Structural basis of stereospecificity in the bacterial biodegradation of β -aryl ether bonds found in lignin

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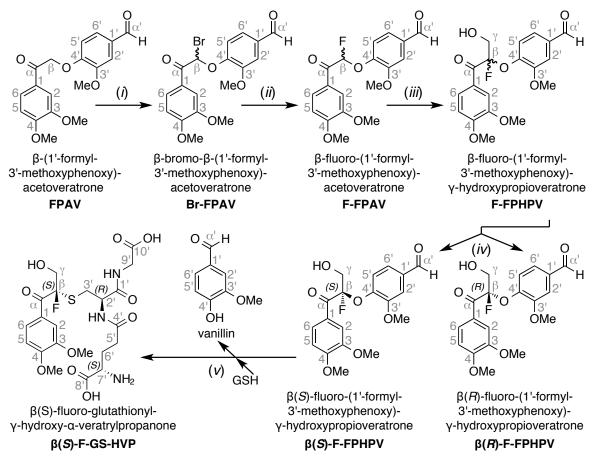
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – CHEMICAL SYNTHESES AND NMR DATA

CHEMICAL SYNTHESES:

General. Reagents and chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Biospin (Billerica, MA) AVANCE 700 MHz spectrometer fitted with a cryogenically cooled 5-mm TXI gradient probe with inverse geometry (proton coils closest to the sample). ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Biospin DMX 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm). *J* values are recorded in Hz. The central NMR solvent peaks were used as internal references (δ_{H} : 2.05 ppm and δ_{C} : 29.8 ppm for acetone-*d*₆; δ_{H} : 4.79 ppm for (HDO in) D₂O (1,2). Carbon and proton assignments reported for all compounds in the attached spectra were determined via the aid of 2D COSY, HSQC, and HMBC NMR spectra. Merck-EMD Millipore aluminum-backed Silica Gel 60 F₂₅₄ normal-phase thin-layer chromatography plates were used for small-scale separation of organic compounds using a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as the mobile solvent.

Syntheses of β -(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (FPAV, **Supplementary Figure 3**) and racemic β -(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)- γ -hydroxypropioveratrone (FPHPV) were carried out as described previously (3,4) according to the method of Adler and Eriksoo (5,6). Biotage KP-Sil silica gel was used for preparative separations of organic compounds by flash chromatography using a CombiFlash R_f delivery module using a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate as the mobile phase.



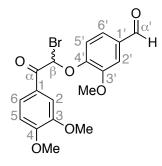
Supplementary Figure 3. Scheme for organic synthesis of (*i*) racemic β-bromo-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (Br-FPAV), (*ii*) racemic β-fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (F-FPAV), (*iii*) racemic β-fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-γ-hydroxypropioveratrone (F-FPHPV), (*iv*) chiral chromatographic separation of enantiomers β(*S*)-F-FPHPV and β(*R*)-F-FPHPV, and (*v*) enzymatic synthesis of β(*S*)-fluoro-glutathionyl-γ-hydroxy-α-veratrylpropanone (β(*S*)-F-GS-HVP). Reagents and conditions: (*i*) pyridinium tribromide, EtOAc, 90 min, 68%; (*ii*) Ag(I)F, acetonitrile, 18 h, 90%; (*iii*) formaldehyde, K₂CO₃, 1,4-dioxane, 18 h, 23%; (*iv*) chiral chromatography, ethanol/hexane; (*v*) LigE, glutathione, 25 mM Tris in H₂O, pH 8.0, 18 h, C₁₈ chromatography, H₂O/methanol.

Synthesis of *racem*- β -bromo-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (Br-FPAV), Supplementary Figure 8(*i*). Synthetic FPAV served as the starting material in the synthesis of *racem*- β -bromo-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (Br-FPAV, Supplementary Figure 8(*i*)). A solution of ethyl acetate (100 mL), FPAV (2.5 g, 7.6 mmol), and pyridinium tribromide (2.9 g, 9.1 mmol) was prepared in a 250-mL round-bottom flask with stirring. After 90 min, the reaction mixture was washed three times with saturated Na₂CO₃, once with H₂O, and once with brine. The organic layer was then dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residual oil was identified as Br-FPAV (2.1 g, 68% yield).

racem-β-bromo-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (Br-FPAV):

¹H NMR (700 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ 10.00 (s, 1H, H α '); 8.00 (dd, 1H, J_{6-5} = 8.5 Hz, J_{6-2} = 2.0 Hz, H6); 7.77 (d, 1H, J_{2-6} = 2.0 Hz, H2); 7.68 (s, 1H, H β); 7.67 – 7.65 (m, 2H, H6'/H5'); 7.61 (d, 1H, $J_{2'-6'}$ = 1.7 Hz, H2'); 7.14 (d, 1H, $J_{5'-6'}$ = 8.5 Hz, H5); 3.97 (s, 3H, 3'-OMe); 3.95 (s, 3H, 4-OMe); 3.92 (s, 3H, 3-OMe).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 191.7 (Cα'); 186.4 (Cα); 155.6 (C4); 152.2 (C3'); 150.2 (C3); 149.3 (C4'); 134.9 (C1'); 125.6 (C1); 125.4 (C6); 125.0 (C6'); 119.3 (C5'); 112.7 (C2); 112.3 (C2'); 111.6 (C5); 82.6 (Cβ); 56.6 (3'-OMe); 56.3 (4-OMe); 56.1 (3-OMe).



