

CARBOHYDRATE RESEARCH

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Publication information: *Carbohydrate Research* (ISSN 0008–6215). For 2003, volume 338 is scheduled for publication. Subscription prices are available upon request from the Publisher or from the Regional Sales Office nearest you or from this journal's website (<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/carres>). Further information is available on this journal and other Elsevier Science products through Elsevier's website: (<http://www.elsevier.com>). Subscriptions are accepted on a prepaid basis only and are entered on a calendar year basis. Issues are sent by standard mail (surface within Europe, air delivery outside Europe). Priority rates are available upon request. Claims for missing issues should be made within six months of the date of dispatch.

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Periodicals postage is paid at Rahway, NJ. *Carbohydrate Research* (ISSN 0008–6215) is published bi-monthly by Elsevier Science Ltd., The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, UK. The US subscription price is \$6,418 per year.

Carbohydrate Research is circulated by Mercury International Limited, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA.

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Cover illustration: α -carrageenan double helices are packed in a trigonal array and held together by calcium ions (red) at their peripheral sulfate groups; each helix appears as a triangle in the axial projection. The sulfur atoms in alternating saccharides are shown in green and yellow, their terminal oxygen atoms cyan and the remaining blue. The unit cell accommodates three helices, cations and water molecules (not shown). These structural features [*Carbohydrate Research* 337 (2002) 523–535] underscore the junction zone architecture and polymer gelation behavior. The space-filling model is rendered by Professor Rengaswami Chandrasekaran and Dr. Srinivas Janaswamy, Whistler Center for Carbohydrate Research, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA.