# Handbook of Derivatives for Chromatography

Edited by

KARL BLAU and GRAHAM S. KING

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Bernhard Baron Memorial Research Laboratories, Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, London, W6 0XG.



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# Foreword

Chromatography is a complicated business these days. When I first became the proud co-owner (with Evan Horning) of a gas chromatograph at the National Institutes of Health in the middle 1950s, however, there was not much a biochemist could do with the thing except fatty acid analyses. Historians of the field who inspect the literature from 1957 to 1960 will certainly be puzzled by the extraordinary amount of scientific manpower that went into that one subject of fatty acid analysis. Of course, it was not the perfection of the chromatographic separation alone that provided the driving force for this work. Much was done to delineate the theory of chromatography, many new liquid phases were invented, new detectors were described, support-coating procedures were developed, and several new firms were stocking their shelves with chromatographic supplies and announcing that they were ready to provide the chromatographer with everything he needed.

The explosive growth of gas-liquid chromatography since 1960 has depended in large measure on the development of lightly loaded columns and on the growing realization that 'almost anything' can be made volatile under the proper circumstances. One is impressed now if a compound (outside the macromolecular domain) is found that cannot be volatilized; I confess that I do not know of many such examples.

Unlike the efforts devoted to perfection of the chromatographic process with fatty acids, work in the amino acid field was involved with the problem of quantitative derivative formation with all of the amino acids, and with selection of derivative and partition phases that would maximize separation of the mixture in a reasonable period of time. Derivatives and the reactions by which they are formed thus became extremely important considerations in the chromatographic procedure. In this and many other examples, derivatization ranks equally with sample selection, preprocessing and chromatography as an important part of the overall analytical technique.

Derivatization in liquid chromatography has a different rationale and hence quite different rules regarding choice of reagents, etc. The derivative group(s) added to the molecule almost inevitably become the detectable residue in the derivative. Sensitivity is of primary concern, while the molecular weight of the product is of little or no consequence. Reactions are usually carried out after the chromatographic step, whereas derivatization precedes gas-liquid chromatography.

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Here is a book about the chemistry of derivative reactions that will be consulted by experts and beginners alike. It contains detailed information about the chemical reactions of a wide variety of functional groups and compares strategies of derivatization of common classes of compounds such as amino acids, steroids and carbohydrates. The book should help overcome the initial problem in making choices among various derivatives and will certainly steer the reader to appropriate literature about yields, derivative purification, stability, etc. Processing of biological samples is an entirely separate subject and the editors have appropriately not considered this aspect of the overall chromatographic procedure. The chapter on ion-pair extraction and chromatography does address itself to this subject to some extent, but extraction and chromatography are treated together in a smooth and comprehensive review of a technique that should gain in popularity.

This is a thoroughly delightful book to me personally, as it contains so much of the information I and my students need to refer to when dealing with new compounds and different kinds of biological samples. The handbook will enjoy a wide and well-deserved popularity and should be a reference work in every laboratory where chromatography is a serious business.

East Lansing, Michigan March, 1977

Charles C. Sweeley

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## List of Abbreviations

The following is a list of abbreviations in the *Handbook*. Other less common abbreviations are explained by the authors at their point of use. A number of generally accepted abbreviations such as those used for units and dimensions are not defined here

