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Hydroxycinnamoyl Glucose and Tartrate Esters and Their Role in the Formation of Ethylphenols in Wine

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Synthesized *p*-coumaroyl and feruloyl *L*-tartrate esters were submitted to *Brettanomyces*
3 *bruxellensis* strains AWRI 1499, 1608 and 1613 to assess their role as precursors to ethylphenols in
4 wine. No evolution of ethylphenols was observed. Additionally, *p*-coumaroyl and feruloyl glucose
5 were synthesized and submitted to *B. bruxellensis* AWRI 1499 which yielded both 4-ethylphenol
6 and 4-ethylguaiacol. Unexpected chemical transformations of the hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters
7 during preparation were investigated to prevent these in subsequent synthetic attempts.
8 Photoisomerization gave an isomeric mixture containing the *trans*-esters and undesired *cis*-esters,
9 and acyl migration resulted in a mixture of the desired 1-*O*- β -ester and two additional migrated
10 forms, the 2-*O*- α - and 6-*O*- α -esters. Theoretical studies indicated that the photoisomerization was
11 facilitated by deprotonation of the phenol, and acyl migration is favored during acidic, non-aqueous
12 handling. Preliminary LC-MS/MS studies observed the migrated hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters
13 in wine, and allowed for identification of feruloyl glucose in red wine for the first time.

14

15 **KEYWORDS:** *Brettanomyces*, hydroxycinnamate ester, ethylphenol,
16 photoisomerization, acyl migration.

17

18 INTRODUCTION

19 The formation of 4-ethylphenol (**7**) and 4-ethylguaiacol (**8**) in red wine has previously been
20 linked to the breakdown of free hydroxycinnamic acids (**3** and **4**) by *Brettanomyces* yeast.¹
21 Recently, we have shown that some commonly isolated strains of *B. bruxellensis* from Australia
22 also possess the ability to convert ethyl hydroxycinnamates (**1** and **2**) to ethylphenols to varying
23 extents (Figure 1),² and that these esters can therefore contribute to the undesirable aromas and
24 flavors associated with wines effected by *Brettanomyces*. Presumably, this occurs via esterase
25 mediated release of hydroxycinnamic acids from the ethyl esters and this supposition has lead us to
26 investigate the possibility that other hydroxycinnamoyl esters present during wine maturation could
27 be metabolized by *B. bruxellensis* and contribute to the accumulation of ethylphenols in red wine.

28 Hydroxycinnamoyl *L*-tartaric acid esters, including *p*-coumaroyl and feruloyl *L*-tartrate (**9**
29 and **10**), have been quantified during the vinification process,^{3, 4} and concentration of the tartrates in
30 wine has been shown to be greatly reduced from that of the initial must concentrations with most of
31 this loss seen during vinification, and a smaller amount lost during the ageing process.^{4, 5} The
32 decrease in tartrate concentration during winemaking has been linked to fermentation and the yeast
33 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*,⁶ malolactic fermentation and the bacteria *Oenococcus oeni*,⁷ as well as
34 wine ageing,⁵ and commercial enzyme preparations added to must.^{8, 9} One study linked a decrease
35 in tartrate esters to the yeast genus *Brettanomyces* but did not correlate these loses with an increase
36 in volatile phenol production,¹⁰ while another implied that *Brettanomyces* is unable to metabolize
37 the tartrate esters of hydroxycinnamic acids.¹¹ Model fermentation experiments with synthesized
38 hydroxycinnamoyl tartrates would definitively assess the ability of *Brettanomyces* to produce
39 ethylphenols from the tartrate esters.

40 In addition to the tartrate esters, the existence of *p*-coumaroyl and feruloyl glucose esters (**11**
41 and **12**) was confirmed in white grapes¹² and Riesling wine,¹³ followed by the identification of *p*-
42 coumaroyl glucose esters in red wines.¹⁴ The identification of two separate *p*-coumaroyl glucose
43 esters in several red wines was achieved via liquid-liquid extraction,¹⁵ with the authors presuming

44 that the two esters differed by the position of attachment to glucose. In subsequent quantification of
45 these two esters over 26 months of ageing in three wines the glucose ester concentration was in the
46 range of 0.1-1.0 mg/L and only fluctuated slightly over time,¹⁴ indicating that the glucose esters are
47 stable over long periods of storage. Another group, using a similar extraction procedure identified
48 two *p*-coumaroyl hexoses with initial concentrations of 1.23 and 1.51 mg/L, increasing throughout
49 malolactic fermentation.⁷ Subsequent studies have also identified two *p*-coumaroyl glucose esters in
50 red grapes or wine, without providing further structural information.^{16, 17} To date there is no study
51 linking hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters to metabolism by *Brettanomyces*.

52 Hydroxycinnamates can undergo photoisomerization via ultra-violet radiation which is
53 dependent on the substrate, solvent, pH, wavelength of incident light and is susceptible to
54 concentration effects.¹⁸⁻²¹ The *cis/trans*-isomerization of *p*-coumaric acid, and related derivatives,
55 has been the subject of numerous theoretical studies,²²⁻²⁷ but the isomerization, and even the
56 different isomers of the hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters are yet to be studied experimentally or
57 theoretically. The stereochemistry of hydroxycinnamates is of importance in the accumulation of
58 ethylphenols as the decarboxylase of *B. bruxellensis* was recently observed to only be active
59 towards the *trans*-hydroxycinnamic acids.²⁸

60 Additionally, acyl migrations, or intra-molecular transesterifications, within glucose
61 derivatives are widely known. Examples of migrations around glucose rings by small or simple
62 moieties have been observed for decades,^{29, 30} and can yield different outcomes under changing
63 conditions,³¹ including catalysis by silica.³² The products and final outcomes of acyl migrations are
64 determined by thermodynamic influences,³³ the speed at which these products can be formed are
65 governed by mechanistic restraints such as the ring-size of the intermediates formed³⁴ and the
66 electronic characteristics of the esters involved.³⁵ Although acyl migration has not previously been
67 described for hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters in these mechanistic studies,^{33, 36} they provide a
68 starting point for examining the possibility that multiple glucose esters previously observed in wine
69 extracts could be products of acyl migration.

70 This paper details the synthesis of hydroxycinnamoyl tartrate and glucose esters, and role of
71 both classes of hydroxycinnamoyl ester as potential precursors to ethylphenols was examined by
72 submitting them to fermentation experiments with *B. bruxellensis*. Computational studies into the
73 observed photoisomerization and acyl migrations during synthesis of the hydroxycinnamoyl glucose
74 esters, and preliminary studies into the presence of migrated forms of the glucose esters in wine
75 were both undertaken to prevent these unwanted transformations in future synthetic attempts.

76

77 MATERIALS AND METHODS

78 **Chemicals.** Dry organic solvents were purchased and dispensed using a Puresolv™ solvent
79 purification system (*Innovative Technologies, Massachusetts, USA*). General organic solvents were
80 obtained (*Chemsupply, Adelaide, Australia*) and distilled where needed; other chemicals were
81 purchased (*Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company, Castle Hill, Australia*).

82 **General.** Reverse-phase C18 chromatography was performed using pre-packed cartridges
83 designed for use with automated flash chromatography systems (*Teledyne Isco, Nebraska, USA*).
84 The cartridge was loaded with compound dissolved in a minimal volume of methanol, before being
85 washed with water, eluted with acetonitrile/water/formic acid (30:69:1), flushed with
86 acetonitrile/formic acid (99:1), and re-equilibrated with water. The ¹H NMR spectra were acquired
87 with a Bruker Ultrashield Plus 400 MHz or 600 MHz spectrometer as where specified.

88 **Synthesis of substrates and standards.** Detailed synthetic preparations and additional
89 characterization data can be found in the supporting information.

90 *1-O-Chloroacetyl hydroxycinnamates (13 and 14).* Preparation of **13** and **14** were achieved
91 using a literature procedure.³⁷ Characterization data of **13** was as previously described,³⁷ NMR
92 assignment for **14** was made based on **13**.

