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**OVERVIEW-**

One of the challenges that the preparative chromatographer faces is to maximize column loading to keep the costs of operation and equipment as low as possible. Therefore, it is very necessary to study the factors that enhance column loading. In this presentation, we studied the loading of 30 compounds on 12 RPLC columns with large varieties of stationary phase chemistries and ligand densities. The test compounds were selected based on their structural characteristics and classified into several groups. Mobile phase pH effects on column loadability and selectivity were studied. In addition, the effects of additives on column loadability were compared as well. The preliminary results demonstrate that the particle chemistry, ligand type, nature of the compound, pH and additives in mobile phases all have significant contributions to column loadability and selectivity.

**INTRODUCTION-**

The dream of a preparative chromatographer is to achieve preparative loading on an analytical column. An increase in productivity will dramatically decrease the costs of the entire separation process. Many factors affect loadability, such as:

- Chemistry of RPLC columns
- Nature of the compounds that need to be separated
- Ionic status of the compounds
- Mobile phase conditions
  - pH of the mobile phases
  - Polarity of the organic solvent
- Additives
- Overloading methodology
  - Volume overload
  - Mass overload

**MOTIVATIONS-**

- Understand loadability and selectivity of various compounds on RPLC columns
- Guide loading condition selection

**METHODS****RPLC Columns:**

(All columns are 4.6 × 50 mm, 5 μm)

XTerra® MS C<sub>18</sub>

XTerra® MS C<sub>8</sub>

XTerra® RP<sub>18</sub>

XTerra® RP<sub>8</sub>

Symmetry® C<sub>18</sub>

Symmetry® C<sub>8</sub>

Symmetry Shield™ RP<sub>18</sub>

Symmetry Shield™ RP<sub>8</sub>

Atlantis™ dC<sub>18</sub>

YMC-Pack™ Pro C<sub>18</sub>

YMC-Pack™ ODS-A™

YMC-Pack™ ODS-AQ™

Mobile Phase A: Water/1% FA (TFA) (90/10); pH 3

Water/100 mM NH<sub>4</sub>COOH (90/10); pH 7

Water/100 mM NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> (90/10); pH 10

Mobile Phase B: ACN/1% FA (TFA) (90/10); pH 3

ACN/100 mM NH<sub>4</sub>COOH (90/10); pH 7

ACN/100 mM NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> (90/10); pH 10

Sample Diluent: DMSO/MeOH (50/50) for most analytes;

DMSO for nalidixic acid antibiotics sample

Water for water soluble vitamins sample

Temperature: Ambient temperature

Instruments: FractionLynx™ AutoPurification Systems, which include Waters® 2767 Sample Manager, Waters® 2525 Binary Gradient Module, Waters® 2996 PDA Detector and a Micromass® ZQ™ Mass Spectrometer

## RESULTS

### Effect of Ionic State on Loadability

Analytes:

