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

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# **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**

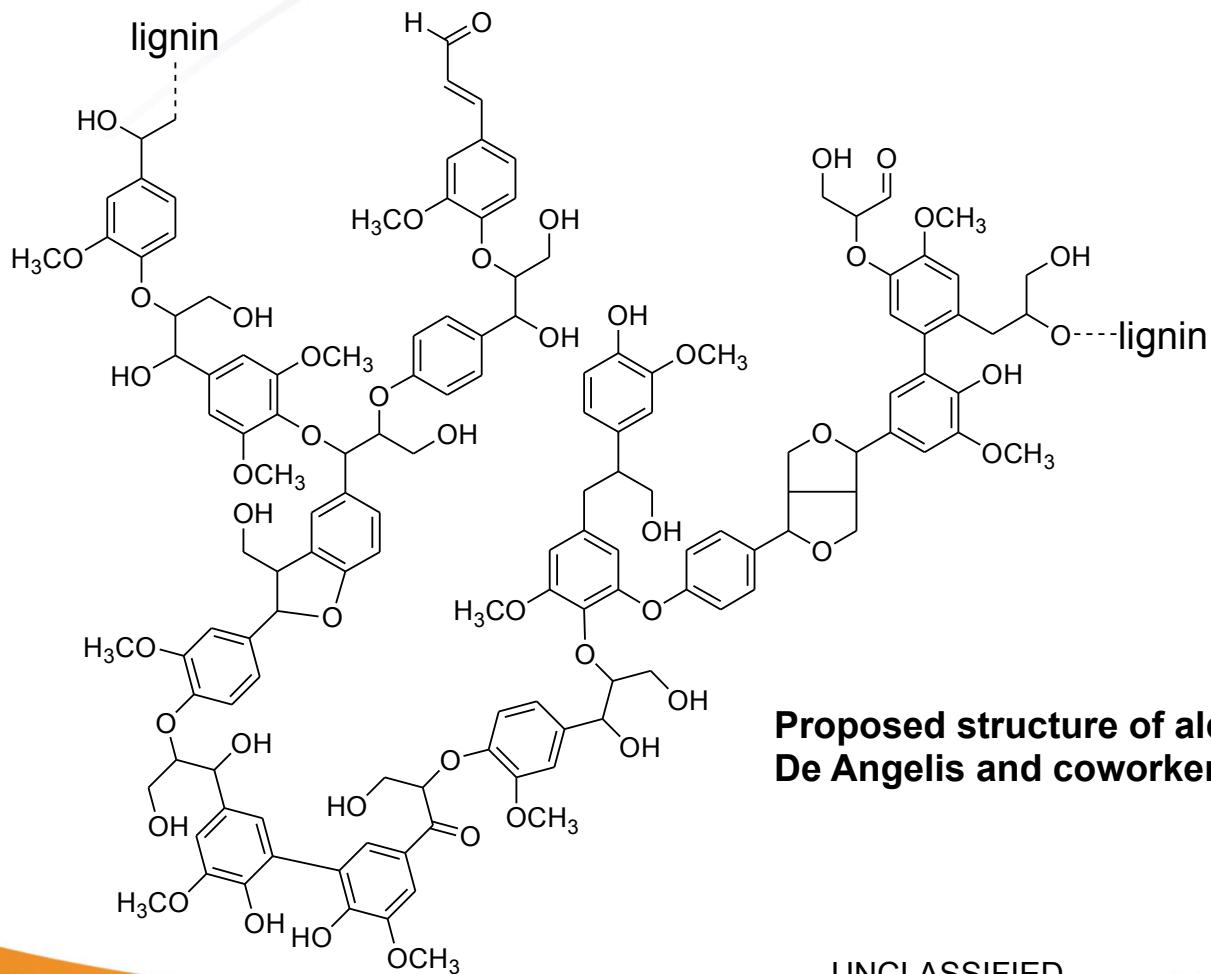
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# Lignin Presents a Major Challenge in the Production of Biofuels from Lignocellulose. (With Susan Hanson PD to LANL Staff)



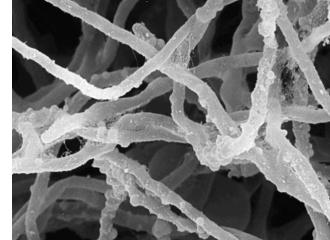
relatively little R&D  
↓  
need for mild, selective methods to break down lignin

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

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# Biological Lignin Digestion: White Rot Fungus

Degradation 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)

