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# **A STUDY OF NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS IN THE URINE OF THE RACING GREYHOUND**

**by**

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**B.Sc., M.Sc., C.Chem., M.R.S.C**

**A thesis submitted to**

# **THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW**

**for the degree of**

# **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

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# **\_ vi i -**

# **LIST OF TABLES**





**- viii -**



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**ix -**

# **LIST OF FIGURES**





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**- xvi -**

# **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank the National Greyhound Racing **Club for providing financial support for this study which was carried out at the Department of Forensic Medicine and Science, university of Glasgow.**

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I am glad to acknowledge the continued support of my **family throughout my years of study at university, especially my Dad who has always been a great tutor and my Mum who has "sat" all my exams along with me.**

**Finally, special thanks go to my boyfriend, without whose unfailing patience, emotional support and assistance throughout, none of this would have been possible. Thanks Dave!**

#### **SUMMARY**

**The purpose of this study was to develop a screening procedure for the detection of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in the urine of** the **racing greyhound. The study was divided into three parts, dealing with the evaluation and selection of an appropriate analytical methodology, the investigation** of **acidic endogenous components of greyhound urine and** the **analysis of selected NSAIDs in urine following administration at therapeutic levels to greyhounds.**

(1) In the first part of the study, the analytical **methods examined were isocratic high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) with ultraviolet (UV) detection,** capillary gas chromatography (GC) with temperature **programming and flame ionisation detection and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). Twelve NSAIDs in common use in the UK were selected as test compounds for the evaluation of the separating ability, selectivity and sensitivity of detection of the three methods.**

(a) HPLC : For one compound, phenylbutazone, the HPLC capacity factor (k') was measured in seven reversed-phase **solvent systems using an octadecylsilane column.** The **remaining compounds were examined on two selected systems. In addition, fluorescence spectrometry and electrochemical detection (ECD) were examined to assess their value as additional HPLC detection systems which might increase the selectivity or sensitivity of** the

**method. All of the test compounds were eluted from the column and could be detected by UV spectrometry at a** sample size of 5 nanograms on-column. Five of the test **compounds could be detected by fluorescence spectrometry** and seven by ECD. However, none of the solvent systems **examined resolved all of the test compounds from each other.**

(b) GLC : Three chemical derivatives were evaluated to **increase the thermal stability and improve the** chromatographic behaviour of the test compounds - the **methyl, trimethylsilyl and tertiary-butyldimethylsilyl derivatives. The retention indices of the three** derivatives for each substance were recorded using a glass **capillary column coated with dimethylsilicone (non-polar) stationary phase. Three compounds, all pyrazolidine diones, could be chromatographed without derivatisation** but produced a mixture of products following reaction with **the methylating agent, diazomethane. These were further examined by mass spectrometry.**

(c) GC-MS : Gas chromatography with mass spectrometric **detection was carried out using similar GC conditions to those described above. Electron impact spectra were recorded at 70 ev for each of the derivatives of the test substances and possible fragmentation reactions giving rise to the most prominent ions in the spectra were proposed. The reaction products of pyrazolidinedione NSAIDs** produced by reaction with diazomethane were **cha ra ct er is ed by GC-MS and tentative structures were**

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**proposed in which methylene addition had occurred at the enol-oxygen atom and at the carbonyl group, to give enol ethers and oxiranes respectively.**

**It was concluded that GC-MS was the only method which would have sufficient selectivity and separating** ability for use in a screening procedure and this method **was used in the rest of the study.**

(2) The second part of the study established the normal **pattern of organic acids present in greyhound urine, which would be co-extracted with any NSAIDs present and might** lead to interference in the detection and quantitation of **the drugs.**

**Three different chemical derivatisation methods (methylation, trimethylsilylation and tert-butyl**dimethylsilylation) were evaluated using standards of **acids normally present in human urine. Both gas chromatographic retention data and mass spectra were collected. The latter were examined to establish the main fragmentation pathways for each type of derivative.**

**Ur in e samples were collected from 3 dogs and l** bitch, kept in registered kennels, at different times of **the day and on successive days. Acid extracts were** prepared for GC-MS analysis using a solid-phase method **based on cross-linked polystyrene resin (XAD-2). A pooled extract was subdivided into portions and derivatised by four procedures including those listed above and also by** combined methylation-trimethylsilylation. The four **derivatives were analysed by GC-MS and revealed complex**

**- XX -**

mixtures of acids, of which more than seventy components **were identified.**

**Although the tertiary-butyldimethylsilyl derivatives gave excellent diagnostic ions, little data was available in the literature to assist in the** identification of unknown acids. The methylated extract **presented the least complex chromatogram and methylation was used for subsequent analysis. The urinary** acid pattern varied between animals, according to the time of **day and from day to day.**

**(3) In the third part of the study five test compounds (ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid and phenylbutazone) were administered at therapeutic levels to greyhounds. Blood and urine samples were collected serially in the ibuprofen and mefenamic acid experiments. Urine samples only were collected for the remaining three compounds. urinary creatinine concentrations were measured for each sample.**

**The urinary components were extracted as before with XAD-2 resin and glucuronide and sulphate conjugates present in the samples were hydrolysed by incubation with helix-pomatia extract. Plasma samples were extracted** using heptane: ethyl acetate. All samples were methylated **using diazomethane.**

The five test compounds were detected and **quantified in the urine and plasma samples collected. Plasma drug concentration/time curves and excretion profiles were obtained for ibuprofen and mefenamic acid.**

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**Metabolites of ibuprofen and naproxen were observed in urine samples. The importance of parallel creatinine measurements to correct for variation in the urinary volume was shown in the naproxen study. The implications** of the results with respect to the detection of these five **drugs and the interpretation of their concentrations** during a screening procedure at a race meeting are **discussed.**

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## **C H A P T E R ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 DRUGS IN SPORT**

**The abuse of drugs in sport is believed to have occurred as far back as the Third Century B.C., when athletes, competing in the Olympic Games, used any means possible to improve their performances. In 1879, in the** Six Day Cycle Race, French competitors are reported to **have used caffeine, cocaine and strychnine, and Belgians, sugar soaked in ether, in order to improve their** performance. Whereas in amateur sporting events such as the Olympic Games, honour and prestige are at stake, **greyhound and horse racing offer the incentive of prize money.**

**In 1967 the cyclist Tommy Simpson died while competing in the Tour de France, Simpson had over-exerted himself and put tremendous strain on his heart.** Post-mortem findings revealed that he had taken **amphetamine, methamphetamine and alcohol. This was to be** a final stimulus to the International Olympic Committee **prior to the beginning of drug testing in human sport in the Mexico Olympics in 1968.**

Greyhound racing is a major spectator sport in **Great Britain, second only to football in the number of participants.** It is also a popular gambling sport **accounting for approximately 25% of the £4 billion staked in Britain each year. Two types of greyhound tracks exist** **in the U.K; 37 tracks under the aegis of the National Greyhound Racing Club (N.G.R.C.), which corresponds to the Jockey Club of horse racing, and the independent "flapping tracks".**

**At N.G.R.C. tracks such as Shawfield in Glasgow and Powderhall in Edinburgh, dogs run under official rules and are subject to drug testing. The "flapping tracks" do not carry out drug testing procedures.**

Pre-race drug screening of urine samples is carried out in a laboratory at the track on all competing **greyhounds two hours before a race. Samples found to be positive at this stage are submitted for further examination to the Department of Forensic Medicine and Science at Glasgow university and the animal involved would be immediately withdrawn from the race. About 80,000 pre-race samples are analysed each year. In 1988, 622 samples were assessed as positive at the track laboratories and were submitted to Glasgow University for further analysis. of these samples 37 were found to contain a banned substance. Table l.l.l lists the frequency and the drugs detected.**

**The list of prohibited substances used internationally by many racing authorities, including the N.G.R.C., is comprehensive, and the intention is to ban the use of any drug in racing greyhounds at the time of competition. By contrast the stated intention of the Medical commission of the International Olympic committee** is to ban those drugs which are likely to be harmful when

**- 2 -**



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**TABLE 1.1.1: Drugs reported to be present in the urine of racing greyhounds in Britain in 1988.**

misused, but with the minimum of interference with the **normal therapeutic use of drugs. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for instance, are banned** in **greyhound racing but are permitted to athletes.**

**Drugs may be used to try to increase or** decrease the performance of a greyhound but the desired effect is **never guaranteed. A wide range of drugs has been detected** in the urine of racing greyhounds, inclucing stimulants **such as amphetamine and caffeine, sedatives such** as **barbiturates, phenothiazines, benzodiazepines** and chlorbutanol, and also non-steroidal anti-inflammatory **drugs such as phenylbutazone.**

**The preferred body fluid used for analysis** in all **species is urine. The collection of urine is non-invasive** and is easy to obtain. Greyhounds readily provide a urine **sample when released from their transporter.** The **authenticity of the urine sample must be** ensured. **Therefore, samples must be correctly labelled** and **contamination, or sample-switching must be avoided.**

In the case of greyhound racing, the urine sample **is divided into two portions; one is analysed at** the track and the second portion is analysed at Glasgow University if the pre-race screening test is positive. **The racing manager at the track can also request** that a **post-race sample is analysed at the University if he** suspects that an animal is not performing as he would have **predicted.**

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## **1.2 PHARMACOKINETICS AND DRUG METABOLISM**

## **1.2.1 PHARMACOKINETICS**

The disposition of a drug is controlled by three major processes: (i) absorption into the blood (ii) distribution from the blood to peripheral tissues **and (iii) elimination by both metabolism and** excretion. Pharmacokinetics is a mathematical expression of these **rate processes.**

Figure 1.2.1 illustrates a typical plot of plasma concentration (Cp) versus time for a drug given by **intravenous injection and orally. The** terminal **elimination rate of plasma concentration is the** same **irrespective of the route of administration. For** most **drugs the phase of elimination follows first** order **kinetics.**

**Drugs, metabolites and their conjugates are** removed **from the body by various physiological channels** of **excretion including the urine, bile and faeces. Successful clearance depends on physiological mechanisms of transport (heart, vessels, blood and circulation)** and **of e x cretion (kidney and bowel functions) and is** related **to the physico-chemical properties of the drug molecule, in particular water solubility and protein binding.**

The main route of excretion is in the urine. Drugs **appear in the glomerular filtrate but if they are lipid-soluble they are readily reabsorbed in the** renal tubules by passive diffusion. Metabolism of a drug often results in a less lipid-soluble compound, aiding renal

**- 5 -**

**FIGURE 1.2.1: Plot of plasma concentration versus time for a drug given by intravenous injection and orally.**



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**excretion (see section 1.2.2). The pH of the urine will affect ionisation of weak acids or bases. Unionised drug** is reabsorbed; ionised drug is cleared. Manipulation of **the urine pH is sometimes useful in increasing renal excretion. For example, bicarbonate administration makes the urine alkaline; this ionises aspirin making it less lipid-soluble and increasing its rate of excretion.**

**Bile is also a route of clearance. once excreted the drug is cleared in the faeces, but some drugs are** reabsorbed to a significant extent through entero-hepatic **circulation (Figure 1.2.2). The effect is to prolong the presence of a drug in the body.**

**Some of the terms used in pharmacokinetics which are relevant to later discussion are outlined briefly below. Reviews of all aspects of pharmacokinetics are discussed elsewhere [1-3].**

(a) <u>Half-Life</u>: the half-life (t<sub>y,</sub>) is the time taken for the concentration of a drug in blood to fall by **half its original value (Figure 1.2.1). Measurement of** the t<sub> $\gamma_{\rm a}$  allows calculation of the elimination rate</sub> **constant (k) from the formula:**

 $k = 0.693/t_{1/2}$ 

(b) Elimination Rate Constant: the elimination rate constant (k) is the fraction of drug present at any time **that would be eliminated in unit time. For example,**  $k = 0.02$   $min^{-1}$  means that 2% of the drug present is **eliminated in 1 minute.**

**- 7 -**

**FIGURE : ..2.2: The entero-hepatic circulation of a drug which is excreted in the bile.**



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(c) Volume of Distribution: the volume of distribution  $(V_n)$  is the apparent volume into which a drug is **distributed.**

(d) **Clearance:** Clearance is the volume of blood or **plasma cleared of drug in unit time. Plasma clearance (Clp)** is given by the expression:  $\text{Clp} = \text{V}_n\text{k}$  and the rate of elimination = Clp x Cp. Clearance is the sum of **individual clearances, including metabolic and renal clearance.**

## **1.2.2 DRUG METABOLISM**

Since in greyhound racing the analyst is generally supplied with a urine sample for analysis he must be aware **of the rates and products of metabolism of any drugs which might be present.**

The metabolism of drugs (that is, the effect that **an o rganism has on drugs), encompasses a wide range of chemical reactions. Drug metabolism is generally divided** into two phases: Phase I (reactions on functional groups) and Phase II (conjugation reactions)[4]. Phase I **reactions include oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis and** hydration and Phase II reactions include glucuronidation, **sulphation, methylation and amino acid conjugation.**

**Drugs are often lipophilic in nature and in order to eliminate them from the body they have to be** metabolised to a more water-soluble form.

Figure 1.2.3 gives a few examples of the type of **reactions involved in the metabolism of drugs. Oxidation reactions can be divided into two types depending on the**

## **FIGURE 1.2.3:**

**I** . **Oxidation involving cytochrome P-450 (a) The oxidative deamination of amphetamine**



**(b) The side-chain hydroxylation of pentobarbital**



**(c) The S-oxidation of chlorpromazine**



**(d) The N-demethylation of diazepam**



**II Other enzyme systems e.g. xanthine oxidase (a) The oxidation of caffeine**



**- 10 -**

**enzymes involved; oxidation performed by the microsomal mixed-function oxidase system (cytochrome P-450-dependent) and other oxidation systems. The mixed-function oxidase system performs many different functionalisation reactions; four examples are given in Figure 1.2.3. The** other oxidation reactions are performed by a number of **enzymes in the body not related to mixed-function oxidases, including alcohol dehydrogenase, xanthine oxidase and amine oxidase.**

The main function of Phase I metabolism is to prepare a compound for Phase II metabolism and not to prepare the drug for excretion. Phase II is the true **'detoxification' of drugs and gives products that are generally water-soluble and easily excreted.**

**In most cases the end products of Phase I** metabolism is a chemically reactive functional group, such as -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH and -COOH. Drugs containing these functional groups can then be conjugated in Phase II **reactions with compounds such as glucuronic acid, glycine, glutathione and sulphates.**

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# **1.3 NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS**

**The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)** form part of a group of drugs used in the treatment of **arthritis and have analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic properties. Their abuse in greyhound racing may be with the intention to alleviate the pain, swelling** and stiffness of injured joints and may help a dog which **is not quite at its peak to run a little better. They may also enable a lame dog to run. The use of NSAIDs is banned by the N.G.R.C. in greyhounds during competition.**

**The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory group of drugs contains a diverse range of structural types, but most are acidic and can be classified under three main headings:** arylcarboxylic, arylalkanoic and enolic acids. Examples **of each group are shown in Table 1.3.1. Representative members of each group were selected for inclusion in this study (indicated with \*); these are the compounds most widely prescribed in Great Britain in the treatment of arthritis.**

**Despite the diverse structural range within the NSAID group their pharmacological properties are very** similar. Their mode of action is complex but generally **speaking they all inhibit the biosythesis and release of prostaglandins which are involved in the pathogenesis of inflammation and fever. The pharmacology of these drugs** is well reviewed elsewhere [5] and will be discussed in **subsequent chapters.**

**- 12 -**

## **ARYLCARBOXYLIC ACIDS**

## **Salicylic Acids**

**Diflunisal**

**Acetylsalicylate**

**Anthranilic Acids (Fenamates)**

**Etafenamic Acid Flufenamic Acid Meclofenamic Acid \*Mefenamic Acid**

**ARYLALKANOIC ACIDS**

#### **Arylpropanoic Acids**

**\*Fenbufen Fenprofen \*Flurbiprofen \*Ibuprofen Indoprofen \*Ketoprofen \*Naproxen Tiaprofenac**

## **Arylacetic Acids**

**Alclofenac Diclofenac Fenclofenac Fentaizac**

**Heteroaryl Acetic Acids Tolmetin Zomepirac**

## **Idene and Indole Acetic Acids**

**\*Indomethacin \*Sulindae**

**ENOLIC ACIDS**

#### **Pyrazolidinediones**

#### **Oxicams**

**\*Piroxicam**

**\*Azapropazone Feprazone Kebuzone ^Phenylbutazone \*Sulphinpyrazone**

**\* representative NSAIDs included in this study.**

 $-14-$ 

## **1.4 PROJECT AIMS**

**The purpose of this study was to develop a screening procedure to detect and identify non-steroidal** anti-inflammatory drugs in the urine of the racing **greyhound. In order to do this it was necessary to** establish a method for systematic metabolism studies.

**Since many NSAIDs and their metabolites resemble** endogenous substances screening for NSAIDs in urine is a **difficult problem requiring relatively sophisticated methodology.**

**Although the metabolism of NSAIDs has been e xtensively studied in rats, rabbits and humans, it was expected that due to the low fat and high muscle mass of** the greyhound, the metabolism of these compounds may be **quite different from other animals, both in terms of pharmacokinetics and the nature and relative amounts of the metabolites formed. A knowledge of these sets of** information for each drug of interest is a necessary **pre-requisite for the creation of an efficient drug screening procedure.**

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#### **- 15 -**

#### **CHAPTER TWO**

## **ANALYTICAL METHODS**

## **2.1. INTRODUCTION**

**The purpose of this study was to develop a method to screen qualitatively and quantitatively for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in the urine of the racing greyhound. The twelve drugs which were chosen for study, as the most commonly prescribed representatives of the class of drugs in the U.K., were ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, fenbufen, mefenamic acid, indomethacin, sulindac, phenylbutazone,** sulphinpyrazone, azapropazone and piroxicam.

**Most NSAIDs can be quantified using spectrophotometric and/or spectrofluorometric techniques. These methods, however, were not suitable for this study because they are not specific due to interferences from metabolites, other drugs and endogenous co-extracted material from body fluids. Immunological methods also** were not considered. It would be impossible to raise one antibody against a group of drugs with such diverse chemical structures. Screening would require sets of **antibodies for each chemical class (when screening for drugs of abuse, for instance, radioimmunoassays are run for opiates, eannabinoids and amphetamines). only chromatographic techniques will be considered here.**

**The literature contains many specific methods for**

**the analysis of analgesics in various matrices including pharamaceutieals and body fluids but few studies include more than about ten NSAIDs [6-14] and even fewer assay** several of the drugs in urine [6,7,15-17]. The methods **which assay the drugs in urine will be considered first.**

Hunt and co-workers [6] developed a gas chromatographic screening procedure for a limited **number of NSAIDs in horse urine. The drugs were solvent extracted from urine and were detected by gas chromatography (GC) with flame ionisation detection (FID) after on-column methylation using trimethylanilinium hydroxide as the methylating reagent. Fifteen NSAIDs were** studied. Eight of the drugs were detected in horse urine (including mefenamic acid, ibuprofen, indomethacin, **naproxen and ketoprofen) after the animal had been administered with the drug. The other seven drugs (including flurbiprofen) detected by this method were simply added to the horse urine. Hunt and his colleagues** used a packed GC column (equivalent to SE-30) and a **temperature programmed run. The methylation procedure was found not to be sufficiently reproducible and could not therefore be used for quantitation. No metabolites were detected using this method. However, the authors commented that to detect the metabolites hydrolysis of the urine would most likely be necessary.**

The method of Hunt and co-workers was further developed by Chalmers and colleagues in 1984 [7] and employed a combination of thin layer chromatography (TLC),

**- 16 -**

**high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), GC and gas-chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS). TLC was carried out u sing Kieselgei plates and a mobile phase of** ethylacetate:methanol:0.88 ammonia (8:1:1, v/v/v) and the **plates were examined under uv light before overspraying the plates with acidic spray reagents. GC was effected** with a packed column as before [6] but used both FID and **n i t r o g e n -phosphorus d e t e c t i o n ( N P D ) . The H PLC system was** reversed-phase and consisted of a pre-column (Co Pell  $C_{1,8}$ , 5cm x 4.6mm) and an analytical column of octadecyl silica (ODS) (10µm, 22cm x 4.6mm), UV detection was at **280nm. Gradient elution was carried out with an a c e t o n i t r i l e / o . 1M acetic acid mix. The TLC and GC methods were successful in detecting the standard drugs, but the** HPLC method failed to detect ibuprofen and a few of the other test compounds. The chromatographic systems were **less effective when used to assay the drugs in the presence of urine. Twenty-three out of the twenty-eight** drugs assayed were detected using a combination of the **three methods but the other five compounds were difficult to distinguish from co-extracted material present in the horse urine.**

**Each HPLC method in the literature which assays** NSAIDs in urine can only resolve a limited number of **drugs. Three such methods have been developed by Upton and co-workers [15], Thomas and co-workers [16] and Ng [17] and are discussed below.**

**In 1980 Upton and co-workers [15] reported a**

**sensitive HPLC method for five NSAIDs (including ketoprofen and naproxen) in plasma and urine. The drug conjugates were hydrolysed in 1M sodium hydroxide before analysis and extracted by solvent extraction. The method** of detection was HPLC-UV (at 262nm) using a reversed-phase system consisting of an ODS column (5um, 4cm x 4.6mm) protected by a 4cm x 3.2mm pre-column and a mobile phase of 0.05M phosphate buffer (pH7) containing between 6 and 8 percent (v/v) acetonitrile. This system could resolve **naproxen, ketoprofen, ibuprofen, fenoprofen and probenecid.**

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**Thomas and colleagues reported an HPLC method for the analysis of six NSAIDs (including indomethacin, ketoprofen, naproxen and phenylbutazone) in plasma or urine. Diluted urine, protein-free plasma or ether extracts were injected onto the ODS column (5cm x 5mm).** The mobile phase was aqueous methanol adjusted to pH3. **The methanol content and detection wavelength had to be altered to optimise the system for each drug.**

Ng used a simple sample preparation of salt **precipitation of proteins followed by HPLC-UV to analyse four NSAIDs (including indomethacin, phenylbutazone and**  $sultindex$ ). The HPLC consisted of an ODS column **(30cm x 3.9mm) and the solvents used as mobile phases were aqueous mixtures of acetonitrile and methanol acidified** with phosphoric acid to pH2.2. Similar to Thomas and **c o - w o r k e r s ' method, Ng's m o b i l e phase c o m p o s i t i o n varied depending on the drug of interest.**

**other workers who have analysed ten or more**

**NSAIDs have developed methods to analyse the drugs** in blood [8] or plasma [9,13,14] or simply drug **standards [10,11,12].**

**Recently Sharp reported [8] a GC-FID method which** involved a single extraction with ethyl acetate for sixty **acidic or neutral drugs in blood (including nine of those of interest in the present study). The samples were assayed either without derivatisation or with on-column** methylation (using flash-heater methylation) on a fused silica capillary column with a split injector. A **temperature programmed run was used. out of the nine drugs of interest which were examined, indomethacin and piroxicam were found to have poor chromatographic properties, ketoprofen, naproxen and phenylbutazone were found to give multiple peaks on methylation and sulindac did not chromatograph at all.**

Two of the methods which assayed several NSAIDs in **plasma were HPLC methods [9,14]. The HPLC assay of Nielsen-Kudsk [14] assayed fifteen NSAIDs, including nine** of interest in this study. An ODS column (30cm x 3.9mm) with a methanol-phosphate buffer was used, the methanol **content needing to be altered to obtain optimal separation and reasonable elution times as with other methods already discussed [16,17]. Owen and co-workers recently rep or te d a rapid HPLC assay for the simultaneous determination of nine NSAIDs [9]. The system consisted of** an ODS column (30cm x 3.9mm) and a phosphoric acid 0.03%, pH2.5 - acetonitrile (45:55, v/v) mobile phase. Ketoprofen

**and naproxen were not sufficiently separated with this system and the detection wavelength had to be altered to provide sufficient sensitivity to measure ibuprofen. The authors noted that the metabolites of phenylbutazone, present in the plasma, would interfere in the elution of naproxen and ketoprofen.**

Giachetti reported [13] a solvent extraction method **from plasma of ten NSAIDs (including four of interest in** the present study) followed by capillary GC analysis of **the methyl esters. The methyl esters were formed using** anhydrous diazomethane in diethyl ether and a temperature **programmed run and FID detection were used. This system was able to resolve all the standards examined, but some of the later-eluting peaks (including indomethacin) were broad.**

**Some methods have presented retention data for ten or more compounds when considering interferences with specific assays. Two assays of this type have been reported; the analysis of ibuprofen in dog serum [11] and the determination of naproxen in plasma [12]. The other NSAIDs mentioned in these two papers were therefore non-extracted drug standards. Kearns and Wilson [11] found indomethacin to interfere in their** ibuprofen assay which consisted of a solvent **extraction followed by HPLC analysis on an ODS** column with a mobile phase of methanol-water-glacial **acetic acid (pH3.4, 75:25:1, v / v / v ) . in the naproxen HPLC assay of Broquaire and co-workers [12]**

**- 20 -**

**oxyphenbutazone and sulindac were reported to interfere with the analysis. in this assay an ODS column was also used and the mobile phase was acetonitrile-aqueous** orthophosphoric acid (pH3, 45:55,  $V/V$ ).

**In 1986 Stevens and Gill [10] reported HPLC retention data for over forty analgesics, including nine of those of interest. The authors reported that initial experiments with various eluents revealed that the** analgesic drugs showed a very wide range of retention **properties. Stevens and Gill found that a series of** isocratic eluents were necessary to elute the compounds of **interest with suitable retention characteristics. An ODS silica stationary phase was employed and three different isocratic eluents were used. The eluents were prepared from isopropanol, formic acid and an aqueous phosphate** buffer. Nine of the compounds of interest were eluted **with the mobile phase isopropanol - potassium hydrogen phosphate (0.1M) - formic acid (154:1000:1, v / v / v ) .**

**There are other methods available which assay** between three and ten NSAIDs. The majority of those **methods have been based on HPLC and are similar to the ones already mentioned in that they all employ a reversed-phase system using an ODS column and an acidic mobile phase. some of these methods are isocratic [18-23] while others employ gradient elution [24] or some modification of wavelength and/or mobile phase to enable detection of all the drugs examined [25,26].**

**Listene** 

**Ford and co-workers [27] reported a rapid**

**- 21 -**

**extraction method for acidic drugs in blood employing** GC-NPD and GC-MS. The only drugs of interest which were **examined were ibuprofen and phenylbutazone.**

**in this study it was decided to examine HPLC, GC and GC-MS as possible methods for the analysis of the** twelve NSAIDs. It was realised that isocratic HPLC alone **would not be selective enough for the drugs of interest** (a gradient system was not available) so different methods **of detection, such as UV, fluorescence and electrochemical** detection were examined. It was decided that a reversed**phase system with an acidic mobile phase would be necessary to elute the compounds and this has been demonstrated in the literature already mentioned.**

A capillary GC method would also be examined. It was thought that a capillary column would be necessary to provide sufficient resolution of the twelve compounds. As it would be necessary to derivatise some of the drugs of **interest, different methods of derivatisation would be examined.**

**Finally it was thought that GC-MS would be necessary to give absolute identificaton of the twelve compounds, so GC-MS of the standards and their derivatives would be considered.**

**- 22 -**

2.2 CHROMATOGRAPHY : GENERAL INTRODUCTION **2.2.1 HISTORY**

Mikhail Semenovich Tsvet, a Russian botanist, was **the pioneer of chromatography; he first described the** method in 1903 [28] and gave a full account of it in **German in 1906 [29]. Tsvet employed the technique to separate various plant pigments such as chlorophylls and xanthophylls by passing a solution of their compounds** through a glass column packed with finely divided calcium **carbonate. The separated species appeared as coloured bands on the column, which accounts for the name Tsvet chose for the method. Although the technique had been used occasionally between 1910 and 1930 [30] it was not until 1931 when work was published by Kuhn and co-workers [31] that chromatography came into general use.**

Martin & Synge published their first paper on liquid-liquid partition chromatography in 1941 [32]. It **was here that they first introduced the concept of gas-liquid chromatography. This idea, however, lay dormant until 1952 when James and Martin published the first report devoted to the subject of gas-liquid** chromatography [33]. They separated a series of fatty acids using a titration procedure as a detector employing a microburette. The microburette was eventually automated providing a very effective on line detector with an **integral response [34].**

**High pressure or high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was subsequently developed from work**

**- 2 3 -**

on the theory of partition chromatography by Martin **and Synge [32] and from experience in gas-liquid** chromatography. Giddings [35] provided a major theoretical influence on the advance of HPLC, but instrumental **problems delayed its realization. The major experimental advances which brought about practical high pressure liquid chromatography systems, were made by Lipsky in 1967 [36], Huber in 1967 [37] and Kirkland in 1969 [38].**

**The applications of chromatography have grown exponentially in the last forty years and the tremendous impact which these methods have had on science is attested by the 1952 Nobel Prize that was awarded to Martin and Synge for their discoveries in the field.**

## **2.2.2 TYPES OF CHROMATOGRAPHY**

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Chromatography is essentially a technique for the separation of the components of mixtures by a continuous **distribution of the components between two phases, one of which (the mobile phase) is moving past the other (the stationary phase). The technique relies upon intermolecular interactions in the mobile and stationary phases to cause differences in the migration rates of the components thus achie vi ng a separation. Table 2.2.1 lists the types of interactions which are possible.**

**Chromatography** is generally divided into four **types: adsorption, partition, ion exchange and molecular exclusion, depending on the primary interactions operating in the system. However, the four types of chromatography cannot be so easily compartmented as described here. in**

**- 24 -**



**TABLE 2.2.1: Types of interactions involved in chromatography**

 $\sim 10^6$ 

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 $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{A}}$ 

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<sup>1</sup> ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ರೂಪಿ ಕ್ಲಿಟ್ ಬಂದರಿಗೆ ಕೋ

 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{A}}(x,y) = \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{A}}(x,y) = \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{A}}(x,y) = \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{A}}(x,y) = \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{A}}(x,y) = \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{A}}(x,y)$ 

 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{F}^{(2)}_{\text{max}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{max}}) = \mathcal{F}^{(2)}_{\text{max}}(\mathbf{r}_{\text{max}})$ 

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**reality there are no distinct boundaries and several different mechanisms, or secondary interactions, often operate simultaneously. in gas-liquid chromatography, for instance, active sites may be available on the support material to allow adsorptive processes to occur as well as partition. ion exchange chromatography involves hydrophobic interactions and specific adsorption processes as well as electrostatic ion interactions.**

The choice of mobile phase in gas chromatography is **fairly limited, an inert gas such as helium or nitrogen or argon/methane (for nitrogen-phosphorus detection,** see Section 2.4.1(c)) is normally used. In liquid chromatography the number of mobile phases available is **extensive, the choice depending on many factors. The** total interaction of a solvent molecule with a sample molecule is a result of four major interactions: **dispersion, dipole, hydrogen bonding (both proton donors and proton acceptors) and dielectric interactions. These** interactions in combination determine a solvent's polarity. The polarity of solvents is typically expressed **in an elutropic series in which the solvents are arranged in order of increasing polarity. Solvent strength increases with solvent polarity in normal-phase partition liquid chromatography and in adsorption liquid** chromatrography, whereas in reversed-phase liquid **chromatography solvent strength decreases with increasing polarity. Snyder and Kirkland [39] describe solvent selection in their book on modern liquid chromatography**

1

**- 26 -**

**and give a table of solvent polarities.**

**Recently liquefied gases such as carbon dioxide, neon or ammonia have been used as a mob il e phase: this is known as supercritical fluid chromatrography [40].**

## (a) ADSORPTION CHROMATOGRAPHY

**In adsorption chromatography the solute (the component to be isolated or measured) and the solvent (or mobile phase) compete for active sites on the stationary phase. Separations are achieved by the retention** of a component resulting from its affinity for a particular site. The stationary phase is a solid and the mobile phase is gaseous or liquid. Adsorption **chromatography, therefore, includes gas-solid and liquid-solid chromatography. Liquid-solid chromatography incorporates column chromatography, thin layer chromatography and high performance (pressure) liquid chromatography.**

Gas-solid chromatography is useful for the analysis **of gases; carbon disulphide [41], carbon dioxide [42], propellants [43], solvents [43] and volatile organic compounds [44], such as acetonitrile, benzene, carbon tetrachloride and styrene. The mobile phase is an inert** gas such as helium or nitrogen and the stationary phase is **an active solid. These solids may be inorganic materials, for example, synthetic zeolite molecular sieve, carbon molecular sieve, silica gel or graphitised carbon, or they may be organic polymers. The organic polymers include divinylbenzene cross-linked polystyrene co-polymers (the**

**- 27 -**

**Chromasorb and Porapak series) and Tenax-GC, a porous** polymer of 2,6-diphenyl-p-phenylene oxide.

**in liquid-solid chromatography, either as column or thin layer, silica, alumina or cellulose are commonly used as the adsorbent. These adsorbents may have water on their surfaces, allowing partition and adsorptive** processes to occur. The mobile phase can be a pure liquid **or a mixture of solvents. The choice of solvent is determined by the sorption process employed and by the nature of the sample components.**

**Liquid solid chromatography has been employed in the analysis of many compounds including insecticides [45], antibiotics [46], porphyrins [47], flavanoids [48] and organometallic isomers [49].**

Thin layer chromatography is used extensively by **both synthetic and analytical chemists. It is a fast** method of checking a reaction's progression and a simple method to assess a compound's purity and identity [50].