Bns	5-Di-n-butylamino-	HFB	Heptafluorobutyryl
DOG	naphthalene-1-sulfonyl	HFBA	Heptafluorobutyric anhyd-
BOC	Butyloxycarbonyl	IN IDA	ride
b.p.	Boiling point	HMDS	Hexamethyldisilazane
BSA	N,O-Bistrimethylsilylacet-	HPLC	High-pressure liquid
D.O. D.O.	amide	an an	chromatography
BSTFA	N,O-Bistrimethylsilyltri-	i.r.	infrared
	fluoracetamide	MBTFA	Methyl-bis-trifluoracetamide
Dis-Cl	2-p-Chlorosulfophenyl-3- phenylindene	Mns	6-Methylanilinonaphthalene- 2-sulfonyl
DMAA	N,N-Dimethylacetamide	MO-TMS	Combined methoxime-tri-
DMF	N,N-Dimethylformamide		methylsilyl derivative
DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide	m.p.	Melting point
DNP	Dinitrophenyl	MS	Mass spectrometry
2,4-DNP	2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine	MTH	Methylthiohydantoin
Dns	'Dansyl' i.e. 5-Dimethyl-	n.m.r.	Nuclear magnetic resonance
	aminonaphthalene-1-	Nbd-Cl	4-Chloro-7-nitrobenzo-(c)-
	sulfonyl		1,2,5-oxadiazole
EC	Electron capture	OD	Optical density
ECD	Electron capture detector or	OPT	o-Phthalaldehyde
	detection	PFB	Pentafluorobenzoyl-
ECD-GC	Electron capture gas		Chapter 3
	chromatography		Pentafluorobenzyl
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic		Chapter 2
	acid		Pentafluorobenzimidyl-
FID	Flame ionization detector or		Chapter 6
	detection	PFBCl	Pentafluorobenzoyl chloride
GC	Gas chromatography	PFP	Pentafluoropropionyl
GC-MS	Combined gas chromato-	PFPA	Pentafluoropropionic anhyd-
	graphy-mass spectrometry		ride
GLC	Gas liquid chromatography	PTC	Phenylthiocarbamyl
GLC-EC	Electron capture gas	PTFE	Polytetrafluorethylene (e.g.
	chromatography		Teflon®)
GSC	Gas solid chromatography	PTH	Phenylthiohydantoin

RGC	Reaction gas chromatog-	TFA	Trifluoracetyl
	raphy	TFAA	Trifluoracetic anhydride
RLC	Reaction liquid chromatog-	TLC	Thin layer chromatography
	raphy	TMCS	Trimethylchlorosilane
RTLC	Reaction thin layer	TMS	Trimethylsilyl
	chromatography	TMSIM	Trimethylsilylimidazole
SIM	Selected ion monitoring (also	TNP	Trinitrophenyl
	known as mass fragmentog-	u.v.	Ultraviolet
	raphy, multiple ion detection,	v/v	Volume for volume
	specific ion monitoring, etc.)	$\mathbf{w}/\mathbf{v}$	Weight for volume

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#### CHAPTER 1

## Introduction to the Handbook

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The enthusiastic adoption of chromatographic methods has had a great impact on chemical analysis, not only in chemistry and biochemistry but also in pharmacology, toxicology, clinical sciences, genetics, forensic science, environmental science and many other fields. Indeed chromatography has contributed greatly to recent advances in carbohydrate and lipid chemistry. The previously demanding discipline of amino acid, peptide and protein structural analysis has expanded and experienced unprecedented growth, transforming our understanding of large areas of biology. Unfortunately not all compounds are accessible to direct analysis by chromatography and much ingenuity has been expended into devising ways of making chemical derivatives that will render them easier to analyse. A whole new branch of chemistry has evolved around this problem. Much of the work is widely scattered, many derivatization schemes that were worked out for a limited objective are potentially much more widely applicable, and in spite of the extensive achievements that have already been described, a great deal of further development can still be anticipated.

For these reasons we feel that this is a good time to gather some of this experience in derivatization together into a more systematic arrangement. We hope that the underlying principles will, as a result, become more apparent, and that derivatization chemistry will become more readily appreciated, providing a solid foundation on which workers can base the development of new methods of analysis. There have already been a few useful reviews and monographs devoted to specific problems or techniques. The derivatization of amino acids for gas chromatography has received considerable attention<sup>1-4</sup> this is also true for steroids<sup>5-7</sup> and drugs and pesticides. Review articles and a recent monograph have covered derivatization for liquid chromatography, gas chromatography and the analysis of pharmaceuticals by gas chromatography. 4

