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# Novel, Stable Zirconia-based Chiral Stationary Phases for Enantiomer Separations

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Yini Wang<sup>2</sup>, Shengxiang Ji<sup>2</sup>, Daniel Nowlan<sup>2</sup>, Thomas R. Hoye<sup>2</sup>

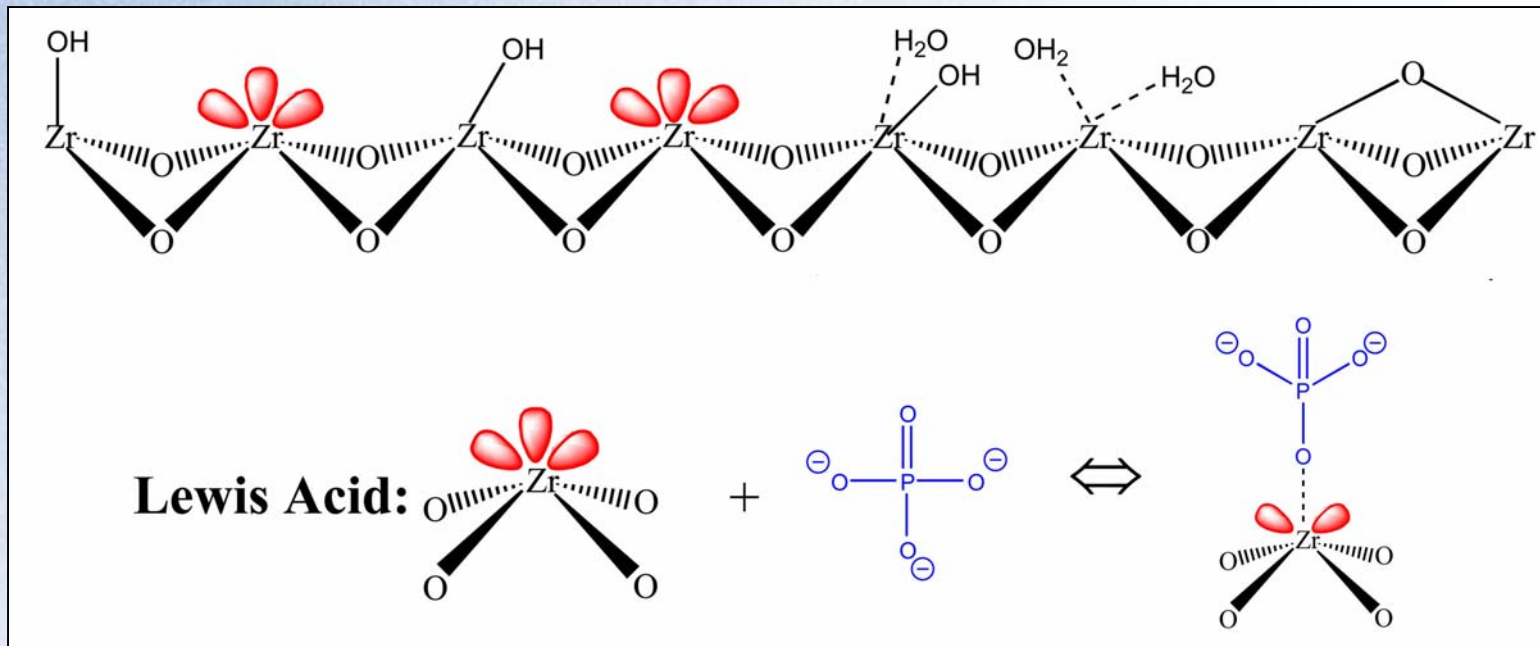
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<sup>2</sup>University of Minnesota, 207 Pleasant Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Specialists in High Efficiency, **Ultra-Stable** Phases for HPLC



# Surface Chemistry of Zirconia



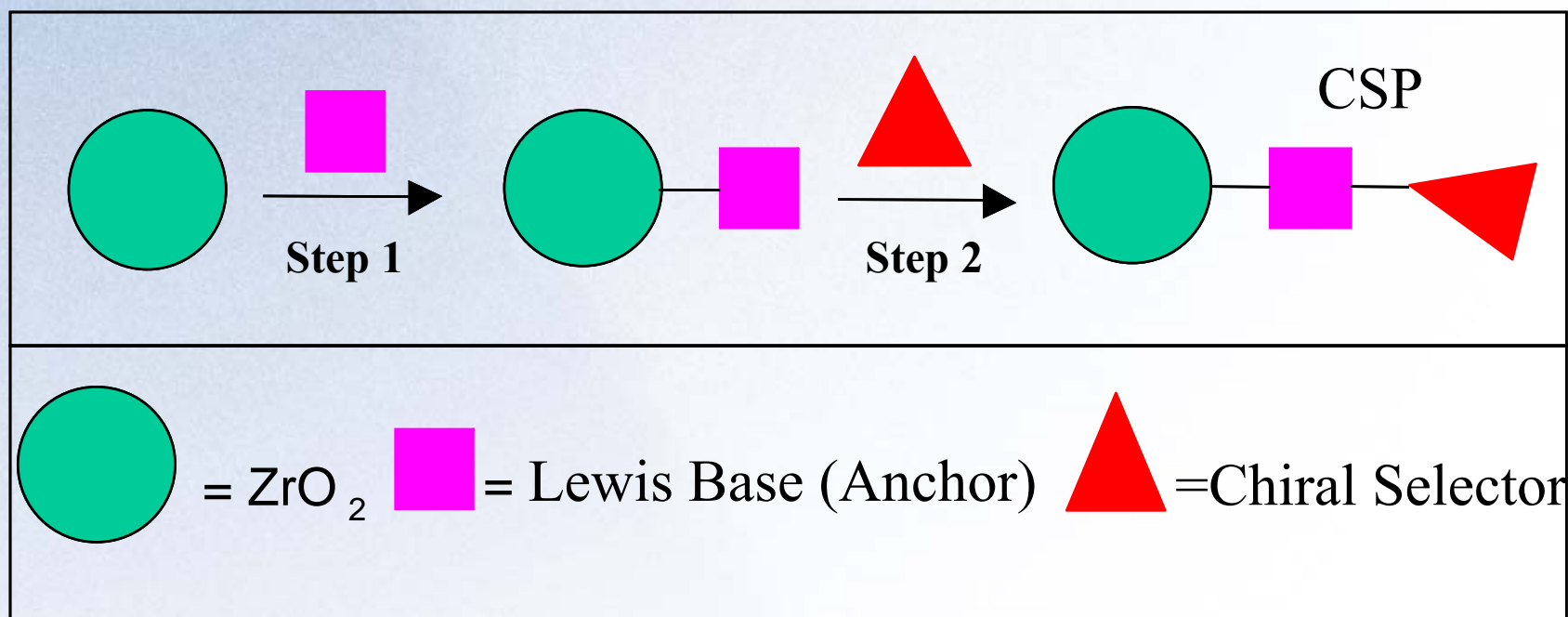
Zirconia chemistry is dominated by Lewis acid-base reactions



**Other Lewis base examples:**  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $RCO_2^-$ , Catechol



# A Novel Approach to Attaching Chiral Selectors<sup>1</sup> to Zirconia<sup>2</sup>



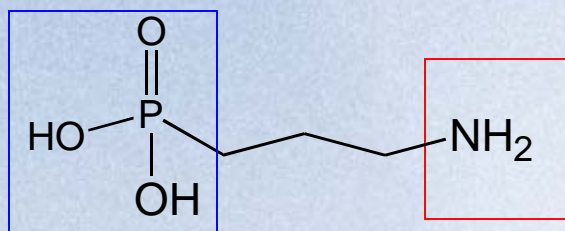
1. William H. Pirkle, et. al., J. Chromatogr., 316 (1984) 585.

2. Phase I SBIR Grant (NIH).

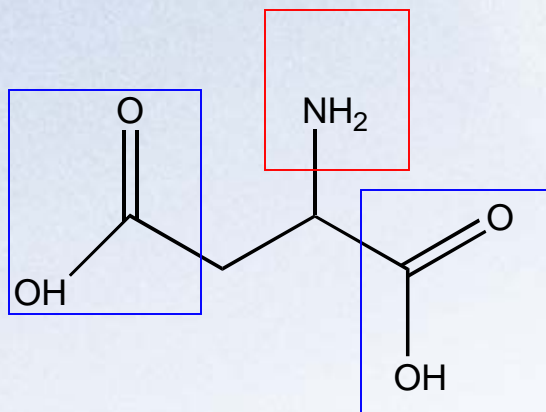


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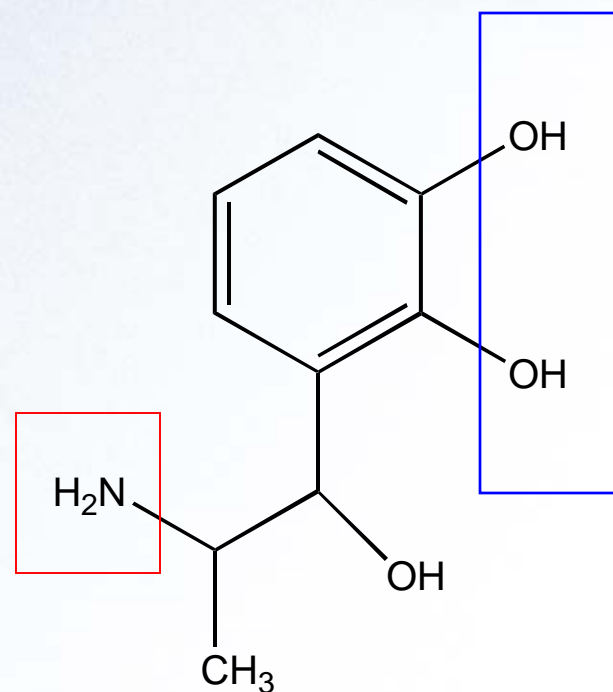
# Three Anchor Groups Tested



