

# Characterization of biogas and biomethane trace compounds: A critical review of advances in in situ sampling and preconcentration techniques

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- 1 Characterization of biogas and biomethane trace compounds: A critical review of advances
- 2 in *in situ* sampling and preconcentration techniques
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#### **ABSTRACT**

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14 Worldwide, the valorization of biogas, landfill gas and biomethane is gaining momentum as circular economies and energy transitions are triggered. Nevertheless, to sustainably integrate those gases into today's 15 16 energy mix, their quality must be controlled regarding their major, minor and trace constituents to preserve 17 the integrity of infrastructures wherein they are burned, transported or stored. Field gas sampling is the first and most critical step in the analytical chain to characterize the composition of such gases. A large array of 18 19 gas sampling techniques is available, yet choosing the most suitable technique is complex, especially when targeting trace compounds (< ng·Nm<sup>-3</sup> to mg·Nm<sup>-3</sup>) which often require a preconcentration step to be de-20 21 tectable. Sampled trace compounds must be kept stable (no loss, degradation or contamination can occur) 22 during the storage phase between sampling and analysis, and all materials in the sampling chain that contact 23 the gas potentially influence this stability.

This paper aims to review the available gas sampling and preconcentration techniques for determining trace compounds in biogas, landfill gas and biomethane. Techniques reviewed include 1) whole gas sampling methods (gas sampling bags, gas cylinders, canisters) and 2) gas sampling methods with preconcentration on solid media (sorbent tubes for physisorption or chemisorption, amalgamation, solid phase microextraction); preconcentration in liquid media (absorption in impingers); and cryogenic preconcentration. These techniques are reviewed for the sampling of nonmetal(loid) volatile organic trace compounds (aliphatic, aromatic, halogenated and oxygenated species; organic silicon compounds (siloxanes, silanes), and (in)organic sulfur compounds) as well as for volatile (in)organic metal(loid) compounds. The suitability of all presented sampling and preconcentration methods for given families of trace compounds regarding storage stability issues, is discussed as well as considerations regarding the ease of field implementation, advantages and disadvantages. This review highlights the intricate complexity of sampling trace compounds in biogas, landfill gas and biomethane. The different trace compounds indeed display extremely diverse physicochemical properties (volatility, polarity, reactivity...) which results in different stabilities in given sampling units so that no sampling method along can trap and recover all families of trace compounds.

38 The review finishes with a list of recommendations to select proper sampling units, materials and parame-

39 ters and to apply suitable sample transport and storage conditions to safeguard the integrity of samples.

## 40 **KEYWORDS**

- 41 Biogas and biomethane
- 42 Trace compounds
- Whole gas sampling
- 44 Preconcentration
- 45 Volatile organic compounds
- Volatile metal(loid) compounds

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

86	AD	Anaerobic Digestion
87	AES	Atomic Emission Spectrometry
88	BTEX	Benzene; Toluene; Ethylbenzene; o-, m-, p-Xylene
89	CT	Cryotrapping
90	D3	Hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane
91	D4	Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane
92	D5	Decamethylcyclopentasiloxane
93	D6	Dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane
94	DMDEL	Dimethyldiethyllead
95	DMDS	Dimethyldisulfide ((CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> )
96	DMS	Dimethylsulfide ((CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S)
97	DNPH	2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine
98	DVB	Divinylbenzene
99	FAAS	Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy
100	FEP	Fluorinated Ethylene Propylene
101	FID	Flame Ionization Detector
102	GC	Gas Chromatography
103	HPLC	High Pressure Liquid Chromatography
104	HVOC	Halogenated Volatile Organic Compound
105	ICP	Inductively Coupled Plasma
106	ID	Internal Diameter
107	L2	Hexamethyldisiloxane
108	L3	Octamethyltrisiloxane
109	L4	Decamethyltetrasiloxane
110	L5	Dodecamethylpentasiloxane
111	LOD	Limit of Detection
112	MS	Mass Spectrometry
113	MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
114	MTEL	Methyltriethyllead
115	OD	Outer Diameter
116	PA	Polyacrylate

PDMS	Polydimethylsiloxane
PEA	Polyester Aluminum
PEG	Polyethylene glycol
PET	Polyethyleneterephthalate
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene
PVDF	Polyvinylidenedifluoride
PVF	Polyvinylfluoride
RH	Relative Humidity
SPME	Solid Phase Microextraction
TD	Thermal Desorption
TEL	Tetraethyllead
TMA	Trimethylarsine
TMEL	Trimethylethyllead
TML	Tetramethyllead
TMS	Trimethylsilanol
VMS	Volatile Methyl Siloxane
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
VSC	Volatile Sulfur Compound
VSiC	Volatile Silicon Compound
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
	PEA PEG PET PTFE PVDF PVF RH SPME TD TEL TMA TMEL TML TMS VMS VOC VSC VSiC

#### 1. Introduction

Biogas is a flammable gas generated by the anaerobic digestion (methanization) of humid organic matter ('feedstocks' such as agricultural and food-processing residues, manure, organic municipal and household wastes, sewage sludge) in controlled digesters [1]–[5] or spontaneously in landfills ('landfill gas'). In addition to its two major constituents CH₄ (≥50 ‰<sub>vol</sub>) and CO₂ (<50 ‰<sub>vol</sub>) and depending on the production conditions, biogas contains minor constituents such as H₂O, H₂S, H₂, N₂, CO, O₂ (~1-5 ‰<sub>vol</sub>), and traces of volatile compounds ('trace compounds') from various families including alcohols, aldehydes, alkanes, alkenes, aromatics, esters, ethers, halogenated organic compounds, ketones, terpenes, (in)organic sulfur- and organic silicon-compounds and (in)organic metal(loid) species. The variations in the nature and proportions of feedstocks and in production conditions among biogas production plants causes biogas to exhibit a highly variable biogas composition, especially regarding trace compounds [3]–[13]. Biogas is valorized by combustion in boilers, fuel cells or engines to generate heat and power, or by separating the CO₂ and CH₄ fractions to upgrade the gas to 'biomethane'. This purified methane fraction of biogas exhibits the same calorific value as that of natural gas and is intended to be injected in the existing natural gas infrastructures, provided that it satisfies the natural gas quality standards stipulating maximal levels of given chemical compounds.

The analysis of trace compounds in biogas, landfill gas and biomethane is complex due to the low concentrations (< ng·Nm<sup>-3</sup> to mg·Nm<sup>-3</sup>), the variability in trace compound composition and the complex nature of these gas matrices, which may contain condensate phases and a relatively high water content [14]-[17]. Specific preconcentration operations are often needed for trace compounds to reach higher concentration levels and surpass the limits of detection of available analytical apparatuses. Determining the most appropriate preconcentration technique is a delicate task considering that the complex mixtures of volatile (in)organic and metallic trace compounds have different physicochemical behaviors (polarities, volatilities, reactivities etc.) [4], [14], [15], [18], [19]. Gas sampling is the first and most decisive step in the analytical chain toward determining trace compounds (analytes). Indeed, any sampling method involves at least one element in the sampling line through which targeted analyte loss or sample contamination is possible (analyte or ambient air permeation through the container walls, leaks at valves, analyte condensation, sorption of analytes on sampling lines or on container walls, chemical reactions between sampled analytes inside the container that lead to analyte degradation or conversion, etc.) [3], [4], [19]–[22]. Establishing the most suitable sampling procedure is hence intricate: the sampling device must be operable in the field, the composition of collected samples must be representative of that of the studied gas and must remain as unchanged as possible until effective analysis is performed; the sample must be easily transportable to the laboratory; the recovery of targeted analytes from the sampling vessel must be maximal; and finally, the whole sampling procedure must be economically affordable [3], [4], [22].

There are currently two gas sampling approaches: whole gas sampling and gas sampling with enrichment (preconcentration) of targeted analytes [4], [23], [24]. In the first approach, a whole bulk gas volume is sampled in a dedicated container (gas bags, canisters or cylinders) without enriching the targeted trace analytes. The container is subsequently transported to the laboratory, where an analyte enrichment step must be performed to isolate the targeted trace compounds from the sampled gas matrix via a preconcentration technique. Whole gas sampling and subsequent transport to the laboratory thus imply the preconcentration step is delayed, which causes a risk of analyte loss or changes in composition due to chemical

reactions inside the sampling container during the transport and storage phases [3], [4], [20], [21]. The second sampling approach involves sampling with direct enrichment (preconcentration, trapping) of trace compounds on a dedicated support, which can be solid (sorbent tubes for physisorption or chemisorption, amalgamation tubes, solid phase microextraction fibers), liquid (absorption in impingers) or cryogenic. In contrast to whole gas sampling, the gas matrix (e.g., CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>) is not sampled because it is not retained and passes through the preconcentration unit, which retains only trace compounds for which it has affinity. To avoid disadvantages related to utilizing whole gas sampling containers, the development of direct in situ preconcentration techniques for trace analytes is being increasingly considered and recommended [3], [4], [17], [25], [26].

In this paper, all currently known whole gas sampling and preconcentration techniques for the determination of trace compounds in methane-like gas samples are critically reviewed for nonmetal(loid) volatile organic trace compounds (aliphatic, aromatic, halogenated and oxygenated species; organic silicon compounds (siloxanes, silanes), and (in)organic sulfur compounds) as well as for volatile (in)organic metal(loid) compounds. To the authors' knowledge, this review is the first to comprehensively discuss all preconcentration techniques that are available for both nonmetal(loid) and metal(loid) trace compounds in methane-like field gas samples, bringing new insights into the possibility of using similar sampling and preconcentration techniques for both types of trace compounds. Additionally, for each preconcentration technique discussed, scientific studies that specifically use the technique to determine trace compounds in landfill gas, biogas and biomethane have been critically tabulated.

As biogas and biomethane sampling and analysis is a relatively recent endeavor and has not yet benefitted from standardized methods, natural gas sampling methods, being already well standardized (EN ISO 10715:2000 [27]; ISO 6974 [28]; ISO 6978 [29], [30]), are referred to in this review as suitable for biogas and biomethane considering the similarity of the matrices (CH<sub>4</sub>) and of some trace compounds in those gases. Standardized methods for ambient air sampling (EN ISO 16017-1:2000 [31]; EPA Compendium of Methods for the Determination of Toxic Organic Compounds in Ambient Air [32], [33]) are also noted as suitable for biogas and biomethane. Whereas the matrices of air and biogas or biomethane differ, common families of trace compounds are targeted both in air and biogas or biomethane (volatile organic compounds, siloxanes, volatile metal(loid) compounds, etc.). Therefore, efficient sampling techniques applied for those compounds in air are also expected to be suitable and efficient for biogas and biomethane. In the discussions, 'semivolatile', 'volatile' and 'very volatile' organic compounds will be addressed. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), semivolatile compounds have boiling points that range from 240-260 °C to 380-400 °C. Volatile compounds have boiling points that range from 50-100 °C to 240-260 °C. Very volatile compounds have boiling points < 50-100 °C.

#### 2. Whole gas sampling

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Sampling in which targeted analytes are not enriched involves whole gas sampling in gas bags, canisters or cylinders, without discrimination between sampled compounds [3], [4], [23]. Such sampling methods are attractive considering the ease of sampling: the whole gas matrix is collected together with all contained compounds in their original concentration [22], [34]-[36]. Additionally, gas moisture has little effect on sample integrity and stability [22], [35], [37], [38], and a last benefit is that repeated analyses of the same sample can be achieved by performing multiple withdrawals from the sample vessel [14], [22], [34]. Gas bags, cylinders and canisters nevertheless only allow to sample a defined gas volume, so the effective collected quantities of trace compounds may be insufficient to be reliably detected [21]. Whole gas sampling is therefore only to consider either if available analytical devices offer detection limits sufficiently low to detect analytes in the raw sample (direct sample analysis) or if the sample is subsequently preconcentrated in the laboratory [39]. However, as sample transport to the laboratory may take days to weeks, the delayed direct analysis or preconcentration of trace compounds from the gas matrix may result in losses of trace analytes during the storage period, owing to sorption on or permeation through the sample container walls, leaks in the container and chemical reactions in the container that induce analyte degradation or conversion [3], [4], [20]–[22]. Another disadvantage to biogas- or biomethane-filled bags, cylinders and canisters is that the flammable methane matrix of biogas or biomethane is contained in the vessel, which is accordingly considered as a dangerous good with corresponding restrictive implications for transport to comply with the regulations in place [21].

#### 2.1. Gas sampling bags

Gas sampling bags (Fig. 1 a) are gas-tight bags equipped with a valve fitting. Bag materials include polyvinyl fluoride (PVF, tradename: Tedlar), polyethyleneterephthalate (PET, tradename: Nalophan), polytetrafluoroethylene and fluorinated ethylene propylene copolymer (PTFE and FEP, tradename: Teflon), polyester aluminum (PEA), polyethyleneterephtalate-nylon-aluminum, and polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF, tradenames: Altef, Kynar, Supel Inert Film) [3], [4], [20], [40]-[42]. Table 1 lists some useful features of sampling bags based on the manufacturer's information. Gas bags are relatively inexpensive, simple to use and do not require trained personnel [21], [22], [35], [36], [40]: a piping is plugged onto the bag valve hose to inflate the bag until a sufficient volume is sampled. Bags exist in volumes from 0.5 to 100 L and even 1000 L depending on the material and manufacturer, and some companies also offer custom-sized bags or polymer film rolls [43]–[45]. Bags must not be filled to more than 80-90% of their volume during sampling, and the inflation pressure must not exceed ~0.14 bar above the atmospheric pressure [43]. Gas sampling bags are hence typically designed for sampling at atmospheric pressure, forbidding a high-pressure-based preconcentration of low-concentrated analytes [46]. It is also recommended to transport filled gas bags in rigid opaque containers to avoid perforating or damaging the bags, to transport and store them above 0 °C to prevent sample condensation, to avoid air-shipping unless the bags are in a pressurized zone, to protect the bags from sunlight and to analyze the sample as soon as possible [43].

Each bag material may be specifically recommended for the sampling of given targeted compounds [3], [4], [40], [47], [48] since the polymer bag material and its inherent impurities may be incompatible with the successful sampling of certain compounds: compound-specific permeation and -adsorption effects can occur through and on the bag film [3], [35], [40], [47]–[53]. For instance, Tedlar bags are known to contain traces of dimethylacetamide and phenol, while Altef bags do not, but Altef bags are not recommended for

sampling of ketones, esters, acetates, H<sub>2</sub>S and permanent gases [43], [54], [55]. The suitability of PEA versus Tedlar bags for the short-term storage of VOCs in a N<sub>2</sub> matrix has been investigated by Kim et al. [48]. After 3 days of storage in both bag types, their results showed that the recoveries of compounds from PEA bags were significantly higher than the recoveries from Tedlar bags. Kim [56] found the opposite trend for reduced sulfur compounds for which the recoveries from Tedlar bags (87%) were higher than those from PEA bags (77%). PEA bags were also studied by Ahn et al. [52] to examine sorption losses of VOCs as a function of storage time. Notably, it is not possible to assess a universal suitability of a given bag material for a given (family of) compound(s). Indeed, Jo et al. [47] compared the storability of several sulfur compounds in a N<sub>2</sub> matrix in PEA and Tedlar bags. They concluded that the most decisive factor for the storage stability of S-compounds in both bags was the initial concentration and not the bag material. Other factors that influence the stability of S-compounds included the nature and molecular weight of the compound, the storage time and the bag material. Brown et al. [40] also noticed a concentration-dependent adsorption loss pattern for H<sub>2</sub>S in CH<sub>4</sub> in FlexFoil and FlexFilm bags. The relative H<sub>2</sub>S loss of their 4.99 μmol H<sub>2</sub>S·mol<sup>-1</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> mixture was greater than that of the 9.95 μmol·mol<sup>-1</sup> mixture. As both tested bags had similar internal surface areas, this result is the consequence of a fixed number of potential sorption sites per m<sup>2</sup> bag film, which must be occupied by a fixed amount of (H<sub>2</sub>S) molecules to reach saturation [40]. A lower concentrated mixture henceforth loses relatively more molecules than a higher concentrated mixture before sorption losses stop. Next, Nalophan bags are especially used in odor sampling studies because of their neutral odor background contaminants [41], [49], [50], but have also been used for biogas sampling and trace compound analysis [57]-[61]. Papurello et al. [61] preferred Nalophan bags to Tedlar bags for sampling trace compounds such as VOCs, thiols and siloxanes, as it was shown that Nalophan bags gave cleaner backgrounds than Tedlar bags, which released degradation compounds that interfered with the detection of the low amounts of targeted compounds [41]. However, the permeability of Nalophan films may be high for some compounds, such as S-species (H<sub>2</sub>S, CH<sub>3</sub>SH, CS<sub>2</sub>) in particular, due to their small molecular dimensions [49], [50], [53]; hence, those bags may be unsuitable for sample storage when such compounds are targeted. Teflon bags were used by Badjagbo et al. [62] for biogas sampling. Finally, Mochalski et al. [53] compared the suitability of Nalophan, transparent Tedlar, black layered Tedlar, Teflon and FlexFoil bags for the sampling and storage of volatile sulfur compounds (VSC) in a N<sub>2</sub> (air) matrix. They first measured the background emissions of potential contaminants from new, unused bags and found that the Nalophan, Teflon and Flexfoil did not emit contaminants that could interfere with their target Sanalytes, while the Tedlar bags did (emission of COS and CS<sub>2</sub>). Subsequently, they studied the stability of VSC in each of those bags. Considerable (permeation) losses in VSC were observed within 6 h of storage in the Teflon and Nalophan bags; hence, they were not recommended for VSC sampling and storage. Transparent and black Tedlar bags provided good VSC stabilities during the first 6 h of storage with recoveries > 90%. After 24 h of storage, H<sub>2</sub>S and COS losses occurred, and longer storage times resulted in losses of all VSC. They did not record any significant influence of daylight on the stability of the VSC in transparent Tedlar bags. In the Flexfoil bags, H<sub>2</sub>S was the only species that decreased during the first 6 h of storage, and after 24 h, the concentration of other VSC also decreased. Despite the above results, Tedlar bags are the most widely used bags [4], [35], [48]. Tedlar bags are generally appropriate for sampling and shortterm storage of VSC and are used in industrial routine analyses for this purpose [40], [56], [63], [64], but they have also often successfully been used for biogas and biomethane sampling [3], [16], [20], [21], [35], [36], [65]–[69]. Black-layered Tedlar bags have also been developed to sample photosensitive compounds. Walls of these bags consist of an inner polyvinyl fluoride layer and an outer light-blocking layer of carbon

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black. The inner PVF layer theoretically prevents sampled compounds from adsorbing into the carbon black material. Nonetheless, permeation of analytes through the first PVF layer can lead to adsorptive losses into the carbon black layer [63]. Sulyok et al. [63] compared standard with black-layered Tedlar bags for the storage of VSC and found better VSC recoveries in the standard Tedlar bags even after 300 h storage, while significant losses were observed in the black-layered Tedlar bags after only 1 h. The authors proposed that these losses were due to VSC permeation through the inner Tedlar layer and adsorption in the outer carbon black layer.

Analyte loss in gas bags during the storage phase between sampling and analysis has been proven to be especially caused by adsorption effects on bag walls [3], [20], [35], [47], [48], [51], [70] and on valve fitting materials [35]. Additionally, several other factors contribute to analyte loss during storage, including permeation through the walls [3], [20], [35], [47]–[50], [53], leaks through the septum of the valve [20], [48], especially once it has been pierced with a needle or syringe for analysis [63], photochemical degradation (photolysis) when bags are not protected from sunlight [16], [22], [37], [47], [65], [71], and chemical conversion reactions between sampled compounds [22]. Gas permeation and diffusivity through polymeric bag films are governed by the polymer type, its crystalline structure, porosity, hydrogen bonding capacity and polarity [50]; by the film thickness and bag dimensions (surface); by the molecular size, volatility and molecular diffusion coefficient of the diffusant in the film; and by the concentration gradient of the diffusants across the inner and outer bag sides [49]. Additionally, the relative humidity and temperature of the sample inside the bag and of the atmosphere around the bag also impact the permeation rates [50]. Ambient air from the bag surroundings as well as the bulk gas matrix of the sample inside the bag can also permeate into and out of the bag, respectively, affecting the concentrations of stored analytes [35].

The stability of sampled species in gas bags is also influenced by the initial sampled concentration, as was indicated by Jo et al. [47] for reactive sulfur compounds in a N<sub>2</sub> matrix in PEA and Tedlar bags: compounds sampled in high concentrations (1 ppm and 10 ppm) disappeared faster than the same compounds sampled in lower concentrations (1, 10 and 100 ppb), due to adsorption and diffusion effects being enhanced for the compounds present in high concentrations [47]. However, the opposite trend is also often observed: adsorption losses are relatively higher when low analyte concentrations are stored in bags since sorption on inner bag surfaces occurs until all sorption sites are occupied [3]. If the analyte concentration is lower than or equal to the corresponding sorption site capacity, all analyte molecules can potentially be lost to adsorption. Another concentration effect was observed by Arrhenius et al. [3] in a study on the stability of HVOCs in Altef bags. All compounds showed a decrease in concentration over time, but after 4 days, a slight increase in concentration was recorded for 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane and tetrachloroethylene. The authors suggested that this concentration increase was due to outgassing of those compounds from bag walls where they initially adsorbed during the first storage days, owing to the drop in gas volume in the bag as a result of daily gas withdrawal from the bag for analysis [3]. Why only two out of the four tested HVOCs displayed this pattern was not clarified. In addition to concentration effects, adsorption effects on bag walls and corresponding analyte losses are also promoted for high molecular weight, less volatile analytes [3], [4]. Kim et al. [48] tested the stability of VOCs in PEA and Tedlar bags: lighter compounds, such as benzene and toluene, were relatively stable after 3 days in both bag types (>86% recovery) while the heavier p-xylene and styrene were less stable after 3 days in both bag types (<81% recovery). Similarly, Mariné et al. [20] found that high-molecular-weight alkanes in biogas were lost by adsorption on bag walls immediately after sampling in Tedlar bags. Arnold et al. [67] found that the concentration of the relatively heavy siloxane D5

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in a real biogas sample was only 65% of the initial concentration after 1 day of storage in a Tedar bag, while the concentrations of lighter siloxanes (D4 and L4) were respectively 87 and 88% of the initial concentrations after 1 day in the Tedlar bag. Ajhar et al. [35] also found that D5 siloxane, the heaviest siloxane they studied, was adsorbed the fastest in Tedlar bags. Arrhenius et al. [3] performed 12-day stability tests with L2, L3, D4 and D5 siloxanes in CH4 in Altef and Tedlar bags. Light L2 and L3 siloxanes were stable over the whole storage period in both bag types, while the response of heavier D4 and D5 markedly decreased during the first storage days in both bags. To limit adsorption losses in bags, on bag valves and in sampling connection tubing, Ajhar et al. [35] suggest flushing the entire bag sampling setup for 5 min with the gas to sample prior to effective sampling so that the potential sorption sites would become occupied. These authors also found that a high relative humidity (90% RH) in a standard siloxane mixture in a synthetic biogas matrix stored at 37 °C in Tedlar bag led to less sorption losses of siloxanes because water molecules tended to first sorb onto the bag surface sorption sites. However, under the same 90% RH condition but at lower temperature (20 °C), no effect was observed on the siloxane recoveries from the bag [35]. Tedlar bags may hence be favorable sampling vessels for humid biogases, yet the bags should be stored and analyzed at relatively high temperatures to avoid condensation (50 °C was used by Ajhar et al. [35]).

