

Structure of the D-mannan of the pathogenic yeast, *Candida stellatoidea* ATCC 20408 (Type II) strain, in comparison with that of *C. stellatoidea* ATCC 36232 (Type I) strain

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ABSTRACT

Acid treatment of the cell-wall D-mannans of *Candida stellatoidea* strains ATCC 36232 (Type I, A3 strain) and ATCC 20408 (Type II, A2 strain) gave (1 → 2)-linked β-D-manno-oligosaccharides (dp 2–5), whereas treatment with alkali gave the (1 → 2)-linked α-D-mannobiose. Conventional acetolysis of the acid- and alkali-treated D-mannan of the A3 strain gave oligosaccharides consisting of (1 → 2)- and (1 → 3)-linked α-D-mannopyranose residues, similar to those of *Candida albicans* serotype B strain. Mild acetolysis of the acid- and alkali-treated D-mannan of the A2 strain gave higher oligosaccharides that were digested by the *Arthrobacter* GJM-1 strain exo-α-D-mannosidase. The results of ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR analyses indicated this D-mannan to contain branches with the following structures: β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-D-Man, β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-D-Man, and β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-D-Man, in common with the D-mannans of *C. albicans* serotype A strains.

INTRODUCTION

We have reported that the antigenic D-mannans of three representative *Candida albicans* strains, namely, NIH A-207 (serotype A)^{1,2}, NIH B-792 (serotype B)^{3–5}, and J-1012 (serotype A, formerly serotype C)⁶ each comprises a long backbone of (1 → 6)-linked α-D-mannopyranose residues with many (1 → 2)-linked α-D-mannotriosyl branches. The branches in the D-mannan of the serotype A strain corresponding to β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-D-Man and β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-β-D-Man_p-(1 → 2)-α-D-Man_p-(1

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$\rightarrow 2$)- α -D-Man p -(1 \rightarrow 2)- α -D-Man p -(1 \rightarrow 2)-D-Man were the serotype A-specific epitopes^{7,8}.

Kwon-Chung et al.^{9,10} reported that *Candida stellatoidea* could be classified into Type I and II karyotypes, the serological properties of which resembled those of serotypes B and A of *C. albicans*, respectively, and Type II was more pathogenic in mice than Type I.

Tojo et al.¹¹ and Kobayashi et al.¹² have demonstrated that the D-mannans of the *C. stellatoidea* Type I strains, IFO 1397, TIMM 0310, and ATCC 11006, had a common structure that lacked (1 \rightarrow 2)-linked β -D-mannopyranosyl units in the non-reducing terminal sites of relatively longer branches.

We now report on the structure of the cell-wall D-mannan isolated from *C. stellatoidea* ATCC 20408 (Type II) strain, in comparison with that of *C. stellatoidea* ATCC 36232 (Type I) strain.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials.—The *C. stellatoidea* ATCC 36232 and ATCC 20408 strains, designated as A3 and A2 strains, respectively, were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (Rockville, MD, USA). Bio-Gel P-2 (–400 mesh) was purchased from Bio-Rad Laboratories (Richmond, CA, USA). A kit of polyclonal rabbit anti-*Candida* factor sera (Candida Check) corresponding to antigens 1, 4–6, 8, 9, 11, 13b, and 34, as defined by Fukazawa et al.¹³, was purchased from Iatron (Tokyo, Japan).

Cultivation of *C. stellatoidea* strains and preparation of the D-mannans.—These were performed as described by Kobayashi et al.⁶ for the *C. albicans* J-1012 strain. The D-mannan fractions obtained from the cells of the A3 and A2 strains were designated as Frs. A3 and A2, respectively, and were obtained in yields of 6.5 and 5.6% (dry-weight basis), respectively.

Treatment of Frs. A3 and A2 with acid.—The procedure of Shibata et al.¹⁴, using 10 mM HCl at 100° for 1 h, was followed: Frs. A3 and A2 gave Frs. A3-a and A2-a, respectively.

