

1 **Lipid classification of fish oil omega-3 supplements in ethyl ester and triacylglycerols forms**  
2 **by <sup>1</sup>H NMR and multivariate analysis**

3

4 **Abstract:**

5

6 The worldwide advent of concentrated supplements containing omega-3 fatty acids (FA) in the  
7 form of triacylglycerols (TAG) or ethyl esters (EE) has increased the interest in developing  
8 methods to classify these products. The quality control based on their lipid composition has  
9 become necessary since EE bioavailability has been proved to be lower when compared to the  
10 TAG. In this preliminary study, eight models based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR and supervised discriminant  
11 analysis (PLS-DA/OPLS-DA) were applied to classify omega-3 fish oil in TAG or EE forms. The  
12 4.0-4.5 ppm region was selected for modeling since it bracketed spectral features to discriminate  
13 TAG and EE. The non-supervised principal component analysis was employed to visually evaluate  
14 the distribution of samples and revealed a clear separation of TAG from EE marine oils along PC1.  
15 In addition, representative TAG and EE samples were 100% correctly classified using any of the  
16 eight supervised models studied. The developed models resulted in high R<sup>2</sup>Y (≥ 0.977) and Q<sup>2</sup> (≥  
17 0.953), and low root mean square error for prediction (≤ 0.009), which demonstrates the high  
18 potential of this rapid and straightforward procedure to evaluate the lipid form of supplements and  
19 mislabeling.

20

21 **Keywords:** principal component analysis; discriminant analysis; ethyl esters; triacylglycerol;  
22 marine oil.

## 23 **1. Introduction**

24           Omega-3 fatty acids (FA) consumption has several positive effects on human health, being  
25 recognized effective against cardiovascular and inflammatory diseases, among others (Nichols et  
26 al., 2014). Fish oil supplements containing eicosapentaenoic (EPA) and docosahexaenoic (DHA)  
27 are one of the most consumed supplements with a remarkable market worldwide. Natural fish oils  
28 generally contain EPA and DHA as triacylglycerols (TAG), while concentrated supplements  
29 usually have those FA in ethyl ester (EE) form. The conversion of EE into TAG can be carried out  
30 after molecular distillation, but it is very costly and commonly bypassed by manufacturers (Rubio-  
31 Rodríguez et al., 2010), which leads to a high volume of commercialized concentrated supplements  
32 composed mostly of EE. Nevertheless, incorporation of EPA and DHA into plasma phospholipids  
33 has been evidenced to be significantly different, showing a better bioavailability of omega-3 FA  
34 in the TAG form when compared to EE (Ghasemifard et al., 2014). For these reasons, it is  
35 extremelly important to monitor FA form in fish oil supplements.

36           The increased demand for fish oil omega-3 supplements requires fast and accurate  
37 methods to verify both product quality and label accuracy. Gas chromatography is the most  
38 commonly used technique to determine the FA in fish oils (AOCS, 2013). However, previous  
39 derivatization of analytes is necessary, long and specific capillary columns are required, and  
40 methods are usually time-consuming and laborious.

41           On the other hand, proton nuclear magnetic resonance ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR) spectrum can be  
42 obtained in less than 1 min, a minimal amount of sample is required for experiments due to the  
43 deep length and small cross-sectional area of NMR tubes, and small amounts of organic solvents  
44 are needed (~500  $\mu\text{L}$ ). When considering TAG and EE, the potential of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Lopes et al.,  
45 2020) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (Suárez et al., 2010) was already demonstrated for the discrimination of these

46 compounds in marine oils. Vibrational spectroscopic techniques were also employed for this  
47 purpose (Karunathilaka et al., 2020; Killeen et al., 2017). For quantitative analysis of EPA and  
48 DHA, Wu and He (2014) and Wu *et al.* (2014) have already described methods employing NMR  
49 and chemometrics, but only TAG were approached. To the best of our knowledge, NMR associated  
50 with a multivariate analysis has never been used for the supervised classification of fish oils  
51 according to their lipid form (TAG, EE). Methods developed by spectroscopic techniques  
52 associated with multivariate calibration are simple, fast, and follow the green analytical chemistry  
53 principles (Gałuszka et al., 2013), due to the straightforward analysis and little waste generated  
54 during experiments.

55 Overall, this work focused in developing fast and straightforward discriminating methods  
56 for the classification of fish oil supplements according to the available form of FA (TAG or EE)  
57 employing  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy and supervised discriminant analysis (partial least square  
58 discriminant analysis, PLS-DA/orthogonal partial least square discriminant analysis, OPLS-DA).  
59 The method of the present research can be applied to quality control analysis of fish oils in  
60 industries and regulatory agencies, and it would also be very useful to verify the label accuracy of  
61 these supplements.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectra can be acquired in a few minutes without any complex  
62 sample preparation, and the use of discriminant analysis permit to determine group membership  
63 of samples with minimal error using a group of predictors, which can be performed by non-  
64 experienced NMR analysts.

65

## 66 **2. Materials and Methods**

### 67 **2.1. Samples, Test Mixtures, and Reagents**

68           Eighteen different dietary omega-3 fish oil supplements commercialized in capsules were  
69   acquired from local and online markets (Brazil, Canada, Spain, and the USA). These samples were  
70   used in the calibration and cross-validation steps of the PLS-DA model after classification in TAG  
71   or EE by referenced chromatographic techniques (thin layer chromatography - TLC and gas  
72   chromatography – GC-MS). Twelve samples were TAG, and six samples were EE.

