

# Simultaneous Determination of Ultraviolet Absorbers and Antibacterial Agents in Textiles by Ultra-High Performance Liquid Chromatography/Orbitrap High Resolution Mass Spectrometry

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# Abstract

This paper reported a new analytical method for the simultaneous determination of seven benzotriazole ultraviolet absorbers and seven antibacterial agents in textiles. After ultrasonic extraction for the textile samples in methanol, the solutions were analyzed by ultra-high performance liquid chromotagraphy/orbitrap high resolution mass spectrometry (UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS). It showed that a good chromatographic separation for these target compounds was achieved by a Hypersil GOLD column (100 mm  $\times$  2.1 mm  $\times$  1.9 µm) with a gradient elution of methanol and 0.1% aqueous formic acid solution (containing 0.5 mmol/L ammonium acetate). Triclosan and 4-chloro-3,5-dimethyl phenol (PCMX) were detected by the orbitrap HRMS in an electrospray ionization (ESI) negative mode while the other twelve target compounds were detected by orbitrap HRMS in ESI positive mode. Full scan experiment was performed over the range from m/z 100 to m/z 500. These target compounds were routinely detected with mass accuracy below  $2 \times 10^{-6}$  (2 ppm) at the optimized conditions. The results showed that the limits of detection (LODs) were in the range from 0.1 to 0.3 µg/kg. The blank samples were spiked at three levels and their average recoveries varied from 80.5% to 96.3% while the relative standard deviation (RSD) changed from 3.2% to 9.9%. The present method was also applied for the determination of those ultraviolet absorbers and antibacterial agents in the commercial textiles.

# **Keywords**

Ultra-High Performance Liquid Chromatography/Orbitrap High Resolution Mass Spectrometry, Benzotriazoleultraviolet Absorbers, Isothiazolinone, Triclosan, 4-Chloro-3,5-Dimethyl Phenol

## **1. Introduction**

Functional finishing such as ultraviolet-resistance and antibiosisis often applied to textiles in order to improve their performance in use [1]-[8]. Benzotriazoles have an excellent absorption capacity to the ultraviolet light due to a phenolic group attached to benzotriazole structure, thus they are widely used as absorbers for enhancing the ultraviolet-resistance property of textiles [9]. Isothiazolinones, triclosan and 4-chloro-3,5-dimethyl phenol (PCMX) are the chemicals that have a broad spectrum of activity against fungi and bacteria, they are widely used as the antibacterial agents for the control of microorganisms in textile [10] [11]. However, benzotriazoles are basically the persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic compounds [9] [12]-[16] while isothiazolinones, triclosan and PCMX are the skin irritants and strong contact allergens [17]-[25]. Therefore, these chemicals are strictly regulated by many countries and organizations.

The typical ultraviolet absorbers used in textiles, *i.e.*, benzotriazoles, are 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tert-butylphenol (UV-320), 2-tert-butyl-6-(5chloro-2H-benzotrizol-2-vl)-4-methylphenol (UV-326), 2,4-di-tert-butyl-6-(5chloro-benzotriazol-2-yl)phenol(UV-327), 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tertpentylphenol (UV-328), and 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-(tert-butyl)-6-(sec-butyl) phenol (UV-350), among which UV-320 and UV-327 have been banned by the Japanese government since 2007. In Derective 2002/72/EC, the specific migration limit for UV-326 and UV-327 is 30 mg/kg [26]. UV-320, UV-327, UV-328 and UV-350 have been listed into the list of substances of very high concern (SVHC) by European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). At the same time, UV-320, UV-327, UV-328 and UV-350 have been restricted to use in ecological textiles by Oeko-Tex Standard 100 since 2016 [27]. The typical antibacterial agents used in textiles are PCMX, triclosan and isothiazolinones which include 4,5-dichloron-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (DCOI), 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (MI), 5chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (CMI), 2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (OI) and 1,2-benzoisothiazolin-3-one (BIT). Among them, DCOI is strictly restricted by European Regulation EN 528/2012 [23]. The use of MI, CMI and BIT in textiles for toys has been regulated by EN 71-9 [24], in which the contents of MI and CMI must be below 10 mg/kg while the total content of MI and CMI are controled within 15 mg/kg. ECHA has prohibited the use of triclosan since 2015, while PCMX was included in the list of priority pollutants by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Therefore, the analytical methods that can efficiently quantify these substances in textiles is very important in order to monitor the contents of these substances in textiles from commercial market.