Treatment of Frs. A3, A2, A2-a, and A2-a with alkali.—The procedure described¹⁴ was followed, using 100 mM NaOH at 25° for 18 h: Frs. A3, A2, A3-a, and A2-a gave Frs. A3-b, A2-b, A3-ab, and A2-ab, respectively.

Conventional acetolysis of Frs. A3-ab and A2-ab.—The method of Kobayashi et al.¹⁵, as modified by Kocourek and Ballou¹⁶, was used.

Mild acetolysis of Fr. A2-ab and digestion of the resulting O-deacetylated higher oligosaccharides with *exo*- α -D-mannosidase.—The procedure followed was that described⁶.

NMR spectroscopy.—¹H-NMR spectra (internal acetone, 2.217 ppm) were measured⁶ with a Jeol JNM-GSX 400 spectrometer on solutions (5–10 mg/0.7 mL) in D₂O at 70°. ¹H,¹³C COSY spectra (internal acetone, 2.217 ppm; and MeOH, 49.00

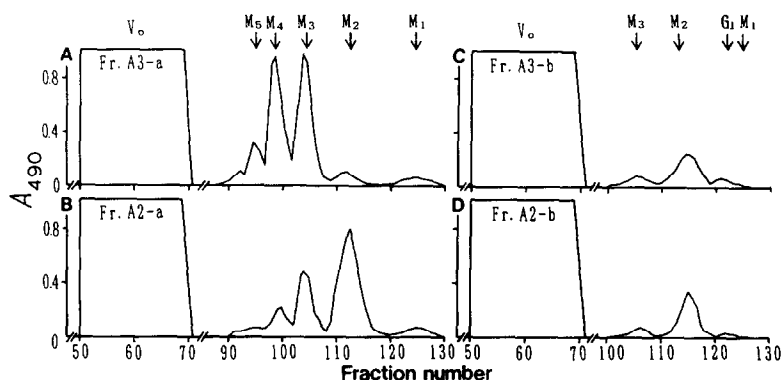


Fig. 1. Gel filtration of the products obtained on treatment of Frs. A3 (A and C) and A2 (B and D) with 10 mM HCl at 100° for 1 h (A and B) or 100 mM NaOH at 25° for 18 h (C and D) on a column (2.5 × 100 cm) of Bio-Gel P-2 by elution with water at 0.25 mL/min. The carbohydrate in the eluate was determined by the phenol-H₂SO₄ method¹⁸; G, M, and M₂–M₅ indicate D-glucose, D-mannose, and D-manno-oligosaccharides of dp 2–5, respectively; V₀ refers to the void volume.

ppm) were recorded as described by Kobayashi et al.⁷ on solutions (14–21 mg/0.7 mL) in D₂O at 55°.

Slide agglutination reaction.—The procedure of Miyakawa et al.¹⁷ was used with heat-killed cell suspensions of *C. albicans* and *C. stellatoidea* strains.

Other methods.—Carbohydrate was determined by the phenol-H₂SO₄ method¹⁸, using D-mannose as the standard; protein by the Folin method of Lowry et al.¹⁹, using bovine serum albumin (Sigma Chemical Co.) as the standard; and phosphate by the method of Ames and Dubin²⁰, using KH₂PO₄ as the standard. Optical rotations were determined with a JAS DIP-360 digital polarimeter on aqueous solutions that had been stored for 3 h.

RESULTS

Treatment of the D-mannans with 10 mM HCl.—Treatment of Frs. A3 and A2 with 10 mM HCl at 100° for 1 h and fractionation of the products on Bio-Gel P-2 gave the results shown in Fig. 1 (A and B). Frs. A3 and A2 each released a mixture of D-manno-oligosaccharides (dp 2–5) and D-mannose corresponding to 1.50 and 0.98%, respectively, of the parent D-mannans. The ¹H-NMR spectra of these oligosaccharides were identical to those of the D-manno-oligosaccharides isolated from the D-mannan of *C. albicans* NIH B-792 strain by Kobayashi et al.⁴ and identified as (1 → 2)-linked β-D-manno-oligosaccharides (data not shown). The acid-resistant fractions obtained from A3 and A2 are designated A3-a and A2-a, respectively.

