

## Supporting information

### Degradation Mechanism of Lignin Model Compound during Alkaline Aerobic Oxidation: Formation of Vanillin Precursor from $\beta$ -O-4 Middle Unit of Softwood Lignin.

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### Contents

HPLC chromatograms of the reaction mixtures from **D2**, **V1p**, **D1** (Figures S1~S3).

Page S3 ~ S4

HPLC chromatogram of the solution obtained after dissolving **V1p** in 4.0 mol/L NaOH aq.  
at room temperature (Figure S4).

Page S4

Yields of C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> side-chain products after the degradation of **V1p** and **DC1** under N<sub>2</sub>  
(Table S1).

Page S5

Several conformers of deprotonated **V1** and their relative energies (Figure S5).

Page S5

Geometries of *erythro*-**V1'** and *threo*-**V1'** (Figure S6).

Page S6

Calculation of retro-aldol reactions proceeding from **D1** and **D1'** (Figure S7).

Page S7

Synthetic routes for the model compounds (Scheme S1~S4).

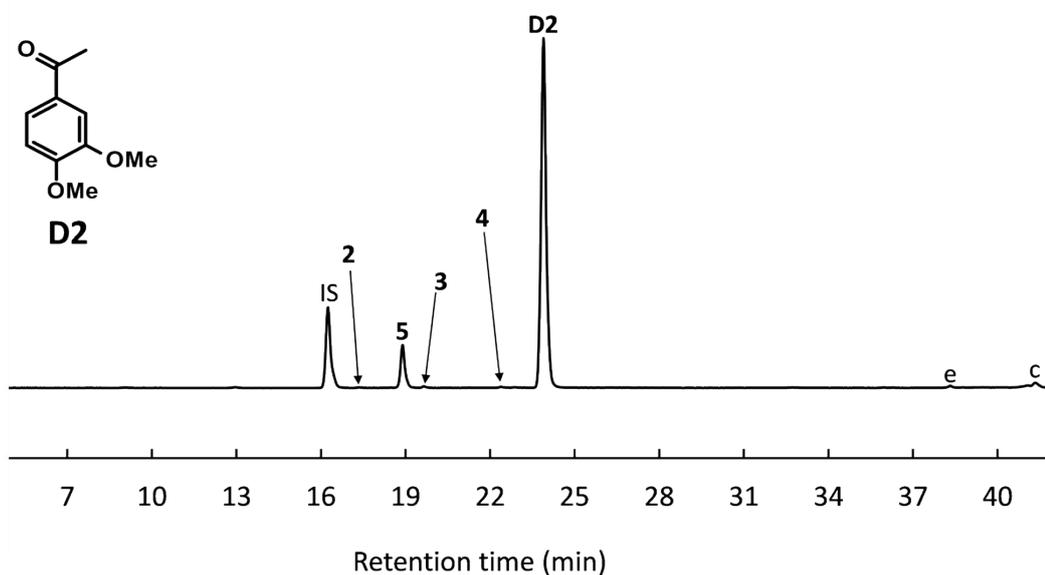
Page S8 ~ S14

NMR spectra of the compounds synthesized in this study (Figure S8~S26).

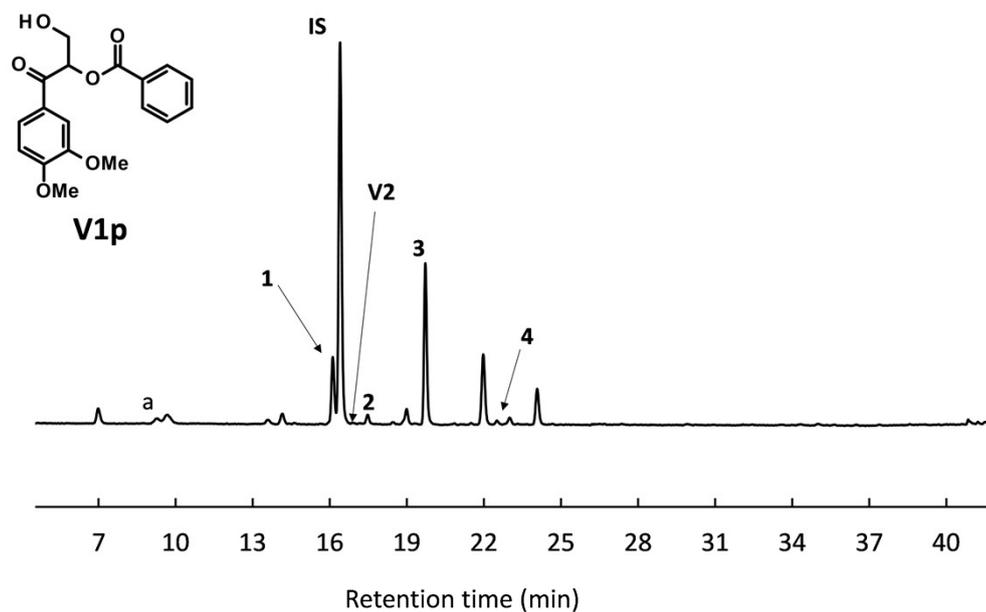
Page S15 ~ S24

Cartesian coordinates and total energies of optimized geometries.

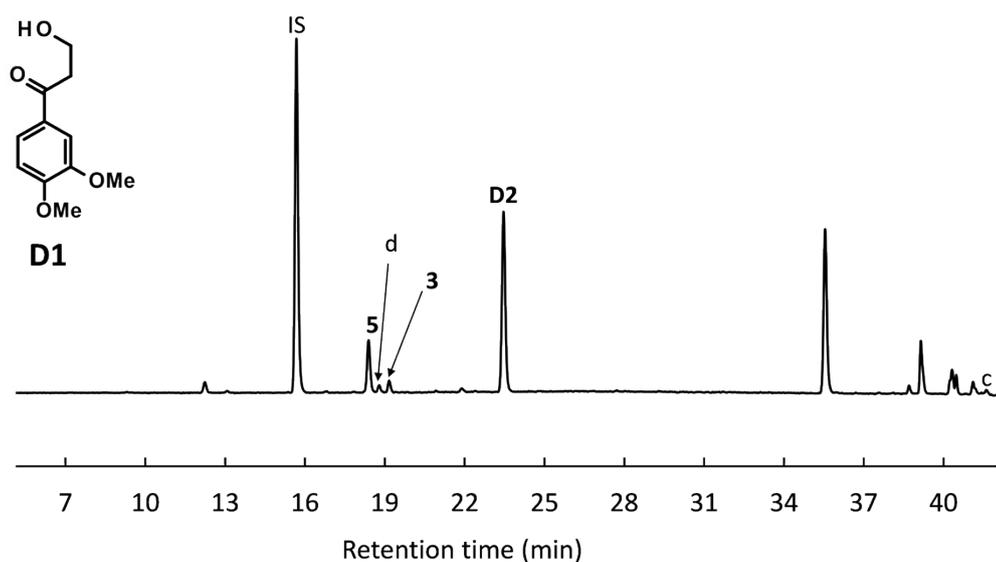
Page S25 ~S36



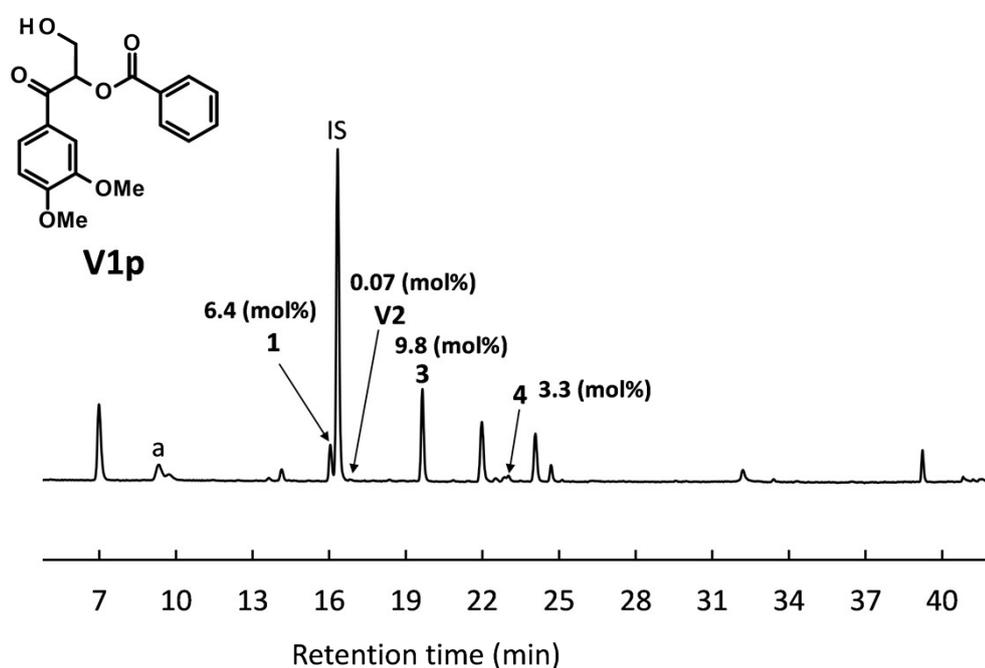
**Figure S1.** HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture obtained after alkaline oxidation of **D2** at 120 °C for 24 h under air. The data in entry 6 in Table 1 were obtained on the basis of this HPLC chromatogram.



**Figure S2.** HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture obtained after the alkaline aerobic oxidation of **V1p** at 120 °C for 24 h under air. The data in entry 2 in Table 1 were obtained on the basis of this HPLC chromatogram.



**Figure S3.** HPLC chromatograms of the reaction mixture obtained after alkaline aerobic oxidation of **D1** at 120 °C for 24 h under air. The data in entry 5 in Table 1 were obtained on the basis of this HPLC chromatogram.

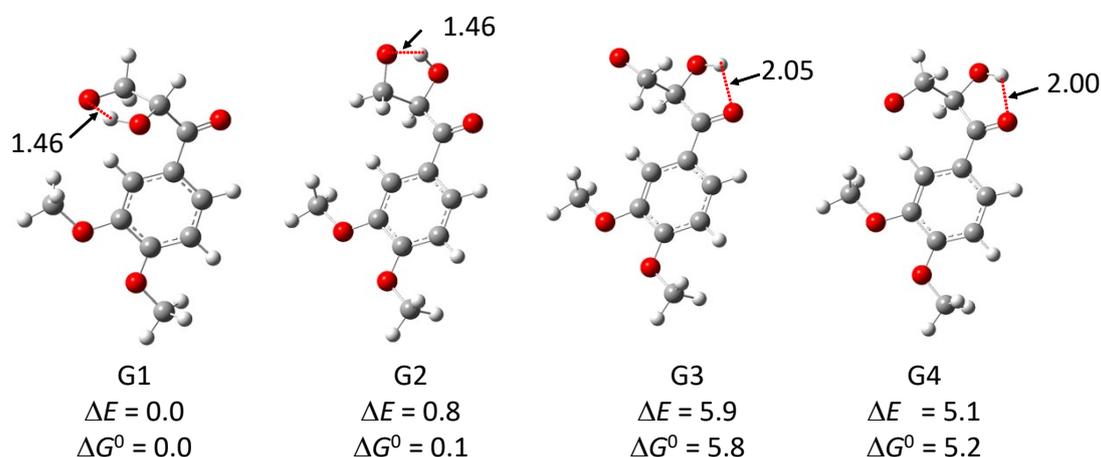


**Figure S4.** HPLC chromatogram of a solution obtained after dissolving **V1p** in 4.0 mol/L NaOH aq. (2.0 mL) at room temperature. We observed the formation of compounds **1** and **3** when veratraldehyde (**4**) was dissolved in 4.0 mol/L NaOH aq. at room temperature, which strongly suggests that the Cannizzaro reaction of **4** does occur even under such low-temperature conditions.

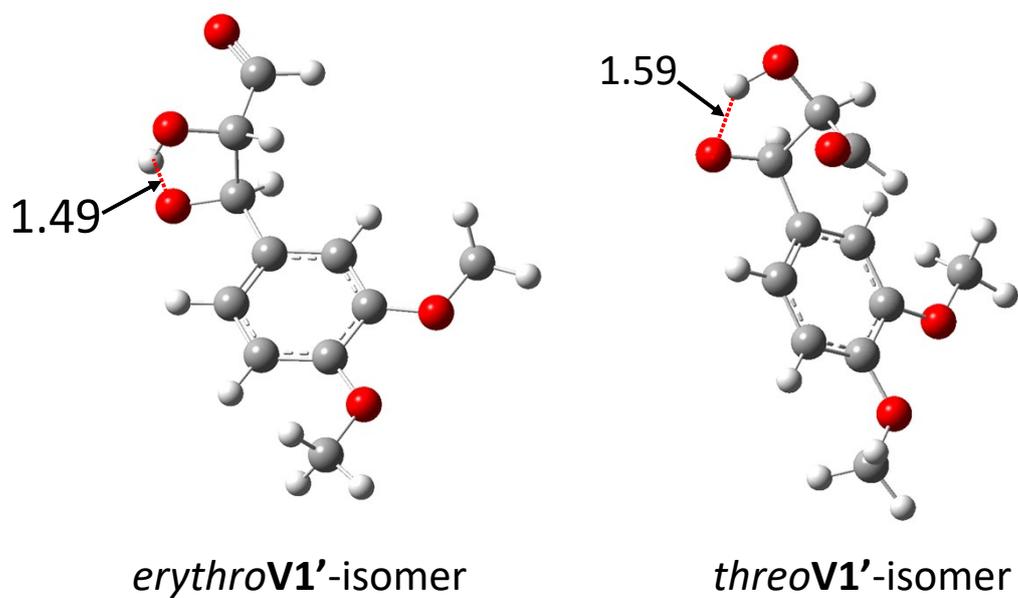
Table S1. Yields (mol %) of products with C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> side-chains after the degradation of **V1p** and **D1** (3.0 mg) in 4.0 mol/L NaOH aq. (2.0 mL) at 120 °C for 24h under N<sub>2</sub>.