The stability of volatile metal(loid) compounds in Tedlar bags has also been studied. Haas and Feldmann [22] generated standard gases of trace amounts (0.3 to 18 ng·L<sup>-1</sup>) of various volatile arsenic, tin and antimony species in moisturized air in Tedlar bags and also sampled sewage sludge digester gas in Tedlar bags. All bags were stored in the dark. The stability of volatile metal(loid)s in standard Tedlar bags was investigated under different conditions: storage of the bags at 20 °C for 8 weeks and storage at 50°C for 5 weeks. Tedlar bags containing real gas were stored at 20 °C for 48 h. Surprisingly high recoveries were obtained for the standard gas: after 8 h both under 20 °C and 50 °C storage, >95% of all metal(loid) analytes were recovered. After 24 h at 20 and 50 °C, all analytes were still recovered at 81-99%, except (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Sb and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>As which showed considerable losses especially at the higher temperature [22]. In the real gas after 24 h of storage, losses of (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Bi and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Te amounted to ~10%, while losses of (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Sb amounted to 44%. The long-term (5-8 weeks) stability study of the standard gases revealed that the central metal atom of each analyte strongly determined its stability in the bag. All stibines were less stable than As and Sn counterpart species, the most stable species being AsH<sub>3</sub> (75% recovery after 8 weeks at 20 °C), and the least stable being (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Sb (3% recovery after 4 days at 50 °C) [22]. Determining the loss mechanisms of volatile metal(loid) compounds in Tedlar bags is intricate since these compounds are thermodynamically unstable and susceptible to several loss or degradation pathways such as diffusion, oxidation, hydrolysis, photodecomposition, adsorption, absorption, and heterogeneous surface-catalyzed breakdown [22]. Nevertheless, the results of Haas and Feldmann demonstrated that adsorption to bag walls was not the main underlying loss mechanism for the standard in the air matrix [22]. Instead, chemical reactions, such as oxidative breakdown in the aerobic atmosphere, oxidation and demethylation were probably responsible for the immobilization and instability of the volatile metal(loid) compounds in the Tedlar bags [22]. In accordance with these thermodynamic considerations, all compounds showed poorer stabilities at higher temperatures (50 °C), particularly in the long-term storage experiments. Especially fully methylated As and Sb species were less stable at this temperature. The authors concluded that Tedlar bags are convenient for sampling volatile metal(loid) compounds in air if the samples are analyzed within 24 h and stored at low temperatures (20 °C) [22]. Accordingly, Feldmann et al. [15] successfully used Tedlar bags to sample biogases with a particular focus on volatile Sb, Sn and Bi compounds speciation. Another study by Arndt et al. [72] evaluated the storage stability of volatile arsenicals generated in a standard gas mix in Tedlar bags in the presence

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of (reactive) test-gases such as O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S in a N<sub>2</sub> matrix. Tedlar bags were stored in the dark at 5 °C for 21 days. In the absence of test-gases, no sorption losses or losses by precipitation of the As species occurred on the Tedlar bag walls [72], agreeing with the results of Haas and Feldmann [22]. Arndt et al. obtained recoveries of AsH<sub>3</sub>, (CH<sub>3</sub>)AsH<sub>2</sub>, and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>AsH from the bags of  $106 \pm 3\%$ ,  $103 \pm 1\%$ , and 101 $\pm$  4%, respectively, after 19 days. (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>As had a mean recovery of 85  $\pm$  3%. This compound probably partly converted into less methylated arsines during the storage period [72], simultaneously explaining its loss and the recoveries >100% for the other arsines. The stability results of As species in 3800 ppm<sub>y</sub> CO<sub>2</sub> in N<sub>2</sub> and in 20% O<sub>2</sub> in N<sub>2</sub> after 21 days were very similar to those of As species in the N<sub>2</sub> reference case since CO<sub>2</sub> is not a reactive gas and O<sub>2</sub> apparently has no effect on the stability of the four target As species. With 20% O<sub>2</sub> in a N<sub>2</sub> matrix, Arndt et al. [72] obtained higher recoveries than those of Haas and Feldmann [22] who investigated the stability of the same As species in air in Tedlar bags, thanks to the lower storage temperature (5 °C) than that used by Haas and Feldmann (20 or 50 °C). SO<sub>2</sub>, however, had a detrimental effect on the stability of the As species [72]. In the SO<sub>2</sub>-doped matrix, the recoveries of AsH<sub>3</sub>, (CH<sub>3</sub>)AsH<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>AsH, and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>As dropped to 72, 72, 41 and 11%, respectively, after 21 days. It is unclear whether SO<sub>2</sub> induces these losses by bag wall sorption or by precipitation of arsines into As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> or As-S compounds. The effect of H<sub>2</sub>S was especially pronounced for (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>As, which was only recovered at 67% after 17 days in the H<sub>2</sub>S-doped matrix. (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>AsH, (CH<sub>3</sub>)AsH<sub>2</sub> and AsH<sub>3</sub> were recovered at respectively 89, 105 and 123% after 17 days, suggesting that H<sub>2</sub>S induces the conversion of methylated species to nonmethylated species [72]. Regardless of the matrix of the standard As-mix, the results of Arndt et al. [72] agree with those of Haas and Feldmann [22] concerning the lower stability of increasingly methylated arsines stored in Tedlar bags, which is due to either precipitation or conversion to more stable nonmethylated species.

Next to bag walls, the valve fitting material of sampling bags may also influence the stability of sampled compounds, as demonstrated by Ajhar et al. [35] in a stability study of landfill biogas siloxanes in Tedlar bags equipped either with a polypropylene fitting with integrated PTFE-septum or a dual port stainless-steel fitting with o-ring. The results showed that polypropylene fittings led to much better siloxane stabilities than stainless-steel fittings. Nevertheless, Mochalski et al. [53] compared the stability of VSC in black layered Tedlar bags equipped either with stainless-steel or PTFE valve fittings and found comparable stability results. They concluded that losses in VSC due to contact with stainless-steel were insignificant.

Finally, reusing gas sampling bags is not recommended [20], [43], [45], [51], [73]. McGarvey et al. [51] investigated the reusability of Tedlar bags used for sampling of VOCs in air. After storage stability tests, the bags were cleaned via N<sub>2</sub>-flushing and gentle heating in an attempt to desorb the VOCs that had adsorbed on the bag walls during the storage phase. These cleaning operations were not sufficient to remove all compounds, in particular styrene, ethylbenzene and methanol were not quantitatively recovered. The authors concluded that reusing Tedlar bags led to substantial contamination of subsequent samples via offgassing of compounds formerly adsorbed on bag walls. Reusing Tedlar bags would only be acceptable if the content of the bag was immediately analyzed after sampling and the bag was immediately cleaned by N<sub>2</sub>-flushing and heating. Notwithstanding, Mochalski et al. [53] tested the efficiency of several bag cleaning procedures with a focus on bag reuse and concluded that the bags could be reused if the following cleaning steps were executed: N<sub>2</sub> flush, heating at 45 °C for 6 h, N<sub>2</sub> flush, heating at 45 °C for 6 h, and N<sub>2</sub> flush.

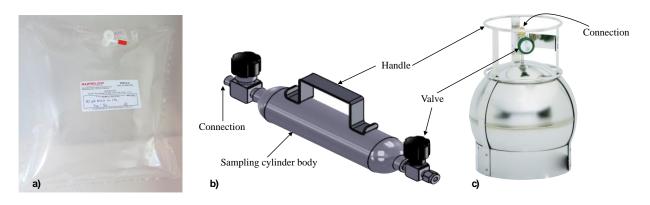


Figure 1: Whole gas sampling vessels: a) Polymer bag. b) Cylinder. c) Canister.

Commercial bag	Tedlar	Altef	Kynar	Nalophan	Teflon	Teflon
Film composition	polyvinyl fluoride	polyvinylidene difluoride	polyvinylidene difluoride	polyethylene- terephthalate	fluorinated eth- ylene propylene (FEP)	polytetra- fluoroethylene (PTFE)
Available valve materials	PP; SS	PP	PP; SS; PTFE	PP; PTFE; PTFE-coated nylon	PP; PTFE	PP; PTFE, PTFE-coated nylon
Pressure (P) and temperature (T) working range	Max operating T: PP valve 82 °C; SS valve 202 °C	Max operating T: 82 °C	Max operating T: PP valve 93.3°C; SS and PTFE valves 107.2°C	Not found	PTFE valve working T range: -60°C to +150°C	Not found
	Max filling P relative to atmos- pheric P: ~0.14 bar or ≤80% filled	Max filling P relative to atmos- pheric P: ~ 0.14 bar or ≤80% filled			Max filling P relative to atmos- pheric P: 0.06 bar or ≤90% filled	
Available bag volumes	0.5 – 100 L	0.5 – 100 L	0.5 - 1000 L	1-60 L and film rolls	0.5 – 100 L	Not found
Measured permeability to permanent gases at 1 bar filling	O <sub>2</sub> : 50 cc/m²/day H <sub>2</sub> O vapor: 9–57 g/m²/day CO <sub>2</sub> : 172 cc/m²/day	O <sub>2</sub> : 58 cc/m²/day H <sub>2</sub> O vapor: 12-15 g/m²/day CO <sub>2</sub> : 172 cc/m²/day	Not found	Not found	O <sub>2</sub> : 2400cc/m²/day H <sub>2</sub> O vapor: 1.3g/m²/day	Not found
Remarks	Background levels of dime- thyl-acetamide and phenol	Lower VOC and sulfur back-ground contamination than Tedlar (no dimethyl-acetamide or phenol back-ground)  Not recommended for ketones, esters, acetates, hydrogen sulfide, permanent gases	Low VOC and sulfur background  Resistant to corrosion  Good stability for VOC, CO, CO2, CH4  Good 24-h storage stability for some S-compounds	Especially used and recommended for odors sampling for gases with moderate H <sub>2</sub> S and VOC contents being analyzed within less than 6 h after sampling  Not recommended for samples being processed more than 6 h after sampling, nor for samples with high humidity, high H <sub>2</sub> S, high VOC because of poor stability of those compounds due to high permeability rates and	Suitable for corrosive and reactive compounds  Suitable for VOC samples  Low adsorbability of compounds on bag walls	Suitable for VOC and S-compounds including H <sub>2</sub> S  Excellent stability for CO, CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> , SF <sub>6</sub> Resistant to contamination, low adsorbability of compounds on bag walls, hence possible cleaning and reuseability  Not recommended for samples processed more than 30 h after sampling
References	[43]	[43]	[45]	adsorption effects [41], [44], [45], [49], [50], [71]	[45]	[44]

**PP:** polypropylene. **SS:** stainless-steel. **PTFE:** polytetrafluoroethylene.

#### 2.2. Gas cylinders

- Gas sampling cylinders (Fig. 1 b) allow to collect gas under high pressure [4] (up to 5000 psi = 344 bar) and
- exist both in aluminum or stainless-steel in volumes from 40 to 3785 cm<sup>3</sup> [40], [74]–[78]. Stainless-steel
- cylinders have long been used to sample natural gas [4], [17], [25], [79]. As biogas and biomethane are
- 430 predominantly produced at near-atmospheric pressures, cylinders have seldom been relevant for biogas or
- biomethane sampling [4]. However, cylinder-sampling of compressed biomethane at natural gas grid injec-
- tion stations may be relevant.
- 433 A well-known concern with stainless steel cylinders is the loss of trace compounds by sorption on the
- surface-iron atoms of inner cylinder walls that act as active sites for sorption and catalysis phenomena [3],
- 435 [25], [40], [66], [75], [78], [80]. Reactive VSC [40], [63], [78], [80] as well as volatile arsenicals [25]
- sampled in cylinders have especially been found to be lost by adsorption on cylinder walls. Larsson et al.
- 437 [81] found low recoveries of gaseous mercury (Hg<sup>0</sup>) when the gas was collected over stainless-steel sur-
- 438 faces. In natural gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S, the authors proposed that stainless-steel may act as a sink for Hg<sup>0</sup>
- 439 through the following reactions, which involve first a reaction of H<sub>2</sub>S with stainless-steel iron, and then a
- reaction between the resulting gaseous sulfur and the gaseous mercury, causing the formation of solid mer-
- 441 curic sulfide (HgS):
- 442  $H_2S + Fe_2O_3 \rightarrow 2 FeO + S^0 + H_2O$
- 443  $Hg^0 + S^0 \rightarrow HgS$ .
- Surface treatment and passivation technologies have therefore gradually been developed to render the inner
- cylinder walls more inert to targeted analytes. An example of treatment technology is polishing the walls
- 446 to reduce the internal surface area and as such reduce the number of sorption sites [40]. Surface passivation
- technologies involve coating or chemically treating the inner cylinder walls [3], [40] to occupy and obstruct
- active sorption areas (creation of a smooth surface) and minimize the adsorption of targeted compounds
- 449 [3]. Several commercial passivation processes exist such as Spectraseal (BOC) [82], Experis (Air Products)
- 450 [83], Aculife (Scott Speciality Gases) [84], AlphaTec (Air Liquide), SilcoNert (SilcoTek® Corporation)
- 451 [85] and Silonite (Entech Instruments Inc.) [86], and each is recommended for the safe sampling of specific
- 452 targeted compounds [3], [25], [40]. Other gas sampling cylinder suppliers propose PTFE coatings offering
- smooth nonsticking surfaces [77]. Currently, SilcoNert®1000 (formerly known as SilcoSteel®) and Sil-
- 454 coNert®2000 (formerly known as Siltek® and Sulfinert<sup>TM</sup>), made of amorphous silicon, offer among the
- most inert coatings. SilcoNert®2000 is especially recommended when dealing with trace levels of active
- species, such as H<sub>2</sub>S, mercaptans, NH<sub>3</sub>, NOx, SOx, mercury [78], [85], and siloxanes, CS<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S,
- 457 (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> and tetrahydrothiophene [3], [87]. However, during short-term stability tests, Arrhenius et al. [3]
- (C13)252 and tetranyurotinophene [5], [67]. However, during short-term stability tests, Africands et al. [5]
- found that BTEX sampled in Sulfinert (SilcoNert®2000) -coated gas cylinders were not stable: the concen-
- 459 trations of all BTEX decreased, especially during the first day. After one storage day, the BTEX levels
- decreased by 15% (benzene), 25% (toluene), 40% (ethylbenzene) and 45% (o-xylene) compared to the
- initial concentrations. The authors concluded that the Sulfinert coating is not suitable for gas sampling and
- initial concentrations. The authors concreted that the Sufficient country is not suitable for gas sumpting and
- storage when BTEX are targeted. Note that the order of decrease percentages of BTEX follows the molec-
- ular weights of BTEX, in which the heavier compounds are more prone to sorption effects than lighter
- 464 compounds. Next, the Silonite coating was found to be suitable for the same compounds as SilcoN-
- ert®2000, i.e., compounds with reactive functional groups such as oxygen, nitrogen, siloxanes, H<sub>2</sub>S, CS<sub>2</sub>,

466 CH<sub>3</sub>SH, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> and tetrahydrothiophene, but this coating is not suitable for BTEX [3], [87]. A 467 more convenient coating for storing BTEX is the Experis passivation [3]. Compounds with polar functional groups are, however, unstable in Experis-passivated cylinders [3]. Next, Sulvok et al. [63] investigated the 468 stability of several VSC in SilcoSteel® cylinders. The recoveries measured after a few hours were signifi-469 470 cantly >100% for all compounds except methanethiol (~100%), and after 200 h, all compounds were still 471 recovered at ~100% or more except for 1-butylmercaptan which was recovered at <95%. As the authors 472 flushed the cylinders with their multicomponent gas prior to effectively filling the cylinder for storage as-473 sessments, they proposed that the overestimation of initial recoveries was due to an enrichment of analytes 474 from the gas on the cylinder walls during the pre-flush operation, and to the subsequent outgassing of these 475 analytes due to a pressure drop in the cylinder during the analysis period (sample withdrawal) [63]. Nonetheless, they concluded that SilcoSteel® cylinders were appropriate for sampling VSC. 476

- Suitably passivated cylinders do however not guarantee the stability for all compounds, as chemical conversion or degradation reactions can occur in the cylinder between unstable sampled compounds. For instance, if biogas is sampled in a cylinder that is suitably passivated against sulfur compounds, the latter compounds could still react with the water and oxygen present in the biogas, for instance through the following equations [40]:
- 482  $2 \text{ H}_2\text{S}_{(g)} + 3 \text{ O}_{2(g)} \rightarrow 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O}_{(l)} + 2 \text{ SO}_{2(g)}$
- 483  $COS_{(g)} + H_2O_{(l)} \rightarrow H_2S_{(g)} + CO_{2(g)}$

484 Furthermore, considering the diversity of trace components in biogas and biomethane and of the diversity in their boiling points, polarities, water solubilities, and reactivities [4], determining one optimal cylinder 485 486 passivation treatment that results in reliable sampling is challenging [3]. Instead, several cylinders with 487 different passivation treatments should be used to obtain a sufficient storage stability for the different targeted analyte families [3]. Another example of chemical reactions impacting the stability of samples in 488 cylinders was provided by Enrico et al. [80]. The authors found that an oxidized Hg species was formed 489 490 during the storage of Hg<sup>0</sup>-doped argon gas in silicon- and PTFE-passivated cylinders that were already used 491 for natural gas sampling. The underlying reaction mechanism they propose is as follows: reduced sulfur 492 compounds from previous natural gas samples (H<sub>2</sub>S, natural thiophenes, added tetrahydrothiophene, etc.) 493 remain adsorbed onto the cylinder walls despite passivation, and act as suitable sorption sites for subsequently added gaseous Hg<sup>0</sup>. This physically adsorbed Hg<sup>0</sup> is then oxidized and undergoes further complex-494 ation with the reduced sulfur compounds on the cylinder walls. The authors proved that silicon- and PTFE-495 passivated cylinders, presumably inert toward Hg, are not inert and do not allow reliable sampling and 496 497 storage of real gases when targeting Hg species. Additionally, Enrico et al. [80] demonstrated that the outgassing (desorption) of previously adsorbed Hg species from used cylinders could falsify the analytical 498 499 speciation and quantification results of future samplings.

The relative extent of analyte losses due to adsorption effects on (passivated) cylinders has furthermore been proven to be linked to the initial sample concentration, analogously to gas sampling bags. The recovery of compounds initially present in low concentrations in the cylinder, or sampled at low pressures, is typically lower than the recovery of the same compounds initially present in higher concentrations or sampled at higher pressures [3], [40]. This effect seems to be due to the presence of a fixed number of active sorption sites on the cylinder walls [3], and losses of a given species occur by adsorption on each of those individual

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506 sites until all sites are saturated. Therefore, when low initial concentrations are sampled, the proportion of 507 analytes that adsorb on the sorption sites until saturation may be great compared to the total analyte quantity 508 present. Following this theory, Barone et al. [88] found that an 11 ppb<sub>v</sub> mixture of H<sub>2</sub>S and CH<sub>3</sub>SH was stable for a longer period (14 days) in a Sulfinert<sup>TM</sup> cylinder than the same mixture at 1.5 ppb<sub>v</sub> (6 days). 509 510 Arrhenius et al. [3] also observed much better stabilities for siloxanes and sulfur compounds when sampled 511 and stored at higher pressures (> 6 MPa) in passivated cylinders than at lower pressures (0.8 MPa). In the 512 case of biogas and biomethane cylinder sampling, the authors accordingly recommend sampling at > 5-6513 MPa to ensure reliable storage.

A method to improve undesired sorption effects is to condition the cylinders prior to sample collection to prevent both underestimating compounds (due to adsorption) and overestimating other compounds (due to outgassing of previously adsorbed compounds) [3]. Heating the cylinder (within the material and passivation coating working temperature range) and flushing with a pure N<sub>2</sub>-stream greatly contributes to cleaning the cylinder walls by triggering the desorption of previously sorbed compounds. It is additionally advised to flush the cylinder with the gas to be sampled just before sample collection [63], so that the potential sorption sites on the cylinder walls become occupied, which prevents analyte losses in the effective sample. This can nevertheless lead to an overestimation of analyte recoveries inasmuch as the compounds adsorbed during this pre-operation, can in turn desorb and outgas from the walls upon pressure drop in the cylinder during sample withdrawal for analysis [63].

#### 2.3. Canisters

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Canisters (Fig. 1 c) are stainless-steel whole gas sampling containers with specifically passivated internal surfaces and are commercially available in volumes from of 0.4 to 15 L [4], [34], [43], [89] or up to 100 L [18]. Canisters do not allow pressurized gas sampling. Small canisters are used for concentrated gas samples, larger canisters are used for lower concentrated samples [89]. Canister sampling has especially been used for air sampling and monitoring [22], [34], [37], [38], [73], [90], [91].

