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Characterization of a Polysaccharide Having Activity on the Reticuloendothelial System from the Stolon of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* var. *glandulifera**

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An acidic polysaccharide, named glycyrrhizan GA, was isolated from the stolon of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* var. *glandulifera*. It produced a single band on electrophoresis and a single peak on gel chromatography, and its molecular mass was estimated to be 85,000.

Glycyrrhizan GA is composed of L-arabinose : D-galactose : L-rhamnose : D-galacturonic acid : D-glucuronic acid in the molar ratio of 22 : 10 : 1 : 2 : 1, in addition to small amounts of *O*-acetyl groups. Part of the hexuronic acid residues exist as methyl esters.

Chemical and spectroscopic studies indicated that the minimal unit of polysaccharide is composed of thirteen terminal α-L-arabinofuranose, four α-1,3-linked L-arabinofuranose, twenty-two α-1,5-linked L-arabinofuranose, five α-2,5-branched L-arabinofuranose, one α-1,2-linked L-rhamnopyranose, one α-2,4-branched L-rhamnopyranose, one terminal β-D-galactopyranose, six β-1,3-linked D-galactopyranose, three β-1,6-linked D-galactopyranose, ten β-3,6-branched D-galactopyranose, four α-1,4-linked D-galactopyranosyluronic acid and terminal β-D-glucopyranosyluronic acid residues.

Glycyrrhizan GA showed remarkable reticuloendothelial system-potentiating activity in a carbon clearance test.

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