

Amino acids have recently been of interest for their use in the booming healthcare supplements industry. Although there is a high demand for analysis, direct measurement by HPLC is not straightforward, this is because UV-visible detection is not selective nor sufficiently sensitive for amino acids in their native form. This application note describes a method of analysis using Post Column-OPA derivitization, which is highly sensitive, highly selective and quantitative for amino acids.

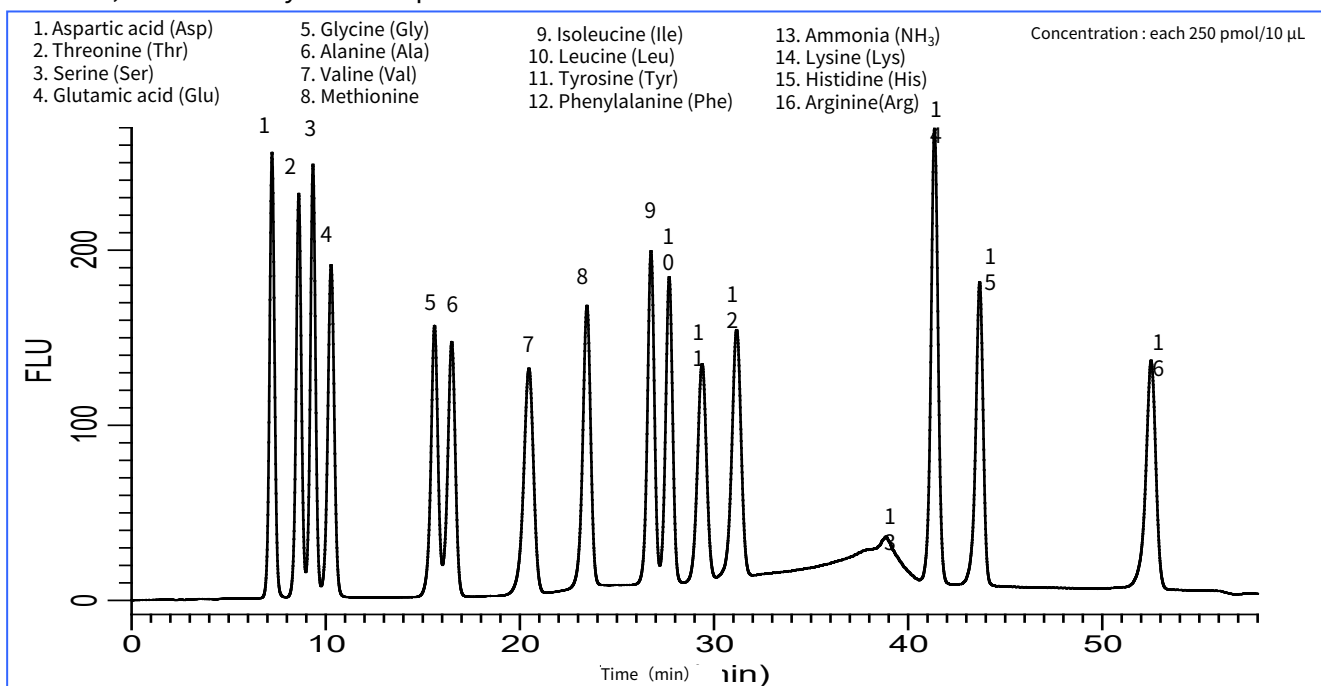
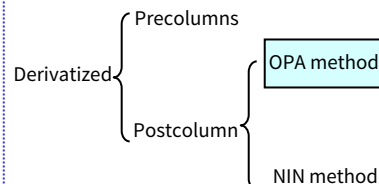
Features of the post-column-orthophthalaldehyde (OPA) method

The post-column derivatization method, in which the components are first separated by a column has the advantage that it does not change the derivatization efficiency due to the presence of contaminants. This results in it being possible to assay a wide range of samples with good quantitation and reproducibility.