Treatment of D-mannans with alkali.—Treatment of Frs. A3 and A2 with 100 mM NaOH for 18 h at 25° and fractionation of the products on Bio-Gel P-2 gave the results shown in Fig. 1 (C and D). Frs. A3 and A2 each released a disaccharide

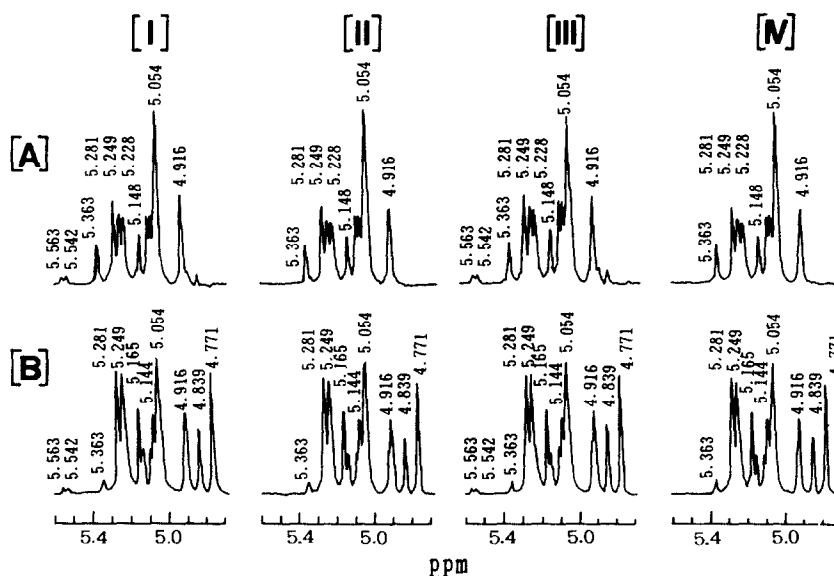


Fig. 2. ^1H -NMR spectra [D_2O , 70° , internal acetone (2.217 ppm)] in the region for H-1 resonances of intact (I), acid-modified (II), alkali-modified (III), and acid- and alkali-modified (IV) D -mannans isolated from two *C. stellatoidea* strains: (A) Frs. A3, A3-a, A3-b, and A3-ab; (B) Frs. A2, A2-a, A2-b, and A2-ab.

corresponding to 0.38 and 0.36%, respectively, of the parent D -mannans. ^1H -NMR spectroscopy indicated the structure to be $\alpha\text{-D-Man}p(1 \rightarrow 2)\text{-D-Man}$ (data not shown). Small proportions of an epimerisation product²¹, $\alpha\text{-D-Man}p(1 \rightarrow 2)\text{-D-Glc}$, were also present.

NMR spectroscopy.—Fig. 2 (A and B) shows the 400-MHz ^1H -NMR spectra (H-1 region) of Frs. A3 and A2, respectively. The resonances of H-1 α of the glucose 1-phosphate residues in the range 5.542–5.563 ppm are weak in comparison with those of the D -mannans of *C. albicans*^{2,4,6}. Fig. 3 (A and B) shows the ^1H , ^{13}C COSY spectra of Frs. A3 and A2, respectively. Comparison of H-1/C-1 resonances in these spectra indicated that the terminal (1 \rightarrow 2)-linked $\beta\text{-D-manno}$ -oligosaccharide residues present for Fr. A2 (4.771/99.52, 4.839/101.82, 4.916/99.86, and 5.165/100.81 ppm) were absent for Fr. A3. The differences between the chemical compositions of Frs. A3 and A2, and the modified products (Frs. A3-a, A2-a, A3-b, A2-b, A3-ab, and A2-ab), as shown in Table I, are not significant.

