traditional liquid-liquid extraction
614 techniques involving volatile organic solvents [181]. Given their biocompatible and
615 eco-friendly nature, the application of ABSs rapidly evolved not only in the extraction

616 and purification of a plethora of (bio)molecules from the most diverse sources [182,183]
617 but also as sample cleanup and preconcentration techniques for analytical purposes
618 [184–217].

619 ABSs are water-rich liquid-liquid extraction systems, whose genesis builds up
620 on the formation of two coexisting phases when at least two incompatible solutes (e.g.,
621 polymers, salts, sugars, amino acids, ILs, DESs, polar organic solvents, among others)
622 are mixed in aqueous medium above given concentrations and under specific conditions
623 (e.g., temperature, pH). The molecular-level mechanisms behind the formation of ABSs
624 are highly contingent on the pair of phase-forming components used [218,219].

625 Under the scope of the present review, the most recent investigated pairs of
626 ABSs phase-forming components are polymer/salt, polar organic solvent/salt, polar
627 organic solvent/sugars, IL/salt, IL/polymer, IL/surfactant, IL/salt/surfactant, DES/salt,
628 DES/polymer, DES/polyol, DES/amino acid and DES/DES [184–217]. In these cases,
629 the liquid-liquid demixing is driven by a “salting-out” effect, where the creation of
630 complexes between water and the salts/ILs/DESs ions induces the dehydration of the
631 remaining ABSs components [218,219]. Each coexisting phase is enriched in each one
632 of the solutes, so that ABSs are formed by two water-rich layers with different
633 properties, as sketched in Figure 3 (F). Thus, it is possible to finely tune the properties
634 and affinities of the ABSs phases by the cautious selection of ABS phase-forming
635 components and operational conditions. In this way, it is possible to develop efficient
636 liquid-phase microextraction strategies and to attest compatibility with analytical
637 equipment. For most common ABSs, i.e. those bearing an inorganic salt as a salting-out
638 agent, the bottom (denser) phase is commonly salt-rich, while the top phase is enriched
639 in the other solute (e.g., polymer, IL, DES, polar organic solvent). It should thus be

640 mentioned that most often, because of the salting-out effect, the phase containing the
641 preconcentrated analytes is the top phase, as shown in Figure 3.

642 To apply ABSs in liquid-phase microextraction, and given that they are ternary
643 systems, it is vital to gather previous knowledge on both ABSs ternary phase diagrams
644 and partitioning behavior of target analytes among the coexisting phases. ABS phase
645 diagrams allow identifying mixture compositions that form two-phases. Each phase
646 diagram entails two major components, as shown in Figure 4 in an orthogonal
647 representation (where the amount of water corresponds to that required to reach 100
648 wt% for a given mixture composition): (i) the coexistence binodal curve (green full
649 line), and (ii) the tie-lines (TLs, orange dashed lines). The binodal curve corresponds to
650 the boundary between the monophasic and biphasic regimes and it is usually established
651 using the cloud-point titration method (related experimental data represented by green
652 diamonds). TLs indicate the composition of each phase (at the endpoints that intersect
653 the binodal curve, orange circles) for a specific biphasic mixture composition (orange
654 diamonds). The TL length (TLL) denotes the distance between the two phases
655 composition. Any mixture composition lying on the same TL has the same phases'
656 composition, whereas the volumetric or mass ratios between the coexisting phases
657 varies. This possibility allows thus to tailor the mixture composition to reach target
658 enrichment factors, which can be carried out by the application of the lever-arm rule,
659 being the most relevant aspect in the development of preconcentration techniques using
660 ABSs (cf. CF_1 , CF_2 and CF_3 in Figure 4) [184,186,197,201,206].

661 Having the biphasic zone defined, mixture compositions yielding two-phases
662 can be used to address the partitioning behavior of the target analytes and to carry out
663 optimization studies [182]. Mixtures are prepared by adding the appropriate amounts of
664 phase-forming components, vigorously stirred and left to equilibrate and/or centrifuged

665 to achieve the equilibrium. After, the phases are separated and collected to analytical
666 quantification, where extraction of the target analyte towards one phase is aimed. By
667 balancing the properties of the ABSs components and of the target analytes, it is
668 possible to shed light on the interactions governing partition, therefore enabling a
669 rational design of efficient extraction and preconcentration methods based on ABSs.

670 A wide range of polymers and salts have been used in the development of
671 liquid-phase microextraction strategies based on ABSs. Conventionally, even though
672 polyethylene glycols (PEGs) bearing distinct molecular weights are the most recurrently
673 used polymers [184–186], others such as PEG-block-poly(propylene glycol)-block-PEG
674 (Pluronic®) [187] and polyoxyethylene cetyl ether (Brij®, POELE20) [188] have also
675 been considered. These have been combined with either organic (e.g., citrates and
676 tartrates) and inorganic (e.g., phosphates and sulfates) salts to form ABSs [184–188].
677 The ABS operational conditions, namely the nature of the polymer and the salt, TL,
678 temperature, pH, extractant addition and phases' volumetric ratio, were shown to
679 significantly impact on the partitioning behavior of the target analytes [184–188]. As
680 such, a cautious optimization of the ABS operational conditions is usually necessary to
681 obtain the quantitative extraction to a single phase. It should be remarked that although
682 being of utmost importance to develop efficient sample pretreatment and
683 preconcentration techniques, the optimization of incubation times as well as
684 minimization of the ABS components quantities were seldom addressed [185–188].

685 Conventional ABSs may afford appropriate analyte enrichment factors
686 [184,186,188] as well as compatibility with analytical equipment (e.g., ICP-OES, LC-
687 UV and UV-Vis) [185–188] and point-of-use microfluidic immunoassays [184]. It
688 should be however remarked that these advantages depend on the ABS phase-forming
689 components used, mixture compositions, target analyte and respective concentration and

690 dilutions/solvent employed before proceeding for analytical quantification. So far, the
691 quantitative extraction to a given ABS phase is somehow limited and/or dependent on
692 the use of additional extractants [185,187] and the determination of enrichment factors
693 has been often neglected [185,187]. Moreover, the wide application of these more
694 conventional ABSs, i.e. mainly polymer-based, is hampered by: (i) the high viscosity of
695 the polymer-rich phase, (ii) the low speed of the phases' separation and (iii) the
696 unbalanced polarity difference between the coexisting phases which limits selectivity.
697 Aiming to surpass these shortcomings, several strategies have been outlined by
698 implementing polar organic solvents [189–196], ILs [197–212] and DESs [213–217] as
699 ABS phase-forming components.

700 The substitution of polymers by polar organic solvents can overwhelm viscosity,
701 increase phase separation velocity and polarity range. Within this framework, the
702 development of this type of alternative ABSs has mostly relied on the use of salts
703 combined with short-chain alcohols, such as ethanol and/or propanol [189–194].
704 Additionally, combinations of glycerol/salts [195] and tetrahydrofuran/sugars [196]
705 have also been reported. As with polymeric ABSs, a high influence is exerted by
706 operational conditions on the partition patterns of the target analytes [189–196].
707 Particularly, the incubation time was optimized [189–194], with minimum values of 8
708 min being achievable by integrating microwave-assisted extraction with ABS [189].
709 Overall, these systems provide efficient extraction as well as good compatibility with
710 analytical equipment, mostly with LC coupled with various detectors [189–196]. Even
711 though concentration factors remain an underexplored parameter, a maximum 200-fold
712 was reported with tetrahydrofuran/fructose ABS [196].

713 Disclosed by Rogers *et al.* in 2003 [220], evolution of IL-based ABS concept
714 has led to significant progress in extraction and separation fields [219]. By virtue of

715 their “designer solvent” character [221], ILs are indeed the ABSs components of
716 election in the development of sample cleanup and preconcentration techniques. IL-
717 based ABSs entail mostly IL/salts [197–207], but also IL/polymers [208], IL/surfactants
718 [209,210], and IL/salts/surfactants [211,212]. Various IL cation-anion combinations
719 have been covered to appraise the role of the IL structure on the partition of target
720 analytes: (i) cations bearing distinct alkyl chains lengths or functionalization based on
721 either nitrogen-based cyclic (e.g., imidazolium, pyrrolidinium and piperidinium) or
722 acyclic (e.g., quaternary ammonium, phosphonium, guanidinium and cholinium)
723 compounds; (ii) anions of multiple nature, ranging from the most common chloride,
724 bromide, tetrafluoroborate, trifluoromethanesulfonate, dicyanamide, thiocyanate,
725 TEMPO-sulfate and alkylsulfates to the ones derived from natural sources (e.g.,
726 alkanoates, aminoates, salicylates, acesulfamate and saccharinate) [197–212]. Like
727 polymer- and polar-organic-solvent-based ABSs, compatibility with analytical
728 equipment, mostly LC with different detectors, may be enabled with IL-based ABSs
729 [197–212]. Also, the design of efficient extraction and preconcentration processes
730 highly counts on the proper optimization of operational variables, namely the nature and
731 mass of the phase-forming agents, water ratio, TLL, temperature, pH, time, phases’
732 volumetric ratio and ultrasound-assistance [197–204,206–209,211,212]. Some authors
733 further reinforced the key role played by the IL structure in providing quantitative
734 extraction of the target analytes towards the IL-rich phase
735 [197,198,201,202,204,211,212]. Additionally, the correct selection of the phase-forming
736 components may lead to suitable preconcentration factors, where strong salting-out
737 species, such as K_3PO_4 , $C_6H_5K_3O_7$, K_2HPO_4 , and Na_2CO_3 , should be prioritized
738 [197,199–201,203,204,206]. Remarkably, using low amounts of ILs, i.e. typically <5
739 wt% in ABSs, concentration factors over 20000-fold were estimated to be achievable

