Supporting Information

Identification and quantification of lignin monomers and oligomers from

reductive catalytic fractionation of pine wood with GC × GC - FID/MS

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S1. GPC chromatogram and GC × GC - FID color plot of the RCF lignin oil samples.

Figure S1.1. GPC chromatogram of the RCF lignin oil samples.



Figure S1.2. GC × GC - FID color plot of the non-derivatized entire lignin oil (Foil).



Figure S1.3. GC × GC - FID color plot of the derivatized $F_{\rm H100}$ fraction.



Figure S1.4. GC \times GC - FID color plot of the derivatized F_{H60} fraction.



Figure S1.5. GC × GC - FID color plot of the derivatized F_{H20} fraction.

S2. Calculation of the GC-FID relative response factors and quantification of the assigned monomers, dimers, and trimers in the RCF lignin oils fractions

To quantify each of the identified compounds in the seven RCF lignin oil fractions, three known concentrations of calibration mixtures are prepared and analyzed on the GC × GC - FID/MS setup in the same way of actual lignin oil samples. The calibration mixtures consist of 2-phenoxy-1-phenyl ethanol, 1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenoxy-1,3-propanediol, 2-(2,6-dimethoxyphenoxy)-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propane-1,3-diol, 4-propanolguaiacol, 2-isopropyl phenol (internal standard), guaiacol, 4-ethylguaiacol, 4-*n*-propylguaiacol, syringol, and isoeugenol.

The relative response factor (RRF) of each component in the calibration mixtures were experimentally calculated as the following equation:

$$RRF = \frac{m_i \times A_{IS}}{m_{IS} \times A_i}$$
(1)

where m_i is the mass of the compound i, m_{IS} is the mass of the internal standard, A_i is the peak area of the compound i, and A_{IS} is the peak area of the internal standard.¹⁻³

Subsequently, a relationship between experimental RRFs and the molecular weight of molecule i (MW_i), molecular weight of molecule i after derivatization (MWSi_i) and the number of carbon (n_c), hydrogen (n_H), oxygen (n_o) atoms, and number of aromatic rings (n_a) in their structure was established via multiple linear regression.

$$RRF_i = f(MW_i, MWSi_i, n_c, n_{Si}, n_H, n_O, n_a)$$
 (2)

By performing the multiple linear regression, the response factors of the compounds present in the RCF lignin oil samples could be predicted using the following formula:

 $RRF_i = 1.293 - 12.6 MW_i + 12.594 MWSi_i + 0.2074 n_c - 907.2 n_{Si} - 0.088 n_H + 0.23 n_0 - 0.492 n_{Benz}$ (3)

It should be noted that a strong linear relationship between the experimental response factors of the compounds in the calibration mixture and the predicted response factors exists (Equation 3) exemplified by the high coefficient of determination ($R^2 > 0.975$).

To the end, a weight fraction of each compound in the sample is calculated based on the known amount of internal standard using the following equation:

$$wt\%_{i} = \frac{f_{i} \times A_{i}}{f_{IS} \times A_{IS}} wt\%_{IS}$$
(4)

where wt%_i is the weight fraction of compound *i*, wt%_{IS} is the weight fraction of internal standard, f_i is the relative response factor of compound *i* which is calculated based on equation (3), f_{IS} is the response factor of the internal standard, A_i is peak area of compound *i*, A_{IS} is peak area of the internal standard. **Table S2.1**. Detailed monomer compositions determined by 2D-GC and 1D-GC^{*} in the RCF lignin oil samples.

	F _{H100} -2D	F _{H100} -1D	F _{H80} -2D	F _{H80} -1D	F _{H60} -2D	F _{H60} -1D	F _{H40} -2D	F _{H40} -1D	F _{H20} -2D	F _{H20} -1D	F _{EA100} -2D	F _{EA100} -1D	F _{oi} l-2D	F _{oil} -1D
4-Propanolguaiacol	7,38	6,70	48,89	46,30	51,04	52,80	15,96	14,20	0,50	0,10	0,28	0,00	29,01	28,80
4-Propylguaiacol	19,53	21,10	0,59	0,46	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,08	2,50
4-(3-Methoxypropyl)guaiacol	8,02	10,10	2,14	2,80	0,13	0,30	0,30	0,30	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,19	1,70
4-Ethylguaiacol	3,49	3,80	0,29	0,40	0,06	0,10	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,39	0,50
Isoeugenol	0,34	0,20	0,05	0,20	0,00	0,50	0,02	0,70	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,04	0,30
4-Methylguaiacol	3,05	3,10	0,43	0,60	0,00	0,10	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,09	0,00	0,38	0,50
Guaiacol	1,24	0,00	0,19	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,13	0,00
4-Propylsyringol	0,45	0,00	0,30	0,00	0,06	0,00	0,14	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,13	0,00
4-Ethylsyringol	0,49	0,00	0,49	0,00	0,06	0,00	0,04	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,15	0,00
4-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-2-methoxyphenol	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,09	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,33	0,00
Methyl 3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propanoate	0,38	0,00	0,32	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,06	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,06	0,00	0,20	0,00
Total	44,37	45,00	53,69	50,76	51,35	53,80	16,61	15,20	0,50	0,10	0,43	0,00	34,03	34,30

