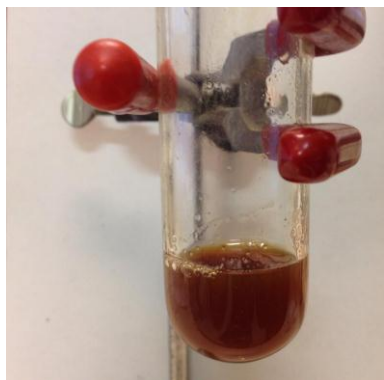


## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Lignin coating to quench photocatalytic activity of titanium dioxide nanoparticles for potential skincare applications**

*By Michela Morsella, Maria Giammatteo, Lorenzo Arrizza, Lucia Tonucci, Mario Bressan and Nicola d'Alessandro\**

a)

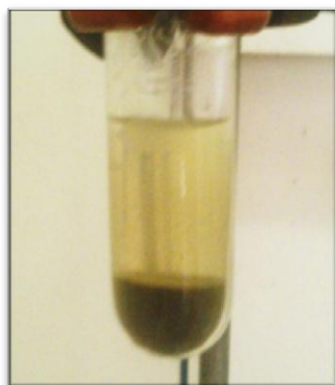


b)



Figure S1: Solution of alkali lignin in a) ethylene glycol and in b) alkaline water.

a)



b)

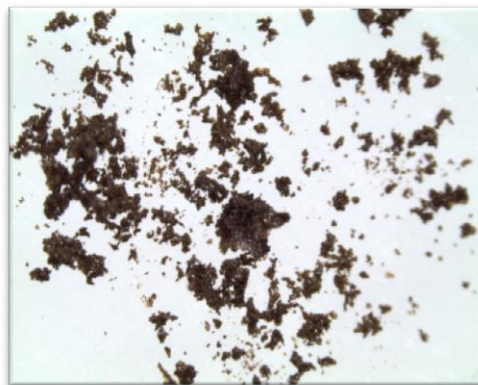
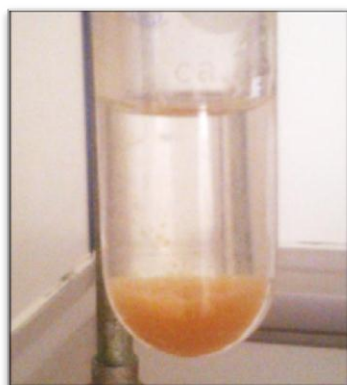


Figure S2: (a) Suspension of clusters 1-A (with rutile) in glass tube; (b) light microscope picture of clusters 1-A powder made with rutile (2x of magnification)

a)



b)



Figure S3: (a) Suspension of clusters 1-B (with rutile) in glass tube; (b) light microscope picture of clusters 1-B powder made with rutile (2x of magnification)

a)



b)



Figure S4: (a) Suspension of clusters 1-A (with anatase) in glass tube; (b) light microscope picture of clusters 1-A powder made with anatase (2x of magnification)



Figure S5: (a) Suspension of clusters 1-B (with anatase) in glass tube; (b) light microscope picture of clusters 1-B powder made with anatase (2x of magnification)

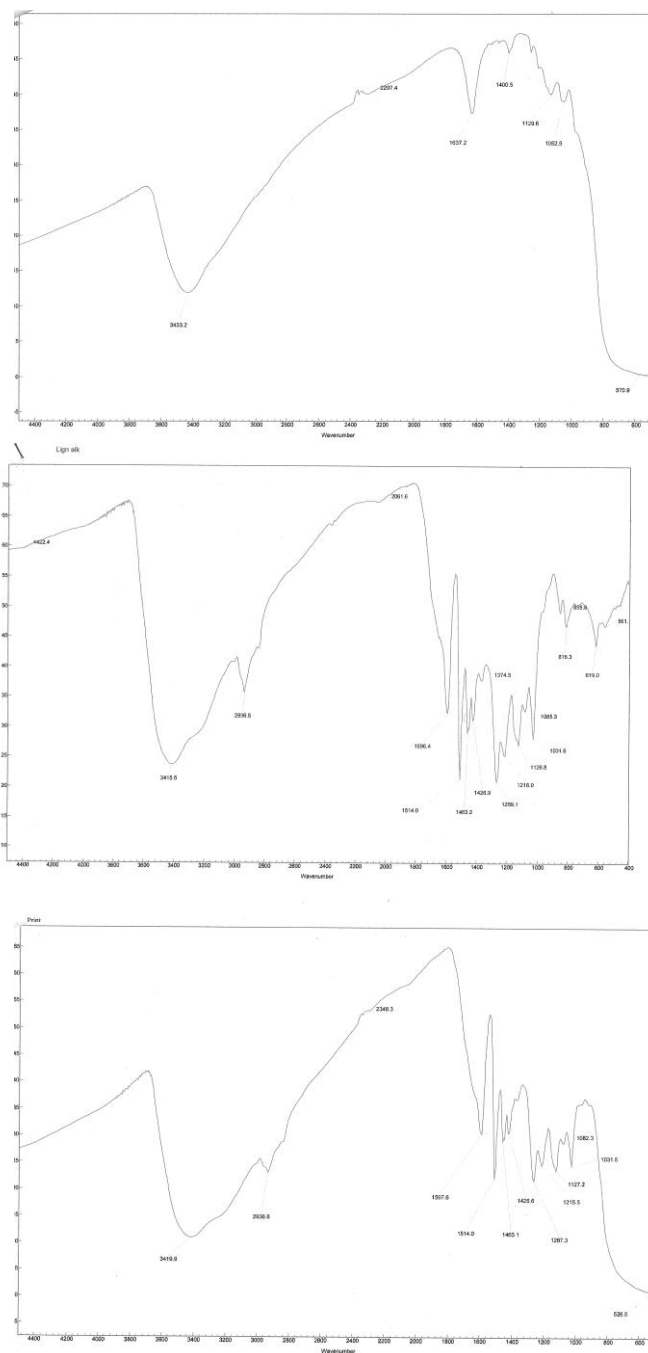
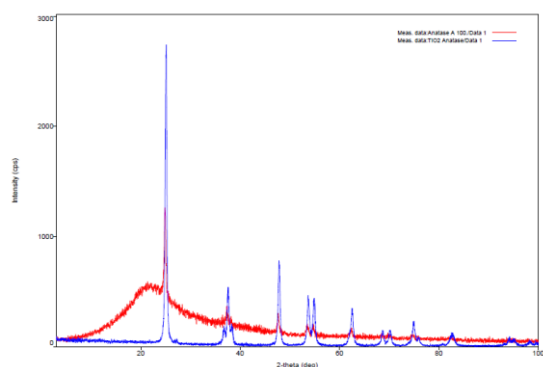
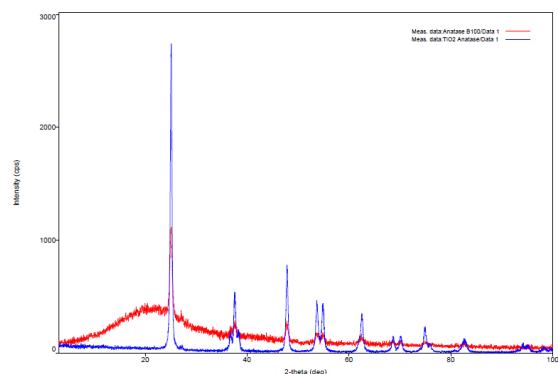


Figure S6: Representative IR spectra of TiO<sub>2</sub> alone (top), lignin alone (middle) and the TiO<sub>2</sub>-lignin mixture(bottom).

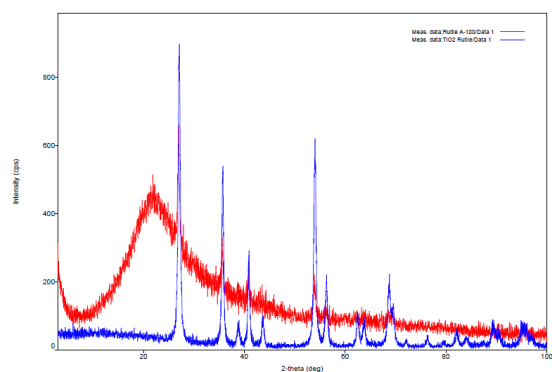
a)



b)



c)



d)

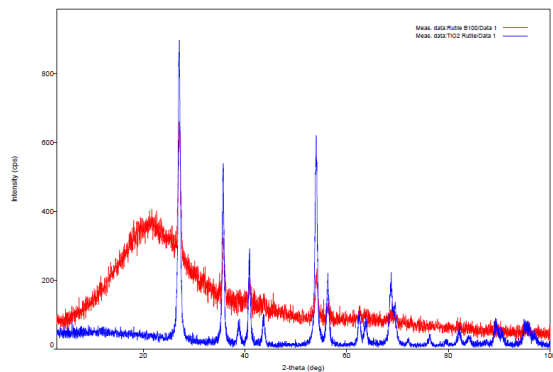


Figure S7: XRD overlap between a) A clusters (red)/TiO<sub>2</sub> anatase (blue) b) B clusters (red)/TiO<sub>2</sub> anatase (blue) c) A clusters (red)/TiO<sub>2</sub> rutile (blue) d) B clusters (red)/TiO<sub>2</sub> rutile (blue)

a)

| No. | 2-theta<br>(deg) | d<br>(ang.) | Height<br>(counts) | FWHM<br>(deg) | Int. I(cal)<br>(counts/deg) | Int. I(obs)<br>(counts/deg) | Asym.<br>factor | Decay rate factor<br>eta LmL eta Hm | Size<br>(ang.) | Phase data name |         |
|-----|------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1   | 25.07(4)         | 3.548(15)   | 862(29)            | 0.388(3)      | 432(2)                      | 432(2)                      | 1.21(5)         | 0.528(18)                           | 0.60(2)        | 220.436         | Anatase |
| 2   | 36.74(3)         | 2.444(2)    | 42(8)              | 0.51(4)       | 27.0(16)                    | 27.0(16)                    | 1.2(3)          | 0.58(10)                            | 0.47(10)       | 171.888         | Anatase |
| 3   | 37.85(2)         | 2.362(3)    | 169(13)            | 0.422(15)     | 91(3)                       | 91(3)                       | 0.96(15)        | 0.58(10)                            | 0.47(10)       | 207.905         | Anatase |
| 4   | 38.34(3)         | 2.3456(1)   | 46(7)              | 0.51(5)       | 32(3)                       | 32(3)                       | 1.5(4)          | 0.58(10)                            | 0.47(10)       | 172.306         | Anatase |
| 5   | 47.22(3)         | 1.9205(4)   | 220(18)            | 0.431(8)      | 142.3(13)                   | 142.3(13)                   | 1.11(10)        | 0.55(5)                             | 0.55(5)        | 210.790         | Anatase |
| 6   | 53.219(1)        | 1.7091(4)   | 135(12)            | 0.528(13)     | 68.3(15)                    | 68.0(15)                    | 0.95(10)        | 0.59(5)                             | 0.73(7)        | 175.688         | Anatase |
| 7   | 54.873(1)        | 1.6717(4)   | 139(12)            | 0.468(14)     | 88.3(15)                    | 88.3(15)                    | 1.30(15)        | 0.56(5)                             | 0.78(7)        | 169.859         | Anatase |
| 8   | 62.444(1)        | 1.4880(1)   | 118(11)            | 0.461(13)     | 96.2(11)                    | 96.2(11)                    | 0.70(3)         | 1.55(4)                             | 0.72(4)        | 167.594         | Anatase |
| 9   | 68.54(2)         | 1.3878(4)   | 42(8)              | 0.53(3)       | 28.2(9)                     | 28.2(9)                     | 0.80(11)        | 1.10(18)                            | 0.68(8)        | 188.507         | Anatase |
| 10  | 70.08(3)         | 1.3416(5)   | 43(7)              | 0.60(3)       | 34.5(9)                     | 34.5(9)                     | 0.75(18)        | 1.10(18)                            | 0.68(8)        | 169.78          | Anatase |
| 11  | 74.85(3)         | 1.2875(5)   | 66(8)              | 0.57(6)       | 72.5(14)                    | 72.5(14)                    | 0.8(2)          | 1.1(2)                              | 1.43(14)       | 182.667         | Anatase |
| 12  | 82.80(4)         | 1.1671(5)   | 31(8)              | 1.06(3)       | 37.3(10)                    | 37.3(10)                    | 1.01(14)        | 0.32(11)                            | 0.00(10)       | 104.432         | Anatase |
| 13  | 94.18(8)         | 1.0517(6)   | 15(4)              | 0.48(8)       | 9.0(17)                     | 9.0(17)                     | 3.0(14)         | 0.58(16)                            | 0.0(3)         | 254.975         | Anatase |
| 14  | 95.10(4)         | 1.0430(4)   | 14(4)              | 1.04(17)      | 17.8(18)                    | 17.8(18)                    | 2.1(16)         | 0.58(16)                            | 0.0(3)         | 118.294         | Anatase |
| 15  | 98.28(13)        | 1.0188(1)   | 9(3)               | 0.58(11)      | 5.4(8)                      | 5.4(8)                      | 1.5(14)         | 0.0(6)                              | 0.0(10)        | 214.857         | Anatase |