**APPA** (Aminopropylphosphonic acid)



**ASPA** (Aspartic acid)



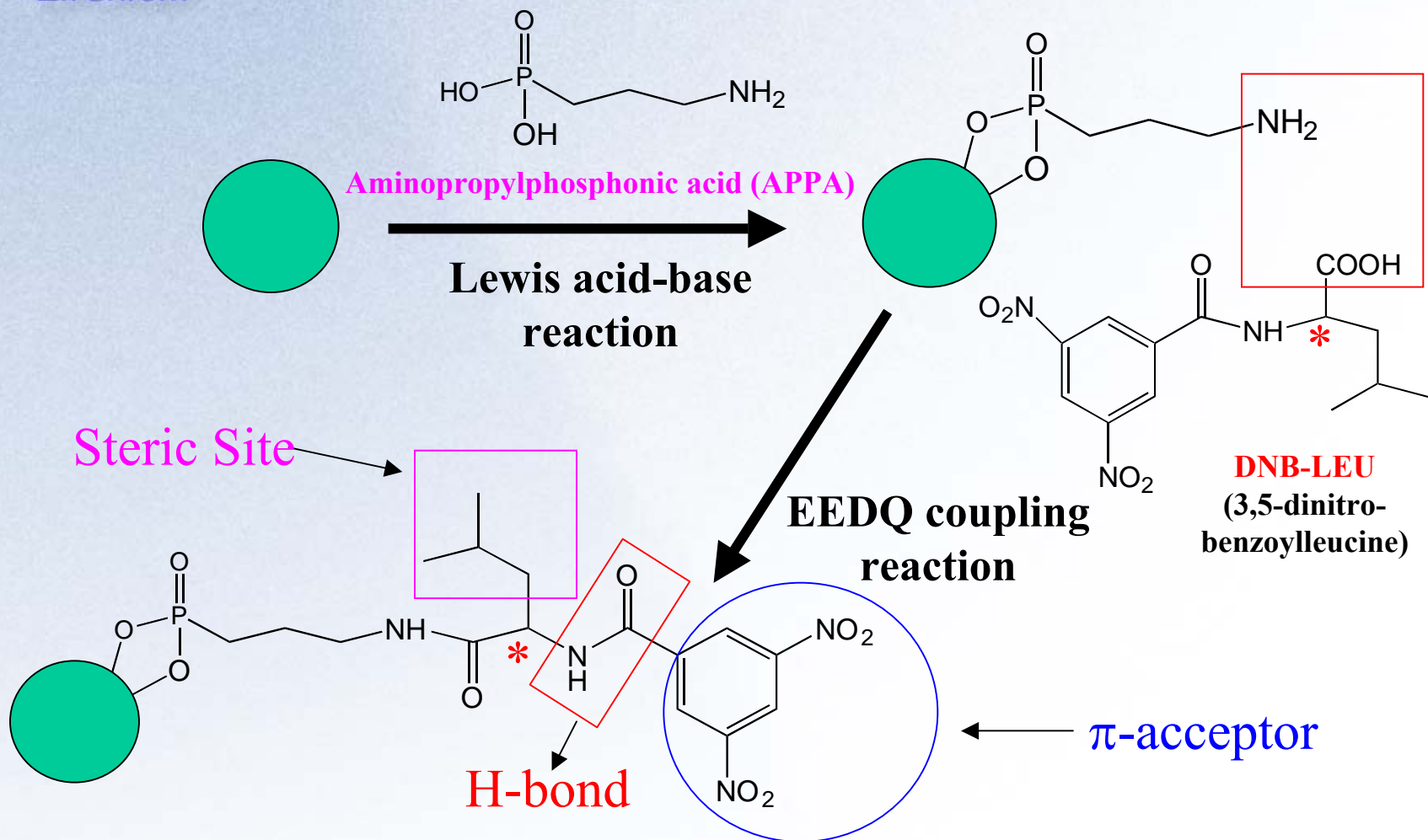
**DHNP** (3,4-Dihydroxynorephedrine)

**Phase I Anchors**



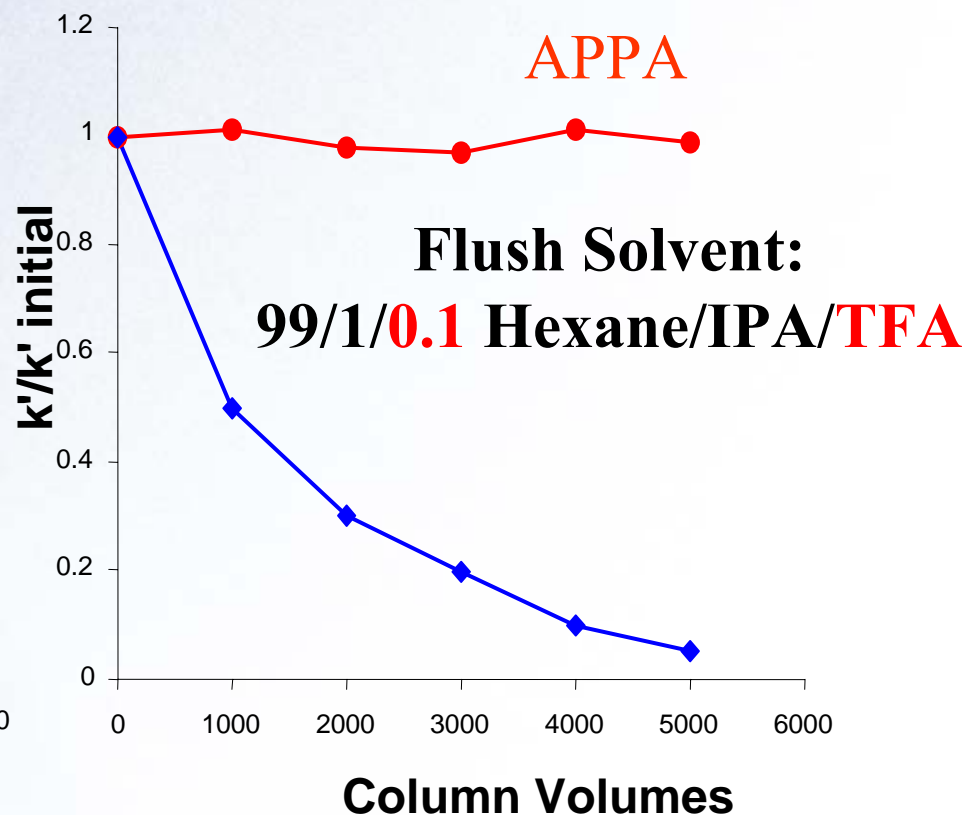
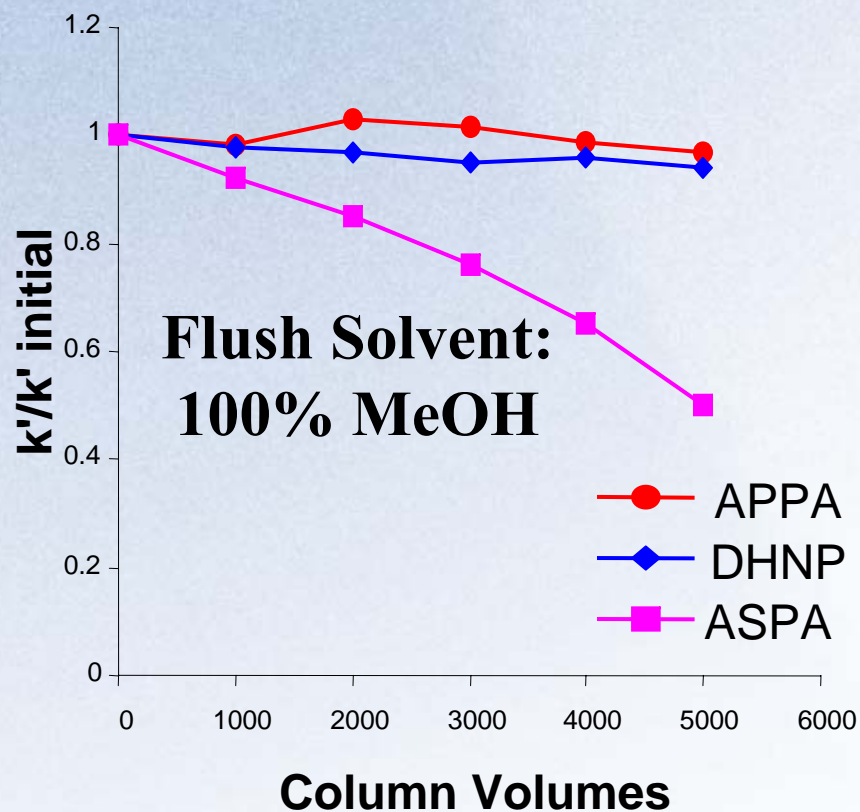
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# Zirconia CSP 2-Step Synthesis





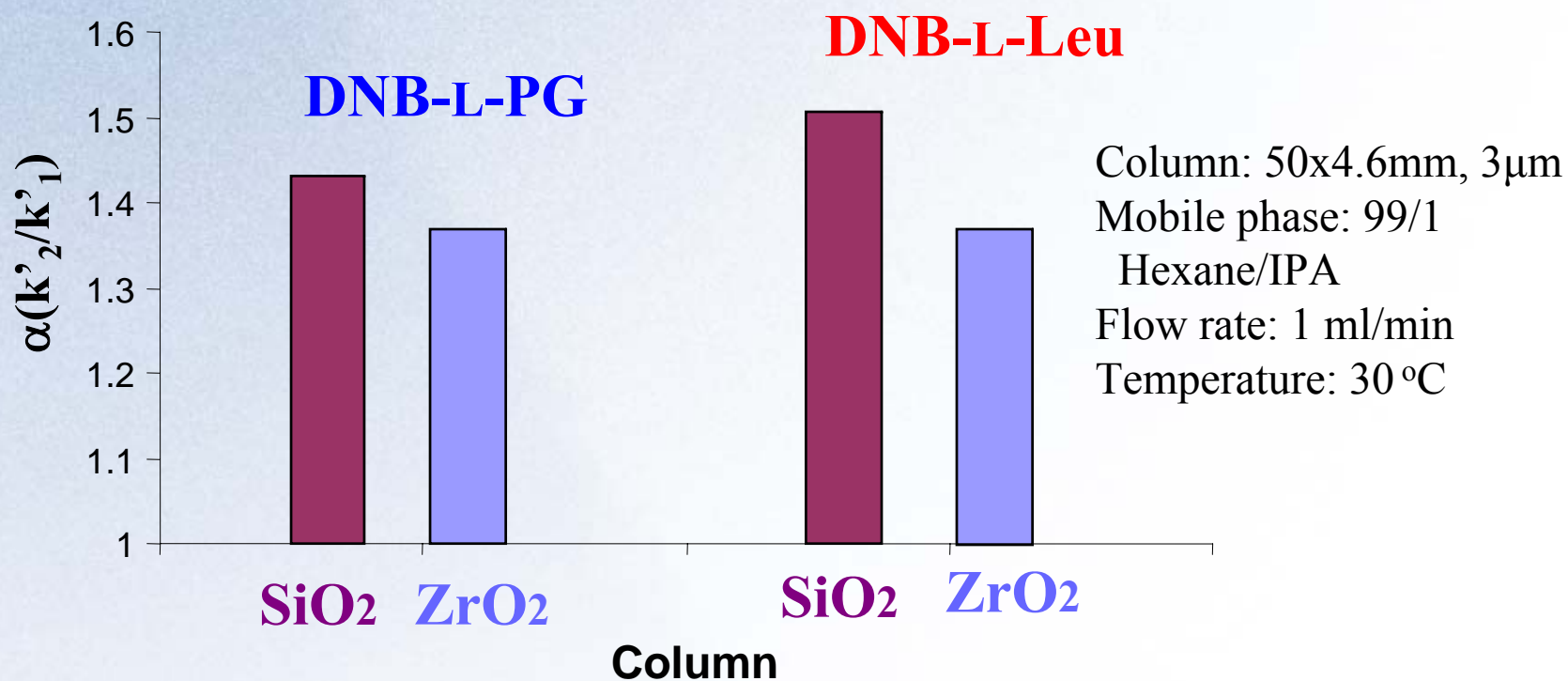
# Stability of Zirconia DNB-L-LEU with Different Anchors



