

Special Issue

Applied Isotope Geochemistry for the Detection of Food Fraud

Message from the Guest Editors

Stable isotopes of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen are used internationally to record food adulteration. The authenticity of wine, vinegar, oil and the products that include them can be detected using stable isotope analysis. The adulteration in wine and vinegar is usually carried out by adding industrial alcohol and/or sweeteners (beet or cane sugar). Based on European Community Directives, stable carbon isotopes ($^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$) encompass the most suitable analytical tool to detect the adulteration of wine with industrial alcohol, a petroleum derivative. The addition of sugars increases the product's sugar content through fermentation. However, the isotopic composition of wine differs from that of sugar cane but can easily match that of sugar beet. Samples of vinegar and oil were tested with stable isotopes and the range of values determines the potential adulteration. Samples of oils were also collected and analysed using ^{13}C and ^{18}O to detect any impurities with other oils, as in the case of wine.

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