

## LA-UR-15-27810

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

Title: Catalytic Routes for the Conversion of Biomass Derivatives to Hydrocarbons and/or Platform Chemicals

Author(s): Silks, Louis A. III

Intended for: presentation to Hitachi

Issued: 2015-10-07

---

**Disclaimer:**

Los Alamos National Laboratory, an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, is operated by the Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy under contract DE-AC52-06NA25396. By approving this article, the publisher recognizes that the U.S. Government retains nonexclusive, royalty-free license to publish or reproduce the published form of this contribution, or to allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes. Los Alamos National Laboratory requests that the publisher identify this article as work performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy. Los Alamos National Laboratory strongly supports academic freedom and a researcher's right to publish; as an institution, however, the Laboratory does not endorse the viewpoint of a publication or guarantee its technical correctness.

# **Catalytic Routes for the Conversion of Biomass Derivatives to Hydrocarbons and/or Platform Chemicals**

**L. A. “Pete” Silks  
B11, The Biophysical and Chemistry Team  
Oct 7, 2015**

**Hitachi Chemical Co. America Ltd. LANL Visit**

UNCLASSIFIED



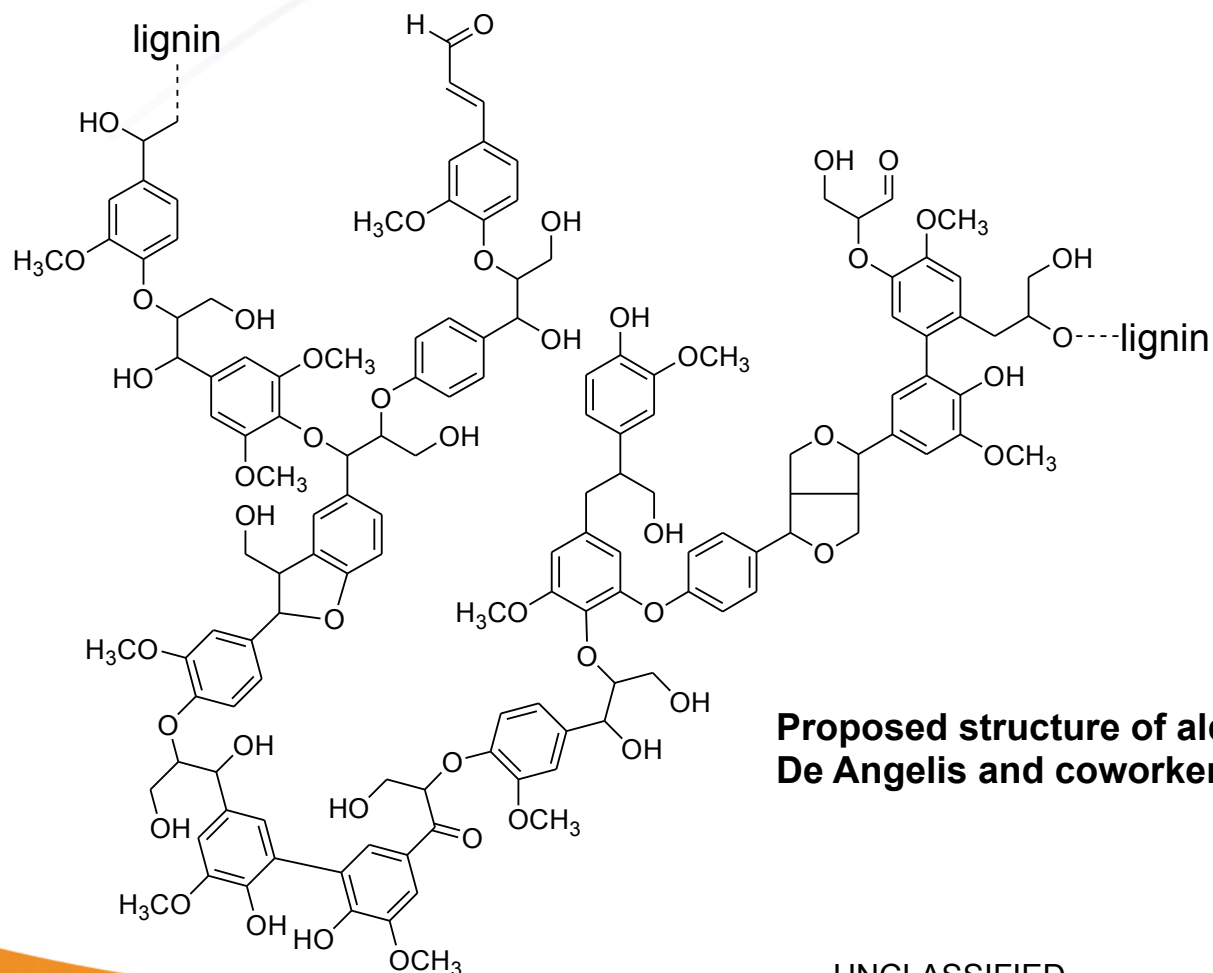
**Proprietary Information**

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA



# Lignin Presents a Major Challenge in the Production of Biofuels from Lignocellulose.

## (With Susan Hanson PD to LANL Staff)



relatively little  
R&D



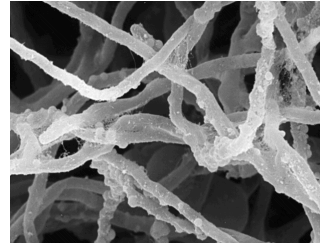
need for mild, selective  
methods to break down lignin