Starting material	Product yield (mol %)								Conversion (%)	
	C <sub>1</sub> side-chain				C <sub>2</sub> side-chain					Total
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>V2</b>	<b>D2</b>		
<b>V1p</b>	8.8	0.4	15.8	3.4	-	ND <sup>a</sup>	0.02	-	28.4	- <sup>b</sup>
<b>D1</b>	ND	ND	1.0	ND	2.8	-	-	9.7	13.5	99.99
			(1.0) <sup>c</sup>		(2.8)			(9.7)	(13.5)	

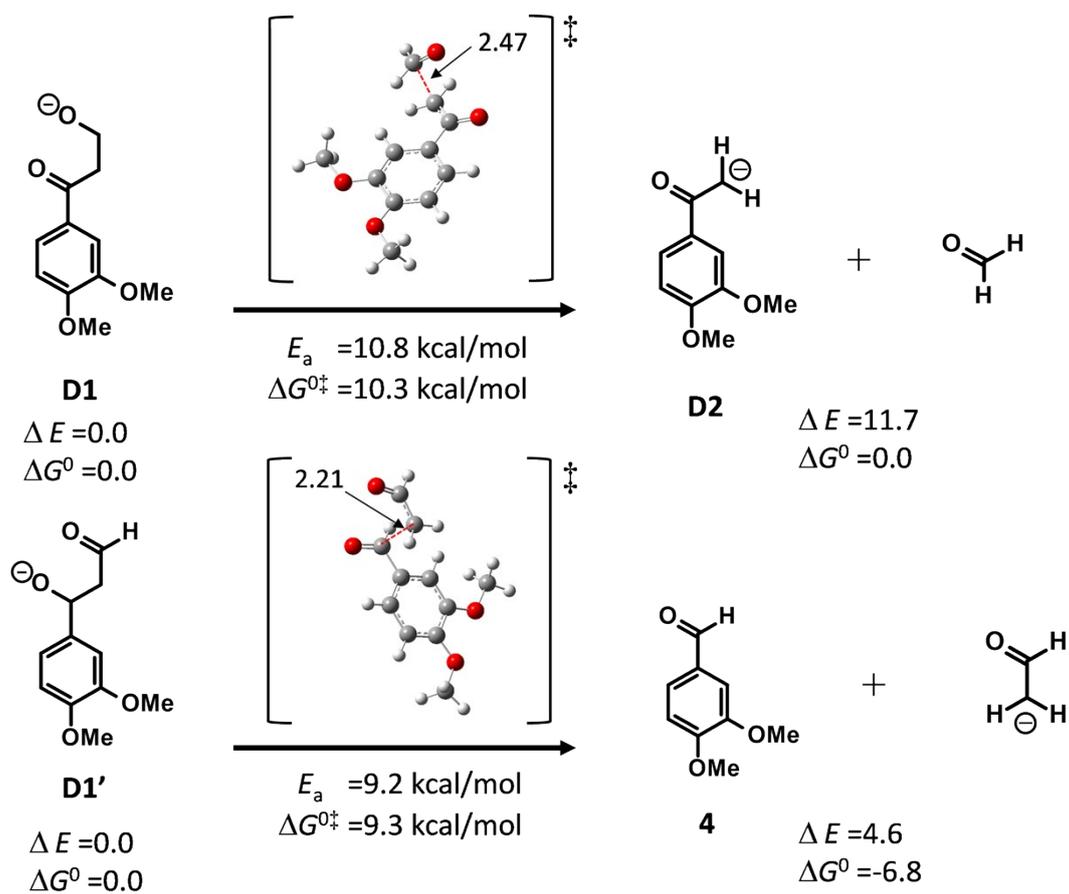
<sup>a</sup> ND : Not detected. <sup>b</sup> The recovery of **V1p** was not investigated. <sup>c</sup> Number in the parenthesis shows the yield (mol%) on the basis of degraded starting material.



**Figure S5.** Geometries (G1~G4) of several rotamers of deprotonated **V1** and their energies (kcal/mol) relative to the most stable G1, where atomic distances are shown in Å. The energies of the chemical species in Figure 3 were calculated relative to the most stable geometry of G1.



**Figure S6.** Geometries of *erythro*- and *threo*- **V1'**. Atomic distances are shown in Å.

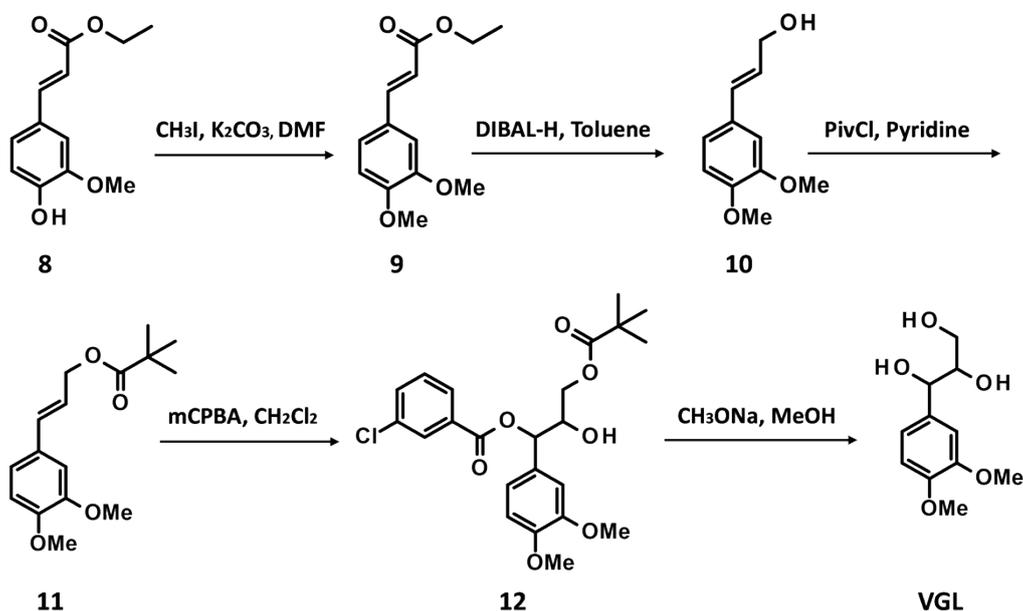


**Figure S7.** Retro-aldol reactions starting from **D1** and **D1'** calculated at the SCS-MP2//DFT(M06-2X) level of theory. Energies and atomic distances are shown in kcal/mol and Å, respectively. The barriers of the two reactions were calculated on the different basis (the energy of **D1** for the above reaction and that of **D1'** for the below one), as there is no equilibrium between **D1** and **D1'** in these  $\beta$ -deoxy compounds.

## Synthetic routes for the model compounds

**General Information.** All synthetic reactions were monitored by TLC on silica gel with co-solvents of *n*-hexane and EtOAc being used as the eluent and a 10 wt% phosphomolybdic acid/ethanol solution and UV<sub>254nm</sub> being employed to quench the spots. CHROMATOREX PSQ100B silica gel (Fuji silica chemical, Ltd) was used for column chromatography with the amount of the silica gel being set to be approximately 50 g per 1 g of the crude mixture. NMR spectra were recorded on a JNM-ECZ 400 S (400 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 100 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C) spectrometer at room temperature in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, or Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>; chemical shifts (δ ppm) were taken relative to that of chloroform (δ<sub>H</sub> = 7.26 ppm, δ<sub>C</sub> = 77.0 ppm), methanol (δ<sub>H</sub> = 3.31 ppm, δ<sub>C</sub> = 49.0 ppm), or acetone (δ<sub>H</sub> = 2.02 ppm, δ<sub>C</sub> = 205.34 ppm). For the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra presented below, the following abbreviations are employed: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. dd = double of doublet, dt = double of triplet.

## Synthesis of VGL



Scheme S1. Synthetic route for VGL.

**(E)-ethyl-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) prop-2-enoate (9).** K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.50 g, 10.9 mmol) and CH<sub>3</sub>I (0.67 mL, 10.7 mmol) were added in this order to a solution of commercial ferulic acid ethyl ester **8** (2.05 g, 9.2 mmol) in DMF (7.0 mL) with stirring. The reaction solution was stirred over night at room temperature and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. twice and washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product mixture was dissolved in EtOH, and recrystallized to give a white crystal of (E)-ethyl-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)prop-2-enoate (**9**) (1.30 g, 5.16 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.58 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 2.0 and 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 167.0, 150.8, 149.0, 144.3, 127.2, 122.4, 115.7, 110.8, 109.3, 60.2, 55.8, 55.7, 14.2 ppm.

**[(E)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) allyl] pivalate (11).** (E)-ethyl-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) prop-2-enoate (**9**) (1.30 g, 5.16 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous toluene (5.0 mL). The solution was dropped into a 1.5 mol/L diisobutylaluminium hydride (DIBAL-H) toluene solution (15.5 mL, equivalent to 15.45 mmol of DIBAL-H) for 2 h with stirring at room temperature. EtOH and H<sub>2</sub>O were added to the reaction solution in this order to quench the remaining DIBAL-H.

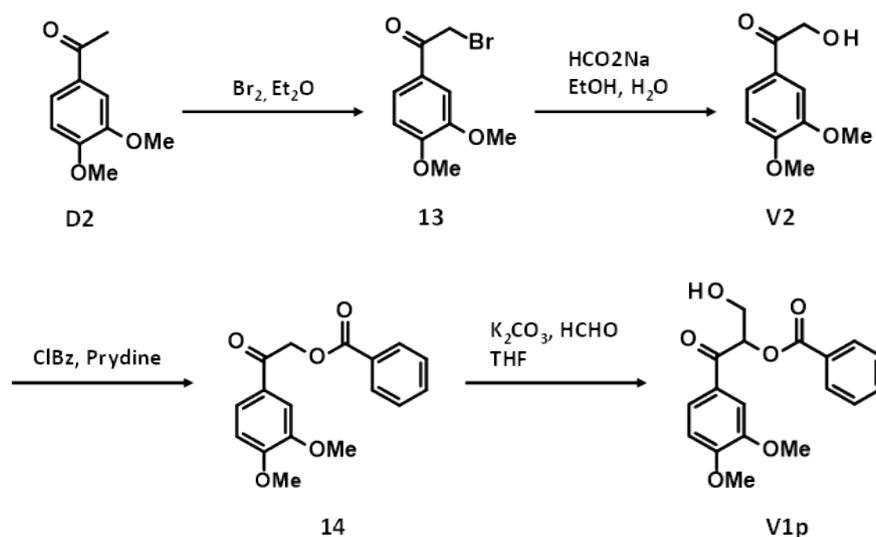
After adjusting the pH of the solution to around 3 by adding an aqueous solution of citric acid, saturated Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aq. was added and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The resulting two-phase-separated reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layer was washed with brine twice, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Light yellow oil (0.90 g) containing (E)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) prop-2-en-1-ol (**10**) was used for the next step without further purification.

The crude mixture containing **10** (0.90 g) was dissolved in pyridine (4.0 mL) and pivaloyl chloride (0.86 mL, 6.97 mmol) was added to the solution at room temperature. In 48 h the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layer was washed with 10 wt % HCl aq., saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. and brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/Hexane = 1/2 to give **11** as colorless oil (0.80 g, 2.89 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 6.96 ~ 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.20 ~ 6.11 (m, 1H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 1.3 and 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 9H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 178.5, 149.2, 149.1, 133.8, 129.4, 121.6, 120.0, 111.1, 108.9, 65.2, 56.0, 55.9, 38.9, 27.3, 27.1, 19.57 ppm.

***threo*-[1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-(2,2-dimethoxypropanoyloxy)-2-hydroxy-propyl]3-chlorobenzoate (12).** **11** (0.80 g, 2.89 mmol) was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL), and 72 % *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (0.78 g, 4.51 mmol) was added with stirring at room temperature. In 2 h saturated Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> aq. was added to the solution to quench the remaining reagent. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layer was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. and brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography with EtOAc/Hexane = 1/2 to give **12** as colorless oil (1.02 g, 2.26 mmol). The product also contained 8.0 % of the *erythro*-isomer as the minor diastereomer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 8.05 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dt, *J* = 0.9, 1.3, and 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 2.1 and 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.30~4.24 (m, 1H), 4.20 (dd, *J* = 3.5 and 11.7 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (dd, *J* = 5.6 and 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 9H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 178.7, 164.8, 149.5, 149.2, 139.4, 134.7, 133.4, 131.7, 129.9, 129.8, 127.9, 119.7, 111.3, 110.2, 77.3, 72.8, 64.9, 56.1, 56.0, 39.0, 27.3, 27.2, 18.0 ppm.

***threo*-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propane-1,2,3-triol (VGL).** **12** (1.02 g, 2.26 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (10 mL), and 28 % CH<sub>3</sub>ONa/MeOH solution (25 mL) was then added to the solution with stirring at room temperature. In 1h, the reaction mixture was neutralized with strong acid ion-exchange resin (DOWX™HCR Na activated with HCl aq.). The resulting solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the remaining oil was crystallized in EtOH to give **VGL** as white crystal (0.235 g, 1.03 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 6.94 ~ 6.83 (m, 3H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.80 ~ 3.75 (m, 1H), 3.64 (dd, *J* = 3.5 and 11.8 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd, *J* = 5.2 and 11.7 Hz, 1H) ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ = 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.69 ~ 3.64 (m, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 4.1 and 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (dd, *J* = 6.4 and 11.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ = 148.9, 148.5, 134.9, 119.1, 111.2, 110.3, 76.1, 73.8, 62.8, 55.1, 54.9 ppm.

## Synthesis of V2 and V1p starting from D2



Scheme S2. Synthetic route for V2 and V1p.