* RFs have been determined based on external calibration of the authentic compounds on 1D-GC in our previous study.⁴



Figure S2.1. Comparison of monomers determined by 2D-GC and 1D-GC

Table S2.2. Composition of monomers,	dimers, and tri	imers in seven RCF	lignin oil samples.
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	Monomers	Dimers	Trimers	Total
F _{H100}	44,37	5,28	0,46	50,11
F _{H80}	53,69	8,68	0,54	62,91
F _{H60}	51,35	15,68	1,20	68,23
F _{H40}	16,61	33,47	14,55	64,63
F _{H20}	0,50	9,87	22,78	33,15
F _{EA100}	0,43	0,95	8,26	9,64
F _{oil}	34,03	15,79	7,26	57.08
Foil mass balance	34,15	16,50	8,33	58,98

S3. Mass spectrum and proposed fragmentation pathways of dimers



Figure S3.1. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D1.



Figure S3.2. Mass spectrum of dimer D2.4



Figure S3.3. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D3.



Figure S3.4. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D4.



Figure S3.5. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D5.



Figure S3.6. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D6.



Figure S3.7. Mass spectrum of dimer D7.5-6



Figure S3.8. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D8.



Figure S3.9. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D9.



Figure S3.10. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D10.



Figure S3.11. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D11.



Figure S3.12. Mass spectrum of dimer D12.⁶



Figure S3.13. Mass spectrum of dimer D13.⁵⁻⁶





Figure S3.14. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D14.



Figure S3.15. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D15.



Figure S3.16. Mass spectrum of dimer D16.6



Figure S3.17. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D17.



Figure S3.18. Mass spectrum of dimer D18.4,6



Figure S3.19. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D19.



Figure S3.20. Mass spectrum of dimer D20.4, 6



Figure S3.21. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D21.





Figure S3.22. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D22.



Chemical Formula: C₁₁H₁₇O₂Si* Exact Mass: 209,10

Figure S3.23. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D23.



Figure S3.24. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D24.



Figure S3.25. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D25.



Figure S3.26. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D26.



Figure S3.27. Mass spectrum of dimer D27.5-6



Figure S3.28. Mass spectrum of dimer D28.4-6



Figure S3.29. Mass spectrum of dimer D29.6



Figure S3.30. Mass spectrum of dimer D30.4,7



Figure S3.31. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D31.



Figure S3.32. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D32.



Figure S3.33. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D33.



Figure S3.34. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D34.



Figure S3.35. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D35.



Figure S3.36. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of dimer D36.

S4. Mass spectrum and proposed fragmentation pathways of trimers



Figure S4.1. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T1.



Figure S4.2. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T2.



Figure S4.3. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T3.



Figure S4.4. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T4.



Figure S4.5. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T5.



Figure S4.6. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T6.



Figure S4.7. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T7.



Figure S4.8. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T8.



Figure S4.9. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T9



Figure S4.10. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T10.



Figure S4.11. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T11.



Figure S4.12. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T12.



Figure S4.13. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T13.



Figure S4.14. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T14.



Figure S4.15. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T15.



Figure S4.16. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T16.



Figure S4.17. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T17.



Figure S4.18. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T18.



Figure S4.19. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T19.



Figure S4.20. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T20.



Figure S4.21. Mass spectrum and fragmentation pattern analysis of trimer T21.

S5. Comparison of the inter-unit linkage selectivity obtained by $GC \times GC$ and ${}^{1}H{}^{-13}C$ HSQC NMR

Spectroscopy



Figure S5.1. Comparison of distribution of β -5 inter-unit linkages in the different RCF lignin fractions.



Figure S5.2. Comparison of distribution of β -1 inter-unit linkages in the different RCF lignin fractions.



Figure S5.3. Comparison of distribution of β - β inter-unit linkages in the different RCF lignin fractions.

