

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/chroma

Instructions to Authors



INCLUDING ELECTROPHORESIS, MASS SPECTROMETRY AND OTHER SEPARATION AND DETECTION METHODS

Editorial Office *Journal of Chromatography A*, P.O. Box 681, 1000 AR Amsterdam, The Netherlands Radarveg 29, 1043 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Tel: +31-20-4852794 Fax: +31-20-4852304 e-mail: chrom-eo@elsevier.com



ELSEVIER

Amsterdam - London - New York - Oxford - Paris - Shannon - Tokyo

JOURNAL OF CHROMATOGRAPHY A

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Scope

Journal of Chromatography A

including electrophoresis, mass spectrometry and other separation and detection methods

The *Journal of Chromatography A* publishes papers on all aspects of separation science including chromatography, electrophoresis, hyphenated and other multi-dimensional techniques, sample preparation as well as detection methods such as mass spectrometry. Contributions consist mainly of research papers dealing with chromatographic and electrophoretic theory, instrumental developments and their analytical and preparative applications.

Types of contributions

The following types of papers are published in the *Journal of Chromatography A*: Regular research papers (full-length papers), Review articles, Short Communications, Discussions, Technical Notes and Letters to the Editor. Review articles are invited or proposed in writing to the Editors, who welcome suggestions for subjects. An outline of the proposed Review should first be forwarded to the Editors for preliminary discussion prior to preparation. Short Communications are usually descriptions of short investigations, or they can report minor technical improvements of previously published procedures: they reflect the same quality of research as full-length papers, but should preferably not exceed five printed pages. Discussions (one or two pages) should explain, amplify, correct or otherwise comment substantively upon an article recently published in the journal.

Submission of papers

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the Publisher.

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to transfer copyright (for more information on copyright see http://authors.elsevier.com). This transfer will ensure the widest possible dissemination of information. A letter will be sent to the corresponding Author confirming receipt of the manuscript. A form facilitating transfer of copyright will be provided. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the Author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases: contact Elsevier's Rights Department, Oxford, UK: phone: (+44) 1865 843830, fax: (+44) 1865 853333, e-mail: permissions@elsevier.com. Requests may also be completed on-line via the Elsevier homepage (http://www.elsevier.com/locate/permissions).

Submission to the journal

Submission of both regular and special issue articles to this journal proceeds totally on-line via the journal's submission website http://ees.elsevier.com/chroma. At the submission website you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various files. Once the uploading is done, our system automatically generates an electronic (PDF) proof, which is then used for reviewing. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revisions, will be by e-mail. If you are unable to provide an electronic version, please contact the editorial office prior to submission at e-mail: chrom-eo@elsevier.com; telephone: +31 20 485 2796; or fax: +31 20 485 2304.

Every paper must be accompanied by a letter from the senior author, stating that he/she is submitting the paper for publication in the Journal of Chromatography A. In the letter, possible reviewers may be suggested.

Electronic format requirements

We accept most wordprocessing formats, but Word, WordPerfect or LaTeX is preferred. Always keep a backup copy of the electronic file for reference and safety. Save your files using the default extension of the program used.

Manuscripts

Manuscripts should be typed in *single spacing* on one side of consecutively numbered sheets of paper of uniform size. A 2-cm margin should be left on each side, an easily readable font (12 pt.) should be chosen, and a letter-quality printer or equivalent should be used. As a rule, papers should be divided into sections, headed by captions (e.g. Abstract, Introduction, Experimental, Results, Discussion). If publications "in press" or "submitted for publication" are cited, on which the new paper is based, copies of these publications should be enclosed.

Title

The title of the paper should be concise and informative. Since titles are widely used in information retrieval systems, care should be taken to include the key words. The title should be followed by the authors' full names, academic or professional affiliations, and the address of the laboratory where the work was carried out. If the present address of an author is different from that mentioned, it should be given in a footnote. Acknowledgements of financial support are not to be made in a footnote to the title or name of the author, but should be included in the Acknowledgements at the end of the paper.

Abstract and keywords

All articles should have an abstract of 50–100 words which clearly and briefly indicates what is new, different and significant. No references should be given. A list of keywords should be added. These keywords (or key phrases) must be carefully selected to reflect the scope of the paper. General words should be avoided in favour of more specific terms. Normally six keywords or key phrases will be sufficient.