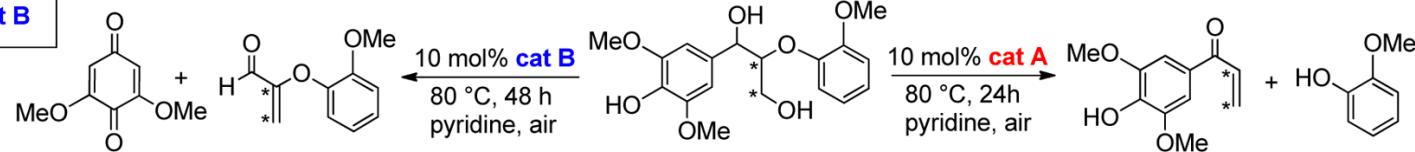
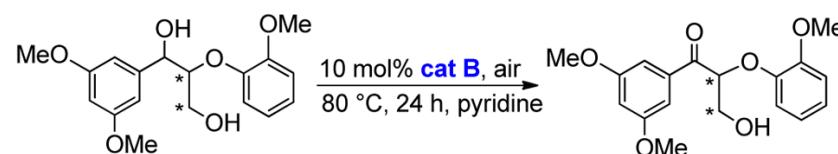
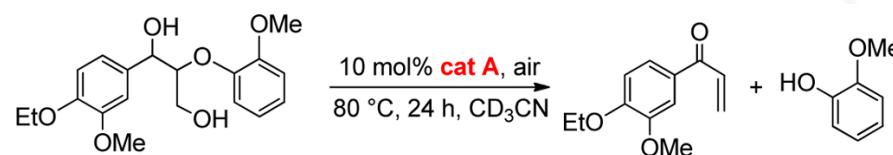
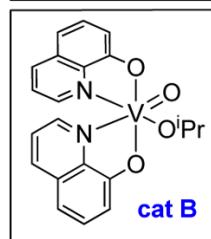
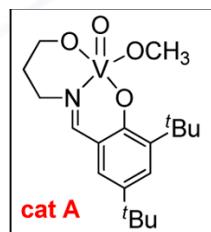
Rates are *slow*:

(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

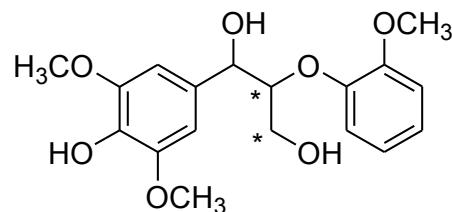
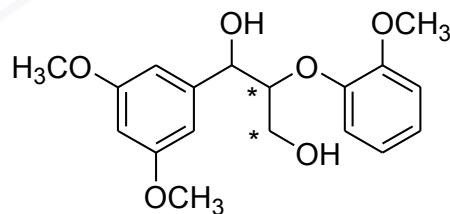
Issues with selectivity: can degrade many compounds, including polycyclic aromatics

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# Using Model Compounds to Elucidate Catalytic Reactivity and Selectivity

