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Book review

Analytical Determination of Nicotine and Related Compounds and their Metabolites, edited by John W. Gorrod and Peyton Jacob III, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1999, xiv+758 pp., price NLG 550; ISBN 0-44-50095-2

This book is the first comprehensive treatment of the analysis of nicotine and related compounds containing useful reviews on the up-to-date analysis of nicotine and related compounds. The first five chapters (190 pages) deal with the pharmacology, bio-transformation, chemistry and physicochemistry of nicotine and related compounds, which is interesting but unnecessarily long for a book on the analysis of nicotine. Furthermore, these chapters discuss very marginally the relationship between smoking and lung cancer. Separate chapters are devoted to the analysis of nicotine and related compounds by gas chromatography, high-performance liquid chromatography and immunoassay techniques and their determination in various matrices such as tobacco and pharmaceutical products, cigarette smoke, etc.

All chapters are written by experts and provide an overview of the subject matter. Unfortunately, the choice of authors is unbalanced: the majority of authors are from the USA and only authors from only four other countries contributed to the book. Cross references in the text would have been helpful to the readers; however, the expertly prepared index considerably facilitates the use of the book. It is a useful reference source on any topic presented in the book and it will therefore be an essential tool to the library of any analytical chemist working actively in the subjects covered. The book is a valuable source for workers in this field at universities, in research and industry.

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