73           Additionally, a set of 18 mixtures of pure TAG or EE fish oil samples were prepared to  
74   evaluate the model performance by mixing three different pure TAG (or different pure EE). Equal  
75   amounts of fish oil were added to glass tubes, mixed by gentle agitation, and stored at -80 °C in  
76   an inert atmosphere until analyses.

77           Deuterated chloroform and 2',7'-dichlorofluorescein were acquired from Sigma-Aldrich  
78   (St. Louis, MO, USA). Hexane, chloroform, ethanol, diethyl ether, and glacial acetic acid were  
79   purchased from Panreac Química S.A. (Madrid, Spain).

80

## 81           2.2. Analytical Methods

82           Five mg of fish oil were dissolved in 500 µL of deuterated chloroform and inserted in a 5  
83   mm tube for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. Experiments were performed with spinning on a Bruker Avance  
84   III HD spectrometer operating at 500 MHz, and spectra were acquired by the Topspin 3.2 software  
85   from Bruker Biospin. No sample preprocessing was initially applied to <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra.

86           The experimental parameters for <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments were as follows: data acquisition,  
87   3.28 s; relaxation delay, 1.0 s; pre-scan delay, 10.00 µs; total data points collected, 65536; spectral  
88   width, 20.0 ppm; scans, 16 (no dummy scans); pulse angle, 30 °; temperature, 25 °C. The chemical  
89   shifts were reported in ppm relative to the solvent residual peak (chloroform 7.28 ppm).

90 Sample preparation and analysis by TLC and GC-MS carried out for fish oil unequivocally  
91 classification were performed as described previously (Amorim et al., 2020).

92

#### 93 2.4 Multivariate Data Analysis

94 Multivariate analysis was performed in SIMCA P+ version 12.0.1 - Umetrics. Principal  
95 component analysis (PCA) was used as an unsupervised exploratory tool to visually evaluate the  
96 distribution of all fish oil samples containing FA as TAG or EE. Data were mean-centered before  
97 analysis, and three principal components (PC) were selected. Then, PLS-DA and OPLS-DA  
98 (Bylesjö et al., 2006; Trygg and Wold, 2002) were used to predict the sample class (TAG or EE).  
99 Multivariate analysis was performed using the spectral range of 4.0-4.5 ppm (1672 data points),  
100 selected based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra interpretation. PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models were initially  
101 developed using raw <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra data. Then, some pretreatments, such as the standard normal  
102 variate (SNV) and the Savitzky-Golay's smoothing algorithm were applied, individually or  
103 simultaneously, using the SIMCA P+ software package.

104 The developed models were validated internally using the leave-n-out (Shao, 1993) cross-  
105 validation method (18 samples) and externally using a series of TAG and EE test mixtures (18  
106 samples), as described in section 2.1. The first step in modeling was recoding the categorical  
107 variables (TAG and EE) into continuous numerical variables. A one (1) indicated a sample  
108 belonging to TAG class, and a zero (0) indicated a sample not belonging to this class (i.e.,  
109 belonging to EE class). For each unknown test sample, the model predicted a y-value, which should  
110 ideally be close to either 1 or 0. The decision rule established for fish oil classification was: samples  
111 with predicted  $y > 0.5$  and a deviation  $< 0.5$  belong to TAG class; samples with predicted  $y < 0.5$   
112 and a deviation  $< 0.5$  belong to EE class, and samples with a deviation  $> 0.5$  can not be properly

113 classified. PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models were evaluated considering the root-mean square-error  
114 of prediction (RMSEP),  $R^2X$ ,  $R^2Y$ ,  $Q^2$ , p-value from CV-ANOVA (Eriksson et al., 2008),  
115 sensitivity, false negatives, specificity, false positives, Younden's index, and Matthews correlation  
116 coefficient.

117

### 118 **3. Results and Discussion**

#### 119 3.1. Characteristics of $^1\text{H}$ NMR fish oil spectra

120 Fig. 1-a, and Fig. 1-b show representative  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for fish oil in TAG and EE  
121 forms, respectively. The assignation of resonances was based on Sacchi et al., (2008), Spyros and  
122 Dais, (2013), and Alexandri et al., (2017). Spectra evidence similarities and differences, due to  
123 both the FA composition of samples and the lipidic form of FA (TAG and EE). The main  
124 resonances commonly found in fish oil occur at 0.85 ppm for methyl groups of saturated, n-6 and  
125 n-9 FA (signal A); 0.95 ppm for methyl groups of n-3 FA (signal B); 1.25 ppm for methylenic  
126 hydrogens of acyl groups (signal C); 1.62 ppm for methylenic hydrogens in  $\beta$ -position of the  
127 carbonyl group (signal D); from 2.02 to 2.09 ppm for methylenic hydrogens related to  $\alpha$  single  
128 double bond (signal E); from 2.2 to 2.5 ppm for methylenic hydrogens  $\alpha$ -position of the carbonyl  
129 group (signal F); 2.85 ppm for bis-allylic hydrogens (signal G) and at approximately 5.3 ppm  
130 corresponding to olefinic hydrogens bearing the acyl group (signal H).

131 Signals ranging from 4.0 to 4.5 ppm are useful to differentiate TAG and EE forms in fish  
132 oil samples. This fingerprint region was employed for subsequent PCA and discriminant analysis.  
133 Resonances  $\text{H}_1$  (4.15-4.35 ppm, doublet of doublet) and I (5.3 ppm, multiplet) are due to glyceryl  
134 group hydrogens at positions *sn*-1, *sn*-3 ( $\text{H}_1$ ), and *sn*-2 (I), characteristics of TAG, as illustrated in

135 Fig. 1-a, while resonance H<sub>2</sub> (4.12 ppm, multiplet) is characteristic for the terminal methylenic  
136 hydrogen of EE forms, as illustrated in Fig. 1-b.