There were many methods reported in the literatures for the analysis of benzotriazoles, isothiazolinones, triclosan, and PCMX. Gas chromatography (GC), gas chromatography/mass spectroscopy (GC/MS), gas chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (GC/MS-MS), high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or high performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (HPLC/MS-MS) was used to determine benzotriazoles and triclosan in textiles [28]-[40]. HPLC or HPLC/MS-MS method was also used to the analysis of isothiazolinone in textiles [41], waters [42], paper for food packaging [43] and toys [44] or PCMX in disinfectant and health nursing products [45]. Because of their low volatility, triclosan compounds must be pretreated to convert them to the more volatile species before GC or GC/MS or GC/MS-MS measurement [36] [37] [38]. Such a procedure is complicated and time-consuming. Compared to GC based methods, HPLC does not require a derivative pretreatment procedure. However, the quantitative analysis can be carried out only when the components have been separated completely from each other in the conventional HPLC/MS or HPLC/MS-MS method. Recently, an untargeted approach, based on high resolution mass spectrometry(HRMS) using orbitrap analyser, has been used in the determination of organic contaminants [46]. In this approach, all ions obtained are monitored without any pre-selection and the identification is achieved according to the exact mass of the analyte(s). A similar method based on anultrahigh performance liquid chromatography/orbitrap high resolution mass spectrometry (UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS) has been used for determining benzotriazoles in textiles [47]. We believe that it is possible to determine simultaneously fourteen target compounds (mentioned above) commonly presence in textiles by an improved method based on UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS.

The objective of this study was to develop a method for the simultaneous determination of seven benzotriazoles and seven antibiosis in textiles based on ultrasonic extraction and UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS. The main focus was to explore the capabilities of the orbitrap in the full-scan acquisition mode with high resolution for the quantification of these compounds. The sensitivity, accuracy and related performance characteristics of the present method were also evaluated.

### 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Reagents and Samples

2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methylphenyl) benzotriazole (UV-P, CAS No. 2240-22-4, purity 98.0%), UV-326 (CAS No. 3896-11-5, purity 98.0%) and UV-350 (CAS No. 36437-37-3, purity 98.0%) were purchased from AccuStandard Inc. (New Haven, Connectinut, USA). CMI (CAS No. 26172-55-4, purity 99.0%), triclosan (CAS No. 3380-34-5, purity 99.5%), PCMX (CAS No. 88-04-0, purity 99.0%) and UV-320 (CAS No. 3846-71-7, purity 99.0%) were purchased from Dr. Ehrensterfer GmbH (Augsburg, Germany). UV-327 (CAS No. 3864-99-1, purity 98.0%) was purchased from ChemService Inc. (West Chester, PA, USA). UV-328 (CAS No. 25973-55-1, purity 98.0%), 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenol (UV-329, CAS No. 3147-75-9, purity 98.0%) and DCOI (CAS No. 64359-81-5, purity 99.8%) were purchased from Kasei Co. Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan). MI (CAS No. 2682-20-4, purity 99.9%), OI (CAS No. 26530-20-1, purity 99.9%) and BIT (CAS No. 2634-33-5, purity 99.2%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Formic acid (purity 98.0%) ammonium acetate (purity 98.0%) were purchased from CNW Technologies GmbH (Dusseldorf, Germany). Methanol (HPLC purity) was purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). All organic solvents were HPLC-grade.

Stock solutions of the individual compounds were prepared in methanol (1000 µg/ml). Stock mixed solution of fourteen target compounds was prepared in methanol and the concentration was 4.100, 4.120, 9.200, 4.000, 8.000, 10.400, 8.600, 10.600, 4.896, 7.800, 4.844, 4.858, 4.814 and 4.854 µg/mL for UV-P, UV-350, UV-326, triclosan, PCMX, UV-320, UV-327, UV-328, DCOI, UV-329, MI, OI, BIT and CMI, respectively. Working solutions (0.1 - 200 µg/l) were prepared in methanol. Stock solutions were stored at a temperature of -18°C and working solutions were stored at a temperature of 4°C. The ultrapure water was obtained by purifying demineralized water in a Milli-Q system (Millipore, Milford, MA, USA).

Eightpositive samples were all available commercially. Sample 1 was white cotton cloth (containing UV-327). Sample 2, 3 and 4 were army green woven polyester, beige woven polyester and white woven cotton, respectively (containing triclosan). Sample 5 was printed silkworm silk (containing PCMX). Sample 6, 7 and 8 were plain woven men's shirt, plain woven dyeing women cotton top and woven silk dress, respectively (containing OI).

### 2.2. Sample Preparation

Textile samples were cut into pieces of about 5 mm × 5 mm by automatic system prototype. Approximately 1.0 g of textile samples were weighed into 250 ml grinding mouth Erlenmeyer flask. 20 ml methanol was added into this flask. This flask was caped and ultrasonically extracted at 40°C for 30 min. The extraction solution was filtered into a heart-shaped bottle and evaporated to near dryness in a vacuum rotary evaporator. The heart-shaped bottle was then transferred to a nitrogen blowing instrument and blown slowly to dry with dry nitrogen. The residue was dissolved in 1ml methanol and the resulting solution was filtered with 0.22 µm membrane and analyzed by UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS technique. Appropriate dilution was carried out before analysis if necessary.