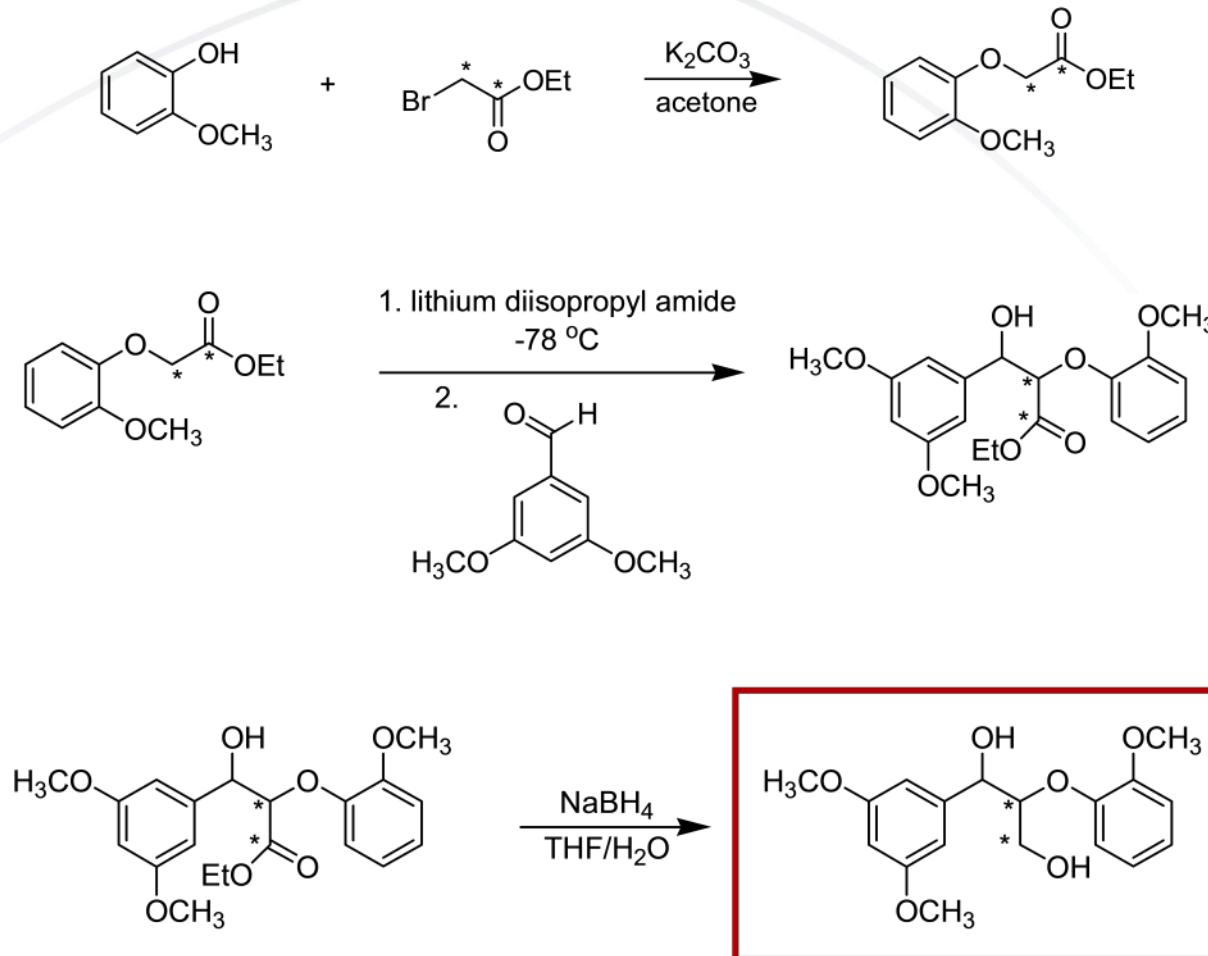


Multistep synthesis  
from <sup>13</sup>CO



<sup>13</sup>C labels allow for rapid  
product identification

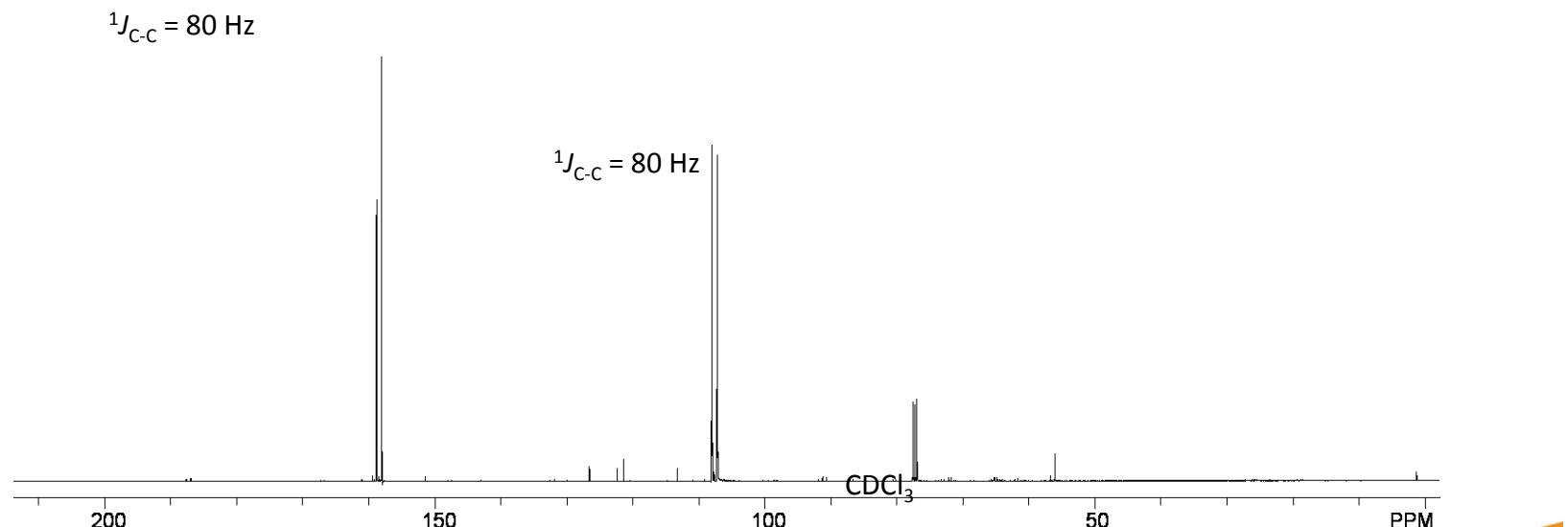
# Successful Synthesis of Labeled Compounds