93 *Tartrate coupling reactions.* Synthesis of di-*tert*-butyl *L*-tartrate (**18**) from *L*-tartaric acid
94 was achieved via *O,O'*-diacetyl *L*-tartaric anhydride (**15**), *O,O'*-diacetyl *L*-tartaric acid (**16**) and
95 *O,O'*-diacetyl-di-*tert*-butyl *L*-tartrate (**17**) based on literature procedures.³⁸⁻⁴² Characterization data

96 matched literature reports for **15**,⁴⁰ **16**,⁴⁰ **17**⁴² and **18**.⁴² Coupling reactions of chloroacetyl
97 hydroxycinnamate (**13** or **14**) with **18** to give **19** or **21** were achieved in an analogous fashion to
98 previous reports.⁴³

99 *p*-Coumaroyl di-*tert*-butyl *L*-tartrate (**19**). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* =
100 15.9 Hz, H₇), 7.29 (app. d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, H_{3,5}), 6.84 (app. d, 2H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, H_{2,6}), 6.18 (d, 1H, *J* =
101 15.9 Hz, H₈), 5.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz, H_{2'}), 4.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz, H_{3'}), 3.34 (br. s, 1H, OH), 1.52
102 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu₄), 1.44 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu₁).

103 *Feruloyl* di-*tert*-butyl *L*-tartrate (**21**). ¹H NMR: (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 15.9
104 Hz, H₇), 7.07 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1 and 1.8 Hz, H₅), 7.04 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.8 Hz, H₃), 6.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz,
105 H₆), 6.35 (d, 1H, *J* = 15.9 Hz, H₈), 5.50 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz, H_{2'}), 4.67 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.9 and 2.3 Hz,
106 H_{3'}), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.20 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.9 Hz, OH), 1.51 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu₄), 1.44 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu₁).

107 *p*-Coumaroyl *L*-tartrate (**9**). *p*-Coumaroyl *tert*-butyl *L*-tartrate (**19**) (46.2 mg, 0.11 mmol)
108 was dissolved in dry dichloromethane (5 mL) followed by the addition of trifluoroacetic acid (0.18
109 mL, 2.29 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere for
110 24 hours before the solvent was removed in vacuo. Purification by reversed-phase chromatography
111 on C18 gave **9** (27.5 mg, 82%) as an amorphous solid. *R*_f (20% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂): 0.00. ¹H NMR:
112 (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ: 7.74 (d, 1H, *J* = 15.9 Hz, H₇), 7.48 (app. d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, H_{3,5}), 6.81 (app.
113 d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, H_{2,6}), 6.38 (d, 1H, *J* = 15.9 Hz, H₈), 5.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz, H_{2'}), 4.77 (d, 1H, *J* =
114 2.3 Hz, H_{3'}). ¹³C NMR spectral properties were as previously described.⁴⁴

115 *Feruloyl L*-tartrate (**10**). *Feruloyl tert*-butyl *L*-tartrate (**21**) (35.9 mg, 0.082 mmol) was
116 submitted to the same reaction conditions as described for **19** (above). This gave **10** (11.0 mg, 41%)
117 as an off-white amorphous solid. *R*_f (20% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂): 0.00. ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ:
118 7.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, H₇), 7.20 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.9 Hz, H₃), 7.10 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.2 and 1.9 Hz, H₅),
119 6.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, H₆), 6.41 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz, H₈), 5.57 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz, H_{2'}), 4.78 (d,
120 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz, H_{3'}), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃). ¹³C NMR spectral properties were as previously
121 reported.^{44, 45}

122 *Glycosylation reactions.* The preparation of 2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-chloroacetyl- α -D-
123 glucopyranosyltrichloroacetimidate (**25**) from *D*-glucose and the method of glycosylation were as
124 previously reported.⁴⁶ The characterization data for the product and intermediates (**23-25**) were
125 analogous to previous reports although anomeric ratios tended to vary.^{37, 46, 47}

126 *2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-chloroacetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl 1-O-chloroacetyl coumarate (26).* From
127 **13** (210.6 mg, 0.88 mmol), gave 0.30 g (48%) of **26** as a white honeycomb. ¹H NMR: (400 MHz,
128 CDCl₃) δ : 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, H₇), 7.58 (app. d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz, H_{3,5}), 7.20 (app. d, 2H, J =
129 8.7 Hz, H_{2,6}), 6.37 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz, H₈), 5.90 (d, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz, H_{1'}), 5.44 (dd, 1H, J = 9.6 and
130 9.5 Hz, H_{3'}), 5.33 (dd, 1H, J = 9.5 and 8.2 Hz, H_{2'}), 5.26 (dd, 1H, J = 9.7 and 9.6 Hz, H_{4'}), 4.42 (dd,
131 1H, J = 12.5 and 4.3 Hz, H_{6a'}), 4.33 (m, 3H, ArOCOCH₂Cl and H_{6b'}), 4.12 (app. s, 2H, OCH₂Cl),
132 4.04-4.01 (m, 7H, 3 x OCH₂Cl and H_{5'}).

133 *2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-chloroacetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl 1-O-chloroacetyl ferulate (27).* From **14**
134 (224.0 mg, 0.83 mmol), afforded 0.38 g (64%) of **27** as a pale-yellow honeycomb. NMR and mass
135 spectral properties were as previously reported.⁴⁶

136 *General procedure for de-chloroacetylation (causing cis/trans-isomerization).* 2,3,4,6-Tetra-
137 *O*-chloroacetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl hydroxycinnamate (**26** or **27**) (100.0 mg) was dissolved in
138 pyridine/water (1:1, 10 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 6 hours. The reaction mixture was
139 concentrated and the crude mixture purified using XAD-8 resin (eluted with 60% MeOH/H₂O) to
140 give a mixture of *cis*- and *trans*- β -D-glucopyranosyl hydroxycinnamate (**11** or **12**) as a colorless
141 residue. The spectrum of the *cis*-isomer was extracted from the mixture. See below for
142 characterization data for the *trans*-isomers.

143 *cis-p-Coumaroyl glucose.* ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ : 7.73 (m, 2H, H_{3,5}), 6.94 (d, 1H,
144 J = 12.9 Hz, H₇), 6.82 (app. d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, H_{2,6}), 5.82 (d, 1H, J = 12.9 Hz, H₈), 5.55 (d, 1H, J =
145 8.0 Hz, H_{1'}), 3.85 (m, 1H, H_{6a'}), 3.68 (m, 1H, H_{6b'}), 3.47-3.32 (m, 4H, H_{2', 3', 4', 5'}). Assignment and
146 identification of the *cis*-isomer was performed using the known *trans*-isomer (*trans*-**11**) and the data
147 for the *cis*-aglycone (*cis*-**3**).^{48, 49}

148 *cis-Feruloyl glucose*. ^1H NMR: (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ : 7.87 (d, 1H, $J = 1.9$ Hz, H_3), 7.17
149 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.3$ and 1.9 Hz, H_5), 6.94 (d, 1H, $J = 13.0$ Hz, H_7), 6.77 (d, 1H, $J = 8.3$ Hz, H_6), 5.83 (d,
150 1H, $J = 13.0$ Hz, H_8), 5.56 (d, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz, $\text{H}_{1'}$), 3.88 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.88-3.84 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{6a'}$),
151 3.72-3.66 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{6b'}$), 3.49-3.35 (m, 4H, $\text{H}_{2',3',4',5'}$). Assignment and identification of the *cis*-
152 isomer was performed using the known *trans*-isomer (*trans*-**12**) and the data for the *cis*-aglycone
153 (*cis*-**4**).^{48, 50}

154 *General procedure for de-chloroacetylation (causing migration)*. 2,3,4,6-Tetra-*O*-
155 chloroacetyl- β -*D*-glucopyranosyl hydroxycinnamate (**26** and **27**) (300.0 mg) was dissolved in
156 pyridine/water (1:1, 20 mL) and stirred at room temperature in the dark for 6 hours. Only being
157 exposed to red light, the reaction mixture was concentrated and the crude mixture purified using
158 column chromatography (10% MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2) to give migrated mixtures of the *trans*- β -*D*-
159 glucopyranosyl hydroxycinnamate, but largely consisting of the 1-*O*- β -ester (approx. 80% for **11**
160 and 90% for **12**). The migrated mixture was found to revert back to the 1-*O*- β -ester after standing in
161 buffered water at wine pH (3.5).