740 with ABSs formed by ILs and salts, which in some cases are well-beyond the values
741 needed [197,199–201,203,204,206]. The major advantage of IL-based ABSs is the high
742 solvation capacity afforded by the IL-rich phase, avoiding the phase saturation with the
743 target analyte. On the other hand, when combining ILs and salts in ABSs, there is a
744 strong salting-out effect exerted by the salt, leading to the quantitative extraction of the
745 target analyte to the IL-rich phase. Furthermore, whenever required, ILs can be easily
746 recovered and reused in subsequent extractions/preconcentration steps, thus decreasing
747 the cost of the overall technology [197]. It should be further highlighted that the
748 “designer solvent” status of ILs further allowed the synthesis of MILs and their
749 incorporation in ABSs, which speeds up extraction and facilitates phase separation
750 [199]. By simply employing a magnetic external field, MIL-based ABSs shorten the
751 time required to achieve equilibrium and dismiss the need for a centrifugation step.

752 In 2014, DESs were for the first time considered alternative ABS phase-forming
753 components by Zeng *et al.* [222]. As with ILs, this was triggered by the DESs features:
754 (i) high degree of structural diversity afforded by the plethora of starting materials and
755 stoichiometric ratios that can be used for their preparation; and (ii) cost-effectiveness as
756 their preparation mostly relies on cheap and naturally occurring starting materials, not
757 requiring reaction and purification steps [223,224]. Opposing to the hype with IL-based
758 ABSs within the scope of liquid-phase microextraction strategies, the application of
759 DES-based ABSs has seldom been addressed [213–217]. So far, ABSs formulated by
760 DESs/salts, DESs/polymers, DESs/amino acids, DESs/sugars, DESs/amino acids and
761 DESs/DESs were covered [213–217]. Various HBD-HBA pairs have been studied
762 regarding the influence of DESs components on the partition of target analytes: (i)
763 ammonium salts (e.g., cholinium chloride and tetrabutylammonium halides) and amino
764 acids (e.g., lysine and proline) as HBA and (ii) polyols (e.g., glycerol, 1,4-butanediol,

765 ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, xylitol and sorbitol), monosaccharides (e.g, glucose),
766 organic acids (e.g., acetic, glycolic, lactic, malic and citric acids) and phenols (e.g.,
767 phenol, pyrocatechol, resorcinol and phloroglucinol) as the HBD [213–217]. As with
768 polymer-, polar organic solvent- and IL-based ABSs, compatibility with LC and UV-
769 Vis analytical equipment was demonstrated [213–217]. The extraction efficiency was
770 shown to be contingent on the operational conditions, such as amount and nature of both
771 DESs and remaining phase-forming agent, phases' volumetric ratio, temperature, pH,
772 ultrasound time, separation time and addition of extra salt [213–217]. As revealed with
773 ILs, most authors disclosed the impact of the DESs HBD-HBA pair on the partition of
774 target analytes [213,214,216,217]. Furthermore, some authors highlighted how the ABS
775 phase-forming pair selection drives the extraction success [215,216]. Among the
776 available options, i.e. ABSs composed of DESs/salts, DESs/amino acids, DESs/sugars,
777 DESs/amino acids and DESs/DESs, those entailing strong salting-out agents (e.g.
778 Na_2CO_3 and Na_2SO_4), are generally the most efficient [215]. Yet, DESs/DESs and
779 DESs/polyols exhibited high capacity to simultaneously extract target analytes of
780 distinct nature, as shown with three proteins [216]. Even though no enrichment factors
781 were reported [213–217], volumes of DESs as low as 200 μL allowed the successful
782 extraction and quantification of the target analytes [214]. Remarkably, DES-based
783 ABSs were shown to outperform the extraction efficiency of either DLLME with
784 hydrophobic DESs [214] and polymer/salt-based ABSs [215].

785 Based on the exposed, and if properly designed, ABSs join high
786 extraction/preconcentration efficiency, compatibility with analytical equipment and low
787 environmental impact. Given the major accomplishments within the ABS domain, IL-
788 based approaches seem to be the most encouraging ones to be followed since they
789 allow: (i) fast separation and low viscosity of the IL-rich phase [205]; (ii) use of low

790 amounts of IL (in the order of μL) [206]; (iii) high preconcentration factors [201]; (iv)
791 alternatives to speed up and facilitate phase separation/collection can be applied [199];
792 (v) high solvation ability of the IL-rich phase that allows the complete extraction of the
793 target analyte from the sample (with no losses, thus given more accurate results); (vi)
794 and saturation of the IL-rich phase is difficultly achieved at the levels that target
795 analytes are being analyzed within an analytical perspective.

796 The same rationale used for ILs can be followed while considering DES-based
797 ABSs as useful routes for the extraction and preconcentration of target analytes.
798 However, it should be kept in mind that the DES integrity may be compromised during
799 ABS formation, as hydrogen-bonding between the two components is destroyed [225].
800 From an analytical viewpoint, this phenomenon may compromise quantification
801 accuracy and the compatibility with analytical equipment. Since an adequate choice of
802 the DESs and the remaining-phase forming component may overcome such
803 disintegration issues [226], authors should appraise DESs integrity in their studies.

804

805 **3.4. Switchable solvents-based dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction**

806 Switchable solvents (SSs) are water-insoluble media that can be easily and
807 reversibly transformed to a water-miscible solvent by a simple change in the system
808 under mild conditions [227].

809 The first description of these solvents in 2005 involved the use of a water-
810 insoluble mixture of 1,8-diazabicyclo-[5.4.0]-undec-7-ene (DBU) and 1-hexanol [228].
811 After the exposure to gaseous CO_2 at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, the
812 mixture rapidly changed its polarity and a homogeneous solution was obtained. This
813 change in miscibility was due to an acid-base reaction in which the DBU was
814 protonated and the hydrophilic carbonate salt of the alcohol was obtained. The reaction

815 could be easily reversed by evacuation of CO₂ from the mixture, leading to
816 insolubilization. Since then, different compounds have been identified as SSs, including
817 amidine and ternary amines of low polarity [227,229], and fatty acids [230].

818 In the case of amines (insoluble in aqueous solutions), the hydrophilic carbonate
819 protonated form of the amine is obtained when CO₂ is added. This change in the
820 polarity can be easily reversed by increasing the pH, which leads to deprotonation of the
821 amine. In some cases, this phenomenon is also observed without the addition of CO₂
822 because the switching between the protonated and deprotonated form of the amine is
823 accomplished by modifying the pH. Fatty acids (initially water-insoluble) generate the
824 hydrophilic form when ionized (as salt, or as the carbonate when CO₂ is used) at high
825 pH values. Thus, acidic pH values solubilize amines and basic pH values solubilize fatty
826 acids.

