

1 **Evaluation of polyphenols in wine by voltammetric techniques with screen**  
2 **printed carbon electrodes**

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8

9 **Abstract**

10

11 The electrochemical oxidation processes that occur during a voltammetric assay  
12 in wine samples lead to the formation of species that obstructs the surface and  
13 reduce their active area. This effect is critical for screen printed carbon electrodes  
14 (SPCE ) and leads to abnormal low values of the total polyphenols content of  
15 wines, ca. 72 % lower than those obtained with glassy carbon electrodes. This  
16 effect was examined using 10 red and Port wine samples. Mechanical polishing  
17 and electrochemical-based treatments for the removal of this fouling layer were  
18 tested. The best results were obtained by electrochemical activation in at a  
19 constant potential of 1.2 V during 100 s Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> saturated solution, and by  
20 polishing.

21 The success of some of these treatments brings an added value to SPCE, as it  
22 opens the possibility of their reuse in the wine analysis. This outcome is  
23 particularly relevant for quality control where a huge number of analysis is  
24 performed and the reduction of cost may dictates the choice of the analytical  
25 method.

26

27 Keywords: SPCE; Electrode cleaning and activation; Polyphenols; Food  
28 analysis; DPV

29

## 30 **1. Introduction**

31 Polyphenols are plant secondary metabolites that exhibit different biological  
32 activities. They are abundant in fruits and vegetables such as grapes and berries  
33 and in drinks such as coffee, tea, and wine [1]. These compounds are  
34 accountable for the sensory properties of wines and their antioxidant activity [2].  
35 The concentration of polyphenols in wines can vary according to the grape  
36 variety, geographical origin, soil type, harvest and winemaking technique [3].

37 During the past 15 years, the characterization of antioxidant properties and  
38 evaluation of the total polyphenols in wine have been successfully carried out by  
39 electrochemical techniques [1,4]. The use of cyclic voltammetry (CV) was firstly  
40 demonstrated by the work of Kilmartin using glassy carbon electrodes (GCE)  
41 [5,6]. Besides CV, differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) is increasingly used for  
42 the quantification of polyphenols in complex matrices [7,8]. In voltammetric  
43 techniques the quantification is performed by the electric current associated to  
44 the oxidation of these easily oxidizable species [1]. The detection of polyphenols  
45 by voltammetric techniques is characterized by high sensitivity and selectivity as  
46 compared with the more spread spectroscopic methods [9]. Electrochemists are  
47 continuously working in new methodologies and electrode materials [10–12] in  
48 order to improve the performance parameters of the methods and make them  
49 suitable to different sample matrices [4,7,13-15].

50 Despite the suitability of electroanalytical techniques, the quantification of  
51 polyphenols in routine quality control of wines is still performed using UV-vis  
52 measurements, even though this method is very susceptible to interference.

53 The assembly of the electrochemical cell with an arrangement of three electrodes  
54 does not facilitate the implementation of voltammetric assays by non-specialized  
55 operators. The cleaning and activation of the working electrode (WE) is an  
56 additional drawback. In complex sample analysis, the WE fouling frequently takes  
57 place due to the adsorption either of reaction products [1], or of other constituents  
58 of the matrix [16,17]. Regarding the GCE, the cleaning and activation of its  
59 surface can be performed by heat pretreatment [18], laser irradiation [19] and

60 exposure to ozone [20] or to radio frequency plasmas [21]. Although these  
61 techniques are very effective, they are not accessible in all laboratories, thus  
62 mechanical polishing [22] are most used electrochemical cleaning [22,23].

63 The mass production of integrated electrodes by screen printing techniques  
64 enabled the spread of these miniaturized devices at moderate prices.  
65 Furthermore, their use is rather easy, either by immersion or by deposition of a  
66 drop of the sample solution over the set of the three electrodes [24,25]. Despite  
67 the accessibility and simplicity of operation, these devices are not yet much used  
68 in quality control applications. This fact may be justified by the nature of these  
69 devices, that are meant for single-use. For most applications, the fouling of the  
70 WE limits the use of such devices to a single measure, increasing the cost of  
71 quality control as a large number of samples is analysed each day [26].