Test solute: trifluoranthryl ethanol (retention factor ratio for less retained isomer)



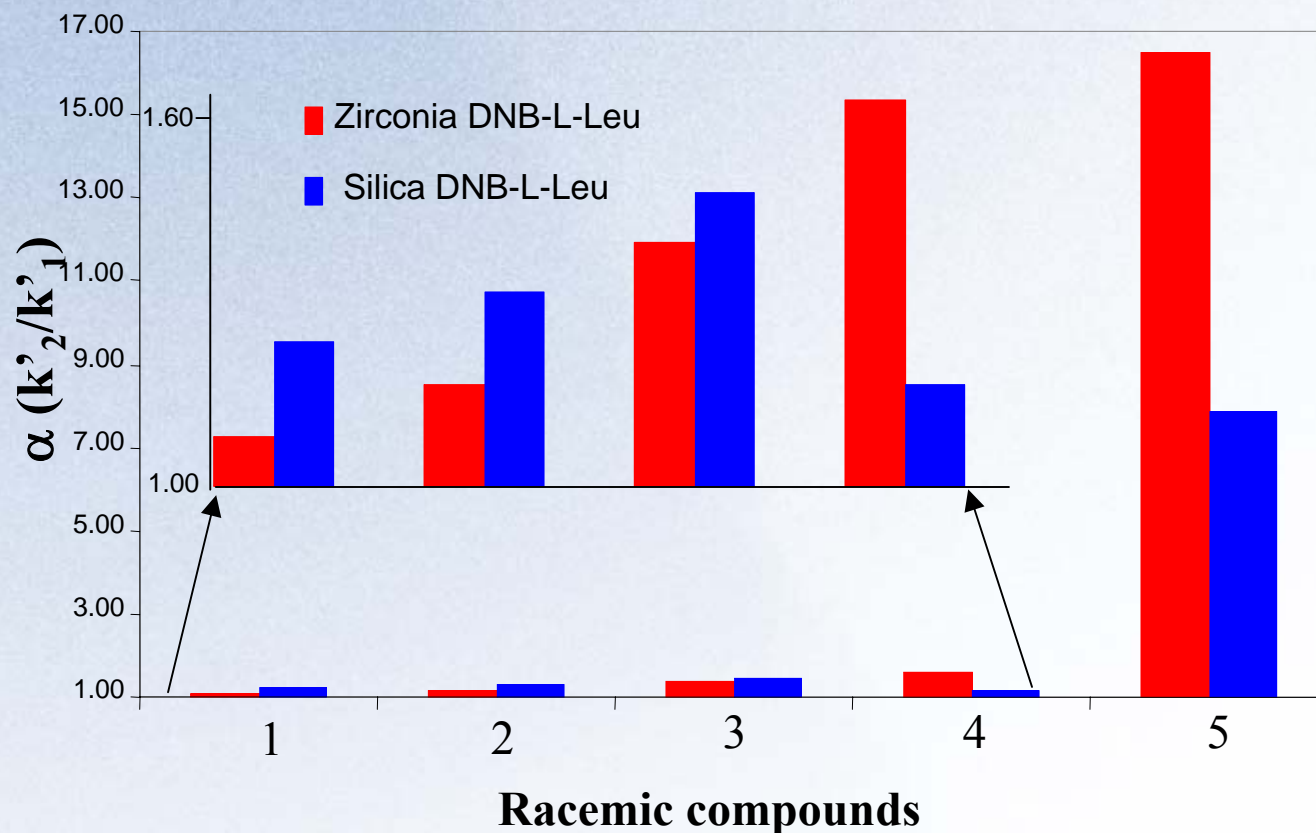
# Selectivity Comparison of Zirconia and Silica CSPs



**Zirconia CSPs (APPA anchor) compare favorably to Silica CSPs with trifluoroanthryl ethanol.**



# Comparison of DNB-L-LEU Zirconia and Silica CSP Selectivity



- 1 trans-stibene oxide
- 2 1,1'-bi-2-naphthol
- 3 trifluoranthyl ethanol
- 4 napropamide
- 5 1-naphthyl leucine ester

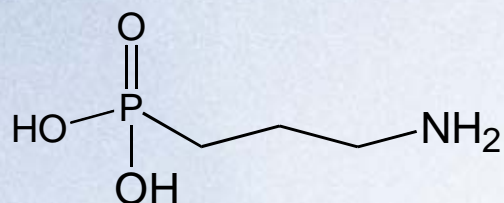
Mobile phase:  
99/1Hexane/IPA  
Flow rate: 1 ml/min;  
Temperature: 30 °C