827 In 2015, Lasarte-Aragonés *et al.* were the first to propose the use of SSs in
828 microextraction, in a procedure quite similar to DLLME [231]. In this approach, an
829 aqueous solution of the carbonate protonated amine (*N,N*-dimethylcyclohexylamine) is
830 prepared by adding dry ice until a homogeneous phase is obtained. This mixture is used
831 as extraction media, which is easily insolubilized by increasing the pH (with a
832 concentrated NaOH solution). Once formed the emulsion, the upper deprotonated
833 amine-rich phase easily separates from the aqueous sample as it is schematically shown
834 in Figure 3 (G). Since this first application of amine-based SSs in LPME (SS-DLLME),
835 different methods have been described following the same strategy. The original SS,
836 composed of the mixture of DBU and an alcohol, has been used in this microextraction
837 strategy by dissolving them in aqueous sample in presence of CO₂ (as dry ice or gas),
838 followed by the insolubilization with an increase of the pH [232,233]. Carbonate
839 protonated amines have been the most explored SSs [234–257]. In all cases, the

840 hydrophilic amine is previously obtained using dry ice, but some studies reported the
841 bubbling of gaseous CO₂ instead [234,258]. Among all the amines that have been used,
842 *N,N*-dimethylbenzylamine [236,238–241,245,251,259,260], and triethylamine
843 [244,247–250,255,261] are the most common ones, and in less extent *N,N*-
844 dimethylcyclohexylamine [237,246,252]. *N,N*-dipropylamine has been mainly used as
845 SS by changing from the protonated and deprotonated form without adding CO₂ [262–
846 264]. In this case, the hydrophilic amine is obtained *in situ* by simultaneously adding
847 the amine and HCl to the aqueous sample solution. *N,N*-dimethylcyclohexylamine was
848 also used following the same strategy [265], but in this case the amine was previously
849 mixed with an aqueous acidic solution to obtain the water-miscible phase. In all above-
850 mentioned studies, concentrated NaOH solutions were used to increase the pH and
851 induce the phase separation. More recently, *N,N*-dipropylamine has also been used in a
852 temperature-controlled SS-DLLME method [266]. In this approach, the initial
853 hydrophobic tertiary amine was solubilized in the aqueous sample by decreasing the
854 temperature due to the strong hydrogen bonding interactions between the amine and
855 water molecules at 5 °C, which was reversed to obtain the phase separation by increasing
856 the temperature to 25 °C. Therefore, the miscibility in water of the amine could be tuned
857 without requiring protonation and deprotonation, thus facilitating the experimental
858 procedure.

859 With respect to the use of long chain fatty acids in SS-DLLME, hexanoic acid
860 [267–269], nonanoic acid [270,271], and decanoic acid [272,273] have been used. Two
861 different approaches have been proposed when dealing with this type of SS: the use of
862 hydrophilic solutions of the fatty acid salt (ionized form) as extraction solvent
863 [267,269,272,273], or the use of carbonates as both effervescent reagent and as a basic
864 medium to ionize the acidic form with the purpose of obtaining the hydrophilic phase

865 [268,270,271]. In the first case, sodium salts of the carboxylic acids were dissolved in
866 the aqueous sample or NaOH was added to ionize and solubilize the fatty acid. When
867 dealing with effervescent-assisted methods, the carboxylic acid and Na_2CO_3 are
868 simultaneously added to the aqueous sample to form in situ the miscible solvent and
869 thus increasing the dispersion (due to the effervescency caused by the carbonate)
870 [268,270]. Shishov *et al.* described the preparation of an effervescent tablet taking
871 advantage of the solid nature of all the reagents involved in the microextraction process.
872 The tablet included the carbonate salt as effervescent reagent, the sodium salt of the
873 fatty acid as extraction solvent, and oxalic acid as the agent to promote the
874 insolubilization [271]. Therefore, the SS-DLLME only required the addition of two
875 tablets to the aqueous sample, thus enormously simplifying the whole procedure. In the
876 remaining cases using this type of SS, concentrated H_2SO_4 solutions were used to
877 switch the solvent to their respective water-insoluble forms.

878 In some cases, DLLME methods are assisted by vortex stirring [235,238–
879 241,243,249,251–254,258,261,264,270], or ultrasounds [233,244,250,257,260,269],
880 once the hydrophilic solvent was switched to its water-insoluble form. These strong
881 stirring media favor the dispersion and increase the extraction efficiency. It has also
882 been reported the incorporation of ionic surfactants (e.g. Aliquat 336 and SDS) with the
883 purpose of forming an ion-pair complex with the charged analytes - due to low extreme
884 pH conditions used in the switching process -, ultimately improving the extraction
885 performance of the method [247,249,250]. Some other strategies have been proposed
886 with the aim of simplifying the extraction procedure and facilitating the collection of the
887 formed hydrophobic phase. As examples, the solidification of the SS by cooling the
888 mixture [235,270], or the use of a syringe to perform the entire SS-DLLME method
889 [272,274]. The performance in a syringe device can be also performed in a fully

890 automated strategy with a syringe pump, as reported by Pochivalov *et al.* [274]. It is
891 also interesting to mention the stir membrane device recently reported by Lebedinets *et*
892 *al.* [267]. The stir disk required placing an iron wire between two poly(vinylidene
893 fluoride-co-tetrafluoroethylene) membranes, which are then glued to close the device.
894 The disk was added to the sample before switching the solvent to its water-insoluble
895 form. Thanks to the iron wire, the disk could be rotated and assisted the dispersion of
896 the solvent, while at the same time due to the porosity and hydrophobicity of the
897 membrane disk, the SS was retained on its surface. Finally, the analytes were desorbed
898 by immersing the membrane in methanol.

899 In all the reported applications, the amounts of the “precursors” of the SS (the
900 pure amine added to an acidic aqueous sample, the pure fatty acid added to a basic
901 aqueous sample, the acidic aqueous solution of the amine, the basic aqueous solution of
902 the fatty acid, or the mixture water+amine+dry ice) are low enough to ensure a final
903 switchable hydrophobic phase of a few μL . This led to high preconcentration factors if
904 considering the relatively high volumes of sample (around 5–10 mL).

905

906 **4. Analytical applications**

907 LPME methods reviewed in this article have been widely used in different
908 analytical applications within the last three years. Figure 5 shows the number of
909 publications for each method in the period between 2017 and 2019. Among the different
910 LPME methods with hydrophilic media, it is interesting to highlight the increase in the
911 number of studies that incorporate newer and greener hydrophilic media. Indeed, the
912 number of applications of hydrophilic DES-DLLME and SS-DLLME has significantly
913 increased in the last year. This may be related to the facile synthesis, low toxicity and
914 impressive tuneability of DESs, together with the interesting features of SSs, which

915 simplify the microextraction procedure and improve the sustainability. Furthermore,
916 despite CPE is a well-known steady technique, it still presents the higher number of
917 applications in the recent years. With respect to ABSs, their use as a LPME approach
918 with different hydrophilic components has been progressively extended in the last three
919 years, thus increasing the analytical applications of these ternary systems.

920 Figure 5 also includes a summary of the nature of the analytes extracted using
921 hydrophilic media, as well as the type of samples analyzed, with environmental waters
922 as the most common sample matrix. In those applications dealing with more complex
923 samples, in general, authors dilute the matrices with ultrapure water prior to the LPME
924 method, while previous extraction or digestion steps are required when analyzing solid
925 samples. It is important to highlight that there has not been found a rationale between
926 the nature of the target analytes and the characteristics and properties of the selected
927 hydrophilic extraction media. Indeed, the same hydrophilic media have been
928 successfully used for the extraction of totally different analytes: metal ions, polar
929 analytes and even highly hydrophobic organic compounds. Therefore, despite the wide
930 variety of extraction media and the tunable properties of some of them (i.e. ILs and
931 DESs), in general, the most common and well-known media have been applied in
932 different applications. Thus, poor attention has been paid to the design of the
933 hydrophilic extraction phase, while the selectivity of the analysis has been mainly based
934 on the analytical separation instrumentation.

935 Moreover, it is important to highlight some common issues amongst all the
936 methods that limit their real application: (i) the scarce number of applications using LC
937 coupled to mass spectrometry (MS), which may be due to the low compatibility of the
938 final extraction-phase with the MS system in the ionization interface; and (ii) the tricky
939 collection of the final extraction phase, which requires particular expertise of the

940 operator due to its small volume and high viscosity in most cases. In this section, the
941 analytical applications in which these methodologies have found practical utility will be
942 discussed below for each method, with emphasis in those hydrophilic media and
943 techniques with higher number of applications, while Table 1 includes some
944 representative examples for each method.

945

946 **4.1. CPE**

947 With respect to CPE, it has been developed for the extraction of both organic
948 compounds and heavy metals, with the determination of metal species the most
949 successful application as shown in Figure 5. This is probably related to the fact that
950 most nonionic surfactants absorb UV-Vis radiation, thus generating interfering signals
951 in chromatograms when LC-UV-Vis is used for organics.

952 V(IV) [32,61] and V(V) [32,61,67], U(VI) [26,57,63,93], Cu(II) [21,82,84],
953 Hg(II) [34,58,64,94] and $[\text{CH}_3\text{Hg}]^+$ [58,64,94] are some of the heavy metals determined
954 in the recent years. In these cases, the addition of a chelating agent is necessary to form
955 an extractable heavy metal ion complex prior to the CPE procedure [19]. This justifies
956 that the pH of the aqueous sample is the main factor to be carefully optimized in the
957 procedure.

958 A wide variety of organic compounds has also been extracted using a CPE
959 method, including phenols [54,59,60,86,88], vitamins [49,56,80] and pharmaceuticals
960 [24,44,46].