**As discussed later in the theory of chromatography (Section 2.2.3), chromatographic efficiency increases with decreasing particle size of the sorbent. in order to** achieve a practical flow rate under these conditions a **positive pressure must be applied to the top of the** column, this is known as high pressure liquid **chromatography.**

#### (b) PARTITION CHROMATOGRAPHY

Another form of chromatography is partition chromatography. In this case the solute is distributed

**between two immiscible phases according to its partition coefficient. Separations are achieved when the components** of a mixture have different partition coefficients and so **take different times to travel through the stationary phase. The stationary phase is a liquid and the mobile** phase is gaseous or liquid. Partition chromatography **includes gas-liquid and liquid-liquid chromatography. Liquid-liquid chromatography includes paper, column chromatography and high-pressure liquid chromatography.**

**In gas-liquid chromatography (GC) the mobile phase is an inert gas such as helium or nitrogen and the liquid** stationary phase is coated on a solid support material for **packed column chromatography. For capillary column chromatography the stationary phase may be located directly onto the walls of the column or onto a support w hich is bonded to the glass walls. The most common** support material is calcined diatomaceous earth which is **acid or base washed to remove impurities and sieved to remove fine particles. It can also be treated with a silanising reagent which reacts with the surface hydroxyl** groups and reduces adsorption effects. There are a great **number of liquid stationary phases available for GC covering a wide range of polarity. Some examples of stationary phases used in GC are given in Table 2.2.2.**

**in general, non-polar compounds chromatograph best on non-polar phases and polar compounds on polar phases. Gas-liquid chromatography has been applied to the analysis of many compounds including antifungals [51], amino**

**- 29 -**



# **TABLE** *2.2.7:* **Examples of GC stationary phases**

 $\sim 10^7$ 

**- 30 -**

**acids [52], fatty acids [53] and there are numerous applications of GC to drug analysis; Clarke's "Isolation and Identification of Drugs" is an excellent reference source [50]. (Gas-liguid chromatography columns will be examined in more detail in Section 2.4.1).**

Paper chromatography might appear to be a form of **liquid-solid chromatography, however, due to water** molecules associated with the cellulose fibres; it is in **fact an example of liquid-liquid chromatography. Many applications of paper chromatography also call for the** creation of an immobilised solvent layer within the paper fibres by dipping the paper in a suitable solvent mixture. As in liquid-solid chromatography a range of **solvents with varying polarities can be employed in the elution of paper chromatography.**

**Liquid-liquid chromatography exists in two forms:** normal (or straight-phase) and reversed-phase. The normal phase mode utilises a non-polar mobile phase and a polar stationary phase. This type of system would retain polar **solutes and non-polar solutes would elute first. The reverse d- pha se system emp loys a polar m o b i l e phase and a non-polar stationary phase, when polar components elute first.**

**Classical liquid-liquid partition systems (in** either column chromatography or HPLC) require a column of **more or less inert packing material that has been coated** with a stationary phase. A typical normal phase system would use triethylene glycol coated on to a wide pore

**- 31 -**

**silica gel as stationary phase and triethylene-glycolsaturated hexane as mobile phase. This system has been used to separate phenols [54], steroids [54] and aromatic alcohols [55]. This type of system remains stable as long** as the eluent is saturated with the stationary phase. Reversed-phase systems, where, for example, squalene (a **non-polar s t a tionary phase) is coated onto a silica based** support and the samples eluted with a water/alcohol mobile **phase are no longer used. The squalene, being non-polar,** is not held strongly on the silica and results in a low **bleed from the column.**

**The most widely used column packings for modern liquid chromatography are chemically-bonded packings prepared by bonding an organic moiety to the surface of an adsorbent. Halasze and Sebastian were the first to introduce bonded-phase materials in 1969 [56]. A wide range of functional groups allows both normal and reversed-phase chromatography. Polar bonded-phase packings (for example, silica) are used for normal-phase separations. The most popular reversed-phase stationary**  $materal$  is octadecyl silane (ODS) in which the  $C_{18}$ group is bonded to a silica support via a silyl **ether (siloxane) linkage. The mobile phase is a polar** solvent such as methanol-water. Other chemically-bonded stationary phases, for example, have C<sub>R</sub> hydrocarbon **chains, substituents containing aromatic moieties such as phenyl groups, or polar groups such as cyanopropyl and nitropropyl.**

**- 32 -**

**The literature covering separations of drugs, pesticides and many other compounds by bonded-phase materials, is now vast: examples are given in several books on HPLC [50,57-60]. Further details of liquid-liquid chromatography can be found in the text by Snyder and Kirkland [39].**

**Types of HPLC columns will be discussed in section 2.3.1.**

#### (c) ION EXCHANGE

**Ion exchange chromatography is based on the principle that oppositely charged ions are attracted to each other. The functional groups on the packing material are groups such as amines or quarternary amines (for anion separation) and sulphonic acid or carboxylic acid (for cation separation). For example, an ion exchange column may contain sulphonate residues fixed to the stationary phase along with oppositely charged counter-ions, Na+ . The counter-ions are also normally present in the mobile phase as a salt, Nacl, for instance. The ionic sample molecules, in this case, would be positively charged and** are retained by exchange with the Na<sup>+</sup> ions. Ion **exchange chromatography has been used to analyse many biologically important substances [57,59].**

## (d) Molecular Exclusion

**Molecular exclusion chromatography can be carried out in both gas chromatography and liquid chromatography, where it is also referred to as gel chromatography, gel filtration or gel permeation chromatography. This method**

**- 33 -**

**separates molecules on the basis of molecular weight and** size. The column packing in gel chromatography is porous with pores of a certain size. The larger molecules are **eluted more quickly since the smaller ones diffuse further** into the pores of the stationary phase and take a longer time to be eluted. Molecular exclusion is used, for **instance, in the analysis of carbon monoxide by GC [61]** but is mostly used in liquid chromatography of naturally **occurring and synthetic polymers.**

## **2.2.3 THEORY**

## (a) THEORY OF SEPARATION AND RETENTION CHARACTERISTICS

**In most chromatography systems the stationary phase is retained inside a column. This is true for classical column, gas-solid, gas-liquid and high-pressure liquid chromatography. in the case of thin layer and paper chromatography, the stationary phase is an open bed. The theory discussed here refers to column chromatography but may also be applied to open bed chromatography.**

In elution chromatography the sample is applied to **the top of the column and immediately the components of the sample distribute themselves between the mobile and stationary phases. introduction of additional mobile** phase (or eluent) forces the solvent containing a part of **the sample down the column, where further partitioning** between the mobile phase and fresh portions of the **stationary phase occurs. Simultaneously, partitioning between the fresh solvent and the stationary phase takes place at the site of the original sample. continued**

**additions of solvent carry solute molecules through the stationary phase in a continuous series of transitions between the mobile and the stationary phases. since solute movement can only occur in the mobile phase, the** average rate at which a solute migrates depends on the fraction of time it spends in that phase. If the solute has a strong affinity for the stationary phase it will be **retained longer. If, however, the solute has a low affinity for the stationary phase it will be eluted more** quickly. Provided that the column is long enough these **differences in affinity will result in the components of a mixture separating into bands. Theoretically the solute molecules should migrate through the stationary phase as** symmetrical zones. If a detector that responds to solute **concentration is placed at the end of the column and its** signal plotted as a function of time (or volume of eluent) a series of symmetrical peaks would be obtained.

**A plot of time (or volume) versus signal is known** as a chromatogram and can be useful for both qualitative **and quantitative analysis. The position of the peaks can help to identify the component and the areas under the peaks are related to concentration of the components (See Figure 2.2.1).**

It is apparent that movement down a column **increases the distance between two components. At the same time broadening of both bands occurs which lowers the efficiency of the column as a separating device. This** band broadening is unavoidable, but fortunately occurs

**- 3 5 -**

**FIGURE 2.2.1: Chromatogram illustrating some of the terms used in chromatography (explained in more detail in the text)**





**more slowly than band separation. A useful theory of** chromatography therefore must account for both the rate at which solutes migrate and the rate of band broadening. **The rate or kinetic theory of chromatography describes the effects of variables on the band retention and band** spreading characteristics of a system. Thermodynamics govern the speed at which any band of solute moves along the column and kinetics govern the rate at which a band **broadens as it moves down the column.**

**During the chromatography process, therefore, the sample components quickly distribute themselves between the mobile and stationary phases as soon as the sample is** applied to the top of a column. Shortly after the commencement of migration an equilibrium is achieved **between the solute in the mobile phase, xm and the solute** in the stationary phase, Xs:

$$
x_m \rightleftharpoons x_s
$$

**This equilibrium can be expressed quantitatively by** means of a temperature-dependent constant, the partition **coefficient, K:**

$$
K = \frac{[Xs]}{[Xm]}
$$

**where**

- **[Xs] is the concentration of the solute in the stationary phase, and,**
- **[Xm] is the concentration of the solute in the mobile phase.**

K is only a constant at low concentration ranges such as **those generally found in chromatography. For wide** **concentration ranges the variation of K with solute concentration must be taken into account. Chromatography** carried out under conditions such that K is constant is **called linear chromatography.**

**During chromatography, molecules move while in the mobile phase at the mean linear speed of the mobile phase, V**, and when in the stationary phase they do not move at **all. The velocity of the centre of each band is therefore determined by the partition coefficient. it follows that the speed of the band of solute molecules. Vs, relative to the mobile phase is given by:**

> **vs = f raction of solute in mobile V phase at equilibrium**

**The fraction of molecules in the mobile phase is given by:**

$$
\frac{Qm}{Qm + Qs}
$$

**where**

**Qm is the q uantity of the solute in the mobile phase, and,**

Qs is the quantity of the solute in the stationary **phase.**

**Therefore,**

$$
\frac{V}{V} = \frac{Qm}{Qm + Qs}
$$

rearranging the above equation gives:

$$
\frac{Vg}{V} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{Qg}{Qm}} = \frac{1}{1 + k'}
$$

The ratio Qs/Qm is known as the capacity factor k'. It is **affected by the polarity of the solvent and the packing and is a measure of sample retention. The capacity** factor, k', is a more practical quantity than the partition coefficient, K, and can be determined from the **chromatogram (Figure 2.2.1), thus:**

$$
k' = \frac{v_A - v_0}{v_0}
$$
  
or,  

$$
k' = \frac{t_A - t_0}{t_0}
$$

**where,**

 $V_{\Omega}$ is the retention volume of an unretained peak VA **is the retention volume of peak A**  $t_{\Omega}$ **is the retent ion time of an unretained peak and.**

**is the retention time of peak A**  $t_{\pi}$ **V<sub>o</sub>** (or t<sub>o</sub>) can be measured by injection, for instance, of a dilute solution of sodium nitrite, in the case of **HPLC, or methane for GC.**

The two constants K and k' which describe the **d istribution of a sample com ponent between the mobile and stationary phases can be related since.**

Quantity = Concentration x Volume **Hence,**

$$
k' = Qs / Qm = \frac{[Xs]Vs}{[Xm]Vm} = K \underbrace{Vs}_{Vm}
$$

**Since exact volumes of mobile and stationary phases for columns are not known absolute retention values are seldom reported. It is also difficult to obtain exact duplicates of systems reported in the literature. Relative retention values are therefore used since individual column characteristics cancel out when retention values are**

**divided. The relative retention value, alpha, is defined as the ratio of capacity factors for any two given peaks. Alpha is o f t e n referred to as the s electivity or separation factor and is affected by the chemistry of the whole system.**

**Instead of reporting absolute retention values, in** GC Kovats Indices [62] are used as a measure of a compound's retention. This system is based on a linear **relation between the log of the partition coefficient of an aliphatic hydrocarbon in the stationary phase and the carbon number in a homologous series of test standards. The indices are normally used for isothermal** chromatography. The expression for the Kovats index is **given by:-**

$$
\begin{array}{ll}\n & \text{temperature} \\
 & \text{stationary} \\
 - \text{phase} \\
 & \text{total frequency}\n\end{array} = \n\begin{bmatrix}\n & \text{log tr} - \text{log tr(n)} \\
\text{log tr(n+1)} - \text{log tr(n)} \\
 & \text{log tr(n)}\n\end{bmatrix} \n\begin{array}{ll}\n & \text{100} \\
 & \text{101} \\
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 & \text{133} \\
 & \text{144} \\
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$$

## **where**

tr is the retention time of an unknown

**tr(n) is the retention time of a normal alkane having n carbon atoms, and,**

 $tr(n + 1)$  is the retention time of a normal alkane having **(n + l) carbon atoms.**

Another retention index system, which normally is **expressed in methylene Units (M.U) [63] is used with temperature programming and is given by an analogous expression:**

$$
M.U. = \frac{tr - tr(n)}{tr(n + 1) - tr(n)} + n
$$

**The standardisation of HPLC retention data using** relative retention times or capacity ratios is **particularly difficult as the data can be highly irreproducible due to differences in nominally identical column packing materials or in environmental conditions. Attempts have been made to standardise HPLC systems with** similar methods to the Kovats retention indices used in **GC. instead of using a series of alkanes, as used in GC, the system was based on 2-ketoalkanes [64] and more** recently on a series of alkyl-arylketones [65,66].

#### (b) COLUMN EFFICIENCY

The efficiency of a separation depends on the **differences in the migration rates of the solutes and on the spreading of the solute zone. The rates at which the solutes travel depend on their partition coefficients and** the resultant profile approximates to a normal Gaussian **distribution profile.**

The peak maxima represent the k' values of each **component and approximate to the average rate of travel** of the solute molecules. Ideally a peak would be sharp **and symmetrical. However, peak broadening occurs** when molecules with the same k' value migrate at **different velocities. Chromatographic peaks are generally broadened by three kinetically controlled processes; eddy diffusion, longitudinal diffusion and non-equilibrium mass transfer. The magnitudes of these effects are determined by such controllable variables as flow rate, particle size** of the packing material and the thickness of the **stationary phase.**

**- 41 -**

**A quantitative measure of efficiency is given by two expressions; N, the number of theoretical plates and** H, the height equivalent to a theoretical plate. This **concept of theoretical plates was originally developed by chromatographic column as being composed of a series of discrete but continuous, narrow, horizontal layers called** theoretical plates. At each plate, equilibration of the solute between the mobile and the stationary phase is assumed to take place. Movement of the solute and solvent is then viewed as a series of stepwise transfers from one **plate to the next. Martin and Synge [32]. The theory envisages a**

The number of theoretical plates, N, is given by:-

$$
N = 16 \left( \frac{t}{W} \right)^2
$$

**where,**

t' is the adjusted retention time, and,

**w is the peak width.**

The height equivalent to a theoretical plate, H, is given **by:-**

$$
H = \frac{L}{N} = \frac{L}{16} \left(\frac{W}{t}\right)^2
$$

**where L is the length of the column.**

**The number of theoretical plates, then, can be** calculated from the two time measurements t' and W; to **obtain H we must also know the length of the column.**

The quantity H measures the efficiency of a given **column (operated under a specific set of operating**

**conditions) per unit length of column. The efficiency of** a chromatographic column as a separation device improves as the number of equilibrations increases - that is, as **the number of theoretical plates increases or the plate** height decreases. The sharpness of a peak reflects the **plate height.**

Generally speaking, for a gas chromatographic **packed column the efficiency would be about 500-2000** theoretical plates, for a gas chromatographic capillary **column it would be about 10,000-100,000 theoretical plates** and for a 25cm reversed-phase high performance liquid **chromatographic column the efficiency would be in the range 6,000-12,000 theoretical plates.**

#### (c) BAND BROADENING

**As previously mentioned chromatographic peaks are generally broadened by kinetically controlled processes. These processes are eddy diffusion, longitudinal diffusion and non-equilibrium mass transfer. A number of equations have been developed that relate efficiency to these band** broadening factors. The earliest of these is known as the **van Deemter equation and was derived for gas liquid chromatography. The van Deemter equation relates plate height to diffusion and average linear velocity, u,**

 $H = A + (B/U) + CU$ 

**In this equation. A, B and c are associated with eddy diffusion, longitudinal diffusion and non-equilibrium mass transfer respectively.**

**Eddy diffusion arises from the numerous ways by**

**- 43 -**

which a molecule can find its way down a column. The **lengths of these paths can differ and so two particles of the same species can actually take different times to emerge, thus contributing to band broadening. The quantity A includes factors such as particle size, column geometry and uniformity of the packing material. Band broadening due to eddy diffusion can be minimised by careful packing using small spherical particles with a limited size range.**

**Longitudinal diffusion occurs as molecules tend to diffuse from regions of high solute concentration to those of low solute concentration and this can occur in both the mobile and stationary phases. Longitudinal** diffusion is more significant when the mobile phase is a **gas since diffusion rates in the gas phase are several orders of magnitude greater than those in the liquid phase. Diffusion increases with time, thus broadening increases with decreased flow rate. The constant B in the** van Deemter equation is related to the diffusion **coefficient and is inversely proportional to the flow rate. Broadening due to longitudinal diffusion can be reduced by decreasing the temperature (thus reducing the diffusion coefficient) and increasing the flow rate.**

**The third process contributing to the van Deemter equation, non-equilibrium mass transfer, arises because true equilibrium between phases cannot be achieved due to the flow of the mobile phase. At the front of a band, where the mobile phase encounters fresh stationary phase.**

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**e q u i librium is not instantly achieved and solute is** carried further down the column than it would be had a true equilibrium been established. At the rear of a band **solutes encounter fresh mobile phase and since equilibrium is not instant the tail of the band is drawn out. As a** result, there is broadening at both ends of the bands. If the flow rate is decreased there is more time for **equilibrium to be achieved and so the effects of n o n - e q u i l i b r i u m mass tran sf er become smaller. if the channels through which the mobile phase flow and the stagnant pools of mobile phase on the stationary phase are as thin as possible, equilibrium will be more easily** achieved. Equilibrium is also more closely approached at **high temperatures and with low solvent viscosities.**

**Figure 2.2.2 illustrates the contribution of each** term in the van Deemter equation as a function of the mobile phase velocity as well as their net effect on H. **It can be seen that the optimum efficiency corresponds to the flow rate at the minimim point in the Net Effect curve,**

(d) RESOLUTION

**Resolution is the term used to describe the separating power of a column. Resolution, Rs, is defined as the distance between two adjacent solute zone centres divided by the average peak width, thus**

$$
RS = \frac{2(t'_{B} - t'_{A})}{w_{A} + w_{B}}
$$

**Resolution depends on the efficiency of a column, the relative retention characteristics of the components and**

**- 45 -**

**FIGURE 2.2,2: Plot of the van Deemter equation showing the contribution of each term and the optimum mobile phase velocity.**



 $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$  , where  $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$  $\left\langle \phi_{\alpha} \right\rangle_{\alpha}$ 第二篇的 使希腊的 人名英格兰人姓氏沃尔

**the capacity factor. These three terms can be related to resolution in the following equation:**

$$
RS = \frac{\frac{1}{4(\text{alpha} - 1)} \sqrt{N} \frac{k'}{1 + k'}}
$$

**Adjacent peaks which are incompletely resolved can be separated by reducing the band broadening, by using a** longer column or one with more theoretical plates, or by **increasing the separation of the peaks by varying the mobile or stationary phase to give different relative** partition characteristics. Generally an increase in N, **alpha or k' w ill give better resolution. However, as k' increases so does the transit time for the solutes through the system giving increased band broadening. in practice** a good efficient column is used and then either the mobile **or sta tiona ry phase is vari ed to achieve better resolution.**

**Another factor affecting peak shape and resolution is related to the capacity of the stationary phase and sample size. Exceeding the sample capacity causes overloading and therefore results in unsymmetrical peaks and loss of resolution.**

It is difficult to quantify the criteria for **resolving two peaks but in general the peak separation** should be greater than 2W<sub>½</sub> apart with better than a **10% valley between the peaks.**

In quantitative chromatography based on peak area measurement, values of  $R_{\alpha}$  < 1 should be avoided, for **example, peaks D and E in Figure 2.2.1. A value of Rs = l co rresponds to about a 3-5% overlap of peaks.**
Higher values of Rs represent progressively smaller overlaps. Values of Rs > 1.2 are desirable (for **example, peaks** *A* **and B in Figure 2.2.1). Larger values of Rs then indicate better separations and smaller values of** Rs indicate poor separations. For a given value of Rs, **band overlap becomes more serious when one of the two bands is much smaller than the other, see Figure 2.2.3.**

**FIGURE 2.2.3: Separation achieved and appearance of eluted peaks at** various levels of resolution R<sub>g</sub> and differing peak intensities



 $\label{eq:2.1} \begin{split} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) & = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \\ & = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \\ & = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A})$  $\mathcal{A}=\mathcal{A}^{\dagger}$  ,  $\mathcal{A}^{\dagger}$ en en groupe († 1939)<br>2008 : Carlos Carlos († 1939)<br>1908 : Johann Cornelius, politikus († 1930)  $\omega$   $\Delta$ **TANK STAR** 

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 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$ 

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### **2.3. HIGH PRESSURE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY**

# **2.3.1 INTRODUCTION**

**The theory of high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) has already been discussed in Section 2 .2 ; this section will deal with some of the practical aspects of HPLC.**

HPLC is a complementary technique to gas chromatography (GC) in that HPLC can be used to analyse compounds which are polar and/or thermally labile. One of **the limitations of HPLC is that the sample components must be soluble in a suitable sol vent that can be employed as a** mobile phase. A schematic diagram of a typical isocratic HPLC system is given in Figure 2.3.1.

**Firstly, the mobile phase is degassed: this can be** done by ultrasonication, purging with helium or refluxing. The solvent is then pumped through a filter, **the injection system, the column, the detector and then** goes to waste or to a fraction collector.

**The sample is flushed onto the column from the inlet system and the various components travel through the column at different rates, depending on their partition coefficients, and are separated. As in GC, the sample reaches the detector and generates an electrical signal** which is amplified and recorded as a chromatogram.

**injections of samples onto an HPLC column can** either be made with a syringe or more commonly using a multiport valve with a sample loop. The column can be **left at ambient laboratory temperature or housed in a**



 $\ddot{\phantom{0}}$ 



 $a -$  Filter Key

- b Solvent Reservoir
	-
- c Pump<br>d Sample Inlet Valve<br>e Column
	-

 $B -$ Detector<br>h - Waste

 $f - Q$ ven

- 
- $i -$  Amplifier<br> $j -$  Recorder

 $51 \overline{a}$ 

column oven to maintain a constant temperature.

### (a) TYPES OF COLUMN

**Conventional HPLC columns are made of stainless steel, are about 10 to 30cm in length and have internal** diameters of 3 to 5mm. They are generally packed with **5 to lOjim particles. in order to improve chromatographic performance particles of smaller diameters have been employed. stout [67] has demonstrated the use of columns with 3jim particles. since reducing the particle size increases efficiency, the shortening of columns is also possible. Smaller columns of 5cm or less in length, with** 3 to 5mm diameters and packed with 3 to 5µm materials are **now commercially available. Another trend in column** technology is the reduction of internal diameters and **hence the development of microbore columns. Four types of microcolumns are recognised: open tubular [68,69]; packed microcapillaries [70]; microbore [71] and narrow bore [72]. The principle features of these columns are outlined in Table 2.3.1.**

**Microbore columns offer several advantages over the conventional columns such as low solvent consumption (flow** rates of 50 $\mu$ 1 min<sup>-1</sup> with microbore columns as opposed to 1ml min<sup>-1</sup> with conventional columns), greater **sensitivity and efficiencies and rapid separations.** Scott et al. [74] reported the separation of seven compounds (phenylundecane, benzene, benzyl acetate, **acetophenone,** dimethylphenyl-carbinol,  $\alpha$ -phenyl-ethyl **alcohol and benzyl alcohol) in 30 seconds. several other**



Characteristics and operational parameters for microbore columns (from ref.73) Table 2.3.1

**applications have also been reported by Scott and co-workers [75-77], Apparatus for microbore columns has to be specially designed since amplifier time constant and detecter response become critical. Equipment of this type** is not yet widely available and was not used in the **present study. A review of advances in HPLC has been given by Majors [78].**

**The mobile phase is generally a mixture of** solvents, since it is difficult to achieve the correct polarity for elution with a single solvent. If the **solvent composition remains the same throughout the analysis this is termed 'isocratic' elution and is used for simple mixtures of compounds. If a more complex mixture, for instance, one containing drugs and** metabolites, was being analysed a gradient system could be **employed. Gradient elution involves changing the** proportions of the various solvents in a controlled manner **with time: for this type of elution two pumps and a** mixing chamber are necessary. Isocratic elution is the **equivalent of isothermal analysis by GC and gradient elution can be compared with temperature programming by GC.**

(b) DETECTORS

As for GC, there are a variety of detectors **available for HPLC [79]. The most commonly used detector is the uv-visible spectrophotometer which can detect compounds that absorb in the uv-visible wavelengths. Fluorescing compounds can be determined with** a fluorescence detector. The electrochemical detector is

**- 54 -**

also available. This is suitable for use with compounds **which can be readily oxidised or reduced within the voltage range of the electrode. The development of this technique has been reviewed by Bratin [80]. Radiochemical detectors and atomic absorption detectors can also be used with HPLC.**

**The mass spectrometer can also be used as an HPLC detector, but first the technical problem of interfacing the HPLC with the mass spectrometer has to be overcome.** An interface design is required which allows only a small **portion of the mobile phase into the source without disturbing the vacuum system. Reviews of various interfaces which have been tried have been given by Arpino and Guiochon [81,82] and McFadden [83]. Takeuchi and co-workers [84] and Herion [85] have demonstrated the** direct coupling of micro HPLC with a mass spectrometer.

#### **(C) PERIVATISATION**

**HPLC, generally negates the need to derivatise compounds but in some instances derivatisation can be used to increase the sensitivity and selectivity of a detector [86]. common examples include the formation of** 2, 4-dinitrophenyl hydrazones of carbonyl compounds or dansyl derivatives of amines to increase the UV-extinction **coefficient or provide a fluorescing derivative. Pre- and post-column der ivatisation have both been used in a dynamic manner.**

**- 55 -**

**2.3.2 EXPERIMENTAL**

**(a) R E A G E N T S**

- 1. Anhydrous di-sodium hydrogen orthophosphate, Analar **(BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).**
- 2. Orthophosphoric acid, Analar (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).
- 3. Glacial acetic acid, Analar (BDH Chemicals Limited, **Poole, England).**
- 4. Acetonitrile, HPLC grade (Rathburn Chemicals **Limited, walkerburn, Scotland).**
- 5. Methanol, HPLC grade (Rathburn Chemicals Limited, **walkerburn, Scotland).**
- (b) DRUG STANDARDS

**Drug standards were kindly supplied by the following manufacturers -**

- 1. Ibuprofen (The Boots Company plc).
- 2. Flurbiprofen (The Boots Company plc).
- 3. Naproxen (Syntex Pharmaceuticals Limited).
- 4. **Ketoprofen (May and Baker Limited).**
- 5. **Fenbufen** (Lederle Laboratories).
- 6. Mefenamic Acid (W.R. Warner and Company Limited).
- 7. Indomethacin (Berk Pharmaceuticals Limited).
- 8. Sulindac (Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited).
- 9. Phenylbutazone(Ciba-Giegy Pharmaceuticals Division).
- 10. Oxyphenbutazone (Ciba-Giegy Pharmaceuticals **Division).**
- 11. Sulphinpyrazone (Ciba-Giegy Pharmaceuticals **Division).**
- 12. Azapropazone (A.H. Robins Company Limited).

