Studies on Polysaccharides from *Serratia marcescens*. II. On the Structures of Serratigen and Serratimannan

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(Received July 12, 1974)

An antigenic lipopolysaccharide, serratigen isolated from *Serratia marcescens* was mainly made up of galactose and contained 18.4% of galacturonic acid. It had α-(1→3) galactan moiety in the molecule.

The chemical structure of serratimannan isolated from the same strain was shown to have α-(1→2) and α-(1→3) linkages in mannan.

In our previous paper isolation and characterization of serratigen and serratimannan from *Serratia marcescens* were reported. Serratigen had antigenic activity for rabbit antiserum against *S. marcescens*, but serratimannan was not antigenic. From the immunological studies it might be suggested serratigen to be a purified component of the antitussive agent (SMC) for coughing caused by *Dilofilaria immitis* as previously reported.

We report in this paper the structures of serratigen and serratimannan. Sugar components of each polysaccharide were determined by liquid chromatography, gas chromatography and thin-layer chromatography. Liquid chromatography was applied for quantitative analyses for sugar components. Total carbohydrate content of serratigen was 75% by phenol sulphuric acid method. It was demonstrated by liquid chromatographic analyses of the complete acid hydrolyzates that serratigen contained 94.9% of galactose and 4.2% of mannose when assumed total neutral carbohydrate content as 100%.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Serratigen (%)</th>
<th>Serratimannan (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galactose</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mannose</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>94.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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*Table I. Neutral Sugar Components*<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The numerical values showed the calculated values from square intensity in liquid chromatograms on assumption of the total neutral carbohydrate content as 100.

Serratigen had a carbonyl band in infrared (IR) spectra at 1708 cm<sup>−1</sup> but it disappeared by alkaline treatment and appeared by acid treatment again. Further fully methylated serratigen had an ester band at 1740 cm<sup>−1</sup>, and therefore, it was suggested to have carboxylic acid groups in the molecule. Acidic sugars of the hydrolyzate of serratigen were analysed by liquid chromatography using strong basic resin. Retention time of the hydrolyzate of serratigen was coincident with that of galacturonic acid in the liquid chromato-

1) Location: 5-chome, Tsuchi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo.
graphy as shown in Fig. 1. Uronic acid content of serratigen estimated by carbazole reaction\(^6\) was 18.4\%.

Now we determined binding position of galactose in serratigen by fully methylation, following methanolyis and gas chromatographic analysis. Methylation of serratigen was repeated with Hakomori's method\(^7\) until no hydroxide absorption was observed in IR spectra. Fully methylated serratigen thus obtained was hydrolyzed with 5% methanolic hydrochloride solution, and the hydrolyzate was analysed by GC and GC-Mass spectrometry using neopentylglycol succinate column. In gas chromatography relative retention times of the hydrolyzates were identical with those of the authentic sample of methyl 2,4,6-tri-O-methyl galactoside. Moreover, fragmentation of those peaks were identical with those of the authentic sample in GC-Mass analysis. As reported in our previous paper\(^8\) serratigen was illustrated by IR spectra and optical rotatory dispersion (ORD) curve to have \(\alpha\)-linkage. Thus it was demonstrated that serratigen had \(\alpha\)-(1\(\rightarrow\)3) galactan moiety in the molecule.

Total carbohydrate content of serratimannan which was isolated from the same strain was 100\% by phenol sulphuric acid method.\(^{24,25}\) The sugar component of serratimannan was 94.3\% of mannose and 3.2\% of glucose by liquid chromatographic analysis. Furthermore, no carbonyl band was detected in IR spectral analysis and it gave negative carbazole reaction, and in liquid chromatographic analysis for acidic sugars\(^8,26\) it contained no acidic sugars. It was fully methylated by repeating Hakomori's method,\(^7\) and fully methylated serratimannan was hydrolyzed by the same procedure as described in serratigen. The hydrolyzate was analysed by GC and GC-Mass spectrometry. Fragmentation of the hydrolyzate in Mass

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**Fig. 1.** Liquid Chromatogram of Acidic Sugar in Hydrolyzate of Serratigen  
stationary phase: JEOC resin LC-R-3 (Cl\^-)  
mobile phase: 0.009m HCl  
coloration: orcinol-sulphuric acid and measured the optical density at 493 m\u00b5  
---: X 1, ---: X 3

**Fig. 2.** Gas Chromatogram in Methylation Analysis of Serratimannan  
1: methyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-methyl-a-mannoside  
2: methyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-a-mannoside  
3: methyl 2,4,6-tri-O-methyl-a-mannoside  
stationary phase: 1\% neopentylglycol succinate  
temp. of column: 120\°C  
carrier gas: N\(_2\) gas, He gas in GC-Mass spectrometry

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spectrometry showed \( m/e \) 205, 191, 187, 161 and so on, and this result illustrated that the compound was methylated at 6-position of mannose and one of 2, 3 or 4-position in mannose was not methylated.\(^8\)

After fully methylated serratimannan was hydrolyzed by methanolation, the methanolyzate and trimethylsilyl (TMS) derivatives of the methanolyzate were analysed by gas chromatography. It was shown that the relative retention times of the peaks were identical with those of the methanolyzate and TMS derivatives of fully methylated mannan isolated from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*,\(^9\) and the latter gave patterns identical with those of the methanolyzate of permethylated mannotetraose prepared from mannan of *S. cerevisiae*, which was reported by Lee, *et al.*\(^10\) Therefore, serratimannan was shown to have (1→2) and (1→3) linkages in the molecule.

