

A sulphated glycosaminoglycan extract from *Placopecten magellanicus* inhibits the Alzheimer's disease β -Site amyloid precursor protein cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE-1).

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Highlights:

- A glycosaminoglycan extract from the Atlantic Sea Scallop, *Placopecten magellanicus*, displays high inhibitory potential for BACE-1, a key drug-target in Alzheimer's disease.
- The composition of the extract is predominantly that of heparan sulphate, containing a high content of the disaccharide UA-GlcNAc(6S), which is uncommon in mammalian-derived HS samples.
- The glycosaminoglycan extract possesses highly attenuated anticoagulant potential compared to mammalian heparin.

Abstract: The clinically important anticoagulant heparin, a member of the glycosaminoglycan family of carbohydrates that is extracted predominantly from porcine and bovine tissue sources, has previously been shown to inhibit the β -Site amyloid precursor protein cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE-1), a key drug target in Alzheimer's Disease. In addition, heparin has been shown to exert favourable bioactivities through a number of pathophysiological pathways involved in the disease processes of Alzheimer's Disease including inflammation, oxidative stress, tau phosphorylation and amyloid peptide generation. Despite the multi-target potential of heparin as a therapeutic option for Alzheimer's disease, the repurposing of this medically important biomolecule has to-date been precluded by its high anticoagulant potential. An alternative source to mammalian-derived glycosaminoglycans are those extracted from marine environments and these have been shown to display an expanded repertoire of sequence-space and heterogeneity compared to their mammalian counterparts. Furthermore, many marine-derived glycosaminoglycans appear to retain favourable bioactivities, whilst lacking the high anticoagulant potential of their mammalian counterparts. Here we describe a sulphated, marine-derived glycosaminoglycan extract from the Atlantic Sea Scallop, *Placopecten magellanicus* that displays high inhibitory potential against BACE-1 ($IC_{50} = 4.8 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$) combined with low anticoagulant activity; 25-fold less than that of heparin. This extract possesses a more favourable therapeutic profile compared to pharmaceutical heparin of mammalian provenance and is composed of a mixture of heparan sulphate (HS), with a high content of 6-sulphated N-acetyl glucosamine (64 %), and chondroitin sulphate.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease; amyloid- β ; BACE-1; β -secretase; β -Site amyloid precursor protein cleaving enzyme 1; glycosaminoglycan; chondroitin sulphate; heparin; heparan sulphate, *Placopecten magellanicus*.

53 1. Introduction

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56 Glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) are heterogeneous polysaccharides located extensively throughout almost all
57 mammalian tissues, where they are found either intracellularly, tethered to the cell membrane, or secreted into
58 the extracellular matrix [1]. There are four classes of GAG, including heparin/heparan sulphate (HS), chondroitin
59 sulphate (CS)/ dermatan sulphate (DS), hyaluronic acid (HA) and keratan sulphate (KS). Each class of GAG
60 comprises a distinctive underlying disaccharide repeat unit of a uronic acid residue (β -D-glucuronic acid; GlcA
61 or the C5 epimer α -L-iduronic acid; IdoA) or in the case of KS, galactose, linked to either *N*-acetyl- β -D-
62 galactosamine (GalNAc) or *N*-acetyl- β / α -D-glucosamine residue (GlcNAc). The repeating disaccharide units that
63 comprise each GAG chain can undergo variable levels of sulphation, which occur at characteristic positions for
64 each subtype of GAG; these modifications do not go to completion throughout the polysaccharide chain. Out of
65 all the GAGs, the extent of possible modification is the most diverse for HS, where for each disaccharide there
66 exists a theoretical total of 48 potential disaccharide structures. In addition, the length of GAGs can be extensive
67 and variable, imparting further heterogeneity upon this class of polysaccharides [1–3]. Glycosaminoglycan
68 chains, with the exception of HA, are synthesised attached to a protein core in the Golgi, of which over 40 have
69 been identified and are together termed proteoglycans (PG). The identity of PG core protein is implicated in the
70 identity and modification pattern of the subsequently attached GAG chains, further increasing complexity [4].
71 The high degree of structural variability and ubiquitous presence of GAGs affords this class of polysaccharides
72 an extensive array of biological functions, examples of which are wide ranging, including structural scaffolds,
73 immunological modulators and regulators of proliferation and differentiation. Proteoglycans, in particular those
74 bearing HS chains, have also been widely implicated in amyloidogenic disease, for example Alzheimer's disease,
75 where alterations in the fine structure of the polysaccharide chain are associated with pathology (for an
76 extensive review, see [5].

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78 One identified function of the glycosaminoglycan HS is that of a physiological regulator for the principal neuronal
79 β -secretase, BACE-1 [6]. BACE-1 undertakes the rate-limiting cleavage of the amyloid precursor protein (APP),
80 where further processing terminates with the production of A β peptides, which are suggested to be one of the
81 causative agents of AD. In this amyloidogenic pathway of APP metabolism, APP is initially cleaved by BACE-1 to
82 yield a membrane tethered C-terminal fragment (CTF-99) and a N-terminal soluble fragment (sAPP β). Further
83 proteolytic cleavage of CTF-99 by γ -secretase results in A β peptides of variable length, which can subsequently
84 undergo fibrillization into neurotoxic aggregates [7,8]. Furthermore, the amyloidogenic hypothesis of AD regards
85 A β as the initiating factor for other characteristic AD pathologies, such as neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs) and
86 inflammation, which contribute to the extensive brain atrophy observed [9]. Inhibition of the enzymatic activity
87 of BACE-1 would, therefore, result in reduced A β peptide production, thereby ameliorating downstream
88 pathological events. As a result, BACE-1 has become an attractive target for the design of inhibitors as potential
89 therapeutic agents for AD. Despite this, the design of synthetic peptide based BACE-1 inhibitors has been
90 hampered by the large substrate binding cleft of the enzyme and the inability of inhibitors to cross the blood
91 brain barrier (BBB) [10].

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The pharmaceutical anticoagulant heparin, which is structurally related to HS, has been demonstrated to inhibit BACE-1 [6], while heparin oligosaccharides have been shown to cross the BBB [11]. Furthermore, in transgenic mouse models, low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) and porcine HS have been observed to enhance A β clearance through multiple mechanisms, which led to reduced A β deposition and improved cognitive functioning in mice [12–14]. Therefore, the utilisation of drugs based upon heparin or HS holds great promise as potential treatment options for AD, targeting the imbalance of A β production and clearance, which has been widely postulated to be the underlying aetiology of the disease. A major obstacle for the repurposing of pharmaceutical heparin, or LMWH derivatives, as pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of AD is the potent anticoagulant activity of this class of molecules. However, HS with altered sulphate modifications compared to heparin, e.g. glucosamine residues bearing NAc as opposed to NS, are known to display significantly attenuated anticoagulant activity [15]. The discovery of natural HS sources that exhibit greatly reduced anticoagulant activity, whilst retaining structural patterning that bestow favourable bioactivities, for instance BACE-1 inhibition, would be greatly beneficial to the discovery of future GAG-based therapeutics.

A potential source of natural GAGs for therapeutic applications is that of commonly farmed marine organisms. In contrast to GAGs sourced from mammals, marine species have been demonstrated to possess GAGs variable modification patterns that are unique [3,16–26]. The expanded structural diversity displayed by GAGs sourced from marine species can be utilised to probe for modifications that confer optimal therapeutic activities. Once identified, these sequences can be exploited for the development of saccharides with defined sequences by chemical or chemoenzymatic synthesis. Alternatively, utilisation of species that can be farmed using sustainable methods, for instance aquaculture, for the sourcing of GAGs for therapeutic applications could prove to be viable. Herein, the Atlantic sea scallop, *Placopecten magellanicus*, was used as a source organism for the extraction of GAGs, which were subsequently characterised, evaluated for their anticoagulant activity and the ability to inhibit BACE-1.