162 *p*-Coumaroyl glucose (**11**). From **26** (261.7 mg, 0.37 mmol), gave 51.5 mg (43%) of **11** as a
163 white residue. R_f (20 % MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2): 0.29. MS (-EI) m/z (%): 325.7 (M^- , 100), 265.5 (7), 187.7
164 (8), 163.4 (21), 145.2 (44). ^1H NMR: (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ : 7.73 (d, 1H, $J = 15.9$ Hz, H_7), 7.48
165 (app. d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz, $\text{H}_{3,5}$), 6.82 (app. d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz, $\text{H}_{2,6}$), 6.37 (d, 1H, $J = 15.9$ Hz, H_8), 5.57
166 (d, 1H, $J = 7.9$ Hz, $\text{H}_{1'}$), 3.85 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.1$ and 1.8 Hz, $\text{H}_{6a'}$), 3.69 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.1$ and 4.6 Hz,
167 $\text{H}_{6b'}$), 3.45-3.38 (m, 4H, $\text{H}_{2',3',4',5'}$). ^{13}C NMR spectral properties for the 1-*O*- β -ester were as
168 previously reported.¹³

169 *Feruloyl glucose* (**12**). From **27** (501.8 mg, 0.68 mmol), 47.5 mg (20%) of **12** as an off-
170 white residue. R_f (20% MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2): 0.32. MS (-EI) m/z (%): 355.3 (M^- , 100), 295.5 (8), 217.2
171 (20), 193.6 (25), 175.4 (32). ^1H NMR: (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ : 7.73 (d, 1H, $J = 15.9$ Hz, H_7), 7.21
172 (d, 1H, $J = 1.9$ Hz, H_3), 7.10 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.2$ and 1.9 Hz, H_5), 6.82 (d, 1H, $J = 8.2$ Hz, H_6), 6.41 (d,
173 1H, $J = 15.9$ Hz, H_8), 5.58 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, $\text{H}_{1'}$), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.86 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.1$ Hz,

174 H_{6a}), 3.70 (dd, 1H, J = 12.1 and 4.5 Hz, H_{6b}), 3.49-3.35 (m, 4H, H_{2, 3', 4', 5'}). ¹³C NMR spectral
175 properties for the 1-*O*-β-ester were as previously reported.¹³

176 *Migrated glucose esters.* ¹H NMR shifts of migrated glucose esters were partially
177 determined for glucose proton shifts that were significantly different from those of the 1-*O*-β-ester,
178 with assignments made using coupling patterns and changes in chemical shifts analogous to
179 literature data.⁵¹

180 **Computational studies.** Theoretical calculations were performed using the Spartan '08
181 package (*Wavefunction Inc., California, USA*) with geometry optimizations and final energies
182 determined using the DFT B3LYP 6-31G* basis set. Full experimental conditions for the
183 computational studies can be found in the supporting information.

184 **Wine samples for analysis.** One white wine (Stanley Classic Dry White) and one red wine
185 (Yalumba 1997 Shiraz) were used throughout the study. Concentrated wine samples were prepared
186 from 50 mL of wine at 30 °C under reduced pressure until the volume had reduced to 5 mL.
187 Unconcentrated and concentrated wine samples were passed through a 45 μm syringe filter and
188 analyzed directly. Standards of *p*-coumaroyl glucose (**11**) and feruloyl glucose (**12**) were prepared
189 (in methanol, 10 mg/L) to determine retention times and obtain reference mass spectral data.

190 **HPLC-MS analysis of wine samples.** HPLC-MS or MS/MS analysis was carried out using
191 a 4000 Q TRAP hybrid tandem mass spectrometer interfaced with a Turbo V ion source for
192 electrospray ionization (AB Sciex AB Sciex, Foster City, CA), combined with an Agilent 1200
193 HPLC system equipped with a binary pump, degasser, autosampler, column oven, and photodiode
194 array (PDA) detector.

195 **HPLC conditions.** A 10 μL aliquot of the samples was injected and chromatographed using
196 a 250 x 4.6 mm, 3 μm, 100 Å Luna C18 column, operated at 25 °C and protected by a C18 guard
197 column (4 x 2 mm) (Phenomenex, Lane Cove, NSW, Australia). The eluents were formic
198 acid/water (0.5:99.5 v/v, Eluent A) and formic acid/acetonitrile/water (0.5:25.0:74.5 v/v, Eluent B)
199 with a flow rate of 1 mL/min. A gradient was applied as follows: 20% to 30% B linear from 0 to 20

200 minutes; 30% to 50% B linear from 20 to 50 minutes; 50% B to 100% B linear from 50 to 60
201 minutes; 100% B to 20% B from 60 to 65 minutes. The column was equilibrated with 20% B for 10
202 minutes prior to an injection. The eluent from the HPLC was split by use of a splitter (a tee) and
203 delivered at a follow rate of 0.45 mL/min to the mass spectrometer and at 0.55 mL/min to the PDA
204 detector with monitoring wavelengths at 290, 320 and 370 nm with a slit width of 4 and a
205 bandwidth of 16 nm.

206 **Electrospray and mass spectrometric conditions.** All mass spectrometric data were
207 obtained in negative ion mode. Nitrogen gas was used for the curtain, nebulizer, turbo and collision
208 gases. The Turbo V ion source parameter were set at -3500 V for the ion spray potential, -60 V for
209 the declustering potential, -10 V for the entrance potential, 50 psi for gas 1 (nebulizer) and gas 2
210 (turbo), 15 psi for the curtain gas, and 500 °C for the turbo gas (gas 2) temperature.

211 For tandem mass spectrometry, the collision potential was set in an appropriate range from -
212 15 to -25 V and the collision gas pressure was set at high. Product ion spectra of m/z 325 for *p*-
213 coumaroyl glucose and m/z 355 for feruloyl glucose were recorded in a mass range from m/z 50 to
214 400 with a scan time of 1 s and a step mass of 0.1. For multiple reaction monitoring (HPLC-MRM),
215 the following mass transitions were monitored with a dwell time of 50 ms; m/z 325→119, 145, 163
216 and 187 for *p*-coumaroyl glucose, and m/z 355→119, 175, 193 and 217 for feruloyl glucose.

217 **Yeast and growth/Fermentation experiments/Ethylphenol analyses.** These were as
218 previously described.² Briefly, starter cultures of *B. bruxellensis* were prepared in YPD (Yeast
219 Peptone Dextrose). Model fermentation experiments were performed in triplicate in YNB (Yeast
220 Nitrogen Base) media (supplemented with 20 g/L glucose, pH 3.5). Ferments were spiked with
221 either **9** and **10** or **11** and **12** at 10 mg/L, inoculated with a single strain of *B. bruxellensis* and
222 incubated at 28 °C. Control experiments were run concurrently, performed under analogous
223 conditions without yeast inoculation. Samples (5 mL) were collected every second day, centrifuged
224 (4000 r.p.m. for 5 mins) and the supernatant decanted from the yeast pellet and stored at -20 °C
225 until required for analysis. Ethylphenol analysis was performed as previously described.⁵²

226

227 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

228 **Synthesis of hydroxycinnamoyl tartrate esters (Figure 2).** Preparation of di-*tert*-butyl
229 tartrate (**18**) from *L*-tartaric acid was achieved as shown. The acid chlorides of **13** and **14** were
230 formed, concentrated and used directly, being added drop-wise in dry hexane to **18** in dry
231 pyridine,⁴³ which for short reaction times gave the chloroacetylated products (**20** or **22**) with minor
232 dechloroacetylation. However, longer exposure to pyridine gave further deprotection to give mainly
233 the desired products (**19** or **21**), but always with some intermediate **20** or **22**, that could be isolated
234 and deprotected further. Hydrolysis of the *tert*-butyl esters and purification with reverse-phase
235 chromatography yielded pure hydroxycinnamoyl tartrate esters (**9** or **10**).

