

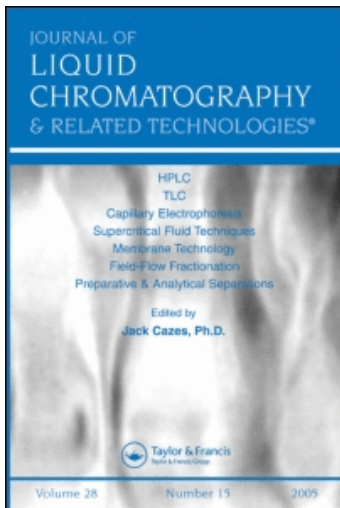
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Foreword

The retention of polar compounds and their subsequent separation by HPLC has become an area of growing interest in recent years. Analysis of metabolites, clinical samples, pharmaceuticals, and biological species are examples where hydrophilic compounds are frequently encountered. The most common approach to retention and separation of polar analytes in HPLC is by reversed phase methods. However, the mechanism is, in general, not amenable to hydrophilic compounds, since reversed phase approaches are based on hydrophobic interactions between the stationary phase and the solute. Thus, much effort has been devoted over the years to induce retention of hydrophilic compounds onto reversed phase materials, like C₁₈, through the use of such techniques as derivatization or ion-pairing. While successful in many instances, these methods often require additional steps that can sometimes be non-reproducible or the addition of undesirable components to the mobile phase. Thus, in conjunction with reversed phase approaches, other methods have been investigated to further expand HPLC capabilities for the analysis of polar compounds. This special issue of the *Journal of Liquid Chromatography and Related Technologies* presents several recently developed methods for hydrophilic analytes.

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