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太赫兹超材料传感器用于川芎腐霉利残留的高灵敏检测

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摘要:腐霉利($C_{13}H_{11}Cl_2NO_2$)是一种常用的有机氯类杀菌剂,在川芎的种植过程中被广泛用于防治菌核病和灰霉病,其残留问题严重威胁中药材的质量安全。设计并制备了一种基于非对称方环链结构的太赫兹超材料传感器,用于川芎中痕量农药残留的快速检测。电磁仿真分析证明,在 x 方向偏振波激发下,该结构产生了电偶极子共振,其理论灵敏度达346 GHz/RIU。实验结果显示,通过建立谐振峰频移量与腐霉利浓度的定量模型,传感器在浓度范围内表现出良好的非线性响应特征(拟合系数 $R^2 > 0.98$),川芎中腐霉利残留的最低检测限为0.52 $\mu\text{g/L}$,且整个检测流程可在30 min内完成。研究结果表明,太赫兹光谱与超材料传感器的结合为中药材中农药残留的快速、高灵敏检测提供了一种具有应用前景的技术方案。

关键词:太赫兹技术;超材料;腐霉利;川芎农残;痕量检测

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0 引言

腐霉利是一种成本较低、杀菌效率高的有机氯类杀菌剂,广泛应用于果蔬、草药的菌核病和灰霉病防治^[1]。然而,由于其化学性质稳定且环境半衰期较长,此类物质难以通过自然过程有效降解,因而容易在生态系统中长期残留并逐步累积^[2]。近年监测结果显示,腐霉利在农产品中检出率较高,且存在一定的超标风险^[3]。毒理学研究表明,摄入含过量腐霉利残留的食物可能抑制雄激素活性、干扰内分泌功能,并对生殖发育及消化、神经和循环系统产生不良影响^[4]。川芎是一种常用的中药材,具有镇痛、抗肿瘤、抗炎及活血行气等药理功效,在其人工种植过程中易发生菌核病和灰霉病,通常需使用腐霉利等杀菌剂进行防治^[5]。这使得原本具有天然药用优势的中药材,因农药残留问题可能削弱其质量安全性,甚至引发潜在的健康风险。许多国家限制了腐霉利在食品和中药材中的最大残留量,欧盟最新规定腐霉利在草药类中的检出限为0.02 mg/kg^[6]。美国联邦政府法规,腐霉利在葡萄酒中的最大残留水平为5 mg/L^[7]。中国虽然没直接规定腐霉利在中药材的最大残留量,但对葱蒜类产品的腐霉利的最大容许残留量最低限值为2 mg/kg,且根据GB 2763-2021,食品中每日允许腐霉利摄入量为0.1 mg/kg^[8]。

目前,川芎中腐霉利残留的检测方法主要有液相色谱-串联质谱法、气相色谱法、气相色谱-串联质谱法等^[9]。尽管这些方法具有较高的检测灵敏度,但通常检测周期较长,且需要复杂的样品前处理过程,并依赖经验丰富的专业人员操作,从而增加了检测的复杂性和成本。相比之下,光谱分析方法(如荧光光谱、红外光谱、中红外光谱及拉曼光谱等)在检测速度方面具有一定优势,但其灵敏度相对较低,难以满足痕量农药

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残留检测的需求^[10]。因此,开发一种兼具快速响应与高灵敏度的农药残留检测技术具有重要的实际应用价值。

太赫兹波(Terahertz, THz)是频率范围为 0.1~10 THz、位于微波与红外波之间的电磁波,具有高穿透性、低光子能量和丰富的特征光谱信息,基于这些特征的太赫兹时域光谱技术可实现对化学物质的快速、无标记检测^[11]。近年来,研究人员将太·赫兹时域光谱与超材料相结合,通过引入亚波长周期谐振结构增强局域电磁场强度,从而显著提升太赫兹波与待测物之间的相互作用。超材料在共振频率附近可产生明显的局域场增强效应,对周围介电环境变化表现出高度敏感性,其变化最终反映为共振频率的偏移^[12, 13]。在农药残留检测领域,太赫兹超材料传感器逐渐受到关注。现有研究多采用基于共振频移的检测策略,通过局域电场增强实现对农药分子介电扰动的定量分析^[14]。例如,Tantiwanichapan 等设计了一种对偏振不敏感的超材料传感器,能检测出 5 mg/L 的草甘膦和百草枯^[15]。Liu 等设计了一款环形超材料传感器,通过对比共振峰频移的变化对毒杀芬农药进行定量检测,最低检测浓度为 0.213 mg/L^[16]。Xu 等设计了一种可调谐的富含缺陷的单层石墨烯覆层超材料,最低能检测大米浸出液中的甲基毒死蜱 0.1 mg/L^[17]。Ye 等设计两款不同结构的超材料,并实现了三种农药的定量检测,其中腐霉利最低检测浓度为 0.1 mg/L^[18]。此外,太赫兹超材料在实际中药材农药残留检测中的应用仍面临一定挑战。例如,不同研究中超材料结构加工精度、实验系统配置及测试条件存在差异,可能导致检测结果之间缺乏可比性,同时样品沉积均匀性和重复性控制仍需进一步优化^[19, 20]。这些因素在一定程度上限制了该技术向更低检测限和实际应用转化的进一步发展。因此,在克服环境及系统不确定性的同时,进一步突破检测灵敏度瓶颈并实现更低检测限,是当前亟待解决的关键问题。