72 The use of screen printed electrodes to evaluate the content of polyphenols in  
73 wines is described in literature. In most papers, authors use the screen printed  
74 carbon electrodes (SPCE) as a platform where several active nanomaterials are  
75 deposited, such as single-walled carbon nanotubes [10], metal oxide  
76 nanoparticles ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) [11], cerium oxide nanoparticles ( $\text{CeO}_2$ ) [12], Laccase-  
77 Tyrosinase or Laccase [27]. In these works, the use of the SPCE based sensors  
78 in manifold analysis is not referred. Furthermore, results from these SPCE based  
79 sensors were not quantitatively compared with results from GCE. This  
80 comparison could be extremely significant as result of antioxidant / polyphenol  
81 content by GCE are widely validated in complex samples of wines [28–31],  
82 propolis [32], teas [33], fruit juices [34] regarding other methods like  
83 spectroscopic (Folin-Cicalteau [28, 30,33] , ABTS [28], [30], DPPH) or  
84 chromatographic (HPLC [30,33]).

85 The reuse of SPCE is an important issue in order to make them more attractive  
86 for routine measurements. However, surface treatments must be tested in order  
87 to clean and activate its surface between voltammetric measurements. Literature  
88 reports several methods to activate SPCE. Some of the methods involve the  
89 exposure to UV light from an excimer laser source [35], oxygen plasma treatment  
90 [36] and treatment with the organic solvent N,N-dimethylformamide [37].  
91 Electrochemical based pretreatments employ the polarization of the carbon WE  
92 in the oxidation range of potentials in different solutions. The use of 0.05 M PBS  
93 solutions [38], saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solutions [39,40], 0.5 M NaOH solutions [41],

94 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solutions (cyclic voltammetry) [40], or 0.1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (+5 μA for 6 min)  
95 [42]. The efficiency of these treatments was demonstrated to remove constituents  
96 organic from ink [24], to increase the surface roughness [41] or even to increase  
97 the number of chemical functionalities [41], resulting in improved kinetics of  
98 heterogeneous charge transfer. However, these treatments were not tested for  
99 the removal of impurities from the SPCE surface in between voltammetric scans.  
100 In the present work, we test the efficiency of polishing and of some  
101 electrochemical-based treatments to renew the surface of bare commercial  
102 SPCE between assays in wine sample. The efficiency of these treatments is  
103 evaluated by comparison of data obtained in successive measurements with a  
104 single SPCE. The reliability of the polyphenol content obtained using bare SPCE  
105 is accessed by comparing these results with corresponding from a GCE. These  
106 results aim to demonstrate the SPCE reuse capability and thus contribute to the  
107 spread of voltammetric techniques in routine measurements.

108

## 109 **2. Reagents and methods**

110

### 111 *Samples characterization*

112 All wine samples used in this work, supplied by Sogrape Vinhos S.A., were  
113 characterized regarding current quality control parameters, following the  
114 normalized methods described in “Compendium of International Methods of  
115 Analysis” [43] namely: total acidity (method OIV-MA-FAS313- 01); non-reducing  
116 extract (method OIV-MA-AS2-03B); volatile acidity and reducing sugars [44].  
117 Pigments, polyphenols, tannins pigments and free anthocyanins were evaluated  
118 by UV-Vis spectral readings and using calibrations maintained by the AWRI  
119 through the WineCloudTM ([www.thewinecloud.com.au](http://www.thewinecloud.com.au)). These parameters were  
120 evaluated at the laboratories of ADVID (*Associação para o Desenvolvimento da*  
121 *Viticultura Duriense*). Free sulphur dioxide and total sulphur dioxide were  
122 evaluated by potentiometric titration following a methodology adapted from  
123 Ripper method (method OIV-MA-AS323-04B) [45].

124 Physical-chemical characterization parameters of ten of the eleven samples used  
125 in this work were previously reported in an earlier work [8]. Data from the eleventh  
126 sample (VT6) is reported in the supplementary material Table S1 together with

127 results from the other wine samples (VT1; VT2; VT3; VT4; VT5; VP1; VP2; VP3;  
128 VP4).

129

### 130 *Solutions and samples preparation*

131 Gallic acid solutions (GA, *Sigma-Aldrich*) used as standard solutions were  
132 prepared using 33 mM tartaric acid solution pH 3.20 as electrolyte. Wine samples  
133 were collected from each bottle of wine. The original cork stopper was substituted  
134 by a rubber septum stopper and wine was kept under an argon atmosphere in  
135 the dark. Sample solutions were prepared from 25 mL aliquots transferred to  
136 erlenmeyers under an argon atmosphere, by dilution (1:25; 1:50; 1:100, 1:150  
137 and 1:200) with 33 mM tartaric acid, pH 3.20. The electrolyte solution (33 mM)  
138 was prepared from tartaric acid (*Merck*), adjusting the solution pH to 3.20 using  
139 1.0 M NaOH.

