

Structure of the core-oligosaccharide with a characteristic D-glycero- α -D-talo-oct-2-ulosylonate-(2 \rightarrow 4)-3-deoxy-D-manno-oct-2-ulosonate [α -Ko-(2 \rightarrow 4)-Kdo] disaccharide in the lipopolysaccharide from *Burkholderia cepacia*

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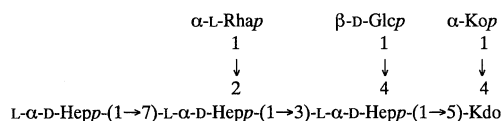
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Abstract

The core oligosaccharide in the lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of *Burkholderia cepacia* GIFU 645^T was investigated. After mild acid hydrolysis of the LPS, a heptasaccharide was isolated and identified by chemical analyses, GLC–MS, FABMS, and NMR spectroscopy as follows:



where L- α -D-Hep stands for L-glycero- α -D-manno-heptose, Ko for D-glycero-D-talo-oct-2-ulosonic acid, and Kdo for 3-deoxy-D-manno-oct-2-ulosonic acid.

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1. Introduction

Based on 16S ribosomal RNA base-sequence homology, the genus *Burkholderia* was proposed for seven species of bacteria¹ formally belonging to rRNA–DNA homology group II of *Pseudomonadaceae*.² This group includes several phytopathogens and human pathogens, such as *Burkholderia cepacia*, *B. pseudomallei*, and *B.*

caryophylli. *B. cepacia* is a Gram-negative phytopathogen causing soft rot in onion and is also recognized as an important opportunistic human pathogen. A particular infectious phenomenon of this bacterium is the pulmonary infection in patients with cystic fibrosis, which is closely related to their high morbidity and mortality.³ Despite the growing interest in this bacterium in medical and bacteriological fields and subsequent efforts to elucidate the pathophysiological events through the infection, structures and function of virulence factors of *Burkholderia*, including the lipopolysaccharide (LPS, endotoxin), remain to be elucidated.

The LPS is the major surface component of Gram-negative bacteria, which induces a variety of biological events through receptors on the immunity-mediating cells of animals and plants.⁴ Structures of the O-polysaccharide chains of the *B. cepacia* LPS have been elucidated^{5,6} but less information is available on the

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carbohydrate structure of the LPS core-region. Previously, we have studied the chemical structure of the LPS of *B. cepacia* GIFU 645^T and found a characteristic D-glycero- α -D-talo-oct-2-ulopyranosylonate-(2 \rightarrow 4)-3-deoxy-D-manno-oct-2-ulosonate (Ko \rightarrow Kdo) disaccharide in the core oligosaccharide.⁷ Furthermore, the terminal Ko residue of the disaccharide was found to be non-stoichiometrically substituted at position 8 with 4-amino-4-deoxy- β -L-arabinopyranose (Ara4N).⁸ Recently, the biological activity of this LPS has been studied by Shimamura and coworkers⁹ who showed several stimulatory activities of macrophages comparable with those of *Salmonella* LPS, whereas the induction ability of IL-1 β was unexpectedly weak.

In the present work, the LPS core structure was investigated in order to elucidate the chemical background of the unique biological behavior and activity of the *B. cepacia* LPS.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Isolation and characterization of the oligosaccharides liberated by mild acid hydrolysis

The LPS was isolated by conventional phenol–water extraction from *B. cepacia* GIFU 645^T. Chemical analyses revealed that the LPS is predominantly of rough-type (Table 1). As described previously,⁸ mild acid hydrolysis (0.1 M HCl, 100 °C, 1 h) was not sufficient to liberate completely the lipid A moiety owing to the stability of the linkage between the inner-core and lipid A. Nevertheless, the LPS was partially hydrolyzed under these conditions to obtain the core oligosaccharide. After removal of partially degraded

LPS (LPS_{degr}) and liberated lipid A by ultracentrifugation, the water-soluble portion was subjected to GPC to yield three major oligosaccharide fractions, OS-1, OS-2 and OS-3.

