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A Reticuloendothelial System Activating Glycan from the Rhizomes of *Curcuma longa**

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From the hot water extract of the rhizomes of *Curcuma longa,* a glycan, named ukonan A, has been isolated by fractionation on DEAE-Sephadex A-25 followed by chromatography on Con A-Sepharose and Sephacryl S-300 columns. The glycan showed remarkable reticuloendothelial system potentiating activity in the carbon clearance test.

The glycan was composed of a polysaccharide (92.7%) and a peptide moiety (7.3%). The polysaccharide was composed of L-arabinose, D-xylose, D-galactose, D-glucose, L-rhamnose and D-galacturonic acid in the molar ratio of 12 : 4 : 12 : 1 : 4 : 10. Gel chromatography gave a value of 1.1×10^5 for its molecular mass. It gave a single band on PAGE, and a single peak on gel chromatography.

Chemical and spectroscopic studies established that the minimal unit of the polysaccharide is composed of twelve terminal α-L-arabinofuranose, four α-1,5-linked L-arabinofuranose, eight α-1,3-linked L-arabinopyranose, one β-1,4-linked D-xylopyranose, seven β-3,4-branched D-xylose, nine terminal β-D-galactose, three β-1,3-linked D-galactose, three β-1,6-linked D-galactose, nine β-3,6-branched D-galactose, one terminal α-D-glucose, one α-1,4-linked D-glucose, two α-1,2-linked L-rhamnose, six α-2,4-branched L-rhamnose and twenty α-1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid residues.

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