236 **Synthesis of hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters (Figure 3).** The synthesis of *p*-coumaroyl
237 and feruloyl glucose was based on the glucosyl donor (**25**) used previously to prepare
238 hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters,^{37, 47} and the synthetic pathway has since been validated in
239 preparation of feruloyl and sinapoyl glucose.⁴⁶

240 Glycosylation between the glycosyl donor, **25**, and acids (**13** or **14**) gave penta-chloroacetyl
241 protected esters **26** or **27**. Removal of the chloroacetyl groups gave a mixture of the desired
242 products (**11** or **12**) and 6-*O*-chloroacetyl glucopyranosyl hydroxycinnamates (**28** or **29**). Under
243 ambient light conditions an initial attempt to separate the product resulted in rapid
244 photoisomerization to give *cis*-**11** or **12**, which could be controlled by handling in the dark, or under
245 red light. Using a modified purification method, flash chromatography to remove the mono-
246 protected species, **28** and **29**, using 10% methanol in dichloromethane, and indeed multiple solvent
247 combinations, resulted in acyl migration. This gave a combination of esters mostly consisting of the
248 desired 1-*O*- β -ester as well as significant amounts of 2-*O*- α - and 6-*O*- α -esters and trace amounts of
249 the 2-*O*- β -, 6-*O*- β - and 3-*O*- α/β -esters, which could be partially characterized. In these minor
250 esters the chemical shifts for hydroxycinnamate alkene protons (H₇ and H₈) were moved upfield a
251 negligible amount, and for each positional isomer the glucose proton shifts were identical between

252 feruloyl and *p*-coumaroyl derivatives. In the mixtures a greater extent of migration for the *p*-
253 coumaroyl ester was observed. It was found that when migrated mixtures were stored under
254 aqueous acidic conditions glucose esters reverted back to the 1-*O*- β -esters, which will be detailed
255 below.

256 ***cis/trans*-Isomerization of glucose esters of *p*-coumaric and ferulic acids.** The ease of
257 *cis/trans*-isomerization that occurred in the glucose esters, and comparative lack thereof in other
258 hydroxycinnamates prepared synthetically in this work, led to the investigation of the nature of the
259 isomerization and the factors that influenced this phenomenon in the glucose esters. Initial
260 investigations into excitation to the first excited triplet state (T_1), calculated in a vacuum, gave
261 energy profiles for *p*-coumaric acid and *p*-coumaroyl glucose that explained the propensity for
262 photoisomerization, with the lowest energy conformations possessing a $C_6-C_7-C_8-C_9$ dihedral angle
263 of approximately 90° (Figures 4a and 4b). However, the energy differences between the singlet
264 ground state (S_0) and T_1 for the *trans*-isomers (180° dihedral) for *p*-coumaric acid and *p*-coumaroyl
265 glucose were found to be 229.4 and 226.2 kJ/mol, respectively, and not considered large enough to
266 explain the difference in isomerization away from the *trans*-isomer based on substrate alone.

267 During the preparation of numerous hydroxycinnamate derivatives, changes in solubility
268 required different compounds to be handled in various solvents, with the glucose esters handled in
269 more polar solvents than the free hydroxycinnamic acid were. To understand the role that solvents
270 may play in hydroxycinnamate isomerization, solvents of differing polarities (expressed as ET_{30})⁵³
271 were introduced into the calculations. The vertical excitation energy of the *trans*-substrate, or the
272 energy required to achieve an excited state and facilitate isomerization away from the *trans*-
273 isomers, showed reduction with increasing polarity (Figure 4c). Additionally, the vertical excitation
274 energies determined for *p*-coumaroyl glucose were lower than those for *p*-coumaric acid for all
275 solvents calculated. This trend was also mirrored in the HOMO-LUMO gap for each S_0 species
276 (Figure 4d). The minor changes in vertical excitation energy and HOMO-LUMO gap with solvents
277 of differing polarities, along with minor changes also due to substrate, start to provide an

278 explanation as to the ease of isomerization observed for the glucose esters, assisting in lowering the
279 energy required to achieve an excited state and hence, isomerization.

280 The mirrored trends in S_0 - T_1 vertical excitation energy and S_0 HOMO-LUMO gap removed
281 the need to calculate the energy of both the S_0 and T_1 state and allowed for rapid determination of
282 energy barriers simply from the HOMO-LUMO gap of the S_0 state. Hence a representation of ease
283 of isomerization for multiple hydroxycinnamates could be rapidly studied by examining the
284 relationship between the HOMO-LUMO gap and structural features. With phenolic deprotonation
285 shown to lower excitation energy in *p*-coumaric acid,²⁵ as well as pH effecting isomeric ratios in
286 neutral hydroxycinnamates,¹⁸ the structures studied were chosen because of their differing
287 electronic configurations with respect to their ability to become resonance stabilized by movement
288 of electrons from the phenol through the alkene and towards the carboxyl group. This included
289 structures possessing carboxyl anions and phenolic protection that are expected to have very little
290 resonance contribution resulting in an alkene with increased double bond character (Table 1).

291 Across the 11 structures, the HOMO-LUMO gap correlated with both the charge ratio
292 between oxygens 1 and 3 (r -value = -0.89, P = 0.0002) and the alkene double bond length (r -value =
293 -0.9677, P < 0.0001), and adequately explained what was observed experimentally. By altering the
294 electron density at the extremities of the molecules (oxygens 1 and 3), the double bond character of
295 the $C_7=C_8$ alkene was being affected (as shown by double bond length) as was the energy required
296 to excite an electron to the first excited state (HOMO-LUMO gap) and facilitate isomerization. As
297 such, hydroxycinnamate esters that are handled under basic conditions, producing a phenolate
298 anion, will possess a lower HOMO-LUMO gap and a higher propensity to isomerize. Substrate,
299 solvent, pH, and electronic environment influence the energy required for isomerization between
300 hydroxycinnamates, and these results support what was observed experimentally. Environments that
301 contribute to increasing the electron density on the phenolic oxygen, or even diminish electron
302 density at the carboxyl oxygen should be avoided under most lighting conditions.

303 **Migration of glucose esters.** To better understand the acyl migration of the glucose esters,
304 to explain the ratios of products observed and to investigate the possibility of this occurring in wine
305 or organic solvent wine extracts, theoretical studies were first performed. Water and
306 dichloromethane were used to study the positional isomers, the most common solvents that the
307 glucose esters experienced, along with ethanol and toluene which were included as examples of
308 polar protic and apolar aprotic solvents. The relative energies of the esters in water (Figure 5)
309 justified the predominance of the 1-*O*- β -esters in aqueous environments, being the
310 thermodynamically most stable, though this is not the case for any of the other solvents studied
311 (Figure 5). In dichloromethane, ethanol and toluene a thermodynamic preference for migration to
312 the 6-*O*- α -ester was observed. The 2-*O*- α -ester was also lower in energy than the 1-*O*- β -ester in
313 dichloromethane and ethanol. For NMR characterization of the glucose esters, analysis in d_4 -
314 methanol may have influenced the ratio of esters present.

315 Experimentally, the extent of migration differed between the two glucose esters with greater
316 amounts of 2-*O*- α - and 6-*O*- α -esters observed in the ^1H NMR spectrum of *p*-coumaroyl glucose
317 than for feruloyl glucose, which is not evident based on the thermodynamic calculations. While the
318 exact route to migration is not understood, we have mechanistically investigated the plausible
319 migrations away from the 1-*O*- β -esters to explain the relative extents of migrations observed
320 between the two esters. During synthesis, the migration was thought to be facilitated by silica gel,
321 and it was also reversed in wine-like conditions. Therefore, the mechanism applied here (as
322 described by Horrobin³³) is that which would occur in aqueous acidic environments, and reflect the
323 possibilities in wine. The key intermediates employed in calculation of the 1-*O*- β - to 2-*O*- β -*p*-
324 coumaroyl glucose migration are shown in Figure 6 (with analogous intermediates used for
325 subsequent migrations) along with relative energies. Although the migrated mixtures contained α -
326 anomers, 6-*O*- α - and 2-*O*- α -esters, migration away from the 1-*O*- β -ester was proposed to have
327 occurred before anomerization due to the mechanistic challenges faced with direct anomerization of
328 the 1-*O*- β - to 1-*O*- α -esters, with previous evidence supporting this.⁵¹

329 For both the 1-*O*- to 2-*O*- and 1-*O*- to 6-*O*-migrations were less favored, as energy barriers
330 were increased, in an aqueous environment for both glucose esters when compared with
331 dichloromethane. This supports the rapid migration seen in 10 % methanol/dichloromethane on
332 silica gel (Figure 6). Not only are the 2-*O*- α - and 6-*O*- α -esters thermodynamically favored in
333 dichloromethane (Figure 5), but migration directly to these positions is likely to happen more
334 rapidly also. For a 1-*O*- to 2-*O*-migration, the difference in energy of intermediate 2 in
335 dichloromethane between feruloyl and *p*-coumaroyl (with an energy barrier between intermediates
336 1 and 2 of 30 kJ/mol for the *p*-coumaroyl and 65 kJ/mol for the feruloyl) describes a kinetically
337 more favorable migration for the *p*-coumaroyl glucose. If the mixtures had not yet reached
338 equilibrium and were not yet representing the thermodynamic products, the energy barriers for
339 migration directly to the 2-*O*-position helps to explain why a greater extent of migration was
340 observed for *p*-coumaroyl glucose (**11**) than in feruloyl glucose (**12**) at the time of characterization.

