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**The Core Structure and Immunological Activities of Ukonan B,
the Representative Polysaccharide from Turmeric,
and Its Degradation Products***

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Controlled Smith degradation of ukonan B, the representative polysaccharide isolated from the rhizome of *Curcuma longa* L., was performed. The reticuloendothelial system-potentiating, anti-complementary and alkaline phosphatase-inducing activities of ukonan B and its degradation products were investigated. Methylation analyses of both the primary and the secondary Smith degradation products indicated that the core structural features of ukonan B include a backbone chain composed of β -1,3-linked D-galactose. The galactose units in the backbone carry side chains mainly composed of β -1,6- or 1,3-linked D-galactose residues at position 6. Ukonan B has a remarkable effect on each of the three kinds of immunological activities. Periodate oxidation caused pronounced decrease or disappearance of these activities.

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