**Proposed structure of alder lignin:**  
**De Angelis and coworkers: *Mass. Spec. Rev.* 2004, 23, 87.**

UNCLASSIFIED

# Biological Lignin Digestion: White Rot Fungus

Degrade lignin using enzymes lignin peroxidase and manganese-dependent peroxidase



<http://genome.jgi-psf.org/whiterot1/whiterot1.home.html>



<http://www.world-of-fungi.org/>

Mechanism under investigation:

**one-electron oxidation** using radical cation mediator (veratryl alcohol)

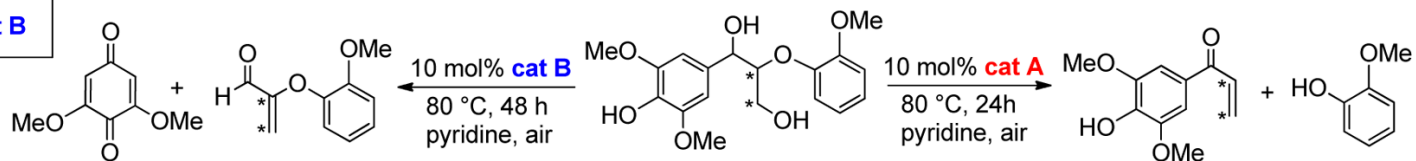
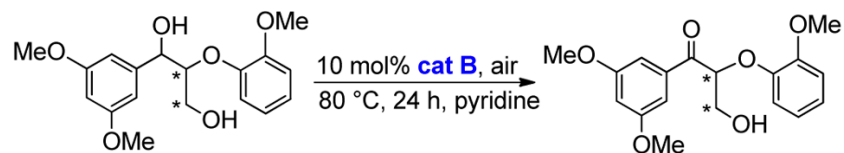
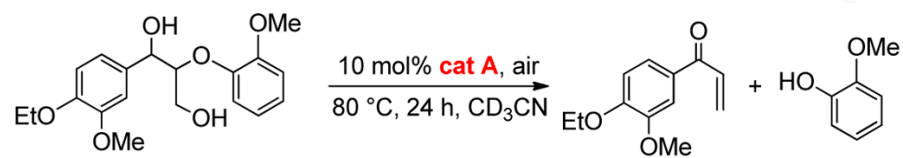
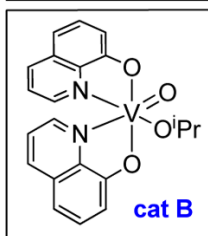
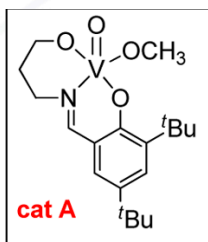
Rates are *slow*:

(pilot plant in Bangor, WA reduced levels of TNT from 1800 ppm to 1200 ppm and 1000 ppm after 30 days and 120 days, respectively)

Product inhibition occurs

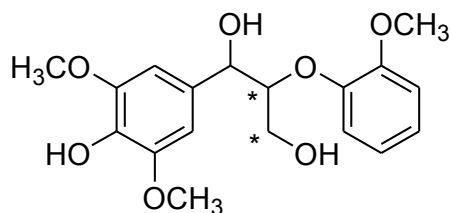
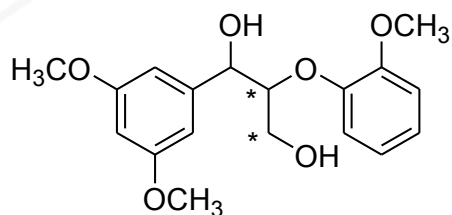
Issues with selectivity: can degrade many compounds, including polyaromatics

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

# Using Model Compounds to Elucidate Catalytic Reactivity and Selectivity



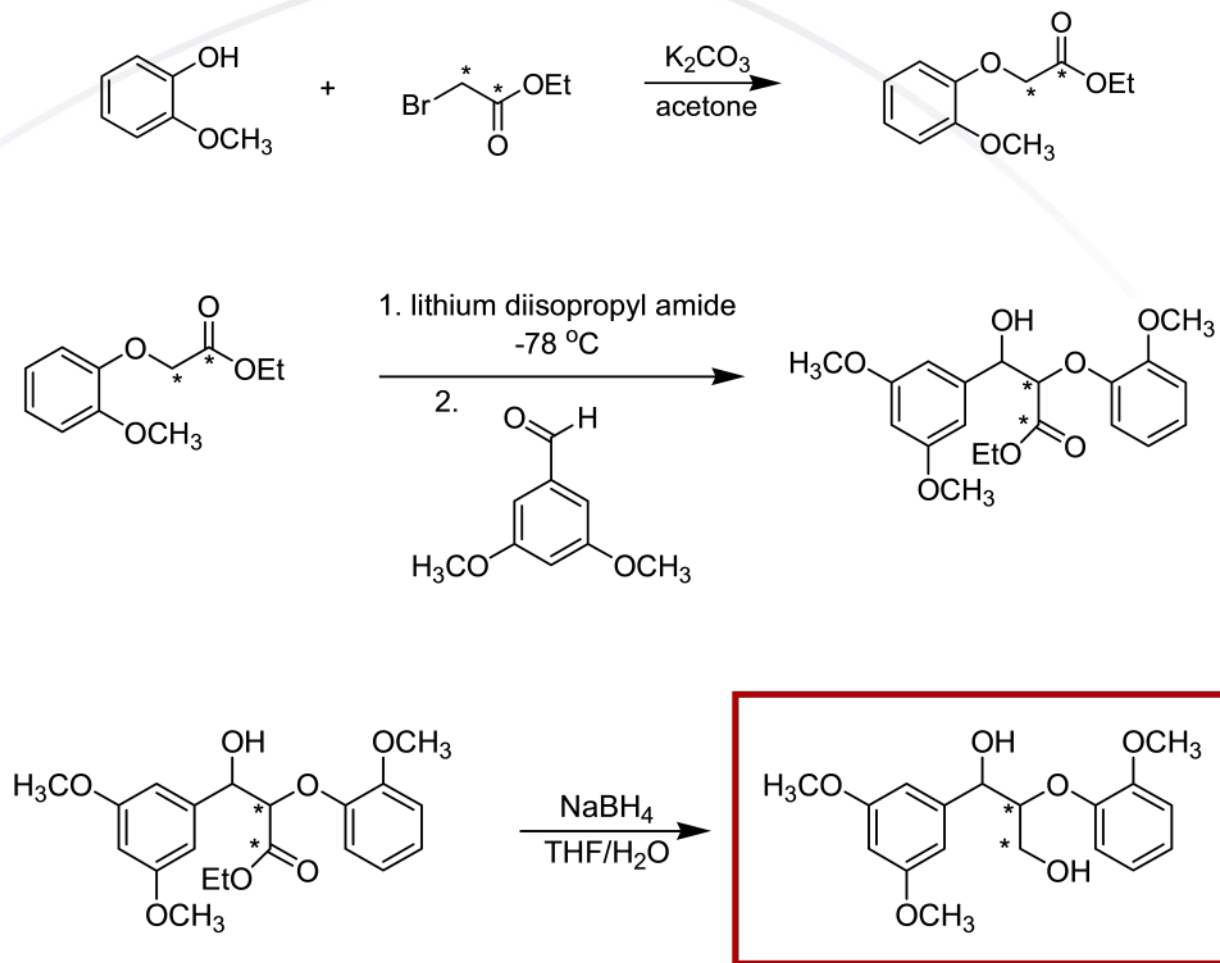
Multistep synthesis  
from  $^{13}\text{C}$