341 In studying direct migrations to both the 6-*O*- and 3-*O*-positions a ring-flipped glucose was
342 produced, giving 1-OH, 3-OH and 6-OH on the same side of the ring. As such, the bicyclic
343 intermediate 2 in the 1-*O*- to 3-*O*-migration is stabilized by the ring-flip and has a similar, or lower
344 energy than intermediate 1 for both esters in all conditions investigated (Figure 6). Additionally, the
345 1-*O*- to 3-*O*-migrations involve a favorable 6-membered cyclic intermediate.^{34, 54} Although the ring-
346 flipped glucose allows for facile migration to the 3-*O*-position, subsequent migration to the
347 thermodynamically favored 6-*O*-position is also facilitated,⁵⁵ and most likely why the 3-*O*-esters
348 were not prevalent in the migrated ester mixtures.

349 However, these results do indicate that in largely aqueous conditions that the 1-*O*- β -esters
350 will be thermodynamically favored, and that most migrations will occur more slowly due to higher
351 energy barriers to migration, with the only exception being the migration to the 3-*O*-position which
352 requires a ring flip of the glucose ring before the migration can take place.

353 In synthesis or isolation of the hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters, the use of solvents other
354 than water should be limited, especially under acidic conditions conducive to migration. If organic

355 solvents are employed, they should be done so under neutral conditions, or in the presence of a
356 buffer. In the event of migration away from the desired 1-*O*- β -esters, it was found that for storage
357 under aqueous acidic conditions, migrated mixtures will revert to the 1-*O*- β -esters, with the spectral
358 data of each ester corresponding to literature data, as reported in the experimental section.^{15, 56}
359 (extracted ion chromatograms of glucose esters stored in pH = 3.5 model wine and mass spectra of
360 identified peaks can be found in supporting information).

361 **HPLC-MS analysis of glucose esters in wine.** The ease of migration of the glucose esters
362 in non-aqueous solvents brings into question whether multiple esters observed in previous
363 quantifications^{7, 14, 15} are an artefact of extraction using non-aqueous solvents promoting migration
364 and multiple positional isomers, rather than being present in grape or wine products.

365 When the synthetically prepared glucose esters were stored in model wine, subsequent
366 analysis by HPLC-MS gave extracted ion chromatograms that showed largely single esters. This
367 analysis, without a solvent extraction or purification step, suggests that migration will not be greatly
368 facilitated by the method of analysis solely.

369 Unconcentrated red and white wine along with concentrated samples (5 times concentrated
370 under reduced pressure) were submitted to analysis by HPLC-MS through direct injection rather
371 than extraction by organic solvent, to avoid solvent induced migration. While *p*-coumaroyl glucose
372 and feruloyl glucose could be identified in concentrated white wine (extracted ion chromatograms
373 and mass spectra in supporting information), the HPLC-MS analysis of red wine failed to identify
374 feruloyl glucose due to insensitivity caused by co-eluting species (tentatively identified as *p*-
375 coumaroyl anthocyanin derivatives). This led to decreased resolution of the *m/z* 355 extracted ion
376 chromatogram and no fragmentations were found matching that of the reference sample, which may
377 explain why feruloyl glucose has yet to be identified in red wine. Increased sensitivity was achieved
378 using HPLC-MRM with the predominant fragmentations, those from the precursor ions (*m/z* 325 or
379 355) to the aglycone (*m/z* 163 or 193) and to the aglycone minus water (*m/z* 145 or 175), displayed
380 in Figure 7.

381 Multiple *p*-coumaroyl glucose esters were observed in unconcentrated white wine,
382 concentrated white wine and concentrated red wine (29.7 and 30.6 mins, Figures 7b, c and d, left
383 side). The presence of a second feruloyl glucose ester was not obvious in unconcentrated white
384 wine (Figure 7b), but slightly better resolution in concentrated white wine facilitated identification
385 of a second feruloyl glucose peak (37.7 mins, Figure 7c). As near identical chromatograms were
386 observed for unconcentrated and concentrated white wine, the concentration step was not
387 considered to alter the compounds present, only providing improved resolution. As such,
388 unconcentrated red wine was not analyzed, instead only concentrated red wine was used to obtain
389 that improved sensitivity while providing information that was representative of an unconcentrated
390 sample. Although the concentration of feruloyl glucose in concentrated red wine appears to be
391 somewhat lower than in white wine, evidence of a second peak in the concentrated red wine sample
392 was seen (37.6 mins, Figure 7d). These data confirm the previous findings that there are multiple
393 glucose esters in wine,^{3, 14, 16} but the theoretical studies show that the extraction method can
394 contribute to the extent of migration. These results also suggest why the feruloyl glucose ester was
395 not observed in previous studies, as the presence of what are likely to be *p*-coumaroyl anthocyanin
396 derivatives in red wine co-elute, and prevent identification unless HPLC-MRM is used.

397 **Metabolism of *p*-coumaroyl and feruloyl glucose by *Brettanomyces* yeast.** The synthetic
398 samples of the glucose esters were spiked as migrated mixtures containing mainly the 1-*O*- β -esters,
399 with the knowledge that in wine-like environments the 1-*O*- β -esters will prevail, or will at least
400 reside in a ratio that is representative of what occurs in wine. As acyl migration is a dynamic
401 process, isolating single positional isomers and submitting to fermentation experiments would
402 simply result in a mixture governed by the stability of each positional isomer in a given medium.
403 Regardless, during fermentation, to release the free hydroxycinnamic acid the esterase of
404 *Brettanomyces* must be active towards a hydroxycinnamoyl glucose ester.

405 The evolution of ethylphenols during fermentation (Figure 8) with AWRI 1499 gave a
406 similar percentage conversion for **11** and **12** of approximately 36%. The uninoculated control

407 ferments showed no evolution of ethylphenols, and the stability of the glucose esters has been
408 shown by Monagas¹⁴ and was proven by storage in fermentation-like conditions for the length of
409 the experiment, so it can be confirmed that the production of ethylphenols was caused by enzymatic
410 cleavage of the glucose esters. The intermediate hydroxycinnamic acids (**3** and **4**) were not
411 quantified in this work as, in our experience, once the acid has been liberated the conversion to the
412 ethylphenol is good,²⁸ and recovery of both the ester and ethylphenol account for a significant
413 proportion of the spiked material.²

414 This experiment shows for the first time that the hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters can be
415 metabolized by *B. bruxellensis* and can contribute to the formation of ethylphenols in wine. With
416 moderate conversions from the glucose esters, the spoilage potential during barrel ageing will
417 largely be determined by the concentration present in the wine, which as described previously can
418 range from trace to several mg/L.^{3, 14, 16} Assuming a pre-malolactic fermentation concentration of *p*-
419 coumaroyl glucose, as observed by Hernandez et al., of 2.74 mg/L,³ a 36% molar conversion would
420 result in a 4-ethylphenol concentration of around 370 µg/L. This is more than half the detection
421 threshold,¹ suggesting hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters should be considered when assessing the
422 potential for ethylphenol accumulation.

