

# **CEU MASS MEDIATOR USER'S MANUAL**

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1. Introduction	
1.1. System Requirements	2
2. Peak search	
2.1. Simple Search	
2.2. Advanced Search	
2.3. Batch Search	
2.4 Batch Advanced Search	

4.	. About	16
	3.2. Result list for pathways	.15
	3.1. File structure	.14
3.	. Pathway Displayer	.14
	2.7. Result List	.12
	2.6. Submit menu	.11
	2.5. Annotations rules	.10

## 1. Introduction

**Ceu Mass Mediator (CMM)** is an on-line tool for aiding researchers when performing metabolite annotation. CMM integrates compounds from different sources (HMDB, LipidMaps, KEGG and Agilent Metlin PCDL) based on the IUPAC International Chemical Identifier (InChI). Furthermore, CMM scores the putative annotations using three types of rules, explained in detail in section 2.5

This manual describes the available features in CMM. This features are shown in Figure 1 and described in chapter 2 and 3.

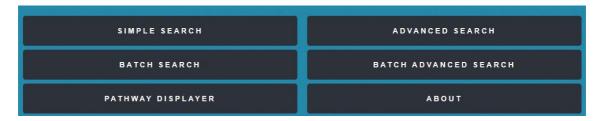


Figure 1 Main menu of Ceu Mass Mediator

# 1.1. System Requirements

CMM is a J2EE application, and it may be accessed through any web browser which supports JavaScript. CMM does not use Adobe Flash player neither popups. It has been tested in the next browsers:

- i. Mozilla Firefox 50
- ii. Google Chrome 45
- iii. Internet Explorer 11
- iv. Opera 42

## 2. Peak search

Peak Search allows the user to find metabolites based on the neutral or the m/z mass within a certain tolerance (default tolerance: 10 ppm). CMM enables 4 types of peak searches: simple and advanced search for single experimental mass: batch and batch advanced search for a set of experimental masses.

## 2.1. Simple Search

Simple search enables the user to find metabolites trough the m/z or the neutral mass. Query parameters are specified in the form shown in Figure 2.

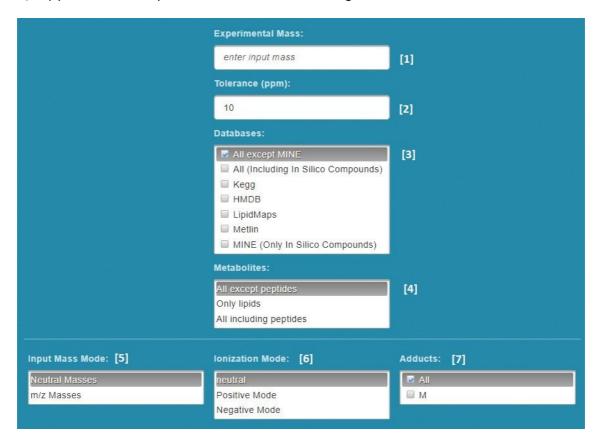


Figure 2 Simple search interface

- [1] Experimental Mass (EM): Mass to search in Ceu Mass Mediator (Da).
- [2] Tolerance: Tolerance allowed for the putative annotations regarding the EM (ppm).
- [3] Databases: The putative annotations should be present in the databases chosen by the user (Kegg, HMDB, LipidMaps, Metlin or MINE).
- [4] Metabolites: Metabolite types to search. The user can filter the results based on the metabolite type. It may be used for excluding peptides, look only into lipids or perform a query over all type of metabolites.
- [5] Masses mode: The user is introducing the EM in neutral or m/z mode. If the user is working with neutral masses, Ceu Mass Mediator perform searches over positive or negative

mode based on the hypothesis of the neutral mass calculated as [M-H]<sup>-</sup> or [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. That means that the EM will correspond to the m/z obtained in the mass spectrometer with the addition or subtraction of the mass of the hydrogen (H).

[6] Ionization mode: The user wants to perform searches over a mass obtained in positive or negative mode. Depending on the ionization mode, the possible adducts formed differ.

[7] Adducts: The possible adducts formed when running the experiment. The user may choose between different adducts in negative or positive mode. The list of possible adducts in negative and positive modes are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4.