**- 57 -**

13. Piroxicam (Pfizer Limited).

#### (c) APPARATUS

- 1. A Kratos Spectroflow 400 dual piston pump fitted with a Rheodyne 7120 injection valve with a 20ul **sample loop.**
- 2. A stainless steel column (250 x 4.6mm) packed with **Hypersil 5pm ODS (HPLC Technology).**
- 3. A Kratos Spectroflow 757 variable wavelength detector (set at 230 nm).
- 4. A Bioanalytical Systems LC-4A amperometric detector with a TL-5 vitrified carbon working electrode, **operating at +1 volt.**
- 5. A Farrand Mark 1 Spectrofluorimeter.
- 6. A Hewlett Packard diode array UV spectrometer was **used to record the UV spectrum of each drug before HPLC was carried out.**
- **(d) HPLC ELUENTS**

**The HPLC eluents used are listed in Table 2.3.2 -**

**Table 2.3.2: HPLC eluents**



**\*Buffer - 0 . 1M di-sodium h y d r o g e n o r t hophosphate adjusted** to pH3 with orthophosphoric acid **#Aqueous Acet i c Acid -** *2%* **v/v glacial acetic acid in distilled water.**

**- 58 -**

## (e) PREPARATION OF STOCK SOLUTIONS

 $\sim$   $\sim$ 

**Stock solutions (img/ml) of each drug were prepared by dissolving the drug in mobile phase. Solutions for analysis were then prepared by making appropriate dilutions of the stock solutions in mobile phase.**

 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1$ 

 $\label{eq:expansion} \chi(\alpha,\beta) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\alpha}{2} \left( \frac{\alpha}{2} \right)^2 - \frac{\alpha}{2} \left( \frac{\alpha}{2} \right)^2 \right) \right)$ 

المتفاجأة والمعاون والمتحارب والمتعارف والترافي والمتعارف والمتعارف والمتعارف والتراثيب

 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F})$ 

 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b}} = \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b},\mathbf{b}} = \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b},\mathbf{b}} = \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b},\mathbf{b}}$ 

 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}}(\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}}))\cap \mathcal{L}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal$ 

 $\label{eq:3} \begin{split} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}^{\text{R}}(1-\epsilon)] = \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}^{\text{R}}(1-\epsilon)]^{\text{R}} \end{split}$ 

**2.3.3 RESULTS**

**Table 2.3.3 compares the effects of using several** HPLC mobile phases on the capacity factors (k' values) of **three drugs; phenylbutazone, indomethacin and ibuprofen.**

**initially seven mobile phases were examined with phenylbutazone. All of the mobile phases used eluted the drug; capacity ratios (k') ranged from 0.83 (with mobile phase 3) to 3.55 (with mobile phase 1). A complete list is given in Table 2.3.3.**

**The analysis was extended to indomethacin and ibuprofen for selected mobile phases as shown in Table 2.3.3. Indomethacin and ibuprofen were also eluted with all the mobile phases tried.**

**Table 2.3.4 lists retention data following the use of mobile phase l and mobil e phase 4 to analyse a wide** range of NSAIDs. In both systems all of the drugs could be eluted within 5 minutes with mobile phase 1 and 10 minutes with mobile phase 4.

UV detection was useful for all of the drugs **examined (Table 2.3.5). Full spectra are given in Figures 2.3.2-2.3.5. With the exception of ibuprofen all of the drugs contain chro mophores with high extinction** coefficients. Typically detection limits were about 5ng **of drug on-column.**

**Fluorescence detection was found to be suitable only for ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, indomethacin, mefenamic acid and naproxen (Table 2.3.6) with detection limits similar to these obtained with the UV detector.**

**Electrochemical detection was applicable to seven of the test drugs as illustrated in Table 2.3.6. The detector was extremely sensitive to four of the drugs namely mefenamic acid, sulphinpyrazone, azapropazone and** oxyphenbutazone. Limits of detection for these compounds were less than 1 ng on-column.

 $\sim 10^{-1}$ 

 $\label{eq:2} \begin{split} \mathcal{L}^{(1)}(x) &= \mathcal{L}^{(1)}(x) + \mathcal{L}^{(2)}(x) + \mathcal{L}^{(3)}(x) \end{split}$ 

 $\hat{Q}$  and  $\hat{Q}$  are the spectral properties of the spectral properties of the spectral properties of  $\hat{Q}$ ar (jara) () ar a chantar an chantar an ar am proposa de chantar a chantar ().<br>An chantar an chantar an mbaile de chantar de la chantar a galla chantar a chantar an chantar a chantar a chan

 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \$ 

TABLE 2.3.3: Comparison of k' values for phenylbutazone, indomethancin **and ibuprofen with several different mobile phases, recorded with a UV detector at 230nm. Column was 250 x A.6mm (i.d.) packed with 5um Hypersil ODS.**



**TABLE 2.3.A: HPLC data for some NSAIDs recorded with a U V detector at 230nm. Column was 250 x A.6mm (i.d.) packed with 5um Hypersil ODS.**





**TABLE 2.3.5: UV absorbance data for some NSAIDs.**

**^FOOTNOTE A^°/lcm: the absorbance of lg of drug in 100 ml of solvent measured in a 1cm cell. The solvent in this case was mobile phase 4.**

J.



TABLE 2.3.6: Comparison of UV, fluorescence and electrochemical detection of some NSAIDs in mobile phase 1.

\*\* good response<br>\* poor response N D not detected lex wavelength of excitation Nemm wavelength of emission

 $\sim$ 



 $\rightarrow$ 

 $64 -$ 

WAVELENGTH (mm)



UV spectra of ibuprofen, indomethacin and ketoprofen. FIGURE 2.3.3:

**WAVELENGTH (nm)** 



**FIGURE 2.3.4: UV spectra of mefenamic acid, naproxen and phenylbutazone.**



**FIGURE 2.3.5: UV spectra of piroxicam, sulindac and sulphinpyrazone.**

#### **2.3.4 DISCUSSION**

Reversed-phase HPLC was examined as a method of **analysis since the NSAiDs in this study are all polar in nature. The drugs being considered are all acidic (see Table 2.3.7 for pka values) therefore the mobile phases tried were all acidic in order to suppress ion** formation. If the drugs were ionised they would elute quickly and give poor peak shapes. Hence the use of ion **pair chromatography for amines (basic drugs).**

The ultimate aim of the HPLC analysis was to resolve completely the NSAIDs selected. There is an **optimum range of values for k' in terms of resolution,** separation time and band detection [39]; that range is  $1 \le k \le 10$ . When  $k^*$  is initially small  $($  1) resolution increases rapidly with increases in k', but when k' is greater than 5 resolution increases very little with increases in k'. Separations which involve k' > 10 **result in long separation times and excessive band broadening to the point where detection of small samples** is impossible. The capacity factors for phenylbutazone **ranged from 0.83 to 3.55 for the seven mobile phases chosen.**

**Capacity factors vary with the stationary and** mobile phases, but in practice k' is controlled with solvent strength. When k' values require to be increased a weaker solvent is used, and if k' values need to be reduced a stronger solvent is tried. Solvent strength can **be defined quantitatively by the solvent strength**

DRUG	pKa
Azapropazone	not available
Fenbufen	not available
Flurbiprofen	not available
Ibuprofen	4.4, 5.2
Indomethacin	4.5
Ketoprofen	not available
Mefenamic Acid	4.2
Naproxen	4.2
Oxyphenbutazone	4.7
Phenylbutazone	4.4
Piroxicam	$6.3$ (2:1 dioxane-water)
Sulindac	4.7
Sulphinpyrazone	2.8

TABLE 2.3.7: Dissociation constants for selected NSAIDs (ref 50)

 $\label{eq:2} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L}) = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L}) \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L})$ 

 $\sim$ 

parameter E Solvent strength is listed for several **solvents in Snyder and Kirkland's book [39]. Solvents with low polarities and low E° values are weak solvents; for example, methyl acetate and acetone. Solvents with high polarities and high E° values are strong solvents; for example, acetonitrile and methanol. Water has the highest polarity and E° in the series. A binary or tertiary solvent has a combination of the solvent strength parameters of the solvents involved.**

The changes in k' with various solvents can be seen **in Table 2.3.3. Mobile phases 3, 4 and 5 have decreasing solvent strength, and the k' values for the three drugs increase as a result.**

**Methanol is a stronger solvent than acetonitrile** and this is illustrated when mobile phases 1 and 2 are compared. The k' value for pheylbutazone with a methanol/buffer mobile phase is 1.83 and is 3.55 with an **acetonitrile/buffer mobile phase. Finally, comparing** mobile phase 6 and 7, we would expect mobile phase 6 to **give smaller k' values since it is a stronger solvent;** the k' value for mobile phase 6 for phenylbutazone is 0.97 and is 2.03 for mobile phase 7. Mobile phases 3 and 6 which resulted in  $k' < 1$  were thought to be unsuitable **in terms of their resolving potential.**

Mobile phases 1 and 4 were used to examine a wider **range of NSAiDs (see Table 2.3.4). Both systems were found to be satisfactory for the analysis of individual standard drug substances with respect to sensitivity, peak**

**- 7 0 -**

shape and k' values. However, systems of these types did **not provide sufficient resolution to permit unambiguous ident ification of unknown NSAiDs. It would most likely be** necessary to use a gradient system in order to separate this range of compounds within a reasonable time. The **problem of resolution would become more complex when urine samples containing metabolised drugs were analysed. The selectivity of the system could be improved by employing various detector systems in series, for example UV with fluorescence detection or UV with electrochemical detection.**

**Fluorescence was found to be suitable for flurbiprofen, naproxen, mefenamic acid and indomethacin in agreement with previous work described in the literature [87-90]. ibuprofen was also found to fluoresce.**

**The most intense fluorescence is generally found in structures with aromatic character [91]. Most unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbons fluoresce in solution and the quantum efficiency usually increases with the number of rings and their degree of condensation.**

**Substitution on the aromatic ring also causes** changes in the fluorescence efficiency. The addition of an electron withdrawing group such as  $-NO_2$ ,  $-CO_2H$ , **-CHO or an halogen, dramatically reduces the fluorescence, while the introduction of an electron releasing group, such** as  $-NH_2$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $-OCH_3$  or  $-CH_3$  increases the fluorescence.

**Molecules that possess rigid structures also favour fluorescence. in this case the planarity inhibits the**

**- 7 1 -**

**loss of absorbed energy by other radiationless pathways.**

It is, however, difficult to formulate absolute rules to say whether a substance will fluoresce or not. **In the case of the drugs examined in Table 2.3.6 we may have expected none of them to fluoresce since they all contain both electron withdrawing and releasing groups.** It is often best to use an empirical approach rather than a predictive one when assessing fluorescence detection for **HPLC.**

Electrochemical detection coupled to HPLC is now used to monitor a wide range of organic molecules [92]. **Both electro-oxidation and electro-reduction are possible although electro-reduction is technically more difficult due to high background currents caused by dissolved oxygen and other reducible trace impurities [93].**

**Organic oxidations can be performed on most electron-rich compounds. common reactions include phenol oxidative couplings, oxidation of primary and secondary alcohols to aldehydes and ketones, respectively, Kolbe d e - c a rboxylation of carboxylic acids, o x i d a t i o n of primary** and secondary thiols, hydroquinones, indoles and **xanthines [94-96].**

The electrochemical analysis was performed using mobile phase 1 which contained 0.1M phosphate buffer since it is essential for electrochemical detection that the **solvent is electrically conductive.**

**Electrochemical oxidation was found to** be particularly suitable for mefenamic acid, sulphinpyrazone,

**- 72 -**

azapropazone and oxyphenbutazone. Indomethacin, sulindac and phenylbutazone also give a response but the detector **was less sensitive for these substances under the conditions used. These seven drugs contain functional** groups with an oxidation potential within the range of the **electrode used. None of the other drugs examined in** Table 2.3.6 gave a response under the conditions used. A **change in mobile phase or electrode potential could facilitate a response but this was not investigated further.**

 $\label{eq:2.1} \left\langle \mathcal{L}_{\alpha} \right\rangle = \left\langle \mathcal{L}_{\alpha}$ 

**- 74 ~**

#### **2.3.5 CONCLUSION**

HPLC was found unsuitable as a screening procedure for NSAIDs. An isocratic system such as the one used in the evaluation is suitable for the analysis of specific or **known groups of compounds but does not provide sufficient** resolution to analyse the twelve test compounds. It **should also be noted that there are many other NSAIDs on the market which, in the presence of their metabolites and other urinary components, poses an insurmountable problem with respect to specificity. This problem could be** reduced by the use of a gradient system to improve **resolution, although these systems have in the past been unreliable and non-reproducible.**

**Alternatively, increased specificity could be achieved by using different detectors in series thereby increasing the amount of information avaiable on the compounds eluted from the column. Although the use of electrochemical and fluorescence detectors, for instance,** does go some way to improving the selectivity of the **system, they would not give an unambiguous identification of the NSAiDs and metabolites in authentic samples.**

**- 75 -**

## **2.4. GAS LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY**

#### **2.4.1 INTRODUCTION**

**Gas liquid chromatography (GC) has already been described as an example of partition chromatography in section 2.2 and an outline of the chromatographic process has been given.**

A schematic diagram of a typical gas chromatograph is shown in Figure 2.4.1. The mobile phase or carrier gas **flows through the gas purifier, flow controller, injector,** column and detector. The sample is introduced by microsyringe through a rubber septum into the heated injector where it is immediately vaporised and transported onto the **column. The various components travel through the column at different rates dependent on their vapour pressures and become separated. The partitioning behaviour of the** sample between the mobile and stationary phases is very temperature-dependent, therefore the column is housed in an oven and the temperature is carefully controlled. When **the sample components pass the detector (of which there are many types) at the end of the column they generate electrical signals which, after amplification, are fed to** a recorder which presents the signals versus time as a chromatogram. This plot is useful for both qualitative **and quantitative analysis.**

**Analysis can be performed isothermally or using a temperature programme. in the isothermal mode the column temperature remains constant throughout the analysis,** whereas a temperature programme increases the column



Figure 2.4.1: Basic components of a gas chromatograph

 $e - Injector$ 

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temperature in a uniform manner at a few degrees per **minute. For the analysis of simple mixtures an isothermal run will suffice, but for the analysis of more complex** mixtures a temperature programmed run may be necessary.

## (a) SAMPLE INLET SYSTEMS

**The int roduction of a sample into a GC system is** important as it affects the overall efficiency of the separation procedure and the accuracy and precision of the **results. Liquid sample introduction has always been a** problem in gas chromatography for a number of reasons. The **sample must be introduced instantaneously into the system** and then be evaporated rapidly, without decomposition, into the smallest possible gas volume. This "gas plug" **must then be transferred into the column without loss. Also, the total amount introduced should not exceed the sample capacity of the column. In packed columns the** sample capacity is high therefore the problems are less **than for open-tubular (or capillary) columns.**

There are a number of injection systems available **for capillary column GC [97] and these include split systems, splitless systems and on-column sample** introduction. The Groß splitless injector was the type **of injector used in this study and is illustrated in Figure 2.4.2. In this type of injector the injector** housing contains a glass liner. The column is placed **inside the injector housing and projects into the glass** liner. The column is no more than 10mm from the syringe needle, providing an all-glass system with minimum dead

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volume. When the syringe plunger is depressed the sample **is transported onto the column with the carrier gas.** Small sample volumes of no more than 1µ1 are used. If a **larger volume was injected the sample would diffuse in the injector and lead to inefficient sample application and band broadening. This type of injector may be used to take advantage of the solvent effect (condensation of the** solvent at the top of a cold column) to concentrate the **solute at the top of the column. However, for high**boiling solutes, especially when temperature program GC is **used, the solute zone remains sharp and minimal band** broadening occurs. This is important as it may be very **inconvenient to cool the column, say, to 40° to condense methanol, or require subambient cooling for diethyl ether,**

## **(b) TYPES OF COLUMN**

**There are two main types of column in GC: the packed column and the capillary column. Packed columns are generally made of glass or metal, are l-5m in length** and 3-6mm in diameter. The efficiency of the packed **column is low, usually 5 00-2000 theoretical plates. The** packing consists of an inert support coated with a thin **film of liquid stationary phase.** *A* **table of some** stationary phases available is given in Section 2.2 **(Table 2.2.2). Capillary columns have been made of copper, stainless steel, glass and more recently vitreous silica. capillary columns are usually i0-50m in length and O.l-O.5mm in diameter, they have higher efficiencies than packed columns and are suitable for the analysis of**

**- 79 -**

**complex mixtures. Capillary columns can be classified into two groups: micropacked columns and open-tubular columns. Micropacked columns range in length from 5-25m have diameters of 0.6-lmm and have high efficiencies of about 50,000 theoretical plates. open-tubular columns have an unrestricted flow through the bore of the column,** they are 10-100m in length, have internal diameters of **0.1-0.5mm and have high efficiencies of 10,000 to 100,000 theoretical plates. They can be further subdivided according to the method of supporting the stationary phase:**

**(i) bonded phase columns (BPC)**

**(ii) wall coated open-tubular columns (WCOT)**

**(iii) support coated open-tubular columns (SCOT)**

**(iv) porous layer open-tubular columns (PLOT)**

#### **(i) BONDED PHASE COLUMNS (BPC)**

**in these columns, the stationary phase is formed polymerisation of siloxane monomer on the inner surface of the capillary tube: covalent bonds form between the wall and the polymeric phase, thereby bonding it as a physically stable film on the surface.**

**BPC's are the most commonly used columns today. They are normally made of fused silica and have several advantages over the other open-tubular columns. Rearrangement of the bonded stationary phase film is virtually impossible so the column efficiency will be retained much longer than in other types of column, contaminated columns can be washed with solvent to return them to their original performance. Pure vitreous silica**

**columns overcome many of the adsorption problems of glass or stainless steel columns once the surface has been deactivated. vitreous silica columns also have much higher tensile strength and flexibility, although the exterior surface must be protected from oxidation and** scratching, both of which weaken the column. Polyimide is the material usually used to coat the outer surface of the **column. Fused silica capillary columns are 10~50m in length and have internal diameters of 0.l-0.5mm. A wide range of chemically bonded phases are now available including non-polar, medium polar and polar phases.**

## (ii) WCOT COLUMNS

WCOT columns have a thin film (0.1-0.5 $\mu$ m) of **stationary phase coated on the inside wall of the capillary tubing. Glass rather than stainless steel capillary tubing is used because of its relative inertness. wide-bore columns (0.5mm i.d.) have about half** the efficiency of narrow bore columns (0.25mm i.d.) but **usually they are easier to install and are less critical with respect to the effects of dead volume as the flow rate is higher. Both 0.25 and 0.5rnm i.d. columns can be used with on-column injectors. wide bore columns have** more stationary phase and therefore a higher capacity than **narrow bore columns. Wide bore columns also have the advantage that direct injection techniques without splitting may be used.**

## **(iii) SCOT COLUMNS**

**SCOT columns are 0.5mm i.d. glass capillary**

**- 81 -**

columns. The inner wall is coated with a layer of fine **particle support material w hich in turn is coated with a thin film of stationary phase. The thicker effective film** of stationary phase on a SCOT column permits a higher **sample capacity than that of the WCOT columns, but SCOT columns are less efficient. Smaller diameter (0.3mm i.d.) SCOT columns are also available which have efficiencies** approaching that of the WCOT columns.

#### **(iv) PLOT COLUMNS**

PLOT are similar to the SCOT columns, but have a **porous layer on the inner wall of the glass capillary tubing, which is then coated with stationary phase.**

#### **(C) DETECTORS**

**There are various detection principles used for GC analysis [98] and these include:**

- **(i) the flame ionisation detector (FID)**
- **(ii) the nitrogen-phosphorus detector (NPD)**
- **(iii) the electron capture detector (ECD)**
- **(iv) the flame photometric detector**
- (v) the thermal conductivity detector (TCD)
- **(vi) the mass spectrometer (GC-MS)**
- (i) FLAME IONISATION DETECTOR (FID)

The FID is the most widely used GC detection system. The detector consists of a small hydrogen flame **in an electrode gap. organic compounds eluting from the** column burn and form ions. The ion formation is a complex process, in which direct ionisation plays only a small **part. The ions then travel to the collector electrode and thus a current is observed.**

**- 83 -**

## (ii) NITROGEN-PHOSPHORUS DETECTOR (NPD)

The NPD is used specifically to detect nitrogen and phosphorus-containing compounds. The detector is a modified FID containing a bead of an alkali metal salt. **When heated the bead gives off alkali metal vapours. Decomposition products of N or P-containing compounds can accept electrons from alkali atoms causing ionisation and** a large current increase. Precise control of the hydrogen **and air flow rates allows the detector to respond selectively to N or P-containing compounds. Halogen and sulphur-containing compounds can also be detected under the correct flame conditions. Alkali metal salts used** are caesium bromide, rubidium silicate, chloride or **sulphate and potassium chloride or carbonate.**

When compared with FID the NPD is approximately fifty times more sensitive to nitrogen compounds and five **hundred times more sensitive to phosphorus compounds.**

# (iii) ELECTRON CAPTURE DETECTOR (ECD)

This detector contains a radioactive **6-emitter** (<sup>3</sup>H or <sup>63</sup>Ni) which ionises the carrier gas (usually argon/methane) forming slow electrons. When a sample capable of capturing electrons enters the detector it **reacts with the electrons to produce negative ions. These negative ions combine with the positive gas ions. The** number of free ions and electrons is therefore depleted in **the presence of the sample and the current is reduced. ECD's are highly sensitive to molecules with** electrophores, for example, halogen-containing compounds, **conjugated carbonyls, nitrate esters and organometallics.**
**- 84 -**

#### **(iv) FLAME PHOTOMETRIC DETECTOR**

The flame photometric detector is another type of flame detector and is specific for phosphorus and **sulphur-containing compounds. The principle of operation** is the measurement of radiation emitted by excited species in the flame. In a hydrogen flame, sulphur and phosphorus **form excited species which emit radiation at 394nm and 526nm respectively.**

## **(V) THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY DETECTOR (TCP)**

The TCD is based on the principle that the filament **will lose heat at a rate which depends on the composition of the surrounding gas. The change in temperature of the filament will give rise to a change in its electrical resistance. The detector contains two filaments, one in the gas flow from the column (the detector cell) and the other in the carrier gas flow (the reference cell). The** two filaments form the arms in a Wheatstone bridge circuit. When no sample is eluted carrier gas passes **through both cells, therefore, the bridge is balanced. When sample is eluted the resistance in the sample cell changes, an imbalance of the bridge occurs and is registered. The carrier gas used is either helium or hydrogen which both have high conductivities. The** detector responds to any compound having a different **thermal conductivity from the carrier.**

## **(Vi) M A S S SPECTROMETRY (GC-MS)**

The mass spectrometric detector is the most **specific and sensitive detector available and will be discussed in detail in Section 2.5.**

**- 85 -**

## (d) DERIVATISATION

**For a compound to be suitable for GC analysis the sample must be easily vaporised without decomposition. There are many compounds which do not fulfil this** criterion but a chemical derivative of the compound may be **suitable for GC analysis. The main reasons for derivatisation are as follows:-**

1. to increase volatility of the sample;

2. to increase thermal stability of a compound;

- **3.** to introduce functional groups which increase the **sensitivity in selective detectors; and,**
- 4. to improve separation and reduce tailing by masking **polar groups.**

**The derivatisation reaction used should be rapid and quantitative and it should be possible to** chromatograph the reaction mixture directly without **pre-isolation of the derivative.**

An extensive literature is available for chemical **der ivatisation [99-102], but some examples will be given here. Derivatisation methods can be classified into groups according to the reagents used and the reactions achieved, for example, silylation, acylation and alkylation. in the present study, silylation and alkylation reactions were used and these will be considered in more detail.**

**(i) S I L YLATION**

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**Silylation involves the replacement of an acidic hyrogen in the sample molecule with an alkylsilyl group** such as the trimethylsilyl (TMS) group. The derivatives **are generally less polar, more volatile and more thermally stable than the parent compound. Water decomposes both TMS reagents and derivatives and solvents such as water and alcohols with active hydrogens should be avoided. Non-polar solvents such as hexane produce slow reactions,** however. Pyridine is the commonly used solvent. It is an **acid scavenger and basic catalyst. DimethyIformamide,** dimethylsulfoxide, tetrahyrofuran and acetonitrile are **also used. Examples of some reagents are N,o~bis** (trimethylsilyl) acetamide (BSA), N,O-bis (trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA), N-trimethylsilylimidazole (TMSI), trimethylchlorosilane (TMCS) (also used as a **catalyst with BSTFA) and hexamethylsilazane (HMDS). using these reagents esters are formed from carboxylic acids, ethers from alcohols and N-TMS derivatives from amines. Some examples of reactions are given in Figure 2.4.3.**

N- Methyl -N- (tert - butyldimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide (MTBSTFA) is another silylation reagent. It donates a **tert-butyldimethylsilyl** moiety instead of the trimethylsilyl group. The advantage of this reagent is **that both it and the derivatives it produces are less prone to hydrolysis than the other silylation reagents and** derivatives already mentioned. An example of a reaction is given in Figure 2.4.3. Additional advantages of this **derivative occur in GC-MS.**

#### **(ii) A L K YLATION**

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Alkylation is the addition of an alkyl group to an **active functional group. Esterification of carboxylic**

**- 86 -**

**FIGURE 2.4.3: Silylation reactions using various reagents,**

# **(a) Silylation using BSTFA.**

$$
R \div OH + F_3C - C = NSi(CH_3)_3
$$
\n
$$
R \div OH + F_3C - C = NSi(CH_3)_3
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5 - 20 \text{ minutes}
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60^{\circ}C
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\n
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pyridine
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\n
$$
R - 0 - Si(CH_3)_3 + F_3C - C - NH - Si(CH_3)_3
$$
\n
$$
or
$$
\n
$$
F_3C - CONH_2
$$

## **(b) Silylation using TMCS**



## **(c) Silylation using MTBSTFA**



**acids to form methyl esters is one of the most useful reactions. The ester is less polar, more thermally stable and more volatile than the acid therefore facilitating GC analysis. A number of methods are available for methylating compounds and these are discussed in detail in** Blau and King's book [99]. Examples of some methylating reagents are an ethereal solution of diazomethane, a **methanolic solution of boron trifluoride in ether and methanolic HC1. Figure 2.4.4 illustrates mechanisms for** the reaction of these three reagents with a carboxylic **acid.**

**FIGURE 2.4.4: Methylation reactions using various reagents.**





 $\label{eq:3} \mathcal{W}^{(1)}_{\text{max}} = \frac{1}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{E}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}\right)$ 

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 $2.4.2$ **EXPERIMENTAL**

 $(a)$ **REAGENTS**

- $\mathbf{1}$ . Diethyl ether, Pronalys AR grade (May & Baker, **Dagenham, England).**
- **Methanol, HPLC grade (Rathburn Chemicals Limited,**  $2.$ **Walkerburn, Scotland).**
- $3.$ **Ethyl acetate (Ratherburn Chemicals Limited, Walkerburn, Scotland).**
- **Digol, Analar grade (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole,**  $4$  . England).
- $5.$ **Potassium hydroxide, Analar grade (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).**
- б. Diazald, N-methyl-N-nitroso-p-toluenesulfonamide **(Aldrich chemical Co.Ltd Limited, Gillingham,** England).
- 7. **Boron trifluoride etherate, redistilled (Sigma Chemical Company Limited, Poole, England).**
- 8. **Acetyl chloride (Sigma Chemical company Limited,** Poole, England).
- $9.$ BSTFA + 1% TMCS, Tri-Sil-Z, MTBSTFA, HMDS, Pyridine **(Pierce, Life sciences Laboratory Limited, Luton** England).
- $(b)$ **DRUG STANDARDS**

**As in Section 2.3.2 (b)**

 $(c)$ **APPARATUS**

**A Pye unicam model 204 gas chromatograph fitted**  $\mathbf{1}$ . **with an all-glass GroB splitless injector and a flame ionisation detector.**

2. A wall-coated open-tubular column (24m, 0.5mm i.d., 1.10mm o.d.) with a liquid stationary phase of **CP-SIL5 at a film thickness of 0.8ipm.**

### (d) CHROMATOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS

**The chromatographic conditions employed were as f o l l o w s :-**

- **column: Carrier Gas: W C O T , 24m, 0 . 5mm i.d., 1 . lmm o.d.** with a liquid stationary phase of **CP-SIL 5 at a film thickness of 0. 8 ljim. Nitrogen (2mL/min).**
- **Make-up Gas: Nitrogen (30mL/min)**

**injector Temperature: 275°C.**

**Detector Temperature: 300°C**

**column Temperature: Programmed from 80° to 280°C at a ramp rate of 4°/minute with initial and final isothermal periods of 2 minutes.**

## (e) PREPARATION OF DERIVATISING R<mark>EAGENT</mark>S

## (i) DIAZOMETHANE

**Diazald\* (1.8g) was placed in a dry flask. Diethyl ether (30ml), digol (4.5ml) and potassium hydroxide solution (6ml; 30% v/v) were then added to the flask consecutively. The flask was then placed in a water bath at** 6 0 ° c . **The diazomethane produced was collected via a** side arm in the flask which was inserted into a 10ml

**\*This reagent is toxic and a potent carcinogen. Solutions of the gas are unstable and potentially explosive. The preparation and handling of the reagent were therefore carried out with care in a fume cupboard.**

**volumetric flask, containing diethyl ether (lml), submersed in an ice-bath. The diazomethane solution remained stable for about one week when kept at 4°C.**

## (ii) BORON TRIFLUORIDE ETHERATE/METHANOL

**Boron trifluoride etherate (3ml) was added to methanol (15ml, HPLC grade) and kept at 4°C until used.**

# (iii) ACETYL CHLORIDE/METHANOL

**Acetyl chloride (3ml) was added dropwise to** methanol (15ml, HPLC grade) in a round-bottom flask.

# **(iv) HMDS, PYRIDINE, TMCS**

**HMDS, dry pyridine and TMCS were pre-mixed in the ratio of 3:2:1, v/v/v. The solution was centrifuged** before use to remove precipitated silica.

