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Enantiomeric Separation of BINOL Using the ACQUITY UPC² System

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This is an Application Brief and does not contain a detailed Experimental section.

Abstract

This application brief compares the enantiomeric separation of BINOL by normal phase HPLC and UPC² using the ACQUITY UPC² System.

Benefits

UltraPerformance Convergence Chromatography (UPC²) demonstrated a faster separation of BINOL enantiomers (by 9 times) compared to normal phase HPLC as well as appreciable cost savings per analysis.

Introduction

Living organisms are composed of chiral biomolecules such as proteins, nucleic acids, and polysaccharides; consequently, they display different biological responses to one of a pair of enantiomers in drugs, food, pesticides, and waste compounds. It is, therefore, important to separate chiral compounds, especially those of pharmaceutical importance. This is manifested by an increasing number of approved chiral drugs in the form of single enantiomers. To comply with the stringent FDA mandate for developing stereoisomeric drugs, the pharmaceutical industry has escalated its emphasis on the generation of enantiomerically pure compounds before undertaking pharmacokinetic, metabolic, physiological, and toxicological evaluations.

In the past decade, SFC has demonstrated great promise as the choice of chromatography for separating stereoisomers, including enantiomers and diastereomers. Compared to traditional chiral high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC), which is predominantly normal phase HPLC, SFC is on average 3 to 10 times faster. Using inexpensive CO₂ and a polar modifier such as methanol as the mobile phase, SFC is more cost-effective and environmentally friendly by reducing the consumption and disposal of organic solvents.

Results and Discussion

BINOL is an organic compound with axial chirality as shown in Figure 1. A sample of BINOL was separated using both normal phase HPLC and the ACQUITY UPC² System. The key parameters for both methods are described in Table 1.

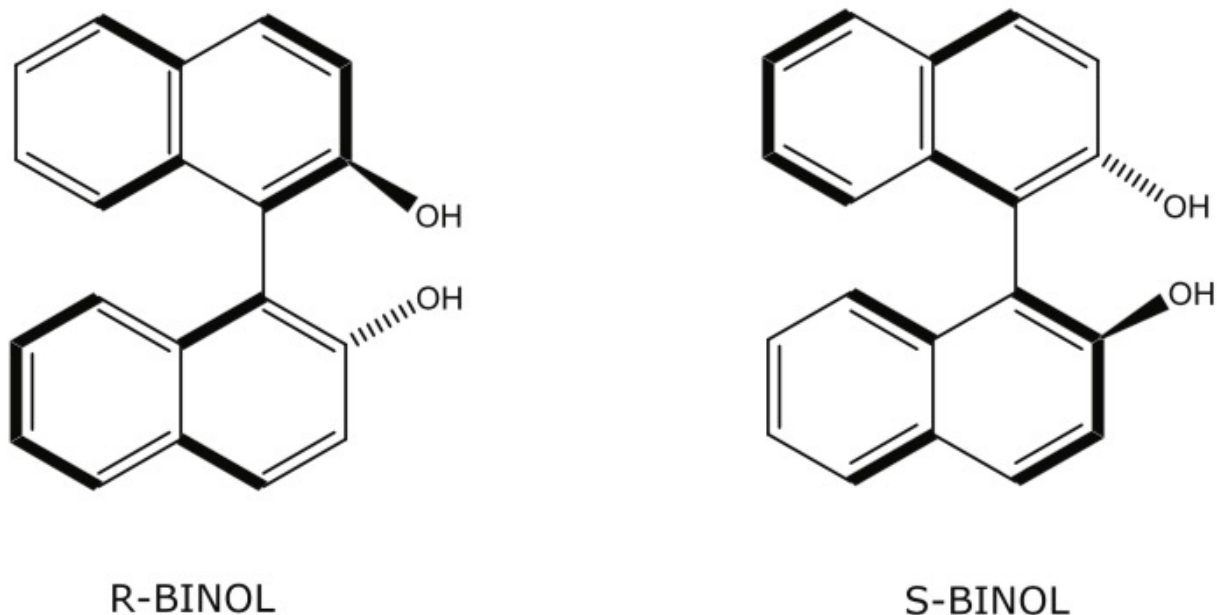


Figure 1. Chemical structures of BINOL showing the axial chirality.

