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**Structure and Anticomplementary Activity of an Acidic  
Polysaccharide from the Leaves of *Malva  
sylvestris* var. *mauritiana*\***

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A main polysaccharide, designated as MSL-P, was isolated from the leaves of *Malva sylvestris* var. *mauritiana* by extraction with water followed by fractionation with DEAE-Sephadex A-25 (carbonate) and purification by gel chromatography with Sephacryl S-300 and Sephadex G-25. It was homogeneous by electrophoresis and gel chromatography, which gave a value of  $1.1 \times 10^4$  as molecular mass.

It is composed of L-rhamnose, D-galactose, D-galacturonic acid and D-glucuronic acid in the molar ratio of 22:6:22:11, and it contains 7.7% peptide moiety.

The structure of the polysaccharide component was elucidated by methylation analysis, partial hydrolysis and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR studies. The backbone of the polysaccharide is composed of alternating  $\alpha$ -1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid and  $\alpha$ -1,2-linked L-rhamnosyl residues. Approximately 50% of the 1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid residues are also substituted at position 3 with terminal, non-reducing  $\beta$ -D-glucuronic acid groups. Some of the 1,2-linked L-rhamnosyl residues are also substituted at position 4 with oligosaccharides containing  $\beta$ -1,4-linked D-galactosyl residues.

MSL-P had potent anti-complementary activity, which was nearly equal to that of the positive control, AR-4, from the root of *Angelica acutiloba*.

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