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retardation factor, R_F

in planar chromatography

Ratio of the distance travelled by the centre of the spot to the distance simultaneously travelled by the mobile phase:

$$R_F = \frac{b}{a}$$

By definition the R_F values are always less than unity. They are usually given to two decimal places. In order to simplify this presentation the hR_F values may be used: they correspond to the R_F values multiplied by 100. Ideally, R_F values are identical to the R values used in column chromatography.

Source:
PAC, 1993, *65*, 819 *(Nomenclature for chromatography (IUPAC Recommendations 1993))* on page 845

