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Preface

When speaking about carboxyl-possessing compounds, many people in BioSciences tend to switch immediately to fatty acids. However, there is a number of other compounds bearing a carboxyl group that can be found in a living tissue. Closest to the long-chain fatty acids are, perhaps, aliphatic carboxylic acids with a short carbon chain. These not only participate in numerous metabolic pathways but, from the separational view, appear the most favourable candidates for model (theoretical) studies. The other large categories are aromatic ring-possessing acids which frequently constitute a part of a drug or an environmental toxicant. Their typical feature is poor water solubility, which enables them to penetrate the animals' cell surface membrane and exert the function they are aimed to do. Of course, there are categories of acidic compounds which do

not fall into any of the above two categories and which we attempted to summarize in this Volume; the selection was limited, not only by the availability of authors for a particular subject but also by the fact that some categories of $-\text{COOH}$ -possessing compounds, strangely enough, have not been worked out by advanced separation techniques (this holds particularly for acidic constituents of oriental drugs). Readers interested in the analysis of long-chain acids (fatty acids) are directed to the Review Volume on Lipids, *J. Chromatogr. B*, 671 (1995).

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