

## Supporting Information

### Materials and Methods

Commercial chitosan (batch 244/020208; DA = 0%; Mw = 270 kg/mol; Mn = 115 kg/mol; Đ = 2.3) was furnished by Mahtani Chitosan Ltd (Veraval, India). Sodium nitrite (NaNO<sub>2</sub>, 99%), deuterium oxide (D<sub>2</sub>O, 99.96% atom D), sodium chlorite (NaClO<sub>2</sub>, 80%) were provided by Sigma-Aldrich (Saint-Quentin Fallavier, France).

**NMR spectroscopy:** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker DRX300 and DRX500, respectively, using trimethylsilyl-3-propionic-2,2,3,3-D<sub>4</sub> acid sodium salt (99% atom D, TMSPA from Sigma-Aldrich, Saint-Quentin Fallavier, France) as the internal standard. All samples were dissolved at 10 mg/mL in D<sub>2</sub>O with 5 μL HCl 12 N, and transferred to 5 mm NMR tubes. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ units) downfield from TMSPA, coupling constants in Hz, and for signal multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet.

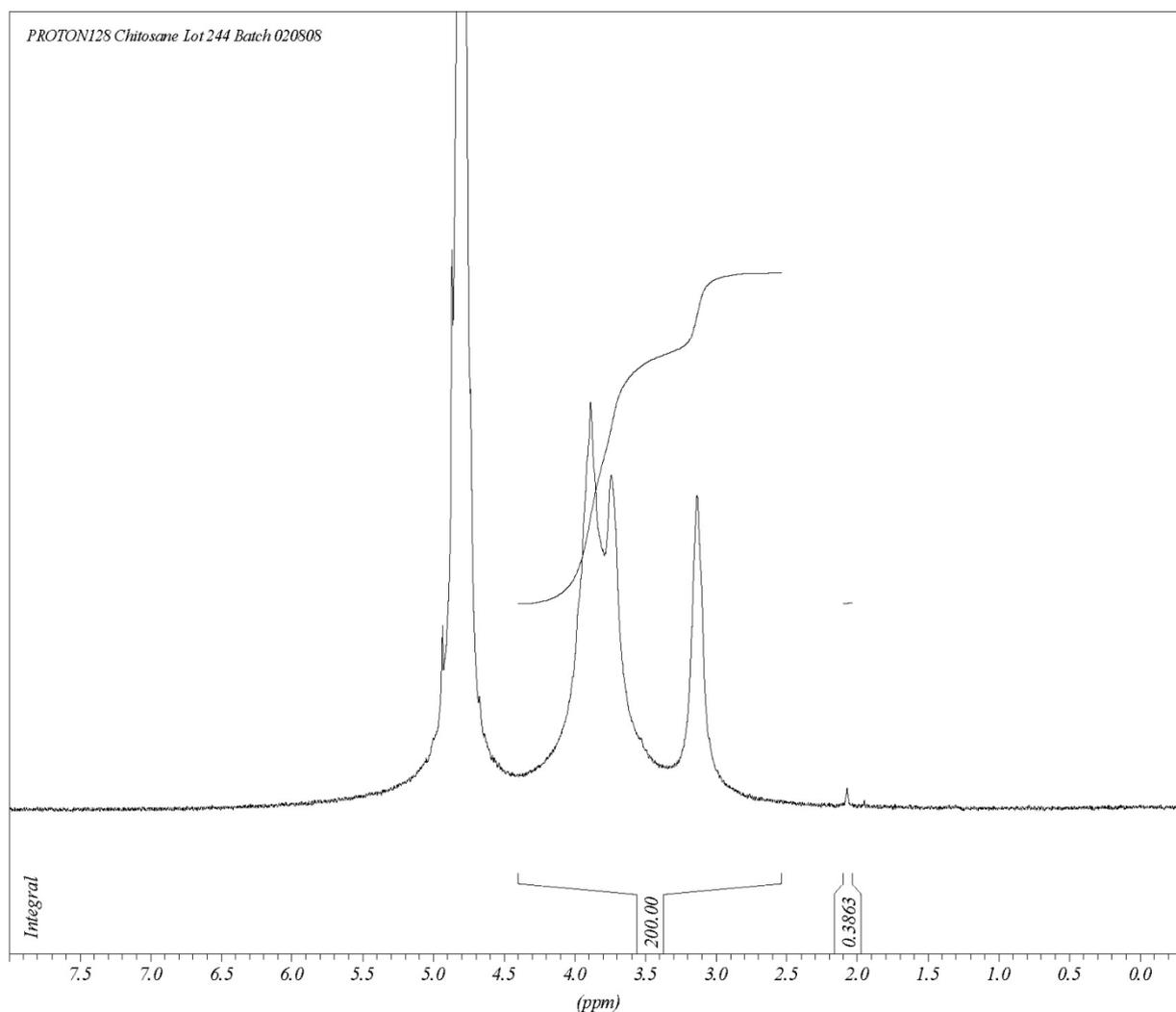
**MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry:** MALDI-TOF mass spectra were acquired with a Voyager-DE STR (AB Sciex, Framingham, MA, USA) equipped with a nitrogen laser emitting at 337 nm with a 3 ns pulse. The instrument was operated in the linear or reflectron mode. Ions were accelerated to a final potential of 20 kV. The positive ions were detected in all cases. Mass spectra were the sum of 300 shots and an external mass calibration of mass analyzer was used (mixture of peptides from Sequazyme<sup>TM</sup> standards kit, AB Sciex). The matrix used for all experiments was 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHB) purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used directly without further purification. The solid matrix and samples were dissolved at 10 mg/mL and 1 mg/mL in water, respectively. A volume of 20 μL matrix solution was then mixed with 20 μL of sample solutions. An aliquot of 0.5 μL of each resulting solution was spotted onto the MALDI sample plate and air-dried at room temperature.

**High Resolution ESI Mass Spectrometry:** HRMS (ESI) was recorded in a positive ion mode on a hybrid quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer (MicroTOFQ-II, Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) with an electrospray ionization (ESI) ion source. The gas flow of spray gas is 0.6 bar and the capillary voltage is +4.5 kV. The solution was infused at 180 μL/h. The mass range of the analysis is 50–2,000 *m/z* and the calibration was carried out with sodium formate. The solvent for HRMS is dichloromethane/MeOH/water/formic acid.

**Size-exclusion chromatography (SEC):** SEC was performed on a chromatographic equipment composed of a 1260 Infinity Agilent Technologies pump connected to two TSK gel G2500 and G6000 columns (Tosoh Bioscience) in series. A multi-angle laser light scattering (MALLS) detector Dawn EOS (Wyatt Technology) operating at 690 nm was coupled on line to a Wyatt Optilab T-Rex differential refractometer. Sample solutions at 2-5 mg/mL were prepared and eluted in a AcOH (0.2 M)/AcONH<sub>4</sub> (0.15 M) buffer (pH = 4.5). Solutions were previously filtered through 0.22 μm pore size membranes (Millipore) before injection. The eluent flow rate was 0.5 mL/min. The refractive index increment dn/dc used for molar mass calculations was equal to 0.198 cm<sup>3</sup>·g<sup>-1</sup>.

**Characterization of COSamf 1:**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 300 °K):  $\delta$  (ppm) 5.10 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, 1H, H-1 amf), 4.90–4.70 (m, 8H, H-1 GlcN), 4.42 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H, H-3 amf), 4.18 (t,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H, H-4 amf), 4.10 (m, 1H, H-5 amf), 4.05–3.40 (m, 43H, H-2 and H-6 amf, H-3 to H-6 GlcN), 3.10–2.80 (m, 8H, H-2 GlcN).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 300 °K):  $\delta$  (ppm) 99.5 (C-1' GlcN), 98.9 (C-1 GlcN), 89.8 (C-1 amf), 86.5 (C-4 amf), 85.6 (C-2 amf), 82.6 (C-5 amf), 77.2 (C-3 amf), 76.9 (C-4 GlcN), 76.9 (C-5' GlcN), 75.4 (C-5 GlcN), 72.8 (C-3' GlcN), 71.4 (C-3 GlcN), 70.2 (C-4' GlcN), 61.4 (C-6 amf), 61.0 (C-6' GlcN), 60.6 (C-6 GlcN), 56.5 (C-2 GlcN), 56.2 (C-2' GlcN). Note that C' represents carbon atoms of the GlcN unit linked to the amf unit. MALDI-TOF MS (positive reflectron mode): presence of a major peak in at  $m/z$  990.5 attributed to  $\text{HO-(GlcN)}_5\text{-amf}$  ( $m/z$  monoisotopic calcd for  $[\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{65}\text{O}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{Na}]^+ = 990.4$  mass units ( $\Delta = 0.01\%$ )).