Synthesis of *racem*- β -fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (F-FPAV), Supplementary Figure 8(*ii*). To a magnetically stirred solution of Br-FPAV (2.0 g, 5.0 mmol) dissolved in anhydrous acetonitrile (50 mL) in a 250-mL round-bottom flask maintained under an inert atmosphere at 60 °C, silver (I) fluoride (Ag(I)F) was added (3.2 g, 25.0 mmol). After 18 h, inorganics (7) were removed by filtration and the filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was taken up with ethyl acetate and washed once with aqueous NH₄Cl, three times with H₂O, and once with brine. The organic layer was then dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was again evaporated *in vacuo*. The product oil was further purified by flash chromatography using a mobile phase of Hexane/EtOAc = 1/1 (R_f = 0.36). The product was then dissolved in hot ethyl acetate, hexane was added slowly and the mixture allowed to cool, affording crystalline *racem*- β -fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (F-FPAV, 1.6 g, 90% yield).

racem-β-fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (F-FPAV):

¹H NMR (700 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ 9.99 (s, 1H, H α '); 7.91 (dd, 1H, J_{6-5} = 8.5 Hz, J_{6-2} = 1.8 Hz, H6); 7.67 (d, 1H, J_{2-6} = 1.8 Hz, H2); 7.63 (dd, 1H, $J_{6'-5'}$ = 8.2 Hz, $J_{6'-2'}$ = 1.8 Hz, H6'); 7.61 (d, 1H, $J_{2'-6'}$ = 1.8 Hz, H2'); 7.55 (d, 1H, J_{5-6} = 8.2 Hz, H5'); 7.15 (d, 1H, $J_{5'-6'}$ = 8.5 Hz, H5); 6.88 (d, 1H, $J_{\beta-\beta F}$ = 59.6 Hz, H β); 3.96 (s, 3H, 3'-OMe); 3.94 (s, 3H, 4-OMe); 3.90 (s, 3H, 3-OMe).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 191.6 (Cα'); 187.4 (d, $J_{\alpha-\beta F} = 25.7$ Hz, Cα); 155.8 (C4); 151.8 (C3'); 150.3 (C3); 150.1 (C4'); 134.8 (C1'); 126.4 (C1); 125.7 (C6); 125.2 (C6'); 119.5 (C5'); 112.3 (C2'); 112.2 (C2); 111.6 (C5); 106.1 (d, $J_{\beta-\beta F} = 232.9$ Hz, Cβ); 56.5 (3'-OMe); 56.3 (4-OMe); 56.1 (3-OMe).

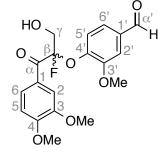
¹⁹F NMR (376.5 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ -132.3 (d, $J_{\beta F-\beta H}$ = 59.6 Hz, Fβ).

Synthesis of *racem*- β -fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)- γ -hydroxypropioveratrone (F-FPHPV) racemate, Supplementary Figure 8 (*iii–iv*). To a magnetically stirred solution of 1,4-dioxane (40 mL), F-FPAV (0.8 g, 2.3 mmol), and formaldehyde (136 mg, 4.5 mmol, 340 µL of 37% formaldehyde in H₂O) in a 100-mL round-bottom flask, anhydrous K₂CO₃ (0.4 g, 22.7 mmol) was added and the reaction was set to 60 °C. After 18 h, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, carbonates were removed by filtration, and 1,4-dioxane was evaporated *in vacuo*. The product was dissolved in ethyl acetate and washed three times with H₂O and once with brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was further purified by flash chromatography using a mobile phase of Hexane/EtOAc = 1/3 (R_f = 0.19). Racemic β -fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)- γ -hydroxypropioveratrone (F-FPHPV) was recovered from chromatographic fractions as an oil (0.2 g, 23% yield).

The chiral enantiomers of racemate F-FPHPV (*i.e.*, $\beta(S)$ -F-FPHPV and $\beta(R)$ -F-FPHPV) were purified via chiral chromatography where racemic F-FPHPV (5 mg, 13.2 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (5 mL) and injected into a Beckman 125NM solvent module HPLC system equipped with a Diacel Chemical Industries CHIRALPAK AY-H column (10 by 250 mm) and Beckman 168 UV detector. A mixture of ethanol and hexane was used as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 2.0 mL min.⁻¹ The ethanol fraction of the total flow (with hexane as the remainder) was adjusted over a gradient as follows: 0–10 min, 10% ethanol; 10–60 min, gradient from 10-40% ethanol; 60–71 min, 40% ethanol; 71–72 min, gradient from 40-10% ethanol; 72–80 min, 10% ethanol. $\beta(S)$ -F-FPHPV and $\beta(R)$ -F-FPHPV eluted from the column after retention times (t_R) of 46.1 min ($R_f = 0.42$) and 53.9 min ($R_f = 0.36$), respectively, and their fractions were collected, pooled, and solvents were dried *in vacuo*.

racem-β-fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-γ-hydroxypropioveratrone (F-FPHPV):

