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- 1 Synthesis and characterization of a small library of bisglucosides: influence of the
- 2 nature of the diol/diphenol used in O-glucosylation.

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6

7 Abstract: In this paper, the synthesis of different bisglucosides is investigated through the 8 reaction of two acetylated glucose units with a diol (or diphenol) in order to develop a 9 versatile molecular platform for the future development of bio-based polymers. A panel of 10 five diols and one diphenol is initially used in order to examine the influence of their 11 chemical skeleton on the reaction yield and both nature and proportion of formed species. 12 Reaction products are identified using ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopies completed by 13 MALDI-TOF MS technique. The nucleophilicity of these dihydroxy compounds is identified 14 as being the main factor that governs the reaction characteristics. In particular, the best 15 selectivity is obtained with the use of hydroquinone. Inversely, by-products (oligomers, 16 deacetylated compounds) are observed with the diols defined by higher nucleophilicity 17 despite the choice of stereoselective pathway using acyl protecting groups.

18 Keywords: bisglucoside; diol; hydroquinone; biobased monomer; molecular spacer;
19 O-glycosylation; analytical techniques.

20

21 **1. Introduction**

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22 Over the last few decades, the development of biobased polymers arises a great interest 23 in both scientific and industrial communities [1, 2]. Different elements support researches in 24 this area such the reduced dependence on petroleum and the implementation of new 25 environmental and safety regulations. Then, the valorization of biobased (macro)molecules 26 appears as a possible solution for reducing the use of toxic precursor compounds [3]. A more 27 recent trend consists in creating innovative molecular building blocks to achieve the creation 28 of custom-made polymers by controlling the chemical structure in order to obtain precise 29 properties for specific use [4]. Among the different existing molecules, carbohydrates are 30 worth of interest because they combine a high degree of functionality with a non-toxic cyclic 31 structure [5]. The former characteristic offers a large range of possible reactions while the 32 latter insures higher physical properties than that observed with aliphatic sequences. As proof 33 of this, carbohydrate derivatives are already present into polymer formulations when high 34 glass transition temperature Tg is required. For instance, they are used to produce thermoset 35 polymeric formulations such as alkyd resins [6], polyurethanes [7] or epoxy resins [8]. 36 Concerning this latter family, Pan et al. worked with commercial sucrose polyesters of fatty 37 acids (SPEFAs) named as Sefose® by Procter & Gamble (P&G) Chemicals [9]. Using a 38 classical peracetic pathway, these researchers produced epoxidized sucrose polyesters of 39 fatty acids (ESPEFAs) and reacted them with cyclic anhydrides [10]. The resulting materials 40 presented higher ultimate performances compared to that of materials derived from native 41 Epoxidized Soybean Oil (ESO) cured with same hardeners. This hierarchy was justified by 42 the presence of cyclic sucrose in ESPEFAs whereas ESO is made with aliphatic molecular

43 segments. Unfortunately, this study was limited to the only family of unsaturated SPEFAs
44 previously developed by P&G.

45 The boundaries of this concept are likely to be pushed back by the creation of other 46 cyclic molecular cores to achieve the emergence of new performances. Such approach could 47 be carried out through the prior synthesis of a little library of bisglucosides. We studied more 48 particularly the production of this class of molecules through the reaction of a dihydroxy 49 compound with two glucose units. This O-glucosylation process was investigated with 50 various aliphatic diols and a diphenol. Indeed, O-glycosylation is not easy to be performed in 51 organic chemistry because it is often accompanied by parasitic and complex mechanisms 52 [11]. For this reason, different strategies are described in literature involving the 53 pre-activation of the aglycone, Huisgen cycloaddition between alkynes and azides [12-15], 54 olefin cross-metathesis [16], and Sonogashira coupling [17]. The use of protective 55 participating groups (OAc) or non-participating groups (OBn) seems to be essential for 56 conducting selective O-glycosylation. For instance, β -D-glucose pentaacetate β -Glc(OAc)₅ 57 can be easily synthesized through a simple acetylation. It is also suitable with a one-step 58 glycosylation that can be catalyzed by a Lewis-acid [18]. In literature, some works describe 59 the bisglycosylation reaction between glycosyl peracetates with various diols in 60 dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂) as solvent and catalyzed by BF₃·OEt₂ [19, 20]. In fact, this 61 catalyst is frequently used for phenol O-glycosylation [21]. It efficiently promotes the 62 conversion of β -Glc(OAc)₅ into the corresponding aryl-O-glucosides with high yield and

63 β-stereoselectivity [22]. Other Lewis acids are also employed but they induce the formation
64 of complex mixtures [20] and even lead to lower reaction yield [23].

65 The nature of the solvent is another factor that has to be considered for performing 66 O-glycosylation reaction. For instance, Mabic et al. described the coupling reaction between 67 3-methylcatechol and β -Glc(OAc)₅ in the presence of BF₃·OEt₂ as an activator [24]. No 68 coupling is observed when participating solvents are used such as diethyl ether, acetonitrile 69 or tetrahydrofuran (THF). This result is probably the reason why CH₂Cl₂, a non-complexing 70 solvent, is preferred. The configuration of the anomeric center is also dependent on the 71 temperature used for the glucosylation. Temperatures lower than 30 °C favors β-glucoside 72 formation while both anomeric compounds coexist at higher temperatures [25].

73 Despite these numerous researches, it is important to note that the collection of bivalent 74 glycosides synthesized up to now remains rather limited. Most of the structures are derived 75 from linear diols such as long-chain alkyl "HO(CH₂)₁₂OH" [26], alkynes with 76 2-butyne-1,4-diol [27] and polyethoxy with HO(CH₂CH₂O)₅H [20]. Another researchers 77 investigated the use of phenols [28]. Reported reaction yields are comprised between 11 and 78 81%. Within this context, we decided to conduct a more global study by building with an 79 only pathway, a library of BisGlucosideX octaacetate with different spacers between two glucose units. Each of them was represented as BGX(OAc)8 in which X would correspond to 80 81 the diol or diphenol spacer (Figure 1). The synthesis results were carefully discussed and 82 interpreted on the basis of reliable molecular mechanisms.

83 2. Results and Discussion

84 2.1. Conditions retained for the synthesis of BisGlucosideX octaacetate BGX(OAc)₈

85 Considering the data already published in literature and summarized hereabove, the 86 synthesis of the BGX(OAc)₈ was conducted by reaction of β -Glc(OAc)₅ **1a** with a diol or a 87 diphenol (HO-X-OH) **2a-f** in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ as solvent, catalyzed by BF₃·OEt₂ and at 88 room temperature (Figure 1). A molar ratio of the sugar donor/diol (or diphenol) acceptor 89 was set to 1:0.5 in order to promote the formation of BGX(OAc)₈.

90

Insert Figure 1

91 We chose to use different diols and one diphenol to investigate the effects and limitations 92 of the selected glucosylation conditions (Figure 2). The diols **2a-e** are based upon different 93 aliphatic skeletons and are likely to present discrepancies in terms of molecular mobility. 94 Indeed, compared to propane-1,3-diol (1,3-PD 2a), diethylene glycol (DEG 2c) is 95 characterized by a longer linear sequence including a flexible ether hinge. 2-butyne-1,4-diol 96 ByD (2d) and *cis*-2-butene-1,4-diol (BnD 2b) have rigid unsaturations at the center of their 97 molecular structure. A cycloaliphatic spacer is represented by 1,4-cyclohexanediol (CHD 2e) 98 while hydroquinone (HQ 2f) is the only diphenol employed in this work section.