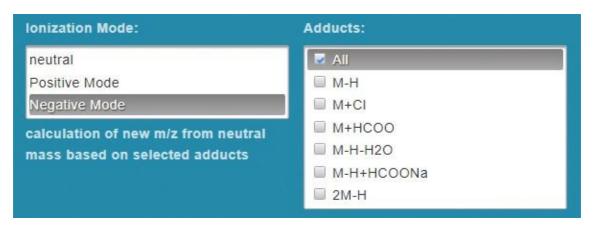


Figure 3 Adducts to search in negative mode

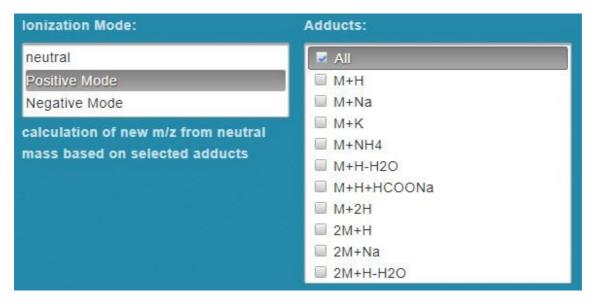


Figure 4 Adducts to search in positive mode.

The only type of knowledge that may be applied in simple search corresponds to the ionization rules. Depending on the metabolite type, some adducts are expected to be formed, some others are possibly present and some others are not expected to appear. For more information, look into section 2.5.

### 2.2. Advanced Search

Advanced search enables the user to find metabolites trough the m/z or the neutral mass including some extra query parameters that are not available in the simple search. In this section all the parameters are explained (see Figure 5).

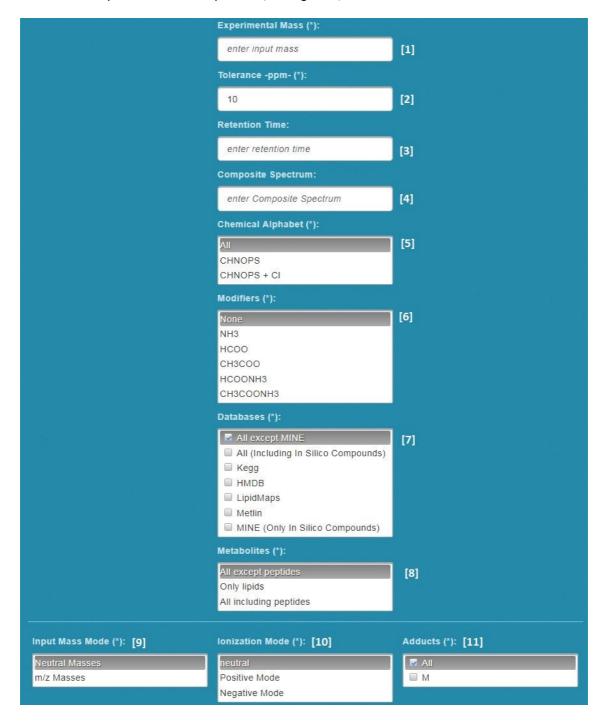


Figure 5 Advanced search interface

- [1] Experimental Mass (EM): Mass to search in Ceu Mass Mediator (Da).
- [2] Tolerance: Tolerance allowed for the putative annotations regarding the EM (ppm).

- [3] Retention Time (RT): Amount of time spends by a compound on the column after it has been injected. Unity used does not really matter since it is used for checking relations between different putative annotations.
- [4] Composite Spectrum (CS): Spectrum created by summation of all co-eluting m/z ions that are related, including isotopes, adducts and dimmers. It is used by CMM to calculate relations between them and automatically look which adduct corresponds to the peak (when more than one adduct is present in the CS).
- [5] Chemical Alphabet: Possible elements of the putative annotations. CHNOPS, CHNOPS + Cl, all elements.
- [6] Modifiers: Mobile phase modifier used. Depending on this modifier, the adduct formation may change. They are taken into account in the adduct formation rules (see section 2.5).
- [7] Databases: The putative annotations should be present in the databases chosen by the user (Kegg, HMDB, LipidMaps, Metlin or MINE).
- [8] Metabolites: Metabolite types to search. The user can filter the results based on the metabolite type. It may be used for excluding peptides, look only into lipids or perform a query over all type of metabolites.
- [9] Masses mode: The user is introducing the EM in neutral or m/z mode. If the user is working with neutral masses, Ceu Mass Mediator perform searches over positive or negative mode based on the hypothesis of the neutral mass calculated as [M-H]<sup>-</sup> or [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. That means that the EM will correspond to the m/z obtained in the mass spectrometer with the addition or subtraction of the mass of the hydrogen (H).
- [10] Ionization mode: The user wants to perform searches over a mass obtained in positive or negative mode. Depending on the ionization mode, the possible adducts formed differ.
- [11] Adducts: The possible adducts formed when running the experiment. The user may choose between different adducts in negative or positive mode. The list of possible adducts in negative and positive modes are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4.