125 **2. Results**

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127 *2.1. Isolation of glycosaminoglycans from *Placopecten magellanicus* with BACE-1 inhibitory activity and*
128 *reduced anticoagulant properties*

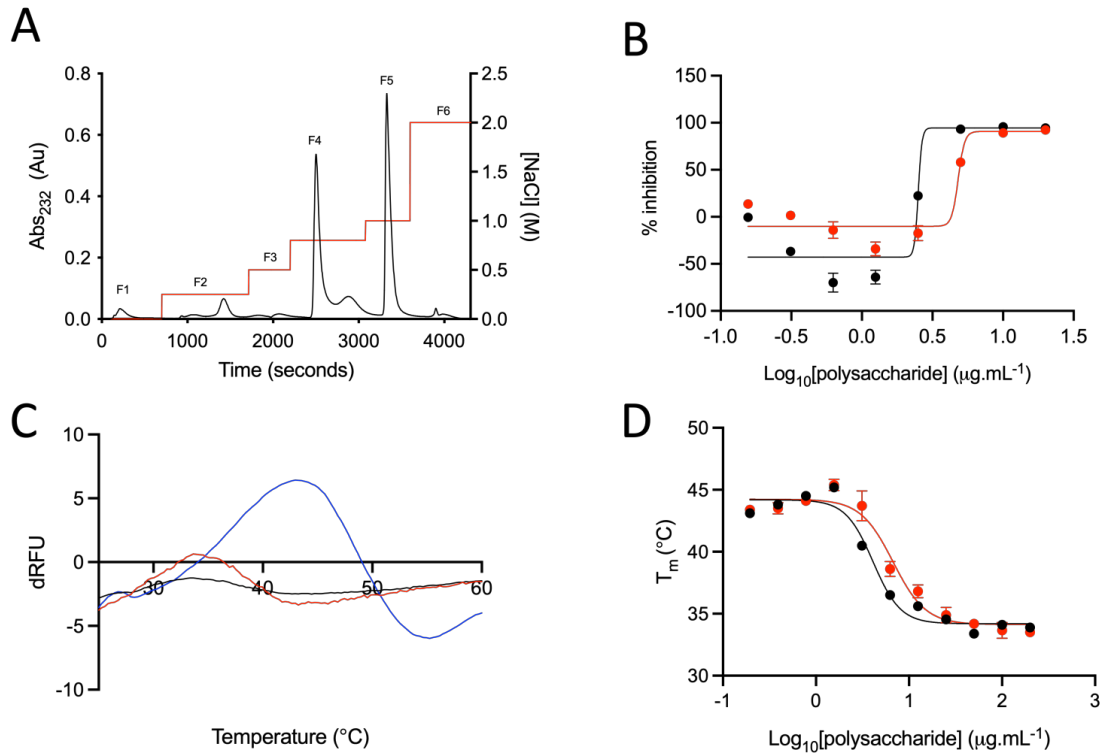
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130 Glycosaminoglycans from *P. magellanicus* were released from delipidated tissue via proteolysis and the free
131 peptidoglycan chains were subsequently captured using strong anion exchange resin prior to elution with 2M
132 NaCl. Glycosaminoglycans were precipitated from the eluate by methanol addition before being subjected to
133 further purification using DEAE-anion exchange chromatography, in which a stepwise NaCl gradient was
134 employed for elution. The DEAE eluate obtained at 1 M NaCl, designated as fraction 5 (F5), was observed to
135 possess high BACE-1 inhibitory activity, as determined by the previously described FRET assay, which employs a
136 quenched, fluorogenic peptide substrate based upon the APP_{SW} mutation (6,16–18; Figure 1B). The IC₅₀ of BACE-
137 1 inhibition by porcine heparin was in accordance with previous reports at ~ 2.5 µg.mL⁻¹, with maximum
138 inhibition being achieved at 5 µg.mL⁻¹[6,16–18]. The F5 extract obtained from *P. magellanicus* was observed to
139 possess BACE-1 inhibitory activity ~ two fold lower than that of porcine heparin, with an IC₅₀ of 4.8 µg.mL⁻¹ and
140 maximum inhibition at concentrations > 10 µg.mL⁻¹ (Figure 1B). At low concentrations of porcine heparin, and
141 the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract, an increase in BACE-1 activity was observed; however, this effect was lower for
142 the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract (Figure 1B). Both chondroitinase (ABC) and heparinase (I & III) treatment of the
143 *P. magellanicus* F5 extract resulted in a product that retained ~ 50% BACE-1 activity of the undigested extract
144 (S3). This would suggest that the BACE-1 inhibitory activity of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract resides in both the
145 glucosaminoglycans and galactosaminoglycans constituents present within the sample and cannot be attributed
146 to either the heparan sulphate or chondroitin sulphate components exclusively.

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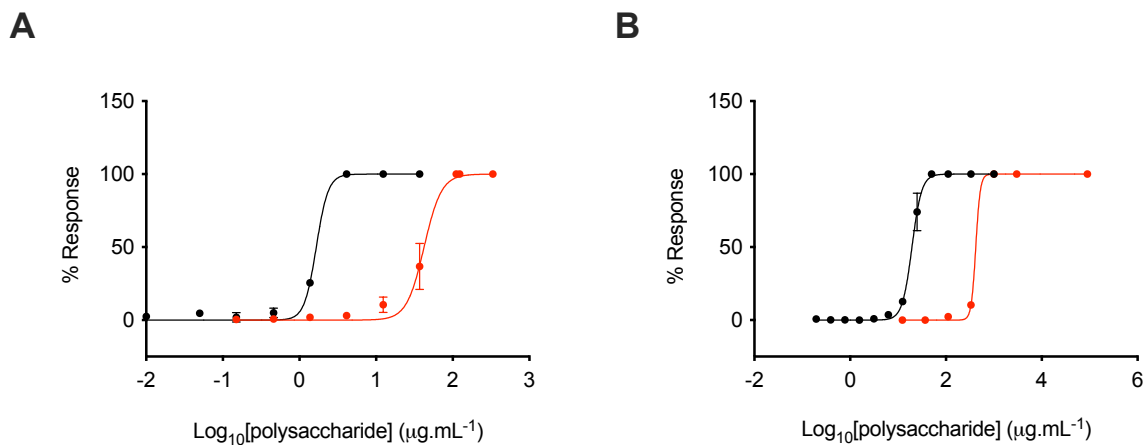
148 A change in the melting temperature (ΔT_m) of BACE-1, measured by differential scanning fluorimetry (DSF), has
149 previously been observed in the presence of GAGs and other BACE-1 inhibitors. The extent of the shift in T_m of
150 BACE-1 has been employed as an indicative screen to evaluate the potency of potential BACE-1 inhibitors [16–
151 18,27,28]. When screened using DSF, *P. magellanicus* F5 induced a Δ 8.8°C reduction in the T_m of BACE-1 at
152 concentrations > 50 µg.mL⁻¹(Figure 1C; \pm , SD = 0.3, n= 3). This is marginally reduced in comparison to the ΔT_m of
153 BACE-1 observed in the presence of porcine heparin at an equivalent concentration; ~ Δ 9.6°C (Figure 1C; \pm , SD
154 = 0.3, n= 3), which may be indicative of the marginally reduced potency of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract. The
155 observed negative shift in the T_m of BACE-1 in the presence of both *P. magellanicus* F5 and porcine heparin was
156 also found to be dose-dependent with an EC₅₀ of 7 µg.mL⁻¹ and 4 µg.mL⁻¹ respectively (Figure 1D).

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Figure 1. DEAE weak anion exchange chromatography of glycosaminoglycans obtained from *P. magellanicus*. Bound material was eluted with a stepwise NaCl gradient from 0 - 2 M NaCl (red; fractions F1 - F6), with in-line monitoring at 232 nm (black).* *P. magellanicus* F5 was taken forward for analysis due to this fraction possessing BACE-1 inhibitory activity; (B) BACE-1 inhibitory activity was determined by a quenched fluorogenic FRET peptide assay; *P. magellanicus* F5 (red) IC₅₀ = 4.8 (R² = 0.91) μg.mL⁻¹, porcine heparin (black) IC₅₀ = 2.5 μg.mL⁻¹ (R² = 0.91), data represented as % inhibition ± SD (n=3). (C) First differential of the DSF thermal stability profile of BACE-1 with heparin (black), *P. magellanicus* F5 (red) or alone (blue) in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer pH 4.0. (D) T_m of BACE-1 with increasing heparin (black) or *P. magellanicus* F5 (red) concentration.