99

Insert Figure 2

100

101 2.2.Synthesis of BisGlucosidePropyl octaacetate BGP(OAc)₈

102 First experiments consisted in investigating the reaction kinetic of β -Glc(OAc)₅ **1a** with 103 commercial 1,3-PD **2a** in order to define the time necessary for obtaining the optimal 104 conversion rate of the chemicals used.

106	The composition of the reaction mixture was followed over time by thin layer
107	chromatography (TLC) (supporting information Figure S1). These analyses show that the
108	glycosylation of the 1,3-PD leads to a mixture of compounds but can be roughly divided into
109	four fractions. To investigate their chemical composition, samples of the crude reaction
110	mixture were taken at different times t and analyzed by ¹ H NMR spectroscopy. As depicted
111	in Figure 3, ¹ H NMR spectroscopy can distinguish the starting ester leaving group of
112	β -Glc(OAc) ₅ 1a with the characteristic H ₁ proton at 5.7 ppm. The formation of the final
113	product mixture is detected by the presence of different doublets between 4.4 and 4.7 ppm
114	that correspond to β -glucosidic links [29]. For information and in order to remove any form
115	of ambiguity, the peaks at 4.7 ppm are characteristic of β -glucosidic bonds of
116	homopolymerized glucose present in the F4 fraction.

Insert Figure 3

118 The conversion degree τ of the glucosylation can be evaluated by integration of these 119 different peaks. Indeed, it corresponds to the molar percentage of glucosides that can be 120 calculated at different times using the following formula (1):

121
$$\tau = \frac{I_{H1\beta G} + I_{H1\alpha G}}{\left(I_{H1\beta OAc} + I_{H1\alpha OAc} + I_{H1\beta G} + I_{H1\alpha G}\right)} * 100$$
(1)

122 $I_{H1\alphaOAc}$ and $I_{H1\betaOAc}$ are the intensities of the ¹H NMR bands characteristic of the acetylated 123 glucoside under the α and β anomeric forms, respectively. $I_{H1\alpha G}$ and $I_{H1\beta G}$ define the 124 intensities of bands specific of the glucoside under the α and β anomeric forms, 125 respectively.

126	The exploitation of ¹ H NMR spectra reveals a fast conversion of about 56% after 2 hours
127	and 77% after 8 hours. After, the evolution of τ is much reduced between 8 hours and 23
128	hours (+1%). In the same period, the anomerization from β -Glc(OAc) ₅ 1a to α -Glc(OAc) ₅ 1b
129	is more noticeable and the α/β ratio reaches a final value of 3:1. In this same time interval, the
130	anomerization of residual $Glc(OAc)_5$ observed conjointly with the constancy of the
131	conversion rate ($\approx 78\%$) indicates that the consumption of 1,3-PD 2a is total. As a result, an
132	average reaction time of 8 hours was considered as sufficient for achieving 1,3-PD
133	glucosylation.
134	The conversion of β -Glc(OAc) ₅ 1a and the composition of glucoside can be also
135	determined by the exploitation of the intensities of signals characteristic of anomeric carbons
136	in the ¹³ C NMR spectrum (supporting information Figure S2) as described by Sokolov [22].
137	In particular, ¹³ C NMR confirms in a clearer form the absence of α -glycosidic bonds that are
138	likely to have a chemical shift around 95 ppm in general [29].
139	
140	2.2.2.Characterization and identification of the different species of the mixture
141	The different products resulting from 1,3-PD glycosylation were separated by silica gel
142	chromatography into four different fractions, F1, F2, F3 and F4. Then, the chemical
143	structures of the compounds present in each fraction were carefully investigated using
144	different analytical techniques.
145	

• NMR analyses

148 The NMR coupling made it possible the identification of desired BisGlucosidePropyl 149 octaacetate BGP(OAc)₈ 3a that is the only constituent of fraction F3. This compound is 150 produced in a low yield (21%) with essentially β -isomeric form (Figure 4). The fraction F2 151 contains a first by-product identified as MonoGlucosidePropyl pentaacetate (MGP(OAc)₅) 152 4a (24%; α/β ratio 0:1). F1 consists of residual Glc(OAc)₅ (22%) with both anomeric forms 153 $(\alpha/\beta \text{ ratio 3:1})$ **1a,b**. The last fraction F4 is in fact a mixture of different oligomers (33%; α/β 154 ratio 0:1), the nature of which will be defined later in our study by MALDI-TOF MS 155 techniques. Most formed products mainly have the β -configuration (supporting information 156 Figure S3). Such yield of BGP(OAc)₈ 3a was comparable to those reported by Xue et al. for 157 the synthesis of 1,12-dodecyl bisgalactoside [20]. 158 **Insert Figure 4** 159 160 MALDI-TOF MS analysis 161 The efficiency of MALDI-TOF MS analyses was already shown in literature for the 162 identification of high mass compounds in product mixtures based on AlkylPolyGlycoside 163 (APG) models [30]. As regards our study, the MALDI-TOF MS spectrum characteristic of 164 the mixture after 23 hours of reaction is shown in Figure 5-a. Each ionized oligomer is 165 detected on the mass spectrum by a signal made of several peaks corresponding to the 166 mass-to-charge ratios m/z characteristic of various isotopic forms (Figure 5-b). 167 **Insert Figure 5**

169 The interest of the MALDI-TOF MS is given by comparing measured monoisotopic 170 $(m/z)_{exp}$ values for $[M_i + Na]^+$ ions with calculated values. Indeed, the mass spectrum of the 171 crude mixture (figure 5-a) contains five series of cationized adducts $[M_i + Na]^+$ separated by 172 $\Delta m/z = 288$ (hexose unit) corresponding to different degrees of glucose homopolymerization 173 (HD). The molar mass M_i of each oligomer can be calculated from the measured value 174 $(m/z)_{exp}$ according to the equation (2):

175
$$M_i = \left(\frac{m}{z}\right)_{exp} \times z - m_{cation}$$
(2)

176 where m_{cation} is the molar mass of Na (23 g.mol⁻¹)

177 The adduct $[M_i + Na]^+ = 759.2$ is interpreted as being representative of the desired bisglucoside BGP(OAc)₈ **3a** of molar mass 736.6 g.mol⁻¹ (Figure 6). The adducts $[M_i + Na]^+$ 178 179 registered at 413.3 and 471.3 are characteristic of residual Glc(OAc)₅ **1a,b** (390.3 g.mol⁻¹) 180 and MGP(OAc)₅ 4a (448.4 g.mol⁻¹) respectively. The adducts $[M_i + Na]^+ = 717.2$ and 429.2 181 are attributed to the presence of mono- and BisGlucosideX but under deacetylated form. In 182 our work, all calculated $(m/z)_{\text{theo}}$ values for $[M_i + Na]^+$ ions including a possible 2-O 183 deprotection are gathered in supporting information (Table T1) to enable a further 184 comparison with the experimental data $(m/z)_{exp}$ obtained using MALDI-TOF MS. On the 185 basis of these calculations, two major populations, namely, B and C are suspected to be 186 formed during the O-glucosylation of 1,3-PD 2a. Unfortunately, they cannot be distinguished 187 separately with MALDI-TOF MS experiments because their oligomers have equivalent m/z188 values (Figures S3 and S4 in supporting information). The further exploitation of the 189 MALDI-TOF MS spectrum makes it possible the identification of the population A that defines oligomers characterized by a sequence of peracetylated glucose units but without1,3-PD building block in their structure (Figure 6).

