

**HPLC and Lipids — A Practical Guide.** By W. W. Christie, First Edition. Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1988. 272 pp. ISBN 0-08-034212-4. Price £21.00.

High performance liquid chromatography has been an analytical tool for chemists and biochemists since the early 1970s. However, the potential for lipid analysis by HPLC was only discovered a few years or so ago. The reason for this could be due to the fact that hitherto lipid analysts have been content with using GLC and TLC. These two techniques, which have contributed enormously to the present knowledge of lipids, now appear rather limited when compared to HPLC. During the last few years though, this situation has been remedied and a book covering the various aspects and techniques has been written. Thus, the publication of 'HPLC and Lipids — A Practical Guide' is a welcome appearance.

The author, himself an eminent authority on lipids, starts by introducing the reader to lipids, their structure and occurrence, and to HPLC, giving brief outlines of the various separation modes, column packings and the required equipment. He then goes on to describe pre-analysis preparation methods such as extraction, storage and fractionation of lipids. The chapters which follow deal more specifically with the methods of lipid analysis by HPLC starting from simple lipids via phospholipids, fatty acids, glycerolipids and sphingolipids, to the separations of various compounds which do not fit into any of those specific categories but are still classed as lipids. All these topics are approached in a practical way, and problems and shortcomings of the new HPLC methods are discussed. In addition, the interested reader is referred to a wealth of up-to-date publications which are cited at the end of the book, and there is no shortage of tables and figures showing actual chromatograms.

All in all, the author must be congratulated in writing a book which combines the theoretical and practical aspects of lipid analysis by HPLC, which is both comprehensive and comprehensible. Although this book is intended for the practising lipid analyst, it must also be recommended to newcomers to this subject.

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