#### 2.3. Preparation of Spiked Samples

Approximately 1.0 g of three different kinds of blank textiles swatches, such as white cotton substrate, white polyester substrate and cotton/polyester blended fiber, which were cut into pieces of about 5 mm  $\times$  5 mm by automatic system prototype, were weighed into 250 ml grinding mouth Erlenmeyer flask. A certain amount of standard stock solutions of fourteen target compounds was added to submerge the blank textile samples. After an equilibration time of 24 h, the solvent was eliminated using a gentle stream of dry nitrogen. Then these samples were used for the spiked recovery experiments.

## 2.4. Chromatographic Separation

Analysis were performed with a Dionex Ultimate 3000-Q Exactive ultra-high



performance liquid chromatography/orbitrap high resolution mass spectrometry (UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS) system (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA), equipped with a Dionex ultimate 3000 RS pump (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA) and a Dionex ultimate 3000 RS autosampler (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA). HPLC separation was performed using a Hypersil GOLD column (100 mm  $\times$  2.1 mm  $\times$  1.9 µm, Thermo Scientific, MA, USA). The separation was performed with mobile phase consisting of 5 mmol/l ammonium acetate (0.1% formic acid) (A)-methanol (B). The gradient program of elution was as follows: 0.00 min, 60%A/40%B, 1.90 min, 10%A/90%B, 1.90 - 6.00 min, 10%A/90%B, 6.01 - 9.00 min, 60%A/40%B. The total flow rate was 0.3 ml/min and the injection volume was 1.0 µl. The temperature of column was 40°C whereas the temperature of sampler was 7°C.

#### 2.5. Orbitrap HRMS Conditions

The Dionex Ultimate 3000-Q Exactive ultra-high performance liquid chromatography/orbitrap high resolution mass spectrometry system (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA), equipped with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source in positive and negative mode, a Dionex ultimate 3000 RS pump (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA) and a Dionex ultimate 3000 RS autosampler (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA) was chosen for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of fourteen target compounds. The spray voltage, capillary temperature, and auxiliary heating gas temperature were set at 3500 V, 320°C and 350°C, respectively. The rate of flow of sheath gas and auxiliary gas were set at 30 arbitrary units and 10 arbitrary units, respectively. Chromatograms were recorded under the full scan mode with the resolution of 70000, over a range of m/z 100 - m/z 500. The width of ion extraction window of Xcalibur 2.2 software was  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  (5 ppm). The whole analytical parameters of UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS for fourteen target compounds were shown in **Table 1**.

			exact mass					
No.	Compounds	Formula	Theoretical value	Detected value	Error of the accuracy/ppm			
1	PCMX	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>9</sub> OCl	155.02692	155.02707	+0.97			
2	triclosan	$C_{12}H_7Cl_3O_2$	286.94389	286.94431	+1.46			
3	UV-P	$C_{13}H_{11}N_{3}O$	226.09749	226.09726	-1.02			
4	UV-320	$C_{20}H_{25}N_{3}O$	324.20704	324.20693	-0.34			
5	UV-326	$\mathrm{C_{17}H_{18}N_{3}OCl}$	316.12112	316.12105	-0.22			
6	UV-327	$C_{20}H_{24}N_3OCl$	358.16807	358.16781	-0.73			
7	UV-328	$C_{22}H_{29}N_{3}O$	352.23824	352.23812	-0.34			
8	UV-329	$C_{20}H_{25}N_{3}O$	324.20704	324.20691	-0.40			
9	UV-350	$C_{20}H_{25}N_{3}O$	324.20704	324.20681	-0.71			
10	MI	$C_4H_5NOS$	116.01646	116.01641	-0.40			
11	CMI	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> NOSCl	149.97749	149.97731	-1.20			
12	MIT	C7H5NOS	152.01646	152.01627	-1.25			
13	OI	$C_{11}H_{19}NOS$	214.12601	214.12580	-0.98			
14	DCOI	$C_{11}H_{17}NOSCl_2$	282.04807	282.04787	-0.71			

Table 1. Analytical parameters of UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS for fourteen target compounds.

## 3. Results and Discussion

In this work, fourteen target compounds were studied, including seven kinds of benzotriazole ultraviolet absorbers, five kinds of isothiazolinone antibacterial agents, PCMX and triclosan. To obtain the best analytical conditions, the optimization of the extraction procedure, the chromatographic separation and mass spectrometry parameter was necessary, especially when the method developed includes a mixture of compounds with a wide range of physicochemical properties.

