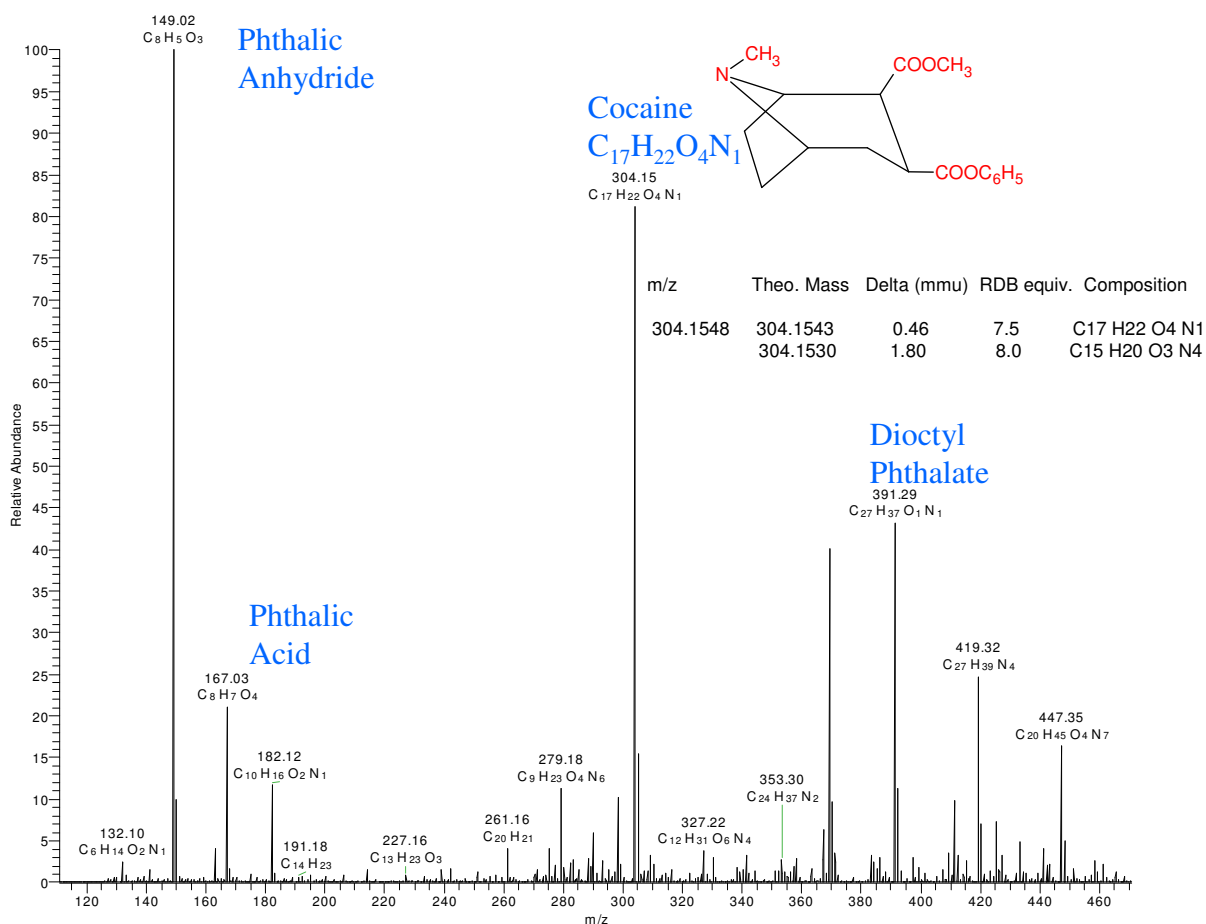


Detection of Drugs on Currency

It is a known fact that currency in general circulation in the US and many other countries is contaminated with cocaine and other illicit drugs. There are a number explanations as to why this is the case. Large amounts of currency may become contaminated during drug deals or when bills are rolled to snort cocaine. Counting machines at financial institutes may result in cross contamination of bills.

Below is a spectra of a \$1 bill inserted into a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap FTMS using an ASAP Probe. The corner of the bill was heated using nitrogen gas at a temperature of 300 °C. The M+H ion (m/z 304.1548) for cocaine was observed.. The dioctyl phthalate peak (M+H at 391) is a widely used plasticizer.



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