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

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

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



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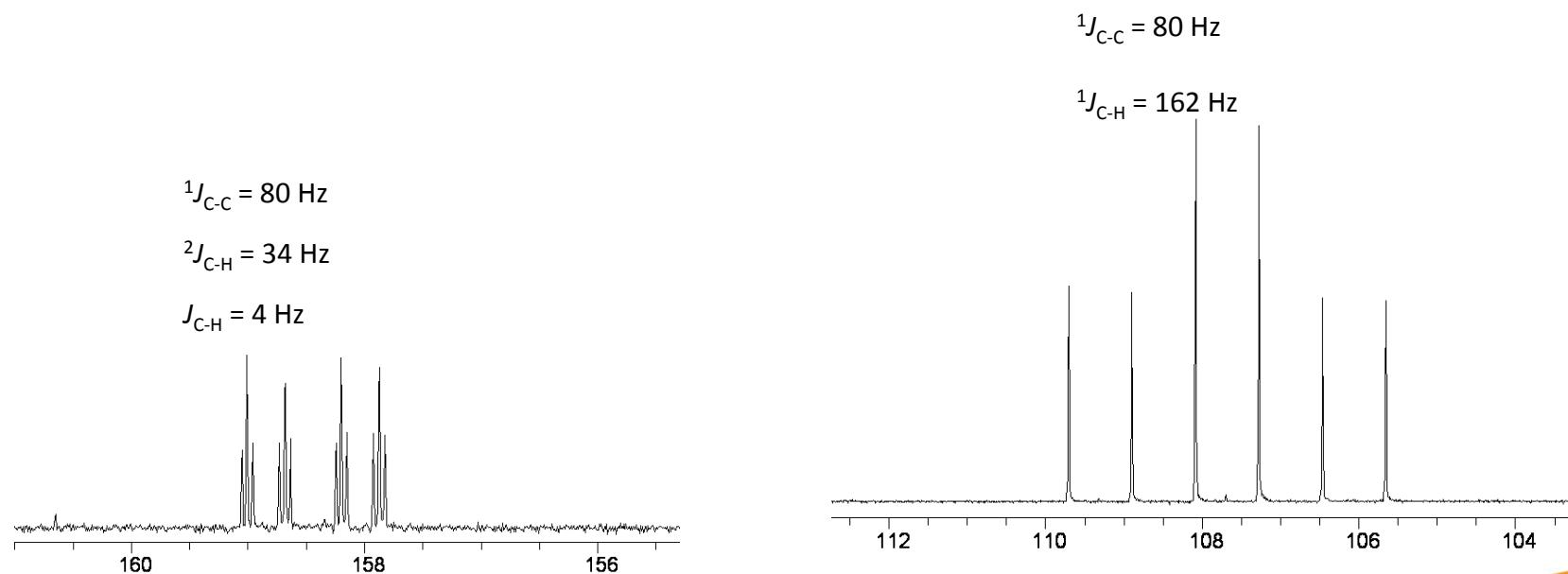


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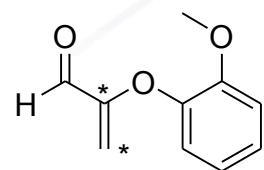
# Proton-Carbon Coupling Provides Additional Insight into Molecular Structure