Compositional analyses of the isolated oligosaccharides (Table 1) revealed the presence of L-Rha, D-Glc, L-glycero-D-manno-heptose (LD-Hep) and D-glycero-D-manno-heptose (DD-Hep) (minor component) as common sugar constituents. In addition, D-Gal, D-GalN and 2-amino-2,6-dideoxyglucose (QuiN) were determined in OS-1, thus indicating that OS-1 consists of the core-oligosaccharide substituted with an O-polysaccharide and originated from the smooth-type LPS.

FABMS of OS-2 (Fig. 1(A)) and OS-3 (Fig. 1(B)) showed that both preparations are oligosaccharide mixtures. A pseudomolecular ion at *m/z* 1357 was observed in the mass spectra of both OS-2 and OS-3 and, based on the mass number and the compositional data, was inferred to belong to a heptasaccharide composed of one residue each of Rha, Glc, Ko and Kdo, and three heptose residues. A pseudomolecular ion at *m/z* 1549 was present in the spectrum of OS-2 only and probably belongs to an octasaccharide with one additional heptose residue.

In the ¹H NMR spectrum of OS-2, the region of signals for anomeric protons was highly complex that precluded their assignment. In contrast, the ¹H NMR spectrum of OS-3 was suitable for further detailed analysis. Methylation analysis of OS-3 revealed the presence of terminal D-Glcp, LD-Hepp and L-Rhap, 2,7-substituted LD-Hepp and 3,4-substituted LD-Hepp. No derivatives from Ko and Kdo were detected in this analysis.

2.2. NMR spectroscopy studies of OS-3

In the ¹H NMR spectrum of OS-3 (Fig. 2), five anomeric signals were observed at 4.5–5.2 ppm, thus indicating that OS-3 contains five aldopyranose residues, which were designated as A–E in order of decreasing of the H-1 chemical shifts. The spectrum was assigned by 2D COSY and 1D HOHAHA experiments, and the results are summarized in Table 2. Residues A–D were shown to have the *manno* configuration on the basis of the coupling constant values of the vicinal ring-protons. The COSY spectrum demonstrated that residue D had a methyl group at position 6, and, hence, A–C are residues of LD-Hepp and D is a residue of L-Rhap. In the proton-coupled ¹H,¹³C HMQC spectrum (Fig. 3), H-1,C-1 cross-peaks for each sugar residue were clearly observed. The ¹J_{C-1,H-1} coupling constant values of 170–175 Hz indicated that residues A–D are α -linked. Residue E is distinguished by relatively large *J*_{1,2}, *J*_{2,3}, *J*_{3,4}, and *J*_{4,5} values of \sim 9.5 Hz and is thus a β -linked residue of Glcp. Signals for H-3ax and H-3eq of Kdo were observed near δ 2.1 ppm and

Table 1
Chemical composition of the LPS and LPS degradation products from *B. cepacia* GIFU 645^T (μ mol mg⁻¹)

Component	LPS	LPS _{degr}	OS-1	OS-2	OS-3
L-Rha	0.27	0.15	0.57	0.48	0.42
D-Man	0.05				
D-Glc	0.23	0.17	0.48	0.42	0.32
D-Gal	0.11	0.03	0.11		
DD-Hep	0.08	0.05	0.03	0.13	0.03
LD-Hep	0.45	0.43	0.64	1.19	0.61
QuiN	0.08	0.05	0.15		
ManN	0.11	0.08	0.22		
D-GalN	0.21	0.07	0.23		
D-GlcN	0.23	0.49			
Phosphate	0.50	0.47			
14:0	0.10	0.24			
16:0	0.06	0.14			
14:0(3-OH)	0.14	0.32			
16:0(3-OH)	0.31	0.58			