961 CPE has been mainly devoted to the extraction of analytes from environmental
962 samples, with water the most studied matrix. Nevertheless, the development of CPE in
963 complex matrices has also been reported in the recent years, including biological
964 samples (mainly urine) [21,23,39,46,53,74,77,80] and food samples

965 [45,49,60,61,72,87,89,92,94]. d-CPE has been especially successful for the speciation
966 of metals, such as Hg species [58,64] and As(III) and As(V) [36], and even for the
967 determination of selenium in food samples [72]

968 The analytical technique employed after CPE depends on the analyte and it is also
969 conditioned by the compatibility of the surfactant-rich phase with the analytical
970 instrument. Thus, UV-Vis spectrophotometric applications prevails in these years
971 [21,23,26–28,34,41,45,48,51,52,54,57,59,61,62,67–69,71,74,76,78,83,92,94,275] while
972 LC is also quite common [24,38,39,44,46,49,50,53,55,56,60,70,79,86–88]. Only a
973 recent work has reported the coupling of the CPE method with GC by an ultrasound-
974 assisted back extraction with isooctane [38]. Inductively coupled plasma (ICP) has also
975 been successfully used in some of the applications of CPE for the determination of
976 heavy metals, in combination with optical emission spectroscopy (OES) [20,36,93] or
977 MS [22,77,91]. Prior to the analytical determination after CPE, the surfactant-rich phase
978 is often pretreated to ensure the compatibility with the instrument. Given the high
979 viscosity of the surfactant-rich phase, organic solvents are commonly selected to
980 dissolve it or to minimize its viscosity, with ethanol, methanol and acetonitrile the most
981 frequently used [21,23,24,27,34,44–46,48,50,52–56,67–69,71,79,80,82,83,85–87,93].
982 Several (few) studies intended for the determination of metal species also reported the
983 use of HNO₃ solutions [20,33,35,36] or even a mixture of methanol and HNO₃ solutions
984 in this dilution step of the surfactant-rich phase[30,40,42,51,57,73]. In some cases, the
985 direct injection of the surfactant-rich phase in the analytical system without the addition
986 of any solvent after filtration has been reported [32,47,65,81,88].

987

988 **4.2. Conventional CAE**

989 With respect to conventional CAE, as observed in Figure 5, most of the
990 applications in the last three years focused on the determination of organic compounds
991 in water [99,102,203,276], food samples [97,98,101] and biological samples [104],
992 using LC with UV-Vis detection [97–99,101–104,276]. CAE has also been used for the
993 extraction of proteins. Specifically, Xu *et al.* have reported the extraction of lysozyme
994 using a CAE-assisted method with HFIP in combination with capillary electrophoresis
995 (CE) [100]. The resulting supramolecular aggregate obtained after the CAE is generally
996 filtered or dissolved in methanol to reduce the viscosity prior to the analytical
997 determination [99,104].

998

999 **4.3. DES-DLLME**

1000 Hydrophilic DESs in DLLME have been used for the extraction of metals as
1001 often as for the extraction of organic compounds, as shown in Figure 5.

1002 Among the metal species determined, Pb(II) [124,132,137,141], Cd(II)
1003 [119,127,141], Hg species [117,142], As(III) [133,143], and Se(IV,VI) [143,129] have
1004 been the most common ones, present in environmental waters or in food samples. The
1005 determination was accomplished either using UV-Vis spectrophotometry [118,142,144]
1006 or atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) techniques with different atomization
1007 methods, mainly electrothermal (ETAAS) [117,122,127–129] and flame AAS (FAAS)
1008 [119,132,137,141]. In general, the formed DES-rich phase after the microextraction
1009 method is directly injected in the instrument or diluted with an acidic aqueous solution
1010 of ethanol or methanol.

1011 With respect to the determination of organic analytes with DES-DLLME, the
1012 extraction of drugs and pharmaceuticals from waters and biological fluids has been the
1013 main field of application [120,125,131,135,136], as examples: antibiotics in river waters

1014 [131], methadone in plasma and urine [136], and anti-depressant drugs in plasma and
1015 pharmaceutical wastewaters [125]. Other contaminants have been extracted from
1016 environmental water samples using DES-DLLME methods, such as dyes [130,139],
1017 pesticides [121], and phenols [134]. Analytical determination has been accomplished
1018 mainly using LC with UV-Vis detection [120,121,123,125,131] or spectrophotometric
1019 techniques [126,130,135,138,139] after the dilution of the DES-rich phase due to its
1020 high viscosity. It is interesting to highlight that in those applications in which the
1021 microextraction method was performed in combination with GC, the DES-rich phase is
1022 directly injected in the GC system without requiring any evaporation and reconstitution
1023 step or dilution [134,136].

1024

1025 **4.4. *In situ* IL-DLLME**

1026 Most of the *in situ* IL-DLLME methods have been proposed for the extraction of
1027 organic compounds (Figure 5), including a high variety of pesticides from
1028 environmental waters [155,159,163,169,175] and food samples [153,170,174];
1029 persistent and emerging pollutants (UV filters and plasticizers) from environmental
1030 waters [161,167,177,178]; and pharmaceuticals [156] and biomarkers [172] from
1031 biological fluids. These methods have been mainly coupled with LC and different
1032 detectors depending on the nature of the analytes [153–156,158,163–175,177], with
1033 only one application using MS as detection technique for the determination of alkaloids
1034 in plants [168]. In some of those cases where the hydrophobic IL (or diluted with an
1035 organic solvent) was directly injected in the LC system, the compatibility with the
1036 mobile phase and the chromatographic column was ensured [171,172,177]. When
1037 dealing with GC coupled with different detectors, mainly MS, the analytes were

1038 thermally desorbed from the hydrophobic IL using a headspace sampler [161,167,178]
1039 or a thermal desorption unit [159].

1040 It is interesting to highlight the application of the *in situ* MIL-DLLME method
1041 proposed by Bowers *et al.* for the extraction of different sized fragments of DNA [179].
1042 In this case, the amount of extracted DNA was indirectly determined (by injecting in the
1043 LC system or by measurement in the spectrofluorometer the supernatant obtained after
1044 the extraction procedure) leading to extraction efficiencies between 42 and 99%.

1045 With respect to the determination of metals by *in situ* IL-DLLME, representative
1046 examples include Cd(II) and Cu(II) from water [157,162,166] and food samples [160];
1047 cobalt [164], mercury [165], uranium [152], and nickel and zinc [166], mainly in
1048 environmental samples. In general, all these methods are coupled with FAAS after the
1049 dilution of the hydrophobic IL with an organic solvent (to reduce the viscosity of the IL
1050 and facilitate the aspiration of the extract into the instrument).

1051

1052 **4.5. ABSs**

1053 Concerning the application of ABSs and as sketched in Figure 5, organic
1054 compounds represent the most explored type of analytes, followed by metals, proteins,
1055 and bacteria (one work). Among the organic compounds addressed, pharmaceuticals are
1056 the most studied, due to either their emergence as environmental pollutants
1057 [185,186,188,190,191,195,197,199–201,214] and food contaminants [211] or due to the
1058 need of screening drug quality [200] and concentration levels in biological fluids
1059 [200,212]. Other applications envisioned the determination of mycotoxins [184],
1060 carcinogens [192] and dyes [207,209,215] in food, feed and drinks, of pesticides in
1061 either environmental and food samples [194,196,198,203,208,210], of polycyclic
1062 aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in tap water [206], and of flavonoids [189], ginsenosides

1063 [213] and alkaloids [193,202] in biomass. Environmental samples, including water (e.g.,
1064 river, lake, tap water, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) effluents) and soil-based
1065 matrices, are the most focused matrices
1066 [187,188,190,191,196,197,199,201,203,204,206,214], followed by food samples
1067 [184,192,194,207–209,211,217], biological fluids [200,204,212] and others such as
1068 biomass [189,193], pharmaceutical formulations [200,213] and porcine crude extract
1069 [216]. However, it should be remarked that a significant amount of studies resort to
1070 synthetic samples, failing to address real case scenarios where the matrix effect on both
1071 analyte extraction and quantification plays a pivotal role
1072 [185,186,195,198,202,205,210,215].

1073 Regardless the ABS constitution, LC has been the preferred analytical technique
1074 for the quantification of organic compounds. Depending on the target analyte nature
1075 and/or limits of detection needed, UV, DAD, FD or MS detectors have been used [188–
1076 191,193,196–201,203,206–208,210–214]. Other analytical techniques have been
1077 additionally adopted, namely UV-Vis spectroscopy [185,186,195,202,209,215], GC-MS
1078 [192], 2D-LC [194] and immunoassays [184,205]. Given the remarkable ABSs
1079 compatibility with analytical equipment, the direct analysis of the analyte-enriched
1080 phase, either undiluted or diluted in an appropriate solvent, is usually enabled [184–
1081 186,188–203,205–215]. Similarly, ABSs, if properly designed, assure compatibility
1082 with analytical techniques for metal ions (e.g., HG-ICP OES and DPASV) [187,204]
1083 and proteins (UV-Vis) [216,217] determination.