# (f) PREPARATION OF DERIVATIVES OF NSAIDS

## (i) METHYLATION WITH DIAZOMETHANE

Methyl esters of the drug standard were prepared by adding a few drops of a solution of diazomethane, in **diethyl ether, to about lmg of drug standard in methanol (lml). Diazomethane was added dropwise until the solution remained yellow. The reaction was found to be complete on addition, but was allowed to stand at room temperature for** 15 minutes before evaporating to dryness under a stream of **nitrogen. The residue was redissolved in 5ml of ethyl acetate and about 0.5pl was used for GC analysis.**

# **(ii) BORON TRIFLUORIDE ETHERATE/METHANOL**

Boron trifluoride etherate/methanol 1:5 v/v (500yl) **was added to about lmg of drug standard in a reaction vial. The vial was sealed and the reaction mixture heated** at 60°C. The reaction was found to be complete after 1 hour. The solution was evaporated to dryness under a **stream of nitrogen. The residue was redissolved in 5ml of ethyl acetate and about 0.5jil was used for GC analysis.**

# (iii) METHYLATION WITH ACETYL CHLORIDE/METHANOL

**Acetyl chloride/methanol 1:5 v/v (500pl) was added** to about lmg of drug standard in a reaction vial. The **vial was sealed and the reaction mixture heated at 60°C. The reaction was found to be complete after l hour. The solution was evaporated to dryness under a stream of nitrogen. The residue was redissolved in 5ml of ethyl acetate and about 0.5pl was used for GC analysis.**

# **(i v ) S I L Y L A T I O N W I T H B S T F A** *+* **1% TMCS**

**B S T F A +** *1%* **TMCS (lOOpl) and acetonitrile (lOOpl)** were added to a vial containing about 1mg of drug **standard. The vial was sealed and the reaction mixture** heated at  $60^{\circ}$ C for 20 minutes. After this time **acetonitrile (5ml) was added to the reaction vial and about** *o.spl* **was used for GC analysis.**

# **(V) SILYLATION WITH TRI-SIL-Z**

**Tri- S i l - Z (lOOpl) was added to a vial containing about lmg of drug standard. The vial was sealed and the reaction mixture heated at 60°c for 20 minutes. After this time acetonitrile (5ml) was added to the reaction vial and about o.5pl was used for GC analysis.**

# (Vi) SILYLATION WITH HMDS, PYRIDINE, TMCS

**An aliquot of the HMDS, pyridine, TMCS mixture (lOOpl) was added to a vial containing about lmg of drug**

**- 93 -**

**standard. The vial was sealed and heated at 60°C for 10 minutes. After this time acetonitrile (5ml) was added to the reaction vial and about o.5pl was used for GC analysis.** (vii) tert-BUTYLDIMETHYLSILYLATION WITH MTBSTFA

**MTBSTFA (lOOpl) and acetonitrile (lOOpl) were added** to a vial containing about 50pg of drug standard. The vial was sealed and the reaction mixture heated at 60<sup>°</sup>C for 30 minutes. After cooling about 0.5pl was used for GC **analysis.**

 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^n\$ 

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 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{A}^{(1)}=\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2+\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2\right)+\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2+\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2\right)+\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2+\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2\right)+\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2+\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2\right)+\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2+\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{$ 

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 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2\pi\epsilon}\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}}(\mathbf{r})\mathbf{r}_{i}^{\text{max}}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}}(\mathbf{r})$ 

**- 95 -**

## **2.4.3 RESULTS**

## (a) GC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED NSAIDs

**Ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, fenbufen and mefanamic acid did not chromatograph as their free acids. These six drugs were therefore derivatised and chromatographed successfully as their methyl esters, silyl esters and tert-butyldimethylsilyl esters. Figure 2.4.5 illustrates the resolution obtained with the three derivatives and Table 2.4.1 compares their retention indices. Methylation was performed using diazomethane,**  $silylation$  with BSTFA + 1% TMCS and tert-butyldimethyl**silylation with MTBSTFA.**

**Piroxicam, indomethacin and sulindac did not chromatograph at all under the conditions used.**

**Phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone are discussed in section 2.4.3(b).**

# (b) GC ANALYSIS OF PHENYLBUTAZONE, SULPHINPYRAZONE AND **AZAPROPAZONE**

**Phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone chromatographed successfully as the free compounds and had retention indices of 2381, 2252 and 2427, respectively. Figure 2.4.6 illustrates a c hromatogram obtained with a mixture of the three compounds.**

**Using ibuprofen as a model compound, ibuprofen, phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone were reacted with diazomethane, boron trifluoride/methanol and acetyl chloride/methanol. The products were analysed by GC and the results are given in Table 2.4.2.**

Ibuprofen gave one peak with a retention index of

**1529 with all four methylation procedures. This co rresponded to the methyl ester of ibuprofen.**

**Phenylbutazone was not derivatised using boron trifluoride/methanol or acetyl chloride/methanol. The peak observed at 2381 corresponds to phenylbutazone itself. Phenylbutazone, however, formed several peaks when reacted with diazomethane. Three peaks were present after methylating for only 10 seconds in diazomethane, one peak corresponding to the free phenylbutazone. After reacting** for 15 minutes, the phenylbutazone peak was no longer **present. Figure 2.4.7 illustrates the progress of the reaction.**

**Sulphinpyrazone did not react with boron trifluoride/methanol, the peak observed at 2252 corresponding to sulphinpyrazone. Two peaks were observed after reacting sulphinpyrazone with diazomethane, one corresponding to sulphinpyrazone. several peaks were observed when sulphinpyrazone was reacted with acetyl chloride/methanol. The reactions of phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone with diazomethane were studied using GC-MS. The results are given in Section 2.5.3(b).**

**Ibuprofen, phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone were** reacted with BSTFA + 1% TMCS; Tri-Sil-Z; HMDS, pyridine, **TMCS (3:2:1) and MTBSTFA. The reactions products were analysed by GC and the results are given in Table 2.4.3.**

Ibuprofen gave one peak at 1615 with BSTFA + 1% **TMCS and HMDS, pyridine, TMCS (3:2:1) corresponding to its**

**- 9 6 -**

**silyl ester. Ibuprofen did not react with Tri-Sil-Z and gave one peak at 1845 with MTBSTFA corresponding to its tert-butyIdimethylsilyl ester.**

**Phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone were found not to react with any of the silylating reagents under theconditions used.**

**TABLE 2.4.1: Retention indices of selected NSAIDs after methylation, silylation and tert-butyldimethylsilylation.**



**1 Methylation was carried out with diazomethane (room temperature, 15 minutes).**

**2 Silylation was carried out with BSTFA + 1% TMCS (60\*0, 20 minutes).**

**3 tert-Butyldimethylsilylation was carried out with MTBSTFA (60°C, 30 minutes).**

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detected **+io***Ga***z**

**- 99 -**



**p***g* **<D***u* **<Dpp***x***p**•tH **01pH toZd<dpo 0)** rH **CD 01**  $\lim_{\delta}$ **react >J XId** *•taine* **XiO 01Po 5Jdoy** *Q>* $\frac{1}{2}$ of react indices *G***O Complete**<br> **reagents. CO**• **<sup>60</sup>** Table 2.<br>silylati:

 $\ddot{\phantom{0}}$ 

 $\ddot{\phantom{0}}$ 

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 $\overline{a}$ 

**FIGURE 2.4.5: GC analysis of products obtained after reacting a mixture of NSAIDs with (a) diazomethane (b) BSTFA + 1% TMCS and (c) MTBSTFA.**

**Peak identifications are: 1, ibuprofen; 2, flurbiprofen; 3, naproxen; 4, ketoprofen; 5, fenbufen; and 6, mefenamic acid.**

**Chromatographic conditions used are described in the text.**



**FIGURE 2.4.6: Typical chromatogram obtained with a mixture of phenylbutazone sulpinpyrazone and azapropazone.**

**Chromatographic conditions used are described in the text.**



FIGURE 2.4.7: GC analysis of products obtained after reacting<br>phenylbutazone with diazomethane for (a) 10 seconds and diazomethane for (a) 10 seconds, and **(b) 15 minutes.**

**Chromatographic conditions used are described in the text.**

 $(a)$ 

**Reaction of phenylbutazone with diazomethane for 10 seconds.**



**(b) Reaction of phenylbutazone with diazomethane for 15 minutes.**



**2.4.4 DISCUSSION**

**In order to have sufficient resolving power to analyse NSAiDs in urinary extracts it was thought that a capillary column would be necessary. A fused silica column was not available so a wide bore (0.5mm i.d.) wall** coated open-tubular column was chosen. This type of **column had a high capacity and was resistant to water; it gave good resolving power and also allowed direct splitless injection to be used. If the samples to be analysed contained small amounts of drugs and/or metabolites it would be preferable to have as much of the sample on the column as possible, rather than losing a** large percentage of it as would happen with a split **injector system. The stationary phase chosen was CP-Sil 5 which is 100% dimethyl polysiloxane, a non-polar phase.**

**A temperature programmed run was chosen in order to give reasonable analysis times for a group of drugs with a wide range of retention indices.**

**A flame ionisation detector was used since it would be able to detect all of the drugs that emerged from the column. As with HPLC the analysis specificity could be improved by using different detectors, such as an NPD or ECD. These detectors were not tried, but reports have appeared in the literature which claim to detect the methyl ester of ketoprofen by ECD [103] and several authors report methods for indomethacin, also by ECD [104-106]. Phenylbutazone and indomethacin have also** been reported to have been detected by NPD [7].

**- 1 0 4 -**

Out of the twelve test drugs which were examined **only phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone were successfully chromatographed without derivatisation. Many literature methods are available for the GC analysis of phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone. However, Leach [107] noted that azapropazone oxidises at room temperaure within** 1 hour. Samples containing azapropazone must, therefore, **be analysed immediately or stored at -20°c. The chromatogram in Figure 2.4.6 illustrates that phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone all gave tailing peaks. This is most likely due to deterioration** of the GC column. Since sulphinpyrazone is the heaviest **of these three molecules it would be expected to elute** last, but it has the shortest retention time. This is **probably due to thermal decomposition of the compound (this was confirmed by GC-MS analysis).**

**in order to chromatograph the other nine drugs as** part of a drug screening procedure derivatisation by **methylation, silylation and tert-butyldimethylsilylation** were evaluated. Methylation, with ethereal diazomethane, silylation, with BSTFA + 1% TMCS and tert-butyldimethylsilylation, with MTBSTFA were all successful for six of **the drugs. These drugs all contain carboxylic acid functional groups, namely: ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, fenbufen and mefanamic acid. in all cases the methyl esters eluted first followed by the silyl esters and lastly the tert-butyldimethylsilyl esters. This was to be expected as a result of the relative**

**increases in molecular weight provided by the derivatives. The necessity to derivatise these carboxylic acids agrees with many other authors [7,8,108]. However, ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, mefanamic acid and indomethacin have been chromatographed on fused-silica capillaries as their free acids [8,109]. only ibuprofen chromatographed well and the other four compounds were said to have poor chromatographic properties.**

**Piroxicam, indomethacin and sulindac were not chromatographed by GC at all in this study. sharp [8] reported piroxicam to have poor gas chromatographic properties and most literature methods of this drug have been by HPLC [110,111]. Several papers have agreed that indomethacin either forms several products on GC analysis [6,7] or has poor gas chromatographic properties [8,108]. Hunt and co-workers [6] identified the structures of the products produced by indomethacin under GC conditions. Sharp [8] also agrees with this present work in not successfully chromatographing sulindac by GC.**

**The six drugs containing carboxylic acid functional groups reacted quantitatively with diazomethane to form their methyl esters. When phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone were reacted with diazomethane multiple products were formed. since this would be an undesirable** complication to interpreting a GC chromatogram other **methylating reagents were examined. Neither phenylbutazone or sulphinpyrazone reacted with boron**

**- 106 -**

**trifluoride/methanol. Phenylbutazone did not react with acetyl chloride/methanol but sulphinpyrazone formed several products with this reagent.**

**Silyl derivatives of phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone were not formed under the conditions used. This was perhaps not surprising because neither of these drugs have functional groups obviously amenable to silylation.** However, the proton at C-4 is acidic and C-methylation has been noted at this position during the metabolism of **phenylbutazone [112]. It was therefore necessary to establish the chemical form in which the drug and/or met abolites wo uld be observed in the course of a routine drug screen.**

 $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{max}}$ 

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# **2.4.5 CONCLUSION**

**since only three out of the twelve NSAiDs examined could be chro ma togr ap hed by GC as the free compounds, a GC screening procedure would have to involve a derivatisation** step. If silylation or tert-butyldimethylsilylation were **used nine out of the twelve compounds would be detected, ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, fenbufen and mefenamie acid would be detected as their silyl or** tert-butyldimethylsilyl derivatives. Phenylbutazone, **sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone would not react and would be detected as the free compounds.**

**If m e t hylation was used as the der ivatisation procedure, ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, fenbufen and mefenamie acid would be detected as their** methyl esters. It has been shown that phenylbutazone and **sulphinpyrazone form multiple products when reacted with diazomethane or acetyl chloride/methanol. These reagents** could therefore cause problems in quantitation of these **compounds in a screening procedure. Although, on this occasion, it was shown that boron trifluoride/methanol did** not react with phenylbutazone or sulphinpyrazone there is **the possibility that these compounds may, to some extent, form derivatives with this reagent.**

**Piroxicam, indomethacin and sulindac did not chromatograph under the conditions used and would, therefore, not be detected in a GC screening procedure.**

**- 1 0 9 -**

# **2.5 GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY/MASS SPECTROMETRY**

**2.5.1 INTRODUCTION AND THEORY**

**Mass spectrometry is the basis of the most specific and sensitive detector available for gas chromatography. It is possible to give an unambiguous indentification of a compound with lng or less of material.**

**The technique relies upon the ionisation and subsequent fragmentation of molecules and results in a mass spectrum, a graph of mass to charge ratios of the fragments plotted against relative abundance. Functional groups in the molecule direct the fragmentation. It is** possible to deduce a possible structure from the **fragmentation pattern and in many cases the molecular weight of the compound can be determined.**

**The basic components of a mass spectrometer are shown in Figure 2.5.1.**

**Throughout this study the mass spectrometer used was the VG 16F single focussing magnetic sector instrument. The technique and basic components of the mass spectrometer described here will be those of the VG 16F.**

#### **(a) SAMPLE INLET SYSTEMS**

**In order to minimise the number of collisions undergone by ions and thus maximise the number of ions reaching the detector the interior of a mass spectrometer is under high vacuum (10-6 torr). Sample inlet systems** must therefore allow the introduction of a sample without **significant loss of vacuum, especially in the mass analyser and detector regions of the spectrometer.**

**FIGURE 2.5.1: Schematic diagram of a mass spectrometer system.**



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**There are four inlet systems available on the VG 16F mass spectrometer; the septum inlet, the direct probe and two gas chromatographic inlets.**

#### (i) THE SEPTUM INLET

The septum inlet is for the introduction  $of$ **volatile liguids or gases. This inlet consists of a loornl reservoir and a molecular leak w hich meters the sample to the ion chamber at a constant volume rate. This inlet is** particularly useful for the introduction of **perfluorokerosene to calibrate the instrument. The reservoir is normally heated to about 150°C.**

## (ii) THE DIRECT PROBE

**The direct insertion probe is used for the** introduction of solid samples (~30µg or less). The **solid sample is placed in a small quartz capillary tube** and inserted through a vacuum lock close to the ion **source. Due to the low pressure in the chamber and heating by contact with the source (250°c) the sample vaporises. The probe can also be heated directly to aid vaporisation.**

# **(iii) GAS CHROMATOGRAPHIC INLETS**

**There are two gas chromatographic inlets on the VG** 16F. One is used for a capillary column and the other for **a packed column. A capillary column has a gas flow rate** of about 1 to 2 ml/min which the vacuum pumps can easily **pump away. The capillary column can therefore be inserted directly into the ion source. Packed columns have gas flow rates of about 20 to 30ml/min and they require a**

**molecular separator to prevent all the effluent entering the ion source, thus maintaining the vacuum. only the jet separator will be discussed here as it is the one installed in the VG 16F.**

**The single-stage jet separator consists of two aligned orifices, the gap between the orifices being** evacuated by a rotary pump. As the effluent from the **chromatographic column passes through the first orifice the lighter molecules of carrier gas (usually helium) have less momentum and tend to diffuse: these are then pumped away. Those heavier sample molecules have more momentum and so continue to the second orifice.**

**The two-stage jet separator consists of two single-stage separators in series.**

# (b) **IONISATION METHODS**

**Various methods exist to produce ions in mass** spectrometry. One of the most popular techniques is **electron impact (El). In the ion source (see Figure** 2.5.2) electrons are emitted from a hot filament and are **accelerated across the ion chamber to the collector** anode. The vaporised sample molecules are bombarded by this stream of high energy electrons (70eV) and are **consequently ionised. since only about lOeV is required for ionisation of organic molecules some of the remaining energy absorbed by the molecules is used to break bonds,** thus forming fragment ions. Both positive and negative ions are produced. Positive ion mass spectrometry is the most popular as these ions are produced in much larger

**- 11 2 -**

# FIGURE **2.5.2: Ion source**



**Key**

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**A. Filament**

 $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$ 

- **B. Filament shield**
- **C. Source block**
- **D. Repeller**

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- **E. Trap**
- **F. Source slit G. Focussing plates**
- **H. Accelerating slit**

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 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3}$ 

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**numbers than are negative ions (by a factor of about** 10<sup>3</sup>). Only positive ion mass spectrometry will be **considered here.**

The simplest ionisation reaction is the loss of an **an electron resulting in the molecular ion (M+). The abundance of the molecular ion in the mass spectrum varies with the structure; depending on the inherent stability of** the molecule, it can be a dominant ion, a weak ion or **completely absent. The molecular ion can then rearrange or fragment into smaller ions which subsequently fragment themselves (see Figure 2.5.3). The resulting positive ions move out of the ionisation chamber through the slits and an ion lens system into the mass analyser, under the** influence of a small positive repelling potential in the **source.**

The most important piece of information which may be obtained from a mass spectrum is the molecular weight. **Certain classes of compounds do not show molecular ions and in other cases it is not always possible to identify the molecular ion. in order to resolve these problems a group of 'soft ionisation' techniques have been developed. These techniques generate a quasi-molecular ion and fragmentation is minimal. 'Soft ionisation' methods include chemical ionisation, secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), fast atom bombardment (liquid SIMS), field ionisation, field desorption and atmospheric pressure ionisation.**

**Chemical ionisation is the most popular "soft**

**- 1 1 4 -**

**FIGURE 2.5.3: Ionisation by electron impact.**

**The source pressure is kept sufficiently low that ion decompositions are unimoleeular. M represents the gaseous molecules and D1-D6 represent the daughter ions formed.**



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 $\lambda$ 

 $\sim 10^6$ 

ionisation" method. Chemical ionisation utilises a reagent gas such as methane or isobutane which is present in a large excess. Electron impact causes mainly ionisation of **the reagent gas and primary ions are produced. These primary ions then react with more reagent gas to produce a** number of chemically reactive species such as CH<sup>+</sup> and  $C_2 H_c^+$ , in the case of the reagent gas being methane **(See Figure 2.5.4). These secondary ions can then act as Bronsted Acids and donate protons to the sample molecules, resulting in (M + 1)+ quasi-molecular ions. These quasimolecular ions may have sufficient energy to fragment, but in practice few fragmentation and rearrangement ions are observed. Chemical ionisation results in mass spectra with the quasi-molecular ion as the most intense ion in the spectrum.**

Chemical ionisation then is a complementary **technique to electron impact ionisation. Figure 2.5.5 illustrates the mass spectra of proline obtained by both electron impact and chemical ionisation techniques.**

# **(C) MASS ANALYSER**

**The ions formed in the source are repelled through** the source slit by a small potential difference between **the slit and the repeller. These ions are then accelerated towards the mass analyser by a high potential** difference (about 4 Kv) between the source block and the **accelerating slit.**

**The linear ion beam leaving the ion source is separated into groups of ions of different mass to charge**

**- 1 1 6 -**

**M represents the gaseous molecule and MH+ is the quasi-molecular ion which is detected.**





(a) electron impact mass spectrum



(b) chemical ionisation mass spectrum



**ratios by the mass analyser. There are four different types of mass analysers commonly used in organic chemistry; the single focussing magnetic deflection mass analyser, the double focussing mass analyser (which** contains a magnetic sector and an electrostatic sector), **the quadrupole analyser and the time of flight analyser. Only the single focussing magnetic sector instrument will be discussed here as this is the type of mass analyser present in the VG 16F.**

**The most important parameter determined by the** analyser is the mass resolution (R) which is defined as:

$$
R = \frac{m}{\Delta m}
$$

**where m is the mass of the first peak in a consecutive** pair of ions and  $\Delta$  m the difference in the masses of the **two peaks. The peaks are considered to be resolved if** they are separated by a valley of 10% the peak height. Mass spectrometers may be of low, medium or high **resolution.**

Low resolution instruments have a resolution of the **order of 1000, that is, they can distinguish ions of 1000 and 1001 amu or 100.0 and 100. l amu. single focussing magnetic sector and quadrupole mass spectrometers are low resolution instruments. Medium to high resolution instruments range from 10,000 to 150,000 and have double-focussing mass analysers.**

**The principle of the single-focussing magnetic sector instrument is shown in Figure 2.5.6. ions formed** in the source are accelerated through a voltage V
**FIGURE 2.5.6: Schematic diagram of single-focussing magnetic deflection mass analyser.**

**\* r\* is the radius of curvature of the magnetic sector.**

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 $\label{eq:1} \mathcal{Y} \cup \mathcal{Y}_1 \cup \cdots \cup \mathcal{Y} \cup \mathcal{Y} \cup \cdots \cup \mathcal{Y} \cup \mathcal{Y} \cup \mathcal{Y} \cup \mathcal{Y}$ 

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 $\label{eq:3.1} \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{T}) = \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{T},\mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{T},\mathbf{r})$ 

**- 1 20 -**

(V = 2000-8000V) toward the source slit which is at earth potential. The fall in potential energy for the ions is **equal to their gain in kinetic energy, summarised in Eq ua tion 1, w here e is the charge on an electron, Z is the number of such charges on an ion, v is the accelerating** voltage, m is the mass of the ion and v is the velocity of **the ion.**

**For an ion to reach the collector slit and be** recorded it must traverse a path of radius of curvature r through the magnetic field of strength B. The equation of **motion of the ion (Equation 2) expresses the balance between the centripetal force (or angular momentum) and the centrifugal force caused by this field.**



Combining Equations 1 & 2 gives the basic mass spectrometer Equation 3,

$$
m_{\ell_2} = \frac{B^2 r^2 e}{2V} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots
$$

**Thus by keeping r constant and by varying either the field** strength or the applied voltage (as in th VG 16F) ions of **different m/z ratios separated by the magnetic field can be made to reach the collector. The resolution of a magnetic sector mass spectrometer is determined** principally by the radius of curvature and by the width of **the source and collector slits.**

**- 1 2 2 -**

$$
R = \frac{kr}{s_1 + s_2}
$$

where k is a constant and  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are the widths of **the source and collector slits. Decreasing the slit width, therefore, increases the resolution but also decreases the instrument's sensitivity.**

**Typical ion currents recorded in mass spectrometry** are in the range  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-19}$  amps. These low **currents are amplified by an electron multiplier before they reach the electronic amplifier.**

**Due to the amount of data generated by a mass spectrometer and the need for fast data acquisition and processing a computer is ge nerally interfaced to the mass spectrometer. Chromatograms can be obtained from the output of the mass spectrometer by either recording the total ion current (TIC) or by recording a selected ion (known as Selected Ion Recording, SIR, or Selected ion Detection, SID) .**

> $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2} \left(\$  $\label{eq:2.1} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{A}) = \math$ 。<br>8. イヤー・エー スープ・コール アライン へんこうすう わたまる こうみむみもと

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**2.5.2 EXPERIMENTAL**

(a) REAGENTS

1. Diethyl ether, Pronalys AR grade (May and Baker, **Dagenham, England).**

2. Methanol, HPLC grade (Rathburn Chemicals LImited, **Walkerburn, Scotland).**

3. Ethyl acetate (Rathburn Chemicals LImited, **walkerburn, Scotland).**

**4. Digol, Analar grade (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).**

5. Potassium hydroxide, Analar grade (BDH Chemicals **Limited, Poole, England).**

6. Diazald, N-methyl-N-nitroso-p-toluenesulfonamide **(Aldrich chemical company Limited, Gillingham, England).**

7. BSTFA, + 1% TMCS, MTBSTFA and Pyridine (Pierce, **Life Sciences, Laboratory Limited, Luton, England).**

(b) DRUG STANDARDS

**As in section 2.3.2(b).**

**(c) Appara tu s**

1. A Perkin-Elmer Sigma 3B gas chromatograph fitted with a Groß split/splitless injector interfaced via a direct inlet to a VG 16F single-focussing magnetic sector mass spectrometer and a VG Series **2000 data system. Electron impact mass spectra were recorded repetitively (cycle time 2.5 seconds). 2. A wall coated open tubular column (24m, 0.5mm i.d., l.lmm o.d.) with a liquid stationary phase of CP-SIL5 at a film thickness of 0.81 ^im.**

**- 1 24 -**

**(d) GC-MS CO NDITIONS**

The GC-MS conditions employed were was follows:-



**initial and final isothermal periods of 2 minutes,**

**ionising Energy: 70ev**

**source Temperature: 2 4 0 ° c**

(e) PREPARATION OF DIAZOMETHANE

**As in Section 2.4.2 (e)(i).**

- (f) PREPARATION OF DERIVATIVES OF NSAIDS
- (i) METHYLATION WITH DIAZOMETHANE

**As in Section 2.4.2 (f)(i) except that the reaction products produced with phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and az ap ropazone w ere diluted in methanol instead of ethyl acetate before injection.**

**(ii) S I L Y L A T I O N W I T H B S T F A** *+ 1%* **TMCS**

**As in section 2.4.2 (f)(iv).**

(iii) tert-BUTYLDIMETHYLSILYLATION WITH MTBSTFA **As in section 2.4.2 (f)(vii).**

**2.5.3 RESULTS**

#### (a) MASS SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF SELECTED NSAIDS

**Ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, fenbufen and mefenamie acid were derivatised and analysed by GC-MS as their methyl esters, trimethylsilyl esters and tert-butyldimethylsilvl esters. The mass spectral data obtained are listed in Table 2.5.1 and the full spectra are given in Figures 2.5.7-2.5.12.**

# (b) MASS SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF PHENYLBUTAZONE, **SULPHINPYRAZONE AND AZAPROPAZONE**

**Phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone were analysed by GC-MS. The mass spectral data obtained is listed in Table 2.5.2 and the full spectra are given in Figure 2.5.13.**

## (c) MASS SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF THE REACTION PRODUCTS OF PHENYLBUTAZONE, SULPHINPYRAZONE AND AZAPROPAZONE  $SULPHINPYRAZONE$ **WITH DIAZOMETHANE**

**Phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone** were reacted with diazomethane as described in Section **2.5.2(f)(i) and the reaction products analysed by GC-MS.**

**The chromatograms obtained for the reaction products of phenylbutazone and azapropazone with diazomethane are given in Figure 2.5.14.**

**The retention indices and the mass speetrometric data of the reaction products obtained for the three drugs are listed in Table 2.5.3 and the full spectra are given in Figures 2.5.15-2.5.19.**





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 $*TMS = trimethyls11y1$ <br> $*BDRS = tertenbutyls11y1$ 

 $-127 -$ 





 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2.$ 

 $-128 -$ 



 $-129 -$ 

FIGURE 2.5.7: Mass spectra  $\mathop{\mathsf{of}}$ the methyl, trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylsilyl esters of ibuprofen.













FIGURE 2.5.9: Mass  $spectra$  $\mathop{\mathsf{of}}$ the methyl, trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylsilyl esters of naproxen.



 $\ddot{\phantom{a}}$ 





FIGURE  $2.5.10:$ Mass spectra of the methyl, trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylsilyl esters of ketoprofen.







2.5.11: Mass spectra FIGURE  $\circ$ f the methyl, trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylilyl esters of fenbufen.







**FIGURE 2.5.12: Mass spectra of the methyl, trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylsilyl esters of mefenamic acid.**









FIGURE 2.5.13: phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone  $M\n as \n s$ spectra of and azapropazone.

**FIGURE 2.5.14: Chromatograms obtained for the reaction products of phenylbutazone and azapropazone with diazomethane.**





Phenylbutazone Reaction Product 1





l,





**FIGURE 2.5.19: Mass spectra obtained for the reaction products 4 and 5 of azapropazone with diazomethane.**



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 $\label{eq:2.1} \left\langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \left\langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\left(\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\right) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{A}} \left\langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\left(\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\right) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{A}} \left\langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\left(\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\right) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{A}} \left\langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\left(\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}\right) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{A}}$ 

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 $\label{eq:q} \mathcal{P}(\phi) = \mathcal{P}(\phi) \mathcal{P}(\phi)$ 

Parents.

