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Core Structure of Glycyrrhizan GA, the Main Polysaccharide from the Stolon of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* var. *glandulifera*; Anti-Complementary and Alkaline Phosphatase-Inducing Activities of the Polysaccharide and Its Degradation Products*

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The controlled Smith degradation and limited hydrolysis of glycyrrhizan GA, a representative polysaccharide with remarkable phagocytosis-enhancing activity isolated from the stolon of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* var. *glandulifera* REG. et HERD. were carried out. Methylation analyses of the primary and the secondary Smith degradation products and of the limited hydrolysis product indicated that the core structural features of glycyrrhizan GA include a backbone chain composed of β-1,3-linked D-galactose residues. Three-fifths of the galactose units in the backbone carry side chains composed of β-1,3- and β-1,6-linked D-galactosyl residues at position 6. Anti-complementary and alkaline phosphatase-inducing activities of the polysaccharide, periodate oxidation-reduction and the controlled Smith degradation products were investigated, and the controlled Smith degradation product showed significant activity.

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