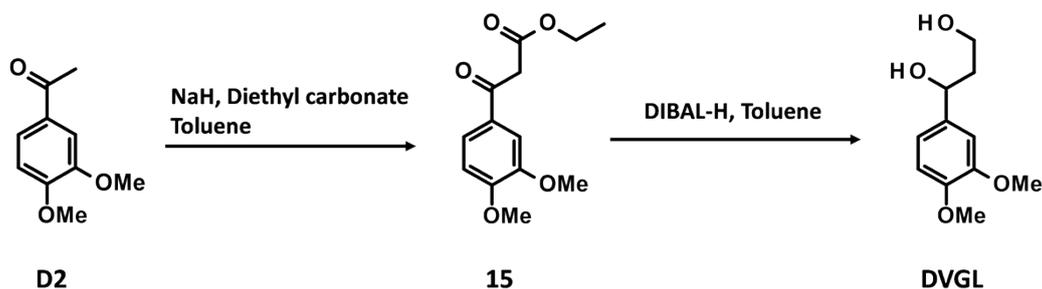
**1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-ethanone (V2).** 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) ethanone (**D2**) (2.0 g, 11.10 mmol) was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O (10.0 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.0 mL), and Br<sub>2</sub> (0.37 mL, 14.36 mmol) was added with stirring at 0 °C. After stirring at 0 °C for 15 minutes, the temperature was allowed to be increased to room temperature and stirred for 20 h. After the addition of water to the solution, the pH of the solution was adjusted to ~8 with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. The resulting reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product mixture containing 2-bromo-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) ethanone (**13**) (2.50 g) was used for the next step without further purification.

The crude mixture containing **13** (1.25 g) was dissolved in EtOH (12.32 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (2.17 mL) and HCO<sub>2</sub>Na (1.97 g, 28.97 mmol) was added to the solution and refluxed with stirring for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*, diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O, extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product mixture was purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/Hexane = 1/1 to give crystal of 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-ethanone (**V2**) (0.24g, 1.14 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.52 ~ 7.48 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 196.9, 154.2, 149.4, 126.5, 122.3, 110.3, 109.8, 65.0, 56.2, 56.1 ppm.

**[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-ethyl] benzoate (14).** **V2** (0.24 g, 1.14 mmol) was dissolved in pyridine (3.0 mL) and benzoyl chloride (0.16 mL, 1.28 mmol) was added to the solution with stirring at room temperature. In 20 h, the reaction mixture was washed with 10 wt% HCl aq. and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. and brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product mixture was recrystallized in EtOH to give white crystal of **14** (0.1 g, 0.33 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 8.16 ~ 8.13 (m, 2H), 7.63 ~ 7.45 (m, 5H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.18 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (s, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 190.7, 166.1, 153.9, 149.3, 133.3, 130.0, 129.5, 128.4, 127.4, 122.3, 110.1, 110.0, 66.2, 56.1, 56.0 ppm.

**[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(hydroxymethyl)-2-oxo-ethyl] benzoate (V1p).** **14** (0.10 g, 0.33 mmol) was dissolved in THF (1.1 mL) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.02 g, 0.14 mmol) and 38 % HCHO (0.03 mL, 0.81 mmol) were then added to the solution with stirring at 55 °C. In 20 h, the reaction mixture was neutralized with AcOH, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by thin layer chromatography with EtOAc/Hexane = 1/1 to give **V1p** as crystal (0.02 g, 0.06 mmol). **V1p** was analyzed by NMR as an acetylated **V1p**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.69 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.45 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (dd, *J* = 3.32 and 7.84 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (dd, *J* = 3.32 and 12.07 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (m, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 170.2, 166.2, 154.0, 149.2, 133.3, 129.7, 129.2, 128.4, 127.4, 123.3, 110.5, 110.2, 99.8, 72.9, 63.6, 56.1, 55.9, 20.6 ppm.

## Synthesis of DVGL starting from D2

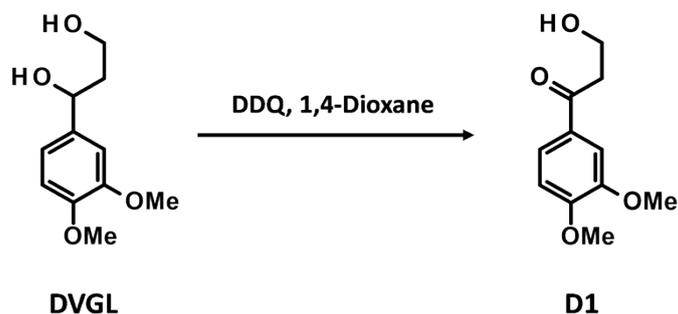


Scheme S3. Synthetic route for DVGL.

**1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) propane-1,3-diol, DVGL.** 3,4-dimethoxyacetophenone (**D2**) (2.02 g, 11.21 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous toluene (20.0 mL). The solution was dropped into toluene solution (12 mL) of diethyl carbonate (2.68 mL, 22.12 mmol) and NaH (1.51 g, 62.94 mmol) and the resulting solution was refluxed for 3 h. Aqueous solution of citric acid was then added to degrade the remaining NaH. The organic layer was extracted by EtOAc, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Red oil (3.52 g) containing ethyl 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate (**15**) was used for the next step without further purification.

The crude mixture containing **15** (3.52 g) was dissolved in anhydrous toluene (10.0 mL). The solution was dropped into a 1.5 mol/L DIBAL-H toluene solution (22.0 mL, equivalent to 33.3 mmol of DIBAL-H) for 2h with stirring at room temperature. EtOH and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were added to the reaction solution in this order to quench the remaining DIBAL-H. After adjusting the pH of the solution to  $\sim 3$  by adding an aqueous solution of citric acid, saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  aq. was added and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The resulting two-phase-separated reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography with EtOAc to give **DVGL** as light green oil (0.91 g, 4.29 mmol). **DVGL** was analyzed with NMR after its acetylation in  $\text{Ac}_2\text{O}$ /pyridine.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 6.92 ~ 6.80 (m, 3H), 5.79 (dd,  $J$  = 5.92 and 8.41, 1H), 4.17 ~ 4.09 (m, 1H), 4.04 ~ 3.97 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.30 ~ 2.19 (m, 1H), 2.12 ~ 2.07 (m, 1H), 2.06 (m, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 171.0, 170.2, 151.9, 148.8, 132.2, 119.0, 110.9, 109.5, 72.6, 60.7, 55.8, 35.0, 21.2, 20.8, 20.7 ppm.

## Synthesis of D1 starting from DVGL



Scheme S4. Synthetic route for **D1**.

**1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-hydroxy-propan-1-one (D1).** DVGL (0.11 g, 0.52 mmol) was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (5.0 mL) and 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ, 0.13 g, 0.57 mmol) was added to the solution at room temperature. In 1.5 h, an aqueous solution of sodium thiosulfate was added to quench remaining DDQ. The resulting reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography with EtOAc to give **D1** as white crystal (0.11 g, 0.52 mmol).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  = 7.63 (dd,  $J$  = 2.3 and 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d,  $J$  = 8.63 Hz, 1H), 3.92 ~ 3.87 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.13 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  = 198.2, 154.5, 150.1, 131.3, 123.5, 111.4, 111.2, 58.6, 56.1, 56.0, 41.6 ppm.

