

**E2-18 : AN EXTRACELLULAR POLYSACCHARIDE  
FROM *Colletotrichum capsici***

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Extracellular fungal polysaccharides are known to elicit defence mechanisms against fungal pathogens in plants. Therefore the isolation and study of polysaccharides secreted by fungal pathogens is of interest.

*Colletotrichum capsici* was isolated from diseased fruits of *Capsicum frutescens* (Chili). The fungus was grown under aseptic conditions in a Czapek-Dox liquid medium. Polymeric material isolated from the culture filtrate was extracted with aqueous 90% phenol. The fraction isolated from the phenol layer was dialysed and freeze dried. The polymeric fraction from the aqueous layer was fractionated using a column of DEAE Sephacryl (35 x 3 cm). The major acidic fraction (PSCCS) was

composed of the neutral sugars mannose, galactose and glucose in the molar ratio 1:1:1. A previous study of the unfractionated polysaccharide PSCC showed the presence of rhamnose instead of mannose. PSCCS was subjected to methylation analysis and four partially methylated alditol acetates were obtained. GC-MS of these alditol acetates and  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectroscopy of PSCCS are in progress.

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