#### 3.1. Procedure for the Sample Preparation

The subjects of this study could be divided into four categories: benzotriazole ultraviolet absorbers, isothiazolinone antibacterial agents, PCMX and triclosan and their physicochemical properties varied greatly. Various methods aiming to extract these target compounds from textiles, such as microwave-assisted extraction, ultrasonic extraction and accelerated solvent extraction, were reported previously, among which ultrasonic extraction was a common method for the extraction of target compounds from textile samples. Target compounds in eight positive samples were first ultrasonically extracted using methanol as the extraction solvent and the extraction conditions were optimized. As for triclosan, the results demonstrated that the optimal extraction conditions were ultrasonic extraction at 40°C for 30 min, using 25 ml methanol as the extractions solvent. As for PCMX, the results demonstrated that the optimal extraction conditions were ultrasonic extraction for 15 min, using 20 ml methanol as the extraction solvent. On the other hand, the extraction temperature had no evident influence on the extraction. For isothiazolinone antibacterial agents, the results demonstrated that the optimal extraction conditions were ultrasonically extracted at 45°C for 20 min, using 20 ml methanol as the extraction solvent. As for benzotriazole ultraviolet absorbers, the results showed that the optimal conditions were ultrasonically extracted at 45°C for 30 min, using 20 ml methanol as the extraction solvent. In order to comprehensively assess the impact of three factors such as extraction time (Factor A), extraction temperature (Factor B) and solvent volume (Factor C) on the extraction amounts, orthogonal experiments were performed as shown in **Table 2**. The extraction amounts of eight positive samples were detected under condition No. 1 to condition No. 9. The optimal extraction conditions varied from each other for these eight positive samples. The orthogonal experimental data in **Table 2** were analyzed to obtain the maximum gap and optimal conditions for each positive samples, as shown in Table 3. Obviously, extraction time (Factor A) has the largest effect on the extraction amounts while extraction temperature (Factor B) has the smallest effect on the extraction amounts. Taking three factors into consideration, two programs such as A1B2C1 and A2B2C1 were chosen to be alternate optimal conditions and marked as No. 10 and No. 11, respectively, in Table 2. The extraction amounts of eight positive samples were all larger in condition No. 10 than in condition No. 11. At the same time, the extraction amounts of eight positive samples were larger than or



No	Factor A	Factor B	Factor C	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 7	Sample 8
INO.	Time/min	Temperature/°C	Volume/ml	UV-327	triclosan	triclosan	triclosan	PCMX	OI	OI	OI
1	30	45	20	106.9	6948.5	3781.4	7675.8	66.6	7936.8	8968.4	6018.7
2	30	40	15	94.7	6906.7	3752.8	7613.5	65.8	7889.4	8920.3	5912.6
3	30	50	25	101.3	6983.7	3812.5	7696.7	66.2	7853.5	8885.2	5832.4
4	25	45	15	99.4	6713.6	3665.5	7456.4	65.2	7986.3	9032.4	5978.5
5	25	40	25	88.5	6847.3	3715.8	7588.6	65.6	8027.5	9065.7	6017.8
6	25	50	20	94.9	6765.8	3674.2	7463.2	66.1	8063.2	9118.3	6032.6
7	35	45	25	91.8	6901.2	3742.5	7603.8	65.1	7789.6	8801.4	5832.7
8	35	40	20	89.7	6876.4	3741.2	7544.9	65.8	7845.8	8867.1	5996.5
9	35	50	15	96.8	6859.8	3721.3	7583.5	64.6	7736.8	8742.8	5865.9
10	30	40	20	105.3	6952.4	3795.6	7632.6	66.4	8075.5	9085.4	6036.8
11	25	40	20	99.7	6895.7	3783.7	7609.5	65.9	8019.6	9073.5	5935.2

Table 2. Orthogonal experiments (mg/kg).

close to the maximal values under conditions No. 1 to No. 9. Therefore, the optimal ultrasonic extraction conditions were as follows: the extraction time was 30 min, the volume of extraction solvent was 20 ml, and the extraction temperature was  $40^{\circ}$ C.

Eight positive samples were ultrasonically extracted under such optimal conditions, using methanol, ethanol, acetone, acetonitrile, dichloromethane, trichloromethane, t-butyl methyl ether, petroleum ether, acetone/n-hexane (1:1, V/V) and acetone/dichloromethane (1:1, V/V), respectively, as the extraction solvents and the results were shown in **Table 4**. For Samples 1, 6, 7 and 8, the extraction amounts reached the maximum values when using methanol as the extraction solvent. For Samples 2, 3 and 4, the extraction amounts reached the maximum values when using trichloromethane as the extraction solvent. For Sample 5, the extraction amount reached the maximum value when using ethanol as the extraction solvent. For all these eight positive samples, the extraction amount reached the maximum value or close to the maximum value, or at least reached alarger value when using methanol as the extraction solvent. Therefore, methanol was chosen as the extraction solvent taking all factors into consideration.

