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Preface

Micellar mobile phases not only represent an alternative to organic modifiers in liquid column chromatography, but being involved in background electrolytes revolutionized capillary electrophoresis making it applicable to electrically neutral compounds. This was a very large step forwards as it spread the possibilities of capillary electrophoresis practically to all branches of organic chemistry. At that moment electrokinetic chromatography was born and penetrated diverse applications areas such as the analysis of drugs, environmental toxicants, food analysis etc. It is not only the partition process between the micelle and the surrounding polar background electrolyte or mobile phase, but also the role of the chemical nature of the micelle itself which determines the quality of the separation. Another area to be explored are the changes in the partition process if organic modifiers are present in the background electrolyte and/or mobile phase.

We have attempted to summarize different opinions in this field in the present Volume, which, we hope, can serve as a source of rapid information for those who would like to use micellar phases in solving their particular problems.

Science is based to a considerable extent on discussions. We are open to any comments of the potential readers both as far as the meritorial and formal aspects of this Volume is concerned as such hints can help us to improve our work in the future.

Hyogo and Prague,
March 1997

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