	Normal Phase HPLC	UPC ²
Flow rate (mL/min)	2	4
Mobile phase	Hexane:isopropanol=98:2	CO ₂ :methanol=75:25
Back pressure (bar)	n/a	120
Temp. (°C)	Ambient	40
Column	ChiralPak AS-H (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 μm)	
Sample conc.	2 mg/mL	
Injection volume (μL)	5	

Table 1. Experimental parameters for both normal phase HPLC and UPC²

Figure 2 shows the chiral separations of BINOL by normal phase HPLC (A) and UPC² (B). The elution time of the second peak in UPC² was 2 min, compared to 18 min in normal phase HPLC, representing a 9 times increase in speed by UPC². The resolutions (USP) were 1.73 for normal phase HPLC and 2.61 for UPC². This case also exemplified considerable cost savings per analysis by UPC². The UPC² method used 2 mL of methanol to elute the compound, whereas, the normal phase HPLC method used 35.28 mL hexane and 0.72 mL isopropanol. Based on the organic solvent usage alone, this translated to an estimated \$2.85 per analysis for normal phase HPLC and \$0.08 per analysis for UPC².

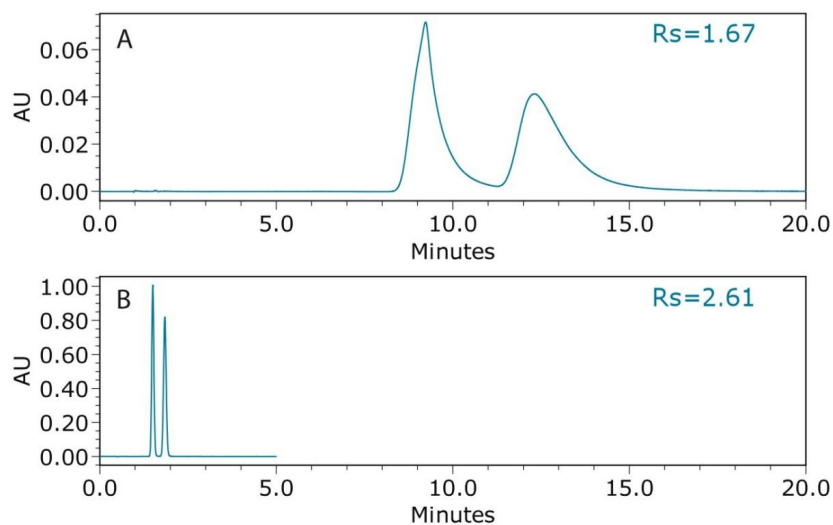


Figure 2. Normal phase HPLC chromatogram (A) and UPC² chromatogram (B) of BINOL.

The peaks in the UPC² chromatogram were more symmetrical than those from normal phase HPLC. The tailing factors (USP) for the normal phase HPLC peaks were 1.33, 2.18, respectively; and 1.03, 1.03 for UPC². The peaks in the UPC² chromatogram were also taller and narrower than those in normal phase HPLC, indicating improved sensitivity and peak capacity. Since supercritical CO₂ is used as the main mobile phase in UPC², the inherent high diffusivity and low viscosity of supercritical CO₂ have a profound impact on the separation. The high diffusivity reduces the peak dispersion resulting from mass transfer between the mobile phase and the stationary phase. The low viscosity enables a high optimal flow rate without generating a formidable pressure drop. Furthermore, a significantly reduced system volume in the ACQUITY UPC² System minimizes extra-column band broadening.

Conclusion

The ACQUITY UPC² System demonstrated a successful UPC² separation of BINOL enantiomers in less than 2 min. Compared to normal phase HPLC, UPC² was 9 times faster and generated taller and more symmetrical peaks. A significantly reduced system volume in the ACQUITY UPC² System minimized extra-column band broadening. The improvement in speed combined with the replacement of hexane with relatively inexpensive methanol led to appreciable cost savings per analysis by UPC² (\$2.85 per analysis for normal phase HPLC vs. \$0.08 per analysis for UPC²). Waters ACQUITY UPC² System is ideal for laboratories routinely performing enantiomer separations.

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· [ACQUITY UPC2 System <https://www.waters.com/134658367>](https://www.waters.com/134658367)

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