140 Solutions used for the treatment and activation of the SPCE were prepared as  
141 follow. Phosphate buffer solution (T1) was prepared mixing equimolar amounts  
142 of potassium monophosphate and potassium diphosphate (*Fisher Scientific*) in  
143 order to get a total concentration of 0.05 M and pH 7.4. Solutions used in  
144 treatments T2, T3, T4 and T5 were prepared from the acquired chemicals without  
145 further purification, namely: 0.5 M sodium hydroxide (*Acros Organics*); saturated  
146 sodium carbonate (*Panreac*); 0.1 and 0.5 M sulfuric acid (*Fisher Chemical*),  
147 respectively. All solutions were prepared using ultrapure water ( $18 \text{ M}\Omega \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) from  
148 Millipore Milli-Q system.

149

### 150 *Voltammetric assays*

151 Electrochemical measurements were performed at room temperature ( $25 \pm 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ )  
152 using a potentiostat (Autolab type PGSTAT30, Ecochemie) controlled by GPES  
153 4.9 software. Differential pulse voltammograms were obtained with pulse  
154 amplitude of 100 mV, potential step of 5 mV and modulation time of 0.05 s. Two  
155 types of electrochemical cells were used: i) a conventional one-compartment cell  
156 ( $v=10 \text{ mL}$ ) with a GCE as working electrode (WE) (3 mm diameter; *BAS M-2012*),  
157 a platinum wire as secondary electrode (SE) and a Ag/AgCl (3 M KCl; *CH*  
158 *Instruments, Inc*) as reference electrode; ii) a miniaturized cell (SPCE DS 110;  
159 DropSens) composed by three screen printed electrodes (WE (2 mm diameter)

160 and SE made of carbon and a pseudo-reference of silver) covered by 75  $\mu\text{L}$  of  
161 solution.

162 All potential referred across the text are quoted against the reference electrode  
163 of the corresponding electrochemical cell.

164

#### 165 *Electrode cleaning and activation*

166 Before voltammetric experiments the GCE was polished on a polishing cloth with  
167 alumina suspension (0.05  $\mu\text{m}$ ; Tonarde 2). The electrode was thoroughly rinsed  
168 with ultrapure water and dried with an absorbent paper before recording each  
169 voltammogram.

170 Different treatments were carried out with SPCE to clean and activate its surface  
171 before recording each voltammogram. Results reported in Figure 1 were obtained  
172 performing 4 cyclic voltammograms (between 0 and 1 V at 100  $\text{mVs}^{-1}$ ) in the  
173 supporting electrolyte solution. Results in figure 2 and 3 were obtained using one  
174 of the alternative surface treatments tested. These procedures include  
175 mechanical polishing and electrochemical treatments (T1; T2; T3; T4 and T5)  
176 using different electrolyte solutions as described below.

177 The mechanical polishing of SPCE was performed using the same polishing  
178 materials as for GCE. A drop of alumina was deposited on a small piece (1.5 x 1  
179 cm) of polishing cloth (Buehler) moistened with ultrapure water. This polishing  
180 tissue was gently pressured against the SPCE surface with circular movements  
181 for approximately 30 s. Then, the SPCE was rinsed abundantly with water.

182 Treatment T1 was carried out applying a constant potential of 2 V (vs. SPCE  
183 pseudo-reference electrode) for 100 s in a 0.05 M PBS solution pH 7.0 [38].

184 Treatment T2 was performed by applying a constant potential 1.4 V (vs. SPCE  
185 pseudo-reference electrode) for 30 s in 0.5 M NaOH solution [41].

186 Treatment T3 was carried out applying a constant potential 1.2 V (vs. SPCE  
187 pseudo-reference electrode) for 100 s in a saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution [39,40].

188 Treatment T4 was based on the application of a constant current of 5  $\mu\text{A}$  for 360  
189 s in 0.1 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution [42].

190 Treatment T5 consisted of 20 cyclic voltammetric scans from -2 V to 2 V (vs.  
191 SPCE pseudo-reference electrode), at 500  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ , in a 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  [40].

192

### 193 **3. Results and discussion**

194

195 *Reuse of SPCE activated in tartaric acid solutions, pH 3.20*

196 Commercial SPCE were used to characterize the total polyphenol content (*TPP*)  
197 of wines by means of voltammetric assays. Cyclic and differential pulse  
198 voltammograms were recorded in diluted wine solutions (1:25) prepared from 11  
199 samples of red and Port wines as described in the experimental section. These  
200 results are compared with the corresponding data obtained using a GCE (Figure  
201 1A). Results reported in Figure 1A, expressed in equivalents of gallic acid (GA),  
202 were obtained by interpolation of the integrated area under voltammograms (*IA*)  
203 in calibrations curves of GA. The calibration curves of *IA* defined for GA solutions  
204 using the two voltammetric techniques, CV and DPV, and the two electrodes  
205 (SPCE and GCE) are presented in Table S2 (Supporting material).