137

### 138 3.2. Principal component analysis

139 This unsupervised exploratory tool was useful to check for anomalies and also observe  
140 the distribution of samples. PC1 and PC2 described 76.59 % and 9.11 % of the variance in the  
141 spectral data set, respectively. Fig. 2 shows the scores plot (A) and the loadings plot (B) of PCA.  
142 Evaluation of Fig. 2-A revealed a clear separation of TAG and EE fish oils along PC1. TAG  
143 samples (red circles) clustered in the positive PC1, whereas EE samples (blue squares) grouped in  
144 the negative scores of the same PC, which is in accordance with the loadings showed in Fig. 2-B,  
145 where it is possible to see a negatively loaded band at approximately 4.15 ppm (characteristic of  
146 EE) and a positively loaded band at 4.3-4.35 ppm (characteristic of TAG) in blue color (PC1  
147 loadings).

148 TAG samples were grouped closer because they presented very similar omega-3  
149 contents. All samples contained 540 mg EPA and 360 mg DHA in the daily serving size (3000  
150 mg), according to the nutrition facts, which was also verified in a previous study (Amorim et al.,  
151 2020). EE samples, on the other hand, had very different omega 3 contents. According to the  
152 nutrition facts, supplements could provide from 120 to 1008 mg EPA and from 240 to 756 mg  
153 DHA in a daily portion, which could vary from 600 to 2800 mg FO.

154 Moreover, there was no evidence of outliers. Some samples were observed outside the  
155 hotelling confidence limit (e.g., sample 13, Fig 2-A), but they presented a similar NMR spectra  
156 when compared with the other samples from the same group. Then, all samples from PCA were  
157 considered in the modeling.

### 158 3.3 Classification of samples by PLS-DA and OPLS-DA

159 To classify samples as TAG or EE, PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models were built by using  
160 the raw  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data initially, as described in section 2.3 (models M1 and M2, respectively).  
161 Then, PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models were studied using some data pre-processement (SNV in  
162 models M3 and M4, Savitzky Golay in models M5 and M6, and SNV+ Savitzky Golay in models  
163 M7 and M8).

164 Calibration models were developed using 18 commercial samples, previously analyzed  
165 by TLC and GC-MS. The reference TLC method permitted to clearly distinguish TAG from EE  
166 samples based on the difference in the retention factor, as depicted in Fig 3 (*i.e.*, TAG retention  
167 factor = 0.6 and EE retention factor = 0.8). Also, analyses by GC-MS corroborated previous  
168 classifications, since TAG and EE presented different  $m/z$  spectra and different elution times  
169 (Amorim et al., 2020).

170 Table 1 shows Y values predicted for each fish oil sample, considering the 8 models  
171 evaluated (M1-M8). It can be observed that calculated values were very close to 1 for all TAG  
172 samples (Samples 1-12 and 19-30), whereas calculated values were very close to 0 for EE samples  
173 (Samples 13-18 and 31-36). Also, it can be noticed that PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models provided  
174 very similar results. The score plots of PLS-DA and OPLS-DA, as well the PCA models, were  
175 supplied in the supplementary material.

176 The performance of the studied models was measured in terms of sensitivity and  
177 specificity and considering some classification metrics ( $R^2\text{X}$ ,  $R^2\text{Y}$ ,  $Q^2$ , RMSEP, and p-values from  
178 CV-ANOVA), reported in Table 2. The sensitivity of the model represents the proportion of test  
179 samples belonging to the class that was correctly classified, and the specificity represents the  
180 proportion of test samples that did not belong to the class that was correctly identified



181 (Karunathilaka et al., 2019). All models studied (M1-M8) have shown 100% of both sensitivity  
182 and specificity since all TAG and EE samples were correctly classified (Table 2). False negatives  
183 and false positives were not identified. Younden's index and Matthews correlation coefficient were  
184 equal to 1. Moreover, all models were significant since p-values  $< 0.05$  were calculated (Eriksson  
185 et al., 2008).

186 Even considering the models developed with  $^1\text{H}$  NMR raw data (M1 and M2), good  
187 results were obtained (100% of test samples were classified correctly,  $R^2Y \geq 0.977$ ,  $Q^2 \geq 0.953$ ,  
188  $RMSEP \leq 0.009092$ ). However, the SNV preprocessing treatment or the synergistic effect of SNV  
189 and the smoothing Savitzky-Golay algorithm provided the best prediction results, with the lowest  
190  $RMSEP$  ( $\leq 0.003893$ ) and the highest  $R^2Y$  ( $\geq 0.986$ ) and  $Q^2$  ( $\geq 0.968$ ), as shown in Table 2.

191 Overall, the current study was successful in demonstrating the potential of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  
192 associated with PLS-DA/OPLS-DA in the supervised classification of TAG and EE pure fish oils.  
193 This approach is faster and less laborious than classical TLC or gas chromatography method and  
194 requires a small amount of solvents to acquire NMR spectra. As perspectives for this preliminary  
195 study, improved models could be evaluated with more complex samples, including TAG and EE  
196 mixtures, and also considering quantitative analysis. The suitability of portable instrumentation  
197 for this same approach is also interesting to be studied. Besides, the use of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR is  
198 advantageous when compared to  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR or two dimensional NMR techniques, due to its higher  
199 throughput. Other NMR techniques associated with multivariate modeling can also be evaluated  
200 for fish oil classification, since previous papers already reported the use of high-resolution  
201 multinuclear ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$ ) and multidimensional NMR spectroscopy for fatty acids determination  
202 in fish oils, but only signal integration was considered (Bratu et al., 2012; Dais et al., 2015; Igarashi  
203 et al., 2002; Williamson and Hatzakis, 2017).