**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 300 MHz) of commercial fully *N*-deacetylated chitosan (from Mahtani Chitosan).

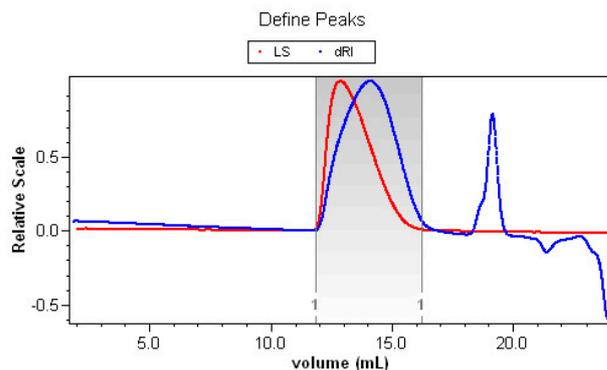


**Figure S2.** Size-exclusion chromatogram of commercial fully *N*-deacetylated chitosan (from Mahtani Chitosan).



File Name: F:244-2[10oct2012].afe6  
 Collection Operator: LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (Aqueux))  
 Processing Operator: UNIV-LYON1\stephane.trombotto (TROMBOTTO STEPHANE)

Sample: 244-2  
 Concentration: 1.010 mg/mL  
 Injected Volume: 100.0  $\mu$ L



#### Configuration

##### Notes:

Colonnes : TSK6000 et TSK2500, Solvant filtré sur CME 0,1 et échantillon filtré sur CME 0,45

Concentration Source: RI  
 Flow Rate: 0.500 mL/min

Light Scattering Instrument: DAWN EOS  
 Cell Type: K5  
 Wavelength: 690.0 nm  
 Calibration Constant:  $7.4800 \times 10^{-6}$  1/(V cm)

RI Instrument: Optilab rEX

Solvent: Tampon AcAc/AcNH pH 4.5  
 Refractive Index: 1.330

#### Processing

Collection Time: Thursday October 11, 2012 03:35:55 AM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)  
 Processing time: Thursday October 11, 2012 11:05:24.828 AM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

##### Peak settings:

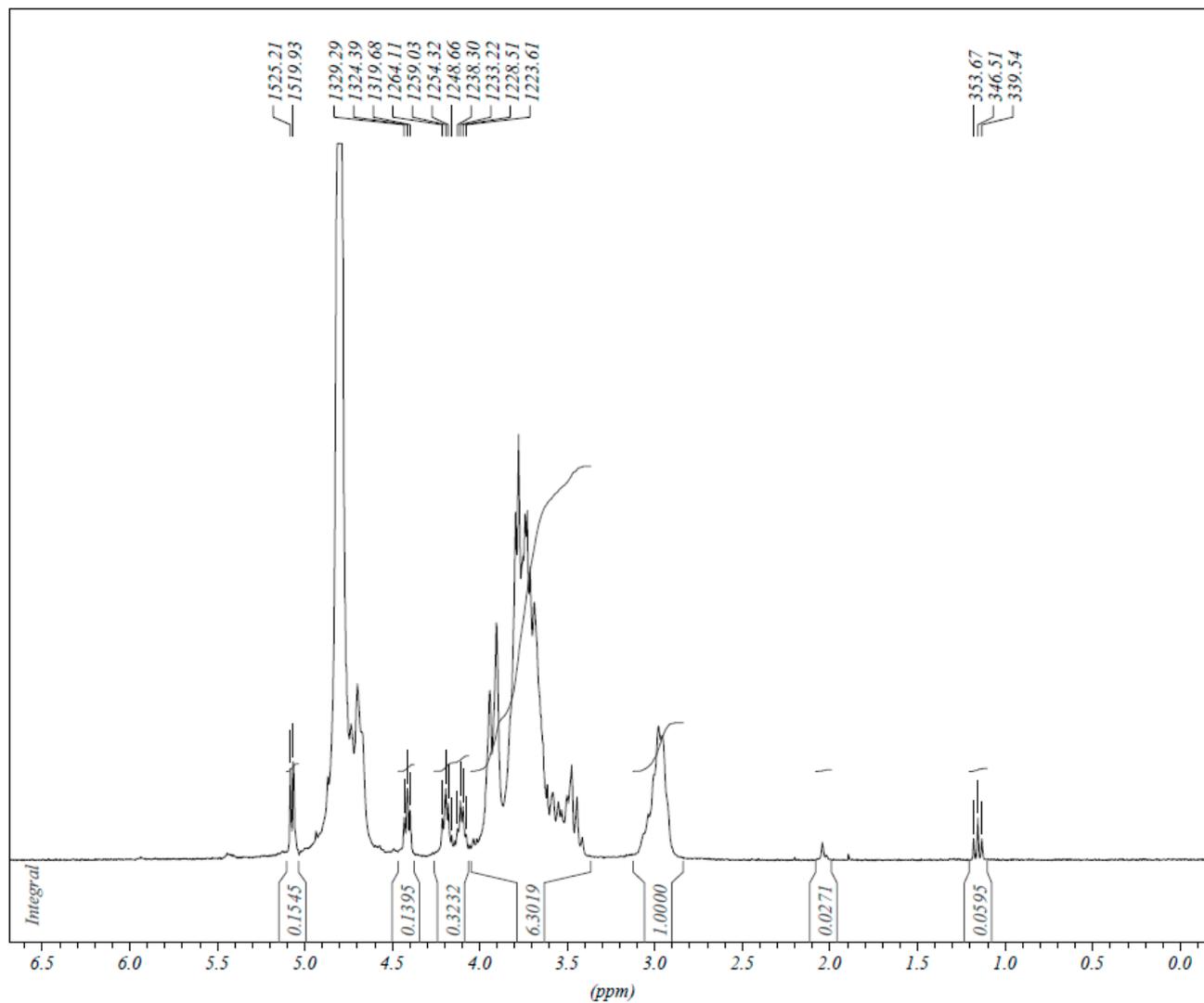
Peak Name	Peak 1
Light Scattering Model	Zimm
Fit Degree	1
dn/dc (mL/g)	0.1980