Acetolysis of Frs. A3-ab and A2-ab.—In order to analyse the structures of the acid- and alkali-stable domains, the D -mannans (Frs. A3-ab and A2-ab) were subjected to conventional acetolysis. Fig. 4 (A and B) shows the elution profiles of the respective *O*-deacetylated acetolysates. The products isolated from these acetolysates were D -manno-oligosaccharides (dp 2–6), D -mannose, and phosphorylated oligosaccharide(s) ($\text{V}_0\text{3-I}$ and $\text{V}_0\text{2-I}$), respectively, eluted in the void volumes.

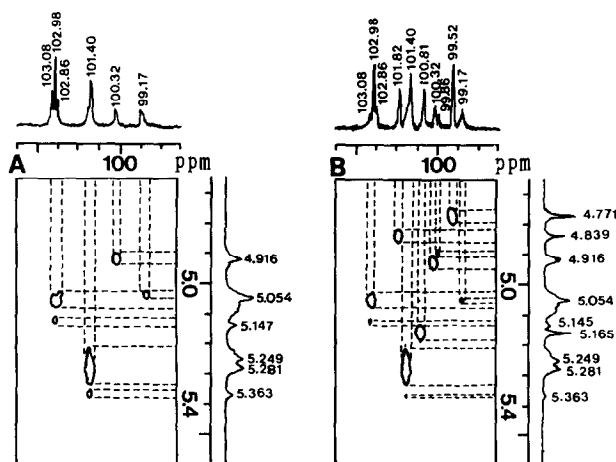


Fig. 3. ^1H , ^{13}C COSY spectra [D_2O , 55° , internal acetone (2.217 ppm) and MeOH (49.00 ppm)] in the regions for H-1 and C-1 resonances of D-mannans; Frs. A3 (A) and A2 (B).

The chemical analyses of $\text{V}_0\text{3-I}$ and $\text{V}_0\text{2-I}$ are given in Table II, and the ^1H -NMR spectra in Fig. 5. The D-manno-oligosaccharides were also investigated by ^1H -NMR spectroscopy (data not shown). The H-1 signals of each D-manno-oligosaccharide were identified by correlation with data in the literature^{22–24} and the structures 1–7 were assigned. Conventional acetolysis of Fr. A3-ab gave 5 and 7, and the same acetolysis of Fr. A2-ab gave 4–7.

Fig. 6 (A) shows the elution profile of the O-deacetylated products obtained from Fr. A2-ab by mild acetolysis. A large peak for phosphorylated oligosaccharide(s) ($\text{V}_0\text{2-II}$) was eluted in the void volume followed by oligosaccharides higher

TABLE I

Chemical compositions of the D-mannan fractions obtained from *C. stellatoidea* ATCC 36232 (Type I) and ATCC 20408 (Type II) strains

Fraction	Total carbohydrate (%) ^a	Total protein (%) ^b	Total phosphate (%) ^c	$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ (degrees) ^d
A3	86.5	2.1	0.30	+62.8
A3-a	84.8	2.4	0.31	+68.0
A3-b	85.0	2.2	0.31	+63.2
A3-ab	84.8	2.2	0.30	+67.6
A2	92.1	2.0	0.16	+46.3
A2-a	90.2	2.2	0.17	+49.5
A2-b	89.8	1.9	0.18	+45.5
A2-ab	89.9	2.0	0.18	+49.2

^a Determined by the phenol- H_2SO_4 method¹⁸. ^b Determined by the method of Lowry et al.¹⁹.

^c Determined by the Ames-Dubin method²⁰ as $-\text{H}_2\text{PO}_3$. ^d (c 1.0, H_2O).