基于此,本研究构建了一种基于非对称方环链结构的太赫兹超材料传感器,在增强局域电磁响应的基础上,实现了对川芎中腐霉利残留的 $\mu\text{g/L}$ 级检测^[21]。首先,为验证这种超材料传感器结合太赫兹时域光谱技术实现高灵敏检测的可行性,采集了浓度范围为 1~82 $\mu\text{g/L}$ 的腐霉利太赫兹吸收光谱,并分析不同浓度腐霉利引起的吸收峰频移变化。随后结合川芎样品,通过二甲基亚砜提取上清液并沉积于超材料表面,建立频移-浓度拟合关系。实验结果表明,该方法能够对目标农药产生稳定、可分辨的频率响应,并具有良好的拟合相关性,验证了其在复杂中药基质中开展痕量检测的可行性,为中药材质量与安全控制提供了新的技术思路。

1 材料和方法

1.1 样品制备

腐霉利标准品(CAS 32809-16-8, purity $\geq 98\%$) 购买于阿拉丁试剂网(Shanghai, China; <https://www.aladdin-e.com/>),使用试剂为分析纯试剂,块状川芎样品购自上海万世诚药业有限公司(批号:20230307-1),原药材于 2023 年 3 月采自中国四川省彭州市。实验选用二甲基亚砜($\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{OS}$)作为提取溶剂,其对多数有机化合物具有良好的溶解能力。取 5 g 川芎样品,使用冷冻混合球磨机(MM400, Retsch, 德国)在 30 Hz 振动频率下研磨 3 min,使其充分粉碎成粉末,并通过 200 目筛,得到直径大约为 5 μm 的川芎粉末。称取 50 mg 川芎粉末置于离心管中,加入 6 mL 二甲基亚砜,采用涡流混匀仪(Vortex-2, HUXI, 上海)在 2 800 r/min 转速下振荡 30 s,使样品充分混合。随后将混合液置于高速冷冻离心机(GL-20G-II, Shanghai Anting, 上海)中,以 15 000 r/min 离心 5 min,并静置 5 min 后提取上清液。在所得上清液中加入适量腐霉利标准溶液,配制得到腐霉利质量浓度分别为 1、2、6、12、22、55 和 82 $\mu\text{g/L}$ 的川芎样品溶液,用于后续检测分析。

1.2 超材料设计

该超材料结构由上下不同间隙宽度的方形环链谐振单元构成,金作为谐振材料,石英作为衬底。其共振模式主要来源于入射太赫兹电场沿偏振方向驱动金属单元中自由电子产生电偶极振荡。在共振频率附近,电荷主要积累于间隙边缘区域,从而形成强局域电场增强效应。与传统环状结构相比,方形结构具有更明确的几何边界和极化方向,电荷更易集中于边缘与拐角处,从而形成稳定的电偶极共振模式^[22, 23]。环链式排列使相邻单元之间产生电磁耦合效应,有助于形成稳定的共振模式,并对整体谐振特性产生调控作用^[24]。在制造过程中,首先通过电子束蒸发在抛光双面石英基底上沉积一层由 5 nm 铬和 200 nm 金组成的薄膜,其

中铬用于提高金与石英之间的附着力。然后,使用传统光刻技术对金膜进行图案化,最终制成超材料传感器。加工实物如图1(a)所示,图1(b)显示了其在显微镜下的具体参数,其中衬底厚度 $T = 500 \mu\text{m}$ 。图1(c)比较了该超材料结构的仿真吸收谱与实测结果。结果显示仿真共振峰位于1.742 THz,而实测共振峰位于1.759 THz。两者之间的偏差可能主要来源于微纳加工过程中的结构尺寸误差以及测试系统精度等因素的影响。需要说明的是,本研究基于单批次器件开展实验验证,重点在于传感机理与检测性能评估。

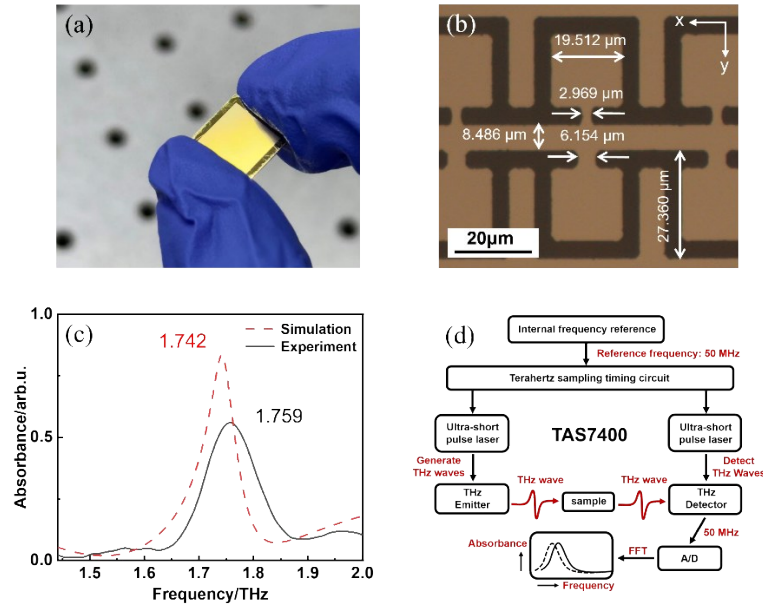


图1 太赫兹超材料传感器结构与测试系统。(a)超材料传感器实物图;(b)方形环链超材料的几何参数;(c)仿真与实物环链超材料吸收光谱对比;(d)TAS7400太赫兹时域光谱仪原理图