Results Fitting Procedure:  
 Data Fit Model Degree R<sup>2</sup> Extrapolation

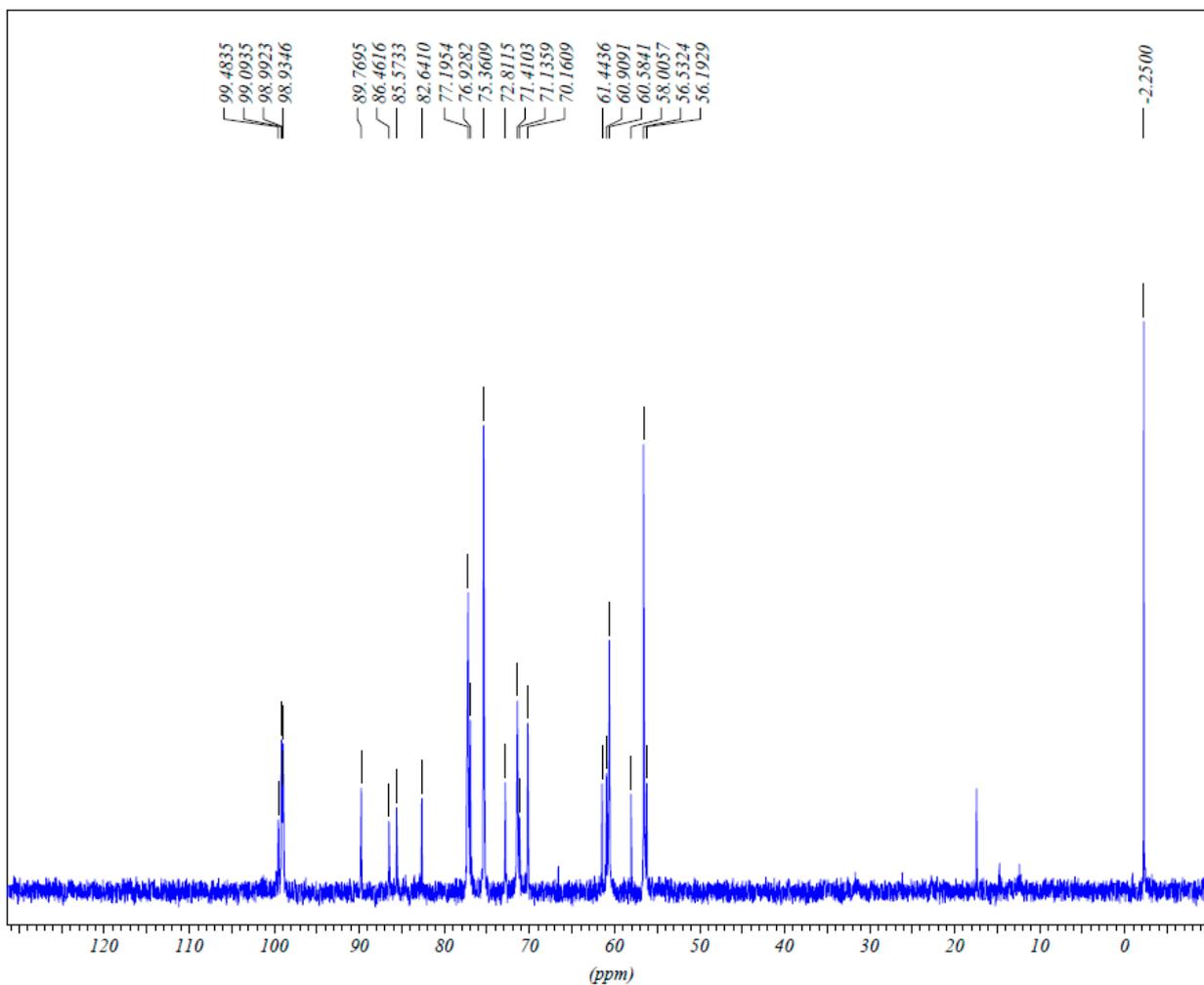
#### Results

##### Peak Results

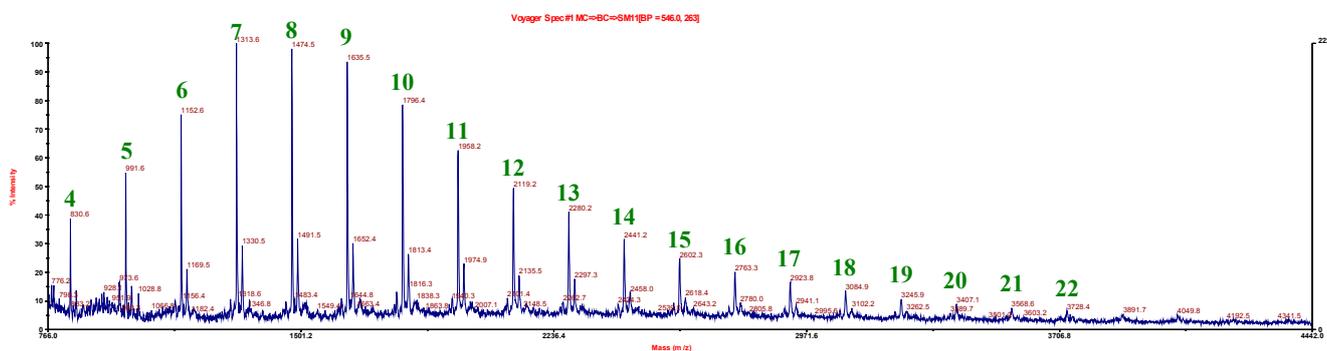
Peak 1	
<b>Masses</b>	
Injected Mass ( $\mu$ g)	101.00
Calculated Mass ( $\mu$ g)	77.56
<b>Molar mass moments (g/mol)</b>	
Mn	$1.146 \times 10^5$ ( $\pm 1.632\%$ )
Mp	$1.528 \times 10^5$ ( $\pm 0.797\%$ )
Mv	n/a
Mw	$2.702 \times 10^5$ ( $\pm 0.713\%$ )
Mz	$6.120 \times 10^5$ ( $\pm 1.768\%$ )
<b>Polydispersity</b>	
Mw/Mn	2.357 ( $\pm 1.781\%$ )
Mz/Mn	5.338 ( $\pm 2.406\%$ )
<b>rms radius moments (nm)</b>	
Rn	42.6 ( $\pm 4.5\%$ )
Rw	59.6 ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )
Rz	86.9 ( $\pm 0.7\%$ )

**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 300 MHz) of COSamf 1 (DP  $\sim 10$ ).

**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 125 MHz) of COSamf **1** (DP ~10).



**Figure S5.** MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of COSamf **1** (DP ~10).



Note that for each oligomer peak, the number of GlcN unit into the chain is given in green.

Figure S6. Size-exclusion chromatogram of COSamf 1 (DP ~10).



File Name: D:\trombotto\ETUDIANTS\GALAIS Alice\ALICE\_428\Analyses SEC\PCGC-AGO18-2[24janv2013].afe6

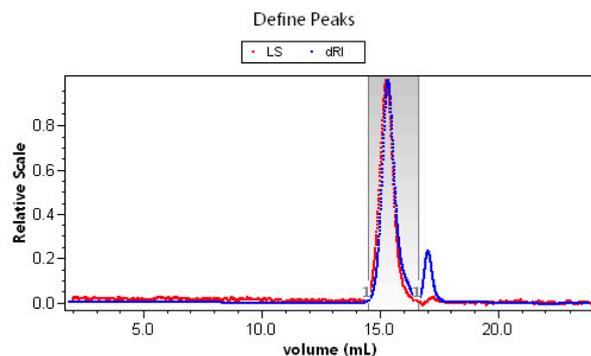
Collection Operator: LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (Aqueux))

Processing Operator: UNIV-LYON1\stephane.trombotto (TROMBOTTO STEPHANE)

Sample: PCGC-AGO18-2

Concentration: 4.024 mg/mL

Injected Volume: 100.0 µL



#### Configuration

##### Notes:

Colonnes : TSK6000 et TSK1000, Solvant filtré sur CME 0,1 et échantillon filtré sur CME 0,45

Concentration Source: RI

Flow Rate: 0.500 mL/min

Light Scattering Instrument: DAWN EOS

Cell Type: RS

Wavelength: 690.0 nm

Calibration Constant:  $7.4800 \times 10^{-6}$  1/(V cm)

RI Instrument: Optilab rEX

Solvent: Tampon  $\text{Ac}\&\text{Ac}/\text{AcNH}$  pH 4.5

Refractive Index: 1.330

#### Processing

Collection Time: Thursday January 24, 2013 09:26:40 PM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

Processing time: Monday January 27, 2014 02:32:55.478 PM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

##### Peak settings:

Peak Name	Peak 1
Light Scattering Model	Zimm
Fit Degree	1
dn/dc (mL/g)	0.1980
A2 (mol mL/g <sup>2</sup> )	0.000