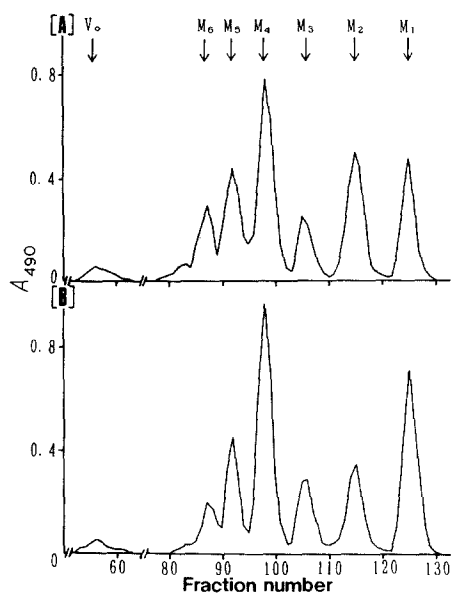


Fig. 4. Gel filtration of the *O*-deacetylated products of the conventional acetolysis of Frs. A3-ab (A) and A2-ab (B) with 10:10:1 Ac_2O - AcOH - H_2SO_4 for 13 h at 40° , using the same column and conditions as in Fig. 1: M_6 indicates D-mannohexaose; other symbols are as in Fig. 1.

than pentose, which were resolved poorly. D-Mannose and D-manno-oligosaccharides (dp 2–4) were resolved satisfactorily. The ^1H -NMR spectra of these D-manno-oligosaccharides were identical to those of the structures **1–3** isolated after conventional acetolysis of Fr. A2-ab (data not shown). The fraction containing the higher oligosaccharides was digested with the *exo*- α -D-mannosidase and the products were fractionated (Fig. 6B). The separation of the components of a mixture of pentose (M_5 -IIe), hexaose (M_6 -IIe), and heptaose (M_7 -IIe) can be achieved by a combination of this enzymic procedure and gel-filtration chromatog-

TABLE II

Compositions of phosphorylated oligosaccharide(s) fractions obtained from Frs. A3-ab and A2-ab by acetolysis

Fraction	Total carbohydrate (%) ^a	Total phosphate (%) ^b	Man/P molar ratio ^c	$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ (degrees) ^d	Yield (%) ^e
V_0 3-I	80.7	8.01	4.59	+61.8	3.5
V_0 2-I	79.4	10.40	3.39	+59.8	2.9
V_0 2-II	85.6	5.71	7.32	+33.6	24.2
V_0 2-IIe	77.1	5.29	6.47	+32.2	22.5

^a Determined by the phenol- H_2SO_4 method¹⁸. ^b Determined by the Ames-Dubin method²⁰ as $-\text{H}_2\text{PO}_3$. ^c Ratio of D-mannose residues to phosphate groups. ^d (c 1.0, H_2O). ^e Weight basis of the acid- and alkali-treated D-mannan.

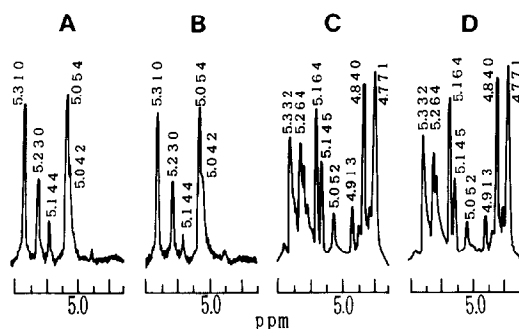


Fig. 5. ^1H -NMR spectra (see Fig. 2 for the conditions) in the region for H-1 resonances of phosphorylated oligosaccharide(s) fractions $\text{V}_03\text{-I}$ (A), $\text{V}_02\text{-I}$ (B), $\text{V}_2\text{-II}$ (C), and $\text{V}_02\text{-IIe}$ (D). These products were eluted in the void volume of the gel filtration shown in Figs. 4 (A and B) and 6 (A and C).

raphy. The ^1H -NMR spectra of these oligosaccharides were identical to those of the D-manno-oligosaccharides isolated from the D-mannan of *C. albicans* J-1012 strain⁶ and identified as **8–10** (data not shown). $\text{M}_5\text{-IIe}$ (**8**) and $\text{M}_6\text{-IIe}$ (**9**) correspond to the serotype A-specific epitopes of genus *Candida*⁸ and were investigated by ^1H , ^{13}C COSY spectrometry (Fig. 7 and Table III).