**Zirconia CSP (APPA anchor) shows enhanced separation for napropamide and 1-naphthyl leucine ester.**

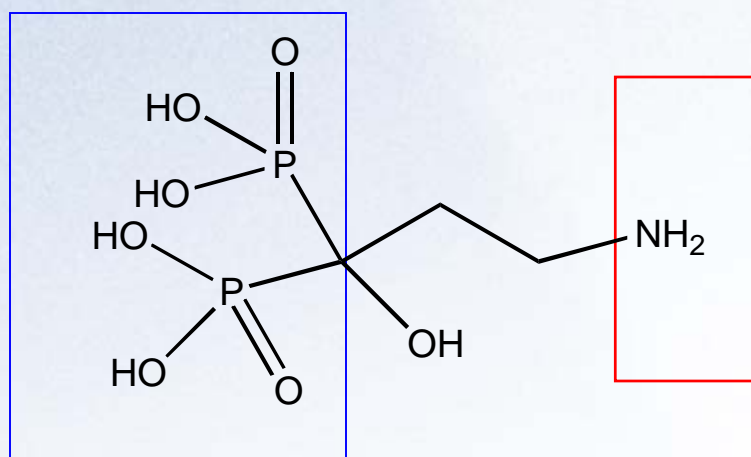




# A Bidentate Phosphonate Anchor—the Key to Improved Stability<sup>1</sup>



**Aminopropylphosphonic acid (APPA)**

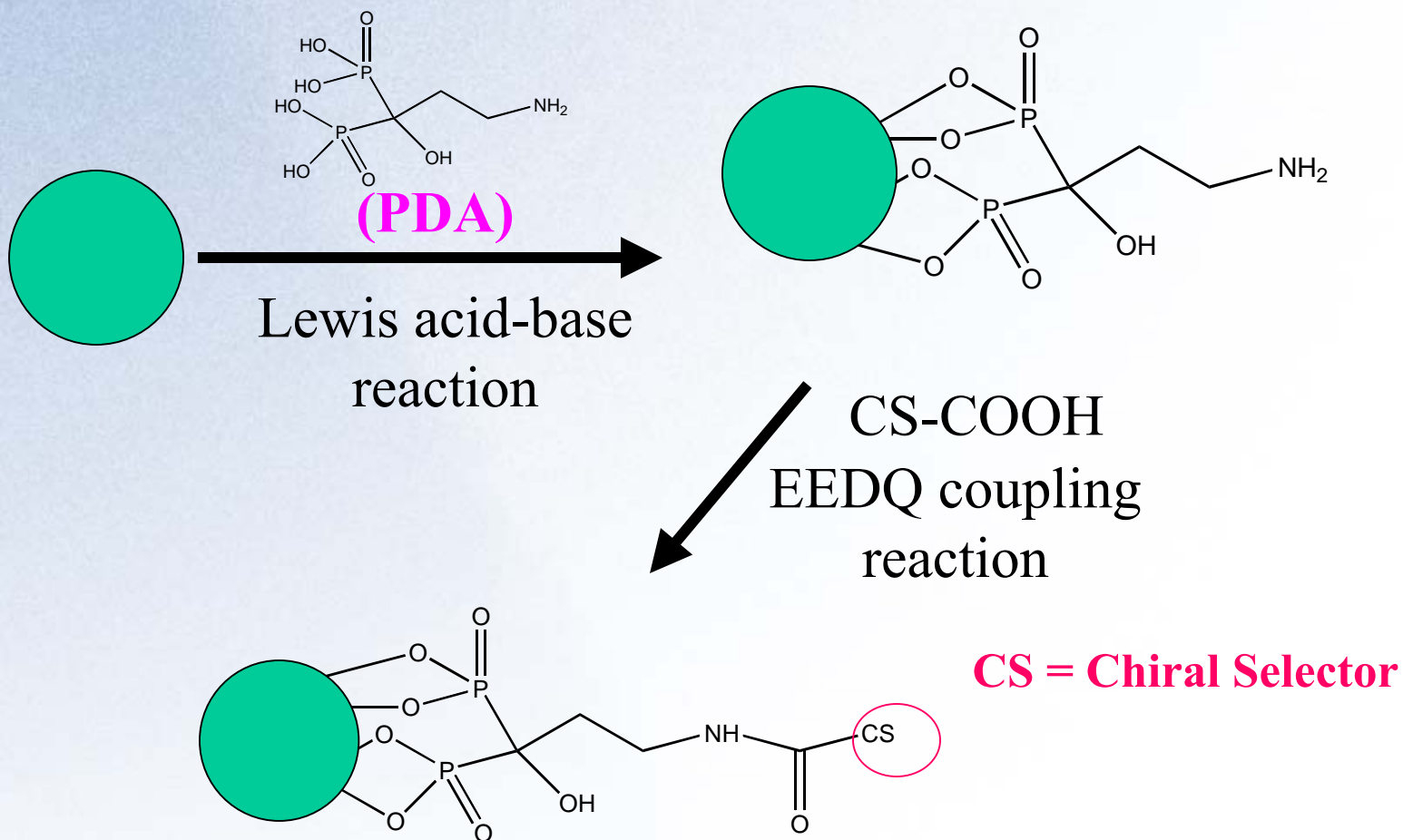


**Pamidronic acid (PDA)<sup>1</sup>  
(Phase II Anchor)**

1. Phase II SBIR (NIH).

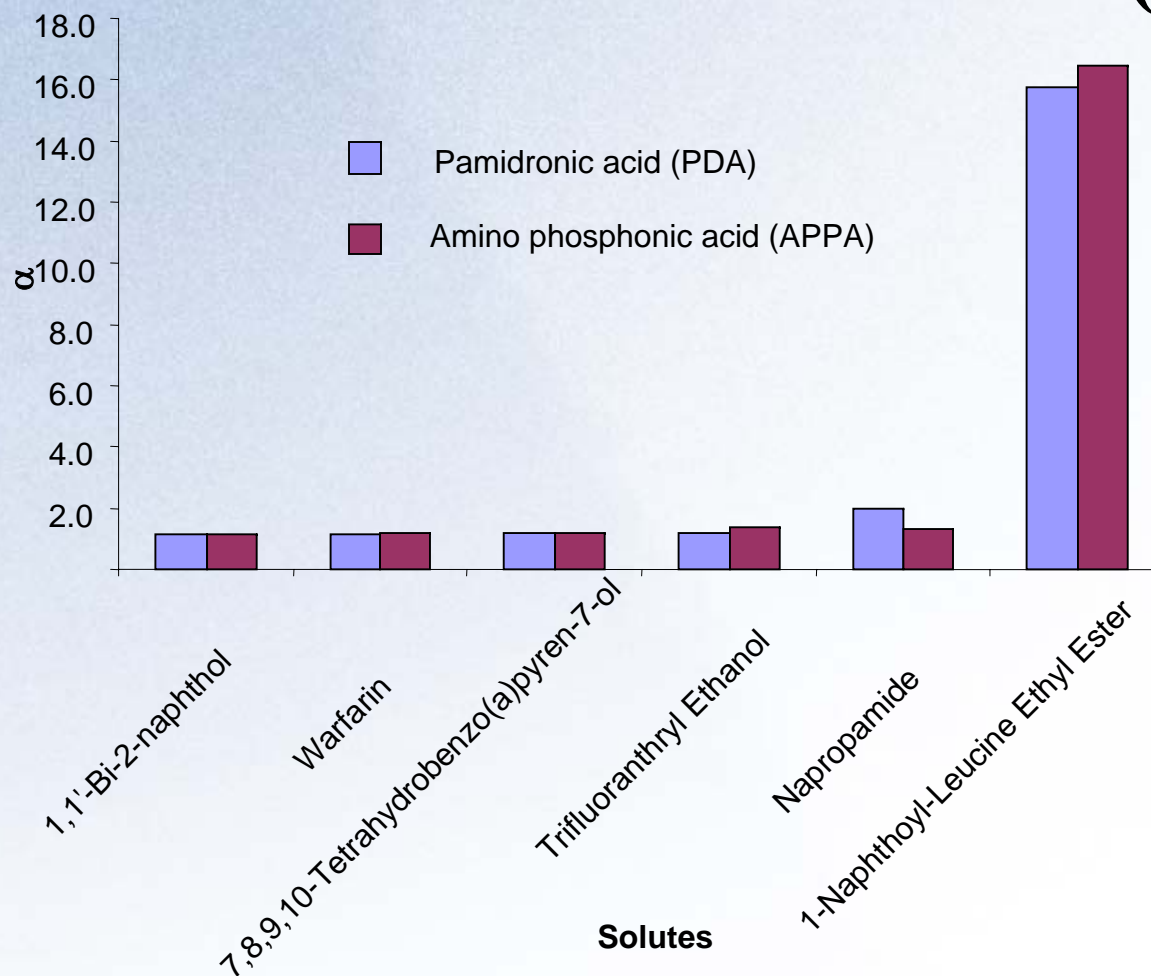


# Zirconia CSP 2-Step Synthesis with Bidentate Anchor (PDA)





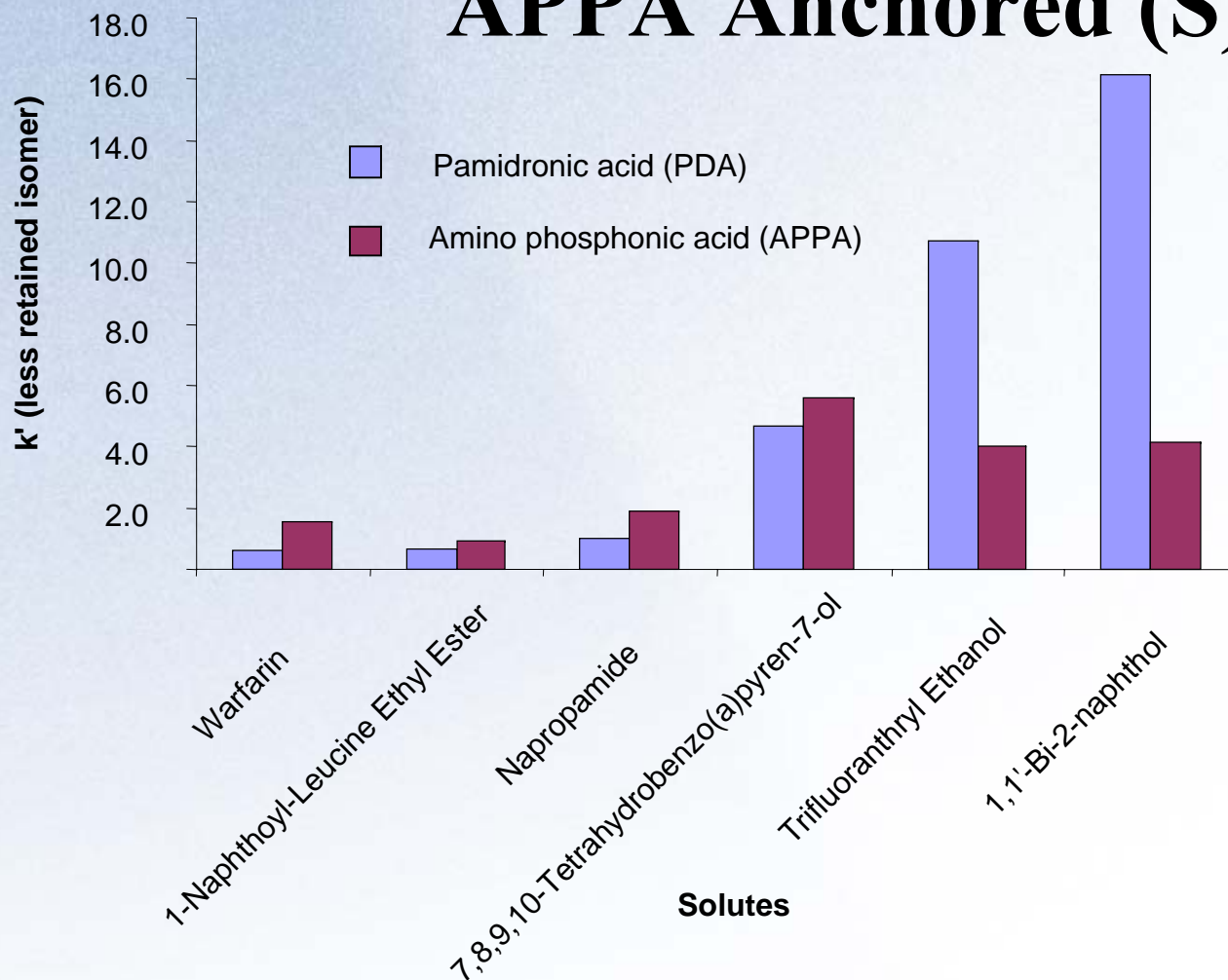
# Selectivity Comparison Between PDA Anchored Zr (S)-Leu and APPA Anchored (S)-Leu



**Selectivity for the two anchors is similar.**



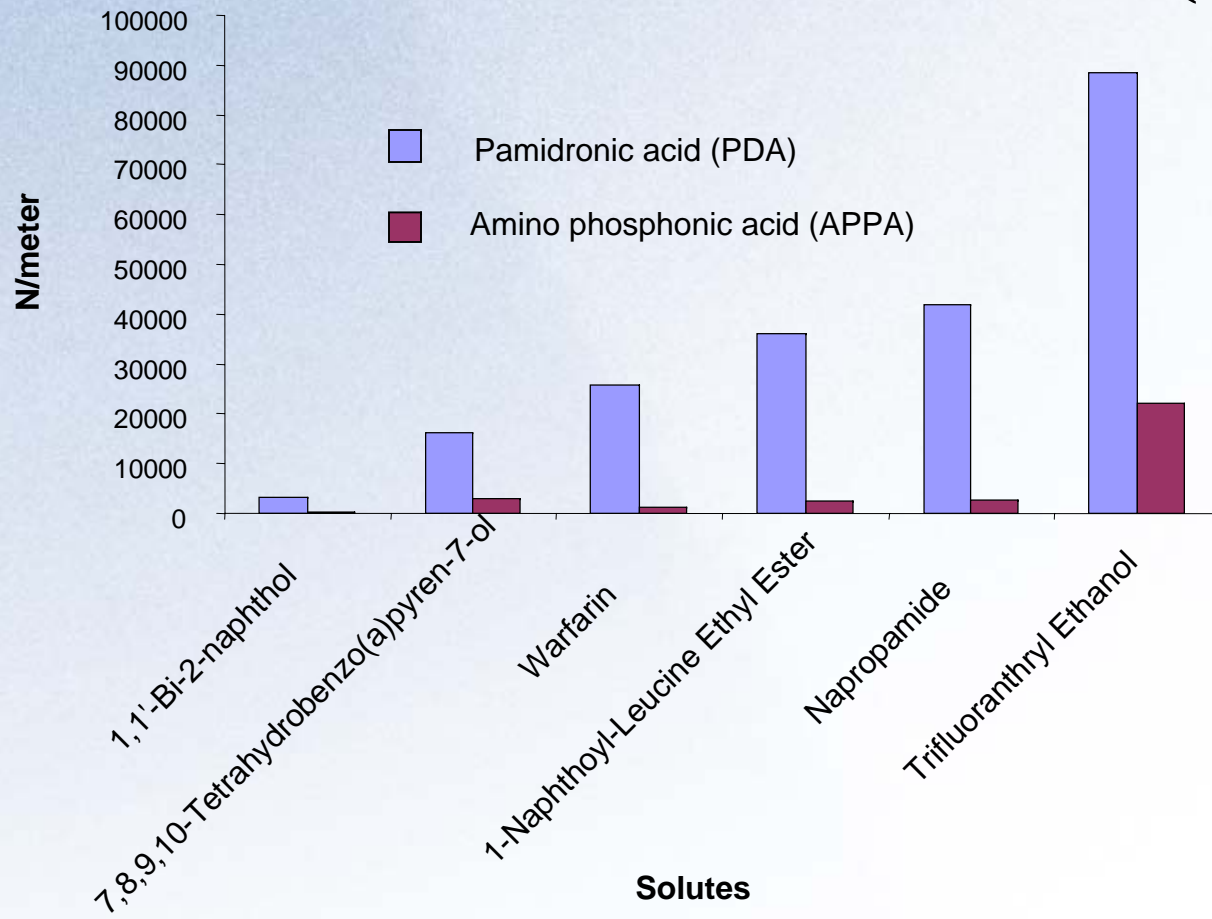
# Retention Comparison Between PDA Anchored Zr (S)-Leu and APPA Anchored (S)-Leu



**Retention for the two anchors is different.**



# Efficiency Comparison Between PDA Anchored Zr (S)-Leu and APPA Anchored (S)-Leu

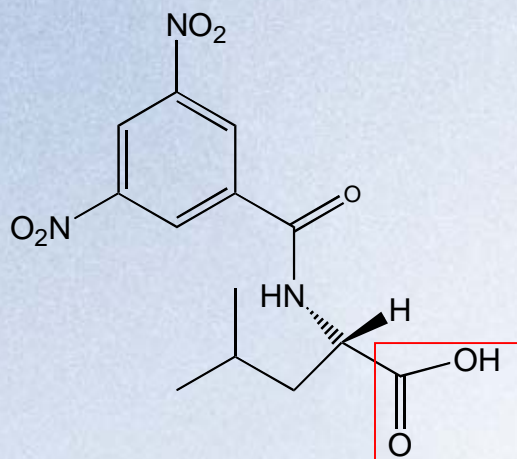


**Efficiency on PDA anchored Zr (S)-Leu is much better.**



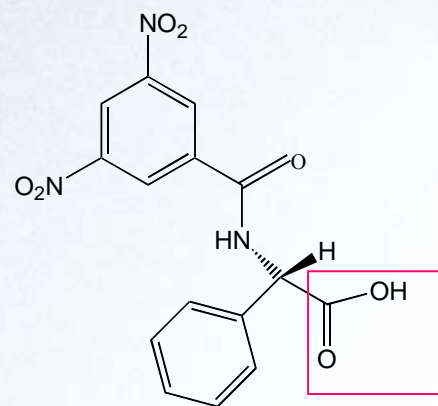
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# Chiral Selectors Evaluated<sup>1</sup>