b)

| No. | 2-theta<br>(deg) | d<br>(ang.) | H<br>(counts) | FWHM<br>(deg) | Int. I(cal)<br>(counts/deg) | Int. I(obs)<br>(counts/deg) | Asym.<br>factor | Decay rate factor<br>eta LmL eta Hm | Size<br>(ang.) | Phase data name |        |
|-----|------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1   | 27.000(9)        | 3.2624(18)  | 282(17)       | 0.481(7)      | 185.2(15)                   | 185.2(15)                   | 0.58(9)         | 0.75(5)                             | 0.71(4)        | 175.278         | Rutile |
| 2   | 35.676(1)        | 2.5143(13)  | 168(13)       | 0.362(13)     | 80.0(14)                    | 80.0(14)                    | 0.78(13)        | 0.83(12)                            | 0.45(8)        | 222.212         | Rutile |
| 3   | 38.88(5)         | 2.316(3)    | 16(4)         | 0.56(4)       | 8.3(8)                      | 8.3(8)                      | 1.1(4)          | 0.0(4)                              | 0.0(4)         | 168.686         | Rutile |
| 4   | 40.85(2)         | 2.229(2)    | 81(9)         | 0.412(17)     | 43.5(10)                    | 43.5(10)                    | 0.94(15)        | 0.83(14)                            | 0.54(11)       | 215.114         | Rutile |
| 5   | 43.586(1)        | 2.0748(22)  | 22(5)         | 0.53(3)       | 13.5(6)                     | 13.5(6)                     | 0.59(8)         | 0.83(16)                            | 0.00(15)       | 168.878         | Rutile |
| 6   | 54.014(1)        | 1.6923(4)   | 191(14)       | 0.482(12)     | 130.3(13)                   | 130.3(13)                   | 1.4(2)          | 0.67(5)                             | 0.85(10)       | 182.041         | Rutile |
| 7   | 58.126(1)        | 1.6355(3)   | 84(8)         | 0.416(15)     | 37.8(9)                     | 37.8(9)                     | 0.40(3)         | 1.54(17)                            | 0.28(8)        | 228.118         | Rutile |
| 8   | 62.40(8)         | 1.4889(1)   | 22(5)         | 0.78(8)       | 31.3(15)                    | 31.3(15)                    | 0.93(18)        | 0.3(3)                              | 1.55(16)       | 134.028         | Rutile |
| 9   | 68.762(1)        | 1.3835(3)   | 51(7)         | 0.54(3)       | 33(8)                       | 33(8)                       | 5(4)            | 0.02(7)                             | 1.3(3)         | 185.182         | Rutile |
| 10  | 87.804(1)        | 1.3469(3)   | 33(8)         | 0.8(2)        | 32(7)                       | 32(7)                       | 4.0(15)         | 0.02(7)                             | 1.3(3)         | 125.389         | Rutile |
| 11  | 82.04(2)         | 1.1736(2)   | 15(4)         | 0.38(8)       | 9.8(7)                      | 9.8(7)                      | 0.5(3)          | 1.5(3)                              | 0.9(3)         | 291.982         | Rutile |
| 12  | 88.28(8)         | 1.0964(7)   | 19(4)         | 0.82(10)      | 16.3(18)                    | 16.3(18)                    | 0.7(3)          | 0.0(2)                              | 0.0(2)         | 141.882         | Rutile |
| 13  | 90.50(7)         | 1.0948(8)   | 10(3)         | 0.71(15)      | 7.2(15)                     | 7.2(15)                     | 1.1(13)         | 0.0(2)                              | 0.0(2)         | 166.75          | Rutile |
| 14  | 94.25(4)         | 1.0451(4)   | 15(4)         | 1.71(8)       | 28.2(11)                    | 28.2(11)                    | 0.28(4)         | 0.0(3)                              | 0.00(13)       | 71.7188         | Rutile |

Figure S8: XRD list peaks of TiO<sub>2</sub> anatase, a) and TiO<sub>2</sub> rutile, b)

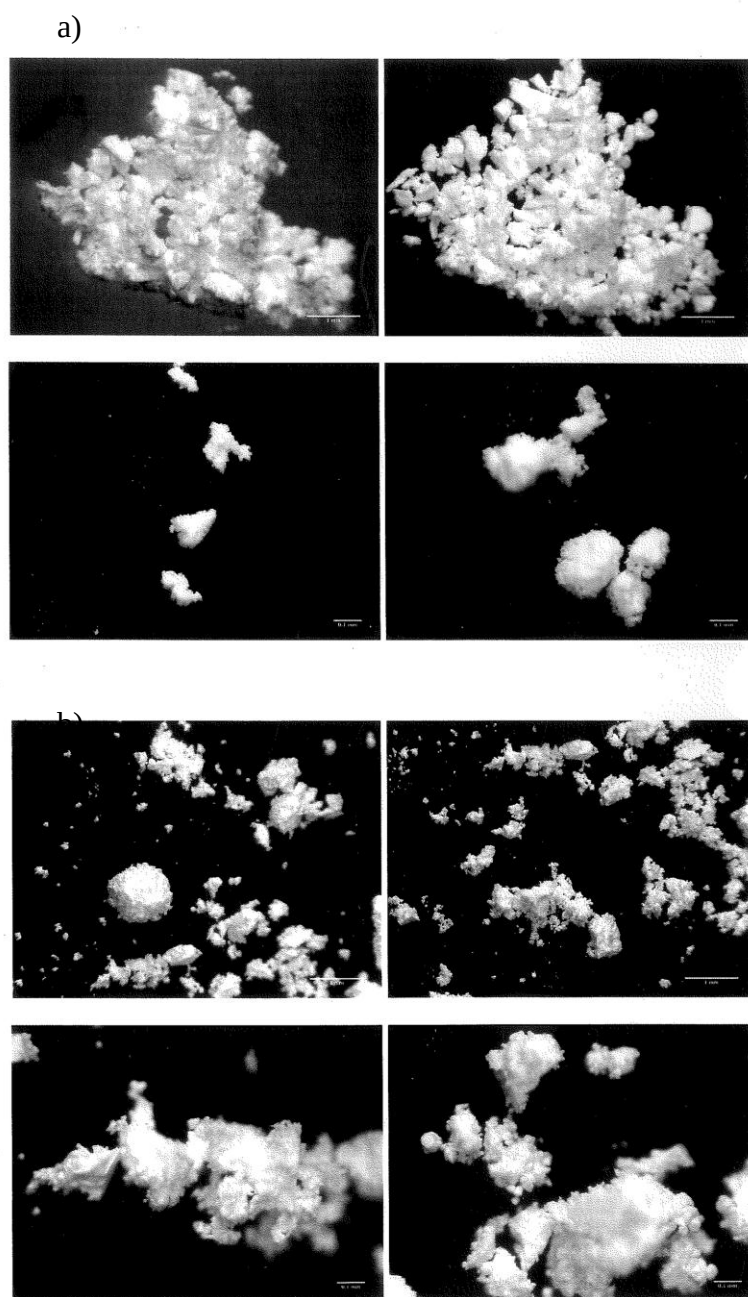


Figure S9: Light microscope images of  $\text{TiO}_2$  powder: a) anatase and b) rutile.



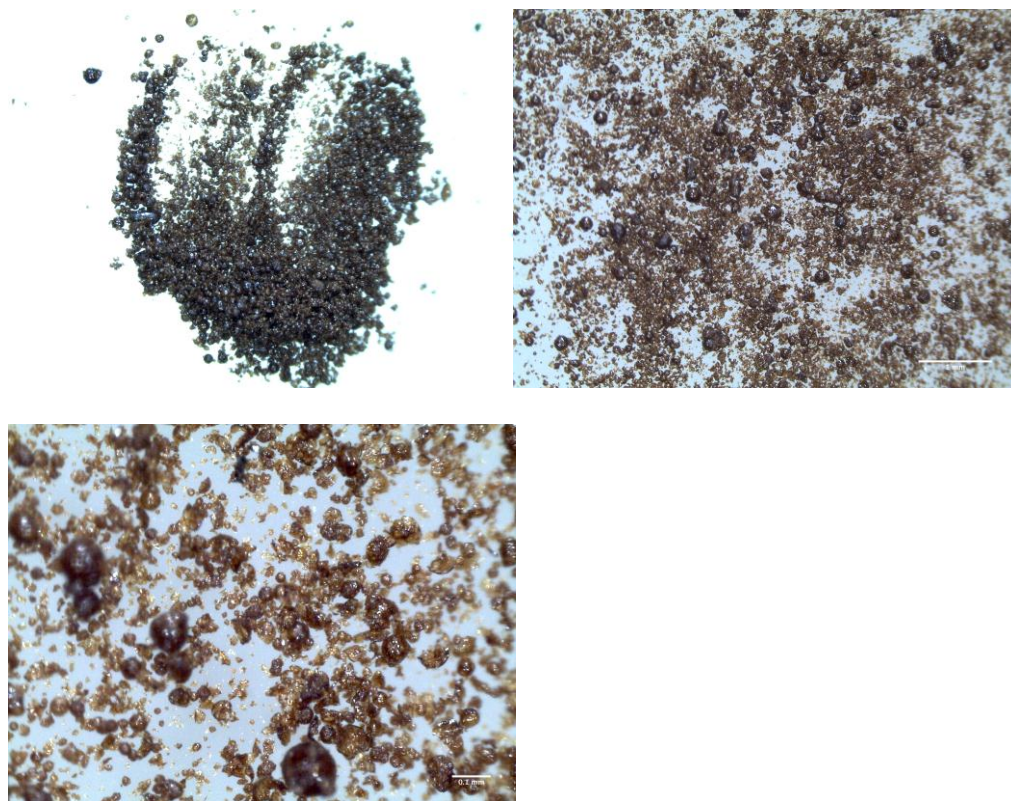


Figure S10: Light microscope image of alkali lignin powder.