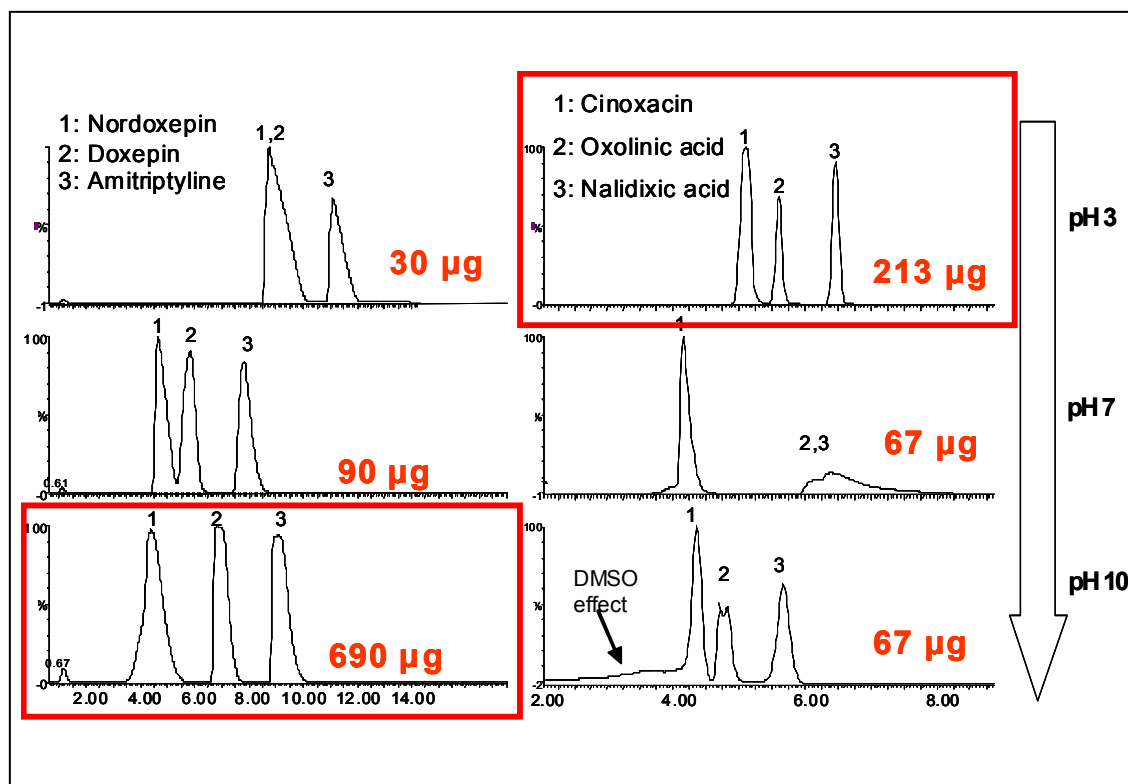
1. nordoxepin; 2. doxepin; 3. amitriptyline

(left figure)

1. cinoxacin; 2. oxolinic acid; 3. nalidixic acid.

(right figure)

Column: XTerra® MS C<sub>18</sub>



Load analytes under their non-ionic states will dramatically increase loadings on the RPLC column.

**RESULTS****Ion-Pairing Effect**

Analytes:

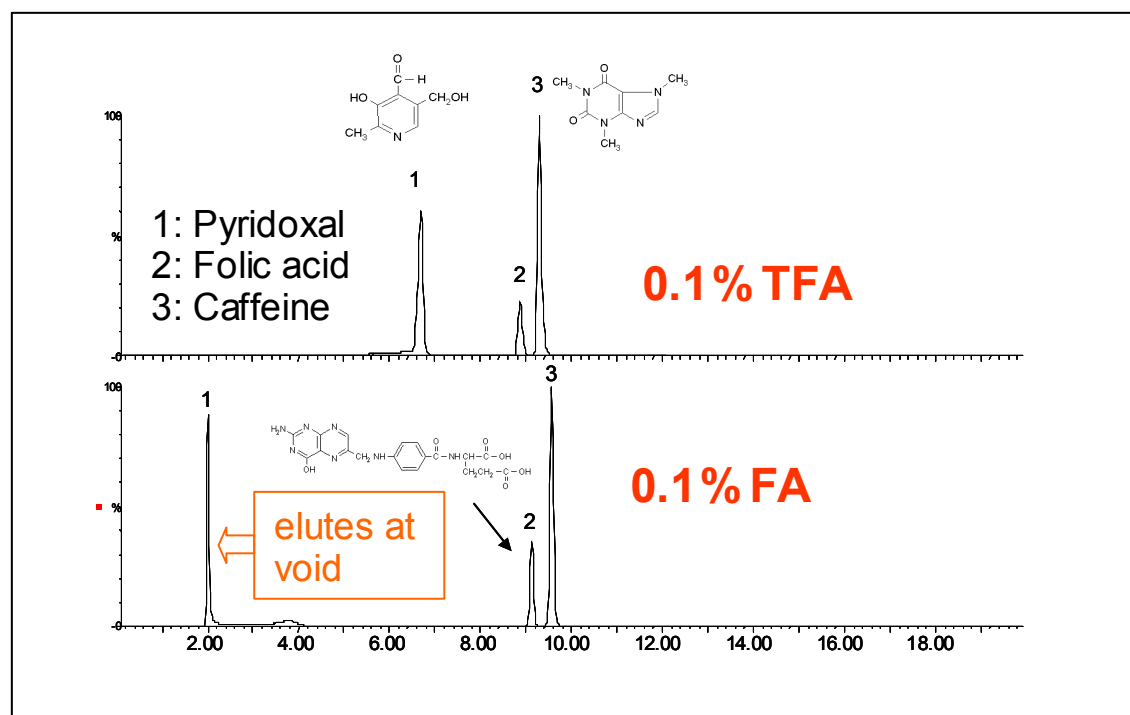
1. pyridoxal; 2. folic acid; 3. caffeine