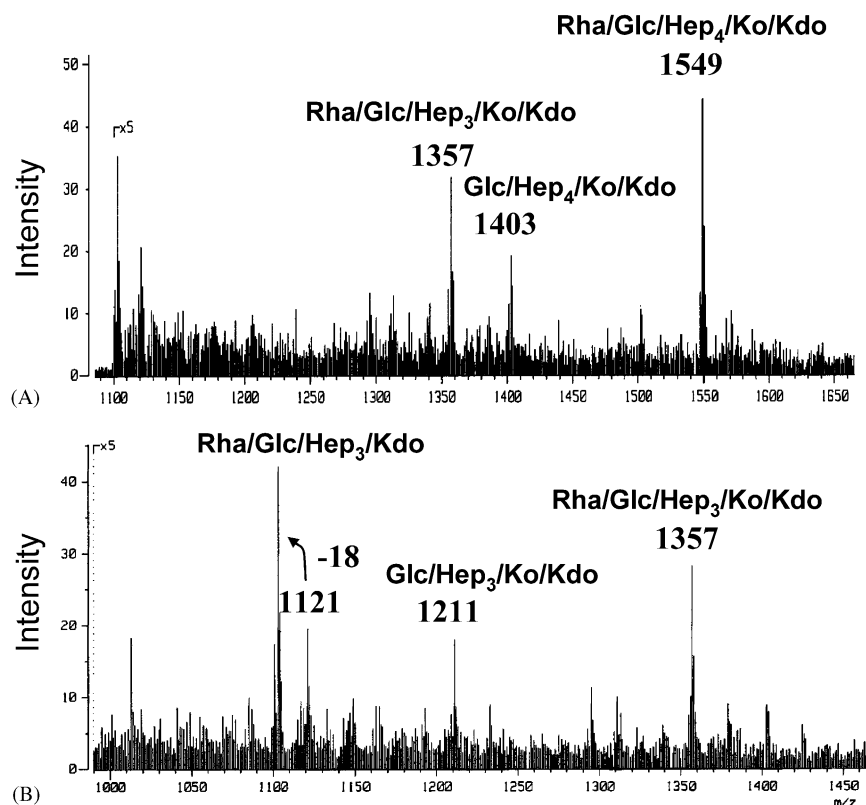


Fig. 1. Negative-ion mode FAB/MS of OS-2 (A) and OS-3 (B) isolated from the LPS of *B. cepacia* GIFU 645^T. Sugar composition of the respective oligosaccharides is indicated over the mass numbers.

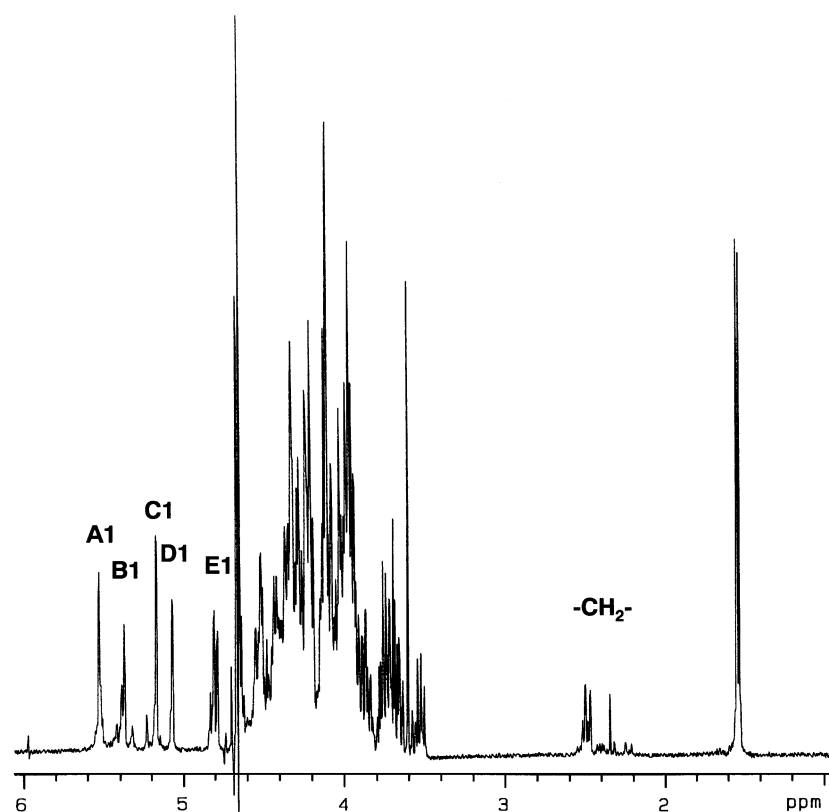


Fig. 2. ¹H NMR spectrum of OS-3. The spectrum was recorded at 400 MHz in D₂O at 60 °C.

