

Associate professor K.T. Inngjerdengen
School of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry
University of Oslo, PO Box 1068 Blindern, N-0316 Oslo, Norway

Immunomodulating pectic polysaccharides from Malian medicinal plants

The chemistry and immunomodulating activities of pectic polysaccharides from several Malian medicinal plants have been studied fairly extensively the last 15 years. Although the medical effect of the pectic fractions' influence on the humane immune system remains to be determined, our data suggest that they may participate in boosting the innate immune system, through the complement system, and/or by the influence on antigen-presenting cells like macrophages and dendritic cells. It has further become clear that the rhamnogalacturonan backbone of pectins with sidechains of arabinogalactans is important for the expression of the bioactivities. An overview of the results obtained so far will be presented.