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1 **Rapid screening of tuna samples for food safety issues related to histamine content**
2 **using Fourier-transform mid-infrared (FT-MIR) and chemometrics.**

3

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ABSTRACT

Biogenic amines (BAs) generally result from the decarboxylation reaction of free amino acids as a result of the activity of different microorganisms. A build-up of these compounds can result in food being spoiled. Therefore, the rapid and precise detection of BAs like histamine is an important task for food safety. This research aimed to explore the potential of Fourier-Transform Mid-Infrared (FT-MIR) spectroscopy combined with chemometric methods to assess histamine in fresh tuna quantitatively. Based on the FT-MIR data, partial least squares regression models for the prediction of histamine were successfully constructed with $R^2 > 0.90$. Machine learning algorithms (partial least squares-discrimination analysis, k-nearest neighbours, and support vector machine) were applied, and excellent discrimination results were achieved based on the limits specified in two different legislations (EU and FDA). The results support the use of a rapid, economic and reliable approach for the discrimination of samples that could pose a health risk to consumers.

Keywords: Food safety; Histamine; Tuna; FT-MIR; HPLC; Machine learning

61 1. INTRODUCTION

62

63 Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*, *YFT*) is one of the most important fish species
64 belonging to the *Scombridae* family, constituting approximately 30% of the global tuna
65 harvest (FAO, 2011). Tuna is considered to be of high nutritional value and can play a
66 very important role in a balanced human diet. This species provides many essential
67 nutrients and health benefits, being a source of high-quality proteins, vitamins, amino
68 acids and n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (Khalili and Sampels, 2018; Salvador et al.,
69 2019).

70 With regard to food safety, fish and its derived products are considered one of the
71 most perishable products. Many extrinsic and intrinsic factors make these products highly
72 susceptible to chemical and microbiological contamination (Herpandi et al., 2011; Xie et
73 al., 2020). Fish handling during storage and transport may enhance the potential human
74 health risks associated with its consumption (Papageorgiou et al., 2018). The most widely
75 known hazard associated with tuna is the presence of high levels of histamine, which
76 constitutes an issue for the food industry (Feng et al., 2016; Prester, 2011). Histamine, a
77 biogenic amine (BA), is produced in the flesh from histidine due to the activity of the
78 bacterial enzyme histidine-decarboxylase (Lehane and Olley, 2000; Ordóñez and
79 Callejón, 2019). Although histamine is essential to many key functions in humans and
80 animals, a high intake of histamine, known as scombroid food poisoning, may cause
81 adverse toxicological effects, such as neurological disorders, gastrointestinal diseases,
82 headaches and urticaria, among others (Hungerford, 2010; McLauchlin et al., 2006), the
83 effects of which will depend on the sensibility of each person. The production of
84 histamine is intricately linked to microbial growth, and other BAs like cadaverine and
85 putrescine can be generated concurrently (Sánchez-Parra et al., 2022; Shakila et al.,
86 2003).

87 Histamine is the only BA appearing in legislation to which regulatory limits have
88 been applied. Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria
89 for foodstuffs established a maximum histamine level of 200 mg/kg as acceptable in fresh
90 fish. In application of this legislation, in a sample of nine randomly collected units, only
91 two may contain between 100 – 200 mg/kg of histamine and none may be above the limit
92 of 200 mg/kg in fish species associated with a high amount of histidine such as the
93 *Scombridae*, *Clupeidae*, *Coryphaenidae*, *Engraulidae*, *Pomatomidae*, and

94 *Scomberesocidae* families. Nevertheless, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, 2011)
95 set a maximum limit of 50 mg/kg. Other countries such as Canada, Finland and
96 Switzerland established 200 mg/kg as a maximum recommended limit for this BA
97 (DeBeer et al., 2021). No regulations have been established for cadaverine (Sánchez-
98 Parra et al., 2023), since the information regarding the toxicity of this BA is limited, as
99 only a few studies are available in animals (Omer et al., 2021) and no studies are available
100 that analyse dose response in humans.

101 In the context of foodborne outbreaks of Scombroid poisoning, ensuring control
102 over histamine levels in tuna emerges as critically significant. In the Rapid Alert System
103 for Food and Feed (RASFF) organized among the member states of the European Union,
104 histamine represents one of the most common notifications. During the periods from 2000
105 to 2010 and 2011 to 2021, a total of 314 and 383 notifications were reported for histamine
106 in fish and fish products, respectively. Numerous studies have been published focusing
107 on the assessment of incidents related to histamine poisoning (Colombo et al., 2018;
108 Leuschner et al., 2013; Visciano et al., 2020). Hence, the development of analytical
109 techniques for the determination of BA levels is essential in assessing food toxicity as it
110 serves as a quality marker of freshness, adherence to good manufacturing practices, and
111 product preservation status (Peng et al., 2008; Shakila et al., 2003). Presently, high-
112 performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) stands as the reference analytical method in
113 the European Union (EU) as governed by the Commission Regulation (EC) No.
114 1441/2007, amending Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005, and by Commission Regulation
115 (EU) No. 1019/2013, amending Annex I to Regulation No. 2073/2005. However, in the
116 literature, several alternative techniques have been used for the analysis of BAs, such as
117 thin-layer chromatography (Bajc and Gačnik, 2009; Lapa-Guimarães and Pickova, 2004;
118 Tao et al., 2011), gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) (Awan, 2008; Huang
119 et al., 2016; Kamankesh et al., 2019), the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (Köse et
120 al., 2011), fluorimetric methods (Muscarella et al., 2013), ion-mobility spectrometry
121 (Cohen et al., 2015) or real-time mass spectrometry (Nei et al., 2017). These techniques
122 have been widely used to assess the freshness of fish due to their proven performance and
123 accuracy (Cheng et al., 2013). Nevertheless, these techniques have several drawbacks
124 since they not only need to use expensive and contaminant/toxic solvents but are also
125 time consuming and involve laborious sample preparation. Besides, the analysis of
126 samples using chromatographic techniques poses additional difficulties due to limited

127 absorption properties within the visible, ultraviolet, or fluorescence wavelength ranges,
128 necessitating derivatization for detection (Ordóñez et al., 2016). In this context, in recent
129 years, simple, quick, precise, inexpensive and non-destructive methods have been
130 proposed to complement or replace the traditional techniques. As an alternative,
131 vibrational techniques (near-infrared, Raman spectroscopy, hyperspectral imaging) can
132 offer sensitive, swift, and unique chemical insights for assessing fish quality and safety
133 (Rodríguez-Saona et al., 2016). As a large amount of data is obtained after the analysis
134 of the samples using vibrational techniques, chemometric tools are used to build
135 mathematical models that allow samples to be differentiated (Almoujahed et al., 2023;
136 Cárdenas-Escudero et al., 2023; Massart et al., 1997; Peris-Díaz and Krezel, 2021).

137 In the literature, vibrational spectroscopic techniques coupled with machine
138 learning have been used to assess food (Abdel-Nour et al., 2011; Magwaza et al., 2012;
139 Nguyen et al., 2022; Qi et al., 2022) and fish freshness (Franceschelli et al., 2020; Wang
140 et al., 2019). Furthermore, the quantification of histamine in fish matrices to implement
141 quick and efficient tools to facilitate verification within the industry is necessary. In their
142 research, Ghidini et al. (2021) investigated the application of NIR spectroscopy (1000-
143 2500 nm) for estimating the histamine levels in both raw and processed tuna fish. They
144 employed Orthogonal PLS regression to establish a correlation between the spectral data
145 and the histamine concentrations determined through the reference HPLC method,
146 ranging from 10 to 1000 mg/kg. Moreover, Asghari et al. (2022) proposed attenuated total
147 reflectance-Fourier transform infrared (ATR-FTIR) spectroscopy as a non-invasive,
148 robust and rapid method to measure histamine levels in tuna fish samples. They utilized
149 a PLS regression alongside two wavelength selection techniques: interval-partial least
150 squares and the generic algorithm (GA). The authors reported a lower quantification limit
151 (4.68 mg/kg) for GA-PLS obtained in a histamine range between 5 and 100 mg/kg. The
152 two studies mentioned above showed promising results when measuring histamine
153 content in fresh and processed tuna fillets, but they presented drawbacks that made both
154 approaches more time-consuming than expected, since pre-processing steps such as
155 sample extraction were included and therefore involved a destructive analysis of the
156 sample.