423 **Metabolism of *p*-coumaroyl and feruloyl tartrate by *Brettanomyces* yeast.** The
424 hydroxycinnamoyl tartrate esters (**9** and **10**), when fermented with AWRI 1499, AWRI 1608 and
425 AWRI 1613 (the three strains tested belonging to the three main genetic groups and being
426 representative of 98% of Australian *Brettanomyces* isolates⁵⁷) gave no conversion to 4-ethylphenol
427 or 4-ethylguaiacol, and the result was confirmed in repeat experiments. This is consistent with that
428 detailed by Schopp et al. in red wine ferments with *B. bruxellensis*.¹¹

429 The potential for the tartrate esters to contribute to spoilage during barrel ageing is limited,
430 with *B. bruxellensis* lacking the enzymatic ability to release hydroxycinnamic acids and
431 subsequently form ethylphenols. However, previous studies showed that the hydroxycinnamoyl
432 tartrates could be hydrolyzed using commercial enzyme preparations.^{8, 9} The resulting

433 hydroxycinnamic acids would be metabolized to yield ethylphenols in the presence of *B.*
434 *bruxellensis*, and so the tartrate esters might act as indirect precursors to ethylphenols, if first
435 exposed to specific enological conditions, regardless of the ability of *B. bruxellensis* to directly
436 metabolize them.

437 While the hydroxycinnamoyl tartrates were not metabolized, this work shows that the
438 glucose esters can contribute to the accumulation of ethylphenols, adding to that already known for
439 the free acids and the ethyl esters,^{1, 2} and expanding the pool of ethylphenol precursors.

440

441 **ABBREVIATIONS USED**

442 **HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography; MS, mass spectrometry; AWRI,**
443 **Australian Wine Research Institute; NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; FTIR, Fourier**
444 **transform infra-red; HRMS. High resolution mass spectrometry; DFT, density functional**
445 **theory; MMFF, Merck molecular force field; HOMO, highest occupied molecular orbital;**
446 **LUMO. Lowest unoccupied molecular orbital; PDA, photodiode array; S₀, singlet ground**
447 **state; T₁, first excited triplet state; MRM, multiple reaction monitoring.**

448

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454

455 **ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

456 **Supporting information.** synthetic methodologies and characterization data for preparation
457 of hydroxycinnamoyl esters; computational methodologies and absolute values generated in
458 computational studies of hydroxycinnamoyl isomerization and glucose ester migration;
459 chromatographic data from HPLC-MS studies of glucose esters; absolute values of ethylphenol

460 evolution from hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters. This material is available free of charge via the
461 internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

462

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. Presumed pathway for the breakdown of ethyl hydroxycinnamates by *B. bruxellensis*.

Figure 2. Preparation of hydroxycinnamoyl tartrate esters. *i)* acetyl chloride, reflux *ii)* water, acetone *iii)* MgSO₄, H₂SO₄, *tert*-BuOH *iv)* KOH, MeOH *v)* SOCl₂, reflux *vi)* **18**, pyridine *vii)* trifluoroacetic acid, C18-RP chromatography.

Figure 3. Preparation and transformations of hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters. *i)* chloroacetyl chloride, pyridine, reflux *ii)* hydrazine acetate *iii)* trichloroacetonitrile, DBU *iv)* **25**, TMSOTf, molecular sieves *v)* pyridine/water *vi)* XAD-8, MeOH/water *vii)* silica gel, 10% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂.

Figure 4. Energy profiles for isomerization of hydroxycinnamates a) *p*-coumaric acid, and b) *p*-coumaroyl glucose, calculated using DFT B3LYP 6-31G* basis set in a vacuum. Excitation energies for *p*-coumaric acid and *p*-coumaroyl glucose in solvents of differing polarities, c) vertical excitation energy of optimized S₀ configuration to T₁ state, and d) HOMO-LUMO gap energy of S₀ state. Absolute values can be found in the supporting information.

Figure 5. Energies of hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters, relative to 1-*O*-β-ester, calculated using DFT B3LYP 6-31G* basis set in water, dichloromethane, ethanol and toluene. Absolute values can be found in the supporting information.

Figure 6. Key intermediates in acid-catalyzed 1-*O*-β- to 2-*O*-β acyl migration for *p*-coumaroyl glucose, and energies of key intermediates in acyl migrations, relative to Intermediate 1 determined using the DFT B3LYP 6-31G* basis set. Absolute values can be found in the supporting information.

Figure 7. HPLC-MRM chromatograms (aglycone - blue, aglycone minus water - red) of hydroxycinnamoyl glucose esters. a) Pure glucose esters. b) Unconcentrated white wine. c) Concentrated white wine. d) Concentrated red wine.

Figure 8. Percentage molar conversion of glucose esters to volatile phenols in model ferments, data expressed as average of triplicates ± standard deviation. Absolute values can be found in the supporting information.

TABLES

Table 1. Numbering of key atoms in hydroxycinnamate skeleton and the structural features obtained from B3LYP 6-31G* optimized equilibrium geometries.

Hydroxycinnamate skeleton	R	R'	C ₇ =C ₈ length (Å)	O ₁ charge	O ₃ charge	O ₁ /O ₃ charge ratio	HOMO-LUMO gap (kJ/mol)
	H	H	1.351	-0.573	-0.597	0.960	400.95
	anion	H	1.346	-0.589	-0.764	0.771	437.46
	anion	anion	1.354	-0.774	-0.777	0.996	372.07
	CH ₂ CH ₃	H	1.354	-0.58	-0.365	1.589	400.47
	CH ₂ CH ₃	anion	1.369	-0.739	-0.369	2.003	329.87
	Glucose	H	1.355	-0.573	-0.315	1.819	385.99
	Glucose	anion	1.373	-0.728	-0.317	2.297	318.8
	H	C(O)CH ₃	1.349	-0.476	-0.562	0.847	434.23
	anion	C(O)CH ₃	1.345	-0.483	-0.754	0.641	449.43
	H	C(O)CH ₂ Cl	1.348	-0.469	-0.561	0.836	437.19
	anion	C(O)CH ₂ Cl	1.344	-0.473	-0.755	0.626	445.27

