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**Structural Features of Ukonan C, a Reticuloendothelial  
System-Activating Polysaccharide from the  
Rhizome of *Curcuma longa*\***

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The structural features of ukonan C, the polysaccharide having remarkable reticuloendothelial system-potentiating activity obtained from the rhizome of *Curcuma longa* L., were investigated by methylation analysis, carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance, periodate oxidation and enzymic degradation studies. The polysaccharide is composed of L-arabinose, D-xylose, D-galactose, D-glucose, L-rhamnose and D-galacturonic acid in the molar ratio of 8:3:6:14:2:3. It is mainly made up of  $\alpha$ -L-arabino- $\beta$ -3,6-branched D-galactan type and  $\alpha$ -4,6-branched D-glucan type structural units. The glucan moiety in ukonan C was degraded by treatment with  $\alpha$ -amylase followed by gel chromatography. Side chains of branched glucose units in ukonan C were lost by the enzymic degradation, and this treatment resulted in a marked decrease of its immunological activity. The glucan fraction as the degradation products showed no RES activity.

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