##### Results Fitting Procedure:

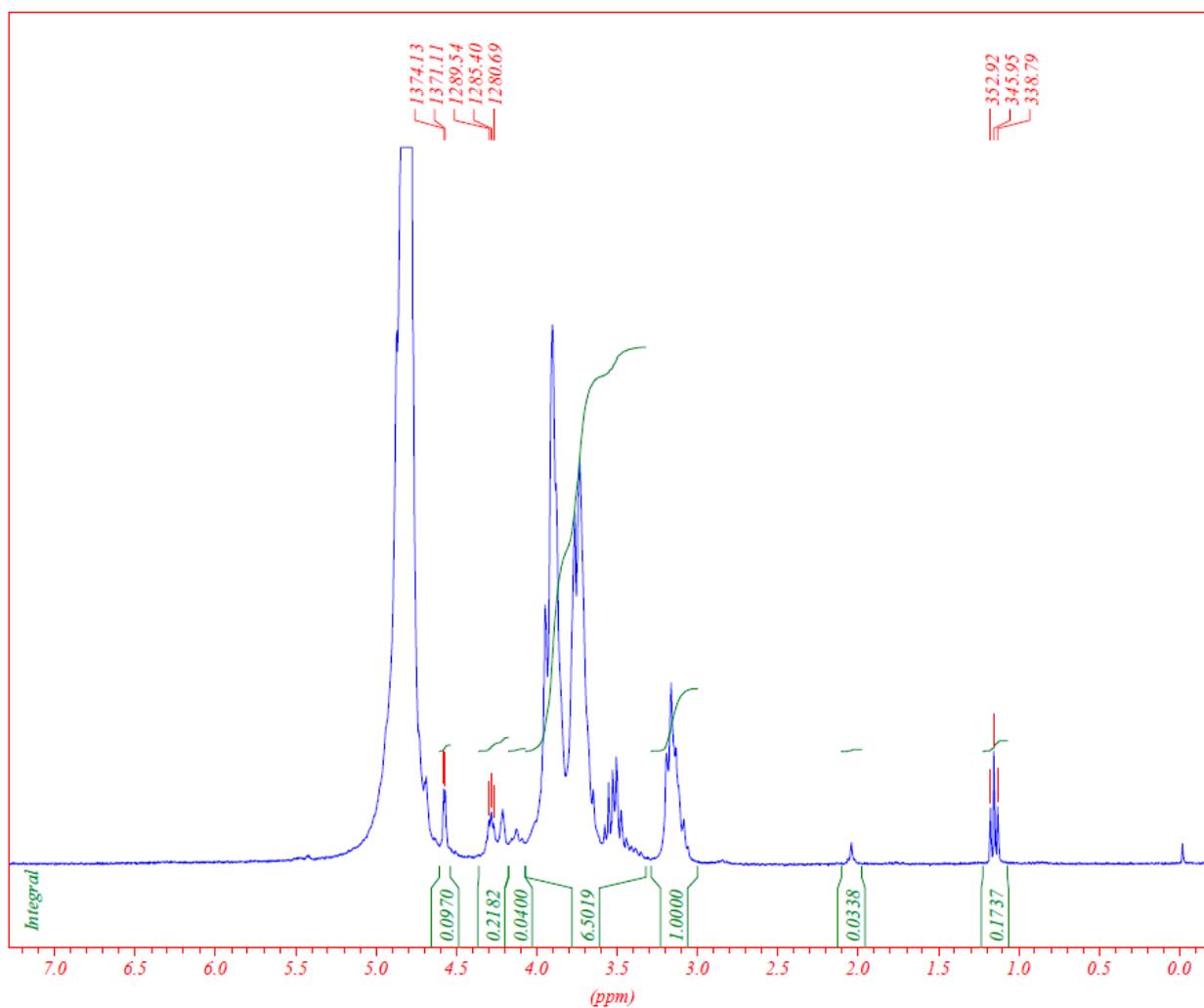
Data	Fit Model	Degree	R <sup>2</sup>	Extrapolation
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#### Results

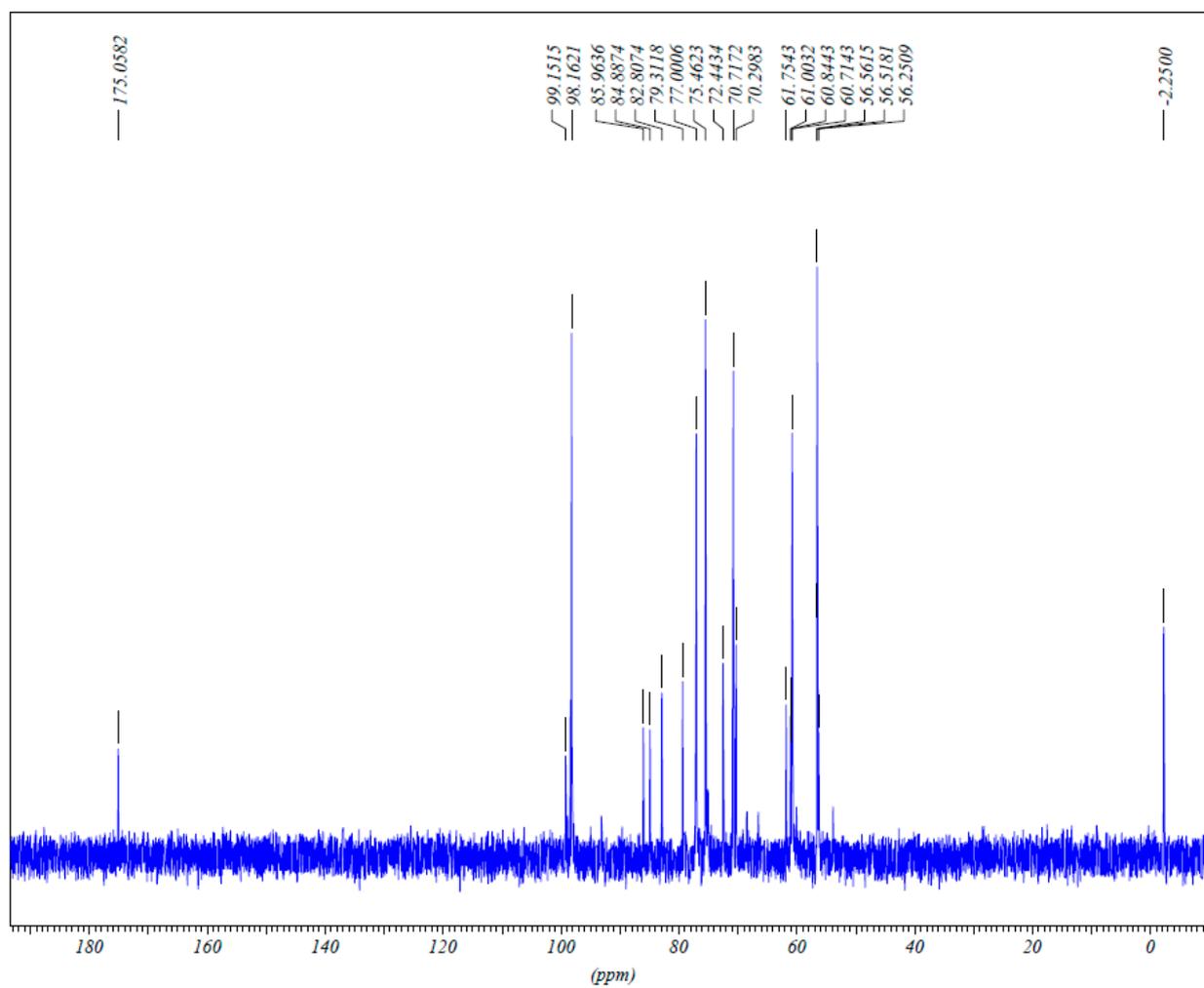
##### Peak Results

Peak 1	
<b>Masses</b>	
Injected Mass (µg)	402.40
Calculated Mass (µg)	316.58
<b>Molar mass moments (g/mol)</b>	
Mn	$1.773 \times 10^3$ (±8.496%)
Mp	$1.486 \times 10^3$ (±2.695%)
Mv	n/a
Mw	$1.878 \times 10^3$ (±8.973%)
Mz	$2.020 \times 10^3$ (±20.543%)
<b>Polydispersity</b>	
Mw/Mn	1.059 (±12.357%)
Mz/Mn	1.139 (±22.231%)
<b>rms radius moments (nm)</b>	
Rn	27.3 (±50.4%)
Rw	29.2 (±45.5%)
Rz	30.5 (±43.2%)

**Figure S7.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 300 MHz) of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid **2** (acidic form, DP ~10).

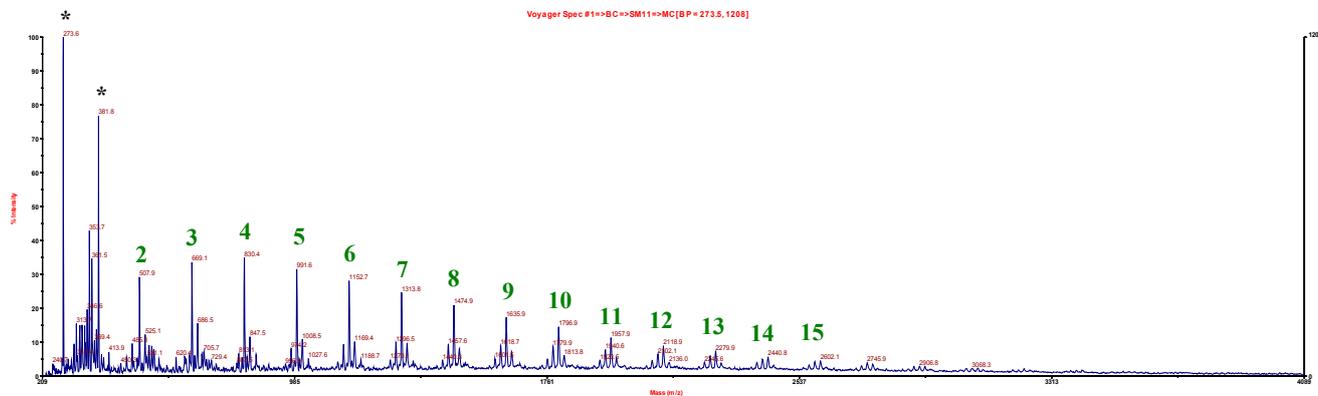


**Figure S8.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 125 MHz) of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid **2** (acidic form, DP ~10).