Column: Atlantis™ dC<sub>18</sub>Conditions:

Gradient: 0 to 20% B in 5 min; then to 40% B in 10 min.

Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min

Detection: UV @ 280 nm.



Pyridoxal eluted at void when 0.1% formic acid was used, while higher retained when 0.1% TFA was used. This is due to the fact that TFA has ion-pairing effect, which increases retention of pyridoxal.

**RESULTS****Effect of pH on Loadability**

Analytes:

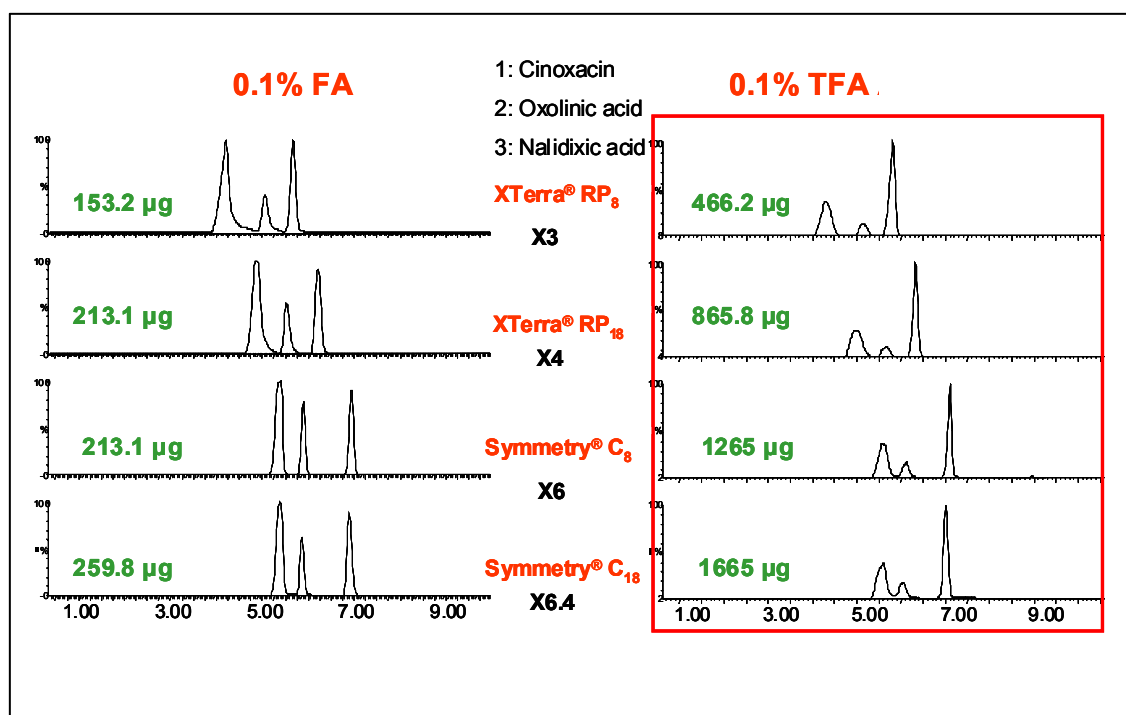
1. cinoxacin; 2. oxolinic acid; 3. nalidixic acid

Conditions:

Gradient: 10 to 70% B in 10 min.

Flow Rate: 1.8 mL/min

Detection: UV @ 300 nm.



At low pH, total load of acidic analytes increases from X3 on XTerra® RP<sub>8</sub> column to X6.4 on Symmetry® C<sub>18</sub> column when changing FA to TFA, because TFA is more capable to non-ionize acidic analytes.

