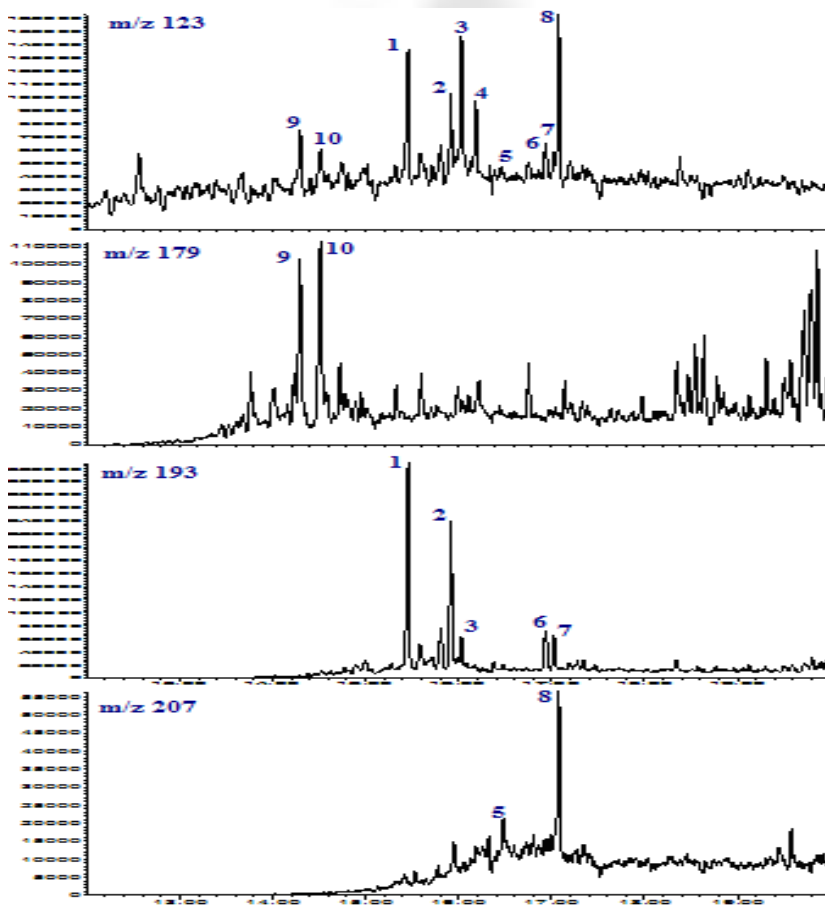




Jones Environmental Forensics

Sesquiterpane Biomarkers

Biomarkers have become increasingly important for identifying the source of spilled oil, due to their specificity and high resistance to biodegradation. The biomarkers most commonly used in forensic investigations are the high molecular weight tri- and pentacyclic terpanes and steranes. For lighter petroleum products such as jet



Bicyclic sesquiterpane confirmation ions

fuels and diesels, the refining processes remove most high molecular weight biomarkers from the original crude oil feedstock. The smaller bicyclic sesquiterpanes, however, are concentrated in these products. sesquiterpanes are ubiquitous components of crude oils and ancient sediments.

The sesquiterpanes are monitored using m/z 123, a base fragment ion common to all sesquiterpanes. Confirmation ions include m/z 179, 193, and 207. Examination of GC-MS chromatograms of these characteristic ions of sesquiterpanes provides a highly diagnostic tool for correlation, differentiation, and source identification of light to middle-range petroleum products, in comparison with the use of other hydrocarbon groups.

For further information please contact us via our website: www.jones-forensics.com

Jim Jones (07767617274) jim@jones-forensics.com
Janet Jones (07718976066) janet@jones-forensics.com

Unit 3 Deeside Point, Zone 3 Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2UA
Tel: 01244 833 780 Fax: 01244 833 781