# Fatty Acids and Esters at Low Nanogram Levels

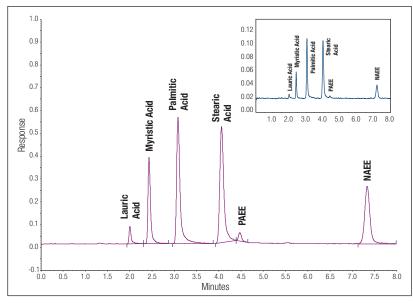


Figure 1. Fatty acid standards (1 µg each on column). Inset: 100 ng each on column.

The need for universal high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) detection in analytical laboratories is widespread. While several detection technologies (e.g., low wavelength UV, refractive index, evaporative light scattering, chemiluminescent nitrogen detectors) are currently being used, there is significant room for improvement in performance characteristics such as sensitivity, dynamic range, consistency of response factors, and gradient or solvent compatibility.

To help address the many challenges of universal detection, the Thermo Scientific Dionex Corona Charged Aerosol Detector was developed. This novel technology offers many benefits to analytical scientists including:

- High Sensitivity—Low ng limits of detection.
- Consistent Response Factors—Response magnitude does not significantly depend on analyte properties (e.g., molar absorbtivity, proton affinity).
- Broad and Useful Dynamic Range—Four orders of magnitude (ng to μg quantities).
- Excellent Reproducibility—Typically less than 2% relative standard deviation (RSD).

- Broad Applicability—Can be used with a wide variety of HPLC conditions to measure virtually any nonvolatile analyte including proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and small molecules.
- Ease of Use—Easy setup. Uses minimal bench space and requires only gas input pressure and signal output range to be set.

This application note describes the use of the CAD<sup>TM</sup> Charged Aerosol Detector for the measurement of different fatty acids and esters. The method has a typical limit of detection of <20 ng, on column (Figure 1) for most of the analytes studied. The dynamic range covers ng to µg levels (Figure 2). It illustrates the use of the Corona charged aerosol detector for measurement of lipids and esters, and shows the influence of analyte volatility on detector response.



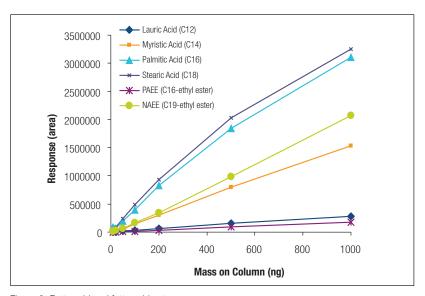


Figure 2. Fatty acid and fatty acid ester response curves.

## **Corona Parameters**

Injection Volume:

Gas:	35 psi via nitrogen generator	
Filter:	None	
Range:	100 pA	
HPLC Parameters		
Mobile Phase:	75:25, acetonitrile:methanol with 50 mM formic acid	
Flow Rate:	0.6 mL/min	
Column:	150 × 3.2; 3 μm	
Column Temperature:	Ambient	

10 μL

## **Sample Preparation**

Stock:	100 μg/mL of each standard in
	acetonitrile:methanol 75:25

#### Conclusion

The Corona charged aerosol detector provides universal detection of nonvolatile analytes with response independent of chemical properties, a wide dynamic response range, high sensitivity, and good precision. These characteristics, along with reliability and simple operation, make the Corona charged aerosol detector a superior detector for a wide range of HPLC analyses.

### www.thermoscientific.com/dionex

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