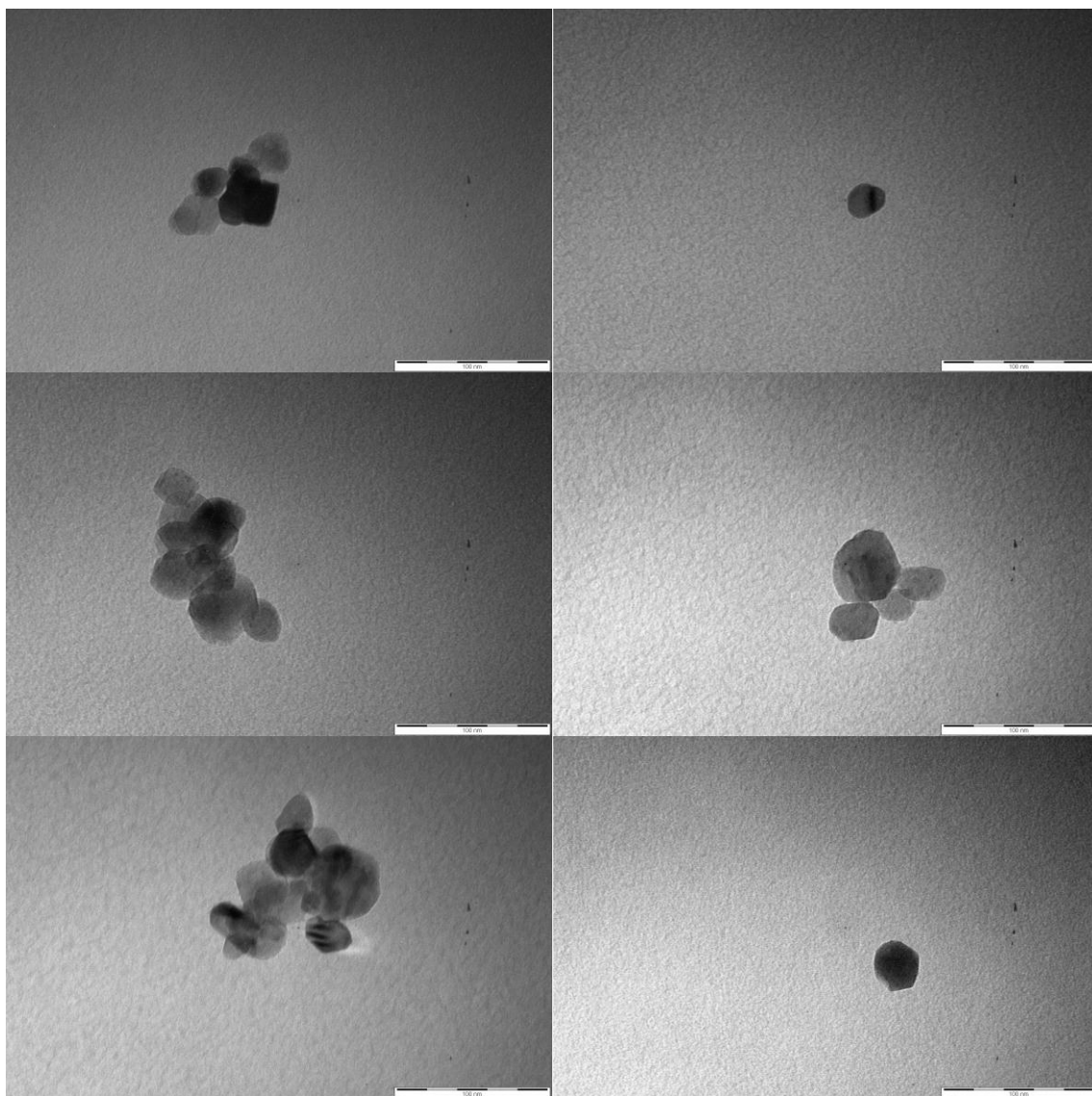


Figure S11: TEM images of TiO<sub>2</sub> anatase nanoparticles.

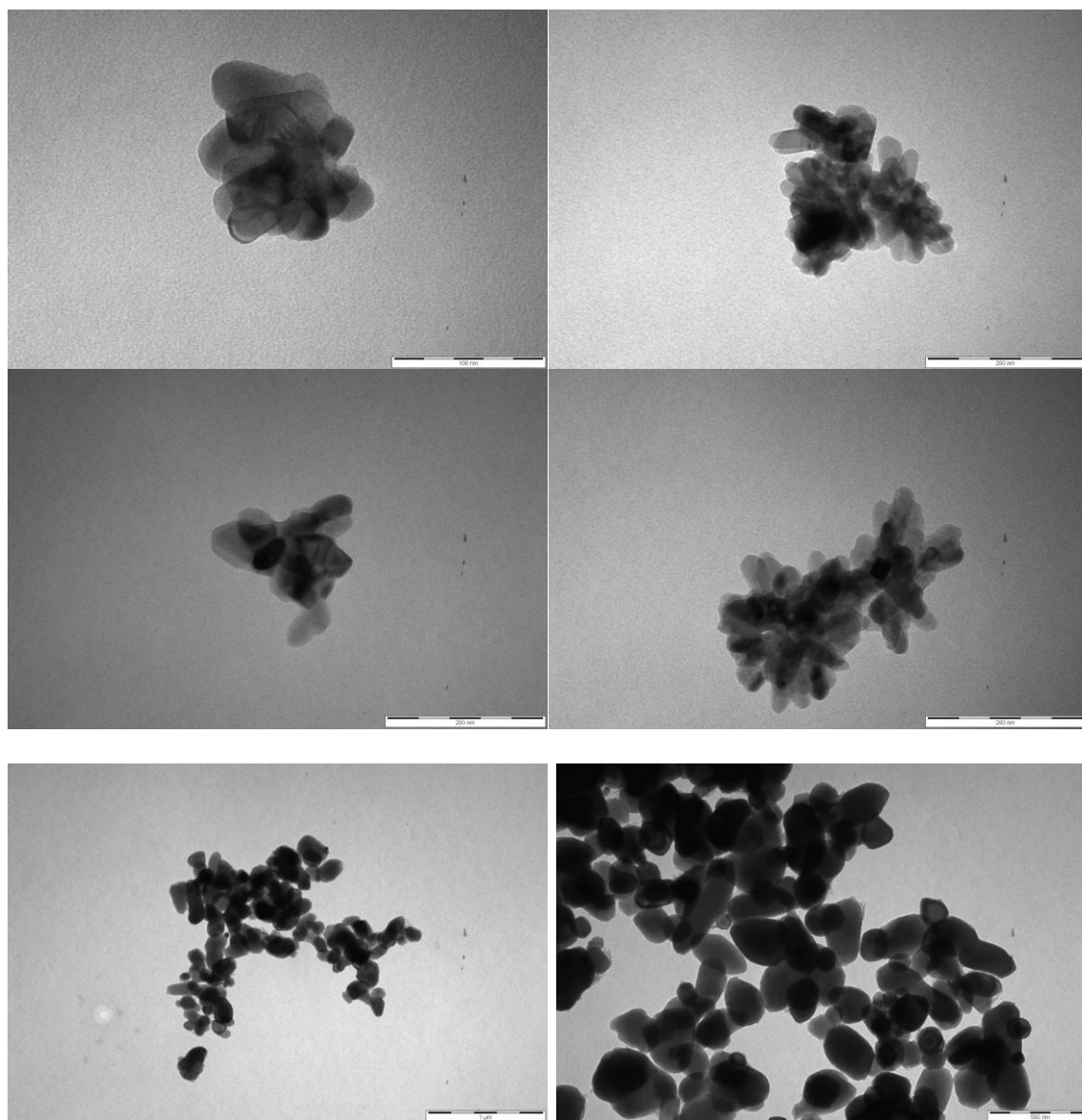


Figure S12: TEM images of TiO<sub>2</sub> rutile nanoparticles.

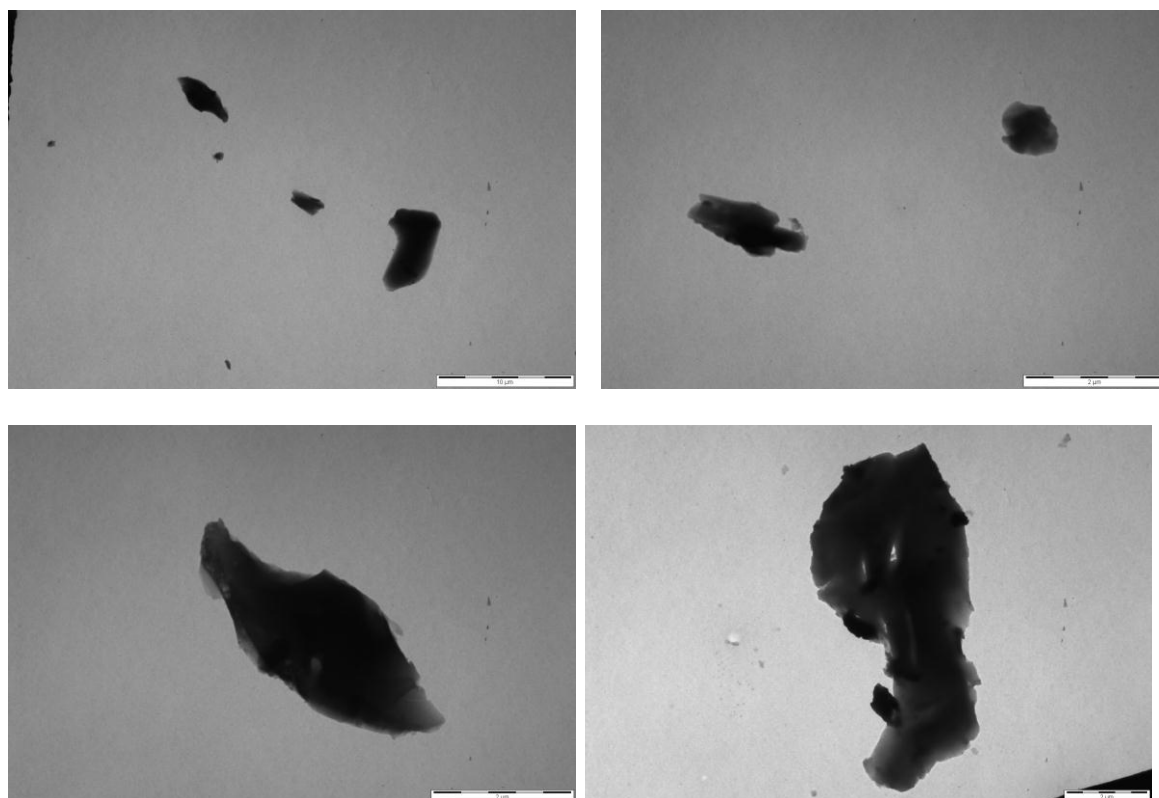


Figure S13: TEM images of alkali lignin.

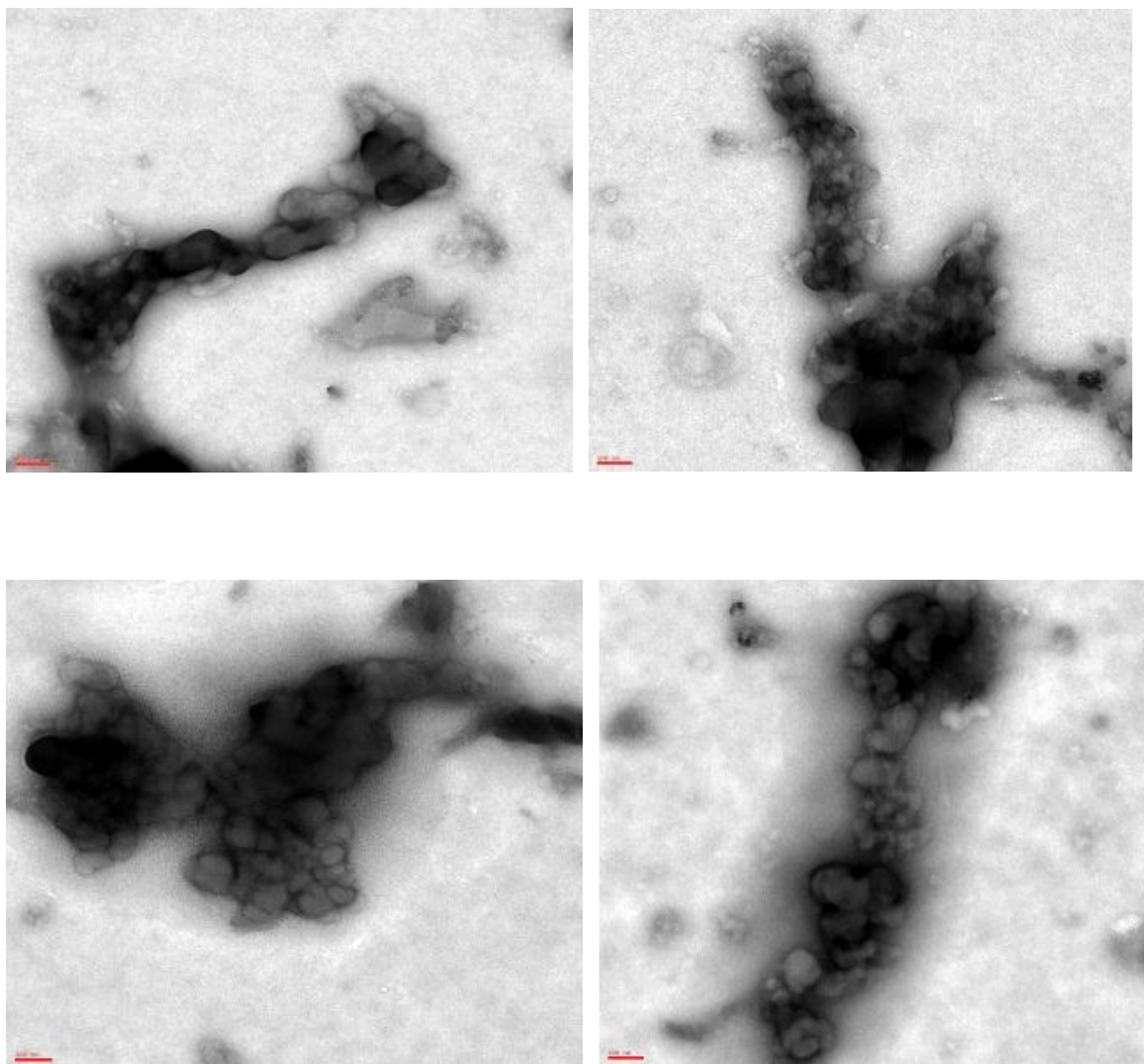


Figure S14: TEM images of clusters 1-A with TiO<sub>2</sub> rutile (bar 100 nm).