Table 2

¹H NMR spectral data of OS-3 (δ , ppm; $J_{n,n+1}$, Hz)

Sugar residue	H-1	H-2	H-3	H-4	H-5	H-6a	H-6b	H-7a	H-7b
→3,4)-L- α -D-Hepp-(1 → A	5.28 $J_{1,2}$ 1.9	4.08 $J_{2,3}$ 2.0	4.03 $J_{3,4}$ 9.5	4.26 $J_{4,5}$ 9.9	4.11	3.86		3.78	
→2,7)-L- α -D-Hepp-(1 → B	5.13 $J_{1,2}$ 1.2	4.31 $J_{2,3}$ 3.6	3.78 $J_{3,4}$ 10.2	3.86 $J_{4,5}$ 10.5	3.68 $J_{5,6}$ 2.5	4.18 $J_{6,7a}$ 4.8		3.73 $J_{7a,7b}$ 11.2	3.73 $J_{6,7b}$ 7.5
L- α -D-Hepp-(1 → C	4.92 $J_{1,2}$ 1.8	3.99 $J_{2,3}$ 3.2	3.88 $J_{3,4}$ 9.8	3.86 $J_{4,5}$ 9.8	3.63 $J_{5,6}$ 2.0	4.03 $J_{6,7a}$ 5.0		3.71	3.68
α -L-Rhap-(1 → D	4.83 $J_{1,2}$ 1.3	3.97 $J_{2,3}$ 3.0	3.84 $J_{3,4}$ 9.8	3.45 $J_{4,5}$ 9.5	4.04 $J_{5,6}$ 6.1	1.29			
β -D-Glcp-(1 → E	4.56 $J_{1,2}$ 9.5	3.28 $J_{2,3}$ 9.8	3.52 $J_{3,4}$ 9.5	3.41 $J_{4,5}$ 9.5	3.48 $J_{5,6a}$ 2.2	3.98 $J_{6a,6b}$ 12.5	3.86 $J_{5,6b}$ 8.0		

The spectrum was recorded at 400 MHz in D₂O at 60 °C.

showed a complex J -coupling pattern, as well as other signals for Kdo and those of Ko (Fig. 2). These finding suggested a structural heterogeneity owing to the presence of Kdo at the reducing end in multiple forms.¹⁰

The linkage and sequence analyses of OS-3 were performed using a NOESY experiment (Fig. 4). The NOESY spectrum showed **B** H-1, **A** H-3 and **E** H-1, **A** H-4 cross-peaks, which indicated a partial L- α -D-Hepp-(1 → 3)-[β -D-Glcp-(1 → 4)]-L- α -D-Hepp-(1 → trisaccharide structure. Two more partial structures, L- α -D-Hepp-(1 → 7)-L- α -D-Hepp and α -L-Rhap-(1 → 2)-L- α -D-

Hepp, were inferred from **C** H-1, **B** H-7a,b and **D** H-1, **B** H-2 correlations, respectively. Based on these data, together with methylation analysis data, the following pentasaccharide structure was elucidated as a partial structure of OS-3:

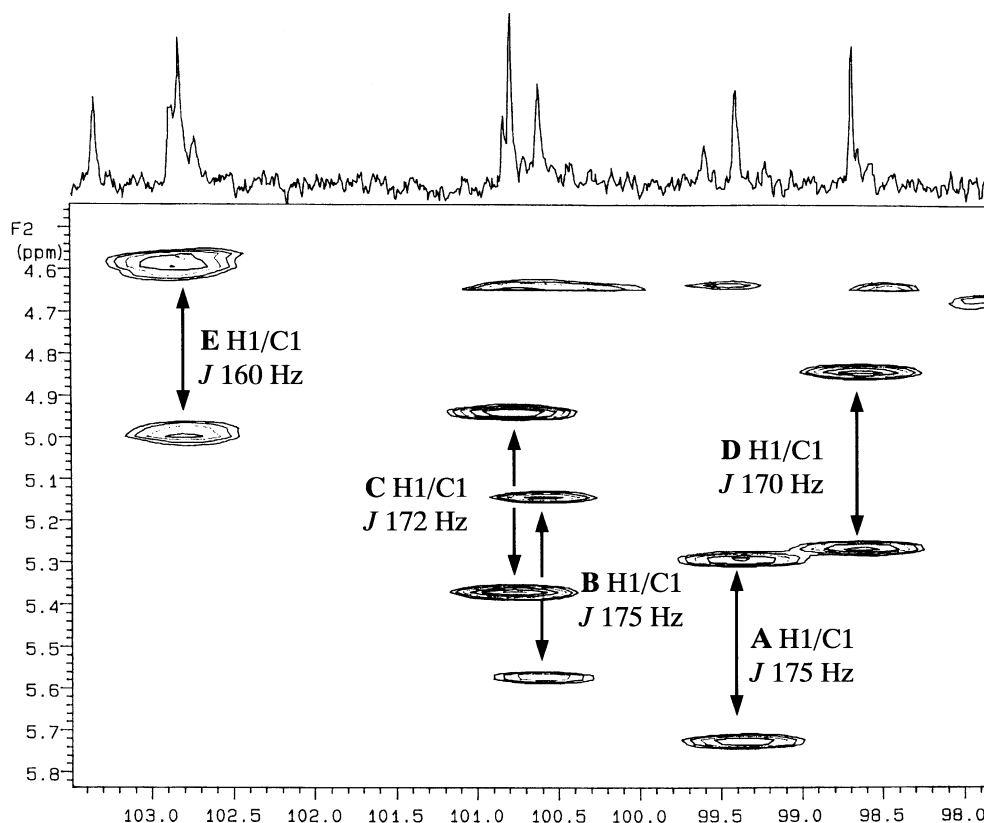
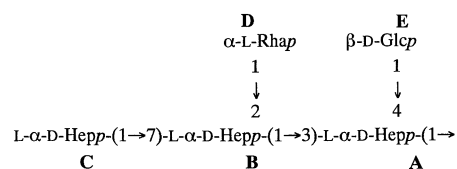


Fig. 3. Part of a proton-coupled ¹H, ¹³C HMQC spectrum of OS-3.