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Figure 2: Anticoagulant activity of *P. magellanicus* F5. (A) Activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) represented as % inhibitory response ± SD, n=3. *P. magellanicus* F5 (red) and porcine heparin (black) EC₅₀ = 42.3 μg.mL⁻¹ and 1.7 μg.mL⁻¹, respectively. (B) prothrombin time (PT) represented as % inhibitory response ± SD, n=3. *P. magellanicus* F5 (red) and porcine heparin (black) EC₅₀ = 419.8 μg.mL⁻¹ and 19.3 μg.mL⁻¹, respectively.

179 As documented, the potent anticoagulant activity of heparin prevents the future repurposing of this clinically
 180 approved drug for alternative therapeutic applications, for example in AD [15]. Therefore, the anticoagulant
 181 activity of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was evaluated by comparing the anticoagulant response to that of
 182 porcine heparin (193 IU.mg⁻¹), in the activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT; intrinsic pathway) and
 183 prothrombin time (PT; extrinsic pathway) assays. *P. magellanicus* F5 was observed to exhibit an approximate 25-
 184 fold reduction in activity to porcine heparin, when evaluated using the aPTT assay, at EC₅₀ = 42.3 µg.mL⁻¹ and
 185 1.70 µg.mL⁻¹, respectively. Similarly, in the PT assay the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was observed to display a ~
 186 25-fold reduction in activity in comparison to porcine heparin; EC₅₀ = 419.8 µg.mL⁻¹ and 19.30 µg.mL⁻¹,
 187 respectively (Figure 2). As a result, when considering the reduced anticoagulant activity of the *P. magellanicus*
 188 F5 extract, this compound represents a ~ 10-fold increase in therapeutic value over clinically approved, porcine
 189 unfractionated heparin (Table 1). Structural analysis of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was subsequently
 190 performed in order to establish the composition of the extract.

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	BACE-1 inhibitory activity (µg.mL ⁻¹)	Anticoagulant activity (µg.mL ⁻¹)	Therapeutic ratio
<i>P. magellanicus</i> F5	4.8	42.3	8.8
Heparin	2.5	1.70	0.7

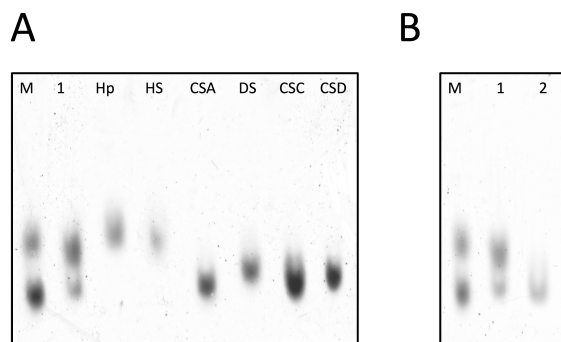
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Table 1. Therapeutic value of *P. magellanicus* F5 and porcine heparin calculated using the ratio of the IC₅₀s of anticoagulant activity and BACE-1 inhibitory activity (measured by aPTT and FRET, respectively). aPTT = activated partial thromboplastin time, PT = prothrombin time.

2.2. Characterisation of the glycosaminoglycan extract from *Placopecten magellanicus*

205 The *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was confirmed to contain heparin/heparan sulphate and chondroitin/dermatan
 206 sulphate by agarose-gel electrophoresis and enzymatic digestion with *Pedobacter heparinus* heparinase lyases
 207 (Figure 3). A component with electrophoretic mobility corresponding to HS/heparin was observed, which was
 208 degraded when subjected to heparinase treatment (Figure 3B), indicating the presence of glucosaminoglycans
 209 within the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract. The *P. magellanicus* F5 sample also possessed a minor band migrating the
 210 same distance as the galactosaminoglycan-containing standards, this band was not degraded upon heparitinase
 211 treatment indicating the presence of chondroitin and/or dermatan sulphate within the sample.

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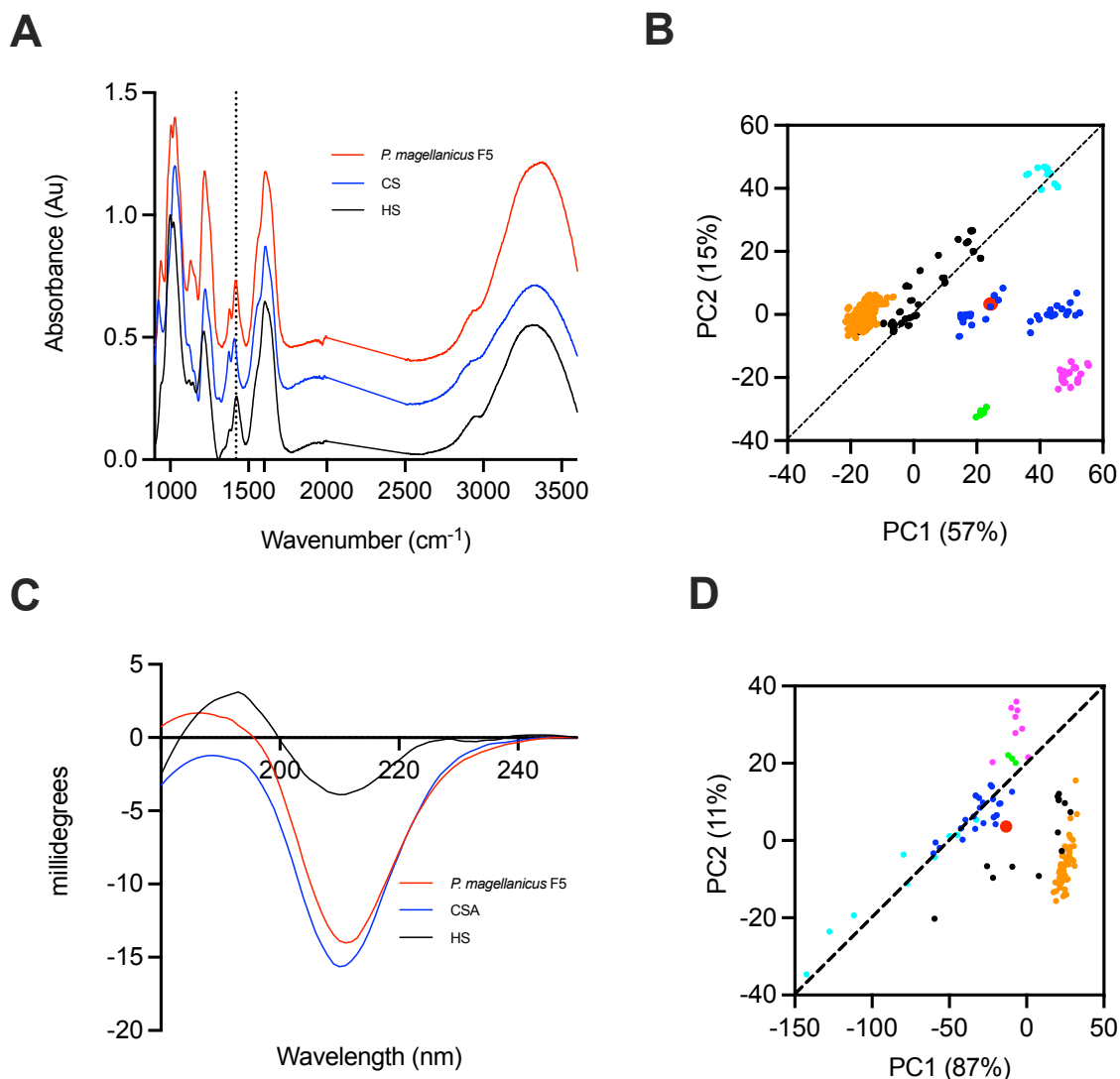
219 **Figure 3.** (A, B) Agarose gel electrophoresis of *P. magellanicus* F5 alone (1) or digested with *Pedobacter heparinus* heparinase
220 lyases I, II and III (2) compared to glycosaminoglycan standards heparin (Hp) heparan sulphate (HS), dermatan sulphate (DS)
221 and chondroitin sulphate A, C and D (CSA, CSC and CSD, respectively), M = mixture of CSA and heparin.
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224 The ATR-FTIR spectra of the *P. magellanicus* F5 contains spectral features that are indicative of GAGs, e.g., the
225 peaks present at 1230, 1430, 1635 cm^{-1} and 1559 cm^{-1} , which correspond to S=O, symmetric carbonyl stretching,
226 asymmetric stretching carbonyl stretching, and coupled C-N vibrations of N-acetyl (amide) groups, respectively.
227 The peaks present at 990 cm^{-1} and 1025 cm^{-1} have also been attributed to C-O-C glycosidic bond stretches [29–
228 32] and can be used to differentiate between GAGs, such as CS and HS, due to disparities in the glycosidic
229 linkages of these polysaccharides. For HS a band of higher intensity can be observed at 990 cm^{-1} , whereas for CS
230 the prominent band is seen at 1025 cm^{-1} . The ATR-FTIR spectra of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract contained a
231 peak at both 990 cm^{-1} and 1025 cm^{-1} , again suggesting that the sample is composed of a mixture of CS/DS and
232 HS/heparin.