$\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\text{-}\{\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\}_n\text{D-Man}$

- 1** $n = 0$
- 2** $n = 1$
- 3** $n = 2$
- 4** $n = 3$

$\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 3)\text{-}\{\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\}_n\text{D-Man}$

- 5** $n = 3$
- 6** $n = 4$

$\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\text{-}\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 3)\text{-}\{\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\}_3\text{D-Man}$

7

$\beta\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\text{-}\{\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\}_3\text{D-Man}$

8

$\beta\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\text{-}\beta\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\text{-}\{\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\}_3\text{D-Man}$

9

$\beta\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\text{-}\{\beta\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\}_n\{\alpha\text{-D-Man}p\text{-(1} \rightarrow 2)\}_3\text{D-Man}$

10

When $\text{V}_02\text{-II}$ was treated with the *exo*- $\alpha\text{-D}$ -mannosidase (Fig. 6C), only 7% of the D-mannose was released, so that a large proportion was resistant to the enzyme. The results of chemical and ^1H -NMR analyses for $\text{V}_02\text{-II}$ and $\text{V}_02\text{-IIe}$ are given in Table II and Fig. 5 (C and D).

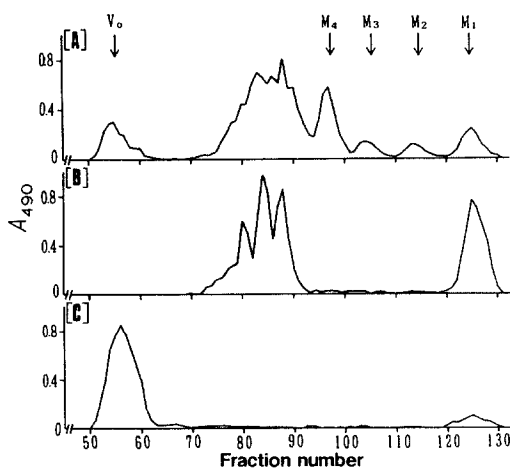


Fig. 6. Gel filtration of the *O*-deacetylated products of the mild acetolysis of Fr. A2-ab with 100:100:1 Ac_2O – AcOH – H_2SO_4 for 36 h at 40° , using the same column and conditions as in Fig. 1 (A); digestion products of the oligosaccharides in (A) higher than pentose with *exo*- α -D-mannosidase (B); and digestion products [phosphorylated oligosaccharide(s), V_0 2-II] in the void volume in (A) with *exo*- α -D-mannosidase (C).

Structures of phosphate-containing oligosaccharide(s), V_0 3-I, V_0 2-I, V_0 2-II, and V_0 2-IIe.—Fig. 5 (A–D) shows the ^1H -NMR spectra of the three phosphorylated oligosaccharide(s) fractions. Because V_0 3-I and V_0 2-I were obtained by conventional acetolysis, only weak resonances relating to β -(1 \rightarrow 2) linkages could be detected. On the other hand, V_0 2-II and V_0 2-IIe gave nearly identical ^1H -NMR