**Figure S9.** MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid **2** (DP ~10).

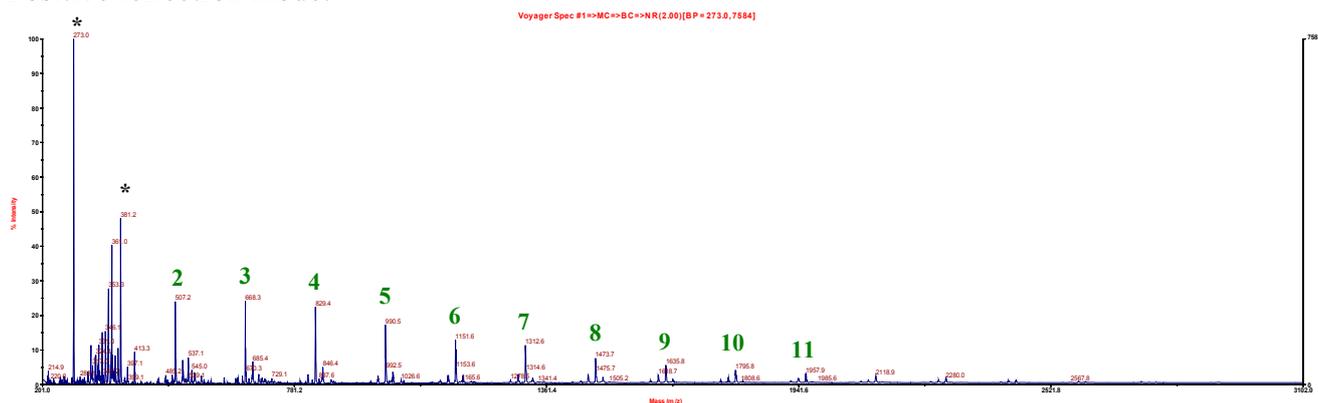
Positive linear mode:



\* corresponds to matrix peaks

Note that for each oligomer peak, the number of GlcN units into the chain is given in green

Positive reflectron mode:



\* corresponds to matrix peaks

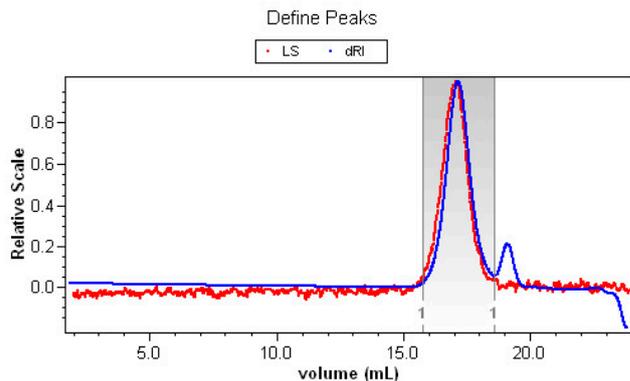
Note that for each oligomer peak, the number of GlcN units into the chain is given in green

**Figure S10.** Size-exclusion chromatogram of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid **2** (DP ~10).



File Name: F:ES14[16mai2013].afe6  
 Collection Operator: LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (Aqueux))  
 Processing Operator: UNIV-LYON1\stephane.trombotto (TROMBOTTO STEPHANE)

Sample: ES14  
 Concentration: 2.000 mg/mL  
 Injected Volume: 100.0 µL



#### Configuration

##### Notes:

Colonnes : TSK6000 et TSK2500, Solvant filtré sur CME 0,1 et échantillon filtré sur CME 0,45

Concentration Source: RI

Flow Rate: 0.500 mL/min

Light Scattering Instrument: DAWN EOS

Cell Type: K5

Wavelength: 690.0 nm

Calibration Constant:  $7.4800 \times 10^{-6}$  1/(V cm)

RI Instrument: Optilab rEX

Solvent: Tampon AcAc/AcNH pH 4.5

Refractive Index: 1.330

#### Processing

Collection Time: Thursday May 16, 2013 11:04:12 PM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

Processing time: Friday May 17, 2013 10:14:15.597 AM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

##### Peak settings:

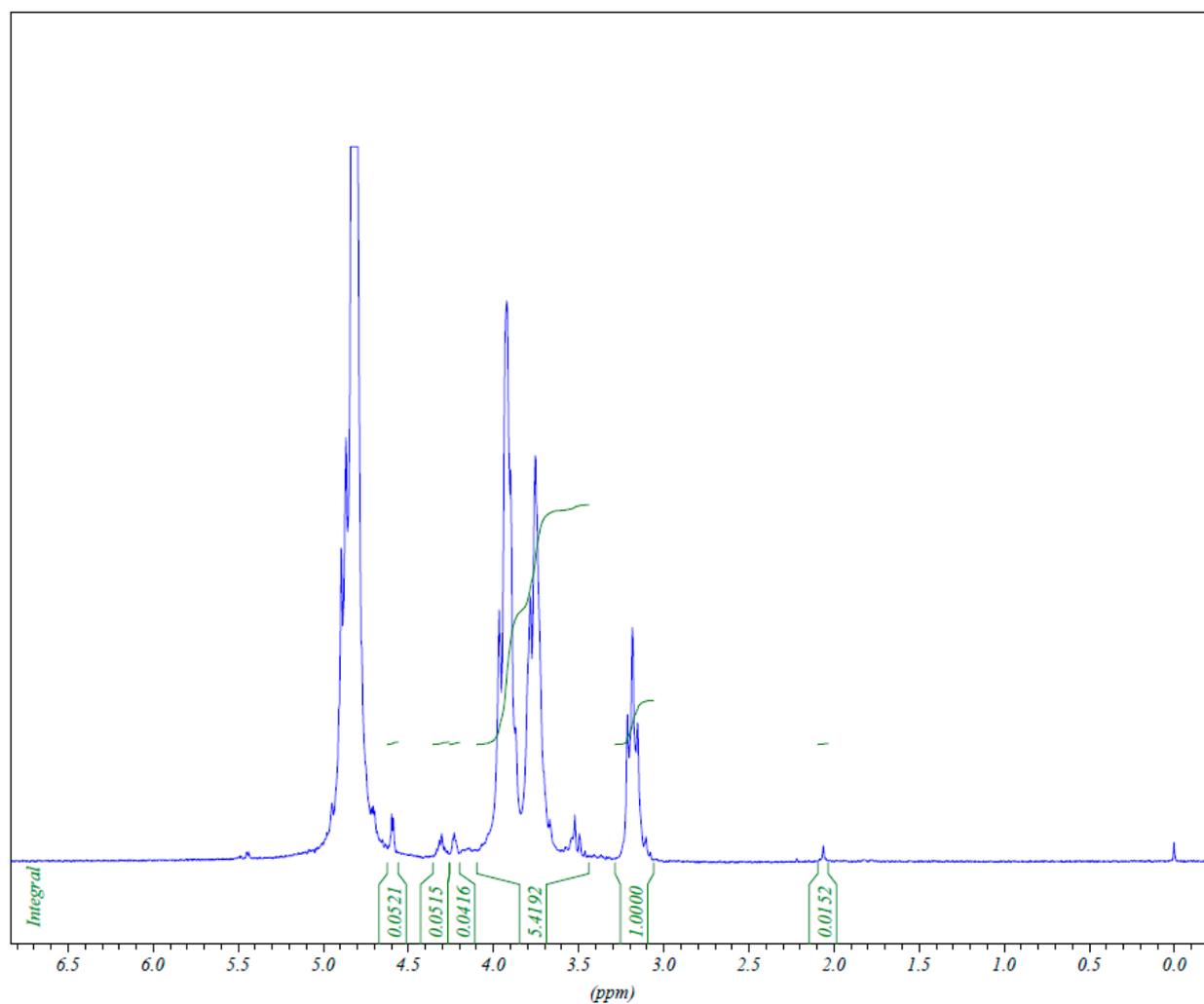
Peak Name	Peak 1
Light Scattering Model	Zimm
Fit Degree	1
dn/dc (mL/g)	0.1980
A2 (mol mL/g <sup>2</sup> )	0.000