**- 143 -**

# **2.5.4 DISCUSSION**

# (a) MASS SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF SELECTED NSAIDs

**The mass spectra of the methyl esters of ibuprofen, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, fenbufen and mefenamic acid showed several similar characteristics. All of the esters had** a prominent molecular ion except fenbufen which **had a molecular ion of** *1%* **relative intensity.**

**Two common fragmentations seen in the** spectrum of methyl esters were M-31 and M-59. These were due to loss of a methoxy group and **loss of a earbomethoxy group. The six NSAlDs** discussed here all exhibited an  $[M-59]^+$  peak, **although [M-6l]+ was of a higher relative abundance in both the fenbufen and mefenamic acid methyl ester spectra. This ion would arise** from a proton transfer along with loss of the **earbomethoxy group. The loss of 31 amu was seen in both the fenbufen and mefenamic acid methyl ester spectra.**

**The mass spectra of the silyl esters of five of the NSAlDs discussed here had a molecular ion. Ketoprofen did not exhibit a** molecular ion. All of the six NSAIDs had a [M-15]<sup>+</sup> ion. This is usual for silyl esters **and corresponds to the loss of a methyl moiety from the silyl group. All spectra of**

**compounds had ions at m/z 73 and 75. These ions often formed the base peaks of the spectra, but were of low diagnostic significance. They have been shown [113] to have the structures illustrated in Figure 2.5.20.**

**only** the tert-butyldimethylsilyl (BDMS) **esters of naproxen and mefenamic acid exhibited molecular ions, the other four NSAlDs having [M-l ]+ peaks. in all cases the base peak in** the BDMS ester spectrum was the  $[M-57]^+$  ion, **formed by loss of the tertiary butyl group.**

**The spectra of aromatic compounds often contained some or all of the following characteristic ions: m/z 77, 91 and 105. The** formation of these ions is shown in Figure 3.4.1 **and 3.4.2. These three ions can be found in many of the spectra of the methyl, silyl and BDMS esters of the NSAlDs discussed here. IBUPROFEN**

**Cleavage of the 2-methyl-propyl side chain was evident in two of the ibuprofen spectra:**  $m/z$  177,  $[M-43]$ <sup>+</sup> in the methyl spectrum and **m/z 234, [ M - 4 4 ]+ in the silyl spectrum. The ion at m/z 161 was present in all three spectra** and was due to loss of the carbomethoxy group, **[M-59]+ in the methylated compound, loss of the ea rboxy-silyl-ether group, [M-ll7]+ in the**



silylated compound and loss of the carboxy-tert**butyl-dimethyIsi ly l ether group, [M-159]+ in the BDMS ester. The base peak in the silyl ester spectrum was in fact m/z 160, formed by loss of the 117 group mentioned above along with a proton transfer.**

**The cluster of ions present in all three spectra at m/z 117/118/119 was due to cleavage** of the 2-methyl-propyl side chain along with **loss of the carboxy ester group. The ion at m/z 117 was most abundant in the silyl spectrum because it was also due to the presence of the**  $[CO_2Si(CH_3)_3]$ <sup>+</sup> ion.

#### **FLURBIPROFEN**

**The base peak in the spectrum of the methyl ester of flurbiprofen was at m/z 199 and** was due to loss of the carbomethoxy group. The **BDMS ester spectrum also contained ions at** m/z 198/199 but neither of these ions were of **high relative abundance in the silyl ester** spectrum. Loss of the carboxy-silyl-ether group was, therefore, not a favoured fragmentation of **the silyl ester of flurbiprofen.**

**Peaks found at m/z 183/184 in the methyl and the BDMS spectra were due to losses of the earbomethoxy and the carboxy-tert-butyldimethylsilylether groups respectively.**

**A dominant ion at m/z 180 which appeared in the spectrum of the silyl ester of flurbiprofen could be due to loss of the** carboxy-silyl-ether group and a fluorine atom. **The 180 ion was of low relative intensity in the methyl ester and BDMS ester spectra, but ions at m/z 178/179 were of high relative intensity. These ions could have been formed by** loss of a fluorine atom along with a carbomethoxy group (or a carboxy-tert-butyldimethyl**silyl-ether group in the case of the BDMS** ester) and a one or two proton transfer.

#### **NAPROXEN**

**The ions at m/z 185/186, 184/186 and 184/185/186 appeared in the methyl, silyl and BDMS ester spectra respectively. These ions arose due to losses of the carboxy-ester groups in all three cases. An ion at m/z 170 also appeared in the three spectra and this was most likely due to loss of the carboxy-ester group and a methyl group. Loss of the carboxy-ester group and a methoxy group was shown by the presence of peaks at m/z 153/154 in the three spectra.**

#### **KETOPROFEN**

**The base peak in the methyl spectrum of ketoprofen at m/z 209 was due to loss of the** **earbomethoxy group. The base peak in the silyl ester spectrum appears at m /2 282 (M-44) and was presumably due to loss of carbon dioxide. The** mass spectrum of the BDMS ester of ketoprofen exhibitied a base peak at 311 which was the **[M-57 ]+ ion. The peak at m/z 191 in the methyl spectrum could have been due to the loss** of a benzyl group. Apart from the usual **aromatic ions at m/z 77 and 105 the other ions in the three ketoprofen ester spectra were of low relative intensity.**

### **FENBUFEN**

**The peak at m/z 181 appeared in the three fenbufen** spectra and was due to the  $\left[C_{\kappa}H_{\kappa}-C_{\kappa}H_{\mu}-CO\right]^+$ **ion. The peak at m/z 237 in the methyl spectra was due to loss of the methoxy group. This peak was also present in the silyl and the BDMS ester spectra. The cluster of ions at m/z 151/152/153 present in all three spectra were** due to the  $[C_6H_5-C_6H_5]^+$  ion.

## **MEFENAMIC ACID**

**Nitrogen containing compounds such as mefenamic acid must follow the nitrogen rule: the molecular weights of compounds containing only** c , **H, N and O are odd when the number of** nitrogens is odd and are even when the number

**- 1 4 8 -**

**of nitrogens is even. The molecular ions in** the three spectra of mefenamic acid all appeared **at odd numbers, since mefenamic acid contains one nitrogen atom.**

**The ions present in the remainder of the three spectra were very similar to each other.** Peaks at  $m/z$  223 in the methyl and silyl **spectra and m/z 224 in the BDMS spectra were of high relative intensity and were due to loss of the ether groups. The peak at m/z 208 present in the methyl and silyl spectra and that at m/z 207 in the bdms spectra was due to further loss of a methyl group from the 223/224 ion.**

**The peak at m/z 194 also appeared in all three spectra and could have been due to the loss of the carboxy-ether groups along with proton transfers. Finally the peak at m/z 180 again appeared in the three spectra and was due to loss of the carboxy-ether group and a methyl group.**

### **(b) MASS SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF PHENYLBUTAZONE. SULPHINPYRAZONE AND AZAPROPAZONE**

**The mass spectra of some medicinal pyrazolidinediones have been studied. Yen and** co-workers [114] include phenylbutazone in their **analysis, while unterhalt [115] and Locock and his colleagues [116] discuss phenylbutazone, oxyphenbutazone and sulphinpyrazone.**

**- 149 -**

**In the spectra obtained in this study molecular ions were observed at m/z 308, 404 and 300 for phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone respectively.**

**unterhalt observed [115] that phenylbutazone, oxyphenbutazone and sulphinpyrazone undergo the M c Lafferty rearrangement to give a radical ion at m/z 252 (m/z 268 for oxyphenbutazone). Locock and co-workers studied the metastable ions present in all three spectra and concluded that** this is a direct fragmentation from the **molecular ion with the loss of the elements of**  $\texttt{butene}$  or  $\texttt{C}_{\texttt{6}}\texttt{H}_{\texttt{5}}$   $\texttt{SOCHCH}_{\texttt{2}}$  in the case of **sulphinpyrazone. These fragmentations are presented in Figure 2.5.21. The McLafferty rearrangement product (m/z 252) is also present in the spectra of sulphinpyrazone obtained during this study (Figure 2.5.13).**

**A minor fragmentation pathway for the** molecular ion of phenylbutazone (also substantiated by the presence of metastable ions) is the loss of a propyl radical from the butyl side chain **of the molecular ion to give an ion at m/z 265. in the spectrum of sulphinpyrazone, strong peaks at m/z 278 (100%) and at m/z 279** (127) represent the loss of  $C_6H_5SOH$  and  $\rm c^{\phantom{0}}_{6}H_{5}$ SO from the side chain of the

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**FIGURE 2.5.21: The McLafferty rearrangement reactions of phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone.**







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**sulphinpyrazone molecular ion.**

**If azapropazone were to undergo a McLafferty rearrangement, an ion would be expected at m/z 258, and in fact an ion at m/z 257 is present in low abundance (1%).**

**Locock and co-workers have commented that the most characteristic fragments in the mass spectra of all the pyrazolidinediones which they studied were a series of peaks at m/z 182, 183** and 184 (198, 199 and 200 in oxyphenbutazone). **The ions m/z 182, 183 and 184 are present in the mass spectra of phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone (Figure 2.5.13). The ion at m/z 183 is the base peak in the phenylbutazone spectrum. Locock and co-workers have shown that this ion arises from the radical ion (m/z 252) by hydrogen transfer as depicted in Figure 2.5.22. The peak at m/z 182 can be attributed to the formation of the azobenzene radical ion**  $(C_6H_5N_2C_6H_5)^+$ .

**Other ions present in the spectra of phenylbutazone and sulphinpyrazone, which may arise from the azobenzene radical are the result** of the loss of a phenyl radical  $C_6H_5$ , to give C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sup>+</sup> (m/z 105) which subsequently may lose nitrogen to give  $C_6H_5^+$  (m/z 77).

The base peak in the spectrum of

**FIGURE 2.5.22: The formation of the m/z 183 ion in phenylbutazone.**





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**a zapropazone at m/z 160 and the collection of ione at m/z 188/189/190 may be formed as indicated in Figure 2.5.23. The ion at m/z 145 could be formed from the ion at m/z 160 by loss of a methyl group.**

## (c) MASS SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF THE REACTION PRODU **OF\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHENYLBU TA ZON E ,SULPHINPYRAZONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AND AZAPROPAZONE WITH DIAZOMETHANE**

**Phenylbutazone was reacted with diazomethane in methanol and the reaction products were examined by GC-MS. Four reaction products, whose spectra are indicated in Figures 2.5.15 and 2.5.16, were observed. Two products (1 and 3) have molecular ions at m/z 322 (i.e. ph enylbutazone + 14) and the other two products (2 and 4) have molecular ions at m/z 336** (i.e. phenylbutazone + 28). Structures have been **tentatively assigned to the four reaction products as indicated in Figure 2.5.24.**

**Reaction products l and 2 both show the loss of the butyl side chain (M-56) similar to phenylbutazone itself, while 3 and 4 have M-43 ions, corresponding to loss of a propyl group** (part of the butyl side chain). The change in **the fragmentation of the side chain in products 3** and 4 suggests that the reaction with **diazomethane has altered the structure of the molecule at the carbon atom holding the side** chain, which would be true if an enol ether

FIGURE **2.5.23: Possible cleavages of azapropazone to form the ions at m/z 160 and 189.**



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**FIGURE 2.5.24: Suggested structures of the four reaction products of phenylbutazone with diazomethane.**

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**Reaction Product 1**



### **Reaction Product 2**



### **Reaction Product 3**



# **Reaction Product 4**



**had been formed. since a vinyl bond would be more difficult to break than an alkyl bond, the loss of the butyl side chain would be less likely to occur when a vinyl bond is present. The presence of the vinyl bond would therefore explain the loss of a propyl group from the butyl side chain.**

**Bauer and co-workers [117] discuss the** formation of oxiranes by the addition of CH<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> to the carbonyl function of alpha-oxo **acids when reacted with diazomethane. Bauer suggests that this occurs via a Zwitterion which** is able to stabilise itself by elimination of **N 2 and ring closure to form the oxirane ring as shown in Figure 2.5.25. It is possible that oxiranes could be formed when pyrazolidinediones are reacted with diazomethane to give the structures indicated in Figure 2.5.24.**

**The favoured reaction product is number 3.** Figure 2.5.26 suggests possible fragmentations of **the structure to give the m/z 188, 160 and 146 ions.**

**Sulphinpyrazone produced one reaction product when reacted with diazomethane in methanol. The mass spectrum of the reaction product does not contain a molecular ion, but has a base peak at m/z 292. By comparison with the mass spectrum of sulphinpyrazone which has a base peak at m/z 278,**  $[M-126]$  due to loss of the  $C_6H_5SOH$  group it



**reacted with diazomethane.**

**FIGURE 2.5.26: Predicted fragmentation of reaction product 3 (formedfrom phenylbutazone).**



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**can be inferred that the molecular weight of the reaction products is 418. The reaction product** is therefore a mono-methyl derivative of sulphin**pyrazone. it is, however, difficult to predict its structure since there are very few diagnostic ions in the spectrum.**

**Azapropazone was also reacted with diazomethane in methanol; the chromatogram obtained from the reaction mixture (Figure 2.5.14) contained five major peaks. The early eluting, broad peak may be due to a pyrolysis product whose structure is given in Figure 2.5.27.**

**The other four peaks all have molecular ions at m/z 314 in their mass spectra suggesting that there are four different reaction products which all have one extra methyl group. These products could be similar to those suggested for phenylbutazone and tentative structures are given in Figure 2.5.28. unlike phenylbutazone, azapropazone is not symmetrical about the pyrazolidine ring and each mo no-derivative is a different geometric isomer. While it is difficult to assign structures to each product in the absence of further spectral data, the presence of (M-42) ions in products 2 and 4 suggests that these are oxirane derivatives while the presence of an (M-29) ion in products 3 and 5 suggests that these are enol ethers, following the same argument used for the products obtained from phenylbutazone.**

FIGURE 2.5.27: Pyrolisis product of azapropazone.



**FIGURE 2.5.28: Suggested structures of the four reaction products of azapropazone with diazomethane.**

**Reaction Products 3 and 5**

 $(CH_3)_2$ **h**3**co^n**  $CH<sub>3</sub>$  $H<sub>7</sub>C<sub>3</sub>$ 

 $(CH_3)_2$ CH<sub>3</sub>  $H_7C_3$  OCH<sub>3</sub>

**Reaction Products 2 and 4**





**- 163 -**

### **2.5.5 CONCLUSION**

Ibuprofen, flurbirpofen, naproxen, **ketoprofen, fenbufen and mefenamic acid could be uniquely identified from each other as the methyl, trimethylsilyl or tert-butyIdimethylsilyl derivatives. Phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone could be analysed and identified. However, when these three drugs were reacted with diazomethane, as they could be in a screening procedure, they produced multiple reaction products which would complicate the analysis. These drugs would also be difficult to quantify if reacted with diazomethane.**

**Phenylbutazone, sulphinpyrazone and azapropazone did not react with the silylation reagents used in section 2.4. If a derivatisation reaction was used in a screening procedure silylation would not affect the pyrazolidinediones and they could be identified as the free drug.**

**The proposed structures for the reaction products of the pyrazolidinediones with diazomethane need to be confirmed by further work. Sufficient quantities of the various products would have to be synthesised and identified using elemental analysis, high resolution mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.**

**Another approach which may help to identify the reaction products would be to examine the mass spectra** **of the reaction products produced using** [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>]-diazomethane, although it should be noted **that the fragmentations of the pyrazolidinedione reaction products are not simple reactions. Many appear to involve rearrangements and hydrogen transfers and the interpretation of deuteromethyl derivative spectra may be complex.**

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### **CHAPTER THREE**

### **URINARY ACID PROFILE IN THE RACING GREYHOUND**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

**Dope testing in the racing greyhound is carried out using urine and since the anti-inflammatory drugs being examined were all acidic in nature it was essential to** establish the normal urinary acid profile of the greyhound before attempting to assay the NSAIDs. The human urinary **acid profile is already well documented [Ref. 118 and the references cited therein] since the identification and** quantification of organic acids in human urine is used as **a method of diagnosis for a group of hereditary diseases known as organic acidurias. These diseases, resulting from inborn errors of metabolism, are caused by the diminished activity or complete absence of a specific enzyme or enzyme co-factor which leads to the accumulation and increased excretion of acidic metabolites. Today some sixty different organic acidurias are known, involving a total of more than two hundred different acidic metabolites [119]. Phenylketonuria and maple syrup urine disease are two examples of organic acidurias occurring as inborn errors of metabolism [izo]. if left untreated both of these diseases result in mental retardation. Phenylketonuria is caused by a deficiency in the activity of phenylalanine-4-hydroxylase. since the normal conversion of phenylalanine to tyrosine is prevented.**

**the alternative pathway to phenylpyruvic acid and** its metabolites is utilised and they are excreted **in abnormally high concentrations in the urine (Figure 3.1.1). Maple syrup urine disease is revealed by high concentrations of 2-oxocarboxylic acids in the urine** caused by a defect in the metabolism of the amino acids **valine, leucine and isoleucine (Figure 3.1.2).**

**urinary organic acids are the water-soluble end** products or intermediates of the metabolism of amino **acids, carbohydrates, biogenic amines, steroids, lipids and many other endogenous compounds. They may also be derived from exogenous sources such as food additives and drugs. They are a complex mixture of polar and moderately polar hydroxy-, keto-, mono-, di- and tri-carboxylic acids, aromatic and heterocyclic compounds as well as glycine and other conjugates which differ widely in their chemical properties and concentration in normal urine. Liebich has summarised the acids which have been identified in human urine and has classified them into seven major groups [120]. Table 3.1.1 lists the seven groups and gives some examples of urinary acids.**

**GC-MS has been the dominant technique used in the field of urinary organic acid analysis [121-124], though some workers have used GC alone and utilised retention indices from two columns of different polarities to establish the identity of the acids [119,125,126]. Lefevere and co-workers, however, report that it is impossible to make an unambiguous identification based on**

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**FIGURE 3.1.2: Metabolism of valine, leucine and isoleucine in man showing the normal pathways and the alternative pathways to the 2-oxocarboxylic acids observed in patients with Maple Syrup Urine disease.**



 $\label{eq:2.1} \begin{split} \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{z}}(t) &\leq \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{z}}(t) + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{z}}(t) \end{split}$ .<br>Sakat Martinga Kalendar  $\label{eq:3.1} \left\langle \lambda_{\text{NN}} \right\rangle \leq \left\langle \left\langle \psi \right\rangle \right\rangle \leq \left\langle \psi \right\rangle \leq \left\langle \left\langle \psi \right\rangle \right\rangle \leq \left\langle \psi \right\rangle$ 

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**TABLE 3.1.1: Organic acids found in urine and serum.**



retention indices alone and that a final confirmation by **GC-MS is necessa ry [119],**

**There have been some reports on the applications of HPLC to the study of organic acids in particular disease states [127,128], but Chalmers and Lawson [118] report that these methods have no particular advantage over the conventional GC procedure.**

### **3.1.1 ISOLATION OF URINARY ORGANIC ACIDS**

**Various methods have been used to isolate organic acids from urine and these have been reviewed by several workers [120,122,123]. solvent extraction and the use of anion-exchange procedures (an example of solid phase extraction) have been the most popular. solvent extraction of acidified salt-saturated urine with ethyl or methyl acetate and/or diethyl ether has been preferred for routine clinical use [125,126,129,130]. These procedures, however, are not quantitative and polar compounds, such as di- and tricarboxylic acids and polyhydroxy acids are poorly extracted [131]. solvent extraction also co-extracts interfering neutral compounds, such as urea and glycerol.**

**Anion-exchange using, for instance, DEAE-Sephadex has also been used by many workers [131, 132, 133]. This method is more quantitative than solvent extraction, gives better reproducibiltiy and eliminates interfering neutral compounds. Anion-exchange, however, requires the** time-consuming lyophilisation of the aqueous pyridinium **acetate solution which is used as the eluent. Large**

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**amounts of sulphate and phosphate are also eluted in** anion-exhange and these interfere with subsequent gas chromatography.

**Most of the current applications of solid phase extraction use chemically modified silica and alumina which resemble chemically bonded phases for HPLC in their** mode of action (or retention mechanism). Sorbents of **different types are available to emulate straight phase, reversed phase, ion-exchange and affinity chromatography (not yet commercially available), depending on their substituents [134,135]. Appropriate choices of sorbent and solvents used in sample loading, sorbent washing and analyte elution permit solid phase extraction to be highly selective and often to provide extracts of sufficient purity for direct analysis by chromatographic methods** following suitable derivatisation if necessary. Dalsh and **Leonard reported [136] a solid phase extraction method for the extraction of organic acids from plasma. Recently Rumsby and co-workers reported [137] the use of a similar solid phase extraction method for the extraction of organic acids from various biological fluids including urine.**

**Another example of a solid phase extraction technique is the use of cross-linked polystyrene/divinyl benzene (XAD-2) resin. Its application is well recognised in analytical toxicology and it has been used in the isolation of drugs from various body fluids including urine [138-147]. These resins have also been utilised to**

**- 172 -**

**extract urinary organic acids [124,148].**

**For urine analysis the resin can be introduced directly into the urine or the sample may be** passed through a column of the resin. Dieterle and **co-workers [149] have also used micronised XAD-2 resin to form the support for preparative high-resolution liquid chromatography. This method was used to isolate the urinary glucuronides of sulphinpyrazone and also achieved** a separation of a standard mixture of phenylbutazone and **four of its metabolites.**

**in this project Amberlite XAD-2 resin was chosen as the solid phase for the extraction of the NSAlDs, organic acids and their metabolites from urine. Amberlite XAD-2 retains organic substances by virtue of hydrophobic/ lipophilic interactions on the resin surface. Aromatic substances are particularly well retained. Elution of adsorbed species requires the use of an organic solvent to break the lipophilic interactions, usually ethanol or methanol. unlike other adsorbents based on silica or alumina there are no secondary ion exchange interactions present.**

**The use of XAD-2 resin for the isolation of drugs and metabolites from urine has several advantages over conventional solvent-solvent extraction; XAD-2 resin yields extracts which are free from emulsions and eluates do not require to be dried prior to evaporation. Eluates from XAD-2 resins are also free from inorganic phosphates and sulphates which could interfere with any subsequent enzyme hyrdrolysis step, for example, using glucuronidase.**

**- 17 3 -**

# **3.1.2 DERIVATISATION OF URINARY ORGANIC ACIDS**

**Urinary organic acids are frequently highly polar, have low volatilities and are thermally unstable; they are therefore not suitable for direct analysis by GC and are normally derivatised first. The relative merits of various derivatisation procedures have been reviewed [118,122,123] and those commonly consist of** the formation of esters of the carboxyl functions and **ethers of free hydroxyl groups. Trimethylsilylation with BSTFA or BSA [119,124,125,131-133] and methylation with diazomethane [130,150-153] are the most commonly followed derivatisation procedures and are discussed briefly below. Keto-acids may require additional modification, normally by preparing an oxime derivative, to avoid formation of isomeric enol ethers and subsequent complications in the analysis.**

**Trimethylsilyl (TMS) derivatives are easy to prepare and most of them have good chromatographic properties. In addition, useful diagnostic ions are frequently obtained in the mass spectra of these derivatives. However, they are not stable during storage and the mass fragmentation pattern in some instances can be difficult to interpret especially in the case of unidentified substances. TMS reagents form derivatives with carboxyl groups, hydroxyl groups and phenolic groups of organic acids. Keto-acids have a tendency to yield multiple derivatives (enol-trimethylsilyl ethers) with silylation and are more easily determined if double**

**derivatives, such as oxime-TMS [154], methoxime-TMS [155] and ethoxime-TMS [156] are prepared.**

**Methyl esters of organic acids can also be readily prepared and have excellent chromatographic properties. They are not prone to hydrolysis like the corresponding TMS derivatives. The mass spectra of methyl esters are often easier to interpret and display ions which are more characteristic of the parent substance than those of the TMS derivatives. Diazomethane reacts with carboxyl groups, phenolic hydroxyls and the sulphydryl group of thiols. Diazomethane, though, has been found to produce a** mixture of products when reacted with alpha-, beta**unsaturated acids and alpha-keto acids [157] and this complicates the interpretation of the spectra.**

**in this study four different derivatisation procedures were evaluated for the analysis of urinary acids in the racing greyhound by GC-MS. Having established the normal urinary composition and the derivatisation procedure which gave the simplest chromatographic profile, it would then be possible to establish screening procedures for NSAIDs and their metabolites in urine.**

**- 1 7 5 -**

- **3.2 EXPERIMENTAL**
- **3.2.1 REAGENTS**
- **1** . **Amberlite XAD-2 resin, 80-100 mesh (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).**
- **2** . **Acetone, reagent grade (BDH Chemicals Limited,** Poole, England).
- **3 .** Ethanol, glass distilled (J. Burrough, London).
- **4 . Methanol, HPLC grade (Rathburn Chemicals Limited, Walkerburn, Scotland).**
- **5 . Hydrochloric acid (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).**
- **6** . **Ethyl acetate (Rathburn Chemicals Limited, Walkerburn, Scotland).**
- **7 . Diethyl ether, Pronalys AR grade (May and Baker, Dagenham, England).**
- **8** . **Digol, Analar grade ((BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).**
- **9 . Diazald, N-methyl-N-nitroso-p-toluenesulfonamide (Aldrich Chemical Company Limited, Gillingham, England).**
- **1 0** . **Potassium hydroxide, Analar grade (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, England).**
- **1 1** . **BSTFA + 1% TMCS (Pierce, Life Sciences Laboratory Limited, Luton, England).**
- **3.2.2 ORGANIC ACID STANDARDS,**

**human urine, were obtained from BDH chemicals Limited, Poole, England.organic acids, known from previous work to occur in**

**<sup>1</sup>** . **<sup>0</sup>-Anisic <sup>2</sup>** . **cis-Aconitic 3 . Adipic 4 . Ascorbic <sup>5</sup>**. **Azelaic 6. Benzoic 7 . iso-Butyric 8 . n-Butyric 9 . iso-citric 10. Fumaric (tri-sodium salt) 11. 2-Furoic 12 . Glucuronic 13 . Glutaric. 14. Glyeollic 15. n-Hexanoic. 16. Hippuric 17. 3-Hydroxyben2oic. 18 . 4-Hydroxybenzoic 19 . Indole-3-yl-aeetic. 20. Lactic 21. DL-Malic. 22 . oxalic** 23. Pimelic. 24. Succinic **25 . T a r t a r i c . 26 . Vanillic**

**27 . iso-Valeric**

**Salts of acids were treated with hydrochloric acid (1M) and the free acid was extracted into an organic solvent. The organic layer was removed and evaporated to dryness** before derivatisation as described in Section (c).

**3.2.3 APPARATUS**

1. Perkin-Elmer Sigma 3B gas chromatograph fitted with **a Groft split/splitless injector interfaced via a direct** inlet to a VG 16F single-focussing magnetic sector mass **spectrometer and a VG series 2000 data system. Electron impact mass spectra were recorded repetitively (cycle time 2.5 seconds).**

**2. A wall coated open tubular column (24m, o.5mm i.d., l.lmm o.d.) with a liquid stationary phase of CP-SIL5 at a film thickness of 0.81pm.**

**3. A Bucchi rotary evaporator.**

 $-176-$ 

**- 1 7 7 -**

# **3.2.4 GC AND GC-MS CONDITIONS**

**Gas chromatography and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry were carried out on systems similar to those described in Sections 2.4.2 and 2.5.2, respectively.**

# **3.2.5 PREPARATION OF DERIVATIVES OF STANDARD ACIDS**

### (a) METHYLATION WITH DIAZOMETHANE

An ethereal solution of diazomethane (see **Section 2.4.2(e)) was added dropwise to methanol (lml) containing about lmg of acid standard until the solution remained yellow. The solution was allowed to stand at room** temperature for 15 minutes before evaporating to dryness **under a stream of nitrogen. The residue was redissolved in 5ml of ethyl acetate and about 0.5jil was used for analysis.**

### (b) SILYLATION WITH BSTFA + 1% TMCS

**BSTFA +** *1%* **TMCS (loo^il) and pyridine (20pl) were added to a vial containing about lmg of acid standard. The** vial was sealed and the reaction mixture heated at 60°C **for 20 minutes. After this time hexane (5ml) was added to the reaction vial and about 0.5jil was used for analysis.**

# (c) tert-BUTYLDIMETHYLSILYLATION WITH MTBSTFA

MTBSTFA (100pl) and acetonitrile (100pl) were added **to a vial containing about 50^ig of acid standard. The** vial was sealed and the reaction mixture heated at 60°C **for 30 minutes. After cooling about 0.5pl was used for analysis.**

# **3.2.6 COLLECTION OF URINE SAMPLES**

**A metabolic unit was set up in order to carry out this study, to administer therapeutic doses of drugs to**

**greyhounds and to collect urine samples in a controlled manner. The study was licenced by the Home office and the metabolic unit was situated at the university of Glasgow** Veterinary School. The upkeep of the unit was funded by **the National Greyhound Racing Club of Great Britain.**

**Four greyhounds (3 male and l female) were housed at the unit. The animals were cared for and blood and urine samples were taken by kennel nurses. The greyhounds were fed a normal diet of tinned dog food and biscuits.**

**Urine samples were collected by two procedures, either in a metabolic cage or by using a collection vessel during normal urination. The metabolic cage was about 2x2xl metres in size and consisted of stainless steel supports covered in wire mesh. The floor of the cage, which was raised about 20cm off the ground, was also made of wire mesh (Figure 3.2.1). Under the flooring was a** funnel made of stainless steel which collected urine **passed by the animal in the cage. Urine samples were collected in a stainless steel jug, then transferred to polypropylene containers for carriage. Samples were stored at -20°C until analysed.**

**The second method of urine collection, outside the cage, was much simpler and involved the animal nurse collecting urine in a stainless steel jug while the animal was urinating.**

When an animal had been administered a drug and the **reguired number of urine samples had been taken, a washout period of about three weeks was allowed before dosing again.**

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# **COLLECTION OF BLANK URINE SAMPLES**

**Normal 24 hour urine samples were collected** from the four greyhounds which were medication-free and **were kept in individual metabolic cages for 24 hours. Twenty-four hour urine collections were analysed for individual dogs or as a pooled urine sample. Urine samples were collected separately from male and female dogs in the morning and evening on three successive days to observe variations.**

### **3.2.7 PREPARATION OF AMBERLITE XAD-2 RESIN COLUMN**

**Amberlite XAD-2 resin (ca 20g) was slurry packed in water into a glass column (bed volume 30ml) and washed several times with acetone (total volume approximately 500ml) to remove any styrene present. The column was then washed with distilled water (approximately 200ml), ethanol (approximately 200ml) and distilled water (approximately 200ml) before use.**

### **3.2.8 ISOLATION OF URINARY ORGANIC ACIDS**

**An aliquot of urine (20ml) was adjusted to pH l with 1M hydrochloric acid and passed through a freshly prepared column of XAD-2 resin (20gf bed volume 30ml) at a flow rate of 4ml/minute. The column was allowed to drain and was washed with distilled water (200ml) at the same flow rate. The column was allowed to drain once more and organic material retained on the resin was eluted with ethanol (100ml) at a flow rate of 2ml/minute. The extract was evaporated to near dryness on a rotary evaporator.** The residue was then transferred quantitatively to a vial

and evaporated to dryness under nitrogen.