157 The purpose of this research is to evaluate the use of FT-MIR spectroscopy in
158 combination with chemometric methods for two main objectives. The first one
159 corresponds to the quantitative measurement of different histamine levels in raw tuna

160 fillets, without any other sample pretreatment. The second objective, which we believe is
161 novel, consists of the integration of discrimination algorithms with FT-MIR spectroscopic
162 analysis to distinguish tuna samples according to their histamine concentration, in
163 accordance with European Commission and FDA regulations.

164 **2. Material and methods**

165 **2.1. Chemicals**

166 All reagents utilized were of analytical-chemical grade. Panreac (Barcelona,
167 Spain) supplied toluene, perchloric acid, methanol, acetonitrile, toluene, deionized water,
168 and sodium carbonate. Histamine, dansyl chloride, L-proline and 1,7- diaminoheptane
169 (internal standard) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany).

170 **2.2. Fish Samples and Experimental Design**

171 A total of 66 samples of Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) fillets from six
172 different tuna batches were collected during the period between July 2020 and December
173 2021 from five different companies in Andalusia, Spain (FAO area 34, Eastern Atlantic
174 Ocean). The samples were kept on ice during both sampling and transportation to the
175 laboratory. Then, in the laboratory, the samples were filleted with an area of 3.5 x 3.5 cm
176 in freezing conditions, individually packed in plastic bags, divided into randomly six
177 groups of 11 samples and kept at -20°C. The experimental design consisted of a control
178 group (coded as 0), and five groups stored at $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ for 1, 3, 5, 7, and 10 days,
179 respectively, to potentially vary histamine levels.

180

181 **2.3. HPLC-DAD analysis**

182 The content of histamine was analysed following the official reference method
183 mandated by European Regulation No. 2073/2005, as per the procedure proposed by
184 Duflos et al. (1999) and modified by Duflos et al. (2019). In summary, 5 g of fresh tuna
185 samples were weighed and mixed with 10 mL of 0.2 M perchloric acid solution and 100
186 μL of 1,7- diaminoheptane (internal standard, 6.4 mg/L) in a centrifuge tube. This
187 mixture underwent homogenization using an Ultra-turrax homogenizer (Ultraturrax®,
188 Stauten, Germany) within an ice bath and was subsequently centrifuged for 10 min at
189 15,000 rpm at 4 °C. For the derivatization step, 0.100 mL of supernatant was combined
190 with 0.300 mL of sodium carbonate solution and 0.400 mL of dansyl chloride solution

191 (7.5 mg/mL) in an Eppendorf tube. After vortexing, the tube was incubated at 60 °C for
192 5 minutes in a stirred water bath (Unitronic Reciprocating Shaking Bath, model 6032011,
193 J.P. Selecta, Barcelona, Spain). The excess of the derivatization reagent was then
194 neutralized by adding 0.1 mL of L-proline solution (0.1 mg/L) and left in the dark for 15
195 minutes, followed by another 15 minutes of darkness after vortexing.

196 Following this, 0.5 mL of toluene was added, and the tubes were vortexed and
197 frozen to separate the organic phase containing the histamine dansyl derivate of the
198 aqueous phase at -80 °C for 15 minutes. The isolated organic phase underwent
199 concentration through drying using a Speedvac concentrator (Eppendorf, Hamburg,
200 Germany) and the resulting dry residue was resuspended in 0.2 mL of a solution
201 comprising acetonitrile:water (6:4;v/v), followed by vortexing and centrifugation.

202 The histamine was determined using a liquid chromatograph system coupled to a
203 diode array detector (HPLC-DAD, PerkinElmer PE200, Waltham, MA, USA) equipped
204 with an autosampler. The reverse-phase column employed was a Luna C18 (5 μ m, 250 x
205 4.6 mm) with a C18 pre-column, 4.0 x 3.0 mm, from Analytical Phenomenex (Torrance,
206 CA, USA). The detection was performed at 254 nm. The histamine was quantified using
207 the individual standard curve (Table S1). All measurements were conducted three times
208 for each sample.

209 **2.4. Fourier transform mid-infrared (FT-MIR) spectroscopy**

210 The instrumentation utilized was a FT-MIR Vertex 70 spectrometer (Bruker
211 Optics, Ettlingen, Germany) equipped with a Globar source and a room temperature
212 deuterated lanthanum α -alanine-doped triglycine sulfate (DLaTGS) detector. For
213 analysis, each tuna flesh (3.5 x 3.5 cm) sample was stored in a refrigeration chamber at
214 4°C for 15 hours, until completely thawed. Then, the analyses were replicated three times
215 placing the tuna samples directly onto the attenuated total reflectance (ATR) crystal,
216 ensuring complete coverage of the crystal surface and optimal contact between the tuna
217 samples and the crystal. To mitigate external interferences, the ATR crystal underwent
218 cleaning with distilled water and 70% ethanol, followed by drying with wiping paper after
219 each sample scan. Prior to each instance of scanning, the spectra against air (mainly H₂O
220 and CO₂) were recorded. Spectra were obtained at a resolution of 4 cm⁻¹, spanning the
221 spectral range of 4000 to 600 cm⁻¹ (1763 variables), with an average of 64 scans. All data

222 analyses were performed at a room temperature of 25 °C. The data were exported using
223 Opus 7.2 software package (Bruker Optics Inc., Billerica, MA, USA).

224 **2.5. Chemometric methods**

225 In the chemometric analyses, the dependent variable (Y) was the concentration of
226 histamine determined by the reference methods previously indicated, while the FT-MIR
227 spectra were used as the independent variables (X). The chemometric techniques applied
228 in this research, as follows: 1) Principal component analysis (PCA) to discern
229 interrelationships among samples (clusters) and identify outliers in the X dataset, and 2)
230 Partial least squares (PLS) regression. Furthermore, three discriminant analysis methods
231 were applied to develop models for classifying samples under the limits set forth by FDA
232 and European legislation: i) Partial least squares-discriminant analysis (PLS-DA); ii) K-
233 nearest neighbors (KNN); and iii) Support Vector Machine (SVM) (Berrueta et al., 2007;
234 Borràs et al., 2015; Cozzolino et al., 2011; Djuris et al., 2013). These multivariate
235 analyses were carried out using PLS toolbox 7.0 (v.7.0, Eigenvector USA) under Matlab
236 2017bR (Mathworks, USA).

237 **2.5.1. Data pre-processing**

238 The average of the three replicates for each sample was computed to derive a final
239 representative spectrum (Figure 1). To remove baseline offset, light scattering effects,
240 signal noise, optical path shift or universal intensity changes, among others, spectral pre-
241 processing was applied to the raw data (Mishra et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2021). In this
242 work, ten different spectral preprocessing methods were applied to improve recognition
243 accuracy prior to modeling, including First-Derivative (Savitzky-Golay algorithm; 9 and
244 15-point window), Second-Derivative (Savitzky-Golay algorithm; 9 and 15-point
245 window) (Savitzky and Golay, 1964), Standard Normal Variate (SNV) (Barnes et al.,
246 1989), Multiplicative Scattering Correction (MSC) (Geladi et al., 1985), and combined
247 pretreatment as First Derivative-SNV (FD-SNV), Second Derivative-SNV (SD-SNV),
248 SNV-First Derivative (SNV-FD) and SNV-Second Derivate (SNV-SD). Once the
249 different combinations were checked, the best spectra pre-processed observed were the
250 SNV combined with Savitzky-Golay first derivate (quadratic polynomial fit using a 15-
251 point window).

252 **2.5.2. Principal component analysis**

253 PCA is an unsupervised pattern recognition technique widely used to categorize
254 samples based on spectral differences. PCA reduces the dimensionality of complex
255 datasets by extracting essential information based on the spectral attributes of the samples
256 examined. The creation of new uncorrelated variables from the original set of variables
257 is called principal components (PC) (Liu et al., 2020; Shao et al., 2022). As a result, the
258 interrelationships between the original variables and the samples, in the new PC space,
259 can be identified as clusters in the maps of loadings and scores, respectively. In this study,
260 PCA was applied to investigate the clustering of samples and to detect outliers by
261 applying the Hotelling T^2 statistic (95% confidence interval) (Nieuwoudt et al., 2004;
262 Vermeulen et al., 2021).