204 **Conclusions**

205           The use of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra associated with PLS-DA or OPLS-DA was successful in  
206 discriminating fish oil samples according to the lipid form of omega-3 fatty acids (TAG or EE).  
207 100% of test samples were correctly classified using the developed supervised models. The present  
208 method is extremely fast because  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra can be obtained in less than 1 min. Furthermore,  
209 a small amount of sample (5 mg) and solvent (500  $\mu\text{L}$ ) is required, being a non-destructive analysis  
210 that follows green chemistry principles. Multivariate analysis is of special interest in the context  
211 of food authentication, and the association of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR with PLS-DA offers a simple, fast, and  
212 precise analysis, without requiring highly experienced analysts for data interpretation. This  
213 procedure has great potential to be used in quality control analysis by industry and regulatory  
214 agencies and to evaluate supplements label accuracy.

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216

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289

290 **Figure Captions:**

291

292 Fig 1: Raw  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of a) a natural fish oil supplement containing fatty acids as  
293 triacylglycerols and b) a concentrated fish oil supplement containing fatty acids as ethyl esters.

294

295 Fig 2: Scores plot for unsupervised principal component analysis (A) and loadings plot (B).

296

297 Fig 3: Thin-layer chromatography of 18 commercial fish oil containing fatty acids as  
298 triacylglycerols (retention factor = 0.6) and ethyl esters (retention factor = 0.8).

299

300 **Supplementary material:**

301

302 Fig 1: Score plots of PCA, PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models using raw NMR data

303

304 Fig 2: Score plots of PCA, PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models using SNV pre-treatment

305

306 Fig 3: Score plots of PCA, PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models using Savitzky Golay pre-treatment

307

308 Fig 4: Score plots of PCA, PLS-DA and OPLS-DA models using SNV and Savitzky Golay pre-

309 treatments



Fig 1:

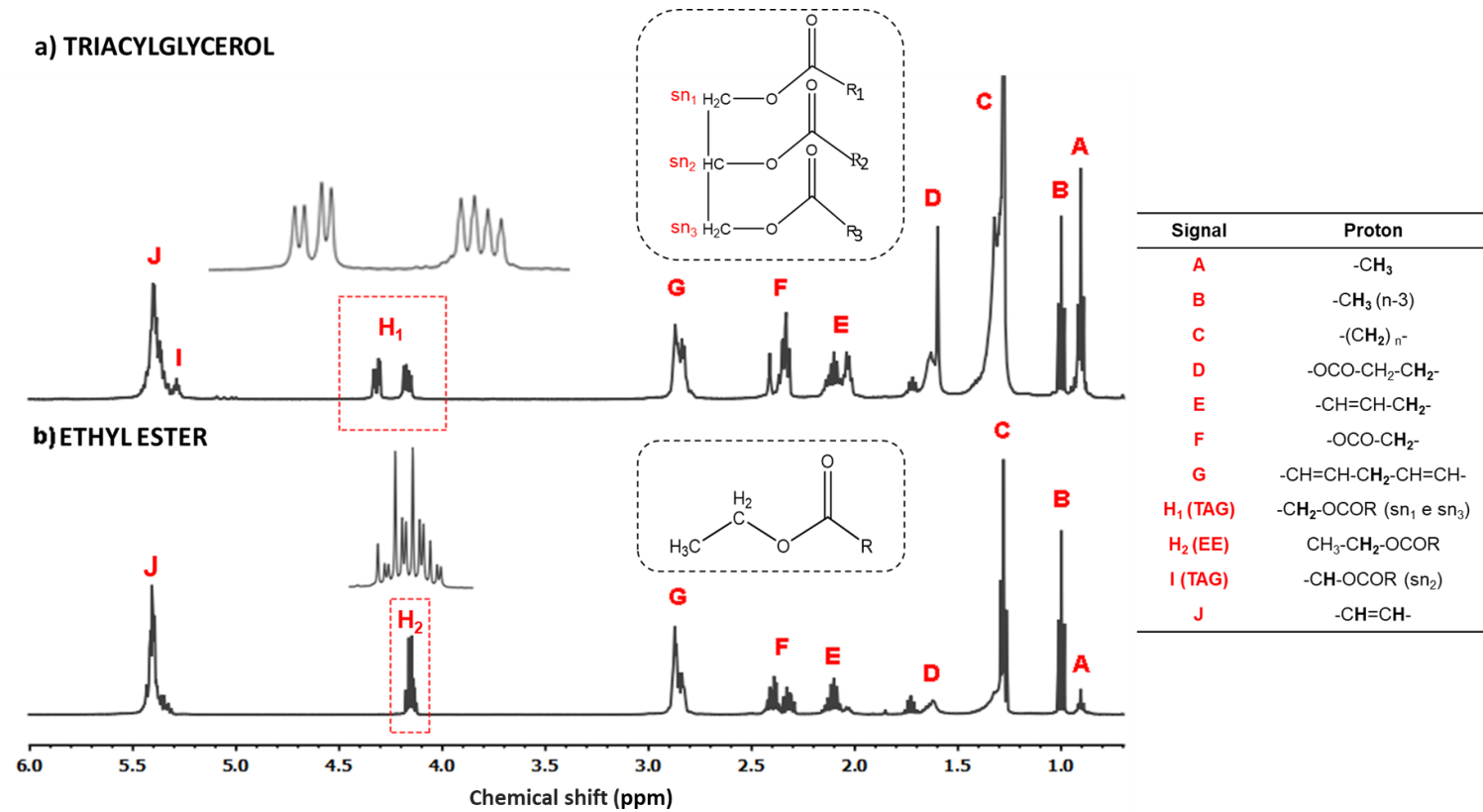


Fig 2:

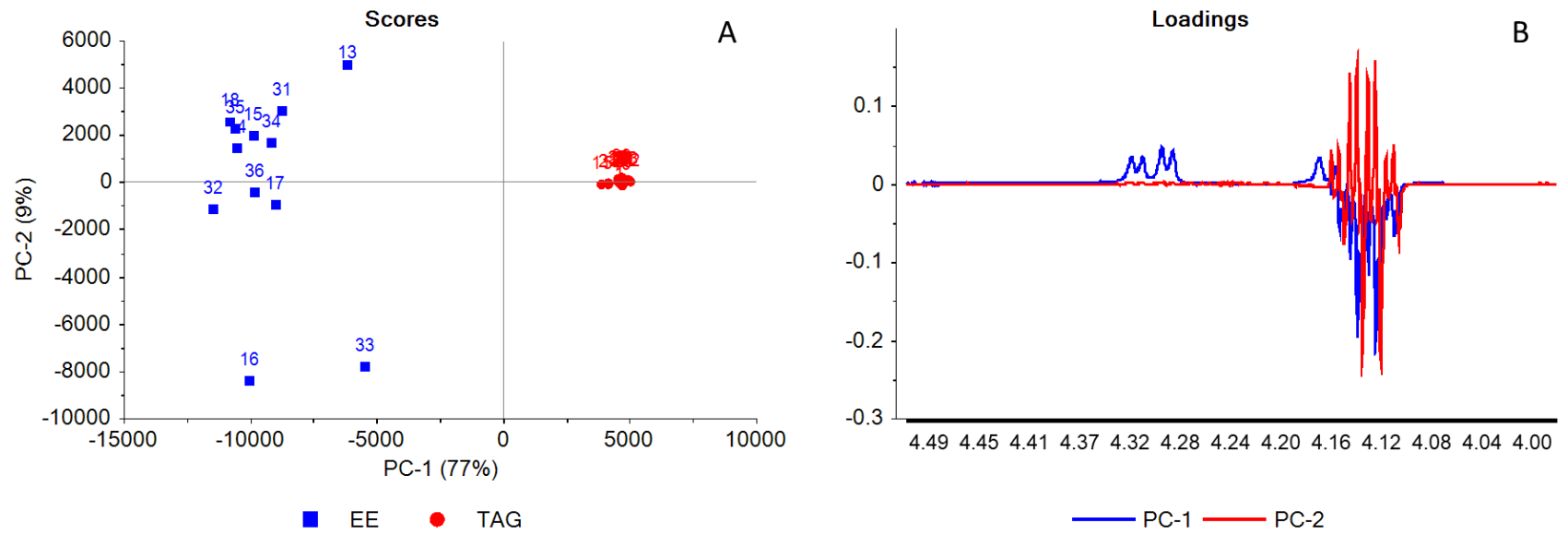
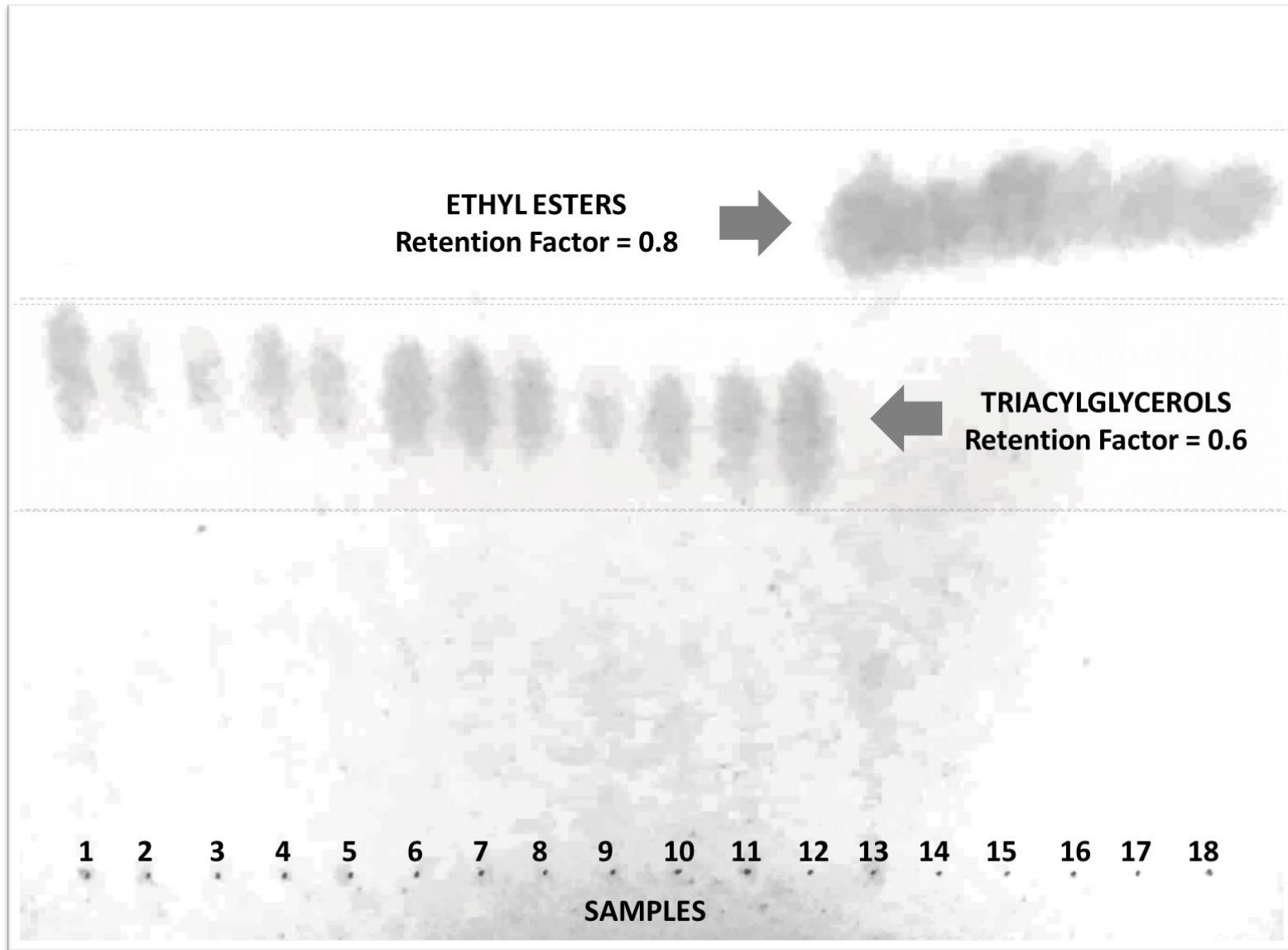
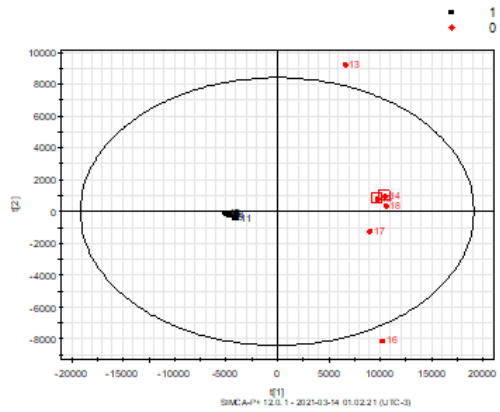