The knowledge that may be applied in advanced search corresponds to the ionization rules. Depending on the metabolite type, some adducts are expected to be formed, some others are possibly present and some others are not expected to appear. For more information, look into section 2.5. However, the rules about adduct formation and lipid elution time cannot be applied since they are based in the relations between different peaks, but advanced search only accept one peak.

### 2.3. Batch Search

Batch search enables the user to find metabolites trough the m/z or the neutral masses. Query parameters are specified in the form shown in Figure 6.

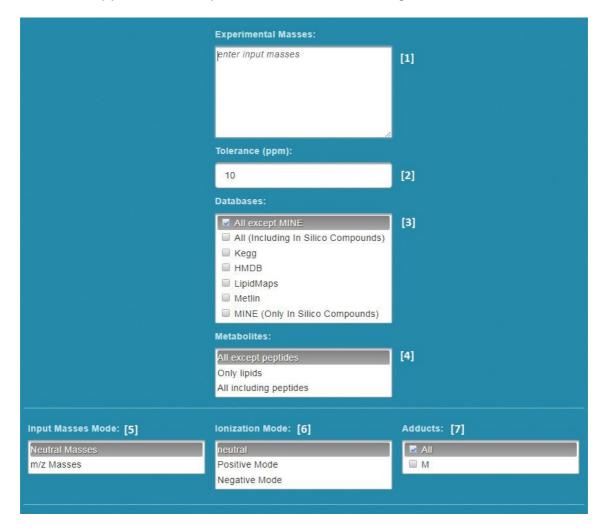


Figure 6 Batch search interface

- [1] Experimental Masses (EM): Masses to search in Ceu Mass Mediator (Da).
- [2] Tolerance: Tolerance allowed for the putative annotations regarding the EM (ppm).
- [3] Databases: The putative annotations should be present in the databases chosen by the user (Kegg, HMDB, LipidMaps, Metlin or MINE).
- [4] Metabolites: Metabolite types to search. The user can filter the results based on the metabolite type. It may be used for excluding peptides, look only into lipids or perform a query over all type of metabolites.
- [5] Masses mode: The user is introducing the EM in neutral or m/z mode. If the user is working with neutral masses, Ceu Mass Mediator perform searches over positive or negative mode based on the hypothesis of the neutral mass calculated as [M-H]<sup>-</sup> or [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. That means that the EM will correspond to the m/z obtained in the mass spectrometer with the addition or subtraction of the mass of the hydrogen (H).

- [6] Ionization mode: The user wants to perform searches over a mass obtained in positive or negative mode. Depending on the ionization mode, the possible adducts formed differ.
- [7] Adducts: The possible adducts formed when running the experiment. The user may choose between different adducts in negative or positive mode. The list of possible adducts in negative and positive modes are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4.

## 2.4. Batch Advanced Search

Batch advanced search enables the user to find metabolites trough the m/z or the neutral masses query parameters explained in section 2.2. In addition, it has three input fields devoted to biomarker discovery experiments. The experimental masses corresponding to non-significant features together with its corresponding RT and CS may be introduced to provide evidences that support or refute the putative annotations. However, the putative annotations of the compounds introduced in all experimental masses field, but not included in significant experimental masses, are not returned in the result list.

Figure 7 shows the fields of the batch advanced search. The only mandatory field regarding to the features obtained in mass spectrometer are the experimental masses of the significant compounds. RT, CS and non-significant experimental masses are optional fields that will be used by Ceu Mass Mediator for applying knowledge based on the rules explained in section 2.5. As much information the user provides in the form, more evidences can be used for supporting or refuting the putative annotations.