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

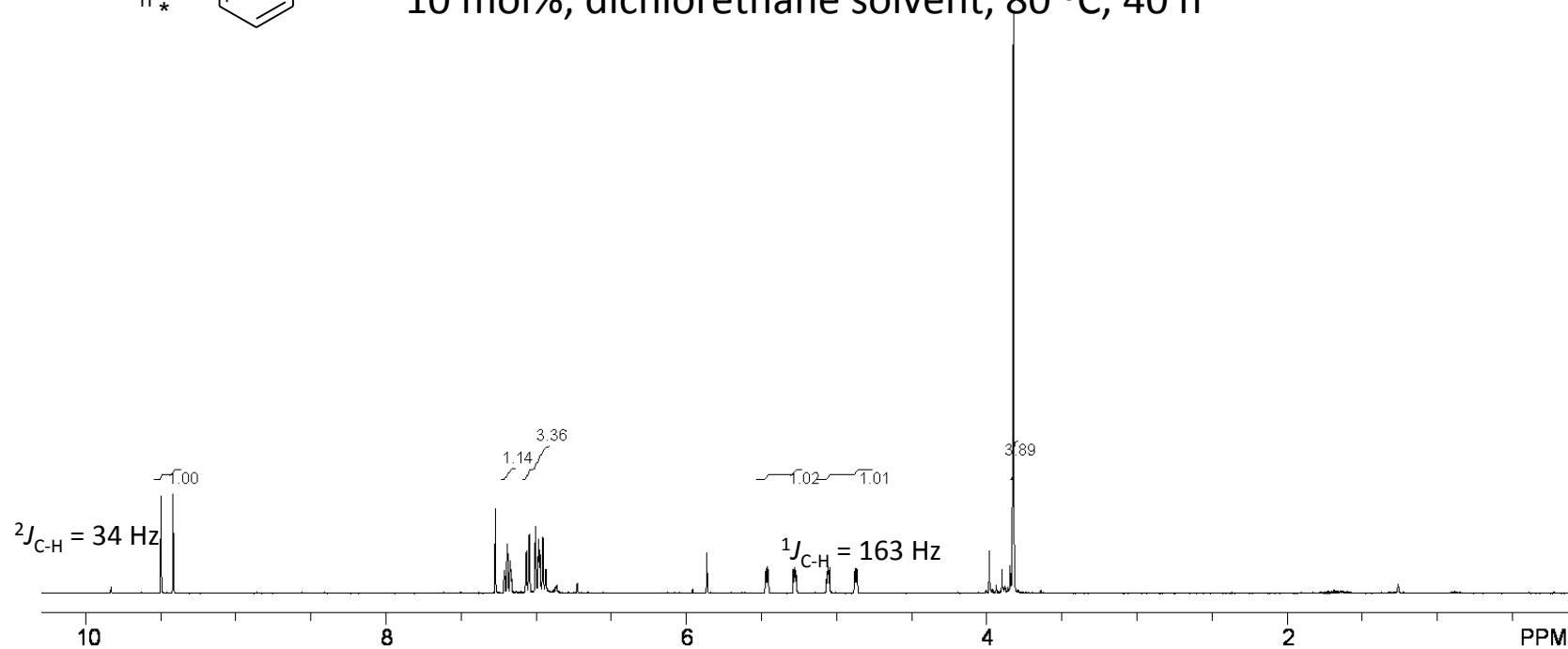


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# A Unique C-C Bond Fission Product