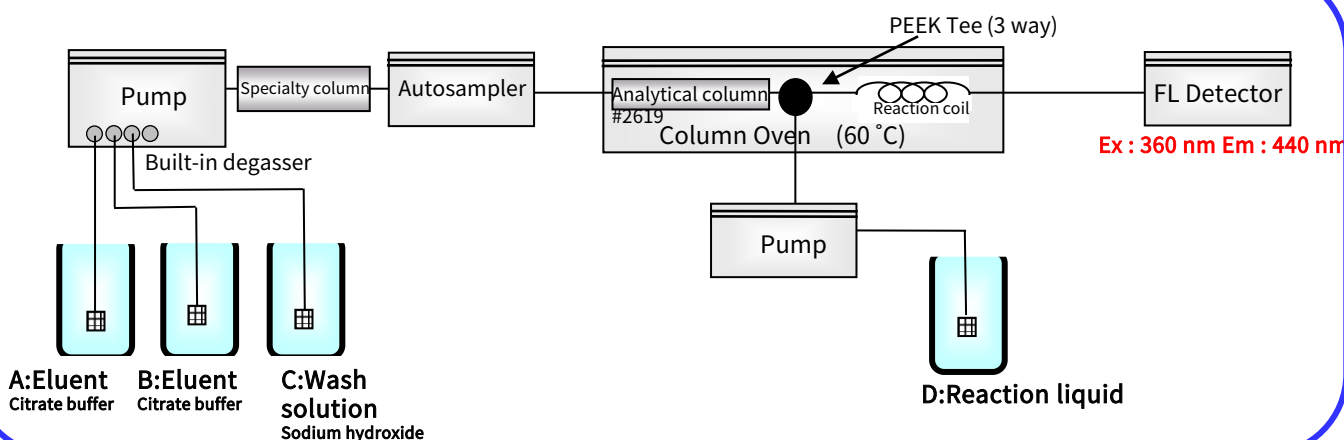
The OPA method selectively derivatizes the amino group found on both amino acids and contaminants after separating them with the ion exchange column for fluorometric detection.

Because of its greater selectivity compared to other derivatization methods, the assay can be performed with simple pretreatment. Using fluorescence detection, the sensitivity is also superior.

