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Studies on the Polysaccharides Having Activity on the Reticuloendothelial System from Several Oriental Crude Drugs*

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Eleven polysaccharides have been isolated from the hot water extracts of several Oriental crude drugs. Saposhnikovan A, B and C were obtained from the roots and rhizomes of *Saposhnikovia divaricata.* A neutral polysaccharide, MVS-I, and two acidic polysaccharides, MVS-IIIA and -IVA, were isolated from the seeds of *Malva verticillata.* An arabinoxylan, named cinnaman AX, was obtained from the barks of *Cinnamomum cassia.* The rhizomes of *Curcuma longa* afforded four highly active substances, named ukonans A, B, C and D. These polysaccharides showed remarkable reticuloendothelial system (RES)-potentiating activity. The effect of the polysaccharides on the RES was demonstrated by a modification of the *in vivo* carbon clearance test using ICR-SPF male mice. Structural features of the immunologically active polysaccharides were elucidated by chemical and spectral procedures.

Deacetylated product of Plantago-mucilage A, the mucous polysaccharide isolated from the seeds of *Plantago asiatica,* also showed remarkable activity.

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