# 3.2. Optimization of Chromatographic Separation and Mass Spectrometric Detection

The qualitative analysis was carried out by the exact mass of quasi-molecular ion and the retention time. For example, the formula of OI is  $C_{11}H_{19}NOS$  and the theoretical exact mass of its quasi-molecular ion is m/z 214.12601. The full-scan mass spectrum of OI during the range from m/z 210 to m/z 220 was shown in **Figure 1(a)**. There appeared a strong peak at m/z 214.12580. The quasi-molecular ion peak of OI was shown in **Figure 1(b)**, with a resolution of 70,000. The

sample		Factor A	Factor B	Factor C
	k1	101.0	99.4	97.2
	k2	94.3	91.0	97.0
Sample 1	k3	92.8	97.7	93.9
	Maximum gap	8.2	8.4	3.3
	Optimal condition		A1B1C1	
	k1	6946.3	6854.4	6863.6
	k2	6775.6	6876.8	6826.7
Sample 2	k3	6879.1	6869.8	6910.7
	Maximum gap	170.7	22.4	84.0
	Optimal condition		A1B2C3	
	k1	3782.2	3729.8	3732.3
	k2	3685.2	3736.6	3713.2
Sample 3	k3	3735.0	3736.0	3765.9
	Maximum gap	97.0	6.8	52.7
	Optimal condition		A1B2C3	
	k1	7662.0	7578.7	7561.3
	k2	7502.7	7582.3	7551.1
Sample 4	k3	7577.4	7581.1	7629.7
	Maximum gap	159.3	3.6	78.6
	Optimal condition		A1B2C3	
	k1	66.2	65.6	66.2
	k2	65.6	65.7	65.2
Sample 5	k3	65.2	65.6	65.6
	Maximum gap	1.0	0.1	1.0
	Optimal condition		A1B2C1	
	k1	7893.2	7904.2	7948.6
	k2	8025.7	7920.9	7870.8
Sample 6	k3	7790.7	7884.5	7890.2
	Maximum gap	235.0	36.4	77.8
	Optimal condition		A2B2C1	
	k1	8924.6	8934.1	8984.6
	k2	9072.1	8951.0	8898.5
Sample 7	k3	8803.8	8915.4	8917.4
	Maximum gap	268.3	35.6	86.1
	Optimal condition		A2B2C1	
	k1	5921.2	5943.3	6015.9
	k2	6009.6	5975.6	5919.0
Sample 8	k3	5898.4	5910.3	5894.3
	Maximum gap	111.2	65.3	121.6
	Optimal condition		A2B2C1	

Table 3. Analysis of the orthogonal experimental data.

Table 4. The extraction effects of different solvents (mg/kg).

Extraction solvent		Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 7	Sample 8
EXU	Extraction solvent		triclosan	triclosan	triclosan	PCMX	OI	OI	OI
Methanol		105.3	6952.4	3795.6	7632.6	66.4	8075.5	9085.4	6036.8
Ethanol		82.5	6363.6	3402.6	6802.7	76.5	6897.5	7932.6	5135.2
Acetonitrile		90.4	8827.6	4658.7	7133.2	19.8	3308.9	7575.2	2751.9
Acetone		88.6	6837.2	3699.8	7188.9	57.9	3672.2	8275.3	1346.7
Dichlorometh	ane	70.3	13112.7	7048.7	13735.4	20.9	2602.5	6265.9	1175.6
Trichlorometh	nane	37.1	15124.4	8149.6	18871.2	23.6	2365.8	5872.6	1352.4
t-butyl methyl	ether	15.3	5486.2	2924.4	7757.6	29.8	2129.6	5361.2	424.2
Petroleum eth	er	16.4	4956.4	2662.7	6962.3	24.5	3318.6	6858.4	1516.2
Acetone/n-her	xane (1:1, V/V)	80.1	7175.3	3845.3	6862.7	53.2	3462.8	7654.9	1736.5
Acetone/dichl	oromethane (1:1, V/V)	88.2	7068.5	3812.5	7132.8	60.1	3556.3	7419.5	1548.9
	214 12580		(5)						(b)
60-	214.12500		(a)				214 125	80	



Figure 1. (a) Full-scan mass spectrum and (b) quasi-molecular ion peak (R = 70000) of OI.

ion extraction window of the quasi-molecular ion was 5 ppm, that is to say, the ion extraction window varied from m/z 214.12494 to m/z 214.12708. Only one peak at m/z 214.12580 met this requirement. In another way, the peak at m/z 214.12580 was the quasi-molecular ion of OI. Therefore, this compound could be confirmed as OI according to the retention time and corresponding quasi-molecular ion. The other thirteen target compounds might be confirmed according to the same method.

