

Investigation of ostrich oil via Raman and infrared spectroscopy and predictions using the DFT method

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ABSTRACT

Ostrich oil (OA) containing omega-3, 6, 9, was used to obtain vibrational signatures via Raman and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, comparing the results generated by ab initio calculations, following a qualitative transversal approach. The density functional theory (DFT) model, whose molecular geometries were based on the B3LYP functions with the 6-311G basis set, performed by GAUSSIAN 09 packages, was chosen due it is widely used for calculations involving organic compounds. The symmetries, vibrational assignments and calculations of the potential energy distribution (PED) were done using vibrational energy distribution analysis (VEDA) software. A bibliographical approach, based on typical samples, such as oleic, palmitic, linoleic, palmitoleic, stearic and linolenic acids (fatty acids), was submitted to the theoretical stage. The results, experimental (FTIR/Raman) and calculated spectra (CS) showed modes in the regions between 1400 and 1800 cm^{-1} , directly related to C=O and C=C belonging to carbon chains and in the range 3300–3500 cm^{-1} , related to the OH stretching modes. The modes showed a good approximation of the composition of the material, for both FTIR/Raman and CS, therefore justifying to the use of the methodology to certify the vibrational signature of the sample.

1. Introduction

The physical and chemical properties of oil are mainly related to its composition of fatty acids (FA) and degree of unsaturation. FA are organic substances found in solid or semi-solid (fats) and liquid phases belonging to the carboxylic acid group, compounds that have carboxyl, carbon double bonded to oxygen and hydroxyl groups. The difference between fat and oil is the physical state at room temperature, where fats contain more highly saturated fatty acids, and liquids unsaturated ones [1,2]. FA represent the predominant component of ostrich oil, with a lipid content of 98.8% from subcutaneous adipose tissue and 98.0% from retroperitoneal adipose tissue. Also described as polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA's), several studies correlate their therapeutic effects (anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antifungal) with their ability to modify cell membrane phospholipids, modify cellular functions, and play a protective role for normal tissues [3]. Recently, in commercial research, oleic (omega-9), linoleic (omega-6) and linolenic (omega-3) acids were recognized as essential fatty acids. They represent products of commercial interest, containing certain vitamins and amino acids that help; for example, in the salubrity of the skin membranes, used as a mediator in combination with various medicinal or cosmetic

ingredients to transport them below the skin barrier [2,3], among other benefits [4–7]. Majewsk [8] and others authors [9–13] have cited oleic, palmitic, and linoleic acids as the most abundant in concentrations of ostrich oil, and in smaller quantities palmitoleic, stearic, and linolenic acids. In this work, FTIR and Raman spectroscopy was used for the characterization of ostrich oil. Both are spectroscopic vibrational techniques for studying vibrational transitions in molecules. First, in FTIR spectroscopy, the samples are irradiated with IR light. The vibrational state is reached when part of the IR light is absorbed by the molecules, but only vibrations resulting in changes in the dipole moment of a molecule can absorb the IR radiation. A dipole is the product of charge (positive and negative) and distance. The last is a physical-chemical technique that shows the effects of the molecular polarization tensor in order to present its respective vibrational patterns. The technique has been widely applied for presenting fast and safe results, as it does not require any sample preparation and is easily applied to non-crystalline materials [14–16]. The Raman spectra were compared with ab initio calculations using DFT for the components presented. Thus Raman, as well as others [17–21], can be combined with chemometric methods, providing a good approach to the analysis of several materials [22–27]. The results obtained allowed presenting a spectral

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pattern or vibrational signatures for the ostrich oil and could be combined with an investigation about the general nature of FA. In the DFT calculations, the base was 6311G for the B3LYP functional, contributing to the processes of identification of the chemical nature, without prejudice to other identification methods or other bases. The results obtained showed a spectral pattern of vibrational signatures for the ostrich oil, exhibiting affinities with the general nature of the FA. Modes related to the O–H, C–H, and C=C bonds are well defined and may correspond to the molecules of flavons, polyphenols, and heptadecanoic, stearic, ecosanoic, palmitic, and palmitoleic acids, as well as omegas 3, 6 and 9.

2. Material and methods

The ostrich oil, sample came from Rondônia-Brazil in the micro-region of Ji-Paraná was provided by Amazon Struthio, considering the necessary and essential procedures for preserving the quality of the material. For sample analysis, Raman and FTIR spectroscopy, and DFT as an analytical method were used.

