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Use of Simultaneous Face to Face and Face to Edge π - π Interactions to Facilitate Chiral Recognition

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Abstract: A recently developed HPLC chiral stationary phase exhibits a general ability to resolve the enantiomers of compounds possessing both an electron rich conjugated π -system and a hydrogen bond acceptor located near the stereogenic center.

Despite their importance, chromatographic enantioseparations^{2,3} are often sought and conducted without much real understanding of how the chiral stationary phase distinguishes between enantiomers. We are striving to better understand the mechanistic details of "chiral recognition" and thereby design highly enantioselective selectors of broad scope. CSP 1, recently designed specifically for resolution of the enantiomers of naproxen and related α -aryl propionic acids,^{4,5} possesses structural features conducive to wider applicability. The chiral selector used in CSP 1 can be viewed as a semirigid framework holding a π -acidic 3,5-dinitrobenzamide group perpendicular to a π -basic polynuclear aromatic group. The amide N-H serves as a hydrogen bond donor and is situated in the cleft formed by the two aromatic systems. These are capable of simultaneous face to face and face to edge π - π interaction with an aromatic group present in the analyte. Presumably, the face to face interaction undergone by the analytes aromatic substituent enhances its ability to simultaneously participate in the face to edge interaction.

Many classes of chiral compounds possess the "complimentary functionality" needed for chiral recognition by CSP 1. Typically, the enantiomers of a compound having an aromatic substituent and a hydrogen bond acceptor on or near a stereogenic center can be separated chromatographically on CSP 1.

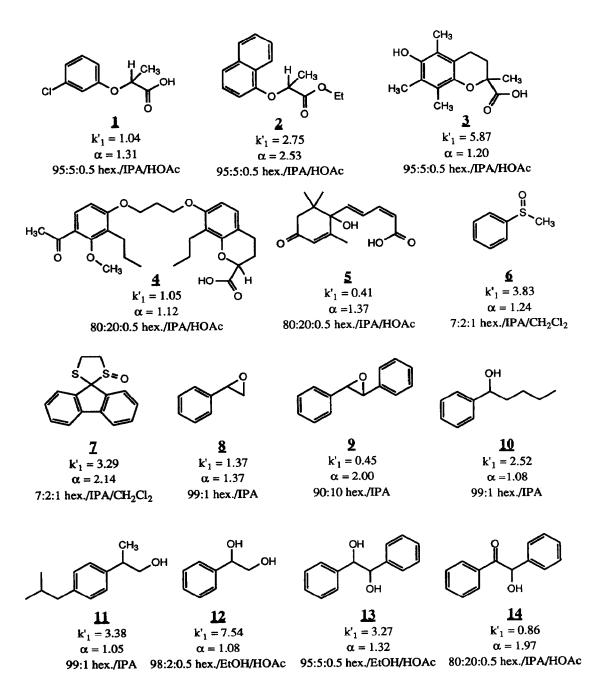
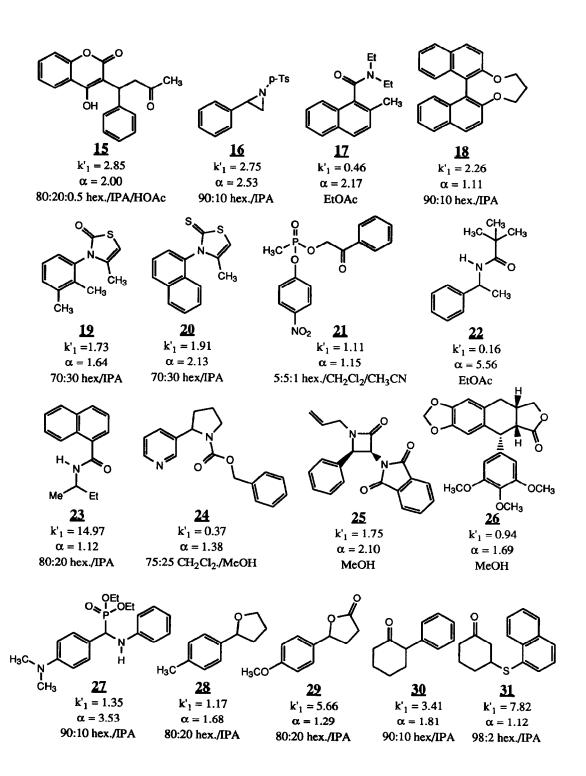


Figure 1: Examples of compounds which are resolved on CSP 1. k'_1 = retention factor for initially eluted enantiomer. α = chromatographic separation factor. Mobile phase as indicated. All separations were conducted at a flow rate of 1.00 ml/min.



Resolution of a number of profens (α-aryl propionic acids) on CSP 1 was previously reported.⁵ The esters and amides of profens also resolve, as do the structurally related α-aryloxy propionic acids and their ester and amide derivatives (Figure 1; compounds 1 and 2). Other chiral carboxylic acids [e.g. the antioxidant, trolox (3), the experimental psoriasis drug, SC 41930 (4) and the plant hormone, abscisic acid (5)⁶] are also resolved with this CSP. Aryl sulfoxides fit the general pattern (e.g. 6 and 7) as do α-aryl epoxides (e.g. 8 and 9), aryl alkanols (e.g. 10 and 11), and aryl diols (e.g. 12 and 13). The enantiomers of benzoin, 14, and warfarin, 15, are well resolved as are the enantiomers of N-tosyl-α-aryl aziridines (e.g. 16). Atropisomers such as the naphthamide, 17,8 the \(\beta\)-binaphthol derivative, 18, and \(N\)-arylthiazolinones (or the oxygen analogs, e.g. 19 and 20) resolve on CSP 1 as do chiral phosphonates such as 21. The enantiomers of virtually any amide, carbamate, or urea derivative of an α-aryl aminoalkane (e.g. 22) are readily separated on CSP 1, separation factors of 2 to 15 being observed. The enantiomers of a great many aliphatic and heterocyclic amines can be resolved after acylation with an achiral reagent (e.g. 23, 24). The \(\beta\)-lactam, 25, the lignan, 26, the amino phosphonate, 27, the tetrahydrofuran, 28, and the lactone 29 are all readily resolved. A variety of chiral ketones having their carbonyl group near an aryl substituent and a stereogenic center also resolve nicely on CSP 1 (e.g. 28 - 30). These examples are provided as guides to aid potential users and are illustrative, not "best case" examples. A more detailed account concerning mechanism and elution order will be forthcoming. In view of the generality, durability, high chromatographic efficiency, and the ability to tolerate a variety of temperatures, mobile phases, and large sample loads, CSP 19 is regarded as being the most useful CSP to yet emerge from our research.

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- 9) These columns are now available as the Whelk-O 1 CSP from Regis Technologies, Inc., Morton Grove, IL.