Note S5.4. The formulas used to recalculate the GC × GC results are as follows



wt% trimers in fraction^a x Trimers (vs G-units) =

With n = specific molecule bearing a specific molecular structure in the fraction and m the total amount of molecules bearing that specific molecular structure in that fraction.

mole trimer (n) total mole trimers in fraction

*= correction for number of aromatics per molecule

^a= assumption that 100% of a sample's mass = lignin

S6. Synthesis of lignin model compounds

General information for synthesis of model compounds

All chemicals and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA) and used without additional purification. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were acquired on a Bruker AVANCE 400 MHz spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm BBO probe. Bruker's Topspin 3.6.2 software was used for data processing. Tetramethylsilane was used as an internal reference of 0 ppm for ¹H-NMR spectra, and solvent peaks were used for ¹³C-NMR spectra ($\delta_{\rm C}$ CDCl₃ 77.23, acetone-d₆ 29.92 ppm). The acquisition parameters for ¹H-NMR spectra included a relaxation delay 1.0 s, an acquisition time of 4.09 s with 64 scans, and a 90° pulse width, a relaxation delay 2.0 s and an acquisition time of 1.1 s with 1024 scans for ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy. The gradient correlation spectroscopy (gCOSY) and heteronuclear single quantum coherence (HSQC) were recorded using standard Bruker implementation.

Synthesis method



2-Phenoxy-1-phenyl ethanol (1) and 1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenoxy-1,3-propanediol (2), were synthesized as previously described.^{8,9} 2-(2,6-dimethoxyphenoxy)-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propane-1,3-diol (3) was prepared as follows (Figure S6.1.).



Figure S6.1. Synthetic route of 2-(2,6-dimethoxyphenoxy)-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propane-1,3-diol (**3**).

Methyl 2,6-dimethoxyphenoxyl acetate (5)

To the solution of syringol (compound **4**, 7.71 g, 50.0 mmol), potassium carbonate (10.4 g, 75.0 mmol) and potassium iodate (0.83 g, 5.0 mmol) in acetone (100 mL), 2-methyl bromoacetate (5.23 ml, 55.0 mmol) was added at room temperature. After refluxing for 16 hours, excess K_2CO_3 was removed by filtration. The solvent in the filtrate was removed by rotary evaporation. The remaining syrup was diluted with H_2O (50 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (70 mL) three times. The organic layer was washed with brine two times and then dried over MgSO₄. Crude compound **5** (2.52g, 27.4 mol%) was obtained and used for following coupling reaction without purification.

Benzylated vanillin (7)

To the solution of vanillin (compound **6**, 6.50 g, 42.7 mmol) in DMF (5 mL), benzyl bromide (6.16 mL, 51.3 mmol), potassium carbonate (8.86 g, 64.1 mmol) and potassium iodate (0.71 g, 4.27 mmol) were added at room temperature. After stirring for 14 hours at room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered and washed with ethyl acetate (50 mL) to remove excess K_2CO_3 . The filtrate was diluted with H_2O (60 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) three times. The combined organic layer was washed with brine two times and then dried over Na_2SO_4 . Crude oil obtained was recrystallized from ethanol/hexane (1:1) to yield white powder (compound **7**, 7.94g) with 88.2 mol% yield.

β -Hydroxy methyl ester (8)

To the solution of diisopropylamine (1.88 mL, 13.4 mmol) in anhydrous THF (30 mL), n-butyllithium/nhexane (2.5 M) (5.35 mL, 13.4 mmol) was added dropwisely at -78°C over 20 min. After stirring for 30 min, methyl-2,6-dimethoxy phenylacetate (compound 5, 0.91 g, 3.73 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added dropwise over 1 hour at -78°C. After 30 min stirring, benzylated vanillin (compound 7, 2.70 g, 11.2 mmol) was added dropwise over 1 hour. After 3 hours stirring, the reaction solution was heated from -78°C to room temperature, and the reaction was quenched by addition of ethyl acetate (150 mL) and H_2O (100 mL). The reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) two times. The combined ethyl acetate layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Crude oil was purified by a silica gel column to obtain of β -hydroxy methylester (compound **8**, 4.57 g, 87.5 mol%) with an erythro and threo isomer mixture. Erythro isomer (8E): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43-7.26 (5H, m, Arom-H), 7.06-7.00 (2H, m, Arom-H), 6.83 (2H, s, Arom-H), 6.59 (2H, d, J=11.2Hz, Arom-H), 5.13 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.94 (H, d, J=5.0Hz, $H\alpha$), 4.71 (1H, d, J=5.1Hz, $H\beta$), 3.88 (3H, s, OMe), 3.83 (6H, s, 2xOMe), 3.56 (3H, s, CH₃COO-). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.4 (C γ), 152.9, 149.6, 147.8, 137.4, 136.2, 132.1, 128.6, 127.9, 127.4, 124.6, 119.0, 113.8, 110.4, 105.4, 86.0 (Cβ), 73.5 (Cα), 71.1 (CH₂), 56.3 (OMe), 56.1 (OMe), 51.9 (CH₃COO-) ppm. Threo isomer (**8T**): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/D₂O(9:1)) δ 7.42-7.26 (5H, m, Arom-H), 7.07-7.01 (1H, m, Arom-H), 6.91 (1H, s, Arom-H), 6.82-6.75 (2H, m, Arom-H), 6.59 (2H, d, J=11.2Hz, Arom-H), 5.13 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.95 (H, d, J=11.5Hz, Hα), 4.05 (1H, d, J=11.5Hz, Hβ), 3.86 (3H, s, OMe), 3.83 (6H, s, 2xOMe), 3.52 (3H, s, CH₃COO-). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃/D₂O(9:1)) δ 170.1 (Cγ), 152.7, 149.9, 148.2, 137.3, 130.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.5, 124.8, 119.6, 113.9, 110.3, 105.3, 89.9 (Cβ), 75.5 (Cα), 71.1 (CH₂), 56.3 (OMe), 56.2 (OMe), 51.9 (CH₃COO-) ppm.

