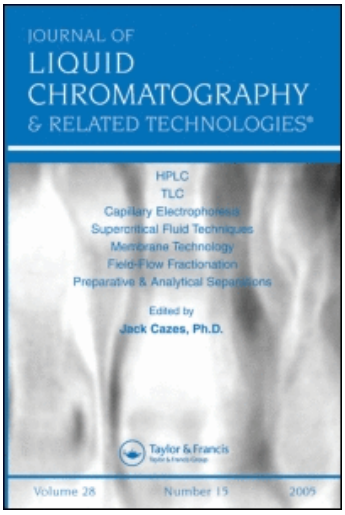

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A Review of "Capillary Electrophoresis Guidebook, Principles, Operation, and Applications Edited by K. D. Altria Methods in Molecular Biology Series, Volume 52, Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey, 1996, 349 pp., Price: $74.50."

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THE BOOK CORNER

CAPILLARY ELECTROPHORESIS GUIDEBOOK, PRINCIPLES, OPERATION, AND APPLICATIONS, Edited by K. D. Altria, Methods in Molecular Biology Series, Volume 52, Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey, 1996, 349 pp., Price: $74.50.

In the last few years, we have witnessed the publication of a series of books dealing with CE applications. *Capillary Electrophoresis Guidebook* is a welcome addition to the CE library which contains no less than 15 books on the subject. The editor writes in the preface of the book, "This book is intended to be a working guide to the operation of capillary electrophoresis (CE) instrumentation. Since CE is still a rapidly maturing technique, detailed validated protocols are not widely established. Therefore, extensive experimental procedures are not provided for individual analyses. The intention is to provide general guidelines on the principles and practice of CE and to give an overview of the specific technologies and important applications areas." We agree with Dr. Altria that there is a need for validated and reproducible protocols and hope that this book will serve such a purpose.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part (11 chapters, 122 pages) deals with general guidelines of CE methods and instrumentation. This part is written by Dr. Altria and provides operating instructions for standard commercially available instruments. Guidelines are included for activities such as changing capillaries, method development, quantitative procedures, optimization of precision and sensitivity, and the validation of methods, fraction collection, and troubleshooting, as well as a quick guide to performing a separation. The second part of the book deals with applications of CE and special technologies (9 chapters, 220 pages).

Part II is made up of review chapters written by acknowledged experts in their particular fields. Specific technology-related chapters include micellar electrokinetic capillary chromatography, capillary gel electrophoresis, advanced sampling techniques, and electrochromatography. Important applications areas are covered, such as the analysis of proteins, peptides, amino acids, pharmaceuticals, chiral compounds, and nucleic acids. A further applications chapter covers a variety of additional areas.

Overall, the book is well written and referenced. Few omissions were found in the book; for example, on page 34, there are two omissions (work that was not given a reference or credit). The first one deals with ionic strength, Figure 2, on page 35. This figure is the work of McLaughlin et al. which was published in the Journal of Liquid Chromatography. The other omission is our work on the effect of ionic radius of electrolyte on current generation, which was published in 1990 in the Journal of Liquid Chromatography. Also, on page 97, reference numbers 19 and 23 are the same. Otherwise, the book is well documented, organized, and easy to read and follow. The book is recommended to all those interested in CE separations and, as I mentioned earlier, is a welcomed addition.

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Part II. Applications of Capillary Electrophoresis and Specific Technologies

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