## ABSTRACT





## البحث الخام

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Title	exopolysaccharide produced by the moderately halophilic bacterium				
	Chromohalobacter salexigens, strain 3EQS1.				
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## **ABSTRACT**

A strain, 3EQS1, was isolated from a salt sample taken from Lake Qarun (Fayoum Province, Egypt). On the basis of physiological, biochemical, and phylogenetic analyses, the strain was classified as Chromohalobacter salexigens. By 72 h of growth at 25 °C, strain 3EQS1 produced large amounts (15.1 g  $L^{-1}$ ) of exopolysaccharide (EPS) in a liquid mineral medium (initial pH 8.0) containing 10% sucrose and 10% NaCl. The EPS was precipitated from the cell-free culture





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medium with chilled ethanol and was purified by gel-permeation and anion-exchange chromatography. The molecular mass of the EPS was  $0.9 \times 10^6$  Da. Chemical analyses, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy showed that the EPS was a linear  $\beta$ -D-(2  $\rightarrow$  6)-linked fructan (levan). In aqueous solution, the EPS tended to form supramolecular aggregates with a critical aggregation concentration of 240  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>. The EPS had high emulsifying activity ( $E_{24}$ , %) against kerosene (31.2  $\pm$  0.4%), sunflower oil (76.9  $\pm$  1.3%), and crude oil (98.9  $\pm$  0.8%), and it also had surfactant properties. A 0.1% (w/v) aqueous EPS solution reduced the surface tension of water by 11.9%. The levan of *C. salexigens* 3EQS1 may be useful in various biotechnological processes.