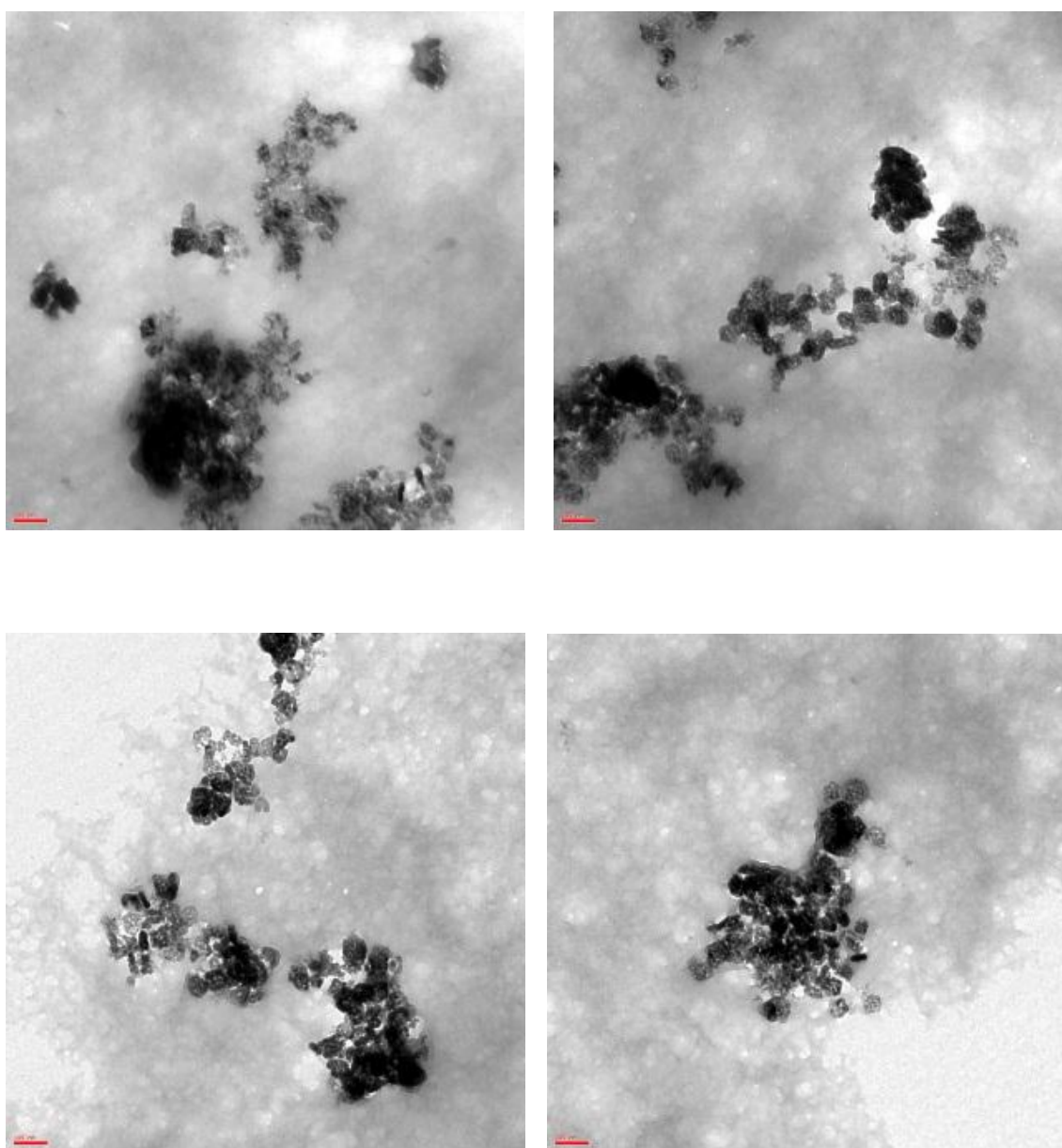


Figure S15: TEM images of clusters 1-B with TiO<sub>2</sub> rutile (bar 100 nm).

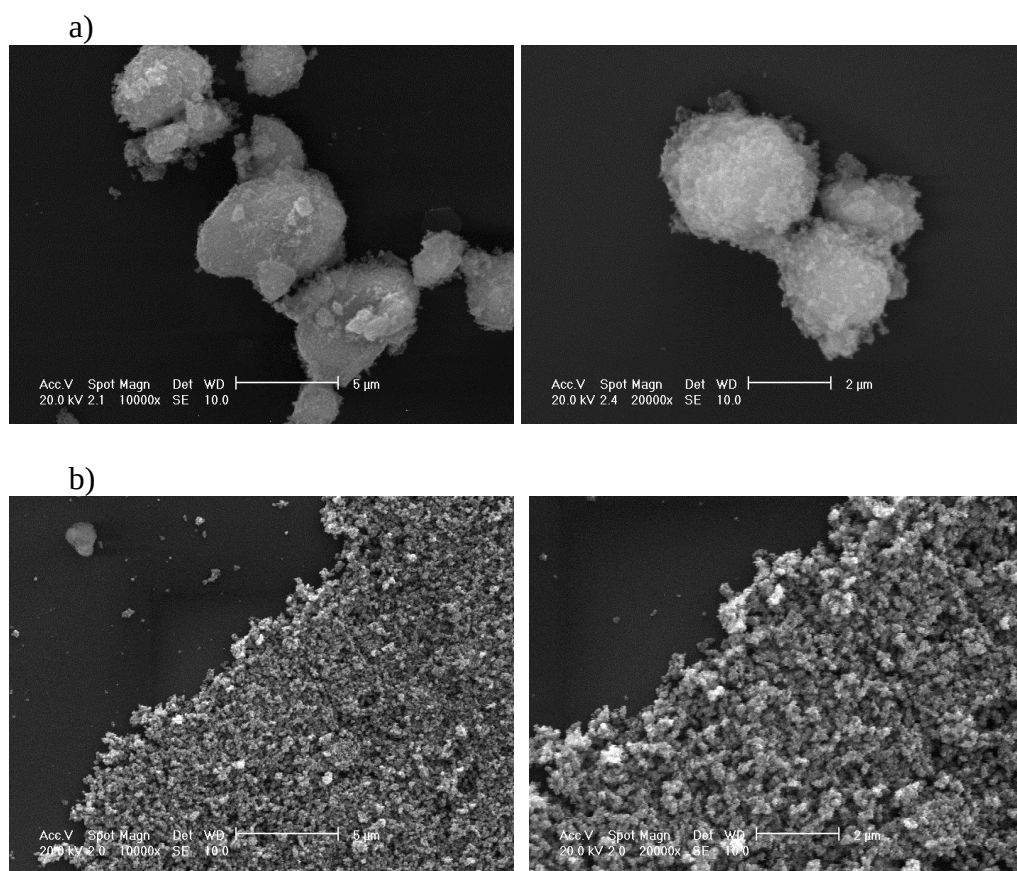


Figure S16: Representative SEM images of the anatase (a) and rutile (b) at different magnification

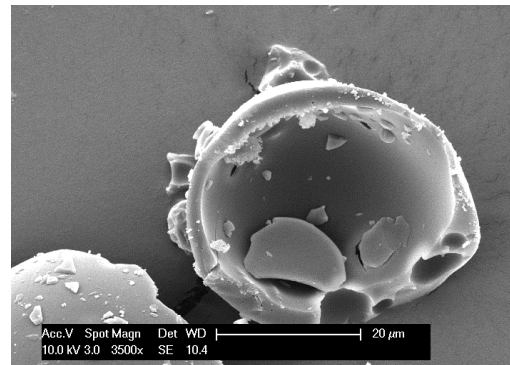
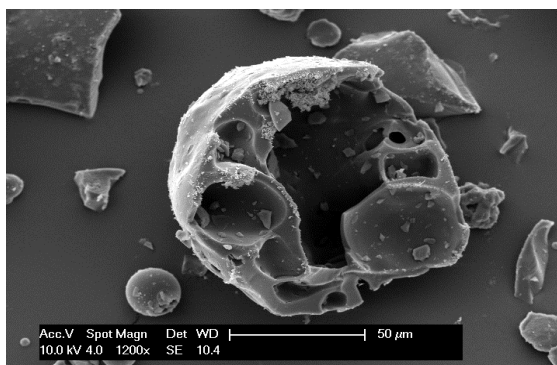
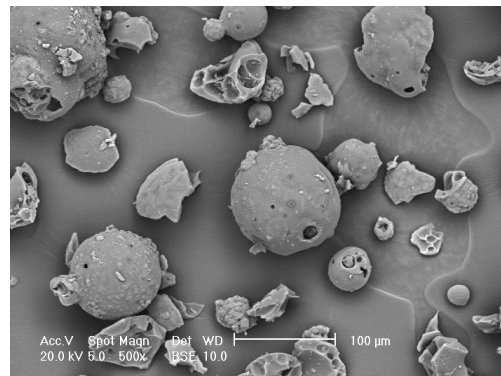
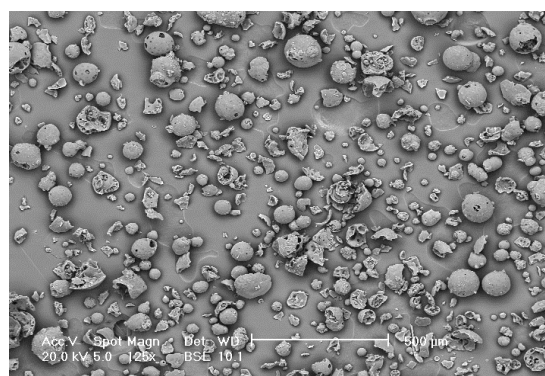


Figure S17: Representative SEM images of lignin acquired at different magnification, as indicated