1084 It should be finally highlighted that ABSs can be used with microfluidic and
1085 lateral flow immunoassays providing sensitive and rapid results for organic compounds,
1086 proteins and bacteria determination, which represents a steppingstone to off-site and
1087 point-of-care analysis [184,205].

1088

1089 **4.6. SS-DLLME**

1090 The variety of analytes extracted using SS-DLLME is wider considering the
1091 higher number of publications with this method compared with the remaining
1092 methodologies, except for CPE (see Figure 5).

1093 With regards to metal ions, Ni(II) [254,255,257,261], Co(II) [242,253,257,259],
1094 Cd(II) [245,248,257], Pd(II) [241,252], and Pb(II) [235,257] have been the most
1095 commonly determined in a wide variety of samples, including foods
1096 [235,242,248,253,254,257,259,261,272,277] cigarettes [253,254], waters from different
1097 sources [241,245,252,255,257,261], and urine [257].

1098 Most applications of SS-DLLME have been shifted to the determination of drugs
1099 and pharmaceuticals from biological fluids (mainly urine) [243,249,258,263–
1100 265,267,274] or environmental samples [237,270]. The extraction of dyes from food
1101 [247,269], pesticides from waters or food samples [238,240,244,260], and disrupting
1102 compounds from environmental waters, including phenols [236,239,246,251],
1103 hormones [236,251,260,271], PAHs [273], and phthalic acid esters [266] have also been
1104 reported. The analytical determination in all cases was accomplished either by LC or
1105 GC techniques, depending on the nature of the analytes and the sensitivity required.

1106 In most cases, the resulting hydrophobic phase was directly injected in the LC,
1107 GC, ASS or spectrophoto/fluoro-metric systems [233,236,238–
1108 240,243,247,249,251,256,258,260,264,266,268–270,273], but the dilution of the
1109 switchable phase with an adequate solvent has also been a common strategy
1110 [142,237,241,242,245,248,252–254,259,261,271,272,274,277].

1111 Some studies also reported the evaporation of the SS followed by the
1112 reconstitution with a solvent more compatible with the analytical system

1113 [244,246,250,255,257,262,263,265]. It is interesting to mention the studies reported by
1114 Afridi *et al.*, in which the extracted metal ions were desorbed from the hydrophobic
1115 phase, which allowed the reusability of the SS up to 6 times [232,234].

1116

1117 **5. Conclusions and future perspectives**

1118 The incorporation of hydrophilic media within LPME methods undoubtedly
1119 constitutes a step forward to improve the efficiency and sustainability of these
1120 techniques. Hydrophilic media enhance the dispersion of the extraction phase into the
1121 sample, thus leading to an enhancement of the mass transfer of the analytes in
1122 comparison with the use of water-insoluble extraction phases, thus justifying the high
1123 number and variety of applications appearing in the past years.

1124 In this particular research topic within LPME, advances in the last years have
1125 been mainly shifted to the design of new hydrophilic materials to develop greener and
1126 more efficient LPME modes. Due to the wide variety of exploited water-soluble
1127 materials (as alternative to conventional extraction phases) and the different pathways
1128 that may be followed for their insolubilization, this review articles aimed to establish a
1129 classification to avoid confusions in the scientific terminology. This classification is
1130 based on an understanding of the physicochemical mechanism that takes place during
1131 the phase separation, which is also useful for determining the main parameters that have
1132 a major influence in the performance of the method (and therefore should be optimized).
1133 The proposed classification of LPME methods using hydrophilic media considers both
1134 the nature of the water-soluble material and the driving force responsible of the phase
1135 separation. Thus, methods based on coacervation (e.g.; CPE and CAE) and other
1136 phenomena, including dehydration of the components (e.g., ABSs and DES-DLLME)
1137 and structural changes on the extraction material (e.g., *in situ* IL-DLLME and SS-

1138 DLLME), have been developed. This classification aimed to improve the scientific
1139 criteria for a reasonable use of emerging hydrophilic materials, such as ILs, DESs and
1140 SSs, while pointing out some features about well-known materials that are still widely
1141 used, like surfactants.

1142 Among the reviewed hydrophilic media within LPME approaches, surfactants
1143 are still quite successful in coacervation-based LPME methods, mainly for the
1144 extraction of metals. Besides, specific conditions to induce the phase separation when
1145 using surfactants are mild, particularly if they are compared with the parameters
1146 responsible for the separation in other strategies, such as extreme pH values in SS-
1147 DLLME and high amounts of salting-out agent in some of ABSs applications. In
1148 addition to conventional inorganic salts/electrolytes that are commonly used to decrease
1149 or tailor the cloud point temperature, there are recent evidences that ILs can be used for
1150 such a purpose, although not investigated up to date within the analytical chemistry
1151 perspective. Accordingly, the introduction of ILs, or even DESs, as new “electrolytes”
1152 in coacervation-based LPME methods deserves to be investigated in more detail given
1153 their tunability. Furthermore, it is important to highlight the easily operational of SS-
1154 DLLME, which only requires the modification of the pH of the sample (using common
1155 basic or acid solutions) to achieve the phase separation.

1156 In the case of ABSs, and although less investigated within analytical chemistry
1157 applications, their remarkable extraction capacity and enrichment factors should not be
1158 discarded and more investigations in this field are encouraged. In particular, ABSs
1159 involving ILs and inorganic salts have been reported as the most promising, in which
1160 high extraction efficiencies are afforded by both the salting-out effect of the inorganic
1161 salts and high solvation ability of ILs. Although DESs have been also reported as ABS
1162 phase-forming components, special caution should be placed when dealing with such

1163 mixtures since hydrogen-bonding interactions between the HBD and HBA species are
1164 broken and the concept of DES is lost. This does not mean that they will not work in
1165 this field or that should not be applied; only additional attention should be given to the
1166 DES definition and it should be taken into account that at least quaternary ABSs are
1167 being applied in these examples. Independently of the phase-forming components, to
1168 successfully apply ABSs as preconcentration techniques it is of major relevance to
1169 determine the respective phase diagrams and apply the lever-arm rule, which will
1170 provide an estimate of the appropriate mixture composition for a given enrichment
1171 factor.

1172 With respect to ILs and DESs, their tuneability constitutes their most useful
1173 feature, since it leads to the design of more selective and sustainable hydrophilic
1174 extraction phases. Particularly for ILs, their high solvation ability is the main
1175 responsible for the high enrichment factors and extraction efficiencies reported.
1176 Furthermore, it is interesting to mention the preparation and use of hydrophilic MILs,
1177 which enormously facilitates the complex sampling of the water-insoluble phase prior to
1178 the analytical determination. In any case, functionalized ILs or ILs with safer
1179 toxicological profiles should be incorporated in these methods. In the case of
1180 hydrophilic DESs, it is important to take into account the possible decomposition of
1181 these solvents when they are dissolved in aqueous media, as it was highlighted before.
1182 Thus, the composition of the DES and the characterization of the initial and final
1183 extraction-phases is essential to understand the phenomena that take place in the LPME
1184 method, which would help in selecting the best DES composition while determining the
1185 main variables to optimize to obtain better extraction performance.

1186 In conclusion, the rising use of all these water-miscible materials in LPME
1187 methods together with the understanding of the physicochemical driving forces of phase

1188 separation can contribute to the rational development of effective LPME methods,
 1189 opening a wide range of analytical applications still to be exploited. Future studies
 1190 should also focus on improving the design and selection of the hydrophilic media to
 1191 improve the performance for target analytical applications. Furthermore, the sustainable
 1192 character of the methods applied should be carefully acknowledged, particularly when
 1193 considering the necessity of incorporating additional organic solvents in the procedure
 1194 for inducing the phase separation or diluting the final phase to ensure compatibility with
 1195 the analytical instrument.