## NMR spectra of the compounds synthesized in this study

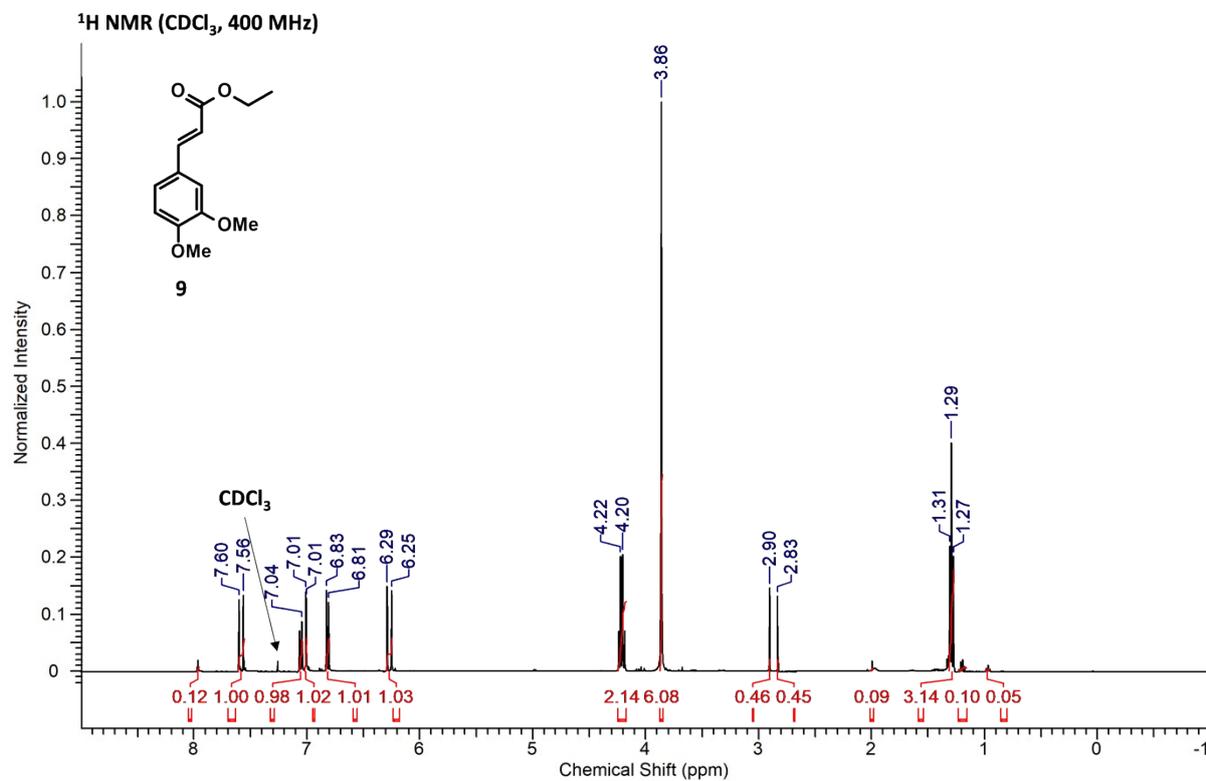


Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **9**

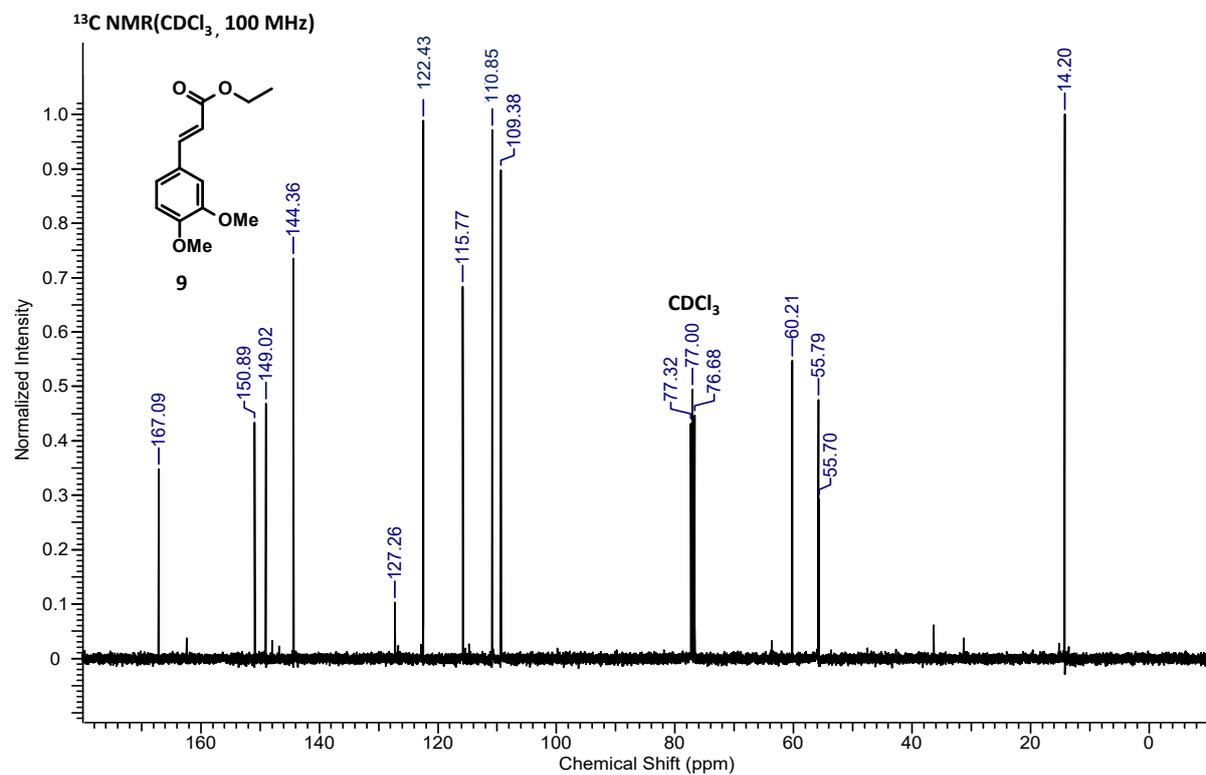
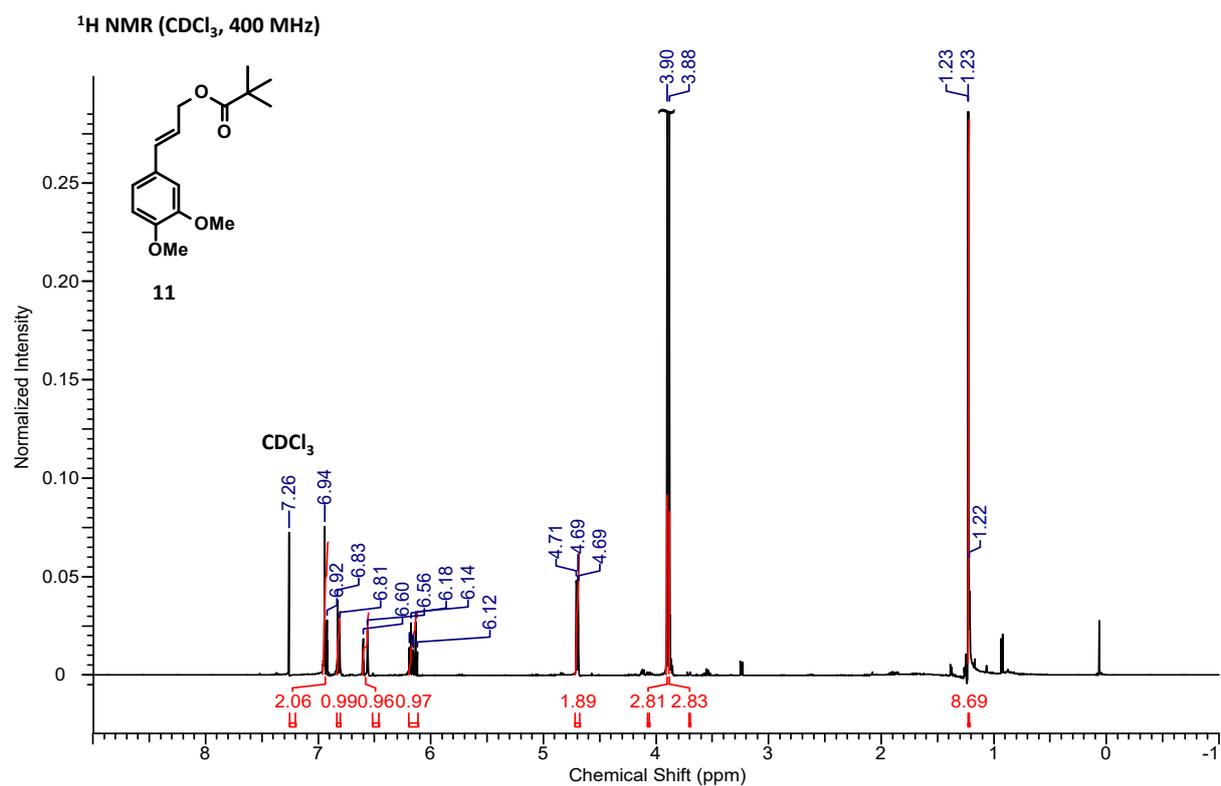
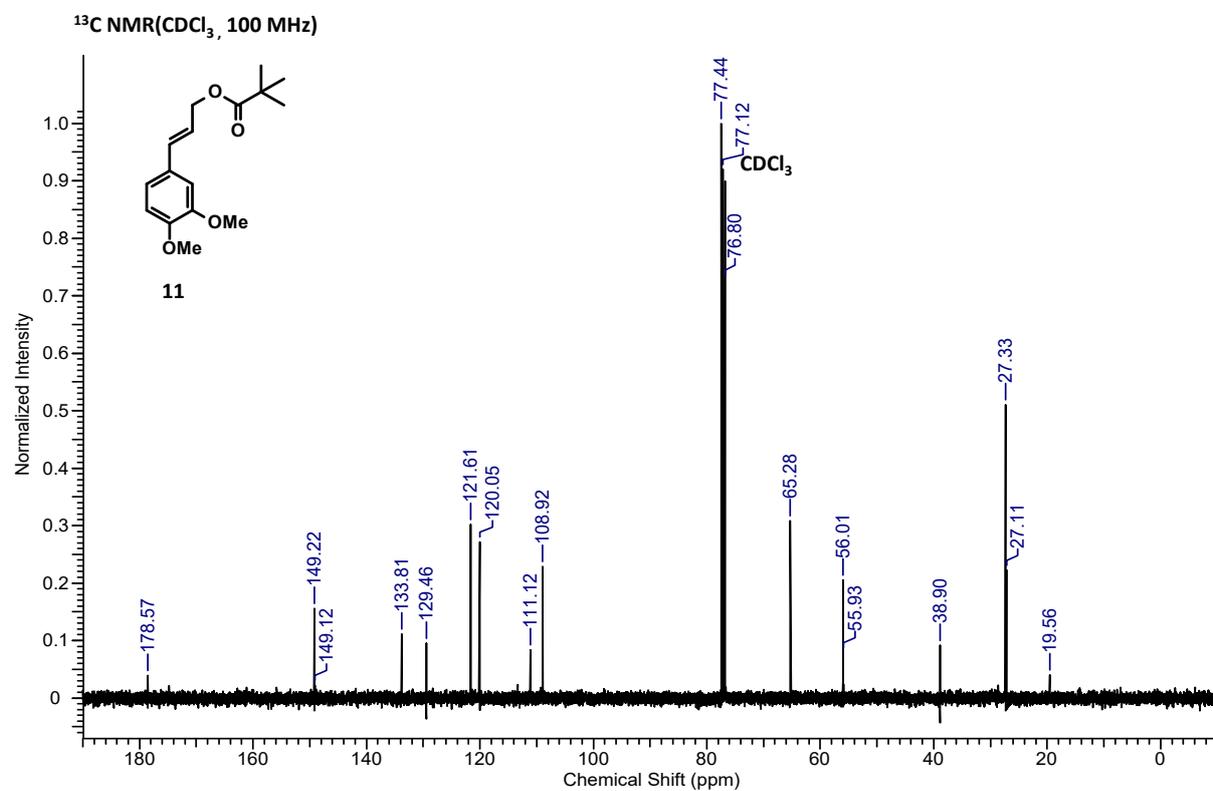


Figure S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9**.



**Figure S10.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **11**.



**Figure S11.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **11**.

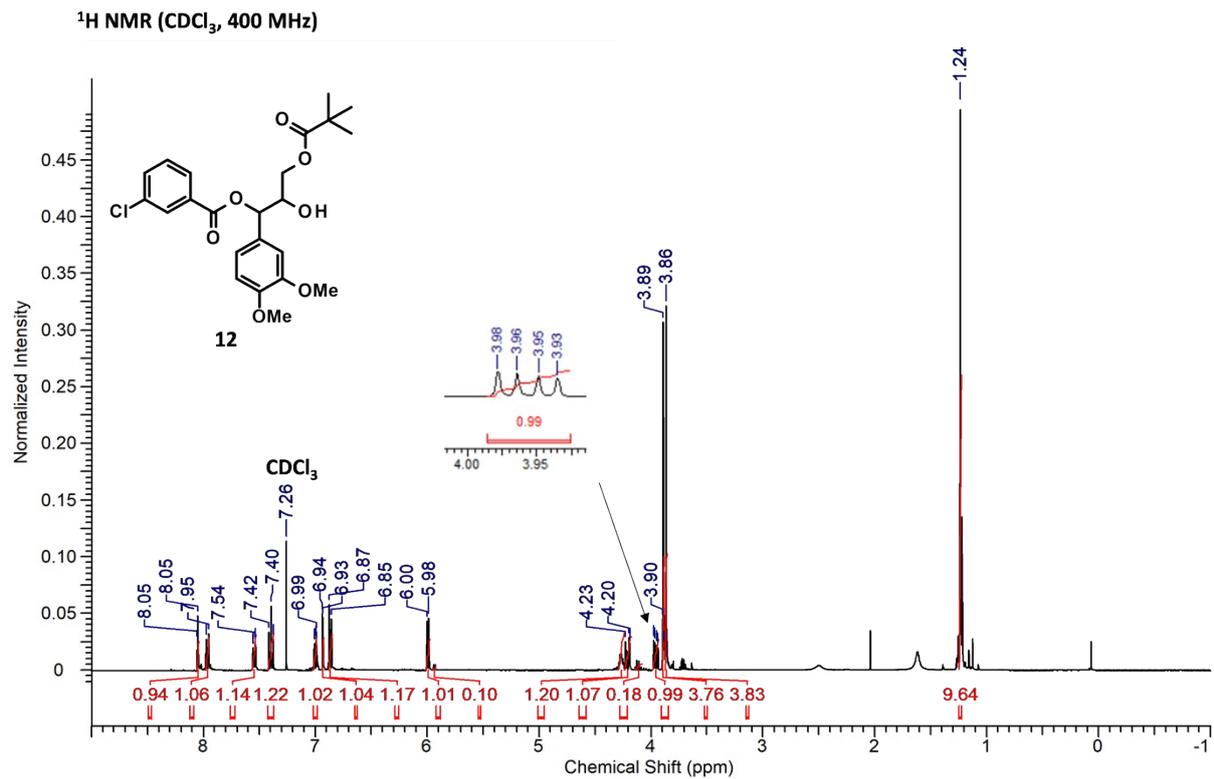


Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **12**.

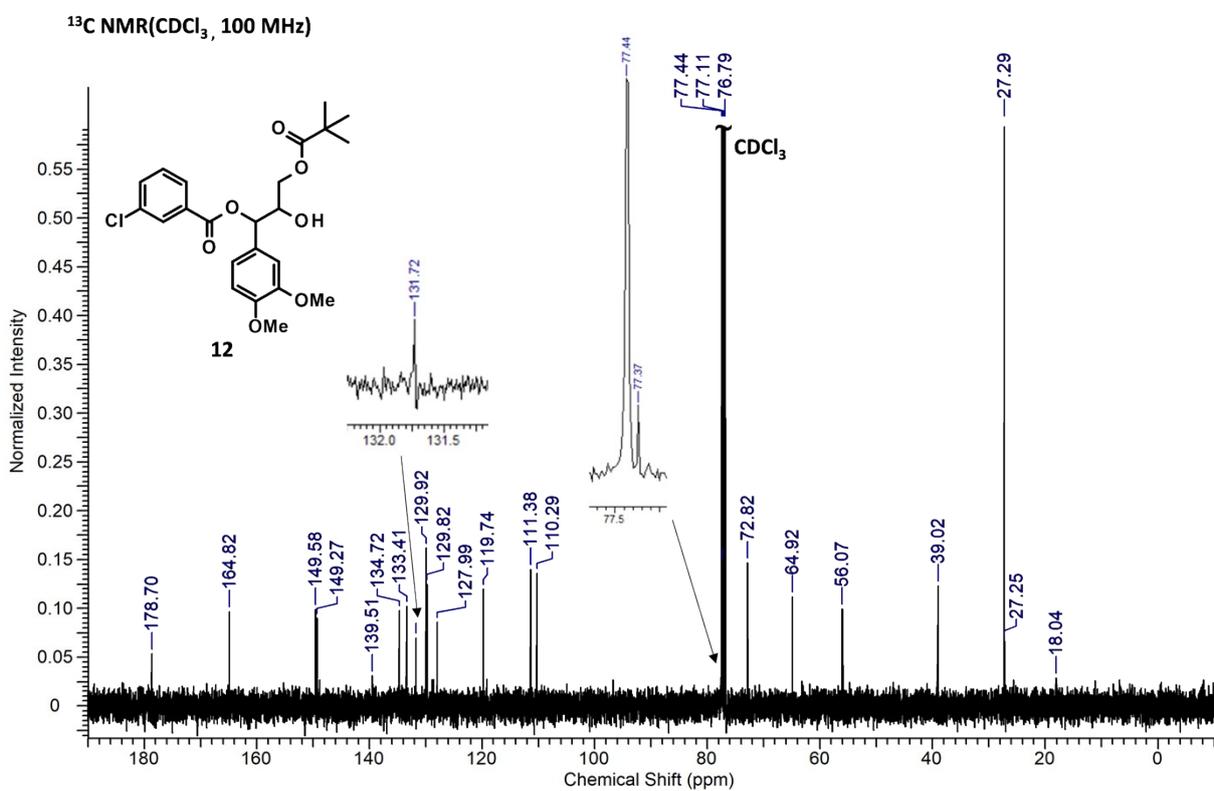


Figure S13. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **12**.

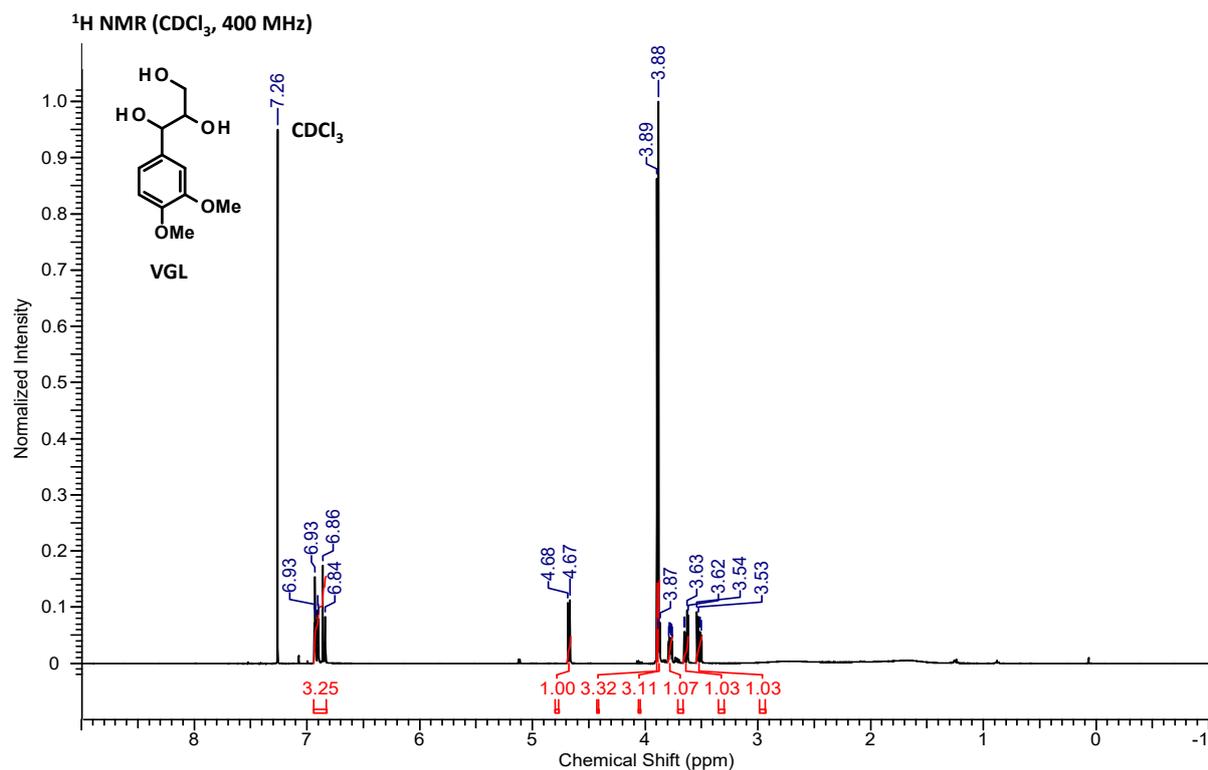


Figure S14. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of VGL.

