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## Book Review

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*Capillary Electrophoresis Guidebook, Principles, Operation and Applications*, edited by Kevin D. Altria; Humana Press, Totowa, NJ, 1996, Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 52, X+349 pp., price US\$ 74.50, ISBN: 0-89603-315-5

This book is an assembly of twenty rather independent chapters organized in two parts. Part I is named General Guidelines to the Operation of Capillary Electrophoresis Methods and Instrumentation and it covers eleven chapters.

In the first chapter, named Fundamentals of Capillary Electrophoresis Theory, the title denotes what is missing in this chapter.

The second chapter, named Standard Commercial Instrument Description, presents a leaflet from Beckman.

The third chapter, titled Typical Operating Procedures, is a brief commercial instrumentation manual.

The fourth chapter, named Method Development/Optimization, is an assembly of protocols for various chemically monothematic samples.

Quantitative procedures are described in Chapter 5 and the text provides a series of recipes.

Chapters 6 and 7, named Optimization of Precision in Quantitative Analysis and Optimization of Sensitivity, respectively, are written as a series of randomly assembled paragraphs, which only an experienced user of CE might be able to follow.

Chapter 8, entitled Method Validation, is a useful chapter which may be of benefit both to newcomers to the field and to the experienced CZE user.

Fraction collection is described on four pages in Chapter 9.

The text in Chapter 10 on Troubleshooting is rather unhelpful, as can be seen from the following example.

“Analysis Time too Short. The analysis time should be extended (or voltage increased) and the sample reanalyzed”(!).

Chapter 11, named Quick Guide to Running a Successful Separation, covers four pages and is of the same level as Chapters 6 and 7.

The second part of the book, named Applications of Capillary Electrophoresis and Specific Technologies, has a different character and style from the first part.

Chapter 12, named Micellar Electrokinetic Chromatography, is a comprehensive and valuable description of this technique.

Capillary Gel Electrophoresis, described in Chapter 13, is illustrative, however, it omits comments on the principles of sieving and the effects of gel concentration.

Chapter 14, describing Chiral Separations by Capillary Electrophoresis, is informative, however, it does not cover any general principles, although it does provide at least 80 references.

Capillary Electrochromatography, described on twelve pages in Chapter 15, gives a valuable and brief characterization of this technique.

Chapter 16 is concerned with the Application and Limits of Sample Stacking in Capillary Electrophoresis and it introduces the ITP principles and related phenomena in an illustrative way.

Chapter 17, titled Analysis of Bases, Nucleosides and (Oligo)nucleotides by Capillary Electrophoresis, is a classical review of this topic.

Application of Capillary Electrophoresis to Phar-

maceutical Analysis, described in Chapter 18, is a rephrased version of Chapter 8.

Chapter 19, on Separation of Peptides and Protein Digests by Capillary Electrophoresis, is a good introduction for newcomers to this field.

Chapter 20, entitled Additional Application Areas of Capillary Electrophoresis, is valuable for its 139 references, where the reader can find what is missing in this book.

Finally, I believe that the reviews enclosed in the book may serve well as reference sources for both newcomers and experts in the field.

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