## RESULTS

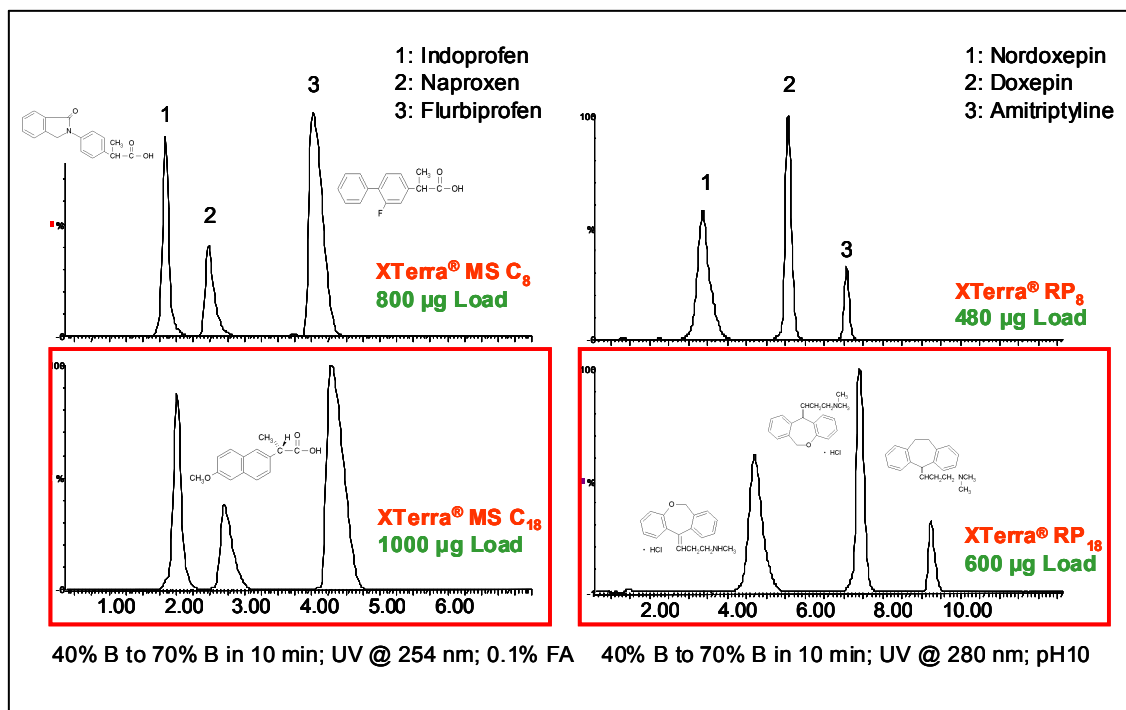
**Effect of Ligand Hydrophobicity on Loadability**

Analytes:

1. indoprofen; 2. naproxen; 3. flurbiprofen (right figure)  
 1. nordoxepin; 2. doxepin; 3. amitriptyline (left figure)

Conditions:

- Gradient: 40 to 70% B in 10 min; 0.1 % formic acid (right figure)  
 Detection: UV @ 254 nm  
 Gradient: 40 to 70% B in 10 min; pH 10 (left figure)  
 Detection: UV @ 280 nm  
 Flow Rate: 1.8 mL/min for both



C<sub>18</sub> columns exhibit higher loading than C<sub>8</sub> columns towards most of the analytes due to the stronger hydrophobic interaction.

## RESULTS

**Effect of Silica Pore Structure on Loadability**

Analytes:

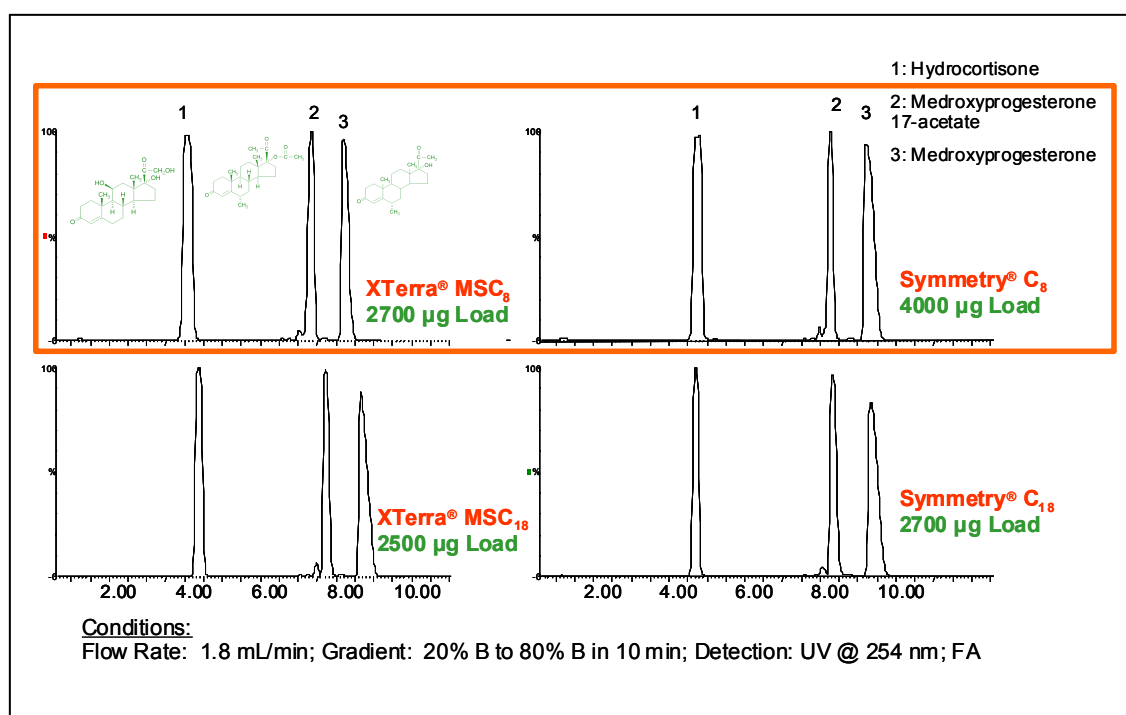
1. hydrocortisone; 2. medroxyprogesterone 17-acetate; 3. medroxyprogesterone

Conditions:

Gradient: 20 to 80% B in 10 min; 0.1 % formic acid

Flow rate: 1.8 mL/min

Detection: UV @ 254 nm



For relatively large molecules, C<sub>8</sub> columns exhibit higher loads than C<sub>18</sub> columns. This is due to the steric hindrance of attached longer alkyl chains (C<sub>18</sub>) which decrease the effective particle pore size.

## RESULTS

**Effect of Ligand Density on Loadability**

Analytes:

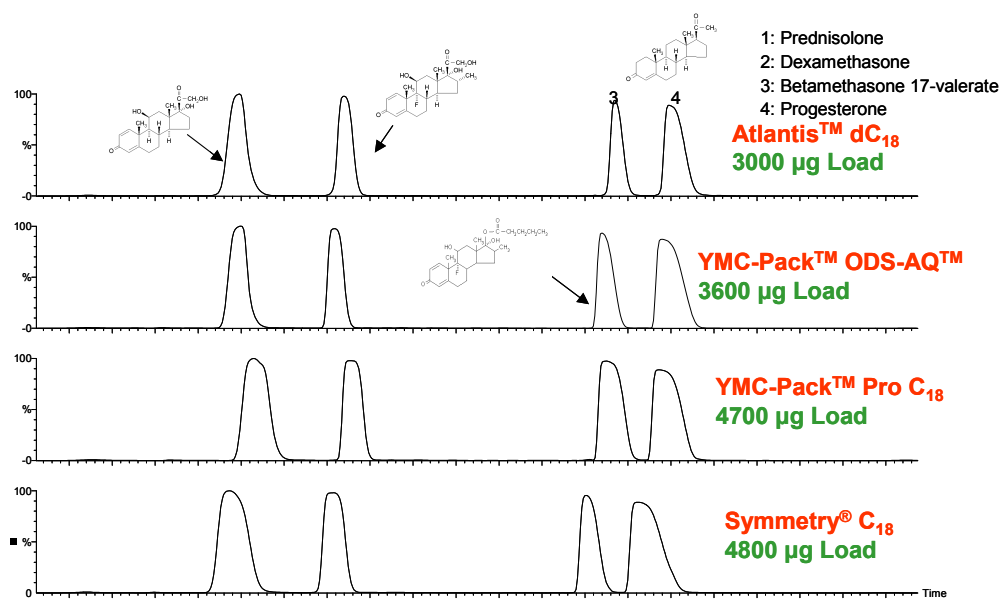
1. prednisolone; 2. dexamethasone; 3. betamethasone 17-valerate; 4. progesterone