Fig 3:

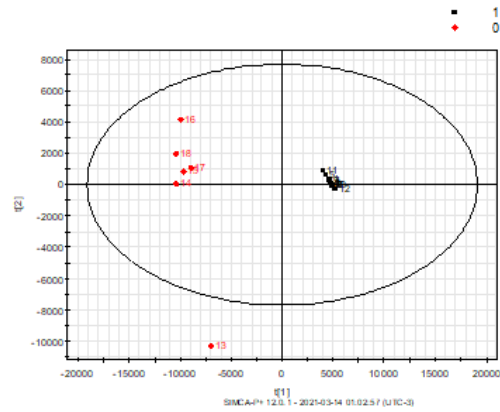


Supplementary material – Fig 1:

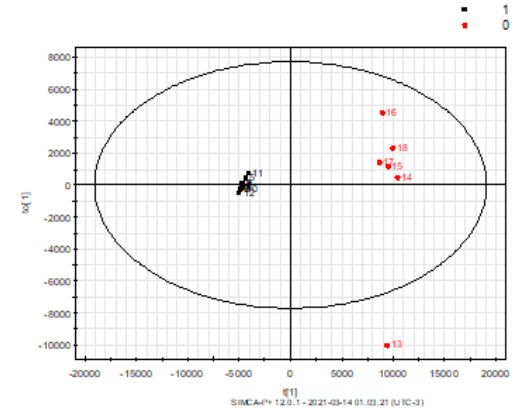
PCA



PLS-DA

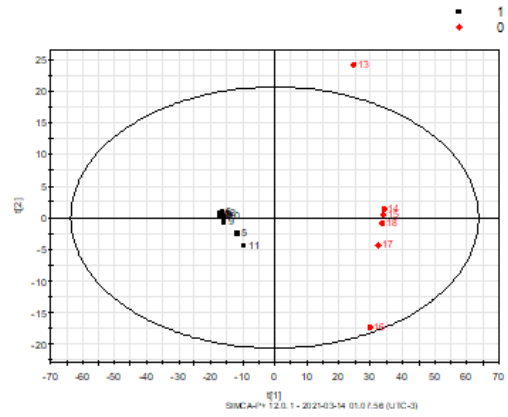


OPLS-DA

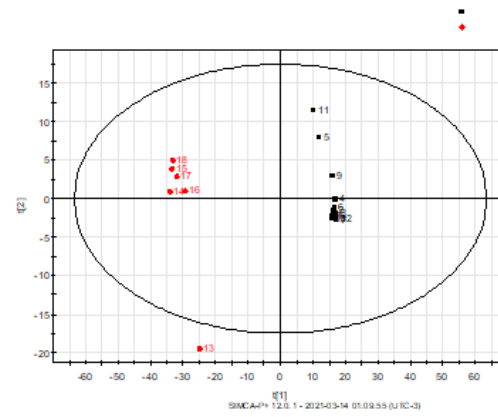


Supplementary material – Fig 2:

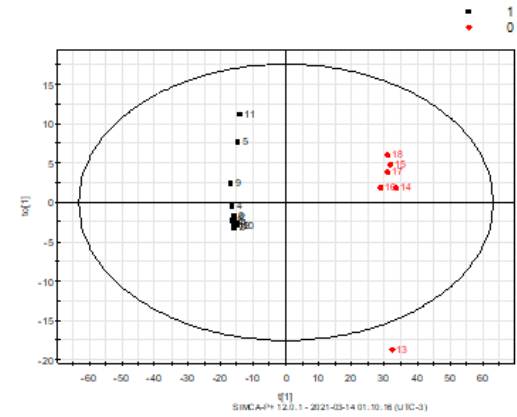
PCA



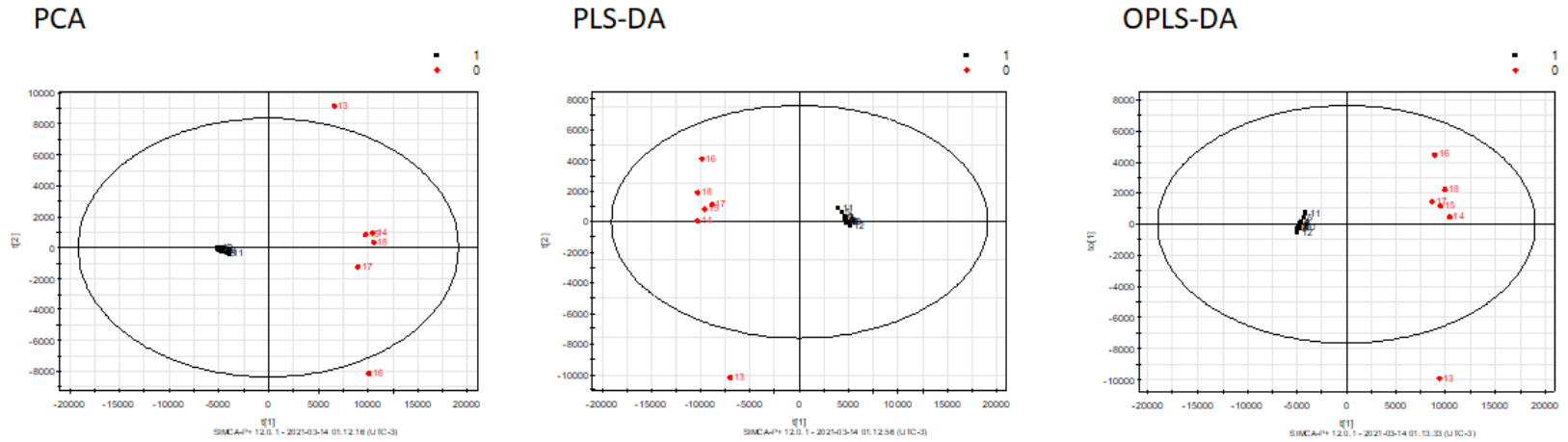
PLS-DA



OPLS-DA



Supplementary material – Fig 3:



Supplementary material – Fig 4:

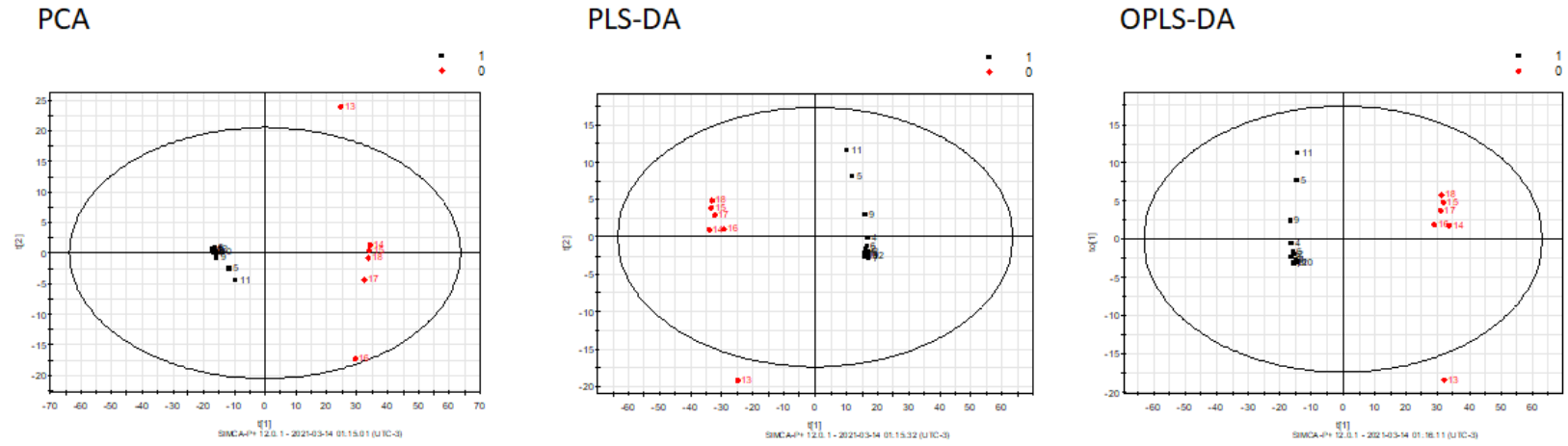


Table 1: Values predicted by partial least square discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) and orthogonal partial least squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) considering <sup>1</sup>H NMR data. 18 commercial fish oil supplements were used for calibration and cross-validation. 18 test mixtures of pure triacylglycerol (TAG) and ethyl ester (EE) were employed for prediction. Variables: 1672.

