Klaus Burger, Dog's muck, Lyon 2003



## and how to prevent it!

Not an appetizer

The best chromatographic equipment with autosampler, separation system, sophisticated biological detection, scanner and computer aided evaluation etc. is of no use, if the TLC plate, basis and fundament of the whole process, is not in proper order and a valid state. With respect to the activity of the layer, this, in the meantime, is well known.

But what about impurities in the Silica layer? Impurities ('muck') minimizing the power of the method, preventing proper work, should no longer be ignored.

Some remarks on clean TLC plates



TLC plate before and after cleaning



GAS is useful to determine traces of the analyte (ppb to ppt) by evaporation of a solution of the sample. Separation from the matrix and enrichment in the layer by a factor of about 10<sup>6</sup> takes place in one simple single step. Limit: the vapor pressure of the analyte should be at least 1 mBar at 100°C.

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GAS (Gas stream Application of Substances)



Silica layer of a TLC plate contaminated via atmosphere



TLC migration of a dye from different starting positions





AMD migration of a dye from different starting positions



## The focussing effect of AMD





For optimal conditions a peakwith at half height of 0.1 mm is obtained Real life samples show 20 to 40 baseline separations

Dyes in complex matrix





TLC migration of a three dyes from different starting positions





AMD migration of a three dyes from different starting positions





Silica layer of a TLC plate contaminated via atmosphere





### TLC migration of the contaminants in the layer



### AMD migration of the contaminants in the layer



### Cleaning TLC plates by diving





#### Drying TLC plates by vacuum



All these steps **MUST** be performed in a **CLEAN BENCH** 

By RUNNING every impurity remains in the upper part of the plate. Tailing components in the layer are the reason for a 'gradient' baseline.

Drying by heat can cause changes in the silica of the layer and the binder molecules.

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By DIVING every impurity, mobile in the cleaning solvent, is removed by diffusion.

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The result is an uniform layer.

Drying by vacuum doesn't change this state.

Two cleaning methods



The expense for plate cleaning is between 2 and 4% of the total costs of an AMD analysis

Costs of an AMD analysis



A TLC determination always is a trace analysis with respect to the mass of the analyt in the layer.

Good results will be obtained for a calibration between 3 and 300 ng/cm (application as band).

The procedure therefor is always the same for the ppb's up to the percentage range!

There is no way to suppress the signals of the blind by weak amplification of the measured signals.

100 mm

Blind of a dirty plate compared to a calibration on a clean plate with 100 ng per component



After controlling the airborne blind and ordering AMD suited solvents (to block the second source of blinds) life is very comfortable. He now can start to work...

An AMD chromatographer's life



AMD separation of some standards

100ng per component

And this in HALF the time compared to broken material



AMD separation of some standards

100ng per component, separated on different HPTLC plates

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# AMD is parallel



- Step 1: Screening of 15 samples for 200 components in the 'pesticide screening gradient'.
- Step 2: Pesticides in the samples are characterized by 31 retention windows a<sub>0</sub> through p<sub>0</sub> and their UV multidetection, both documented in a database.
- Step 3: Positive findings are validated by chromatography with a second selectivity.
- Result:  $\geq$ 1500 determinations per plate.



Pesticides in soil and Water:

Screening for 200 components parallel in 15 samples

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# **PRODUCT SCREENING**



Usual analytical strategy to control mixing processes



Screening of the complete production of a formulating plant















An AMD elution gradient always starts polar and ends unpolar. Each gradient can distinguish at least 25 components. By combination of this both gradients with pronounced different selectivity, the separation power of both is multiplied. This means: 25 x 25 > 500 components can be distinguished by AMD chromatography.

Gradients for the product screening



'Universal Gradient' - gradient elution on silica



### Gradient elution on silica with AMD



#### Gradient Elution on Silica in a Column



Conditioning of the layer by drying with vacuum

Due to gradient elution on silica AMD is an extremely universal liquid chromatographic separation technique. Acids, bases, neutral, hydrophilic and lipophilic compounds even inorganics can mostly be separated in the same system without any optimization.







### **Bioactivity Screening for Photosynthesis Blocker**

#### Universal Gradient as a must for a successful screening



Screening for antibiotics in extracts from biological material. Detector: Taylor made luminescent bacteria

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As an universal, open and clean! separation system, AMD can easily be coupled to other techniques.

Example

HPLC online coupled with AMD







### A powerful couple







It's comfortable paradise.

Where are the separation problems?

He now can answer questions some people don't dare to ask...

An 'online' chromatographer's life



For the effective genetic manipulation of pepper it was necessary to determine the content of carotenoids in the fruits.

About 200 naturally occurring carotinoids are known.

The analytical method has to distinguish between these carotenoids AND all components from the matrix

Online coupling HPLC-AMD: Example Functional Food





Carotenoids: HPLC separation of an extract from pepper, VIS-detection



Carotenoids: AMD separation of an extract from pepper, VIS-detection



Carotenoids: Fraction 2 from HPLC separated by AMD



Carotenoids: Fraction 7 from HPLC separated by AMD



# > 1000 components can be separated

Online coupling HPLC-AMD: Separation power

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