
CONFERENCES

XXIX Symposium “Chromatographic Methods of Investigating the Organic Compounds”

The XXIX Symposium “Chromatographic Methods of Investigating the Organic Compounds” occurred from the 8th to 10th June 2005 in Szczyrk (Poland). These Symposia take place annually since 1977 being organized by the Silesian University (Katowice) and Polish Academy of Sciences.

The program of this Symposium with relatively limited number of participants included 23 oral lectures (undivided into plenary lectures and short reports) constituting eight plenary sessions. In four poster sessions 123 papers were reported. Among the participants were 26 scientists from abroad representing Australia, Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Russia, USA, Turkey, Czechia, and Japan. For the first time in many years the Russian delegation was the largest: eight researchers from the Chemical Faculty of the Saint-Petersburg State University. The participation in these scientific events is obviously useful for it makes possible the renovation of scientific contacts with the East European countries.

As regards the number of participants the organizers of the Symposium with long experience in this field have specifically mentioned that at present in the Central and East European countries the number of specialists actively working on chromatographic problems and capable of presenting proper original results does not exceed 200–300 persons.

Among the most interesting results of various (especially international) conferences should be mentioned the distribution of the scientific interests of the participants. Thus in this event the most often mentioned methods of investigating the organic compounds (in the order of decreasing frequency of presentation) were high-performance liquid chromatography (44 papers), thin-layer (planar) chromatography (31), chromato-mass spectrometry (including the pyrolysis version of this method for nonvolatile compounds) (28), and gas chromatography (18). Only single presentations contained reports on ionic, preparative liquid and gel chromatography. This distribution to a considerable extent correlates with the actual availability of various methods and naturally with the prices of the analytical equipment. It is not surprising that

among the most demanded was the planar chromatography whereas the capillary electrophoreses was treated only in seven papers, and the application of detectors on atomic emission in the gas chromatography was mentioned only once. Beside the applied analytic problems some aspects of the synthesis and reactivity of organic compounds, problems of chromatographic characteristics of substances from different classes, and the connection between the structure and activity (QSAR) (about 20 papers) were also discussed. Considerably less “popular” were the problems of quantitative measurements and the analytical applications to ecology, but actually these topics were not foreseen for discussion in this Symposium. The organizers regarded as the most important the discussing of the chemometrics problems, and this was touched upon in ten reports.

Each conference provides a possibility for the participants to present for discussion new hypotheses. This Symposium was not an exception in this sense. For instance, in the lecture of the co-Chairmen of the Organizing Committee was suggested (apparently, for the first time) the possibility of the keto-enol tautomerism of 2-aryl-substituted carboxylic acids being the main cause of their racemization both in water and nonaqueous solutions.

It is noteworthy that although the largest number of scientific meetings on chromatography deals mainly with its application exclusively for analytical and ecoanalytical purposes, the existence of this series of annual Symposia stresses the fact that the chromatographic methods are first of all intended for characterizing just the organic compounds.

In 2006 in the same place the XXX Symposium with the same name will be celebrated. Information thereon will appear on the <http://chromatographia.us.edu.pl>.

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