
Book Reviews

Advances in Steroid Analysis '84

Proceedings of the Symposium on the Analysis of Steroids, Szeged, Hungary, June 12–14, 1984

edited by S. Görög

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The Proceedings of the Second Symposium come only three years after the First Symposium. Nonetheless the response in terms of the number of papers contributed, (67), originating from workers in 17 countries, is indicative of some of the interest and scope shown in this area of study. The general aim of the meeting held in Szeged, Hungary in 1984, was to provide an international forum of publication for the analysis of steroids in such areas as biochemistry, clinical pathology, pharmaceuticals and industrial laboratories, and to give an overview of the state-of-art and existing methodology of steroid analysis. In essence the organisers have achieved their aim and in general the papers do reflect the current approaches in steroid analysis.

Some contributions were not directly concerned with the methodology of analysis but were significantly important enough to be included, and appear in the first Chapter headed 'General'. Of these (8 in all), the papers of note are the ones by T. Feher who discusses the understanding of the interrelationship between structure and function of steroid receptors, and G. Hobe who gives a good review of analytical methods as applied to the evaluation of steroid drugs in pharmacokinetics.

Under the Chapter heading of 'Immunological Methods', radioimmunoassays features most prominently (16 out of a total of the 20 papers). A criticism with these papers is that many do not give the full details of the analysis used and one is referred to another text for such detail. This point is certainly not true for an excellent paper entitled "The Evaluation of Testosterone and Its Precursors

in Spermatic Venous Blood of Normal Men and Varicocele Subjects" by D. Ando, et al.

As one would expect, the use of H.P.L.C. has made substantial inroads into the chromatographic approach of analysis. But G.C. and G.C./M.S. still feature significantly as the methods of choice (29 out of 40 papers). Of the eleven papers involving the use of H.P.L.C. in this Chapter, the ones which need special mention are the two using diode-array detection (the separation of cardiac glycosides in pharmaceuticals from plant extracts by G.T. Tittel, and the sorption of the glucocorticoid budesonide into rubber washers of pressurized suspension aerosols by G. Roth et al.), and the use of multiple-way valve switching in order to fully automate the H.P.L.C. assay for routine estimation of cortisol in serum and urine (G. Roth, et al.).

Other Chapters are "Protein Binding and Receptor Binding Studies" (4 papers), and "Miscellaneous" (6 papers). The latter chapter ranges in topic from the enzymatic assay for androgens to the use of bioluminescence in the assay of steroids; the use of CD spectroscopy for the determination of Δ^4 -3-ketosteroids and the measurement of digitalis-like biological activity (inhibition of the sodium pump) of some of the steroid hormones.

In all the book is a fair reflection of the spread of methods being used at present, and the papers have, on average, reasonable information on the methods employed; but as stated earlier many papers refer to previous publications for the procedure. Another disadvantage is that the original manuscripts have been published and so there is a variability in type size and boldness of print. Also the quality of the illustrations vary. However none of the papers are poorly reproduced although some scripts are faint, (ex. p. 193, 197) or over-bold in type (ex. p. 211). Presumably by incorporating the original scripts the cost of production was kept relatively low.

Anyone working in the field of steroid analysis would find this book a useful companion.

Dr. Ron Ginman

Errata

1 Optimization of Throughput in Preparative Column Liquid Chromatography by Column Overloading and Partial Fractionation of the Effluent

by F. Eisenbeiß/S. Ehlerding/A. Wehrli/
J. F. K. Huber

Chromatographia **20**, 657 (1985)

On page 663 of the above paper the list of references is not complete. It should be amended by the following items:

- [21] J. F. K. Huber, A. J. M. Keulemans, in "Gas Chromatography", Ed. M. Van Swaay, Butterworth, London, 1962, p. 26.
- [22] J. F. K. Huber, R. G. Gerritse, J. Chromatogr. **58**, 137 (1971).
- [23] J. P. Moissonnier, B. Serkin, J. P. Volland, Analysis **7**, 408 (1979).
- [24] A. Wehrli, Z. Anal. Chem. **277**, 289 (1975).
- [25] A. W. J. De Jong, H. Poppe, J. C. Kraak, J. Chromatogr. **209**, 432 (1981).

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2 TLC Separation of Some Metal Ions with Aqueous and Aqueous-Organic Solvent Systems Containing Formic Acid

by A. Muhammad/N. Fatima

Chromatographia **22**, 109 (1986)

Page 111: In Table I and in the text S_{23} should read S_{21} ; also line 10 from bottom S_{22} to S_{24} should read S_{20} to S_{22} .

Page 114: left column, line 10 from the top, S_{21} and S_{22} should read S_{19} and S_{20} .

Page 115: right column, line 32 from the top, S_{22} should read S_{20} .