

POLYSACCHARIDES OF CENTELLA ASIATICA (GOTUKOLA)  
(UMBELLIFERAE)

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*Centella asiatica* is used widely as a vegetable as well as in Ayurvedic medicinal preparations<sup>1</sup>. Earlier workers have reported the effect of aqueous extracts of this plant on the classical and alternative pathways of activation of human complement in vitro<sup>2</sup>.

Activity directed fractionation of the aqueous extract, indicated that most of the activity was confined to the polysaccharide fractions. This paper reports the preliminary chemical analysis of the polysaccharide fraction. Cetavlon fractionation yielded three fractions. These were subjected to hydrolysis and methanolysis, TLC and HPLC analysis to obtain their monomer unit composition (Table).

Sugar	Galactose	Glucose	Fructose	Arabinose	Mannose	Rhamnose	Glacto uronic acid
P <sub>1</sub>	38.1	11.7	1.8	10.7	6.3	11.7	19.4
P <sub>2</sub>	37.0	15.4	-	5.6	4.9	12.6	24.2
P <sub>3</sub>	50.0	4.5	4.4	16.2	3.9	9.9	10.8
P <sub>4</sub>	32.2	5.9	3.3	15.0	6.2	10.3	26.6

P<sub>1</sub> is the original polysaccharide fraction.

P<sub>2</sub>, P<sub>3</sub> and P<sub>4</sub> are the three cetavlon fractions of polysaccharides.

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### References

1. Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia (1979) Vol.I Part 2 : Department of Ayurveda.
2. Bamunarachchi, A., Abeysekara, A., De Silva, K.T.D. Labadie, R.P. (1984) Pharm. Weekb 119 901.