Fig. 1 Structure and test system of the terahertz metamaterial sensor. (a) Physical image of the metamaterial sensor; (b) Geometric parameters of the square ring metamaterial; (c) Comparison of simulated and actual absorption spectra of the ring metamaterial; (d) Schematic diagram of the TAS7400 terahertz time-domain spectroscopy system

1.3 太赫兹光谱获取

采用商用太赫兹时域光谱仪(TAS7400, Advantest, 日本)获得太赫兹吸收光谱。该光谱仪中,为太赫兹发射器提供驱动的泵浦激光器以20 mW的平均功率运行,中心波长为1 550 nm,脉冲持续时间为50 fs(如图1(d))。该光谱仪的动态范围超过60 dB,有效光谱范围覆盖1~4 THz,光谱分辨率为1.9 GHz。为了确保样品信息的稳定性,实验前使用空气压缩机向仪器中持续注入干燥空气,并使用温湿度计监测温度和湿度,以确保环境湿度保持在3%以下,温度保持在 $(20 \pm 0.5)^\circ\text{C}$ 。

对于太赫兹光谱测量,将每种农药溶液各5 μL 分别移液到超材料传感器上,并在 $(60 \pm 1)^\circ\text{C}$ 的烘箱中干燥12 min。干燥后,使用TAS7400测量每种农药浓度的吸收光谱。为消除溶剂干扰,使用5 μL 二甲基亚砜作为空白对照(0 $\mu\text{g/L}$)。对于川芎中的农药分析,使用川芎样品中的5 μL 上清液作为空白对照(0 $\mu\text{g/L}$),以消除川芎基质的干扰,并以同样的方式获得不同浓度腐霉利频移曲线。每种浓度检测4次,以确保结果的稳定性,每个光谱代表使用TAS7400采集的1 024次扫描的平均值,每次光谱采集时间为3 min。整个样品制备和检测过程大约在30 min内。

1.4 数据处理与分析

所有实验数据使用Matlab 2021软件和Origin 2021b软件进行分析。首先,用TAS7400对每个样品进行4次重复扫描,并对所得结果取平均以获得对应的吸收光谱,同时提取各浓度条件下4次测量相应的共振峰频率值。然后在Origin中以空白样本对应的共振峰频率作为参考基准,将各浓度样本的峰值频率减去该基准,得到频移量。吸收光谱进行平滑处理,平滑点数设置为21。最后建立腐霉利浓度与共振频率频移的关系曲线,用于定量分析。

2 结果和讨论

2.1 超材料仿真结果

为评估所设计超材料传感器的性能,使用 CST Microwave Studio 软件进行了电磁仿真。在仿真中,石英基板的介电常数被设定为 3.75。谐振环由金构成,被建模为理想电导体。模型中在 x 、 y 方向施加周期性边界条件以模拟无限周期结构,在 z 方向使用开放边界以确保电磁波自由传播。仿真结果表明,该超材料传感器在 x 方向激发出一种偶极共振模式,其共振频率位于 1.742 THz。上下间隙宽度采用非对称设计,旨在打破结构的电磁对称性,从而调控电荷分布及偶极振荡特性。非对称间隙会改变金属单元中电荷积累的位置及强度,使电场在窄间隙区域形成更明显的局域集中效应,并引起共振模式场分布的重新调整。由于传感机制基于共振频率对周围介电环境变化的响应,局域电场集中区域的增强有助于提高结构对微小介电扰动的敏感性。图 2(a) 展示了该超材料在共振频率处的电场分布和表面电流分布仿真结果。电场在 x - y 平面内表现出明显的局域约束与增强效应,主要集中于谐振腔的开口及侧边区域,表明结构能够有效捕获并增强入射电磁波。判定该模式为电偶极子共振的物理依据主要包括两方面:首先,从电场分布看,强电场高度局域在开口间隙及其边缘区域,呈现出典型的正负电荷对积聚特征;其次,从表面电流矢量看,上下谐振环表面的感应电流方向高度一致,且均沿 x 轴方向呈同向振荡。根据经典电磁理论,这种同向流动的电流分布在远场等效为一个电偶极子,证明该模式为典型的亮模式电偶极子共振。同时,上下方形环链谐振器表面电流呈同向振荡,体现了共振状态下较强的电磁耦合特性,这有利于提高信号响应效率和传感性能。

此外, Q 因子作为衡量传感性能的重要指标,反映了传感器的频率选择特性与共振行为,其值越高,表明频率选择性越优。 Q 因子的定义为 $Q = f_r / f_{\text{FWHM}}$,其中 f_r 代表超材料传感器的中心共振频率, f_{FWHM} 为共振峰的半高全宽(Full Width at Half Maximum, FWHM)。仿真结果显示,所提出的传感器在引入非对称微扰后,其 Q 因子为 26.80,相较于对称结构的 19.18,提升了约 40%,仿真对比结果如图 2(b) 所示^[21]。