$^{13}\text{C}$  labels allow for rapid  
product identification

UNCLASSIFIED

# Successful Synthesis of Labeled Compounds



UNCLASSIFIED

Proprietary Information

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

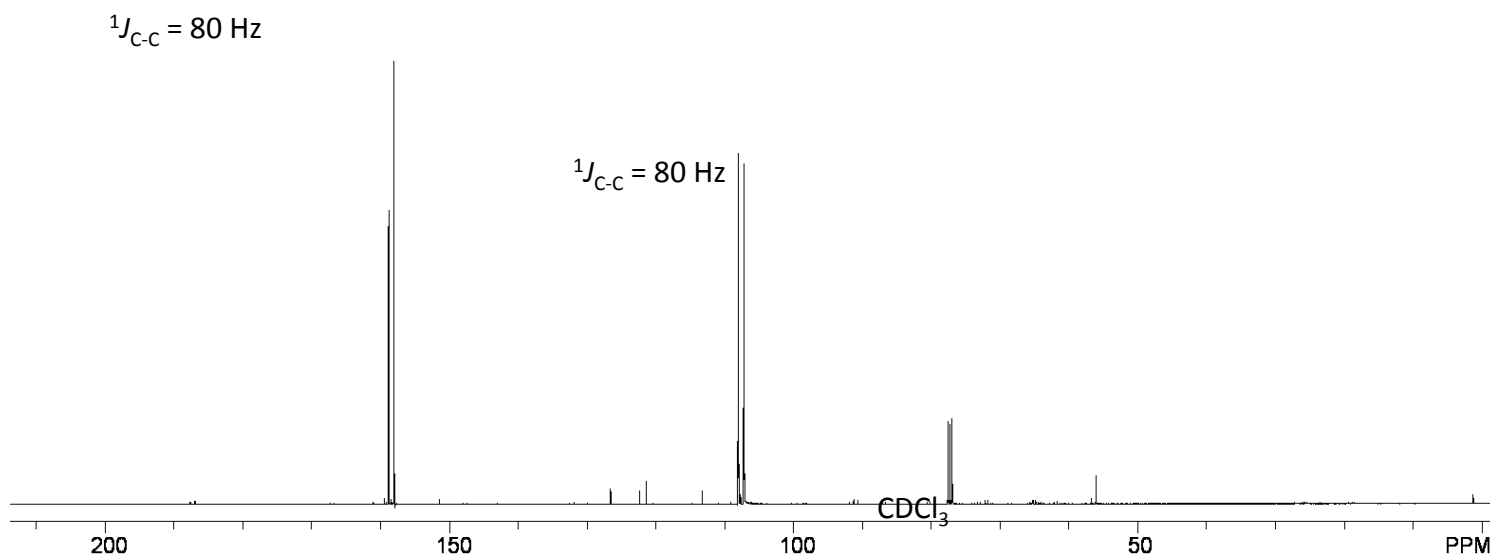
phenolic analogue also prepared



# $^{13}\text{C}$ Label Allows for Rapid Product Characterization

Isolated product from phenolic lignin model oxidation,  $\text{CDCl}_3$

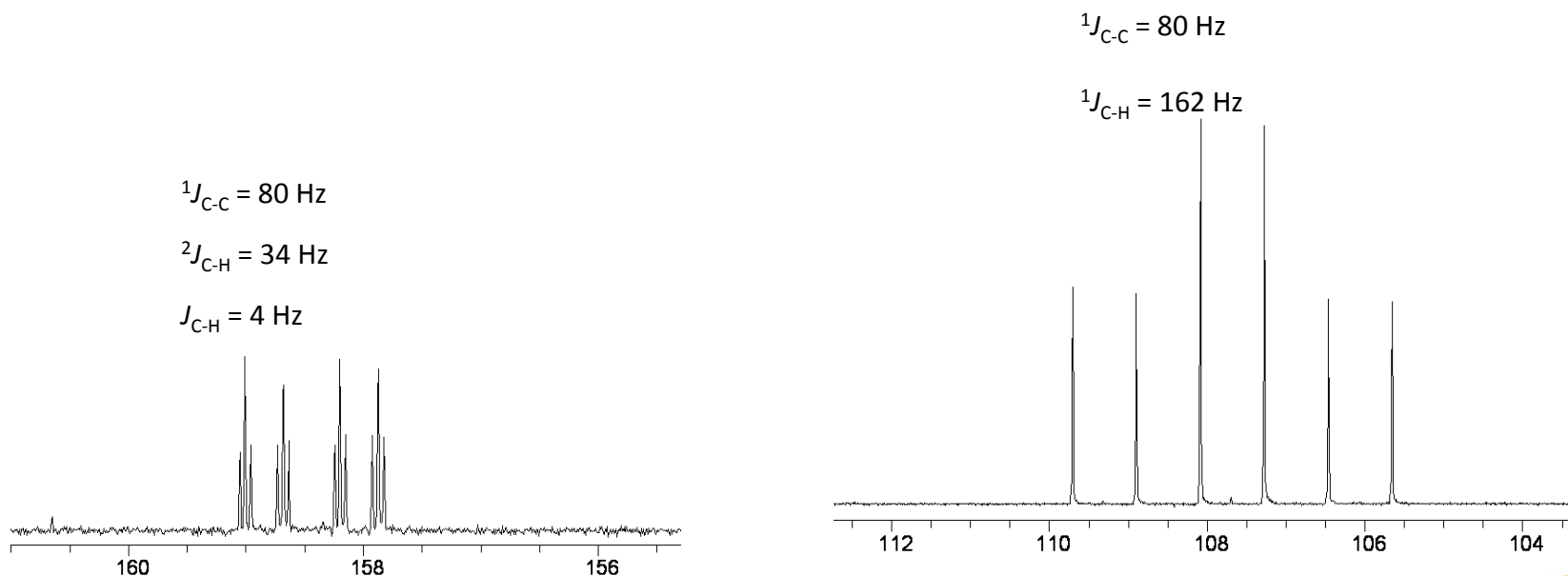
Reaction conditions:  $(\text{HQ})_2\text{V}(\text{O})\text{O}^i\text{Pr}$  5 mol%,  $\text{NEt}_3$  10 mol%, dichloroethane solvent, 80 °C, 40 h



UNCLASSIFIED

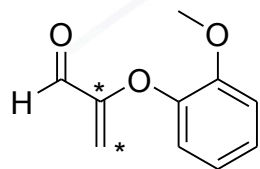
# Proton-Carbon Coupling Provides Additional Insight into Molecular Structure