FIGURE GRAPHICS

Figure 1

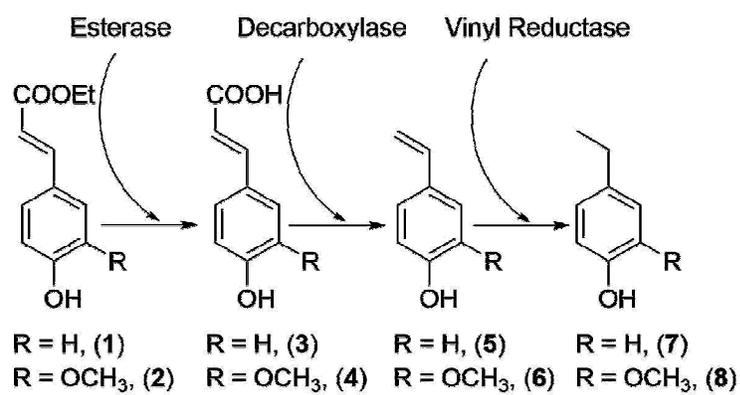


Figure 2

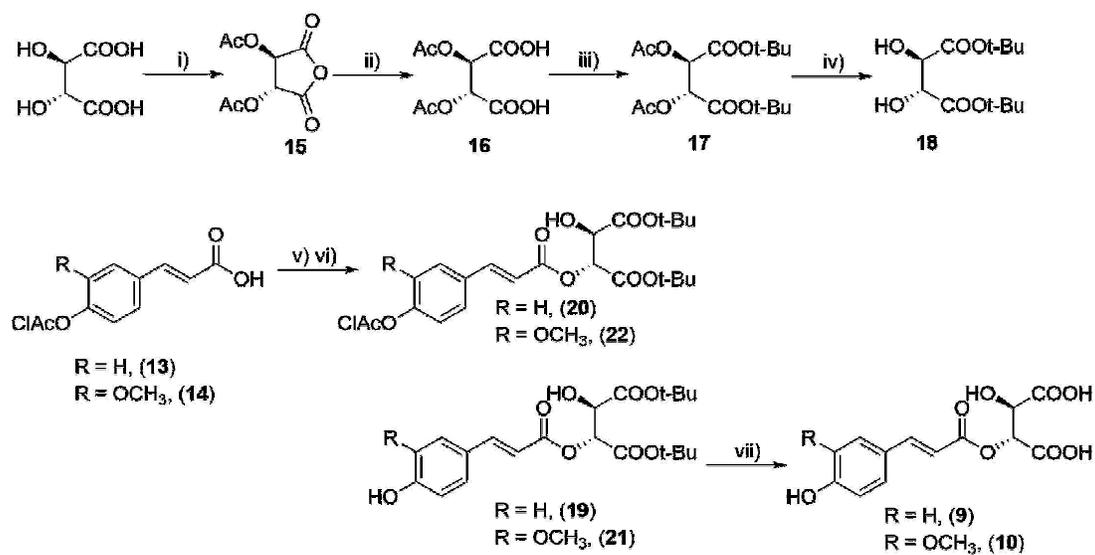


Figure 3

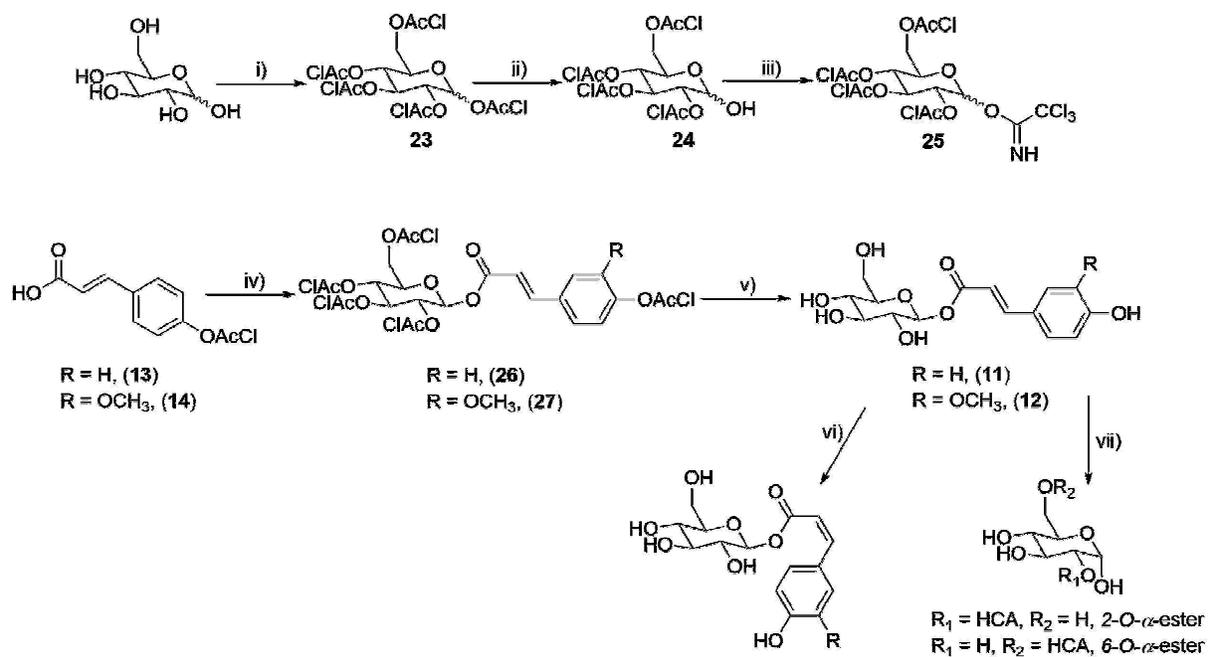


Figure 4

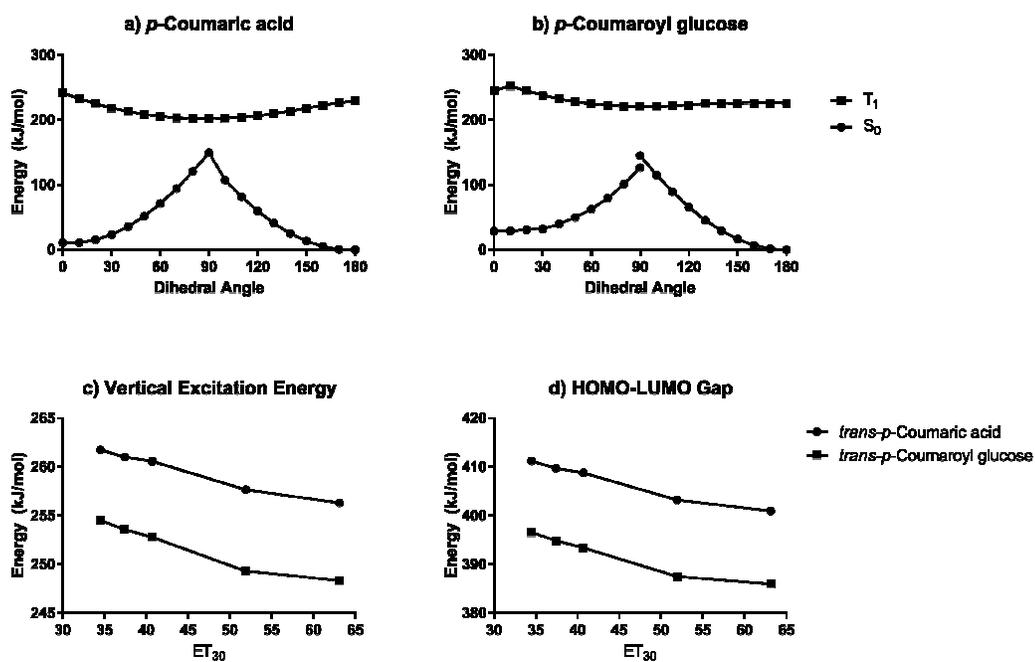


