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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597273>

Foreword

Online publication date: 09 February 2003

To cite this Article (2003) 'Foreword', Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies, 26: 16, ix – x

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1081/JLC-120024532

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1081/JLC-120024532>

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JOURNAL OF LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY & RELATED TECHNOLOGIES®
Vol. 26, No. 16, pp. ix–x, 2003

Foreword

This is the fifth annual special issue on thin layer chromatography (TLC) that we have guest edited by invitation of the Editor, Dr. Jack Cazes, following two in 1999 and one each in 2001 and 2002. We again invited well recognized experts in TLC to submit papers for this issue, and we are honored and thankful for the agreement of those authors who contributed.

TLC and high performance TLC (HPTLC) continue to be very important techniques for separation and qualitative and quantitative analysis of all compound classes and a great variety of sample matrices. Modern techniques and applications of TLC are covered fully in the Third Edition of the *Handbook of Thin Layer Chromatography*, which was published in 2003 as part of Dr. Cazes' Chromatographic Science Series. This updated edition, with 1016 pages, provides comprehensive coverage of the theory, techniques, and applications of TLC. Its 32 chapters are written by leading researchers in each of the respective topics from around the world.

Our aim when preparing this special issue was to bring to our readers a collection of papers that represent some of the most active current research areas of TLC. Included are papers on the following topics: a description of a new separation procedure, single- and multi-channel OPLC on a non-segmented sorbent bed using flowing eluent wall for operating segmentation (Mincsovcics et al.); a review of the separation of ecdysteroids in normal- and reversed-phase systems using one-dimensional and two-dimensional forced flow and displacement development (Báthori et al.); complexation TLC of monosulfides on silica gel impregnated with metal cations (Grygierczyk et al.); separation of a series of fatty acids on C-18 bonded silica gel plates with concentrating zone (Pyka and Bober); separation of six veterinary fluoroquinolones by 1-D and 2-D TLC on plain and chemically bonded silica gel

ix

DOI: 10.1081/JLC-120024532
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1082-6076 (Print); 1520-572X (Online)
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(Choma); HPTLC-FTIR identification of new phthalazine derivatives (Cimpoi et al.); TLC-densitometry determination of the amino acid content of four larval stages of the medically important digenetic trematode *Echinostoma caproni* obtained from experimentally infected *Biomphalaria glabrata* snails (Ponder et al.); analysis of corrinoid compounds in fish sauces by TLC with a microbiological method (Takenaka et al.); HPTLC-densitometry method for the determination of the steroid drug betamethasone in tablets, and its validation (Wulandari and Indrayanto); assay of the acid reduction drug famotidine in tablets by HPTLC-videodensitometry (Campbell and Sherma); determination of the sweetener Sucralose in foods by HPTLC and diode array scanning (Spangenberg et al.); measurement of the lipophilicity of selected bile acids by reverse phase HPTLC (Pyka and Dolowy); and TLC study of nonionic surfactant binding to the corn protein zein (Cserháti et al.).

The activity in TLC research on a worldwide basis is shown by the locations of the laboratories of the authors of these papers, namely Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Poland, Romania, and the United States.

We will begin to solicit papers in late 2003 for the 2004 issue on TLC that we will guest edit for this Journal. We would hope to receive comments on our past special issues as well as this current issue, and suggestions for topics and contributors for the next issue.

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*Guest Editors, Thin Layer Chromatography
February, 2003*