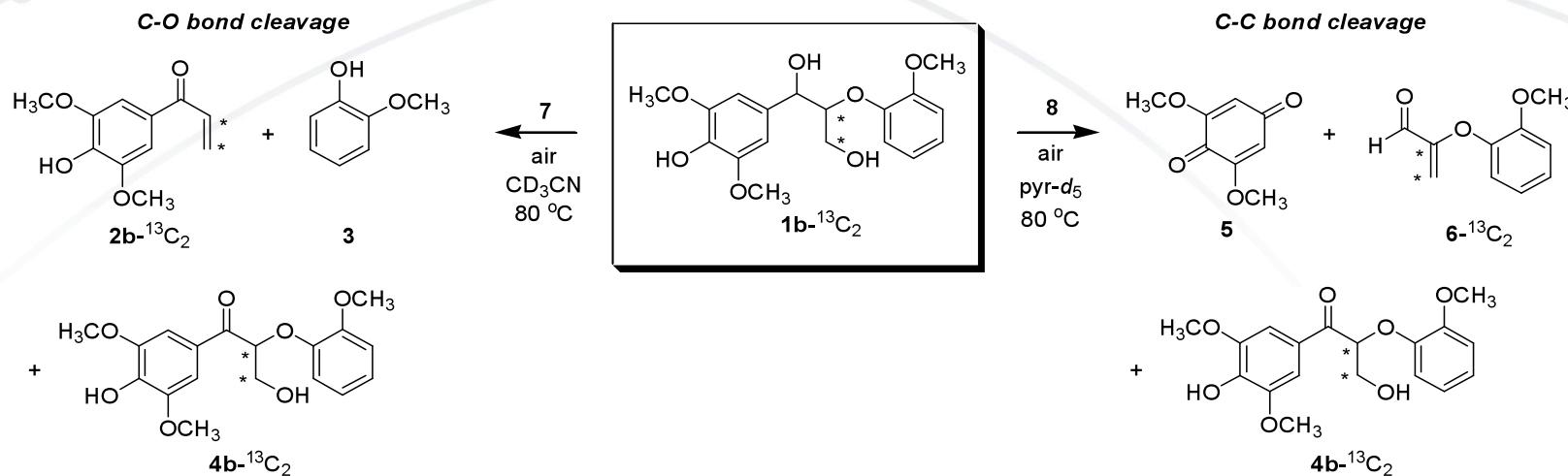


Oxidation of phenolic lignin model  $(HQ)_2V(O)O^iPr$  5 mol%,  $NEt_3$  10 mol%, dichlorethane solvent,  $80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , 40 h



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# Selectivity of Lignin Model Oxidations

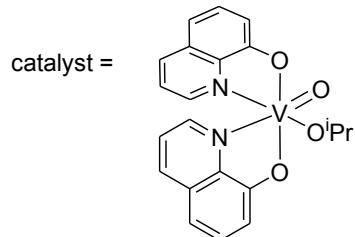
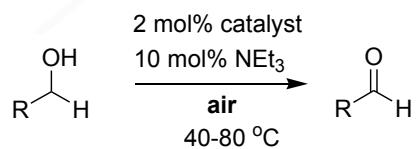


In conclusion, we have found that quinolinate complex oxidatively breaks the  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{-C}_{\text{aryl}}$  bond in lignin model compound **1b**. This  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{-C}_{\text{aryl}}$  bond cleavage is a new reaction mode for vanadium, and has only previously been documented for 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.*

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# Expansion of the Scope of the Project



-effective for benzylic, allylic, and propargylic alcohols

substrate	product	% yield
		92
	$\text{R} = \text{H} \quad \text{X} = \text{H}$ $\text{R} = \text{H} \quad \text{X} = \text{OCH}_3$ $\text{R} = \text{H} \quad \text{X} = \text{NO}_2$	96 96
	$\text{X} = \text{H} \quad \text{R} = \text{Ph}$ $\text{X} = \text{H} \quad \text{R} = \text{CH}_3$ $\text{X} = \text{H} \quad \text{R} = \text{cyclopropyl}$ $\text{X} = \text{H} \quad \text{R} = \text{iPr}$ $\text{X} = \text{H} \quad \text{R} = \text{iBu}$	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%  $\text{NEt}_3$ , 1,2-dichloroethane solvent, 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ , 24 h. <sup>a</sup> = 80  $^\circ\text{C}$ ; <sup>b</sup> = 100  $^\circ\text{C}$ , dichlorobenzene solvent; <sup>c</sup> = 48 h; <sup>d</sup> = 72 h; <sup>f</sup> = 1 equivalent  $\text{NEt}_3$ .

