

Title	Characterization of two novel polysaccharides having immunological activities from the root of panax ginseng
Sub Title	
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Publisher	共立薬科大学
Publication year	1993
Jtitle	共立薬科大学研究年報 (The annual report of the Kyoritsu College of Pharmacy). No.38 (1993.) ,p.47- 47
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	抄録
Genre	Technical Report
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00062898-00000038-0047

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**Characterization of Two Novel Polysaccharides Having
Immunological Activities from the Root
of *Panax ginseng****

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Two acidic polysaccharides, called ginsenan S-IA and ginsenan S-IIA, were isolated from the root of *Panax ginseng* C. A. MEYER. They were homogeneous on electrophoresis and gel chromatography, and their molecular masses were estimated to be 5.6×10^4 , and 1.0×10^5 , respectively. Ginsenan S-IA is composed of L-arabinose : D-galactose : D-galacturonic acid in the molar ratio of 8 : 8 : 1, and ginsenan S-IIA is composed of L-arabinose : D-galactose : D-glucose : D-galacturonic acid in the molar ratio of 15 : 10 : 2 : 5, in addition to small amounts of O-acetyl groups. About a half (ginsenan S-IA) and about a quarter (ginsenan S-IIA) of the hexuronic acid residues exist as methyl esters. Reduction of carboxyl groups, methylation analysis, nuclear magnetic resonance and periodate oxidation studies indicated that their structural features include mainly α -1,5-linked L-arabino- β -3,6-branched D-galactan type structural units. Both polysaccharides showed remarkable reticuloendothelial system-potentiating activity in a carbon clearance test and pronounced anti-complementary activity. These substances are the first examples having a relatively high content of both α -3,5-branched L-arabinose and β -1,4-linked D-galactose units among the acidic arabinogalactans with activities on phagocytosis and anti-complement.

* 本報告は *Biol. Pharm. Bull.*, **16** (11), 1087—1090 (1993) に発表.