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**Supporting Information** 

## Hydroxyapatite: Catalyst for a one-pot pentose formation

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**Figs. S1 to S10.** Mass and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR charts of the reaction products and control compounds.



Figure S1. ESI mass spectrometry for the one-pot reaction products after acetylation treatment.



**S**3



**Figure S2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR and ESI mass spectrometry after the reactions in the absence of HAp. (a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR chart of the products after the reactions of glycolaldehyde (1 mmol) and formaldehyde (10 mmol) in water (2 mL) at 80 °C for 40 h followed by acetylation. (b) ESI mass spectrometry for the products in (a). The main product in (a) and (b) is acetylated paraformaldehyde (polymerized formaldehyde;  $AcO(CH_2O)_nAc$ ).  $[M+Na]^+$  calcd. *n*=3, 215.05; *n*=4, 245.06; *n*=5, 275.07; *n*=6, 305.08; *n*=7, 335.09; *n*=8, 365.11; *n*=9, 395.12; *n*=10, 425.13. (c) <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of the products after the reactions of glyceraldehyde (1 mmol) and HAp (60 mg) in D<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) at 80 °C. (d) <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of the products after the reactions of glyceraldehyde (1 mmol) in D<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) at 80 °C. Isomerization to dihydroxyacetone was observed in (c), whereas the reaction was negligible in (d).



**Figure S3.** Full range <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of acetylated monosaccharides. (a) acetylated erythrose; (b) acetylated fructose.

S5



**Figure S4.** ESI mass chart of the mixture of the reaction products from glycolaldehyde and dihydroxyacetone. C5: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd 341.0843, found 341.0867. C3: [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd 371.0949, found 371.0961.



**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of acetylated xylulose, acetylated xylose, acetylated lyxose, and the mixture of the isomerization products (acetylated) from xylulose.



**Figure S6.** Stability of ribose. (a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of ribose in the presence of HAp (ribose 1 mmol and HAp 0.12 mmol in D<sub>2</sub>O at 80 °C); (b) <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of ribose in the presence of calcium hydroxide (ribose 1 mmol and calcium hydroxide 0.10 mmol in D<sub>2</sub>O at 80 °C). \* in (b) denotes an internal standard (sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propanesulfonate).



**Figure S7.** Full range <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of acetylated glycolaldehyde, acetylated glyceraldehyde, acetylated dihydroxyacetone, and the mixture of the reaction products (acetylated) from glycolaldehyde and excess formaldehyde (Corresponding to Figure 2(a)).



**Figure S8.** Full range <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of acetylated glyceraldehyde, acetylated dihydroxyacetone, and the mixture of the isomerization products (acetylated) from glyceraldehyde (Corresponding to Figure 2(b)).



**Figure S9.** Full range <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of acetylated dihydroxyacetone, acetylated glycolic acid, acetylated ribulose, acetylated  $\beta$ -ribofuranose, acetylated xylulose, and the mixture of the reaction products (acetylated) from dihydroxyacetone and glycolaldehyde (Corresponding to Figure 3).



**Figure S10.** Full range <sup>1</sup>H NMR charts of acetylated ribulose, acetylated ribose, acetylated arabinose, and the mixture of the isomerization products (acetylated) from ribulose (Corresponding to Figure 5(b)).