



Glossary:

Homoglycans: The polysaccharides that consist of identical monosaccharide units are called homoglycans.

Heteroglycans: The polysaccharides that consist of unidentical monosaccharide units are called homoglycans.

Hemicellulose: It is used to represent a family of polysaccharides such as arabino-xylans, gluco-mannans, galactans, and others that are found in the plant cell wall.

Plant gums: Plant gums are the pathological products formed in plants as a result of injury or unfavourable conditions like drought or breakdown of cell walls.

Pectins: Pectins are polysaccharides occurring in all plants primarily in their cell walls composed of D-galactopyranosyl uronic acid units linked through α -(1, 4)-linkages.

High methoxyl pectins: Pectin in which the degree of esterification is greater than 50%, is called a high methoxyl pectin (HM pectin).

Mucopolysaccharides: Mucopolysaccharides are the heteroglycan molecules that contain amino sugars and uronic acids, and constitute the mucous secretions of animals.

Heparin: Anti-coagulant present in blood vessels, liver, lungs and spleen.

Hyaluronic acid: Viscous lubricating fluids present in the skin, vitreous humour of the eye, the synovial fluid of joints, and the umbilical cord of mammals.