#### Results

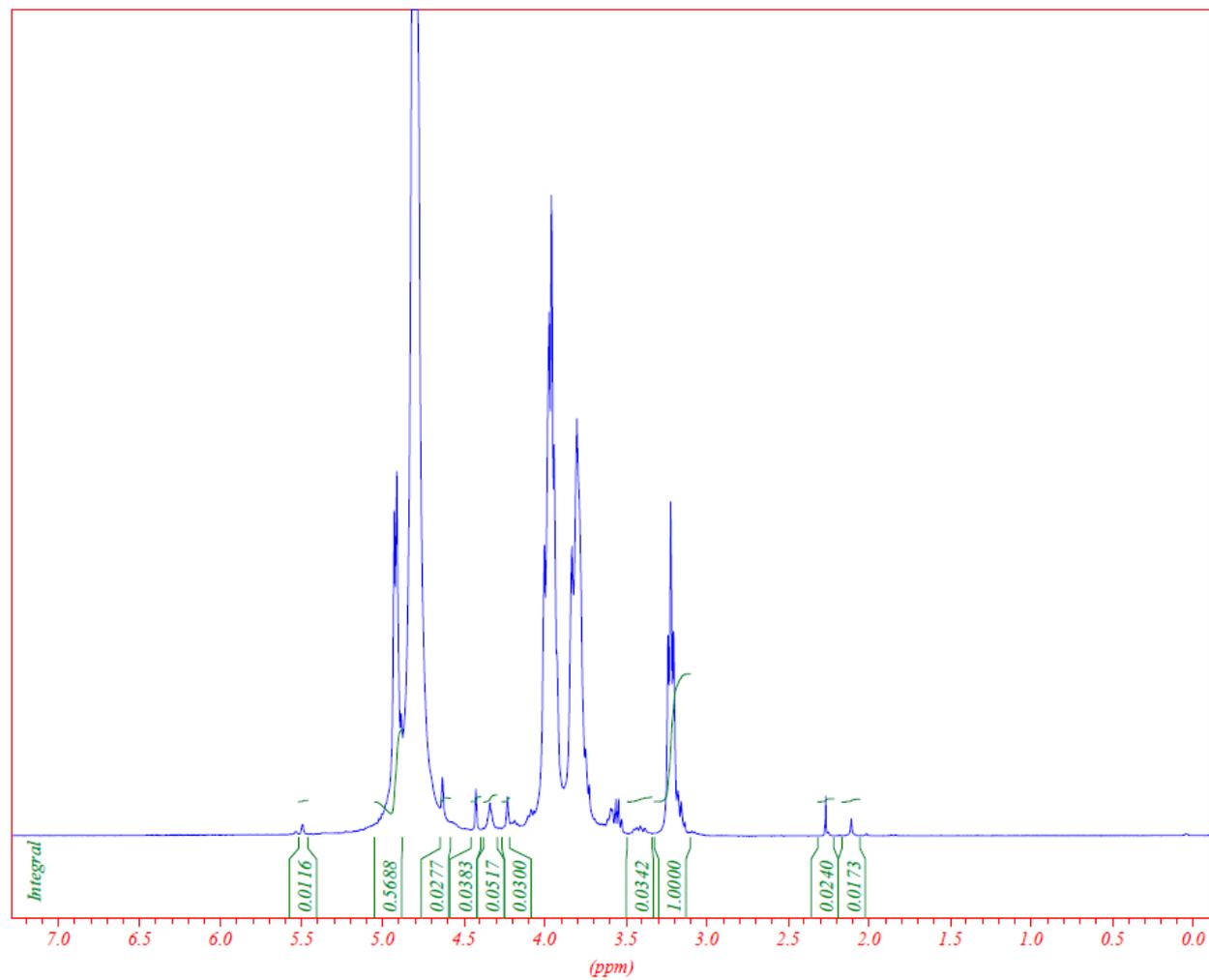
##### Peak Results

Peak 1	
<b>Masses</b>	
Calculated Mass (µg)	165.52
<b>Molar mass moments (g/mol)</b>	
Mn	$1.805 \times 10^3$ (±7.531%)
Mp	$1.767 \times 10^3$ (±4.392%)
Mv	n/a
Mw	$1.942 \times 10^3$ (±7.413%)
Mz	$2.424 \times 10^3$ (±21.225%)
<b>Polydispersity</b>	
Mw/Mn	1.076 (±10.567%)
Mz/Mn	1.343 (±22.522%)
<b>rms radius moments (nm)</b>	
Rn	10.6 (±290.1%)
Rw	16.4 (±120.8%)
Rz	26.3 (±52.1%)

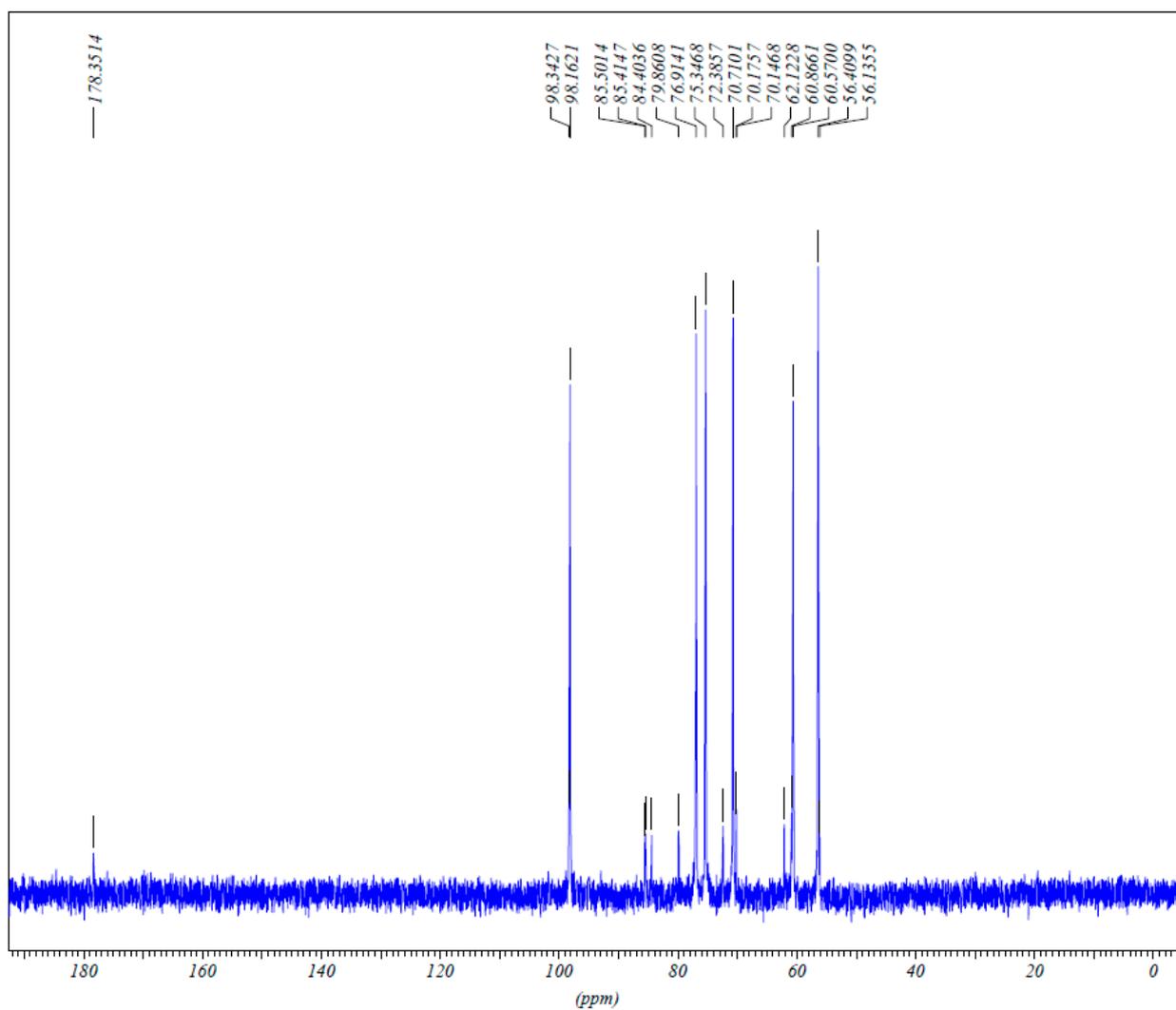
**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 300 MHz) of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (acidic form, DP ~20).



**Figure S12.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 300 MHz) of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (basic form, DP ~20).