192

Insert Figure 6

193 It is usually accepted that MALDI-TOF MS is a quantitative analysis of oligomers provided 194 that certain requirements are satisfied such as a polydispersity index PDI (= M_w/M_n) lower 195 than 1.3 [31, 32]. If these conditions are fulfilled, the intensity of the adducts detected in the 196 mass spectrum reflects the number of oligomers actually present in the sample. The crude 197 mixture of oligomers obtained in our research presents molecular weights lower than 2000 198 g.mol⁻¹ and low degrees of oligomerization ranging from 1 to 6. In other words, they comply 199 with the criteria for the validity of this technique for quantitative evaluation. Then, the 200 BGP(OAc)₈ that is characterized by a peak at 759.2 with the greatest intensity, is the most 201 abundant chemical specie in the mixture by comparison with other oligomers. The relative 202 proportion of Glc(OAc)₅ 1a,b and MGP(OAc)₅ 4a cannot be accurately defined because their 203 corresponding peaks are located too close to the detection limit (> 500 g.mol⁻¹).

204

• Proposed mechanisms

The observation of MGP(OAc)₅ **4a** was coherent with results obtained by Murakami *et* al.[29]. Indeed, these researchers reported the formation of bromoalkyl acetate as side-product during the glucosylation of bromo-alkanols with the formation of 1,2-orthoester intermediates. This latter topic is particularly well described in Kong's work [33]. By analogy, MGP(OAc)₅ **4a** that was isolated is likely the result of the conversion of an orthoester **1** into $MGP(OAc)_3(OH)_2$ **6a** and 3-hydroxy-propyl acetate **2'a** (not isolated). Such mechanism is schematically drawn in Figure 7.

213

Insert Figure 7

Please note that 3-hydroxy-propyl acetate **2'a** can itself be potentially glycosylated to give the MGP(OAc)₅ **4a** in accordance with the results of Banoub *et al.* and others [34, 35]. This mechanism suggests the formation of monoglucosides MGP(OAc)₃(OH)₂ **6a** and MGP(OAc)₃(OH)(OR) **7a** that are deacetylated in position 2. It is very likely that these intermediates are responsible of the formation of oligomers.

219

220 2.3.Synthesis of the other BisGlucosideX derived from (cyclo)aliphatic diols

221 Other bisglucosides were synthesized from the respective reaction of aliphatic diols 222 **2b-2e** (Figure 2) with β -Glc(OAc)₅ **1a** using the same chemical pathway as described hereabove with 1,3-PD 2a. The results issued from their chemical analyses (¹H, ¹³C NMR 223 224 and MALDI-TOF MS) are available in supporting information for preserving the clarity of 225 this paper. In all cases, the formation of by-products is observed in addition to the desired 226 bisglucoside production. The respective reaction yields of these compounds are summarized 227 in Table 1. Their proportion in the final mixture appear to be dependent on the nature of the 228 diol used for O-glucosylation. As concerns more particularly the bisglucoside BGX(OAc)₈ 229 synthesis, the highest reaction yield value is observed with the use of 2-butyne-1,4-diol 2d 230 (67%) whereas the reverse case is observed with propane-1,3-diol 2a (21%). A first possible 231 hypothesis to explain the discrepancies observed between diols used is based on their

- reactivity, i.e. in our study, their ability to react with peracetylated glucosidic units. This
- 233 characteristic is directly related to the nucleophilicity of the hydroxyl groups, which is itself
- influenced by the nature of the chemical skeleton that bears them.
- **Table 1.** BF₃·OEt₂ catalyzed glucosylation of diols (**2a-e**) with β -Glc(OAc)₅ (**1a**).

Entry	Diol	pKa ^a	Bisglucoside	By-products
1	2a	15.1	3a (21%)	1 (22%) 4a (24%) A, B, C (33%)
2	2b	14.5	3b (36%)	1 (15%) 4b (13%) A, B, C (36%)
3	2c	14.4	3c (45%)	1 (22%) 4c (15%) A, B, C (18%)
4	2d	12.5	3d (67%) ^c	1 (9%) 4d (6%) A, B, C (18%)
5	2e	15	3e (25%)	1 (32%) 4e (12%) A, B, C (31%)

Yield	b
-------	---

236 Experimental conditions: molar ratio 1:0.5:1 (β -Glc(OAc)₅ / HO-X-OH / BF₃·OEt₂) in

237 CH₂Cl₂, r.t. - 23h.

^a approximative pKa data

^b Yields of products isolated after column chromatography based on crude reaction mixture.

^c Reported yield: 34% [27].

241 In the present study in which we compare the reactivity of the same family of molecules, 242 (i.e. dihydroxy compounds), the nucleophilicity can be evaluated from the base strength with 243 approximate acid dissociation constant pKa [36-38]. The corresponding values range from 244 15.1 (for 1,3-PD 2a) to 12.5 (for ByD 2d). It is well known that a sp hybridized carbon as found in (ByD 2d) is less electron-donating than a sp² (BnD 2b), which in turn is less 245 246 electron-donating than a sp³ carbon (1,3-PD 2a). Such hierarchy is well illustrated by their 247 respective pKa values arranged in ascending order. DEG 2c presents an oxygen atom in its 248 aliphatic sequence and that has an electron-withdrawing effect. This peculiarity decreases the 249 hydroxyl charge and affects the value of its corresponding pKa (14.4). CHD 2e presents a 250 pKa value close to that of 1,3-PD 2a (pKa \approx 15) but both diols differ from each other with 251 their respective steric effects.

252 To summarize, the higher the pKa is, the higher diol reactivity is. But, considering our 253 own data, a high reactivity is not synonym of bisglucoside production with high yield. On the 254 contrary, a lower diol reactivity seems preferable for obtaining a better selectivity. When the 255 pKa value is low as encountered with ByD 2d, the hydroxyl charge density is reduced. Then, 256 the hydroxyl units are involved into a direct nucleophilic attack on C-1 (Figure 7 - pathway 257 I), which favors the formation of MGX(OAc)₄(OH) (5a-f) and then BGX(OAc)₈ (3a-f). 258 Conversely, with a high pKa value as found with 1,3-PD 2a, an increased charge density is 259 centered into hydroxyl units. Then, the attack of the carbonyl carbon present in the acyloxonium ion (Figure 7 - pathway II) is privileged with the formation of intermediates 260 261 orthoesters.

262 With a pKa value similar to that of 1,3-PD 2a, CHD 2e led to the production of BisGlucosideCyclohexyl octaacetate (BGC(OAc) $_8$) **3e** with a reaction yield close to that of 263 264 $BGP(OAc)_8$ 3a (25%) against 21%). Nevertheless, the low content of 265 MonoGlucosideCyclohexyl pentaacetate (MGC(OAc)₅) 4e (12%) seems to indicate that 266 1,2-orthoesters pathway is not the only one to be involved in this reaction.

Among our results, it is interesting to note that, despite of its nucleophilicity value comparable to that of BnD **2b**, DEG **2c** led to the production of bisglucoside **3c** with a higher efficiency (yield of 45%) than that of BGBn(OAc)₈ **3b** (36%). This peculiarity is likely due to the presence of an ether group in the chain (**2c**). This group is likely to have a better interaction with BF₃ than an aliphatic diol bearing unsaturation such as found with **2b** or **2d** diols.

273

274 2.4.Synthesis of the BisGlucosideHydroquinone octaacetate (BGH(OAc)₈)

The interest of hydroquinone was explored for the synthesis of diphenol-based bisglucosides by following the same experimental procedure as that used previously with (cyclo)aliphatic diols **2a-2e**. The products isolated from the glucosylation mixture were analyzed by means of ¹H NMR and MALDI-TOF MS (see supporting information).

In strong contrast with the analyses previously registered with (cyclo)aliphatic diols, MALDI-TOF MS analysis of the crude product obtained from O-glucosylation with hydroquinone **2f** reveals the only presence of three m/z peaks. The first one can be assigned to the residual Glc(OAc)₅ **1a,b** (390.3 g.mol⁻¹) being ionized by a sodium cation. The other two peaks can be attributed to the monoglucoside MGH(OAc)₄(OH) **5f** (440.4 g.mol⁻¹) and desired bisglucoside BGH(OAc)₈ **3f** (770.7 g.mol⁻¹). Both latter compounds result from direct nucleophilic attack of **2f** on C-1.

The selectivity of the HQ **2f** glycosylation seems quite good without the parasitic formation of orthoesters or 2-O-deacetylated by-products. Once more, this peculiarity can be explained on the basis of nucleophilic considerations. Indeed, HQ presents two hydroxyl groups directly linked to the aromatic ring in para position. The charge delocalization is much reduced than that encountered with the dihydroxy compounds previously investigated. In other words, HQ is less nucleophilic than (cyclo)aliphatic diols **2a-e** as shown by its pKa value close to 10.2.

293 The extraction of each chemical specie from the mixture would make their respective 294 proportion in the mixture clear. In particular, the desired BGH(OAc)₈ 3f was produced in 295 moderate yield (53%; α/β ratio 0:1). The proportion of MonoGlucosideHydroquinone 296 (MGH(OAc)₄(OH)) **5f** was evaluated as being close to 22% (α/β ratio 0:1) while that of 297 residual Glc(OAc)₅ **1a,b** was found close to 25% (α/β ratio 1:1). The yield obtained with 298 BGH(OAc)₈ 3f can appear weak but it remains in the same range of order of that observed by 299 Bergeron-Brlek [19] on the synthesis of a bisglucoside from bisphenol A BPA (49%). This 300 similarity is likely a consequence of the pKa values of these diphenols that are evaluated as 301 being rather close (10.2 for HQ against 9.6 for BPA).

302

303 2.5. Overall hierarchy

Considering our results and their interpretation, the different diols and phenol studied in this research can be ranked in decreasing order considering the selectivity of their reactivity with glucose via a direct attack on the anomeric carbon C-1 (previously defined as pathway I). The corresponding hierarchy is built as following: aromatic > aliphatic (sp) > ethoxylated > aliphatic (sp²) > cycloaliphatic > aliphatic (sp³) (figure 8).

309

Insert Figure 8

The influence of the nucleophilicity of the dihydroxy compounds upon the selectivity of their reaction with glucose units seems now clear. In this present case, nucleophilicity can be correlated to the base strength (pKa value). The best selectivity is obtained with the compound (diphenol) characterized by the lowest pKa value, or in other words, lowest nucleophilicity. This observation seems a direct consequence of its lowest reactivity due to electronic charge delocalization that prevents the formation of by-products.

316

317 **3. Materials and methods**

318 *3.1.Materials*

319 β -glucose pentaacetate (β -Glc(OAc)₅), 1,3-propanediol (1,3-PD), hydroquinone (HQ),

320 diethylene glycol (DEG), 2-butyne-1,4-diol (ByD), cis-2-butene-1,4-diol (BnD),

321 1,4-cyclohexanediol (CHD), boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF₃·OEt₂; \geq 46.5% BF₃

basis) were purchased from Aldrich (France). Anhydrous dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂), ethyl

323 acetate (EtOAc or EA) were purchased from Analytic Lab. Deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃)

324 were purchased from SDS. All these chemicals were used without further purification.

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance I 300 MHz or a Bruker Avance III 400 MHz spectrometers at room temperature with CDCl₃ as the solvent. The chemical shifts measured in part per million (ppm) were referenced to the CDCl₃ signal peak at 7.26 ppm (¹H) and 77.16 ppm (¹³C). Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hz.

331 MALDI-TOF MS analyses were performed using a MALDI-TOF MS Bruker 332 Ultra-Flex III (2004) (Bremen, Germany) equipped with a nitrogen laser (337 nm, 30 ns) 333 and a detector. Peptide mixtures were used for external calibration. The ions were 334 accelerated with a potential of 25 kV. The measurements were performed in positive mode 335 POS. The obtained with spectra were 336 trans-2-[3-(4-tertbutylphenyl)-2-methyl-2-propenylidene]malononitrile (DCTB) as matrix 337 and NaI as ionizing salt.

High resolution electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (HRMS-ESI) analyses were
obtained using a Bruker MicroTOF QII mass spectrometer. The experiments were carried
out in positive ion mode at high resolution.

Thin layer chromatography analyses (TLC) of the reaction mixtures of BGX(OAc)₈ were carried out on silica gel plates with a mixture of CH₂Cl₂/EA (7/3; v/v) as eluent. The various compounds were visualized by spraying the TLC plates with a solution of sulfuric acid (10% by volume in ethanol), followed by charring at 150°C for a few minutes. Spots were compared to standards.

Column chromatographic separations were carried out with a silica gel from VWR
(40-63 μm). The various products of the mixtures were isolated with the same eluent as the
TLC.

The thermo-oxidative stability of each bisglucoside was examined using a Q50 thermogravimetric analyzer (TGA) from TA Instruments® (New Castle, DE, USA). The experiments consisted in registering the weight loss of the sample as a function of temperature from ambient up to 600 °C with a heating rate of 10 °C.min⁻¹ under air flow (25 mL.min⁻¹). A relative weight loss (RWL) value of 5% was chosen as a reasonable criterion to evaluate the thermal degradation temperature T_{deg} of each bisglucoside.

Differential scanning calorimetric experiment (DSC) were registered using a Mettler Toledo DSC Star One (Greifensee, Switzerland), under air and with a heating rate of 5 °C.min⁻¹. Before analysis, the sample was cooled down from ambient to 0 °C with a ramp of -3° C.min⁻¹ and maintained at this constant temperature during 15 min to insure thermal equilibrium. The thermogram characteristic of each bisglucoside analysis presented an endotherm. Then, the value of the corresponding melting temperature T_m was taken at the inception of the endothermic peak.

