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Constituents of the Seed of *Malva verticillata*. VIII. Smith Degradation of MVS-VI, the Major Acidic Polysaccharide, and Anti-Complementary Activity of Products*

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The controlled Smith degradation of MVS-VI, the major acidic polysaccharide having remarkable anti-complementary activity isolated from the seeds of *Malva verticillata* L., was performed. Methylation analysis of both the primary and the secondary Smith degradation products indicated that the core structural features of MVS-VI include a backbone chain composed of β-1,3-linked D-galactose residues. The majority of galactose units in the backbone carry side chains composed of β-1,3 - and β-1,6-linked D-galactosyl residues at position 6. The controlled Smith degradation of MVS-VI afforded three products, and they showed considerable anti-complementary activity. This fact suggests that the core structure contributes to the activity. It is interesting that two products showed almost the same value on the activity despite a marked difference in molecular mass between them.

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