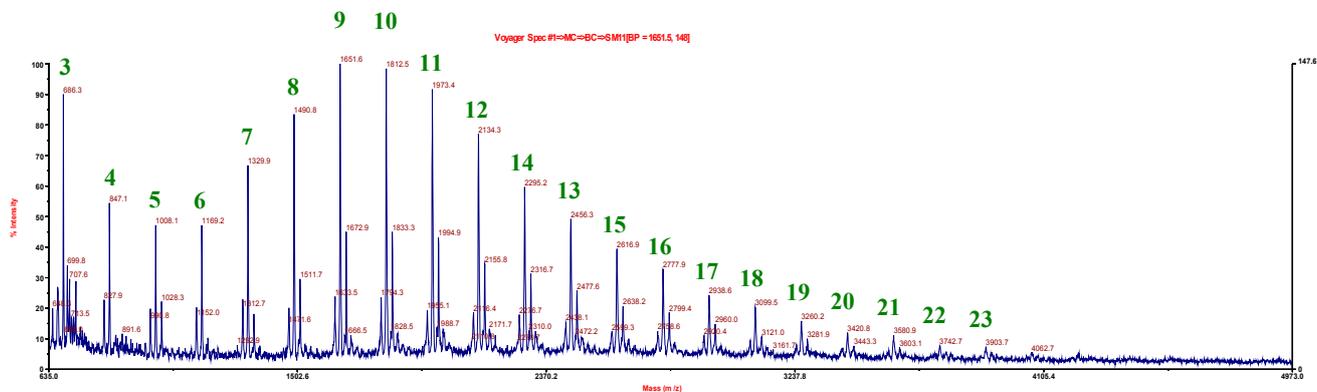


**Figure S13.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 125 MHz) of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (basic form, DP ~20).



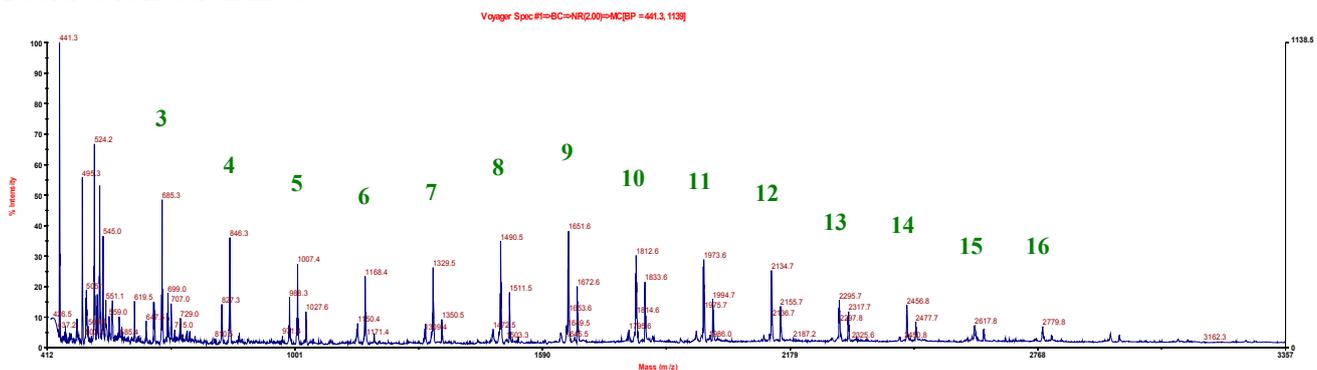
**Figure S14.** MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (DP ~20).

Positive linear mode:



Note that for each oligomer peak, the number of GlcN units into the chain is given in green

Positive reflectron mode:



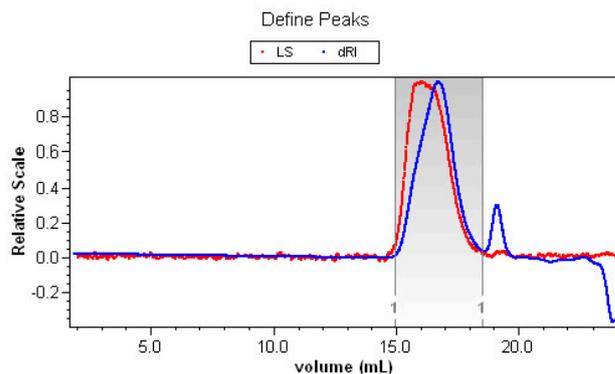
Note that for each oligomer peak, the number of GlcN units into the chain is given in green.

**Figure S15.** Size-exclusion chromatogram of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (DP ~20).



File Name: F:ES02[16mai2013].afe6  
 Collection Operator: LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (Aqueux))  
 Processing Operator: UNIV-LYON1\stephane.trombotto (TROMBOTTO STEPHANE)

Sample: ES02  
 Concentration: 2.000 mg/mL  
 Injected Volume: 100.0 µL



#### Configuration

##### Notes:

Colonnes : TSK6000 et TSK2500, Solvant filtré sur CME 0,1 et échantillon filtré sur CME 0,45

Concentration Source: RI

Flow Rate: 0.500 mL/min

Light Scattering Instrument: DAWN EOS

Cell Type: K5

Wavelength: 690.0 nm

Calibration Constant:  $7.4800 \times 10^{-6}$  1/(V cm)

RI Instrument: Optilab rEX

Solvent: Tampon AcAc/AcNH pH 4.5

Refractive Index: 1.330

#### Processing

Collection Time: Thursday May 16, 2013 09:11:35 PM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

Processing time: Friday May 17, 2013 10:08:14.671 AM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

##### Peak settings:

Peak Name	Peak 1
Light Scattering Model	Zimm
Fit Degree	1
dn/dc (mL/g)	0.1980
A2 (mol mL/g <sup>2</sup> )	0.000

##### Results Fitting Procedure:

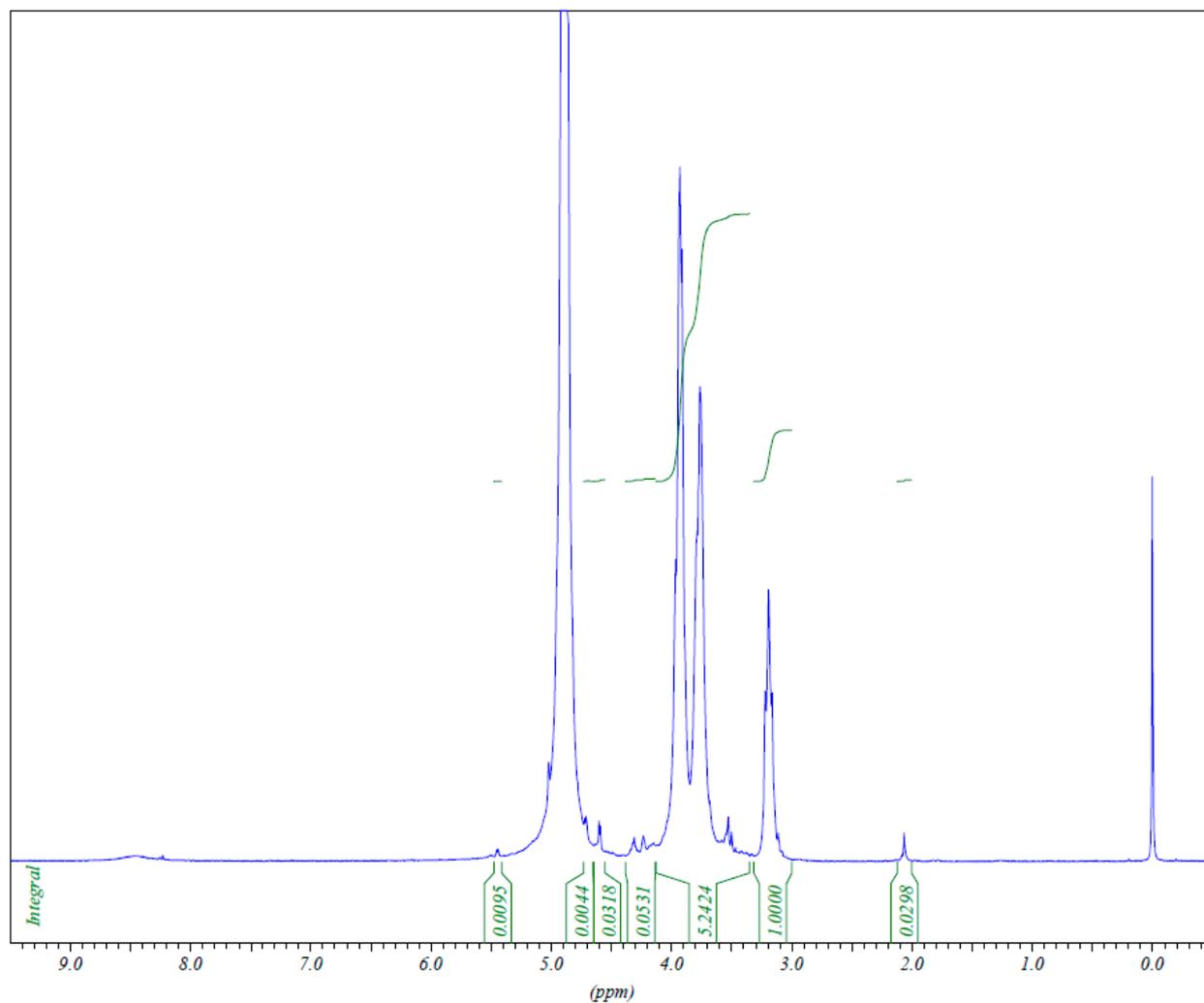
Data	Fit Model	Degree	R <sup>2</sup>	Extrapolation
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#### Results