Type of derivatization method

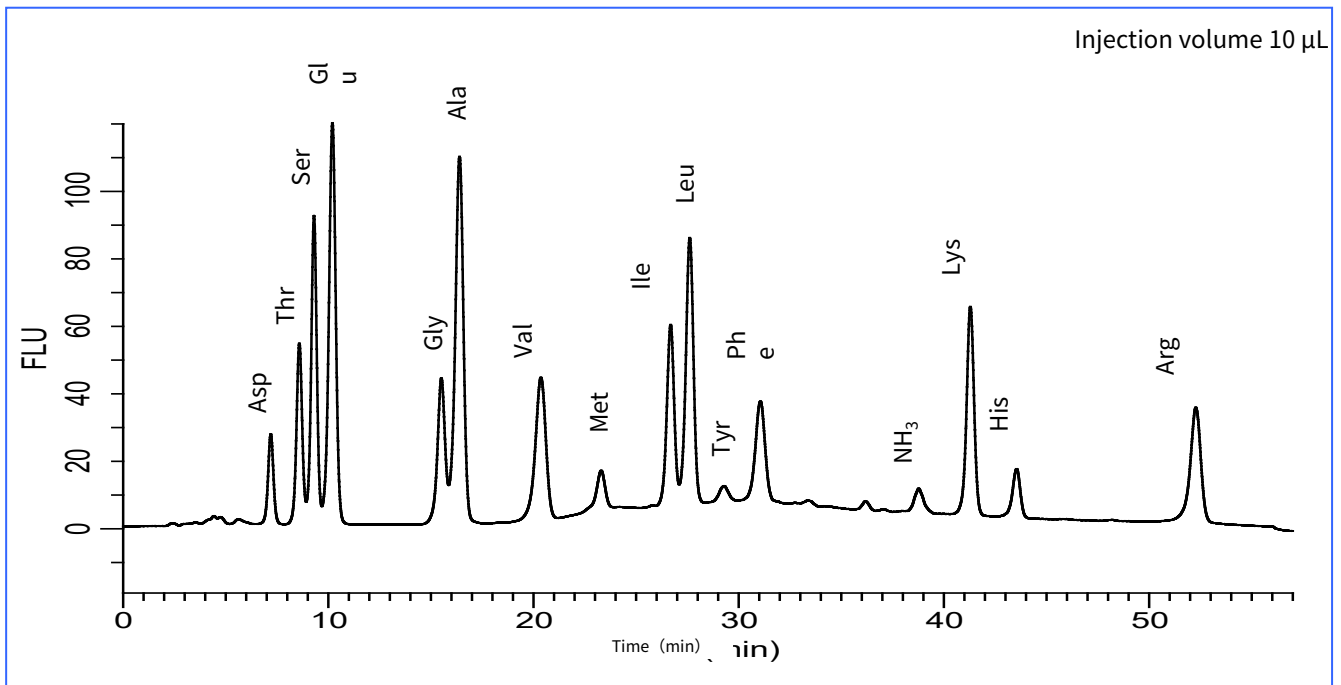


Analytical conditions and flow chart



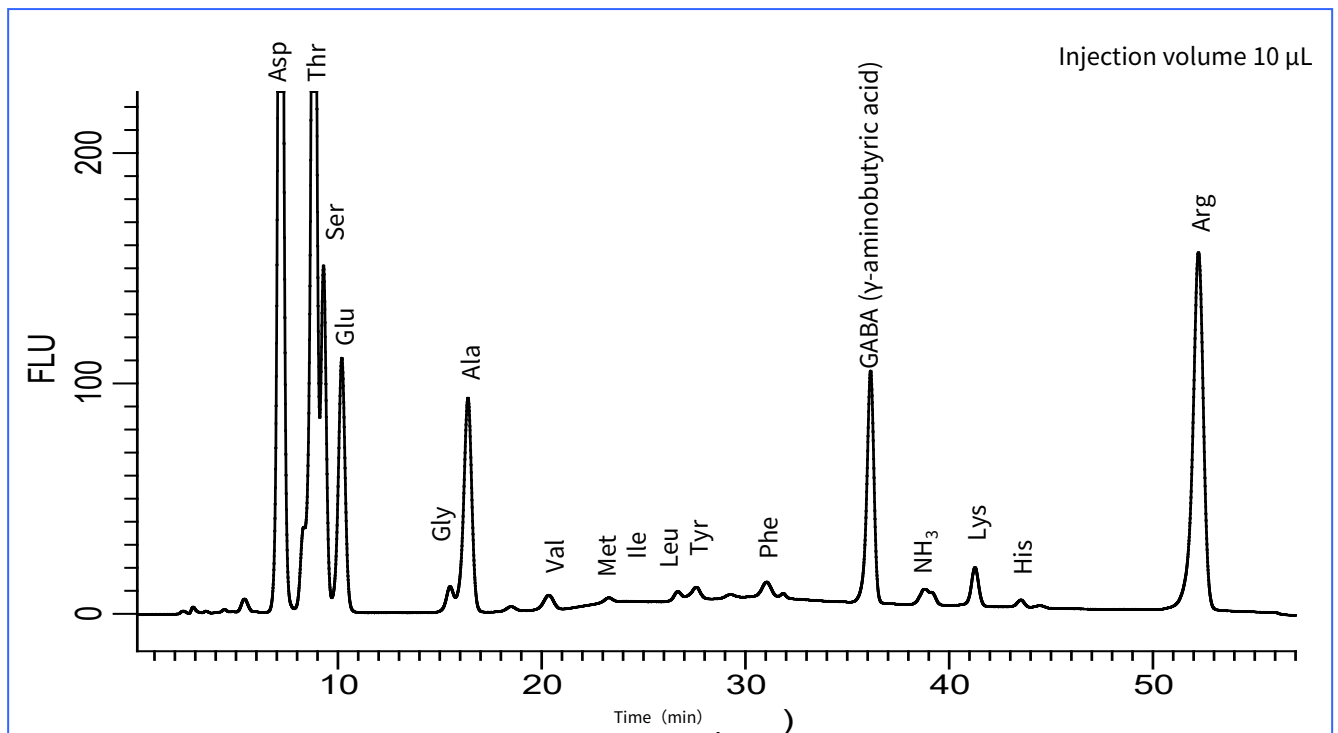
Amino acids in soy sauce

Pretreatment: Dilute soy sauce 200-fold with water and filtered



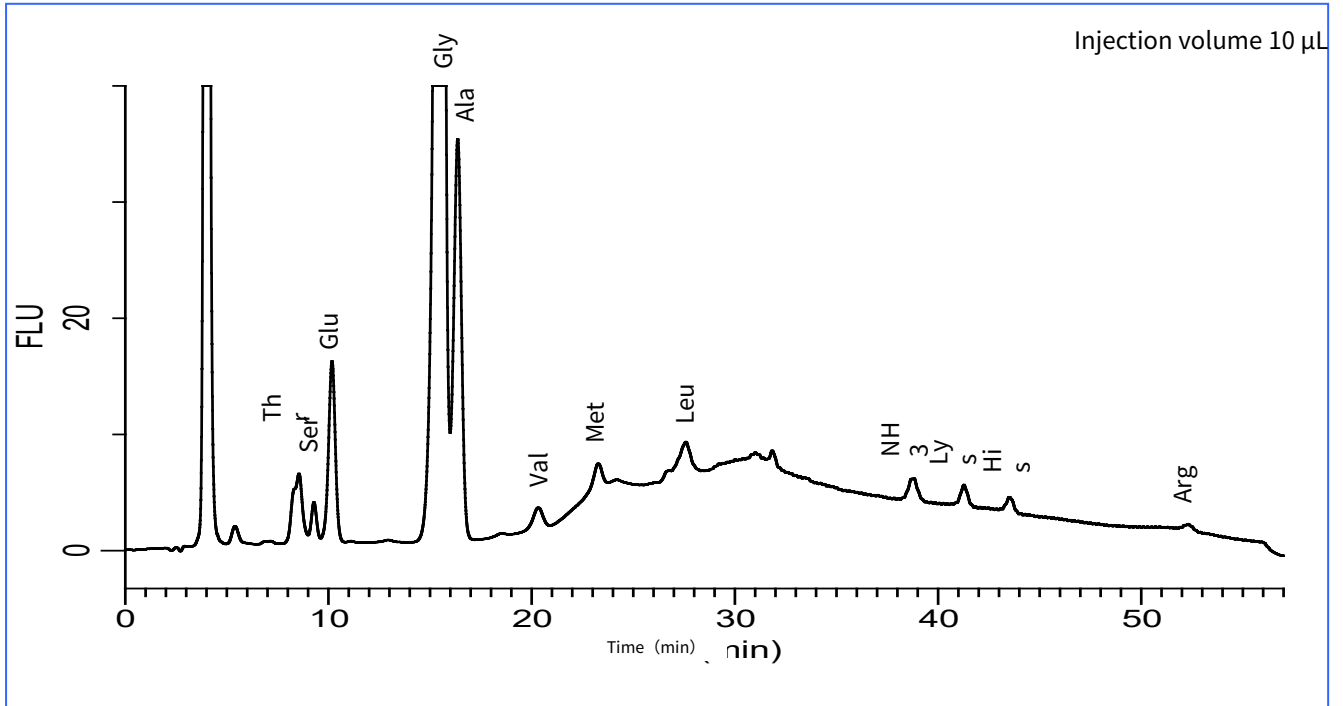
Amino acids in Mandarin oranges

Pretreatment: Dilute squeezed mandarin orange 50-fold with water and filtered



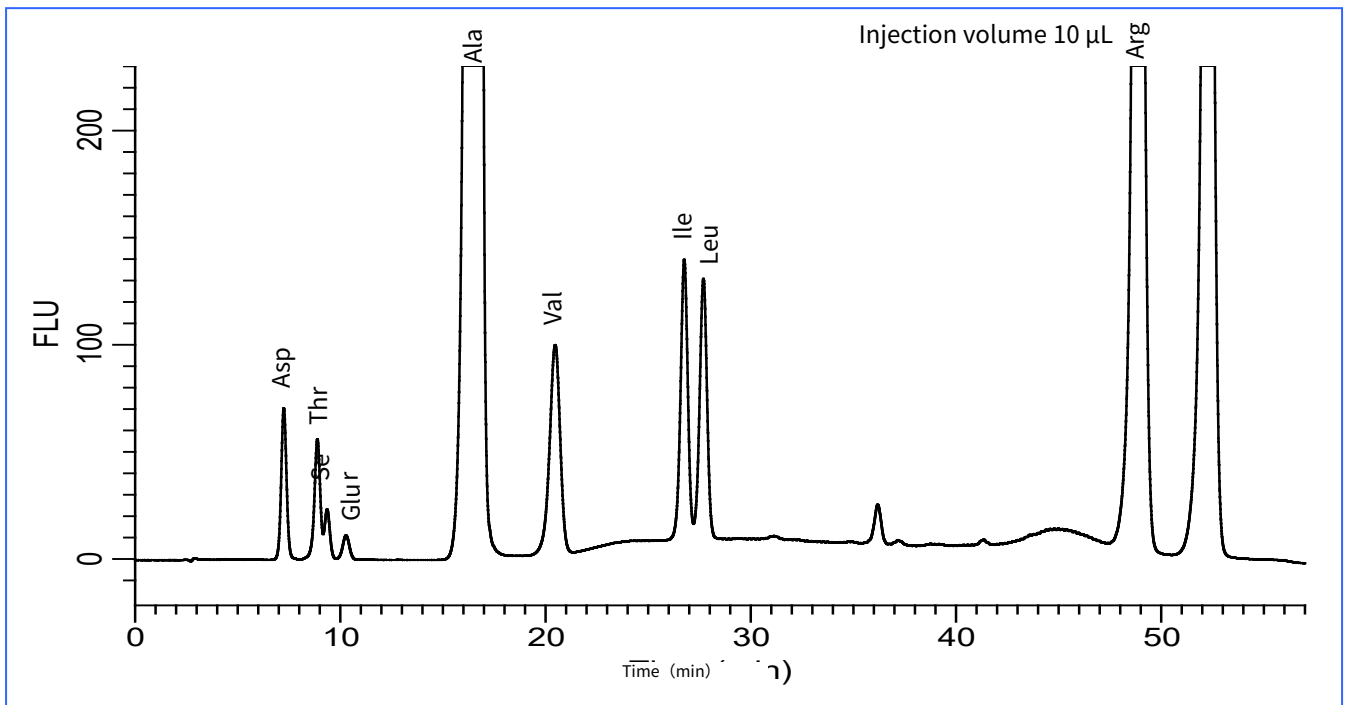
Amino acids in scallops

Pretreatment method: 15 mg of the adductor muscle of raw scallops was homogenized in 2 mL of water and filtered



Amino acids in soft drinks containing amino acids