Conditions:

Gradient: 30 to 80% B in 8 min; 0.1 % formic acid

Flow rate: 1.8 mL/min

Detection: UV @ 254 nm

Conditions:

Flow Rate: 1.8 mL/min; Gradient: 30% B to 80% B in 8 min; Detection: UV @ 254 nm; FA

For acidic analytes at low pH, total loadings on RPLC columns are consistent with the column ligand densities. Symmetry® have highest loading due to highest ligand density.



## RESULTS

**Effect of Embedded Polar Groups on Selectivity**

Analytes:

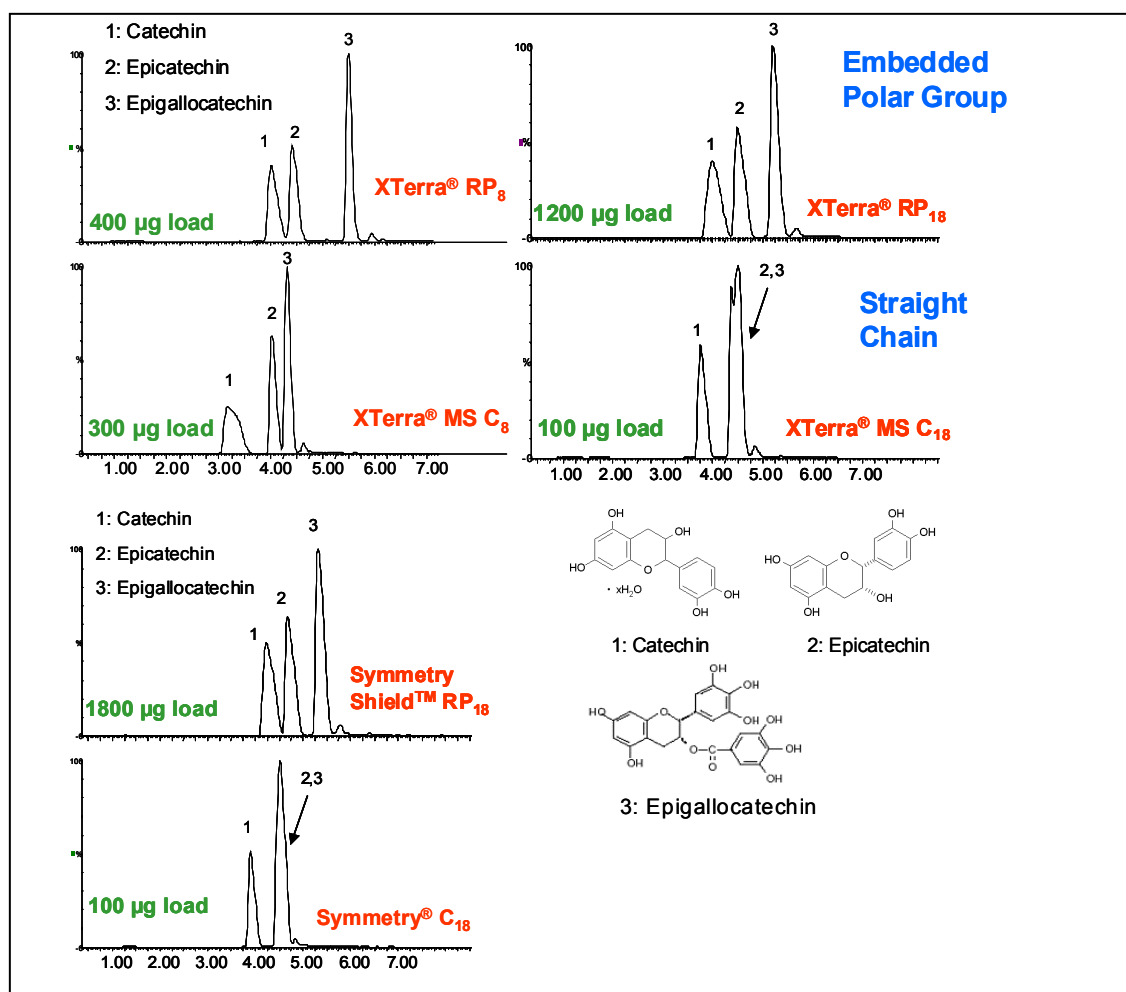
1. catechins; 2. epicatechin; 3. epigallocatechin

