

Erratum

An error appeared in the article "Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in the Digestive Glands of American Lobster, *Homarus americanus*, Captured in the Proximity of a Coal-Coking Plant" by T. L. King, J. F. Uthe, and C. J. Musial in the *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 50: 907–914, and is corrected here by the authors.

In this paper we reported the presence and estimated concentration of the carcinogen benzo[c]phenanthrene (CAS No. 29694) in lobster captured in the vicinity of a coal-coking facility located at Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada. Capillary gas chromatography, using an SPB-5 column, coupled with low-resolution mass spectroscopy, along with the retention index and molecular weight (226) given in Wise et al. (1988) was employed. However, the molecular weight of benzo[c]phenanthrene is 228, not 226. Using mass 226 to identify and quantify benzo[c]phenanthrene results in an interference from benzo[ghi]fluoranthene (CAS No. 29274) because the two are not resolved on an SPB-5 column. They are separated on an SPB-35 column (Retention Time/Major Ion: Benzo[c]phenanthrene 46.29 min/228; Benzo[ghi]fluoranthene 46.42 min/226). Identities were confirmed by the NIST Library of mass spectra. The concentration of benzo[c]phenanthrene in the paper is biased high because of the interference of the non-carcinogen benzo[ghi]fluoranthene, which we estimated to be 3 to 4 times the actual concentration of benzo[c]phenanthrene.

REFERENCE

Wise, SA, Bennar BA, Byrd GD, Chesler SN, Rebbert RE, Schantz MM (1988) Determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in a coal tar reference material. *Anal Chem* 60:887–894.