Two mobile phases such as methanol/water and acetonitrile/water were usually used in LC/MS analysis, and appropriate formic aid was added into water to promote ionization, to enhance the peak intensity and improve the peak shape [48]. It had been found by the comparative experiments that there existed better separation among the target compounds when using acetonitrile/water system as the mobile phase. On the other hand, the intensity of each target compounds increased significantly when using methanol/water system as the mobile phase. Similar phenomena were observed in literature [49]. Baseline separation is not necessary when UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS technique was applied in the quantitative analysis. Therefore, methanol/water system was chosen as the mobile phase. The peak area and peak shape of the extracted ions were observed when changing the content of formic acid in the range of 0.05% - 1.00%. The results demonstrated that the peak area of these extracted ions all reached the maximum when 0.1% formic acid added into water. At the same time, the peak of the extracted ions was sharp and symmetric. A certain concentration of ammonium acetate could significantly increase the peak responses of quasi-molecular ion  $[M + H]^+$ . Ammonium acetate of various concentrations in the range of 2 to 10 mmol/l were added into the mobile phase to observe the change of the peak area in extracted chromatogram. The results showed that the peak area in the chromatographic measurement increased significantly when 5 mmol/l ammonium acetate was used. Therefore, the mobile phase was at last determined as methanol/0.1% aqueous formic acid solution containing 5 mmol/l ammonium acetate.

To achieve the best separation, a series of trials were performed on the original composition of the mobile phase and the gradient of elution and the determined separation conditions were shown in segment 2.3. The UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS analysis of the standard mixture solution of fourteen target compounds was performed during nine minutes. Triclosan and PCMX were detected in ESI negative mode while the other twelve target compounds were all detected in ESI positive mode. **Figure 2** showed the UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS chromatograms of fourteen target compounds, in which the retention time of DCOI and UV-P, UV-327 and UV-328, UV-320 and UV-326 were the same, respectively, and could not be distinguished from each other.

Chromatograms of fourteen target compounds were extracted based on the theoretical exact mass of quasi-molecular ion in positive or negative mode and the extraction window was all 5 ppm. Therefore, the retention time of each target compounds was determined. Extracted ion chromatograms of fourteen target compounds were shown in **Figure 3** and all target compounds displayed a sharp peak shape. For each of fourteen target compounds, the detected exact mass was obtained from the extracted ion chromatogram and the mass accuracy between theoretical exact mass and detected exact mass was all lower than 2 ppm. As to







Figure 3. Extracted ion chromatograms of fourteen target compounds in the mixed standard solution.

an unknown sample, qualitative analysis could be performed according to the retention time and the detected exact mass of extracted ion. Obviously, the extracted ion chromatograms of DCOI distinguished completely from that of UV-P. Similar phenomena occurred between UV-327 and UV-328, UV-320 and UV-326, respectively. Quantitative analysis was carried out by the peak area in extracted chromatogram, therefore, overlapping between DCOI and UV-P, UV-327 and UV-328, UV-320 and UV-326, respectively, did not affect the accuracy of quantification.

### 3.3. Method Validation

A validation was performed and several parameters such as linearity, matrix effect, limit of detection (LOD), spiked recovery and precision were studied. The obtained results were shown in **Table 5** and **Table 6**, respectively.

In order to evaluate the linearity, mixed standard solutions of fourteen target compounds were investigated. The calibration curve was based on the peak area in extracted chromatogram versus concentration. As a result, all standards exhibited a good linearity in its own linear range and the correlation coefficients all larger than 0.998.