1196

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1206

1207 **Abbreviations**

1208	$[\text{C}_{10}\text{Gu}^+]$	decylguanidinium
1209	$[\text{C}_4\text{C}_4\text{Im}^+]$	dibutylimidazolium
1210	$[\text{C}_4\text{Gu}^+]$	butylguanidinium
1211	$[\text{C}_4\text{MIm}^+]$	butylmethylimidazolium
1212	$[\text{C}_5\text{MIm}^+]$	pentylmethylimidazolium
1213	$[\text{Chol}^+]$	cholinium
1214	$[\text{N}_{4444}^+]$	tetrabutylammonium
1215	$[\text{Ni}(\text{BeIm})_4^{2+}]$	tetra(<i>N</i> -benzylimidazolium)nickelate(II)
1216	$[\text{Ni}(\text{C}_4\text{Im})_4^{2+}]$	tetra(<i>N</i> -butylimidazolium)nickelate(II)
1217	$[\text{NTf}_2^-]$	bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imide

1218	[Sac ⁻]	saccharinate
1219	[Sal ⁻]	salicylate
1220	ABS(s)	aqueous biphasic system(s)
1221	CAE	coacervative extraction
1222	CPB	cetylpyridinium bromide
1223	CPE	cloud point extraction
1224	CPT	cloud point temperature
1225	CTAB	cetyltrimethylammonium bromide
1226	DBU	1,8-diazabicyclo-[5.4.0]-undec-7-ene
1227	DES(s)	deep eutectic solvent(s)
1228	DES-DLLME	deep eutectic solvent-based dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction
1229	diDDAB	didodecyldimethylammonium bromide
1230	DLLME	dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction
1231	DPASV	differential pulse anodic stripping voltammetry
1232	DTAB	dodecyltrimethylammonium bromide
1233	E _F	enrichment factor
1234	FD	fluorescence detection
1235	GAC	green analytical chemistry
1236	GFAAS	graphite furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy
1237	HBA	hydrogen bond acceptor
1238	HBD	hydrogen bond donor
1239	HF-LPME	hollow fiber liquid-phase microextraction
1240	HFIP	hexafluoroisopropanol
1241	IL(s)	ionic liquid(s)
1242	IL-DLLME	ionic liquid-based dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction
1243	LPME	liquid-phase microextraction
1244	MIL	magnetic ionic liquid
1245	MNP	magnetic nanoparticles
1246	NADES(s)	natural deep eutectic solvent(s)
1247	OH-PAHs	monohydroxylated polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
1248	PAHs	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
1249	PCBs	polychlorinated biphenyls
1250	RSD _{max}	maximum relative standard deviation value
1251	SDME	single-drop microextraction
1252	SS(s)	switchable solvent(s)
1253	SS-DLLME	switchable solvents-based dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction
1254	SUPRAS	supramolecular solvent-based microextraction
1255	TBAB	tetrabutylammonium bromide
1256	TEMPO	2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl
1257	TL	tie-line
1258	TLL	tie-line length
1259	TNO	5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethylnaphthalen-2-ol
1260	WWTP	wastewater treatment plant
1261		

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2235 **Figure Captions**

2236 **Figure 1.** General scheme of the DLLME procedure and main variations to improve
2237 the most conventional mode.

2238 **Figure 2.** Classification of different LPME methods using hydrophilic media as
2239 extraction-phase depending on the driving force used for the phase
2240 separation.

2241 **Figure 3.** General scheme of the coacervation phenomena-based LPME methods: A)
2242 CPE, B) Conventional CAE and C) SUPRASs; and LPME strategies using
2243 other hydrophilic media: D) DES-DLLME, E) in situ IL-DLLME, F) ABSs,
2244 and G) SS-DLLME.

2245 **Figure 4.** Ternary phase diagram (in an orthogonal representation) for a hypothetical
2246 ABS.

2247 **Figure 5.** Summary of the analytical applications reported in the period 2017-2019
2248 involving LPME strategies using hydrophilic media as extraction phase.

2249

Table 1. Representative analytical applications of different hydrophilic media-based LPME methods, from 2017 to 2019.

Extraction medium (amount)	Additive	Driving force	Assistance	Analytes (number)	Sample (amount, pretreatment)	Analytic al technique	LOD	RSD max (%, conce ntrati on)	Maxi mum E _F	Ref.
<i>CPE</i>										
Triton X-114 (400 μL)	-	temperature (45 °C / 15 min)	centrifugatio n	As(III) and As(V)	snow water (10 mL, dilution with water)	ICP-OES	720 ng·L ⁻¹	3.5 (10 μg·L ⁻¹)	n.r.	[36]
Triton X-114 (105 μL)	-	temperature (40 °C / 20 min & 60 °C / 10 min)	centrifugatio n	sulfonamides (3)	urine and water (10 mL)	LC-UV	3.0– 6.2 μg·L ⁻¹	10.35 (5–10 mg·L ⁻¹)	n.r.	[39]
Triton X-114 (1 mL)	-	temperature (50 °C / 15 min)	centrifugatio n	Sb(III) and Sb(V)	water (10 mL)	ETAAS	60 ng·L ⁻¹	5.9 (10 μg·L ⁻¹)	12	[73]

Triton X-100 (400 μL)	-	temperature (70 °C / 10 min)	vortex / centrifugation	Bi(III)	water and roadside soil (10 mL, dilution with water)	UV-Vis	2.86 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	2.42 (60 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	40	[28]
Triton X-114 (1 mL)	Na_2SO_4	temperature (40 °C / 10 min)	centrifugation	quercetin	onion, tomato, apple and orange juice (10 mL, food was digested by MW)	UV-Vis	2.2 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	2.8 (30 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	n.r.	[45]
Triton X-100 (1 mL)	salicylic acid	temperature (25 °C / n.r.)	centrifugation	Mo(IV)	water, rose hip and pharmaceuticals (10 mL, dilution with water)	UV-Vis	50 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	3.8 (0.24 and 0.72 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	n.r.	[78]
Triton X-114 + SDS (250 μL)	-	temperature (55 °C / 17.5 min)	US / centrifugation	Sb, Sn, Tl species	carrot, potatoes, beetroot,	ICP-OES	7–10 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	5.5 (5 and 50)	160	[20]

					canned beans, spinach and water (10 mL, food was digested)		$\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$			
Tergitol 15-S-7 (2 mL)	Na_2SO_4	temperature (50 °C / 10 min)	centrifugation	phenols (12)	water (10 mL)	LC-FD	0.03 – 8.5 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	4.2 (2–450 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	n.r.	[86]
PEG 6000 (2 mL)	ACN / Na_2SO_4	temperature (25 °C / 5 min)	centrifugation	alkylphenols (9)	water (10 mL)	LC-FD	170–390 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	4.98 (50 and 150 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	5.0	[88]
Brij-35 (300 μL)	HFIP	temperature (25 °C / n.r.)	vortex / centrifugation	parabens (6)	water and pharmaceuticals (10 mL, dilution with	LC-DAD	42–167 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	7.9 (0.3–200 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	193	[47]

<i>Conventional CAE</i>										
SDS (700 μL)	-	coprecipitati on agent: $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ (80 μL)	vortex	organophosp horus pesticides (5)	water (9 mL)	LC-UV	0.7 – 2.5 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	8 (50– 250 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	n.r.	[99]
DTAB + diDDAB (50 μL)	-	ionic strength: NaCl (2.5 g)	vortex / centrifugatio n	tetracyclines (5)	milks, eggs and honeys (10 mL, milk was deproteinized)	LC-UV	0.7 – 3.4 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	7.85 (5–30 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	198	[97]
SDS + DTAB (n.r.)	-	coacervate- inducing agent: HFIP (5 mL)	centrifugatio n	lysozyme	water (5 mL)	CE-UV	2.2 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	n.r.	n.r.	[100]
<i>DES-DLLME</i>										
Cholinium chloride:phenol (193 μL , 1:2)	-	THF (100 μL)	US / centrifugatio n	sulfonamides (4)	river water (1.5 mL)	LC-UV	1.2– 2.3 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	4.26 (0.1, 1 and	n.r.	[131]

							¹	10		
								mg·L ⁻¹)		
Cholinium chloride:TNO (100 μL, 1:2)	-	THF (100 μL)	air-assisted / centrifugation	methadone	water, urine and plasma (10 mL, dilution with water)	GC-FID	0.7 μg·L ⁻¹	9.1 (100 and 200 μg·L ⁻¹)	270	[136]
TBAB:decanoic acid (200 μL, 1:2)	-	THF (200 μL)	US / centrifugation	E155 dye	water,artificial urine and cake (10 mL, dilution with water)	UV-Vis	0.23 mg·L ⁻¹	n.r.	37.5	[138]
Cholinium chloride:phenol (600 μL, 1:4)	-	THF (800 μL)	air-assisted / centrifugation	Pb(II)	lake, river, sea and wastewater, and mushroom (30 mL, food was	GFAAS	0.6 ng·L ⁻¹	2.9 (1, 2, 3, and 5 μg·L ⁻¹)	60	[124]