Proton-coupled carbon spectrum,  $\text{CDCl}_3$

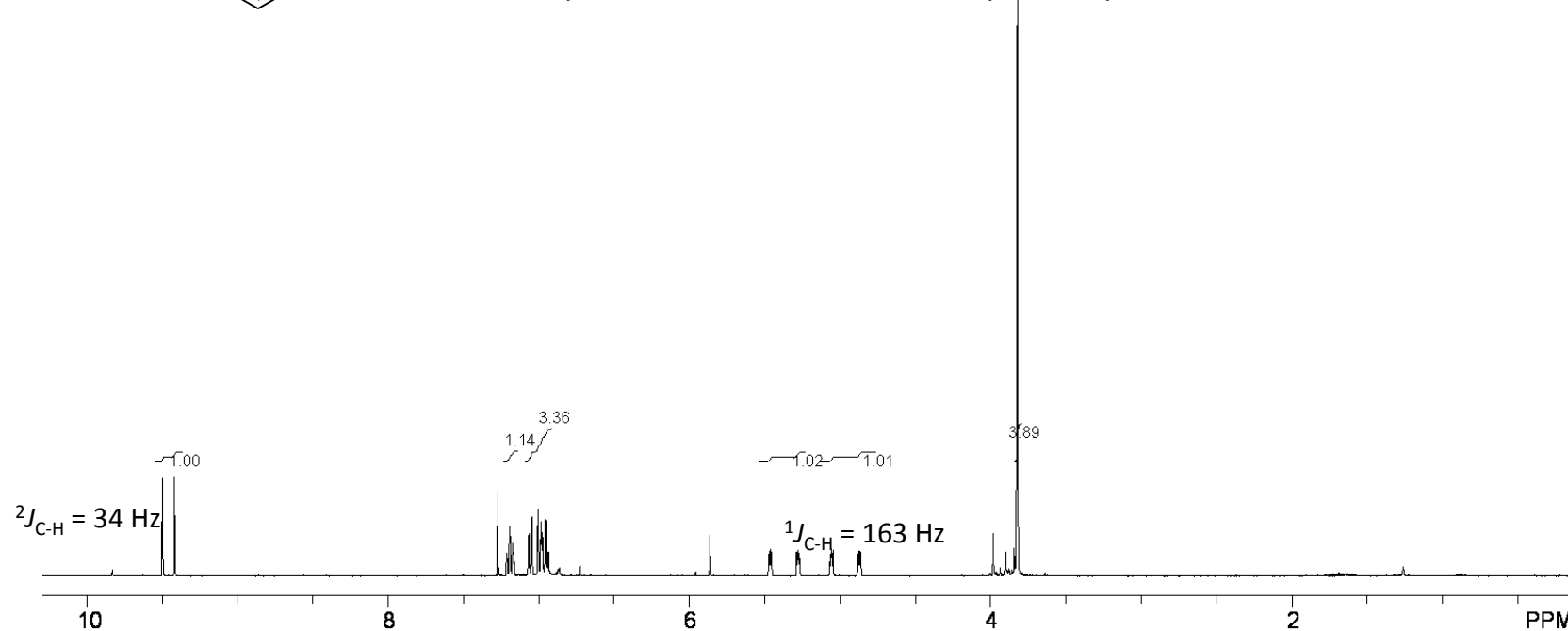


UNCLASSIFIED

# A Unique C-C Bond Fission Product

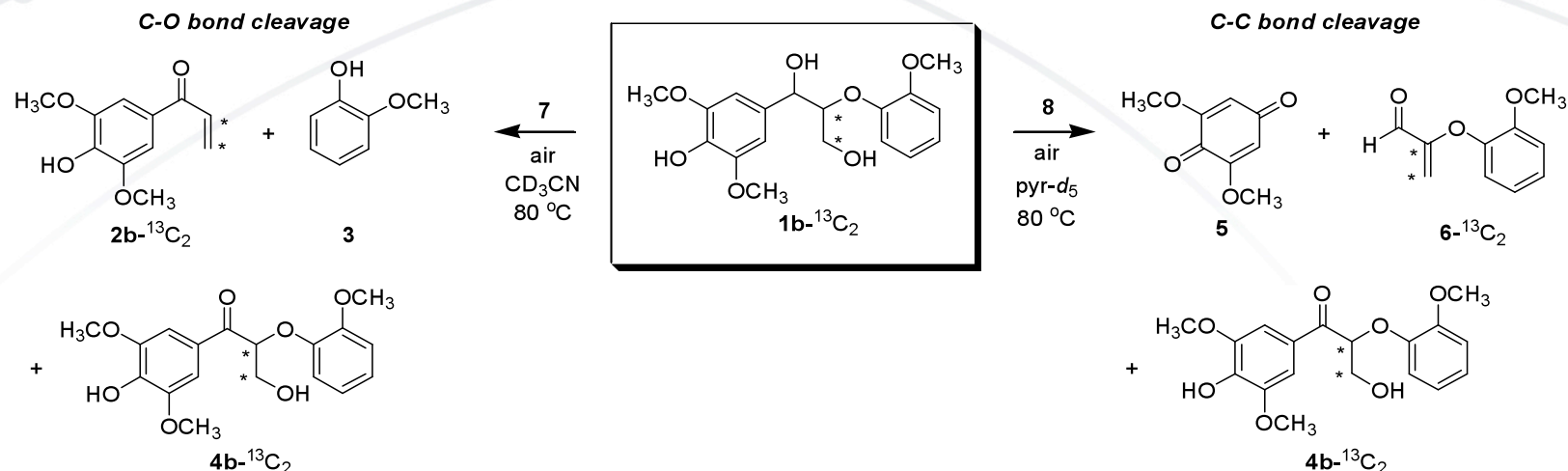


Oxidation of phenolic lignin model (HQ)<sub>2</sub>V(O)O<sup>i</sup>Pr 5 mol%, NEt<sub>3</sub> 10 mol%, dichlorethane solvent, 80 °C, 40 h



UNCLASSIFIED

# Selectivity of Lignin Model Oxidations

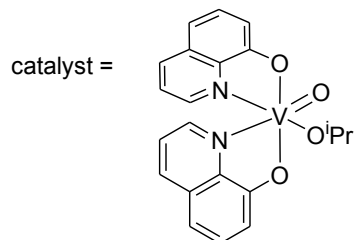
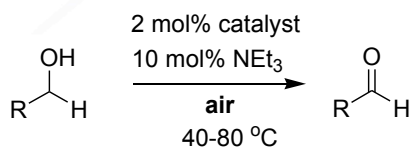


In conclusion, we have found that quinolate complex oxidatively breaks the  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{-C}_{\text{aryl}}$  bond in lignin model compound **1b**. This  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{-C}_{\text{aryl}}$  bond cleavage is a new reaction mode for vanadium, and has only previously been documented for cobalt (details about mechanism?). Although a one electron pathway has also been proposed for the oxidation of a lignin model compound using Toste catalyst, the oxidation of **1b** with the Toste catalyst proceeds with a markedly different selectivity, affording C-O bond cleavage product **2b** and none of the  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{-C}_{\text{aryl}}$  bond cleavage product.

