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Journal of Chromatography B, 733 (1999) 1

JOURNAL OF
CHROMATOGRAPHY B

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Preface

This collection of reviews represents a continuation of two previous Special Volumes devoted to the analysis and separation of toxic compounds (see *J. Chromatogr. B*, Vols. 687 and 713). Nobody will probably deny that the determination of toxic compounds is a vast area which is difficult to cover in a 250-page volume. In this volume, we attempted to cover the areas that in our opinion were only marginally touched upon by the previous publications such as systematic toxicological analysis, poisoning by plant material and analyses of some categories of compounds of forensic interest such as inks. The other aspects we had in mind were the specificities of toxicological analysis of less conventional matrices like hair and sweat. Last but not least we attempted to summarise the analytical approaches used in clinical toxicology and forensic laboratories

dealing with subroutine assays. Attention was paid both to drugs used for medical treatment as well as to drugs of abuse.

We hope that this volume completes the information published in the two previous volumes on this subject and that our readers will find it useful. Needless to say we will be obliged to those who would like to comment on our results, being aware of the fact that in an area of this size, one can easily skip over some important aspects either because of Editor's ignorance or because a review was never delivered by the authors who originally promised to contribute.

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