- [1] Significant experimental Masses (EM): Masses to search in Ceu Mass Mediator (Da) corresponding to significant features extracted after the statistical analysis.
- [2] Retention Time (RT): Amount of time spends by a compound on the column after it has been injected. Unity used does not really matter since it is used for checking relations between different putative annotations. The RT here introduced correspond to the experimental masses introduced in field [1] in the order they are introduced.
- [3] Composite Spectrum (CS): Spectrum created by summation of all co-eluting m/z ions that are related, including isotopes, adducts and dimmers. It is used by CMM to calculate relations between them and automatically look which adduct corresponds to the peak (when more than one adduct is present in the CS). The CS here introduced correspond to the experimental masses introduced in field [1] in the order they are introduced.
- [4] All experimental Masses (EM): All masses corresponding to significant and nonsignificant features extracted after the statistical analysis. Non-significant masses provide evidence for supporting or refuting the putative annotations.
- [5] Retention Time (RT): Amount of time spends by a compound on the column after it has been injected. Unity used does not really matter since it is used for checking relations between different putative annotations. The RT here introduced correspond to the experimental masses introduced in field [4] in the order they are introduced.

[6] Composite Spectrum (CS): Spectrum created by summation of all co-eluting m/z ions that are related, including isotopes, adducts and dimmers. It is used by CMM to calculate relations between them and automatically look which adduct corresponds to the peak (when more than one adduct is present in the CS). The CS here introduced correspond to the experimental masses introduced in field [4] in the order they are introduced.

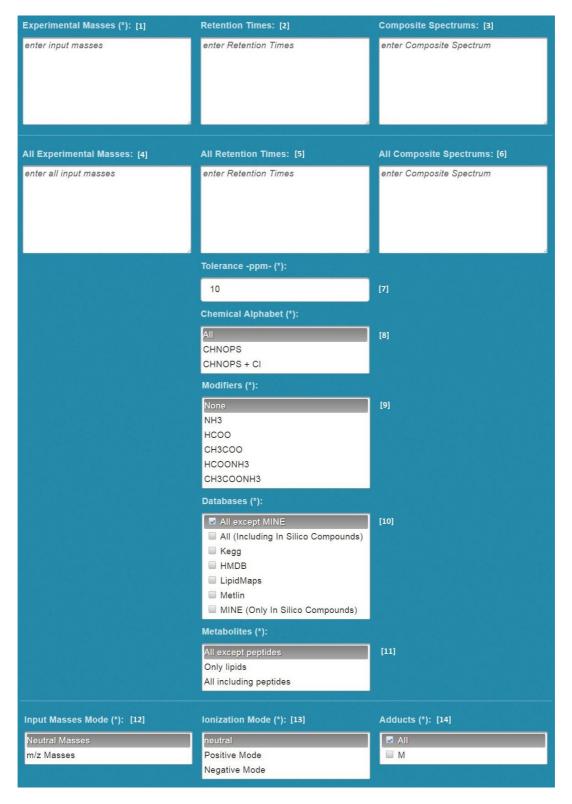


Figure 7 Batch advanced search interface

- [7] **Tolerance:** Tolerance allowed for the putative annotations regarding the significant EM (ppm).
- [8] Chemical Alphabet: Possible elements of the putative annotations. CHNOPS, CHNOPS + Cl, all elements.
- [9] Modifiers: Mobile phase modifier used. Depending on this modifier, the adduct formation may change. They are taken into account in the adduct formation rules (see section 2.5).
- [10] Databases: The putative annotations should be present in the databases chosen by the user (Kegg, HMDB, LipidMaps, Metlin or MINE).
- [11] Metabolites: Metabolite types to search. The user can filter the results based on the metabolite type. It may be used for excluding peptides, look only into lipids or perform a query over all type of metabolites.
- [12] Masses mode: The user is introducing the EM in neutral or m/z mode. If the user is working with neutral masses, Ceu Mass Mediator perform searches over positive or negative mode based on the hypothesis of the neutral mass calculated as [M-H]<sup>-</sup> or [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. That means that the EM will correspond to the m/z obtained in the mass spectrometer with the addition or subtraction of the mass of the hydrogen (H).
- [13] Ionization mode: The user wants to perform searches over a mass obtained in positive or negative mode. Depending on the ionization mode, the possible adducts formed differ.
- [14] Adducts: The possible adducts formed when running the experiment. The user may choose between different adducts in negative or positive mode. The list of possible adducts in negative and positive modes are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4.