*The remarkably different selectivities observed for the two vanadium catalysts reveal the complexity of vanadium mediated oxidations and supports the viability of homogeneous catalysts for controlling selectivity in the aerobic oxidation of lignin.*

UNCLASSIFIED

# Expansion of the Scope of the Project



-effective for benzylic, allylic, and propargylic alcohols

substrate	product	% yield
	 R = H X = H = OCH <sub>3</sub> = NO <sub>2</sub> X = H R = Ph = CH <sub>3</sub> = cyclopropyl = <sup>i</sup> Pr = <sup>t</sup> Bu	92 96 96 93 <sup>d</sup> 95 <sup>a,f</sup> 90 <sup>a,c</sup> (20) <sup>a,d</sup> 0 <sup>a,d</sup>
		98
		96 <sup>a</sup>
		98 <sup>a</sup>
		94
		96 <sup>a</sup>
		(80)
		(60)
		(38)
		(5)
		(1) <sup>b</sup>

Substrate scope of the catalytic oxidation. Conditions: 2 mol% **8**, 10 mol% NEt<sub>3</sub>, 1,2-dichloroethane solvent, 60 °C, 24 h. <sup>a</sup> = 80 °C; <sup>b</sup> = 100 °C, dichlorobenzene solvent; <sup>c</sup> = 48 h; <sup>d</sup> = 72 h; <sup>f</sup> = 1 equivalent NEt<sub>3</sub>.