Analogously to cylinders, the surface-iron atoms of stainless-steel inner canister walls act as active sorption sites. Polishing and passivation of the inner surfaces has hence been found necessary to prevent analyte losses by sorption or by conversion due to reactions catalyzed by iron sites and to prevent corrosion of the steel by corrosive or acidic sampled compounds. The first canister passivation treatment was SUMMA® (also TO-Can®) [89], [92]: in this treatment, stainless-steel is electropolished and coated with a 500-1000 Å thick nickel chromium oxide (NiCrOx) layer to become inert toward (H)VOCs [92]. The NiCrOx layer itself can however also act as a catalyzer or adsorb polar and aromatic VOCs as well as reactive sulfur and amine compounds, which are not stable in SUMMA® canisters unless the sampled gas contains enough water vapor to saturate the sorption sites on the NiCrOx layer [93]. SUMMA® are general-purpose canisters recommended in air sampling and VOC-analysis methods such as US EPA methods TO-14A [94] and TO-15 [95]. A canister passivation treatment that was developed more recently is Silonite<sup>TM</sup> (Entech Instruments), which is a chemical vapor deposited silica layer offering even more inert surfaces than the SUMMA® process and enabling reliable sampling, storage and recovery of a broader range of reactive analytes [92], [93]. A canister passivation similar to Silonite is Siltek® (SilcoCan® canister, by Restek Corporation), which is an inert fused silica layer chemically bound to the inner stainless-steel walls. The excellent inertness of this Siltek coating, compared to SUMMA®, enables to sample, store and reliably

recover low concentration levels of compounds that are usually reactive with metal surfaces, such as polar, halogenated- and sulfur compounds [37], [89].

Two sampling approaches are possible with canisters; either active or passive sampling [89]. In both cases, prior to sampling, the canister is vacuumed and equipped with a pressure gauge [4], [89], [96]. In active sampling, the gas sample is pumped into the canister, enabling to slightly sur-pressurize the sample (up to 2.75 bar) and to double the sampled volume [34], [89]. Passive sampling requires no pump: the pressure gradient between the vacuumed canister and the gas to sample causes the sample to flow into the canister. In passive 'grab' sampling, the gas is collected at an uncontrolled rate over 10-30 s until pressure equilibrium is reached between the canister and the atmosphere of the gas. This easy sampling method is advantageous as it does not require additional equipment such as flowmeters. In 'time-integrated' passive sampling, a flow restrictor is used to guarantee a constant flow rate of gas into the canister during the entire sampling time interval (minutes to days) to ensure that a representative, time-weighted average gas composition is sampled despite the progressive pressure increase in the canister and environmental parameters variations (temperature, humidity, etc.) [4], [89], [96]. Canisters are reusable provided proper canister cleaning prior and between sampling campaigns to ascertain that actual samples are not contaminated with residues from previous samplings or laboratory air contaminants. Cleaning procedures are for instance described in US EPA method TO-14A [94], in a technical guide of Restek [89] and in scientific publications [14] and mainly involve purging the whole sampling train and canister with humidified pure N<sub>2</sub> or air with simultaneous heating, sonicating the disassembled pieces in a solvent, such as methanol, to remove possibly condensed high boiling compounds and oven baking pieces to discard residual organic vapors. Once cleaned, filling the canister with humidified air, passing the air through an adsorbent trap and analyzing the air toward targeted compounds should give the spectrum of eventual residual contaminants. Schweigkofler and Niessner [14], however, found that a simpler cleaning procedure was sufficient for canisters in which landfill and sewage biogases had been collected: six cycles of canister evacuation and flushing with dry pure N<sub>2</sub> were performed without heating and yielded very low blanks.

Similarly to gas sampling bags and cylinders, disadvantages to canisters are related to the poor stability and recovery of high boiling, high polarity or water soluble compounds due to sorption effects on inner canister walls, dissolution in condensed water, compound instability and to chemical conversion reactions between sampled compounds [4], [14], [37], [38], [90], [97], [98]. Coutant [98] found that the losses of (polar) VOCs due to physical adsorption in canisters were strongly related to a complex interaction of compound-specific physicochemical properties such as polarizability, equilibrium vapor pressure, temperature and sample vapor concentration. Adsorption losses seem to decrease when a relatively high water vapor level is present in the sample, as water then occupies the sorption sites on inner canister walls [37], [38]. The characteristics of the canister surface (e.g., passivation treatment), usage history of the canister, canister pressure and temperature during sampling and storage also influence the storage stability of VOCs [37], [38], [98]. Compounds unlikely to be stable in canisters are those with relatively high polarity, water solubility, Henry constant, reactivity (with water or other compounds) and boiling point. Considering all factors that influence the stability of trace compounds in canisters, the stability of targeted compounds should always be tested prior to sampling, under the same conditions as the future sample. Hsieh et al. [37] compared Summa and SilcoCan canisters for the storage of 56 VOCs (alkanes, alkenes, aromatics and biogenics) at 25 °C or 35 °C and at relative humidities (RH) of 30%<sub>RH</sub> or 90%<sub>RH</sub>. According to a first-order decay model, the authors found that the fastest compound losses occurred at the higher temperature and lower RH (35 °C

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and 30%) for all VOCs tested in both canisters. Hence, low temperatures and high relative humidity storage conditions are advised to enhance the stability of VOCs. The favorable effect of low temperatures was explained by associated lower degradation rate constants; the favorable effect of high relative humidities was explained by the fewer adsorption losses that occurred as more water molecules occupied sorption sites on inner canister walls [37].

Biogas and biomethane have seldom been sampled in canisters, and studies found that used canisters all targeted siloxanes [14], [70], [97], [99], [100]. Hayes et al. [97] and Saeed et al. [100] compared the performance of Summa canister sampling with other preconcentration techniques (methanol impingers and charcoal adsorbent cartridges) in terms of ease of sampling, representative sample collection and siloxane recovery. According to these authors, the greatest advantages of canisters are the ease of sampling and short sampling time when performing grab sampling, as well as the ability to directly transport samples to the laboratory. The siloxane recovery efficiency of canisters was better for light, volatile siloxanes than for heavier, less volatile ones [14], [97], [100] due to the previously discussed wall adsorption effects increasing for compounds with relatively high boiling points and polarities. Haves et al. [97] and Saeed et al. [100] found that methanol impingers were better than canisters for sampling heavier siloxanes such as D4, D5 and D6, while Summa canisters were better suited for light siloxanes such as D3 and pentamethyldisiloxane. Consequently, as D4 and D5 siloxanes have been found to be abundant in biogases [14], [35], [59], [101], [102], Saeed et al. [100] concluded that canisters were not convenient for reliable and representative siloxane sampling from biogases. Analogously, Eichler et al. [70] compared the performance of Summa canisters. Tedlar bags, methanol impingers and sorbent tubes to sample and store a standard gas of D5 siloxane in N<sub>2</sub>. They quantified the adsorption process of the semivolatile D5 onto the inner Summa canister surfaces by first flushing the canister with the D5 gas while analyzing the outlet gas to quantify the exiting D5 level as a function of time. During the first 60 min of this operation, the canister walls acted as a sorption sink for D5, and after this time, all sorption sites seemed to be saturated as the D5 level exiting the canister reached a steady state with a ~95\% recovery of the incoming reference concentration. The canister was then flushed with pure N<sub>2</sub> to trigger the desorption of adsorbed D5. After 60 min, the D5 level exiting the canister in the  $N_2$  stream reached ~2% of the initial concentration. Finally, the canister was washed with methanol to extract the remaining D5. Approximately 4% of the initial D5 concentration was recovered in this way. Eichler et al. [70] concluded that Summa canisters were not suited for D5 sampling and storage, as quantitative desorption is unlikely. However, a drawback of their study is that pure D5 in a pure N<sub>2</sub> matrix was used as the sole test gas, which is not representative of real biogas samples containing a broad range of other species that may compete or interfere with the described sorption process of D5.

Finally, a study by Khan et al. [103] provides some insight into the relevance of reusing old canisters. They investigated the storage losses of a mixture of 10 nL·L<sup>-1</sup> reduced sulfur compounds in air in 6-year-old versus 1-year-old (new) commercial SilcoCan canisters. Both canister generations were electropolished and coated with amorphous silicon, but the newest canisters had a thicker silica layer purported to improve the inertness of the inner canister walls [103]. In the old canister, >50% of H<sub>2</sub>S and CH<sub>3</sub>SH were lost after 1 storage day while other compounds remained stable in this vessel for 10 more days. Furthermore, the authors observed the formation of DMDS concurrently to the disappearance of H<sub>2</sub>S and CH<sub>3</sub>SH. They suggested that these two compounds were quantitatively converted to the more stable DMDS. Past usage history of the old canister may also have induced cracks in the old coating, possibly contributing to analyte losses. In contrast, >96% of COS, DMS and CS<sub>2</sub> and > 85% of H<sub>2</sub>S and CH<sub>3</sub>SH were recovered in the new

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canister after 7 storage days, confirming that recently coated SilcoCan canisters were more inert toward trace levels of reduced sulfur compounds [103].

#### 3. Gas sampling with enrichment (preconcentration)

In contrast to whole gas sampling vessels, which are limited in sampleable volumes and induce analyte losses during storage periods due to wall-effects and reactions between unstable sampled compounds, sampling with direct on-site enrichment not only allows considerable gas volumes to be sampled [22] but also enables the preconcentration of low-concentrated analytes by selective isolation from the gas matrix in or onto a small dedicated support. This purposeful enrichment aims at reaching analyte concentrations superior to the available analytical detection limits [39]. Sampling with preconcentration is based on three main methods: trapping on solid media (physical or chemical adsorption, amalgamation), trapping in liquid media (absorption, bubbling) and cryogenic trapping (condensation) [4], [39]. In each of those approaches, the gas matrix actively flows through, but is not retained in, the trapping system as long as necessary to trap sufficient amounts of targeted compounds [21]. The more dilute the compounds are, the larger the gas volume needed. Once sampled, the trap is generally transported to the laboratory for analysis. For biogas and biomethane, as the flammable methane matrix is not retained in the traps, the latter samples are not considered as dangerous goods and do not require specific transport consignments, which is the case for whole gas sampling vessels [21]. The storage period of trapped analytes should be kept as short as possible even though analyte stability should be better on selective traps than in bags, cylinders or canisters [20]. Importantly, appropriate conditions (temperature, humidity, etc.) governing the stability of analytes in their trapping media have to be respected during transport and storage.

#### Drawbacks to almost all preconcentration techniques include:

- Saturation of the trapping medium: solid adsorbents and liquid absorbents have limited sorption capacities toward targeted molecules. A sorption medium becomes saturated with respect to an analyte (saturation point) when all molecular sorption/binding sites of the medium are occupied by analytes so that no additional analyte can be sorbed. At a given analyte concentration in the gas, the saturation point can be expressed in L gas · g<sup>-1</sup> adsorbent or L gas · mL<sup>-1</sup> absorbent. Saturation is ruled, among others, by the analyte concentration in the gas, its affinity for the medium binding sites and by the gas volume sampled.
- Analyte breakthrough [18], [22], [23], [34], [39]: the breakthrough volume (L gas · g<sup>-1</sup> adsorbent or L gas · mL<sup>-1</sup> absorbent) is the volume of a gas with a constant concentration that, when passed through the preconcentration trap, results in a detectable level of analyte (typically 5% of the initial concentration) at the outlet of the trap [23], [91], [104], [105]. When an analyte breaks through the trap, it does not mean that the sorption medium is saturated with respect to that analyte, but that the analyte may begin to be displaced by another compound exhibiting a stronger binding affinity for the medium [23]. If a gas volume larger than the breakthrough volume is sampled, the analyte concentration in the trap may be underestimated and the saturation point of the sorption medium relative to the targeted analyte may eventually be reached, in which case further analyte molecules will not be trapped. For gases of unknown composition, breakthrough is usually avoided by placing several preconcentration traps in series to recover analytes breaking through the previous trap.

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- Negative effect of moisture [21]–[23], [35]: a high humidity percentage in the gas may be harmful, as water may compete with targeted analytes for the sorption sites on solid adsorbents or for the solubility capacity in liquid absorbents. In cryogenic traps, ice blocks can form when sampling humid gases. This can nevertheless be prevented by using hydrophobic adsorbents or by a preliminary gas drying.
  - Impossibility of repeated sample analysis [22], [23]: in contrast to a single whole gas sample from which several batches of gas can be analyzed, each preconcentration support is individualized and can generally only be analyzed once, implying that numerous replicates must be sampled.

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#### 3.1. Trapping on solid media

#### 3.1.1. Adsorbent tubes

Adsorbent tubes are borosilicate glass or surface-passivated stainless-steel tubes packed with one or several solid (powdered) adsorbent materials (Fig.2). Typical commercial tube dimensions are 6.35 mm OD, 4 mm ID (for glass tubes) or 5 mm ID (for stainless-steel tubes), and 89 mm length. During sampling, gas actively flows through the tubes while targeted analytes are selectively sorbed onto the surface of adsorbent particles. Solvent or thermal desorption of the tubes subsequently enables recovering sorbed analytes from the adsorbents to analyze them [106]. While solvent desorption irremediably damages the adsorbents, thermal desorption is nondestructive. Most thermal desorption units only allow to desorb and analyze each tube once (one-shot analysis). However, when coupled to a gas chromatograph with an injection in split mode, some modern thermal desorption units allow to recollect the split-fraction desorbed from the primary tubes onto a second identical fresh tube, enabling repeated analyses of a given sampled tube [106].

Adsorbents are especially suited to trap intermediate-, semi- or very-volatile (halogenated) organic compounds [4], [18], [20], [21], [40], [107]–[112], volatile sulfur compounds [18], [20], [40], [112]–[118] and volatile silicon compounds such as siloxanes [4], [18], [20], [35], [59], [105], [112], [119], [120], with various polarities and volatilities. The preconcentration of volatile metal(loid) compounds on adsorbents is nevertheless less advised as the physico-chemical interactions between such unstable analytes and the adsorbent are too strong and would lead to irreversible adsorption or analyte degradation during desorption, alteration of the chemical speciation of the analytes or artifact build-up [22].

Multibed adsorbent tubes (up to 4 beds in 89 mm long tubes) are attractive preconcentration units for biogas and biomethane which contain a large diversity of trace compound families over large boiling point- and polarity-ranges [3]–[5], [21], [36], [42], [58]. While no adsorbent is universal enough to retain all trace compounds [4], [121], multibeds precisely enable the preconcentration of a large range of compounds in a wide volatility range in a single sampling run by arranging different adsorbent materials in order of increasing sorption strength (increasing surface area and polarity, decreasing pore size, Table 2) in the gas sampling direction (Fig. 2) [23], [104]. When sampling a multicomponent gas, high molecular weight compounds with low volatilities are easily trapped onto the weakest front adsorbent bed. Volatile compounds, however, are not trapped yet as the sorption strength of front adsorbents is insufficient. These compounds therefore further flow in the tube and gradually reach stronger adsorbents whereon they are trapped. In this way, heavy compounds never meet strong adsorbents that they would saturate and whereon they would be

irreversibly or too strongly adsorbed to be further quantitatively desorbed. Back strong adsorbents are hence dedicated to the sorption of (very) volatile species [23], [39], [104], [109], [121].

A multitude of commercial solid adsorbents exist (Table 2): quartz or glass wool and glass beads (very weak, hydrophobic), porous polymers (weak or medium strength, hydrophobic), graphitized carbon blacks (GCB) (weak to medium strength, hydrophobic) and carbon molecular sieves (CMS) (strong, relatively hydrophilic). All differ in their density, temperature stability, surface area, surface functionalities and polarity, pore dimensions, etc., and the resulting differences in kinetic and thermodynamic behaviors (breakthrough volumes, adsorption isotherms, adsorbent-adsorbate interactions, etc.) greatly influence their preconcentration and desorption efficiencies and hence the adsorbent choice for a given application [23], [24], [105], [109], [122], [123]. Numerous ready-to-use sorbent tube configurations are commercially available. However, it has been shown that the background contamination of commercial sorbent tubes is higher than that of self-assembled tubes, leading to higher detection limits [18]. Therefore, sorbent tube self-assembly is reviewed here to provide insight into preparation steps critically influencing the final background contamination level of sorbent tubes. Fig. 2 depicts the sorbent tube constituents. Both tube extremities should be equipped with detachable sealing connectors: stainless-steel, brass or PTFE gas-tight screw-fittings (ferrules and nuts) are often used [18], [20], [23], [91], [107]. Alternatively, especially glass sorbent tubes can be fitted with crimp caps with central septa.

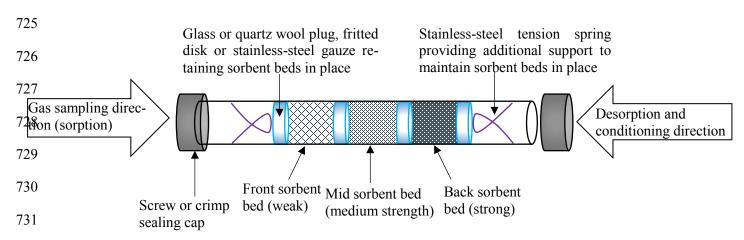


Figure 2: Schematic of a multibed sorbent tube. 100 mesh stainless-steel gauzes and tension springs are typically used together in stainless-steel tubes whereas unsilanized glass or quartz wool plugs are used in glass tubes to secure adsorbent beds [104]. Constriction of the tube internal diameter at the tube extremities can additionally help secure the sorbent beds. The desorption direction is always the reverse of the sampling direction even for single bed tubes [109].

As any part constituting a sorbent tube may be a source of contamination, it is advised to clean all of the parts prior to assembling the tube and to always handle the parts with disposable gloves in order to obtain the lowest blanks [18], [104], [107]. Note that the tube material itself may also act as a sorption and catalysis surface, as studied by Arnts for untreated stainless-steel versus Sulfinert<sup>TM</sup> or SilcoSteel® passivated stainless-steel tubes [124]. When using stainless-steel sorbent tubes, it is advised to opt for surface-passivated stainless steel [20], [124]. Helmig [107] sonicated all metal (stainless-steel tube, tension springs, gauzes and sealing ferrules and nuts) and PTFE (alternative sealing caps) parts in methanol before use, and stain-

less-steel parts were additionally baked at 150 °C for 4 h. Glass or quartz wool plugs used to secure adsorbent beds in glass tubes should also be precleaned by thermal conditioning to remove any impurity trapped in the wool [104]. Sheu et al. [18] thermally cleaned all loose parts and empty tubes in dedicated ovens with simultaneous high-purity N<sub>2</sub> flow. Before packing adsorbents in tubes, Sheu et al. [18] also thermally cleaned all adsorbents by placing them in a tube furnace at their material-specific temperatures (Table 2) with simultaneous high-purity N<sub>2</sub> flow for several hours to induce the desorption of contaminants from the adsorbents.

The adsorbent mass or volume to be loaded in a sorbent tube is determined by the tube geometry, the number of sorbent beds placed in series in the tube (Fig. 2), the adsorbent sorption capacity properties and the concentration of analytes targeted in the gas to be sampled [73]. When tubes are aimed to be analyzed by thermal desorption, the total length of (successive) sorbent bed(s) must be within the central zone of the tube that will later be heated by the thermal desorption device [104], [121], [125]. It is therefore suggested to pack the tubes with a fixed volume V of each adsorbent [121] so that all beds occupy the same length, with  $V = m/\rho$ , where m is the adsorbent mass and  $\rho$  is the packing density of the adsorbent (Table 2). Each adsorbent should be kept in a discrete bed separated from the others by glass or quartz wool plugs (3 mm length) [104], [126], glass-fiber filter discs [107] or any other suitable fritted disks or gauze (Fig.2). Note that quartz and glass wool may act as sorbents for semi-VOCs. Moreover, glass wool tends to physically degrade at elevated temperatures during thermal desorption [18], [124], and silanized glass wool releases siloxanes upon heating. Using high purity unsilanized quartz wool is henceforth preferable [18], [104], [121]. If metallic gauzes are used, sorption and desorption interferences are expected since high boiling compounds are prone to sorption on metallic surfaces, as was discussed for nonpassivated stainless-steel cylinders and canisters. Additionally, the inertness of such gauzes upon heating is poorly documented, and metallic compounds could be released in the sample.

The step following sorbent tube packing is tube conditioning. Adsorbent tubes are mounted on a manifold and heated at the adsorbent material-specific conditioning temperature (Table 2) under a continuous clean gas (N<sub>2</sub> of He) stream for several hours to induce the desorption of contaminants passively adsorbed onto the adsorbents during tube assembly. Freshly conditioned and sealed sorbent tubes must be properly stored if not immediately used for sampling. Sorbent tubes are generally stored in dedicated refrigerators at  $\leq 4$ °C or in freezers at  $\leq$  -30 °C in clean airtight recipients with desiccant material [18], [20], [42], [104], [107] since it has been proven that cold temperature storage reduces the formation of adsorbent artifacts contributing to background contamination [18], [107]. Helmig [107] also placed commercial activated charcoal adsorption cartridges (opened) in the storage jars to keep the headspace above the tubes hydrocarbon-free, as also suggested by others [23], [91]. The shelf life of rightly assembled, preconditioned and stored tubes may last several months [23], [91], although after 30 days of storage, reconditioning may be recommended right before using the tube [23]. Finally, it is analogously advised to store and transport sampled sorbent tubes at cold temperatures (≤ 4 °C [20], [104], [110], [127]; -18 °C [57], [59]; -20 °C [106] or -30 °C [18], [107]) in hermetic vessels with desiccants if desorption and analysis of sampled analytes cannot be executed immediately after sampling, as cold temperatures inhibit desorption, chemical reactions and analyte diffusion processes in the tubes [18]. The storage stability of trace compounds on adsorbent tubes has been widely studied, e.g., [4], [20], [108], [110], [117], [126], [128], but no universal storage recommendation

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can be provided since stability depends on the targeted analytes, the adsorbent tube configuration, the sampling conditions and the contaminations during sampling, transport or storage. The only valid rule is to analyze sampled sorbent tubes as soon as possible (e.g., within 3 days [110]).

Table 2: Properties of common commercial adsorbents used in thermodesorption applications.