362 3.3.Synthesis

363 3.3.1.Standard O-glucosylation protocol

364 β-Glc(OAc)₅ **1a** (3.00 g, 7.68 mmol) and diol or diphenol (HO-X-OH) **2** (3.84 mmol) were 365 mixed in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL). Then BF₃·OEt₂ (0.950 mL, 7.68 mmol) was added

366 dropwise. The molar ratio β -Glc(OAc)₅ / HO-X-OH / BF₃·OEt₂ is 1:0.5:1. The mixture was

367	stirred at room temperature for 23h under inert atmosphere (nitrogen), and then quenched by
368	saturated aq. NaHCO ₃ . The organic layer was separated, washed successively with aq.
369	NaHCO3 and (once) with brine solution, dried over MgSO4, and concentrated. BGX(OAc)8
370	and other products are isolated by column chromatography (eluent CH ₂ Cl ₂ /EA, 7/3) or by
371	recrystallization (ethanol), depending on the nature of the BGX(OAc) ₈ .
372	Remarks. The glucosylation reactions were also carried out for different quantities up to
373	15g. The products were obtained in similar yields and selectivity.
374	3.3.2.β-BisGlucosidePropyl octaacetate (β-BGP(OAc) ₈) (3a)
375	Compound (3a) 1,3-bis(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyloxy)propane
376	The reaction was carried out as described in the standard protocol using 0.292 g (3.84 mmol)
377	1,3-PD 2a. The product 3a was isolated after purification by column chromatography.
378	Yield: 0.594 g (21%).
379	R _f : 0.59 (CH ₂ Cl ₂ /EtOAc; 7/3)
380	DSC (5 °C.min ⁻¹), T _m : 146 °C
381	TGA (10 °C.min ⁻¹ – RWL = 5%), T_{deg} : 234 °C
382	¹ H NMR (CDCl ₃ , 400.1 MHz): δ (ppm) = 5.18 (t, J = 9.5, 2H, H-3'); 5.06 (t, J = 9.7, 2H,
383	H-4'); 4.96 (t, J = 9.6, 2H, H-2'); 4.45 (d, J = 7.9, 2H, H-1' β); 4.25 (dd, J = 4.8, 12.3, 2H,
384	H-6'b); 4.11 (dd, J = 2.3, 12.3, 2H, H-6'a); 3.86 (dt, J = 5.6, 10.0, 2H, H-1b); 3.68 (m, 2H,

385 H-5'); 3.58 (dt, J = 6.7, 9.7, 2H, H-1a); 1.99-2.07 (4s, 24H, CH₃CO); 1.83 (m, 2H, H-2).

- 386 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) = 170.60, 170.21, 169.38, 169.22 (O-C=O); 101.03
- 387 (C-1'β); 72.82 (C-3'); 71.84 (C-5'); 71.43 (C-2'); 68.47 (C-4'); 66.61 (C-1); 61.98 (C-6');
- 388 29.90 (C-2); 20.57-20.70 (CH₃CO).
- 389 HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₃₁H₄₄O₂₀ [M+Na]⁺: 759.2324; Found: 759.2315
- 390
- 391 $3.3.3.\beta$ -BisGlucosideCyclohexane octaacetate (β -BGC(OAc)₈)
- 392 1,4-bis(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyloxy)cyclohexane (mixture of *cis* and
- 393 *trans*) (**3e**)
- 394 The reaction was carried out as described in the standard protocol using 0.446 g (3.84 mmol)
- 395 CHD 2e. The product 3e was isolated after purification by column chromatography.
- 396 Yield: 0.746 g (25%).
- 397 R_f: 0.62 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc; 7/3)
- 398 DSC (5 °C.min⁻¹), T_m: 180°C
- 399 TGA (10 °C.min⁻¹ RWL = 5%), T_{deg} : 283 °C
- 400 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400.1 MHz): δ (ppm) = 5.17 (t, J = 10.0, 2H, H-3'); 5.03 (t, J = 9.0, 2H,
- 401 H-4'); 4.93 (t, J = 9.3, 2H, H-2'); 4.53 (d, J = 9.3, 2H, H-1' β); 4.23 (dd, J = 4.0, 11.3, 2H,
- 402 H-6'b); 4.08 (dd, J = 12.2, 2H, H-6'a); 3.68 (m, 2H, H-1); 3.68 (m, 2H, H-5'); 1.30-1.94 (m,
- 403 8H, H-2); 1.98-2.05 (4s, 24H, CH₃CO).
- 404 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) = 170.72, 170.41, 169.50, 169.27 (O-C=O); 99.85,
- 405 98.32 (C-1'β); 76.50 (C-1); 72.96 (C-3'); 71.84 (C-5'); 71.64 (C-2'); 68.68 (C-4'); 62.21
- 406 (C-6'); 26.42, 27.34, 28.39, 28.87 (C-2); 20.73-20.84 (CH₃CO).

407 HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₃₄H₄₈O₂₀ [M+Na]⁺: 799.2637; Found: 799.2629

- 409 $3.3.4.\beta$ -BisGlucosideButene octaacetate (β -BGBn(OAc)₈)
- 410 (Z)-1,4-bis(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)-2-butene (**3b**)
- 411 The reaction was carried out as described in the standard protocol using 0.339 g (3.84 mmol)
- 412 BnD **2b**. The product **3b** was isolated after purification by column chromatography.
- 413 Yield: 1.036 g (36%).
- 414 R_f: 0.54 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc; 7/3)
- 415 DSC (5 °C.min⁻¹), T_m: 127 °C
- 416 TGA (10 °C.min⁻¹ RWL = 5%), T_{deg} : 221 °C
- 417 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400.1 MHz): δ (ppm) = 5.66 (m, 2H, H-2); 5.19 (t, J = 9.5, 2H, H-3'); 5.06
- 418 (t, J = 9.7, 2H, H-4'); 4.95 (t, J = 8.9, 2H, H-2'); 4.49 (d, J = 8.0, 2H, H-1' β); 4.32 (m, 2H,
- 419 H-1b); 4.25 (dd, 2H, H-6'b); 4.18 (m, 2H, H-1a); 4.10 (dd, 2H, H-6'a); 3.68 (m, 2H, H-5');
- 420 1.97-2.06 (4s, 24H, CH₃CO).
- 421 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) = 170.61, 170.21, 169.39, 169.28 (O-C=O); 128.71
- 422 (C-2); 99.43 (C-1'β); 72.76 (C-3'); 71.80 (C-5'); 71.20 (C-2'); 68.29 (C-4'); 64.47 (C-1);
- 423 61.79 (C-6'); 20.69 (CH₃CO).
- 424 HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₃₂H₄₄O₂₀ [M+Na]⁺: 771.2324; Found: 771.2311
- 425
- 426 $3.3.5.\beta$ -BisGlucosideDiEthyleneGlycol octaacetate (β -BGDEG(OAc)₈)
- 427 1,5-bis(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)-3-oxapentane (**3c**)

