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Capillary Electrophoresis Procedures Manual, A Laboratory User's Aid for Quick Starts

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THE BOOK CORNER

CAPILLARY ELECTROPHORESIS PROCEDURES MANUAL, A LABORATORY USER'S AID FOR QUICK STARTS, edited by E. Jakim and L. W. Jakim, a joint publication of Applied Science Communications, Peace Dale, RI and Elsevier Science B.V., Amsterdam, 295 pp., 1996. Price: \$175.00.

Capillary electrophoresis literature over the last few years has changed from mainly basic theory and instrumentation to applications, which is normal for such a high resolution technique. As a result, there are, at times, many procedures for the separation of the same group of compounds. This is especially true when separating mixtures of amino acids. The manual simplifies the search for the best available procedure, since a listing of many procedures is given which allows the analyst to pick and choose the one that fits his needs.

The manual is divided into many sections. The first one is quick tips for (a) obtaining reproducible migration time and quantitative results; (b) preparing and knowing your buffers; and (c) capillary conditioning and cleaning. This section is followed by abbreviations, then the separation procedures which are divided into pharmaceutical; clinical; proteins, amino acids and peptides; nucleic acid, "tides" and "sides"; pesticides; forensic/explosives; natural products; and metabolites; miscellaneous and inorganic ions. The final section deals with equipment. The separation procedure page includes what is being separated, a reference from which the method is cited, and experimental conditions, such as buffer (type, concentration, and pH), capillary dimensions, applied voltage, current, polarity, temperature, detection mode, sample size injected and injection mode, and instrument used. A pherogram is given for each procedure.

The manual is comprehensive, filled with nearly 290 procedures covering about 1000 compounds. It is organized in a very simple and straightforward manner, with an index to quickly locate the compounds of interest. This manual is highly recommended as a useful reference.