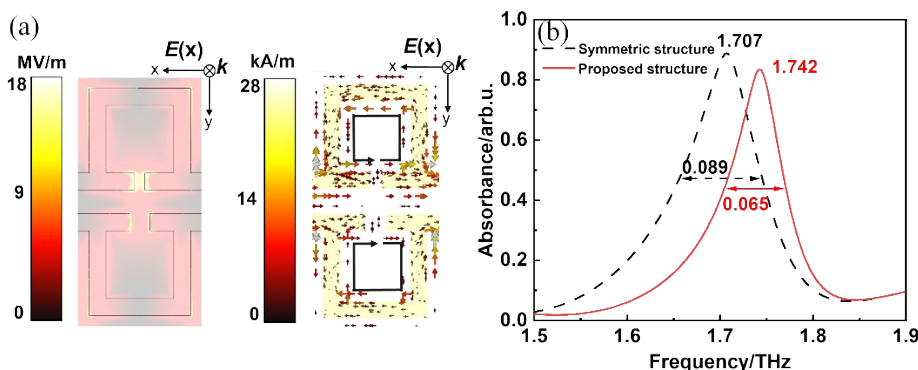


图2 超材料结构的电磁仿真及性能对比分析。(a) 在 x 偏振太赫兹波激励下,超材料于共振频率处的电场分布及表面电流分布;(b) 对称与非对称超材料结构的吸收光谱对比

Fig. 2 Electromagnetic simulation and performance comparison analysis of metamaterial structures. (a) Electric field distribution and surface current distribution of the metamaterial at the resonance frequency under x -polarized terahertz wave excitation; (b) Comparison of the absorption spectra between symmetric and asymmetric metamaterial structures

为评估超材料表面对待测物参数变化的灵敏度性能,针对不同厚度和折射率的分析物进行了数值仿真。多数农药的折射率(n)通常分布在 1.0~2.0 的范围内,其中腐霉利在 1~2.5 THz 的折射率大约在 1.6 附近,因此仿真中设定 $n = 1.6$,并假设厚度为 d 的分析物均匀分布在超材料表面。结果如图 3(a) 所示,随着厚度 d 由 0 μm 逐步增加至 15 μm ,共振峰频率逐渐向低频方向移动,但频移幅度逐渐减小并最终于 $d = 14 \mu\text{m}$ 趋于饱和。这一现象主要源于在共振频率下,太赫兹波激发的增强电场主要局限于超材料结构表面区域。随着分析物厚度的增加,其对传感器共振频率的调制作用逐渐减弱,从而导致共振峰频移变化幅度不断降低并最终达到饱和状态。基于上述结果,对分析物厚度与共振峰频移之间的关系进行了非线性拟合(如图 3(b)),得到拟合表达式为

$$y = 0.2311x / (2.7813 + x) \quad (1)$$

式中, y 表示太赫兹共振峰的频移(GHz), x 表示分析物厚度(μm)。该非线性拟合曲线的最大频移为192 GHz,相关系数 $R^2 = 0.996$,表明拟合结果具有较高的可靠性。

进一步地,为研究该结构对折射率变化的灵敏度,将分析物厚度固定为 $d = 14 \mu\text{m}$,并将分析物折射率 n 由1.0逐渐增加至2.0。仿真结果表明,随着折射率的增加,太赫兹超材料的共振峰持续向低频方向移动,如图3(c)所示。通过对共振峰频移与折射率关系进行拟合,得到线性表达式为

$$y = 0.3553x - 0.3646 \quad (2)$$

与分析物厚度与频移之间的非线性关系不同,分析物折射率的变化与共振峰频移呈现出显著的线性相关性,如图3(d)所示。其中, y 表示太赫兹共振峰频移(GHz), x 表示分析物折射率。线性拟合结果的最大频移为346 GHz,相关系数 $R^2 = 0.997$ 。灵敏度是评价传感器性能的关键指标之一,其定义为

$$S = \Delta f / \Delta n \quad (3)$$

式中, Δf 和 Δn 分别表示分析物折射率变化引起的共振频率变化量,灵敏度的单位为THz/RIU。由此计算得到该超材料传感器的灵敏度 $S = 346 \text{ GHz/RIU}$,高于目前已有报道的太赫兹超材料传感器^[25]。

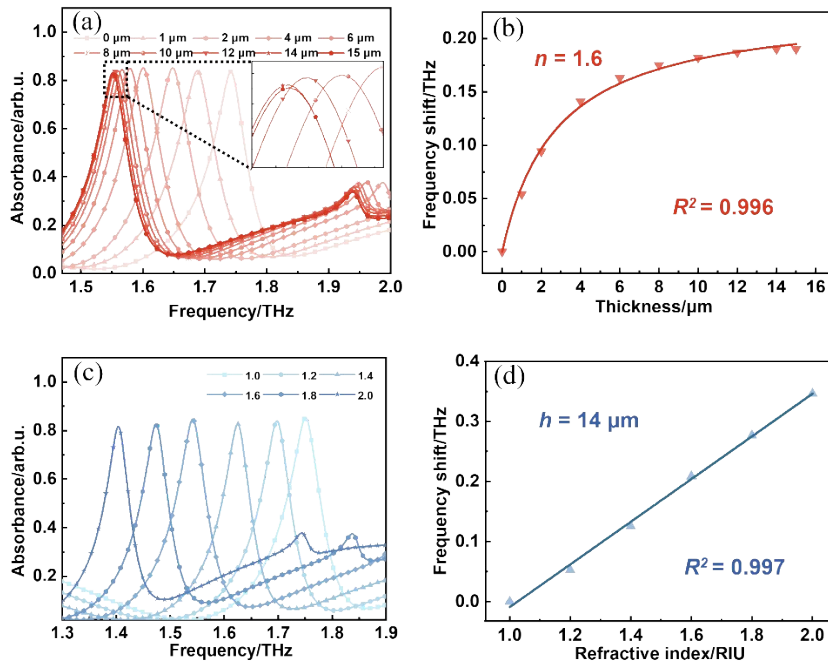


图3 吸收光谱的仿真结果。(a)分析物折射率为1.6时,不同分析物厚度条件下的共振峰变化结果;(b)分析物厚度变化引起的共振峰频移拟合曲线;(c)分析物厚度为 $14 \mu\text{m}$ 时,不同分析物折射率条件下的共振峰频移结果;(d)分析物折射率变化引起的共振峰频移拟合曲线

Fig. 3 Simulation results of the absorption spectra. (a) Resonance peak changes under different analyte thicknesses with an analyte refractive index of 1.6; (b) Fitted curve of resonance peak frequency shifts caused by variations in analyte thickness; (c) Resonance peak frequency shifts under different analyte refractive indices with an analyte thickness of $14 \mu\text{m}$; (d) Fitted curve of resonance peak frequency shifts caused by variations in analyte refractive index.