# **3.2.9 PREPARATION OF DERIVATIVES OF URINARY ACID EXTRACTS**

# (a) **METHYLATION WITH DIAZOMETHANE**

Urine extracts were dissolved in methanol (500 $\mu$ 1) **and treated with a freshly prepared ethereal solution of diazomethane (500pl). The solution was left at room temperature for 15 minutes. After this time the solution was evaporated to dryness under a stream of oxygen-free nitrogen. The sample was then redissolved in methanol (25***Op* **1) before analysis.**

### (b) SILYLATION WITH BSTFA + 1% TMCS

**Dried extracts of urine were treated with** BSTFA + 1% TMCS (200µ1) and dry pyridine (50µ1) in a vial. The vial was sealed and heated at 60°C for 1 hour. This **solution was then injected directly into the GC.**

### **(C) ME TH YLATION/SILYLATION**

**Dried extracts of urine were dissolved in methanol (500^1) and treated with an ethereal solution of** di azomethane (500 $\mu$ 1). The solution was left at room **temperature for 15 minutes then evaporated to dryness under a stream of oxygen-free nitrogen. The sample was** then treated with BSTFA + 1% TMCS (200µ1) and dry **pyridine (SO^il). The vial was sealed and heated at 60°c for l hour. The solution was then injected directly into the GC.**

# (d) tert-BUTYL-DIMETHYLSILYLATION WITH MTBSTFA

**Dried extracts of urine were treated with MTBSTFA** *(200j2l)* **and acetonitrile (50pl) in a vial. The**

vial was sealed and the reaction mixture heated at 60°C **for** 10 **minutes. This solution was then injected directly into the GC.**

### **3.2.10 IDENTIFICATION OF ORGANIC ACIDS IN URINE EXTRACTS**

**organic acids in urine extracts were identified by comparison of their retention indices and mass spectral data with those of authentic acid standards run under the same conditions. When standards were not available** identification was on the basis of the mass spectrum alone **or from published gas chromatographic retention time and mass spectral data [118,152,158,159].**

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# **3.3 RESULTS**

### 3.3.1 URINARY ACID STANDARDS

**The retention indices and mass spectral data obtained after methylation, silylation and** tert-butyldimethylsilylation of several standard acids, **which are known to occur in human urine, are given in Tables 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, respectively, seventeen of the acids were successfully methylated** and twenty-three successfully trimethylsilylated. A **selected group of fourteen acids was also converted to tert-butyldimethylsilyl ethers (Figure 3.3.1, p225).**

# **3.3.2 NORMAL URINARY ACID PROFILE OF THE RACING GREYHOUND**

**The average normal urinary acid profile of the racing greyhound was determined by GC analysis of a methylated extract of a pooled urine sample (Figure 3.3.2, p226). The chromatogram revealed a complex pattern of about seventy components present in varying quantities.**

**Samples of urine taken from two animals (l male and 1 female) at different times of day and on different days were similarly analysed and showed variations between animals, according to the time of day and from day to day. An overall pattern, however, could be recognised as seen in the various chromatograms illustrated in Figures 3.3.3 to 3.3.5, pp227-230.**

# **3.3.3 COMPARISON OF DERIVATIVES AND IDENTIFICATION OF GREYHOUND URINARY ACIDS**

**A pooled urine sample was extracted by the method described in section 3.2.8. The final extract was**

**divided into four aliquots and was derivatised by four methods; methylation, trimethylsilylation, combined** methylation/trimethylsilylation and tert-butyldimethyl**silylation. The chromatograms obtained are compared in Figures 3 . 3 . 6 to 3.3.9, P P 2 3 1 - 2 3 4 .**

**The gas chromatographic and mass spectral data obtained for the four derivatives examined are listed in Tables 3.3.4 to 3.3.7. The peak numbers given in these tables correspond, as indicated, to the peak numbers in Figures 3.3.6 to 3.3.9. Compounds have been indentified by comparison with an authentic standard where available and the remaining peaks have been tentatively identified on the basis of their mass spectra or from published gas chromatographic retention times and mass spectral data [118.152,158,159].**

**A summary of the acids identified in the methylated and silylated extracts of greyhound urine is given in Table 3.3.8. Compounds which have been identified by** comparison with an authentic standard are marked with  $*$ . **This table groups acids of similar types together, and illustrates the structures of the acids identified.**

**- 184 -**



 $-185 -$ 

TABLE 3.3.1: Continuation (a)







 $\overline{a}$ 

 $ND = not detected$ 



 $\ddot{\phantom{0}}$ 

 $188 \overline{\phantom{a}}$ 





and a series

 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}_{\alpha\beta}$ 

 $-189-$ 





 $ND = not detected$ 








 $ND = not detected$ 



Gas chromatographic and mass spectrometric data for compounds in a methylated extract of TARLE 3.3.4:

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 $-194$  -

TABLE 3.3.4: Continuation (a)



TABLE 3.3.4: Continuation (b)



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 $-196-$ 

 $\ddot{\cdot}$ 

TABLE 3.3.4: Continuation (c)



TABLE 3.3.4: Continuation (d)

 $-197 -$ 



 $-198$  -







 $\ddot{\phantom{0}}$ 



TABLE 3.3.5: Continuation (a)

 $-200 -$ 



TABLE 3.3.5: Continuation (b)

 $201 \overline{\phantom{0}}$ 



TABLE 3.3.5: Continuation (c)

 $-202 -$ 







 $-204 -$ 



 $-205 -$ 

\*Peak Number corresponds to Figure 3.3.7



 $-206 -$ 



TABLE 3.3.6: Continuation (a)

 $207 -$ L,



TABLE 3.3.6: Continuation (b)

 $208 \downarrow$ 





 $210 \frac{1}{2}$ 

TABLE 3.3.6: Continuation (d)

 $\bar{\beta}$ 



 $\ddot{\phantom{0}}$ 

TABLE 3.3.6: Continuation (e)

 $- 211 -$ 



 $-212 -$ 



Continuation (a) TARLE 3 3 7.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

 $-213 -$ 



 $-214 -$ 



 $-215 -$ 

NAME OF ACID	<b>STRUCTURE</b> OF	ACID	Molecular Weight of Free Acid	Retention Indice of Methylated	Retention Indice of Silylated Derivative <sup>1</sup> Derivative <sup>2</sup>
ALIPHATIC MONOCARBOXYLIC ACIDS					
Caprylic	$CH3(CH2)6COOH$		144		1247(18)
Lauric	$CH3(CH2)10COOH$		245		1620(52)
Palmitic	$CH3(CH2)14COOH$		256	1870(33)	2015(73)
Oleic or Isomer				2033(48)	
	$CH3(CH2)7CH = CH(CH2)7COOH$		296		
Oleic or Isomer				2040(49)	
Heptadecanoic	CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>15</sub> COOH		284		2111(76)
Stearic	CH <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>16</sub> COOH		298	2063(51)	2533(83)
$c_{19}$ Monounsaturated $CH_3(CH_2)_7CH$ = CH(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>8</sub> COOH 310				2145(57)	
ALIPHATIC DICARBOXYLIC ACIDS					
Oxalic	$HOOC - COOH$		90		$1079(2)$ * or $1081(3)*$
Glutaric	HOC(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> COOH		132		$1307(26)*$
2-Methyl-Glutaric HOOC-CH <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>2</sub> -CH-COOH 146		CH <sub>3</sub>			1397(34)

TABLE 3.3.8: Organic acids identified by GC-MS in the urine of the racing greyhound.



## TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (a)



**TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (b)**

 $\mathcal{L}$ 

 $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{A}}$ 

**- 2 1 8 -**

 $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$ 



**TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (c)**

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 $\sim 10^{-1}$ 

 $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$ 



 $\sim$ 

 $\ddot{\phantom{a}}$ 

## **TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (d)**

 $\sim 10$ 

 $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{A}}$ 

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 $\sim 10^6$ 

**/**

 $\mathbf{r}$ 

**TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (e)**

 $\sim 10^{-1}$ 



 $- 222 -$ 

**TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (f)**



**TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (g)**

 $\sim 10^7$ 



**TABLE 3.3.8: Continuation (h)**

- \* Identified by comparison with an authentic standard
- 1 Number in parenthesis corresponds to the peak number m Figure 3.3.3(a) and Table 3.3.4.
- 2 Number in parenthesis corresponds to the peak number in Figure 3.3.3(b) and 3.3.5.



Identity of peaks;  $A = n$ -Hexanoic acid

 $\bar{z}$ 

- $B =$  Benzoic acid  $C =$  Lactic acid  $D = 0$ xalic acid  $E = o-Anisic acid$  $F =$  Succinic acid G = Adipic + Glutaric acids
- H = 3-Hydroxy-Benzoic acid
- I = Pimelic acid
- $J = Hippuric$
- K = 4-Hydroxy-Benzoic acid
- $L = Azelaic acid$

l,

M = iso-Citric acid

FIGURE 3.3.2: Chromatogram obtained for the analysis of a methylated extract of a pooled sample of greyhound urine.



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 $\ddot{\phantom{a}}$ 



FIGURE 3.3.3a: Chromatograms obtained for the analysis of methylated extracts of urine samples taken from a female greyhound at different times.

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FIGURE 3.3.3b: Chromatograms obtained for the analysis of methylated<br>extracts of urine samples taken from a female greyhound at different times.



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FIGURE 3.3.4: Chromatograms obtained for the analysis of methylated extracts of urine samples taken from a male greyhound at different times.





 $-229 -$ 

**FIGURE 3.3.5: Chromatograms obtained for the analysis of methylated** extracts of urine samples taken from a male greyhound at different **times .**





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FIGURE 3.3.6: Chromatogram obtained for the analysis of a methylated **extract of a pooled sample of greyhound urine. The peak numbers correspond to those in Table 3.3.4.**



**BLK3 5 <sup>1</sup>9 - 8 4 0 M E T H Y L R T E D B L K** R IT IC<br>CAL IU PCAL



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**FIGURE 3.3.7: Chromatogram obtained for the analysis of trimethylsilylated extract of a pooled sample of greyhound urine, peak numbers correspond to those in Table 3.3.5. a The**





FIGURE 3.3.8: Chromatogram obtained for analysis the  $\circ$ f  $\mathbf{a}$ tert-butyldimethylsilylated extract of a pooled sample of greyhound urine. The peak numbers correspond to those in Table 3.3.6.





FIGURE 3.3.9: Chromatogram obtained for the analysis of a methylated/<br>silylated extract of a pooled sample of greyhound urine. The peak<br>numbers correspond to those in Table 3.3.7.

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### **3.4 DISCUSSION**

## 3.4.1 URINARY ACID STANDARDS

**A selection of organic acid standards known to occur in human urine [118] was reacted with three derivatisation reagents; seventeen acids were detected as their methyl derivatives, twenty-three as their** trimethylsilyl (TMS) derivatives and fourteen as their tert-butyldimethylsilyl (BDMS) derivatives.

**The methylated acids appeared to be stable but the** silylated derivatives hydrolysed on evaporation of the **reagents. When silylation of the acids was first examined in this project the reagents were evaporated and the residue redissolved in hexane before analysis. Since the evaporation step resulted in the hydrolysis of the silylated derivatives it was decided to omit this step and inject the standards directly in the reagent. The BDMS derivatives were also injected directly in the reagent.**

**A summary of the retention data obtained for the three derivatives is given in Table 3.4.1. This table illustrates that for each acid listed the methyl derivative elutes first, followed by the TMS derivative and lastly the BDMS derivative. The lengthening in retention time is due to an increase in molecular weight; methylation increases the molecular weight of a monocarboxylic acid by 14 units, silylation increases it by 72 units and tert-butyIdimethylsilylation increases it by 114 units. This effect is exemplified in the increasing retention times of the various derivatives of**

**- 235 -**



TABLE 3.4.1: Gas chromatographic retention indices for the methylated, silylated and <u>tert</u>-butyldimethyl silylated derivatives of standard organic acids.

**hexanoic acid. The methyl ester of hexanoic acid has a retention indice of 917, the TMS ester elutes at 1062 and the BDMS ester has a retention indice of 1380. The** increase in retention is further emphasised in the **dicarboxylic acids when there are two carboxylic groups available for derivatisation, as, for example, in the** three derivatives of adipic acid.

**This effect on retention time accounts for the fact that glycollic and malic acids were detected as their silyl esters but not as their methyl esters; the methylated acids eluted too close to the solvent front to** be detected. Three of the acids, iso-butyric, n-butyric **and iso-valeric were not detected as either the silyl or the methyl derivative as they were also masked by the solvent front.**

**Two unsaturated acids, cis-aconitic and fumarie acids, were not detected as their methyl esters but were** successfully silylated. It is known that acids of this **type form non-volatile pyrazoline derivatives, when** reacted with diazomethane, by substitution across the **double bond [160-162].**

**The two 'sugar acids' which were examined, ascorbic and glucuronic acids, did not chromatograph as their methyl esters. These compounds contain several hydroxy groups, which would not be methylated and the compounds would therefore be too polar to chromatograph under the conditions used. Ascorbic acid chromatographed as a single peak corresponding to the silyl derivative of the**

**- 2 3 7 -**

**cyclic compound. Glucuronic acid gave two peaks with very similar mass spectra. These two peaks could be due to the** silyl derivatives of two isomers of glucuronic acid.

# (a) MASS SPECTRA OF METHYLATED DERIVATIVES OF ORGANIC **ACID STANDARDS**

**The principal cleavage of carbonyl compounds is alpha to the c=o group;**

$$
R - C \xrightarrow{O^{\dagger}} R - C \equiv 0^{\dagger} + X'
$$

The formation of acylium ions by loss of H<sup>e</sup>, R<sup>'</sup> , R<sup>'</sup> O', HO<sup>\*</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>N<sup>\*</sup> is an important diagnostic feature of the **mass spectra of aldehydes, ketones, esters, acids and amides, respectively. in the fragmentation of methyl esters four possible ions can be formed by cleavage alpha to the carbonyl group:**

$$
R \xrightarrow{1} C \xrightarrow{1} OCH_3
$$
  
\n $R \xrightarrow{1} C \xrightarrow{2} OCH_3$   
\n $R \xrightarrow{1} C \xrightarrow{2} OCH_3$   
\n $R - C \equiv 0^* \text{ toCH}_3$ 

The formation of the acylium ion by loss of a CH<sub>2</sub>O **radical (m/z 31) and the loss of a CO^CH^ radical (m/z 59) are two frequently observed fragmentations in the spectra of methyl esters and can be seen for many of the standard acids listed in Table 3.3.1.**

**Another useful feature in identifying carbonyl compounds is the loss of an alkene from the substituent group, with hydrogen transfer to the carbonyl oxygen.**

This fragmentation is called the McLafferty rearrangement **since** F.w. **McLafferty first observed this reaction when studying the mass spectra of a series of aliphatic methyl** esters in the 1950's. The McLafferty rearrangement is **illustrated below:**



The base peak in the mass spectrum of methyl hexanoate is **the McLafferty rearrangement ion at m/z 74.**

**The aromatic methyl esters listed in Table 3.3.1 all contain a distinctive molecular ion and have an M-31 ion as the base peak. Another dominant fragmentation seen in the mass spectra of the aromatic esters is the M-59 peak, mentioned earlier.**

**Benzoyl compounds also give characteristic m/z 105 and 77 peaks in their mass spectra. These fragmentations are illustrated in Figure 3.4.1. Benzyl compounds generally** afford  $C_7H_7^+$  (m/z 91) and its decomposition product  $C_gH_5^+$  (m/z 65), as shown in **Figure 3.4.2.**

**indole-3-acetic acid and hippuric acid both follow the Nitrogen Rule by having odd molecular weights. A discussion of the spectra of methyl esters of amino acid conjugates is given in Section 3.4.3.**

# **(b) MASS SPECTRA OF SILYLATED DERIVATIVES OF ORGANIC ACID STANDARDS**

**The mass spectra of silylated derivatives often**

**FIGURE 3.4.1: The m/z 105 and its decomposition products are characteristic of benzoyl compounds.**



**FIGURE 3.4.2: The m/z 91 ion and its decomposition products are characteristic of benzyl compounds.**

 $C_6H_5CH_2R$ <sup>- $R$ </sup>  $(R)$   $-C_2H_2$   $C_5H_5$ **m /z 91 m /z 65 TROPYLIUM ION**

**contain intense ions at m/z 73 , 74, 75, 76, 147 and 148, which have low diagnostic significance, the structures of the m/z 73 and 75 ions are illustrated in Figure 2.5.20. A ubiquitous ion found in compounds with two or more TMS groups occurs at m/z 147 and is formed by a rearrangement reaction [113]; its structure is depicted below:**

$$
TMS - \dot{C} = \begin{cases} CH_3 \\ I \\ I \\ CH_3 \end{cases}
$$

#### **m/z 147**

**Table 3.3.2 illustrates that the base peak in the mass spectra of silylated compounds is frequently at m/z 73 and the 147 ion is seen in many of the mass spectra listed including those of aconitie, azalaie, glutaric and pimelic acids.**

**It is evident from Table 3.3.2 that the molecular ions of silylated compounds are frequently not detected or are of low relative abundance. However, a fragment ion at M - 1 5 , arising by loss of a methyl radical from a TMS function, is always present and serves to indicate the molecular weight. A fragment equivalent to the McLafferty rearrangement ion at m/z 74 in methyl esters is at m/z 132 in the spectra of trimethylsilyl esters and is found in cases where the gamma hydrogen rearrangement is possible. As for the aromatic methyl esters, the aromatic silyl esters often contain ions at m/z 77, 91 and 105. The silyl esters of indole-3-acetic and hippuric acids also** conform to the Nitrogen Rule and have molecular weights of **319 and 215, respectively.**

### (c) MASS SPECTRA OF tert-BUTYLDIMETHYLSILYLATED **DERIVATIVES OF ORGANIC ACID STANDARDS**

**The BDMS derivative has not previously been used for the identification of urinary organic acids. Like the silylated derivatives, the spectra of BDMS derivatives also contain intense ions at m/z 73, 75 and 147 and aromatic BDMS esters exhibit ions at m/z 77, 91 and 105.**

**Table 3.3.3 illustrates that the BDMS esters do not normally exhibit a mo lecular ion. An M-l ion of low intensity, however, is often present and indicates the molecular weight. A more useful diagnostic ion invariably seen at M-57 is due to loss of the tertiary butyl radical. 3.4.2 NORMAL URINARY ACID PROFILE OF THE RACING GREYHOUND**

**in order to obtain the average "normal" urinary acid profile of the racing greyhound, several attempts were made to collect twenty-four hour urine samples. It was not always possible to collect a complete twenty-four hour urine due to problems encountered with the animals. Although the animal was kept in the metabolic cage for a twenty-four hour period it frequently would not urinate in the cage. on release the animal would urinate and the animal nurses would attempt to collect a full sample, but this was not always possible. catheterisation was tried on a few occasions, but this was thought to be too traumatic to the animals and to carry too high a risk of infection to carry out on a regular basis. in consequence the average profile was taken on pooled urine samples collected over an extended period of several days, individual samples in this series were analysed separately as discussed in section 3.3.2.**

**- 2 4 2 -**

**- 243 -**

# **3.4.3 COMPARISON OF DERIVATIVES AND IDENTIFICATION OF GREYHOUND URINARY ACIDS**

**The chromatogram of the methylated extract was less complex than the other three chromatograms. This is most likely due to the fact that various hydroxylated compounds were not methylated on the hydroxyl functions and were too polar to chromatograph successfully. By contrast, the hydroxy groups can be silylated and also tert-butyldimethylsilylated, giving more complex profiles. When** several urine extracts were chromatographed in sequence it was noted that the injection liner and the top of the **column became contaminated. As a result, the injection liner was frequently cleaned and silylated to prevent polar material adsorbing on the inner glass surface. To maintain good chromatographic performance the front few centimetres of the column were removed when the chromatography was observed to have deteriorated. Current alternatives to this procedure are washing of the column** (bonded phases) and incorporation of a retention gap to **protect the analytical column.**

**The remainder of this section deals with the analysis of greyhound urinary acids as their methyl esters** and as their trimethylsilyl derivatives.

# (a) MASS SPECTRA OF ORGANIC ACIDS FOUND IN A METHYLATED **EXTRACT OF GREYHOUND URINE**

**The mass spectra of long-chain aliphatic methyl esters have been described extensively by Ryhage arid Stenhagen [163 and references therein]. The molecular ions are present and increase in intensity with increasing**

**chain length. The M-31 ion, conversely, decreases in intensity with increasing chain length. in addition to the m/z 74 base peak (already mentioned in section 3.4.1), a dominant ion in methyl ester spectra is found at m/z 87. This is the most intense ion in a series which corresponds to m/z (59 + 14n), i.e. at 73, 87, 101, 115, 129, 143, 157, etc. The lowest member, m/z 73, is** insignificant, whereas the abundance of m/z 87 is high and **is favoured by resonance stabilisation. Ryhage and St en ha ge n point out that in this ion series there is a periodic intensity enhancement every four methylene groups at m/z 143 , 199 , 255, etc. This can be clearly seen in the spectrum of methyl stearate (Figure 3.4.3). The other long-chain fatty acids identified also show evidence of these trends.**

**The spectra of the methyl esters of dibasic acids are more complex and differ considerably from the monobasic compounds. They have low-abundance molecular ions but usually M-31 peaks are evident. In addition to** the (59 + 14n) series of ions characteristic of the **monobas ic esters two other series may be evident, i.e. (27 + 1 4 n ) , pr esent in all diesters, and (84 + 1 4 n ) . Evidence of these three series is present in the spectra of suberic and azelaic acids (Figure 3.4.3) identified in the extract of greyhound urine.**

**A large number of aromatic compounds was identified in the urine extract, about fourteen of them as their methyl esters.**

**- 2 4 4 -**

FIGURE  $3.4.3:$ The mass spectra of the methyl esters of stearic, suberic and azelaic acids obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine.



The presence of the aromatic ring appears to confer **great stability on the molecular ions, which are much more speaking all of the aromatic methyl esters identified did** show prominent molecular ions. The other ions present in **the spectra of aromatic compounds, m/z 77, 91 and 105, already mentioned in Section 3.4.1 are evident in the spectra listed in Table 3.3.4. Two examples of the spectra obtained for aromatic compounds are given in Figure 3.4.4. prominent than for aliphatic compounds. Generally**

**The nitrogen-containing acids identified all had odd molecular weights. An unusual nitrogen-containing** acid identified in an extract of the greyhound urine was 2-amino-benzoic acid (peak No.5 in Table 3.3.4). This compound illustrates a phenomena known as the 'ortho effect'. When two substituents are meta or para they cannot interact through space, but when they are **ortho** they can exhibit the 'ortho effect'. For instance, the base peak in the spectrum of the methyl ester of 2-amino-benzoic acid is at m/z 119 which is a loss of 32  $(CH_3OH)$ , instead of the usual loss of 31  $(-OCH_3)$ . This could be explained by the hydrogen transfer **illustrated below:**



A.

**A similar ortho effect is seen for mefenamic acid (Figure 2 .5 .1 2, pl35).**

**- 2 4 6 -**

**FIGURE 3.4.4: The mass spectra of the methyl esters of methoxy phenylacetic and 3,4-dimethoxy-cinnamic acids obtained from the GC-MS** analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine.





 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\frac{d^2}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{2}\left(1-\frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ 

**Another tentatively assigned structures are of various co-workers [159] N-aeylglyeines as N-aeylglyeines identified urine extract in the greyhound were aromatic and all of their mass molecular ions, authentic standard therefore its mass spectrum positively identified, of hippuric acid The mass spectrum is very simple and shows associated with two main features the glycine side chain; earbomethoxy group which results from cleavage of and M-8 8 the amide bond retention of charge on the acyl CO-NH with group (r c o + ) The other acid conjugate (Figure 3.4.5). structures identified from their were then tentatively molecular weights and from fragmentation of of hippuric acid. The the methyl ester M-88 ion, seen of the methyl ester of in the spectrum hippuric acid, the base peak or a major ion formed either in almost phenylacetylglycine 4-hydroxy analogue. These and its molecules retain the the glycyl group to give charge on m/z 88 as a major ion. which have been methyl esters Ramsdell and of twenty-one All of the spectra contained available as an was loss of the a knowledge of the spectra, exceptions being group of compounds amino acid conjugates.** the spectra **their methyl esters. Hippuric acid was M--5 9 due to all of the**

**Two other involving the amide group fragmentations are also of significance, cleavage of the R-CO bond namely to yield M-116 High-resolution mass of the latter has shown measurementformation of m/z 30. and the**

**FIGURE 3.4.5: The mass spectrum of the methyl ester of hippuric acid obtained from the GC—MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine.**



it to have the composition  $CH_2 = {}^+NH_2$  [159] and it **is probably formed as shown below:**



**A significant ion in almost all spectra is [M-116]+ and this is the base peak in cases where the ion is stabilised, for example, phenylacetylglycine.**

**in addition to glycine conjugates, three** other conjugates were identified in the urine of **the greyhound, namely, 4-hydroxy-phenylacetyl-alanine, phenylacetyl-cysteine and N-acety1-tryptophan** (Figure 3.4.6). The spectrum of 4-hydroxy-phenyl**acetyl-alanine has its base peak at m/z 107. This ion** arises from M-130, a homologous equivalent to the M-116 **ion in the glycine conjugate spectra. The presence of an** ion at m/z 34 (H<sub>2</sub>S) supports the fact that component number 52 in Figure 3.3.6 is a cysteine conjugate.

The mass spectra of the methyl esters of 4-hydroxy-FIGURE 3.4.6: phenylacetyl-alanine, phenylacetyl-cysteine and N-acetyl-tryptophan obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine.



## (b) MASS SPECTRA OF ORGANIC ACIDS FOUND IN A SILYLATED **EXTRACT OF GREYHOUND URINE**

**As mentioned earlier, the aliphatic acid TMS esters give molecular ions of low intensity, alth ou gh a fragment ion at M - 15 is always present and serves to indicate the** molecular weight of the compound. The spectrum of **hydroxy-heptanoic acid TMS ester (Figure 3.4.7)** illustrates many of the features common in spectra of short-chain hydroxy-acids. The presence of the silyl **ether in the chain results in the alpha cleavage ion m /2 131, where the charge has been retained on the** TMS-ether fragment. Retention of charge on the carboxy **ether gives m/z 117. The fragmentation pattern indicates** that the hydroxy group is either in the 3- or 5-position.

**In long-chain acids, a series of carboxy** ester-containing ions analogous to those in the mass **spectra of methyl esters is observed at m/z 145, 159, 173, etc. This series also shows some periodicity, favouring** ions at 145, 201, 257, etc. In addition, methane is lost **from these to give a second lower-intensity ion series (m/z 129, 185, 269 ....)•**

**The M c L a f f e r t y r e a r r a n g e m e n t peak, is prominent at m/z 132, as previously mentioned.**

**The mass spectra of diacids show the presence of** additional fragmentation pathways resulting from the **additional silyl group, notably the presence of rearrangement products such as the ions at m/z 204 and 217 which have t.he structures shown below [164]:-**



FIGURE 3.4.7: The mass spectrum of the silylated ester of hydroxyheptanoic acid obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a silylated extract of greyhound urine.



**These ions are considered to be equivalent to the** hydrogen rearrangement ions at m/z 74 and 87 respectively **in the spectra of methyl esters. As noted above, the additional silyl group also gives rise to a commonlyobserved ion at m/z 147, w hich is useful as an indicator that at least two silyl groups are present. Finally, the spectra of the dibasic acids show the presence of ions resulting from decarboxylation (M-44, for example m/z 245** in the spectrum of pimelic acid), although in the present **study these did not reach the same degree of prominence as in previous work [164].**

The fragmentation patterns of aromatic acid silyl **derivatives are influenced by the presence of the aromatic ring which confers the molecule with some stability, resulting in visible, and in some cases prominent, M^** and M-15<sup>+</sup> ions. As expected, the fragmentation is **also directed by the ester moiety, giving rise to characteristic ions ac cording to the location of the carboxyl group - on the ring or isolated from it by one or more methylene carbon atoms. These features are shown by the three examples given in Figure 3.4.8. In the spectrum** of 4-HO-benzoic acid, decarboxylation occurs from the M-15 **ion by a cyclic mechanism [165]:**



FIGURE 3.4.8: The mass spectra of the silylated esters of 4-hydroxybenzoic, 4-hydroxy-phenylacetic and 4-hydroxy-mandelic acids obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a silylated extract of greyhound urine.



nne<br>200

8

 $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$ æ

 $\sim$ 

 $700$ 

4-Hydroxy-Mandelic Acid tri-TMS

 $\overline{\mathbf{r}}$ 

**OTMS** 

.<br>400

ll<br>O

**TMSO** 

<del>ייייד</del><br>300

When the carboxy group is on an aliphatic carbon **atom, as in phenyl acetic acid and its analogues, this** mechanism is no longer possible and decarboxylation occurs **directly from the molecular ion.**

In 4-HO-benzoic acid, loss of the silyloxy group **gives rise to an M-89 ion rather than the more familiar M-90 ion, because the carboxy group is directly substituted on the aromatic ring. By contrast, the structure of 4-HO-phenylacetic acid allows the possibility of loss of trimeth yls il ano l (M-90) and this ion is indeed visible at m/z 206, though at low intensity. The** preferred mechanism is, instead, loss of the carboxysilyl **group (M-117), giving rise to the base peak at m/z 179. The presence of an additional directing group on the side chain, such as the trimethylsilyloxy group in 4-HO-mandelic acid, further promotes this fragmentation and in this instance most of the ion current is carried by the M-117 ion at m/z 267.**

**Differences between aromatic and aliphatic acids also exist when these are conjugated with amino acids: the spectra of hippuric acid and N-phenylacetyl-glyeine are illustrated for comparison in Figure 3.4.9. under the conditons used for silylation, the amide nitrogen was not derivatised. In the spectrum of hippuric acid,** decarboxylation occurs together with loss of a proton, **giving rise to a product ion which is stabilised by the aromatic ring. By the same token, the expected cleavage reaction through the amide carbon-nitrogen bond leaves the**

**- 2 5 6 -**

**FIGURE 3.4.9: The mass spectra of the silylated esters of hippuric acid and N-phenylacetyl-glycine obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a silylated extract of greyhound urine.**



**charge on the aromatic moiety and not on the aliphatic** residue. In the spectrum of N-phenylacetyl glycine, **dec arboxylation gives rise to an M-44 ion but cleavage of the amide is accom panied by further loss of a hydrogen atom to give the ion at m/z 118, which is presumably also** stabilised by delocalisation of the charge into the **aromatic ring.**

 $\label{eq:2.1} \left\langle \left\langle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \right\rangle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \right\rangle = \left\langle \left\langle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \right\rangle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \right\rangle = \left\langle \left\langle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \right\rangle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \right\rangle = \left\langle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \right\rangle \hat{X}_{\alpha} \hat{X}_{\alpha} \hat{X}_{\alpha}$ 

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### **3.5 CONCLUSION**

**It is apparent from a consideration of Tables 3.3.4-7 that some components in the extracts remain un identified and that the number of unidentified substances is greatest in the BDMS and methyl ester/silyl ether samples. This reflects the general problem of identifying unknown materials purely on the basis of their** mass spectra, a difficult and skillful task which depends greatly on the availability of reference data. In the **present instance, few data were available for those two derivatives and identification of acids was based on a knowledge of the types of acid present and on the presence of ions in the mass spectra consistent with the proposed structures.**

**It is concluded that, while novel derivatives such** as the BDMS derivative yield useful mass spectra **characterised by the presence of valuable diagnostic ions,** a substantial amount of work requires to be done to enable **them to be used effectively in screening for unknown** substances, notably to establish a database of spectra of **urinary acids derivatives.**

**Subsequent studies of the metabolism of NSAIDs were based on methylated extracts for this reason. Also, because the metabolic work was carried out in parallel with the urinary acid analysis, an early decision required** to be taken concerning which derivative to use and the methyl derivatives were chosen because of the simpler **nature of the chromatogram.**

#### **- 2 6 0 -**

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

#### **DRUG METABOLISM**

# **4.1** INTRODUCTION

In developing a screening procedure to comply, for **example, with the International Olympic Committee's** requirements, it is necessary for the analyst to know:

**(a) The structures of the target analytes.**

**(b) The e xcretion rates and routes.**

(c) The time period over which excretion takes place.