Introduction

Every paper must have a concise introduction that mentions what has been done before on the topic, with appropriate references, and that states clearly what is new in the paper now submitted.

Experimental

The Experimental section should contain sufficient information for others to repeat the experiments. Whereas general conditions can usually best be specified in the Experimental section, it is often better to give specific details in the figure captions. Appendix 1 lists what should typically be specified.

Tables and illustrations

Although appropriate tables and illustrations contribute to a clear and concise presentation of results, they should not merely repeat data already given in the text.

Tables should be uploaded separately, and numbered according to their sequence in the text. A brief descriptive heading should be given with each table. Below the heading the experimental conditions should be described. The layout of the tables should be given serious thought, so that the reader can grasp quickly the significance of the results.

Figures and photographs should also be uploaded separately in a form suitable for reproduction.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available on our website: http://authors.elsevier.com/artwork

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Format

Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalised, please "save as" or convert the images to one of the following formats (Note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below.):

EPS: Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as "graphics".

TIFF: Colour or greyscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.

TIFF: Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.

TIFF: Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (colour or greyscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

DOC, XLS or PPT: If your electronic artwork is created in any of these Microsoft Office applications please supply "as is".

Please do not:

- Supply embedded graphics in your wordprocessor (spreadsheet, presentation) document;
- Supply files that are optimised for screen use (like GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

All axes of graphs and chromatograms should be clearly labelled, with full quantitative data, equivalent information should be provided in the legend. Please note that any lettering should also be in a form suitable for reproduction. Lettering (which should be kept to a minimum) and spacing on axes of graphs should be such that numbers, etc., remain legible after reduction in size. The figures should preferably be of such a size that the same degree of reduction can be applied to all of them. The size of the figures should preferably not exceed the size of the text pages. Simple straight-line graphs (such as calibration lines) are not acceptable, because they can readily be described in the text by means of an equation or a sentence. Claims of linearity should be supported by regression data that include slope, intercept, standard deviations of the slope and intercept, standard error and the number of data points; correlation coefficients are optional. Standard symbols should be used in line drawings; the following are available to the typesetters and can also be used in the legends: filled or open squares, triangles, circles or diamonds, + or \times .

Photographs should have good contrast and intensity. Sharp, glossy photographs are required to obtain good half tones. References to the illustrations should be included in appropriate places in the text by Arabic numerals and the approximate position of the illustration should be indicated in the margin of the manuscript. Each illustration should have a caption, all the captions being typed (with double spacing) together on a separate sheet.

Free colour pictures and other supplementary material on the WWW

Authors may now submit colour pictures and other supplementary material along with their paper. If, together with the accepted article, usable colour figures are submitted then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in colour on the web (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in colour in the printed version. For colour reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. For further information on the preparation of electronic artwork, please see http://authors.elsevier.com/artwork

The written permission of the author and publisher must be obtained for the use of any figure already published. Its source must be indicated in the legend.

Nomenclature, symbols, abbreviations and units

Widely accepted symbols, abbreviations and units (SI) should be used. If there is any doubt about a particular symbol or abbreviation, the full expression followed by the abbreviation should be given the first time it appears in the text. Abbreviations used in tables and figures should be explained in the captions. In general, the recommendations of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) should be followed and attention should be given to the recommendations of the Analytical Chemistry Division in the journal Pure and Applied Chemistry: Nomenclature for Chromatography, Pure Appl. Chem., 65 (1993) 819–872. Decimal points should be indicated by full stops. All decimal numbers smaller than unity should include a leading zero (e.g. 0.11). Company-specific research codes for compounds should not be used; after a full definition of the compound (possibly including such codes) in the Introduction, it may be further indicated by a bold-face Roman or Arabic numeral.

References

References should be numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text, and listed in numerical sequence on a separate sheet at the end of the article. The numbers should appear in the text at the appropriate places in square brackets. In the reference list, periodicals [1], monographs [2], multi-author books [3], and proceedings [4] should be cited in accordance with the following examples:

- [1] S. Chellam, M.R. Wiesner, J. Membrane Sci. 138 (1998) 83.
- [2] T.R. Bott. Fouling of Heat Exchangers. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1995.
- [3] C.H. Foyer, in R.G. Alscher, J.L. Hess (Editors), Antioxidants in Higher Plants. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 1993, p. 31.
- [4] A. Veide, C. Hassinen, D. Hallen, M. Eiteman, B. Lassen, K. Holmbert, in R.D. Rogers, M.A. Eiteman (Editors), Proceedings of the American Chemical Society Symposium on Aqueous Biophasic Separation. Plenum Publishers, New York, NY, 1995, p. 133.