Adsorbents are listed in order of increasing sorption strength. Data are compiled from [24], [104], [109], [121], [123], [129]–[133]. The sole difference between Carbotraps and Carbopacks is the mesh size: Carbotraps are 20/40 mesh size (420 µm < particle diameter < 841 µm) and Carbopacks are 40/60 mesh (250 µm < particle diameter < 420 µm) or smaller [121], [129]. Note that sorption strength categories are not strictly defined. In particular, Carbopack X, Carbotrap X, Carbograph 5 and Carboxen 569 are often considered as "strong" adsorbents. However, in this table, the sorbent strength criteria proposed in the US EPA method TO-17 [104] are chosen to distinguish weak, medium and strong adsorbents based on their surface areas: adsorbents with surface area < 50 m²·g⁻¹: weak; surface area between 100 and 500 m²·g⁻¹: medium; surface area >1000 m²·g⁻¹: strong. Note that adsorbents with pore diameters > ~ 1000 Å are considered as nonporous. Trademarks: Carbopack, Carbotrap, Carboxen, Carbosieve: Sigma–Aldrich Co.; Carbograph: LARA s.r.l, Italy; Anasorb: SKC, Inc.; Spherocarb: Analabs Inc.; Tenax: Enka Research Institute, The Netherlands; Porapak: Waters Corporation; Chromosorb: Celite Corporation, USA; HayeSep: Hayes Sep-

aration Inc.; Amberlite: Rohm and Haas; UniCarb: Markes International.

Adsorbent name	Adsorbent class ◊	Packing density g·cm <sup>-</sup>	Conditioning T (°C)	Desorption T (°C)	Approximate surface area (m <sup>2</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup> )	Mean pore diameter (Å)	Sorbent strength	Hydrophobic / Hydrophilic
Glass Beads	SiO <sub>2</sub>	1.68	350	330	<5	>3000		
Quartz Wool	$SiO_2$				<5	-		
Carbopack F	GCB	0.81	350	330	5	1000-3000	Very weak	
Carbograph 3	GCB				5	1000-3000		
Carbopack C	GCB	0.85	350	330	10	2000		-
Carbograph 2	GCB		350	330	10	2000		
Anasorb GCB2	GCB		350	325	12	2000		
Tenax GR	PP	0.41	320	300	24	200-1000	Weak	
Carbopack Y	GCB	0.51	350	330	24	1000-3000		
Tenax TA	PP	0.28	320	300	35	720		
Carboxen-1016	CMS	0.48	350	330	75	-		-
Carbopack B	GCB	0.43	350	330	100	3000	Weak	
Carbograph 1	GCB		350	330	100	3000	/ Medium	
Anasorb GCBI	GCB		350	325	100	3000	McGiuiii	
Carbopack X	GCB	0.58	350	330	240	100		- hydrophobic
Carbograph 5	GCB		350	330	240			
PoraPak N	PP	0.37	190	180	300	75		
Amberlite XAD 2	PP		190	180	300	10-20		
Chromosorb 102	PP		250	225	350	90	Medium	
Carboxen-564	CMS	0.59	350	330	400	6-9		
Carboxen-569	CMS	0.61	350	330	485	5-8		
Carboxen 1001	CMS	0.58	350	330	500	5-8		
Carboxen-563	CMS	0.55	350	330	510	7-10		-
PoraPak Q	PP		250	225	550	75		
Carboxen-1018	CMS	0.80	350	330	700	6-8	Medium	
Chromosorb 106	PP	0.30	190	180	750	50	/ Strong	
Amberlite XAD 4 *	PP		140	130	750	50	Strong	
Hayesep D	PP	0.35	190	180	795			
Anasorb CMS	CMS		350	325	800			
Carbosieve S-III	CMS	0.76	350	330	820	4-11		
Carboxen-1003	CMS	0.45	350	330	1000	5-8		
Petroleum A.C. *	Charcoal	0.50	190	180	1050	4-20		
Coconut A.C. *	Charcoal	0.57	190	180	1070	4-20	Strong	relatively hy- drophilic
Carboxen-1002	CMS	0.46	350	330	1100	10-12	-	aropnine
Spherocarb	CMS		400	390	1200	13-15		
Carboxen-1000	CMS	0.52	350	330	1200	10-12		
UniCarb (SulfiCarb)	CMS		350	330	1200			

<sup>8&</sup>lt;del>03</del> 804 805 ♦ GCB: graphitized carbon black. PP: porous polymer. CMS: carbon molecular sieve.

\* Not compatible with thermal desorption (charcoals and Amberlite resins) yet still given as indication.

Several important parameters have to be considered when designing adsorbent tubes and using them to sample biogas and biomethane. First, the breakthrough volume of an analyte on an adsorbent tube is influenced by several factors as follows:

- The adsorbent material: its porosity, surface area, chemical composition, polarity, particle mesh size, etc., influence its capacity and affinity for given analytes [23], [91], [122], [130], [134].
- The mass of adsorbent packed in the tube and the tube geometry [130], [134]. The higher the mass of adsorbent is, the higher the breakthrough volume.
  - The configuration (single- or multibed) of the adsorbent tube. Multibeds have higher breakthrough volumes than single beds, as demonstrated by Gallego et al. [135] in a comparison of single Tenax TA beds (200 mg) versus multibeds composed of Carbotrap B (70 mg), Carbopack X (100 mg) and Carboxen 569 (90 mg) for the trapping of VOCs in air. Multibeds normally always have a higher total surface area than single beds (e.g., ~70 m² for the multibed versus ~ 7 m² for the Tenax bed [135]) and therefore have higher adsorption capacities.
  - The temperature during sampling [105], [122]. When sampling above 20 °C, the breakthrough volume is reduced by a factor of 2 for each 10 °C rise in temperature [125] (very approximate rule [109]) since adsorption is an exothermic process.
  - The gas flow rate. Over the range of 5 to 500 mL·min<sup>-1</sup>, the breakthrough volume for tubes of typical commercial dimensions (89 mm length, 4 or 5 mm ID) is independent of the flow rate and only dependent on the total volume passed. However, at sampling flow rates < 5 or >500 mL·min<sup>-1</sup>, the breakthrough volume is substantially reduced [23], [125]. An optimal sampling flow rate of 50 mL·min<sup>-1</sup> is often mentioned (for air samples) for tubes of typical commercial dimensions [21], [73], [91], [125].
- The nature, volatility and concentration of the analyte. On a given adsorbent, more volatile species have lower breakthrough volumes than less volatile ones [135]. The more concentrated an analyte is, the lower its breakthrough volume [125], [134].
  - The composition of the gas. The presence of competing analytes and especially water vapor in the gas can affect the breakthrough volume of hydrophilic adsorbents [23], [91], [109] such as carbon molecular sieves: water vapor will tend to occupy sorption sites, impeding the sorption of targeted analytes and accordingly reducing their breakthrough volume. At high relative humidity (95%), the breakthrough volume of such strong adsorbents can be reduced by a factor of 10 as compared to a low humidity scenario, while the breakthrough volume of more hydrophobic porous polymer adsorbents is only reduced by a factor of 2 [125]. Other sources report that the breakthrough volume of hydrophobic adsorbent materials (graphitized carbons, porous polymers) is not affected by relative humidities even up to 90% [109].
- Breakthrough volume data for the sorption of a wide list of (H)VOCs on different adsorbents at 20 °C and how to determine them is available in the literature (e.g., [31], [91], [105], [125]).
- Second, when sampling humid gases such as biogas, sorbent tubes and all parts of the sampling train must be maintained at a temperature slightly higher than the sampled gas to prevent any condensation of water or semivolatile compounds to occur on cold parts [104], [109]. It is not advised to place a water-retaining tube or membrane upstream of the sorbent tube insofar as water retaining materials (Nafion membranes, ascarite (NaOH coated silica), charcoal, drierite (CaSO<sub>4</sub>), sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, magnesium perchlorate, calcium chloride, calcium sulfate...) will also trap targeted analytes and prevent them from

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847 being sampled [18], [126], [136]–[139], even though some authors have advised the use of anhydrous cal-848 cium chloride before sampling siloxanes from wet synthetic biogas on silica gel adsorbent tubes [128]. 849 When dry gases are sampled, however, such as biomethane, it may be advantageous to electrically cool sorbent tubes to 5-15 °C during sampling since adsorption is an exothermic process [18]. Another precau-850 851 tion is to place a particle filter upstream of the sorbent tube to prevent fine particles in the gas from entering 852 the adsorbent beds in which they could also act as adsorbing surfaces for targeted analytes, although the 853 particle filter itself (e.g., a 2 µm Teflon mesh; a glass wool plug) can also adsorb targeted analytes and 854 hence prevent their sampling [104].

Studies using adsorbent tubes to preconcentrate trace compounds in biogas, landfill gas and biomethane are reviewed in Table 3. Pioneering work in this regard aimed to identify and quantify trace compounds in landfill gas emissions responsible for odoriferous and toxicological nuisances and associated health and environmental hazards [140]-[143]. Brookes and Young [141] and Assmuth et al. [143] established a method to preconcentrate landfill gas trace compounds from landfills where no gas collection systems had yet been installed. Tenax GC, intended to retain a large spectrum of (nonpolar) compounds, and Porapak Q, intended to retain acid, neutral and low molecular weight (volatile) compounds were used by Brookes and Young [141]. The Tenax GC tubes were sampled with landfill gas at ambient temperature and the Porapak Q tubes were sampled at -80 °C. The sampling and analytical method in [141] was applied in the field by Young and Parker [140] to identify and quantify trace compounds in landfill gas from 6 sites burying various types of domestic or industrial wastes. Approximately one hundred different trace compounds were characterized and were dependent on the type and age of wastes in the landfill [140]. Assmuth et al. [143] collected landfill gas on baked steel Tenax GC tubes. Before effective sampling, the sampling train, without the Tenax GC tubes, was flushed with landfill gas to avoid cross-contamination between study sites. Two sorbent tube storage temperatures were tested for the sampled tubes: 4 °C and -20 °C and the authors found that 4 °C was sufficient to guarantee sample integrity [143]. They also found that the concentrations determined for chlorofluorohydrocarbons were potentially underestimated since those compounds were not effectively retained on Tenax GC [143]. Allen et al. [127], [144] also characterized trace (H)VOCs in landfill gases using multibed adsorbent tubes composed of Tenax TA, Chromosorb 102 and Carbosieve SIII in a 1:1:1 volume ratio. The sampled tubes were stored at 4 °C and analyzed within 24 h. The tube configuration yielded no breakthrough during sampling, and all analytes could be recovered with ~100% from the adsorbents. Landfill gas was sampled at seven sites, and over 140 VOCs were identified and quantified. Next, Narros et al. [69] compared three different in situ sampling methods for VOCs and siloxanes in landfill gas. These methods included whole gas sampling in 10 L Tedlar bags; adsorbent tube sampling on two single bed tubes assembled in series (Tenax TA and Carbosieve III); and sampling via absorption in methanol impingers. Once in the laboratory, landfill gas sampled in Tedlar bags was intended to be transferred either to the impingers or to the adsorbent tubes to study the difference between direct absorption or adsorption on site or first whole gas sampling and then preconcentration. The authors concluded that direct in situ sampling with adsorbent tubes was the best option [69]. Tenax TA and Carbosieve III enabled the simultaneous sampling of VOCs, siloxanes and trimethylsilanol (TMS) (trapped on Tenax TA) while methanol impingers could not trap TMS. Adsorption tubes also provided higher quantitative results than those of the impingers for the most volatile siloxanes L2 and D3, but lower results for the less volatile siloxanes D4 and D5, probably due to difficulties in quantitatively desorbing those more heavy species from the adsorbents [69]. A similar study was led by Raich-Montiu et al. [102] to preconcentrate siloxanes and TMS in biogas generated from sludge digestion. The authors compared in situ direct biogas

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sampling and preconcentration on commercial ORBO 32 adsorbent tubes and in impingers with whole gas sampling in a 200 L Tedlar bag followed by laboratory preconcentration of the bag content on the same adsorbent tubes and impingers. Statistical analysis showed that there was no significant difference between the results from direct biogas sampling on adsorbent tubes (or impingers) and the results from biogas sampling in Tedlar bags and subsequent transfer to adsorbent tubes (or impingers), contrasting with the conclusions of Narros et al. [69]. However, for the samples taken directly at the biogas source, adsorbent tubes yielded higher concentrations than those of the impingers for D4 and D5 siloxanes; hence, adsorbent tubes prevented the siloxanes from being underestimated and were thus preferred [102]. Kim et al. [119] also compared the conventional methanol impinger technique with adsorption on solid adsorbents for the determination of siloxanes in landfill gas. They evaluated three adsorbents: coconut-activated carbon, coal-activated carbon and silica gel, all intended for solvent (methanol) desorption. Using a standard gas of siloxane D4 in N<sub>2</sub>, the results indicated that coconut-activated carbon yielded the highest reproducibility, accuracy, precision and recovery compared to the other adsorbents tested and the closest results to the conventional impinger method. The worst reproducibility was obtained for silica gel [119]. In real landfill gas, the siloxane concentrations obtained with coconut- and coal-activated carbon sorbent tubes were not significantly different from those obtained with the impinger method, while those obtained with silica gel were significantly different (lower) [119]. Since adsorbent tube sampling is less labor intensive and is faster than impinger sampling, the authors suggested that coconut-activated carbon adsorbent tube sampling was a reliable and suitable alternative for the accurate quantification of siloxanes in biogas. Activated carbon adsorbent tubes were also considered in series by Tansel et al. [120] for the preconcentration of siloxanes in landfill gas and biogas, with an investigation of breakthrough volumes. The results highlighted that a single activated carbon tube of ~700 mg could quantitatively retain the light compounds TMS and hexamethyldisiloxane (L2) but could not quantitatively trap heavier targeted siloxanes (L3, D3, D4, D5 and D6), which were found in various percentages on the second, third or even fourth tubes of the breakthrough series. The inability of activated carbon tubes to quantitatively retain heavy siloxanes was not especially related to the high concentrations in the gas or to too high of a sampled volume, but, according to the authors, rather to a lower affinity of activated carbon for high molecular weight siloxanes owing to competitive sorption effects: in the landfill gas and digester biogas studied, a high concentration of relatively light compounds (3800 µg·m<sup>-3</sup> TMS in landfill gas; 2725 µg·m<sup>-3</sup> D4 in digester biogas) was quantitatively adsorbed in the first or second tube. These light compounds may limit the number of available sorption sites for heavier compounds [120]. Several other studies have combined gas sampling bags for in situ sampling with subsequent transfer to adsorbent tubes (Table 3). Arrhenius et al. [21], [145] sampled biogas and biomethane in Altef gas bags with immediate transfer to Tenax TA adsorbent tubes for VOC and terpene analysis. The authors argue that this two-step sampling and preconcentration procedure combines the advantages of sampling bags and sorbent tubes while eliminating their disadvantages. Gas bags can be filled at any flow rate, even at unstable rates, but the main disadvantage of gas bags is the poor short-term storage stability of trace compounds. On the other hand, the short-term storage stability of analytes trapped on an adsorbent material is very good [20], but the main disadvantage of adsorbent tubes is the necessity of a constant gas flow rate through the tubes during sampling [21]. In [21], gas transfer from the Altef bags to the Tenax TA tubes was executed via three methods, each time transferring the gas to a single Tenax TA tube at a controlled flow rate. A gas-tight syringe was used in method 1; a commercial special syringe ("easy VOC" grab sampler) regulating the gas flow rate through the sorbent tube independently of the force used to pull the gas was used in method 2; and a pump was used in method 3. Similar compound recoveries were obtained from the

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Tenax tubes when using the two syringe transfer methods. With the pump method, however, identical results to those of the syringe methods were observed only if the sampled gas had a high humidity content. In gas samples with low humidity, low boiling analytes (up to 120 °C boiling point) were quantified similarly to the two other methods, but heavier, higher boiling analytes were underestimated. These results were explained by the lower flow rate used in the sampling pump method and by water adsorption effects in the Altef gas collection bags [21]. At a low humidity, sorption sites on inner bag wall surfaces are not saturated with water and remain available for especially less volatile analyte sorption, causing their loss for analysis. Low sampling flow rates from the bags probably do not trigger the desorption of the compounds retained on bag walls, while this occurs with higher flow rates. The authors hence advised sampling gas from the bags through the sorbent tubes using a high flow rate (>300 mL·min<sup>-1</sup>), especially for gases with low moisture content [21]. Regarding the Tenax TA trapping efficiency for the targeted VOCs and terpenes, the results in [145] showed that terpenes in a standard mix were quantitatively recovered (>85%) from the Tenax TA tubes. p-Cymene and d-limonene displayed slightly lower recoveries, likely due to sorption effects on bag walls since those compounds were present in higher concentrations in the standard [145]. Rey et al. [112] investigated trace compounds in MSW landfill gas and targeted (H)VOCs and siloxanes. Gas was sampled into Tedlar bags and subsequently transferred to a preconcentration system as either a commercial adsorbent tube (Tenax TA or Carbotrap 349, the latter is a multibed packed with Carbopack Y, Carbopack B, Carboxen 1003), a carboxen-polydimethylsiloxane (CAR-PDMS) SPME fiber, or an activated carbon column inserted in a special device intended to analyze halogenated components (Total Organic Halogen Analyzer). The results indicated that the SPME method was the easiest to perform. However, more compounds were resolved and quantified via the adsorbent tubes. A total of 119 VOCs were characterized via only the Tenax TA tubes. The multibed Carbotrap 349 adsorbed more compounds than Tenax TA due to the different adsorbent strengths of its constituent materials, but desorption from Carbotrap 349 was not always evident [112]. The use of another SPME fiber (Divinylbenzene-Carboxen-Polydimethylsiloxane) was also compared to multibed adsorbent tubes composed of Carbosieve 111 – Carboxen B - Carboxen C for the preconcentration of VOCs in landfill gas [146]. These SPME fiber and multibed adsorbent tubes were found to be both efficient and provided comparable VOC compositions in the analyzed gases [146]. Next, PET gas sampling bags (Nalophan), supposedly inert to siloxanes [147], have also been used to sample biogas and biomethane for subsequent transfer to adsorbent tubes packed with amberlite XAD-2 or XAD-4 resins, activated carbon type F-400 or polyurethane foam [147] or with Tenax GR [57], [59] for the analysis of VOCs, siloxanes and TMS. VOCs, siloxanes and TMS in a landfill biogas have also been determined by first sampling the gas in PVDF gas sampling bags and then immediately transferring the gas to a multibed adsorbent tube composed of Carbotrap B, Carbopack X and Carboxen 569 [42]. In particular, very volatile compounds such as acetaldehyde, carbon disulfide, ethanol and 1,3butadiene had high breakthrough percentages through the multibeds [42]. Lastly, Schweigkofler and Niessner [99] sampled biogas from a sewage treatment plant directly into evacuated stainless-steel canisters. Biogas samples were then drawn through an adsorbent tube packed with silica gel. The study shows that silica gel can be a suitable adsorbent for the screening analysis of siloxanes over a broad range of volatilities and polarities. The study also shows that silica gel adsorbent tubes can be thermally desorbed. However, in a similar study by Sigot et al. [148], it was stressed that silica gel thermal regeneration can be ineffective due to siloxane polymerization to silicone on the surfaces of the adsorbent. They proposed that it is easy to desorb hydrogen bonds that form between siloxanes and silica gel at low siloxane uptake, while stronger bonds are created by surface polymerization at higher siloxane loads, hampering their desorption

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[148]. Despite the ease of gas sampling bags as in situ sampling media, directly sampling biogas and biomethane on adsorbent tubes may still be preferred, as the storage stability of trace compounds has been demonstrated to be higher in adsorbent tubes than in gas bags by Mariné et al. [20]. These authors compared the 4-day storage stability of biogas trace compounds in Tedlar bags (stored at room temperature) and in multibed adsorbent tubes (Tenax TA – Unicarb) (stored at 4 °C) by means of a standard containing siloxanes, alkanes, mercaptans and VOCs. The storage stability was better on adsorbent tubes (insignificant analyte loss after 3 days) than in Tedlar bags (significant analyte loss after 1 day). Only after 4 days of storage on adsorbent tubes did some compounds have a lower recovery [20]. Biogas and biomethane have directly been sampled on Tenax TA adsorbent tubes for the analysis of VOCs, silicon- and sulfur organic compounds [67], [149], [150], yet small alcohols, aldehydes and some thiols could not be quantified on the Tenax TA tubes [150]. Various other adsorbent tubes packed with adsorbents, such as graphitized and activated carbon [151] and amberlite XAD-2 [5], [152] and charcoal [5], have also been directly used for the preconcentration of VOCs and siloxanes in biogas and biomethane. Hilaire et al. [5] used commercial ORBO 609 Amberlite XAD-2 and ORBO Charcoal tubes and found that blank XAD-2 tubes contained 33 background contaminants, while charcoal contained 47. ORBO 609 Amberlite XAD-2 tubes were found to be more efficient in trapping and recovering biogas trace compounds: for a biogas sample, 216 chromatographic peaks were detected with the XAD-2 tube against 98 peaks with the charcoal tubes [5].

Finally, dimethylmercury is the sole metallic trace compound that has successfully been sampled on adsorbent tubes from MSW landfill gas. In landfill gas, gaseous Hg<sup>0</sup> is the most abundant mercury species. Lindberg et al. [153], [154] preconcentrated dimethylmercury in landfill gas on Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> adsorbent tubes which have high adsorption affinity and capacity for dimethylmercury while not retaining the most abundant Hg<sup>0</sup>. During sampling operations, as landfill gas is humid, Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> tubes were placed downstream of condensate traps and were purged with dry nitrogen immediately after sampling to expel residual water. In [154], Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> tubes were also maintained at a few degrees above ambient temperature to prevent water condensation on the adsorbent. Additionally, a 5 µm Teflon filter and a guard column were placed upstream of each Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> tube to respectively retain particulate matter and other semivolatile organic trace compounds and prevent their sorption on the Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup>. After sampling, the Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> tubes were protected from light and refrigerated for storage until analysis. Together with purging the sampled tubes with an inert dry gas immediately after sampling, those precautions proved to safeguard high dimethylmercury stability on the Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> tubes for >28 days [155]. In [154], the authors pointed out that the recovery of dimethylmercury from Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> was higher at smaller sampled gas volumes, probably due to the displacement (when large gas volumes are sampled) of the relatively weakly bound dimethylmercury by other trace compounds (despite the guard column) having stronger binding affinities with Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> [155]. In [155], the authors investigated the influence of sampling flow rate and volume, temperature and humidity on the breakthrough of dimethylmercury through the Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> tubes. The total volume sampled was more critical than the flow rate for the breakthrough determination. The breakthrough volume sharply decreased at high humidities (>70%<sub>RH</sub>) and temperatures (>35 °C). Finally, other adsorbent matrices were considered in [155] for the preconcentration of dimethylmercury: Tenax<sup>TM</sup>, Carbosieve<sup>TM</sup> S-III, Carboxen<sup>TM</sup>-563, Carboxen<sup>TM</sup>-564 and Carboxen<sup>TM</sup>-569. None of these matrices were suitable: Tenax<sup>TM</sup> did not adsorb dimethylmercury, while this latter was too strongly adsorbed on all carbon molecular sieves tested with nonquantitative recovery as a result.