2.1. Raman and FTIR spectroscopy

Confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) was used on Horiba Xplora Series Raman equipment, spectral range from 0 to 4000 cm^{-1} , single laser 532 nm, confocal imaging 0.5 μm XY at high resolution. FTIR was carried out on an IRPrestige-21 Shimadzu Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer with a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} , accumulation of 1 min, in the region of 2100 cm^{-1} with a reading range of 0–4000 cm^{-1} .

2.2. DFT calculations

The molecular calculations were performed according to the density functional theory (DFT) model, whose molecular geometries were based on the B3LYP function with set 6-311G [26–28] in GAUSSIAN 09 packages [29]. PED calculations were carried out with the aid of the VEDA 4 program [32]. DFT was used to obtain the optimized structure of the compound, and its harmonic energy and vibrational frequencies were calculated with a hybrid three-parameter function (B3) used for the exchange part and Lee-Yang-Parr (LYP) functional correlation (a functional correlation that has local and nonlocal terms). The LYP correlation function is accepted as the most cost-effective approach for calculating the molecular structure, vibrational frequencies, and energy of optimized structures [25–31]. The symmetries, vibrational assignments, and calculations of the potential energy distribution (PED) were done with a high degree of accuracy. VEDA optimizes the set of internal coordinates for the development of IR/Raman experimental/theoretical systems. The results are represented by internal coordinates, giving users an overview of the use of multiple directions [33–38].

3. Results and discussion

3.1. FTIR analysis

After the experimental readings, it was observed in Fig. 1 that the 722 cm^{-1} band can correspond to the bending of the $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{HC}=\text{CH}$ group, as well as the C–O stretching [39–41]. The presence of the peak in Fig. 2 correspond to the C–C stretching [42]. The existence of this peak indicates the presence of long carbon chains and point out a sample characteristics. The peaks at 1095 and 1118 cm^{-1} (Fig. 1) correspond to the stretching of CO, while the peak at 1745 cm^{-1} is the stretching of C=O [43]. The peaks previously mentioned at 722, 1095, and 1118 cm^{-1} represent the vibrations of omega-3 (linolenic acid), omega-6 (linoleic acid), and omega-9 (oleic acid). The 1160 cm^{-1} peak represents the flavone, polyphenol, heptadecanoic, stearic, ecosanoic, pentadecanoic, myristic, palmitic, and palmitoleic acid vibrations in

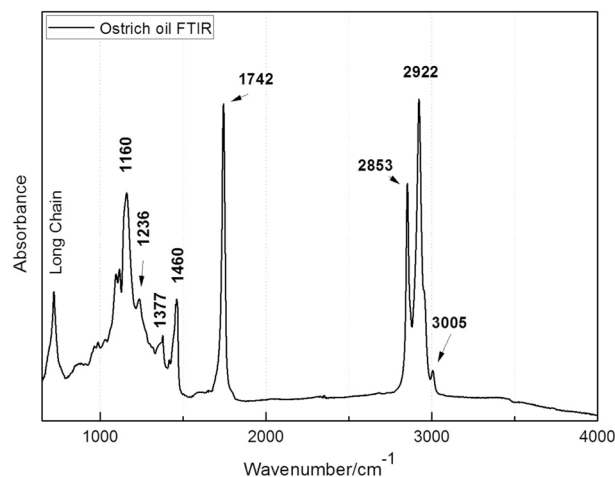


Fig. 1. Experimental FTIR of pure ostrich oil.

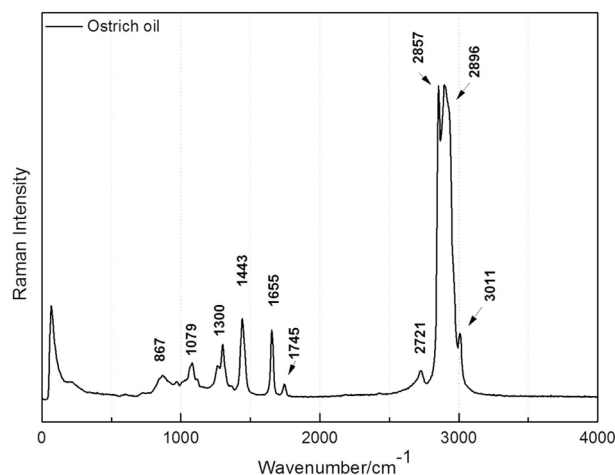


Fig. 2. Pure ostrich oil Raman spectrum.