2.2 超材料传感器检测腐霉利

采用超材料传感器对川芎中腐霉利进行太赫兹光谱检测,整体实验流程如图4所示。根据不同国家和地区对腐霉利残留限量的相关规定,并结合实际检测需求,本实验设置腐霉利标准溶液浓度为1、2、6、12、22、55、82 $\mu\text{g/L}$,溶剂为二甲基亚砆。

将 $5 \mu\text{L}$ 不同浓度的腐霉利溶液滴加至超材料传感器表面,在 60°C 烘箱烘干处理后用TAS7400测量太赫兹吸收光谱。以 $5 \mu\text{L}$ 纯二甲基亚砆作为空白对照样本($0 \mu\text{g/L}$),以消除溶剂本身基质的影响。实验采用 1.9 GHz 的光谱分辨率,每个浓度的样本检测4次,取平均值并绘制吸收光谱曲线,测量光谱结果如图5(a)

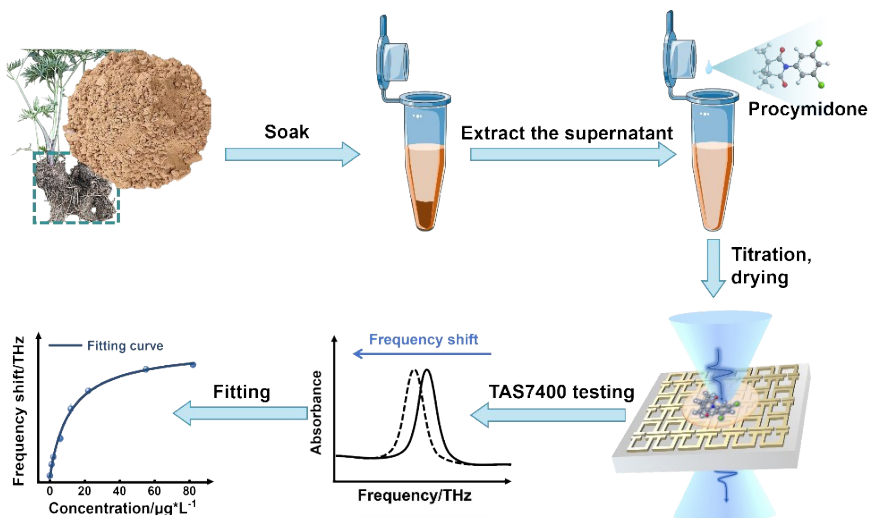


图4 超材料检测川芎中腐霉利实验示意图

Fig. 4 Experimental flow chart for the detection of procymidone in *Ligusticum chuanxiong* using metamaterials

所示。图5(b)展示了不同浓度腐霉利引起的平均频移响应,随着腐霉利浓度的升高,超材料传感器的共振吸收峰逐渐向低频方向红移,其中最大频移约为28.1 GHz。

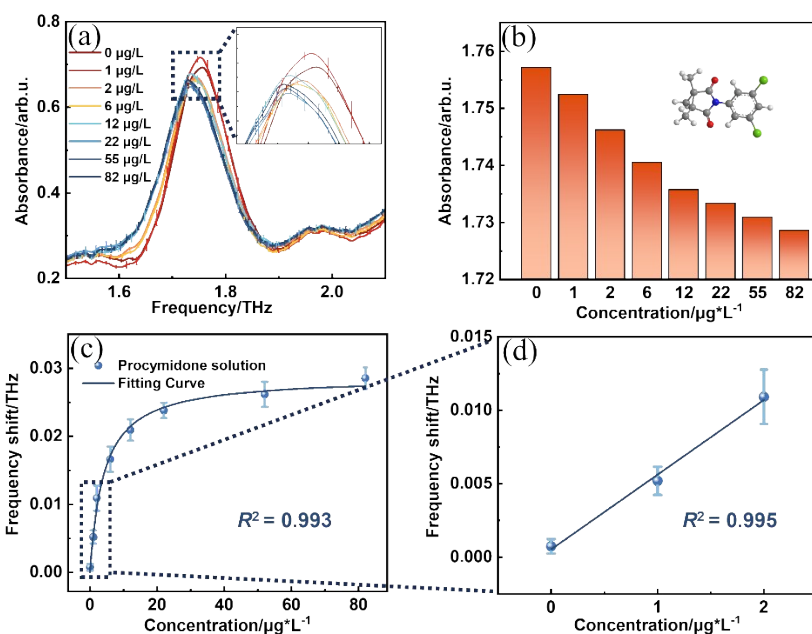


图5 腐霉利纯品超材料传感器实验结果。(a)不同浓度腐霉利在传感器的吸收光谱;(b)不同浓度腐霉利的平均频移柱状图;(c)浓度与频移拟合曲线;(d)低浓度下放大后的频移响应

