

Title	Structural features of ukonan C, a reticuloendothelial system-activating polysaccharide from the rhizome of curcuma longa
Sub Title	
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Publisher	共立薬科大学
Publication year	1991
Jtitle	共立薬科大学研究年報 (The annual report of the Kyoritsu College of Pharmacy). No.36 (1991.) ,p.39- 39
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	抄録
Genre	Technical Report
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00062898-00000036-0039

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**Structural Features of Ukonan C, a Reticuloendothelial
System-Activating Polysaccharide from the
Rhizome of *Curcuma longa****

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The structural features of ukonan C, the polysaccharide having remarkable reticuloendothelial system-potentiating activity obtained from the rhizome of *Curcuma longa* L., were investigated by methylation analysis, carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance, periodate oxidation and enzymic degradation studies. The polysaccharide is composed of L-arabinose, D-xylose, D-galactose, D-glucose, L-rhamnose and D-galacturonic acid in the molar ratio of 8:3:6:14:2:3. It is mainly made up of α -L-arabino- β -3,6-branched D-galactan type and α -4,6-branched D-glucan type structural units. The glucan moiety in ukonan C was degraded by treatment with α -amylase followed by gel chromatography. Side chains of branched glucose units in ukonan C were lost by the enzymic degradation, and this treatment resulted in a marked decrease of its immunological activity. The glucan fraction as the degradation products showed no RES activity.

* 本報告は *Chem. Pharm. Bull.*, 39, 441—444 (1991) に発表.