Abbreviations for the titles of journals should follow the system used by Chemical Abstracts. Articles not yet published should be given as "in press" (journal should be specified), "submitted for publication" (journal should be specified), "in preparation" or "personal communication".

Vols. 1–651 of the Journal of Chromatography; Journal of Chromatography, Biomedical Applications and Journal of Chromatography, Symposium Volumes should be cited as J. Chromatogr.

From Vol. 652 on, Journal of Chromatography A (incl. Symposium Volumes) should be cited as J. Chromatogr. A and Journal of Chromatography B as J. Chromatogr. B.

Proofs

One set of page proofs in PDF format will be sent by e-mail to the corresponding Author, to be checked for typesetting/editing. No changes in, or additions to, the accepted (and subsequently edited) manuscript will be allowed at this stage. Proofreading is solely your responsibility. Elsevier will do everything possible to get your article corrected and published as quickly and accurately as possible. In order to do this we need your help. When you receive the (PDF) proof of your article for correction, it is important to ensure that all of your corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Subsequent corrections will not be possible, so please ensure your first sending is complete. Note that this does not mean you have any less time to make your corrections, just that only one set of corrections will be accepted.

Reprints

Twenty-five reprints of Regular research papers, Reviews, Short Communications, Discussions, Technical Notes and Letters to the Editor will be supplied free of charge. Additional reprints can be ordered. The order form containing price quotations will be sent to the authors together with a copyright transfer form upon acceptance of the manuscript.

● Important information

- For information on editorial matters (including submission, reviews and revision of manuscripts) please contact: Editorial Office, *Journal of Chromatography A*, P.O. Box 681, 1000 AR Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Tel.: (+31-20) 4852794; Fax: (+31-20) 4852304; E-mail: chromeo@elsevier.com
- For specific enquiries on the preparation of electronic artwork, consult http://www.elsevier.com/locate/authorartwork/
- Visit the Elsevier's Author Gateway at (http://authors.elsevier.com) for the facility to track accepted articles and set up e-mail alerts to inform you of when an article's status has changed. The Author Gateway also provides detailed artwork guidelines, copyright information, frequently asked questions and more.

Contact details for questions arising after acceptance of an article, especially those relating to proofs, are provided after registration of an article for publication

- For orders, claims and product enquiries: please contact the Customer Service Department at the Regional Sales Office nearest you:

Orlando: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887-4800, USA; phone: (+1) (877) 8397126 [toll free number for US customers], or (+1) (407) 3454020 [customers outside US]; fax: (+1) (407) 3631354; e-mail: usics@elsevier.com

Amsterdam: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands; phone: (+31) (20) 4853757; fax: (+31) (20) 4853432; e-mail: nlinfo-f@elsevier.com

Tokyo: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, 4F Higashi-Azabu, 1-Chome Bldg, 1-9-15 Higashi-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044, Japan; phone: (+81) (3) 5561 5037; fax: (+81) (3) 5561 5047; e-mail: jp.info@elsevier.com

Singapore: Elsevier, Customer Service Department, 3 Killiney Road, #08-01 Winsland House I, Singapore 239519; phone: (+65) 63490222; fax: (+65) 67331510; e-mail: asiainfo@elsevier.com

Appendix 1: Experimental conditions to be specified

Experimental conditions should preferably be given on a separate sheet, headed "Conditions". These conditions will, if appropriate, be printed in a block, directly following the heading "Experimental".

General

Chemicals. Supplier (+ city/town, state, country) and degree of purity of all less common chemicals; EC number of enzymes; optical purity of enantiomers. Equipment. Model and manufacturer (+ city/town, state, country) of commercial instruments (e.g. chromatographs and detectors). For instruments that are not commercially available, sufficient detail (or a reference) should be given to allow others to construct their own instrument. Detection parameters (e.g. type, wavelength, attenuation, linearity range, limit of detection at a specified signal-to-noise ratio).

Sample preparation. Application papers should contain full details (or a reference) of the method of sample preparation. For centrifugation steps, give details of g value and time. Injection device and volume and concentration of the injected sample should be specified.