263 *2.5.3. Quantitative Models for Histamine*

264 Partial least squares regression (PLSR) models were developed to establish a
265 linear correlation between the FT-MIR spectral data of samples (X) and the different
266 variables to be predicted (Y), namely histamine (Lee et al., 2011; Lutz et al., 2006;
267 Ramadan et al., 2006). PLSR, an advanced technique that combines the features of PCA
268 and regression, effectively addressed the main drawbacks associated with spectral data
269 analysis, such as collinearity and overlapping bands. This technique is advantageous
270 when the number of independent variables exceeds the number of dependent variables
271 (Iqbal et al., 2013; Mahanti et al., 2020). PLSR aims to maximize covariance, capturing
272 variance and establishing correlations within the data (Xiaobo et al., 2010). The
273 fundamental principle underlying PLSR is to extract latent variables (LVs) that account
274 for as much of the spectral variance as possible while modelling the variables to be
275 predicted (Roy et al., 2015).

276 To avoid bias in the subset division, all samples were initially sorted in ascending
277 order based on their reference histamine levels. Subsequently, the dataset was randomly
278 divided into three subsets:

- 279 • Subset 1: samples with concentrations <100 mg/kg (number of samples 20)
- 280 • Subset 2: samples with concentrations >300 mg/kg (number of samples 23)
- 281 • Subset 3: samples with concentrations between 100 and 300 mg/kg (number of
282 samples 23)

283 In this regard, the models were constructed as follows:

- 284 (A) Model 1: calibration set comprising Subset 2 and 3 (N=46) and validation
 285 set including Subset 1 (N=20).
 286 (B) Model 2: calibration set comprising Subset 1 and 3 (N=43) and validation
 287 set including Subset 2 (N=23).
 288 (C) Model 3: calibration set comprising Subset 1 and 2 (N=43) and validation
 289 set including Subset 3 (N=23).

290 To validate the PLSR models, a 10-fold cross-validation was employed. This cross-
 291 validation approach was employed to guarantee that the model was trained to
 292 accommodate the variability present in the calibration dataset throughout the training
 293 phase. The performance of the calibration model was assessed using the number of LVs
 294 and the root mean squares error of cross-validation (RMSECV) as an internal indicator
 295 of the predictive ability of the models (Equation 1):

$$296 \quad RMSECV = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{n}} \quad [1]$$

297 where \hat{y}_i is the concentration of histamine predicted by the model, y_i is the concentration
 298 reference of histamine and n is the number of samples in the calibration set.

299 Once the final models were established, the validation set was used to evaluate the
 300 expected error when the model was applied to predict new samples. Root mean squared
 301 errors of prediction (RMSEP) were calculated using Equation 2:

$$302 \quad RMSEP = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_t} (y_{t,i} - \hat{y}_{t,i})^2}{n_t}} \quad [2]$$

303 where $\hat{y}_{t,i}$ is the concentration of histamine predicted by the model, $y_{t,i}$ is the concentration
 304 reference of histamine and n_t is the number of samples in the validation set.

305 The criteria for selecting the most suitable model focused on minimizing the RMSECV
 306 and RMSEP, optimizing the number of LVs and maximizing R^2 values (Wilkerson et al.,
 307 2013).

308 **2.5.4. Discriminant Analysis Algorithms**

309 Three different multivariate data analysis techniques — namely, Partial Least
 310 Squares-Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA), the K-nearest neighbors (KNN) technique and
 311 Support Vector Machines (SVM) — were employed to build models for classifying

312 samples as falling below or above the limits specified by the European legislation (100
 313 mg/kg) or the FDA regulation (50 mg/kg) to achieve a correct classification based on the
 314 histamine concentration limits.

315 The confusion matrix is a concept from machine learning, to evaluate the
 316 performance of a classification model. It offers a concise overview of the model's
 317 predictions, categorizing instances into four groups: true positives (TP, correctly
 318 predicted positive instances), true negatives (TN, correctly predicted negative instances),
 319 false positives (FP, incorrectly predicted as positive), and false negatives (FN, incorrectly
 320 predicted as negative). In this study, the performance of the models was evaluated in
 321 terms of sensitivity (SEN) and specificity (SPE) defined as follows:

$$322 \quad \text{SEN} = \frac{\text{TP}}{(\text{TP}+\text{FN})} \quad [3]$$

$$323 \quad \text{SPE} = \frac{\text{TN}}{(\text{TN}+\text{FP})} \quad [4]$$

324 where SEN demonstrated its capability to identify samples belonging to the target class
 325 and SPE indicated the model's capacity to distinguish and reject samples from other
 326 classes. The percentage of correct predictions (true positive and true negative) and its
 327 corresponding confusion matrix served as the ultimate parameters for assessing the
 328 goodness of the model.

329 Validating discriminant models holds great importance in assessing the
 330 performance of classification models. Due to the influence of the choice of segmentation
 331 on the sensitivity of validated misclassification rates (Kjeldahl and Bro, 2010), drawing
 332 conclusions about the real dependency of data predictions on a random artefact of a
 333 simple structure becomes challenging (Ojala and Garriga, 2010). The Kennard-Stone
 334 algorithm (KS) (Saporo et al., 2012) considers all samples as potential candidates for the
 335 training set and, in turn, selects specific samples to form the validation set based on a 2:1
 336 ratio. The main objective of the KS algorithm is to maximize the minimum Euclidean
 337 distances between the already selected samples and the remaining ones (Claeys et al.,
 338 2010), as defined by Equation [5].

$$339 \quad d_x(p, q) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^N [x_p(j) - x_q(j)]^2}; p, q \in [1, N] \quad [5]$$

340 where N is the number of spectral wave points of the sample, and x_p and x_q represent two
341 different samples.

342 Initially, KS identifies the two samples with the maximum Euclidean distance,
343 forming the starting point of the selection process. Subsequently, for each remaining
344 sample, the algorithm stores the nearest Euclidean distances in a distance list along with
345 the corresponding sample number. From this list, the sample with the maximum distance
346 is chosen, and this iterative procedure continues until the desired number of samples is
347 achieved. In our modelling approach, two-thirds of the samples ($N_{\text{calibration}} = 45$) were
348 allocated to the calibration group, and the remaining one-third of the sample set was
349 selected as a validation group to obtain predictions using the model ($N_{\text{validation}} = 21$).

350 As we all know, ensuring an effective evaluation is crucial to check the
351 performance of each classifier. This enables us to ascertain whether a specific
352 classification approach is sufficiently adapt for particular predictive tasks. However, this
353 critical evaluation step is seldom addressed in other spectroscopy research publications.
354 For this purpose, to optimize the model parameters in both PLS-DA, KNN, and SVM, a
355 10-fold cross-validation technique was employed. During this cross-validation process,
356 each subset was employed once as a validation set, with the remaining nine subsets
357 utilized as the calibration set. This process was repeated ten times, employing distinct
358 subsets for evaluation on each iteration, and the outcomes were averaged to gauge model
359 performance. This approach provides a more objective examination of how the model
360 might perform with unknown samples (Stone, 1974). Hence, five different datasets were
361 randomly constructed, and the three models were reconstructed. Moreover, for the
362 validation of the classification model, a permutation test was proposed (Westerhuis et al.,
363 2008).

364 In summary, in a permutation test, the class labels are permuted and randomly
365 reassigned 'incorrectly' to the samples. The model is then constructed using these samples
366 with the wrong class assignments, compelling the model to generate both false negative
367 and false positive outcomes (Golland et al., 2005; de Souza et al., 2020). This procedure
368 enables the assessment of the probability that predictions occur by random chance, aiding
369 in verifying whether the optimized parameters of a model are susceptible to overfitting or
370 not (Liu et al., 2006). In this study, a permutation test with 200 iterations was conducted,
371 generating a random dataset under a null hypothesis H_0 (no difference between classes).
372 For the results obtained from the non-permuted sample set to be considered significant,

373 they must fall outside the 95 or 99% confidence limits of the H_0 distribution derived from
374 the permuted classifications. Subsequently, the significance of the models was evaluated
375 using the Wilcoxon test (Pratt, 1959), the sign test (Thomas, 2003), and the t-random test
376 (van der Voet, 1994), all at a significance level of 95% ($\alpha = 0.05$).