¹H NMR (700 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 9.85 (s, 1H, Hα'); 7.93 (dd, 1H, *J*₆₋₅ = 8.6 Hz, *J*₆₋₂ = 2.0 Hz, H6); 7.64 (d, 1H, *J*₂₋₆ = 2.0 Hz, H2); 7.48 (d, 1H, *J*_{2'-6'} = 1.8 Hz, H2'); 7.41 (dd, 1H, *J*_{6'-5'} = 8.3 Hz, *J*_{6'-2'} = 1.8 Hz, H6'); 7.28 (d, 1H, *J*₅₋₆ = 8.3 Hz, H5'); 7.04 (d, 1H, *J*_{5'-6'} = 8.6 Hz, H5); 4.81 (dd, 1H, *J*_{γ0H-γa} = 7.6 Hz, *J*_{γ0H-γb} = 6.0 Hz, γ-OH); 4.27 (ddd, 1H, *J*_{γa-βF} = 23.2 Hz, *J*_{γa-γb} = 12.4 Hz, *J*_{γa-γOH} = 7.6 Hz, Hγ_a); 4.19 (ddd, 1H, *J*_{γb-βF} = 12.5 Hz, *J*_{γb-γa} = 12.4 Hz, *J*_{γb-γOH} = 6.1 Hz, Hγ_b); 3.97 (s, 3H, 3'-OMe); 3.89 (s, 3H, 4-OMe); 3.85 (s, 3H, 3-OMe). ¹³C NMR (176 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 191.4 (Cα'); 190.3 (d, *J*_{α-βF} = 27.6 Hz,



Ca); 155.3 (C4); 151.6 (C3'); 149.8 (C3); 148.7 (C4'); 134.0 (C1'); 127.2 (C1); 125.6 (C6); 125.1 (C6'); 119.3 (C5'); 114.3 (d, $J_{\beta-\beta F} = 241.8$ Hz, C β); 112.8 (C2); 111.8 (C2');

111.4 (C5); 66.2 (d, $J_{\gamma-\beta F} = 28.5 \text{ Hz C}\gamma$); 56.4 (3'-OMe); 56.2 (4-OMe); 56.0 (3-OMe).

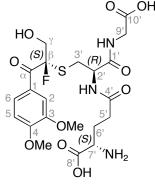
¹⁹F NMR (376.5 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ -117.7 (dd, $J_{\beta F-\gamma Ha} = 23.2$ Hz, $J_{\beta F-\gamma Hb} = 12.5$ Hz, F β).

Enzymatic synthesis of $\beta(S)$ -fluoro-glutathionyl- γ -hydroxy- α -veratrylpropanone ($\beta(S)$ -F-GS-HVP), Supplementary Figure 8(v). In vitro enzymatic synthesis with β -etherase LigE (360 µg mL⁻¹) as a catalyst was conducted in 4 mL of an aqueous assay buffer [1.5 mM β (S)-F-FPHPV, 25 mM Tris, 2.5% DMSO, 5 mM glutathione (GSH), pH 8.0]. Reagents were added as follows: 2.3 mg $\beta(S)$ -F-FPHPV, 100 µL DMSO, 3500 µL of 25.6 mM Tris (pH 9.0), 200 µL of 100 mM GSH in 25.6 mM Tris, 200 µL of a 7.2 μ g μ L⁻¹ stock of LigE. Prior to addition of LigE, the pH of the assay mixture was measured at pH 8.0 using pH paper. After 18 h, the 4 mL reaction was filtered through a 10,000 MWCO filter for the removal of protein and six ethyl acetate extractions were conducted for the removal of vanillin and residual $\beta(S)$ -F-FPHPV. The aqueous fraction was then loaded onto a pre-packed Biotage KP- C_{18} (100 g) reversed phase column using a Beckman 125NM solvent delivery module equipped with a Beckman 168 UV detector. A mixture of water and methanol was used for the mobile phase at a flow rate of 10 mL/min. The proportions of the total flow made up by each buffer were adjusted over a gradient: 0-15 min, 0%methanol; 15–20 min, gradient from 0-100% methanol; 20–35 min, 100% methanol; 35–40 min, gradient from 100-0% methanol; 40-50 min, 0% methanol. After elution of the perceived GSH-conjugated reaction product ($t_{\rm R}$ = 31.0 min), fractions with UV absorption at 280 nm were collected, pooled, dried over a gentle stream of nitrogen gas overnight, and then analyzed by NMR. The ¹H, COSY, HSQC, and HMBC NMR spectra of the isolated product from the LigE-catalyzed reaction were consistent with the identity of $\beta(S)$ -fluoro-glutathionyl- γ -hydroxy- α -veratrylpropanone ($\beta(S)$ -F-GS-HVP, Figure S8A). Because $\beta(S)$ -F-GS-HVP was recovered from the reaction in low quantity, a ¹³C NMR spectrum could not be obtained directly. Rather, the ¹³C NMR spectral data reported was determined from the ¹H, COSY, HSQC, and HMBC NMR spectra.

$\beta(S)$ -fluoro-glutathionyl- γ -hydroxy- α -veratrylpropanone ($\beta(S)$ -F-GS-HVP), from LigE:

¹H NMR (700 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.89 (dd, 1H, *J*₆₋₅ = 8.6 Hz, *J*₆₋₂ = 2.0 Hz, H6); 7.59 (d, 1H, *J*₂₋₆ = 2.0 Hz, H2); 7.01 (d, 1 H, *J*₅₋₆ = 8.6 Hz, H5); 4.47 (dd, 1H, *J*_{2'-3b'} = 8.1 Hz, *J*_{2'-3a'} = 4.9 Hz, H2'); 4.21 (dd, 1H, *J*_{γa-βF} = 27.3 Hz, *J*_{γa-γb} = 13.2 Hz, Hγ_a); 4.07 (dd, 1H, *J*_{γb-βF} = 15.8 Hz, *J*_{γb-γa} = 13.2 Hz, Hγ_b); 3.84 (s, 3H, 4-OMe); 3.80 (s, 3H, 3-OMe); 3.62 (d, 1H, *J*_{9a'-9b'} = 17.2 Hz, H9'_a); 3.60 (t, 1H, *J*_{7'-6'} = 6.3 Hz, H7'); 3.48 (d, 1H, *J*_{9b'-9a'} = 17.2 Hz, H9'_b); 3.05 (dd, 1H, *J*_{3a'-3b'} = 14.1 Hz, *J*_{3a'-2'} = 4.9 Hz, H3'_a); 2.90 (dd, 1H, *J*_{3b'-3a'} = 14.1 Hz, *J*_{3b'-2'} = 8.1 Hz, H3'_b); 2.34 – 2.28 (m, 2H, H5'_{a/b}); 2.00 – 1.94 (m, 2H, H6'_{a/b}).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, D₂O) δ 194.1 (d, $J_{\gamma,\beta F} = ~25$ Hz, Cα); 176.1 (C10');