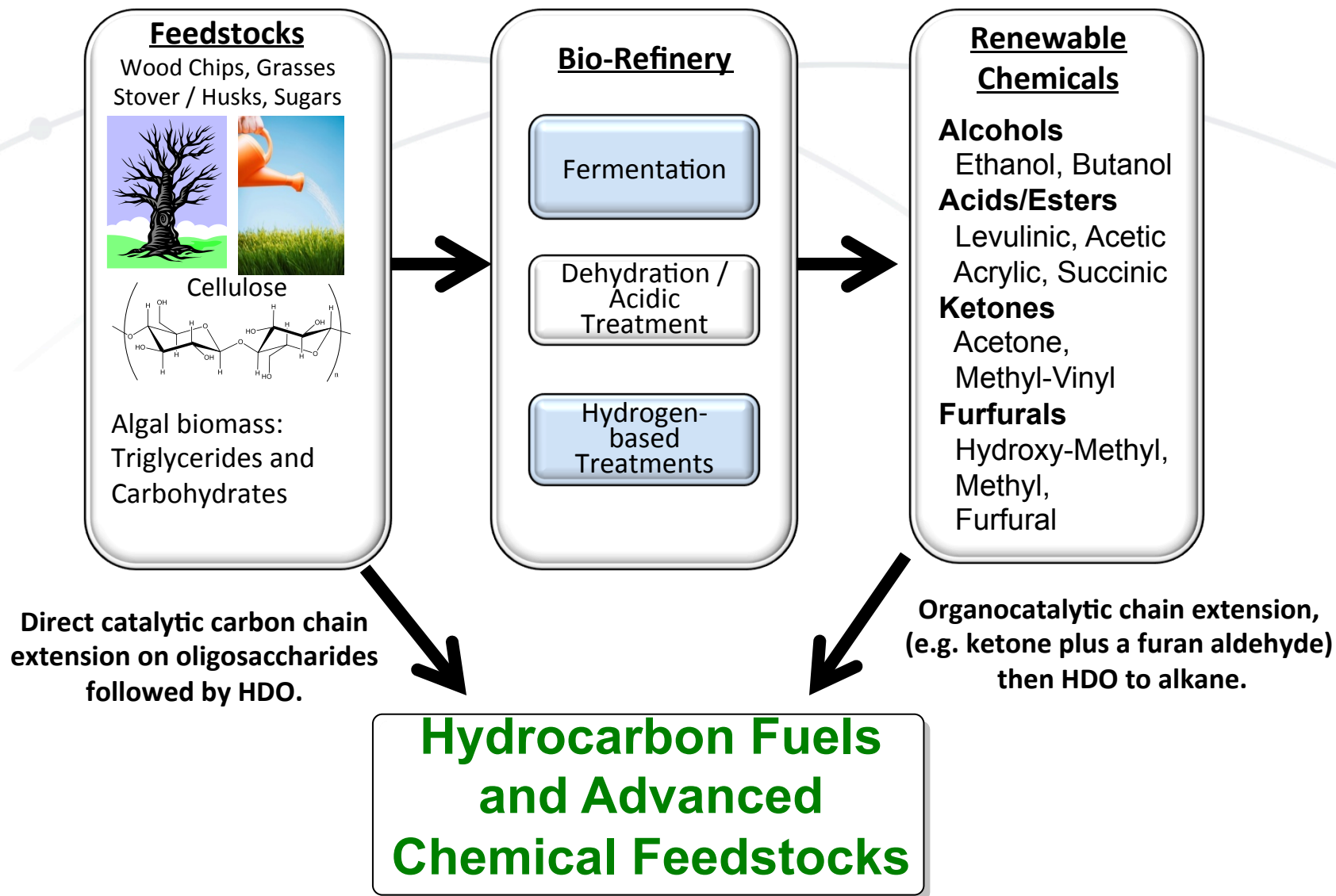
UNCLASSIFIED

Key Application Areas	Fibers & Nonwovens	Adhesives (Hot Melt and PSA)	Films	Molded Parts	Blow Molded Bottles	Key Chemicals		
						Acrylic Acid	Surfactants	Diacids & diols
<b>Bio-based options in Market</b>	Natural Fibers, PLA, Cellulosics	Natural Rubber-based	TPS Blends, PLA, Cellulosics,	TPS Blends, cellulosics, Nylon 11	PLA	None	~35% of today's surfactants	1,3 PDO Sebacic Acid
<b>Emerging materials, monomers, or other precursors</b>	Bio-derived aliphatic polyesters, Modified or derivatized natural polymers	Bio-derived urethanes, PHA, Soy protein, Soy polyols, Sugar/acrylics, Starch derivatives.	Bio-LLDPE (via ETOH from sugar cane),	PHA, bio-derived fillers	Bio-HDPE (via ETOH from sugar cane),	Via Glycerol, Via 3-hydroxy propionic acid (3-HPA) from sugars	Veg. Oils, Sophoro-lipids and Rhamnolipids from lipid-based substrates	<b>Diacids</b> Succinic acid, adipic acid, FDCA, Others? <b>Diols</b> Isosorbide, butanediol, Others?
<b>Critical Needs</b>	Cost-competitive Melt spinnable, water-resistant, bioderived fibers	Cost-competitive, bio-derived thermoplastic elastomers, tackifiers, and oil modifiers	Cost competitive bio-derived full or partial replacements for PE, PP, & PET Films.	Bio-route or non-petroleum route to propylene, or cost effective PP substitute material	Biopolymer with PE/PP-like density, barrier, heat stability, impact strength & chemical resistance	P&G's need is primarily absorbent gelling matls, but AA is also a key feedstock for plastics, paints, & coatings	Cost-competitive bio-derived fatty acids and alcohols	Cost-competitive monomers for aliphatic polyesters, polyamides, other polymers, & chemicals
<b>What breakthroughs are required to meet the need?</b>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

PLA = polylactic acid,  
PSA = pressure sensitive adhesive  
PHA = polyhydroxyalkanoates  
PDO = propane diol

ETOH = ethanol  
TPS = Thermoplastic Starch  
FDCA = Furan dicarboxylic acid

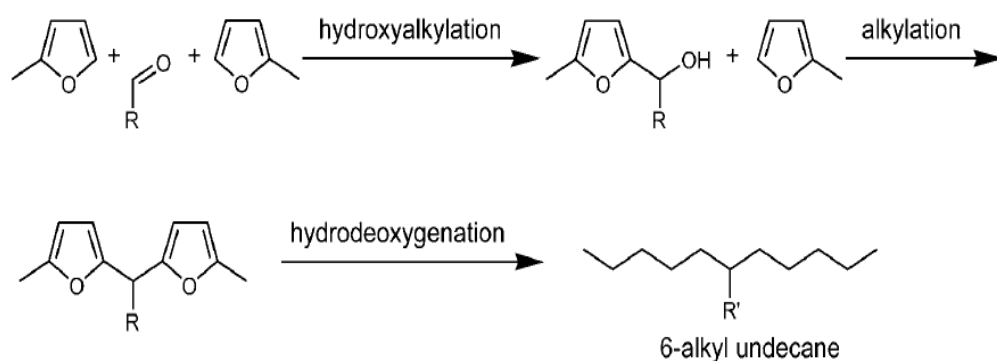
UNCLASSIFIED



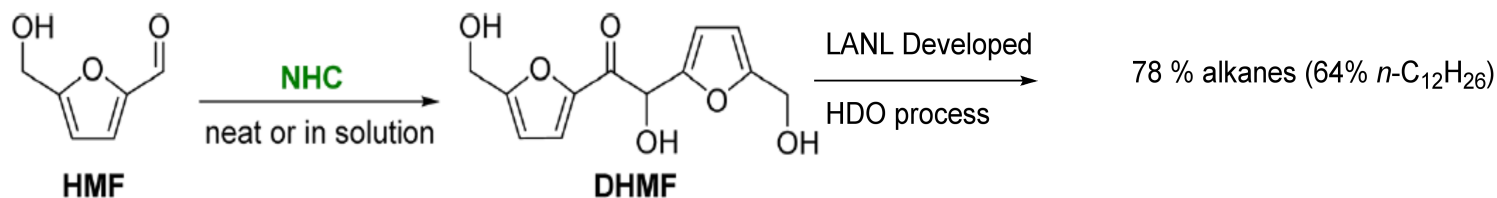
\* Companies such as xF were accessing furanics and levulinates from raw non-food based biomass with about ~10x decrease in current costs.

\* HDO = hydrodeoxygenation (oxygen/hydrogen exchange on carbon chain).

