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**Plant Mucilages. XLIII. A Representative Mucilage with Biological Activity from the Leaves of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*\***

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A representative mucilage, called Hibiscus-mucilage RL, was isolated from the leaves of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L. It was homogeneous on electrophoresis, and its molecular mass was estimated to be roughly  $1.0 \times 10^7$ . Its intrinsic viscosity value in aqueous solution was 23.2. The major constituent is an acidic polysaccharide composed of L-rhamnose : D-galactose : D-galacturonic acid : D-glucuronic acid in the molar ratio of 5 : 8 : 3 : 2. Methylation analysis, partial hydrolysis and nuclear magnetic resonance studies indicated its main structural features including a unique backbone chain composed of  $\alpha$ -1,4-linked D-galactosyl  $\alpha$ -1,2-linked L-rhamnosyl  $\alpha$ -1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid units. The mucilage showed considerable anti-complementary activity.

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