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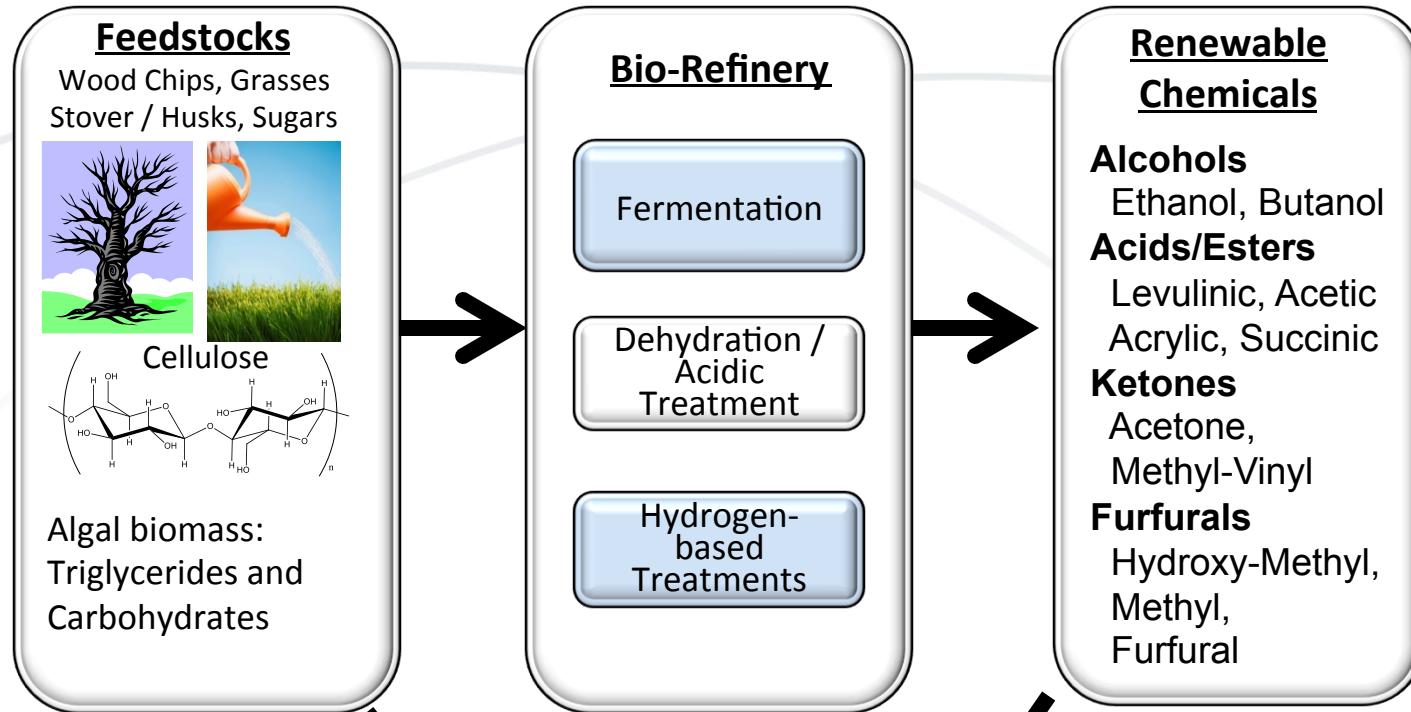


Key Application Areas	Fibers & Nonwovens	Adhesives (Hot Melt and PSA)	Films	Molded Parts	Blow Molded Bottles	Key Chemicals		
<b>Bio-based options in Market</b>	Natural Fibers, PLA, Cellulosics	Natural Rubber-based	TPS Blends, PLA, Cellulosics,	TPS Blends, cellulosics, Nylon 11	PLA	None	~35% of today's 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 mats, 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 = polyhydroxyalcanoates  
 PDO = propane diol

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

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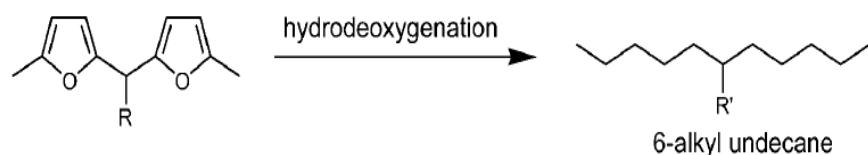
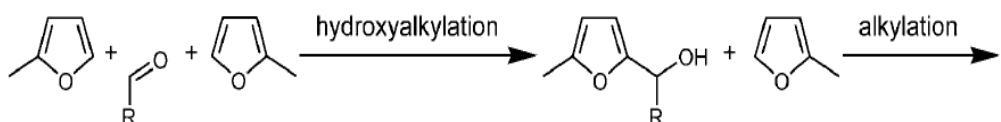


## Hydrocarbon Fuels and Advanced Chemical Feedstocks

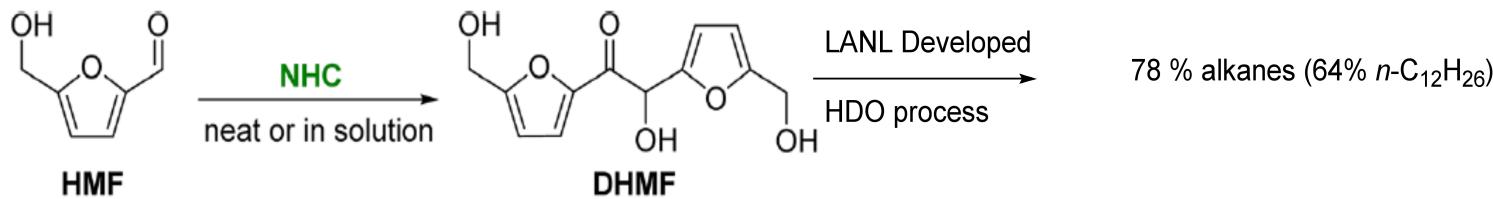
\* Companies such as xF were accessing furanics and levulinates from raw non-food based biomass with about ~10x decrease in current costs.

