

Electron multiplier: -1100V.
Pre-amp sensitivity: 10^{-8} amps/volt.
CI gas: oxygen, UHP. Introduced through
make-up valve to produce pressure in the
source of 0.43 Torr.

3.3.2 Methodology

Analysis was performed using a procedure involving solid phase extraction followed by two clean-up steps for the plasma and urine samples (i.e., including controls as discussed in section 2.7.4). Analysis of the extracts was achieved by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) in the CI mode. Negative ions produced in the presence of oxygen gas were monitored using Multiple Ion Detection (MID) for maximum sensitivity. The minimum detectable amount for both T-2 and HT-2 toxins was determined in preparatory work as approximately 20 pg, while sensitivity of the method was approximately 1 ppb for blood samples. In the case of urine samples, the sensitivity of the method was approximately 4 ppb for both T-2 and HT-2.

3.3.2.1 Sample Extraction

ClinElut disposable extraction columns (Fisher Scientific Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario) were used to perform solid phase extraction, which was simple, quick and more efficient than the traditional liquid-liquid methods. These