- 428 The reaction was carried out as described in the standard protocol using 0.408 g (3.84 mmol)
- 429 DEG **2c**. The product **3c** was isolated after purification by column chromatography.
- 430 Yield: 1.326 g (45%).
- 431 R_f: 0.30 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc; 7/3)
- 432 DSC (5 °C.min⁻¹), T_m: 117 °C
- 433 TGA (10 °C.min⁻¹ RWL = 5%), T_{deg} : 267 °C
- 434 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400.1 MHz): δ (ppm) = 5.18 (t, J = 9.5, 2H, H-3'); 5.05 (t, J = 9.7, 2H,
- 435 H-4'); 4.95 (t, J = 9.6, 2H, H-2'); 4.56 (d, J = 8.0, 2H, H-1' β); 4.23 (dd, J = 4.7, 12.3, 2H,
- 436 H-6'b); 4.11 (dd, J = 2.3, 12.3, 2H, H-6'a); 3.90 (dt, J = 4.2, 10.7, 2H, H-1b); 3.68 (m, 2H,
- 437 H-5'); 3.67 (m, 2H, H-1a); 3.59 (m, 4H, H-2); 1.97-2.05 (4s, 24H, CH₃CO).
- 438 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) = 170.74, 170.35, 169.51, 169.41 (O-C=O); 100.95
- 439 (C-1'β); 72.91 (C-3'); 71.91 (C-5'); 71.37 (C-2'); 70.46 (C-2); 69.23 (C-1); 68.51 (C-4');
- 440 62.05 (C-6'); 20.70-20.84 (CH₃CO).
- 441 HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₃₂H₄₆O₂₁ [M+Na]⁺: 789.2429; Found: 789.2417
- 442
- 443 $3.3.6.\beta$ -BisGlucosideButyne octaacetate (β -BGBy(OAc)₈)
- 444 1,4-bis(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)-2-butyne (**3d**)
- 445 The reaction was carried out as described in the standard protocol using 0.331 g (3.84 mmol)
- 446 ByD 2d. The product 3d was isolated after purification by column chromatography.
- 447 Yield: 1.922 g (67%).
- 448 R_f: 0.62 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc; 7/3)

- 449 DSC (5 °C.min⁻¹), T_m: 121 °C
- 450 TGA (10 °C.min⁻¹ RWL = 5%), T_{deg} : 267 °C
- 451 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400.1 MHz): δ (ppm) = 5.21 (t, J = 9.4, 2H, H-3'); 5.08 (t, J = 9.7, 2H,
- 452 H-4'); 4.97 (t, J = 9.5, 2H, H-2'); 4.70 (d, J = 7.9, 2H, H-1' β); 4.38 (m, 4H, H-1); 4.25 (dd, J
- 453 = 4.5, 12.4, 2H, H-6'b); 4.12 (dd, J = 2.3, 12.4, 2H, H-6'a); 3.72 (m, 2H, H-5'); 1.98-2.06 (4s,
- 454 24H, CH₃CO).
- 455 ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) = 170.67, 170.27, 169.45, 169.42 (O-C=O); 98.39
- 456 (C-1'β); 81.84 (C-2);72.76 (C-3'); 71.98 (C-5'); 71.15 (C-2'); 68.33 (C-4'); 61.83 (C-6');
- 457 56.22 (C-1); 20.66-20.80 (CH₃CO).
- 458 HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₃₂H₄₂O₂₀ [M+Na]⁺: 769.2167; Found: 769.2150
- 459
- 460 3.3.7.β-BisGlucosideHydroquinone octaacetate (β -BGH(OAc)₈)
- 461 1,4-bis(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyloxy)benzene (**3f**)
- 462 The reaction was carried out as described in the standard protocol using 0.423 g (3.84 mmol)
- 463 HQ 2f. The product 3f was isolated after purification by column chromatography or by
- 464 recrystallization (ethanol).
- 465 Yield: 1.570 g (53%).
- 466 R_f: 0.64 (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc; 7/3)
- 467 DSC (5 °C.min⁻¹), T_m: 185 °C
- 468 TGA (10 °C.min⁻¹ RWL = 5%), T_{deg} : 311 °C
- 469 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400.1 MHz): δ (ppm) = 6.92 (s, 4H, H-1); 5.27 (t, J = 9.2, 2H, H-3'); 5.23
- 470 (t, J = 9.3, 2H, H-2'); 5.15 (t, J = 9.3, 2H, H-4'); 4.98 (d, J = 7.5, 2H, H-1' β); 4.28 (dd, J = 5.1,

471 12.3, 2H, H-6'b); 4.16 (dd, J = 2.5, 12.3, 2H, H-6'a); 3.81 (m, 2H, H-5'); 2.02-2.07 (4s, 24H,
472 CH₃CO).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) = 170.64, 170.34, 169.49, 169.38 (O-C=O); 152.97
(C-2); 118.57 (C-1); 99.96 (C-1'β); 72.82 (C-3'); 72.18 (C-5'); 71.34 (C-2'); 68.41 (C-4');
62.02 (C-6'); 20.73-20.82 (CH₃CO).

476 HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₃₄H₄₂O₂₀ [M+Na]⁺: 793.2167; Found: 793.2153

477

478 **4. Conclusions**

479 This article demonstrates that the production of bisglucosides through O-glucosylation of a dihydroxy compound is not a trivial topic at all. Indeed, depending on the nature of the 480 481 diol/diphenol used, different by-products can be formed in addition to the desired 482 bisglucoside. On the basis of our results, the nucleophilicity of the dihydroxy compound 483 related to the value of its pKa seems an important factor to control the reaction yield and the 484 potential formation of side-products. Among the different molecules investigated, the 485 hydroquinone-based monomer is identified as the most promising compound for the 486 production of bisglucosides. Indeed, due to its low nucleophilicity, its reaction with 487 acetylated glucose units is characterized by a good selectivity without glucose 488 homopolymerization. Even if the reaction yield is limited, the purification process is easy to 489 perform and the overall production remains economical. Reminding that this research was 490 initially supported by the wish of producing biobased monomers, that based on hydroquinone 491 is undeniably promising. Indeed, β -BGH(OAc)₈ presents a high thermostability (T_{deg} > 300 492 °C) through the presence of an aromatic cycle set at the core of the bisglucoside chemical 493 skeleton. Moreover, this critical temperature is somewhat 120 °C higher than the melting

- 494 temperature. Thus, this temperature gap seems large enough to make the conduction of
- 495 further functionalization in the molten state possible i.e. without the use of any solvent.

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502	thesis under the scientific direction of Prof. Jean-Pierre Habas. Dr Mike Robitzer was
503	helpful for the understanding the different reaction mechanisms and contributed to the
504	supervision of this work.
505	Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest
506	Abbreviations
507	The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:
508	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ : Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate
509	BGP(OAc) ₈ : BisGlucosidePropyl octaacetate
510	BGX: BisGlucosideX
511	BGX(OAc)8: BisGlucosideX octaacetate
512	BnD: cis-2-butene-1,4-diol
513	BPA: Bisphenol A
514	ByD: 2-butyne-1,4-diol
515	CHD: Cyclohexanediol
516	DEG: Diethylene glycol
517	DSC: Differencial Scanning Calorimetry
518	Glc(OAc) ₅ : Glucose pentaacetate (α or/and β)

- 519 HD: Homopolymerization Degree
- 520 HQ: Hydroquinone
- 521 HRMS (ESI): High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (ElectroSpray Ionization)
- 522 FT-IR: Fourier Transform InfraRed
- 523 MALDI-TOF MS: Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Time of flight Mass
- 524 Spectrometry
- 525 MGP(OAc)₅: MonoGlucosidePropyl pentaacetate
- 526 MGX(OAc)₅: MonoGlucosideX pentaacetate
- 527 NMR: Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
- 528 OAc: Acetate group –O(CO)CH₃
- 529 1,3-PD: 1,3-propanediol
- 530 PDI: PolyDispersity Index
- 531 pKa: Constant of acidity
- 532 RWL: Relative weight loss
- 533 T_{deg}: Degradation temperature
- 534 T_m: Melting temperature
- 535 TGA: ThermoGravimetric Analysis