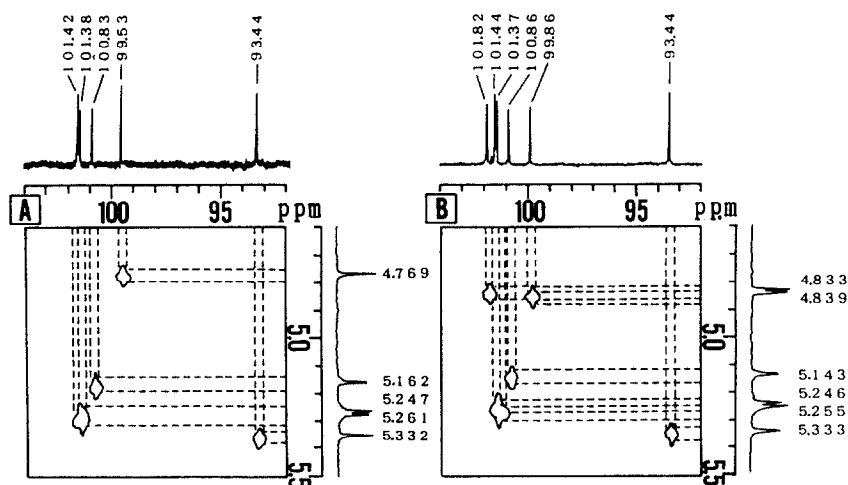


Fig. 7. ^1H , ^{13}C COSY spectra (see Fig. 3 for the conditions) in the regions for H-1 and C-1 resonances of M_5 -Ile (A) and M_6 -Ile (B).

TABLE III

Chemical shifts of H-1 and C-1 signals in the NMR spectra of M₅-IIe and M₆-IIe

Atom	8 (M ₅ -IIe)				
	I'''	I'''	I''	I'	I
H-1	4.769	5.162	5.261	5.247	5.332
C-1	99.53	100.83	101.38	101.42	93.44

Atom	9 (M ₆ -IIe)					
	I'''	I'''	I'''	I''	I'	I
H-1	4.839	4.833	5.143	5.255	5.246	5.333
C-1	99.86	101.82	100.86	101.37	101.44	93.44

spectra, including strong resonances in the range 4.770–4.916 ppm. Therefore, digestion with the exo- α -D-mannosidase did not alter the structural features surrounding the phosphate group, indicating that the phosphate groups might be located mainly on branches longer than M₅-IIe. Since a resonance at 5.145 ppm corresponding to a non-reducing, terminal (1 \rightarrow 3)-linked α -D-mannopyranosyl unit can be detected in the ¹H-NMR spectra of V₀2-II and V₀2-IIe, it is presumed that phosphorylated branches longer than pentaose in the parent D-mannan are resistant to the enzyme.

Slide agglutination assay for C. stellatoidea strains with polyclonal factor sera (PFAb).—The results of the assay with commercially available factor sera (Candida Check) and heat-killed cell suspensions of yeasts, including three *C. albicans* strains, NIH A-207 (serotype A), J-1012 (serotype A), and NIH B-792 (serotype B), and two *C. stellatoidea* strains, A3 (Type I) and A2 (Type II), are shown in Table IV. The A2-strain cells were equally agglutinated with a factor serum 6, corresponding to the epitopes of *Candida* spp., as the cells of *C. albicans* J-1012 strain. On the other hand, the A3-strain cells were not agglutinated. Therefore, this

TABLE IV

Slide agglutination assay for *C. albicans* and *C. stellatoidea* strains with polyclonal factor sera (PFAb) ^a

Strain	PFAb								
	1	4	5	6	8	9	11	13b	34
<i>C. albicans</i>									
NIH A-207 (serotype A)	++	++	+	+-	-	-	-	-	-
J-1012 (serotype A)	++	++	++	+	-	-	-	-	-
NIH B-792 (serotype B)	++	++	+	-	-	-	-	+-	-
<i>C. stellatoidea</i>									
ATCC 36232 (Type I)	++	++	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
ATCC 20408 (Type II)	++	++	++	+	-	-	-	-	-

^a ++, +, and +-, agglutination; -, no agglutination.