Figure 5

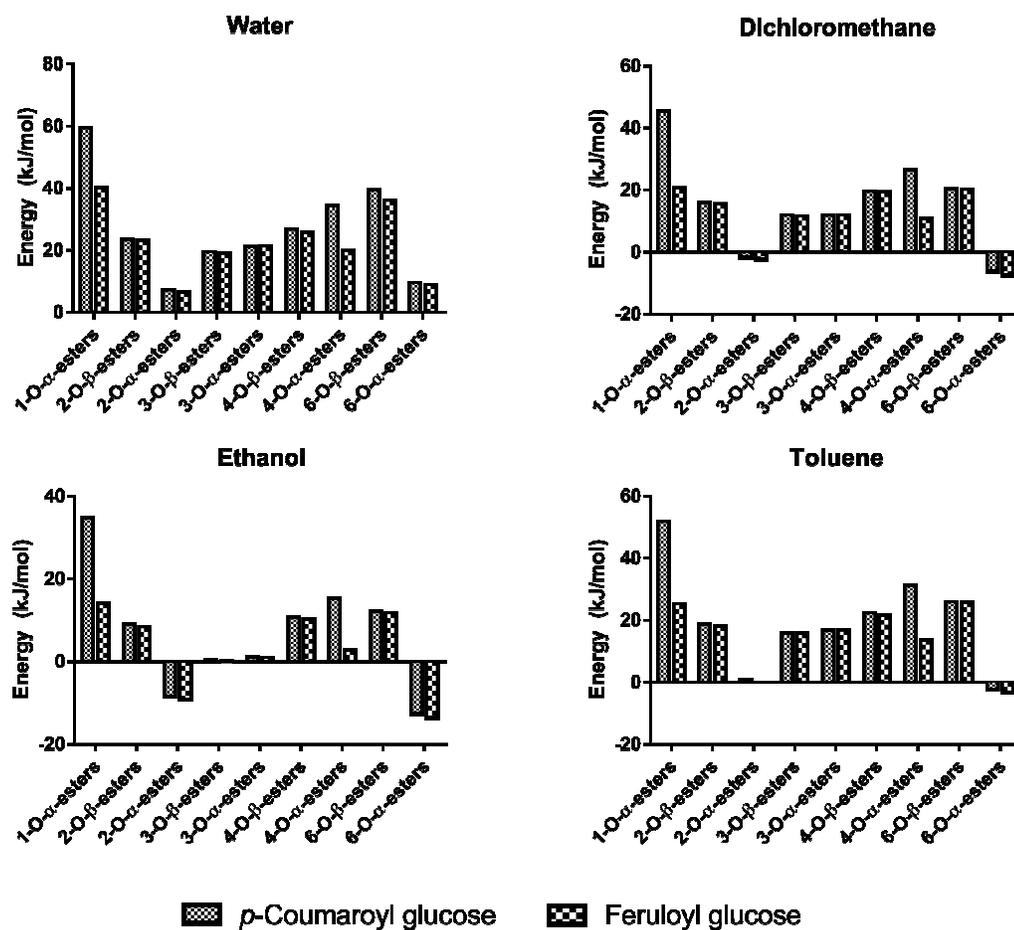


Figure 6

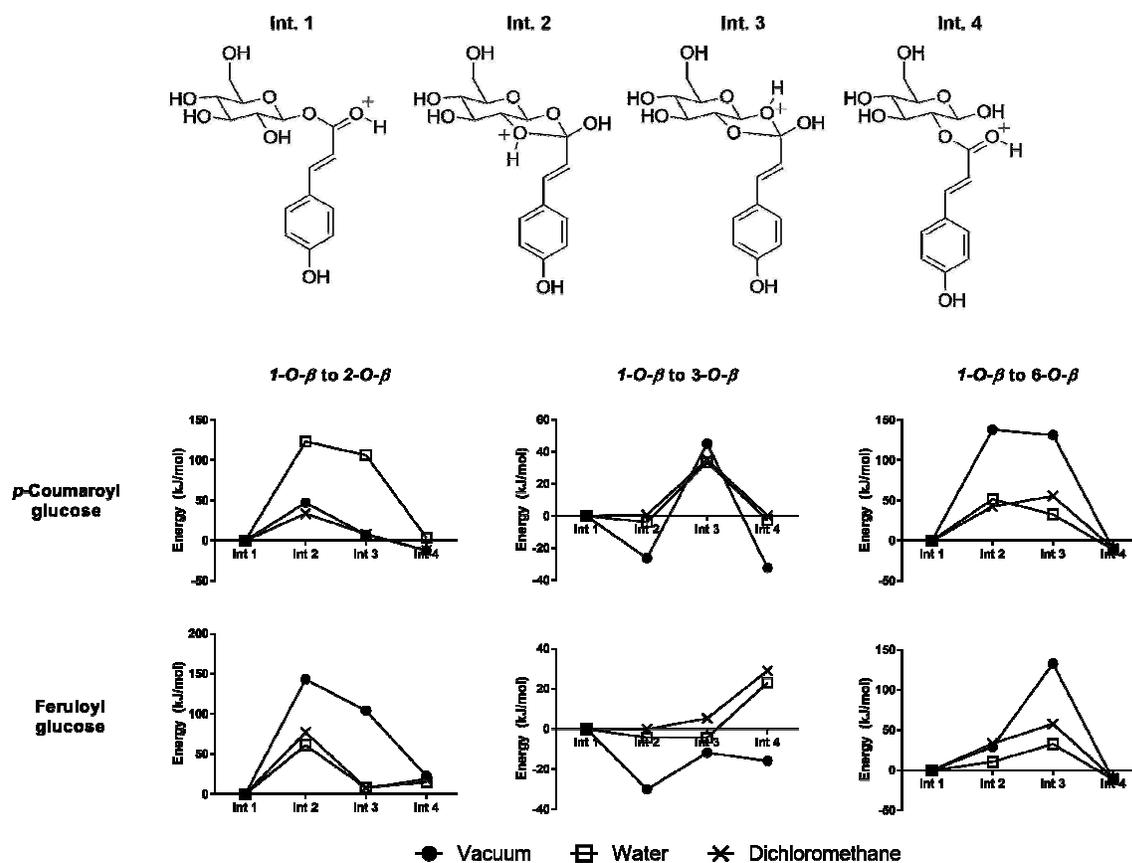


Figure 7

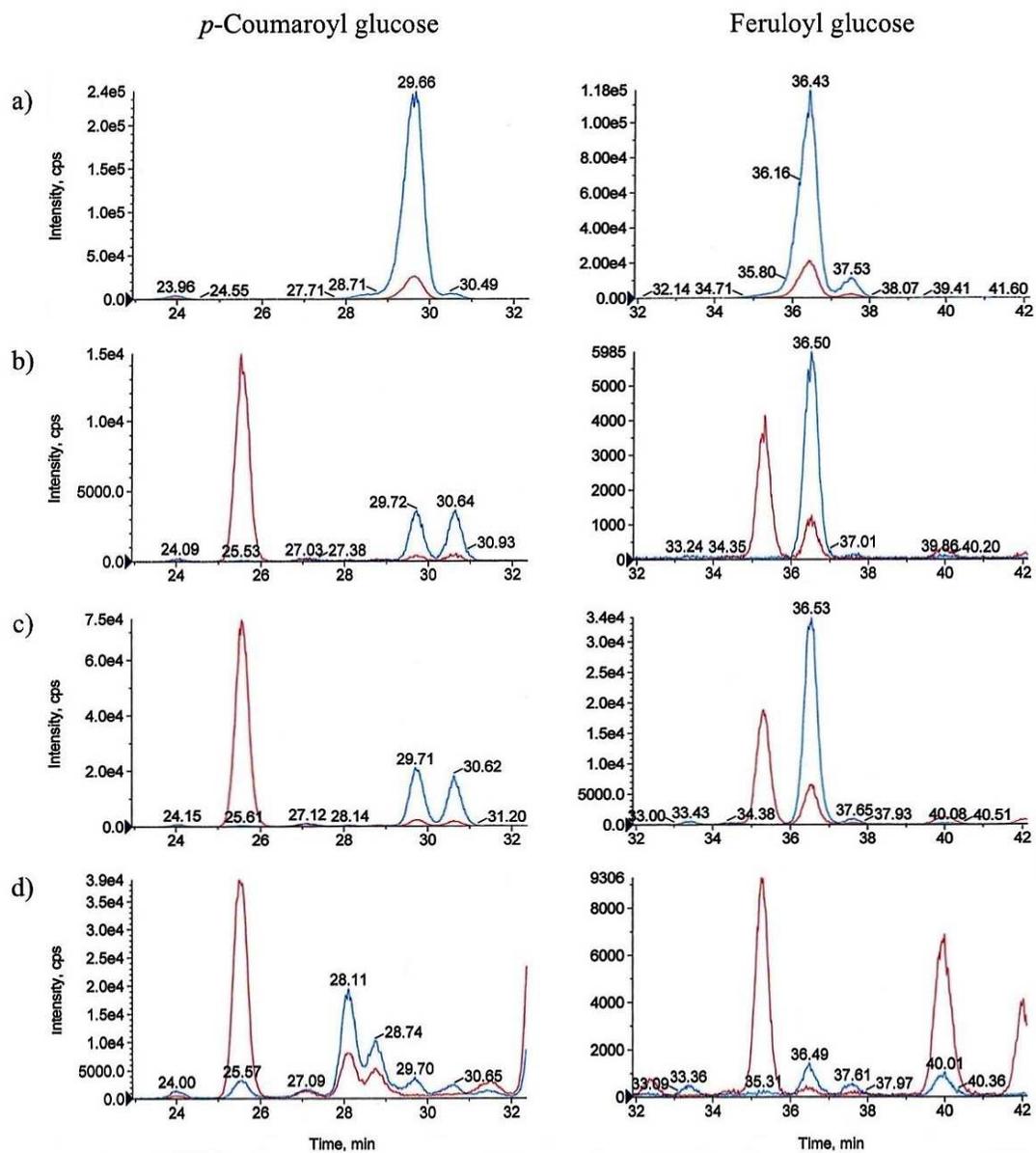
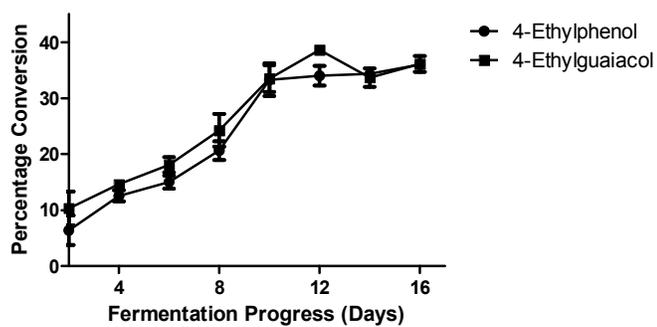


Figure 8



TOC GRAPHIC