addition to the previously mentioned omegas-3, 6, and 9. The peaks at 1378 and 1467 cm^{-1} (Fig. 1) correspond to the bending of the methyl and methylene groups (CH groups), and the peaks at 1650 cm^{-1} to C=C and 1744 cm^{-1} (1742 cm^{-1}) (Fig. 1) to the stretching of C=O. Since C=O is a strong absorbent, we see that C=C absorbs much less, but with extra-close bands, that overlapping such a band mainly in the IR spectrum, due to bond symmetry. In this particular case, the C=C mode appears at the base of the band of C=O, practically hidden in the analysis. The spectra show a strong C–H vibrational mode between 3000 and 2850 cm^{-1} . Fig. 1 clearly shows separate bands corresponding to asymmetric C–H stretching at 2929 cm^{-1} and symmetrical C–H stretching at 2856 cm^{-1} . Typically, OH absorption bands can be observed in the 3800–3200 cm^{-1} stretching region. On the other hand, we can see that this region has no absorbance pattern and remains unchanged, due to oxidative conditions, which strongly depend on the nature of the sample. In both Figs. 1 and 2, this expected mode is not observed. On the other hand, in theoretical terms (Fig. 5), this mode is visible, suggesting its existence. The peaks at 2853, 2922, and 3005 cm^{-1} correspond to the C–H, CH_2 , and $-\text{CH}_3$ stretches, respectively. Finally, there is a peak at 3003 cm^{-1} in Fig. 1 is related to a cis double bond and stretching of =C–H [39,40,44]. The vibrational patterns observed in Fig. 1 can be compared with Fig. 2. As complementary techniques, the adopted procedure can validate the mode set in each technique. Important bands can be detected, for example C=O (1650–1745 cm^{-1}), OH (2800–3200 cm^{-1}) and long-chain carbon bands, which break down below 750 cm^{-1} in IR.

3.2. Raman analysis

Fig. 2 presents a characteristic spectrum of pure ostrich oil in the region between 867 and 1745 cm^{-1} , since that it is composed of long carbonic chains. Linolenic, linoleic, and oleic acids are some of the acids present in the sample (in Fig. 5). At 2721, 2857, 2896, and 3011 cm^{-1} the modes stand out in very typical form and intensity for vegetable oils. This way, with intense and overlapped, fine and medium peaks, 2857 and 2896 cm^{-1} exhibits the convolution of the CH_2 , CH_3 and OH groups. They are very close to those observed in Fig. 2, but differ in intensity, possibly related to the means of observation, one considered an ideal medium, which is not true. Thus, because of the amorphous form of the material, the form at the base of the modes and the intensities may take different forms due to other forces or interactions with the environment.

Peaks at 867, 1079, 1300, 1433, 1655, and 1745 cm^{-1} (Fig. 2) are present in common Raman spectra and can be found in almost all edible vegetable oils. Huang (2016), studying olive, peanut, and corn cooking oil, points out eight of these peaks and suggests that in Raman spectroscopy different oils and fats have only a small difference in relative peak intensity at 1654, 1265, and 970 cm^{-1} . Reference values (circles) were indicated to identify a linear correlation, which is shown in Fig. 3. The results presented in the Raman spectra, which in a simple way show us the nature of the ostrich oil in a relative pattern and analog of other oils. An analogy can be seen for the 1745 and 1742 cm^{-1} peaks, exhibiting stretching vibrations of the ester bond carbonyl, and still at 1655–1300 cm^{-1} there are cis (C=C) and cis (CH) groups of unsaturated fatty acid and the peak at 970 cm^{-1} , which is related to trans-bending vibration (C=C) [28]. In this condition, Raman and IR bands show a clear change in intensity, and due to this we can indicate the vibrational selection factor for the type of technique. One is based directly on the variation of the induced dipole, while the other selects the vibrational modes based on the variation of molecular polarizability. Of course we may have similar, absent or displaced bands for a respective sample.

3.3. Calculated spectra

In Fig. 4, the set of calculated spectra (CS) have similar vibrational modes. This is observed due to the similar nature of the molecules, attributed to long carbon chains (Table 1), differentiated precisely by the difference in the presence of C=C.

