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## Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies

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**A review of: “HPLC of Biological Compounds-A Laboratory Guide, by William S. Hancock & James T. Sparrow, (Volume 26 of the Chromatographic Science Series, Jack Cazes, Editor), Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, NY, 1984, 361 pp., £39.75 (US)”.**

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BOOK REVIEW

"HPLC of Biological Compounds - A Laboratory Guide", by William S. Hancock & James T. Sparrow, (Volume 26 of the Chromatographic Science Series, Jack Cazes, Editor), Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, NY, 1984, 361 pp., \$39.75 (US).

William S. Hancock and James T. Sparrow have, in their book, HPLC Analysis of Biological Compounds, provided the biologist with a thorough, clear and useful explanation of the basis of HPLC separations. The book, part of a series of monographs on Chromatographic Science, has five chapters: What is the "heart" of a HPLC system?; The Column - the "vitals of a HPLC separation; The mobile phase - "the circulatory system" of HPLC; The practical details or the "guts" of a HPLC separation; and Separation examples - insights into the "minds" of chromatographers. Although all of the chapters are useful, the chapters on the column, the mobile phase and the practical details of HPLC separation are the most valuable. I would recommend that any biological researcher read these chapters before embarking in the fast-moving arena of HPLC. The basis of separations is covered in a clear, practical way and many mistakes can be avoided by understanding this material. The chapter on Separation examples, which takes up about 40% of the book, provides useful examples of separations of amino acids, peptides, proteins, nucleotides, carbohydrates and lipids. The examples are well chosen and representative of either useful techniques or points of departure.

The field is moving so fast that the only way to get the "best" methods is, in many cases, to go to the current literature. There is a list of suppliers appended. The writing is generally clear and concise, making a readable book, but there are the usual number of distracting typographical errors seen in photo-offset publication. These are generally minor in nature. The book is well referenced and

has a valuable index. Although it is subtitled, "A Laboratory Guide," it is not a "cookbook" but more useful for the preparation and design of separations. This book is highly recommended for any biologist doing HPLC or considering doing HPLC.

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