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Importantly, all studies presented in Table 3 sampled the gases at near atmospheric pressure. No single pressurized sample was collected. The absence of standardized methods is also striking: every study was conducted under unique conditions, targeting distinct analytes with a unique set of adsorbent material and tube configuration, sampling conditions and analytical methods.

Table 3: Review of studies that used adsorbent tubes to sample and preconcentrate trace compounds in landfill gas, biogas and biomethane. All gas samples were taken at near atmospheric pressure.

 $MSW = municipal\ solid\ waste.\ AD:\ anaerobic\ digestion.\ WWTP = wastewater\ treatment\ plant\ (anaerobic\ digestion\ of\ WWTP\ sludge).\ TD-GC-MS =\ thermal\ desorption\ -\ gas\ chromatography -\ mass\ spectrometry.\ FID =\ flame\ ionization\ detector.\ ATD =\ automated\ thermal\ desorption\ system.\ TDS =\ thermal\ desorption\ system.\ ToF-MS:\ time-of-flight\ mass\ spectrometry.\ TMS =\ trimethylsilanol.\ VMS =\ volatile\ methyl\ siloxane.\ RH =\ relative\ humidity.$ 

Adsorbent tube composition	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Characterized compounds	Concentration range observed	Analytical method	References
Single beds: Tenax GC (0.13 g, 60/80 mesh) or Porapak Q (1 g, 60/80 mesh)	Landfill gas	Tenax GC tubes: 25 mL gas drawn through the tube at ambient temperature, via a syringe;	alkanes, cylcoalkanes, alkenes, ar- omatic hydrocarbons, terpenes, halogenated hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones, esters, ethers, organosulfur compounds	2.6 to 650 mg·m <sup>-3</sup>	TD – GC – MS (GC with 80/100 mesh Chromosorb 101 packed column (1 m x 2 mm ID) for analysis of the Porapak Q tubes, and SE30 capillary column (50 m x 0.3 mm ID) for the analysis of the Tenax GC tubes – VG Micromass MM16F MS)	[140], [141]
		Porapak Q tubes: 100 mL gas drawn through the tube at -80°C, via a syringe				
Tenax GC	Landfill gas	Sampling at 10 - 15 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> during 72 h by means of electric suction pump	12 halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons; 10 aromatic hydrocarbons and phenolic compounds; 9 halogenated benzenes	< 0.01 – 143 mg·m <sup>-3</sup>	TD – GC – FID	[143]
Multibed (1:1:1 volume ratio): Tenax TA (80/100 mesh) + Chromosorb 102 (80/100 mesh) + Carbosieve SIII (60/80 mesh)	Landfill gas	500 mL landfill gas passed through the sorbent tube at 50 mL·min <sup>-1</sup>	Over 140 VOCs, belonging to several chemical groups: alkanes, aromatic compounds, cycloalkanes, terpenes, alcohols and ketones, halogenated compounds	(mg·m <sup>-3</sup> ) alkanes (302-1543); aromatic compounds (94-1906); cycloalkanes (80-487); terpenes (35-652); alcohols and ketones (2-2069); hal- ogenated compounds (327-1239)	TD-GC-MS (Perkin Elmer ATD 50 with second refocusing trap Tenax TA – HP 5890 GC with Restek RTX-1 column (60 m x 0.32 mm x 1.5 $\mu$ m) – HP 5970 MS)	[127], [144]
		Tubes stored at 4°C and analyzed within 24 h			LOD between 0.02 (decane) and 0.1 mg.m <sup>-3</sup> (dichloromethane)	
Two different single bed tubes in series: Tenax TA (60/80 mesh) and Carbosieve III (60/80 mesh)	Landfill gas	100 mL gas drawn through the tubes via a manual sampling Gas- tec pump	Alkanes, aromatic hydrocarbons, organosulfur compounds, halogen- ated compounds, ketones, alco- hols, esters, terpenes, siloxanes, trimethylsilanol	< 0 to 320 mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup>	TD-GC-MS (Perkin Elmer TurboMatrix 650 ATD – Perkin Elmer Clarus 600 GC with Supelco Equity-1 column 60 m x 0,25 mm x 1,0 µm – Perkin Elmer Clarus 600T MS)	[69]
Commercial ORBO 32 tubes (activated coconut charcoal matrix (24–40 mesh) divided into beds A (400 mg) and B (200 mg) (Sigma–Aldrich)	WWTP biogas	10 L sampled at 1 L·min <sup>-1</sup>	Siloxanes (L2, L3, L4, L5, D3, D4, D5, D6) and TMS	(mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup> ) TMS: <0.02 – 0.9; L2: <0.01; L3: 0.05 – 0.28; L4: <0.01 – 0.31; L5: <0.0 – 0.8; D3: <0.01 – 0.2; D4: 1.5 – 10.1; D5: 12.5 – 124; D6: 0.4 – 0.5.	Solvent desorption – GC – MS (n-hexane as solvent – Agilent 6890N GC with DB-624 column (6%-cyanopropylphenyl–94%-dimetylpolysiloxane 30 m $\times$ 0.25 mm $\times$ 1.4 $\mu m)$ – Agilent 5975B MS). LOQ : 0.02 mg·m $^{-3}$ for TMS and 0.01 mg·m $^{-3}$ for the siloxanes	[102]

Adsorbent tube composition	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Characterized compounds	Concentration range observed	Analytical method	References
Three tubes of one and the same adsorbent in series. Three adsorbents evaluated: coconut-activated carbon (10-25 mesh), coal-activated carbon (10-25 mesh), silica gel (5-10 mesh)	Landfill gas	Sampling 18 L of gas for 30 min (600 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> )	Siloxanes (total)	Average concentrations total siloxanes (mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup> )  * Coconut- activated carbon: 7.91±1.86  * Coal-activated carbon: 7.67±2.12  * Silica gel: 5.54±2.53	Solvent desorption – GC – MS (HPLC-grade methanol as solvent – Agilent 6890 GC with Agilent HP-1MS column (300 m $\times$ 0.25 mm $\times$ 0.25 $\mu$ m) – Agilent 5973N MS) LOD of the targeted siloxanes range from 0.88 to 2.46 $\mu$ g·mL <sup>-1</sup>	[119]
Four activated carbon tubes in series (~700 mg activated carbon per tube)	Landfill gas and AD biogas	Sampling at 0.2 L·min <sup>-1</sup> flow rate.  6 L gas sampled on one set of 4 tubes in series; 12 L gas sampled on another set of 4 tubes in series	Siloxanes (trimethylsilanol, L2, D3, L3, D4, D5, D6)	(µg·m³) TMS: 195 – 3800 L2: 16 – 313 D3: 190 - 203 L3: 111 D4: 550 – 2725 D5: 609 – 724 D6: 60 - 253	TD – GC – MS (Tekmar Autocan TDS – HP5890 II GC – HP5972 MS)	[120]
Tenax TA	Biogas and biomethane	Altef bag sampling and subsequent transfer to sorbent tubes via 3 methods, each one transferring 100 mL gas from the bag to the sorbent tube:  1) gas-tight syringe, flow rate 200 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> 2) "easy VOC <sup>TM</sup> grab sampler", flow rate 500-600 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> 3) laminar flowmeter + sampling pump, flow rate 50 mL·min <sup>-1</sup>	130 VOCs from different families: alkanes (heptane, octane, decane, undecane, dodecane, tridecane, tetradecane, decahydronaphthalene and methyldecahydronaphthalene), aromatic hydrocarbons (toluene, o-xylene), terpenes ( $\alpha$ -pinene, $\beta$ -pinene, camphene, 3-carene, d-limonene, $p$ -cymene), alcohols (1-propanol, 2-butanol), ketones (2-butanone, 3-pentanone, 2-pentanone), esters (ethyl propanoate, ethyl butanoate, ethyl pentanoate), furans (2-methylfuran, ethyl-furan) and sulfur compounds (dimethylsulfide, dimethyl disulfide, thiophene, 2-methylthiophene, tetrahydrothiophene, 1-propanethiol)	30 µg·m <sup>-3</sup> to 35 mg·m <sup>-3</sup>	TD – GC – MS/FID  (Markes TD100) – Agilent 6890N GC with column BPX5 (5% phenyl polysilphenylene-siloxane, polysilphenylene-siloxane, 50 m x 0.32 mm x 1 μm) – Agilent 5975C MS or FID)	[21]

Adsorbent tube composition	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Characterized compounds	Concentration range observed	Analytical method	References
Tenax TA	AD biogas and biomethane (food wastes)	Altef bag sampling and sub- sequent transfer to sorbent tube at a controlled flow over 1-2 min	Terpenes (dominant species were d-limonene, $p$ -cymene, $\alpha$ -pinene, $\beta$ -pinene)	Total terpene concentration (mg·m³): In biogas: 360 – 1650 In biomethane: 5 – 240	TD – GC – MS/FID (Markes TD100 – Agilent 6890N GC with 5% phenyl polysilphenylene-siloxane, BPX5, 50 m x 0.32 mm x 1 µm column – Agilent 5975C MS or FID)	[145]
Single bed: Tenax TA or Carbotrap 349 (multibed packed with Carbopack Y, Car- bopack B, Carboxen 1003)	Landfill gas	1-2 L Tedlar bag and subsequent transfer to sorbent tube (8260 US EPA method)	119 VOCs including aliphatic and aromatic compounds, alcohols, ketones, esters, ethers, carbamates, terpenes, siloxanes, (in)organic sulfur compounds and halogenated compounds.	1.85·10 <sup>-2</sup> to 72.6 mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup> Total halogen content in all the samples was < 22 mg Cl·Nm <sup>-3</sup>	TD-GC-MS (horizontal Gerstel TDS-2 – Agilent 6890N GC with Agilent DB-624 column (30 m x 0.25 mm x 1.4 µm) – Agilent 5973N MS)	[112]
Multibed: Carbosieve 111 + Carboxen B + Carboxen C	MSW landfill gas	Pre-evacuated glass vial sampling with subsequent pumped transfer to the tubes (2 L at 200 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> )	omatics, poly aromatics, furans, halogenated, aldehyde, alcohols, organosulfur compounds)		TD-GC-MS (DANI Master TD including a 3-phase quartz refocusing trap (-5°C) – GC column TR-V1 30 m x 0.25 mm ID x 1.4 μm film thickness (Thermo))	[146]
Different adsorbents evaluated: Amberlite XAD-2 or XAD-4, activated carbon type F-400, polyurethane foam	WWTP biogas	Polyethyleneterephthalate bag sampling with subsequent transfer through adsor- bent tube at 500 mL·min <sup>-1</sup>	Siloxanes (D3, D4, D5, D6)	Not mentioned	Solvent desorption – GC – FID/MS  (hexane, cyclohexane or hexamethyldisiloxane as solvent – Varian 3700 GC with SE 54 fused-silica capillary column 50 m, 0.32 mm, 0.25 µm (CS Chromatographie Service Germany) – FID or TSQ 70 MSD)	[147]
Tenax GR	Biogases from different sources (landfill, WWTP and farm AD)	Nalophan bag sampling and subsequent transfer to adsor- bent tubes at 90 mL.min <sup>-1</sup>	VOCs including organic silicon compounds	Total VOC concentration: 5 – 268 mg·m³; Benzene: 0.1 – 2.3 mg·m³; Toluene: 0.2 – 11.8 mg·m³; Halogenated compounds: <0.1 – 1.3 mg·m³; Organosilicon compounds: <0.4 – 10.6 mg·m³	TD – GC – MS (Tekmar Purge & Trap Concentrator 3000 TDS – Agilent 6890+ GC – Agilent 5973 N MS)	[57]
Two Tenax GR (200 mg/tube) tubes in series	Biogases from different sources (WWTP, land- fills, co-digestion plants)	Nalophan bag sampling and subsequent transfer to 2 sorbent tubes in series at 90 mL·min <sup>-1</sup>	Siloxanes (L2, D3, L3, D4, L4, D5, L5) and TMS	Concentration total organic silicon compounds varied from 24 to 2460 µg·m³. Concentration individual organic silicon compounds ranged from 1 µg·m³ (L2) – 1.27 mg·m³ (D5)	, , ,	[59]

Adsorbent tube composition	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Characterized compounds	Concentration range observed	Analytical method	References
Multibed: Carbotrap B (20/40 mesh, 70 mg) + Carbopack X (40/60 mesh, 100 mg) + Carboxen 569 (20/45 mesh, 90 mg)	Landfill gas	Supel <sup>TM</sup> Inert Film bag sampling and immediate transfer to sorbent tubes via a pump, at 100 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> . Drawing 100 and 250 mL gas through the sorbent tubes was evaluated	VOCs (alkanes, aromatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones, furans, halocarbons, aldehydes, esters, terpenes, chlorinated compounds); sulfur and nitrogen compounds; VMS (TMS, linear and cyclic siloxanes). Total amount identified compounds: 117	tube: 1.3 μg·m <sup>-3</sup> (1-	TD – GC – MS (Perkin Elmer ATD 400 – Thermo Quest Trace 2000 GC with column DB-624, 60 m x 0.25 mm x 1.4 µm – Thermo Quest Trace Finnigan MSD)	[42]
Silica gel (particle size 1–3 mm) (2 g)	WWTP biogas. Raw biogas (RH <sub>20°C</sub> >85%) and biogas dried by refrigeration (RH <sub>20°C</sub> =38%) were sampled	Sampling into evacuated 15 L stainless-steel Tekmar canisters with subsequent transfer through adsorbent tube at 1 L·min <sup>-1</sup>	Siloxanes (L2, D3, D4, D5)	Total siloxane concentrations (mg·m <sup>-3</sup> ): raw biogas: 16.2 dried biogas: 14.8	TD – GC – MS/AES (Tekmar 6000 TD unit with Tekmar cryofocusing module – HP 5890 II GC with DB-5 column 30 m x 0.32 mm x 0.25 $\mu$ m – HP 5971 A MS operated in parallel with a HP 5921 A AES)	[99]
Multibed bed: Tenax TA and Unicarb (400 mg total)	WWTP biogas	500 mL biogas sampled through the tube via a sampling pump at 50 mL·min <sup>-1</sup>	Volatile organic and inorganic sulfur compounds; (H)VOCs; terpenes; alkanes	0.005 – 95 mg·m <sup>-3</sup>	TD – GC – MS (Unity TDS + Ultra A automatic sampler from Markes International – Agilent 7890A GC – Agilent 5975C MS)	[20]
Tenax TA (60/80 mesh)	AD biogas and MSW landfill gas	100 mL, sampled at ~100 mL·min <sup>-1</sup>	Siloxanes (L2, L3 L4, D3, D4, D5), trimethylsilanol and halogenated compounds	Siloxanes: 0.04 – 27.05 mg·m³; Trimethylsilanol: <0.01 – 2 mg·m³; Halogens: <0.1 – 7 mg·m³	TD–GC–MS (Perkin Elmer ATD 400 – HP 5890 GC – HP 5972 MS) LOD for siloxanes: 30 μg·m <sup>-3</sup> ; for halogenated compounds: 100 μg·m <sup>-3</sup>	[67]
Tenax TA	Biogas and bio- methane from dif- ferent sources (landfills, WWTP, AD of energy crops, by- products from food industry and manure)	Controlled flow of the gas passed through the adsorbent over a short time (1-4 min)	VOCs with boiling point in the range 70-320°C: Alkanes (nonane, decane, undecane, dodecane, tridecane); linear, branched or cyclical hydrocarbons (C5 to C13, decahydronaphthalene, methyl decahydronaphthalene, etc.); aromatic hydrocarbons (benzene, toluene, xylenes, trimethylbenzenes, tetramethylbenzenes, etc.); terpenes (p-cymene, d-limonene, α-pinene, β-pinene, 3-carene, santolina triene); chlorinated and fluorinated hydrocarbon; esters; ketones (2-butanone, pentanones, hexanones and heptanones, furans); sulfur compounds (methylmercaptan, DMS, DMDS); dioxolanes; siloxanes (decamethylcyclopentasiloxane (D5)); nitrogen compound ethylmethylpyridine	Concentration individual compounds in biogases: <0 – 190 g·m³.  Typical total VOC concentrations in biogases: 20 - 700 mg·m³	(Perkin Elmer TurboMatrix 650 TDS – Agilent 6890N GC with column 5% phenyl polysilphenylenesiloxane, BPX5, 50 m x 0.32 mm x 1 μm) -Agilent	[149]

Table 3: continued

Adsorbent tube	Sampled gas	Sampling	Characterized	Concentration range	Analytical method	References

composition		conditions	compounds	observed		
Tenax TA (30/60 mesh, 200 mg) in inert coated stainless-steel tubes (8.89 mm length, 6.35 mm ID)	AD biogas (from 3 different AD plants)	100 mL⋅min <sup>-1</sup> during 30 s or 1 min	51 VOCs (organic silicon compounds, terpenes, BTEX, furanes, ketones, alcohols, alkanes, esters and sulfurorganic compounds)	0.01 mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup> (decamethyltetrasiloxane) to 359.84 mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup> ( <i>p</i> -cymene)	TD-GC-MS (Shimadzu TD20 – Shimadzu QP2010Plus with column Restek Rxi-5MS 60 m x 0.25 mm x 1 $\mu m)$	[150]
Carbon cartridges filled with graphitized and activated carbon	WWTP biogas and biomethane	Different volumes sampled in the range 40 mL – 2 L	Siloxanes, VOCs (aromatics, terpenes, alkanes, halogenated compounds, organosulfur compounds)	total volatile silicon in biogas: >2 mg·m³; in biomethane: > 0.03 mg·m³. Aromatics in biogas: 225 μg·m³; in biomethane: 0.8 μg·m³ Terpenes in biogas: 65.9 μg·m³; in biomethane: <0.5 μg·m³ Alkanes in biogas: 1540 μg·m³; in biomethane: <1 μg·m³ Halogenated in biogas: 184 μg·m³; in biomethane: <3 μg·m³ Organosulfur in biogas: 114 μg·m³; in biomethane: <3 μg·m³ Organosulfur in biogas: 114 μg·m³; in biomethane: <0.5 μg·m³	TD-GC-MS (Chrompack CP 4020 TD unit – Trace Ultra GC with DB1-MS column (50 m length, 0.25 mm inner diameter, 0.25 mm film thickness) – SQ MS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 168 3rd Ave, Waltham, MA 02451 USA).	[151]
XAD-2	WWTP, landfill and AD biogas and biomethane	1 L·min <sup>-1</sup> during 1 h	Semi-VOCs	0.10–647.9 ppb <sub>v</sub>	Solvent desorption (ethyl acetate) – GC – ToF-MS (Agilent 7890 gas chromatograph and Agilent 7200 quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer)	[152]
Two commercial (Supelco) tube compositions tested, each containing two beds of the sorbent:  ORBO 609 Amberlite XAD-2 tube or ORBO Charcoal tube	MSW landfill gas (raw and treated), WWTP and AD biogas and bio- methane	Raw biogas: 100 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> through each individual tube. 1 – 5 L collected  Treated biogas and biomethane: 500 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> through each individual tube. 20 L collected	compounds, halogen- ated compounds, mono- and poly-aromatic hy-	Raw biogases: total concentration ranges (ng·mL <sup>-1</sup> ): oxygenated compounds: <0 – 300; halogenated compounds: <0 – 300; monoaromatic hydrocarbons: 0 – 16000; alkanes: <0 – 1400; terpenes: 0 – 4200; siloxanes: 0 – 1300	Solvent desorption – GCxGC – MS (Pressurized Liquid Extraction, Dionex $^{TM}$ ASE 200 system with acetone/dichloromethane in 1:1 volume ratio – TRACE GC × GC $^{TM}$ Thermo-Fischer Scientific. First dimension column: Agilent nonpolar DB-5MS (30 m × 0.25 $\mu$ m; 0.25 $\mu$ m); second dimension column: Agilent semi-polar DB-17 (1.35 m × 0.1 $\mu$ m; 0.1 $\mu$ m)) – ISQ $^{TM}$ quadrupole MS)	[5]
					LOD: 1 ng·Nm <sup>-3</sup> for octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, and 9 ng·Nm <sup>-3</sup> for toluene  LOQ: 1.5 ng·Nm <sup>-3</sup> for octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane	
Carbotrap <sup>™</sup> (40-60 mesh, 10 cm × 4 mm ID adsorbent bed, packed between silanized glass wool plugs in a silanized glass tube)	MSW landfill gas	Upstream the adsorbent tube: condensate trap + 5 $\mu$ m Teflon particle filter + guard column (OV-3 on Chromasorb WAW-DMCS 80/100 mesh). 5 L landfill gas sampled at 300 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> and subsequently purged with dry $N_2$ + protected from light and refrigerated until analysis	Dimethylmercury	~30 ng·m <sup>-3</sup>	and 14 ng·Nm <sup>-3</sup> for toluene  TD – GC – CVAFS (isothermal GC 80 ± 2°C; 1 m × 4 mm ID column of 15% OV-3 on Chromasorb WAW-DMCS 80/100 mesh) + GC output to pyrolytic cracking column (700°C)	[153]–[155]