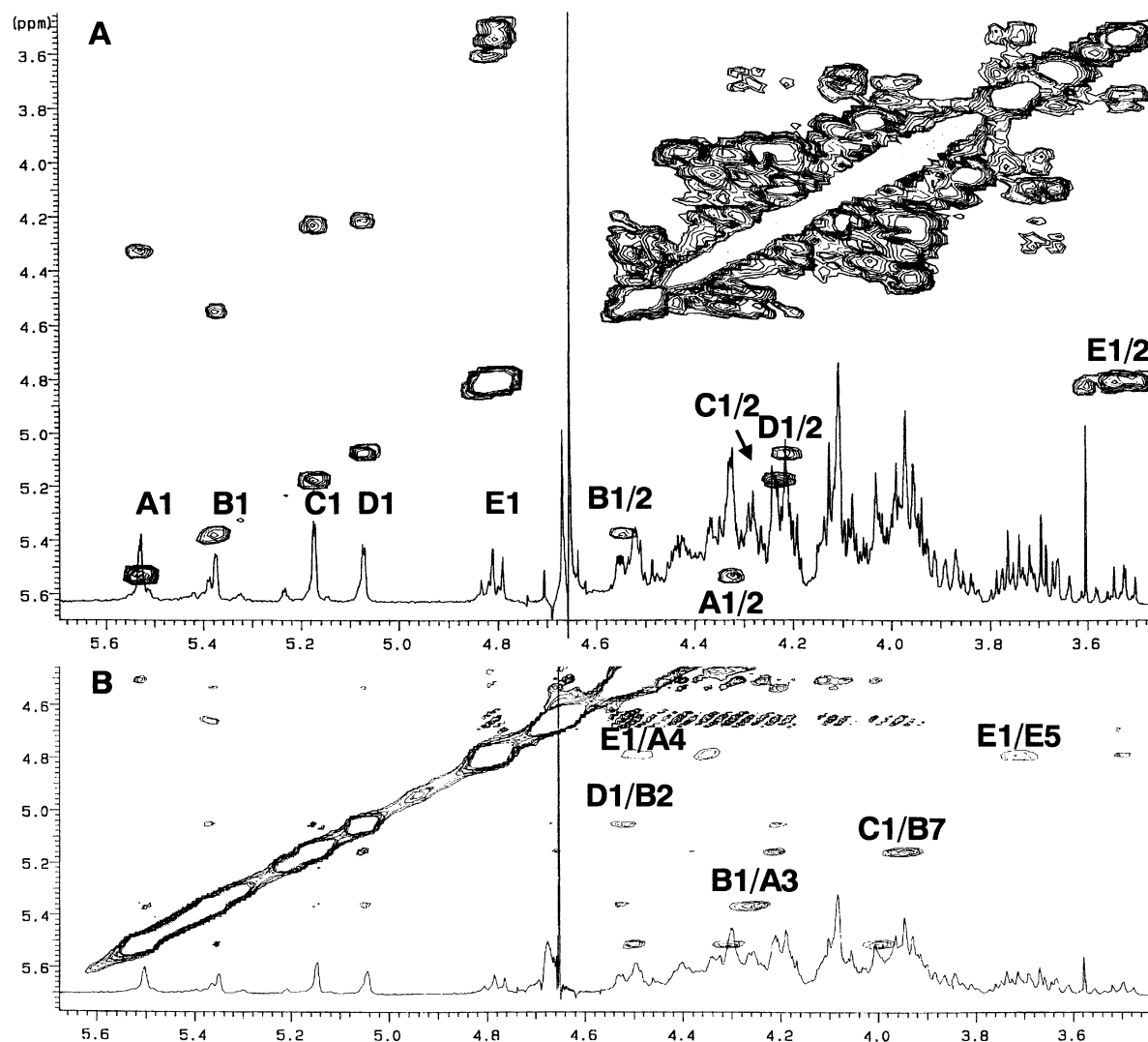


Fig. 4. Part of COSY (A) and NOESY (B) spectra of OS-3.

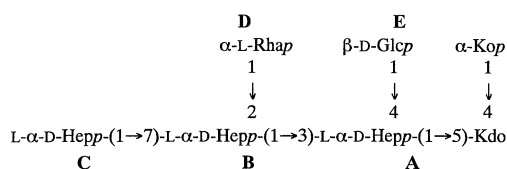
2.3. Structural analysis of Ko/Kdo region

LPS_{degr} was subjected to Smith degradation in order to determine the structure of the Ko/Kdo region. As a result, a single disaccharide was obtained, which was isolated by GPC on Sephadex G-10. The disaccharide was methylated and subjected to GLC–MS. The electron-impact mass spectrum (Fig. 5(A)) showed characteristic primary fragment ions at m/z 219 and 247 and secondary fragment ions generated by cleavage of methanol (-32 Da), thus indicating that the disaccharide consists of Man (from LD-Hep) and a 3-deoxyhept-2-ulonic acid (3dHeplA; from Kdo). A methylated derivative of the carbonyl- and carboxyl-reduced disaccharide was also analyzed by GLC–MS. The observed primary fragment ions at m/z 149, 251 and 219 (Fig. 5(B)) demonstrated that Man is attached to 3dHeplA at position 5. As Smith degradation of LPS_{degr} gave a Man-(1→5)-3dHeplA disaccharide, it is con-

cluded that a LD-Hep-(1→5)-Kdo disaccharide was present in the LPS core.

2.4. Carbohydrate structure of the core region of *B. cepacia* LPS

Summarizing the data of chemical analyses, FABMS, ^1H NMR spectroscopy and Smith-degradation, as well as our previous results,⁸ it can be concluded that the heptasaccharide (OS-3) isolated from the LPS of *B. cepacia* has the following structure:



This represents the major part of the core region of *B. cepacia* GIFU 645^T LPS, whereas the full core seems to