206 The *IA* values obtained from DPV using the GCE are well correlated ( $r = 0.92$ )  
207 with the *PP* data (absorbance units) (Figure S1, supporting material). This result  
208 is in accordance with our previous paper where was demonstrated using  
209 chemometric tools that voltammetric results from GCE (either of CV or of DPV)  
210 of red wines are well correlated with *PP* data from optical measurements [9].

211 In Figure 1A it can be observed that *TPP* values obtained from SPCE (either from  
212 CV or DPV) are well correlated with those from GCE ( $r = 0.92$ ). However, the  
213 slope of the representation  $(TPP)_{SPCE}$  vs  $(TPP)_{GCE}$  indicates that results from  
214 SPCE are about 72 % lower than those from GCE. The nature of working  
215 electrodes (WE) may affect parameters such as sensitivity, selectivity or  
216 analytical thresholds. Nevertheless, results from the interpolation of the  
217 voltammetric signals in calibration curves should be comparable. This  
218 expectation is supported by the resemblance of the voltammograms obtained by  
219 the two electrode materials both in GA solutions and in wine sample solutions  
220 (Supporting material, Figure S2). As the range of potentials where polyphenols  
221 are oxidized is relatively far away from the solvent/ electrolyte oxidation, the  
222 signals are quite clean. Besides, the DPV signals are relatively immune to the  
223 contribution of the background signal that could introduce important deviations  
224 when comparing results from different electrode materials. Furthermore, the  
225 interferences are the same for both electrodes, even if their contribution may be  
226 different in some extent.

227 The rather important discrepancy observed between results from the two  
228 electrodes is hardly justified by means of the previously addressed effects.  
229 Alternatively, this outcome may result from the fouling of the WE of the SPCE in  
230 the wine samples assays. In order to verify this hypothesis, a calibration curve  
231 (0.015 to 0.48 mM of GA) and a standard addition solution experiment (to a 1:25  
232 wine sample solution) were carried out. Figure 1B exhibits data from the  
233 calibration (diamond markers) and the standard addition solution (triangle  
234 markers) experiments. These experiments were performed by DPV using a single  
235 SPCE for each experiment. Before recording each voltammogram, the SPCE was  
236 rinsed with ultra-purified water and activated by 4 voltammetric scans (0 V to 1 V,  
237  $v = 100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ) in the electrolyte solution (0.033 M tartaric acid solutions, pH 3.2).  
238 In spite of a drastic decrease of current noticed from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
239 scans in wine samples solutions, voltammograms acquired after that were rather  
240 reproducible. The repeatability of the *IA* values of DPV voltammograms was  
241 about 8 and 12 % in GA solutions and in diluted wine samples, respectively.  
242 Although the correlation coefficients of the two straight lines in Figure 1B are  
243 similar and adequate to these types of experiments, there is a marked difference  
244 between the slopes of the two straight lines. The slope of the calibration curve is  
245 about 5.6 times higher than that obtained for the standard addition solution. The  
246 presence of the wine markedly affected the sensitivity of the quantification of GA.  
247 In the presence of wine, the decrease of *IA* values can be assigned to the fouling  
248 of the WE surface. This effect justifies the observed discrepancy of results  
249 depicted in Figure 1A. The fouling effect lead to a substantial difference between  
250 results from calibration curve (0.59 mM (Eq GA)) and from standard addition  
251 solution methods (3.24 mM (Eq GA)).  
252 Figure 1C exhibits values of *IA* from DPV voltammograms obtained using 5  
253 different SPCE, each of which was used in a single diluted solution of wine (1:150,  
254 1:100; 1:75; 1:50 and 1:25). Between scans, each SPCE surface was  
255 electrochemically activated by CV in the electrolyte (as previously described).  
256 Voltammograms recorded in the electrolyte solution, between the assays in the  
257 wine solutions, did not display any peak that could indicate the presence of  
258 adsorbed species at the electrode surface. Data obtained for the 1<sup>st</sup> scan from  
259 each SPCE is represented by squares, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> scan by triangles, for the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
260 scan by diamonds and for the 4<sup>th</sup> scan by circles markers. Data are distributed



261 along 3 straight-lines, which slopes decrease from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> scan. The  
262 slope decay is a result of the surface fouling, reaching a steady-state from the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
263 scan on.