377 2.5.4.1. *Partial Least-squares Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA)*

378 PLS-DA is a supervised method based on the partial least squares regression,
379 which transforms the regression method into a technique for discriminating multivariate
380 chemical data (Gromski et al., 2015). Its primary objective is to construct classification
381 models applicable to future predictions (de Santana et al., 2016). This is achieved through
382 the utilization of a dummy matrix (Y), an $N \times F$, matrix with N rows (total number of
383 samples) and F columns (number of classes), encoding class membership through a
384 binary system. In a two-class scenario, as discussed in this study, the dummy vector Y
385 contains 1s in rows corresponding to Class 1 and 0s in the remaining rows (Class 2). The
386 PLS-DA model is then computed by estimating Equation 6:

$$387 \quad y = Xb + e \quad [6]$$

388 where X represents the data matrix, and b and e are vectors of regression
389 coefficients and residuals, respectively.

390 When applying the model to a new set of measures (X_{new}), the predicted Y_{new}
391 comprises continuous values, so a rule is needed to classify the samples. In a two-class
392 scenario, a common practice is to set a threshold at 0.5, despite potential classification
393 errors due to the method's general nature. However, various literature approaches aim to
394 refine this choice (Barker and Rayens, 2003; Indahl et al., 2007; Pérez et al., 2009). In
395 this study, a more refined threshold was determined using a Bayesian algorithm, initially
396 estimating probabilities, and subsequently discriminating samples. The objective was to
397 identify a threshold where FP and FN are minimized (Tormena et al., 2019). Values
398 exceeding this threshold signify that the samples pertain to the modeled class, while lower
399 values suggest samples that do not belong to this class (Valderrama et al., 2022).

400 2.5.4.2. *K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)*

401 The KNN is a linear and non-parametric supervised pattern recognition method
402 (Clarke et al., 1974). The principle of this method is based on proximity - it classifies an
403 unknown sample of the validation set based on the majority of its K -nearest neighbours

404 in the calibration set (Berrueta et al., 2007). Commonly, similarity is measured by the
 405 Euclidean distance between spectra, and classification is performed on the group to which
 406 most of the k objects belong, with ties broken by the sums of the relevant distances. The
 407 parameter K has a large impact on the classification model; and it is optimized by
 408 calculating the prediction ability at different values of k . It is often advisable to choose
 409 lower k values, such as 3 or 5, when employing this algorithm (Chen et al., 2011).

410 The KNN method offers several advantages, among other, its mathematical
 411 simplicity, allowing it to produce classification outcomes potentially superior to other
 412 more intricate pattern recognition techniques. Additionally, its efficiency remains
 413 consistent regardless of the spatial distribution of classes. However, it's worth noting that
 414 KNN may struggle when significant disparities exist in the sample sizes of each class, as
 415 this can lead to excessively slow computations (Berrueta et al., 2007; Jiang et al., 2007).

416 2.5.4.3. Support vector machines (SVM)

417 The theory of SVM has been extensively described in literature (Fernández-Pierna
 418 et al., 2004; Fernández-Pierna et al., 2005). SVM is a non-linear supervised statistical
 419 learning method developed by Vapnik and co-workers (Cortes and Vapnik, 1995; Vapnik,
 420 1995).

421 The concept of SVM stems from the classification of binary problems, aiming to
 422 identify a hyperplane that effectively separates two data sets. In case the linear boundary
 423 in the low-dimension input space is insufficient for the proper separation of two classes,
 424 it is possible to create a hyperplane that allows a linear separation in a higher-dimensional
 425 feature space. This transformation is achieved through a conversion function that maps
 426 data from the original input space to a higher-dimensional feature space, making it
 427 linearly separable. This transformation is facilitated by a kernel function (Mammone et
 428 al., 2009). Through an appropriate selection of a kernel function, any consistent training
 429 set can be made separable. In this study, a Gaussian kernel function was selected as it is
 430 the simplest and quickest to calculate (Berrueta et al., 2007). Its structure is the radial
 431 basic function (RBF) Equation 7:

$$432 \quad K(x_i, x_j) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \quad [7]$$

433 where σ is the bandwidth of the RBF function (kernel parameter) and it reflects the degree
 434 of generalization.

435 To obtain a good performance of SVM model, some parameters need to be
436 optimized by grid search (GS) (Fayed and Atiya 2019). These parameters include: C (the
437 penalty factor) and σ (the radial width of the kernel function). C minimizes both the fitting
438 error and the model's complexity, whereas σ determines the non-linear mapping from the
439 input space to the high-dimensional feature space (Li et al., 2019). When C is decreased,
440 more emphasis is placed on maximizing margin and enhancing generalization. In
441 addition, generalization can also be improved by increasing the value of σ in the Gaussian
442 function.

443 **3. Results and discussion**

444 **3.1. Histamine analysis**

445 In order to identify possible Y data (histamine concentration) outliers during the
446 10-day incubation period at room temperature (22 ± 2 °C), a boxplot analysis was carried
447 out and is presented in Figure 2. In this graph, the median was represented as the central
448 mark, the 25th and 75th percentiles marked the edges of the box, and the whiskers
449 extended to the most extreme data points, excluding outliers, as outlined by Quintelas et
450 al. (2019).

451 Regarding the data, the samples were distributed based on their concentration
452 (Table 1). In this sense a total of 16 samples were identified with a histamine
453 concentration below 50 mg/kg (the limit established by the FDA). After being caught,
454 tuna is frozen aboard fishing vessels using a brine immersion freezer set at temperatures
455 below -8 °C. The protective influence of salt is credited with reducing the likelihood of
456 microbial contamination (Barbosa et al., 2018). This explains why low histamine levels
457 were found in those samples. For the range established between 50 and 100 mg/kg, only
458 five samples were detected, while 13 samples presented concentrations in the range
459 between 100 and 200 mg/kg. The levels of histamine in the samples at room temperature
460 showed a significant increase over the incubation period (Figure 2), reaching
461 concentrations close to 1000 mg/kg. This phenomenon can be attributed to the elevated
462 bacterial growth and enzyme activity observed at this temperature, as reported by Ekici
463 and Omer (2020), which accelerates the decarboxylation of the amino acid histidine into
464 histamine (Altieri et al., 2016).

465 The fluctuations in histamine levels observed over the storage time of the tuna could be
466 attributed to variances in the microbial levels among the collected samples. Additionally,

467 prior studies have indicated that the production of this amine is influenced by factors such
468 as the individual fish, the sampled fish part, time, temperature, and the type and number
469 of bacterial species present (Economou et al., 2007; Sánchez-Parra et al., 2022). The
470 interplay of these factors may contribute to the variation in the histamine levels within
471 individual lots of fish and even among individual fish.

472 **3.2. Principal Component Analysis (PCA)**

473 PCA was performed using pre-processed FT-MIR spectra to identify the capacity
474 of samples clustering by SNV + first derivate Savitzky-Golay. Figure 3a shows the scores
475 plot for the first two PCs. The total variance explained by the first two components was
476 84.52% (PC1 = 72.37% and PC2 = 12.15%). It is possible to observe a pattern clearly
477 demonstrates the grouping of tuna samples into seven categories, based on their histamine
478 levels (Fig. 3a). Moreover, the PCA suggests the presence of two clusters. The samples
479 with a higher concentration of histamine are on the positive quadrant of the PC1
480 (histamine levels ranging from 200 to 1000 mg/kg) and samples with lower histamine
481 levels (<LOD (limit of detection) to 200 mg/kg) tended to move towards the PC1 negative
482 quadrant. These findings suggest that the second primary component correlates with the
483 spectral variability among samples, stemming from differences between individual fish
484 and batches, while the first primary component is linked to the level of tuna flesh
485 decomposition (histamine content).