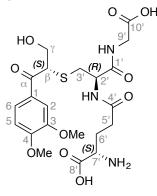
175.2 (C4'); 174.6 (C8'); 171.5 (C1'); 154.0 (C4); 148.3 (C3); 127.0 (C1); 126.0 (C6); 112.6 (C2); 111.0 (C5); 107.7 (d, $J_{\beta-\beta F} = \sim 240$ Hz, Cβ); 65.7 (d, $J_{\gamma-\beta F} = \sim 25$ Hz, Cγ); 56.0 (4-OMe); 55.9 (3-OMe); 54.1 (C7'); 53.0 (C2'); 43.2 (C9'); 31.4 (C5'); 30.2 (C3'); 26.1 (C6').

Enzymatic synthesis of $\beta(S)$ -glutathionyl- γ -hydroxy- α -veratrylpropanone ($\beta(S)$ -GS-HVP). With $\beta(R)$ -FPHPV used as the reaction substrate, rather than $\beta(S)$ -F-FPHPV, the same procedure was used to isolate the product $\beta(S)$ -GS-HVP from a LigE-catalyzed reaction, as previously described (3).

$\beta(S)$ -glutathionyl- γ -hydroxy- α -veratrylpropanone ($\beta(S)$ -GS-HVP), from LigE:

¹H NMR (700 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.68 (dd, 1H, J₆₋₅ = 8.4 Hz, J₆₋₂ = 2.0 Hz, H6); 7.48 (d, 1H, J₂₋₆ = 2.0 Hz, H2); 7.02 (d, 1 H, J₅₋₆ = 8.4 Hz, H5); 4.54 (dd, 1H, J_{β-γa} = 7.9, J_{β-γb} = 5.9 Hz, Hβ); 4.27 (dd, 1H, J_{2'-3b'} = 8.8 Hz, J_{2'-3a'} = 5.1 Hz, H2'); 3.98 (dd, 1H, J_{γa-γb} = 11.6 Hz, J_{γa-β} = 7.9 Hz, Hγ_a); 3.84 (s, 3H, 4-OMe); 3.83 - 3.78 (m, 1H, Hγ_b); 3.80 (s, 3H, 3-OMe); 3.57 (d, 1H, J_{9a'-9b'} = 17.3 Hz, H9'_a); 3.50 (d, 1H, J_{9b'-9a'} = 17.3 Hz, H9'_b); 3.49 (t, 1H, J_{7'-6'} = 6.4 Hz, H7'); 2.94 (dd, 1H, J_{3a'-3b'} = 14.2 Hz, J_{3a'-2'} = 5.1 Hz, H3'_a); 2.77 (dd, 1H, J_{3b'-3a'} = 14.2 Hz, J_{3b'-2'} = 8.8 Hz, H3'_b); 2.26 - 2.16 (m, 2H, H5'_{a/b}); 1.90 - 1.80 (m, 2H, H6'_{a/b}).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, D₂O) δ 198.4 (Cα); 176.8 (C10'); 175.5 (C4'); 175.4 (C8'); 172.1 (C1'); 154.4 (C4); 149.0 (C3); 128.9 (C1); 125.3 (C6); 111.8 (C2); 111.8 (C5); 61.6 (Cγ); 56.7 (4-OMe); 56.5 (3-OMe); 54.9 (C7'); 53.8 (C2'); 48.6 (Cβ); 44.0 (C9'); 32.2 (C5'); 32.1 (C3'); 27.3 (C6').



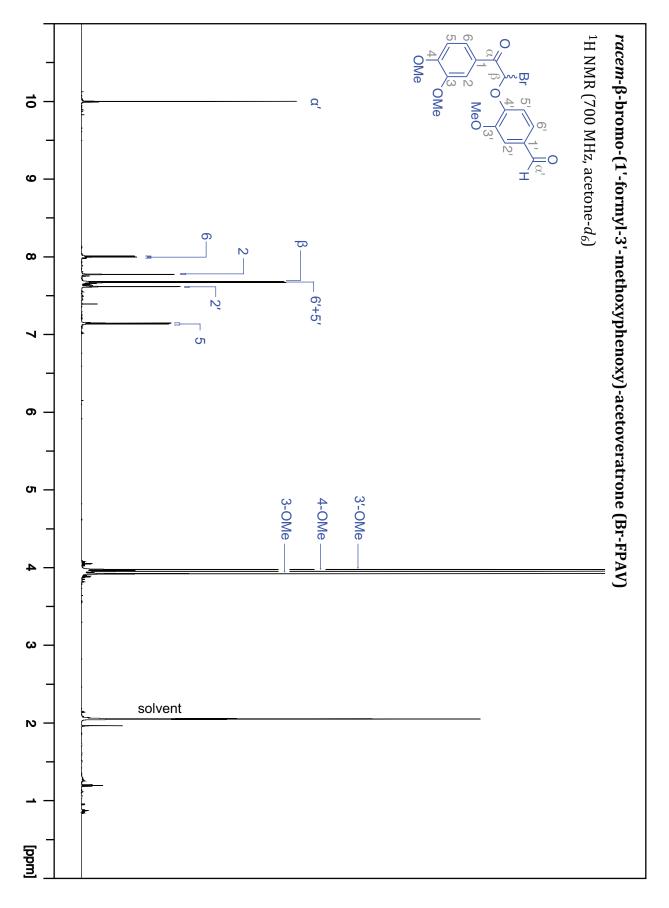
SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES

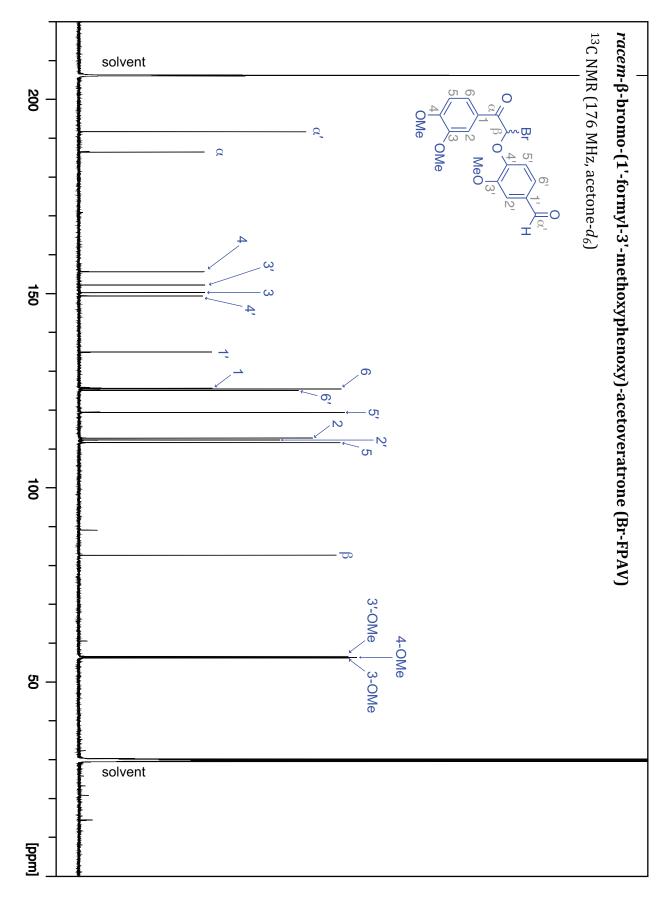
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION -¹H AND ¹³C NMR SPECTRA OF MODEL COMPOUNDS AND **REACTION PRODUCTS**

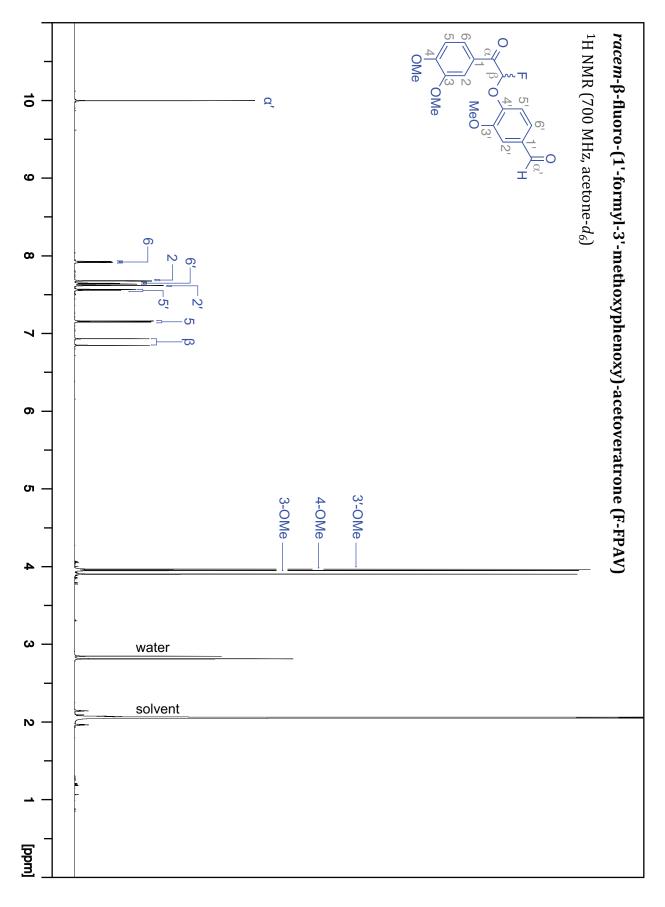
COMPOUND:	Source: ^a	Spectrum:	Solvent: ^b	Page:
<i>racem</i> -β-bromo-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (Br-FPAV)	synthetic	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	acetone- d_6	S-18
		¹³ C	acetone- d_6	S-19
<i>racem</i> -β-fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-acetoveratrone (F-FPAV)	synthetic	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	acetone- d_6	S-20
		¹³ C	acetone- d_6	S-21
		¹⁹ F	acetone- d_6	S-22
racem-β-fluoro-(1'-formyl-3'-methoxyphenoxy)-γ-hydroxypropio-	synthetic	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	acetone- d_6	S-23
veratrone		¹³ C	acetone- d_6	S-24
(F-FPHPV)		¹⁹ F	acetone- d_6	S-25
$\beta(S)$ -fluoro-glutathionyl- γ -hydroxy- α -veratrylpropanone ($\beta(S)$ -F-GS-HVP)	LigE	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	D ₂ O	S-26
$\beta(S)$ -glutathionyl- γ -hydroxy- α -veratrylpropanone	LigE	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	D_2O	S-27
$(\beta(S)$ -GS-HVP)		¹³ C	D_2O	S-28