No.	Compound	Retention time/min	Linear range /(µg/L)	Linear equation	r	LOD/(µg/kg)
1	MI	0.998	0.2 ~ 96.9	$A = 469186\rho + 384256$	0.99995	0.1
2	CMI	1.495	0.2 ~ 97.1	$A = 505528 \rho - 387302$	0.99870	0.1
3	BIT	1.931	0.2 ~ 96.3	$A = 194971\rho + 741555$	0.99935	0.1
4	PCMX	3.638	0.4 ~ 160.0	$A = 497490 \rho - 61409$	0.99880	0.2
5	OI	3.804	0.2 ~ 97.2	$A = 250749 \rho + 196053$	0.99995	0.1
6	triclosan	4.269	0.2 ~ 80.0	$A = 187946\rho - 68682$	0.99995	0.1
7	DCOI	4.478	0.2 ~ 97.9	$A = 898127 \rho - 196549$	0.99995	0.1
8	UV-P	4.498	0.2 ~ 82.0	$A = 244195\rho + 31133$	0.99955	0.1
9	UV-328	5.991	0.5 ~ 212.0	$A = 101599 \rho + 352068$	0.99880	0.3
10	UV-327	6.091	0.4 ~ 172.0	$A = 44067 \rho - 503735$	0.99910	0.2
11	UV-329	6.722	0.4 ~ 156.0	$A = 480200 \rho - 170370$	0.99990	0.2
12	UV-350	7.669	$0.2 \sim 82.4$	$A = 513061 \rho - 715854$	0.99985	0.1
13	UV-326	7.984	0.5 ~ 184.0	$A = 73524 \rho - 575063$	0.99985	0.3
14	UV-320	8.043	0.5 ~ 208.0	$A = 262936\rho + 70072$	0.99955	0.3

Table 5. Linear relationship and limits of detection.

Matrix effects were expressed as the matrix-matched calibration slope to solvent calibration ratio in the whole calibration range. Blank textiles were extracted and diluted with different dilution factors such as 1200, 3000 and 6000, and then a series of matrix-matched standards of fourteen target compounds were prepared with the blank extracts mentioned above. The results showed that the matrix effects of fourteen target compounds in three different dilution factors, ranging from 97% to 109%, were not significant and could be neglected. To obtain a better sensitivity, this work chose 1200 as the dilution factor for the textiles.

Previous studies have typically calculated LOD as the concentration level as a signal-to-noise ratio of 3 (S/N = 3), regardless of the low noise level of ion chromatograms extracted by high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) with a mass extraction window of  $\pm 5$  ppm. Therefore, the establishment of an LOD based on S/N value was not realistically feasible. This work used an alternative approach to estimate the LOD, that is to say, matrix-matched standard solutions were diluted successively to obtain the lowest concentration that could be repeatedly determined with a low RSD value during a longer time period. The LOD values of fourteen target compounds varied from 0.1 to 0.3 µg/kg. RSD values calculated from six repeated injections at the LOD level were as low as 3.5% - 11.7%. The retention time, linear range, linear equation, correlation coefficient, and LOD of fourteen target compounds are shown in Table 5.

Recoveries were evaluated at three different spiked concentration levels as shown in Table 6. The spiked blank samples were analyzed using the established method and nine parallel assays were also carried out. Recoveries at three spiked levels ranged from 80.5% to 96.3% while the relative standard deviation (RSD) varied from 3.2% to 9.9%.

0	Spiked	cotton		polyester		Cotton/polyester blended fiber		
Compound	(µg/kg)	Recovery/%	RSD/%	Recovery/%	RSD/%	Recovery/%	RSD/%	
	0.2	84.6	7.2	86.3	6.7	85.7	7.4	
MI	1.2	90.1	5.3	93.5	4.9	92.8	5.5	
	4.8	90.2	5.9	94.3	4.7	94.8	4.9	
	0.2	81.6	9.1	80.7	9.3	82.3	8.9	
CMI	1.2	83.7	6.4	84.6	6.7	84.3	5.8	
	4.9	91.2	5.8	94.5	5.5	92.7	6.3	
	0.2	81.3	9.2	82.3	8.7	81.9	8.9	
BIT	1.2	83.6	5.5	85.3	5.6	84.5	6.1	
	4.8	92.4	5.3	94.5	4.9	93.8	5.7	
	0.4	81.2	7.3	80.5	8.4	81.9	7.4	
PCMX	2.0	82.0	8.2	84.3	6.8	84.5	7.3	
	8.0	89.0	4.0	90.5	4.3	91.2	3.8	
	0.2	82.0	6.9	83.4	6.4	82.7	7.2	
OI	1.2	85.4	5.7	84.9	6.3	86.3	5.2	
	4.9	92.6	4.0	94.8	3.2	93.7	4.5	
	0.2	84.0	6.8	86.4	6.5	85.7	5.9	
triclosan	1.0	86.8	7.0	88.5	7.2	87.8	6.4	
	4.0	94.1	4.6	96.3	4.2	95.4	5.3	
	0.2	82.2	9.8	81.9	9.9	83.5	8.7	
DCOI	1.2	82.1	6.3	84.3	6.5	83.8	5.7	
	4.9	91.0	5.5	93.2	4.8	92.7	5.9	
	0.2	82.7	7.0	84.2	6.7	83.5	7.1	
UV-P	1.0	87.3	5.0	88.9	4.3	87.6	5.4	
	4.1	92.8	3.6	93.7	3.3	93.5	3.8	
	0.5	82.2	7.7	83.6	7.2	83.1	7.9	
UV-328	2.7	82.8	7.5	85.3	6.9	84.5	7.2	
	10.6	93.6	4.7	95.8	3.7	94.3	4.5	
	0.4	81.2	8.6	80.7	9.5	81.9	8.3	
UV-327	2.2	83.6	8.3	85.5	8.7	84.6	8.2	
	8.6	91.4	4.8	93.5	4.2	92.9	5.3	
	0.4	82.4	6.9	84.6	6.1	83.9	6.5	
UV-329	2.0	87.4	6.4	90.5	5.4	89.7	5.9	
	7.8	91.7	6.1	94.2	5.6	93.5	5.8	
1111.050	0.2	81.1	7.3	83.6	6.8	82.9	7.1	
UV-350	1.0	83.6	6.3	86.7	4.9	87.2	4.3	
	4.1	90.2	5./	94.5	4.1	92.8	5.9	
111/ 226	0.5	80.9	0.0 7.2	83.2	0.3 6 E	82.7	6.9 7.3	
U v -320	2.3 0.2	01.5	1.2	03.1	0.J 3 J	02.8 03.9	7.5	
	9.2 0.5	92.2 81 <i>1</i>	4./ & /	94.0 80 5	9.2 9.7	93.0 82 1	4.1	
UV-320	2.5	82 3	6.0	84 2	5.5	83.7	5.0	
0 + - 520	2.0	90.8	4.9	92.1	43	92.7	4 5	
	10.4	20.0	4.7	72.1	4.3	74.1	4.3	