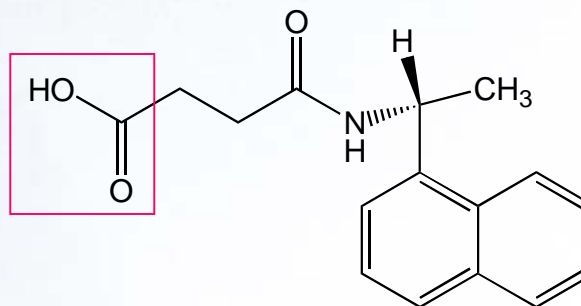
(S)-DNB-L-Leucine

[(S)-Leu]



(S)-DNB-L-Phenylglycine

[(S)-PG]



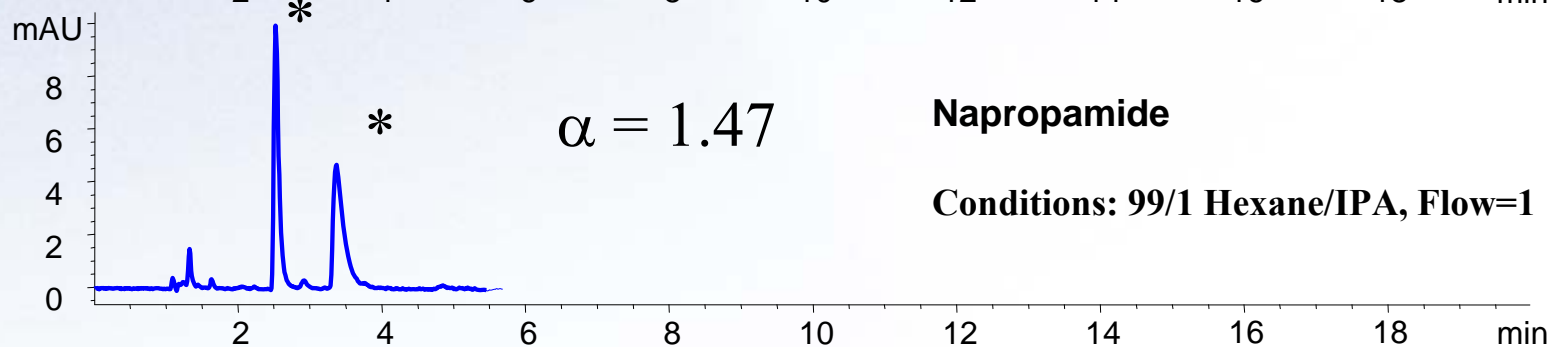
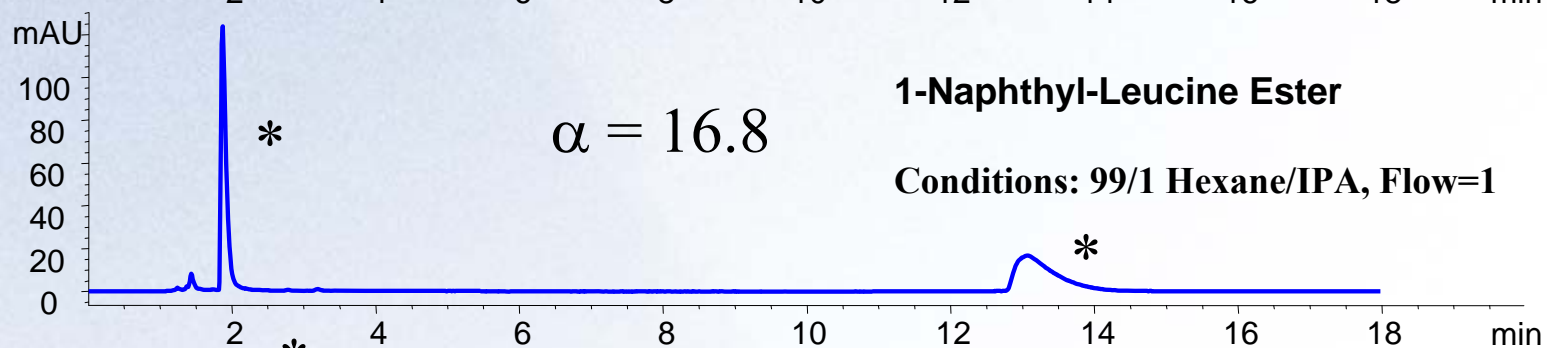
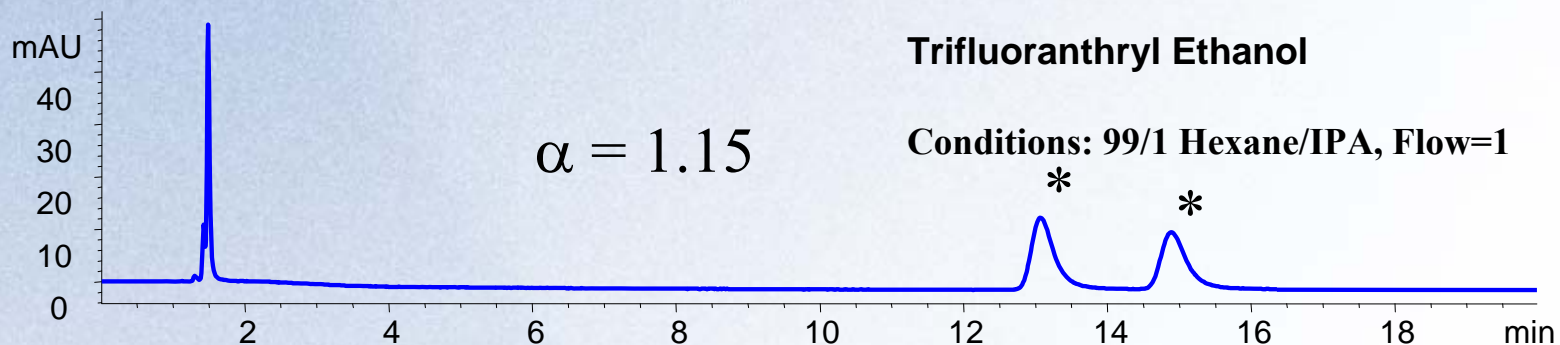
(S)-N-[1-(1-naphthyl)ethyl]succinamic acid

[(S)-NESA]

1. Phase II SBIR  
(NIH)



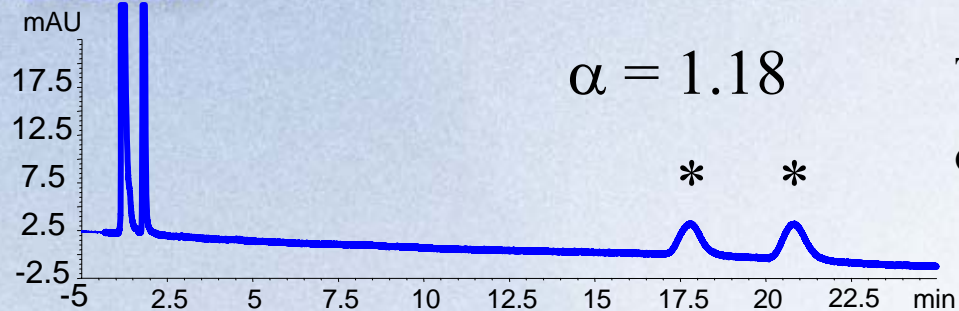
# Chiral Separation on Zr (S)-Leu ( $\pi$ -acceptor phase)





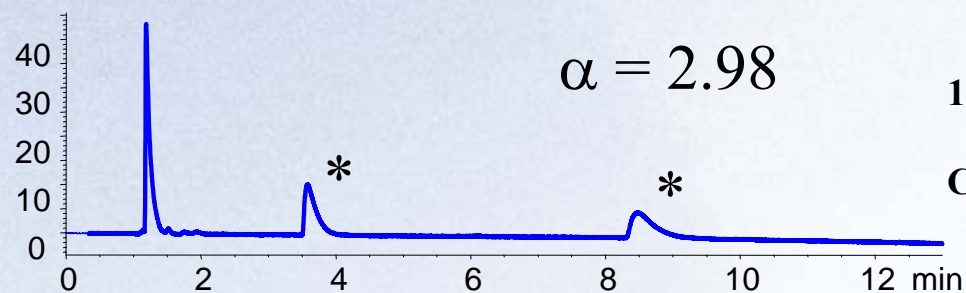
# Chiral Separation on Zr (R)-PG ( $\pi$ -acceptor phase)

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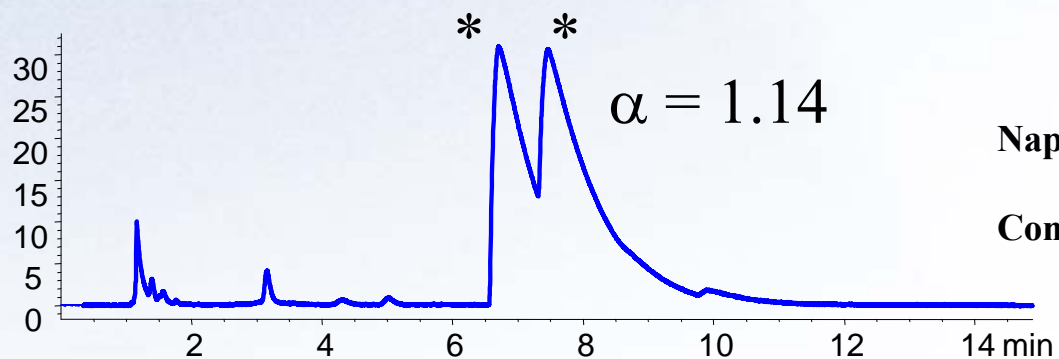
**Trifluoranthryl Ethanol**