264 In conclusion, results presented in Figure 1 clearly show that despite the relatively  
265 stability of the SPCE response obtained after the 3<sup>rd</sup> scan, the electrode fouling  
266 lead to a decrease in sensitivity. The interpolation of data from wine samples in  
267 GA calibration curves, which are not affected by this fouling effect, leads to  
268 abnormal low value of *TPP* with respect to that obtained using GCE. These  
269 results also show that the removal of this non-electroactive layer was not  
270 efficiently accomplished by the electrochemical-based treatment in the  
271 supporting electrolyte (tartaric acid).

272 The application of other harsher electrochemical-based treatments for removing  
273 the SPCE fouling layer formed in wine solutions are considered in the following  
274 sub-section.

275

276 *Regeneration of SPCE between successive measurements by different surface*  
277 *treatments*

278 The methods selected were the previously addressed in the introduction section,  
279 that have been developed to activate the SPCE surface by removing organic  
280 constituents of carbon inks. Although these methods were successfully increased  
281 the active surface of SPCE, their application for the removal of fouling layers was  
282 not yet tested, as far as we are aware.

283 These electrochemical treatments consist in the polarization of the WE in the  
284 oxidation range of potentials by potentiostatic [38,39,41], potentiodynamic [40] or  
285 galvanostatic [42] in solutions of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, NaOH, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> or PBS.

286 Results in Figure 2A depict the DPV voltammograms corresponding to the 4<sup>th</sup> of  
287 a set of 6 replicates from a single SPCE and using each of treatment procedures.  
288 These procedures are described in the experimental section (T1, T2, T3, T4 and  
289 T5). For reference in Figure 2B are shown the 4<sup>th</sup> replicates of the DPV  
290 voltammograms of a SPCE and a GCE, treated by polishing between consecutive  
291 scans. The SPCE polishing was carried out using the same polishing material  
292 used for the GCE, but applying a lighter pressure on the polishing cloth, as  
293 described in the experimental section. As it can be observed, the SPCE  
294 pretreatment affects severely both the shape and the absolute value of current of

295 voltammograms of wine. For treatments T1 and T2 the peak at about 0.1 V is  
296 much larger ( $> 16 \times$ ) than the remaining peaks. Using treatment T3 and T4, the  
297 peaks high is more alike resembling more closely the profile of voltammograms  
298 obtained by GCE and SPCE treated by polishing (Figure 2B). In opposition, the  
299 voltammogram obtained using treatment T5 displays a quite unusual shape,  
300 showing a band occurs at potentials lower than the main peak (0.1 V). These  
301 results show that the electrochemical treatments can significantly modify the  
302 electrode surface SPCE.

303 The oxidative conditions imposed by the electrode treatments are likely to  
304 functionalize the carbon surface of the WE [38]. The different oxidative treatments  
305 may have introduced different oxygen containing groups and in different extent.  
306 Thus, the extent to which each electroactive molecule interact with the electrode  
307 surface should dependent on the electrode pretreatment. Following this  
308 reasoning, the variation of the peaks height may result from different interaction  
309 degrees between molecules and/ or intermediaries of electrochemical reactions  
310 with the electrode surface.

311 In Figure 2C are represented the values of  $IA$ , normalized by the geometric area  
312 of the WE, from DPV voltammograms of diluted wine solutions obtained using  
313 each treatment between assays. The effectiveness of these methods to renew  
314 the electrode surface can be assessed by means of the repeatability of  $IA$  data  
315 obtained from consecutive scans. The relative standard deviation values,  
316 obtained from 6 consecutive replicates, are about 48 %, 20 %, 18 %, 23 % and  
317 22 % for procedures T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5, respectively. For treatments T1 and  
318 T5  $IA$  values decrease continuously, indicating that the surface is not completely  
319 renewed between scans. Though using treatment T4  $IA$  values do not change  
320 considerably, large differences are observed in the shape of voltammograms  
321 from different scans. This result indicates that treatment T4 does not functionalize  
322 the surface in a reproducible fashion. Regarding treatments T2 and T3, the  
323 relative standard deviation results improve substantially if the first two  
324 voltammograms are discarded (7 %;  $n=4$  for T2 and 11 %;  $n=4$  for T3). These  
325 relative standard deviation values are comparable to the obtained for the  
326 polishing treatments, either with the GCE (6 %) or with the SPCE (9 %) (Figure  
327 2D).