For the CS results, the standard for the glycerol (G) molecule

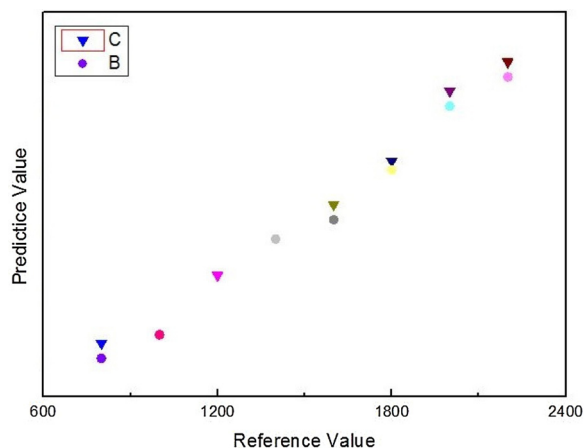


Fig. 3. Fitting for our results (α = experimental/theoretical – stars) and other experimental results (β = reference values – circles) oils of different nature. $Y = a + bx$, with $a = 322.294$, $b = 0.64$. In this case, the adjustments are compared with more expressive results for analysis of vegetable oils observed in the literature with ostrich oil. See the comparison between two lines.

presenting the base formation fragment of the FA molecules is also shown. The importance of presenting the calculation for glycerol is precisely to understand the formation of vibrational modes when they contain the hydroxyls present in the chemical formation for the calculated components. CS comprise the region from 0 to 4000 cm^{-1} with the main modes appearing between 1400 and 2000 cm^{-1} and between 2800 and 3250 cm^{-1} . It can be seen that the mode at 3641 cm^{-1} and 3637 cm^{-1} is a symmetrical stretch-type vibration of the OH, a characteristic linkage of the FA. For glycerol, this vibration occurs at 3740 cm^{-1} with symmetrical stretching and at 3700 cm^{-1} , asymmetric stretching for the OH at the opposite ends of the molecule, and between 1500 and 2000 cm^{-1} , the absence of some modes may be related to C=C bonds, mainly in bands around 1650 cm^{-1} . For A, B, C, and D, mean intensities of C=O bonds are 1720 cm^{-1} , which can be observed at very low intensity for E and F. At 1525 cm^{-1} , we see the angular CH deformations within the molecules. Still, for the main components except G, we see the active modes at 1340, 1325, 1155, 1105, and 1075 cm^{-1} . In the region of 2900–3050 cm^{-1} , asymmetric stretch type vibrations for CH are exhibited for all components. Table 2 presents data from the theoretical process, but emphasizes the molecules of oleic, linoleic and linolenic acid (omegas 9, 6 and 3), whose structures are shown in Fig. 5 since they are the major constituents of ostrich oil.

In assessing these results, it should be borne in mind that the modes of C=O and C–O (carboxylic acids) are well defined, and are in the region of 1720 cm^{-1} and 1087 cm^{-1} , except for omega 6, at 1713 cm^{-1} and 1146 cm^{-1} . The modes caused by the C=C conjugate stretches generally appear as a small intensity shoulder alongside the carboxyl, between 1700 and 1715 cm^{-1} , which is true for the calculated cases of omega 9 and 6. In Figs. 1 and 2, C=C appears quite discreetly at the base of the peak at 1742 cm^{-1} . It can be seen that in Fig. 5 this information is hidden at the base of the spectra but is shown at its respective frequencies after DFT analysis. Among the aspects presented in the region 1320–1420 cm^{-1} , the lower intensity modes are the representations for the vibrations of the –CH bonds along the molecule, usually of the twisting type. In Table 2, DFT data suggest vibrational modes in two general aspects: bending (δ) and stretching (ν). The contributions such as these vibrations are made are from the values calculated under the same potential energy distribution (PED), which appears in the signatures column. The minimum difference for these frequencies, or the absence of them, shows that the method is also valid for understanding the signatures of the components. It can be seen that for the calculated components, the optimization given by the maximum energy parameter (EPM), for oleic (EPM = 25.721), linoleic (EPM = 30.888), and linolenic acid (EPM = 31.078), is related to the size of the molecule [38]. The types of vibrations may vary for the cases mentioned, and this is closely linked to the energy received. However, these vibrational variations are minimized in the scope of this study. A good study on the subject can be found in other work [45]. Still, in Table 2, other vibrational contributions appear and are indicated by S + number. For the band at 1530 cm^{-1} (omega 9), we have S59, S69, and S83, respectively, contributions of lower percentage of PED appearing for the same molecular group, vibration harmonic. Table 2 presents a summary format for presentation. A more complete view can be accessed in the supplementary material, Table S1.