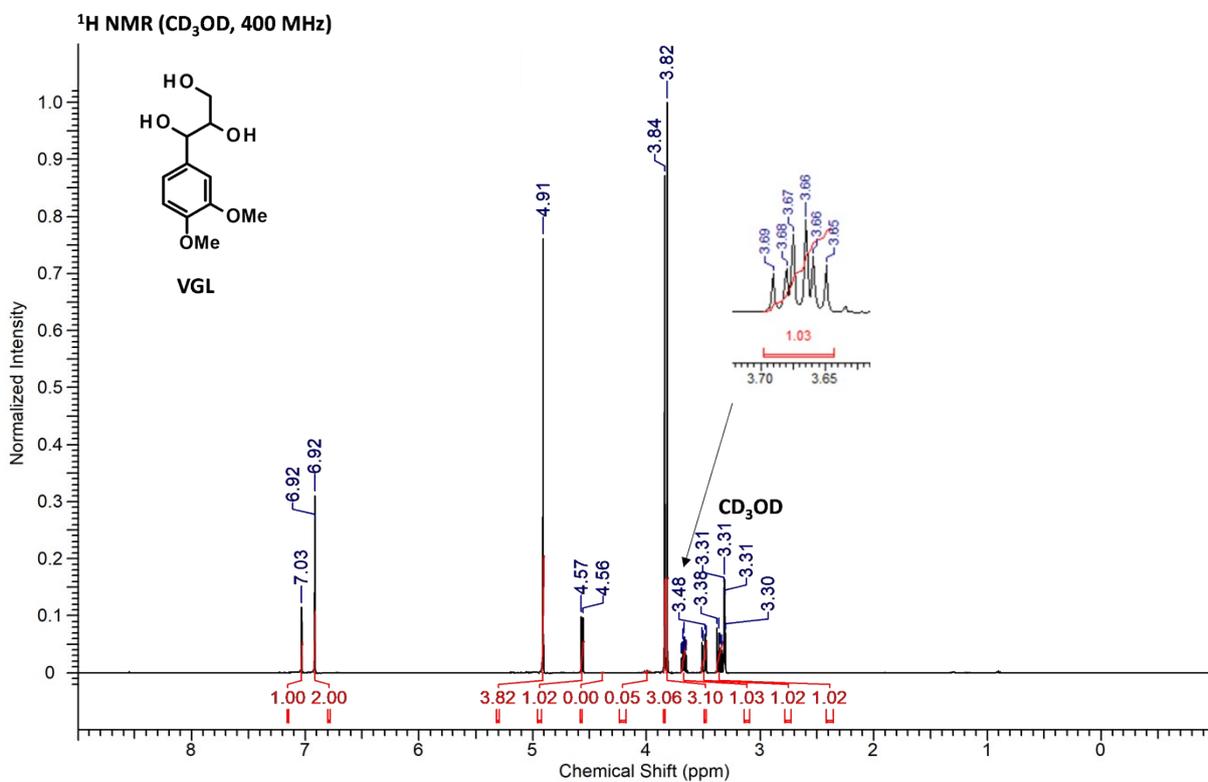


Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of VGL.

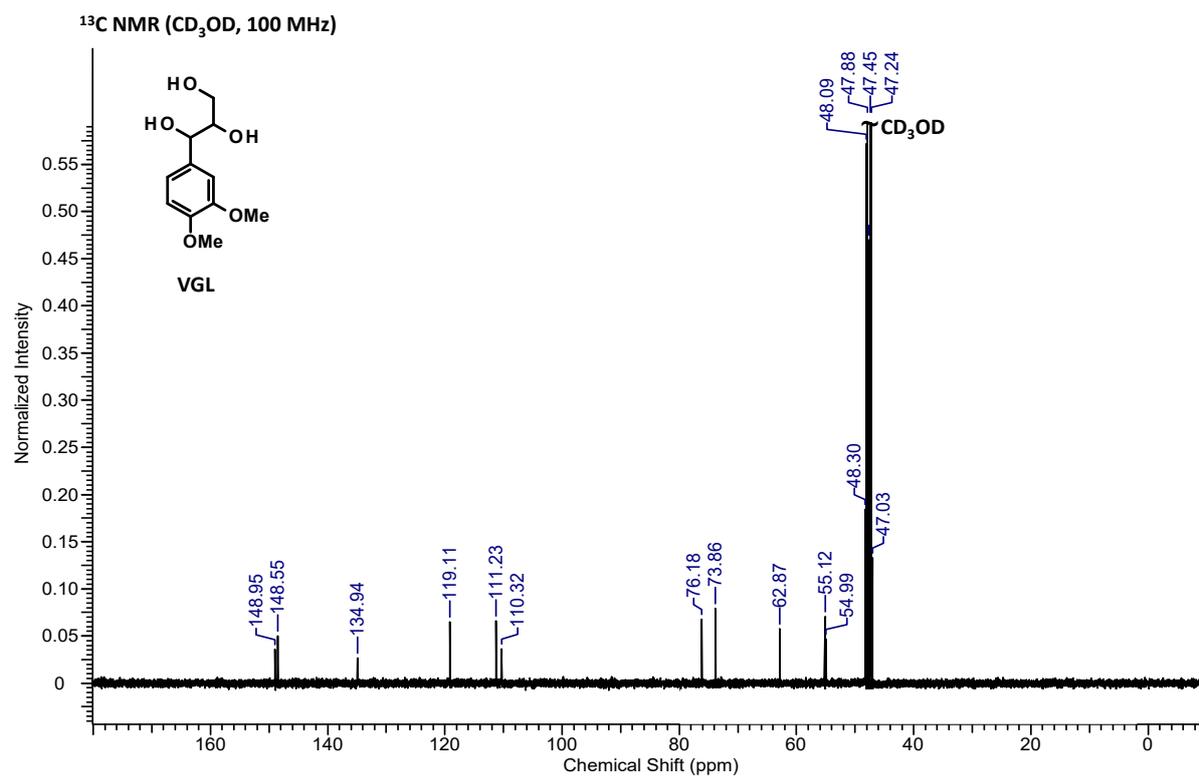


Figure S16. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of VGL.

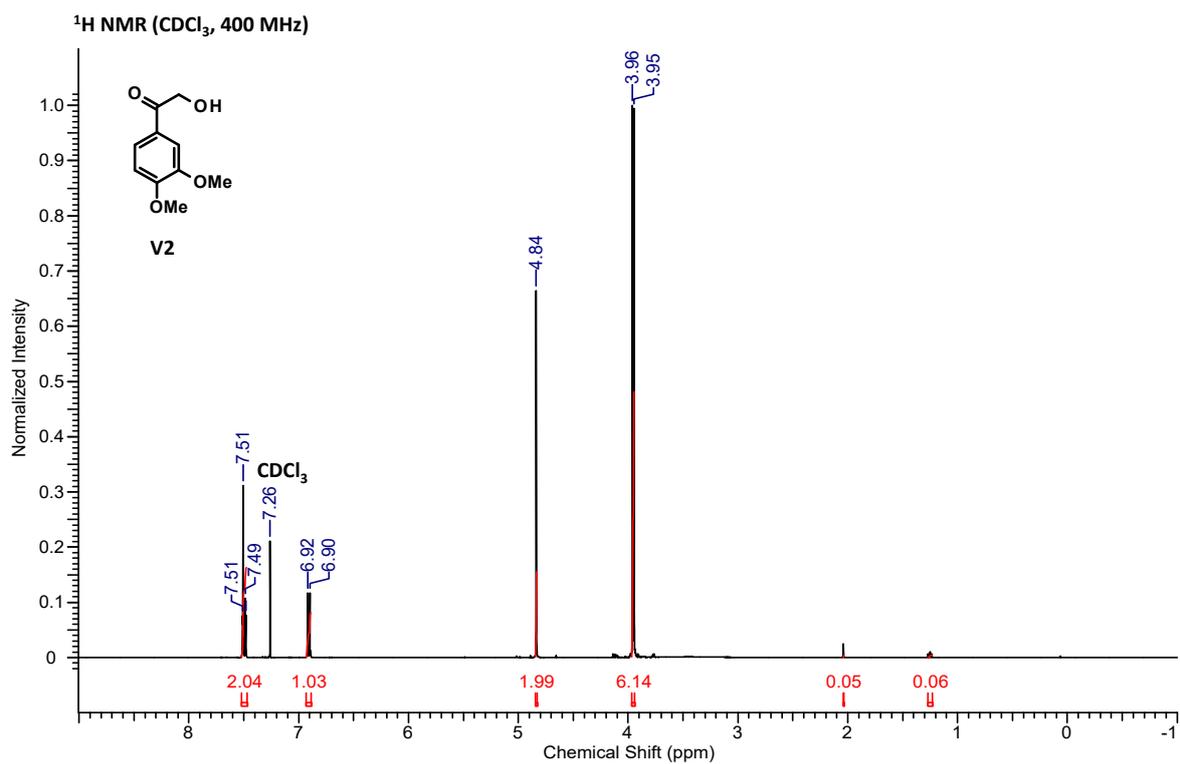


Figure S17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of V2

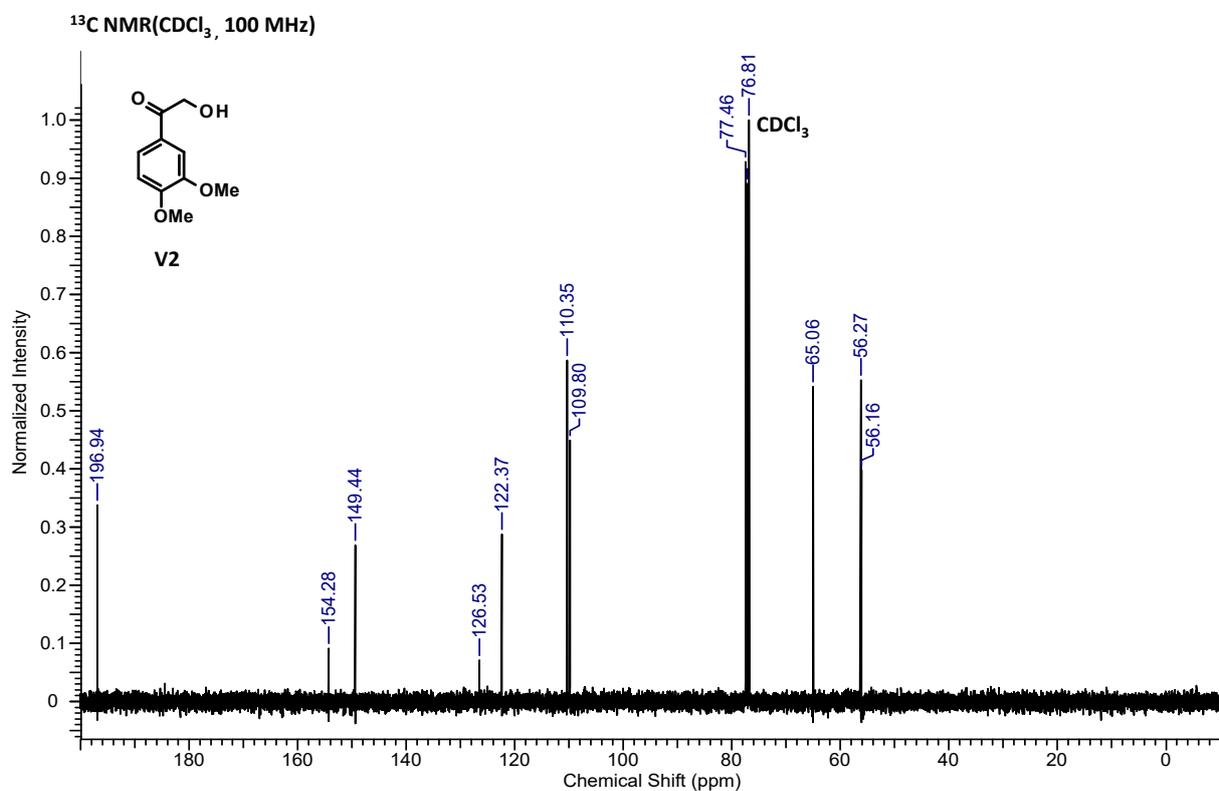


Figure S18. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of V2.