328 To verify the significance of results obtained from a SPCE treated using T2, T3  
329 (recognized as the most adequate treatments) and by polishing, DPV  
330 voltammograms were registered from diluted solutions of wine. Values of *TPP*  
331 (obtained by interpolation of *IA* values in calibration curve of GA) are represented  
332 against results from GCE (Figure 3A). The straight line represented in this plot  
333 corresponds to the equivalence between values ( $y = x$ ). Points distributed along  
334 this line were obtained using the SPCE treated by the electrochemical treatment  
335 T3 (diamonds) and by polishing (squares), whereas those obtained using  
336 treatment T2 (triangles) are much below the line. These results demonstrate that  
337 only treatment T3 and polishing are adequate for the surface renewal of SPCE in  
338 voltammetric experiments in wine.

339 For the polishing treatment a further study was performed to evaluate the  
340 longevity of SPCE submitted to this treatment. The polishing is a rather erosive  
341 treatment due to the abrasion of alumina grains on the electrode surface. For this  
342 purpose, several voltammograms were recorded from the same wine solution  
343 polishing the SPCE surface between assays. Figure 3B shows how the results  
344 vary along the number of assays. The variability of *IA* values is about 5 %  
345 considering the first 15 values. From this assay a gradual decrease of *IA* values  
346 is notorious as all points are under the line that stands for the average. From 21<sup>th</sup>  
347 scan on *IA* values are outside the line corresponding to  $\bar{x} - 2\sigma$  indicating that the  
348 SPCE should be discarded.

349

## 350 **Conclusion**

351 The reuse of SPCE is a critical issue, as it requires the application of a surface  
352 treatment that ensures an adequate cleaning and activation of the WE between  
353 assays. The SPCE activation procedure in the electrolyte solution, that was  
354 suitable for the analysis of the standard solutions of GA, was not effective to  
355 unclog the SPCE surface after recording a voltammogram in diluted wine  
356 solutions. Although voltammograms showed an adequate level of repeatability/  
357 reproducibility, the interpolation of data in calibration curves led to lower values  
358 of concentration of polyphenols. In order to remove the electrochemically formed  
359 layer responsible for decreasing the electrode active area, mechanical and  
360 oxidative treatments employing harsher conditions were tested. The best results

361 were obtained by the electrochemical activation conducted at a constant potential  
362 of 1.2 V during 100 s in a saturated solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, and by polishing. The  
363 repeatability of data from wine solutions using these procedures is comparable  
364 (11% for the electrochemical treatment and 9% for mechanical polishing).

365

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442 **Figure 1 – A)** Comparison of *TPP* values obtained using a SPCE and a GCE from diluted  
443 solutions (1:25) of 11 wines by CV ( $\Delta$ ) and by DPV ( $\square$ ); **B)** Representation of *IA* of DPV  
444 voltammograms from a SPCE corresponding to different additions of GA to an electrolyte  
445 solution ( $\diamond$ ) and to a diluted wine solution (1:25) of VT6 ( $\Delta$ ); **C)** Variation of *IA* of DPV  
446 voltammograms of diluted wine solutions (VT6) with the number of scans (1<sup>st</sup> scan  $\square$ ;  
447 2<sup>nd</sup>  $\Delta$ ; 3<sup>rd</sup>  $\diamond$  and 4<sup>th</sup>  $\circ$ ) using 5 SPCE (one for each diluted solution). Before each  
448 measurement, the SPCE was activated by 4 CV scans (0 to 1 V, 100 mV/s in the  
449 supporting electrolyte (tartaric acid 33 mM, pH 3.20).  
450