In our previous paper\(^2\) serratimannan was suggested by IR spectra and ORD curve to have \( \alpha \)-linkage, and it was supported by enzymatic hydrolysis of serratimannan with \( \alpha \)-mangnosidase. On the other hand, serratimannan consumed 0.6m of periodate per one anhydro sugar unit. Ratio of square intensity of peak 2 and 3 in Fig. 2 was approximately 3:2. From these results it might be deduced that serratimannan was composed of \( \alpha \)-(1→2) and \( \alpha \)-(1→3) linkages in a ratio of 3:2.

**Experimental**

**General Method**—IR spectra were made by a Japan Spectroscopic Co., Model DS 402G spectrophotometer, gas-liquid chromatography was performed with a Shimadzu Model GC 4A gas chromatograph attached a hydrogen flame detector, and liquid chromatographic analysis was carried out with a Japan Electron Optics Lab., liquid chromatograph Model JLC-3BE.

**Complete Acid Hydrolysis**—The sample (15 mg) was dissolved in 15 ml of 5% \( \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \) aq. and heated in a sealed tube for 5 hr. After complete acid hydrolysis it was neutralized by \( \text{BaCO}_3 \) solution. \( \text{BaSO}_4 \) was removed with filtration and the hydrolyzate was obtained by drying up.

**Methylation by Hakomori’s Method**\(^7\)—One hundred mg of the sample was dissolved in 20 ml of dimethylsulfoxide under vigorous stirring. A mixture of NaH (200 mg) and dimethylsulfoxide (5 ml) was refluxed at 65—70° for 45 min, and the solution was added to the sample solution and the mixture was stirred for 6 hr at room temperature. Methyl iodide (1.2 g) was added carefully and stirred at room temperature for 16 hr. Fully methylated serratigim gave \( [\alpha]_p^{20} + 173^\circ \) (\( c = 0.25, \text{CHCl}_3 \)), and fully methylated serratimannan gave \( [\alpha]_p^{20} + 44^\circ \) (\( c = 0.25, \text{CHCl}_3 \)).

**Methanalysis of Fully Methylated Polysaccharides**—Fully methylated serratig and serratimannan was hydrolyzed with 5% methanolic hydrochloric acid solution in a sealed tube at 100° for 4 hr. The methanolysate was analysed with gas chromatography using 5% or 1% neopentylglycol succinate column. The peaks on the gas chromatograms were subjected to GC-Mass analysis with GC-Mass spectroscop, Shimadzu-LKB 9000.

**Methanalysis of Fully Methylated Mannan of *S. cerevisiae***—Fully methylated mannan isolated from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which was kindly supplied by Dr. S. Suzuki, was carried out methanalysis by the conditions identical to fully methylated serratimannan as described above. The methanolysate was analysed with gas chromatography comparing with the methanolysate of fully methylated serratimannan. The methanolysate of fully methylated serratimannan (ca. 1 mg) and that of fully methylated mannan of *S. cerevisiae* (ca. 1 mg) were dissolved in 0.1 ml of dried pyridine, respectively. Hexamethyldisilazane (0.2 ml) and trimethylchlorosilane (0.1 ml) were added to the sample solution and heated at 60° for 15 min.\(^11\) TMS derivatives thus obtained were chromatographed to 1% neopentylglycol succinate or 0.75% OV 17 column of gas chromatography.

**Acidic Sugar Analysis**—It was performed with liquid chromatography. Stationary phase was strong basic ion exchange resin, JEL resin LC-R-3 (Chlorate form), and mobile phase, 0.005m HCl, and colored with orcinol-\( \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \) reagent and heating.\(^2\) Quantitative analysis of acidic sugars was made with carbazole method,\(^4\) and serratig had 18.4% of acidic sugar content, using galacturonic acid as standard.

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Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Serratimannan—To 4.5 ml of 0.05M citrate buffer (pH 6.0) of serratimannan (5 mg), the citrate buffer solution of α-mannosidase,12) which was kindly supplied by Dr. H. Adachi, and NaCl (5.9 mg) were added, and the mixture was incubated at 25°. Samples were taken out at intervals for 48 hr to determine mannose content by Somogyi-Nelson method13) using mannose as standard. At 3 hr 70% of serratimannan and more than 80% within 24 hr was hydrolyzed by the enzyme.

Acknowledgement We thank to Mr. H. Kuroda, Kasukabe Division of Kanebo Medical Research Laboratory for his help throughout this work. The authentic samples of methylgalactosides, fully methylated mannan of S. cerevisiae and α-mannosidase were kindly supplied by Prof. T. Yamakawa, the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Prof. S. Suzuki, Tohoku College of Pharmacy and Dr. H. Adachi, the Faculty of Medicine, Kagoshima University, respectively, which are gratefully acknowledged.