4. Conclusions

The results of Raman/FTIR spectroscopy combined with ab initio calculations show ostrich oil vibrational bands. Differences found in the spectra may be related to the presence of C=C for the different components of the oil. Different intensities for carboxylic groups are verified, an indication of the form of activation of these vibrational modes according to the experimental technique used. In the experimental spectra, for example, the significant displacement of C=O (1720 cm^{-1}), may be due to the morphological relationships of the sample itself. As calculated, C=O appears at 1721 cm^{-1} for oleic and

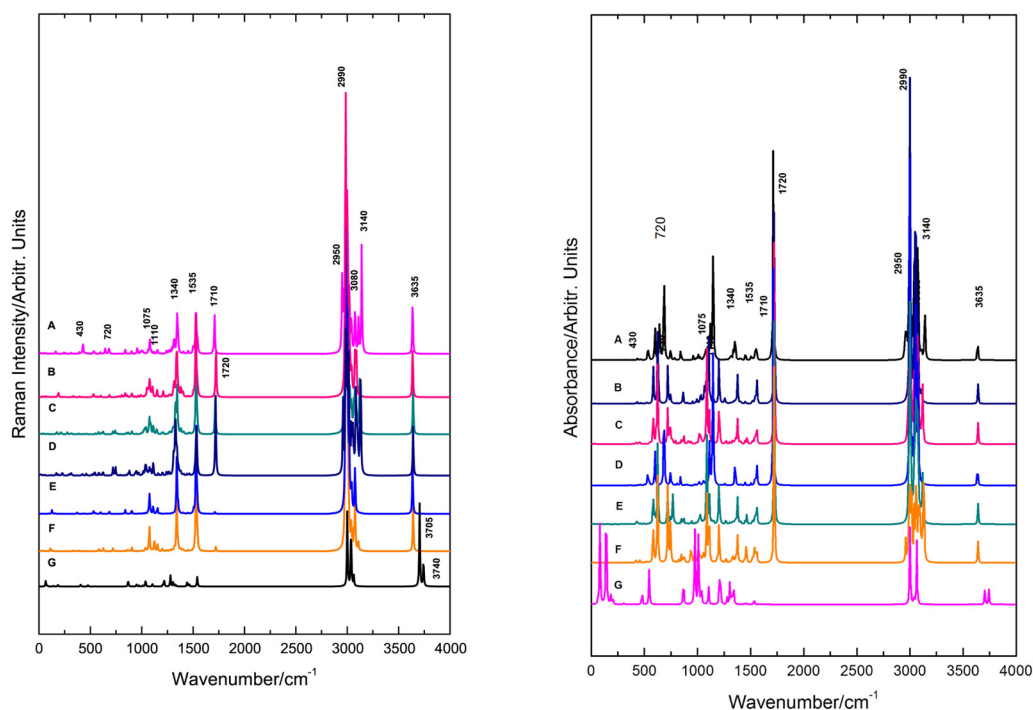


Fig. 4. DFT theoretical results B3LYP/6311G; Raman (left) and IR (right). (A) Linoleic; (B) Oleic; (C) Palmitoleic; (D) Linolenic; (E) Palmitic; (F) Stearic and (G) Glycerol.

linoleic acid. Between 750 and 1750 cm^{-1} and between 2896 and 3011 cm^{-1} the present modes are not distinguishable as to the origin of the sample, whether vegetable or animal. The DFT results helped to understand the behavior of the main components of the sample. Raman spectroscopy and FTIR were satisfactory and complementary to the characterization.

Authors contributions

All the authors were involved in the preparation of the manuscript. All the authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Table 1

Fatty acids and of ostrutch oil.

FA's	Carbon numbers	Symbol
Palmitic	C16:0	E
Palmitoleic	C16:1	C
Stearic	C18:0	F
Oleic (omega 9)	C18:1	B
Linoleic (omega 6)	C18:2	A
Linolenic (omega 3)	C18:3	D

The symbolism given links the results of Fig. 4.