Conditions:

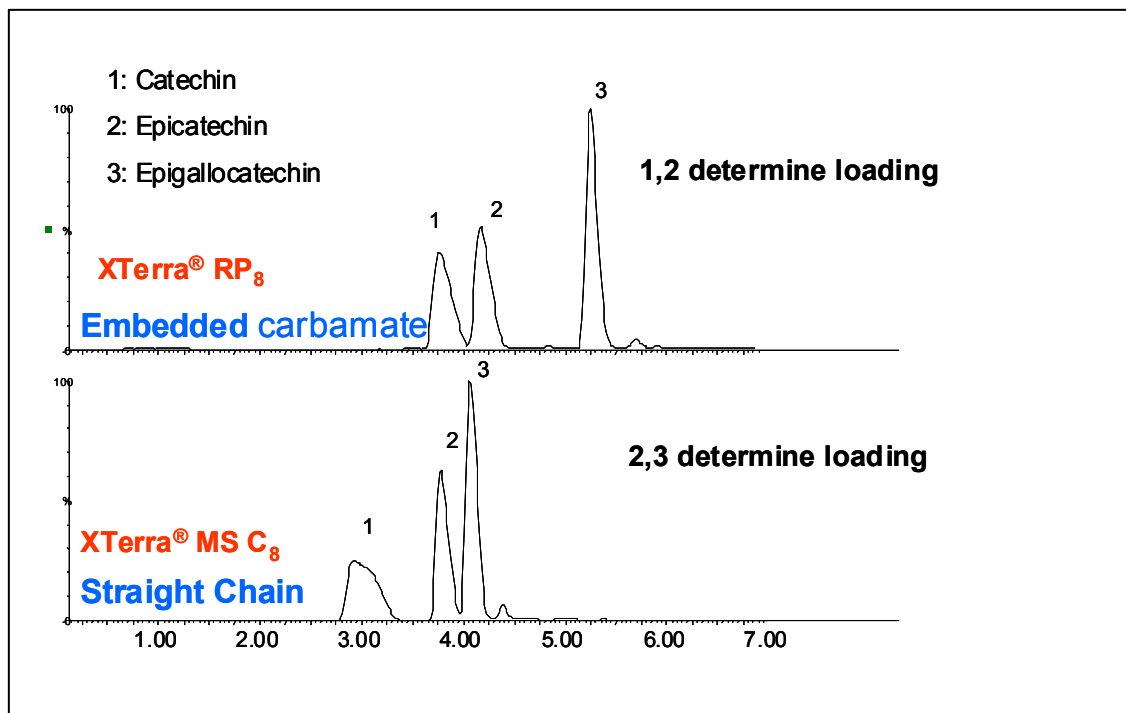
Gradient: 5 to 50% B in 7 min; 0.1 % formic acid

Flow rate: 1.8 mL/min

Detection: UV @ 280 nm



## RESULTS

**Effect of Embedded Polar Groups on Selectivity (continued)**

- RP columns are designed with embedded carbamate group.
- **Hydrogen bonding** between the compounds with many hydroxyl groups (phenols, carboxylic acids and carbamate on RP columns improves selectivity when they are not ionized.
- On the RP column, epigallocatechin elutes late due to its strong affinity with the carbamate group.

