

Title	Studies on the polysaccharides having activity on the reticuloendothelial system from several oriental crude drugs
Sub Title	
Author	友田, 正司(Tomododa, Masashi) 清水, 訓子(Shimizu, Noriko) 権田, 良子(Gonda, Ryoko) 金成, 美枝子(Kanari, Mieko)
Publisher	共立薬科大学
Publication year	1990
Jtitle	共立薬科大学研究年報 (The annual report of the Kyoritsu College of Pharmacy). No.35 (1990.) ,p.35- 35
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	抄録
Genre	Technical Report
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00062898-00000035-0035

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Studies on the Polysaccharides Having Activity on the Reticuloendothelial System from Several Oriental Crude Drugs*

Masashi TOMODA, Noriko SHIMIZU, Ryōko GONDA and Mieko KANARI

友田正司, 清水訓子, 権田良子, 金成美枝子

Eleven polysaccharides have been isolated from the hot water extracts of several Oriental crude drugs. Saposhnikovan A, B and C were obtained from the roots and rhizomes of *Saposhnikovia divaricata*. A neutral polysaccharide, MVS-I, and two acidic polysaccharides, MVS-III A and -IV A, were isolated from the seeds of *Malva verticillata*. An arabinoxylan, named cinnaman AX, was obtained from the barks of *Cinnamomum cassia*. The rhizomes of *Curcuma longa* afforded four highly active substances, named ukonans A, B, C and D. These polysaccharides showed remarkable reticuloendothelial system (RES)-potentiating activity. The effect of the polysaccharides on the RES was demonstrated by a modification of the *in vivo* carbon clearance test using ICR-SPF male mice. Structural features of the immunologically active polysaccharides were elucidated by chemical and spectral procedures.

Deacetylated product of Plantago-mucilage A, the mucous polysaccharide isolated from the seeds of *Plantago asiatica*, also showed remarkable activity.

* 本報告は *J. Pharmacobio-Dyn.*, 13, S-47 (1990) に発表.