486 To further investigate the bands with the greatest influence on potential sample
487 discrimination, we analyzed the graph of the loadings corresponding to PC1 and PC2
488 (Fig. 3b). Typically, the MIR spectrum encompasses four identifiable regions: the double-
489 bond region (2000–1500 cm^{-1}), the fingerprint region (1500–600 cm^{-1}), the X–H
490 stretching region (4000–2500 cm^{-1}), and the triple-bond region (2500–2000 cm^{-1})
491 (Karouiet al., 2010). The higher loading of PC1 and PC2 are linked to the most important
492 regions of the tuna samples spectrum. In our study, specific peaks stood out, specifically
493 at 1634 and 1659 cm^{-1} (weights positively in PC1 and PC2, respectively). These peaks
494 correspond to the Amide I band, which represents the most intense absorption band in
495 proteins. The highlighted peaks resulted from the stretching vibrations of the C=O (70–
496 85% of the potential energy) and C–N groups (10–20%) (Bandeekar, 1992; Karoui et al.,
497 2010). This frequency typically falls within the range of 1600 to 1700 cm^{-1} . Next to the
498 Amide I group, another prominent peak emerges at 1564 cm^{-1} , attributed to Amide II
499 group. This region is more intricate than Amide I and mainly stems from in-plane N–H

500 bending (40–60%), with the remaining potential energy assigned to C-N (18-40%) and
501 C-C stretching vibrations (approximately 10%) (Venyaminov and Kalnin, 1990). The
502 increase in the signal intensity could be explained as a direct increase of free amino acids
503 and peptides resulting from proteolysis during the tuna decomposition period.
504 Additionally, the loadings revealed a contribution from bands belonging to the region
505 between 1400 to 1200 cm^{-1} , corresponding to Amide III (1381 and 1377 cm^{-1}). This
506 region encompasses complex bands influenced by the force field details, the nature of the
507 side chain and the hydrogen bonding (Karoui et al., 2010). Moreover, absorption bands
508 were observed in the 950-1200 cm^{-1} range, corresponding to the C-N stretch of histamine
509 compound (1160 cm^{-1}). Lastly, the peak at 3300 cm^{-1} is due to the vibration of the O–H
510 bond in water and the amide A of proteins (3270 cm^{-1}). These results indicated that the
511 negative variation found by PCA analysis, regarding PC1, could be associated with the
512 decrease in histamine content present in the tuna samples.

513 **3.3. PLS models for quantitative predictions**

514 The PLSR models for histamine quantification were developed utilizing various
515 preprocessing techniques outlined above. Various parameters were employed to evaluate
516 the performance of these PLSR models. Accuracy was assessed through coefficients of
517 determination for calibration (R^2_C) and prediction (R^2_P). A coefficient of determination
518 approaching 1 indicates a strong correlation between the predicted and measured values
519 in both calibration and prediction sets. The RMSECV based on contiguous cross-
520 validation procedure was utilized to evaluate the modeling capacity of the PLSR model
521 using calibration set. In this study, ten different spectral preprocessing methods, namely,
522 FD (9 and 15 points window), SD (9 and 15 points window), SNV, MSC, FD-SNV, SD-
523 SNV, SNV-FD and SNV-SD, were compared to investigate their influences on the
524 performance of the PLSR models. The results of the optimization of the spectral
525 pretreatment methods are shown in Tables S2, S3 and S4.

526 Three PLSR models were developed (Figure 4). The best performance of the
527 PLSR model 1 (Subsets 2 and 3) for the quantitation of histamine was obtained based on
528 the preprocessing of SNV+FD (Savitzky-Golay algorithm, quadratic polynomial fit using
529 a 15 points window) (Savitzky and Golay, 1964), with the latent variables of 5, the R_{cv}^2
530 and R_p^2 of 0.991 and 0.978, and the RMSECV and RMSEP of 21.7875, and 5.8435
531 mg/kg, respectively (Table S2). With respect to PLSR models 2 and 3 (Subsets 1 and 3,
532 and Subsets 1 and 2, respectively), the optimal quantification models were developed

533 after the same pretreatment of SNV+FD, with the latent variable of 6. The optimum latent
534 variables used in the model development determined the lowest error in cross-validation
535 (Fig. 4) and therefore avoided overfitting (Prieto et al., 2014). The RMSECV was 22.7376
536 and 15.6790 mg/kg, respectively. Moreover, the R_p^2 and RMSEP were 0.970 and 9.28
537 mg/kg for the PLSR model 2 (Table S3) and 0.967 and 37.0270 mg/kg for the PLSR
538 model 3 (Table S4).

539 The values of the R^2 in all models indicated the excellent quality of the fit. When
540 utilizing spectroscopy methods to predict chemical characteristics and quantify
541 components in food, achieving an R^2 value surpassing 0.95 is considered an excellent
542 indicator of the model's quality (Shenk and Westerhaus, 1996). However, the probability
543 of attaining such optimal outcomes rises proportionally with the quantity of the specific
544 component to be quantified. Despite histamine in fish being present at parts per million
545 (ppm) levels, the reliability of obtaining an $R^2 > 0.90$ can be linked to the suitability of
546 pre-processing techniques. These techniques are known to enhance the linear relationship
547 between spectral signals and analyte concentrations (Rinnan et al., 2009). This
548 improvement has been validated for various food contaminants found at comparable or
549 lower concentration ranges than those of biogenic amines, like total volatile basic nitrogen
550 (TVBN) or K value (Ding et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2022; Yan et al., 2023). Although the
551 RMSECV obtained in the models using the 10-fold cross-validation were higher than the
552 calibration, a well-dispersed and random distribution of the residuals was obtained (data
553 not shown). This fact can be explained by the number of spectra used in the validation.
554 The parameter RMSEP expresses the average error expected when the calibration model
555 is applied to unknown tuna samples in future predictions. Low values indicate that these
556 models were reliable and robust. Hence, the prediction models derived from FT-MIR
557 spectra fitted well with experimental measurements and hold significant promise for
558 advancing the development of a novel methodology for quality control and food safety
559 applications.

560 **3.4. Qualitative analysis of histamine in tuna samples with classification purposes** 561 **based on existing (EU and FDA) legislations**

562 Recent research suggests that a promising avenue for further exploration involves
563 employing the European and FDA thresholds to construct classification models for
564 discerning fish samples (tuna, sardines) based on their histamine content (Asghari et al.,
565 2022; Ghidini et al., 2021). In most food-related quality control problems, higher

566 sensitivity rates are more critical than specificity. Based on the data regarding the
567 notifications of histamine in fish and fish products, we considered that the availability of
568 rapid techniques would be of interest to the industries, as those techniques could be
569 applied in the reception of tuna and along the production chain as a means of
570 discriminating between tuna samples.

571 The three supervised methods used, PLS-DA, KNN and SVM, were developed
572 using two sets (calibration and prediction) by similarity grouped according to the
573 Kennard–Stone algorithm. The calibration set was composed of 45 samples whereas the
574 test set consisted of the remaining 21 samples. Only the calibration data set was used to
575 build the classification model, while the prediction data set was used to test its ability to
576 classify new samples. This process was carried out 5 times to obtain robust and non-
577 random discrimination models.

578 For the European regulation models, the samples were divided into two classes:
579 Class 1 (tuna samples with HIS concentration < 100 mg/kg) and Class 2 (tuna samples
580 with HIS concentration > 100 mg/kg). Different pre-treatments were applied on the
581 calibration set. In particular, the SNV in combination with the first derivative Savitzky-
582 Golay with a 15 points window and quadratic polynomial fit was the best pre-treatment
583 to the correct classification in a 10-fold-cross-validation. Table 2 shows the results
584 obtained for PLS-DA, KNN and SVM. Sensitivity and specificity were used in order to
585 evaluate the classification models.