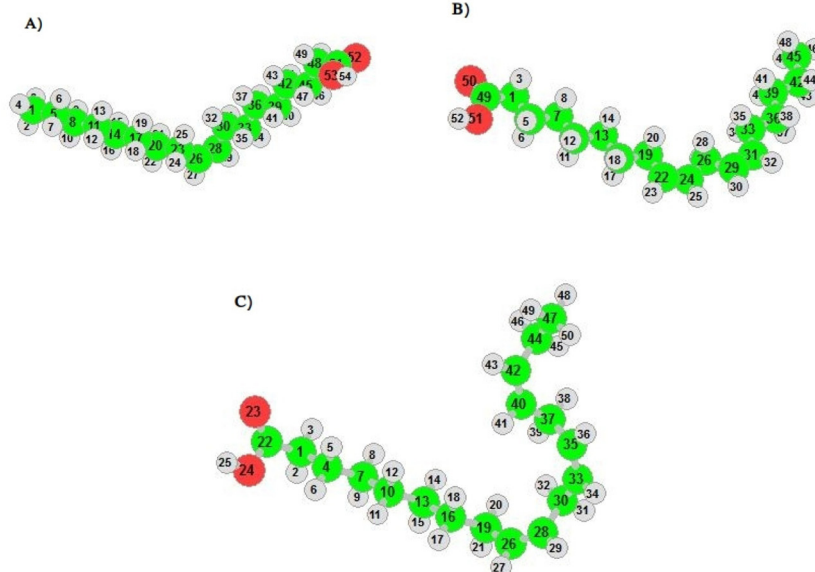


Fig. 5. Structure fatty acids. (a) Oleic acid (b) Linoleic acid (c) Linolenic acid for all structure (green-carbon), (red oxygen) and white hydrogen.

Table 2
General patterns of vibrational behavior for calculated values for omega 9, 6 and 3 molecules.

Component	ω/cm^{-1}		Assignment of the molecular	Other PED
	Raman	FTIR		
Omega 9	1344		$\delta(\text{HCC})(21\ 20\ 23)$ [14]	
	1464	1464	$\delta(\text{HCC})(27\ 26\ 28)$ [41]	S73
	1527		$\delta(\text{HCH})(38\ 36\ 37)$ [42]	S63, S77, S81
	1530		$\delta(\text{HCH})(10\ 8\ 9)$ [19]	S59, S69, S83
		1557	$\delta(\text{HCH})(41\ 39\ 40)$ [22]	S79, S83, S85
	1713	1713	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})(28\ 26)$ [72]	
	1721	1721	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})(52\ 51)$ [78]	
	2989		$\nu(\text{CH})(20\ 22)$ [17]	S5, S6, S11, S12
		2998	$\nu(\text{CH})(33\ 34)$ [40]	S5, S7, S10, S13, S16, S26, S27
		3122	$\nu(\text{CH})(28\ 29)$ [49]	S19
	3641	3641	$\nu(\text{OH})(53\ 54)$ [100]	
	1078	1078	$\nu(\text{CC})(13\ 16)$ [31]	S44, S45, S47
	1093	1093	$\nu(\text{CC})(1\ 4)$ [23]	
1317		$\delta(\text{HCC})(25\ 24\ 26)$ [14]		
	1556	$\delta(\text{HCH})(11\ 10\ 12)$ [29]	S56, S60, S64, S66	
	1709	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})(24\ 22) + (29\ 31)$ [39]	S35	
Omega 6	1713	1713	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})(50\ 49)$ [79]	
	2957	2957	$\nu(\text{CH})(26\ 27) + (26\ 28)$ [48]	
	3007	3007	$\nu(\text{CH})(45\ 47) + (45\ 48)$ [37]	S8, S9, S12, S13, S30
	3141	3141	$\nu(\text{CH})(24\ 25)$ [35]	S7, S16, S17
	3637	3637	$\nu(\text{OH})(51\ 52)$ [100]	
	948	948	$\nu(\text{CC})(30\ 28)$ [16]	
	1055	1055	$\nu(\text{CC})(30\ 28)$ [13]	S37, S43
	1202	1202	$\delta(\text{HOC})(25\ 24\ 22)$ [24]	
	1441	1441	$\delta(\text{HCH})(49\ 47\ 48)$ [26]	S71, S77, S79
	1535	1535	$\delta(\text{HCH})(46\ 44\ 45)$ [33]	S74, S79
Omega 3	1720	1720	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})(28\ 26)[11] + (35\ 33)[38] + (42\ 40)[23]$	
	1721	1721	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})(23\ 22)$ [78]	
	2959	2959	$\nu(\text{CH})(30\ 31)$ [98]	
		2998	$\nu(\text{CH})(16\ 17)$ [36]	S8, S11
	3133	3132	$\nu(\text{CH})(35\ 36)$ [54]	S21
	3641		$\nu(\text{OH})(24\ 25)$ [100]	

Here are presented the more general natures of vibrations, these being able to have specific variations according to the type movements of the atoms. Bending (δ) and stretching (ν).

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vibspec.2019.102945>.

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