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## Letter to the Editor

## Conversion of linear into logarithmic retention indices

Sir,

The equation for conversion of linear ($J$) into logarithmic ($I$) retention indices given by Vigdergauz in his Letter to the Editor is correct and identical with the modified relationship published by myself[1]. The comment of Vigdergauz that "Mitra rewrote eqn. 1 incorrectly, replacing $\delta J$ by $J$" is inaccurate. The fact is that Soják and Vigdergauz[2] have quoted the incorrect equation using $J$ instead of $\delta J$ themselves, from the earlier work of Vigdergauz and Martynov[3] (see the first line on page 160 of ref. 2), stating, "The analytical relationship between the quantities $J$ and $I$ has the following form[5]". I felt that Vigdergauz might have given the incorrect equation (eqn. 3), which needs modification, and thus my paper on this point was published[1]. In fact, I did not claim the equation to be my own rather than a modification. Further, if the said equation was misprinted in ref. 2, the authors could have published an addendum or erratum, rather than criticizing me and others. It was necessary to go through the validity of the equation when it has been published in a reputable international journal[2], particularly when quoted by the original author.

In scientific fields such mistakes may happen unknowingly, but should be accepted with good grace when they are pointed out.

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1  G. D. Mitra, *J. Chromatogr.*, 211 (1981) 239.
2  L. Soják and M. S. Vigdergauz, *J. Chromatogr.*, 148 (1978) 159.
3  M. S. Vigdergauz and A. A. Martynov, *Chromatographia*, 4 (1971) 463.

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