586 In machine learning algorithms, adjusting parameters is the algorithm's learning
587 process. Consequently, identifying appropriate parameters is crucial for the outcome of
588 each algorithm (Xia et al., 2023). The optimal number of latent variables in the PLS-DA
589 model is determined by 10-fold cross-validation. However, when the number of latent
590 variables reaches 10 or higher, there is no improvement in the classification accuracy of
591 the PLS-DA model. At this point, when the LV was 4, the error rate was lowest. The PLS-
592 DA model provided a sensitivity and a specificity for both classes of 1, namely 100%
593 classification accuracy (Table 2). The threshold for each class was obtained by using the
594 Bayesian theorem and respective data. By means of five different models, it is correctly
595 classified 14.6/15 samples of Class 1 and 29.8/30 samples of Class 2 (Table S5), while in
596 external validation, 94.3% of the samples with a concentration of histamine below 100
597 mg/kg were correctly classified (Class 1). In the SVM models, the radial basis function
598 (RBF) was chosen as the core function where only two parameters need to be tuned: the

599 cost function and the kernel parameter. To optimize these two hyperparameters, the most
600 accurate values in the 10-fold cross-validation were selected to avoid overfitting and to
601 obtain a good accuracy rate. For the five different models, the cost function value was
602 100, while the kernel parameters were 1, 0.01, 0.032, 0.01 and 3.16. As seen in Table 2,
603 all samples were correctly classified (100%) by SVM in the calibration set. On the other
604 hand, in the 10-fold cross-validation, 97.1 % of samples below 100 mg/kg were well-
605 classified. For external validation, the sensitivity and specificity values were 92.9% and
606 98.2%, respectively. The classification of the Class 2 samples was worse using this model,
607 where only 28.6/30 samples were classified correctly, as confirmed by the confusion
608 matrix (Table S5). Thirdly, modelling using the KNN approach was carried out. In this
609 study, 10-fold cross-validation was employed to ensure the K value. When the K value
610 was 3, the highest accuracy was ensured. In terms of sensitivity and specificity for cross-
611 validation, the model showed values of 97.1% and 98.8%, respectively (Table 2). The
612 best classification results in the training set were obtained using KNN model for FT-MIR
613 data, giving 100 % sensitivity for the two different histamine concentrations (Table 2),
614 indicating reliability and good generalization of the model data. Although the sensitivity
615 of PLS-DA model was 94.3 % for the samples below 100 mg/kg of histamine (Class 1),
616 it showed good predictability for unknown samples since none of the 15 samples that
617 exceeded the 100 mg/kg threshold were misclassified by the confusion matrix (Table S5).
618

619 The FDA regulation sets a stringent limit of 50 mg/kg for histamine in fish. To
620 accommodate this stricter regulation, we categorised the samples into two classes for the
621 classification models: Class 1 (comprising tuna samples with HIS concentration < 50
622 mg/kg) and Class 2 (consisting of tuna samples with HIS concentration > 50 mg/kg). The
623 optimal number of latent variables in the PLS-DA model was 3 and the optimum cost
624 function value for the five SVM models was 10, while the kernel parameters were 0.01,
625 0.01, 0.032, 0.01 and 1. In KNN, the highest accuracy was ensured with a value of K=3.
626 Table 3 shows the data obtained for the three calibration models. Regarding sensitivity
627 and specificity in 10-fold cross-validation, the following results were obtained: 94% and
628 93.7% for the PLS-DA model; 90% and 98.3% for the SVM model; and 92% and 95.3%
629 for the KNN model for Class 1. On the other hand, the prediction results obtained for the
630 PLS-DA and KNN models indicated that 5.4 out of 6 samples were correctly classified
631 as samples with histamine values below 50 mg/kg. In contrast, for the SVM model, only
632 4.6 out of 6 samples were correctly classified (Table S6).

633 Furthermore, due to the validation set having few samples, it is essential to
634 determine whether the model's predictions stem from a genuine reliance on the spectral
635 data or are merely the outcome of random chance. To address this, we employed a
636 permutation test with 200 iterations to validate the significance of the three models'
637 predictions for self-prediction. As indicated by the Wilcoxon, Sign Test, and Rand t-test
638 values, the models exhibited statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) (Table S7 and
639 S8). Consequently, we can confidently conclude that the models yield dependable
640 predictions that are inherently linked to the underlying structure of the data, rather than
641 being a product of chance (Brereton, 2006; Kjeldahl and Bro, 2010). The models
642 examined in this research effectively categorised tuna samples that fail to meet the
643 maximum histamine limits set by EU and US-FDA regulations in a quick and non-
644 destructive manner. They can be used to guarantee that enterprises acquire tuna of the
645 required quality, for both producers and consumers from a food safety perspective.

646 In brief, the predictive performance of the KNN model was superior to that of
647 PLS-DA and SVM for both regulations. This arises from the nature of the KNN
648 algorithm, which operates as a supervised learning method, incorporating all data during
649 each training phase to determine the most effective model. Typically, this method yields
650 to good results in scenarios where there are small differences among samples within the
651 same group (Zhao et al., 2010). Additionally, KNN is robust against data variability and
652 has few hyperparameters to optimize, unlike SVM.

653

654 **4. Conclusions**

655 In this paper, the histamine content in yellowfin tuna was analyzed by HPLC-
656 DAD. This amine showed an increasing trend with the increase in the incubation period,
657 attributed to higher bacterial growth and enzyme activity that accelerate the
658 decarboxylation of amino acids. The current research highlights the great potential to
659 improve the estimation of the histamine level using FT-MIR spectroscopy, particularly
660 when employing appropriate spectral pre-processing techniques and chemometric
661 methods. In general, the PLSR models proved to be robust. Better results were achieved
662 by employing SNV with First Derivate Savitzky-Golay pre-processing, leading to
663 decreased errors in predicting histamine content.

664 The regulation of histamine levels in tuna is highly relevant, especially in the
665 context of food poisoning outbreaks. To address this concern, three classification models
666 (PLS-DA, SVM, and KNN) were applied to distinguish tuna samples surpassing
667 threshold limits established by EU and US-FDA regulations. The results obtained
668 underscore the feasibility of using FT-MIR spectroscopy combined with multivariate
669 analysis for rapid and non-destructive safety inspections. This technology serves as a vital
670 and expeditious complement to the reference HPLC-DAD method in the industry. Future
671 research should concentrate on validating the transferability of models to portable devices
672 for on-site and real-time screening. Additionally, collecting more representative samples
673 annually to update the database and enhance model robustness should be a focus of future
674 work. The results supported that machine learning models could enhance the prediction
675 performance compared to traditional modelling. These machine learning approaches were
676 validated, including internal 10- fold cross-validation and external independent
677 validation. Following cross-validation, the KNN model yielded the highest classification,
678 achieving a 100% classification accuracy during external validation, according to EU
679 Regulation.

680 Subsequent works should focus on confirming the adaptability of the models for
681 on-site and real-time screening on portable devices. Moreover, there is a need to collect
682 more diverse samples annually to continually update the database and strengthen the
683 models' reliability.

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1115 **Figure Captions**

1116 **Figure 1.** FT-MIR spectra of tuna fish samples without any pre-treatment

1117 **Figure 2.** Boxplot analysis of the histamine levels (mg/kg) in tuna fillets during the
 1118 incubation period (10 days) at 22 ± 2 °C. Data are expressed as mean \pm standard deviation.

1119 **Figure 3.** Principal Component Analyses of the FT-MIR spectra of tuna samples: (a)
 1120 Score plot; (b) Loading plot

1121 **Figure 4.** Partial Least Square Regression (PLSR) cross-validation models for histamine
 1122 levels, including (a) Model 1, (b) Model 2 and (c) Model 3.

Table 1. Histamine content of the different tuna samples analyzed by HPLC-DAD in the ranges and models established.