Sucrose: citric acid (400 μL , 3:2)	-	THF (350 μL)	US / centrifugatio n	Cu(II), Cd(II), Pb(II)	digested by MW) honey (150 mL, dilution with acidic water)	FAAS	0.23– 0.87 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	5.2 (10– 250 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	80– 105	[141]
<i>In situ IL-DLLME</i>										
[C ₄ MIm ⁺][Cl ⁻] (35 mg)	-	anion- exchange: Li-NTf ₂ (240 μL , 1 M)	centrifugatio n	pesticides (9)	water (10 mL)	TD-GC- MS	5–16 ng·L ⁻¹	9.7 (1 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	n.r.	[159]
[C ₅ MIm ⁺][Br ⁻] (100 mg)	-	anion- exchange: NH ₄ PF ₆ (50 mg)	vortex / centrifugatio n	Cu(II)	water (5 mL, dilution with acidic water)	FAAS	0.12 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	4.1 (50 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	70	[162]
[C ₁₀ Gu ⁺][Cl ⁻] (20 μL)	-	anion- exchange: NaClO ₄ (500 μL , 100%)	vortex / centrifugatio n	OH-PAHs	urine (10 mL, dilution with water)	LC-FD	1–2 ng·L ⁻¹	17 (0.08, 0.5 and	47.4	[172]

		w/v)					0.8	$\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$		
[C ₄ C ₄ Im ⁺][Cl ⁻] (~26 mg)	MNPs	anion-exchange: Li-NTf ₂ (500 μL , 0.2 M)	vortex / magnetic separation	fungicides (4)	water (10 mL)	LC-UV	0.74–1.44 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	11.32 (10, 50 and 100 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	247	[155]
[Ni(C ₄ Im) ₄ ²⁺] ₂ [Cl ⁻] (20 mg)	acetone (dispersant)	anion-exchange: Li-NTf ₂ (42.8 μL , 0.4 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	vortex / magnetic separation	disrupting compounds (10)	tap, lake and pool water (5 mL)	LC-DAD	0.13–5.2 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	14 (81 and 300 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	44.3	[177]
[Ni(BeIm) ₄ ²⁺] ₂ [Cl ⁻] (30 mg)	acetonitrile (dispersant)	anion-exchange: Li-NTf ₂ (53.5 μL , 0.4	vortex / magnetic separation	disrupting compounds (10)	tap, lake and pool water (5 mL)	LC-DAD	0.012–1.6 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	16 (81 and 300	55.1	[177]

		$\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)					$\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)			
<i>ABSs</i>										
PEG 8000 (75 μL , at 50 wt%)	-	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Na}_3\text{O}_7$ (1200 μL , at 15 wt%)	vortex / centrifugation	mycotoxins (3)	corn, soy, chickpea and sunflower (spiked, 400 mg, finely powdered)	microfluidic immunoassays	4.6–129.7 ng g^{-1}	53.1 (LOD)	10.4	[184]
THF (2.24 wt%)	-	fructose (83.7 wt%)	mixing / centrifugation	diuron and its degradation products (2)	river water (14.06 wt%, filtration)	LC-TOF	25 g L^{-1}	n.r.	200	[196]
$[\text{Chol}^+][\text{Sac}^-]$ (0.6 g, at 50 wt%)	-	Na_2CO_3 (4.0 g)	vortex / centrifugation	galantamine	tablets (10 mg, finely powdered and dissolved in 9.0 g of water) and urine (spiked with	LC-UV	0.005 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	1.3 (spiked urine, 0.98 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	153	[200]

[N ₄₄₄₄ ⁺][Cl ⁻] (1.18 wt%)	-	C ₆ H ₅ K ₃ O ₇ (49.85 wt %)	mixing	caffeine and carbamazepine	0.98 μg·L ⁻¹ , 9.0 g) WWTP effluent (spiked with 1·10 ³ g·L ⁻¹ , 48.98 wt%, filtration)	LC-UV	0.1 – 1.0 g·L ⁻¹	n.r	50	[201]
[C ₄ Gu ⁺][Cl ⁻] (0.75 wt%, 73.1 μL)	-	K ₃ PO ₄ (37.7 wt%)	vortex / centrifugation	PAHs (5)	Wastewater, sea water and tap water (non-spiked and/or spiked with 12 ng·L ⁻¹ , 61.55 wt%, filtration)	LC-FD	0.03– 2 ng L ⁻¹	14 (12 ng·L ⁻¹)	97.3	[206]
[C ₄ MIm ⁺][Sal ⁻] (0.06 mL)	-	K ₃ PO ₄ (27.1 wt%)	vortex / centrifugation	Cu(II)	Tap water, wastewater and urine (2 mL)	DPASV	8 ng L ⁻¹	7.8 (analysis of real	54	[204]

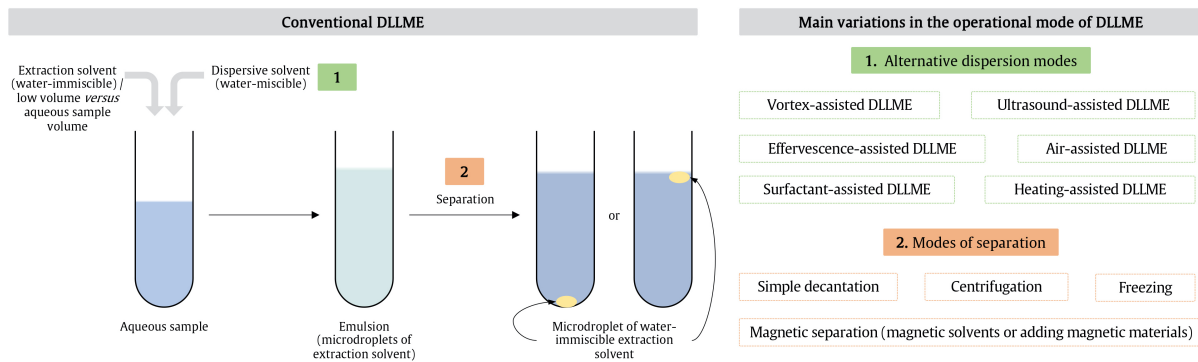
Cholinium chloride:phenol (200 μL , 2:1)	-	K_2HPO_4 (0.2 g mL^{-1})	vortex / centrifugation	sulfonamides (4)	Lake and river water (spiked with 2 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$, 200 μL , filtration)	LC-UV	0.003 – 0.006 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	3.1 (0.2, 2, and 20 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	samples	n.r.	[214]
<i>SS-DLLME</i>											
N,N-dimethylbenzylamine + dry ice (1 mL)	-	pH: concentrated NaOH (1.8 mL)	-	Co(II)	tea and vitamin B12 (8 mL, extraction with water)	FAAS	3.1 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	15.6 (250, 500 and 1000 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	107	[259]	
N,N-dimethylbenzylamine + dry ice (1.5 mL)	-	pH: concentrated NaOH (1 mL)	vortex / centrifugation	phenols (4)	tap and wastewater and migration from plastics containers to	GC-MS	0.13–0.54 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	13 (5, 50 and 100 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	n.r.	[239]	

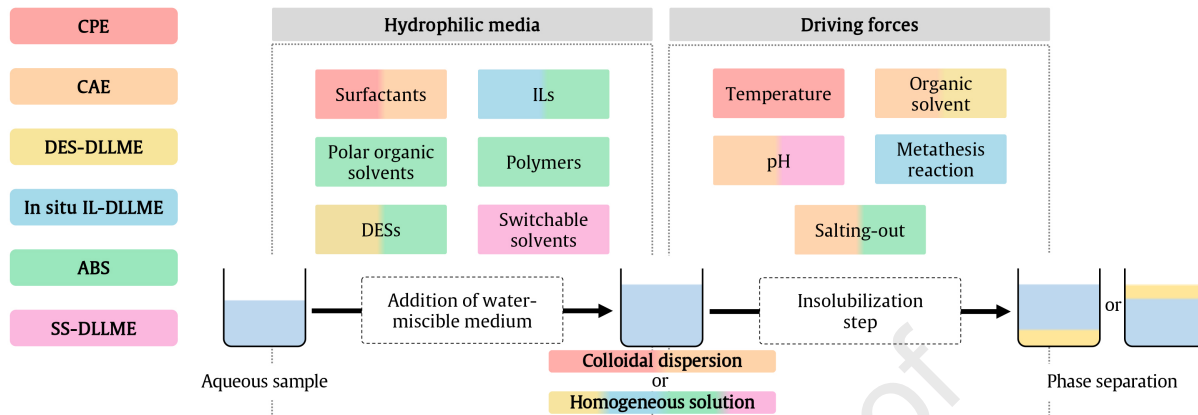
N,N-dimethylbenzylamine + dry ice (1 mL)	-	pH: concentrated NaOH (2 mL)	centrifugation	Cd(II)	water (8 mL) lake and wastewater (8 mL)	FAAS	0.7 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$	12.7 (10, 20 and 30 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$) ¹⁾	n.r.	[245]
triethylamine + dry ice (900 μL)	-	pH: concentrated NaOH (1.8 mL)	vortex / centrifugation	Ni(II)	water and vegetables (15 mL, food was digested)	FAAS	3 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ¹⁾	1.1 (200 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$) ¹⁾	70	[261]
N,N-dimethylcyclohexylamine + HCl (400 μL)	-	pH: concentrated NaOH (400 μL)	centrifugation	drugs (11)	urine (2 mL, n.r.)	GC-MS	0.35–12.5 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ¹⁾	13.5 (20–50 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$) ¹⁾	n.r.	[265]
sodium hexanoate (100 μL , 3.2 M)	-	pH: concentrated HCl (20 μL)	magnetic stir-membrane	tetracyclines (3)	urine (1 mL, dilution with water)	LC-UV	30 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ¹⁾	8 (0.1 and 100)	n.r.	[267]

