

## BOOK REVIEW

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### *A Review of Advances In Analytical Toxicology, Volume 1*

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**REFERENCE:** Baselt, R. C., Ed., *Advances in Analytical Toxicology, Volume I*, Biomedical Publications, 1167 Chess Dr., Suite E, P.O. Box 8209, Foster City, CA 94404, 1984, 300 pp., \$26.00.

About ten years ago, the last volume of A. Stolman's series *Progress in Chemical Toxicology* appeared. Now, volume one of a new series edited by R. C. Baselt is available. This series is published with similar goals, that is, to invite recognized authorities to review topics of current interest or potential interest to analytical toxicologists. Volume one emphasizes cannabinoid detection and the use of immunoassays for drug analysis.

As with any multi-authored text, some variability in quality of each chapter can be expected. The editor is to be congratulated for maintaining a uniformly high standard which each author approaches quite well. A possible exception is the final chapter "Solid Phase Extraction Techniques for Biological Specimens." This useful procedure is described briefly but no critical evaluation of it is made in comparison to other separation techniques. Further, the examples cited seem to all use extraction columns available from the company with which the authors are affiliated.

An international flavor is provided by two contributions. One is by deZeeuws' group in the Netherlands who review capillary gas chromatography quite well emphasizing its virtues but drawing attention to deficiencies and areas deserving further attention. The other, by Caddy of Scotland is an excellent review of saliva as a specimen for drug analysis.

Current interest in cannabinoids is reflected by Peat's review of immunoassays comparing different kits and their applications to various THC derivatives in varying specimen matrices. Separately, Foltz, who has become a leading authority in this area, reviews recent advances of GC/MS for THC and its metabolites. These two chapters bring the reader up to date with analytical approaches to cannabinoids.

Baselt reviews immunoassays in a more general fashion emphasizing the limitations of interpretation of urine screening by this method. Slighton and McCurdy describe the application of enzyme immunoassay to specimens not normally analyzed by this technique. Lappas describes the relatively untried, thin-layer immunoassay approach to drug detection. It is of interest although it may not become widely used. Finally, Osterloh has written a very nice review of butyl nitrite; a difficult analytical problem for toxicologists.

This book is a welcome addition to the analytical toxicologists' library. It is practical, readable, and current with many references in 1983 or 1984. Typos are few (one is in the title of Chapter 4); the book is well bound and moderately priced.

Future volumes will be eagerly awaited.

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