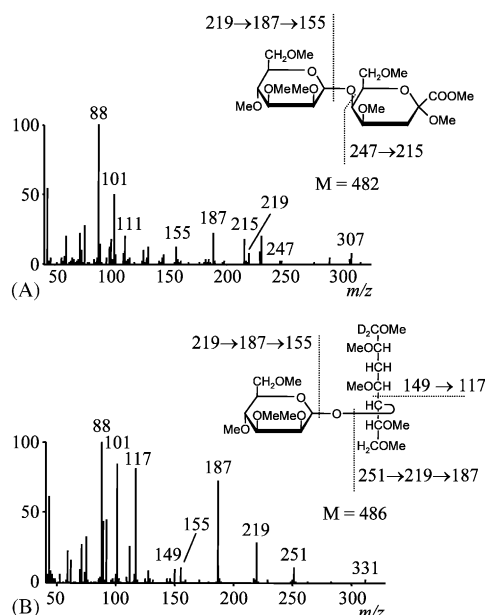


Fig. 5. Electron impact mass spectra of the permethylated Man \rightarrow 3dHeplA disaccharide obtained by Smith degradation of the LPS_{degr} (A) and the permethylated carbonyl- (NaBH₄) and carboxyl-reduced (NaBD₄) Man \rightarrow 3dHeplA disaccharide (B).

contain one more heptose residue. Based on the Ara4N \rightarrow Ko \rightarrow Kdo trisaccharide structure reported by us previously⁸ and the structure of the inner core-lipid A moiety reported by Gronow and coworkers,¹¹ it is suggested that Ara4N is attached to Ko at position 8 and Kdo is linked to the lipid A backbone at position 6'.

Recently, the core structure of a taxonomically related bacterium *B. caryophylli* was established.¹² The core regions of both *B. cepacia* and *B. caryophylli* bacteria share a L- α -D-Hepp-(1 \rightarrow 7)-L- α -D-Hepp-(1 \rightarrow 3)-[β -D-Glcp-(1 \rightarrow 4)]-L- α -D-Hepp-(1 \rightarrow 5)-Kdo pentasaccharide, which is also a common core fragment of many enterobacteria.¹³ However, only small amount of Ko is detectable in the LPS of *B. caryophylli*, and Kdo is substituted with another Kdo residue at position 4 rather than with Ko. For the first time, we found Ko as a constituent of the core-region in the LPS of *Acinetobacter haemolyticus* (formerly *A. calcoaceticus*) NCTC 10305.¹⁴ The same sugar was found in the LPS from other strains of *Acinetobacter*¹⁵ and, recently, in the LPS of *Yersinia pestis*.^{16,17} Remarkably, in the LPS of *Acinetobacter* the core oligosaccharide is attached to lipid A by the α -(2 \rightarrow 6)-ketosidic linkage of Ko. In the other Ko-containing LPS, including that of *B. cepacia*, Ko substitutes position 4 of Kdo that links the inner-core to the lipid A backbone. The substitution of Kdo with Ko is considered as a factor that renders the ketosidic linkage of Kdo stable and thus complicates cleavage of the core oligosaccharide from lipid A.

Structural data of lipid A of *B. cepacia* are limited. The lipid A backbone represents a P-4'- β -D-GlcpN-(1 \rightarrow 6)- α -D-GlcpN-1-P disaccharide, which bears two amide-linked 3-hydroxyhexadecanoyl groups [16:0(3-OH)] (Ref. 11 and authors' unpublished data). Based on the present data, the unique biological activity of *B. cepacia* LPS⁹ cannot be deduced solely from the core oligosaccharide structure. The full lipid A structure needs to be established to get more insight into the immunostimulatory activity and other biological properties of the Ko-containing LPS of *B. cepacia*.

3. Experimental

3.1. Cultivation of bacteria and extraction of LPS

B. cepacia GIFU 645^T (originally ATCC 25416^T) was cultured on Nutrient Broth No. 2 (Oxoid) at 37 °C for 24 h. After being killed by heating (100 °C, 30 min), cells were harvested by centrifugation (10,000g, 20 min) and washed sequentially twice each with water, EtOH and acetone. The LPS was extracted from ether-dried cells by the phenol–water procedure¹⁸ and purified by repeated ultracentrifugation (100,000g, 16 h; three times) and enzymatic digestion with DNase, RNase, Trypsin, and Proteinase K.