Fig. 5 Experimental results of procymidone with the metamaterial sensor. (a) Absorbance spectra of the sensor for different concentrations of procymidone; (b) Average frequency shift of four measurements for each procymidone concentration; (c) Fitted curve of concentration versus frequency shift; (d) Enlarged frequency shift response at low concentrations

为了定量分析频移-浓度关系,以空白样本的谐振峰频率为参考,根据不同浓度的腐霉利对应的共振峰频移量建立函数相关性,得到拟合方程:

$$y = (0.0288 \pm 0.0007)x / [(4.0887 \pm 0.4472) + x] \quad (4)$$

式中, x 为样品的浓度, y 为样品在超材料传感器上引起的频移量,该拟合曲线的相关系数 R^2 为0.993,拟合效果良好。从图5(c)可以看出,随着腐霉利浓度的增加,呈现趋于饱和的趋势,这可能是由于高浓度条件下沉

积于谐振间隙区域的有效介电扰动接近稳定状态,从而导致频移增幅减缓^[26]。相比之下,在低浓度区间内,待测物沉积量较小,对谐振间隙区域局部介电环境的扰动尚未达到饱和状态,此时共振频率偏移量主要受有效介电常数变化影响,频率响应与浓度变化之间仍可近似视为线性关系。因此,为进一步评估所提出太赫兹超材料传感器的检测能力,采用信噪比法对其检测限(Limit of Detection, LOD)进行计算,其表达式为

$$\text{LOD} = \frac{3\sigma}{k} \quad (5)$$

式中, σ 为空白样本($0 \mu\text{g/L}$)谐振频率的标准偏差, k 为低浓度区间内频率偏移量与浓度拟合曲线的斜率,反映传感器对浓度变化的响应灵敏度。选取 $0 \sim 2 \mu\text{g/L}$ 浓度范围内的测试结果,对其对应的谐振频率偏移量进行线性拟合,如图 5(d) 所示。其中空白样本标准差 $\sigma = 0.99 \text{ GHz}$, $k = 5.09 \text{ GHz} \cdot \text{L}/\mu\text{g}$, 对应检测限 $\text{LOD} = 0.58 \mu\text{g/L}$ 。实验结果表明,所提出的超材料传感器对腐霉利的检测限满足欧盟等相关标准对残留量的要求。与近期报道的太赫兹超材料传感器相比,该传感器在检测限方面表现出一定优势^[27, 28]。

2.3 检测川芎中的腐霉利

在验证纯品腐霉利检测效果后,将该方法应用于川芎样品。将川芎提取液与不同浓度的腐霉利标准溶液混合,制备了相同梯度的 7 种浓度样品。将 $5 \mu\text{L}$ 混合溶液滴加至超材料传感器表面,在 60°C 烘箱中干燥后进行太赫兹吸收光谱测量。空白对照采用相同体积的川芎提取液($0 \mu\text{g/L}$ 腐霉利)。不同浓度腐霉利的吸收光谱结果如图 6(a) 所示。图 6(b) 展示了川芎中不同浓度腐霉利引起的平均频移响应,随着腐霉利浓度增加,超材料传感器的共振峰同样发生低频频移,实验最大频移量为 107.77 GHz 。

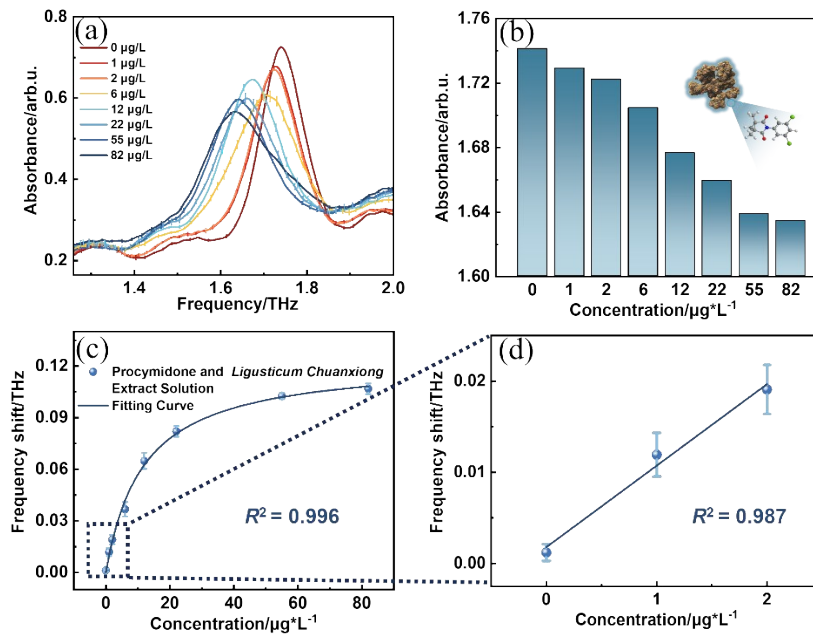


图6 川芎中腐霉利实验结果。(a)川芎中不同浓度腐霉利在传感器的吸收光谱;(b)川芎中不同浓度腐霉利对应的平均频移柱状图;(c)浓度与频移拟合曲线;(d)低浓度下放大后的频移响应

Fig. 6 Experimental results of procymidone in *Ligusticum chuanxiong*. (a) Absorbance spectra of the sensor for different concentrations of procymidone in *Ligusticum chuanxiong*; (b) Bar chart of mean frequency shifts for different procymidone concentrations in *Ligusticum chuanxiong*; (c) Fitted curve of concentration versus frequency shift; (d) Enlarged frequency shift response at low concentrations.