**Conditions: 99/1 Hexane/IPA, Flow=1**



**1-Naphthyl-Leucine Ester**

**Conditions: 99/1 Hexane/IPA, Flow=1**



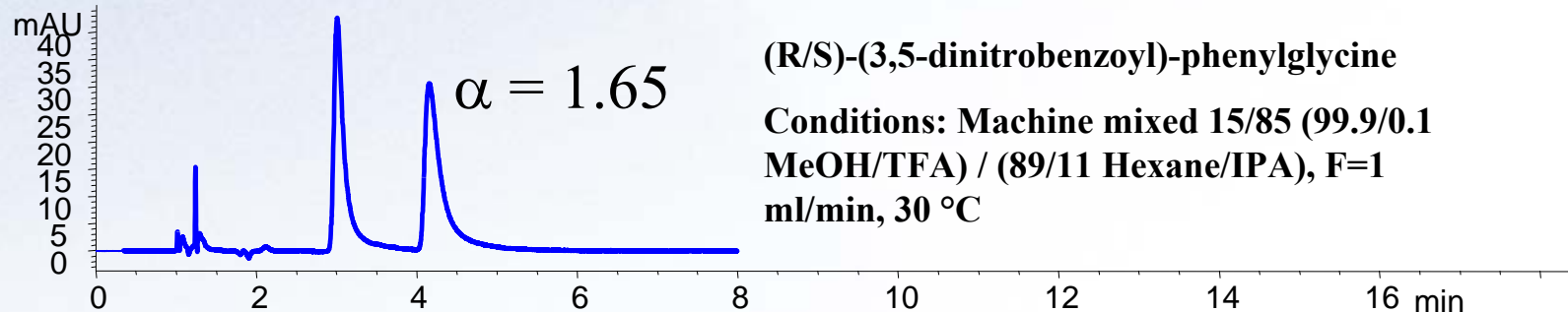
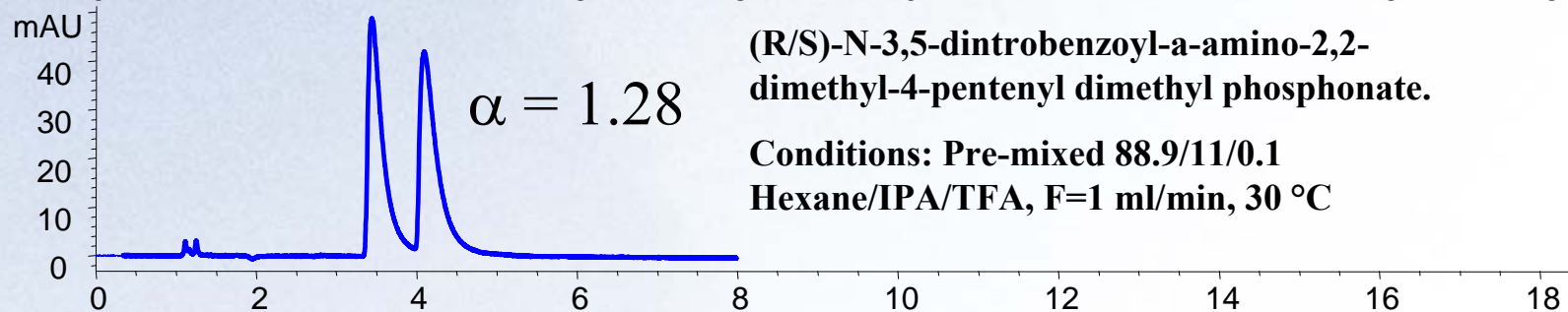
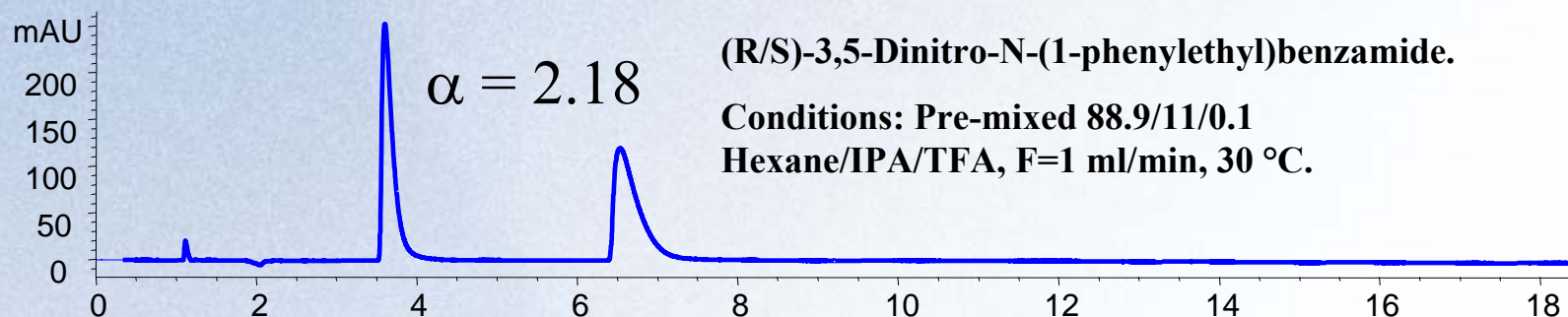
**Napropamide**

**Conditions: 99/1 Hexane/IPA, Flow=1**





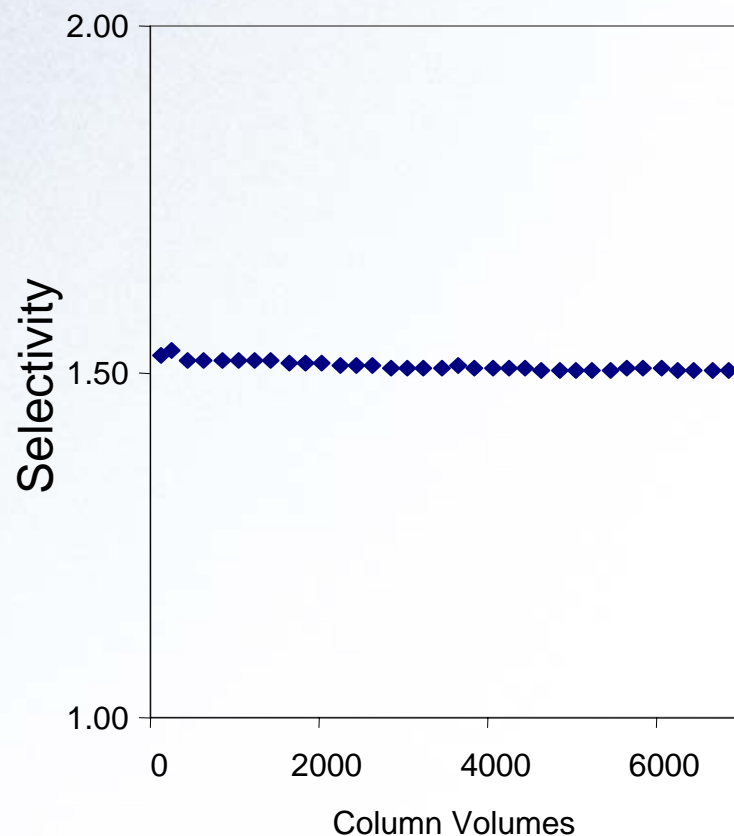
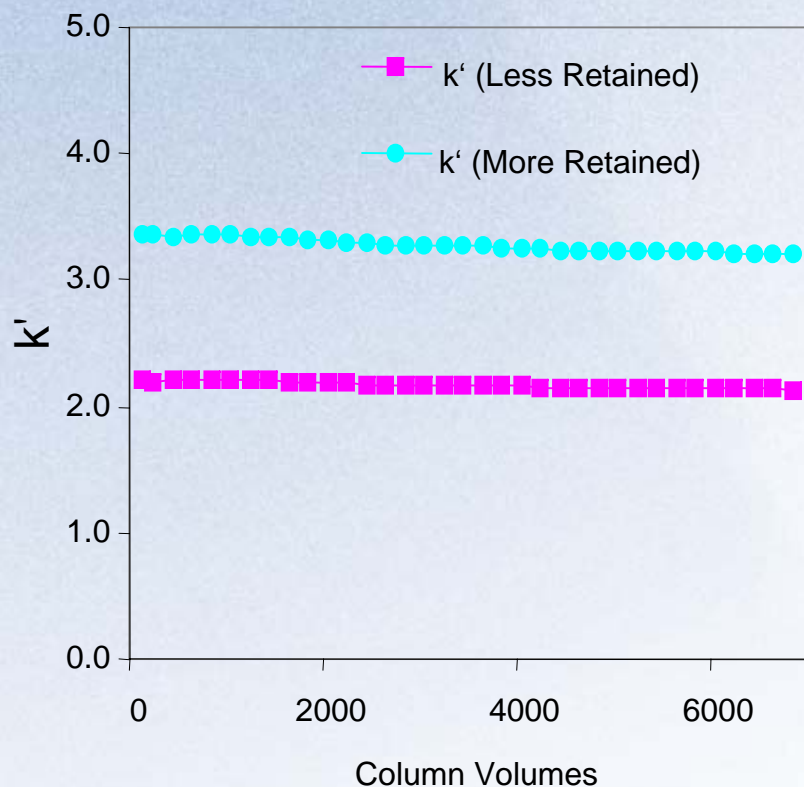
# Chiral Separations on Zr (S)-NESA ( $\pi$ -donor phase)





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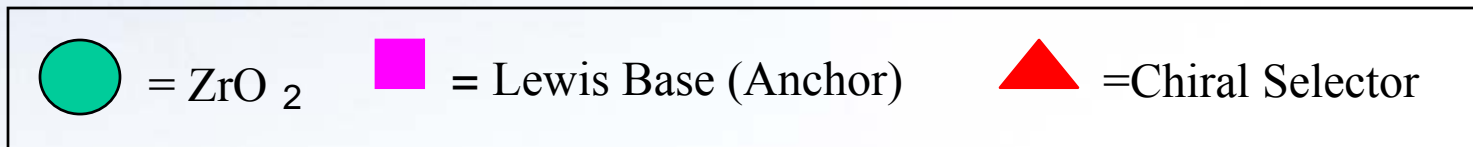
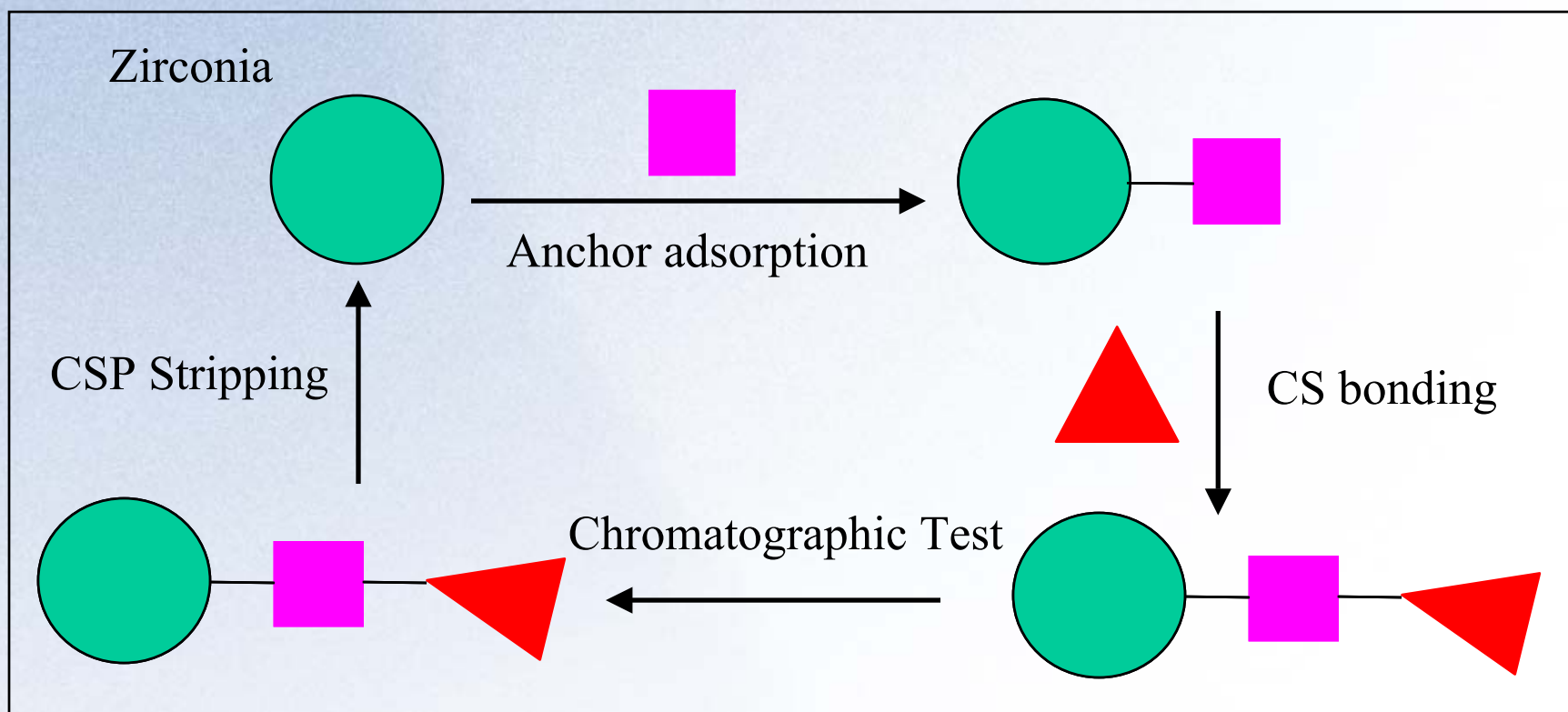
# Stability of Zr-(S)-NESA at pH 2