ID	Histamine level (mg/kg)	N° of samples	Min	Max
1	< 50	16	n.d.	40.89
2	50 – 100	5	50.51	68.92
3	100 – 200	13	100.68	194.75
4	200 – 300	9	207.34	275.02
5	300 – 500	11	307.14	475.09
6	500 – 700	8	506.03	687.03
7	700 – 1000	4	761.60	879.73
FDA model	< 50	16	n.d.	40.89
	> 50	50	50.51	879.73
EU model	< 100	21	n.d.	95.85
	> 100	45	100.68	879.73

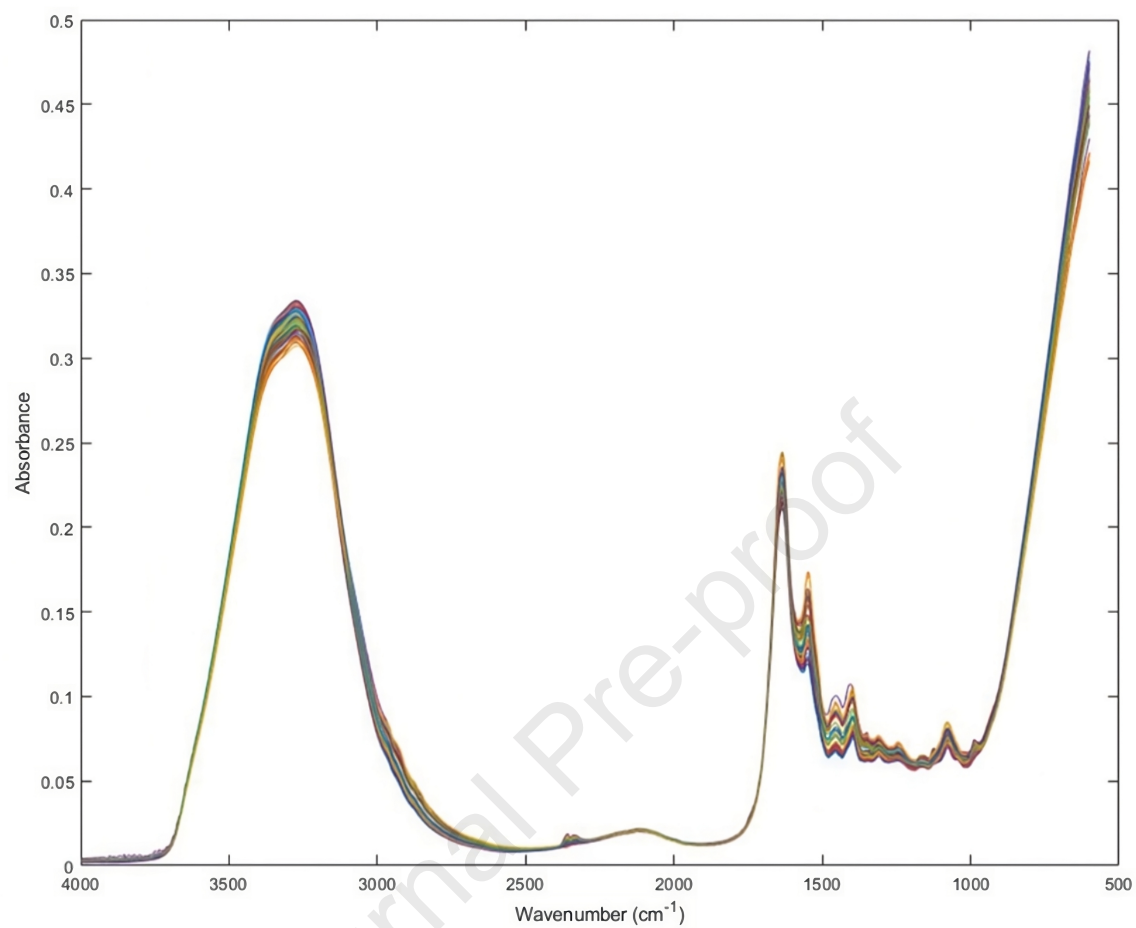
Min=minimum; Max= maximum; n.d. =not detected.

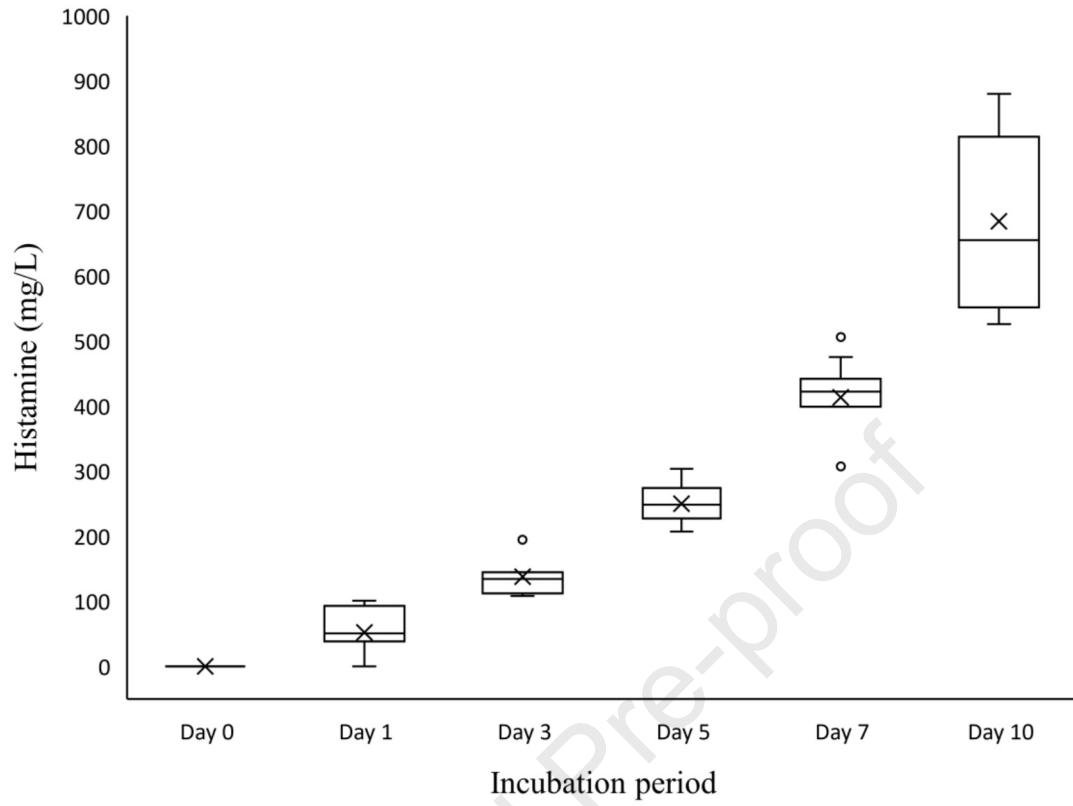
Table 2. Sensitivity and specificity (%) for the classification models in calibration, cross-validation and prediction of histamine.