同样以空白对照样本的谐振频率作为参考样本,根据不同浓度的腐霉利对应的共振峰频移量建立函数相关性,得到拟合方程:

$$y = (0.1237 \pm 0.0033)x / [(11.7559 \pm 1.0067) + x] \quad (6)$$

如图 6(c) 所示,该拟合曲线的相关系数 R^2 为 0.996,表明拟合效果良好。与纯品腐霉利的变化规律一致,随着样品浓度的增加,超材料共振峰频移量逐渐增大,但其增幅呈减缓趋势。其中空白样本标准差 $\sigma =$

1.56 GHz,拟合斜率 $k = 8.94 \text{ GHz} \cdot \text{L} / \mu\text{g}$, 对应检测限 $\text{LOD} = 0.52 \mu\text{g/L}$ 。

此外,为评估传感器的重复性,对每个浓度样品进行4次独立测量,并对每次测量的1024次扫描结果取平均。谐振频率的标准偏差(Standard Deviation, SD)计算式为

$$\text{SD} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (f_i - \bar{f})^2}{n-1}} \quad (7)$$

式中, f_i 为第 i 次测量得到的谐振频率, $\bar{f}$ 为平均值, $n = 4$ 。

相对标准偏差(Relative Standard Deviation, RSD)定义为

$$\text{RSD} = \frac{\sigma}{\bar{f}} \times 100\% \quad (8)$$

结果表明,川芎基质背景下各浓度谐振频率的最大标准偏差为3.26 GHz,对应相对标准偏差低于0.20%,说明该传感器具有良好的重复性与稳定性。同时,该超材料传感器在川芎样品中对腐霉利的检测限可达 $0.52 \mu\text{g/L}$,验证了其在中药材农药残留检测中的实际应用可行性。

为了进一步量化本方法的检测性能,将其与现有主流农药残留检测技术进行了系统对比。如表1所示,基于液相色谱-串联质谱法及气相色谱-质谱法的传统检测技术通常可实现较低的检测限(如 $0.07 \sim 1.80 \mu\text{g/L}$),但其检测流程普遍依赖复杂的样品前处理及色谱分离过程,总检测时间通常在 $1 \sim 2 \text{ h}$ 。免疫分析方法虽具备较高灵敏度,但其检测流程通常涉及抗原-抗体孵育及多步清洗过程,总检测时间一般在 $1 \sim 3 \text{ h}$ 范围内,难以满足快速现场检测需求。

表1 不同检测方法对腐霉利残留检测性能的对比分析

Method	LOD	Total detection time	Reference
Gas chromatography—mass spectrometry (GC—MS)	$1.80 \mu\text{g/L}$	$1 \sim 1.5 \text{ h}$	[1]
Liquid chromatography—tandem mass spectrometry (LC—MS/MS)	$0.07 \mu\text{g/L}$	$1 \sim 2 \text{ h}$	[9]
Immunoassay	$0.12 \mu\text{g/L}$	$1 \sim 3 \text{ h}$	[29]
Reported THz metamaterial sensor	$204 \mu\text{g/L}$	$0.5 \sim 1 \text{ h}$	[30]
This work	$0.52 \mu\text{g/L}$	0.5 h	/

相比之下,近年来基于太赫兹超材料的传感方法在保持较高检测灵敏度的同时,可实现无需复杂标记的快速检测。例如,已有太赫兹超材料传感器对农药溶液的检测限约为 $204 \mu\text{g/L}$,总检测时间可缩短至 $0.5 \sim 1 \text{ h}$ 。本研究所提出的超材料传感方法可将检测限进一步降低至 $0.52 \mu\text{g/L}$,并在约 0.5 h 内完成整体检测流程,在保证检测灵敏度的同时显著提升检测效率。需要指出的是,太赫兹超材料传感方法的检测性能在一定程度上依赖于待测物在超材料表面的沉积均匀性。此外,本研究主要基于单批次器件开展实验验证,多批次器件之间的一致性以及复杂基质环境下的抗干扰能力仍有待在后续工作中进一步系统评估。综上,本研究提出的太赫兹超材料传感方案兼顾了检测灵敏度($0.52 \mu\text{g/L}$)与检测耗时(0.5 h),且无需复杂前处理,为中药材农药残留的快速筛查提供了可行策略。未来仍需进一步验证方法在复杂基质环境下的稳定性和抗干扰性能,以推动其在实际生产和现场检测中的应用。

3 结论

本文探讨了利用太赫兹时域光谱技术结合超材料传感器对川芎中腐霉利痕量残留进行检测的可行性。实验通过测定腐霉利标准溶液及川芎提取液基质中不同浓度的吸收光谱,获取了谐振峰的频移响应规律。结果表明,该传感器在川芎基质中的响应特性与标准溶液保持了良好的一致性,川芎中腐霉利残留浓度-频移拟合曲线相关系数 R^2 达到0.996,最低检测限可达 $0.52 \mu\text{g/L}$ 。此外,该传感器在川芎提取液基质中具有良好的重复性($\text{RSD} < 0.20\%$)与稳定性,且检测耗时缩短至 30 min 。尽管实际应用仍面临样品沉积均匀性和复杂基质干扰等挑战,但其高灵敏和快速响应的特点表明,太赫兹超材料传感器在中药材质量安全监控中具有显著潜力。未来工作将聚焦器件一致性优化及多组分农残的特异性识别。总体而言,本方法为川芎及其他中药材或食品的农残检测提供了一种快速、灵敏的技术方案,具有良好的应用前景。