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234 Using principal component analysis (PCA) the attenuated total reflectance Fourier transform infrared (ATR-FTIR)
235 spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was compared to that of a library of GAG standards; comprising 185
236 heparins, 31 HS, 44 CSs and dermatan sulphates (DS), 11 hyaluronic acid (HA) and 6 over sulphated chondroitin
237 sulphates (OSCS). The complexity of the ATR-FTIR spectra of GAGs, which is a result of broad overlapping signals,
238 renders spectral assignment challenging. Despite this, deconvolution of GAG ATR-FTIR spectra by PCA can
239 successfully discriminate between GAG subclasses and has been shown to detect the presence of contaminants,
240 for instance the presence of OSCS within pharmaceutical heparin preparations [29]. As a result, this approach
241 was utilised to further evaluate the GAG composition of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract, which was identified to
242 contain a mixture of HS/heparin and galactosaminoglycans by agarose gel electrophoresis. Of note the region >
243 3000 cm^{-1} (OH stretch region), which is associated with variations in environmental moisture levels during
244 sample acquisition, was discarded prior to PCA, as variations in this region are not likely to result from underlying
245 structural differences between samples. Principal component 1, which covers 57% of the total variance,
246 separated the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract alongside HS, CS and OSCS standards. However, when PC1 and PC2
247 were compared (covering 72% of the total variance), the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was further separated
248 towards the region containing CS standards (Figure 4).



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Figure 4. ATR-FTIR spectra of (A) *P. magellanicus* F5 (red), CS (blue) and HS (black) (B) PCA of the ATR-FTIR spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5 (red) and a library of GAG standards; CS (blue), HS (black), HA (cyan), heparin (orange), DS (magenta) and OSCS (green). (C) CD spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5 (red), CS (blue) and HS (black). PCA of the CD spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5 (red) and a library of GAG standards; CS (blue), HS (black), HA (cyan), heparin (orange), DS (magenta) and OSCS (green).

260 In addition to ATR-FTIR, the circular dichroism (CD) spectra of GAGs can be utilised to approximate sample
 261 composition [33–35]. Differentiation of GAGs based upon their CD spectra is a result of the sensitivity of this
 262 technique to the conformation of the uronic acid residue, glycosidic linkage and the extent of polysaccharide
 263 sulphation. Again, post-acquisition PCA against a library of standards can be employed to further assist in the
 264 identification of GAGs present within a sample [35]. The CD spectrum of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract exhibited
 265 a positive band at ~ 190 nm, which is indicative of a HS/heparin sample, and positive band at ~ 210 nm, which
 266 can be observed in all GAG standards, albeit to different extents [34]. When analysed by PCA, a comparison of

267 PC1 and PC2 (covering 98% of the total variance) separated the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract towards the region
 268 containing CS standards (Figure 4).

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 270 Since the band corresponding to HS/heparin within the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract, observed by agarose
 271 electrophoresis (Figure 3), was degraded by exhaustive digestion with *Pedobacter heparinus* lyases, the resulting
 272 products were subsequently analysed by strong anion-exchange high performance liquid chromatography (SAX-
 273 HPLC). The retention times of the *P. magellanicus* F5 disaccharide products were compared to those of the eight
 274 common HS/heparin Δ -disaccharide reference standards (Figure 5). Matched heparin and HS digest controls,
 275 with known compositions, were also employed to ensure that exhaustive enzymatic digestion of the *P.*
 276 *magellanicus* F5 extract had occurred (S1 and S2). A characteristic digestion profile was observed for porcine
 277 heparin with > 50% of the total disaccharide products being attributed to Δ -UA(2S)-GlcNS(6S) and ~ 20% to Δ -
 278 UA-GlcNS(6S) [36]. The disaccharide composition of the mammalian HS sample was also in accordance with the
 279 expected profile, with the most prevalent disaccharide being Δ -UA-GlcNAc at ~ 40%, which can be attributed to
 280 the NA domains of HS. Furthermore, the disaccharides Δ -UA-GlcNS (~ 20%), Δ -UA-GlcNAc(6S) (~ 15%), Δ -UA-
 281 GlcNS(6S) (20%) accounted for ~ 50% of the remainder of the disaccharides present within the HS sample, which
 282 is typical of a HS sample resulting from the NA/NS and NS-domains (Table 2).

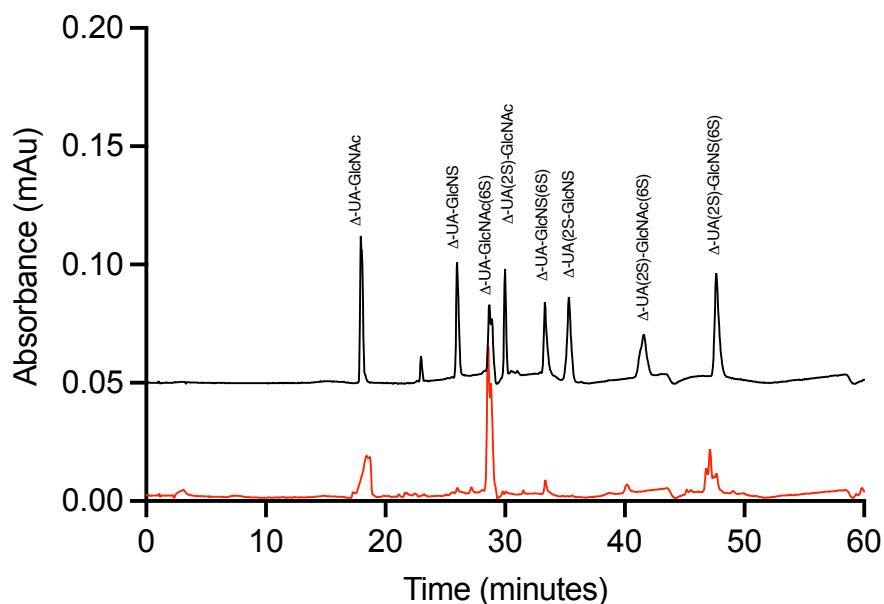
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 285 **Table 2.** Disaccharide composition analysis of *P. magellanicus* F5, HS and heparin. N.D; not detected.
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Δ -Disaccharide	<i>P. magellanicus</i> (%)	HS (%)	Heparin (%)
Δ -UA-GlcNAc	21	37	8
Δ -UA-GlcNS	1	18	3
Δ -UA-GlcNAc(6S)	64	14	6
Δ -UA(2S)-GlcNAc	2	N.D	3
Δ -UA-GlcNS(6S)	5	18	18
Δ -UA(2S)-GlcNS	<1	6	8
Δ -UA(2S)-GlcNAc(6S)	N.D	<1	2
Δ -UA(2S)-GlcNS(6S)	7	7	51

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 289 The disaccharide profile obtained from enzymatic digestion of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was in contrast to
 290 those observed for typical mammalian-derived HS and heparin samples. The unsulphated Δ -UA-GlcNAc
 291 disaccharide accounted for ~ 20% of the total detected disaccharides present within the *P. magellanicus* F5
 292 extract, which is intermediary between the levels observed for heparin and HS samples (Table 2). The proportion
 293 of the trisulphated disaccharide, Δ -UA(2S)-GlcNS(6S) detected in the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was, however,
 294 the same as that observed in the HS sample at ~ 10%. The most prevalent disaccharide detected within the *P.*
 295 *magellanicus* F5 extract was found to be Δ -UA-GlcNAc(6S) at 64%, this differs from both HS and heparin which
 296 both contain a low level of this mono-sulphated disaccharide. A low proportion of other mono-sulphated and
 297 di-sulphated disaccharides were also detected within the *P. magellanicus* F5 at > 10%, which again contrasts
 298 mammalian-derived HS and heparin. This suggest that the glucosaminoglycan component of the *P. magellanicus*
 299 F5 extract contains structural features that are distinct from mammalian samples, however, it should be noted

300 that some non-mammalian GAGs samples have been reported to resist comparable levels of digestion with
301 heparin lyase enzymes obtained from *Pedobacter heparinus* [37].