**Table 6.** Recoveries of fourteen target compounds in three different kinds of blank textiles (n = 9).

The method precision was assessed by repeatability and reproducibility studies, expressed as the percent relative standard deviation (RSD%). Repeatability was assessed by the recovery study and values were shown in **Table 6**. Reproducibility was carried out by extracting and analyzing a positive textile sample available commercially containing 295.4 mg/kgOI in nine different laboratories. Replicate (n = 2) samples were run in each laboratory and the RSD% value (n = 2)18) was calculated for nine laboratories, which the RSDs were within 1.5%.

#### 3.4. Analyses of These Compounds in the Commercial Samples

The high mass accuracy and full-scan data of the Orbitrap HRMS allow the developed method to assess virtually all of the compounds present in a sample. 387 textile samples available commercially were analyzed using the established method. The analysis results showed that different target compounds at various content levels were detected in sixteen samples as shown in Table 7. The UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS chromatogram of a positive sample was shown in Figure 4(a), in which a sharp peak appeared at 6.087 min, nearly close to the retention time of UV-327 ( $t_R = 6.091$  min). The corresponding full-scan mass spectrometry was shown in **Figure 4(b)**, in which only the region from m/z 357 to m/z 359 was demonstrated. The theoretical exact mass of UV-327 was m/z 358.16807 and its extracted ion window was 5 ppm, that is to say, from m/z 358.16628 to m/z 358.16986. Only one peak appeared at m/z 358.16745 in this region and the error of the accuracy between this peak and the theoretical exact mass of UV-327 was -1.73 ppm. Therefore, this peak was the quasi-molecular ion of UV-327. UV-327 was proved to exist in this positive sample according the retention time and the detected exact mass of the quasi-molecular ion.

No.	Sample	Detected/(mg/kg)
1	White cotton cloth	UV-327 105.3
2	Army green woven polyester fabric	triclosan 6952.4
3	White woven cotton fabric	triclosan 7632.6
4	Beige woven polyester fabric	triclosan3795.6
5	Yellow cotton lace	triclosan 4.2
6	White silk lace	triclosan 2.0
7	Printed silkworm silk	PCMX 66.4
8	Colour gingham	PCMX 1105.5
9	Blue gingham	PCMX 6.2
10	Rose knitted cotton T-shirt	PCMX 325.9
11	Woven silk dress	OI 6036.8
12	Woven linen women's long-sleeved shirt	OI 295.4
13	Plain woven dyeing women cotton top	OI 9085.5
14	Ms long-sleeved silk knitted pullover	OI 661.7
15	Women's cotton short-sleeved shirt	OI 713.2
16	Woven linen men's shirt	OI 8075.5

Table 7. Analysis results of real samples.





Figure 4. (a) UPLC/MS chromatogram and (b) full-scan mass spectrum of a real sample.

## 4. Conclusion

The present study established a new approach for the simultaneous determination of the contents of seven benzotriazole ultraviolet absorbers and seven antibacterial agents in textile samples based on UPLC/Orbitrap HRMS system. The results showed that the present method provided good limits of detection, precision and accuracy in the quantification of these ultraviolet absorber and antibacterial agent compounds. The applicability of the present method was also demonstrated by the analysis of 387 textile samples from commercial sources.

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