Column ID: ZrCSP051605C, Mobile phase: 15/85 ACN/0.01 mM TFA pH 2, Temperature: 30 °C. Injection volume: 5 ul, Wavelength: 254 nm. Probe solutes:(R/S)-3,5-dinitro-N-(1-phenylethyl)benzamide.

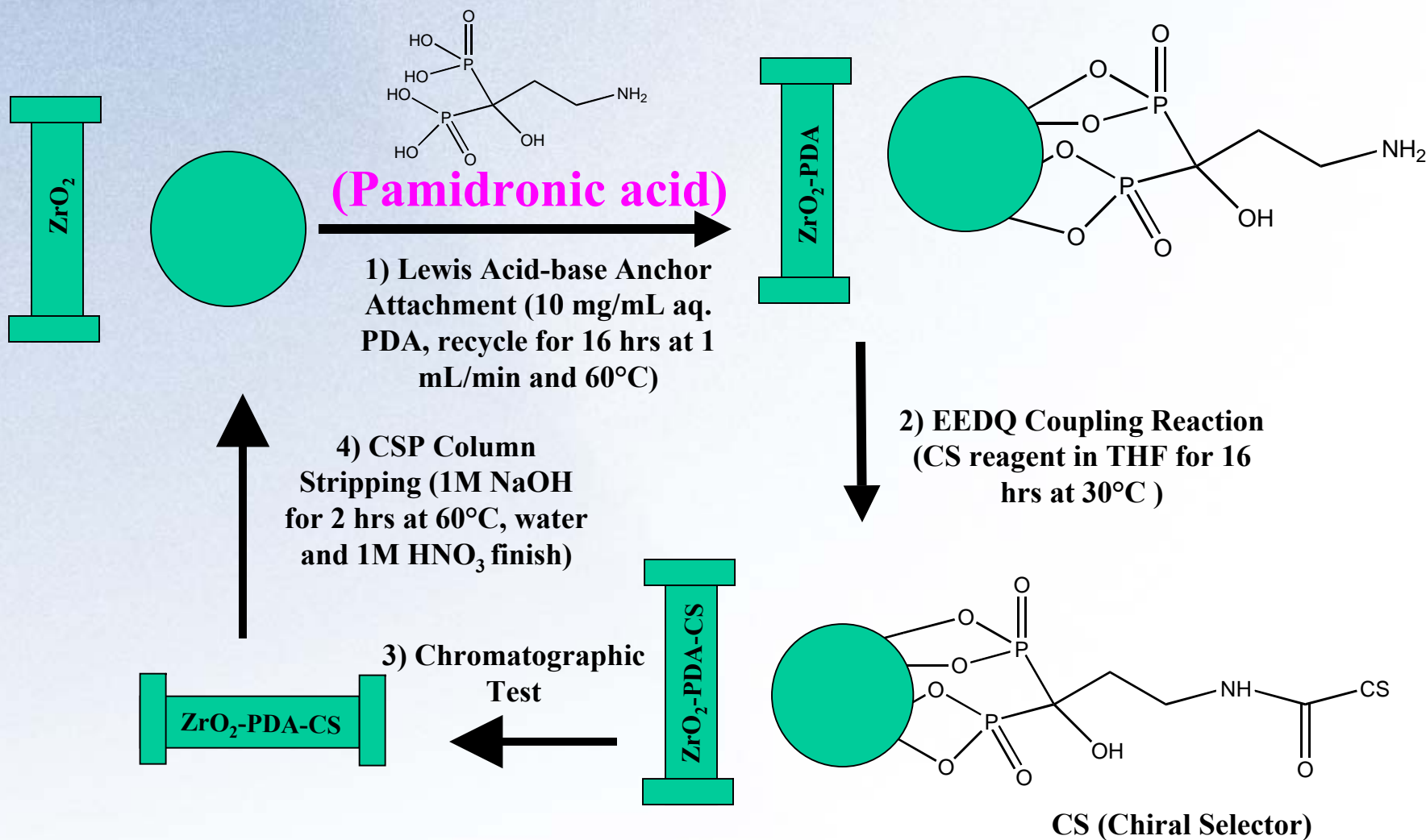


# 2-Step Synthesis of Zirconia CSPs for Chiral Selector Screening





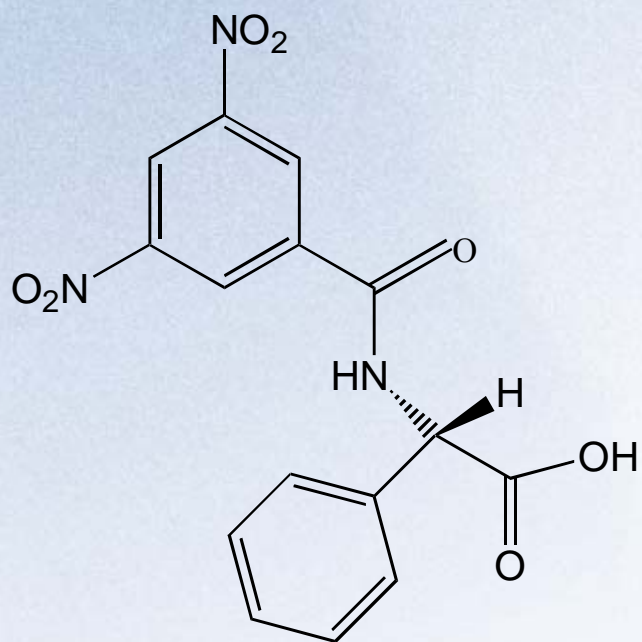
# 2-Step Online Zirconia CSP Synthesis for Chiral Screening



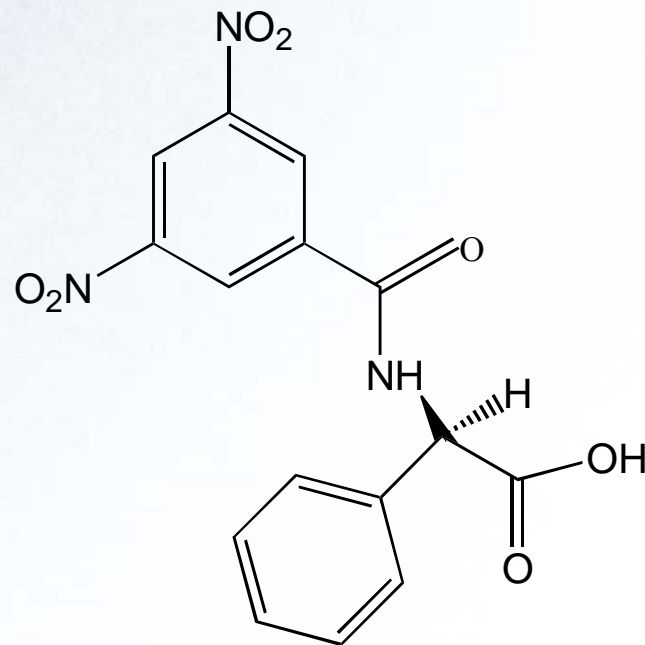


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# Changing Chiral Selectors



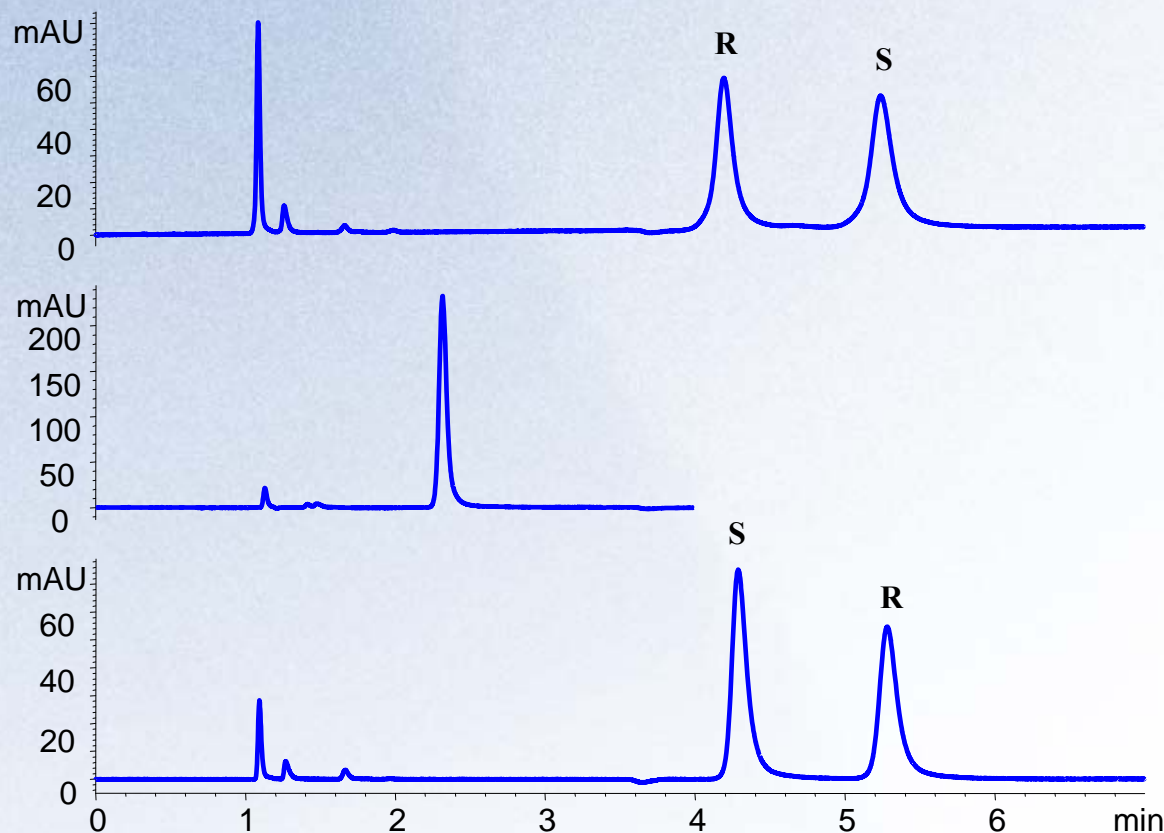
(S)-DNB-L-Phenylglycine (S-PG)



