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## Foreword: Special TLC Issue

This is the ninth special issue on thin layer chromatography that we have guest edited by invitation of the editor, Dr. Jack Cazes, beginning in 1999. We are again pleased to have received papers from a stellar group of internationally recognized TLC specialists, most of whom have contributed to earlier special TLC issues.

Our continual survey of the literature indicates that research in TLC techniques and applications is proceeding at a high rate, and the papers in this issue represent many of the most important current technique and application areas. The following topics are covered: automatic selection of mobile phases for silica gel and alumina TLC of 15 cis/trans oxygen-containing heterocycles using the Snyder theory and LSChrom software (M.G. Bogdanov et al.); modification of a printer for application of reagents to layers (G. Morlock et al.); enantioseparation of S,R-(+/-)-ketoprofen on plain silica gel with achiral mobile phases (Sajewicz et al.); enantioseparation and oscillatory transesterification of S,R-(+/-)-ketoprofen on L-arginine impregnated silica gel studied by densitometry (Sajewicz et al.); HPTLC-densitometry analysis of artemisinin in *Artemisia annua* L. leaves (Widmer et al.); separation and determination of selected carboxylic acids in standards and snail samples by TLC and ion exchange HPLC (Massa et al.); separations of eight cephalosporins on silica gel and polar chemically bonded silica gel layers (Choma); TLC and HPLC determination of a corrinoid compound in yellow fin tuna fish dark muscle (Nishioka et al.); separation of selected flavonoids by reversed phase (RP) column HPLC followed by normal phase (NP) HPTLC (Harwyl et al.); silica gel, argentation, and C<sub>2</sub> bonded silica gel TLC with densitometry, and gas chromatography, for the quantification of lipid classes in nuts (Momchilova et al.); separation and quantification of lipid classes by Iatroscan TLC-flame ionization detection with two types of rods (Indrasena et al.); separation of nicotinic acid and its amides by NP- and RP-TLC (Pyka and Klimczok); assay of prostate health dietary supplements for sterols and fatty acids by silica gel HPTLC with densitometry using a ChromImage scanner in the visible mode (Halkina and Sherma); and determination of the hydrophobicity parameter of some pyridinium aldoximes on layers of plain silica gel and silica gel impregnated with paraffin oil (Laufer et al.).

Many of these papers describe the use of densitometry, which is being increasingly reported in the literature for detection and qualitative and quantitative analysis of zones with natural color, UV absorbance, or fluorescence, or after postchromatographic derivatization; mostly slit scanning is being used, but also videodensitometry and flatbed scanning. Three of the papers describe analyses of lipids, which is a very important role for TLC because of the lack of a UV-absorbing chromophore to facilitate HPLC analysis. The two papers on enantioseparations are on the same topic as a new book on chiral separations and analysis, edited by Kowalska and Sherma, to be published in 2007 within Cazes' Chromatographic Science Series (CRC/Taylor & Francis). The paper on determination of artemisinin, a natural plant antimalaria drug, is an example of the many TLC methods being developed for herbal medicines and dietary supplements; it is an application of TLC in phytochemistry, which is the subject covered in a book edited by Waksmundska-Hajnos, Sherma, and Kowalska that is now in preparation and will also be published by CRC/Taylor & Francis. The paper on hydrophobicity is an example of the many studies being published that attempt to relate this property to the effectiveness of drug penetration through various membranes in the body.

We will begin to solicit papers in September, 2007 for our 2008 special TLC issue. We invite readers to send us comments on our past special issues and this one, as well as suggestions for topics and contributors for the next issue. We also encourage scientists to continue submitting papers on TLC and HPTLC to Dr. Cazes for regular issues of this Journal, which is unquestionably one of the leading outlets for international research on liquid chromatography methods among analytical chemistry and chromatographic science journals published worldwide.

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February 2007*