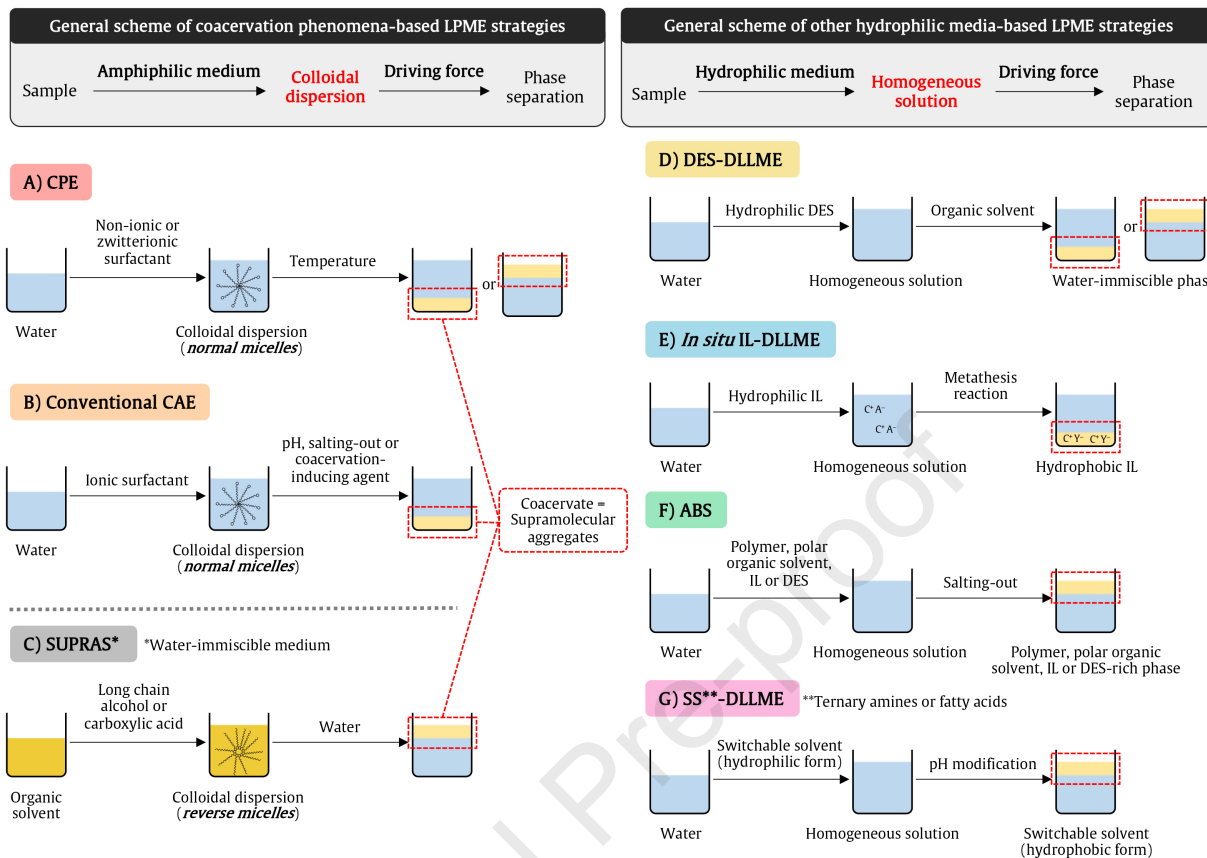
hexanoic acid + Na ₂ CO ₃ (130 μL + 500 μL, 2 M)	-	pH: concentrated H ₂ SO ₄ (620 μL)	effervescenc y	azo dyes (3)	spices (6 mL, dilution with acidic water and methanol)	LC-UV	1–5 μg·L ⁻¹	7.8 (15 and 30 μg·g ⁻¹) 1)	65	[268]
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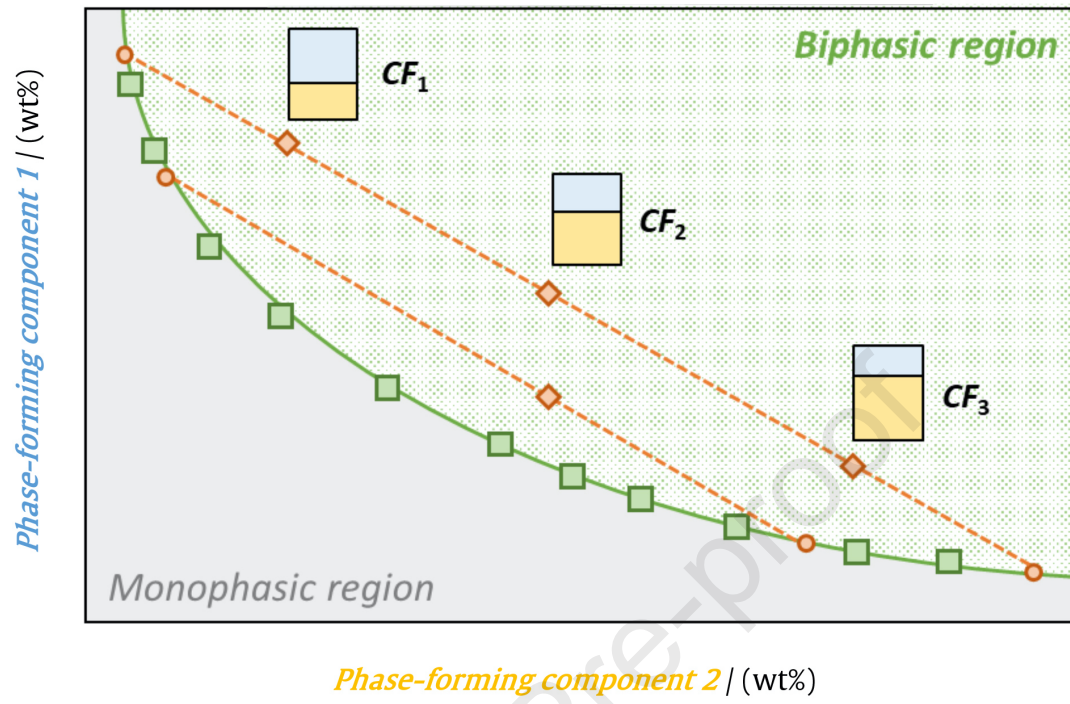
For the definition of the abbreviations, please refer to the list of abbreviations.

n.r.: not reported.

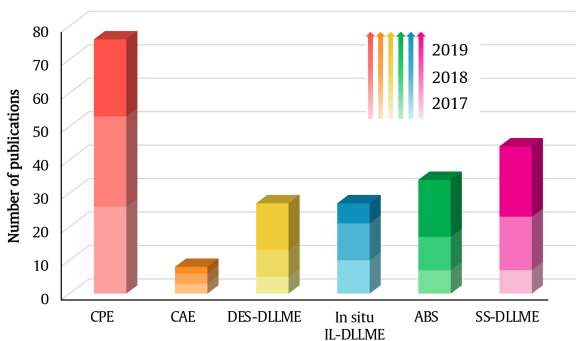




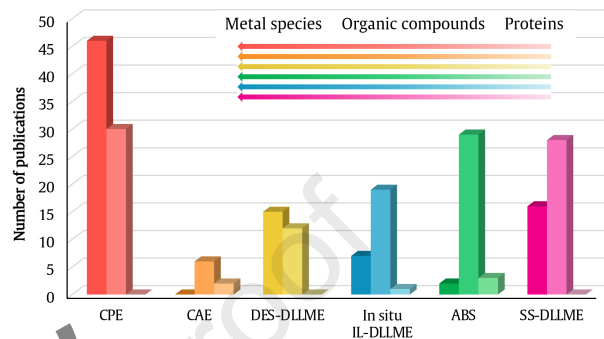




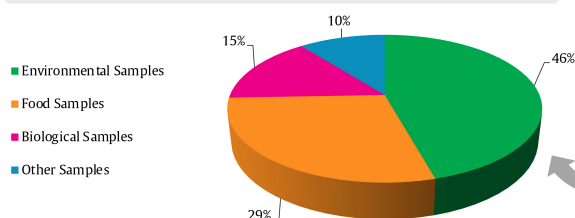
Number of publications for each method in 2017 – 2019



Nature of the extracted analytes



Type of samples analyzed



Journal Pre-proof



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Highlights

- Dispersive LPME methods with hydrophilic media as extraction phase are classified
- Hydrophilic medium & driving force for separation are criteria for classification
- Physicochemical mechanisms of phase separation are critically discussed
- Main advances within each LPME method in the last three years are described
- Analytical applications of each LPME method in the last three years are reviewed

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Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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