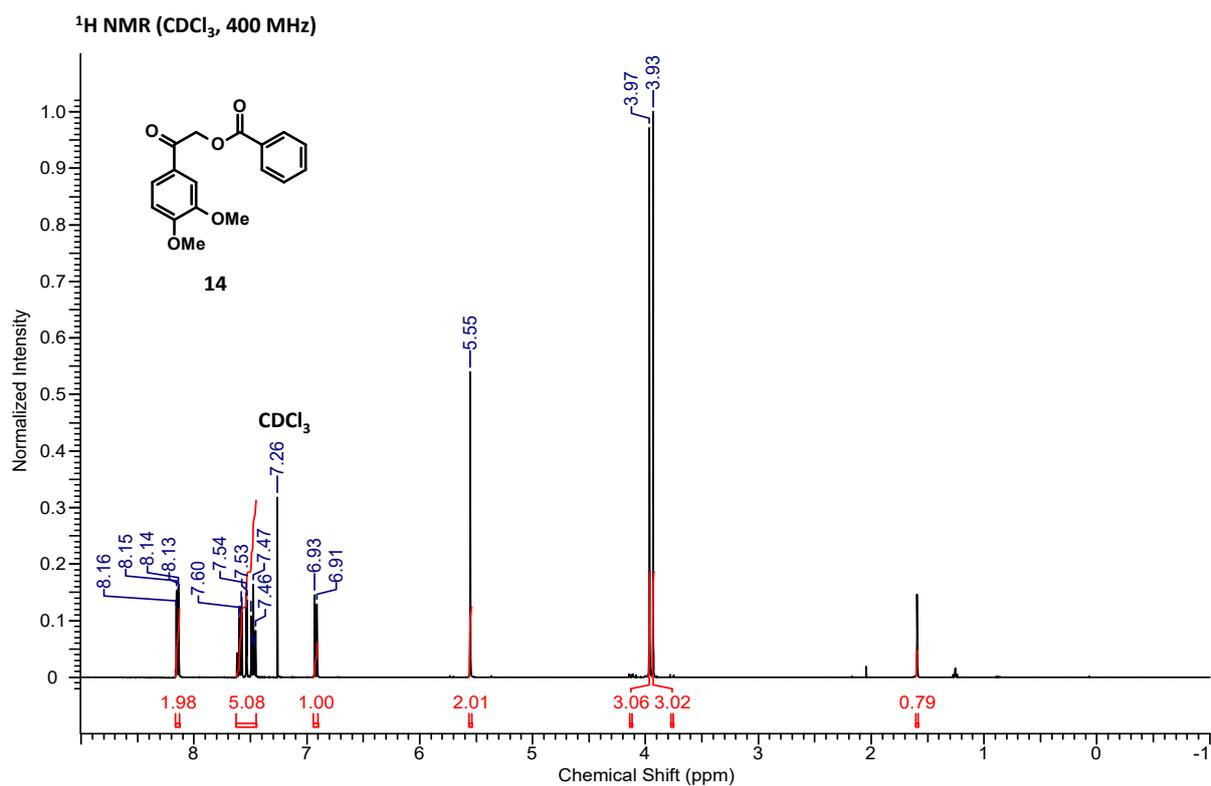


Figure S19. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **14**.

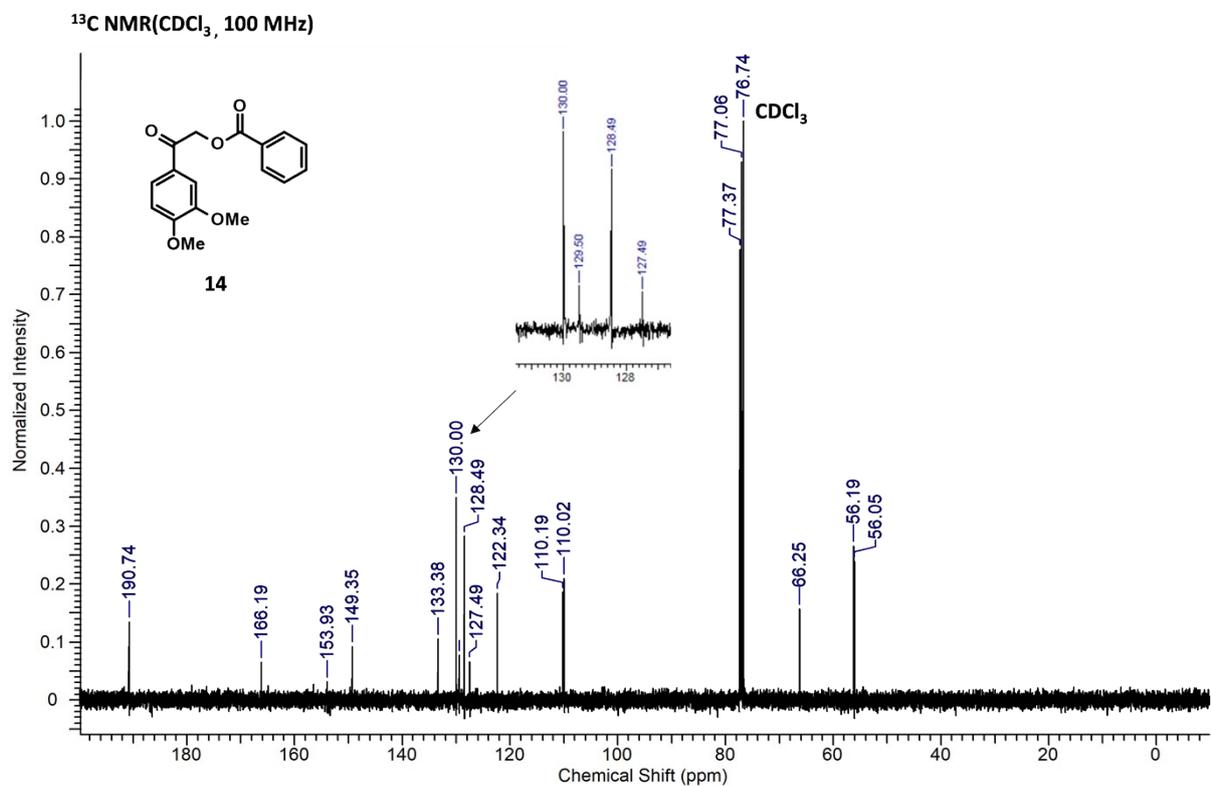


Figure S20. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **14**.

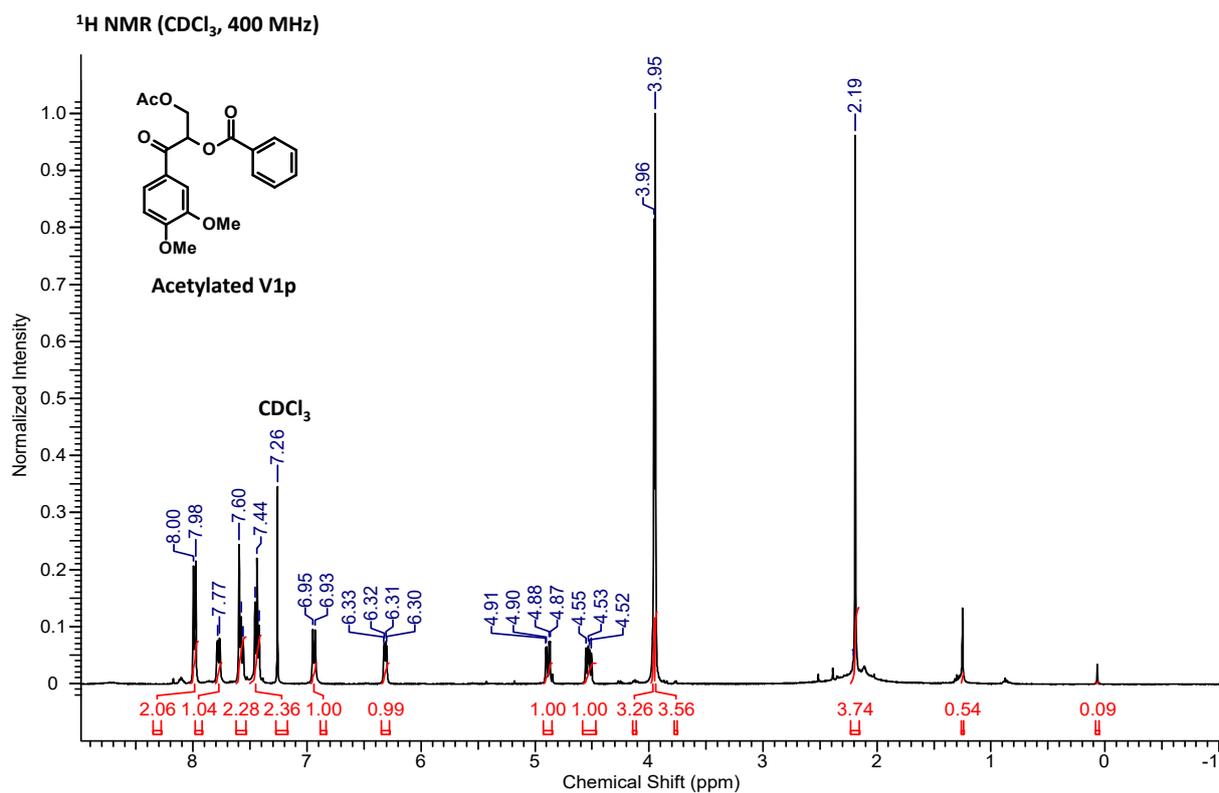


Figure S21. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of acetylated V1p.

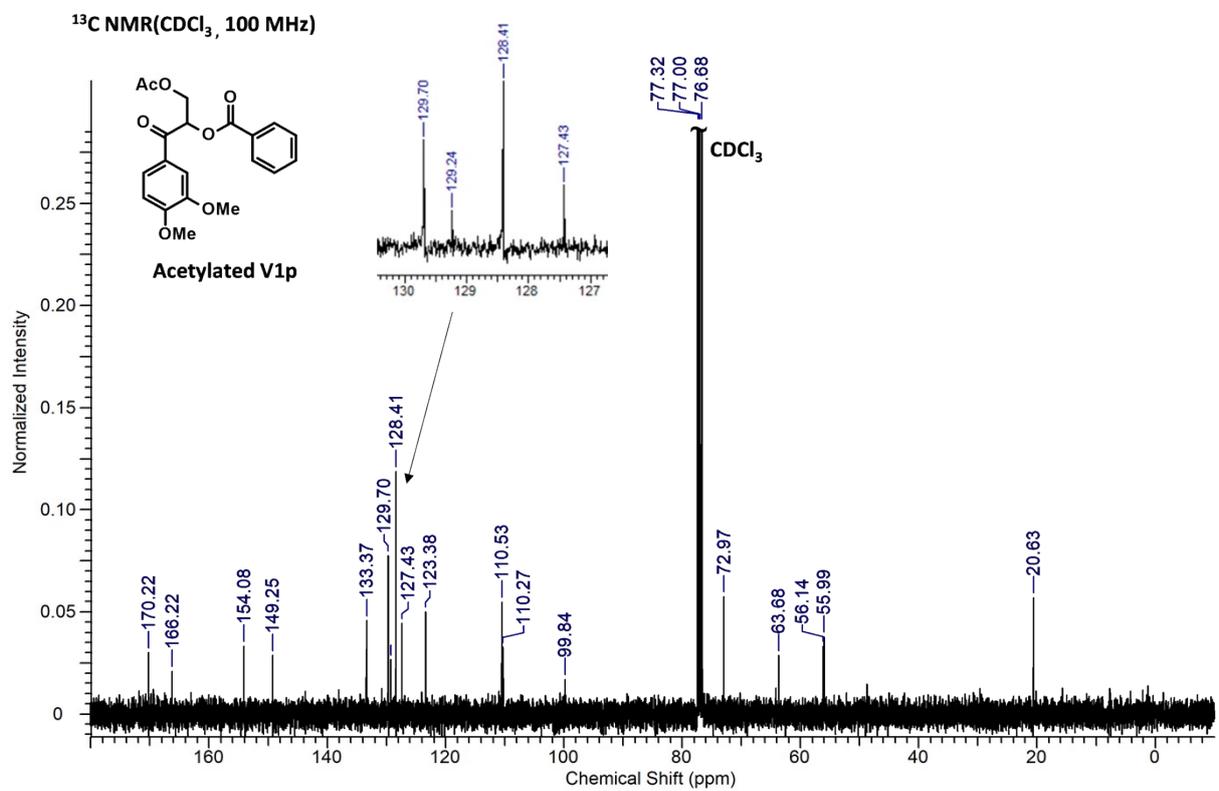


Figure S22. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of acetylated V1p.

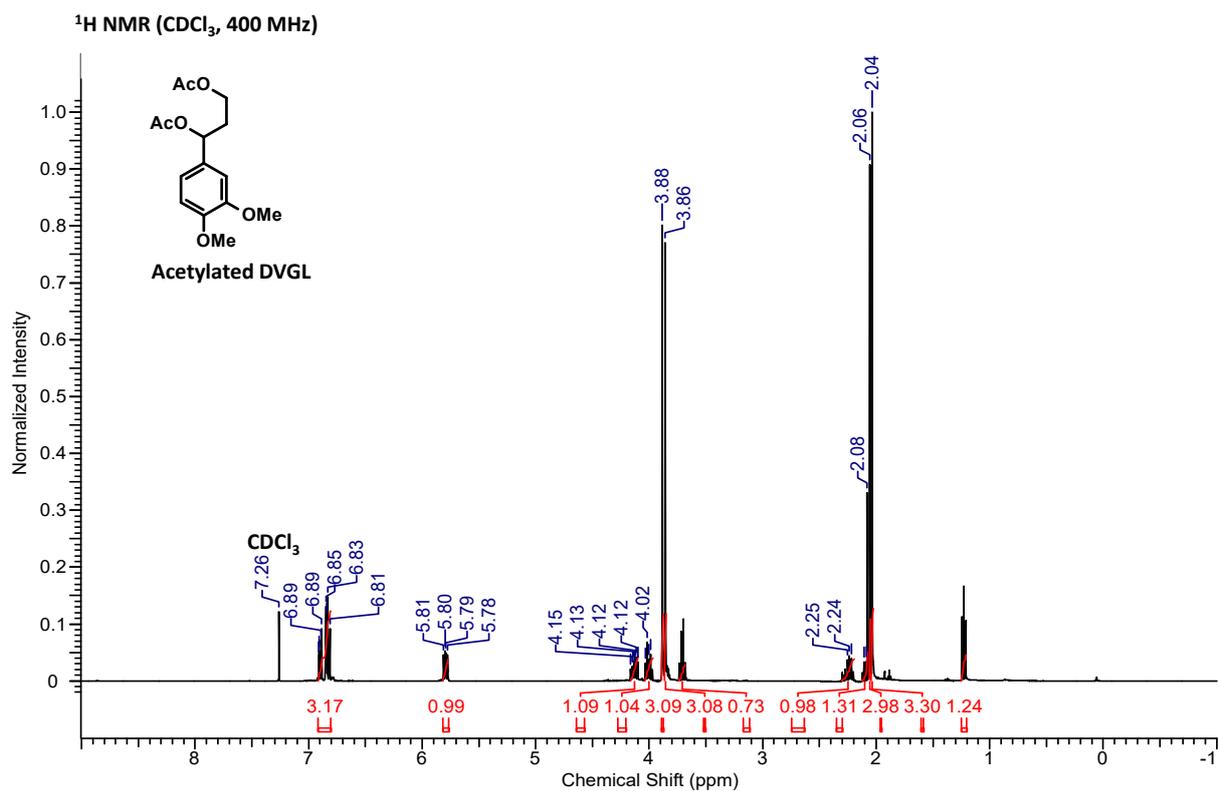


Figure S23. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of acetylated DVGL.