Table 3 also indicates that adsorbent tubes have seldom been used for the trapping of volatile metal(loid) compounds in biogas, landfill gas or biomethane. Some publications [156]–[159] did, however, address this topic for volatile mercury (Hg), lead (Pb) and arsenic (As) traces in air. Although these publications are slightly dated (no recent studies were found on that topic), they still provide methods that could be applied in the modern context of biogas, landfill gas and biomethane. Ballantine and Zoller [156] evaluated the trapping efficiency of several adsorbent phases for methylmercury chloride (MMC) and dimethyl-mercury (DMM) in atmospheric air as follows: 5% FFAP on Gas Chrom Q; 20% Carbowax 20M on Supelcoport; 3% OV-1 on Gas Chrom Q; 3% Hi-eff 8BP on Gas Chrom Q; Chromosorb 101, Chromosorb NAW; Porapak P; Amberlite XAD-2; and Tenax GC. Chromosorb 101 was the sole material able to significantly retain MMC and DMM. The collection efficiency of Chromosorb 101 for MMC at 25 °C was  $95 \pm 3\%$  and was found to be independent of the relative humidity of the sampled air [156]. The trapping of DMM (more volatile than MMC) on Chromosorb 101 was not efficient at ambient temperature (25 °C) (low breakthrough volume). Therefore, when targeting this compound, the Chromosorb 101 tubes were cryogenically maintained at -60 °C and a drying tube containing drierite was placed upstream of the adsorbent tube to trap humidity and prevent ice clogging or condensation in the adsorbent tube. The drying tube did not retain DMM. In this way, the collection efficiency of Chromosorb 101 for DMM was  $96 \pm 2\%$  [156]. Regarding lead, the suitability of several adsorbents to trap tetraalkyllead compounds from air has been investigated [157]-[159]. Porapak, Amberlite XAD-2, XAD-4 and XAD-7, Tenax, Chromosorb, active charcoal and polyurethane foam (PUF) were evaluated for the preconcentration of synthetic air doped with tetraethyllead (Et<sub>4</sub>Pb). Porapak and Tenax were found to be the only suitable adsorbents, yielding Et<sub>4</sub>Pb recoveries of ~92 and ~96%, respectively. The recoveries from PUF, XAD-4, XAD-2, XAD-7, activated charcoal and Chromosorb were <10, <20, <5, <5, <30 and <60%, respectively [157]. Synthetic gases doped with gasoline and other tetraalkyllead compounds (tetramethyllead (TML), trimethylethyllead (TMEL), dimethyldiethyllead (DMDEL), methyltriethyllead (MTEL), and tetraethyllead (TEL or Et<sub>4</sub>Pb)) were then loaded on separate Porapak and Tenax tubes, which were found to complement each other as follows: Tenax did not trap the more volatile TML and TMEL as efficiently as Porapak did. Tenax was, however, more efficient than Porapak in trapping and desorbing the less volatile DMDEL, MTEL and TEL. A multibed tube with Tenax as the front bed and Porapak as the back bed was accordingly found to be suitable to trap tetraalkyllead compounds in real air matrices since it yielded higher recoveries than the separate Tenax and Porapak beds for the 5 tetraalkyllead compounds [157]. Single Porapak Q adsorbent tubes were, however, found to efficiently (>90%) recover all 5 tetraalkyllead compounds and to keep those analytes stable for 14 days when tubes were stored at -10 °C [158]. Porapak N and Porapak QS were also specifically considered to trap TML and TEL [159]. Porapak QS was more suitable for the trapping of TML: the breakthrough volume of TML at 30 °C was 170 L·g<sup>-1</sup> Porapak OS against 64 L·g<sup>-1</sup> Porapak N, and recoveries from Porapak OS were > 100% against ~90% on Porapak N. Porapak N was more efficient for the recovery of TEL (~70% against ~50% recovery from Porapak QS) [159]. Finally, the NIOSH method 6001 for trapping gaseous arsine (AsH<sub>3</sub>) in air [160] recommends the use of solid sorbent tubes filled with two beds of activated coconut shell charcoal. With a sampling flow rate between 0.01 and 0.2 L·min<sup>-1</sup> and a sampled volume of 0.1 - 10L for a concentration range  $0.001 - 0.2 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$ , the sample stability on the tubes is guaranteed by the method to be at least 6 days at 25 °C. Charcoal beds are solvent desorbed in 0.01 M HNO<sub>3</sub> with sonication. Note that other As species can adsorb onto the charcoal beds and that the analysis technique is not species specific, so only the total As content is reported [160].

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## 3.1.2. Chemisorption (chemotrapping) and on-tube derivatization

In contrast to physical sorption, chemical sorption (chemisorption) involves a chemical reaction, with associated bond breaking and creation, between the target analyte and a specific chemical (derivatizing agent) immobilized on a solid sorbent material placed in a tube ("chemotrap"). The purpose is to produce a target analyte derivative whose stability is enhanced (e.g., lower vapor pressure) or whose analysis is facilitated compared to the parent analyte. This approach is appropriate in cases that an analyte is not retained by physisorption on solid adsorbents due to lack of affinity for the adsorbent material or due to a very high volatility [23], [39], [73]. Ideally, parent target analytes are quantitatively stripped off the sampled gas, and the generated derivative preserves the identity characteristics of the parent analyte so that post-trapping speciation is secured [161]. In air monitoring, a derivatizing agent commonly used is 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH), which derivatizes carbonyl compounds (e.g., aldehydes) into hydrazones [23], [39], [73]. Sorbents with large, open pores, such as silica gel and Chromosorb W, are often used as support for the derivatizing agent: the wider pore space facilitates reactions, enables loading more derivatizing agent and provides more potential sorption sites for the reaction product. Note that the occurrence of chemical reactions in chemisorption potentially results in slower kinetics than in physisorption; therefore, lower sampling flow rates or larger sorbent beds are advised to reach sufficient contact times between analytes and derivatizing agents and as such to complete the reactions. Solvent desorption of the chemotraps is the state-of-the art technique since the excess derivatizing agent would cause analytical problems upon thermal desorption [17], [23], [25]. Chin et al. [152] applied this approach and sampled 23 biogas and biomethane samples from various production sites (landfills, wastewater treatment plants and anaerobic digestion plants treating diverse feedstocks) through DNPH-loaded silica sorbent tubes at 1 L·min<sup>-1</sup> for 1 min for the targeted preconcentration of carbonyls. Acetonitrile was used as the solvent to extract carbonyls from the DNPH-silica tubes.

In the field of biogas and biomethane, one element for which preconcentration by chemotrapping with ontube derivatization is particularly interesting is arsenic (As) and its different volatile species. Several liquid or solid agents, such as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, NaOCl, Hg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, activated charcoal, KI, HNO<sub>3</sub> and AgNO<sub>3</sub>, react with and have been used to chemotrap volatile As species [161], [162]. Mestrot et al. [161] and Uroic et al. [25] used the same AgNO<sub>3</sub>-impregnated silica gel tube method to quantitatively trap volatile arsenic from paddy soil emissions and natural gas, respectively. While Uroic et al. [25] only examined total As from spiked trimethylarsine, the chemotrapping mechanism used by Mestrot et al. relied on oxidation of the volatile arsenicals to their pentavalent oxy-species (arsine to arsenate, methylarsine to monomethylarsonic acid, dimethylarsine to dimethylarsinic acid, and trimethylarsine to trimethylarsine oxide) which preserve the As-C bond and thus the speciation of the parent analytes [161]. Silver nitrate-impregnated silica gel absorption tubes were prepared on commercial silica gel tubes (glass tubes, 225 mg silica gel split into 2 compartments and plugged with active charcoal foam and glass wool) where on different concentrations of silver nitrate solutions (0%, 0.001%, 0.01%, 0.1% and 1% (m/v)) were impregnated for the natural gas study [25]. Natural gas samples were collected on gas fields in Sulfinert<sup>TM</sup> surface-treated gas cylinders and subsequently transferred to the AgNO<sub>3</sub>-silica gel tubes, which were themselves field-deployable, for preconcentration of the

arsenicals. Liquid desorption with boiling hot nitric acid was used to extract the trapped arsenicals from the tubes. Extraction efficiencies of > 90% were reached this way [25]. Krupp et al. [17], who introduced this method, pointed out that the non-100% extraction efficiency of alkylated arsenicals from the chemotraps may be due to incomplete sorption on the tubes owing to their nonpolarity and low boiling point, or to irreversible sorption. The absorption efficiency of TMA on the chemotraps as a function of the impregnated AgNO<sub>3</sub> concentration was then studied. An absorption of 10.3% TMA was already recorded for nonimpregnated silica gel, but 98% absorption was reached in silica gel tubes impregnated with 0.01% AgNO<sub>3</sub>. However, to keep the breakthrough <1% of the loaded TMA amount and hence guarantee an absorption efficiency of >99.5% TMA, the impregnated AgNO<sub>3</sub> concentration had to be at least 0.1%<sub>m/v</sub>. Silica gel tubes impregnated with 1%<sub>m/v</sub> AgNO<sub>3</sub> could quantitatively accumulate up to 4.8 µg As without breakthrough (>99.8% absorption efficiency), which is a sufficient achievement since the authors found that real natural gas samples did not contain more than 2.8 µg As per chemotrap for 20 L gas samples [25]. The authors also found that hydrocarbons and volatile sulfur compounds present in real natural gas had no effect on the absorption efficiency of TMA in the AgNO<sub>3</sub>-silica gel chemotraps. The limits of detection of 1 mg TMA·m<sup>-3</sup> in a 20 L gas sample were found for the blank chemotrap tubes [25]. Yet this LOD is satisfactory for gas industry requirements [25], it is relatively high and Mestrot et al. [161] found that the glass wool of the tubes was the main As contamination source (146 ng As per tube); the foam contained 6.6 ng As per tube, and the AgNO<sub>3</sub>-impregnated silica gel contained 4.2 ng As per tube. Mestrot et al. [163] further employed their AgNO<sub>3</sub>-impregnated silica gel chemotraps to study the arsenic volatilization in the biogas of model anaerobic digesters as a function of the initial As species (Roxarsone, monomethylarsonic acid (MMA(V)), As(V) or no initial As) amended in the organic matter feedstock. The chemotraps were placed on the outlet of the model reactors. Total As and speciation analysis were performed every 2 weeks from the harvested traps. Over a 42-day period, the authors found that model digesters volatilized  $25 \pm 4$  ng of As (non-As-amended),  $51 \pm 23$  ng of As (Roxarsone-amended),  $177 \pm 28$  ng of As (As(V)-amended) and  $413 \pm 148$  ng of As (MMA(V)-amended), with trimethylarsine being the dominant species in all cases [163].

Further, gaseous mercury can also be trapped via chemisorption on iodine (I<sub>2</sub>)-impregnated silica gel, where it is retained as HgI<sub>2</sub>, as explained in the ISO 6978-1:2003 standard method for the determination of mercury in natural gas [29], [164]. No speciation can be performed with this method, as all Hg species are reduced to Hg<sup>0</sup>. The sampling pressures on the chemotraps can reach up to 400 bar, and the method is convenient for Hg concentrations in the range of 0.1 – 5000 μg·m<sup>3</sup>. The total Hg content is quantified by measuring the absorbance or fluorescence of Hg<sup>0</sup> vapor at 253.7 nm. Similarly, Lindberg et al. [153], [154] collected total gaseous mercury (Hg<sup>0</sup>, Hg(II) and organic Hg species) in landfill gas through activated iodated charcoal traps that were heated slightly above landfill gas temperatures (~50 °C) to avoid condensation of compounds onto the sorption sites. Mercury species were recovered from the iodated charcoal traps by acid leaching the traps in a hot-refluxing HNO<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> system. The acid leachate from that system was further oxidized by a 0.01 N BrCl solution. Both acid and oxidized leachates were then analyzed by cold vapor–atomic fluorescence spectrometry (CV–AFS) at 253.7 nm.

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Mercury species, including both elemental (Hg<sup>0</sup>) and organic or inorganic forms such as CH<sub>3</sub>HgCl or HgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1512 occur at ng·m<sup>-3</sup> to mg·m<sup>-3</sup> levels in natural gas [81], [165], [166] and in landfill gas [153], [154], [167]– 1513 [170]. These species can specifically be preconcentrated from those gases by the chemical amalgamation 1514 1515 reaction between mercury and other noble metals, such as gold (Au), platinum (Pt), silver (Ag), palladium 1516 (Pd), and copper (Cu) [165], [169]–[172]. Quartz gas sampling tubes (e.g. ID 5 mm, L 160 mm) packed 1517 with noble metal-coated sand beds or containing noble metal gauzes have especially been used for that 1518 purpose [165]. For an amalgam to be formed, both mercury and the noble metal must be in their elemental 1519 state [171], although noble metals such as Au and Au/Pt alloys also react with inorganic and organic Hg 1520 species [164], [165]. Frech et al. [165] evaluated the efficiency of several noble metals (Au, Ag, Au/Pt 1521 alloy) for the amalgamation of gaseous elemental mercury (Hg<sup>0</sup>) and dimethylmercury ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Hg) in nat-1522 ural gas as follows: crumpled Au wire, Ag wire, Au/Pt wire or coiled Au/Pt gauzes were packed in quartz test tubes. For Hg<sup>0</sup>, silver was found to yield poorer amalgamation efficiencies than gold and gold/platinum 1523 alloy. The Au/Pt test tubes quantitatively trapped Hg<sup>0</sup> at flow rates up to 9.3 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, compared with 8.0 1524 and 2.0 L·min<sup>-1</sup> for Au and Ag test tubes, respectively. Inasmuch as silver is also known to inefficiently 1525 1526 amalgamate organic Hg species, the authors concluded that silver was an unsuitable material for both spe-1527 cies-specific and total Hg characterization. Au/Pt tubes proved to collect metallic Hg<sup>0</sup> with a greater effi-1528 ciency than that of Au tubes in real natural gas, and the organic (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Hg species in natural gas was also 1529 quantitatively amalgamated onto Au/Pt tubes [165], although with an efficiency lower than that of metallic 1530 Hg<sup>0</sup> [164]. The noble metal alloy Au/Pt hence seems to deliver the highest quantitative amalgamation effi-1531 ciencies for both metallic and organic Hg species [165]. Nevertheless, simple Au tubes have been most 1532 often used for both natural gas and landfill gas mercury investigations [46], [80], [153], [169], [170].

Preconditioning and properly storing newly assembled amalgamation tubes is as important as it is for adsorbent tubes. New amalgamation tubes are typically blanked at 500 °C [81], [170], [173], [174] or 800 °C [165] under a continuous Hg-free gas flow (e.g. Ar, N<sub>2</sub>, air) for several hours. Sealing blanked amalgamation tubes to avoid passive uptake of Hg traces from the ambient atmosphere is most efficient with gas-tight Teflon plugs [170], [173], [174] and refrigerating the tubes during the storage period until utilization was found to guarantee blank levels up to 600 h [173].

To recover amalgamated Hg species from the tubes and regenerate them for reuse, the amalgam must be decomposed, which occurs by heating the tubes. During this thermal desorption, inorganic and organic Hg species are reduced and released as gaseous Hg<sup>0</sup>[164]. A two-stage amalgamation-thermal desorption procedure is often appropriate: the sampled noble metal packed tubes are first thermally desorbed at 400 – 800 °C for 50-100 s while a Hg-free carrier gas (e.g., Ar) blows the released mercury into a second calibrated amalgamation trap, typically packed with Au or Au/Pt and permanently installed in the analytical device [80], [165], [171], [173]. This tube is itself subsequently quickly thermally desorbed (e.g., 500 °C for 15 s [80]), and the as such recovered total Hg<sup>0</sup> vapor is carried to the detector, typically either a cold vapor atomic absorption spectrometer (CVAAS) or a cold vapor atomic fluorescence spectrometer (CVAFS) operated at 253.7 nm, to be quantified. This method has been validated and standardized for field measurements of Hg in natural gas in the norm ISO 6978-2:2003 [30]. The speciation of distinct Hg species is more complex and was reviewed [164].

Important practical considerations for the optimal use of noble metal (Au/Pt) tubes for the amalgamation of Hg<sup>0</sup> and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Hg in natural gas were highlighted by Frech et al. [165]. First, the highest quantitative

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trapping efficiencies are obtained for both Hg species when the Au/Pt tubes are heated to 80 °C during sampling, since such temperatures inhibit the condensation of other organic natural gas constituents on the noble metal surfaces, which would otherwise passivate the amalgamation sites. After sampling, the tubes can be washed with a few milliliters isooctane and methanol to eliminate potential condensates, and surplus washing solvent can then be removed by flushing the tubes with Hg-free air. Second, as noble metal surfaces are gradually covered and inactivated by natural gas constituents other than Hg during sampling, the sampled volumes should be limited to ~10 L (for tubes packed with 1.5 – 4.5 g Au/Pt wire) to guarantee a quantitative Hg-trapping efficiency and minimize the breakthrough of Hg species. Additionally, sampling flow rates should be kept low (2 or 3 L·min<sup>-1</sup> for tubes packed with 1.5 – 4.5 g Au/Pt wire) to increase the residence time of Hg species in the tube and thus increase the contact opportunities with amalgamation sites. Finally, as amalgamated Hg tends to migrate into the inner layers of the noble metal surfaces, especially when thermal desorption of the tubes is not performed within hours after sampling, and to only slowly get released from these inner layers during thermal desorption, memory effects can build up across repeated use of amalgamation tubes. These undesirable effects can be mitigated by coating support materials, such as sand, silica or glass beads, with highly dispersed thin noble metal layers, e.g., via vapor deposition of noble metal wire [165], [173], concomitantly increasing the available amalgamation surface area. Too tightly packed noble metal-coated sand beds can nevertheless lead to adverse pressure drops upon gas sampling, leading to the condensation of, e.g., hydrocarbons of natural gas on the noble metal surfaces [165]. In that respect, Larsson et al. [81] investigated three Au/Pt amalgamation tube designs: 'Standard tubes' were packed with 2 m crumpled Au/Pt alloy wire (0.1 mm diameter) eventually occupying a length of 50 mm in the tube. 'Compact tubes' were obtained by further compressing this crumpled Au/Pt wire to 10 mm length in the tube. Finally, to simulate a poorly packed or a collapsed noble metal structure, 'tubes with orifice' were prepared as the 'compact tubes' but with an additional piercing of a 2 mm wide orifice through the Au/Pt wire filling. 'Standard tubes' gave a quantitative collection (amalgamation plus recovery) when either air or CH<sub>4</sub> containing 1% H<sub>2</sub>S, both enriched with Hg<sup>0</sup>, were sampled at 1 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, but at 10 L·min<sup>-1</sup> the collection efficiency was ~90%. Thus, the collection efficiency was independent of the nature of the gas tested, even in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>S. At 10 L·min<sup>-1</sup>, the 'compact tubes' exhibited a better performance than that of the 'standard tubes' with collection efficiencies ~95%. These results contrast with those of Frech et al. [165] who observed reduced efficiencies when using more densely packed tubes due to pressure drops and associated condensation of non-Hg species, which passivated the amalgamation sites. However, comparing collection efficiencies of various tube configurations is only relevant if the studied gas is the same, which is not the case between the study of Larsson et al. [81] and that of Frech et al. [165], as the chemical composition of each (natural) gas might vary and influence the collection efficiencies of Hg<sup>0</sup>. In that respect, Fernández-Miranda et al. [171] found higher mercury retention percentages on noble metalcoated materials when acid gases, such as SO<sub>2</sub> and HCl, were present in the sampled gas, indicating that those gases could contribute to another mercury capture mechanism than the sole amalgamation mechanism. For the 'tubes with orifice', Hg<sup>0</sup> collection efficiencies rose from 29 to 44% when the gas sampling flow rate increased from 1 to 10 L·min<sup>-1</sup>. A transition from laminar to turbulent gas flow regime within the orifice in the Au/Pt filling could explain the higher collection efficiencies at higher flow rates, with a larger fraction of the gas penetrating the compacted Au/Pt material surrounding the orifice owing to the higher pressure under turbulent flow conditions [81]. This highlights the importance of homogeneously packing amalgamation tubes.

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Lastly, Hg species have also been preconcentrated by amalgamation using the solid-phase microextraction (SPME) approach by coating fibers with noble metals. Romero et al. [172] compared three palladium (Pd) supports for the SPME of Hg<sup>0</sup> vapors: a pure Pd-wire, a Pd-coated stainless-steel wire and a Pd-coated silica fiber, all three implemented as the 'fiber' in the needle of a typical SPME device. After 30 min of contact with Hg-loaded gases during which Hg<sup>0</sup> amalgamated on the Pd support, those modified SPME fibers were thermally desorbed, and released Hg species were analyzed by atomic absorption spectrometry. Hg<sup>0</sup> amalgamation onto the Pd-wire yielded the highest performance regarding the limit of detection, sensitivity and fiber lifetime; nonetheless, the mechanical resistance of such noble metal wires was too weak for a routine assembly in a SPME device. Since Pd-coated stainless-steel wires had short lifetimes and gave low Hg-collection efficiencies, Pd-coated silica fibers, yielding high Hg-collection performances and easy assembly in a SPME needle, were the best compromise.

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#### 3.1.4. Solid phase microextraction

Solid phase microextraction (SPME) is a preconcentration technique based on the passive absorption or adsorption of analytes in the gas phase onto a fused silica or metal alloy fiber ( $\sim$  5 cm long) coated with a thin stationary phase layer (1 or 2 cm long on the fiber). The stationary phase coating (thickness ranging from  $7-100 \mu m$ ) is either a polymeric film for the absorption of analytes or a polymeric film embedding adsorbent particles for the adsorption of analytes. Commercially available absorption coatings are based on polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS), polyacrylate (PA), and polyethylene glycol (PEG), while commercially available adsorption coatings embed porous adsorbent particles of divinylbenzene (DVB), Carboxen® (CAR) or a combination of both, usually bound in a PDMS film. Selecting the most appropriate SPME fiber coating is a crucial vet delicate step [175]. In addition to the literature [176], manufacturers such as Supelco (Bellefonte, PA, USA) provide SPME fiber selection guides depending on the nature and polarity of the targeted analytes. The fiber is anchored in a hollow protective needle device (outer diameter < 1 mm); when not in use, the fiber is retrieved inside the protective needle to keep the stationary phase coating under safe storage conditions. As the fiber is mechanically extremely weak, the needle is used to pierce, e.g., the septum of a glass vial or of a gas bag containing a gas to analyze. Then, the fiber is exposed to the gas (atmospheric pressure), allowing analytes to sorb onto the stationary phase coating. A partition equilibrium must be reached between analytes present in the bulk gas phase in the sample, and analytes sorbed on the fiber. Determining this equilibrium and the appropriate exposure time period (from seconds to ~30 min) is complex as these factors depend on the distribution constant or partition coefficient of each analyte, their concentration, the thickness of the stationary phase, the temperature, humidity and volume of the gas surrounding the fiber, as reviewed in [176]–[178]. At the end of the fiber exposure time, the fiber is retrieved in the needle, the SPME needle device is withdrawn from the sample and then generally placed in the heated injection port of a GC for thermal desorption of the fiber coating. The main shortcomings of SPME are the limited variety of commercially available coatings and the poor mechanical strength of the fibers (breakage, stripping of coatings) and of the needle (bending) [172]. Nonetheless, SPME is promoted as an easy and rapid sampling and preconcentration system with a longer lifetime (numerous sorption-desorption cycles) than adsorbent tubes and no clogging issues [19]. Critical comparisons between SPME and adsorbent tubes are available in [36], [112], [146].

