

BOOK REVIEW

High Performance Liquid Chromatography in Neuroscience Research, vol. 15

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The editors assume that "the neuroscientist faced with a specific analytical problem is not interested in developing a new methodology per se, but will want to use available HPLC methods to solve the problem." To this end this book provides selected methods and a selected bibliography, which can serve as a starting point for finding a method suitable for a specific purpose.

Some of the chapters, such as the one on neurological peptides and the one on amino acids, are well constructed, deal with a manageable number of compounds, and discuss the limitations of the detection and separation methods as well as the need to identify peaks and demonstrate conclusively that those peaks represent a single compound. Other chapters achieve these ends less effectively. It would have been more effective to have used one of the introductory chapters to discuss the uses and limitations of various detectors, especially the EC detectors, which are widely used, and to have developed the strategies for the positive identification of the homogeneity of HPLC peaks. These subjects are left to be dealt with to various degrees of completeness by individual authors and one must read most of the book to gain an appreciation of these subjects.

Little attention is given to use of derivatives of amines other than OPA; yet for these groups of compounds there are several other agents, such as DABS and PITC that are highly uv absorbant, and FMOC, that are

highly fluorescent, stable, and easy to form quantitatively. Different derivatives of a given group of compounds usually elute in a different order and thus help to insure that one is measuring only a single compound in a single peak.

Finally, the book has a lot of editorial mistakes and if the objective of the publication is to provide a selected compilation of tested methods, then some chapters should have been edited of material discussing the biological significance of the results that could be obtained by a given group of methods. The major use of this publication is as a first step in the search for an analytical method for the measurement of neurologically important compounds.

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