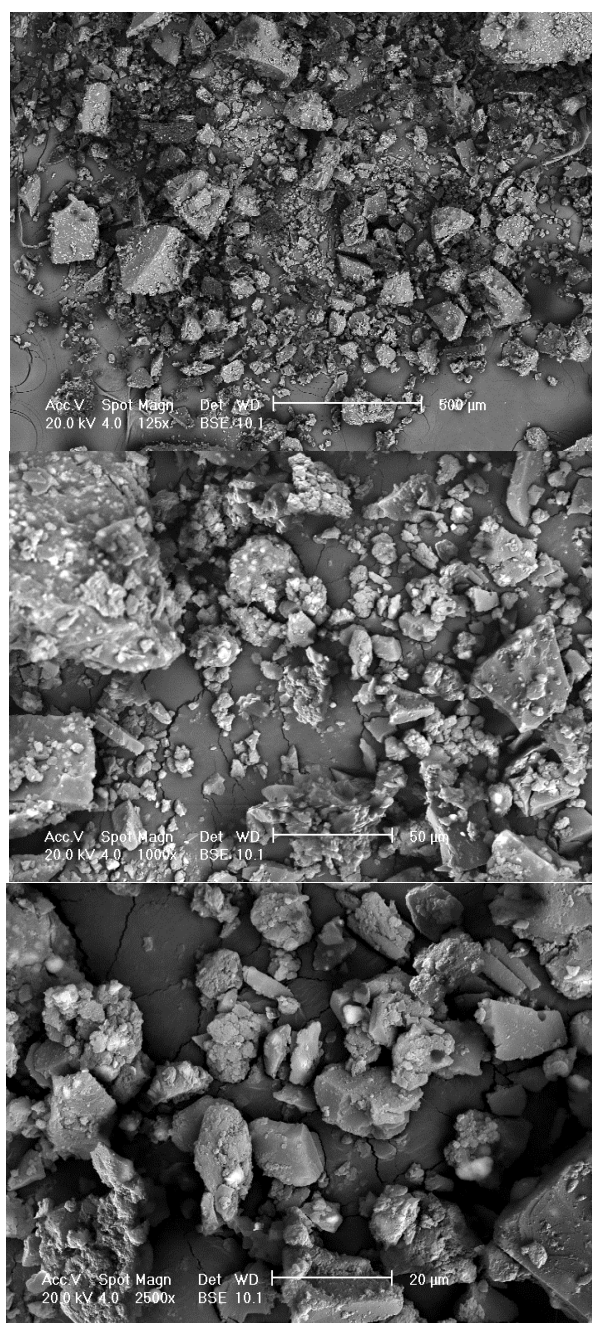


Figure S18: SEM images of cluster A containing anatase, acquired at different magnification

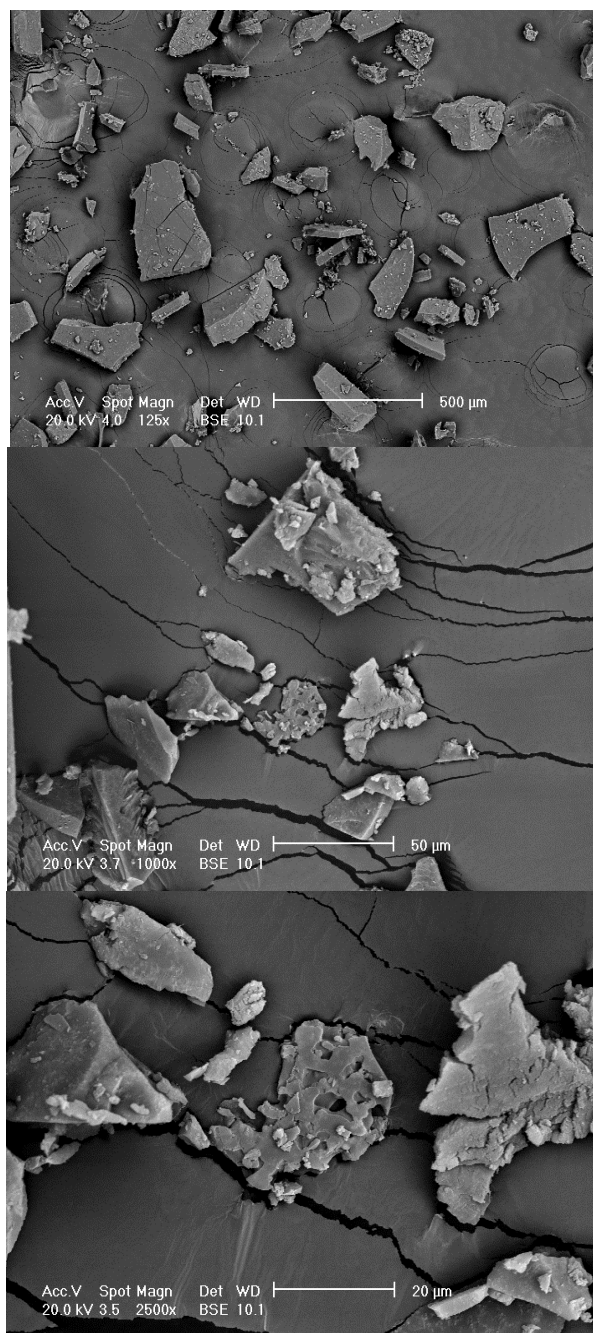


Figure S19: SEM images of cluster A containing rutile, acquired at different magnification

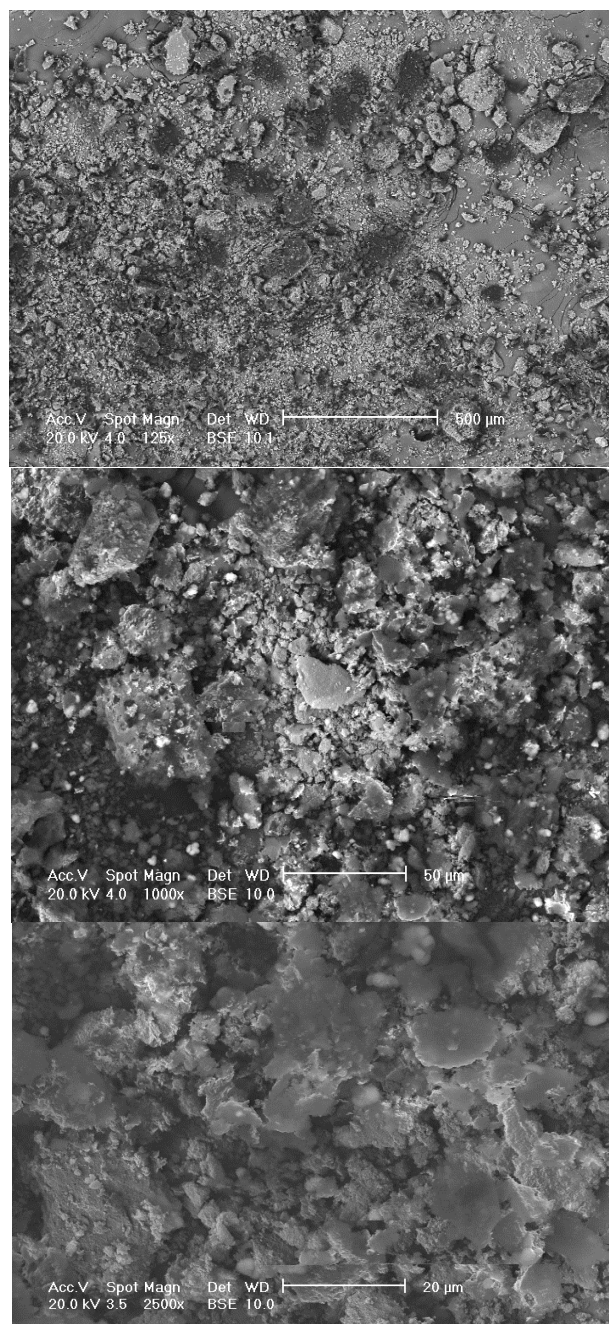


Figure S20: SEM images of cluster B containing anatase, acquired at different magnification

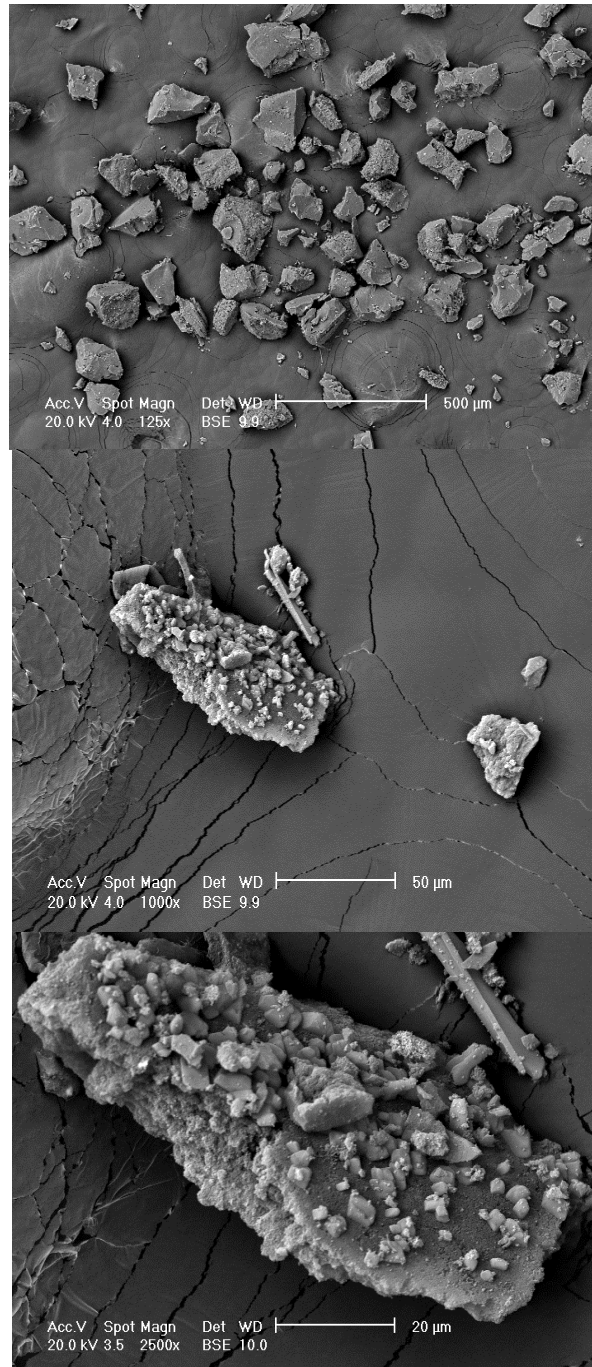


Figure S21: SEM images of cluster B containing rutile, acquired at different magnification