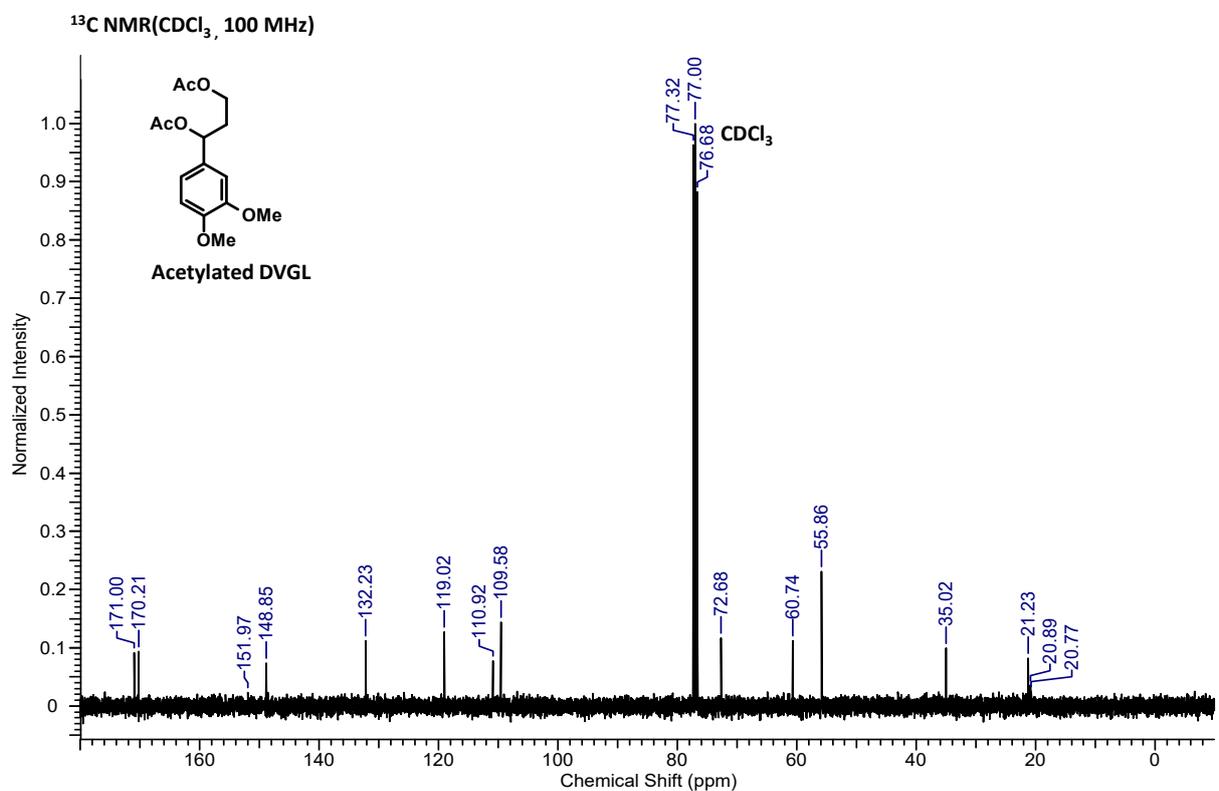


Figure S24. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of acetylated DVGL.

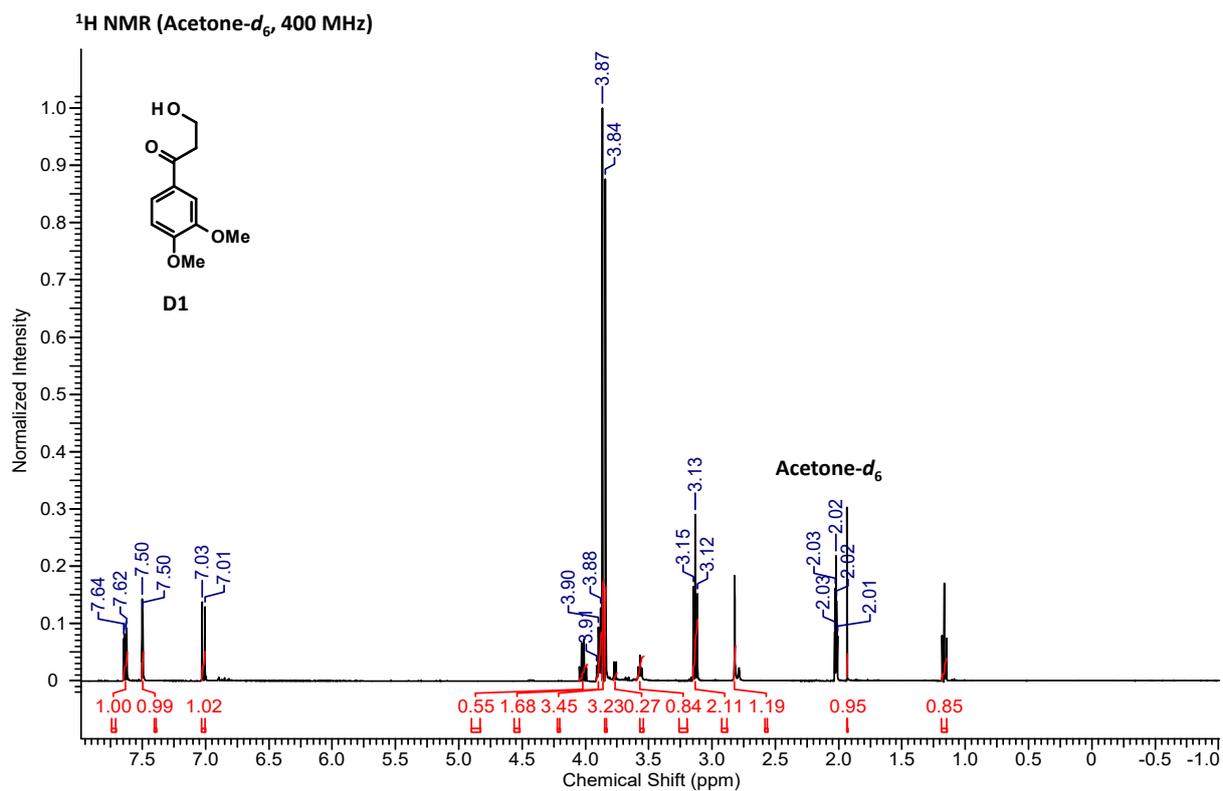


Figure S25. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of D1.

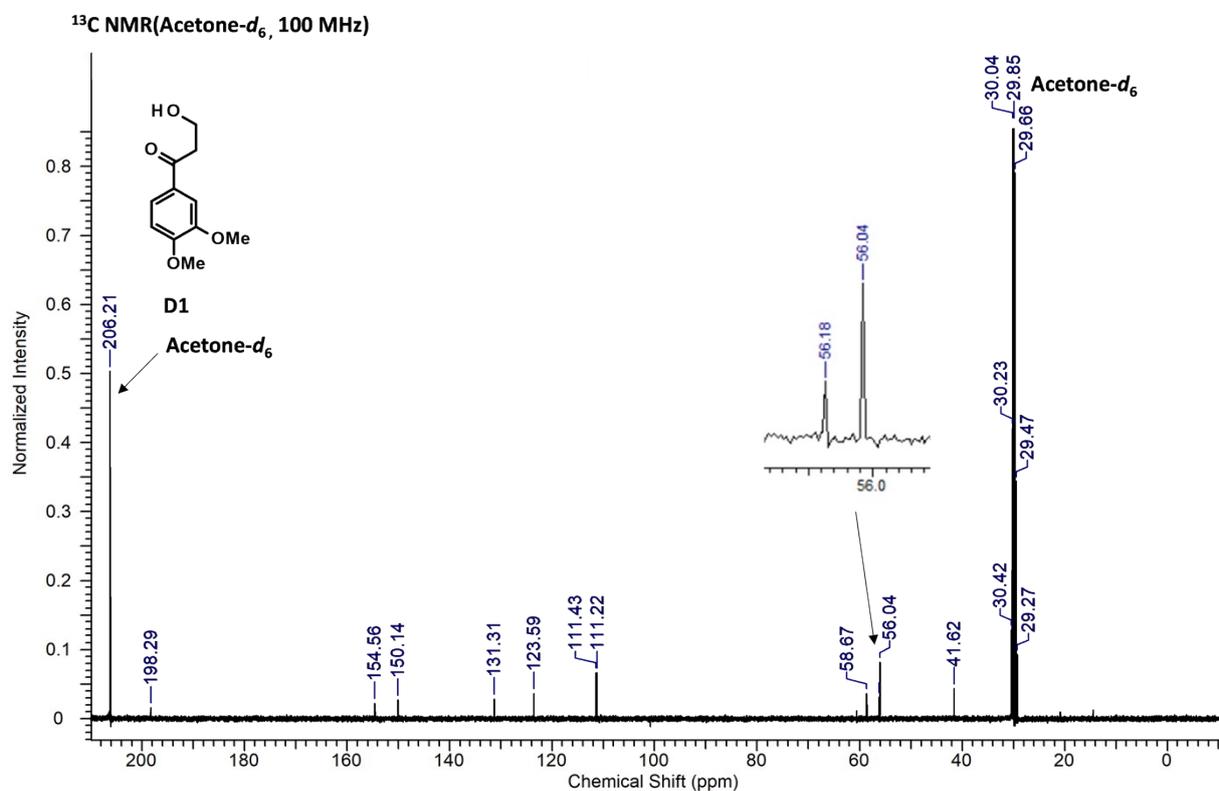


Figure S26. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of D1.

## Cartesian coordinates and total energies of optimized geometries.

### Cartesian coordinate of V1

C	2.26438600	-0.23474800	0.00061300
C	1.23646400	0.74000600	0.02467700
C	-0.09312800	0.34722500	0.01900200
C	-0.42472800	-1.02154200	0.01000800
C	0.58833800	-1.97453000	0.00237700
C	1.92998800	-1.58684500	-0.01143600
H	-0.88633600	1.09031000	0.03583300
H	0.32956600	-3.02862100	0.00102600
H	2.70506300	-2.34421100	-0.03191900
O	3.52860300	0.24744600	-0.00919500
O	1.65621200	2.03264700	0.04640100
C	0.65221300	3.03473100	0.05580400
H	0.02023600	2.94938500	0.94672400
H	1.18058500	3.98750300	0.06762000
H	0.02469000	2.96990400	-0.84033300
C	4.59112600	-0.69418300	-0.02857000
H	4.54778500	-1.31427800	-0.93029000
H	5.50859200	-0.10737100	-0.03107000
H	4.56392700	-1.33231400	0.86106100
C	-1.84524400	-1.48243200	0.04515100
O	-2.11336500	-2.62637300	0.40148900
C	-2.96405600	-0.52718500	-0.31043900
H	-3.86291300	-1.14713100	-0.42762300
C	-3.18613800	0.55633200	0.86673800
H	-4.20108900	0.39659400	1.27329100
H	-2.47741600	0.33814100	1.69159400
O	-2.71185300	0.23020500	-1.45682900
H	-2.78151000	1.17422200	-0.99468000
O	-3.00541100	1.79443800	0.31003600

Total Energy: -802.897678743 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of G2

C	-2.42699200	-0.31357700	0.04390400
C	-1.51757300	0.76246900	-0.10951500
C	-0.15844800	0.50511600	-0.20401000
C	0.32821300	-0.81446800	-0.13264100
C	-0.57104900	-1.86243000	0.02845100
C	-1.94364300	-1.61763600	0.10933400
H	0.53054400	1.33287500	-0.32183100
H	-0.19632000	-2.87925700	0.08615800
H	-2.62885600	-2.44915200	0.22514300
O	-3.73191200	0.03118100	0.11596500
O	-2.07648800	1.99848200	-0.15278100
C	-1.20004700	3.10522800	-0.29494600
H	-0.64400200	3.04675500	-1.23733200
H	-1.83424200	3.99059500	-0.29853200
H	-0.49751600	3.15862600	0.54458200
C	-4.68170200	-1.01508300	0.26314700
H	-4.50827200	-1.57113600	1.19049700
H	-5.65547800	-0.52901700	0.30367600
H	-4.64509000	-1.69825400	-0.59194800
C	1.79323100	-1.11611100	-0.21503700
O	2.20576900	-2.24051500	0.03483200
C	2.72585800	0.02264600	-0.56817800
H	2.28654500	0.59011800	-1.40060500
C	2.90292800	0.98064400	0.73265700
H	2.56027800	1.99508200	0.44429500
H	2.21485800	0.63211300	1.52861500
O	4.01118000	-0.40167200	-0.87568800
H	4.49008100	0.06583600	-0.06445000
O	4.21930100	0.92427800	1.08676400

Total Energy: -802.895792637 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of G3