- The application of SPME has been extensively evaluated and reviewed for the determination of volatile organic trace compounds in gaseous matrices, especially atmospheric, indoor or workplace air [19], [23], [176], [179]–[182]. A broad range of other compound classes can be determined via SPME, including the following: polyaromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated volatile organic compounds, oxygenated organic compounds, pesticides and drugs [19], [176], sulfur compounds [40], [183], siloxanes [36], organic or inorganic metals and metalloids (Sn, Hg, Se, As, Pb, Mn, etc.) [172], [176].

  Table 4 reviews publications on the use of SPME for the determination of trace compounds in biogas, biomethane and landfill gas. The gas is often first sampled in a gas bag prior to piercing the bag septum
- biomethane and landfill gas. The gas is often first sampled in a gas bag prior to piercing the bag septum with the SPME needle. The PDMS/DVB, PDMS/CAR and DVB/CAR/PDMS fibers are the most frequently used fiber coatings for the preconcentration of VOCs, siloxanes and volatile organic sulfur compounds. Metal(loid) compounds have not been studied by SPME in biogases.

1646 Table 4: Review of the applications of SPME for the determination of trace compounds in biogas, biomethane and landfill gas.

SPME fiber coating	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Targeted and characterized compounds	LOD	Analysis	Refer- ence
65 μm PDMS/DVB	AD and WWTP biogas and biomethane	Tedlar bag sampling with subsequent SPME within a day (various exposure times: 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 min)	Linear (L2 – L5) and cyclic (D3 – D5) volatile methyl siloxanes. Additional compounds identified: D-limonene, $\alpha$ - and $\beta$ -pinene, camphene, terpinenes, $\beta$ -caryophyllene	mg·m³ L2 0.0036 L3 0.0075 L4 0.0031 L5 0.0050 D3 0.0084 D4 0.0091 D5 0.0150	GC-MS	[36]
3 fibers tested in the laboratory: 100 µm PDMS; 85 µm PDMS/CAR; 50-30 µm DVB/CAR/PDMS; 50-30 µm DVB/CAR/PDMS used for real landfill samples	Odorant emissions from landfills	Nalophan bag sampling with subsequent SPME within 30 h (exposure 30 min)	Over 100 VOCs (alkanes, alkenes, terpenes, halogenated, oxygenated, aromatics) and dimethyl disulfide	<0.1 ppb for VOC; 50 ppb for dimethyldisulfide	GC-MS	[71]
CAR/PDMS	Landfill gas	Tedlar bag sampling with subsequent SPME (exposure time 2 h)	VOCs (amines, sulfur compounds, alkanes, alkenes, terpenes, halogenated, oxygenated, aromatics, siloxanes)	Not available	GC-MS	[112]
Not available	AD and WWTP biogas and biomethane	Not available	Volatile sulfur compounds (H <sub>2</sub> S, COS, methanethiol, dimethyl sulfide, dimethyl disulfide) and oxygenated organic compounds (ketones, alcohols, and esters)	Not available	GC-MS	[183]
50-30 μm DVB/CAR/PDMS  647 <b>LOD:</b> limit of detection.	Landfill gas	SPME (exposure time 30 min at 20°C)	VOCs (linear and cyclo-alkanes, alkenes, aromatics, poly aromatics, furans, halogenated, aldehyde, alcohols, sulfur compounds)	Not available	GC-MS	[146]

LOD: limit of detection. PDMS: polydimethylsiloxane. DVB: divinylbenzene. CAR: Carboxen®. WWTP: wastewater treatment plant (anaerobic digestion of WWTP sludge). AD: anaerobic digestion. GC-MS: gas chromatography-mass spectrometry.

## 3.2. Trapping in liquid media: absorption in bubbling traps/impingers

Another technique to preconcentrate trace compounds from gaseous samples involves bubbling the gas through one or a series of purpose-built bubbling traps ('impingers'), which are generally made of glass, containing a solvent solution and a built-in fritted bubbler nozzle to generate gas bubbles as small as possible to maximize the gas-liquid exchange surface area and stimulate the dissolution and absorption of targeted trace compounds in the solvent. To avoid solvent losses by evaporation or transfer to the gas phase. a high-boiling solvent can be chosen [24], but since low boiling solvents, such as methanol, are predominantly used, the solvents must be chilled [70], [97], [119]. The solvent nature, volume and temperature, gas bubbling flow rate and total gas sampling volume must be optimally determined depending on the gas composition, concentrations, targeted compounds, etc. This preconcentration technique can be directly implemented in the field, although it is not very practical as the sampling connection train can be complex, installation is time-consuming [70], [119] and potentially dangerous solvents must be handled (e.g., acids, AgNO<sub>3</sub>) [17], [46], [87], and since additionally a cooling bath is often necessary to chill the solvent [97]. The trace compound-enriched solvent is subsequently analyzed via appropriate analytical methods (Table 5). Critical comparisons between impinger-, adsorbent tube-, gas sampling bag- or canister-gas sampling are available in several sources [17], [69], [70], [97], [100], [102], [119], [128]. Publications on the use of impingers for the determination of trace compounds in biogas, biomethane, landfill gas or natural gas are reviewed in Table 5.

The suitability of the impinger method has been extensively evaluated for volatile methyl-siloxanes in biogas matrices, and methanol, acetone and n-hexane were found to be the best and most often used solvents (Table 5). Methanol has successfully been used as an absorption medium for siloxanes (L2, L3, L4, L5, D3, D4, D5, D6) in biogas, landfill gas and synthetic test gases, with recoveries >80% upon analysis [69], [70], [97], [100], [119], [184]. Whereas Saeed et al. [97], [100] highlighted that methanol could not stabilize or quantitatively recover pentamethyldisiloxane and hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane (D3), Wang et al. [184] were able to quantitatively trap and recover D3 from methanol impingers using the more sensitive Purge and Trap-GC-MS analytical system. Narros et al. [69] and Kim et al. [119] also identified D3 from methanol impingers using GC-MS. Narros et al. [69] nevertheless pointed out that methanol impingers were not able to recover trimethylsilanol (TMS). Despite the solubility differences between TMS and other siloxanes [105], TMS could be recovered, together with other siloxanes, in acetone [185] and in n-hexane [102]. Piechota et al. [185]–[188] investigated the use of various impinger solvents, namely, acetone, methanol, n-hexane and dodecane, for the preconcentration of siloxanes in landfill gas and biogases. Their work systematically revealed that acetone solvates the best siloxanes from the gas samples (L2, L3, L4, D3, D4, D5, D6 and TMS) while yielding the highest recoveries upon GC-MS analysis. In [186], they demonstrated that acetone was able to absorb and recover all siloxanes, while methanol and n-hexane did not enable the detection of L3 and L4, and L4 and D6, respectively. In another study [188], the concentration of siloxanes recovered from acetone was globally 81% higher than that quantified in methanol, and dodecane was unable to detect most siloxanes at concentrations below ~1 mg·m<sup>-3</sup>, highlighting the importance of using relatively polar solvents such as acetone for the solvation of siloxanes. However, in a study using a synthetic gas (N<sub>2</sub> containing L2, D3, D4, D5 siloxanes), Wang et al. [128] also used acetone and found relatively low recoveries for D3 (45%) and L2 (64%) while fair recoveries for D4 (86%) and D5 (92%). They also evaluated the efficiency of the acetone impingers for preconcentrating the siloxanes from the wetted synthetic gas and found lower siloxane recoveries than from the dry gas, especially for L2, which could be a consequence of

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the competitive adsorption between L2 and water in acetone. Raich-Montiu et al. [102] used n-hexane for the absorption of siloxanes in biogas, and they detected all siloxanes (L2, L3, L4, L5, D3, D4, D5, D6) and TMS using n-hexane, in contrast to Piechota et al. [186] where n-hexane did not enable the detection of L4 and D6. Oshita et al. [189] also successfully used n-hexane to study siloxanes in an experimental biogas generated from the anaerobic digestion of a sludge in which the siloxane levels were reduced via a preliminary treatment. Lastly, impinger preconcentration with subsequent derivatization of absorbed analytes has been proposed for the determination of total silicon content in biogas or biomethane [87]. The gas is first bubbled at 10 mL·min<sup>-1</sup> through a heated HNO<sub>3</sub>-filled impinger whereafter an 8 M NaOH and an HF solution are added to trigger derivatization, leading to total Si recoveries of 65 – 88 %. ICP-AES or GC-ICP-MS is then used for total Si quantification or for the identification and quantification of individual silicon compounds, respectively.

Next to siloxanes, bubbling traps have been used for the preconcentration of metals and metalloids (Table 5). Whereas gases are generally bubbled through the impingers by means of a pump when the feed line is not pressurized enough, for instance at biogas or landfill gas plants [97], [102], [154], [184], Cachia et al. [46] developed a high-pressure bubbling sampling train to preconcentrate metals and mercury from pressurized gases such as natural gas or compressed biomethane by directly connecting the impinger train to the field gas pipeline for pressures up to 100 bar<sub>a</sub>. Acidic solutions specific for metals or mercury (Table 5) were used in three impingers in series. Impingers were made of an inner Teflon cylinder avoiding metal sorption on impinger walls. For a Hg<sup>0</sup>-spiked argon gas, laboratory validation experiments indicated that >96% of Hg<sup>0</sup> was trapped in the acid solution at various sampling pressures (6 and 50 bar<sub>a</sub>), with >90% of the Hg<sup>0</sup> trapped in the first impinger. The 3 high-pressure impingers were then used in the field to sample a natural gas at 60 bar<sub>a</sub> at 20 L·min<sup>-1</sup> for 1 day for mercury and for 5 days for other metals. These long sampling times were operated to preconcentrate sufficient metals and have a time-weighted average representation of the gas composition. The efficiency of the high-pressure impinger train was found to be metal dependent, as all metals and mercury were predominantly trapped in the first impinger, going from 51% total Se to 93% total As trapped in the first impinger [46]. This high-pressure impinger sampling train was then used to sample biomethane and landfill gas [26]. Using similar acidic impinger solutions (Table 5), Chin et al. [152] also determined metals and metalloids in 23 biogas and biomethane samples from various production sites. Gaseous monomethyl mercury has also been preconcentrated from landfill gas using aqueous 0.001 M HCl solution in impingers [154]. In the field, the entire sampling train (tubing, impingers, etc.) was shielded from light to avoid the photolytic degradation of monomethyl mercury and the photoinduced conversion of other Hg compounds (e.g., dimethylmercury) into monomethyl mercury. These authors also used methanol impingers to trap dimethylmercury from landfill gas, as they argued that this compound is highly soluble and stable in methanol. Methanol impinger solutions were then analyzed by spiking Carbotrap<sup>TM</sup> tubes with small aliquots of the methanol solution followed by thermal desorption of the tubes [154]. Next, Krupp et al. [17] developed a field method specific to volatile arsenic species by preconcentration in 200 mL 2%<sub>vol</sub> silver nitrate impingers. After gas bubbling through the impingers, 7 mL of the AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution was mixed with 1.5 mL HNO<sub>3</sub> and 1.5 mL H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and this mixture was then digested in a microwave. The total arsenic content in the digested solution was determined by furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy (FAAS). The authors indicated that this analytical technique produced quantification results ~30% lower than those determined with GC-ICP-MS, which was probably due to the incomplete absorption of the nonpolar As species (trimethylarsine) in the impinger solution and to sorption losses on impinger

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container walls [17]. Xu et al. [190] further explored this arsenic bubbling method and compared the efficiency of aqueous solutions of AgNO<sub>3</sub> versus HNO<sub>3</sub> as absorbing media. Concentrations of 2% AgNO<sub>3</sub> and 50% HNO<sub>3</sub> yielded the highest trapping efficiencies for trimethylarsine. The AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution systematically provided higher arsenic trapping efficiencies than the HNO<sub>3</sub> solution, except when high H<sub>2</sub>S levels were present in the sampled gas insofar as the reaction between AgNO<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S generates black silver sulfide (Ag<sub>2</sub>S) solid particles interfering with any further analytical step [190].

Recoveries of trace analytes from impingers depend not only on the affinity with the solvent but also on the impinger storage conditions (duration, temperature, exposure to light, etc.) between sampling and analysis. For siloxanes, Saeed et al. [100] found that siloxane-sampled methanol impingers kept the siloxanes stable for 21 days. Ajhar et al. [35] nonetheless discouraged the storage of siloxanes in methanol, as they observed low recoveries for D3 (16%), L2 (57%) and L3 (76%) after 23 days of storage at 4 °C. Generally, sampled impinger solutions should be analyzed as soon as possible while stored at 0 – 4 °C for siloxanes [184], [185] as well as for metal(loid)s [26], and in the dark to avoid photolytic degradation reactions of targeted analytes [154]. For metal(loid)s, it is advised to transfer the solutions into trace-metal cleaned amber glass bottles for transport and storage [17], [154]. Besides, to avoid a loss in analytes by saturation of the solvent and breakthrough upon sampling, several impingers are often placed in series using appropriate solvent volumes and gas flow rates and volumes (Table 5).

A general observation from Table 5 reveals that impinger sampling times are generally long, lasting from 10 min to 5 days (but most often several hours), since large gas volumes (from 10 L to 140 000 L) must be bubbled at low and constant flow rates to guarantee sufficient contact between gas and absorbing solvent and to guarantee that preconcentrated analyte levels are sufficient to be detectable. This is a major drawback to the impinger method, especially when replicates have to be taken in the field and when several field locations have to be sampled. Additionally, due to the relatively large solvent volumes used (up to 200 mL), the detection limits are high. For instance, for an impinger containing 20 mL n-hexane for the preconcentration of siloxanes, Raich-Montiu et al. [102] diluted the siloxane-loaded 20 mL n-hexane to 25 mL with clean n-hexane, and 2 μL of that resulting solution was eventually analyzed.

Table 5: Review of the applications of impingers for the determination of trace compounds in biogas, biomethane and landfill gas.

LOD: limit of detection. WWTP: wastewater treatment plant (anaerobic digestion of WWTP sludge). AD: anaerobic digestion. GC: gas chromatography. MS: mass spectrometry.

FID: flame ionization detector. ICP: inductively coupled plasma. AES: atomic emission spectrometry. FAAS: furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy. TD-GC-CVAFS: thermal desorption – GC – cold vapor atomic fluorescence spectrometry

Solvent *	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Targeted compounds	Compounds identified (	LOD (unless otherwise stated)	Analysis	Reference
6 mL methanol	WWTP biogas	2 impingers in series.	Volatile methyl-siloxanes	L2	1 μg per mL solvent (~50 ppb <sub>v</sub> )	GC-MS	[97], [100]
(chilled at 4±2°C)		20 L gas bubbled (3 h at 112 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> )		L3			
				D4			
				D5			
				D6			
30 g acetone	Landfill gas;	2 impingers in series.	Volatile methylsiloxanes,	L2	0.01 μg per g acetone	GC-MS	[185],
(chilled at 0°C)	WWTP and AD	20 L gas bubbled (40 min at 0.5 L·min <sup>-1</sup> )	trimethylsilanol	L3			[187]
	biogas			L4	Siloxanes:		
				D3	0.04 - 0.11 mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup> gas		
				D4	Trimethylsilanol		
				D5	0.08 - 0.12 mg·Nm <sup>-3</sup> gas		
				D6			
				Trimethylsilanol			
acetone; n-hexane; or	WWTP biogas	3 impingers in series	Volatile methyl-siloxanes	L2	GC-MS : 0.01–0.03 μg·g <sup>-1</sup>	GC-MS	[186]
methanol				L3		GC-FID	
(chilled at 0°C)				L4	GC-FID : 0.05–0.09 μg·g <sup>-1</sup>		
				D3			
				D4			
				D5			
				D6			
Acetone; methanol; or do-		2 impingers in series.	Volatile methylsiloxanes	L2	$0.01 - 0.03 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$	GC-MS	[188]
decane	WWTP and AD	20 L gas bubbled (40 min at 0.5 L·min <sup>-1</sup> )		L3			
(chilled at 0°C)	biogas			L4			
				D3			
Front impinger: 30 g sol-		Micro-impingers also evaluated (scaled at the ra-		D4			
vent; back impinger: 10 g		tio 1:2, $v/v$ , including solvent mass and gas flow)		D5			
solvent				D6			
6 mL methanol	Landfill gas	3 impingers in series.	Volatile methyl-siloxanes	L2	Method detection limit:	GC-MS	[119]
(chilled in ice bath)		18 L gas bubbled (2 h at 150 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> )		L3	0.88-2.46 μg per mL methanol		
				L4			
				L5			
				D3			
				D4			
				D5			

Solvent *	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Targeted compounds	Compounds identified (	LOD (unless otherwise stated)	Analysis	Reference
Methanol	Landfill gas	2 impingers in series	33 VOCs (alkanes, aromat-			GC-MS	[69]
(chilled in ice-water bath)			ics, terpenes, halogenated,	L3			
			ketones, alcohols, esters,	L4			
			dimethyl sulfide) and 6 si-	D3			
			loxanes (L2, L3, L4, D3,	D4			
			D4, D5, trimethylsilanol)	D5			
20 ml n-hexane	WWTP biogas;	2 impingers in series.	Volatile methylsiloxanes,	L2	Trimethylsilanol:	GC-MS	[102]
(chilled in ice-water bath)	landfill gas	10 L gas bubbled (10 min at 1 L min <sup>-1</sup> )	trimethylsilanol	L3	0.04 ng per L n-hexane		
	_		-	L4			
				L5	Siloxanes:		
				D3	0.02 ng per L n-hexane		
				D4			
				D5			
				D6			
				trimethylsilanol			
10 mL methanol	Landfill gas	2 impingers in series.	Volatile methyl-siloxanes	L2	6.9 – 73.2 ng per L methanol	Purge and	[184]
(chilled in ice bath)	· ·	12 L gas bubbled (1 h at 0.2 L·min <sup>-1</sup> )	Ž	L3		trap – GC-	
				L4		MS	
				L5			
				D3			
				D4			
				D5			
				D6			
100 mL n-hexane	Experimentally	Aluminum gas bag sampling (2 L) and	Volatile methyl-siloxanes	L2	Not available	GC-MS	[189]
		i-subsequent transfer to 2 impingers in series	Ž	L3			. ,
	ogas	1 1 0		L4			
	C			L5			
				D3			
				D4			
				D5			
				D6			
Concentrated HNO <sub>3</sub> at +60°C	Biogas or bio- methane	Impinger, gas bubbling rate: 10 mL·min <sup>-1</sup>	Total silicon	Not available	Not available	ICP-AES or GC-ICP-MS	

Solvent *	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Targeted compounds		LOD (unless otherwise stated)	Analysis	Reference
50 mL	Natural gas	3 high-pressure impingers in series.	Metals and metalloids	Ba	Limit of quantification	ICP-MS	[46]
$HNO_3 10\%_w + H_2O_2 5\%_w$		Gas bubbled at 60 bara during 5 days at		Sn	(μg per liter solvent):		
in Milli-Q water		20 L·min <sup>-1</sup> (~140 Nm <sup>3</sup> collected)		As	10 <sup>−1</sup> for Al and Mn;		
				Cu	10 <sup>-2</sup> for Se, Ba, Zn, Cu, Ni, Cr		
				Al	$10^{-3}$ for Mo, Ag, Cd, Sn, Pb, V,		
				Se	As		
				Zn			
50 mL KMnO <sub>4</sub> 1% <sub>w</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 5% <sub>e</sub> in Milli-Q water		3 high-pressure impingers in series. Gas bubbled at 60 bar <sub>a</sub> during 1 day at 20 L·min <sup>-1</sup> (~40 Nm <sup>3</sup> collected)	Mercury	Hg	Limit of quantification: 0.6 µg per liter solvent	ICP-MS	[46]
50 mL		3 high-pressure impingers in series.	Metals and metalloids	Se	Limit of quantification (µg per li-	ICP-MS	[26]
$HNO_3 10\%_w + H_2O_2 5\%_w$	and raw and pre-	~140 Nm³ gas bubbled at 1-4 bar <sub>a</sub> (landfill gas) or		Cd	ter solvent):		
in Milli-Q water	treated landfill	40 bar <sub>a</sub> (biomethane) during 5 days at 20 L·min <sup>-1</sup>		Ni	$10^{-1}$ for Se, Al, Zn, Cu		
	gas			Sb	10 <sup>-2</sup> for As, Sb, Sn, Mo, Cd, Ba,		
				As	Ni, Cr		
				Zn	$10^{-3}$ for Ag, Pb, V		
				Pb			
				Sn			
				Cr			
				Ba			
				Al			
				V			
				Mo			
				Cu			
				Ag			
		3 impingers in series.	Metals and metalloids	Be	Limit of quantification:	ICP-MS	[152]
10% in double deionized		30 L gas bubbled (1 h at 0.5 L min <sup>-1</sup> )		Cr	$0.005 - 0.1 \ \mu g \cdot m^{-3}$		
water	and biomethane			Mn			
				Co			
				Ni			
				Cu			
				Zn			
				As			
				Se			
				Sr			
				Mo			
				Cd			
				Sb			
				Ba			
				Hg, Tl, Pb			

Table 5: continued

Solvent *	Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Targeted compounds	Compounds identified (	LOD (unless otherwise stated)	Analysis	Reference
0.001 M HCl in double deionized water	Landfill gas	3 impingers in series, followed by a water condensation trap.  16 L gas bubbled (20 min at 0.8 L·min <sup>-1</sup> )	Monomethylmercury	Monomethylmercury (Hg(CH <sub>3</sub> ))	Not available	Distillation, ethylation, Cabotrap <sup>TM</sup>	[154]
		10 L gas bubbled (20 mm at 0.8 L mm )				precon- cen-	
						tration, TD-	
						GC, thermal	
						conversion	
						and CVAFS	
						detection	
Methanol	Landfill gas	Impinger. 11 L gas bubbled.	Dimethylmercury	Dimethylmercury	Not available	Preconcen-	[154]
				$(Hg(CH_3)_2)$		tration on	
						Carbotrap <sup>TM</sup>	
						+ TD-GC-	
<u> </u>						CVAFS	
200 mL 2%vol AgNO3 in	Natural gas	2 impingers in series.	Volatile arsenic species	Mainly trimethylarsine	Total As content:	FAAS	[17]
doubled distilled water		40 L gas bubbled (20 min at 2 L min <sup>-1</sup> )	(trialkylated As species)	(As(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> )	5.0 μg per L solvent		
50% HNO3 or 2% AgNO3	Natural gas (site	Site A: 2 impingers in series.	Trimethylarsine	Total arsenic	Total As content:	ICP-MS	[190]
(aqueous solutions)	A and site B)	150 L gas bubbled ( $\sim 1 \text{ h at} \sim 2 \text{ L} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ )			9.0 μg per L solvent		
		Site B: 2 impingers in series. 450 L gas bubbled (5 h at 1.5 L·min <sup>-1</sup> )					

<sup>\*</sup> Solvent volumes mentioned are volumes brought in each impinger of the series when several impingers are placed in series, unless otherwise stated \$\infty\$ Siloxane abbreviations: L2: hexamethyldisiloxane; L3: octamethyltrisiloxane; L4: decamethyltetrasiloxane; L5: dodecamethylpentasiloxane; D3: hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane; D4: octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane; D5: decamethylcyclopentasiloxane; D6: dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane

## 3.3. Cryogenic preconcentration (cryotrapping)

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1860 A last preconcentration technique is the cryogenic trapping ('cryotrapping') of trace compounds by cooling the gas sample at a temperature such that the volatile trace compounds condense but not the gas matrix 1861 1862 (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>). The gas is typically passed through a U-shaped tube (glass or stainless-steel, example 1/8" 1863 ID × 6" length) immersed in liquid cryogen, e.g., liquid nitrogen (–196 °C) or liquid argon (–186 °C) when dealing with air samples [24]. When dealing with methane/carbon dioxide samples (landfill gas, biogas, 1864 1865 biomethane), the cryogen temperature should be higher than the methane boiling point (-161.5 °C at 1 atm) and carbon dioxide freezing point (-78.5 °C at 1 atm) to avoid CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> condensation. For instance, 1866 1867 Feldmann et al. [191], [192] used an acetone/liquid nitrogen cryogen temperature of -80 °C, or an ace-1868 tone/dry ice slush at -78 °C [193], [194] to sample landfill and sewage gases.