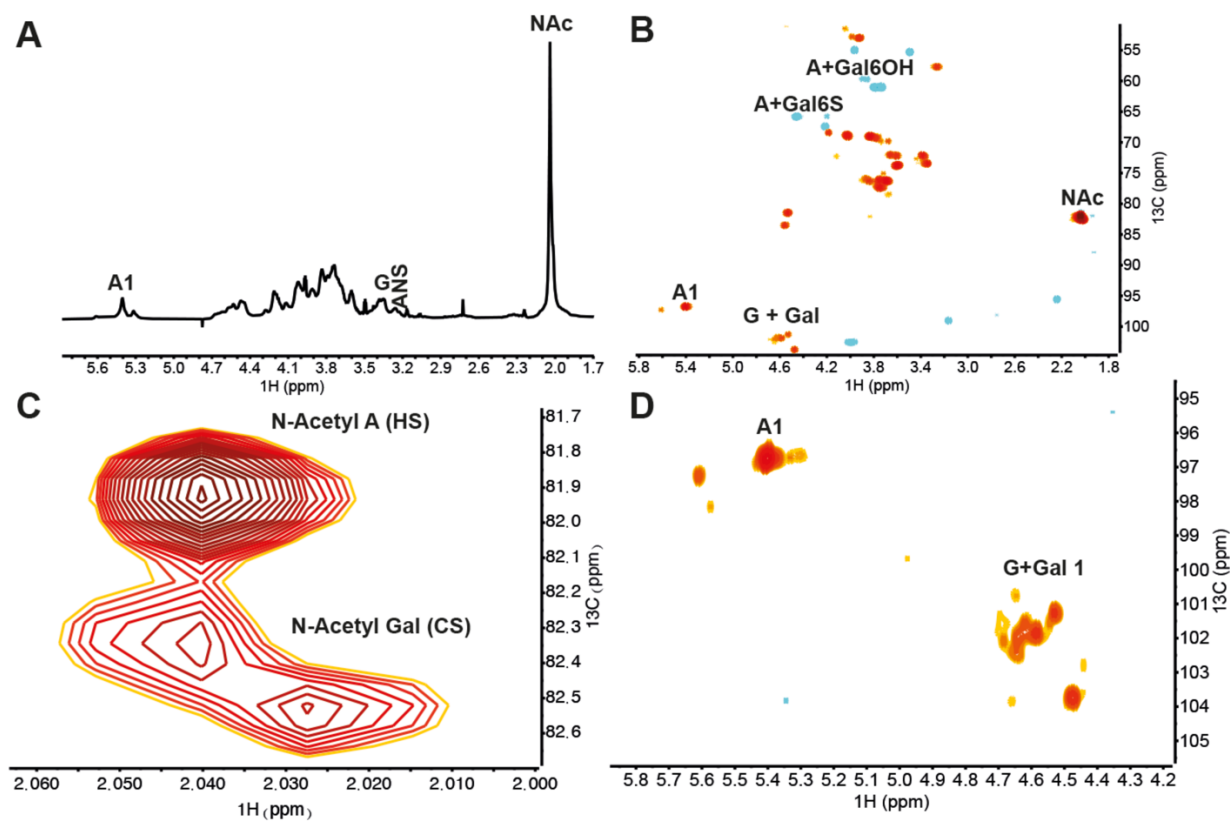
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304 **Figure 5.** UV-SAX HPLC disaccharide composition analysis performed on the bacterial lyase digest of *P. magellanicus* F5 with
305 reference to the eight common Hep/HS Δ - disaccharide standards. *P. magellanicus* F5 (red), Δ - disaccharide standards (black),
306 1; Δ UA-GlcNAc, 2; Δ UA-GlcNAc(6S), 3; Δ UA-GlcNS, 4; Δ UA-GlcNS(6S), 5; Δ UA(2S)-GlcNS, 6; Δ UA(2S)-GlcNS(6S), 7; Δ UA-(2S)-
307 GlcNAc, 8; Δ UA(2S)-GlcNAc(6S). Elution was achieved using a linear gradient of 0 – 2 M NaCl (dashed line). Elution of Δ -
308 disaccharides was monitored inline at 232 nm.
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313 Proton and heteronuclear single-quantum correlation (HSQC) NMR spectroscopy were subsequently employed
314 to further elucidate the composition of the GAGs present within the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract. Signals
315 attributed to the N-Acetyl (NAc) of both Heparin/HS (~ 2.04 ppm) and CS (~ 2.02 ppm) could be observed within
316 the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract (Figure 6A). Furthermore, signals corresponding to the anomeric carbon of
317 glucosamine and carbon 2 of the N-sulphated glucosamine were also identified within the ^1H NMR of *P.*
318 *magellanicus* F5 at ~ 5.4 ppm and ~ 3.25 ppm respectively, further indicating the presence of HS/heparin within
319 the sample. The signal associated with anomeric carbon of galactosamine occurs in the region of 4.5 - 4.7 ppm;
320 several resonances can be observed in this region within the ^1H NMR spectrum of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract.
321 As a result of the extensive overlapping resonances in the ^1H NMR spectra of GAGs, ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR was used
322 for further assignment. Peak volume integration of the NAc signals corresponding to HS/heparin and CS/DS in
323 the ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5 indicated that the sample contained a slightly greater proportion
324 of glucosaminoglycans than galactosaminoglycans (Figure 6B). Furthermore, resonances at 4.5 /103 ppm and
325 5.4/100 ppm are attributed to the anomeric carbons of galactosamine and glucosamine, respectively. Signals
326 attributable to the anomeric carbon of IdoA, which occur downfield to signals corresponding to GlcA were not
327 observed in the ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5 indicating that the GAGs lack significant levels of
328 iduronic acid. The *P. magellanicus* F5 sample is therefore likely to be composed of HS-like glucosaminoglycans

329 and CS-like galactosaminoglycans. In addition, a minor signal attributed to carbon 2 of GlcNS was observed at ~
 330 3.2/58 ppm. Signals assigned to glucosamine 6S and 6OH were also observed at ~ 4.4/66 ppm and ~ 3.7/61 ppm,
 331 respectively. Peak volume integration of these signals indicates that the HS component of the *P. magellanicus*
 332 F5 sample is composed of ~ 60% glucosamine bearing sulphation at position 6. Minor signals attributed to 6-O-
 333 sulphated CS were also observed.



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336 **Figure 6** (A) ^1H and (B) ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5; (C) expansion of the HSQC acetyl
 337 region; (D) expansion of the HSQC anomeric region. Major signals associated with CS and HS are indicated.
 338 Spectral integration was performed on the HSQC using labelled signals. Glucosamine, A; galactosamine, Gal;
 339 glucuronic acid, G.

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347 3. Discussion

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349 *P. magellanicus* tissue was utilised as source for the extraction of GAGs due to several bioactive compounds
350 from this class of polysaccharides being previously identified within this species [38–40]. The GAG extract
351 obtained from *P. magellanicus* following DEAE fractionation with 1M NaCl (F5) was observed to possess BACE-1
352 inhibitory activity at marginally reduced levels when compared to porcine heparin; $IC_{50} = 4.8 \mu\text{g. mL}^{-1}$ and 2.5
353 $\mu\text{g. mL}^{-1}$, respectively. Furthermore, the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was also observed to induce a reduction in
354 the T_m of BACE-1 of $\Delta 8.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, again this is approximately comparable to the ΔT_m of BACE-1 in the presence of
355 porcine heparin ($-9.6 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) when measured by DSF. Previously DSF, has been demonstrated to be a time and cost-
356 efficient method for the initial evaluation of BACE-1 inhibitors. In contrast to small molecule inhibitors, GAGs
357 induce a negative shift in the ΔT_m of BACE-1 when screened using this method [16,18,27,28,41]. Therefore, the
358 initial assessment of the potential BACE-1 inhibitory activity of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract using FRET and
359 DSF measurements are promising and in line with previously identified GAG based inhibitors of BACE-1.