Batch advanced search process all information provided (significant EM are mandatory, RT, CS and non-significant EM are optional) for scoring the putative annotations based on the rules explained in section 2.5

## 2.5. Annotations rules

Ceu Mass Mediator scores the putative annotations based on expert knowledge. This knowledge applied is especially devoted to lipids using Liquid Chromatography. It uses 143 rules divided in three main types:

1. Propensity of particular adducts formation depending on the lipid class, ionisation mode and mobile phase modifier used. Lipids belonging to particular class may always form some adducts in certain experimental conditions, whereas they may form others in different conditions. The mobile phase modifier used is indicated manually by the user. For example, phosphocholine in negative mode primarily form [M+HCOO] or [M+CH3COO] depending on the modifier used (HCOO or CH3COO); they may also form M+Cl with lower intensity; and they never form M-H. Lipid classes used in these rules are: PC,

LPC, PE, LPE, PI, PG, PS, LPS, PA, MG, DG, TG, CER, SM and CE according to the LipidMaps classification.

- 2. Relationship between signals of different adducts from the same compound (Lynn et al., 2015). We only expect certain types of adducts when others are present. For example, glycerophosphoethanolamines (PE) may form M+Na<sup>+</sup> adduct, but only when M+H adduct is also formed in higher abundance. If an experimental mass (738.5044 Da) is compatible with a M+Na<sup>+</sup> adduct of PE(34:2), but the adduct M+H<sup>+</sup> (716.5225 Da) is not present in the whole data matrix, CMM decreases the score of the annotation of PE(34:2) for experimental mass 738.5044 Da and adduct M+Na<sup>+</sup>.
- 3. Relative RT based on the lipid class and the length and number of double bounds in the lipid carbon chains (Godzien et al., 2016). For example, RT of LPG(18:0) must be greater than RT of LPG(16:0); and RT of LPG(18:0) must be greater than RT of LPG(18:2).

Ceu Mass Mediator calculates a score for each of these three rule types ( $\chi_1$ ,  $\chi_2$ ,  $\chi_3$ ) and then it integrates them by computing their weighted geometric mean:

$$\chi = \exp \left| \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{3} \omega_{i} \cdot \ln \chi_{i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{3} \omega_{i}} \right|$$

where  $\omega_i$  is the weight of each score and  $\chi_i$  is the punctuation for each score.  $\omega_1=1,\ \omega_2=1$  and  $\omega_3\in[0,2].\ \omega_3$  depends on the number of rules applied for lipid elution time. This is the only rule type that can be triggered a variable number of times for the same annotation, depending on how many other lipid annotations with which the retention time of the annotation to be scored can be compared with. The more rules have been triggered, the more evidence supporting or refuting the annotation would have been gathered, the more weight this evidence should have on the final score. Internally all  $\chi_i\in[0,1]$ , corresponding 0 with a completely refuted annotation, 1 with an annotation for which all the possible evidence is available and it is positive, and the value of 0.5 with an annotation for which there is no evidence (neither refuting nor supporting) but the annotation's mass matches the query parameters. However, scores are multiplied by 2 in the user interface because our experience has shown us that it is more intuitive to the researchers to see a final score in the interval [0,2].

#### 2.6. Submit menu

Once the user has performed any type of query explained in sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and Error: Reference source not found, the query is sent to the server when the button submit compounds (See [2] of Figure 8)

#### Figure 8 Submit compounds menu

- [1] Loading demo data: Demo data is loaded.
- [2] Submit compounds: Submit query with the filled fields by the user.
- [3] Reset: Empty the fields to start again the filling of the query parameters and input fields.

### 2.7. Result List

Once the user has performed any type of query explained in sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and Error: Reference source not found, a list of results is returned by Ceu Mass Mediator. Figure 9 shows an example of a result list.

- [1] Compound Id: Ceu Mass Mediator Id.
- [2] Name: Name of the putative annotation compound.
- [3] Formula: Formula of the putative annotation compound.
- [4] Molecular weight: Molecular weight of the putative annotation compound.
- [5] Retention time: Retention time introduced by the user for the experimental mass (see [18])
- [6] Error PPM: Difference in parts per million (ppm) between the molecular weight and the corresponding experimental mass ([18]) and it corresponding adduct ([19]).
- [7] Score 1: Score for ionization rules (see item 1 of section 2.5). The code colour is structured in four ranges.
  - [0, 0.5) is red and means that this annotation is expected to be wrong.
  - [0.5, 1) is orange and means that this annotation is expected to be wrong.
  - [1, 1.5) is yellow and means that this annotation is expected to be wrong.
  - [1.5, 2] is green and means that this annotation is expected to be right.
- [8] Score 2: Score for adduct formation rules (see item 2 of section 2.5). The code colour is the same than for score 1 (see [7]).
- [9] Score 3: Score for lipid elution order (see item 3 of section 2.5). The code colour is the same than for score 1 (see [7]).
- [10] Final score: Integrated score (see section 2.5). The code colour is the same than for score 1 (see [7]).