## RESULTS

### Effect of Ligand Hydrophobicity on Selectivity

Analytes:

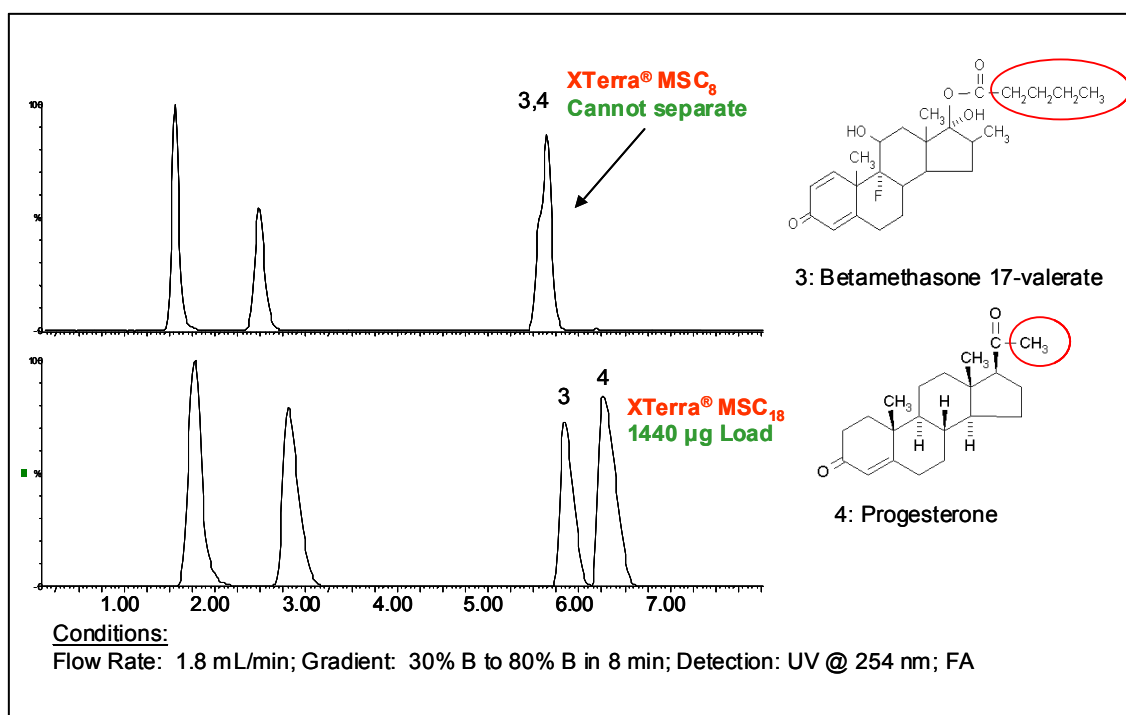
3. betamethasone 17-valerate; 4. progesterone

Conditions:

Gradient: 30 to 80% B in 8 min; 0.1 % formic acid

Flow rate: 1.8 mL/min

Detection: UV @ 254 nm



For relatively large molecules with slight differences in alkyl chains, C<sub>18</sub> columns have better selectivity towards them.

**CONCLUSIONS-**

- Loading drugs in the non-ionic state will maximize the total load.
- For most analytes using 0.1% formic acid, the Symmetry® material exhibits better performance. This is due to the fact that this material has the highest ligand density.
- For acidic analytes, when changing 0.1% formic acid to a stronger additive (0.1% TFA), total load will increase dramatically. This is due to the fact that formic acid does not provide a low enough pH to make analytes non-ionic.
- For some analytes, the ion-pairing effect of TFA will increase retention on RPLC columns.
- For analytes with relatively larger sizes, the C<sub>8</sub> columns exhibit higher loads than C<sub>18</sub> columns. This is due to the steric hindrance of attached longer alkyl chains (C<sub>18</sub>) which decreases the effective particle pore size.
- C<sub>18</sub> columns have higher loading than C<sub>8</sub> columns due to the stronger hydrophobic interaction towards most analytes.
- For relatively large molecules with slight differences in alkyl chains, C<sub>18</sub> columns have better selectivity towards them.
- For some analytes with many hydroxyl groups their affinities are stronger on the columns with embedded polar chemistry design due to the hydrogen bonding interaction when they are not ionized, which also improves column selectivity on those analytes.

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