## Current state-of-the-Art



“Production of High-Quality Diesel From Biomass Waste Products,”  
Corma *et al.*  
*Angew Chem.* **2013**, 50, 2375.

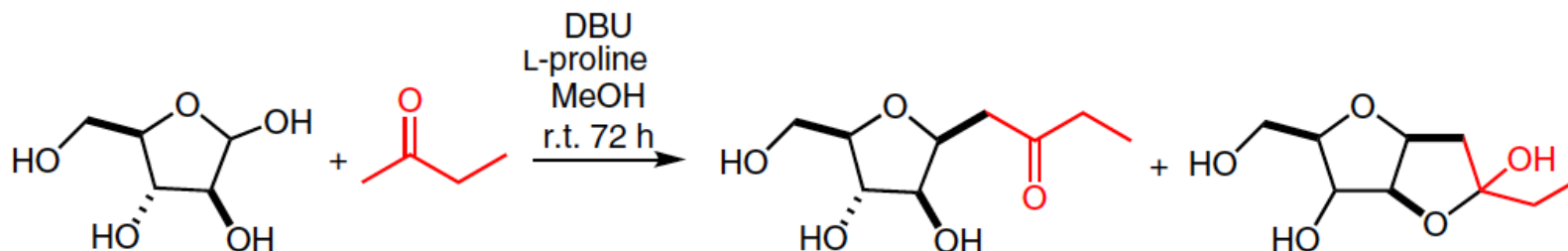


Integrated Catalytic Process for  
Biomass Conversion and Upgrading to  
C12 Furoin and Alkane Fuel,” Liu and  
Chen, *Catalysis*, **2014**, 4, 1302.

UNCLASSIFIED



## Current state-of-the-Art



44% overall yield, de > 98:2 (related to C-glycosylation)

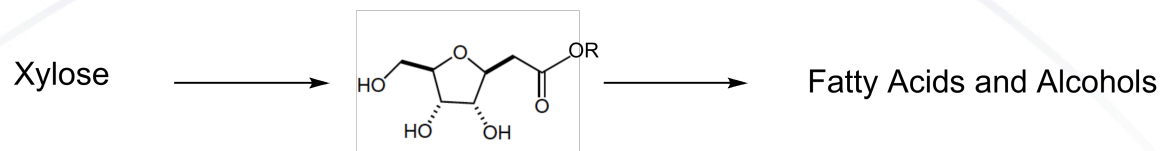
Unprotected carbohydrates were reacted in amine-catalyzed cascade reactions with various methyl ketones to give a direct access to C-glycosides by an operationally simple protocol. As the reaction mechanism, an aldol condensation followed by an intramolecular conjugate addition is assumed.

### LANL Efforts:

1. Use of biomass carbonyl compounds. Levulinic acid and esters. 5+ 5,6 Carbons. Double additions of biomass carbonyl compounds will give access to higher carbon chains.
2. Other conditions which favor industrial scale up.

UNCLASSIFIED

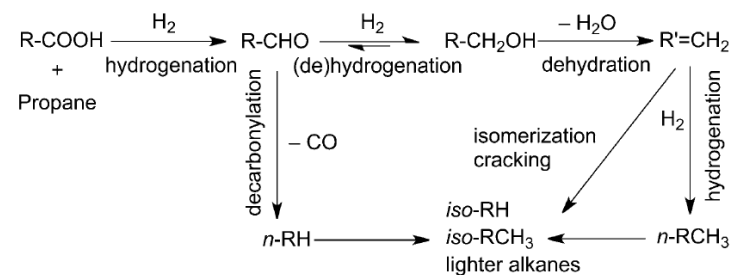
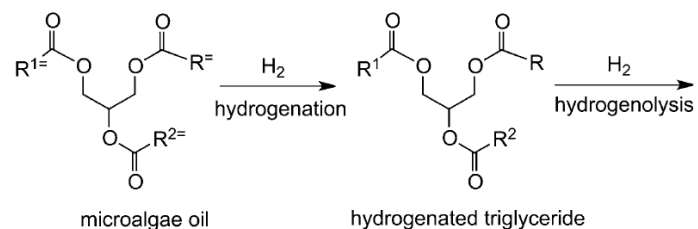
## LANL Approach (Group B11 and C-Div)



Collaborative with J. Kiplinger (C-Div) who will be looking at actinide catalysis as model systems for potential lanthanide use.

UNCLASSIFIED

## LANL Approach (Group B11 and C-Div)



Lercher, 2012

$\text{R}^1=$ ,  $\text{R}^2=$ ,  $\text{R}^3=$ : unsaturated alkyl chain

Methanation:  $\text{CO} + \text{H}_2 = \text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$

**Scheme 1.** Proposed reaction pathway for transformation of microalgae oil to alkanes over bifunctional Ni/HBeta catalysts.

UNCLASSIFIED

## LANL Approach (Group B11 and C-Div)

C. Kordulis et al. / Applied Catalysis B: Environmental  
181 (2016) 156–196

It seems that the use of nickel phosphide or, mainly, NiMo phosphide catalysts with proper Ni/Mo ratio results to the impressive inhibition of deCO and the acceleration of HDO.

Quite promising are the studies devoted to the addition of promoters (La, Ce, P) in the traditional NiMo and NiW hydrotreatment catalysts working in their reduced form.

UNCLASSIFIED