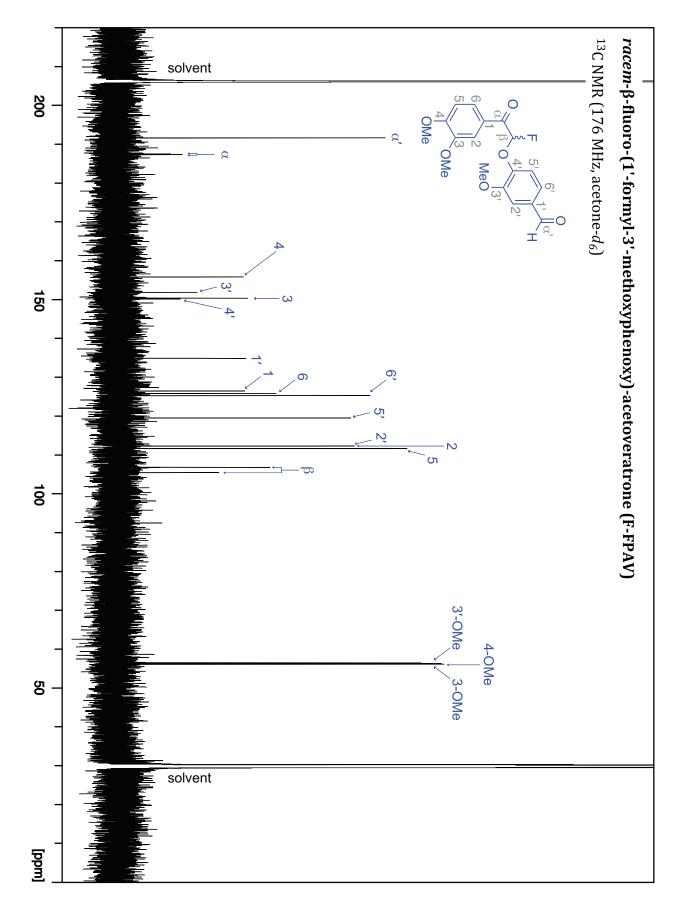
^{*a*} Compounds were obtained either via organic synthesis or from LigE β -etherase-catalyzed reaction products. ^{*b*} ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were analyzed in either acetone- d_6 or D₂O as NMR solvents.