360

361 Despite the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract displaying marginally reduced potency for BACE-1 inhibition in
362 comparison to porcine heparin, the former compound displayed a 25-fold reduction in activity in both the aPTT
363 and PT assays, which measure the intrinsic and extrinsic coagulation pathways, respectively. As the potent
364 anticoagulant activity of pharmaceutical heparin is unfavourable when considering the repurposing of this drug
365 for alternative uses, for instance AD, the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract exhibits a greater therapeutic value in
366 comparison to existing licenced heparin pharmaceuticals.

367

368 Structural analysis of the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract, revealed that the sample was composed of a mixture of HS
369 and CS. Two bands were observed within the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract, which co-migrated with HS/heparin or
370 CS/DS standards, when the sample was analysed by agarose-gel electrophoresis. The band which exhibited
371 similar electrophoretic mobility to HS/heparin was more prominent and was also degraded by treatment with
372 heparinase lyase enzymes from *Pedobacteria heparinus*. Analysis of the FTIR-ATR and CD spectra of the *P.*
373 *magellanicus* F5 extract also indicated that the sample was composed of a mixture of glycosaminoglycans and
374 galactosaminoglycans, with these techniques suggest the mixture aligns towards CS, although the libraries which
375 underpin such comparisons are composed exclusively of mammalian-derived GAGs and these would lack
376 representation of modifications uncommon to those of mammalian provenance. Further structural analysis of
377 the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract was performed using ^1H and ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR, the analysis of which supported
378 the notion that the extract was composed of a mixture of both HS and CS. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR also indicated that
379 the HS component of *P. magellanicus* F5 contained only minor amounts of epimerised iduronic acid residues,
380 with the primary uronate content being that of glucuronic acid. Furthermore, approximately 10% of the
381 glucosamine residues were found to bear NS modifications, while $\sim 60\%$ were observed to possess sulphate at
382 position 6. This was supported by disaccharide compositional analysis, which identified that the sample was
383 composed of glucosamine residues with $\sim 85\%$ NAc, 70% 6S and 15% NS. Disaccharides possessing 2-sulphate
384 modifications to the uronic acid residue were also observed when analysed by SAX HPLC, these were, however,
385 not identified in the NMR spectra presumably due to the low prevalence of this modification. Previously 6S

386 modifications have been indicated to be important for BACE-1 inhibitory activity [15], while both epimerization
387 and/or sulphation of the UA residue is largely unimportant [42]. The presence of a N-acetyl moiety, as opposed
388 to a N-sulphate modification, is known to reduce anticoagulant activity, whilst N-acylation is preferential for
389 BACE-1 inhibitory activity [15]. Therefore, the high prevalence of both 6-O-sulphated and N-acetylated
390 glucosamine residues within the *P. magellanicus* F5 extract may account for the observed BACE-1 inhibitory
391 activity of this sample. As the sample isolated from *P. magellanicus* F5 contains ~ 60% HS, further purification of
392 this component may augment the BACE-1 inhibitory potential. That said, chondroitin sulphates have also been
393 observed to possess BACE-1 inhibitory activity and the contribution of this component of the *P. magellanicus* F5
394 extract should not be excluded [17,18].

395
396 The isolation of GAGs, in particular HS with a high GINAc(6S) content, from *P. magellanicus* F5 is therefore
397 significant for the exploration of inhibitors based upon this class of polysaccharide. HS bearing GlcNAc(6S) is
398 typically a minor component of mammalian HS or heparin samples (Table 2) as a result of O-sulfation
399 modifications during biosynthesis principally occurring subsequent to N-sulphation [43]. Glycosaminoglycans
400 isolated from aquatic species are known to possess modifications that are considered rare in comparison to their
401 mammalian counterparts [3,16–26]. Aquatic species offer additional sequence space, which may be beneficial
402 for alternative applications as demonstrated here for BACE-1 inhibition. Furthermore, GAGs isolated from
403 aquatic species offer the additional advantage that they are likely to be free from harbouring mammalian
404 pathogens, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathies, which have previously led to the removal of bovine
405 heparin sources from the market. Furthermore, many aquatic organisms such as *P. magellanicus* can be
406 cultivated via aquaculture, making them a viable, economical and sustainable alternative to mammalian sources
407 of GAGs. Further investigations should be conducted to evaluate whether GAGs possessing favourable
408 bioactivities can be isolated from by-products of *P. magellanicus* production for the food industry, for example
409 the viscera. Further research and knowledge of the biologically active sequences present within the *P.*
410 *magellanicus* extract could also unlock potential for both chemoenzymatic and chemical synthesis routes,
411 ultimately providing a pathway to larger scale saccharide production. Furthermore, it can be envisaged that the
412 highly expanded GAG sequence space that aquatic organisms possess could inform and augment future
413 synthesis routes, yielding novel, next-generation GAG-based therapeutics.

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429 4. Methods

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431 4.1 Isolation of glycosaminoglycans from *Placopecten magellanicus*

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433 Prior to extraction, approximately 3 kg of *Placopecten magellanicus* tissue (Wm. Morrisons, UK) was blended in
434 an excess of acetone (VWR, UK), incubated for 24 hours (r.t.) and centrifuged at 5,670 g for 10 minutes. The
435 liquid layer was discarded, and the remaining tissue incubated overnight (r.t.) to allow the evaporation of
436 residual acetone. The defatted tissue was digested with Alcalase (17 U.kg⁻¹; Novozymes, Bagsvaerd, Denmark)
437 for 24 hours at 60 °C in PBS (supplemented to 1M NaCl, at pH 8.0). Particulate matter was removed and discarded
438 (centrifugation at 5,670 g) and the resultant solution incubated with ion-exchange resin (Amberlite IRA-900 ion,
439 OH⁻ form; Sigma-Aldrich, Dorset UK) for 24 hours at r.t. with gentle agitation. The ion-exchange resin was
440 recovered and washed (10 volumes of dH₂O followed by 1 M NaCl) prior to elution in 3 M NaCl (24 hours, under
441 agitation). A crude GAG extract was obtained following precipitation of the aforementioned eluent in methanol
442 (1:1 v/v) for 48 hours at 4 °C (VWR, Lutterworth, UK). The resulting precipitate was recovered by centrifugation
443 at 15,400 g (4 °C) for 1 hour, desalted via dialysis for 48 hours against dH₂O (3.5 kDa MWCO; Biodesign, NY, USA),
444 and lyophilised. The crude GAG extract was further fractionated using weak anion exchange chromatography
445 (DEAE-Sephacel, 10 mm I.D. x 10 cm; GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK). Fractions were eluted using a step-
446 wise gradient of NaCl at a flow rate of 1 mL.min⁻¹, with in-line monitoring at 232 nm and 210 nm (Cecil
447 Instruments, Cambridge, UK). Six fractions (F1-6), corresponding to 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.8, 1 and 2M NaCl respectively,
448 were collected, dialysed against dH₂O for 48 hours and lyophilised prior to storage (4 °C).

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451 4.2 Agarose-based Gel Electrophoresis

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453 Electrophoretic separation of GAGs (5 µg) was achieved using a 0.55% (w/v) agarose gel (80 x 80 x 1.5 mm) in 50
454 mM 1,3-diaminopropane-acetate (pH 9.0; VWR, Altrincham, UK) run in the same buffer at 105 V for 30 mins.
455 Post migration, precipitation of the separated GAG bands within the gel was achieved through the immersion of
456 the gel in cetyltrimethylammonium bromide solution (0.1% w/v) for 4 hours. The gel was dried overnight before
457 staining with Toluidine Blue (0.1% w/v in acetic acid:ethanol:H₂O (0.1:5:5 v/v)) for 1 hour. The gel was destained
458 in acetic acid:ethanol:H₂O (0.1:5:5 v/v) prior to image acquisition and processing using GIMP software (v2.8,
459 Berkeley, CA, USA) and Image J (v1.51 (100), Madison, QI, USA), respectively.