Benzylated β -O-4 dimer (9)

To a solution of the β -hydroxy methyl ester (compound **8**, 2.19 mg, 4.67 mmol) in methanol (7 mL), NaBH₄ (0.88 g, 23.4 mmol) was added at 0°C. After stirring for 4 days at room temperature, the reaction mixture was neutralized with 10% AcOH aq, diluted with H₂O (70 mL) and then extracted with ethyl acetate (70 mL) three times. The combined ethyl acetate layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Residual solid was purified by a silica gel column chromatography with ethyl acetate/hexane (1:1, v/v) as an eluent to obtain pale yellow syrup (compound **9**, 1.53 g, 74.6 mol%, *erythro/threo* isomer mixture). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40-7.21 (5H, m, Arom-H), 7.04-6.94 (2H, m, Arom-H), 6.84-6.76 (2H, m, Arom-H), 6.56 (2H, d, *J*=8.5Hz, Arom-H), 5.06 (2H, s, CH₂), 5.01 (H, t, *J*=3.2Hz, H α), 4.30 (1H, d, *J*=3.2Hz, OH), 4.15 (1H, m, H β), 3.92 (1H, m, H γ), 3.82 (3H, s, OMe), 3.75 (6H, s, 2xOMe), 3.51 (1H, m, H γ), 3.37 (1H, m, OH). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.2, 149.4, 147.0, 137.0, 134.8, 132.9, 128.2, 127.5, 127.0, 124.1, 118.0, 113.6, 109.6, 105.1, 86.6 (C β), 72.2 (C α), 70.7 (CH₂), 60.2 (C γ), 55.8 (OMe), 55.7 (OMe) ppm.

2-(2,6-dimethoxyphenoxy)-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propane-1,3-diol (Compound 3)

To a solution of compound **9** (28.2 mg, 4.67 mmol) in methanol (3 mL), 5% Pd/C (30 mg) was added at room temperature. After stirring for 1.5 hours under H₂ atmosphere, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove Pd/C and then the filtrate was dried to yield a white powder (compound **3**, 20.4 mg, 89.4 mol%, *erythro/threo* isomer mixture). Acetylated compound **3**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.92-7.02 (4H, broad, Arom-H), 6.53 (2H, d, *J*=8.4Hz, Arom-H), 6.16 (0.13H, d, *J*=6.3Hz, H α), 6.11 (0.84H, d, *J*=5.0Hz, H α), 4.63 (1H, q, *J*=5.2Hz, H β), 4.49 (1H, dd, *J*=12.0, 5.5Hz, H γ), 4.26 (1H, dd, *J*=12.0, 3.6Hz, H γ), 3.80 (3H, s, OMe), 3.74 (6H, s, 2xOMe), 2.29 (3H, s, CH₃CO-), 2.14 (3H, s, CH₃CO-), 1.98 (3H, s, CH₃CO-). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.1 (CH₃CO-), 169.7 (CH₃CO-), 169.1 (CH₃CO-), 153.6, 151.0, 139.6, 136.4, 135.4, 124.3, 122.6, 119.3, 111.6, 105.4, 81.0 (C β), 74.2 (C α), 62.9 (C γ), 56.13 (OMe), 56.06 (OMe), 21.3 (CH₃CO-), 20.93 (CH₃CO-), 20.85 (CH₃CO-) ppm.



Figure S6.2. ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra (Acetone-d₆) of 2-Phenoxy-1-phenyl ethanol (compound 1).



Figure S6.3. ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra (Acetone-d₆) of 1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenoxy-1,3-propanediol (2).



Figure S6.4. ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra (CDCl₃) of acetylated 2-(2,6-dimethoxyphenoxy)-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propane-1,3-diol (**3**).

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