Column liquid chromatography

Column. Column dimensions (length \times internal diameter), manufacturer and location, packing material (for non-commercial columns or columns that are not widely used the chemical composition should be specified), particle diameter, pore diameter, column temperature.

Mobile phase. Complete and unambiguous description of the mobile phase composition or procedure for its preparation; pH; flow-rate; gradient programme. k values. When reporting values, the method for determining the hold-up time (t_0) must be described.

Gas chromatography and supercritical fluid chromatography

Column. In addition to the parameters mentioned for column liquid chromatography, specify type of column (packed, capillary, etc.) support material, film thickness of the stationary phase, and surface modification, if applicable.

Carrier gas. Type, purity, flow-rate or inlet pressure (bar or MPa).

Temperature. All relevant temperatures (or temperature programmes) should be detailed.

Planar chromatography

Chamber. Internal dimensions, manufacturer and location, saturation, temperature, humidity.

Thin layer or paper. Manufacturer and location, material, dimensions, type (laboratory-prepared or commercially precoated) and thickness of layer, additives (fluorescent indicator, binder), position of starting line, development mode, method of activation.

Solvent. Composition of solvent, monophasic or upper or lower phase of two-phase mixture, total volume.

Sample. Application method, size of spot or streak, solvent and amount of solute and volume of solution applied.

Detection. Spray reagent, wavelength, details of colours, R_F values.

Electrophoresis

Matrix. For example, cellulose acetate, agarose, polyacrylamide; gel concentration; percentage cross-linker; dimensions and material of tube, sheet, etc., surface modification, length between column inlet and detector, temperature.

Buffers. Complete and unambiguous description of buffers used, pH and how the pH was set or adjusted.

Other. Injection method, voltage, current. In electropherograms, anode and cathode should be indicated.

Mass spectrometry

Inlet system. Direct on-line, off-line, postcolumn splitting, postcolumn buffer or matrix addition.

Source. Ionization energy, temperature, trap current, reagent gas. For LC interfaces, complete and unambiguous description of the same and their operating parameters (vaporizer and capillary temperature, buffers, nebulizing, auxiliary or ionizing gases, gas pressures, source and interface voltages, up-front CID voltages.

Mass analyzer. Accelerating voltage, scan mode, collision gas for tendem MS work, collision gas pressure, collision energy, resolution and mass range. Detection. Electron multiplier voltage and/or electrometer gain, ions monitored in SIM and dwell times.

Appendix 2: Conversion table for the non-SI units most frequently used

The use of some non-SI units has been accepted for practical reasons; to this category belong units for time (min, h), volume (l), pressure (1 bar = 10^5 Pa), temperature (°C), energy (1 eV $\approx 160 \, 219 \cdot 10^{-21}$ J), mass (1 u $\approx 1.66053 \cdot 10^{-27}$ kg) and activity (1 Ci = $3.7 \cdot 10^{10}$ Bq). This journal also accepts Å (= 0.1 nm). Concentration should formally be expressed in mol dm⁻³ or mol l⁻¹, but the symbol M is accepted; normality (N) should not be used, however. The frequently used "daltons" are not compatible with the SI system — the relative molecular mass (M_T) should be given as a value only (dimensionless). Gravitational force must be expressed in g; rpm is not allowed for centrifugation (but it is, e.g., for vortex mixing). The table below summarizes some conversion factors; to obtain the value in SI units, the value in non-SI units should be multiplied by the factor.

| Physical quantity | Type of conversion | Factor |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Length | in. \rightarrow cm | 2.54 |
| | $ft. \rightarrow cm$ | 30.4801 |
| Area | $in.^2 \rightarrow cm^2$ | 6.451626 |
| Mass | lb. \rightarrow kg | 0.45359237 |
| Volume | gallon (USA) $\rightarrow 1$ | 3.785332 |
| | gallon (UK) \rightarrow 1 | 4.54609 |
| Pressure | $atm \rightarrow Pa$ | 101 325 |
| | mmHg or Torr \rightarrow Pa | 133.322 |
| | $mmH_2O \rightarrow Pa$ | 9.80665 |
| | $kp cm^2 \rightarrow Pa$ | 98066.5 |
| | lbs. in. $^{-2}$ or p.s.i. \rightarrow Pa | 6894.76 |

Other frequently used non-SI "units" are ppm, ppb and ppt. When used in this journal, the American billion (10^9) and trillion (10^{12}) are meant. The use of ppm, ppb and ppt is *only* permitted if they refer to mass/mass or volume/volume ratios; they should **not** be used for mass/volume ratios. The first time such a "unit" appears in an article, it should be indicated whether it refers to mass/mass or to volume/volume.

