

LC-MS/MS analysis was performed on a Vanquish UHPLC system coupled to an Orbitrap Exploris 240 high-resolution mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA) in negative ESI (electrospray ionization) mode. Chromatographic separation was carried out on an Atlantis Premier BEH Z-HILIC column (Waters, MA, USA; 2.1 mm x 100 mm, 1.7 μ m) at a flow rate of 0.25 mL/min. The mobile phase consisted of water:acetonitrile (9:1, v/v; mobile phase phase A) and acetonitrile:water (9:1, v/v; mobile phase B), which were modified with a total buffer concentration of 10 mM ammonium acetate. The aqueous portion of each mobile phase was adjusted to pH 9.0 via addition of ammonium hydroxide. The following gradient (20 min total run time including re-equilibration) was applied (time [min]/%B): 0/95, 2/95, 14.5/60, 16/60, 16.5/95, 20/95. Column temperature was maintained at 40°C, the autosampler was set to 4°C and sample injection volume was 7 μ L. Analytes were recorded via a full scan with a mass resolving power of 120,000 over a mass range from 60 – 900 m/z (scan time: 100 ms, RF lens: 70%). To obtain MS/MS fragment spectra, data-dependant acquisition was carried out (resolving power: 15,000; scan time: 22 ms; stepped collision energies [%]: 30/50/70; cycle time: 900 ms). Ion source parameters were set to the following values: spray voltage: 4100 V (positive mode) / -3500 V (negative mode), sheath gas: 30 psi, auxiliary gas: 5 psi, sweep gas: 0 psi, ion transfer tube temperature: 350°C, vaporizer temperature: 300°C. All experimental samples were measured in a randomized manner. Pooled quality control (QC) samples were prepared by mixing equal aliquots from each processed sample. Multiple QCs were injected at the beginning of the analysis in order to equilibrate the analytical system. A QC sample was analyzed after every 5th experimental sample to monitor instrument performance throughout the sequence. For determination of background signals and subsequent background subtraction, an additional processed blank sample was recorded. Data was processed using MS-DIAL and raw peak intensities for relative metabolite quantification⁵². Feature identification was based on accurate mass, isotope pattern, MS/MS fragment scoring and retention time matching to an inhouse library.