Pretreatment: 10-fold dilution of soft drink in water and filtered



Example of application

The measurement of polyamines and guanidine compounds is also possible considering the eluent.

Polyamines

- Detection of allergic substances such as histamine
- Food freshness checks

Guanidine compounds

- Some compounds have been suggested to be associated with cancer

γ -Aminobutyric acid (GABA), which lowers blood pressure, can also be measured.

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GL Sciences Inc. Japan

22-1 Nishishinjuku 6-chome
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
163-1130, Japan

Phone: +81-3-5323-6620
Fax: +81-3-5323-6621
Email: world@glsc.co.jp
Web: www.glsciences.com

GL Sciences Inc. USA

4733 Torrance Blvd. Suite 255
Torrance, CA 90503
USA

Phone: +1-310-265-4424
Fax: +1-310-265-4425
Email: info@glsciencesinc.com
Web: www.glsciencesinc.com

GL Sciences B.V.

Dillenburgstraat 7C
5652AM, Eindhoven
The Netherlands

Phone: +31-40-254-9531
Email: info@glsciences.eu
Web: www.glsciences.eu

GL Sciences (Shanghai) Limited

Tower B, Room 2003
Far East International Plaza
No.317 Xianxia Road, Changning District
Shanghai, China 200051

Phone: +86-21-62782272
Email: contact@glsciences.com.cn
Web: www.glsciences.com.cn



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