

pensable reading for workers in this field and a valuable reference work for those with more tangential interests.

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Capillary Zone Electrophoresis, F. Foret, L. Krivankova and P. Bocek, Electrophoresis Library, B.J. Radola (Ed.), VCH Verlagsgesellschaft, Weinheim, 1993, 346 pages and subject index, £93.00, ISBN 3-527-30019-8

This book is an important first contribution to the series entitled “Electrophoresis Library”. The stated aims of the book include achieving an understanding of the theory, instrumentation, and application possibilities of capillary zone electrophoresis. These aims have largely been met within ten chapters which are assembled in a clear, logical manner.

A very brief one page introductory chapter explains the *raison d'être* for writing the book and clarifies the book's scope. A useful brief history of some three pages reminds us that the present intense activity in capillary electrophoresis arose from the camp of chromatographers and gently leads the reader to very comprehensive third and fourth chapters, covering fundamental concepts and theoretical principles. For newcomers to the field and for teaching purposes, these chapters should be immensely useful.

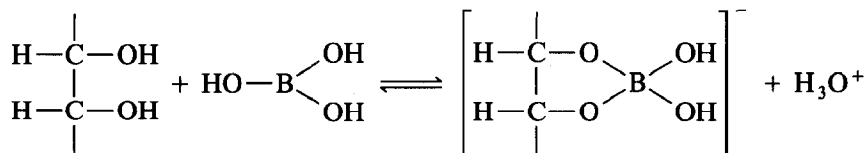
The various techniques of capillary electrophoresis including zone electrophoresis, isotachopheresis, isoelectric focussing, micellar electrokinetic chromatography, and the use of sieving media, are described in chapter five; these descriptions are concise, yet complete and well referenced. The above is a good introduction to chapter six on the practice of capillary electrophoresis, which covers the concept of theoretical plates, the role of electroosmosis in zone dispersion, wall sorption, and the minimization of dispersion; practical details of various gel preparations for capillary gel electrophoresis are also given in this section, along with methods for, and consequences of, capillary wall modification.

Chapter seven gives full descriptions of available capillary electrophoresis equipment and the various detection methods available; in the case of the latter, critical analysis of the limitations of the various detectors and detection methods is given. The latter includes direct and indirect UV/visible and fluorescence detectors, electrochemical methods, and mass spectrometry.

A particularly useful chapter is the final one dealing with applications. Capillary electrophoretic methods for small ions are covered in full detail and includes inorganic and organic materials. The second part of this chapter involves a detailed

description of the methods available for CE analysis of large molecules such as proteins and DNA molecules.

This book is extremely well referenced and is a mine of information for those who have CE equipment or those thinking of purchasing. Despite being highly readable there were rather too many examples of poor English and I would therefore urge more rigorous proof reading of any second edition. To list all these errors would take up too much space but one error unrelated to language problems was apparent on page 102; Fig. 6.8 should be:



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