(R)-DNB-L-Phenylglycine (R-PG)



# Changing (S) to (R)-Phenylglycine CSP on Same Zr Column



## 2-Step Load (S)-PG CS

$$k'(\text{less}) = 2.84$$

$$k'(\text{more}) = 3.81$$

$$\alpha = 1.34$$

## Strip (S)-PG CS

No separation.

## 2-Step Load (R)-PG CS

$$k'(\text{less}) = 2.92$$

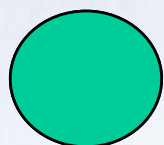
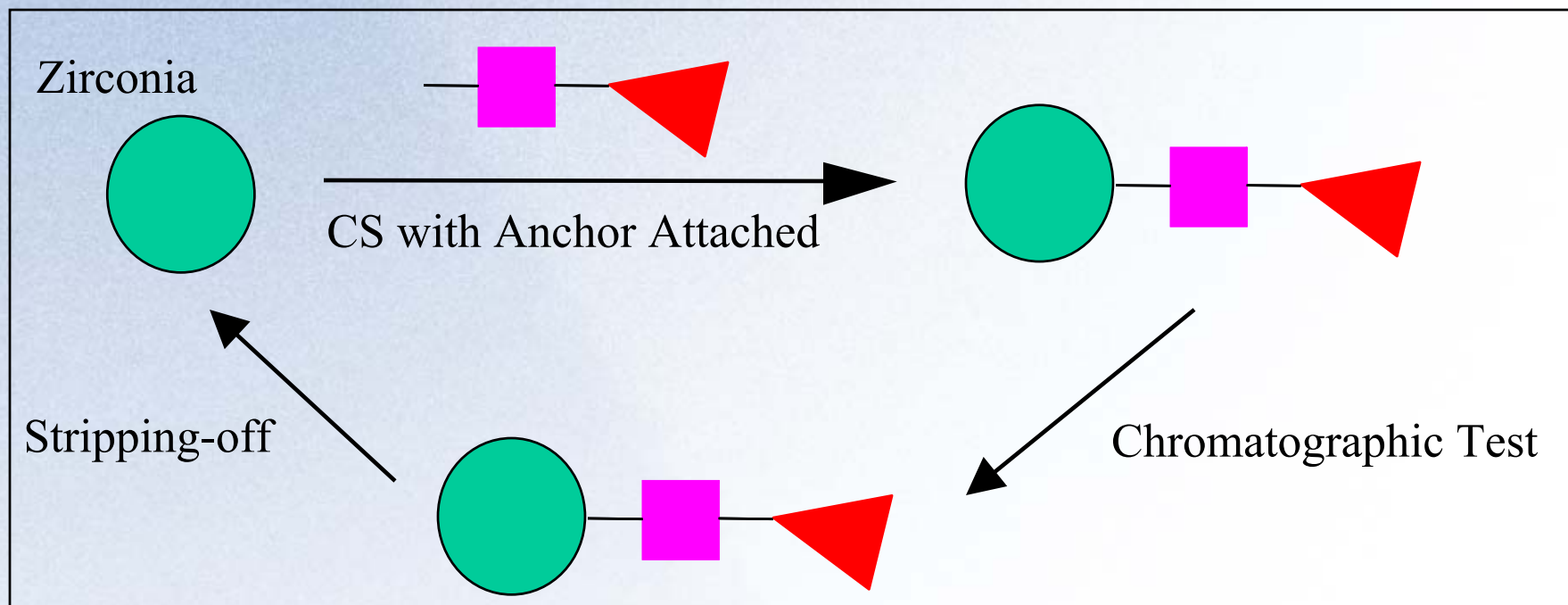
$$k'(\text{more}) = 3.83$$

$$\alpha = 1.34$$

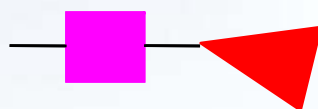
Pre-mixed 98/0.5/1.5 Hexane/TFA/IPA, F=1 ml/min, rm °C, 254 nm, Column: ZirChrom PDA-(S)-PG, S/N SPG122005D and ZirChrom PDA-(R)-PG, S/N RPG020806A (100 × 4.6 mm, 3 μm, Running HPLC coated on PHASE110805A, batch#: 52-132). Solute: 1,3,5-Tri-t-butyl-benzene, (R orS)-2,2,2-Trifluoro-1-(9-anthryl) EtOH. 5 μl injection.



# 1-Step Synthesis of Zirconia CSPs for Fast Chiral Screening



=  $ZrO_2$

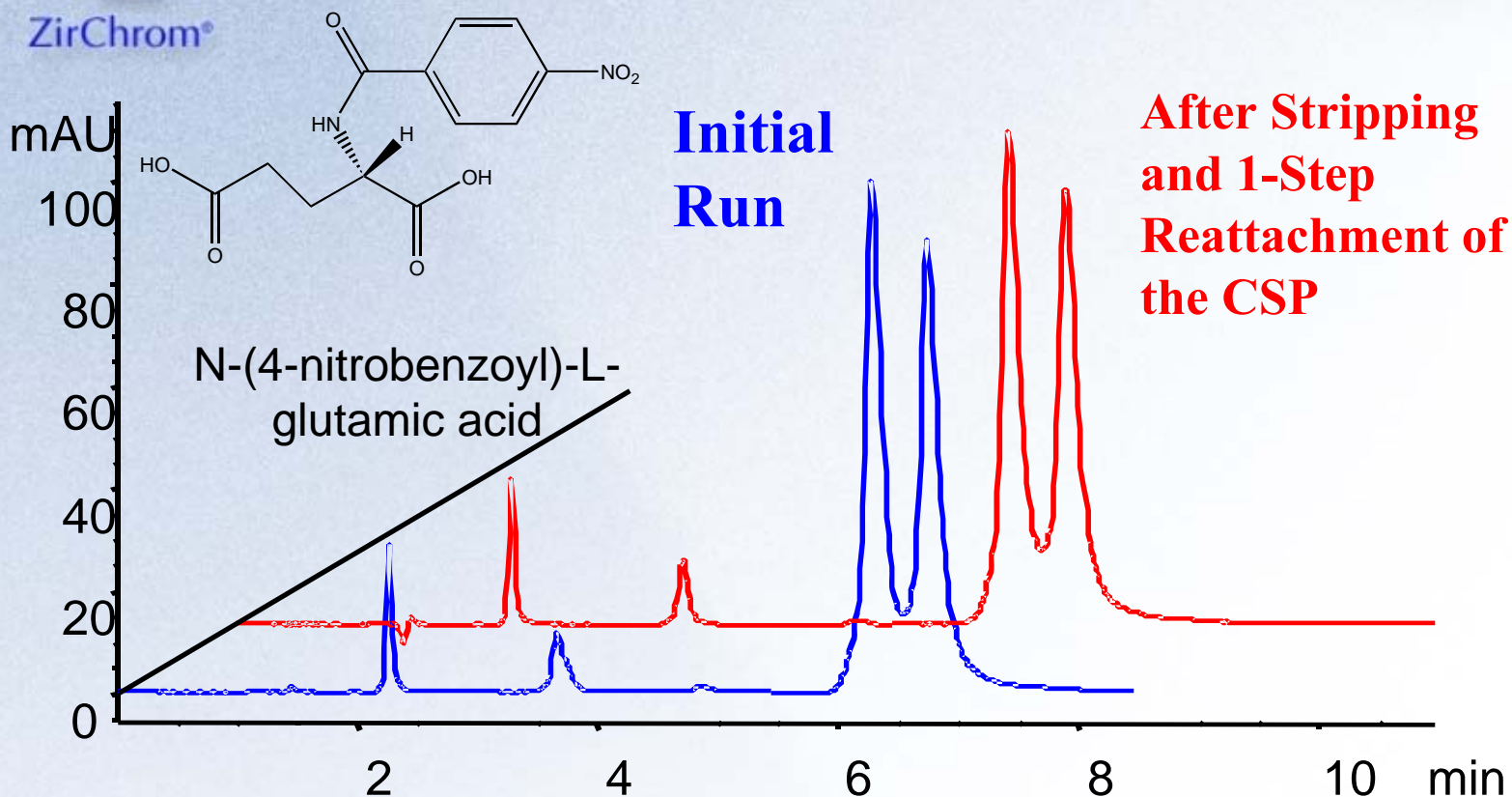


= Chiral Selector with  
Anchor Group



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# Glutamic Acid Proof of Concept



Comparison between the initial and final separation of ( $\pm$ )-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-(9-anthyl)ethanol leucine ester during a single CSP screening cycle.

Chromatographic conditions: mobile phase: 99/1 hexane/IPA; flow rate: 1 ml/min; temperature: 30 °C, solute concentration = 1mg/mL, 5  $\mu$ L injection.





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## Conclusions

- Five new CSPs were attached to zirconia using PDA:
  - $\pi$ -acceptors:* Zr (S)-Leu, Zr (R)-PG, and Zr (S)-PG
  - $\pi$ -donors:* Zr (R)-NESA, Zr (S)-NESA
- Zirconia CSPs are reproducible, stable and have comparable chromatographic performance to commercial silica CSPs for range of chiral compounds.
- *Fast user screening of chiral selectors is possible by changing the CSP online using a single, rugged zirconia column; both 2-step and 1-step methods have been developed for ambient and near-ambient conditions.*

Acknowledgement: *National Institutes of Health Grant*  
(Phase II SBIR) 2R44HL070334-02A2.



# Future Studies and Development

- Expanded number and type of Zirconia CSPs.
- Zirconia CSP with both pi-donor and pi-acceptor functions.
- Cellulosic Zirconia CSPs.
- Titania CSPs
- Reagents and procedures for fast user screening of various chiral selectors using a single, rugged zirconia column.



**Thanks *very much*  
for listening!**



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