The use of fluorescent derivatives 10,15 and of chiral resolving agents 6 has also received attention. The techniques of silylation have been thoroughly covered in Pierce's excellent Silylation of Organic Compounds which should be at the side of every practising gas chromatographer. <sup>17</sup> Several books have been published on the subject of functional group analysis by gas chromatography. The book by Leathard and Shurlock<sup>18</sup> deals briefly with some of the simpler methods of derivatization which were current in the late sixties and also describes many useful techniques of abstraction in GC and pyrolysis gas chromatography. Crippen<sup>19</sup> has published his original and valuable approach to functional group identification, which necessarily relies upon derivatization to a large extent. Recently Ma and Ladas<sup>20</sup> have covered the area of functional group analysis in a slightly different way, briefly reviewing some areas of derivative formation, providing selected practical details and giving a very good coverage to the subject of reaction gas chromatography and abstraction techniques. The comprehensive Handbook of Chromatography, edited by Zweig and Sherma,<sup>21</sup> contains a useful section on derivatization which is a first attempt, but necessarily a brief one, at a general coverage of this subject. Our plan is to cover derivatization chemistry along quite different lines, and to systematize the chemical reactions used on the basis of the chemical processes involved in derivative formation. We do not intend to duplicate or extend the publications on functional group analysis or reaction gas chromatography but we aim to provide a practical approach to derivative selection for the analyst. Our approach is two-fold: not only to present group reactions that have already been applied to specific problems and so reveal their underlying principles, common basis and applicability, but also to provide the information and ideas by which these principles may be extended to new applications and perhaps even to new derivatization methods.

Direct chromatographic analysis of certain classes of compounds is difficult. For example, the application of paper chromatography to lipophilic substances was hampered for years by their hydrophobic nature, and the expedient of 'reversed-phase' chromatography was used until the development of thin-layer chromatography on silica gel.<sup>22</sup> Difficulties were often experienced with the gas chromatography of very polar compounds such as free acids and amines, with thermolabile substances and with more complex polar compounds such as the amino sugars and carbohydrates. It was soon found that chemical modification of polar functional groups improved the compound's accessibility to gas chromatographic analysis. In amino acid analysis it was found that the coloured dinitrophenyl derivatives, and later the fluorescent 'dansyl' derivatives had distinct advantages for paper, thin-layer and liquid chromatography. During these early stages in the development of derivatization techniques, the chemical reactions used were mostly those currently available from preparative organic chemistry and the groups introduced were those commonly used in organic synthesis for 'blocking' or protecting groups. These were usually designed to be easily removed at the end of a synthetic sequence. It was soon obvious that for chromatographic analysis, the susceptibility of the protecting group to easy removal was of no importance and might even be a disadvantage. This in turn led to the expansion of a new area of derivatization chemistry: the preparation of chemical derivatives selected or specifically designed to improve chromatograph analysis. This might involve incorporating a chemical function which gives a high detector sensitivity, or a particularly volatile derivative, or good chromatographic separation or even a simple and convenient preparation method. One of the most important contributions was the development of silylation methods; Pierce's handbook on silylation techniques<sup>17</sup> was an important publication and helped to transform a relatively unfamiliar chemical reaction into one of the most widely used derivatization methods. Silylation effectively blossomed and scattered seeds in all directions; recent advances are covered in this volume and considerable progress has been made since the publication of Pierce's book. To some extent Pierce's book has prompted the presentation of our *Handbook* and we gladly acknowledge its influence.

There is now a very wide choice of reactions for the preparation of derivatives to assist in chromatographic analysis. The selection of suitable methods depends on many factors. We hope to convey an appreciation of these factors which, apart from those already mentioned, may also involve considerations such as chemical stability of the substrate and the analytical sensitivity required. It may not be very easy at first to choose the best derivative for a given application from the many methods presented here. It may not even be apparent that the compound might chromatograph quite well without any derivative formation. However, we hope to make it easier to reach a rational decision by presenting the information in a convenient and fairly unified form in a single volume. Much of the book is basic chemistry that has stood the test of time and describes methods that have become standard and so we do not anticipate that it will be out of date as soon as publications in some other areas of research.

The procedures and discussion given by the different authors are inevitably varied, both in presentation and in scope. We have encouraged the contributors to standardize only to the extent that each chapter includes enough details to make the book a truly practical handbook; we have not attempted to cover isolation methods (apart from the chapter on ion-pair extraction), because they are so diverse that a whole separate volume would hardly cover the field. It must be stressed that the isolation of a compound from the sample matrix in good yield and ready for derivatization and chromatography is of paramount importance, and it is this that is very often the most difficult part of an assay. Nevertheless, both isolation and analysis are essential links of the chain. Solutions to the problems of extraction, derivatization and separation are more easily tackled once the analytical procedure has been worked out with standard samples.

We have attempted to obtain some degree of uniformity between chapters and also a degree of balance, especially between different types of