

## The hydrogen-deuterium exchange at $\alpha$ -carbon atom in *N, N, N*-trialkylglycine residue: ESI-MS studies.

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Derivatization of peptides as quaternary ammonium salts (QAS) is a known method for sensitive detection by electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry. Hydrogens at  $\alpha$ -carbon atom in *N, N, N*-trialkylglycine residue can be easily exchanged by deuterons. The exchange reaction is base-catalyzed and is dramatically slow at lower pH. Introduced deuterons are stable in acidic aqueous solution and are not back-exchanged during LC-MS analysis. Increased ionization efficiency, provided by the fixed positive charge on QAS group, as well as the deuterium labeling, enables the analysis of trace amounts of peptides.

### Słowa kluczowe

Quaternary ammonium salts, HDX, Betaine, Charge-tagged peptides

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