(d) The time period over which the methodology can **detect the target analytes.**

**Having established the urinary acid profile for the greyhound, and selected derivatisation procedures and analytical methods, it was necessary to compile data on** the metabolism and pharmacokinetics of individual NSAIDs. The development of a general screening procedure requires **GC retention and mass spectral data for the metabolites as well as the parent drugs. While some information is available on the metabolism of these compounds in humans and other mammals, including rats, rabbits and beagle** dogs, it was expected that both the metabolism and **kinetics would differ in the greyhound, notably because of its lean physique and small fat depot.**

**An additional requirement of the N.G.R.C. is that drugs and their metabolites must be analysed quantitatively in urine to allow an interpretation to be**

**made of the significance of drugs detected.**

**Since the volume of urine excreted varies according** to the condition of the dog the concentration of drugs **present will also vary. A common method for compensating** for these differences is to relate the urinary drug level **to the creatinine concentration. Creatinine is excreted from the body at a constant rate [166]. This approach was used in the present study.**

**The following sections deal with the metabolism of five selected NSAIDs which are amongst the most commonly used drugs of this type and which were considered to be suitable model compounds. Ibuprofen is readily available** as a non-proprietary drug and phenylbutazone has been previously detected in the course of routine race track **testing.**

## **4.2 GENERAL PHARMACOLOGY OF THE NSAIDs**

**Non-s t e r o i d a l anti-inflammatory drugs have been in use for more than a century. The active ingredient in the willow bark, salicin, was first discovered by Leroux** in 1827 and in November of 1874, Thomas MacLagan [167], a Dundee physician first used salicin to treat a patient **with rheumatic fever. Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) was synthesised in 1853, but the drug was not used until 1899. since then it has remained one of the most widely employed remedies.**

**Due to the side effects of salicylic acid-based drugs, considerable effort has been expended to develop new compounds with similar pharmacological properties.**

**but with fewer side effects. In the 1950s the first successful alternative was mefenamic acid, followed in 1963 by indomethacin and in 1964 by ibuprofen. Many hundreds of analogues of these compounds have been synthesised but only about twelve are commonly prescribed in the U.K. (Table 1.3.1).**

Although the NSAIDs have a wide range of chemical **structures, they share a common set of pharmacological effects (anti-inflammatory, anti-pyretic and analgesic)** which are best understood on the basis of their mechanism **of action (Figure 4.2.1). This lies in the inhibition of prostaglandin biosynthesis at the step catalysed by cyclo-oxygenase [169]. While the detailed mechanism of this effect is not fully understood, available evidence suggests that the drugs bind to a site on the enzyme which is not the active site but is sufficiently close to it to inhibit the enzyme's catalytic activity. Prostaglandins are involved in the pathogenesis of inflammation and fever [5]. prostaglandins of the E and F groups are involved in the mediation of the inflammatory** response [170] and a rise in the concentration of **prostaglandins in the brain is associated with disturbance** of the thermoregulatory centre in the hypothalmus causing **an increase in body temperature (PGE^j^ is one of the most** potent pyrogens known). The inhibition of prostaglandin **synthesis in inflamed tissues also results in an analgesic affect. NSAIDs are effective against pain of low to**





**\* Reproduced from Reference 168.**
**moderate intensity, especially where this is peripheral.**

**The commonest adverse effects of therapeutic doses of NSAIDs are dyspepsia and gastric and intestinal ulceration with consequent anaemia due to occult blood loss. These side effects may also be related to the inhibition of prostaglandin biosynthesis. For example,** the gastric mucosa synthesises PGI<sub>2</sub> and the gastric **erosion caused by indomethacin and other drugs in** experimental animals can be prevented by administration of **prostaglandins.**

**An additional side effect, which is used beneficially in the treatment of patients suffering from coronary heart disease, is the inhibition of the formation of blood clots because NSAIDs prevent the formation of** thromboxane  $A_2$ , a potent aggregating agent, by the **platelets.**

1000 年100

#### **4.3** EXPERIMENTAL

#### **4.3.1 REAGENTS**

**In addition to the reagents listed in Section 3.2.1 the following were used in the drug metabolism work!**

- **1. A n h y d r o u s sodium acetate (BDH Chemicals Limited,** Poole, England).
- **2. Glacial acetic acid (BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole,** England).
- **3. H e l i x pomatia enzyme mixture (Uniscience Limited, London).**
- 4. 2, 3-Dicarboxy-naphthalene (Sigma Chemicals, Poole, England).
- **4.3.2 DRUG STANDARDS**

**The drug standards used were ibuprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen, mefenamic acid, phenylbutazone and flurbiprofen (as the internal standard). The suppliers of these drugs are listed in Section 2.3.2.**

**4.3.3 DRUG FORMULATIONS**

**The doses of drug administered to the greyhound were as follows:**



**- 2 6 6 -**

## **4.3.4 PREPARATION OF SODIUM ACETATE BUFFER**

**REAGENTS:**

- 0.5M Acetic Acid 2.9ml of glacial acetic acid in **100ml of distilled water.**
- 0.5M Sodium Acetate 8.203g of anhydrous sodium acetate **in 200ml of distilled water.**

**Acetic acid (0.5M,l00ml) is mixed with sodium acetate (0.5M,150ml) and the pH was adjusted to 4.6 with concentrated hydrochloric acid.**

## **4.3.5 PREPARATION OF STANDARD SOLUTIONS**

**About 5mg of drug standard was accurately weighed** into a 50ml volumetric flask. The drug was dissolved in **methanol and the solution made up to the mark with methanol and mixed well. An aliquot (250pl) of the appropriate standard solution (ibuprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen, mefenamic acid or phenylbutazone) and an aliquot** (250µ1) of the internal standard solution (flurbiprofen) **were mixed and to this solution was added a freshly prepared solution of diazomethane until the solution remained yellow. The solution was then allowed to stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before evaporating to dryness under a stream of oxygen-free nitrogen. The** residue was redissolved in methanol (250µ1) and 0.1-0.5µl **was used for GC-MS analysis.**

### **4.3.6 CALCULATIONS**

**Drug concentrations were calculated using the formula:**

 $^{\circ}$ 2 x C = Concentration of drug in unknown (jig/jil) **A 1**

**where:**

- **A = peak area ratio of drug to internal standard for the standard solution.**
- **A 2 = peak area ratio of drug to internal standard for the unknown solution.**
- $c =$  concentration of drug present in the standard solution (about 100µg/ml).

#### **4.3.7 PROTOCOL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF DRUGS AND THE COLLECTION OF BLOOD AND URINE SAMPLES**

Greyhounds were administered with a single dose of an anti-inflammatory drug (quantity given in **section 4.3.3) and blood and urine samples were taken by licensed kennel nurses according to a specified protocol. An example of a protocol sheet is given in Table 4.3.1.**

**The timetable for the collection of samples was supplied to the kennel nurses along with the drug to be administered. The times given were to be used as a guide and could be changed to fit in with normal routine in the kennels. if, however, the sampling times were changed the nurse could make a note of the actual sampling time on the sheet.**

**Blood samples were collected from a vein in the neck in heparinised tubes and were gently mixed immediately after collection. They were then centrifuged (3500 rpm,15 minutes) and the plasma obtained transferred to polypropylene tubes. urine samples were collected in a stainless steel jug, then transferred to polypropylene containers for carriage. All plasma and urine samples**

**TABLE 4.3.1: Timetable for collection of blood and urine.**

## **DOG USED:**

## **DRUG ADMINISTERED:**

## **QUANTITY**

**TIME AND DATE OF DOSING**



 $\sim 10$ 

 $\bar{z}$ 

 $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{A}}$  and

 $\sim 10^7$ 

**- 2 6 9 -**

**were stored at -20°c until analysed.**

**A washout period of about three weeks was allowed before an animal was administered with another drug.**

## **4.3.8 EXTRACTION AND PERIVATISATION OF URINE SAMPLES**

**Urine samples were extracted and derivatised according to the following procedure:**

**1. urine (5-20ml) was acidified with 1M HCl.**

- **2. The acidified urine was loaded on a freshly prepared column of XAD-2 resin (preparation of column described in section 3.2.5).**
- **3.** The column was washed with 200ml distilled water **(flow rate 4ml/min).**
- 4. The column was allowed to drain.
- 5. Organic material retained on the column was then **eluted with 100ml ethanol (flow rate 2ml/min).**
- 6. The eluate was evaporated to dryness on a rotary **evaporator.**
- **7. S o dium acetate buffer (pH 4.6, 20ml) was added and the tube sonicated for ca 30 seconds. Helix-pomatia enzyme mixture (300pl) was then added and incubated at 37°c for 24 hours to hydrolyse conjugates.**
- 8. After incubatation was complete the mixture was **allowed to cool to ambient laboratory temperature and then the total extract (including the enzymes and buffer) was loaded onto the XAD-2 column.**
- **9. Steps 3-6 were repeated.**
- 10. The residue was quantitatively transferred to a **vial with methanol and evaporated to dryness with oxygen-free nitrogen.**
- 11. The extract was redissolved in methanol containing the internal standard (flurbiprofen, 100pg/ml, **2 5 0 1 ) and f reshly-prepared ethereal diazomethane (500pl) was added. The solution was allowed to stand at room temperature for 15 minutes, then evaporated to dryness under a stream of oxygen-free nitrogen.**
- 12. The extract was redissolved in methanol (250µ1) and **0.1-0.5jil was used for GC-MS analysis.**

#### **4.3.9 EXTRACTION AND DERIVATISATION OF PLASMA SAMPLES**

**Plasma samples were extracted and derivatised according to the following procedure:**

- **1. A iml plasma sample was transferred to an extraction tube, then internal standard (flurbiprofen, loojig/ml, loopl) was added and vortex-mixed.**
- 2. The mixture was acidified with 1M HCl (250µ1), then **extracted with heptane: ethyl acetate, 4:1 (6ml) by vortexing for ca 30 seconds.**
- **3. The tube was then centrifuged (3500 rprn, 10 minutes) .**
- **4. A n aliquot (4ml) of the organic layer was removed to a fresh tube and evaporated to dryness under a stream of oxygen-free nitrogen.**
- **5. The extract was redissolved in methanol and a freshly prepared solution of diazomethane (500pl) was added. The solution was allowed to stand at room temperature for 15 minutes, and was then**

**6. The extract was redissolved in methanol (lOOjil) and 0.1-0. 5jil was used for GC-MS analysis.**

# **4.3.10 GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY/MASS SPECTROMETRY CONDITIONS**

GC-MS was carried out on a system similar to that **described in Section 2.5.2.**

**- 2 7 2 -**

## **4.4 IBUPROFEN**

## **4.4.1 INTRODUCTION**

**As mentioned earlier, ibuprofen was the first commercially successful drug in the series of substituted propionic acid derivatives. Naproxen and ketoprofen are also in this category and will be dealt with in** Sections 4.5 and 4.6. Ibuprofen is readily available and can be purchased in Britain without a prescription. Basic information about ibuprofen is summarised in Table 4.4.1.

Ibuprofen is rapidly and almost completely absorbed **from the gastro-intestinal tract following oral administration, giving rise to peak plasma levels after 1-2 hours. Therapeutic concentrations in plasma are** usually in the range 20-30pg/ml. A review of the **literature relating to toxicity of ibuprofen indicates that toxic effects in dogs might become apparent following single oral doses of I25mg/kg [171] and in humans** following doses of approximately 200mg/kg [172]. In two **reports of at tempted suicide plasma concentrations of ibuprofen in the range 400~840pg/ml were measured.** Although one subject was comatose all recovered within 24 **hours [173 & 174].**

**Ibuprofen has an asymmetric carbon and exists as**  $R(-)$  and  $S(+)$  optical isomers. The marketed preparation **is racemic consisting of equal parts of both isomers. The** s(+) **isomer of ibuprofen is much more active than the R(-)** isomer as an inhibitor of cyclo-oxygenase in vitro. However, in vivo the less potent R(-) isomer is converted

**TABLE 4.4.1: Description and basic pharmacokinetic data for ibuprofen.**

**Chemical Name <?£-Methyl-4-(2-methylpropyl)benzeneacetic acid**

**Chemical Abstracts Registry Number 15687-27-1**

**Non-Proprietary Name Ibuprofen**





**c 13h 18°2**

**Empirical Formula Structural Formula**



**Molecular Weight Dissociation Constant Dissociation Constant 206.27**  $pKa = 4.4, 5.2$ 

**Physical Properties**

**A white crystalline stable solid, Melting point 75-77°C. Practically insoluble in water; soluble 1 in 1.5 of ethanol, 1 in 1 of chloroform and 1 in 2 of ether.**

**Dose Plasma Half-Life 200, 400 and 600mg tablets. Total daily dose up to 2400mg, although usually 1200-1800mg.**

**About 2 hours**

**Protein Binding Volume of Distribution 99% About 0.1 litre/kg**

to the S(+) isomer; consequently, it is difficult to detect differences in the pharmacological activity of the **two isomers in whole-animal studies [175]. The half-life** of the active  $S(+)$  isomer is longer than that of the  $R(-)$ **isomer [176].**

#### **4.4.2 METABOLISM AND EXCRETION**

**The metabolism of ibuprofen in mammals has been described by Mills and Co-workers [177]. in this and subsequent sections only humans and dogs will be considered.**

**Four metabolites have been identified in the urine of both species (Figure 4.4.1) although the relative proportions differ as shown in Table 4.4.2 [178-180]. Although ibuprofen disappears more slowly from plasma in dogs than in other species, the metabolites have not been detected in dog plasma suggesting that the metabolites are formed slowly and excreted rapidly. It has also been** found that bile is an important route of excretion in the **dog and about 25% of a dose is excreted in bile in the first three hours.**

**The literature data suggested the probable structures of ibuprofen metabolites in the greyhound but also that the relative proportions and excretion would be subject to species variation. In the present study published information concerning retention data and mass spectra of the known metabolites (Table 4.4.3) were used to search for the metabolites in greyhound urinary extracts.**

**FIGURE 4.4.1: The metabolism of ibuprofen.**

Metabolites A and B have been characterised as the dextrorotatory (+) **isomers (Reference 180).**



			Percentage of Dose Excreted
		Man	Dog.
	Ibuprofen		
Unconjugated	Metabolite A	15	9
	Metabolite B	42	
Conjugated	Ibuprofen	8	
	Metabolite A	20	23
	Metabolite B	9	13
TOTAL		95	54

**TABLE A.A.2: Excretion of ibuprofen and its metabolites in urine.\***

**\* taken from reference [172]**

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 $\sim 10^{11}$  km  $^{-1}$ 

 $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}})$  , where  $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$ 

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 $\sim 1000$  km  $^{-1}$ 

 $\sim 3\%$ 



Gas chromatographic and mass spectrometric data for the methylated derivatives of ibuprofen and TABLE 4.4.3:

**278 -**

## **4.4.3 RESULTS**

**Blood samples were collected from one greyhound and urine samples from two dogs according to the protocol described (Section 4.3.7). The samples were analysed according to the methods in section 4.3. The results obtained from the analysis of ibuprofen in the plasma of animal 1 are given in Table 4.4.4 and are illustrated as concentration versus time in Figure 4.4.2 and as log concentration versus time in Figure 4.4.3. The results obtained for the analysis of ibuprofen in urine samples (expressed as jig/mL urine and ^ig/mg creatinine) are summarised in Table 4.4.5 and are illustrated in Figure 4.4.4.**

**Metabolites A and B were identified in samples of greyhound urine, their mass spectra are given** in Figure 4.4.6. Metabolite A was detected in urine **samples taken from animal 2 at 2, 6, 24 and 30 hours after administration. Metabolite B was detected in urine samples** taken from animal 2 at 6 and 24 hours. Metabolites C and D were not detected. Relative concentrations of the **metabolites in each sample were calculated from the peak areas of selected mass chromatograms for the metabolites and the internal standard. Estimated real concentrations were calculated by assuming that the total ion chromatogram (TIC) response ratios for the metabolites were the same as that for ibuprofen, which was quantified using an authentic standard (Table 4.4.6). Figure 4.4.5 illustrates the excretion of ibuprofen and its two metabolites.**

**The total ion current chromatograms obtained from extracts of greyhound urine taken at 2, 6, 24 and 30 hours after the administration of 200mg of ibuprofen are** illustrated in Figure 4.4.7. These 4 chromatograms allow a comparison of the relative amounts of parent and **metabolites present and also illustrates the compounds which may interfere in the analysis for ibuprofen and its metabolites.**

**Figure 4.4.8 illustrates the total ion chromatogram obtained from an extract of greyhound urine (6 hour** sample) along with 4 mass chromatograms showing the **positions of ibuprofen (m/z 205), metabolite A (m/z 178), metabolite B (m/z 205) and flurbiprofen, the internal standard (m/z 199).**

### **4.4.4 DISCUSSION**

**In this study, a single 200mg dose of ibuprofen was adminis te re d to greyhounds of body weight 30kg, a dose of 6-7mg/kg and therefore higher than the normal adult dose in man of about 4mg/kg. The peak plasma level was observed 2 hours after dosage and was measured as 49pg/ml. This was consistent with the normal therapeutic range in man of 20-30pg/ml, considering the higher dosage level administered to the greyhounds. From the plasma data available for one greyhound (Figure 4.4.4,** Table 4.4.3) a plasma half-life of about 1 hour can be **estimated for the parent drug, using a single-exponential** model to describe tbe fall in level as the small number of data points does not allow a more complex analysis to be

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**carried out. This half-life value indicates that ibuprofen may be cleared more rapidly in the greyhound** than in man (half-life 2 hours) although a statistically significant number of trials would be necessary to make **this c o n clusion valid. Nevertheless, if the drug is cleared rapidly, this may reflect the absence of a significant body fat depot, one of the expected features of greyhound metabolism.**

**In man, the literature suggests [172] that a total** of about 8% of a dose of ibuprofen is excreted in the **urine as either the parent drug or as its glucuronide conjugate. The present study indicates that a much lower fraction (0.1% of the dose) is excreted in urine as the parent drug or its conjugate in the first 24 hours. As me ntioned below, it has not been possible to obtain a** quantitative measurement of the total fraction of dose **excreted in the urine as either the parent or metabolites: these me asurements normally require the use of radiolabelled compounds which were not available in this study. The other major route of excretion via the bile and faeces was not examined.**

**Urinary concentrations are sometimes difficult to interpret because of variations in the urinary output and are often corrected using creatinine as an internal standard to allow for fluctuations in urinary output. The curves shown in Figure 4.4.4 for corrected and uncorrected con centrations of ibuprofen have the same shape, indicating that the urinary output was regular during the**

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**course of the study. This was not true for all the metabolic experiments carried out (see below). in** addition, a comparison of the curves for the two dogs used in the study indicates a significant variation between **individuals during the absorption and excretion phases. These are influenced by many factors, including the concurrent diet, gastric pH and urinary pH. However, the latter was regularly monitored in the course of this work and was not found to vary sufficiently to affect urinary excretion to a significant extent. After about 30 hours,** extremely small concentrations of ibuprofen (ca 10ng/mL **urine) were present. The small levels were detected because the analysis was targeted for the drug using mass chromatograms i.e. for m/z 220 to locate methyl ibuprofen. However, in a general screening procedure, these peaks could have been easily missed or, if detected, the identification of the drug might remain uncertain.**

**Two known metabolites of ibuprofen were identified** in greyhound urine by comparison of their mass spectra and **gas chromatographic data with those published in the literature [176]. Their structures and mass spectra are** shown in Figure 4.4.6. In the absence of authentic standards of the metabolites, accurate quantification of **the metabolites was not possible. However, estimated concentrations were calculated using the (non-selective)** TIC chromatogram by assuming that the metabolites had the **same detector response as ibuprofen, which was ind ependently quantified using a standard solution. on**

**this basis, metabo lit e A was present at a peak con ce ntration 6 hours after dosage, of about 5 times that of ibuprofen and metabolite B was present at approximately half that of ibuprofen. Both metabolites were excreted over the same time interval as the parent drug. The** implications of these results for a screening programme **are:**

(a) The time limit for detection of ibuprofen and its **metabolites is 24-30 hours and this is not improved by using either metabolite as the target analyte instead of the parent drug.**

**(b) The d etection of ibuprofen can be confirmed by including me tabolite A, at least, in the list of target analytes in the screen. As both compounds are excreted** together, both should be detected if the drug has been **administered to the dog providing the sample.**

**The I.O.C. Medical Commission have ruled that, "the detect io n of a prohibited substance and/or one of its metab ol it es shall constitute an offence." This ruling is accepted by the N.G.R.C. provided it has been shown by the testing laboratory that the detected metabolite can be** unequivocally related to the administration of the parent drug and that the concentration of the detected substance **indicates that the performance of the dog would have been affected. The results indicate that if ibuprofen is detected it would have been administered in the 24 hours prior to the race meeting at which the sample was collected, and would constitute an offence under the rules of the N.G.R.C.**

**- 282 -**



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**TABLE 4.4. A: Results obtained for the analysis of ibuprofen in plasma samples taken from greyhound 1 following the oral administration of ibuprofen 2 0 0 mg.**



**TABLE 4.4.5: Results obtained for the analysis of ibuprofen in urine samples taken from two greyhounds following the oral administration of ibuprofen 2 0 0 mg.**

**TABLE 4.4.6: Results obtained for the analysis of metabolites A and B of ibuprofen in urine samples taken from greyhound 1 following the oral administration of ibuprofen 2 0 0 mg.**



**FIGURE 4.4.2:** Concentration versus time for the plasma ibuprofen levels obtained for greyhound 1 following the oral administration of ibuprofen 200mg.



FIGURE 4.4.3: Log concentration versus time for the plasma ibuprofen levels obtained for greyhound 1 following the oral administration of ibuprofen 200mg.  $\bar{1}$ 



FIGURE 4.4.4: Excretion of ibuprofen in the urine of two greyhounds following the oral administration of ibuprofen 200mg.



**FIGURE 4.4.5:** Excretion of ibuprofen and its two metabolites in the urine of greyhound 1 following the oral administration of ibuprofen 200mg.



**FIGURE 4. A.<sup>6</sup> : The mass spectra of the methylated esters of metabolite A and metabolite B obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine ( 6 hours after the** administration of 200mg of ibuprofen).



FIGURE 4.4.7: Chromatograms obtained from the GC-MS analysis of methylated extracts of greyhound urine (2 and 6 hours after the oral administration of 200mg ibuprofen).





FIGURE 4.4.7 (Continuation a): Chromatograms obtained from the GC-MS<br>analysis of methylated extracts of greyhound urine (24 and 30 hours after the oral administration of 200mg ibuprofen).





**FIGURE A.4.<sup>8</sup> : Total ion chromatogram and mass chromatograms (m/z 220, 178,205 and 199) obtained from the** GC-MS **analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine ( 6 hours after the oral administration of 2 0 0 mg ibuprofen).**



## **4.5 NAPROXEN**

#### **4.5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Naproxen is the second member in the series of substituted propionic acid derivatisves which was **administered to greyhounds. Basic information about** naproxen is summarised in Table 4.5.1. Naproxen is the active  $D(+)$  isomer of 6-methoxy- $\alpha$ -methyl-2-naphthalen**acetic acid. The inactive L(-) isomer is not contained in** naproxen. Naproxen is completely absorbed from the **gastro- in te st in al tract, and peak plasma levels are reached in 2-4 hours. After a single oral dose of 250mg, peak plasma levels of 30-40pg/ml are achieved [181]. The biological plasma half-life, independent of dose, is 10-17 hours. The area under the plasma concentration versus time curve increases linearly with dosage up to** 500mg twice a day, but with higher doses the plasma **response is non-linear [182]. This non-linear response at high doses can be attributed to accelerated renal clearance as a result of a rise in levels in free naproxen** when plasma protein binding capacity is exceeded. It has **been suggested [181] that this self-regulating mechanism, which limits naproxen plasma levels in man, may well limit** toxic effects should an overdose of naproxen be taken.

**Frey and Rieh reported in 1981 [183] the pharmacokinetics of naproxen in mongrel dogs. After oral administration, of 5mg/kg, the drug was rapidly absorbed and maximal plasma concentrations were found at 0.5-3 hours after administration. The elimination** **TABLE 4.5.1: Description and basic pharmacokinetic data for naproxen.**

**Chemical Name (s)-6-methoxy-£<.-methyl-2-naphthaleneacetie acid**

**Chemical Abstracts Registry Number 22204-53-1**

**Non-proprietary Name Naproxen**

**Proprietary Names Equiproxen, Floginax, Laser, Naixon, Naprosyn(e), Naprix, Naxen, Proxen and Xenar**

**Empirical Formula c 14h 14°3**

**Structural Formula**



**Molecular Weight Dissociation Constant**<br>230.26 **DKa** = 4.2  $pKa = 4.2$ 

**Physical Properties**

**A white crystalline powder. Melting point about 156°C. Practically insoluble in water; soluble 1 in 25 of ethanol, 1 in 15 of chloroform and 1 in 40 of ether.**

**Dose Plasma Half-Life 250 and 500mg tablets. 10 to 20 hours (mean 14) Total daily dose of about 500-1000mg**

**Protein Binding More than 99%**

**Volume of Distribution About 0.1 litre/kg**

**half-life ranged from 45-92 hours.**

**Fredell and strand [184] described the clinical course of a patient who was thought to have ingested 25g of naproxen. The patient developed mild transient nausea and indigestion. The serum naproxen concentration, obtained approximately is hours after ingestion, was 4l4jig/ml. Waugh and Keatinge [185] have reported the** development of hypoprothombinaemia in a patient who **ingested log of naproxen. in addition to the coagulation abnormality, the patient also experienced nausea which persisted for several days.**

#### **4.5.2 METABOLISM AND EXCRETION**

The main metabolite in human urine is  $6-hydroxy-\alpha$ **methyl-2-naphthylacetic acid (Figure 4.5.1) and is e x c r e t e d , like naproxen, to a large extent as the glucuronide conjugate [186]. A glycine conjugate of naproxen has also been identified.**

**Runkel and his colleagues [187] studied the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of naproxen in various laboratory animals and human** subjects. He reported that with the exception of the dog, **all of the species studied excreted naproxen and its metabolites predominantly in the urine. in the dog the major route was faecal excretion. in the human 94% of the dose administered appeared in the urine after 5 days, with only 1-2% in the faeces. only 5-6% of the drug appeared as unchanged naproxen, 28% as the demethylated naproxen and the remainder was in the form of conjugates of the drug (predominantly the glucuronide ester).**

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FIGURE 4.5.1: The metabolism of naproxen.