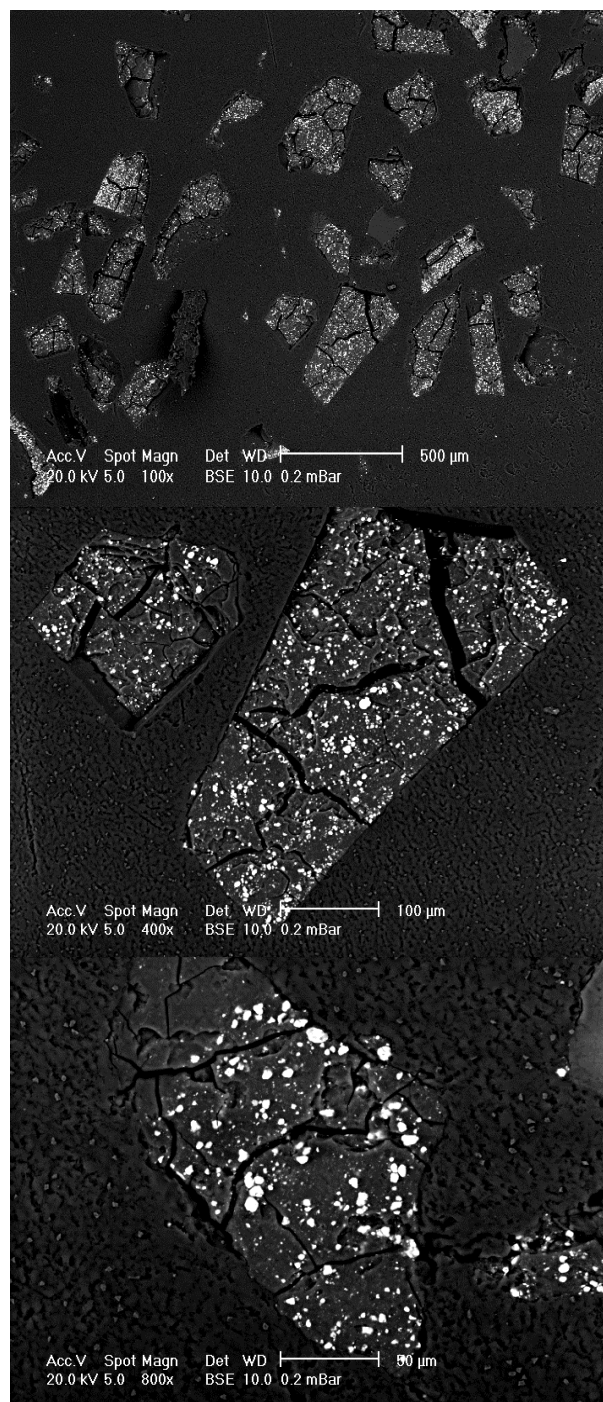


Figure S22: Polished sample, cluster A with anatase

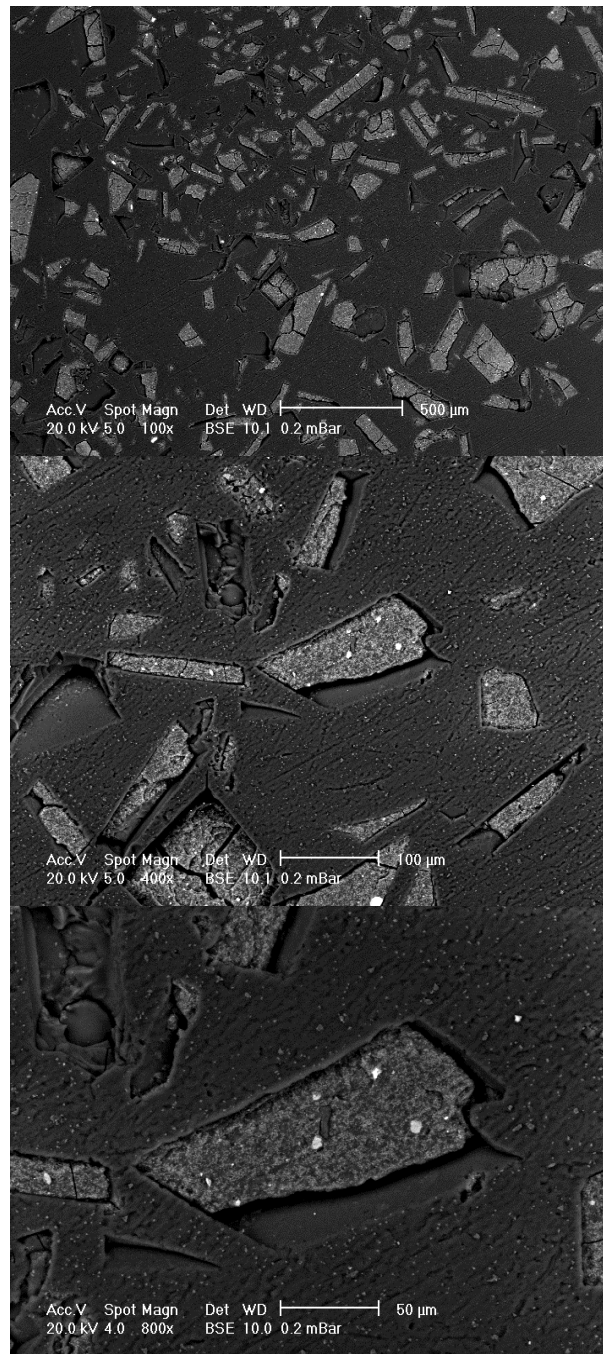


Figure S23: Polished sample, cluster A with rutile

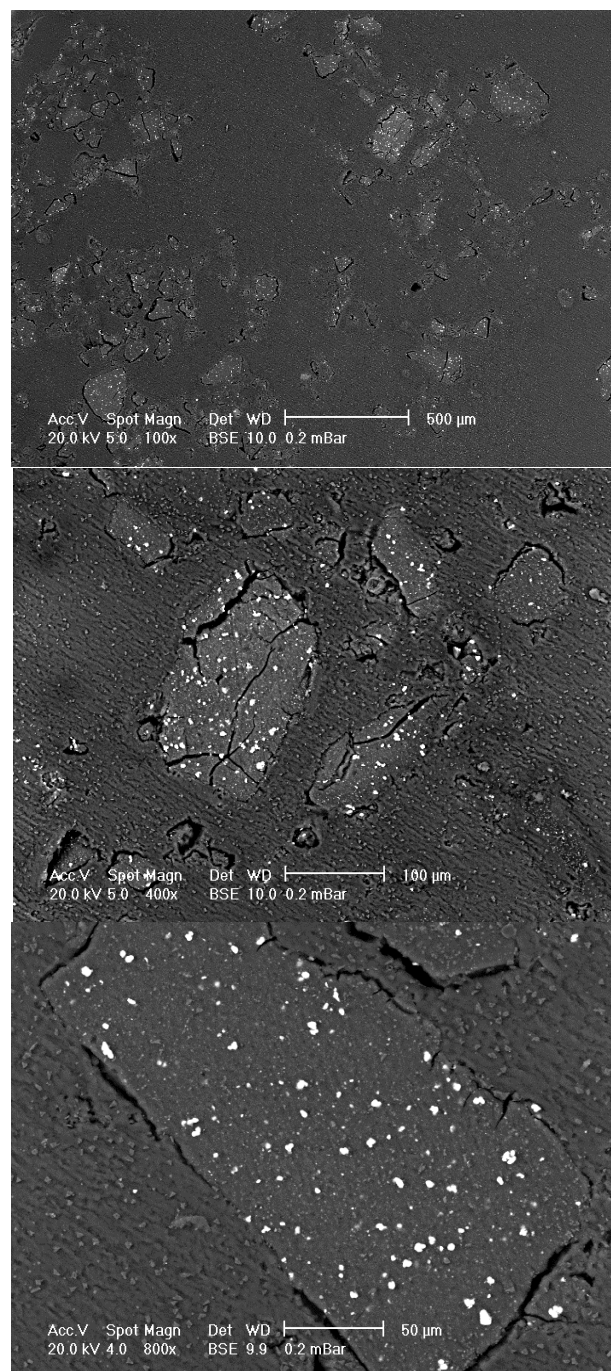


Figure S24: Polished sample, cluster B with anatase



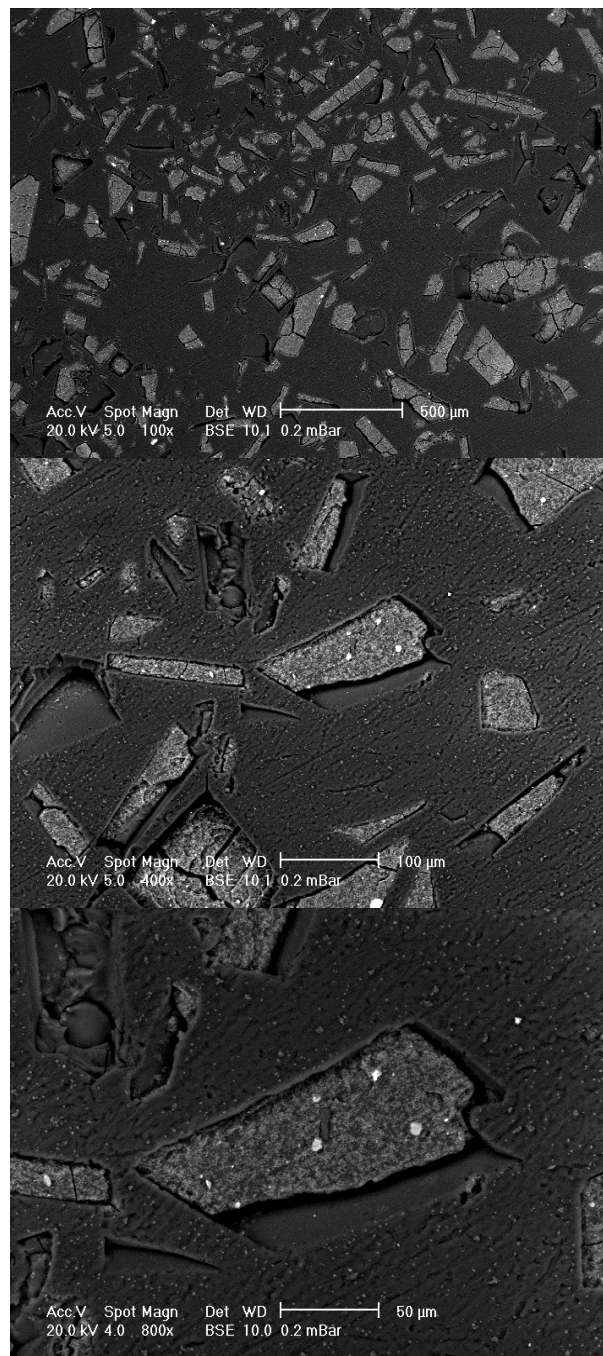


Figure S25: Polished sample, cluster A with rutile

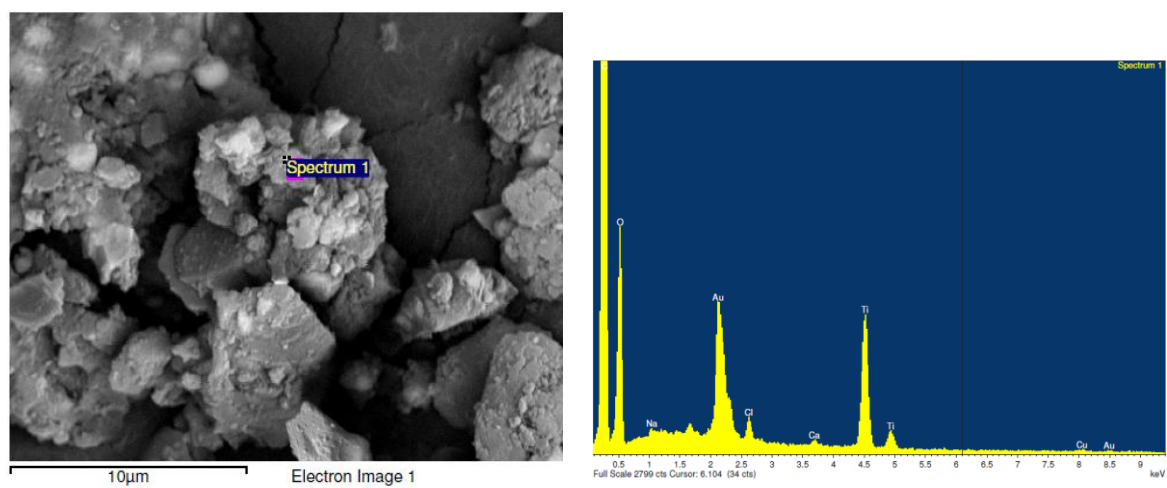


Figure S26: Microanalysis of clusters A containing anatase

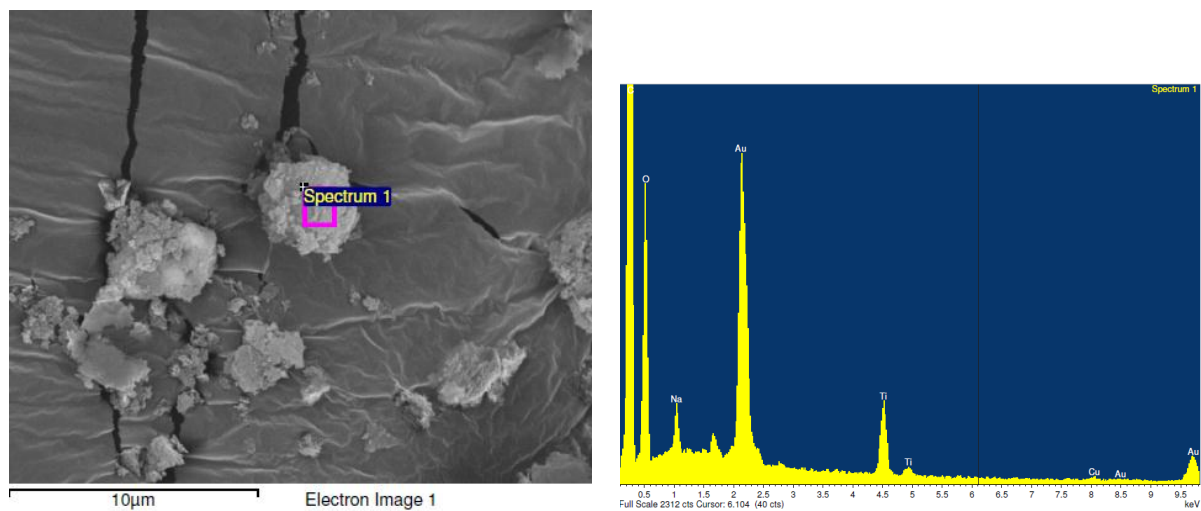


Figure S27: Microanalysis of clusters B containing anatase

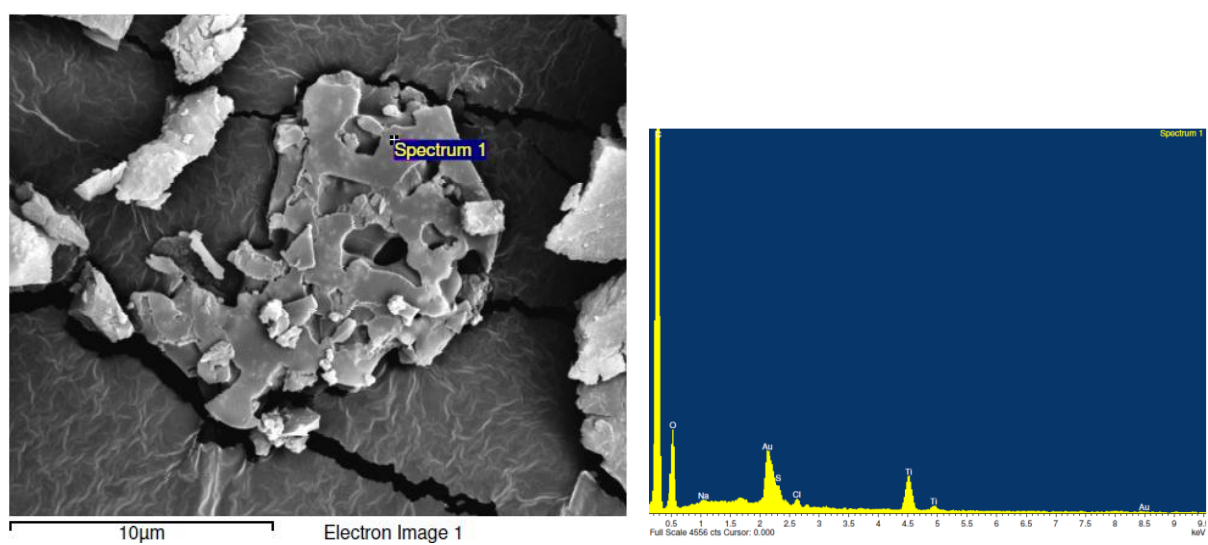


