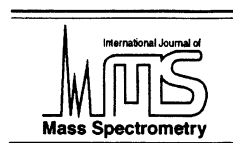




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International Journal of Mass Spectrometry 193 (1999) vii



Foreword

Molecular recognition has played an enormous role in many areas of organic chemistry and biochemistry, but only relatively recently have aspects of molecular recognition been evaluated in the gas phase by mass spectrometry. Studies of host-guest chemistry in the gas phase allow examination of intrinsic details of complexation in the absence of solvation effects. In addition, electrospray ionization and matrix assisted laser desorption ionization have proven to be versatile methods for lifting host-guest complexes into the gas phase, thus allowing an effective way to bridge the gap between solution and gas-phase environments. Further, new techniques based on molecular recognition offer possible routes to mass spectrometric probes of subtle stereochemical and conformation

information that is currently difficult or impossible to obtain. The articles included in this special issue represent some of the work at the forefront of the field of gas-phase studies of molecular recognition as probed by mass spectrometry. It is an area that is growing rapidly and presents one of the most interesting challenges for further exploration in the new century.

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