Cryotraps usually do not contain adsorbent or absorbent material, but can be packed with some untreated quartz wool, glass beads or other light inert silica material (e.g., diatomite [191]), that is secured between quartz or glass wool plugs, to increase the cryogenic surface area and thus the trapping efficiency [24]. The absence of sorbent material in the tube allows to recover the trapped analytes by heating the tube at a moderate temperature (e.g., 40-100 °C) [22], [24] which nondestructively regasifies the analytes. The recovered analytes are then transferred either to a refocusing trap (itself a cryotrap, e.g., [65], [193]) and then to the analytical unit, or directly to the analytical unit, typically a gas chromatograph (GC). The main drawback of cryotrapping is the formation of water ice blocks in the cryotrap tube when sampling humid gases, obstructing further gas flow. Upon thermal desorption of the tube, ice returns to the liquid/vapor state and this water may be transferred to the analytical system, leading to interferences. This shortcoming can be avoided by drying the gas before cryotrapping (e.g., using anhydrous calcium chloride tubes [191], [192] or by passing the gas through an empty glass tube at -20 °C to condense water and dry the gas [16], [65], [195]) or by adding a second 'analytical' cryogenic trap (refocusing trap) at the entry of the analytical device [24]: the first 'sampling' cryotrap, where on water potentially collected, is slowly heated so that water vapor is evacuated and prevented from being transferred to the second refocusing trap, while targeted analytes are transferred [196]. Since stable storage of sampled cryotraps is delicate and energy-consuming, cryotraps are sampled while directly hyphenated with the analytical system. This renders in situ field utilization burdensome if not infeasible in view of the need for substantial volumes of liquid cryogen, pumps and associated power supplies on site, and of hazards related to the transport of cryogens [17], [22]. Cryotrapping hyphenated with gas chromatography – inductively coupled plasma – mass spectrometry (CT-GC-ICP-MS) was introduced in the 1990s to improve sampling and characterization approaches for (in)organic volatile metal(loid) species in environmental gas samples, wherein they are typically thermodynamically unstable [194]. CT-GC-ICP-MS enables, in one-stage cryogenic sampling, the concomitant kinetic stabilization and preconcentration of the metal(loid) species and has proven to be the most robust and sensitive technique to separate, detect and semiquantify distinct volatile metal(loid) species in complex gases, even those such as biogas containing ICP-interfering CO<sub>2</sub> [17], [25], [191], [192], [197], [198].

Table 6 reviews the studies that used CT-GC-ICP-MS to preconcentrate (in)organic volatile metal(loid) species in landfill gas, biogases and natural gas. Feldmann et al. [15], [22], [191]–[194], [198]–[201] pioneered this domain. As CT-GC-ICP-MS is not field-deployable, gases are often first field sampled in Tedlar bags and then transported to the laboratory for ensuing transfer to the CT-GC-ICP-MS unit (Table 6). Since most volatile metal(loid) species sampled in Tedlar bags were demonstrated to be stable for at least 24 h

when stored at 20 °C [22], this sampling approach is an attractive compromise to benefit from the cryogenic preconcentration. Generally, Tedlar bags should be shielded from light to prevent UV-induced degradation of the samples, stored at 4 °C and analyzed as soon as possible [193], [194]. If cryotraps are sampled directly *in situ*, they should be gas-tightly closed and stored in liquid nitrogen (–196 °C) [192] or in a dry atmosphere cryogenic container [16], [65], [195] until analysis. The most often determined compounds include hydrides and alkylated species of As, Bi, Cd, Hg, Pb, Se, Sb, Sn, Te. Carbonyls of Ni, Mo and W (Ni(CO)<sub>4</sub>, Mo(CO)<sub>6</sub> and W(CO)<sub>6</sub>) were also evidenced in landfill gas and sewage sludge biogas [193], [194] (Table 6). To efficiently trap the most volatile metal(loid)s, such as stannane (SnH<sub>4</sub>), from landfill or sewage gas, cryotrapping at –196 °C can be necessary [192], [200]. At such low temperature, CO<sub>2</sub> ice-blocks in the cryotrap can be avoided by placing a NaOH-pellet cartridge, which retains CO<sub>2</sub>, upstream of the cryotrap. Methane is not retained by NaOH but is also not efficiently condensed in the –196 °C cryotrap and does not cause major interferences in the ICP. The NaOH cartridge can, however, react with some volatile metal(loid)s, especially antimony ones (trimethylantimony, stibine), which decreases their recovery [198], [200].

In addition to volatile metal(loid) species, cryotrapping has also been occasionally used for the preconcentration of siloxanes and VOCs in landfill gas and sewage sludge biogas, which are first sampled in gas sampling bags [202] or canisters [14]. Cryotraps packed either with a silicon-containing material (3% SP-2100 on Supelcoport, 80/100 mesh) or with a silicon-free material (5% Carbowax on Carbopack, 60/80 mesh) were used at –100 °C, and desorption of the traps to 165 °C enabled the determination of trimethylsilanol and siloxanes in the ng·m<sup>-3</sup> to μg·m<sup>-3</sup> range using either the silicon-material or the silicon-free material in the cryotrap [202]. Another cryotrap consisting of a nickel tube packed with fine glass beads was used at –85 °C and desorbed at 250 °C [14]. More than 80 VOCs and organosilicon compounds were identified, including the following: alkanes, terpenes, aromatics, ketones, alcohols, furans, trimethylsilanol and siloxanes.

 $Table\ 6:\ Review\ of\ the\ applications\ of\ cryotrapping-gas\ chromatography-inductively\ coupled\ plasma-mass\ spectrometry\ (CT-GC-ICP-MS)\ for\ the\ determination\ of\ traces\ of\ (in)organic\ volatile\ metals\ and\ metalloids\ in\ biogas,\ landfill\ gas\ and\ natural\ gas.$ 

LOD: limit of detection. WWTP: wastewater treatment plant (anaerobic digestion of WWTP sludge). AD: anaerobic digestion

Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Cryotrap	Targeted compounds	Compounds identified	LOD	Reference
Landfill gas	20 L gas; 20 mL·min <sup>-1</sup> ;	−80°C;	Volatile metals and metalloids	Volatile species (hydrides and alkylated)	Not available	[191]
	, , ,	packed with Supelcoport (10% SP-		of As, Bi, Hg, Sb, Sn, Te		
	otrap	2100, 60/80 mesh, Supelco)		(ng to μg·m <sup>-3</sup> )		
Landfill gas,	20 L gas;	2 cryotraps in series;	Volatile metals and metalloids	Volatile species (hydrides and alkylated)	Not available	[192]
WWTP biogas	CaCl <sub>2</sub> or Mg(ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> drying tube			of:		
	upstream cryotrap	packed with Supelcoport (10% SP-		Landfill gas: As, Bi, Hg, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn,		
		2100, 60/80 mesh, Supelco)		Te		
				WWTP biogas: As, Bi, Cd, Hg, Pb, Sb,		
				Sn, Te		
				(ng to $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ )		
Landfill gas	Tedlar bag (4 L) with subse-	−78°C;	Volatile metals, metalloids and	Volatile species (hydrides and alkylated)	Not available	[193]
	quent transfer to cryotrap	packed with Chromosorb (10% SP-2100, 60/80 mesh, Supelco)	transition metals	of As, Bi, Hg, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Te;		
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Transition metal carbonyls:		
				$Mo(CO)_6$ , $W(CO)_6$		
				(May 0.2 0.2 mm <sup>3</sup> )		
				(Mo: $0.2 - 0.3 \mu\text{g·m}^{-3}$ ;		
WWTP biogas	Tedlar bag (80 L) with subse-	-78°C;	Volatile transition metal	W: 0.005 – 0.01 μg·m <sup>-3</sup> ) Ni(CO) <sub>4</sub> (0.5 – 1.0 μg·m <sup>-3</sup> );	Ni: 0.01 μg·m <sup>-3</sup>	[194]
w w 11 blogas	quent transfer to cryotrap	packed with Chromosorb (10% SP-	carbonyls	$Mo(CO)_6$ (0.5 – 1.0 $\mu$ g iii ), $Mo(CO)_6$ (3.0 – 3.6 $\mu$ g·m <sup>-3</sup> );	gas	[174]
	quent transfer to cryotrap	2100, 60/80 mesh, Supelco)	carbonyis	$W(CO)_6 (0.01 - 0.015 \mu g  \text{m}^{-3})$	Sas	
Landfill and	4 – 20 L	-78°C or -80°C;	Volatile bismuth species	Trimethylbismuth	Not available	[201]
WWTP biogas		packed with 10% SP-2100 on either	•	(Bi(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> , up to 25 $\mu$ g· m <sup>-3</sup> )		
C		Chromosorb or Supelcoport				
Landfill gas and	Tedlar bag with subsequent	– 78°C;	Volatile metals and metalloids	Volatile species (hydrides and alkylated)	~ µg·m⁻³ gas	[15]
WWTP biogas	transfer to cryotrap	packed with Chro-mosorb (10% SP-	volatile metals and metalloids	of Sb, Sn, Bi species	~ μg III gas	[13]
www.ii biogus	transfer to eryotrap	2100, 45/60 mesh, Supelco)		or so, sn, br species		
WWTP biogas	Tedlar bag (10 L) with subse-	-80°C; fused silica column	Volatile metals and metalloids	Trimethylantimony (5 ng·L <sup>-1</sup> );	Not available	[22]
	quent transfer to cryotrap			trimethylbismuth (18 ng·L <sup>-1</sup> );		
				dimethyltellurium		
Landfill gas	Tedlar bag $(5 - 10 L)$ with sub-	−80°C; fused silica column	Volatile metals and metalloids	Volatile alkylated species of As, Bi, Pb,	Not available	[199]
	sequent transfer of 500 mL to			Sn, Sb, Te		
	cryotrap					

Table 6: continued

Sampled gas	Sampling conditions	Cryotrap	Targeted compounds	Compounds identified	LOD	Reference
Experimental AD biogas	NaOH-pellets cartridge to absorb CO <sub>2</sub> and H <sub>2</sub> O upstream cryotrap	−196°C	Volatile metals and metalloids	Volatile species (hydrides and alkylated) of: As, Sb, Sn	Not available	[198], [200]
	if not:	−80°C				
Natural gas	Pressurized stainless-steel gas cylinder (SilcoSteel® surface treatment) with subsequent de- pressurization and transfer of 50 mL to the cryotrap	-120°C; SilcoSteel® tubing	Volatile arsenic compounds	Trimethylarsine (TMA) <18 μg·m <sup>-3</sup> gas	0.2 μg TMA · m <sup>-3</sup> gas	[17]
Natural gas	Pressurized stainless-steel gas cylinder (Sulfinert <sup>TM</sup> surface treatment) with subsequent depressurization and transfer of 50 mL to the cryotrap	−80°C; SilcoSteel® tubing	Volatile arsenic compounds	Trimethylarsine (TMA) 3 – 130 μg·m <sup>-3</sup> gas	0.2 μg TMA · m <sup>-3</sup> gas	[25]
Landfill gas	Tedlar bag (10 L) with subsequent transfer to a H <sub>2</sub> O-condensation tube (–20°C) before transfer to the cryotrap	-80°C; Packed with glass wool	Volatile (in)organic arsenic compounds	Volatile alkylated arsenic species (0 – 15 μg As · m <sup>-3</sup> gas)	0.1 ng As · m <sup>-3</sup> gas	[65]
Landfill gas	Tedlar bag (10 L) with subsequent transfer to a H <sub>2</sub> O-condensation tube (–20°C) before transfer to the cryotrap	-80°C; Packed with glass wool	Volatile (in)organic tin compounds	Volatile alkylated tin species $0.01-20~\mu g~Sn\cdot m^{-3}~gas$	0.25 ng Sn·m <sup>-3</sup> gas	[195]
Compost (pine shavings, duck feathers, duck ex- creta) biogas	Tedlar bag (10 L) with subsequent transfer to a H <sub>2</sub> O-condensation tube (–20°C) before transfer to the cryotrap	-80°C; Packed with silanized glass wool	Volatile metals and metalloids	Volatile alkylated species of As, Bi, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Te (Se and Te: $0.01-2.3~\mu g\cdot m^{-3}$ gas)	Bi: 1.2 pg·m <sup>-3</sup> gas Se: 799 pg·m <sup>-3</sup> gas	[16]

### 4. Conclusions and recommendations

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This review highlighted the diversity of available gas sampling techniques, including whole gas sampling and gas sampling with preconcentration of trace compounds. Most of these techniques have been applied for biogas and biomethane sampling, as recently reviewed by Braganca et al., 2020 [203]. Importantly, as stressed by Arrhenius et al. [4], the above discussions suggest that there is no universal sampling vessel or preconcentration technique able to quantitatively sample and recover all (families of) trace compounds. The materials used in the sampling chain (tubing, polymer film and valve fitting material of gas bags, passivation treatment in stainless-steel cylinders and canisters, adsorbent material and sorbent bed retaining hardware in sorbent tubes; absorption solvent in impingers, packing material in cryotraps...), the pressure at which gas is sampled, the transport and storage conditions of samples (duration, temperature, humidity, exposure to light, etc.), the gas composition and trace compounds nature and concentrations, all influence the integrity, stability and recovery of trace compounds in and from their sampling unit. High boiling and polar compounds are, for instance, less stable in whole gas sampling vessels owing to their propensity for wall sorption and dissolution in condensed water, respectively. The stability of volatile metal(loid) compounds in whole gas vessels may depend on the central metal atom. Reactive analytes could undergo conversion or degradation reactions with other sampled compounds, especially inside whole gas sampling vessels. In those vessels, the initial sampled analyte concentration and moisture level as well as the sampled volume and the sample pressure critically influence wall sorption effects.

- In addition, this review suggests that most sampling and preconcentration techniques are dedicated to gas systems at near atmospheric pressure. With the exception of high-pressure impinger prototypes [46], the current techniques do not allow the direct preconcentration of trace compounds from pressurized gases, such as grid biomethane, *in situ* on the gas pipes at the working pressure to avoid drawbacks and shortcomings diverted from the depressurization of gas samples.
- 1979 If a singular trace compound or chemical family is targeted, the most appropriate sampling chain can be 1980 chosen based on literature and on preliminary validation experiments. Nonetheless, when a global screening 1981 of trace compounds in a gas sample is desired, coupling several sampling methods is perhaps the best com-1982 promise to increase the chances that each considered sampling method suitably retains a given family of 1983 trace compounds. The following general recommendations can be drawn from the above to optimize sam-1984 pling procedures:
  - The sampling vessel or preconcentration unit should be chosen based on the preliminary evaluation of the short-term (~24 h) storage stability and recovery of targeted analytes in/from that sampling unit and of the achievable analytical detection limits. Reference, calibrated gas mixtures prepared in biogas matrices and containing model targeted compounds should be used to validate the methods. Suitable methods for biogas should also be appropriate for biomethane, as this purified gas is dry and should contain lower concentrations of trace compounds than biogas. However, more stringent detection limits are required for biomethane.
  - Tubing and connectors used in the field sampling chain and in the laboratory analytical chain should be of inert and clean materials and leak-free to avoid trace compound losses. Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) tubing is generally advised because it is considerably less adsorptive than stainless-steel, copper

- or Tygon tubing. Silicon tubing should especially be avoided when targeting siloxanes, for which silicon-free tubing must be used. When stainless-steel collection or tubing material is used, it should be surface-treated or coated with appropriate passivation technologies to limit surface wall sorption and reactions with the stainless-steel iron.
- An inert particle filter (e.g., ~5 μm or 30 μm, PTFE) may be installed upstream of the sampling chain to prevent dust particles from the gas from fouling or damaging valves, obstructing flow paths, altering flow rates and entering the sampling unit.
- The field sampling chain should be as short as possible by using tubing as short as possible to limit trace compound sorption losses.
- The field sampling chain should be flushed with the gas to sample for several minutes to hours before effective sampling to condition and 'accustom' the tubing to the trace compounds and saturate potential sinks (sorption sites).
- Gas samples should be analyzed as soon as possible after sampling, ideally within 24 h, to avoid or minimize artifacts and analyte losses during storage phases. If possible, direct *in situ* analysis should be performed, e.g., using field-portable gas chromatographs.
- If sample storage is inevitable, the gas sample should be stored at cold temperatures (from <0 °C for 2011 adsorbent tubes to <20 °C for Tedlar bags), shielded from sunlight to avoid UV-induced degradation reactions and stored in a dry, solvent-free and vapor-free environment.
- To conclude, Table 7 displays an overview of important features of gas sampling techniques with and without enrichment.

Table 7: Global features of gas sampling techniques: whole gas sampling and gas sampling with enrichment.

Sampling technique	volumes can volatile pe	be sampled; especial ermanent gases (N <sub>2</sub> ,	ling; only defined gas ly suitable for very CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> , O <sub>2</sub> )	especially suitable for trace compounds					
Sampling support	Gas bag	Passivated cylinder	Passivated canister	Adsorbent tubes	Solid Phase Microextraction	Absorption (impinger)	Cryogenic trapping	Amalgamation and Chemotrapping	
Allowed sam- pling pressure	Slightly above P <sub>atm</sub>	≤ 344 bar <sub>a</sub>	≤ 2.75 bar	Slightly above P <sub>atm</sub>	$P_{atm}$	$\begin{array}{l} P_{atm}; \\ \leq 100 \ bar_a \left[ 46 \right] \end{array}$	Slightly above P <sub>atm</sub>	Slightly above P <sub>atm</sub>	
Maximal sampleable gas volume (†)	100 L	3785 cm <sup>3</sup> at 124 bar <sub>a</sub> max [77]	Up to 100 L at max 2.75 bar <sub>a</sub>	No theoretical limit. Analytically rele- vant volume function of analyte breakthrough volume	Not applicable (exposure time)		No theoretical limit. Analytically relevant volume function of analyte breakthrough volume		
Advantages >< Disadvantages	Inexpensive, easy use >< Sorption losses on vessel walls	Pressurized sampling >< Sorption losses on vessel walls; expensive	Easy use  ><  Sorption losses on vessel walls; expensive	Small size; easy handling, transport and storage; high storage stability; possibility of multibed for enlarged affinities >< No repeated sample analysis; trained personnel required	Small size; easy handling; fast >< Fragile; not for field utilization unless field-GC	Installation time- consuming; handling of solvents; cooling bath needed; trained personnel required	Reference method for volatile metal(loid)s >< Energy intensive (cry- ogen); cryogen handling; trained personnel needed; not field-deployable	Specific for given elements e.g., Hg, As >< Complex prepara- tion; trained personnel required	
Sampleable chemical families	(H)VOC VSC, VSiC VMC	VOC VSC, VSiC VMC	(H)VOC VSC, VSiC	(H)VOC VSC, VSiC VMC	(H)VOC VSC, VSiC	VOC VSiC VMC	VSiC VMC	VMC	
Reusable	Not recommended	Yes, with cleaning (but old cylinders give artifacts [80])	Yes, with cleaning (but older canister do not keep analytes as stable as new canisters do [103])	Yes, if thermally desorbed; no if solvent-desorbed	Yes (thermal reconditioning)	No	Yes (thermal reconditioning)	Yes (thermal reconditioning)	

(H)VOC: (halogenated) volatile organic compounds; VSC: volatile sulfur compounds; VSiC: volatile silicon compounds; VMC: volatile metal(loid) compounds.

<sup>(†)</sup> Maximal sampleable gas volumes for whole gas sampling vessels indicate standard commercially available vessel sizes. Custom-sized bags, cylinders and canisters are alternatives.

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#### Note

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