C	2.40372100	-0.30732600	-0.04435400
C	1.49035000	0.75767300	0.16410700
C	0.13323800	0.49175800	0.24678300
C	-0.34625200	-0.82657700	0.11526700
C	0.55693400	-1.86462600	-0.09240700
C	1.92662800	-1.60987900	-0.17064800
H	-0.55968400	1.30879200	0.40641500
H	0.18590500	-2.87927900	-0.19191500
H	2.61491900	-2.43110900	-0.33150100
O	3.70459200	0.04562300	-0.10471500
O	2.04630100	1.99038000	0.26588700
C	1.16707600	3.09027800	0.44301600
H	0.61215900	3.00080400	1.38344500
H	1.79953000	3.97634500	0.47401200
H	0.46444300	3.16802100	-0.39441100
C	4.65936400	-0.98426800	-0.32469900
H	4.48053000	-1.48200000	-1.28342700
H	5.62965100	-0.49010400	-0.34245200
H	4.63367400	-1.71885200	0.48687100
C	-1.79495600	-1.14359600	0.20993700
O	-2.19908700	-2.29979400	0.10866100
C	-2.81449300	-0.03499600	0.36442300
H	-2.47917800	0.70648600	1.09851200
C	-3.02744400	0.70564200	-1.00310600
H	-2.01043700	0.87662800	-1.43020400
H	-3.48519200	-0.08589900	-1.65103600
O	-4.03043100	-0.57812900	0.84137500
H	-4.03412700	-1.50865900	0.56699600
O	-3.76852400	1.83121200	-0.89136000

Total Energy: -802.887060430 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of G4

C	-2.32112900	-0.37985000	0.00033200
C	-1.42904900	0.71423000	-0.11382700
C	-0.06071400	0.49524900	-0.11926700
C	0.44169700	-0.81111100	0.01849200
C	-0.43602400	-1.88510400	0.14966300
C	-1.81461600	-1.67258900	0.13414300
H	0.65021600	1.32059200	-0.13018500
H	-0.04200900	-2.89107400	0.25179000
H	-2.48723500	-2.51745400	0.22366500
O	-3.63626000	-0.06822800	-0.02682400
O	-2.00903700	1.93999300	-0.20840500
C	-1.13259700	3.05164100	-0.31916400
H	-0.53767100	2.98897700	-1.23754600
H	-1.77052500	3.93409500	-0.35240600
H	-0.45951600	3.10716800	0.54326300
C	-4.57005000	-1.13327300	0.07956100
H	-4.46046500	-1.65343400	1.03700700
H	-5.55499900	-0.67182800	0.02310100
H	-4.44844200	-1.84403500	-0.74468400
C	1.89982200	-1.07610800	-0.01474100
O	2.35282700	-2.16722400	0.33036700
C	2.88018000	-0.02324700	-0.49936100
H	2.45900100	0.52628800	-1.34963100
C	3.25129300	1.01870400	0.62840200
H	3.59236600	0.38127600	1.48426500
H	4.18700600	1.46134000	0.21216100
O	4.06107900	-0.67791900	-0.92952600
H	4.05995500	-1.54843000	-0.50029800
O	2.30132100	1.92528800	0.94365000

Total Energy: -802.888315361 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of erythro-V1'

C	-0.33546000	0.81465600	0.38062600
C	0.38759000	-0.38468200	0.50128000
C	-0.28339500	-1.58792500	0.36094000
C	-1.66063200	-1.61364300	0.08772900
C	-2.37362600	-0.42921200	-0.04078500
C	-1.69853000	0.80569800	0.11558100
H	0.18983200	1.75914400	0.49917600
H	0.27102300	-2.51466400	0.47023500
H	-2.16367300	-2.56813400	-0.02196300
O	-2.47339900	1.91835200	-0.00914000
O	-3.70755100	-0.34289900	-0.30679300
C	-4.40957100	-1.55927100	-0.49233700
H	-5.44019600	-1.28212000	-0.71214300
H	-3.99486000	-2.12790700	-1.33270900
H	-4.38065000	-2.17397100	0.41452500
C	-1.83160400	3.17416000	0.12879500
H	-1.05679400	3.30580900	-0.63484300
H	-2.60884700	3.92562900	-0.00597000
H	-1.38609700	3.28140600	1.12425400
C	1.89243000	-0.34130500	0.74925100
H	2.07909900	0.50234000	1.44573800
C	2.63507500	0.00795100	-0.66009800
H	1.91450900	0.44201900	-1.36742200
O	2.43983000	-1.51414100	1.16123000
O	3.14999000	-1.20243000	-1.09635400
H	3.02353300	-1.71502200	-0.19342700
C	3.68018200	1.04145800	-0.36147200
O	4.87359200	0.83359900	-0.26603300
H	3.27867900	2.05831400	-0.16578200

Total Energy: -802.889663955 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of threo-V1'

C	0.32473400	1.06206700	-0.39509500
C	-0.57816200	0.03655300	-0.72437700
C	-0.12489800	-1.27286300	-0.74995700
C	1.20835700	-1.57629000	-0.43415800
C	2.09745200	-0.56491800	-0.09344900
C	1.64738800	0.77733400	-0.07972700
H	-0.02851300	2.08976600	-0.38893700
H	-0.81880700	-2.06472700	-1.01512200
H	1.54038800	-2.60840900	-0.45984000
O	2.58584300	1.70757400	0.24652800
O	3.40818900	-0.75121400	0.22778600
C	3.89036800	-2.08349400	0.22976300
H	4.94026900	-2.02357000	0.51504300
H	3.34619000	-2.69715400	0.95695600
H	3.80543300	-2.53479900	-0.76532400
C	2.17221200	3.06262200	0.28244600
H	1.38430100	3.21338800	1.02903000
H	3.05421400	3.63849800	0.56070000
H	1.81402200	3.39138500	-0.69958400
C	-2.04098900	0.36973200	-0.98562700
H	-2.06098800	1.35994600	-1.49396500
C	-2.81721500	0.63453600	0.40626600
H	-2.64832200	1.67007300	0.73453200
O	-2.75833600	-0.57499800	-1.64279300
O	-4.15712200	0.39489000	0.10398200
H	-4.00257700	-0.17085100	-0.73173400
C	-2.28817200	-0.28085200	1.47861500
O	-2.82214900	-1.31079500	1.84208500
H	-1.32346800	0.02623500	1.92934500

Total Energy: -802.888884270 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of TS1

C	-2.36071000	-0.41349000	0.03279500
C	-1.56978800	0.74846500	-0.13975200
C	-0.19779900	0.63275500	-0.30750900
C	0.42860200	-0.63066700	-0.32809700
C	-0.35859900	-1.76205400	-0.15121900
C	-1.74503400	-1.65819900	0.02591700
H	0.40312500	1.52996000	-0.40642900
H	0.11699700	-2.73734800	-0.15191500
H	-2.33123700	-2.56065800	0.15958800
O	-3.69332400	-0.20020400	0.20495200
O	-2.24882500	1.92750300	-0.10869400
C	-1.49976300	3.11636000	-0.29306600
H	-0.99884400	3.11803500	-1.26795600
H	-2.21952700	3.93329600	-0.25041000
H	-0.75547200	3.24150300	0.50146700
C	-4.51129100	-1.34100500	0.39984700
H	-4.21174200	-1.89062000	1.29935800
H	-5.52626700	-0.96459600	0.52298300
H	-4.46960100	-2.00819200	-0.46847200
C	1.90522600	-0.78843600	-0.50440700
O	2.46984100	-1.90424800	-0.19494500
C	2.67047700	0.27396100	-0.94592100
H	2.30819800	1.19669900	-1.37821700
C	2.85108100	0.88277400	1.38213100
H	2.95458200	1.89373000	0.95395500
H	1.82778100	0.58122600	1.65635000
O	4.02001400	0.05579600	-1.12748800
H	4.17742400	-0.78819700	-0.66569300
O	3.83356400	0.25770100	1.78506000

Total Energy: -802.867194778 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of TS2e

C	-0.34025000	0.83627800	0.53972700
C	0.38534300	-0.35392000	0.72120000
C	-0.23733800	-1.57981700	0.52540900
C	-1.57891400	-1.63219400	0.13417500
C	-2.30138400	-0.45713100	-0.05467100
C	-1.67137400	0.79621500	0.15602500
H	0.16199800	1.78662200	0.69455200
H	0.32412200	-2.49683900	0.67661600
H	-2.05294500	-2.59499300	-0.01813000
O	-2.45623100	1.88669500	-0.04105900
O	-3.60205900	-0.39940200	-0.42954100
C	-4.27530100	-1.62840600	-0.65551500
H	-5.29147300	-1.36329700	-0.94439100
H	-3.79724000	-2.19249800	-1.46354600
H	-4.29844000	-2.23549000	0.25583800
C	-1.86071000	3.15844000	0.15937900
H	-1.02721100	3.31396900	-0.53472600
H	-2.64286800	3.89040500	-0.03790800
H	-1.50668200	3.26733800	1.19052700
C	1.80209400	-0.27372800	1.14486100
H	2.17340700	0.73598400	1.37979700
C	2.74320600	-0.17494700	-1.18512300
H	1.80602800	-0.15406400	-1.73635700
O	2.46706300	-1.27017900	1.47007700
O	3.34085700	-1.41407400	-1.04543300
H	3.24268600	-1.68105300	-0.10490300
C	3.37334200	1.00184600	-0.82825200
O	4.48893300	1.15498300	-0.23410300
H	2.76783100	1.90391500	-1.06018100

Total Energy: -802.872472615 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of TS2t

C	0.26502900	0.99244400	-0.62796900
C	-0.59885900	-0.08317200	-0.90039000
C	-0.13946700	-1.38596200	-0.76690300
C	1.17718200	-1.63069900	-0.36002000
C	2.03278100	-0.57075600	-0.07991400
C	1.56562000	0.76308800	-0.21189000
H	-0.11186200	2.00580800	-0.73172400
H	-0.80778700	-2.21351000	-0.98349800
H	1.52418100	-2.65291400	-0.26369100
O	2.47105600	1.73228700	0.08482600
O	3.32200700	-0.70026400	0.32052100
C	3.83047700	-2.01627900	0.47146800
H	4.86429700	-1.90154600	0.79512200
H	3.26619000	-2.56928500	1.23036800
H	3.80001200	-2.55912100	-0.47961500
C	2.03454100	3.07780500	-0.01471700
H	1.19800100	3.26958400	0.66698800
H	2.88792300	3.69187700	0.27028000
H	1.73484200	3.31806500	-1.04096200
C	-1.97688400	0.19831100	-1.35597600
H	-2.18918600	1.25491600	-1.58131500
C	-3.25799500	0.61012700	0.72626100
H	-3.54336400	1.62989400	0.47123700
O	-2.74951000	-0.69422000	-1.75784800
O	-4.17310100	-0.38076600	0.42537300
H	-3.91278300	-0.75420400	-0.44826500
C	-2.19778700	0.39251400	1.59359200
O	-1.80867400	-0.69681400	2.10899000
H	-1.61251600	1.31412600	1.79893300

Total Energy: -802.871283308 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of V2

C	1.84105700	-0.45696100	-0.02761300
C	1.12998000	0.76571500	0.03992500
C	-0.25616300	0.76051900	0.08998000
C	-0.98463200	-0.44760700	0.05494100
C	-0.27146200	-1.64086800	0.00411200
C	1.13034600	-1.64926900	-0.03967400
H	-0.79115100	1.69974800	0.17438400
H	-0.82033200	-2.57657500	-0.00658600
H	1.65472000	-2.59759200	-0.08525100
O	3.20017800	-0.35252600	-0.06478700
O	1.90131900	1.88869200	0.06910200
C	1.23377500	3.13686500	0.12482500
H	0.64069700	3.22647700	1.04207400
H	2.01570900	3.89598700	0.12085800
H	0.58294900	3.27471700	-0.74626100
C	3.93594300	-1.56029500	-0.14203500
H	3.68478900	-2.11680800	-1.05233400
H	4.98658800	-1.27261400	-0.16767700
H	3.74972400	-2.19151700	0.73453500
C	-2.47783200	-0.48580800	0.07894300
O	-3.08539100	-1.60188600	0.40974500
C	-3.20550400	0.60667900	-0.28505400
H	-2.84545600	1.56709000	-0.62772000
O	-4.59107100	0.48549200	-0.26366300
H	-4.71157400	-0.44091800	0.02069400

Total Energy: -688.399983942 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of formaldehyde

C	0.53259600	0.00000000	-0.00006700
H	1.10833900	-0.93993200	0.00013600
H	1.10834000	0.93993200	0.00013600
O	-0.67653200	0.00000000	0.00001600

Total Energy: -114.457491489 a.u.

### Cartesian coordinate of 4

C	-0.79132900	0.98231200	-0.00003000
C	-1.68508700	-0.10362700	-0.00010600
C	-1.20248500	-1.40887400	-0.00013100
C	0.17159300	-1.64331700	-0.00006400
C	1.06555200	-0.57174100	0.00003500
C	0.57663600	0.76046800	0.00003200
H	-1.18714100	1.99317800	-0.00000400
H	-1.90044600	-2.24023000	-0.00022100
H	0.54157700	-2.66166400	-0.00012400
O	1.52364300	1.72985100	0.00012000
O	2.40767000	-0.69386300	0.00008300
C	2.95756800	-2.00510300	0.00055700
H	4.03824300	-1.87226300	0.00092500
H	2.65259100	-2.55474300	0.89692000
H	2.65323200	-2.55511200	-0.89580000
C	1.07515700	3.07650900	-0.00019900
H	0.48244300	3.29134900	0.89572100
H	1.97435500	3.69077900	-0.00030500
H	0.48250400	3.29093200	-0.89626100
C	-3.13114900	0.17172100	-0.00017300
H	-3.40974600	1.24262500	-0.00020000
O	-3.99960500	-0.68285500	-0.00022600

Total Energy: -574.398357995 a.u.

**Cartesian coordinate of 7**

C	0.61591000	0.65506700	-0.00003200
H	1.19426600	1.56966400	-0.00009700
O	1.37707400	-0.51889500	-0.00000500
H	0.69708000	-1.21510600	-0.00000400
C	-0.73542400	0.54362300	-0.00000700
O	-1.35858300	-0.60906400	0.00004900
H	-1.32218700	1.47697300	-0.00001600

Total Energy: -228.467174008 a.u.