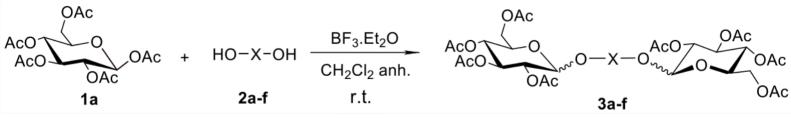
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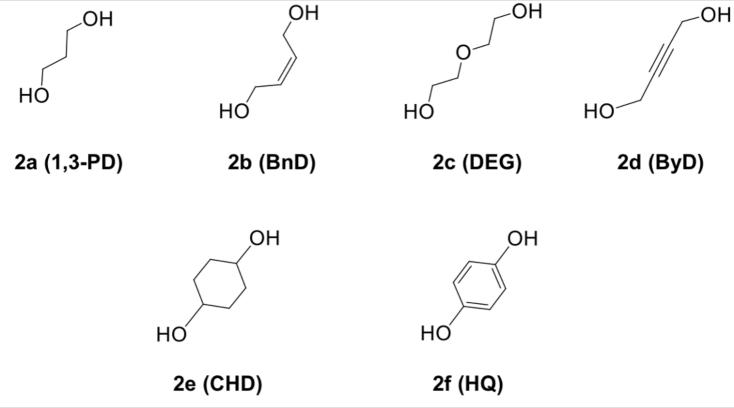
- 539 Figure 1. General glucosylation of diols/diphenol (2a-f) with β -Glc(OAc)₅ (1a) promoted by
- 540 $BF_3 \cdot OEt_2$ for the production of BisGlucosideX octaacetate (BGX(OAc)₈ with X = aromatic
- 541 chain, cycloaliphatic, aliphatic of variable length).
- 542 Figure 2. Panel of dihydroxy compounds (2a-f) used in this study for O-glucosylation.
- 543 **Figure 3.** ¹H NMR spectrum (400.1 MHz, CDCl₃) for the O-glucosylation of 1,3-PD **2a** (left)
- and table of the calculated conversion rates at times from 2 to 23 hours (right).
- 545 **Figure 4.** ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃) of the different fractions: F1: α , β -Glc(OAc)₅ (1a,b);
- 546 F2: MGP(OAc)₅ (**4a**); F3: BGP(OAc)₈ (**3a**) and F4: (A, B, C) mixture.
- 547 Figure 5. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the crude mixture obtained after 23 hours with
- 548 DCTB as matrix and NaI as cationizing agent (a). Zoom on the isotopic mass of the adduct
- 549 $[M_i + Na]^+ (m/z = 759.2)$ corresponding to BGP(OAc)₈ **3a** (736.6 g.mol⁻¹) (b).
- 550 Figure 6. Overview of the different products obtained by O-glucosylation of 1,3-PD 2a with
- 551 β -Glc(OAc)₅ **1a** and identified according different techniques.
- 552 Figure 7. Intermediate products of the reaction involved in the formation of MGP(OAc)₅ 4a
- 553 **Figure 8.** Influence of diol/diphenol nucleophilicity on O-glucosylation mechanisms.
- 554

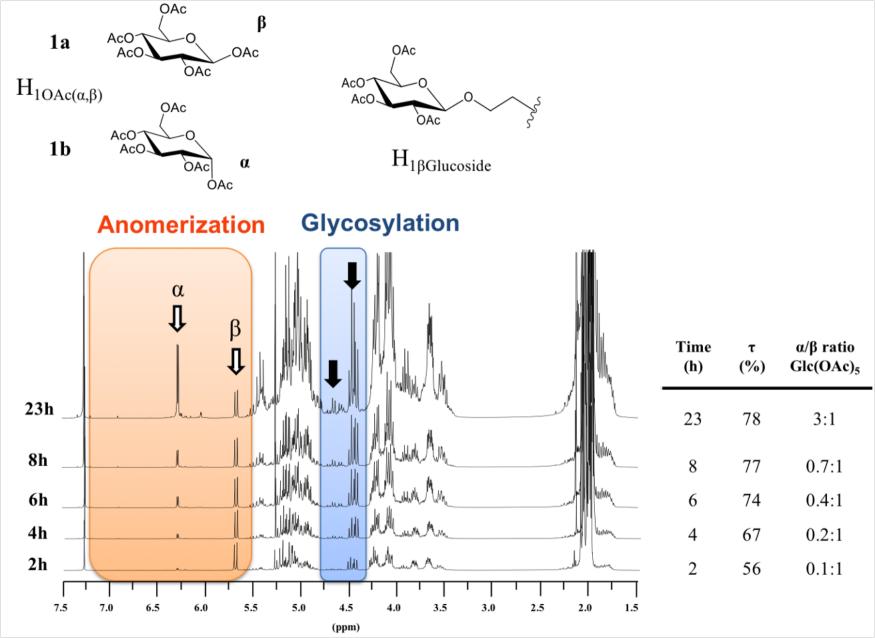
555 References

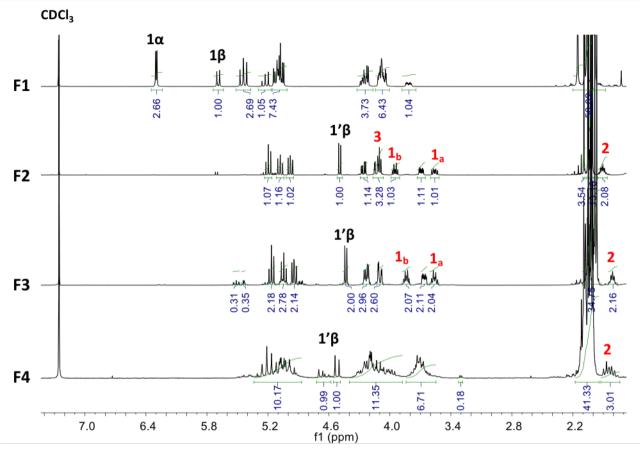
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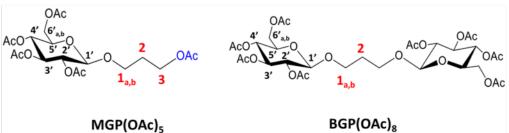
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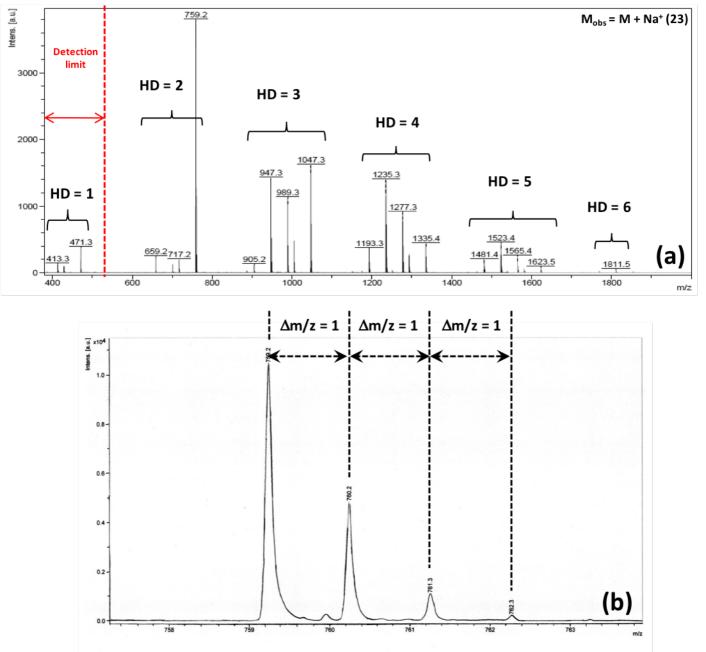