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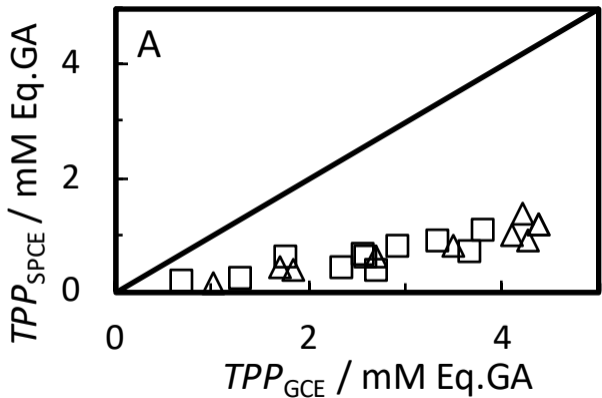
452 **Figure 2 –** Comparison of voltammetric results from a diluted wine solution (VT6) using  
453 SPCE activated by treatments T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5 (A and C) with those using SPCE  
454 and GCE treated by polishing (B and D). Voltammograms illustrate the 4<sup>th</sup> replicate of a  
455 series of 6 (A and B); Values of *IA* from the 6 voltammograms of: SPCE obtained for  
456 each electrochemical activation treatments (C); SPCE and GCE treated by polishing (D).  
457 Potentials are quoted with respect to the reference electrode used (Ag/AgCl for GCE and  
458 Ag pseudo-reference for SPCE)  
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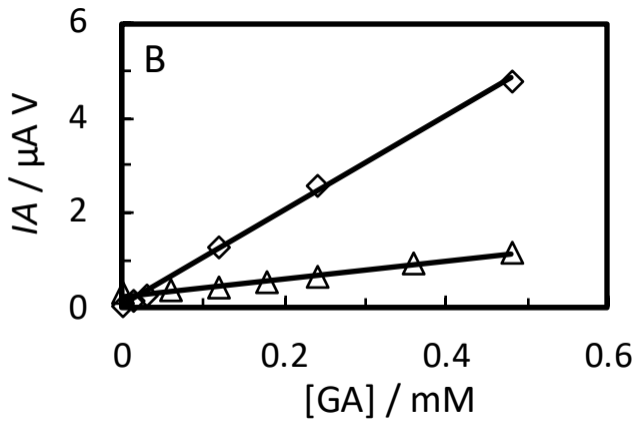
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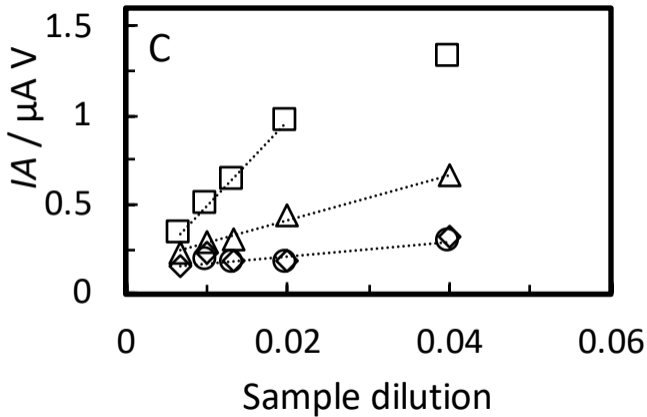
462 **Figure 3 A)** Comparison of *TPP* obtained using SPCE and GCE for different SPCE  
463 conditions: single-use ( $\circ$ ); polished ( $\square$ ); T2 ( $\diamond$ ) and T3 ( $\Delta$ ); **B)** Representation of *IA*  
464 values obtained from consecutive voltammograms polishing the SPCE between assays.  
465 The straight lines represent the mean,  $\bar{x}$ , (dashed line) and  $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$  (solid lines) from the  
466 first 15 assays. Data was obtained by DPV from diluted solutions (1:25) of VT6.

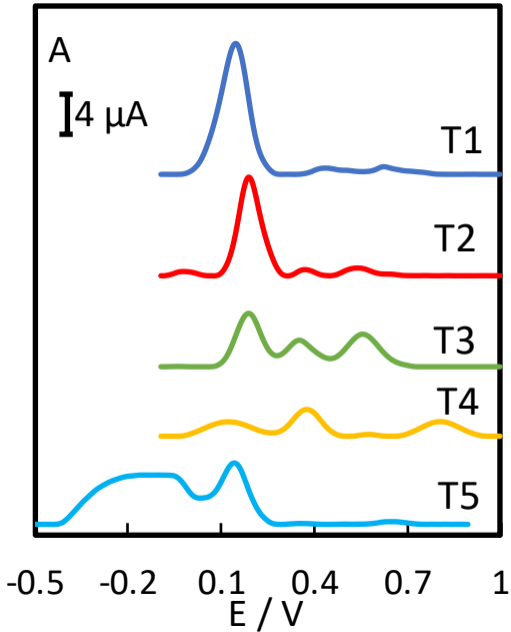
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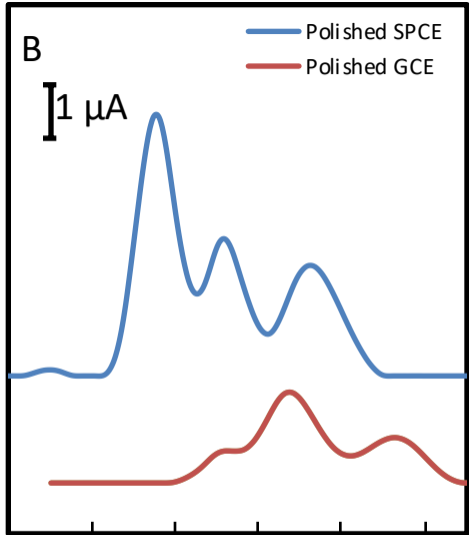
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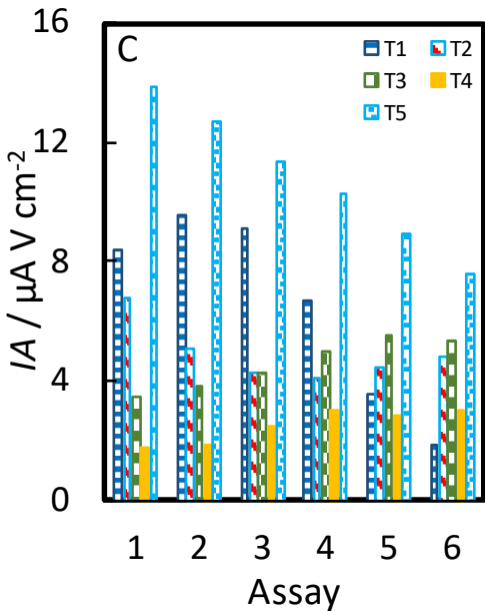
Polished SPCE