Figure S28: Microanalysis of clusters A containing rutile

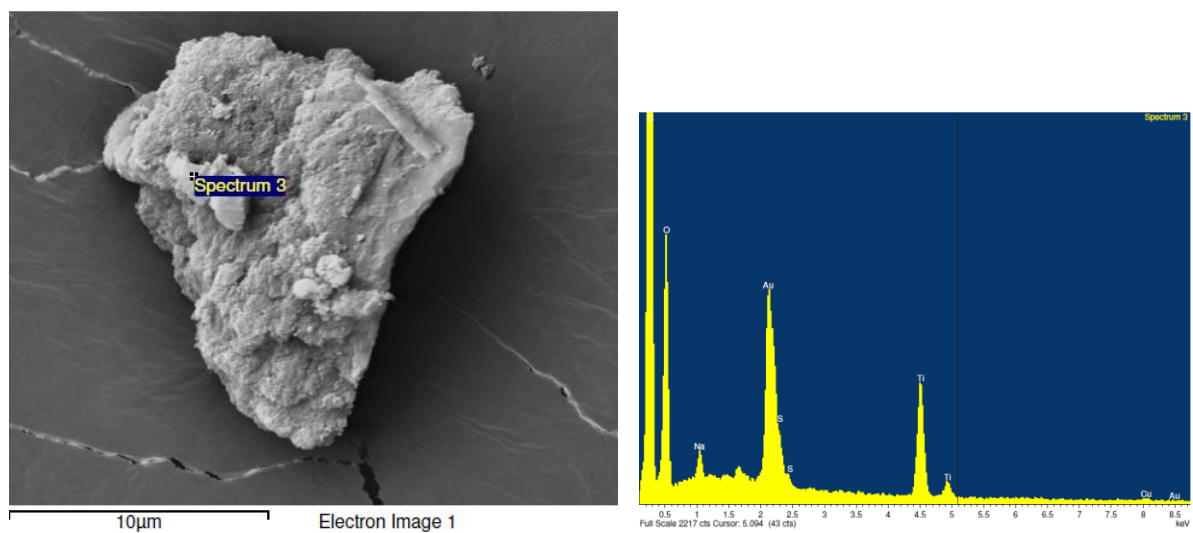


Figure 29: Microanalysis of clusters B containing rutile

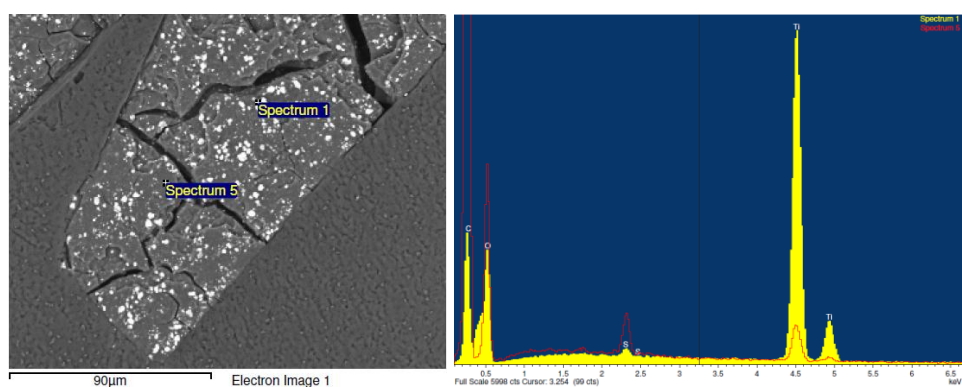


Figure S30: Microanalysis of section of clusters A with anatase

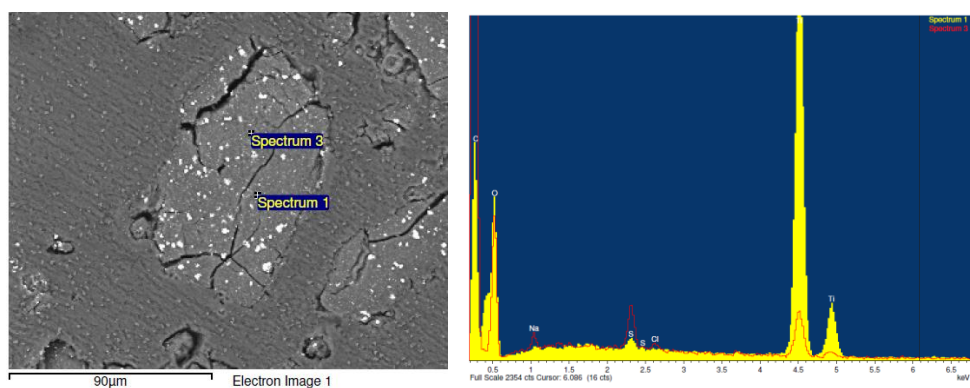


Figure S31: Microanalysis of section of clusters B with anatase



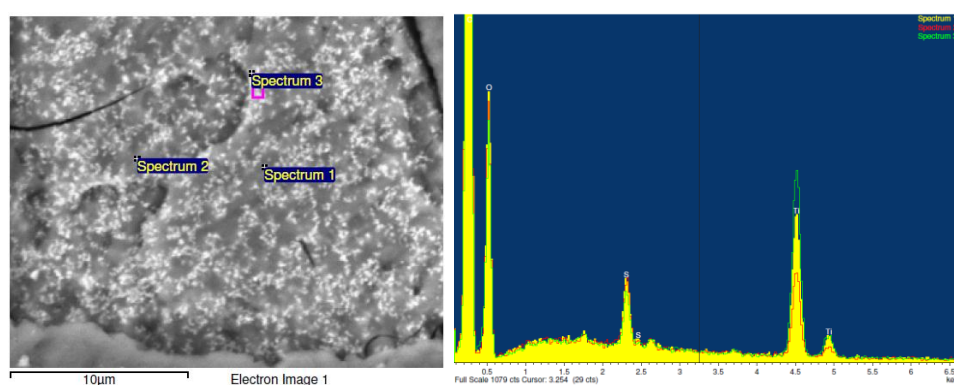


Figure S32: Microanalysis of section of clusters A with rutile

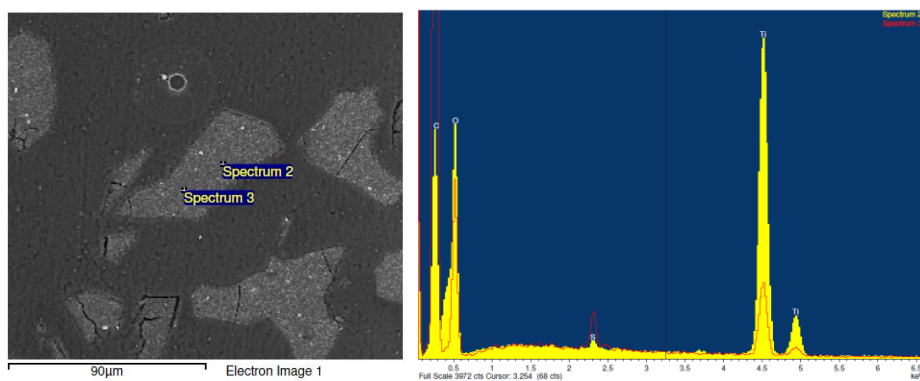
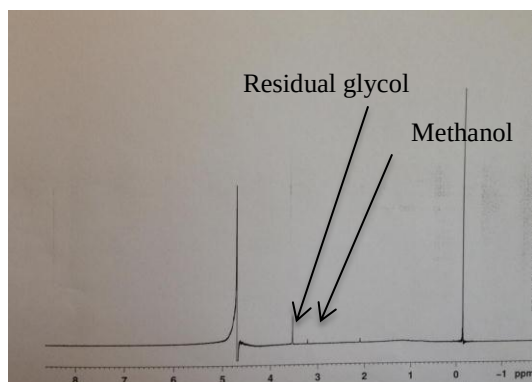


Figure S33: Microanalysis of section of clusters B with rutile

a)



b)