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462 4.3 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (Attenuated Total Reflectance)

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464 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectra (Bruker Alpha 1 instrument) were recorded using Attenuated Total
465 Reflectance of the freeze-dried sample (10 mg) with 5 repeats of an average of 32 scans permed at a spectral
466 resolution of 2 cm⁻¹ (400 – 4000 cm⁻¹). Spectral acquisition, background correction and data analysis were

467 performed using an Asus Vivibook Pro (M580VD-EB76, Taiwan) using Opus (v8.1, Bruker, UK) and R Studio
468 (v1.1.463) software. Spectra were smoothed using a Savitzky-Golay filter (2nd degree polynomial, 21 neighbours)
469 prior to baseline correction (7th-order polynomial; normalisation between 0–1). Spectral regions between 2000
470 -2500 cm⁻¹, above 3600 cm⁻¹ and below 700 cm⁻¹, were excluded from post-acquisition PCA to restrict the effects
471 of environmental variations (CO₂ and H₂O regions). Second derivative curves (Savitzky–Golay algorithm, 2nd
472 order polynomial with 41 neighbours) were subsequently obtained and PCA was performed on the normalised,
473 corrected matrices of intensities, deploying singular value decomposition within R studio (mean-centered, base
474 prcomp function).

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477 *4.4 High Performance Liquid Chromatography HS/heparin disaccharide compositional analysis.*

478

479 *Both P. magellanicus* F5 ,heparin (porcine mucosal) and HS (bovine) control samples (50 µg each) were
480 exhaustively digested by *Pedobacter heparinus* lyase enzymes (Iduron, UK) in 25 mM sodium acetate, 5 mM
481 calcium acetate, pH 7.0, added sequentially at 4 hours intervals (heparinase I, III and II; 2.5 mIU.mg⁻¹; 37 °C)
482 before overnight incubation at 37 °C. A pre-equilibrated (HPLC-grade H₂O) ProPac PA-1 analytical column (4 ×
483 250 mm, Dionex, UK) was employed for the separation of the resultant Δ-disaccharides using a 1-hour linear
484 gradient between 0 - 2 M NaCl (HPLC grade; VWR, UK) with in-line detection at 232 nm. The identification of
485 eluted standards was carried out through correlation with a reference chromatogram containing the 8 common
486 Δ-disaccharide reference standards (Iduron, UK) for heparin according to [36].

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489 *4.5 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance*

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491 *P. magellanicus* F5 was freeze-dried and resuspended in D₂O (600 µL; VWR, UK) thrice prior to data acquisition.
492 NMR experiments were carried out using an Avance Neo 800 MHz spectrometer with a 5 mm TXI Probe (Bruker,
493 UK) at 298 K. Both 1-D (¹H) spectra and 2D ¹H–¹³C Heteronuclear Single-Quantum Correlation (HSQC) spectra
494 were collected employing standard pulse sequences. Spectra were processed and plotted using TopSpin (Bruker,
495 UK).

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498 *4.6 FRET-based BACE-1 activity assays*

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500 *Both P. magellanicus* F5 and heparin were assayed for inhibitory activity against human BACE-1 (tag free; ACRO
501 Biosystems, USA), using a fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) assay (λ_{ex} 320 nm, λ_{em} 405 nm). hBACE1
502 (312.5 ng) and *Placopecten magellanicus* F5 or heparin were incubated for 10 mins (37 °C) in 50 mM sodium
503 acetate (pH 4.0) prior to the addition of peptidic FRET substrate (MCA-SEVNLDAEFRK(DNP)RR-NH₂; Biomatik,
504 Canada; 6.25 µM), which was also pre-incubated at 37 °C for 10 min (final volume, 50 µL). Emission was

505 monitored over a 90 mins period using a Tecan Infinite® M200 Pro plate reader with i-control™ software (Tecan,
506 Switzerland). Δ RFU.min⁻¹ was calculated through the linear range of the control containing no inhibitor, with
507 normalised percentage inhibition calculated (% \pm SD, n = 3) via the mean of the substrate only and no inhibitor
508 controls. A four-parameter logistics model was subsequently fitted using Prism 7 (GraphPad Software, San Diego,
509 CA, USA). For assays performed with *Placopecten magellanicus* F5 treated with either chondroitin ABC lyase
510 (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) or heparinase I & III (Iduron, UK), *Placopecten magellanicus* F5 extract was digested
511 overnight at 37 °C (2.5 mIU.mg⁻¹) prior to the determination of BACE-1 inhibitory activity.

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514 4.7 Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time

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516 Normal human plasma (pooled, with citrate; Technoclone, UK), Pathromtin SL reagent (Siemens, Germany) and
517 test sample (*P. magellanicus* F5 or heparin control; 2:2:1 v/v, 150 μ L) were incubated for 2 minutes at 37 °C prior
518 to the addition of 50 mM CaCl₂ (50 μ L; VWR, UK). The time taken for clot formation to occur was measured using
519 a Thrombotrak Solo coagulometer (Axis-Shield, UK) and an upper limit of 120 seconds (representing 100%
520 clotting inhibition) was imposed. Water (0% inhibition of clotting, representing a normal aPTT clotting time, of
521 circa. 37 – 40 s) and porcine mucosal heparin (193 IU.mg⁻¹; Celsus, OH, USA) were used as controls. EC₅₀ values
522 were determined through the fitting of a sigmoidal dose response curve (GraphPad Prism 7, CA, USA).

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525 4.8 Prothrombin Time

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527 Normal human plasma (pooled, with citrate; Technoclone, UK; 50 μ L) and test sample (*P. magellanicus* F5 or
528 heparin control; 50 μ L) were incubated for 2 minutes at 37 °C prior to the addition of Thromborel S reagent
529 (Siemens, Germany; 50 μ L). The time taken for clot formation to occur was measured using a Thrombotrak Solo
530 coagulometer (Axis-Shield, UK) and an upper limit of 120 seconds (representing 100% clotting inhibition) was
531 imposed. Water (0% clot inhibition, representing a normal PT clotting time of circa. 13 – 14 s) and porcine
532 heparin (193 IU mg⁻¹; Celsus, USA) were used as controls. EC₅₀ values were determined through the fitting of a
533 sigmoidal dose response curve (GraphPad Prism 7, CA, USA).

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536 4.9 Differential Scanning fluorimetry

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538 Differential scanning fluorimetry experiments were performed using a StepOne plus qPCR machine (AB
539 Biosystems, UK; TAMRA filter) on human BACE-1 (1 μ g) in sodium acetate buffer (50 mM, pH4.0) with or without
540 *P. magellanicus* F5 [41,42]. 20x Sypro Orange was also included as a reporter dye in a final well volume of 40
541 μ L (96-well qPCR plates; VWR, UK). Melt curves were generated via an initial incubation of 2 mins at 20 °C,
542 followed by 0.5 °C increments every 30 s, up to a T_{max} of 90 °C. Data analysis was carried out using Prism 7

543 software (GraphPad, San Diego, CA, USA), plotting the Savitzky-Golay smoothed first-derivative (19 neighbours;
544 2nd-order polynomial). T_m values were obtained from first derivative peaks.

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547 *4.10 Circular dichroism*

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549 The circular dichroism spectra of *P. magellanicus* F5 and other relevant GAGs standards (10 mg.ml⁻¹) in HPLC-
550 grade H₂O (VWR, UK) were recorded on a J-1500 Jasco CD spectrometer controlled via Spectral Manager II
551 software. Instrument calibration was performed prior to use, using (+)-10-camphorsulfonic acid (1 mg.ml⁻¹) as
552 a spectral reference. A scan speed of 100 nm.min⁻¹ with 1 nm resolution (180–260 nm) was utilised in concert
553 with a 0.2 mm pathlength, quartz cuvette (Hellma, USA). Spectra obtained were the mean of five independent
554 scans and data was further processed using GraphPad Prism 7 (smoothed to 9 neighbours, 2nd-order
555 polynomial). Post-acquisition, PCA was performed in R studio, utilising the singular value decomposition (SVN),
556 base prcomp function with mean centering of the matrices (v1.1.463, R studio Inc. Boston, MA, USA).