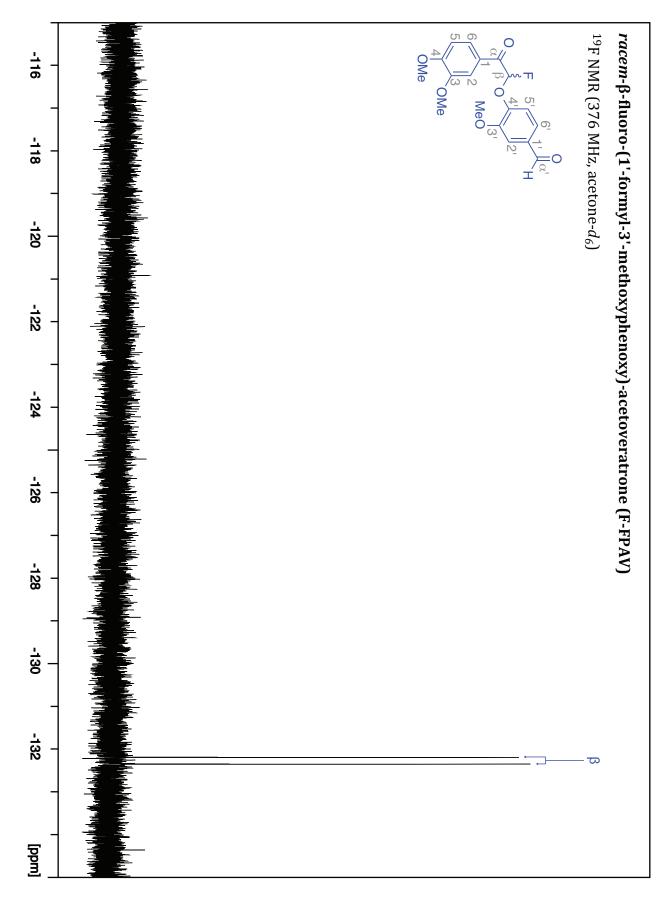


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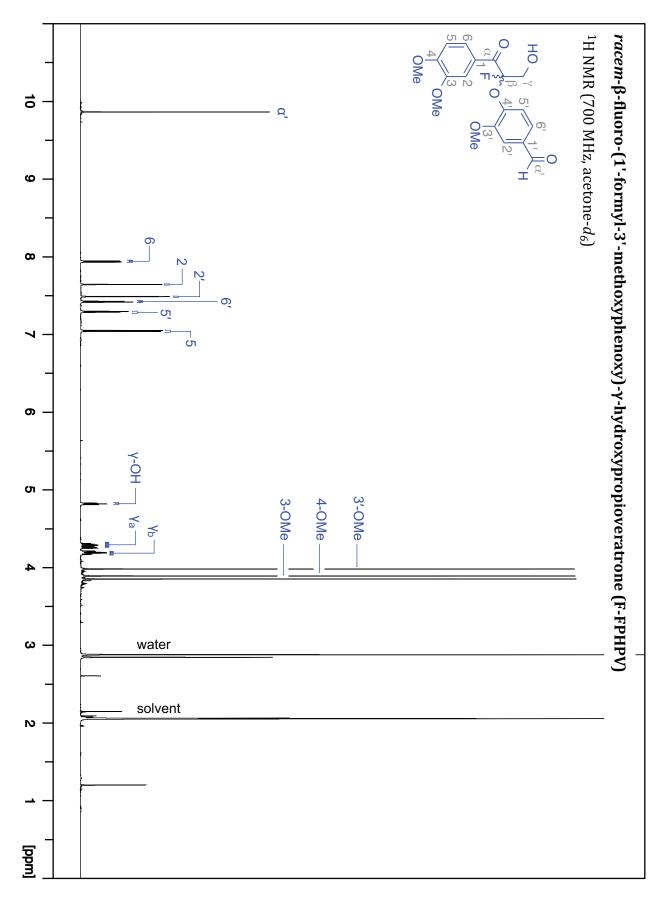