Sample	Class	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8
1	1	0.920728	0.920728	1.003880	1.003880	0.920692	0.920692	1.003850	1.003850
2	1	0.988301	0.988301	1.009900	1.009900	0.988276	0.988276	1.009910	1.009910
3	1	1.014260	1.014260	1.017160	1.017160	1.014240	1.014240	1.017180	1.017180
4	1	0.954589	0.954589	1.018850	1.018850	0.954566	0.954566	1.018870	1.018870
5	1	0.952465	0.952465	0.927191	0.927191	0.952410	0.952410	0.927155	0.927155
6	1	0.977477	0.977477	1.008260	1.008260	0.977457	0.977457	1.008290	1.008290
7	1	1.028460	1.028460	1.025100	1.025100	1.028440	1.028440	1.025130	1.025130
8	1	1.050920	1.050920	1.031010	1.031010	1.050900	1.050900	1.031050	1.031050
9	1	0.985482	0.985482	0.997448	0.997447	0.985446	0.985446	0.997446	0.997446
10	1	1.015640	1.015640	0.996364	0.996364	1.015590	1.015590	0.996333	0.996333
11	1	0.835497	0.835497	0.891450	0.891450	0.835464	0.835464	0.891479	0.891479
12	1	1.101960	1.101960	1.026710	1.026710	1.101940	1.101940	1.026750	1.026750
13	0	0.167281	0.167281	0.153732	0.153732	0.167271	0.167271	0.153385	0.153385
14	0	-0.068963	-0.068963	-0.059838	-0.059837	-0.069191	-0.069191	-0.059926	-0.059926
15	0	-0.026829	-0.026829	-0.044918	-0.044918	-0.027046	-0.027046	-0.044979	-0.044979
16	0	-0.012476	-0.012476	0.071331	0.071331	-0.011745	-0.011745	0.071992	0.071992
17	0	0.049226	0.049226	-0.025950	-0.025950	0.048790	0.048790	-0.026271	-0.026271
18	0	-0.057225	-0.057225	-0.033203	-0.033203	-0.057249	-0.057249	-0.032960	-0.032960
19	1	0.952315	0.952315	1.031380	1.031380	0.952300	0.952300	1.031420	1.031420
20	1	0.979996	0.979996	1.025440	1.025440	0.979964	0.979964	1.025440	1.025440
21	1	0.848386	0.848386	0.926525	0.926525	0.848341	0.848341	0.926459	0.926459
22	1	0.962761	0.962761	1.033920	1.033920	0.962748	0.962748	1.033970	1.033970
23	1	1.035950	1.035950	1.046300	1.046300	1.035930	1.035930	1.046360	1.046360
24	1	0.921948	0.921948	1.015110	1.015110	0.921928	0.921928	1.015130	1.015130
25	1	0.981954	0.981954	1.030560	1.030550	0.981936	0.981936	1.030600	1.030600
26	1	0.922431	0.922430	0.999472	0.999472	0.922404	0.922404	0.999480	0.999480
27	1	0.904375	0.904375	1.005460	1.005460	0.904357	0.904357	1.005490	1.005490
28	1	0.981430	0.981430	1.016530	1.016530	0.981401	0.981401	1.016530	1.016530
29	1	0.949256	0.949256	1.003030	1.003030	0.949224	0.949224	1.003020	1.003020
30	1	0.970858	0.970858	1.018440	1.018440	0.970841	0.970841	1.018470	1.018470
31	0	0.042654	0.042654	-0.027117	-0.027117	0.042188	0.042188	-0.027301	-0.027301
32	0	-0.103477	-0.103477	-0.051289	-0.051289	-0.103864	-0.103864	-0.051428	-0.051428
33	0	0.305957	0.305957	0.226710	0.226710	0.304396	0.304396	0.225464	0.225464
34	0	0.034751	0.034751	-0.029204	-0.029204	0.035029	0.035030	-0.028688	-0.028688
35	0	-0.050645	-0.050645	-0.040317	-0.040317	-0.050464	-0.050464	-0.039968	-0.039968
36	0	0.007548	0.007548	-0.026189	-0.026189	0.008047	0.008047	-0.025549	-0.025549

Class: 1 for TAG and 0 for EE. M1: PLS-DA/raw data; M2: OPLS-DA/raw data; M3: PLS-DA/SNV; M4: OPLS-DA/SNV; M5: PLS-DA/Savitzky Golay; M6: OPLS-DA/Savitzky Golay; M7: PLS-DA/SNV+Savitzky Golay; M8: OPLS-DA/SNV+Savitzky Golay.



Table 2: Parameters for the evaluation of models using partial least square discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) and orthogonal partial least squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) considering  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data.

Model	A	N	R <sup>2</sup> X(cum)	R <sup>2</sup> Y(cum)	Q <sup>2</sup> (cum)	p-values CV- ANOVA	RMSEP	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
M1	2	18	0.875	0.977	0.972	4.63E-09	0.009092	100	100
M2	1+1+0	18	0.875	0.977	0.953	1.63E-08	0.009092	100	100
M3	2	18	0.913	0.986	0.977	1.12E-09	0.003893	100	100
M4	1+1+0	18	0.913	0.986	0.968	1.35E-09	0.003893	100	100
M5	2	18	0.877	0.977	0.972	4.44E-09	0.009044	100	100
M6	1+1+0	18	0.877	0.977	0.954	1.54E-08	0.009044	100	100
M7	2	18	0.914	0.986	0.977	1.07E-09	0.003859	100	100
M8	1+1+0	18	0.914	0.986	0.968	1.28E-09	0.003859	100	100

A: latent variables; N: observations; RMSEP: root-mean square-error for prediction.