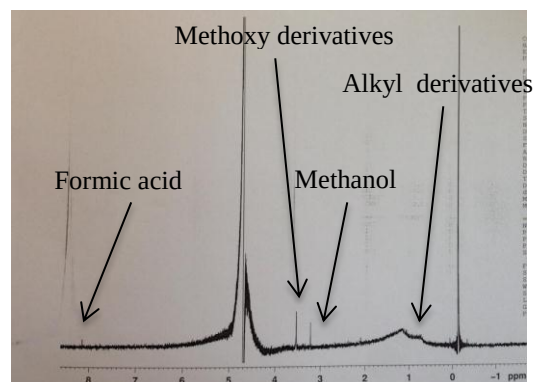
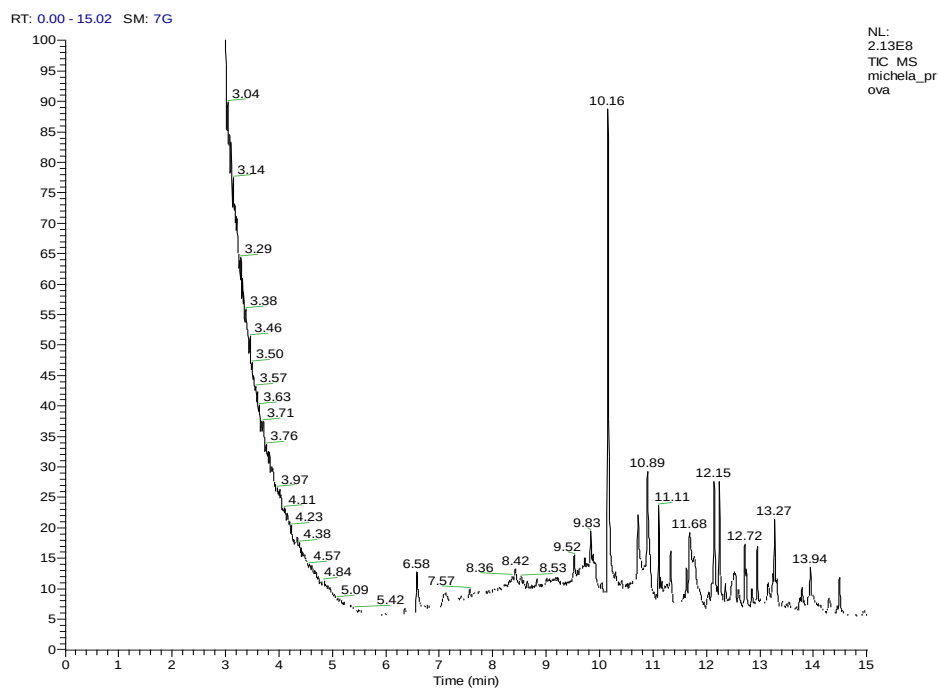


Figure S34: <sup>1</sup>H NMR of clusters' supernatant after irradiation (313 nm, 24 h): a) from cluster A and b) from cluster B

a)



b)

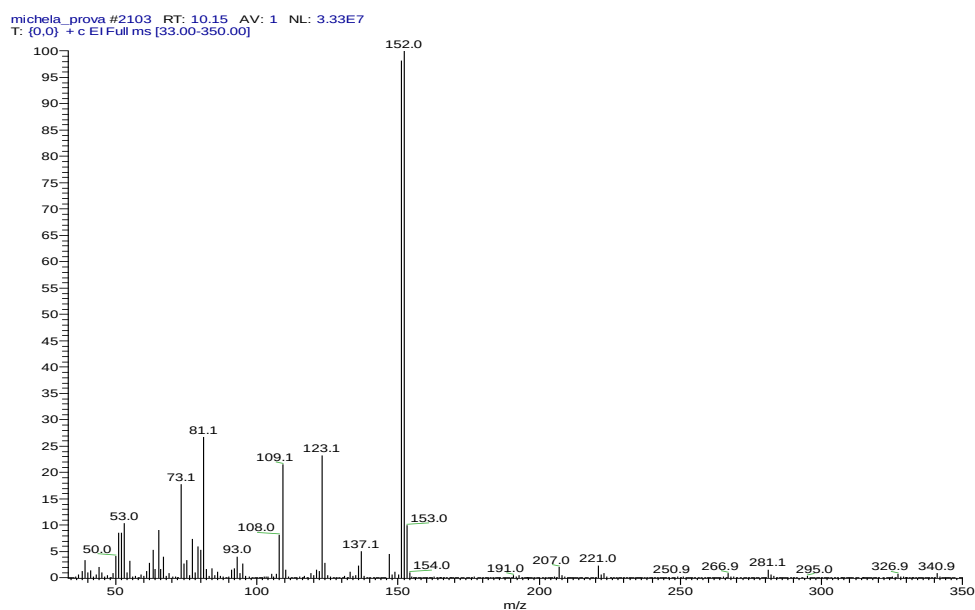
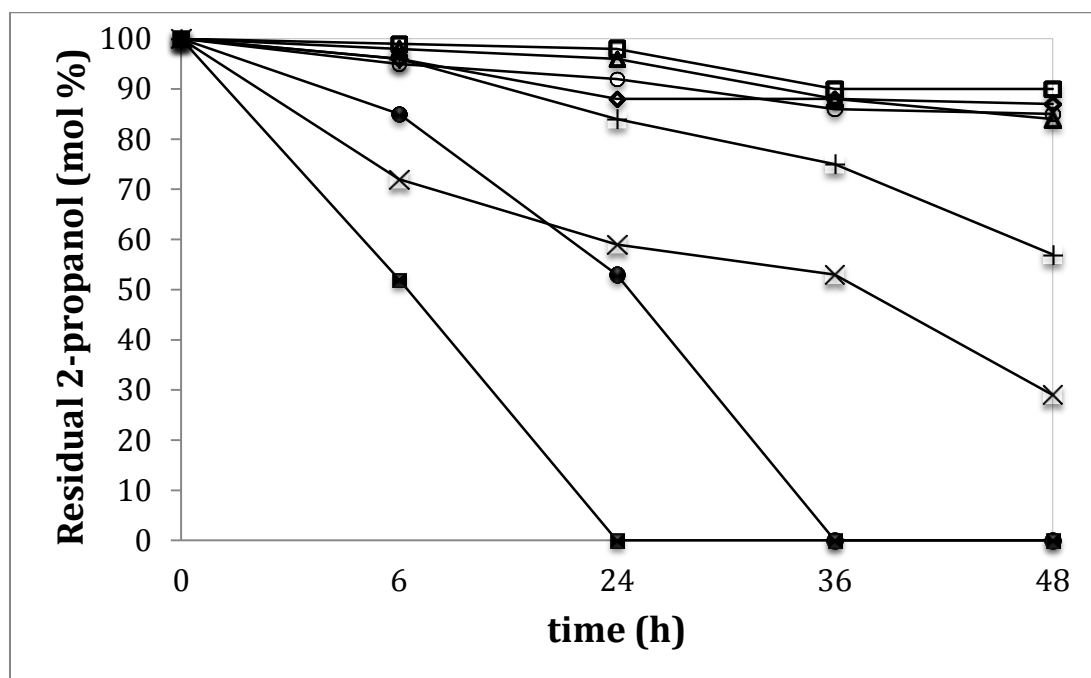


Figure S35: a) GC-MS chromatogram (TIC) of cluster B supernatant (chloroform extract) after irradiation at 313 nm; b) mass spectrum of vanillin appearing at 10.16 sec in the TIC chromatogram.



Figure\_S36: Time course of transformation of 2-propanol at 310 nm; reactions performed in presence of cluster A containing rutile (empty squares), cluster B containing anatase (empty triangles), cluster B containing rutile (empty circles), cluster A containing anatase (empty rhombs), a simple mixture lignin/TiO<sub>2</sub> rutile (+), a simple mixture lignin/TiO<sub>2</sub> anatase (X), rutile (full circles), anatase (full squares).

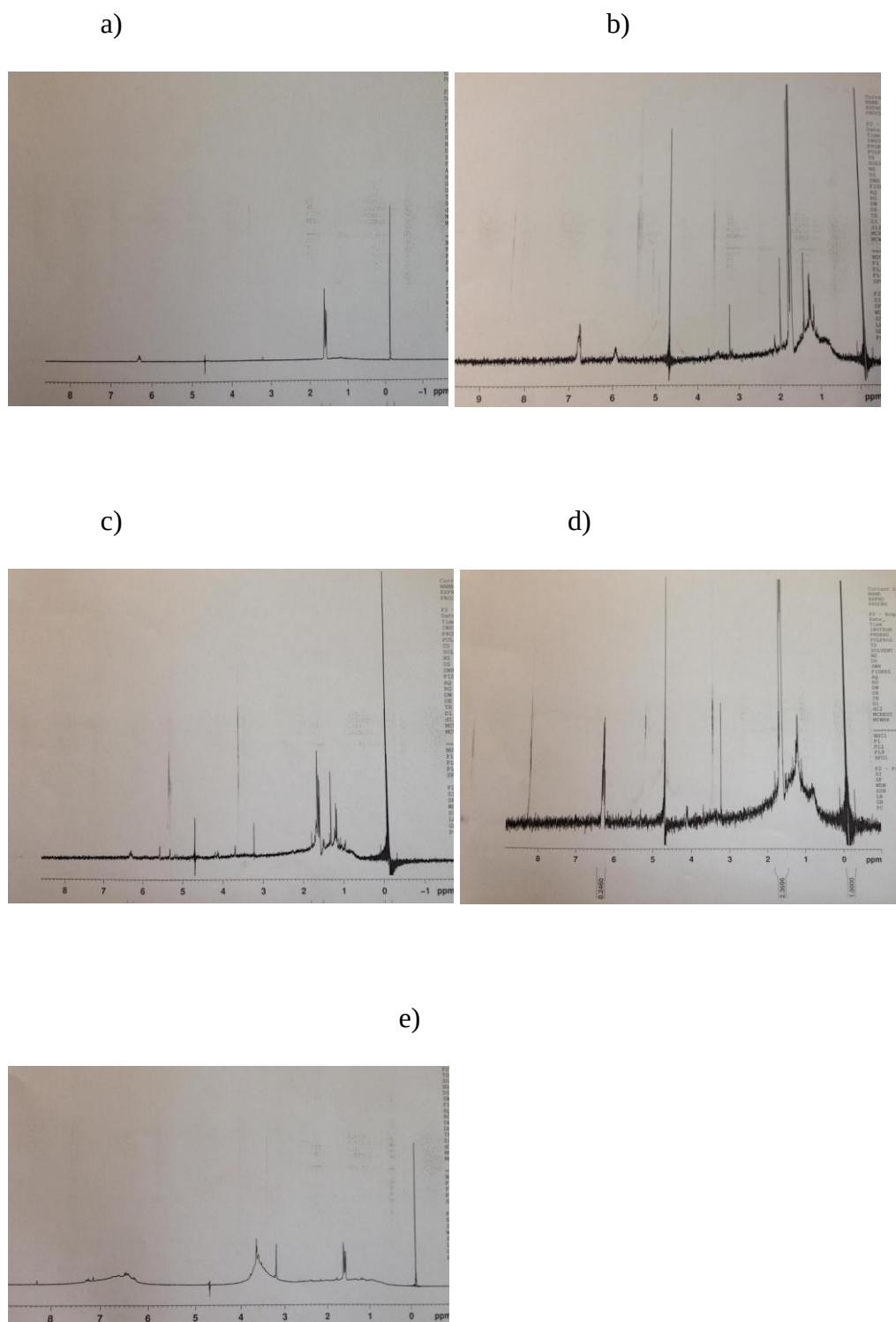


Figure S37:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ) of: a) tiglic acid; b) tiglic acid irradiated at 313 nm for 6h; c) tiglic acid + anatase irradiated at 313 nm for 6h; d) tiglic acid+ rutile irradiated at 313 nm for 6h; e) tiglic acid+alkali lignin irradiated at 313 nm for 6h

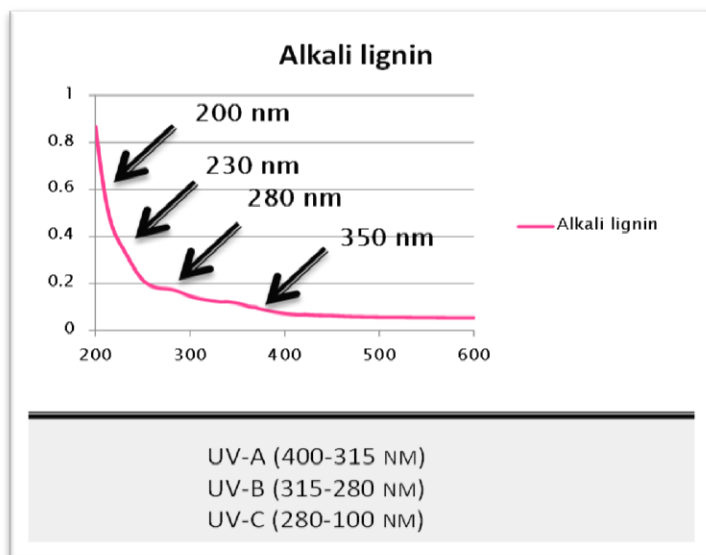


Figure S38: UV-vis spectrum of alkali lignin in aqueous solution at alkaline pH (NaOH).