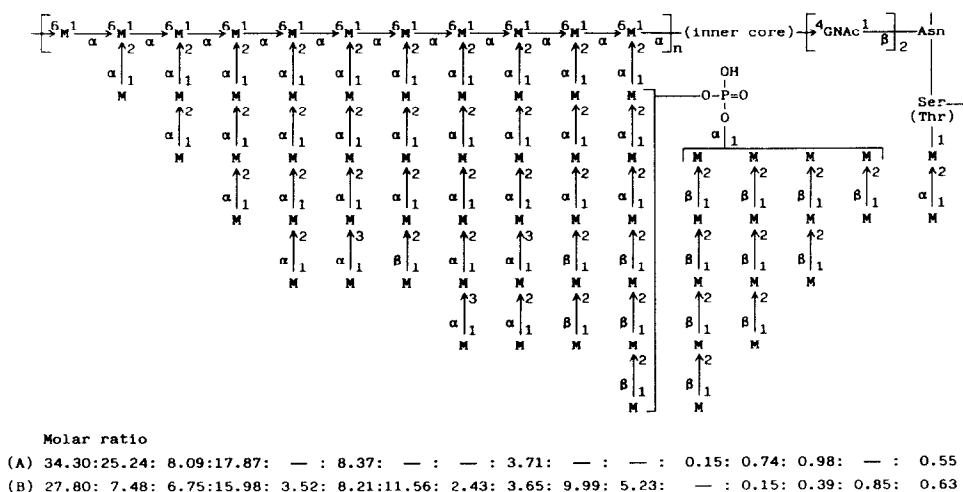


Fig. 8. Possible structures for the cell-wall D-mannans of *C. stellatoidea* ATCC 36232 Type I (A) and ATCC 20408 Type II (B) strains: M (Man) and GNAc (GlcNAc) denote D-mannopyranose and 2-acetamido-2-deoxy-D-glucopyranose residues, respectively. The side-chain sequence is not specified.

finding provides evidence that the specific epitopes corresponding to factor serum 6 are M₅-Ile (8) and M₆-Ile (9), as assumed by Kobayashi et al.⁸.

DISCUSSION

Kwon-Chung et al.^{9,10} reported that *C. stellatoidea* spp. could be classified into two karyotypes (Types I and II) which showed a distinct difference in their chromosome patterns. The Type I strains were less virulent in mice, and showed lower resistance to UV irradiation, slower production of proteinase, and negative reactivity with the anti-*Candida tropicalis* D-mannan monoclonal antibody²⁵.

We have demonstrated¹² that the D-mannans of the *C. stellatoidea* Type I strains, IFO 1397, TIMM 0310, and ATCC 11006, have the same structure as the D-mannan of *C. albicans* NIH B-792 strain (serotype B), which lacks (1 → 2)-linked β-D-mannopyranosyl units in the non-reducing terminal sites of the branches corresponding to the structures 8–10. The results in this study indicate that the D-mannan of the A2 strain contained branches corresponding to the serotype A-specific epitopes of genus *Candida*, the structures of which have been proposed as formulas 8 and 9 (Fig. 8). The D-mannan of the A3 strain did not contain these branches, in common with those of the other Type I strains, IFO 1397, TIMM 0310, and ATCC 11006. This is the most characteristic difference between the structures of D-mannans of *C. stellatoidea* strains of both Types I and II, which possess structures in common with the D-mannans of *C. albicans* serotype B and A strains.

Meyer et al.²⁶ reported that *C. stellatoidea* differs from *C. albicans* in the assimilation of sucrose. Furthermore, Kwon-chung et al.²⁷ and Iwaguchi et al.²⁸ demonstrated that *C. stellatoidea* spp. are stable mutants of *C. albicans* spp., on the basis of chromosome patterns. Therefore, it is concluded that the two pairs of serological identities observed between *C. albicans* serotype A and *C. stellatoidea* Type II strains and between *C. albicans* serotype B and *C. stellatoidea* Type I strains are due to the common structural features depending on the presence of branches corresponding to structures 8–10 in the acid-stable domains of the parent D-mannans.

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