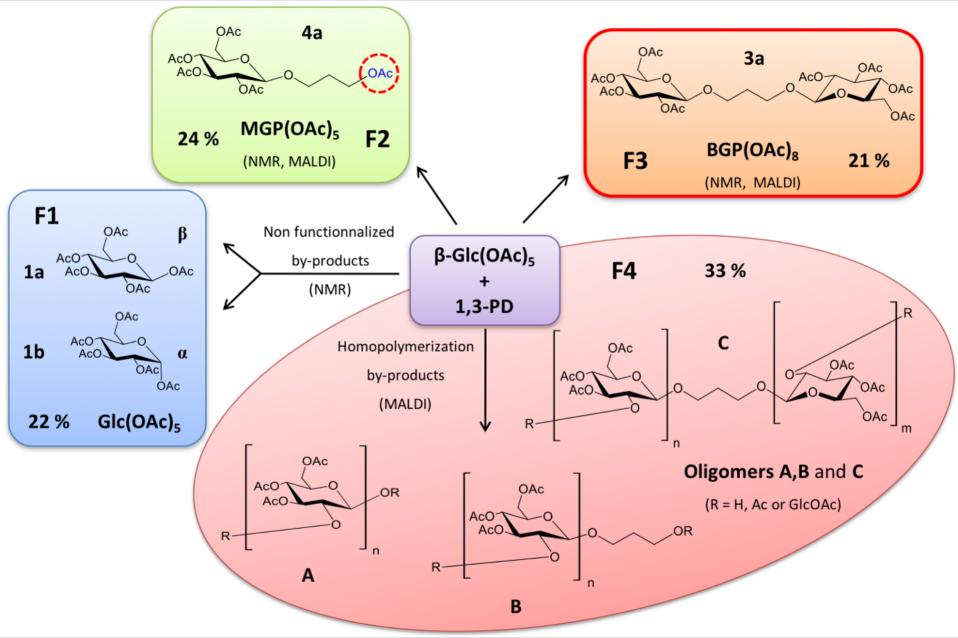


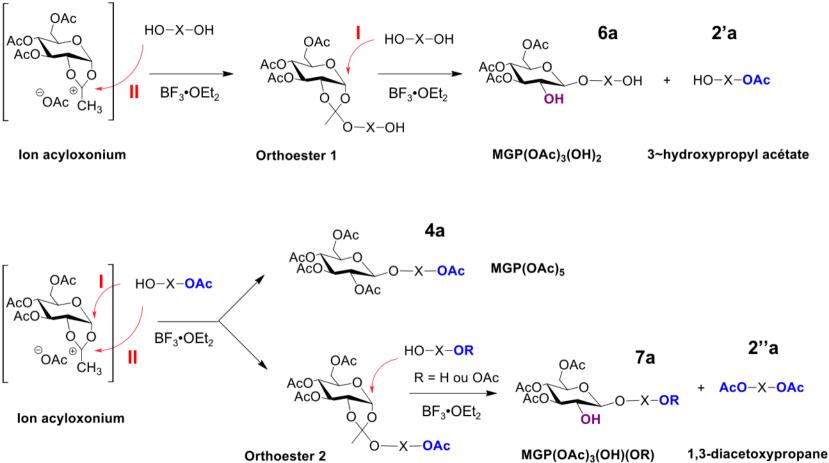


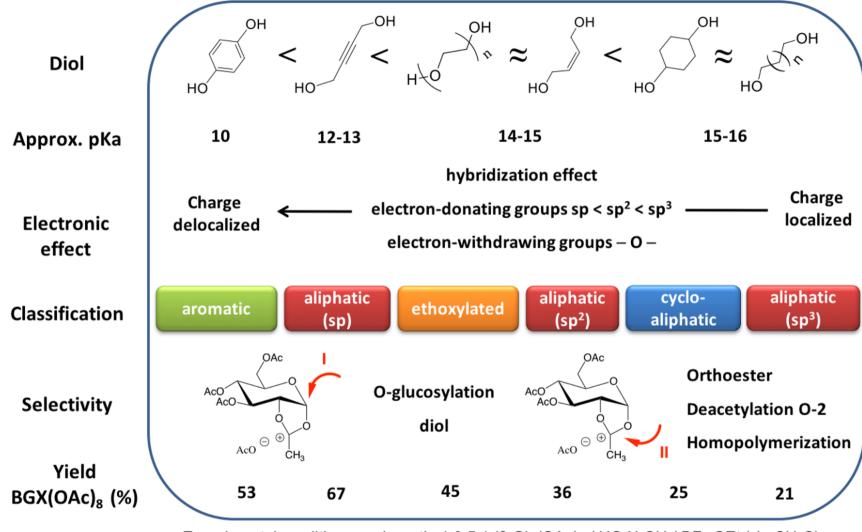




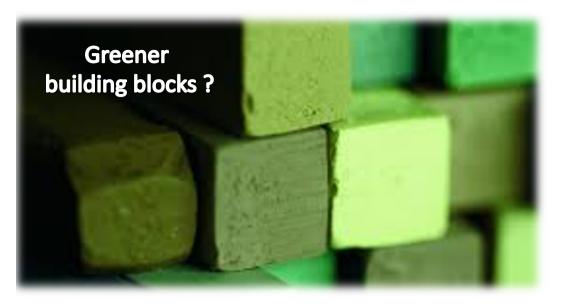








Experimental conditions: molar ratio 1:0.5:1 (β -Glc(OAc)₅ / HO-X-OH / BF₃•OEt₂) in CH₂Cl₂.

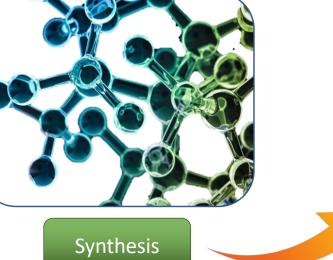


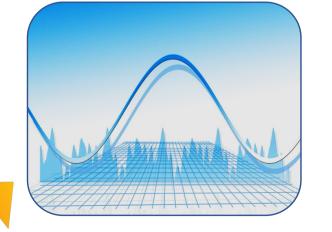


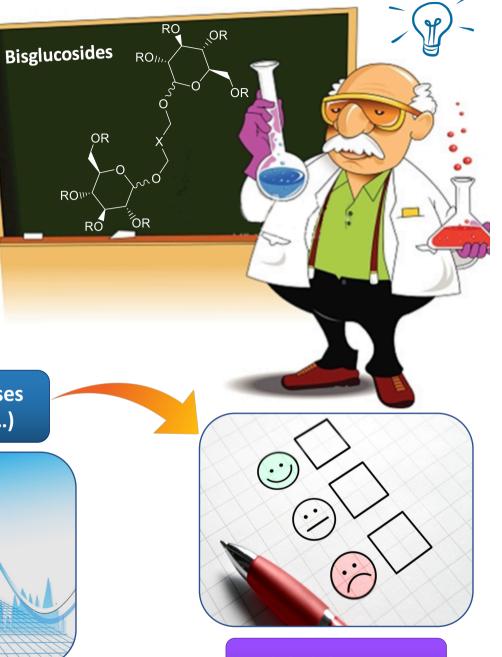
OR

RO

RO////







Global discussion