

metabolism, structure-activity relationships and molecular biology. The book clearly demonstrates how to convert a lead compound into a potential drug and provides recent case histories as examples of successes, e.g. the development of bioisosteres, protein kinase C inhibitors, dipeptoid antagonists, and migraine therapy.

Overall this is a well presented and extremely informative volume that provides an interesting background into the development of drugs from a medicinal chemistry viewpoint. It should prove to be an invaluable tool for those within the pharmaceutical industry and complement any scientific library.

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Developments in the Analysis of Lipids. Edited by J.H.P. Tyman and M.H. Gordon, The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, 1994. x + 206 pp. £45.00 (hardback). ISBN 0-85186-971-8.

As well as carbohydrates and proteins, lipids are biopolymers which are available naturally in large quantities and renewable. Lipids are long established, well-known materials for food applications, and are also currently being exploited as sources of various types of their components, particularly fatty acids, glycerol, mono- and diglycerides, for downstream processings such as oleochemical, non-food and detergent industries.

This book, *Developments in the Analysis of Lipids*, is derived from presentations at a Royal Society of Chemistry meeting by the leading practitioners and researchers in chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques for the analysis of lipids. The contents are divided into two main areas, namely *Extractive and Chromatographic Methods* and *Spectroscopic and Physical Methods*. The current popular method of extraction by using supercritical fluid extraction is presented by K.D. Bartle and A.A. Clifford. This presentation highlights the extraction aspects of this technique and the factors which influence the selectivity and quantitative recovery. Another paper covered by L.G. Blomberg and M. Demibuker on the analysis of triacylglycerols by argentation supercritical fluid chromatography. The industrial community would most probably appreciate the paper by K. Grob and C. Mariani on "LC-GC methods for the determination of adulterated edible oils and fats". Improvement of the method and better sensitivity for the detection of minute amounts of minor components in triglycerides would help the industry to combat the negative practice of harvesting high profit margins by producing lower quality products than specified.

The second chapter on spectroscopy and physical methods does provide a good account on the applica-

tion of modern techniques and the equipment used for the analysis of lipids, particularly using ^{13}C NMR, mass spectrometric techniques and neutron diffraction methods. There is an excellent section on purity criteria in edible oils and fats, by J.B. Rossell, which discusses the edible oil purity problems encountered in the world. By incorporating a carbon isotope ratio measurement, the authentication of the oil improved, particularly in the case of maize oil.

From a viewpoint of a researcher in oils and fats, this book is really valuable and does contain the information and references needed in my research work. This superb, analytical book on lipids is a pleasure to read, as the simplicity of the presentation throughout the book is illuminating. This book claims to provide an overview of the latest developments in the analysis of lipids, which will encourage the reader to exploit further the various aspects of these methodologies. Therefore the book is highly relevant to both academic and industrial analyses, especially in the area of oils and fats, and has both educative and industrial value.

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SigmaPlot, Scientific graphing software, Jandel scientific software, version 3 for windows 95, NT, and 3.1. Jandel Scientific Software GmbH, Schimmelbuschstr. 25, D-40699, Erkrath, Germany.

Data analysis and data presentation are necessary for research. Presentation using graphs is very effective since it makes data convenient and easy to understand, often at a glance. Computer software is also a tool to enhance and improve the quality of work presentation. Currently, there is a lot of software being improved for this purpose. SigmaPlot is one of the software packages which is extremely useful for data analysis and graph creation. It can produce a wide variety of graphs, for example, 2D Cartesian graphs, Pie charts and 3D Cartesian graphs. Moreover, it can create multi-axes per graph, multi-curves per graph, multi-graphs per page and multi-pages per worksheet.

In addition, users can use Excel as a worksheet and create SigmaPlot graphs immediately, since Excel is contained in this software. It also provides statistical analyses; *t*-test, linear regression and non-linear regression. These facilities make it superior to other software. With complete instructions on how to use the step-by-step interactive graph wizard, and graph creation using a toolbar, it is easy, powerful and quick to use. Users can also import data from other software programs such as Lotus 1-2-3 and dBase to SigmaPlot. Similarly, data from SigmaPlot can be exported to SigmaPlot 200, SigmaStat 1.0, Excel and Lotus 1-2-3.

The system requirements for this software are: an IBM PC (or compatible) with at least a 486, 33 MHz processor, 8 megabytes of RAM (or higher) and Windows 3.1 with 32s versions 1.30, Windows 95, or Windows NT version 3.51. A detailed fully illustrated user manual is included installing SigmaPlot and the Jandel Scientific Software World Wide Web Home Page as viewed through Netscape.

Overall, this is a well presented and easy to use software package. Since all modern laboratories are equipped with a PC, this package is a valuable addition to any science oriented software library.

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