#### **4.5.3 RESULTS**

**A single 250mg dose of naproxen was administered to a greyhound and urine samples were collected according to the protocol described (Section 4.3.7). The samples were** analysed according to the methods in Section 4.3. The **results obtained for the analysis of naproxen in urine** samples (expressed as  $\mu$ g/ml urine and  $\mu$ g/mg creatinine) **are summarised in Table 4.5.2 and are illustrated in Figure 4.5.2.**

**The 6-0-des-methyl-naproxen metabolite was indentified in samples of greyhound urine: the mass** spectrum obtained is given in Figure 4.5.3. The **metabolite was detected in urine samples taken 24 and 48** hours after the administration of the drug but was not **detected in the remaining urine samples. Relative** concentrations of the metabolite in each sample were **calculated as l.04pg/ml in the 24 hour sample and 1.12pg/ml in the 48 hour sample from the peak areas of selected mass chromatograms for the metabolite and the internal standard. Estimated real concentrations were calculated by assuming that the Tic response ratio for the metabolite was the same as that for naproxen, which was quantified using an authentic standard.**

**The total ion current chromatograms obtained from extracts of grehound urine taken at 6, 24, 30 and 48** hours after the administration of 250mg of naproxen are **illustrated in Figure 4.5.4. These 4 chromatograms illustrate the relative amounts of naproxen and its**

**metabolite present with time and also the compounds which may interfere in the analysis.**

**Figure 4.5.5 illustrates the TIC and 3 mass chromatograms obtained from an extract of greyhound ur ine (48 hour sample). The mass chromatograms show the positions of naproxen (m/2 185), the 6-o-des-methyl-naproxen metabolite (m/z 171) and flurbiprofen, the internal standard (m/z 199).**

#### **4.5.4 DISCUSSION**

**The limited data available from this study of naproxen in the greyhound are of value for the detection of the drug in future as part of a screening process. In several ways, naproxen differs from ibuprofen, in terms of its metabolism, excretion and the interpretation of observed levels in urine.**

Naproxen is a more lipophilic drug than ibuprofen, **due to the presence of the naphthalene ring in its structure, and in common with many other drugs with a lipophilic moiety, it persists in the circulation for a relatively long time. The biological half lives of naproxen and ibuprofen (10-17 hours and 2-4 hours respectively) illustrate this effect. This observation in humans appears to be upheld for the greyhound also, and the drug was readily observed in urine for the duration of the period of observation in this study, 72 hours, and would continue to be measurable for some time afterwards. The drug was absorbed well orally and could be observed in urine 2-6 hours after dosing, peaking during the period**

**6-24 hours after dosing. The importance of parallel** measurements of urinary creatinine is well-illustrated in **this study: examination of Figure 4.5.2 shows that the corrected and uncorrected graphs of urinary naproxen concentrations are different and that the concentrations** of naproxen in the samples taken at 6, 24 and 72 hours are **significantly different after correction.**

The results indicate that naproxen is easily **detected in greyhound urine. The urinary concentration rises to several microgrammes per millilitre (uncorrected)** even after a single dose. Faecal excretion may be the **predominant route in at least some species of dog [187]** but appears not to pose a problem in this instance: as **with ibuprofen, faecal excretion of naproxen was not examined in the study. The known metabolite of naproxen (O-desmethyl naproxen) was observed in the study at lower concentrations than naproxen, but not in all samples, suggesting that the parent drug is the target analyte of choice: the presence of the metabolite may be helpful in** confirmation of the presence of naproxen but is not essential for a positive result in a urinary drug screen. The mass spectra of naproxen and its desmethyl metabolite show the presence of strong, characteristic ions, which **also aids the detection and confirmation of their presence** in urine. It is the presence of the naphthalene ring **which imparts stability to the structures and influences the fragmentation reactions. in addition, there are no major interferences in the urinary acid profile to hinder**

**- 297 -**

**the detection and quantification of either the drug or its metabolite (Figure 4.5.5). Even the non-selective TIC trace appears to be free from significant interference, suggesting that naproxen might be amenable to analysis by GC with FID detection.**

**No other conjugates of naproxen were detected in** this study, although the occurrence of a glycine conjugate **of the parent has been reported in the literature [186].** In the absence of mass spectral and chromatographic **data concerning this conjugate, the probable retention time and fragmentation pattern were predicted from those** of components in the urinary acid profile (delta-I = 535, **301, major fragments at m/z 242, 213 and 185 corresponding to loss of the carboxymethyl group and subsequent side-chain cleavages). However, examination of each of the urinary extracts failed to show the presence of this metabolite.**

**The creation in future of reliable criteria by which a urine sample will be considered to be positive for naproxen will clearly depend on the compilation of more data relating to a statistically significant number of dogs. Both plasma and urinary analysis will be required for this purpose. However, the present results have several implications for the screening process and interpretation of analytical results. Naproxen can be** detected for several days following administration of even **a single dose and it is likely that the drug will be detected long after it is significant to the performance**

**- 298 ~**

**of the dog concerned in the race meeting at which the sample was collected. An interpretation will need to be made with respect to when the drug was administered and the intention of the dog's owner. simple measurements of urinary concentration with creatinine correction may be sufficient if a threshold level is set, drawing from** experience in dealing with caffeine, which poses a similar **problem. For example, if the offence is defined as administration of naproxen less than three days prior to a race, then a suitable threshold level would be approximately 1 microgramme of naproxen per milligramme of creatinine.**
TABLE 4.5.2: Results obtained for the analysis of naproxen in urine samples taken from a greyhound following the oral administration of naproxen 250mg.



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FIGURE A.5.2: Excretion of naproxen in the urine of greyhoundfollowing the oral administration of naproxen 250mg.



FIGURE 4.5.3: The mass spectra of the methyl ester of the <sup>6</sup> -o-des-methyl-naproxen metabolite obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine administration of 250mg of naproxen).



FIGURE 4.5.4: Chromatograms obtained from the GC-MS analysis of methylated extracts of greyhound urine (6 and 24 hours after the oral administration of 250mg naproxen).



**VS 13 399-700 VS13 NRPROXEN GH URINE**





FIGURE 4.5.4 (Continuation a): Chromatograms obtained from the GC-MS analysis of methylated extracts of greyhound urine (30 and 48 hours after the oral administration of 250mg naproxen).



**V51S 399-700 VS1S NRPROXEN 30H URINE**

**V 5 1 6 399-700 VS18 NRPROXEN 48H URINE**



FIGURE 4.5.5: Total ion chromatogram and mass chromatograms (m/z 185, 171 and 199) obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine (48 hours after the oral administration of 250mg naproxen).



**- 306 -**

## **4.6 KETOPROFEN**

## **4.6.1 INTRODUCTION**

Basic information about ketoprofen, a propionic **acid derivative, is summarised in Table 4.6.1.**

**Pharmacokinetic studies on ketoprofen [188] have** shown that maximum concentrations of ketoprofen in plasma **occur 30 minutes to two hours after oral dosing, in man, therapeutic concentrations in plasma are in the range 3~23pg/ml. The plasma disappearance curve of ketoprofen** is multi-exponential, with a slower terminal phase of **elimination [189]. Jolou and co-workers [190] have studied the acute toxicity of ketoprofen administered orally and subcutaneously in various animals, including the dog. The average lethal dose in the different animals ranged between 100 to 200mg/kg. court and volans [191] have summarised data on 20 suspected cases of overdose with ketoprofen where the only clinical features were drowsiness, abdominal pain and vomiting.**

#### **4.6.2 METABOLISM AND EXCRETION**

**After oral administration of ketoprofen, in man, excre ti on varied greatly am ongst patients, 30-90% of the dose being excreted in 24 hours, but mostly during the first 6 hours [192]. in the dog, urinary excretion was relatively low, only 60% being excreted in 6 days [188].** Although ketoprofen is excreted in the bile, essentially **all is reabsorbed, and little drug is present in the faeces [193]. Ketoprofen excretion in the faeces only accounted for about 1% of a dose in man.**

TABLE 4.6.1: Description and basic pharmacokinetic data for ketoprofen.

Chemical Name

3-Benzoyl- $\alpha$ -methyl-benzeneacetic acid

Chemical Abstracts Registry Number 22071-15-4

Mon-Proprietary Name Ketoprofen



Empirical Formula  $C_{16}H_{14}O_3$ 

Structural Formula



Molecular Weight 254.29

Dissociation Constant not known

Physical Properties A white, crystalline powder. Melting point 93-96°C. Practically insoluble in water; freely soluble in ethanol, chloroform and ether.

Dose 50 and lOOmg capsules. Total daily dose of 100 to 250mg

Plasma Half-Life 1-4 hours.

Protein Binding about 95%

Volume of Distribution About 0.1 to 0.2 litre/kg.

**Ke t o p r o f e n is largely excreted as its glucuronide conjugate in most species. A minor metabolic route involves hydroxylation to form phenolic derivatives. The** detailed structures of the hydroxylated metabolites have **not been reported in the literature.**

#### **4.6.3 RESULTS**

**A single 50mg dose of ketoprofen was administered to a greyhound and urine samples were collected according to the protocol described (Section 4.3.7). The samples were analysed according to the methods in Section 4.3. The results obtained for the analysis of ketoprofen in urine are summarised in Table 4.6.2. (Creatinine measurements were not available in this study).**

**Figure 4.6.1 illustrates the TIC and 3 mass chromatograms obtained from an extract of greyhound urine (6 hour sample). The mass chromatograms show the positions of ketoprofen (m/z 268 and 209) and flurbiprofen, the internal standard (m/z 199).**

**Figure 4.6.2 illustrates the mass spectra of an interfering peak, observed immediately before ketoprofen, and that of a large peak which elutes just after ketoprofen. These two peaks remain unidentified but, on the basis of the ions present in their mass spectra, they could be ketoprofen metabolites or diazomethane artefacts (see also chapter 2).**

## **4.6.4 DISCUSSION**

**in this study a single oral dose of 50mg of** ketoprofen was administered to a greyhound (ca 1.5mg/kg).

Ketoprofen was detected at a high concentration in the **6-hour urine sample but thereafter relatively small amounts (2pg/ml) were detected up to 30 hours after administration, it has been reported [188] that urinary** excretion of ketoprofen in the dog (most likely a beagle) **is low but, in man, up to 90% of the dose could be excreted within 24 hours and mostly in the first 6 hours [192]. In this study about 46% of the dose administered to the greyhound was excreted in the first** 6 hours (taking into account the total volume of urine **collected in this period). The drug could not be detected after 48 hours.**

**The mass spectra in Figure 4.6.2 contain ions which are similar to the ketoprofen spectrum (Figure 2.5.10). The later-eluting peak has a molecular ion at m/z 282** (i.e. ketoprofen + 14) which suggests the addition of a CH<sub>2</sub> group. The identities of these peaks remain uncertain but could be due to a ketoprofen metabolite or a **diazomethane artefact (see DISCUSSION, Section 2.5). if one or both of these peaks were due to a diazomethane artefact then the quantification of ketoprofen using** diazomethane methylation would be difficult. It is **undesirable to have such products which could further complicate a screening procedure. The limited data available in this study serve as a starting point for further investigation. However, it appears that ketoprofen is rapidly eliminated in the urine of the** greyhound with peak levels at 6 hours after a single oral

dose. If ketoprofen was detected during a screening **procedure in the urine of a greyhound at a race meeting then the animal must have been administered with the drug** within the previous 24-30 hours. It is uncertain in this **case whether or not metabolites were detected: further work would be necessary to ascertain these facts.**



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TABLE A.<sup>6</sup> .2: Results obtained for samples taken from a greyhound ketoprofen 50mg. the analysis of ketoprofren in urine following the oral administration of

FIGURE 4.6.1: Total ion chromatogram and mass chromatograms (m/z 268, 209 and 199) obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine (6 hours after the oral administration of 50mg ketoprofen). The mass spectra of the unidentified components A and B are given in Figure 4.6.2.



FIGURE 4.6.2: Mass spectra of two substances co-extracted with ketoprofen from greyhound urine (components A and B in Figure 4.6.1).



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**- 314 -**

# **4.7 MEFENAMIC ACID**

# **4.7.1 INTRODUCTION**

Mefenamic acid is one of a series of substituted **N-phenyl anthranilic acid derivatives (or fenamates) and has been marketed since the 1960s. Basic information about mefenamic acid is summarised in Table 4.7.1.**

In a review of the metabolism of mefenamic acid by **Glazko [194] it was shown that, after oral administration, mefenamic acid is rapidly absorbed and that blood levels** reach a maximum in 2-4 hours. Following a single oral dose of lg to 6 subjects a mean plasma concentration of **lOpg/ml of free, unconjugated drug was attained which** dropped to a 0.1µg/ml in 24 hours. Two metabolites have **been isolated from plasma and identified as the 3'-hydroxymethyl derivative (Metabolite I), and 3'-carboxyl derivative (Metabolite II) (Figure 4.7.1). Metabolite I (present mainly as the glucuronide) attained peak plasma concentrations of about lOpg/ml after 3 hours, but disappeared from the plasma more slowly than the** parent. Metabolite II formed more slowly, with peak **plasma levels of about lOpg/ml occurring 6-8 hours after administration; approximately 50% of this metabolite was conjugated.**

**court and volans [191] have reported 73 mefenamic acid overdose cases and concluded that, unlike poisoning** with other NSAIDs, mefenamic acid overdose appears to cause convulsions. Balali-Mood and co-workers [195] **reported 54 mefenamic overdose cases over a period of 11** TABLE 4.7.1: Description and basic pharmacokinetic data for mefenamic acid.

Chemical Name

**2-[(2,3-Dimethylpropyl)amino-benzoic acid**

Chemical Abstracts Registry Number 61-68-7

Non-Proprietary Name Mefenamic Acid

Proprietary Names Coslan, Lysalgo, Parkemed, Ponstan, Ponstel, Ponsyl, Tanston and Vialidon.

Empirical Formula  $C_15H_15NO_2$ 

Structural Formula



Molecular Weight 241.28

Dissociation Constant  $pKa = 4.2$ 

Physical Properties

A white to greyish-white microcrystalline powder. Melting point 230-231°C with effervescence. Practically insoluble in water; soluble in 1 in 185 of ethanol, 1 in 150 of chloroform and 1 in 80 of ether; soluble in solutions of alkali hydroxides.

250mg tablets. About 3-4 hours 750-1500mg daily

Dose Plasma Half-Life

Protein Binding About 99%

FIGURE 4 7.1: Metabolic disposition of mefenamic acid in humans



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**years. Twenty-nine patients had plasma concentrations above the therapeutic range (lcyig/ml) on admission; 14 of these patients were asymptomatic (plasma concentration** range 14-62pg/ml), 15 had muscle twitching and 11 **progressed to grand mal convulsions (plasma concentration**  $range$  27-119pg/ml).

**Metabolic studies [196] have shown that mefenamic acid is also rapidly absorbed in dogs and peak plasma levels are achieved in 2-4 hours after oral administration. When mefenamic acid was administered to dogs in long term studies at a daily dose of 50mg/kg, no adverse clinical or tissue reactions were observed, but at a daily dose of lOOmg/kg slight hepatic damage was revealed on histological examination.**

#### **4.7.2 METABOLISM AND EXCRETION**

**In man about 52% of a dose is excreted in the urine in 48 hours (of this 6% is mefenamic acid, 25% is** Metabolite I and 21% is Metabolite II). The maximum **excretion rate for mefenamic acid was found in the 2-4 hour period after dosing, occurring mainly as the** glucuronide. Metabolite I excretion peaked in the 4-8 **hour period appearing almost entirely as the glucuronide** and Metabolite II excretion peaked in the 6-8 hour period, **wi th only about 30% conjugated. About 10-20% of a dose is excreted in the faeces over a 3 day period, mostly as** unconjugated Metabolite II.

**The major route of excretion of mefenamic acid in the dog is the faeces (appearing mainly as conjugated** **mefenamic acid), with only small amounts appearing in the urine [194]. it appears that dog liver lacks the enzyme systems required for the oxidation of the 3 '-methyl group to the hydroxymethyl.**

**in all species a high percentage of the administered dose is initially excreted in the bile but reabsorption from the intestine occurs (i.e. enterohepatic recycling) to varying extents in different species. The literature has suggested the possible structures of the mefenamic metabolites in the greyhound [194]. However, mass spectral data and GC retention times of the derivatives are not available.**

#### **4.7.3 RESULTS**

*A* **single oral dose of 250mg of mefenamic acid was administered to a greyhound. Blood and urine samples were collected and analysed according to the methods described in Section 4.3. The results obtained for the analysis of mefenamic acid in plasma are given in Table 4.7.2 and are illustrated as concentration versus time in Figure 4.7.2. The results obtained for the analysis of mefenamic acid in** urine samples (expressed as µg/ml urine and µg/mg **creatinine) are summarised in Table 4.7.3 and are illustrated in Figure 4.7.3.**

**Neither Metabolite I or II (Figure 4.7.1) were detected in any of the urinary extracts.**

**The TIC chromatogram obtained from an extract of greyhound urine (6 hour sample) along with 2 mass chromatograms showing the positions of mefenamic acid**

**- 318 -**

**(m/z 255) and 2,3-dicarboxy-naphthalene acetic acid, the internal standard (m/z 213) are illustrated in Figure 4.7.4.**

#### **4.7.4 DISCUSSION**

**Mefenamic acid appeared to be well absorbed orally in the greyhound, giving peak plasma concentrations of** unconjugated mefenamic acid of about 3 yg/ml after **2-3 hours, following a dose of 250 mg (approximately 8 mg/kg). This compares well w ith clinical data in man which indicated an average plasma concentration of 10 pg/ml after a single oral dose of 1 gram (approximately 20 mg/kg). However, in the present study, the plasma level fluctuated markedly during the period up to 48 hours after dosing and a plasma half-life was not measured: in human subjects this was reported as 3-4 hours. The reason for the changes in concentration which took place was not established in this single experiment but is thought to be** the result of enterohepatic circulation, which is known **from the literature to be a prominent feature of the pharmacology of mefenamic acid.**

**Urinary concentrations of mefenamic acid were low throughout the course of the study, maximising at 0.5 ^ig/ml after 6 hours. Towards the end of the** observation period, levels approaching the limit of **detection were found. This is consistent with the major route of excretion being via the faeces. in this experiment, the creatinine concentrations in all samples were similar, and creatinine correction did not alter the** **shape of the urinary excretion curve (Figure 4.7.3).**

**These results suggest that during a screening procedure mefenamic acid could be detected for 24-30 hours following a single dose, despite the fact that the drug is** excreted in urine to a very small extent. The mass **spectrum of the methyl ester of mefenamic provides salient diagnostic ions which permit the drug to be detected even** in the presence of a large interference (methyl linoleate, **Figure 4.7.4). No metabolites were observed in greyhound urine, leaving the parent drug as the target analyte.** Interpretation of measured levels within a drug control **programme will depend on the minimum period allowed between dosing an animal and a race: for example, a level** above 0.1 µg/ml (uncorrected) would suggest that the dog **had been given mefenamic acid wi thin 24 hours of the race meeting at which the sample was collected.**

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TABLE 4.7.2: Results obtained for the analysis of mefenamic acid in plasma samples taken from a greyhound following the oral administration of mefenamic acid 250mg.

TABLE 4.7.3: Results obtained for the analysis of mefenamic acid in urine samples taken from a greyhound following the oral administration of mefenamic acid 250mg.



FIGURE 4.7.2: Concentration versus time for the plasma mefenamic acid levels obtained from a greyhound following the oral administration of mefenamic acid, 250mg.



FIGURE 4.7.3: Excretion of mefenamic acid in the urine of a greyhound following the oral administration of mefenamic acid, 250mg.



FIGURE 4.7.4: Total ion chromatogram and mass chromatograms (m/z 255 and 213) obtained from the GC-MS analysis of a methylated extract of greyhound urine (6 hours after the oral administration of 250mg mefenamic acid).



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**- 324 -**

## **4.8 PHENYLBUTAZONE**

#### **4.8.1 INTRODUCTION**

**Phenylbutazone, the active ingredient of butazolidin, possesses anti-inflammatory, analgesic and anti-pyretic properties and has been used since 1949 in the treatment of rheumatic diseases. Due to serious toxicity (aplastic anaemia and agranulocytosis), mainly in the elderly, its use has been limited, since 1984 to the** clinical treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. Phenyl**butazone is one of a series of pyrazolone derivatives; basic information about this drug is summarised in Table 4.8.1.**

Phenylbutazone is almost completely absorbed after oral administration. Following single oral doses of 100, **300 and 600mg to 6 subjects, peak plasma concentrations of about 14, 38 and 75pg/ml, respectively, were obtained in 1 to 7 hours (197] . Bruce and co-workers have** reported [198] the pharmacokinetics of phenylbutazone in **the dog. After oral administration of a single I50mg dose** a maximum plasma concentration of 30.5pg/ml is achieved **after l hour. The plasma half-life was 2.5 hours. However other workers have reported [199] that the plasma half-life increases with the size of the dose, for example, after 10 and 50mg doses the mean half-lives were 2.8 and 8.1 hours, respectively. Repeated dosing of phenylbutazone appears to cause induction of enzymes responsible for its metabolism in dogs but not in man,** except to a moderate extent, resulting in a decrease in

**TABLE 4.8.1: Description and basic pharmacokinetic data for phenylbutazone.**

**Chemical Name 4-Butyl-l,2-diphenyl-3,5-pyrazolidinedione**

**Chemical Abstracts Registry Number 50-33-9**

**Non-Proprietary Name Phenylbutazone**

#### **Proprietary Names**

**Algoverine, Artrizin, Azolid, Butacote, Butagesic, Butazolidin(e), Butazone, Intrabutazone, Malgesic, Nadozone, Neo-Zoline, Phenbutazone and Tibutazone.**

**Empirical Formula c 19h 20n 2°2**

**Structural Formula**



**308.37 pKa = 4.4**

**Molecular Weight Dissociation Constant**

#### **Physical Properties**

**A fine, white, crystalline powder. Melting point about lOS^C. Practically insoluble in water; soluble 1 in 28 of ethanol, 1 in 1.25 of chloroform and 1 in 15 of ether.**

**Dose Plasma Half-Life 100 and 200 mg tablets. About 2-5 days. 400-600mg daily.**

**Protein Binding about 99%**

**Volume of Distribution 0.18 litre/kg.**

plasma concentration of the drug [200].

**The estimated minimum lethal dose of phenylbutazone is 5g. Toxic effects during treatment are frequent and may occur even when the daily dose does not exceed 400mg. These side effects are usually associated with plasma** concentrations above 100µg/ml [50]. Court and Volans have **reported [191] a fatal dose of phenylbutazone as 2g in a 1-year-old, 2.9g in a child aged 15 and 5g in one of 4 years. Adults have suffered serious symptoms following** the ingestion of between 4 and 40g of phenylbutazone and one adult who ingested between 14 and 28g of the drug **developed pulmonary oedema 25 hours after the first dose and died 2 hours later.**

#### **4.8.2 METABOLISM AND EXCRETION**

**Ph e nylbutazone is extensively metabolised in man (Figure 4.8.1). The major routes involve side-chain oxidation, ring oxidation, combination of these and 0- and** C-glucuronidation [200,201]. Glucuronidation at a carbon atom, i.e. direct coupling of the pyrazolidine ring of **phenylbutazone to glucuronic acid via a C-C bond, is an unusual metabolic transformation, first observed for phenylbutazone. carbon glucuronidation has also been** observed in sulphinpyrazone [112]. After a single dose, **C-glucuronidation seems to be the dominant reaction, while oxidation becomes increasingly important after repeated administration. in plasma the pharmacologically active product of ring oxidation (p-hydroxy-phenylbutazone, oxyphenbutazone)** is the major metabolite, whereas in

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**FIGURE 4.8.1 Major metabolites of phenylbutazone in man.**

- **I = oxphenbutazone,**
- **II = Y-hydroxyphenbutazone,**
- $III = p$ ,  $\check{V}$  -dihydroxyphenbutazone,
- **IV = C-glucuronide of phenylbutazone,**
- **V = C-glucuronide of metabolite II.**

**Broken lines indicated that the metabolic pathway is suggested by the structure of the metabolites, but that it has not been proven experimentally in man.** Glue =  $glucuronic acid.*$ 



**\* Reproduced from reference 201.**

**urine metabolites resulting from side-chain oxidation and C-glucuronidation predominate [202]. in both man and dog plasma decay of phenylbutazone is mostly due to metabolism as both urinary and biliary excretion are low [199]. Only about 1% of a dose is excreted unchanged in the urine. 4.8.3 RESULTS**

# **A single oral dose of loomg of phenylbutazone was administered to a greyhound. Urine samples were collected and analysed according to the methods described in** Section 4.3. About 0.12 and 1.84pg/ml of phenylbutazone **were detected in the 2- and 6-hour urine samples respectively, but not in any of the subsequent samples obtained. Figure 4.8.2 illustrates the total ion** chromatogram along with 2 mass chromatograms showing the **presence of phenylbutazone (m/z 308) and the internal standard, 2,3-dicarboxy-naphthalene (m/z 213). Neither oxphenylbutazone or any of the other oxidised metabolites were detected. In the absence of radio-labelled pheny lb ut az on e it was not possible to monitor for the** formation of C-glucuronides.

#### **4.8.4 DISCUSSION**

Following a single oral dose of 100mg of phenyl**butazone it was possible to detect the drug in urine up to 6 hours after administration. After this time the concentration of the drug fell below the detection limit in agreement with the literature reports that less than 1% of a dose is excreted in the urine. The dosage schedule used with the greyhounds allowed a sufficient interval**

(4 weeks) to avoid significant induction of liver microsomal enzymes [198]. None of the known metabolites **of phenylbutazone were observed. although it was recognised that C-glucuronides would not be sufficiently stable to be eluted through the GC column.**

**This study was carried out towards the end of the project. The difficulties in detecting phenylbutazone prompted the examination of possible reactions occurring** between phenylbutazone and diazomethane. In this study **the extracts had been methylated as it would be in a screening procedure. The results of this examination are given in section 2.5 and showed that several products are in fact formed from phenylbutazone. Time did not permit the study to be repeated.**

**in conclusion phenylbutazone can be detected as the parent drug for short periods following administration in urine using the screening procedure developed during the course of this project. The detection of the drug in a race test sample would automatically imply that phenylbutazone had been administered shortly before the race. However, further investigation of the methylated products of phenylbutazone may extend the detection time although the drug appears to be excreted more rapidly in the greyhound than in man.**

**FIGURE 4.8.2: Total ion chromatogram** and mass **chromatogram# (m/z 308 and 213) obtained from the GC-MS analysis** of a methylated **extract of greyhound urine (6 hours after** the oral **administration** of **lOOmg phenylbutazone).**



**- 3 3 1 -**

### **CHAPTER FIVE**

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

**The aim of this study was to develop suitable analytical methods for the detection and measurement of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in urine from the racing greyhound. The study was conducted in three parts, dealing with the evaluation of analytical methodologies, the investigation of the greyhound urinary acid profile and the metabolism of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in the greyhound, respectively.**

The development of a screening procedure for **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in urine is** a complex problem because, although the drugs have similar **phar ma cological effects they encompass a wide range of chemical types which are extensively metabolised to form acidic products in urine and faeces. in urine especially the problem of detecting drugs and their metabolites is complicated by the presence of many other organic acids similar in structure to the compounds of interest. However, the administered dose of anti-inflammatories is relatively high and it is often possible to detect small quantities of the parent drug in urine. screening procedures are therefore particularly required to overcome the problems of specificity rather than sensitivity.**

**in the present work only chromatographic procedures were considered. Another viable approach would be a** series of immuno-assays. These procedures, however, are time-consuming and expensive to develop for a diverse group of compounds and are unlikely to satisfy either the **analytical or medico-legal requirements for specificity.**

**HPL C was found to be unsuitable as a screening procedure for NSAIDs. Isocratic systems such as the one used in this evaluation are suitable for the analysis of specific or known groups of compounds but are unable to resolve completely all of the twelve test drugs. it should also be noted that there are many other NSAIDs on** the market which, in the presence of their metabolites and **other urinary components, pose an insurmountable problem with respect to specificity. This problem could be** reduced by the use of a gradient system to improve **resolution, although these systems have in the past been unreliable and non-reproducible. Alternatively, increased specificity could be achieved by using different detectors** in series thereby increasing the amount of information **available on the compounds eluted from the column.**

**careful use of pre- and post-column derivatisation reactions may also offer increased specificity and sensitivity, for example, hydroxylated metabolites might be distinguished from the parent drug or fluorescent derivatives might be prepared from compounds with no inherent fluorescence. GC is more suitable as the basis for a screening procedure because of the ready availability of high resolution capillary columns and reproducible temperature programming. The main drawback.**

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however, is the lack of thermal stability of some NSAIDs **even following derivatisation of the acid function. As with HPLC, the problems of specificity can still arise and are amenable to the same approach of using multiple detectors or they can be largely overcome by the effective, th ough expensive, use of a mass spectrometer as** the GC detector. From experience, a single capillary column is unlikely to be able to resolve the complex **mixture of components present in acidic urinary extracts:** an additional 'dimension' is required, supplied either by **mass spectrometry or column switching techniques.**

**The screening procedure developed was based on** capillary GC-MS. This is still the only readily available **method with sufficient resolution, specificity and sensit iv ity to detect a diverse group of target analytes in a complex matrix which contains many endogenous masking** agents. One possible alternative to GC-MS would be **gradient HPLC-MS, but this technique has not yet been** sufficienty developed to provide a robust procedure. Nevertheless a need remains for a preliminary screening procedure capable of dealing with large numbers of samples **in which tentative positives could be confirmed by GC-MS. None of the common screening methods based on immunoassay** or TLC are likely to provide a solution. Until an alternative is found, control of the abuse of **non-steroidal anti-inflammatories must depend on the deterrent effect of random testing.**

**The greyhound urinary acid profile differed from**

**the human profile in both qualitative and quantitative composition. Despite the extensive research on urinary acids in the clinical context many of the compounds found** in the urine of the greyhound remain unidentified. **However, the mass spectra of many of the constituents have been tabulated and have pr oven to be a valuable reference collection during studies of drug metabolism. Further** characterisation of the endogenous components and of **factors affecting the profile will be required to allow more of the drugs and their metabolites to be detected.**

The derivative of choice for the metabolic study **was the methyl derivative because the mass spectra of many of the methyl derivatives of urinary acids have previously been recorded, reducing the number of unknown components in the analysis. However, the butyl-dimethylsilyl derivatives provided mass spectra with excellent diagnostic ions for the detection of target analytes.** These derivatives might form a valuable alternative to the methyl derivatives or the trimethylsilyl derivatives used **in clinical chemistry.**

**The analytical procedure developed during this project was able to detect five representative NSAIDs which had been administered to greyhounds and initial pharmacokinetic data was obtained with implications for the time intervals over which the drugs might be detected. information was also obtained on metabolic routes of some of the drugs examined and possible cut-off levels were suggested. Future work would require a**

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**statistically significant number of animals to be studied** using different dosing regimens to establish a normal **range of pharmacokinetic parameters of each drug of interest in the greyhound population.**

**Of the five drugs examined in this project phenylbutazone presented the most serious problems of detection due to formation of multiple products with** diazomethane. This could be avoided with the use of the **butyl-dimethylsilyl derivative.**

**The work carried out in this project has provided the N.G.R.C. with some of the information needed to control the abuse of drugs in its sport. Another aspect of control concerns the interpretation of the significance of drugs detected and their probable effects on performance. This problem will be addressed in future work by concurrent observations of the racing form of the dogs during the course of metabolic studies.**

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