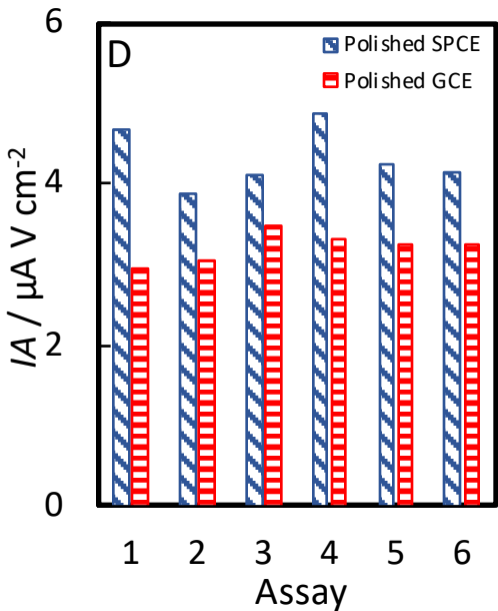
Polished GCE

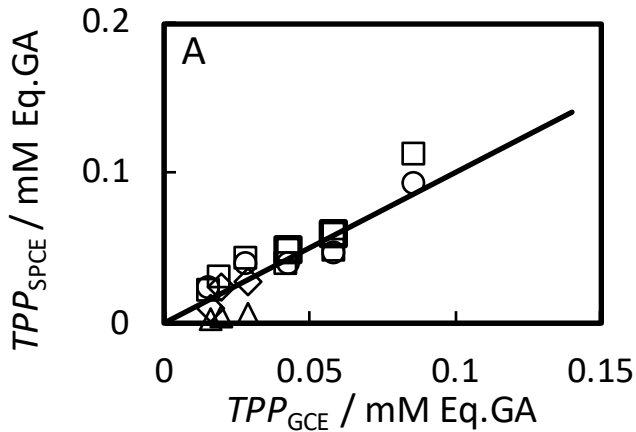
1  $\mu\text{A}$

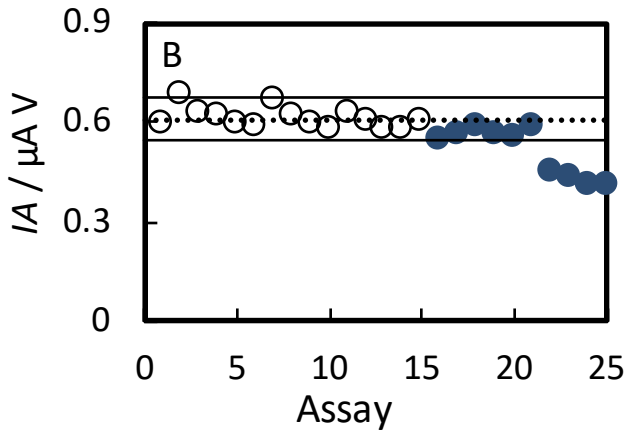
-0.1 0.1 0.3 0.5 0.7 0.9  
E / V













$TPP_{GCE} / \text{mM Eq. GA}$

4

2

0

20

40

60

80

100

PP / Absorbance units