- [11] Cas: CAS Id.
- [12] KEGG Id: KEGG ID and its corresponding link.
- [13] HMDB Id: HMDB ID and its corresponding link.
- [14] LipidMaps Id: LipidMaps ID and its corresponding link.
- [15] Metlin Id: Metlin ID and its corresponding link.
- [16] PubChem Id: Pub Chemical Id and its corresponding link.
- [17] Pathways: Pathways from KEGG where the compound is present and its corresponding link.
  - [18] Experimental mass: Experimental mass introduced by the user.
  - [19] Adduct: Corresponding adduct for this table.
- [20] Number of hits: Number of hits found for the search corresponding to experimental mass ([18]) and it corresponding adduct ([19]).
- [21] Generate Excel: Button which generates an Excel file with the complete result list (all experimental masses and adducts). This excel file contains the same fields that the on-line interface, the same code colour explained in [7].

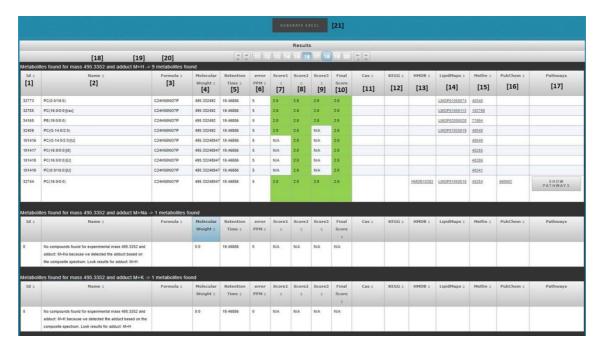


Figure 9 Result list interface

## 3. Pathway Displayer

This feature extract the information of a list of already identified compounds in order to perform a rank about the pathways that are more probably affected based on two different parameters: specificity of the compounds and percentage of compounds of the complete pathway from KEGG present in the file.

#### 3.1. File structure

To upload an excel file to be analysed by pathway displayer of Ceu Mass Mediator, it is needed to press the button Choose file and, once the file was selected, submit it (see Figure 10). The structure of the file should follow the structure of the downloaded files from the result list (see Figure 11). The header names of lines 1 and two should be present in the file, and pathways are listed in subsequent columns after the column T.

The user should filter the result list until it only contains the annotations corresponding to the identified compounds. If the user has worked with Ceu Mass Mediator, these annotations have a list of pathways where the compound is present according to KEGG database.



Figure 10 Pathway displayer menu

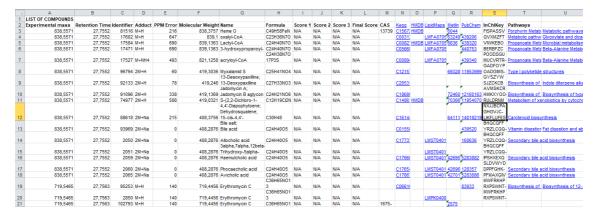


Figure 11 Structure of the Excel file for pathway displayer

Once the excel file is loaded, Ceu Mass Mediator process it taking into account two different parameters for ordering the pathways present in the excel file. This order may guide the researcher to focus his hypothesis in these pathways that have compounds more specific (For example, Chlorophyll is only present in pathways related to plants):

1. Specificity: In how many pathways is present the compound? It uses the formula:

```
Specificity = Min ( \frac{1}{number\ of\ pathways\ where\ the\ compounds\ has\ been\ detected}\ ) Specificity \in (0,1].
```

2. Percentage of the compounds: How many compounds of the pathway are present? It uses the formula:

Percentage =  $\frac{Number\ of\ co\ mpounds\ present\ \in\ the\ file\ \in\ pathway}{Total\ number\ of\ compounds\ present\ \in\ the\ pathway}$  Percentage  $\in$  (0,1].

The final order is determined by specificity and percentage. Specificity is the first parameter and, if the specificity is the same, then the percentage would be taken into account.

## 3.2. Result list for pathways

When the excel file is processed, Ceu Mass Mediator returns to the user a list of results with the pathways ordered (see section 3.1). Figure 12 shows an example of a list of pathways present in an excel file ordered using this approach. The results are also available in excel format if the user wants to work with it.



Figure 12 Results list of the pathway displayer

# 4. About

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