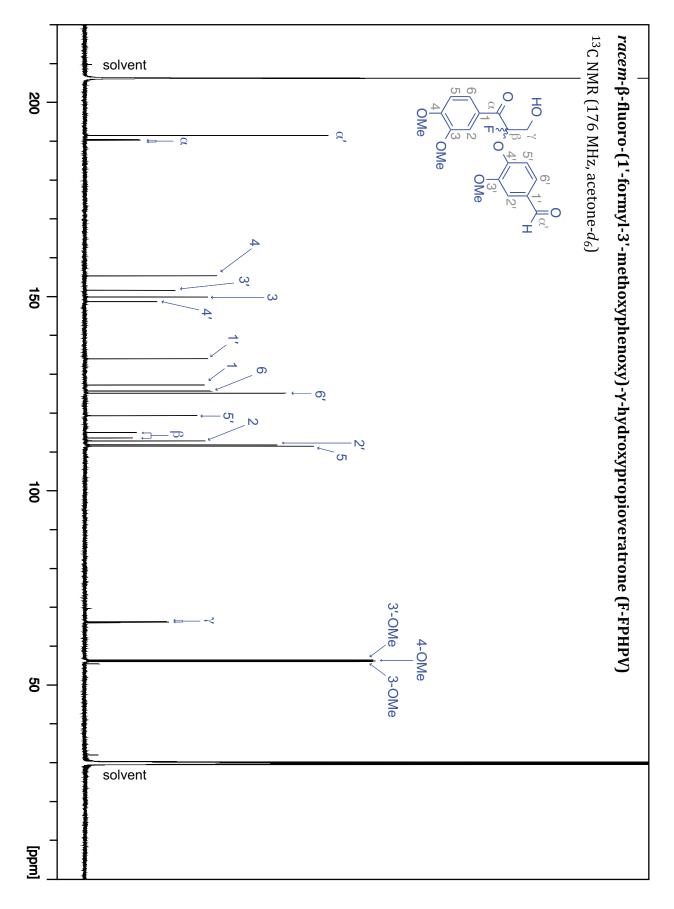


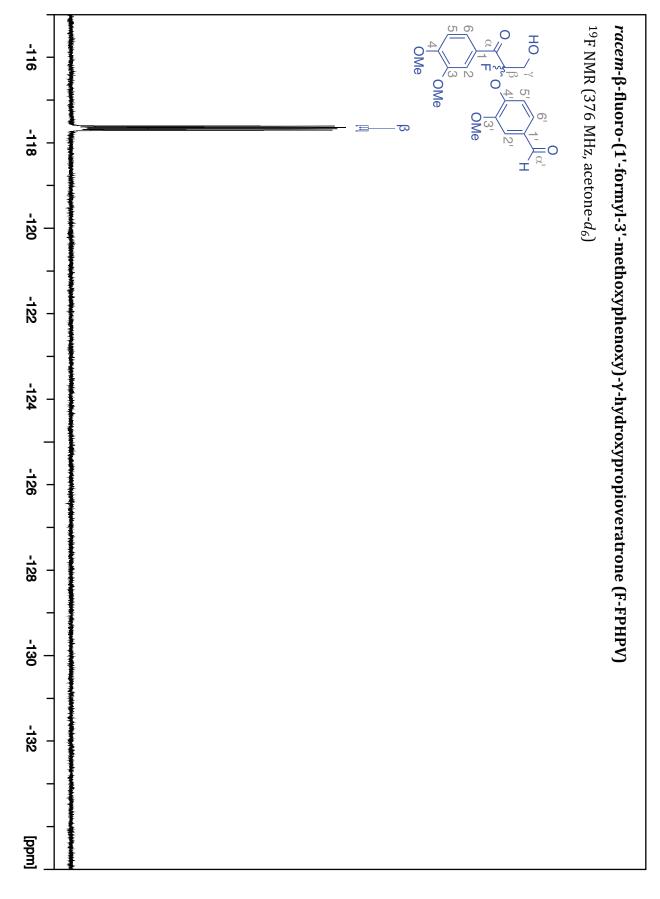
S-11

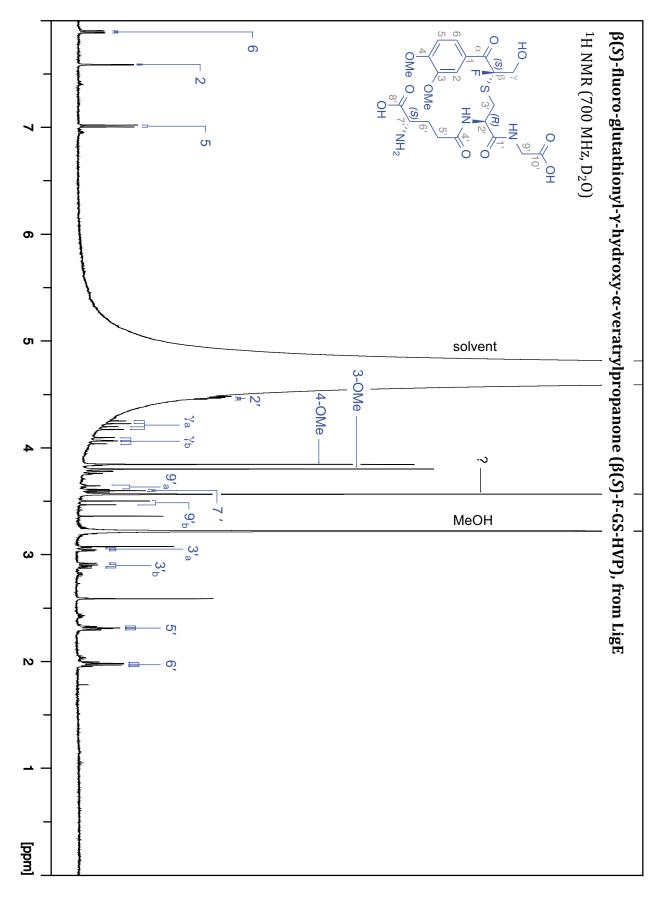


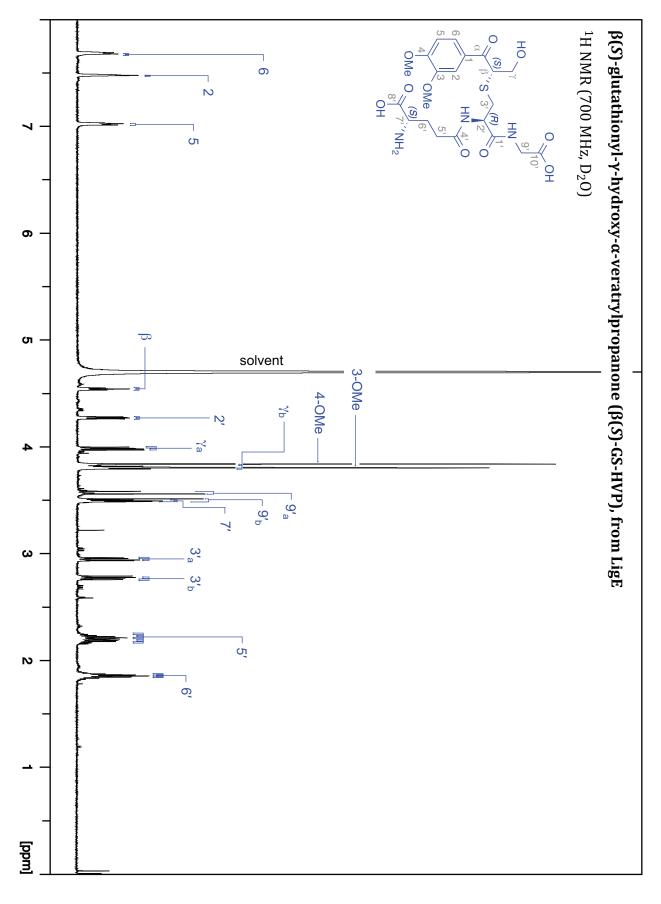
S-12

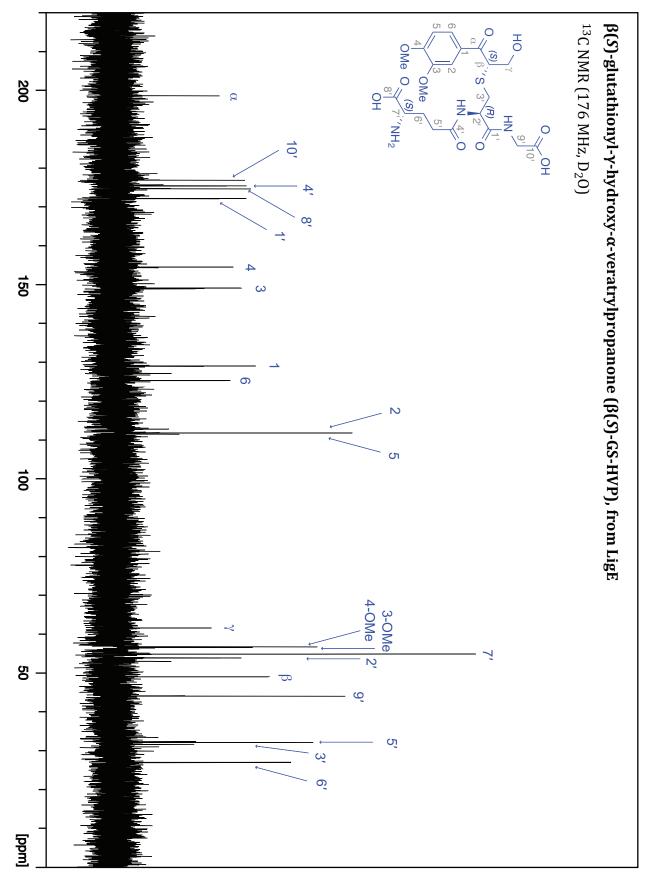












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