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THE BOOK CORNER

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF CHROMATOGRAPHY, B. Ravindranath, Ellis Horwood Series in Analytical Chemistry, Ellis Horwood Ltd., Chichester, England, 1989, 502 pp., \$132.00.

This volume offers an overview for the different modalities of chromatographic techniques ranging from paper chromatography (the oldest of the methods) to the most modern ones, including supercritical fluid chromatography. The book consists of four parts:

Part I: Includes the basic principles and discusses the theoretical concepts applied in chromatography, preceded by an overview and introductory chapter.

Part II: Deals with Gas Chromatography, and this is divided into three chapters. One chapter is devoted to general features and inlet systems. Another deals with separation systems and the third discusses the various detection systems applied in GC, including the most recent ones such as GC-FTIR-MS.

Part III: This part deals with Liquid Chromatography and is also divided into three chapters. One chapter discusses, in some detail, the principles and methods applied in LC, including techniques such as size exclusion chromatography (SEC), ion exchange chromatography (IEC), countercurrent chromatography (CCC), affinity chromatography, among others.

Instrumentation and techniques used in LC is discussed in Chapter 7 with topics including solvent delivery systems, stationary phases, various detectors used. Preparative-scale liquid chromatography is also briefly covered in this chapter. The final chapter of Part III discusses planar chromatography, including paper chromatography, high performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC), as well as other topics including visualization techniques. Application of planar chromatography in quantitative and qualitative analysis and for preparative purposes is also presented.

Part IV: This part is entitled "Applications" and comprises a single chapter. However, the author attempts to present the vast applications of chromatography in different disciplines, e.g., physical and inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, biological and biomedical applications, industrial and environmental applications in 84 pages. I believe the author did present this section in an excellent manner to show the vast

application of chromatography as a very powerful tool in several scientific fields, e.g., pharmacy, medicine, food science, environmental pollution science, and many more.

All the chapters end with a list of references related to the topic discussed as recent as 1987, and also all the illustrations and diagrams are well labelled.

This book is highly recommended for scientists, graduate students and technicians working in the field of analytical, bioanalytical, clinical chemistry, and also food science, quality control, and environmental control. It is certainly an excellent reference for all who apply chromatography in their work, whether on a routine basis or for research.

The valuable information presented in this book well justifies its cost.

Reviewed by

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