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

# Current state-of-the-Art



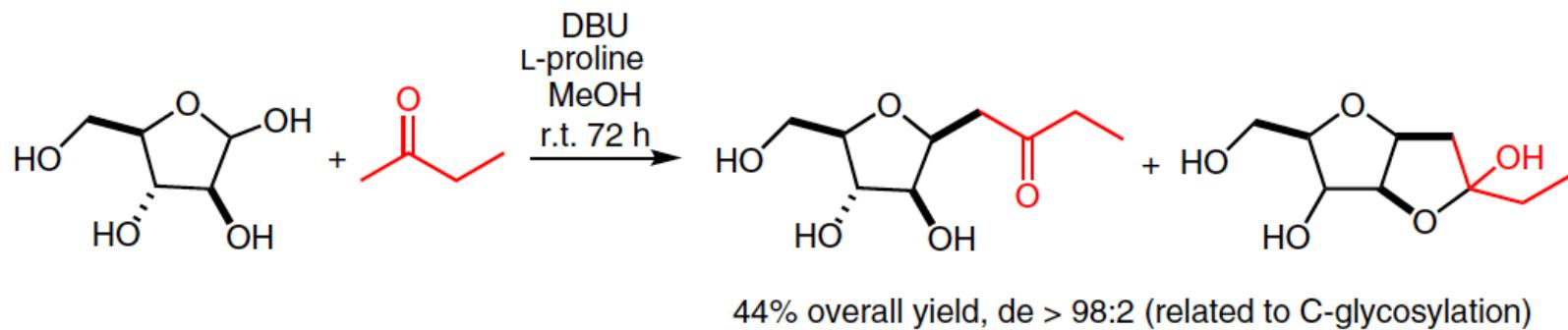
“Production of High-Quality Diesel From Biomass Waste Products,” Corma *et al.* *Angew Chem.* **2013**, *50*, 2375.



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

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## Current state-of-the-Art



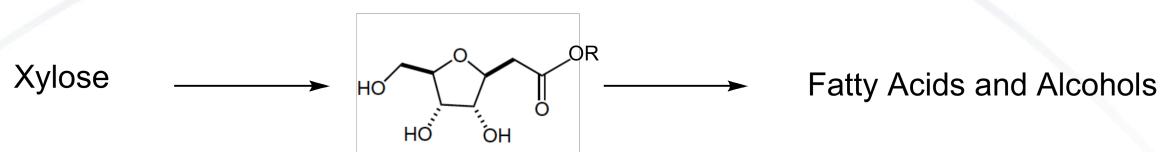
Unprotected carbohydrates were reacted in amine-catalyzed cascade reactions with various methyl ketones to give a direct access to C-glycosides by an operationally simple protocol. As the reaction mechanism, an aldol condensation followed by an intramolecular conjugate addition is assumed.

### 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.

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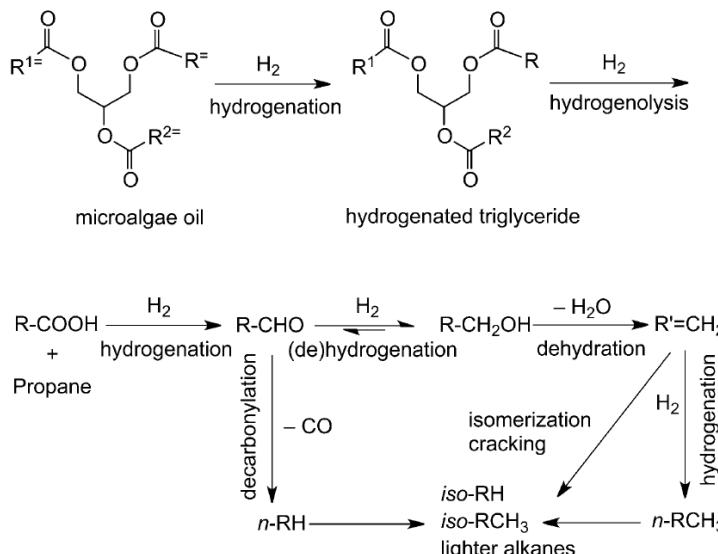
## LANL Approach (Group B11 and C-Div)



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

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



Lercher, 2012

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

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## 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.

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