

CHROMBIO. 4279

Letter to the Editor**Formation of diastereomeric derivatives of 2-arylpropionic acids using L-leucinamide: lack of generality**

Sir,

Very recently, an application of a derivatization method [1] utilizing ethyl chloroformate and L-leucinamide to resolve enantiomers of 2-arylpropionic acids [2] was reported in your *Journal*. Subjecting 2-arylpropionic acid derivatives of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to this method, the author concluded [2] that the derivatization method was easily applicable to analysis of enantiomers of "the tested 2-arylpropionic acids". This is in agreement with the reports from our laboratory dealing with stereospecific analysis of ketoprofen [3], fenoprofen [4], and flurbiprofen [5] in biological specimens. We, however, have to disagree with the author regarding "general applicability" [2] of the method, as it is not suitable for the analysis of ibuprofen [6], a prototype 2-arylpropionic acid, or tiaprofenic acid [7]; different methods [6,7] had to be developed for analysis of these drugs [3].

Furthermore, with respect to other NSAIDs, although the method was found suitable for analysis of ketorolac [8], it could not be applied to etodolac [9].

Based upon the aforementioned argument, we, therefore, suggest that the reported method [1,2], although applicable to some of the 2-arylpropionic acid derivatives of NSAIDs, is not a "general" one.

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