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High-Sensitivity Detection of Procymidone Residues in *Ligusticum chuanxiong* Using a Terahertz Metamaterial Sensor

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Abstract: Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) plays a crucial role in global healthcare; however, the growing popularity of herbal medicinal products has raised significant concerns regarding potentially hazardous pesticide residues. *Ligusticum chuanxiong*, a widely used TCM prized for its analgesic, anti-tumor, and anti-inflammatory properties, is highly susceptible to fungal infections such as *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and *Botrytis cinerea* during its artificial cultivation. To combat these diseases, procymidone, a cost-effective and highly efficient organochlorine fungicide, is frequently applied. Due to its high chemical stability and prolonged environmental half-life, persistent procymidone residues can easily accumulate within ecosystems and herbal matrices. Toxicological research demonstrates that excessive dietary exposure to procymidone can inhibit androgenic activity, disrupt endocrine functions, and induce adverse effects on the reproductive, digestive, and nervous systems. Consequently, stringent Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) have been established globally, with the European Union mandating an MRL of 0.02 mg/kg for herbal products. Conventional pesticide residue detection methods, including Gas Chromatography–tandem Mass Spectrometry (GC–MS) and High-performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), offer high sensitivity but are fundamentally limited by prolonged detection times, complex sample pretreatment procedures, and the need for specialized personnel. Conversely, standard spectroscopic analysis methods can reduce operational time but generally possess lower detection sensitivity, rendering them inadequate for trace-level residue analysis. Therefore, the objective of this study is to develop a rapid and highly sensitive detection method utilizing a terahertz (THz) metamaterial sensor to quantify trace procymidone residues in complex TCM matrices. To address the critical limitations of conventional analytical techniques, this study proposes a novel sensing platform combining THz time-domain spectroscopy with a specifically designed metamaterial sensor. THz waves exhibit high penetration, low photon energy, and distinct spectral features, making them highly suitable for non-destructive and label-free chemical detection. The fabricated THz metamaterial sensor features an artificially engineered asymmetric square ring chain resonator composed of periodically arranged subwavelength structures. This specific structural design introduces asymmetric microperturbations that significantly enhance the localized electromagnetic field and improve the quality factor of the dipole resonance compared to symmetric designs. When pesticide molecules adhere to the sensor surface, small local electric field perturbations are generated in the surrounding dielectric environment, which ultimately manifest as highly sensitive changes in the THz resonance peak frequency. In the experimental procedure, procymidone standard solutions were systematically prepared across a trace concentration gradient ranging from 1 to 82 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Subsequently, organically cultivated and commercial

Ligusticum chuanxiong samples were ground into powder and subjected to an extraction process using dimethyl sulfoxide as the solvent due to its optimal solubility. Small volumes of the resulting supernatants were accurately pipetted onto the surface of the THz metamaterial sensor and dried in a controlled environment. The THz absorbance spectra were then continuously recorded, and the resonance peak frequency shifts were extracted to establish quantitative regression models linking the frequency shift to the exact pesticide concentration. Experimental evaluations of the proposed THz metamaterial sensor revealed exceptional localized electromagnetic field enhancement and superior sensing capabilities. Upon the application of the pure procymidone standard solutions, the THz-TDS system captured stable and highly distinguishable frequency shifts, demonstrating that as the pesticide concentration increased, the resonance peaks of the metamaterial exhibited a clear red-shift toward lower frequencies. A quantitative concentration–frequency shift model was successfully established utilizing the Michaelis–Menten equation, yielding a remarkably high fitting coefficient ($R^2 > 0.98$). Most notably, the asymmetric metamaterial sensor achieved an ultra-low limit of detection of 0.52 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for procymidone, significantly outperforming previously reported THz biosensors. During the practical validation phase involving the complex TCM matrix, the sensor successfully maintained its high detection sensitivity. The regression curves constructed for procymidone within the *Ligusticum chuanxiong* DMSO extracts similarly demonstrated a strong nonlinear fitting correlation, proving that the unique subwavelength structure effectively amplifies the dielectric perturbation caused by the target molecules while overcoming residual background interferences from the herbal matrix. Furthermore, the entire sample preparation and detection workflow could be seamlessly completed within 30 minutes, drastically reducing the operational timeframe compared to traditional chromatographic analyses. In summary, this study experimentally demonstrates the feasibility and substantial advantages of utilizing a highly sensitive THz metamaterial sensor for the quantitative detection of trace procymidone residues in the TCM *Ligusticum chuanxiong*. By rationally designing an asymmetric square ring chain structure, the localized electromagnetic interactions between the THz waves and the pesticide molecules are significantly amplified, enabling an unprecedented $\mu\text{g/L}$ -scale detection limit. This detection threshold strictly complies with the stringent MRLs established by international regulatory bodies. This approach successfully circumvents the time-consuming and expensive drawbacks of conventional GC–MS methods while entirely resolving the sensitivity bottlenecks of standard optical spectroscopy. Ultimately, combining the physical characteristics of the THz metamaterial sensor with reliable mathematical modeling provides a label-free, rapid, and highly effective technological strategy. This study offers a promising new testing solution for the rigorous safety monitoring and quality control of TCM materials, contributing significantly to the prevention of potential pesticide-related health risks.

Key words: Terahertz technology; Metamaterials; Procymidone; Pesticide residues in *Ligusticum chuanxiong*; Trace detection

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