557

558

559 **Author Contributions:** M.A.S., C.J.M.-W. and L.C.C. designed and conceived the project. C.J.M.-W., A.J.D. and
560 M.A.S. performed FTIR spectroscopy and carried out principal component analysis on associated data sets.
561 C.J.M.-W., M.A.S., M.A.L. and M.G. performed and analysed the NMR data. C.J.M.-W. performed all other
562 experimentation whilst M.A.S, A.J.D., L.C.C., P.P., S.E.G., and D.G.F. provided assistance. C.J.M.-W. and M.A.S.
563 wrote the manuscript and all authors contributed to the editing and approval of the final version of the
564 manuscript.

565

566 **Funding:** The authors would like to thank the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, UK; the
567 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK; the Medical Research Council, UK; the Royal
568 Society, UK; Intellihep Limited, UK; The Royal Society, UK; MI Engineering Limited, UK; Financiadora de Estudos
569 e Projetos (FINEP), Brazil and Keele University, UK for the financial support that has been provided.

570

571 **Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank Dr. Matthew Cliff for NMR technical assistance.

572

573 **Conflicts of Interest:** The funders had no role in the study design, data collection and interpretation, or the
574 decision to submit the work for publication.

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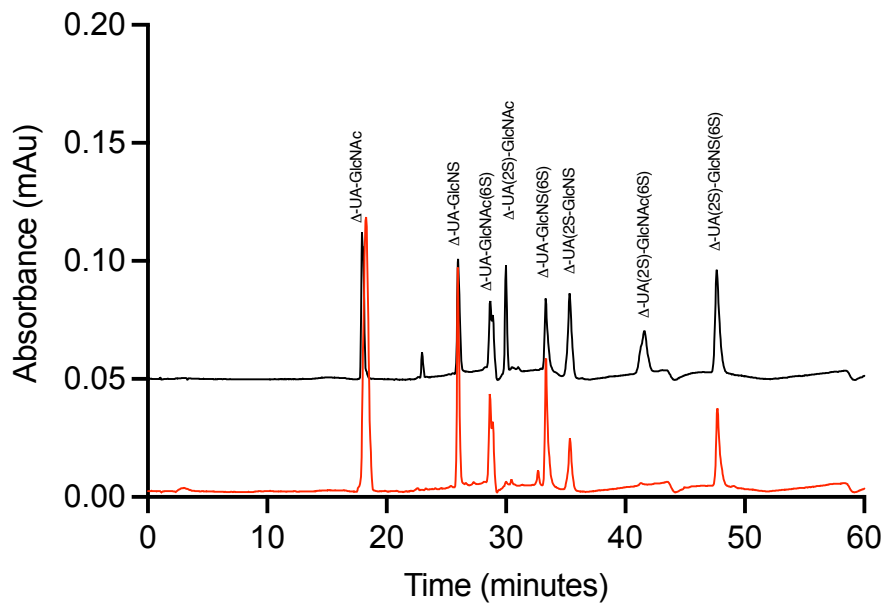
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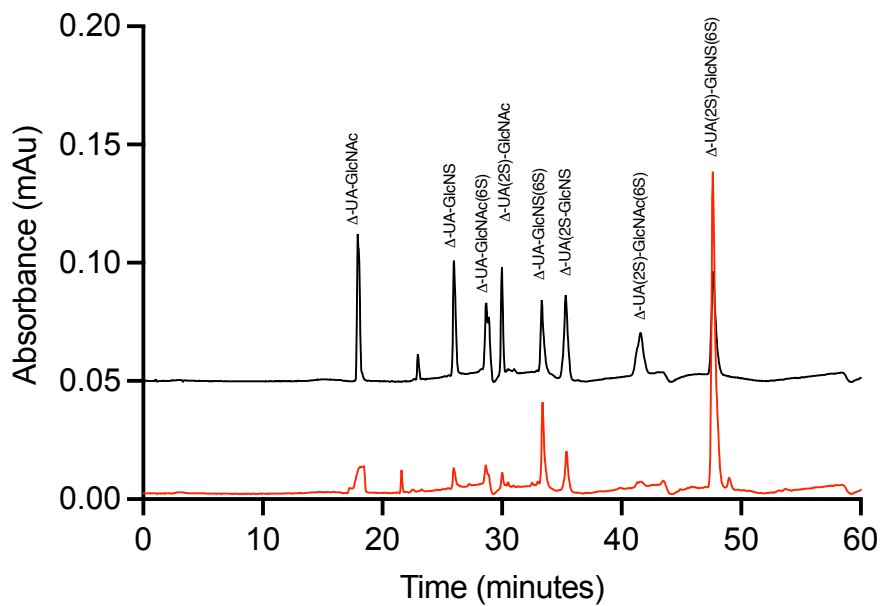
697 for binding specificity Figure S-1 Sequence data for tested FGF-s Figure S-2 Sulfation pattern of the
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707 **Supplementary**
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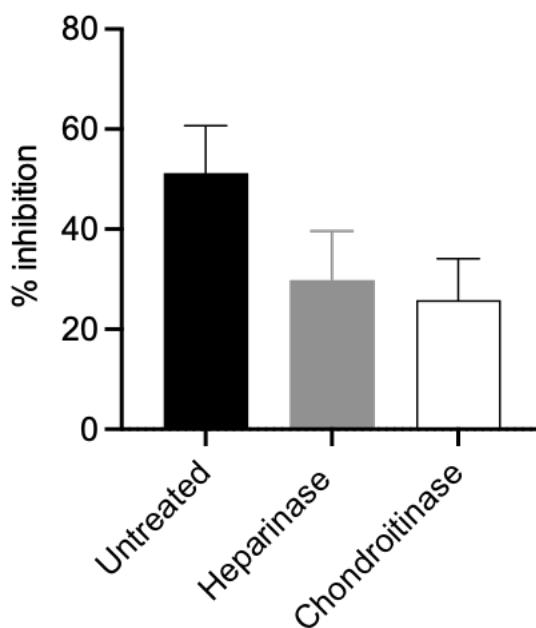
711 **S1.** UV-SAX HPLC disaccharide composition analysis performed on the bacterial lyase digest of HS with reference to the eight
712 common Hep/HS Δ - disaccharide standards. HS (black), Δ - disaccharide standards (dashed line), 1; Δ UA-GlcNAc, 2; Δ UA-
713 GlcNAc(6S), 3; Δ UA-GlcNS, 4; Δ UA-GlcNS(6S), 5; Δ UA(2S)-GlcNS, 6; Δ UA(2S)-GlcNS(6S), 7; Δ UA-(2S)-GlcNAc, 8; Δ UA(2S)-
714 GlcNAc(6S). Elution was achieved using a linear gradient of 0 – 2 M NaCl (dashed line). Elution of Δ -disaccharides was
715 monitored inline at 232 nm.
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723 **S2.** UV-SAX HPLC disaccharide composition analysis performed on the bacterial lyase digest of heparin with reference to the
724 eight common Hep/HS Δ - disaccharide standards. Heparin (black), Δ - disaccharide standards (dashed line), 1; Δ UA-GlcNAc,
725 2; Δ UA-GlcNAc(6S), 3; Δ UA-GlcNS, 4; Δ UA-GlcNS(6S), 5; Δ UA(2S)-GlcNS, 6; Δ UA(2S)-GlcNS(6S), 7; Δ UA-(2S)-GlcNAc, 8;
726 Δ UA(2S)-GlcNAc(6S). Elution was achieved using a linear gradient of 0 – 2 M NaCl (dashed line). Elution of Δ -disaccharides
727 was monitored inline at 232 nm.



728 **S3.** BACE-1 inhibitory activity of *P. magellanicus* F5 ($6 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$) untreated (51% BACE-1 inhibition, SD= 9; n= 6) or digested
729 with chondroitinase ABC (26% BACE-1 inhibition, SD= 9; n= 6) or heparinase I and III (30% BACE-1 inhibition, SD= 9; n= 6).
730 BACE-1 inhibitory activity determined by a quenched fluorogenic FRET peptide assay.
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