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ANALYSIS OF GLYCOLIPID ANTIGEN OF LEPTOSPIRAL VARIANTS
SELECTED WITH MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

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In order to provide information on the structure of the antigenic determinant of leptospira, the glycolipid antigen of *Leptospira interrogans* serovar *canicola* strain Hond Utrecht IV (*canicola*) was compared with those of antigenic variants selected in the presence of monoclonal antibodies.

Gas-liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry of the glycolipids detected 7 species of neutral sugar (arabinose, rhamnose, mannose, galactose, glucose, and unknown sugars III and IV) in addition to unknown sugars I and II, which had been previously reported. Some changes were detected in the neutral sugar compositions of the glycolipid antigens of the variant strains. The glycolipid antigen of a variant selected in the presence of serovar-specific monoclonal antibody CT3 lost unknown sugar III, suggesting that unknown sugar III is responsible for serovar-specificity of the antigenic determinant of *Leptospira interrogans* serovar *canicola*.