Appendix 3: Abbreviations and symbols that may be used without definition

Abbreviations and symbols should not be used in article titles. Please note that most abbreviations should only be used in combination with a value, or in structural formulae.

Abbreviations

A, C, G, T adenine, cytidine, guanine, thymine

Ac, OAc acetyl, acetate
A/D analog-to-digital

ADP, AMP, ATP, and similar adenosine 5'-di-, -mono-, triphosphate, etc.

nucleoside phosphates

a.c. alternating current

amino acids standard 3- and 1-letter codes

AU absorbance units

BET Brunauer—Emmett—Teller

b.p. boiling point
Bu butyl

cpm counts per minute
CE capillary electrophoresis

d, m, p, r, t (in nucleosides/ deoxy, messenger, phosphate, recombinant/ ribosomal, transfer

nucleotides/nucleic acids)

d.c. direct current

DDD, DDT, DDE di-, trichloro-bis(chlorophenyl)ethane, -ethylene

DEAE diethylaminoethyl

DNA, DNase deoxyribonucleic acid, deoxyribonuclease
Dns, dansyl 5-dimethylaminonaphthalene-1-sulfonyl

DOPA 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine dpm desintegrations per minute

EC enzyme commission numbering system EDTA ethylenediaminetetraacetate, -acetic acid

equiv. equivalent

Et ethyl

FS full scale

FSOT fused-silica open tubular FT Fourier transform

GC, GLC, GSC gas chromatography, gas-liquid chromatography, gas-solid chromatography

HP... high-performance...

I.D. internal diameter
IgG immunoglobulin G
i.m. intramuscular
i.p. intraperitoneal
IR infrared
I.S. internal standard

I.S. internal standard
I.U. international unit
i.v. intravenous

LC liquid chromatography

LD lethal dose

Me methyl

m.p. melting point

MS mass spectrometry

NAD, NADH (NADP, NADPH) nicotinamide—adenine dinucleotide (phosphate)

NMR nuclear magnetic resonance

O.D. outer diameter Ph phenyl propyl

PTFE poly(tetrafluoroethylene)
RNA, RNase ribonucleic acid, ribonuclease

RP.... reversed-phase.... rpm revolutions per minute

RSD relative standard deviation (preferred over coefficient of variation)

SD standard deviation
TLC thin-layer chromatography
Tris tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane

u atomic mass units (reference to mass of ¹²C; preferred over a.m.u./amu:

reference to mass of 16O)

UV ultraviolet

vol., v/v volume, volume/volume

Vis visible

WCOT wall-coated open tubular wt., w/w, m/m mass, mass/mass

Symbols

 $\begin{array}{lll} A & & \text{peak area or absorbance} \\ \alpha & & \text{separation factor} \\ D & & \text{diffusion coefficient} \\ d_{\text{f}} & & \text{film thickness} \\ d_{\text{p}} & & \text{particle diameter} \end{array}$

interparticle porosity or molar adsorptivity

F mobile phase flow-rate

 ΔG^0 standard Gibbs free energy change

 ΔH^0 standard enthalpy change

H plate height h reduced plate height J coupling constant K equilibrium constant k retention factor

K_c distribution constant (preferred over partition coefficient)

L length λ wavelength

 $M_{\rm r}$ (relative) molecular mass μ electrophoretic mobility N number of plates n number of determinations

 η viscosity

p pressure or probability
P relative pressure

p... negative logarithm of... (as in pH, pI, pK_a) r relative retention or correlation coefficient

R molar gas constant R_F retardation factor R_M log $(1/R_F-1)$ R_S resolution ρ density

 ΔS^0 standard entropy change S/N signal-to-noise ratio T temperature

temper time

 t_0 retention time of unretained compound

 $t_{\rm R} \; (t'_{\rm R})$ (adjusted) retention time u mobile phase velocity

 V_0 retention volume of unretained compound

 $V_{\rm R}$ ($V_{\rm R}'$) (adjusted) retention volume $w_{\rm b}$ peak width at base $w_{\rm h}$ peak width at half height

The complete and regularly updated version of the Instructions to Authors can be found on the author gateway page of the Journal of Chromatography: http://authors.elsevier.com/journal/chroma