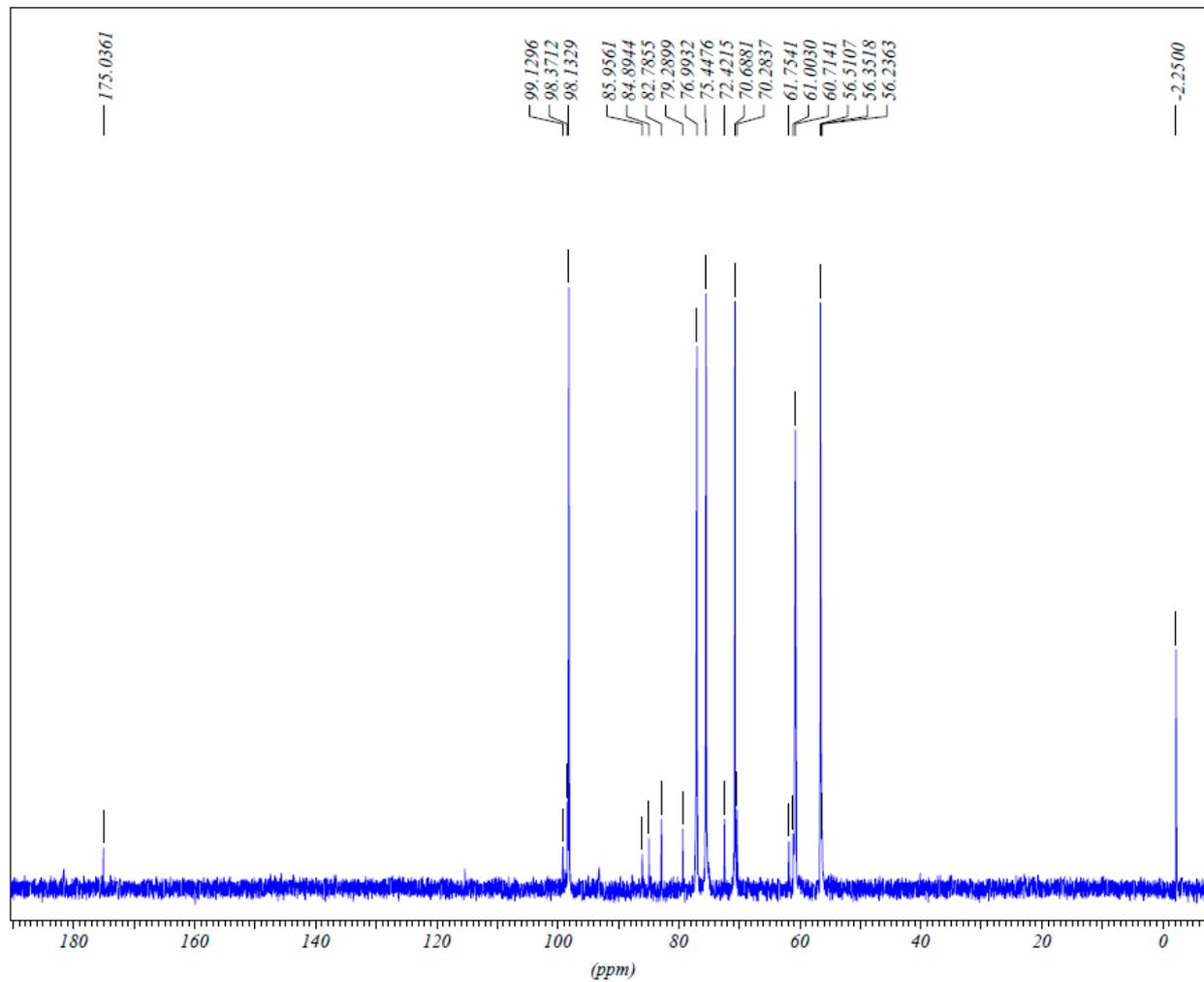
##### Peak Results

	Peak 1
<b>Masses</b>	
Calculated Mass (µg)	175.02
<b>Molar mass moments (g/mol)</b>	
Mn	$3.586 \times 10^3$ (±4.021%)
Mp	$3.059 \times 10^3$ (±1.636%)
Mv	n/a
Mw	$4.062 \times 10^3$ (±3.372%)
Mz	$4.878 \times 10^3$ (±7.319%)
<b>Polydispersity</b>	
Mw/Mn	1.133 (±5.247%)
Mz/Mn	1.361 (±8.351%)
<b>rms radius moments (nm)</b>	
Rn	23.3 (±34.5%)
Rw	21.7 (±36.7%)
Rz	18.9 (±43.7%)

**Figure S16.** MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (acidic form, DP ~30).



**Figure S17.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 125 MHz) of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (acidic form, DP ~30).

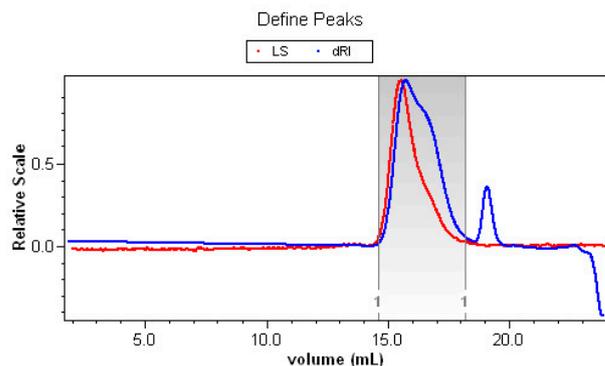


**Figure S18.** Size-exclusion chromatogram of chitooligosaccharide-2,5-anhydro-D-mannonic acid (DP ~30).



File Name: F:ES15[16mai2013].afe6  
 Collection Operator: LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (LMPB-AR2000\Aqueux (Aqueux))  
 Processing Operator: UNIV-LYON1\stephane.trombotto (TROMBOTTO STEPHANE)

Sample: ES15  
 Concentration: 2.000 mg/mL  
 Injected Volume: 100.0 µL



#### Configuration

##### Notes:

Colonnes : TSK6000 et TSK2500, Solvant filtré sur CME 0,1 et échantillon filtré sur CME 0,45

Concentration Source: RI  
 Flow Rate: 0.500 mL/min

Light Scattering Instrument: DAWN EOS  
 Cell Type: K5  
 Wavelength: 690.0 nm  
 Calibration Constant:  $7.4800 \times 10^{-6}$  1/(V cm)

RI Instrument: Optilab rEX

Solvent: Tampon AcAc/AcNH pH 4.5  
 Refractive Index: 1.330

#### Processing

Collection Time: Friday May 17, 2013 12:00:30 AM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)  
 Processing time: Friday May 17, 2013 10:17:07.239 AM Paris, Madrid (heure d'été)

##### Peak settings:

Peak Name	Peak 1
Light Scattering Model	Zimm
Fit Degree	1
dn/dc (mL/g)	0.1980
A2 (mol mL/g <sup>2</sup> )	0.000

##### Results Fitting Procedure:

Data	Fit Model	Degree	R <sup>2</sup>	Extrapolation

#### Results

##### Peak Results

Peak 1	
<b>Masses</b>	
Calculated Mass (µg)	184.88
<b>Molar mass moments (g/mol)</b>	
Mn	$5.151 \times 10^3$ (±3.650%)
Mp	$7.964 \times 10^3$ (±1.358%)
Mv	n/a
Mw	$6.458 \times 10^3$ (±2.289%)
Mz	$8.353 \times 10^3$ (±4.408%)
<b>Polydispersity</b>	
Mw/Mn	1.254 (±4.309%)
Mz/Mn	1.622 (±5.723%)
<b>rms radius moments (nm)</b>	
Rn	n/a
Rw	n/a
Rz	1.1 (±8454.8%)