3.2. Preparation of oligosaccharides from LPS

LPS (400 mg) was hydrolyzed with 0.1 M HCl at 100 °C for 1 h. After dialysis of the hydrolysate using tubing with a cut off size of 2000 Da, the retentate was subjected to ultracentrifugation (100,000g, 12 h) to give LPS_{degr} (160 mg) in the precipitate and liberated oligosaccharides (57 mg) in the supernatant. The oligosaccharides were fractionated by GPC on a column (2.4 \times 100 cm) of TOYOPEARL Hw-40S (Toso, Japan) with 50 mM Py–acetate buffer pH 5.0 as eluent. Three major fractions thus obtained were designated as OS-1 (15 mg), OS-2 (15 mg) and OS-3 (9 mg).

3.3. Smith degradation of LPS_{degr}

LPS_{degr} (155 mg) was oxidized with 20 mM sodium periodate at 4 °C for 120 h, the excess of the oxidant was destroyed by adding ethylene glycol, the oxidized LPS_{degr} was reduced with NaBH₄ at 20 °C for 3 h, neutralized with HCl and desalted by dialysis. The lyophilized product (147 mg) was hydrolyzed with 0.1 M HCl at 100 °C for 1 h, and after neutralization with 0.05 M NaOH, the suspension was dialyzed against water. The retentate and dialysate were lyophilized to yield 90 mg of water-insoluble material and 52 mg of water-soluble material, respectively. The latter was applied to a column (2.4 \times 100 cm) of Sephadex G-10

(Amersham Biosciences, Sweden) using the same eluent as above, and a disaccharide (10 mg) was collected and lyophilized. The disaccharide was permethylated according to Hakomori¹⁹ directly or after carbonyl-reduction with NaBH₄. The permethylated carbonyl-reduced disaccharide was carboxyl-reduced with NaBD₄ in 1:1 MeOH–water mixture and remethylated.

3.4. Sugar analysis

Neutral and amino sugars were analysed by GLC as the alditol acetates after hydrolysis with 0.1 M HCl at 100 °C for 48 h and 4 M HCl at 100 °C for 16 h, respectively. GLC was performed on a Shimadzu GC-14A (Shimadzu, Japan) chromatograph equipped with a CBP1 capillary column (0.2 mm I.D. × 25 m, Shimadzu), using a linear temperature gradient from 170 to 270 °C at 5 °C min⁻¹. Kdo was estimated colorimetrically after hydrolysis with 0.1 M AcONa buffer pH 4.4.¹⁴ The absolute configurations of the monosaccharides were determined by GLC as the peracetylated (S)- and (R)-2-butyl glycosides.²⁰

3.5. Fatty acid and phosphate determination

Fatty acids were liberated by methanolysis (2 M HCl–MeOH, 120 °C, 24 h), and analyzed by GLC, using a temperature program from 150 to 250 °C at 5 °C min⁻¹. Phosphate was determined by the method of Lowry and coworkers.²¹

3.6. Methylation analysis

Methylation was performed according to Hakomori.¹⁹ The methylated product was depolymerized by hydrolysis (2 M CF₃CO₂H, 120 °C, 2 h) or acetolysis (0.25 M H₂SO₄ in aq 95% AcOH, 80 °C, 17 h),²² carbonyl-reduced (NaBH₄) and acetylated with acetic anhydride–Py at 100 °C for 30 min. The partially methylated alditol acetates were analyzed by GLC–MS, using a temperature program from 150 to 320 °C at 5 °C min⁻¹.

3.7. GLC–MS and FABMS

GLC–MS in electron impact and chemical ionization modes was run on a JEOL DX-300 instrument with the same column and temperature conditions as in GLC analysis described above. Isobutane was used as reactant gas in chemical ionization MS. FABMS was performed on a JEOL EX-5500 spectrometer at an accelerating voltage of 3 keV, using 1:1 glycerol–thioglycerol mixture as matrix.

3.8. NMR spectroscopy

NMR spectroscopy was performed using a Varian XL-400 spectrometer with standard Varian software. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 25 or 50 °C in D₂O with acetone as internal reference (2.225 ppm). Assignment of the NMR spectra was performed using 2D COSY, 1D HOHAHA, NOESY, and proton-coupled ¹H,¹³C HMQC experiments.

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