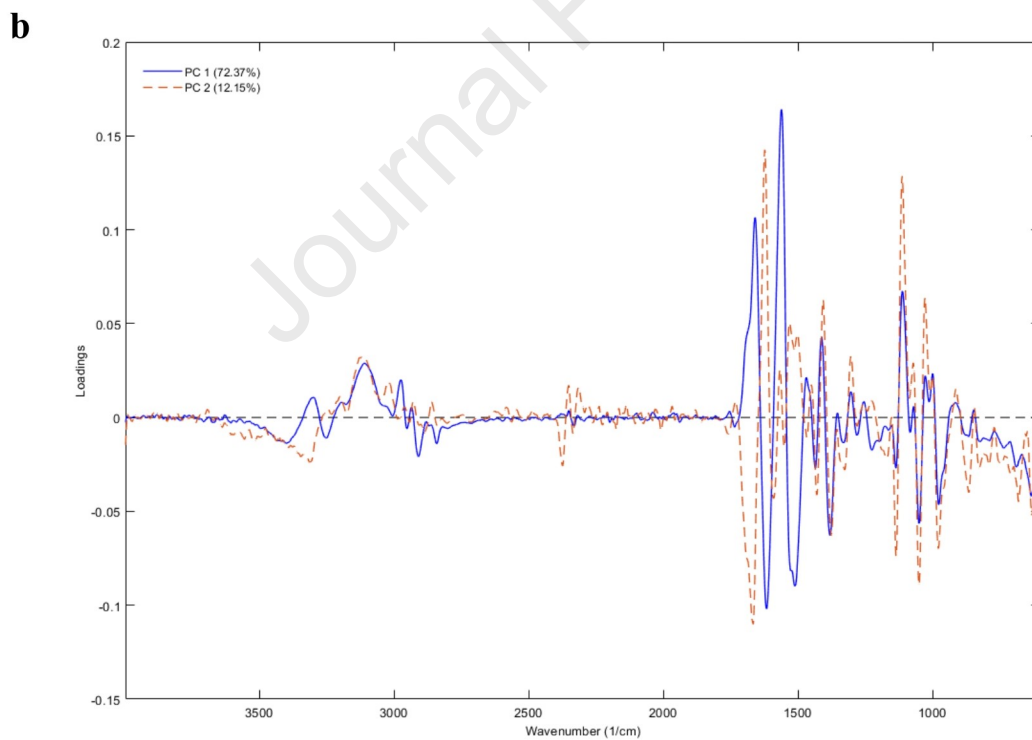
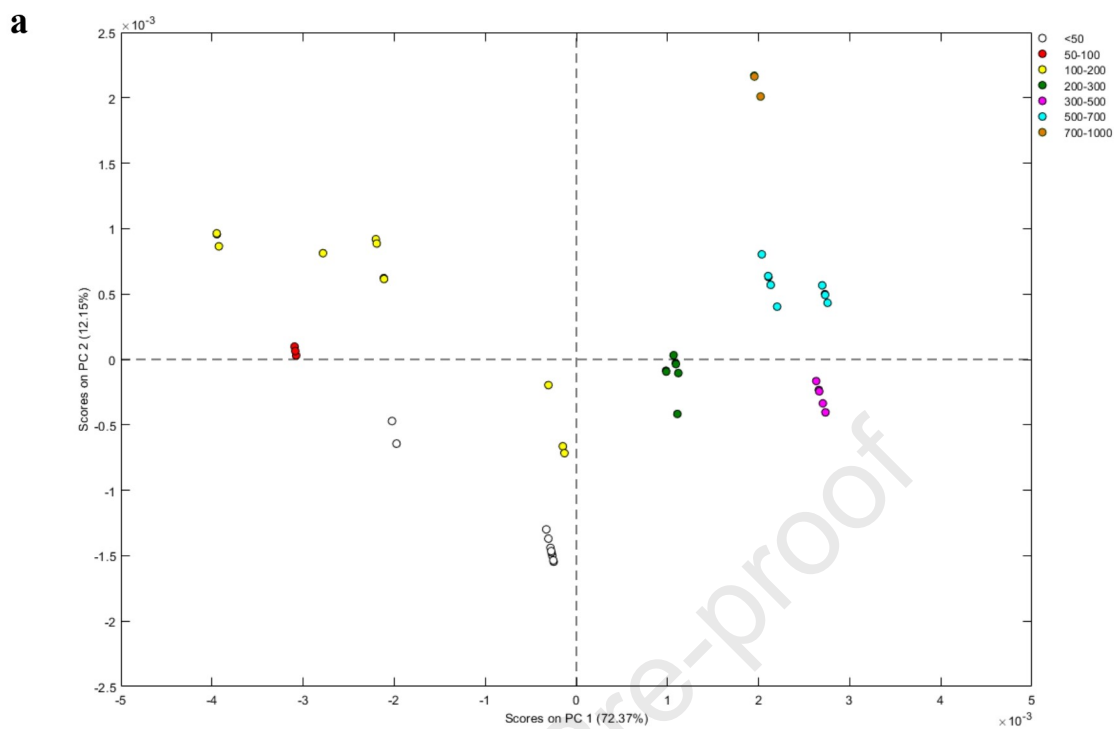
EU Regulation		PLS-DA		SVM		KNN	
		< 100 mg/kg	> 100 mg/kg	< 100 mg/kg	> 100 mg/kg	< 100 mg/kg	> 100 mg/kg
Calibration	Sensitivity (%)	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0
	Specificity (%)	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0
Cross-Validation	Sensitivity (%)	97.1 ± 1.8	98.8 ± 1.2	97.1 ± 1.8	95.3 ± 1.7	97.1 ± 1.8	98.8 ± 1.2
	Specificity (%)	98.8 ± 1.2	97.1 ± 1.8	95.3 ± 1.7	97.1 ± 1.8	98.8 ± 1.2	97.1 ± 1.8
Prediction	Sensitivity (%)	94.3 ± 0.6	100 ± 0.0	92.9 ± 6.4	98.2 ± 1.6	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0
	Specificity (%)	100 ± 0.0	94.3 ± 0.6	98.2 ± 1.6	92.9 ± 6.4	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0

Table 3. Sensitivity and specificity (%) for the classification models in calibration, cross-validation and prediction of histamine.

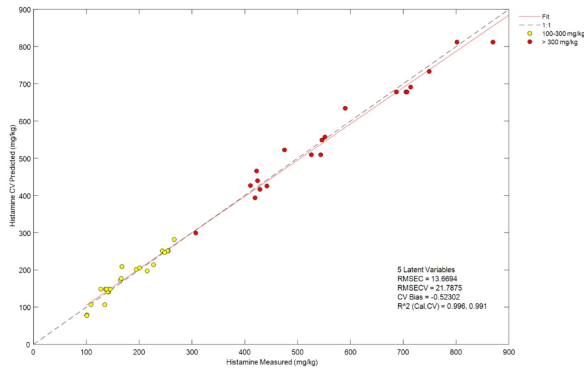
FDA regulation		PLS-DA		SVM		KNN	
		< 50 mg/kg	> 50 mg/kg	< 50 mg/kg	> 50 mg/kg	< 50 mg/kg	> 50 mg/kg
Calibration	Sensitivity (%)	100 ± 0.0	93.0 ± 1.1	84.1 ± 4.5	99.4 ± 0.6	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0
	Specificity (%)	93.0 ± 1.1	100 ± 0.0	99.4 ± 0.6	84.1 ± 4.5	100 ± 0.0	100 ± 0.0
Cross-Validation	Sensitivity (%)	94.0 ± 2.4	93.7 ± 1.7	90.0 ± 4.5	98.3 ± 0.7	92.0 ± 3.7	95.3 ± 0.8
	Specificity (%)	93.7 ± 1.7	94.0 ± 2.4	98.3 ± 0.7	90.0 ± 4.5	96.5 ± 0.8	90.8 ± 3.7
Prediction	Sensitivity (%)	89.9 ± 6.6	95.9 ± 2.7	76.6 ± 4.1	98.7 ± 1.3	89.9 ± 4.1	97.3 ± 2.7
	Specificity (%)	95.9 ± 2.7	89.9 ± 6.6	98.7 ± 1.3	76.6 ± 4.1	97.3 ± 2.7	89.9 ± 4.1



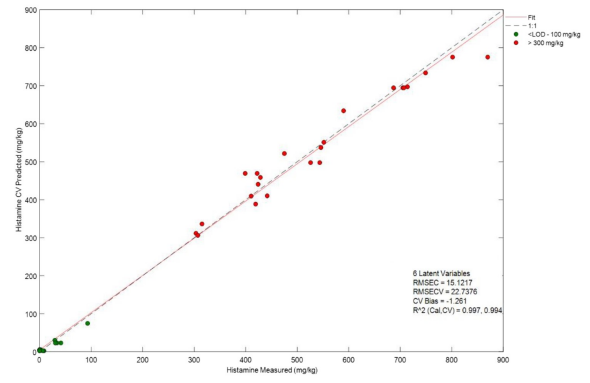




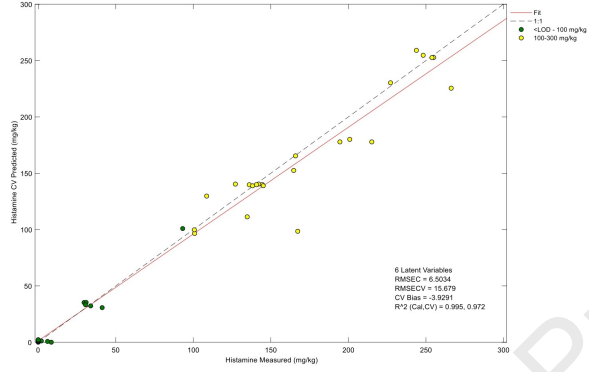
a



b



c



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Models created analyzing FT-MIR spectra with machine learning algorithms.
- The best spectral pre-processing technique was the combination of SNV + Savitzky-Golay derivative.
- FT-MIR was used to discriminate tuna samples according to their histamine concentration.
- Contribution to improving quality control and safety inspections in the industry.

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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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